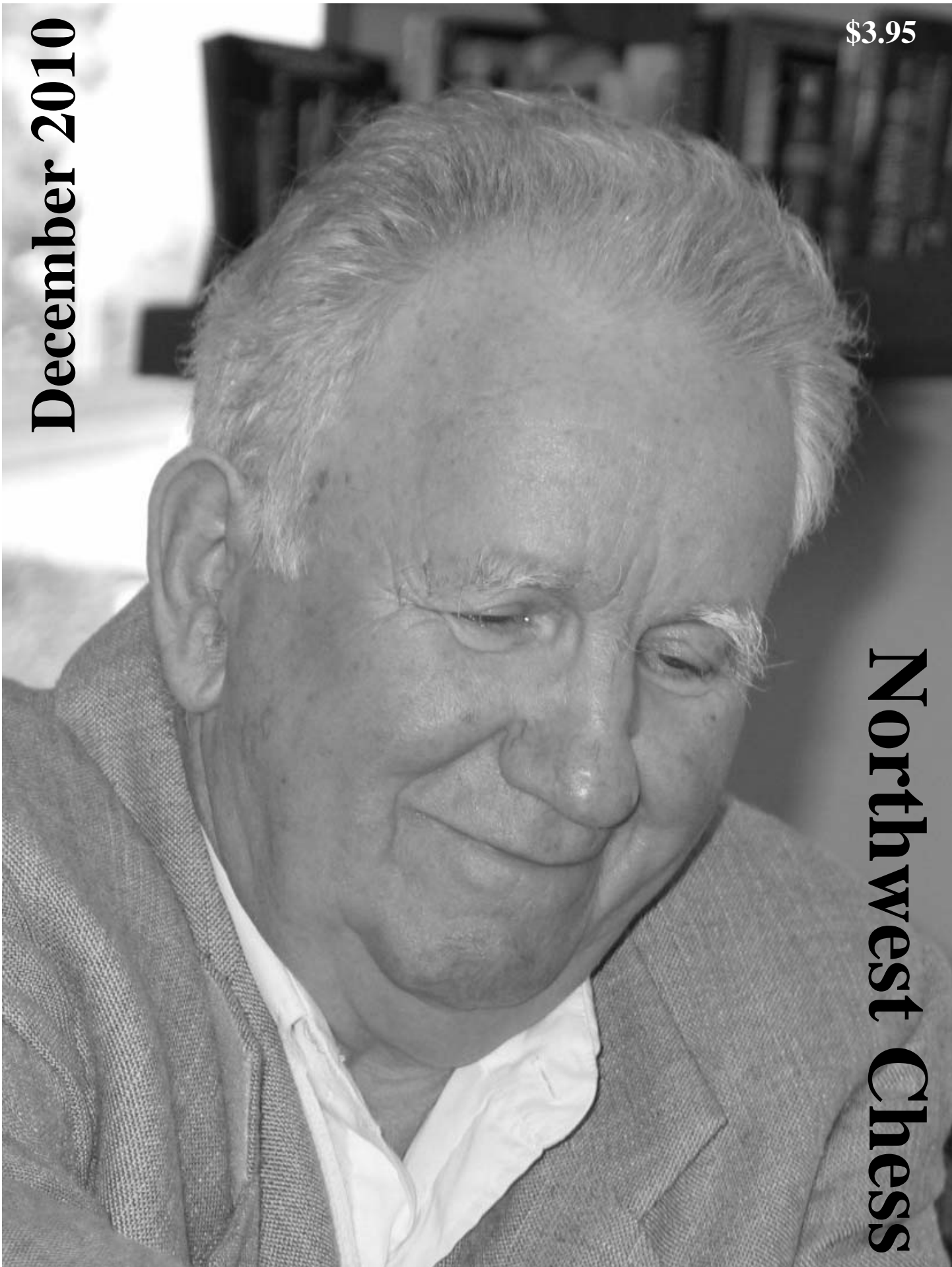


**December 2010**

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**Northwest Chess**



# Northwest Chess

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# Contents

**Cover art: Ernst Rasmussen**

**Photo credit: Russell Miller**

Page 3:	NW Grand Prix .....	Murlin Varner
Page 4:	Ernst Rasmussen BDG Thematic .....	Dennis McGuire
Page 10:	WCF President's Corner .....	Josh Sinanan
Page 11:	Seattle Chess Club, Then.....	Roger Myers
Page 12:	....And Now .....	Russell Miller
Page 13:	Dutch Treat: book reviews .....	John Donaldson
Page 15:	Games Corner .....	Charles Schulien
Page 18:	EG Short and the PCC .....	Casey Bush
Page 20:	Championship Training .....	Corey Russell
Page 23:	Seattle Chess Club Events	
Page 24:	Future Events	

## Tournament Display Advertising:

SCC Junior Swiss, December 4-5 (page 14)

Washington Challenger's Cup, December 11-12 (page 22)

## Website News

The Northwest Chess website (nwchess.com) has been redesigned using Microsoft Expression Web software. During the next month or two, we will look into adding new features such as an improved calendaring system and an e-mail announcement list. See the response form on the website (bottom of the homepage) to submit comments.

Thank you to Mike MacGregor of the Tacoma Chess Club for supplying scans of the Aug 2004-Aug 2008 editions of Northwest Chess. These are available online (along with newer editions) at [http://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/NWC\\_scans.htm](http://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/NWC_scans.htm). We are also planning to resume posting scans of older editions of *Washington Chess Letter* and *Northwest Chess* shortly. These can be accessed from the "History" section on the website.

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# Robert Karch Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

## Murlin Varner, digitizer

By the time you read this, the last multiplier tournament will have passed. The Washington Class Championships had a 5x multiplier, and that has the potential to cause some leaders to fall, unless they attended. The remaining events of the year are all single value tournaments. For those classes with close races, these events can still have an impact. They include the Christmas Chaos in Spokane (12/4), the Winter Open (12/11-12) and G/60 (12/18) in Portland, the Washington G/60 Championship (12/4) and Tacoma-Pierce County Open (12/18-19) in Tacoma, and the Washington Chess Federation's Challengers' Cup in Seattle (12/11-12). Plenty of opportunities remain to finish off the year with a bang. (Our season ends early this year due to the weekend positioning of Christmas and New Years.)

The standings below include all Grand Prix events through the SCC Extravaganza (11/5-7). That means that the WA Class and four other events are in the books, but not shown above. Much can change before I release the final standings in February. Most classes are wide open, at least until I get the WA Class included, and a few points here or there can make a difference. Remember, there are cash prizes for first and second in each class, within each state, as well as an overall prize per state. (While Nick and Dennis have strong leads in their respective states, they still could be overtaken if they decide to quit playing for the remainder of the year. I don't expect that is likely for either player.) The final ratings for the year are in, so the classes shown below are where you will stay for this year's edition.

We will finish the year with five fewer tournaments than we had last year, and three fewer with multipliers. Yet, due to increases in attendance, we are on pace to come close, if not exceed, the number of entries and players that we had in 2009. That means our entries per event and entries per player ratios will be improved in 2010 versus 2009. This is a very good trend.

Some milestones reached during the period covered by these statistics include the following: Dan Kramlich, Steven Breckenridge and Daniel He all surpassed 100 points; Igor Ummel, Peter O'Gorman and Dan Mathews all played in their 20th tournament of the year and the over-achieving Dennis Ambler played in his 40th (actually 41st, now) event. Finally, a big welcome back to Aaron Palmer, who played in his first tournament since 2000 and Richard Williams of Idaho, who made a return appearance at the Eastern Washington Open after 14 years away (with no other tournaments in between).

### Oregon

### Washington

#### Masters

1 Raptis, Nick ..... 167.5	1 Malugu, Satyajit ..... 88
2 Breckenridge, Steven . 109	2 Pupols, Viktors ..... 82
3 Roua, Radu ..... 43.5	3 Sinanan, Joshua C ..... 69
4 Haessler, Carl A ..... 42.5	4 Chen, Howard J ..... 55
5 Prochaska, Peter ..... 22	5 Selzler, Ricky ..... 54
5 Russell, Corey J ..... 22	6 Koons, Nat W ..... 51

### Experts

1 Davis, Mikeal ..... 62	1 Bartron, Paul R ..... 131.5
2 Morris, Michael J ..... 54.5	2 Ummel, Igor ..... 131
3 Heywood, Bill ..... 54	3 Sen, Samir ..... 103
4 Esler, Brian ..... 52	4 Rupel, David ..... 92
5 Gay, Daniel Z ..... 44.5	5 Feng, Roland ..... 91.5
6 Daroza, Eduardo J ..... 42	6 Lessler, Peter ..... 65.5

### Class A

1 Grom, Alex ..... 65	1 Ambler, Dennis L .... 229.5
2 Bannon, David T ..... 59.5	2 Buck, Stephen J ..... 199
3 Botez, V Alexandra ..... 55.5	3 Mathews, Daniel R .. 184.5
4 Waterman, Jeremy ..... 48.5	4 He, Daniel M ..... 108
5 Sherrard, Jerry ..... 43	5 He , Samuel F ..... 96
6 Herrera, Robert ..... 28	6 Watts, Peter O ..... 95

### Class B

1 Skalnes, Erik ..... 61	1 Monahan, Darby P .. 160
2 Levin, Scott A ..... 57.5	2 Fields, Noah ..... 123.5
3 Witt, Steven A ..... 55	3 Lampman, Becca ..... 123
4 Chu-Kung, Ben ..... 44.5	4 Hua, Daniel ..... 113.5
5 Brusselback, Lon ..... 37.5	5 Szabo, Marcell ..... 94.5
6 Hartley, Alan ..... 35	6 Chang, Austin ..... 92.5

### Class C

1 Shimada, Masakazu ..... 67	1 Piper, August ..... 119
2 Dalthorp, Dan ..... 43.5	2 Kramlich, Dan ..... 114.5
3 Dietz, Arliss ..... 42.5	3 Davis, Frederick A .. 112
4 Chattopadhyay, Sandip 36.5	4 Cordero, Rowland ..... 73.5
5 Dalthorp, Matt ..... 35	5 Nagase, Masayuki ..... 69
6 Dennehy, Jeremiah P .... 33	6 Nagase, Toshihiro ..... 58.5

### Class D and Below

1 Butson, Jeffrey C ..... 53	1 Richards, Jerrold ..... 111.5
2 Chatterjee, Dhruva ..... 35	2 Zhang, Derek ..... 89.5
3 Winter, Dillon W ..... 34.5	3 Soetedjo, James C ..... 66.5
4 Booth, Liam K ..... 26	4 Yeo, Noah ..... 60.5
5 Spink, Walter S ..... 22	5 Zhang, Brendan ..... 59
6 Cohen, David S ..... 20.5	6 Ramesh, Jothi N ..... 53.5

### Overall Leaders, by State

1 Raptis, Nick ..... 167.5	1 Ambler, Dennis L .... 229.5
2 Breckenridge, Steven . 109	2 Buck, Stephen J ..... 199
3 Shimada, Masakazu ..... 67	3 Mathews, Daniel R .. 184.5
4 Grom, Alex ..... 65	4 Monahan, Darby P .. 160
5 Davis, Mikeal ..... 62	5 Bartron, Paul R ..... 131.5
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9 Botez, V Alexandra ..... 55.5	9 Piper, August ..... 119
10 Witt, Steven A ..... 55	10 Kramlich, Dan ..... 114.5
11 Morris, Michael J ..... 54.5	11 Hua, Daniel ..... 113.5
12 Heywood, Bill ..... 54	12 Davis, Frederick A .. 112
13 Butson, Jeffrey C ..... 53	13 Richards, Jerrold ..... 111.5
14 Esler, Brian ..... 52	14 He, Daniel M ..... 108
15 Waterman, Jeremy ..... 48.5	15 Sen, Samir ..... 103

### Players from Other Places

1 Leslie, Cameron D	ID	1881	64.5
2 Havrilla, Mark A	ID	1965	53
3 Brewster, Robert D	CAN	2002	43.5
4 Subedi, Avinaya	ID	1931	40.5

# Ernst Rasmussen's 85th Birthday Party & Blackmar-Diemer Gambit Thematic Tournament

By Dennis McGuire

The tournament was organized by friends of Ernst Rasmussen in honor of his 85th birthday and attracted 20 players. It began with a lively discussion about when we would have a memorial tournament in his honor whereby Ernst demanded we have the tournament while he was still alive. He had no interest in a memorial tournament! A prize fund of \$1000 was put together which attracted very strong players (Masters and Experts) from Bellevue, Seattle, Tacoma, Bremerton, Poulsbo and the North Olympic Peninsula.

This was a "thematic" tournament, the theme being the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit, of which Ernst is a widely-known expert. There is actually a variation in the gambit, discovered by Ernst many years ago, known as the "Razz" attack.

Ernst trolled for Salmon in Alaska for over 50 years and was an accomplished bricklayer and member of the masons. Born in Denmark, he made his way to the Northwest. An example of Ernst's bricklaying history is found here in Port Townsend in the form of the Lighthouse Mall which he built, as well as many of the large brick buildings in Tacoma. When he wasn't laying brick, he would

inevitably be found in the neighborhood of Cape Spencer and the Fairweather grounds of S.E. Alaska. Ernst had a Skookum '53 built, the "Golden Eagle" which he fished with his wife, Vera. Ernst was every bit the expert fisherman as he is an expert chess player. This brick-laying, chess-playing fisherman was also a fearsome Greco-Roman wrestler in Denmark, and there are stories out of Pelican, Alaska, that he was a darn good boxer as well!

So, off the cuff, that's what I have to offer on my friend and the tournament. In an ongoing effort to get people away from their computers and into the game of chess, I have designated a small corner of my building for a very casual chess club. I call it the Last Exit on Kearney, named after the well known "Last Exit on Brooklyn," a coffehouse hangout from the sixties in the "U" District of Seattle where many local Masters and Grand Masters cut their teeth on chess.

I am a believer that the social and personal aspects of chess can benefit all residents of our community, as chess brings people of all ages together, and is a language universally spoken.

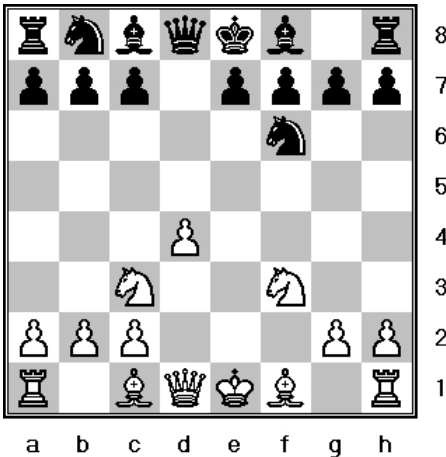


*L-R: Mike Murray, Bill McGeary, Sam Hill, Ernst Rasmussen, Jack Anderson, Ben Seran, Gary Dorfner, Paul Bartron. Partially visible: H.G. Pitre, Stephen Buck, Roger Risley, Dennis McGuire, David Merrikin, Stephen Chase. Photo credit: Max Seran.*

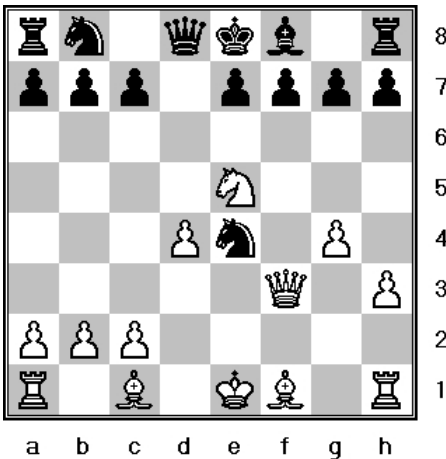
All game annotations by Ralph Dubisch, unless otherwise noted.

**Drayton Harrison – David Miller  
Ernst Rasmussen BDG, Round 1  
Port Townsend, WA, October 23, 2010**

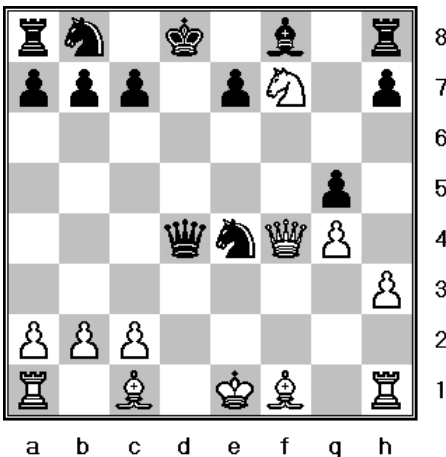
1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 exf3 5. Nxf3



5. ...Bg4 6. h3 Bh5 7. g4 Bg6 8. Ne5 Be4 9. Nxe4 Nxe4 10. Qf3



10. ...Qxd4 11. Qxf7+ Kd8 12. Qf4 g5 13. Nf7+



13. ...Kc8

13. ...Ke8 14. Nxc5 Nxc5 15. Qxc5 Qe4+ 16. Be3 Qxh1 17. Qh5+.

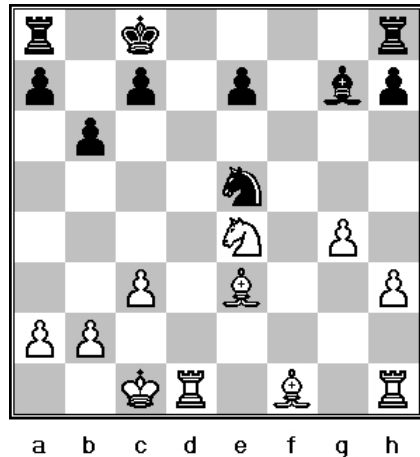
14. Nxc5

14. Qf3.

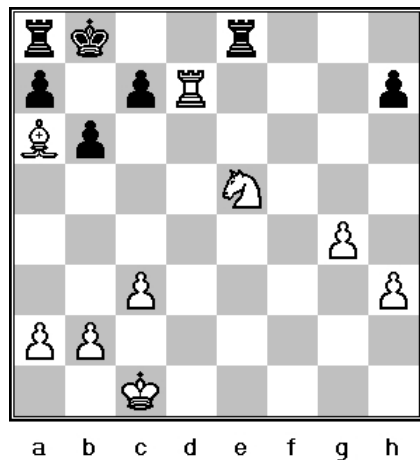
14. ...Bh6

14. ...Nxc5 15. Qxc5 (15. Qxd4 Nf3+) 15. ...Qe4+ 16. Be3 Qxh1 17. Qf5+ Nd7 18. 0-0-0 e6 19. Qxe6 Bd6 20. Bb5 Qh2 (20. ...Qxh3 21. Bxd7+ Kb8 22. Rxd6) 21. Qxd7+ Kb8 when White has obvious compensation for the exchange.

15. Qxe4 Qxe4+ 16. Nxe4 Bg7 17. c3 Nc6 18. Be3 Ne5 19. 0-0-0 b6



20. Ba6+ Kb8 21. Bf4 Nf3 22. Rd7 Be5 23. Bxe5 Nxe5 24. Rhd1 Nxd7 25. Rxd7 Rf8 26. Ng5 e5 27. Nf3 Re8 28. Nxe5

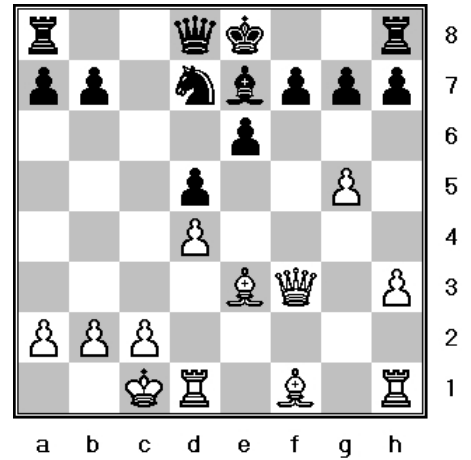


1-0

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**Ben Seran – H.G. Pitre  
Ernst Rasmussen BDG, Round 1  
Port Townsend, WA, October 23, 2010**

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 exf3 5. Nxf3 Bg4 6. h3 Bxf3 7. Qxf3 c6 8. Be3 e6 9. 0-0-0 Be7 10. g4 Nbd7 11. g5 Nd5 12. Nxd5 cxd5



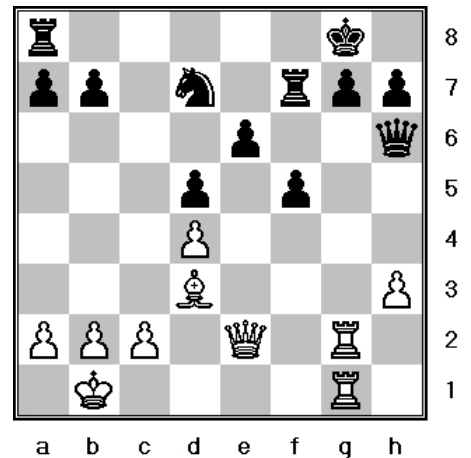
13. Bd3

White has some compensation for the gambit pawn after 13. h4: space, the bishop-pair, and potential kingside attack.

13. ...Bxg5 14. Bxg5 Qxc5+ 15. Kb1 0-0 16. Rhg1

White still has some compensation; it's just harder to compensate for two pawns than for one.

16. ...Qh6 17. Rg2 f5 18. Rdg1 Rf7 19. Qe2



19. ...Qf6

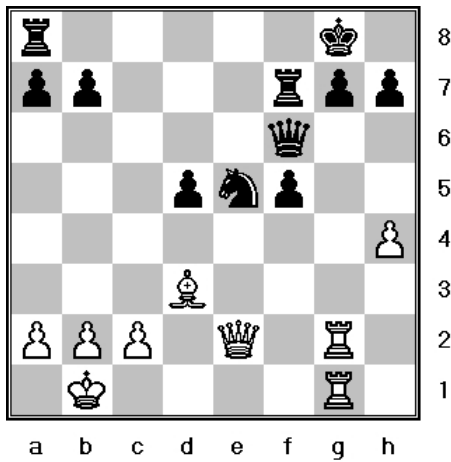
19. ...e5 20. dxe5 Re8.

20. h4

White has pretty much maxed out the amount of pressure he can put on the black position, and now is having trouble finding something to do with it.

Black is too solid, and eventually he's going to find a way to activate his rooks and win with his extra material.

20. ...e5 21. dxe5 Nxe5

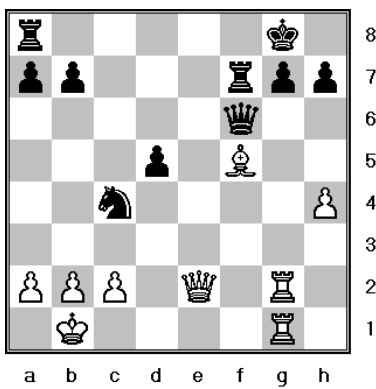


22. Bxf5?

This would be a nifty tactical idea, but it suffers from two flaws. First, even if it works it wins back only one of the pawns while reducing material into a worse endgame. Second, Black has a counter-shot....

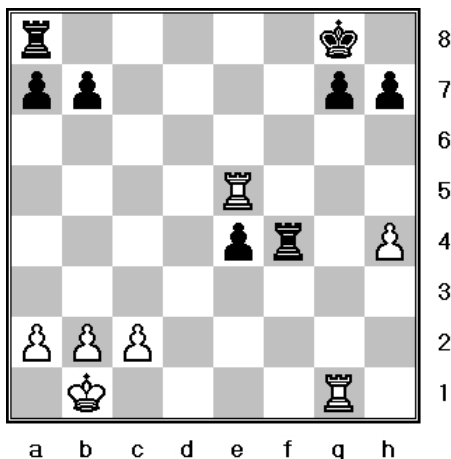
22. ...Qxf5?

22. ...Nc4!



By threatening checkmate on b2, Black can get the knight out of hock and pick up the bishop on sale: 23. Bxh7+ Kxh7 24. Qd3+ Kh8 25. c3 Raf8.

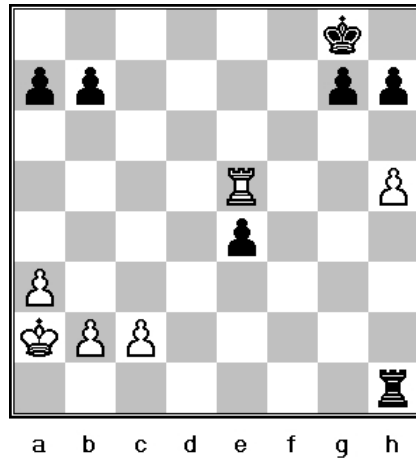
23. Rg5 Qe4 24. Qxe4 dxe4 25. Rxe5 Rf4



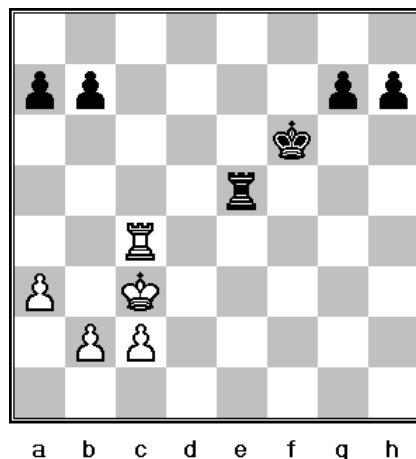
26. h5

The double-rook ending after 26. Re7 g6 27. h5 is extremely hard to evaluate. 27. ...Raf8 28. c3 R8f7, perhaps, but White has some real hopes of holding this by keeping the rooks as active as possible.

26. ...Raf8 27. a3 Rf1+ 28. Rxf1 Rxf1+ 29. Ka2 Rh1



30. Kb3 Kf7 31. Kc3 Kf6 32. Rxe4 Rxb5 33. Rc4 Re5



34. Rh4 h5 35. Rd4 g5 36. b4 h4 37. Rg4 Re3+ 38. Kb2 Rg3 39. Re4 h3 40. Re1 h2 41. Rf1+ Ke5 42. Rh1 Rg2 43. Kc3 g4 44. Kd3 g3 45. c4 Rg1 46. Rg1 hxg1=Q 47. c5 Qd4+ 48. Ke2 g2 49. Kf3 g1=Q 50. c6 Qdf2#

0-1

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Drayton Harrison – Bill McGeary  
Ernst Rasmussen BDG, Round 3  
Port Townsend, WA, October 23, 2010

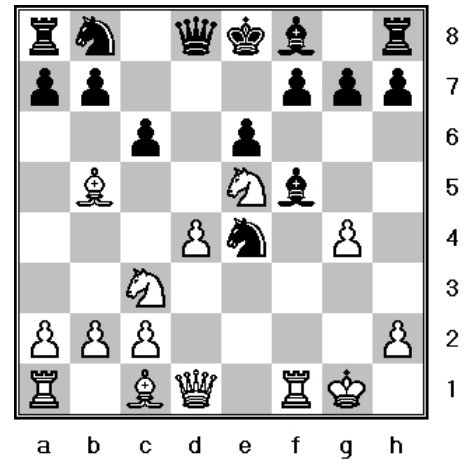
1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 exf3 5. Nxf3 Bf5 6. Ne5 e6 7. g4 Ne4

7. ...Be4 also seems possible, with similar ideas and fewer hanging pieces. But perhaps that makes it less fun?

8. Bb5+

8. gxf5 Qh4+ 9. Ke2 Nc6. Things are getting very messy.

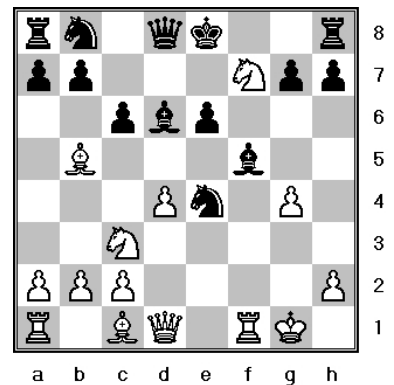
8. ...c6 9. 0-0



9. ...Bg6?

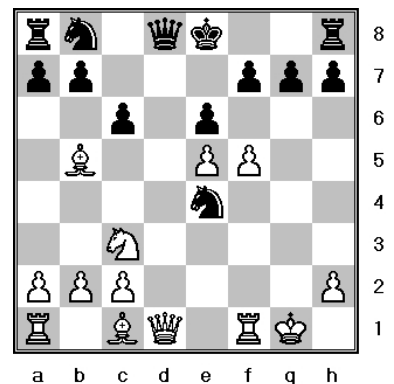
Or 9. ...Bxg4 10. Nxc3 Nxc3 11. bxc3 cxb5 12. Ne5 when White has some unpleasant pressure on f7.

But 9. ...Bd6! seems the key move here, since 10. Nxf7?



10. ...Bxh2+! 11. Kxh2 (11. Kg2 Qh4 12. Nxc3 Qg3+ 13. Kh1 Qh3 forces checkmate shortly) 11. ...Qh4+ 12. Kg1 Qg3+ 13. Kh1 Nxc3 and ...Be4+, lights out.

A better try for White is 10. gxf5 Bxe5 11. dxe5

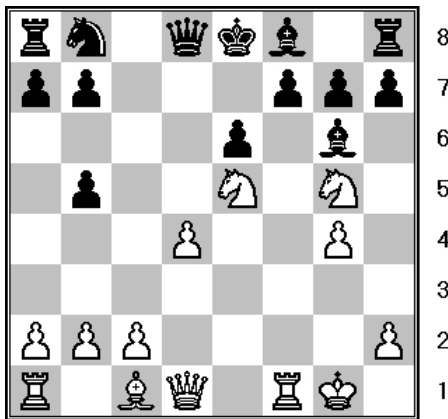


## Ernst Rasmussen Blackmar-Diemer Gambit Thematic Tournament Crosstable

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot	#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>Paul Bartron</b>	<b>2100</b>	<b>X20</b>	<b>W8</b>	<b>W4</b>	<b>W7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	11	David Merrikin	1250	L4	W13	L9	W18	2.0
2	<b>Drayton Harrison</b>	<b>1984</b>	<b>W19</b>	<b>W14</b>	<b>W7</b>	<b>W3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	12	Stephen Chase	unr.	L5	L6	W18	W15	2.0
3	Mike Murray	1970	W6	W5	W14	L2	3.0	13	Stephen Buck	1710	L8	L11	W17	W16	2.0
4	Satyajit Malugu	2167	W11	W10	L1	W9	3.0	14	Sam Hill	1920	W18	L2	L3	L6	1.0
5	Aric Miller	1770	W12	L3	W15	W8	3.0	15	Ben Seran	1525	L10	W19	L5	L12	1.0
6	Matt Nill	1709	L3	W12	W10	W14	3.0	16	Roger Risley	unr.	L9	W18	L8	L13	1.0
7	Bill McGeary	2210	W17	W9	L2	L1	2.0	17	Michael Kent	1247	L7	B---	L13	L10	1.0
8	Jack Anderson	1719	W13	L1	W16	L5	2.0	18	Dennis McGuire	1310	L14	L16	L12	L11	0.0
9	Ernst Rasmussen	1740	W16	L7	W11	L4	2.0	19	David Miller	unr.	L2	L15	U---	U---	0.0
10	H.G. Pitre	1843	W15	L4	L6	W17	2.0	20	Mike McKenzie	unr.	F1	U---	U---	U---	0.0

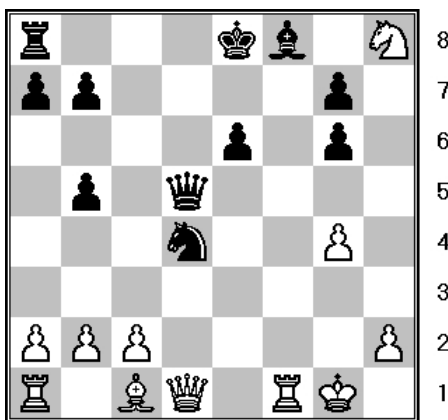
After 11. ...Qb6+ 12. Kg2 Nxc3, one possibility is 13. Qg4 Qxb5 14. Qxg7 Rf8 15. fxe6 Qd5+ 16. Rf3 Qxe6 17. Rxc3 Nd7 18. Bg5 f6 19. exf6 0-0-0, when White's king is looking a bit forlorn.

10. Nxe4 cxb5 11. Ng5



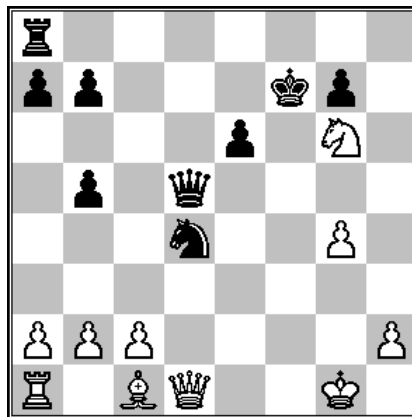
a b c d e f g h

11. ...Nc6 12. Nxc6 hxg6 13. Nxf7 Qd5  
14. Nxh8 Nxd4



a b c d e f g h

15. Rxf8+ Kxf8 16. Nxc6+ Kf7



a b c d e f g h

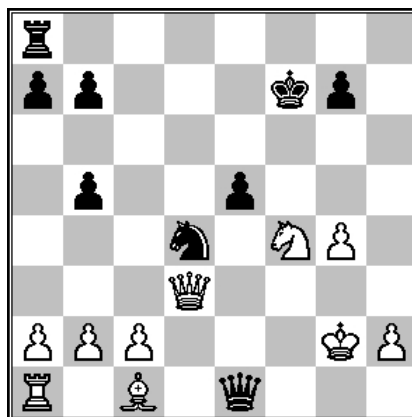
17. Nf4??

Much better is 17. Be3 Nf3+ 18. Qxf3+  
Qxf3 19. Ne5+.

17. ...Qe4??

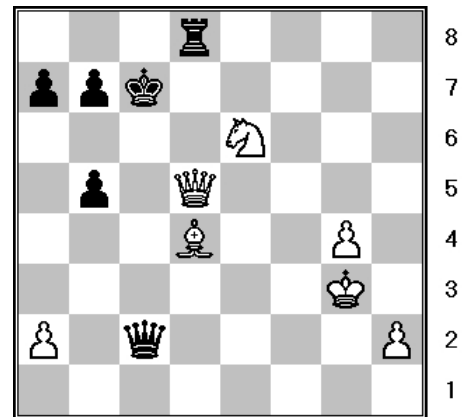
17. ...Nf3+ is Black's big chance.

18. Qd3 Qe1+ 19. Kg2 e5



a b c d e f g h

20. Be3 Qxa1 21. Qg6+ Ke7 22. Qxg7+  
Kd6 23. Qf6+ Kd7 24. Qxe5 Qxb2 25.  
Qd5+ Kc7 26. Bxd4 Qxc2+ 27. Kg3 Rd8  
28. Ne6+



a b c d e f g h

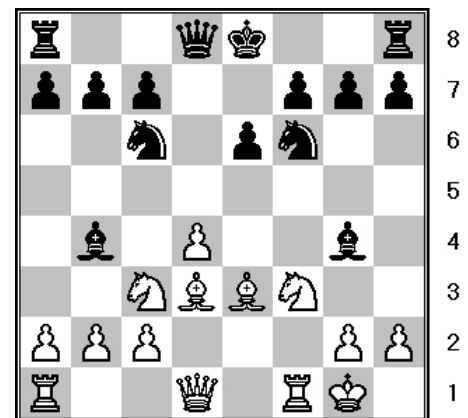
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Matthew Nill - H.G. Pitre

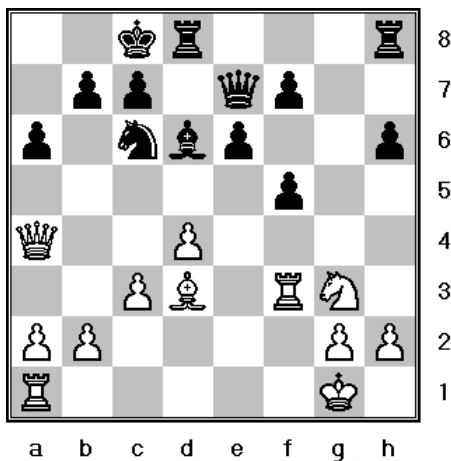
Ernst Rasmussen BDG, Round 3  
Port Townsend, WA, October 23, 2010

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dx4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3  
exf3 5. Nxf3 Bg4 6. Be3 e6 7. Bd3 Bb4 8.  
0-0 Nc6



a b c d e f g h

9. Ne2 a6 10. c3 Bd6 11. Bg5 Qe7 12.  
Ng3 h6 13. Bxf6 gxf6 14. Ne4 0-0-0 15.  
Qa4 Bxf3 16. Rxf3 f5 17. Ng3



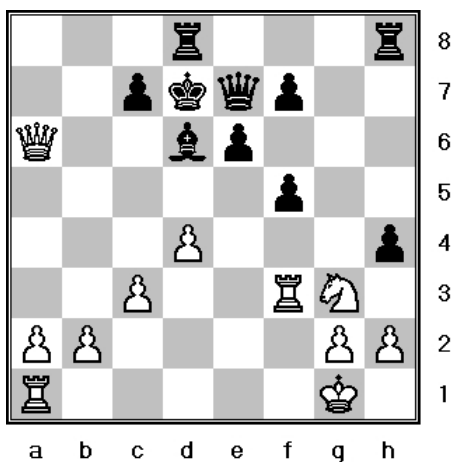
17. ...h5?

17. ...Nb8 avoids the overloading tactic that follows. White would have a little compensation for the pawn, but the BDG doesn't really provide the best springboard for a queenside attack.

18. Bxa6 bxa6?

This loses a second pawn. Something like 18. ...Nb8 again here seems roughly equal.

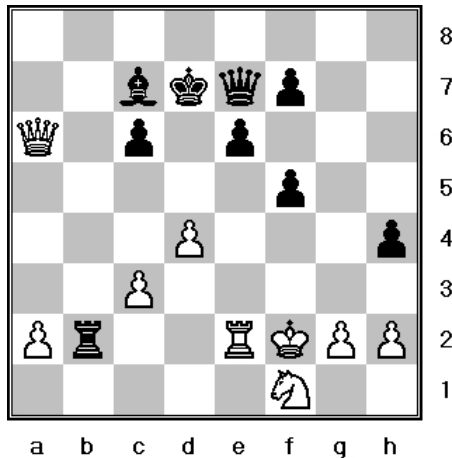
19. Qxc6 h4 20. Qxa6+ Kd7



21. Qb5+?

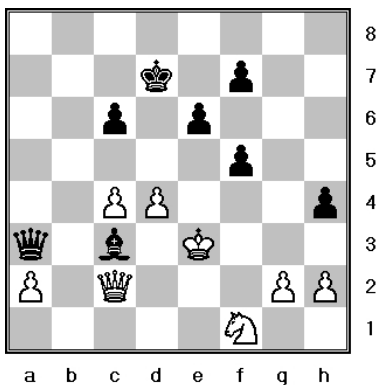
Much better is 21. Nf1 (or 21. Ne2) maintaining an extra pawn and a big plus.

21. ...c6 22. Qb7+ Bc7 23. Nf1 Rb8 24. Qa6 Rxb2 25. Rf2 Rbh8 26. Re1 Rxf2 27. Kxf2 Rb2+ 28. Re2



28. ...Rb1

28. ...Rxe2+ 29. Qxe2 Qa3 30. Qc2 Ba5 31. c4 Bc3 32. Ke3



32. ...Bxd4+! seems to be a tactical sequence that wins a pawn for Black: 33. Kxd4 e5+ 34. Kxe5 Qd6+ 35. Kxf5 Qg6+.

Or 28. ...Rxe2+ 29. Kxe2 Qg5 with some advantage to Black due to White's exposed king and the slightly awkward knight vs bishop matchup.

29. Qd3 Rxf1+

The exchange sacrifice may give play for a draw, but it doesn't seem to offer winning chances. My guess is that Black saw

the possibility of the queen and bishop invading on the dark squares around the white king, and didn't have the time to figure out if that was really dangerous or not.

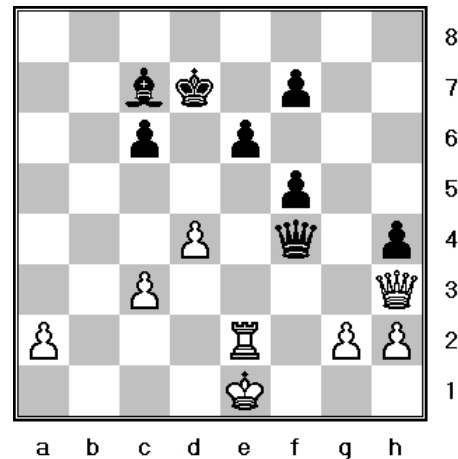
30. Kxf1 Qd6?!

It's probably better to grab the pawn now, with 30. ...Bxh2.

31. Qh3

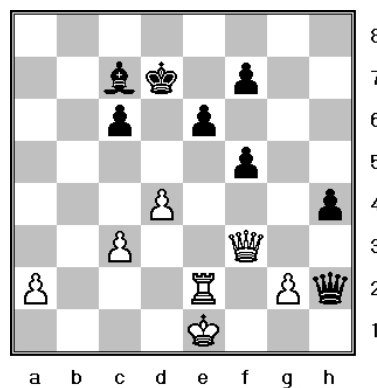
31. h3 and 31. g3 are both pretty strong. The former keeps all the booty, and the latter says, "if you want that pawn, you'll need to trade queens."

31. ...Qf4+ 32. Ke1



32. ...Qxh2?

Better not to allow the exchange of queens, so 32. ...Qc1+ should be preferred: 33. Kf2 Qf4+, and if 34. Qf3, only then 34. ...Qxh2.



Black has seriously underestimated the strength of the passed white a-pawn in the endgame that follows the exchange of queens.

33. Qxh2 Bxh2 34. Kf2 Kd6 35. Rb2 f6 36. a4 Bg3+ 37. Ke2 e5 38. a5 e4 39. a6 f4 40. a7 h3 41. gxh3 f3+ 42. Kf1

1-0

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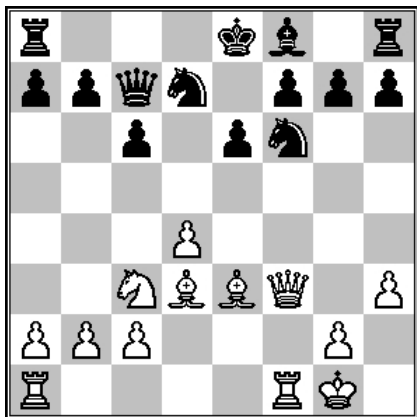
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ssmith6154@aol.com



1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3  
 exf3 5. Nxf3 c6 6. Bd3 Bg4 7. Be3 Nbd7 8.  
 h3 Bxf3 9. Qxf3 e6 10. 0-0 Qc7



a b c d e f g h

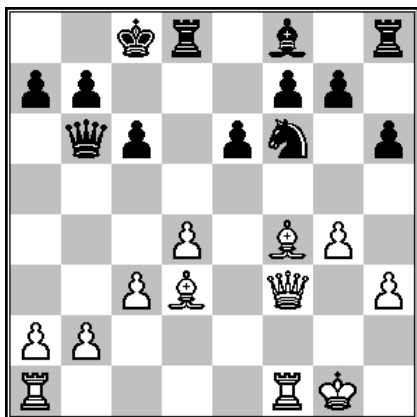
11. g4?

This just represents a weakening of the white king position, unless it's part of an attack on Black's king in the center or on the kingside. Since the black king is headed elsewhere, 11. g4 just doesn't work.

11. ...h6 12. Ne4 0-0-0

(DH: 12. ...Nxe4! 13. Qxf7+ Kd8 -/+)

13. Bf4 Qb6 14. c3 Nxe4 15. Bxe4 Nf6  
 16. Bd3

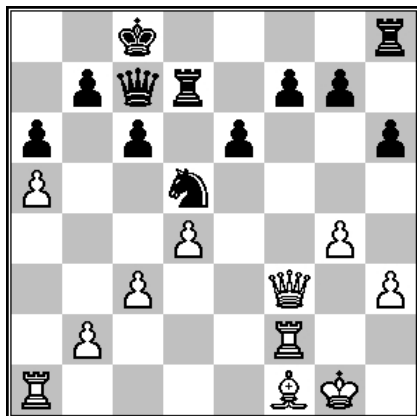


a b c d e f g h

16. ...Bd6

Black, a pawn ahead, simply offers to exchange pieces into a winning ending. White's space edge and bishop pair aren't accomplishing much, and pretty soon he feels obligated to mount a desperation attack.

17. Rf2 Bxf4 18. Qxf4 Qc7 19. Qf3 Rd7  
 20. a4 Nd5 21. a5 a6 22. Bf1



a b c d e f g h

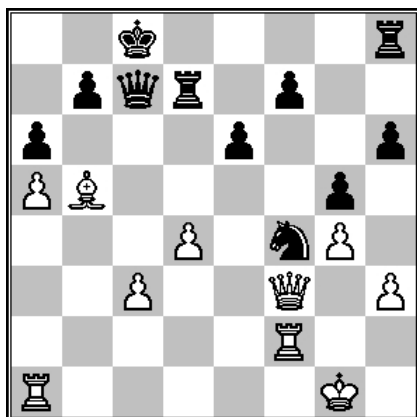
22. ...g5!

Locking down the outpost on f4, which has extra value as it is placed near the white king. Black can also open the h-file when it is convenient with ...h5. At this point Black might be close to winning even without the extra material.

23. b4 Nf4 24. b5

Desperation, but White has no better plan except to wait for a blunder.

24. ...cxb5 25. Bxb5



a b c d e f g h

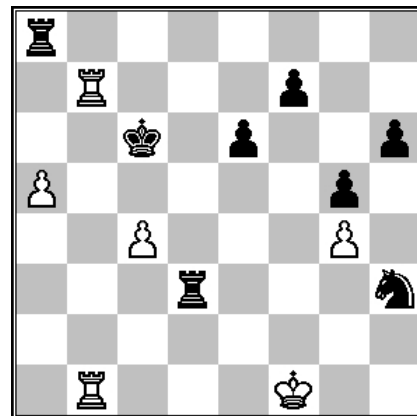
25. ...Rd5

This wins the a-pawn if the bishop retreats, and is clearly strong enough, but even better is 25. ...axb5 26. a6 Kb8, which leaves White down a piece and a pawn with no real attack.

26. c4 Rxd4 27. Bxa6 Rd3 28. Qxb7+  
 Qxb7 29. Bxb7+ Kxb7 30. Rb2+ Kc7 31.  
 Rab1 Nxh3+

(DH: 31. ...Rg3+ 32. Kf1 Rxh3)

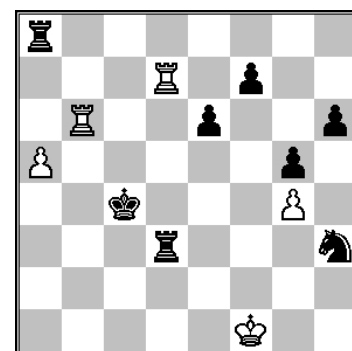
32. Kf1 Ra8 33. Rb7+ Kc6



a b c d e f g h

34. R1b5

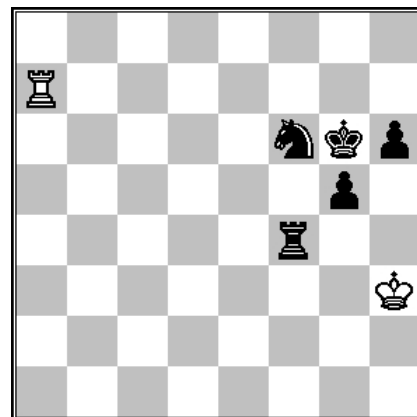
34. R1b6+ Kc5 35. Rc7+ Kd4 36. Rd7+  
 Kxc4



a b c d e f g h

37. Rc6+ Kb5 38. Rxd3 Kxc6 39. Rxh3  
 Rxa5 40. Rxh6 Ra4 regains a little of the  
 missing material, but is still lost.

34. ...Ra3 35. R5b6+ Kc5 36. Rxf7  
 R8xa5 37. Rxe6 Ra1+ 38. Re1 Rxe1+ 39.  
 Kxe1 Nf4 40. Rf6 Ra1+ 41. Kf2 Rh1 42.  
 Rf8 Kxc4 43. Rd8 Nd5 44. Kf3 Kd4 45.  
 Re8 Rf1+ 46. Kg3 Rf4 47. Re6 Nf6 48. Ra6  
 Rxc4+ 49. Kh3 Rf4 50. Ra4+ Ke5 51.  
 Ra5+ Ke6 52. Ra6+ Kf7 53. Ra7+ Kg6



a b c d e f g h

54. Ra3 h5, and soon 0-1

\*\*\*\*\*

# WCF President's Corner

## by Josh Sinanan

Ever since I joined the board of the Washington Chess Federation in May of 2007, I have had the privilege of working with some awesome people to support and promote chess related activities throughout the state of Washington. During my two-year term as president, WCF plans to focus on a few areas that we think are most important to the development of chess throughout the northwest.

First, WCF aims to bring more chess tournaments to outlying areas of the state. We are willing to offer support and training to those interested in starting new tournaments or reviving classics such as the Harvest Open in Yakima or the Lilac Open in Spokane. The WCF can assist in training new adult tournament directors to make growth possible, and we encourage more tournament directors to become Senior Certified. We still have chess equipment on loan to us from America's Foundation for Chess that we'd be happy to lend out to tournament organizers.

In addition, WCF intends to organize and run a futurity tournament, which would give local players a chance to earn FIDE norms. The northwest boasts some of the strongest untitled players in the country, largely due to a lack of opportunity for them to compete against titled players. Who knows? The next American Grandmaster could be one of the northwest's many under-rated scholastic players.

Furthermore, WCF supports bringing national and international events to Washington State. Every spring, thousands of scholastic players from all over the U.S. make the trip to Elementary Nationals, which is run by USCF in a different location each year. The Northwest is long overdue to host such an event, which is why WCF and USCF are collaborating to make it happen!

WCF plans to work with the British Columbia Chess Federation to get the adult WA-BC match going again and to encourage players to travel to events across the border. The last BC-WA match occurred 2007, which WA won despite having to travel up to BC during a heavy snowstorm. Two of BC's largest chess events are the Grand Pacific Open April 22-25 and the Keres Memorial, scheduled to take place in Richmond May 20-23. We encourage more WA players to attend these excellent tournaments!

If you have any other ideas of ways to support chess in the northwest, please let us know. We value your input. The WCF board is comprised of only 7 officers, and we are always looking for more volunteers to step up and donate their time. The success of chess in the northwest largely depends on the commitment and support of **you**, the members. Let's work together to ensure that chess continues to thrive in the northwest for years to come!

Cheers!

Josh Sinanan, WCF President 2010-2012

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

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

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

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**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Eric Holcomb**  
**NW Chess Business Manager**  
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## Seattle Chess Club, Then....

Roger Myers, who as a sophomore was 1968 Washington High School Individual Champion and first board for the 1968 State Champion Roosevelt High School Chess Team, sent us these pictures of the Seattle Chess Club when it was located in Fremont. The tournament is the Washington Woodpusher, held October 28-29, 1967.

Second board was senior Will Skubi (pictured below), later *NWC* editor.





Russell and Kathy Miller visited the Seattle Chess Club exactly 43 years after the 1967 Woodpusher, on October 29, 2010, and took these pictures of the club just before it opened for the Friday evening session.

Now located near Northgate, there is more art on the walls and more books on the shelves, but the basics are still pretty much the same: tables, chairs, and chess sets. What more can you ask of a chess club?

*Carol Mayer-Kleist and Kathy Miller.  
Photo credit: Russell Miller.*

## ....And Now



## Reviewing two books that highlight the Dutch.

*Dangerous Weapons: The Dutch* (Everyman Chess December 2009, www.everymanchess.com, 224 pages, algebraic notation, \$26.95 for the paperback, \$19.95 for the e-book) by GM Simon Williams, IM Richard Palliser and FM James Vigus offers the sharpest lines of any volume in Everyman's Dangerous Weapons series to date.

The truth of this statement can be confirmed by checking out the table of contents which begins with the bizarre 1. d4 f5 2. Bg5 h6 3. Bh4 g5 4. e4 Rh7!? and is followed by all manner of variations characterized by an early g4. Answering 1.d4 with the non-developing 1...f5 exposes Black's king which explains some of the justification for these bloody thrusts.

### 1 Block with the Rook!

1 d4 f5 2 Bg5 h6 3 Bh4 g5 4 e4 Rh7

### 2 Targeting that Advanced f-pawn

1 d4 f5 2 Qd3

### 3 Not so Dim on the Rim

1 d4 f5 2 Nh3

### 4 Don't Underestimate 3 h3!

1 d4 f5 2 Nf3 e6 3 h3 Nf6 4 g4

### 5 Further Adventures with 3 h3

1 d4 f5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 h3

### 6 Don't be Tricked into the Leningrad

1 d4 f5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Nc3

### 7 The Leningrad Dutch, Christmas Tree Style

1 d4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 0-0 0-0 6 c4 d6 7 Nc3 e6

### 8 The Christmas Tree: Further Branches

1 d4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 0-0 0-0 6 c4 d6 7 Nc3 e6

### 9 Team up a Quick b2-b4 with e2-e3

1 d4 f5 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nc3 d6 4 Nf3 g6 5 e3 Bg7 6 Be2 0-0 7 0-0

### 10 Encouraging d4-d5 in the Classical

7 Nc3 Nc6

### 11 The Old Faithful: 7...a5!

1 d4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 e6 4 c4 Be7 5 Nf3 0-0 6 0-0 d6 7 Nc3 a5

### 12 Fighting Back against 2 d3

1 Nf3 f5 2 d3 d6 3 e4 e5 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 exf5 Bxf5 6 d4 Nbd7

The man behind most of this violence (chapters 1, 4 and 5) is the hyper-aggressive English GM Simon Williams - a man who likely prefers his steaks rare. His chapter on 1. d4 f5 2. Bg5 h6 3. Bh4 g5 4. e4 Rh7!? is a real pioneering effort in which the lack of practical games require much original analysis. By comparison Palliser's chapter 1.d4 f5 2.Qd3 (often with g4 to follow) almost seems like a main line.

Those liking something a bit more restrained for White, but still off the theoretical radar may prefer the suggestions of 1.d4 f5 2.Nh3 or the anti-Leningrad treatment of developing the king bishop on e2 and playing b4, a line played by the Boston IM David Vigorito.

Those interested in playing the Black side of the Dutch are offered two choices in the Leningrad and the Classical. James Vigus advocates playing the Leningrad Dutch - Christmas Tree variation

# Dutch Treat, Part 1

## IM John Donaldson



(1. d4 f5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. 0-0 0-0 6. c4 d6 7. Nc3 e6). Vigus describes Black's pawns after 7...e6 (in place of the more common 7...Nc6, 7...Qe8 and 7...e6) as "assuming the spiky and visually appealing form of a Christmas tree." This variation, which seems to have a following among Ukrainian born

players (Onischuk, Malaniuk, Firman and especially the Muzychuk sisters seem especially fond of it) is based on similar ideas to 7...Qe8.

Possibly the two most important chapters in this book are those by GM Williams on his pet Classical variation (1 d4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 e6 4 c4 Be7 5 Nf3 0-0 6 0-0 d6). Following White 7.Nc3 offers two choices for Black: 7...Nc6 and the more traditional 7...a5.

William's analysis of the almost unknown 7...Nc6, which goes counter to the conventional wisdom that Black should not help White realize his idea of d5 and Nd4, is again a pioneering effort that has the misfortune of being published before Boris Avrukh's massive 1.d4 - Volume Two. The Israeli GM managed to find improvement for White in the main line that goes 7...Nc6 8.d5 Ne5 9.Nd4 Nxc4 10.Nxe6 Bxe6 11.dxe6 c6 12.Qd3 d5 13.Qxf5 Bc5 14.b3! Nb6 15.Qc2! Qe7 16.Bh3 when Black has insufficient compensation for the pawn (Avrukh). To be fair to Williams he did a lot of original work in this variation and he was never completely sold on the line. As he writes: "BEWARE! I think 7...Nc6!? is worth adding to the Classical Dutch player's repertoire, but it must be used with care. I would not use it regularly, rather just on occasion to surprise my opponent." Wise words!

Williams bread and butter has always been the flexible 7...a5 and here again it is interesting to compare his analysis with that of Avrukh who again has the advantage of again being the second to come to print.

The critical line runs 8.b3 (This is aimed partially at ...Qe8-h5. White can place his bishop on a3 and play d5 when ...e5 will not be possible because of Nxe5 as the bishop on e7 will be unprotected. One idea behind 7...a5 is that a future Ba3 can be met by ...Na6-b4) 8...Ne4 9.Bb2 Nxc3 10.Bxc3 Qe8. Here Williams examines 11.Re1. 11. e3, 11.Qd3, 11.Qe1 and 11.Qc2 finding reasonable chances for Black against all but doesn't cover Avrukh's rare 11.Ne1 - preparing e4 while taking away ...Qh5 - which will need future tests.

*Dangerous Weapons: The Dutch* concludes with an attempt to revive Black's fortune's in the tricky sideline 1.Nf3 f5 2.d3, which was used by a young Magnus Carlsen to smash Sergei Dolmatov and is given as a secret weapon for White by German GM Stefan Kinderman in his well-regarded work on the Leningrad Dutch. Palliser believes 2...d6 3 e4 e5 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 exf5 Bxf5 6 d4 Nbd7 and the tricky 2...Nc6 which can lead to reversed double King Pawn positions are both worth trying.

Recommended

*Play the Dutch* (2010 Everyman Chess, www.everymanchess.com, 176 pages, figurine notation, \$26.95) by English GM Neil McDonald is one stop shopping for those looking for an answer for Black to everything but 1.e4.

The author is enthusiastic about Black's chances playing the Dutch in an aggressive fashion as can be seen in the lines he advocates.

#### Chapter One: Dutch Gambit Lines

1.d4 f5 2.h3  
1.d4 f5 2.g4  
The Staunton Gambit

#### Chapter Two: White Plays 2.Bg5

Introduction  
Black's Maverick 2...h6  
The Natural 2...g6  
White Delays Bg5

#### Chapter Three: White Plays 2.Nc3

Introduction  
Black Plays 2...d5  
Black Plays 2...Nf6

#### Chapter Four: The Stonewall Dutch

Introduction  
Move Order  
Black's Kingside Attack vs Passive Play  
Positional Considerations  
White Plays Bf4  
White Plays Nh3  
White Avoids g3

#### Chapter Five: Classical Dutch: Introduction and Main Line

Introduction  
Black Opposes e2-e4 with ...Qg6  
Black Opposes e2-e4 with ...Qh5  
Black Plays a Quick ...Ne4 vs Everything  
White Plays an Early b2-b4

#### Chapter Six: Classical Dutch: Various Alternative Ideas

White Plays Nh3  
Black Plays ...Bb4+  
White Avoids g3

#### Chapter Seven: Leningrad Dutch: Introduction and Main Line

Introduction  
History  
Strategies  
White's Central Clamp Down: 7...Qe8 8.d5  
Black Plays 7...c6 8.d5 e5 9.dxe6 Bxe6  
Black Plays 7...Nc6

#### Chapter Eight: Leningrad Dutch: Other Ideas

White Plays Nh3  
White Plays an Early b2-b4  
White Plays c2-c3 and Qb3  
White Avoids g3

#### Index of Variations

#### Index of Complete Games

The heart of McDonald's repertoire, where Black plays the Leningrad against d4, c4, Nf3 and a kingside fianchetto is examined after a thorough examination of earlier alternatives.

## Dutch Treat, Part 2

### IM John Donaldson

The author gives Black two choices: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 Nc6 and 7...c6. The former line is known for sharp mad-dog play after 8.d5 Ne5 but McDonald prefers 8...Na5 with some similarities to the Panno variation in the Fianchetto King's Indian. Likewise after 7...c6 8.d5 McDonald again prefers the lesser line - in this case 8...Bd7 in preference to the rock-solid but drawish 8...e5.

Play the Dutch is an excellent introduction to the Dutch but it has its limitations. It's only 176 pages and tries to cover not only a Leningrad repertoire but also earlier deviations. This sometimes leads to things being left out. For example if White adopts the move order 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 0-0 7.d5 he effectively avoids the variation 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.d5 Na5 (note if Black played the ...Ne5 lines he can meet 7.d5 with 7...Nbd7 8.Nc3 Ne5.). McDonald acknowledges this and suggests Black meet 7.d5 with 7...c6. There after 8.Nc3 Bd7 9.Rb1 Na6 10.b4 McDonald has Black transpose to 7...Qe8 lines with 10...Qe8. There is nothing wrong with that but in Anderson-Beliavsky, Bazan 2008, the note after 11.a3 is a bit misleading. The position after 11.dxc6 bxc6 12.a3 Nc7 13.Bb2 is a main theoretical byway in the 7...Qe8 Leningrad well-known since Nikolic-M.Gurevich, Manila (izt) 1990. As mentioned this book is not aimed at an advanced audience but still the reader would have benefited from having this variation put into context.

This one caveat aside - Play the Dutch will serve players from 1800 to 2200 quite well.

## 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.

<b>First</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>U2000</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>U1800</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>U1600</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>U1400</b>	<b>\$50</b>

**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).

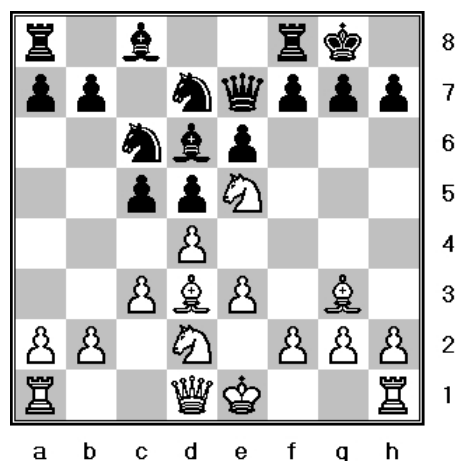
**Miscellaneous:** USCF & WCF membership req'd. No smoking. No computers.

# Games Corner

## by Charles Schulien

How far ahead should we calculate? My answer to students is simple: to the end of the forcing moves; checks, captures, and big threats.

Don't evaluate the position too soon – just go to the end of the forcing moves, otherwise you might miss a key feature or tactical twist that changes the evaluation. Case in point:



This position is reached in the London System, after **1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 c5 3. c3 e6 4. Bf4 d5 5. e3 Nc6 6. Nbd2 Bd6 7. Bg3 0-0 8. Bd3 Qe7 9. Ne5 Nd7.**

Coaching scholastic chess in Vancouver, Washington, I see this opening frequently in student games. I have long advocated 9. ...Nd7 as a classical defense to the London, based on personal experience. It is also recommended by experts such as IM John Cox (*Dealing with 1. d4 deviations*, Gambit Press, 2007).

Here, for example, is a game in which I had to meet this defense as White.

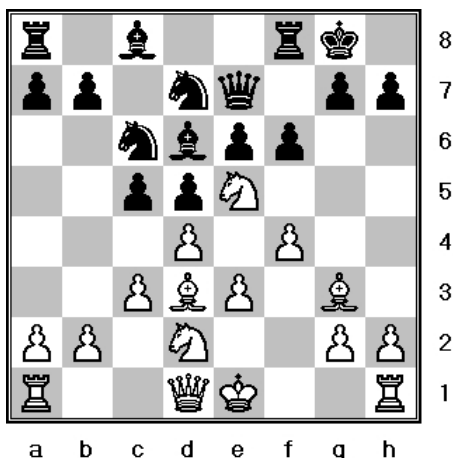
**Charles Schulien – Stuart Rachels**  
**12th Fairfield Glade Open**  
**Crossville, Tennessee, January 1989**

**1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 c5 3. c3 e6 4. Bf4 d5 5. e3 Nc6 6. Nbd2 Bd6 7. Bg3 0-0 8. Bd3 Qe7 9. Ne5 Nd7 10. f4**

This is the most consistent 'London' move, strengthening the outpost on e5. However, it cannot be maintained.

**10. ...f6!**

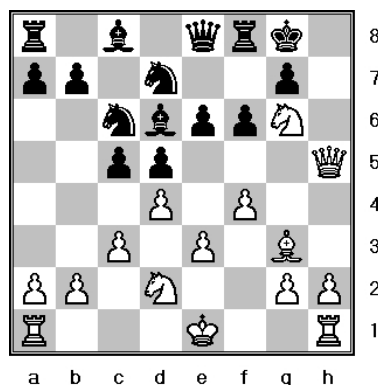
The solid 10. ...f5 is actually more popular, but rather weaker.



At this point, I could find no good way to fight for the initiative, so I decided to exchange pieces and try to equalize with the white pieces. I succeeded in this mission.

**11. Nxc6**

It is interesting that the only old note saved in my database involves the sacrifice **11. Bxh7+**. We shall see this theme in the next game, but more on that later. **11. ...Kxh7 12. Qh5+ Kg8 13. Ng6 Qe8** (not **13. ...Qf7 14. Qh8#**)



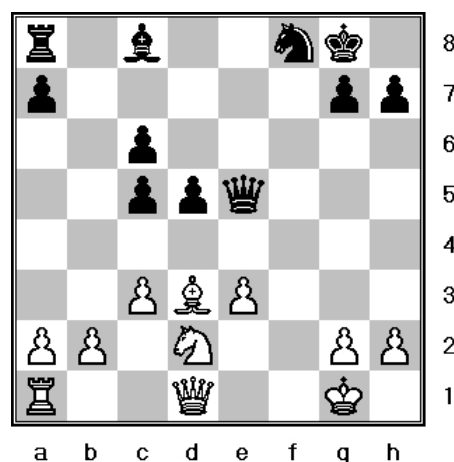
**14. Qh8+**

Better is **14. f5**, but after **14. ...Bxg3+ 15. hxg3 exf5 16. 0-0-0 Ne7** is at least fine for Black, if not entirely clear.

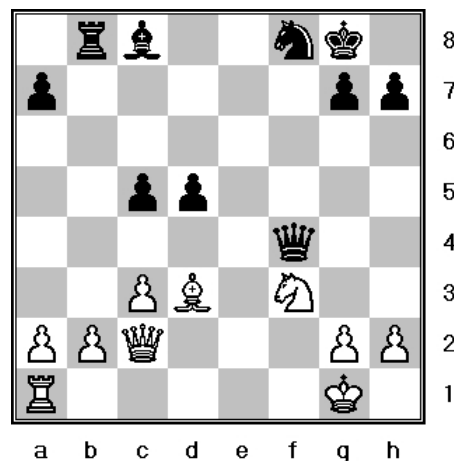
**14. ...Kf7 15. Qh5** when Black can draw at will with **...Kg8**.

The only thing that I would add is modern chess engines confirm that Black can get away with **15. ...Rg8!**, intending **...Nf8**, which refutes the sacrifice.

**11. ...bxc6 12. 0-0 e5 13. fxe5 fxe5 14. Rxf8+ Nxf8 15. dxe5 Bxe5 16. Bxe5 Qxe5**

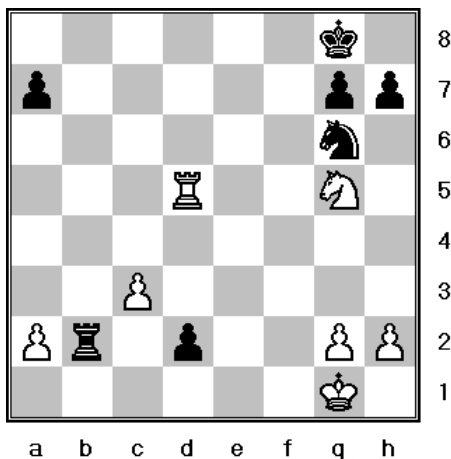


**17. e4 Rb8 18. Nf3 Qf4 19. exd5 cxd5 20. Qc2**

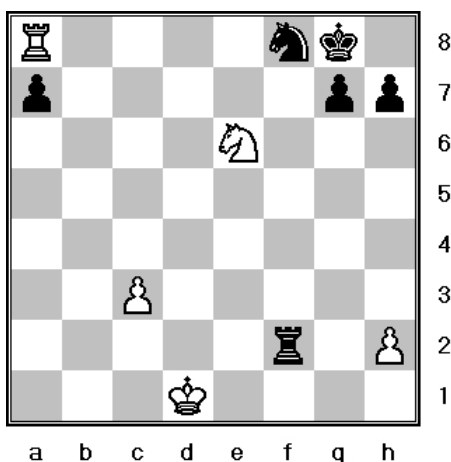


**20. ...c4 21. Bf1 Bf5 22. Qf2 Be4 23. Rd1 Ng6 24. Rd4 Qc1 25. Qd2 Qxb2 26. Qxb2 Rxb2 27. Ng5 Bd3 28. Bxd3 cxd3 29. Rxd5 d2**

**29. ...Rxc2+** should also lead to a drawn ending: **30. Kxc2 Nf4+ 31. Kf2 Nxd5 32. Ne4 Kf7 33. Ke1.**



30. Rd8+ Nf8 31. Kf1 Rxa2 32. Ke2 d1=Q+ 33. Kxd1 Rxc2 34. Ne6 Rf2 35. Ra8



35. ...Rf6 36. Nxf8 Rxf8 37. Rxa7 h5 38. Ke2 Kh7 39. c4 Kg6 40. Ra1 Re8+ 41. Kd3 Kf5 42. Rf1+ Kg4 43. Rg1+ Kh3 44. Rxc7 Kxc2 45. Rh7 Re5 46. Kd4 Rf5 47. c5 Kg3 48. c6 h4 49. c7 Rf8 50. Rg7+ Kh2 51. Rd7

1/2-1/2

I was browsing a new book last month at a local bookstore, *Play the London System*, by IM Cyrus Lakdawala. I came across the position after 9. ...Nd7, and when I read on, I was amazed at a discovery by GM Eric Prie of France.

GM Prie is a regular London System practitioner who suffered a painful loss in 2007 against GM Thomas Luther of Germany. It started like this, of course:

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bf4 e6 3. e3 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 d5 6. Nbd2 Bd6 7. Bg3 0-0 8. Bd3 Qe7 9. Ne5 Nd7

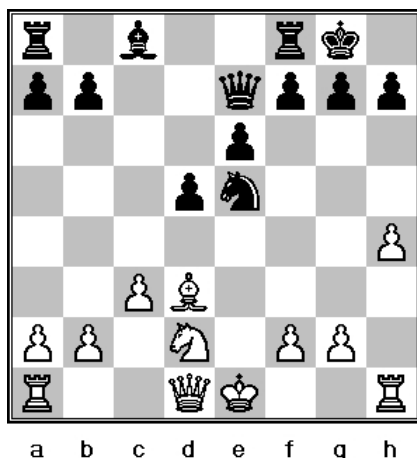
Here GM Prie tried for a quick attack.

10. h4?! cxd4

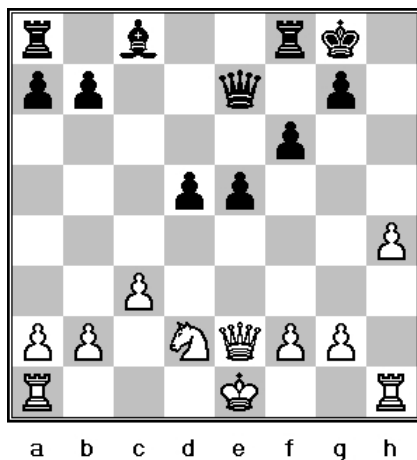
Black opens lines in the center and

exchanges pieces, cutting down the force of White's attack.

11. exd4 Bxe5 12. dxe5 Ndx5 13. Bxe5 Nxe5



14. Bxh7+ Kxh7 15. Qh5+ Kg8 16. Qxe5 f6 17. Qe2 e5



White's tactics worked, but Black gained a clear central advantage, and eventually won the game. Notice how the white rook on h1 cannot quickly join the battle.

0-1 (60 moves)

After licking his wounds, GM Prie was inspired to spend some quality time analyzing with his computer to rehabilitate the variation. We see the fruits of his labor in the following game – the amazing discovery from IM Lakdawala's book.

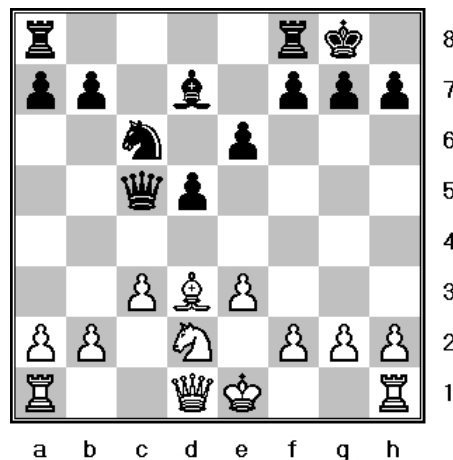
**Eric Prie – Dmitry Svetushkin  
Chalons en Champagne, Round 6  
France, May 2, 2009**

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bf4 e6 3. e3 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 d5 6. Nbd2 Bd6 7. Bg3 0-0 8. Bd3 Qe7 9. Ne5 Nd7?!

This recommended line has been busted by computer analysis and GM Eric Prie!

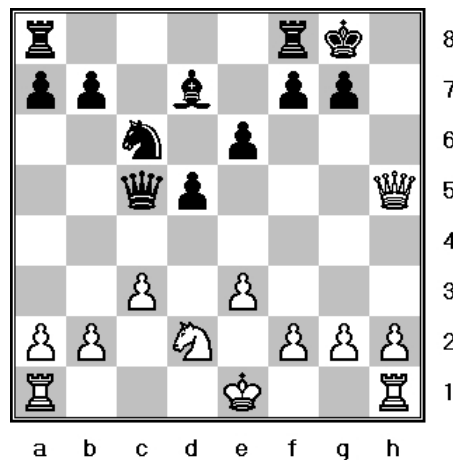
10. Nxd7

10. ...Bxd7 11. Bxd6 Qxd6 12. dxc5 Qxc5



White's last three exchanges all seem to strengthen the black position, without any obvious benefit to White. If anything, they reduce the chances for a successful attack, so human masters would tend to discount the sacrifice which follows on general considerations: White lacks enough pieces in the area, and the positional advantages are all on the opponent's side.

13. Bxh7+!! Kxh7 14. Qh5+ Kg8



How far ahead should we calculate? To the end of the forcing moves – checks, captures, and big threats.

This position arises more or less by force from the sequence begun on move ten. Are there any factors which offer White some hope? Indeed there are: the black king lacks defenders, and tactically, the black queen and bishop are both loose pieces. In fact White can exploit these factors.

15. Ne4!

White uses the lateral pin on the fifth rank to bring his knight into the attack with gain of time – a big threat to the queen.

15. ...Qc4 16. Ng5



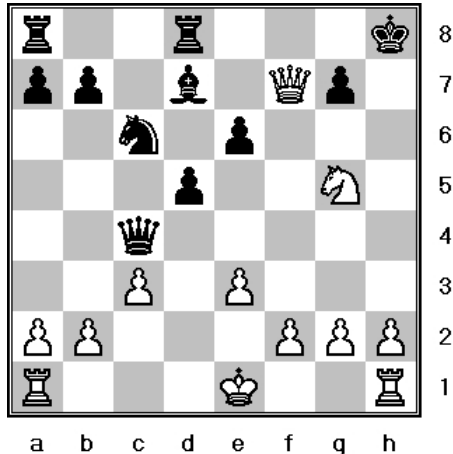
Another big threat, mate on h7. Now Black is in serious trouble. I will only give light notes for what remains, rather than copying much of Lakdawala's analysis.

Prie had worked out the attack quite a long way in his pre-game analysis, which was confirmed in practice.

**16. ...Rfd8**

Or 16. ...Qd3 17. e4!, blocking the defensive diagonal, as in C. Lakdawala – hannibal2, internet blitz 2009.

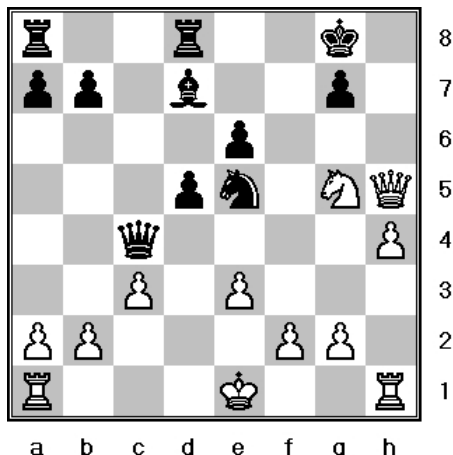
**17. Qxf7+ Kh8 18. Qh5+ Kg8 19. Qf7+ Kh8**



**20. h4!**

White has time to bring more pieces into the attack.

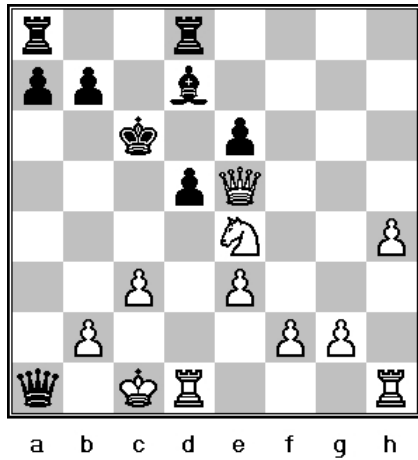
**20. ...Ne5 21. Qh5+ Kg8**



**22. 0-0-0**

The rook on d1 later joins the attack.

**22. ...Qxa2 23. Qh7+ Kf8 24. Qh8+ Ke7 25. Qxg7+ Kd6 26. Ne4+ Kc6 27. Qxe5 Qa1+**

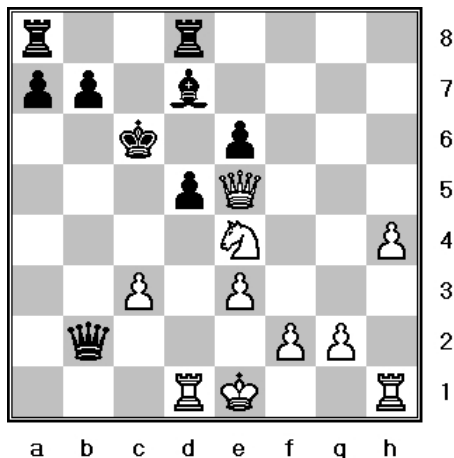


**28. Kd2!**

Not 28. Kc2 Qa4+ 29. Kc1 Qxe4 (Lakdawala).

**28. ...Qxb2+ 29. Ke1**

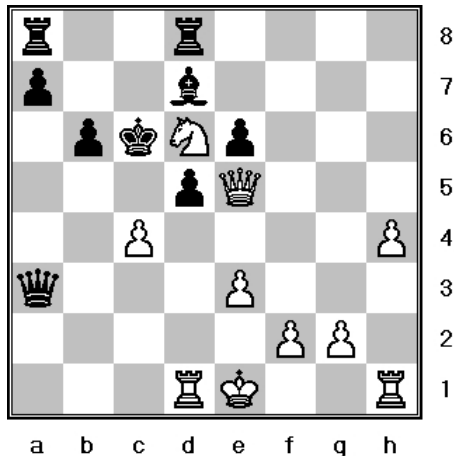
White has regained the sacrificed piece and continues the assault.



**29. ...b6**

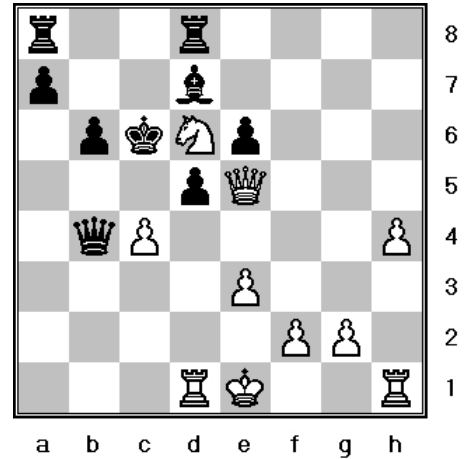
29. ...dxe4?? 30. Rd6+ Kc7 31. Rd2+, and the discovered check wins the queen.

**30. Nd6 Qa3 31. c4!**



**31. ...Qb4+**

Black cannot take the knight: 31. ... Qxd6?? 32. cxd5+ exd5 33. Rc1+ wins the black queen. (Lakdawala).



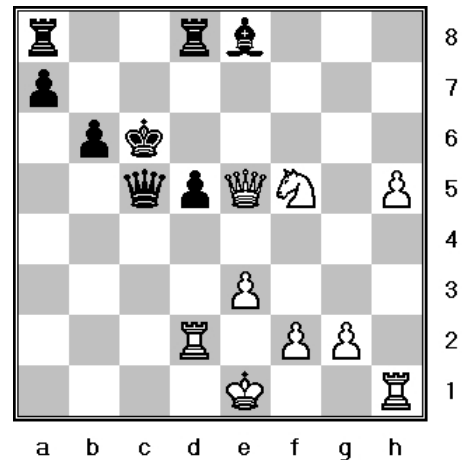
**32. Rd2!**

32. Kf1?? allows Black to take the piece on d6: 32. ...Qxd6 33. cxd5+ exd5 34. Rc1+ Kb7 35. Qxd6 Bb5+!.

**32. ...Qc5**

32. ...Qb1+? 33. Ke2! Qxh1 34. cxd5+ leads to a forced checkmate.

**33. h5 Be8 34. cxd5+ exd5 35. Nf5**



Black had suffered enough for one game, and resigned here.

**1-0**

The lesson for me is the same one I tell students: don't evaluate the position too soon – just go to the end of the forcing moves.

Chess is being revolutionized by our interactions with computers. There are some mixed blessings in these changes, but I think there are some instances where computers can encourage us to be better players. If computers can help us with this lesson, then more power to them.

\*\*\*\*\*

# E.G. Short and the Early Years of the Portland Chess Club

by Casey Bush

E.G. Short (1890-1985) was a founding member of the Portland Chess Club and became one of the best players in Portland during the first half of the Twentieth Century. Although he never finished the third grade, Short invented a mathematically-based rating system that pre-dated Arpad Elo's creation by two generations. Employed automating telephone switchboards, his job took him to Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles. While briefly living in those cities, Short spread the use of his system up and down the West Coast.

E.G. (Glenn) Short was born in North Dakota but moved to Portland at an early age. He and his father were in attendance in 1911 at the first meeting of the Portland Chess Club which was held in a dentist's office downtown on an upper floor of the elegant Dekum Building. Glenn was self-taught in most areas of his life. He learned to read by deciphering Alexander Dumas' classic, *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Throughout his life he was an omnivorous reader and subscribed to dozens of magazines at a time that ranged widely in subject from literature to science to history.

Glenn's rivalry with prominent businessman A.G. Johnson prompted him to devise his rating system. Mr. Johnson was a Harvard educated lawyer who held prominent positions in the Department of Public Works, Oregon Employment Service, as well as in the management of the Strong & MacNaughton Trust. Initially Johnson had instituted a rating system based on the simple method of "challenging" which placed the winner of each game ahead of his opponent, allowing someone to leap frog over the entire field with just one lucky victory. In 1915 Short introduced his system in order to demonstrate through statistics who was the best player at the PCC, but it only served to sharpen the debate.

The exploits of both Short and Johnson were partially documented in a newspaper column, carried by the Oregonian, and authored by PCC member E.H. Bryant. He faithfully chronicled the accomplishments of local players when Grandmasters visited the Rose City and faced its finest in simultaneous exhibitions. In 1915 U.S. Champ Frank Marshall played 92 boards, with four losses and 11 draws, including a draw with Short and a loss to Johnson. Both players also participated in an event against the nine-year-old Sammy Reshevsky, in June 1921; this time with Johnson drawing the visiting prodigy and Short winning.

After that time, Short's job took him away from Portland while Johnson stayed put and dominated the PCC and bested visiting luminaries including future and former world champions Alexander Alekhine (1924) and Emanuel Lasker (1926). Upon his return, Short was frustrated to find that he and Johnson were still at the exact same level, within just a few rating points on Short's scale. A few years later, Short arranged for Johnson to play a match against one of his students, a high-school kid named Arthur Dake. After Johnson lost the match to the future grandmaster, he was rarely seen down at the PCC again.

Short, on the other hand, was actively involved in the club into the 1970s. His job with Western Electric dried up during the Great

Depression at which time he purchased a locksmith business in St. Johns on the installment plan, "one key at a time." During that time, at the age of 40, Short became an adamant Socialist and was able to reconcile his means of employment with his political philosophy by stating, "Capitalism is based on private property that can only be protected by lock and key." Over the years, Short was many times PCC president, organized events and maintained a high level of chess skill into old age. That fact is documented by the records contained in Oregon Historical Society collection #1784 that are based on his rating system. Variations of the Short System are used to this day at the Portland Chess Club and San Francisco's Mechanics Institute.

According to Arpad Elo (*The Rating of Chessplayers*, 1978) ranking systems were initially devised at the end of the Nineteenth Century. He notes of that era, "no system developed from basic theory has ever come to the writer's attention." Dr. Elo then goes on to dismiss the early attempts with a mathematical slight. "It



*E.G. Short plays against Herman Steiner.  
Simultaneous exhibition, Portland, Oregon, 1950s.*

appears that rating system practitioners in the first century of effort almost invariably selected *rectangular distribution* and *linear probability functions*, albeit the selections were indirect and unsuspecting.”

The current international system, initiated in 1959, is named after Arpad Elo who improved upon the work of others including Anton Hosslinger (Germany, 1948), Kenneth Harkness (America, 1949), and Richard Clarke (England, 1953). Even in those systems he found certain flaws: “At first glance it seems appealingly simple, but thoughtful examination reveals that a strong player can lose points even with a perfect score and a weak player can gain points by losing all his games, circumstances not unlikely.” The accuracy of Dr. Elo’s system has led to fair and equitable distribution of titles and the popularity of the Swiss style tournament.

Elo expresses the continuous rating formula as:  $R_n = R_o + K(W - We)$  where  $R_n$  is the new rating after the tournament,  $R_o$  is the pre-event rating,  $K$  is the rating point value of a single game score, with  $W$  being the actual game score (1,0, 1/2) with  $We$  being the expected game score based on the pre-event rating. Seems simple enough until you begin to apply it. Then Elo brings up such esoteric subjects as the method of successive approximations, the management of deflation, as well as the Maxwell-Boltzmann function which is most used to describe the distribution of molecular speeds in a gas.

Elo suggests that the first modern system was devised by the Correspondence Chess League of America (1939) and that European postal chess organizations had utilized similar means to rank their members and award titles as early as the 1920s. But while E.G. Short may not have had a true “system,” as early as 1915 he did have a very precise method which utilized a sophisticated probability table. In essence Short’s table provides the exact estimation of  $K(W - We)$ , the point value of a single game score based on the previously established difference in rating.

Elo credits Karl Gauss (1777-1855) for developing the mathematics associated with the normal distribution curve which is the foundation of much of statistical probability theory. But Gauss was interested in astronomical predictions, not chess. Certainly through his job for the phone company Short had been exposed to some of those ideas and had seen probability tables related to physics.

Short’s system is created for match play, not tournaments. Short’s rating chart only accommodates a skill difference of 400 on a scale of 0-2000. He estimated that the strong club player would be rated between 650-800. Once Arthur Dake’s chess career took off, Short was able to extrapolate Dake’s score against the world’s finest, providing a direct measure of the talent on the West Coast. Just like Elo, Short could not refrain from using his system to back-date chess skill. Examining the historic record, Short was able to judge the strength of long dead chess immortals like Paul Morphy and William Steinitz. Unfortunately, such comparisons are fraught with statistical and philosophic complications.

In addition to his system, Short also constructed a chalkboard to keep track of the PCC ratings. That contraption was made with individual slots for each member that could be interchanged based on weekly summaries. I was a participant in the accidental destruction of that device. It was during the late 1980s after Mr. Short had passed away. The Portland Chess Club had moved like a

nomad driven out of downtown to a storefront on Powell Blvd., then a house in Southeast, back over the river to a basement by Lincoln High School and then to the fourth floor of the Ticor Building. I can’t remember which move or who was on the other end, it might have been Milt Colpron, Otto Janacek or even Janos Plesko, but anyway, we were moving the club once again and somehow the rating board, already having survived much of the Twentieth Century, fell apart in our hands as we tried to load it into the rental truck. That was the end of that, so we just wrote down all the current ratings and Milt constructed a white dryboard board to replace the old chalk blackboard. Things will never be quite the same again, but the numbers still tell the story.

*Casey Bush is the author of the biography, **Grandmaster from Oregon: The Life and Games of Arthur Dake**, Portland Chess Press 1991, as well as the 1990 CJA-award-winning review, “A Tower Struck by Lightning,” published in Northwest Chess. He writes of the Portland Chess Club, “The club was founded in 1911 in a dentist’s office in the Dekum building and two years later got its first home in the Circle Theater that was owned by G.T. Woodlaw, who provided quarters for the club until the mid-1940s.”*

*Thus the Portland Chess Club is quickly approaching its 100th anniversary. Happy Birthday, PCC.*



*J. VanZante sits in front of the PCC ratings blackboard. Circle Theater(?). 1930s.*

# Championship Training

## by Corey Russell



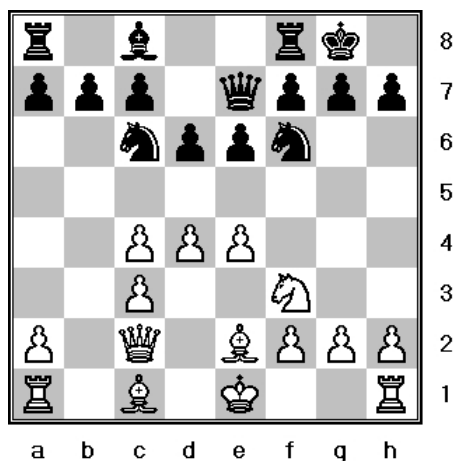
### CM 6000: Hans – Corey Russell Oregon Open Training Game, Round 1 Corey's computer, August 17, 2010

I am playing Hans, a 2513 Chessmaster 6000 personality. I am playing some practice games in preparation for my participation in the 2010 Oregon Open. The description of his playing style is "balanced". Time control is game/90 minutes, no time increment.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 Nc6 5. Nf3 0-0 6. e4

I was a little surprised by this move, as this allows me to double the white c-pawns by force. That would give White the bishop pair and a reinforced center too, so still a lot of game left.

6. ...Bxc3+ 7. bxc3 d6 8. Be2 Qe7



9. 0-0

I was a little surprised by this move, too. It seems 9. e5!? would open lines for the bishops as well as gain space. Now that I get ...e5 instead I feel a bit better about my position.

9. ...e5 10. d5 Na5!?

Not without risk. 10. ...Nb8 was the safer move. During the game realized that 11. Nd2 intending Nb3 seems to give White a nice game.

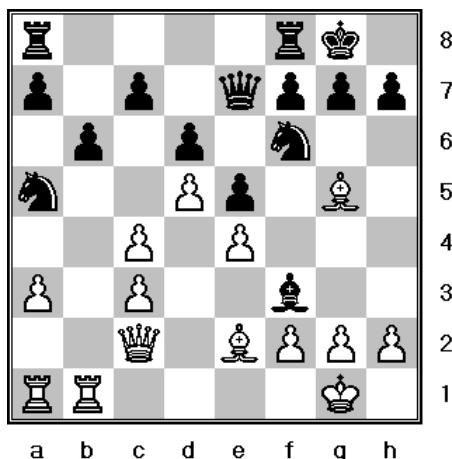
11. Bg5 Bg4

I was not going to give the computer another chance to play Nd2. In general exchanges tend to favor Black with his better pawn structure.

12. Rfb1 b6 13. a3?!

Black has a slight advantage after this. 13. Qa4 instead would prevent any loss of material or doubled pawns.

13. ...Bxf3



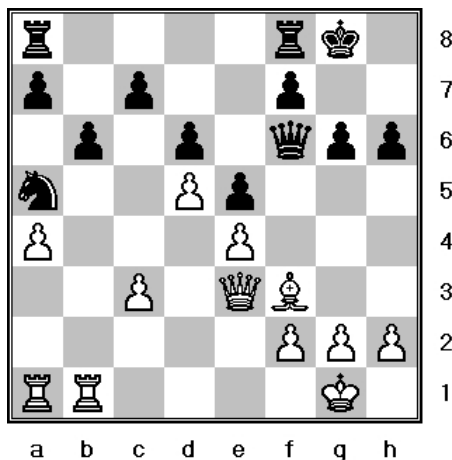
14. Bxf3

Another surprise by the computer. I had expected 14. gxf3 h6 followed by either 15. Bxf6 Qxf6 or 15. Be3 Nh5 but the computer apparently decided losing a pawn was safer than weakening his king-side. Considering the computer managed to draw maybe he was correct.

14. ...Nxc4 15. Qd3 Na5 16. Bh4

This move seemed to say to me the computer was just "temporizing"; that is maintaining the status quo. I wanted to play ...Rfc8 but Bg4! is a good response. So the next moves by Black are to prepare ...Rc8 by being able to either parry or prevent Bg4.

16. ...h6 17. Bxf6 Qxf6 18. a4 g6 19. Qe3

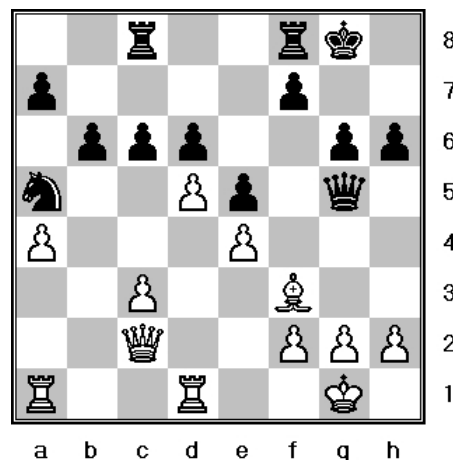


19. ...Qg5

Defends the h6 pawn with tempo. Queen trade would be nice for Black, but White correctly follows the principle of trading pawns and not pieces when down material.

20. Qe2 c6 21. Qc2 Rac8 22. Rd1

At first I thought this was a mistake as you rarely want to put a king or queen on the same file as an enemy rook, but it appears to defend quite well.



22. ...Rc7 23. dxc6 Rxc6 24. Be2 Rfc8 25. Rd3

This is a good move. Besides strong defense for c3, it has opportunity for annoying sorties on the king side.

25. ...Qe7 26. Rh3 Kg7 27. Ba6 R8c7 28. Rd1 Nc4

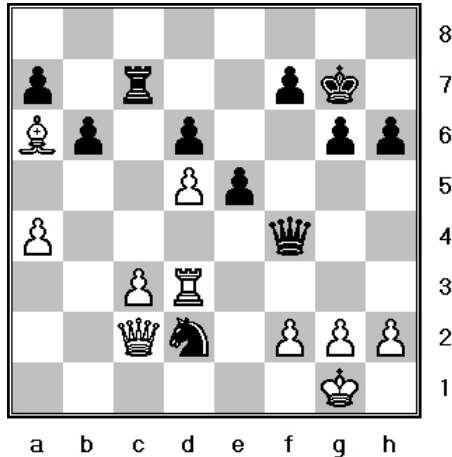
This knight doesn't ever go anywhere. Looking at this position again, 28. ...Nb7 doesn't seem to be too bad because if White

takes then Black can mobilize his extra queen-side pawn.

**29. Rd5 Rc5 30. Qb3?!**

This move seems doubtful to me. With the exchange of rooks, there is no more pressure on Black's d-pawn, which allows Black more freedom of movement.

**30. ...Rxd5 31. exd5 Nd2 32. Qc2 Qg5 33. Rg3 Qf4 34. Rd3**



**34. ...Nc4**

Of course not 34. ...Ne4?? 35. Rf3 Qg4 36. h3 Qh4 37. g3 and Black would lose a piece.

Corey,

*That isn't strictly true because after 35. Rf3 Qh4, White has to take a draw with Rf3-h3-f3 and so on, since 36. g3 Qg4 hits the loose Rf3.*

*But more interesting for Black would be (after 35. Rf3) to grab pawns for the piece with 35. ...Rxc3, after which either 36. Rxf4 Rxc2 or 36. Rxc3 Nxc3 leads to at least three pawns for the knight. I haven't tried to fully evaluate those positions, but I suspect Black has pretty good chances. BUT, and this is important, a draw or "pretty good chances" are NOT as good as what you played, since you're clearly much better in the game line. This note is mostly just checking the "lost piece" idea, so though that isn't quite correct, it is true that it isn't the best for you.*

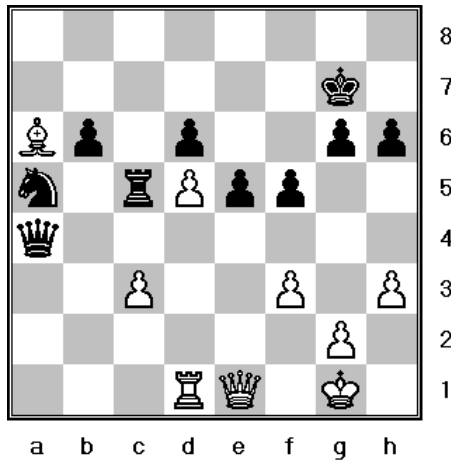
Ralph

**35. Rd1 f5**

A committal move, but didn't see how else to make any progress.

**36. h3 Rc5 37. Qa2 Qe4 38. Bb5 Na5 39. Qd2 a6 40. f3 Qh4 41. Bxa6 Qxa4 42.**

**Qe1**



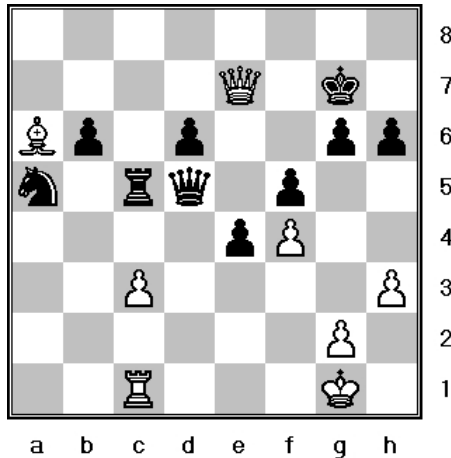
**42. ...Qc2**

I was starting to get into time pressure here, but this was the mistake that got White back into the game. I did not even consider White's following moves. Instead 42. ... Nb3 43. B moves Qa5! keeps Black's advantage.

**43. f4!**

Great move by White. Threatens to take on e5, which would create a passed d-pawn for White which in this position is a screamer. But if I take, White can infiltrate on e7 with his queen. And finally if I bypass the f-pawn, the white f-pawn now prevents a ...g5 by Black.

**43. ...e4 44. Rc1 Qb3 45. Qh4 Qxd5 46. Qe7+**



**46. ...Kh8**

If instead 46. ...Qf7 47. Qxd6 and with no true king safety for Black, and with White about to have full control of the d-file and the black knight still has no where to go, seems to give initiative to White.

Corey,

*You really shouldn't allow the draw*

*by repetition. Instead, after 46. ...Qf7 47. Qxd6 Qc7!, you're offering a queen exchange, hitting c3 and f4, and (maybe the biggest deal) threatening to play ...b5 trapping the wayward bishop on a6. However, you did say you were in time pressure here, so since I don't know how much time pressure, it might have been impractical to work out the details.*

Ralph

\*\*\*

Ralph,

Actually ...Qc7 was my first thought. I had about 10 minutes left for the entire game at that point. I couldn't work out the details in that amount of time especially if I keep the queens on. What I was worried about was 47. ...Qc7 then white playing 48. Qe6 threatening what seemed horrific Rd1. Now that I am not in time pressure can see if 48. Qe6 then 48. ...Rc6 defends and keeps the plus. (Note that if after Qe6, ...Qd8 then Rb1=) But I didn't see that resource with the time allotted and therefore allowed the draw.

My comment was based on the lines I saw at the board. Specifically ...Qc7 Qe6 and Black NOT playing ...Rc6. Because if Black doesn't do that, White wins or draws.

Corey

**47. Qf6+ Kh7 48. Qe7+ Kh8 49. Rb1 Nb3 50. Qf8+ Kh7 51. Qe7+ Kh8 52. Qf6+ Kh7 53. Qe7+ Kh8**

1/2-1/2

Corey,

*Right, time pressure can prevent you from being able to put the time into positions that actually need it -- though obviously you thought time was needed earlier in order to get into time pressure in the first place. It's like walking a tightrope choosing whether to use the time in the opening/middlegame or save some for the ending.... I think it's good to use more time in practice games in order to avoid the problem of moving too quickly in actual early key positions. One of the dangers of inactivity is the indecision when faced with choices in competition.*

Ralph

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Washington Challenger's Cup**

December 11-12, 2010 at the Seattle Chess Club

*The highest finishing Washington resident in the open section will be seeded into the 2011 state championship (provided the activity requirement is met), to be contested in February.*

### **Seattle Chess Club location:**

2150 N. 107th St in the Northway Square East Building across from Northgate Mall.

Format: Two sections; Open and Reserve (under 1800).

Open: 4 Round Swiss; Reserve: 5 Round Swiss.

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

Registration: Saturday 9:00-9:45 AM.

Rounds: Open Sat. 10:00, 4:00, Sun. 10:00, 4:00 or A.S.A.P.

Reserve Sat. 10:00, 2:30, 7:00, Sun. 10:00, 3:00 or A.S.A.P.

Entry Fee: Adults \$30.00 advance, \$40.00 at the site.

Juniors \$20.00 advance, \$25.00 at site.

Unrated players free with purchase of USCF and WCF memberships.

Prize fund: \$600.00 (based on 25 full paying entries).

Open 1<sup>st</sup> \$110.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$90.00, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000 \$80.00

Reserve 1<sup>st</sup> \$100.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$80.00, 1<sup>st</sup> U1600 \$70.00, 1<sup>st</sup> U1400 \$70.00

Byes: Two half-point byes available rounds 1-4 (Reserve section). NS NC.

USCF and WCF memberships required. Karch Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix event.

Entries/Info: c/o 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.

# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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

## Attendance in 2010

Novice (1/30)–11, (4/25)–5, (8/1)–5, (11/13)–6; Quads  
 (1/2)–29, (1/23)–32, (2/27)–34, (3/20)–30, (4/24)–19, (5/  
 15)–20, (6/5)–20, (7/3)–26, (7/31)–10, (8/28)–28, (9/25)–  
 22, (10/16)–22; Tornados (1/31)–24, (2/21)–22, (3/14)–  
 28, (4/11)–25, (5/9)–8, (6/26)–20, (7/18)–16, (8/15)–22,  
 (9/12)–16, (10/10)–24; Seattle City Championship (1/  
 15-17)–29, Seattle Spring Open (3/26-28)–57, Adult  
 Swiss (5/1-2)–11, Emerald City Open (6/18-20)–33,  
 Seattle Seafair Open (7/23-25)–62, Pioneer Square  
 Blitz (8/29)–25, Seattle Fall Open (9/17-19)–48; Ex-  
 travaganza (11/5-7)–33.

## Dec. 15; Jan. 5, 19 1st & 3rd Wed. Quick Quads

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

## 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. For overall prize(s) rtd. game counts 2.36, QC–0.78, FR–0.86, CV–0.98. \$0.99 for stupidest question to TD. **Reg:** 7:00-7:42 p.m. **Rds:** 8:06 p.m.-(QC) 11:13-11:44-12:19-12:54-(FR) 1:29-2:21-3:13-(CV) 4:05-5:08-6:11 **Byes:** 3 available all rounds if requested 19 min. before. **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd for rtd. game and Quick Chess. Breakfast for all who go the distance. NS. NC. *FischeRandom starting positions and Chess Variants to be listed on www.seattlechess.org at or before 5:07 p.m. on 12/29.*

## Jan. 2, Jan. 30 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.

## January 8 SCC Novice

**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 1/5, \$16 at site. (-\$2 for SCC mem., -\$1 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** Memb(SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4–commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

## Jan. 14-16 Seattle City Championship

**Format:** 2 sec., 5 rd. Swiss. **TC:** 40/2, SD/1 (Rd.1 2-day option – G/64). **EF:** **Championship** \$42 (\$33 for SCC mem., \$38 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/12, \$50 (\$39, \$44) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free. **Reserve (U1800)** \$33 (\$24 for SCC mem., \$29 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/14, \$42 (\$33, \$38) at site. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr USCF & WCF. **Add** \$1 for 2-day schedule (Rd 1–Sat. 10 a.m., G/64). **Prize Fund:** \$\$1000 (b/50, 5/prz gp). **Prizes:** **Championship** \$225-140, X 90, A 70; **Reserve (U1800)** \$125-80, C 60, D 50, E & under 40, Unr. 20. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. or Sat. 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:30, Sun. 11-5. **Byes:** 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

## January 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.

## 2011 Weekends

**Novice:** Jan. 8, Apr. 16, Jul. 30, Oct. 30. **Insanity:** Dec. 31. **Quads:** Jan. 22, Feb. 19, Mar. 19, Apr. 16, May 14, June 18, July 9, Aug. 22, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 12, Dec. 31. **TCC vs. SCC Match:** Mar. 5. **Tornados:** Jan. 2, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, Mar. 27, Apr. 17, May 8, Jun. 12, Jul. 17, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 20, Dec. 11.

Seattle City Champ.–January 14-16.

Seattle Spring Open–April 1-3.

SCC Adult Swiss–April 30-May 1.

Emerald City Open–June 24-26.

Seafair Open–July 22-24.

Seattle Fall Open–Sept. 23-25.

Extravaganza–November 4-6.

SCC Junior Swiss–December 3-4.

# Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

## ♣ 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 22 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.

### From the Business Manager:

Greetings and Happy Holidays to everyone! Three-year subscription discounts are now available. These include full OCF or WCF memberships as applicable to residents of Oregon and Washington. Pay only \$60 for three years (adult), \$40 (junior) or \$12 (additional family member w/o subscription). These favorable rates will only be in effect until March 2011, so act now. New rates are available on the PayPal subscription page and on the PDF (mail-in) subscription form (both linked on the NWC website magazine page), or just send a check or money order to the Business Manager, payable to NWC, with your name and membership number (see your label). Washington residents must add the correct sales tax or your subscription term will be reduced.

– Eric Holcomb



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