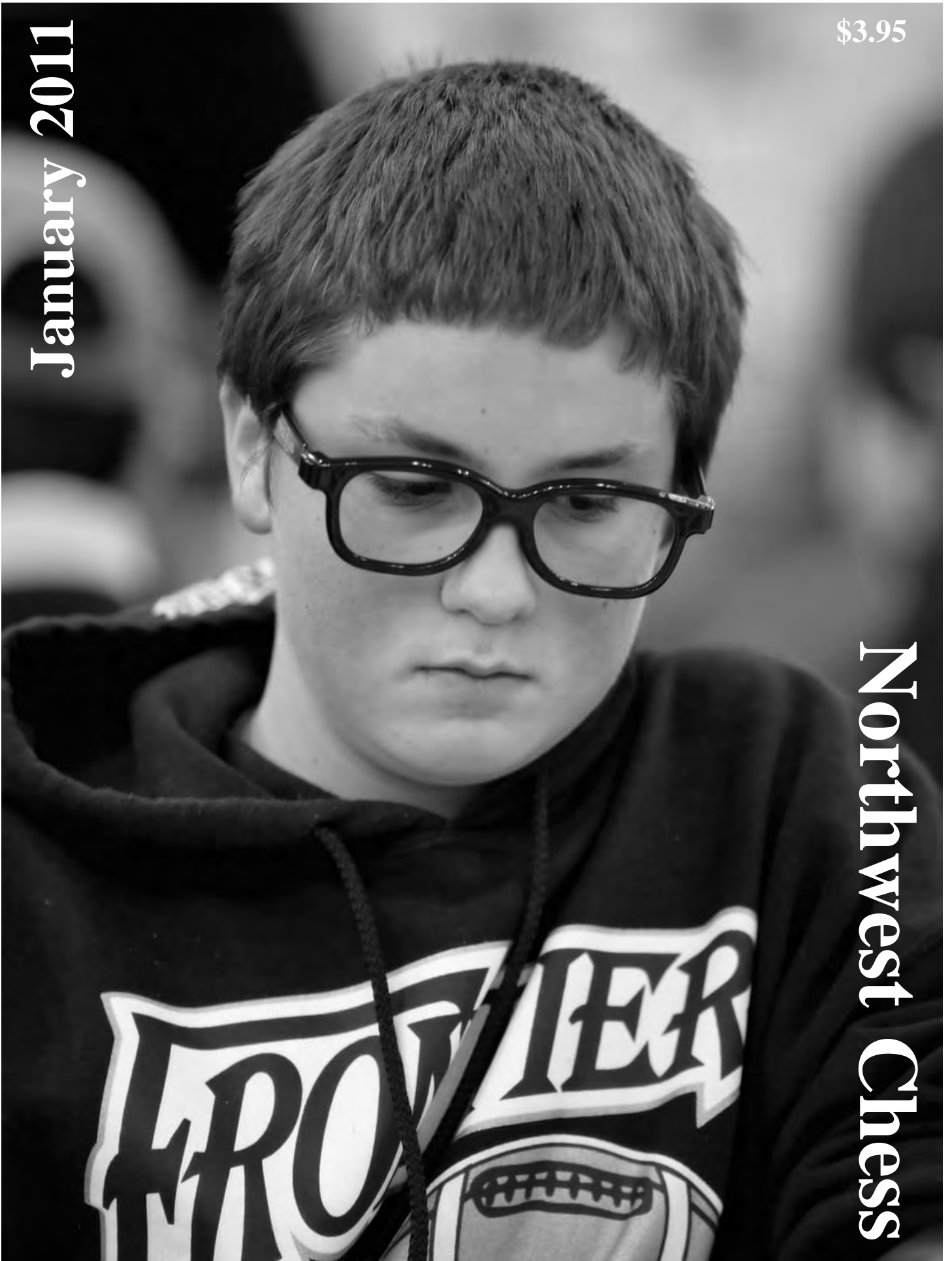


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Northwest Chess



# Northwest Chess

# Contents

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*It seems hard to believe but it was 38 years ago I first set foot in the Tacoma Chess Club. The club, in the midst of the Fischer-Spassky boom, had well over a 100 members but was still quite friendly and inviting. Not long after my first visit in September of 1972 I was regularly visiting several times a week.*

*John Evans and John Ward were organizing many of the activities and one reoccurring event was the Senior-Junior matches pitting youngsters like myself and Eric Tangborn against the veteran members of the club. This is how I first learned about the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit both through the writings of Robert Rittenhouse in the Tacoma Chess Club Times and through the games of Ernst Rasmussen. More than one Tacoma junior, myself included, got a quick and painful tutorial in gambit play - how to attack and defend - from Ernst whose friendly manner and fine sportsmanship masked a fierce love of attacking chess. We quickly learned to value our King when Ernst was around!*

*The past few decades it has always been a great pleasure to run into Ernst at tournaments in the Northwest or as far afield as Los Angeles, Reno and Philadelphia. People like Ernst are what got me interested in the game and I will always be eternally grateful.*

*Happy Birthday Ernst!*

*John Donaldson*

*When I was a regular member of the Tacoma Chess Club back in the 70s, an expert-strength player, I learned to fear the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit whenever I had black against Ernst. I tried everything against it. I tried gambiting pawns back, putting my king bishop on g7, playing it straight up, pinning his Nf3 with . . . Bg4, ignoring it—and Ernst still crushed me quickly, without even breaking a sweat, moving his pieces gently and sedately to their squares, as if to say, “Not to alarm you or anything, but ho-hum, you’re about to get crushed.” It was an odd juxtaposition. Ernst’s moves were fierce and accurate (I don’t recall ever winning when I was black), yet he played with great humor and gentlemanly composure, and he was one of the nicest, most welcoming people I’ve ever run across. Pipe in hand, nearly always in a sweater, he’d graciously go over our games, then share stories from his truly interesting life. And then the very next time we played, he’d school me again, nicely but thoroughly, in the Blackmar-Diemer.*

*Happy birthday, Ernst, and thank you for the games and stories, and for your calm, witty presence.*

*Paul Eggers*

*The Tacoma Chess Club in the 1970s was the golden era of chess for many of us, and Ernst played a big role in that. I will always remember you and those times fondly. Happy Birthday Ernst!*

*Eric Tangborn*

## From the Editor's Desk

### Ralph Dubisch

My intention for this issue was to feature the Washington Class Championships, held in Redmond over the Thanksgiving weekend. Philip Peterson took some good pictures from the event. However, as the submission deadline approached and passed, the official WCF story of the tournament never materialized.

Fortunately, Mike Schemm went to Italy for the World Senior Championships. Also, Class C Champion Fred Davis asked Chuck Schulien to annotate his games from the Washington Class. Fred Kleist supplied a timely report on the Seattle Chess Club team effort at the Western States Open in Reno, and Alex Guo sent the Seattle Sluggers season wrap-up. Dana Muller and Harley Greninger wrote columns, Daniel Gay and Dave Humphrey sent a game each, and presto! 32 pages of *Northwest Chess*.

In fact, there's more good material left for next month. Bill McGeary just completed a five-part (!) theoretical series on a line in the Queen's Gambit. Wayne Hatcher is still pinching himself to verify that he wasn't dreaming: he's got pictures of his personal meeting with Garry Kasparov in St. Louis. Philip Peterson wrote up a "how not to play a chess game" story about a recent correspondence effort. Murlin Varner promises a thorough year-end wrap-up of the first Karch Memorial Grand Prix. There's plenty of possible book reviews, games, and columns from our regular contributors and perhaps some newer faces.

Plus there's even a small chance that the WCF will send a Washington Class story to go with all the Philip Peterson pictures.

\*\*\*

Late breaking news: Alexandra Botez won the Portland Winter Open. Neil Dale writes:

*This most likely is a first: a woman player winning a major Portland Chess Club tournament. That is something for the club historian(s) to check out and verify. Congratulations, Alexandra, it looks like you made history. Botez scored 4 out of 5, her only loss coming to Richard Gutman in round 2. In the last round she was victorious over USCF Master Steven Breckenridge. Breckenridge finished tied for second with Brian Esler and Bill Heywood with 3 1/2 points each. Ben Chu-Kung scored 3 points with the help of a last round 1/2 point bye to claim the U-2000 honors.*

*It was a different story in the Reserve section: Jim McAleer from Yakima finished first with 5 out of 5. 3 players tied for second with 3 1/2 points each: A. Mueller-Warrant, Tony Midson and Jason Ellis. A total of 34 players showed up for this tournament.*

\*\*\*

Your faithful editor has a family addition: Roy Peter Dubisch was born Thanksgiving Day. Yes, this does make getting the issue out just a little more complicated. In order to keep things working as smoothly as possible, I'll be sticking to published deadlines for submissions and doing the editing and layout as early in the cycle as I can. When the going gets tough, the tough get done quickly so they can play with the new baby.

Happy New Year, everyone!

# World Senior Championships

## by Michael Schemm

Having had (for me) outstanding results in the two U.S. Senior Championships I have played in, I decided to up the ante and play in the 2010 World Senior Chess Championship, which was held in Arco, Italy.

Arco is a small tourist town about 120 miles northeast of Milan and north of Lake Garda, Italy's largest lake at almost twice the size of Lake Washington. Arco is extremely beautiful, with mountains starting literally at the edge of town. Most of the town has narrow winding brick streets with buildings on each side that look centuries old. However, inside everything is usually as modern as can be.

The tournament conditions were excellent. When you came to your board, there was a set completely set up, a pre-set clock, score sheets and a name tag for each player, with the players name, FIDE rating, and country flag. One could simply sit down and start playing. They did follow the somewhat strange new FIDE rule that you would forfeit if you were not seated at your game at the designated start time. I am not aware of anyone who forfeited because they were not there on time.

Also, the main playing hall had old wooden floors. With about 200 players in the room, there was a constant background squeaking, reminiscent of crickets in the background at night. I did not find it distracting, and I heard no complaints, although it could have disturbed some of the players. They were so well organized that when they had to change the playing time of the last round, they gave everyone two notices the round before. One had to be signed and returned to the directors so they could be sure everyone had been notified!

Next year's tournament is in Opatija, Croatia, November 14-27. If you are old enough (age 60), and have the time and the money, I highly recommend it. I enjoyed it a lot.



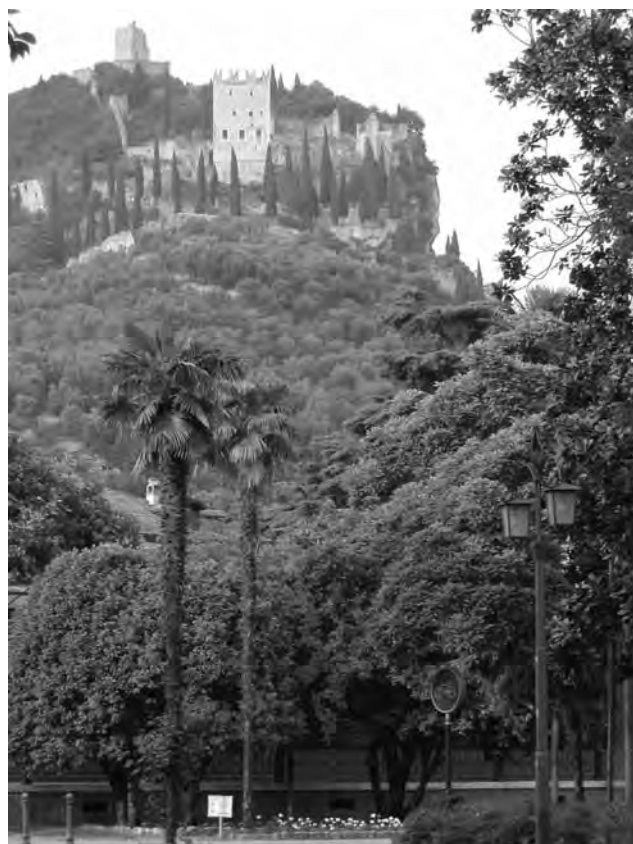
*Arco, Italy. Photo credit: Zavijavah; Wikimedia Commons.*

There was both a men's and women's division, with the men's division having 224 players. There were only 7 American players. Larry Kaufman of the U.S., who became a Grandmaster by winning the World Senior in 2008, tied for first this year with three other GM's all scoring 8 1/2 points. There were 16 GMs total. I had the second best U.S. record, after Larry, scoring 7 points. They chose not to use national ratings, so, as I have never obtained a FIDE rating, I was paired as unrated, which gave me relatively favorable pairings. There are some interesting ratings at senior tournaments. For example, I was paired against an International Master in the first round – who had a FIDE rating of only 2100!! Later I played next to an IM with a FIDE 2022 rating.

I started badly, winning only 1 of my first 4 games. However, I had my stubborn hat on, and did not get discouraged. I then won 6 out of the last 7 games for a final score of 7-4, with no draws. Interestingly, I eventually finished higher than the four opponents I lost to, including the IM, defeating fellow American Master Jude Acers in the last round.

I must give credit to Clint Ballard. I pretty much played what he calls the Ballardsov every game as white, with good results. As I have no memory whatsoever, I try to play off-the-wall openings so that my opponents will be as confused as I am in the opening. However, I still often get pretty poor positions. Since I often must try to win from poor positions, I feel a little like GM Matthew Sandler when he said in this year's (2010) *New in Chess* #6, "Start badly, get worse, then swindle them in the end."

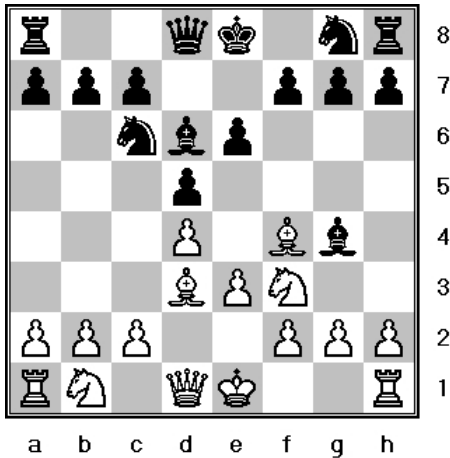
In my first game, against IM Chubar from the Ukraine, I made some poor judgments and missed some moves. My only consolation is that he missed a mate in three that I saw a few moves before I resigned.



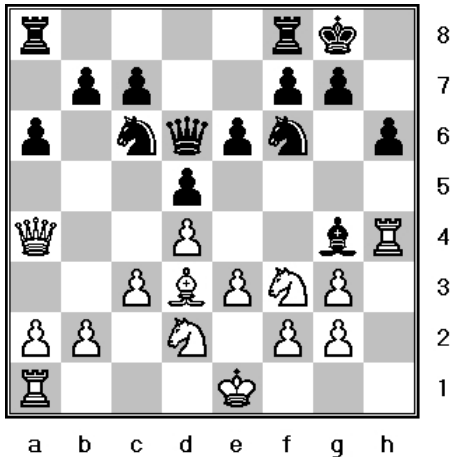
*Castello of Arco. Photo credit: Sven Papke; public domain.*

Vladimir Chubar – Michael Schemm  
World Senior Championship, Round 1  
Arco, Italy, October 26, 2010

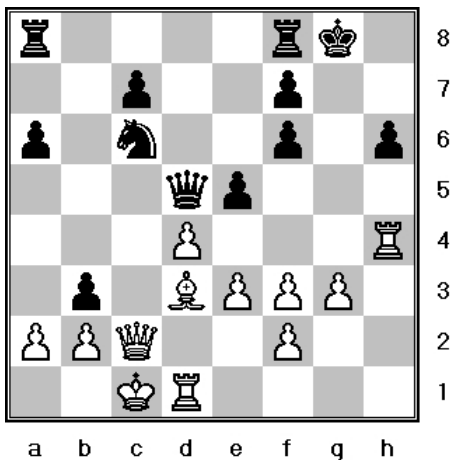
1. d4 Nc6 2. Nf3 d5 3. Bf4 Bg4 4. e3 e6  
5. Bd3 Bd6



6. Bg3 Bxg3(?) 7. hxg3 Nf6 8. c3 Qd6  
9. Nbd2 h6 10. Qa4 0-0 11. Rh4 a6



12. 0-0-0 b5 13. Qc2 b4 14. c4 e5? 15.  
cxd5 Qxd5 16. Ne4 Bxf3 17. Nxf6+ gxf6  
18. gxf3 b3



19. Qxb3

19. Rg4+! Kh8 20. Rh1 and 21. Rxh6#.

19. ...Qxb3 20. axb3 Rfb8 21. Be4 Rb6  
22. dxe5 fxe5 23. Rxh6

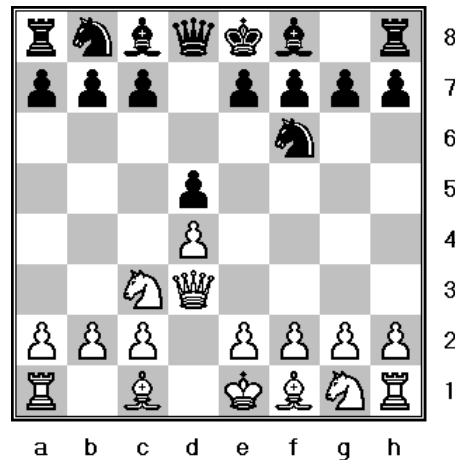
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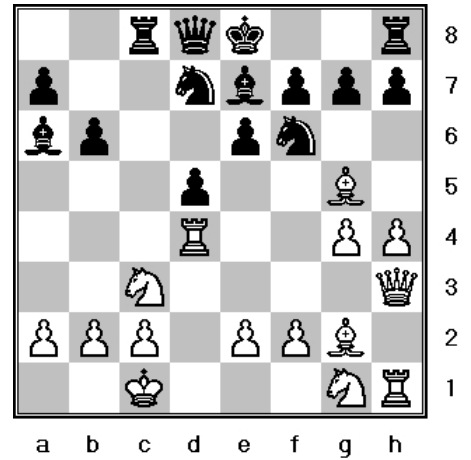
My second game, against Zilahi, a class A player from Hungary, I foolishly gave up the exchange, carried on with my attack anyway, which culminated in a bunch of fireworks that should have ended with a perpetual check, but he slipped up and gave me a win.

Michael Schemm – Gabor Zilahi  
World Senior Championship, Round 2  
Arco, Italy, October 27, 2010

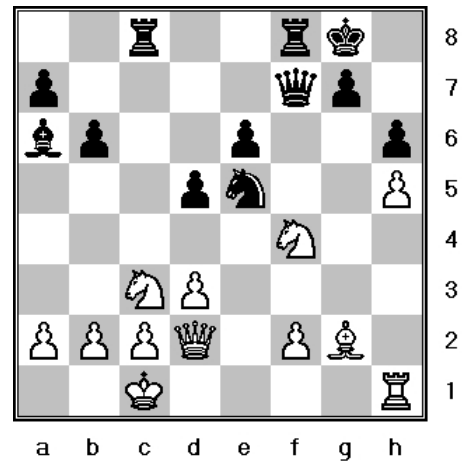
1. Nc3 d5 2. d4 Nf6 3. Qd3



3. ...e6 4. Bg5 Be7 5. 0-0-0 b6 6. h4 Ba6  
7. Qh3 Nbd7 8. g4 c5 9. Bg2 cxd4 10. Rxd4  
Rc8



11. Ra4? Nc5 12. Ra3 Nd3+ 13. exd3  
Bxa3 14. Nge2 Be7 15. Bf4 Bd6 16. h5  
Bxf4+ 17. Nxf4 Qc7 18. Qe3 0-0 19. g5  
Ng4 20. Qd2 Ne5 21. g6 h6 22. gxf7+ Qxf7

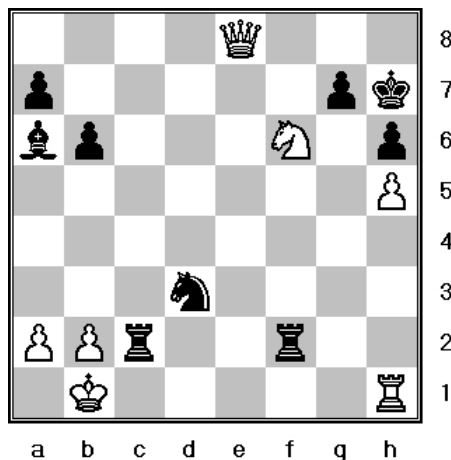


23. Nxe6 Qxe6 24. Bxd5 Qxd5 25.  
Nxd5 Nxd3+ 26. Kb1 Rxf2 27. Qe3 Rxc3



Players compete in a 1976 open chess tournament in Portland OR. From left to right: Mike Schemm, Harold Brown, Allan Hill, and Jeff Holmes. Photo credit: Dan Scoones.

28. Qe6+ Kh8 29. Qe8+ Kh7 30. Qg6+ Kh8 31. Qe8+ Kh7 32. Nf6+



32. ...Rxf6? 33. Kxc2 Nf4 34. Qe4+ Kg8 35. Rd1 Ne6 36. Rd6 Bc8 37. Qc4 1-0

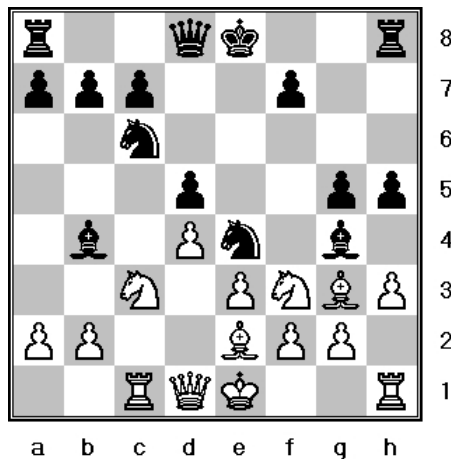
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In my third game, against Gutkin, a master from Israel, I missed an important exchange in a great position, which would have traded a piece of mine which later became trapped, should have removed an important defensive piece of his, and could have closed a file on which he eventually mounted a successful counter attack.

One subtle move with so many consequences. Lost that one!

**Boris Gutkin – Michael Schemm**  
World Senior Championship, Round 3  
Arco, Italy, October 28, 2010

1. d4 Nc6 2. Nf3 d5 3. Bf4 Bg4 4. e3 e6 5. c4 Bb4+ 6. Nc3 Nf6 7. Rc1 Ne4 8. Be2 g5 9. Bg3 h5 10. cxd5 exd5 11. h3

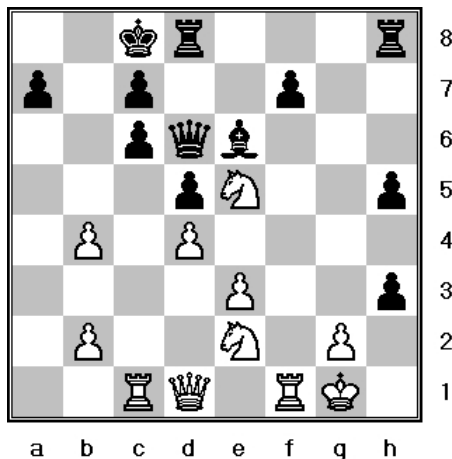


11. ...Nxg3

11. ...Bxc3+ first!

12. fxc3 Be6 13. Bb5 Qd6 14. 0-0 Qxg3 15. Ne2 Qd6 16. a3 g4 17. Ne5 gxh3 18.

axb4 0-0-0 19. Bxc6 bxc6



20. Qa4 Rdg8 21. Nf4 Bd7 22. Qa6+ Kd8 23. Nxf7+

1-0

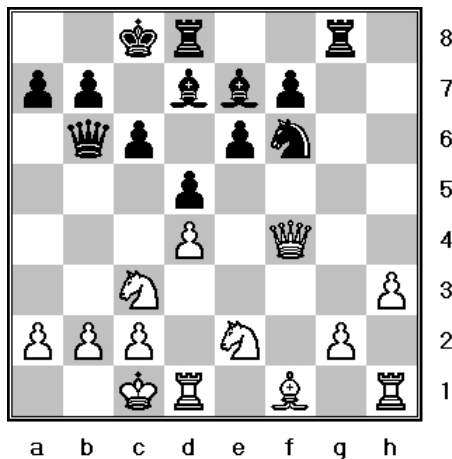
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In game four against Neumann from Germany, another A player, I foolishly lost a pawn and position on move 17. Even though I had a rotten position, I couldn't resign only a pawn down.

He eventually forced me to resign on move 71! That turned out to be the only game I lost with the white pieces.

**Michael Schemm – Horst Neumann**  
World Senior Championship, Round 4  
Arco, Italy, October 29, 2010

1. Nc3 d5 2. d4 Nf6 3. Qd3 Nbd7 4. Bg5 c6 5. f3 h6 6. Bh4 Qb6 7. 0-0 e6 8. e4 Bb4 9. e5 g5 10. Bxg5 hxg5 11. exf6 Nxf6 12. Nge2 Bd7 13. Qe3 Rg8 14. f4 gxf4 15. Qxf4 Be7 16. h3 0-0-0

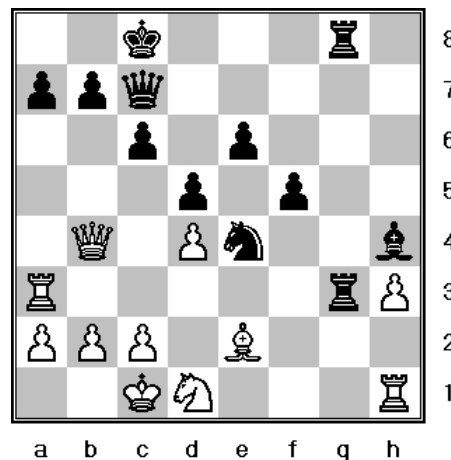


17. g4? Nxg4

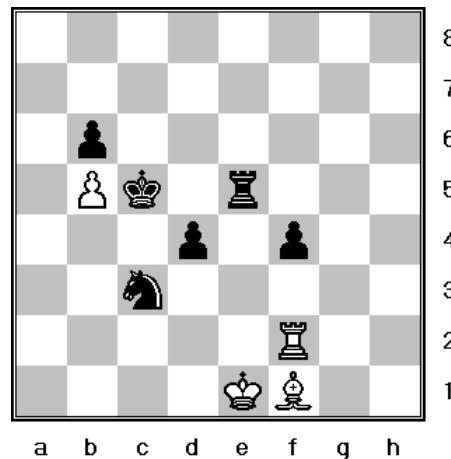
Oops. Missed ...Bg5 pinning the queen.

18. Kb1 Nf6 19. Qf3 Rg7 20. Rd3 Qc7 21. Na4 Ne4 22. Nac3 f5 23. Nd1 Rdg8 24. Ne3 Bh4 25. Nd1 Rg5 26. Kc1 Be8 27.

Ra3 Bh5 28. Qb3 Bxe2 29. Bxe2 Rg3 30. Qb4



30. ...Rxa3 31. bxa3 Be7 32. Qb3 Rg3 33. Bd3 Bg5+ 34. Kb2 Bf6 35. Qb4 Be7 36. Qb3 Nd2 37. Qa4 Qb6+ 38. Kc1 Nb1 39. Qb3 Nxa3 40. Qxb6 axb6 41. h4 Bf6 42. h5 Bxd4 43. h6 Nc4 44. h7 Bh8 45. Nf2 Ne5 46. Nh3 Ng6 47. Kd2 Kd7 48. Nf2 Ke7 49. Rb1 b5 50. a4 Nf8 51. axb5 c5 52. c4 Rg2 53. Ke1 Rg1+ 54. Bf1 Nxb7 55. Nd3 b6 56. cxd5 exd5 57. Nf4 Kd6 58. Rd1 Bd4 59. Ne2 Rh1 60. Nxd4 cxd4 61. Rxd4 Nf6 62. Ra4 Ne4 63. Ra6 Kc5 64. Ra2 d4 65. Rc2+ Nc3 66. Rf2 Rh5 67. Rf4 Nd5 68. Rf2 f4 69. Rc2+ Nc3 70. Rf2 Re5+



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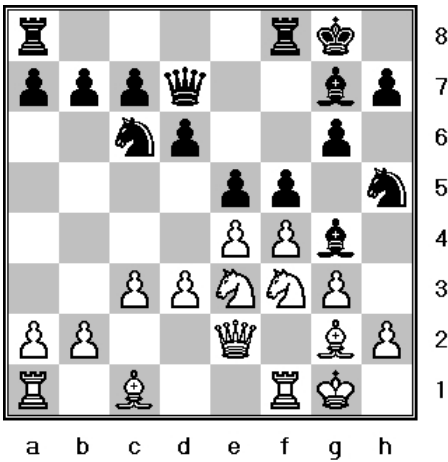
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I finally started playing better by the fifth game. Didn't make any huge mistakes against Neri, a 1900 player from Italy who let me trick him out of a piece in the late opening.

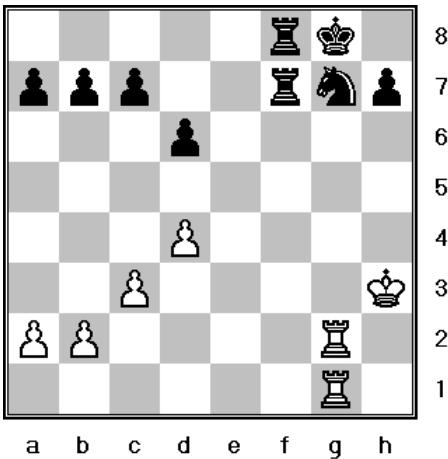
**Angelo Neri – Michael Schemm**  
World Senior Championship, Round 5  
Arco, Italy, October 30, 2010

1. e4 Nc6 2. d3 d6 3. f4 Nf6 4. c3 g6 5. Nf3 Bg7 6. g3 Bg4 7. Bg2 e5 8. Na3 0-0 9.

0-0 Qd7 10. Nc2 Nh5 11. Qe2 f5 12. Ne3



12. ...exf4 13. Nxf4 f4g4 14. gxf4 gxf3 15. Rxf3 Qg4 16. Qf2 Bh6 17. f5 Bxc1 18. Rxc1 Ne5 19. Re3 Nf4 20. Kh1 Qxg2+ 21. Qxg2 Nxf3 22. Kxg2 gxf5 23. Rg3+ Ng6 24. h4 Kf7 25. exf5 Nxf4+ 26. Kh3 Nxf5 27. Rf3 Kg8 28. Rg1+ Ng7 29. Rfg3 Rf7 30. d4 Raf8 31. R3g2



31. ...Rf3+ 32. Kh4 R8f4+ 33. Kg5 Kf7 34. Kh6 Rh3+ 35. Kg5 Ne6#

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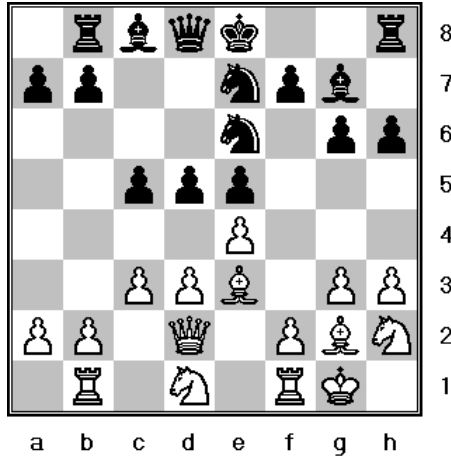
Game six was another A player from Germany. I didn't play the opening very well, and before you know it, I was two pawns down with not much of a position. But my opponent refused to castle, and kept wasting moves.

Finally we got to a position where I let him "win" my queen for a rook and bishop. But in the meantime, he still hadn't castled, and every piece I had was developed.

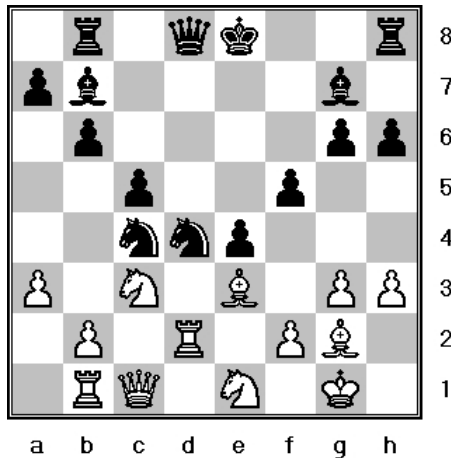
In only a few moves, he was forced to give up his queen for a rook to stop mate, and I was a piece ahead. I won.

Michael Schemm – Erhard Bernhoeft  
World Senior Championship, Round 6  
Arco, Italy, November 1, 2010

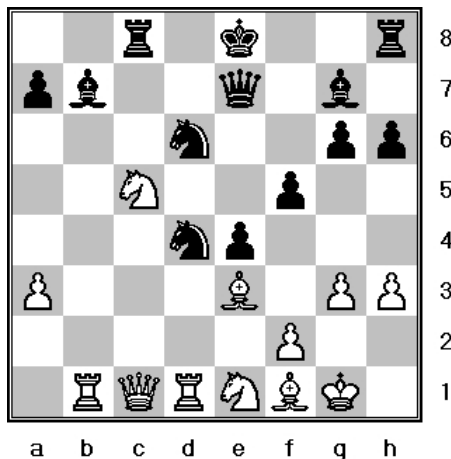
1. Nc3 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. d3 Rb8 6. 0-0 e6 7. e4 d6 8. Bg5 Nge7 9. Qd2 h6 10. Be3 Nd4 11. Rab1 Nec6 12. Nd1 e5 13. c3 Ne6 14. h3 Ne7 15. Nh2 d5



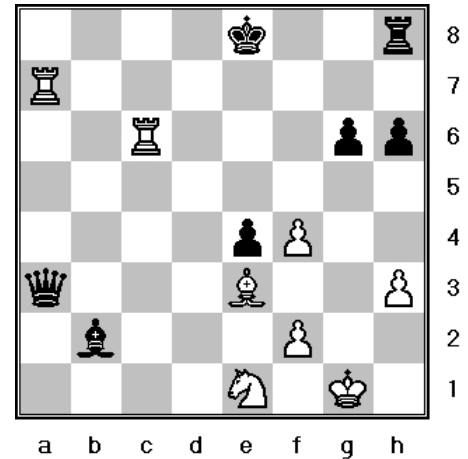
16. exd5 Nxd5 17. Re1 b6 18. Nf3 Bb7 19. c4 Nb4 20. a3 Nxd3 21. Re2 e4 22. Ne1 Ne5 23. Qc1 f5 24. Nc3 Nd4 25. Rd2 Nxc4



26. Rd1 Nd6 27. b4 Qe7 28. bxc5 bxc5 29. Bf1 Rd8 30. Na4 Rc8 31. Nxc5 Ne6



32. Nxb7 Rxc1 33. Nxd6+ Qxd6 34. Rbxc1 Qxa3 35. Bc4 Bb2 36. Rc2 f4 37. gxf4 Ke7 38. Bxe6 Kxe6 39. Rc6+ Kf7 40. Rd7+ Ke8 41. Rxa7



41. ...Qxa7 42. Bxa7 Kf7 43. Nc2 Rd8 44. Ne3 Ra8 45. Bc5 Ra1+ 46. Kg2 Rc1 47. Rc7+ Ke8 48. Re7+ Kd8 49. Bb4 Rb1 50. Rxe4 Bc1 51. Ng4 g5 52. fxf5 Bxf5 53. Bc3 Kd7 54. Ne5+ Ke6 55. Nf3+ Kf5 56. Re5+ Kg6 57. Nxf5 hxf5 58. Bd2 Rd1 59. Rxf5+ Kf6 60. Be3 Rd7 61. h4 Rh7 62. h5 Re7 63. Rg6+ Kf5 64. Rg3 Rh7 65. h6 Ke5 66. Rg7 Rh8 67. h7 Kf5 68. Bd4

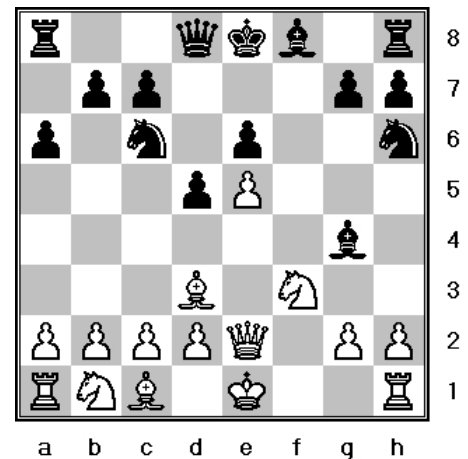
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Game seven was against Strekalovski, a 2100 Russian player. He played one real positional corker in the opening, and I soon had an overwhelming positional advantage. While he was trying to develop, I managed to trap his queen in the center of the board. Game over.

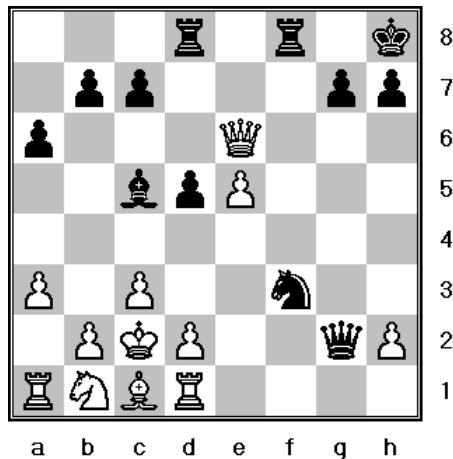
Viktor Strekalovski – Michael Schemm  
World Senior Championship, Round 7  
Arco, Italy, November 2, 2010

1. e4 Nc6 2. Bb5 d5 3. e5 f6 4. f4 a6 5. Bd3 Nh6 6. Qe2 fxe5 7. fxe5 Bg4 8. Nf3 e6





9. Kd1 Nd4 10. Qf2 Bc5 11. Qg3 0-0  
12. Be2 Nxe2 13. Kxe2 Bxf3+ 14. gxf3 Nf5  
15. Qg4 Nd4+ 16. Kd1 Nxf3 17. Qxe6+  
Kh8 18. c3 Qg5 19. Kc2 Qg2 20. Rd1 Rad8  
21. a3



21. ...Ng5  
0-1

\*\*\*

Round eight I played Aijala, a 2150 player from Finland. I attacked on the kingside and he attacked on the queenside, where I had castled.

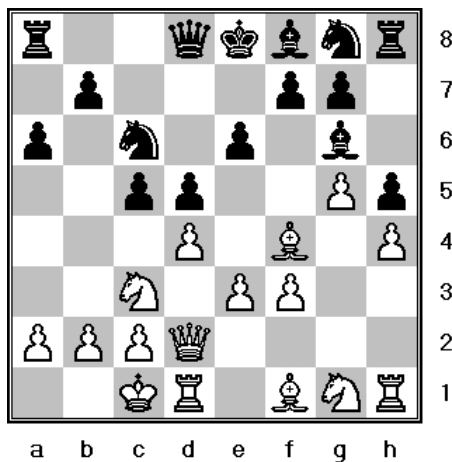
His attack was faster. He sacked two pieces for a rook, and what certainly looked like a winning attack, but he never found anything. Pretty soon he sacked another piece for a pawn. He had a perpetual, which I thought he would take, but he took another pawn instead, so I had three pieces for a rook and three pawns, with my king very exposed.

Pretty soon he won a piece for a pawn. I now had two bishops for a rook and two pawns. At that point he could have traded queens with a very nice endgame, which I would have had to struggle to hold. But he decided to leave the queens on to keep up the pressure.

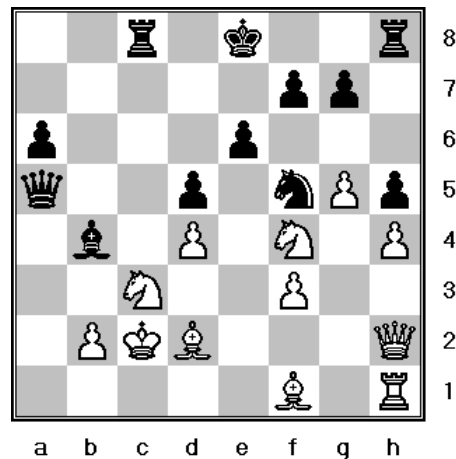
Instead, I had a tactic that blew him out of the water. He should have traded queens!

**Michael Schemm – Jouko Aijala**  
**World Senior Championship, Round 8**  
**Arco, Italy, November 3, 2010**

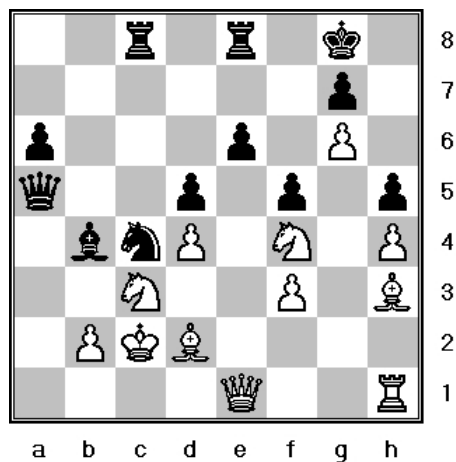
1. Nc3 d5 2. d4 Bf5 3. f3 Nf6 4. g4 Bg6  
5. h4 h5 6. g5 Ng8 7. Bf4 e6 8. Qd2 a6 9.  
0-0-0 c5 10. e3 Nc6



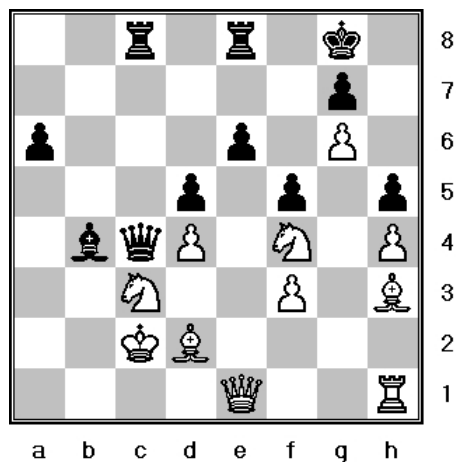
11. Qh2 cxd4 12. exd4 Nb4 13. Rd2  
Rc8 14. Nge2 Qa5 15. Kb1 b5 16. a3 Nxc2  
17. Rxc2 b4 18. axb4 Bxb4 19. Bd2 Ne7  
20. Nf4 Bxc2+ 21. Kxc2 Nf5



22. Nfe2 0-0 23. Bh3 Nd6 24. g6 f5 25.  
Qe5 Rfe8 26. Nf4 Nc4 27. Qe1



27. ...Nxb2 28. Kxb2 Qa3+ 29. Kc2  
Qa2+ 30. Kd3 Qc4+ 31. Kc2 Qa2+ 32.  
Kd3 Qc4+ 33. Kc2

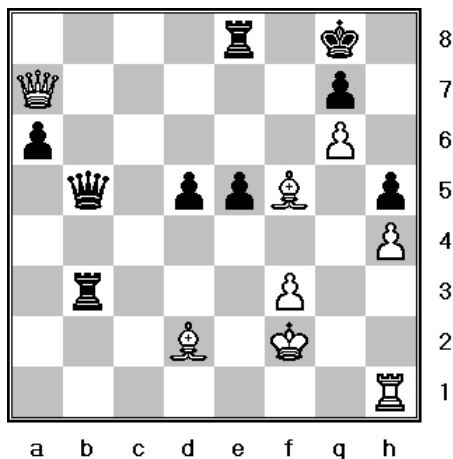


33. ...Qxd4 34. Nfe2 Qc4 35. Qf2 e5  
36. Bxf5 Qa2+ 37. Kd1 Bxc3 38. Nxc3  
Rxc3 39. Qa7 Qa4+ 40. Ke2 Qb5+ 41. Kf2  
Rb3



Mike Schemm at the Portland Spring Open 2010. Photo credit: Mike Schemm.





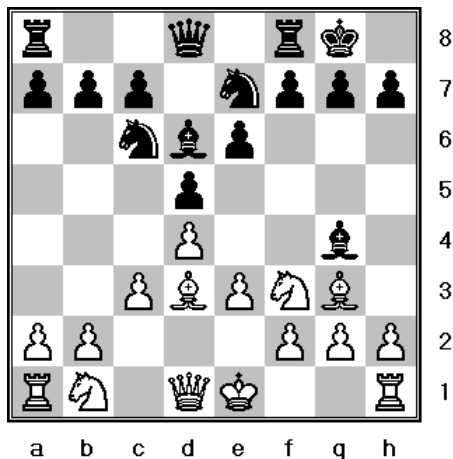
42. Qf7+ Kh8 43. Bh6 Rxf3+ 44. Kxf3 e4+ 45. Kf4 Qb8+ 46. Kg5 Qg3+ 47. Kxh5 Qf3+ 48. Bg4 Qxf7 49. gxf7 Rf8 50. Be6 1-0

\*\*\*

In round nine I finally play a master again – Anguera, from Barcelona. I miss a positional move, then drop a pawn by move seven. I give up another pawn trying to get some play, but then foolishly trade off much of the material. So I struggle until move 65 two pawns down before I resign. Darn it! I wanted to beat a master!

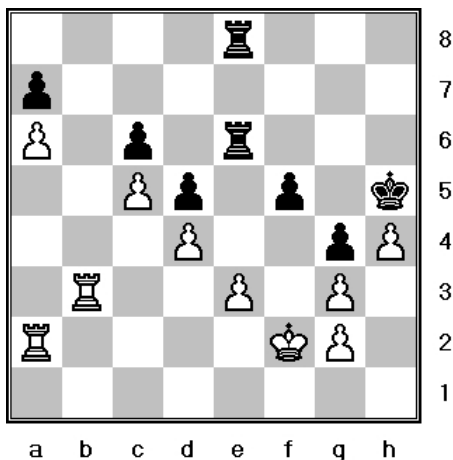
**Jaime Anguera – Michael Schemm**  
World Senior Championship, Round 9  
Arco, Italy, November 4, 2010

1. d4 Nc6 2. Nf3 d5 3. Bf4 Bg4 4. e3 e6 5. Bd3 Bd6 6. c3 Nge7 7. Bg3 0-0?

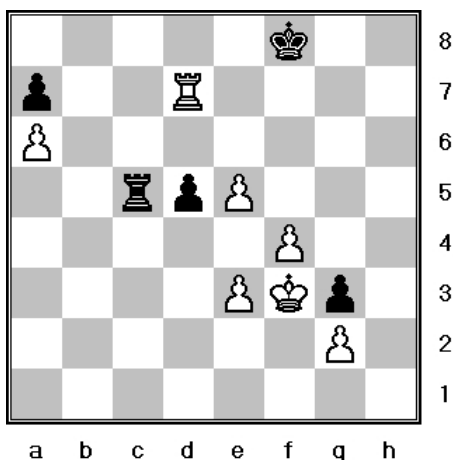


8. Bxh7+ Kxh7 9. Ng5+ Kg6 10. Qxg4 f5 11. Qh4 Rh8 12. Nxe6 Rxh4 13. Nxd8 Bxg3 14. fvg3 Re4 15. Nxc6 Nxc6 16. Kf2 Rae8 17. Re1 Nd8 18. Nd2 R4e6 19. c4 c6 20. c5 Kf6 21. b4 g5 22. h3 g4 23. a4 Kg5 24. b5 Rh8 25. h4+ Kf6 26. Reb1 Rhe8 27. Ra3 R6e7 28. Rab3 Re6 29. R1b2 Kg6 30. Nb1 Kh5 31. Na3 Kg6 32. Nc2 Kh6 33. Nb4 Kh5 34. Nd3 Kh6 35. Ne5 R6e7

36. bxc6 Nxc6 37. Nxc6 bxc6 38. a5 Kg6 39. a6 Kh5 40. Ra2 Re6



41. Ra4 f4 42. gxf4 Kxh4 43. Ra1 Kh5 44. Rh1+ Kg6 45. Ke2 Re4 46. Kd2 R4e7 47. Rh4 Kf5 48. Rh6 g3 49. Rh5+ Kf6 50. Re5 Rxe5 51. dxe5+ Kf5 52. Rb7 Rh8 53. Rf7+ Kg6 54. Rf6+ Kg7 55. Ke2 Rh1 56. Rxc6 Rc1 57. Kf3 Rc3 58. Rd6 Rxc5 59. Rd7+ Kf8



60. Rxa7 Ra5 61. Ra8+ Ke7 62. a7 Ra3 63. Rh8 d4 64. a8=Q Rxe3+ 65. Kg4 1-0

\*\*\*

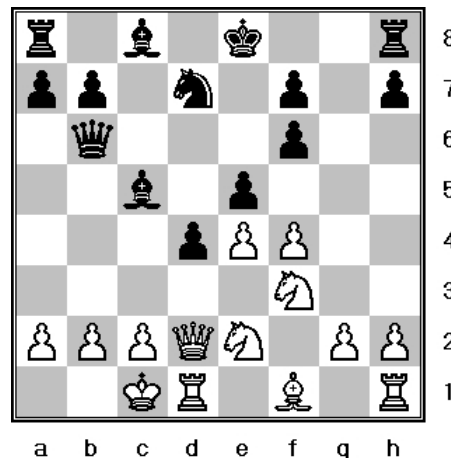
So next is Schweiger, a German rated 2167. I castle queenside again, and he is soon building up pressure. But he misses a couple of shots I have, and before you know it, I have two pieces for a rook and the pressure around my king is gone.

It's quite a positional struggle, but eventually I win a pawn, then my pawns start marching, and soon he can't stop me from queening.

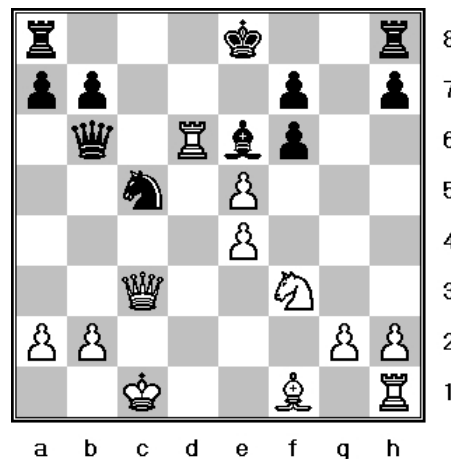
**Michael Schemm – Georg Schweiger**  
World Senior Championship, Round 10  
Arco, Italy, November 5, 2010

1. Nc3 d5 2. d4 Nf6 3. Qd3 e6 4. Bg5

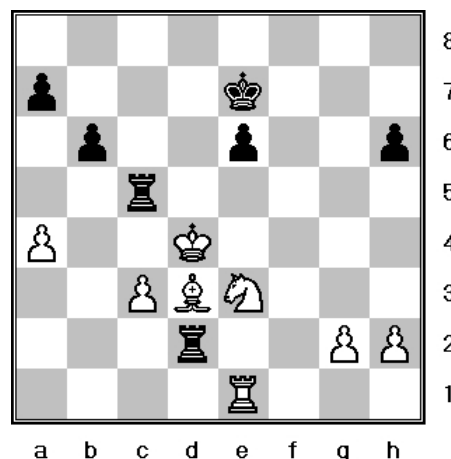
Nbd7 5. 0-0-0 c5 6. e4 cxd4 7. Qxd4 Bc5 8. Qd2 d4 9. Bxf6 gxf6 10. Nce2 e5 11. f4 Qb6 12. Nf3



12. ...Bb4 13. c3 dxc3 14. Nxc3 Bxc3 15. Qxc3 Nc5 16. fxe5 Be6 17. Rd6

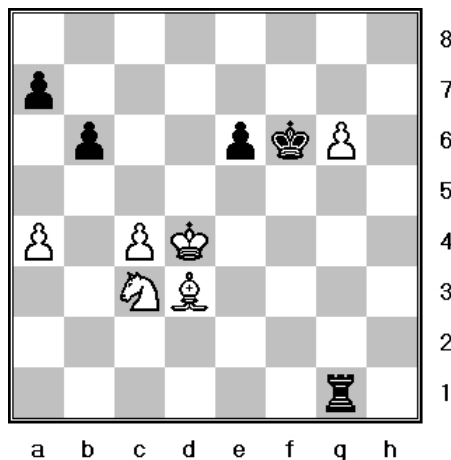


17. ...Nxe4 18. Rxb6 Nxc3 19. Rxe6+ fxe6 20. bxc3 Rc8 21. Kb2 fxe5 22. Nxe5 Rc5 23. Ng4 Rf8 24. Bd3 Rg5 25. Ne3 Rf2+ 26. Kb3 Rd2 27. Kc4 h6 28. a4 b6 29. Re1 Rc5+ 30. Kd4 Ke7

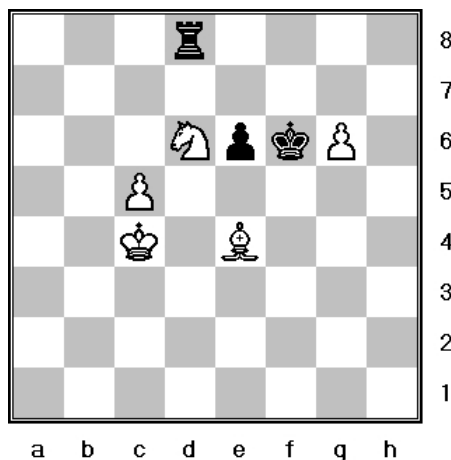


31. Re2 Rxe2 32. Bxe2 Kf6 33. h4 Kg6 34. g4 Kf6 35. Bc4 Rc7 36. Bd3 Rc5 37. c4 Ra5 38. Bc2 Rc5 39. Nf1 Re5 40. Ng3 Re1

41. Ne4+ Ke7 42. g5 hxg5 43. hxg5 Rc1  
44. Bd3 Ra1 45. Nc3 Rg1 46. g6 Kf6



47. Nb5 Rg5 48. Nxa7 Ra5 49. Nc8  
Rxa4 50. Nxb6 Ra7 51. c5 Rc7 52. Nc4  
Rd7+ 53. Nd6 Rd8 54. Kc4 Ke7 55. Nb5  
Rc8 56. Be4 Kf6 57. Nd6 Rd8



58. c6 Rxd6 59. c7 Rd1 60. Bc2  
1-0

\*\*\*

So it's the final round. Another master: Jude Acers from the U.S., who beat me in a Strawberry open in Marysville in the late 1960s. I was young then, and camped out on an Indian reservation with a couple of other Oregonians (one of whom won a

Noble Prize in physics not long ago).

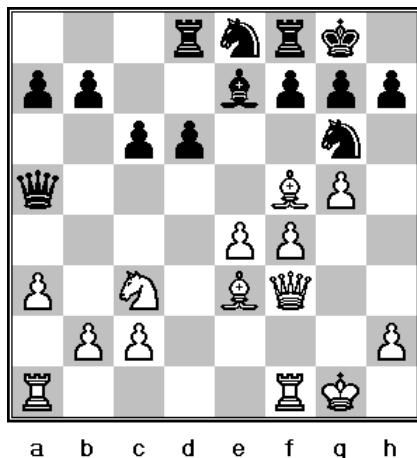
Jude has white in this game, moves quickly, and soon it feels like he is pushing me off the board. I sack a pawn to gain some space, but he doesn't take it; he wants to keep up the pressure.

Then I offer him a chance to take two rooks for a queen, and he grabs it quickly. But it is my opinion that my knight will be much stronger than his bishop, and it will take him awhile to coordinate the rooks, and in the meantime, my queen and knight might work pretty well together.

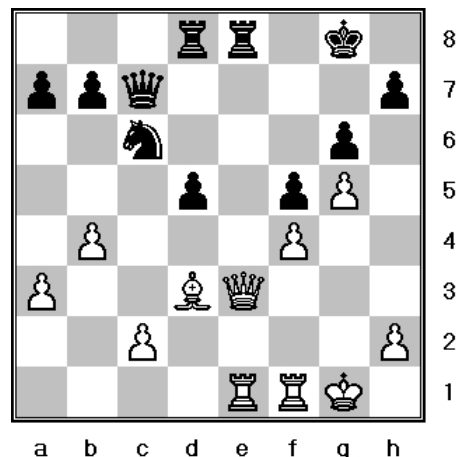
I don't think he makes the best rook move; my judgment proves correct, and soon I am rolling him off the board.

**Jude Acers – Michael Schemm**  
World Senior Championship, Round 11  
Arco, Italy, November 6, 2010

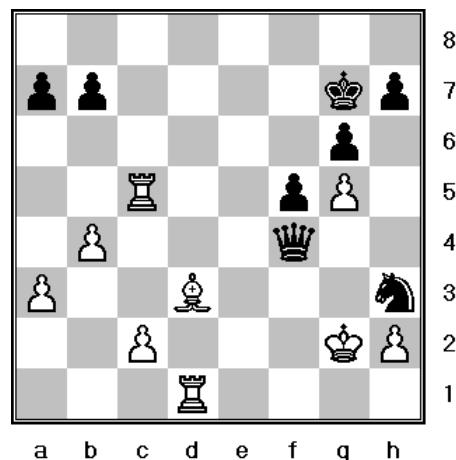
1. d4 Nc6 2. d5 Ne5 3. e4 Ng6 4. Nf3  
d6 5. Nc3 Nf6 6. Be2 e5 7. dxe6 Bxe6 8.  
Ng5 Qd7 9. Nxe6 Qxe6 10. 0-0 Be7 11. f4  
Qd7 12. Be3 0-0 13. g4 c6 14. g5 Ne8 15.  
Bg4 Qc7 16. Bf5 Rd8 17. Qf3 Qa5 18. a3



18. ...d5 19. exd5 Bc5 20. b4 Bxe3+ 21.  
Qxe3 Qc7 22. Rad1 Nd6 23. Bd3 Ne7 24.  
Qh3 g6 25. Ne4 Nxe4 26. Bxe4 cxd5 27.  
Bd3 f5 28. Qe3 Nc6 29. Rde1 Rfe8



30. Qxe8+ Rxe8 31. Rxe8+ Kf7 32.  
Ree1 Nd4 33. Re5 Ne6 34. Rxd5 Nxf4 35.  
Rc5 Qd6 36. Rd1 Kg7 37. Kh1 Nh3 38.  
Kg2 Qf4



39. Be2 Qxg5+ 40. Kxh3 Qe3+ 41. Kg2  
Qxe2+ 42. Kg3 Qxd1 43. Rc7+ Kh6 44.  
Rc5 Qg1+ 45. Kf3 Qxh2 46. a4 f4 47. Ke4  
g5 48. a5 Qe2+ 49. Kf5 f3 50. a6 f2  
0-1

\*\*\*

Finally I have defeated a master, and obtained a 7-4 score. I end up with a first FIDE rating a little over 2130.

Not magnificent, but not bad either.

\*\*\*\*\*

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# Games Corner

## by Charles Schulien

At the Washington Class Championships, held in Redmond over the Thanksgiving weekend, young Frederick Davis won the Class C section with 5.5/6, gaining over 180 rating points. He was paired up every round.

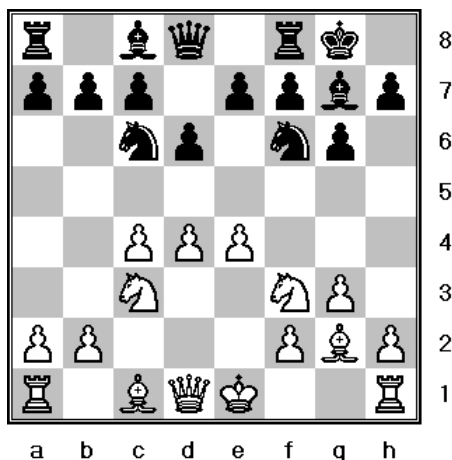
As we'll see in the following games, there was a measure of luck involved in this excellent result. But luck is needed to win any section of any tournament, and with a combination of optimism, preparation, and talent, you can sometimes make your own luck.

Congratulations, Fred, on your Washington Class title! Bet you didn't think your were going to get the cover of the magazine, though....

**Logan Macgregor – Fred Davis**  
**Washington Class, Round 1**  
**Redmond, November 27, 2010**

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. d4 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 0-0 5. g3 d6 6. Bg2 Nc6 7. e4

A bit premature for this variation.

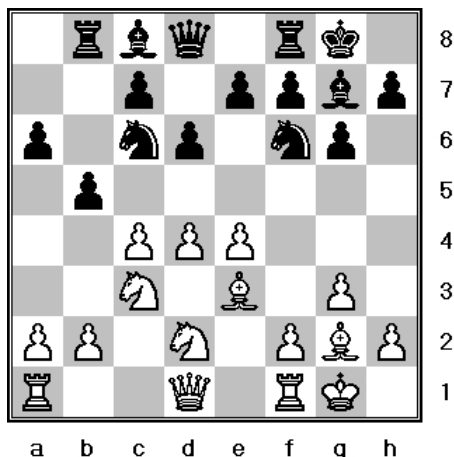


7. ...a6

A perfectly reasonable move, in general – but not a developing move either. 7. ...Bg4 seeks to punish White: 8. Be3 (8. h3 Bxf3 9. Bxf3 e5 10. d5 Nd4 and Black already has a good position. Chekhover, V-Taimanov, M/Leningrad 1954 (1/2-1/2, 35moves)) 8. ...e5 9. d5 Nd4 10. Bxd4 (10. 0-0 is a better move; then ...Re8 is a useful way to develop and maintain the knight on d4 by discouraging White's capture there. After 11. Re1, 11. ...Nd7 again secures the knight's position.) 10. ...exd4 11. Qxd4

Nxe4! White cannot capture the black knight due to a pin along the e-file. Somers, S-Spassky, B/Antwerp 1955/(0-1, 39 moves)).

8. 0-0 Rb8 9. Be3 b5 10. Nd2



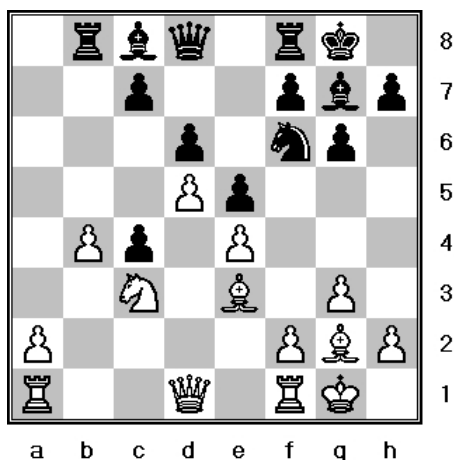
10. ...e5

10. ...Ng4! really hurts.

11. d5 Na5?

This is very bad in the given position. Black cannot gain enough counterplay on the queenside, and he will eventually drop a pawn for nothing. First 11. ...b4 12. Ne2 Ne7 (or now 12. ...Na5 is possible, as the knight is secure. Black gains some, if less, counterplay with ...c6).

12. cxb5 axb5 13. b4! Nc4 14. Nxc4 bxc4



15. b5! Bd7

In King's Indian Defense, once the race is on between competing wing attacks, we may not have time to nicely develop the pieces – it all depends. 15. ...Nd7 16. a4 f5

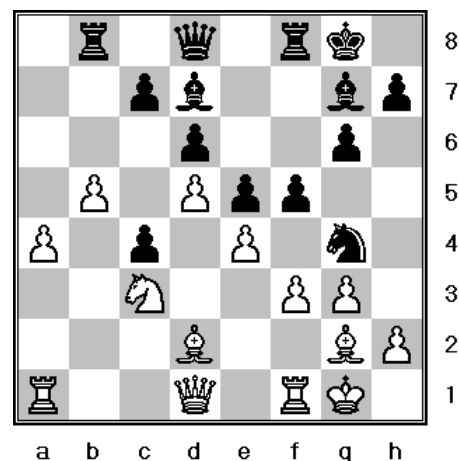


speeds counterplay by one tempo.

16. a4 +/-

White is ahead in the race, and possesses decisive endgame advantages on the queenside.

16. ...Ng4! 17. Bd2 f5 18. f3



18. ...Nh6!?

Odd. Here a white knight is not headed for g5, so there is no great need for ...Nf7 to cover that square, and d6 is also secure. 18. ...Nf6 is more flexible, as the knight can possibly return to the queenside, plus it presses against the white center pawns.

19. Qe2 f4 20. Qxc4 g5

White has won a pawn, and needs to shift gears. How much should he defend? How can he continue his attack?

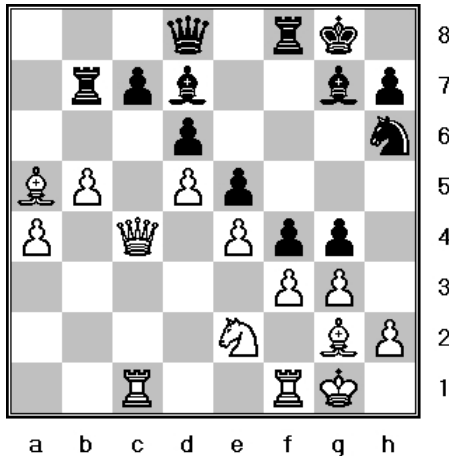
21. Ne2

21. Na2 is better. 21. ...g4 22. Nb4 gxf3 23. Bxf3 (23. Rxf3!?) 23. ...Rc8 24. a5 Bh3 25. Bg2 and White has everything under control.

21. ...g4

21. ...Rb7!? frees the queen.

22. Ba5 Rb7 23. Rac1



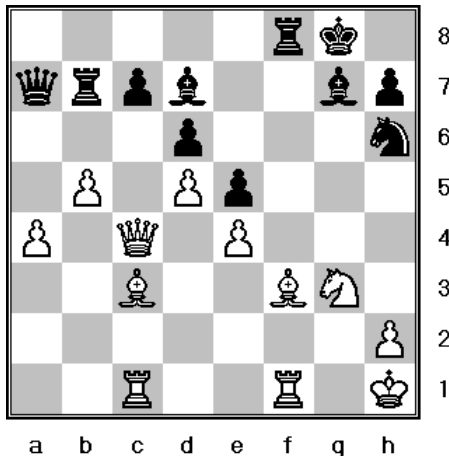
23. ...Qa8! 24. Bc3 Qa7+!

Black at least gains some activity for his pieces, even though White maintains his advantage.

25. Kh1 fxc3

25. ...gxf3 26. Bxf3 is no better. 25. ...Ra8 26. Ra1 gxf3 27. Bxf3 Ng4 is possible. I think that confusion is the best that Black can hope for here.

26. Nxc3 gxf3 27. Bxf3



27. ...Bh3?!

Not a good exchanging decision. White's light-squared bishop is 'bad' with the pawn wedge on e4-d5.

28. Bg2 Bxc2+ 29. Kxc2 +- Ra8 30. Qc6

What could be simpler than 30. a5?

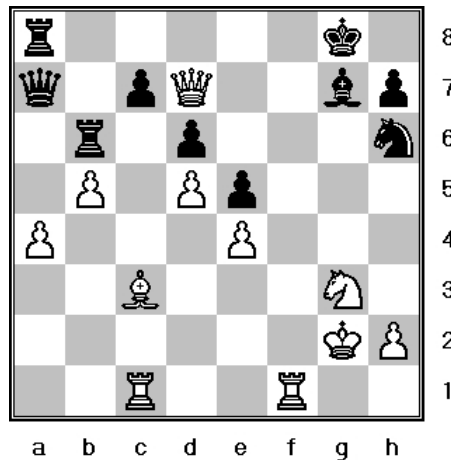
30. ...Rb6?

Better is 30. ...Rab8 31. Qd7 Qxa4.

31. Qd7

Now Black is really in trouble! Watch

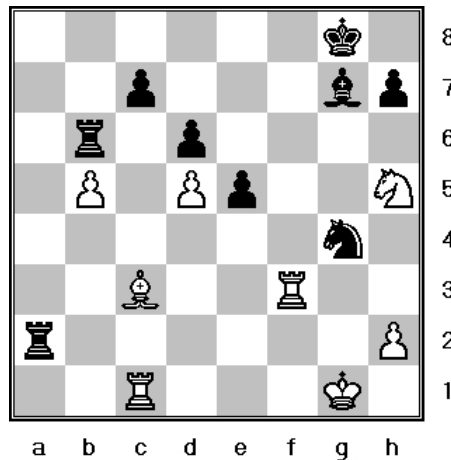
out for a White invasion of key central light squares in King's Indian Defense.



31. ...Qxa4 32. Nh5?

White finally blunders, just at the decisive moment, missing a simple check. 32. Bxe5! dxe5 (32. ...Bxe5 33. Rxc7 changes nothing) 33. Rxc7 is one of the wins. 32. Ra1 was very simple and good – he should find this move.

32. ...Qxe4+ 33. Rf3 Ra2+ 34. Kg1 Qg4+ 35. Qxg4 Nxc4

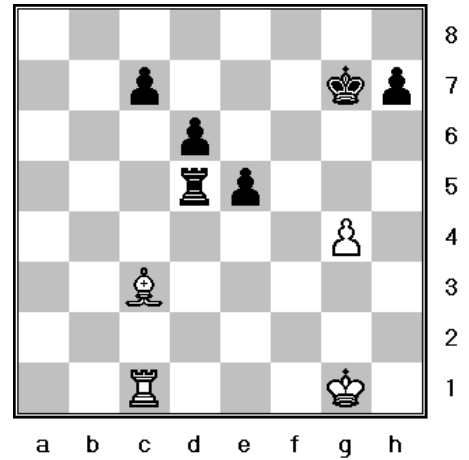


36. Nxc7?

White plays to win a piece, in the endgame no less – and this turns out to be a mistake. 36. Be1! is the right reorganization of pieces, using his rook to attack the backward c-pawn.

36. ...Kxg7 37. Rg3 Ra4 38. h3 Rxb5 39. Rxc4+ Rxc4+ 40. hxc4 Rxd5 =+

Black has all of the winning chances, though the game should be drawn. Black was not in control of the middlegame, and was simply lucky to not be losing the endgame down a piece. But – it was up to White to correctly assess the position before entering into this forcing line!



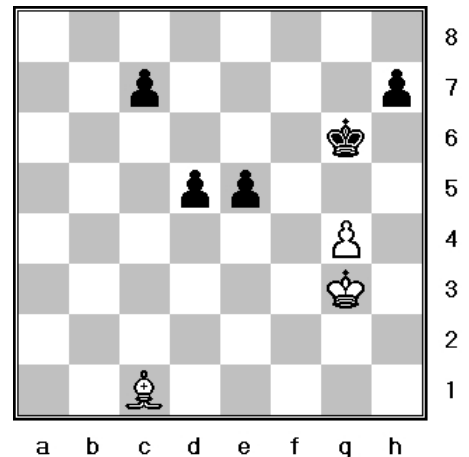
41. Kg2 Rc5

41. ...Rd3 is an active rook posting.

42. Kg3

Simpler is 42. Kf3 Kg6 43. Ke2 Kg5 44. Kf3 =.

42. ...Kg6 43. Bd2 Rxc1 44. Bxc1 d5



45. Kh4?!

45. Ba3 = is better, preventing the third pawn from joining the mobile duo.

45. ...c5

Now White has three pawns to worry about. His margin for error is shrinking.

46. Ba3 c4 47. Bb2??

An obvious move, but now the white bishop gets in the way of the pawns, so they can gain speed by attacking it! 47. Bb4 d4 48. Kg3 c3 49. Kf3 =. White stops the pawns just in time.

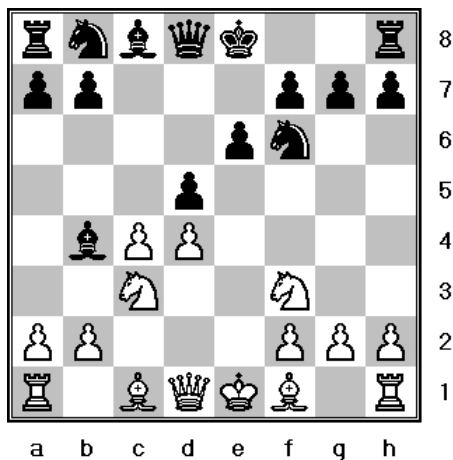
47. ...d4 48. Kg3 c3 49. Bc1 d3 50. Kf3 d2 51. Bxd2 cxd2 52. Ke2 Kg5 53. Kxd2 Kxc4 54. Ke3 h5

0-1

\*\*\*

Fred Davis – Dan Kramlich  
Washington Class, Round 2  
Redmond, November 27, 2010

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. c4 Nf6  
5. Nc3 e6 6. Nf3 Bb4



7. Qc2

Not a good move-order. 7. cxd5 is far and away the main move. 7. ...Nxd5 8. Qc2 (or 8. Bd2).

7. ...0-0

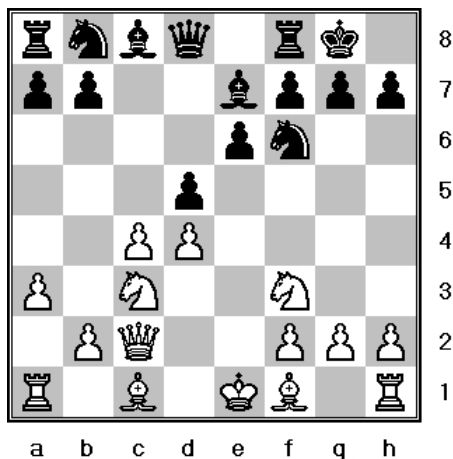
7. ...Nc6 may be more accurate, pressing d4.

8. a3

Forces the exchanging decision.

8. ...Be7

8. ...Bxc3+ 9. bxc3 b6 is a more reliable setup for Black. 10. Bg5 Bb7 11. Nd2 Nbd7 12. Bd3 h6 13. Bh4 Rc8 14. cxd5 Bxd5 0-1 (44 moves), Socko,B (2497)-Maciejka,B (2553)/Polanica Zdroj 1999. Black is well positioned in the hanging pawns structure.



9. c5! Nc6 10. Bd3 Qc7

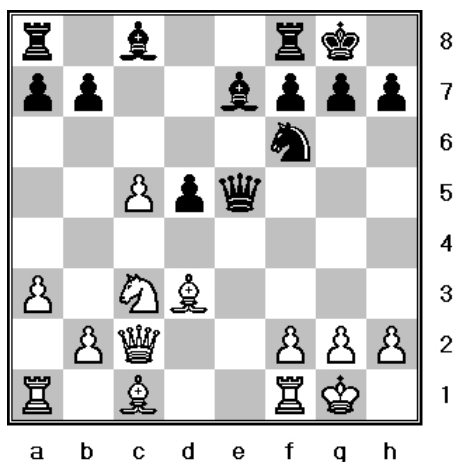
10. ...b6 is most principled move. Then 11. b4 bxc5 12. bxc5 Qa5 13. 0-0 Ba6 rids Black of the bad bishop. 14. Bd2 Bxd3 15.

Qxd3 Qc7 +=.

11. 0-0 e5

Consistent, logical – and evidently wrong.

12. dxe5 Nxe5 13. Nxe5 Qxe5



14. Ne2!

The black queen will be embarrassed on e5, and white pieces can develop smoothly. It is understandable that Black tries to force the action before this outcome, but it's not well supported either.

14. ...d4!?

14. ...Bd7 15. Bf4 Qh5 16. b4 Rfe8 17. f3!?

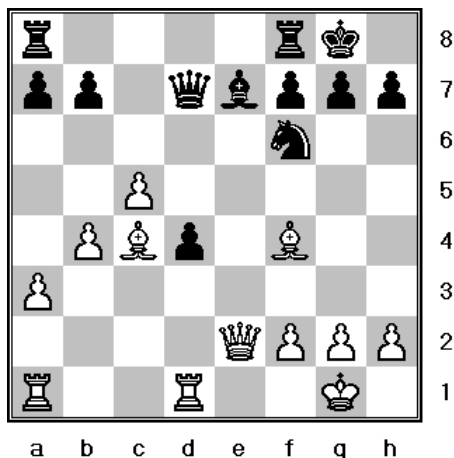
15. b4 Bg4?!

15. ...a5!? seeks counterplay. 16. Bf4 Qh5 17. h3 Nd5 and at least one black piece found a strong point! 18. Bd2 Bf6.

16. Bf4

16. Bb2 is also very simple and good. (16. f3 helps White by taking away squares from the black pieces.)

16. ...Qd5?! 17. Bc4 Qd7 18. Rfd1 Bxe2 19. Qxe2



White is dominating the position and the

d4-pawn must fall. It is impossible to offer Black any good advice here.

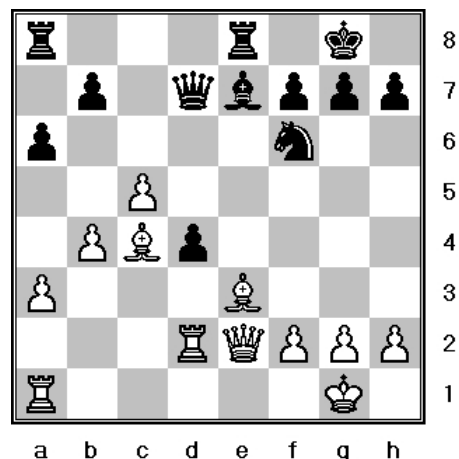
19. ...a6

19. ...b6 20. cxb6 axb6 21. Be5 offers little hope.

20. Rd2

20. Be5 is more direct.

20. ...Rfe8 21. Be3



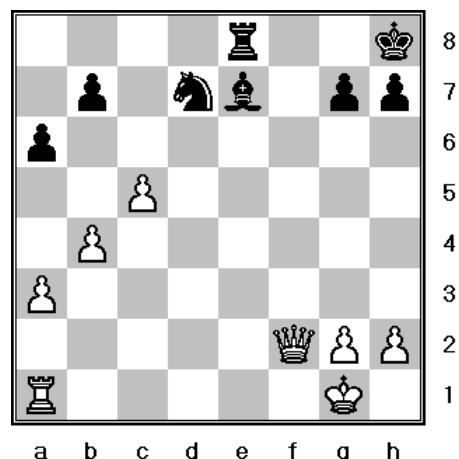
21. ...dxe3?!

21. ...Qf5 22. Rxd4 Bd8 and at least Black has ideas. 23. Qa2! breaks the pin while fighting for initiative. 23. ...Qh5 24. Bf4 (or the safe 24. Be2). Black has no compensation for all of White's long term advantages: extra pawn, space, bishop pair.

22. Rxd7 exf2+?

Black missed that the white queen on f2 aims at f7. (22. ...Nxd7)

23. Qxf2 Nxd7 24. Bxf7+ Kh8 25. Bxe8 Rxe8



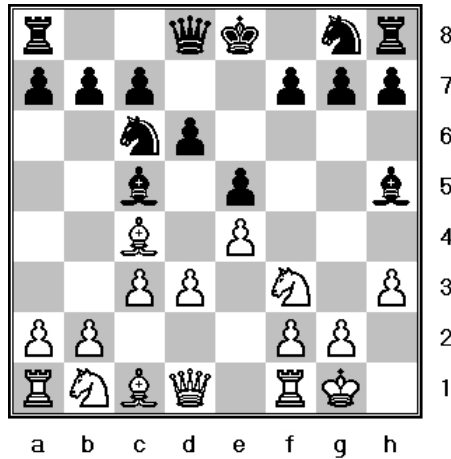
26. Rd1 Nf6 27. Qf3 h6 28. Qxb7 Ng4 29. Qc6 Rf8 30. h3 Nf2 31. Rd2 Bh4 32. Qd6 Rf6 33. Qd4 Nxb3+ 34. gxh3 Be1 35. Re2

1-0

\*\*\*

**Fred Davis – Nathaniel Yee  
Washington Class, Round 6  
Redmond, November 28, 2010**

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. 0-0  
d6 5. c3 Bg4 6. h3 Bh5 7. d3!



7. ...Nf6 8. Bg5?!

White should wait on this pin until after Black castles, or just go for a different plan. 8. Re1 h6 9. a4 a5 10. Nbd2 0-0 11. Nf1 d5 12. exd5 Nxd5 13. Ng3 Bxf3 14. Qxf3 Nde7 15. Ne4 Bb6 16. Qh5 Nd5 17. Bxh6 Nce7 18. Qxe5 f6 19. Qe6+ Kh7 20. Bd2 Re8 21. Qf7 c6 22. Be3 Bxe3 23. Rxe3 Ng6 24. Bxd5 cxd5 25. Rg3 1-0 Tseshkovsky,V (2576)-Sudakova,I (2376)/Biel 2006/CBM 113 ext.

8. Nbd2 Qd7 (8. ...a6 9. a4 0-0 10. Re1 Kh8 11. Nf1 is a typical position. White plans Ng3, then posting knights. Black played ...Kh8 to break the pin on his f-pawn and seek counterplay. 11. ...Nd7 12. Ng3 Bg6 13. a5 Ba7 14. b4 f5 15. exf5 Bxf5 16. Nxf5 Rxf5 17. Bd5 Black's advance and exchanges created weak light squares, and now the Italian bishop is boss! 17. ...Rb8 18. Ra2 Ne7 19. Be4 Rf6 20. d4 exd4 21. cxd4 h6 22. Rae2 c6 23. Bb1 Nd5 24. Qd3 Nf8 25. Bd2 White has a decisive advantage. 1-0 Matlakov,M (2346)-Chepukaitis,G (2413)/St Petersburg 2004/CBM 101 (50)) 9. a4 a6 10. b4 Ba7 11. b5 axb5 12. axb5 Ne7 13. b6 cxb6 14. Qb3 0-0 15. Bb5 Nc6 16. Bb2 d5 17. Nxe5 Qd6 18. d4 dxe4 19. Ba3 Qc7 20. Bxf8 Kxf8 21. Ndc4 Nd7 22. Nxd7+ Qxd7 23. Nxb6 Qd8 24. Nxa8 Qxa8 25. Bxc6 bxc6 26. Qd1 h6 27. Kh1 f5 28. Re1 Kg8 29. f4 g6 30. d5 cxd5 1-0 Bacrot,E (2718) - Penalver,M/Ajaccio 2004/EXT 2005.

8. ...0-0

8. ...h6 and if 9. Bh4 (9. Be3 is likely OK.) 9. ...g5! is a good idea for Black – he

has not yet castled.

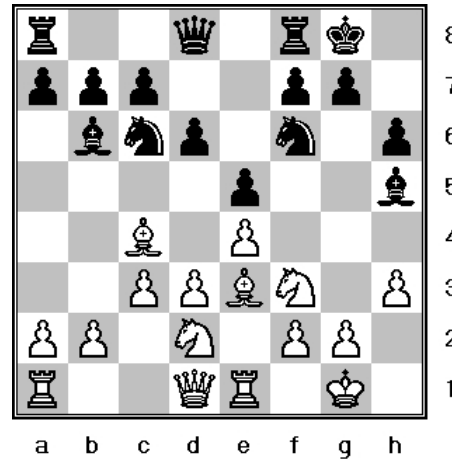
9. Nbd2 h6 10. Be3

10. Bh4 is now a good idea – maintain the pin!

10. ...Bb6

10. ...Bxe3 11. fxe3.

11. Re1



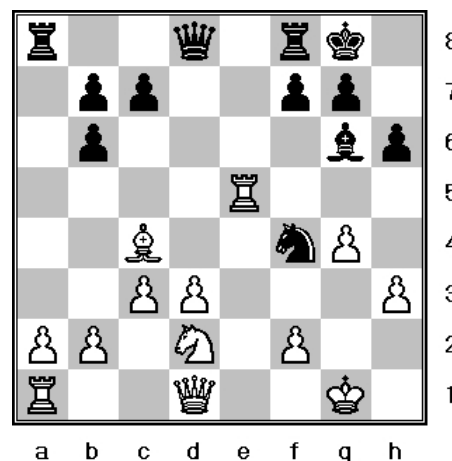
11. ...d5?!

This advance opens the game. White can win a pawn, but must weaken his king position in order to do so. Since the white pieces are well developed, this is in his favor. 11. ...Na5 or simple development with 11... Qd7 are preferable.

12. exd5 Nxd5 13. Bxb6 axb6?!

13. ...Nxb6 14. Bb5 f6 += is again a typical result for the ...d5 advance. White should be a little better, but not more.

14. g4 Bg6 15. Nxe5 Nxe5 16. Rxe5 Nf4



17. d4?

17. Qf3 refutes Black's combination. 17. ...Nxd3 18. Rd5 is the last point.

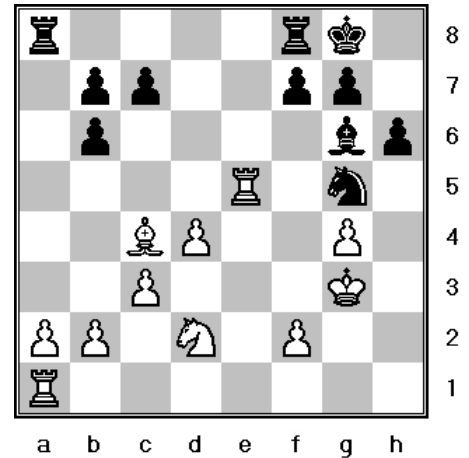
17. ...Nxh3+ 18. Kg2 Qh4?

18. ...Nf4+ is of course correct, and Black is doing just fine.

19. Qf3

Finally!

19. ...Ng5 20. Qg3 Qxg3+ 21. Kxg3 +-



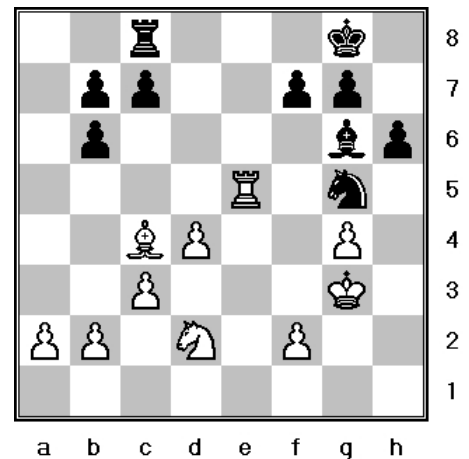
21. ...Rae8?

21. ...Rfe8, on the other hand, is a better chance. 22. Rae1 Rxe5 23. Rxe5 Kf8 and Black is holding the position. 24. f4 f6! 25. Rd5 Bf7 (25. ...Nh7 26. Rd7 wins). Black can try some tricks, though it is very difficult to spot them: 25. ...Ke7 26. fxf6 c6 27. gxf6+ gxf6 28. Rf5 Bxf5 29. gxf5 is in White's favor, but the imbalances make the game competitive. 26. Rd7 Ne6 allows a combination, if White wishes: 27. Rxf7+ Kxf7 28. f5 and I like White's chances.

22. Rae1 Rxe5 23. Rxe5

Now White is guaranteed entry to the 7th rank.

23. ...Rc8?



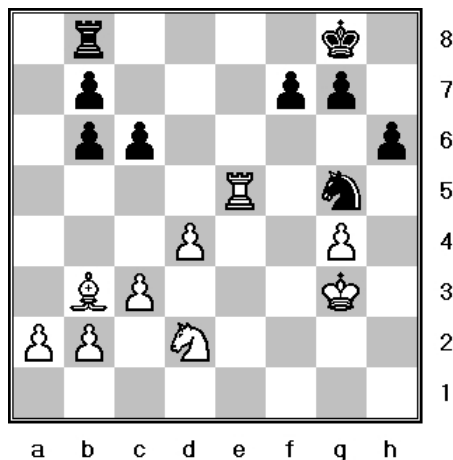
24. f4 Nh7 25. f5 +=

Winning a piece in the ending. The rest of the game should be quite easy.

25. ...Bxf5 26. Rxf5

26. gxf5 Kf8 27. Ne4 is a fine centralization for White.

26... Ng5 27. Bd5 c6 28. Bb3 Re8 29. Re5 Rb8

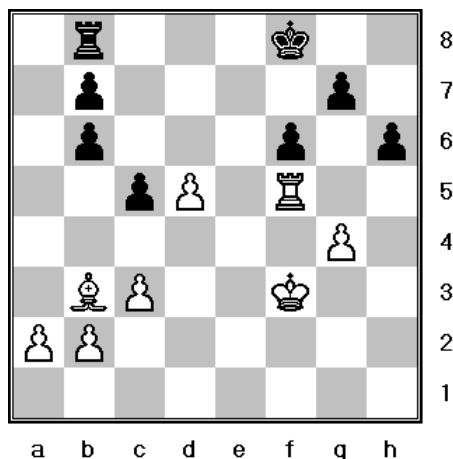


30. Nf3

A good move. 30. Nc4 b5 31. Nd6 is very strong.

30. ...Nxf3 31. Kxf3 Kf8 32. Rf5 f6 33. d5 c5?!

33. ...Rd8 prevents the passed pawn from immediately advancing.



34. d6!

White was alert for the opportunity to push the pawn.

34. ...Rd8 35. Rd5 g6 36. Ba4 Kf7 37. d7 Ke7 38. Rd3 h5 39. Re3+ Kd6 40. gxh5 gxh5 41. Re8

Black has no particular reason to keep making moves here. Nothing that he could possibly do will make any impact on the position.

41. ...Kc7 42. Kf4 c4 43. Kf5 h4 44. Kg4 f5+ 45. Kxh4 f4 46. Kg4 f3 47. Kxf3 b5 48. Bxb5 b6 49. Ke3 Rxd7 50. Bxd7 Kxd7

and

1-0 on move 74.

\*\*\*

Daniel Gay won the Oregon Junior Championships, also held Thanksgiving weekend, with a score of 4.5/5. His draw was with second place finisher Alexandra Botez. Daniel sent us his round four win against Steven Witt.

**Steven Witt – Daniel Gay  
Oregon Junior Championship, Round 4  
Portland, November 28, 2010**

Annotations by Daniel Gay.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Bd7 4. Bxd7+ Qxd7 5. 0-0 Nf6

5. ...Nc6 is the most common move here, when play usually continues 6. c3 Nf6 7. Re1 e6 8. d4 cxd4 9. cxd4 d5 10. e5 Ne4 11. Nbd2 Nxd2 12. Bxd2 Be7 with chances for both sides.

6. Nc3

6. Re1 is the most common move here, when play usually transposes to the line after 5. ...Nc6, for example, 6. ...Nc6 7. c3. 6. e5 and 6. Qe2 have also both been played quite a bit.

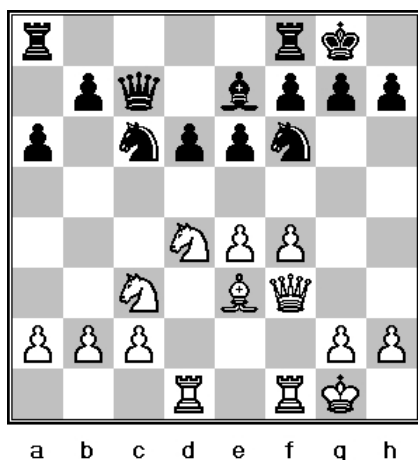
6. ...e6

6. ...Nc6 is the most common move here.

7. d4

7. d3 Nc6 8. Re1 Be7 would be another approach, though it does not present Black with any difficulties.

7. ...cxd4 8. Nxd4 Nc6 9. Be3 Be7 10. f4 0-0 11. Qf3 a6 12. Rad1 Qc7



13. g4

White launches a pawn storm on the kingside. 13. Kh1 and 13. Qf2 are the only two moves that have been played here in my database.

13. ...b5 14. g5 Nd7 15. h4 Nxd4 16. Rxd4

16. Bxd4?! b4 17. Ne2 Qxc2 and Black has the better chances because of his extra pawn.

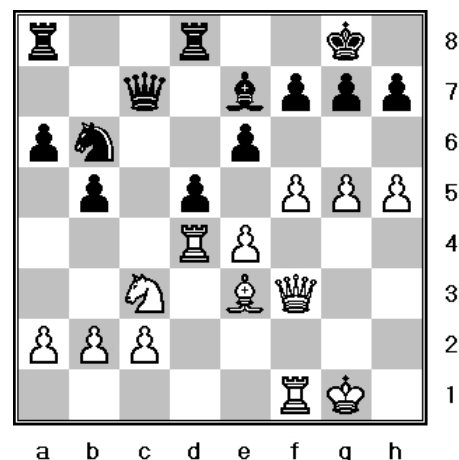
16. ...Rfd8

16. ... Rab8, preparing 17. ...b4, would be another idea.

17. h5

The pawns continue to roll forward. Or 17. f5 Ne5 18. Qh3 Qc8 19. f6 Bf8 and Black has everything defended for the time being.

17. ...Nb6 18. f5 d5



Black is being attacked on the wing, so he strikes back in the center. Worse was 18... Kh8?! 19. f6 gxf6 20. gxf6 Rg8+ 21. Kh1 Bf8, when a possible line of play would be 22. Rdd1 Nc4 23. Rg1 Rxc1+ 24. Rxc1 Nxe3 25. Qxe3 Qc5 26. Qxc5 dxc5 27. Rd1 when White has the better chances.

19. fxe6

Worse was 19. g6 Bc5 20. fxe6! fxe6 (not 20. ...Bxd4?? 21. gxf7+ Kf8 22. Bxd4 when White has a crushing attack.) 21. Qf7+ Qxf7 22. gxf7+ Kf8 23. exd5 Bxd4 24. Bxd4 Nxd5 25. Ne4 Nf6 26. Ng5! Rxd4 27. Nxe6+ Kxf7 28. Nxd4 Black has the better chances in the ending. Or 19. f6 Bc5 20. exd5 Bxd4 21. Bxd4 Nxd5 22. fxg7 Nxc3 23. bxc3 and Black has the better chances. Or 23. Bxc3 Qc5+ 24. Kh2 (24. Kh1 Qd5 trades queens and gives Black the better chances because of his material edge.) 24. ...Ra7 Black has the better chances.

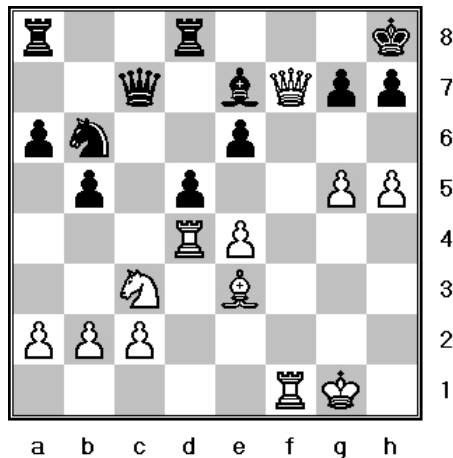
19. ...fxe6 20. Qf7+

Or 20. exd5 Bc5 21. d6 (21. Rf4 Nxd5 22. Nxd5 Rxd5 with chances for both sides. Play might continue: 23. Kh1 (Or 23. Rf7 Qe5 24. Kh1 (24. Bxc5? Qxg5+ 25. Kf2 Rxc5 26. Qxa8+ Kxf7 27. Ke2+ Rf5 28. Qa7+ Qe7 and Black is winning because of his extra pawn.) 24. ...Qxe3 25. Rxc7+! Kxc7 26. Qf7+ Kh8 27. Qf6+ Kg8 28. Qf7+



with a draw by repetition.) 23... Bd6 24. c4 \$! Bxf4 (24. ...bxc4? 25. Rf7 Qd8 26. h6 and White has a crushing attack.) 25. cxd5 Bxe3 26. dxe6! Rd8 27. Qxe3 Qc4 when White's open king gives Black compensation for the pawn.) 21... Bxd6 with chances for both sides.

**20. ...Kh8**



**21. h6??**

The losing move. Much better was 21. Bf4 e5 22. h6 gxh6 23. g6! hxg6 24. Bxh6 Bd6 (24. ...Rg8? 25. Kg2 Qd8, planning to meet 26.Rh1 with ...Bh4, 26. Nxd5 with a winning attack for White.) 25. Qf6+ Kh7 26. Nxd5! Nxd5 27. Rxd5 Bc5+ (27. ...Kxh6? 28. Rf3 Qc8 29. Rg3 Bc5+ 30. Kh1 Rg8 31. Rdd3 and mate in a few moves.) 28. Kg2 Qe7 29. Bg5 Qxf6 30. Bxf6 Rxd5 31. Rh1+ Kg8 32. exd5. Black's e-pawn will soon fall, giving White the better chances in the ending.

**21. ...Qg3+**

Black takes advantage of White's exposed king.

**22. Kh1 Qh3+ 23. Kg1 Qxe3+ 24. Kg2**

24. Rf2 would be a better try, but after Qxd4 25. Qxe7 Rd7 Black is simply up a rook.

**24. ...Qxg5+**

White resigned, since 25. Kh3 Qxh6+ 26. Kg2 Qg5+ 27.Kh3 Rf8 is completely winning for Black.

**0-1**

\*\*\*

Back in Redmond, David Humphrey managed to be part of a four-way tie for first Class E in the Washington Class Championships with 5/6. He writes:

*The recent Washington Class Championships held in Redmond*

*Washington was another terrific event, and well-attended.*

*As is usually the case, even Class E can provide some interesting and thoughtful games. In the final round, I was fortunate to have been paired with Menaka Narayanan, a wonderfully poised and intellectual 8th grader from Seattle's Eckstein Middle School. After five rounds, she sat tied atop the leader board with 4.5, and the opening she threw at me let me know she was also a student of the game. In what was a nearly five-hour match, I felt lucky to have survived.*

**Dave Humphrey – Menaka Narayanan  
Washington Class, Round 6  
Redmond, November 28, 2010**

Annotations by Ralph Dubisch.

**1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. c4**

When facing an unfamiliar gambit, it's often best not to try too hard to hold onto the material. 3. d4 is safe and natural. Black is likely to be well prepared for the theoretical complications of 3. Bb5+.

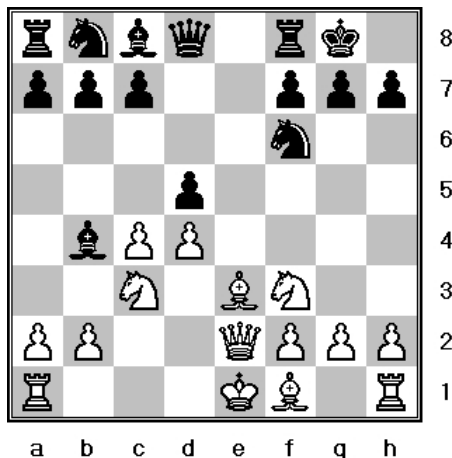
**3. ...e6 4. Qe2**

An awkward placement for the queen, interfering with the bishop f1 and lining up the king and queen on the same file.

**4. ...Bc5**

4. ...Be7 offers Black more than enough development to compensate for the pawn: 5. dxe6 Bxe6.

**5. Nf3 0-0 6. d4 Bb4+ 7. Nc3 exd5 8. Be3**



**8. ...Ne4**

8. ...Re8 looks like an edge for Black.

**9. Qc2 = Nc6 10. Bd3 f5?! 11. 0-0 Nxc3?!**

11. ...Bxc3 is better, keeping the strong knight on e4 to block lines for awhile – but White now has a clear advantage.

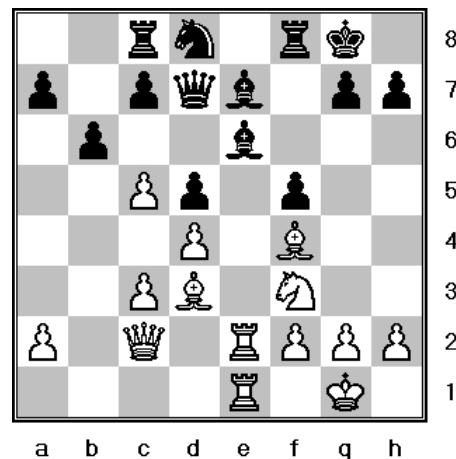
**12. bxc3 Be7 13. Bf4 Be6 14. c5 Rc8?**

The rook is likely needed for the defense of the e-file. The c-pawn isn't the critical target here.

**15. Rfe1 Qd7 16. Re2 b6?**

Black doesn't have time for this, but the targets on the e-file will prove decisive in any case.

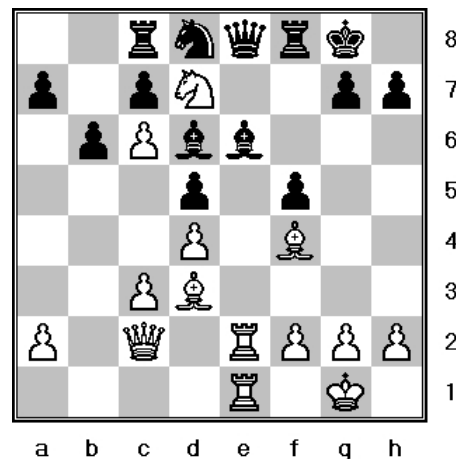
**17. Rae1 Nd8**



**18. Ne5**

A good positional move, but the tactical 18. Rxe6! maybe wins a little bit faster: 18. ...Nxe6 19. Bxf5.

**18. ...Qe8 19. c6 Bd6 20. Nd7?!**



**20. ...Rf7**

20. ...Bxf4! is Black's best chance now, somewhat limiting White's advantage: 21. Nxf8 (21. g3 – Fritz) 21. ...Qxf8 22. Rxe6 Nxe6 23. Rxe6 +/-.

**21. Ba6 Ra8 22. Bxd6 cxd6 23. c7! Qxd7 24. cxd8(Q)+ Rxd8 25. Rxe6 b5 26. Qe2**

**1-0** in 52 moves.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Seattle Sluggers Season Sign-off

by Alex Guo

After starting the season 1.5-3.5, the Sluggers finished the season strong and got into the playoffs. In the process, the Sluggers eliminated the San Francisco Mechanics and the St. Louis Archbishops (Nakamura happens to play for them) while crushing the 2009 Eastern division champion New Jersey Knockouts.

## Week 6: New Jersey

Sluggers		Knock-Outs	
White on 1 & 3		White on 2 & 4	
Cozianu	1 – 0	Benjamin	
Mikhailuk	.5 – .5	Molner	
Lee	1 – 0	Kapengut	
Guo	1 – 0	Finn	
	3.5 – .5		

The rout started off with Michael Lee's crushing victory against IM Albert Kapengut:

**Michael Lee – Albert Kapengut**

**U.S. Chess League, Round 6**

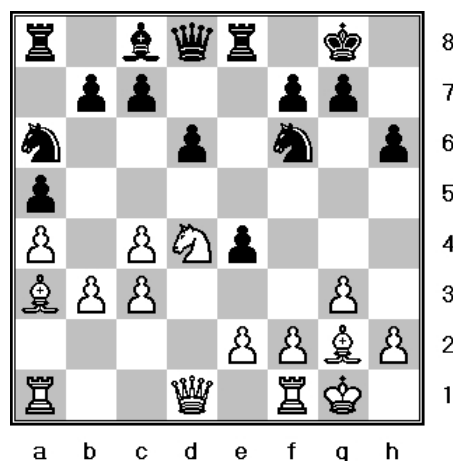
**Seattle vs New Jersey, Board 3**

**Internet Chess Club, September 29, 2010**

**1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. g3 Bb4 4. Bg2 0-0 5. Nf3 e4 6. Nd4 Bxc3 7. dxc3 h6**

An important subtlety. ...h6 is needed to prevent a pin on the knight, which is a key defender of the e4-pawn.

**8. 0-0 d6 9. b3 Re8 10. a4 a5 11. Ba3 Na6**



**12. Qc2**

Nc2-e3-d5 should also be considered. The main drawback to the alternative plan is that it wastes time, while Lee is trying to launch his queenside attack as soon as possible.

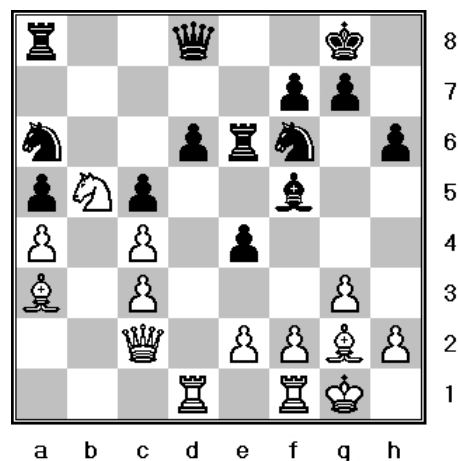
**12. ...b6 13. b4**

Setting queenside pawns in motion is a typical plan for White in this position. An alternative is f3 so that White establishes a more central presence.

**13. ...c5?!**

Giving up the b5-square without a fight. White gets a strong knight outpost on b5, which is especially significant as from there, the weak-sauce d6-pawn is attacked and easily captured.

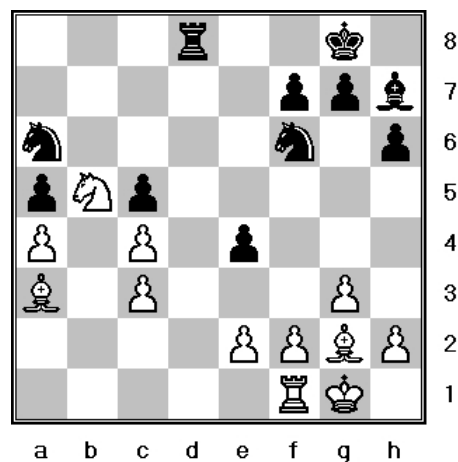
**14. Nb5 Bf5 15. bxa5 bxa5 16. Rad1 Re6**



**17. Qd2**

Already the d6-pawn is about to fall.

**17. ...Qb6 18. Qf4 Bh7 19. Rxd6 Rxd6 20. Qxd6 Qxd6 21. Nxd6 Rb8 22. Nb5 Rd8**

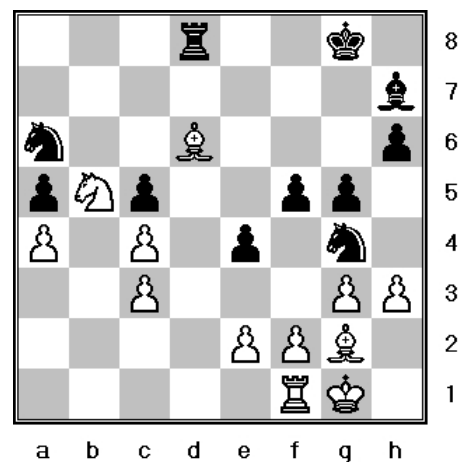


**23. Bc1!**

Re-developing a piece along a more powerful diagonal. Typical strategy with bishops: reposition them once their old

diagonal is useless or has served its purpose.

**23. ...Ng4 24. Bf4 g5 25. Bd6 f5 26. h3**



**26. ...Rxd6 27. Nxd6**

The rest is elementary, because of a large material advantage.

**27. ...Ne5 28. Rb1 Nd7 29. Rb7 Nab8 30. g4 fxg4 31. hxg4 e3 32. fxe3 Bc2 33. e4 Kf8 34. e5 Ke7 35. Bd5**

With that, the Sluggers have a field-day, and crush the 2009 Eastern division champions 3.5-.5.

**1-0**

\*\*\*

The Sluggers' 3.5-.5 victory showed the USCL that Seattle is not a weak team. However, the crushing win over NJ was followed by two disappointing results.

In Week 7, the Seattle Sluggers drew the LA Vibe, but the Vibe were lucky.

## Week 7: Los Angeles

Vibe		Sluggers	
White on 1&3		White on 2&4	
Kretchetov	0 – 1	Akobian	
Banawa	0 – 1	Mikhailuk	
Kavutskiy	1 – 0	Rohonyan	
Gupta	1 – 0	Sinanan	
	2 – 2		

After a 20-minute victory by Akobian, the LA Vibe decided to take advantage of two blunders and were happy to get away with a drawn match. LA's bloggers in particular were extremely happy and wrote celebratory proclamations in their posts. Indeed, LA could have very well gotten swept 4-0! Instead, the Vibe got away with

a draw after a magnificent stroke of luck.

### Week 8: Dallas

<b>Destiny</b>		<b>Sluggers</b>
<b>Bercys</b>	1 – 0	<b>Cozianu</b>
<b>Sadorra</b>	1 – 0	<b>Mikhailuk</b>
<b>Kiewra</b>	0 – 1	<b>Milat</b>
<b>Zorigt</b>	1 – 0	<b>Guo</b>
	3 – 1	

Ok, Dallas Destiny won this one fair and square, but they're a pretty good team. Dallas, after all, has two USCL Championships to its credit. IM Bercys is a strong IM, while Sadorra and Zorigt were both All-stars. Consequently, the Sluggers lost on board 1, 2, and 4. Only FM Milat was able to pull off a nice endgame win against FM Kiewra:

#### Keaton Kiewra – Marcel Milat

#### U.S. Chess League, Round 8

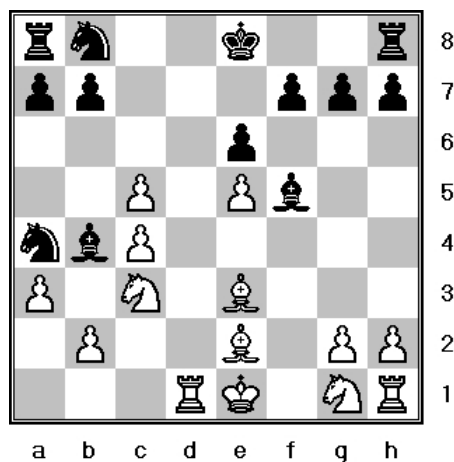
#### Dallas vs Seattle, Board 3

#### Internet Chess Club, October 11, 2010

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. c4 Nb6 4. d4 d6 5. f4 Bf5 6. Be3 e6 7. Nc3 dxe5 8. fxe5 Bb4 9. Be2 c5 10. dxc5 Qxd1+ 11. Rxd1

11. Kxd1 also isn't great: 11. ...Bxc3 12. bxc3 Na4 – triplets ain't ever good.

11. ...Na4 =+ 12. a3



12. ...Ba5?

Missed opportunity? There's a winning move here, though I can't believe that FM Kiewra really did blunder right then and there: 12. ...Nxc3 leaves Black simply up material.

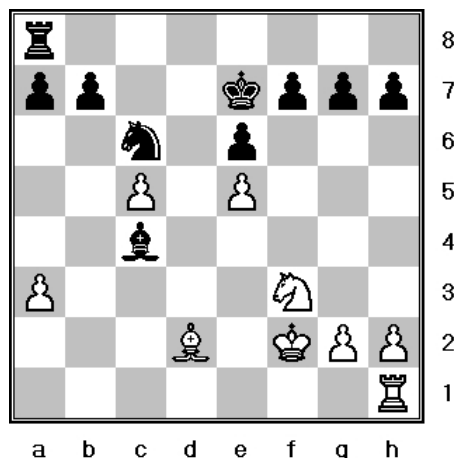
13. Bd2 =+

Black will still retain somewhat of a positional superiority because of White's overextended pawn structure.

13. ...Nxb2 14. Nb5 Nxd1 15. Bxa5 Nc6 16. Bd2 Nb2 17. Nc7+ Ke7 18. Nxa8 Rxa8 19. Nf3 Nd3+ 20. Bxd3

Sadly, White must give up the two bishops, the only advantage he really has in this position.

20. ...Bxd3 21. Kf2 Bxc4

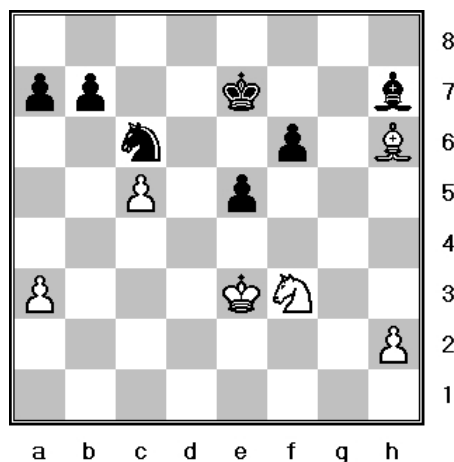


Up a pawn, Milat slowly but surely converts the advantage. First, pieces start coming off the board.

22. Rb1 Ba6 23. Bg5+ Kf8 24. Rd1 h6 25. Be3 Ke7 26. g4?!

Creating more isolated pawn islands and weak pawns isn't good. White should just stay put and hope for a draw.

26. ...Rd8 27. Rd6 Bc4 28. g5 hxg5 29. Bxg5+ f6 30. Bf4 Bd5 31. Rxd8 Kxd8 32. exf6 gxf6 33. Ne1 e5 34. Bh6 Be4 35. Ke3 Bh7 36. Nf3 Ke7



37. h4

White plays as if he has the advantage. Which he doesn't. Soon, the h-pawn is lost.

37. ...Bg6 38. Nd2 Nd4 39. Kf2 Nf5

More pawns? OK!

40. Be3 Nxb4 41. c6

Yippee! More pawns!

41. ...b6 42. Nc4 Nf5 43. Bd2 Kd8 44. Bc3 Kc7 45. Nd2 Nd6 46. Nf3 Ne4+

White resigns

0–1

\*\*\*

Although weeks seven and eight's unfortunate results left the Sluggers' playoff chances in a quandary, the Sluggers pulled off two fantastic victories to make it into the playoffs.

### Week 9: San Francisco

In Week 9, the Sluggers got some sweet, sweet revenge....

<b>Sluggers</b>		<b>Mechanics</b>
White on 1 & 3		White on 2 & 4
<b>Akobian</b>	1 – 0	<b>Friedel</b>
<b>Mikhailuk</b>	1 – 0	<b>Pruess</b>
<b>Lee</b>	.5 – .5	<b>Naroditsky</b>
<b>Guo</b>	1 – 0	<b>Liou</b>
	3.5 – .5	

Akobian starts the Sluggers' rout by "pwning" Friedel in a great game:

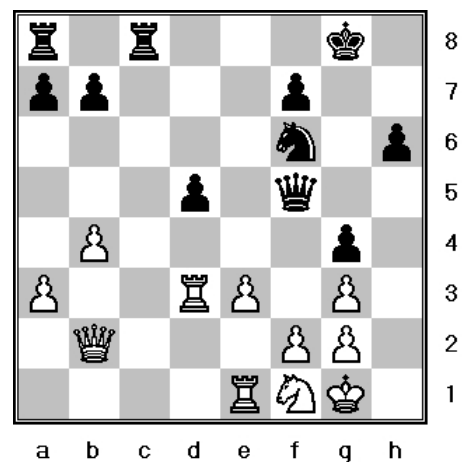
#### Varuzhan Akobian – Josh Friedel

#### U.S. Chess League, Round 9

#### Seattle vs San Francisco, Board 1

#### Internet Chess Club, October 18, 2010

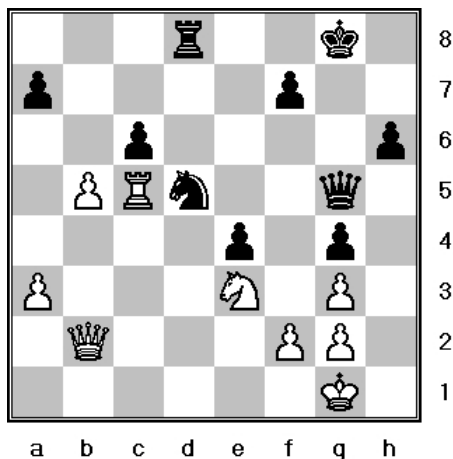
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 0-0 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. Qxc3 d5 7. Bg5 h6 8. Bh4 c5 9. dxc5 g5 10. Bg3 Ne4 11. Qc2 Na6 12. b4 Naxc5 13. Nf3 Nxc3 14. hxg3 Qf6 15. Rd1 Ne4 16. e3 g4 17. Nh2 Qg5 18. Bd3 Nf6 19. 0-0 Bd7 20. cxd5 Rfc8 21. Qb2 exd5 22. Rfe1 Bf5 23. Nf1 Bxd3 24. Rxd3 Qf5



25. e4!!

A very strong positional pawn sacrifice. Akobian actually achieves a strong advantage after this move.

25. ...dxe4 26. Rd6 Rc6 27. Ne3 Qg5 28. Rxc6 bxc6 29. Rc1 Nd5 30. Rc5 Rd8 31. b5

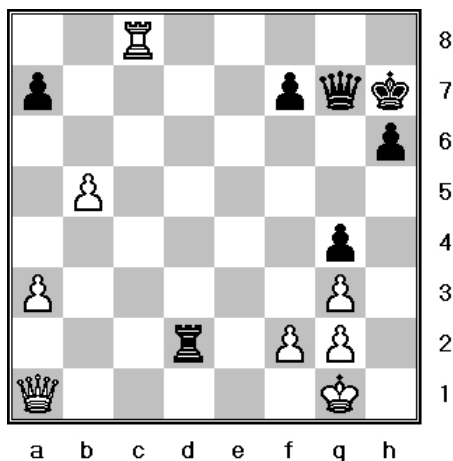


Attacking the c6-pawn. Black has weaknesses everywhere and his kingside is very exposed.

31. ...Kh7 32. Qb3

Safeguarding the d1-square and watching out for any tricks.

32. ...Qe7 33. Rxc6 Nxe3 34. Qxe3 Qg5 35. Qxe4+ Kg7 36. Qb1 Rd2 37. Qa1+ Kh7 38. Rc8 Qg7



39. Qb1+ Qg6 40. Qxg6+ Kxg6 41. Rc7 Akobian easily converts his material advantage.

41. ...a5 42. Ra7 Rd1+ 43. Kh2 Rd2 44. Rxa5 Rxf2 45. Ra4

Sweet revenge for his loss to Friedel earlier in the USCL season.

1-0

Akobian's crushing victory over Friedel garnered him Game of the Week honors.

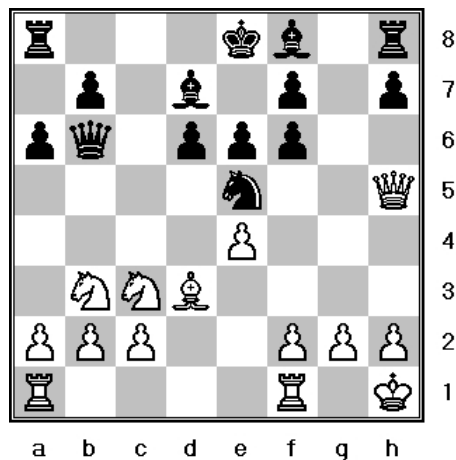
Congratulations!

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Not only that, Slava Mikhailuk managed to pull off a brilliant attack against IM Pruess:

David Pruess – Slava Mikhailuk  
U.S. Chess League, Round 9  
San Francisco vs Seattle, Board 2  
Internet Chess Club, October 18, 2010

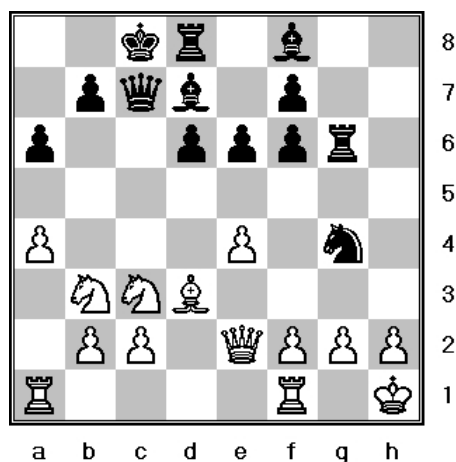
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Bg5 Qb6 7. Nb3 e6 8. Bxf6 gxf6 9. Qh5 a6 10. Bd3 Bd7 11. 0-0 Ne5 12. Kh1



12. ...Rg8!?

A Benko-like sacrifice. Black gives up a pawn in return for open lines.

13. Qxh7 Rg6 14. Qh3 Ng4 15. Qf3 0-0-0 16. a4 Qc7 17. Qe2



17. ...d5!

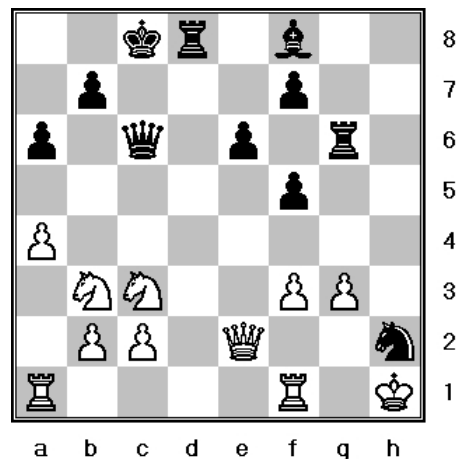
Opens up center lines for the bishops.

18. g3 dxe4 19. Bxe4 f5 20. Bg2 Bc6

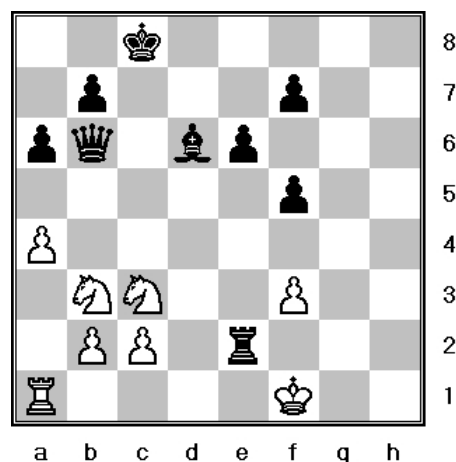
Exchanging away an important defender of the White King, after which the light-squares will become excruciatingly weak-sauce.

21. Bxc6 Qxc6+ 22. f3 Nxe2!!

A very nice move. All of Black's pieces will soon be gunning down the king.



23. Kxh2 Bd6 24. Rg1 Rh8+ 25. Kg2 Rxc3+ 26. Kf1 Rxc1+ 27. Kxc1 Qb6+ 28. Kf1 Rh1+ 29. Kg2 Rh2+ 30. Kf1 Rh1+ 31. Kg2 Rh2+ 32. Kf1 Rxe2



Pwnage. Slava cleanly converts his material advantage.

33. Kxe2 f4 34. Rf1 Qe3+ 35. Kd1 Be5 36. Ne4 Qb6 37. Kc1 f5 38. Nec5 Bd4 39. a5 Be3+ 40. Kb1 Qc6 41. Nd3 Qd5 42. Ndc1 e5 43. Ne2 Qg8 44. Rh1 Qg2 45. Rh8+ Kc7 46. Rh7+ Kd6 47. Rh6+ Ke7 48. Rh7+ Kf6 49. Nc3 Qxf3 50. Ka2 Qg2 51. Rh6+ Kg7 52. Re6 Bd4

0-1

\*\*\*

With a crushing victory over our long-time archenemies, the Sluggers needed only a win against the St. Louis Archbishops to make it into the playoffs.

Week 10: St. Louis

Sluggers

White on 1 & 3

<b>Akobian</b>	1 - 0
<b>Mikhailuk</b>	0 - 1
<b>Lee</b>	1 - 0
<b>Guo</b>	1 - 0
	3 - 0

Archbishops

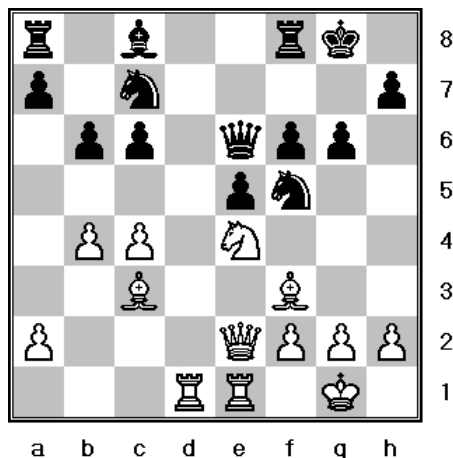
White on 2 & 4

<b>Shulman</b>	
<b>B. Finegold</b>	
<b>Brooks</b>	
<b>S. Finegold</b>	

The Sluggers FM Lee and GM Akobian won in fine style. FM Lee crushed IM Brooks like a bug while GM Akobian stunned the former US Champion with a beautiful victory:

**Varuzhan Akobian – Yury Shulman**  
**U.S. Chess League, Round 10**  
**Seattle vs St Louis, Board 1**  
**Internet Chess Club, October 27, 2010**

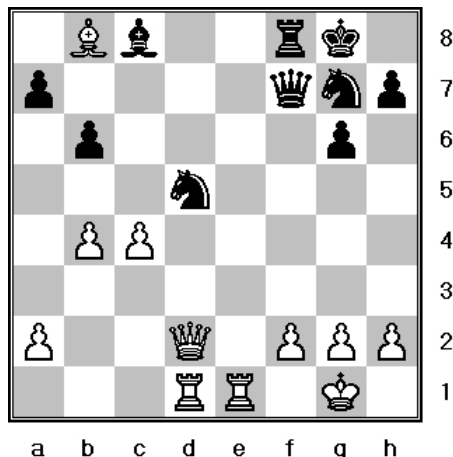
1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c6 4. e4 dxe4 5. Nxe4 Bb4+ 6. Bd2 Qxd4 7. Bxb4 Qxe4+ 8. Be2 Na6 9. Ba5 f6 10. Nf3 b6 11. Nd2 Qf4 12. Bh5+ g6 13. Bf3 Ne7 14. Bc3 0-0 15. 0-0 Qc7 16. Ne4 e5 17. Re1 Qd7 18. Qe2 Qe6 19. Rad1 Nf5 20. b4 Nc7



21. Nxf6+!

Breaks open the center. The bishops reign supreme.

21. ...Qxf6 22. Bxe5 Qf7 23. Bxc6 Rb8 24. Qd2 Ng7 25. Bd5 Nxd5 26. Bxb8

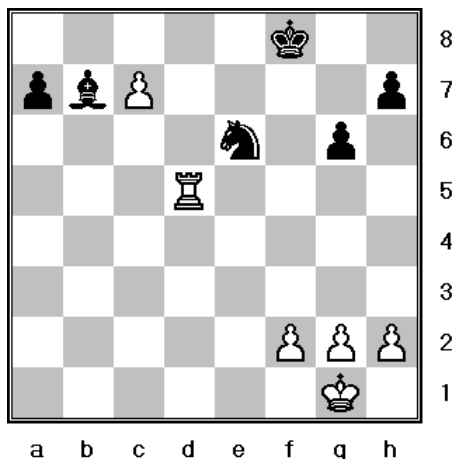


With his material recouped and positional superiority intact, Akobian cleanly converts his advantage.

26. ...Nf6 27. Bd6 Rd8 28. Qc3 Nf5 29. Be5 Nd7 30. c5

Time to march the pawn down the board!

30. ...bxc5 31. bxc5 Rf8 32. c6 Nxe5 33. Qxe5 Qxa2 34. c7 Ng7 35. Re2 Qe6 36. Rd8 Qxe5 37. Rxe5 Ne6 38. Red5 Bb7 39. Rxf8+ Kxf8



40. Rd8+

The pawn will promote, and at the very least, Akobian will be an exchange up.

40. ...Ke7 41. c8=Q Nxd8 42. Qc7+ Ke8 43. Qxh7 g5 44. Qg8+ Kd7 45. Qxg5 Ne6 46. Qe3 a6 47. h4

Great game by Akobian!

1-0

From the opening to the end, it never did seem like Shulman had a chance.

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### The Quarterfinals: Arizona

With that victory over the money-loaded St. Louis Archbishops, the Seattle Sluggers fight their way into the playoffs. In the Quarterfinals, the Sluggers faced off against the Arizona Scorpions. The Scorpions have draw odds, so the Sluggers had to win this match in order to advance in the playoffs.

#### Scorpions

White on 1 & 3

Altounian	.5 – .5
Barcenilla	0 – 1
Adamson	.5 – .5
Thompson	1 – 0
	2 – 2

#### Sluggers

White on 2 & 4

Akobian
Cozianu
Mikhailuk
Wang

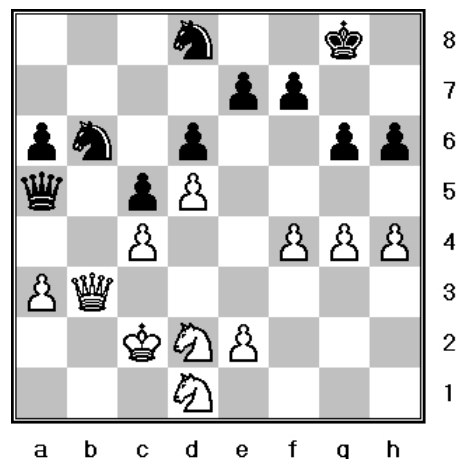
The match started off with an unfortunate draw on board one, where Altounian held down Akobian to a drawn ending. A draw on board one meant that the Sluggers needed 2.0 points on the lower three boards in order to get the 2.5 points necessary to win the match. However, things didn't get any better with a tough loss on board 4. Now, Cozianu and Mikhailuk were in the dreaded must-win situation.

Cozianu stepped up to the challenge and

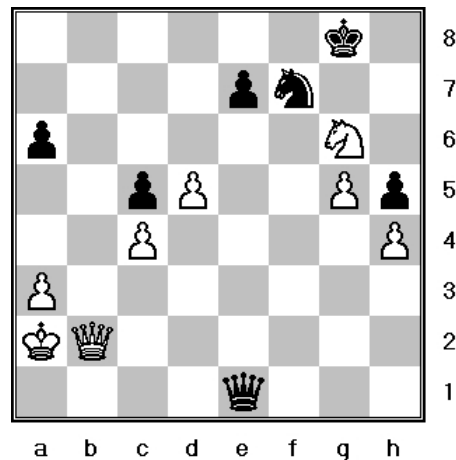
found the win in the following position:

**Costin Cozianu – Rogelio Barcenilla**  
**U.S. Chess League, Playoff QF**  
**Seattle vs Arizona, Board 2**  
**Internet Chess Club, November 3, 2010**

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. g3 d6 5. Bg2 0-0 6. 0-0 Nc6 7. d5 Na5 8. Nfd2 c5 9. Nc3 a6 10. Rb1 Bd7 11. Qc2 Qc7 12. b3 b5 13. Bb2 Rab8 14. Nd1 bxc4 15. bxc4 Rb4 16. Bc3 Rxb1 17. Qxb1 Ng4 18. Qa1 Bxc3 19. Qxc3 Rb8 20. h3 Nf6 21. Ne3 Rb4 22. a3 Rb8 23. g4 h6 24. f4 Nh7 25. Be4 Ba4 26. Bc2 Bxc2 27. Qxc2 Rb7 28. Rb1 Rxb1+ 29. Qxb1 Qb7 30. Qc2 Qb6 31. Kf2 Nb7 32. Ne4 Na5 33. Nd2 Nb7 34. Ke1 Nf8 35. Kd1 Na5 36. Qc3 Nd7 37. Kc2 Nb7 38. Nd1 Qa5 39. Qb3 Nd8 40. h4 Nb6

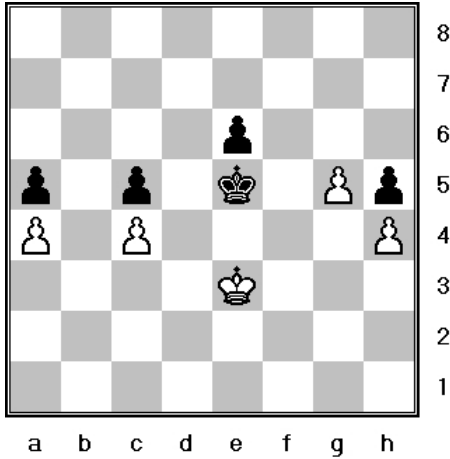


41. Nc3 Kh7 42. Kb2 Kg8 43. Ka2 Nd7 44. g5 h5 45. Qc2 Nf8 46. Nf3 Nd7 47. Nd1 Nb6 48. Nb2 Nd7 49. e4 Nf8 50. Qd3 Qc7 51. f5 Kh7 52. Nd1 Nd7 53. Qc3 Nb7 54. Nf2 Qa5 55. Qb3 Nd8 56. Nd3 Kg8 57. Qc2 Nf8 58. Nf4 Kg7 59. fxc6 fxc6 60. Qb2+ Kg8 61. e5 dxe5 62. Nxe5 Nf7 63. Nxc6 Nxc6 64. Nxc6 Qe1



Can you calculate the correct (and forced) sequence of moves that will lead to a win for Seattle?

65. Qb8+ Kg7 66. Qf8+ Kxg6 67. Qg8+ Kf5 68. Qxf7+ Kg4 69. Qe6+ Qxe6 70. dxe6 Kf5 71. Kb3 Kxe6 72. Kc3 Kf5 73. Kd3 a5 74. a4 e6 75. Ke3 Ke5



What's the winning move?

76. g6 Kf6 77. Kf4 Kxg6 78. Ke5 Kf7 79. Kd6 Kf6 80. Kxc5 Ke7 81. Kc6 Kf6 82. c5

Black resigns.

1-0

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So with Cozianu's win, Seattle's hopes remained alive. Now Slava just needed to come through with the win – which we almost had.

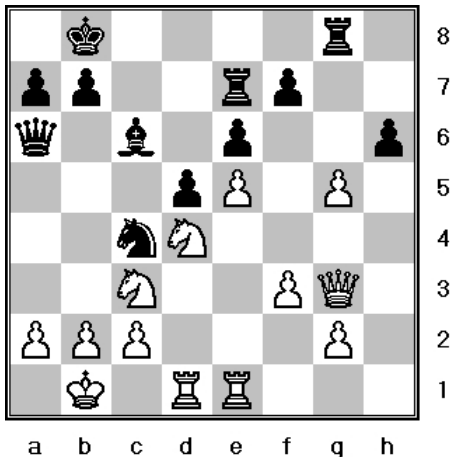
**Robby Adamson – Slava Mikhailuk**

**U.S. Chess League, Playoff QF**

**Arizona vs Seattle, Board 3**

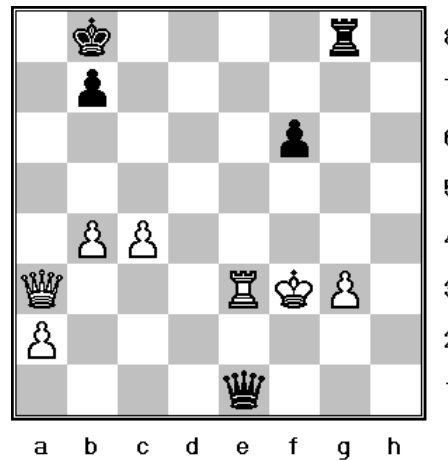
**Internet Chess Club, November 3, 2010**

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. d4 cxd4 5. Qxd4 Nc6 6. Bb5 Bd7 7. Bxc6 Bxc6 8. Bg5 Qa5 9. 0-0-0 e6 10. Rhe1 Be7 11. Kb1 0-0-0 12. Qd2 Kb8 13. Nd4 Bd7 14. Bf4 Qb6 15. Nb3 Bc6 16. Be3 Qa6 17. f3 d5 18. e5 Nd7 19. Bg5 Rhe8 20. Bxe7 Rxe7 21. Nd4 h6 22. Qf4 Nb6 23. Qg3 g5 24. h4 Nc4 25. hxg5 Rg8



26. f4 Rc7 27. Nce2 hxg5 28. f5 Qb6 29. b3 exf5 30. Nxf5 Bd7 31. Nfd4 Be6 32. Ka1 Na3 33. Qd3 Rgc8 34. Rc1 Bg4 35. c3 Bh5 36. Qd2 Qg6 37. Ng3 Bg4 38. Kb2 Qa6 39. Qxg5 Be6 40. Qd2 Nb5 41. Nxb5 Qxb5 42. Ne2 a5 43. Nd4 Qb6 44. Qe3 Rg8 45. Rc2 Qa6 46. Qe2 Qb6 47. Qb5 Qa7 48. Rf1 Rc5 49. Qd3 a4 50. b4 a3+ 51. Kc1 Rc4 52. Rf6 Qa6 53. Qf3 Rgc8 54. Qe3 Qa4 55. Kd2 Qe8 56. Rf2 Qh8 57. Nb5 d4 58. Nxd4 Qh1 59. Rc1 Qh7 60. Qd3 Qh6+ 61. Kd1 Bg4+ 62. Nf3 Ka8 63. Rcc2 Qb6 64. Ke1 Bh5 65. Qd2 Re4+ 66. Kf1 Rd8 67. Nd4 Rxe5 68. Qf4 Rde8 69. Rc1 Bg6 70. Kg1 Rh5 71. Rff1 Reh8 72. Rfe1 Rh4 73. Qe5 R4h5 74. Qf4 Rh1+ 75. Kf2 R1h4 76. Qe5 R4h5 77. Qe3 Qf6+ 78. Nf3 Rd8 79. Kg1 Qh8 80. Kf2 Rhd5 81. c4 Rd3 82. Qe5 f6 83. Qa5+ Kb8 84. Re3 Rxe3 85. Kxe3 Bh5 86. Qxa3 Qh6+ 87. Kf2 Bxf3 88. Kxf3 Qd2 89. Rc3 Rg8 90. g3 Qe1 91. Re3?

In the following position, White had just played 91.Re3?? What's the win?



91. ...Rxxg3+

91. ...Qxg3+ 92. Ke2 Qh2+ 93. Kd3 Rd8+ winning. Possible variation: 94. Ke4 Qe5+ 95. Kf3 Qh5+ 96. Kf2 Rd2+ with certain checkmate.

92. Kf4 Rxe3 93. Qxe3 Qxb4 94. Qd4 Qe7 95. Kf5 Qh7+ 96. Ke6 Qg8+ 97. Kf5 Qh7+ 98. Ke6 Qg8+ 99. Kf5 Qc8+ 100. Kg6 Qe8+ 101. Kf5 Kc7 102. Qxf6 Qh5+ 103. Ke4 Qe2+ 104. Kd5 Qd2+ 105. Qd4 Qxa2 106. Qc5+ Kb8 107. Qd6+ Ka8 108. Qf8+ Ka7 109. Qc5+

Game drawn by mutual agreement

1/2-1/2

Yup, the Sluggers were just that close to advancing to the Semifinals. However, Mikhailuk ended up playing 91. ...Rxxg3?, which seems strong but unfortunately, it

doesn't quite finish the job. But remember, Mikhailuk had less than 45 seconds on his clock to guess the right answer.

It's hard to play well when every tick of the clock seems like the beating of a drum.

The Sluggers' season ended in the Quarterfinals, but the Sluggers have plenty to be proud of this year. Despite the admittedly mediocre result (5 wins out of 10 matches), the Sluggers had a phenomenal season. The average result was largely due to the extreme difficulty of the Sluggers' playing schedule. We were given a harder schedule because we were the 2009 Western Division Champion. In the 2010 USCL season, the Sluggers would have to play New Jersey (2009 Eastern Division champions), the Miami Sharks twice (played in this year's championship), the San Francisco Mechanics twice (made playoffs every year before 2010), the Scorpions (2010 Western Division champions), and Dallas Destiny, two-time USCL champions. The Sluggers have clearly shown themselves to be "a very dangerous team" (USCL website).

Additionally, some Sluggers were awarded some of the league's top honors: GM Akobian was named 4th team all-star board one, for his 4.5/6 record and 2761 performance rating; FM Lee earned the 2nd team all-star board three award with 4.5/6, performance rating 2636; Alex Guo was awarded the 2nd team all-star board four, for his 5/6, with a performance rating of 2432.

The Sluggers' Roster

1. GM Akobian
2. GM Serper
3. FM Cozianu
4. FM Mikhailuk
5. FM Lee
6. FM Milat
7. WGM Rohonyan
8. NM Sinanan
9. Alex Guo
10. Michael Wang

Lastly, I'd like to thank the team and the fans who helped make this season a very memorable one.

Next year, to the Championship!

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# SCC at the 28th Western States Open

by Fred Kleist

Over thirty Northwest players trooped down to Reno for the Western States Open, October 22-24, 2010. Two hundred thirty-two players took part in the three-day, six-round event, about ten percent fewer than last year. The troubled economy and the high-prize-fund, low-entry-fee Blackmar-Diemer Gambit tournament in Port Townsend hit the Seattle Chess Club team even harder, as it suffered a 28% decline in participation. Nevertheless, the ten-player "A Team" scored 38.0/60 to finish 1.5 points behind the Mechanics Institute CC of San Francisco.

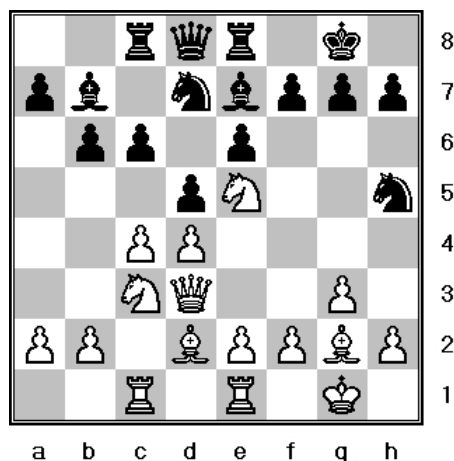
Half of the SCC A Team played in the U1600 Section. Paul Buchignani scored 4.5/6 to tie for second through seventh. Kerry VanVeen and Carol Kleist had four points each, while David Kelly and August Piper finished on 3.5.

SCC Secretary Carol Kleist drew her first four games, including contests with teammates Piper and VanVeen. She then won her final two games to pick up 111 rating points.

**Carol Kleist – Charles Nelson  
Western States Open, Round 5  
Reno, Nevada, October 24, 2010**

Annotations by Carol Kleist and Fred Kleist.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. g3 b6 5. Bg2 Bb7 6. 0-0 Be7 7. Bf4 Nbd7 8. Nc3 c6 9. Qd3 0-0 10. Rfe1 Nh5 11. Bd2 Re8 12. Rac1 Rc8 13. Ne5



13. ...Nxe5

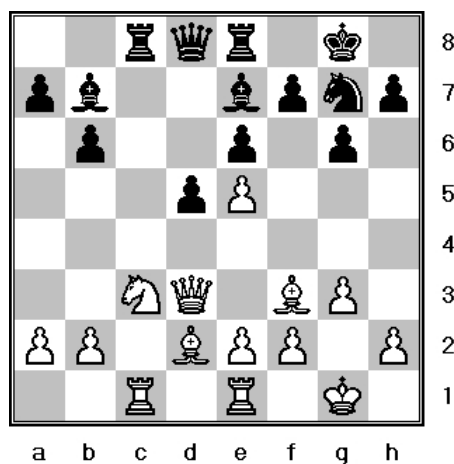
13. ...Nhf6 would be better, for, after the

text, White threatens to trap the h5-knight by g3-g4.

14. de g6

Black weakens his king's protection in order to save his knight. Note that after 14. ...f5, the knight is still precariously placed. *Better is 14. ...dc 15. Qxd8 Rxd8 16. Nb1 Ba6 17. g4 Rxd2 18. Nxd2 Nf4 19. Bf1 Bb4 20. Red1 c3, when Black has sufficient compensation for the Exchange—FK.*

15. cd cd 16. Bf3 Ng7



17. Bg2

17. g4 could be considered. It confines the knight and prepares a possible kingside pawn storm.

17. ...Qd7 18. f4 Red8

18. ...Nf5 19. e4 leads to a complicated position after 19. ...Bc5+ 20. Kh1 Nh6 21. h3—FK.

19. e3 f6(?)

Better is 19. ...Nf5 now that the queen is guarded.

20. ef Bxf6 21. Ne2 Bxb2 22. Rc2 Rxc2

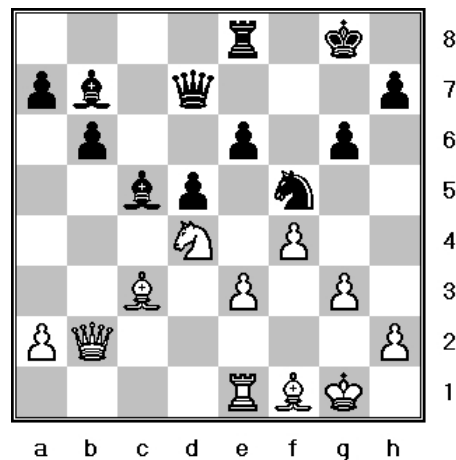
Now that I've dropped a pawn, my opponent wants trades.

23. Qxc2 Bf6 24. Nd4 Rc8 25. Qb3 Be7 26. Bh3

Trying to tie down some of Black's pieces.

26. ...Bc5 27. Bc3 Nf5 28. Qb2 Re8 29. Bf1

Lured by a chance for Bb5, which, of course, Black sees.



29. ...Nxd4 30. ed!?

Focussing on the e6-weakness.

30. ...Bf8 31. Bh3

I could still play Bb5 and trade Bishops on c6, but my light-squared Bishop is better than his and, besides, he would welcome more trades.

31. ...Bc8 32. Bf1

Renewing the threat of Bb5.

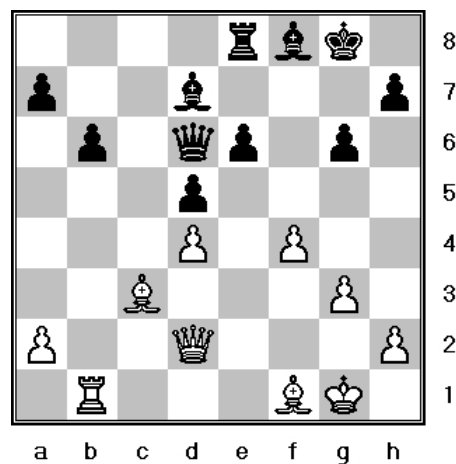
32. ...Qd6

Out of skewer country.

33. Rb1

Aiming to trade off my bad dark-squared bishop.

33. ...Bd7 34. Qd2



34. ...a5?

To prevent Bb4, but now the b-pawn becomes a target.

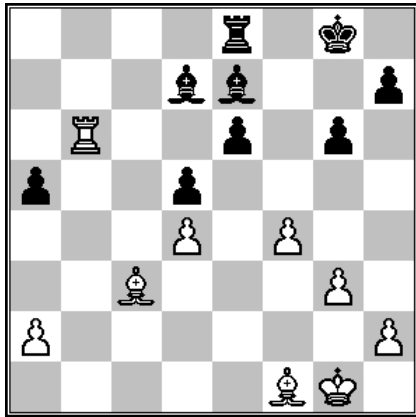
35. Qb2 Be7



If Black tries to defend the b-pawn by 35. ...Rb8, then 36. Bxa5. 35. ...Rc8 36. Be1 Bg7 37. Bf2 Rb8 saves the pawn—FK.

**36. Qxb6 Qxb6 37. Rxb6**

Ha, finally got my pawn back!



a b c d e f g h

**37. ...Bd8(?)**

Too passive. Better is 37. ...Rc8 38. Bxa5 Bf6 39. Rb4 Ra8, which is about equal, though White would have a slight edge with the better bishop—FK.

**38. Rb1**

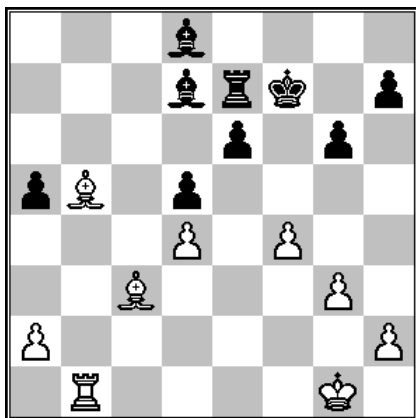
With about three minutes left to time control, I opt for simplicity.

**38. ...Kf7 39. Bb5**

After a bishop trade, the a-pawn should be easier to capture, but I must guard my d-pawn, perhaps a job for the king.

**39. ...Re7**

I feel I have to be better, as all his pieces are jammed up; so it dawns on me that I should avoid trades.



a b c d e f g h

**40. Bd3 Ke8?? 41. Rb8 a4??**

Black must play 41. ...Ba4 42. Bxa5 Rd7 43. Kf2 Ke7 44. Bxd8+ Rxd8 45. Rxd8 Kxd8,

though White is much better in the bishop ending—FK.

**42. Ba5**

**1-0**

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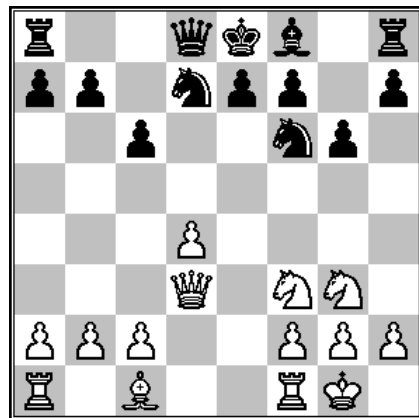
SCC Vice-President David Kelly performed creditably in his first WSO and found himself on first board in the U1600 section in Round Three. A bit unnerved at being in this exalted position, he went into the game thinking that he had to at least draw, which explains his willingness to repeat the final position.

**Matthias Grabiak – David Kelly  
Western States Open, Round 3  
Reno, Nevada, October 23, 2010**

Annotations by Fred Kleist

**1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 de 4. Nxe4 Bf5  
5. Ng3 Bg6 6. Nf3 Nd7 7. Bd3 Bxd3 8.  
Qxd3 Ngf6 9. 0-0 g6**

A rare continuation essayed at least once by GM Keith Arkell.



a b c d e f g h

**10. h3**

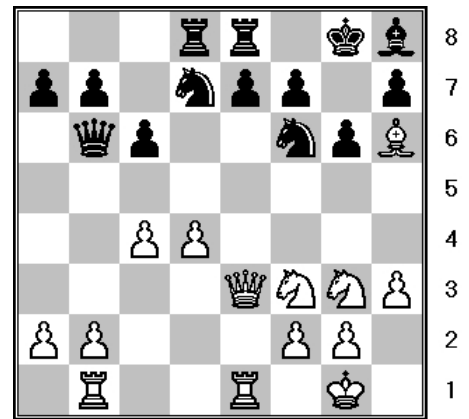
If White wishes to try to refute this variation, he should put sufficient pressure on e7 such that Black must play ...e7-e6. Afterwards, he can target the weakened dark squares. Nicholson–Arkell, London 1984, continued 10. Re1 Bg7 11. Qa3 Nb6 12. Bg5 Nc4 13. Qd3 Nd6 14. Qe2 h6 15. Bd2 e6 16. c4 0-0 with, perhaps, a tiny edge for White.

**10. ...Bg7 11. Re1 0-0 12. c4 Re8 13.  
Bf4 Qb6 14. Rab1 Rad8 15. Qa3 Bf8 16.  
Qe3 Bg7**

16. ...c6-c5 is called for.

**17. Bh6 Bh8**

Better is 17. ...Bxh6 18. Qxh6 c5.



a b c d e f g h

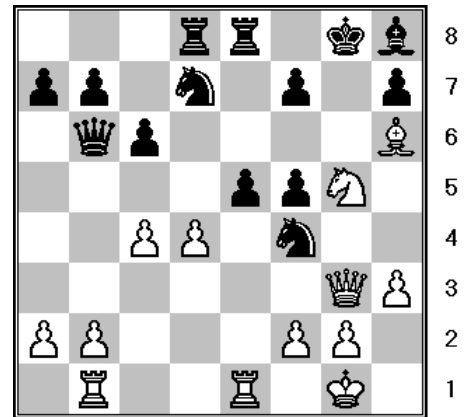
**18. Ng5?**

Now is the time for 18. Nf5!, e. g. , 18. ...e5 19. b4 e4 20. Nd6 Re6 21. c5 Qc7 22. Ng5 Re7 with a significant plus for White.

**18. ...e5 19. Nf5??**

Too late – Black can simply gobble up the knight.

**19. ...gf 20. Qg3 Nh5 21. Qh4 Nf4 22.  
Qg3**



a b c d e f g h

**22. ...Nh5**

After 22. ...Ng6, Black's king position is solidly defended and he can proceed to win with his extra piece.

**23. Qh4 Nf4**

1/2-1/2

\*\*\*

Of the other players on the A Team, only one posted a positive score. Richard Golden and Erlend Millikan in the U1800 Section and Dakota Dixon in the Open Section finished on 2. 5 points, while Randy Dean had an even score in the U2200 Section. Team Captain Fred Kleist, the SCC Tournament Director, however, managed to score five points in the U2200 Section to take clear first.

I was somewhat lucky in Rounds 1-3. In my first game, I made an opening error which allowed a monster knight on d6 in a Kan Sicilian. My opponent sacrificed a pawn in an attempt to keep it there, but could not do so. In seeking to press his positional advantage, he created some attacking chances against his King which I exploited in mutual time pressure. However, on move 39 I blundered my queen, but, thankfully, he was under the same mistaken impression as I was and did not take it, allowing a forced mate in two. In the next two games, I played against the Petroff, which I had recently reviewed, and both opponents made significant opening mistakes that I took advantage of. Even in my fourth round game, I received a helping hand from my opponent.

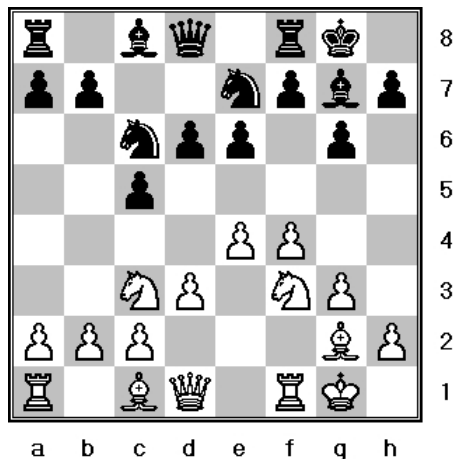
**Hayk Manvelyan – Fred Kleist  
Western States Open, Round 4  
Reno, Nevada, October 23, 2010**

Annotations by Fred Kleist

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. d3

The Closed Sicilian is hardly a winning attempt by White, as he scores less than 50% from this position.

5. ...d6 6. f4 e6 7. Nf3 Nge7 8. 0-0 0-0



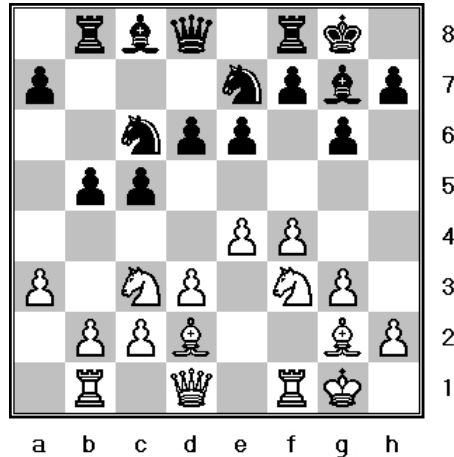
We have reached the main battleground of the Closed Sicilian. Black is ready to prevent d3-d4 by placing a knight on d4 and to counter a threatened f4-f5 by ...f7-f5. For his own part, Black will seek space on the queenside by ...b7-b5-b4.

9. Rb1

White chooses to prepare a counter to Black's queenside expansion, thereby forgoing, for the time being, his own play on the kingside.

9. ...Rb8 10. a3 b5 11. Bd2

I'd played Manvelyan a year or two earlier and continued with the natural 11. ...a5, which allows White to gain an edge by 12. a4! After 12. ...b4 13. Nb5 Ba6 (or 13. ...Nd4), 13. c4! closes the queenside and shifts the focus to the center and kingside where White has more prospects. Probably Black should play 12. ...ba 13. Nxa4 Nd4, approaching equality.



11. ...Bd7

Remembering the closed queenside of last time, I opted for flexibility, but Black has two more active choices 11. ... b4 12. ab cb 13. Ne2 Qb6+ 14. Kh1 a5 15. b3 and 11. ...c4! 12. Be3 d5 13. dc bc 14. Nd4 Nxd4 15. Bxd4 de 16. Bxg7 Kxg7 17. Nxe4 Nf5 =+, when Black has good chances due to his pressure on the b-file and on the central dark squares d4 and e3 (GM Dorian Rogozenko).

12. Re1

White also plays a waiting move, though the rook may be misplaced, since White's usual plan involves f4-f5. More consistent is 12. b4, though, after 12. ...cb 13. ab a5 14. ba b4 15. Ne2 Qxa5, it is not clear that White has achieved much.

12. ...Qc7

Connecting my Rooks and completing my development.

13. h3 Rfe8 14. Be3

White is the first to tire of waiting.

14. ...Nd4 15. Ne2 Nxf3+ 16. Bxf3 a5

Reverting to the original plan now that the knight can no longer gain an outpost on b5.

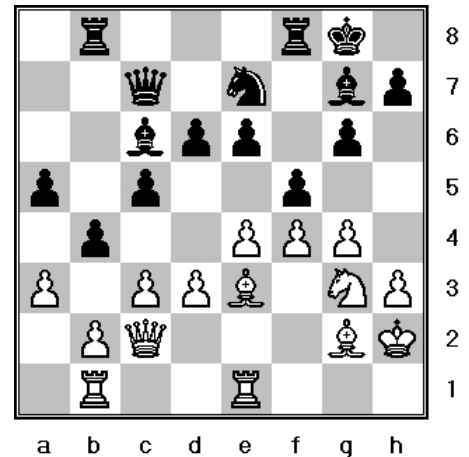
17. Qd2 b4 18. g4 f5 19. Ng3 Rf8 20. c3 Bc6 21. Bg2 Qb7

Threatening 22. ...bc 23. bc Qxb1.

22. Qc2 Qc7

Offering to repeat the position, as I was very short on time.

23. Kh2



23. ...e5

With White's king on the same diagonal as my queen, I decided to open things up.

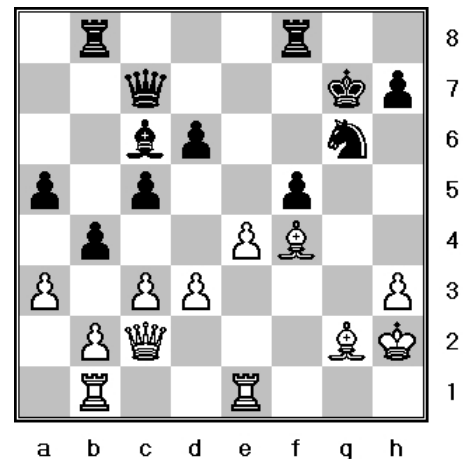
24. gf

Probably better is 24. ef gf 25. gf ef 26. Bxf4 Nxf5 27. Nxf5 Rxf5 28. Bg3 with only a slight plus for Black.

24. ...gf 25. Nh5

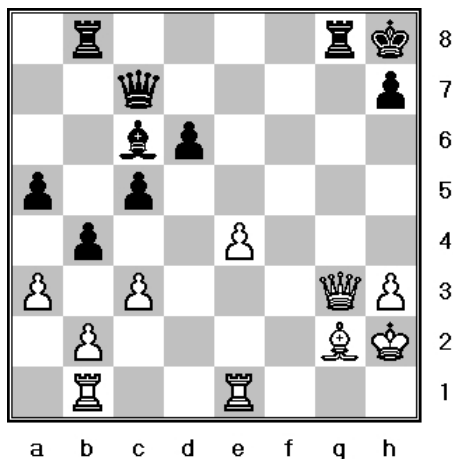
This is too ambitious, as Black is better set up to attack than White. White should transpose into the last line with 25. ef.

25. ...ef 26. Nxf7 Kxf7 27. Bxf4 Ng6 =+



Now Black is better, because Bishop retreats lead to problems: 28. Bg3 f4 29. Bf2 f3 30. Bh1 Rf6 31. Rg1 Kh8 or 28. Bd2 ba 29. ba Rxb1 30. Qxb1 (30. Rxb1 d5+ 31. Kg1 de 32. de fe 33. Be3 Nh4 34. Bxc5 Nf3+ 35. Bxf3 Rxf3 36. Rf1 Rxf3 37. Bd4+ Kg6 38. Rf6+ Kg5 39. Rxc6 Rg3+ 40. Kh2 Qf4 41. Rc5+ Kh6 42. Rc6+ Rg6+) 30. ...fe.

28. Qd2 Nxf4 29. Qxf4 fe 30. Qg3+ Kh8 31. de Rg8



**32. Qh4**

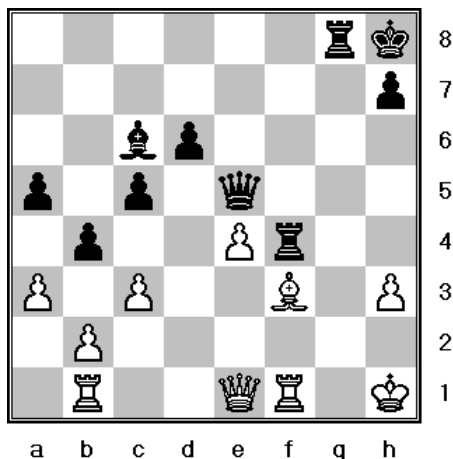
32. Qf2 ba 33. ba Rxb1 34. Rxb1 Rxc2+ 35. Qxc2 (35. Kxg2 Bxe4+ 36. Kh2 d5+ 37. Kg1 Qg7+) 35. ...Bxe4 36. Qf2 d5+ 37. Kg1 Qg7+ 38. Kh2 Bxb1.

**32. ...Qg7 33. Bf3 Qe5+ 34. Kh1 Rbf8 35. Rf1**

35. Bg4 Bxe4+ 36. Kg1 Rf3.

**35. ...Rf4 36. Qe1**

36. Qh5 Qxh5 37. Bxh5 Bxe4+ 38. Kh2 Rg2+.



**36. ...Rxf3 37. Rxf3 Bxe4 38. Qf1 Rg3 0-1**

\*\*\*

In Round Five, I seized a chance to force an early draw, since I was a bit stressed from my earlier adventures. When Oregonian Paul Romero offered me a draw on move 33 in the final round, I gladly accepted. Romero tied for second-third with Manvelyan on 4.5.

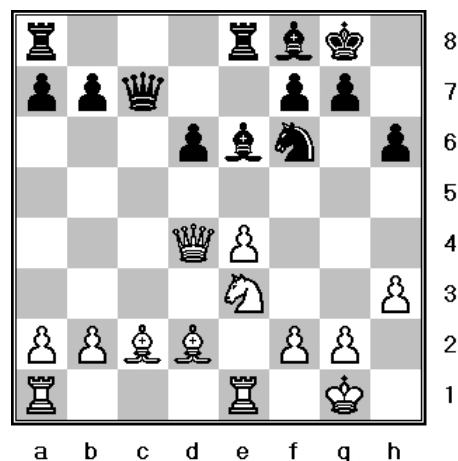
Other Northwesterners who did well include Daniel and Alex Ho of Vancouver, WA, who tied for second-third in the U2000 Section on 4.5; Ritchie Duran

(Central Point, OR) scored five points to tie for first-second in the U1800 Section; Peter Grant (Jacksonville, OR) tied with Buchignani; George Petersen of Portland came equal second-fourth in the U1400 Section with 4.5 points; while Mike Goffe (OR) tied for first-second in the Sunday Quick Chess event, scoring 4.5. Other plus scores were posted by Samir Sen (Vancouver, WA-U2200), Randy Smolensky (OR-U2000) and Ewald Hopfenzitz (OR-U1800).

The SCC also fielded a B Team of three players. NMs Viktors Pupols and Dereque Kelley headed that list, because both had minus scores after two rounds, when the team lists were due. The third player was Michael Mellott, an 1100 playing in the U1600 section. I usually put those with plus scores on the first team and make my best guess in the group with even scores. In the event, both Pupols and Kelley had their chances against 2500-rated opponents in the first round

**Sergey Kudrin – Dereque Kelley  
Western States Open, Round 1  
Reno, Nevada, October 22, 2010**

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d3 Be7 5. 0-0 0-0 6. Bb3 d6 7. c3 Na5 8. Bc2 c5 9. Re1 Nc6 10. Nbd2 Re8 11. Nf1 h6 12. h3 Bf8 13. d4 cd 14. cd Nxd4 15. Nxd4 ed 16. Qxd4 Be6 17. Ne3 Qc7 18. Bd2



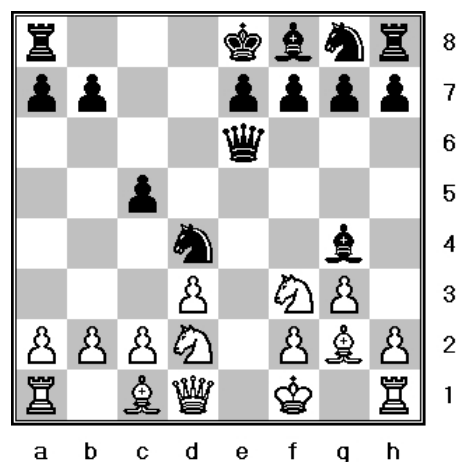
18. ...d5 19. ed Bc5 20. Qc3 Bxd5 21. Nxd5 Nxd5 22. Qf3 Rxe1+ 23. Rxe1 Rd8 24. Rc1 Qd6 25. Bb3 Nf6 26. Bc3 b6 27. Rd1 Qe7 28. Re1 Qd6 29. g4 Bd4 30. Bxd4 Qxd4 31. Rd1

1-0

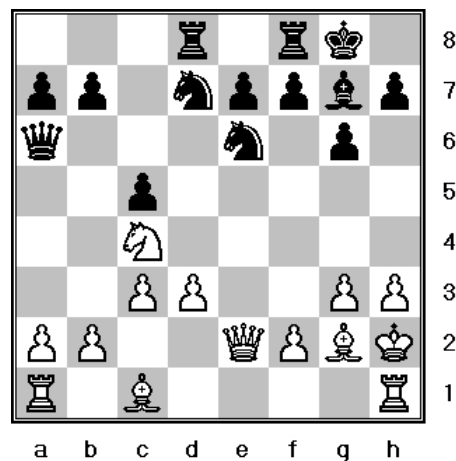
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**Viktors Pupols – Enrico Sevillano  
Western States Open, Round 1  
Reno, Nevada, October 22, 2010**

1. e4 c5 2. d3 d5 3. ed Qxd5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. g3 Nd4 6. Bg2 Bg4 7. Nbd2 Qe6+ 8. Kf1



8. ...Qa6 9. h3 Bd7 10. Ne5 Nf6 11. Nxd7 Nxd7 12. Nc4 g6 13. c3 Ne6 14. Kg1 Bg7 15. Kh2 0-0 16. Qe2 Rad8



17. f4 b5 18. Ne3 Nc7 19. Bd2 e6 20. Rhd1 Rfe8 21. Be1 f5 22. Qc2 e5 23. fe Nxe5 24. a4 Qf6 25. Nf1 c4 26. ab Nxd3 27. Bc6 Re5 28. Bf2 Nxb5 29. Ra6 Qe7 30. Bf3 Re8 31. Kg1 Kh8 32. Rxd3 cd 33. Qxd3 Rd8 34. Qc4 Nd6 35. Qa4 Nc8 36. Rc6 Re6 37. Qc4 Rxc6 38. Qxc6 Nd6 39. Qc5 Rd7 40. Qd5 Ne4 41. Qa8+ Rd8 42. Qxa7 Qxa7 43. Bxa7 Nd2 44. Bc6 Nxf1 45. Kxf1 Rd2 46. b4 Bxc3 47. b5 Bd4 48. Bxd4+ Rxd4 49. Ke2 Kg7 50. Ke3 Rd6 51. h4 Kf6 52. Kf4 Rd3

0-1

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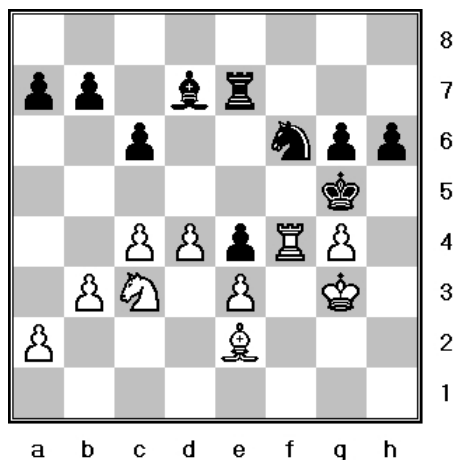
# And In The End

by Dana Muller

This month we look at one of my games that can best be described as a comedy of errors. Before analyzing the ending, my recollection was that the ending was about equal, but right before time control the game turned tactical and in the end a blunder by my opponent decided the game. What I didn't realize until analyzing the ending was how ragged the play was for both sides; what I thought was a reasonably well played ending was in fact a series of second (or third) best moves my both players. I suppose this underscores how difficult it is to accurately play an ending where each side has several reasonable moves at each turn and each player has to be constantly on the lookout for random tactical shots.

**Roger Hansen – Dana Muller  
Ellensburg  
Washington, August 1979**

(Black to move)



Material is even. White stands slightly better due to the pressure against the isolated e-pawn and a general lack of weaknesses.

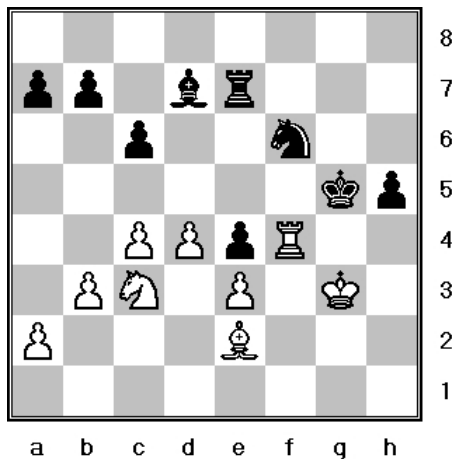
On the other hand, Black doesn't have a second weakness and can easily arrange to defend the e-pawn as many times as White attacks it.

White has a choice of active plans: a general push of the queenside pawns or an immediate advance of the d-pawn. Against accurate play neither plan offers much for White. Black must remain vigilant against White's pawn advances and begin counterplay on the kingside by preparing the advance his h-pawn. All in all, the game should be drawn with White having a bit better of the play.

### 33. ...h5

This move does remove the g4 pawn as a target, but it does have the benefit of clearing the f5 square for the bishop and creating a passed pawn.

### 34. gxh5 gxh5



### 35. d5

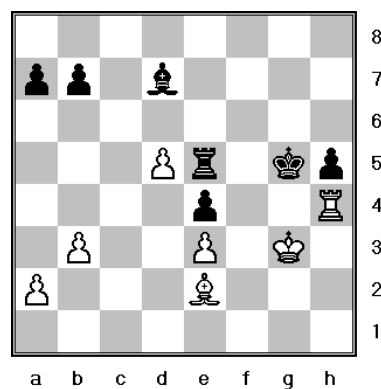
White needs to play actively since Black is planning ...Bf5 and ...Rh7 with kingside play. The alternative to pushing the d-pawn is a general queenside advance, e.g. something like 35. b5 Bf5 36. a4 b6 37. b5 c5 38. dxc5 bxc5 39. a5 seems promising for White.

The problem is that Black doesn't have to wait passively for the advance, after White plays b4 Black can respond with ...b5 in most positions. A couple examples: 35. b4 b5 36. cxb5 cxb5 37. Bxb5? (37. a3 a6 is solid and equal) 37. ...Bxb5 38. Nxb5 Nd5, Black is better, or 35. a3 Bf5 36. b4 b5 37.

c5 (37. cxb5 cxb5 38. Bxb5 Rc7) and Black has gained the d5 square. Starting the queenside advance with 35. a4 doesn't promise much after 35. ...a5. So the text is reasonable, although it gives Black an immediate drawing option.

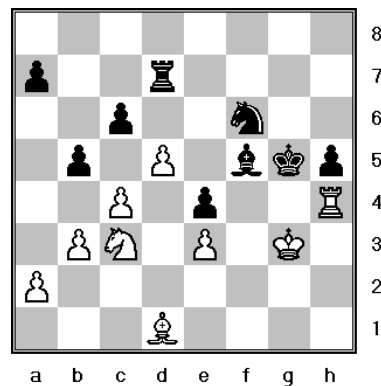
### 35. ...Bg4?

This is a mistake. The idea behind the move (prepare the h-pawn advance) is good, but the execution is faulty. Good enough for equality is 35. ...cxd5 36. Nxd5 Nxd5 37. cxd5 Re5 38. Rh4



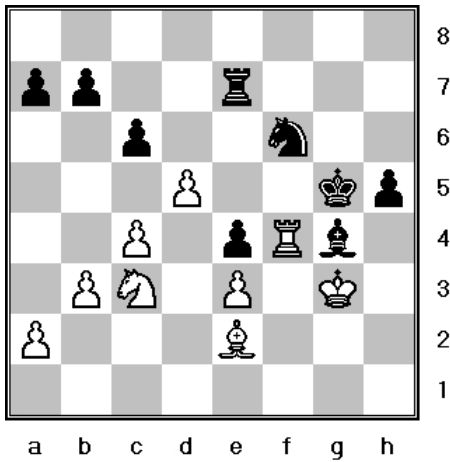
### 38. ...Kg6 =.

If Black wants to keep some life in the position, then 35. ...Bf5 (preparing ...Rh7, ...h4+) is the better move: (1) 36. d6 Rh7 37. c5 h4+ 38. Kh2 b6 39. b4 bxc5 40. bxc5 Rb7 with counterplay similar to the game; (2) 36. Rh4 (holding up ...h4+) 36. ...Rd7 37. Bd1 (37. dxc6 bxc6 is poor for White, the black rook will gain the d-file) 37. ...b5!?



(the waiting 37. ...Rd8 is solid; 37. ...b5 is more adventurous) 38. a3 a5 (idea 39. ...b4) 39. Be2 b4 40. axb4 axb4 41. Na4 (41. Na2 cxd5 42. Nxb4 dxc4 43. bxc4 Rd2 is in Black's favor) 41. ...Rd6 42. Nb6 Bg6 leads

to interesting complications.

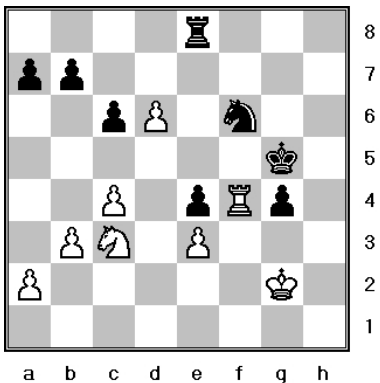


**36. d6**

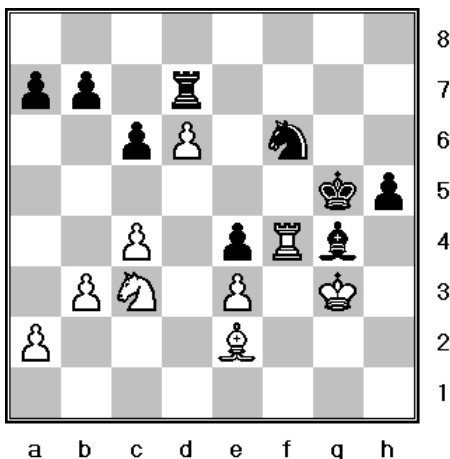
Simpler is 36. Bxg4, then 37. d6.

**36. ...Rd7**

Hitting the d-pawn. The alternatives are bad: (1) 36. ...h4+ 37. Kh2 leaves Black's whole position hanging – note the Rxf6 tricks; (2) 36. ...Re6 37. Bxg4 hxg4 38. c5 b6 39. b4 bxc5 40. bxc5 Re5 41. Kg2 Rxc5 42. d7 Nxd7 43. Nxe4 is good for White; (3) 36. ...Re8 37. Bxg4 hxg4 38. Kg2

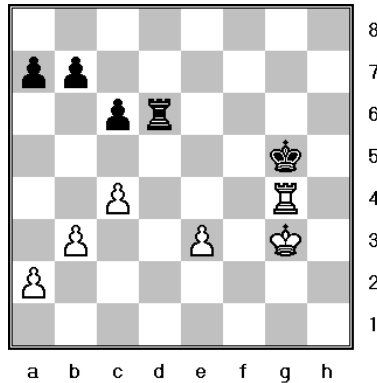


(idea 39. Nxe4+ Nxe4 40. Rxe4 Rxe4 41. d7) 38. ...Rd8 39. c5 b6 40. b4 bxc5 41. bxc5 Nd7 42. Nxe4+.



**37. c5?**

Protecting the passed d-pawn looks natural, but is a mistake. Better is 37. Bxg4 hxg4 38. Nxe4+ Nxe4+ 39. Rxe4 Rxd6 40. Rxg4+ leading to a rook and pawn ending with an extra pawn for White.



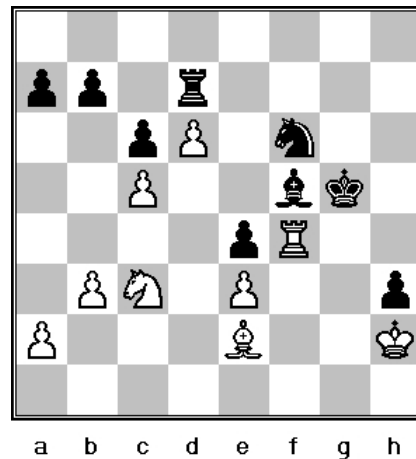
I estimate White's winning chances are about equal to Black's drawing chances.

**37. ...h4+ 38. Kg2 h3+**

38. ...Bf5 is a reasonable alternative.

**39. Kh2 Bf5**

Protecting the e-pawn and retaining the bishop.



**40. Kg3?**

Loses a tempo. 40. b4 solidifying the pawn chain is better. For example 40. b4 b6(?) 41. Ba6 Rd8 (41. ...Rh7 42. b5!) 42. Bb7, promising for White. Black's best appears to be 40. b4 Rd8 41. Rf1 b6 42. Rg1+ Kh6 43. Bf1 bxc5 44. bxc5 Nd7 45. Bxh3 Bxh3 46. Kxh3 Nxc5 47. Rd1 Kg6 48. Rd4, which is about equal.

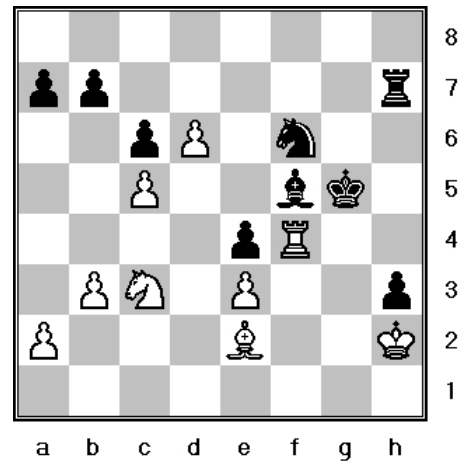
**40. ...Rh7**

Preparing the advance of the h-pawn.

**41. Kh2**

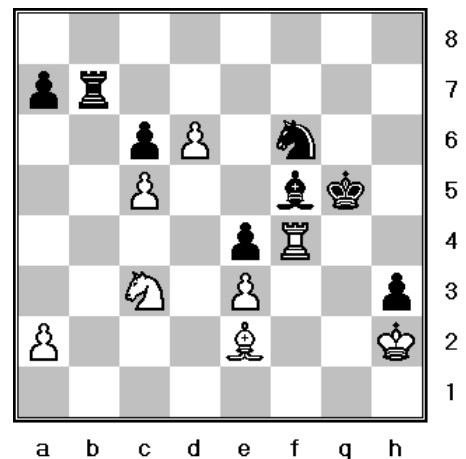
Holding up the h-pawn with 41. Rf2 is inferior: 41. ...b6 42. b4 bxc5 43. bxc5 Nd7 44. Na4 Rg7 45. Kh2 (seems necessary to

free the rook) 45. ...Kf6 46. Bd1 Ne5 with a promising position for Black.



**41. ...b6 42. b4 bxc5 43. bxc5 Rb7**

Believe it or not, Black now has a slight edge!



**44. Bd1**

An interesting alternative is 44. Bb5 when Black needs to defend the c-pawn with 44. ...Bd7. Play could continue (1) 45. Ba4(?) Rb4 46. Bb3 Ng4+ 47. Kg3 h2 48. Rxg4 Bxg4 49. Kxh2 Bd7, or (2) 45. Bf1 Rb2+ 46. Kg1 Bf5 47. Ne2 h2+ 48. Kxh2 Ng4+ 49. Kg1 Nxe3 50. Rf2 Ng4 51. Rg2 Rb1 with an edge for Black.

**44. ...Rb4?!**

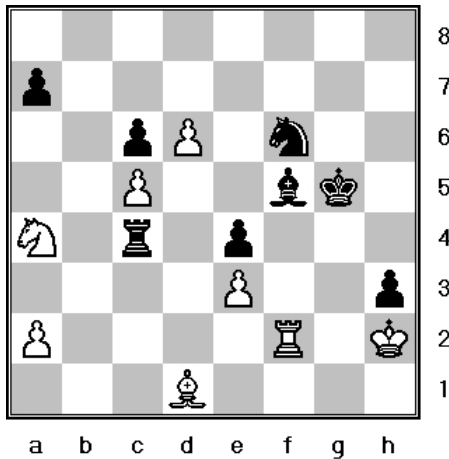
Better is 44. ...Rb2+ 45. Kh1 Rd2 46. Rf1 Nd5 47. Nxd5 Rxd5 48. Bb3 Rxc5 49. Rg1+ Kf6 50. Rf1 a6 (waiting for White to put either the rook or the king on the second rank) 51. Rf2 (51. Kh2 Rb5 52. Ba4 Rb2+ and 53. ...Rd2) 51. ...Kg5 (unpinning) 52. Kh2 Rc3 53. Bd5 Rd3 54. Bxc6 Rxd6 with an extra pawn for Black.

**45. Rf2?!**

Better is 45. Bb3 Nd7 46. Nd5 cxd5 47. c6 Be6 48. cxd7 Rb8 (idea 49. Rd8) and the

game is equal.

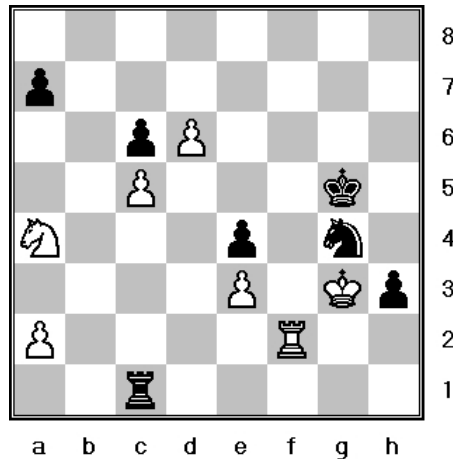
45. ...Rc4 46. Na4



46. ...Bg4?

Another error, once again the idea is good but the execution is faulty. Better is 46. ...Rc1: (1) 47. Be2 Rc2 48. Kg3 Rxa2 and Black pushes the a-pawn; (2) 47. Rd2 Kh4 48. Nb6 (desperate, but 48. Nb2 Bg4 49. d7 Bxd7 wins) 48. ...axb6 49. cxb6 Bg4 50. b7 (50. d7 Bxd7) 50. ...Bxd1 51. b8(Q) Ng4+ and Black mates.

47. Bxg4 Nxb4 48. Kg3 Rc1



49. Rd2?

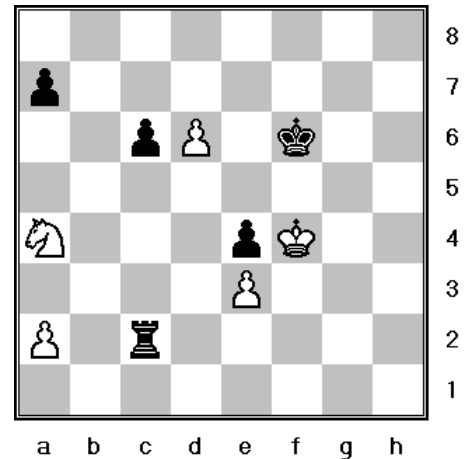
The final error. 49. Rf4! Nf6 50. d7 Nxd7 51. Rxe4 Kf5 52. Rf4+ Ke5 53. Kxh3 Re1 54. Rf3 Ke4 55. Rf7 Ne5 56. Rxa7 Kf3 is equal.

49. ...h2 50. Rxb2

Since 50. d7 h1(Q) 51. d8(Q)+ Nf6 stops further checks, Black is winning.

50. ...Nxb2 51. Kxb2 Kf6 52. Kg3 Rc4

53. Nb2 Rxc5 54. Kf4 Rc2 55. Na4



... and resigns before Black moved.

0-1

It is indeed winning for Black, a possible continuation is 55. ...Ke6 56. d7 Kxd7 57. Ke5 Ke7 58. Kd4 a5 59. a3 Kd6 60. Nb6 Rd2+ 61. Kxe4 Kc5 and with the white king cut off, the win is clear.

\*\*\*\*\*

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♣ January 8-9

Gresham Open ♣

See display ad on back cover.

♣ January 20-February 17

Spokane Winter Championship ♣

Spokane Chess Club, Herak 121 (Engineering building) at Gonzaga University. Reg: Jan 20, 6:30-7:30. EF: \$16. TC: G/2Hr. Misc: USCF rated. Entries/Info: Dave Griffin, dbgrffn@hotmail.com.

♣ January 29

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.

♣ January 29-30

53rd 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.

♣ February 26-27

19th Dave Collyer Memorial ♣

5SS, G/120. St. Anne's Children's Center Conference Room, W. 25 Fifth Ave., Spokane, WA 99201. Special "sleep in" option for round one: Players may play round 1 beginning at noon with a G/60 t/c. EF: \$27 if received by 2/25; \$33 at door; Under 19 \$5 less. \$\$GTD: \$325-200-125. Ex - \$100; A; B; C; D/E/Unr: \$100-75; Biggest Upsets: \$100-50 (non-provisional ratings only). One prize per player except for biggest upset. Reg.: Feb. 26 8:30-9:30 am (sleep-in option must register by 11:40). Rds.: 2/26: 10 (or 12) - 2:30 - 7:00; 2/27: 9:00; 1:30. one 1/2 point bye available. Players meeting at 9:45 Feb. 26. ENT: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, 9923 N. Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339. INFO: www.spokanechessclub.org, kmkorsmo@comcast.net. NS. NC. W. Chess Magnet School JGP.

## From the Business Manager:

Happy New Year to everyone from *Northwest Chess*!


Reminder: Three-year subscription discounts are now available to *Northwest Chess*!! (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 even if your subscription doesn't expire that soon.

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

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

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



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[www.chessvision.net](http://www.chessvision.net)

# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address  
 2150 N 107 St  
 Seattle WA 98133  
 Infoline  
 206-417-5405  
[www.seattlechess.org](http://www.seattlechess.org)  
[kleistcf@aol.com](mailto:kleistcf@aol.com)  
 Address for Entries  
 SCC Tnmt Dir  
 2420 S 137 St  
 Seattle WA 98168

## January 8

**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 1/27, \$16 at site. (-\$2 for SCC mem., -\$1 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** Memb (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

## SCC Novice

## Jan. 22, Feb. 6 -New Date-

## 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.

## Jan. 30, Feb. 27

## Sunday Tornado

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

## How to Find the SCC

Look for the Northway Square East Building just across I-5 from Northgate Mall in the building with large signs proclaiming "Northwest Kidney Centers" and "City University." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th Street from Meridian Avenue N. The club is in the basement.

### Attendance at 2009's events

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

### Attendance at 2010's events

- Full Weekend Tournaments (7) ave.-40; Blitz
- (1) ave.-25; Novice (4) ave.-7; Quads (12)
- ave.-25; Tornados (10) ave.-20.

# Seattle City Championship

January 14-16 or January 15-16

A two-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/2 and SD/1 (Two-day schedule – Round 1, G/64). The prize fund of \$1000 is based on 50 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

*a Karch Memorial Grand Prix event*

### Championship

<b>First</b>	<b>\$225</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>\$140</b>
<b>Expert</b>	<b>\$90</b>
<b>Class A</b>	<b>\$70</b>

**EF:** \$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)

<b>First</b>	<b>\$125</b>
<b>U1600</b>	<b>\$80</b>
<b>Class C</b>	<b>\$60</b>
<b>Class D</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Class E &amp; Under</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>Unrated</b>	<b>\$20</b>

**EF:** \$33 (\$24 for SCC mem., \$29 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/12, \$42 (\$33, \$38) at site. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr USCF & WCF.

**Both Sections:** Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.

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

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

# The Gresham Open Is Returning!

*January 8-9, 2011*

*Mt. Hood Community College, Vista Room*

**5-Round Swiss--Time Control:**

*Rounds 1-3: 40 moves in 90 min, sudden death in 30 min (40/90; SD/30)*

*Rounds 4-5: 40 moves in 2 hours, sudden death in 1 hour (40/120; SD/60)*

**Registration:** Sat 9-9:45; **Rounds:** Sat 10, 2, ASAP; Sun 10, ASAP

**Location:** Mt. Hood Community College, Vista Room; 26000 SE Stark, Gresham  
*Check [www.pdxchess.com](http://www.pdxchess.com) for directions to playing site*

**One ½ point bye** available for rounds 1-4 if requested at registration.

**\$1,500 (Based on 60 entries)**

(54 entries in 2010)

**1<sup>st</sup> \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> \$200; 3<sup>rd</sup> \$125; U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400: \$100 – \$75**

**Special Prize: \$200 bonus for perfect score**

**Entry Fee** (checks or cash; no credit or debit cards): \$40

*\$10 discount to PCC members if registered in advance by January 5*

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

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**Gresham Open (January 8-9, 2011) Entry Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ USCF ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_ USCF Rating \_\_\_\_\_ OCF/WCF Exp \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Bye Round \_\_\_\_\_

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