

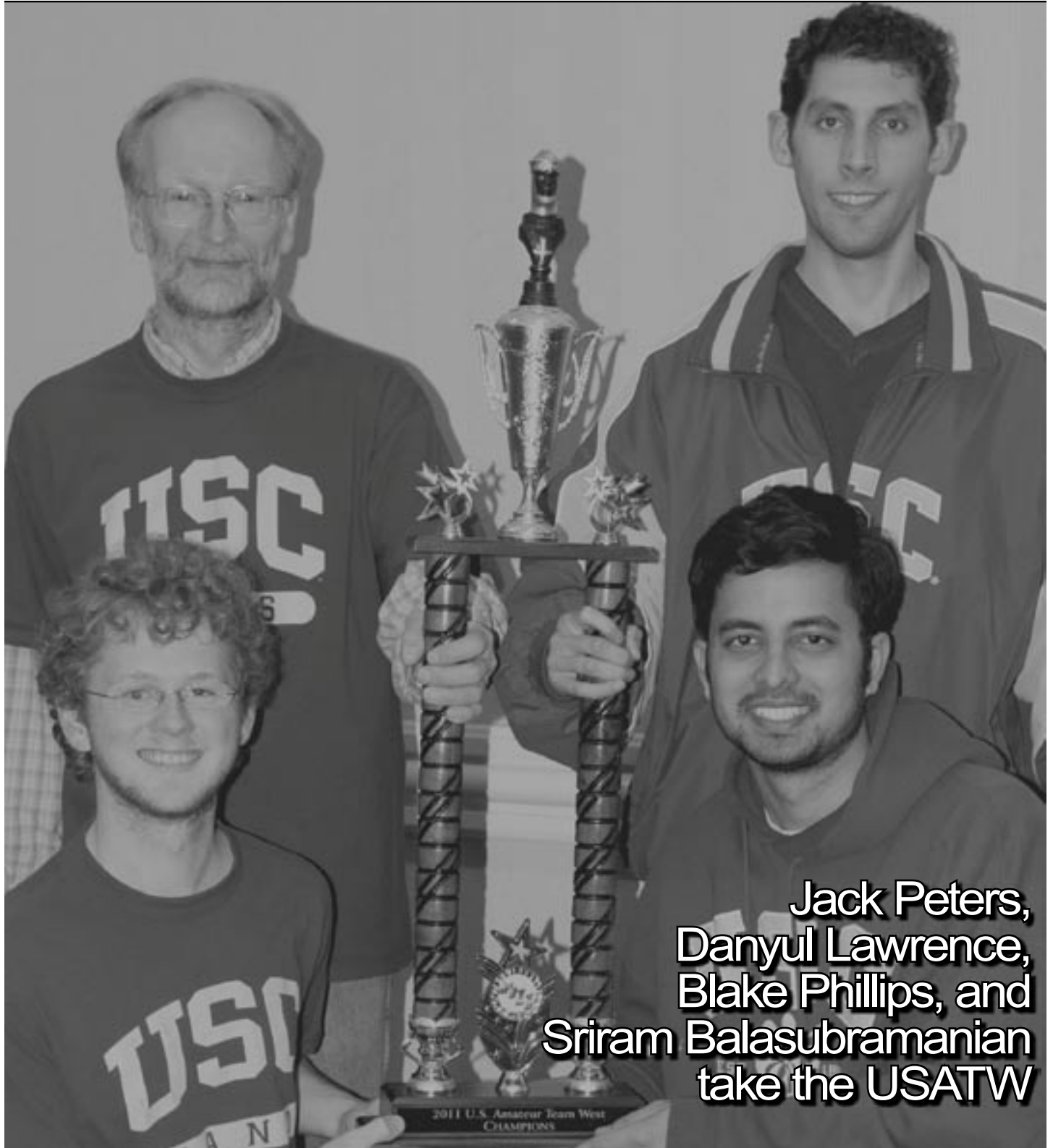
Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

MARCH-APRIL 2011

VOLUME XXXV, No. 2

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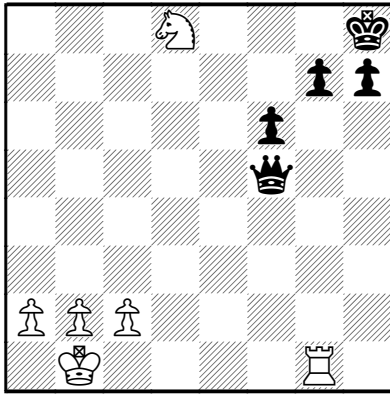


Jack Peters,
Danyul Lawrence,
Blake Phillips, and
Sriram Balasubramanian
take the USATW

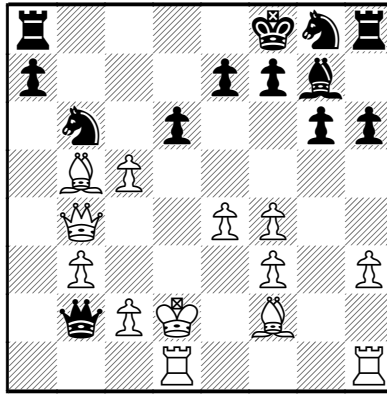
INSIDE MOVES

Before you get into this month's chess, a tactical warmup might be just the thing. These positions are easier than the tough ones you might have tried on the back cover. We hope you enjoy both sets of problems. - Ed.

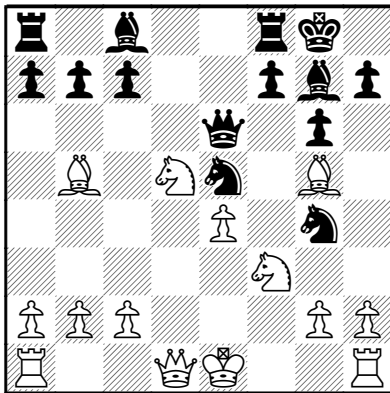
See page 43 for solutions.



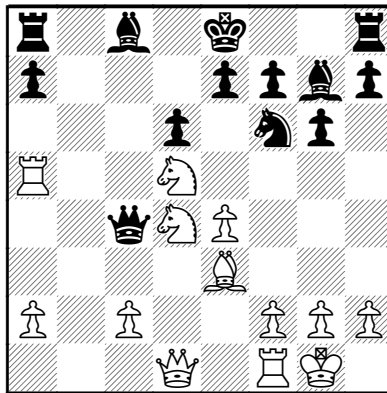
1. White to Play



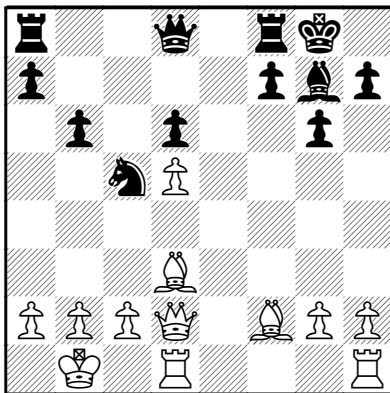
2. Black to Play



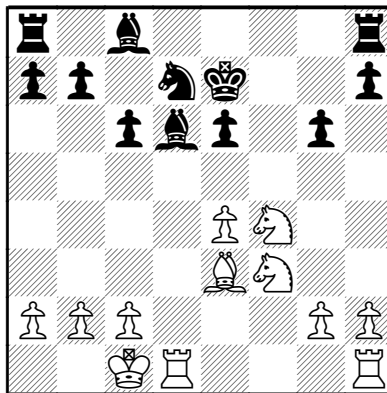
3. White to Play



4. White to Play



5. Black to Play



6. White to Play

Solutions to *Outside Shots!*

From the back cover.

1. White terminates it with 25.Bxb5!
See page 24 for Stopa - Troff, 3rd Metro Fide.

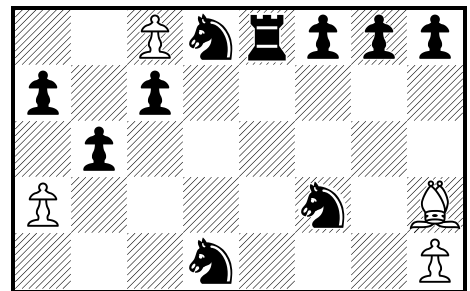
2. White wins with 29.Qh5! See page 25 for Troff - Amanov, 3rd Metro Fide.

3. White started it with 27.Rf6!! Bxe6 28.Nxe6! Qe7 29.Bg5! and the game ended with 29...Re8 30.Rxh6+ gxh6 31.Bxe7 Rxe7 32.Qxh6+ Kg8 33.Qg6+ Kh8 34.Qh6+ Kg8 35.Qf8+ Kh7 36.Ng5+ Kg6 37.Qf5+ Kg7 38.Qh7+ 1-0, Kong Liang Deng - Patrick Wolff, US Masters, Honolulu, 1998

4. White corrals the King with 32.Rc4! See page 8 for Naroditsky - Taylor, Jimmy Quon Memorial.

5. Mate came on swift wings with 1...a5!!, since nothing can stop 2...axb4, forcing the finish. Pavel Blatny - Kong Liang Deng, US Masters, Honolulu, 1998.

6. White begins the show with 28...Nf3+!! 29.gxf3 Qg3+. For the final act, see page 10 for Amanov - Paragua, Jimmy Quon Memorial.



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Rank & File

MARCH-APRIL 2011

VOL XXXV, No. 2

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The readers opine; letters are welcome.

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Mark Paragua starts with 6 wins and cruises to first without a loss in the 2nd Metropolitan FIDE Invitational. See the superb game selection and commentary by GM Dejan Bojkov.

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Jacek Stopa scores 7 of 9 for a clear first. Joel Banawa and Philip Wang achieve IM norms.

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by IM Cyrus Lakdawala and IM Jack Peters.
Cyrus and Jack each annotated one of their own games, and then commented on each other's game and notes.

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by Phil Chase. At the amateur level, it's not so bad playing White against the Najdorf. Think about it.

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See you at the Lina Grumette on Memorial Day.

COVER PHOTO: Chris Roberts

OTHER PHOTOS:

cr: Chris Roberts
cg: Christian Glawe, Ice Hat Creative
th: Tim Hanks



Positions



E-mail your letters to:
RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com

Editor's note:

When I was selected for the role of editor of Rank & File, I was warned that it could be a thankless job, but it has turned out to be far from it.

There has been so much to be thankful for, considering the contributions of all our writers!

Especially, thank you Jack Peters, for your kind advice and encouragement in addition to your many articles, which assured that we would restart and continue Rank & File with valuable content after a tough year for the SCCF.

And thanks to our photographers Chris Roberts, Tim Hanks, and Christian Glawe, who seem to be in the right place at the right time!

This month, Metro Chess and new contributor GM Dejan Bojkov delivered a great piece on the Jimmy Quon Memorial; I am sure you will enjoy the energetic chess and commentary.

And thank you, Ankit Gupta, for showing us what amazing things can be done with an e-pawn! (See page 20 for details.)

Finally, thank you, Mr. Hillery, for your past work for the SCCF.

I have another John Hillery story: one time, he apologized to me. I wanted to apologize right back!

Many years ago, a master was playing an IM in the final round of a big weekend swiss, and kept making his move, pressing his clock, and claiming a draw by a three-time repetition. He didn't know how to make his claim correctly.

John was explaining the right way claim the draw, but the player did not seem, to me, to get it.

Unfortunately, I "helped" by telling the player that he must claim the three time repetition when it was his move, but that his move ended when he pressed his clock.

Immediately, Mr. Hillery rebuked me with his vigorous voice, direct-

ing me to stay out of the situation, and added that a player's move ends when he takes his hand off the moved piece.

Another IM quietly confided to me, "I didn't know that."

Later, Mr. Hillery actually apologized to me for the intensity of his reproach, but I told him I regretted my intrusion, and was sorry to bother him when he was doing his job. Of course, I was even more sorry because I got the rule wrong.

Several times, during a Swiss tournament, there was some point between games when I had some idle time, and when walking by the director's table, an obscure question about the rules would come to me. I would gently approach him, and he was always willing to be interrupted from his work to consider rule questions and to answer them.

One very important aspect of his rulings was that he was timely and decisive. A couple of times, I have observed the chaos that ensues when a ruling is not made authoritatively and quickly.

We appreciate all his work and hope that the SCCF will eventually have a group of tournament directors to replace him.

Current and potential directors out there: we need you! -- Ed. ♖

Mr. Hillery

Like most people, I have my own John Hillery stories, one or more that I would like you to post in the next R&F.

One time I decided to buy 100 "SCCF Pens" with the name and logo printed on them. I gave most of them to John, with the instructions that he give them out when someone joined or renewed their SCCF membership, as a sort of cheap but symbolic appreciation.

I also left him instructions that he was NOT to tell anyone who supplied them, and I wanted the people to think he did. Of course, most people knew better, but he cooperated with me in this little charade, and to be honest, I was surprised that he did, since I knew he didn't like to take credit for things.

I later found out why: he really, really liked those pens! So I gave the rest to him and told him to keep as many as he wanted. One time he actually came up to me and asked if I had any more - I did, and brought them to him the next day.

It was one of the few situations I saw him smile, and I felt a great deal of satisfaction that I could make him smile. I never saw him TDing a tournament without at least two or three of those pens at his ready.

I told him, on more than one occasion, how much I appreciated what he did, how thankless I thought it was, and if he gave me four Blacks in a row, I wouldn't complain, because I knew he would have had good solid reasons for doing so.

I also jokingly asked him once which would he consider worse punishment: directing a tournament with 1000 kids, or sharing a hotel room with Sam Sloan. He gave me that famous Hillery scowl, and I couldn't help but break down laughing; he didn't say anything because he knew he didn't HAVE to say anything.

I also told him how much I liked and respected him, because there was no phoniness to him, and I liked how he made no effort to be "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm". Scowl time again...

John was truly one of a kind, and he simply cannot be replaced. I consider his death a significant blow to chess, and everybody is worse off now that he is gone.

-- Bill Conrad ♖

GM Paragua Wins Jimmy Quon Memorial

With a start of six straight wins, Mark Paragua scored a 7½-1½ wire-to-wire victory in January's 2nd Metro FIDE Invitational tournament in downtown Los Angeles. His great start earned him a 2½ point lead with only 3 rounds to go. He drew his final three games to cruise to his win, 1½ points ahead of second place finisher GM Melikset Khachiyan. Third was IM Mackenzie Molner at 5-4.

We thank Metropolitan Chess for providing Ankit Gupta's recap and GM Dejan's excellent selection of games with notes. Be sure to enjoy our favorite, Amanov-Paragua. - Ed.

By NM Ankit Gupta

Jimmy Quon was a beloved chess player from the Southern California Community who taught chess at La Jolla Country Day School for 14 years. At one time he taught 15% of the student body. In the end, he had coached over 1000 players. Our deepest respect and appreciation goes out to Jimmy Quon for promoting and cultivating chess talents in the greater Southern California area.

In his honor, Metropolitan Chess (www.metrochessla.com) hosted a Grandmaster norm tournament from January 19th to 23rd of 2011. This was the first GM norm tournament in Los Angeles since 2005's Ibar International. The tournament was sponsored by California Market Center (www.californiamarketcenter.com), Fashion Business, Inc (www.fashionbizinc.org), Chess.com (www.chess.com), LawyerFy (www.lawyerfy.com), and Betty Bottom Showroom (www.bettybottom.com).

This tournament was dedicated to Jimmy Quon, titled the Jimmy Quon Memorial, and was held in Suite C998 of the California Market Center on 110 East 9th Street, Los Angeles 90079. The tournament was organized by Ankit Gupta, the chief arbiter was Randy Hough, and the deputy arbiter was Michael Belcher.

The participants included: GM Dejan Bojkov (BUL), GM Melikset Khachiyan (USA), GM Mark Paragua (PHI), IM Zhanibek Amanov (KAZ), IM Timothy Taylor (USA), IM Mackenzie Molner (USA), IM Jacek Stopa (POL), IM-Elect Robby Adamson (USA), IM-Elect Daniel Naroditsky (USA), and NM Alessandro Steinfel (ITL). The FIDE average of the field was 2421, for a respectable Category 7.

There were two master commentary days live on-site. If you missed the commentaries, you can watch them via the on demand feature at www.chess.com/tv.

We have included several games annotated by Grandmaster Dejan Bojkov (BUL) for your viewing. Later in the year in future norm tournaments from the Metropolitan



Mark Paragua: and the show may begin!

th

series, with their tournament schedule permitting, we will bring you annotations from super-Grandmasters Anish Giri (NED) and Fabiano Caruana (ITL).

Please send your comments, questions, and/or concerns to: ankit.gupta@metrochessla.com, pertaining to this tournament or any other Metropolitan Chess event.

Metropolitan Chess will also be hosting a GM/IM/WGM/WIM norm swiss in August with the confirmed attendance of super-GM Mickey Adams. You will find more information about that event and other events run by Metropolitan Chess at www.metrochessla.com.

Dejan Bojkov's selection of games and notes for each follow.

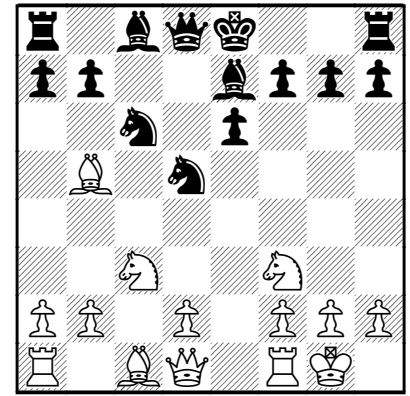
We hope you enjoy all the tactical action! - Ed.

Bojkov,D (2544) - Adamson,R (2354)
[B10] Caro-Kann Defense
Jimmy Quon Memorial (5)
Los Angeles, 21.01.2011

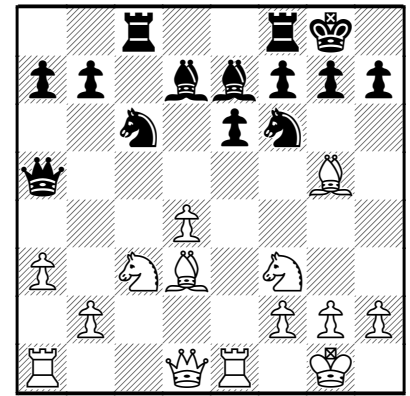
I did not do well at L.A. as a whole, but the following game was my best achievement.

Most of the beautiful lines, though, remained behind the curtains.

1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nxd5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bb5 e6 8.0-0 Be7



9.d4 0-0 10.Re1 Bd7 11.Bd3 Nf6 12.a3 Rc8 13.Bg5 Qa5?!



Robby told me after the game that he had prepared this line at home, and that everyone plays here 14.Bc2. However, as I did not know that I found a new move, that actually prevents his idea:

14.Ne5!

And Black went into the thinking tank.

The point is that if Black continues with his normal development, he might be crushed due to the weakness

Round by Round		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pairings and Scores										
1 Bojkov, Dejan	BUL	W10	D6	L5	W7	W9	L2	L3	D4	D8
2544		1	1½	1½	2½	3½	3½	3½	4	4½
2 Paragua, Mark	PHI	W4	W8	W10	W6	W5	W1	D9	D7	D3
2518		1	2	3	4	5	6	6½	7	7½
3 Khachiyani, Melikset	USA	D7	D4	D8	W10	D6	D5	W1	W9	D2
2521		½	1	1½	2½	3	3½	4½	5½	6
4 Molner, Mackenzie	USA	L2	D3	D7	W8	W10	D6	D5	D1	D9
2458		0	½	1	2	3	3½	4	4½	5
5 Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	D6	L7	W1	D9	L2	D3	D4	D8	W10
2421		½	½	1½	2	2	2½	3	3½	4½
6 Naroditsky, Daniel	USA	D5	D1	W9	L2	D3	D4	D8	L10	W7
2419		½	1	2	2	2½	3	3½	3½	4½
7 Taylor, Timothy	USA	D3	W5	D4	L1	L8	L9	W10	D2	L6
2314		½	1½	2	2	2	2	3	3½	3½
8 Stopa, Jacek	POL	D9	L2	D3	L4	W7	W10	D6	D5	D1
2451		½	½	1	1	2	3	3½	4	4½
9 Adamson, Robby	USA	D8	L10	L6	D5	L1	W7	D2	L3	D4
2354		½	½	½	1	1	2	2½	2½	3
10 Steinfl, Alessandro	ITA	L1	W9	L2	L3	L4	L8	L7	W6	L5
2209		0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2

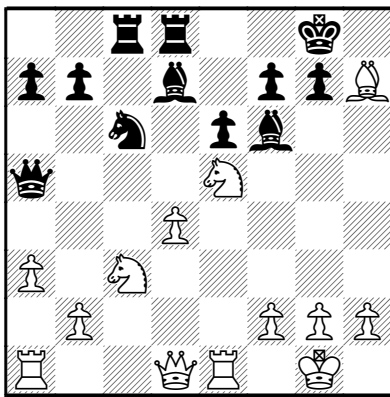


Taller, from left to right: Stopa, Steinfl, Molner, Amanov, Bojkov, and Taylor.
 Shorter: Naroditsky, Paragua, Khachiyani, and Adamson.



GM Dejan Bojkov: his best achievement.

of the f7 square: 14...Rfd8? 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Bxh7+!



16...Kf8 The only move that concerned me for a while.

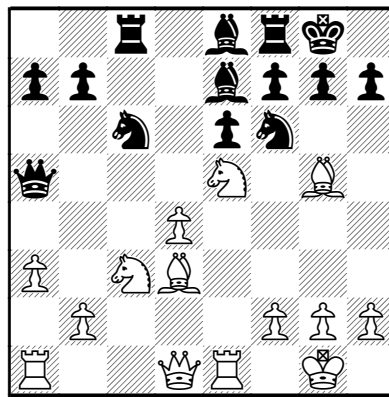
Much weaker is 16...Kxh7 17.Qh5+ Kg8 18.Qxf7+ Kh7 19.Re3, when Black is getting mated.

17.Qh5! Only when I saw this follow up did I choose 14.Ne5! White's attack is unstoppable, for example: 17...g6 18.Bxg6 fxd6.

Or 18...Bxe5 19.dxe5 fxd6 20.Qh8+ Ke7 21.Qg7+ Ke8 22.Qxg6+ Kf8 23.Qf6+ Ke8 24.Re4 followed by Re4-h4-h8 and mate.

19.Qh6+ Bg7 20.Qf4+ Ke7 21.Qf7+ Kd6 22.Nc4+ and White wins.

After the game Robby suggested the defense: 14...Be8



I thought that this is also very bad for him, but I now believe that this might have been Black's best chance.

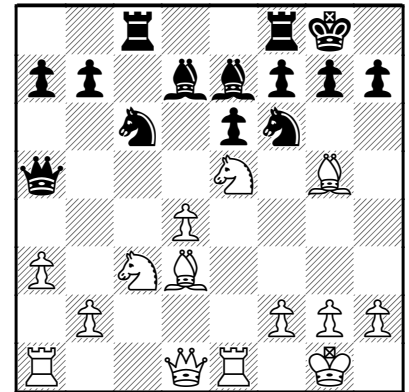
Here are some possibilities: 15.Re3

a) 15...g6 16.Bh6 will win at least an exchange for White.

b) 15...Nxe5. This was Robby's idea, as after 16.dxe5 Nd5 17.Bxe7 Nxe7, the sacrifice on h7 does not work: 18.Bxh7+ Kxh7 19.Rh3+ Kg8 20.Qh5 f5. Still, there is 18.Ne4±.

c) 15...h6 16.Bxh6! This one of the lines that was keeping me calculat-

ing. Black is mated after: 16...gxh6 17.Rg3+ Kh8 18.Qd2 Ng8 19.Rxg8+ Kxg8 20.Qxh6 f5 21.Qxe6+ Bf7 22.Qxf5 Kg7 23.Qh7+ Kf6 24.Qh6+ Bg6 25.Qxg6 mate.



14...Qd8?! 15.Qf3!

Preventing the move 15... g7-g6, and transferring the queen on a vintage point. The Rook lift does not bring anything substantial after 15.Re3 g6.

15...Nxe5

Black sacrifices material to lose the grip.

There is no time to grab the central pawn, as the opening of this highway is deadly for Black: 15... Nxd4 16.Qh3 h6 17.Bxh6! gxh6 18.Qxh6 Nf5 19.Bxf5 exf5 20.Qg5+ Kh8 21.Nxd7 (The simplest) Qxd7 22.Rad1 Qc7 23.Rd3 with mate to follow.

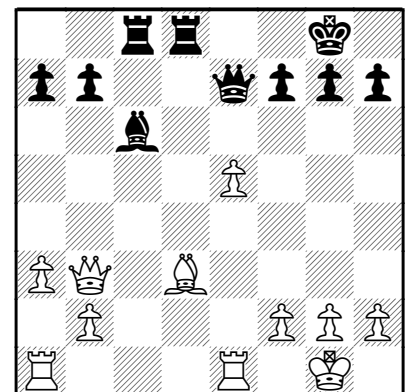
16.dxe5 Nd5 17.Bxe7 Qxe7

After 17...Nxe7, White has a pleasant choice which pawn to take:

Either 18.Rad1 Qc7 19.Bxh7+ Kxh7 20.Qd3+ ±,

or 18.Qxb7 Bc6 19.Qa6±.

18.Nxd5 exd5 19.Qxd5 Bc6 20.Qb3 Rfd8

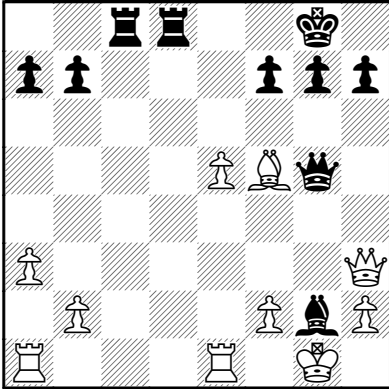


Black is a pawn down without any compensation, and the active try in the game only speeds up the end.

21.Bf5!

Threatening both the Rook and the advance e5-e6.

21...Qg5 22.Qh3 Bxg2

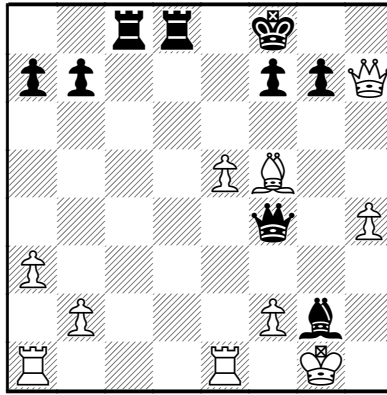


23.Qxh7+

My initial idea was to win the exchange with 23.Qg4.

However, the move in the game gains more material.

23...Kf8 24.h4 Qf4



25.Bxc8! 1-0

Black resigns, for if 25...Rd2 then 26.Qf5.

The straight forward attack wins as well: 25.e6! fxe6 26.Bxe6 Rc6 27.Qg8+ Ke7 28.Qxg7+ Kd6 29.Rad1+.

Taking the Bishop spoils the victory, as Robby pointed out: 25.Kxg2?? Rd2 26.Rf1 Rcc2!! 27.Bxc2 Qg4+ 28.Kh2 Qf4+ with a draw by perpetual check.

Naroditsky, Daniel (2419) -

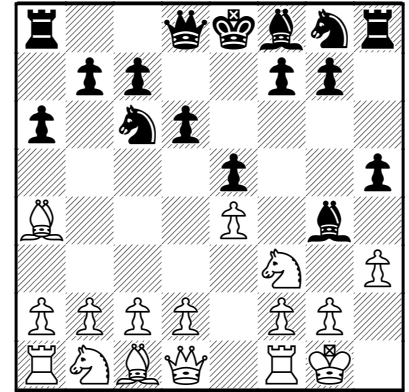
Taylor, Timothy (2314)

[C72] Ruy Lopez

Jimmy Quon Memorial (9)

Los Angeles, 23.01.2011

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5



7.Bxc6+

White is best advised not to touch that Bishop on g4:

7.hxg4? hxg4 8.Re1 gxf3 9.Qxf3 Qh4 10.Qg3?? (10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.g3 Qh3→) 10...Qh1 mate, Hruska, J-



Major chess action is already under way in Round 1.

eg

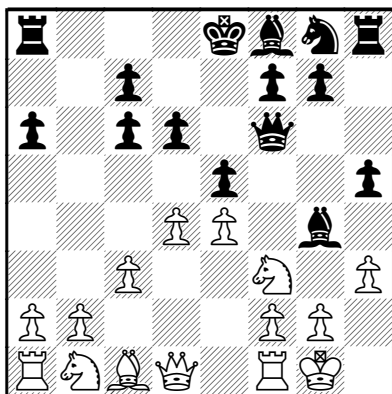
Smid,J/ Neratovice 1992/EXT 1999.

7...bxc6 8.c3

This is a bit slow. More chances for an advantage are provided by the immediate 8.d4.

Here is a sample how the leading specialist of the line, Valeri Yandemirov, treats the position against one of the Jimmy Quon Memorial's participants: 8...Bxf3 9.Qxf3 exd4 10.Rd1 Qf6 11.Qb3 Ne7 12.c3 g5 13.cxd4 g4 14.Rd3 gxh3 15.Rxh3 Qxd4 16.Nc3 Bh6 17.Rxh5 Bxc1 18.Rxh8+ Qxh8 19.Rxc1 Kd7 20.Qc2 1/2 Amanov,Z (2385)-Yandemirov, V (2504)/Alushta 2009/CBM 132 Extra.

8...Qf6 9.d4



9...Bxf3

The simplest move appears the best here. Black ruins his opponent's pawn structure. 9...Qg6? is worse, but was also tested: 10.Qd3 Be7 11.hxg4 hxg4 12.Nh2 Nf6 13.Nd2 0-0-0 14.Re1 Rh4 15.Nhf1 Rdh8 16.Ng3± Nh5



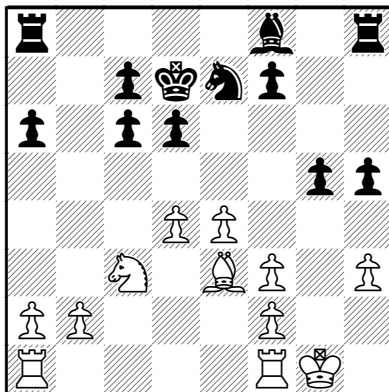
How many chess mastersth does it take to ...?

17.Nxh5?? (17.Qxa6+ Kd7 18.d5) 17... Rh1+!! 18.Kxh1 Qxh5+ 19.Qh3 gxh3 0-1 Kremenetsky,A-Vorotnikov,V/ Soviet Union 1973/EXT 2010.

10.Qxf3 Qxf3 11.gxf3 exd4 12.cxd4 Kd7 13.Nc3 Ne7

Black was also OK after 13...g6 14.Be3 Bh6 15.Bxh6 Nxh6 16.f4 Rab8 17.b3 Rhe8= Bakhtadze, G-Vajda,L (2200)/Szeged 1994/TD (38).

14.Be3 g5

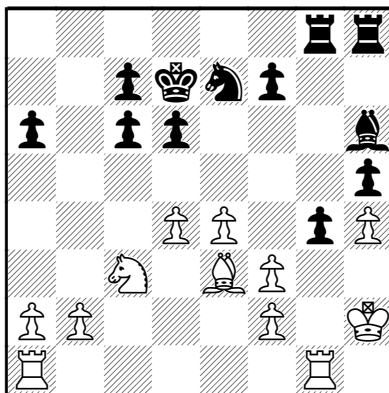


The opening is over, and Black can be satisfied with its outcome. Both sides have problems with their pawn chains, and the semi open files can be used for the heavy pieces.

15.Kh2 Bh6 16.Rg1 Rag8!

Tim keeps his Rook on h8, getting ready to open files. f7-f5 and g5-g4 breaks are on the agenda, and Daniel makes the decision to block the pawns on the King's flank.

17.h4 g4



18.f4

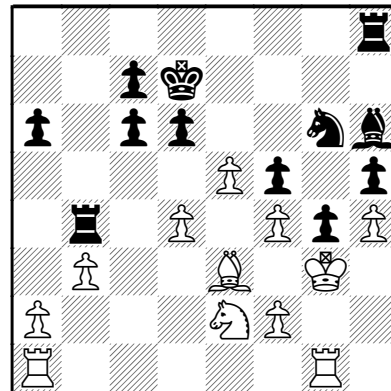
The best move. Weaker is: 18.fxg4?! hxg4 19.Bxh6 Rxh6 20.Kg3 f5↑ and both Black Rooks are working in harmony.

18...f5

There was no need to hurry with this move.

Instead Black could have redeployed his troops, since he does not need them on the King's flank: 18... Bg7 19.Kg3 Rb8 20.b3 Rhe8, followed by Rb8-b4 and eventually c6-c5 with pressure on the White's center.

19.e5 Ng6 20.Kg3 Rb8 21.b3 Rb4 22.Ne2



The position is equal. Tim can keep the balance in many ways.

One good idea is to get rid of his isolated pawn: 22...a5! 23.Bd2 (23.Rgc1?! a4) 23...Rb5 24.Rgc1 Ra8 with approximate equality.

Or 22...Bf8!? to first tie-up the White pieces in defense of the isolated h-pawn: 23.Rac1 Be7 24.Rh1 Ra8=.

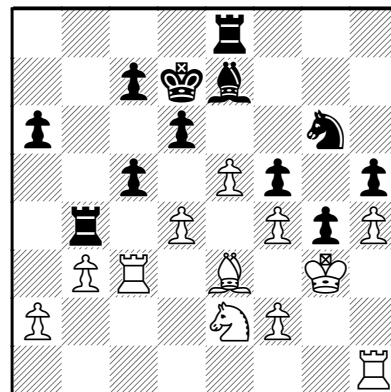
22...Re8 23.Rac1

Now Daniel wants to double his Rooks along the semi-open file, and attack the backward pawns.

23...Bf8

The logical response, Tim does not allow the second Rook to come on the open file.

24.Rc3 Be7 25.Rh1 c5



Forcing exchanges.

26.a3!?

White tries his chance. The alternative was: 26.exd6 cxd6 (26...cxd4?! 27.Nxd4 Bxd6 28.Rd1 Ne7 29.Rcd3±) 27.dxc5 dxc5=.

26...Rbb8

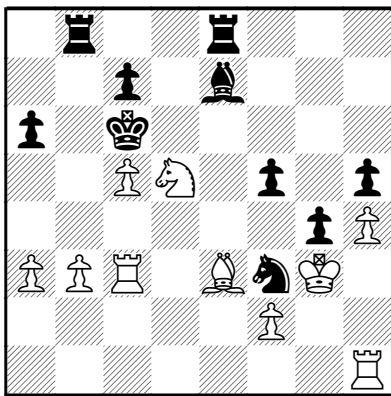
Also 26...Rb5 =.

27.dxc5 dxe5 28.fxe5 Nxe5 29.Nf4 Nf3

This is a good move, though 29...Kc6 could have limited White's options:

30.Nxh5 Nf3 31.Nf4 Bf6 32.Rd3 Ne5 33.Rc3 Nf3=.

30.Nd5 Kc6



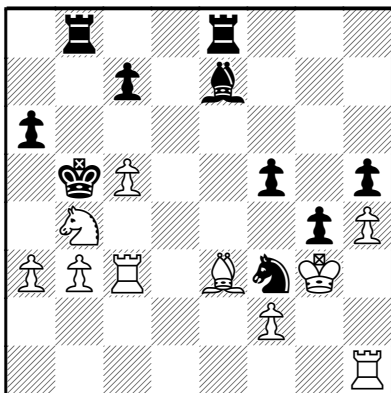
31.Nb4+

And not 31.Nxe7+? Rxe7 32.Kf4 Rd8! with the idea of 33.Kxf5? Rf8+ 34.Kg6 Ne5+ 35.Kg5 Re6 followed by Re6-g6 and Rf8-h8(f5) mate.

31...Kb5??

Black does not feel the danger and walks into a mating net.

After the correct 31...Kb7, Daniel should settle for a draw by repetition with 32.Nd5 Kc6, as 32.c6+?! is too risky: 32...Kc8 33.Nxa6 Ra8 34.Nb4 Bd6+ 35.Kg2 (35.Bf4?? Nd4+-) 35...Be5±.



32.Rc4!

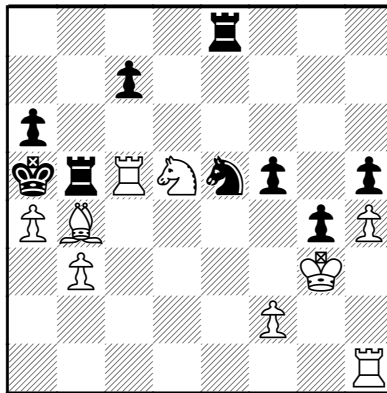
Now the Black King is trapped, and there is no defense against the threat of a3-a4+ and Nb4-c6 mate.

32...Ne5 33.a4+ Ka5 34.Bd2!

Renewing the threat Nb4-c6 mate.

34...Bxc5 35.Nd5+ 1-0

Black resigns, for if 35...Bb4, then 36.Rc5+ Rb5 37.Bxb4 mate.



Taylor-Paragua in a round 7 draw.th

Mark Paragua played a fantastic tournament and deservedly won the tournament outright. This next game was his fifth win in a row.

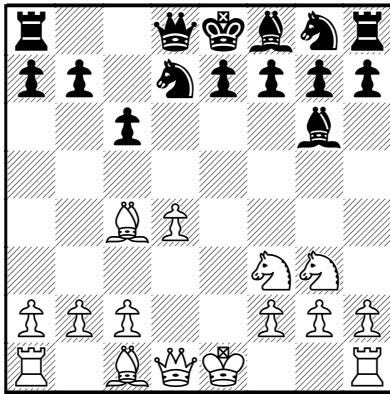
Amanov,Z (2421) - Paragua,M (2518) [B18] Caro-Kann Defense Jimmy Quon Memorial (5) Los Angeles, 21.01.2011

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Bc4



Daniel Naroditsky: traps the King.

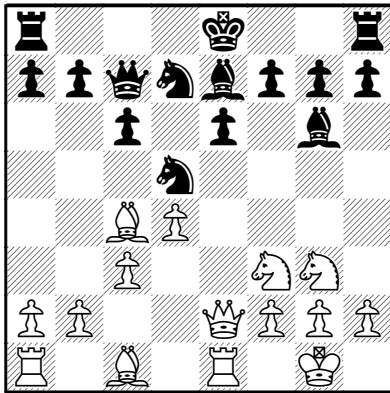
th



This is a relatively rare line of the Caro-Kann defense.

White does not try to harass the opponent's Bishop on g6, and later exchange it, but instead prefers simply to develop his pieces.

7...e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Re1 Ngf6 10.c3 Qc7 11.Qe2 Nd5

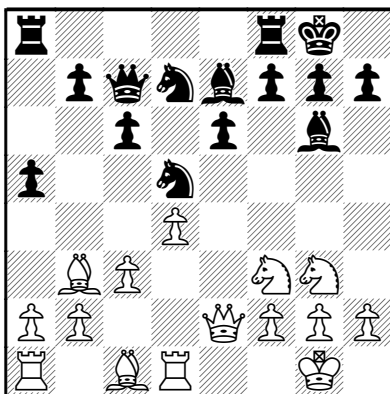


12.Rd1

Here is a sample of one of the main advocates of White's position:

12.Bb3 0-0 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Rad8 15.Bc2 Nb6 16.Bxg6 hxg6= Gallagher,J(2480) - Berkes,F(2645) / Dresden 2008/CBM 128 (96).

12...0-0 13.Bb3 a5=



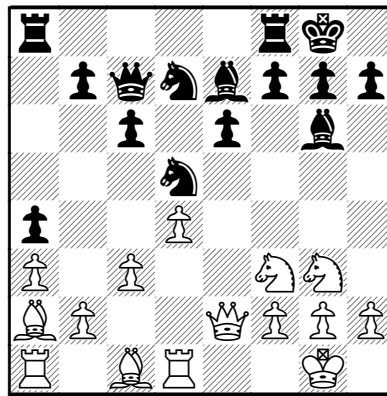
Black gains space on the Queen's flank with tempos. After that he will decide what to do with the center; he will either prepare e6-e5 advance or c6-c5.

14.a3 a4 15.Ba2

15.Bc2 will be a concession after which Black would not experience any problems, and in fact he might be even slightly better as his pieces are more comfortable.

Still, Zhanibek had to settle for this option at some moment.

15...Nf4 16.Qe3 Nd5 17.Qe2



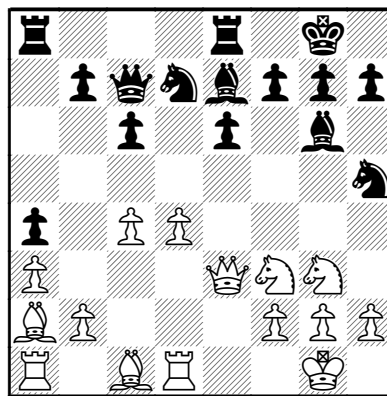
17...Rfe8

Paragua correctly decided to play on. Indeed he is not risking too much here.

17...b5!? is a move that the computer suggests, but it is a bit hard for the humans to appreciate the compensation after:

18.Bxd5 cxd5 19.Qxb5 Rfb8 20.Qe2=.

18.c4 Nf4 19.Qe3 Nh5



20.Ne4

Zhanibek correctly avoids the Knight swap, as this will force the Black Bishop to a better position.

20.Nxh5 Bxh5 21.Bd2 e5! This is possible, since the f3 Knight is now pinned by the Bishop on h5!
22.dxe5 Bc5 23.Qc3 Qb6 24.Be3 Bxe3 25.fxe3 Qc7=.

20...c5

There was another good choice for Black here:

20...e5!? 21.d5 Bxe4 22.Qxe4 Nhf6 23.Qe2 Bd6=.

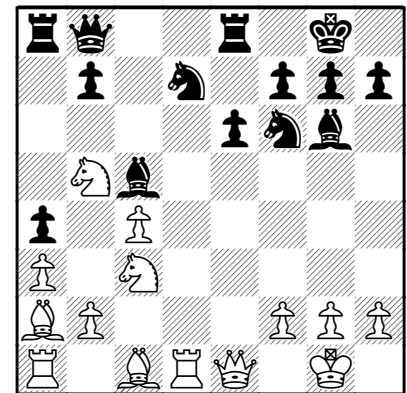
21.Nc3 cxd4 22.Nxd4 Bc5 23.Qe1?!

This seems like a mistake to me. White had to choose from:

23.Ndb5 Qc6 24.Qe2 with approximate equality.

Or the ultra-sharp: **23.Qe2 Nf4 24.Qf3 Qb6 25.Bxf4 (25.Qxf4 e5 26.Nd5 Qd8 27.Qg3 exd4=) 25... Bxd4 26.Bb1 Qxb2 27.Bxg6 hxg6 28.Nb5 Ne5 29.Qg3 Nxc4 30.Rab1 (30.Nxd4 is transposition 30... e5 31.Rab1) 30...Qa2 31.Nxd4 e5 32.Ra1 Qb2 33.Rab1 Qxa3 (33...Qa2 34.Ra1=) 34.Nb5 Qxg3 35.Bxg3 Rec8=.**

23...Nhf6 24.Ndb5 Qb8



The threat is Nf6-g4 with a decisive attack.

25.h3

Black answers 25.Be3 with **25... Ng4! 26.Rxd7? Qxh2+ 27.Kf1 Bxe3 28.fxe3 Qh1+ 29.Ke2 Qxg2+ 30.Kd1 Qc2 mate.**

25...Bh5!

More and more pieces join the attack, and in the meanwhile spoil White's supply of defensive resources.

26.Rd2

Or **26.Ne2 Ne4 27.Be3 Bxe3 28.fxe3 Ndc5=.**

26...Ne5

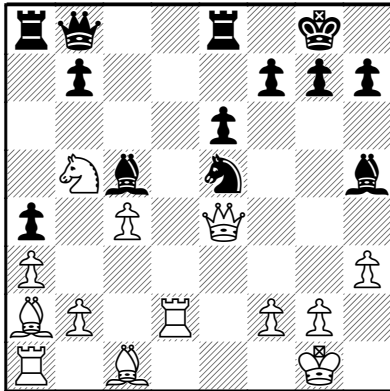
Black is ready to sacrifice the Knight on f3, and open the road for the Queen.

This is a party that will not be much fun for the White King.

27.Ne4

27.Bb1 Nf3+! 28.gxf3 Qg3+ 29.Kf1 Qxh3+ 30.Ke2 Qxf3+ 31.Kf1 Qh1 mate.

27...Nxe4 28.Qxe4

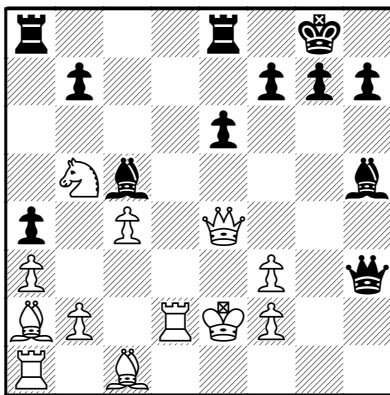


And the show may begin:

28...Nf3+!! 29.gxf3 Qg3+ 30.Kf1

30.Kh1 Bxf3+ loses the Queen.

30...Qxh3+ 31.Ke2



31...Qg2

This is the human move which wins.

The computer choice 31...Qh2 might be even stronger, as White cannot protect his f2 pawn.

With the White pieces scattered around, Black can even spend some time bringing the reserves into the attack: if 32.Nd4, then 32...Rad8 followed by f7-f5 and/or e6-e5.

Also 32.Kd3 Bg6;

and 32.Kd1 Qg1+ 33.Ke2 Qxf2+ 34.Kd3 Rad8+ 35.Kc3 Rxd2 36.Bxd2 Bg6 37.Qxb7 Rd8 and White is mated.

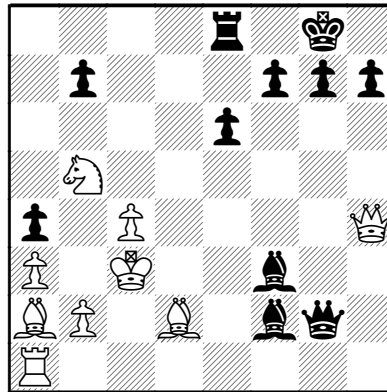
32.Qh4 Bxf3+ 33.Kd3

Or 33.Ke1 Qg1 mate.

33...Rad8+

Also winning is 33...Be7 34.Qg3 Red8+ 35.Nd4 e5-+.

34.Kc3 Rxd2 35.Bxd2 Bxf2



Suddenly the hunt shifts to the White Queen, rather than the King.

The lady might be trapped in case of: 36.Qf4 e5 37.Qg5 Bg4 38.Nc7 f6-+.

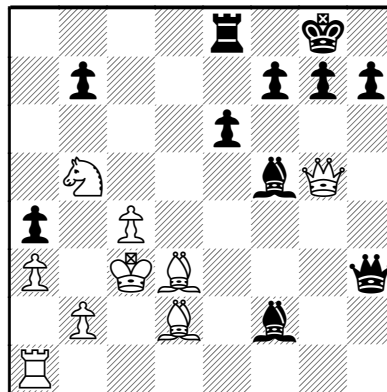
36.Qg5 Bg4 37.Bb1

Everything loses already: 37.Qe5 Bh4 with Bh4-d6 decides.

Or 37.c5 Rc8 38.b4 axb3 39.Kxb3 h6 40.Qe5 Bxc5-+.

37...Qh3+ 38.Bd3 Bf5

0-1



A marvelous game by Mark Paragua.

Adamson,R (2354) -

Steinfl,A (2209)

[B01] Center Counter Game

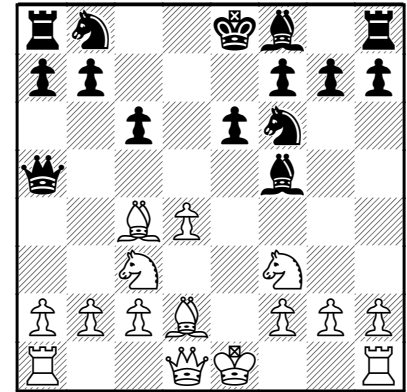
Jimmy Quon Memorial (2)

Los Angeles, 20.01.2011

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5

4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.Bd2 c6

7.Bc4 e6



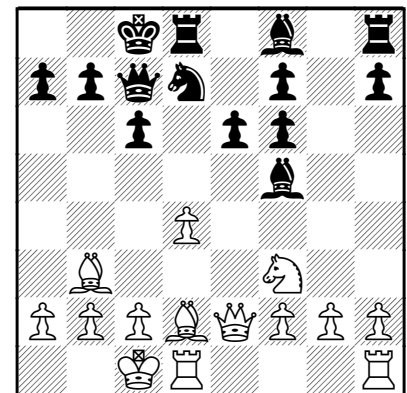
This is a very solid line in the Scandinavian defense. Black lost some tempos in the opening, moving his Queen, but on the other hand he managed to activate his light-squared Bishop, and lacks weak pawns.

With his next move, White tries to use his advantage in development, and transform his temporal advantage in something more tangible.

8.Nd5 Qd8 9.Nxf6+ gxf6

9...Qxf6 is the other main branch of theory. Still, the Queen might be vulnerable on f6, for example, Black can hardly castle long due to the skewer on g5.

10.Bb3 Nd7 11.Qe2 Qc7 12.0-0-0 0-0-0



The situation has more or less clarified. The arising position resembles the Caro-Kann defense. Black's plan is to advance c6-c5 and search for counterplay along the c and d file. White, on the other hand, will try to exploit the opponent's pawn weaknesses.

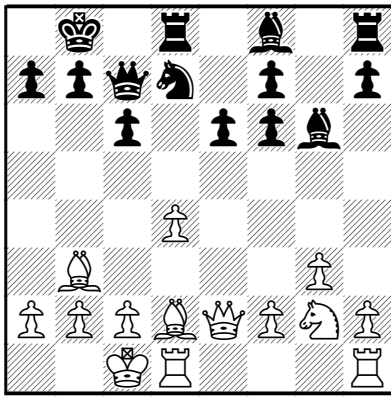
13.Nh4 Bg6 14.g3

14.Nxg6 is a possible move, but does not yield White the advantage. Indeed, he will gain the Bishop pair, but Black will improve his pawn structure: 14...



Alessandro Steinfl: tactical creativity.

hxg6 15.g3 Bh6 16.Bxh6 Rxxh6=
14...Kb8 15.Ng2



Robby follows a famous pattern, which I witnessed live at the European Team Championship in 2003. The Knight is transferred to f4, and the h-pawn marches to ruin Black's comfort on the King's flank.

15...e5!?

Alessandro played this move pretty quickly, and Robby went into the thinking tank. In the following game Ponomariov managed to carry on his main idea: 15...Bd6 16.h4 h5 17.Nf4± When the pawn is on h5, White already really threatens to take the g6 Bishop. 17...Bf5 18.Nxh5 c5 19.g4 Rxxh5 20.gxf5! Rxf5 21.Be3 and White managed to convert his advantage later in Ponomariov,R(2718) - Papaioannou,I (2577)/Plovdiv 2003/CBM 098 (45).

16.dxe5 fxe5 17.Rhe1

17.Bg5 does not achieve anything- 17...f6 18.Rxd7 Rxd7 19.Bxf6 Bh6+ 20.Kb1 Re8± (Steinfl).

However, White's best option was: 17.f4! for example 17...Bd6 18.f5 Bxf5

19.Rhf1 Be6 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Rf7 with a slight edge.

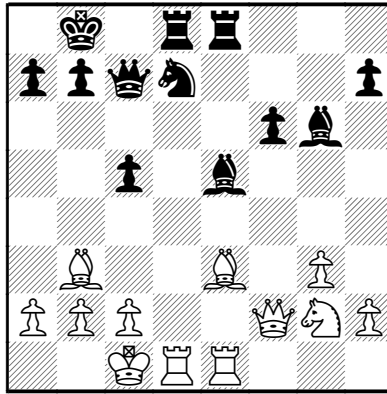
17...f6 18.f4

Not as effective as before, but still the best.

18...Bd6 19.fxe5 Bxe5 20.Be3 Rhe8 21.Qf2

Or 21.Kb1!?

21...c5



22.Bc4!?

This seems inaccurate. White did not need to be afraid of the c-pawn march: 22.Nf4 c4

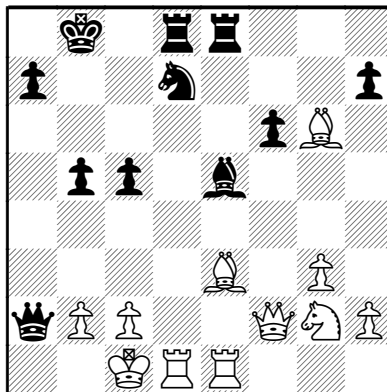
23.Bxa7+! Kc8 24.Ba4 Qa5 25.Bxd7+ Rxd7 26.Rxd7 Bxf4+ (26...Kxd7? 27.Rd1+ Kc8 28.Nd5+) 27.gxf4 Rxe1+ 28.Rd1 Rxd1+ 29.Kxd1 c3± (29...Qxa2 30.Qc5+ Kd7 31.f5±).

The piece sacrifice 23.Nd5? is not working, as Alessandro points out: 23...cxb3!! 24.Bxa7+ (24.Nxc7 bxa2 suddenly promotes the c pawn!) 24...Kc8 25.Nxc7 bxa2 26.Kd2 Nb6+ 27.Ke2 Bh5+ 28.Kf1 Rxd1 29.Rxd1 Bxd1 30.Bxb6 a1Q-+.

22...b5 23.Bd3 Qa5 24.Bxg6

Otherwise the Queen's flank lacks defensive resources: 24.Kb1 Bf7 25.a3 b4 and Black's attack is too strong.

24...Qxa2

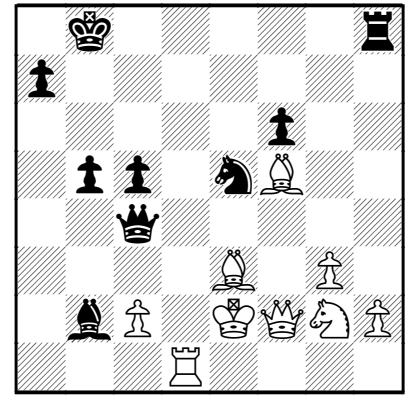


25.Bxe8?

This loses instantly. The only move was: 25.Bxh7!

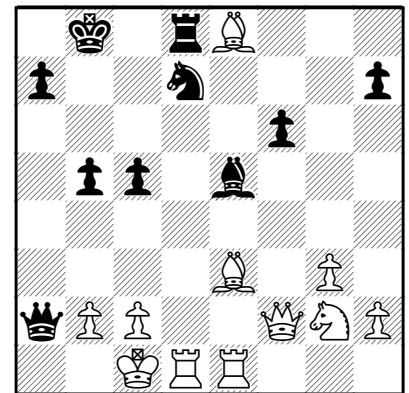
Even in that case, 25...Qxb2+ is not bad, keeping a slight edge after 26.Kd2 Nf8+ 27.Ke2 Nxh7 28.Kf1±.

Black continues with a strong initiative after the bold 25...Bxb2+!? 26.Kd2 Rh8 27.Bf5 (27.Bd3!? Rxxh2→) 27...Ne5+ 28.Ke2 Rxd1 29.Rxd1 Qc4+



Losing is 30.Bd3?? Qg4+ (31.Kd2 Bc3+!! 32.Kxc3 Qb4 mate.) 31.Ke1 Nf3+ 32.Kf1 Nxh2+ 33.Ke1 Bc3+ 34.Bd2 Nf3+ 35.Kf1 Rh1+ with mate.)

White survives with 30.Ke1 30...Bc3+ 31.Bd2 Rxxh2→.



25...Bxb2+ 26.Kd2 Ne5+ 27.Ke2 Qc4+ 28.Rd3 Rxd3 29.Kf1

If 29.cxd3, then Qxd3 mates.

29...Rxe3+ 30.Re2 Rf3 0-1

A very good game by Allessandro, who showed his tactical creativity.



USC Wins US Amateur Team West

February 19-21, 2011

Congratulations to the USC team of IM Jack Peters, Danyul Lawrence, Blake Phillips, Nathan Heussenstamm, and alternate Sriram Balasubramanian on a 6-0 sweep! Finishing second at 5-1, losing only to USC, was Hot Tub Timoschenko, with David Adelberg, Nick Thompson, John Gurczak, and Jim Geary. Taking third on tiebreaks at 4½-1½ was the Chess Palace Team of IM Zhanibek Amanov, Edison Ruge, Jeff Phillips, Aldrich Ong, and Alpert Lu.

The 241 player section was ably directed by John McCumiskey. See the next page for the complete list of prize winners. Also, congratulations to Armageddon Your Pieces, from the USAT South, on their playoff victory! Our coverage continues with a narrative from the winning USATW team, and concludes with a most remarkable game. -Ed.

By IM Jack Peters

One can predict the results of most tournaments fairly accurately by looking at the ratings. The higher-rated players almost always finish at the top. But the U.S. Amateur Team Championship is quite different.

For one thing, the 2200 rating limit prohibits all-master lineups and guarantees that the top teams will have similar average ratings. For another, the team concept means that a win on fourth board counts just as highly as a win on first board. In a struggle for individual honors, a draw against your closest rival may keep you ahead; in team play, that draw won't help unless your teammates outscore their opponents.

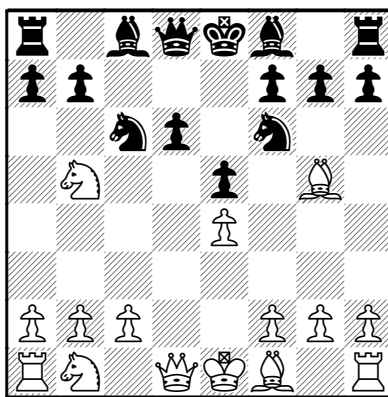
Occasionally a team excels with a balanced squad, four players rated near 2200. More often, a team with one or two masters and under-rated lower boards is successful. Statistics show that a team with three extremely high-rated players has the best chance; they can tolerate no points from fourth board because they will score heavily on second and third boards. Even so, a single blunder can derail their plans.

After many years of competing in this tournament, I firmly believe that luck is the most important factor. This year, my USC team was unquestionably the luckiest. We were seeded 13th at the start, and two of our players had not played a single game since the 2010 tournament. Yet we won six straight matches. We defeated higher-rated teams in the last four rounds, and every match could have gone the other way without a bit of Trojan luck.

Our tournament started with 4-0 victories over "Troy High School" and "Veni Vidi Vici," but not without a few anxious moments. I botched a pawn-up Rook endgame against Julio-Cesar Marin and won only because he missed a way to force a draw.

The third round pitted us against "Let's Mate Those Little Fockers," who outrated us on the three bottom boards. The team needed me to defeat Ron Hermansen on first board. In previous games as Black against Ron, I had managed only a small plus (two wins, one loss, four draws). This time, though, his opening innovation failed.

Hermansen, Ron (2213) - Peters, Jack (2364)
[B44] Sicilian Defense
Taimanov Variation
USAT West (3)
Woodland Hills, 20.02.2011
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nb5 d6 6.Bf4
 Fischer popularized this treatment of the Taimanov Sicilian.
6...e5 7.Be3 Nf6 8.Bg5



This position arises in the Sveshnikov Sicilian, but with White to move.

Did White waste a tempo? Possibly, but there are Sveshnikov lines where White's Knight at a3 retreats to b1. If White transposes to such a line in this game, White emerges a tempo ahead.
8...Be6

When Ron paused before his next move, I realized that White need not follow Fischer's path with 9 N1c3.
9.g3?!

I admire a player who creates an opening novelty, but this one isn't effective. White should choose 9 Nd2 or 9 Bxf6 gxf6 10 Nd2.

Fischer chose 9.N1c3?! a6 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Na3 and was stunned by Petrosian's 11...d5! 12.exd5 (also 12.Nxd5 Bxa3 13.bxa3 f5! leaves White in trouble.) 12...Bxa3 13.bxa3 Qa5 14.Qd2 0-0-0 clearly favoring Black, in the first game of their 1971 match.

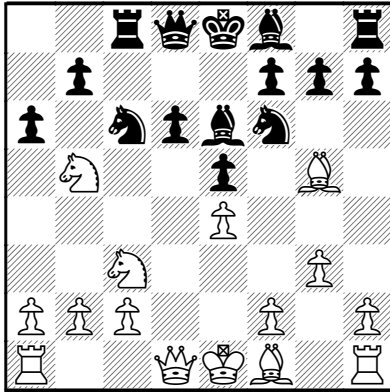
Somehow, Fischer hung on and won the game.

The plausible 9.c4 controls d5, but Black obtains a valuable lead in development by 9...a6 10.Bxf6 (10.N5c3 Be7 doesn't worry Black.) 10...gxf6 11.N5c3 Nd4! 12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.cxd5 Qb6.

9...Rc8 10.N1c3?

White should not allow the banishment of his Knight to a3. He had to try 10.Bg2 a6 11.N5c3, although both 11...Be7 and 11...Qb6!? are promising for Black.

10...a6



11.Na3

Against 11.Bxf6 I wanted to sacrifice a pawn by 11...Qxf6 12.Nxd6+ Bxd6 13.Qxd6 Nd4 (maybe 13...Rd8 improves) but 14.0-0-0 Qxf2 15.Bd3 is fine for White.

Instead, 11.Bxf6 gxf6! 12.Na3 Nd4, threatening 13...b5, is much stronger. If 13.Nd5? Black wins at once with 13...Bxd5 14.exd5 Qa5+ 15.c3 Rxc3-+.

11...Nd4 12.Qd3?!

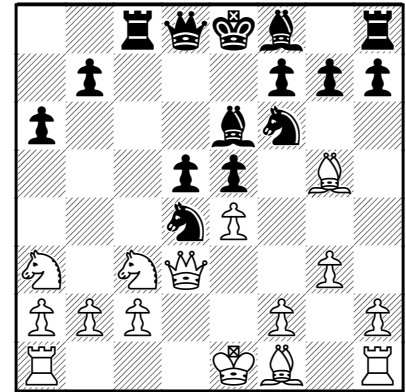
Both of us dismissed 12.Bg2 because of 12...b5?! 13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.exd5 b4, but 15.c3! bxa3 16.cxd4 axb2 17.Rb1 Qa5+ 18.Qd2 Rc1+ 19.Ke2 is far from clear.

As I learned a week later, Black should refute 12.Bg2 by 12...d5! 13.Bxf6 (No better are 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.exd5 Bxa3 15.c3 Bxb2, and

13.Nab1 Qb6.) 13...gxf6 14.Nab1 dxe4 15.Bxe4 f5! 16.Bxb7 Rb8 17.Bg2 Rxb2, a line I would never have found at the board.

Ron and I looked unsuccessfully for White compensation after 12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.exd5 Qa5+ 14.c3 Qxd5 15.cxd4 Qxh1 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Qg4 Rc7-+.

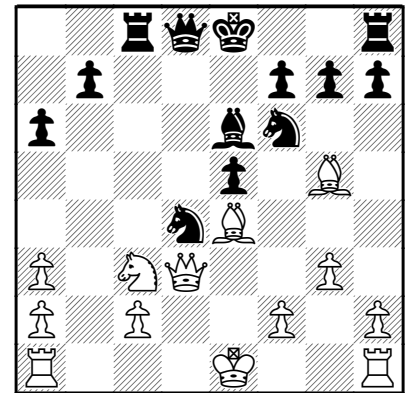
12...d5



Winning. One point is 13.exd5 Bf5, breaking through at c2.

13.Bg2 Bxa3 14.bxa3 dxe4 15.Bxe4

If 15.Qd2, then Qa5-+.



15...Rxc3! 16.Qxc3

Even worse is 16.Bxf6? Qa5.

16...Nxe4 17.Bxd8 Nxc3 18.Kd2

I hoped for the amusing finish 18.Ba5 Nf3+ 19.Kf1 Bh3 mate.

18...Ne4+ 19.Ke3 Nd6

0-1

White must yield more material. For example, 20.Bc7 Nc4+ 21.Kd3 Nb5 22.Bb8 Ke7 costs White at least his Bishop.

Our experts Danyul Lawrence and Blake Phillips were in danger but eventually drew against masters on boards two and three.

1st USC		USATW Prize Winners		Top Junior (U/18 or HS/ below)	
IM Jack Peters	6	U1600		Modern's So	
Danyul Lawrence		How to Train Your		Fly Like 1...g6	4
Blake Phillips		Sicilian Dragon	2½	Kyron Griffith	
Nathan Heussenstamm		Nathan Porter		Alan Tsoi	
Sriram Balasubramanian		Joseph Timmer		Daniel Giordani	
		Junda Chen		Jesse Orłowski	
		Mayur Gondhalekar			
		Martin Diekhoff			
		U1400			
		We Can			
		Reassess your Chess	2		
		James Holder			
		Corwin Cheung			
		Robert Martin			
		Evan Anthopoulos			
		U1200			
		I Didn't Start			
		The Firey Chess	1		
		Socrates Inonog Jr			
		Matthew Shuben			
		Steven Molotnikov			
		Michael Hainer			
		Brandon Eng			
		Top College			
		UCLA	4		
		Derek Tan			
		Jared Tan			
		Joseph Roth			
		Julian Michael Lin			
		Top Industrial			
		Northrop Grumman			
		Westwood Pushers	3		
		Robert Potts			
		Philip Chase			
		Larry Miller			
		David Anthopoulos			
		Alvin Fogel			
		Best Scores:			
		Board 1			
		Jeff Arnold 5½			
		(Hemet Chess Club)			
		Board 2			
		Danyul Lawrence 5½			
		(USC)			
		Board 3			
		Vanessa West 5½			
		(Naka Wins Tatev's Steel)			
		Board 4			
		Mher Mikayelyan 6			
		(Art of War)			
		Alternate			
		Albert Lu 5			
		(Chess Palace Team)			
		Best Team Name			
		1st			
		16 Years and			
		We Still Haven't Won U1600			
		2nd			
		Let's Mate			
		Those Little Fockers			

The hero of the round was fourth board Nathan Heussenstamm, who finished off expert Jeffrey Cohen with a powerful attack.

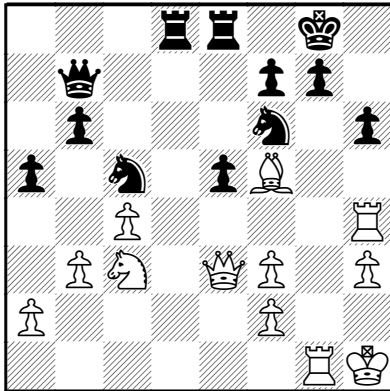
Heussenstamm, Nathan -

Cohen, Jeff

USAT West (3)

Woodland Hills, 20.02.2011

Position after Black's 32nd move:



Black welcomes 33 Qxh6?? because he can gain a Rook by 33... Qxf3+ 34 Kh2 Qxf2+ 35 Rg2 Qxg2+ 36 Kxg2 gxh6. But White reveals a much better way to give up the Rook: **33.Rxg7+! Kf8 34.Rxh6**

Also crushing is 34.Qxh6 Qxf3+ 35.Kh2, when 35...Ke7 gets mated by 36.Rxf7+! Kxf7 37.Qg6+ Ke7 38.Qg7+ Kd6 39.Nb5+ Kc6 40.Qc7 mate.

34...Kxg7

Black lasts a little longer with 34...Ne6 35.Rg3+-.

35.Qg5+ Kf8 36.Nd5

Or 36.Qxf6 Qxf3+ 37.Kg1 forcing mate.

36...Rxd5 37.Qxf6 Rd1+ 38.Kg2 Qxf3+ 39.Kxf3 e4+ 40.Kg2 Rg1+ 1-0

The Sunday evening round against "Chess Palace" was a nerve-racking roller coaster ride.

Nathan quickly achieved a winning position with an extra exchange and a pawn, but Danyul lost a piece to a sly tactic by master Edison Ruge.

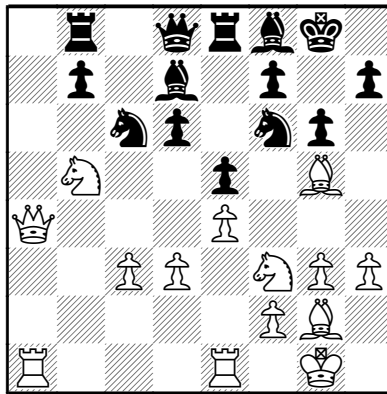
Ruge, Edison (2271) -

Lawrence, Danyul (2051)

USAT West (4)

Woodland Hills, 20.02.2011

Position after White's 17th move:



Black's position is unpleasant. He should eliminate the pin by 17...h6, but he relies on a faulty simplifying maneuver.

17...Na7?? 18.Qxa7 Bxb5 19.Qa5!

Black must lose his Bishop or Knight.

That did not seem catastrophic for us, as Blake was doing all right on third board and I had the edge against IM Zhanibek Amanov.

But Nathan's opponent, Albert Lu, fought back and won. This would turn out to be the only loss for our team in 24 games. At the time, of course, we did not know that, and it seemed that we would lose the match.

Blake drew, a good result. I won, despite making the kind of oversight that often costs a point. See page 31 for that game.

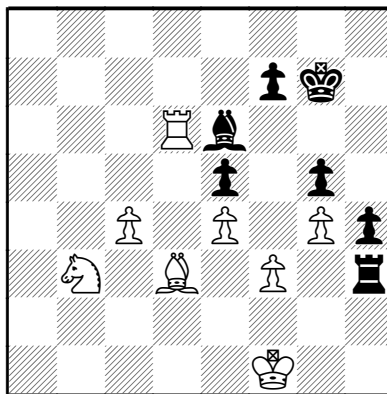
That brought the score to 1.5-1.5, and Danyul was still struggling with-out a Knight in an endgame.

Soon this position occurred:

Ruge, Edison (2271) -

Lawrence, Danyul (2051)

Position after Black's 41st move:



42.Nc5??

Maybe White forgot that Black's reply is check.

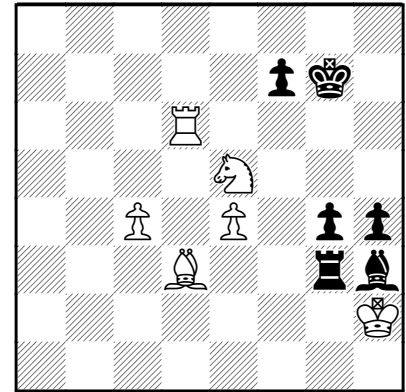
Instead, 42.Kg2 Rg3+ 43.Kf2 Rh3 44.Nc5 would clinch White's victory.

42...Rxf3+ 43.Kg1 Bxg4

Suddenly Black has two passers, and there is no obvious win for White.

44.Nd7 Rg3+ 45.Kh2 Bh3

46.Nxe5 g4

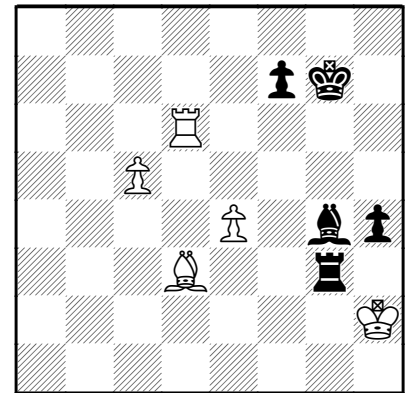


47.Nxg4!

A good decision. If 47.c5 Rg2+ 48.Kh1 g3 49.Nf3 Ra2, only Black can dream of winning.

And 47.Rd7?! Kf6! leaves White's King in much more danger than Black's.

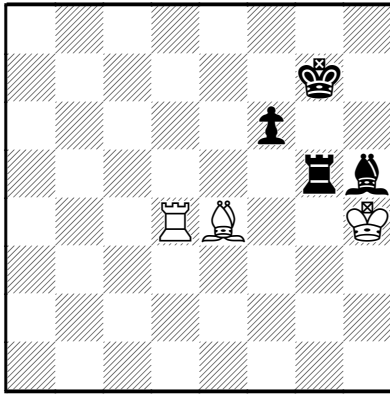
47...Bxg4 48.c5



The position is balanced. In true team spirit, we went home, leaving Danyul to eke out an undeserved draw which would tie the match. We didn't learn the true result until the next morning:

48...Rf3 49.e5 Re3 50.Rd4! Bf3 51.Kg1 h3 52.Kh2 Rxe5 53.Kxh3 Rxc5 54.Kg3

White has reacted well after his blunder, and the draw seems imminent. **54...Bh5 55.Be4 Rg5+ 56.Kh4 f6**



But here, White lost on time before he could play the drawing 57.Rd5.

0-1

This incredible turnaround gave us the match, 2.5-1.5, and kept our perfect score intact.

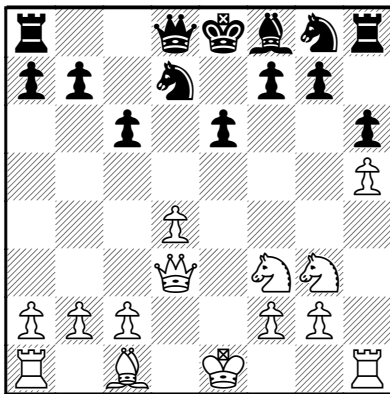
As the lowest-rated of the three teams at 4-0, we were paired down to "Naka Wins Tatev's Steel," which had drawn twice. Our unrated alternate, Sriram Balasubramanian, gave us the lead with a brilliancy against the player who defeated him last year.

Balasubramanian, Sriram - Oldham, David Cody

[B19] Caro-Kann Defense
USAT West (5)

Woodland Hills, 21.02.2011

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4
4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nd7
7.h4 h6 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3
10.Qxd3 e6

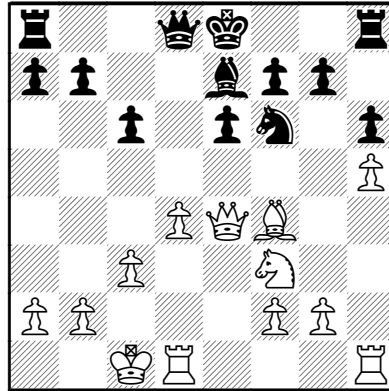


A common position in the Caro-Kann Defense.

11.Bf4

Less investigated than the main line, 11 Bd2 Qc7.

11...Bb4+ 12.c3 Be7 13.0-0-0
Ngf6 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Nf6



16.Qe2?

This should cost a pawn. After 16.Qc2 White can parry 16...Qa5 17.Kb1 Nxb5 by 18.b4 Bxb4 19.Be5! Bxc3 20.Rxb5 Qb4+ 21.Qb3, when the Knight is more valuable than Black's pawns.

16.Qc2 Qd5 17.Kb1 Qe4 18.Qxe4 Nxe4 19.Be3 left White a barely perceptible advantage in Kramnik - Barreev, Wijk aan Zee 2003. Kramnik won.

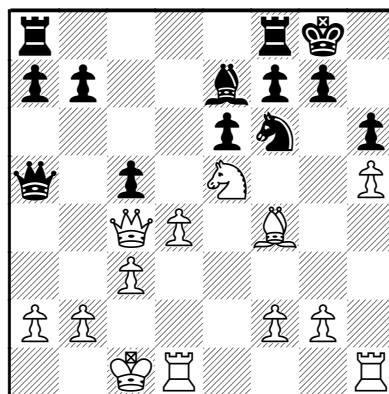
16...Qa5

Double attack against a2 and h5.

17.Qc4 0-0?!

Inexplicably, Black does not snatch the pawn. White has only the vaguest compensation after 17...Nxb5 18.Be5 Nf6.

18.Ne5 c5??



A much more serious error that White punishes brutally. Black could still equalize with 18...Qd5!.

19.Ng6!! fxe6

If Black declines the offer with 19...Rfe8, White safely grabs a pawn by 20.Nxe7+ Rxe7 21.Qxc5 Qxc5

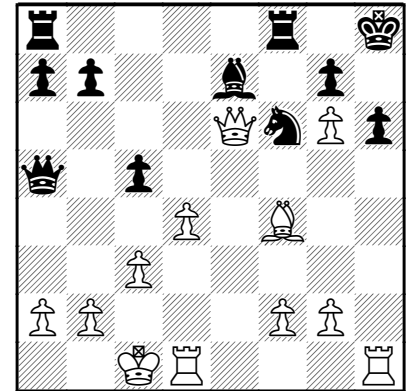
22.dxc5+-.

20.Qxe6+ Kh8

20...Kh7? 21.hxg6+ Kxg6 loses to 22.Rd3! Kh7 (neither 22...h5 23.Rxb5!+- nor 22...Qd8 23.Rg3+ Kh7 24.Bxb6! gxh6 25.Qf5+ helps.) 23.Rxb6+! gxh6 24.Qxe7+ Kh8 25.Rg3 forcing mate.

21.hxg6

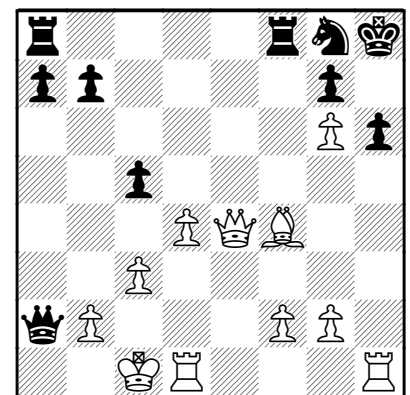
Avoiding 21.Qxe7?? Nd5-+.



21...Ng8

If 21...Rae8, White wins with a cascade of sacrifices: 22.Bxb6! gxh6 23.Rxb6+ Kg7 24.Rdh1 Qc7 25.Rh7+ Kxg6 26.R1h6+ Kg5 27.Rh4! (threatening 28.Rg7+ Kxh4 29.Qh3 mate.) 27...Kg6 (Or 27...Rg8 28.R4h5+! Nxb5 29.Qd5+ Kf4 30.Qf3+ Kg5 31.Rxb5+ Kg6 32.Qf5+ Kg7 33.Rh7 mate.) 28.R7h6+ Kg7 29.Rg4+! Kxb6 30.Qe3+ Kh7 31.Qh3+ Nh5 32.Qxb5 mate.

Sturdier appears 21...Qa6 22.Qxe7 Ng8 (Not 22...Nd5? 23.Rxb6+! Kg8 24.Rh8+! Kxh8 25.Qh4+ Kg8 26.Qh7 mate.) 23.Qe4 Qxa2.

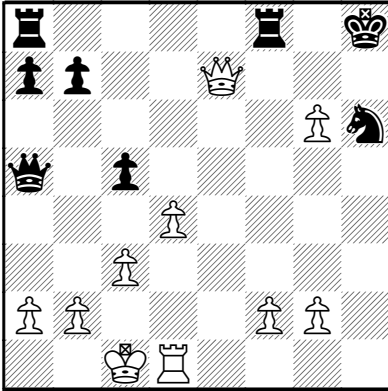


But if 24.f3 cxd4, White smashes through anyway, by 25.Bxb6! gxh6 26.Qxb7 Nf6 27.Rxb6+ Kg8 28.Rh7 +-.

22. Bxh6! gxh6

Black cannot stand 22...Nxb6
23.Rxb6+ gxh6 24.Qxe7.

23. Rxb6+ Nxb6 24. Qxe7



24... Nf7

Black's only chance is 24...Rf7
25.gxf7 Qd8, but 26.Qe5+ Kh7
27.dxc5 leaves White five pawns, and
threats, for the Knight.

25. gxf7

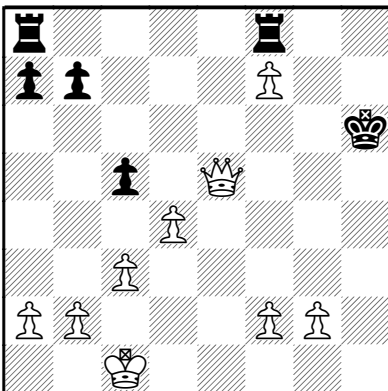
Black's King is too exposed.

White's primary threat is 26.Qf6+
Kh7 27.Rh1 mate.

25... Kg7

Useless is 25...Qd8, as 26.Qe5+
Kh7 27.Rh1+ Kg6 28.Qe4+ leads to
mate after 28...Kg5 29.f4+, or 28...
Kxf7 29.Rh7+ Kf6 30.Rh6+.

Black can delay mate by 25...
Qb6 26.Qe5+ Kh7 27.Rh1+ Qh6+
28.Rxb6+ Kxb6:



but this endgame poses no problems
after 29.Qf6+! Kh7 30.g4 Rac8 31.g5
Rc6 32.g6+ Kh6 33.g7+! (sacrificing
the Queen for two replacements) 33...
Rxf6 34.gxf8Q+ Kg6 35.Qg8+ Kf5
36.f8Q.

26. Rd3

Even more decisive is 26.Qe5+

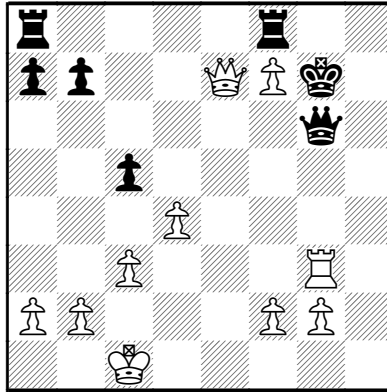
Kxf7 27.Rd3+-.

26... Qb6

Hoping to get two Rooks for his
Queen.

If 26...Qd8, then 27.Rg3+ Kh7
28.Qe4+ Kh8 29.Qe5+ mating.

27. Rg3+ Qg6



28. Qe5+!

The last difficult move.

28... Kxf7

We already know the outcome of
28...Kh7 29.Rh3+ Qh6+ 30.Rxb6+
Kxb6; this is the previous analysis
diagram in the note after Black's
25th: 31.Qf6+ Kh7 32.g4+-.

29. Qc7+ Kf6 30. Qd6+ 1-0

Shortly before the time control,
Danyul was heading toward a draw
with Craig Clawitter, while Blake
and I were under pressure. Blake un-
derestimated an attack by Vanessa
West and barely survived.

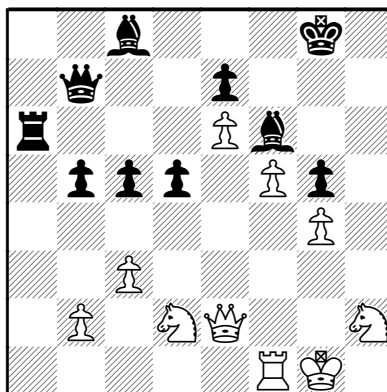
West, Vanessa -

Phillips, Blake

USAT West (5)

Woodland Hills, 21.02.2011

Position after Black's 27th move:



28. Nhf3

White threatens Qe2-h2-h5.

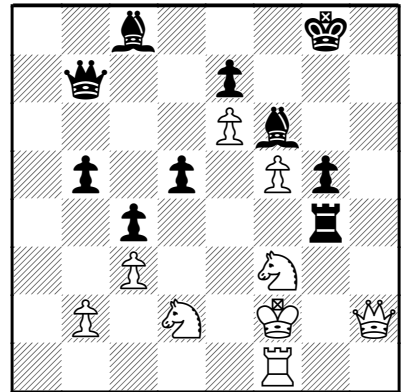
28... Ra4??

The correct defense is 28...Qb8!
29.Qg2 Bb7 30.Qh3 d4 activating
Black's Queen and Bishop. If 31.cxd4
cxd4 32.Kf2 Qf4 33.Qh5 Qe3+ 34.Kg3
Qf4+ 35.Kh3 Qe3 White has nothing
more than a draw by repetition.

29. Qh2!

But now White should win.

29... Rxb4+ 30. Kf2 c4



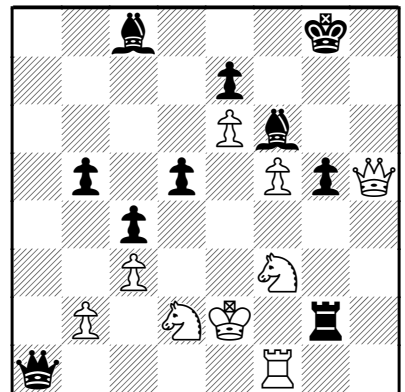
31. Qh5?!

Much easier is 31.Qh3! Qa7+
32.Ke2 Rf4 33.Qh5+-.

31... Qa7+ 32. Ke1

Avoiding 32 Ke2?? Rg2+.

32... Qa1+ 33. Ke2 Rg2+



34. Ke3?

Only drawing.

After 34.Rf2 Rxf2+ 35.Kxf2
Qd1 36.Qf7+ Kh8 37.Qf8+ Kh7,
White should reject 38.Qxc8? g4
and win with the pleasing maneu-
ver 38.Nxg5+! Bxg5 39.Qf7+ Kh8
40.Qe8+ Kg7 41.Qg6+ Kh8 42.Qxg5
Qh1 43.Nf3. The Knight shields
White's King, making 44.Qxe7 a genu-
ine threat. And 43...Qh7 44.Nh4

won't save Black.

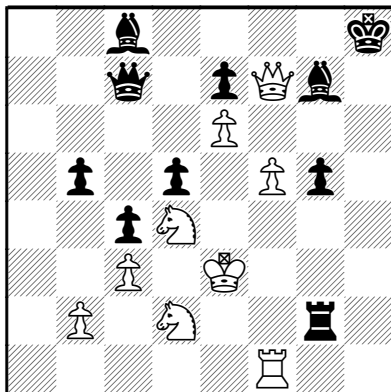
34...Qa7+ 35.Nd4 Qc7

Black threatens 36...Qe5+, and 36.N2f3?? Qf4 mate is no remedy.

36.Qg6+ Bg7

The clearest path to a draw is 36...Kh8, not fearing 37.Rh1+ Rh2 38.Rxh2+ Qxh2 39.Qe8+ Kg7 40.Qxc8?? because 40...g4 actually wins for Black. White would have to accept a draw by 40.Qf7+ Kh8 41.Qe8+.

37.Qf7+ Kh8



38.Qh5+

Prudently forcing a draw.

Fritz claims White can try for more by 38.Rh1+ Rh2 39.Rxh2+ Qxh2 40.Qe8+ Kh7 41.Qxe7! (Not 41.Qxc8?? g4+-) 41...g4 42.Qf7 Kh8 43.Nc6! inviting 43...Bh6+? 44.Kd4 Qxd2+ 45.Kc5+- However, 43...b4!, hoping for 44.cxb4 d4+, holds the draw anyway.

38...Kg8 39.Qf7+ Kh8 40.Qh5+ Kg8

1/2-1/2

Tatev Abrahamyan completely outplayed me in a time scramble except for one moment when I could have won material. I missed it and lost the exchange. I nearly resigned after move 40.

She did not press her advantage well and we reached this difficult position:

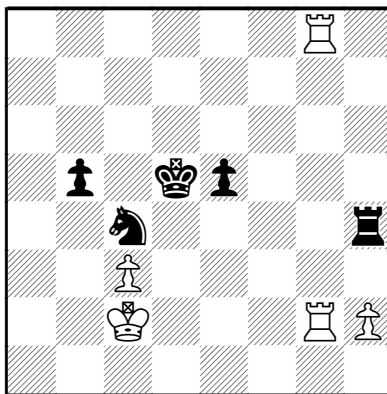
Abrahamyan, Tatev (2327) -

Peters, Jack (2364)

USAT West (5)

Woodland Hills, 21.02.2011

Position after Black's 51st move:



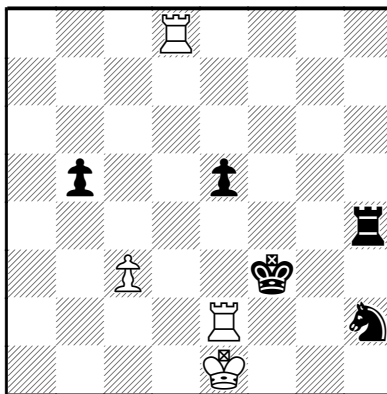
52.Rd8+ Ke4

This should fail against precise play, but I wanted to use the e-pawn and I had no faith in 52...Kc5.

53.Re2+ Kf3 54.Kd1 Ne3+ 55.Kd2

White need not fear 55.Ke1 Ng2+ 56.Kd2 Rxh2 because 57.Rf8+ Kg4 58.Rxe5 Nf4+ 59.Kd1! will pick off the b-pawn.

55...Nf1+ 56.Ke1 Nxh2



57.Rxe5??

Now Black escapes.

White could have won with 57.Rf8+ Kg3 58.Re3+ Kg2 (or 58...Kg4 59.Kf2!+-) 59.Rf2+ Kg1 60.Rg3+ Kh1 61.Rf5 threatening 62.Kf2 and 63.Rg1 mate.

Two possibilities that illustrate the danger to Black's confined King are 61...Ng4 62.Kf1 Kh2 63.Rg2+ Kh1 64.Rxg4! Rxg4 65.Rh5+ and 61...e4 62.Kf2 Nf3 63.Rxb5 Kh2 64.Rg2+ Kh3 65.Rb1 +-.

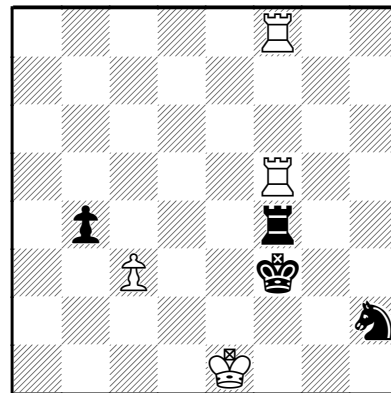
57...b4

Eliminating White's last pawn and drawing.

58.Re2

I foresaw this idea and 58.Rd4 Rxd4 59.cxd4 Kf4 60.Ke2 Nf3 61.Rd5

Ke4= but not the third attempt:
58.Rf8+ Rf4 59.Ref5



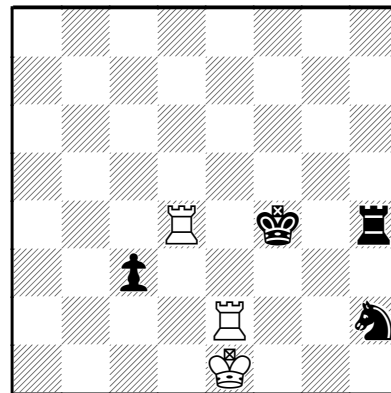
Nevertheless, Black saves a half-point with 59...Rxf5 60.Rxf5+ Ke4 61.Rf2 Nf3+ 62.Ke2 Ng1+! 63.Kf1 bxc3 64.Kxg1 Kd3 drawing.

58...bxc3 59.Rd3+

Chasing the King into the corner by 59.Rf8+ Kg3 60.Re3+ Kg2 61.Rf2+ Kh1 is no longer dangerous to Black because of the c-pawn. If 62.Rxc3 then 62...Re4+ will draw.

Also 59.Rc2 Ng4 60.Rxc3+ Ke4 is safe for Black.

59...Kf4 60.Rd4+



Black must watch out for the traps 60...Kf5?? 61.Rf2+ Kg5 62.Rxh4+- and 60...Kg3?? 61.Re3+ Nf3+ 62.Rxf3+ Kxf3 63.Rxh4+-.

60...Kg5

Relying on the fork 61 Rxh4 Nf3+.

61.Rg2+ Rg4 62.Rd5+ Kg6

Now 63.Rxh2 lets Black draw by 63...Rg1+ 64.Kf2 c2.

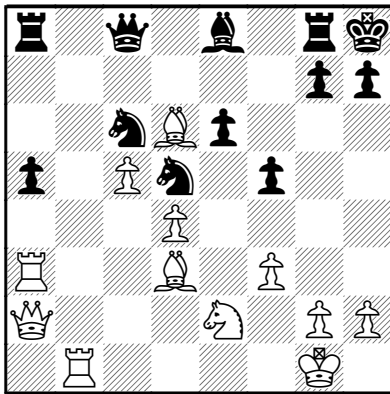
63.Rxg4+ 1/2-1/2

Danyul's win (from a drawn end-game) made it 3-1. One match to go!

Our final opponents were “Hot Tub Timoschenko,” a team of four young Arizonans.

I got us off to a poor start by losing a pawn before my opponent had spent 15 minutes on his clock. Sriram was snared in a pin that should have proved lethal. Danyul boosted our hopes with a fine combination.

Lawrence, Danyul (2051) - Thompson, Nick
USAT West (6)
Woodland Hills (6), 21.02.2011
 White to move:



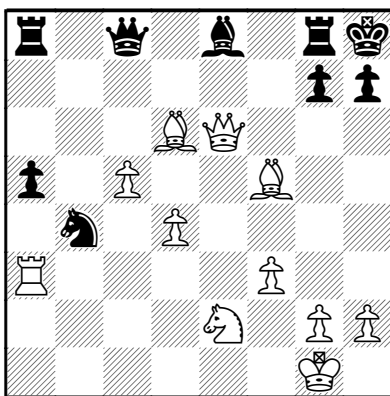
30. Bxf5!

As 30...exf5 31.Qxd5 gives White connected passers.

30...Ncb4 31.Rxb4! Nxb4

Other moves leave Black at least a pawn behind.

32. Qxe6



32...Qa6

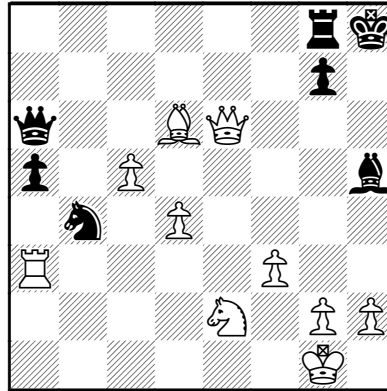
A little better, but hopeless, is 32...Qxe6 33.Bxe6 Bb5 34.Bxg8+-.

33. Bxh7! Bh5

If 33...Kxh7, then White ends it with 34.Qh3+ Kg6 35.Nf4+ Kg5 36.Qg4+ Kf6 37.Qe6+ Kg5 38.h4+

Kxh4 39.Qg4 mate.

34. Bxg8 Rxg8



35. Qf5!

Imagining 35...g6 36.Be5+Kh7 37.Qf7+.

35...Rd8 36. Qxh5+

White had about one minute to reach move 40.

36...Kg8 37. Qe5 Qc8

Threatening the X-ray 38...Re8.

38. Re3 a4 39. f4 a3 40. Rg3

1-0

Before Danyul finished, Sriram turned the tables to notch his fourth win. He can now boast a provisional rating of 2220, based on six games.

My 14-year old opponent, future star David Adelberg, let me salvage a draw, clinching the match. Blake added a half-point in the 3-1 victory. We kidded Blake, who drew all four of his games, about his undefeated “perfect” record.

As promised, the incredible game. One humble pawn marches into glory. Some onlookers who chanced upon the position late in the game were understandably puzzled, disoriented, and, ultimately, amazed. -Ed.

Bruno, Ron (2280) - Gupta, Ankit (2343)
[B12] Caro-Kann Defense
USAT West (3)
Woodland Hills, 21.02.2011

Notes by Ankit Gupta.

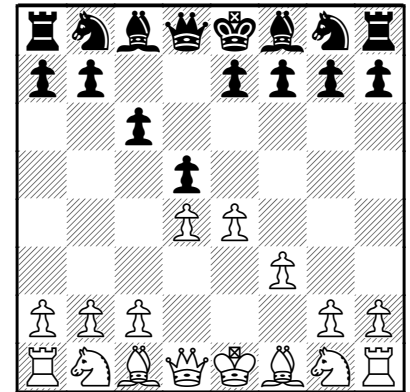
1. e4 c6

I thought about playing 1...c5 or 1...e5 before the game, but I decided to play the Caro. After a 0-2 start with the Caro, losing to two lower

rated players this year, I considered giving up the opening entirely.

But, I thought, at the same time, that would make it least likely for my opponent to expect the opening.

2. d4 d5 3. f3



The fantasy variation.

3...dxe4 4. fxe4 e5

One of the more forcing continuations.

5. Nf3 Bg4 6. Bc4 Nd7 7. c3

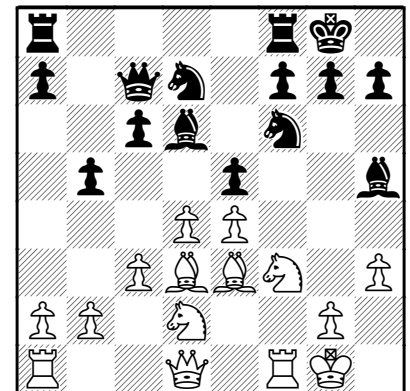
It's unusual to see such an early c3. White clearly intends Qb3, and rather than deal with the complicated position after ...Qe7, I played the immediate ...b5

7...b5 8. Bd3 Bd6 9. 0-0 Ngf6

10. Be3 0-0 11. Nbd2 Qc7

Standard formation for both sides.

12. h3 Bh5

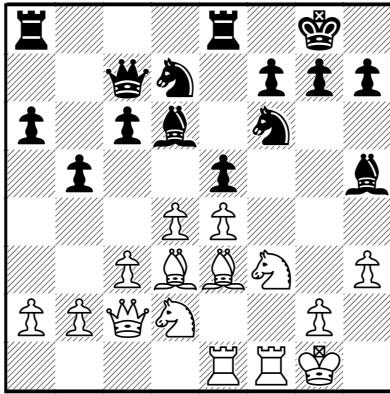


Black's point is to place his Bishop on g6 and target the e4 square with pressure, with an eventual Re8 and maybe even a doubling on the e-file.

13. Qc2

This move is likely more accurate than the Qe1 lines.

13...Rfe8 14. Rae1 a6



With the intent to play ...c5 at some point.

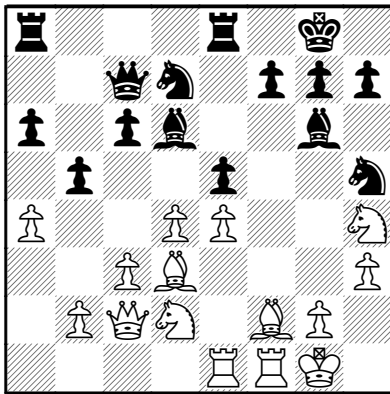
15.a4 Bg6

White has a hard time finding good moves. Potentially Nh4, is possible.

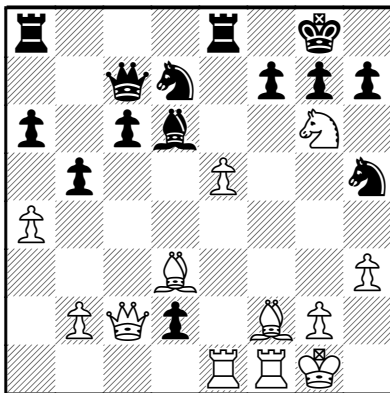
16.Bf2

After 16.Nh4 exd4 17.cxd4 Bh2+ 18.Kh1 Nh5, Black has the initiative, considering all the dark-squared weaknesses around the White King.

16...Nh5 17.Nh4



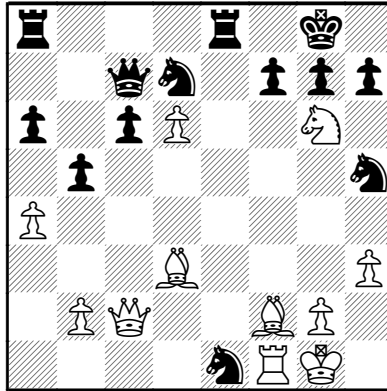
The e-pawn charges to glory. - Ed.
17...exd4 18.Nxg6 dxc3 19.e5 cxd2



20.exd6

It's likely my opponent didn't con-

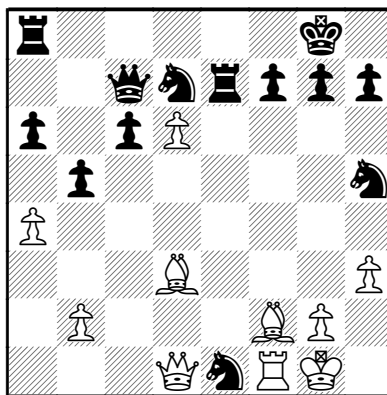
sider the underpromotion.
20...dxe1N!



The underpromotion is easy to miss as the Knight does not come into play with an immediate check, but Black is much better after this.

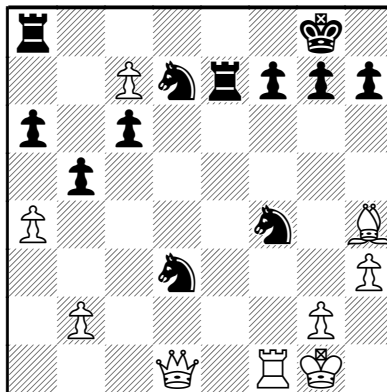
21.Ne7+

The most forcing continuation.
21...Rxe7 22.Qd1!?



White's idea with Ne7 was to force the Rook onto e7 such that after Qd1, the Rook and Queen are forked.

Rather than open the position up to the two Bishops with 22...Qb8, etc, I felt that 22...Nxd3 was much simpler.
22...Nxd3 23.dxc7 Nhf4 24.Bh4.



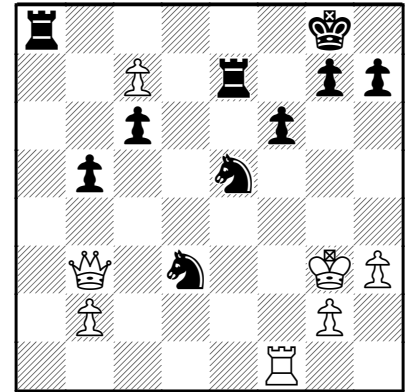
24...f6

Only move.

25.Bg3

An interesting continuation is 25.Rxf4 Nxf4 26.Qd6 Ng6! 27.Qxc6 Rc8. After the c-pawn falls, White has no compensation.

25...Ne2+ 26.Kh2 Nxg3 27.Kxg3 N7e5 28.axb5 axb5 29.Qb3+



29...Kf8

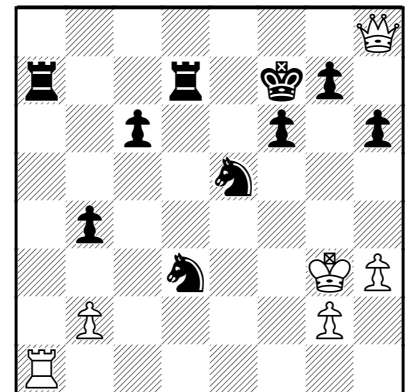
With the idea of preventing any tricky Qa3 shots.

30.Ra1 Rc8 31.Rd1 Rd7 32.Qa3+ b4 33.Qa6 Rxc7 34.Qa8+ Kf7 35.Qh8 h6

Preventing any play from White.

36.Ra1 Ra7

0-1



The position is hopeless, as White has absolutely no play and Black is up material without any weaknesses.

The b2 pawn will shortly fall and the Black b-pawn will soon promote.

I don't believe I have ever seen a pawn make four captures in a row, underpromote, and finally capture again, in just six moves. An amazing pawn! -Ed.

IM Stopa Finishes First in 3rd Metropolitan FIDE Invitational

By Ankit Gupta

The 3rd Metropolitan FIDE Invitational concluded on February 27th. It was organized by Ankit Gupta and directed by Randy Hough and Michael Belcher. FM Philip Xiao Wang and FM Joel Banawa both achieved their first IM norms with 6.5 out of 9.0. It is coincidental to note that these two tied for first at the closed Southern California State Championship last year, before again tying for 2nd at this norm tournament and both achieving their IM norms. IM Jacek Stopa, pictured here, took clear first with a very respectable 7.0 out of 9.0.



The tournament was sponsored by California Market Center, Fashion Business, Inc, Chess.com, LawyerFy, and Betty Bottom Showroom.

Full standings from this tournament are below and on the Metropolitan Chess website at www.metrochessla.com/schedule.php.

The participants included: IM Zhanibek Amanov (KAZ), IM Timothy Taylor (USA), IM Jacek Stopa (POL), FM Alexandre Kretchetov (RUS), FM Joel Banawa (USA), FM Michael Casella (USA), FM Philip Wang (USA), NM Konstantin Kavutskiy (USA), NM Kayden Troff (USA), and CM Giovanni Nieto Carreto (MEX).

Alongside this event, we ran the 1st Metropolitan Chess FIDE Qualifier concurrently. This new qualifier series is meant to give opportunities to players under 2200 FIDE to qualify into the International Master norm round robins and to give opportunities to players with no FIDE ratings the chance to achieve FIDE performance norms.

Vadim Kudryavtsev (RUS) won this first qualifier and earned a place in the 4th Metropolitan Chess FIDE Invitational. This next invitational will run from April 6th to 10th, 2011.

We have included a game annotated by FM Philip Xiao Wang below.

Please join the Metropolitan Chess e-mailing list to keep updated on our events at www.metrochessla.com. Metropolitan Chess will run several more closed round robins this year before leading up to our main event, the 1st Metropolitan International, which will include the participation of GM Michael Adams.

Wang, Stopa, and later Banawa each lead the tournament at some point, and all three shared the lead with one round to go.

However, Banawa and Wang were paired against each other, as happened in the SCCF championship last September, and by drawing, both achieved their first IM norms, while Stopa won.

Congratulations to all three! - Ed.

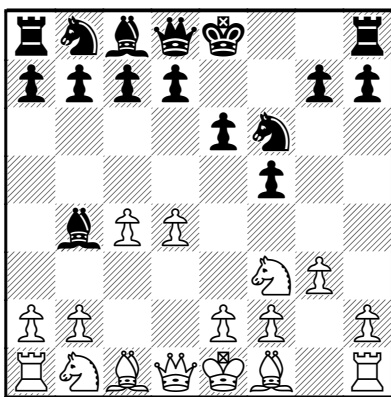
Wang, Philip (2317) - Taylor, Tim (2314)
[A84] Dutch Defense
3rd Metro FIDE Invitational (3)
Los Angeles, 24.02.2011

Notes by Philip Wang.

I've played Tim two other times this year as White, so I was glad to have White again.

This game occurred in the evening round, right after I suffered a long, tough loss. I was pretty tired, so I just wanted to play natural moves.

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Bb4+



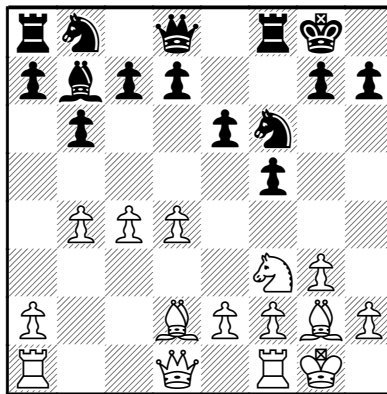
A surprise.

In our previous encounters, Tim played 3...Be7 and we headed for the

main lines of the Classical Dutch.
5.Nbd2 b6 6.Bg2 Bb7 7.0-0 Bxd2

This seems premature. It's probably better for Black to castle and wait for a3 before capturing.

8.Bxd2 0-0 9.b4



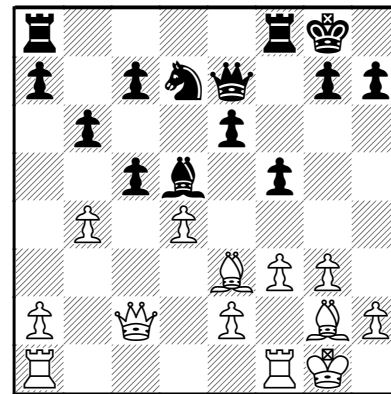
A natural move. I feel comfortable in these types of positions, which is similar to what could arise from a Bogó-Indian or Queen's Indian. White's plan is obvious: to expand on the Queenside with Qb3, Rfc1, c5, etc.
9...d6 10.Qb3 Ne4 11.Be3 Nd7 12.Ng5!?

An interesting move. It wasn't necessary, but I thought it would be a good idea to exchange the strong Knight on e4.

12...Qe7 13.Nxe4 Bxe4 14.f3

Of course, I shouldn't exchange Bishops. In general, you don't want to exchange the fianchettoed Bishop in front of your King.

14...Bb7 15.c5 Bd5 16.Qc2 dxc5?!



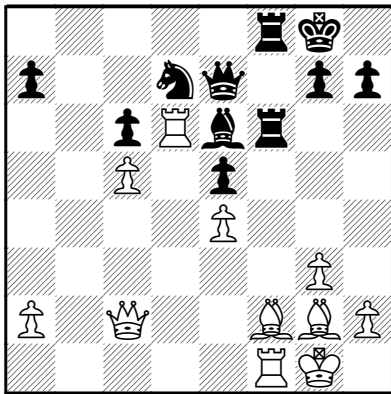
Opening up the position seems to favor White, who has the two Bishops.

17.dxc5 bxc5 18.bxc5 c6?

Black is trying to stop the threat of c6 and Bc5, but this is a positional blunder. It leaves a huge hole on d6, which White can quickly exploit by playing e4 and doubling on the d-file.

The weakness on d6 is nearly decisive.
19.Bf2 e5 20.e4 fxe4 21.fxe4 Be6 22.Rad1 Rf6 23.Rd6 Raf8

Round by Round										
Pairings, colors, and Scores										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Casella, Michael	USA	W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9
2249		1	2	2½	3	3½	4	4	4	4
2 Wang, Philip	USA	W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8
2317		1	1	2	3	4	5	5½	6	6½
3 Troff, Kayden	USA	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7
2247		0	0	½	½	1½	2½	2½	3	3
4 Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6
2421		½	1	2	2½	2½	2½	2½	3½	4
5 Kavutskiy, Konstantin	USA	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10
2170		0	0	0	0	½	½	1½	1½	1½
6 Kretchetov, Alexandre	RUS	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4
2323		1	2	2½	3	3	3½	4	4½	5
7 Stopa, Jacek	POL	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3
2451		½	1½	2	2½	3½	4½	5½	6	7
8 Banawa, Joel	USA	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	B9	B1	W2
2347		1	1½	2½	3	3	4	5	6	6½
9 Carreto, Giovanni Nieto	MEX	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	W8	B10	W1
2232		0	1	1	2	3	3	3	4	5
10 Taylor, Timothy	USA	B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5
2314		0	0	0	½	½	½	1½	1½	2½



24.Be3

I was worried about Qf7, so I removed the potential pin.

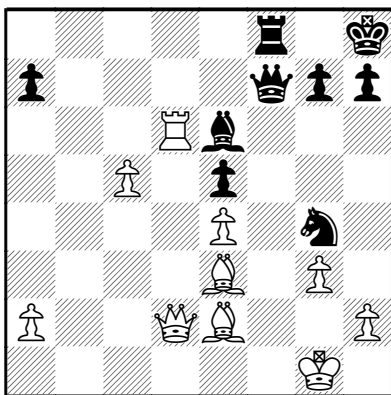
24...Rxf1+ 25.Bxf1 Qf7 26.Be2

The Bishop is much stronger on e2 than g2. Now Rxe6 is a threat.

26...Kh8 27.Rxc6 Nf6 28.Rd6!

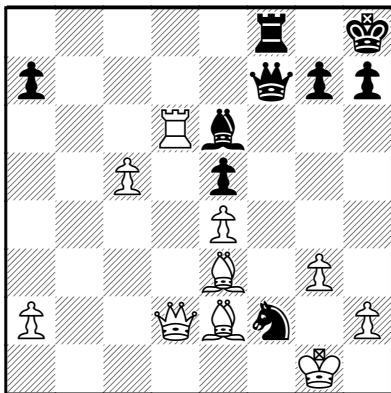
A good consolidating move. White can trade Rooks with Rd8 in some lines.

28...Ng4 29.Qd2



29...Nf2?

Probably Black's best chance was 29...Nxe3 30.Qxe3 Bh3! 31.Rd1, but White is still better.



30.Rxe6!

A winning combination.

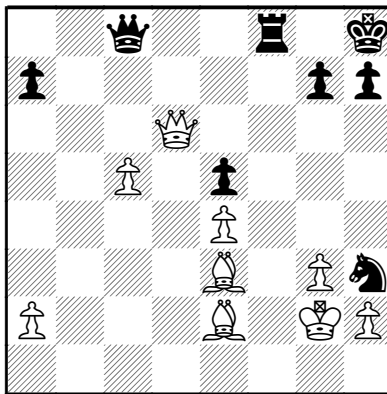


Philip Wang: earns his first IM norm.

30...Nh3+ 31.Kg2 Qxe6 32.Qd6

This is the idea. White hits the rook on f8. If Black trades Queens, the Knight is trapped.

32...Qc8



33.Bg4!

The final point.

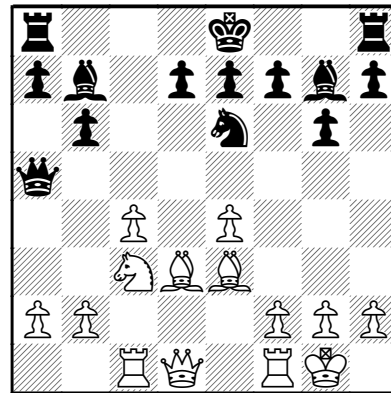
33...Qa8 34.Kxh3 Rd8 35.Qxe5 Re8 36.Qf5 Rxe4 37.Bf3

1-0

We have selected four more games. Notes are by the editor. We start with Jacek's 7th point.

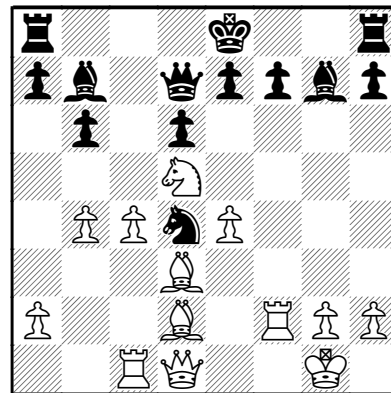
Stopa, Jacek (2451) - Troff, Kayden (2247)
[B39] Sicilian Defense, Accelerated Dragon
3rd Metro FIDE Invitational (9)
Los Angeles, 27.02.2011
1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4

4.Nxd4 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6
7.Nc3 Ng4 8.Qxg4 Nxd4 9.Qd1
Ne6 10.Rc1 Qa5 11.Bd3 b6
12.0-0 Bb7



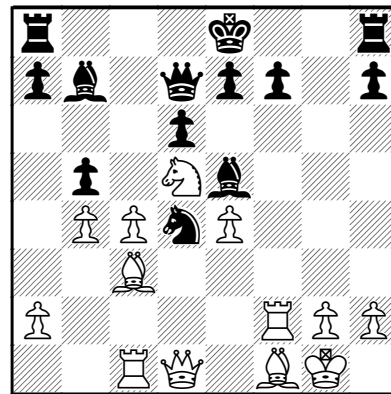
White usually plays 13.Qd2 or 13.f4. Jacek said that he hates this variation, and that he saw the transposition from his English Opening too late. He did not know the theory, and came up with a new move here.

13.Bd2 Qc5 14.Nd5 d6 15.b4 Qc8
16.f4 Qd7 17.f5 gxf5 18.Rxf5 Nd4
19.Rf2

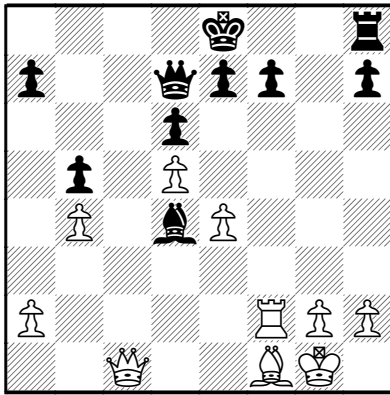


19...b5?

Now Black must lose material.
20.Bc3 Be5 21.Bf1



Black tries to cope with the pressure on d4 with a flawed combination.
21...Bxd5 22.cxd5 Rc8 23.Bxd4 Rxc1 24.Qxc1 Bxd4



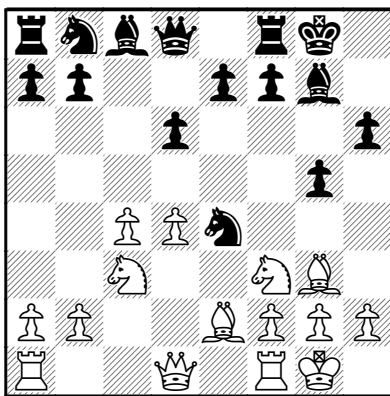
25.Bxb5! 1-0

Black loses the Queen or is mated.

Kayden Troff is from Utah, and is not quite 13 years old. He may have lost the previous game, but he has defeated a number of titled players.

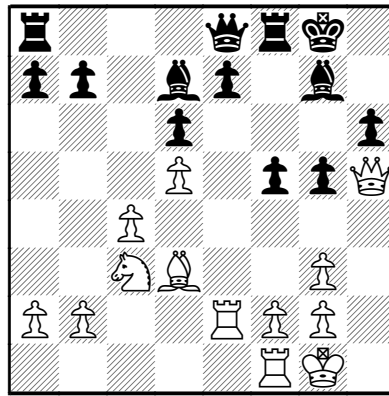
Here is one of his victories.

Troff,Kayden (2247) - Amanov,Zhanibek (2421)
[A48] King's Indian Defense
3rd Metro FIDE Invitational (6)
Los Angeles, 26.02.2011
1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 g6 4.e3 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.c4 h6 8.Bh4 cxd4 9.exd4 g5 10.Bg3 Ne4 11.Nc3



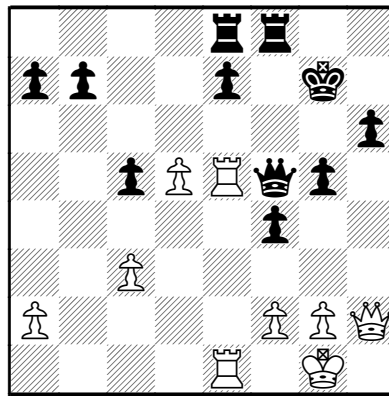
Black takes a considerable risk by advancing pawns in front of his King. He gets the two Bishops, but those pawns can't go back.

11...Nxc3 12.hxc3 Nc6 13.d5 Ne5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.Bd3 f5 16.Qh5 Bg7 17.Rae1 Bd7 18.Re2 Qe8



White avoids the Queen trade, due to the weakened Black Kingside.

19.Qh2 Qf7 20.Rfe1 Rae8 21.Bc2 Bxc3 22.bxc3 Kg7 23.c5 dxc5 24.g4 f4 25.Bf5 Bxf5 26.gxf5 Qxf5 27.Re5



White has sacrificed two pawns to air it out, hoping that some of the weak squares or open lines will pay off.

The computer sees all, but likes *Black* after 27...Qg6!, for the scary looking 28.Rxe7+ fails to 28...Rxe7 29.Rxe7+ Rf7 30. Rxf7+ (or 30.Re1 Qd3!-+) Kxf7 31.Qh3 g4! 32.Qh4 Ke8!!-+. Black has both the pawn and the compensation.

Or 28.Qh3 g4 29.Qh4 e6 30.Rxe6 Rxe6 31.dxe6 Re8 32.e7 Qg5-+.

Finally, if 28.Re6 then 28...Rf6±.

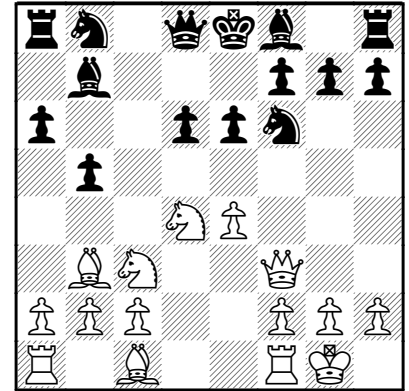
27...Qd7??

Now White augers in with accurate moves.

28.Re6! Rf6 29.Qh5! Rxe6 30.dxe6 Qb5 31.c4 Qa4 32.Qf7+ Kh8 33.Qg6 Rf8 34.Qxh6+ Kg8 35.Re5 1-0

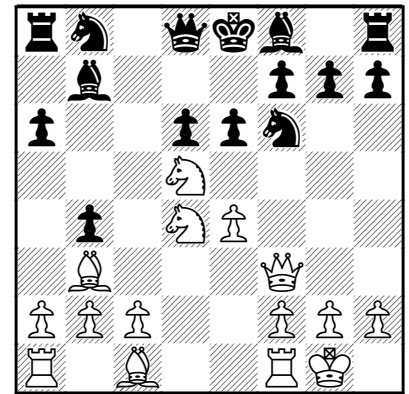
In the final two games, Giovanni Carreto Nieto creates some action with rarely played opening moves.

Carreto Nieto,Giovanni (2231) - Casella,Michael (2249)
[B87] Sicilian Najdorf
3rd Metro FIDE Invitational (9)
Los Angeles, 27.02.2011
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.Qf3 Bb7 9.0-0



Asking for 9...b4.

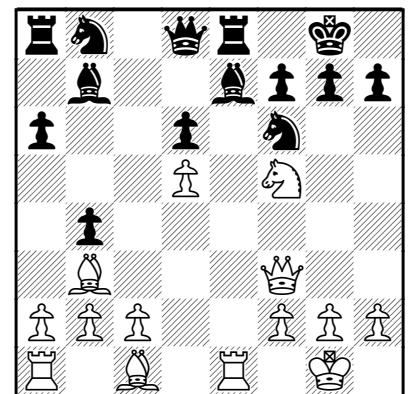
9...b4 10.Nd5



According to Fritz, the position is about equal.

Could this be a future topical variation in the Najdorf? Time will tell.

10...exd5 11.exd5 Be7 12.Re1 0-0 13.Nf5 Re8

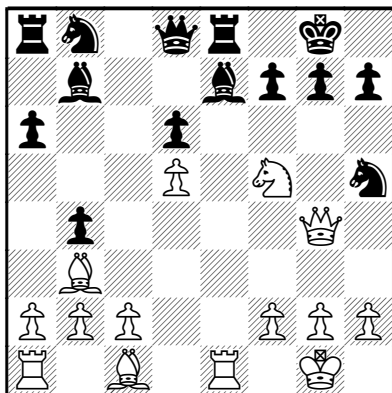


White has a few choices here.

14.Bg5 Nbd7 15.Qg3 Bf8??
16.Nh6+ +- Vovk,Y (2545) - Aulin
Jansson, J/ICC INT 2009/CBM 129
Extra(27). In this game, Black could
have maintained equality with 15...
g6 16.Ba4.

Another choice is 14.Ba4 Nbd7
15.Qg3=.

14.Qg3 TN Nh5 15.Qg4



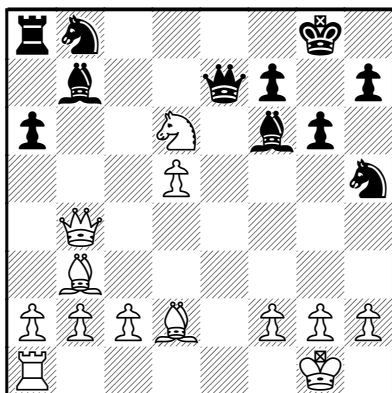
15...Bf6??

It's still a contest only if Black
plays 15...g6:

16.Ba4 Bc8 17.Bxe8 Bxf5 18.Qxb4
Qxe8 19.Qb7.

16.Nh6+ Kg7 17.Nf5+ Kg8 repeats
moves.

16.Rxe8+ Qxe8 17.Bd2 g6
18.Nxd6 Qe7 19.Qxb4



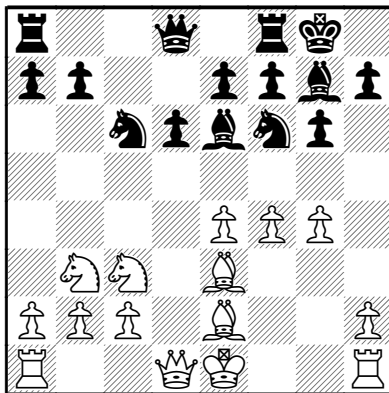
Now White is winning.

19...a5 20.Qxb7 Qxb7 21.Nxb7 a4
22.Bc4 a3 23.c3 axb2 24.Rb1 1-0

Next, in an old variation in the
Classical Dragon, Carreto Nieto
uses the 4th-most often played 10th
move. Soon, he gets a lot of play with
a piece sacrifice.

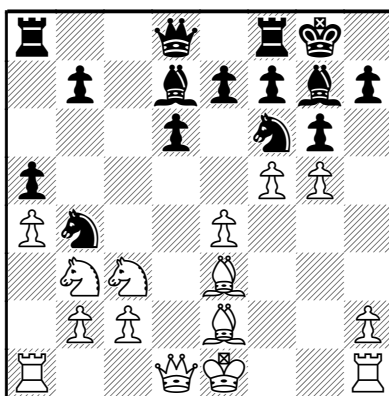
We hope you like this game.

Taylor,Timothy (2314) -
Carreto Nieto,Giovanni (2231)
[B72] Sicilian Defense
3rd Metro FIDE Invitational (8)
Los Angeles, 27.02.2011
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4
cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Be2
0-0 8.Nb3 d6 9.f4 Be6 10.g4



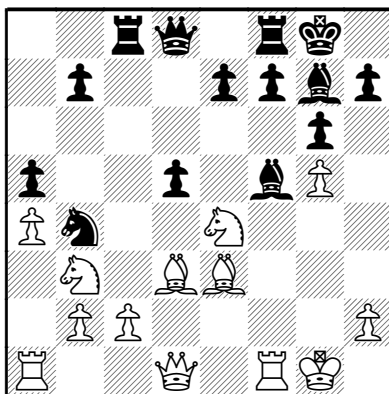
Most often tried are: 10...Na5, 10...
d5, and 10...Rc8.

10...a5 11.f5 Bd7 12.a4 Nb4
13.g5



Black now sacrifices a piece for
two pawns, and gains the initiative.

13...Nxe4! 14.Nxe4 Bxf5 15.Bd3
Rc8 16.0-0 d5

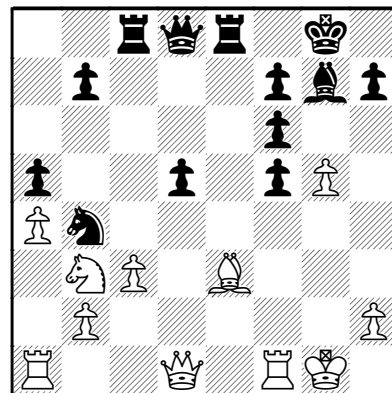


White has an unprotected piece
at e3, potentially subject to a Knight
fork on c2, due to the coming Bishop
trade.

17.Nf6+!

Dismal and abysmal would have
been 17.Ng3 Bxd3 18.cxd3 Nc2 19.Bf2
Nxa1 20.Qxa1 Rc2+, in which Black
lands that Knight fork on c2.

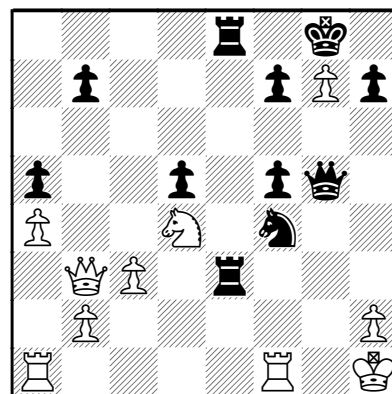
17...exf6 18.Bxf5 gxf5 19.c3 Re8



20.gxf6?

20.Bd4 Nc6 21.gxf6 Bxf6 22.Rxf5
Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Re4+ might not be so
bad. Now Black closes the deal.

20...Rxe3 21.fxg7 Qg5+ 22.Kh1
Nd3 23.Nd4 Rce8 24.Qb3 Nf4!



25.Rg1 Re1 26.Qc2 Qxg1 mate.

An eventful outing by Mr. Carreto
Nieto, putting a new wrinkle on the
face of an old Dragon.

If you are Black, it's nice to know
you have four decent tenth moves.

Los Angeles is enjoying a lot of chess
action with this series of FIDE
tournaments at the Metropolitan.

If you cannot visit in person, you
can follow the contests, with live com-
mentary, at chess.com. ♟

Two Looks at Two Games

By IM Cyrus Lakdawala and IM Jack Peters

Cyrus Lakdawala and Jack Peters each annotated one of their own games and then commented on the other's game and notes. In both games, we get lessons on winning a won game, and what analysis and care is required.

Let's Get Enrico

The first game is a victory by Cy against IM Enrico Sevillano, in which we find out what we always expected, that when you beat somebody who's really good, there are others who have been trying very hard to do the same thing.

They compare notes.

They talk about it.

They share in the pain of their defeats.

They remember their victories.

They don't forget their losses.

We expect that the reader will be entertained and educated! - Ed.

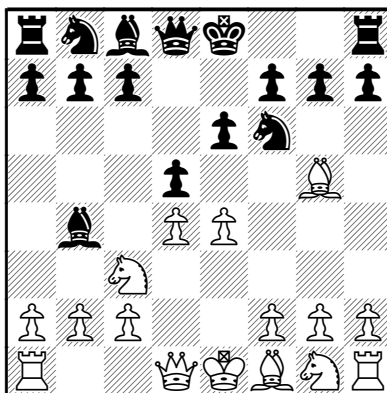
Lakdawala,Cy (2545) - Sevillano,Enrico (2552) [C01] French Defense, McCutcheon Variation Gambito #455 (4) G/45 San Diego, 06.02.2010

Cy: Do you have a boogiemán or boogiewoman in chess? Mine is one of the strongest IMs in the world, the 2008 US Open Champion Enrico Sevillano. My dismal lifetime score before this game was four losses and about 12 draws, despite five or so winning positions.

Even more disconcerting is the fact that Sevillano's amiable personality and thug-like chess style don't match at all. Playing Enrico is exactly like having your mild-mannered and softspoken neighbor drop in for a cup of tea, and immediately after the tea, he puts a knife to your throat and demands your wallet!

Jack: Only four losses to Enrico? That's not so bad! I won our first decisive game in 2005, but he has taken revenge 11 times since.

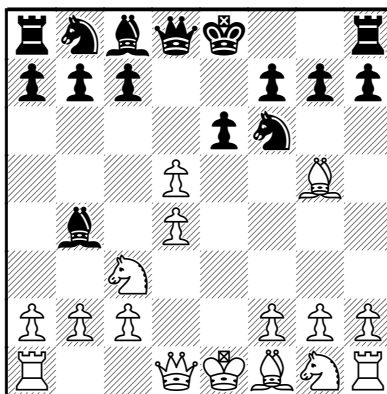
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 e6 4.e4 Bb4



Jack: I am sure that future generations will discover a refutation of the McCutcheon. Such a bold counterattack should not succeed if White replies forcefully and accurately.

I attribute its continued existence, after a century of trials, to the fact that top grandmasters face it so rarely that they have not bothered to deeply investigate the sharpest replies.

5...exd5



Jack: I've never seriously considered this treatment of the McCutcheon.

Cy: The day before this game was played, John Emms emailed me

and suggested the Lasker Variation against the McCutcheon French for my repertoire book on the Veresov Opening. He said it bypasses the heavily analyzed lines and contains a drop of poison to it.

I spent the entire morning of the previous day studying the Lasker line, which certainly threw my opponent, who seemed to only be familiar with mainlines like: 5.e5 h6 and now:

a) 6.Bd2 Bxc3 7.bxc3 Ne4 8.Qg4 g6 (or 8...Kf8!?).

b) 6.Be3!? Ne4.

5...exd5

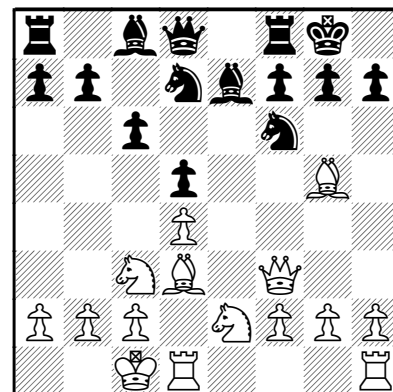
Cy: It's an Exchange French but on *our* terms.

French players always have a favorite aggressive setup against the Exchange lines. For instance, they often favor ...Nc6, ...Bd6, ...Nge7, ...Bg4, ...Qd7, and castle Queenside.

By playing a late exchange line, we deny French players their cherished setups.

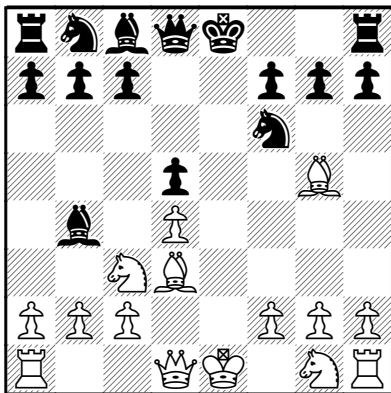
6.Bd3

Cy: In this position I also like the line 6.Qf3 c6 7.Bd3 Nbd7 (7...h6?! 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Qxf6 gxf6 Spraggett,K-David,A Metz FRA 2009 1-0, 40) 8.Nge2 0-0 9.0-0-0 Be7.



Let's assess: It's an opposite wing's attack position but Black felt the need to waste a precious tempo with his last move because the Bishop on b4 gets in the way of his pawn storm. Fressinet,L-Pelletier,Y Istanbul 2000 1-0, 40.

He can also save the tempo by exchanging for the Knight on c3, 9...Bxc3 10.Nxc3 b5, but I don't like Black here either. White has the Bishop pair and controls the dark squares. It's doubtful Black will make something tangible happen from his Queenside attack.



6...c5?!

Cy: Sevillano excels in open games, but his move is overenthusiastic and he simply falls behind in development.

He should behave himself and castle: 6...0-0 7.Nge2

Or 7.Qf3?!, but if this move is to be played, then do it on move six. 7...Bg4 8.Qg3 Nbd7 9.Kf1!? c6 10.Nf3 Bh5 11.Ne5 Be7 12.Re1 ½-½ Khmelnitsky,I-Kaidanov,G Modesto 1995.

7...Bg4?!

Or 7...c6 8.0-0 Be7; this is Black's main problem. He often loses a tempo to break the pin. 9.Ng3 with a passive but playable position for Black.

8.0-0 c6

If 8...Bh5? then 9.Bxf6 gxf6.

9.f3 Bh5 10.Nf4! Bg6 11.Nxg6 hxg6 12.f4! Be7 13.f5, with Bishop pair and attacking chances, Bromann,T-Sorensen,J Denmark 2009 1-0, 26.

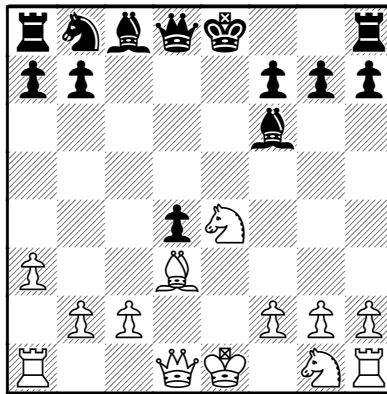
7.dxc5 d4 8.a3 Bxc5?

Cy: Only making matters worse. He should go for 8...Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 dxc3 10.Ne2 0-0 11.0-0 Nbd7 12.c6 bxc6 13.Nxc3.

White's Bishops are meaningful

in the open position, but it isn't the end of the world for Black.

9.Ne4 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6



11.Nxf6+?!

Cy: Unlike my opponent, I just don't have the open game gene. I tend to over-finesse and try to control some weak square when I should be going after the opponent with a meat axe!

I remember one exasperated ICC kibbitzer offering me this piece of constructive criticism after I had botched a similar game: "It's called the initiative. You ought to try it sometime! Idiot!!"

Jack: I like open games and I say 11 Nxf6+ deserves "!" This is a case where Cy made the correct practical decision at the board, but was misled by thoughts of obtaining a larger advantage in post-game analysis.

Cy: I should play 11.Qh5! g6 12.Qh6 I had a blind spot and missed this obvious move. 12...Bf5 13.Nf3 Black is in big trouble.

Jack: 11.Qh5 is a strong move, no question. Interfering with Black's plan to castle is valuable. But I doubt that 11 Qh5 is as effective as the simple plan of applying pressure to d4.

And, even if rigorous analysis showed 11 Qh5 to be a bit stronger, I would still recommend the bird-in-the-hand approach of 11 Nxf6+. Aren't we supposed to aim for clarity?

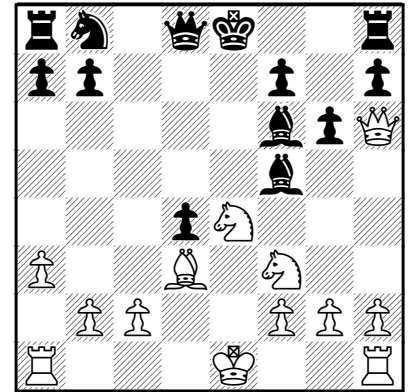
Taking a post-game look:

11.Qh5 g6

Black also struggles if he avoids this weakening move: 11...Nc6 12.Nf3 Be7 13.0-0-0, and White has nearly finished development, while Black is still a few moves from castling. 13...Qc7 14.Kb1 Qf4 (thinking of 15...Bg4 or

15...g6 to chase White's Queen from the Kingside) 15.Neg5! Bg4 (else Black cannot castle) 16.Qh4 h6 (a forcing variation that leads to an exchange of Queens) 17.h3 0-0-0 18.Qxg4+ Qxg4 19.hxg4 hxg5 20.Rxh8 Rxh8 21.Be4 and now White will capture the d-pawn, with excellent winning chances.

12.Qh6 Bf5 13.Nf3



In this variation, Cy stops here. In a game, I would not trust myself to evaluate this position accurately.

Let's continue, with the help of Fritz: 13...Bxe4 14.Bxe4; now Black has two plausible Queen moves. Each must be treated distinctly:

1) 14...Qc7 15.0-0-0 Nd7 16.Nxd4 0-0-0 Black threatens 17...Nc5, hitting Bishop and Knight, and 17...Qe5, intending 18...Bg5+. White has only one good reply:

17.Kb1! Nc5 18.Bf5+! Kb8 19.c3 Bxd4 20.cxd4 Nb3

Or 20...gxf5 21.dxc5 Qxc5 22.Qf4+, and everything is equal except for the Kingside pawns. Black will be fortunate to draw.

21.Qe3 Qb6 22.Ka2 Nxd4 23.Bd7! Nc6 24.Qg3+ Ka8 25.Rd6 This position is clear - White has a significant advantage. But no human could calculate anywhere near this much. Instead, he would make an intuitive assessment, perhaps as early as move 11!

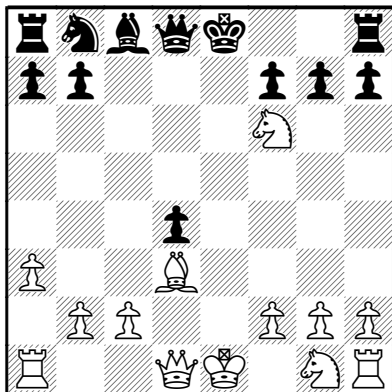
2) 14...Qb6 15.0-0!

Harmless is 15.0-0-0?! Nd7 16.Rhe1 0-0-0, and Black stands only slightly worse. His d-pawn is safe, and he can contemplate ...d4-d3 to attack b2 and f2.

15...Nd7 16.c3! This explains why White must castle short. He needs to pry open the Queenside in case

Black castles long. 16...dxc3 17.bxc3 Nc5 18.Rab1 Qc7 19.Bf5! (A great resource. Most alternatives would let Black escape by 19...0-0-0.) 19...Ne6 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Rfe1 0-0-0 22.Rxe6. White's initiative has netted a pawn, and he may continue with Qh6-e3 and Nf3-d4-b5.

My verdict: White has to find difficult moves in several variations to prove that 11 Qh5 leads to an advantage not quite as large as he obtains with 11 Nxf6+.



11...Qxf6 12.Qf3 Qb6

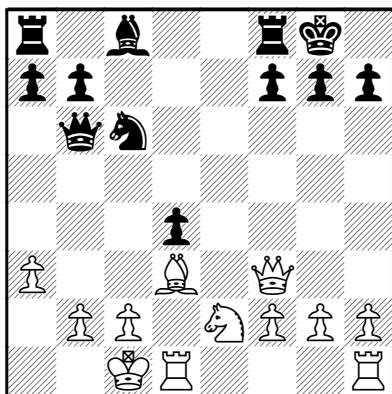
Cy: The ending would be clearly in White's favor. I would simply pile on the weak d4 pawn.

Jack: True. And that sums up the virtue of 11 Nxf6+. No messy calculation required!

13.0-0-0 0-0 14.Ne2

Jack: Also attractive are 14 Qe4 and 14 Qf4, followed by 15 Nf3.

14...Nc6



15.Kb1?!

Cy: I considered and then rejected the stronger 15.Be4!

a) 15...Bd7 16.Qd3! Sigh...I missed this one. 16...g6 17.Nxd4 and Black

doesn't have sufficient compensation for the pawn.

b) 15...Ne5 I was unjustifiably afraid of this move. 16.Qh5

Not 16.Bxh7+?? Kxh7 17.Qh5+? Qh6+ With check, and White would lose instantly.

16...f5 17.Nxd4! (**Jack:** The tempting 17.Bd5+? Be6 18.Bxe6+ Qxe6 19.Nxd4?? runs into 19...Qa2 with the deadly threat of 20...Nc4.)

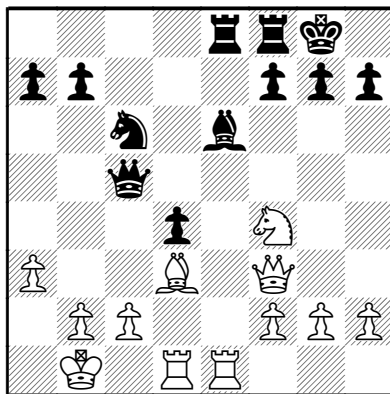
17...fxe4 18.Qxe5 Rxf2 19.Qe8+ Rf8 20.Qxe4 with an extra pawn.

15...Be6 16.Nf4 Rae8 17.Rhe1

Jack: Cy claims he slipped at move 15, and he might be right, yet White retains an undeniable advantage. In other words, the permanent strategic superiority created by 11 Nxf6+ allows White a large margin for error.

In contrast, 11 Qh5 would have demanded more precision in the subsequent moves.

17...Qc5?



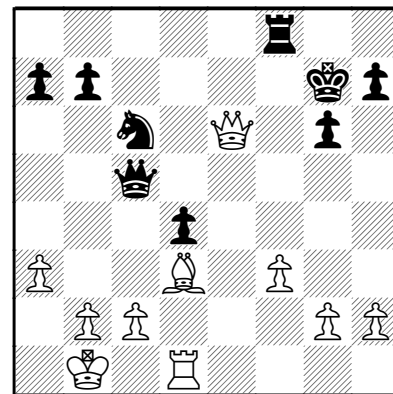
Cy: I couldn't believe my eyes! My opponent misses a simple double attack. At this point I felt like a homeless and destitute man, who, rummaging through the trash, finds a 7-carat diamond! I had a feeling the curse of the Sevillano was about to end.

Jack: Black should try 17...Bd7 although 18.Qd5 (Black can stand 18.Nd5 Qd8) 18...Qc7 19.g3 is uncomfortable. White can attack h7, f7 (after Bd3-c4) and even g7 (after Nf4-h5), or attempt to undermine the d-pawn by Bd3-b5xc6.

18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Qh3!

Cy: Enrico said he totally forgot about this move which wins a pawn.

19...g6 20.Rxe6 Rxe6 21.Qxe6+ Kg7 22.f3



Jack: Winning, and not merely because of the extra pawn. White also has the better minor piece and relentless pressure on d4.

22...Ne5 23.Re1

Cy: I just wanted to simplify. Rybka says 23.Be4! is very strong. By now the old paranoia had kicked in and I was wondering just how I would bungle this one.

Jack: Don't think negatively!

23...Nxd3 24.cxd3 Rf7

Jack: Hanging on in such positions is torture. There is no hope for counterplay unless White blunders.

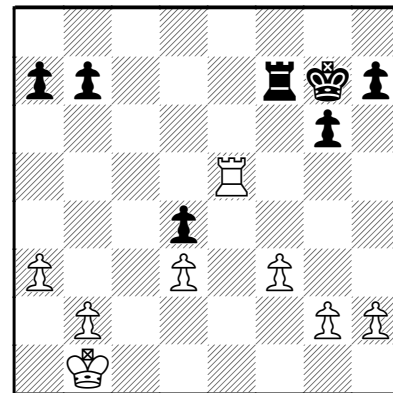
The "counterattack" 24...Rc8 loses quickly to 25.Qd7+ Kg8 26.Re7.

25.Qe5+

Cy: A critical point. I was certain the Rook ending was a win for White. If I was braver I can also play for an attack with 25.Re5 Qc7 26.h4.

Jack: The attack does look terrific for White, but the Rook ending seems straightforward, with hardly any chance of a swindle.

25...Qxe5 26.Rxe5



Cy: Black is busted in the rook ending. My plan:

1. Tie him down to his weak d4-pawn.

2. Centralize my King.

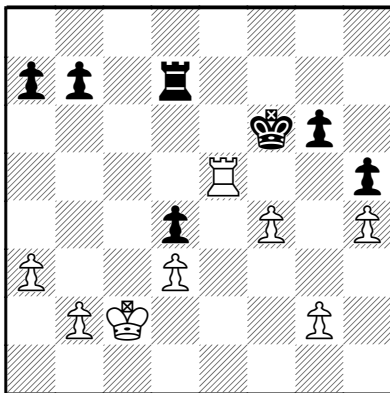
3. Play Rb5 and force ...b6.

4. Push my Queenside pawns to a4 and b5 to fix another potential target on a7.

5. Slowly create a passed pawn on the Kingside with my majority.

26...Rd7 27.Kc2 Kf6 28.f4 h5

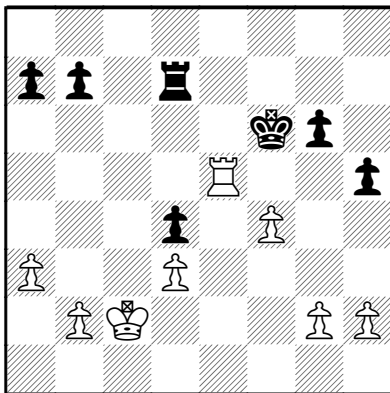
Cy: The more subtle 28...h6! (idea ...g5), pretty much forces White to create a weakness with 29.h4 h5:



Now Black has ...Kf5 and ...Kg4 in case White's Rook wanders off the fifth rank.

Here is White's winning technique: 30.Kd2 Rd6 31.Rb5! Rd7 32.a4 Ke6 33.a5 Kf6 34.b4 Ke6 35.Ke2 Kf6 36.Kf3 Re7 37.Kf2 Rd7 (37...Re3 is not even close after 38.Rxb7 Rxd3 39.Rxa7) 38.Rc5 Kf7 39.Kf3 Kf6 40.Ke4 Re7+ 41.Kxd4 Re2 42.Rc7 Rxd7 43.Rxb7 and the race will not even be close.

Jack: Quite convincing.



29.g3

Cy: White shouldn't lock with 29.h4 if it isn't forced.

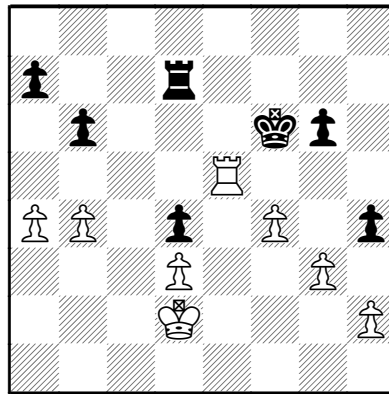
29...Rd6 30.Rb5!

Cy: White uses the fifth rank effectively to create weaknesses and box in Black's king.

30...b6

Cy: The alternative is to defend passively with 30...Rd7.

31.Kd2 Rd7 32.a4 Rd6 33.b4 Rd7 34.Re5 h4?!



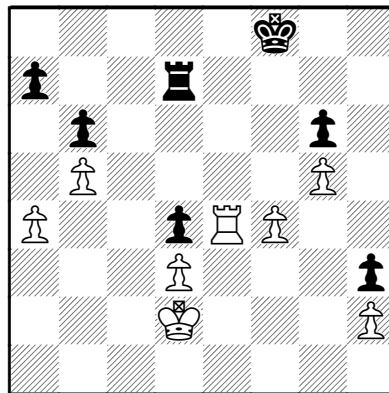
Cy: Now his h-pawn is separated and weak.

Jack: True, but Black had to try something before you brought your King to e4.

35.g4 h3 36.g5+

Cy: Bottling up his king. If 36...Kf7, then 37.b5 to fix an additional target on a7.

37...Kf8 38.Re4!

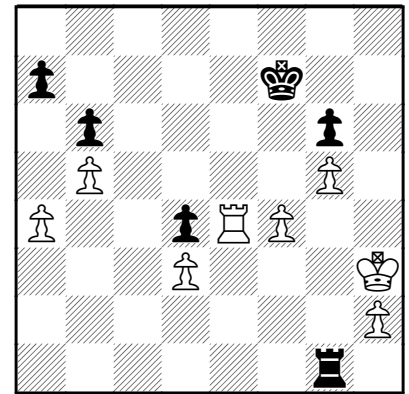


Cy: There is no good defense to Ke2, Kf3, Kg4 and Kxh3.

Jack: I like that plan even better than a King march to c4, which might allow Black to get his Rook to c2 and pick off the h-pawn.

When Black is so tied up, White can choose the plan that most limits counterplay.

38...Kf7 39.Ke2 Rc7 40.Kf3 Rc2 41.Kg3 Rg2+ 42.Kxh3 Rg1



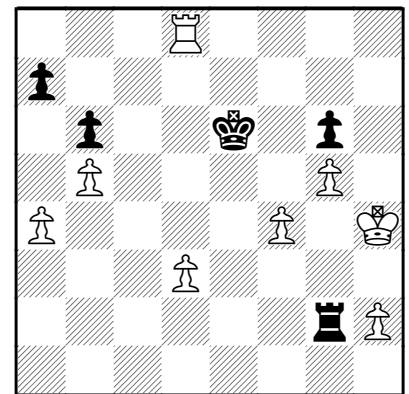
43.Kh4

Jack: The immediate 43.Rxd4 Ke6 44.Rd8 also wins easily.

43...Rg2 44.Rxd4

Cy: A bit of bravado on my part; since I knew I was winning anyway and was happy to offer him the h2-pawn to free my King. Shantideva, a 7th century Buddhist monk, correctly observed: "When they find a dying serpent, even crows behave like soaring eagles!"

44...Ke6 45.Rd8!

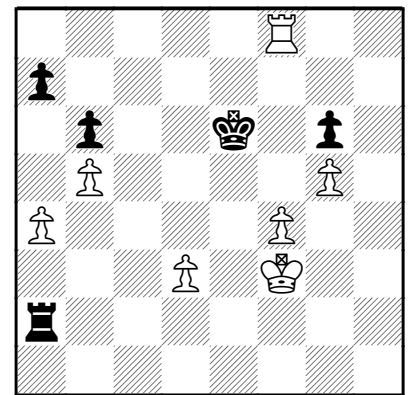


Cy: Intending Rf8 and Rf6+. The game is over.

45...Rxb2+

Cy: The main idea behind Rd8 is 45...Kf5? 46.Rf8+ Ke6 47.Rf6+.

46.Kg4 Rg2+ 47.Kf3 Ra2 48.Rf8



Cy: The g-pawn falls, and with it all of Black's hopes. White is much too far ahead in the race.

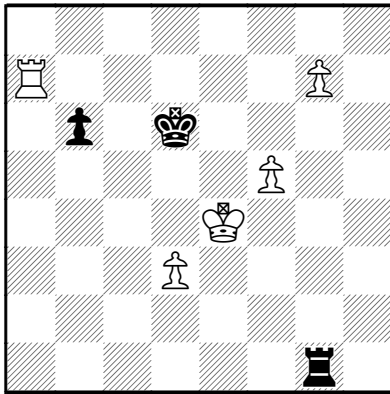
48...Rxa4 49.Rf6+ Ke7 50.Rxg6 Ra5 51.Rg7+ Ke6 52.Ke4 Rxb5 53.f5+ Kd6

Cy: 53...Rxf5?? Drops the rook to 54.Rg6+.

54.Rxa7

Cy: It's a good thing chess pieces can't become overweight. The perpetually hungry pig eats his fill at the trough.

54...Rb1 55.g6 Rg1 56.g7 1-0



Cy: f6 followed by Ra8 wins.

I think it was MLK who said: "Free (from the curse) at last, free (from the curse) at last!"

Summary: If Black responds to the Lasker line of the McCutcheon with 5...exd5, he ends up in a Exchange French, unable to enter his favorite setup, and with his Bishop possibly misplaced on b4.

The Accelerated Dragon

The next game was from the recent USATW, covered on page 14.

White wins the battle over the center files. Black sacrifices the exchange for some compensation, but material eventually decides it in the endgame. -Ed.

Peters, Jack (2364) - Amanov, Zhanibek (2421)

[B37] Sicilian Defense, Accelerated Dragon

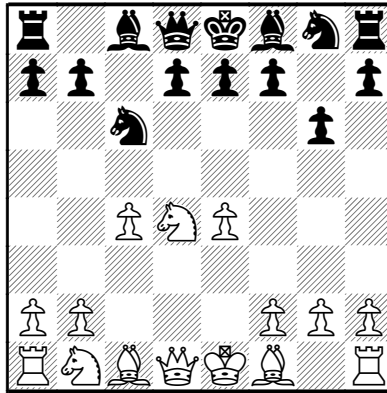
USAT West (4)

Woodland Hills, 20.02.2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6

Jack: The Accelerated Fianchetto, generally regarded as a safer form of the Dragon.

5.c4

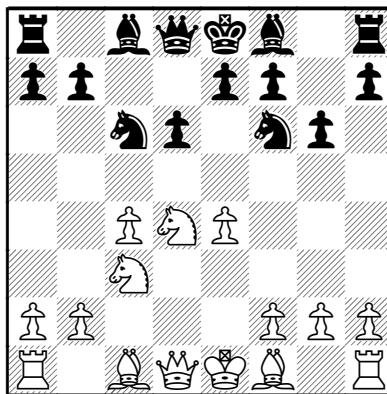


Jack: A spur of the moment decision. I often choose 5 Nc3.

Cy: (!?) This could be one of those Nostradamus signs which indicate end times are near. What a strange sight to see Jack veer toward the strategic channels of the Maroczy over 5. Nc3, which leads to a more open game.

5...Nf6 6.Nc3 d6

Cy: 6...Nxd4 and 6...Bg7 are also common here.

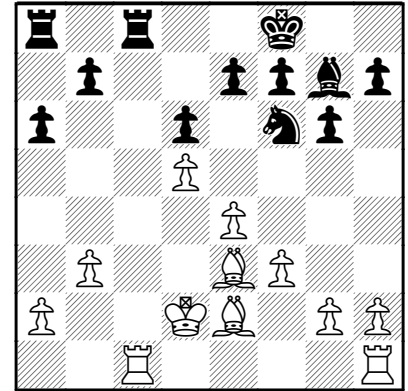


7.Nc2

Jack: I prefer 7 Nc2 to 7 Be2 because it conforms to the maxim "With a space advantage, avoid exchanges." On the other hand, rapid development counts heavily, and 7 Nc2 fails to develop.

Cy: In this position I always head for the ending which arises after 7.Be2 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7 9.Bg5 0-0 10.Qd2 Be6 11.Rc1 Qa5 12.f3 Rfc8 13.b3 a6 14.Na4 Qxd2+ 15.Kxd2 Rc6 16.Nc3

Kf8 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.cxd5 Rcc8 19.Be3



Vallejo Pons, F (2662)-Malakhov, V (2696)/Selfoss 2003.

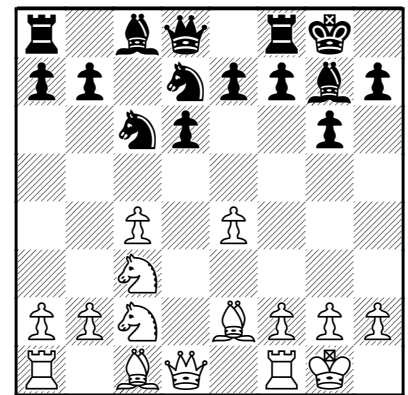
White gets a tiny but enduring edge with the following plusses:

1. A space advantage.
2. Bishop pair.
3. An already centralized king.

Black's position remains solid, though, and it's not so easy to crack.

Back to the game:

7...Bg7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Nd7



Jack: Now 10...Bxc3 seems a genuine threat, as Black could follow by attacking the doubled c-pawns.

10.Bd2

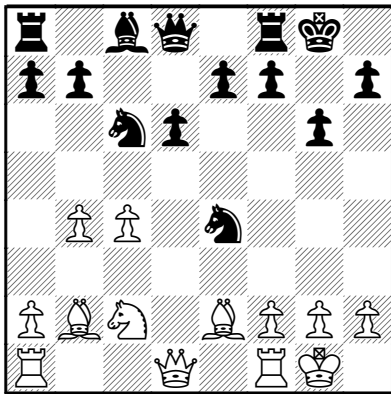
Cy: ! I think White stands worse if he allows ...Bxc3!

Jack: After 10.Be3 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Qa5 12.Qd2 Nc5 13.f3 Be6, Black might miss his fianchettoed Bishop, but White's position did not appeal to me.

Cy: Me either!

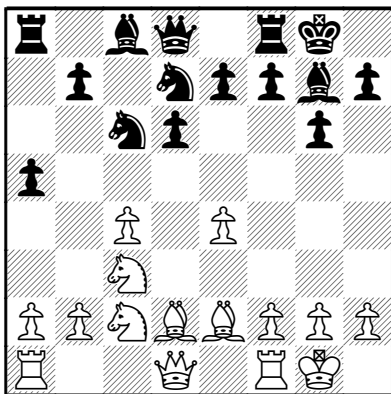
10...a5

Jack: 10...Nc5 11.b4 Bxc3?! 12.Bxc3 Nxe4 13.Bb2



This pawn sacrifice is very attractive for White.

Cy: Greed, normally a beautiful chess impulse, must be controlled here since White scores 76% from this position, so it's a safe bet the pawn sac gives White more than enough.



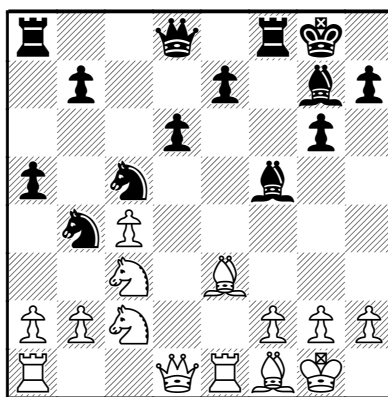
11.Re1 Nc5 12.Bf1

Jack: White should not try to do too much in the Maroczy Bind. If he can restrain ...d6-d5 and ...b7-b5, he often has unlimited time to attempt to make progress. I think Black must resort to ...f7-f5, activating his pieces at the cost of weakening his pawn structure.

12...b6

Cy: ?! Passive. ...f5! scores well here.

Jack: My opponent made this reasonable move quickly. I felt relieved, as we left the path of my most unpleasant experience with this variation: 12...f5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Be3?! Nb4!

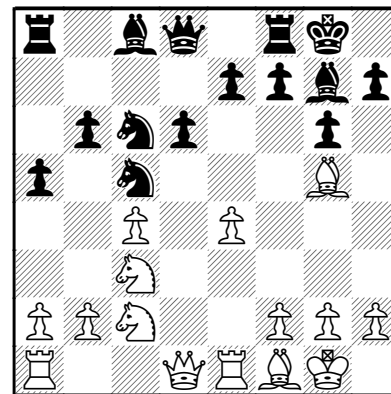


15.Na3 Nbd3 16.Bxd3 Nxd3 17.Re2 Nxb2 18.Qb3 Na4 19.Qxa4 Bxc3+ This was the course of the fourth game of my 1989 match against Jeremy Silman. Black went on to win the

game and the match, as Jeremy loves to remind me.

Cy: Agreed. Losing to Jeremy = a fate worse than death. When he beat me in the State Championship in the late 80's the game was immediately inserted in *Reassess Your Chess*, which sold 40,000 copies!

13.Bg5



Cy: ! TN. Jack and I usually introduce novelties accidentally and involuntarily! The move looks like an improvement over the immediate Na3. Now 13...Bxc3!? is a high risk proposition since it takes a long time for Black to organize an assault on White's doubled c-pawns. Meanwhile White quickly builds up a quick king-side attack since Black's darksquared bishop is MIA.

Jack: I no longer feared ...Bxc3, because Black cannot attack the c-pawns as easily and because his pawn at b6 will require defense.

I wanted to move my Rook away from a1, but where? On b1, it would only encourage 13...f5 14 exf5 Bxf5. And, on c1, White would have worries at a2 and d3 after the reply 13...Nb4.

With 13 Bg5, I hoped for 14 Qd2 and 15 Rad1, solving White's development problems.

13...h6

Jack: Most natural, but Black can also consider 13...Ne6.

14.Be3 Ra7

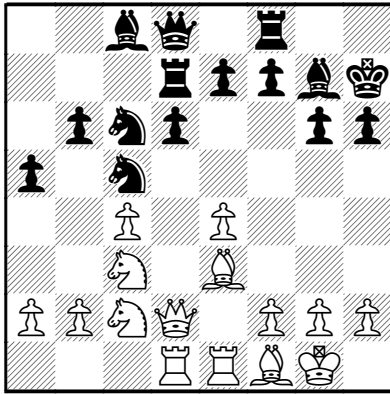
Jack: This caught me by surprise. I still expected Black to aim for ...f7-f5.

Cy: ! Black needs ...e6 at some later date, so he finds a way to achieve it by maneuvering a Rook to d7.

15.Qd2 Kh7 16.Rad1 Rd7



Cyrus and Jack play snatch the coin: it's about quickness and reflexes. or



Jack: I wasn't sure if Black intended ...d6-d5 or wanted to discourage e4-e5.
17.Na3

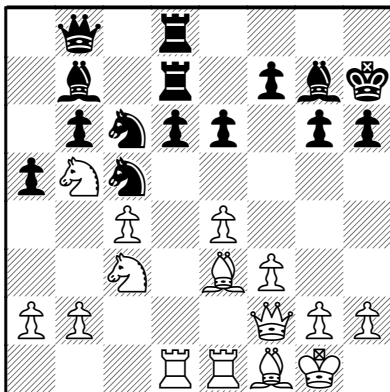
Jack: I think this was a good decision. The Knight will occupy b5 and protect his partner on c3. I was tempted to leave the Knight on c2 and try to arrange a Queenside breakthrough with a2-a3 and b2-b4, but I couldn't make it work.

I rejected the plausible continuation 17.Nd4 Nxd4 18.Bxd4 because of a standard reaction that would leave Black with the best minor piece: 18... Bxd4 19.Qxd4 e5! 20.Qd2 Ne6. Black will post his Bishop at c6 so he can exchange it for White's Knight whenever it comes to d5 or b5. Black's Knight will settle on d4, unassailably.
17...Bb7 18.Nab5 Qb8

Jack: Black can meet Nc3-d5 comfortably by ...Bb7-a8.

19.f3 Rfd8 20.Qf2

Jack: White has emerged from the opening with a small advantage. I had no clear plan, but I felt that my lineup on the a7-g1 diagonal would prevent ...Nc5-e6-d4 even if Black advanced ...e7-e5, and I hoped to induce a weakness by threatening g2-g3 and Bf1-h3.
20...e6

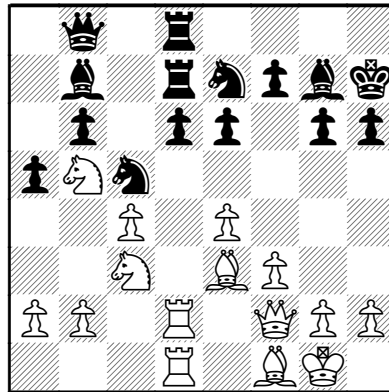


Jack: This committing move reveals Black's ambition: he wants to advance ...d6-d5. I considered this unjustified.

White's formation is designed to control d5, and White has made no obvious mistake to allow Black to wrest the initiative.

Yet I have often been misled by such logic, and I knew that the position would become much sharper in a few moves.

21.Rd2 Ne7 22.Red1



22...f5!?

Cy: ?! Overly ambitious. Black isn't ready for a fight on a second front.

Better to sit and wait and let White try and improve his position. If the moment arises, only then should Black strike with a quick ...d5.

Jack: I was ready for 22...d5, but Black finds a stronger move.

If 22...d5? then 23.Bxc5 bxc5 24.Na4 Bc6 25.Nxc5 Bxb5 26.cxb5 and Black has no compensation for the pawn.

With 22...g5?!, Black would dream of seizing dark squares by ...Ne7-g6 and ...Bg7-e5.

But White can reply 23 h4 Bf6 24 hxg5 hxg5 25 f4!, leaving Black's King too exposed.
23.Qh4

Cy: ! Sneaky stuff. 24.Bg5! is a nasty threat.

Jack: Defending e4 while threatening 24 Bg5.

23...d5?!?

Jack: Now White can gain material.

I was more concerned with the preparatory 23...fxe4, when Black

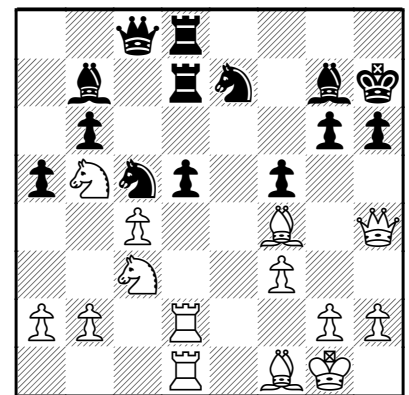
can hope to secure f5 for his Knight: 24.fxe4 d5. I saw only a portion of the following analysis. It now seems that 24...d5 is inadequate. Can Black do better?

25.Bf4 25...e5 26.Bg5 d4 27.Bxe7 dxc3 28.Rxd7 Rxd7 29.Rxd7 Nxd7 30.Nxc3 and the extra pawn should prove decisive.

25.Bg5? d4 26.Bxe7 dxc3 and Black is slipping out of danger.

25.Bxc5!? bxc5 26.Na4 Bc6 27.Nxc5 Qb6 I rejected 25 Bxc5 because of this pin, but White should keep a promising position anyway, after 28.Qf2.

24.exd5 exd5 25.Bf4 Qc8



26.Nd6

Cy: I don't think White's last move was best. He wins a pawn and gets a positional bind in the line 26.Re2! Ng8 27.Bg5 Re8 28.Rxe8 Qxe8, because 29.cxd5 followed by d5-d6 paralyzes Black.

26...Rxd6

Cy: ! The only move. Black gets some counterplay for the exchange.

Jack: I was nervous and wasted a couple of minutes looking at the awful 26...Qc6? and the reply 27 Nf7 before realizing that 27.cxd5 is unanswerable.

27.Bxd6 g5

Jack: If 27...Rxd6 then 28.Qxe7 Re6 29.Qh4 d4.

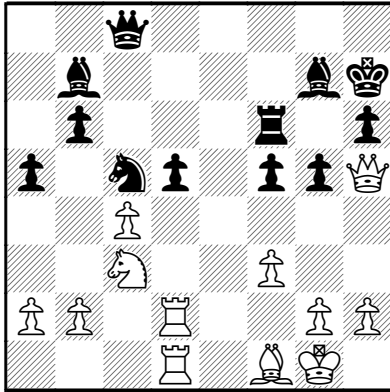
I foresaw this position and figured that White could always play 30.Rxd4 if 30.Nb5 or 30.Nd5 seemed unconvincing.

28.Qe1

Jack: If 28.Qg3, then f4 29.Qe1 Nf5 and Black has some counterplay for the exchange. After a brief look at

this position, I chose 28 Qe1, which I mistakenly considered clearly winning.

28...Rxd6 29.Qxe7 Re6 30.Qf7 Rf6 31.Qh5



Jack: White has grabbed the exchange. Although I was aware that my Queen was temporarily stranded, I had no sense of danger. I expected 31...dxc4 or 31...g4, which are hopeless for Black.

31...Ne6!

Cy: ! Nice. He tries to make White pay for the offside Queen.

Jack: The threat of 32...Nf4 shocked me. Luckily, White's Queen is not quite trapped.

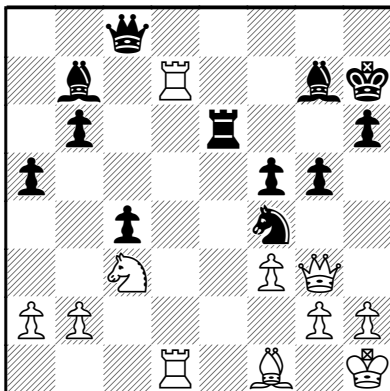
32.Qh3 dxc4

Jack: White's oversight has cost a pawn. Nevertheless, White retains the advantage.

33.Kh1 Nf4 34.Qg3

Jack: I had regained my optimism. White's Queen will return to action through f2, while my Rooks can invade at d6, d7, or d8.

34...Re6 35.Rd7



35...Ba6

Jack: If 35...Nd3 then 36.Bxd3 cxd3

37.R7xd3. Tarrasch once claimed that a Rook and two Bishops were equal to two Rooks and a Knight - but not in this position. White should win.

36.Qf2 Kg6

Jack: Probably Black wanted to prevent 37 Qd4, which was indeed my intention.

37.R7d6

Jack: Fritz prefers 37.g4 or 37.Nd5, which I never considered. I wanted a simpler continuation and the direct threat of 38.Qxb6.

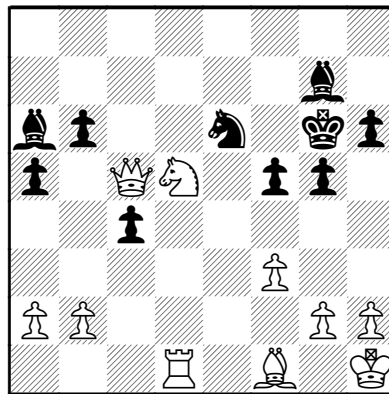
37...Qc7

Jack: 37...Nd3 38.Qxb6+; or 37...b5 38.Qb6+.

38.Rxe6+ Nxe6 39.Nd5 Qc5

Jack: Other moves permit 40.Qxb6.

40.Qxc5



40...bxc5

Jack: Or 40...Nxc5 41.Nc7 Bxb2 42.Nxa6 Nxa6 43.Bxc4 Nc5 44.Rd6+ Kg7 45.Rxb6, and White wins routinely.

41.Nb6!

Jack: I have to confess to a second calculation error. I had spotted the pitfall 41 b3? cxb3! 42 Bxa6?? bxa2, when Black suddenly has the advantage. But I thought that both 41 Nd6 and 41 Nc7 would clinch the win.

Only at this moment did I realize that 41.Nc7?? hangs the Knight, after 41...Nxc7 42.Rd6+ Bf6 43.Rc6 c3! 44.Bxa6 c2 45.Rxc5 Nxa6 46.Rxc2 Nb4, and now only Black has winning prospects.

Cy: White also has the winning plan 41.Ne7+ Kf6 42.Nc6 a4 43.Na5 c3 44.bxc3 Bxf1 45.Rxf1.

41...Bxb2 42.Bxc4 Bxc4 43.Nxc4

Bc3 44.Rc1 Bd4

Jack: Or 44...Bb4 45.a3, trapping the Bishop.

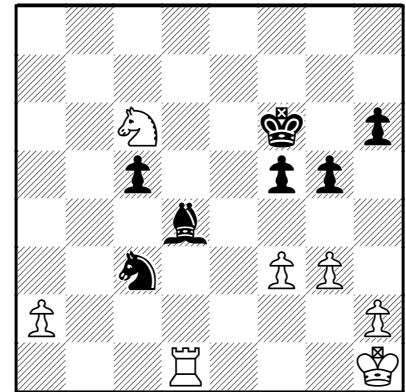
45.Nxa5 Nf4 46.Rd1 Kf6 47.g3 Nd5

Jack: Or 47...Ne6 48.Nc4 and the a-pawn can run.

48.Nc6

Jack: Forcing further simplification.

48...Nc3

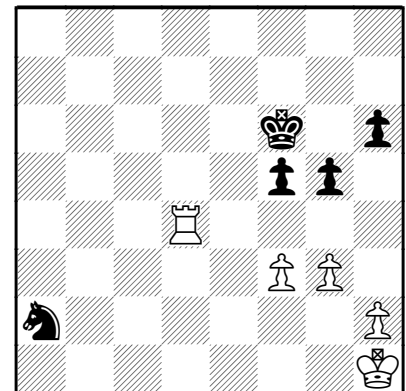


49.Rd3

Cy: ! A confident move. Jack willingly swaps away all the Queenside pawns. In exchange, he gets the swap of another set of minor pieces.

Jack: Trying to hold the a-pawn seemed less persuasive: 49.Rd2 Be5.

49...Nxa2 50.Nxd4 cxd4 51.Rxd4



51...Nc3

Jack: Or 51...Ke5 52.Ra4 Nc3 53.Ra6 h5 54.Rh6+.

52.Rd6+ 1-0

Jack: White's King will head for e5 to pick off the f-pawn.

Cy: Too many pawns left on the board for Black to have any hope. ♔

Here and There

Local News and Events Around the Southland

With "Here and There" in your subject line, please send your club or tournament news and notices to the editor at: RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com.



Downtown Los Angeles

1st Metropolitan International

GM/IM/WGM/WIM
norm capable!

From August 17th to 21st, super-GM Mickey Adams, GM Loek van Wely, GM Ilya Smirin, GM Timur Gareev, GM Dejan Bojkov, GM Mark Paragua, GM Mesgen Amanov, GM Robert Ruck, GM Dmitry Gurevich and GM Melikset Khachiyan are currently slated to play in a 9 round Swiss tournament that will offer the opportunity at GM, IM, WGM, WIM norms.



photo by Betsy Dynako

England's super-GM Mickey Adams

The tournament will be officially open to players over the rating of

2200 FIDE, but exceptional juniors and local players U2200 FIDE may be allowed to play, pursuant to the approval of the tournament organizers.

The time control is 40/90 with SD/30 and 30 second increment beginning move 1. 14,100 USD GTD prize fund. 3,000 USD worth of best game prizes.

The 1st Metropolitan International currently has 23 foreign players, 10 grandmasters, and 32 titled players registered.

More information at

www.metrochessla.com.

For registration information, e-mail ankit.gupta@metrochessla.com.



Newhall

California Youth Chess League welcomes youth and adults as well every Monday, 5:30-8pm at Vincenzo's Pizza in Newhall, just 100 yards east of I-5 at Lyons.

The address is 24504 1/2 Lyons Ave., Newhall, 91321. No tournaments, just fun play on Mondays. CYCL has begun to hold monthly USCF-rated events as well at a separate location, but a full schedule is not yet available.

To be put on our mailing address for upcoming events (both scholastic and adult) email Jay Stallings at coachjay@cycl.org or Like us on Facebook.



Victorville

Apr. 30 Victorville Quads

13393 Mariposa Rd., Victorville, CA 92395. Reg.: 9:30 A.M. Rds.: 10, 1, 3. EF: \$10, winner \$30/quad. INFO: doncotten@aol.com or 760-245-6598.



Lancaster

Since December, The **AV Chess House** in Lancaster hosts monthly USCF-rated tournament.

This first-Saturday-of-every-month event starts at 10am and finishes by 2pm.

In those four hours, participants play three USCF-rated chess games, compete for prizes – 1st Place \$30; 2nd Place \$15 – and have the opportunity to go over their games and analyze them with USCF National Master Matt Mahowald. The entry fee is \$20 and email pre-registration is required – no walk-ins accepted: daa@mahowald.org.

The AV Chess House is sponsoring a **Chess Essay Contest** open to any K-8 student who resides in Antelope Valley. There is no fee to enter the contest. The title of the essay must be "Chess is Valuable Because ..." and the essay must discuss the benefits gained from learning and playing chess and should include a positive experience you've had through chess. Essays must be at least 200 words long but no more than 500 words long and will be judged in three categories: Grades K-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8. The winner in each category will

receive a Tournament Quality Chess Set. Entries must be received on or before Monday, May 2; winners will be announced May 9. For complete information, e-mail Daa Mahowald at daa@mahowald.org.

Thirty to fifty chess players show up every week at the **Checkmate Chess Club** – a free, drop-in club open to all ages and ability levels.

It meets 3:30 - 5pm at the Lancaster Library (601 Lancaster Blvd, Lancaster) every Thursday, unless the library is closed.

Chess sets are provided – just drop in for a game or ten. Small-group lessons for Beginners and Intermediates are provided by Daa Mahowald. For more information: daa@mahowald.org.

A **chess club** designed specifically for the physically and/or mentally disabled, ages 9 to 99, runs for 18 Wednesdays (2/23 – 6/29) 4 - 5:30pm at the Lancaster Moose Lodge (44545 Division St., Lancaster). For full details: daa@mahowald.org.

Chess @ the Poppy Festival: If you go to the April 16-17 California Poppy Festival (43011 N. 10th St. W, Lancaster), be sure to make the free chess activity one of your stops. It features sets available to play friends or strangers, as well as a free, all-day Simul by various local B, A, Expert, or Master players.

Chess @ the Park: Robert Hui-zar is spearheading a Chess@thePark initiative to establish -- in an Antelope Valley park -- an area similar to the Santa Monica Chess@theBeach. To join this effort, contact Rob at 661-902-8841 or RobH.2010@yahoo.com.



San Diego

The 500th Gambito Open

This significant milestone was reached on January 8, 2011 when 37 players gathered in Balboa Park to

once again play in the 4 round, G/45 regular Saturday event that has become a popular fixture in the San Diego chess scene for the last ten years. In the spirit of the day we decided to use a “full” McMahon pairing system where Masters would start with 5 bye points, Experts with 4, Class A with 3, Class B with 2, Class C with 1 point and Class D and below with 0. This system allows players to mostly play with players of their own strength and has worked well for the Gambito Open over the years. It also eliminates the need for lots of “house” players that might be needed with a 6 section event, since everyone is in one big section, just separated by the bye points. I think it is especially good for a short tournament where you don’t want to waste the first few rounds with lopsided mismatches of players rated hundreds of points apart. In this event there were 4 Masters, 10 Experts, 4 Class A, 9 Class B, 4 Class C and 6 Class D.

Cyrus Lakdawala and Varun Krishnan tied for First Place with 8 points. Cyrus faced the toughest possible competition, playing the #2-5 highest rated opponents. This is part of the appeal of the McMahon – no “easy” pairings for the top players. He drew with Varun and with Bruce Baker. Varun just recently earned his Master rating, but he is no “newbie” to strong chess despite his young age. Cyrus said he threw everything he could think of at him and Varun handled it all quite well. Varun won the Expert Section at the American Open in Los Angeles and pushed his rating up to 2200 at Gambito #497. This event gained him another 32 points to 2232. The BU2400 prize was won by Bruce Baker with 7 points, and 2nd U2400 was won by another one of our young masters, Kyron Griffith with 6 ½. Four other players also scored 6 ½ and split the BU2200 prizes: Dimitry Kishinevsky, Rick Aeria, Peter Hodges and Leonard Sussman. Dimitry, Rick and Lenny were all frequent players back in the early days of the Gambito.

Jamieson Pryor was clear BU2000 with 6 points, and Sean McNeely was BU1800 with 5 ½ while Jason Arbeiter and Alexander Blank tied for 2nd

U2000/2ndU1800 with 5 points each. Jay Choi was BU1600 with 4 points and Cassidy Liu was BU1400 with 3. Jerry Beck was 2nd U1600 with 3 and Stanford Talcott was 2nd U1400 with 2 ½. Best Game Prizes were won by Jamieson Pryor and Jay Choi.

So if you ever find yourself in San Diego on a Saturday, the Gambito Open should be the first thing on your mind. Rounds are at 10:30 AM, 12:15, 2:45 and 4:30 and entry fees are low but the prizes are great.

Call the club phone at 619-239-7166 to pre-register or just show up at 2225 Sixth Avenue before 10:25 to get in on the fun.

-- Chuck Ensej

February Special Super Gambito

This was a 5 round event instead of the usual 4 rounds and featured a \$2,000 guaranteed prize fund. Time control was G/40 with 5 second delay and 37 players showed up for the 1 day event, including 10 Masters and 6 Experts.

Enrico Sevillano drew with Cyrus Lakdawala in the last round to score 4 points and win \$275 each. Enrico had earlier drawn with John Bryant and Cyrus had drawn with Bruce Baker.

Kyron Griffith and Bruce split the BU2400 prize for \$112 each.

There was a 3-way tie for U2200 between Rick Aeria, Peter Hodges and Chris Wonnell.

Renery Valdez was BU2000 for \$150 and Sridhar Ramanujam was 2nd U2000 for \$75.

In the Reserve Section, Jason Arbeiter won \$200 for his 4 ½ point score, a full point ahead of Jim Krooskos, Tom Kuhn and Anthony Harbone (\$65 each for 2nd/3rd Place).

Andres Villanueva was BU1600 for \$150. You can see other prize winners and photos on our website <http://sdchessclub.multiply.com>

-- Chuck Ensej

San Diego Chess Club

The 7-round Alina Markowski Open attracted 95 paid participants at the SDCC in January and February.

There was a 3-way tie for First Place between Bruce Baker, Bill Whitney and Ignacio Sainz, all with 5 ½ points.

13 other players scored 5 points, including 2 Class A players, Matt Souza and David Saponara; all the others were Masters or Experts: Mario Amodeo, Ed Baluran, Todd Smith, Leonard Sussman, Aaron Wooten, Rick Aeria, Raoul Crisologo, Lennart Mathe, Dimitry Kishinevsky, Paul Agron and George Zeigler. That was in tie-break order, which was important as the last two players on this list did not make it into the Club Championship, which has only 16 players, 4 of whom were already seeded in (Baker, Funderburg, Hodges and Wagner). The two players left out found out that taking byes really hurts your tie-breaks!

BU1800 was shared by 6 players: Shaun Sweitzer, Jerry Qu, Santiago Rubio-Fernaz, Damani Fair, Edgar Lopez and Jonathan Patriarca, all with 4 points, while the BU1600 belonged only to Jerry Beck, also with 4. BU1400 was Jeremy Patton with 3.

-- Chuck Ensey



San Luis Obispo

SLO Chess Club Scholastic Winter Blast 2011 was held on March 12th. The rated section was topped by brothers Isaac (1st, with a perfect score) and Joey (2nd) Ruddell with Dylan Chezum in 3rd. The unrated section saw young Judith Gottlieb with a perfect 5/5 score winning 1st followed by Marcus Hicks and Ezra Asquith. Full results can be found at www.slochess.com.



Beverly Hills

Scholastic Committee Meeting held at BHCC

On Sunday, March 27, 2011 Southern California Scholastic Organizers had a Round Table at Beverly

Hills Chess Club.

Attendees were Robert Minoofar, Dewain Barber, Anthony Ong, Richard Peterson, Kevin Bulone, Jay Stallings, Phil Chase, Michael Belcher, Armen Ambartsumian, Greg Taber, Ali Ellington, Bobby Crawford and Isabelle Minoofar.

The main topic of the meeting was "Unity" among the Scholastic Chess Community. It was a very productive meeting. Among the many topics discussed were:

- implementation of a Code of Ethics among coaches & organizers
- creating a consistent Electronic Newsletter
- increasing participation at local tournaments
- bringing the Nationals to the Southern California
- finding better venues for our events.

This energetic group brainstormed many creative ways of coming together as a group. The next meeting is scheduled for May, 2011.

Beverly Hills Chess Club

May 1, 2011

BHCC – Eli Minoofar Scholastic Birthday Tournament

4-SS, G/30. Players should bring clocks. (Limited to first 30 Entrants)

Place: Beverly Hills Chess Club, 8950 W. Olympic Blvd., #210, Beverly Hills, CA 90211. (Free Parking)

Prizes: Trophies to the top 3, and medals to the next 3.

Lunch: Free Luncheon and Cake

Registration & Lunch: 12:30 – 1 pm
Tournament Starts: 1 pm

EF: \$20 if received two days in advance, \$25 onsite (Site Entries Cash) – SCCF members \$3 off

Online Reg: www.bhchessclub.com
Phone Reg: 310-274-7873 (Visa/Master Card only)

Mail Reg: Mail checks to Beverly Hills Chess Club.

Email: bhchessclub@hotmail.com

May 14, & July 9, 2011

Beverly Hills Chess Club Members only Swiss

3-SS, G/30. USCF Rated. Players

should bring clocks

Place: Beverly Hills Chess Club, 8950 W. Olympic Blvd., #210, Beverly Hills, CA 90211. (Free Parking)

Prizes: Trophies to the top 3

Registration: 12:30 – 12:45

Starts: 1 pm

EF: Free (Open only to members of BHCC)

Web Site: www.bhchessclub.com

Info: Dr. Robert Minoofar 310-274-7873 or email us: bhchessclub@hotmail.com

May 15, 2011

Beverly Hills Chess Club Amateur Tournament

4-SS, G/65. Open to players Under 1800 Rating. Players should bring clocks

Place: Beverly Hills Chess Club, 8950 W. Olympic Blvd., #210, Beverly Hills, CA 90211. (Free Parking)

Prizes: 75% of EF (1st/2nd/3rd/4th: 30%, 20%, 15%, 10%)

Registration: 12:30 – 12:45

Starts: 1 pm

EF: \$40 if received two days in advance, \$50 onsite (Site Entries Cash) – SCCF members \$5 off – BHCC members \$20 off

Online Reg: www.bhchessclub.com

Phone Reg: 310-274-7873 (Visa/Master Card only)

Mail Reg: Mail checks to Beverly Hills Chess Club.

Email: bhchessclub@hotmail.com
Chess Magnet School JGP

June 5, 2011

Beverly Hills Chess Club Double Blitz Tournament

4-DSS, G/5 Q-Rated. Open to players Under 1800 Rating. Players should bring clocks

Place: Beverly Hills Chess Club, 8950 W. Olympic Blvd., #210, Beverly Hills, CA 90211. (Free Parking)

Prizes: 75% of EF (1st/2nd/3rd/4th: 30%, 20%, 15%, 10%)

Registration: 6:00 – 6:30 pm

Starts: 7 pm

EF: \$20 if received two days in advance, \$30 onsite (Site Entries Cash) – SCCF members \$5 off – BHCC members \$10 off

Online Reg: www.bhchessclub.com
Phone Reg: 310-274-7873 (Visa/
Master Card only)

Mail Reg: Mail checks to Beverly
Hills Chess Club.

Email: bhchessclub@hotmail.com

June 5, 2011

Beverly Hills Scholastic Tourna-
ment

5-SS, G/30. Players should bring
clocks

Place: Beverly Hills Chess Club,
8950 W. Olympic Blvd., #210, Beverly
Hills, CA 90211. (Free Parking)

Prizes: Trophies to the top 3, and
medals to the next 3.

Registration: 12:30 – 12:45

Starts: 1 pm

EF: \$20 if received two days in ad-
vance, \$25 onsite (Site Entries Cash),
SCCF members \$3 off

Online Reg: www.bhchessclub.com

Phone Reg: 310-274-7873 (Visa/
Master Card only)

Mail Reg: Mail checks to Beverly
Hills Chess Club.

Email: bhchessclub@hotmail.com

BHCC Open (30 players max)

Dates: 6/21, 6/28, 7/5, 7/19, 7/26,
(No Round on 7/12)

5-SS, G/90. Players should bring
clocks. (Limited to first 30 Entrants)

Place: Beverly Hills Chess Club,
8950 W. Olympic Blvd., #210, Beverly
Hills, CA 90211. (Free Parking)

Prizes: 75% of EF (1st/2nd/3rd/
4th: 30%, 20%, 15%, 10%)

Registration: 6:00 – 6:30 pm

Starts: 7 pm

EF: \$50 if received two days in ad-
vance, \$60 onsite (Site Entries Cash)
– SCCF members \$5 off – BHCC
members \$25 off

Online Reg: www.bhchessclub.com

Phone Reg: 310-274-7873 (Visa/
Master Card only)

Mail Reg: Mail checks to Beverly
Hills Chess Club.

Email: bhchessclub@hotmail.com



Santa Monica Bay Chess Club

SMBCC 2011 CHAMPIONSHIP

Taylor Curtis [1960] became the
2011 Santa Monica Bay Club Cham-
pion on March 21st, winning \$150 in
prize money.

Tied for 2nd-3rd were Simon Ko-
gan [1951] and Steve Conant [1529],
winning \$83 each. An additional
\$185 was awarded to winners of class
prizes.

GRANDMASTER SIMUL:

May 2, 2011 !

Santa Monica Bay Chess club
will hold a lecture by GM Varuzhan
Akobian and SIMULTANEOUS EX-
HIBITION on Monday evening, May
2nd. Final Registration begins 7:00
p.m., but to assure a place in the
event, registration by email is ad-
vised SMBCHESS@YAHOO.COM.
Entry fee is \$25.

This event will be followed by a
three week quads tournament (May
9-16-23). Rounds begin at 7:10 p.m.
continuing no later than 11:00 p.m.
Registration begins 7:00 p.m. on May
9th. Entry fee is \$10 with Club mem-
bership (\$60 per year). The event is
USCF rated. Cash prizes.

The Club is located in the St.
Andrew's Church Library at 11555
National Blvd. West Los Angeles at
corner of Federal/Barry Ave. at Na-
tional Blvd. Contact: TD Pete Sav-
ino (310) 827-2789, [www.santamoni-
cabaychessclub.sports.officelive.com](http://www.santamoni-
cabaychessclub.sports.officelive.com)



4 miles SE of LAX

Alondra Park Chess Club

Thirty-five players competed in
Alondra Park's first tourney of 2011.

Despite a first round bye, Matt
Trass beat Alireza Fallahi in the last
round to take clear first with a 5-1
score. Fellahi finished second with
4.5-1.5 and top-rated expert Joseph
Roth finished third with five other
players at 4-2. The tournament was
organized by Richard Meller.



photo by Al Pena

Matt Trass

The Alondra Park Chess Club
meets every Tuesday from 6:30 to
9:00 at 3850 W Manhattan Beach
Blvd in Lawndale, CA.

Contact Meller at
richardmeller@Yahoo.com or the
club's website at
www.alondraparkchessclub.com.



2 miles NE of LAX

A new place to play chess is at
Starbuck's, 5301 W. Centinela Blvd.,
who welcomes chessplayers for casual
play, speed chess, bughouse and occa-
sional serious events. Daily until 10
p.m. Call (310) 338-1297.



2 miles S of UCLA

Los Angeles Chess Club (LACC)

www.LAChessClub.com. Satur-
days: 10AM-10 PM (Novice Class & 3
Tournaments).

Sundays: 12-6 & 1-4 PM (Begin-
ner class & 2 Tournaments) - Details
on our web site.

Tuesdays: 7:30-9:30 PM (Intermediate/Advance Lecture). 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025 * (310) 795-5710. (4 blocks 405 West, Santa Monica & Butler * 2nd Floor). Private (1:1) Lessons * Group Classes * Tournaments.

LACC Deus Ex Machina

February 25-27. It was an exciting tournament, with Dr. Valery's \$2,500 guaranteed prize. The prize winners were:

OPEN

Roman Yankovsky 1st: 6½/7	\$500
Robert Akopian 2nd-3rd: 5	\$225
Ted Belanoff 2nd-3rd: 5	\$225
Show Kitagami 4th: 4½	\$100
Bill Munkhchuluun U2200	\$100
Willis Kim U2100	\$100
Tony Kukavica Tie U2000	\$150
Dylan Quercia Tie U2000	\$150
Chinagozi Wogu U1600	\$150
Beverly Woolsey U1400	\$100
Carlos Azcunaga Unrated	\$100

JUNIORS

Gene Azcunaga	\$150
Derek Wen	\$100
Alex Mosser	\$100
Tigran Avetisyan	\$100

LACC - Sat & Sun G/61

Apr. 9 & 10, 16 & 17, 23 & 24
- a weekly event -

6SS, G/61. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA. 2nd floor.
EF: \$45 (\$35 memb). 5% off SCCF memb.
Reg.: 11-12 pm. Rds.: 12, 2, 4 pm each day. Prizes: 1/2 collections.
Parking: Free at BoA and streets. Info: (310) 795-5710 or Mick@LACchessClub.com. Chess Magnet School JGP.

LACC - 10 Blitz (G/5) Saturday Night (QC)

Apr. 9, 16, 23, 30
- a weekly event -

5DSS, G/5 (10 Games). 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA, 90025, 2nd Fl. 4 blks W 405.
EF: \$10. Q-rated.
Reg.: 8-9 pm. Rds.: 9, 9:20, 9:40, 10, 10:20. Prizes: 1/2 EF. Parking: Free at BoA and streets (\$3 basement). Info: (310) 795-5710.

LACC - LA Masters G/30

Apr. 9, 16, 23, 30
- a weekly event -
3SS, G/30. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA, 2nd Fl. 4 blks W 405.
EF: \$30 (\$20 memb).
Reg.: 5-6 pm.
Rds.: 6, 7, 8 pm.
Prizes: (\$180 b/10, 75%); Parking: Free at BoA (\$3 basement). Info: (310) 795-5710 or Mick@LACchessClub.com.

LACC - Saturday G/61

Apr. 9, 16, 23, 30
- a weekly event -
3SS, G/61. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA, 2nd floor. (\$320 b/20), \$100/50/30; U1800-1200: \$50/40/30/20.
EF: \$25 (\$20 memb).
Reg.: 11-12 pm. Rds.: 12, 2, 4 pm.
Parking: basement (\$3). Info: (310) 795-5710.

LACC - 1st & 3rd Sunday Scholastic Triathlon

Apr. 3, 17
2 separate events - Chess/Bughouse/Blitz. 4SS, G/30. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA, 90025, 2nd floor. 4 blocks W 405.
EF: \$25 (\$20 LACC memb, \$10 off siblings, 10% off SCCF members. Free new LACC memb).
Reg.: 12-1 pm. Rds.: 1, 2, 3, 4 pm; then Bughouse & Blitz (5-6).
Prizes: Trophies (Top 3) & Medals (rest); each player receives a prize!
Parking: Free at BoA and streets.
Free Pizza/soda/cookie & free class (12-1).
Info: (310) 795-5710 or Mick@LACchessClub.com.

LACC - Sunday G/61

Apr. 10, 17, 24
- a weekly event -
3SS, G/61. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA, 2nd floor. (\$320 b/20), \$100/50/30; U1800-1200: \$50/40/30/20.
EF: \$25 (\$20 memb). Reg.: 11-12 pm. Rds.: 12, 2, 4 pm.
Parking: Free at BoA and streets.
Info: (310) 795-5710.

LACC - Westwood Spring Open

Apr. 10
GPP: 10 California, Southern 5SS, G/45. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA. (\$1050, b/30), 70% guaranteed. 2 sections: Open: \$300/150/50; U2200&U2000: \$75. Reserve: (U1800): \$150/75, U1600: \$75, U1400/ unrated: \$75-25. EF: \$45 if rec'd by 4/8 (\$50 at site), LACC memb \$10 off (\$20 off new/renewing members), SCCF memb \$5 off). Up to two 1/2 pt byes. Reg.: 9-9:45 am. Rds.: 10, 11:30, 1:30, 3:15. 4:45 pm. Parking: Free at BoA (\$3 basement). Info: (310) 795-5710. Ent.: LACC, Box 251774, LA, 90025. On-line entry: www.LACchessClub.com. State Ch. Qualifier.



Huntington Beach

Hanley's Chess Academy

Hanley's Chess Academy offers weekly classes on Saturday mornings, USCF rated quad tournaments every Saturday evening from 5pm-9pm, USCF rated scholastic quad tournaments each Sunday, chess club nights for adults on Fridays from 7pm-11pm, and monthly scholastic chess camps.

It is geared to the scholastic players with the occasional adult tournament. Location: 7390 Center Ave, Huntington Beach, CA. 92646, tel: 714-925-3195.

For all information, please visit www.hanleychessacademy.org.



La Palma Chess Club

Congratulations to the winners of the February "Two-Rounder": Mehrdad Miralae & George Shahin with scores of 2-0, \$62.50 each; and Joe Wahula, Vic Alfaro, Neil Belliger with scores of 1.5 -.5 share 3rd prize,

Please turn to page 41, **Here and There.**

White Against the Najdorf Sicilian

By Phil Chase

Chase, Phil (1920) -
Victoria, Jesse (2137)

[B94] Najdorf Sicilian

Tim Pellant Memorial

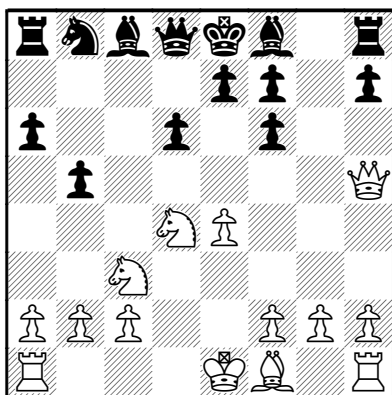
Pasadena, 20.08.2010

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.Nf3 d6

Black can keep the pawn with 3...Qa5+.

4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 b5

7.Bxf6 gxf6 8.Qh5



My old Encyclopedia of Chess Openings says White has a significant advantage.

The computer says there is a slight advantage after 8...Qb6 or 8...e6.

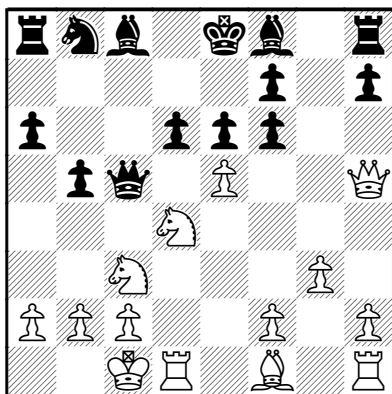
8...Qb6 9.0-0-0 e6 10.g3

Trying to develop fast and centralize the Rooks.

10...Qc5

Black would like an ending where two Bishops and central pawns would confer an advantage.

11.e5!



The pawn sac vacates the e4 square for the Knight; if 11...de 12.Ne4 Qa7 13.Nf6+ or 12...Qe7 13.Bb5+ ab 14.Nb5 with Nd6+ to follow.

Human analysis, no doubt with flaws!

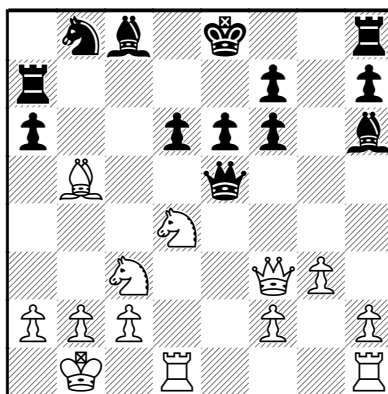
11...Qxe5

Not 11...dxe5? 12.Ne4 Qe7 (12...Qa7 13.Nxf6+-) 13.Bxb5+- axb5 14.Nxb5+-.

12.Qf3 Bh6+

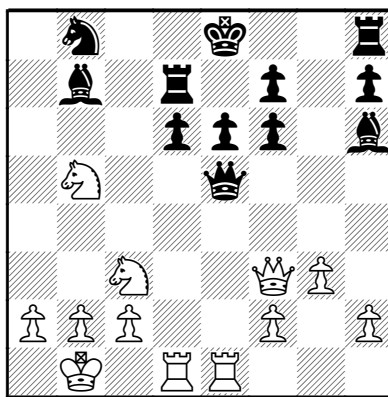
Seems to gain time, but the Bishop is loose on h6, and the King is safer on b1.

13.Kb1 Ra7 14.Bxb5+!?



Black is probably better, but has problems with development, unsafe King, and loose pieces.

14...axb5 15.Ndxb5 Rd7 16.Rhe1 Bb7



17.Qd3?

Missing 17.Qxb7 Rxb7 18.Rxe5 de 19.Nd6+ with a win.

17...Qc5

After 17...Qh5 18.Nxd6+ Kf8 19.f4, Fritz says it's about equal.

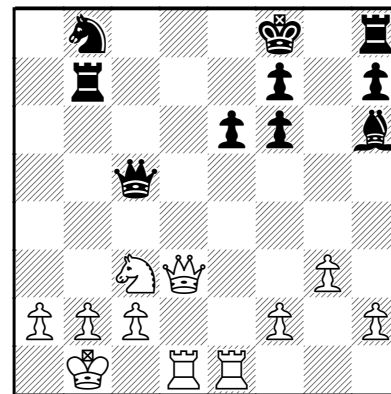
18.Nxd6+

If Black trades on d6, the ending is really imbalanced, with Black having two Bishops for a Rook and two pawns. White has three connected passed pawns, but they haven't gone anywhere yet. If White can play f4, it's hard for Black to get a passed pawn without exposing his King. Maybe the just result is a draw.

18...Kf8

Objectively best, but King is still nervous. White has 14 minutes left, Black has 7.

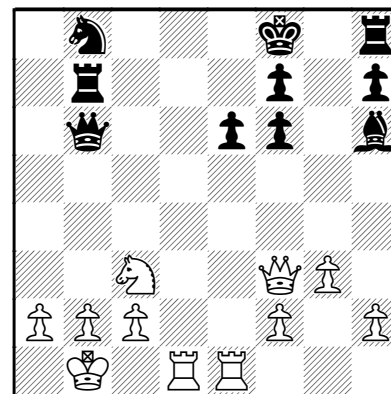
19.Nxb7 Rxb7



20.Qf3

20.Qd8+?! Kg7 21.Qxf6+ Kxf6 22.Ne4+ puts White's Queenside pawns against a Bishop. It's a tough call, but you have to like the pawns. - Ed.

20...Qb6??



21.b3?

Decisive is 21.Na4! and the f6 pawn is lost with mate to come.

21...Nd7 22.Ne4 f5

22.....Bg7 seems OK. Now it's hard to survive. 23.Nd6 Ra7

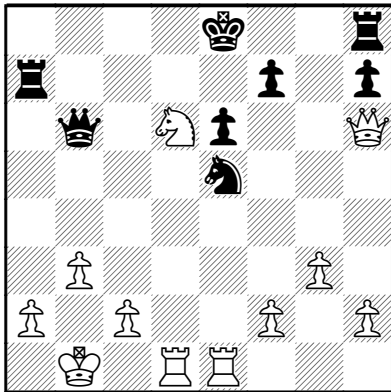
24.Qh5! Ne5?

But no matter.

25.Qxh6+ Ke7 26.Nxf5+ Ke8

27.Nd6+ 1-0

For if 27...Ke7 then 28.Qg5+.



An exciting game, with fascinating positions and possibilities. There were lots of mistakes in the last several moves, symptomatic of time trouble, and limited vision by adequate but not excellent players.

Fischer said that the Dragon was a bad opening because even weak players could beat grandmasters by attacking and sacrificing on the h-file.

I think the Najdorf has some similar traits, in that it has become quite fashionable, but even experts or low masters underestimate the tactical threats for White, and the whole setup is easier to play for White.

Beginners are taught to develop quickly, castle early, and centralize Rooks, but in this postmodern opening, Black often doesn't castle at all, develops on the wing, and is willing to be unmercifully attacked for the sake of an advantage in the ending, or a counterattack that often seems a move late.

That may be a great strategy if you truly understand it, but for most practitioners at the club (or even 2200) level, it is not. Whatever happened to 1...e5? ♖

Here and There, continued from page 39.

\$12 each.

Congratulations to the winners of the March LPCC's 4th Milky Way championship!

First place, and the title of Undisputed Champion of the Milky Way goes to Mehrdad Miralaie with a 5-0 perfect score.

David Oldham took second place, and third place was shared by Barry Lazarus, Leigh Hunt, and Yuting Chen.

The Under 1900 trophy was captured by Yuting Chen.

David Towne won the U1700 prize; Sid Somasunderam won the U1500 prize; and Michael Searcy won the U1300 prize.

Special prizewinners were as follows:

Shooting Star (biggest rating gain): Sid Somasundaram; Black Hole (most compressed win): Mehrdad Miralaie; Biggest Space Advantage: Leigh Hunt.

For complete standings and some games see this link: www.lapalmachess.com/LPCC/Past/Milky_Way_Champ_4_Standings.html.

The La Palma Chess Club is located in La Palma Central Park, 7821 Walker St., La Palma, CA 90623.



San Gabriel Valley

Pasadena Chess Club

The annual inaugural tournament, the Richard Lewis Memorial, drew 56 players. Mher Mikayelyan triumphed with 5 1/2 points of 6, pulling three upset wins enroute and drawing easily with Robert Xue in the February 11th final round. Yusheng Xia and Randy Hough trailed by a half point.

Class winners included Tim Thompson, Phil Chase, David Minasyan, and Neil Hultgren (equal Under 2000); Tony Kukavica and Ro-

lando Tenoso (tied for Under 1800); Scott Xue (Under 1600); Jay Schoby (Under 1400); and Evan Anthopoulos (Under 1200).

The club meets Friday nights at the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 E. Del Mar.

The Pasadena City Championship, a five-round swiss in two sections, begins April 15.

For details see the website www.tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html or contact Randy Hough, (626) 282-7412, email: randallhough@yahoo.com.

Arcadia Chess Club

Tianyi He and Lawrence Stevens shared first place with 5/6 in the Arcadia Class Championship, completed March 28th.

Other prize winners were Greg Fritchle, Randy Hough, Theodore Wu, Jeff Schwartz and James Marshall.

The six round Spring Open begins April 4 at the Arcadia Senior Citizens Building in Santa Anita Park 405 S. Santa Anita, Arcadia.

Call Mel Clark 626-447-9355 or Dave King 818-209-1053. Web site: www.arcadiachessclub.com.



35 mi. SE of Riverside

Hemet Chess Club

HCC holds Weekly tournaments on Sundays from 5PM - 9PM: 3-SS G/30 or 4-SS G/45.

Players should bring their own chess equipment.

Location: Steve's Burgers, 240 S. Sanderson Ave., Hemet, Ca. 92545. Tel 951-252-5926 (Marcos Montes).

For information and photos, visit www.hemetchessclub.blogspot.com



UPCOMING EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Apr 30, 2011

San Luis Obispo Spring Open

Masonic Lodge
859 Marsh Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
80 % of Entries Returned
2 Sections: Open, Reserve (U1500/
Unr)

State Championship Qualifier OPEN SECTION

Prizes: 80% Returned.
Format: 4SS, Rd. 1 G/45; Rds. 2-4
G/60. 5-sec. delay
Affects both Quick and Regular rat-
ing.
Round Times: 10:00 - 12:00 - 2:30 -
5:00.

Entry Fees:
\$40.00 paid in advance by April 28.
One \$5.00 discount to SCCF, Cal
Chess, or SLOCC members.
All \$10 more at site; cash only at site.

Entries To:
Barbara McCaleb, 234 Via La Paz,
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
-- check payable to SLO Chess Club.
Online entries to www.slochess.com
(Paypal)
On-site Reg: April 30, 9:00-9:30 a.m.

RESERVE SECTION (U1500/Unr)
Prizes: 80% Returned.
Format: 4 SS, Rd. 1 G45; Rds. 2-4
G60. 5-sec. delay
Affects both Quick and Regular rat-

ing. Round Times: 10:00 - 12:00 - 2:30
- 5:00

Entry Fees:
\$30.00 paid in advance by April 28.
One \$5.00 discount to SCCF, Cal
Chess, or SLOCC members. All \$10
more at site; cash only at site.

Entries To:
Barbara McCaleb, 234 Via La Paz,
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 -- check
payable to SLO Chess Club. Online
entries to www.slochess.com (Paypal)
On-site Reg: April 30, 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Byes: one 1/2 pt. bye okay any round
if requested with entry.

For More Information: Barbara at
805-540-0747. www.slochess.com
E-mail: bmccaleb@calpoly.edu
**Directions to site: See flyer, park-
ing map, and directions at
www.slochess.com**

Official Web Site:
<http://www.slochess.com>
Event Limitations and Site Condi-
tions: No Smoking. No Computers.
Wheelchair Accessible.

In the heart of downtown San Luis
Obispo, "America's Happiest City"
quoting Oprah.



May 28-30

Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic

GPP: 40 Enhanced California, South-
ern. 6-SS, **3-day** 40/2, SD/1, **2-day**

rds. 1-3 G/1 then merges.
LAX Hilton, 5711 W Century Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA 90045.
\$\$10,000 b/200, 50% of each prize
guaranteed.

In five sections:
Open: \$T+1700- 750-400-300-200,
U2400 400, U2200 700-300-200.

Premier (under 2000): \$750-300-
200-100.

Amateur (Under 1800): \$750-300-
200-100.

Reserve (Under 1600): \$750-300-
200-100.

Booster (Under 1400/unrated):
\$400-200-100, U1200 150, Unr 150.
(Unrated may win Unrated prizes
only.)

EF: \$88 by 5/27, \$99 at door. Booster
(U1400) section EF: \$72 by 5/27, \$85
door.

Reg.: ends 10:30am 5/28, 9:30 am
5/29.

Rds.: **3-day**: 11-6, 11-6, 10-4:30.

2-day: 10-1-3:30 (G/1), then merges
with 3-day at 6.

All: SCCF membership req. (\$18 re,
\$10 jr), OSA.

\$25 Best Game prize, all sections eli-
gible. 1 half-point bye if requested at
least 1 round in advance, rd. 6 must
be requested with entry.

HR: \$89, (310) 410-4000, mention SC
Chess.

Parking \$8/day.

Info: chesspalace2000@yahoo.com.

Web site, On-line entry:
www.chesspalace.com/mdc.htm.

Ent: SCCF,
PO Box 205,

Monterey Park, CA 91754.

NS. NC. F.

State Championship Qualifier. Chess
Magnet School JGP.

May 29 MDC Action Swiss
5-SS, G/30.

LAX Hilton, 5711 W. Century Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA 90045. \$500 b/40,
else proportional: \$150-70-40, U2100/
Unr \$80, U1800 \$80, Under 1500
\$80. EF: \$20 if received by 5-27, \$25
at door.

Reg.: 9:30-10 a.m.

Rds.: 10:15-11:30-12:45-2:30-3:45.

Ent: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey
Park, CA 91754.

On-line entry: www.chesspalace.com/mdc.htm.

May 29 MDC Scholastics

5-SS, G/30. LAX Hilton, 5711 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Open to gr. 12-below. In two sections: Open: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated. Grade 6/below U1000: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. Reg.: 8:30-9am. Rds.: 9:30-11-12:15-1:45-3. EF: \$16 if received by 5/27, \$20 door. Info: chesspalace2000@yahoo.com. On-line ent: www.chesspalace.com/mdc.htm. Ent: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754.

May 30 MDC Hexes

3-SS, G/90. LAX Hilton, 5711 W Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Six-player sections by rating. EF: \$21 if received by 5/27, \$24 door. \$\$ 40-20-10 each section. Reg.: 9:30-10:15 a.m. Rds.: 10:30-1:30-4:30. Ent: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754. On-line entry: www.chesspalace.com/mdc.htm.



July 14-17

16th annual Pacific Coast Open

Jul. 14-17, 15-17 or 16-17
GPP: 150 Enhanced California, Southern
6SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/45).
Under 900 Section, July 16-17 only, G/70.
Renaissance Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Rd., Agoura Hills, CA 91301 (US-101 to Reyes Adobe Road exit).
Adjacent to the Santa Monica Mountains, 26 miles west of Burbank, 12 miles from Malibu, 28 miles from

Ventura.
Free parking.
Prizes \$25,000 based on 230 paid entries (re-entries count half, \$90 off entries one-third), minimum \$20,000 (80% each prize) guaranteed.
In 7 sections.
Open: \$3000-1500-700-400, clear or tiebreak win \$100 bonus, top U2300/Unr \$1600-800. FIDE.
Under 2100: \$2000-1000-500-300.
Under 1900: \$2000-1000-500-300.
Under 1700: \$1800-900-500-300.
Under 1500: \$1500-700-400-200.
Under 1200: \$1200-600-300-200.
Under 900: \$300-200-120-80, trophies to top 7.
Unrated may enter any section, with prize limit U2100 \$1000, U1900 \$800, U1700 \$600, U1500 \$400, U1200 \$200, U900 \$100; balance goes to next player(s) in line.
Top 6 sections EF: 4-day \$134, 3-day \$133, 2-day \$132 mailed by 7/6, all \$135 online at chesstour.com by 7/10, \$140 phoned by 7/10 (406-896-2038, entry only, no questions), \$150 (no checks, credit cards OK) at tmt.
No mailed credit card entries.
GMs free; \$120 deducted from prize.
EF for all in U900 and unrated in U1200: all \$90 less.
SCCF membership (\$18, jrs \$10) required for rated Southern CA residents.
Re-entry \$70; not available in Open Section.
Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.
Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry.
Online at chesstour.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15.
Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20.
4-day schedule: Reg Thu to 6:30 pm, rds Thu 7 pm, Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30.
3-day schedule: Reg. Fri to 11 am, rds Fri 12 & 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30.
2-day schedule: Reg Sat to 9 am, rds Sat 10, 12:45, 3:15 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30.
Under 900 schedule: Reg Sat to 9 am, rds 10, 1:15, 4:30 each day.

All schedules: Half point byes OK all, limit 2, Open must commit before rd 2, other sections before rd 4.
HR: \$87-87, 818-707-1220, request chess rate, reserve by 6/30 or rate may increase.
Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633.
Ent: Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. \$15 service charge for refunds.
Questions: www.chesstour.com, 845-496-9658.
Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. Chess Magnet School JGP.



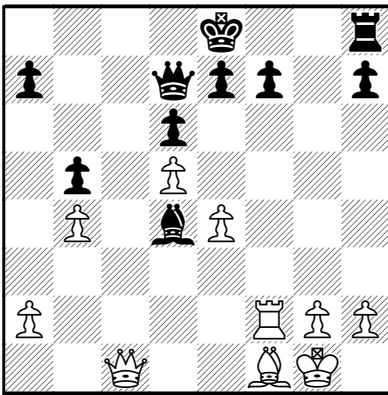
Solutions to *Inside Moves*

From page 2.

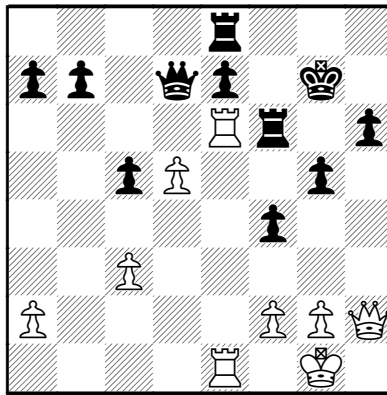
1. White gets the Queen with a fork: 1.Nf7+ Kg8 2.Nh6+ and 3.Nxf5.
2. Black traps the Queen with 19...a5! Horvath - Petrosian, EU-ch 11th Rijeka 2010.
3. White traps the Queen with 13.Nd4 Qd6 14.Be7. Obolenskikh - Tseshkovsky, Irkutsk, 2010.
4. White harasses the Queen and wins material with 15.Nb6! Qc3 (15...Qc7 16.Nb5! Qd8 17.e5) 16.Ra4!, for if 16...Rb8, then 17.Rc4. Sveshnikov - Luckans, Liepajas Rokade rapid, 2004.
5. Black wins a piece with 19...Qf6!, for if 20.c3, then 20...Nxd3 21.Qxd3 Qxf2. Or if White moves his Queen to stop the mate, then Black still wins the Bishop on f2. Bareev - Tkachiev, EU-ch Blitz Ajaccio, 2007.
6. White makes material and positional gains with 16.Nxg6+ hxg6 17.Bg5+ Kf7 18.Rxd6. Antal - Bokros, Budapest, 2001.

SCCF
 PO Box 205
 MONTEREY PARK CA 91754

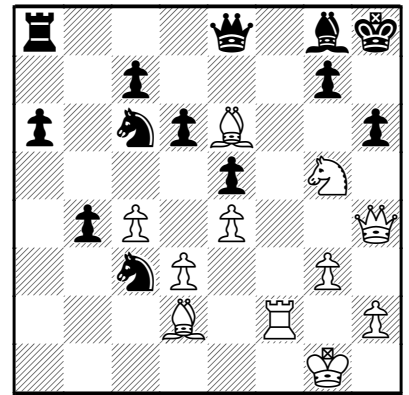
OUTSIDE SHOTS!



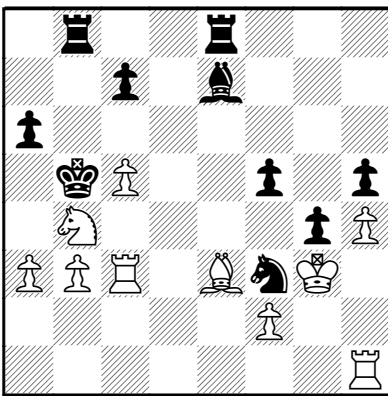
1. White to Play



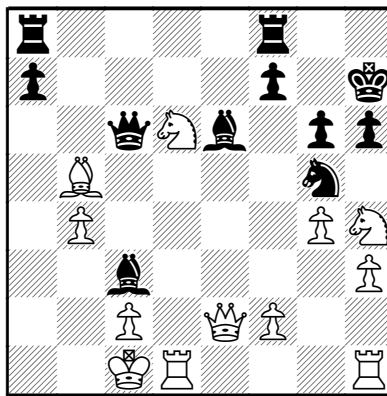
2. White to Play



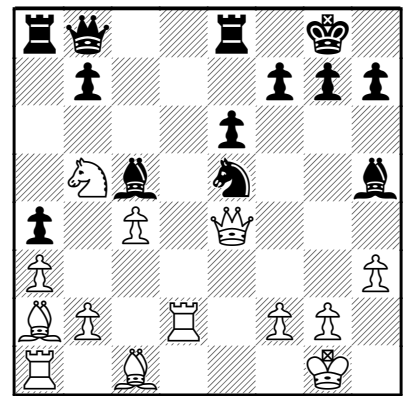
3. White to Play



4. White to Play



5. Black to Play



6. Black to Play

See page 2 for solutions.