

# Northwest Chess

\$3.95

February 2010



# Northwest Chess

February 2010, Volume 64,02 Issue 746

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.  
Office of record: 3310 25th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to:

Northwest Chess, PO Box 84746,

Seattle WA 98124-6046.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Seattle, WA

USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

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**Photo credit: Philip Peterson**

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Former *Northwest Chess* editor Wilfred “Willie” Skubi writes:

In his letter in the January *Northwest Chess*, Jeff Pennig asks where the Seattle Chess Club was located in 1968. He notes that he used to walk to the SCC from his home on 15 Avenue West.

During my tenure with the SCC from 1965 through 1973, the club was at three different locations. A rented house on Thomas Street a couple of blocks east of Highway 99, then a storefront in the Bush Hotel at 6th Avenue South and South Jackson Street in Chinatown, and then another storefront at the corner of Fremont Avenue North and North 35th Street, now occupied by Yak’s Deli. Mr. Pennig probably played at the Fremont location.

I was Treasurer of the SCC during several of these years, and it was nice to read that the club provided good memories for members decades later, which includes my own memories!

Those memories include assisting Rusty Miller and Buz Eddy in producing *Northwest Chess* on a mimeograph machine circa 1967 or so, and my greatest honor in organized chess, being editor of *Northwest Chess* for a year in the early 1970s.

Greetings to my old friends in the chess playing community!

– Will Skubi

Several other people confirm that the SCC was once located where Yak’s Deli is now. Marv Hayami also wrote in reply to Jeff Pennig’s letter, with an additional story and a comment:

I remember joining the Seattle Chess Club in 1966 while in high school. In 1968 it was located in the Fremont district just on the north side of the Fremont bridge; before that it may have been near the Seattle Center; 15th NW was near the road to the Ballard Bridge.

After Fremont, the Club moved to Jackson St. A number of players showed up on the first day of the move but the electricity was out, so we played games by lighting a match or lighter between moves for at least one game before giving up.

Oh by the way, if Mr. Penner sent \$100, he was placed in the wrong donor category; it should be the Bishops.

– Marv Hayami

Yes and no on that last. The \$100 was sent to use as we saw fit, so we purchased a two-year subscription for Mr. Pennig with half of it, and treated the other half as a donation to the magazine. But thanks for paying attention, Marv!

On to more distressing news. As part of our preparation for issue number 750, coming up in June (if our accounting is right), we’ll be searching for and contacting former editors of *Northwest Chess*. In addition to those who are still involved in the continuing business of NWC, such as Rusty Miller, Fred Kleist, Pete Prochaska, and Philip Peterson, in this last month we reestablished contact with Wilfred Skubi, Mike Neeley, Mary Lasher, and Dan Bailey. Unfortunately, we also discovered the sad report of the untimely demise of three-year editor Kennedy “Kip” Poyser, who passed away suddenly in Mexico last November.

Dan Bailey shares some reminiscences of Kippy on page four.

## Editor’s Desk

### Ralph Dubisch



While I was looking at the crosstables for the North American Open (see FM Schill’s story on page six), I noticed that Northwest players did pretty well there, again.

In terms of ratings, I counted 41 players from Washington, 35 of whom gained rating points, and 26 of those reached new all-time high ratings. Of the eight Oregon players, five gained points and three reached new peaks.

One of the new all-time highs, however, caught my attention. Daniel S. Ho is a Washington junior. Last year he played in Las Vegas and had his best performance ever. It was so good that somehow he got assigned a new rating floor, 1900, a rating higher than any he had achieved on his own. Now, I don’t want to accuse Bill Goichberg of acting unethically due to a conflict of interest, but in his role as both big-money TD and US Chess President, is it possible that he arbitrarily decided to gimmick one player’s rating to protect other class players in his tournaments from a repeat performance? Daniel Ho has only one tournament performance at anything like that level, yet he was somehow assigned 1900 as his rating floor. Some could argue that Daniel might like having a 1900 rating that can’t go down. Clearly that’s not relevant. Ratings are supposed to reflect results, not player wishes, not tournament director paranoia.

For the last year, Daniel has stayed flat on his new rating floor, until this year’s Las Vegas event, where he once again performed a tiny bit over the 1900 level. He raised his rating by three points, to 1903, playing in the under 2100 section, since he’s not eligible to play in the under 1900 section anymore.

Ratings are supposed to be a statistical measure of actual performance. They have some use as an imperfect predictor of future performance. It’s very risky to use them to award huge class prizes. It would be even worse to mess around with ratings and floors in order to protect a chess politician’s livelihood. If they are abused this way – a person with political power and a vested interest in running big class tournaments being tempted into making or ordering arbitrary adjustments to the rating system – it could destroy all confidence in the things that ratings are actually capable of reflecting.

When Mr. Goichberg published lists of players who were ineligible for certain class prizes, I had no objections. When he arranged to add letters to the end of ratings indicating higher than expected performance levels, I had no objections. When the USCF chose to implement rating floors a couple of hundred points below peak ratings, both to avoid extreme sandbagging and to combat presumed systemic deflation, I had no large objections – as long as they were done scientifically.

If, however, a 15-year-old has been assigned a rating floor higher than his actual rating, just because he managed to win one class prize in one big tournament, I would have very serious objections indeed. This has the appearance of being a completely inappropriate misuse of the rating system for private purposes, and if so, it undermines the integrity of the rating system itself.

Ratings will never be completely accurate. They are even less accurate when the players are quickly-improving juniors. But at least they can still reflect actual performances, and we know from experience that they tend, over time, to catch up to the young players.

If this was an abuse of the rating system, it was done quietly, and probably with some kind of cobbled up mathematical “justification.” We have no way to know how many other players may have been treated similarly, and if permanent damage is being done.

I challenge Mr. Goichberg or anyone involved in the USCF ratings system to justify assigning a 1900 floor to Daniel S. Ho, and to explain any similarly assigned rating floors, in terms other than increasing attendance at Continental Chess events. Show me I’m wrong, here. Please.

# Kennedy “Kippy” Poyser

by  
**Dan  
Bailey  
and  
Astra  
Poyser  
Laughlin**

*{Kennedy “Kip” Poyser died suddenly of a heart attack in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, on November 30, 2009. He was 64.*

*His son’s blog (includes some profanity):*

*<http://poyboy.livejournal.com/154172.html>*

*I was Googling for past editors when I found this very distressing news. He was the editor when I first subscribed to the magazine, and the quality and innovation of his issues — produced well before there was any computer-aided desktop publishing — influenced my own decisions about how to approach the job of editing.*

*I had hoped to ask for his reminiscences about his three years of doing NWC, but now I find it’s much, much too late.*

*— Ralph Dubisch}*

This is your 1975 NW Chess Editor writing from Caracas, Venezuela where he’s lived since late December of 1990 (a job, travel, a woman, which? ... it was a woman—currently married to her).

This is sad news about Kip, but I’m delighted to read his son’s blog which I recommend to everyone who wants to get an idea of Kip. And the contributors will help there too, whom I’ll read also before writing to the blog myself. Son Bryan gets a film into the Sundance festival! Last I saw Bryan, he was about 50 inches tall.

I’m hazy on when I first met Kip but it was through chess somewhere in Eastern Washington where he was living in the early

’70s. Likely it was through those county tournaments Rusty organized once... Rusty, did you manage to run one in every county of the whole state?! However many, what an effort you put into that—thanks! I played in two or three, and probably met and played Kip in one, and we hit it off and stayed in touch.

Which led to his hiring me as a proofreader at Book Publishing Company on Western Avenue in Seattle in January 1975. He was in charge of our room where we worked in pairs reading drafts of municipal codes. Cities would send in their codes for legal advice on constitutional issues, make reforms, then have BPC put out the finished product in a sleek well-organized document. I remember reading my hometown Walla Walla’s code, with provisions still in there about tying your horse up securely in the street (1800s) and partitions between booths in restaurants not to exceed a certain height (Prohibition-era rule to prevent public drinking of private hooch). In 2006 I returned to that redone building on Western to have dinner in the apartment of my nephew and his soon-to-be wife, which was mind-boggling. If fact I think their apartment was pretty close to where Kip used to sit in the corner of our proofreading room. “Close enough for government work,” he used to say in his Texas drawl, eyeing our efforts. But he didn’t say that the time I came up with the time-saving technique of reading aloud just the first letter of all the words in the codes in our two-person teams, a technique which spread to other teams. Turned out we all started missing errors in the rest of the words. End of innovation.

Kip and I talked a lot about the magazine that year and he developed a strong interest in having a crack at it. I knew he’d be a real asset so I was happy to open a space for him after my year as editor. I’m not sure exactly where the Chessmate of the Month feature came from but there was a lot of laughing camaraderie at work, and one or two of the Chessmates came from our ranks. One guy even wrote an opera bouffe, which was actually performed by our proofing pool in a public auditorium after I’d left... it dealt with the assassination of Trotsky in Mexico. I missed it but recall from conversation with the composer the stage direction “Enter Natasha, concealing an axe beneath her negligee.” So if our proofing pool was capable of that, clearly we were capable of

perpetrating Chessmate of the Month on the world.

I last saw Kip in 1983 in Queens, New York where he was living with his wife Vicky and their two small kids, Astra and Bryan. Vicky was a painter who did covers for science fiction books at that time (and other work), and Kip agented for her. They took me to a science fiction convention where none other than Isaac Asimov was the keynote speaker. He gave a talk which remains crystal-clear in my mind to this day, on the theme that there exists not one but rather many varieties of intelligence. He then went on to prove via anecdotes that while he tested out as a genius on paper-and-pencil tests, and (like Mozart, I’ll add) could create finished works without revision, in other practical ways he had only two blades in his propeller at best. After his talk I found myself standing in front of him in the cafeteria line, and no one else was talking to him. “My God!” I thought. “What an opportunity! Too bad I haven’t read any of his work!” I racked my brains for something to ask him, and I thought of something and asked. My extended query attracted the attention of a number of people behind us; the straight line curved into an arc for better listening. But that’s another story.

While in New York I needed Kip’s bank to cash a personal check written to me. Kip’s idea was that his account would be good for the amount if need be. But the bank woman wouldn’t do it. Kip took issue with her on that. Still no. Kip went code red. She said yes and did it. It was impressive. Kip could be a force of nature.

In subsequent years Kip divorced and opened a bookstore. We exchanged a few letters, then fell out of touch. I recall him talking about the economics of running a successful bookstore and his conclusive cry, “Literature be damned!” It was the best-sellers that sold.

I’m glad to read in his son Bryan’s blog that he had a good run in Mexico. That sounds like the Kip I knew, a tremendously knowledgeable man with a renegade streak and a profound zest for life. Wish his run could have lasted a decade or two longer.

Kip knew what so many of us inexplicably do not know and decline to learn: that life is to be lived with relish. A lot of the man is summed up in just that.

*— Dan Bailey*



Hi Ralph,

This is Astra Poyser Laughlin — I'm Kennedy's daughter. I saw the note you'd left on my brother's blog, and I wanted to thank you for it. Of course, I was too young to remember those years he worked as an editor for Northwest Chess, and Bryan was younger still, but Dad certainly maintained a lifelong love of the game, and taught both me and my brother how to play. Regrettably, neither of us ever had quite his skill or talent for it, but I'm happy to say that I did manage to beat him once — and only once — in all the times we played. Maybe he just let me win, or wasn't paying too close attention, but I like to think it was a legitimate victory!

I also wanted to attach a couple of pictures that might be of interest to you. The first is from the cover of "Northwest Chess," from September, 1976. That's my Dad, in the middle, standing next to the then-governor of Washington (seated), Daniel Evans. Apparently it was in regards to a "Chess Day" (October 9) in Washington. I wonder if that's still a tradition? Anyway, the second is just a shot of him in the midst of a game — I'm not sure where or when it was taken, but a fellow chess aficionado may appreciate it.

I'm glad to know that people still remember him so fondly, long after he disappeared from their lives. Thank you for your kind words on the blog about our Dad.

- Astra Poyser Laughlin



*September 1976 Northwest Chess cover. Seated, Washington Governor Dan Evans. Standing, Kennedy Poyser (left), Edwin Kivi (right).*

***"Kip knew what so many of us  
inexplicably do not know and decline to learn:  
that life is to be lived with relish."***



*Kennedy Poyser (center) playing in an unknown simul.  
Does anyone have more information on this event?*

# North American Open

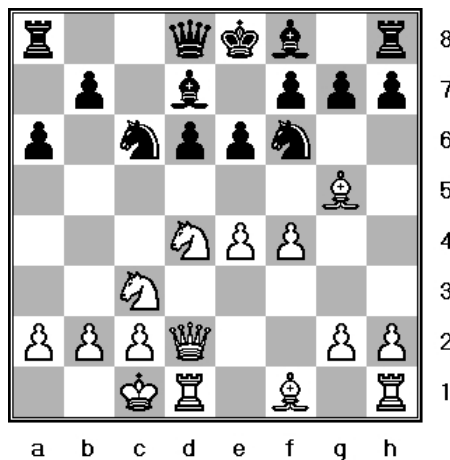
by  
**William Schill**

In the North American Open 2009 I had the unusual occurrence of having all three of my games with black in the same opening variation. Winning all three games gave me a performance rating with black of 2661!

Round one I was paired up to GM Friedel (2609), who recovered to tie for first in the tournament.

**Josh Friedel – William Schill**  
**North American Open, Round 1**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada, December 2009**

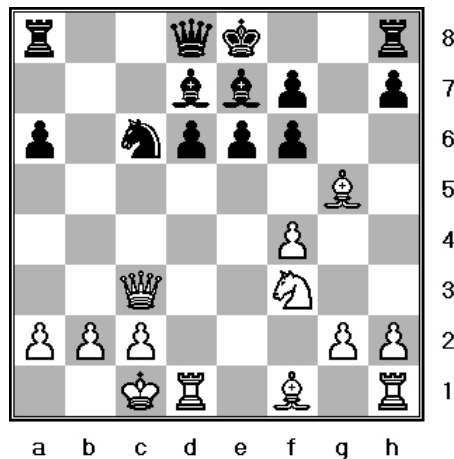
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bg5 e6 7. Qd2 a6 8. 0-0-0 Bd7 9. f4



9. ...Be7

9. ...b5 is much more common now; Black is hoping to get a bishop to e5! But White seldom allows this anymore. 10. Bxf6 gxf6 11. f5 (11. Kb1!) 11. ...Nxd4 12. Qxd4 Bh6+ 13. Kb1 Bf4 14. g3 Be5.

10. Nf3 b5 11. e5 b4 12. exf6 bxc3 13. Qxc3 gxf6



Can White play 14. Rxd6? Apparently the GM thought so....

14. Rxd6?? Bxd6 15. Bxf6 Bb4  
0-1

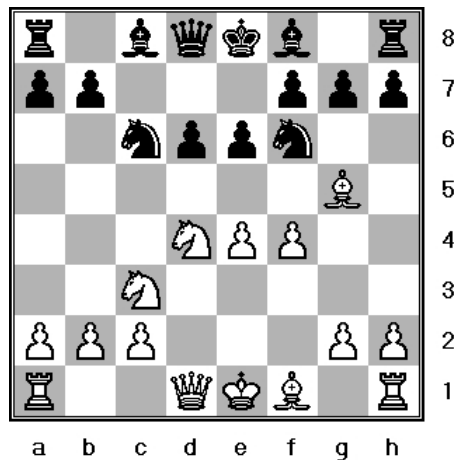
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**Varun Krishnan – William Schill**  
**North American Open, Round 5**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada, December 2009**

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6

2. ...d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Nc6 8. Nxc6 bxc6 9. Qf3 is the Najdorf variation method of reaching the game continuation on move nine.

3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4



7. ...a6

7. ...Qb6.

8. Nxc6 bxc6 9. Qf3 Qb6 10. Bc4

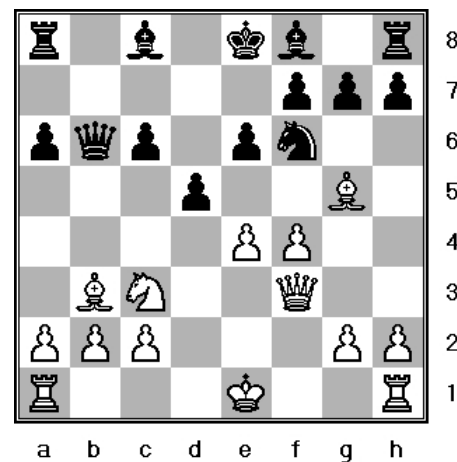
10. 0-0-0 Rb8.

10. ...d5

10. ...Qxb2 11. Rb1 Qa3. With the benefit of hindsight, I like this better than what I played.

11. Bb3

Now I decided to take the game into an ending, counting on outplaying my young opponent by attacking f4 and the 'offsides' bishop on g5. Not suspecting anything he fell quickly into a lost position.

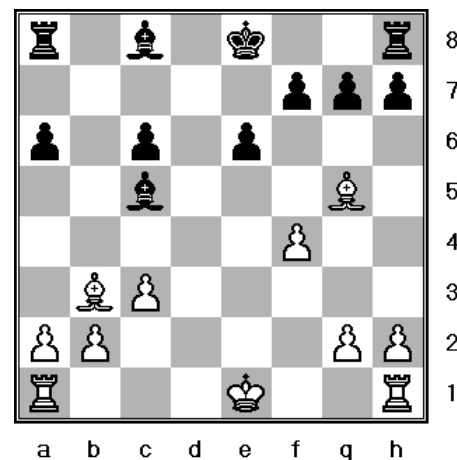


Which move do you like for Black?

11. ...dxe4 12. Nxe4 Nxe4 13. Qxe4 Qb4+ 14. Qxb4 Bxb4+ 15. c3

15. Kf2.

15. ...Bc5



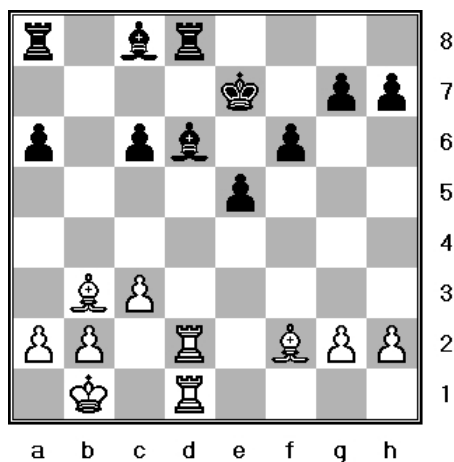
16. 0-0-0?

16. Rd1.

16. ...f6 17. Bh4 Be3+ 18. Kb1 Bxf4 19. Rhe1 Ke7

Initially it seems difficult to consolidate Black's extra pawn. Actually White cannot create any new targets and slowly the black rooks will find their way to the center.

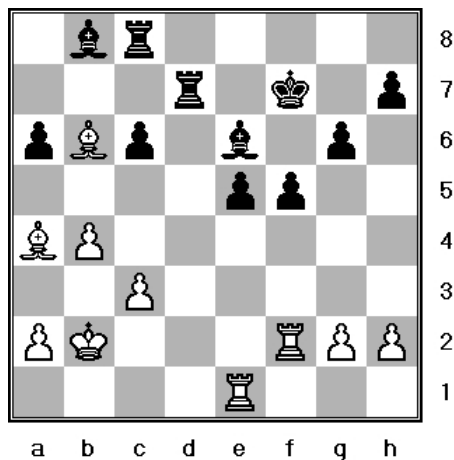
20. Bf2 Bd6 21. Re2 e5 22. Red2 Rd8



**23. Bc2**

23. Rxd6 Rxd6 24. Bc5 Bf5+ 25. Kc1 Rad8.

23. ...Bg4 24. Re1 g6 25. Ka1 Bc7 26. Bc5+ Kf7 27. Rf2 Be6 28. Ba4 Rac8 29. b4 Bb8 30. Kb2 f5 31. Bb6 Rd7



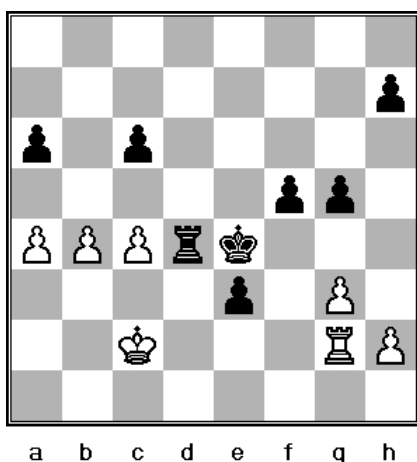
**32. Rd1**

Just about resignation. 32. Bb3 Bxb3 33. axb3 at least gives White the chance to attack a6.

32. ...Rxd1 33. Bxd1 e4 34. g3 Bc4 35. Rd2 Bd3 36. Be2 Bxe2 37. Rxe2 Bc7 38. Bc5 Rd8 39. a4 Rd3 40. Bd4 Ke6 41. Kb3 Kd5 42. Bf6 Be5 43. Bxe5 Kxe5 44. Kc4 g5 45. Rg2 Rd5 46. Kb3 e3 47. Kc2 Ke4 48. c4 Rd4



*Before battle begins. Photo credit: William Schill*



**49. b5**

49. Kc3 Rd3+ 50. Kc2 Ra3 51. Rg1 Ra2+ (51. ...Rxa4 52. Kb3, although the black pawns still win!) 52. Kb3 Rxh2.

**49. ...Rxc4+ 50. Kb3 cxb5**

**0-1**

Eric Qi – William Schill  
North American Open, Round 6  
Las Vegas, Nevada, December 2009

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4**

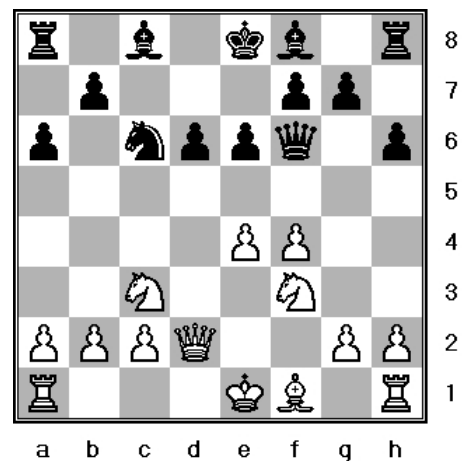
It is inaccurate for White to play f4 before castling; if White is unable to castle on the next move black's best response is to attack the b2 pawn.

If White is prepared to castle, after 7. Qd2 followed by f4 for example, then Black should answer with h6.

**7. ...a6**

**7. ...Qb6!**

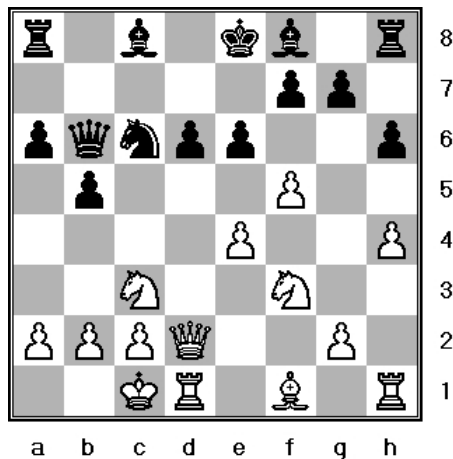
**8. Qd2 h6 9. Bxf6 Qxf6 10. Nf3**



**10. ...Qd8**

10. ...g5 is an interesting pawn sacrifice that a number of Grandmasters have ventured. I do not like to give up material so early. 11. fxg5 hxg5 12. Qxg5 Qxg5 13. Nxc3 Nb4!?

**11. h4 b5 12. 0-0-0 Qb6 13. f5**



### 13. ...Bd7

13. ...b4 14. Ne2 exf5 15. exf5 Bxf5 16. Ned4 Nxd4 17. Nxd4 Bc8 18. Bc4. Would you believe an old version of Fritz likes Black here?? Humans have little interest in winning pawns like this!

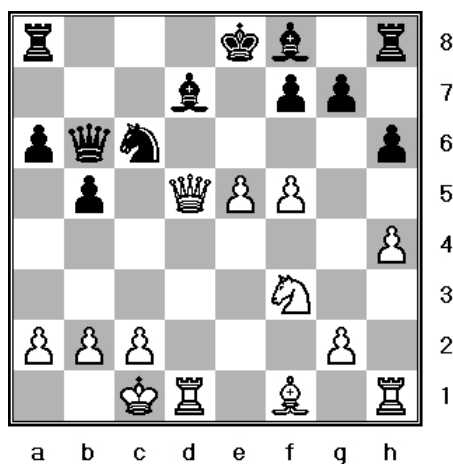
### 14. e5 d5

14. ...0-0-0 15. exd6 exf5. I considered this line as slightly better for Black; the d6-pawn should drop off. 16. a4 worried me, so I decided to provoke White into a piece sacrifice.

### 15. Nxd5

15. fxe6 fxe6 16. Nxd5 exd5 17. Qxd5 0-0-0.

### 15. ...exd5 16. Qxd5

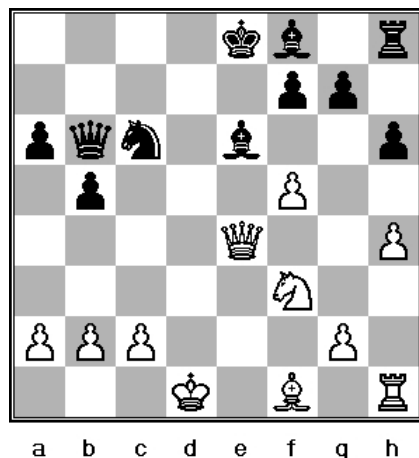


### 16. ...Rd8?

16. ...Bxf5. This move is best and had been my intention, then somehow I became

scared of 17. Nd4, overlooking that Black can simply retreat the bishop to d7 because the d-file is blocked now! 17. Nd4 Bd7 18. Rh3 (18. Nxb5 Be6 19. Nd6+ Bxd6 20. Qxd6 Rd8) 18. ...Bc5 19. e6 0-0-+; 16. ...0-0 17. Qxf7 Qe3+ 18. Kb1 Nxe5 19. Qd5 Nxf3.

### 17. e6 Bxe6 18. Qe4 Rxd1+ 19. Kxd1

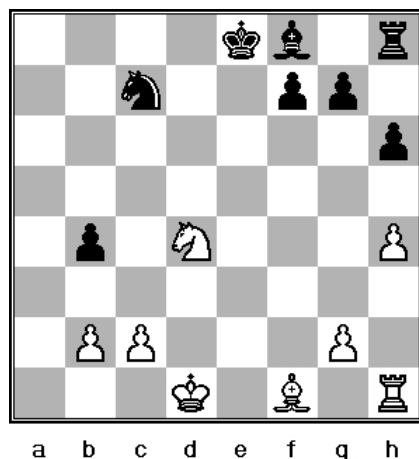


I had been playing along thinking that I could castle and have the better game. Wrong!

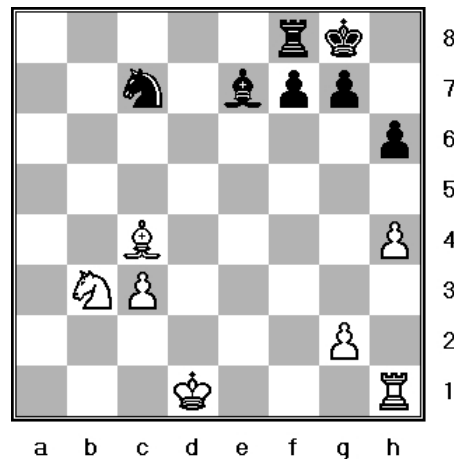
### 19. ...Nd8

19. ...Bc5? 20. fxe6 0-0 21. exf7+ Rxf7 22. Bd3. White is a pawn up with more of an attack than Black has.

20. fxe6 Qxe6 21. Qxe6+ Nxe6 22. a4 Nc7 23. axb5 axb5 24. Nd4 b4



25. Bc4 Bc5 26. Nb3 Be7 27. c3? bxc3 28. bxc3 0-0

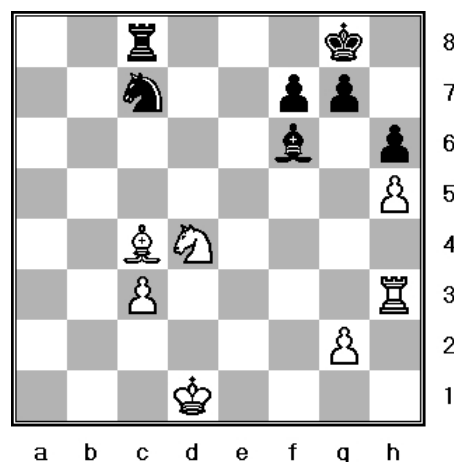


### 29. h5

29. Kc2 =.

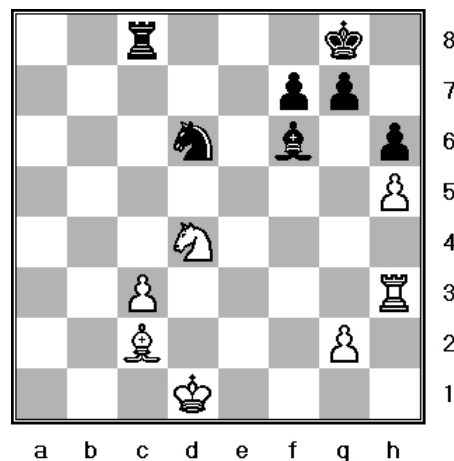
### 29. ...Rc8 30. Rh3 Bf6 31. Nd4?!

White is making a long string of small errors; only now has Black's advantage become serious.



### 31. ...Ne8 32. Bb3 Nd6 33. Bc2

33. Ne2 Ne4 34. Kc2.



### 33. ...Rc5

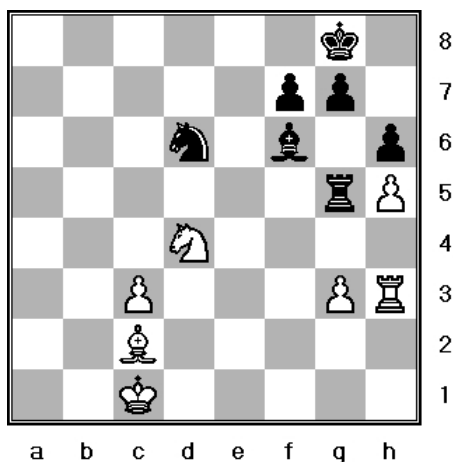
**FIDE Master William Schill offers private lessons and school coaching. He can be reached by e-mail: [masterschill@hotmail.com](mailto:masterschill@hotmail.com).**



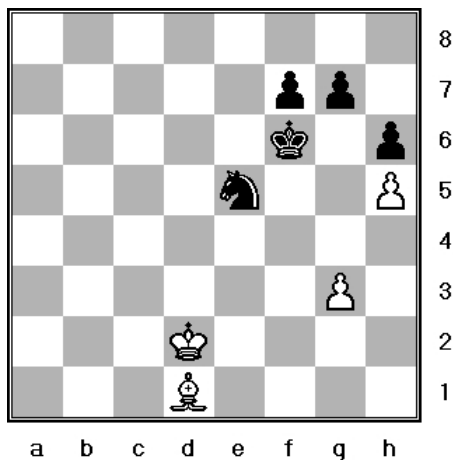
33. ...Bxd4! 34. cxd4 Nb5 35. Rd3 Rd8  
36. d5 Rxd5 37. Rxd5 Nc3+.

**34. Kc1 Rg5 35. g3**

Look at White's rook; I was sure of victory now.



35. ...Bxd4 36. cxd4 Rd5 37. Rh4 Nb5  
38. Re4 Kf8 39. Re5 Rxe5 40. dxe5 Nd4  
41. Bd1 Ke7 42. Bg4 Nc6 43. Kd2 Nxe5  
44. Bd1 Kf6

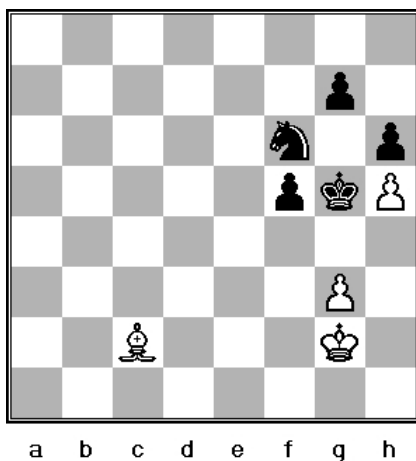


Black's winning plan takes a little while and yet is very clear. Play the king to g5, knight to f6, and pawn f5; only then capture the h5-pawn. Next exchange the h-pawn for White's g-pawn and begin the general advance.

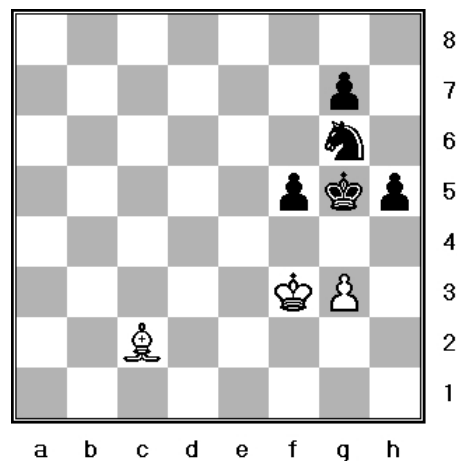
**45. Ke3 Kg5 46. Ke4 Ng4 47. Kf3 f5 48. Bc2 Nf6 49. Kg2**



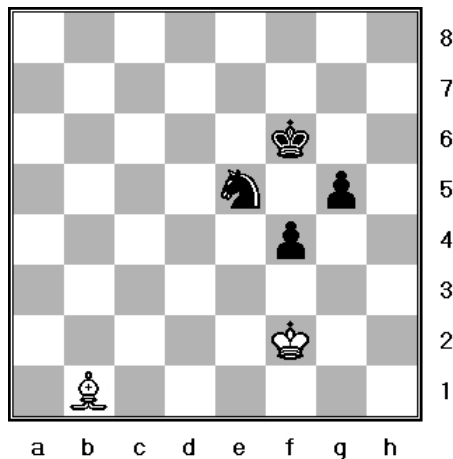
*View from the hotel room. Photo credit: William Schill.*



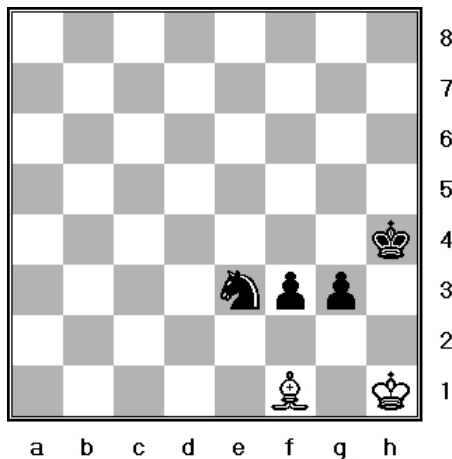
49. ...Nxh5 50. Bd1 Nf6 51. Kf3 h5 52.  
Bb3 Ng4 53. Bc2 Ne5+ 54. Kg2 Ng6 55.  
Kf3



55. ...h4 56. Kg2 hxg3 57. Kxg3 Kf6  
58. Kg2 Ne5 59. Bb1 g5 60. Kf2 f4



61. Be4 g4 62. Bb7 Kg5 63. Be4 Kh4  
64. Bg2 f3 65. Bf1 g3+ 66. Kg1 Ng4 67.  
Kh1 Ne3



0-1

And so, how did the rest of the tournament go?

Well, in round two I played a game that lasted over six hours before arriving at bare Kings! Much to my regret I was sure ( I cannot fathom why) that I had an hour and forty five minutes before the next contest. I showed up just in time to be forfeited!!

In Las Vegas if you miss a round everyone will naturally assume you were drinking, gambling, or chasing women. I had taken a nap, had a shower, and bought a *milkshake*. Boring! I suspect had I made the round I would have done poorly anyway; the six hour game had worn me out.

Of the six games I did play I drew with white against players rated 2387, 2300, and 2370, and won with black to regain 50+ of the rating points I have distributed about Washington. Hopefully I can win some games back at home too.

Happy New Year!

– William Schill

## SCC Course Series

### • Dates:

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### • Location:

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### • Instructor:

Dr. Siva Bala Narayanan

### • Course Fee:

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### • Registration:

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## \$4000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund

**Easter: April 2-5, 2010**

**Location:** Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville St, Victoria, BC

**Round Times:** Friday 6:00pm, Sat. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Sun. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Monday 10:00am

**Time Control:** Game in 90 minutes plus 30 second per move increment.

**Entry Fees: Open:** \$70 by Mar. 1, \$80 by Apr. 1, \$90 on site. **U1400:** \$50 by Mar. 1, \$60 by Apr. 1, \$70 on site. Non-CFC members add \$16 for CFC Tournament Membership

**Prizes:** \$1,000/\$600/\$400 U2000 \$400/\$300. U1700 \$350/\$250 U1400 \$350/\$250 Upset \$100

**Registration:** on line at [www.grandpacificopen.com](http://www.grandpacificopen.com) or by cheque payable to Victoria Junior Chess Society. Mail to Brian Raymer, 2386 Dalhousie St., Victoria, BC V8R 2H6

**Transportation:** Clipper jet boat from Seattle and Coho ferry from Port Angeles both dock across the street from the playing site. Round times are set up to match the sailing schedule.

**Misc:** Sets, boards and clocks provided. Special \$99 room rate at Hotel Grand Pacific 1-800-663-7550 (rate code "Chess2010") See website for further details and additional side events. FIDE and CFC rated.

**Note: All dollar amounts listed above refer to Canadian currency.**

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# Washington Class Championships:

## The Kalina Report

by  
Chris  
Kalina



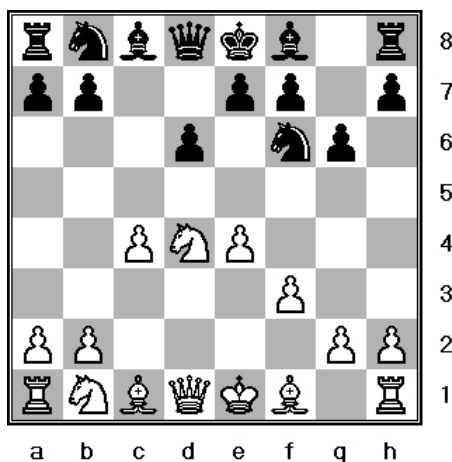
While visiting Seattle for the Thanksgiving holiday, I made my presence known once again at the Washington Class Championships. I played in the expert section this year.

**Paul Bartron – Chris Kalina**  
Washington Class, Round 1  
Redmond, November 27, 2009

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. f3**

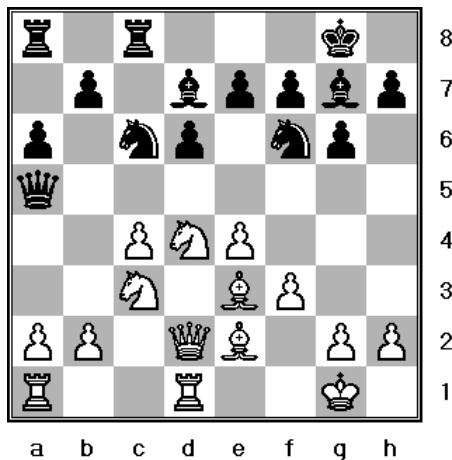
I had prepared a line for Paul for next time I faced him as Black, expecting that he would go into the line of the Dragon where White castles long allowing the ...d5 pawn sacrifice, however this move deviates from these main lines.

**5. ...g6 6. c4**



And so now the game becomes a sort of Maroczy bind.

**6. ...Bg7 7. Nc3 0-0 8. Be3 Nc6 9. Qd2 Bd7 10. Be2 Qa5 11. 0-0 Rfc8 12. Rfd1 a6?**



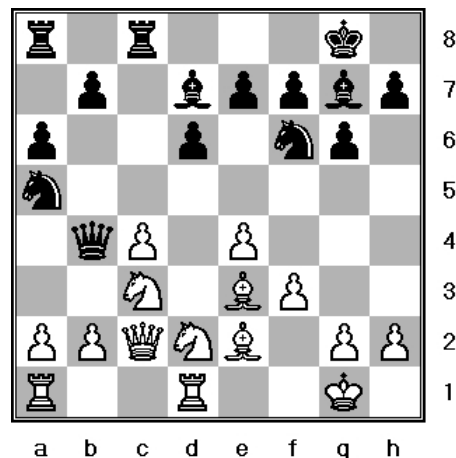
Black wants to save a tempo by threatening to play 13. ...Ne5 14. b3 b5!, where Black would have the initiative.

However this move weakens the b6 square, which White exploits immediately.

**13. Nb3 Qb4**

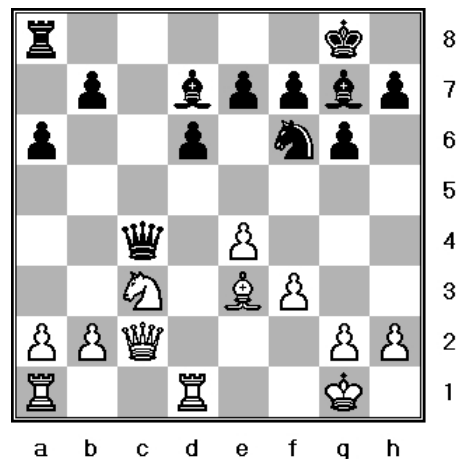
If the queen were to retreat to c7 or d8, then Na4 would be good for White.

**14. Qc2 Na5 15. Nd2!**



A strong reply. I saw nothing better than to sacrifice the exchange in order to free my position. Better to sacrifice it this way to gain another pawn as well as preventing the boa-constrictor effect on the queen-side that would otherwise squeeze in.

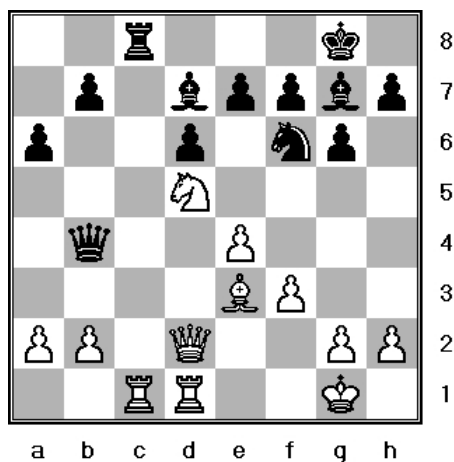
**15. ...Nxc4 16. Nxc4 Rxc4 17. Bxc4 Qxc4**



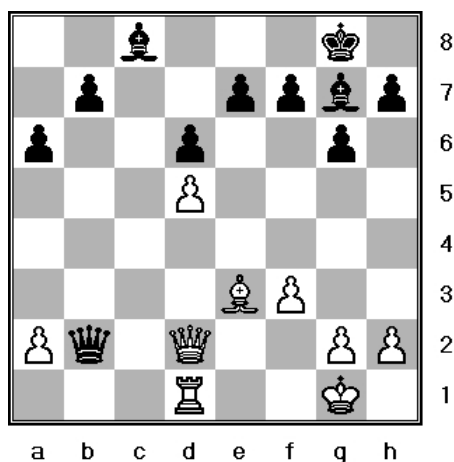
And of course this is still good for White, however there are still some chances here.

**18. Rac1 Rc8 19. Qd2 Qb4 20. Nd5?**

White blunders the b2 pawn. Better was 20.a3 first which does not allow Nxd5 in response to Nd5... and also does not allow the double attack on b2!



20. ...Nxd5! 21. Rxc8+ Bxc8 22. exd5 Qxb2



23. Qxb2

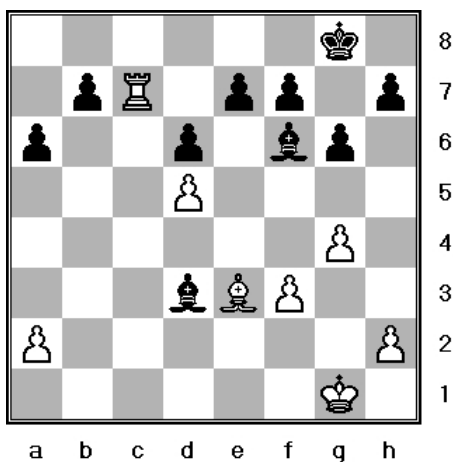
Here White missed the finesse 23. Rc1!, activating the rook with tempo before exchanging the queens: 23. ...Bf5 24. Qxb2 Bxb2 25. Rc7.

23. ...Bxb2 24. Rb1 Bf6

I considered playing 24. ...Ba3 keeping an eye on c1 and possibly going to c5, however the line that I did not like was 25. Rb3 Bc5 26. Bxc5 dxc5 27. a4 with the idea of 28. a5 and 29. Rc3 hitting the now weak c5-pawn.

25. Rc1 Bf5 26. g4 Bd3 27. Rc7

27. Bh6 was met with ...Bd4+ and ...Bc5.



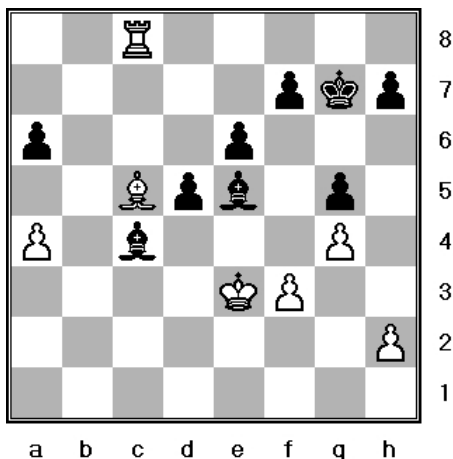
27. ...g5 28. Rxb7 Bc4

Trading b7 for the annoying d5 pawn makes Black's game much easier.

29. a4

If 29. Rb6 or Ra7, then 29. ...Bxa2 30. Rxa6 Bxd5.

29. ...Bxd5 30. Rb8+ Kg7 31. Kf2 Bc4 32. Rc8 d5 33. Bc5 e6 34. Ke3 Be5

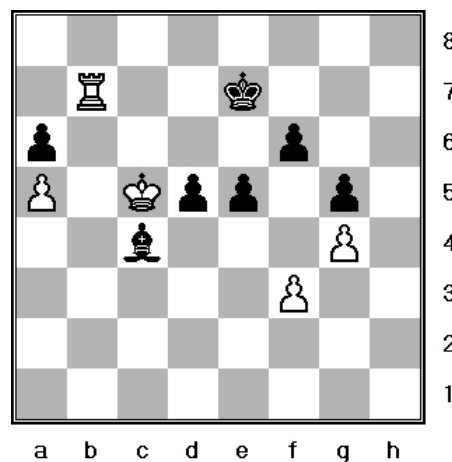


35. Bd4!

Ending any real winning chances for Black, since this will leave only one bishop. It's much easier to deal with one bishop than two bishops.

35. ...Kf6 36. a5 Bb5 37. Rb8 Bc4 38. Rb7 Bxd4+ 39. Kxd4 Be2 40. Rb3 Bc4 41. Re3 Ke7 42. Kc5 Kd7 43. Re1 Bb5 44. h4 h6 45. hxc5 hxc5 46. Re5 f6 47. Re1 Bc4 48. Rb1 e5 49. Rb6 Ke7 50. Rb7+ Ke6 51. Rb6+ Ke7 52. Rb7+

It is one of those positions where 'He who tries too hard to win is going to lose!' Bartron just settles for the perpetual. If Black wants to try fool-hardily to win, then he can hide the king on g6 – though it will cost him his f6 pawn by force, so...



1/2-1/2

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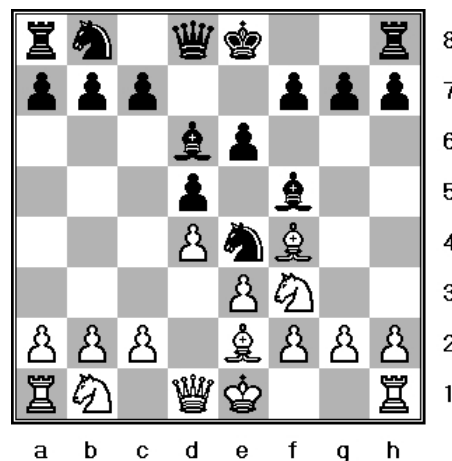
In round two I found myself paired with Robert Szendroi, who has not played tournament chess since the early 1990's. Achieving a life master title, his rating is floored at 2200. Robert played in the expert section paired at 2199 – with the agreement that he would not play for prizes.

Chris Kalina – Robert Szendroi

Washington Class, Round 2

Redmond, November 27, 2009

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d5 3. Bg5 Ne4 4. Bf4 Bf5 5. e3 e6 6. Be2 Bd6



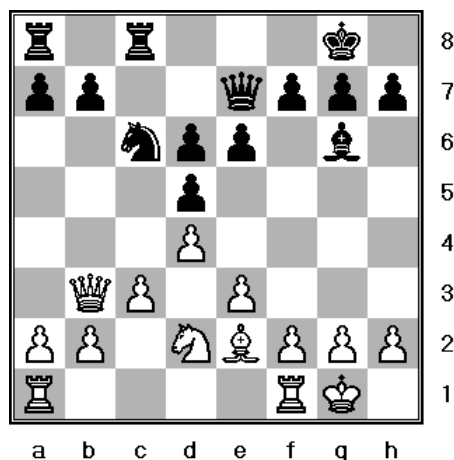
In general, White would prefer to trade this piece off since it is his bad bishop. Black agrees to the exchange because it's also a very active bishop, outside the pawn chain.

7. Bxd6 cxd6 8. c3

On basic chess principles, White's pawns go to the dark squares after White's seventh move.

8. ...0-0 9. Qb3 Qe7 10. 0-0 Nc6 11. Nbd2 Rfe8 12. Nxe4 Bxe4 13. Nd2 Bg6

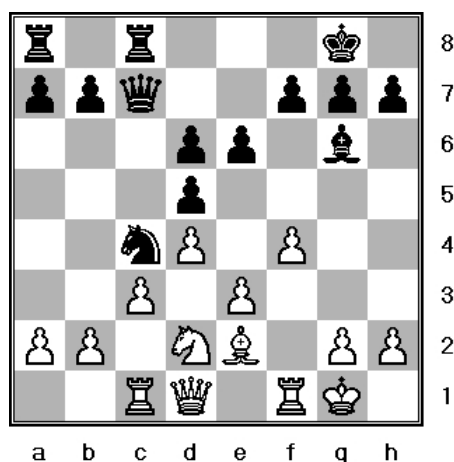




14. f4

Again, White's pawns go on dark squares. Now 14. ...e5? 15. f5 Qg5 16. fxg6 Qxe3+ 17. Rf2 Qxd2 19. Bg4 wins material.

14. ...Qc7 15. Rac1 Na5 16. Qd1 Nc4



17. Nxc4

White could have had a clear advantage with 17. Bxc4 and then 18. e4.

17. ...dxc4 18. Bf3

After I made my move, Robert offered me a draw. I was already planning to accept due to the fact that I felt like I might fall asleep at the board! Too much fun on Thanksgiving night! However I can make my opponent move first before I decide.

18. ...Bd3

1/2-1/2

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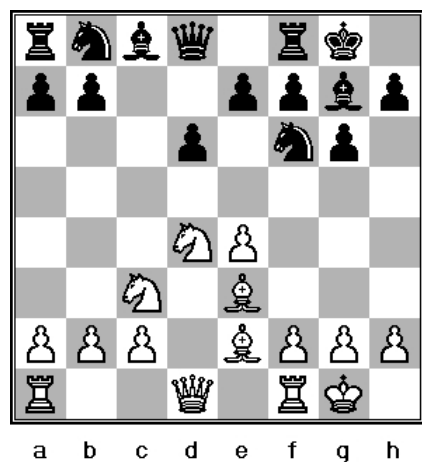
Of course I returned to Seattle to visit family and friends after all, so round three was a bye to spend the morning with my four-year-old niece Ember – well worth giving up the potential half point! I returned for round four with 1.5 points to be paired with black against Megan Lee, rated 1904.

For those that do not know, Megan is the younger sister of the gifted Senior Master Michael Lee.

Megan was successful in outplaying me in the late opening and early middle game, where I was forced to cough up an exchange. Since the result was Rook and two bishops vs two rooks and a bishop, my plan involved which bishop was missing from her position and what squares it covered....

Megan Lee – Chris Kalina  
Washington Class, Round 4  
Redmond, November 28, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be2 Bg7 7. Be3 0-0 8. 0-0

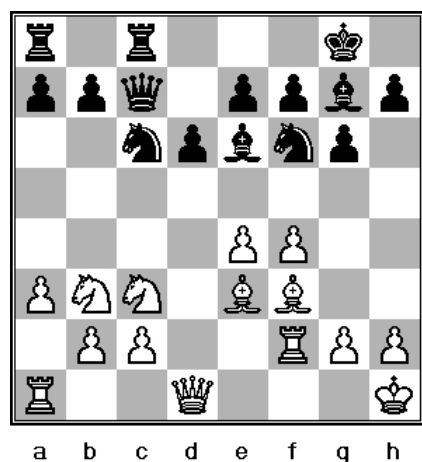


Megan plays a quieter system than a traditional Yugoslav attack.

8. ...Nc6 9. Kh1 Bd7 10. f4 Qa5 11. Nb3 Qc7 12. Bf3

White has already achieved a better position.

12. ...Rfc8 13. a3 Be6 14. Rf2

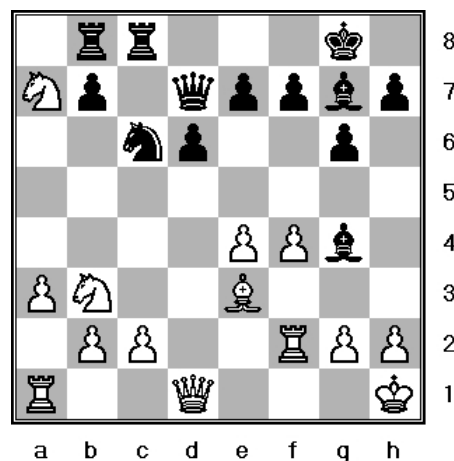


14. ...Rab8?!

Planning to play ...b5 on the next move.

The sacrificing of the seemingly unimportant a7 pawn turns out to be good for White after she defends the b2-pawn. The point of Black's play was to make White's pieces less coordinated. 14. ...Qd7 adding support to the kingside light squares was better.

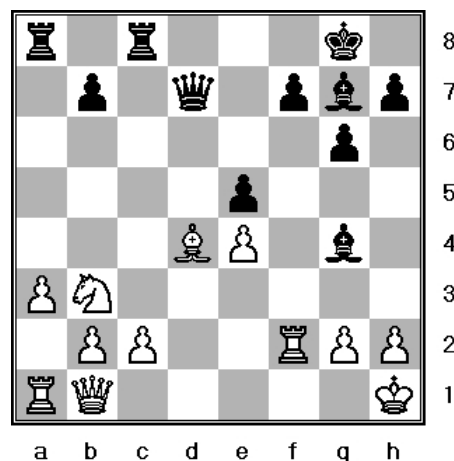
15. Nb5 Qd7 16. Nxa7 Ng4 17. Bxg4 Bxg4



18. Qb1

White still has some development issues to solve, at least.

18. ...Nxa7 19. Bxa7 Ra8 20. Bd4 e5 21. fxe5 dxe5

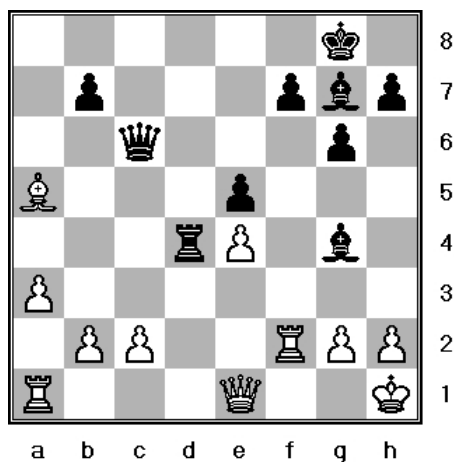


Now there's a permanent target on e4, but at the cost of closing the diagonal on which Black can attack b2.

22. Bc3 Qc6 23. Qe1 Ra4?

Better to centralize instead of hitting the e4-pawn from the flank. The rook is actually poorly placed and now becomes a target!

24. Bb4 Rd8 25. Na5 Rxa5 26. Bxa5 Rd4



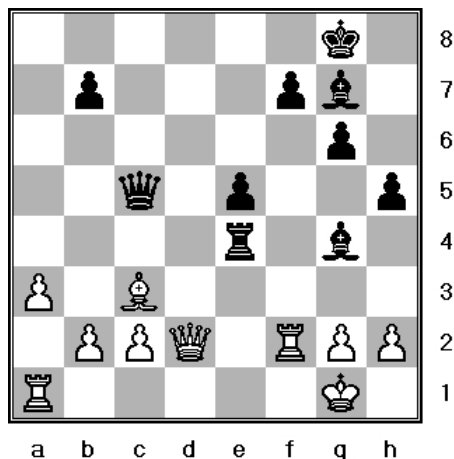
The removal of the e4-pawn will allow Black some counter-chances.

**27. Bc3 Rxe4 28. Qd2 h5**

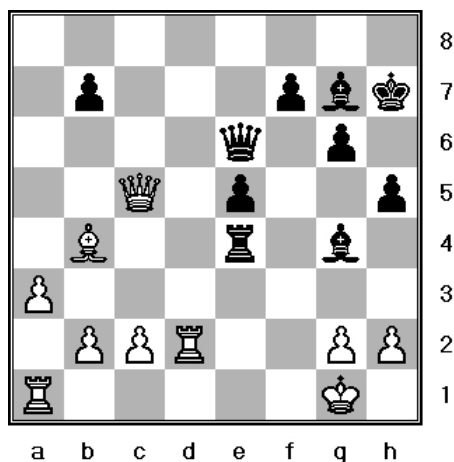
Taking care of back rank issues while considering ...h4-h3 with light-square play.

**29. Kg1 Qc5**

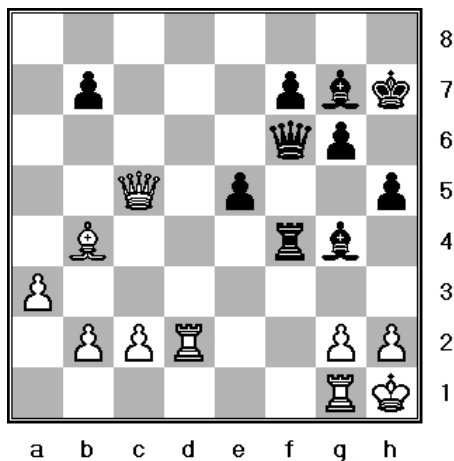
The pin on f2 is good; allowing Qd8+ isn't so good. Better was 29. ...Qb6.



**30. Qd8+ Kh7 31. Bb4 Qa7 32. Qa5 Qd4 33. Qc5 Qd7 34. Rd2 Qe6**



**35. Qd5 Qb6+ 36. Kh1 Rf4 37. Qd6 Qb5 38. Qc5 Qa6 39. Rg1 Qf6**



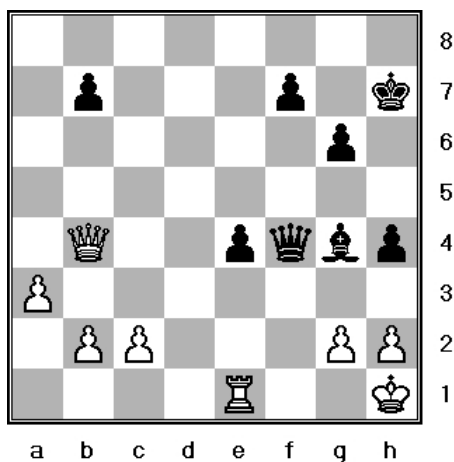
**40. Rd6?**

Walking into a potential pin on f8.

**40. ...Qg5?**

Walking into a pin on d2! Better to play to either f5 or h4 instead.

**41. Bd2 Bf8 42. Bxf4 Qxf4 43. Qd5 Bxd6 44. Qxd6 h4 45. Qb4 e4 46. Re1**



**46. ...h3**

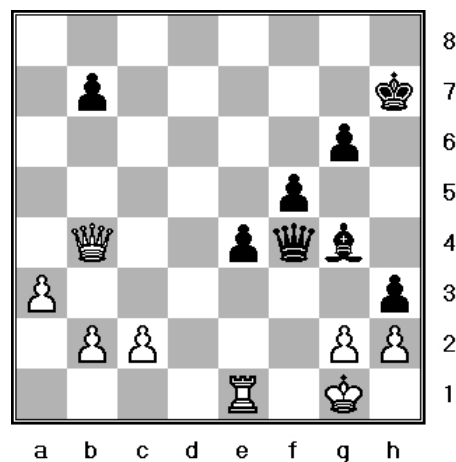
Missing the more accurate 46. ...Qf2!, threatening ...h3. Forced is 47. h3, when 47. ...Bf3! 48. gxf3 Qxf3+ draws, unless White wants to lose with 48. Rg1? Qg3!, planning 49. ...Qxh3#.

**47. Kg1**

Megan avoids 47. Qxe4, which loses to 47. Qf2 hitting the rook and making mating threats.

**47. ...f5**

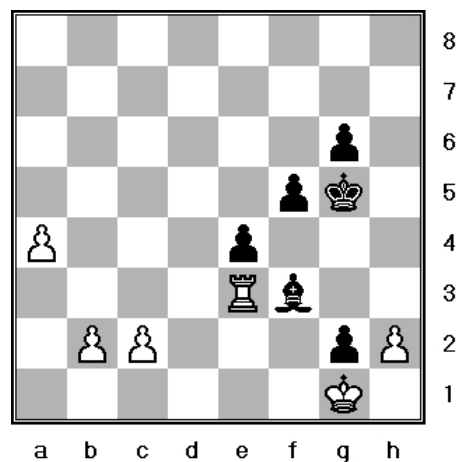
Sacrificing another pawn with check to shore up the center.



**48. Qxb7+ Kh6 49. Qb6 hxc2 50. Qe3**

After forcing the queens off with this move, White should be able to convert the full point with careful play.

**50. ...Qxe3+ 51. Rxe3 Bf3 52. a4 Kg5**



**53. Rxf3??**

Throws away the win. Simply advancing the remote a-pawn is better. After the game move, the pawn ending is winning for Black.

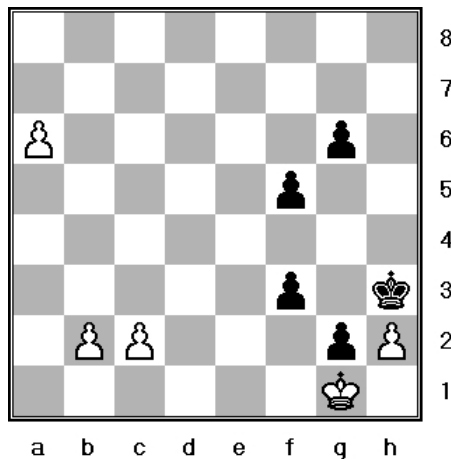
**53. ...exf3 54. Kf2 Kf4(?)**

Black had a plan in mind that was too slow - push the center pawns with the king on e4.

**55. a5 Kg4**

And now I figured out the correct plan before it was too late.

**56. a6 Kh3 57. Kg1**



57. ...f2+ 58. Kxf2 Kxh2 59. a8/Q

Wait, what happened to a7? Yes, I inadvertently gave her an extra move! I somehow had calculated that we would queen at the same time. Fortunately, the position is still winning.

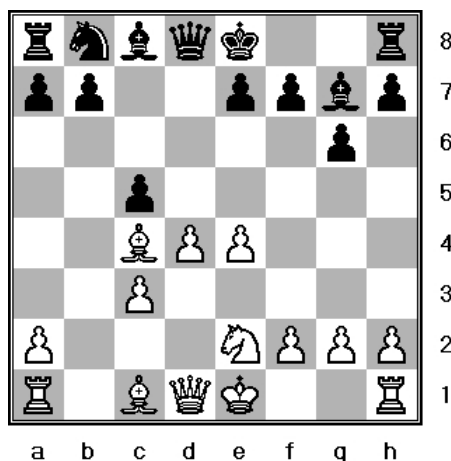
59. ...g1/Q+ 60. Ke2 Qg2+ 61. Qxg2+ Kxg2 62. c4 f4 63. c5 f3+ 64. Kd2 f2 65. c6 f1/Q 66. c7 Qf4+

0-1

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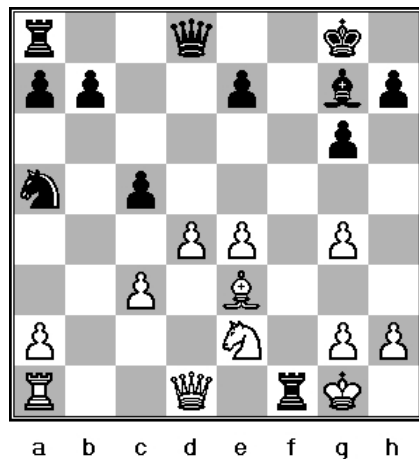
Chris Kalina – Michael MacGregor  
Washington Class, Round 5  
Redmond, November 29, 2009

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Bc4 c5 8. Ne2



In general I have had more success with systems against the Grunfeld that break the pin with f3 that also helps maintain the center.

8. ...Nc6 9. Be3 0-0 10. 0-0 Bg4 11. f3 Na5 12. Bxf7+ Rxf7 13. fxe4 Rxf1+



I figure that if Kasparov and Karpov can debate this line, then Mike and I can too!

14. Qxf1?

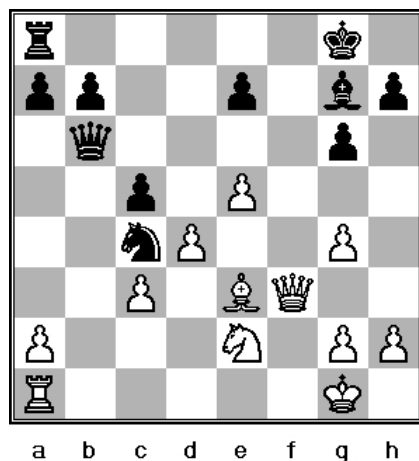
Recapturing with the king is superior. The white queen wants to play to d3 after ...Nc4.

14. ...Nc4

A strong reply that makes White answer some questions right away.

15. Qf3 Qb6 16. e5

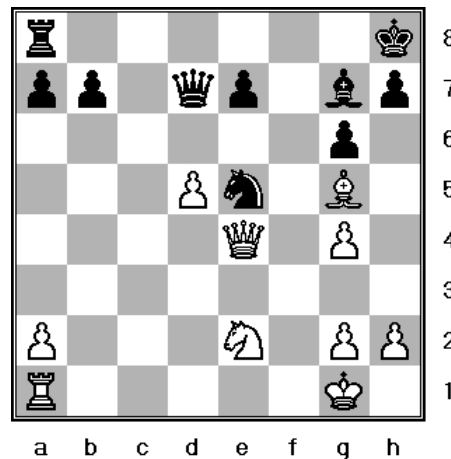
Threatening the check on d5 picking up the knight.



16. ...Kh8 17. Bg5

Giving up the pawn in order to displace Black's pieces and allow White to complete development.

17. ...cxd4 18. cxd4 Nxe5 19. Qe4 Qc6 20. d5 Qd7



21. Rb1

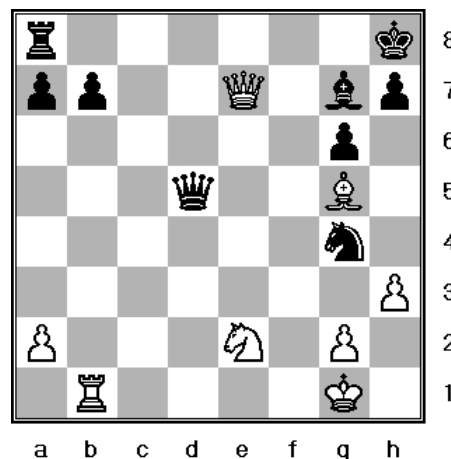
This response appeared best to avoid the discovery on the long diagonal as well as pressuring b7.

21. ...Nxc4

White considered capturing here on e7 with the bishop as well as the immediate d6. The line I had analyzed and did not like was 22. Bxe7 Re8 23. d6 Be5!, with pressure against both the center and the white king! Playing the immediate d6 hitting e7 again and b7 a second time looked promising, however my instincts told me that this was not right.

22. Qxe7 Qxd5 23. h3

Giving the king a flight square on h2, gaining time on the g4 knight, and only now really threatening to take on b7 with the queen.



23. ...Bf8 24. Qxb7

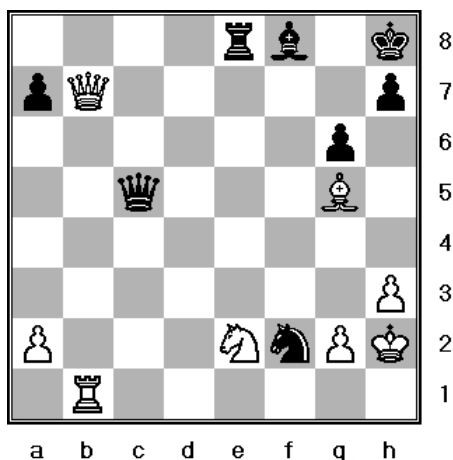
Now possible due to the white king having a home on h2.

24. ...Qc5+

After the white king moves, Black has

both a knight hanging on g4 as well as the rook on a8.

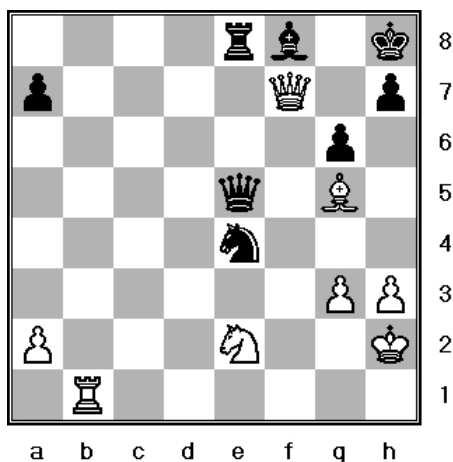
25. Kh1 Nf2+ 26. Kh2 Re8



27. Qf7

The idea here was good – creating threats against the black king as well as some other poorly placed pieces. Better, however, was the forced checkmate! 27. Bf6+ Kg8 28. Qb3+, game over. I simply overlooked the long-distance queen check.

27. ...Qe5+ 28. g3 Ne4!



A good defensive move by Black that saves the day. The knight defends the critical f6-square.

29. Bf4 Qe6 30. Qxe6 Rxe6 31. Rb8 Kg7 32. Rb7+ Re7 33. Rxe7+

1/2-1/2

# Washington Class Championships

## Prize Winners Report

### by Gary Dorfner

The 2009 Washington Class Championships were held at the Marriott Hotel in Redmond on Thanksgiving weekend. There were 163 players in all, 18 in the Master Class, 19 Expert, 26 A, 20 B, 24 C, 27 D and 29 E. TD's: Fred Kleist & Gary Dorfner. The winners were:

#### Master

1st Michael Lee \$525.00, 2nd/1st U2300 Curt Collyer and Ignacio Perez \$262.50 each.

#### Expert

1st Steven Breckenridge \$425.00, 2nd/1st U2100 Kerry Xing and Andy May \$212.50 each.

#### Class A

1st Krishnan Warriar \$325.00, 2nd David Golub \$200.00, 1st U1900 Skylor Fryberg and Limuel Coloma \$62.50 each.

#### Class B

1st Galen Pyle \$325.00, 2nd Neale Monkhouse \$200.00, 1st U1700 Dan Hua \$125.00.

#### Class C

1st/2nd Richard Golden, Robert Goodfellow, Ethan Bashkansky, and August Piper \$131.25 each, 1st U1500 Mayhul Arora \$125.00.

#### Class D

1st Juan Gomez \$325.00, 2nd Jonah Lee \$200.00, 1st U1300 Mayur Bedadala, Masayuki Nagase, and Jason Presley \$41.67 each.

#### Class E

1st Morgan Higgins \$175.00, 2nd Breck Haining \$100.00, 1st U1000 Richard Tang \$75.00, 1st U800 Rithvik Bharath \$75.00, 1st Unrated Sukeerth Vegaraju \$75.00.

#### Side Events

**Blitz**, 1st Steven Breckenridge \$50.00, 2nd Galen Pyle \$40.00, 1st U1700 Michael Quan \$30.00.

**Novice**, 1st Class E Sean Thatcher, 1st Class F Gus VanNewkirk, 2nd Howard Hwa, 3rd Andy Thatcher, 1st Class G Nikita Filippov, 2nd Dhingra Sangeeta, 3rd Andy Yuen. They each received a trophy.

**Bughouse**, 1st Fields/Seran, 2nd Muntianu/Mitchell, 3rd Kramer/Kramer, 4th Miller/Chin. Each team received trophies.

#### Scholastic Section (Thanksgiving Scholastic),

TD: David Hendricks.

**K-3 Open**, 1st Ben Seran, 2nd Justin Blachman, James Soetedjo, Joey Yeo, Terrance Li, and Zizheng Cheng.

**K-3 U800**, 1st Alex Finan, 2nd Jonathan Han, Thorsten Lannyad, Ben Jee, and Brett Kruse.

**4-6 Open**, 1st Kyle Haining, 2nd Carl Dutton, Nicholas Pisani, Chandler Moy, and Kanish Puri.

**4-6 U800**, 1st Angela Bleeker, 2nd Brian Zhu, Ian Robertson, Saffa Hiyeri, and Sara Marcjan.

**7-12 Open**, 1st Paul Pisani, 2nd Matt Coopersmith, Peter Sherman, Andrew Thatcher.



*Michael Omori won the Washigton Junior Closed, \$175, and a seed into the State Championship. Photo credit: Philip Peterson.*





*Michael Wang tied with Omori at 4.0/5, then lost the playoff. Second place was worth \$150. Photo credit: Philip Peterson.*



*Nathan Lee finished third, with 2.5/5, winning \$125. Photo credit: Philip Peterson.*



*Alex Guo, fourth with 2.0/5. Photo credit: Philip Peterson.*



*Kerry Xing (left) was fifth, Krishnan Warriar (right) sixth. Photo credits: Philip Peterson.*



*David Hendricks directed, January 9-10, 2010. Photo credit: Philip Peterson.*



# Theoretically Speaking

by Bill McGeary



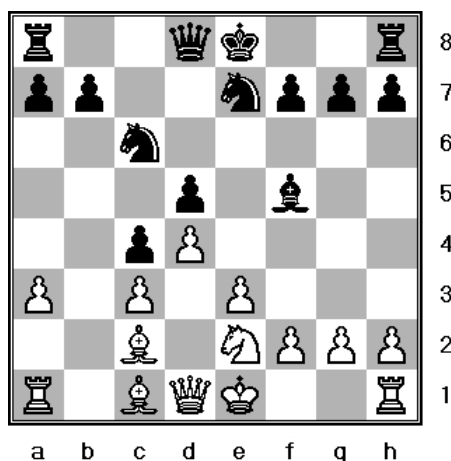
## QGD 3. ...Bb4 Part 4

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4

One idea for White to improve chances is to consider the position after 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 Ne7 5. a3 Bxc3 6. bxc3 c5. White will normally be aiming for f3 and e4, so why put the Ng1 in the way on f3? Is it possible to find a better move than 7. Nf3 transposing to positions seen previously? Well, the first thought of playing 7. Bd3 is not quite best, as Black can play ...d5xc4 at a convenient time followed by ...Qc7 or ...Nc6-a5 to initiate operations. Most likely 7. cxd5 exd5 8. Bd3 is the best idea of this sort.

**Fernando Peralta – Aleksej Aleksandrov**  
Warsaw AIG Life Rapid, Round 2  
Warsaw, Poland, December 2007

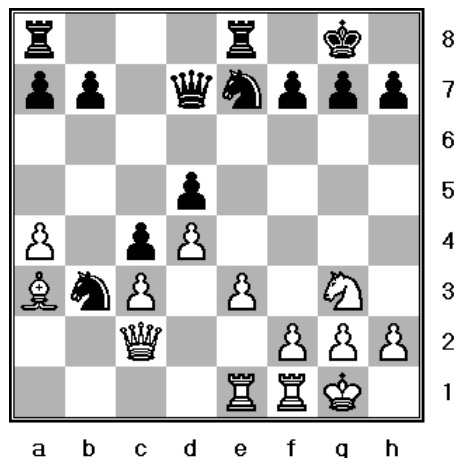
1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. a3 Bxc3+  
5. bxc3 c5 6. e3 Ne7 7. cxd5 exd5 8. Bd3  
Nbc6 9. Ne2 c4 10. Bc2 Bf5



Efforts to exchange the white-squared bishops for Black have been mentioned before. There are a number of points behind the exchange: Black's d5-pawn restricts the amount of work the Bc8 might find; White's corresponding bishop supports e4 along

with keeping surveillance of f5/g6/h7; should Black play ...c5-c4 at some point the queenside white squares will be vulnerable, especially b3. So, ...Bf5 is a natural idea and tactically works in this situation.

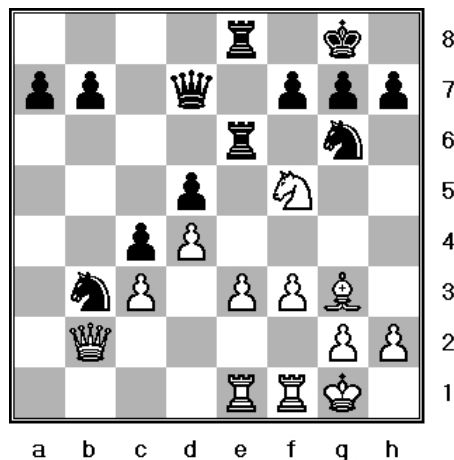
11. 0-0 0-0 12. a4 Na5 13. Ba3 Bxc2  
14. Qxc2 Re8 15. Ng3 Qd7 16. Rae1 Nb3



17. f3 Qxa4

The consequence of Black's decisions in the opening. Note that the Ne7 is being touched by Ba3, but there are no worries about the move e4-e5 displacing Black too much, because the knight won't be attacked.

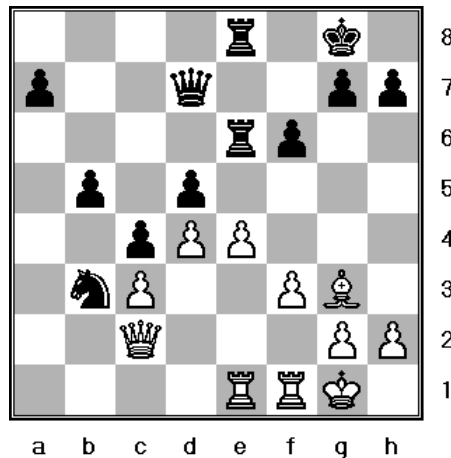
18. Qb2 Ng6 19. Nf5 Re6 20. Bd6 Qd7  
21. Bg3 Rae8



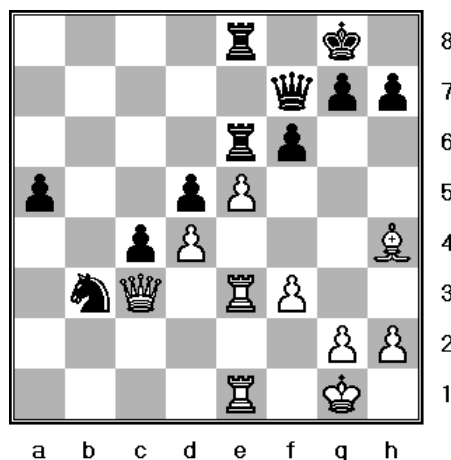
Black has achieved the objectives on the queenside and will now turn to dealing with White's intentions.

22. Qc2 Ne7 23. Nh4 Ng6 24. e4 Nxh4

25. Bxh4 f6 26. Bg3 b5



27. e5 Qf7 28. Re3 a5 29. Rfe1 b4 30.  
Bh4 bxc3 31. Qxc3



31. ...Qa7 32. Bf2 Qxd4 33. Qc2 Qd2  
34. Qf5 fxe5 35. R3e2 Qd3

0-1

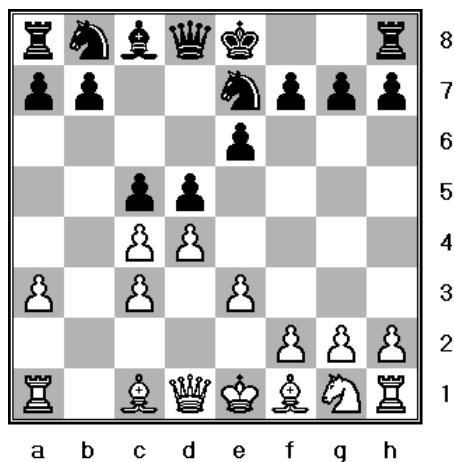
A good effort for Black, but possibly a bit misleading. Taking the pawn on a4 was a standard ploy that might have been more dangerous than it appeared.

\*\*\*

Here is a game between GMs that illustrates Black's natural approach.

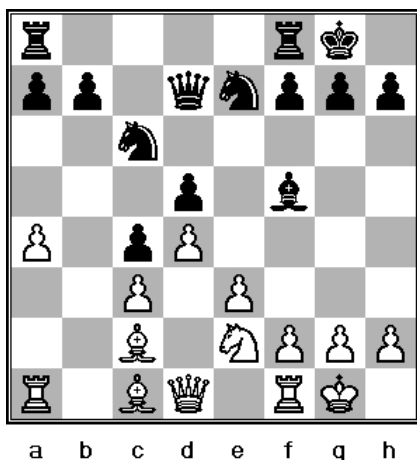
**Evgenij Agrest – Giorgi Kacheischvili**  
**Istanbul Olympiad, Round 4**  
**Istanbul, Turkey, October 2000**

**1. c4 e6 2. Nc3 d5 3. d4 Bb4 4. a3 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 c5 6. e3 Ne7**



**7. cxd5 exd5 8. Bd3 Nbc6 9. Ne2 c4**

**10. Bc2 Bf5 11. a4 0-0 12. 0-0 Qd7**



**13. Ng3 Bxc2 14. Qxc2 Rfe8 15. f3**

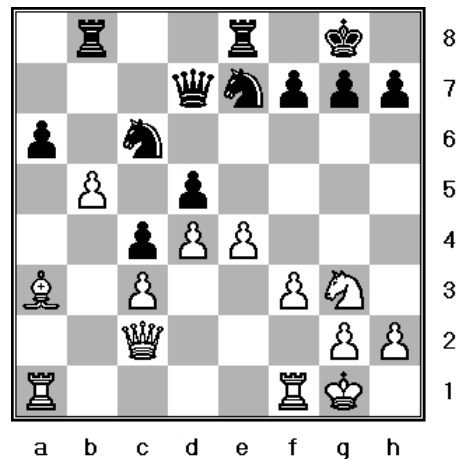
Compared to the previous game, White hasn't pushed the Bc1 up to a3 so quickly, leaving the a4 pawn defended by Ra1. So Black looks to make inroads on the queenside.

**15. ...a6 16. e4**

**16. ...b5**

Not 16. ...dxe4 17. fxe4 Nxd4? due to 18. Qd1.

**17. Ba3 Rab8 18. axb5**



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

We can't be sure of the circumstances of the draw between GMs in a team match, but it is fairly certain that Black isn't worse. Most likely Black will recapture a6xb5 and keep the ...b4 lever in reserve while looking to play ...Ng6-f4-d3 if possible. It isn't reasonable to think that either side can have serious designs on kingside operations, but how much weight the move ...b4 or some central action with an exchange between e4 and d5 might have is not clear.

## Chess Business by Eric Holcomb

### Urgent!

There were approximately 30 membership/subscription expirations in November, and 45 in December! (And that's just the ones who haven't yet renewed!) Since I only send magazines for two months after expiration, January was the last issue for those whose mailing label code contains "0911" (if you know someone in that category, perhaps someone who played in the 2008 WA Class tournament, please remind them) and February will be the last magazine for those whose code contains "0912."

Please take the time to renew now to avoid missing an issue, and to support NWC and your state chess federation. It's easy to do with a credit card ... just go online to <http://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/index.htm>, then click on the PayPal subscription form link. We have our landmark 750th issue coming up in June, and you won't want to miss it, so renew now!!

If you received an incorrectly bound January magazine (some pages missing, others duplicated), you can still request a replacement copy by contacting the Business Manager.



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**13329 208 Ave NE, Woodinville, WA 98072**  
**MEVjr54@yahoo.com**



# Opening Arguments

## by Harley Greninger



This month,  
Perry Powerful!

Thus far, we've enjoyed the swashbuckling style of Willy Wild, the electrifying efficiency of Abel Active and the perfect precision of Phil Positional. This month's guest is *Perry Powerful*. You've all played against Mr. Powerful. Remember the game(s) where it seemed each and every move thrust you deeper and deeper into difficulties? Mr. Powerful is like the giant boa-constrictor and with each breathe you take, the massive coils tighten relentlessly. There are no fireworks here, but rather a skillful display of *brute strength*. In fact, it would seem that Mr. Powerful's main aspiration is to establish zugzwang *even while all pieces are still on the board!* This month, we examine an awesome display of muscle by the Granddaddy of the Powerfuls, Mikhail Botvinnik.

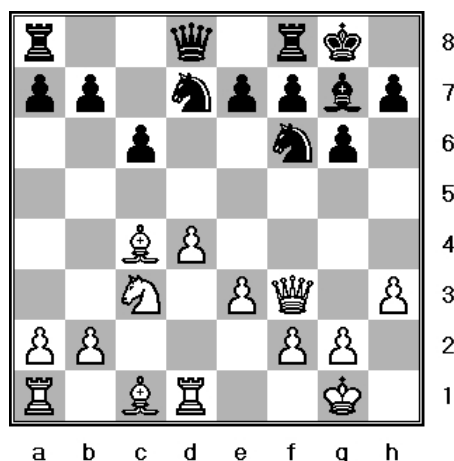
**Mikhail Botvinnik – Viacheslav Ragozin**  
**Leningrad, Round 3**  
**USSR, 1940**

### 1. d4

We mentioned in earlier columns that 1.e4 is White's most active first move, 1.Nf3 is White's most flexible first move and 1.c4 is most chameleon-like. 1.d4 on the other hand should be considered the most powerful of White's first move choices. No other first move occupies the center with a pawn, while controlling two squares (White's Queen hits d4 and the pawn hits e5). However, for the record, my opinion is that each of these first moves are approximately equal in value, possessing different strengths and appealing to different playing styles and opening strategy.

**1. ...d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e3 g6 5. Nf3 Bg7 6. Bd3 0-0 7. 0-0 Bg4 8. h3 Bxf3 9. Qxf3 dxc4 10. Bxc4 Nbd7 11. Rd1**

The opening has passed and White has secured a clear advantage, possessing the Bishop pair in a semi-open position, plus greater control of the center. Black on the other hand has no glaring weaknesses and a solid position.



### 11. ...e5 12. d5!

There is nothing to be gained by 12. dxe5 Nxe5 13. Qe2 Qe7 14. Bb3 Rad8 =, Portisch,L (2600)-Huebner,R (2560)/Frankfurt 1998, (drawn in 76 moves).

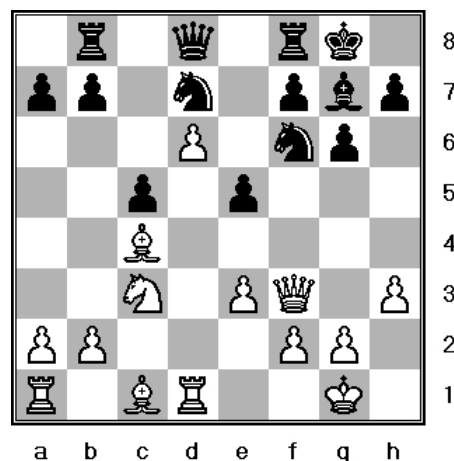
### 12. ...c5

Attempting to keep the position as closed as possible makes sense, as the black knights will feel more at home. Nevertheless, Botvinnik displays the refutation. In retrospect, better would have been 12. ...e4! 13. Nxe4 Ne5 14. Nxf6+ Bxf6 15. Qe2 Nxc4 16. Qxc4 cxd5 17. Rxd5 Qb6 and Black has relieved his position through exchanges. Ivanov,S (2460)-Milov,L (2300)/Podolsk 1990 (drawn in 33 moves).

### 13. d6!

The boa-constrictor's coils begin to tighten. Black's position is playable, if he can establish a Knight on d6, eg. 13. e4 Ne8 14. g4 Nd6 15. Bd3 c4 16. Bc2 b5 and Black had complete equality in Flasche,D-Gruschinski,R/Kettig 1994, although White went on to win in 49 moves.

### 13. ...Rb8

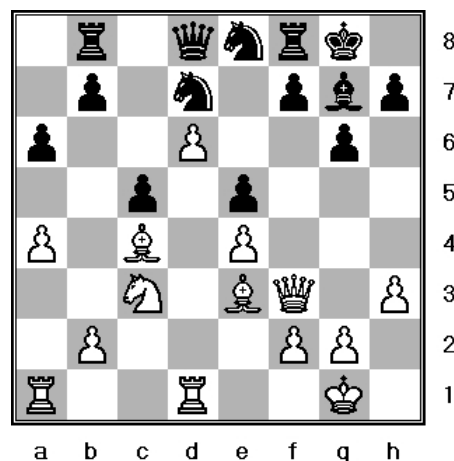


### 14. e4!

Securing the d5 square, which will act as a springboard for White's operations.

### 14. ...Ne8 15. Be3 a6 16. a4

Not allowing Black to breathe with b7-b5.



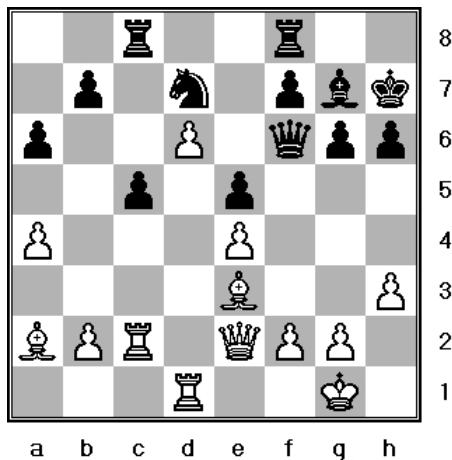
16. ...Rc8 17. Rd2 h6 18. Rad1

Like a razor-sharp machete, White's rooks and pawn at d6 slices Black's position in half.

18. ...Nef6 19. Nd5 Nxd5 20. Bxd5 Rb8 21. Qe2

Each time Black attempts to breathe, Botvinnik tightens the coils even further.

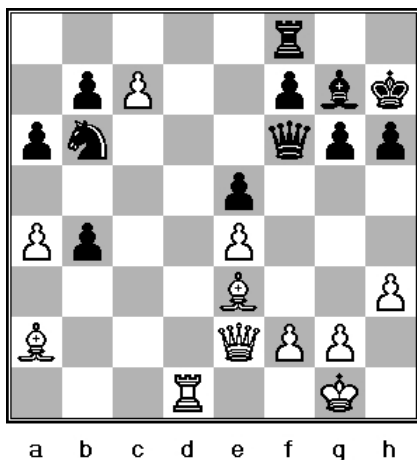
21. ...Kh7 22. Rc2 Qf6 23. Ba2 Rbc8



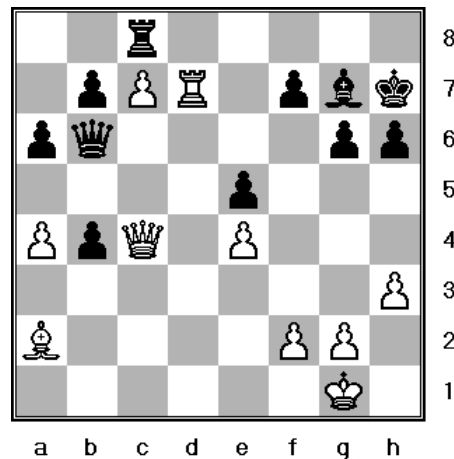
24. b4!

This launches the final phase as the white pieces enter into the heart of Black's position.

24. ...cxb4 25. Rc7 Rxc7 26. dxc7 Nb6



27. Bxb6 Qxb6 28. Qc4 Rc8 29. Rd7



29. ...Qc6 30. Qxc6

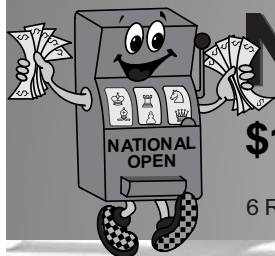
White now mops up.

30. ...bxc6 31. Rxf7 c5 32. Be6

And here, Ragozin had had enough and resigned. Ragozin, by the way, was no slouch, being one of Russia's strongest players in the 1930s & 40s.

1-0

If you truly admire and *can personally relate to* Botvinnik's play in this game, then you too may be a Perry Powerful! Study the games of Botvinnik, Karpov and Kramnik as well as the local Masters, Greg Serper, Victors Pupols and Clark Harmon and you will be able to develop a powerful opening repertoire, perfect for your playing style! Next time, we receive a visit from The Rock—stay tuned!



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# And In The End

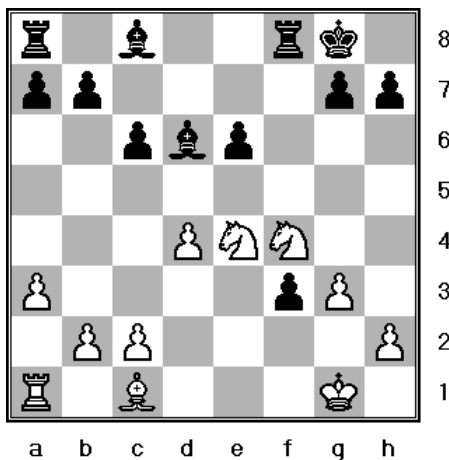
## by Dana Muller



This month we will look at a game from the very early part of my tournament career. In this game I had a winning position that not only fails to win, but finally ends up losing. Well, we've all had games like that. Normally such games aren't very insightful, but occasionally there are lessons to be learned from those painful losses.

In this particular case the lesson deals with how play on a weak square complex can stifle a position; it certainly seemed that none of my pieces could find effective posts. I have briefly reviewed this game on several occasions. It seems each time I came up with a different conclusion as to what the truth is. My conclusions have run the gamut from "Black is winning" to "White has an unbreakable grip on the position." I have to admit that even after analyzing the ending one more time, I'm still not 100% certain that the position is objectively winning for Black after the exchange of his black-square bishop.

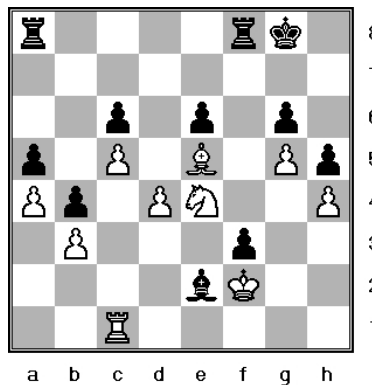
**Douglas Cheng – Dana Muller**  
**Sno-Flake Open**  
**Seattle, Washington, December 1973**  
 Black to move



Black is winning. He has a huge material advantage: an exchange plus an extra pawn. Having said that, there are some red flags in Black's position: part of the material advantage (pawn f3) is likely to be captured shortly, and the white-square bishop and rooks have little mobility. All of this is manageable except Black makes a mistake in exchanging his black-square bishop for a

knight. I suppose Shereshevsky would call this a failure to solve the "exchanging problem."

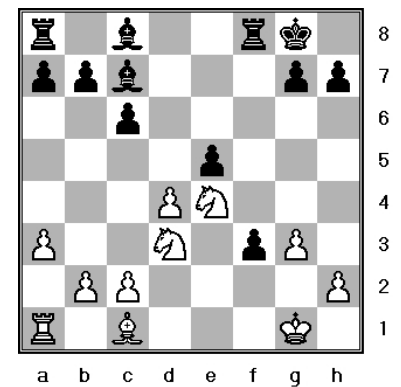
In any case, the unopposed black-square bishop and the centralized knight on e4 give White considerable compensation for the exchange he is behind. After the misguided exchange of the bishop, the game focuses on the twin problems in Black's game: the white-square bishop is in the way and needs to be activated, and the rooks need open files. In the meantime White should play to lock up the position. A prototypical position would be:



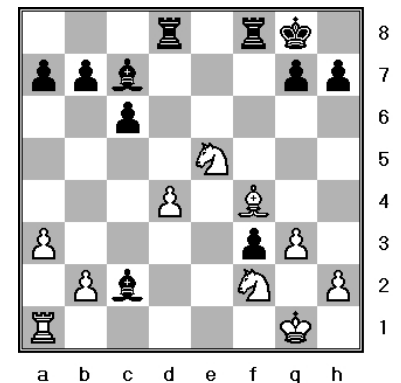
While this example may seem far fetched, a well timed c5 by White may well force Black to lock the queenside with ...b5 or risk exposing his weak squares.

### 16. ...Bxf4?

A natural move; the bishop doesn't lose a tempo and it adheres to the old bromide: exchange pieces when ahead in material, exchange pawns when behind. As stated above, this exchange is entirely wrong because the black squares have been handed over to White. This is a clear case where it is critical to evaluate what pieces remain on the board (and their relative mobility) rather than mindlessly reducing material. The retreat 16. ...Bc7 is the correct move, thereby retaining some influence on the dark squares. Play could continue 16. ... Bc7 17. Nd3 e5! (this may be what I missed during the game)

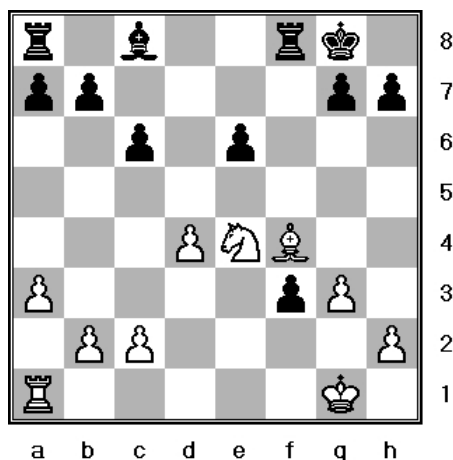


18. Nxe5 (18. dxe5 Bf5 19. Nef2 Rae8 20. Bf4 g5 21. Bxg5 Bxe5 22. c3 Bg7 is winning) Bf5 19. Nf2 (19. Ng5 Bxe5 20. dxe5 f2+ 21. Kxf2 h6 traps the knight) 19. ...Bxc2 20. Bf4 Rad8 with the idea of ... Bb6 targeting d4.



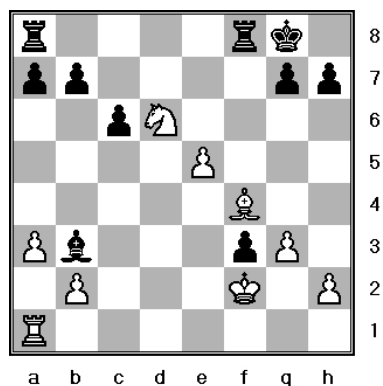
Black is clearly in control and should win without much trouble. After the text it's not clear that Black can win against best defense.

### 17. Bxf4



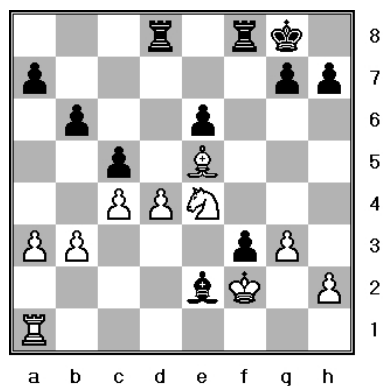
### 17. ...h6

During an earlier review, I thought 17. ... e5 was forced in order to maintain winning chances. I'm not so sure now. While the bishop is immediately brought into play, the pawn on e5 restricts Black's play. One sample line is 17. ... e5 18. dxe5 Bf5 19. Nd6 Bxc2 20. Kf2 (stopping f2+ tricks) 20. ...Bb3 (keeping an eye on e6)



21. Re1 (Nxb7 may open the file that Black's rooks need) 21. ...Be6 and it's still not clear how the black rooks can get into the game.

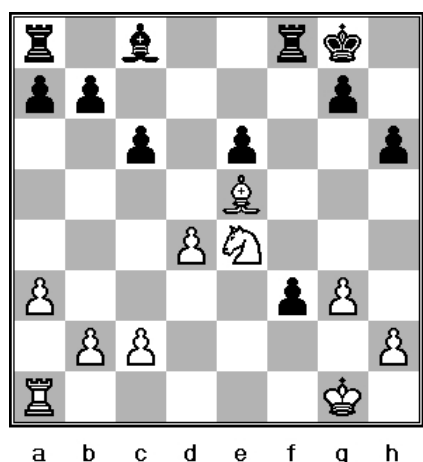
Another idea is to play b6 without h6, i.e. 17. ... b6 18. Kf2 Ba6 19. b3 Be2 20. c4 Rad8 21. Be5 c5



22. dxc5 bxc5 23. Bd6 Rf5 24. Ke3 a5 is messy, but at least Black has play. Note that White grabbing a pawn with Bxc5 needs to be calculated carefully since the black rook can then penetrate along the d-file. 17. ... b6 18. c4 a5 19. Kf2 Ba6 resembles the game continuation.

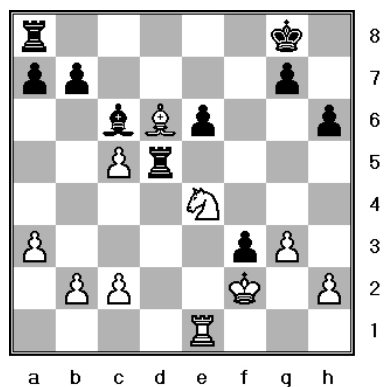
### 18. Be5

During the game and until the current review, I thought this to be clearly the best move since it permanently puts an end to all e5 pawn sacrifices. It seems the truth is that it is one reasonable move among several, 18. Kf2 and 18. c4 being other obvious continuations. In the long run, even if a different move is selected here, the bishop will likely end up on e5 to guard the d-pawn.



### 18. ...b6

Proceeding with a plan to activate the bishop on b7 or a6. White's last move (18. Be5) has the small defect that it allows an unclear pawn sacrifice, 18. ...c5. Play could continue 19. dxc5 (19. Nxc5? f2+ 20. Kf1 b6 21. Nd3 Ba6 22. Rd1 Rac8 23. c3 Rf3) Bd7 20. Kf2 Rf5 21. Bd6 (21. Bf4 Rd5 is unclear as well) 21. ...Bc6 22. Re1 Rd5.



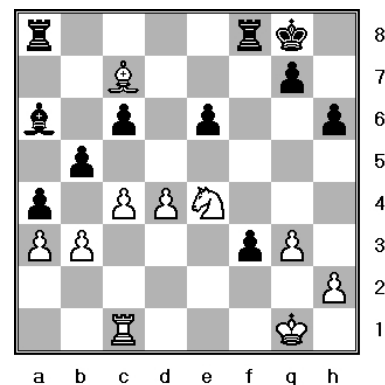
### 19. c4 a5

If 19. ...Ba6 then 20. b3 snuffs Black's

queenside play. The text prepares the undermining of the b3 square with a later a4.

### 20. Kf2

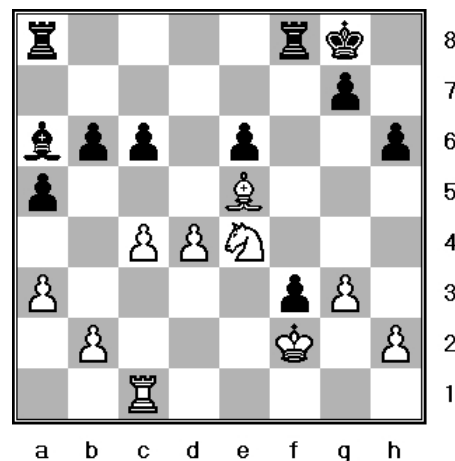
20. Bc7 is an interesting try. 20. ...Ra6 is awkward, so that leaves 20. ...b5. Play could continue 21. b3 (21. c5 a4 allows Black to break with b4 at the right moment) 21. ...Ba6 22. Rc1 (or 22. c5 now.) 22. ...a4



23. bxa4 Rf7 24. Be5 f2+ 25. Nxf2 bxc4 26. Ne4 (Kg2? c5! idea Bb7+) 26. ...Re3 and the position is messy but at least Black is active.

### 20. ...Ba6 21. Rc1

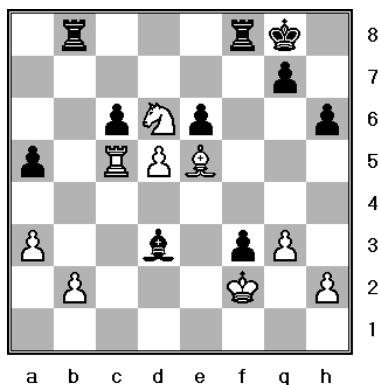
Better than 21. b3 which after 31. ... a4 opens the queenside.



### 21. ...c5

Played as much to stop 22. c5 as to try and open the position.

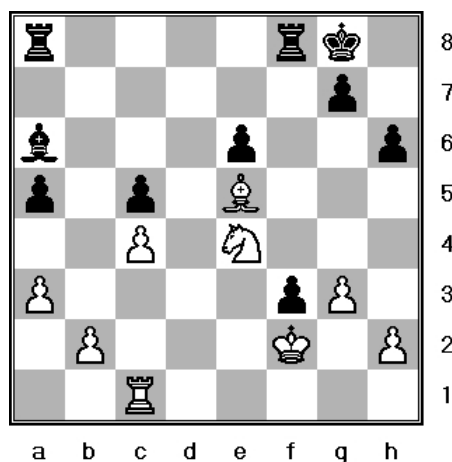
On 21. ...Rad8 then 22. c5 bxc5 23. Rxc5 Bd3 24. Nd6 Rb8 25. d5 (to guard b2)



25. ...exd5 26. Rxc6 idea Rc7 isn't what Black wants.

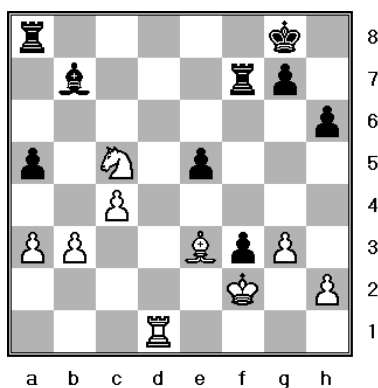
Another alternative is 21. ...a4, the idea being that after 22. c5 b5 an eventual break with b4 is possible. Getting a rook to the b-file without being harassed by the white minor pieces is another matter.

## 22. dxc5 bxc5



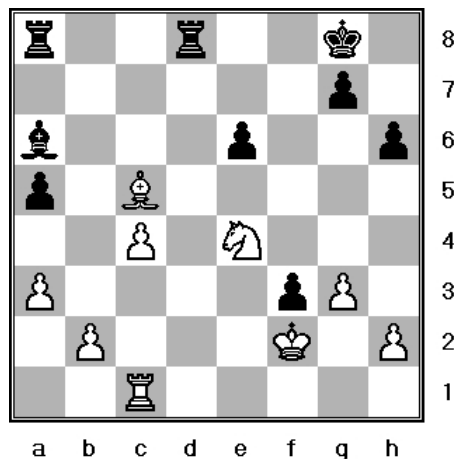
## 23. Bd6?

During the game (and until the current column), I thought this to be a useful finesse; now I think it misplaces White's bishop. The obvious 23. Nxc5 seems better; the knight dominates the bishop. For example 23. Nxc5 Rf5 24. Bd4 e5 25. Be3 Rf7 26. b3 Bb7 27. Rd1.



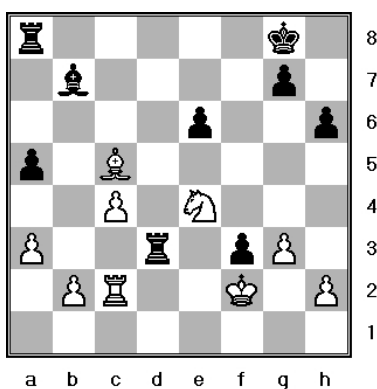
It's hard for Black to make progress

## 23. ...Rfd8 24. Bxc5



## 24. ...Rab8?

The immediate ...Rd3 is stronger. The a8-rook doesn't commit before it is clear whether moving to the b-file or the d-file is better. For example 24. ...Rd3 25. Rc2 Bb7

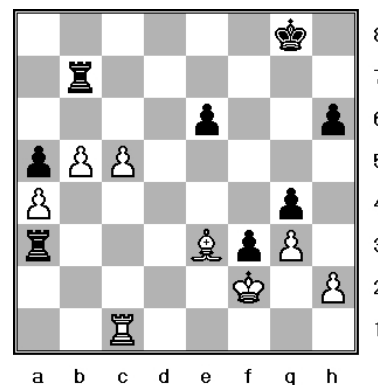


26. Nd2 (26. Nd6 Bc6 27. h3 e5 idea e4, Rad8) 26. ...a4 27. Be3 e5 28. c5 Bc6 29. h4 (29. Nc4 Rd1) 29. ...Kf7 30. Nc4 Ke6 is quite promising for Black. On 29. Nc4 then Rd1 idea Rh1, or 29. b4 axb4 30. axb4 still allows Rxe3, and 29. h4 g5 takes f4 away from the bishop.

Pushing the queenside pawns is not as dangerous for Black as it will be on the next two moves e.g. 24. ...Rd3 25. b4 Bb7 26. Nd6 axb4 27. Bxb4 Bc6 is good for Black. The other tries, 27. axb4 Ra2+ or 27. Nxb7 Raxa3 28. Rc2 b3 29. Bxa3 bxc2 30. Bc1 Rd1, are even worse.

## 25. Rc2

Missing the stronger 25. b4 getting queenside passers rolling. Black has helped make this move playable by moving the rook away from a8. Play could continue 25. ...Rd3 26. Nd6 Bb7 27. Nxb7 Rxb7 28. b5 g5 29. a4 g4 30. Be3 Ra3 31. c5



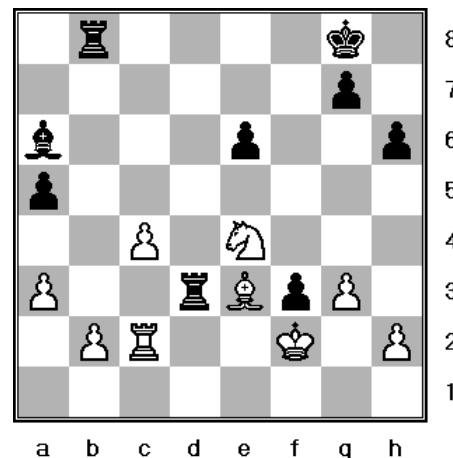
The white passers are dangerous.

## 25. ...Rd3

Guarding the f3-pawn

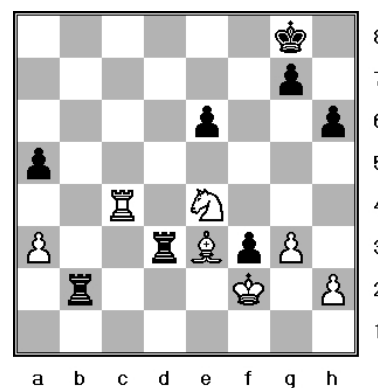
## 26. Be3

Cuts the rook support for the f3-pawn and sets up a Nc5 fork. 26. b4 also is worth a look.



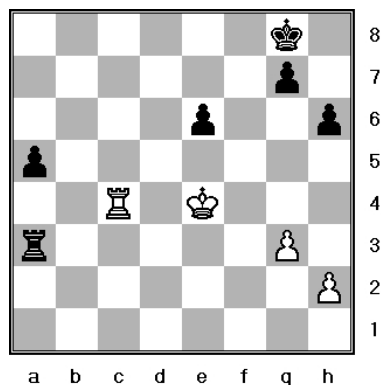
## 26. ...Rbb3?

Missing the tactical shot 26. ...Bxc4, e.g. 27. Rxc4 (27. Nc5 Bb3) 27. ...Rxb2+



28. Nd2 (28. Kxf3 Rbb3) Rxd2+ 29. Bxd2 Rxd2+ 30. Kxf3 Rd3+ 31. Ke4 Rxa3.



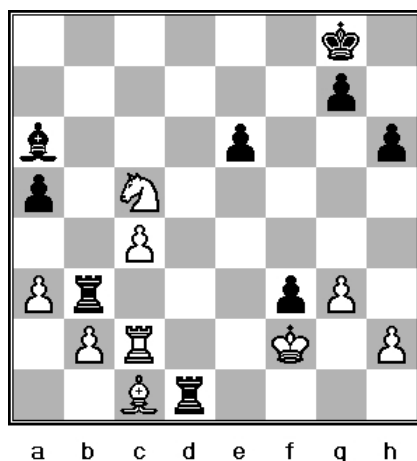


I'm not sure if this rook and pawn ending is a win versus best defense, but clearly Black does have strong winning chances.

### 27. Bc1?

The worst choice among the reasonable bishop moves. 27. Bf4 or 27. Bd2 are better. For example after 27. Bf4 Bxc4 28. Nc5 (28. Rxc4 is similar to the above note) 28. ...a4 and either 29. Nxb3 or 29. Nxd3 should result in a drawn rook plus bishop of opposite color ending.

### 27. ...Rd1 28. Nc5

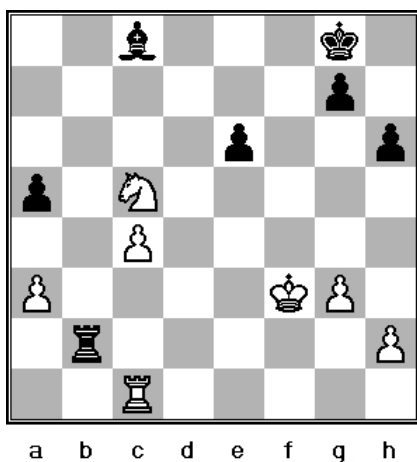


This loses, but to be fair 28. Bf4 Rbd3 doesn't hold much hope either.

### 28. ...Rxc1?

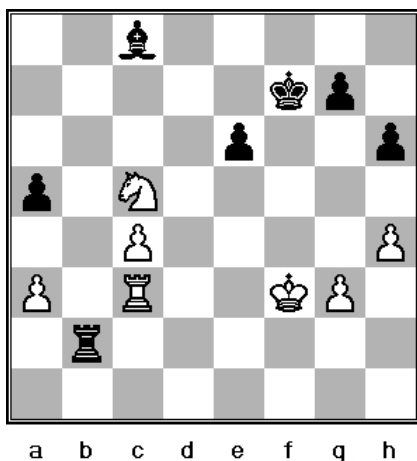
What's going on here? Black trades down to an even material ending which will prove difficult to hold. Instead the tactical shot 28. ... Rh1 wins. If 29. Nxb3 Rxb2+ 30. Kxf3 Rxc2 31. Bf4 Bxc4 32. Nxa5 Bd5+ 33. Ke3 Rxb2 or 29. Rd2 Rxb2+ 30. Kg1 (30. Ke1 Re3+) Rxd2 31. Bxd2 Rxb2 32. Bc3 Rc2.

### 29. Rxc1 Rxb2+ 30. Kxf3 Bc8



In my youthful optimism, I may have thought that equal material meant an easy draw. But with the white knight dominating the black bishop, and the white king more active than the black counterpart, black has his work cut out for him to find a way to draw.

### 31. h4 Kf7 32. Rc3!

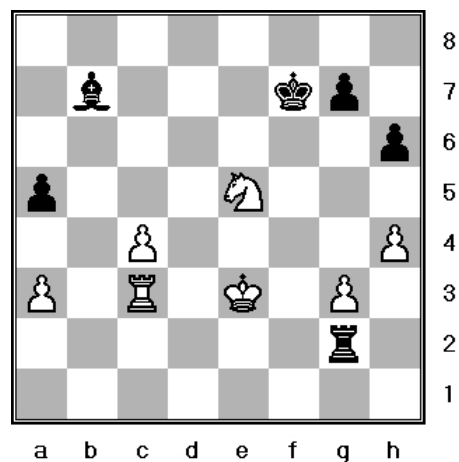


Not a hard move to find, but esthetically pleasing. The rook single-handedly guards the a- and g-pawns and is properly placed behind the c-pawn. The white knight and king are free to harass Black's pawns and facilitate the advance of the c-pawn.

### 32. ...e5?

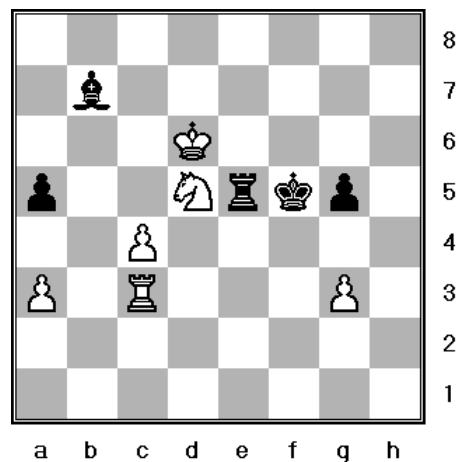
Trying to give the bishop some breathing room, but the pawn is lost by force. 32. ...Ke7 33. Ke3 Kd6 gives Black some hope of groveling toward a draw.

### 33. Nd3 Bb7+ 34. Ke3 Rg2 35. Nxe5+



This effectively ends the game; Black is down material as well as position. White efficiently wraps up the game by centralizing his pieces.

### 35. ...Ke6 36. Kd4 Re2 37. Ng6 Kf5 38. Nf4 Re4+ 39. Kc5 g5 40. hxg5 hxg5 41. Nd5 Re5 42. Kd6



### 42. ...Bxd5

Seems forced: the rook is threatened via Rf3+ and 42. ...Re8 43. g4+ Kg6 44. Rb3 Bc8 45. Ne7+ Kg7 46. Nxc8 Rxc8 47. c5 wins easily.

### 43. cxd5 Ke4 44. Rc4+

### 1-0

# 2009 Northwest Chess Grand Prix Final Standings

by Murlin Varner,  
Grand Prix Administrator

Well, another year over, another set of Grand Prix winners. Some are new, some are repeat winners. If you aren't a winner, the 2010 contest has started....

There were 27 players who collected more than 100 points this year, including one from Idaho. The top finishers were Nick Raptis (181.5) in Oregon and Darby Monahan (164.5) in Washington. For Nick, this is the fifth time in the seven years I've been keeping the records, for Darby it is the first. The class winners are also fairly evenly split between new and repeat recipients.

While we didn't have anyone go over 200 points this year, the number who went over 100 is a record. 2009 also set records for most entries into GP events (1951) and most events with multipliers (16). The total number of GP events was 80, tying the record set in 2008. The number of players involved with GP events was 564, only two short of last year's record amount. The number of players per event increased by 11.8% and the number of entries per player increased by 13.6% from 2008.

Here are your final Grand Prix leaders for 2009. First place in each class will receive \$115.08 in Washington and \$53.72 in Oregon. Second place in each class will receive \$57.54 and \$26.86, respectively. Raptis and Monahan will receive an extra first place share for their overall wins.

## Oregon

### Masters

1 Raptis, Nick .....	181.5	1 Sinanan, Joshua C ...	122.5
2 Haessler, Carl .....	60.5	2 Chen, Howard J .....	115
3 Roua, Radu .....	49	3 Schill, William J .....	113.5
4 Szendroi, Robert J .....	30	4 MacGregor, Michael ..	92.5
.....		5 Collyer, Curt D .....	87
.....		6 Pupols, Viktors .....	63

### Experts

1 Breckenridge, Steven ..	174.5	1 Watts, Peter .....	141
2 Gay, Daniel Z .....	134.5	2 Bartron, Paul R .....	134.5
3 Morris, Michael J .....	43	3 Kelley, Dereque .....	126
4 Chung, John .....	41	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 ..	126
2 Pyle, Galen .....	115.5	2 Wang, Michael .....	118.5
3 Fulton, David .....	114	3 Sen, Samir .....	116
4 Botez, V Alexandra .....	54.5	4 Lee, Nathan Y .....	108
5 Evers, Jason .....	44.5	5 O'Gorman, Peter J ...	100.5
6 Herrera, Robert .....	43.5	6 Gottlieb, Ethan .....	98.5

## Class B

1 Witt, Steven A .....	106.5	1 Buck, Stephen J .....	142.5
2 Niro, Frank .....	88.5	2 Feng, Roland .....	121
3 Brusselback, Lon .....	78	3 Tokareva, Kate .....	112.5
4 Grom, Alex .....	76.5	4 McAleer, James .....	105
5 Frojen, Ken .....	65	5 Ackerman, Ryan S ....	89
6 Gagnon, William .....	56.5	6 Griffin, David B .....	75.5

## Class C

1 Dietz, Arliss .....	95	1 Monahan, Darby P ..	164.5
2 Skalmes, Erik .....	49	2 Piper, August .....	148.5
3 Midson, Tony .....	45	3 Goodfellow, Robert ..	112
4 Tse, Kalen S .....	44.5	4 Grabar, Anatoly .....	98
5 Wentz, Dale R .....	43.5	5 Bashkansky, Ethan ....	92.5
6 Shimada, Masakazu .....	41	6 Grabar, Svetlana .....	86

## Class D and Below

1 Chatterjee, Dhruva .....	54	1 Richards, Jerrold .....	100
2 Chattopadhyay, Sandip ..	52	2 Davis, Freddy A .....	84.5
3 Donchenko, Peter .....	34.5	3 Chang, Evangeline ....	67.5
4 Barrese, William .....	32	4 Waugh, James .....	66
5 Butson, Jeffrey C .....	31.5	5 Lampman, Becca .....	60
6 Molchanov, Valentin ....	30	6 Zhu, Bryan J .....	56.5

## Overall Leaders, by State

1 Raptis, Nick .....	181.5	1 Monahan, Darby P ..	164.5
2 Breckenridge, Steven ..	174.5	2 Piper, August .....	148.5
3 Esler, Brian .....	145	3 Buck, Stephen J .....	142.5
4 Gay, Daniel Z .....	134.5	4 Watts, Peter .....	141
5 Pyle, Galen .....	115.5	5 Bartron, Paul R .....	134.5
6 Fulton, David .....	114	6 Kelley, Dereque .....	126
7 Witt, Steven A .....	106.5	6 Mathews, Daniel R ..	126
8 Dietz, Arliss .....	95	8 Sinanan, Joshua C ...	122.5
9 Niro, Frank .....	88.5	9 Feng, Roland .....	121
10 Brusselback, Lon .....	78	10 Wang, Michael .....	118.5
11 Grom, Alex .....	76.5	11 Sen, Samir .....	116
12 Frojen, Ken .....	65	12 Chen, Howard J .....	115
13 Haessler, Carl .....	60.5	13 Schill, William J .....	113.5
14 Gagnon, William .....	56.5	14 Tokareva, Kate .....	112.5
15 Yoshinaga, David K .....	55	15 Goodfellow, Robert ..	112

## Players from Other Places

1 Leslie, Cameron D	ID	1881	117.5
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
11 Martin, Robert A	MT	1697	41
12 Monkhouse, Neale D	CAN	1757	40.5
13 Abderhalden, Katherine L	ID	1584	38
14 Patterson, Roger	CAN	2197	37.5
15 Brewster, Robert D	CAN	1978	35
15 Harmon-Vellotti, Carl H	ID	1703	35
15 Lee, Jonah E	CAN	1051	35

# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address  
 2150 N 107 St  
 Seattle WA 98133  
 Infoline  
 206-417-5405  
[www.seattlechess.org](http://www.seattlechess.org)  
[kleistcf@aol.com](mailto: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; Tornadoes (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.

**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 (WA Open):** May 28.  
**It's Summertime:** Jun. 4, 11, 18, 25.  
**Firecracker Quads (G/25):** July 2.

## Feb. 27, March 20

**Format:** 3-RR, 4-ply 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.

## April 29

**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 4/25, \$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.

## Feb. 21, March 14

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

## Sunday Tornado

## 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 Centers" 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 (B-85); so just take the elevator down one floor. We think you'll like our new venue.

## Seattle Spring Open

March 26-28 or March 27-28

A two-section Swiss (4 rounds - Open, 5 rounds - Reserve) with a time control of 40/2 and SD/1 (two-day Reserve schedule - Round 1, G/64). The prize fund of \$810 is based on 40 paid entries, 5 per prize group.

*a Harmon Memorial Grand Prix event*

### Open

**First** \$160  
**Second** \$120  
**U2100** \$90

### Reserve (U1900)

**First** \$100  
**Second** \$75  
**U1700** \$60  
**U1500** \$50  
**U1300** \$40  
**Unrated** \$15

**Plus Score Pool - \$100**

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

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

**Rounds:** Open-Sat. 12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5; Reserve-Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

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

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

# Future Events

♂ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♂

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

♂ (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.

February 6-7 and 13-15

Oregon State Championship, Portland, OR

February 6-7 and 13-15

Washington State Championship, Seattle, WA

♂ February 20

Tacoma Chess Club Tornado #2 ♂

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](mailto:ggarychess@aol.com).

♂ February 27

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](mailto:portlandchessclub@gmail.com), 503-246-2978, [www.pdxchess.com](http://www.pdxchess.com).

♂ 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](http://www.spokanechessclub.org)

♂ March 20-21

Portland Spring Open ♂

Portland, OR. More information next month.

April 2-5

Grand Pacific Open

Victoria, B.C. See display advertisement on page 11.

May 22-24

Keres Memorial

Richmond, B.C. More information next month.

♂ May 29-31

Washington Open ♂

TBD, WA. More information next month.

June 11-13

National Open

Las Vegas, NV. See display advertisement on page 25.

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

For information on membership  
and coming events:  
[www.pdxchess.org](http://www.pdxchess.org)