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From the Editor's Desk

Ralph Dubisch

Yes, this is the March issue. Yes, you probably got it around the beginning of April. Yes, that means it's late.

Tell me something I don't know.

Sometime around the end of February I received four (or was it five?) pieces of mail over the period of a little under two weeks. There was no return address, and the signatures on each were illegible and different from one another. Yet they were clearly all from the same person, postmarked in Everett, and hand-printed – at least in part in red pen – on the back of pink paper. On the other side were entertainment coupons that expired in 1991.

The writer expressed the opinion that there should be some identification of the person shown on the front cover of *Northwest Chess*. He (or she) was apparently frustrated by not recognizing the face on the cover, and he (or she) felt that failing to label the cover demonstrated journalistic amateurism. This opinion was repeated in each of the letters, possibly because I failed to correct the problem before the writer forgot he (or she) had already written. Or perhaps the writer was not familiar with lead times and production schedules.

The writer apparently was able to find my mailing address, presumably by looking on page two. Strange that he (or she) didn't notice the larger print near the top of page two. You know, the print that says "cover art," and then names the person depicted.

Whether or not failing to name the cover subject on the actual cover is amateurish, I can't take any offense at being called an amateur editor. If I was a professional editor, someone would have to pay me quite a bit more than *Northwest Chess* can afford.

However, my idea with the cover was to reduce clutter, create a stylish appearance, and also to encourage the reader to look inside, if only to find out more about the cover art.

That's why most magazines put teasers on their covers, isn't it?

Unfortunately, someone who can't figure out who is the subject of one of our covers probably also won't notice the editorial page, so this explanation probably won't reach the letter writer. Frankly, people who need to be told everything, rather than figuring things out for themselves, don't strike me as likely to be very good chessplayers, either.

And people who write anonymous complaints deserve to be made fun of in public, too. Nyah, nyah.

Your April issue will show up in about a week. Look for a nice picture of somebody you don't know on the cover....

Tournament Display Advertising:

**National Open, page 3;
Far West Open, page 8;
Centennial Open, page 12;
Harmon Memorial, page 13;
Grand Pacific Open, page 20;
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19th David Collyer Memorial

by Kevin Korsmo

An exciting final round of this year's Dave Collyer Memorial left two atop the standings with 4.5 scores: top seeds John Donaldson and Paul Bartron. They fought to a draw and then awaited the result of the board two battle between Ryan Ackerman and Chris Copeland to see if a third winner would emerge. The board two contest also ended in a draw (as did five of the seven top boards) when both parties were down to very little time left on the clock. Chris and Ryan were joined in third place with 4.0 by Mike Schemm. The trio split the third place prize, the Expert category (Schemm) and the first Class B category prize (Ackerman & Copeland).

The first round of an open tournament typically provides the largest upsets because the rating disparities are at their greatest. The Collyer has a long history of upsets, and this year's event was no different. There were three significant upsets in the final round, with two of them earning the upset prizes. Soon to be 82-year-old Jim Waugh once again pulled off the largest upset (he has won that prize on multiple occasions over the years), topping a player 442 points above him. Ted Catton claimed the second upset prize when he upended an Expert in the first round — a 391 point differential. The two prize winners were tops among 17 upsets of

at least 125 points or more scored during the event.

The first day's action ended with five players having a perfect 3.0 score: Donaldson, Bartron, fourth seed Steve Merwin, and teenagers Nikolay Bulakh and Ryan Ackerman. Ryan took Sunday's fourth round off to visit friends and family, leaving the others to slug it out on the top two boards. And slug it out they did. Both games went into king and pawn endgames and were settled with little time left on the clock. Donaldson stopped Merwin, while Bartron turned back his youthful challenger. The fighting spirit was shown throughout the round, with only three of the 26 games resulting in draws.

The final round saw the top two seeds meeting on board one. As the only perfect scores, they had the only chance to win a \$100 perfect score prize offered by the Gary Younker Foundation. Meanwhile, a pair of challengers sitting at 3.5 met on board two — Ackerman and Copeland — with hopes of gaining a tie for the championship if a board one draw resulted. As with the previous round, this one went late as well, with nearly one third of the games approaching the four hour mark. Board one ultimately drew when the players reached

an endgame in which no one could advance. While a lot of the out-of-towners left when their games were complete in order to beat the weather, quite a few locals stayed to watch the results. Five of the top seven boards ended in draws, most in the last few minutes of play. The result was many ties among the prize winners.

There was a 7-person log jam for the Class A prizes involving (in rating order) Diwakar Rana, Dave Rowles, Pat Herbers, Michael Cambareri, Cameron Leslie, Nikolay Bulakh, and Kairav Joshi. All scored 3.5. The T.D. reported a case of writer's cramp from writing all those checks!

Second place in Class B went to Steve Buck (3.5). The Class C prizes were shared by Ted Baker, Michael Clark, and Richard Schumaker with 3.0 scores. The Class D prize winners were Peter Schumaker and Rory Peterson with 2.0 scores.

There were 57 entrants in this year's event, which was the first marred by bad weather. A heavy snowstorm midweek, followed by subzero temperatures Friday and Saturday mornings, threatened to hurt attendance. While the final tally was down a few players from recent years, a number of hardy travelers arrived from outside the area — nine from Montana, six from the Seattle-Tacoma region, and several from Idaho and Oregon. Bad pass conditions to the west did encourage some players to leave early on Sunday, but none of the pre-registered canceled out due to the weather. Regional chess players are definitely a strong lot!

The Collyer weekend kicked off with the traditional Friday night lecture and simul by popular IM John Donaldson. The IM was nearly perfect in the Friday night simul, where he won 16 of 17, dropping only a game to Nikolay Bulakh. The simul followed a lecture on the U.S. team's adventures at the Olympiad in Siberia last October, and the return of Yasser Seirawan to the U.S. championships. The lecture was well-attended and well-appreciated.

The Collyer Memorial was started by the late Gary Younker in honor of friend and longtime Spokane chess organizer Dave Collyer. The Gary Younker Foundation backs the event in honor of both men.



Collyer Memorial 2011 – Round 4. Photo credit: Adam Attwood.

John Donaldson – Steve Merwin
19th David Collyer Memorial, Round 4
Spokane, February 27, 2011

Comments by IM Donaldson.

1. c4 Nc6 2. g3

This move-order is recommended by Mihail Marin in his excellent three volume trilogy on the English. The idea is to delay bringing the knight to c3 until Black's knight comes to c6 so that ...Bb4 can be met by Nd5 when ...Nxd5 allows cxd5 hitting the knight on c6.

2. ...e5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg2 Bb4 5. Nd5

5. e4 is also quite playable. I remember Jonathan Berry playing this way back in the mid-1970s and pointing out that it makes sense as Black is not set up for ...c6 and ...d5.

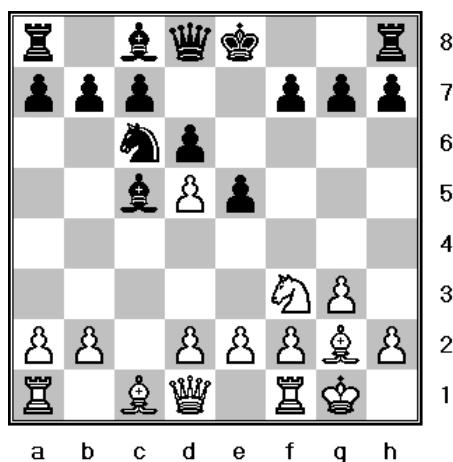
5. ...Be5

5. ...Nxd5 6. cxd5 Ne7 7. Nf3 Bd6 8. e4 c6 is actually quite playable for Black.

6. Nf3

This is not the most accurate treatment. Marin recommends 6. e3 and we shall soon see why as Steve effortlessly equalizes out of the opening.

6. ...d6 7. 0-0 Nxd5 8. cxd5



8. ...Nd4!

I'm pretty sure Steve had never had this position before as he spent a fair amount of time in the opening, but his judgement is excellent. I was hoping for 8. ...Ne7 9. d4 exd4 10. Nxd4 when White's space advantage gives him an edge.

9. b4 Nxf3+ 10. Bxf3 Bd4 11. Rb1 0-0 12. Bb2 Bxb2

12. ...Bb6 13. d4 f6 was a worthwhile alternative.

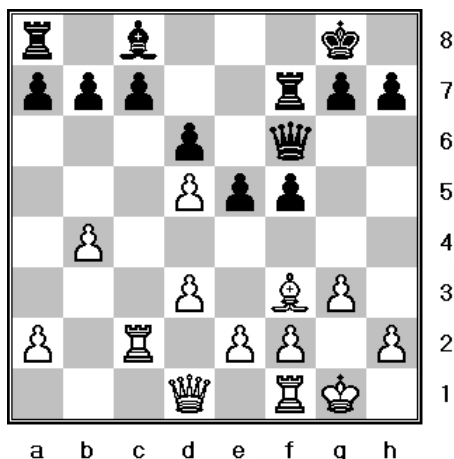
13. Rxb2 f5

The insertion of 13. ...Bh3 before playing ...f5 was also quite playable.

14. d3 Qf6

14. ...f4 looks more direct.

15. Rc2 Rf7



16. Rc4

16. Qd2 f4 17. Rfc1 Qd8 18. Be4 was probably more accurate when White's position should be somewhat better.

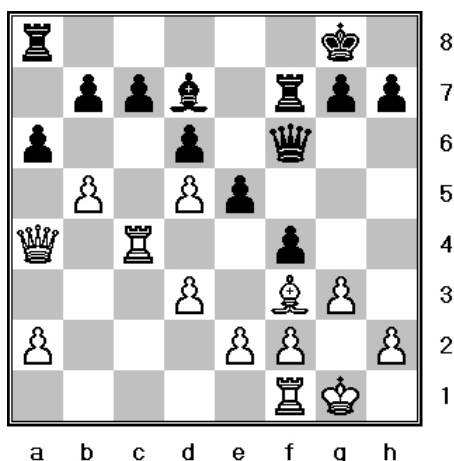
16. ...f4

The paradoxical looking 16. ...b5 17. Rc2 Bb7 was also quite playable.

17. Qa4 Bd7?!

The text should be okay but 17. ...Bh3 18. Rfc1 a6 looks better and sets the trap: 19. Rxc7?? Rxc7 20. Rxc7 e4 winning.

18. b5 a6?!



18. ...fxg3 19. hxg3 Qd8 looks more solid. Now play starts to heat up.

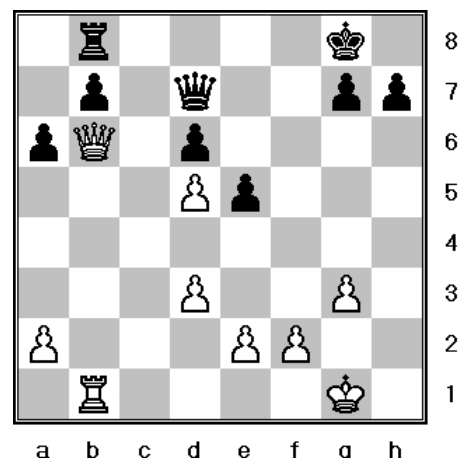
19. Rxc7 Bxb5 20. Rxf7 Qxf7 21. Qb4 fxg3 22. hxg3 Qc7 23. Rb1

White's pressure against b7 and more cohesive pawn structure give him the advantage.

23. ...Rb8

Black would prefer to be stay active with 23. ...Rf8 but after the more or less forced sequence 24. Rb3 (24. a4? Bxd3 25. Qxb7 Qc5) 24. ...Rf7 25. Bg4 Bd7 26. Rc3 Qb8 27. Be6 Bxe6 28. dxe6 Re7 29. Rc6 Rxe6 30. Rxa6 Black's pawn structure is riddled with holes.

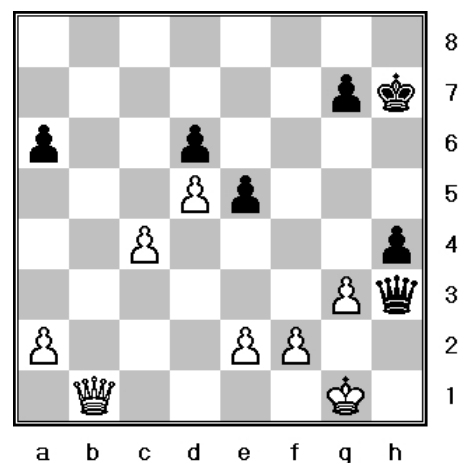
24. Bg4 Bd7 25. Bxd7 Qxd7 26. Qb6



26. ...h5

The more active 26. ...Rc8 is met by 27. Qxb7 Qxb7 28. Rxb7 Rc2 29. Kf1 Rxa2 30. Rb6 with a winning rook ending.

27. Rb4 Rc8 28. Qxb7 Qh3 29. Rc4 Rxc4 30. dxc4 h4 31. Qb8+ Kh7 32. Qb1+



32. ...g6

32. ...Kh6 was more stubborn. By this point both players were both below five minutes and play becomes less than optimal.

33. Qd3?!

33. Qb7+! Kh6 34. Qb8 Kh7 35. Qc7+ Kh6 36. Qd8 wins easily.

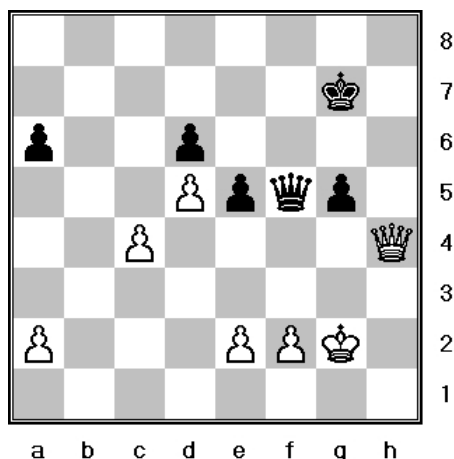
33. ...hxg3 34. Qxg3 Qf5 35. Qh4+

35.c5! dxc5 36.Qh4+ Kg7 37.Qe7+ Kh6 38.Qxc5 gives White the passed pawn he needs to win.

35. ...Kg7 36.Kg2

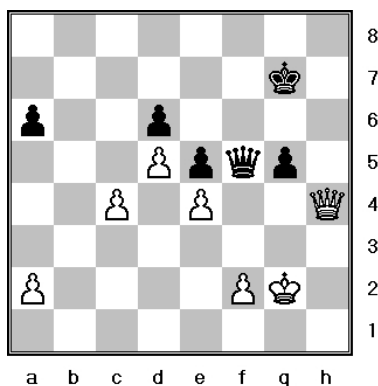
Again 36. c5! would do the trick.

36. ...g5



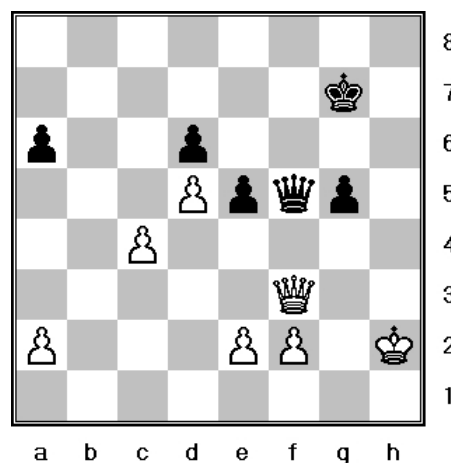
37. Qh5

When I played 35.Kg2 it was with the intention of meeting 35...g5 with 36.e4!



but when Steve played 35. ...g5 I mistakenly calculated that the pawn ending was to be avoided. Don't ask me what I was thinking! 37.e4! gxh4 38.exf5 Kf6 39.Kh3 Kxf5 40.Kxh4 Ke4 41.Kg5 Kd4 42.Kf5 Kxc4 43.Ke6 Kc5 44.f3 a5 45.a4

37. ...Qe4+ 38. Kg1 Qb1+ 39. Kh2 Qf5 40. Qf3



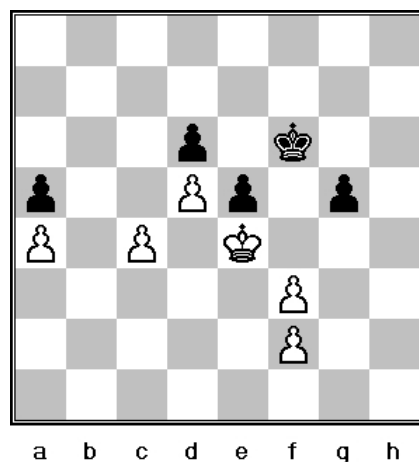
40. ...Qxf3

Black had to keep queens on but by this point Steve had less than a minute on his clock in a complex position.

41. exf3 Kf6 42. Kg2 Kf5 43. Kf1 Kf6

Black's king can go no further while White's is heading to e4 in preparation for c4-c5 at the right moment. 43...e4 44.c5! dxc5 45.fxe4+

44. Ke2 Ke7 45. Kd3 Kf6 46. Ke4 a5 47. a4



With c5 to follow.

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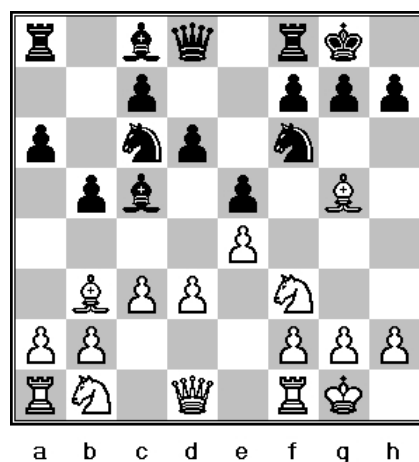
Paul Bartron – Loyd Willaford
19th David Collyer Memorial, Round 1
Spokane, February 26, 2011

Annotations by Loyd Willaford.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. d3 b5 6. Bb3 Bc5

In retrospect I should have played the quieter ...Be7.

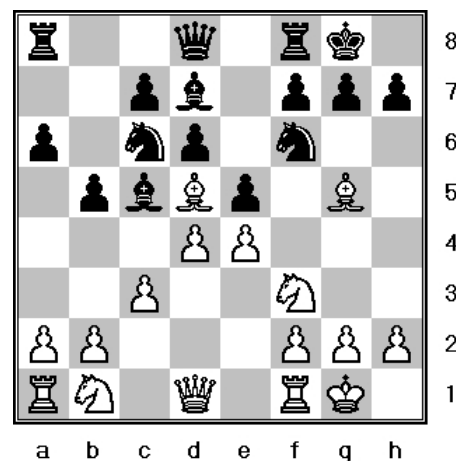
7. 0-0 0-0 8. Bg5 d6 9. c3



9. ...Bg4?!

Normal here is 9. ...h6 with play for both sides: 10. Bh4 Kh8 (10. ...Bb6) 11. d4.

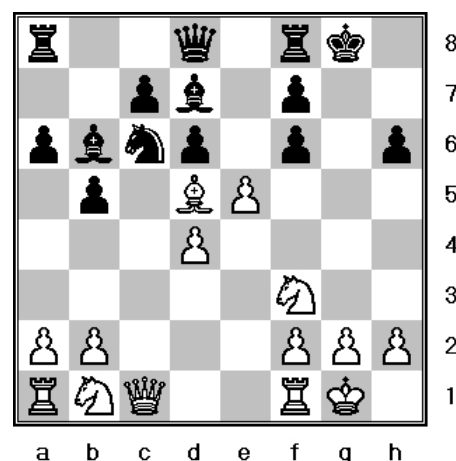
10. Bd5 Bd7 11. d4



11. ...exd4?

A critical mistake dropping a least a pawn. 11. ...Bb6 maintains the tension.

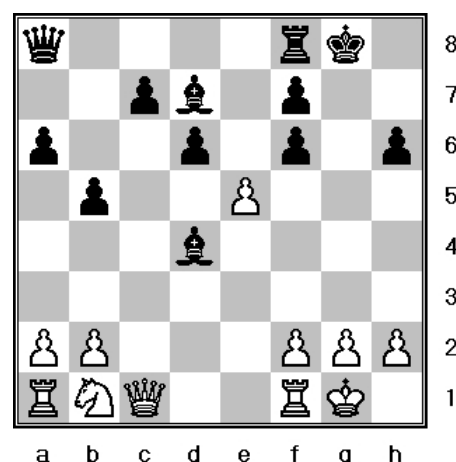
12. cxd4 Bb6 13. e5 h6 14. Bxf6 gxf6 15. Qc1



15. ...Nxd4!?

Trying to find counterplay in a bad position

16. Nxd4 Bxd4 17. Bxa8 Qxa8



18. exd6?

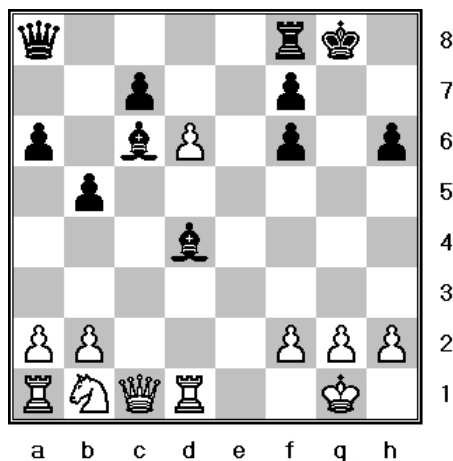
White's first real mistake. I am now able get the counterplay I was looking for. 18.

Qxh6 works because 18...Bxb2 fails to 19. exf6! losing the bishop to the mate threat.

18. ...Bc6?!

I liked this move when I made it, but the bishop sac 18. ...Bh3! which I looked at briefly, is winning. The point is that after the forced 19. gxh3 Kh7, Black will have a monster rook check coming on g8.

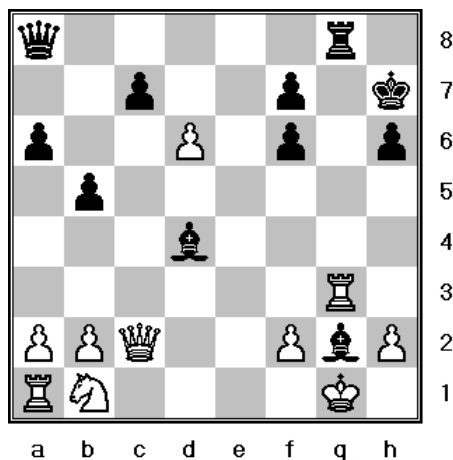
19. Rd1



19. ...Bxg2!

The only chance to maintain the initiative and justify the exchange sac.

20. Rd3 Kh7 21. Rg3 Rg8 22. Qc2+



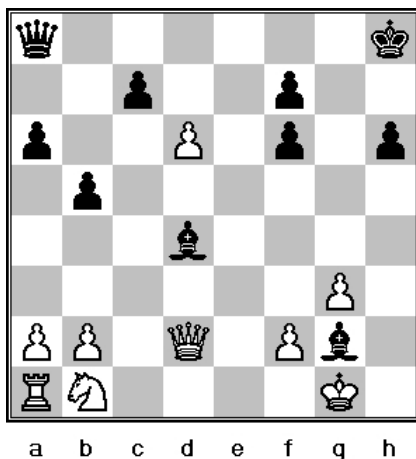
22. ...Kh8?

I rejected 22. ...Be4 because of 23. Qd2 hitting the bishop on d4 and maintaining the pressure on the h-pawn or 23. Qxc7 giving White a deep passed pawn and attacking the f-pawn.

I failed to see that the trade of rooks in those positions leaves Black better, probably winning.

That is the main lesson I took away from this game: calculate a little deeper.

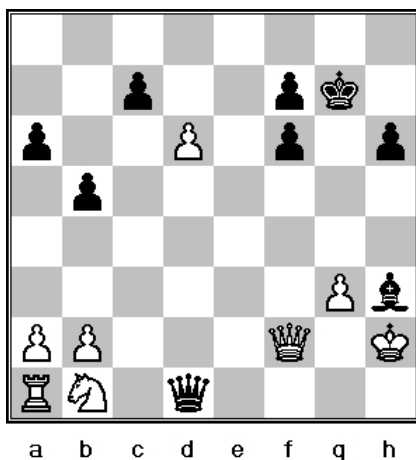
23. Qd2 Rxc3 24. hxc3



24. ...Kg7!?

Again fighting for the initiative. I missed 24. ...Bh1! which at least draws. After 25. Qxh6+ Kg8 26. Qxh1, Black can play ...Bxf2+! and take advantage of White's misplaced Queen.

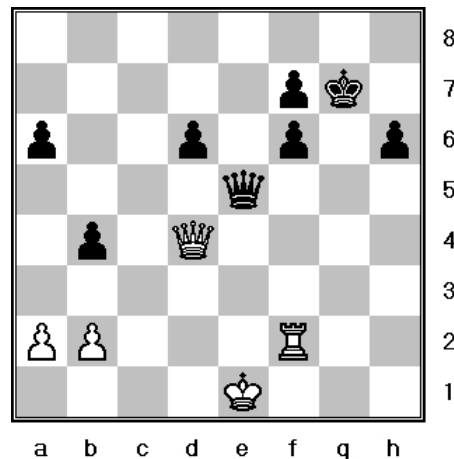
25. Qxd4 Bh3 26. f3 Qxf3 27. Qf2 Qd1+ 28. Kh2



28. ...Qh5

28. ...Be6 29. dxc7 Qh5+ 30. Kg1 Qd1+ 31. Kg2 (31. Qf1 Qd4+) 31. ...Bd5+ 32. Kh3 (32. Kh2 Qh1#) 32. ...Qh5#.

29. Nc3 Bd7+ 30. Kg1 Bc6 31. Qh2 Qc5+ 32. Kf1 cxd6 33. Rd1 b4 34. Ne2 Bb5 35. Qf2 Qe5 36. Rd2 Qe4 37. Kg1 Bc6 38. Kf1 Qh1+ 39. Qg1 Qf3+ 40. Ke1 Bb5 41. Qd4 Bxe2 42. Rxe2 Qxg3+ 43. Rf2 Qe5+



Entering a hopeless ending, but my position was collapsing anyway.

44. Qxe5 fxe5 45. Rc2 Kf6 46. Rc6 Ke6 47. a4 bxa3 48. bxa3 Kd5 49. Rxa6 f5

50. Kc5 is no better, White can trade the a pawn for all of Black's remaining pawns with a trivial win.

50. Rb6!

There is no way to stop the a-pawn, which queens with check. The h- and central pawns are too far away from queening for counterplay.

1-0



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3rd Port Townsend Open

by Mike Murray

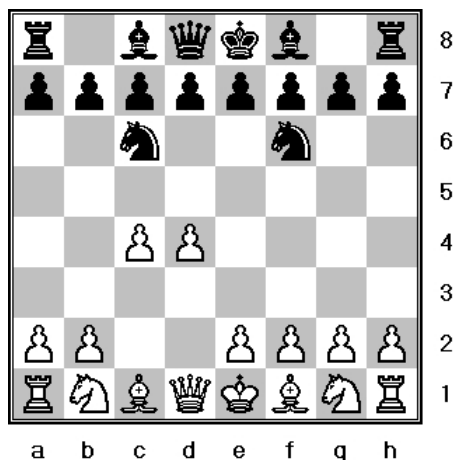
Going into the last round of the 2011 Port Townsend Open, I led the field with four wins and a draw. My opponent, Jack Anderson, was right behind me with four wins and a loss. Several players trailed with three and a half. So, all I needed was a draw, but Jack needed a win for first. An interesting, albeit far from perfect, game resulted, and ultimately I lucked out.

Time control was Game in 90.

Jack Anderson – Mike Murray
3rd Port Townsend Open, Round 6
Port Townsend, February 22, 2011

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 Nc6

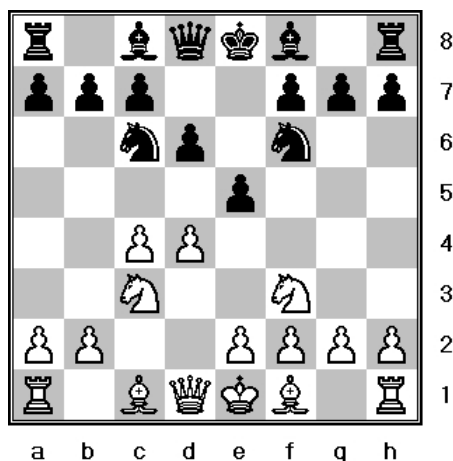
The Tango, sometimes called The Kevitz-Traikovich by geezers such as myself.



3. Nf3 d6

3. ...e6, treating it like a Nimzo or Ragozin QGD, is more usual.

4. Nc3 e5



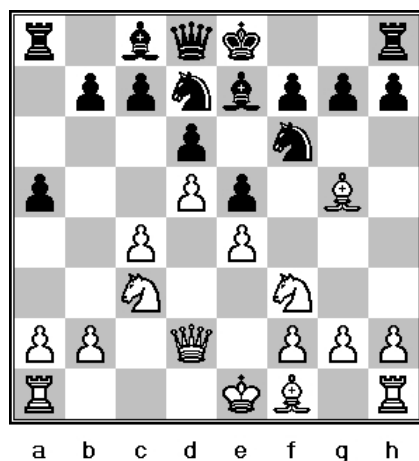
5. Bg5

Black has nothing to fear from 5. dxe5 Nxe5 6. Nxe5 dxe5 7. Qxd8+ Kxd8 8. Bg5 c6.

5. ...Be7

A book move, but it limits the queen-knight's options after d5. 5. ...exd4 is worth considering, e.g., 6. Nxd4 Be7 7. Nxc6 bxc6 8. g3 0-0 9. Bg2 Rb8 10. Qc2 Bd7 11. b3 h6 with equality.

6. d5 Nb8 7. Qd2 Nbd7 8. e4 a5

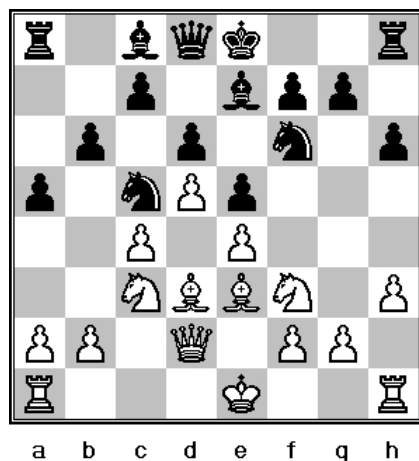


Black starts a convoluted manouver culminating in a cramped position. Trading off some pieces, e.g., 8. ...h6 9. Bxf6 Bxf6 10. Bd3 Nc5 11. b4 Nxd3+ 12. Qxd3 0-0, would make life easier.

9. Bd3 Nc5 10. h3 h6

I was a little too proud of my c5-knight and neglected to snap off the bishop with 10. ...Nxd3+ 11. Qxd3 h6.

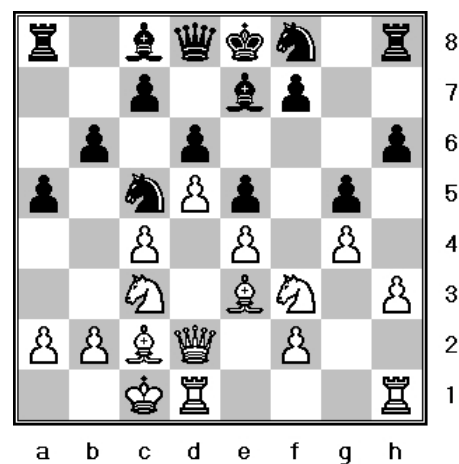
11. Be3 b6



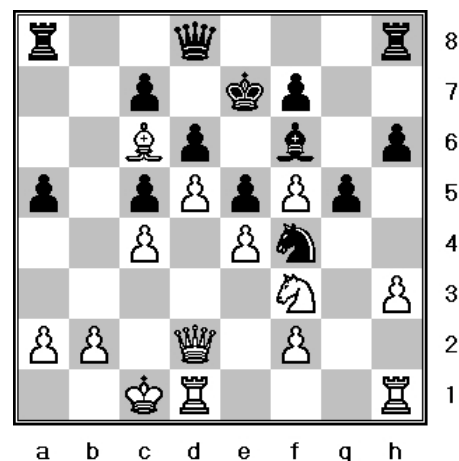
12. Bc2 Nfd7 13. g4 Nf8 14. 0-0-0 g5

There was no need to get so committal.

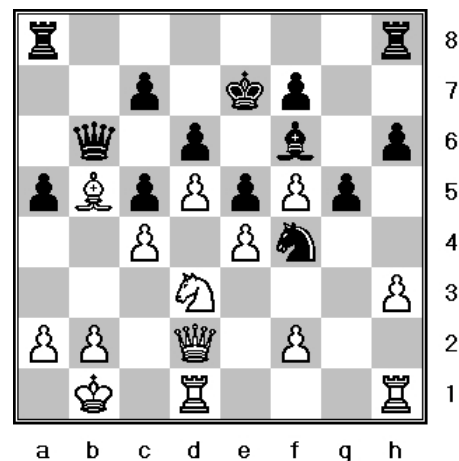
A little better was 14. ...Ng6 15. Kb1 Bd7 16. Rdg1 Nh4 17. Nxh4 Bxh4 18. f4 exf4 19. Bxf4 f6.



15. Ne2 Ng6 16. Ng3 Nf4 17. Nf5 Bxf5 18. gxf5 Bf6 19. Bxc5 bxc5 20. Ba4+ Ke7 21. Bc6



21. ...Ra6 22. Ne1 Qb8 23. Bb5 Ra8 24. Nd3 Qb6 25. Kb1

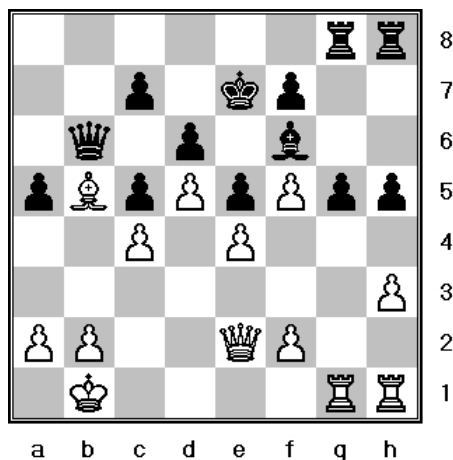


25. ...Nxd3?

The need for a draw, which I offered here, must have clouded my judgment. Of course, especially after this lemon, Jack turned it down.

The whole point of putting the bishop on f6 was to activate it if White ever traded the knight on f4. Initiating the trade myself simply consigns my bishop to a career as virtual doubled pawn. 25. ...a4! 26. Rc1 a3 27. b3 keeps chances equal. The black a-pawn is not likely to become weak, and its presence deters White from queenside action. And, if White ever swaps off my powerful knight, he gets to worry about that dark bishop.

26. Qxd3 Rag8 27. Rdg1 h5 28. Qe2

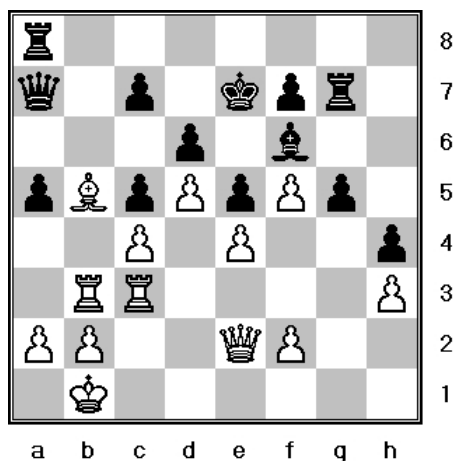


Now I started fretting about White breaking through on the kingside. My next move stops that, but allows him to hold off all counterplay there with a timely f3.

28. ...h4 29. Rc1

White shifts to the queenside and my vulnerable a-pawn. I'm reduced to marking time.

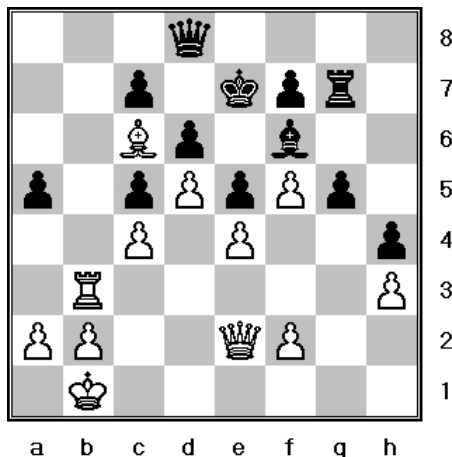
29. ...Rg7 30. Rc3 Ra8 31. Rb3 Qa7 32. Rc1 Rgg8 33. Rcc3 Rg7



34. Bc6 Rb8 35. Rxb8 Qxb8 36. Rb3

Qd8

36. ...Qh8 is a little better, but Black's game remains very bad.

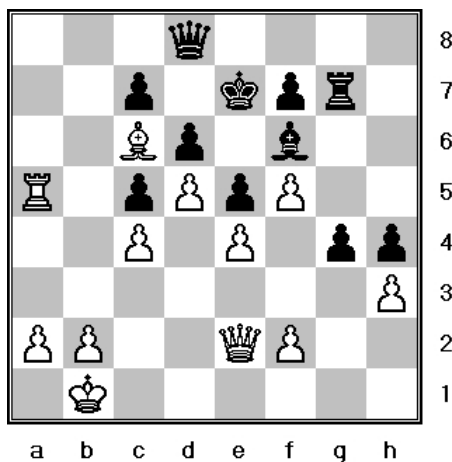


37. Rb5?

Probably loses.

White had a clear win with 37. f3! holding off Black's counterplay for many moves, while White wins Black's a-pawn and then queens his own, e.g.: 37. ...Qh8 38. Qd2 Rg8 39. Qxa5 Rc8 40. Bb7 Rd8 41. Qxc7+ Kf8 42. a4 Qh6 43. a5 g4 44. fxg4 Qf4 45. Ka2 and it's all over.

37. ...g4! 38. Rxa5?



At first glance, this appears to win the queen or force mate, but Black has a key resource. Even after the better 38. hxg4 Black probably still wins by driving the pawn home: 38. ...h3 39. f3 Qh8 40. Qh2 Bg5 41. a3 Qh4.

38. ...gxh3 39. Qf1

Nothing works. 39. Ra8 Qxa8 40. Bxa8 h2.

39. ...h2 40. Kc2 Rg1 41. Qe2 h1=Q 42. Ra8 Qxa8 43. Bxa8 Rc1 44. Qg4 Qxe4+

0-1

Book Reviews by IM John Donaldson



Heroes of Classical Chess: Learn from Carlsen, Anand, Fischer, Smyslov and Rubinstein by Craig Pritchett

Compared to more prolific authors the output of the Scottish International Master Craig Pritchett might seem modest with only a half dozen titles over 30-odd years but they all happen to be excellent and well worth reading. His latest book, *Heroes of Classical Chess: Learn from Carlsen, Anand, Fischer, Smyslov and Rubinstein* (2009 Everyman Chess, www.everymanchess.com, 224 pages, figurine algebraic, paperback, \$26.95) will only add to his reputation.

Pritchett writes in the introduction:

This book celebrates the play of five great heroes of classical chess. In doing so it aims both to entertain and instruct the reader in the art of playing "classically direct" chess, as it has developed over the last hundred years or so.

"Style" is an elusive quality in chess. By "classically direct" chess I imply a kind of universality of play that embraces all styles, in a sense, and transcends narrow boundaries – a style that is based on such overarching attributes as clarity, energy, toughness, ambition and a fundamental sense of analytic "correctness".

My heroes are all supreme in the art of divining and following the strategic and tactical threads of a game. They see chess primarily as an organic whole, not as a series of artificial phases. They don't attack or defend for the sake of it, but only when the position demands it, and they are equally at home whether playing the opening,

middlegame or endgame.

The choice of Rubinstein as the first player to be featured makes perfect sense. Though his last tournament game was almost 80 years ago there is no question that the great Akiva was a trail-blazer - the first player to treat all phases of the game as closely connected. One of the featured games, Rubinstein-Tarrasch, Carlsbad 1923, is an especially fine example of his "holistic" approach.

The five featured players (Carlsen, Anand, Fischer, Smyslov and Rubinstein) are each given seven games to illustrate their special abilities. These games are heavily annotated, primarily with prose but concrete variations are given when needed. Pritchett does a fine job of explaining the background behind the games as well.

Heroes of Classical Chess: Learn from Carlsen, Anand, Fischer, Smyslov and Rubinstein is a book that belongs in every chessplayer's library, especially young ones who are apt to spend most of their time studying sharp openings with a computer and are in need of developing their chess culture.

Recommended

Alekhine Alert **by Tim Taylor**

Black has many choices when facing 1. e4. Certainly in terms of popularity and soundness the Sicilian and 1. ...e5 have to rank at the top, followed by the Caro-Kann and French, but what of the Alekhine, Pirc/Modern and Scandinavian (1. ...Nc6 is still looking for a champion)? The past decade has seen even the world's best adopt these so-called "second-line defenses," partly due to new discoveries and partly a desire to avoid preparation by playing as wide a repertoire as possible. While the Alekhine has experienced a resurgence of interest, until recently there was no up-to-date guide to this opening. IM Tim Taylor's *Alekhine Alert* (2010 Everyman Chess, www.everymanchess.com, 285 pages, figurine algebraic, \$27.95) answers this need.

Written in the style of a repertoire guide Taylor's book does not try to cover all of the Alekhine - there is nothing on 1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 Bg4, for example.

A quick glance at the table of contents gives an idea of what is offered.

I have added the variations when relevant.

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6. Nc3 Nxc3 7. dxc3 Nc6 8. Bf4 Bxc5 9. Qg4 g5!)

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Our Hero: Taylor (1. e4 Nf6 2. Nc3 e5)

As one might guess from the chapter titles, Taylor has a lively writing style. *Alekhine Alert* is not only informative but fun to read. Taylor not only expounds on the theory and ideas behind the variations he recommends but explains why he did not choose others like 1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 dxe5 5. Nxe5 Nd7. This is a book written for the practical player, so Taylor writes that after 6. Nxf7 Black may be fine theoretically but a real game would be a different matter. The analysis is long and easily forgotten and one slip would mean immediate loss.

Similarly he recommends the relatively uncharted 5. ...g6 against the Four Pawns Attack, a line that the Alekhine player is seldom likely to meet.

Taylor often goes his own way compared to previous books on the Alekhine, most

noticeably in his advocacy of 2. ...e5 after 1. e4 Nf6 2. Nc3. He strongly believes that White is better after 2. ...d5 trying to keep the game in pure Alekhine territory. Taylor provides analysis of the Vienna and Four Knights Game after 1. e4 Nf6 2. Nc3 e5, but it should be pointed out that White has a third option in 3. d4 heading for the Center Game after 3. ...exd4 4. Qxd4 Nc6 5. Qe3 or 5. Qa4 as the independent 3. ...Bb4 (analogous to the Four Knight's Scotch line 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. d4 Bb4) seems to fail to 4. dxe5 Nxe4 5. Qg4.

This is only a small oversight in a fine book as the Center Game is not theoretically dangerous.

Alekhine Alert can be warmly recommended to players from 1800 to 2400 who are looking for an uncompromising defense to 1. e4.

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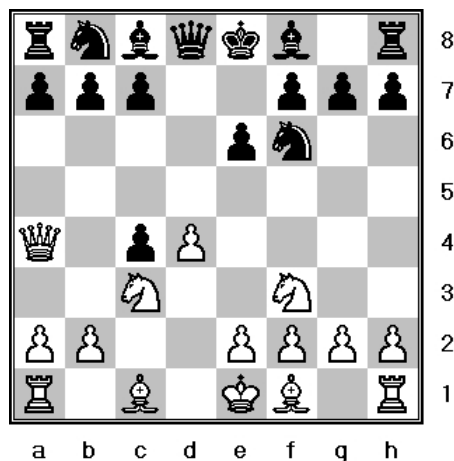
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GM Wells' Queen's Gambit, part two of five.

Following 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. Nc3 dxc4, White can be a little tricky with 5. Qa4+.



White has options of playing e4/Bg5 as in a normal Queens Gambit or of playing g3/Bg2 as in a Catalan.

If Black should respond to 5. Qa4+ with ...Bd7, then playing e4/Bg5 carries a bit more punch because the Bd7 is blocking Black's normal ideas as well as not contributing.

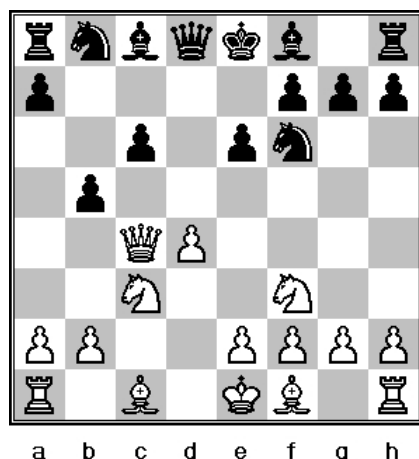
Countering 5. Qa4+ with ...Nbd7 gives White the option of playing 6. g3 into a Catalan, where Black normally tries to activate some play on the queenside with ...a6/b5. In the current situation, however, that wouldn't work (5. Qa4+ Nbd7 6. g3 a6 7. Bg2 b5 8. Nxb5) and Black will need to spend an extra tempo with Rb8.

As I said, this is a small trick.

Theoretically Speaking

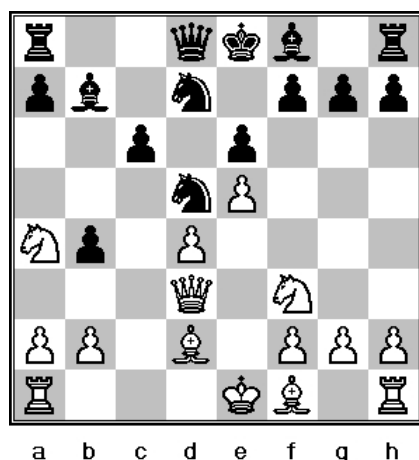
by Bill McGeary

Wells' choice is to fall back onto the Semi-Slav approach with 5. ...c6. Then 6.Qxc4 b5.



White must choose whether to retreat the queen to d3 or b3, though Wells has only faced 7. Qd3 in published games.

7. Qd3 Nbd7 8. e4 b4 9. Na4 Bb7 10. e5 Nd5 11. Bd2 is a bit of a mainline that Simon Williams played against Wells at the BCF championship, Edinburgh 2003.

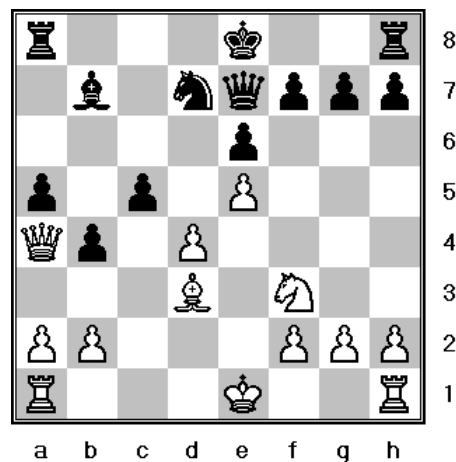


Wells chose 11. ...N5b6. Black wants to dispose of the c6 problem, it is a weakness. If White exchanges on b6 Black will retake with the a-pawn and ...c6-c5 would follow pretty easily. The game went:

12. Qc2 Nxa4 13. Qxa4 a5 14. Bg5 Be7 15. Bxe7 Qxe7 16. Bd3 c5 which is a bit tricky.

White was threatening to play Be4, which would cause a problem for Black to get ...c5 played, consequently Wells played

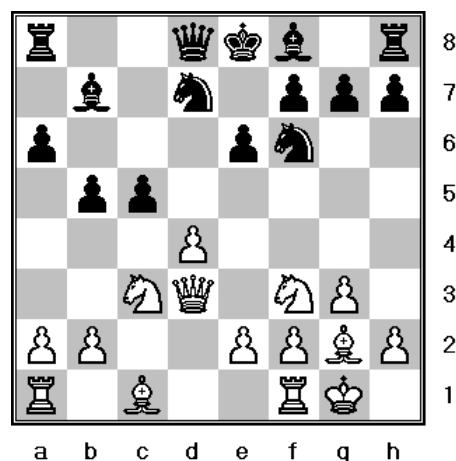
...c5 immediately.



The tricky part isn't 17. dxc5 Bxf3 followed by ...0-0 with unclear play, but as the game went 17. Bb5 Bxf3 18. gxf3 Ra7 19. dxc5 0-0 20. Bxd7 Rxd7 21. Qxa5 Qh4 when the position of the white king proved enough to secure a draw.

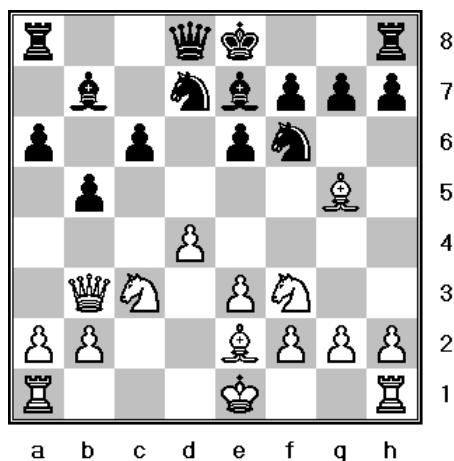
Going back to the diagram at the top of column two (after 6. ...b5), the other game Wells had was as Black against Machelett in Germany 2002.

A different approach for White followed 7. Qd3 Nbd7 8. g3 Bb7 9. Bg2 a6 10. 0-0 c5



11. Rd1 Rc8 12. dxc5 Bxc5 13. a3 Qb6 with a fine position for Black.

I can't find any games where Wells faced 7. Qb3. A sample line would be 7. ...Nbd7 8. Bg5 Be7 9. e3 Bb7 10. Be2 a6.

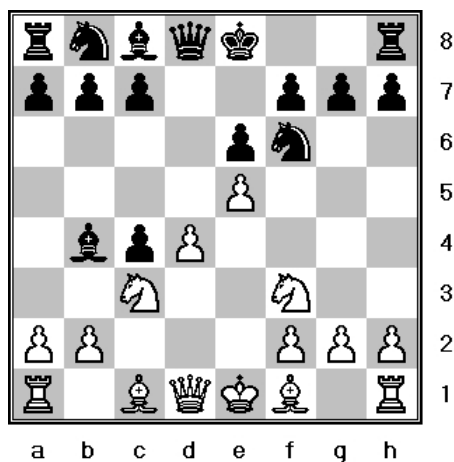


A standard in the Queen's Gambit is that Black is equal if ...c5 can be played without drastic consequences, and this seems to be a case where that will follow.

This indicates that 4. Nc3 dxc4 5. Qa4+ isn't too serious, especially if Black plays with some determination on the queenside. Please, don't confuse this with 4. Bg5 dxc4 5. Qa4+, which is a different line.

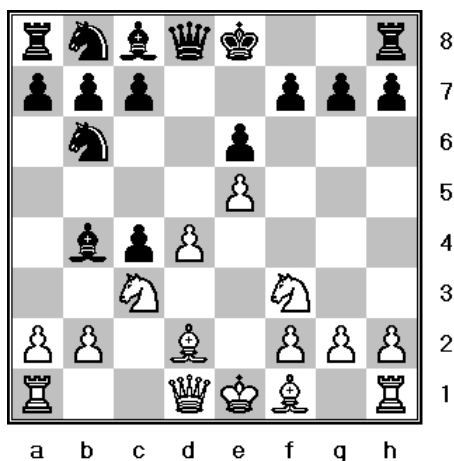
When Black plays 4. Nc3 dxc4 there must be some idea of what follows 5. e4. Black could play 5. ...c5 looking to transpose to a line in the QGA after 6. d5, but 6. e5 might be too easy for White. That suggests that 5. ...Bb4 is the move to use – and guess what, it is what Wells plays. We will consider 6. e5 here because 6. Bg5 leads to the Vienna variation that will be considered later and 6. Qc2 b5 works pretty well for Black.

So, 4. Nc3 dxc4 5. e4 Bb4 6. e5 is our focus here.

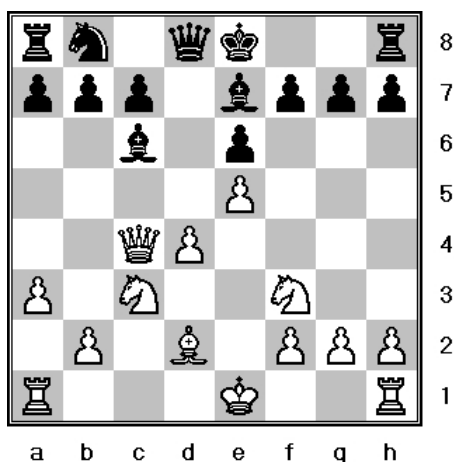


Again, I am not finding any games Wells has played in this position (after 6. e5), but it has been played by GM's.

The common line seems to be 6. ...Nd5 7. Bd2 Nb6.

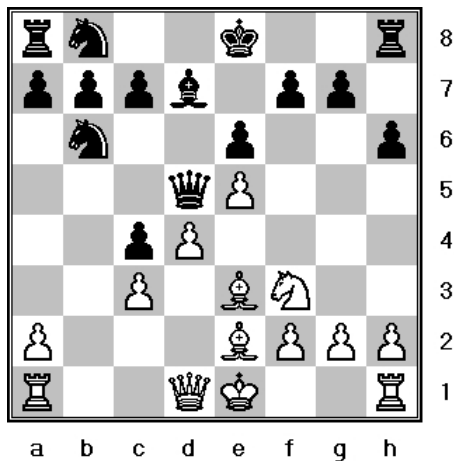


Now, 8. a3 Be7 9. Bxc4 Nxc4 10. Qa4+ Bd7 11. Qxc4 Be6 gave Black a firm position in the center.



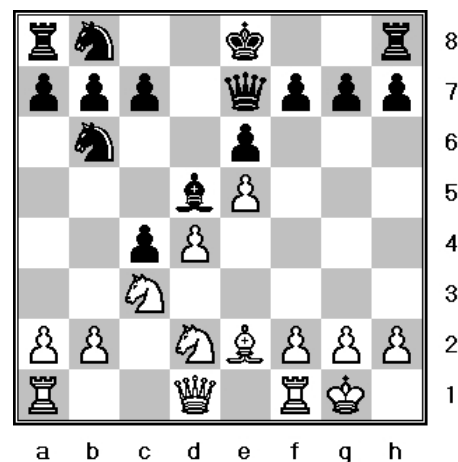
Bykhovsky-Chekhov, Irkutsk 1983, saw Black play ...Nd7, ...Bd5 and ...c5 with a fine game.

8. Bg5 is a more recent try, 8. ...Qd5 9. Be2 h6 10. Be3 Bxc3+ 11. bxc3 Bd7 might work for Black (Forster-Holzl Bled Ol. 2002),

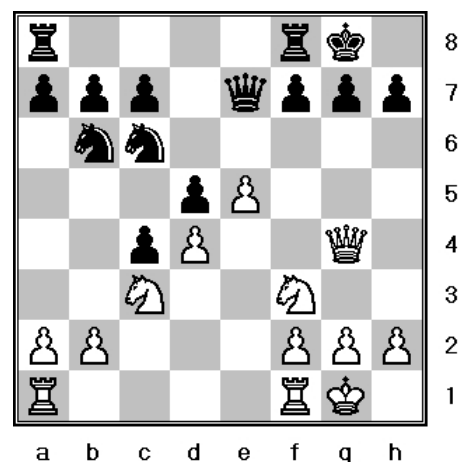


though it looks like Black has too many pieces for the available squares.

8. Bg5 Be7 9. Bxe7 (9. h4) 9. ...Qxe7 10. Be2 Bd7 11. 0-0 Bc6 12. Nd2 Bd5

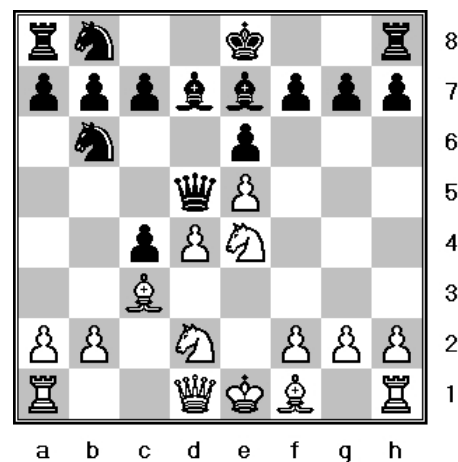


13. Bf3 Nc6 14. Bxd5 exd5 15. Qg4 0-0 16. Nf3 appears to be an extra pawn for Black, though some precautions on the kingside will be necessary.

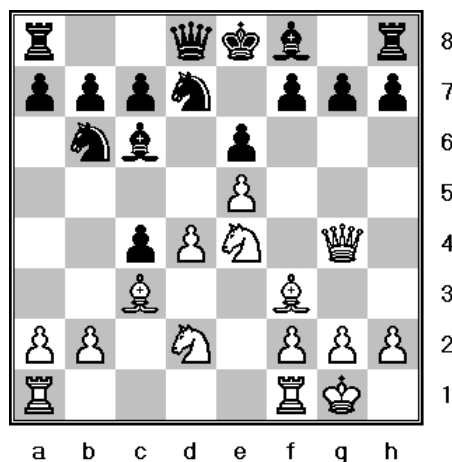


Maybe 16. ...f5 is best?

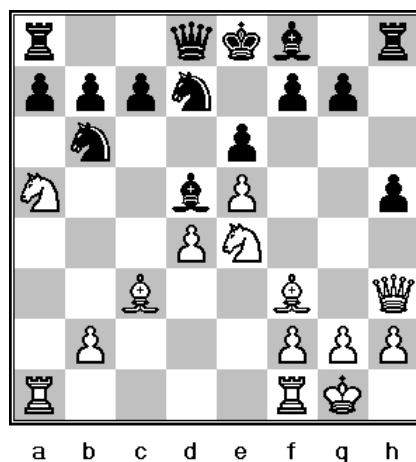
Most often played is 8. Ne4, when Black plays 8. ...Be7 to cover the black squares. Jakubowski – Maksimenko Krynica Open 1998 shows some of the ideas: 8. Ne4 Be7 9. Be3 Qd5 10. Nfd2 Bd7



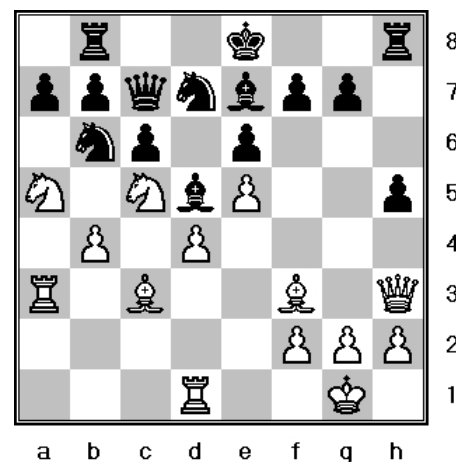
11. Qg4 Bf8 12. Be2 Bc6 13. Bf3 Qd8
14. 0-0 N8d7



15. a4 h5 16. Qh3 Nxa4 17. Nxc4 Nab6
18. Na5 Bd5



19. Rfd1 Rb8 20. b4 c6 21. Nc5 Qc7
22. Ra3 Be7



Black has been dancing around a bit, but with an extra pawn and a pretty compact position it seems ok for Black. In the game White tried a piece sac on e6 without success.

Most of this is more practical consideration and experience, not cutting edge theory. As with the other variations considered so far this makes for a viable weapon to use against unsuspecting and unprepared players. Just be sure you have more confidence in your side of the position!

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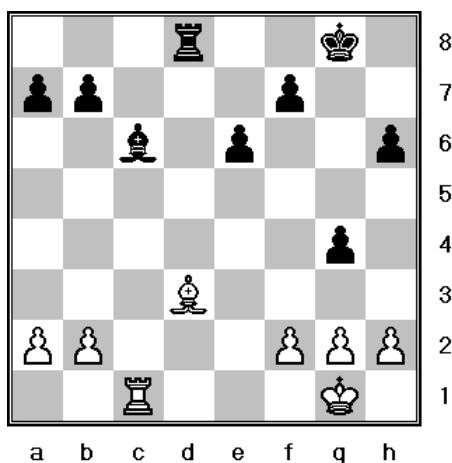


And In The End

by Dana Muller

This month we look at the process of winning a won game. During the game I thought the win was a fairly routine display of technique, but upon further review white could have set an interesting puzzle to solve. White failed to find this resource and systematic play by Black lead to the win.

Arthur Iodice – Dana Muller
Washington Open
May 26, 1990

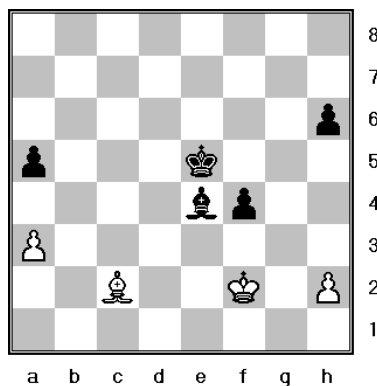


Black is solid pawn ahead and has the better placed pieces; as they say, winning should just be a matter of technique.

White is currently facing a dilemma. On one hand he would like to keep as many pieces as possible on the board for potential counterplay; on the other hand, it seems that Black gains more than White if White avoids exchanging the rooks. The critical factor is that Black's potential to infiltrate via Rd2 is far more threatening than anything the white rook can do on the c-file.

In the game White did allow the exchange of rooks thereby creating a bishop

of the same color ending with Black having an extra button. In the ensuing play, Black locked the central position with ...f4, and the result of the game hinged upon Black making a successful ...e4 pawn break. Here is a typical position that shows the effects of Black making a successful ...e4 break:

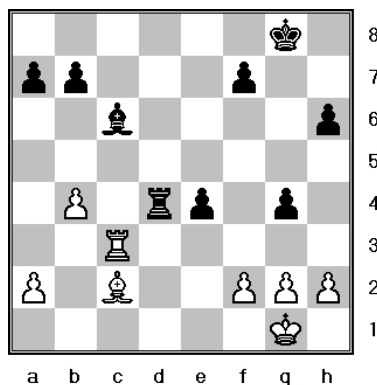


Despite the paucity of material Black is winning. Play could go 1. Ba4 Kd4 2. Bd7 Kc3 3. Be8 Kb3 4. a4 Kb4 5. Bd7 Bc2 6. Kf3 Bxa4 7. Bf5 Bb3 8. Kxf4 a4 9. Bb1 Kc3 10. any Kb2 followed by running the a-pawn.

In the game White responded to the ...f4 blockade by misplacing his king. This made the ...e4 break even more effective since the resultant f-pawn could not be stopped.

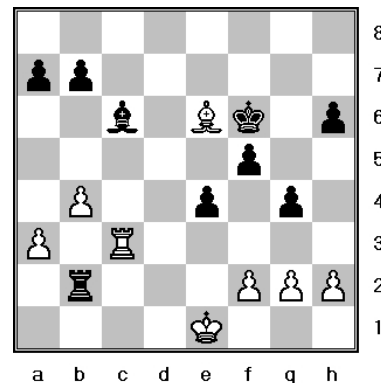
29. Rd1

White is faced with the dilemma mentioned above: should he try and keep both pieces on or does he allow an exchange of rooks? If the rooks remain on the board then the threat to infiltrate via Rd2 restricts any potential counterplay. A couple lines: 29. Rc3 e5 30. b4 e4 31. Bc2 Rd4

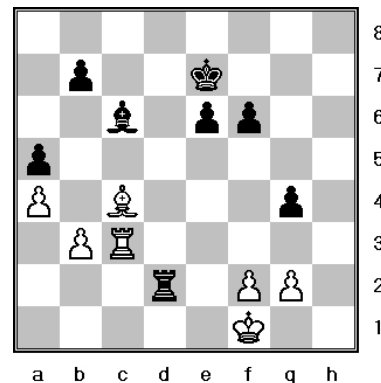


(a useful finesse – forcing a3 thereby

removes its potential protection by the bishop) 32. a3 Rd2 33. Bb3 Kg7 34. Kf1 f5 35. Ke1 Rb2 36. Be6 Kf6:

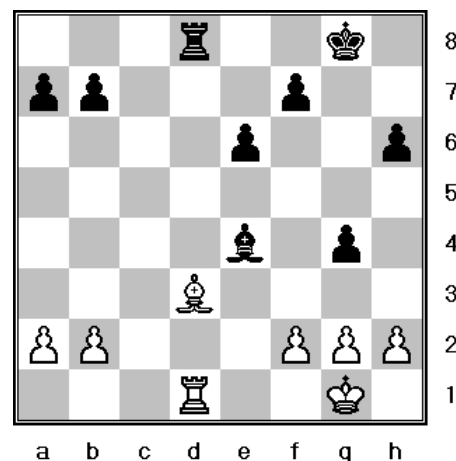


Or 29. Bc4 a5 30. Kf1 Kg7 31. a3 Rd2 32. b3 Kf6 33. a4 h5 34. h3 Ke7 35. hxg4 hxg4 36. Rc3 f6:



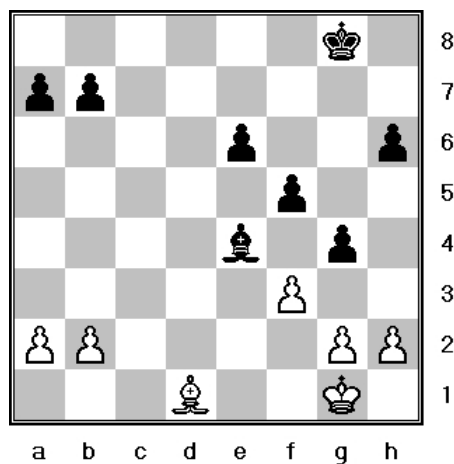
In my opinion, if White opts to keep the rooks on, then Black's play is even more straightforward than in the game, so White likely made the right choice in allowing the exchange of rooks.

29. ...Be4



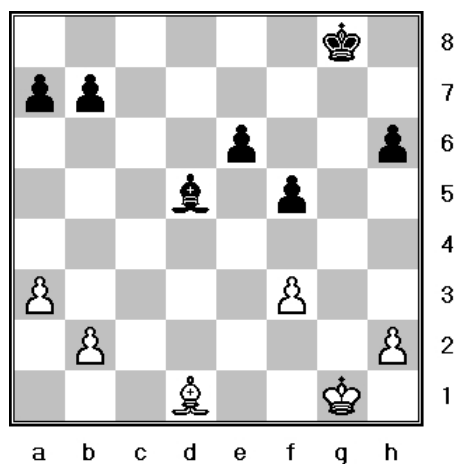
Perhaps 29. ...f5 is more precise since black will play f5 at some point and White's position is left tied up for at least one more move. Since Black can comfortably continue with ...Kg8-g7-f6 etc., maintaining the status quo on the d-file doesn't seem to be a real option for White. Also note that 30. Kf1? Bb5 is an immediate loser, so best for White seems to be exchanging the rooks with 30. Be2 Rxd1+ 31. Bxd1 Kg7 and Black has an extra tempo as compared with the game.

30. Be2 Rxd1+ 31. Bxd1 f5 32. f3



This is White's best chance: the king gains some mobility since there is no longer a g-pawn to guard. On the minus side of the ledger, the f-pawn may be fixed on a white square (creating a permanent weakness) by a later ...f4.

32. ...gxf3 33. gxf3 Bd5 34. a3



34. ...f4

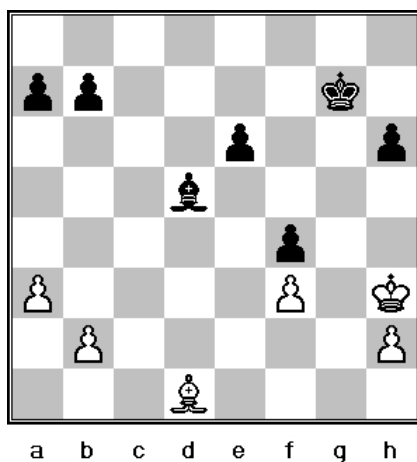
Obviously Black needs to create a passed pawn from the e5/f5 duo. There are two ways to create a passed pawn, either directly by playing ...e4 or indirectly by first playing ...f4 and then playing the break ...e4.

The direct method suffers from a potential black-square blockade, e.g. 34.

...Kg7 35. Kf2 Kf6 36. b4 e4 37. f4 and 38. Ke3, and I'm not sure this blockade can be broken. The indirect method seems best; the white f-pawn is left a target until breaks with ...e4. Of course, this method only works if Black can enforce the ...e4 advance, but that does seem to be the case in this game.

Black doesn't have to play ...f4 on this move; he can wait until ready, e.g. 34. ...Kg7 35. Kf2 Kf6 36. b4 (36. Ke3 or 36. Kg3 trying to sneak in f4 is answered with 36. ...f4+ and play similar to the game) ...Ke6 37. Bc2 f4 once again with play similar to the game. Perhaps 34. ...Kg7 is better in the sense that Black doesn't divulge his plans until ready, but it's really a very minor point since the same type of positions are reached.

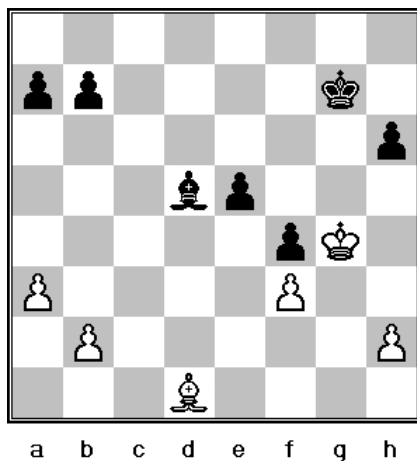
35. Kg2 Kg7 36. Kh3



36. ...e5

36. ... Kf6 is possible and will most likely it will transpose into the game. On the plus side, 36. ...Kf6 does set a trap for White – he is given the chance to go after black's h-pawn. This pawn turns out to be poisoned.

37. Kg4

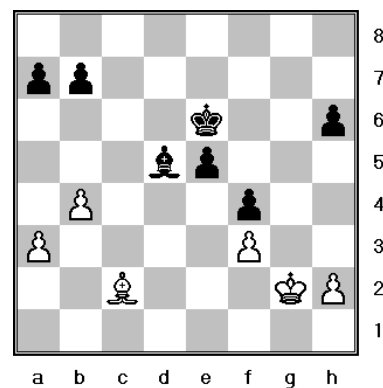


White is looking for counterplay on the kingside. In the end, it doesn't matter

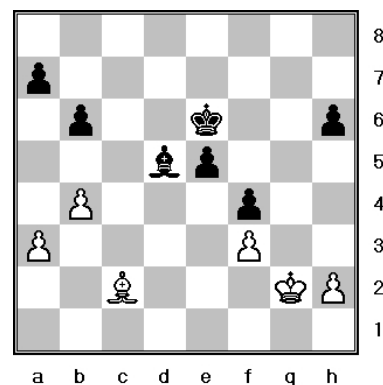
whether White plays 37. Kg4 or 37. Kg2 since Black can win against either move. However, as a practical matter 37. Kg2 is superior since the ...e4 break is easier to achieve with white king stuck on g4 or h4.

In fact after 37. Kg2 Black needs to show some care in preparing for the ...e4 break, specifically, Black can only make the break if the white king can't play to f3 after a sequence such as ...e4, fxe4, ...Ke5. Black also needs to be careful in touching his queenside pawns: ...b6 should be played only after White has played both a4 and b4 (for reasons soon to be clear). If Black plays a premature ...b6 I haven't found an airtight method to force a favorable ...e4 if White keeps the king close to f3 and uses his bishop to cover e4.

It seems that in order to make progress against a white king sensibly placed on g2, f2 or e2, Black needs to combine the main threat of ...e4 with a secondary threat of king penetration through d5 and on to d4. A typical winning line is 37. Kg2 Kf6 38. Bc2 (else 38. ...e4) ...Ke6 39. b4 (at some point necessary to keep the black king off of c5)



39. ...Bc6! 40. a4 (40. Bd3 Kd5 41. Be4+ Kd4; note the bishop is guarded by the b-pawn) 40. ...b6 (now a subsequent ...a5 will force access to c5 and d4) 41. Kf2 Kd6 42. Ke2 a5 43. bxa5 bxa5 then ...Kc5 and the a-pawn falls. Compare that with 39. ...b6?!

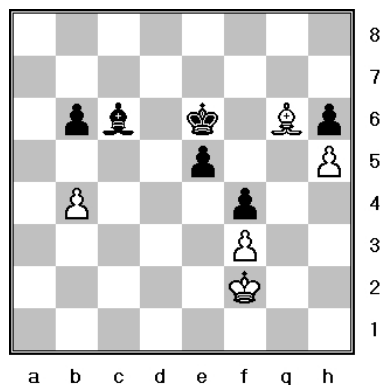


This removes the protection from the c6

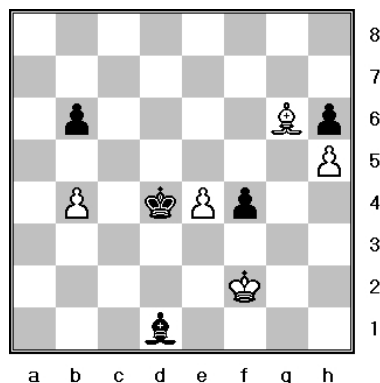
square, and it really matters after 40. Bd3 Bc6 41. Kf2 Kd5 42. Be4+ since Black's king can't advance to d4; the bishop hangs.

With the threat of the black king penetrating through d5 and d4 removed, I don't see how Black can win. White simply plays his bishop along the one of the diagonals that intersect on e4. The key defensive idea is to play Be4 whenever possible in order to be able to switch diagonals as needed.

Having said this, White can't go completely on autopilot; the game can still be lost if he gives away all but one pawn tempo. What I have in mind is 37. Kg2 Kf6 38. Bc2 Ke6 39. b4 b6?! 40. Bd3 Kd6 41. Kf2 Be6 42. Be4 Bc4 43. Kg2 a5 44. Kf2 axb4 45. axb4 Bd5 46. Bg6 Ke6 (so far so good) 47. h4? Bc6 48. h5??



48. ...e4 49. fxe4 (49. Bxe4 Bxe4 50. fxe4 Ke5 51. Kf3 b5 zugzwang) 49. ...Ke5 50. Kf3 Ba4 51. Kg2 Bd1 52. Kf2 Kd4 winning.



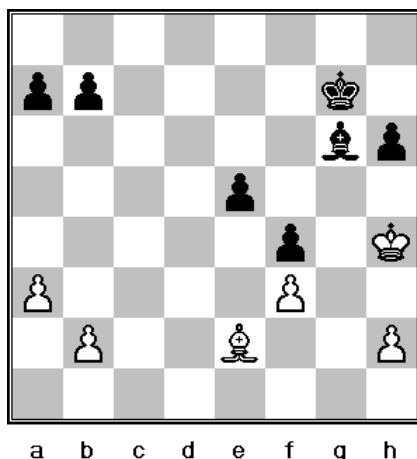
since the bishop can't move without dropping a pawn and 53. Ke1 Bf3 or 53. Kg2 Ke3 are no good.

Of course White has no need to self-destruct like that.

37. ... Be6+ 38. Kh4

The alternative 38. Kh5 Bf7+ 39. Kg4 Bg6 40. b4 b6 41. Be2 Bg6 is similar to the game.

38. ...Bf7 39. Be2 Bg6



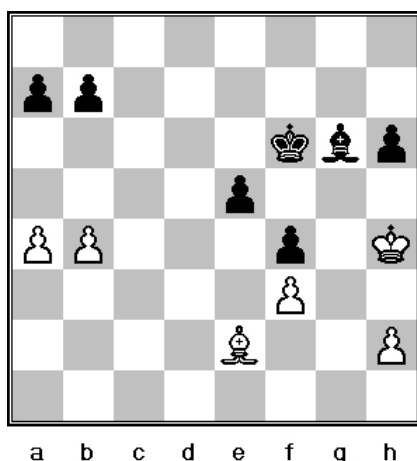
40. b4

Holding back the b-pawn doesn't help, if delayed too long black may be able to profitably freeze the queenside via a5-a4. For example: 40. Bc4 Kf6 41. Bd5 b6 42. Bb7 a5 43. Kh3 e4! 44. fxe4 Ke5 45. Kg4 Bxe4 46. Ba6 Bc6 47. Bf1 f3 48. Kg3 Kd4 49. Kf2 a4 and White doesn't have a reasonable move.

40. ...Kf6 41. a4

Not best; it simplifies the win since Black now has a second winning plan of ...b6, ...a5 and then penetrating with king via c5.

On the other hand, the plan of ...e4 break will win without this error. For example: 41. Kg4 (stopping 41. ... e4) Ke6 42. Bc4+ Kd6 43. Bb3 Be8 44. Bc4 (44. Kf5? Bh5 wins) b5 45. Bb3 Bc6 46. Bf7 Bd7+ 47. Kh4 Be6 48. Be8 a6 49. Bg6 (else 49. ... e4) Kd5 idea 50. ... Kd4 etc.



41. ...b6

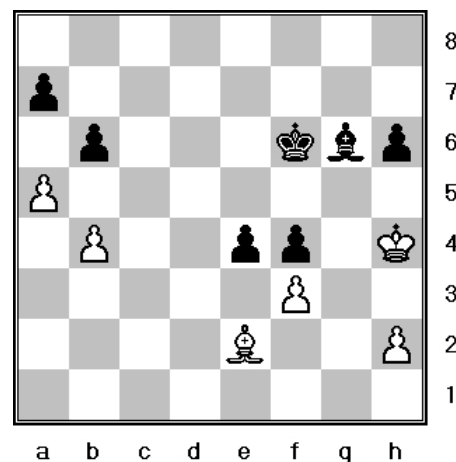
More direct is 41. ...e4 immediately, but the text isn't bad as Black can either block the queenside or play to acquire the c5 square as needed.

42. a5

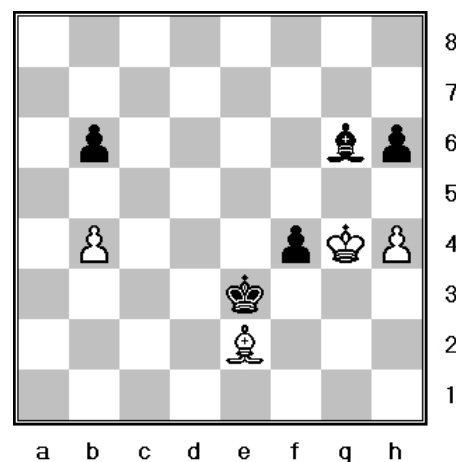
Stops 41. ...a5. If 42. Kg4 (preventing 42. ...e4) then 42. ...a5 43. bxa5 bxa5 44. Bc4 Ke7 followed by ...Kd6-c5-d4 is winning. Alternatively Black can follow the same procedure as in the note to White's 41st move, though penetrating via c5 is simpler.

42. ...e4

Finally! The break Black has been waiting for. The passed f-pawn will decide the game.



43. fxe4 Ke5 44. axb6 axb6 45. Kg4 Kxe4 46. h4 Ke3



47. Bd1 Be4 48. b5 f3

0-1

The threat of ...f2 is winning, i.e. 49. Bb3 Bd3 with ...f2 to follow.

If you have played an ending that you think would interest *Northwest Chess* "And In The End" readers, send your pgn game scores to: editor@nwchess.com, or mail to Editor, NWC, PO Box 9345, San Jose, CA 95157.

5th Annual Grand Pacific Open

\$4000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund

Easter: April 22-25, 2011

Location: Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville St, Victoria, BC

Round Times: Friday 6:00pm, Sat. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Sun. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Monday 10:00am

Time Control: Game in 90 minutes plus 30 second per move increment.

Entry Fees: Open: \$75 by Mar. 15, \$85 by Apr. 15, \$95 on site. **U1400:** \$55 by Mar. 15, \$65 by Apr. 15, \$75 on site. Non-CFC members add \$16(\$8) for adult (junior)CFC Tournament Membership

Prizes: \$1,000/\$600/\$400 U2000 \$400/\$300. U1700 \$350/\$250 U1400 \$300/\$200 Upset \$100 Unrated \$100.

Registration: on line at www.grandpacificopen.com or by cheque payable to Victoria Junior Chess Society. Mail to Brian Raymer, 2386 Dalhousie St., Victoria, BC V8R 2H6

Transportation: Clipper jet boat from Seattle and Coho ferry from Port Angeles both dock across the street from the playing site. Round times are set up to match the sailing schedule.

Misc: Sets, boards and clocks provided. Special \$99 room rate at Hotel Grand Pacific 1-800-663-7550 (rate code "APR11GRAND") See website www.grandpacificopen.com for further details and additional side events. FIDE and CFC rated. *All amounts listed are Canadian dollars.*

36th Annual Keres Memorial

\$4000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund

Victoria Day Weekend, May 20-23, 2011

Location: River Rock Casino Resort: 8811 River Road, Richmond, BC. (Vancouver)

Round Times: Fri. 6:30, Sat. 10:00 / 5:00, Sun. 10:00 / 4:00, Monday 10:00 / 3:00

Time Control: Game in 80 minutes plus 60 second per move increment.

Entry Fees: Open: \$120 by Apr. 8, \$130 by May 17, \$140 on site. **U2000:** \$100 by Apr. 8, \$110 by May 17, \$120 on site. **U1600** \$80 by Apr. 8, \$90 by May 20, \$100 on site. Non-CFC members add \$16 (\$8) for CFC adult (junior) Tournament Membership

Prizes: Open \$1,000/\$600/\$400 **U2200** \$300 **U2000** \$600/\$400. **U1800** \$200 **U1600** \$300 **U1400** \$100 Top Unrated (any section) \$100

Registration: on line at www.keresmemorial.pbworks.com or by cheque payable to Roger Patterson. Mail to Roger Patterson 4381 Wildflower Lane, Victoria, BC V8X 5H1 Canada

Misc: Sets, boards and clocks provided. Special \$129 room rate at the River Rock Casino Resort. Easy transportation access to Skytrain, airport, & marina. Free parking. FIDE and CFC rated. All dollar amounts mentioned above are in Canadian currency.

Website: www.keresmemorial.pbworks.com

The 2011 Robert Karch Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, compiler

It is early still, barely into the second month of the year, and yet we have had eight events with 190 entries from 127 different players. As I write this, we are in a two week window in Grand Prix events, as both Washington and Oregon are holding their closed championships. The most recent event included in the statistics is the Seattle Chess Club quads from February 5, and the next events will be the PCC Game/60 in Portland, the 19th Collyer Memorial Open in Spokane and the SCC Tornado in Seattle, all on the weekend of February 26-27. Our schedule takes another weekend off before the Northwest Open in Tacoma on March 12-13. Some other events to look forward to in March will include the Spring Opens, in Portland March 19-20 and in Seattle April 1-3.

Our two big winners from 2010 are taking it easy to start the new year. Nick Raptis has not been to any GP events yet, and Dennis Ambler has only been to two. (That is more than most of us, but quite low compared with the activity level Dennis kept up all of 2010.) So far in 2011, our most active players have been Marcell Szabo and Dan Kramlich with five events each, followed by the trio of Igor Ummel, Peter O'Gorman and August Piper with four each. Isn't it time for you to get active?

One other thing: Last year, our combined memberships in the WCF and OCF dropped to a recent low. I don't think we have been this low since before the Fischer years in the 1970s. So, if your membership is running low, please renew soon. You can renew for up to three years, with a discount, through this month. And if you know of some former members, talk to them about taking advantage of this membership discount, too. There is strength in numbers, and we certainly could use more numbers to keep the magazine strong and viable. Thank you.

Below are the current leaders, without regard for classes, in each state:

Oregon

	rating	events	pts
1 Esler, Brian	2006	2	18
1 Botez, V Alexandra	1992	3	18
3 Munoz, David	1638	2	14.5
4 Roua, Radu	2275	1	14
4 Wen, David	1766	2	14
6 Haessler, Carl A	2219	1	13
7 Cigan, Jason	1845	2	12.5
8 Davis, Mikeal	2059	1	12
8 Shimada, Masakazu	1588	2	12
10 Breckenridge, Steven J ..	2211	1	11
10 Gutman, Richard G	2084	1	11
10 Hammer, Dale M	2051	1	11
13 Deeth, Steven B	2086	1	10
13 Motta, Paul S	1920	1	10
13 Sherrard, Jerry	1912	1	10
13 Parnon, Calvin J	1732	1	10
13 Sun, Maxwell S	1687	1	10
13 Terrill, Michael	1546	1	10

Washington

	rating	events	pts
1 Bragg, David R	2213	3	28.5
2 Szabo, Marcell	1790	5	27
3 Kramlich, Dan	1569	5	26.5
4 Ummel, Igor	2101	4	24
5 O'Gorman, Peter J	1863	4	22
6 Pupols, Viktors	2209	3	21
7 Buck, Stephen J	1803	3	18.5
8 He, Daniel M	1854	3	17
8 Yokela, Joshua S	1403	3	17
10 Bartron, Paul R	2067	2	16
11 Chi, Quentin	1809	3	15.5
11 Monahan, Darby P	1557	3	15.5
13 Lampman, Becca	1657	2	14
13 Smith, Catherine M	1602	2	14
15 Gibbon, Brian C	1828	2	13
15 McAleer, James L	1805	1	13
15 Ambler Dennis L	1712	2	13
15 Piper, August	1504	4	13
15 Willaford, IV, William B .	1501	2	13
15 Soetedjo, James C	1417	2	13

May 28-30 or 29-30, GPP: 40 Washington Washington Open

6SS, 30/90, SD/1 (2-Day Option, Rds. 1-3, G/60), \$7,500 Guaranteed. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs. Holiday Inn Seattle at Renton, One South Grady Way, Renton, WA 98055. **HR:** \$84-84-84-84. 425-226-7700. www.nwchess.com for registration link & group code. **4 Sections**, OPEN, FIDE Rated, \$900-550-350-250-200 (U2150: \$350-250-150-100), PREMIER (U2000), \$350-300-250-200-150 (U1850: \$200-150-100-100), RESERVE (U1700), \$300-250-200-175-100 (U1550: \$150-125-100-100), BOOSTER (U1400), **(note correction)** \$250-150-130-100-70 (U1100: \$120-80, Unrated: \$120-80). Unrated players may only win 1st-5th in OPEN or Unrated prize in BOOSTER. Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating. **EF if postmarked or online by 04/30: OPEN \$85, PREMIER \$75, RESERVE \$65, BOOSTER \$55.** If postmarked or online by 05/21: OPEN \$95, PREMIER \$85, RESERVE \$75, BOOSTER \$65. At site: OPEN \$105, PREMIER \$95, RESERVE \$85, BOOSTER \$75. Special Medal Only EF: \$30 Juniors U21. **3-Day Schedule:** Registration Sat (05/28) 8-9:30am. Rds.: Sat 10am & 5pm, Sun 10am & 5:30pm, Mon 9:00am & 3pm. **2-Day Schedule:** Registration Sun (05/29) 8-9am. Rds.: Sat 9:30am, 12pm, 2:30pm then merges with 3-Day Schedule. **Bye:** limit 2, request before end of Rd. 2. Memb. Req'd: \$25 (\$17 juniors). OSA. **ENT:** Checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. **Mail to:** Dan Mathews, **(address corrected)** 2700 NW Pine Cone Dr. #402, Issaquah, WA 98027-8677. Enter online: www.nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. **Info:** dthmathews@aol.com, (425) 218-7529. NS. NC. W. **Chess Magnet School JGP.**

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments


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kleistcf@aol.com
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 SCC Tnmt Dir
2420 S 137 St
Seattle WA 98168

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How to Find the SCC

Look for the Northway Square East Building, just across I-5 from Northgate Mall, 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.

SCC Fridays

Typical Friday fare is one round of an on-going tournament (free to SCC members, no prizes) played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60.

March Winds: Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25.

April Showers: Apr. 1, 8, 22, 29.

Taxing Swiss (G/10:40): April 15.

Close Ratings: May 6, 13, 20.

It's Summertime: June 3, 10, 17, 24.

Firecracker Swiss (G/13): July 1.

Hot-as-Hades: July 8, 15, 22, 29.

♣April 16, May 14

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.

April 16

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

♣April 17, May 8

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.

Apr. 20; May 4, 18

Format: 3-RR. **TC:** G/20. **EF:** \$5 (+\$3 for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free EF for future QQ. **Reg:** 6:15-6:45 p.m. **1st Rd:** 7 p.m. **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS. NC.

April 22-24

Join the SCC Team(s) in Reno at the Western States Open. We will be competing against two or three teams from San Francisco's Mechanics' Institute CC as well as teams from Reno, Sacramento, and elsewhere!

April 30-May 1

Format: 4-SS. Open to those born before 5/1/1990. **TC:** G/150. **EF:** \$33 by 4/27, \$42 at site. (-\$9 for SCC mem., -\$4 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs). UNR—free! w/purch. 1-yr USCF & WCF. **Prize Fund:** \$450 (b/24, 5/prz gp). **Prizes:** \$150-100, U2000 50, U1800 50, U1600 50, U1400 50. **Reg:** 10-10:45a.m. **Rds:** 11-4:30, 11-4:30. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4-commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

May 6

Prior to the first round of the Friday night Close Ratings tournament, SCC members will discuss the club and elect the Board of Directors.



Entry Fees & Day Fees to Rise June 1

Currently, the SCC monthly income is about one half of the rent (paid via grant for the next three years). A \$2 increase in Tornado & Quad EFs and DFs will amount to an extra month's income over the course of a year.



GM Yasser Seirawan to visit SCC

Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

GM Yasser Seirawan, one of the most distinguished names in modern chess, a prolific and gifted author, and a member of the Seattle Chess Club, will visit the club for a lecture and book signing. GM Seirawan has kindly offered his services to support fund raising for the club. His chess credentials are extremely impressive: one of a very elite few to have bested world champions Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov in tournament play; four times U.S. Champion; and a frequent member of the U.S. Chess Olympiad team. Come out and join us to meet this illustrious member of the SCC. We suggest donations of \$20, \$10 of which will help offset the cost of any books you choose to purchase.

Future Events

♂ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♂

♂ April 9-10

Daffodil Open ♂

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave., Room 11, across the street from Alfred's Café & 2 blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Play to improve your USCF rating & to gain N.W. Grand Prix points. Format: Five (5)-round Swiss (two 1/2-point byes available upon advance request). Registration: 9:00-9:45 AM. Time Control: Round 1, G/60; Round 2, G/90; Rounds 3-5, G/120. Rounds: Saturday, 10:00 (G/60), 1:00 (G/90), 4:00 (G/120); Sunday, 10:00 and 2:00 or ASAP (G/120). Byes: No unwanted byes. Steve Buck will play as houseman if necessary to avoid unwanted byes. You will be paired for all rounds unless you request a half-point bye (two available). Entry Fee: \$12 for all rounds, \$10 for four rounds (one half-point bye), or \$8 for three rounds (two half-point byes). Entries: Mail entries to Tacoma Chess Club, c/o Gary Dorfner, 8423 East B St, Tacoma, WA 98445. (Checks payable to Tacoma Chess Club) Information: Gary Dorfner, Tournament Director (253-535-2536), e-mail ggarychess@aol.com. Note: All players (unrateds included) must have both USCF and WCF (or other state) memberships to play. They may purchase both memberships on site. NS/NC/NW.

♂ April 16-17

5th Annual Clark Harmon Memorial Open ♂

Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. See display advertisement on page 13.

April 22-24

Far West Open

Sands Regency Hotel, Reno, NV. See display advertisement on page 8.

April 22-25

Grand Pacific Open

Grand Pacific Hotel, Victoria, B.C., Canada. See display advertisement on page 20.

♂ April 30

Portland CC Game in 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: e-mail portlandchessclub@gmail.com, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.com.

April 30-May 1

Super State Open

Super State Open has been canceled.

May 7

Tornado #1

Tacoma Chess Club. More information to follow.

May 20-23

36th Annual Paul Keres Memorial

River Rock Casino Resort, Richmond, B.C., Canada. See display advertising on page 20.

June 9-12

National Open

Las Vegas, Nevada. International Chess Festival. See display advertisement on page 3.

♂ August 12-14


Portland Chess Club Centennial Open ♂

Lloyd Center Doubletree Hotel, Portland, OR. See display advertisement on page 12.

♂ May 28-30

Washington Open ♂


Holiday Inn Seattle, Renton, WA. See display advertisement on page 22.



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