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This is, both by design and by chance, a “Seirawan-heavy” issue of Northwest Chess. Yasser sent us a short story a few weeks ago, then Dana Muller was inspired by Yasser’s 50th birthday party to dig up an endgame he’d played against the future GM, back when Yaz was still just an expert – though Dana was still outrated by some 300 points at the time. Finally, Yasser wrote a moving tribute to the recently departed great Danish GM Bent Larsen for Skakbladet, the official chess publication of Denmark.

Many years ago, one of my favorite t-shirts featured a graphic of the Space Needle in Seattle, and the following quote: “Rain is better for chess than hot sunny days – GM Bent Larsen.” I have no idea whether the attribution to GM Larsen is correct or not, or who designed the shirt in the first place, but I’ve always had a warm feeling about him because of this t-shirt.

Special thanks to Thorbjørn Rosenlund, editor-in-chief of Skakbladet, who requested the following memorial of Bent Larsen from Yasser, and who graciously allowed us the right of simultaneous publication in English.

– Ralph Dubisch, editor, NWC

GM Bent Larsen

4 March 1935 – 9 September 2010

Bent Larsen: A dedication...

I’d like to thank the editor of Skakbladet for this opportunity to write a dedication to Bent Larsen and to offer warm greetings to the readers.

Where to begin? When I think of Bent so many stories and images immediately jump to my mind that it seems like I’m looking at a chess position that offers so many promising moves. Which to play first? I suppose I should start at the beginning and see where our journey takes us.

Long before we ever met I had read about the, “Great Dane,” and thrilled to his style of fearless play. As an American late-bloomer (I started to play in the summer of 1972) caught up in the excitement of Spassky – Fischer 1972, I would learn that in his victorious march through the Candidates matches “Bobby” had defeated two rivals with a six to zero score. Simply astounding. Amazingly, I’d also learn that Bobby, who swept all aside, had only two years earlier, in the 1970 “Rest of the World” match versus the Soviet Union, voluntarily stepped aside allowing a rival to play board one ahead of him. It was the “great Bobby himself” who made that decision and not the average chess fan. Clearly, Bobby had a great deal of respect for Bent and I immediately decided that I did too.

I tried my best to read as many chess books that “floated” through my hands and soon I was able to soar with Bent’s accomplishments. There were many things I could not explain or understand about his style. His moves seemed to be a mixture of absolute provocation on the one hand – simply urging the opponent to sacrifice something – and an absolute willingness to sacrifice if given a chance himself. Creative and intriguing ideas abounded in nearly all of his games. Tactics and combinations lurked everywhere, and Bent would revel in such positions – he was technically flawless in endgame play. I found this to be a strange and confounding mixture as well. What

Tacoma Public Library’s

Chess Tournament

10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 13, 2010
Main Library, Olympic Room
1102 Tacoma Ave S., Tacoma WA 98402

Free Registration

Format: 3 Round Swiss

Time Control: G/30

Rounds @ 11, 1 & 2 p.m.

Prizes: Trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Medals 4th, 5th, 6th

Register: 10 -10:45 a.m. on game day

Register in advance

at www.tacomapubliclibrary.org

or by calling 253-591-5666.

Space is limited, register early to insure a spot.

Co-sponsored by the Tacoma Chess Club

did dry technique have in common with creative tactics?, I would ask myself. Although I admired his results, I couldn’t come close to understanding how he did it. I’m sure his opponents felt exactly the same way.

For me and for many American chess players, the 1970s are coupled with the Lone Pine events, where the young cubs would cut their teeth in the amazingly strong open tournaments which were an annual feature. It was in 1978 that I first saw Bent Larsen, and I could hardly contain my excitement to be around so many strong players. In round one I was paired against the up and coming player Jan Timman. On my right, however, there was the chess legend Bent Larsen! He was paired against another up and coming player, Jonathan Speelman. Because of jet-lag, early rounds of these events often featured upsets, and sure enough both Jonathan and I won our games. Bent went down in wretched flames. I was distraught that my first viewing of this chess legend was to see him on such a downswing. Two things impressed me most. The first is that, despite the graveness of his situation, Bent kept an extraordinary poker face throughout the game, never revealing for a moment his difficulties.

Secondly, when resigning he simply said, “Thank you,” and politely shook hands.

This was an extraordinarily classy thing to say and from that moment onwards, regardless of the result, I’ve always said to my opponent after the game, “Thank you.” Even if I couldn’t imitate his play, I could at least behave with the same respect that Bent showed to his opponents. By the way, guess who won the tournament? (No credit for second guessing.)

{continued on page 4}

I'm not sure exactly how or why, but Bent and I hit it off right away. I found him to be a fascinating conversationalist with an enormous breadth of worldly knowledge. I'd bet that in a gathering of theologians, biologists or economists, Bent would play a lively part in their conversations. As for chess, well, let's just say that I found his stories to be delightful and charming. As always, we would laugh heartily together. He was a gifted storyteller with a wonderful sense of humor.

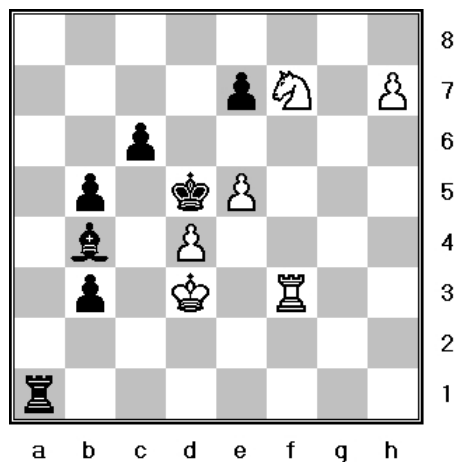
Our next meeting was at the 1979 Interzonal in Riga, Latvia, a Republic of the Soviet Union. It was a marathon event where we spent five weeks, often-times eating at the same hotel restaurant/cafeteria. The food was simply bad, and I recall one hilarious moment: Bent was eating away at his baked potato, simply plowing his way through it seemingly oblivious to the taste. I had long given up on my effort and watched as Bent tucked his away. I had to ask, "Bent. Did you really like that potato?"

"Absolutely not!", he snorted in indignation.

"Well, why did you eat it then?"

Bent was quick: "Because I know if I don't eat it now it will come back tomorrow! Firstly as 'mashed potato' and then as 'fried potato' and finally as a vodka!" Clearly, our chef knew his business about food recycling but Bent was on to him.

Another thing that stuck in my mind about Riga was his game versus the Philippine player Ruben Rodriguez. The position had been adjourned and the playing hall was rather empty, allowing me a very rare opportunity to grab a front row seat. After 57 moves the position on the board was tricky to say the least, with both players having passed pawns. (White to move.)



I thought that if Rodriguez played the defensive move 58 Rf2, to stop Black's passed b-pawn from advancing, Bent would be fighting for a draw.

Conversely, the tempting alternative of queening his h-pawn would allow Bent to win. Well, Ruben went into a think and while pondering his decision reached for a white queen and twisted it around in his fingers. Minutes ticked by as Ruben calculated away. All the while Bent sat as stoic as a rock. Sure enough, the temptation was too great and Ruben promoted. Bent won.

{The remaining moves were: 58. h8/Q b2 59. Qd8+ Bd6 60. Ke3 b1/Q 61.Nxd6 Qc1+, 0-1. – editor}

At dinner that night I told Bent that I was in the front row carefully watching and that I had a question for him. "While Ruben was twisting the white queen in his hand, what were the exact thoughts going through your mind?"

"I was thinking of the touch move rule," Bent answered. "Could I go to the arbiter and say 'my opponent has touched his queen, which is off the board and he must promote his pawn?' I didn't think that the touch-move rule applied. If I had tried to force Ruben to promote, it would have raised his suspicion and perhaps he would have seen the bishop retreat which blocked his check. I decided not to try to enforce the rule and instead tried to remain as calm as possible." We both shared a good laugh.

Oh, there are so many good stories that I'd like to share... Two more rather stand out for me. These were the days of the GMA and we were having a board of directors' meeting. A particularly difficult issue arose – I've forgotten which one – and after much discussion Garry Kasparov offered a perfect solution. We were all delighted, and when it came to the vote there were six quick 'aye' votes and Bent raised his hand to say 'nay.'

"What?", I asked. "Bent, you are against the motion?"

"Oh no," said Bent. "I'm all for it in fact!"

"But Bent, you just voted against it."

"Yes, yes, yes! In Danish politics we just don't pass things unanimously. There must be a dissenter. I have my principles, you see!" Such moments of levity are crucial at tense meetings of directors.

Another one, also during the GMA days. I had arrived for a board meeting and was

greeted by Bent with a merciless bear-hug. "Thank you! Oh, thank you," he cried.

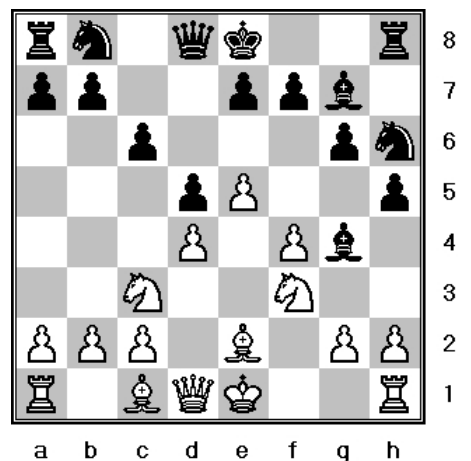
Delighted to be of service, I meekly asked what I had done. "Oh! Your game against Krishan Jhunjhnuwala was perfect, just perfect. You see, I'm writing a book for Danish children about squares, and that game just fit in perfectly. Made the whole chapter complete!" Bent was effusive in his compliments.

For me there were several problems. Firstly, I hardly remembered the game in question. Who, what, where, when? I challenge readers to try to say my opponent's name three times fast. It is a name easy to forget. At long last it dawned on me that Bent was speaking about a game from my 1979 World Junior Championship. The games from Skien weren't exactly headline news. I began thinking, "How on earth did Bent ever find that game?" These were the days when databases were only in their infancy, and bulletins were hard to come by. Then I started wondering why in blue blazes Bent was wasting his time looking at my games. And finally and most obviously, what a tragedy that the poor Danish children are learning how to play like me.

Let us have a look at what put Bent over the moon, shall we?

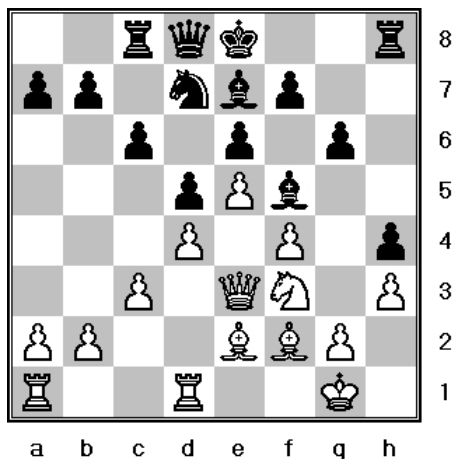
**Krishnan Jhunjhnuwala –
Yasser Seirawan
World Junior Championships, Round 9
Skien, Norway, August 5, 1979**

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 c6 4. f4 d5 5. e5 h5 6. Nf3 Nh6 7. Bd3 Bf5 8. Be2 Bg4



9. Be3 Nf5 10. Bf2 e6 11. Qd2 Bf8 12. Nd1 Be7 13. Ne3 Nd7 14. 0-0 Nxe3 15. Qxe3 Rc8 16. h3 Bf5 17. c3 h4 18. Rfd1

This is the position that sent Bent into a profusion of delight. Not exactly a position that starts the heart racing.

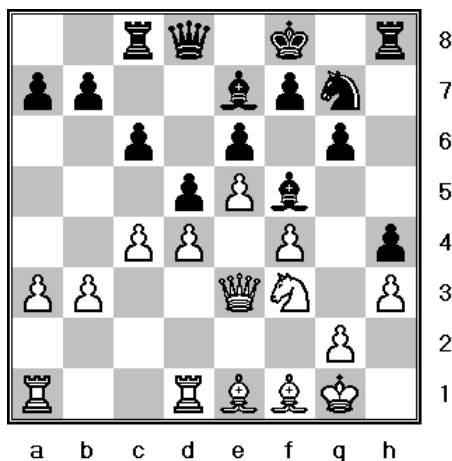


From all appearances, Black “enjoys” a cramped game with hardly a lick of counterplay. But Black does have a seemingly innocuous trump: control over the f5-square. How to exploit it?

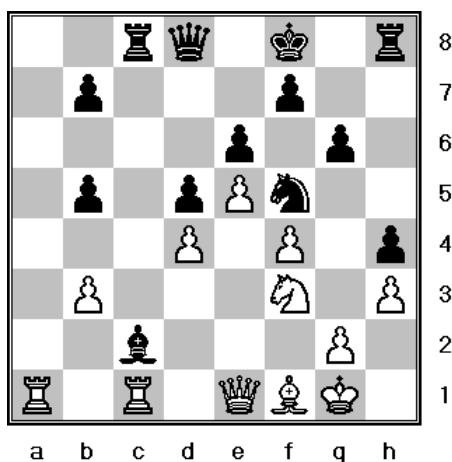
18. ...Kf8!

Preparing a knight maneuver.

19. Bf1 Nb6 20. b3 Na8! 21. c4 Nc7 22. a3 Ne8 23. Be1 Ng7

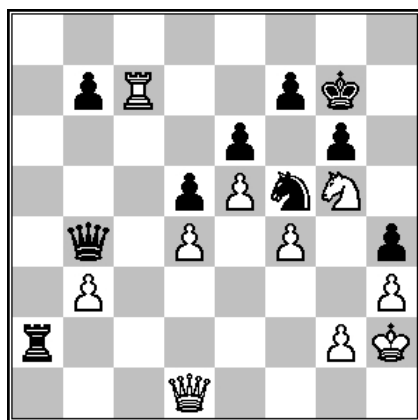


24. Bb4?! Bxb4 25. axb4 a6 26. b5? axb5 27. cxb5 cxb5 28. Qe1 Bc2! 29. Rdc1 Nf5



Mission accomplished. The knight has found the proper pasture. Now Black’s pieces are poised to take over the game as the opening of the queenside favors Black.

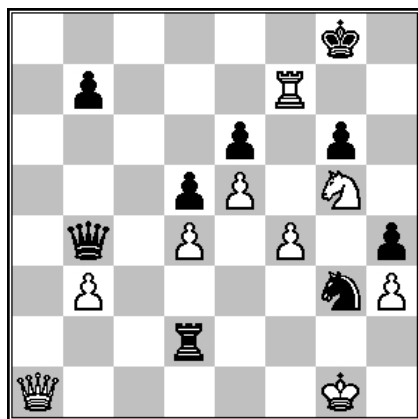
30. Qb4+ Kg7 31. Qxb5 Qe7 32. Bd3 Bxd3 33. Qxd3 Qb4 34. Kh2 Rhf8 35. Qd1 Rxc1 36. Rxc1 Ra8 37. Rc7 Ra2 38. Ng5



38. ...Rxc2+

The triumph of the knight’s journey.

39. Kh1 Rd2 40. Rxf7+ Kg8 41. Qa1 Ng3+ 42. Kg1



42. ...Ra2! 43. Qd1 Qc3

0-1

While I never saw Bent’s children’s chess book, I hope that my “contribution” didn’t cause them too much damage.

While we were good friends off the board, on the board it was a case of “take no prisoners.” We both landed some heavy blows indeed. If there was one thing that I found, at times, annoying about Bent, it is that regardless of the result he was often not available for a post-mortem. While I always felt it was an obligation to share with your opponent what you thought was going on,

Bent would often say, “Sorry, I must go.” Then, without any further explanation, he would make his exit. This would often be a sharp let-down.

Later, of course, I would discover that he was anxious to finish his column. He took his duties very seriously indeed and after nearly every round he would race to complete his chores. Apparently he wrote for newspapers in Denmark, Sweden, Argentina, Spain ... and of course for many magazines, as well as books.

Bent was a prolific writer and a wonderful one at that. He could turn the driest of games into a neat story and force a chuckle or two from a total desert. He had some marvelous quips. One that stood out for me was made at the 1972 San Antonio tournament. A competitor, Ken Smith, championed the “Smith-Morra Gambit” in the Sicilian: 1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3. In annotating a game where Smith had opened up with 1. e4 and his opponent had ducked the Sicilian, Bent noted, “Stronger was 1. ...c5, winning a pawn.”

In the early 1980s I played often in Mar del Plata, Argentina, where I went to a particular terrace to enjoy a cappuccino and soak up the sun. At a near run Bent and his future wife Laura swirled their way past my table. I was so pleased for Bent. “Love springs eternal,” was the thought that went through my mind. Laura stayed with him through his final days.

Lastly, upon his passing I must confess that a selfish thought raced through my mind. In May of this year a book I wrote, *Chess Duels*, was dedicated to Bent. I sent him a copy to Buenos Aires but didn’t receive confirmation that it had arrived. Had Bent seen the book dedicated to him? Did he like it or not? A short time ago Laura wrote me a message explaining that Bent had received the work and had enjoyed reading it. He was planning to write me a letter of thanks when the sudden illness took him away. It was the best review that I could have possibly received.

I hope I’ve sketched a portrait of a worldly, erudite, knowledgeable, kind, gracious and humorous man. Because that is who Bent Larsen was, and I’m proud that he was my friend.

– Yasser Seirawan

The Jerry Hanken Memorial US Open, 2010

report by Murlin Varner

The US Open is held in August, every year. And most years, the weather makes us pay dearly for that. This year, the USCF won the weather lottery. Irvine, California, was wonderful. High temperatures were in the upper 70s to low 80s every day. Humidity was moderate, morning clouds burned off to sunny mild afternoons, and the whole time was pleasant. Compared to some past Augusts, this alone was worth the trip. Eighteen people from Oregon and Washington made the trip, for more than the weather, of course.

The 2010 edition of the US Open was named in memory of Jerry Hanken, long time member, promoter, journalist and sometimes executive of the USCF, who passed away last year after a long series of illnesses. I'm sure he would have been happier to be remembered with a twelve round event, but the one he organized in Los Angeles back in 2003 may end up being the last of that breed. Jerry may have been the last of his breed, too. He was an interesting character.

Attendance was good, too, up from the past couple of years, but not yet back to the levels we have seen in the past. Over 470 players attended, with more than half being from within the host state. In my experience (13 Opens, so far), this is perhaps the highest percent of home state players, surpassing Ft. Lauderdale in 2004. Those home state people are crucial to the yearly success of this tournament. If we ever manage to get the Open back into one of our states, we will also need to turn out in droves to make it a success. (This comes with living in a far corner of the country.)

We had a clear winner this year, something which happens less frequently than good weather in August. GM Alejandro Ramirez of Texas finished a half-point ahead with a score of 8/9. Of the four players at 7.5, Alejandro played three in the final rounds, defeating GM Alexander Shabalov (PA), and drawing with GM Varuzhan Akobian (CA) and IM Julio Sadorra (TX). Also finishing in that second score group was FM Daniel Naroditsky (CA).

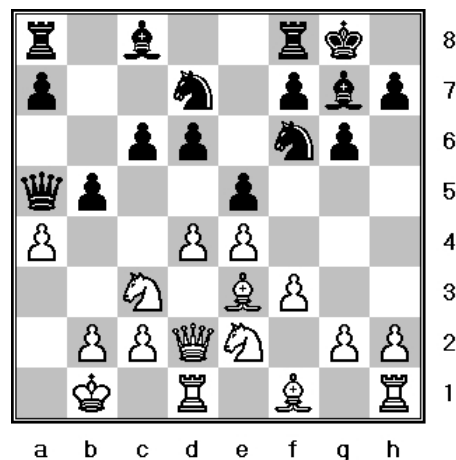
There were special prizes this year for the most upset points and for the greatest rating gain. I haven't seen the names listed with the other prize winners, and I am too lazy to look that closely at the rating report to find out for myself. However, I will be mentioning these statistics for our players, even though I am pretty sure none of us won one of those awards.

Howard Chen (WA, 2317) led the pace for the Northwest contingent, obtaining a score of 6.5/9. As also the highest rated player from our neck of the woods, Howard faced only one player rated higher than himself. After winning his first three games, against a Class B and two Experts, Howard fell to IM Naroditsky (2449) in round four. His only other loss was as an upset victim to Eric Zhang (2166, CA) in round six. No draws for Howard, his half-point came from a bye in the final round. All but Howard's third round opponent, Jeremy Mandelkern of Florida, were from the host state, underscoring how the great local turnout helped to make this event a success. His opponents had an average rating of 2102 and he gained one rating point.

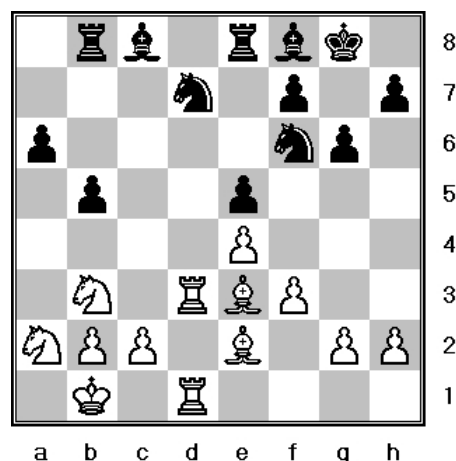
David Roper (WA, 2301) finished at 6/9. As a high rated player, like Howard above, David did not get much opportunity to play any of the few players rated ahead of him. His only higher rated opponent was IM Andranik Matikozyan (2551, CA), whom he lost to in the fourth round. David also took two draws against experts Quentin Moore (VA) and Alexander Velikanov (WI), and was defeated by Vanessa West, a young Californian who had an excellent tournament. David's opponents had an average rating of 2088, and he came away seven rating points lighter.

David Roper – Richard Borgen US Open, Round 8 Irvine, CA, August 7, 2010

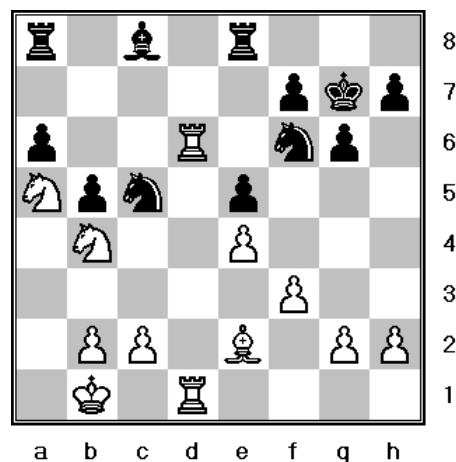
1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. f3 c6 5. a4 Bg7 6. Be3 0-0 7. Qd2 Nbd7 8. Nge2 e5 9. 0-0-0 Qa5 10. Kb1 b5



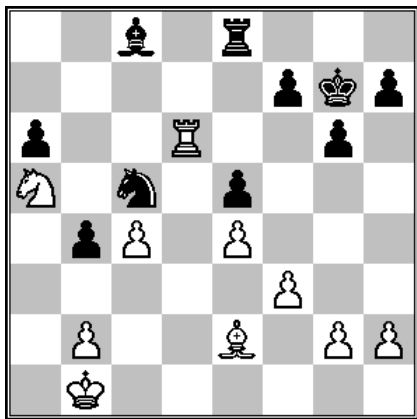
11. axb5 cxb5 12. Nc1 a6 13. Nb3 Qc7
14. dxe5 dxe5 15. Qd6 Qxd6 16. Rxd6 Re8
17. Be2 Bf8 18. Rd3 Bb4 19. Rhd1 Rb8
20. Na2 Bf8



21. Na5 Bc5 22. Bxc5 Nxc5 23. Rd6
Kg7 24. Nb4 Ra8

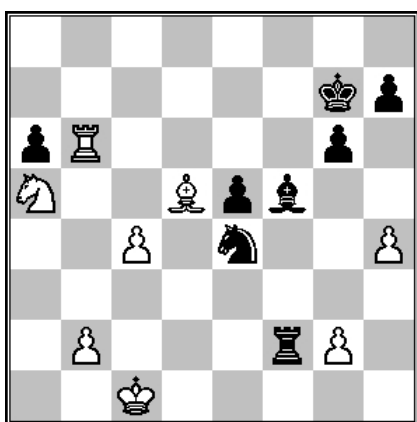


25. Rxf6 Kxf6 26. Nd5+ Kg7 27. Nc7
Be6 28. Nxe8+ Rxe8 29. Rd6 Bc8 30. c4
b4



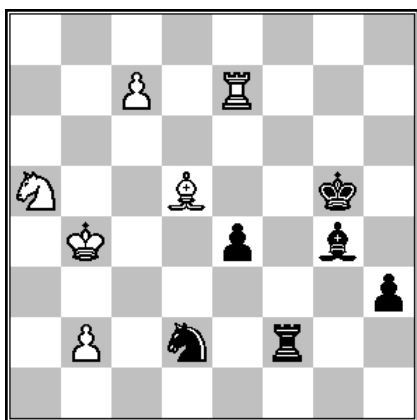
a b c d e f g h

31. Rb6 f5 32. Rxb4 fxe4 33. fxe4 Nxe4
34. Rb6 Rf8 35. Kc1 Rf2 36. Bf3 Ng5 37.
Bd5 Bf5 38. h4 Ne4



a b c d e f g h

39. g4 Rf1+ 40. Kc2 Rf2+ 41. Kb3
Nd2+ 42. Kb4 Bxg4 43. Rxa6 g5 44. hxg5
e4 45. Ra7+ Kg6 46. Re7 Kxg5 47. c5 h5
48. c6 h4 49. c7 h3



a b c d e f g h

50. Rg7+ Kh5 51. Rxg4 Rf8 52. Rg8
Rxg8 53. Bxg8 h2 54. c8/Q h1/Q 55. Qf5+
1-0

Roland Feng (WA, 1953) also scored 6/
9 and was our only prize winner of this

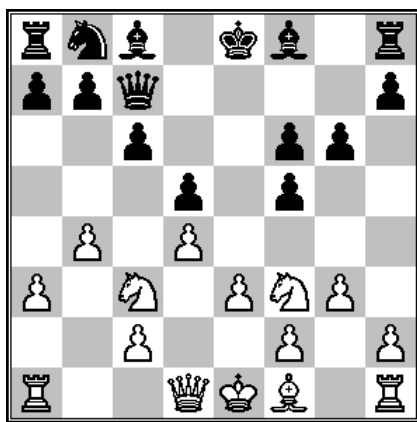
year's Open. Some years I get to write about
a number of cash recipients, occasionally
including myself, but this year, we brought
home little of the bacon. Roland was paid
\$923 for his share of 1-4 Class A. Roland
suffered three losses, to LM Jeffery Arnold
(2357) in round two, FM Gregg Small
(2273) in round six, and WFM Tatev
Abrahamyan (2430) in round eight. All of
Roland's opponents were Californians.
Roland scored three upsets. In round five,
he defeated Craig Farber (2167). He then
beat Jay Stallings (2100) in round seven and
Bobby Hall (2069) in round nine. All told,
Roland picked up 477 upset points and
gained 55 rating points to go with all that
cash.

Roland Feng – Jay Stallings

US Open, Round 7

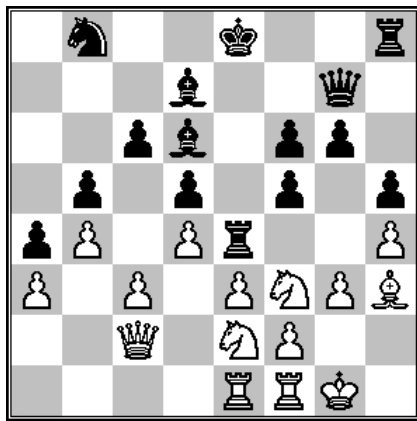
Irvine, CA, August 6, 2010

1. Nf3 f5 2. d4 Nf6 3. Bg5 g6 4. Nc3
Bg7 5. Bxf6 exf6 6. e3 d5 7. b3 c6 8. g3
Bf8 9. a3 Qa5 10. b4 Qc7



a b c d e f g h

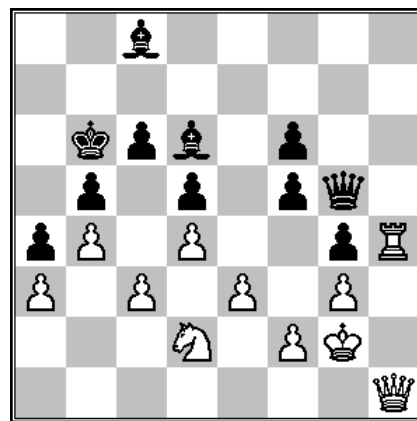
11. Bg2 Bd6 12. 0-0 h5 13. h4 b5 14.
Ne2 a5 15. c3 a4 16. Qc2 Qg7 17. Bh3 Ra7
18. Nd2 Re7 19. Rae1 Bd7 20. Nf3 Re4



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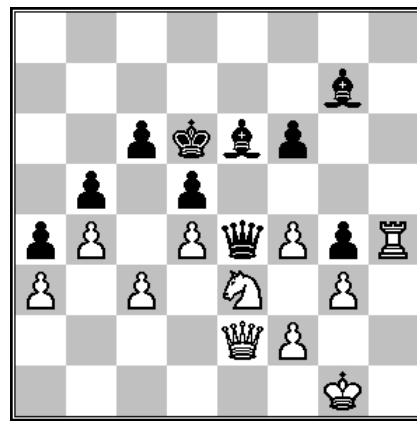
21. Nd2 Rg4 22. Bxg4 hxg4 23. Kg2

Be6 24. Nf4 Bc8 25. Rh1 Nd7 26. h5 Nf8
27. hxg6 Nxc6 28. Nxc6 Rxh1 29. Rxh1
Qxg6 30. Rh4 Kd7 31. Nf1 Qg5 32. Nd2
Kc7 33. Qb1 Kb6 34. Qh1



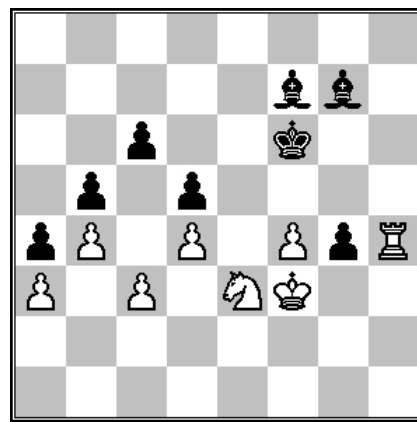
a b c d e f g h

34. ...f4 35. exf4 Qg6 36. Qb1 Bf5 37.
Qe1 Bf8 38. Kh2 Kc7 39. Qe2 Kd6 40. Kg1
Bg7 41. Nf1 Be6 42. Ne3 Qe4



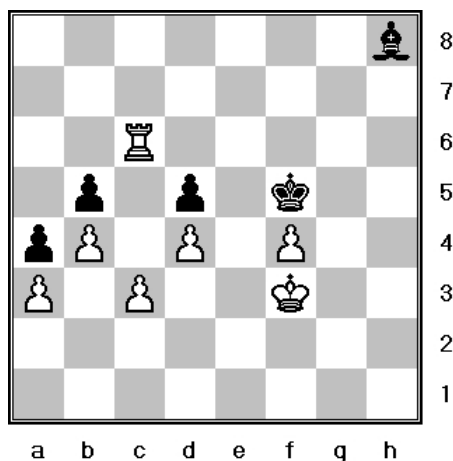
a b c d e f g h

43. Qc2 Qxc2 44. Nxc2 f5 45. Ne3 Ke7
46. f3 gxf3 47. Kf2 Kf6 48. Kxf3 Bf7 49.
g4 fxg4+



a b c d e f g h

50. Nxc4+ Kf5 51. Ne5 Be8 52. Rh7
Bf6 53. Rc7 Bh8 54. Nxc6 Bxc6 55. Rxc6

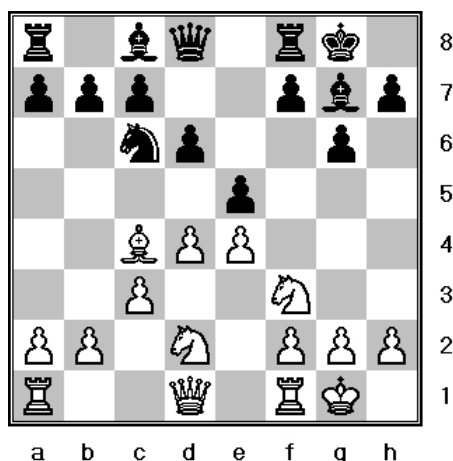


55. ...Bxd4 56. Rd6 Bxc3 57. Rxd5+ Ke6 58. Rxb5 Bb2 59. Ra5 Bxa3 60. Rxa4 1-0

At 5.5/9 we have three players. Dakota Dixon (WA,2075) was the draw master of the Northwest this year, winning three, drawing five and losing only once, to Kevin Wasiluk (MN, 2265) in round seven. All three of his wins were against Class A players and the five draws were versus Masters. These included Californians FM Elliot Liu (2329), Evan Sandberg (2217), LM Ankit Gupta (2291), and Konstantin Kavutskiy (2254) and LM Damir Studen (2273) of Georgia. Dakota earned a total of 494.5 upset points and gained 29 rating points.

Dakota Dixon – Elliott Liu
US Open, Round 2
Irvine, CA, August 4, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Bg5 Bg7 4. Bxf6 Bxf6 5. Nbd2 d6 6. c3 Bg7 7. e4 0-0 8. Bc4 e5 9. 0-0 Nc6

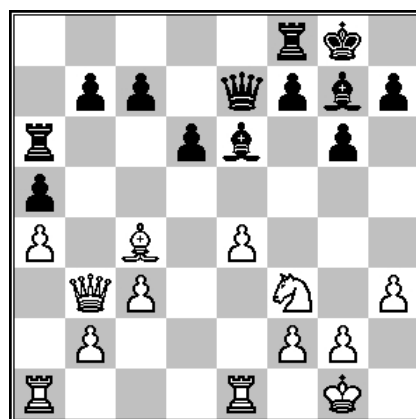


10. dxe5 Nxe5

If Black recaptures 10. ...dxe5, the position is eerily similar to the game

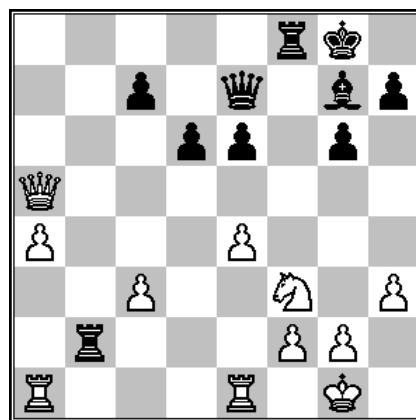
Botvinnik–Szilagyi, Amsterdam 1966, with colors reversed. That turned out very well for Botvinnik....

11. Nxe5 Bxe5 12. Nf3 Bg7 13. Re1 Qe7 14. h3 Be6 15. Qb3 a5 16. a4 Ra6



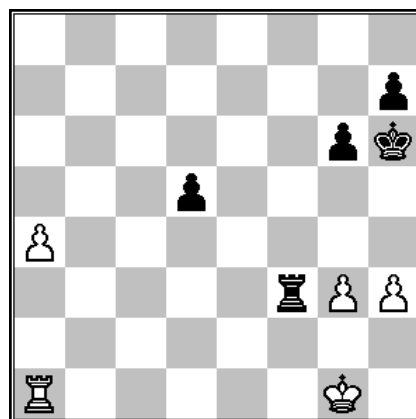
a b c d e f g h

17. Bxe6 fxe6 18. Qxb7 Rb6 19. Qa7 Rxb2 20. Qxa5



a b c d e f g h

20. ...Rxf3 21. gxf3 Qh4 22. Qa7 Be5 23. Rab1 Rc2 24. Rb8+ Kg7 25. Rc8 d5 26. Rxc7+ Bxc7 27. Qxc7+ Kh6 28. Qg3 Qxg3+ 29. fxc3 Rxc3 30. exd5 exd5 31. Ra1 Rxf3



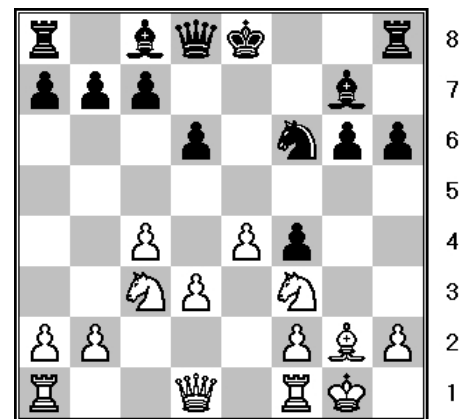
a b c d e f g h

1/2-1/2

Eduardo Daroza (OR, 2043) also scored 5.5/9. After an opening round win, Eduardo found himself behind the ropes on board 5, facing FM Matthew Beelby (CA, 2358). He acquitted himself well, earning a draw. Eduardo followed that with another FM draw against Eugene Yanayt (CA, 2226) in the third round. Eduardo stumbled a bit in rounds five and six, losing to Sergey Yurenok (CA, 2193) before being upset by that venerable Idahoan, Dan Mayers (1855). Eduardo recovered with two wins before drawing with Craig Faber (CA, 2167) in the final round. Eduardo racked up a net of 123 upset points and gained 9 rating points.

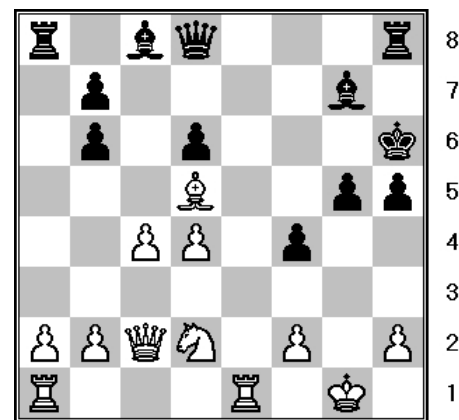
Eduardo Daroza – Eugene Yanayt
US Open, Round 3
Irvine, CA, August 2, 2010

1. Nf3 d6 2. c4 e5 3. Nc3 f5 4. d3 Nf6 5. g3 g6 6. Bg2 Bg7 7. Bg5 Nbd7 8. 0-0 h6 9. Bxf6 Nxf6 10. e4 f4 11. gxf4 exf4



a b c d e f g h

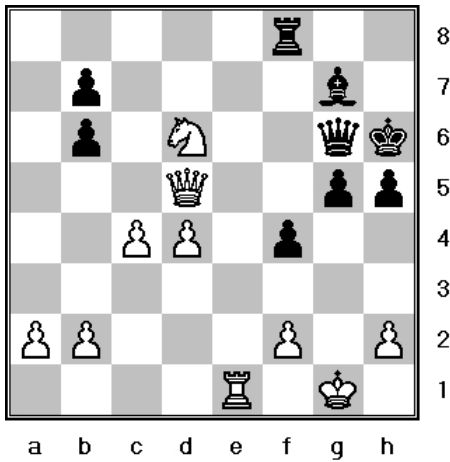
12. e5! Nd7 13. exd6 cxd6 14. Re1+ Kf7 15. d4 g5 16. Nd5 Nb6 17. Nd2 h5 18. Nxb6 axb6 19. Bd5+ Kg6 20. Qc2+ Kh6



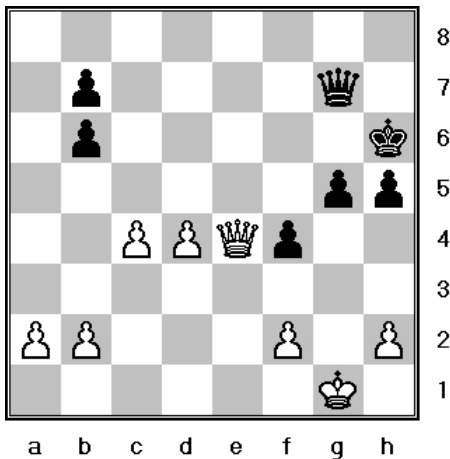
a b c d e f g h

21. Qe4 Rb8 22. Be6 Re8 23. Qd5 Qf6 24. Bxc8 Rbxc8 25. Ne4 Qg6 26. Nxd6

Rxe1+ 27. Rxe1 Rf8



28. Re6 Rf6 29. Nf5+ Kh7 30. Rxf6 Qxf6 31. Nxc7 Qxc7 32. Qe4+ Kh6 33. Qe6+ Kh7 34. Qe4+ Kh6 35. Qe6+ Kh7 36. Qe4+ Kh6



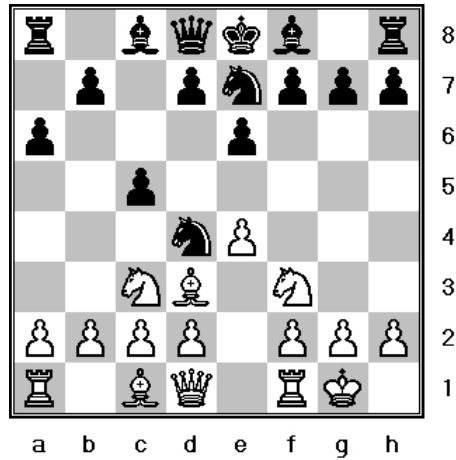
1/2-1/2

Rounding out our 5.5 trio is Fred Kleist (WA, 2029). He also found himself behind the ropes in round two, facing GM Melikset Khachiyani. He did not fare so well as Eduardo did, however.

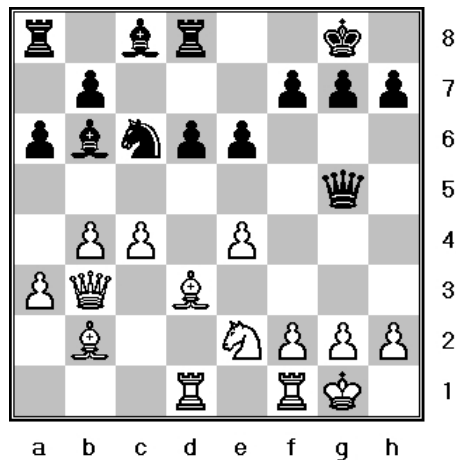
After defeating USCF politician Tony Pabon (CA, 1809) in round three, Fred suffered his second loss in his round four, dropping a game to FM Yanayt. It is not a bad thing to be able to claim your only losses at the Open were to FIDE titled players.

Fred finished with two wins over Class A players, and draws against Michael Vilenchuk (OH, 2200) and Richard Borgen (CA, 2150), with a HPB thrown in between. Fred earned a total of 146 upset points and gained 14 on his rating.

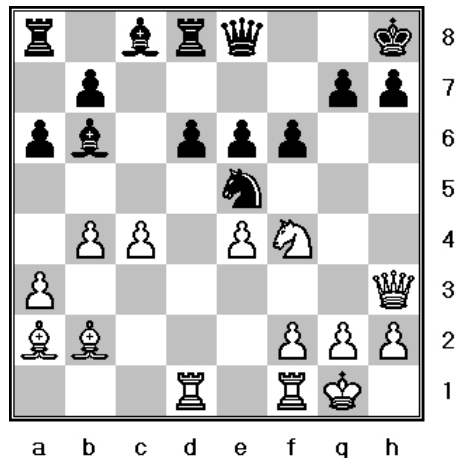
Melikset Khachiyani – Fred Kleist
US Open, Round 2
Irvine, CA, August 1, 2010
1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nd4 4. Nf3 a6 5. Bd3 e6 6. 0-0 Ne7



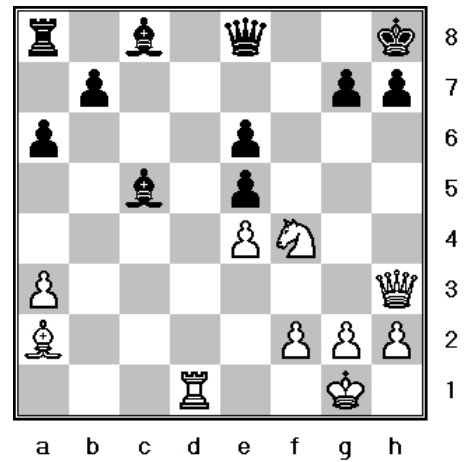
7. Nxd4 cxd4 8. Ne2 Nc6 9. c3 Bc5 10. b4 Bb6 11. Bb2 0-0 12. Qb3 dxc3 13. dxc3 Qe7 14. Rad1 Rd8 15. a3 d6 16. c4 Qg5



17. Bb1 Qh6 18. Bc1 Qf6 19. Qg3 Qe7 20. Nf4 Ne5 21. Bb2 f6 22. Ba2 Kh8 23. Qh3 Qe8



24. c5 dxc5 25. bxc5 Rxd1 26. Rxd1 Bxc5 27. Bxe5 fxe5



28. Rd8

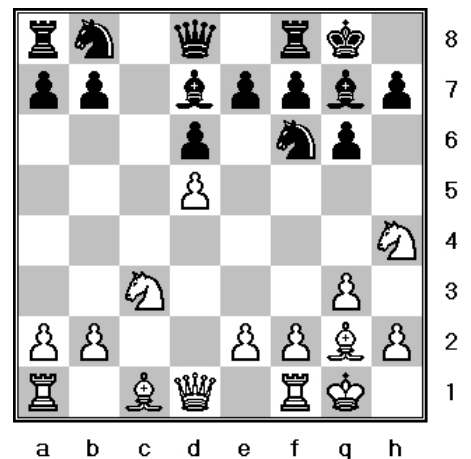
1-0

Alexandra Botez (OR, 1912) found herself just below the half-way point to start the six day schedule, and found herself on a very low numbered board. (Alexandra played in the Denker as well. More on that later.) She dropped that game against WFM Abrahamyan (2430). Then, in round three, she found herself giving away upset points to an overachieving Anthony Mack (CA, 1558).

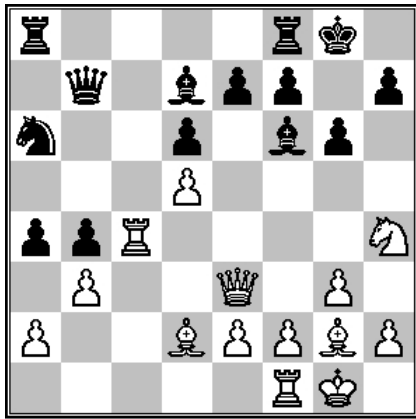
However, she recovered well from that point, winning the next three, including games against LM Dana Mackenzie (CA, 2136) and Mandelkern (2102).

Jeremy Mandelkern – Alexandra Botez
US Open, Round 6
Irvine, CA, August 6, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d6 3. c4 g6 4. Nc3 Bg7 5. g3 0-0 6. Bg2 c6 7. 0-0 Bf5 8. Nh4 Be6 9. d5 cxd5 10. cxd5 Bd7

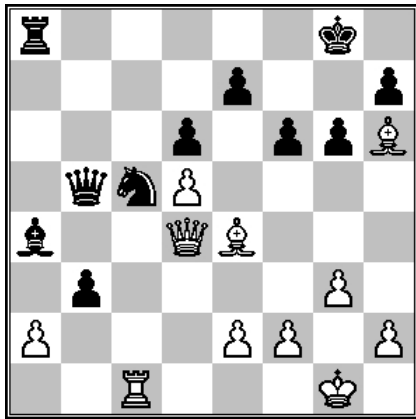


11. Qb3 Qc8 12. Bd2 Na6 13. Rac1 Nc5 14. Qa3 a5 15. Ne4 Nfxe4 16. Bxe4 b5 17. Rc2 Qb7 18. Bg2 b4 19. Qe3 Bf6 20. b3 a4 21. Rc4 Na6



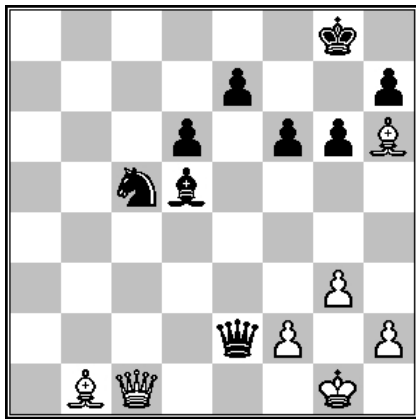
a b c d e f g h

22. bxa4 Bxa4 23. Rb1 Qb5 24. Rcc1 Rfc8 25. Be4 Rc5 26. Nf3 Rxc1+ 27. Rxc1 Nc5 28. Nd4 Bxd4 29. Qxd4 b3 30. Bh6 f6



a b c d e f g h

31. Bb1 Qxe2 32. axb3 Bxb3 33. Be3 Ra4 34. Qc3 Rc4 35. Qe1 Rxc1 36. Qxc1 Bxd5 37. Bh6



a b c d e f g h

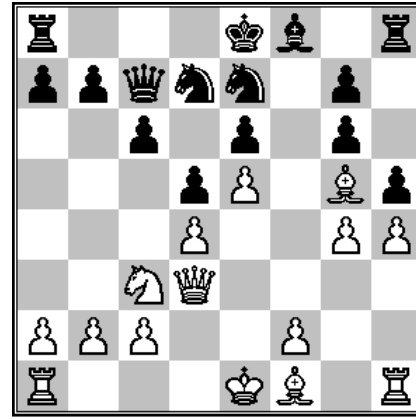
37. ...Qf3 38. Kf1 Qh1+ 39. Ke2 Bf3+ 0-1

Alexandra then drew with Marian Nita (CA, 2107) and Mark Dejmek (TA, 2122), before dropping her final round game to her fifth straight Expert, Ruben Ondangan (CA, 2081), to finish with a plus score, 5/9. In

spite of her loss to Mack, Alexandra earned a net of 262.5 upset points and saw her rating rise by 40 points.

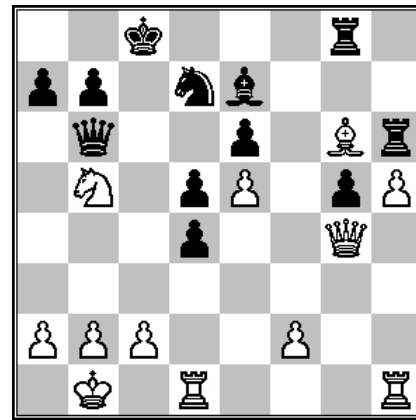
Mark Dejmek – Alexandra Botez
US Open, Round 8
Irvine, CA, August 7, 2010

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. Nc3 e6 5. g4 Bg6 6. Nge2 Nd7 7. h4 h5 8. Nf4 Qc7 9. Nxc6 fxc6 10. Qd3 Ne7 11. Bg5



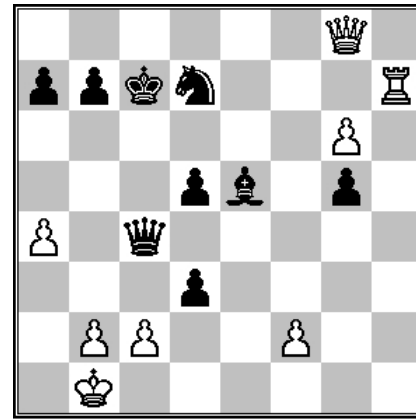
a b c d e f g h

11. ...0-0-0 12. Bxe7 Bxe7 13. Qxg6 hxg4 14. Qxg4 Rdg8 15. 0-0-0 Rh6 16. Kb1 Qd8 17. h5 g5 18. Bd3 c5 19. Bg6 cxd4 20. Nb5 Qb6



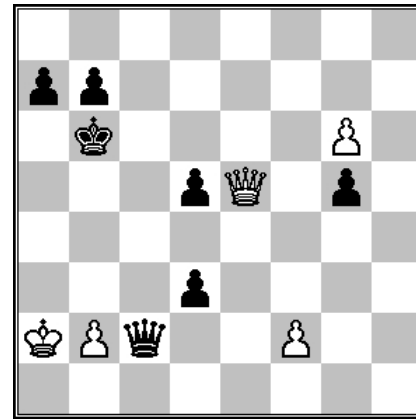
a b c d e f g h

21. Nd6+ Bxd6 22. Qxe6 Rg6 23. hxc6 Rxc6 24. Rxc6 Bxe5 25. Qg8+ Kc7 26. Rh7 Qb5 27. a4 Qf1+ 28. Ka2 Qc4+ 29. Kb1 d3



a b c d e f g h

30. Rxd7+ Kxd7 31. Qf7+ Kd6 32. Qf8+ Kc6 33. Qe8+ Kb6 34. Qxe5 Qxc2+ 35. Ka2 Qxa4+ 36. Kb1 Qc2+ 37. Ka2



a b c d e f g h

37. ...d2 38. Qd6+ Ka5 39. Qxd5+ b5 40. Qd8+ Kb4 41. Qd6+ Kc4 42. Qc6+ Kd3 43. Qxb5+ Qc4+ 44. Qxc4+ Kxc4 45. g7 d1=Q 46. g8=Q+ Qd5 47. b3+

1/2-1/2

Blake Dixon (WA, 1848) also managed a plus score with five points. It didn't look like he would after scoring just one point in the first five rounds, including being upset by Vachagan Hovsepyan (CA, 1760) and Daniel Yarur (Chile, 1531). Blake righted



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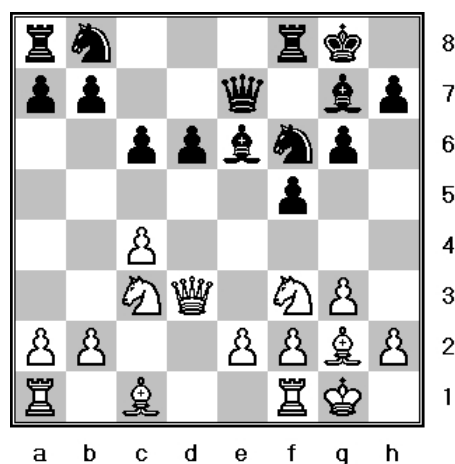
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 Portland, OR 97266-1037
 RADU@chessvision.net
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his ship just in time, however, and finished with a four game win streak. Those upsets contributed to his 21 point rating loss.

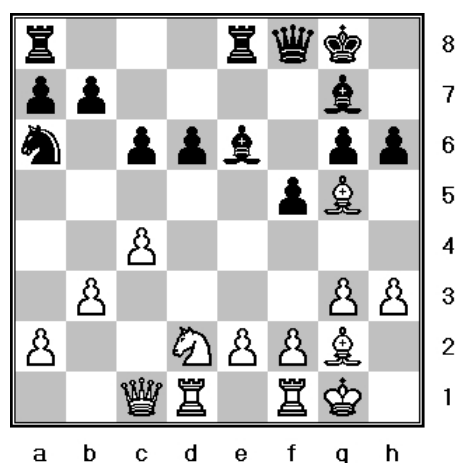
Marcus Robinson (OR, 1844) broke even at the Open, although he was one point up after six rounds. All his losses were against higher rated players. He managed a draw against Robert Hughes (CA, 2069) in round five and defeated Bobby Avila (CA, 2009) in round six. He ended with 277.5 upset points and a six point rating gain.

Marcus Robinson – Bobby Avila
US Open, Round 6
Irvine, CA, August 6, 2010

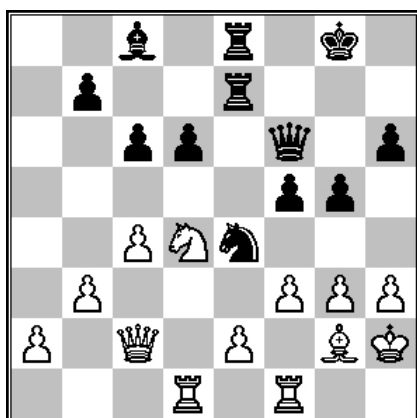
1. d4 f5 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 d6 4. Nf3 g6 5. g3 Bg7 6. Bg2 0-0 7. 0-0 c6 8. d5 e5 9. dxe6 Bxe6 10. Qd3 Qe7



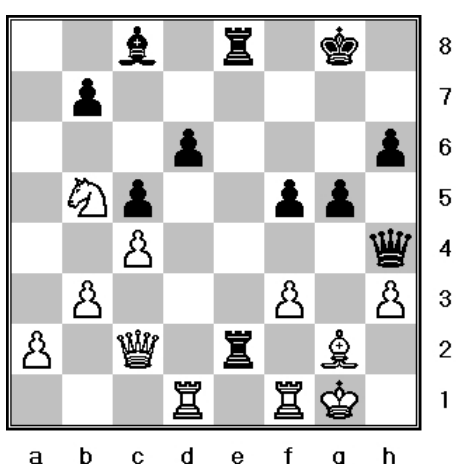
11. Ng5 Na6 12. Bf4 Rfd8 13. Rad1 Ng4 14. b3 Ne5 15. Qe3 Re8 16. h3 Nf7 17. Qc1 Qf6 18. Nb1 Nxe5 19. Bxe5 Qf8 20. Nd2 h6



21. Be3 g5 22. Nf3 Rad8 23. Bxa7 Rd7 24. Bd4 Nc5 25. Qb2 Ne4 26. Bxe7 Rxe7 27. Nd4 Bc8 28. Qc2 Qf6 29. Kh2 Rge7 30. f3



30. ...Nxe3 31. Kxe3 Qe5+ 32. Kf2 Qe3+ 33. Kg3 Qf4+ 34. Kf2 c5 35. Nb5 Qh4+ 36. Kg1 Rxe2



37. Rd2 Re1 38. Rdf2 Qg3 39. Qd2 R1e6 40. Nc7 1-0

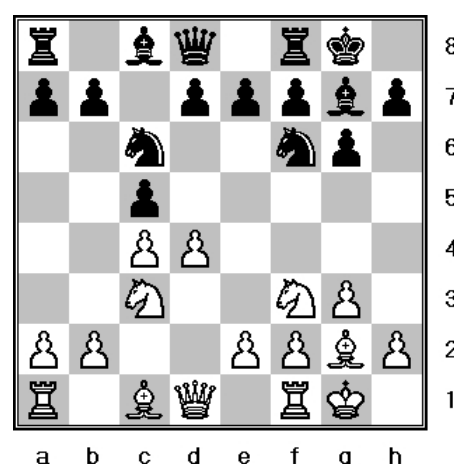
Michael Hosford (WA, 1934) had a difficult tournament. Not feeling too well, Michael fell victim to an upset draw to Yongsoo Kim (1433) in the first round of the traditional nine-day schedule. He then took two HPBs, but came back in round four to drop a game to 1830-rated Graham Cridland. Michael decided to withdraw from the traditional schedule and reenter into one of the shorter schedules, taking two HPBs to start. After winning in round three of his new entry, he took a zero point bye for round four. He dropped his next game, again in an upset, took another ZPB and then finished out his schedule with two draws and a win. All this gave Michael a total of four points in his reentry, with only one loss. The combination of all these upsets, and whatever was upsetting him physically, resulted in a net loss of 41 rating points.

Jacob Roberts (WA, 1749) also scored four points, but with less turmoil. He fell victim to the upset bug in round four, with a loss to Bryan Huang (CA, 1424), and again in round five, drawing with Dante Peterson (CA, 1314). Jacob finished better, scoring two wins in the next three rounds and finishing with a draw against higher-rated Leo Kamgar (CA, 1864) in the final round.

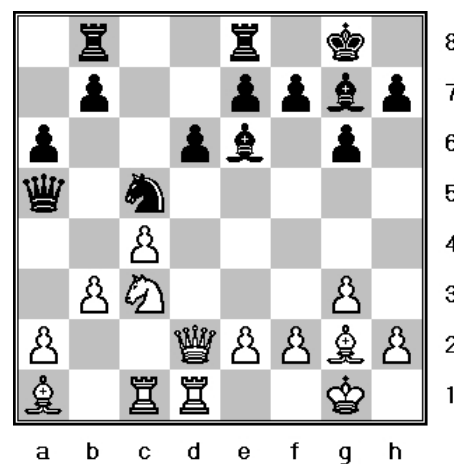
The final round positive upset was not enough to make up for the earlier negative upsets, and Jacob left 22 rating points behind.

Jacob Roberts – Leo Kamgar
US Open, Round 9
Irvine, CA, August 8, 2010

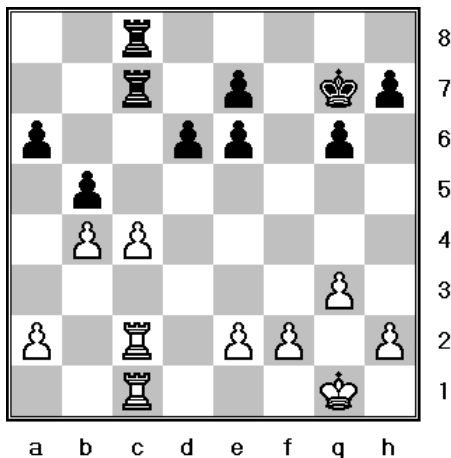
1. Nf3 c5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 g6 4. c4 Bg7 5. 0-0 0-0 6. Nc3 Nc6 7. d4



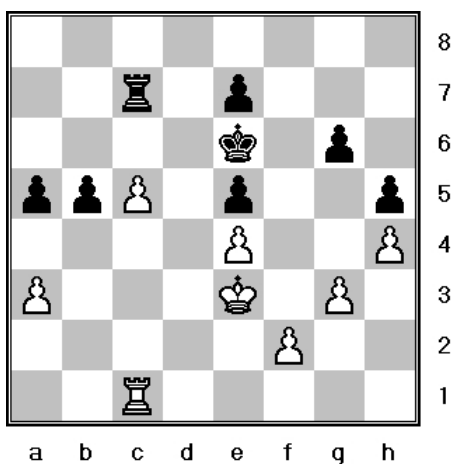
7. ...cxd4 8. Nxd4 Nxd4 9. Qxd4 d6 10. Qd3 Nd7 11. b3 Nc5 12. Qd2 Qa5 13. Bb2 Rb8 14. Rfd1 Re8 15. Rac1 a6 16. Ba1 Be6



17. Ne4 Qxd2 18. Rxd2 Nxe4 19. Bxe4 Rec8 20. Bxe7 Kxe7 21. Bd5 Rc7 22. Bxe6 fxe6 23. Rdc2 Rbc8 24. b4 b5



25. c5 dxc5 26. Rxc5 Rxc5 27. bxc5 e5
28. e4 Kf7 29. Kf1 Ke6 30. Ke2 h5 31. h4
Rc7 32. Ke3 a5 33. a3



1/2-1/2

Yun Teng (WA, 1856) scored 3.5/9. Yun gets the award for the most varied opponent list of the Northwest contingent. His eight opponents hailed from five different states (NY, TX, CA twice, CT and IA) and two foreign countries (Chile and China). After an opening round loss to Life Master Micheal Thaler (NY, 2280), Yun then won the next two, including an upset win over Texan Kevin Chandra (2100) in round three.

His reward for that win was to play two more experts in subsequent rounds, but he was unable to repeat his winning ways. His loss to the Chinese participant, Ramesh Jhunjhnuwala (1831) in round seven was a

slight upset, and a draw in round eight against James Bennett (CA, 1689) was a bit bigger upset.

Yun did not play the ninth round, and ended up dropping just four rating points.

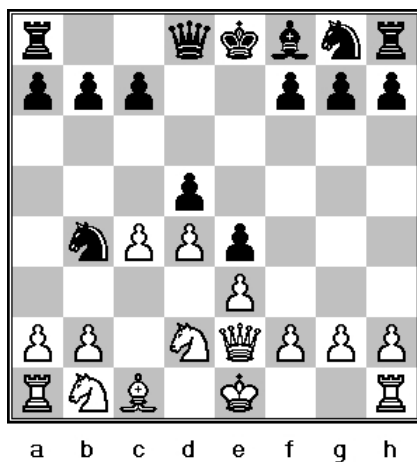
Erik Skalnes (OR, 1586) came out of the blocks well, winning in the opening round over Dane Hinrichsen (CA, 2000). Some years, there are only a couple of upset losses in the first round, due to the extreme differences in ratings. (I am a perfect 0-13 in first round US Open games.) To earn one of these rare wins is a great accomplishment. Proving it wasn't a fluke, Erik drew with Thomas Weideman (CA, 2055) in round two.

This early accomplishment cannot go unpunished, of course, and Erik ended up playing only one person with a lower rating the entire tournament. Erik defeated that player in round seven and managed two more upset draws, against Robert Pearson (CA, 1883) in round five, and David Anthopoulos (CA, 1845) in the final round.

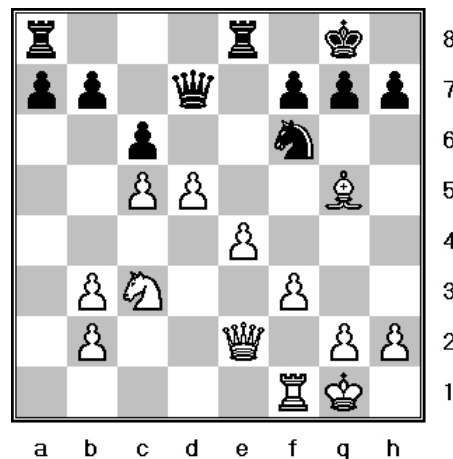
Erik ended up with a whopping 926.5 upset points and a 56 point rating gain.

**Dane Hinrichsen – Erik Skalnes
US Open, Round 1
Irvine, CA, July 31, 2010**

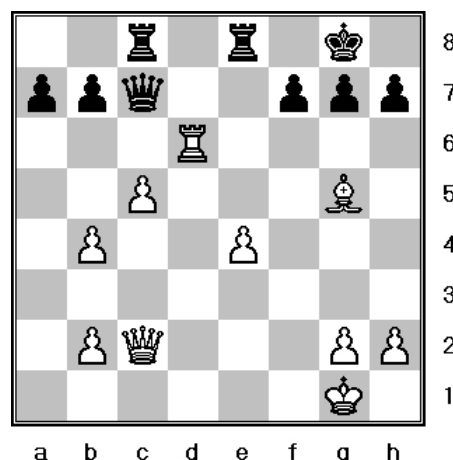
1. d4 d5 2. c4 Nc6 3. Nf3 Bg4 4. e3 e5
5. Be2 e4 6. Nfd2 Bxe2 7. Qxe2 Nb4



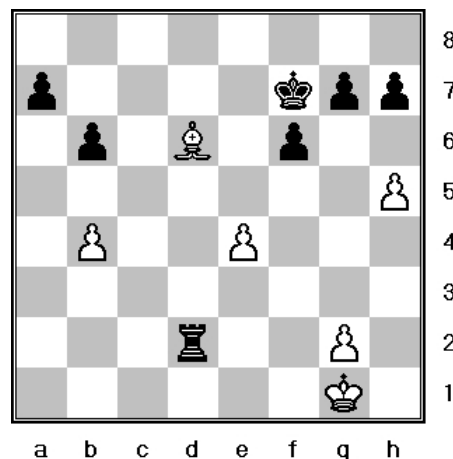
8. 0-0 Nc2 9. cxd5 Qd7 10. Nc3 Nxa1
11. Ndx4 Be7 12. Nc5 Bxc5 13. dxc5 Nf6
14. e4 0-0 15. Be3 Rfe8 16. f3 Nb3 17. axb3
c6 18. Bg5



18. ...Nxd5 19. Nxd5 cxd5 20. Rd1 Qc6
21. Qc2 dxe4 22. Rd6 Qc7 23. fxe4 Rac8
24. b4



24. ...Qxd6 25. cxd6 Rxc2 26. d7 Ra8
27. d8=Q+ Rxd8 28. Bxd8 Rxb2 29. Be7
f6 30. Bd6 Kf7 31. h4 b6 32. h5 Rd2



33. Bb8 a6 34. Bc7 b5 35. e5 f5 36. Kh2
Rd4 37. Bd6 Rxd6 38. exd6 Ke6 39. Kg3
Kxd6 40. Kf4 Ke6 41. Kg5 Ke5 42. g3 Ke4
43. Kh4 f4 44. gxf4 Kxf4 45. Kh3 Kg5

0-1

This is synchronicity at its finest. Please see GM Seirawan's tribute to Bent Larsen; this is a different player, but really, how many times would you expect to see that last name in print in *Northwest Chess*?

Think I'll go play the lottery now.... – editor

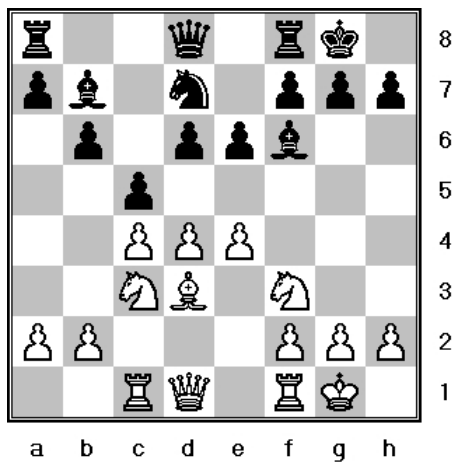
This brings us to your reporter (WA, 1514). I had fallen into a rut the past four US Opens, scoring 3.5 in each one. I broke out of that rut this year, scoring only three, equaling my worst previous score from the St. Paul edition of the Open.

However, in those years when I have scored less than four points, I have usually lost rating points. This year was quite different. For the first time in 13 years, I did not play anyone with a lower rating.

I also believe I should get the “most inspirational” award. All of my opponents ended up with higher scores than I did. My first round opponent, John Harwell (CA, 1972), went on from our game to take 4.5 points in the next five rounds, all against Fide Masters. He was one of those who shared the prize with Roland Feng (see above). After losing to yet another class A player, I was rewarded by being paired with an expert, Ron Jabali (CA, 2052), albeit one who was having a rough start. I made it rougher, by beating him! However, in the spirit of inspiration, he went on to win his next five games, finishing two points ahead of me.

Ron Jabali – Murlin Varner
US Open, Round 3
Irvine, CA, August 2, 2010

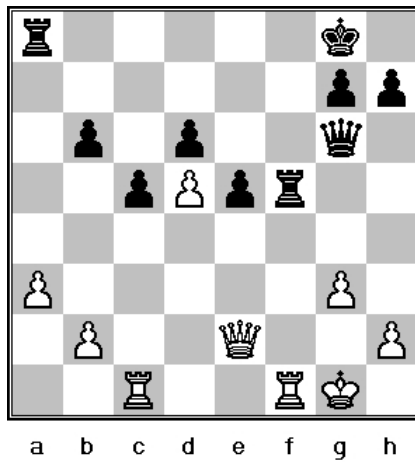
1. Nf3 e6 2. c4 Nf6 3. d4 b6 4. Nc3 Bb7
 5. Bg5 Be7 6. Bxf6 Bxf6 7. e4 d6 8. Bd3 0-0
 9. 0-0 Nd7 10. Rc1 c5



11. d5 Ne5 12. Nxe5 Bxe5 13. Qg4 Bc8
 14. Qe2 Qh4 15. g3 Qh6 16. Nb5 a6 17. f4
 Bxf4 18. Rxf4 axb5 19. a3

(MV) ?

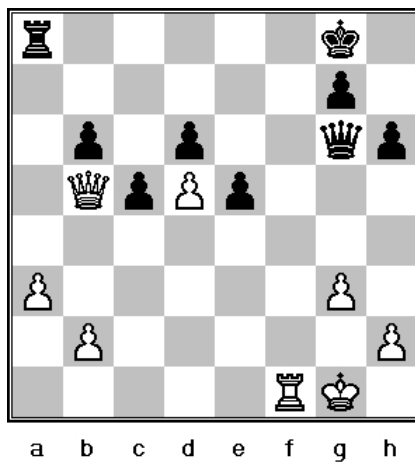
19. ...e5 20. Rff1 bxc4 21. Bxc4 Bh3
 22. Rfe1 f5 23. exf5 Bxf5 24. Bd3 Qg6 25.
 Bxf5 Rxf5 26. Rf1



26. ...h6

(MV) 26. ...Raf8.

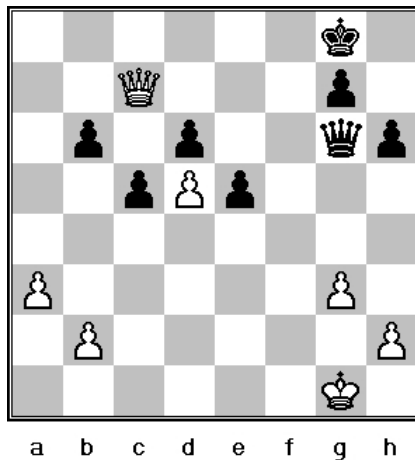
27. Rxf5 Qxf5 28. Rf1 Qg6 29. Qb5



29. ...Rb8

(MV) 29. ...Qg4 30. Qxb6 Qd4+ 31. Kh1
 Qxd5+ 32. Kg1 e4.

30. Qd7 Rf8 31. Rxf8+ Kxf8 32. Qd8+
 Kf7 33. Qc7+ Kg8

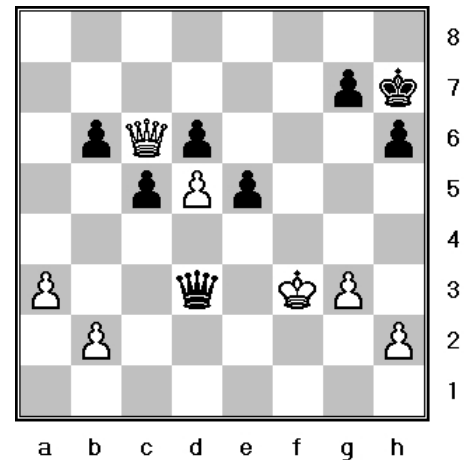


34. Qc8+

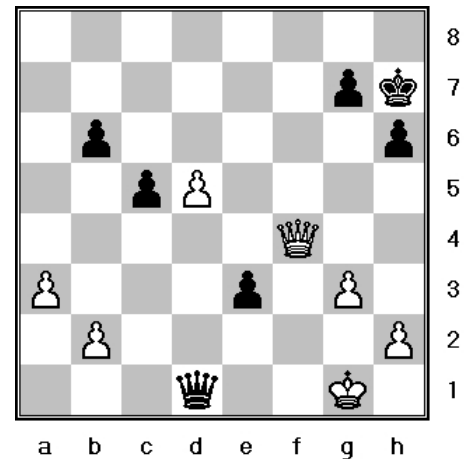
(MV) 34. Qb8+ Kh7 35. Qxb6.

34. ...Kh7 35. Qc6 Qb1+ 36. Kg2 Qe4+

37. Kg1 Qd4+ 38. Kf1 Qd1+ 39. Kg2 Qc2+
 40. Kf3 Qd3+



41. Kg2 Qe4+ 42. Kf2 Qd4+ 43. Kf1
 Qd3+ 44. Kg2 e4 45. Qxd6 Qf3+ 46. Kg1
 e3 47. Qf4 Qd1+



48. Qf1

{MV ??}

48. ...e2

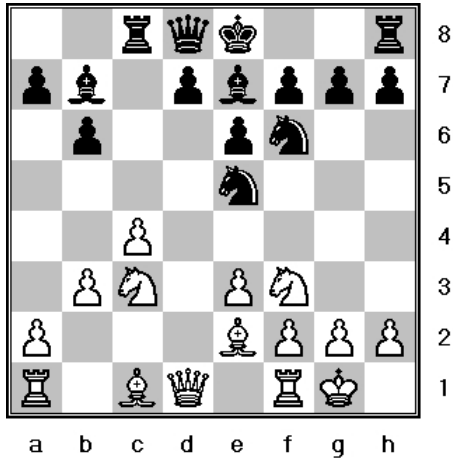
0-1

I won the next round as well, against Yuting Chen (CA, 1798) and drawing the one after that against Werner Belke (CA, 1885). Suddenly, I'm thinking about that upset point prize. It never happened, sadly. Guaranteed a steady diet of much higher rated opponents as a result of my even score after five rounds, I managed only one more draw, against Hans Morrow (UT, 1940) in round eight. My lowest rated opponent was my ninth round opponent, at 1796, and I managed, for the only time in the tournament, to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, losing after being up by three pawns. All together, in spite of my low score, I gathered 1220.5 upset points and added 93 rating points.

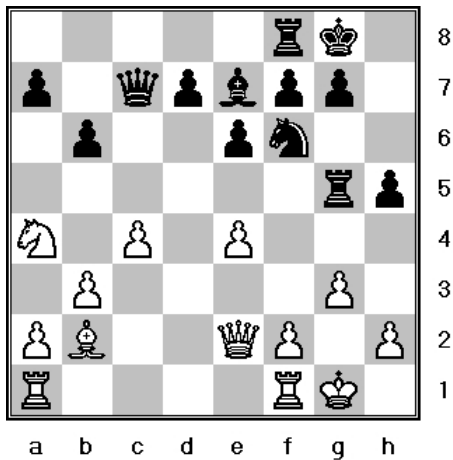
Murlin Varner – Hans Morrow
 US Open, Round 8
 Irvine, CA, August 7, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c5 4. Nf3
 (MV) 4. d5 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. e4
 4... cxd4 5. Nxd4 Nc6 6. e3
 (MV) 6. g3.

6... Be7 7. Bd3 Ne5 8. 0-0 b6 9. b3 Bb7
 10. Be2 Rc8 11. Nf3



11. ...Bxf3 12. Bxf3 0-0 13. Bb2 Rc5
 14. Na4 Nxf3+ 15. Qxf3 Rf5 16. Qe2 Qc7
 17. g3 h5 18. e4 Rg5

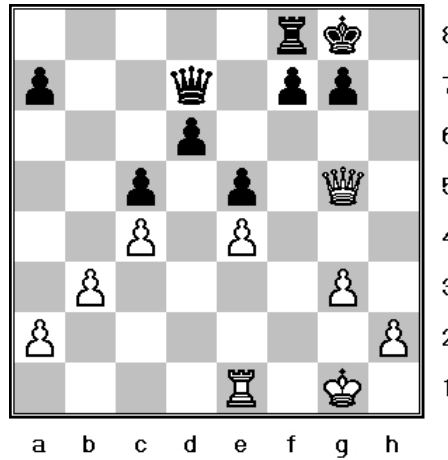


19. Bc1
 (MV) 19. f4 Rg6 20. Bxf6 Bxf6 21. e5
 Be7 22. Qxh5.

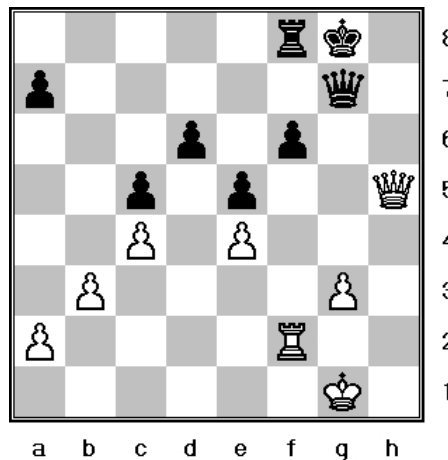
19... Rg6 20. Nb2 h4 21. Nd3 hxg3 22.
 fxg3 e5 23. Rf5 Bc5+ 24. Nxc5 .bxc5
 (MV) ??

25. Rg5
 (MV) 25. Bg5 Nh7 26. Bh4 Re8.

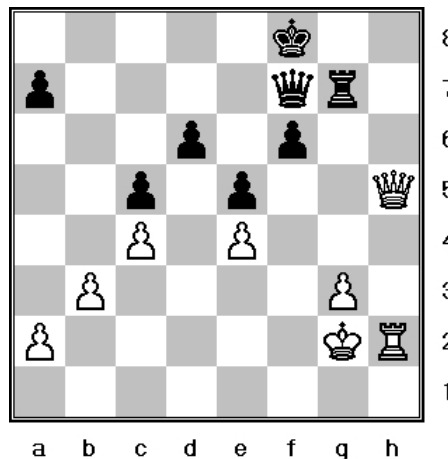
25. ...d6 26. Bd2 Qc6 27. Re1 Rxc5 28.
 Bxc5 Nh7 29. Qg4 Nxc5 30. Qxc5 Qd7



31. Rf1 f6 32. Qg6 Qf7 33. Qg4 g6 34.
 h4 Kh7 35. Rf2 Qg7 36. h5 gxh5 37.
 Qxh5+ Kg8

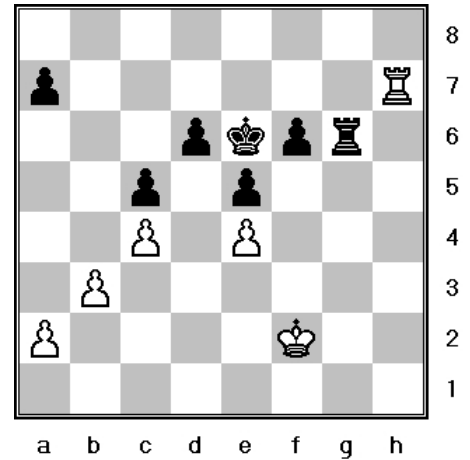


38. Qf5
 (MV) 38. Kg2.
 38. ...Qe7 39. Rh2 Rf7 40. Qh5 Rg7
 41. Qh8+ Kf7 42. Qh5+ Kf8 43. Kg2 Qf7

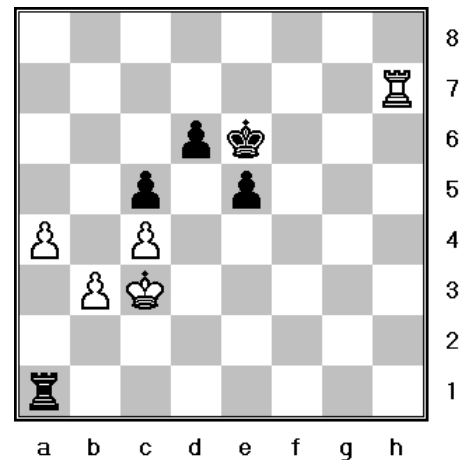


44. Qf5
 (MV) 44. Qxf7+ Kxf7 45. Kf3.
 44. ...Ke7 45. Rh8
 (MV) ?? 45. Kf2 Qg8 46. Rh6.

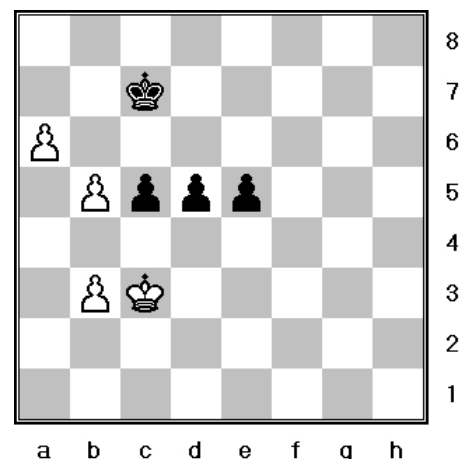
45. ...Rxc3+ 46. Kf2 Rg8 47. Rh7 Rg7
 48. Rh8 Qg6 49. Qxc6 Rxc6 50. Rh7+ Ke6



51. Rxa7 Rg4 52. Kf3 Rf4+ 53. Ke3
 Rf1 54. a4 Rb1 55. Rb7 Ra1 56. Kd2 f5
 57. exf5+ Kxf5 58. Rf7+ Ke6 59. Rh7 Ra3
 60. Kc3 Ra1



61. Rh6+ Kd7 62. Rh7+ Kc6 63. Kb2
 Rf1 64. a5 Rf8 65. Ra7 Rd8 66. Ra6+ Kb7
 67. Rb6+ Kc7 68. Kc3 Ra8 69. Rb5 Rb8
 70. a6 Rxb5 71. cxb5 d5



72. Kd3 e4+ 73. Ke3 Kb6 74. Kf4 Ka7
 75. Ke3 Kb6 76. Kf4

1/2-1/2

Next on our list is Altan Hacigumus (WA, 2004). Scoring just 2.5 points, Altan did not have a good tournament, losing four of the first six games. After the sixth round, Altan withdrew, although he picked up a half point in round eight for a previously requested HPB. It is hard to discuss Altan's losses as upsets, since his rating was provisional, based on just one prior tournament. Only time and more rated games will tell if these were true upsets or not. His provisional rating did adjust down by 202 points as a result of these six games.

Dale Anderson (WA, 1569) scored 2.5/9. After losing to two Class A opponents, Dale drew with Alfredo Ong (CA, 1306). He then did something that almost no one, outside of the very highest or very lowest rated players do in a US Open. He played, and beat, someone with the same rating as his! Ok, Christopher Hung (CA) actually was one point lower in rating. Dale's final point came in round six, when he upset John Anderson (CA, 1889). Dale withdrew before the final round. He had a net of 188.5 upset points and gained four rating points.

Anthony North (WA), participating in his first rated tournament (what a place to start!), came away with 2.5 points as well. He defeated Gia Peterson (CA, 943) in round six and Steve Kuzma (TX, 1311) in round eight. Anthony took a HPB in the final round, and established a provisional rating of 1106.

Finally, we have Carol Kleist (WA,

1326). Carol scored two points, and like me, all her opponents were higher rated. Carol was one of the lower rated players in a tournament which was very thin below 1400, much more so than usual for the US Open. She defeated Peter Holzer (CA, 1708) in round three and gained draws in rounds four and six, against David Anthopoulos (CA, 1845) and Christopher Hung (CA, 1568). Carol withdrew after round seven, finishing with 762.5 upset points and a 78 point rating gain.

All together, disregarding Altan's 202 point provisional rating adjustment, the Northwest contingent brought back 290 new rating points to share with local opponents in future events.

I mentioned Dan Mayers of Idaho earlier. I believe he is 88 years old, and while his eyesight is failing, his chess is still strong. He scored five points against some strong competition. Former Northwest resident Mike Mulford, currently of Georgia, was also in attendance, scoring 3.5, including a first round win over expert Ron Jabali.

The US Open was not the only tournament held during the week. The start of the week saw three events for young people, the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, the College Tournament of Champions, and the US Girls Junior Open.

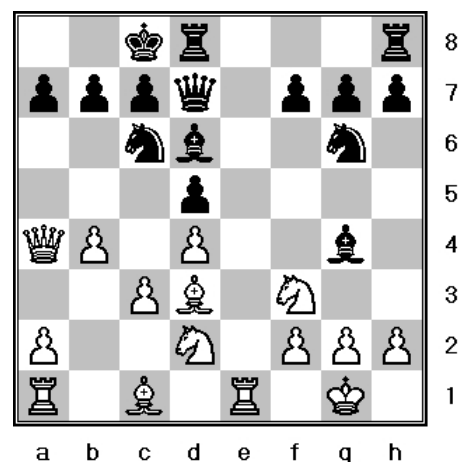
The Denker requires the qualification of being a state high school champion, and hosted 48 champions, missing only

representatives from Montana, South Dakota, Mississippi and the District of Columbia. (California is two states in USCF-world, and had two representatives).

The clear winner was FM Steven Zierk of California, scoring 5.5/6. Clear second was won by Alex Guo of Washington, at five points. Alex's only loss was to Zierk, and he missed an opportunity in that one as well.

**Steven Zierk – Alex Guo
Denker H.S. Champions, Round 3
Irvine, CA, August 1, 2010**

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. Bd3 Bg4 6. c3 Bd6 7. 0-0 Nge7 8. Re1 Qd7 9. Nbd2 0-0-0 10. b4 Ng6 11. Qa4



11. ...Rhe8

11. ...Nf4 12. Bf1 Kb8 is an attempt to hold a7. White keeps a small initiative with 13. b5 Ne7 14. Ne5!?

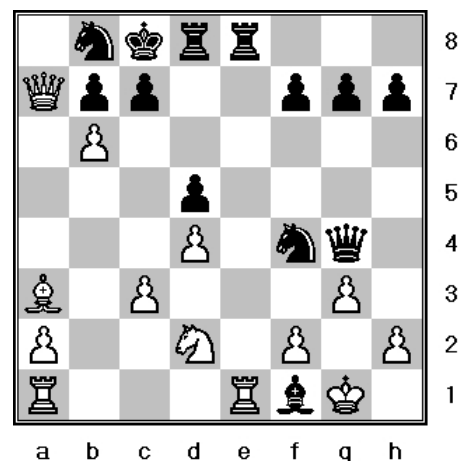
12. b5 Nb8 13. Ba3

13. Qxa7 Bxf3 14. Nxf3 Nh4!, unclear.

13. ...Bf4

13. ...Bxa3.

14. Qxa7 +/- Bxd2 15. Nxd2 Nf4 16. Bf1 Be2 17. b6 Qg4 18. g3 Bxf1



*Carol Mayer-Kleist.
Photo credit: US Open.*

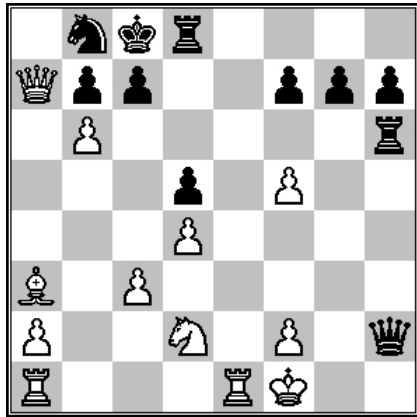
19. Rxf1?

19. bxc7, +/- instead.

19. ...Qh3 -/+ 20. gxf4 Re6 21. f5 Rh6

Now Black is winning!

22. Rfe1 Qxh2+ 23. Kf1



a b c d e f g h

23. ...Qh1+

This is still good, but 23. ...Qh3+ is simply crushing. 24. Ke2 Re8+ 25. Kd1 Rxe1+ 26. Kxe1 Qd3! is the key to the mating net that Alex overlooked, probably.

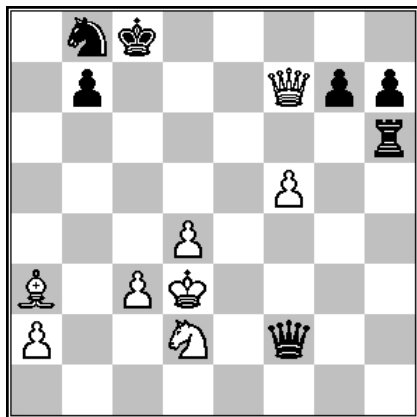
24. Ke2 Re8+ 25. Kd3 Rxe1 26. bxc7 Kxc7

26. ...Nc6!? looks a bit safer, and therefore stronger. Black's king needs cover in the coming major piece ending, and frankly, that last piece needs to be developed, again.

27. Qa5+ Kc8 28. Rxe1 Qxe1 29. Qxd5

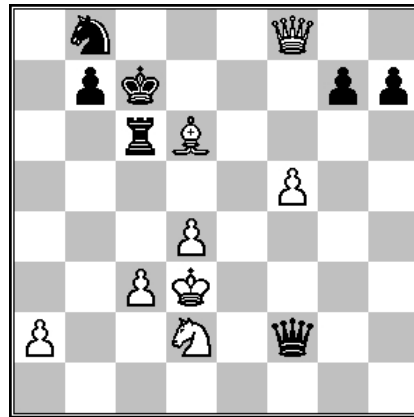
Now the exposed kings for both players should lead to a draw.

29. ...Qxf2 30. Qxf7



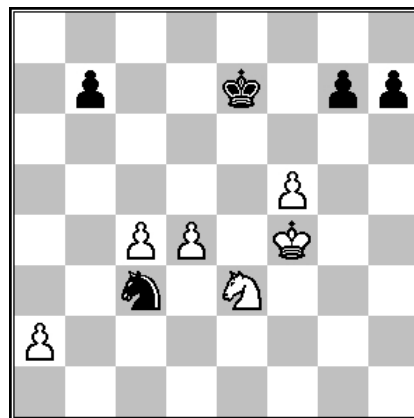
a b c d e f g h

30. ...Rc6? 31. Qf8+ Kc7 32. Bd6+!



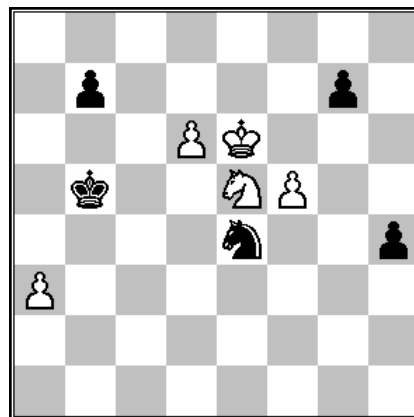
a b c d e f g h

32. ...Rxd6 33. Qxd6+ Kxd6 34. Ne4+ Ke7 35. Nxf2 Kf6 36. Ke4 Nd7 37. Kf4 Nb6 38. Ng4+ Ke7 39. Ne3 Na4 40. c4 Nc3



a b c d e f g h

41. a3 Kd6 42. c5+ Kc6 43. Ke5 h5 44. d5+ Kxc5 45. d6 Kc6 46. Ke6 Ne4 47. Nc4 h4 48. Ne5+ Kb5



a b c d e f g h

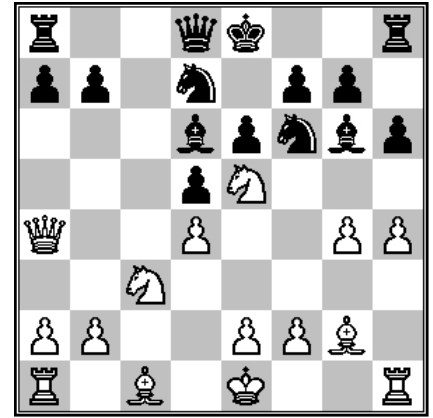
49. d7 Nc5+ 50. Ke7 Nxd7 51. Kxd7 Kc5 52. Ke6 Kd4 53. Nf3+ Kc3 54. Kf7 Kb3 55. Kxg7 Kxa3 56. f6

1-0

Alex placed ahead of seven NMs, defeating two, Bob Shao of Texas....

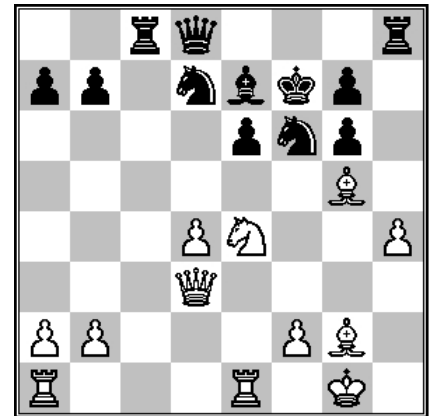
Alex Guo - Bob Shao
Denker H.S. Champions, Round 6
Irvine, CA, August 3, 2010

1. c4 c6 2. g3 d5 3. Bg2 Nf6 4. Nf3 Bg4
5. Ne5 Bh5 6. cxd5 cxd5 7. Qa4+ Nbd7 8.
Nc3 e6 9. g4 Bg6 10. h4 Bd6 11. d4 h6



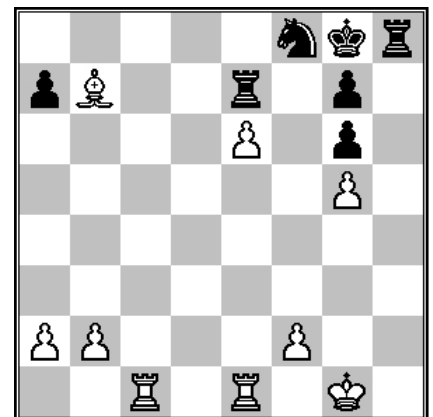
a b c d e f g h

12. Nxc6 fxc6 13. Qc2 Kf7 14. g5 hxg5
15. Bxc6 Rc8 16. Qd3 Qa5 17. 0-0 Be7 18.
Rfe1 Qd8 19. e4 dxe4 20. Nxe4



a b c d e f g h

20. ...Nxe4 21. Qxe4 Nf8 22. d5 Bxc5
23. dxe6+ Kg8 24. hxg5 Qe7 25. Rac1 Re8
26. Qxb7 Qxb7 27. Bxb7 Re7



a b c d e f g h

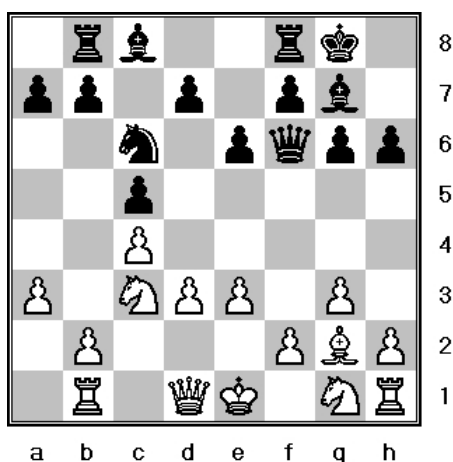
28. Bd5 Rh4 29. Rc4 Rxc4 30. Bxc4 Nh7 31. f4 Kf8 32. Bd3 Kg8 33. Bxg6 Nf8 34. Bf7+ Kh7 35. f5 Nd7 36. Kg2

1-0

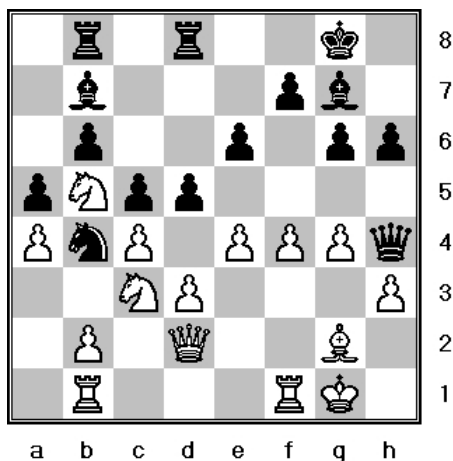
and Andrew Wang of Massachusetts.

Alex Guo – Andrew Wang
Denker H.S. Champions, Round 4
Irvine, CA, August 2, 2010

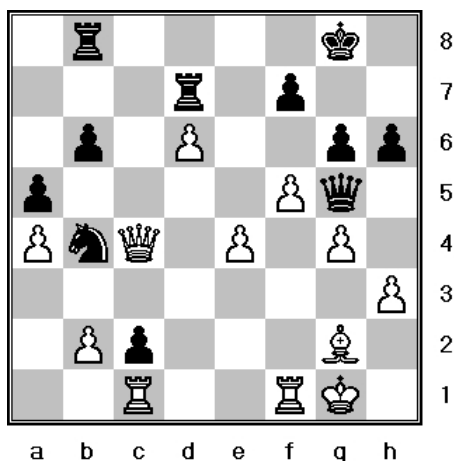
1. c4 Nf6 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7 4. Nc3 0-0 5. d3 c5 6. a3 Nc6 7. Rb1 e6 8. Bg5 h6 9. Bxf6 Qxf6 10. e3 Rb8



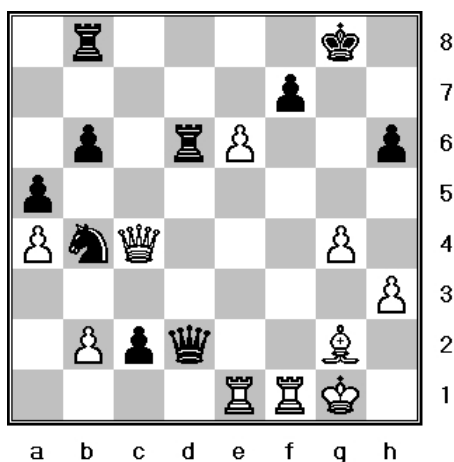
11. Nge2 b6 12. 0-0 a5 13. Nb5 Rd8 14. Nec3 Ba6 15. f4 Qe7 16. a4 Nb4 17. e4 d6 18. g4 Bb7 19. Qd2 Qh4 20. h3 d5



21. cxd5 exd5 22. e5 d4 23. Ne4 c4 24. Nbd6 Bxe4 25. dxe4 c3 26. Qxd4 c2 27. Rbc1 Rd7 28. Qc4 Bf8 29. f5 Bxd6 30. exd6 Qg5



31. fxc6 Qxc6 32. e5 Qg5 33. Rce1 Qd2 34. e6 Rxd6



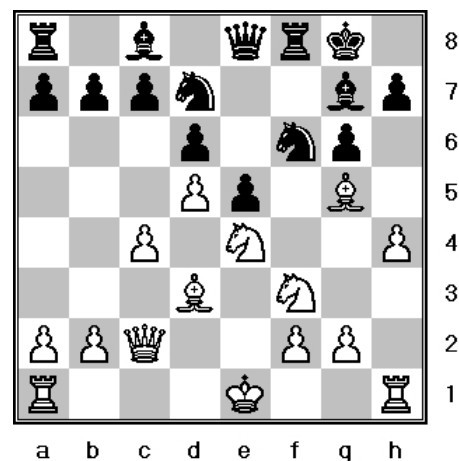
35. exf7+ Kf8 36. Re8+ Rxe8 37. fxe8=Q+ Kxe8 38. Qg8+ Ke7 39. Rf7+ Ke6 40. Qe8#

1-0

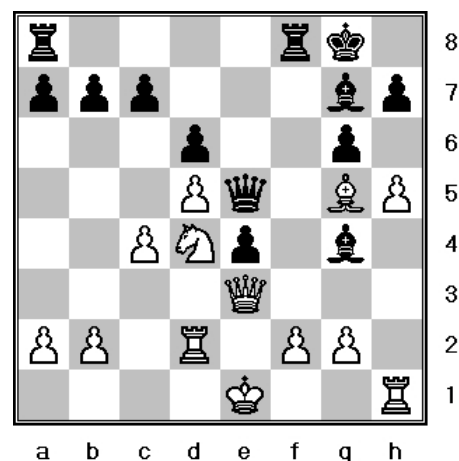
For Alex's efforts, he received \$500 for clear second, an additional \$500 for the highest non-senior player, and \$200 for the brilliancy prize. Alex wasn't able to stick around for the Open's six-day schedule.

Quentin Moore – Alex Guo
Denker H.S. Championship, Round 5
Irvine, CA, August 2, 2010

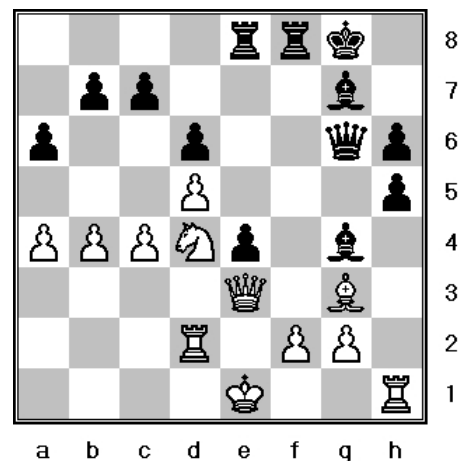
1. d4 f5 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 d6 4. Nf3 g6 5. Bg5 Nbd7 6. Qc2 Bg7 7. e4 fxe4 8. Nxe4 0-0 9. Bd3 e5 10. d5 Qe8 11. h4




11. ...Nxe4 12. Bxe4 Nc5 13. h5 Nxe4 14. Qxe4 Bf5 15. Qe3 e4 16. Nd4 Qe5 17. Rd1 Bg4 18. Rd2



18. ...gxh5 19. Ne2 Rae8 20. Ng3 h6 21. Bh4 Qf4 22. Ne2 Qf7 23. Bg3 a6 24. a4 Qd7 25. b3 Qf7 26. Nd4 Qg6 27. b4



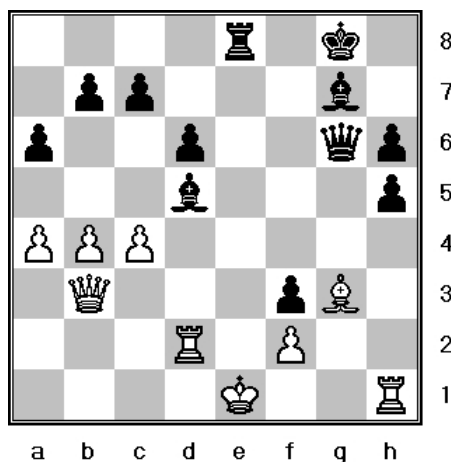


Carl A. Haessler
Lessons • Lectures • Exhibitions

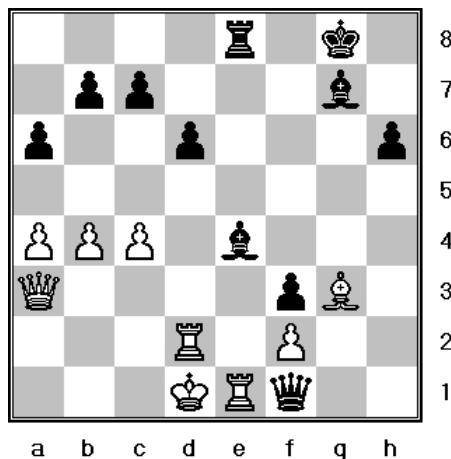
USCF Life Master
3-Time Oregon Champion

(503) 358-7871
ssmith6154@aol.com

27. ...Rf3 28. gxf3 exf3 29. Ne6 Bxe6
30. Qb3 Bxd5+



31. Kd1 Be4 32. Re1 Qf6 33. Qa3 Qe6
34. Re3 h4 35. Bxh4 Qh3 36. Bg3 Qf1+
37. Re1



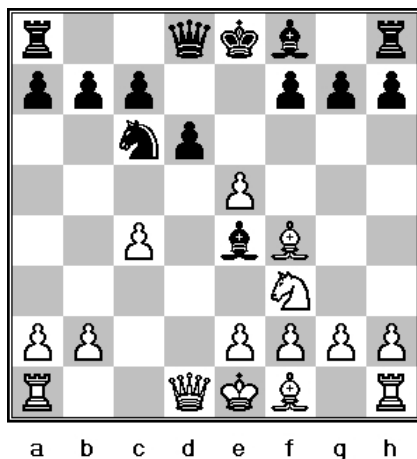
37. ...Bc2+ 38. Kxc2 Rxe1 39. Qd3
Rc1+ 40. Kb3 Rb1+ 41. Ka2 Rb2+
0-1

Oregon's representative at the Denker was Alexandra Botez, who tied for 22nd place with an even score of 3.0.

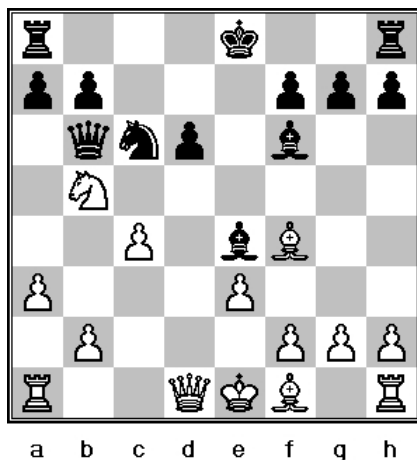
There were only two girls in the event (the other being Hannah Warren of Alaska), and they were paired in the second round. Alexandra won. She also beat Ryan Clayton of Ohio (2097) and drew with NM Christian Tanaka (CA, 2227) and Emmanuel Iglisis (FL, 2042).

Alexandra Botez – Ryan Clayton
Denker H.S. Champions, Round 3
Irvine, CA, August 1, 2010

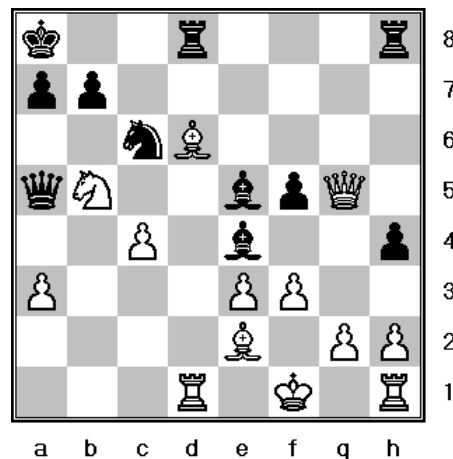
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e5 3. dxe5 Ne4 4. Nf3
d6 5. Nbd2 Bf5 6. Nxe4 Bxe4 7. Bf4 Nc6



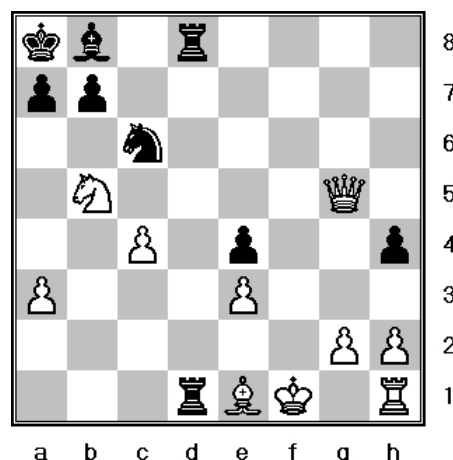
8. exd6 cxd6 9. a3 Be7 10. e3 Bf6 11.
Nd4 Qb6 12. Nb5



12. ...0-0-0 13. Qg4+ Kb8 14. Be2 Bxb2
15. Rd1 Qa5+ 16. Kf1 h5 17. Qg3 h4 18.
Bxd6+ Ka8 19. Qf4 f5 20. f3 g5 21. Qxg5
Be5



22. fxe4 fxe4 23. Bb4 Qa4 24. Rd5 Bb8
25. Bd1 Qxd1+ 26. Rxd1 Rxd1+ 27. Be1
Rhd8



28. Nd4 Nxd4 29. Qxd8
1-0



Alexandra Botez.
Photo credit: US Open.

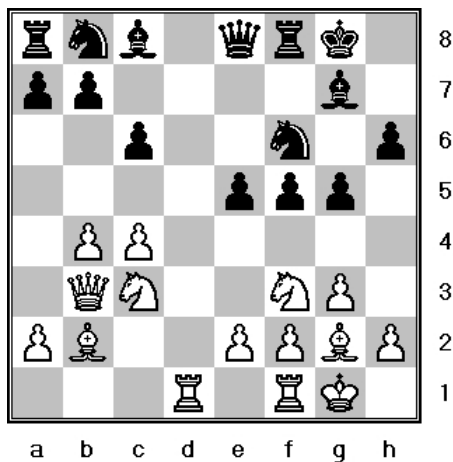
In the College Tournament of Champions, which really doesn't require that you be a champion necessarily, we had one local entrant, Marcus Robinson of Oregon. They didn't list the colleges on the crosstable and I didn't get a chance to ask, but his school was the only Northwest school represented, whichever one it is.

Only 14 students competed in this no-entry-fee, sponsored tournament, which was won by GM Timur Gareyev of Texas. There were four or five others who had indicated they would come, but didn't. With no entry fee on the line, I guess it is too easy to blow it off at the last minute, but it is unfair to those sitting and waiting in the first round. I really do not know why more students don't play in this one.

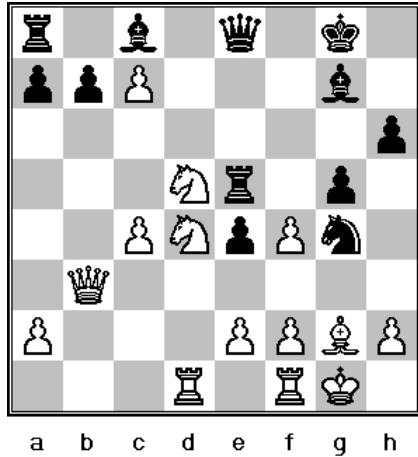
Although small, the event was strong, with four IMs, one FM and two NMs to go with the GM mentioned above. Finishing twelfth out of fourteen, Marcus was rewarded with \$500 for first U2000. Everyone cashed. Those who didn't win one of the official prizes were granted participation awards of \$240 each. It is almost enough to make me want to go back to school.

**Kenneth Poole – Marcus Robinson
College Championship, Round 5
Irvine, CA, August 2, 2010**

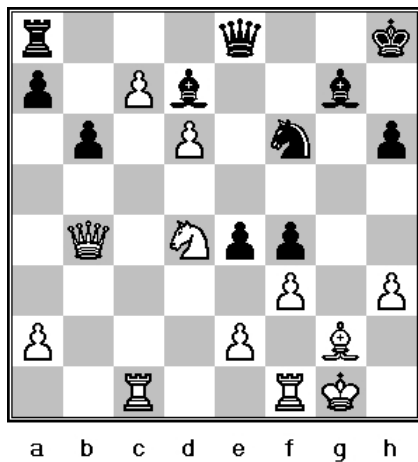
1. d4 f5 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. g3 Nf6 5. Bg2 0-0 6. Nc3 d6 7. b4 Qe8 8. Qb3 h6 9. Bb2 c6 10. 0-0 g5 11. Rad1 e5 12. dxe5 dxe5



13. b5 e4 14. Nd4 f4 15. Ba3 Rf7 16. Bd6 Ng4 17. Bxb8 Rxb8 18. bxc6 Re7 19. Nd5 Re5 20. c7 Ra8 21. gxf4



21. ...Rxd5 22. cxd5 gxf4 23. d6+ Kh8 24. Qd5 Nf6 25. Qc5 Bd7 26. Qb4 b6 27. Rc1 Ng4 28. h3 Nf6 29. f3



29. ...Nd5 30. Qd2 Ne3 31. Rf2 Qg6 32. Kh1 Qg3 33. c8/Q+ Rxc8 34. Rxc8+ Bxc8 35. Qe1 Bxd4 36. Qd2 Qxf2 37. Qxd4+ Kg8 0-1

The Northwest had no entrants in the US Girls Junior Open. This is a new event, arising after the expulsion of Susan Polgar from the USCF, and had only 25 entrants (I say only, but it was much better than the College event), from ten states. Only California had more than one entrant (16). The event was won by Emily Tallo (1836) of Indiana.

Side events abounded. There was the weekend swiss to kick everything off. I was the only Northwest player in that one, and in spite of equaling my open point total (3) in just five rounds, I lost rating points. And I missed out on a prize by a half-point.

There were also daily quads, a Fischer Random (or Chess-960) tournament, a G/15 event, and the annual blitz tournament. As far as I can see, no one from our part of the world played in any of those, with the exception of the blitz. Marcus Robinson played in that, tying for 62nd out of 92 with a score of 6/14. Noah Fields of Washington also stopped by for the blitz, tying for 72nd with 5/14. The winners, GM Melikset Khachiyan and James Thinnsen, scored 11.5/14 each.

Next year, the US Open moves to Orlando. Last time it was in Florida, a hurricane blew through Orlando while we all hunkered down in Ft. Lauderdale.

I'm sure this time Orlando will be less exciting. So, come on down, bring the family, and send them off to Disneyworld while you play chess.

That's my plan. See you there!

– Murlin Varner

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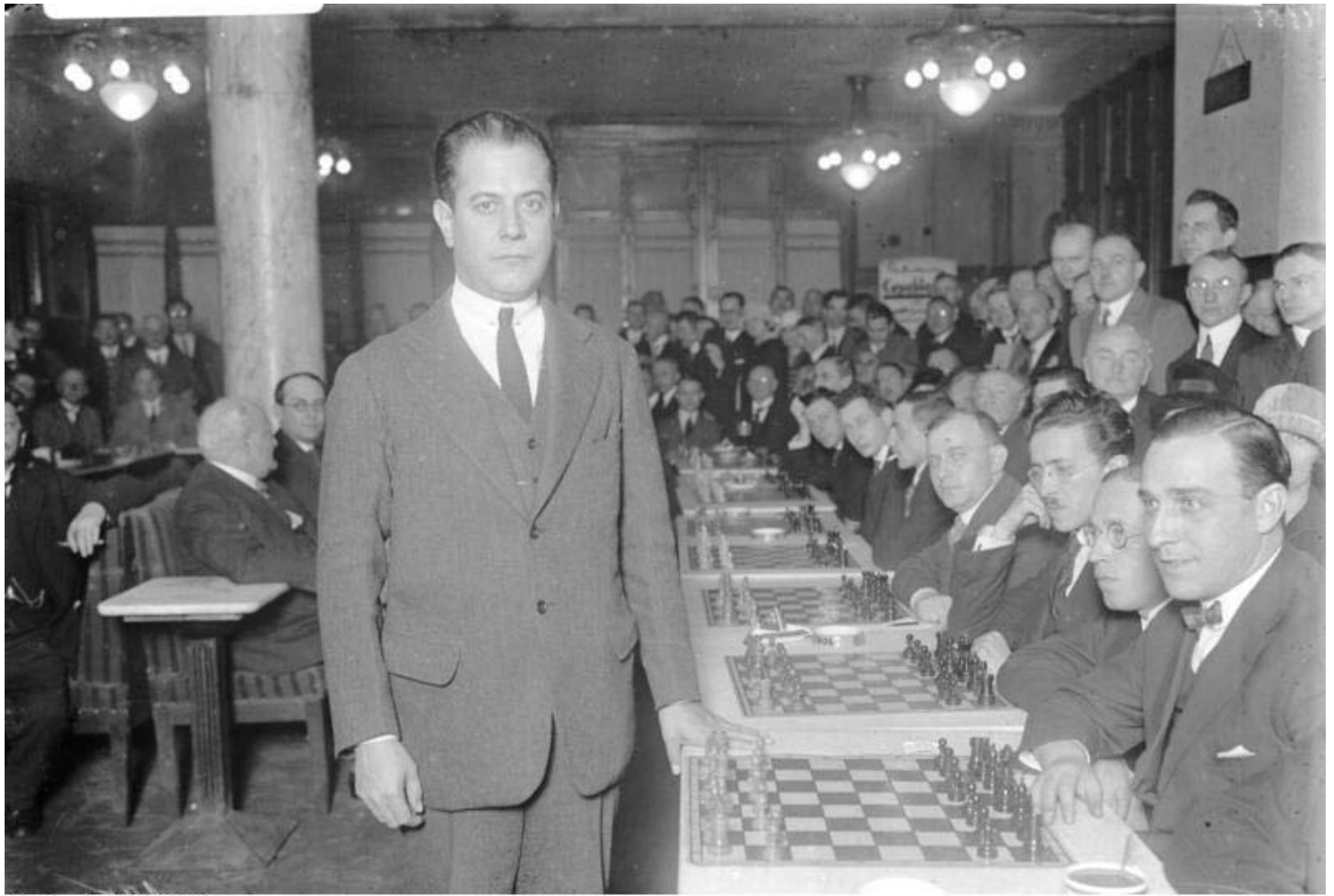
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A Forgotten Chess Tale: Hapley's Project

by Yasser Seirawan

The following story is a work of fiction. With the exception of the historical figure of the World Chess Champion José Raúl Capablanca none of the characters was an actual person or is intended to represent anyone. The characters are the product of the author's imagination.

Readers will benefit to know that the currency of the period was 12 pence equalled one shilling (known as one Bob) while 20 shillings equalled one pound. Thus 240 pence equalled one pound or a guinea.

The story is dedicated to Fred & Carol Kleist, however, inspiration for this story comes from Unkle Vik. Here's looking at you, kid.

George Charles Hapley was in a rush and excited to be home. During his thirty-four year career at the London Standard Charter Mortgage he had rarely taken two hours off from a full day at his job. He either worked full days or took sick leave for the whole day. Now fifty-nine years old, he was nine years beyond the age of retirement. Hapley wanted to work until his sixtieth birthday and then retire on a more comfortable pension. He quickly made himself a cucumber and butter sandwich, washed it down with a glass of bottled milk, delivered that morning, and dressed while the water boiled for his tea. He donned his best tweed suit jacket and black worsted wool trousers with a deep burgundy tie. Without expecting to match the sartorial splendour of the World Chess Champion, he paused at the mirror to admire his own effort.

His plan, hatched weeks ago, was to leave his Council House bachelor flat by five sharp. He didn't actually think of himself as a bachelor; more like a widower. He had been betrothed to Mary

Anne Sotheby while in his late teens. Their wedding date had been set during his second year of residence at Eton. Her motor car accident, a blocked accelerator knob, had been declared freakish. Hapley never found another who could match his gentle Mary. Decades ago he had stopped looking.

If he left on time he could catch the 25 at five and twenty minutes past five, arriving at the King's Mead YMCA community hall at the stroke of six. The club would have as its guest the World Chess Champion, Señor José Raúl Capablanca, for a display against forty players which was to start promptly at seven o'clock. It had been a project two years in the making, and Hapley was anxious to ensure that the grand preparations were in proper order.

During the bus journey Hapley smiled to himself as he reviewed how events had progressed to this extraordinary historical moment.

Four years previously Capablanca had defeated the ageing World

Champion Emanuel Lasker in a match of a mere fourteen games. Capablanca had won four and lost none when Lasker abandoned the contest, citing troubles with Havana's tropical heat. Since his victory, the charismatic Cuban had been the toast of the chess world, winning events with extraordinary ease. Other masters now considered him invincible. The logic of his play couldn't be matched by his peers, while chess enthusiasts thrilled at the effortless smoothness of his victories. Most extraordinary of all was the plain fact that he didn't lose. Hapley thought that in the past five years the Cuban's losses could be counted with the fingers of one hand.

Two years ago, during one of its quarterly club meetings, speakers had droned on endlessly about subscriptions. Towards the second half of the meeting Robert David Templeton suggested a festival to draw in new members and replenish the club's meagre coffers. Such an excellent suggestion evoked eager debate. The key question was what to do for the marquis draw. Suggestions rose and fell, it was towards the end of the discussion that Hapley tentatively put forward an idea that drew both praise and rebuke: "*Perhaps we could engage the World Champion, Capablanca, to perform a séance display at the club,*" he had ventured.

It had taken all of thirty seconds for the surprise to wear off, after which many voices began squabbling at once, "*We're too small a club,*" one had said. "*Can't afford it,*" offered another, as if the matter were thereby settled. Others had been more agreeable. "*That would be splendid. Sure to draw reporters. Perhaps obtain a mention in The Times as well. Good for patronage and sponsorship, you know.*" For the next few minutes chaos had ensued, with everyone jabbering at once. It had taken the presidential gavel of Thomas William Preston to bring the meeting back to order.

"*How much will it cost the club? What is your plan? When are the dates?*" These were the questions with which Mr. Preston was, quite reasonably, confronted. All eyes turned to Hapley.

Hapley was forced to stammer, "*I, I really haven't ... thought about it that much. It was all rather a dream, really.*" That was all he managed. There was a pause until Hapley surprised everyone, including himself, by continuing, "*Perhaps we could offer a forty-board séance with a forty pound stipend. Each player would have to pay a pound to compete.*" Hapley was a quiet man. He had been the club's Secretary and Treasurer alternately for the past twenty-five years. Pummelled by the endless, tedious labours of these stations, he had stepped down officially and was now merely a volunteer. Even so, he had always been the first one to arrive early and set out the chess sets, and the last to leave, carefully putting them all away in their boxes and locking the cupboards, where the sets rested faithfully until the club met again.

The amounts drew incredulous gasps. "*Forty pounds!*" cried one voice. "*A pound to play a game of chess?*" shouted another. "*Who would pay a pound?*" asked the same voice. As if the amount was absurd.

Once more, feeling compelled to speak, Hapley heroically rose to the occasion, and for the last time. "*I would pay a pound,*" he said, before quietly resuming his seat.

The idea might have been still-born there and then except that two other voices rose in support. "*An opportunity to play against the World Champion? For a pound? Very well. I'll do it as well.*" Another voice affirmed, "*For a pound, I'd give it a punt.*"

The meeting debated the pros and cons of a chess festival, combined with a Capablanca séance, for the next forty-nine minutes. The idea of a King's Mead festival was, in time, dropped, but the idea of a séance continued to generate debate.

Again, the President, Preston, called the meeting to order. "*Hapley, if you are agreeable, you are to form a three-man committee, which you shall chair. The committee is to explore the feasibility of such an undertaking. If you can secure thirty players who agree, the club can take the risk of making such an offer. You must understand that the club cannot afford to incur financial disadvantage on your undertaking, so you may be asked to bear some of the burden yourself. You will report at our next quarterly meeting.*"

The meeting had been adjourned shortly after these pronouncements, without Hapley's voiced approval. He had merely nodded his assent. At first, he had been elated that his idea had drawn any support at all. Over the next three months elation turned to despair. He had pleaded, begged, cajoled and even threatened the club's one hundred and twenty members to make a commitment. He wrote letters, penned articles in chess magazines and kept a lively forum going in the club's bulletins. By dint of untiring, forceful efforts he managed to gain undertakings from twenty-eight persons, two short of the number demanded by the club's directors. In three cases he had to make up four shillings himself. His efforts had drawn excitement from the rank and file, and especially from those who couldn't afford the registration fee.

The next quarterly club meeting had gone much better. Hapley had even won praise for his efforts. Twenty-eight was a very good number. After much debate a close vote of 4 to 3, with the tepid support of the President, passed the resolution. Preston even apologized to the opposition for his support, explaining that otherwise the project would be vetoed. Hapley was authorized to write to Capablanca direct on behalf of the King's Mead Club, guaranteeing a Forty pound stipend for performing a forty-player séance. A fortnight later Hapley sent off a carefully worded, well crafted letter. He wanted his invitation to be precise. Hours were spent drafting the text, which began with an introduction featuring generous praise. Hapley had tortured himself by thinking, "One does not obtain a second chance to make a first impression." The answer that arrived two months later was crushing: Capablanca expected One Hundred pounds. A princely sum, and the matter would have died there and then if Hapley hadn't worked so hard to acquire thirty registered players. Supportive letters from around the United Kingdom had arrived in the club's post-box. Many asked if non-club members might be allowed to register. Indeed, such thoughts had caused Edinburgh, Dublin, Cardiff, Liverpool, Nottingham and Hastings to consider séance displays of their own. Hapley managed to convince three other clubs to work together to create a tour. Capablanca could perform four displays for a fee of One Hundred & Sixty of his Majesty's pounds.

Again, the answer was crushing but Hapley was cheered; the idea wasn't as completely out of reach as before. Capablanca had agreed that in case of four séances he would charge half of his regular fee and each club would have a burden of Fifty pounds, along with two days' hotel expenses, as well as train fare within the Kingdom.

The King's Mead Club directors wrangled for weeks before a

compromise was reached. Hapley was enjoined to try to come up with Ten pounds in addition to the Forty pounds from the registration fees. While no salesman of any merit, he managed to convince the Directors of the London Standard Charter Mortgage to sponsor the engagement to the tune of One pound. Two club members had generously stepped forward with ten shillings above their One pound registration fees. The real breakthrough came when the owner of Simpson's-in-the-Strand promised One pound ten shillings' worth of refreshments and drinks.

It was the munificent sponsorship of Simpson's-in-the-Strand that created an opening for further patronage. At the club meeting, it had been decided that spectators would be charged two shillings each. They would have refreshments, including the new rage ginger ale, along with the opportunity to spectate. Through scrupulous and even ingenious discounts and raffles, Hapley had carefully concluded that he would be on the short end of the stick for Three guineas, fourteen shillings, eight and a half pence. A good month and a half's worth of his wages.

He wrote back to inform Capablanca that four clubs, including his own, the King's Mead YMCA, could meet his terms including hotel and train expenses while in the UK. That for the four séance displays, Capablanca would earn Two Hundred pounds. Capablanca had accepted. That was fourteen months ago.

The months passed quickly and as the great event drew closer, matters had taken on a momentum of their own. What had been a torturous undertaking now proved easy. Two months earlier, the registration book surpassed forty players. Hapley was asked to give up his seat, as he was near the bottom of the club's rating-ladder and stronger players wanted to play. Hapley had reluctantly agreed. Those players who were short of their registration fees were replaced. Hotel owners offered discounts for lodgings and eventually agreed to defray the entire hosting costs.

Hapley was to pay the train costs of two shillings, eight and a half pence, but when spectator tickets were last counted, even this amount was sufficiently covered. In fact, eighty spectator tickets had been purchased in advance. There had been no last-minute cancellations, which meant that the club would, at last count, manage a tidy profit. Best of all, thanks to the spectator tickets Hapley had no financial exposure of his own. His project was an overwhelming success, and it would all culminate tonight.

Hapley emerged from his reflections just in time to realize that it was his stop. He opened his umbrella while stepping off the bus. There was only light drizzle as he happily walked the relatively short distance to the YMCA's community centre in the King's Mead borough of London. He was pleased to arrive before six and busily took out the boards and sets and began arranging the tables for play, as well as tables for refreshments. The commotion would begin over the next half-hour.

It was either giddiness or simple excitement that caused him to knock over a pawn while setting up the pieces. The pawn had fallen to the floor before he could attempt to catch it. Naturally, it had fallen into the least accessible spot and Hapley was nearly stuck at full reach under the table on hands and knees when a familiar voice called out from behind him.

"Evenin' Hapless!" The voice was cheerful.

Hapley cringed. The voice belonged to Stephen Potter, one of

the club's best players but a truly ungainly individual where manners were concerned. Hapley hated his nickname "Hapless" at the club. It was something he had endured at Eton but had managed to outlive after being hired at London Standard Charter Mortgage. Once he had joined the King's Mead Club it had resurfaced, adhering to him with pitiless tenacity. The truth was that Hapley was indeed helpless at chess. The standing joke was that a beginner would have Hapley off the bottom of the club ladder but only for a day...week...month. Hapley, of course, bristled with indignation. For a period of eleven consecutive months he wasn't at rock bottom but no one seemed to have noticed. Other than himself.

Hapley was "house man." If anyone at anytime when the club was in session wanted a game, there was Hapley, and almost certain victory to be had. Hapley himself couldn't understand why he lost so often. After all, he reasonably told himself, he played all out for the attack at all times. It was the initiative, he repeated to others. His own mantra was simple, *"Get out the bits as quick as you can and go for the attack."* He loved the combination above all else and by his own reckoning had a keen eye for tactics. The problem was obtaining positions where they were actually successful. Hapley simply adored gambits. Gambit play for both sides, in fact. The problem was that he never quite seemed to get back the sacrificed material. If he did recover it, he contrived to lose an ending which was level. All the time. Rook endings were particularly dreadful. He always confounded as to when his Rook should be active, passive, behind or to the side.

With a final effort Hapley managed to grab the elusive pawn and squared himself back up and onto his feet. *"Evening, Potty,"* he replied while pulling himself up to his full imposing height of five feet eight and one quarter inches. It was his only intimidation tactic, but one that was sure to work. He knew Stephen Potter despised his nickname as well. It was tit for tat.

"Watta seats goin' fur now?," Potter drawled in his Cockney accent.

Hapley thought about his answer. It was important. Potter was the club's local hustler. The best man at lightning chess but not the best in tournament play. The man had no job or any visible means of support but somehow managed his affairs. Hapley usually aided him by tossing a few Bob per month in weekly take-downs. Potter had waited a long time for signing up the registration form before advancing his ten shilling coins. Ten Bob he really could ill-afford to go without. Now the registration was complete and Potter had his chair, but others were clamouring to enter. *"I think you could get twenty-four shillings,"* came Hapley's careful reply. Hapley watched Potter's face turn into a thinking study. Potter could make a four shilling profit on a ten shilling investment made two months ago. A forty per cent return. Conversely, he would have to come up with another ten shillings this evening to play. The club had carried him to the eve of play and only Morrison hadn't advanced the full One pound registration cost.

Potter pushed a hand through his carefully greased, elegantly-parted black hair. He too had dressed in his Sunday best. *"I'll drop out for two dozen..."*

Hapley was quick to correct him. *"Morrison will give you fourteen shillings for your seat. He already paid ten shillings for being a replacement player and you've paid only ten shillings."*

"Yeah. Right." Potter agreed. *"Morry got me spot for 'ourteen*

Bob.”

“All right. I’ll let him know.” Hapley moved on to the next table to start putting out the pieces. “Care to lend a hand?”

“Nah. I’ll ’elp the tea and crack a fresh pot.” Potter moved off to the small kitchen area where there was a hot plate to set up the tea. Biscuits were in a cupboard above. Potter was sure to help himself.

Hapley wasn’t surprised by Potter’s leaving and sped up his tempo in setting out the pieces. It was a quarter past six, and the stampede would start soon. Hapley placed a table by the door so that he could sell and collect spectator tickets, as well as Morrison’s late registration fee. If Morrison was in time, Potter’s ten shillings advance would be moved on the ledger to Morrison’s benefit and he would in turn owe fourteen shillings to Potter. There were four replacement players waiting in the queue. Each had advanced ten shillings on the condition that if he didn’t make it he would receive a full refund. As the project’s manager, Hapley had the keys to the cash box and now set it up on the table, along with his ledger and receipt book. As a trained accountant he was scrupulous at maintaining the records, including keeping track of club dues down to the large half-penny “half-a-copper” coin.

That was another reason why the séance had been a brilliant coup: club members received preference and first claims to a seat. The club had attracted six new members, and all the members had uncomplainingly paid their annual subscriptions in arrears to buy a spectator’s ticket. The club hadn’t been so replete in years.

Hapley had just taken a seat by the entrance when the first wave of people crashed through. For the next forty minutes, Hapley had never been so busy except when doing pairings of the last round of the club’s lightning tournaments. During one club championship so many persons were looking over his shoulders when he matched scorecards that he feared the mob would crash down upon him. This, however, was a different kind of excitement. He was simultaneously taking tickets, selling them, giving refunds, directing caterers, assigning players their boards, handing out score-sheets with the new carbon copy papers that were now the rage and welcoming club members and club directors when there was a sudden roar from behind him, coupled with a burst of applause. Hapley turned to see the club’s President, Preston, triumphantly march in with the World Champion Capablanca through a second entrance. It was usually locked. They continued right to the drawing-room, the inner sanctum beyond the reach of the great unwashed, where club directors were invited to indulge in conversation, a cigar and a champagne toast in the presence of the World Champion before the séance began. Hapley hadn’t been invited. Nor was he introduced as the smiling Champion waved through.

In any case, Hapley still had innumerable tasks before everything was in readiness. It was after he witnessed Morrison paying fourteen shillings, each coin carefully counted out to Potter as well as Potter’s signed return of his Club’s receipt in favor of Morrison that he had registered Morrison as a player and crossed out Potter from his ledger. Hapley smiled brightly, as things had just tidied up when the telephone in the booth at the building’s entrance down the hall began ringing. It was a call that would turn the world, or at least Hapley’s world, upside down.

To catch the call Hapley managed to find a club member, Anthony Darnell, to collect spectator tickets while he went to the

booth to deal with the long, incessant rings. He managed to get his shoe stuck while picking up the receiver and closing the folding glass door against himself. It was Thatcher, and the line was atrocious. He had been driving with three club members, all of whom were registered. Thatcher’s motor car had broken down ten minutes earlier. It had taken him a while to find a telephone booth to call the club with the news that they were “...at least forty minutes away.” Depending upon the state of the motor car, perhaps even more. The drizzle had turned into a driving downpour, and the men had collectively decided that they couldn’t make the one hour time deadline. Could they have their entry registration payments returned to them, sans penalty?

Hapley had been resolute. “If I can sell your seats for One pound, the answer is yes. If not, the registration fees are forfeited. Any loss could be shared collectively.” Hapley replaced the receiver and started thinking. He rushed back to his table thanking Mr. Darnell for manning his post. With Morrison replacing Potter, that left three persons who had registered as replacements. Of course, he had forgotten about himself. In fact, he had been the first to register, the first to lose his seat, the first to lose his replacement seat, and yet the last in line.

He now shared his new-found knowledge with the three replacements. All were excited about their, “wee bit of good luck...” and eagerly paid an additional ten shillings to play. Hapley reached into his own wallet to balance the books and he carefully recorded the forty shillings just collected. Thatcher and the other three members were owed a ten shilling refund each. He jotted down a careful note to himself in the ledger. The awareness that he would play against Capablanca hadn’t quite sunk in when he heard the familiar voice.

“So. I’m in it again, am I?” It was Potter, looking cheerful.

“I beg your pardon?” Hapley felt a chill pierce his breastplate.

“Pete and Thomas told me Thatch’s motor may have snuffed it. I’m in for a guinea then?” Potter continued.

“No. You’ve sold your place to Morrison already. And we are fully booked.”

At the mention of his name, Morrison had come to join the discussion.

“Yeah, an’ who’s the four, then?” Potter pressed.

When Hapley mentioned himself as the last one, Potter pounced. “I’ll take your place, then.” And he began to extract his wallet.

Hapley was saved by Morrison. “See here, my good man, I’ve paid twenty-four shilling. Twenty belong to the club and four to you. You mean you want to play for One pound? You’ll have to give me back my four Bob.”

Hapley herded the two men away from the entrance to continue their now animated discussion. He carefully reviewed the registration list, crossing out a few names and added others, including his own. His heart nearly skipped a beat as he stared at his name on table forty: *George Charles Hapley*, he had written in fine penmanship.

He was snapped out of his revelry by the loud voice of the club’s President. The World Champion José Raúl Capablanca stood at his side. “Would the players please take their seats. I propose now to explain the rules of the séance.” It was a commanding voice that

boomed across the large room. “Hapley! Do you have the list of players?,” Preston called.

Hapley brought with him the cash box and gave Preston the list of players. Preston immediately conferred over it with Capablanca, pointing out that the top players would play on the highest boards, while the lower boards would have weaker players. Their backs turned, Hapley had been dismissed without a word. It was time to lock away the cash box and take his place at board forty. After double-checking that the cupboard was securely locked, Hapley returned to the playing hall. He made an effort to avoid Potter by circumnavigating the room before taking his seat.

Preston’s voice was still ringing out while Hapley filled in his score-sheet. In the box for “White” Hapley carefully wrote, *José Raúl Capablanca, World Champion*. In the box for “Black” he wrote *George Charles Hapley* and stared at it for several seconds. He could hardly believe his good fortune. Again, Hapley was surprised by the applause, hearing just the prelude, “*Please join with me in a warm King’s Mead Club welcome to the World... Chess... Champion... Señor... José ... Raúl... Capablanca!*”

Capablanca rewarded his applauding admirers with a graceful bow. He then explained that he would proceed clockwise. He moved to the first table. Directly to Hapley’s left. Top board and club champion, Andrew Whitely Kyle, stood to shake hands, and Capablanca then made his first move. This process was repeated all the way around the thirty-nine boards before Hapley stood as well. “*George Charles Hapley, a great honour to meet you, Señor Capablanca.*”

Capablanca smiled and courteously replied, “*Likewise.*” The two shook hands.

Before Capablanca could open the game, Hapley continued, “*It was I who wrote you.*”

Capablanca’s handsome face now broke out into a wide smile, “*Yes. Thank you for mentioning it. Your name was familiar. Thank you for your letters. It seems that if it wasn’t for you, I shouldn’t be here.*”

The compliment staggered Hapley into complete silence, and he merely nodded positively while taking his seat.

As there was no response, in a few seconds Capablanca was forced to say, “*Allow me to play my opening move.*” He reached for his King pawn, pushed it forward two squares and moved on to table one.

Hapley carefully wrote down “(1.)P-K4” and looked up. Now that the introductions were over Capablanca was moving down the tables with extraordinary speed. To his left, from board one he saw, Kyle, Patterson, Moody, Johnson, Elvin, Lawson, Jamison, Winter and others. Murderers’ row. The whole lot of them. The best of the club with only Potter missing. Hapley in all his years had never taken a game from any of them. Not once. Hapley pondered the magnificence of it all. The World Champion facing the crème de la crème of what the club could offer – all at once. It was a staggering thought. Tonight’s séance was the fourth in the tour. Capablanca had arrived by steamer in Scotland, where he engaged in Edinburgh, travelled down to Nottingham and onwards to Cardiff. At each outing the scores had been lopsided. Two draws, two draws and one draw. No losses for Capablanca. Even more amazing was his speed of play. Despite forty games at once, all the displays were

over in less than four hours of play. Adjectives of praise were failing to keep up.

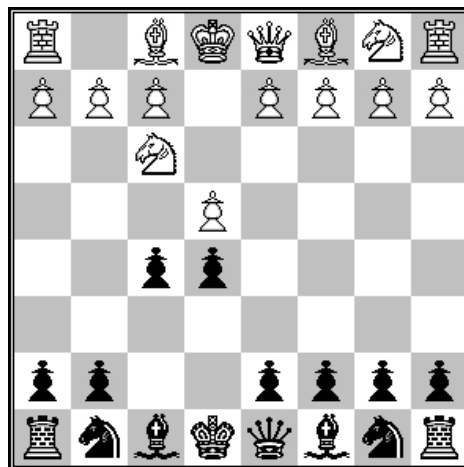
Now Capablanca had reached midway through the boards pausing before Preston’s. The two shared another laugh together. Hapley was pleased with the physical layout. It was a square rather than a circle. Each long table hosted five boards, and there were two long tables along each of the four sides. The room was so large that there was plenty of room between the eight tables as well. In the centre of the square was a round table containing food and drink, exclusively for the World Champion. Hapley looked around the room and was pleased at the sight of the many spectators, all of whom seemed to be nibbling and drinking contentedly. Indeed, it seemed there were more spectators than ticket sales, and a cross thought went through his mind. Worse, by avoiding Potter he had forgotten to get himself anything to eat or drink.

Hapley now wrote “(1...)P-K4” in the box on his own score-sheet reserved for Black’s reply. As Capablanca drew close he was ready with his response. He hadn’t yet released his King Pawn when Capablanca jumped forward with his King’s Knight and moved on. Hapley’s heart skipped a beat. He carefully wrote on his score-sheet, “(2.)Kt-KB3” and tried to quell his excitement. He knew he would have been sunk if Capablanca had played, “2.Kt-QB3” or even “2.P-Q4”, for then he would not have been able to play his favourite Greco Counter Gambit, 2...P-KB4. All the club members laughed at his pet variation yet he hadn’t come off that badly. At least from the opening. It was usually in the middle-game that he went astray and, if not, there was the waiting endgame where mistakes could pile up. Often in a row. In any case, the club members weren’t inclined to beat him in the main line of play; usually, “3.P-Q3” was sufficient to pound him into submission.

The first round had been slow but for the second and third Capablanca seemed to be at a jog. Hapley had just written, “(2...)P-KB4” when it was time to play it. Capablanca’s hand had been in mid-air when he froze and actually lingered. Now he stopped fully to consider his response.

Hapley was absolutely thrilled. He was the first to stump the great man. His chest swelled with pride.

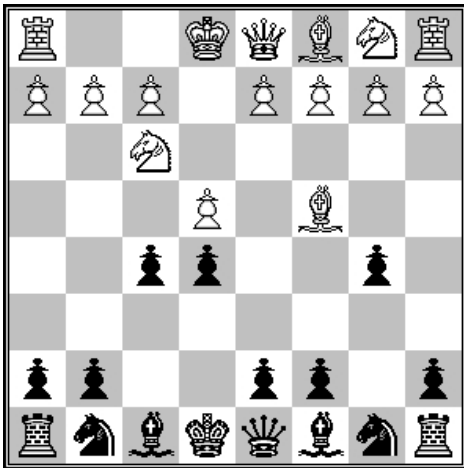
Capablanca quickly reflected on the possibilities. The second move by Black was terrible. Opening theory books called it an unsound gambit, pledging a refutation to astute readers. He was sure of it but hadn’t made it a habit to study them. He was pressing his mind to remember why and could not. He considered, 3.PxP P-Q3 4.P-Q4 P-K5 5.Kt3-Q2 BxP 6.P-QB4 Kt-KB3 7.Kt-QB3, as well as 3.KtxP Q-B3, to guard against a Queen check, 4.P-Q4 P-Q3 5.Kt-B4 PxP 6.Kt-B3 Q-Kt3 7.Kt-K3 P-B3 8.P-Q5. Both continuations seemed to offer White a superior position, but neither promised the refutation that he wanted.



Tarrying longer than he expected, Capablanca looked at the position with a child's eyes. What was wrong with Black's second move? Suddenly it was clear: a diagonal was fatally compromised. He leaned over the position with the heels of both hands on the edge of the table, did a quick series of calculations against a forcing line of play and judged the outcome favourably. The World Champion confidently moved his Bishop.

In a sudden burst of excitement, forgetting the etiquette of séance play, Hapley pushed his Queen Knight's pawn forward at once.

Capablanca had been about to move on, but the suddenness of his opponent's response made him linger further. In truth, he was quite happy when his opponent matched him move for move. In this way, he could accelerate his way through the opening phase and the transition to a position which both combatants wanted. It saved him a good deal of walking and sped up the exhibition. So, instead of chiding his opponent, he was actually pleased by the increased tempo.



Furthermore, what was his opponent doing? The third move, 3...P-QKt4, made no sense and was probably as bad as the second move. With the two moves taken in conjunction, Black might well be lost. The Bishop could simply capture the pawn, but that capture, Capablanca

instantly recognized, was bad. No, the choices seemed to be to play 4.BxKt, ruining Black's opportunity to castle, or 4.B-Q5. There was something alluring about this finesse. Attacking the Queen's Rook would coax 4...P-B3, denying the Queen's Knight its natural square. Then 5.BxKt RxB, would leave what? After the exchange 6.P-Q4 PxKP 7.KtXP P-Q3, what then? The retreat 8.Kt-Kt4 and a King three blockade? There didn't seem to be any follow-through that would lead to a clear advantage.

Capablanca considered again, judging 4.KtXP PxB 5.Q-R5 check P-Kt3 6.KtXP Kt-KB3 to be a dead end. With the captures considered and found wanting, the only sensible move was 4.B-Kt3, which he played. His opponent began thinking, and so Capablanca moved on. Let his opponent play his Queen Knight's pawn forward with a tempo. It appeared to be only a weakening move after all. In time, this weakness would come back to haunt Black's position, he felt sure.

Hapley could feel his heart beating more quickly. It now seemed to be a pounding in his head as blood swirled through his cheeks and neck. Staring at the board, he could hardly believe his luck. Hapley's understanding about chess, while above the "duffer level," was not up to "club standard." However, on one thing he did pride himself: a deep knowledge into the esoteric lines of the Greco Counter-Gambit. In fact, 3...P-QKt4, was his own concept. In the main variation, the plan was that his Queen would go on a rampage while his King would exit to the Queenside and safety.

Unfortunately, the Queenside march held a drawback: the Queen Knight pawn was in the way. If he could clear it, his King could find shelter. Now he was staring at the Bishop on Knight three. He had his position! His cheeks now a deep scarlet, Hapley looked up. Amazingly, Capablanca was already half-way through his round. He would have to catch up on his score-sheet quickly. He wrote, "(3.)B-B4 P-QKt4 (4.)B-Kt3," Capablanca had now moved to board 36, the fifth board on his table. He would be upon him in a moment. Hapley wrote, "(4...)PxP" and was pleased that while Capablanca was stepping towards his board he had his move ready and took away the World Champion's King Pawn.

Capablanca did not hesitate. In any case, his move was forced. He captured the pawn with his Knight and while putting it on the table and away from the board his opponent moved as well, bringing out his Queen early. Capablanca pursed his lips; he had expected the move. In fact, what choice was there? The absurd 5...Kt-R3, to protect the Bishop seven square? That would have been terrible. Developing the Queen so early in the game, is, of course, a beginner's mistake. He looked at the card, proudly proclaiming table "40" and was unsure. Was his opponent a complete beginner? Was he a last-minute replacement player forced to take the final table? More cruelly, was the club playing a trick on him?

Now he recalled that his opponent had introduced himself as the Secretary of the club. The complimentary letters with the fine writing had been that of an educated man. No beginner, the man with the receding grey hairline was an experienced club player. In any case, he had no choice and he launched his Queen pawn forward. Quickly his opponent captured his Knight pawn. Again, he was forced to pause in front of the same board. He had anticipated this line of play before the thrust of the Queen Knight's pawn, but was it as clear as before? He could be forced to sacrifice a Rook, and perhaps more. He now reflected on the moves he had made; no, they had all been correct. He was playing to the rules of strategy – central control – as well as development. His opponent was making trespass. He played his Queen out with check. Once more his opponent responded quickly as he had no choice, blocking the check with a pawn. The pawn could be taken but that would be a blunder. No, it was time to bring the Bishop into play with a forcing check. Again, the opponent replied, moving his King. Now he had a choice, he could check with the Queen and force an exchange. That made no sense. He would be a pawn down with minimal compensation. No, he would play for a checkmate attack. He captured the pawn with his Bishop. Immediately, his Rook was captured with check. Now his King would have to move. King two or Queen two? Of course, there was no choice. King two. Now his opponent hesitated. Thinking. Capablanca waited a few seconds before moving on.

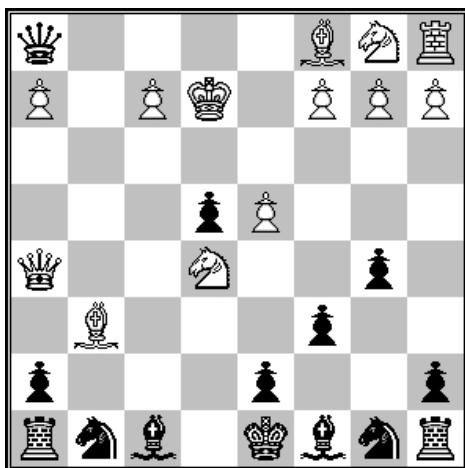
It was quite a strange game on board forty. The room was full of Ruy Lopez variations. A few French Defences as well as Sicilians and one had chosen an "Alekhine's Defence." Was there a hidden message behind such a choice? In any case, he felt pleased about thirty-nine games and only one had wobbled off into the strange zone. Although unsure, he was confident. His moves had all been logical and sensible, while his opponent's struck out in various directions lacking harmony. He continued with his job of piling up advantages.

Hapley had been so ecstatic over the last few moves that he had nearly forgotten his analysis. Now he was struggling to update his score-sheet. How had it gone? He was pleased that Capablanca

paused at several tables to play move on move and wasn't loping so quickly around the room. Some opponents had mimicked Hapley and were taking the opportunity to accelerate the opening play. He now wrote, "(5.)KtXP Q-Kt4 (6.)P-Q4 QxP (7.)Q-R5 check P-Kt3 (8.)B-B7 check K-Q1 (9.)BxP QxR check (10.)K-K2, and stopped. With his score-sheet now up to date, Hapley glanced again. Oh dear, Capablanca had sped up once more. He was merely a minute or two at most away from his board. Hapley was facing the devastating threat of 11.Kt-B7 check, which would shortly lead to checkmate. He had to make an escape for his King. He knew he had two choices, 10...B-QR3 or 10...P-B3. He had made a careful study of both moves and wrote down the one he preferred, "(10...)P-B3." This choice of moves matched his penchant for connecting with his third move. Capablanca had paused at some length on board 37 and during this moment Hapley now wrote, "Hapley's Counter-Gambit," on his score-sheet inside a box marked, "Opening." His King would find blessed sanctuary on Queen Knight two.

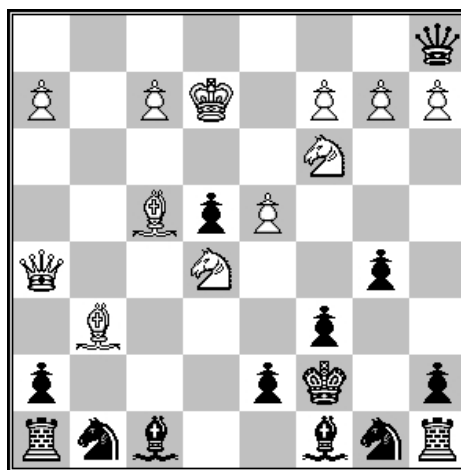
Years later, in club circles around Great Britain, Hapley would be taken to task for his tenth move. The masters, after careful analysis, would prefer 10...B-QR3, as well as 10...B-Kt2, a move Hapley never considered. Queen Knight two was the destination square for his King. His heart was throbbing when Capablanca appeared at his board.

Capablanca studied the position for a brief time. His opponent was no duffer after all. Otherwise he would have played 10...QxB and after 11.Kt-B7 check K-K2 12.Q-K5, check and mate would have added another game to a very long list of quick séance victories. Although



he had many tempting choices he developed his Queen's Knight, confident that a discovered check with his Bishop would win the Queen and the game. Surprisingly, his opponent quickly moved his King, and once more he was forced to study the position. Now Capablanca paused for a considerable time. The minutes ticked by. Something was wrong. Where was the forced win? In the lines he saw, Black's King had sanctuary on the Queen Knight two square. It was amazing, the ridiculous third move of the game had a hidden meaning. He now realized that he had fallen victim to an extremely well conceived trap. His sharp eyes blazed with intensity as he reviewed all his previous moves. All moves seemed to be logical and correct. There simply had to be a forcing conclusion to his attack. He had to invite all of his pieces into play and offered a second Rook, moving his Queen's Bishop. Almost immediately his second Rook was captured. Now he was forced to think again.

His lengthy stay at board forty had a magnet-pulling affect; spectators around the room gathered around this table. What was the World Champion thinking? They whispered to one another as they jostled to see the game. Hapley suddenly felt himself as squeezed as in a crowded bus queue at Victoria Station.



Capablanca's choice was difficult. He would have to sacrifice his central Knight and take either the Queen Pawn or the Queen's Bishop pawn. Both captures would blow up the Queenside fortress for Black's King. But which capture was right? He analysed as deeply as he could and chopped

off the Queen Pawn with his Knight. The capture stopped his opponent cold. Clearly, he had prepared only for the other capture, and Capablanca was comforted by the thought that he had surprised his opponent. He waited a few seconds, but his opponent sank into his chair and into deep thought. Capablanca moved on.

Hapley felt the blood rush out of his cheeks and he paled. He had focused most of his attention on a different capture and remembered it best. In that case, he could block the Bishop's check with an advance of his Queen Pawn. Now Hapley almost felt cold. Again he glanced up and saw that Capablanca was pausing more frequently. A relief. He updated his score-sheet, (11.)Kt-QB3 K-B2 (12.)B-B4 QxR (13.)KtXP check, and stopped. What was he to do now? He could block the check with his Bishop but after a Bishop exchange his King would be drawn into the centre and delivered into the hands of White's developed pieces. He was sure that he had no choice and continued with the plan he had all along. He wrote down, (13...)K-Kt2, and waited for the World Champion to complete his trip.

He was looking at the position when he heard a faint applause that rose after confirmation. He saw that Preston had, like himself, been rushing his moves. A fatal mistake and the Club's President was the first to taste defeat. The two shook hands warmly like old school friends, and Capablanca paused to autograph his name with a flourish. Right, Hapley thought, from now on he would stop rushing his moves as boldly as before. A determination he would soon forget in the thrill of the moment.

Again, Hapley checked his score-sheet, relieved that he would soon be moving his King out of harm's way. It hadn't occurred to him before this very moment what a terrible embarrassment it might be if he committed an illegal move. Club members would laugh for months. Perhaps years. The thought was completely chilling, and Hapley felt himself grow colder still. Capablanca was on table thirty and moving fast. He nearly strode direct to his table. Hapley reached and moved his King.

Once more Capablanca stopped to ponder the situation. His calculations were now blazing extremely fast. Capablanca, staring at the board, considered the situation comical. Black had not developed a single one of his pieces from the back row. Black's Queen had gone on a rampage while Black's King was sprinting for safety. He felt annoyed that his Knight had not been captured. His opponent had found the only move to dodge checkmate. Now he had choices. He could capture a Bishop or Knight or he could continue to pursue checkmate by bringing his Bishop back into the

attack. Considering the massive loss of material, two Rooks down, he was forced to continue the attack and chose to capture a pawn with his Bishop. He paused to reflect on the irony that Black's King was now on Queen's Knight two. By his third move the opponent had laid a trap of stunning genius. As there was no rejoinder he moved on.



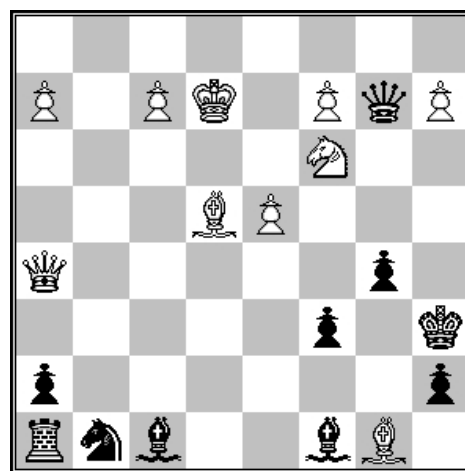
Hapley felt his knees grow weak. Something was wrong. White's light-squared Bishop was back into the fray. He knew that many of his defences relied upon the move pawn takes Bishop, tossing away a Rook for exchange. Now that vital resource was gone forever. Worse, the move played took direct aim at his King. He saw the slashing threat Queen takes Knight pawn check, when thanks to the absolute pin he would be destroyed. What had he done wrong? He was about to panic when a bout of inspiration came over him. In his analysis, there had been two key defensive resources, and the other one was Queen takes Knight pawn. That move had a dual purpose: to undermine the White Knight and to shore up Black's Queenside by protecting his Knight pawn. Hapley had a strange sensation and felt his chest collapse. He was relieved to discover that breathing inflated his chest once more. Yes. He had his move. It was absolutely forced. He reminded himself that sometimes forced moves were good ones too. He wrote, "(14...)QxKtP," and thought about the consequences. By protecting his Knight pawn he was still in the fight. He glanced to the side of the board, looked at the two captured White Rooks and, hoping no one would notice, took them into his hands. They were his comfort. He was far ahead in material. That was clear. But would his King survive the ferocity of White's attack? He had his doubts and gripped the Rooks tightly in his lap as a talisman.

He saw that the World Champion could capture his Knight with a lethal threat to his Bishop Pawn, a key defender for his King. Hapley was determined in that case, to capture the Knight at the cost of a Rook. He would then sprint with his King to the board's edge, where it would be safe. Yes, he would return a Rook and use the most primeval defence known to man: he would run. Pleased with his millennia-old insight, he felt a half-smile crease his face.

It was further applause that pulled his concentration away from his game. The club was learning a key lesson: don't play lightning moves with Capablanca. He had no equal. Hapley looked to board thirty-nine on his right and grimaced. Foxwood was in a merciless positional bind. It was one of those manic newfangled "Sicilian" positions which players were trying in order to avoid the Spanish Torture. White had a grip in the centre and was training his sights on Black's backward Queen pawn. Capablanca moved so quickly on board thirty-nine that Hapley was flustered. Righting himself, he quickly checked his score-sheet and captured the Knight pawn with his Queen.

Capablanca felt his annoyance growing. There were multiple

ways for his opponent to go wrong and only one way to go right. He had found the right way. The gravity of the situation now sank in; far behind in material, he simply had to play for checkmate. Capturing the Bishop would mean to move away from the Queenside and Black's King. His only chance was to undermine the fortress there by capturing the Knight, which he did. Much to his surprise, his Knight was captured at once. Again, he was forced to concentrate on this annoying game and once more the spectators began their crowding. There was no choice, and he lifted a Rook from the board, expecting a recapture. Without pause his opponent ran with his King. Not bothering to capture the Bishop, which was *en prise*. Capablanca's face betrayed surprise. An action caught by the spectators, who collectively turned to stare at the position.



Once more Capablanca leaned over the table, this time his hands moved far apart, fingers spread on the table with his palms elevated. He studied the position intently. It was absurd. Defying all logic, the move actually had a sense. The King was now out of harm's way. Not safe. That

was certain. There were several ways for him to pursue the attack. The problem was that thanks to the King's move out of the pin, the rejoinder Queen takes Knight pawn check was no longer playable, whilst his Knight was now *en prise*. How to continue the attack? Queen to Bishop seven would allow Knight to King two, blocking the threat of mate on Rook seven. There was another pathway: Queen to King five and then to Bishop seven to threaten mate. Black would capture the Knight, and Queen Bishop seven would be met by Queen captures pawn, defending the threat of mate on Rook seven. His difficulties mounting, he considered the capture of the Queen Bishop Pawn, which would continue the attack on Black's King. If he took the pawn, his King would be exposed to two harassing checks only. He could block the second one with his Knight. He took the pawn and waited. His opponent didn't reply.

Now the crowds around Hapley were pressing in, making excited whispers and voicing their dismay. "Why did he move his King? He could've taken the Bishop!" "What a missed chance!" "He didn't take the Bishop?" "My goodness. What a mistake!" The chorus of voices expressed wonderment, alarm and dismay. It was while he was writing down the last moves, (15.)KtxKt RxKt (16.)BxR K-R3 (17.)BxBP, that Hapley heard Potter's voice again.

"Hapless! Still alive? Need me 'elp?"

"Put a sock in it Potty. I can lose this one myself," Hapley heard himself say.

"No truer words ever spoken," Potter laughed cruelly and moved away.

Hapley had no readily available retort and resorted to putting his thumbs in his ears to concentrate. How to justify his last move and explain his desire to run? That would only invite further ridicule.

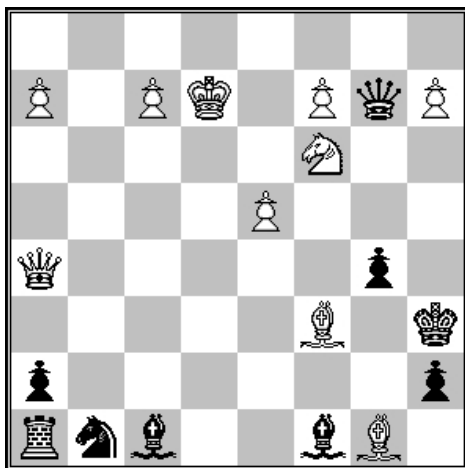
He realized that Capablanca's last capture was devastating. No doubt about it. The King's run had been a dead end after all and defence was no longer possible. Hapley had a check left in the position and hoped that he might stave off defeat a while longer. With no development his cause would be hopeless. It was a comfort that the club's President had lost before him. He wrote down, (17...) *QxP check*, and suddenly a happy thought burst forward. He would be giving check to the World Champion's King for a second time in the game. It was something he could savour over a Guinness in any public house in the Kingdom, "I once had the World Champion in a dreadful pickle, you see. I had given a second check to his King and forced him to gasp for breath..." Hapley stopped his fantasy and began thinking about where the White King might go after a check. The King could not advance because the Knight would be lost with check. The White King would have to retreat, and he could give a second check in succession. Hapley felt his heartbeat skip. Was there a chance to force an exchange of Queens?

"Your turn?"

The voice, although soft, snapped Hapley to alert. Capablanca was standing in front of him. In a near panic he checked his score-sheet for his move and took the pawn with check.

Capablanca's hand froze in mid-air. He had seen the Queen check and had anticipated being able to retreat with his King. His capture of Black's Knight pawn was unstoppable; three pieces were trained against the pawn. Now he realized his predicament, and he had a momentary blind spot. He had anticipated being able to block the second check with his Knight. An exchange of Queens was in the offing. In any case, his move was forced and he retreated his King and walked away. He concentrated on walking in as stately a manner as possible. He didn't want his walk to betray the reality which he now saw so clearly: he was lost.

Hapley wrote down (18.) *K-B1* and checked his options. He had two different checks with his Queen, but the one on Queen six protected against the mate on Queen Knight four. What could White do? Blocking with the Knight was logical and then he was stuck. He would need to develop his own pieces. Which one? Hapley looked again; the loss of his Queen pawn had benefit: it opened the diagonal of his Queen's Bishop, and this meant that he could play Queen to Rook six check to force an exchange of Queens. He found himself gasping for breath. Such an exchange would end White's attack, and he would be a Rook to the good. Hapley frightened himself with his insight. It meant that after the Knight blocked the check he would exchange Queens, with a won position. His hand trembled as he wrote down (18...) *Q-Q6 check*, and looked at Capablanca's circling. There had been further applause as a player from "murderers' row" resigned his game. And still further applause as one after another on the far side three players in succession tilted over their Kings. Now Capablanca was slicing through his table. Foxwood, on Hapley's immediate right, resigned. As he had many



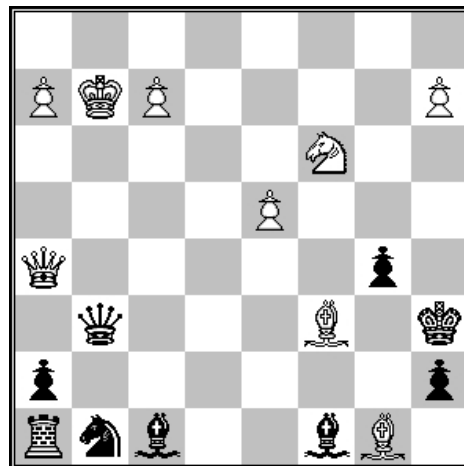
times before, Capablanca paused to autograph the score-sheet. Hapley heard applause throughout the room. The signature completed, Capablanca moved to his board.

Hapley played his Queen check and Capablanca stopped for half a minute. By-passing the hoped-for blocking Knight move, the World Champion moved his King to the Knight file.

It wasn't the move that Hapley wanted to see. Even so, he could play the Queen check, forcing the exchange of Queens at the cost of a Bishop. He would be an Exchange to the good, and in his lap he squeezed the Rooks held by his left hand. The consequences of such an ending, even such a favourable one, were clear to him: he would lose. Was there another defensive option?

The threat to his Knight pawn was taking on an intensity all of its own. The threat had to be stopped at all costs. He could block the threat with Bishop to King Bishop four but after Bishop takes pawn check the game would be over; his King and Queen would both be attacked. Hapley could resign. Now a new thought was taking shape: he could block the threat by retreating his Queen. Hapley didn't like retreating moves, considering them cowardly. But Queen to Bishop four, and the Queen protected by Bishop, blocked White's Queen from slashing across the board. Of course, the pawn would be lost with check, but checkmate could be averted. Suddenly Hapley froze. There was something else in the position. The Queen retreat added a new dimension to his thinking. He could retreat his Queen to Knight three. In that case, White's King was in check and an exchange of Queens was well and truly forced. He felt the blood rushing into his cheeks again and he duplicated his calculations to be sure. The exchange of Queens on Knight three meant that he stood a Rook to the good. He wouldn't have to lose a Bishop at all. He wrote down, (19.) *K-Kt2 Q-Kt3 check*, and waited in a dreadful fear that he might have missed something. The room now seemed to be jam-packed with loud voices, much banter and bouts of applause. Hapley was relieved that the noise in the room was at such a crescendo; only he could hear the pounding of his head. He would be able to exchange Queens. Hapley's legs felt like they were on pins and needles.

Capablanca moved swiftly through the bottom tables. Only two were left; seven had given up. Now the World Champion was before



him and Hapley retreated with his Queen. Capablanca paused to consider his predicament. Then he smiled and offered his hand, "Congratulations. A confounding game, but I resign. You have won. Would you like me to sign your score-sheet?"

Hapley couldn't speak. He merely nodded and pushed forward his score-sheet and fountain pen. "Thank you," he managed to mumble.

Before signing his name Capablanca overwhelmed his opponent and audience. "I'm sorry. My Bishop takes pawn was a terrible

oversight. I thought I could block your Queen check with my Knight, but I missed Bishop to Rook six check and wins. Instead of Bishop takes pawn, the problem with Knight to Queen one is Queen takes Queen Pawn. Clearly Queen to Bishop seven, Knight to King two blocking the checkmate on Rook seven would have been bad. Possibly I had to try Queen to King five, Queen takes Knight, Queen to Bishop seven, Bishop to Knight five check, pawn to Bishop three, Queen takes Queen pawn, defending the mate on Rook seven, Queen takes Bishop pawn check and Queen to Knight three wins. That may have been my proper course. Possibly something exists there that I missed. Perhaps capturing the Bishop on Knight five."

Hapley had been completely confused; capturing a Bishop on Knight five? When was that possible? His Bishops had never moved. Defending a mate threat on Rook seven? When could that happen? He could play Bishop to Rook six check? Who then was mating whom? While José Raúl Capablanca signed his full name replete with a beautiful flourish, Hapley chimed in with, "Exactly." It was a strange comment but the best he could muster. He was certain that he had no clue what exactly the World Champion was saying.

Satisfied that he had made the right decision and that his opponent fully understood the tactics and strategy of this most confounding game, the World Champion, offered another handshake before moving on to mow down the rest of the opposition giving up nary a nick.

Hapley was in shock. Dizzy from his happiness, he found that his senses now seemed temporarily blocked. It was as though a switch was pushed in his head, dimming the lights. Time seemed to slow to a crawl as he gasped. He realized that his mouth had been half-open during the whole "analysis session" and he hadn't drawn breath. Now congratulations were pouring over him from all corners, and the pats on his back and shoulders were genuine. He could hardly believe it himself. He had won. He had defeated the World Champion. He would have a story to tell for the rest of his life.

Voices swirled around him and he had been pulled out of his seat and to his feet for comment. "Did you catch Capa's analysis? I want to write it down for the bulletin!" From another came, "What was Capablanca's mistake?" Hapley was being asked to give a critique of the moves of Capablanca? He didn't know what he said or what happened to the rest of the evening. Time blurred and crawled at the same time. Somehow he had managed to say his goodbyes before the séance completed. Other club members promised to put away the sets, and the directors even spoke about "saving the chess set and board" for the "brilliance" of the evening. It would be the only loss for Capablanca in his "Tour of Kingdom".

Hapley couldn't remember putting on his overcoat or when he had boarded the bus home or what time he had even entered his lodging. It simply happened. Now he was back at his desk with a battered chess set reliving the most unbelievable victory of his life. He filled in the final move of his carbon copy score-sheet, (20.) Resigns, delighted that he had remembered his favourite fountain pen. Why had Capablanca resigned? Could he have won while a Rook ahead? He wanted to flatter himself and say, probably but he wouldn't have bet a Brighton Holiday on that outcome. Instead, he felt enchanted by the final position. Hapless no longer.

That night George Charles Hapley slept a sleep fit for a King. Dreaming contentedly of his everlasting achievement. His final thoughts were of walking triumphantly into the club the following week. What would they say to him then? A smile froze on his mouth.

Hapley never awoke, and for years the King's Mead Club spoke about the passing of the happiest man in the world. The chess set and board were, in time, lost, and the tale was forgotten until the day that it would be repeated.

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December 11-12, 2010 at the Seattle Chess Club

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Time Control: Open 40/2, SD/30; Reserve G/120.

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Marcell: A New Kid On The Block

by Tibor Károlyi

About the author: **Tibor Károlyi** is an International Master, coach, theoretician, and chess-author. He won the Hungarian Championship in 1984. He started his coaching career in 1989. Among his students were Peter Leko, Sofia Polgár, Ildikó Mádl and Zoltán Gyimesi, and he was Susan Polgar's long-time training partner.

He has written numerous theoretical articles for *New in Chess*, but he is probably best known as the author of popular chess books. He has written a two-volume deep analysis of Kasparov's games (*Kasparov's Fighting Chess*, published by Batsford Chess). His book, *Endgame Virtuoso Anatoly Karpov*, co-authored with Nick Aplin, won *The Guardian 2007 Chess Book of the Year* award. His latest book, *Genius In The Background*, was published to critical acclaim last year.

It is a difficult thing for a chess trainer to choose the right moment to turn the attention of the local chess public to a new young player. The nine-year-old Marcell Szabo from Seattle, with whom I have been working since the spring of 2010, is developing at a rapid rate. It is always a memorable moment for young players when they get to the stage that they start to hold their own against seasoned club players. Marcell is certainly getting to this stage, as evidenced by his latest tournament results. In the September 2010 Sunday Tornado, played at the Seattle Chess Club (in which he tied for first place), he played a very interesting game, which, in my opinion, is worthy of deep analysis. I believe that the middlegame is quite instructive for players who play the Hedgehog or some Scheveningen variation.

Over my career as a player and trainer, I was fortunate to meet a number of special players at an early stage of their career, many years before they went on to stardom.

The most impressive junior I ever saw was the 18-year-old Kasparov; his calculation was already stunning, but he was already a well-known player.

In Anand's case I noticed the exceptional talent very early on, but I must confess that

in Judit Polgar's case I did not expect such a bright career. I was fortunate to train Peter Leko from his age of 10 to 14, a period during which he broke several records. Interviewers often ask me the question: What was it like to train a player of such caliber? Did I foresee the makings of a career that would rise all the way to become a contender for the World Championship?

The honest answer is that I did not see it right away. In fact, it took me more than a year to realize his potential. As the famous American song says, "Whatever will be, will be; the future's not ours to see." This is very much true for Marcell as well.

Nevertheless, we continue to work very hard. I think after reviewing this game, the reader can appreciate the potential Marcell displays in his game, but also may agree with his coach that much further work will be needed as well.

**Marcell Szabo – Frederick Kleist
Seattle Chess Club Sunday Tornado
Washington, September 2010**

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6 5. c4!?

The popularity of this move, which sets up a Maroczy bind type of position, was brought back by Kasparov.

5. ...Qc7 6. Nc3

White can consider 6. a3 to stop ...Bb4 completely. But in this variation he can't really stop the bishop from getting to the b4-square, as Black could have given a check on b4.

6. ...Nf6

Black could try 6. ...Bb4 here as well.

7. Be2

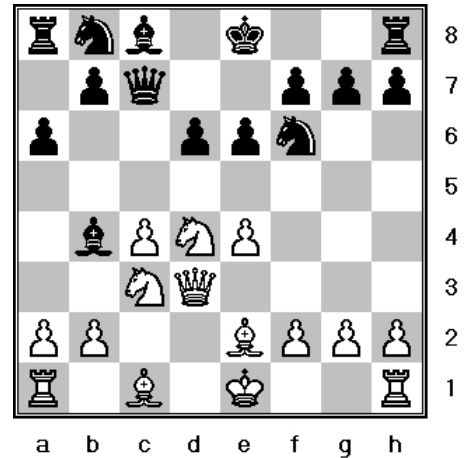
After 7. a3 Nxe4 8. Nxe4 Qe5 9. Be2 Nxe4 10. 0-0 White has long-lasting compensation for the pawn.

7. ...Bb4 8. Qd3

White keeps the center together with the queen.

8. ...d6

This is not a most ambitious move. Black could have tried to carry out ...d5 in one move starting with 8. ...0-0, or to act in the center at once by 8. ...Nc6.



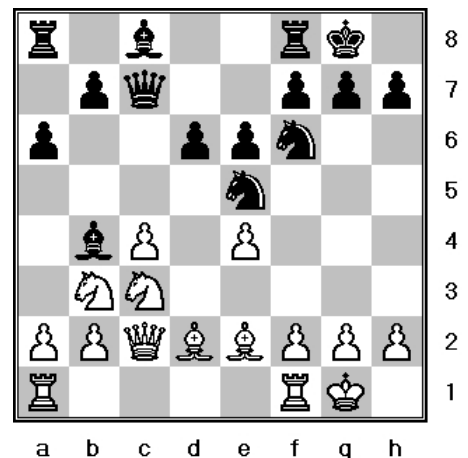
9. Bd2!?

A cautious move which aims to keep the center together. The poor score White achieves with other moves (as judged by the games of the Mega Database) suggests that the caution is justified.

9. ...Nbd7 10. Nb3

White stops ...Nc5 and thus defends the e4-pawn. 10. Qg3 was worth considering as well.

10. ...0-0 11. 0-0 Ne5 12. Qc2



12. ...b6

Black usually can't take the c4-pawn. This position is not an exception: if 12. ...Nxc4?!, White can exploit the pin on the c-file with the cute 13. Nd1! If 13. ...Bxd2 14. Nxd2 b5 15. b3 d5, White wins the knight, and has an edge. The two connected pawns offer some compensation, so White is not yet winning.

12. ...Bd7!? is interesting. Taimanov, an

expert in the Paulsen (even a system is named after him), often chose not to develop to the long diagonal. This time the move allows Black to defend the c7-queen and quickly exerts more pressure on the c4-pawn. If 13. Rad1 (13.Rac1 Rac8) 13. ...Rac8 14. Bg5 Nxc4, Black has solved his problems in the opening.

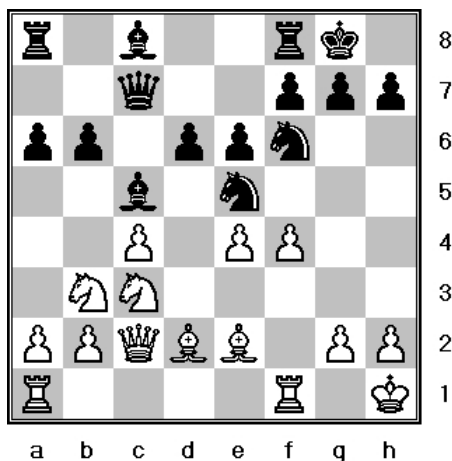
13. f4?

Exceptions make chess such a wonderful game. This move shows confidence as White hopes that his activity will compensate for the relative weakness of the e4 pawn. But he forgets about Black's other target in the center.

13. ...Bc5+?

Black plays a reasonable move, but misses a golden opportunity for advantage. Black now could take the c4-pawn under favorable conditions: 13. ...Nxc4! 14. Na4 (14. Nd1 Bxd2 15.Nxd2 (15. Bxc4 Bb4) 15. ...Qc5+; Black moves his queen to a defended square with tempo, solving the problem of the pin.) 14. ...Bxd2 15. Nxd2 b5 16. Bxc4 bxc4 (16. ...bxa4 17. Bd3 Qxc2 18. Bxc2 Rb8 19.Rab1 Bd7, and White has no compensation for the pawn.) 17. Qxc4 Qa7+ 18. Kh1 a5 Black has an advantage thanks to the power of his bishop.

14. Kh1



14. ...Ng6

Black decides to strengthen the king.

15. Nxc5

White obtains the two bishops, but weakens his control over the d4- square.

15. ...bxc5 16. Be3

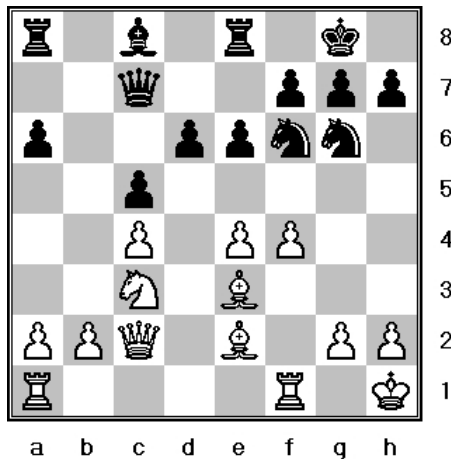
Improving the bishop a bit can serve several purposes: it opens the d-file for putting pressure on the backward d6-pawn and also prepares for the eventuality of

Black transferring one of his knights to d4. In some cases if Black puts a piece on c6, White can attack the c5-pawn by e5.

After 16. Bd3 White could think of developing his dark-squared bishop to the long diagonal. If 16. ...Bb7 17. Ne2 Bc6 18. Bc3 Qe7, Black's position is solid.

16. ...Re8

Trying to transfer a knight to c6 was weaker. For example, 16. ...Bb7 17. Rad1 Ne7 18. a3 Nc6 19. e5! White obtains an edge by taking the c5- pawn. 19. ...dxe5 20. Bxc5.



17. Bf3!?

Marcell has told me during analysis that he played this move because he hoped that his opponent would take his bishop, thereby opening the g- file. If White would try to exert pressure on the queenside with 17. a3, Black has a reasonable repost: 17. ...Bb7 18. b4 d5! Black opens the position and gets active play.

17. ...Nh4?!

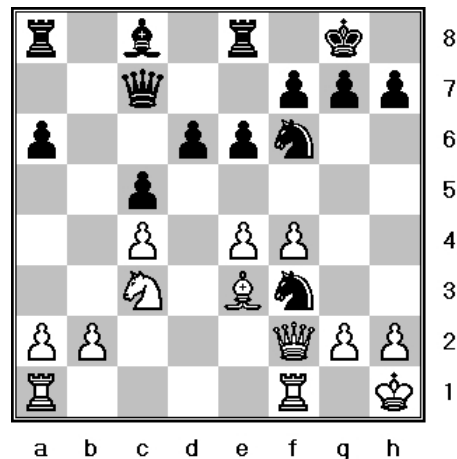
Black follows Marcell's intention and goes after White's light-squared bishop. If 17. ...Bb7, the position would be balanced after 18. Rad1 or after 18. g3 Rad8.

18. Qf2!?

White wants to make sure the g- file gets opened.

18.e5! White could stir up matters with this thrust. 18. ...Nxf3 19. exf6 Nd4 (19. ...Nh4 20. Bf2 (20. Ne4 Bb7) 20. ...Nf5 21. Ne4 (21. fxe7 f6 22. Ne4 Qxg7 23. Qd3; White has a slightly preferable position.) 21. ...Bb7 22. fxe7 Qe7 23. Rad1 Rad8 24. Qd3, when White is somewhat better.) 20. Qd3 Nf5 21. fxe7 Bb7 22. Ne4. In this complex position Black can simplify to a playable position by 22. ...Bxe4 23. Qxe4 Rab8.

18. ...Nxf3



19. gxf3!

White's imaginative aim of opening the g-file has been achieved, but he undertook a serious risk in that Black's white-squared bishop could grow irresistible.

19. ...Bb7 20. Rad1

White wants to stop Black opening the long diagonal.

20. ...Rac8

Black has to make a decision whether or not he takes White's kingside initiative seriously. Black's move suggests that he felt that he could postpone the decision on whether play actively or foremost stop White's attack.

a) 20. ...Red8 This move clears the e8-square for the knight, but it has a drawback. 21. f5! White opens the way for the bishop to g5 to pin the knight. (21. Rg1 Ne8) 21. ...exf5 22. Bg5! Qe7 23. Qh4 White's attack is very dangerous.

b) 20. ...Kh8! Black goes for safety with this move. 21. Rg1 Rg8 Black keeps the position balanced as he is prepared to meet White's attack on the kingside.

c) 20. ...d5! Black has this active possibility as well. 21. cxd5 exd5 22. exd5 Rad8! Black sacrifices a pawn to increase his bishop's power on the diagonal. 23. Bxc5 Nxd5 (23. ...Qxf4 24. Qg3. The position is equal. (24. d6 Qf5)) 24. Nxd5 Rxd5 White is a pawn up, but Black's bishop is stronger than White's, which means that Black is not at all in danger of losing the game.

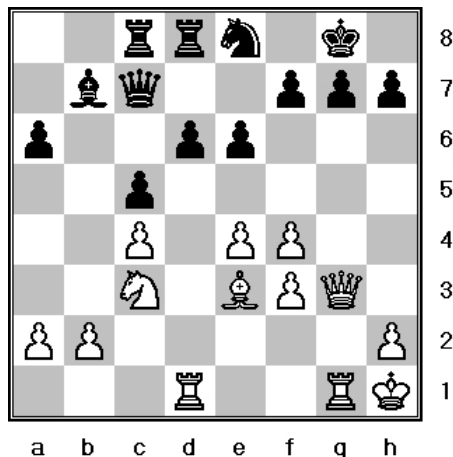
21. Qg3 Red8?!

Black clears the e8-square for the knight, but the rook is less active on the d- file. Instead 21. ...Re7 not only vacates the e8-square for the knight but keeps the rook

active. However with 22. e5, White can try to cause a problem from a new angle. (22. *Rg1 Ne8*) 22. ...*Ne8!* (22. ...*dxe5?* 23. *fxe5 Nd7* 24. *Bg5 Ree8* 25. *Bh6*; Black is in trouble.) 23. *Ne4 Bxe4* 24. *fxe4* and the position is balanced.

Black still could try 21. ...*Kh8!*? or Black still could base his play on the activity of his pieces by 21. ...*d5!*?. If 22. *e5 Nh5* 23. *Qg5 d4* 24. *Qxh5* with an unclear position.

22. Rg1 Ne8

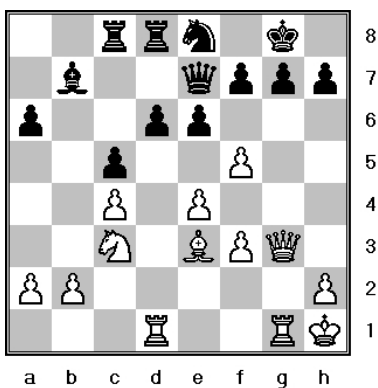


23. f5!

Marcell exploits rook's absence on the e-file and wastes no time to attack.

23. ...exf5

Black doesn't want to allow White's f-pawn to reach the sixth rank. The natural 23. ...*Qe7?* loses to the very cute



24. f6!!

23. ...*e5* also doesn't solve Black's problems as 24. *f6 g6* 25. *Qh4* is indeed unpleasant for Black.

24. exf5 Qe7

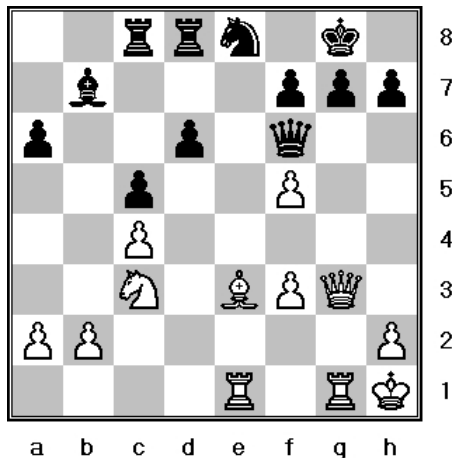
Black brings the queen to the defense. Other moves were possible as well, but none of them equalized. The position is rather sharp and it is very hard for humans to play it very well. Both players will make some

strong and some inaccurate moves at this stage of the game.

a) 24. ...*Qd7* 25. *Qg4 g6* 26. *Ne4 Bxe4* 27. *fxe4 Qc6* 28. *Bg5*; White stands better.

b) 24. ...*Rd7* 25. *Bf4 Rcd8* 26. *Rg2 f6* 27. *Re2 Re7* 28. *Re6*; White keeps the initiative.

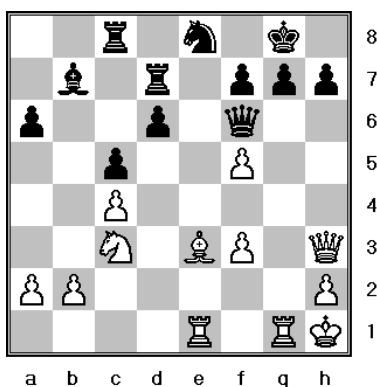
25. Rde1 Qf6



26. Qg4

Marcell defends the f5-pawn with a natural move, but this is not the best now. Younger and less inexperienced players might have tried to grab the exchange with 26. *Bg5?*, but it would have led to a disaster as after 26. ...*Qxf5* 27. *Bxd8 Bxf3+* Black wins.

But with the subtle 26. *Qh3!* the white queen gets another function: it stops ...*h6*. 26. ...*Rd7?* (26. ...*h6* 27. *Rg3* and the *Bxh6* threat creates an unsolvable problem for Black.)



27. *Bg5!!* Out of blue White can trap the queen. 27. ...*Qd4* 28. *Rd1 Qf2* (28. ...*Qxc4* 29. *Rg4!* wins.) 29. *Rd3 f6* (29. ...*Qxb2* 30. *f6* wins.) 30. *Bd2*, and Black can't rescue his queen.

26. ...h6!

After 26. ...*Rd7* 27. *Rg2!* *h6* 28. *Ne4 Bxe4* 29. *fxe4 Kf8* 30. *b3* White soon will

have a dominating position when he transfers the bishop to the long diagonal.

27. Nd5?!

White intends to block the diagonal of the black bishop, but he doesn't choose the best way of doing it. It is very instructive to see what the drawback of this move will be.

a) 27. *Ne4!* Blocking the bishop like this was much stronger. 27. ...*Bxe4* 28. *fxe4 Rb8* 29. *b3 a5* 30. *Bd2 a4* 31. *Rg3*. White's attack is very dangerous, possibly it is irresistible.

b) 27. *Rg2*. White could also build the attack a bit longer. This was also very strong. 27. ...*Rb8* 28. *Bd2 Qd4* 29. *Ne4*, and White's position is clearly better.

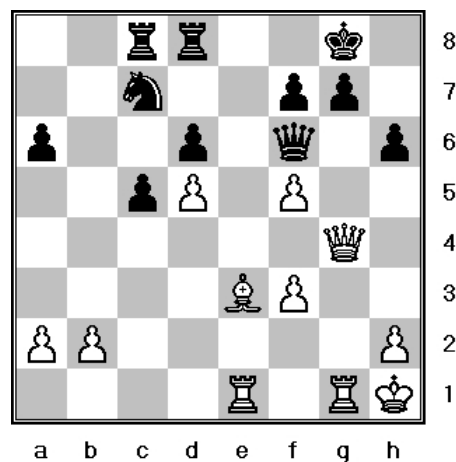
c) 27. *Bd2!* Building the attack this way was even stronger than 27. *Rg2*. 27. ...*Rb8* (27. ...*Qd4* 28. *Ne4 Bxe4* 29. *Rxe4 Qxb2* 30. *Bxh6* wins.) 28. *Nd5 Bxd5* 29. *Bc3 Qg5* 30. *Qh3*; White wins.

27. ...Bxd5 28. cxd5 Nc7?

Black gets overambitious, he wants to take the d5-pawn, but leaves the g7-pawn unguarded.

Waiting did not work in Black's favor; for example on 28. ...*Kh8* 29. *Bd2*, 29. ...*Qxb2* loses to the beautiful 30. *Bxh6!!* demolishing the black kingside.

But instead, Black, with the subtle 28. ...*Rb8!*, could play actively, bringing the rook into the defense and causing problems to White's attacking pieces along the fourth rank. Humans tend to miss horizontal threats more. If 29. *Bc1* or 29. *b3*, Black obtains counterchances with 29. ...*Rb4*.

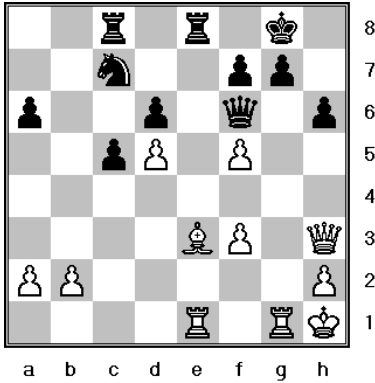


29. Bf2?

White misses a chance to punish Black for his mistake.

29. *Qh3!!* White can surprisingly create a devastating threat against Black's kingside.

29. ...Re8. Stepping aside with the king doesn't help either. (29. ...Kf8 30. Bg5 or after 29. ...Kh7 30. Bg5 wins.)



30. Rxg7+!! White can decisively open up Black's king with this lovely rook sacrifice. 30. ...Kxg7 31. Rg1+ Kh7 32. Bg5 and White wins.

29. ...Re8!

Black saves the exchange with the best move.

30. Rxe8+ Rxe8?!

Black misses a chance to defend the g7-pawn one more time with 30. ...Nxe8: 31. b3 (31. Bh4 Qxb2! 32. f6 Rb8, and White's attack has gone astray.) 31. ...Rb8 32. Bh4 Qc3 The initiative has shifted to Black.

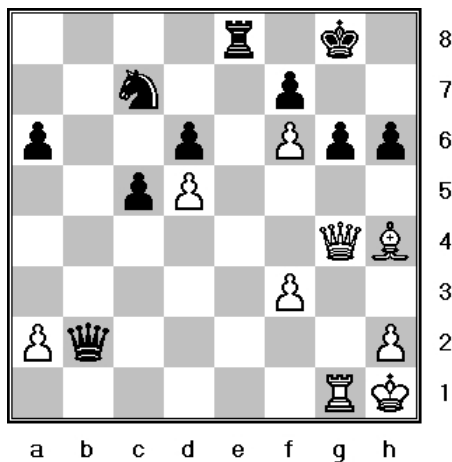
31. Bh4

White has to attack otherwise he loses material for nothing.

31. ...Qxb2

After 31. ...Qd4 32. Qxd4 cxd4 33. Bf6! keeps White in the position.

32. f6! g6



33. Qd7!

White out of blue invades on the d-file with a double attack.

33. ...Qb7?

Black misses a cute checkmate threat. The cool-blooded 33. ...Qc2!, which defends the g6-pawn, would have kept Black in the game. 34. Qxc7 Qf5 35. Kg2 (35. Qxd6 Qxf3+ 36. Rg2 Qf1+ 37. Rg1 Qf3+ would have drawn with perpetual checks.) 35. ...Re2+ 36. Bf2 Qxf6 37. Qc8+ Kh7 38. Qxa6 Rc2 39. Rd1. The position is balanced as White's king is too open to win.

34. Rxg6+!

This move opens up Black's king and delivers checkmate.

34. ...Kf8

If 34. ...fxg6 35. Qg7#.

35. Qxd6+ 1-0

Black did not wait for the checkmate on the next move; instead he resigned. The

ending phase of the game was a very exciting tactical battle.

Kasparov once mentioned that playing the hedgehog with black is like pressuring 1. c4 players into an open Sicilian-type game with white, which means "burning their bridges" to a certain extent.

In this game the hedgehog position actually came from a Sicilian, but regardless of the actual opening, this game underlines what Kasparov wrote.

The game shows that Marcell has the talent to attack and is willing to take risks in the process. Even though his skills needs much additional polishing, in my opinion he does have the potential to become a very strong player.



Marcell Szabo. Photo credit: Dr. Csaba Szabo

Silverdale Beach Hotel Classic

by Kris Dietsch

The second annual Silverdale Beach Hotel Classic, October 2-3, drew 39 players this year, slightly over a quarter more than last year's 31.

Set in a high-class hotel in Silverdale, Washington, the site offers Sound views, fine dining, a coffee shop, heated pool and other amenities. Nearby are theaters, a large mall and many mini-malls with stores and restaurants of every description.

H.G. Pitre returned as TD, and, as always, was competent and helpful. Bill McGearly was back between rounds providing his very popular, highly appreciated, and free, game analysis to players, including Dan Marshall, "I'll just ask Bill." Dan's appearance was a pleasant surprise, to the spectators at least, as it seems to have been some time since he has played in an event of this type. This year's key sponsor, Joe Eversole, provided a few well received opening and closing remarks.

The word Classic in the title was again fully justified. The Open section saw many decades-old classic arch-rivalries among the best N.W. players; any partial list would only be my individual favorites, and all merit mention.

H.G.'s tie-break system, briefly counting the number of Black's assigned, was retained from last year. This worked out well in the exciting contest for top honors. In the final round Michael MacGregor had to earn first, on tie-break, by winning with his third black in four rounds versus Viktors Pupols.

The Premiere had no shortage of the N.W.'s classic top supporters who have paid entries to hundreds, plural, of local tournaments apiece just since 1991, USCF data. Also, it had its share of classic organizer-supporters including Stephen Chase, Jr.; also, Michael Yocom, Kitsap County Chess Club founder, who was a south Sound club organizer in the Robert A. Karch era.

The Reserve saw many classic hard-fought battles with only two players losing more than a few rating points - reflecting the strength of the field rather than anything against their good efforts.

Classic young vs. not-so-young

struggles were again prominent this year. Most notable was the quite young Noah Field's outright win of the Premiere section's first place.

Performing quite well in the Open was the relatively young Dan Mathews, finishing 2.5 out of 4 and undefeated with three draws and a win. Also doing well in the Open was the young Alexandra Botez, 2/4, who interestingly lost to two of the top placers and won against all others; meanwhile Viktors Pupols, 2/4, highest rated of all and last year's Champion with clear first, also lost to two of the top placers and won versus all others - better luck to both against the top next year.

The Reserve saw two classic upcoming youngsters, both showing well and winning some money also: Ben Seran, 2/4, and Andrea Botez 2/4, who added a cool 99 points to her provisional. The classic male stereotype was challenged by four, or slightly over 10%, of the players.

Speaking of prizes, the winners were numerous: 1st tb MacGregor, 2nd tb Dean, 3rd tb Patterson, \$106.67 each, 3/4; Premier 1st Fields \$80, 3.5/4, 2nd Buck \$56, 3/4, U1700 Monahan \$60, 3/4, 3rd-7th Ambler, Damish, Dennehy, Nill, Sullivan, \$10 each, 2.5/4; Reserve 1st Zaklan \$80, 3.5/4, Unrated Orr \$60, 3/4, 2nd McGuire \$56, 2.5/4, 3rd-4th Botez, Seran \$22 each, 2/4.

H.G.'s traveler-friendly time-control and round schedule was likely again a factor in the event's success. The hotel's generous discount for players continued to be a plus. They still had at least one room for us as late as Friday, 10/1, afternoon; although reservations should be made as early as possible just in case, and, view rooms are the same rate. Most seemed to find one night adequate, perhaps because for example Olympia or Portland to Silverdale is not much further than to Seattle. Readers may have found Richard Golden's report on the first, in the December 2009 NWC, interesting enough to give us a try. The event had Grand Prix status as it did last year. Joe pointed out that in early October the weather is usually mild, if not pleasant, which was true for both years.

Thank you very much to those attending,

and we hope to deserve to see many returning and new people next year.

Notes to the first game are by Bill McGearly (B) and Mike Murray (M).

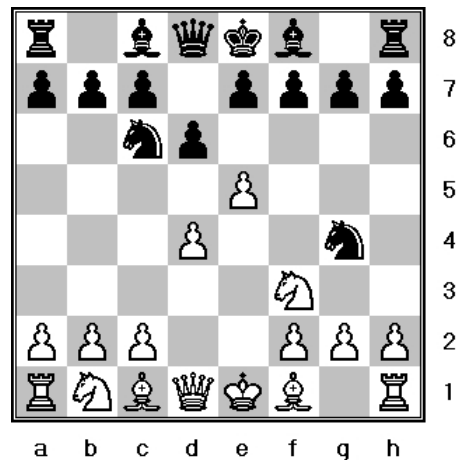
Roger Patterson - Mike Murray Silverdale Beach Hotel Classic, Round 1 Silverdale, Washington, October 2, 2010

(M) I finished this tournament in the middle of the pack with 2-2, but did have the satisfaction of nicking the tournament winner for half a point in the first round.

1. e4 Nc6 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e5 Ng4

(B) Proof that there is something new under the sun. Actually, in the world of the Nimzovich defence this line has been around for a dozen years or so. There are a couple of reasons to think that it isn't objectively good, yet in a weekend event it has lots of practical potential.

4. d4 d6



5. h3 Nh6

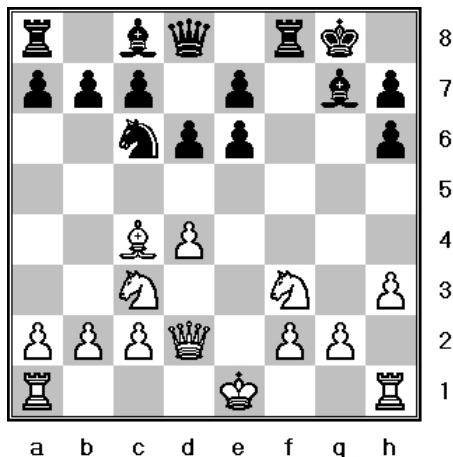
(M) The black knight's journey led Spanish GM Dublan to christen the variation "El Columpio," or "The Swing." Wisniewski's book, *Play 1. ... Nc6*, devotes a fair amount of space to this line.

6. e6 fxe6 7. Bxh6 gxh6 8. Nc3

(M) In the 2008 Washington Quick Chess Open, Newstead played 8. Bb5 against me, when I immediately blundered with 8. ...a6? He hit me with 9. Ne5!, and after 9. ...dxe5 I would have been dead lost had he played the correct 10. Bxc6+ bxc6 11. Qh5+ Kd7 12. dxe5, and the deadly corridor in which the black king finds

himself will lead to ruinous material loss after 12. ...c5 (not 12. ...Qe8? 13. Qd1#) 13. Nc3 Kc6 14. Qf3+ Kb6 15. Qxa8. Fortunately for me, Newstead inverted his 10th and 11th moves, first checking with the queen, when after ...Kd7 I was able to recapture the bishop with the king rather than the pawn, and went on to win.

8. ...Bg7 9. Qd2 0-0 10. Bc4

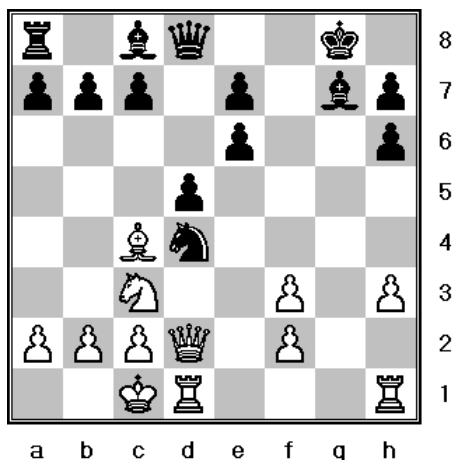


(B) Perfectly reasonable. White is happy to have a developmental advantage and a couple of targets. Black, on the other hand, isn't satisfied....

10. ...Rxf3 11. gxf3 Nxd4

(M) Admittedly, my doubled pawns on the h-file provide scant compensation for the Exchange, but I was hoping the weight of my center would more than make up for it.

12. 0-0-0 d5



(M) Not so much to attack the bishop as to keep the white knight from e4 in some lines.

(B) Ugh! 12. ...Kh8 is indicated because Black needs to be able to move all the center pawns, specifically the possibility of e6-e5.

The pawn moving up to d5 is almost like the bowling pin moving in front of the ball.

13. Rhg1

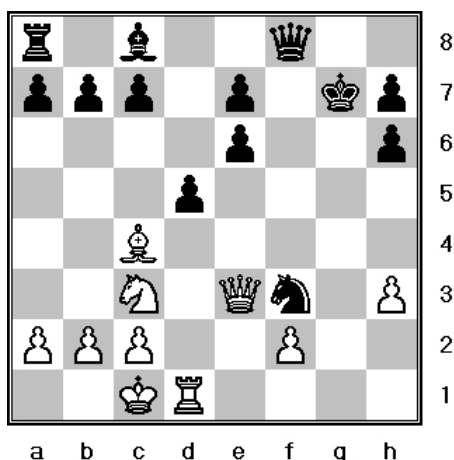
(M) !? White offers to sac back the Exchange to further his king-side attack.

13. ...Nxf3

(M) In for a penny, in for a pound. I also considered 13. ...Nf5, which would have been bad. It temporarily protects things, but leaves White with essentially the same attack and an extra rook with which to conduct it.

14. Rxc7+ Kxc7 15. Qe3 Qf8

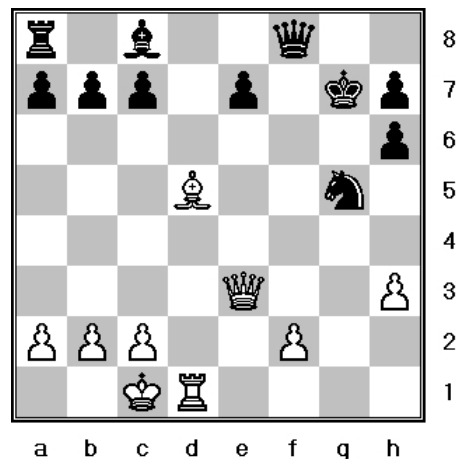
(M) This is the ideal sort of position for a computer post-mortem, since it's almost purely tactical in nature and forced variations rule.



16. Nxd5

(M) ? When White uncorked this, I thought I was well on the way to the losing end of a 19th-century mating attack, illustrating the wages of material greed. The computerized post-mortem reveals the move to be a mistake, although neither of us thought so at the time, both believing White was probably winning. But, Rybka shows a way for White to thread his way to equality: 16. Be2 d4 17. Qe4 dxc3 18. Bxf3 Qf6 19. Rg1+ Kh8 20. Qd3 Bd7! 21. Qxd7 cxb2+ 22. Kb1 Qxf3 23. Qxe7 Qc3 24. Qxe6, reaching an amazing position where it appears one side or the other must have a forced win. But even with two extra pawns, and the monster on b2, Black cannot make progress, nor can White drive home an attack against the cornered and exposed black king. For example, 24. ...Rf8 25. Qe7 Qf6 26. Qxc7 Qf7 27. Qe5+ Qf6 28. Qc7.

16. ...exd5 17. Bxd5 Ng5



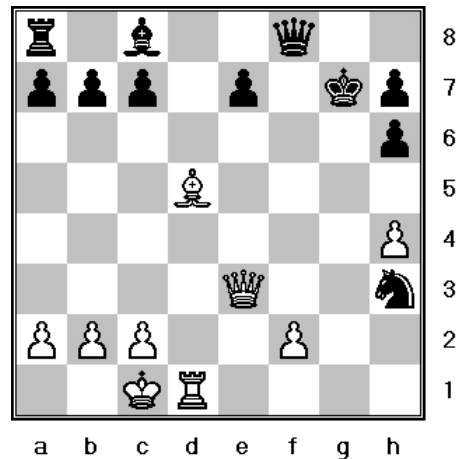
(B) This is the critical position. Though a piece down, White has good chances because of the initiative, the exposure of the Kg7, and the time it will take Black's men on the Q-side to get involved. My feeling is that 17. ...Nh4 is better here because White will need an extra move to attack the knight (h4,h5 as opposed to h4) and that g6 can be defended by the Bc8. 17. ...Nh4 18. Qd4+ Qf6 19. Rg1+ Ng6 holds ok. Murray is happy to defend based on the fact that Ng5-h3 guards g1, but that isn't quite enough.

(M) ? I was desperately trying to get the knight to h3, trying to exchange Queens by protecting f4. Omniscient Rybka claims a winning edge for Black after 17. ...Nh4, and what does White have? For example, 18. Qe5+ Qf6 19. Qxc7 Ng6.

18. h4

(B) 18. Rg1 looks better. If Black dodges back with 18. ...Kh8 then 19. h4 is strong because 19. ...Nh3 20. Qe5+ Qf6 21. Rg1 mate. If Black sits on g5 White will create enough play with f4 and h4 then capturing. White will have an advantage, though it's hard to tell how much.

18. ...Nh3



(M) ? Now White elects to force a repetition. Black retains some edge with 18. ...c6!, and if 19. Bc4 Nf3! keeping the rook off g1.

19. Qe5+

(M) He could try for more with 19. Qg3+ Kh8 20. Bf7, when the Bishop is immune because of Rd8.

19. ...Qf6 20. Qg3+ Qg6 21. Qe5+

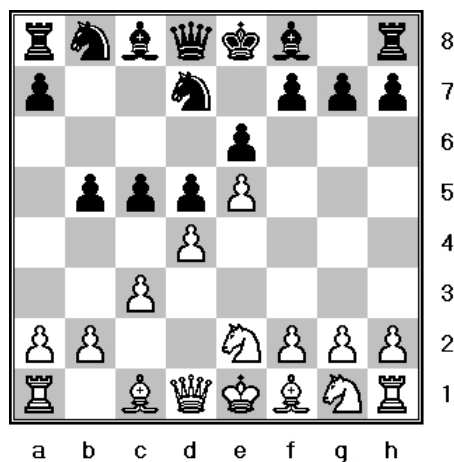
1/2-1/2

Bill McGeary comments the next game.

Roger Patterson – Randy Dean
Silverdale Beach Hotel Classic, Rd. 4
Silverdale, Washington, October 3, 2010

Randy Dean was a leading player in Washington through most of the 1970s. Possibly not the pinnacle of local players, but Randy was never far from it. He has been making a bit of a return recently and this game must have brought a bit of nostalgia for him. Having a B.C. player on the top board in a final round was routine back then.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. Nce2 c5 6. c3 b5

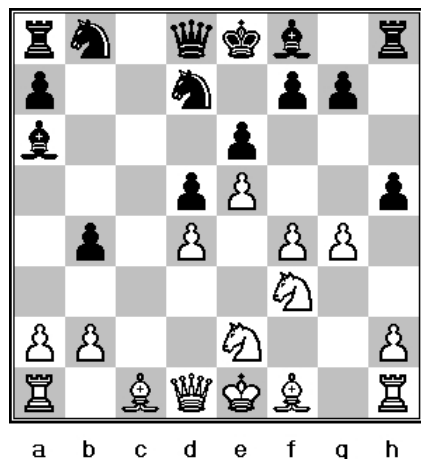


Here is a psychological point. The French offers Black plenty of chances, but once Black gets into it there is a commitment to play all out. Dean is probably not the type of player to “play for a draw,” but on the other hand he is affording Patterson the type of game he desires. At this point in the event Dean is a point ahead, so Roger is likely to prefer a full-blooded game. I suspect that Randy would have played the Caro if he wasn’t influenced by recent games in the 3. f3 line.

7. f4 b4 8. cxb4 cxb4 9. Nf3 Ba6 10. g4 h5

This is what I mean. Black has made gains on the Q-side and has to make some

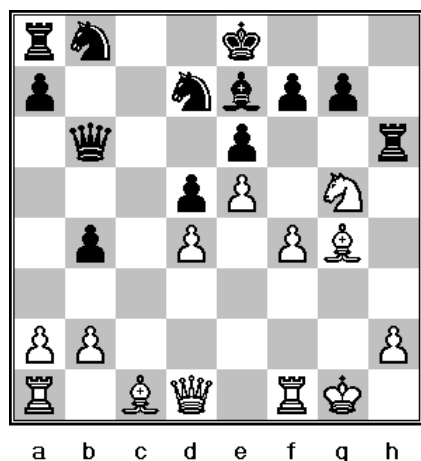
kind of decision about events on the K-side. 10. ...h5 will involve a loss of castling short, while seeking to nip any f4-f5 ideas in the bud. There are other consequences with this. 10. ...Be7 has been played successfully.



11. g5 Bxe2

This is a sign something isn’t right. 11. ...Rxd5 12. Ng3 Rh8 13. Bxa6 Nxa6 14. Qd3 or 14. Qa4 isn’t what Black is looking for, and there don’t appear to be any other relevant 11th moves for Black. After 11. ...Bxe2, White will have plenty of play on the light squares and Black will be struggling.

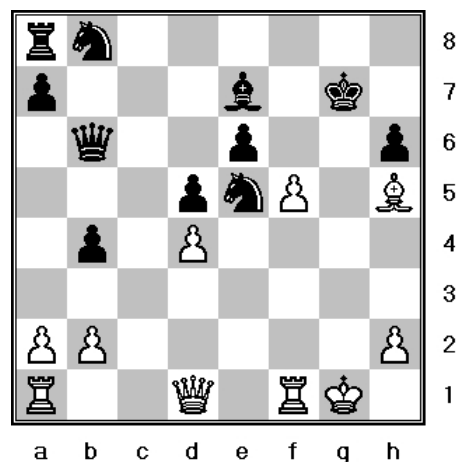
12. Bxe2 Rxd5 13. Ng3 Rh8 14. Bg4 Be7 15. 0-0 Qb6



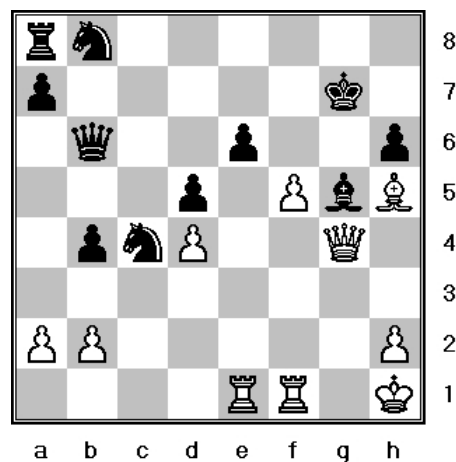
16. Nxf7

Notice two things: how the lines on white squares work and how the wood on a8 and b8 aren’t involved.

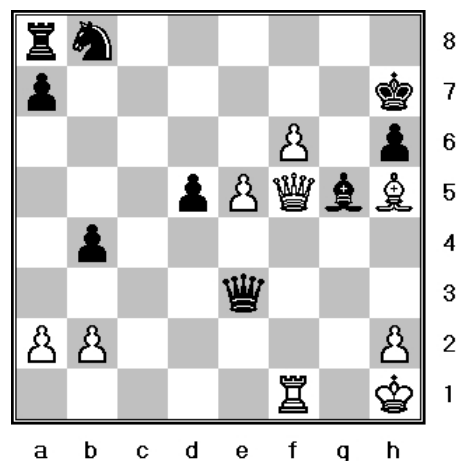
16. ...Kxf7 17. f5 Nxe5 18. Bxh6 gxh6 19. Bh5+ Kg7



20. Kh1 Nc4 21. Qg4+ Bg5 22. Rae1



22. ...e5 23. dxe5 Ne3 24. f6+ Kh7 25. Rxe3 Qxe3 26. Qf5+



1-0

“The pawn moving up to d5 is almost like the bowling pin moving in front of the ball.”
– Bill McGeary



View of the beach from the Silverdale Beach Hotel. Photo credit: Kris Dietsch.

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Theoretically Speaking

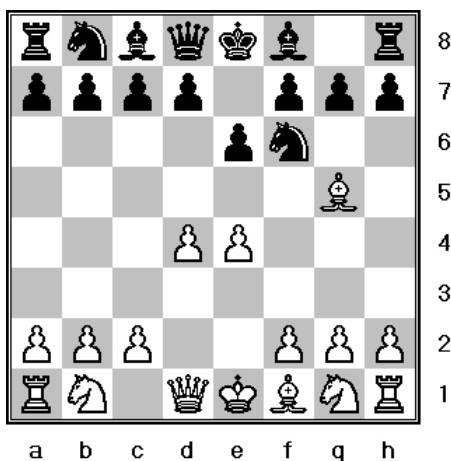
by Bill McGeary



Here is an opinion that I wish to share. How often does chess seem easy? How often does it seem impossible? My opinion is that those two numbers are about equal for players who have played a while. Also, I think that we are influenced more by the times it seems impossible which gives us a skeptical attitude. Still, it is the times when it seems easy that brings us back. Here is such an episode to go with a little bit of an opening.

Usually I wouldn't put much emphasis on a blitz game played online, but that is where this all happened. I was playing a player about 150 points higher rated in a blitz game. Here is what happened.

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 e6 3. e4



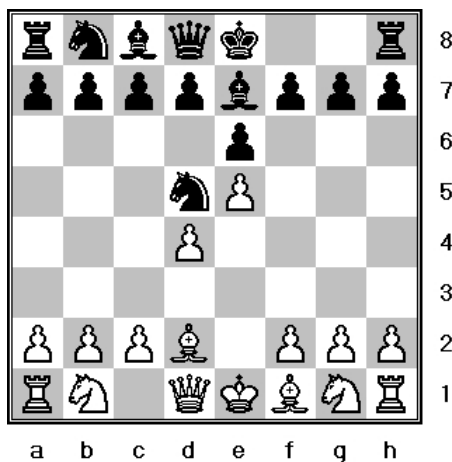
The term for this move is "principled" because it is the move White was aiming to play. Still, if Black plays 3. ...h6 I will have to exchange bishop for knight. I was not so sure if I wanted to do this as 3. Nd2, 3. Nf3 or 3. e3 are all reasonable. Still, if you are

going to play 2. Bg5 and not play 3. e4 then you probably should have played 1. d3 instead of 1. d4!

3. ...Be7

DING! This is kind of a special move. It was suggested by some titled players in articles, so that suggests that my opponent is on top of theory. I have to say though, this doesn't seem right to me on a philosophical level. In classical theory Black would be trying to establish a presence in the center with pawns and in hypermodern theory Black would be preparing some pressure or counterattack in the center with piece pressure. Black's first three moves do neither of these. What should I think?

4. e5 Nd5 5. Bd2



My personal description of this move is "the weirdest good move ever." I had seen some of the material that suggested 3. ...Be7 as a defense here and came to my own conclusion. Theory followed this line by playing 5. Bxe7 here, but why? Look at that knight on d5 and tell me where it is going when I play c4? Well, not back to e7. The closest similarity I can think of is the Alekhine defense where the knight goes around to b6. To my eye there is no comparison, when one knight is on b6 and the other on c6 and the Bc8 is on...? In the Alekhine that bishop is usually on f5 or g4 and Black can seek active piece play, but not here. Not exchanging on e7 is going to present Black with some problems.

So, why is this the weirdest good move? At the start of the game White's queen

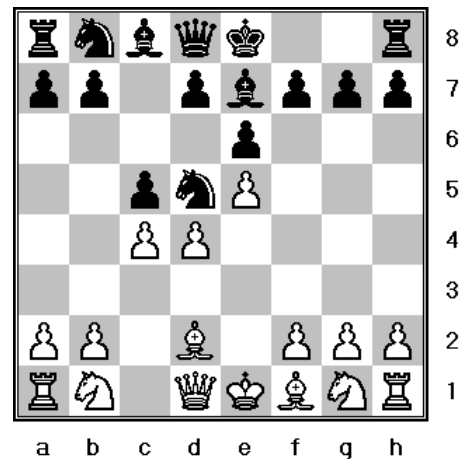
bishop is looking down the c1-h6 diagonal. If your bishop can go to h6 without being captured then that is likely to be a good move, but that won't happen often. Bg5 is the optimum, the bishop is making some threats at the height of its powers. It seems that any variation where White plays Bg5 is the sharpest variation in an opening. Next up, going to f4 is often a good move just because Black has to watch things on c7. When the bishop on c1 goes to e3 it is either a preparatory move or it is defending d4. Finally, playing Bd2 is always a response to Black playing ...Bb4 or ...Qa5, and does not represent an aggressive move. Well here you have it, that bishop jumped out to g5 to start the game and then whimpered its way back to d2 – which turns out to be the most dangerous move on the board!

Note that going back to e3 would offer Black the chance to exchange the Nd5 and all of its associated problems along with it.

5. ...c5

The only move to offer a semblance of resistance.

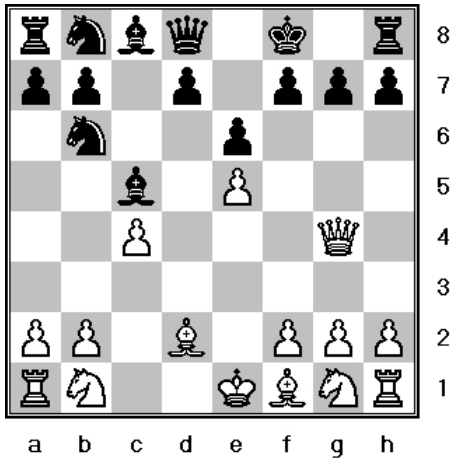
6. c4



6. ...Nb6

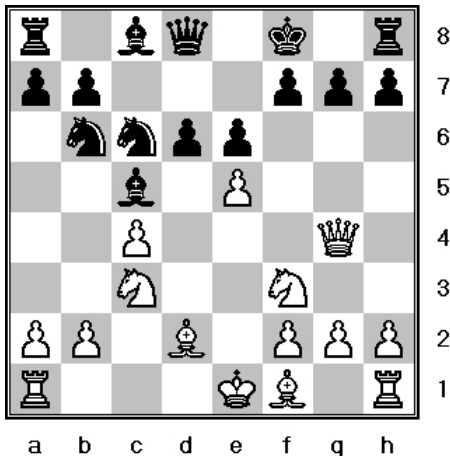
Playing 6. ...Nc7 looks almost comical, but 6. ...Nb4 might be best. White has a couple of ideas to try after 6. ...Nb4. 7. dxc5 Bxc5 8. a3 N4c6 9. Qg4 is one sequence to investigate. Simpler still might be 7. Bxb4 cxb4 8. Qg4, though I like this less because we are relieving Black of that crazy horse.

7. dxc5 Bxc5 8. Qg4 Kf8



What are the choices for Black? After 8...g6 White has an embarrassment of riches and 8...Bf8 is just retrograde. In the old days they would say that Black's position is lost because White should be able to use the advantages at hand to win. Well, I for one have learned that having a "won game" and actually writing a one next to my name are different.

9. Nc3 Nc6 10. Nf3 d6?



It is a blitz game, but this is just too easy.

11. Ne4 Qc7 12. 0-0-0 Nd7

The horse has a home, but too late.

13. exd6 Bxd6 14. Bc3

1-0

Ok, my opponent's flag fell. Still, I don't think even I could miss this one: 14...Be5 15. Rxd7.

Not a great demonstration, but the result wasn't the point. It didn't seem right to me to exchange on e7 and I just put the bits together. My task was made simpler because of the wandering knight which afforded me a space advantage as well as several easy to find moves.

And In The End

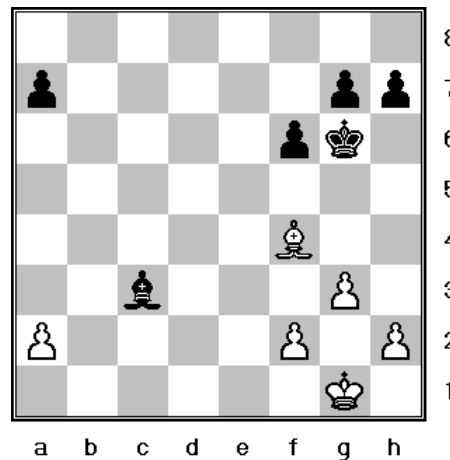
by Dana Muller

The return of Yasser for his 50th birthday celebration jogged an old memory; didn't I once play Yasser long ago, and didn't we reach a bishop of the same color endgame?

Indeed we did. It's a very old game (from February 1974), so old in fact that Yasser wasn't even a master at that time! If I recall correctly, Yasser was a 2100+ expert zooming his way to the top, while yours truly was a 1700+ B player.

My vague memory of the game was that I stood worse in the ending and somehow managed to draw. Upon review of the game it seems I was only microscopically worse and a draw is the logical result. This game provides another example of the two players having asymmetrical goals in that White is more than happy to draw the game whereas Black will be disappointed with anything less than a win. As is usual in such situations, Black takes a number of risks to complicate the game; in this case perhaps too many risks are taken. However, White fails to make the most of his chances, so in the end a draw result is fair.

Dana Muller – Yasser Seirawan
Seattle Championship
Washington, February 1974



Black is a tiny bit better as his king is more centralized. Fritz calls it -0.10; that evaluation seems about right, and the game should be drawn with reasonable play. Given the rating difference of the players, Black will try to grind out a win. Objectively he shouldn't be able to do so, but it may be possible to induce White to self destruct if he can pose enough difficult options or

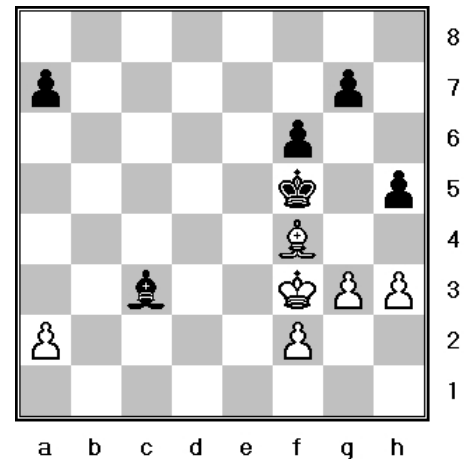
perhaps "scare" White in some manner.

In the game, Black pursued the only realistic plan which could create enough complications to play for a win, but pushed too hard and risked losing. White misses two chances for a large advantage and the game ends in a draw.

39. Kg2 Kf5 40. Kf3

Each king is centralized as much as possible.

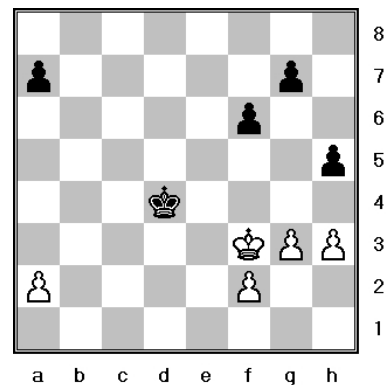
40...h5 41. h3



41...Ke6

Heading for the queenside; perhaps 41...Bd4 first (hitting f2) is better.

It forces White to evaluate a potential king and pawn ending: 42. Be3 Ke5 43. Bxd4 Kxd4 is drawn,



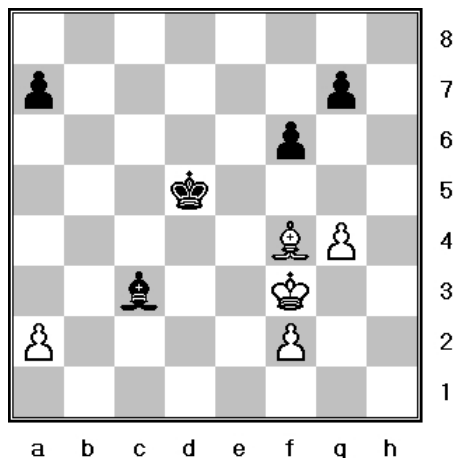
but the centralized Black king may scare White away from trying this.

Instead, after 42. g4+ hxg4 43. hxg4+ Ke6, the pressure on f2 is annoying, but not fatal by any means.

42. g4

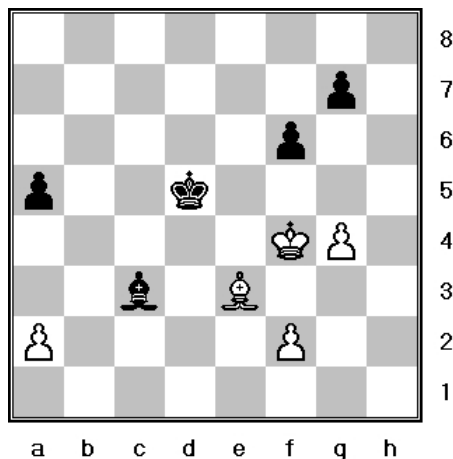
Also playable is 42. Ke4 f5+ 43. Kd3.

42. ...hxg4 43. hxg4 Kd5



Black's plan is to win the white a-pawn. The general outline of the plan is pawn a7-a5-a4, Kc4 and either Kc4-d3-c2-b2 or Bb2 + Kc4-b4-a3. This is a risky plan in that it leaves the black kingside unguarded, but it's hard to come up with another plan that could conceivably win. At the very least it forces White to calculate some long variations and who knows, maybe the intimidation factor will work in Black's favor.

44. Be3 a5 45. Kf4



Passively defending with 45. Ke2 Kc4 may hold in long run, but that gives Black more play than is deserved. Anyway, counterattacking on the kingside is the natural plan for White.

45. ...Kc4

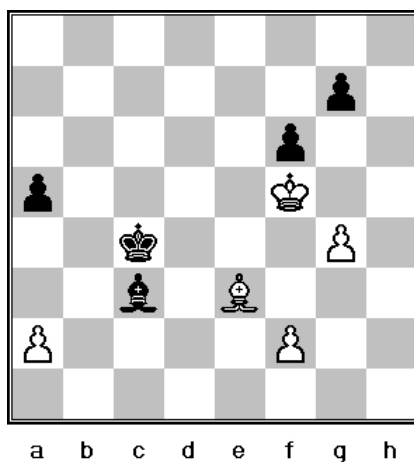
The alternative is to try to slow down White's kingside counterplay with 45. ...g6. Play could continue 46. Bb6 a4 47. Ke3 Be5 48. f4 Bd6 49. Bf8 f5 50. gxf5 gxf5 =. While this is more solid than the game continuation, it is unlikely to give Black the sort of winning chances he is looking for.



Yasser Seirawan in August 2010.
Photo credit: Russell Miller.

Given that Black is playing to win, the riskier 45. ...Kc4 makes sense.

46. Kf5

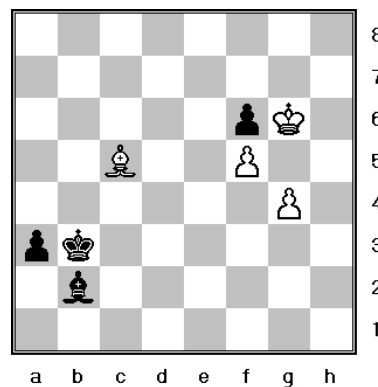


There are two methods of proceeding with the attack on the black kingside pawns: (1) Moving the bishop to the a3-f8 diagonal and continuing with Bf8; (2) Use the king, via a sequence such as f2-f4, Kf5-g6, f4-f5

(stopping ...f5+), Kxg7.

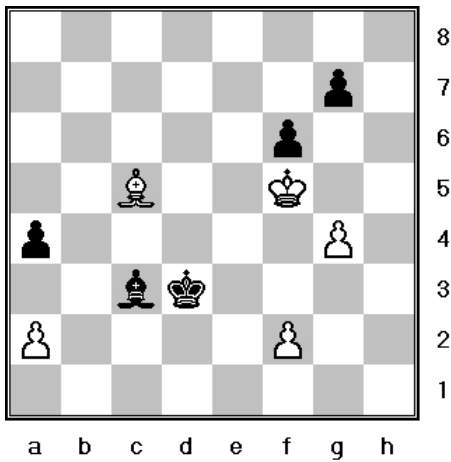
46. ...Kd3

This is a dangerous way to implement the plan. Playing 46. ...a4 first keeps control of c5 for one more move, e.g. 46. ...a4 47. f4 Bb2 48. Kg6 Kb4 49. f5 Ka3 50. Bc5+ Kxa2 51. Kxg7 Kb3 52. Kg6 a3



53. Bxa3 Kxa3 54. g5 =.

47. Bc5 a4?

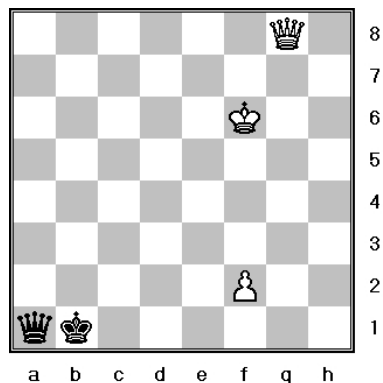


Rolling the dice. While consistent with Black's plan, this move is playing with fire. Bailing out of any further winning attempts with 47. ...Ke2, planning to attack the kingside pawns from the rear, draws easily.

48. f4?

This natural looking move is a clear mistake. Black's risky play could best be taken advantage of by 48. Bf8. It seems White will end up in a queen and pawn ending with an extra pawn:

(A) 48. ...Kc2 49. Bxg7 Kb2 50. Bxf6 Bxf6 51. Kxf6 Kxa2 52. g5 a3 53. g6 Kb1 54. g7 a2 55. g8(Q) a1(Q)+



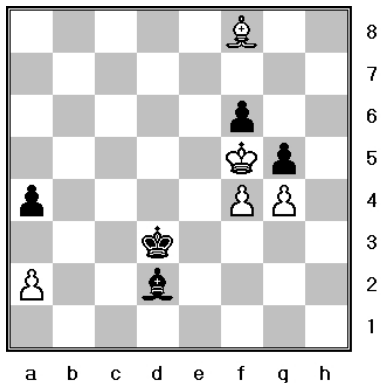
56. Kf5.

(B) 48. ...Bd4 49. f3 g5 50. Bg7 a3 51. Bxf6 Bxf6 52. Kxf6 Kc2 53. Kg5 Kb2 54. f4 Kxa2 55. f5 Kb3 56. f6 a2 57. f7 a1(Q) 58. f8(Q). In both cases White has good winning chances according to the latest theory. In practice, I'm not sure that my technique was developed enough at that time to grind out a win.

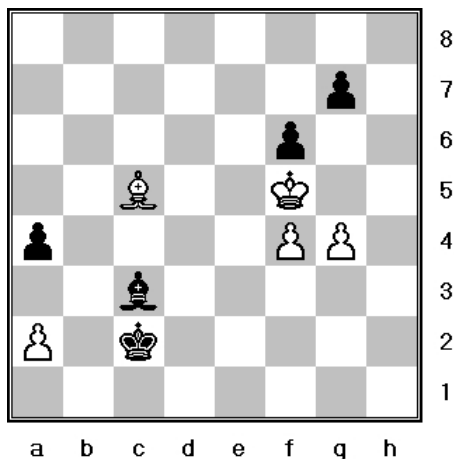
48. ...Kc2?

Once again following the main plan, but running a serious risk. A safe plan is 48. ...Bd2 (idea of 49. ...g5). A sample line being

49. Bf8 g5

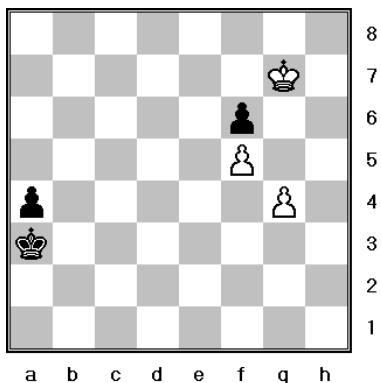


50. fxg5 fxg5 51. Be7 Kc2 52. Bxg5 Bxg5 53. Kxg5 Kb2 54. Kf4 Kxa2 55. g5 Kb2 = (the pawns queen simultaneously).



49. Bf8?

One move too late! With f-pawn advanced, the "plan 2" option of 49. Kg6 is much better. After 49. Kg6 I think Black is in trouble: 49. ...Kb2 50. a3 Kb3 51. f5 Bb2 52. Kxg7 Bxa3 53. Bxa3 Kxa3

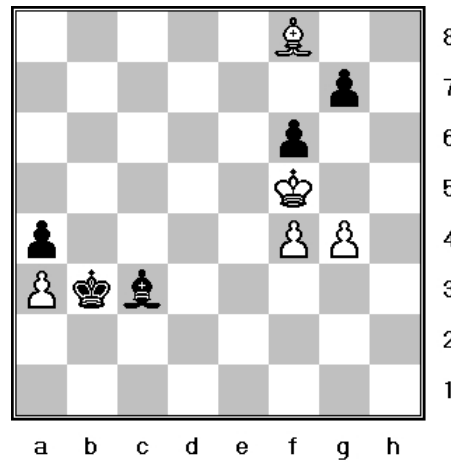


54. g5! (This is likely what I missed during the game) 54. ...Kb3 55. gxf6 a3 56. f7 a2 57. f8(Q) a1(Q)+ 58. Qf6 with a theoretically winning position.

49. ...Kb2

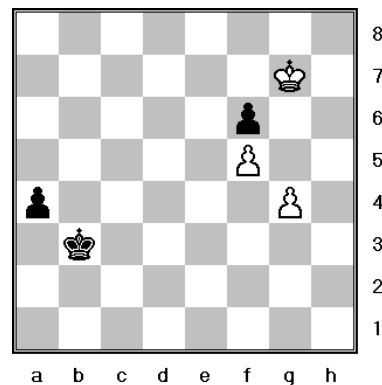
The crisis is past.

50. a3 Kb3



51. Bxg7

51. Kg6 is a tempo behind the move 49 analysis: 51. Kg6 Bb2 52. f5 Bxa3 53. Bxa3 Kxa3 54. Kxg7 Kb3



55. g5 a3 56. gxf6 a2 57. f7 a1(Q)+ and Black draws.

51. ...Kxa3 52. g5 .fxg5 53. Bxc3 gxf4 54. Kxf4

The position is completely drawn, a few more moves are made out of inertia.

54. ...Kb3 55. Bg7 a3 56. Ke3 Kc2 57. Ke4 1/2-1/2





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Registration: Friday 8:00-9:00 AM for 3-day schedule, or 3:00-3:30 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Saturday 8:00-9:00 AM for 2-day schedule, or 8:30-9:00 AM if entering 3-day schedule with two half-point byes. Two half-point byes available at registration or before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking two half-point byes.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Fri: 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Sat 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Sun 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. 2-day schedule: Sat 9:30 AM, 12:00 noon, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 4 at 5:30 PM.

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: 30/90 and SD/1 with 5-second delay. 2-day schedule: G/60 with 5-second delay (rounds 1-3), rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule. Please bring tournament chess set, board and digital clock.

Miscellaneous: Current USCF membership and WCF or OCF membership required in all sections. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. NW Grand Prix event. National Grand Prix Points: 20. Chess Magnet School JGP. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

Entries/Prizes/Info: See left column. Please use entry form (available soon on NWC website) for a list of all discounts and fees, and to indicate schedule, section, side events and byes requested – or use online registration.

Hotel Info/Rates: \$95.00 for single, double, triple or quad. Reservation link is available on Northwest Chess website (www.nwchess.com). The cut-off date for reservations at the discount is November 19th.

Side Events: Blitz and Novice events on Saturday. See page 2 of this flyer (available at www.nwchess.com if not published herein).

Washington Class Scholastic (Nov 26): A separate flyer/entry form/online registration link will be published on the NWC website for this event, or contact: David Hendricks, WCF Scholastic Coordinator, 2439 220th Place NE, Sammamish, WA 98074-6418, phone 425-868-3881, e-mail: DavidCHendricks@comcast.net.

Revised 8/19/2010.



Washington Class Championships

A NW Grand Prix Event

November 26-28, 2010

Marriott Redmond Town Center, 7401 164th Avenue NE,
Redmond, WA 98052, phone (425) 498-4000

Side Events

Friday 11/26

Chess Garage Sale: Rent a table to sell used chess merchandise. There will be at least three tables available. Contact the WCF board for rental price and other details.

Saturday 11/27

3:00 pm: Washington Class Blitz Championship

Format: 5 round double Swiss System in one section. (In each round, you play your opponent twice, once with the white pieces and once with the black pieces.)

Registration: 1:30-2:15 PM.

Rounds: 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00 and 4:30 PM.

TC: G/5 (no delay).

EF: \$25.

Prizes: Based on 19 entries.

1st \$120, 2nd \$80, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400 \$60.

Miscellaneous: Not USCF rated. Memberships not required.

Saturday 11/27

10:00 am: Washington Class Novice Championship

Format: 4 round Swiss System in one section, open to U1200 or unrated.

Registration: 9:00-9:30 AM.

Rounds: 10:00, 11:45 AM, 1:30, 3:30 PM. One half-point bye available.

TC: G/45 + 5 sec. delay.

EF: \$12.00 in advance (if rec'd by 11/20), \$16.00 at site.

Prizes: Trophies to 1st, 2nd; 1st, 2nd U1100, U1000, U800, unrated.

Miscellaneous: USCF rated. WCF or OCF membership required, Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration, with option to pay \$5 WCF/OCF tournament membership. No Smoking. No Computers.

Main Events/Hotel Info: See page 1 of this flyer.

All prizes (for all events) will be mailed.

Revised 10/19/2010.

Entries/Information:

Send entries to Dan Mathews, WCF
Tournament Coordinator:
107 7th Ave N Apt 100
Edmonds, WA 98020
Cell Phone (425) 218-7529
E-mail: Dthmathews@aol.com
Also see www.nwchess.com.
Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation.

The 2010 Robert Karch Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

**Murlin Varner,
faithful correspondent**

The leaves are changing and the final push is on to determine the 2010 winners in your annual grand prix. Fifty-seven events are in the books, but many remain before the final numbers will be known. As I write this, the Eastern Washington Open, with a 2x multiplier, is being contested. Looking ahead, there are a few other multiplier events still waiting before the end of the year, including the Seattle Chess Club Extravaganza, Nov. 5-7, the Washington Class Championships, Nov. 26-28, and possibly the Washington Challengers' Cup, Dec. 11-12. Twelve other events are also listed on the calendar at www.nwchess.com for November and December.

The recent Silverdale Beach Resort event illustrates why it is a good thing to get more events outside of our usual four cities. Of the 39 contestants at that event, 16 were playing in their first GP event of the year, and nine were new to my database, meaning they hadn't played in any GP events since I took over the record keeping back at the start of the 2003 contest. We need to see more of this kind of event in places where the Grand Prix has not been seen before. People who have been away from tournament chess for decades are starting to come back, and more events in more places will encourage this trend to continue.

In a related note, welcome back to Reg Leslie, who has been away since 1994, and to David Goering and Todd Damish, two players who have been away since further back than the USCF's online records go (1991). (Todd was among a crop of young players in the North Central Washington area back in the early 1970s, along with myself, Bob Allyn, David Collyer, John Wise and many others.) Stick with us guys, don't become strangers again.

A number of players attained GP-point milestones in the past month. Daniel Hua, Noah Fields, Samir Sen, and Igor Ummel all passed the 100 point level during September. Dennis Ambler passed the 200 point level as well, while playing in his 37th event of the year. 511 people have participated in one or more Grand Prix events so far this year. Last year, we finished with 564, and with nearly two dozen events before the end of the year, that number may be reachable.

Oregon

Washington

Masters

1 Raptis, Nick 162	1 Malugu, Satyajit 88
2 Breckenridge, Steven ... 96.5	2 Pupols, Viktors 76
3 Roua, Radu 43.5	3 Sinanan, Joshua C 69
4 Haessler, Carl A 42.5	4 Selzler, Ricky 54
5 Prochaska, Peter 22	5 Bragg, David R 49
5 Russell, Corey J 22	6 Greninger, Harley 48.5

Experts

1 Davis, Mikeal 62	1 Bartron, Paul R 131.5
2 Morris, Michael J 54.5	2 Ummel, Igor 110

3 Esler, Brian 52	3 Rupel, David 92
4 Heywood, Bill 48	4 Feng, Roland 75
5 Gay, Daniel Z 42.5	5 Lessler, Peter 65.5
6 Daroza, Eduardo J 42	6 Golub, David 65

Class A

1 Grom, Alex 65	1 Ambler, Dennis L 204
2 Bannon, David T 59.5	2 Buck, Stephen J 170
3 Botez, V Alexandra 55.5	3 Mathews, Daniel R .. 165
4 Waterman, Jeremy 48.5	4 Sen, Samir 103
5 Sherrard, Jerry 37	5 Gibbon, Brian C 92
6 Herrera, Robert 28	6 Sotaridona, Leonardo 83

Class B

1 Skalnes, Erik 56.5	1 Monahan, Darby P .. 146
2 Levin, Scott A 52	2 Lampman, Becca 113.5
3 Witt, Steven A 50.5	3 Hua, Daniel 108.5
4 Chu-Kung, Ben 40	4 Chang, Austin 88
5 Brusselback, Lon 36	5 He, Daniel M 87
6 Hartley, Alan 35	6 Nicoski, Aaron M 76.5

Class C

1 Shimada, Masakazu 67	1 Piper, August 110
2 Dalthorp, Dan 43.5	2 Fields, Noah 107
3 Dietz, Arliss 42.5	3 Davis, Frederick A .. 105
4 Chattopadhyay, Sandip 36.5	4 Kramlich, Dan 96.5
5 Dalthorp, Matt 35	5 Cordero, Rowland 70
6 Dennehy, Jeremiah P 33	6 Nagase, Masayuki 69

Class D and Below

1 Butson, Jeffrey C 49.5	1 Richards, Jerrold 102.5
2 Chatterjee, Dhruva 35	2 Zhang, Derek 74
3 Winter, Dillon W 30.5	3 Soetedjo, James C 66.5
4 Booth, Liam K 26	4 Zhang, Brendan 55
5 Spink, Walter S 22	5 Dhingra, Sangeeta 50
6 Cohen, David S 20.5	6 Yeo, Noah 46.5

Overall Leaders, by State

1 Raptis, Nick 162	1 Ambler, Dennis L 204
2 Breckenridge, Steven ... 96.5	2 Buck, Stephen J 170
3 Shimada, Masakazu 67	3 Mathews, Daniel R .. 165
4 Grom, Alex 65	4 Monahan, Darby P .. 146
5 Davis, Mikeal 62	5 Bartron, Paul R 131.5
6 Bannon, David T 59.5	6 Lampman, Becca 113.5
7 Skalnes, Erik 56.5	7 Ummel, Igor 110
8 Botez, V Alexandra 55.5	7 Piper, August 110
9 Morris, Michael J 54.5	9 Hua, Daniel 108.5
10 Esler, Brian 52	10 Fields, Noah 107
10 Levin, Scott A 52	11 Davis, Frederick A .. 105
12 Witt, Steven A 50.5	12 Sen, Samir 103
13 Butson, Jeffrey C 49.5	13 Richards, Jerrold 102.5
14 Waterman, Jeremy 48.5	14 Kramlich, Dan 96.5
15 Heywood, Bill 48	15 Two tied 92

Players in Database 2010

	M	X	A	B	C	D	total
Oregon	7	13	18	29	25	42	134
Washington	17	30	54	70	56	102	329
other	1	4	12	10	14	7	48
totals	25	47	84	109	95	151	511

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address ↙
2150 N 107th 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

How to Find the SCC

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.

SCC Fridays

November Rains (40/90, 30/60): Nov 5, 12, 19
CB Bagley Mem. (40/90, 30/60): Dec 3, 10, 17
Insanity Rd. 1 (37/84, 28/55): Dec 31
January Thaw (40/90, 30/60): Jan 7, 14, 21, 28
Cabin Fever (40/90, 30/60): Feb 4, 11, 18, 25
March Winds (40/90, 30/60): Mar 4, 11, 18, 25
April Showers (40/90, 30/60): Apr 1, 8, 22, 29
Taxing Swiss (G/10:40): Apr 15
Close Ratings (40/90, 30/60): May 6, 13, 20
Summertime (40/90, 30/60): Jun 3, 10, 17, 25
Firecracker Quads (G/25): Jul 2
Hot-as-Hades (40/90, 30/60): Jul 9, 16, 23, 30

SCC Junior Swiss

December 4-5

A one-section, five-round Swiss open to those born after 12/5/1989. The time control is G/100. The prize fund of \$450 is based on 24 paid entries, 5 per prize group.

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

Entry Fees: \$33 if rec'd by 12/2 (\$24 SCC memb., \$29 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW), \$42 at site (\$33 SCC memb., \$38 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW).
Unrated—Free with purchase of 1-yr USCF & 1-yr WCF.

Registration: Sat. 10-10:45 am.

Rounds: Sat. 11-2:30-6, Sun. 11:30-3:00.

Byes: 2 available (Sunday round, commit at registration).

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

Nov. 17; Dec. 1, 15 1st & 3rd Wed. Quick Quads

Format: 3-RR. **TC:** G/20. **EF:** \$5 (+\$3 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quick quad. **Reg:** 5:15-5:45 p.m. **1st Rd:** 6 p.m. **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS. NC.

Nov. 20, Dec. 11, Jan. 22 Saturday Quads

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.

Nov. 21, Dec. 12, Jan. 2 Sunday Tornado

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

Dec. 11-12 see WA Challenger's Cup ad on page 30

Dec. 31 2nd SCC Insanity

Format: 4 interconnected events (Fri. nt. rtd. game/Quick Chess/FischeRandom/Chess Variants). **TC:** rtd. game—37/84, 28/55; Quick—G/13; FR—G/24; CV—G/28. **EF:** \$33 if rec'd by 12/29 (\$24 SCC memb., \$29 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW), \$42 at site (\$33 SCC memb., \$38 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW). *For indiv. events (except rtd. game):* \$14 at site (+\$3 fee for non-SCC). *For rtd. game:* \$0 (+\$5 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Based on entries for each event (except rtd. game) and overall. **Reg:** 7:00-7:42 p.m. **1st Rd:** 8:00 p.m. **Byes:** 3 available all rounds if requested 19 min. before. **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd for rtd. game and Quick Chess. Breakfast for all finishers. NS. NC. *More details in December issue.*

Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

November 13

Tacoma Public Library Chess

Main Library, Olympic Room, 1102 Tacoma Ave S., Tacoma, WA. See display ad on page 3 of this issue of *Northwest Chess*.

♣ November 20

Spokane G/10 Championship ♣

Reg: 8:30-9:45. E.F. \$11. Location: Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E. Main, Spokane Valley, WA 99206. Format: double round-robin. Prizes: \$100 guaranteed 1st place prize with at least 10 participants. (Donated) Other prizes depend on participants. USCF quick rated. Contact: David B. Griffin, PO Box 631, Spokane Valley, WA 99216, phone (509) 994-9739 (cell), e-mail dbgrffn@hotmail.com.

♣ November 20

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.

♣ November 26-28

Washington Class Championships ♣

Marriott Redmond Town Center, Redmond, WA. See display ad on pages 44-45 of this issue of *Northwest Chess*.

♣ December 4

Christmas Chaos ♣

Reg: 8:30-9:45. E.F. \$11. Location: Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E. Main, Spokane Valley, WA 99206. Format: 3 Rd G/60 or 4 Rd G/45, depending on entries. USCF rated, NWGP event. Contact: David B. Griffin, PO Box 631, Spokane Valley, WA 99216, phone (509) 994-9739 (cell), e-mail dbgrffn@hotmail.com.

♣ December 4 – New Date!

Washington G/60 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. Time Control: G/60. Reg. 9:00-9:45 AM. Rounds: 10, 12:30, 3, 5:30 or ASAP. Entry Fee: (Adults) \$25.00, (Jr.'s) \$15.00. Prize Fund: (B/16) 1st \$100.00, 2nd \$75.00, 1st U2000, U1700 & U1500 \$50.00 each. 1 HPB available. NS, NC, NW. Info/entries: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, phone (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com. (Make checks payable to Gary J. Dorfner.)

♣ December 11-12

Portland Winter 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: \$35. \$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.

♣ December 11-12

Washington Challenger's Cup ♣

Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107th St, Seattle, WA. See display ad on page 30 of this issue of *Northwest Chess*.

♣ December 18

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.

♣ December 18-19

Tacoma-Pierce County Open ♣

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave. E., Room 11, 2nd floor. Located in the DTI Soccer Bldg. across the St. from Alfred's Café and two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 5 round Swiss, One section. Time Control: 40/90, SD30. Entry Fee: Adults \$35 advance, \$40 at door; Juniors \$20 advance, \$25 at door; Economy \$15. Prizes: \$485 B/20, 1st \$100, 2nd \$85, U2000, U1700, U1400, 1st \$55, 2nd \$45 each. Upset prizes (book) each round. Reg: 9:00-9:45, Rds: Saturday 10, 2:30, 7, Sunday 10, 3 or ASAP. USCF/WCF/OCF required. 2 HPB available. NS, NC, NW. Info/entries: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, phone (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com.