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# Northwest Chess

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# Northwest Chess

# Contents

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Okay, *next* month expect many more annotated games from the various state championship events in both Washington and Oregon, and an interesting new column from Corey Russell. This month got hijacked by the long-awaited London Chess Classic story from Curt Collyer and Josh Sinanan. Yes, the issue is getting later. That's probably a sign of editorial burn-out.

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# Robert A. Karch, 1930–2010

Washington Chess Federation secretary Gary Dorfner reports that Robert Karch died on March 23, one day short of his 80th birthday. He had been in poor health for many years.

Active in organized chess for over 60 years, starting with his days at Lincoln High School in Tacoma, Karch served in the United States Army in military intelligence from the 1950s to the early 1970s. During this time he was stationed around the world but this did not prevent him from finding time to promote the game, particularly in developing rating systems in several places. He worked briefly for B.H. Wood at Chess in England in 1972 (see his picture on the cover of the April 1972 issue) but soon found himself back in the Pacific Northwest opening a full-time chess center in Seattle during the Fischer boom. His American Chess Service facility only lasted a few years but hosted many events where players like the young Yasser Seirawan and future IM Eric Tangborn gained valuable experience. Peter Biyiasas, reigning Canadian champion at the time, won many Karch organized events in the early to mid 1970s.

The greatest promotional event Bob Karch organized was undoubtedly the match he played with Yasser Seirawan. The battle between Fischer and Spassky might have been played a year before but the effects of the “Fischer Boom” were still being felt in Seattle when the 43-year-old Karch and the 13-year-old Seirawan squared off in a six-game match in August of 1973. Karch, normally a Class A player who occasionally slipped over 2000, was the reigning “Seattle City Champion,” while Yasser was 13 and rapidly improving. They were far from the best players in the area at the time, but the newspapers didn’t realize that. What they saw was a study in contrasts.

Lew Peterson, writing in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, described the scene. “Yasser, who ranges in age from 11 and 13 years depending on your sources, showed up for the highly publicized game in yellow cutoffs, a red-gauche hat and a well-tanned bare chest. His older opponent was dressed slightly more conservatively in slacks, dress shirt and tie.” Yasser won the match, which attracted large stories in the *PI* for each of the games, 4-2.

Robert Karch served as the editor of *Northwest Chess* several times in the 1970s and 1980s (second only to Dan Wade in longevity in the over 60-year run of this publication). He was also the editor of the correspondence chess magazine *Chess International* for several years in the late 1980s. Correspondence chess was a life-long interest for Karch who served five years as the US Secretary to the ICCF. He also served in various administrative posts for the Washington Chess Federation and as USCF secretary for a short time. Throughout his life Karch taught classes teaching thousands of people how to play chess.

Typically wearing a suit and a tie, Bob was certainly more conservative than your average chess player, but outward appearances could belie the dreamer that lay beneath. One need only look at the American Chess Service calendar for 1973, with close to fifty(!) weekend events on the calendar spread across hundreds of miles of the Northwest to realize that he was putting on the local version of Goichberg’s Continental Chess Association tour but with an infinitely smaller player base. These generous prize funds kept many semi-pros going, but it was good that Bob had his military pension to fall back on when events lost money. Even still these tournaments had to do better than the full-time chess center he ran in 1972-74. Bob was definitely a dreamer ahead of his time and true to his Northwest roots. This ambition was good as an individual organizer but it sometimes led to problems in the 1980s when Bob served in various capacities for the Washington Chess Federation and almost ran the organization ashore.

Like everyone, Bob had his quirks. The curious ways he sometimes structured his prize funds were creative to say the least, and some of the articles he wrote were unintentionally funny (“Preparing to Play Walter Gental” is one that comes to mind), but he could laugh at himself – he was the editor of *NWC* when it ran Bruce Harper’s parody of the Gental article, “Preparing to Beat the Freak Attack.”

Bob Karch will be missed.

– John Donaldson



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# Josh and Curt Go to London

By Curt and Josh



Josh Sinanan on the streets of London. Photo credit: Curt Collyer.

“Meals aren’t included on this flight.”

Thus began our trans-Atlantic voyage aboard the rather obscure airline “Icelandair.” During a short layover in the sunless gloom of Reykjavik, we noted that missing our connecting flight might actually be a good thing, since we would have an opportunity to visit Fischer’s grave. However it was not meant to be. We soon landed at Heathrow and hopped aboard the Underground to get to our hotel. After reading some rather unappealing Expedia hotel reviews, (one involving bed-bugs and bloody sheets), we chose to stay at a newer hotel outside of central London, which meant that we would have a daily commute to the tournament site.

The London Chess Classic was held December 6th-16th, 2009, at the Olympia Conference Center in the Kensington District of London. The 8-player main-event included the top four British GMs (Short, Adams, Howell, and McShane) along with four other GMs from around the world. Magnus Carlsen of Norway was the top seed, with former World Champion Vladimir Kramnik just behind him. Hikaru Nakamura represented the US (and maybe Canada), and Ni Hua came all the way from China. Running concurrent with the main event, was a strong, 9-Round FIDE Open tournament, with many GMs, IMs and FMs participating.

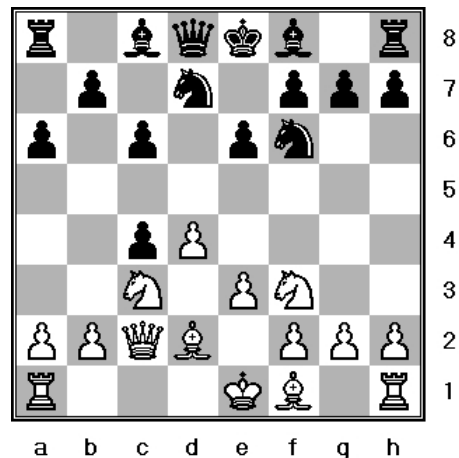
Josh and Curt found the hotel, which was very clean and modern. Josh blew out the room’s power circuits when he tried to charge his cell phone, but it was only a temporary issue. After eating some Chinese food, we went to bed, only to awaken about 4 a.m. The pairings had been posted online, so we began to prepare for our games. With only one game per day, preparation became a bigger factor than usual.

## Round 1:

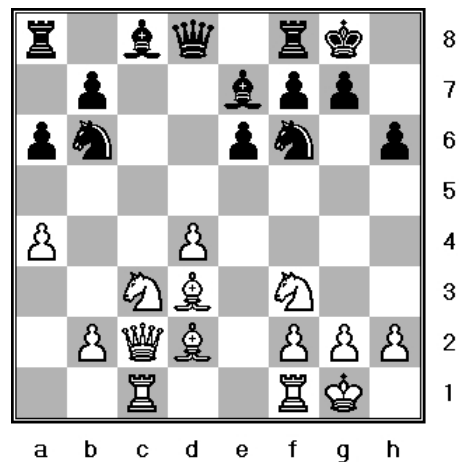
Curt was paired with black against a draw-happy Frenchman. Curt, ironically, played the French Defense but never got anything going and eventually agreed to a draw. Josh played an over-optimistic British player named Cork who thought it wise to push all of his kingside pawns up the board as far as possible (until his position collapsed). Afterwards, we went to the adjacent auditorium to watch the end of Hikaru’s game. Up on the stage, it looked as if he were about to win against Ni Hua, but a miscalculation allowed the Chinese player to escape, which was disheartening.

### Hikaru Nakamura – Ni Hua London Chess Classic, Round 1 England, December 8, 2009

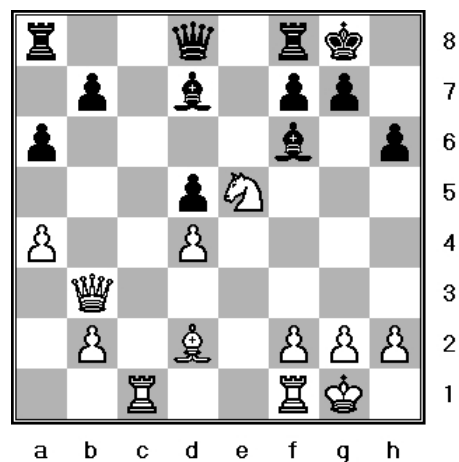
1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e3 a6 5. Bd2 e6 6. Qc2 Nbd7 7. Nc3 dxc4



8. a4 c5 9. Bxc4 cxd4 10. exd4 Be7 11. 0-0 0-0 12. Rac1 Nb6 13. Bd3 h6



14. Qb3 Nbd5 15. Nxd5 Nxd5 16. Bc4 Bd7 17. Bxd5 exd5 18. Ne5 Bf6



19. Ba5 Qe8 20. Bb4 Bxa4 21. Qa3 Bxe5 22. dxe5 Bb5 23. Rfe1 d4 24. Bxf8 Qxf8 25. Qxf8+ Kxf8

## Round 2:

Josh got paired against the top seed in the FIDE tournament – GM Hammer! After aggressively losing a pawn in the opening, Josh got all pinned up and then blown away with ...e5.

**Josh Sinanan – Jon Ludvig Hammer  
London Chess FIDE Open, Round 2  
England, December 9, 2009**

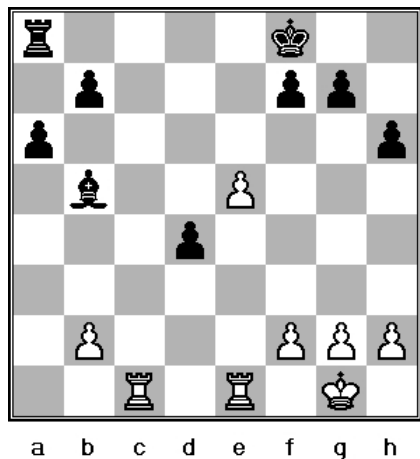
Going into the second round of the London Chess Classic, I found myself paired against the top seed, a 19-year-old GM from Norway. No, not Magnus Carlsen, but his childhood friend, Jon Ludvig Hammer!

**1. Nf3 c5 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. g3 Nc6  
5. Bg2 e6 6. 0-0**

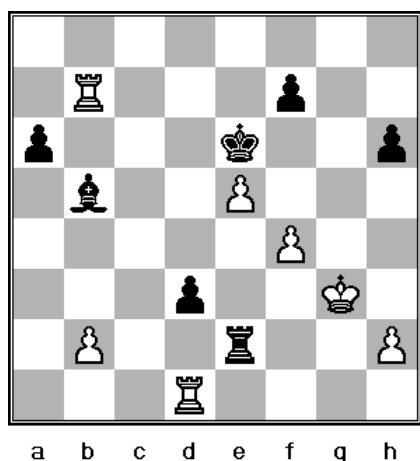
6. d4 cxd4 7. Nb5 d5 8. cxd5 Qa5+ 9. Qd2 Qxb5 10. dxc6 Qxc6 is an interesting gambit for White.

**6. ...Nge7 7. a3 0-0 8. b4?**

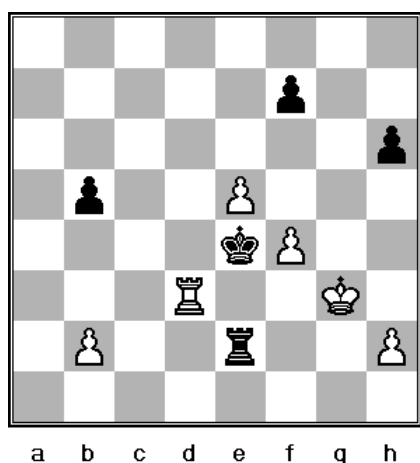
I had seen this idea before with Black's e-pawn on e5 instead of e6. I thought White had good compensation for the pawn after 8. ...cxb4 9. axb4 Nxb4 10. Ba3, but I missed my opponent's strong reply.



**26. f4 d3 27. Red1 g5 28. g3 gxf4 29. gxf4 Ke7 30. Rc7+ Ke6 31. Rxb7 Rc8 32. Kf2 Rc2+ 33. Kg3 Re2**

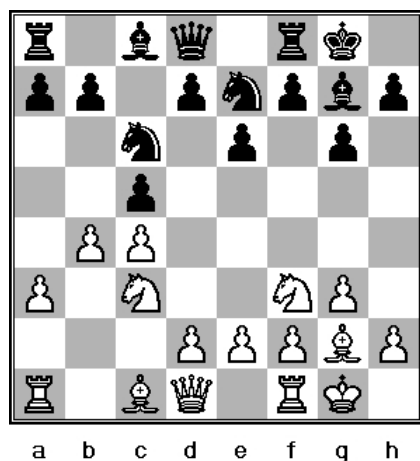


**34. Rb6+ Kd5 35. Rxb5+ axb5 36. Rxd3+ Ke4**

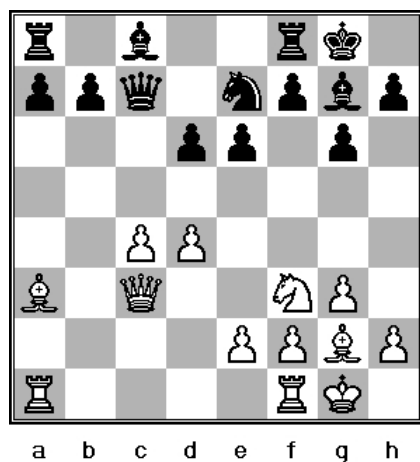


**37. Rd7 Rxb2 38. Rxf7 b4 39. Rf8 Rc2 40. Kg4 Rc7 41. e6 b3 42. Rb8 Rg7+ 43. Kh5 Re7 44. Kg4 Rg7+ 45. Kh5 Re7 46. Kg4**

1/2-1/2



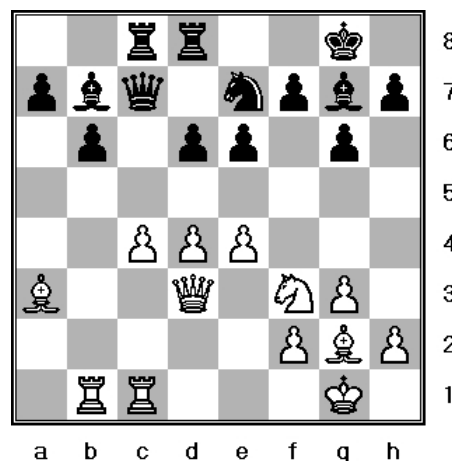
**8. ...Nxb4! 9. axb4 cxb4 10. d4 bxc3 11. Ba3 d6 12. Qd3 Qc7 13. Qxc3**



We have reached a reverse-Benko type of position with White having "hanging" pawns on c4 and d4. Since White's pawns are over-extended and Black's only weakness is on d6, it is difficult for White to generate adequate counterplay.

**13. ...Rd8 14. Rfc1 b6 15. Rab1 Bb7 16. Qd3 Rac8 17. e4**

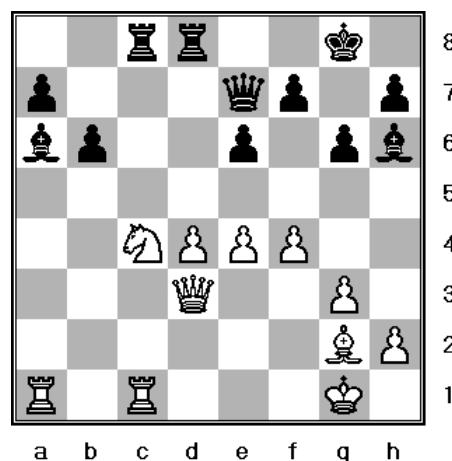
For lack of another plan, I chose to lunge forward in the center to try and unnerve my GM opponent. At this point, I was not sure how Black could make progress since any pawn breaks give White counter-play. Hammer finds an elegant plan.



**17. ...Bh6 18. Nd2 Ba6**

Wow, the GM has just un-fianchettoed both of his bishops!

**19. f4 d5 20. Bxe7 Qxe7 21. Ra1 dxc4 22. Nxc4**



**22. ...e5!!**

Played after a long think. At this point, I noticed that I was getting pinned up every which way and it was only a matter of time until Black broke through.

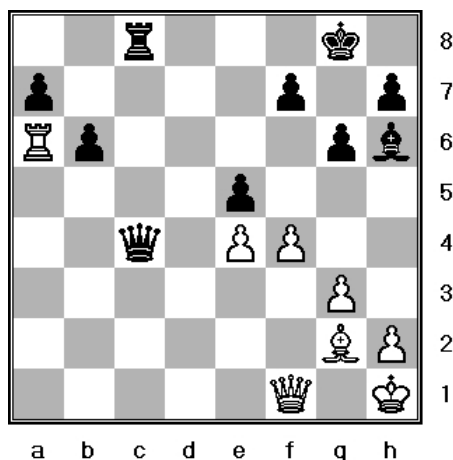
**23. Rxa6**

There is nothing better! 23. fxe5 Bxc1  
24. Rxa6 Qb4 25. Bf1 b5 26. Nd6 Rc3 -+.

**23. ...Rxd4 24. Qf1**

Also losing is 24. Qa3 Qxa3 25. Rxa3  
exf4.

**24. ...Qc5 25. Kh1 Rxc4 26. Rxc4 Qxc4**



**27. fxe5**

A better try was 27. Rxa7, though Black  
is still much better in the opposite-color  
bishop ending. 27. Rxa7 exf4 28. Qxc4 Rxc4  
29. Bf3 Rc2 -+.

**27. ...Qd4 28. Ra1 Qxe5**

With two pawns down and no counter-  
play, I chose to throw in the towel and go  
watch the big-boys play in the auditorium.

**0-1**

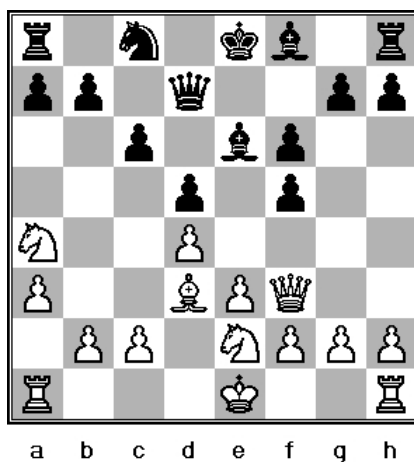
Curt was White against a young Brit  
named Seymour who played the Dutch  
Defense. The two players worked together  
very efficiently to dismantle Black's  
position. "It got kind of bad for me, there at  
the end" (said with a British accent) was his  
opponent's subtle post-mortem assessment  
of what happened.

**Curt Collyer – Timothy Seymour**  
**London Chess FIDE Open, Round 2**  
**England, December 9, 2009**

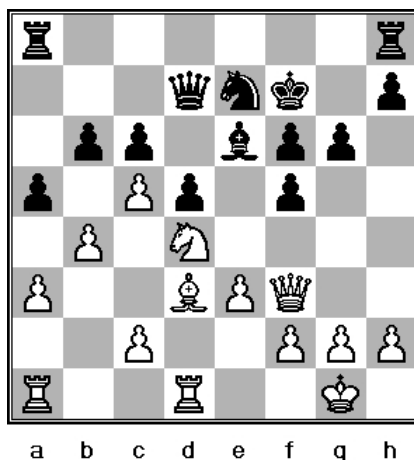
**1. d4 f5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Bg5 d5 4. Bxf6**  
**exf6 5. e3 Be6 6. Bd3 Nc6 7. a3 Qd7 8.**  
**Qf3 Ne7 9. Nge2 c6 10. Na4 Nc8?!**



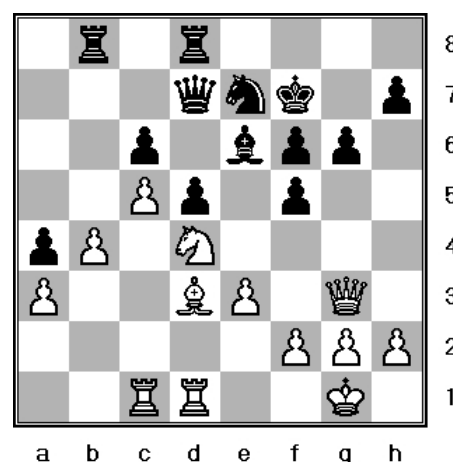
*Josh Sinanan vs GM Jon Ludvig Hammer. Photo Credit: Curt Collyer.*



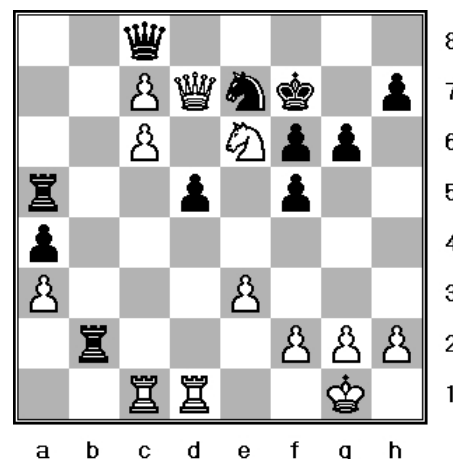
**11. Nc5! Bxc5 12. dxc5 g6 13. Nd4 b6**  
**14. b4 Ne7 15. 0-0 Kf7 16. Rfd1 a5?**



**17. cxb6 a4 18. Rac1 Rab8 19. c4 Rxb6**  
**20. c5 Rbb8 21. Qg3 Rhd8**



**22. b5! Qa7 23. bxc6 Rb2 24. c7 Ra8**  
**25. Qd6 Bc8 26. Bb5! Qa5 27. Bd7 Bxd7**  
**28. Qxd7 Qa6 29. c6 Qc8 30. Ne6 Ra5**



**31. Nd8+ Kf8 32. Qd6! 1-0**

Hikaru was on the luckier side of a draw this round, holding out against Michael Adams in a rook and pawn endgame. This game was played on Hikaru's birthday, so we celebrated with Indian food, and discussed the mystery of how Nigel Short is still rated 2700.

Back at the hotel, the staff was having some trouble with Curt's "accent." Asking for a fork (to eat his leftover Indian food), he was instead taken to a computer and handed a paper form to fill out. Curt repeated that he only wanted to borrow a fork, and made an eating gesture, which finally got the desired result. However we couldn't understand them either. Every night at midnight, Josh would have to call the front desk to get the new Internet password (which was reset at 12 A.M., right in the middle of our preparation). Obtaining a single password would seem simple, but it never was. Josh would have to have every letter repeated again and again, usually call more than once, and on an extreme occasion, visit the front desk to have them write the password down.

### Round 3:

This round Curt was paired with a German player who got a bit too greedy while in time pressure and grabbed a pawn he soon regretted. Meanwhile Josh tried to rebound from his loss to the GM Hammer, but instead of rebounding, he got his king stuck in the middle of the board. His opponent, who later claimed to have played "the best game of [his] life," soon hunted him down. In an interesting clash of styles and personalities, Nigel Short proved up to the task of holding a draw with black against Nakamura. Short gave his patented facial expression of "What is this rubbish?" when Hikaru willingly gave up the bishop pair.

### Round 4:

For the first time in his chess career, Curt lost a game to a girl. He felt better knowing she was an IM and the British Women's Champion, but it still stung.

**Curt Collyer – Jovanka Houska**  
**London Chess FIDE Open, Round 4**  
**England, December 11, 2009**

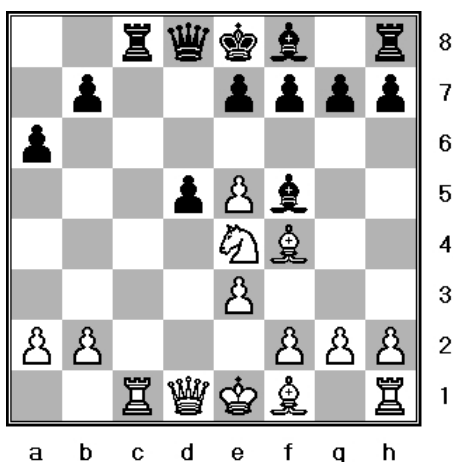
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 d5 4. cxd5 cxd5 5. Nc3

Some people think the Exchange Slav is just a dull draw. Not true. My record with it proves it's actually a forced loss for White.

5. ...Nc6 6. Bf4 a6 7. Rc1 Bf5 8. e3 Rc8 9. Ne5 Nxe5 10. dxe5 Ne4 11. Nxe4



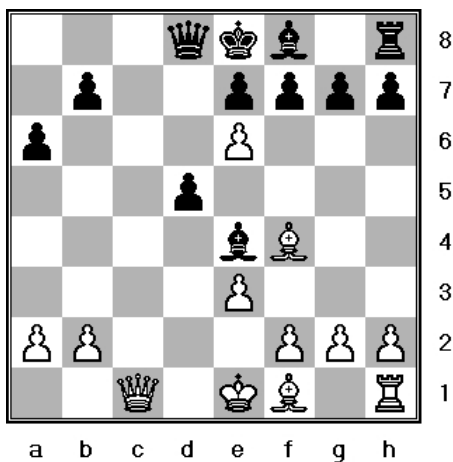
*Dinner on Hikaru's birthday. Photo credit: ??*



11. ...Rxc1

11. ...Bxe4?? 12. Qa4+ would lose for Black.

12. Qxc1 Bxe4 13. e6!?



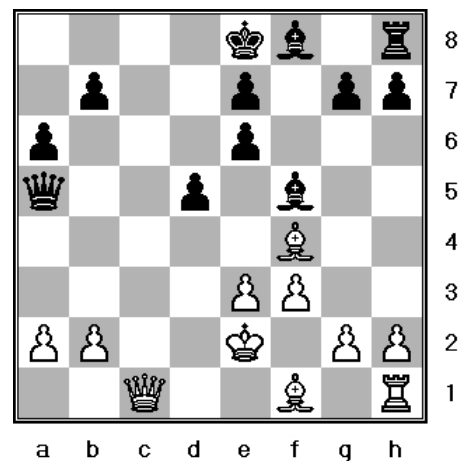
This interesting pawn sac was suggested to me by GM Varuzhan Akobian around 2004. I finally got a chance to try it.

13. ...Qa5+

13. ...fxe6 14. Qc3 and Black has trouble developing his kingside.

14. Ke2!?! fxe6 15. f3 Bf5

At this point I had used about 7 minutes and my opponent around 1 hour. But now I had to make an important decision: whether or not to sac the a-pawn as well.



16. a3

After the game, Houska thought that this was inaccurate, and that I should just play 16. Be5, when she didn't like Black's position. But my long term plan was to try to win on the queenside; I thought I would need both of my pawns to achieve this.





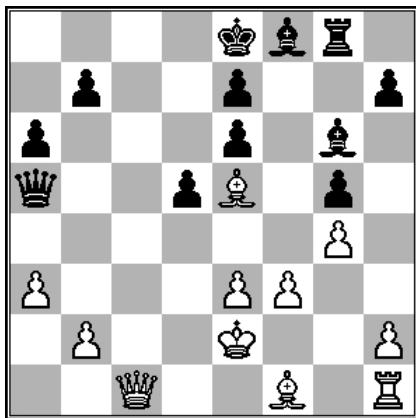
Curt Collyer vs IM Jovanka Houska. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

16. ...g5!?

Black must get the dark-square bishop developed.

17. Be5 Rg8 18. g4 Bg6

Here I thought I had a nice advantage and decided to regain my pawn.



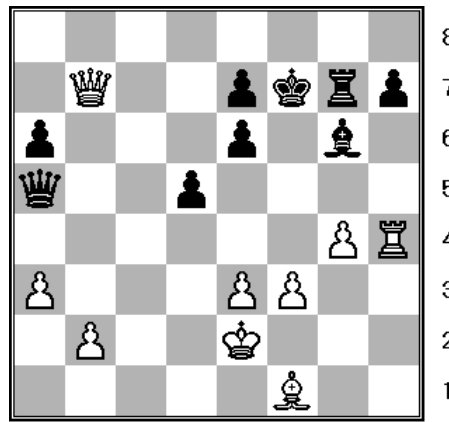
19. Qc8+ Kf7 20. Qxb7 Bg7 21. Bxg7 Rxg7

21. ...Kxg7? 22. Qxe7+.

22. h4

I was using a lot of time finding my last six moves. I felt like I was on a knife edge between keeping my advantage, and slipping into a worse position.

22. ...gxh4 23. Rxh4



23. ...Qa4!

Stopping my plan of g4-g5 followed by Rh4-Rb4 securing my queenside and preparing Ke2-Kf2 and Qxa6.

24. Ke1 Qc2

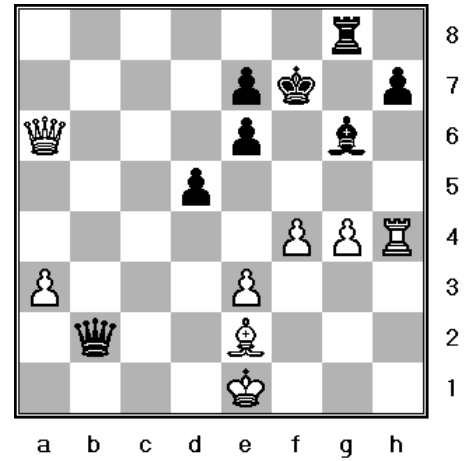
Up to this point, the game has been very high quality, from both sides, with White pressing a slight advantage and Black keeping things in balance. However my next move is inexplicable.

25. Qxa6?

Needlessly letting go of the b-pawn and thus losing all potential on the queenside.

25. ...Qxb2 26. Be2 Rg8 27. f4

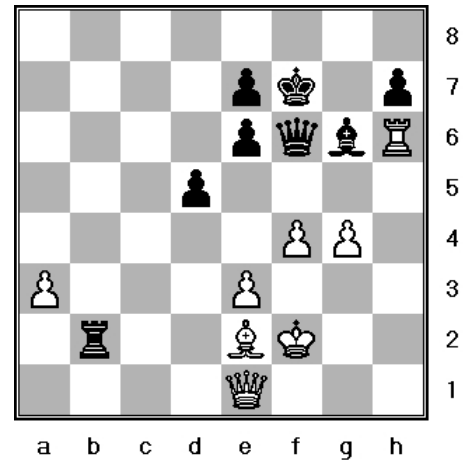
Another poor decision, but being very low on time and realizing the position was slipping, I decided to lash out.



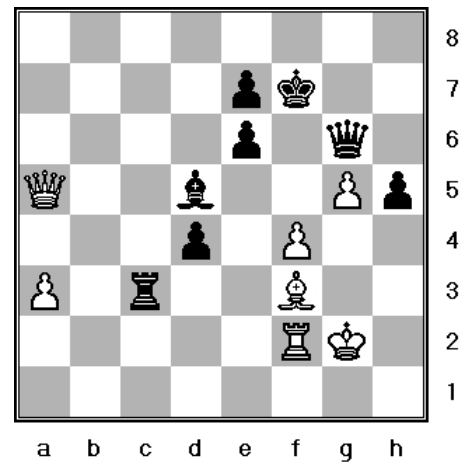
27. ...Qf6 28. Rh6 Rb8 29. Qa5 Rb1+ 30. Kf2 Rb2!

Once getting control, Houska plays decisively.

31. Qe1



31. ...d4! 32. Kg3 Rb3 33. Bf3 Rxe3 34. Qb4 Qg7 35. Rh2 Be4 36. Rf2 Bd5 37. Qc5 Rc3 38. Qa5 h5 39. g5 Qg6 40. Kg2



40. ...Rxf3

A nice final touch.

41. Rxf3 Qe4 0-1

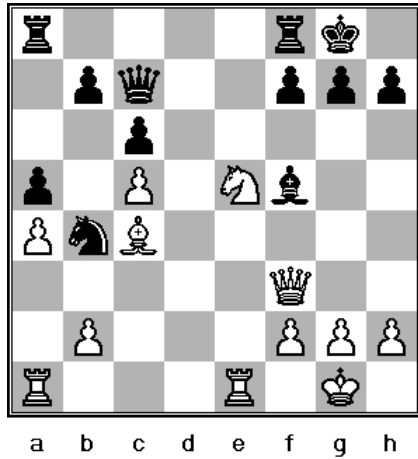


On a more positive note, Josh sacked the exchange against a British player's Stonewall Defense and soon had his opponent's rooks looking silly as they tried to cope with Josh's knights and passed pawns.

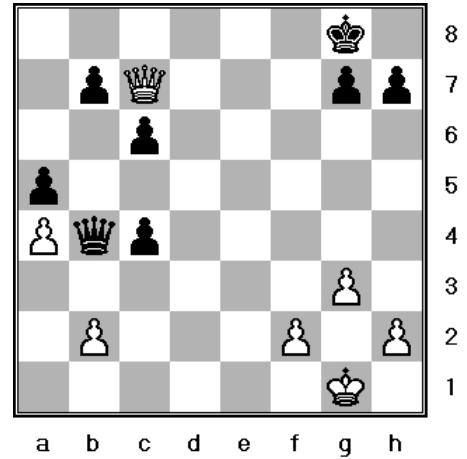
Carlsen vs. Nakamura was the "main event" of the round. Magnus surprised Hikaru with an early Nh4, but Black retained a solid position, gained counterplay, and was even pressing to win later on. At the post-game press conference, both players seemed disappointed with the result.

**Magnus Carlsen – Hikaru Nakamura**  
**London Chess Classic, Round 4**  
**England, December 12, 2009**

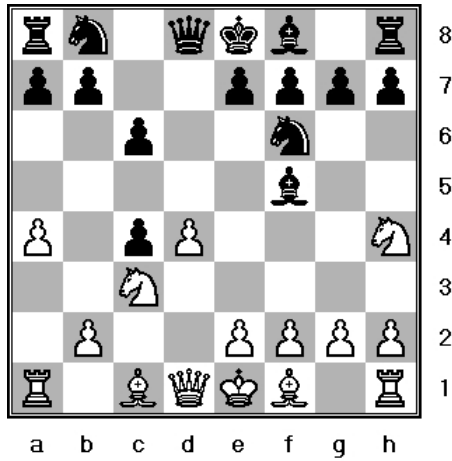
1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 dxc4  
 5. a4 Bf5 6. Nh4



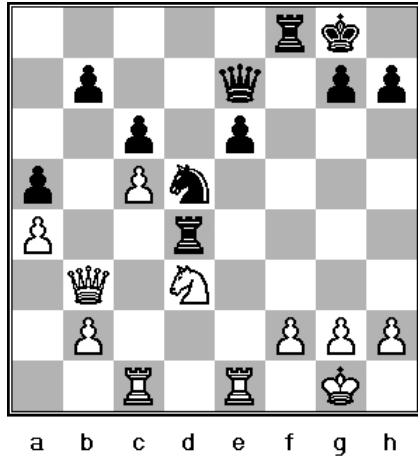
20. ...Be6 21. Bxe6 fxe6 22. Qb3 Qe7  
 23. Nf3 Nd5 24. Rac1 Rf4 25. Ne5 Raf8  
 26. Nd3 Rd4



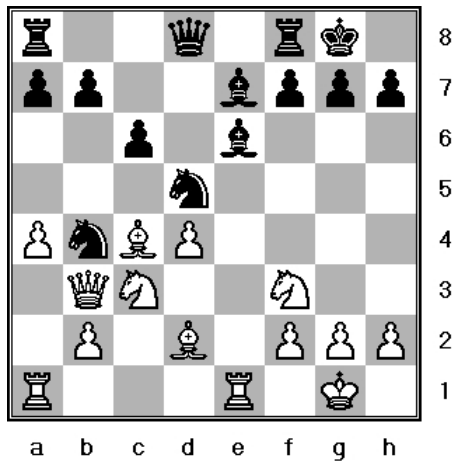
41. Qc8+ Kf7 42. Qf5+ Ke7 43. Qe5+  
 Kf7 44. Qf5+ Ke7 45. Qe5+ Kf7  
 1/2-1/2



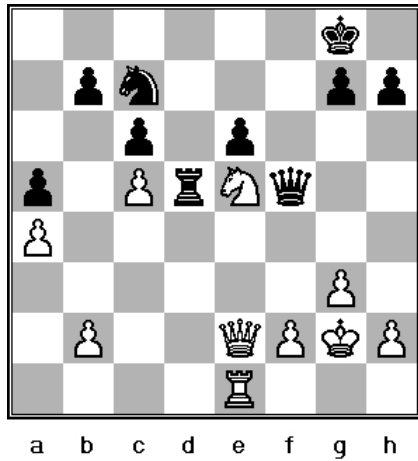
6. ...Bc8 7. e3 e5 8. Bxc4 exd4 9. exd4  
 Be7 10. 0-0 0-0 11. Re1 Nd5 12. Nf3 Be6  
 13. Qb3 Na6 14. Bd2 Nab4



27. Rc4 Rxc4 28. Qxc4 Qf6 29. g3 Rd8  
 30. Kg2 Qf5 31. Nc1 Rf8 32. Qe2 Nc7 33.  
 Nd3 Rd8 34. Ne5 Rd5



15. Ne4 Bf5 16. Ne5 a5 17. Nc5 Bxc5  
 18. dxc5 Qc7 19. Bxb4 Nxb4 20. Qf3



35. Kg1 Rxc5 36. Nc4 Qf8 37. Rd1 Rd5  
 38. Rxd5 exd5 39. Qe5 dxc4 40. Qxc7 Qb4

Speaking of post-game press conferences, it's worth noting the differences in commentary between the players. Here is a summary: Nigel Short, who would often come to the commentary room with a glass of red wine in hand, added lots of humor to his comments, but also took an extraordinarily long time to explain his thought processes, most of which seemed comparable to a club player's line of thinking. Nigel loved having an audience, and probably did the most post-game shows, even analyzing the games he lost. The Chinese player Ni Hua would attend the post-game analysis, but would never say anything. Magnus Carlsen would just sit there looking at the computer with a slightly confused expression, and would usually have to be prodded with questions. Hikaru didn't seem interested in doing the post-game shows, and only did one. The younger Brits, McShane and Howell, were fairly good giving commentary. Michael Adams had about as much to say as Ni Hua, despite knowing how to speak English. Kramnik was by far the best commentator, sharing the complex variations he had looked at during the game. He would cover about ten times the material of the other players (in the same allotment of time), while adding humor along the way. Everyone knew who the champion of commentary was for this event: Kramnik!

**Round 5:**

Josh played an expert from Wales, who was determined to go after the king, no matter the cost. True to his style, Josh was happy to grab all the extra material and finally converted a minor piece ending.

Curt bounced back nicely from his intellectual emasculation of the previous round by crushing a British player named Warman (who looked more like a war-protester). After winning material, Curt's technique was particularly accurate, with 16 or the last 17 moves being Rybka's top choice.

However, it was a bad day for Hikaru, who got caught in some King's Indian preparation against McShane. For awhile it wasn't clear who was playing for the win, but eventually Black's passed pawns won day, and the brilliancy prize for McShane.

In the morning, we went to a nearby café and ordered the "Full English Breakfast" (which was delicious, but probably worse for your health than a cigarette). Curt made the (apparent) faux pas of asking if he could get some jam for his toast. He was met with the woman's indignant response, "JAM?? With an ENGLISH BREAKFAST?!"

After Curt indicated that was correct, he was told he would have to buy some, and that no one ever ate jam with an English Breakfast. (But he bought some, and did.)

## Round 6:

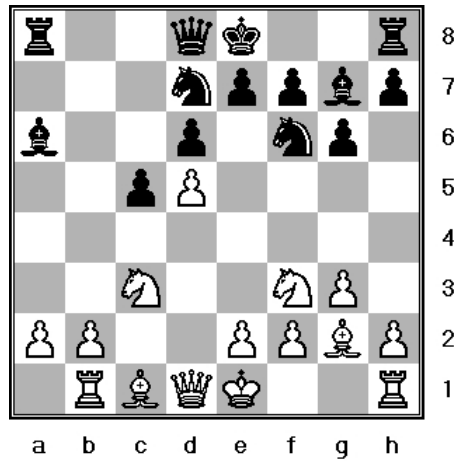
Josh sacked another exchange, this time in a Benko Gambit against a Polish player. Josh followed Seattle FM Marcel Milat's favorite fianchetto variation, and he knew more about it than his unsuspecting opponent.

### Josh Sinanan – Andrzej Krawczyk London Chess FIDE Open, Round 6 England, December 12, 2009

Going into round 6, I was paired against Andrzej Krawczyk, a young expert from Poland. Besides having a high-scoring scrabble name, I noticed that he played the Benko Gambit.

In my preparations for the game, I was inspired by fellow Slugger FM Marcel Milat's game against FM Robby Adamson from the the latest US Chess League season.

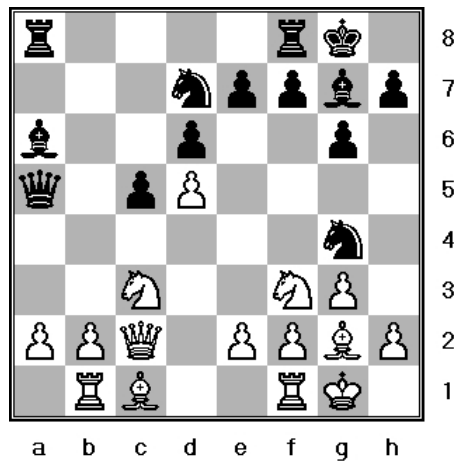
**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5 4. cxb5 a6 5. bxa6 Bxa6 6. Nc3 g6 7. g3 d6 8. Bg2 Bg7 9. Nf3 Nbd7 10. Rb1**



**10. ...Ng4!?**

10. ...Nb6 11. b3 Bc8 12. Nh4 h6 13. Qc2 Qd7 14. Bb2 g5 15. Nf3 Bb7 16. Rd1 O-O 17. O-O Ra7 18. e4 Rc8 19. Rfe1 Ng4 20. h4 Ne5 21. Nxe5 Bxe5 22. hxg5 hxg5 23. Qe2 g4 24. Qe3 Kh7 25. f4 gxf3 26. Qxf3 Rg8 27. Qh5+ Kg7 28. Bh3 Qe8 1/2-1/2 Milat-Adamson, USCL Seattle vs. Arizona (9) 2009.

**11. Qc2 0-0 12. 0-0 Qa5**

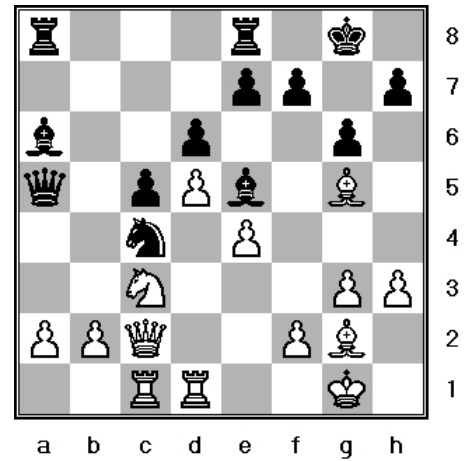


**13. Bg5!?**

In our post-game analysis, Curt and I disagreed on White's correct plan in this position. Curt suggested 13. Bd2 followed by b3 to solidify the queenside, which is indeed the critical line and scores around 70% for White. 13. Bg5 aims to distract Black on the kingside by tickling the e7 pawn.

**13. ...Rfe8 14. Rfd1 Nb6 15. h3 Ne5 16. Nxe5 Bxe5 17. e4 Nc4 18. Rbc1**

Reinforcing the knight on c3.



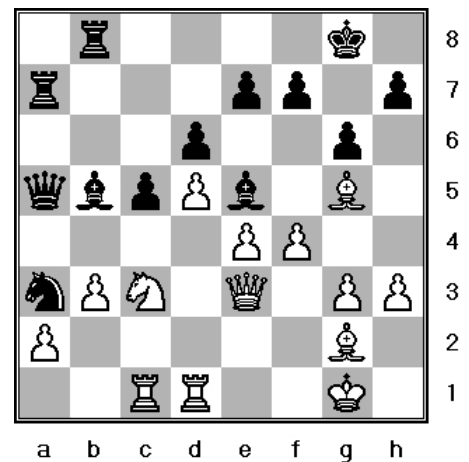
**18. ...Reb8**

A better try was 18. ...Bxc3 19. Qxc3 Qxc3 20. Rxc3 Nxb2 21. Rb1 Nc4 =.

**19. b3 Na3 20. Qd2 Ra7 21. Qe3 Bb5 22. f4?**

A critical moment in the game. I wanted to get a pawn-roller going with f4 and e5, but should have prepared it first with 22. Kh2.

With accurate defense Black should hold, but time pressure was starting to set in.

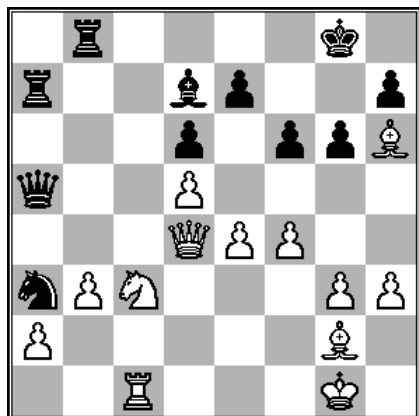


**22. ...Bd4 23. Rxd4**

Sticking to my theme of sacking the exchange as White this tournament!

**23. ...cxd4 24. Qxd4 f6 25. Bh6 Bd7?**

Better was 25. ...Rc7 26. f5 g5 27. h4 Nb1! when Black can exchange minor pieces and keep control over the position.



a b c d e f g h

26. e5! Qb6 27. Ne2

I had originally intended 27. Qxb6 Rxb6 28. exd6 exd6 29. Ne4 but was unsure how to proceed after 29. ...Kf7. I missed 30. f5!, when the weakening 31. ...g5 is forced to prevent Be3.

27. ...Qxd4+

No better is 27. ...Nb5 28. Qxb6 Rxb6 29. e6 +.

28. Nxd4 Rc8 29. Nc6 Bxc6 30. dxc6 Ra5 31. b4!

The most efficient way to wrap up the game.

31. ...Ra4

31. ...Rb5 32. Rc3 Nb1 33. Rb3 Nd2 34. Rb2 Nc4 35. a4 +.

32. Bd5+ Kh8 33. exf6 exf6 34. Re1

Ra7 35. f5 gxf5 36. Re6 Nb5 37. a4 Nc3 37. ...Nc7 38. Re7 Nxd5 39. Rxa7 Nxb4 40. c7 Nd5 41. Ra6 Nxc7 42. Rc6 +.

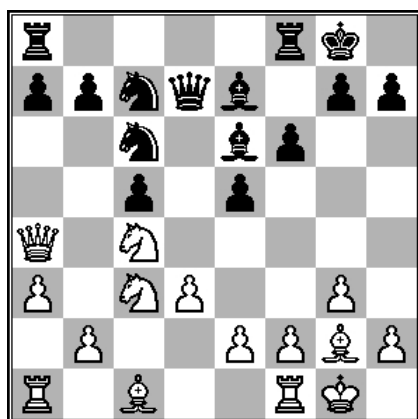
38. Rxd6 Rxa4 39. Be6 Rca8 40. c7 Ra1+ 41. Kg2 R8a2+ 42. Bxa2 Rxa2+ 43. Rd2 Ra8 44. Rd8+ Rxd8 45. cxd8=R#

1-0

Meanwhile Curt played solidly against GM Summerscale and drew comfortably with Black.

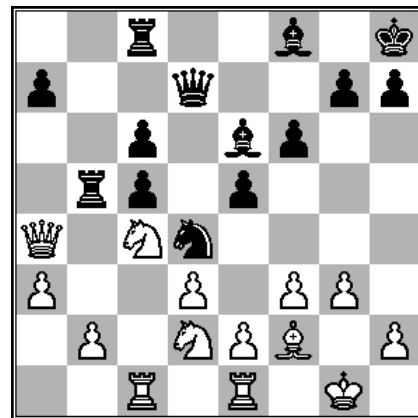
Aaron Summerscale – Curt Collyer  
London Chess FIDE Open, Round 6  
England, December 12, 2009

1. Nf3 c5 2. c4 Nc6 3. g3 Nf6 4. Nc3 d5 5. cxd5 Nxd5 6. Bg2 Nc7 7. 0-0 e5 8. a3 f6 9. d3 Be6 10. Nd2 Qd7 11. Nc4 Be7 12. Qa4 0-0



a b c d e f g h

13. Bxc6 bxc6 14. Be3 Nb5 15. Rac1 Rab8 16. Rfe1 Nd4 17. f3 Rfc8 18. Bf2 Bf8 19. Ne4 Kh8 20. Ned2 Rb5



a b c d e f g h

21. Rb1 Rcb8 22. Qd1 Qb7 23. Qc1 h6 24. Kf1 Qd7 25. Qd1 Qb7 26. Qc1 Qd7 27. Qd1 Qb7 28. Qc1

1/2-1/2

Hikaru played the French for the second time this event, and tried to gain some chances against the solid Howell, but nothing really materialized.

### Round 7:

Curt played a Slovakian IM named Barle, who appeared to be a kind of glorified version of local FM David Bragg. After gaining a clear advantage against a dubious opening, Curt underestimated his opponent's resources and allowed a strong exchange sac. Soon Barle's bishops were too much to handle and Curt resigned. Josh also played an IM, but couldn't find the right piece arrangement after the opening surprise 3.b3, and soon went down to a kingside attack. On the way back to the hotel, Josh pondered why his Sicilian was taking such a beating this tournament. Meanwhile, Curt disgustedly replayed his loss on his pocket set, even receiving unsolicited advice from a fellow Underground passenger on how he could have played better.

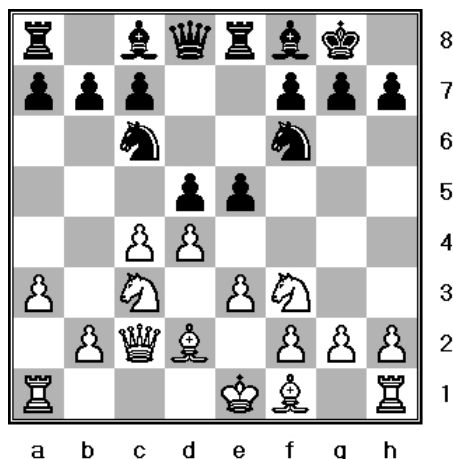
This was the final round for the 8-player "Classic," and saw Hikaru paired against Kramnik. This game was a great fight and a real pleasure to watch. Hikaru got the kind of edgy position he excels in, but Kramnik was up to the defensive task and began pressing back. However late in the time-control, he decided it was too risky to play for more, and took the perpetual check.

Hikaru Nakamura – Vladimir Kramnik  
London Chess Classic, Round 7  
England, December 15, 2009

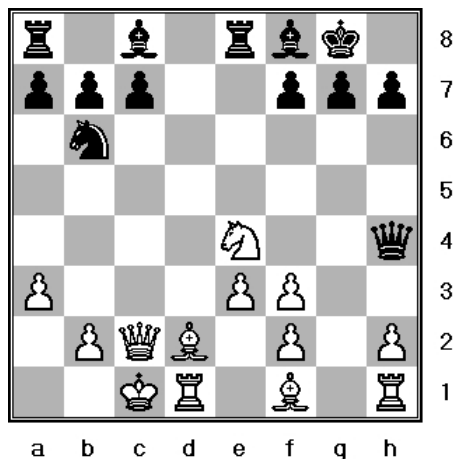


Curt Collyer vs GM Aaron Summerscale. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

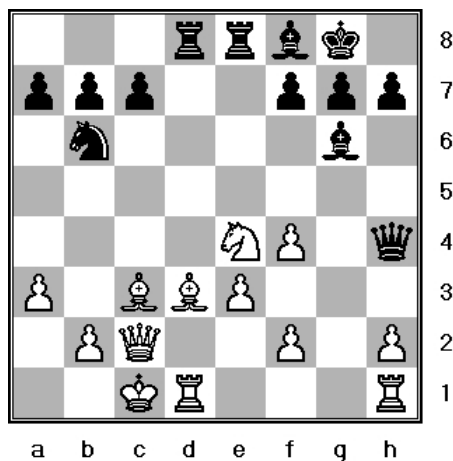
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Nf3 d5  
5. Qa4+ Nc6 6. e3 0-0 7. Qc2 Re8 8. Bd2  
Bf8 9. a3 e5



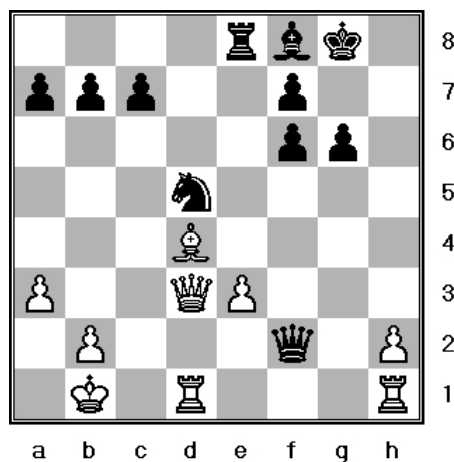
10. dxe5 Nxe5 11. cxd5 Nxd5 12. 0-0-0  
Nb6 13. Ne4 Nxf3 14. gxf3 Qh4



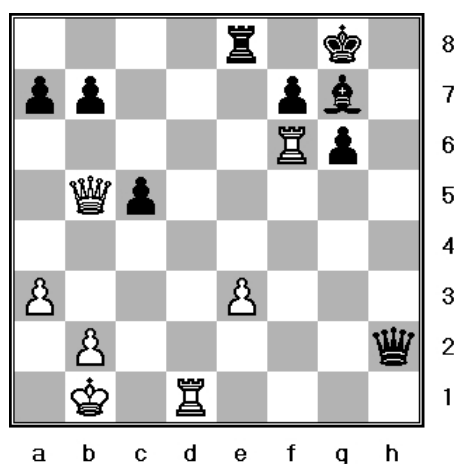
15. Bc3 Bf5 16. Bd3 Bg6 17. f4 Rad8



18. f5 Rxd3 19. Nf6+ gxf6 20. Qxd3  
Qxf2 21. fxf6 hxf6 22. Bd4 Nd5 23. Kb1



23. ...c5 24. Rhf1 Qxh2 25. Bxf6 Nxf6  
26. Rxf6 Bg7 27. Qb5



27. ...Bxf6 28. Qxe8+ Kg7 29. Qb5 Qg2  
30. Rd7 Qe4+ 31. Ka2 Qe6+ 32. Kb1 Qe4+  
33. Ka2 Qe6+ 34. Kb1 Qe4+

1/2-1/2

So Hikaru finished on a minus one score, a result that looked worse on paper than it really was. He battled successfully against the “Big Two” of Carlsen and Kramnik (two draws) and had good chances to win against Carlsen and Ni Hua.

We ate at quite a variety of restaurants in London: Japanese, Indian, Chinese, Polish, English, Italian, and Iranian. All the food was excellent but there were some differences in atmosphere and service, which were slightly humorous. Here is the review:

The Japanese sushi restaurant was the most efficient in taking your order and bringing the food (and the bill). There wasn’t a lot of chit-chat or nonsense going on. The Indian restaurant seemed to be over-staffed for the number of customers, with about three different servers hovering around the

table. The Chinese place was a buffet, and it wasn’t clear who spoke English there. The girl at the counter of the Polish establishment never smiled, and seemed somewhat hostile. The English place had the jam incident. The Italian restaurant was the most well-decorated and had the friendliest service. The Iranians seemed annoyed we came to their restaurant, and then they forgot to bring our appetizers. When paying the bill, the impatient server got irritated with Josh and rolled his eyes. (Josh had just asked whether it was okay to write the tip on the credit card receipt or if he should just give him cash.)

## Round 8:

Curt played a man that looked like a Jewish Rabbi. Suspecting that his opponent had prepared for his French, Curt played some of Josh’s preparation in the Sicilian instead, and gained a clear edge early on. Midway through the game, Curt noticed the man had incorrectly spelled Curt’s last name as “Collyman” on his score-sheet, so probably he hadn’t prepared after all!

Josh was paired against Curt’s second round opponent (Seymour) who played the Dutch again, incurring the same result. By this point Josh had figured out his trusty way to win with White: sac the exchange!

During the Open event, Hikaru showed his “solidarity with the masses” by stopping in to see how the games were going. This made a good impression with many of the players, since he was the only elite GM who took time to do this.

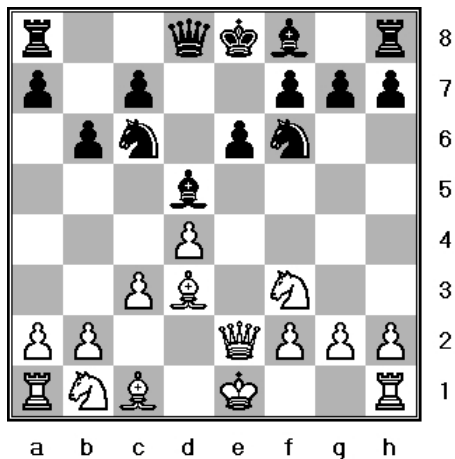
## Final Round 9:

Curt and Josh both had 5/8 points going into the final round and needed to win to get a share of the U2300 prize, which they agreed to split no matter who won. Josh played IM Berzinsh and Curt got a Russian FM named Slavina. Both opponents were met with surprises in the opening, as Josh played the Owen’s Defense instead of his normal Taimanov, and Curt played the English. Josh followed Rybka’s advice in the Owen’s, but was soon put under pressure. His opponent then played dynamically, sacrificing pawns to open up Josh’s king, which soon fell to the onslaught. So Josh finished on +1, with 5/9 points.

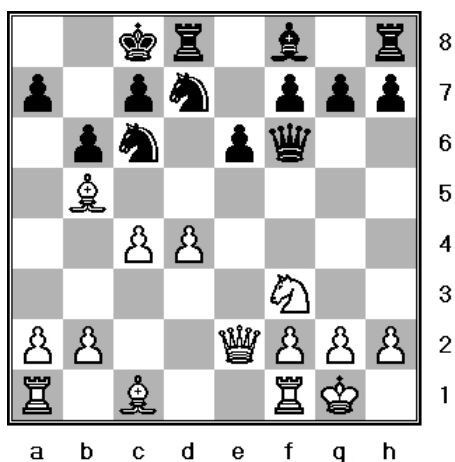
**Roland Berzinsh – Josh Sinanan**  
**London Chess FIDE Open, Round 9**  
**England, December 15, 2009**

1. e4 b6 2. d4 Bb7 3. Bd3 e6 4. Qe2 d5  
5. exd5 Bxd5 6. Nf3 Nc6 7. c3 Nf6

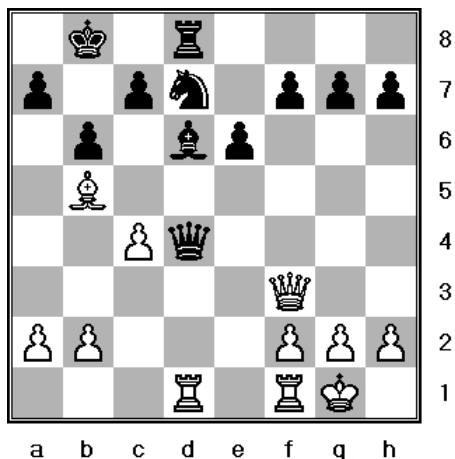




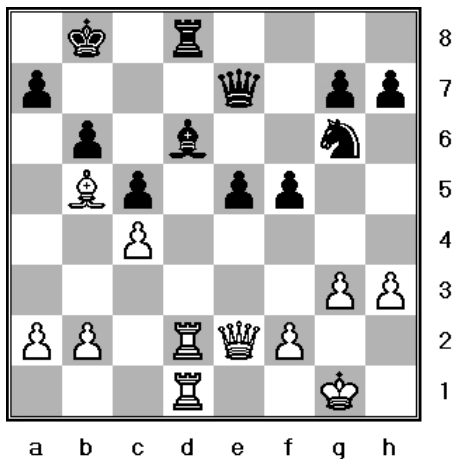
8. Bb5 Nd7 9. 0-0 Qf6 10. Nbd2 0-0-0  
11. c4 Bxf3 12. Nxf3



12. ...Nxd4 13. Nxd4 Qxd4 14. Bg5 Bd6  
15. Bxd8 Rxd8 16. Qf3 Kb8 17. Rad1



17. ...Ne5 18. Qb3 Qh4 19. h3 Qf4 20.  
Rfe1 Ng6 21. g3 Qg5 22. Qf3 Qf6 23. Qe4  
c5 24. Rd2 Qe7 25. Red1 f5 26. Qe2 e5



27. b4 cxb4 28. c5 bxc5 29. Ba6 Kc7  
30. Qb5 Rb8 31. Qa5+ Rb6 32. Rxd6  
Qxd6 33. Rxd6 Kxd6 34. Bc4

1-0

Curt had much better luck with Slavin, who played a mistake in the opening allowing White a strong initiative. Finally, when it looked like Black might be gaining counterplay, Slavin got his rooks forked and was forced into a lost ending.

**Curt Collyer – Alexei Slavin**  
**London Chess FIDE Open, Round 9**  
**England, December 15, 2009**

1. c4

During my preparation, I decided that I was not prepared to take on Slavin's Nimzo-Indian Defense. So I chose to go back to an opening I played from the time I was rated 1400 until 2100 – an opening which seemed especially appropriate to play in London.

1. ...e5

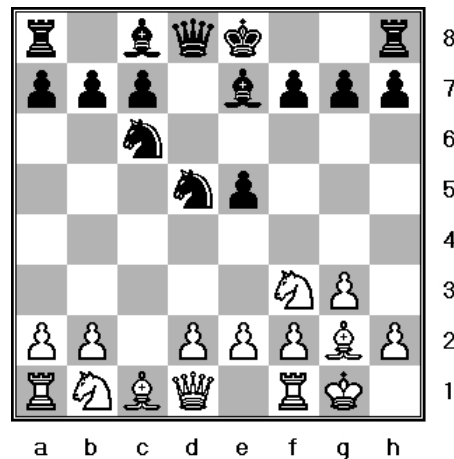
I think Slavin improvised here, as he usually plays 1. ...c5. However, as they say, he only tricked himself.

2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. Nf3

This is another option to 5. Nc3.

5. ...Nc6 6. 0-0 Be7?!

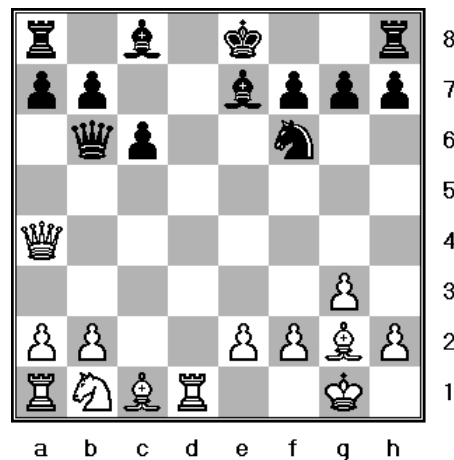
This is inaccurate, as Black does not adequately control the d4 square. Recommended is 6. ...Nb6 to prevent White's next move.



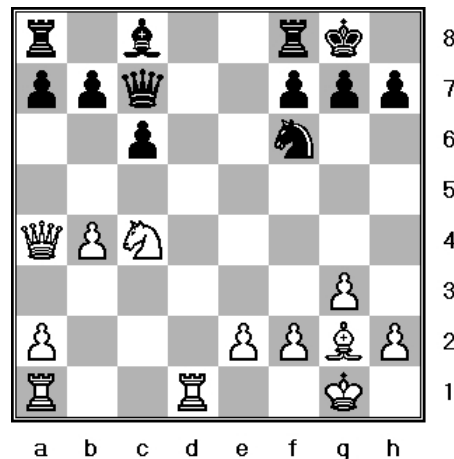
7. d4!

Now Black is put under some pressure. In fact, from here until move 22, White makes a threat on every move except one!

7. ...exd4 8. Nxd4 Nxd4 9. Qxd4 Nf6  
10. Qa4+ c6 11. Rd1 Qb6



12. Be3! Bc5 13. Bxc5 Qxc5 14. b4!  
Qb6 15. Na3 0-0 16. Nc4 Qc7



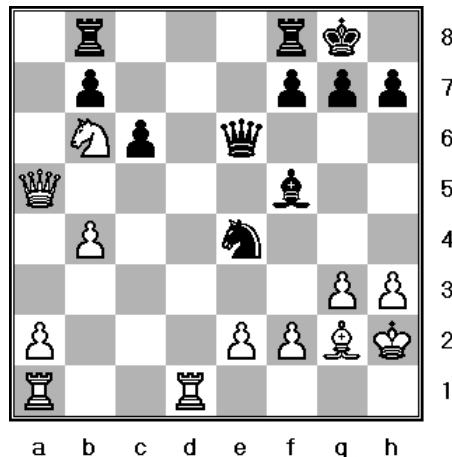
17. Qa5 Qe7

After 17. ...Qxa5 18. Nxa5 Black is tied

down on the queenside.

**18. Nb6!? Rb8 19. Qxa7 Bg4 20. h3 Bf5 21. Qa5 Qe6 22. Kh2 Ne4?**

An elementary mistake, but understandable. The past 14 moves Black has been getting battered around, and may have been feeling desperate to get some counterplay.

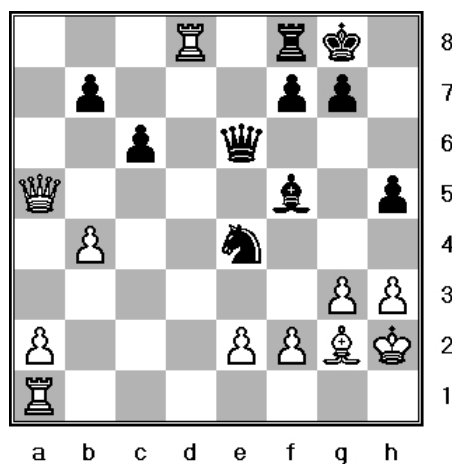


**23. Nd7! h5**

23. ...Nxf2 24. Nxb8 Nxd1 25. Rxd1 Rxb8 26. Rd8+ was a line I looked at during the game.

**24. Nxf8 Rxf8 25. Rd8**

No counterplay! I was happy with how I now cleaned up the position with such efficiency.



**25. ...g6**

25. ...Nxf2? 26. Rxf8+ Kxf8 27. Qc5+.

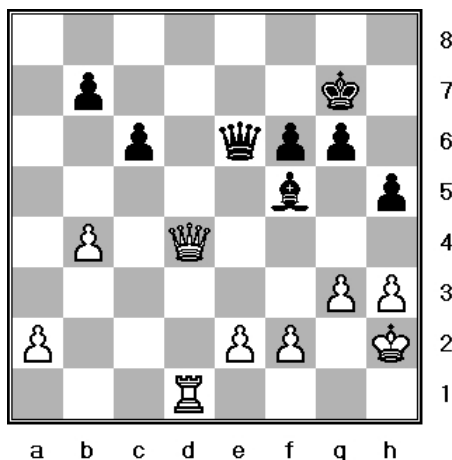
**26. Rxf8+ Kxf8 27. Qd8+ Kg7 28. Qd4+ f6 29. Bxe4**

No counterplay!

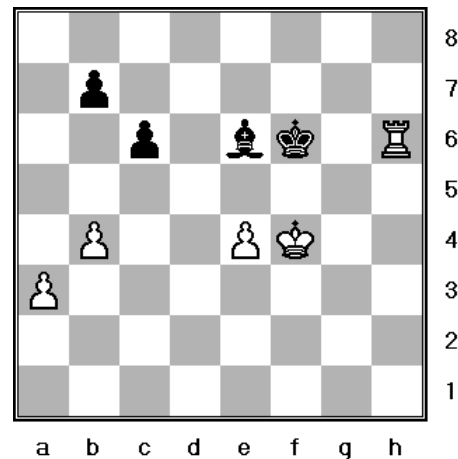
**29. Bxe4 30. Rd1**

Threatening 31. Qd7+ to trade queens.

**30. ...Bf5**



**31. e4! Bxh3 32. Qd6! h4 33. Qxe6 Bxe6 34. gxh4 Kf7 35. a3 g5 36. hxg5 fxg5 37. Kg3 Kf6 38. f4 gxf4+ 39. Kxf4 Bh3 40. Rh1 Be6 41. Rh6+**



I got up from the board and went over to tell Josh I was going to make us some money. A little while later, my opponent returned to the board and resigned.

**1-0**

So Curt won clear first place in the U2300 with 6/9!

*Apparently they take Nigel Short seriously in London. Photo credit: Curt Collyer.*





*Curt Collyer. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.*

# 35th Annual Keres Memorial

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

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**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](http://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.

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# Washington Open Chess Tournament May 29-31, 2010

Revised 4/12/2010

Marriott Redmond Town Center, 7401 164th Avenue NE,  
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21 playing for medal only. Three  
medals awarded per section. Canadian  
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### \$8,000 Prizes Guaranteed by the Washington Chess Federation!

Open	Premier	Reserve	Booster
\$1,000	\$400	\$350	\$300
\$600	\$300	\$250	\$150
\$400	\$250	\$200	\$100
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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](mailto:dthmathews@aol.com)

Make checks payable to Washington  
Chess Federation (WCF).  
Online registration available at  
[www.nwchess.com](http://www.nwchess.com).

**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](http://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](mailto: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.

# Dave Collyer Memorial XVIII

by  
Kevin  
Korsmo

The 18<sup>th</sup> installment of the Dave Collyer Memorial in Spokane February 27-28 saw the top two seeds hold up against the field of 63. IM John Donaldson and newcomer Satyajit Malugu scored 4.5 to share first place. Each earned \$262.50 for his efforts.

The top seeds met in the final round and reached a draw after entering the early middle game without advantage to either party. The result set a final round trend as five of the top seven boards drew, most after extended play. For Donaldson, the title was the ninth win in eleven years. Malugu, a recent transplant to Bellevue from New Jersey, made his first appearance here.

A group of five finished one-half point back at 4.0 to claim third place. Steve Merwin (4.0) took the expert category prize, while the other four finishers split the third prize and the two Class A prizes: Cyrus Desmarais, Mark Havrilla, Jim Skovron, and Phil Weyland.

Three tied for the Class B prizes with 3.5 scores: Stephen Buck, Dan McCourt, and Jeremy Younker. The Class C prizes were shared by five players with 3.0 scores: Ben Blue, Bill McBroom, Jerry Morton, Aaron Nicoski, and Doug Sly. There was another three-way tie in the Class D/Unrated category, where 2.5 scores were posted by Bryant Baird, Jeremy Krasin, and Murray Strong. Murray also claimed the top upset prize (\$100) after a strong first day showing when he drew with a Class B player and beat an expert (708 point upset) and a Class A

player. The second biggest upset belonged to Pullman sixth grader Peter Schumaker (586 point upset). The two were nicely rewarded by the USCF: Murray's rating jumped 142 points, while Peter's climbed an even 100!

Upsets were frequent, with five (four draws) in the first round alone. By the end of the first day, the three experts had suffered three losses and draw. The Class A players were hit pretty hard as well. Nonetheless, three A players joined Donaldson and Malugu with perfect scores at the top of the leader board at the end of the first day. All three fell the following morning to higher-rated players.

In round four, Wayne Hatcher played Donaldson for the first time in 27 years. Prior to the game, the IM even recalled the opening the two had played in their most recent (1983) encounter! Malugu had a very tough game with Dave Rowles before breaking through in the endgame. Avinaya Subedi, a Nepal native studying at the University of Idaho, fell to Merwin. The left the top seeds to face each other in round five, while the A players battled each other for prizes. While most of those games ended in draws, none were settled quickly in keeping with the fighting spirit of previous Collyer final rounds.

The 63 players tied last's year tally as the second largest Collyer tourney. A large number of the participants were first timers at the event and we hope to see many of them back next year. Two players traveled quite far to play this year. Wayne Hatcher drove up from New Mexico to make another appearance in this event. Meanwhile, world traveler Jerry Morton, who has come from central Asia for two of the past Collyer tourneys, topped his previous travels by coming all the way from Australia!

The Collyer weekend kicked off with Donaldson giving his annual lecture, well attended as always, at River Park Square's Kress Gallery on Friday, February 26. The topic was the recent world team championship in Turkey, where John captained the silver-medal winning U.S. team. The lecture was followed by a simultaneous exhibition. The IM took on a field of 23, scoring 19 wins, a draw, and three losses.

Notes to the following game from the fourth round are by the winner, Satyajit Malugu.



*10-year-old Hannah Merwin takes on – and draws! – IM Donaldson in the simul. Fellow Lake Spokane Elementary students Brandon Hill and Shay Hutler look on. Photo credit: Steve Merwin..*



Round four: Wayne Hatcher vs IM John Donaldson. Photo credit: Lynn Hatcher.

#### 14. Qc1?

I was kind of desperate to make progress and chose the wrong path instead of the obvious Rc1. 14. Rc1 Nc4 15. Qh5 h6 16. f4 Qa5 17. Rf2. Black has no good plans and can't effectively stop White's ideas of king side attack.

#### 14. ...h6

Good move. Now the white bishop has to retreat and Black could castle.

#### 15. Bd2

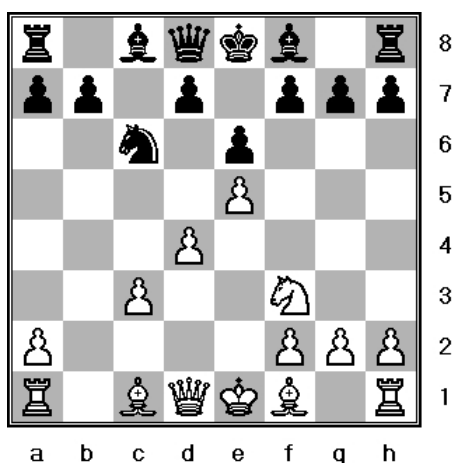
15. Bh4? g5 16. Bg3 Rc8 (This is the move White missed when he played Qc1) 17. f4 Qxc3 18. Qe3 Nc4!; White can't defend both his bishop and d4 pawn.

#### 15. ...Nc4 16. f4 0-0-0

Though Black's position is passive, White does not have any big ideas.

Satyajit Malugu – Dave Rowles  
Collyer Memorial XVIII, Round 4  
Spokane, February 28, 2010

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3 Nf6 4. e5 Nd5  
5. Nf3 e6 6. cxd4 Nc6 7. Nc3 Nxc3 8. bxc3



#### 8. ...d5?!

This move closes Black's chances to contest the center. He should keep activity alive with ...d6.

#### 9. Bd3 Be7 10. Bd2

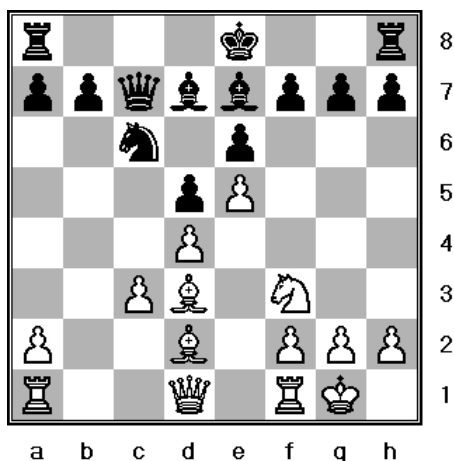
I am delaying castling in the hope that black would castle and I could unleash my attack starting with h4 - Ng5 - Qh5. Instead if I play h4 now, he could reply h6: 10. h4!? h6 11. Be3.

#### 10. ...Bd7 11. 0-0

A psychological trap for black to tempt him into castling.

#### 11. ...Qc7

11. ...0-0 12. Qb1.



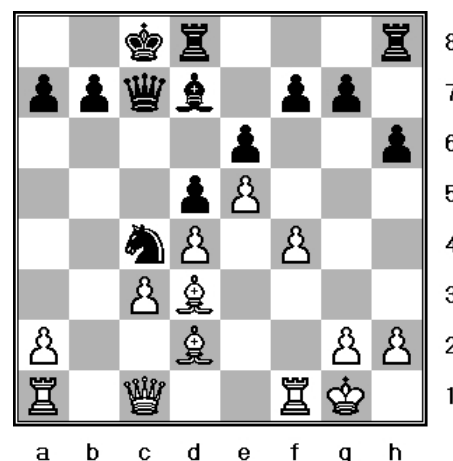
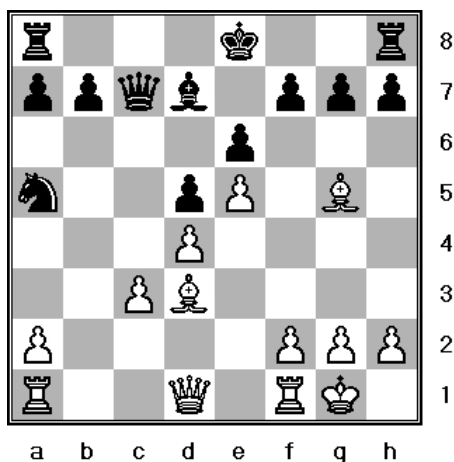
#### 12. Ng5

White wants to exchange off Black's most active piece and defender.

#### 12. ...Bxg5

Any other move aggravates his problems, i.e. 12. ...h6 13. Qh5.

#### 13. Bxg5 Na5



#### 17. Rb1

17. f5 Kb8 18. fxe6 Bxe6, and White can feel the dearth of ideas.

#### 17. ...f5

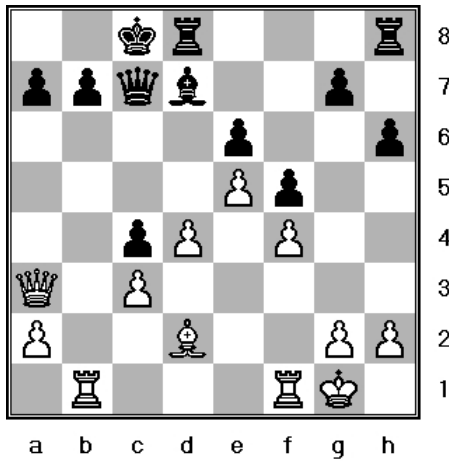
Shutting down all White's hopes to create an open position for his bishops.

#### 18. Bxc4

Trying to create kingside activity. Black's knight is too strong; it must be removed even at the cost of a good bishop: 18. Be1 Rhg8 19. Bh4 Rde8.

#### 18. ...dxc4 19. Qa3

19. d5! This is the move I initially had in mind, opening up the g1-a7 diagonal for the bishop and at the same time closing off h1-a8 diagonal. 19. ...exd5 (19. ...Qc5+ 20. Be3 Qxd5 21. Bxa7 Bc6 22. Rf2) 20. Be3 b6 21. Qa3.



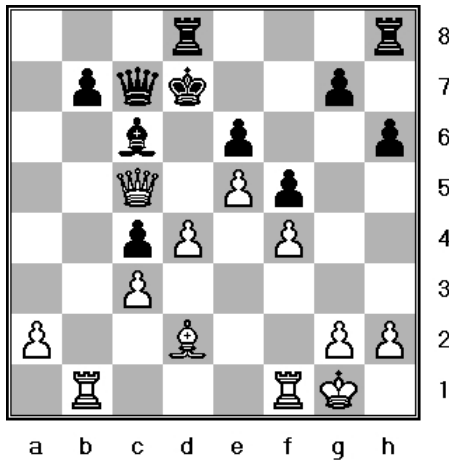
19. ...Bc6!

This is a very difficult move to make psychologically, because you are opening up your king position and giving up a pawn. 19. ...b6? 20. Qa6+ Qb7 (20. ...Kb8 21. Rb4) 21. Qxc4+ Bc6? 22. Qxe6+ Kb8 23. Rf2; 19. ...Kb8 20. d5 exd5 21. Be3 b6 22. Bc5. I don't see a way Black could defend this position.

20. Qxa7 Kd7!

Black is threatening Ra8 to create a counter attack on g2.

21. Qc5



21. ...Be4?

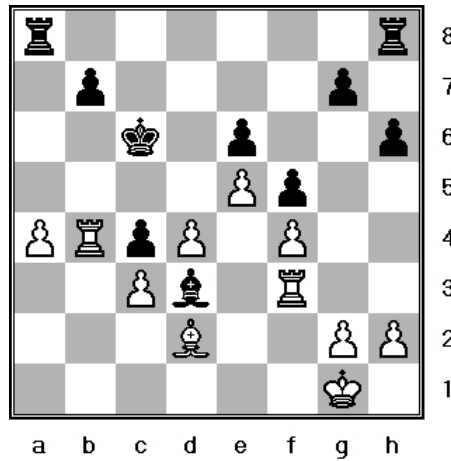
This seemingly active move gives White too many chances. 21. ...Bd5 22. Qxc7+ Kxc7 23. Rb4 Ra8 24. a4 Ra5 (25. Rfb1 Rha8), and it's very difficult for White to break into Black's position. The bishop on d5 defends everything.

22. Qxc7+ Kxc7 23. Rb4 Bd3?

Even now ...Bd5 would have been better.

24. Rf3 Ra8 25. a4 Kc6?

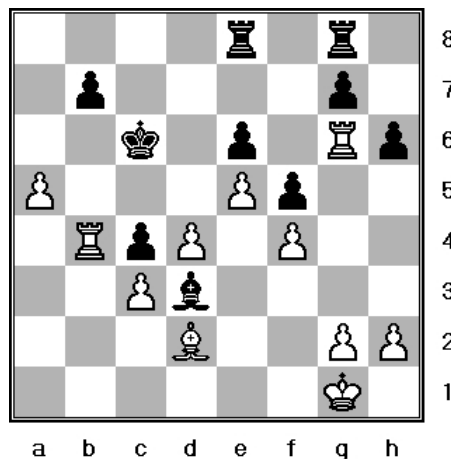
A sad ending for an otherwise great defense by Black.



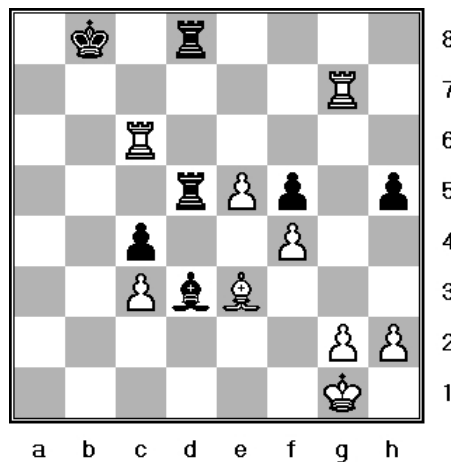
26. Rg3 Rhg8 27. Rg6 Rae8

27. ...Kd5 28. Kf2; White will create mating nets around the black king.

28. a5



28. ...Ra8 29. Rxe6+ Kd7 30. d5 Rxa5 31. Rxb7+ Kc8 32. Reb6 Rxd5 33. Be3 Rgd8 34. Rxg7 h5 35. Rc6+ Kb8 36. Rb6+ Kc8 37. Rc6+ Kb8



38. Bc5 Be4 39. Rb6+ Ka8 40. Ra6+ Kb8 41. Bd6+ R8xd6 42. Rxd6

1-0

Idaho's Kairav Joshi annotates his two wins against higher-rated opposition.

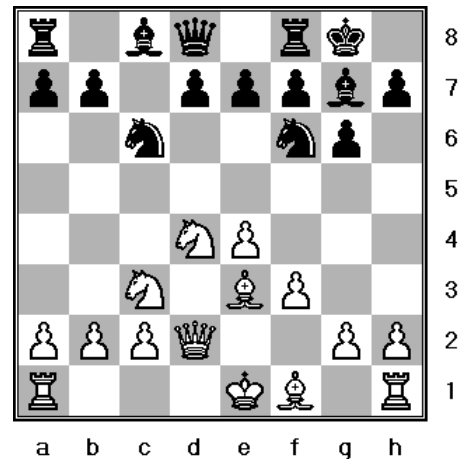
**Kairav Joshi – Gene Tatom  
Collyer Memorial XVIII, Round 4  
Spokane, February 28, 2010**

1. e4 c5

Sicilian Defense! – I was White and very happy when my opponent played c5. My favorite opening is indeed the Sicilian.

2. Nf3 g6 3. d4 Bg7 4. Nc3 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Nc6 6. Be3 Nf6 7. f3 0-0 8. Qd2

Preparing for 0-0-0. I think Black and White are about equal here. I expected ...d6 from my opponent as it would transpose into a common Sicilian Dragon line.



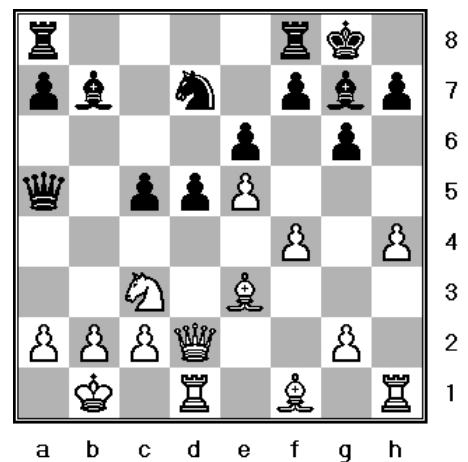
8. ...d5

...d5 instead of ...d6. This will cause e5 to be weak. I spent a lot of time thinking how I should respond to this. Removal of the knight on c6 seemed best

9. Nxc6 bxc6 10. 0-0-0 Bb7

An inaccuracy. That bishop can't do anything on b7 besides protecting the c6 pawn which isn't even endangered.

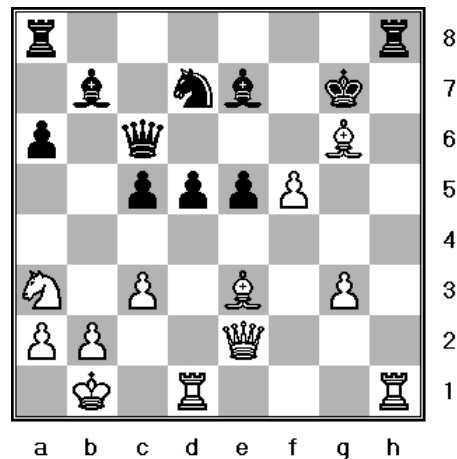
11. e5 Nd7 12. f4 Qa5 13. Kb1 e6 14. h4 c5







Dave Collyer Memorial. Photo credit: Lynn Hatcher.

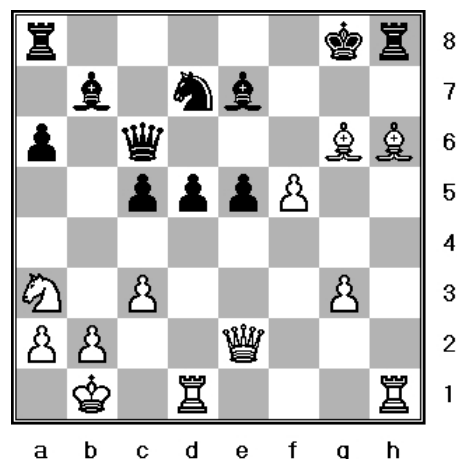


26. Bh6+!

This is the second move of the “Bishop’s Dance.” If 26. ...Rxh6 27. Rxh6 Kxh6, Black indeed wins a bishop temporarily. However after that, 28. Qh5+! Kg7 29. Qh7+ Kf8 and then 30. Qf7#.

26. ...Kg8

He doesn’t ...Rxh6 but makes a worse move. He missed my plan here.



27. Bf7+!!

He has no good options. Either take the bait or ...Kh7. Taking the bait was the better option. This is the third move in the “Bishop’s Dance.”

27. ...Kh7

Now I have forced mate. 27. ...Kxf7 28. Qh5+ Kg8 29. Qg4+ Kf7 30. Qg7+ Ke8 31. Qxh8+ Nf8 32. Bxf8 Bxf8 33. Rh7. Black is lost here as Qxe5 is coming and so is Re1.

28. Bf8+ Qh6 29. Rxh6#

1-0

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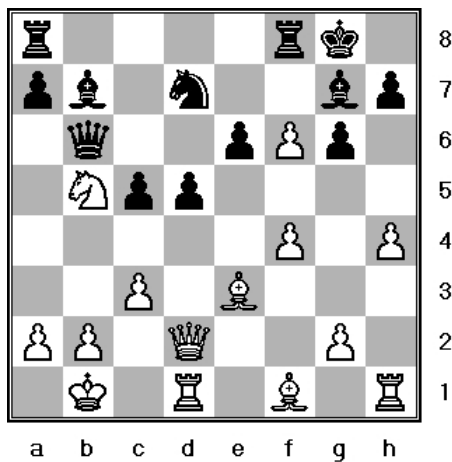
15. Nb5

Trying to get the knight to d6 which would be a great outpost if the e5 pawn had more protection.

15. ...Qb6 16. c3 f6

Black has a slight advantage.

17. exf6



17. ...Bxf6

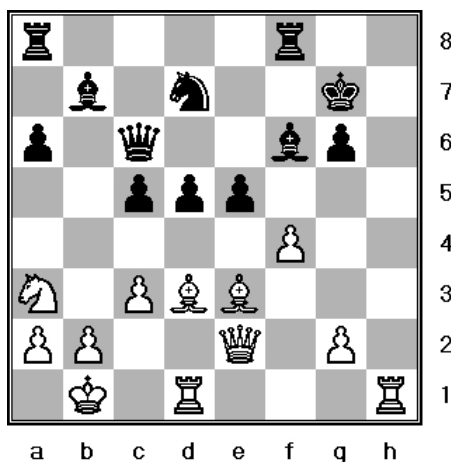
17. ...Nxf6 would have been better because the knight could’ve come to e4 or g4.

18. h5 a6 19. Na3 Qc6 20. hxc6 hxc6

White definitely has an advantage here due to the open h-file.

21. Bd3 Kg7 22. Qe2 e5

My opponent missed my tactical idea.



23. Bxg6!

If 13. ...Kxg6, 14. Qh5+ Kg7 15. Qh7#. This is where I start what my opponent coined as “The Bishop’s Dance.”

23. ...Bh4

My opponent tried to make me fall into a silly trap here. He wanted Rxh4 Qxg6+. If I missed that Qxg6 from him would put me in check, I would’ve taken on h4 thinking I can pin his queen via Rg4.

Of course I don’t Rxh4.

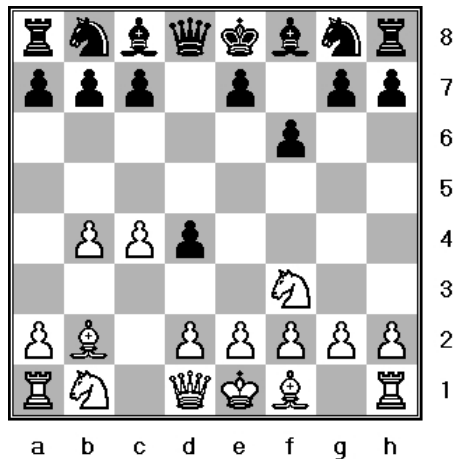
24. f5 Rh8 25. g3 Be7

**Rob Martin – Kairav Joshi**  
**Collyer Memorial XVIII, Round 2**  
**Spokane, February 27, 2010**

**1. Nf3 d5 2. c4**

The Reti. I know nothing about the Reti besides one mainline which I memorized through a song. Goes to the tune of Yankee Doodle: Nf3 d5 c4 d4 b4 f6 e3 – e5 Qb3 c5 bxc5 Bxc5....

**2. ...d4 3. b4 f6 4. Bb2**

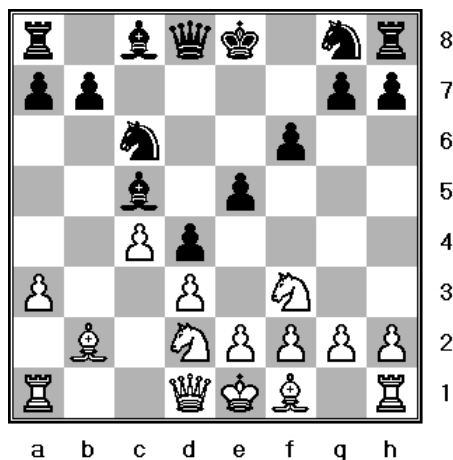


I consider Bb2 an inaccuracy as my pawn on d4 is there to stay. I'll ...e5 soon and hold d4. The bishop on b2 is blocked.

**4. ...e5 5. a3**

I prefer Black.

**5. ...c5 6. bxc5 Bxc5 7. d3 Nc6 8. Nbd2**



White is really cramped.

**8. ...f5 9. Nb3 Be7**

9. ...Bd6 was better for me. The instant I moved ...Be7, I asked myself, "why not Bd6?" ...Be7 doesn't do much.

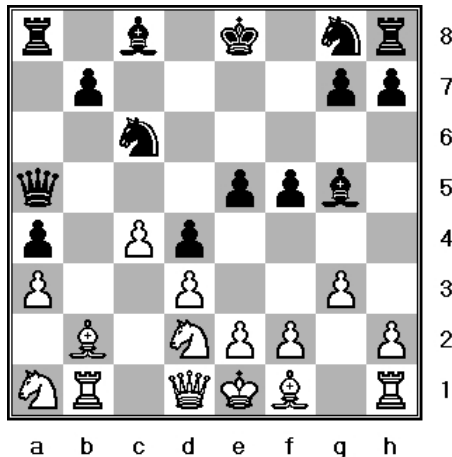
**10. g3 a5 11. Rb1 a4 12. Na1**

I smiled here. I'm very happy as Black

seeing his knight go to a corner square. Of course, Nbd2 was better for him.

**12. ...Qa5+ 13. Nd2 Bg5**

I'm planning to attack soon by marching my center pawns.

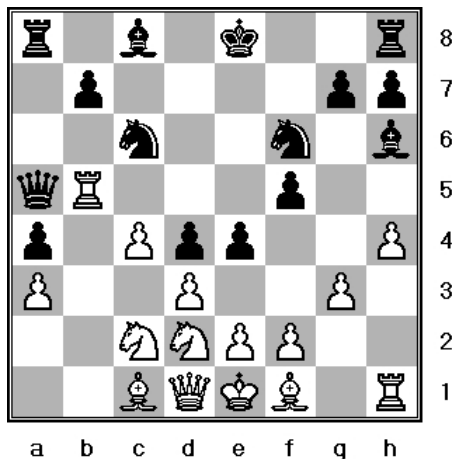


**14. h4 Bh6 15. Nc2 Nf6 16. Bc1 e4**

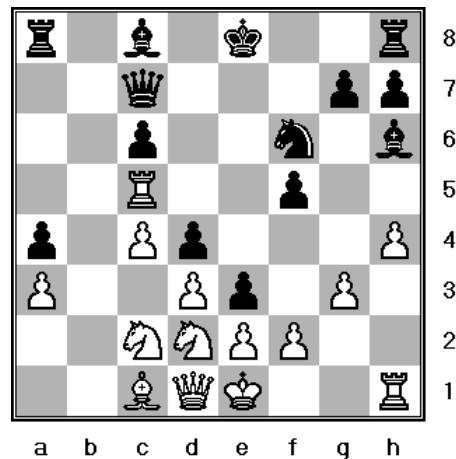
Black's position is much better than White's.

**17. Rb5**

Now I have my queen right where I wanted it! I can ...e3 and my opponent can't take it due to the ...Qxg3# threat.



**17. ...Qc7 18. Bg2 e3 19. Bxc6+ bxc6 20. Rc5**



**20. ...Ng4**

I have many threats. My opponent can't fxe3 due to the mating threats. If White plays Nb1 moving the knight away, Black wins a queen with Nxf2.

**21. Nf3 Nxf2 22. Re5+ Kf7**

White resigns since the queen can't be saved.

**0-1**

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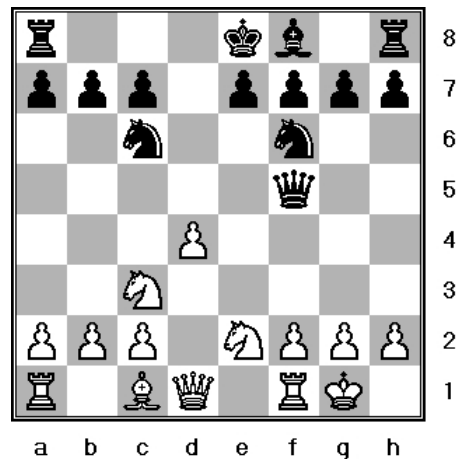
Finally, a game from Steve Merwin.

**Avinaya Subedi – Steve Merwin**  
**Collyer Memorial XVIII, Round 4**  
**Spokane, February 28, 2010**

**1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. d4 Bg4 4. Be2 Bxe2 5. Nxe2**

5. Qxe2 is better, as the knight belongs on f3.

**5. ...Qxd5 6. 0-0 Nc6 7. Nbc3 Qf5**



**8. Be3**

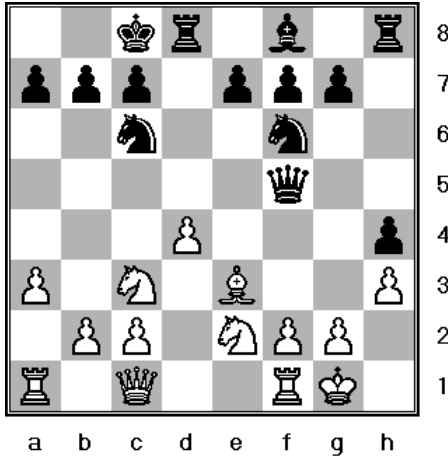
Although Ng3 looks natural, Black would be quite happy moving his queen to d7 and following up with 9. ...h5, and the attack on the kingside begins with White

having to worry about his misplaced knight.

**8. ...0-0-0 9. Qc1 h5**

I rejected ...Nb4 here, even though it wins a pawn. Black's strategy is to attack the kingside before White can generate an attack on the queenside. Typically in this variation with 5. Nxe2, the side who can mount the quickest attack on the opponent's king wins.

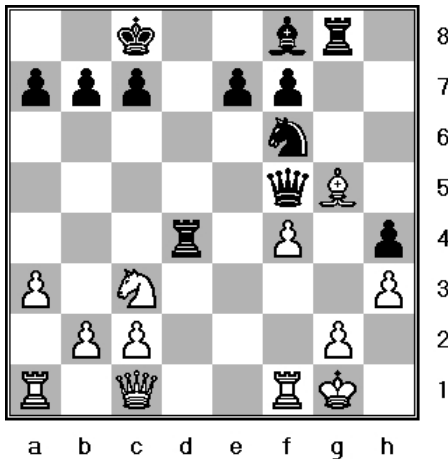
**10. a3 h4 11. h3**



**11. ...g5!?**

White is left with a difficult choice – take the pawn and hope to survive the onslaught, or play the relatively safer but awkward f3. After a long thought, Subedi chose the former.

**12. Bxg5 Rg8 13. f4 Nxd4 14. Nxd4 Rxd4**

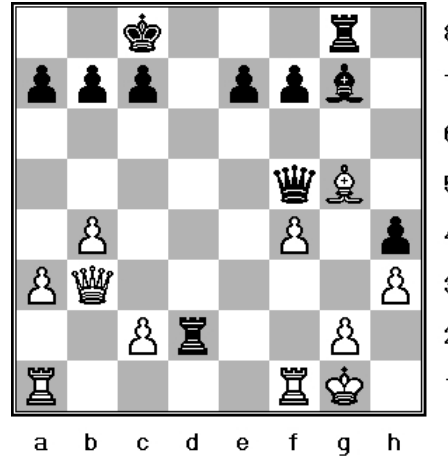


**15. b4**

Undoubtedly Subedi saw that after 15. Qe3 e6 White cannot take the rook because of ...Bc5, and elected to play b4 in preparation. However, 15. Qe3 e6 16. b4 is the correct move order because the text

move allows Black to forego e6 and maintain a solid advantage.

**15. ...Ne4 16. Qe3 Nxc3 17. Qxc3 Bg7 18. Qb3 Rd2?!**



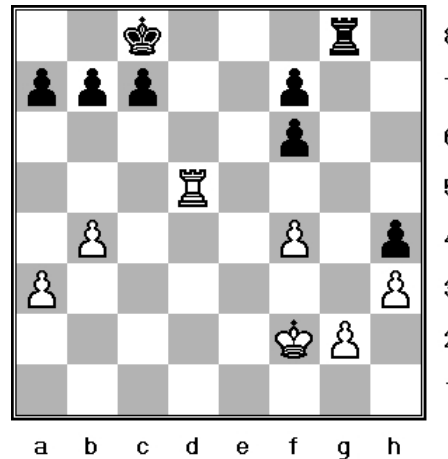
White's response is forced because of the threat of ...Bf6 and the pressure on the g2 square. However, the response is sufficient to force an endgame which is not necessarily winning for Black.

Rather than the text move, Black could have maintained the pressure with 18. ...e5!

**19. Rad1 Qxc2 20. Qxc2 Rxc2 21. Rf2 Rxf2 22. Kxf2 Bf6!?**

I felt this was the only chance to create a winning endgame, but it was far from clear whether the extra pawn was enough.

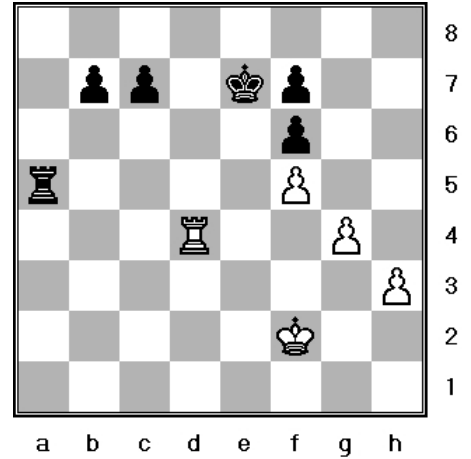
**23. Bxf6 exf6 24. Rd5**



**24. ...Rg3**

Not too difficult a choice. Although it allowed White to grab Black's h-pawn and march his own h-pawn forward, the alternative ...Rh8 was unappealing. When in doubt, give your rook as much space as possible!

**25. Rh5 Rxa3 26. Rxh4 Kd7 27. f5 a5 28. Rd4+ Ke7 29. bxa5 Rxa5 30. g4**

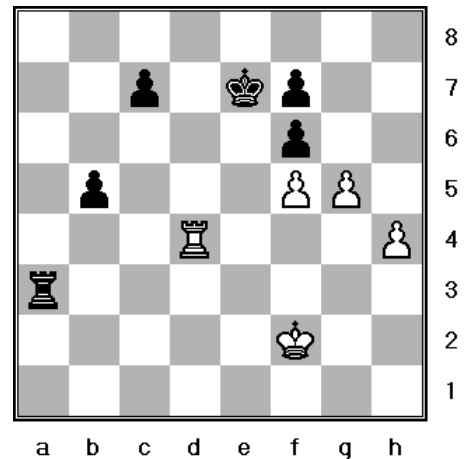


**30. ...Ra3?**

The purpose of this move was to keep White's king from supporting his pawn advance, but it's a waste of a tempo. 30. ...Ra2+! is the right move, because if Kg3 then ...Ra3+. White then would play either Kg2 and Black is a tempo ahead compared to the text move, or Kh4 and he has trouble advancing his pawns.

**31. h4 b5 32. g5??**

The losing move. After h5, Black's task is much more difficult.



**32. ...Ra4 33. Ke3 fxg5 34. hxg5 Rxd4 35. Kxd4 Kd6 36. Ke4 b4 37. g6 fxg6 38. fxg6 Ke6 39. Kd4 Kf6 40. Kc4 c5**

**0-1**

# Theoretically Speaking

## by Bill McGeary



### Where the French meets the English... part 2

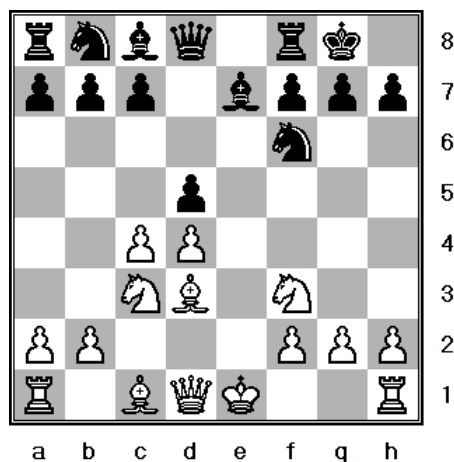
Have you ever gotten to a position early in the opening and started wondering what move to make?

I don't mean you are stuck searching for a move. Instead, I am thinking about a position that has a couple of different moves which seem logical and don't fall outside accepted ideas. You start to analyze and of course it is still so early in the game that the number of possible variations is beyond our mortal bounds. At the end you have used up a bunch of time and still find the alternatives offer roughly equal opportunities. Somehow you make a choice and the game proceeds. Well maybe you haven't been in this situation, but I have and more than once. Therefore I would certainly preclude myself from being a voice to offer any kind of advice on the subject, yet this little scenario could certainly arise after 1. c4 e6 2. e4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. d4 Nf6 5. Nc3.

A reasonable case can be made for any number of moves. Without going too far into what could happen we will accept that Black is well served to move the Bf8 in order to get castled quickly. So, the question is to which square? Going to d6 with the bishop seems misguided because it would not be involved in the fight for d5, Black's primary strategic concern. Comparing e7 to b4 as a square for the bishop is the type of question I described above.

Each move has GM adherents, so trying to find a basis in practice is difficult. Sliding up one square to e7 resolves Black of worries about the Nf6 being pinned while keeping all of Black's other cards in order. Playing ...Bb4 offers Black a more active role in events as the connection between the Bb4 and the Nc3 gives Black more opportunities to determine action around the d5 square. My feeling is that either square is fine, so a choice is a matter of philosophy.

1. c4 e6 2. e4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. d4 Nf6  
5. Nc3 Be7 6. Nf3 0-0 7. Bd3



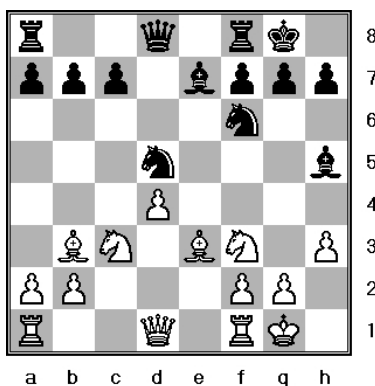
Here is the position that we have to consider once the black bishop has arrived on e7.

#### Line 1

7. ...Nbd7 8. 0-0 dxc4 9. Bxc4 Nb6

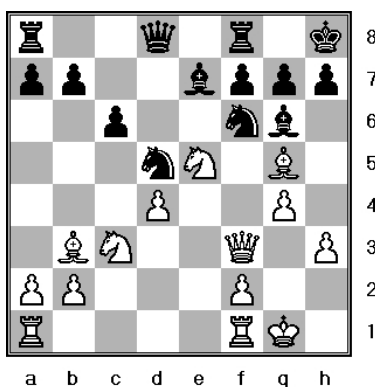
we arrive at a position which normally follows 7. ...dxc4 followed by ...Nbd7-b6.

10. Bb3 Bg4 11. Be3 Nbd5 12. h3 Bh5.



This doesn't look right, as the bishop will end up a target for White.

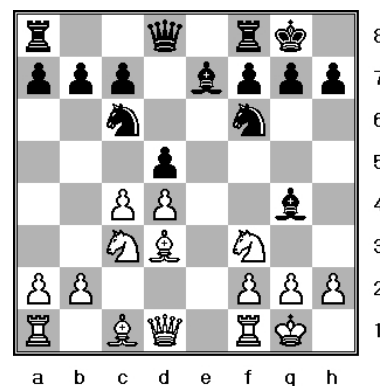
13. g4 Bg6 14. Ne5 Kh8 15. Qf3 c6 16. Bg5



with an advantage in Thomann – Gierth, Oberliga Baden 2001.

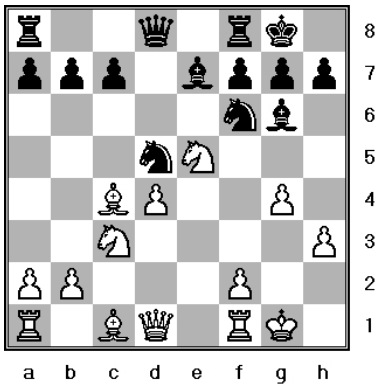
#### Line 2

7. ... Bg4 8. 0-0 Nc6

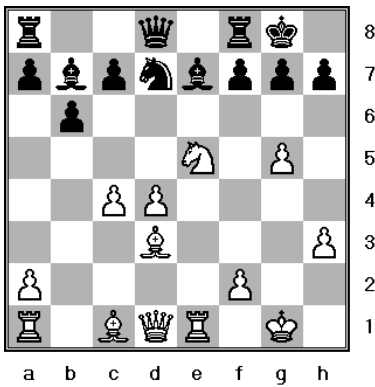


9. cxd5 Nb4 10. Bc4 Nbx d5 11. h3 Bh5  
12. g4 Bg6 13. Ne5





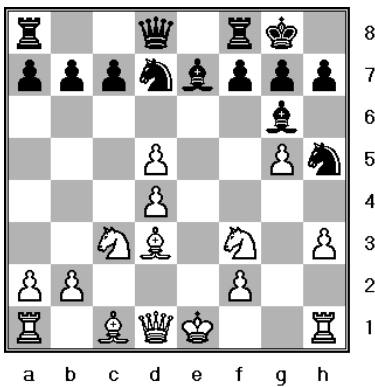
13. ...Nxc3 14. bxc3 Be4 15. Re1 Bd5  
16. Bd3 b6 17. c4 Bb7 18. g5 Nd7



19. Qh5 with a dangerous attack. Polster  
– Meijers, Godesburg 1998.

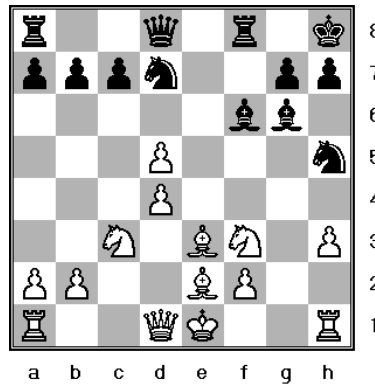
### Line 3

7. ...Bg4 8. h3 Bh5 9. cxd5 Nbd7 10.  
g4 Bg6 11. g5 Nh5.



This was White's aim by not castling:  
the Nh5 will be the focus now.

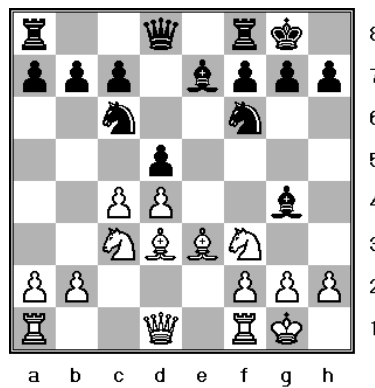
12. Be2 f6 13. gxf6 Bxf6 14. Be3 Kh8.



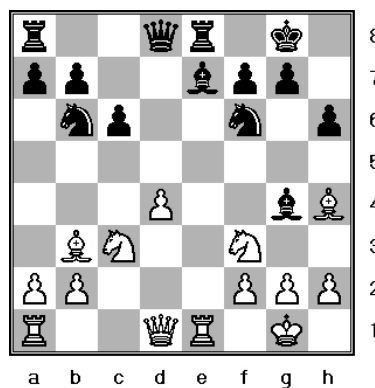
White has the initiative, but the position  
is unclear. Khismatullin – Danin, Russia  
2002.

### Line 4

7. ...Nc6 8. 0-0 Bg4 9. Be3



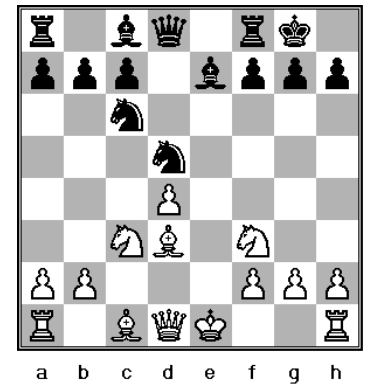
9. ...Nb4 10. Be2 dxc4 11. Bxc4 Nbd5  
12. Bg5 c6 13. Re1 h6 14. Bh4 Nb6 15.  
Bb3 Re8?



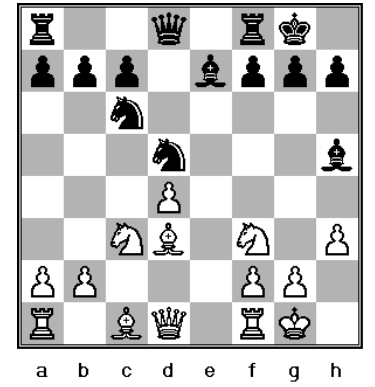
16. Bxf7+. Miezis – Lehnert, Passau Op.  
1997.

### Line 5

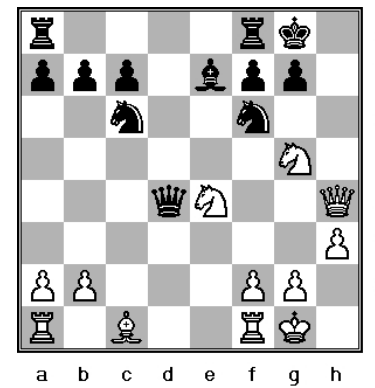
7. ...Nc6 8. cxd5 Nxd5



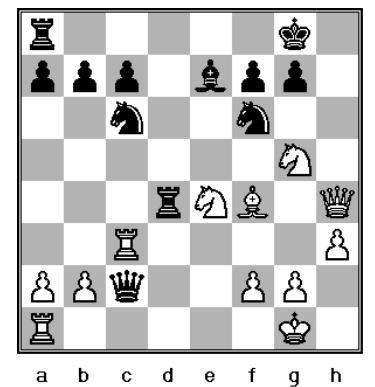
9. 0-0 Bg4 10. h3 Bh5



11. Bxh7+ Kxh7 12. Ng5+ Kg8 13.  
Qxh5 Nf6 14. Qh4 Qxd4 15. Nce4



15. ...Qd3 16. Bf4 Rfd8 17. Rfe1 Rd4  
18. Re3 Qc2 19. Rc3,

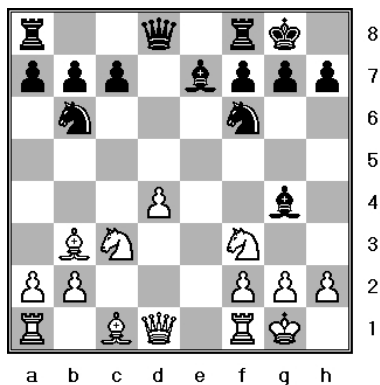


when White should have enough

advantage to win, though the game ended in a draw. Miezis – Shirov, Keres Mem 2000. Note that White's aim after move 15 was to bump the black queen off the b1-h7 diagonal.

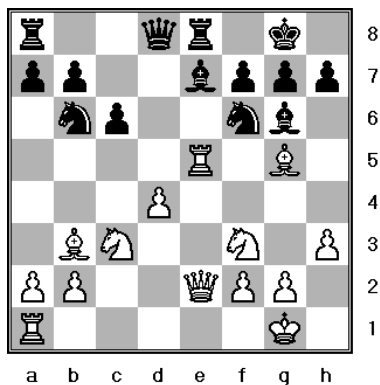
### Line 6

7. ...dxc4 8. Bxc4 Nbd7 9. 0-0 Nb6 10. Bb3 Bg4 is another fairly normal looking position that has arisen a number of times.



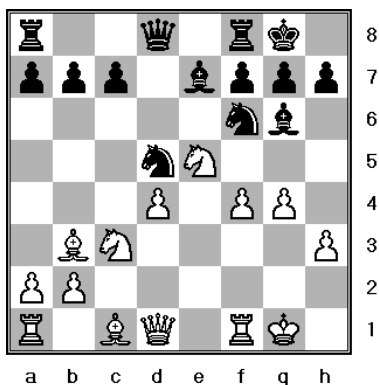
Miezis – Haub 1998 saw 11. Re1 Bh5 12. h3, when the game has transposed into 11. h3 Bh5 12. Re1, a sequence Miezis played later.

Miezis – Gasthofer, Bad Woerishofen Op. 1998, went 11. h3 Bh5 12. Re1 Re8 13. Bg5 c6 14. Re5 Bg6 15. Qe2

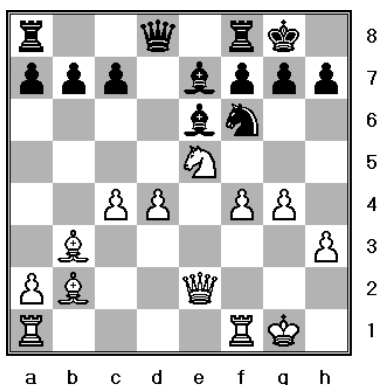


with a slight initiative.

I think a better plan was found in Turzo – Chetverik, Budapest 2004: 11. h3 Bh5 12. g4 Bg6 13. Ne5 Nbd5 14. f4



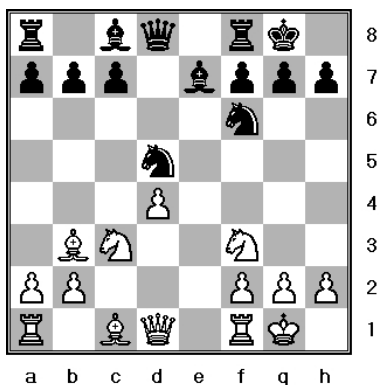
14. ...Nxc3 15. bxc3 Be4 16. Qe2 Bd5 17. c4 Be6 18. Bb2,



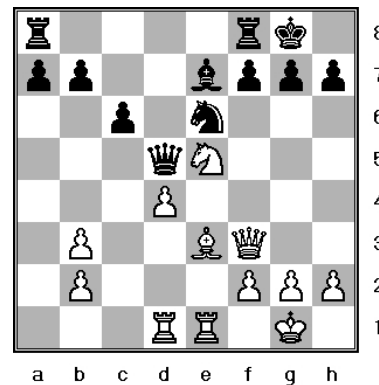
when White's space advantage is hard to counter.

### Line 7

7. ...dxc4 8. Bxc4 Nbd7 9. 0-0 Nb6 10. Bb3 Nbd5

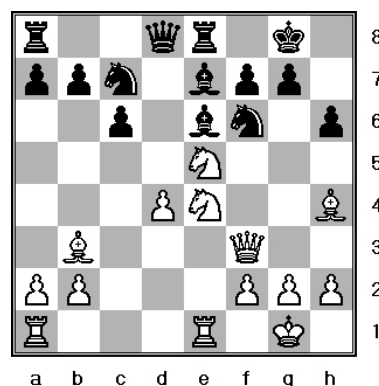


appeared to have been a good option for Black in the game Kharlov – Maslak, Rus. Cup 2004, as 11. Ne5 Be6 12. Qf3 c6 13. Re1 Nc7 14. Be3 Bxb3 15. axb3 Ne6 16. Rad1 Nd5 17. Nxd5 Qxd5

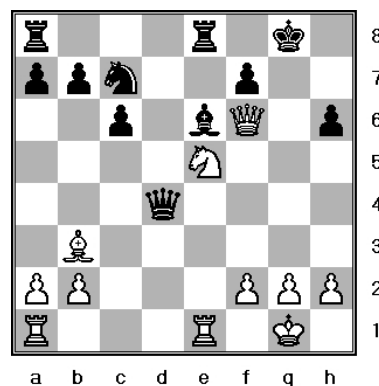


is good for Black. The exchanges have left White with a bad bishop and little prospect for active play.

Yet seven years earlier a better sequence was seen in Kobalia – Lopushnov, Rus. Ch. 1997, after 10...Nbd5 11. Re1 c6 12. Bg5 h6 13. Bh4 Be6 14. Ne5 Re8 15. Qf3 Nc7 16. Ne4.



16. ...Qxd4? will be met by 17. Bxf6 gxf6 18. Nxf6+ Bxf6 19. Qxf6



with a big advantage.

In this line each side has chances. White can look to activate down the middle files as well as gaining space with advances on the K-side. Black does well to fortify the d5-square and try to exchange White's king bishop. A very basic calibration to these positions is White's Bc1... if it goes to g5 and can participate in the fight for d5 White is doing well, but if it sits on e3 defending d4 while the other minors get exchanged, Black is in good shape.

# And In The End

## by Dana Muller



This month's game begins with an equal semi-endgame. After a couple of ordinary looking moves, Black allows a combination which results in the material imbalance of two minor pieces versus a rook and pawn. This imbalance strongly favored White because (1) there are no immediate targets for the black rooks; (2) there are several weak pawns in Black's camp; (3) the black king is exposed.

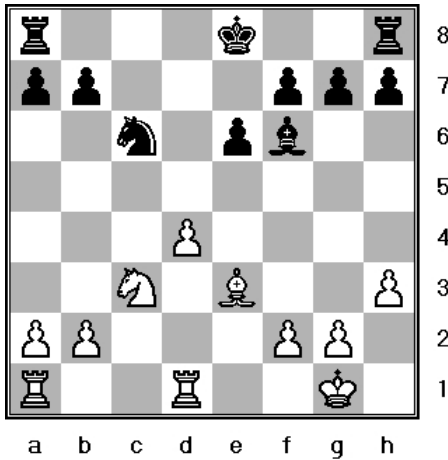
White's edge after the combination is larger than I initially thought, at first glance it seems Black should be able to put up stout resistance, but on further review there doesn't seem to be a wholly promising defensive scheme.

game, Black needlessly allows a combination which nets White two minor pieces for a rook and a pawn. As mentioned above, this was a poor transaction for Black.

### 15. ...0-0-0

A reasonable move. An alternative is 15. ...Ne7 with the idea of 16. ... Rd8 blockading d5. This idea seems good enough to equalize. After 15. ...Ne7, White needs to play actively to avoid the blockade on d5, otherwise it is Black who may gain a small edge. Play could continue 16. Bf4 (16. d5? Bxc3 17. bxc3 Nxd5 doesn't give White enough for the pawn) 16. ...Rd8 17. Be5 Bxe5 18. dxe5 Rxd1+ 19. Rxd1 Ng6 20. Re1 Ke7 =.

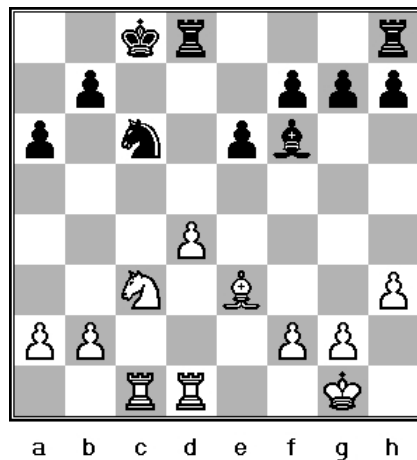
### 16. Rac1 a6



Ralph Dubisch – Jonathan Goetz  
Northwest Chess, 1981

This is an ordinary looking IQP position with queens exchanged. White has a small lead in development; obviously the d5-break (removing the IQP) is in the cards. Any sort of edge White may get from the d5-break should be a minor nuisance at best (i.e. more active pieces). Black should be able to neutralize the post-d5 position without much difficulty. For his part, Black needs to catch up in development (connect rooks) and prepare for the d5-break as best as possible.

Objectively, the game should be drawn; by threatening to blockade d5, Black can force an early d5 on the part of white. After d5, it's likely several more pieces will be exchanged, and keeping in mind the symmetrical pawn structure, there will be little left for either side to play for. In the



This is imprecise. While it looks normal to remove the a-pawn from the gaze of the bishop and stop any Nb5 forays, the black squares are weakened and the imminent d5 break is not addressed. That being said, 16. ...a6 doesn't lose, but it does increase the need for precision in Black's play over the next few moves. To my mind 16. ...Rd7 seems most in accordance with the demands of the position as it prepares to double rooks and covers the e7 square. White can break with 17. d5, but after 17. ...exd5 18. Nxd5 Rhd8 18. Nc3 (forced) 18. ...Rxd1+ 19. Nxd1 (19. Rxd1 Bxb2) 19. ...a6 it's dead even. Another possibility is 16. ...Rd7 17. Ne4 Be7 18. Nc5 Rd5 19. Rc2 Rhd8, at least equal.

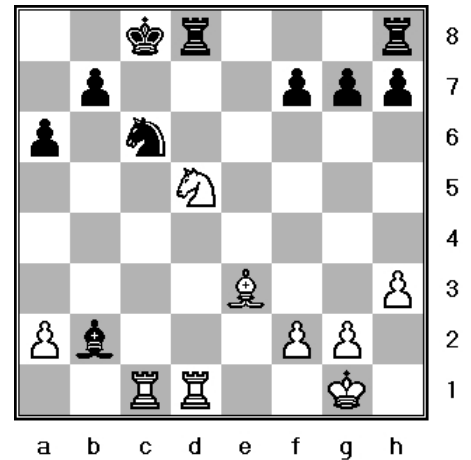
### 17. d5

White won't have a better opportunity for this break.

### 17. ...exd5

Better is 18. ...Bxc3 19. dxc6 (19. Rxc3? Rxd5 20. Rxd5 exd5 21. Rd3 d4 22. Bf4 Re8 doesn't give White much for the pawn) Be5 20. cxb7+ Kxb7. This is the slightest of shades better for White, but the unbalanced pawn structure ensures some counter play.

### 18. Nxd5 Bxb2?

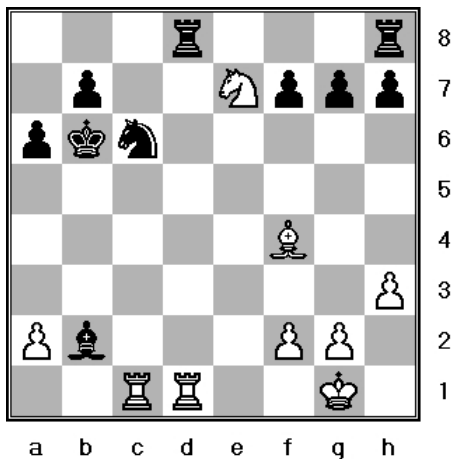


Was this a tactical error or a miscalculation of the position following combination? After the more solid 18. ...Be5 19. Rc2 (19. Ne7+ Kc7 20. Nxc6 Rxd1+ 21. Rxd1 Kxc6 goes nowhere) 19. ...Rhe8 20. Bb6 Rd7 (another reason 16. ...a6 was premature: Black can no longer double rooks on the d-file) 21. g3 Re6, White has a small edge (active pieces, weak queenside black squares).

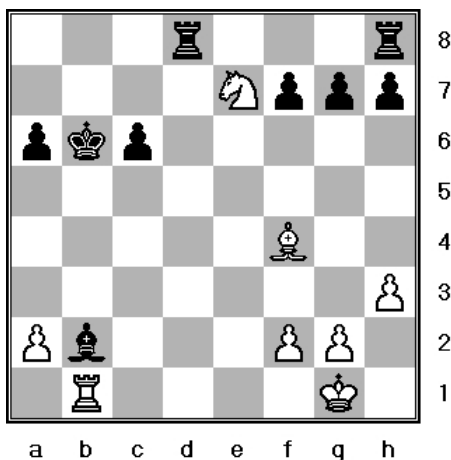
### 19. Ne7+ Kc7

Forced. 19. ...Kb8 20. Nxc6+ bxc6 21. Rxd8+ Rxd8 22. Rb1 picking up the bishop is even worse.

### 20. Bf4+ Kb6



21. Rxc6+ bxc6 22. Rb1



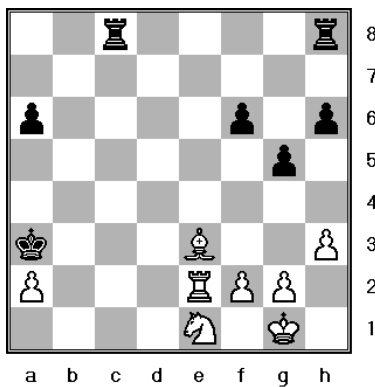
22. ...Kc5

Material-wise, things aren't too bad for Black; he has a rook and pawn for the two minor pieces. Position-wise, Black is in deep trouble because his rooks lack targets, his pawns are weak, and his king is exposed. Black is currently facing a major decision, namely, where does the king go? With c8, c7, c6 all cut off, the only possible havens are on the a-file or c5. Black can position his king either behind his own a-pawn (22. ...a5) or in front of it (22. ...Kb5). In both cases, Black needs to be wary about falling into mating nets. With 22. ...a5 Black prepares a6 as a retreat for the king, but after 23. Rxb2+ Ka6 24. Bc7 Rd7 25. Rb6+ Ka7 26. Nxc6+ Ka8 27. Bf4 white looks close to winning.

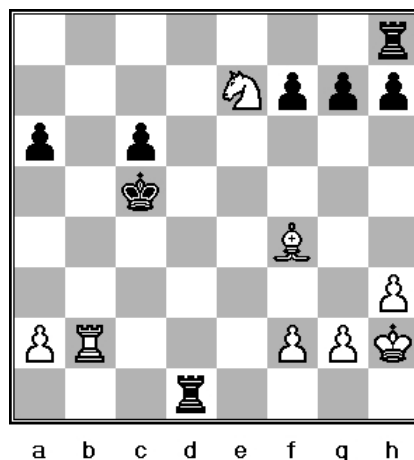
The other "a-file" move is 22. ... Kb5 with the idea of using the king to attack the a-pawn. This seems the relatively best move 22 option. After the natural 23. Rxb2+ Ka4 24. Nxc6 Rc8 (24. ...Re8 gives White the option of playing 25. Rb7 immediately targeting the kingside pawns. White is

preparing to give up a piece for Black's eventual passed a-pawn in return for an armada of three connected passed pawns on the kingside. I think Black does best to avoid this), White has several options such as 25. Rc2, 25. Rb4, or 25. Ne5.

All are reasonable moves that should retain White's advantage. I think 25. Ne5 is simplest with a possible continuation being 25. ...f6 26. Nf3 (26. Ng4 should be OK as well) 26. ...Ka3 27. Re2 h6 28. Ne1 g5 28. Be3, when White is consolidating his position with a small material advantage.



23. Rxb2 Rd1+ 24. Kh2

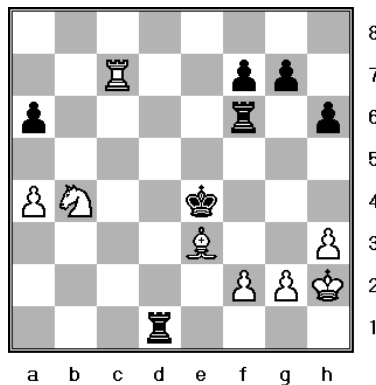


24. ...Re8

Another move is 24. ...Rhd8. Play could continue similarly to the game: 25. Be3+ Kd6 (25. ...Kc4 26. Nxc6 Rd5 27. Rb4+ Kc3 28. Rf4) 26. Nf5+ Ke5 27. Nxc7 Rg8 28. Nh5. Over the next few moves, this sort of position can crop up as the end result of alternative lines. In general, White has no reason to avoid it since with all of Black's pawns isolated and the black king exposed, White has a large, probably winning, edge.

25. Be3+ Kd6

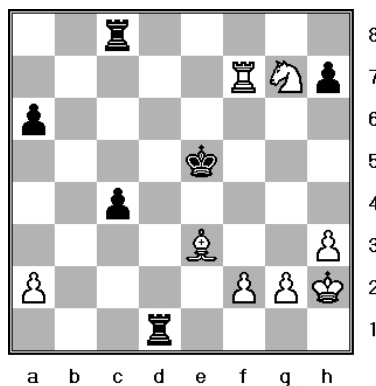
The attempt at active king play with 25. ...Kc4 26. Nxc6 Re6 27. Rc2+ Kd3 28. Nb4+ Ke4 29. Rc7 Rf6 (29. ...Rb1 30. Rxf7 Rxb4? 31. Rf4+) 30. a4 h6 (30. ...a5 31. Rc4+ Kf5 32. Rc5+ picks up the a-pawn)



31. a5, idea 32. Bb6, looks winning for White.

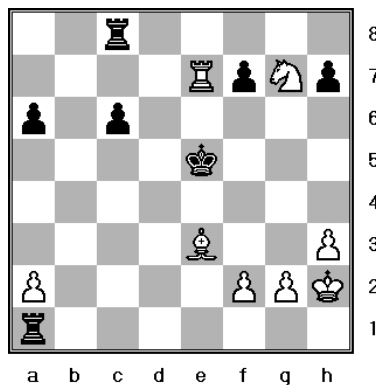
26. Nf5+ Kd5

26. ...Ke5 27. Nxc7 Rc8 28. Rb7 c5 29. Rxf7 c4



30. f3 Rd3 31. Rf5+ Kd6 32. Bf4+ Ke7 33. Bg5+ Kd6 34. Rf6+ Kc5 35. Rxa6 c3 36. Rh6 can deal with pawn.

Also 26. ...Ke5 27. Nxc7 Rc8 28. Rb7 Ra1 29. Re7+



29. ...Kd5 (29. ...Kf6 30. Rd7 Rxa2? 31. Bd4+ can lead to some interesting mates,



such as 31. ...Kg5 32. h4+ Kxh4 33. Bf6+ Kg4 34. Re4 mate; 30. ...Kg6 31. g4; 30. ...c5 31. Bd2) 30. Rd7+ Kc4 31. Nf5 Ra8 (31. ... Rf8 32. Rd4+ and 33. Ra4) 32. Rd2 consolidates and prepares kingside play.

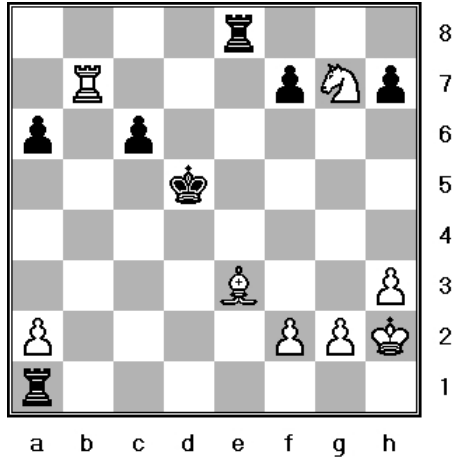
**27. Rb7**

Also possible is 27. Nxc7 with play similar to the last note.

**27. ...Ra1**

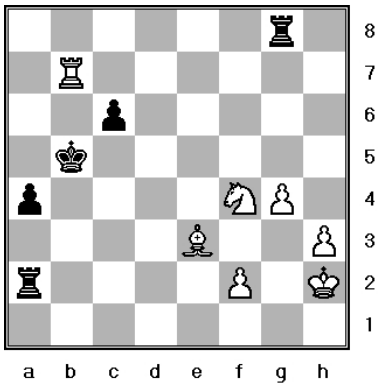
Going for counter play based on grabbing white's a-pawn.

**28. Nxc7**

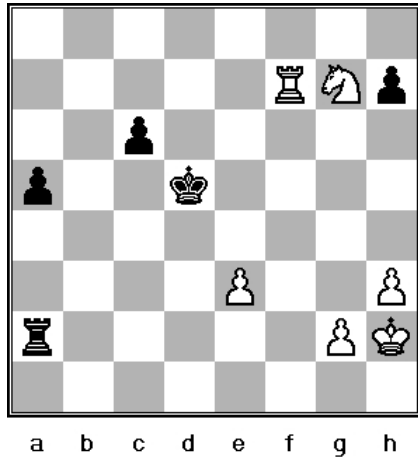


**28. ...Rxe3(?)**

Desperate, but the more solid 28. ...Rd8 also loses after 29. Rxf7 Rxa2 30. Nh5 a5 31. Rxh7 a4 32. Nf4+ Kc4 33. Rc7 Kb5 34. g4 Rg8 35. Rb7+



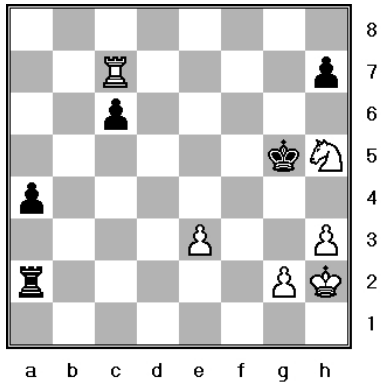
35. ...Kc4 36. Rb6 c5 37. Rc6.  
29. fxe3 Rxa2 30. Rxf7 a5



Black could resign here, as the attempt to queen the a-pawn is not even close. My guess is that the game had devolved into a time pressure blitz (can our editor confirm this?) and running the a-pawn offered Black the most cheapo potential. *{Running on fumes to reach move 40, as far as I can recall. – editor}*

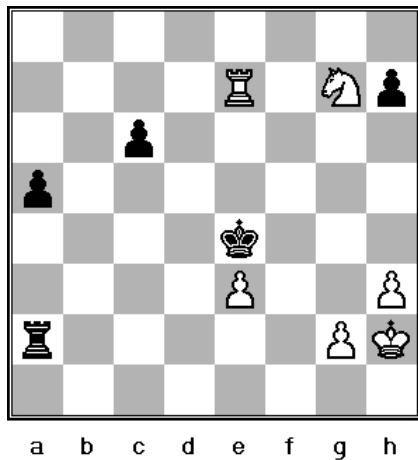
**31. Rd7+ Ke4**

31. ...Ke5 32. Re7+ Kf6 33. Rc7 a4 34. Nh5+ Kg5



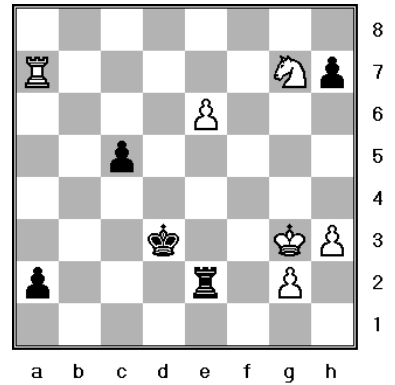
35. Nf4 a3 36. Rxc6.

**32. Re7+**



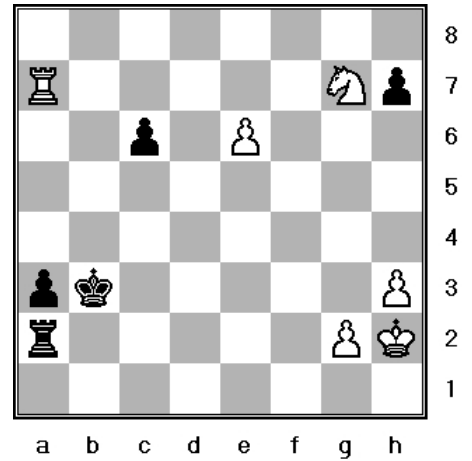
**32. ...Kd5**

The e-pawn is ready to run in any event: 32. ...Kd3 33. e4 Re2 34. e5 a4 35. e6 a3 36. Ra7 a2 37. Kg3 c5

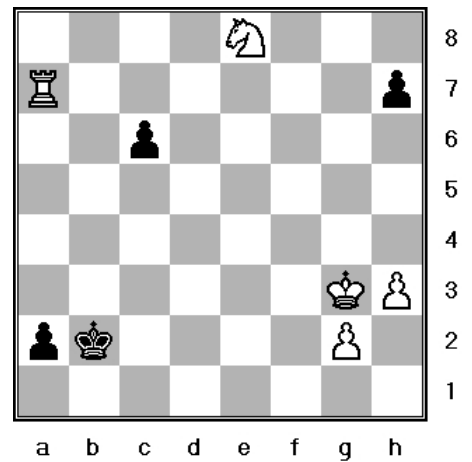


38. Ra3+.

**33. e4+ Kc4 34. e5 a4 35. e6 a3 36. Ra7 Kb3**



37. e7 Re2 38. e8(Q) Rxe8 39. Nxe8 a2 40. Kg3 Kb2



**41. Kf4**

1-0

I assume time control was reached.

# The 2010 'Your Name Here' Northwest Grand Prix

## Murlin Varner, tabulator

Although there were just five Grand Prix events in February (squeezed into just two of the four weekends), there were some good turn-outs and we are up to a GP total of 235 players with 367 entries. Interest in quads remained high at the new location for the Seattle Chess Club, with 34 in attendance on February 27. This was in spite of the cross-state competition of the Dave Collyer Memorial in Spokane, which drew 63. Many of the Collyer contestants were from Idaho and Montana, as usual. Meanwhile, also on the February 27, 18 attended the monthly Portland Chess Club game/60 event. The previous weekend saw eight attending the Tacoma Chess Club tornado (up from six in January) on Saturday and then 21 showing up for the SCC version on Sunday. Dennis Ambler managed to attend both that weekend.

March also started slow, with no events the first weekend, unfortunate because this is one of my rare weekends off. Therefore, I am writing this column that you will read next month, instead of putting it off to play a little chess. The rest of March will offer the intrepid grand prix player six choices, in Tacoma, Portland and Seattle. Looking ahead, we have just five events currently on the schedule in April; the biggie is the Oregon Class Championships on April 17 and 18. This even offers a \$3300 prize fund based on 100 entries, and a multiplier of 3x. (The Collyer had a 3x multiplier and you will see some of the Collyer players in my standings, below.) The rest of the month of April offers the Daffodil Open in Tacoma (on the same weekend as the Oregon Class) and the usual SCC and PCC monthly offerings.

We are still without a sponsor for this year. Buy yourself some naming rights. Contact NWC Business Manager Eric Holcomb about becoming the Northwest Chess Grand Prix fairy godmother. Now, on to the results!

### Oregon

### Washington

#### Masters

1 Breckenridge, Steven ... 21.5	1 Malugu, Satyajit ..... 19.5
2 Roua, Radu ..... 19.5	2 Pupols, Viktors ..... 18
3 Schulien, Charles ..... 16.5	3 Bragg, David R ..... 17
3 Haessler, Carl A ..... 16.5	4 Selzler, Ricky ..... 12
5 Raptis, Nick ..... 11.5	

#### Experts

1 Pendergast, Michael .... 23	1 Schemm, Michael A .. 30
2 Davis, Mikeal ..... 20	2 Bartron, Paul R ..... 19
3 Morris, Michael J ..... 18	3 Merwin, Steven E ..... 18
4 Heywood, Bill ..... 16.5	4 Ummel, Igor ..... 14
4 Polasek , Preston F ..... 16.5	5 Sang, Tian ..... 11
6 Gay, Daniel Z ..... 15	6 Julian, John ..... 9.5

#### Class A

1 Herrera, Robert ..... 18	1 Sotaridona, Leonardo 26
2 Surak, Steve S ..... 16.5	2 Sen , Samir ..... 20.5

3 Botez, V Alexandra ..... 15	3 Desmarais, Cyrus ..... 18
4 Smyth, Scott J ..... 9	4 Rowles, David T ..... 16.5
5 Esler, Brian ..... 5	5 Herbers, Patrick ..... 16.5
6 Pyle, Galen ..... 4.5	6 O'Gorman, Peter J ..... 16

#### Class B

1 Levin, Scott A ..... 21	1 Buck, Stephen J ..... 38
2 Hughes, Robert ..... 18.5	2 Ambler, Dennis L ..... 35.5
3 Hannibal, Carson J ..... 14.5	3 Phan, James L ..... 23.5
4 Niro, Frank A ..... 13.5	4 Mathews, Daniel R .... 23
5 Grom, Alex ..... 12	5 Brendemihl, Steven ... 19
6 Brusselback, Lon ..... 10.5	6 Bulakh, Nikolay ..... 18

#### Class C

1 Shimada, Masakazu .... 20.5	1 Monahan, Darby P .... 33
2 Donchenko, Peter ..... 19	2 Piper, August ..... 29.5
2 Skalnes, Erik ..... 15.5	3 Willaford, Loyd J ..... 17.5
4 Dennehy, Jeremiah P .... 15	4 Nagase, Masayuki ..... 17
5 Parnon, Calvin J ..... 14.5	5 Filan, Dallas A ..... 16
6 Hoglund, Jacob D ..... 13.5	6 four tied ..... 15
6 Waterman, Jeremy ..... 13.5	

#### Class D and Below

1 Chatterjee, Dhruva ..... 12	1 Trainor, Douglas E .... 17.5
1 Coonrod, Larry F ..... 12	2 Richards, Jerrold ..... 17
1 Chattopadhyay, Sandip .. 9	3 Yeo, Noah ..... 16.5
4 Rodriguez, Edwin E ..... 9	4 Kirlin, Patrick M ..... 16
4 Butson, Jeffrey C ..... 7.5	5 Kramlich, Dan ..... 15.5
6 Sharan, Pranav ..... 7	6 Austin, Chang ..... 15

#### Overall Leaders, by State

1 Pendergast, Michael .... 23	1 Buck, Stephen J ..... 38
2 Breckenridge, Steven ... 21.5	2 Ambler, Dennis L ..... 35.5
3 Levin, Scott A ..... 21	3 Monahan, Darby P .... 33
4 Shimada, Masakazu .... 20.5	4 Schemm, Michael A .. 30
5 Davis, Mikeal ..... 20	5 Piper, August ..... 29.5
6 Roua, Radu ..... 19.5	6 Sotaridona, Leonardo 26
7 Donchenko, Peter ..... 19	7 Phan, James L ..... 23.5
8 Hughes, Robert ..... 18.5	8 Mathews, Daniel R .... 23
9 Herrera, Robert ..... 18	9 Sen , Samir ..... 20.5
9 Morris, Michael J ..... 18	10 Malugu, Satyajit ..... 19.5
11 Surak, Steve S ..... 16.5	11 Bartron, Paul R ..... 19
11 Heywood, Bill ..... 16.5	11 Brendemihl, Steven ... 19
11 Polasek , Preston F ..... 16.5	13 Pupols, Viktors ..... 18
11 Schulien, Charles ..... 16.5	13 Merwin, Steven E ..... 18
11 Haessler, Carl A ..... 16.5	13 Desmarais, Cyrus ..... 18
	13 Bulakh, Nikolay ..... 18

#### Players from Other Places

1 Havrilla, Mark A	ID	1955	31.5
2 Leslie, Cameron D	ID	1881	21
3 Donaldson, John	CA	2390	19.5
4 Weyland, Phil	ID	1824	18
4 Skovron, James J	MT	1839	18
6 Subedi, Avinaya	ID	1792	16.5
6 McCourt, Daniel J	MT	1701	16.5
6 Hatcher, Wayne L	NM	1915	16.5
9 Weyland, Ronald M	ID	1510	15.5
10 Sly, Douglas R	CAN	1445	15
10 Martin, Robert A	MT	1682	15
10 McBroom, William	MT	1504	15

# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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

## Attendance at 2009's events

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

## Attendance 2010's previous tournaments

Novice (1/30)-11; Quads (1/2)-29, (1/23)-32, (2/27)-34, (3/20)-30; Tornados (1/31)-24, (2/21)-22, (3/14)-28; Seattle City Championship (1/15-17)-29.

## 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.

### 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.

Hot as Hades: July 9, 16, 23, 30.

## April 24, May 15

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. TC: G/120. EF: \$7 (+\$5 fee for non-SCC). Prizes: Free entry for future quad. Reg: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rds: 10:00-2:15-ASAP. Misc: USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

## Saturday Quads

## April 25

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. TC: G/75. EF: \$11 by 4/25, \$16 at site. (-\$2 for SCC mem., -\$1 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs). Prizes: Memb (SCC, WCF, USCF). Reg: 9-9:45a.m. Rds: 10-12:45-3:30-6. Byes: 1 (Rd 3/4-commit at reg.). Misc: USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

## SCC Novice

## May 9, June 27

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

## Sunday Tornado

## How to Find the New SCC Site

The SCC is now located in the Northway Square East Building just across I-5 from Northgate Mall in the building with large signs proclaiming "Northwest Kidney Centers" and "City University." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th Street from Meridian Avenue N. The club is located in the basement (B-85); so just take the elevator down one floor. We think you'll like our new venue.

## Tired of losing to kids?

## SCC Adult Swiss

May 1-2

A one-section, four-round Swiss open to those born before 5/2/1989. The time control is G/150. The prize fund of \$450 is based on 24 paid entries, 5 per prize group.

First	\$150
Second	\$100
U2000	\$50
U1800	\$50
U1600	\$50
U1400	\$50

**Entry Fees:** \$33 if rec'd by 4/28 (\$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.

**Registration:** Sat. 10-10:45 am.

**Rounds:** Sat. 11-4:30, Sun. 11-4:30.

**Byes:** 1 available (Sunday round, commit at registration).

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

# Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

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

## ♣ April 17-18

## Daffodil Open ♣

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: 5 round Swiss, one section. Time Control: 40/90, SD/30. Entry Fee: Adults \$35 advance, \$40 at the door, Jr.'s \$20.00 advance, \$25.00 at the door, economy \$15.00. Registration: 9:00-9:45 AM. Rounds: Sat. 10:00, 2:30, 7:00, Sun. 10:00, 3:00 or ASAP. Prize Fund: \$485 B/20, 1st \$100, 2nd \$85, 1st U2000, U1700, U1400 \$55, 2nd U2000, U1700, U1400 \$45. Byes: 2 HPB available. USCF/WCF memberships required. NS NC NW. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, phone (253) 535-2536, e-mail [ggarychess@aol.com](mailto:ggarychess@aol.com).

## ♣ April 17-18

## Oregon Class Championships ♣

Site: Vollum Hall, Reed College, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. Portland Oregon Registration: Saturday 9:00 am - 9:45 am. 5-round Swiss format. Rounds: Saturday 10:00, 2:15, 6:30 Sunday 10:00, ASAP Time control: 40/90, SD 30 Prize Fund: \$3,300 Based on 100 entries: M/X (2000+) \$400, \$250, \$150, Entry fee: \$60; Class A (U2000) 300, \$150, \$100, Entry fee: \$50; Class B (U1800) \$300, \$150, \$100, Entry fee: \$50; Class C (U1600) \$300, \$150, \$100, Entry fee: \$50; Class D (U1400) \$300, \$150, \$100 Entry fee: \$50; Class E (U1200 & Unr) \$175, \$75, \$50, Entry fee: \$30. OCF/WCF & USCF memberships required in all sections. Classes combined if less than 8 in a section. One half-point bye allowed if requested before round 1. Players may play up one class. Information: [www.oregonchessfed.org](http://www.oregonchessfed.org).

## ♣ April 24

## Portland Chess Club G/60 ♣

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

## ♣ 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 1/2 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 8

## Tacoma Chess Club Tornado #4 ♣

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

## May 22-24

## Keres Memorial

Richmond, B.C. See display advertisement on page 16.

## ♣ May 29-31

## Washington Open ♣

Redmond, WA. See display advertisement on page 17.

## June 11-13

## National Open

Las Vegas, NV. See display advertisement on page 3.

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

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