

Gerald B. Schain Dan Bailey
Northwest Chess

Ralph Dubisch Robert A. Karch

O. W. Manney
Russell Miller

Richard Schultz Kennedy Poyser

Nikolay Minev
Issue 750

Rob Hankinson Pete Prochaska Wilfred Skubi

Richard Parsons Buz Eddy David Roper

Philip Peterson

George Bishop

John Braley

Fred Kleist

Mike Neeley

James Blackwood
Matt Goshen

Lawrence Taro

Robert Stork **Daniel E. Wade**

John S. DeWitt

John Howell

Mary Lasher

Jack L. Finnigan

June-July 2010

Northwest Chess

Contents

June/July 2010, Volume 64,06 Issue 750

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

Northwest Chess, PO Box 84746,
Seattle WA 98124-6046.
Periodicals Postage Paid at Seattle, WA

USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

NWC Staff

Editor: Ralph Dubisch,
editor@nwchess.com

Publisher: Duane Polich,
publisher@nwchess.com

Business Manager: Eric Holcomb,
eric@holcomb.com

Board Representatives

David Yoshinaga, Karl Schoffstoll,
Duane Polich & James Stripes

Entire contents copyright 2010 by Northwest Chess.
All rights reserved. Published opinions are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the Northwest Chess Board.

Advertising Rates

Display ads run \$150 for a full page, \$100 for tournament ads; \$85 for a half-page, \$60 for tournament ads; \$50 for a quarter page, \$30 for an eighth of a page, and \$20 for a business card-size ad. Additional charges apply if the staff must do layout work. A 15% discount is available for two or more consecutive ads of the same size.

Event Announcement Rates

Each appearance in the *Future Events* listings costs \$20. Please arrange payment for ads and Grand Prix fees with the Business Manager.

Advertising & Copy Deadline

Ads and submissions must be received by the 10th of the month for the items to appear in the next issue (e.g., **no later than July 10 for the August issue**).

Submit all ads, payments, and subscriptions to:

Business Manager, Northwest Chess
Eric Holcomb

1900 NE Third St, Ste 106-361
Bend OR 97701-3889
Eric@Holcomb.com
www.nwchess.com

Submissions

Submissions of games, stories, photos, art, and other **original** chess-related content are encouraged! Multiple submissions are acceptable; please indicate if material is non-exclusive. All submissions are subject to editing or revision. Send via U.S. mail to:

Northwest Chess
Ralph Dubisch, Editor
PO Box 9345, San Jose, CA 95157

or via e-mail to:

editor@nwchess.com

Cover art: NWC Editors Wordle Cloud

Art credit: wordle.com

Page 3:	Letter to the editor	
Page 4:	Issue 750! 60+ years of NWC	
Page 9:	2010 National Open	Frank Niro
Page 14:	Jefferson County Chess Day	Stephen Chase
Page 16:	World Championship 2010	Ralph Dubisch
Page 18:	Oregon Championship Games	Schulien and Russell
Page 34:	News of the Weird	Kimberley Lynn
Page 36:	Opening Arguments	Harley Greninger
Page 38:	Ennis Open	Bill McGearry
Page 40:	And in the End	Dana Muller
Page 44:	NW Grand Prix (June)	Murlin Varner
Page 45:	NW Grand Prix (July)	Murlin Varner
Page 47:	Seattle Chess Club Events	
Page 48:	Future Events	

June/July 2010: Double Issue.

Send renewals and changes of address to the business manager:

Eric Holcomb, NW Chess Business Manager

1900 NE Third St, Ste 106-361, Bend OR 97701-3889

Eric@Holcomb.com

Northwest Chess Knights

Please donate today to help Northwest Chess!

Patrons, 2009-2010

Washington Chess Federation

Oregon Chess Federation

Russell Miller, Ralph Dubisch, Frank Niro, Michael and Jeff Omori.

Robert Brewster, Steve Buck, Jeff Pennig, Murlin Varner.

Kate Tokareva, Gene Milener, Dennis Jenquin.

Contributions may be sent to the Northwest Chess Business Manager, and are greatly appreciated!

Fast free delivery on chess sets and supplies

free delivery for orders over \$100 to US address - chess sets boards - pieces - clocks - computers - equipment - etc

1-800-348-4749

PO Box 705

Lynden, WA 98264

contact@chesshouse.com



CHESSHOUSE.COM
smart minds. great memories.

Letter to the editor: 2010 State Chess Results in Question (Why Math Matters)

On April 24th, a sad turn of events negated what should have been the year's crowning event for the State's grades K-6 chess players. What makes this especially disturbing is the fact that it could have been prevented.

Each year, bids are put out to allow different cities to host the tournament. This year's tournament "State" was awarded to the South Sound Chess Club and held at the Tacoma Convention Center. The host club is responsible for venue selection, amassing volunteers to assist with the tournament, and, most importantly, pairing logistics for the approximately 1200 players.

It is the task of the judges to insure the accurate written recording of each game's outcome. These wins and losses are then put into a computerized system which pairs the contestants for their next match. There is potential for errors to be made in the reporting to the judges, in the recording by the judges, and in the data entry into the computerized system. It is the responsibility of parents and coaches to insure that pairings for their players are accurate once they are posted. If there is a discrepancy, it should be brought immediately to the judges' attention to allow for re-pairing through the computerized system with the accurate information, prior to the next round starting.

In fact, such errors occurred in both the first and third rounds of the Kindergarten section at State this year. Parents discovered the errors and reported them immediately to the judges when pairings were posted for rounds two and four. When brought to the attention of Tournament Director (TD), who chose to ignore the errors, stating, "It would only affect pairings by one position." Unfortunately, his ignorance of the ripple effect of statistical mathematics cost many players an accurate standing. The TD's mistake directly affected eight players. In fact, it had the potential to affect all 75 within the Kindergarten section. To be clear, both errors were detected and the TD notified while the section was being seated. No games had started and the section was running ahead of schedule. The K section was in a room separate from the larger Grade 1-6 students.

The TD made a like decision in the adult section of the "I Luv Chess 2" competition running concurrent to the K-6 championships. This decision cost the second place finisher his win.

Here is why math matters: Chess pairings can be done in several ways. It appears the method chosen for the State Championships was one known as the Swiss pairing system. It would also appear that the Sonneborn-Berger (Neustadtl score) was used for tie-breaks. This method adds the scores of every opponent the player beats and half of the score of every opponent the player draws. Belatedly awarding wins/losses creates mismatches which propagate throughout the rest of the tournament. First, less qualified players are paired with more difficult players than they normally would depriving them of possible wins. Second, top players matched against less qualified players have a lower tie-break score. In a Swiss style tournament,

tie-breaks invariably decide the final outcome of the event. Case in point, two out of the three players with perfect scores (5 wins) were mismatched in the fourth round, effectively denying them their chance to be state champions.

Now the consequences of incorrect pairings may seem trivial. However, the effect ripples through the playing field over five rounds to create unfair burdens and opportunities to players, other than just those directly involved. The Swiss pairing system currently in use, if used correctly, is highly effective in moving players with similar playing results, through the day towards each other. This allows for determination of a true winner, and correct stratification of players. Knowing an error has occurred, presents an opportunity to correct and prevent a serious mistake from being propagated. The Tournament director and pairing directors chose to ignore this in all three instances.

What strikes one most are the following:

1. The attitude of the TD being that the chess machine must keep moving, even though there was time to re-pair the round correctly.

2. There was no thought given to artificial imbalances due to tournament officials' negligence.

3. The TD seemed unaware of the significance of these mistakes at the State's highest level tournament, even when this was pointed out by concerned parents.

4. The pairing directors, knowing how difficult it would be to amend results at the end of the tournament, seemed under no duress to address them during the day, as the errors were uncovered.

There are very few ways chess games can be subverted. They are observed by adults, many of whom are chess players themselves. Since parents and coaches aren't allowed in the room, they learn of errors through the pairing sheet at the subsequent round. This tournament exemplifies that the recording of results is a weak link in the chain. Pairing directors should take responsibility for their scoring director's notations and implement corrections appropriately. The burden of verification should not fall on a child to challenge a judge's recording of the result, as suggested by one of the pairing directors.

Most concerning, is the lack of empathy that several children were wronged during the course of the State's highest tournament. Such an impression would surely damage the credibility of the institution, if not the hosting club. Errors are part of running a large tournament. What was lacking here was the insight that the tournament was to serve the children, not for the convenience of the organizers. This was the State's highest tournament. Transparency, quality, and accuracy here should be expected and received. It's time to shed some light into a dark corner. Chess, like math, is not just a science, but an art form. To allow ignorance of math to adversely affect the outcome of chess destroys the beauty of both.

(signed)

Glynis L. Thakur
S. Smiley Thakur, M.D.

Issue 750!

Former editors reflect on 60+ years of WCL/NWC.

Russell Miller

(79.75 issues)

November 1966–February 1970

August–December 1972

August 1973–October 1974

October 1979

(four-editor team) May 1989

November 1994–March 1996

(co-editor) December 1998

January 1999

I was a bit surprised to be number three on the list of the number of issues of *Washington Chess Letter* (WCL) / *Northwest Chess* (NWC) as Editor. But then I started a long time ago, in November 1966, taking over from Buz Eddy, who would become my brother-in-law in August 1967 when I married his sister Kathy. I had been doing a column called “Russell’s Chess Chats,” national and international chess news for the publication, before I took over as Editor. That column started in May of 1965 and would continue even when I was not Editor.

Back in ’66 the publication was printed on a Gestetner machine with stencils. It was possible to have an electronic machine make the stencils but most of the pages were typed on various typewriters. I notice that I was Vice-President of the Washington Chess Federation on the officers lists in November 1966.

We were able to change to offset printing starting with the July 1968 issue. I was living in Yakima then and was the purchasing agent for Valley Evaporating Company, an apple processing firm. Valley bought a lot of plastic bags from Shields Bag and Printing and I think they were doing a favor to me to print NWC. Sometimes we got white paper but most often newsprint paper. Now the magazine was produced using typed material pasted onto layout sheets and had to be done in 16, 24 or 32 pages amounts. Pictures looked a lot better with this offset method but the print size was reduced some. Headings were made with transfer letters. Quite an improvement over the previous method but sometimes I note my layout was not the best.

While researching for this article I noticed that the very first issue of the *Washington Chess Letter* from the ’40s was reprinted in the November 1969 issue.

With the move of printing to Yakima, Kathy and I put the address labels on the issues and bundled them up for mailing via USPS bulk mail. We continued to do this when the editorship was taken over by others as the magazine was still printed in Yakima for some of them. The printing and mailing came back to Yakima for my stretch as Editor of August 1973 to October 1974.

In January of 1978 the printing and mailing moved to Olympia under the editorship of Kip Poyser. Some time in the late ’70s a computer was doing the Northwest Ratings and providing address labels for mailing, with the person’s rating on the label plus when their subscription expired. Ed Kivi of Lacey was the rating person

in 1977. Richard Stewart of Bothell was the rating person in 1978. They also provided crosstables of the tournaments for pasting onto the layout sheets.

No term as Editor for me in the 1980s but in 1994 to 1996 I did 17 issues. I had moved from Yakima in 1985 to West Seattle to own a small new bookstore from 1985-1991. Got my dream job in 1991 working for International Chess Enterprises. Computers had come to NWC in the ’80s, and Pagemaker 5.0 software was used to produce the material for the various printing firms. I note under an article called *Northwest Chess* that I used a ChessMachine to help with the notes to some games. I was also Business Manger for NWC for quite some time.

Kathy and I purchased a RISO 6300 printer, and from May 1995 to September 2001 we printed and mailed the magazine. This allowed for pages in multiples of fours instead of eights and for some color ink to be used on some pages, and with a double run of the page for two colors on a page, though this was not done often.



Kathy Miller. Photo credit: Rusty Miller.

Our move to Chelan put an end to our printing the magazine. That lead to Snohomish Publishing doing the printing which they still do today including the mailing. They did *INSIDE CHESS* for a number of years of its run and had provided NWC with the address labels for a number of years before taking over the printing job.

I typed into computer files USCF crosstables for several editors over the years. Recently I did recaps of information in 10 year batches from the pages of past issues of WCL and NWC. That was something I did in 5 year batches a number of years ago.

It would be a very long list if I tried to make a list of all the people who provided material for my issues of NWC. **Thanks.** But

I better thank my wife for all the work of various tasks she has done over the years. Maybe that is something for another article. Computers made the job of editor easier and today e-mailing communication helps a lot also. My first computer was a Southwest Tech one that I built from a kit.



Rusty Miller. Photo credit: Kathy Miller.

I have pretty close to a complete set of all the WCLs and NWCs ever done over the years and one of my projects is to make them available on the NWC website with a lot of help from Eric Holcomb and Mark Turner.

– Russell Miller

{Entries under the headings of Willie Skubi, Buz Eddy, and Dan Bailey are excerpted from e-mail correspondence. – editor}

Wilfred Skubi

(14 issues)

March 1970–April 1971

Dubisch: Yes! Another NWC editor contact!

We're planning a special project for the June magazine to celebrate issue number 750 (Rusty Miller and John Donaldson did some counting, and depending on how you count double issues and so on, we're pretty sure we've finally nailed down the actual issue number). Rusty's suggestion for the June issue is to ask as many former editors as possible to contribute reminiscences of their time with the magazine.

The earliest editors that may still be around seem to be John DeWitt (April 1954–February 1955) and Jerry Schain (March–July, 1955). We're having quite a bit of trouble establishing e-mail contact with either of these guys. Jerry Schain (we believe) is involved with a chess club near Los Angeles.

So, where are you now? And what reconnected you to our January 2010 issue?

– Ralph Dubisch

Skubi: Hello Ralph,

Thank you for your very kind reply.

I just happened to Google *Northwest Chess* to see what might pop up. Your very nice website was a nice surprise. Quite a change from publishing on a mimeograph machine!

I'm still in Seattle, but I haven't played much chess in recent decades except with a nephew of mine. I still have many fond memories of growing up with the Seattle Chess Club and the Washington Chess Federation. Quite a few names seems to remain active.

Anyway, it looks like you are continuing a great tradition! I do have to say that I think the chess cartoons that were on the front cover on many of my issues were terrific.

My last contact with Rusty Miller was when he owned a bookshop in West Seattle fifteen years or so ago.

Good luck with your tenure as Northwest Chess editor!

– Will Skubi

Daniel Bailey

(12 issues)

November 1974–October 1975

Bailey: For #750, what I did best: doing some interviews with our finest players and getting Fritz Lieber's "Midnight by the Morphy Watch" in the magazine.

I wrote Lieber for permission, noting that *Northwest Chess* was a serious publication, evidence of which included the fact that it had been published every month since 1947 with the exception of the month editor Willi Skubi left the layout sheets in his basement and his dog crapped on them.

Lieber went for it (how could he not? Would that I had as much success with my gambit play over the years). He agreed to publication "under the terms you mention" (whatever those were, can't recall) – after a brief preamble in which he said he had read my "rather ghostly letter. I suggest you get a new typewriter ribbon."

Ah well. He wrote about ghosts – I typed like one; we were a good fit.

What I did worst? I'll take the Fifth on that one. In any event, it's all part of the printed historical record.

What *Northwest Chess* did best and worst for me, on the other hand, is all very much on the positive side. It made a big difference in my life, the difficult moments making their contribution as well, and I'll always appreciate the opportunity it afforded me.

– Dan Bailey

– Addenda. Congratulations Ralph on NWC winning the CJA award for best state magazine!

– The provenance of the story about his dog I can't recall. But I recall believing it 100% when I first heard it, so I'll still go with it!

Bailey: Hi Rusty, So to your knowledge, I take it any story about a dog of Willie's getting into NW Chess layout sheets is incorrect. Do you – or does anyone – know of any dog ever, er, interacting with any NWC layout sheets whatsoever, during any editorship? If not I will (admittedly with a bit of regret) stop believing that any such thing ever happened.

– Dan Bailey

Skubi: Hey, wait a minute! There never was any dog, nor do I remember ever neglecting to get an issue out on time! Possibly my memory might have covered up such a lapse. But I'd be interested in knowing what issue I was supposed to have failed to assemble on time – if the Seattle Public Library still has its collection of *Northwest Chess* related publications, I'd review any issues in question to see whether my memory is deceiving me or whether some legend has taken over in recent decades. But there was no dog! That I can guarantee.

– Will Skubi

Bailey: Alas, I have been in error for a long time. I sincerely apologize. But I'm not informing my own dog, who remains under a cloud of suspicion for other forms of sabotage. She'd only use this in open court against me.

– Dan Bailey

Miller: Kinf, a dog owned by Buz Eddy's parents, pissed on some printed pages of NWC when the issues were printed in the basement of the Eddy home in Kent, Washington.

Willie, it was June 1970 that I sent out a one-sheet page. We made June-July 1970 a double issue.

– Rusty Miller

Buz Eddy

(18 issues)

June 1959–May 1960

May–October 1966

Eddy: Perhaps the most insignificant piece of WCF/NWC history, but I attest to its accuracy. "Knif" incidentally was provided the name by a border at the time, Sharon Anderson, which my sister, Kathy Miller, will I think verify. Knif is Fink spelled backwards.

– Buz Eddy

Bailey: Thank you Rusty and Buz! There we have it! So I've been right after all, at least sort of.... which, in chess, gets you a fine rating, sort of. Okay, not at all. I'm afraid my rating could serve as an example here.... though in John Donaldson's living room circa 1974 I once could have obtained a fine position vs. the future International Master. This a candidate for the inscription on my tombstone. John showed me the line after he'd beaten me. All my best to everybody in this distinguished group! What's our next historical matter question to pin down?

– Dan Bailey

Dubisch: Hello former editors of Northwest Chess,

If you're drawing a blank on something to write for issue #750, think about what was memorable, fun, different, exciting, difficult, painful.... Thank you all for your contributions to *Northwest Chess* history.

– Ralph Dubisch

Eddy: "difficult, painful"

That would be easy enough, but since there seems to be nothing constructive to contribute I shall pass.

– Buz Eddy

Mary Lasher

(4 issues)

October 1982–January 1983

I'm the oddball, of course. Lone female Editor jounced into this gathering by simple forces of evolution and destiny. When Caissa drew herself into my web, I had no awareness whatsoever of chess. Spring it was, 1969, Berkeley. A chessboard, then chess pieces began to intrude my dreams. One bright day, a fateful encounter introduced me to an actual player of tournaments. Chess tournaments?

I was busy teaching utopian literature, and learning languages. Caissa pressed, until I agreed to entertain her language, and meet a chess person or two, who turned out to be interesting, energetic, fun, and worldly. My interest for chess grew.

Before Fischer, making a living as a female chess player in America was unrealistic, and precarious at best for even the most focused of males. I secured lucrative titles, such as Overall Champion of Northern Austria (several rounds of brandy); and Santa Cruz Women's Prize (autographed book by the great Koltanowski). With 10, maybe 12 tournaments, I tapped the top 50 women's table, squeezed out "A" levels, and lay the armies at rest.

Though I wouldn't excel as a player, I could appreciate the game and worldwide community. What I could less appreciate was the dictum that women could not play chess equal to men. As chair of the USCF Women's Committee, I wanted to eliminate 'women's chess,' hardly a lyrical stance. To me, the allure of the game was its depth and beauty.

In grad school at the University of Madrid, before Caissa planted her spirit in me, I had translated a book for Scribner's. Why not start there? So, I translated three volumes of Averbakh's endgame series and multiple articles; and branched into editing and writing. I also co-founded Chess International to sponsor simultaneous tours in the United States for top international players.

Early 1980's I became aware of *Northwest Chess* magazine, and opened a two-year involvement, primarily generated by the genial enthusiasm of Bob Karch. We inspired each other with our dreams of developing chess appeal, redesigning *Northwest Chess* from the important pet log it appeared to be. He asked me to contribute a monthly column, which became 'In Situ,' which delivered two CJA awards for *NWC*, which led to the offer of Editor.

I thought I could do it if I received \$200/month, and access to a computer. I had a child and responsibilities of full support. Bob thought a fund drive would make these conditions possible, so I suspended my column, assumed editorial duties, and formulated a fund drive. Four months later, increasing hate mail, including one death threat, meant it best for me to resign my services.

Recollection of these events, in honor of the 750 celebration, was sketchy. I contacted two active, trusted players at that time to share their perspectives. Both sent greetings then silence. Maybe it is the pride of boy's club coveting its tics, cigars, cognac, and girlies. Shenanigans don't always mean ignorance. Perhaps 'In Situ' was too gauche? Perhaps a closed group vote to accept my resignation was typical; and one "no" vote? My fund drive in my last issue - did it help *Northwest Chess*?

Despite the odd legacy, I'm grateful for an editorial nanosecond at *NWC*. There were contributors to my issues who made the effort to contribute. USCF recognized Karch-Lasher-Miller as volunteers

of the year from Washington. Thank you. A special posthumous nod to Bob who emailed me a few years back mentioning my contributions, regretting circumstances that had rattled them.

After *NWC*, I worked with Yaz on several interesting projects, especially co-founding I.C.E. and *Inside Chess*. Ultimately my efforts there succumbed to malice, the final boot literally knocking my breath away. BFN, dear Caissa. Life since chess has included raising said daughter who graduated in Philosophy and Political Science from UCLA and works in film; developing a line of jewelry and functional art; managing a few art galleries; and traveling. Also, for many years I headed advertising/development at two graphic design publications which continue to thrive. Amidst current projects, I still think five-minute chess a very good thing.

Congratulations *Northwest Chess*. Keep those pages turning. Huzzah!

Nikolay Minev

(12 issues)

December 1987–November 1988



Art Iodice and Nikolay Minev. Photo credit: Philip McCready.

McCready: *The night I stopped by Nikolay's after work was also the night of his regular meeting with Art Iodice, who had helped with the magazine during Nikolay's year.*

– Philip McCready

International Master Nikolay Minev took over the *Northwest Chess* editorship with the December 1987 issue. Prior to leaving his native Bulgaria, he had edited the Bulgarian national chess magazine (*Shakmatna Misl*) for many years. He had also functioned as trainer for the Greek national team, and brought this focus on chess training and improvement when in relocated to Seattle in the early '80s.

Nikolay indicated that his desire in taking over the helm of the local chess organ was to instill a sense that “greater things were possible.” Not being a native English speaker or a computer “techie,” he enlisted the help of some of his chess students to assist with the duties of publishing the magazine, so that Nikolay could focus on great content.

Art Iodice helped Nikolay with the magazine layout and

production, while Seattle Chess Club officer Jerome Buroker assisted with distribution, running the final copy to the printer, and other helpful tasks. Art indicates that he performed the layout tasks on his early 8086 computer, using some early software that he purchased just for the purpose (before the “desktop publishing” revolution). The resolution and fonts from those early days left something to be desired, but Art is still pleased that they were able to bring new energy and content to the magazine. But it was very time-consuming work! Art says he couldn't play chess for that whole year: he was just too busy each month trying to do production tasks for Nikolay.

Nikolay retained the editorship for one year, handing off to Jim Blackwood with the final issue of 1988. In his year as editor, he started regular columns for “Club 21” (short games) and “Improve Your Practical Abilities” (with titles such as “A Pawn Close to the Last Rank is Loaded with Energy,” “Diabolical Moves,” and “The Wonderland of a Mate with ‘Two Horse Power’”). He also had occasional opening articles (such as “Touching on Opening Theory: The Two Year Hunt for Pupols' Amazing Surprise”), and tried to bring interesting games from the international arena to the local audience.

Nikolay indicates that one challenge with the language was understanding the names of players in annotations submitted for publication. He recalls that one game submitted by Bobby Ferguson had notes that mentioned his opponent by his first name. Nikolay says that he did not understand that this was a first name, and so listed the game in the magazine with that name as Ferguson's opponent!

Aside from the content and focus on instruction, the other goal of Nikolay during his year in office was to return *Northwest Chess* to a firm financial footing. When he took over the position, Nikolay recalls that *NWC* was \$2000 in the red. He did everything he could to cut costs (such as cheaper paper) and ended his tenure with *NWC* again financially balanced.



IM Nikolay Minev. Photo credit: Philip McCready.

Philip Peterson

(47 issues)

December 1990–January 1993

February–March 1999

November 1999–April 2000

October 2000–April 2001

November 2001–April 2002

In life, as in chess, timing is everything. Back in 1990 I fell into the *Northwest Chess* Editor job just as desktop publishing reached the masses (in the form of Aldus PageMaker). It was suggested to me that if I were to buy one of them newfangled computing devices I could edit *Northwest Chess* with something called a mouse and computer, rather than with scissors and press-on diagrams.

At the time I was postal director where I had been turning in postal ratings and standings to past and future editor Ralph Dubisch via a typewriter and the US Postal Service (after calculating rating changes on a calculator).

After some hard thinking, I eschewed the 286 and went with the expensive cutting-edge option of a 386 computer with something called “Windows.” I cringe when I think of the first couple of issues I did, as my lack of PageMaker knowledge (and computers in general) showed all too well. At first I couldn’t even print, and had to rush over to Mark Turner’s house, floppy disks in hand, and borrow his Postscript printer to print proofs.



Philip Peterson, photographer.

Photo credit: Ralph Dubisch.

I think I averaged something like two hours per page, so I could count on approximately 50 hours per month being eaten up by *Northwest Chess*. That combined with normal life tends to make burn-out an occupational hazard in *Northwest Chess* editors.

However there are positive aspects of the editor biz. Several pleasurable memories are Duane Polich’s “Superfish” column, and Dick Phillip’s long running “Slash N Trash” column. The more people there are like that (and the current crop of folks such as Dana Muller and Bill McGeary) the easier it is on the editor, and the further into the future the infamous *Northwest Chess* burn-out is pushed.

And of course sometimes you get a complaint letter that you treasure. I had a complaint from a semi-rational player (who shall remain nameless for legal reasons) that I held onto for more than a decade, so surreal was its author’s view of reality.

In case someone is thinking they’d like to take a swing as editor, my experience shows there are really two ways to approach editing *Northwest Chess* magazine:

1) Work a couple of hours a day until the third weekend of the month and then finish up.

2) Work a few minutes a day until the third weekend of the month, then panic and work 40 hours straight.

I tended toward the latter. Maybe it showed....

– Philip Peterson

Northwest Chess Subscription, State Chess Federation Membership Form

Adult: \$25/year (12 issues) via periodicals mail each month.

One-year membership in the Oregon or Washington Chess Federation included for residents of OR and WA.

Junior: \$17/year (12 issues) or **Scholastic:** \$10/6 months (6 issues, convertible to regular junior membership by paying \$7 before expiration). Must be under age 20 at time of expiration. OR/WA residents only; state membership included.

Family: \$5/year (**not a subscription — membership only**). Open only to a co-resident of an Adult or Junior member. Expires at the same time. *If first member is a junior (\$17/year), additional family member(s) must also be juniors.*

Additional postage required for foreign addresses (contact Business Manager for amount). Inquire about special rates for libraries and school chess clubs.

For general information, Eric Holcomb (541) 647-1021, e-mail: Eric@Holcomb.com

OCF/WCF Membership Application/Renewal Form

Name _____ **If Junior, give date of birth** _____

E-Mail (used for renewal notices and tournament announcements) _____

Phone Number (optional, not used for telemarketing) (____) _____ **Country** (if not USA) _____

Street or P.O. Box _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Membership Type(s) _____ **Total Membership Amount \$** _____

WA residents only: sales tax based on location where magazine will be received.

Tax jurisdiction: _____ **Sales tax rate:** _____ % **Tax on membership amount:** \$ _____

A tax rate table is available on the Northwest Chess website. WA Memberships received without the correct tax will be valid for 11 months instead of 12 (5 months for scholastic option).

Total: \$ _____

Make check or money order (USA \$ only)
payable to *Northwest Chess* and mail to:

Eric Holcomb
NW Chess Business Manager
1900 NE Third St, Ste 106-361
Bend OR 97701-3889

NW Prizewinners at the 2010 National Open by Frank Niro

The Great Northwest was well represented at the 2010 National Open Chess Festival held June 11-13 in Las Vegas. Of the 693 entrants, 25 were from Washington, 12 from Oregon and three from Idaho. Twelve of the 40 area players finished in the money including Colin Reece Field-Eaton of Oregon who picked up more than \$3,000 for his first place tie in the Under 2000 section. Field-Eaton earned five wins and a draw in the six-round event.

The tournament was won by Grandmaster Timur Gareev with 5 ½ points in 6 games. He clinched first place with a last round victory over GM Varuzan Akobian. FM Slava Mikhailuk of Washington tied for 11 through 15 in the Open section with four points. Also competing in the top section were Luke Harmon-Vellotti of Idaho (3.5 points), and Washington players Dereque Kelley (3), Joshua Sinanan (2.5), Dakota Dixon (2.5) and Steve Merwin (2).

Washington Expert Satyajit Malugu finished in the money in the Under 2200 group with four points. He was followed by Samir Sen (3) and David Rupel (2.5), both from Washington. Others in the Under 2000 Section included Oregonian Galen Pyle (3.5), Washington players Mika Mitchell (2.5) and Joseph McCleve (2), and 78-year-old Dan Mayers (3) of Idaho. Mayers also had an excellent result at the Chicago Open in May where he finished among the prize winners with five points in seven rounds.

The Under 1800 section was the largest of the tournament with 160 participants. Among them were seven from Washington and three from Oregon. Blake Dixon (WA), Daniel Mathews (WA) and Andrew Strom (OR) were among the six players who tied for fourth through ninth place with five points. Each earned \$261 for their efforts. Mitchell Vibbert (4), Frank Niro (3.5), Ryan Ackerman (3), Isaac Drum (3), Steven Brendemihl (2), William Gagnon (2) and David Griffin (2) also competed.

Five Northwest players entered the Under 1600 section. Thomas Witecki (5) tied for fourth place with five points. Witecki won \$381. Thomas Elisara (4), Peter Grant (4), James Colasurdo (3.5) and Catherine Smith (3) followed. Four of the seven local players in the Under 1400 field finished in the money. Tops was William Woodruff (4.5) of Oregon who tied for fourth through seventh. Woodruff collected \$211 in prize money. Andrew Kersey (WA), Sandip Chattopadhyay (OR) and Dhurva Chatterjee (OR) each earned four points to share in the money split among those tied for eighth place. Lebron Sims (WA) and Lynn Taylor (WA) each scored two points while Hannah Merwin (WA) made Las Vegas the site of her second lifetime chess journey.

In addition to the prizes listed above, all players with a plus score (3.5 points or better) received a \$50 gift certificate.

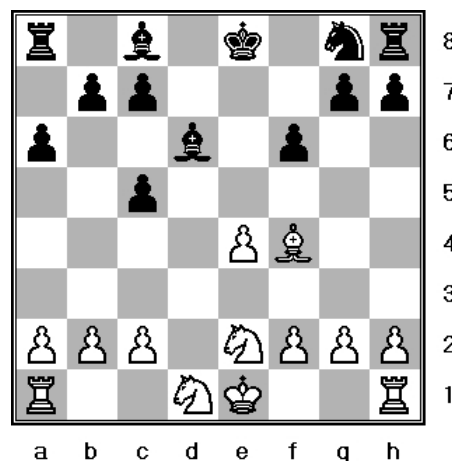
With the 2010 World Series of Poker getting ready to begin on the other end of the Strip, there was much discussion and some interesting overlap regarding the two events. GM Walter Browne, who won \$190,305 at the 2007 WSOP while simultaneously playing in the 2007 National Open, used this year's event as a warm-up for the 2010 World Senior Poker Championship. He had three wins, a draw and took half point byes in two of the final three rounds to prepare for the World Series. Browne said he has been in a slump during his last 15 poker tournaments and is hoping to win the Senior Championship this year.

Meanwhile, former U.S. Women's Chess Champion Jennifer Shahade was visible at the chess tournament but not playing. She will be entered in the WSOP Ladies' event where she finished in the money in 2008 and 2009. Poker pro Allen Cunningham, winner of more than \$9,000,000 and multiple World Series of Poker bracelets, was entered in the Under 1600 section of the National Open! He scored 4.5 out of 6 to tie for sixth place and win \$181.

Dereque Kelley was paired with Grandmaster Melikset Khachiyian in the first round. His solid play against an exchange Ruy Lopez allowed him to split the point.

Melikset Khachiyian – Dereque Kelley National Open, Round 1 Las Vegas, Nevada, June 11, 2010

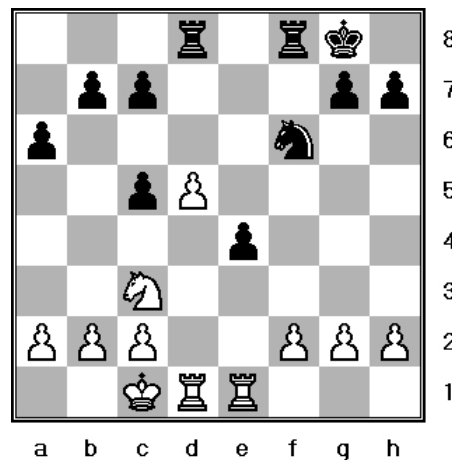
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Bxc6 dxc6 5. Nc3 f6 6. d4 exd4 7. Nxd4 c5 8. Nde2 Qxd1+ 9. Nxd1 Bd6 10. Bf4



10. ...Be5!?

An unusual reply in this position. The most common move here is 10...Be6 with equality, whereas 10...Ne7 and 10...Bxf4?! have both been shown to favor White.

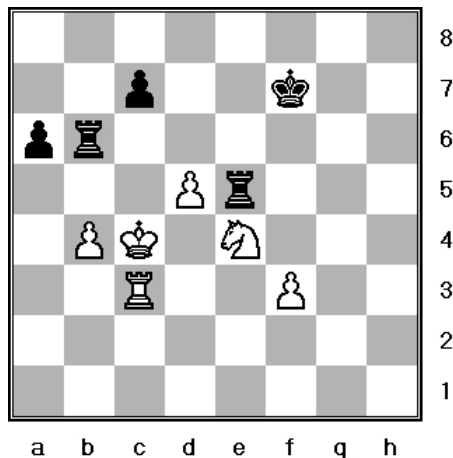
11. Bxe5 fxe5 12. Ne3 Nf6 13. Nc3 Be6
14. 0-0-0 0-0 15. Rhe1 Rad8 16. Ned5
Bxd5 17. exd5 e4



Games from the 2010 National Open:

GM Khachiyan makes a surprising decision to sacrifice the exchange for a pawn here in order to infuse some life into a rather sterile position. Objectively, though, it seems to be Black who gets the better chances.

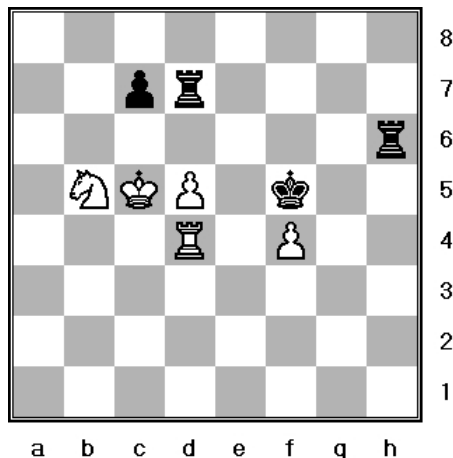
18. Rxe4 Nxe4 19. Nxe4 b6 20. c4 Rfe8 21. f3 h6 22. Kc2 Kf7 23. h4 g6 24. Rd3 Re5 25. Kc3 g5 26. hxg5 hxg5 27. a3 g4 28. b4 cxb4+ 29. axb4 b5 30. Nc5 bxc4 31. Kxc4 gxf3 32. gxf3 Rd6 33. Ne4 Rb6 34. Rc3



34. ...Ke8

34...Rf5 was the more active try. Either way, Black seems to have the draw in hand.

35. Kd4 Re7 36. Rc4 Rf7 37. Ke3 Rb5 38. Nc5 a5 39. bxa5 Rxa5 40. f4 Re7+ 41. Kd4 Kf7 42. Ne4 Ra1 43. Kc5 Ra5+ 44. Kc6 Ra6+ 45. Kb5 Rb6+ 46. Kc5 Kg6 47. Nc3 Kf5 48. Nb5 Rd7 49. Rd4 Rh6



50. Ra4

50. d6 cxd6+ 51. Nxd6 leads nowhere. The players agreed to share the point..

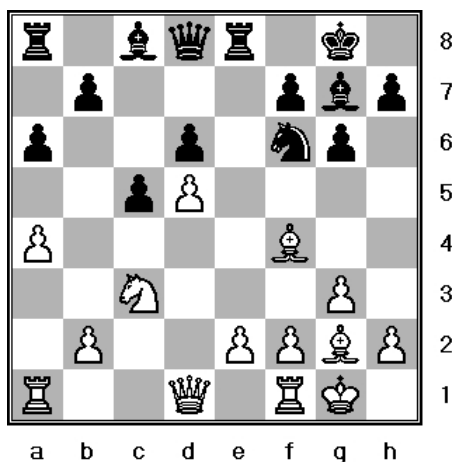
50. ...Rxd5+

1/2-1/2

Like Dereque Kelley, Joshua Sinanan was able to draw gainst a titled player rated over 2500 when he faced IM Enrico Sevillano's Benoni in round three.

Joshua Sinanan – Enrico Sevillano
National Open, Round 3
Las Vegas, Nevada, June 12, 2010

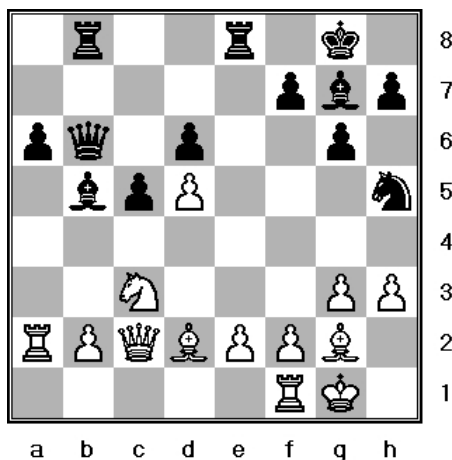
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. g3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. Nc3 a6 7. a4 g6 8. Bg2 Bg7 9. Nf3 0-0 10. 0-0 Re8 11. Nd2 Nbd7 12. Nc4 Ne5 13. Nxe5 Rxe5 14. Bf4 Re8



15. h3

The move most often seen here is 15. Qc2, with slightly better results for White. The less usual text has seen mixed results.

15. ...Nh5 16. Bd2 Rb8 17. a5 Bd7 18. Qc2 b5 19. axb6 Qxb6 20. Ra2 Bb5



21. Ne4

White gets the two bishops after 21. Nxb5 Qxb5 22. e3 or 21. ...axb5 22. Bf3, but it is not clear how to press his advantage.

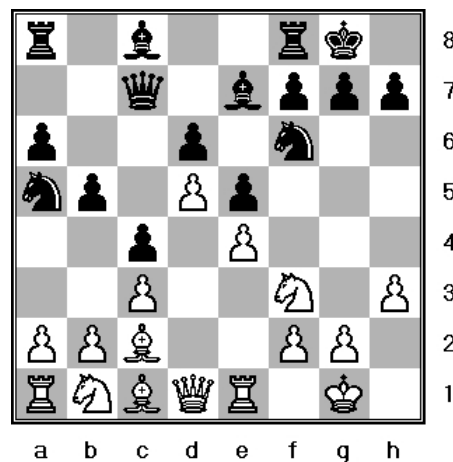
21. ...Qd8 22. Re1 h6 23. g4 Nf6 24. Ng3 Nd7 25. Ne4 Nf6 26. Ng3 Nd7 27. Ne4 Nf6

1/2-1/2

Kelley got the best of FM Elliott Liu in round three.

Elliott Liu – Dereque Kelley
National Open, Round 3
Las Vegas, Nevada, June 12, 2010

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 d6 8. c3 0-0 9. h3 Na5 10. Bc2 c5 11. d4 Qc7 12. d5 c4

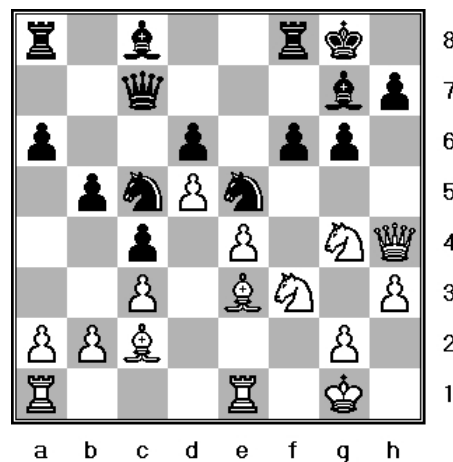


13. Nh2

This move is a novelty. Both 13. Nbd2 and 13. b4 have been played frequently in this position. Dropping the knight to h2 to enable the f4 push is interesting. But it doesn't pan out too well for White here.

It takes too long for the b-knight to get developed and White's a-rook to participate. By the time that happens, Black has the initiative.

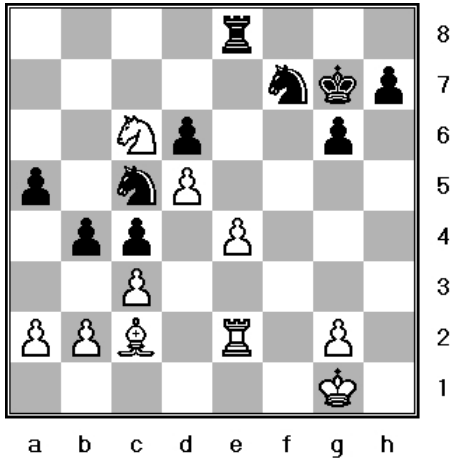
13. ...Nb7 14. f4 exf4 15. Bxf4 Nd7 16. Qh5 g6 17. Qh6 Bf6 18. Ng4 Bg7 19. Qh4 f6 20. Be3 Ne5 21. Nd2 Nc5 22. Nf3



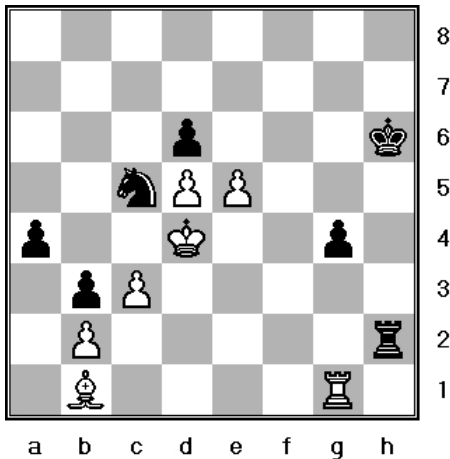
22. ...Bxg4 23. hxg4

23. Nxe5! (Rybka)

23. ...a5 24. Nd4 Qd7 25. g5 fxg5 26. Bxg5 b4 27. Rf1 Rfe8 28. Bf6 Qg4 29. Qxg4 Nxg4 30. Bxg7 Kxg7 31. Nb5 Rad8 32. Rae1 Ne5 33. Nd4 Rd7 34. Re2 Rf7 35. Rxf7+ Nxf7 36. Nc6



36. ...b3 37. axb3 cxb3 38. Bb1 a4 39. Kf2 Ne5 40. Nxe5 Rxe5 41. Ke3 h5 42. g3 g5 43. Rh2 Kg6 44. Kd4 h4 45. gxh4 g4 46. h5+ Kh6 47. Rh1 Rxh5 48. Rg1 Rh2 49. e5



49. ...Rxb2 50. exd6 Nb7 51. d7 a3 52. Be4 a2 53. Kc4 Rb1 54. Bxb1 a1/Q 55. Kxb3 Ne5+ 56. Kc2 Nxd7 57. Rxg4 Nf6 58. Rd4 Kg5 59. Rd1 Ne4 60. Rd4 Nd6 0-1

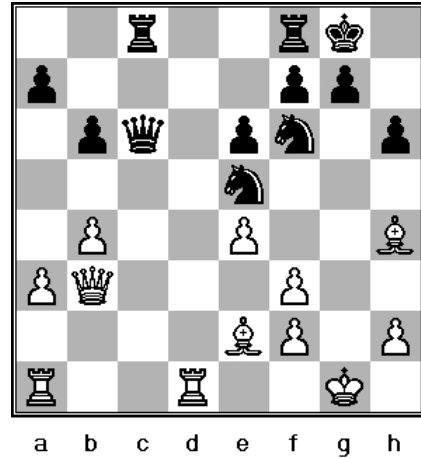
Luke Harmon-Vellotti was undefeated (1 win, 4 draws and a half-point bye).

Here is his win.

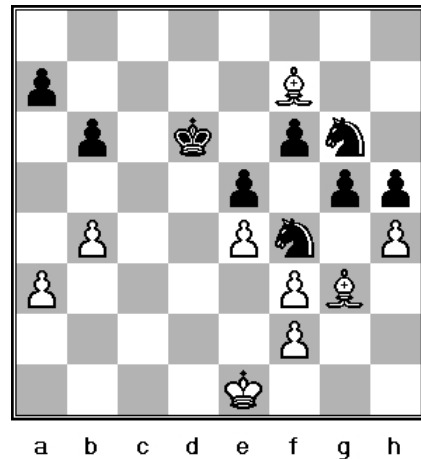
K. Kavutskiy – Luke Harmon-Vellotti
National Open, Round 5
Las Vegas, Nevada, June 13, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Nf3 b6 5. Qb3 c5 6. Bg5 Nc6 7. e3 0-0 8. a3 Bxc3+ 9. Qxc3 h6 10. Bh4 cxd4 11. Nxd4 Bb7 12. Nf3 Rc8 13. Be2 Nb8 14. 0-0 d5 15.

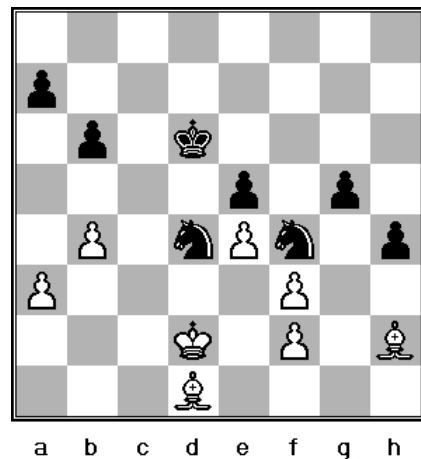
Rfd1 Nbd7 16. b4 Qe8 17. Qb3 dxc4 18. Bxc4 Bxf3 19. gxf3 Ne5 20. Be2 Qc6 21. e4



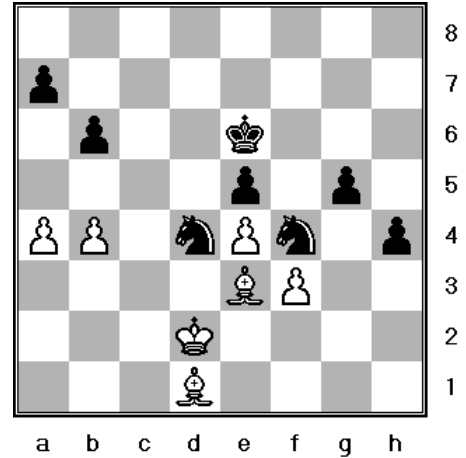
21. ...Qc2 22. Qa2 Nh5 23. Bg3 Ng6 24. Qxc2 Rxc2 25. Ba6 Nhf4 26. Rdc1 Rxc1+ 27. Rxc1 Rd8 28. Rc8 Rxc8 29. Bxc8 Kf8 30. Kf1 Ke7 31. Ke1 h5 32. h4 e5 33. Kf1 Kd6 34. Ba6 Nf8 35. Bc4 f6 36. Ke1 g5 37. Bf7 N8g6



38. hxg5 fxg5 39. Kd2 h4 40. Bh2 Nf8 41. Bb3 N8e6 42. Bd1 Nd4



43. Ke3 Nb5 44. a4 Nd4 45. Kd2 Nc6 46. Kc3 Nh3 47. Be2 Nd4 48. Kd2 Nxf2 49. Bg1 Nh3 50. Be3 Nf4 51. Bd1 Ke6



52. Kc3? h3

0-1

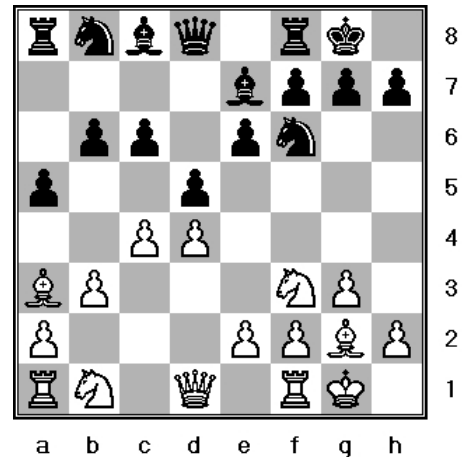
FM Slava Mikhailuk finished with wins in the final two rounds to make the prize list.

Slava Mikhailuk – Joseph Kruml

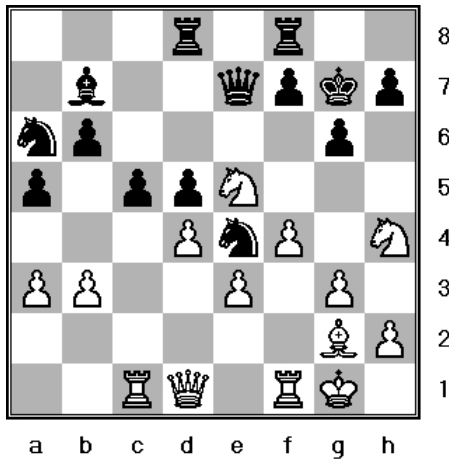
National Open, Round 5

Las Vegas, Nevada, June 13, 2010

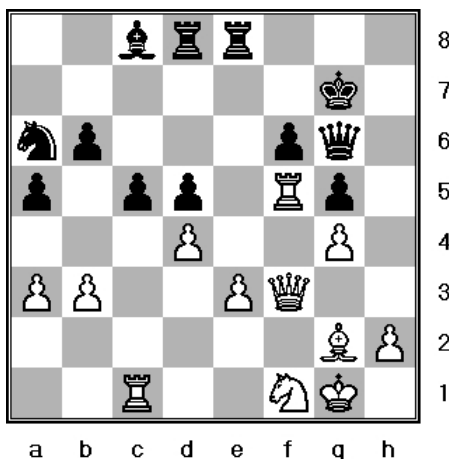
1. Nf3 d5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 e6 4. 0-0 Be7 5. d4 0-0 6. c4 c6 7. b3 b6 8. Ba3 a5



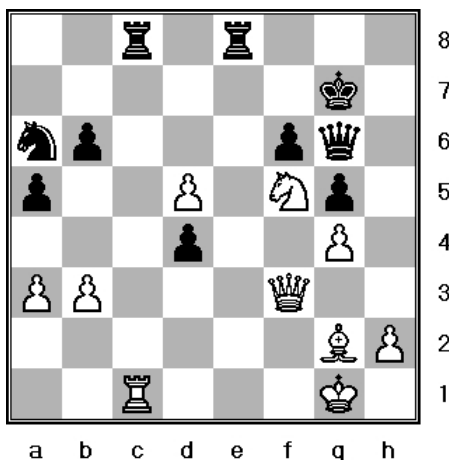
9. Bxe7 Qxe7 10. Nbd2 Bb7 11. Ne5 c5 12. cxd5 exd5 13. Ndf3 Na6 14. Rc1 Rac8 15. e3 Nb4 16. a3 Na6 17. Bh3 Rcd8 18. Nh4 g6 19. f4 Ne4 20. Bg2 Kg7



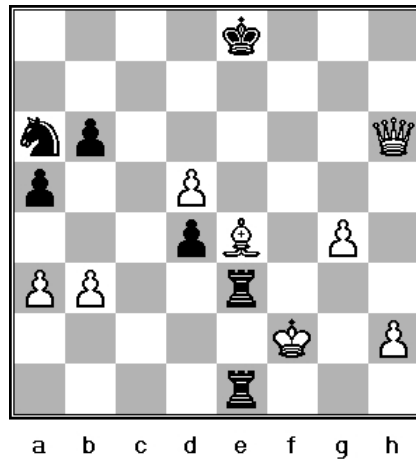
21. f5 Qg5 22. Rf4 f6 23. Nef3 Qh6 24. fxg6 hxg6 25. Nd2 Nd6 26. Nf1 g5 27. Nf5+ Nxf5 28. Rxf5 Qg6 29. g4 Rfe8 30. Qf3 Bc8



31. Rxd5 Bb7 32. e4 Bxd5 33. exd5 exd4 34. Ng3 Rc8 35. Nf5+



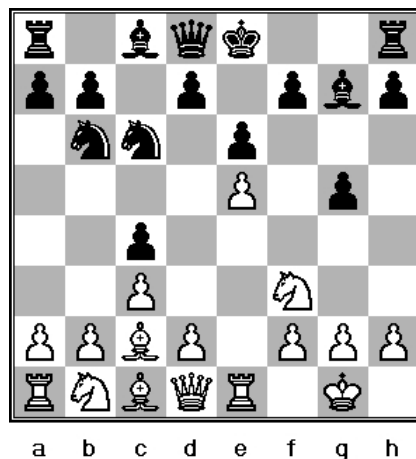
35. ...Qxf5 36. Qxf5 Rxc1+ 37. Kf2 Re3 38. Be4 Rce1 39. Qg6+ Kf8 40. Qxf6+ Kg8 41. Qxg5+ Kf8 42. Qh6+ Ke8



43. Bg6+ Kd8 44. Bd3 Nc7 45. Qxb6 Rd1 46. d6 1-0

C. Rubsamen – Slava Mikhailuk
National Open, Round 6
Las Vegas, Nevada, June 13, 2010

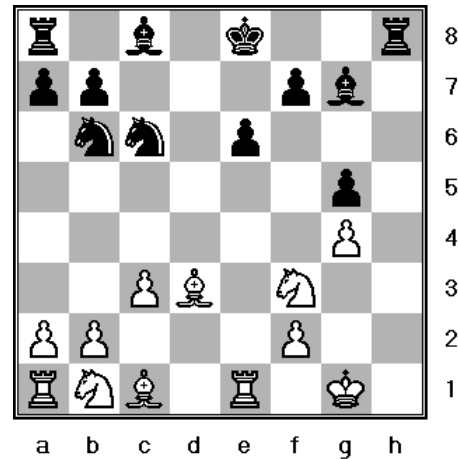
1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. Nf3 e6 5. Bc4 Nb6 6. Bb3 c4 7. Bc2 Nc6 8. 0-0 g5 9. Re1 Bg7



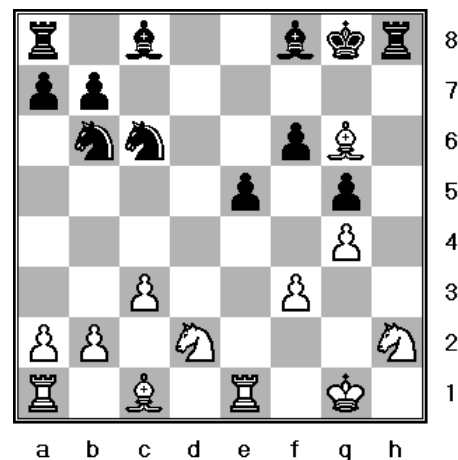
10. h3

A novelty. White played 10. d4 in the previous master-level games with this variation. After the continuation 10. ...cxd3 11. Bxd3 g4 12. Bg5 Qc7 13. Nd4 Nxe5 there are good chances for both sides.

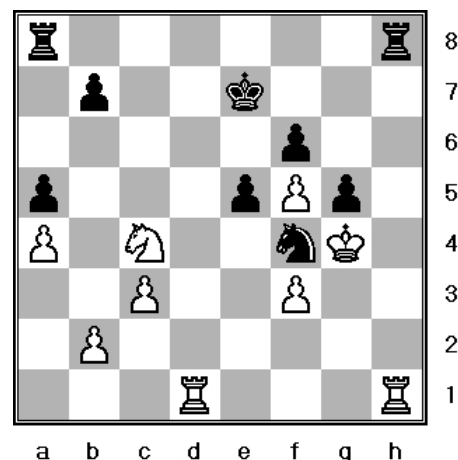
10. ...h5 11. g4 hxg4 12. hxg4 d6 13. exd6 Qxd6 14. d4 cxd3 15. Qxd3 Qxd3 16. Bxd3



16. ...e5 17. Nh2 f6 18. Bg6+ Kf8 19. Nd2 Kg8 20. f3 Bf8



21. Nh1 Nd5 22. Nb3 a5 23. a4 Be6 24. Bc2 Be7 25. Ng3 Bd8 26. Kg2 Bb6 27. Bd2 Kf7 28. Rh1 Be3 29. Nf5 Bxf5 30. Bxf5 Bxd2 31. Nxd2 Ne3+ 32. Kg3 Nxf5+ 33. gxf5 Ne7 34. Kg4 Nd5 35. Nc4 Ke7 36. Rad1 Nf4

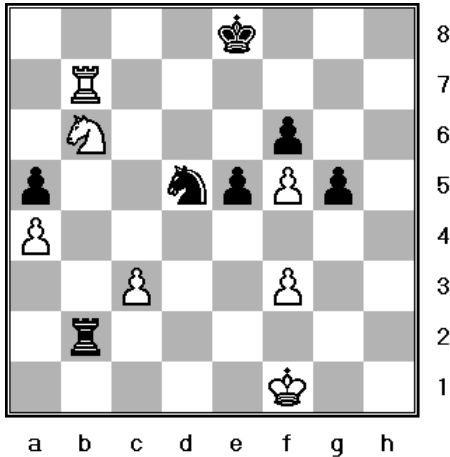


37. Nb6?

The losing move, according to Rybka.

Better was 37. Kg3 keeping the pressure on a5 and maintaining a presence on the open d- and h-files.

37. ...Rad8 38. Rxd8 Rxh1 39. Rd7+ Ke8 40. Kg3 Rg1+ 41. Kf2 Rg2+ 42. Kf1 Not 42. Ke3? Re2 mate!
42. ...Rxb2 43. Rxb7 Nd5

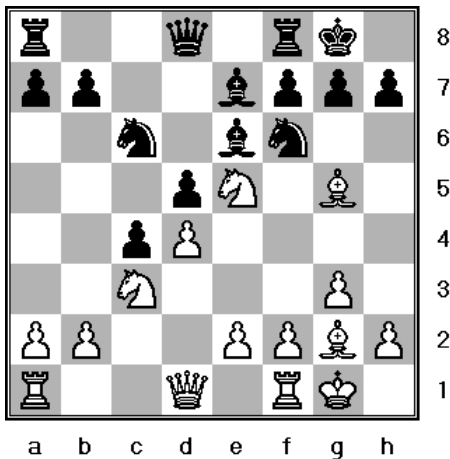


44. Nc4? Ne3+
0-1

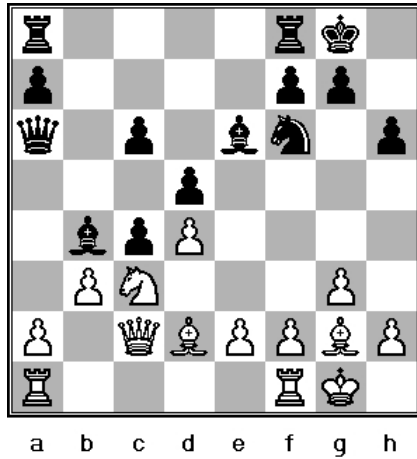
And finally, the last round contest that determined the 2010 National Open winner.

Timur Gareev – Varuzan Akobian
National Open, Round 6
Las Vegas, Nevada, June 13, 2010

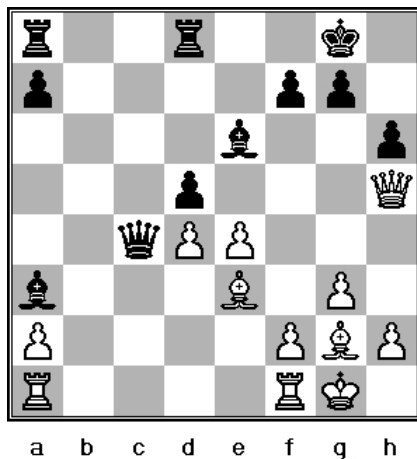
1. d4 e6 2. c4 d5 3. Nc3 c5 4. cxd5 exd5
5. Nf3 Nc6 6. g3 Nf6 7. Bg2 Be7 8. 0-0 0-0
9. Bg5 c4 10. Ne5 Be6



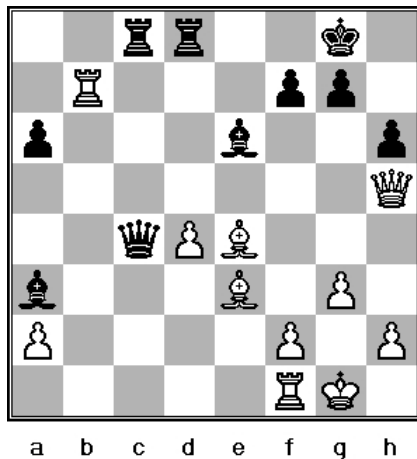
11. b3 h6 12. Bf4 Qa5 13. Bd2 Bb4 14. Nxc6 bxc6 15. Qc2 Qa6



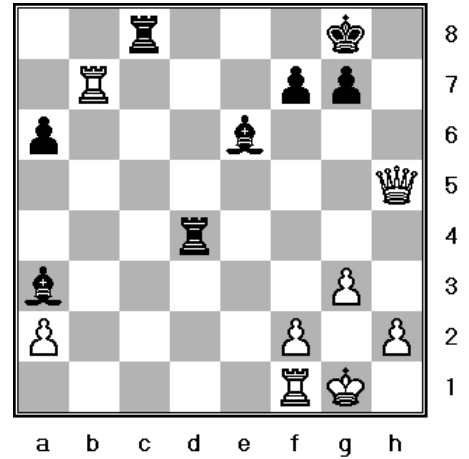
16. Nxd5 Nxd5 17. bxc4 Rfc8 18. cxd5 cxd5 19. Qd1 Ba3 20. e4 Rd8 21. Qh5 Qc4 22. Bc1 Bf8 23. Be3 Ba3 24. Bc1 Bf8 25. Be3 Ba3



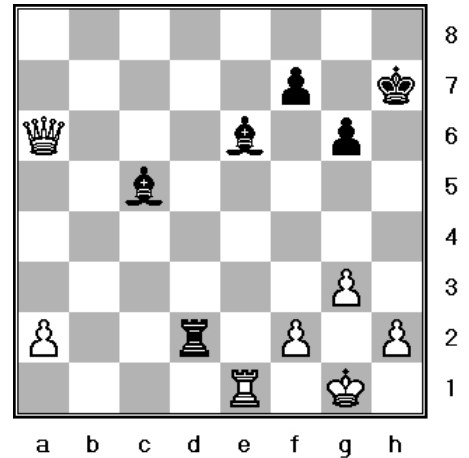
26. Rab1 Rac8 27. Rb7 dxe4 28. Bxe4 a6



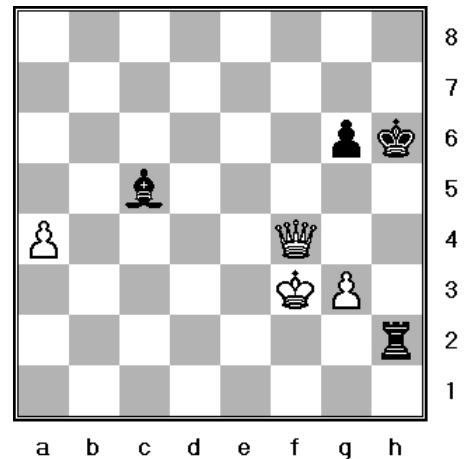
29. Bxh6 Qxd4 30. Bh7+ Kxh7 31. Be3+ Kg8 32. Bxd4 Rxd4



33. Qa5 Bc5 34. Rc7 Rxc7 35. Qxc7 Rc4 36. Qd8+ Kh7 37. Qd3+ g6 38. Re1 Rd4 39. Qxa6 Rd2



40. Rxe6 fxe6 41. Qxe6 Rxf2 42. Kh1 Rc2 43. a4 Rc1+ 44. Kg2 Rc2+ 45. Kf3 Rxh2 46. Qf7+ Kh6 47. Qf4+



1-0

Jefferson County Chess Day

Results in a Nine-All Tie

reported by Stephen Chase

Residents of the Olympic Peninsula are lucky to live in a beautiful part of Washington; there are no large metropolitan centers which means there are fewer traffic headaches, and there are plenty of recreational opportunities. There are downsides for sure: for area chess enthusiasts, finding suitable competition is difficult. A suitable opponent may live many miles away, so getting together means a sacrifice for one or both players.

Dennis McGuire of Port Townsend organized and generously donated a \$500 prize fund for the Port Townsend Open for 2009 and 2010. Most of the players were residents of East Jefferson County, but there were four players from Sequim and Port Angeles that made the commitment to drive to Port Townsend to participate.

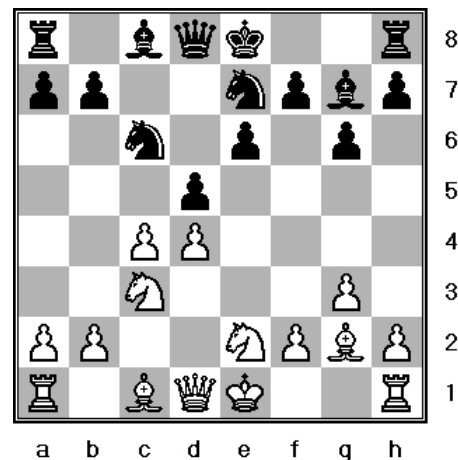
After the first open was completed, a team match was held in Sequim, and the

Clallam County team prevailed 9-5 over their Jefferson County rivals. After the 2010 open, another match was held which resulted in a similar score.

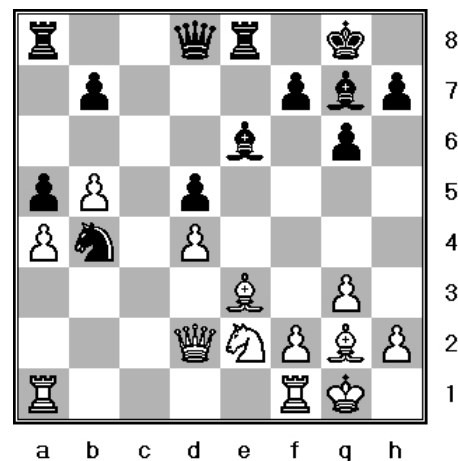
Sensing that there is a momentum for tournament competition, Stephen Chase organized a return match at the Jefferson County Library in Port Hadlock. The competition was a little more level, and the 18 players battled to a 9 – 9 tie. Seven players had never participated in a chess tournament before. Chase provided information concerning the Washington Chess Federation and distributed copies of *Northwest Chess* before the match began.

The Clallam County team was anchored by David Gladwin of Port Angeles and Aric Miller of Sequim and the Jefferson County team was anchored by Mike Murray of Port Townsend and Stephen Chase of Port Hadlock. Here are the team results:

This is too aggressive on Black's part, and he doesn't fare well after this move. *{Looks fairly equal to me. – editor}*



9. cxd5 Nxd5 10. Nxd5 exd5 11. Be3 0-0 12. Qd2 Re8 13. 0-0 Be6 14. b4 a6 15. a4 a5?! 16. b5 Nb4



Black's mule has seemingly reached a good outpost square, but it is attacking thin air. Aric grabs the initiative at once. *{Still balanced. – editor}*

17. Rac1 Rc8 18. Rxc8 Qxc8 19. Rc1 Qd7 20. Rc3 Rc8 21. Qc1 b6

Black would like to exchange off the heavy pieces. Since his queenside pawns are weak, he must keep them on the board. *{...Rc4 around here somewhere might be interesting. – editor}*

Jefferson County	Clallam County
1. Michael Murray ½, 1	David Gladwin ½, 0
2. Stephen Chase 0, 0	Aric Miller 1, 1
3. Ernst Rasmussen 1, 0	David Zaklan 0, 1
4. Paul Richmond 0, 1	Jack Anderson 1, 0
5. Cliff Marcus 0, 0	Mark Haggerty 1, 1
6. Daniel Harbin ½, 0	David Merrikin ½, 1
7. Michael McKee 1, 1	Alida Schulyer 0, 0
8. Imants Golts 1, 0	Jay Hennen 0, 1
9. Andrew Moon 1, 1	Nick Smaltz 0, 0

Dennis and Stephen have started the new U.S.C.F. affiliate, The Friends of Olympic Peninsula Chess, and there are plans for several tournaments to help area players establish a rating and offer tournament competition. Ernst Rasmussen of Port Townsend is a recognized expert on the Blackmar Diemar gambit, and the two area residents are planning to organize a thematic tournament with a \$1,000 prize fund in October when Ernst turns 85 years young.

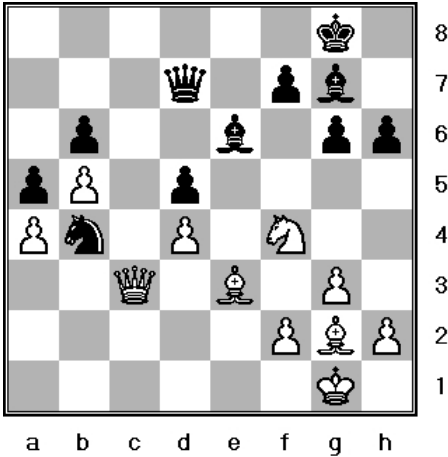
Aric Miller has proven to be a tough competitor, scoring 4.5-1.5 in both Port Townsend Opens, and scoring well as the second-board player in the team matches. He possesses good tactical instincts. Here is a fine win against his more seasoned opponent.

Aric Miller – Stephen Chase
Jefferson County Chess Day
Port Hadlock, WA, April 24, 2010

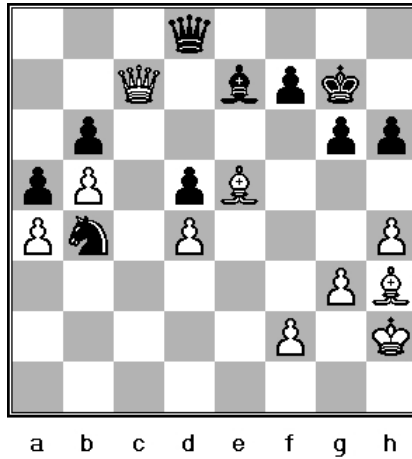
1. c4 c5 2. g3 Nc6 3. Bg2 g6 4. e3 Bg7 5. Ne2 e6 6. Nbc3 Nge7 7. d4 cxd4 8. exd4 d5

22. Nf4 Rxc3 23. Qxc3 h6

{23. ...Bf5, retaining the bishop-pair, appears to maintain complete equality. – editor}



24. h4 Bf8 25. Nxe6 Qxe6 26. Qc7 Kg7 27. Kh2 Be7 28. Bh3 Qd6 29. Bf4 Qd8 30. Be5+



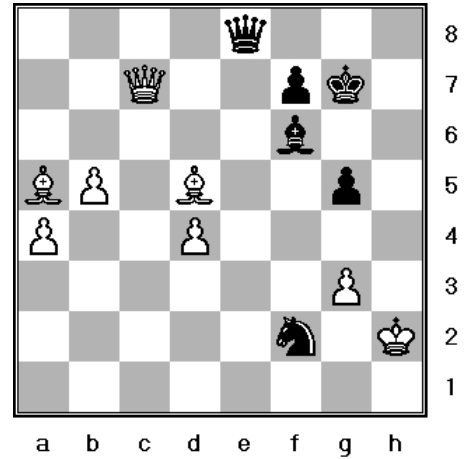
30. ...Kf8

{30. ...f6 is a tougher defense.}

31. Qc1! g5 32. Bc7 Qa8

White wins the queenside pawns and has a won game. Both players were short of time, but Miller continues to limit Black's options.

33. Bxb6 Kg7 34. Qc7 Bf6 35. hxg5 hxg5 36. Bxa5 Nd3 37. Be6 Qe8 38. Bxd5 Nxf2



39. Qxf7+ Qxf7 40. Bxf7 Kxf7

Aric has calculated well; Black is unable to stop the White passed pawns from promoting.

41. b6 Bxd4 42. b7 Ba7

{With 42. ...Be5, intending 43. Bb6 Nd3, Black has drawing chances. – editor}

43. Bb6 Bb8 44. a5 g4 45. a6 1-0



Ernst Rasmussen. Photo credit: Dennis McGuire (LastExitOnKearney.com)

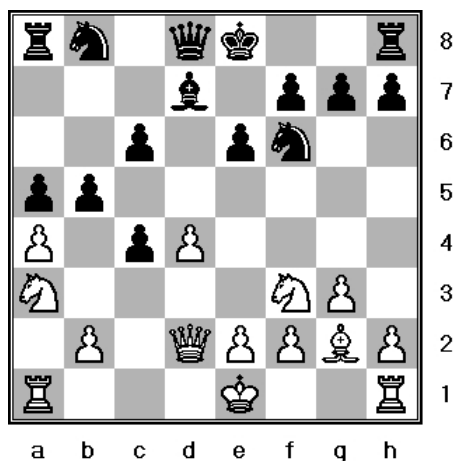
Anand Wins World Championship by Ralph Dubisch

Vishy Anand defeated Veselin Topalov 6.5-5.5 in a 12-game match played in Sofia, Bulgaria, to lay claim to a once-again unified World Chess Championship title.

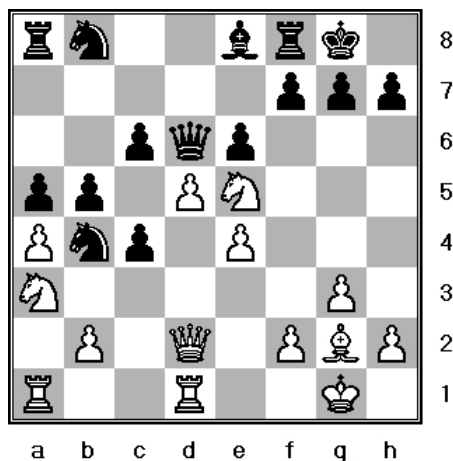
The following two wins by the World Champion seemed to be the critical games of the match.

**Viswanathan Anand – Veselin Topalov
World Championship Match, Game 4
Sofia, Bulgaria, April 28, 2010**

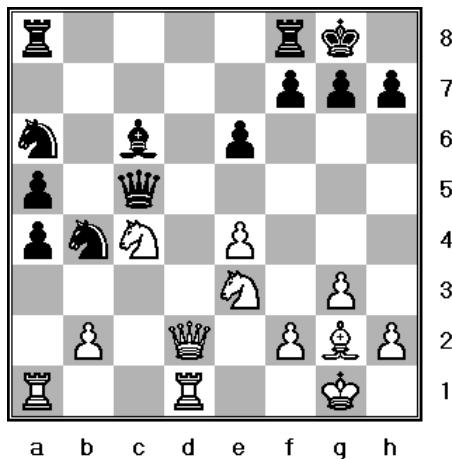
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. g3 dxc4
5. Bg2 Bb4+ 6. Bd2 a5 7. Qc2 Bxd2+ 8.
Qxd2 c6 9. a4 b5 10. Na3 Bd7



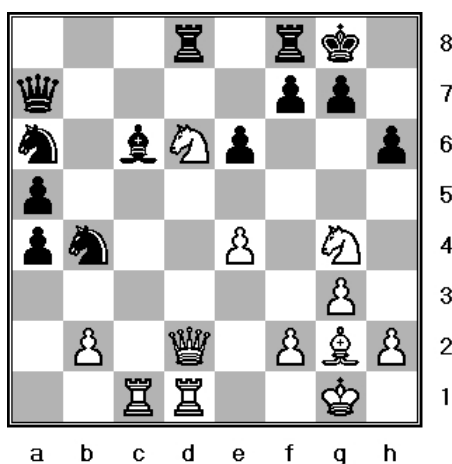
11. Ne5 Nd5 12. e4 Nb4 13. 0-0 0-0 14.
Rfd1 Be8 15. d5 Qd6



16. Ng4 Qc5 17. Ne3 N8a6 18. dxc6
bxa4 19. Naxc4 Bxc6

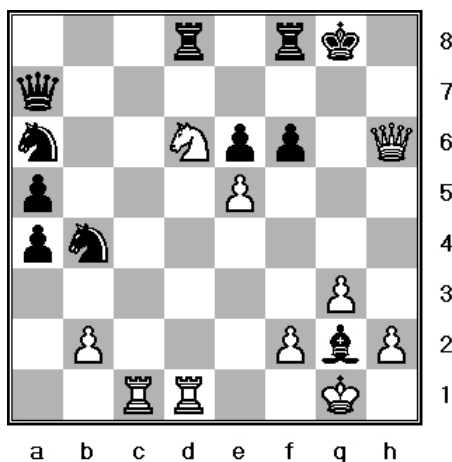


20. Rac1 h6 21. Nd6 Qa7 22. Ng4 Rad8
22. ...f6 23. e5 Bxg2 24. Kxg2.



23. Nxh6+! gxh6 24. Qxh6 f6
24. ...Qe7 25. e5 Bxg2 26. Rd4 Bf3 27.
Rcc4 f5 28. exf6 Rxf6 (28. ...Qh7 29. Qg5+
Kh8 30. Nf7+ Rxf7 (30. ...Qxf7 31. Rh4+
Bh5 32. Rxh5+ Qxh5 33. Qg7#) 31. Rxd8+)
29. Rg4+.

25. e5 Bxg2
25. ...Bd5 26. exf6 Rxd6 27. Rd4.



26. exf6 Rxd6 27. Rxd6 Be4 28. Rxe6
Nd3 29. Rc2 Qh7 30. f7+ Qxf7 31. Rxe4
Qf5 32. Re7

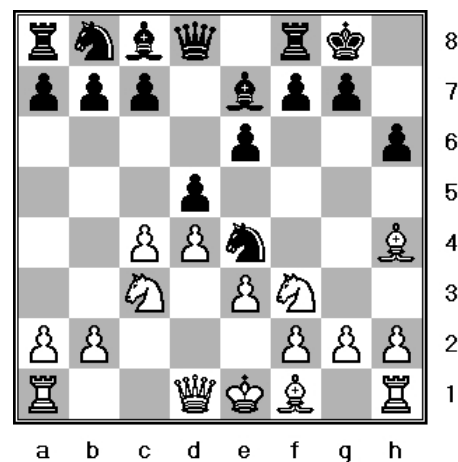
1-0

And this is the final game that decided the match.

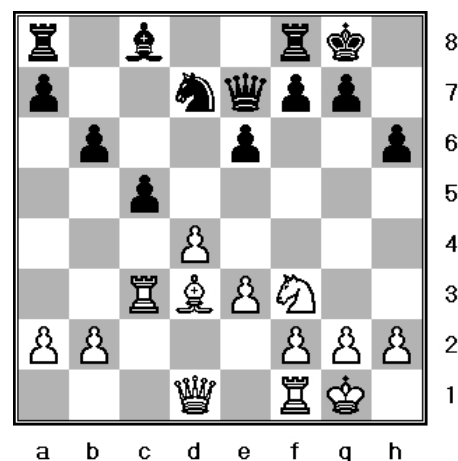
**Veselin Topalov – Viswanathan Anand
World Championship Match, Game 12
Sofia, Bulgaria, May 11, 2010**

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 Be7
5. Bg5 h6 6. Bh4 0-0 7. e3 Ne4

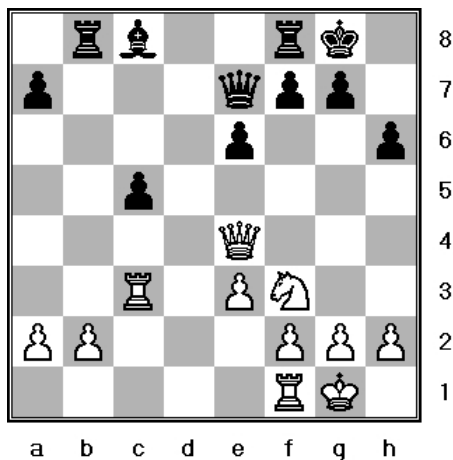
Lasker's exchanging maneuver. In general, the exchange of two pairs of minor pieces eases Black's defensive task in the Queen's Gambit Declined.



8. Bxe7 Qxe7 9. Rc1 c6 10. Be2 Nxc3
11. Rxc3 dxc4 12. Bxc4 Nd7 13. 0-0 b6 14.
Bd3 c5



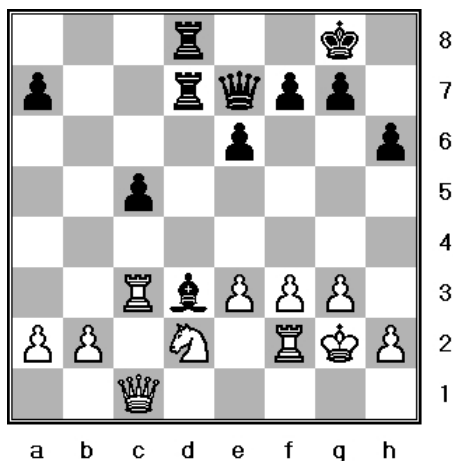
15. Be4 Rb8 16. Qc2 Nf6 17. dxc5 Nxe4
18. Qxe4 bxc5



19. Qc2

19. b3 Bb7 20. Qf4 may keep a tiny edge.

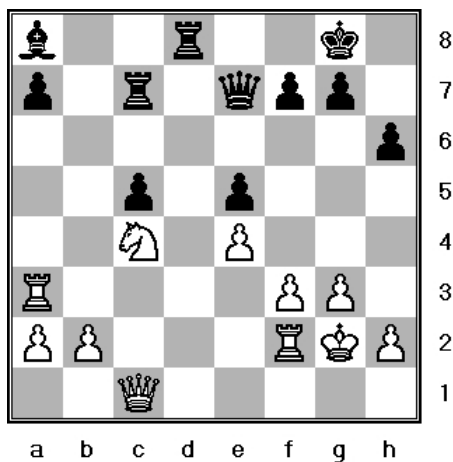
19. ...Bb7 20. Nd2 Rfd8 21. f3 Ba6 22. Rf2 Rd7 23. g3 Rbd8 24. Kg2 Bd3 25. Qc1



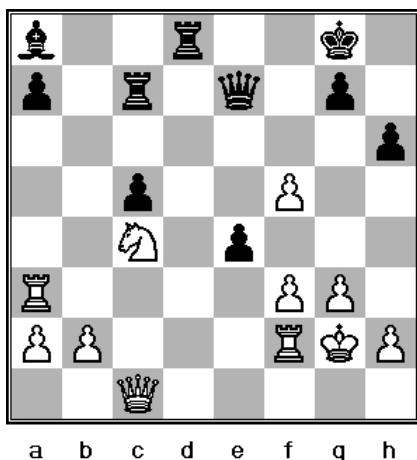
25. ...Ba6

A tacit draw offer in a fairly equal position. Black appears better coordinated and active, but has more weaknesses.

26. Ra3 Bb7 27. Nb3 Rc7 28. Na5 Ba8 29. Nc4 e5 30. e4



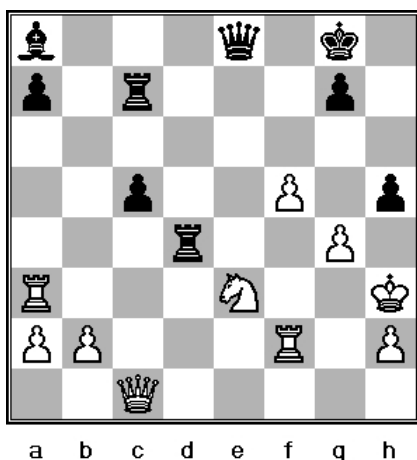
30. ...f5 31. exf5 e4



32. fxe4

Probably the losing move. 32. Ne3 exf3+ 33. Kg1 seems much safer for White.

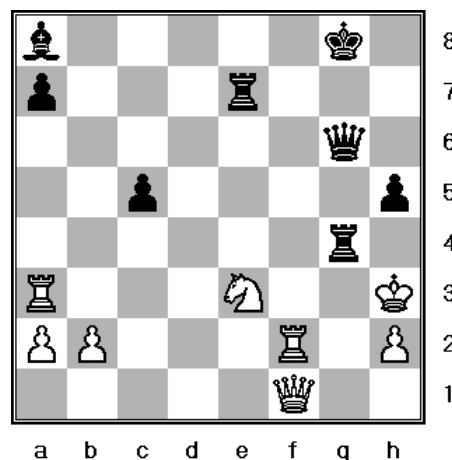
32. ...Qxe4+ 33. Kh3 Rd4 34. Ne3 Qe8 35. g4 h5



36. Kh4

36. Nc2 hxg4+ 37. Kg3 Qe5+ 38. Rf4 Re4 39. Kxg4 (39. Rd3 Rf7 40. Rd8+ Kh7 41. Rxa8 Rxf5) 39. ...g5! 40. fxg6 Rc6 41. Rxe4 Rxc6+ 42. Kf3 (42. Kh3 Qh5+ 43. Rh4 Bg2#) 42. ...Qxe4+ 43. Kf2 Rg2+ 44. Kf1 Qe2#.

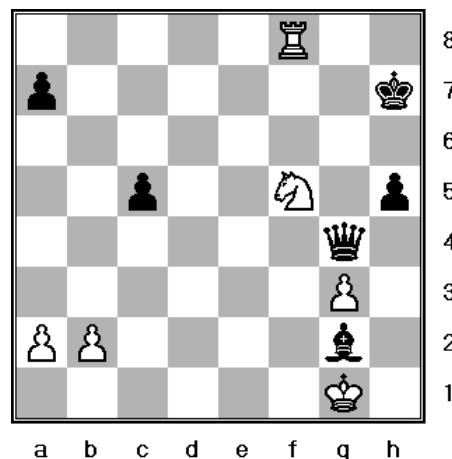
36. ...g5+ 37. fxg6 Qxc6 38. Qf1 Rxc6+ 39. Kh3 Re7



40. Rf8+

40. Qd1 Rg1 41. Qb3+ (41. Qd8+ Re8 42. Qd7 Bb7 43. Nd5 Qg4+ 44. Qxg4+ hxg4+ 45. Kh4 Bxd5 46. Rxa7) 41. ...Kh7 42. Qc2 Be4 43. Qe2 Re1 44. Qxe1 Bf5+ 45. Rxf5 Rxe3+ 46. Rxe3 Qg4#.

40. ...Kg7 41. Nf5+ Kh7 42. Rg3 Rxc3+ 43. hxg3 Qg4+ 44. Kh2 Re2+ 45. Kg1 Rg2+ 46. Qxg2 Bxc2



47. Kxc2

47. Rf7+ Kg6 48. Rg7+ Kxf5 49. Rxc4 hxg4 50. Kxc2 Ke4 leaves Black's king decisively dominating the board.

47. ...Qe2+ 48. Kh3 c4 49. a4 a5 50. Rf6 Kg8 51. Nh6+ Kg7 52. Rb6 Qe4 53. Kh2 Kh7 54. Rd6 Qe5 55. Nf7 Qxb2+ 56. Kh3 Qg7

0-1

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Anand	0	1	½	1	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	1	6 ½
Topalov	1	0	½	0	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	0	5 ½

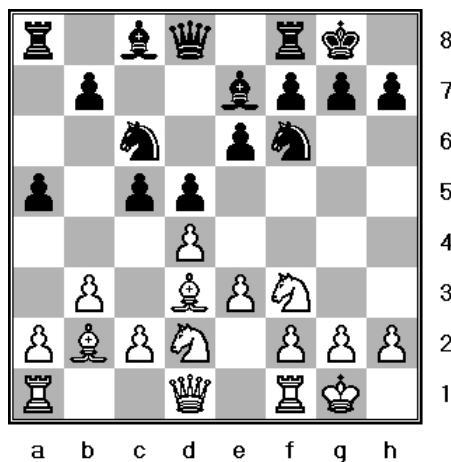
Oregon Invitational Championship by Charles Schulien



Charles Schulien – Carl Haessler
Oregon Invitational, Round 1
Portland, February 5, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. e3 c5 4. Bd3 Nc6
5. 0-0 d5 6. b3 Be7 7. Bb2 0-0 8. Nbd2
a5!?

Almost a novelty; Black takes the play away from familiar paths. Black usually prefers to develop the queen and bishop. 8. ...Qc7, or 8. ...b6.



9. c4

White answered the flank move with a blow to the center. In the only game which I could find, White tried the other thematic move, posting his knight: 9. Ne5 a4 10. a3 axb3 11. cxb3 Nxe5 12. dxe5 Nd7 13. Qh5 g6 14. Qh6 b6 15. f4 Re8 16. Rad1 Bf8 17. Qh3 Ba6 18. Bxa6 Rxa6 19. e4 d4 20. Qd3 Ra7 = White's advantage was gradually neutralized, and the game ended in a draw: 1/2-1/2 Van Buskirk,C (2311)-Peters,J (2424)/Los Angeles 2004.

9. ...Nb4 10. Be2 a4 11. a3

11. Ne5 a3 12. Bc3 is much weaker.

11. ...Nc6

11. ...Na6 12. Ne5 (White has a tactical opportunity 12. b4 cxb4 13. Qxa4 +=) 12. ...cxd4 13. exd4 axb3 14. Qxb3 (Haessler), and Black's a6 knight is dominated by White pawns. 14. ...Nb8! is a little better for White, but perhaps not more than that.

12. dxc5 axb3

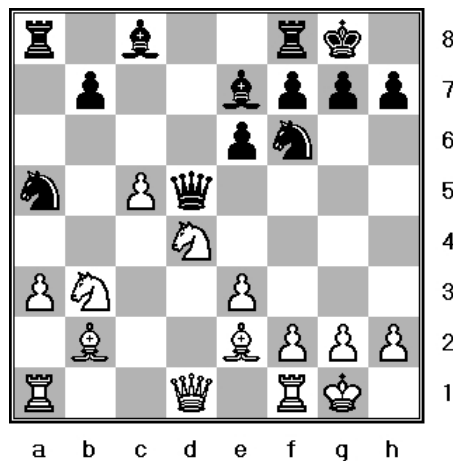
Of course not 12. ...Bxc5 13. b4 +/-.

13. Nxb3 Na5

13. ...dxc4 14. Bxc4 Na5 is more forceful.

14. cxd5 Qxd5 15. Nfd4

15. Nfd2 Rd8 16. Nxa5 Rxa5 17. Nb3 transposes to the game. This looks more accurate, bypassing Black's option on move fifteen.



15. ...Rd8

15. ...e5 is an interesting option. 16. Nxa5 exd4 17. Bf3 leads to very sharp and concrete play: 17. Nc4 dxe3 18. Nxe3 Qxc5 19. Rc1 Qg5 White's advantage is symbolic. 17. ...Qg5 (Instead, 17. ...Qxc5 18. Nb3 Qb5 19. Be2 Qg5 20. Nxd4 gives White real chances to push for a win.) 18. Nxb7 dxe3 19. Nd6 Qxc5 20. Bxa8 Ba6 21. Rc1 Qxd6 22. Qxd6 Bxd6 23. Bf3 Rb8 is a long computer-line. Black is OK here.

16. Nxa5 Rxa5 17. Nb3

Now was the time for 17. c6! bxc6 18. Bf3 but I did not see the need for complications at that moment.

17. ...Qg5!?

I expected something like 17. ...Ra8 18. Qxd5 Nxd5 then 19. a4 Bd7 20. Bb5 or 20. a5 with White's advantage: he's playing for only a win or a draw.

18. Qc2

18. Nxa5 Rxd1 19. Rfxd1 and now 19. ...Ne4 (19. ...h5) 20. Rac1 h5 White has material advantage. After 21. Nc4 his defenses are solid. I saw this position, evaluated correctly, but thought that Black's side was much easier to play.

18. ...Ra4

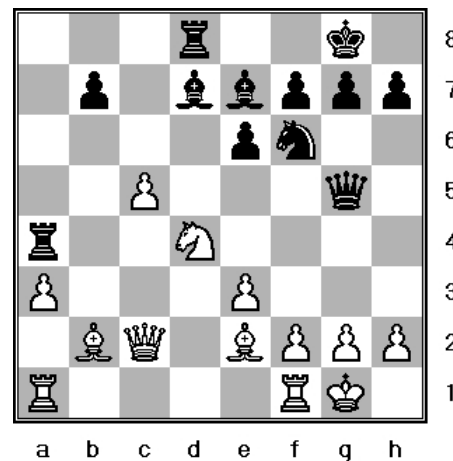
18. ...Ra8 looks safer, if less active.

19. Nd4

19. c6 Nd5 20. g3!?

19. ...Bd7!?

19. ...Ra5 is safer.



20. c6! Rxd4! 21. f4

White plays a very safe line, something of a 'bail out.' The main variation runs 21. Bxd4 Bxc6 22. g3 (not a move that I wanted to make) and now it is up to Black: (Weaker is 22. f3 e5 23. Bb6 Nd5! with good compensation.) 22. ...Ng4 (Black can even consider 22. ...Rxd4! 23. exd4 Qd5 24. f3 Qxd4+ 25. Kh1 with a very nice position, for 2 exchanges though.) 23. Bb6 Ra8 24. h4 Qh5 25. Qd1! +/-.

21. ...Rxf4 22. exf4 Qc5+ 23. Qxc5 Bxc5+ 24. Kh1

Drawn, on Black's offer.

24. ...Bxc6

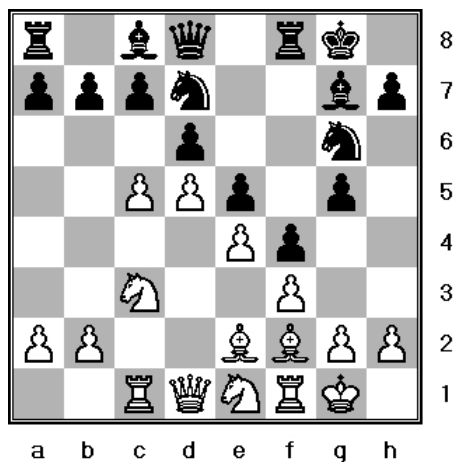
25. Rfd1 (25. Bxf6 gxf6 26. Bf3 Bxf3 27. Rxf3 b6 is White's best chance. Still, I would not bet on winning.) 25. ...Nd5 26. Bf3. Black has a pawn and a very solid position for the exchange.

1/2-1/2

**Nick Raptis – Corey Russell
Oregon Invitational, Round 1
Portland, February 6, 2010**

Notes by Schulien (CS) and Russell (CR).

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 0-0 5. e4 d6 6. Be2 e5 7. 0-0 Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9. Ne1 Nd7 10. Be3 f5 11. f3 f4 12. Bf2 g5 13. Rc1 Ng6 14. c5



CR: Nick & I had played this position before in a previous championship. Last time I tried something like ...Nf6, but after cxd6 cxd6 Nb5 both a7 and c7 points are threatened. I realized that if I played a time-out move I could safely stop Nb5 and buy myself some time since the d7 knight covers the b6 weakness.

14. ...a6

CS: After 14. ...Nf6 15. cxd6 cxd6 16. Nb5 White does very well. 14. ...Nxc5 15. b4 is promising for White, but Black has resources here too. Corey preferred to attack on the kingside.

15. cxd6

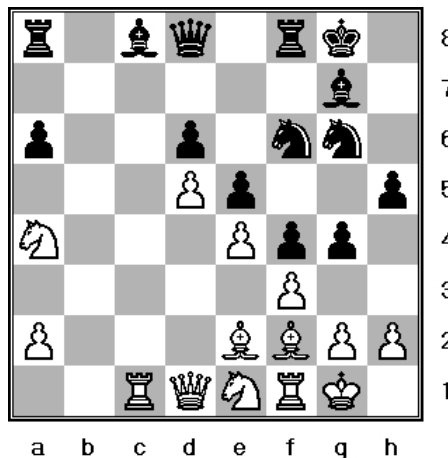
CS: Black's last move weakened his queenside somewhat. The following examples show how White can most directly profit, without pushing his queenside pawns: 15. Na4 h5 16. Qb3 Kh8 17. Nd3 Rg8 18. cxd6 cxd6 19. Nb6 Nxb6 20. Bxb6 Qf6 21. Nf2 Bh6 22. Rc7 Nf8 23. h3 Nd7 24. Ba5 +/- 1-0 Yermolinsky, A (2601)-Barcenilla, R (2495)/San Francisco 2000/EXT 2001 (51); 15. Nd3 Nf6 16. cxd6 cxd6 17. Na4 g4 18. Nb6 g3 19. Nxa8 Nh5 20. Rxc8 gxf2+ 21. Rxf2 Qxc8 22. Nb6 Qd8 23. Qb3 Bf6 24. Bd1 1-0 Berkvens, J (2459) -Bindrich, F (2334)/Dresden 2003/EXT 2005 (34)

15. ...cxd6 16. b4

CS: Unnecessary in this case. Another

example on the theme seen in the previous note: 16. Qb3 Rf7 17. Nd3 Bf8 18. Na4 b5 19. Nc3 g4 20. fxc4 Qg5 21. Ne1 Rg7 22. Nf3 Qxg4 23. Nd4 +/- 1-0 Marchand, F (2267)-Cazzaniga, W (2081)/Bratto 2004/CBM 101 ext (42)

16. ...h5 17. b5 Nf6 18. bxa6 bxa6 19. Na4 g4



CR: Time is critical in the King's Indian. If Black is even one move too slow it can make the difference between a win or a loss.

20. Nb6

CR: I "saw" 20. ... g3 here, but the sac is good for White. 20. ... g3? 21. Nxa8 gxf2+ 22. Rxf2 and White's king position is safe and by force the white knight can route to c7-e6 (Qc2 first if necessary) and White's material advantage will tell in the resulting position.

20. ...Rb8 21. Nxc8 Rxc8 22. Rxc8 Qxc8 23. Kh1

CS: 23. Qa4 g3 24. hxg3 fxg3 25. Bxg3 h4 26. Bf2 Nh5 27. Bxa6 Qd8 28. Be3 Ngf4 29. Kh2 Qg5 30. Qd7 Ng3 31. Rg1 Nxe4!

CR: Black was planning 23. ... g3 24. hxg3 fxg3 25. Bxg3 h4 26. Bf2 Nh5 with thematic play on the dark squares. White's next few moves are to dilute the power of such an idea.

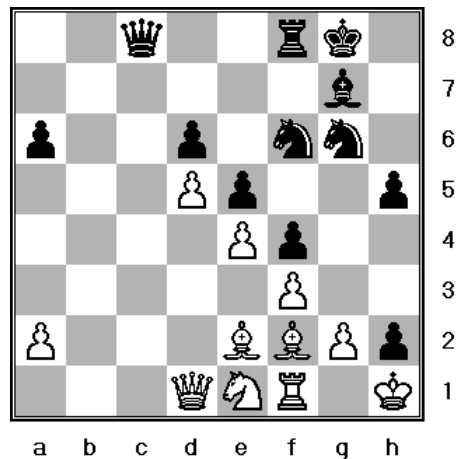
23. ...g3 24. Bg1 gxh2

CS: 24. ...h4.

25. Bf2

CS: 25. Kxh2 Qd8 26. Qb3 Nd7 (It is not mate: 26. ...Ng4+ 27. fxc4 Qh4+ 28. Qh3) 27. Bf2 Bf6 planning ...Bh4, with compensation.

CR: White is essentially using Black's own pawn as a "shield" from attack since it closes h-file access to the white king.



25. ...h4 26. Qa4

CR: I knew all along the a6 pawn was doomed. However I saw a way here to play energetically.

26. ...h3!?

CS: 26. ...Nh5

27. Qxa6 hxg2+ 28. Nxc2

CR: If instead 28. Kxg2 then 28. ...Qd8 followed by ...Nh5 and ...Qg5 with play.

28. ...Qxa6

CR: Trading queens when about to be down a pawn? And giving White a passed pawn to boot? Seems suicidal, but I saw something important about the resulting placement of the pieces.

29. Bxa6 Ra8 30. Bc4 Rc8

CR: ! The point of this is that if White doesn't cover c2 with Bb3 then the Black rook can infiltrate on the 7th rank, but if White does play Bb3 is blocks the b-file from use of his own rook. This in turn makes any ...Kf7 safer to play to free the first rank for activity on the king side.

31. Rc1

CR: Walks into a pin, but White believes that his a-pawn will force the pin to be broken before too long. Is he right?

31. ...Kf7

CR: This move indirectly protects the h2 pawn as 32. Kxh2 Rh8+ 33. Kg1 Nh5 with play.

32. a4

CS: At some point, Nick should snatch the h2 pawn. This is one possible time to do so. 32. Kxh2 Nh5 33. a4 Rh8 34. Kg1 Ng3 35. Bxg3 fxg3 36. Bf1 Ra8 37. Rc7+ Kf6 38. Bb5 +/-.

32. ...Nh5

CS: 32. ...Rh8.

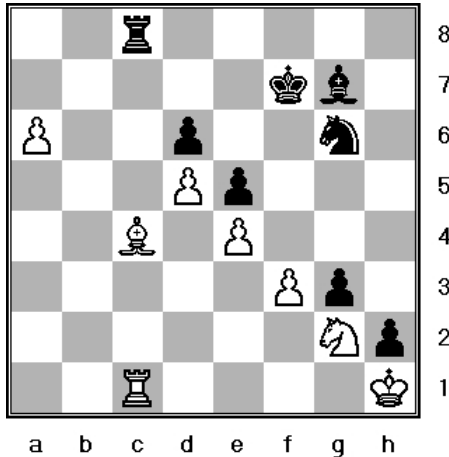
33. a5?

CS: 33. Kxh2.

33. ...Ng3+ 34. Bxg3

CR: Of course not 34. Kxh2?? Rh8+ 35. Kg1 Rh1 mate.

34. ...fxg3 35. a6



35. ...Nf4

CR: A surprisingly strong move. If White takes 36. Nxf4 exf4 then ... Bd4 will come next and Black is better. But if he doesn't take then ...Nd3 (or h3) to f2 check will force the win of the white rook.

CS: 35. ...Bh6 36. Ra1 Bd2 37. Bf1 (37. a7 Ra8 38. Bb5 Bc3 39. Ra6 Bd4 -/+).

36. Ne3 Nd3! 37. Ra1 Nf2+ 38. Kg2 h1=Q+

CS: 38. ...Rh8 39. Kxg3 h1=Q 40. Rxh1 Nxf1+ 41. Kg2 Bf6 42. Nf5 Bg5 43. Bb5 Bf4 44. Nxd6+ Kg6 45. a7 Rh2+ 46. Kg1 Ra2.

39. Rxh1 Nxf1 40. Kxh1 Rc5

CR: Some people have criticized this move after the game but I still think it's right for several reasons: 1) This move stops a7 since Ra5 would win the a-pawn immediately, but at the same time keeps the pressure on the white bishop 2) Now if the white knight comes to d6 with check it won't be forking the black rook 3) The move also stops Bb5 by White, since then Bc6-b7 could happen which would be quite problematic.

CS: 40. ...Bh6.

41. Kg2 Kg6

CR: If 42. Kxg3 Bh6 would win a piece or force a7 Ra5 which would win the problematic a-pawn. Would be still be difficult for Black to prove the win but chances would improve in that line.

CS: 41. ...Ke8.

42. Bf1

CS: 42. Bd3 Ra5 43. Kxg3 Ra3 44. Nc2.

42. ...Bh6 43. Nc4 Bf4

CR: !? Sets up a trap: 44. a7 Rc8 45. Nb6 Rh8 46. a8 (Q) Rh2+ 47. Kg1 Be3 mate!

44. Bd3 Rc7 45. Nxd6 Rc3

CS: Simpler is 45. ...Rh7 46. Nf5 Rh2+ 47. Kg1 Rd2 48. Bc4 Rd1+ 49. Kg2 Rd2+ with a draw.

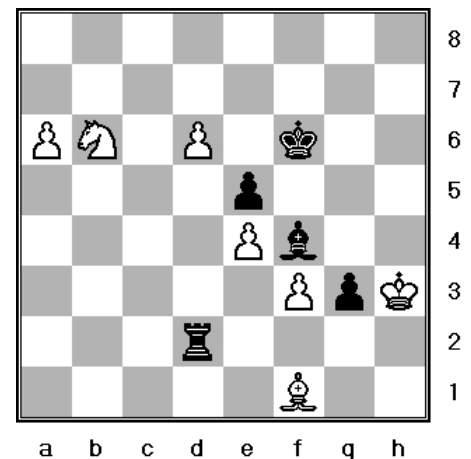
46. Nc4 Rc1 47. d6 Kf6?

CS: Here the notation was incorrect: 47. ...Kf7.

48. Nb6 Rd1 49. Bf1??

CS: 49. Nd5+ Kf7 (49. ...Ke6 50. a7 Rd2+ 51. Kg1 Rd1+ 52. Bf1) 50. d7 Rd2+ 51. Kg1 Rd1+ 52. Bf1 Bg5 53. Kg2 Bh4 54. Nb6 Ra1 55. Bc4+ Kg7 56. f4 exf4 57. e5 Bd8 58. Nc8.

49. ...Rd2+ 50. Kh3



CR: For several moves now was trying to find a way to get the black king and rook to mate but was unsuccessful. Breckenridge pointed out to me later that there was a way, and here was my chance: 50. ...Kg5! (threatening Rh2 mate) 51. Bg2 (forced) Rxd6 (threatening Rh6 mate!) I was looking at the rook coming to h8 and h2 at various times, but didn't consider a re-route on the 3rd rank. Now 52. Bh1 is forced and after 52. ...Rxb6 the white a-pawn will fall and it



Corey Russell. Photo credit: Corey Russell.

will be an easy win a rook up.

CS: 50. Kh1 Rh2+ 51. Kg1 Be3#) (50. Kg1 Be3+ 51. Kh1 Rh2#.

50. ...Rh2+?

CS: 50. ...Kg5! 51. Bg2 Rxd6.

51. Kg4 g2 52. Bxg2 Rxg2+ 53. Kh4

CR: White offered a draw at this point, and with perfect play it was. However since I had the draw in hand (perpetual check) I decided to go into a deep think and to see if there was any winning idea for me.

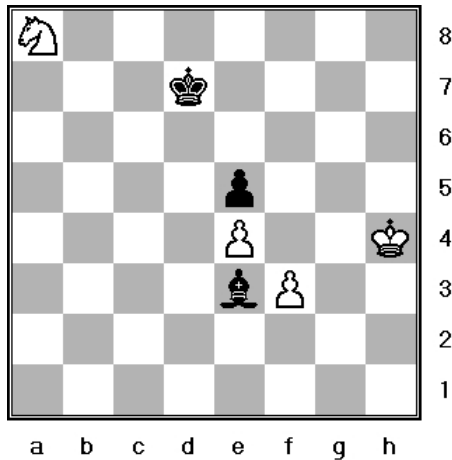
53. ...Ra2 54. d7

CR: With this move Nick's idea became clear to me. 54. ... Ke7 55. a7! and Black can't recapture due to the fork at c8. After enough thought I found an idea that MIGHT win, but Nick's time is very low at this point (about a minute left with no time delay), so I knew he might miss the drawing move.

54. ...Ke7 55. a7 Be3

CR: ! Best winning attempt! Objectively 56. Nd5+ Kxd7 57. Nxe3 Ke6 should probably be a draw seems like White can setup a fortress type setup. But Nick wanted that pawn to queen.

56. a8/Q Rxa8 57. Nxa8 Kxd7



58. Kg4

CR: ?? The losing move. The drawing move was 58. f4!! exf4 (...Bxf4 Nb6-d5) 59. Kg4 Kc6 60. e5 Kb7 61. e6 Bc5 (forced) 62. Kxf4 draw.

CS: 58. f4! exf4 (58. ...Bxf4 59. Nb6+) 59. Kg4 Kc6 60. e5 =.

58. ...Kc6

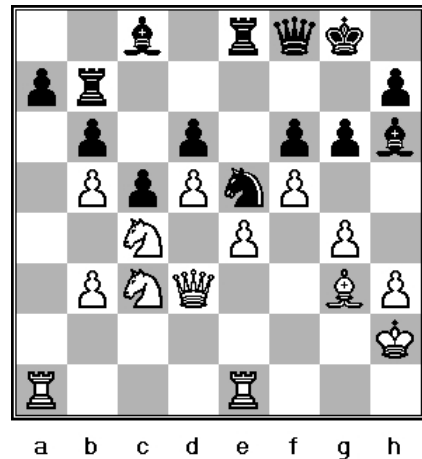
CR: Nick was about to play f4 here but he saw that 59. f4 Bxf4 and his knight is still trapped. The knight will fall and Black's win will be assured. Therefore Nick resigned

at this point.

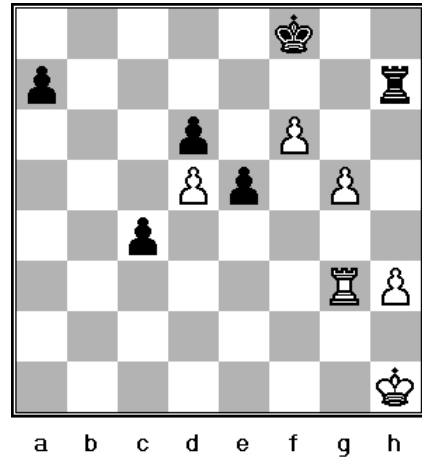
0-1

**John Chung – Radu Roua
Oregon Invitational, Round 1
Portland, February 6, 2010**

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c5 4. d5 d6 5. e4 exd5 6. cxd5 g6 7. Nf3 Bg7 8. Be2 0-0 9. 0-0 Na6 10. Nd2 Nc7 11. a4 b6 12. Re1 Re8 13. f4 Rb8 14. Bb5 Ng4 15. Nf3 Nxb5 16. axb5 Rb7 17. h3 Nh6 18. g4 f6 19. f5 Nf7 20. Bf4 Ng5 21. Kh2 Bf8 22. Nd2 Nf7 23. Nc4 Bh6 24. Bg3 Qe7 25. Qd3 Qf8 26. b3 Ne5



27. Bxe5 fxe5 28. Ne2 Bd7 29. Rf1 Bxb5 30. fxg6 Qg7 31. gxh7+ Qxh7 32. Rf5 Rf8 33. Rxf8+ Bxf8 34. Ng3 Bd7 35. Nf5 Bxf5 36. exf5 b5 37. Nd2 Qh6 38. g5 Qh4 39. Rg1 Qf4+ 40. Kh1 Rh7 41. Ne4 Kh8 42. Nf6 Rh4 43. Nd7 c4 44. bxc4 bxc4 45. Qg3 Kg8 46. f6 Qxg3 47. Rxxg3 Rh7 48. Nxf8 Kxf8



White has a huge advantage in this very sharp rook and pawn ending. He must push his passed pawns!

49. g6! Rc7 50. Rc3 e4 51. Kg2

So far, so good. White blocked one passed pawn, and activated his king to stop another. At the moment, Black can do nothing with White's pawns on f6 and g6, which also restrain his king.

51. ...Rc5 52. Kf2??

A blunder, walking into a forking check. 52. h4 for example, was fine. e3 53. Rxe3 Rxd5 54. g7+ (or the greedy 54. Re7 playing for mate.) 54. ...Kf7 55. Re7+ forces pawn promotion.

52. ...Rxd5 53. Rxc4 Rf5+ 54. Ke3 Rxf6 55. Kxe4 Rxxg6 56. Rc8+

56. Ra4 is fine - no need to help opponent activate his king.

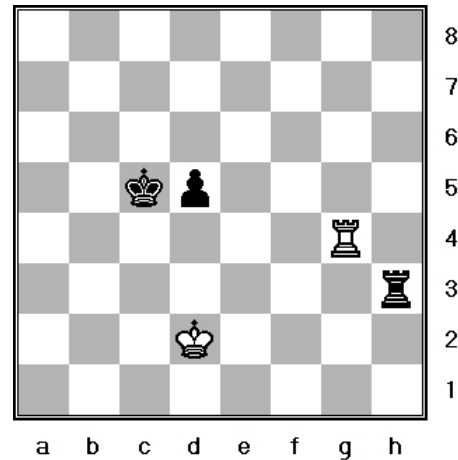
56. ...Ke7 57. Rc7+ Ke6 58. Rxa7 Rh6 59. Ra6?!

59. Ra5 Rxh3 60. Kd4 sets up a Philidor defense immediately, on the 5th rank. Rh4+ 61. Kd3 d5 62. Ra8!

59. ...Rh4+ 60. Ke3 Ke5 61. Ra8 Rxh3+ 62. Kd2 d5 63. Rg8

63. Ra4 sets up Philidor defense along the 4th rank.

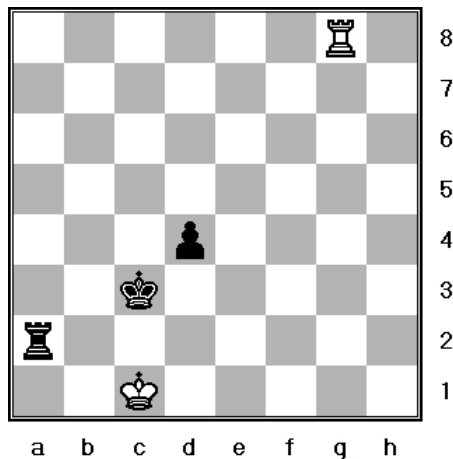
63. ...Kd4 64. Rg4+ Kc5



65. Rg8?!

65. Rf4 = White can just wait - this is part of the Philidor 'position.'

65. ...Kc4 66. Rg2? Ra3 67. Rg4+ d4 68. Rg8 Ra2+ 69. Kc1 Kc3



70. Rg3+??

Final blunder. 70. Rc8+ Kd3 and here, White can ‘pass.’ 71. Rc7 Rh2 72. Rd7 Rh1+ 73. Kb2 still with a drawn position. If Rd1, then 73. ...Ke3 74. Re7+. Black king moves are met by checks, and the king has no shelter other than in front of his pawn. 74. Rh7! prepares flank checks to reach the draw.

70. ...d3 71. Kb1 Rb2+ 72. Kc1 Rh2 73. Rg1 Ra2 74. Kb1 Rb2+ 75. Ka1 Rb8 0-1

**Corey Russell – Steve Breckenridge
Oregon Invitational, Round 2
Portland, February 6, 2010**

Notes by Corey Russell.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. d3

I knew 4. 0-0 was the theoretical move here. However I also knew that the line results in exchange of queens which I wasn’t particularly interested in, and that my opponent has looked at quite a few GM games lately so almost certainly knows the line better than I do. The text move leads to equality, but has sound positional basis and avoids wholesale exchanges which in turns creating more winning chances, which is what I was interested in.

4. ...d6 5. 0-0 Be7 6. c3 0-0 7. Nbd2 Nd7

Black prepares to build a strong point on e5, a common theme in Ruy Lopez positions.

8. d4

Of course I knew of common Ruy Lopez White themes of Re1, Nf1-e3 or g3, etc. but I thought that was inappropriate since the center is too fluid since Black can respond with ...f5 at any time. Note that after the text

8. ...f5 9. exf5 Rxf5 isn’t quite as tempting as the white KB can route to d3 with tempo, a great diagonal for it.

8. ...Bf6 9. Nb3

Taking on e5 would only help Black. This move keeps the tension which is what White should do if he wants to get an advantage.

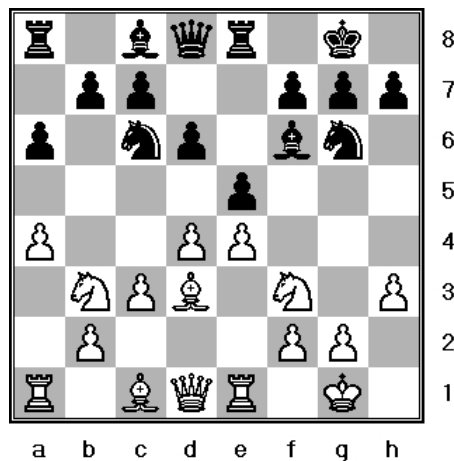
9. ...Re8 10. Re1 a6

I kept “wanting” Bxc6 to work here, but the deeper I looked it the more Black seemed fine. e.g., 11. Bxc6 bxc6 12. Na5 Nb8 (forced, oddly enough) 13. dxe5, and if Black was forced to trade queens with 13. ... dxe5 would think my chances are great. However, Black can instead play 13. ... Bxe5 14. Nxe5 Rxe5 and it just seemed like White was wasting his time here. The text move keeps pieces on which in turns increases the winning chances. While technically my opponent was the higher rated (2227 vs my 2200), I considered myself the more experienced with 21 years of tournament chess under my belt by this point.

11. Bd3 Nf8 12. h3

Preventing ...Bg4 was worth a tempo, since that would exchange his not so great bishop for my nice KN, weaken my d4 control, and free his position up some.

12. ...Ng6 13. a4



My opponent made a face when I made this move as if it didn’t make sense. However it does make sense with my follow-up moves.

13. ...Nh4 14. d5 Nxf3+ 15. Qxf3 Ne7 16. c4 b6

This does stop me from opening the c-file with c5, but now we get to see the point of my earlier a4 move.

17. a5

At a minimum, White can open the a-file and create potential targets on a6 & b6. If I hadn’t played a4 when I did (let’s say I played it after ...b6) then on my a4 he could slow me down quite a bit with ...a5.

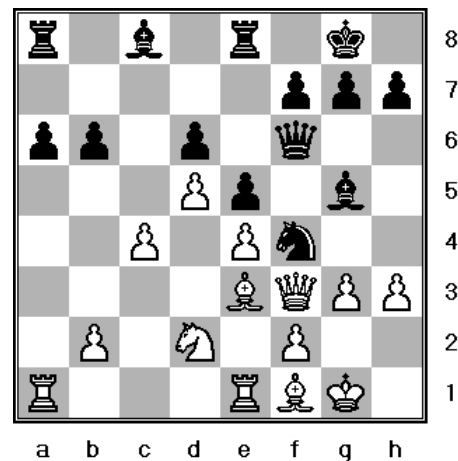
17. ...Ng6 18. Be3 Bg5 19. axb6 cxb6 20. Nd2

This unblocks my b-pawn and also he was my worse piece at b3, so time to route him somewhere more useful.

20. ...Nf4 21. Bf1 Qf6

I thought for a long time here, this seemed like a critical position. I eventually found a move that allowed me to move forward, that also had many ways for Black to go wrong.

22. g3!



22. ...Nxh3+?

This doesn’t lose, but I think White will get at least a plus from this. I think Black had to play 22. ... Ng6 23. Qd1 with a slight plus to White due to his better coordination of his pieces. Note that after Qd1 White can force the Black bishop to trade on e3 after a Nf3 which would put White’s rook on the 3rd rank which is quite useful.

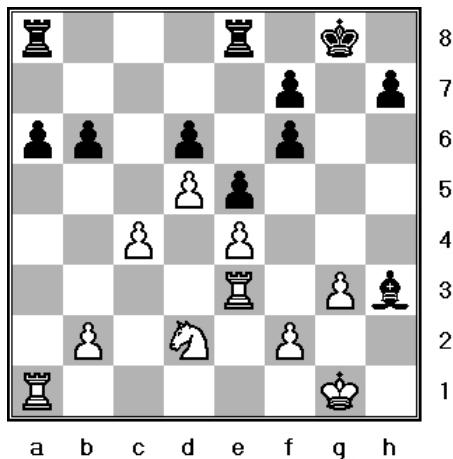
23. Bxh3 Bxe3??

A very natural move, but it loses. (diagram). White now has 5 different moves that are captures, which is the right one?

24. Qxf6

This wins. Note Black can’t try intermezzo 24. ... Bxf2+ 25. Qxf2.

24. ...gxf6 25. Rxe3 Bxh3



26. g4!

This move takes advantage of the fact the Black g-file is semi-open.

26. ...Bxg4 27. Rg3

This position is +/-.

27. ...h5 28. f3 f5 29. exf5 e4 30. fxc4 e3 31. gxh5+ Kf8

White has 2 moves here, Nf1 and Nf3. While I did see 32. Nf1 e2 33. Ne3 Re4 34. Re1 Ree8 35. Kf2, that seemed too passive. Also I said to myself, I have the extra piece I should attack with it!

32. Nf3 Re4 33. f6

This is the fastest way to win, setting up a host of problems for Black, which are unsolvable. For one White threatens simply ramming the h-pawn down the file since the back rook can't go to h4 and Black can't run his king to e8 as Rg8+ wins the a8 rook via a skewer.

33. ...e2 34. Re1

There was no reason not to blockade the enemy pawn and also if the enemy rook moves off can even capture and get into the game.

34. ...Rf4 35. Ng5

This defends the f5 pawn indirectly due to Nh7 check, and also Nh7 itself will force the Black king to give way and allow White's rooks decisive infiltration.

35. ...Rh4 36. Nh7+ Ke8 37. Rxe2+

White has mate in 2, so Black resigns here.

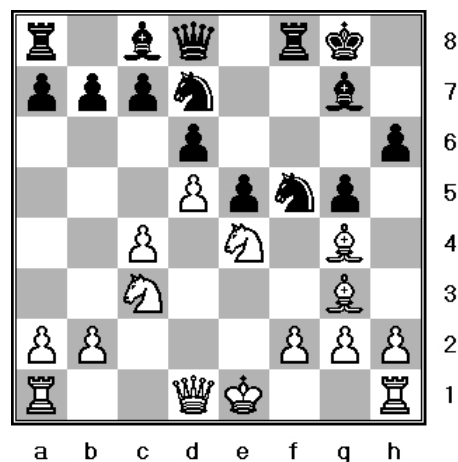
1-0

Nick Raptis – Mike Morris
Oregon Invitational, Round 3
Portland, February 7, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 0-0 6. Be2 e5 7. Be3 Ng4 8. Bg5 f6 9. Bh4 g5 10. Bg3 Nh6 11. d5 f5

Perhaps it is better for Black to first develop another piece to support his kingside advance: 11. ...Nd7 12. Nd2 f5 13. exf5 Nf6 14. Nde4 Nxe4 15. Nxe4 Bxf5 At least this avoids White's optimal Bg4 move. 16. Bd3 +/-.

12. exf5 Nxf5 13. Nd2 Nd7 14. Nde4 h6 15. Bg4 +/-



White's position is superior, dominating the light squares, with the secure knight on e4 and prospects of a queenside attack. Moreover, Black has a bad bishop on g7.

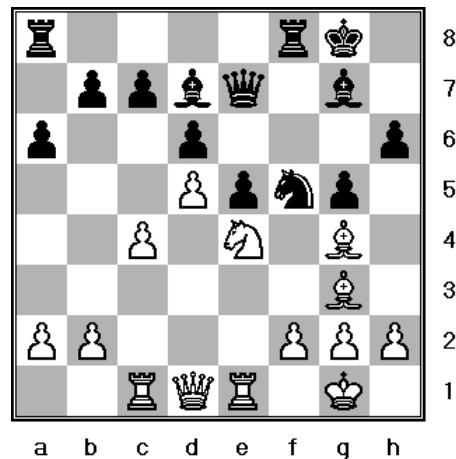
15. ...Nf6 16. Nxf6+ Qxf6 17. 0-0?

Natural move, but a tactical lapse. 17. Ne4 Qg6 18. Bh5 Qh7 19. f3 Nd4 20. Qd3 c6 21. 0-0-0 b5 22. cxb5 cxd5 23. Nxd6 e4 24. fxe4 dxe4 25. Qxe4 Qxe4 26. Nxe4 Bf5 27. Nd6 Bh7 28. Bg4 h5 29. Bxh5 Rac8+ 30. Nxc8 Rxc8+ 31. Kd2 Rc2+ 32. Ke3 Nf5+ 33. Kf3 Nd4+ 34. Rxd4 Bxd4 35. Re1 Rxb2 36. Be5 Rf2+ 37. Kg3 Bb6 38. Bf3 Rd2 39. Rd1 Rc2 40. Rd7 Be3 1-0 Neamtu,S (2400)-Martinovic,S (2415)/Timisoara 1977/EXT 2004.

17. ...a6

Both players missed the neat trick 17. ...Ne3! 18. fxe3 Qxf1+ 19. Qxf1 Rxf1+ 20. Rxf1 Bxg4 =.

18. Ne4 Qe7 19. Rc1 Bd7 20. Re1



20. ...Be8?

20. ...b6!? -Haessler, is a very reasonable suggestion to hold up White's c5 break.

21. c5

Or White could first exchange a pair of light pieces by 21. Bxf5 Rxf5 22. c5 +/-.

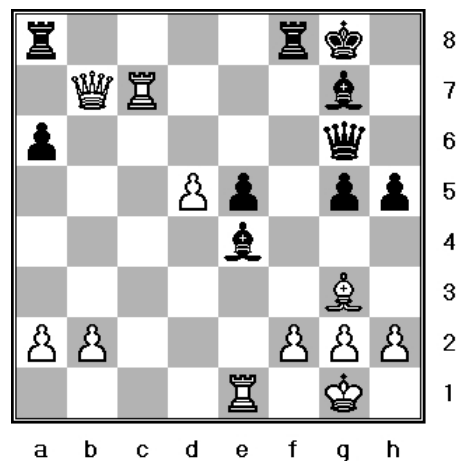
21. ...Bg6 22. Qb3 h5?!

22. ...Rab8 23. f3 +/-.

23. Bxf5 Bxf5 24. Qxb7 Bxe4 25. cxd6

25. Rxe4 h4 26. cxd6 Qxd6 27. Rxc7 Qf6 28. Rxc7+ Qxc7 29. Qxc7+ Kxc7 30. Bxe5+ +/- White has 3 good pawns and a bishop for the exchange.

25. ...Qxd6 26. Rxc7 Qg6



27. Rxe4 Qxe4?

27. ...h4 transposes to the previous note.

28. Rxc7+ Kh8 29. h4! gxh4 30. Bxh4 Rac8 31. Qe7 Rf4?

(31. ...Rfe8 32. Qg5 Qf4 33. Bg3! Rc1+ 34. Kh2 Qxc5 35. Rxc5 e4 36. d6 +/-)

32. Bf6 Rxf6 33. Qxf6

Very powerful performance by Mr. Raptis!

1-0

**Corey Russell – Robert Szendroi
Oregon Invitational, Round 3
Portland, February 7, 2010**

Notes by Corey Russell.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6

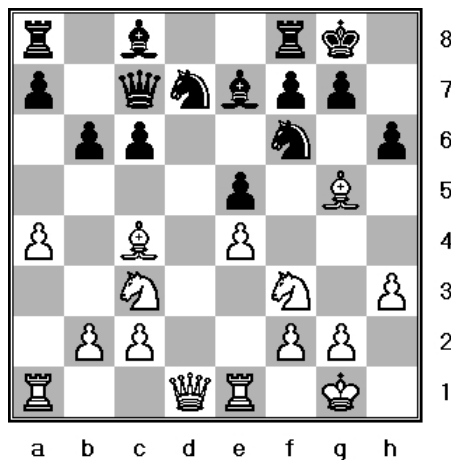
I knew my opponent might play the Philidor's, as he has played it against me in Medford with reasonable results, though never at serious time controls, so I happened to look up the line before the game.

3. d4 Nf6 4. Nc3 Nbd7 5. Bc4 Be7 6. 0-0 0-0 7. Re1 c6 8. a4 Qc7 9. h3 b6 10. dxe5 dxe5

While this is the book line, both Schullien and myself thought ...Nxe5 here was the more practical chance as it exchanges some pieces to help free up his position. If he did it was intending to light the fire with 11. Nxe5 dxe5 12. f4 exf4 13. e5 Nd7 14. Bxf4 or 12. ... Nd7 13. f5 denying Black e6 for either his bishop or knight. I evaluated the position as chances for both sides.

11. Bg5 h6

We are now out of the line I saw in NCO. Interestingly enough, my opponent played this move rather quickly, though was pretty slow for the rest of the game (100 min. for 14 moves). As I was analyzing this move over the board, I could see this was a mistake. It was both a target now, and also if I ever do Nf3-h4-f5, he can't ever play ...g6 since then the h6 pawn will fall.



12. Be3 Re8 13. Nh4 Bf8

The "automatic" move, but White's next move causes serious problems for Black. I think a better idea was 13. ...Nc5, with possible ideas of ...Ne6-d4.

14. Qf3

I evaluate this position as clear

advantage for White.

14. ...Nc5 15. Bxh6

I am sure my opponent saw this simple tactic (15. ... gxf6 16. Qxf6) and he had a tactic of his own, but I saw deeper into the resulting position. One idea I was looking at was if he sacrificed the pawn on purpose, e.g. 15. ... gxf6 16. Qxf6 Be6 17. Re3! Bxc4 18. Rg3+ Kh7 19. Qf5+ Kh8 20. Qg4 f6 (covers g8 mate) 21. Ng6+ Kh7 22. Qf5 Bg7 23. Nxe5+ Kh8 24. Nxc4, and after all this smoke clears, White is two pawns ahead.

15. ...Nfxe4

Definitely the correct knight capture. 15. ... Ncxe4?? 16. Rxe4 and Black would be embarrassed as he can't take back: 16. ... Nxe4 19. Nxe4 gxf6 20. Nf6+ nets the e8 rook for free and with tempo to boot.

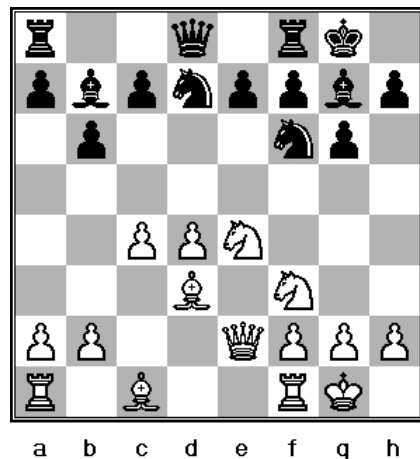
16. Nxe4 Nxe4 17. Qxe4 gxf6 18. Re3 Be6 19. Rg3+

The stiffest Black resistance is 19. ...Bg7 20. Bd3 (not 20. Bxe6 fxe6) 20. ... f6 21. Qh7+ Kf8 22. Ng6+ Kf7 23. Nxe5+ (Black can't take due to the resulting threat on g7) 23. ... Kf8 24. Ng6+ Kf7 25. Nf4 Rg8 26. Nh5 Kf8 27. Nxe7 Rxg7 28. Qxh6 and White is up 2 pawns, with sound positional basis to boot. This is lost, but Black knew he couldn't survive Rg3 and in addition he needed to make 21 moves in 10 minutes so he resigned here.

1-0

**Carl Haessler – Nick Raptis
Oregon Invitational, Round 4
Portland, February 7, 2010**

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e3 g6 4. Bd3 Bg7 5. 0-0 0-0 6. Nbd2 Nbd7 7. Qe2 b6 8. e4 dxe4 9. Nxe4 Bb7 10. c4?!



White has no time for this – the center is

about to open even further, and development is the watchword. 10. Re1; 10. Rd1; 10. c3 supports d4 and blocks the g7-bishop.

10. ...Re8 11. Bd2?

11. Bg5 discourages or at least allows exchanges after Black's pawn break.

11. ...Nxe4

Black can dispense with preliminary exchanges and immediately go for 11. ...e5! then 12. d5 Nxe4 13. Bxe4 f5 14. Bg5 Bf6 15. Bxf6 Qxf6 16. Bc2 e4 +/-.

12. Bxe4 Bxe4 13. Qxe4 e5 14. d5 f5

14. ...Nc5 15. Qc2 e4 16. Ne1 c6 further line opening is logical to exploit White's knight on e1. 17. dxc6 Rc8 =+.

15. Qc2 e4 16. Ne1 a5

Again Black could try 16. ...c6 17. dxc6 one logical line continues Ne5 18. Rd1 Qc7 19. Bf4 Qxc6 20. b3 b5 21. cxb5 Qxb5 =+ Black's advantage is small here, but the open nature of the position may be to his liking.

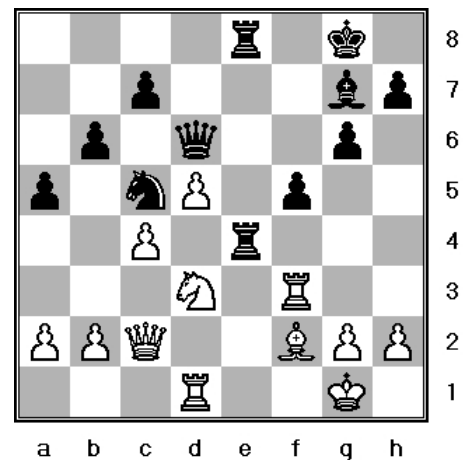
17. Rd1 Nc5 18. Be3

18. Bc3 looks simpler. If f4 then 19. Bxg7 Kxg7 20. Qc3+ Kg8 21. Nc2 is not too bad for White.

18. ...Qd6 19. f4?!

White prevents ...f4, but the opening of lines offers Black tactical opportunities.

19. ...exf3 20. Rxf3 Re4 21. Bf2 Rae8 22. Nd3



22. ...Re2

Here Black had better: 22. ...Bd4 23. Bxd4 Rxd4 24. Nf2 Qe5 +/-.

23. Rd2 Rxf2 24. Rxf2 Bd4 25. g3 Nxd3?

This exchange throws away Black's advantage. Probably both players considered 25. ...Ne4 26. Rde2 but now 26.



Radu Roua. Photo credit: Russell Miller.

...c6! is strong: 27. Kg2 (or 27. Qb3 cxd5 28. cxd5 Rd8) 27. ...Bxf2 28. Nxf2 cxd5 29. cxd5 Qxd5 with a clear extra pawn.

26. Qxd3 Re1+ 27. Kg2 Bxf2 28. Kxf2 = Re4 29. b3 Qc5+ 30. Kg2 Re3 31. Qf1 Qe7 32. Qf4 Re4 33. Qf2 Qe5 34. d6 cxd6 35. Qxb6 f4 36. Qd8+ Kg7 37. Qd7+ Kh6 38. Qh3+

1/2–1/2

**Radu Roua – Corey Russell
Oregon Invitational, Round 4
Portland, February 7, 2010**

Notes by Corey Russell.

1. b3!

First moves rarely get exclamation marks, but I think this deserves one. As it just happens I did extensive preparation for this year's state championship. Not so much preparing for opponents, but rather just preparing myself. I had a lot of practice against master strength computer opponents against both 1. d4 and 1. e4 but 1. b3 was NOT one I practiced against. At this point in the tourney I was 3-0, so this was a good way for Radu to get a solid position difficult to beat.

1. ...e6

I decided I would just go for a very solid position, to make it difficult to lose.

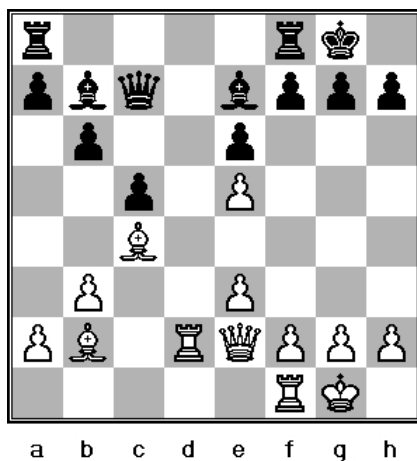
2. Bb2 Nf6 3. e3 d5 4. Nf3 Be7 5. d4 0-0 6. Nbd2 c5 7. Bd3 b6

This was a difficult decision for me to make. I wanted to play 7. ...Nc6, but I have no chance whatsoever of getting in e5. And d7 is a bad post for the bishop, which means b7 is where it should go. But the reason the move was hard was because this move makes the position more symmetrical, and hence more drawish.

8. Qe2 Bb7 9. 0-0 Nbd7 10. Ne5 Ne4

I didn't want to play 10. ...Nxe5?! right away because of this sample line: 10. ...Nxe5 11. dxe5 Ne4 12. Bxe4 dxe4 13. Nc4 Qc7 14. Qg4 Rd8 15. Nd6! and can't capture because of the hidden mate on g7 if I do. I WAS willing to capture e5 though if that d2 knight could be removed first, hence the text.

11. Rad1 Nxd2 12. Rxd2 Nxe5 13. dxe5 Qc7 14. c4 dxc4 15. Bxc4



This is the key position for Black — do I play for a win, or exchange to a draw? At the time couldn't see an idea to try to win this, even though I do have 3 to 2 on the queen side so if there was a way mobilizing them is the key. With the text they couldn't get mobilized hence the final result of draw. However, on the way home thought of this line: 15. ... a6 16. Rfd1 Qc8 17. Rd7 Re8 18. Qg4 Bc6 and White should retreat the rook.

19. Bxe6 is interesting though; 19. Bxe6 fxe6 20. Qxe6+ Kf8? 21. Qf5+ Kg8 22. e6 and the threats on f7 and g7 are too much e.g. 22. ... Rf8 23. Qg5!! hits both e7 and g7 but if captures 23. ... Bxg5 24. Rxg7+ Kh8 25. Rxg5+ Rf6 26. Bxf6 mate! However Black has much better to improve in this line: 20. ... Kh8! 21. Rxe7 Qxe6 and Black will be up too much material. Back to move 15, a way that is guaranteed to mobilize the pawns is a6, Qc8 (to defend a6 from White's queen & bishop battery) Bc6 (to both support b5 advance and prevent infiltration of white's rooks) Qb7 (to both guard e7 and force b5) and of course b5 and Black can try to win.

{Corey later used computer simulations to determine that the position is likely drawn anyway. But the thought process involved in planning is interesting. – editor}

15. ...Rad8 16. Rfd1 Rxd2 17. Rxd2 Rd8 18. Rxd8+ Qxd8 19. Bc3 Qd7 20. e4 Bc6 21. a4 Qb7

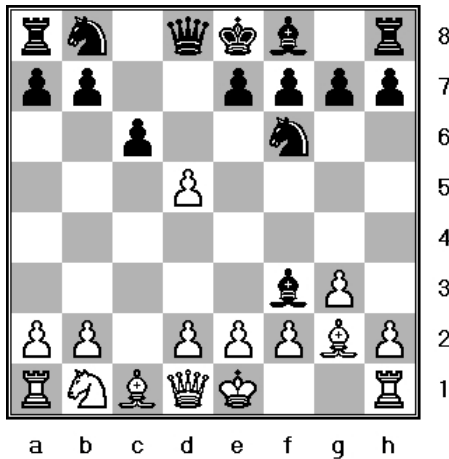
I offered a draw here with a subtle positional trap: 22. Bd3? c4! and if 23. Bxc4 Bxe4 and both Black's bishops are mobilized or 24. bxc4 Bxa4 and the Black's queenside pawns can definitely be mobilized. So if he tried to play to win he could miss this. However White thought the position was level as well if he played f3 so agreed to the draw quickly.

1/2–1/2

**Nick Raptis – Charles Schulien
Oregon Invitational, Round 5
Portland, February 13, 2010**

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 d5 3. Bg2 c6 4. c4 Bg4 5. cxd5 Bxf3!

After the exchange of bishop for knight, Black creates a very solid symmetrical pawn structure. It is quite useful to prevent Ne5 in that setting. After getting nothing from our previous game, I was surprised that Nick would try this again.



6. Bxf3 cxd5 7. Nc3 e6 8. d4

8. 0-0 Nc6 9. d3 This is probably better given the bishop pair, but Black can gain space in the center. 9. ...Be7 10. Bf4 0-0 11. Rc1 Rc8 1/2-1/2 Raptis,N-Schulien,C (2385)/Portland/Eugene 2002/ (19).

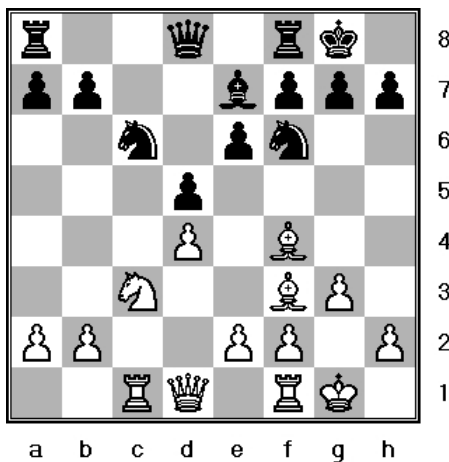
8. ...Nc6 9. 0-0 Be7 10. Bf4!?

10. a3 or 10. Qd3 are safer.

10. ...0-0

10. ...Qb6 11. e3 Qxb2 12. Qd3 Qa3 13. Rab1 offers some compensation for the pawn - but Black could try this out. I preferred to castle first.

11. Rc1



11. ...Qb6!

He double-dared me, so I had to go for the pawn.

12. Na4

(In hindsight, 12. e3 Qxb2 13. Rc2 may have been the the better course, sacrificing the b2 pawn.)

12. ...Qxd4 13. Qxd4 Nxd4 14. Rc7 b5!

Probably White underestimated or

missed this defensive resource.

15. Rxe7 bxa4 16. Rc1 Nb5!?

16. ...Nxf3+ 17. exf3 Rfe8 18. Rxe8+ Nxe8 is rather safer for Black. 19. Rc6 a5.

17. Rb7

(17. Rc6 Rfe8 (17. ...Rfc8 18. Ra6) 18. Rb7 a6 19. Be5 Rec8 20. Rcb6 Black has a much more difficult time proving any advantage here.)

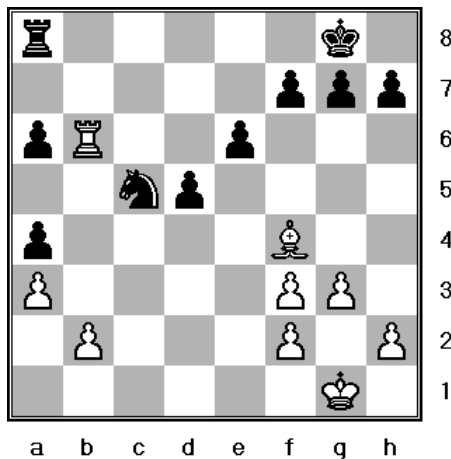
17. ...a6 18. Rc6 Rfc8 19. Rxc8+?!

Exchanges favor Black.

19. ...Rxc8 20. Rb6 Ra8 =+ 21. a3?

White fixed the Black pawn on a4, but weakens more squares. Later on, Black is quite pleased to see more pawns on board! 21. Rb7 a3 22. bxa3 Nxa3 and only Black can win, but White has better chances to hold the position than in the game.

21. ...Nd7 22. Rc6 Nd4 23. Rd6 Nxf3+ 24. exf3 Nc5 25. Rb6



25. ...Nd3

25. ...e5! was tactically possible: 26. Bxe5? Nd7.

26. Bb8

26. Kf1!? Nxf4 attractive exchange. (or 26. ...h5 27. Be3 Ne5 28. f4 Nc4 29. Rb4) 27. gxf4 g6! 28. Rb4 is in fact a better chance for White to draw.

26. ...e5 27. Kf1 f6 -/+



Charles Schulien. Photo credit: Corey Russell.

Black gained space and established his central advantage.

28. Ke2 Nc5 29. Bd6 Nb3 30. Kd3 a5 31. f4?

31. Rb5 Kf7 32. Bb8 Nd4 33. Rb7+ Ke6 34. f4 Nc6 35. Bc7 Re8 is similar to the game, but White is somewhat better off after exchanging pawns here: 36. fxe5 fxe5 37. Bb6 -/+ Re7 38. Rxe7+ Kxe7.

31. ...e4+ 32. Ke3 Re8 -+

Black's advantage is now decisive: he can push the pawns forward.

33. f5 d4+ 34. Ke2 Rc8 35. Rb8 Rxb8 36. Bxb8 g6 37. g4 gxf5 38. gxf5 Kg7 39. Bf4 Nc5

39. ...Kf7.

40. Bd2 Nb3 41. Bf4 Kf7

After time control, Black finds a winning plan. White's bishop cannot guard all of the key squares at once.

42. Bd6 Ke8 43. h3 Kd7 44. Bf8

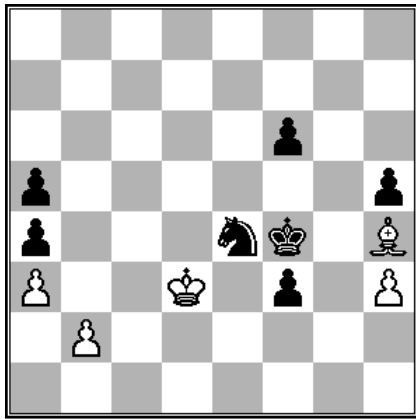
44. Bf4 Kc6 is similar. 45. Bg3 Kd5 46. Bf4 h5 47. Bg3 d3+ 48. Ke3 Nd4!

44. ...d3+ 45. Ke3 Nd4! 46. Kd2 Nxf5 47. f3 exf3 48. Kxd3 Kc6 49. Kd2 Kd5 50. Kd3

50. Ke1 Ke4 51. Kf2 White could stop the passed pawn for a moment only. Ne3 52. Bd6 Nd1+ 53. Kf1 Nxb2 54. Bf8 Nd3

with an easy win.

50. ...Kc5 51. Bc5 Kf4 52. Bf2 Nd6 53. Be1 Ne4 54. Bh4 h5



a b c d e f g h

Zugzwang.

55. Kc4 Ng3

0-1

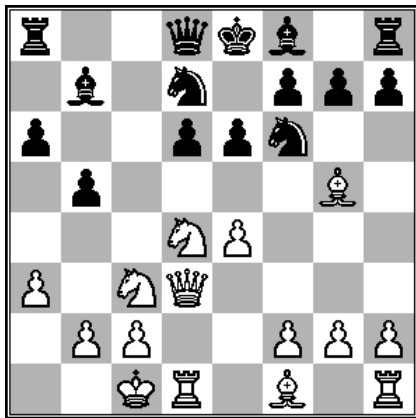
Corey Russell – Mike Morris
Oregon Invitational, Round 5
Portland, February 13, 2010

Notes by Corey Russell.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. Qd3

An obscure line, but I usually know more about it than my opponent. I have a good record with it, but with proper play it's equality. Fortunately though, the game doesn't end just because one side is equal.

7. ...b5 8. a3 Bb7 9. 0-0-0 Nbd7



a b c d e f g h

10. f4

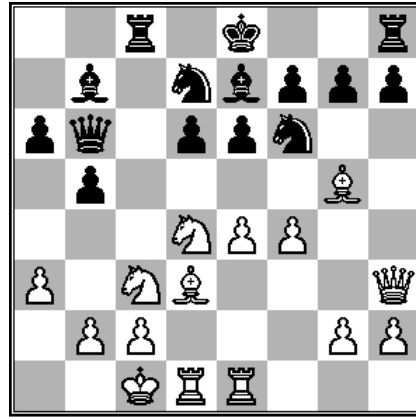
With this move I was intending to offer a pawn. 10. ... Nc5 11. Qh3!? Nxe4 12. Nxe4 Bxe4 13. Bd3 Bxd3 14. Rxd3 followed by Re1. I would have much better development,

but not saying a computer couldn't find a way to convert it. Mike however is an attacking player so apparently this line wasn't appealing to him.

10. ...Qc7 11. Qh3

This indirectly defends the e-pawn. 11. ... Nxe4? 12. Nxe6! with an attack, since Black can't take that knight or there would be a mate at e7.

11. ...Be7 12. Bd3 Rc8 13. Rhe1 Qb6

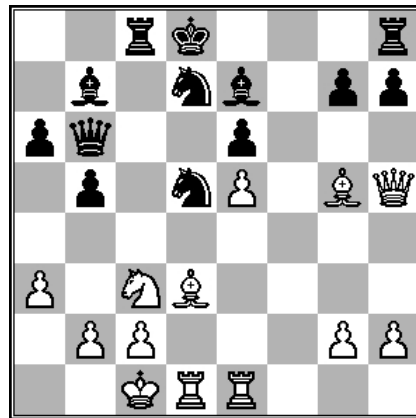


a b c d e f g h

With this move, Black prepares ...Rxc3 with a lot of play for him. While Nde2 would stop the threat, it also stops my own play since I could no longer play e5 without the rook support. I found a way to attack and it looked promising. A computer might be able to refute it, but I am not playing a computer.

14. Nxe6 fxe6 15. e5 dxe5 16. fxe5 Nd5 17. Qh5+ Kd8

Of course not 17. ... g6? 18. Bxg6+ and Black can't take back since the h-pawn is pinned.



a b c d e f g h

18. Nxd5?

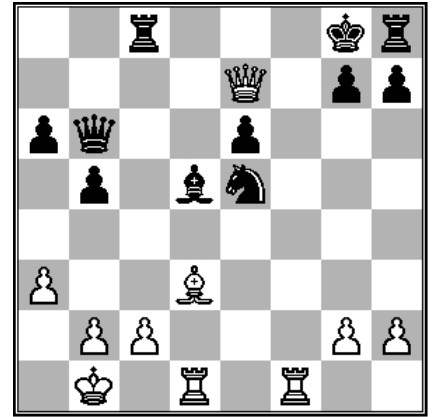
I thought drawing up the black king would win, but it doesn't. Instead Bxe7 here

followed by either Qf7 or Ne4 is a better way to attack, as the white knight can be quite helpful.

18. ...Bxd5 19. Bxe7+ Kxe7 20. Qg5+ Kf8 21. Rf1+ Kg8 22. Qe7 Nxe5!

This was the move I missed. Black is winning here, just ... Qd8 and White's attack becomes nothing.

23. Kb1



a b c d e f g h

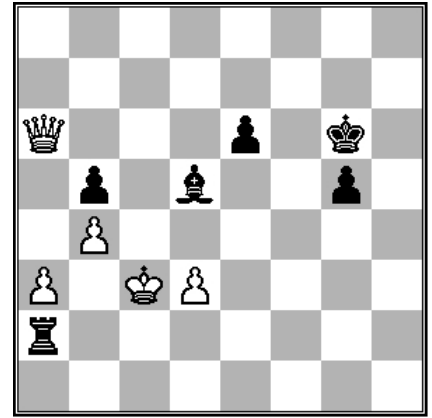
23. ...Qc7?

Now with White's next move I think it's equal here, though White might have the slightly better chances.

24. Rf8+! Rxf8 25. Qxc7 Nxd3 26. cxd3

Of course not 26. Rxd3?? Rf1 mating!

26. ...h6 27. Qg3 Kh7 28. Rc1 Rf7 29. Rc7 Rhf8 30. Rxf7 Rxf7 31. b4 g5 32. h4 Kg6 33. hxg5 hxg5 34. Qd6 Rf1+ 35. Kb2 Rf2+ 36. Kc3 Rxc2 37. Qxa6 Ra2



a b c d e f g h

While it's true that Kd4-c5-xb5 would win the b-pawn and keep the two passers, it would also allow three moves of the g-pawn. Trading pawns seemed better in the interest of time.

38. Qxb5 Rxa3+ 39. Kd4 Ra7 40. Qe8+

I offered a draw here because it looked like Black had established a fortress. Nick Raptis thinks White is winning here but I am not sure.

1/2–1/2

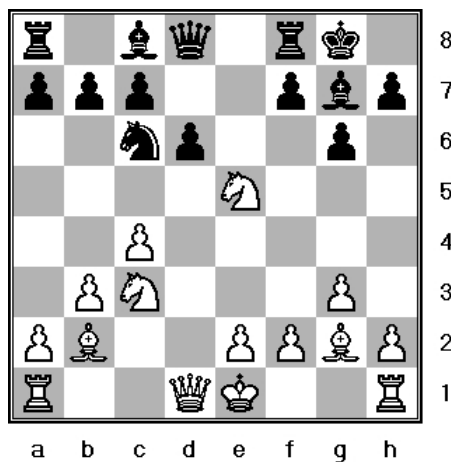
Carl Haessler – Corey Russell
Oregon Invitational, Round 6
Portland, February 13, 2010

Notes by Corey Russell.

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 g6 3. b3 Bg7 4. Bb2 0-0 5. Bg2 d6 6. d4 e5 7. dxe5 Ng4 8. c4

Naturally White doesn't take on d6 since his b2 bishop would fall.

8. ...Nc6 9. Nc3 Ngxe5 10. Nxe5



10. ...dxe5?!

Instead 10. ...Nxe5 was much better. I thought the d4 square would help get equality, but problem with this move is that are a lot of tactical problems coming up.

11. Qxd8 Nxd8?!

The losing move. It loses to a 4 move combination which I only saw AFTER I had recaptured (which doesn't really help). Instead 11. ...Rxd8 12. Nd5 Rd7 is forced here. White still has a plus, but at least Black can play on.

12. Nd5

I had intended 12. ...c6 here but then I saw that 13. Nc7 Rb8 14. Ba3 would win my exchange. I actually just stopped analysis there. But now that I am looking at it again, I might be able to win the c7 knight! e.g. 12. ... c6 13. Nc7 Rb8 14. Ba3 f6! 15. Bxf8 Bxf8 (threatening ...Kf7 & ...Bd6) 16. Rd1 (to stop any ...Bd6) 16. ...Bb4+! 17. Kf1 Nf7 followed by Kf8 and Bd6 wins.

12. ...Ne6 13. Ne7+ Kh8 14. Nxc8

Raxc8 15. Bxb7 +- Rb8 16. Bd5 Nd4 17. Rc1 Bh6 18. e3 c6 19. Bg2 f6 20. exd4 Bxc1 21. Bxc1 exd4 22. Bxc6 Rb6 23. Ba4!

I liked this move by White. It both protects his queenside pawns and also supports their advance. With the 2 bishops supporting them, the queen side advance will be unstoppable.

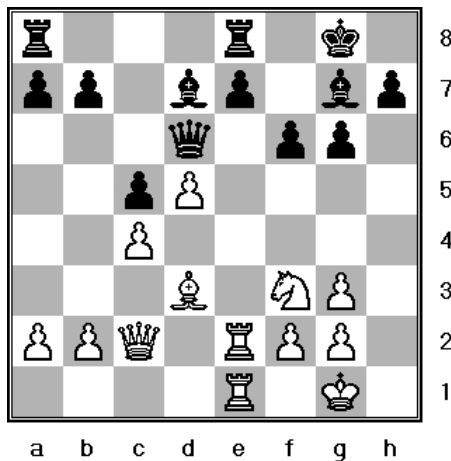
23. ...Rf7 24. Kd2 Re6 25. Re1

The black d-pawn will soon fall, and with it the game. Therefore I resigned here.

1–0

Mike Morris – Radu Roua
Oregon Invitational, Round 6
Portland, February 13, 2010

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Be2 dxe4 6. Nxe4 Nd7 7. 0-0 Ngf6 8. Nxf6+ Nxf6 9. Bf4 Nd5 10. Be5 f6 11. Bg3 0-0 12. c4 Nc7 13. Qb3 Kh8 14. Rad1 Ne8 15. Rfe1 Nd6 16. Bf1 Nf5 17. d5 c5 18. Bd3 Nxc3 19. hxc3 Qd6 20. Re2 Bd7 21. Rde1 Rfe8 22. Qc2 Kg8



23. Re6!? Bxe6 24. Rxe6

Objectively Black can probably defend the position - but it is very difficult for him!

24. ...Qd7

24. ...Qc7 It is better to avoid certainly light squares.

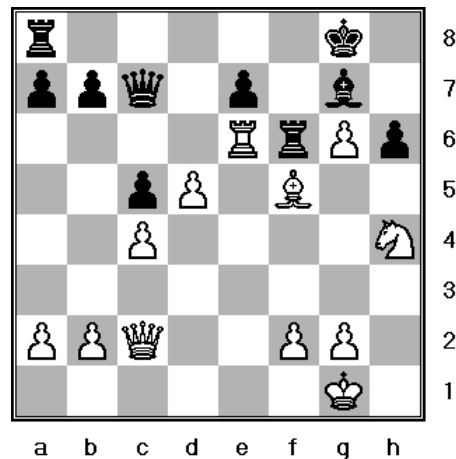
25. Nh4 Rf8 26. g4

26. Bxg6 hxc6 27. Qxc6 f5 (27. ...Qe8 28. Qg4 f5 29. Nxf5 Rxf5 30. Qxf5 +=) 28. Nxf5 Rxf5 29. Qxf5 Rf8 is similar, and a little better for White according to Rybka – but close to equal?

26. ...f5? 27. gxf5 Rf6 28. fxc6 h6 29. Bf5 +-

White is winning easily here.

29. ...Qc7



30. Qe4

Much better is 30. Rxf6 as 30. ...exf6 is ugly, but necessary. (30. ...Bxf6 31. Be6+ Kg7 32. Nf5+ Kh8 33. Qc1 and the game is finished. 33. ...Bg5 34. Qc3+ Bf6 35. g7+ Kh7 36. Qd3.)

30. ...Rxe6 31. Bxe6+ Kh8 32. Nf5

This is White's first slip. Since he lacks a forced win, and imbalances exist on the board, it is desirable to increase the pressure. One important component is to prevent exchanges, especially a queen exchange. 32. f4! White could bring up reserves, while controlling e5.

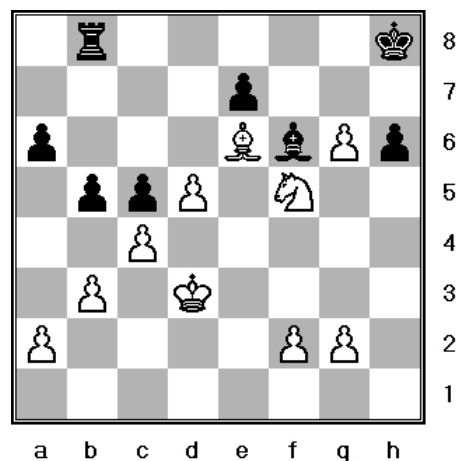
32. ...Qe5 33. Qxe5

The exchange still favors White, but is not required. 33. Qh4 maintains pressure.

33. ...Bxe5 34. b3 Bf6 35. Kf1

These are good 'general' endgame moves, but, White could prefer to press his case on the kingside. Stronger is 35. f4! a5 (35. ...a6 36. g4 b5 37. Kf2 bxc4 38. bxc4 Rb8 39. Nxc6) 36. g4.

35. ...a6 36. Ke2 b5 37. Kd3 Rb8





Mike Morris. Photo credit: Russell Miller.

38. cxb5?

Terrible exchanging decision, allowing Black to create a passed pawn. 38. f3 is better. Let us examine what White probably feared: 38. ...bxc4+ 39. Kxc4! now Black has a fresh weakness to defend on c5, and his rook remains blocked by pawns. However the natural recapture 39. bxc4 Rb2 40. g4 Rxa2 is very double-edged. White had better go for 41. g7+ Bxg7 42. Nxe7 with equal prospects.

38. ...axb5 39. a4?!

Another error just before time control.

39. ...bxa4 40. bxa4 Rb4 41. Ne3?

41. a5 Ra4 42. Kc2 Rxa5 43. Kb3 was a better chance to draw.

41. ...Rd4+ 42. Ke2 Rxa4 43. g3 Bd4 44. Nf5 Bf6 45. Ne3 h5 46. Bf7 Kg7 47. Nf5+ Kf8 48. f3

48. d6. It was time to exchange a pair of pawns.

48. ...c4! 49. g4?

Too late.

49. ...hxg4 50. fxg4 c3 51. Kd3 Rxg4

52. Be6 Rxg6 53. Ne3 Rg3 54. Ke2 Bg5 55. Nc2 Rg2+

0-1

**Corey Russell – Charles Schulien
Oregon Invitational, Round 7
Portland, February 14, 2010**

Notes by Corey Russell.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6

Last time I played Schulien he played the Schliemann defense. I was ready for that if he did.

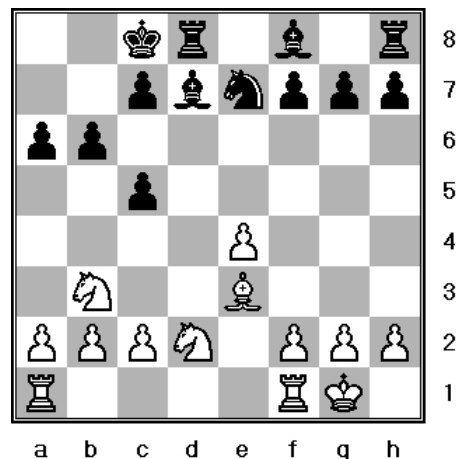
4. Bxc6 dxc6 5. 0-0 Ne7 6. d4 exd4 7. Qxd4 Qxd4 8. Nxd4 Bd7 9. Be3 0-0-0 10. Nd2

I was concerned about the black knight re-routing to c4. Nevertheless Nd2 brought with it its own problems. I think Nc3 is better.

10. ...c5 11. N4b3 b6

Were White's knight at c3 now 12. a4 a5 wouldn't be so bad as the knight might be able to use the white-square holes. But in this position a4 a5 would just give me a

pawn to defend forever with the rook (since no knight at c3 to defend it).



12. Rfd1

I played this rook instead of the a-rook so that if I ever do Nc4 Black can't pin the knight with ...Bb5.

12. ...Ng6 13. h3?!

Since the e-pawn is going to come under attack soon, f3 probably makes more sense to both defend it and also give the bishop (or king) a square to move at f2. As it was the bishop was quite limited as to where it could go in the game.

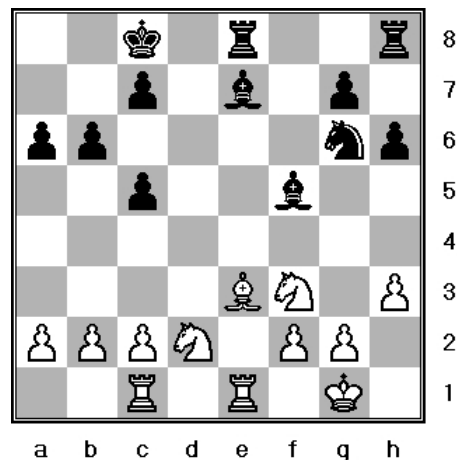
13. ...Re8 14. Re1

I didn't want to go f3 right away as I would then have a hanging e3 bishop which Black could play on.

14. ...f5 15. exf5 Bxf5 16. Rac1

16 c3 Ne5 seemed to be in Black's favor.

16. ...Be7 17. Nf3 h6 18. Nbd2



18. ...Rhf8!

This seemed to really tie White up. I thought for a long time here but there seemed only one way for me to make progress.

19. Kh2 Be6?

Allows White to equalize. Instead ...Bd6+ followed by Bd7-c6 would offer much better long term prospects than the text.

20. Ne4 Nf4 21. Bxf4 Rxf4 22. Nfd2 Bd5 =

1/2-1/2

**Daniel Gay – Corey Russell
Oregon Invitational, Round 8
Portland, February 14, 2010**

Notes by Corey Russell.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. f3 Nc6

This probably leads to a plus for White. However I had a long-term plan with it, and was applying the old adage “even a bad plan is better than no plan.”

7. Be3 e6 8. Qd2 Qc7 9. 0-0-0 b5 10. g4

I knew this was coming which is why I am intentionally keeping d7 available for as a retreat square.

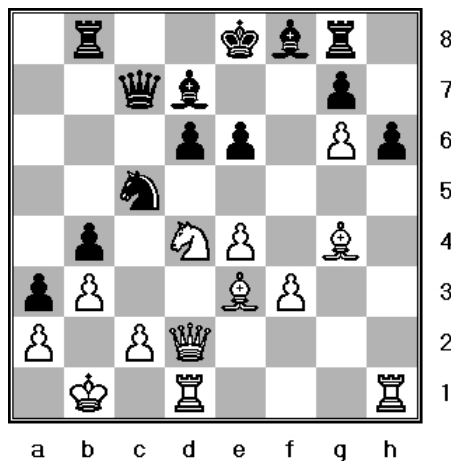
10. ...b4 11. Nce2 Rb8 12. h4 Nd7 13. Nxc6 Qxc6 14. Nd4 Qc7 15. g5 Nc5 16. Kb1

I wanted to play 16. ... Na4 here but unfortunately 17. Ka1 would be a good response to that.

16. ...Bd7 17. h5 a5 18. Bh3 a4 19. g6 fxg6 20. hxg6 h6

Of course not 20. ... hxg6? 21. Bxe6! wins a pawn or the exchange due to the Bxd7+ intermezzo.

21. Bg4 a3 22. b3 Rg8



23. Rh5

A nice move. White’s pieces have a lot



Daniel Gay. Photo credit: Russell Miller.

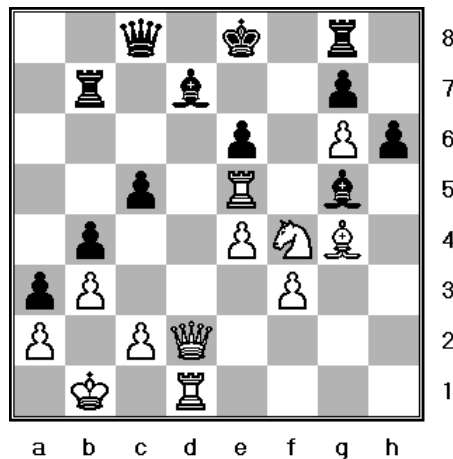
of potential.

23. ...Rb7 24. Ne2 Be7 25. Nf4 Qc8 26. Bxc5 dxc5 27. Re5!

At first I thought this was a mistake but the more I looked at it the better it was. For example 27. ...Qc7 28. Bxe6 Qxe5 (threatening mate at b2) 29. Bxd7+ followed by Ne6+ would win for White.

27. ...Bg5??

The losing move. It looks like 27. ...Rb6 and Black can continue fighting on, though it doesn’t look fun.



28. Qd5! +- Bxf4 29. Rxe6+ Kd8 30. Rc6 Rh8 31. Rxc8+ Kxc8 32. Qc6+ Kb8 33. Rxd7 Rxd7 34. Bxd7 Bc7

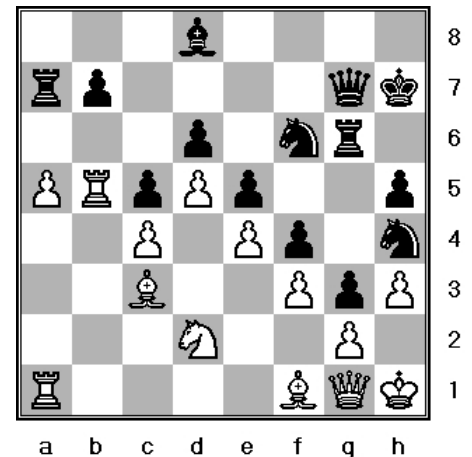
White only had 2 minutes left which is the only reason I played on, but he found the moves easily.

35. Be6 Rd8 36. Bd5 Kc8 37. Qa6+ Kd7 38. Qe6#

1-0

**John Chung – Steven Breckenridge
Oregon Invitational, Round 8
Portland, February 14, 2010**

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be2 0-0 6. Nf3 e5 7. 0-0 Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9. Nd2 Ne8 10. b4 f5 11. f3 c6 12. Kh1 a5 13. bxa5 Qxa5 14. Qc2 f4 15. Nb3 Qc7 16. Qd3 c5 17. a4 Rf6 18. Rd1 g5 19. Ba3 Ng6 20. a5 Bd7 21. Bb2 h5 22. Na4 Bxa4 23. Rxa4 Qd7 24. Rda1 Nc7 25. Bc3 g4 26. Nd2 Nh4 27. Bf1 Rg6 28. R4a2 Bf6 29. Rb2 Na6 30. Qb1 Ra7 31. Qd1 Qg7 32. Qe2 Bd8 33. Rb5 Kh7 34. Qf2 Nc7 35. Rb6 Ne8 36. Rb5 g3 37. Qg1 Nf6 38. h3



38. ...Ng4!

A very nice breakthrough combination!

39. fxc4 hxg4 40. Be2 gxh3 41. gxh3 g2+

41. ...Qd7! is much stronger.

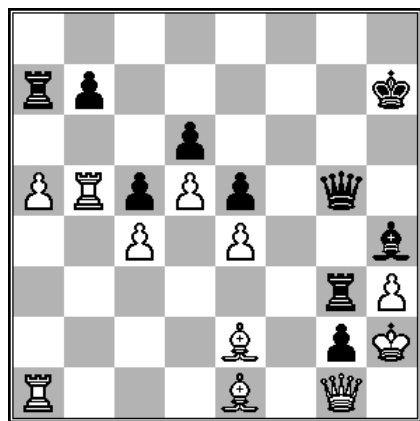
42. Kh2 f3?

42. ...Rg3 threatens instant mate, and attacks the loose bishop on c3.

43. Nxf3 Rg3 44. Nxh4 Bxh4 45. Be1

45. Bg4 blocking the g-file is even better defense. 45. ...Rxc3 46. Qxg2.

45. ...Qg5



46. Rb3?

An error, but the only defense is extremely difficult for human players to fathom. 46. Bf1! Qf4! (46. ...gxf1=Q 47. Qxf1 and White has queens checks too.) (46. ...Rxb3+ 47. Kxb3 Bxe1 48. Rxe1 b6! 49. Qxg2 Qh6+ seems to draw.) 47. Bxg2 Rxg2+ (47. ...Ra3+ 48. Bg3! guards the rook on a1. 48. ...Qxg3+ 49. Kh1 Rxa1 50. Qxa1 Black lacks a winning path. 50. ...Bg5 51. Qb1 Bf4 52. Qg1) 48. Kxg2 b6! opens the rank for black rook checks. 49. Bxh4 Rg7+ 50. Kh1 and all lines lead to a draw: 50. ...Qxe4+ 51. Kh2 Rxc1 52. Rxc1 Qxh4 53. axb6 Black should give perpetual check.

46. ...Rxb3 47. Bxh4 Qxh4

47. ...Qf4+! is even more precise. 48. Kxg2 Qxh4.

48. Qxg2 Qf4+ 49. Kh1 Rg3

0-1

**Carl Haessler – Robert Szendroi
Oregon Invitational, Round 9
Portland, February 15, 2010**

White mixed up his opening lines, but prevailed in middlegame complications.

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. e5

5. 0-0 Bc5 (Well, Szendroi intended 5. ...Nxe4 6. Re1 d5 7. Bxd5 Qxd5 8. Nc3 Qa5 9. Nxe4 Be6 which leads to more balanced play.) 6. e5 d5 7. exf6 is now a good move, because of the coming rook check: 7. ...dxc4 8. Re1+ Be6 This line is known as the Max Lange Attack, with chances for both sides. It was mostly worked out 100 years ago, by the likes of Frank Marshall, among others.

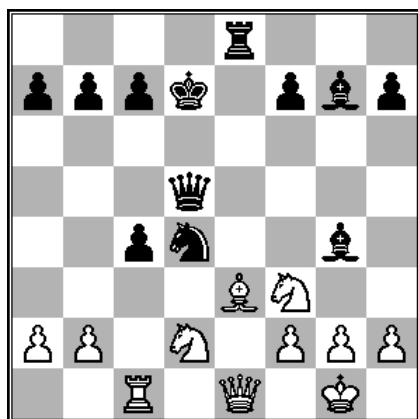
5. ...d5 6. exf6?

6. Bb5 Ne4 7. Nxd4 is now correct, with play noted in among others, Breckenridge - Roua, seen in *Northwest Chess*.

6. ...dxc4 7. 0-0 Be6 8. fxc7 Bxg7 9. Re1 Qd5 10. Bg5 Kd7!?

10. ...0-0 is quite reasonable – White lacks the light-squared bishop for his attack.

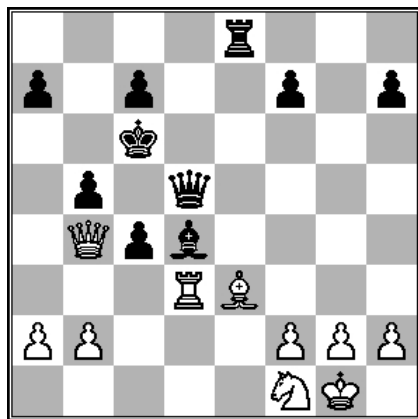
11. c3 Bg4 12. Nbd2 Rae8 13. cxd4 Rxe1+ 14. Qxe1 Re8 15. Be3 Nxd4 16. Rc1



16. ...b5

Here, Black has a nice exchanging combination: 16. ...Bxf3 17. Nxf3 Qxf3! 18. gxf3 Nxf3+ with an easy endgame win.

17. Nxd4 Bxd4 18. Nf1 Bf5 19. Rd1 Bd3 20. Qb4 Kc6 21. Rxd3



a b c d e f g h

21. ...cxd3

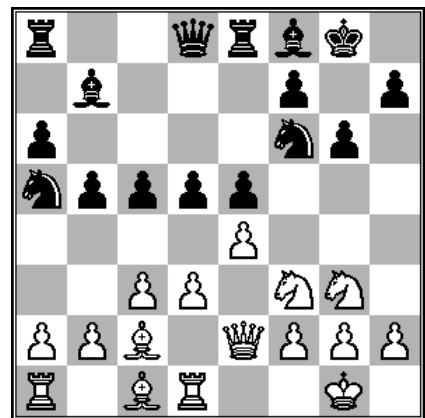
21. ...a5! refutes White's combination.

22. Bxd4 Re4 23. Qc3+ Kd6 24. Be3 c5 25. Nd2 Rg4 26. f3

1-0

**Mike Morris – Charles Schulien
Oregon Invitational, Round 9
Portland, February 15, 2010**

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. Qe2 b5 6. Bb3 Be7 7. 0-0 0-0 8. c3 d5 9. d3 Bb7 10. Rd1 Re8 11. Nbd2 Bf8 12. Nf1 Na5 13. Bc2 c5 14. Ng3 g6



a b c d e f g h

Sometimes there is a great deal of luck in chess competition. I had this position on my board at the Gresham Open last month, and having been outplayed in the opening, studied it thoroughly.

15. Bg5

Scott Smyth played 15. Bd2 against me, and after 15. ...h6? (15. ...Qc7 or 15. ...Qb6 are certainly better moves.) 16. h4! was very strong. Now Black does not have time for the thematic queen move followed by ...c4. I found nothing better than 16. ...dxe4 17. dxe4 Qb6 18. h5 +=.

A very young Nigel Short essayed the immediate 15. h4!? back in 1982, but White's attack was not so strong yet – Black has not weakened his kingside by ...h6.

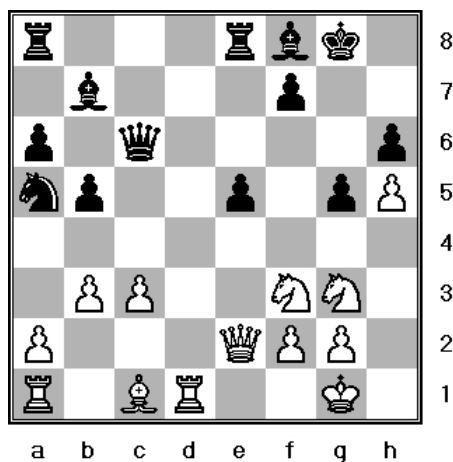
15. ...h6 16. Bc1!?

Very similar: 16. Bd2 Qc7 17. h4 c4 18. h5 cxd3 19. Bxd3 dxe4 20. Nxe4 Nxh5 21. g4 at first glance, it seems that White wins material. However, Black has an answer: 21. ...Bxe4 22. Bxe4 Nf4 23. Bxf4 exf4 24. Qc2 Rad8 -/+ 0-1 Haznedaroglu, K (2395)-Ramesh, R (2484)/Abu Dhabi 2004/ (44).

16. ...Qc7 17. h4 c4 18. h5 cxd3 19. Bxd3 dxe4 20. Bxe4

At this point, Mike and I both correctly calculated the line seen above in the Ramesh game, which Mike avoided. 20. Nxe4 Nxh5 21. g4 Bxe4 22. Bxe4 Nf4!

20. ...Nxe4 21. Nxe4 Qc6 22. Ng3 g5 23. b3!?



Very logical move, taking away the c4 square and allowing Bb2 in some cases.

23. ...Qe6

Black can definitely get away with capturing this pawn, but it allows the activation of the white pieces: 23. ...Qxc3 24. Bb2 (24. Bd2 is possible too) 24. ...Bxf3 25. gxf3 Qc6 26. Rac1 Qe6 27. Qe4 Rac8 28. Nf5 This is more fun for White to play than the game continuation.

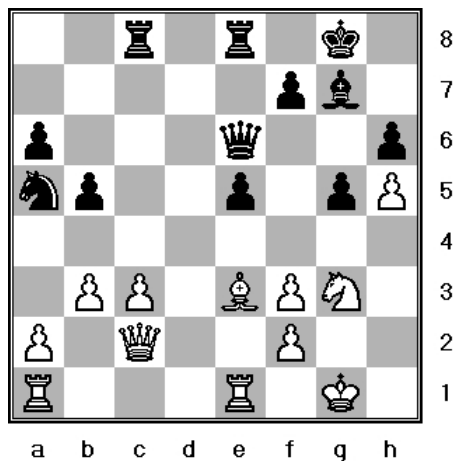
24. Qc2?

24. Bb2 is much better, with a sound position.

24. ...Rac8 25. Re1 Bg7

25. ...Bxf3 26. gxf3 Nc6 was already strong.

26. Be3 Bxf3 27. gxf3



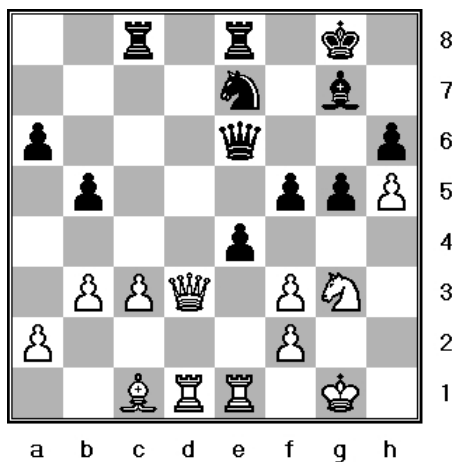
27. ...Nc6

Black can strike immediately by 27. ...e4 28. Nxe4 and now the very calm 28. ...Nc6! obvious to the analysis engine, but I was looking for forcing moves following a pawn sacrifice. For instance, 29. Bc5 (or 29. Qd1 Qh3) 29. ...Ne5 with a strong Black attack.

28. Rad1 Ne7 29. Qd3

Mike forestalled my intended ...Nd5 maneuver, so Black takes more resolute action, sending pawns forward.

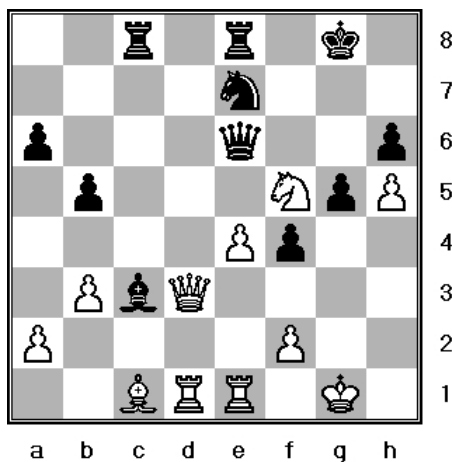
29. ...f5 30. Bc1 e4!



31. fxe4

White needs to fight for the initiative with 31. Qd7! Qxd7 32. Rxd7 which seems insufficient due to 32. ...Bxc3 however, the key point is 33. Bd2 Bxd2 (33. ...b4 is better, but then White can capture the e4-pawn.) 34. Rxd2 exf3 35. Rd6 and White's active rooks balance the chances, according to Rybka.

31. ...f4 32. Nf5 Bxc3!



After 32. ...Nxf5 33. exf5 Qxe1+ (33. ...Qf7 =+ is still somewhat in Black's favor, but the game line is much stronger.) 34. Rxe1 Rxe1+ 35. Kg2 Rxc1 Mike had prepared 36.

f6! Bxf6 (36. ...Bf8 allows White to draw with various queen moves.) 37. Qg6+ Bg7 38. Qe6+ and it is White who wins!

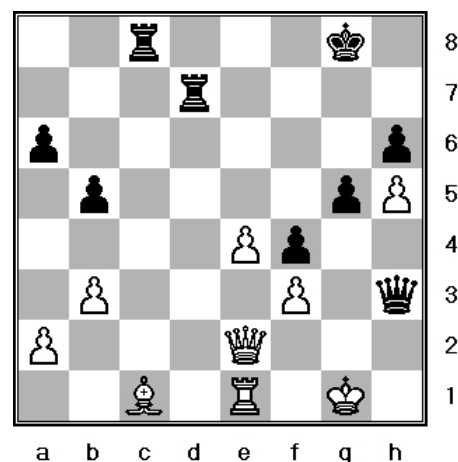
33. Nxe7+?

This intermediate exchange costs White dearly, as it opens a line for Black's queen toward the kingside. Better is 33. Rf1 Nxf5 34. exf5 Qf7 35. Qh3 -/+ where Black holds all of the positional advantages, but White can resist.

33. ...Rxe7 34. f3

White is forced to sacrifice the exchange to ward off mate. 34. Rf1 Qg4+ 35. Kh2 f3 ends the game. 34. Re2 Qg4+ 35. Kf1 f3 is no better.

34. ...Bxe1 35. Rxe1 Rd7 36. Qe2 Qh3



One of many good choices, but the point is that it is time to finish the game by attacking.

37. e5 Qg3+ 38. Kf1

38. Kh1 Rc2! and Black wins: 39. Qxc2 Qxe1+ 40. Kg2 Qg3+ 41. Kh1 Qxf3+ Black's queen now controls the d1 square for a rook check. 42. Kh2 Qxh5+ 43. Kg2 f3+ 44. Kg3 Qh4+ 45. Kxf3 Qh3+ with mate in the offing.

38. ...Rc3

0-1

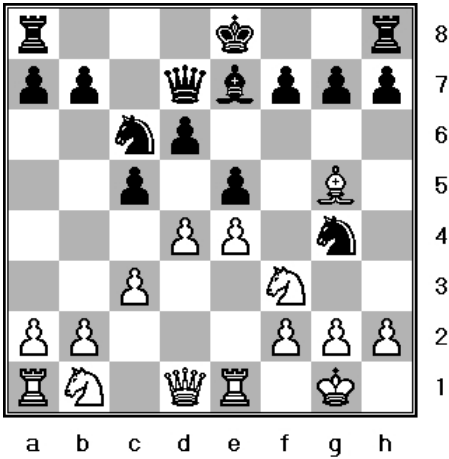
Corey Russell – John Chung
Oregon Invitational, Round 9
Portland, February 15, 2010

Notes by Corey Russell.

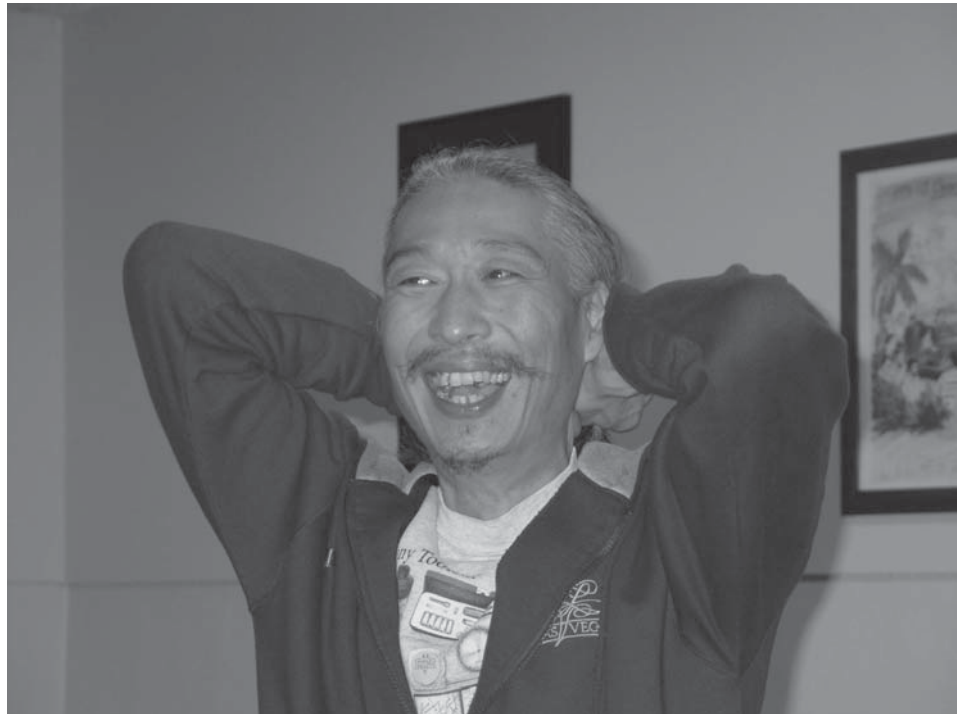
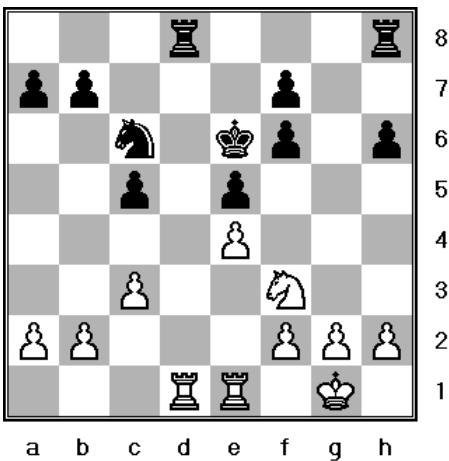
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+

I have good results with this line, but Black seemed to equalize easily.

3. ...Bd7 4. Bxd7+ Qxd7 5. 0-0 e5 6. c3 Nc6 7. d4 Nf6 8. Re1 Be7 9. Bg5 Ng4



10. dxc5 Bxg5 11. Nxc5 h6 12. Nf3 dxc5 13. Qxd7+ Kxd7 14. Na3 Nf6 15. Rad1+ Ke6 16. Nb5 Rad8 17. Nc7+ Ke7 18. Nd5+ Ke6 19. Nxf6 gxf6!



Black correctly sees that the doubled pawn is only temporary, and has the boon of preventing a Rd5 by White (which White could do if Black had played ...Kxf6).

20. Nh4 Ne7 21. g3 Rhg8 22. Kf1 f5 23. exf5+ Nxf5 24. Ng2?!

When I had played this, I underestimated the strength of a ...Nd6 by Black and therefore should have swapped that knight.

24. ...f6 25. Ke2 Nd6

Black offered a draw with this move. The more I looked at it, the more it seemed White had nothing and in fact had plenty of losing chances even. Therefore I accepted and did my 4.5 hour drive home and got home a reasonable hour.

1/2-1/2

Oregon State Championship

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Place
1 Carl Haessler	x	0	0	1	0	½	1	1	½	1	5.0	5th-6th
2 Mike Morris	1	x	0	½	0	0	1	½	0	1	4.0	7th
3 Radu Roua	1	1	x	½	1	0	1	½	1	1	7.0	1st
4 Corey Russell	0	½	½	x	1	1	½	0	½	1	5.0	5th-6th
5 Steven Breckenridge	1	1	0	0	x	½	1	1	½	1	6.0	3rd-4th
6 Nick Raptis	½	1	1	0	½	x	1	1	0	1	6.0	3rd-4th
7 John Chung	0	0	0	½	0	0	x	0	0	½	1.0	9th-10th
8 Daniel Gay	0	½	½	1	0	0	1	x	0	½	3.5	8th
9 Chuck Schulien	½	1	0	½	½	1	1	1	x	1	6.5	2nd
10 Robert Szendroi	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	x	1.0	9th-10th

News of the Weird

reported by Kimberley Lynn

Who Was That Masked Chess Player?

Sometimes the individual's personal story is as interesting as his game. The skilled chess-playing Oregon Liquor Control Commission investigator known to his fiancé, colleagues, and friend Chris Galvin as Jason Robert Evers, built a pretty good life for himself (AP).

He might have continued living under this name without any problems if only he had not submitted an application for a passport. However, he failed note that five years ago the San Francisco field office for the Diplomatic Security Service of the U.S. State Department began cross-checking applications against death certificates (McCall). The authorities found it fairly suspicious that the fatal victim of a 1982 Cincinnati kidnapping, who died at the age of three, would be seeking identification allowing him to travel abroad.

Once caught, the former liquor investigator held silence about his true name. However, he turned out to be Doitchin Krastev, son of Bulgarian scientific scholars, a promising lad who was hosted in the United States by Michael Horowitz and his wife. Though Krastev graduated from Georgetown Day Prep School with honors, earned a scholarship to Davidson College and attended for two years, he later disappeared. Somehow he obtained a birth certificate for Jason Robert Evers, and assumed this name. He purchased a home in Bend, Oregon, and worked there and on the Idaho border for eight years (AP), before blundering by requesting a passport. He may face a prison sentence of ten years for the crime of passport fraud ("Passport Theft...").

Nice middlegame, but this endgame is looking pretty close to checkmate.

Sources:

Associated Press. "Mystery Solved: Man who assumed ID of Ohio boy is Bulgarian." <http://www.kmtr.com/news/local/story/Mystery-Solved-Man-who-assumed-ID-of-Ohio-boy-is-Yh8YIaiTQEChahNW8KN3dg.csp> (19 June 2010).

McCall, William. "True past of Oregon man emerging from federal probe." http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100529/ap_on_re_us/us_murdered_boy_s_identity_9 (19 June 2010).

"Passport Theft Suspect is Bulgarian Immigrant." <http://www.rushpassport.com/blog/2010/06/passport-theft-suspect-is-bulgarian-immigrant/> (19 June 2010).

Bobby's Back?

Love him or hate him, Bobby Fischer was a world-renowned iconic figure in the chess scene. 29 months after his death, though, most focus on more recent, living, champions: Viswanathan Anand, Garry Kasparov, and Anatoly Karpov, to name a few. But now Fischer's back from the dead, stealing the world spotlight again.

The Icelandic Supreme Court has given leave for Fischer's body to be exhumed to determine whether he had an extra-marital daughter, Jinky Young. Though initially a lower court denied Jinky and her mother Marilyn Young's request, their appeal to the Supreme Court was successful. Evidence presented during the trial revealed that Fischer sent money to Jinky and Marilyn eight times before his death. Their lawyer Thordur Bogason says that if Jinky is proven to be Fischer's daughter, "by Icelandic law she is his legal heir" (Quinn).

These events add Jinky and her mother to the multiple claimants to Fischer's two million dollar estate. These include Fischer's wife, Miyoko Watai, "the head of the Japanese Chess Association" (AOL), who says she lived with Fischer beginning in 2000, at the same time Marilyn Young maintains she lived with Fischer "when he visited the Philippines" (Hough). Fischer's nephews, Alexander and Nicholas Targ, were originally thought to be Fischer's only blood relatives. And the United States government also wants a cut to cover Fischer's back taxes.

Shall the wrangling over Fischer's estate, his irritable personality later in life, or his early chess genius prove to be most memorable? Eventually Fischer will once again rest in peace, and perhaps a more current champion will take the world stage, creating another fascinating legacy.

Sources:

AOL News. "Bobby Fischer's Body to Be Exhumed in Paternity Case." <http://www.aolnews.com/world/article/body-of-chess-champion-bobby-fischer-to-be-exhumed-in-paternity-case/19520032> (19 June 2010).

Hough, Andrew. "Bobby Fischer: chess legend's body to be exhumed 'after bitter love child legal row.'" <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/chess/7835243/Bobby-Fischer-chess-legends-body-to-be-exhumed-after-bitter-love-child-legal-row.html> (19 June 2010).

Quinn, Jennifer. "Icelandic court allows exhumation of Bobby Fischer." <http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/icelandic-court-allows-exhumation-551131.html> (19 June 2010).

Site:

Evergreen State College, B Pod Seminar 2 Building, 2700 Evergreen Parkway N.W., Olympia, WA

Rooms:

B Pod Seminar 2 Building Rooms B1107, B2105 and B2107

Prize Fund: \$1,700 Guaranteed, 1st \$500.00, 2nd \$300.00 3rd \$150.00, 1st U2000, U1700, U1400 \$150.00 each, 2nd U2000, U1700, U1400 \$100.00 each. (Checks for prizes will be mailed out after the tournament.)

Entry Fee: \$40.00 in advance, \$50.00 at site, Juniors playing for medal only, \$25.00 (must be under age 21).

LakeFair Open - Harmon Memorial



Evergreen College
Olympia, WA



July 17-18, 2010

\$1,700 Guaranteed by WCF

Format: 5 round Swiss in 1 section.

Time Control: Saturday 40/90, SD/30, Sunday 30/90, SD/60.

Registration: 9:00-9:45.

Rounds: Saturday 10:00, 2:30, 7:00, Sunday 10:00, 3:30 or A.S.A.P.

Byes: One half-point bye available. Must notify TD before Round 2.

Memberships: USCF and WCF or OCF memberships required, OSA.

Entries/info: Send entries to Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, E-mail ggarychess@aol.com, phone 253-535-2536. *Please make checks payable to the Washington Chess Federation.* You may also register online at nwchess.com.

This event will be held in conjunction with the annual LakeFair celebration in Olympia.

Opening Arguments

by Harley Greninger



We've now met the main members of the chess-playing family; Willy Wild, Abel Active, Phil Positional, Perry Powerful and The Rock! The sixth member of this family is 'The Psychologist' (some call him 'the Chameleon'). The Psychologist plays *his opponent* rather than the board, without any rigid adherence to *personal* playing preferences. This style of play fluctuates greatly depending on the player sitting opposite the board. The Chameleon's main aim is to direct the game into avenues *uncomfortable to the opponent*.

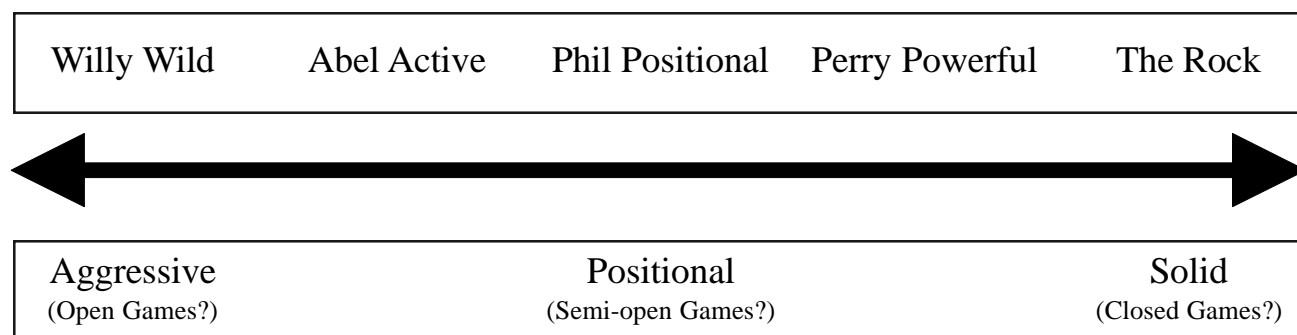
The greatest chess Psychologist of all was Emmanuel Lasker. In playing through Lasker's games, I stand in awe at the versatility of this great champion!

Truth be told, *we all have a bit of Lasker in us!*

While involved in post-mortem analysis of my 2010 Washington Championship game against Ignacio Perez, several onlookers repeatedly asked me why I didn't accept Ignacio's pawn sacrifice. My reply was that it is incorrect to accept such a pawn against a player like Ignacio (Willy Wild), since ultimately it means you *win a pawn but lose the game*—this is not such a good trade-off! Instead, the wiser way to proceed is to create a position whereby Willy will 'stub his toe' by overextending. Although the game ended in a draw, it was drawn *according to my terms*.

In months past, my suggestion to the student has been to replicate the repertoire of past world-champions and local master-class players having similar styles. This recommendation remains valid and entirely sound. When starting out, *imitation* is incredibly powerful and altogether wise.

In the months to follow, I aim to go one step further by suggesting a specific opening repertoire *for each of the aforementioned playing styles*.



Referring to the diagram above, I could over-simplify the process by suggesting Open Games for the Aggressive (Willy Wild), Semi-Open games for the Positional (Phil and company) and Closed Games for the Solid (the 'Rocks' among us). This would serve as an injustice to the student looking to create a *truly viable opening repertoire, well-suited to his/her personal playing style*. For example, the Dutch Defense is dubbed a closed opening which would relegate it to an opening suited for 'The Rock'. The truth is, the Dutch 'Defense' is quite aggressive, thus more fitting for Willy or Abel, since it creates an imbalance in the position from the very first move while (arguably—ask David Roper about this) compromising Black's Kingside position.

I will provide the reader with those openings I *personally* would play "if I were..." For example, "if I were a 'Willy Wild' (God forbid—we'll leave this for the Tals and Perezes of this earth), *I would play...*" (I'll also include the names of world-class players who played the opening to underline the legitimacy of each suggestion.)

My recommendations will focus on four segments:

- 1) What to play as White.
- 2) What to play as Black vs. 1.e4.
- 3) What to play as Black vs. 1.d4.
- 4) What to play as Black vs. 1.c4.

(Note: We would be lead too far astray by examining what to play against, say 1. b3 etc.)

Let's start with 'The Rock'

As White, 'The Rock' should play openings that provide reasonable winning chances *but little or no losing chances*.

My suggestions would include:

1. d4

The London System [Petrosian, Kamsky]

The Catalan System (without an early c2-c4) [Kramnik, Aronian]

The Colle System [Smyslov, Anand]

The Zukertort System [Petrosian, Yusupov]

1. e4

vs. Sicilian- Closed Variation [Steinitz, Smyslov]

vs. 1. ...e5- Four Knights [Anand, Short]

vs. 1. ...e5- Ruy Lopez Exchange Variation [Smyslov, Karpov]

vs. French- Exchange Variation [Kramnik, Kasparov]

vs. Caro-Kann Exchange Variation w/Bd3 [Topalov, Short]

vs. Alekhine- 2. Nc3 variation [Smyslov, Adams]

1.c4/1.Nf3 (closed lines, possibly with favorable transpositions into one of the d4 systems mentioned above) [Petrosian, Kramnik]

As Black, 'The Rock' should focus on openings which keep his position free from defects and weaknesses while keeping the position somewhat closed.

vs. 1.d4

Semi-Slav [Kramnik, Yusupov]

Hedgehog [Kortchnoi, Romanishin]

vs. 1.e4

Caro-Kann Defense [Petrosian, Karpov]

French Defense [Petrosian, Andersson]

Petroff Defense (be prepared however for the King's Gambit or Scotch Gambit!) [Kramnik, Yusupov]

vs. 1.c4

1. ...c5 [Karpov, Kramnik]

Semi-Slav transposition by 1. ...e6 or 1. ...c6

Each of these openings are *extremely sound* and promise 'The Rock' a share of wins but *very few losses*!

Next month, a repertoire for *Perry Powerful*!



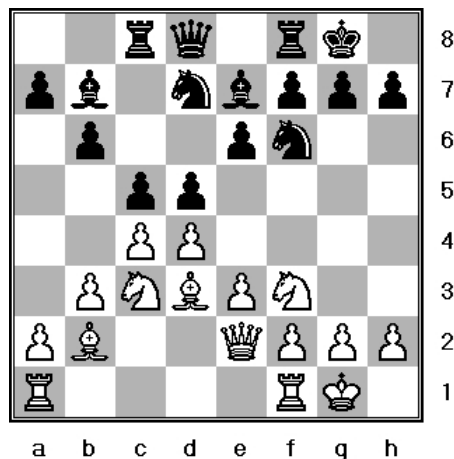
Harley Greninger. Photo credit: Philip Peterson.

Theoretically Speaking

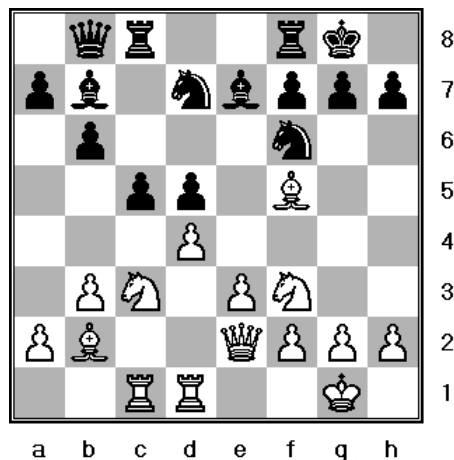
by Bill McGeary



9. Bb2 c5 10. Qe2 Rc8



11. Rfd1 Qc7 12. Rac1 Qb8 13. cxd5
exd5 14. Bf5



14. ...Rcd8 15. dxc5 Nxc5

This does not permit White to snag the d5 pawn, yet the pocket of Black pieces on the Q-side becomes immobile and a White

How far would you go for a tournament? Not a standard chess question. Still, there is a splinter of thought to it. When I was a young player there was adventure in every tournament. Though it may have waned a bit during my many years, there remains a bit of adventure in events for me.

This was certainly not the first time that I had entered at the last minute, however those other times it was a matter of indecision on my part. As I rushed up the hall to register for the 2010 Ennis Open it was some poorly worded directions from the internet that had caused me to be so late. It was Friday at 7:45 p.m. and my car journey had been extended by about 90 minutes by an instruction to look for an exit number that appeared twice on the freeway and we had taken the first exit with the given number instead of knowing to wait three more exits for the proper offramp.

Fortunately, they already had me on the list. Of course, they had my name spelled incorrectly. They had me as “Billy” and not “Bill,” but otherwise it was simply a matter of paying the entry. Within 15 minutes we were hearing the instructions from the controller (TD) and starting the first round.

Sheryl, my wife, had finally been able to travel to Ireland for a vacation and the only event I found was in Ennis. Ennis is the capital of County Clare in western Ireland with a population of about 19,000. There is a large town square and many businesses, but still dominated by the towering spire of the stone church.

For Ireland this is a fair size metropolis, so roughly 70 players were attracted to the event. Included in the Open lineup were two players from the Czech Republic, a master from Rumania and me. The strongest Irish player was local favorite Rory Quinn. One of the Czechs and the Rumanian have the IM title. Certainly not what may be called a glamour event, but considering that I hadn't played a game over the board for three-plus years it seemed like a great fit.

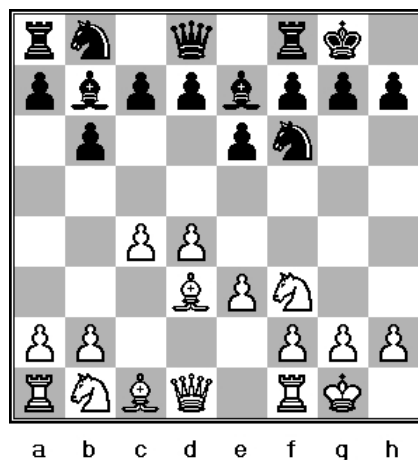
I was easily the oldest player in the top eight or so, with the top three at least 20 years my junior. So, in hind sight, I can describe my play in two simple comments;

I could only play well one game in a day and I had three good games to go with three bad. I was able to start well with wins in the first two rounds (Friday night and Saturday morning), played a very poor opening and lost dismally to the eventual winner IM Sodoma in round three, had an uneventful draw in round four, then a solid win in round five... leaving me with round six to play.

But first, here is my best effort from the first five rounds.

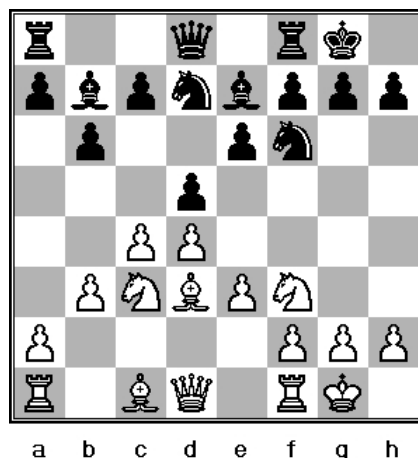
Bill McGeary – Smith Ennis Open, Round 2 Ennis, Ireland, May 15, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 b6 4. e3 Bb7
5. Bd3 Be7 6. 0-0 0-0



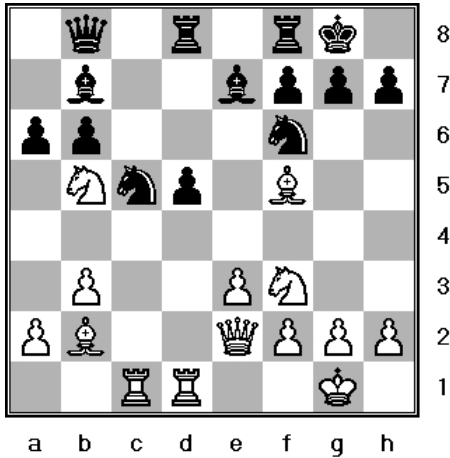
7. Nc3 d5 8. b3 Nbd7

This could be a mistake as the Nd7 becomes the center of some later ideas.

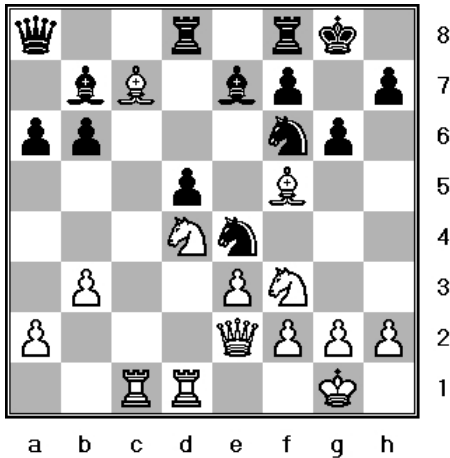


knight on d4 is a beast.

16. Nb5 a6



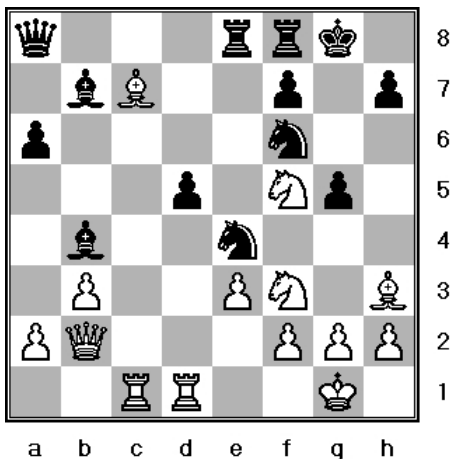
17. Be5 Qa8 18. Nbd4 Nce4 19. Bc7 g6



20. Bh3

Better to keep Black in a box than to settle for the exchange.

20. ...Rde8 21. Bxb6 Bd6 22. Bc7 Bb4 23. Qb2 g5 24. Nf5



1-0

Round 6 found me on 3 1/2 with 4 players ahead of me; fortunately they were paired with each other. Early in my game I was greeted by the news that both of those games had ended quickly in draws. So, a win would get me a tie for second.

Playing a known pawn sac, I was cemented in the mindset of deciding the game via direct means. Basically, that means that I disdained a couple of opportunities to gain a bit better than equality and instead sought to mix things up. A sort of tension was established that is best described as two penguins boxing.

Almost as if choreographed I was able to assemble a SWAT team just as time pressure loomed. In essence, both sides had abandoned the idea of controlling the center instead to glare menacingly from behind their respective third ranks into the center.

I broke the stare down by swerving my rooks via a half-open b-file up to the f- and e-files to create a sense of danger. My opponent failed to gain the fear necessary to make my plan a folly and instead sought about to trap one of my rooks. This led me instinctively to sac my final minor piece in order to infiltrate with all my heavy pieces around his king.

I have sold out everything to get at the monarch on g1, any type of failure to keep him fleeing will find my king defenseless on the back. As we hit the five-minute-to-go mark my opponent blinks by exchanging into a double rook ending.

Here is where I had a bit of an edge as I was able in full blitz mode to take each of my opponent's pawns and exchange one pair of rooks. With four extra pawns I set sail for victory and almost immediately created a potential stalemate trap for my opponent.

He was busy

looking for it, and it was there, when he missed checking me and I queened a pawn. That brought my opponent's hand in resignation. Sometimes last round games are like that, more changes in evaluation during play than any other round and plenty of emotion accompanying the swings.

Well, that was the game I didn't play too well that I won.

The final standings had IM Jan Sodoma on 5.5/6 and a 4 way tie on 4.5/6 between IM Christian Dalianu, Darko Polimac, Rory Quinn, and myself. After all the games finished the controller presented prizes by announcing names and final positions in the tournament; each recipient received generous applause from all and a truly congenial feeling was in the room.

For me this was followed by an extended episode in the pub with some of the other players and officials. Plenty of discussion and laughter was had by all.

A special thanks to the person who provided plenty of information about the event, encouragement to get to it, and a couple of laughs after it. A good man, Rory Quinn.

LakeFair Open - Harmon Memorial

Evergreen College Olympia, WA

July 17-18, 2010

\$1,700 Guaranteed by WCF

And In The End

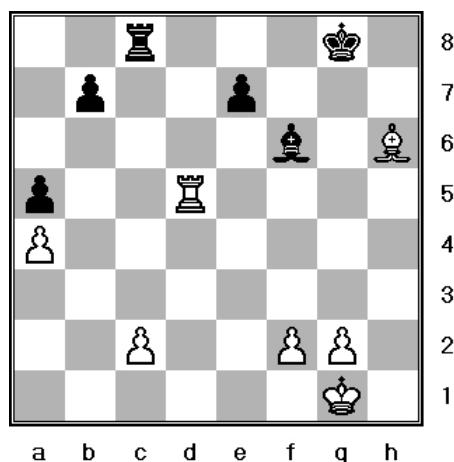
by Dana Muller



After several months of multiple piece endgames we will move back to a more “basic” ending. From the initial rook plus minor piece position, the bishops are quickly traded resulting in a rook and pawn endgame.

White has the advantage of an extra pawn but faces some technical problems in that his queenside pawns are weak and under attack, and that further pawn exchanges will tend to reduce the winning chances. White needs to retain a queenside pawn or win the black e-pawn to have serious winning chances. The conclusion is that White is much better, but Black has realistic drawing chances.

John Donaldson – Ralph Dubisch
Futurity
Seattle, 1982



Black to move.

White has an extra pawn, but the weak pawns at a4 and c2 handicap his winning chances. If all four queenside pawns are exchanged, the resulting “e” versus “f” plus “h” pawn configuration should result in draw. On the other hand, if White can capture the black e-pawn, then his winning chances improve considerably due to the resulting connected passed pawns.

Black, aside from being a pawn down, is reasonably well placed; the rook purposefully targets the c-pawn and his bishop is active on f6. Black’s objectives are the converse of White’s: he wants to hold onto his e-pawn and trade all of the

queenside pawns. During the game, White does manage to win the black e-pawn, while Black wins White’s c-pawn.

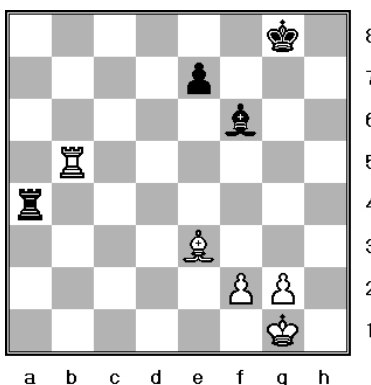
In the ensuing play Black has numerous chances to reduce the pawn position to a-pawn versus f and g-pawns. The position of the black rook is the key to understanding those sort of positions. If the black rook is forced to remain in front or to the side of the a-pawn then Black is losing. If Black can reposition his rook behind the a-pawn then he has decent drawing chances. In the game an alternate plan of using the black king to lift the attack on his b-pawn was employed. This plan has the merit of created connected passed pawns for Black, but it is time consuming and White has a chance to get his kingside pawns rolling.

The game has an exciting finish with both players having connected passers on the 7th rank. Since White is able to queen first, he is able to start a mating attack first.

30. ...Bc3

An important decision; should the a-pawn be defended or should black start chopping wood with 30. ...Rxc2? Defending with 30. ...b6 is inferior; after 31. Be3 Black is hard-pressed to defend the b-pawn: 31. ...Rc6 32. Rb5 or 31. ...Rxc2 32. Bxb6 and the a-pawn drops.

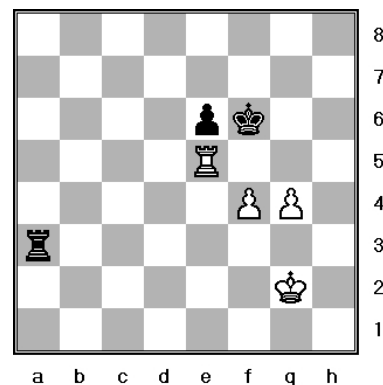
Black has a chance to eliminate the queenside pawns after 30. ...Rxc2. For example 30. ...Rxc2 31. Rxa5 Ra2 32. Be3 b5! 34. Rxb5 Rxa4.



Although Black should be able to draw such positions, they are not without a drop of poison since the g-pawn is passed.

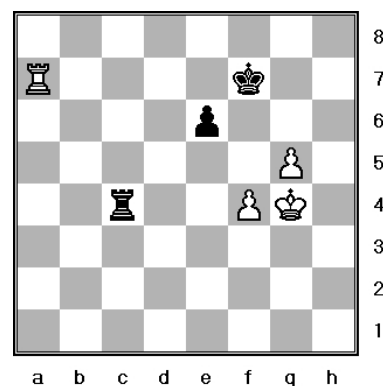
A example from Fundamental Chess

Endings (Muller/Lamprecht, p210) shows that even in a “drawn” rook and pawn ending, Black must remain alert to successfully gain the half point.



V. Milov – M. Godena.

1. Kf2 Rb3 2. g5+ Kf7 3. Re3 Rb1 4. Kf3 Ra1 5. Kg4 Ra4 6. Re5 Rb4 7. Ra5 Rc4 8. Ra7+



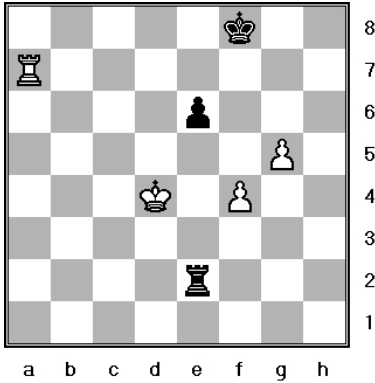
8. ...Kf8!

(8. ...Kg6? 9. Re7 Re4 10. Rxe6+ Rxe6 11. f5+ Kf7 12. fxe6+ Kxe6 13. Kh5 Kf7 14. Kh6 Kg8 15. Kg6 +-)

9. Kf3 Rc1! (9. ...Rb4 10. g6 Rb5 11. Rf7+ Kg8 {11. ...Ke8 12. Kg4 Ra5 13. f5

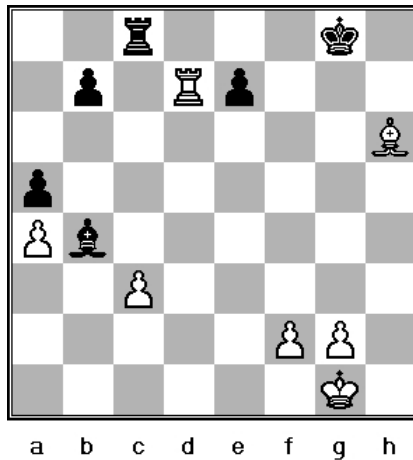
exf5+ 14. Rxf5 Ra1 15. Kg5 +-} 12. Re7
 Rb6 13. Kg4 Kf8 14. Rf7+ Kg8 15. Kg5
 Rb5+ 16. Kh6 Rb1 17. Re7 +-)

10. Ke4 (10. Kg4 Rc4 repeating) Re1+
 11. Kd4 Re2



or 10. Rh7 Rf1+ 11. Kg4 Rg1+ 12. Kh5
 Rf1, and Black is holding the position.

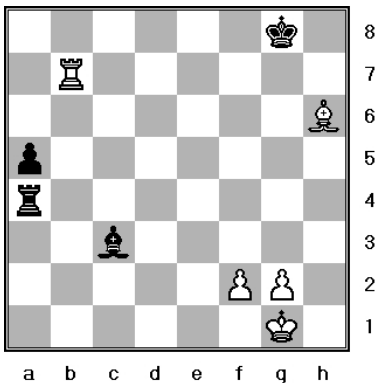
31. Rd7 Bb4 32. c3!



A clever attempt to win the e-pawn.

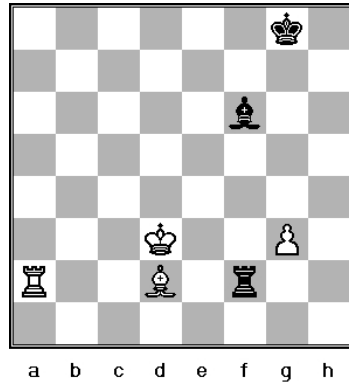
32. ...Rxc3

The alternative 32. ...Bxc3 keeps the
 bishops on the board: 33. Rxe7 Rc4 (idea
 Rxa4, Ra1+ and rapid advance of the a-
 pawn) 34. Rxb7 Rxa4,

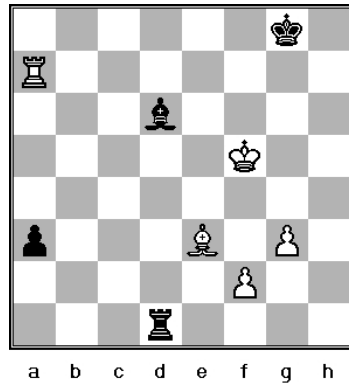


with two tries:

(1) 35. Kf1 Ra1+ 36. Ke2 a4 37. Kd3
 Bf6 38. Ra7 a3 39. g3 a2 40. Bd2 Rf1 41.
 Rxa2 Rxf2

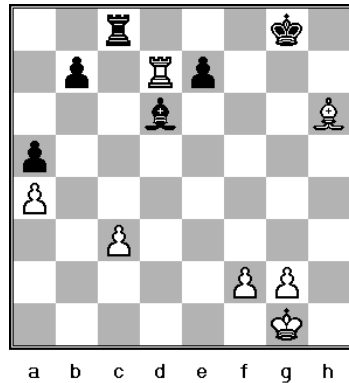


(2) 35. Be3 Ra1+ 36. Kh2 a4 37. Ra7
 Be5+ 38. g3 a3 39. Kh3 Bd6 40. Kg4 Rd1
 41. Kf5



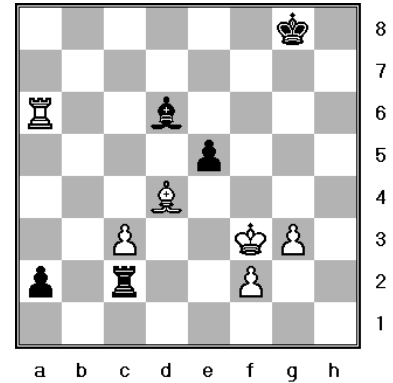
seems promising.

The move which retain the e-pawn is 32.
 ...Bd6.



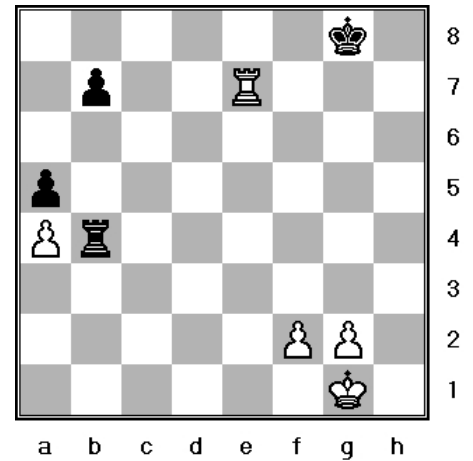
Here are a couple possibilities: (1) 33.
 Rxb7(?) Rxc3 34. Ra7 Ra3! 35. g3 Rxa4
 36. Kg2 Ra2 is better for Black(!);

(2) 33. Bd2 b6 34. Rb7 Rc4 35. Rxb6
 Rxa4 36. g3 Ra2 37. Be3 Rc2 38. Bd4 a4
 39. Kg2 a3 40. Ra6 a2 41. Kf3 e5



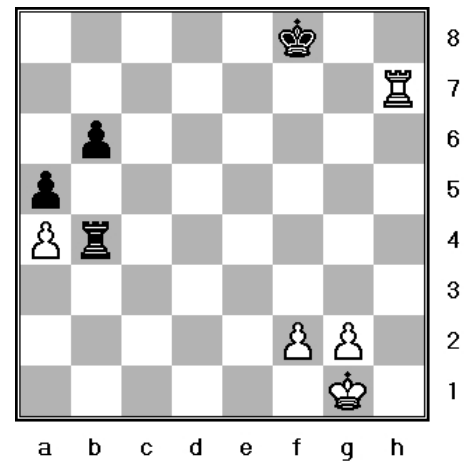
42. Be3 Rxc3 43. Rxa2 Rc4 is similar to
 the above 30. ...Rxc2 lines.

33. Bd2 Rc4 34. Bxb4 Rxb4 35. Rxe7



White has achieved the strategic goal of
 obtaining connected passers, but the weak
 a-pawn does provide Black with some
 counterplay.

35. ...Kf8 36. Rh7 b6



37. Rh6

37. Rb7 is better. As explained above,
 the exchange of black b-pawn for white a-
 pawn is not a good one for Black if his rook
 is stuck in front of the a-pawn. A sample

line would be 37. Rb7 Rxa4 38. Rxb6 Ra1+ 39. Kh2 a4 40. Ra6 a3 41. Kg3 a2 42. f4 and White has an unstoppable plan of advancing his king on the g-file and pushing the f-pawn. Since ...Rg1 allows Rxa2 protecting the g-pawn, Black is a dead duck.

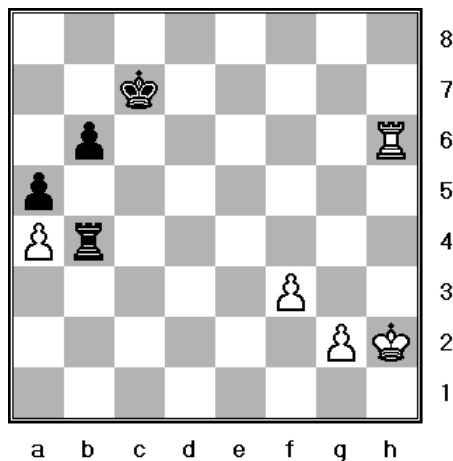
With White threatening to systematically advance his kingside pawns, Black needs to come up with some other form of counterplay. The only remaining idea is to move the king to the queenside in order to lift the attack on his b-pawn. It turns out this is too slow: 37. Rb7 Ke8 38. f3 Kd8 39. g4 Rxa4 (if 39. ...Kc8 then 40. Rf7 Rxa4 41. g5 +-) 40. Rxb6 Kc7 41. Re6 (41. Ra6? hands Black a vital tempo: 41. ...Kb7 42. Rf6 Rc4) 41. ...Rf4 42. Kf2 Rf8 43. g5.

The text move 37. Rh6 has similar ideas, but Black is able to gain an important tempo.

37. ...Kg7 38. Rc6 Kf7

As usual 38. ...Rxa4 39. Rxb6 is losing for Black.

39. f3 Ke7 40. Kh2 Kd7 41. Rh6 Kc7



The point of Black's plan; the a-pawn will fall giving Black connected passers.

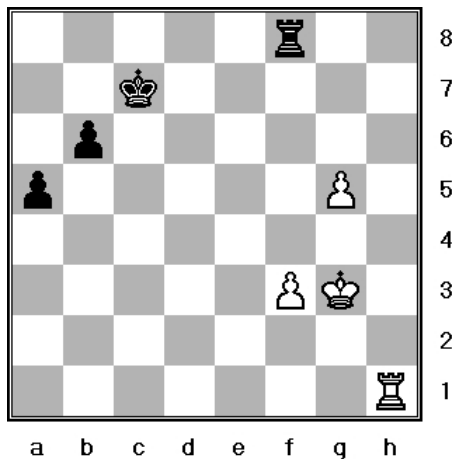
White retains an edge due to his passed pawns being the slightly more advanced pair.

42. g4 Rxa4 43. g5 Rf4

The start of a maneuver to bring the rook behind the a-pawn.

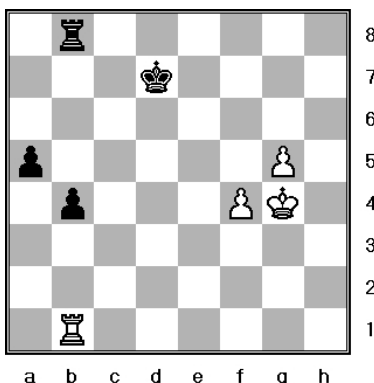
44. Kg3 Rf8 45. Rh1

Seems as good as anything, 45. f4, 45. Kg4, 45 Rh7+ are all possible, but Black can probably hold with best play.

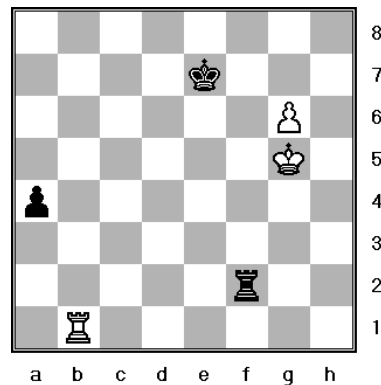


45. ...a4

Perhaps a better idea is 45. ...b5, when play could continue 46. f4 b4 47. Rb1 Kd7 48. Kg4 Rb8



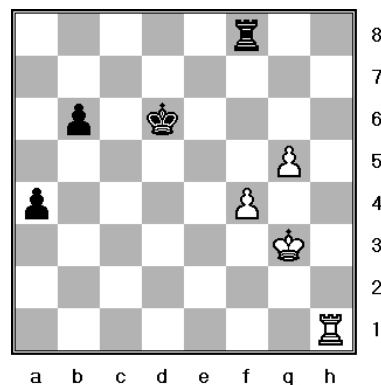
49. f5 (49. g6 Ke6 50. Kg5 Rb5+) 49. ...b3 50. g6 b2 51. f6 Ke6 52. f7 Ke7 53. Kg5 a4 54. Rf1 b1(Q) 55. f8(Q)+ Rxf8 56. Rxb1 Rf2



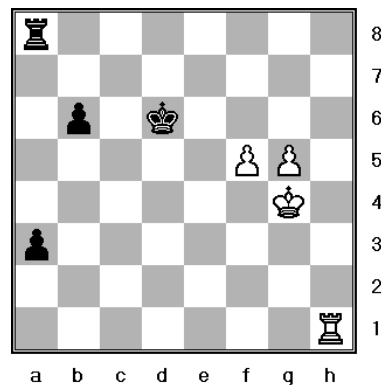
and I think Black can scrape a draw from here.

46. f4 a3

46. ...Kd6 with the idea of using the king to slow down the white pawns runs into trouble.



For example 47. Kg4 a3 48. f5 Ra8



"Train Your Brain!"

RADU ROUA
Chess Master

Tel: 503-880-0581
Chess Vision, Inc.
11918 SE Division St. PMB 279
Portland, OR 97266-1037
RADU@chessvision.net
www.chessvision.net

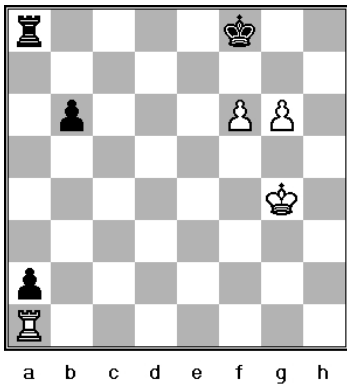


Carl A. Haessler
Lessons • Lectures • Exhibitions

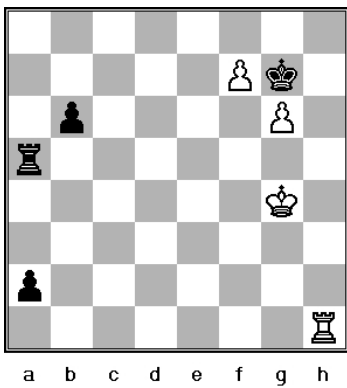
USCF Life Master
3-Time Oregon Champion

(503) 358-7877
ssmith6154@aol.com

49. Rd1+! Ke7 50. f6+ Kf8 51. g6! a2
52. Ra1!

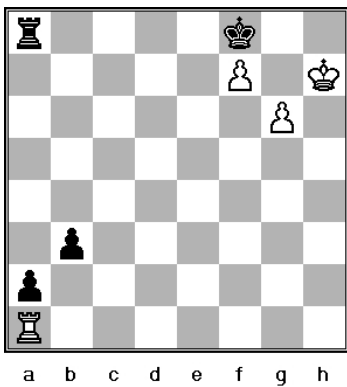


Now if Black tries to prevent Kg5-h6 followed by (Rxa2) g7, White has a tactic:
52. ...Ra5 53. Rh1! Kg8 54. f7+ Kg7



55. Rh8! and wins.

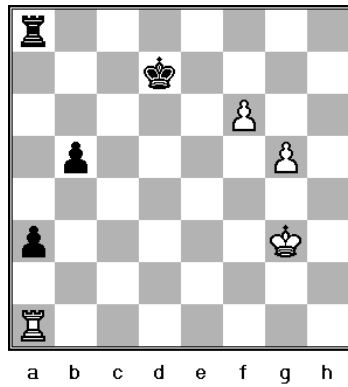
52. ...b5 53. Kg5 b4 54. Rh1! (54. ...Kg8 55. f7+, or 54. ...Ra5+ 55. Kf4 Kg8 56. f7+ Kg7 57. Rh8! again) is another just-in-time victory dance. And 52. ...Kg8 53. Kg5 b5 54. Kh6 b4 55. f7+ Kf8 56. Kh7 b3



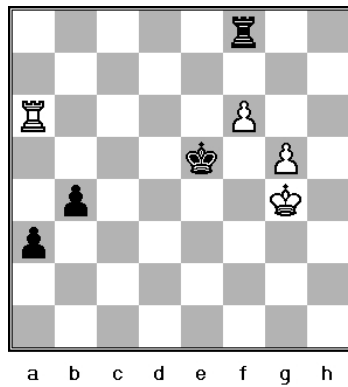
57. Rf1! finishes the job, too: 57. ...a1/Q 58. Rxa1 Rxa1 59. g7+ Kxf7 60. g8/Q+, and White picks up the rook with a fork or skewer on g7 next.

47. Ra1 Ra8 48. f5 b5 49. f6 b4

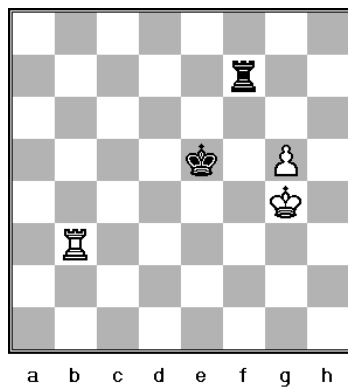
49. ...Kd7 now seems insufficient to hold against very precise play by White:



50. Re1! (50. g6? Rg8 51. g7 Ke6) 50. ...Rf8 51. Re7+ Kd6 52. Ra7 Ke5 53. Kg4 b4 54. Ra6!



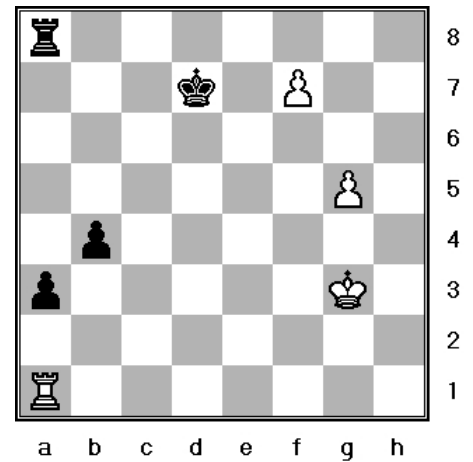
Things are going poorly for the defender.
54. ...b3 55. Rxa3 Rb8 56. f7 Rf8 57. Rxb3 Rxf7



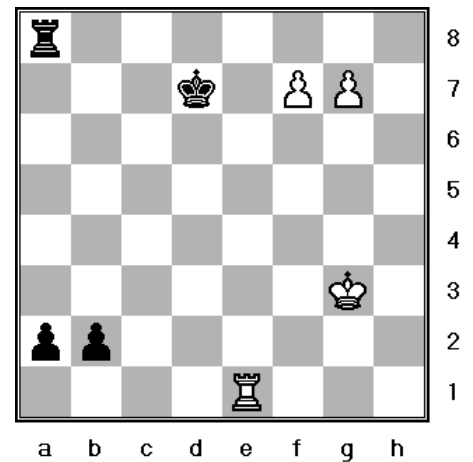
58. g6 Rf8 59. Kg5 Rf5+ 60. Kh6 Rf1 61. g7 Kf6 62. Kh7 Rh1+ 63. Kg8 Ke7 should look familiar to anyone who has studied the Lucena position. 49. ...Kd6 also fails, to 50. Kg4 a2 51. g6 Ke6 52. Kg5 b4 53. Re1+, with play similar to the game continuation.

50. f7 Kd7

Too late; a slightly better try is 50. ...b3 51. Rxa3 (too slow is 51. g6) 51. ...Rxa3 52. f8(Q) b2+ 53. Qxa3 b1(Q) 54. Qe7+. The queen and pawn ending is highly favorable, probably won for White, but it will still take some proving.



51. Re1 b3 52. g6 b2 53. g7 a2



Four pawns on the seventh rank!

54. g8(Q)

1-0

After any Black promotion, White has a forced mate starting with 55. Qg4+.

Chess DVDs Now Available through Elliott's Chess School!

LEARN CHESS INDEPTH WITH NATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT NEFF

Chess4Life also offers:

- Chess Camps
- Tournaments
- Afterschool Program
- Private Lessons
- Chess Classes
- Chess4Life Center

Chess4Life

Teaching life skills through chess

For more info, call 425-283-0549 | www.chess4life.com

The 2010 Northwest Chess Grand Prix (June)

Tallied by: Murlin Varner

The standings below are current through the first weekend of May (the Inland Empire Open). By the time you read this, they really won't matter anymore, because the biggest event on the NWGP schedule will have come and gone, the Washington Open in Redmond on Memorial Day weekend. This event will have had a multiplier of 5x and if you didn't attend, then a whole lot of people just passed you by. The last time this event was held in Redmond (2008), it had over 160 players in attendance. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, I will have been there, and I hope to have seen many of you.

The biggest event impacting these standings was the Oregon Class on April 17-18, which had a multiplier of 3x and drew 37 players. The impact can be seen in the shuffling that occurred in the Oregon side of the table below. All told, there were 143 entries in seven events since my last report. Looking ahead to June, events will be held in Portland, Seattle (3), and Tacoma. At this writing, there is nothing listed on the website (www.nwchess.com) for Spokane in June, but that may change before you actually get this.

Go, play, get points! Three hundred of us have so far, lets see more of you.

Oregon

Washington

Masters

1 Raptis, Nick 45	1 Malugu, Satyajit 56
2 Breckenridge, Steven ... 27.5	2 Bragg, David R 27
3 Roua, Radu 19.5	3 Pupols, Viktors 20.5
4 Schulien, Charles 16.5	4 Sang, Tian 16
4 Haessler, Carl A 16.5	5 Selzler, Ricky 12
	6 Koons, Nat W 6

Experts

1 Davis, Mikeal 40	1 Schemm, Michael A .. 45
2 Morris, Michael J 30	2 Bartron, Paul R 29.5
3 Pendergast, Michael 23	3 Ummel, Igor 27
4 Heywood, Bill 21	4 Merwin, Steven E 18
5 Polasek , Preston F 17	5 Kaupilla, Timothy J ... 10
6 Deeth, Steven B 16.5	6 Julian, John 9.5

Class A

1 Botez, V Alexandra 19.5	1 Buck, Stephen J 62
2 Herrera, Robert 18	2 Sotaridona, Leonardo 46
3 Surak, Steve S 16.5	3 Sen , Samir 41.5
4 Bannon, David T 15	4 O'Gorman, Peter J 33
5 Robinson, Marcus 10.5	5 Teng, Yun 31
6 Esler, Brian 10	6 Watts, Peter O 24.5

Class B

1 Grom, Alex 46.5	1 Ambler, Dennis L 67
2 Niro, Frank A 29.5	2 Mathews, Daniel R 38
3 Parnon, Calvin J 27	3 McAleer, James 33.5
4 Witt, Steven A 24.5	4 Brendemihl, Steven ... 28
5 Chu-Kung, Ben 22	5 Goodfellow, Robert ... 25
6 Levin, Scott A 21	6 Tokareva, Kate 24

Class C

1 Shimada Masakazu 39.5	1 Piper, August 54
2 Skalnes, Erik 34.5	2 Monahan, Darby P 52.5
3 Waterman, Jeremy 28.5	3 Lampman, Becca 28.5
4 Donchenko, Peter 23	4 Cordero, Rowland 27
5 Reyes, Hector E 21	5 Willaford, Loyd J 26
6 Dietz, Arliss 20.5	5 Nagase, Masayuki 25.5

Class D and Below

1 Butson, Jeffrey C 20.5	1 Richards, Jerrold 37
2 Jeffrey, Caleb 13.5	2 Davis, Freddy A 32.5
3 Chatterjee, Dhruva 12	3 Kramlich, Dan 25.5
3 Coonrod, Larry F 12	4 Kirlin, Patrick M 23
5 Kleier, Peter 10.5	5 Waugh, James 20
6 Molchanov, Valentin I ... 9.5	6 Lee, Boas 19

Overall Leaders, by State

1 Grom, Alex 46.5	1 Ambler, Dennis L 67
2 Raptis, Nick 45	2 Buck, Stephen J 62
3 Davis, Mikeal 40	3 Malugu, Satyajit 56
4 Shimada, Masakazu 39.5	4 Piper, August 54
5 Skalnes, Erik 34.5	5 Monahan, Darby P 52.5
6 Morris, Michael J 30	6 Sotaridona, Leonardo 46
7 Niro, Frank A 29.5	7 Schemm, Michael A .. 45
8 Waterman, Jeremy 28.5	8 Sen , Samir 41.5
9 Breckenridge, Steven ... 27.5	9 Mathews, Daniel R 38
10 Parnon, Calvin J 27	10 Richards, Jerrold 37
11 Witt, Steven A 24.5	11 McAleer, James 33.5
12 Donchenko, Peter 23	12 O'Gorman, Peter J 33
13 Pendergast, Michael 23	12 Davis, Freddy A 32.5
14 Chu-Kung, Ben 22	12 Teng, Yun 31
15 three tied at 21	15 Bartron, Paul R 29.5

Players from Other Places

1 Havrilla, Mark A	ID	1965	37.5
2 Subedi, Avinaya	ID	1875	22.5
3 Leslie, Cameron D	ID	1881	21
4 Weyland, Ronald M	ID	1510	20.5
5 Donaldson, John	CA	2390	19.5
6 Joshi, Kairav R	ID	1553	19
7 Weyland, Phil	ID	1874	18
7 Skovron, James J	MT	1841	18
9 Hatcher, Wayne L	NM	1918	16.5
9 McCourt, Daniel J	MT	1734	16.5
10 Martin, Robert A	MT	1682	15
10 McBroom, William	MT	1563	15
10 Sly, Douglas R	CAN	1527	15
14 Phillips, Robert L	MT	1851	13.5
14 Drake, Dean D	MT	1708	13.5
14 Strong, Murray R	MT	1496	13.5

Players in Database 2010

Master: OR 5, WA 7, other 1, total 13.

Expert: OR 7, WA 11, other 0, total 18.

Class A: OR 8, WA 35, other 9, total 52.

Class B: OR 17, WA 43, other 6, total 66.

Class C: OR 17, WA 41, other 10, total 68.

Class D-below: OR 18, WA 61, other 4, total 83.

Totals: OR 72, WA 198, other 30, total 300.

The (Potentially) Robert Karch Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix (July)

by: Murlin Varner, statistician

You probably noted the potential name for the Grand Prix. Historically, we have had a sponsor who provided added money to the GP prize fund, and received in return the right to name the event. This has led to a series of memorials heading this column, including those for Stephen Christopher, Mike Frannett, and Clark Harmon. It has been suggested that we name our current event for Robert Karch, but the person doing the suggesting does not have the ability to provide the full sponsorship. He did promise to be a donor if a collective effort could be raised, so here I am to suggest just such an effort. Our usual level of sponsorship has been \$1000, split evenly between the prize funds for Washington and Oregon. I am announcing, therefore, a fund raising effort to reach the \$1000 level with the interest in naming this the "Robert Karch Memorial Northwest Grand Prix." If you would like to donate to this fund, please send your donation to Eric Holcomb, NWC Business Manager, 1900 NE Third St., STE 106-361, Bend, OR 97701-3889. Please make checks payable to Northwest Chess. Any amount will help reach our goal to honor the memory of a long-time chess figure in the northwest, and all collected funds will go directly to the Grand Prix prize fund.

At the Washington Open over the Memorial Day weekend, I was asked a number of times about the placement of players in classes for the GP prizes. To those who might also wonder, but didn't get a chance to ask me, the GP uses the highest rating attained during the year for the purpose of class prizes. Thus, through the year, you can only move up in classes and not down. Many people will end the year at a higher class than they started, and sometimes a very productive year will result in a player jumping two or even three classes between January and December. Your position on the prize list is not finalized until the official December ratings are released (usually around the 10th of November). If you drop a class during the year, then you will start the next year at that lower class. Many years, I start at Class C and end at Class B, but when January rolls around, I'm back at Class C again!

I mentioned the Washington Open above, and that event, with over 180 players and a 5x multiplier, has caused quite an upheaval in the standings. Look closely. If you didn't attend the WA Open, you have likely dropped down the list or completely off. Conversely, if you DID attend, you may have moved onto or up the list. There is still over half the year to go, including a number of additional events with multipliers, so you still have many chances to move up the list. Our next event with a multiplier (3x) is the Harmon Memorial/Lakefair Open in Olympia on July 17-18. There are seven other events in July, in Seattle, Portland, and Tacoma, and six more in August in those three cities plus Spokane. You can always check the calendar at www.nwchess.com to plan your weekends.

Standings below are through the Evergreen Empire Open in Tacoma (a disappointingly poorly attended event that was actually very strong, with an average rating of 2030), June 12-13.

Oregon

Washington

Masters

1	Raptis, Nick	111	1	Malugu, Satyajit	81
2	Breckenridge, Steven ...	52.5	2	Pupols, Viktors	44
3	Roua, Radu	19.5	3	Selzler, Ricky	42
4	Schulien, Charles	16.5	4	Cozianu, Costin	35
4	Haessler, Carl A	16.5	4	Lee, Michael	35
		4	Perez, Ignacio	35

Experts

1	Gay, Daniel Z	42.5	1	Bartron, Paul R	63.5
2	Davis, Mikeal	40	2	Ummel, Igor	56.5
3	Morris, Michael J	30	3	Schemm, Michael A ..	45
4	Pendergast, Michael	23	4	Wang, Michael	34
5	Heywood, Bill	21	5	Lessler, Peter	32.5
6	Daroza, Eduardo J	20	6	Xing, Kerry	30

Class A

1	Bannon, David T	47.5	1	Ambler, Dennis L	111.5
2	Grom, Alex	46.5	2	Buck, Stephen J	99
3	Botez, V Alexandra	44.5	3	Sen, Samir	64
4	Surak, Steve S	19.5	4	Qu, Frank	54.5
5	Herrera, Robert	18	5	Watts, Peter O	52.5
6	Esler, Brian	14.5	6	Hosford, Michael J	50

Class B

1	Niro, Frank A	29.5	1	Mathews, Daniel R	85.5
2	Waterman, Jeremy	28.5	2	Gibbon, Brian C	53.5
3	Parnon, Calvin J	27	3	Goodfellow, Robert ...	52
4	Rhoades, Alan J	25	4	Brendemihl, Steven ...	50.5
5	Witt, Steven A	24.5	5	Vanmane, Amith	46.5
6	Chu-Kung, Ben	22	6	Hua, Daniel	45

Class C

1	Shimada, Masakazu	39.5	1	Piper, August	89.5
2	Skalnes, Erik	34.5	2	Monahan, Darby P	86
3	Donchenko, Peter	23	3	Lampman, Becca	59.5
4	Dietz, Arliss	20.5	4	Kramlich, Dan	55.5
5	Hoglund, Jacob D	17.5	5	Cordero, Rowland	54.5
6	Dalthorp, Dan	16	6	Szabo, Marcell	53.5

Class D and Below

1	Butson, Jeffrey C	20.5	1	Davis, Frederick A	65
2	Chatterjee, Dhruva	15	2	Richards, Jerrold	64.5
3	Jeffrey, Caleb	13.5	3	Yeo, Noah	44
4	Chattopadhyay, Sandip ..	12.5	4	Soetedjo, James C	43
5	Coonrod, Larry F	12	5	Nagase, Toshihiro	41.5
6	Kleier, Peter	10.5	6	Zhang, Brendan	39

Overall Leaders, by State

1	Raptis, Nick	111	1	Ambler, Dennis L	111.5
2	Breckenridge, Steven ...	52.5	2	Buck, Stephen J	99
3	Bannon, David T	47.5	3	Piper, August	89.5
4	Grom, Alex	46.5	4	Monahan, Darby P	86
5	Botez, V Alexandra	44.5	5	Mathews, Daniel R	85.5
6	Gay, Daniel Z	42.5	6	Malugu, Satyajit	81
7	Davis, Mikeal	40	7	Davis, Frederick A	65
8	Shimada, Masakazu	39.5	8	Richards, Jerrold	64.5

59th Annual Oregon Open

September 4, 5 & 6, 2010

6-round Swiss: 2 sections, Open & Reserve (under 1800).

Time Control: 40 moves in 2 hours, then sudden death in 1 hour (40/2; SD/1).

Registration: Saturday 9-10:30 am.

Rounds: Saturday 11 & 5:30; Sunday 9:30 & 5:30; Monday 9 & 3.

Location: Mt. Hood Community College, Vista Room; 26000 SE Stark, Gresham.

Check www.pdxchess.org for directions to playing site.

Organizer: Portland Chess Club, **Byes:** 2 Byes available, request before Rd 1.

\$3,000 Guaranteed!

\$1,500 in each Section

Increased at discretion of Organizer if more than 100 non-junior players.

Open: 1st \$550; 2nd \$300; 3rd \$200 **U2000:** 1st \$200; 2nd \$150; 3rd \$100

Reserve: 1st \$370; 2nd \$220; 3rd \$130 **U1600, U1400, U1200 each \$130-80-50**

Unrated players limited to class prizes of \$100 in Open, \$60 in reserve.

Special Prizes: \$200 bonus for perfect score in Open Section;

Martha Jane Miller Memorial prize of \$100 to highest scoring

female player in Open Section.

Entry: \$60; \$50 for PCC members who register by September 2.

Juniors (under 19) may pay \$15 and compete for non-cash prizes in Reserve Section (no PCC discount).

Memberships: USCF and OCF/WCF required (OSA). NW Grand Prix event.

Name _____

Address _____

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

Email _____ Section _____ Bye Rds _____

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

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

July 3 & 31, Aug. 28

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

July 18, Aug. 15

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

August 1

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 7/28, \$16 at site. (\$2 disc. for SCC mem., \$1 for mem. of other dues-req'd CCs in WA, OR, & BC). **Prizes:** Memberships (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3 or 4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Novice

.....
• **Attendance 2010's previous tournaments** •
• *Novice* (1/30)–11, (4/25)–5; *Quads* (1/2)–29, (1/23)–32, (2/27)–34, (3/20)–30, (4/24)–19, (5/15)–20, (6/5)–20; *Tornados* (1/31)–24, (2/21)–22, (3/14)–28, (4/11)–25, (5/9)–8; **Seattle City Championship** (1/15–17)–29; **Seattle Spring Open** (3/26-28)–57, **Adult Swiss** (5/1-2)–11.
•

How to Find the SCC Site

The SCC is in the Northway Square East Building just across I-5 from Northgate Mall where large signs proclaim "Northwest Kidney Centers" and "City University." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th St. from Meridian Ave. N. The club is in the basement (B-85), just take the elevator down one floor.

Seattle Seafair

July 23-25 or July 24-25

A one-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/2 and SD/1 (Two-day schedule – Round 1, G/64). The prize fund of \$1620 is based on 58 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Harmon Memorial Grand Prix event

First	\$300	gtd.	U1800	\$130
Second	\$195	gtd.	U1600	\$125
Third	\$115	gtd.	U1400	\$120
U2200	\$140		U1200	\$60
U2000	\$135		Unrated	\$45
Upset (Rds 1-4)			\$10/rd	
Plus Score Pool			\$215	

Entry Fees: \$41 if rec'd by 7/21, \$50 at site. **GMs, IMs, & WGMs**—FREE. **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr USCF & 1-yr WCF. **SCC members**—subtract \$11. Members of other dues-required CCs in BC, OR, and WA—subtract \$5. **Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

Registration: Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am. **Rounds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

Byes: 2 (Sunday rounds, commit at reg.). **Misc.:** USCF & WCF memb. req'd. No smoking. No computers.

Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

♣ June 26

Portland Chess Club G/60 ♣

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

♣ July 10

Tacoma Chess Club Tornado #5 ♣

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.

July 17

Chess Night @ Portland Beavers Baseball

♣ July 17-18

Harmon Memorial Lakefair Open ♣

Olympia, WA. Site: Evergreen State College, B Pod Seminar 2 Building, 2700 Evergreen Parkway N.W., Olympia, WA. (B Pod Seminar 2 Building Rooms B1107, B2105 and B2107.) Format: 5 round Swiss in 1 section. Time Control: Sat. 40/90, SD/30, Sun. 30/90, SD/60. Registration: 9:00-9:45, Rounds: Sat. 10:00, 2:30, 7:00, Sun. 10:00, 3:30 or A.S.A.P. Prize Fund: \$1,700 Guaranteed, 1st \$500.00, 2nd \$300.00 3rd \$150.00, 1st U2000, U1700, U1400 \$150.00 each, 2nd U2000, U1700, U1400 \$100.00 each. (Checks for prizes will be mailed out after the tournament.) Entry Fee: \$40.00 advanced, \$50.00 at site, Jr.'s playing for medal only, \$25.00 (must be under age 21). Byes: One half-point bye available. (Must notify TD before R-2.) Memberships: USCF/WCF or OCF memberships required, OSA. Entries/info: Send entries to Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, phone (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com. Please make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. You may also register online (coming soon). TD: Gary J. Dorfner. This event will be held in conjunction with the Lakefair celebration in Olympia.

July 24

Run/Chess Championship

Presented by the Central Coast Chess Club. Registration (\$5) from 11:00-11:45 AM at the Newport Oregon H.S. track. Run/walk a timed mile, then that will be each of your opponent's clock time in a five-round Swiss to determine the champion! Your clock time is, of course, their mile time! Games are unrated. Three-foot trophy to the champion, with additional age-group trophies as participation allows. Info: Bill Barrese, 3599 E. Alsea Hwy, Waldport, OR 97394; Barrese@casco.net; phone 541-563-7033.

♣ July 24-25

Portland Summer Open ♣

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

♣ July 31

Portland Chess Club G/60 ♣

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

August 7

Washington Senior Adult Championship

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. (For those over age 50.) Time control: G/60. Reg: 9:00-9:45 AM. Rounds: Sat. 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 OR A.S.A.P. Entry fee: \$25. Prize fund: (B/12) 1st \$60 + Plaque ; 2nd \$50, 1st U2000, U1700, U1400, \$40. Winner seeded into Washington Championship Invitational section. 1 HPB available. NS, NW, NC, USCF and state memberships required. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St. Tacoma WA 98445. (253)535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com. Make checks payable to Gary Dorfner.

♣ September 4-6 Oregon Open ♣

See display ad on page 46 inside this issue.

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.nwchess.com/articles/history/WCL/WCL_scans.htm