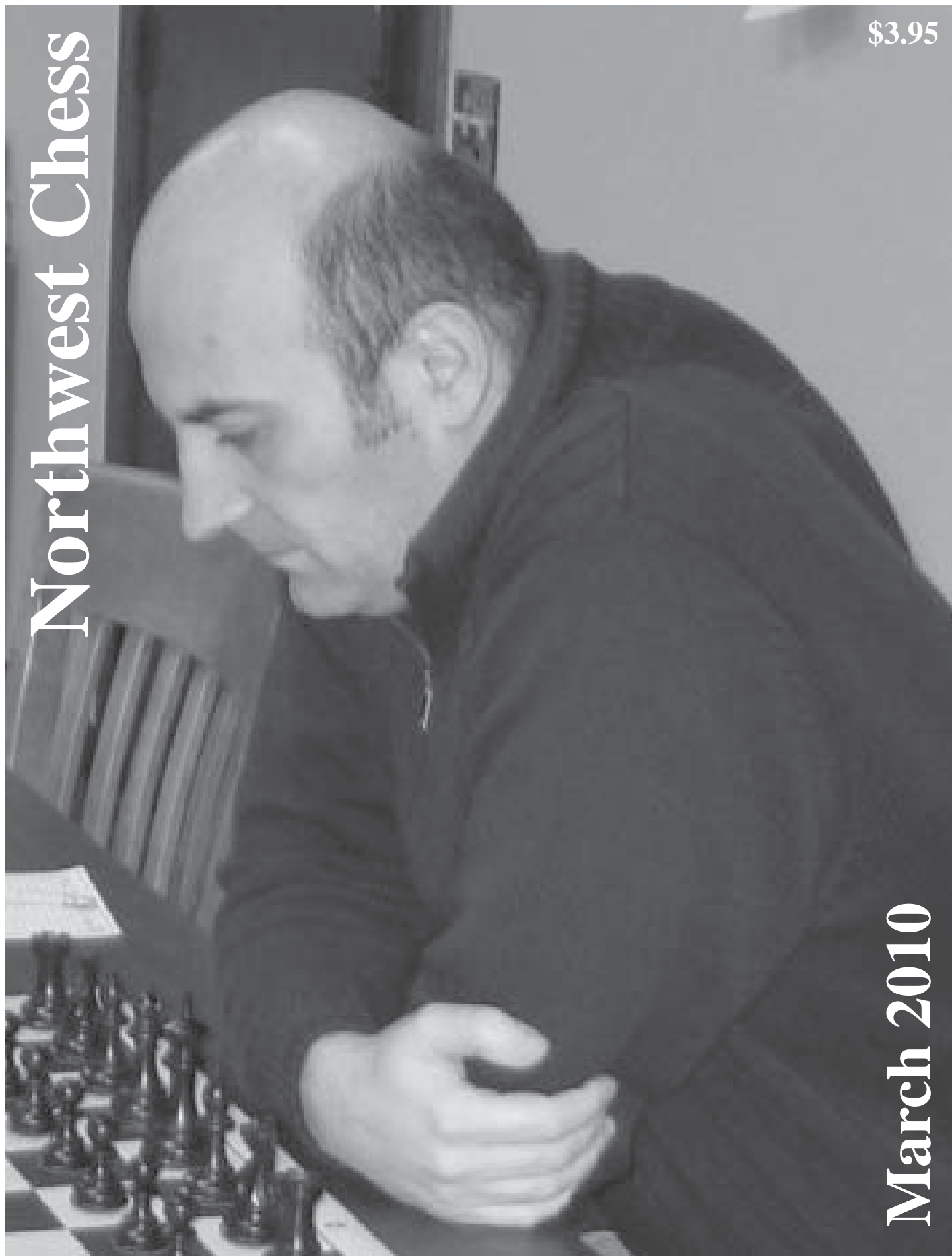


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Contents

Cover art: Radu Roua, Oregon State Champion

Photo credit: Russell Miller

Page 3:	Editor's Desk	Ralph Dubisch
Page 4:	State Championship Results	
Page 6:	Oregon Championship Portraits	Alex Grom
Page 11:	Tales From the Icebox	Chris Kalina
Page 15:	Local Rivalries: Remembering Kent Pullen	Mike Murray
Page 20:	Chess Business: Handicapped Pairings	Eric Holcomb
Page 22:	Theoretically Speaking	Bill McGearry
Page 24:	Opening Arguments	Harley Greninger
Page 26:	And in the End	Dana Muller
Page 30:	NW Grand Prix	Murlin Varner
Page 31:	Seattle Chess Club Events	
Page 32:	Future Events	

Next month expect many more annotated games and pictures from the various state championship events in both Washington and Oregon, and an interesting new column from Corey Russell.

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Dear Eric Holcomb,

Enclosed is my check for \$27.00 for another year's subscription to *Northwest Chess*.

I have been impressed with the quality of the writing in the magazine. Ralph is to be complimented for getting Bill McGeary, Harley Greninger, Dana Muller and the rest for insightful analysis and the excellent games.

The chess players of Jefferson County and the Olympic Peninsula may have some exciting news to report. We'll keep you informed in the days ahead.

Fraternally yours,

Stephen L. Chase, Jr.

Stephen also passed along a game he played against Kennedy Poyser, noting:

I was saddened to learn of Kennedy 'Kip' Poyser's passing in the February edition of *Northwest Chess*. I first met Kennedy at the Yakima Valley Open in March, 1971, when I was living in Bellingham, and made, for me, a breakthrough in proving that I could play chess better than I did in high school. While I lost my game, I went on to score two wins and two draws and won the 2nd College player award; I still have that trophy with me, and fortunately, the game score with Kennedy.

**Kennedy Poyser – Stephen Chase
Yakima Valley Open, Round 1
Yakima, Washington, March 6, 1971**

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Bd2 c5 5. d5 d6 6. Qc2 exd5
7. Nxd5 Bxd2+ 8. Qxd2 Nxd5 9. cxd5 0-0 10. e4 Re8 11. Bd3 f5
12. f3 fxe4 13. fxe4 Bf5 14. Qf4 Bg6**

(14. ...Bxe4 15. Bxe4 Qe7 -/+)

**15. Nf3 c4 16. Bc2 Nd7 17. O-O Qf6 18. Qxf6 Nxf6 19. Nd2
Bxe4**

(diagram)

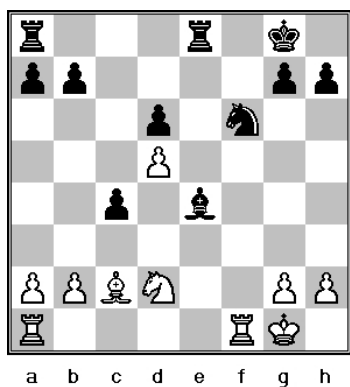
20. Rxf6?!

20. Bxe4 Nxe4 21. Nxc4.

**20. ...Bxc2 21. Rxd6
Red8**

21. ...Re2! 22. Nf3 Be4.

**22. Nxc4 Rxd6 23. Nxd6
Rd8 24. Nxb7 Rxd5 25. Rc1
Be4 26. Nc5 Bb1 27. Rxb1
Rxc5 28. b4 Rc2 29. a3 Rc3
30. a4 Ra3 31. a5 a6 32. Rb2 h6 33. Kf2 Rc3 34. Ke2 Rc7 35.
Kd3 Kf7 36. b5 axb5 37. Rxb5 Ra7 38. h4 Ra6 39. Kd4 Ke6 40.
Kc5 (40. Rb6+ Rxb6 41. axb6 Kd6 42. h5.) 40. ...Kf7 41. Rb7+
Kf8 42. Kb5 Rg6 43. a6 Rg2 44. a7 Ra2 45. Rb8+ Kf7 46. a8=Q
Rxa8 47. Rxa8 Kf6 48. Kc5 g5 49. hgx5+ hxg5 50. Rf8+ Ke5 51.
Kc4 Ke4 52. Kc3 Ke3 53. Kc2 g4 54. Rg8 Kf3 55. Kd2 g3 56.
Rf8+ Kg2 57. Ke2 Kh2 58. Rh8+ Kg1 59. Kf3 g2 60. Rg8 Kh1
61. Kf2 1-0**



Editor's Desk

Ralph Dubisch



Last month's editorial on a rating floor assigned for winning a sizeable class prize started a discussion on the US Chess member forums. At the risk of oversimplification, I'll summarize some of the comments. Since I'm working from memory here (being too lazy to actually go reread the quotes), I won't mention any names, and if you recognize your own opinions being misrepresented, feel free to assume I'm talking about someone else.

Some people seemed to feel that if it's a USCF rule, then it didn't have anything to do with Bill Goichberg's Continental Chess. This, it seems to me, overlooks decades of chess politics in which Bill Goichberg has become practically synonymous with the national federation.

Some stated outright that ratings were primarily (or even entirely) a marketing tool, so higher ratings were simply better than accurate ones. Very strange, and quite contrary to the spirit of Arpad Elo's original conception, in which it would be possible to compare the strength of players across generations (there's a reason his book is titled "The Rating of Chessplayers, Past and Present"). However, the idea that ratings are primarily a method to increase membership seems to have been stated before on the forums, and has traction with delegates who actually make decisions.

Several felt that protecting against sandbagging was necessary, and that this took precedence over having ratings that reflected actual results. Clearly these people love big class prize tournaments. At least one said that the rating system isn't so delicate that we need to worry about things like this. I would point out that we now have years of systemic inflation, despite the fact that the primary problem with chess rating systems, as designed by Dr. Elo, is systemic *deflation*. So, not delicate? Maybe once it's broken, it's no longer delicate, but that didn't seem to be the argument he was attempting.

Many pointed out that in my example case, the player involved probably ended up rated more or less where he would have been even without the floor, and didn't appear to have suffered any damage from the floor assigned. They generally continued with the idea that a player who did feel damaged could appeal the floor with a chance to have it removed or adjusted.

Although they are probably correct that the floor in this instance didn't seriously warp the rating system, they miss the point that many players really do feel a higher rating is "good," and would thus not appeal a floor that was too high. They wouldn't recognize, in fact, that they were being damaged. The rating system is supposed to be accurate, but many players use it as an ego boost, so it should not require individual appeals to correct systemic errors.

Bill Goichberg himself weighed in with three other examples of players who earned rating floors in the same time. Two of them appeared to have had little effect, while the third had indeed proved to be a sandbagger, who went on to win at least two more serious class prizes, though now in a slightly higher class. I found this example to be a particularly unconvincing argument for the application of rating floors to raise a player's class after winning a large class prize, for the simple reason that it didn't prevent the sandbagger from winning more class prizes. A tool to attack a particular problem should surely at the very least *work*.

Some (obviously highly intelligent) people agreed with my opinion that rating floors shouldn't be assigned to class prize winners. Some went further to say that rating floors shouldn't exist at all, or should only exist in rather specific cases, such as for life masters.

Consider the reverse case, in which a high-rated player might be assigned a rating ceiling, well below his current rating, for having one sub-standard result. The logic is actually exactly the same as applying a floor for a single good performance, but somehow I doubt it would have the same support from the politicians.

Washington State Championship

	Name	City (WA)	pre	post	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Place
1	Huso Hadzic	Tukwila	2162	2167	x	½	½	½	½	1	0	1	0	0	4.0	6th-7th
2	Harley Greninger	Hoquiam	2202	2220	½	x	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	5.5	2nd-3rd
3	Viktors Pupols	Kingston	2247	2222	½	½	x	0	0	0	1	½	0	½	3.0	8th-9th
4	Ignacio Perez	Seattle	2279	2248	½	½	1	x	0	0	1	0	0	0	3.0	8th-9th
5	William Schill	Kirkland	2231	2222	½	½	1	1	x	0	½	0	½	0	4.0	6th-7th
6	Michael Omori	Seattle	2048	2110	0	½	1	1	1	x	½	0	1	0	5.0	4th
7	David Bragg	Bothell	2201	2200	1	½	0	0	½	½	x	0	0	0	2.5	10th
8	Josh Sinanan	Brier	2252	2246	0	0	½	1	1	1	1	x	0	0	4.5	5th
9	Curt Collyer	Seattle	2315	2311	1	0	1	1	½	0	1	1	x	0	5.5	2nd-3rd
10	Howard Chen	Monroe	2249	2314	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	x	8.0	Washington Champion

Oregon State Championship

	Name	City (OR)	pre	post	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Place
1	Carl Haessler	Oswego	2200	2205	x	0	0	1	0	½	1	1	½	1	5.0	5th-6th
2	Mike Morris	Portland	2099	2109	1	x	0	½	0	0	1	½	0	1	4.0	7th
3	Radu Roua	Portland	2221	2258	1	1	x	½	1	0	1	½	1	1	7.0	Oregon Champion
4	Corey Russell	Medford	2200	2205	0	½	½	x	1	1	½	0	½	1	5.0	5th-6th
5	Steven Breckenridge	Gresham	2206	2223	1	1	0	0	x	½	1	1	½	1	6.0	3rd-4th
6	Nick Raptis	Portland	2300	2301	½	1	1	0	½	x	1	1	0	1	6.0	3rd-4th
7	John Chung	Waldport	2093	2062	0	0	0	½	0	0	x	0	0	½	1.0	9th-10th
8	Daniel Gay	Tigard	2053	2065	0	½	½	1	0	0	1	x	0	½	3.5	8th
9	Chuck Schulien	Portland	2310	2316	½	1	0	½	½	1	1	1	x	1	6.5	2nd
10	Robert Szendroi	Medford	2200	2200	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	x	1.0	9th-10th

Washington Premier

	Name	City (WA)	pre	post	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Place
1	Tian Sang	Mercer Isl	2130	2197	x	1	1	½	0	½	1	1	½	1	6.5	3rd
2	Michael Wang	Kirkland	2079	2072	0	x	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	4.0	5th-6th
3	Vishnu Warriar	Redmond	1913	1915	0	1	x	0	0	0	½	½	0	½	2.5	8th-9th
4	Dereque Kelley	Redmond	2156	2206	½	1	1	x	1	1	1	½	1	1	8.0	1st-2nd
5	Randy Dean	Olympia	2095	2169	1	1	1	0	x	1	1	1	1	1	8.0	1st-2nd
6	Michael MacGregor	Tacoma	2163	2148	½	0	1	0	0	x	1	0	1	1	4.5	4th
7	Peter Watts	Brier	1909	1912	0	0	½	0	0	0	x	1	0	1	2.5	8th-9th
8	Paul Bartron	Tacoma	2096	2072	0	0	½	½	0	1	0	x	0	1	3.0	7th
9	Kerry Xing	Bothell	2110	2098	½	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	x	½	4.0	5th-6th
10	Charles McMillan	Bellevue	2068	2035	0	1	½	0	0	0	0	0	½	x	2.0	10th

Washington Invitational

	Name	City (WA)	pre	post	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Place
1	Robert Goodfellow	Seattle	1743	1676	x	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	0	1.0	10th
2	Richard Tang	Bellevue	1114	1220	1	x	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2.0	9th
3	Amith Vanmane	Bellevue	1645	1710	1	1	x	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	5.0	5th
4	Mark Smith	Seattle	1894	1861	1	1	0	x	0	0	½	½	1	0	4.0	6th
5	Roland Feng	Seattle	1882	1908	1	1	1	1	x	½	½	1	1	0	7.0	2nd
6	Siva Narayanan	Seattle	1787	1753	1	0	0	1	½	x	0	0	0	½	3.0	7th-8th
7	Skylor Fryberg	Tulalip	1906	1897	½	1	1	½	½	1	x	1	0	0	5.5	4th
8	Wayee Tang	Bellevue	1490	1533	½	1	0	½	0	1	0	x	0	0	3.0	7th-8th
9	Michael Hosford	Kirkland	1891	1894	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	x	0	6.0	3rd
10	Igor Ummel	Arlington	2041	2059	1	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	x	8.5	1st

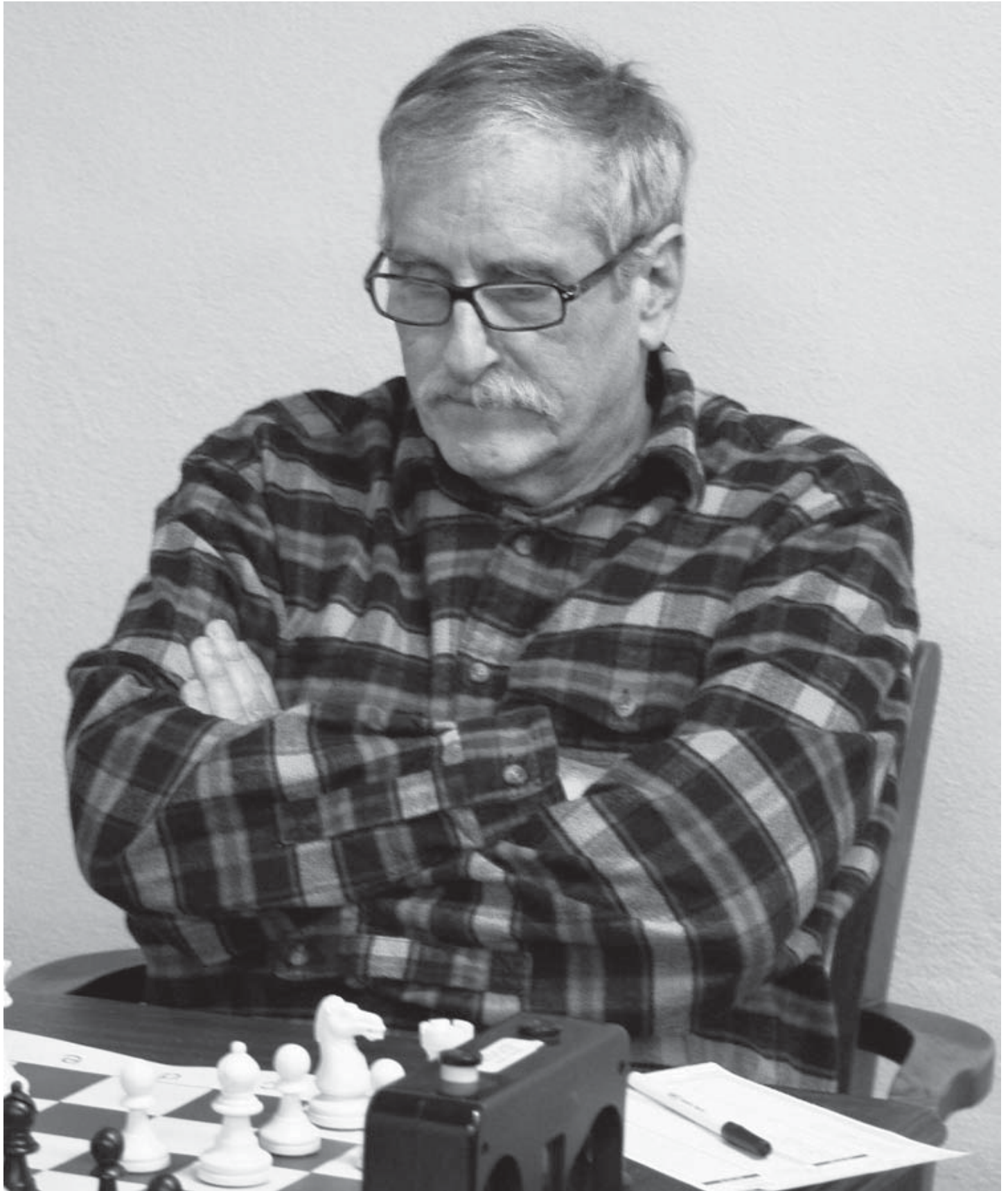


Back: Viktors Pupols, Josh Sinanan, Curt Collyer, Huzo Hadzic, Ignacio Perez. Front: David Bragg, Harley Greninger, Michael Omori, Howard Chen. Seated with newspaper: Duane Polich. Not pictured: William Schill. Photo credit: Philip Peterson.



Back: Mike Morris, Chuck Schulien, Corey Russell, Radu Roua, Carl Haessler, John Chung. Front: Neil Dale, Steve Breckenridge, Nick Raptis, Daniel Gay, Robert Szendroi. Photo credit: Julie Gay.

Oregon Championship Portraits by Alex Grom



Mike Morris. Photo credit: Alex Grom.



Corey Russell. Photo credit: Alex Grom.



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Nick Raptis (Corey Russell, background). Photo credit: Alex Grom.

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35th Annual Keres Memorial

\$4000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund

Victoria Day Weekend, May 22-24, 2010

Location: Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel, 3500 Cessna Drive, Richmond, BC

Round Times: Sat. 10:00 / 5:00, Sun. 10:00 / 4:00, Monday 9:00 / 2:30

Time Control: Game in 90 minutes plus 60 second per move increment.

Entry Fees: Open: \$120 by May 1, \$130 by May 20, \$140 on site. **U2000:** \$100 by May 1, \$110 by May 20, \$120 on site. **U1600** \$80 by May 1, \$90 by May 20, \$100 on site. Non-CFC members add \$16 for CFC Tournament Membership

Prizes: Open \$1,000/\$600/\$400 **U2200** \$300 **U2000** \$600/\$400. **U1800** \$200 **U1600** \$350 **U1400** \$150

Registration: on line at www.keresmemorial.pbworks.com or by cheque payable to Roger Patterson. Mail to Roger Patterson 4381 Wildflower Lane, Victoria, BC V8X 5H1 Canada

Misc: Sets, boards and clocks provided. Special \$125 room rate at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel, single or double occupancy: 1-800-268-1133 (reserve by 4/21; mention Keres Chess Tournament). See website for further details. FIDE and CFC rated.

4th Annual Grand Pacific Open

\$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 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 refer to Canadian currency.

Minnesota Chess Scene:

Tales From The Icebox

by
Chris
Kalina



And now with both the Seattle Chess Club and the Chess Castle of Minnesota taking places in their newly found sites for the winter, it is time to make a few appearances at the Castle once again The first game for this month was played in a saturday 6 round g/30 event known as 'Whiz Blitz'. Entering this tournament rated at 2084, I was on the quest over the weekend for a 2100 rating after a missed opportunity in Seattle during the 5th round at the WA Class

Greg Dolce – Chris Kalina
Chess Castle Whiz Blitz

Minneapolis, December 5, 2009

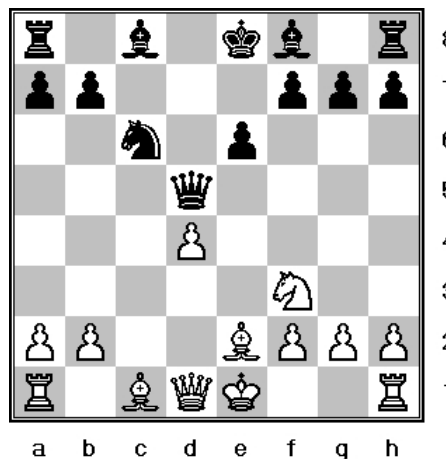
1. c4 c5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Nf3 d5

The Rubinstein variation against the English is intended with this move order, which is basically a reversed Maroczy Bind.

4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. Nxd5?!

As in the Sicilian, this capture ends up drawing the black queen to a good square.

5. ...Qxd5 6. d4 e6 7. e3 Nc6 8. Be2 cxd4 9. exd4



9. ...Bb4+?!

The point of this move is to gain a tempo and then castle, however it is best for Black to keep his dark-squared bishop, as it is better than its counterpart.

10. Bd2 0-0 11. 0-0?!

Better to take the opportunity to exchange the bishop first since black's bishop is better

11. ...Be7

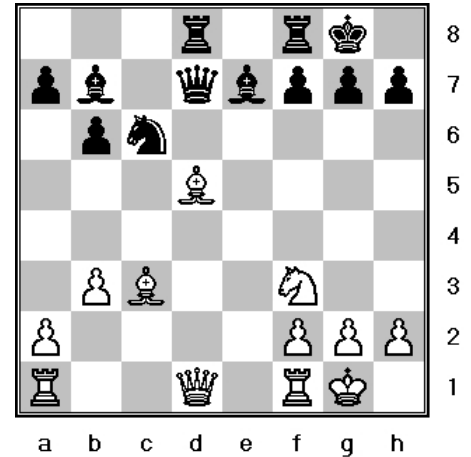
I only gave my opponent one chance to exchange that bishop, which really was once too many! Thankfully I was given the opportunity to preserve this piece. Now it is going to f6 to apply more pressure on the

d4 pawn.

12. Bc3 b6

The light-squared bishop will go on the long diagonal and start menacing the white king in short order.

13. b3 Bb7 14. Bc4 Qd7 15. d5 exd5 16. Bxd5 Rad8



17. Bxc6??

This is the move where White's game goes downhill quickly. Better was to retreat the bishop to c4 and complete development.

17. ...Qxc6 18. Qc1

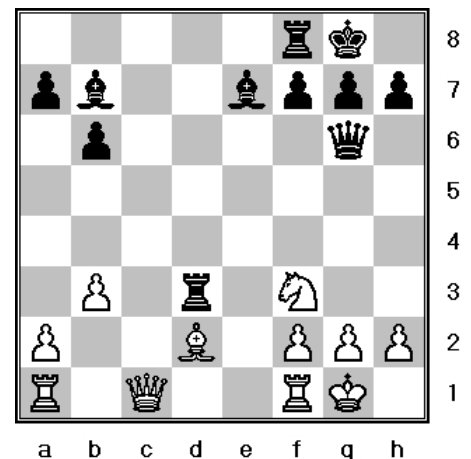
18. Qe1 would have been met with ...Rfe8

18. ...Rd3

Threatening not only the obvious capture on c3, but also to butcher white's king cover with Rxf3.

19. Bd2 Qg6

Now threatening to capture f3 will win a piece as well as the threat of gaining yet another tempo with Rc8



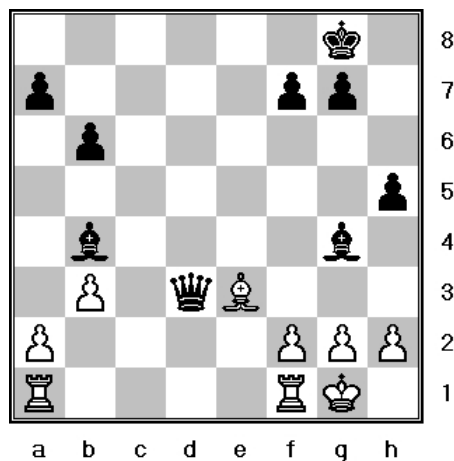
20. Ne1 Rc8 21. Qxc8

White tries sacrificing the queen instead of having to part with the d2 bishop.

21. ...Bxc8 22. Nxd3 Qxd3 23. Be3 Bg4

The point being that the rooks cannot get to d1 unscathed and the e3 bishop hangs with check if f3 is played.

24. Rfe1 Bb4 25. Rf1 h5

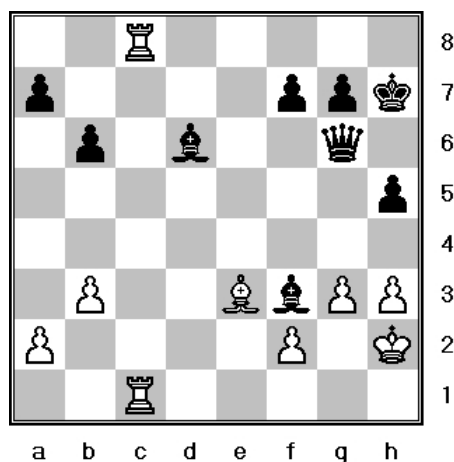


Creating luft and considering running the pawn all the way to h3 to break up the kingside.

26. h3 Be2 27. Rfc1 Qg6 28. Rc8+ Kh7 29. Rac1 Bf3

Forcing White's reply to avoid immediate mate which weakens the hard to defend light squares.

30. g3 Bd6 31. Kh2 h4

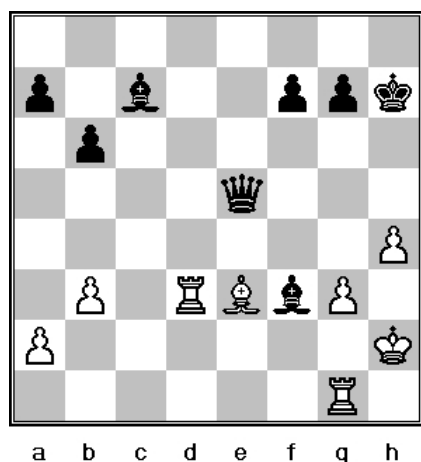


Playing simple chess. White does not have a light-square bishop and Black will play on those weakened light squares with the bishop and queen.

32. Rg1 hxd3 33. fxd3 Qe6 34. Rc3 Qe5 35. Rd3 Bc7 36. h4??

White is already lost, however this move loses much faster due to the stalemated king

and tactics along the b8-h2 diagonal



36. ...Qe4

The final nail in the coffin is a double threat on the d3 rook as well as the h4 pawn.

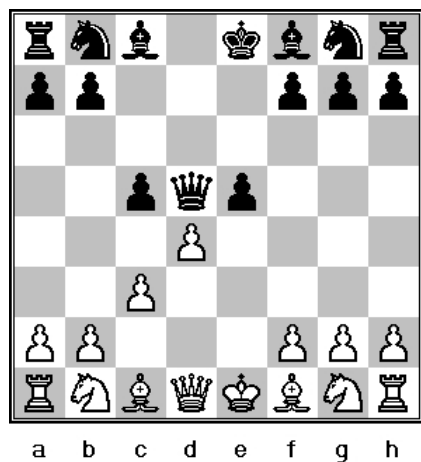
37. Rd7 Qxh4#

0-1

The first MN FIDE invitational event was organized by Dr. Sisira Amarasinge and included six players with FIDE ratings. Yours truly was off to a good start of 2-0 after a kindly blunder by chess author Andres Hortillosa (Andres recently wrote a book called "Improve Your Chess At Any Age") in round one, and then I had my second battle with young NM Matt Dahl. At 16 years old, Matt has become the state of Minnesota's newest master. I was successful with the following game in making him an expert once again at least for now!

Matt Dahl – Chris Kalina
FIDE Invitational tournament
Minneapolis, November 14, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. c3 d5 3. exd5 Qxd5 4. d4 e5!?

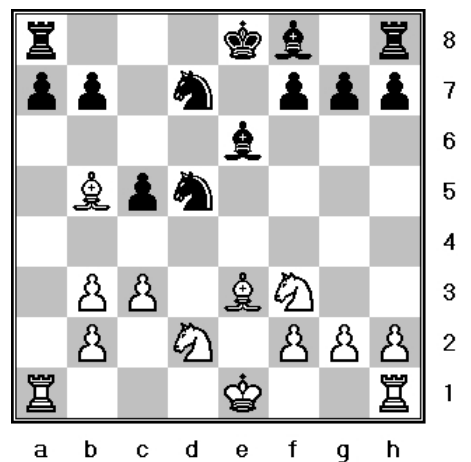


An experiment. I am not sure if it is any good, however it has merit for being an interesting idea.

5. dxe5 Qxe5+ 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Nf3 Qd5 8. Qb3

Perhaps Nbd2 instead with the idea of Bc4 to again attack the queen was a better try for advantage?

8. ...Qxb3 9. axb3 Be6 10. Bb5+ Nbd7 11. Nbd2 Nd5



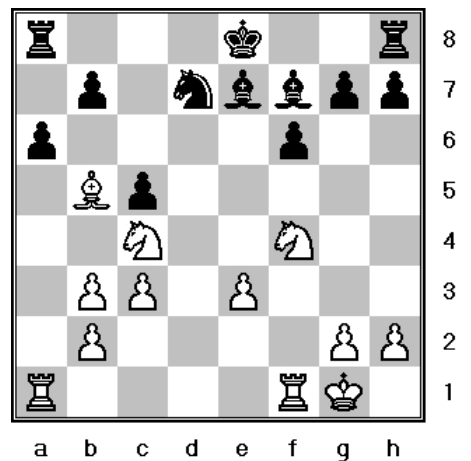
12. 0-0?!

White allows Black to have the two bishops as well as creating a weak e-pawn. After the game, Matt claimed that he thought he was better and I nearly fell out of my seat! Nothing wrong with optimism, however I believe objectively it is Black that is slightly better here.

12. ...Nxe3 13. fxe3 Be7 14. Ne5 f6

Putting the question to the beast immediately. Of course the exchanges favor Black.

15. Nd3 a6 16. Nf4 Bf7 17. Nc4?!



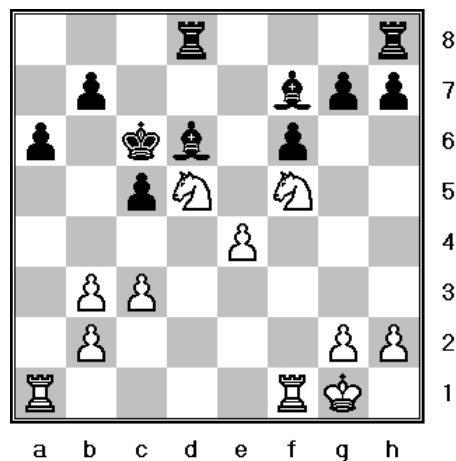
17. ...0-0-0!

Forcing White to capture on d7 where Black will have two bishops vs White's two knights.

18. Bxd7+ Kxd7

Not 18. ...Rxd7 Nb6+

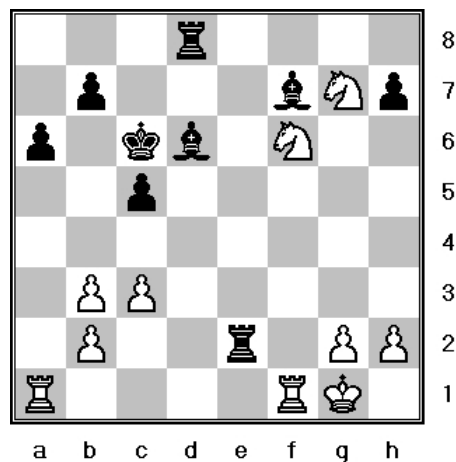
19. e4 Kc7 20. Ne3 Bd6 21. Nfd5+ Kc6 22. Nf5



If Black defends the pawn with Rhg8?, then either knight goes to e7+ and wins an exchange. Taking on d5 will win the e4 pawn for the g7 pawn and then Black will be left with a weak f-pawn, only one bishop, and a misplaced king. I had seen the possibility of this type of position arising a few moves back, and had planned on just giving up the g7 and f6 pawns to activate the two bishops.

The e4-pawn will fall in the process and the open board with two bishops and active rooks, despite temporarily being down a pawn, looked favorable for Black.

22. ...Rhe8! 23. Nxe7 Rxe4 24. Nxf6 Re2



And here we are where Black has open lines all over the place with two bishops and active rooks. Well worth the temporary pawn

invested! Moves like Rf2 fail to ...Bxh2+ and Nxh7 loses to ...Bd5.

25. Rae1 Rxb2

Black is no longer even down a pawn!

26. Ne6 Rh8

If capturing on e6, then it becomes difficult to defend the d6 bishop.

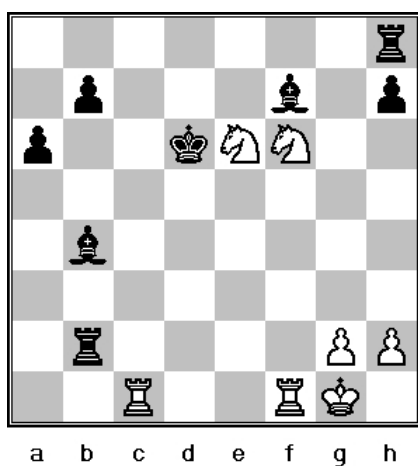
27. b4

Since White is going to lose the pawn anyways, why not sacrifice it in a way that will open a few lines against the black king?

27. ...cxb4 28. cxb4 Bxb4

Up a pawn, now Black has to be careful of the undefended f7 bishop.

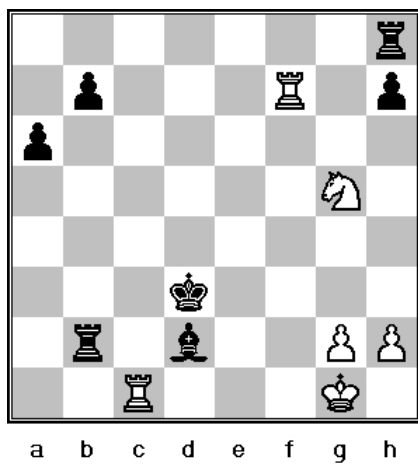
29. Rc1+ Kd6



30. Ne4+ Kxe6 31. Ng5+ Kd5 32. Rf5+ Kd4 33. Rf4+ Kd3

Not ...Ke5 where Rxb4! wins for White due to the upcoming fork on f7.

34. Rxf7 Bd2!



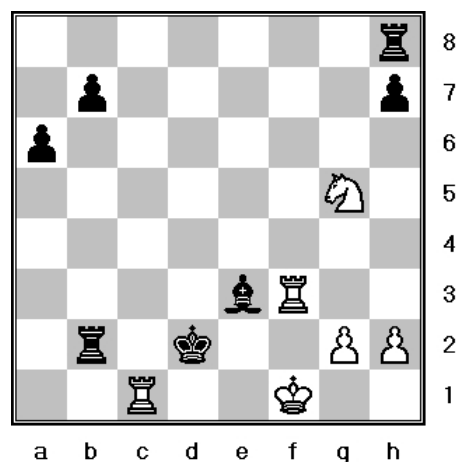
Wins on the spot. White finds the best try for defense with the text, but Black's pieces are just too well placed.

35. Rf3+ Be3+

If white had checked on d7 instead, then the king goes to e2 and then the bishop checks at e3 once again. That variation is worse since the white king will be forced to h1 when the back rank threats will prove decisive.

36. Kf1 Kd2!

Breaking the pin, hitting both the c1 rook and g5 knight. Forcing White's reply, otherwise he will lose the knight at g5.



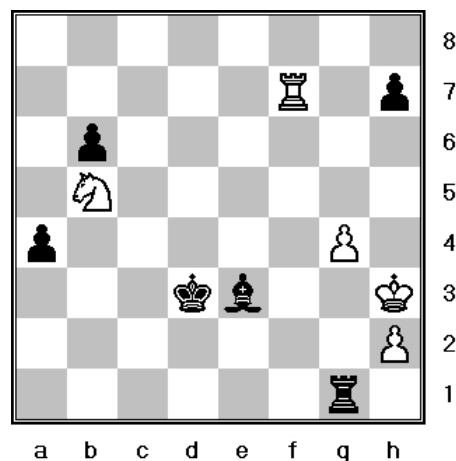
37. Nf7 Kxc1

The other move I briefly considered here was ...Rc8, where the rook cannot be captured due to Rb1+ mating. However White simply plays Re1 and attacks the bishop again. The text forces White to react yet again to a mate threat while his knight ends up far, far away from the action.

38. Nxh8 Kd2

Renewing the mate threat.

39. g4 a5 40. Nf7 a4 41. Nd6 Rb1+ 42. Kg2 Ke2 43. Rf5 b6 44. Nb5 Rg1+ 45. Kh3 Kd3 46. Rf7



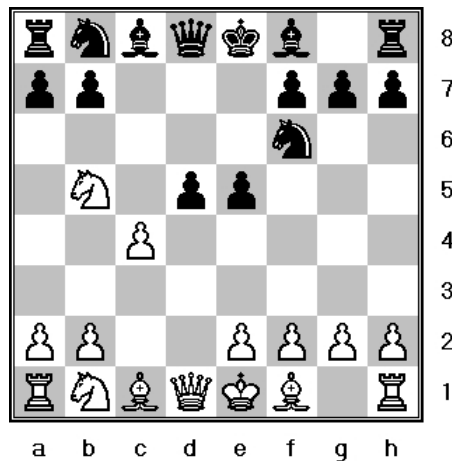
The rest of the score was in mutual time pressure, however the moral of the story is that black succeeded in cashing in his advantage in a few moves.

0-1

The tournament was won by another rising young master, Michael Yang, rated 2244. I tied for second with fellow expert David Ratliff. Here is the only encounter I have had with young Mr Yang so far. With the black pieces, Michael just keeps on developing and then attacking despite being down a pawn.

Chris Kalina – Michael Yang
FIDE Invitational tournament
Minneapolis, November 14, 2009

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 c5 3. c4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 e5 5. Nb5 d5!?

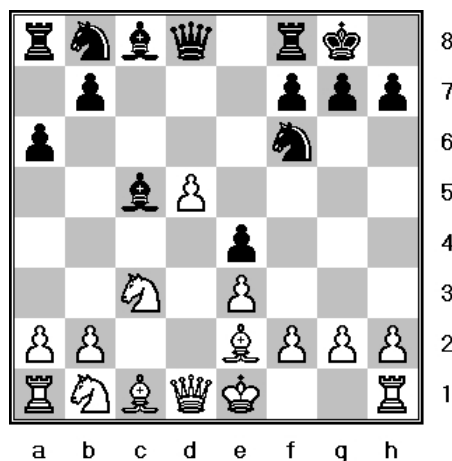


An interesting pawn sacrifice where Black's compensation is his quick development.

6. cxd5 Bc5

6. ...Nxd5?? 7. Qxd5 Qxd5 8. Nc7+.

7. e3 0-0 8. Be2 a6 9. N5c3 e4!

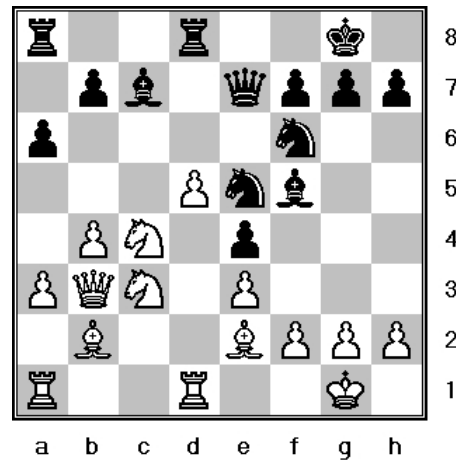


This pawn move cramps White's position as well as allowing a knight to sink into e5 and become a real nuisance in its new home.

10. 0-0 Qe7 11. a3 Bf5 12. b4 Bb6 13. Bb2

White's pieces are really now well coordinated.

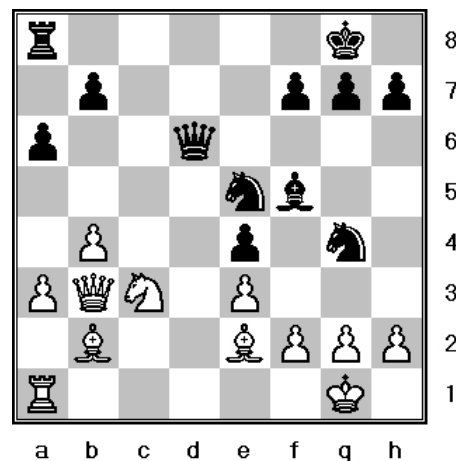
13. ...Rd8 14. Qb3 Nbd7 15. Nd2 Ne5 16. Rfd1 Bc7 17. Nc4



17. ...Nfg4

I never sensed any real danger until now. My goal was just to develop as quickly as possible and hope for the best. Now as Black's forces build for the coming attack, I thought it would help to remove the dark-square bishop at the cost of my extra pawn.

18. d6 Bxd6 19. Nxd6 Rxd6 20. Rxd6?! Qxd6

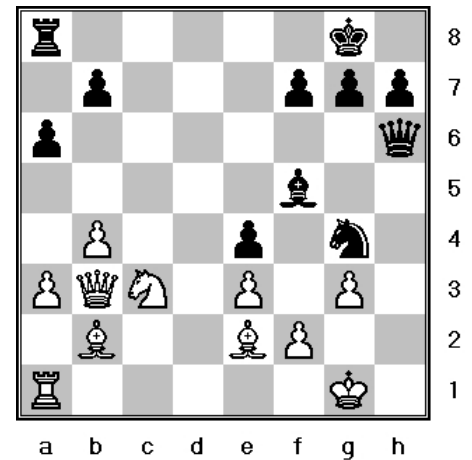


My intended move here was Rd1, however the painful variation of 21. Rd1 Nf3+!! 22. Bxf3 (22. gxf3 Qxh2+ 23. Kf1 Qxf2#) 22. ...Qxh2+ 23. Kf1 exf3 leaves White getting checkmated!

21. g3 Nxh2!

The attack is just too strong. White is too late to defend and it was not evident until he played this move. I had calculated all the way to move 30 where I had seen Qg2 at this point, however my intended response also fails....

22. Kxh2 Qh6+ 23. Kg1 Ng4

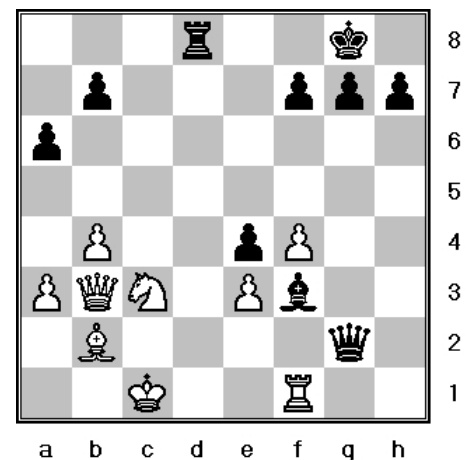


24. Bxg4 Bxg4 25. f4 Bf3 26. Rf1 Qh1+ 27. Kf2 Qg2+ 28. Ke1 Qxg3+ 29. Kd2

29. Rf2 Qg1+ 30. Rf1 Qe3#

29. ...Rd8+ 30. Kc1 Qg2

It was my original intention to play Rd1 and give back the exchange in this position back on move 21 when I had seen this position, however it was not until now that I realized that Rd1 loses to Bxd1 Nxd1 Qd2+. I simply missed the last check on d2.



31. Qc4 b5 32. Nxb5 axb5 33. Qxb5 Be2

Resigns. Very well played by the young Jedi.

0-1

Local Rivalries: Remembering Kent Pullen

by
Mike Murray

We're all aware of famous rivalries at the World Class level: Fischer-Spassky, Kasparov-Karpov, Alekhine –Capablanca, Lasker-Tarrasch. At the national level, we had Fischer-Reshevsky, and earlier Reshevsky-Fine. And here in Washington, we had Pupols-McCormick.

Lesser known rivalries simmer beneath the surface. In fact, I'll bet most active tournament players have one or more local rivals, opponents we meet over and over in hard-fought games, closely matched, the results of any given encounter pretty much unpredictable.

What makes a "rival?" First, you have to play in the same circles and meet fairly regularly. It doesn't make much sense to call a "rival" someone you met once in the U.S. Open. Second, you have to be roughly evenly matched, somewhat scared of each other. It makes little sense to claim Bisguier and Fischer were ever rivals, since their lifetime score was something like 9-1 in Fischer's favor. Similarly, I played Peter Lapiken quite a few times, but he was hardly a "rival," since he nearly always won.

With what I'm calling a "local rival", you're not necessarily paired regularly for the "money" games, but you are paired fairly regularly. You play close attention to your rival's style and opening preference and prepare a little extra for those games. The games may or may not be noticed by anybody else but you both try a little harder.

During the time I was most active as a tournament player, the decade after 1967, I had three big rivalries: against Kent Pullen, G. Alan Clark and Pat Herbers. As one who twice tied for the Washington State Championship, Pullen's probably of most

interest to NW Chess readers. Clark, Pullen and I were active in the Boeing Employees' Chess Club in the late 1960s through the mid-1970s. In those days, the Boeing club had enough strong players (including Angus Pitt, Alf Overas, Edgardo Sandoval, Bruce Bailey, George Duleba, George LeCompte, and Marty Gray, as well as Pullen, Clark and myself – all usually rated "A" to Expert) to field two Puget Sound League teams, not your typical "A" and "B" variety, but teams of roughly equal strength, and Kent and I thus faced each other four times on Board one.

Kent was a couple years older than I and accomplished in fields other than Chess. He held a PhD in Chemistry from the UW, was a multi-term state Washington State legislator (first House, then Senate) and a King County Councilman. In politics, he had a reputation as a maverick, hard-working and effective but somewhat eccentric. He once made headlines in support of 2nd Amendment rights by entering the Capitol building in Olympia openly sporting a sidearm in a shoulder holster. During his tenure as a legislator, one of the papers reported he was meeting with nuclear fusion advocates, followers of Lyndon LaRouche. I asked him about it after chess club one night and he replied he didn't agree with much of their politics but he wanted to give their technical ideas fair consideration. He was naturally of a very conservative / Libertarian bent, but tended to judge issues on what he believed to be their merits, and none questioned his integrity. At the time of this writing, his campaign web-site, www.kentpullen.com, is still operational, and outlines his real-world achievements in greater detail.

In chess, his style was positional and ultra thematic. He valued Vik Pupols as a mentor and studied Suttles' games intently. As with so many of us, his Achilles heel was the all-too-frequent tactical blind spot.

In 1966, after drawing a short training match with Pupols, he tied for 1st "A" in Seattle's only United States Open, along with Clark and several others (I tied for 1st "C" in that same event). He went on to take 2nd in the Washington State Championship in 1967, then tied for 1st with McCormick the next year. After some years off for politics in the '80s, he returned to Chess with a vengeance, and again tied for 1st in State, this time with Jeremy Silman, in 1985. Illness may have marred his later results and

he died relatively young in 2003. In his last USCF rated tournament, he placed 9th of 10 in the Second (or Reserve) Section of the 1993 Washington State Championship with a 3-5 score.

From late summer 1967 through January of 1972, I played 22 serious games against Pullen. That's a fair amount of sustained concentration against one man. My record against Kent was +4, -6, =12. In addition to tournament and Puget Sound League games, I played a rated match against him in 1970, losing +1, -2, =3.

We had some real slugfests, tempered by respectful caution, in my case, probably too much respectful caution. In four different games, two of them in our match, I proposed or agreed to draws when I had a great advantage or was clearly winning! I always considered my record against Pullen to be somewhat undeserved, since he was usually higher rated, and his state championship results were much better than mine (the best I ever managed was fourth place in 1973 with a 4-3 score).

Well, Chess isn't transitive. I should have kept a clearer head. With forty years' hindsight, it appears I usually played the openings very aggressively and exhibited a disturbing lack of confidence in the late middle game and endings (which might explain my readiness to accept draws in clearly advantageous positions).

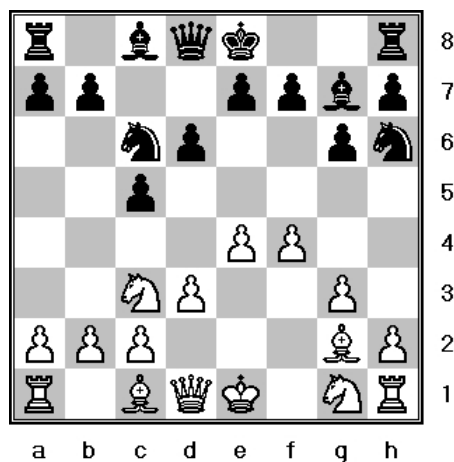
In the third round of the 1967 Seattle Open, I won the first game we ever played, a marathon 109 mover finishing in the wee hours of the morning. The last games I played with him were a couple of hard-fought PSL draws in January of 1972. After that, for the next few years, he took a hiatus from competitive chess, and in 1977, I began a 28 year furlough from tournament play. Although we chatted occasionally when I visited, as a spectator, several tournaments in which he played, we never again met over the board.

**Mike Murray – Kent Pullen
Seattle Open, Round 3
Seattle, Washington, August 2, 1967**

This was the first time I ever played Kent Pullen.

**1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7
5. d3 d6 6. f4 Nh6**

Pullen and I contested a number of games where he opposed the Closed Sicilian / Grand Prix systems with a Knight on h6.



7. Nf3 0-0 8. 0-0 f5 9. Nd5

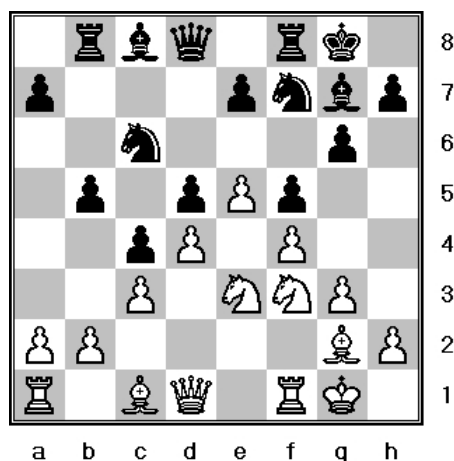
White reasons that his opponent's timely f5 has taken the sting out of a king-side buildup, and plans to redeploy the Knight on e3, while placing the pawn on c3 to control d4, often a problem square for White in the Closed Sicilian.

9. ...b5 10. e5!?

The unprotected state of the Black knight on h6 stops him from winning the pawn on e5, but consolidation by pulling the knight back to e3 may have been better.

10. ...Rb8 11. d4 Nf7 12. c3 c4 13. Ne3 d5

The last few moves, we each ignored chances to liquidate the center. Obviously, we both felt more comfortable manouvering with it locked.



14. h3

But here, White passed up an interesting shot: 14. Nxd5! Qxd5 15. Ng5 Qd8 16. Nxf7 with some advantage.

14. ...e6 15. Bd2 b4 16. Kh2

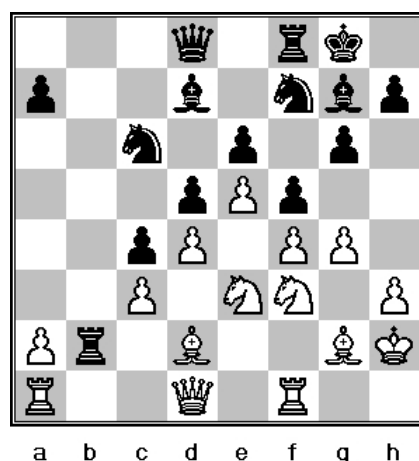
Should you worry about dangers on the

second rank or the a8-h1 diagonal? I soon wished I had played 16. Kh1.

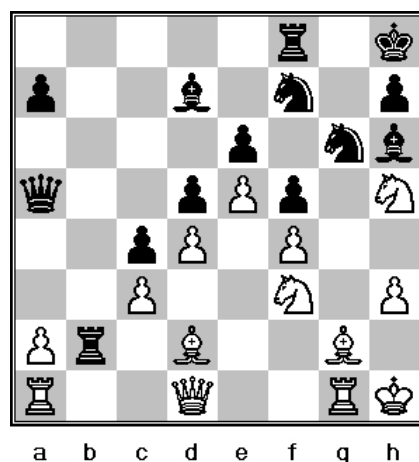
16. ...Bd7 17. g4

So, after skirmishing in the center, we're back to the stock theme of a slow, ponderous King-side attack by White, counterbalanced by Black storming the Queen-side.

17. ...bxc3 18. bxc3 Rb2



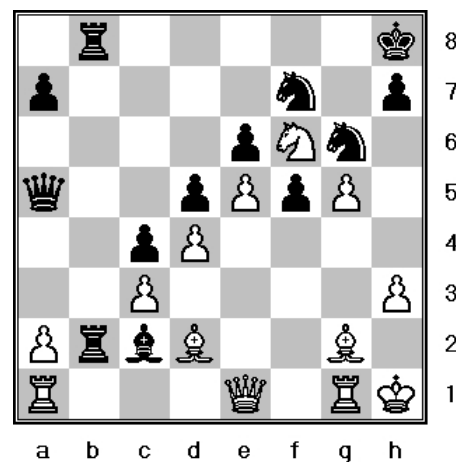
19. gxf5 gxf5 20. Rg1 Bh6 21. Nf1 Ne7 22. Ng3 Ng6 23. Nh5 Kh8 24. Kh1 Qa5



The next morning, Bob Holzinger told me that around here McCormick walked by, glanced at the position and pronounced White busted. I disagreed at the time, and, over forty years later, Rybka concurs. Chances are roughly balanced. White's queenside weaknesses act like a magnet, pulling the Black troops away from the kingside, where White wants to operate.

25. Ng5 Ba4 26. Qe1 Bxg5 27. fxc5 Bc2 28. Nf6 Rfb8

If 28... Kg7 White should initiate a pawn-storm by 29. h4 Be4 30. h5.



29. Qe2

Infiltrating with the queen via h5 was tempting, but it's a little slow. The pawn-storm 29. h4! was better. After 29. ...Be4 30. h5 White has a big advantage.

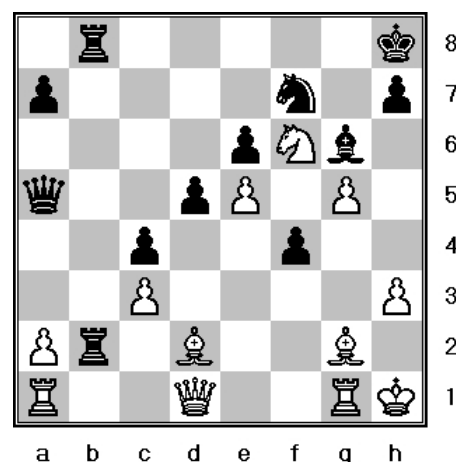
29. ...f4?

Probably based on a miscalculation. 29. ...Kg7 30. Qh5 Rh8 seems to hold.

30. Qh5 Ngxe5

Best, but still desperate. On his previous move, Kent must have overlooked that 30. ...Nf8 eliminates his rooks' protection of the bank rank, and after 31. Qxf7 Bg6 White need not retreat the Queen along the rank, allowing Black to snag the QB, but has 32. Qg8#.

31. dxe5 Bg6 32. Qd1

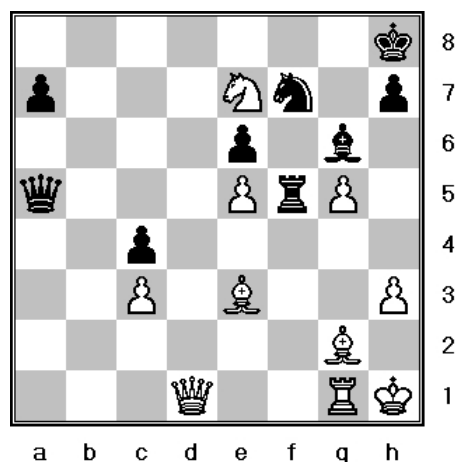


32. ...Rxa2?

Black's dead after this. The only way to work up some counter chances was 32. ...f3! 33. Bxf3 Nxe5 34. Bg2 d4, taking advantage of the pin on the c-pawn: 35. Be1 d3 but it shouldn't be enough.

33. Bxf4 Rbb2 34. Rxa2 Qxa2 35.

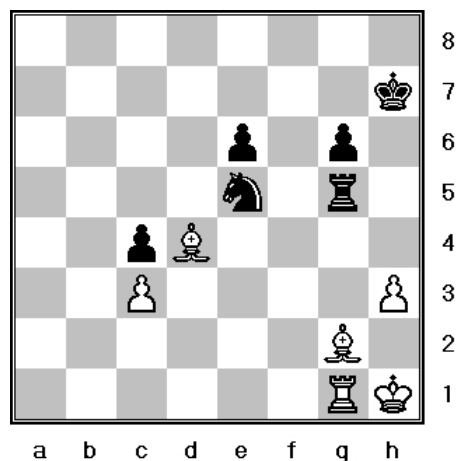
Nxd5 Rf2 36. Be3 Rf5 37. Ne7 Qa5



38. Nxg6+

? Correct is Qd7 and it's all over. Taking the Rook would be much better than the text, which is still good enough to win. We both were in time pressure here.

38. ...hgx6 39. Bd4 Rgx5 40. Qa1 Qc7 41. Qxa7 Qxa7 42. Bxa7 Nxe5 43. Bd4 Kh7



44. Bxe5

Trying to simplify, but Re1 was correct.

44. ...Rxe5 45. Rc1 Re3 46. Kh2 Kh6 47. Rc2 Kh5 48. Kh1 Kh4 49. Kh2 g5 50. Rc1 g4

Looks like time control must have been 50/2. It was the third round of the day, and, with both of us exhausted, I ground out a long, sloppy slog to victory.

51. hxg4

And after 109 moves, well into the wee hours of the morning, Pullen resigned.

1-0

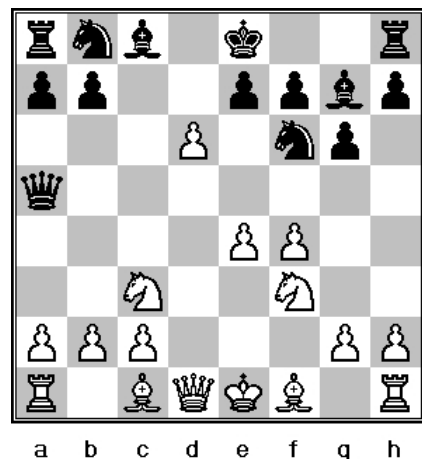
Mike Murray – Kent Pullen

Match, Round 6

Washington, December 1970

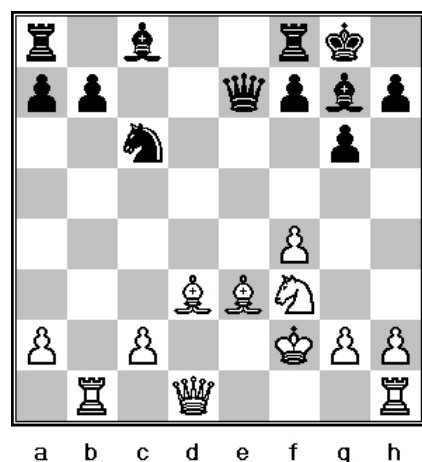
With the score of our match tied 2.5 – 2.5, Kent dances around a prepared variation to win the sixth and final game.

1. e4 g6 2. Nc3 Bg7 3. f4 d6 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. d4 c5 6. dxc5 Qa5 7. cxd6?!



I had been wood-shedding this home analysis for some time, planning all kinds of cute sacrifices. Kent just ignored the fool's gold and went for a slight advantage.

7. ...Nxe4! 8. dxe7 Nxc3! 9. bxc3 Qxc3+ 10. Kf2 Ne6 11. Rb1 Qc5+ 12. Be3 Qxe7 13. Bd3 0-0



My miniscule edge in development doesn't excuse an inferior pawn structure and a somewhat exposed king. Black has some advantage.

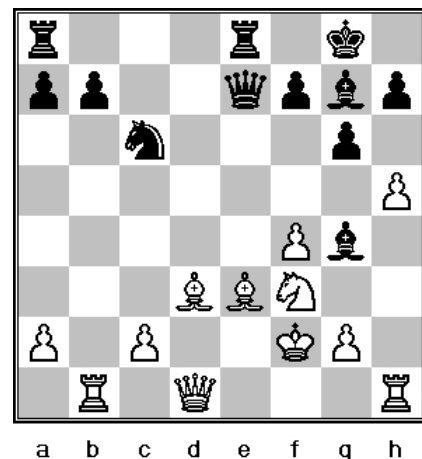
14. h4?

Most likely, I was frustrated that my home brew left me nothing but a mild hangover, and lashed out. This attack had little chance of success. After 14 Re1, White has a slight disadvantage, but is basically

OK.

14. ...Bg4 15. h5 Rfe8

Pragmatic, as usual. Why risk complications? Still, after 15. ...Bxh5 16. Rxh5 gxh5 17. Ng5 h6 18. Qxh5 White has something that only looks like an attack, but leads nowhere if Black refrains from capturing the knight.



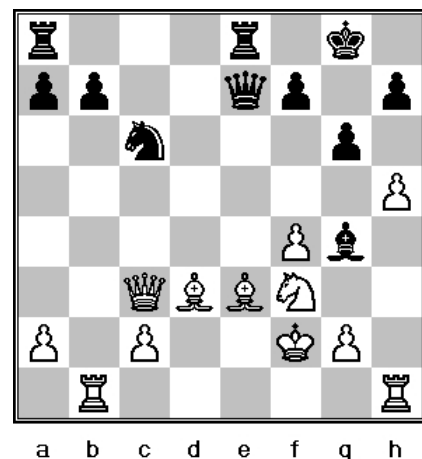
16. Qd2?

After the recklessness, suddenly I get timid. Going all in with 16. hxg6! was thematic and better: 16. ...Qxe3+ 17. Kg3 Bxf3 18. gxf7+ Kxf7 19. Rxb7+ Kf8 20. Qxf3.

16. ...Bc3

Just taking the pawn also works fine. White has nothing after 16. ...Bxh5.

17. Qxc3??



Idiotic. White's best shot was 17. Rxb7! which at least gives Black some opportunities to go wrong, although he retains a big advantage after 17. ...Qxb7! 18. Qxc3 Bxh5 19. Rxh5 gxh5 20. Bc4 with some practical chances for the double exchange. Black's best is to return one of

the exchanges with 20. ...Rxe3 21. Kxe3 Qb6+)

17. ...Qxe3+ 18. Kg3?

18 Kf1 is better but still hopeless after 18. ...Bxf3.

18. ...Bxf3 19. gxf3 Nd4 20. hxc6 Qxf3+ 21. Kh2 Qf2+ 22. Kh3 Re3+ 23. Kg4 Rg3+ 24. Kh5 Qf3+

0-1

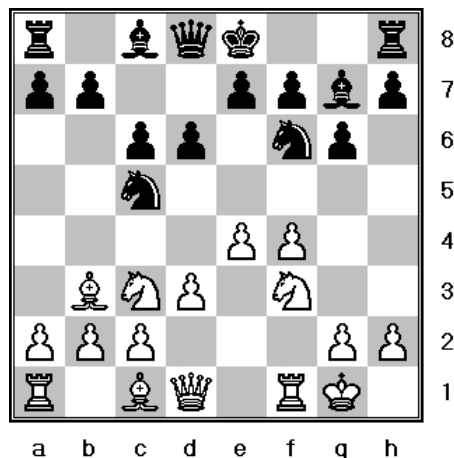
Mike Murray – Kent Pullen

Jumbo Jet Open, Round 5

Washington, November 11, 1971

This is probably my favorite game against Pullen.

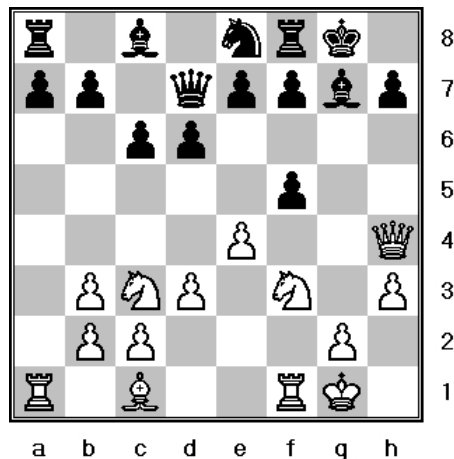
1. e4 g6 2. Nc3 Bg7 3. f4 c6 4. Bc4 d6 5. Nf3 Nf6 6. Bb3 Na6 7. d3 Nc5 8. 0-0



8. ...Nxb3

8. ...a5 hopes to wreck White's queenside pawn structure after a move of the a-pawn, but 9. e5 instead keeps the balance.

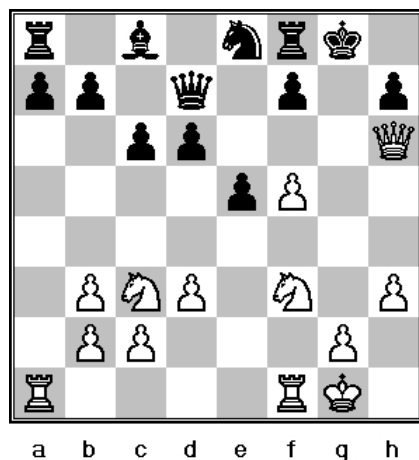
9. axb3 0-0 10. Qe1 Qc7 11. Qh4 Qd7 12. h3 Ne8 13. f5 gxf5



14. Bh6

More precise was 14. exf5 Nf6 (14. ...Qxf5 15. Qxe7) 15. g4 (adding a pawn storm usually helps) 15. ...d5 16. Bh6.

14. ...Bxh6 15. Qxh6 e5 16. exf5



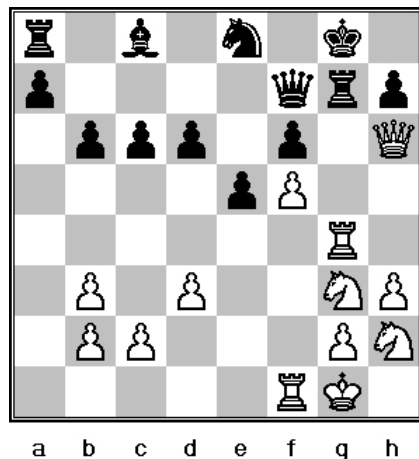
16. ...f6

Black survives quite nicely after 16. ...Qxf5! 17. Nh4 Qe6 18. Qg5+ Kh8 19. Nf5 Rg8.

17. Ra4

The ultimate rook-lift.

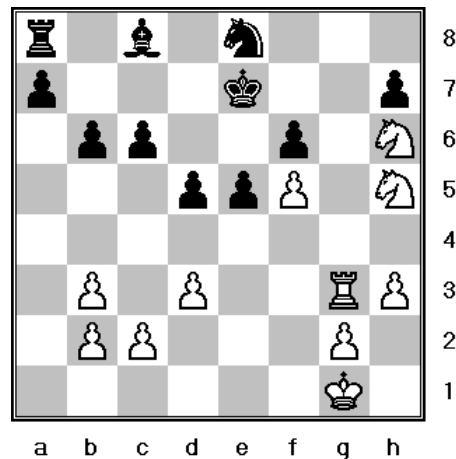
17. ...Rf7 18. Rg4+ Rg7 19. Ne4 Qf7 20. Nh2 b6 21. Ng3



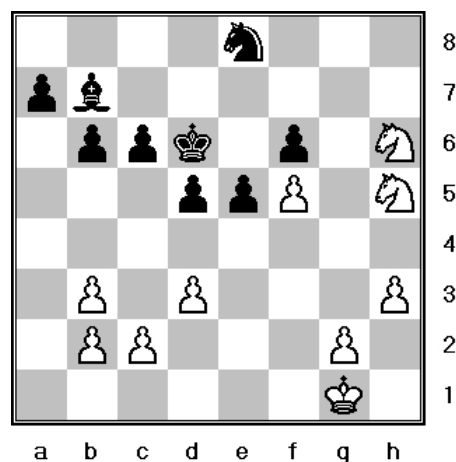
21. ...Rxc4 22. Nxc4 Qg7 23. Nh5 Qxh6 24. Nxh6+ Kf8 25. Rf3

Lugging the heavy artillery over the ridge after the cavalry charge has softened things up.

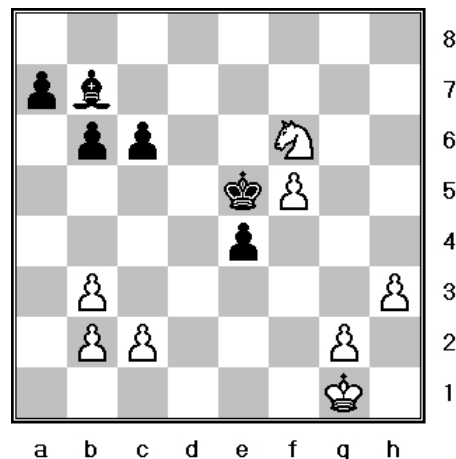
25. ...d5 26. Rg3 Ke7



27. Rg8 Rb8 28. Rh8 Rb7 29. Rxh7+ Kd6 30. Rxb7 Bxb7



31. Ng8 e4 32. dxe4 dxe4 33. Nxf6 Nxf6 34. Nxf6 Ke5



35. Nxe4! c5 36. Ng3 b5 37. Kf2 a5 38. h4 Bd5 39. Nf1 c4 40. bxc4 bxc4 41. c3 Ke4 42. Ne3 Bf7 43. g4 Kd3

1-0



Washington Open Chess Tournament May 29-31, 2010

Revised 2/17/2010

Washington Chess Federation

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

OPEN

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

PREMIER (U2000)

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

RESERVE (U1700)

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

BOOSTER (U1400)

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

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medals awarded per section. Canadian
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\$600	\$300	\$250	\$150
\$400	\$250	\$200	\$100
\$300	\$200	\$150	\$100
\$200	\$150	\$100	\$100
U2150	U1850	U1550	U1100
\$400	\$250	\$200	\$120
\$250	\$150	\$100	\$80
\$150	\$100	\$100	\$120(*)
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$80 (*)

(*) Prizes for unrated players.

\$100 Martha Jane Miller Memorial
Prize for top woman in open section.
All prizes will be mailed after the event.

Entries/Information:

Dan Mathews

WCF Tournament Coordinator

107 7th Ave N Apt 100

Edmonds, WA 98020

Cell Phone (425) 218-7529

dthmathews@aol.com

Make checks payable to Washington

Chess Federation (WCF).

Online registration available at

www.nwchess.com.

Marriott Redmond Town Center, 7401 164th Avenue NE,
Redmond, WA 98052, phone 1-800-228-9290 or 425-498-4000

Registration/Byes: Saturday 9:00-10:15 AM for 3-day, or 3:30-4:15 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Sunday 8:30-9:30 AM for 2-day, or 9:00-9:30 AM if entering 3-day event with two half-point byes. Two half-point byes available, which must be requested in advance, or at site 1/2 hour before rounds 2 and 3, or by end of second round for rounds 4, 5 and 6.

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

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: 30/90, SD/1. 2-day schedule: Rounds 1-3: Game/60 minutes. (Rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule.) Both schedules: Digital clocks preferred. 5-second time delay used from start of game.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Saturday: 11:00AM, 5:00PM, Sunday: 10:30AM, 5:30PM, Monday: 9:00AM, 2:30PM. 2-day schedule: Sunday: 10:00AM, 12:15PM, 2:30PM, then join 3-day schedule for rest of tourney. WCF annual meeting and elections: 4:00-5:00 PM Sunday, May 30.

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

Miscellaneous: 2010 Chess Café Grand Prix event (50 pts), Harmon Memorial NW Grand Prix event. Please bring set, board and clock. No smoking. No computers. Please use entry form (when available) for a list of all discounts and fees, and to indicate schedule, section, side events and byes requested.

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

Hotel Info/Rates: \$95.00 per night for single, double, triple or quad. Mention WA Open Chess. Reservation link will be available on the Northwest Chess website (www.nwchess.com). The cut-off date for reservations at the discount is May 21st.

Side Events:

May 29 Washington Open Scholastic. See NWC website, or contact David Hendricks, WCF Scholastic Director, 2439 220th Place NE, Sammamish, WA 98074, ph. 425-868-3881, e-mail: DavidCHendricks@comcast.net.

May 29 WA Open Blitz Championship. Format: 5 round Swiss in 2 sections, Open and Reserve (U1700). EF: \$25.00 at site. TC: G/5. Not USCF rated. WCF/OCF membership required, OSA. Reg. by 8:30 PM. Rds: 9:00, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, 10:00. Prizes (b/26): Open 1st \$100, 2nd \$50, U1900 \$40; Reserve 1st \$100, 2nd \$50, U1500 \$40.

May 30 WA Open Novice Championship. Format: one section 4 round Swiss, open to U1200 or unrated. TC: G/45. EF: \$12.00 (until May 15th), \$16.00 at site. Reg. 8:30-9:30 AM. Rds: 10:00, 11:45, 1:30, 3:15. Prizes: trophies 1st, 2nd overall and 1st U1100, U1000, U900, U800, Unrated. WCF/OCF membership required (option to pay \$5 tournament membership instead of \$17 or \$25 full-year membership).

May 31 WA Open Game/10 Championship. Format: 5 round Swiss in one section. Time Control G/10 + 5 second delay. Entry Fee: \$20.00. Prize fund: \$170 based on 10 entries. Prizes 1st \$50, 2nd \$35 in Top Half; 1st \$50, 2nd \$35 in Bottom Half. Register before 11:00 AM Monday. Rounds at 11:30 AM, 12:00 Noon, 12:30, 1:00 and 1:30 PM. Event will be USCF Quick rated.



Regardless of your viewpoint on Ralph's February editorial about rating floors, one thing most chess players agree on is that tournaments with multiple sections based on rating can cause problems. Although I know from experience that playing well is not easy even if you're at the top of your section, players who want to win a prize would much rather enter a class tournament rated, say 1799 (Class B) than 1801 (Class A). Being rated at the bottom of a section could even discourage tournament attendance, especially when there are only two sections (e.g., Open and Reserve).

Is there a way to create a “level playing field” and fair chance at a prize for lower-rated players without arbitrary section cutoffs? It seems to me that there is a way. I call it “handicapped pairings.” Standard Swiss system pairings basically pair the top and bottom half of each score group, with minor adjustments for odd number groups and color allocation, and of course to prevent playing the same opponent twice. In handicapped pairings, rating point difference is also taken into consideration. In a large tournament, most pairings would be between players with a rating difference no greater than, say, 200 points regardless of score. This would give all players a better chance of achieving a “plus score” and winning a prize. That doesn't mean a low-rated player could necessarily win the same prizes as a master. Entry fees and maximum prizes could still be adjusted on a sliding scale based on rating.

Implementation of a handicapped pairing system could be done via a mathematical optimization algorithm. Optimization problems are often written in terms of minimizing the sum of squares of deviations from what is desired. In this case, there would be three terms added together in the “objective function” to be minimized:

1. Score difference – Simply the square of the score difference between the two players being considered for a possible pairing. If one player has 2.5 points and the other 1.5 points, the function is equal to 1.0, but rises to 4.0 if one player has two more points than the other, which would be enough for the optimizer to prevent such pairings in most cases.
2. Rating difference – The square of the rating difference between the two players, after dividing ratings by a constant, say 200, to keep the magnitude similar to the score difference. For early rounds of the tournament, the “high minus low” rating difference could be compared with a desired rating difference (say, 100 or 200 points) before squaring, which would have an effect similar to “accelerated pairings” while preventing players with almost the same rating (including the top two players in the tournament) from meeting in the first round. The desired rating difference would drop to zero for the final round or rounds of the tournament.
3. Color allocation – This term in the function is simply the sum of the color imbalances of the two players, squared. If both players have already played one extra game as white, the function is $(1+1)^2 = 4$. However, if one player has played an extra game as white, and the other an extra game as black, then the colors can be equalized, and the function is $(1+(-1))^2 = 0$. A more sophisticated version might also favor color alternation, although that is not required.

There are many good algorithms and software programs available for solving optimization problems of this kind, including the Microsoft Excel “Solver” add-in. The chess pairing problem is a bit complicated because pairings are “discrete” rather than “continuous” functions; however with careful formulation it may be possible to use continuous variable optimization algorithms. (I'm working on this in Excel.)

There do need to be some constraints on what the optimizer can do, which is also common for optimization problems in general. For example,

the optimizer must pair each player with one and only one opponent each round, and not with an opponent previously played. In practice, it wouldn't be necessary to allow the optimizer to consider the full $N \times N$ matrix of possible pairings (where N is the number of players each round who are not taking a bye). Instead, a simple sorting process could identify a few likely pairings for each player (excluding previously played opponents), and the optimizer could “take it from there.” This would greatly reduce the number of variables and constraints considered, which is important for optimizer speed, reliability and memory use. (Excel, for example, has a fairly low limit on the number of independent variables that can be used for optimization.)

Advantages of the handicapped pairing system:

1. Single tournament section – No arbitrary rating cutoffs, fewer full-point byes.
2. Fairness – All players can hope to compete for prizes by playing opponents of similar ability in all rounds, especially in large events.
3. Optional handicap – Players could choose when entering whether or not they wanted to accept the handicap. Only players who didn't accept the handicap (presumably the masters) would be eligible to win a title such as “tournament champion.” Of course these players would still be prevented from playing most of the lower-rated players, because the rating difference handicap would still be added whenever requested by the lower-rated player.
4. Sandbagging – Reduces (but unfortunately doesn't eliminate) the incentive for sandbagging compared to standard class tournaments. To make things a bit more difficult, ratings could be adjusted upward for subsequent rounds for players who are playing well. This would be done using something like the standard rating formulas, with a maximum (non-provisional) value of 30 points per game.

Disadvantages of the handicapped pairing system:

1. Complexity – Pairing algorithm is much more complex than normal Swiss pairings, which would lead to some complaints and confusion. Software would need to be developed and well-tested by USCF before acceptance for use in tournaments with large prizes.
2. Prize calculation – Since there would no longer be a fixed number of prizes for players in each class, some more complicated math would also be needed to calculate the prizes. Some sort of “plus score” prize system could be considered.
3. Large section – With many players in a single section at a major national or regional event, attention to details such as proper board numbering and posting of pairings alphabetically would be required.

It is my hope that a handicapped pairing system can be programmed and tested, at least for a few moderate-size tournaments. I am available to answer questions, and as noted, I will be working on an Excel demonstration of the system.

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PRINT Name _____		Daytime Phone _____		USCF/FIDE Rating _____	
Street Address _____		City _____		State _____ Zip _____	
USCF I.D. Number _____		Exp. Date _____		All pre-registered players please check in at tournament desk on arrival.	
ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW)					
----- OPEN SECTION -----					
GM/IM	Masters/Experts	1999-Below	1800-1999	1600-1799	1400-1599
Free	\$137	\$151	\$136	\$135	\$134
BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (CIRCLE) 1 2 3 4 5 6					
"A" "B" "C" "D and Under" UNRATED					
1200-1399 \$133 Free With USCF Dues					
FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel Deposit \$28.38* (Weekday) or					
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel Deposit \$51.08* (Fri. & Sat.)					
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Thursday GM Yermolinsky Simul.					
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Thursday Blitz (5 Min.)					
<input type="checkbox"/> USCF Dues (Circle: \$25 Junior/\$49 Adult)					
<input type="checkbox"/> -\$10 U18 Jr./+65 Sr. Age _____					
HOTEL INFORMATION:					
<input type="checkbox"/> No Room Needed					
<input type="checkbox"/> Made By Phone					
<input type="checkbox"/> Please Make Me a Reservation*					
Arrival Date _____					
Departure Date _____					
<input type="checkbox"/> One Bed <input type="checkbox"/> Two Beds <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> INS					
*Send \$28.38 for weekday arrival, \$51.08 for Friday arrival.					
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Add \$11 after March 13, \$22 on-site. Do not mail after March 26					
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<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Am. Exp.					
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Theoretically Speaking

by Bill McGeary



Where the French meets the English... part 1

Game six of the 1972 World Championship match started 1. c4, as Bobby Fischer shelved his “best by test” 1. e4. Finding success, Bobby continued to play 1. c4 in the match, thus starting a whirlwind of chess fashion.

In the Northwest this was like finding apple pie, as some of the area’s best had already been playing the English. Combined with Bobby’s success, many players of all strengths and ages began to play the English.

And why not? The joke at the time was that White’s first five moves – 1.c4 2.Nc3 3.g3 4.Bg2 5.Rb1 – could be played almost automatically and carried a fairly simple idea. Well, this sequence does have a problem. Back at game six what we all failed to take into account was that Spassky played 1. ...e6, and the game transposed into a Queen’s Gambit. Our prescribed move order could have a bit of a problem around move four if Black plays a quick d5-d4.

The army of 1. c4 players at this point became divided into the players willing to push d4 to transpose into a Queen’s Gambit, and those that preferred to move the Ng1-f3, instead of Nb1-c3, to play the Reti. A third option, playing 2. e4, was ignored, as the lines of the French after 2. ...d5 3. exd5 exd5 were viewed as being tepid. Now, a generation later, the line 1. c4 e6 2. e4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. d4 has found a following at the GM level.

We want to note that White’s first two moves could be reversed, that is 1. e4 e6 2. c4 and the game would be classified a French. I feel certain that names on either side of the Channel are rolling over! Really the appeal of this variation for White is the “open” nature of the play. This would seem to be more appealing to 1. e4 players, yet Latvian GM Miezis is a devotee of 1. c4 and plays this line regularly.

The tension between the c4 and d5 pawns is the place to begin considering plans. Either side can capture, White can push by with c4-c5, or the players can

fashion plans around keeping the tension. Black should be happy to keep the tension for a bit because ...d5xc4 will elicit Bxc4, which is excellent for White because there is no e6 pawn shielding the f7 square.

Black would like to resolve the tension only when able to block the a2-g8 diagonal, usually on d5. With that in mind, White would be hesitant to play c4xd5 as the friendly pawn on d5 blocks the line to f7 and Black can work to recapture at leisure. As for White pushing c4-c5, this has been labeled extremely suspect following a victory for Black by Botvinnik over Tartakower.

I should clarify something here. Tension between c4 and d5 will be resolved by an exchange at some point, which leaves White with an IQP, therefore we can start from that vantage. The IQP is on a dark square at d4 providing White with outposts on dark squares, outposts that will likely be used by knights. Knights on dark squares attack light squares, thus a theme appears.

Out of the opening the best minor piece on the board is White’s light-square bishop, simply because so many of White’s plans center on the a2-g8 and b1-h7 lines. So, Black would be happy to exchange it as long as no other significant weakness is part of the bargain. With that said, do not be fooled. If the light square B’s come off Black should feel some accomplishment, but the nature of the position is that White will still have active pieces and some range of dangerous plans.

One more thing to consider before going forward is the placement of either sides king knight. For White the decision between going Nf3 or Ne2 is a choice between plans for the middle game. From f3 the knight can go directly to e5 with ambitions on the white squares, whereas at e2 the knight cannot be pinned and will hop to g3 to support a direct assault following f4.

Black’s decision for the king knight is a bit less involved, as the primary objective for the Ng8 is to cover the d5 square.

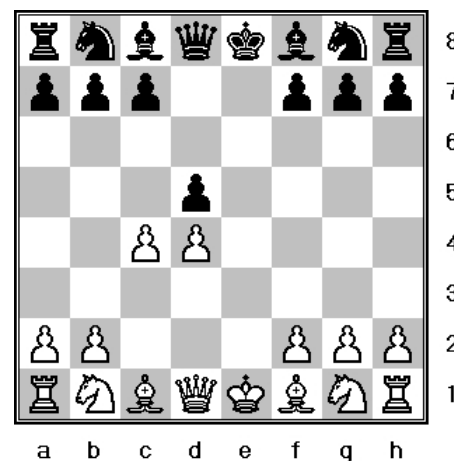
These are merely a few beginning observations, yet the course of the game will

be directly related to these points and keeping them in focus will help to solve more complicated decisions later on.

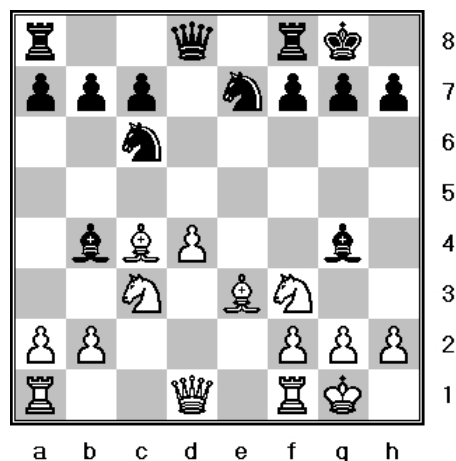
One of the lines recommended in books for Black is to play 4. ...Bb4+ and 5. ...Ne7. The thinking for this is that Black seeks to develop the kingside pieces quickly with a focus on the d5 square. On e7 the black king knight is not going to be pinned and might come to f5 to pressure a pawn on d4. Obviously Black can’t play ...Bd6 and then ...Ne7, so going to b4 with check seems to save time and have an impact on the d5 square by pinning a Nc3. However, Black’s queen knight often uses the route Nb8-c6-b4-d5, and with the Bb4 setup that will be awkward. Here is an example.

Normunds Miezis – Igor Glek Third Wichern Open Hamburg, Germany, 1995

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. c4



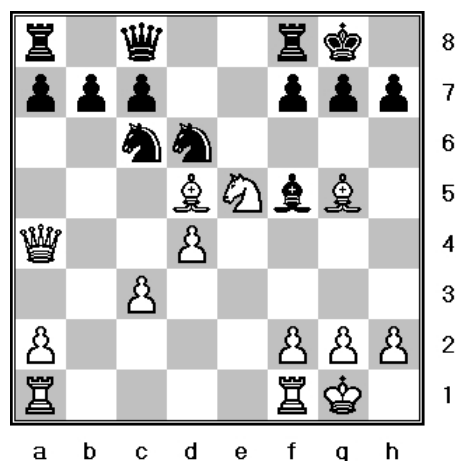
4. ...Bb4+ 5. Nc3 Ne7 6. Nf3 0-0 7. Bd3 dxc4 8. Bxc4 Nbc6 9. 0-0 Bg4 10. Be3



Here we see an example of direct conflict. With ...Nbc6 and ...Bg4 Black has designs to capture the IQP. Because the IQP is in the center of the board, the basis of Black's plan is action in the center.

Yet, that same IQP is the only soldier currently stationed in the center, which confers to White some advantage in this sector. My feeling is that this must be a mistaken idea for Black, yet I am not the GM here. I would think that Black might be better served to cover the d5 square with ...c6 and ...Nd7-f6 before looking for activity.

10. ...Nf5 11. Qd3 Nd6 12. Bd5 Bf5 13. Qd1 Na5 14. Bg5 Qc8 15. Qa4 Bxc3 16. bxc3 Nc6 17. Ne5



17. ...Ne4

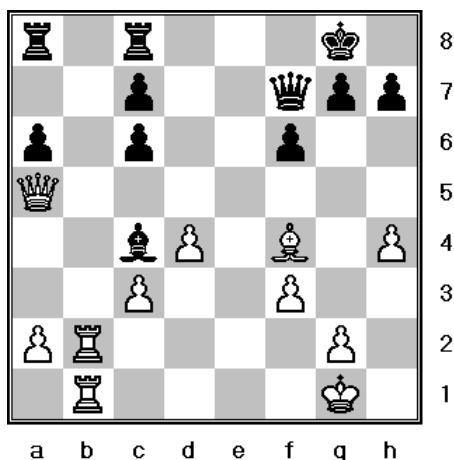
Black continues to seek activity despite the failure of previous efforts. At this point 17...Nxe5 would lose as the Nd6 is limited to e8 after which Be7 wins material.

18. Nxc6 bxc6 19. Bxe4 Bxe4 20. f3 Bd3

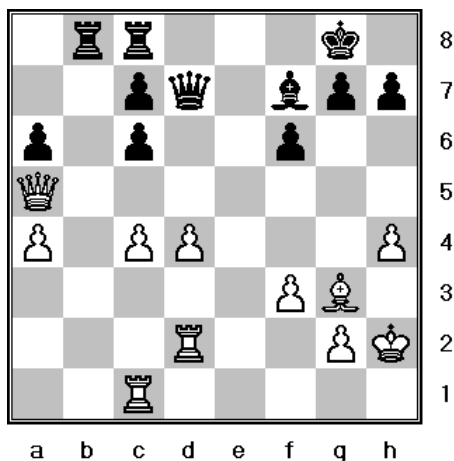
It is important to remember that bishops of opposite color is a two-edged sword. It is a standard that the attacking side is favored by bishops on opposite colors, which is not a positive sign for Black with all the heavy pieces still on.

Further, White has active rooks while Black's seem stuck to the back rank. White's plan is to slowly advance the c- and d-pawns in order to create a hole in Black's defense.

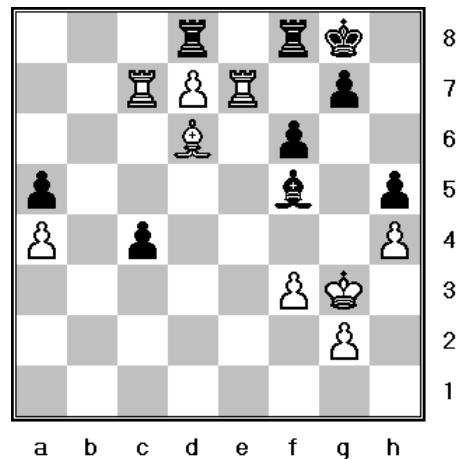
21. Rfe1 f6 22. Bf4 Qd7 23. Re3 Bg6 24. Qa5 Bf7 25. Re2 Bc4 26. Rb2 Rfc8 27. h4 a6 28. Rab1 Qf7



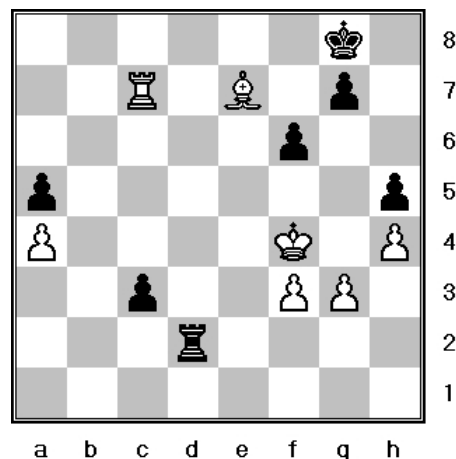
29. Kh2 Bd5 30. Bg3 Qh5 31. Qc5 Qf7 32. a4 Re8 33. Rc1 Rab8 34. Rd2 Qd7 35. c4 Bf7 36. Qa5 Rec8



37. d5 Ra8 38. Re1 cxd5 39. cxd5 c5 40. d6 Re8 41. Qc7 Red8 42. Re7 Qxc7 43. Rxc7 c4 44. Re2 h5 45. Ree7 Rf8 46. Bf4 a5 47. Kg3 Rad8 48. d7 Bg6 49. Bd6 Bf5



50. Kf4 Bxd7 51. Rxd7 Rxd7 52. Rxd7 Re8 53. Rc7 Rd8 54. Be7 Rd2 55. g3 c3



56. Kf5 Kh7 57. Bxf6 c2 58. Rxc7+ Kh6 59. Bg5+

1-0

Contesting the white squares with ...Na5 and ...Nd6 didn't work. The activity of White's pieces was enough that, after exchanging all the knights and one pair of bishops, Miezi was left with a clearly advantageous attacking situation.

Without any sort of hold in the center Black's pieces were driven to passivity, especially the rooks.

What if Black aims to keep control of the d5 square? We will see.

Opening Arguments

by Harley Greninger



David Bronstein – Tigran V Petrosian
27th USSR Championship
Leningrad, 1960

This week, we have as our guest (insert drum roll here), The Rock!

Despite the really cool title, The Rock is the least favored player of the masses—and the most misunderstood. While Willy Wild is tearing players to shreds, Able Active overwhelming opponents through vigorous play, Phil Positional gracefully maintaining the thread all the way to victory and Perry Powerful crushing his opposition, The Rock erects ultra-solid fortresses to give his enemies something to stub their toe against! When the opponent miscues, The Rock pounces with the force of—well—a Rock!

Sometimes, The Rock will actually provoke his opposition to make sacrifices, believing that the immovable object can withstand the irresistible force! On the surface, The Rock's style of play is quite stodgy and perhaps even dull. However, a deeper examination of his games (and perhaps a deeper understanding of the game itself), reveal a profound truth to this style of play.

The complaint of the chess-public is that Mr. Rock's play results in too many draws and this carries some truth to it; for example, the Rock Ulf Andersson draws approximately 75% of his games. On the plus side of the equation however, The Rock is extremely difficult to defeat. He seems especially at home defending positions for hours only to win in the end, much to the surprise of the crowd and to the chagrin of his opponent.

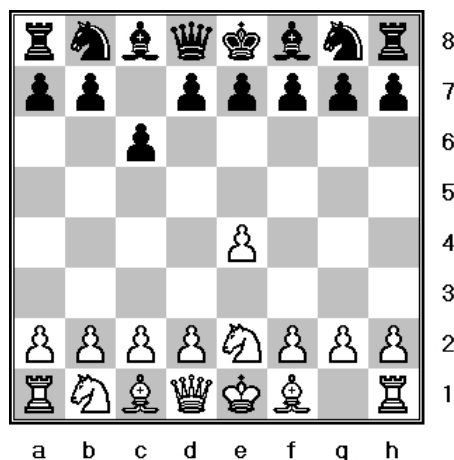
The first official world champion, Wilhelm Steinitz, was also the first to take this style of play to the top. In an era where chess romanticism ruled the day, the 'unromantic' Steinitz showed that he could erect an impenetrable force-field which would win game after game. Steinitz revolutionized chess thought and players then understood that the King's Gambit, along with oodles of similar openings, were unplayable—particularly against the level-headed Rock.

This month, we examine a masterpiece played by the Gibraltar of all Rocks, Tigran Petrosian.

1. e4 c6

The Caro-Kann is Black's most reliable, bullet-proof way to fight against 1. e4 (just ask Karpov).

2. Ne2

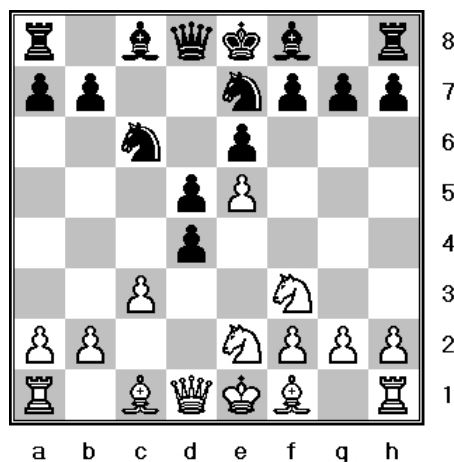


Bronstein was as innovative as he was eccentric. Sometimes sound and sometimes unsound, he definitely kept the crowd (and opponent) on their toes.

2. ...d5 3. e5 c5 4. d4 Nc6 5. c3 e6

By transposition, the Advance variation of the French where White has played an extra move (Ne2). Petrosian wants to display that this extra move is more detrimental than advantageous.

6. Nd2 Nge7 7. Nf3 cxd4



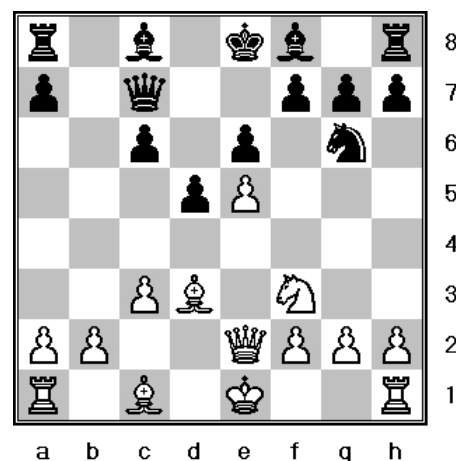
8. Nxd4

Not to be recommended is 8. cxd4?! Nf5 9. Nc3, which reaches a familiar position in the French where, oddly enough, White is now a move behind! The white knights have danced themselves to what would be normal squares, yet on opposite sides of the board!

8. ...Ng6 9. Nxc6

Due to the pressure on the e5 pawn, the only reasonable alternative is 9. Bb5, but Black is to be preferred after 9. ...Bd7 10. Nxc6 bxc6 11. Bd3 when White is a move down (!) as compared to the game. (Malaniuk, V-Ilivitzki, G/Briansk 1975/ drawn in 29 moves).

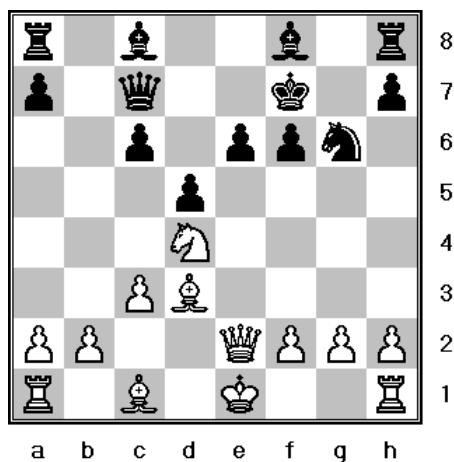
9. ...bxc6 10. Bd3 Qc7 11. Qe2



11. ...f6!

Petrosian provokes his esteemed opponent to the attack.

12. exf6 gxf6 13. Nd4 Kf7!



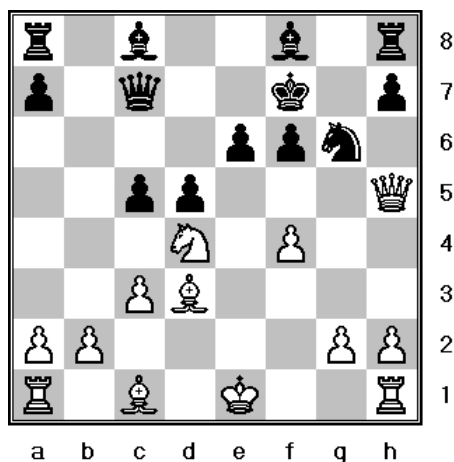
A masterful handling of the position. The King assumes a safe, yet useful post. 13. ...e5? would allow 14. Nxc6!

14. f4

I'm pleased to see this move, since it really helps me bring the point home in this article! Bronstein, by being ultra-aggressive, plays into Petrosian's web.

14. ...c5 15. Qh5

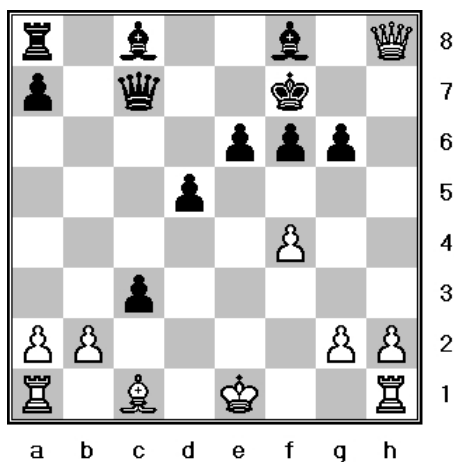
"In for a penny, in for a pound." Loosely translated, this means "Bronstein takes the bait and Petrosian catches a fish."



15. ...cxd4 16. Bxg6+ hxg6 17. Qxh8

White is the exchange up, however Black now recoils.

17. ...dxc3



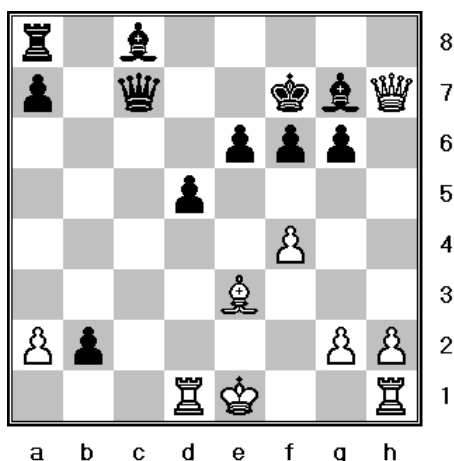
18. Qh7+

Attempting to bail by 18. 0-0 fails to 18. ...Ba6 19. Rf2 c2 20. Be3 d4! 21. Bd2 Rc8 (Black threatens to queen on c1) 22. Rc1 d3 and White is busted.

18. ...Bg7 19. Be3

Again, of no avail is 19. 0-0 Ba6 20. Rf2, but this time by 20. ...Rh8.

19. ...cxb2 20. Rd1



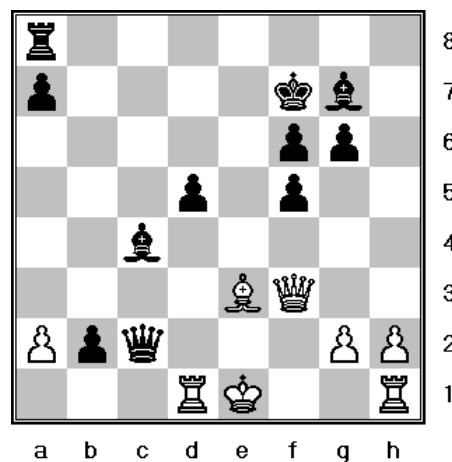
20. ...Ba6!

Underlining all of White's problems.

21. f5 exf5 22. Qh3

If White were to make a final attempt at aggression by 22. Bh6, it would boomerang after 22. ...Re8+ 23. Kf2 Re2+ 24. Kg1 Qb6+ 25. Kf1 Qf2#.

22. ...Qc2 23. Qf3 Bc4



And White resigned.

0-1

Tigran Petrosian was well known as the most difficult player in the world to defeat. He gained the title of "Iron Tigran" from his colleagues. Despite this ridged title, he concluded his career with +3 scores against the likes of Bronstein, Tal, and Botvinnik. In addition, he held the World Championship from 1963 to 1969 by defeating the great Mikhail Botvinnik (in 1963) and defending the title against Spassky (in 1966). From every 15 games, he would win 6, draw 8 and lose only 1, paired up against the best chess masters in the world!

If you admire and can relate to the rock-ribbed play of Iron Tigran, then you too may be a Rock! Study the games of Steiniz, Petrosian and Andersson and you'll be able to develop an opening repertoire, perfect for your style! Among local masters, the closest to compare (as I mentioned before, this is not a style for the masses) would be candidate master Daniel Gay and according to rumors I hear, me! (I just completed the Washington State Championship with +2 - 0 =7, so perhaps these rumors are true).

In the upcoming months, I'll elaborate on which openings I'd suggest for each and every style of play. Prior to tackling this arduous task, I'd like to speak a smidgen about those players having styles difficult (or impossible) to categorize. Not all chess styles fall into 'boxes' as there are unpredictable and sometimes even "psychological" styles.

Stay tuned-in to the next issue!

And In The End

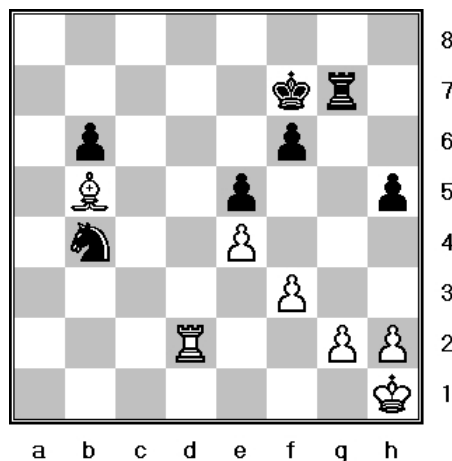
by Dana Muller



I mentioned to our esteemed editor that I was beginning to run short on endgames from my practice; in response, I received a number of his games. Yes, that means for the next several months, we will take a peak into the mind of Ralph Dubisch. Nervous readers are advised to avert their eyes.

In this month's offering, we join the game after a series of exchanges have left a rook and minor piece ending, White having a rook plus bishop versus Black's rook plus knight. This initial position is somewhat deceptive; although objectively White has only a slight edge, in practice the black position is much harder to play. In the ensuing play Black faces a series of difficult decisions, the only one I can find a serious fault with is the decision to exchange the rooks. In the minor piece ending that follows, White finishes off the game in style with zugzwang.

Ralph Dubisch – Mike Pollowitz
From the *Northwest Chess* database
November 1982



Black to move.

Black's immediate problem is that his knight is trapped on b4, if the white king had a flight square; the knight would in fact be lost. The first few moves deal with black having to rescue the knight. Another feature that favors White is the three black pawn islands compared with the single white pawn island. Note that the b-pawn can either be a weakness (isolated pawn) or a strength (passed pawn) depending on how play proceeds.

Early in the play Black decides to sacrifice the b-pawn in order to rapidly relocate the knight (usually to d4) and keep the rook active on an open file. After winning the b-pawn, White faces several technical problems in converting the extra pawn into a win: (1) a pure rook ending is likely drawn, (2) with the restricted real estate; the knight may turn out to be as good a piece as the bishop, (3) the bishop is the wrong color for the rook pawn. Working in White's favor is the weakness of the h5 pawn; the constant threat of capture will tie down a black piece.

37. ...Kg6

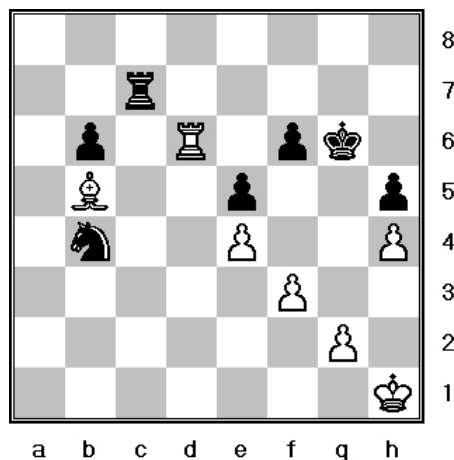
The rook needs access to c7 in order to save the knight.

38. h4

Fixes the h5 pawn on a white square in addition to creating luft. 38. Rb2 Rc7 forces White to deal with the threat of Rc1+ anyway.

38. ...Rc7 39. Rd6

Or 39. Rb2 Rc1+ 40. Kh2 Nc6 41. Ba4 Rc4 42. Rxb6 Rxa4 43. Rxc6, which leads to a rook and pawn endgame. I think with best play it should be drawn, although White can torture Black for another 30 - 40 moves. White needs to play actively to take advantage of the knight; neutral moves such as 39. Kh2 allow Black to solve all of his problems with Nc2 followed by Nd4.



39. ...Nc2

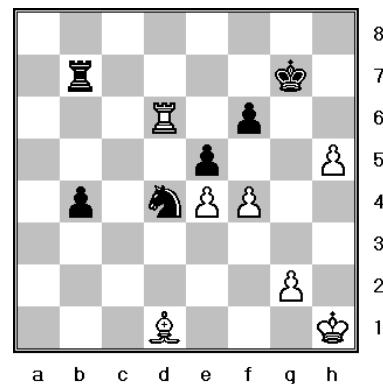
The alternative is to hold onto the b-pawn with 39. ...Rb7. At first glance this may

seem too passive, but in reality the rook is reasonably placed behind the passed b-pawn. While at the moment the b-pawn is blocked, Black can lift the blockade or force a pure rook ending with Nb4-c2-d4 maneuver. Some possibilities after 39. ...Rb7:

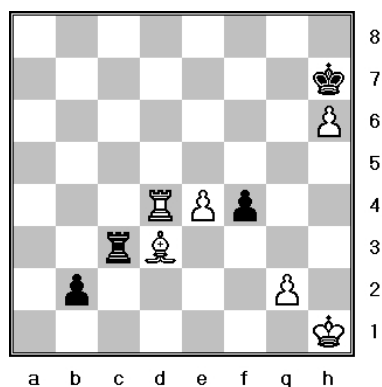
(1) 40. Kh2 Kg7 41. Rd2 Rc7 doesn't lead anywhere.

(2) The pawn break 40. g4 hxg4 41. fxg4 Kg7 42. g5 (42. Kh2 Nc2 43. Kg3 Nd4 is fine for Black) 42. ...fxg5 43. hxg5 Nc2 44. Re6 (the point of White's play) 44. ...Nd4 45. Rxe5 Ra7 46. Bc4 (46. Rd5 Nxb5 47. Rxb5 Ra5! 48. Rxb6 Rxb5 =) 46. ...Ra5 47. Rxa5 bxa5 48. Kg2 Kg6 =.

(3) The pawn grab 40. Be8+ is perhaps what dissuaded Black from Rb7: 40. ...Kg7 41. Bxh5 Nc2 42. f4 (seems necessary to get the bishop back into play before the b-pawn gets too dangerous) 42. ...b5 43. Bd1 Nd4 44. h5 b4



45. h6+ Kh7 46. Rxf6 exf4 47. Rd6 b3, and Black hangs on by a thread, e.g. 48. Rxd4 b2 49. Bc2 Rc7 50. Bd3 Rc3



51. Rb4 Rxd3 52. Rxb2 Kxh6 53. Re2 Kg5 54. Kg1 Kf6 55. e5+ Ke6 =.

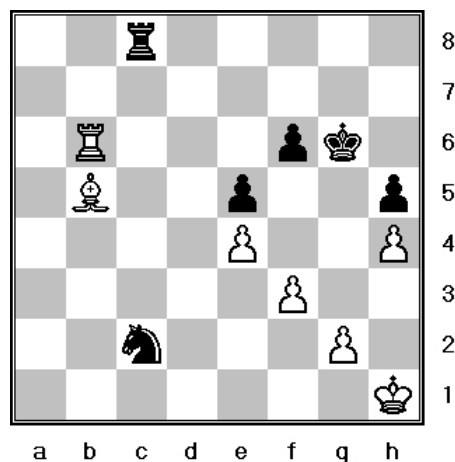
This was the first of several moves where Black faced a difficult decision; on this move the practical problem was to whether counterplay could be best generated by the advance of the b-pawn or via the active play of his rook and knight (at the cost of a pawn). It may turn out that 39. ...Rb7 is better, but Black's choice to keep both the rook and knight active is a reasonable one.

40. Rxb6

The greedy 40. Be8+ needs to be considered. After 40. ...Kg7 41. Rxb6 Ne1 42. Rb1 (42. Bxh5 Rc1) 42. ...Nd3 43. Bxh5 White's pieces seem to be disjointed enough for Black to get serious counter play after 43. ...Nf4 44. Bg4 Rc2 45. Rb7+ (45. Rg1 Ne2 46. Rb1 Nf4) 45. ...Kg8 46. g3 Ra1+. This should be good enough for a draw.

40. ...Rc8

Puts a stop to the Be8+ ideas. 40. ...Re7 stops Be8+ but removes the rook from the open c-file.

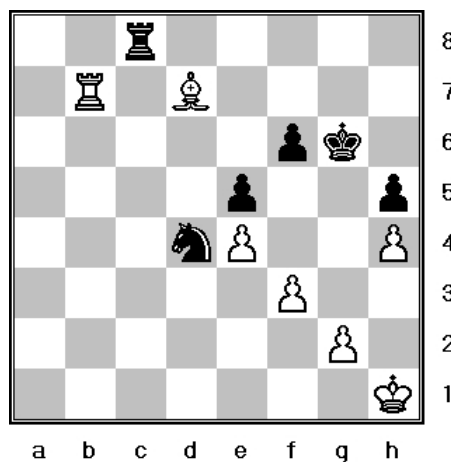


41. Rb7

Perhaps reversing the 41st and 42nd moves is better: 41. Bd7 Rd8 42. Bf5+ Kg7 43. Rb7+ Kf8 (looks odd, but there are

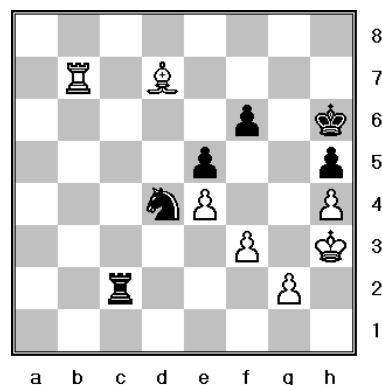
objections to moving the king to either g8 and h8 as well) 44. Bg6 Rd6 (the f-pawn needs guarding against Rf7+) 45. Bxh5 Nd4 (45. ...Ne1 46. Bg6 Rd2 47. Rf7+ Kg8 48. Rxf6 Kg7 49. Rb6) 46. Bxh5 Ne2 47. Bg4 Nf4 48. Rb2 seems promising for White.

41. ...Nd4 42. Bd7



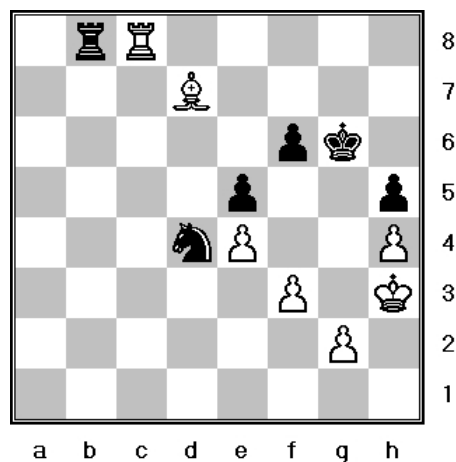
42. ...Rd8

Better is 42. ...Rc1+ 43. Kh2 Rc2 44. Kh3 Kh6.



Black is threatening counterplay with Nd4-e2-f4. A couple tries are 45. Bf5 Nxf5 46. exf5 Rc4 47. Rf7 Rc6 48. g4 hxg4 49. fxg4 Rb3+ 50. Kg2 Rb2+ 51. Kf3 Rb3+ 52. Ke4 Rc4+ 53. Kd5 Rxc4 54. Ke6, which seems to draw with best play, or 45. Rb8 Ne2 46. Kh2 Nf4 47. Bh3 Nxb3 48. Kxb3 Rc3 looks drawn. Or 45. Be8 Ne2 46. Rf7 Nf4+ 47. Kh2 Rxc2+ 48. Kh1 Rf2 49. Rxf6+ Kg7 which also seems good enough to draw. Variations such as this seem to vindicate the decision to jettison the pawn on move 39.

43. Kh2 Ra8 44. Kh3 Rd8 45. Rc7 Rb8 46. Rc8



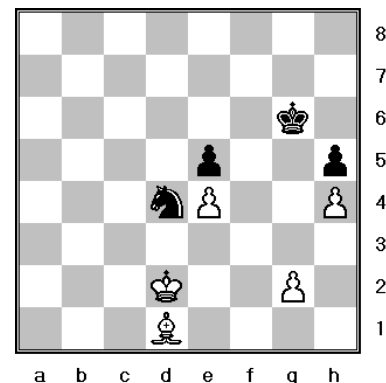
46. ...Rxc8?

This is the first outright mistake; Black should retain his rook for counter play if at all possible. The ensuing minor piece ending seems difficult (perhaps lost) for Black. Keeping the rooks on with 46. ...Rb1 is more consistent with seeking active counterplay. Play could continue 47. Rb8 (to gain access to b6 and b2) 47. ...Rh1+ 48. Kg3 Ne2+ 49. Kf2 Nd4 50. Be8+ Kg7 51. Bxh5 Rxh4 52. Rb7+ Kh6 52. Be8 Rh1 followed by transferring the rook to the queenside, which should give Black enough play. Also, 47. Be8+ Kh6 48. Kh2 Ra2 again gives counterplay.

47. Bxc8

With the exchange of rooks, Black is facing major defensive problems. The h-pawn is weak and in need of constant defense and there are no immediate targets for the knight. For his part, White needs to be on the alert for any tactics which would reduce the position to K+B+RP vs. K. A prototype of what White should be aiming for is:

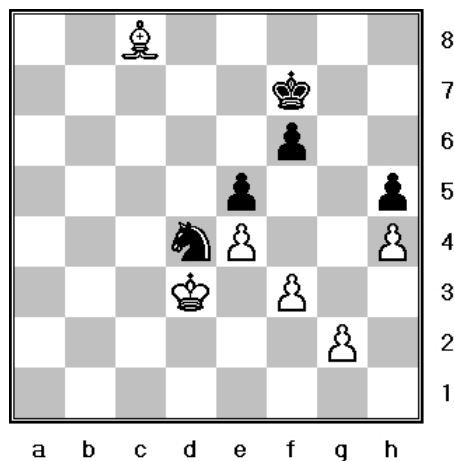
White to move



Despite the sparse material, this position is won for White. The black king is tethered to the h-pawn and it will take several moves to change the guard so that the knight protects

the h-pawn. White's plan is to invade via the queenside with his king, and eventually attack the e5 pawn. The black knight seems to be well placed on d4, but with no pawns to attack and the bishop guarding the invasion routes, it more decorative than effective. Some possibilities: 1. Kc3 Ne6 2. g3 Ng7 3. Kc4 Kf6 4. Kd5 or 1. Kc3 Ne6 2. g3 Nf8 (heading for f6) 3. Kc4 Nd7 4. Kd5 or 1. Kc3 Nb5+ 2. Kc4 Nd6+ 3. Kd5 Nf7 4. Ke6 all are winning.

47. ...Kh6 48. Kg3 Kg7 49. Kf2 Kg6 50. Ke3 Nc2+ 51. Ke2 Nd4+ 52. Kd3 Kf7

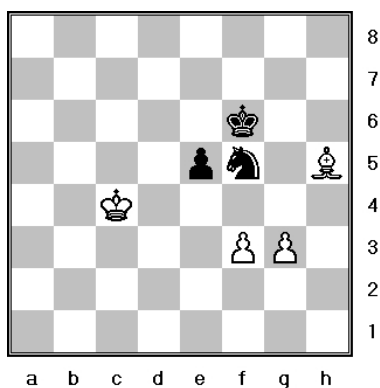


53. Ba6

Perhaps imprecise; it depends on whether 56. ...f5 works for Black. 54. f4! is the alternative heading for the move 47 analysis diagram.

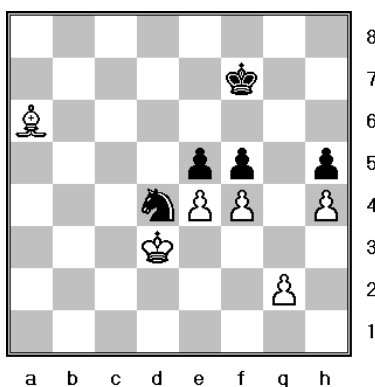
53. ...Kg6

The critical try is 53. ...f5. White can play to infiltrate with 54. Kc4 (Not 54. exf5? Nxf5 and White drops a pawn), but after 54. ...Kf6 55. Bb5 (idea Be8) 55. ...Ne6 56. exf5 (56. Kd5 Nd4) 56. ...Nd4 57. Be8 Nxf5 58. Bxh5 Nxh4 59. g3 Nf5



60. g4 Nh4 it's drawn.

A better attempt is destabilizing the knight with 54. f4.

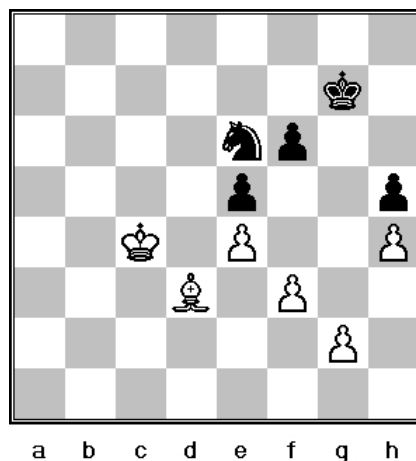


Play could continue 54. ...Nc6 55. Bb5 Ne7 56. fxe5 f4 57. Kd4 Ng6 58. Be2 Nxh4 59. Bxh5+ Ke7 60. Bf3; this looks good for White.

54. Kc3

Once again, 54. f4 heading for the move 47 analysis diagram is possible. I get the impression that White was still searching for the winning plan (that plan being placing the bishop on the d1-h5 diagonal and breaking with f4). White is trying various ideas before making a committal pawn break. As long as the ...f5 break is never effective there is no harm in probing a little while longer.

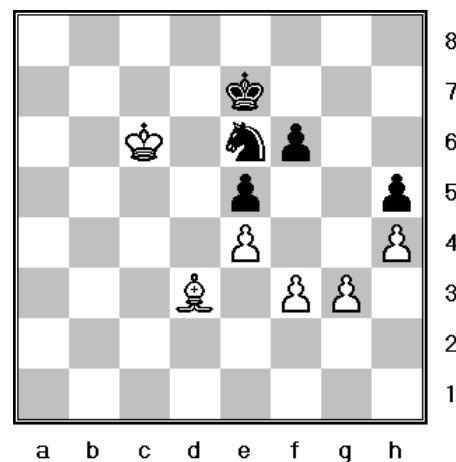
54. ...Kg7 55. Bd3 Ne6 56. Kc4



56. ...Kf7

56. ...Nd4 57. f4 Kg6 58. f5+ Kf7 59. Kc3 Kg7 60. Bc2 Ne2+ 61. Kd2 Ng3 (61. ...Nd4 62. Bd1) 62. Ke1 traps the knight.

57. g3 Ke7 58. Kd5 Ne7+ 59. Kc6 Ne6

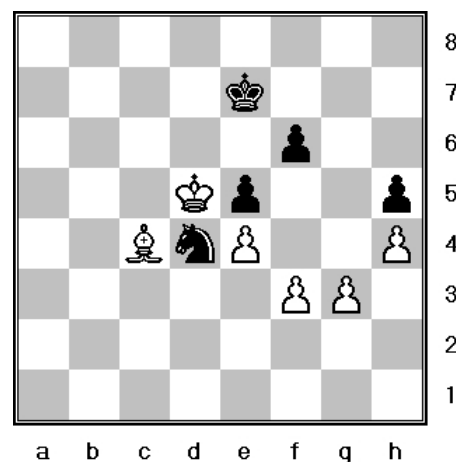


The attempt to infiltrate without a pawn break has not worked. White needs to combine play against the weak h5 pawn with the threat to infiltrate with his king. This is most easily accomplished by transferring the bishop to the d1-h5 diagonal and forcing the f4 break.

60. Bc4?

This allows simplification; the king needs to show some care in retracing his steps back to d3 or e3 in support of the f4 push. For example 60. Kd5 Nc7+ (60. ...Nd4 61. f4 Nf3 62. Be2) 61. Kc4 Ne6 62. Be2 Nd4 63. Be1 Ne6 64. Kd3 Nc5+ 65. Ke3 and White ready for f4.

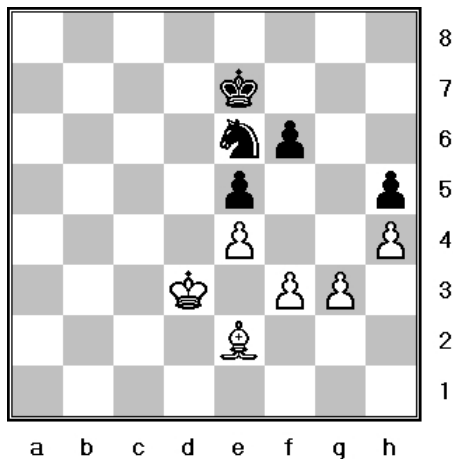
60. ...Nd4+ 61. Kd5



61. ...Ne6?

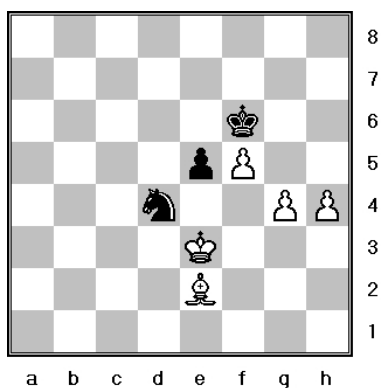
Grabbing the pawn with 61. ...Nxf3 62. Be2 looks dangerous (White gets a passed h-pawn), but Black seems to have sufficient resources after 62. ...Nd2 63. Bxh5 Nf1 64. g4 Ne3+ 65. Kc5 Ng2.

62. Be2 Kd7 63. Kc4 Ke7 64. Kd3

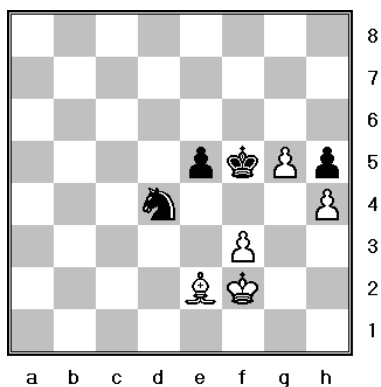


64. ...Ng7

This is Black's best opportunity for an effective ...f5 break, e.g. 64. ...f5 65. exf5 Nd4 and now: (1) 66. g4 Kf6 67. Ke3 hxg4 68. fxg4

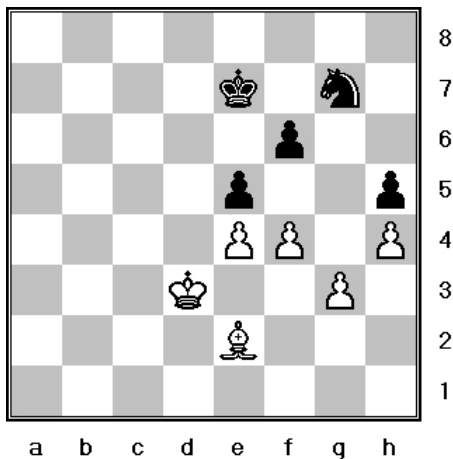


68. ...Nxf5+ 69. gxf5 Kxf5 drawing is black's main idea (2) 66. g4 Kf6 67. g5+ Kxf5 68. Ke3 Nc2+ 69. Kf2 Nd4



and (3) 66. Ke3 Nxf5+ 67. Kf2 are better for White, but the win is still a long ways off.

65. f4

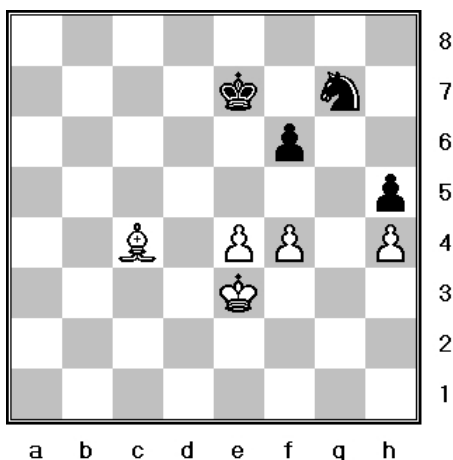


I believe white is winning from this point forward.

65. ...exf4

The alternative 65. ...Ke6 would be similar to the game: 65. f5+ Ke7 66. Kc4.

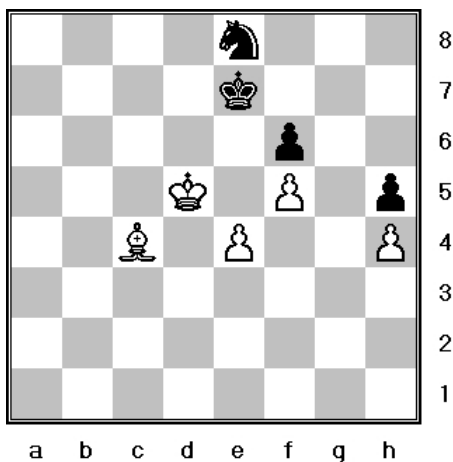
66. gxf4 Kd6 67. Kd4 Ne6+ 68. Ke3 Ng7 69. Bc4 Ke7



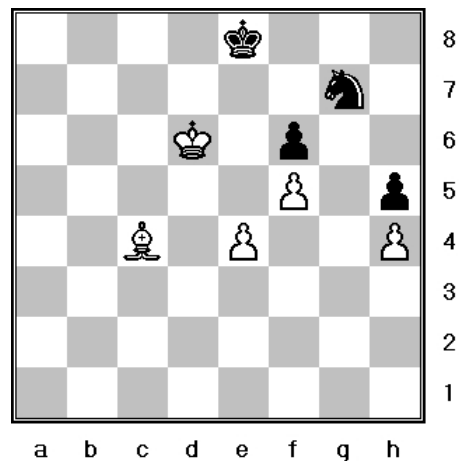
70. f5

Not 70. e5 fxe5 71. fxe5.

70. ...Ne8 71. Kd4 Ng7 72. Kd5 Ne8



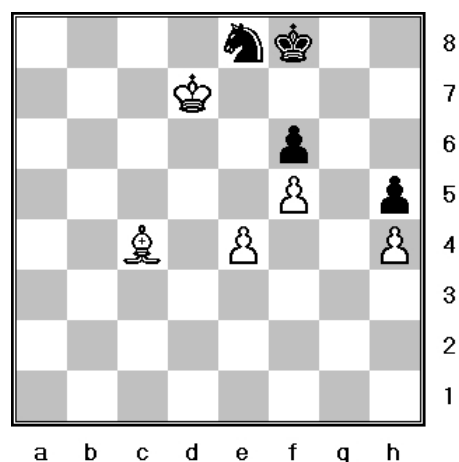
73. Be2 Ng7 74. Kc6 Kd8 75. Kd6 Ke8 76. Bc4



76. ...Kf8

If 76. ...Kd8 then 77. Bf7 is an instant winner.

77. Kd7 Ne8

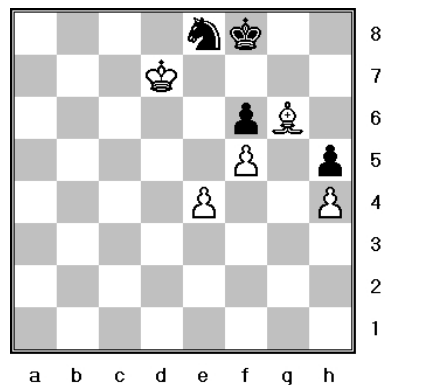


78. Bg8! Ng7

There's no hope in the pawn ending.

79. Bh7 Ne8 80. Bg6

1-0



It's all clear now: 80. ...Ng7 81. Kd8 Kg8 82. Ke7.

The 2010 Anonymous Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, chronicler

Welcome to the new year of the Grand Prix. We gave you the list of winners last month, now it is time for you to put your name in contention for the 2010 winners' list. Just get out and play. That is what Darby Monahan and Dennis Ambler are doing, having attended a tournament every weekend during the month of January (there were five weekend that month). Needless to say, but I will anyway, they are among the leaders in the early going. How about you?

Seven events were contested in January, with two having multipliers (Seattle City Championship, x2 and Gresham Open, x3). One event, in Spokane began in January and finished in February. Five additional events will have concluded in February by the time you read this, including the triple-multiplier Collyer Memorial in Spokane on the last weekend of the month. Coming in March will be our regularly scheduled events; Tacoma Chess Club tornado, Seattle Chess Club tornado and quads and Portland Chess Club Game/60. Additionally, we will have the Portland and Seattle versions of the ever popular Spring Open. I always picture a jack-in-the-box when I see that tournament name.

We are still looking for a sponsor for the 2010 event. \$1000 is a good donation and comes with naming rights. Donated funds are added equally to each state's prize fund and are used entirely for prizes only.

For those who like to see their names in the magazine, here are the very early leaders. Already we have 146 people who have played in one or more Grand Prix events. This is a very good start to the year. Oregon has one more master on the list this month than they had the for entire last year! Now just keep playing.

Oregon

Washington

Masters

1 Roua,Radu 19.5	1 Pupols, Viktors 18
2 Schulien, Charles 16.5	2 Bragg, David R 13.5
2 Breckenridge, Steven ... 16.5	3 Selzler, Ricky 12
2 Haessler, Carl A 16.5	
5 Raptis, Nick 5.5	

Experts

1 Pendergast, Michael 23	1 Schemm, Michael A .. 15
2 Davis, Mikeal 20	2 Bartron, Paul R 13.5
3 Morris, Michael J 18	3 Sang, Tian 11
4 Heywood, Bill 16.5	4 MacGregor, Michael ... 5
4 Polasek , Preston F 16.5	5 Lee, Megan 3.5
6 Gay, Daniel Z 15	

Class A

1 Herrera, Robert..... 18	1 Sotaridona, Leonardo 20.5
2 Surak, Steve S 16.5	2 Sen, Samir 16.5
3 Botez, V Alexandra 15	3 Kirsch, Ronald B 16
4 Smyth, Scott J 9	4 Teng, Yun 13.5
5 Esler, Brian 5	5 O'Gorman, Peter J 13
6 Pyle, Galen 4.5	6 Qu, Frank 12

Class B

1 Levin, Scott A 17.5	1 Ambler, Dennis L 24.5
2 Hughes, Robert 15	2 Buck, Stephen J 17.5
3 Hannibal, Carson J 14.5	3 Hughes, Thomas 17.5
4 Niro, Frank A 13.5	4 Mathews, Daniel R 14
5 Grom, Alex 12	5 Goodfellow, Robert ... 12
6 Brusselback, Lon 10.5	6 Millikan, Erlend J 11

Class C

1 Donchenko, Peter 19	1 Monahan, Darby P 33
2 Shimada, Masakazu 15.5	2 Phan, James L 23.5
2 Skalmes, Erik 15.5	3 Piper, August 21.5
4 Dennehy, Jeremiah P 15	4 Vanmane, Amith 15.5
5 Parnon, Calvin J 14.5	5 May, Sarah R 13.5
6 Waterman, Jeremy 13.5	6 Fields, Noah D 13.5

Class D and Below

1 Hoglund, Brian 12	1 Richards, Jerrold 14
1 Chatterjee, Dhruva 12	2 Davis, Freddy A 13.5
1 Coonrod, Larry F 12	3 Nagase, Masayuki 12
4 Chattopadhyay, Sandip .. 9	4 Kramlich, Dan 11.5
4 Rodriguez, Edwin E 9	5 Austin, Chang 10.5
6 Butson, Jeffrey C 7.5	6 Haining, Breck 8.5

Overall Leaders, by State

1 Pendergast, Michael 23	1 Monahan, Darby P 33
2 Davis, Mikeal 20	2 Ambler, Dennis L 24.5
3 Roua, Radu 19.5	3 Phan, James L 23.5
4 Donchenko, Peter 19	4 Piper, August 21.5
5 Morris, Michael J 18	5 Sotaridona, Leonardo 20.5
5 Herrera, Robert..... 18	6 Pupols, Viktors 18
7 Levin, Scott A 17.5	7 Buck, Stephen J 17.5
8 Schulien, Charles 16.5	7 Hughes, Thomas 17.5
8 Breckenridge, Steven ... 16.5	9 Sen, Samir 16.5
8 Haessler, Carl A 16.5	10 Kirsch, Ronald B 16
8 Heywood, Bill 16.5	11 Vanmane, Amith 15.5
8 Polasek , Preston F 16.5	12 Schemm, Michael A .. 15
8 Surak, Steve S 16.5	13 Richards, Jerrold 14
14 Shimada, Masakazu 15.5	13 Mathews, Daniel R 14
14 Skalmes, Erik 15.5	15 five tied 13.5

Northwest Grand Prix Administrator

Murlin Varner
13329 208 Ave NE
Woodinville, WA 98072

MEVjr54@yahoo.com 425-882-0102

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

March 6 SCC vs. TCC Match

Site: Tacoma CC. **Format:** 7-bd (M, X, A, B, C, D, E & Under) match. **TC:** G/120. **Prizes:** ?? **Rds:** 1:00 p.m. **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

April 2-4 SCC Team in Reno!!

Join the SCC Team(s) in Reno at the **Western States Open**. We will be competing against four or five teams from San Francisco's Mechanics' Institute CC as well as teams from Reno, Sacramento, and elsewhere!

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.

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.

March 20, April 24

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 25

SCC Novice

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 4/25, \$16 at site. (-\$2 for SCC memb., -\$1 for memb. 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.

March 14, April 11

Sunday Tornado

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

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.

♂ March 13

Tacoma Chess Club Tornado #3 ♂

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.

♂ March 20-21

Portland Spring Open ♂

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

♂ March 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, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.com.

April 2-5

Grand Pacific Open

Victoria, B.C. See display advertisement on page 10.

April 10

Campbell Center Open

Eugene, OR. 10 am - 6 pm (if needed). Open to all. Site: Lamb Cottage, 101 Cheshire St., Eugene OR 97401. Format: 3-4 round Swiss style pairings. USCF playing rules, G/60. Round 1 at 10 am. Entry fee: \$6 until April 5, \$8 after. Reg 9:00 - 9:30 am April 10 at site. Prizes: Chess books to top five finishers based on 20 entrants, certificates to all. Please bring: boards, sets, clocks. T.D. Dave Cohen, USCF LTD. For information and/or registration, call Campbell Center, (541) 682-5318 or visit <http://www.eugene-or.gov/receenroll..>

♂ May 1-2

Inland Empire Open ♂

Location: Gonzaga University Schoenberg Center Room 202 N. 900 Pearl Street Registration: Sat. 8:30am-9:30am Rounds: Sat. 10:00-2:30-7:00 Sun: 9:00-1:30 or ASAP. Time Control: G/120. E.F \$26 if received by 4/30, \$31 at the door; 18 and under \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted. USCF rated and a NWGP event. \$750 b/30. Class prizes min 5/class. One prize per person (Excluding upset.) (Both players must have established ratings) NS, NC, W. One ½ point bye if requested before proceeding round; Sunday byes must be requested before the end of round 3. Director reserves the right to you class pairings in the final round. Cookies and coffee provided. Prizes: \$160, \$130, \$110; (A; B; C; D/E/unrated) \$50, \$25 Upset: \$50 (non-provisional ratings) Entries: Spokane CC, c/o David B. Griffin P.O. Box 631 Spokane Valley, WA 99037 For information please call (509) 928-3260 or cell (509) 994-9739

May 22-24

Keres Memorial

Richmond, B.C. See display advertisement on page 10.

♂ May 29-31

Washington Open ♂

Redmond, WA. See display advertisement on page 19.

June 11-13

National Open

Las Vegas, NV. See display advertisements in February and April issues of NWC.

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

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