

About MACA

The Massachusetts Chess Association is an educational non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote chess in Massachusetts and represent the interest of chess players within the state to the governing body of chess in the United States, **The United States Chess Federation (USCF)**.

As part of its role as a state organization, MACA has programs in place to support the existing chess community as well as promote chess among schools and the general public. Highlights of these programs are:



Providing at least four major tournaments each year:

Massachusetts Open (State Championship)
Massachusetts Game/60 Championship
Greater Boston Open
Pillsbury Memorial



Running a scholastic program, which consists of a series of tournaments to determine the state's scholastic champions as well as "warm up" tournaments throughout the year. Free boards and sets are provided to schools and clubs through MACA's **Living Memorial Chess Fund (LMCF)**.

Quarterly publication of the award winning *Chess Horizons*, a journal of regional, national and international chess news and features.

Promotion and development of chess in correctional institutions through our Prison Chess program.

We hope you will chose to join MACA and enjoy the benefits of membership while knowing that you are helping to promote chess throughout Massachusetts.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

(Includes Subscription to Chess Horizons unless otherwise noted.)

Adult: \$12.00; Life: \$175.00; Life (age 65 or older): \$100.00; Junior (under age 18): \$6.00.

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73rd Massachusetts Open

Bob Messenger

Grandmaster Alexander Ivanov is once again the Massachusetts state champion after winning the 73rd Massachusetts Open with a score of 5-1. Ivanov was held to a draw by 16 year old Melvin Zhang in round two but won his next three games, including a crucial fifth round win against former Massachusetts champion James Rizzitano. In the last round Ivanov drew against FM Nelson Castaneda of Connecticut, relying on Rizzitano to hold the draw against New Hampshire co-champion Joe Fang to leave Ivanov in clear first place.

17 year old Michael Clark of Rhode Island won the Under 2000 section 5½-½, with Brian Salomon winning the state title in that section as the highest scoring Massachusetts resident. Seth Johnson swept the Under 1750 section 6-0, and John Zachary Perrotta of Rhode Island won the Under 1500 with 5-1; Peter Shtudiner won the Massachusetts title on tiebreak over several other players.

In the one day sections, there was a five way tie in the Under 2000 section between Richard Judy, Joshua Marcus, Neil Cousin, Arthur King and Peter Korzeb, all with 3-1 scores, and 13 year old Ben Smith swept the Under 1300 section with 4-0.

In the scholastic sections, Charliam He won the K-6 Under 1400 with 4-0, Ben Bernard won the K-6 Under 800, also with 4-0, both Sasha Parfenov and Winston Jiang scored 4-0 in the K-3 Under 1200, with Parfenov winning the 1st place trophy on tiebreak, and Nathan Dwyer won the K-3 Under 600 section with 3½-½. NM Lou Mercuri won the Massachusetts Speed Championship, which for the first time was USCF quick chess rated, with 8 points out of 10.

There were approximately 230 players combined in all sections (some players played in multiple section), with 123 in the main three day tournament which was held May 29th-31st. This was the first tournament held at the Best Western Royal Plaza hotel in Marlboro, and apart from an unfortunate problem with the air conditioning it was a good site for the

tournament. Steve Frymer organized the tournament and helped me direct it.

Prize Winners

Open Section: 1st Alexander Ivanov 5-1; 2nd-5th Nelson Castaneda, Joseph Fang, Avraam Pismenny 4½-1½; 2nd-5th/U2300 Charles Riordan 4½-1½; U2200 Patrick Sciacca, Joshua Bakker, Leonid Tkach 3½-2½

Under 2000 Section: 1st Michael Clark 5½-½; 2nd Brian Salomon 4½-1½; 3rd-5th Scott Didham, John Elmore, Steven Sarvis 4-2

Under 1750 Section: 1st Seth Johnson 6-0; 2nd-3rd James Beauregard, Mike Griffin 4½-1½

Under 1500 Section: 1st John Zachary Perrotta 5-1; 2nd-6th Peter Shtudiner, James Magner, Jensiang Hong, Felix Yang, David Law 4½-1½; 1st U1250 Matthew Elkherj 4-2; 2nd-3rd U1250 Justin Elkherj, Jacob Gillis 3½-2½

One Day Under 2000 Section: 1st-5th Richard Judy, Joshua Marcus, Neil Cousin, Arthur King 3-1; 1st-5th/U1600 Peter Korzeb 3-1; U1400 Syed Al-Mamun 2-2

One Day Under 1300 Section: 1st Benjamin Smith 4-0; 2nd-7th David Wagner, David Weng, Walt Duncan 3-1; 2nd-7th/U1200 David Yasinovsky 3-1; 2nd-7th/U1100 Feng Wu 3-1; 2nd-7th/U900 Christine Lung 3-1

K-6 Under 1400 Section: 1st Charliam He 4-0; 2nd Richard Han 3½-½; 3rd-5th Bary Lisak, Bradford Wyatt, Scott Thomas 3-1

K-6 Under 800 Section: 1st Ben Bernard 4-0; 2nd Valerie Law 3½-½; 3rd-6th Andrew Mendoza, Hanley Kui, Grace Nathans, Stephen DeAngelo 3-1

K-3 Under 1200 Section: 1st-2nd Sasha Parfenov, Winston Jiang 4-0; 3rd-6th Timothy Lung, Michelle Chen, Alvin Berroa, Fangru Jiang 3-1



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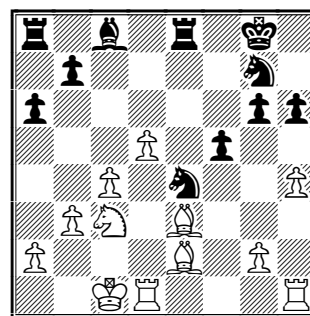
Charles Riordan, tied 2nd-5th, top U2300 at the 73rd MA Open

White: Riordan, C (2277)

Black: Bakker, A (2099)

[E10] 73rd Mass Open Marlboro, MA (6), 31.05.2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 c5 4.d5 d6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.h3 h6 7.e4 e5 8.Bd3 Nh7 9.b3 a6 10.Bb2 Ng5 11.Nd2 g6 12.Qc2 Nd7 13.Nf1 Nf6 14.Ne3 Nh5 15.0-0 Ng7 16.Ne2 0-0 17.f4 exf4 18.Qc3 Bf6 19.Qxf6 Qxf6 20.Bxf6 fxe3 21.h4 Nh7 22.Be7 Re8 23.Bxd6 Nf6 24.Nc3 Ng4 25.Bxc5 f5 26.Be2 Nf2 27.Bxe3 Nxe4



28.Nxe4 Rxe4 29.Kd2 f4 30.Bf2 Rxe2+ 31.Kxe2 Bg4+ 32.Kd3 Bxd1 33.Rxd1 g5 34.hxg5 hxg5 35.Re1 Nf5 36.Re5 Rf8 37.c5 Kg7 38.Ke4 Kg6 39.d6 Ng7

Massachusetts Speed Championship: 1st Louis Mercuri 8-2; 2nd-3rd Joshua Bakker, Christopher Toolin 7½-2½; U2000 Michael Clark, Jason Spector 7-3; U1800 Lawrence Gladding 6½-3½; U1600 Cristian Izurieta 6½-3½; U1400 Jason Altschuler, David Yasinovsky 5-5

Chess Horizons

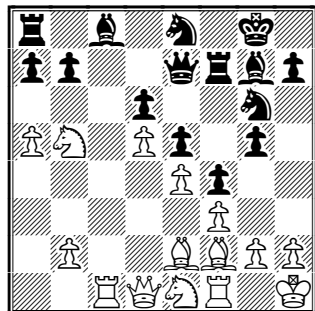
40.Re7 Rb8 41.Bd4 Nh5 42.d7 Rd8
43.Kd5 Ng3 44.Rg7+ 1-0

White: Fang,J (2319)

Black: Mac Intyre,P (2313)

[E99] 73rd Mass Open Marlboro, MA
(5), 31.05.2004

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0
5.d4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7
9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5
13.a4 Nf6 14.c5 Ng6 15.a5 Rf7 16.cxd6
cxd6 17.Kh1 Qe7 18.Rc1 Ne8 19.Nb5



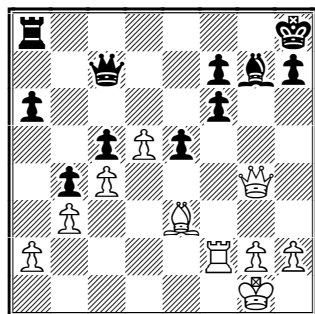
a6 20.Na7 Bd7 21.Qb3 g4 22.Qxb7 g3
23.Bg1 gxf2 24.Bf2 Rxa7 25.Qxa7 Bf6
26.Bxa6 Bh4 27.Bc8 Nf8 28.Bxd7 Nxd7
29.Rc8 Bxf2 30.Rxf2 Kg7 31.Rfc2 Nef6
32.Qc7 Rf8 33.Rxf8 Kxf8 34.Qc8+ Ne8
35.Nd3 1-0

White: Girnius,T (1969)

Black: Rueda,L (2222)

[E80] 73rd Mass Open Marlboro, MA
(2), 29.05.2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3
c6 6.Be3 Nbd7 7.Qd2 a6 8.Nh3 b5
9.Nf2 b4 10.Na4 Qa5 11.b3 Nb6
12.Nxb6 Qxb6 13.e5 Nd7 14.f4 c5
15.Be2 Bb7 16.0-0 0-0 17.Rad1 Rfd8
18.Qc2 Qa5 19.d5 dxe5 20.f5 Nf6
21.Ng4 Nxg4 22.Bxg4 Bc8 23.Qe2 gxf5
24.Bxf5 Bxf5 25.Rxf5 Rd6 26.Rdf1 Rf6
27.Rxf6 exf6 28.Qg4 Kh8 29.Rf2 Qc7



30.Qe4 Rg8 31.Rf5 Bf8 32.Rh5 Rg6
33.Qh4 h6 34.Bxh6 Bxh6 35.Rxh6+

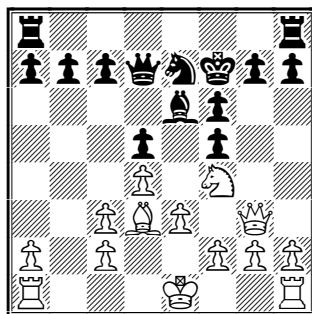
Kg7 36.Rh7+ Kf8 37.Qe4 Kg8
38.Qxg6+ 1-0

White: Rizzitano,J (2447)

Black: Girnius,T (1969)

[A80] 73rd Mass Open Marlboro, MA
(4), 30.05.2004

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 d5 4.Bxf6 exf6
5.e3 Be6 6.Qf3 Bb4 7.Bd3 Bxc3+
8.bxc3 Qd7 9.Ne2 Nc6 10.Nf4 Ne7
11.Qg3 Kf7



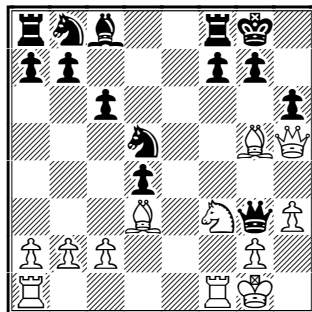
12.Nxe6 Kxe6 13.Qxg7 Rag8 14.Qh6
Rxc7 15.e4 Rhg8 16.exf5+ Nxf5
17.Qh3 R2g5 18.0-0-0 Kd6 19.Qf3 b5
20.h4 1-0

White: Sciacca,P (2125)

Black: Fang,J (2319)

[B12] 73rd Mass Open Marlboro, MA
(2), 29.05.2004

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 dxe4 4.fxe4 e5 5.Nf3
exd4 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Ng5 0-0
9.e5 Nd5 10.Qh5 Bxg5 11.Bxg5 Qd7
12.h3 Qe6 13.Bd3 h6 14.Nd2 Qxe5
15.Nf3 Qg3



16.Bxh6 gxf6 17.Qxh6 Qg7 18.Qh4 f5
19.Ng5 Rf6 20.Rae1 Nd7 21.Bxf5 Nf8
22.Re8 Bxf5 23.Rxa8 Bxc2 24.Rxf8+
Rxf8 25.Rxf8+ Qxf8 0-1

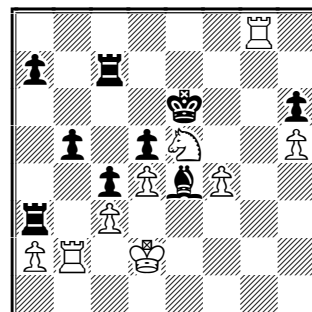
Chess is a game for strong people
with strong character.
Mikhail Botvinnik

White: Toolin,C (2021)

Black: Castaneda,N (2322)

[C54] 73rd Mass Open Marlboro, MA
(1), 29.05.2004

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Bc5
5.c3 Nf6 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Nxe4
8.Bxb4 Nxb4 9.Bxf7+ Kxf7 10.Qb3+
d5 11.Ne5+ Ke6 12.Qxb4 Qf8 13.Qxf8
Rxf8 14.Nc3 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Kd6 16.Ke2
Be6 17.h3 Rac8 18.Rac1 c5 19.Ke3 b5
20.f4 Bf5 21.g4 Be4 22.Rhd1 c4 23.Rd2
Rc7 24.Rb2 Rb8 25.h4 Rb6 26.h5 h6
27.Rg1 Ke6 28.g5 Ra6 29.gxf6 gxf6
30.Rg8 Ra3 31.Kd2



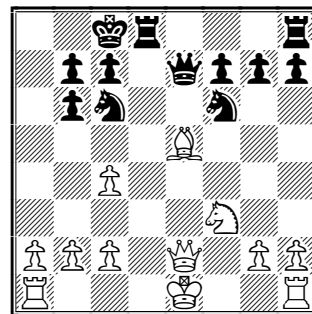
31...b4 32.Re8+ Kf6 33.Rxb4 Rxa2+
34.Ke3 Ra3 35.Rbb8 Rxc3+ 36.Kd2
Rc2+ 37.Kd1 Rg7 38.Rf8+ Ke6 39.f5+
Kd6 40.Nf7+ Rxf7 41.Rxf7 c3 42.Rf6+
Kc7 43.Rh8 Rd2+ 44.Ke1 Bxf5 45.Rxf5
Rxd4 46.Rxh6 1-0

White: Dame,E (2142)

Black: Zhang,M (1951)

[C26] 73rd Mass Open Marlboro, MA
(1), 29.05.2004

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nc3 d6
5.Na4 Bb6 6.Nxb6 axb6 7.f4 exf4
8.Bxf4 Be6 9.e5 dxe5 10.Bxe5 Bxc4
11.dxe4 Qe7 12.Nf3 Nc6 13.Qe2 0-0-0



14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.0-0 Rhe8 16.Qf2 Qxb2
17.c5 bxc5 18.Qxc5 Re2 19.Rab1 Qxc2
20.Qb5 Rxc2+ 21.Kh1 Rd6 22.Qxb7+
Kd7 23.Rbc1 Qb2 24.Qa8 Rg4 25.Nd2
Qxd2 26.Rxf7+ Ke6 27.Qe8+ Kd5 0-1

Understanding Your Chess

James Rizzitano

Tactical Skirmishes: Provocation

Attempting to provoke an opponent into a premature attack is akin to being the matador at a bullfight. If you don't go far enough, nothing happens. Go too far, and you could get gored. Let's take a look at a couple of games in which I narrowly evaded the horn. Although the games were successful from a competitive point of view, from a theoretical standpoint they convinced me that I needed to develop a sounder opening repertoire to compete effectively against strong competition.

Rivalry

My 15-year battle with John Curdo was the quintessential chess rivalry. The whole thing began innocently enough – at the time of our first game in 1975 John had been a National Master for almost 20 years and I was a 14-year-old beginner playing in my sixth adult tournament. The raw numbers do not do justice to the closeness and ferocity of the games.

Opening preparation was difficult because there were no secrets between us – we played on adjacent boards at major New England events for many years and knew each other's opening repertoire in depth. John was one of the early exponents of the Rossolimo and Moscow variations against the Sicilian Defence and was also adept at handling the double king's pawn openings. I eventually adopted several of his opening ideas to utilize the expertise I had watched over the years.

One of the traits that made John such a formidable competitor for so long was his contrarian opening philosophy. He played many less-fashionable openings which were not analysed correctly in the mainstream opening books. This strategy enabled him to rack up tremendous scores against many of his opponents who never figured out why they consistently obtained such poor positions out of the opening. Upon reviewing the past several

This article is an excerpt from *Understanding Your Chess*, by James Rizzitano, Gambit Publications, a review of which is in this issue.

years of opening theory it was not surprising to see that several of John's 'eccentric' opening ideas had eventually become popular.

The rivalry with John was all the more compelling despite the 30-year age difference because my emergence as a National Master in 1978 coincided with his becoming a full-time chess-player in 1979 – the competition forced both players to improve their level of play. The table below shows how competitive the battle was over an extended time-period. It is also worth noting that the 19 draws averaged just under 40 moves per game.

Game 8: Impatient Attack

White: John Curdo (2463)

Black: James Rizzitano (2388)

MA Open Ch, N. Dartmouth 1981

B40 Sicilian Defence, Paulsen

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Bd3 d6

5...Nc6 is safer but drawish; for example, 6 Nxc6 dxc6 7 Nd2 e5 8 0-0 Bg4 9 Qe1 Be6 10 Qe2 Qc7 11 Bc4 Bxc4 12 Nxc4 Nd7 13 a4 and a draw was agreed in Anand-Leko, Dortmund 2001.

6 0-0 Be7 7 b3 0-0 8 Bb2 Nbd7

Four years later I played 8...Nc6 9 Nxc6 bxc6 10 e5 dxe5 11 Bxe5 Nd7 12 Bb2 Nc5 13 Bc4 Bf6 with equal chances in Curdo-Rizzitano, Providence 1985.

9 c4 d5?!

This dubious attempt to liquidate the centre only succeeds in opening the position for White's well-placed pieces. 9...Nc5 is more prudent.

10 exd5 exd5 11 Nf5

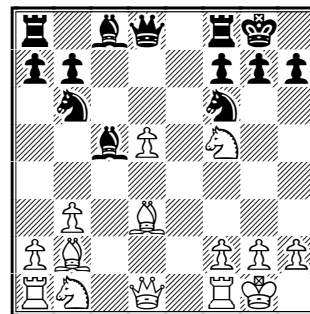
Also strong is 11 cxd5 Nc5 12 Nc3 Nxd3 13 Qxd3 Nxd5 14 Rad1 and White has a slight edge because of his superior

development.

11...Bc5?

11...dxc4 is safer, although 12 Nxe7+ Qxe7 13 Re1 Qd8 14 Bxc4 gives White some advantage because of the bishop-pair.

12 cxd5 Nb6



13 Nxc7?!

This fascinating sacrifice is difficult to resist but objectively the simple 13 Qc2! Bxf5 14 Bxf5 Bd6 15 Nc3 is stronger; then White has a clear advantage since it is not easy for Black to recover the pawn.

13...Kxg7 14 Qc1!

During the game I had only considered 14 Qh5? h6, when Black can defend successfully.

14...Qxd5 15 Qf4

Stronger than the impatient 15 Bxf6+? Kxf6 16 Qh6+ Ke7 17 Qh4+ f6 18 Qxh7+ Rf7 19 Nc3 Qe5, when Black has a clear advantage.

15...Be7

Black is unable to develop his queenside pieces after 15...Nbd7 16 Bf5 Be7 17 Re1 Rg8 18 Nc3, when White has a strong attack.

16 Qg3+ Kh8 17 Nc3 Qh5

Black can also consider the paradoxical retreat 17...Qd8!? (this type of move is often difficult to see) 18 Ne4 Rg8 19 Qh4, and now:

1) 19...Nbd5? 20 Ng5 (20 Nxf6? loses to 20...Rg7!!) 20...Rg7 21 Bxh7 Qd6 22 Rfe1 with a crushing attack.

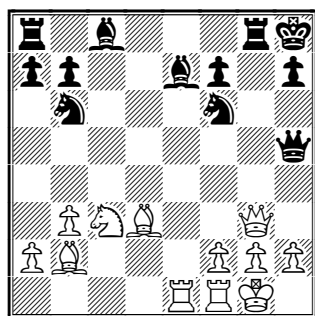
2) 19...Rg7! 20 Bxf6 Bxf6 21 Qxf6 (21 Nxf6? loses to 21...Nd7! - in many of these variations it is not easy to determine which player is doing the pinning!) 21...Bh3 22 Qxd8+

James Rizzitano vs John Curdo				
Years	Win	Loss	Draw	Net
1975-1976	+0	-3	=0	-3
1977	+2	-1	=0	+1
1978	+0	-4	=2	-4
1979	+1	-1	=1	=
1980	+2	-3	=2	-1
1981	+3	-1	=2	+2
1982	+2	-5	=2	-3
1983-1989	+13	-1	=10	+12
Totals (61)	+23	-19	=19	+4

Rxd8 23 Ng3 Bxg2 (23...Rxd3!?) 24 Kxg2 Rxd3 with an equal endgame.

During the game I rejected the queen retreat 17... Qd8 (this type of move is known as a *switchback*) on purely intuitive grounds. I reasoned that the lady had recently moved from the d8-square and should now shift over to the kingside for defence. I didn't give sufficient consideration to the fact that from d8 the queen defends the e7- and f6-squares. This is a good example of one of the advantages that computers have in analysing this type of position - they are not burdened by the past or handicapped by the nebulous concept of chess intuition.

18 Rae1 Rg8



Also possible is 18...Be6 19 Re5, and now:

1) 19...Qg4 20 Ne4! Qxg3 21 fxc3 and White has a strong attack.

2) 19...Qh6 20 Bc1 Qg7 21 Rg5 Qh6 22 Re5 Qg7 23 Rg5 forces a draw by repetition.

19 Rxe7

White can avoid the queen sacrifice by playing 19 Qf4. Then:

1) 19...Qh3 20 Be4 Be6 21 Nd5! and now:

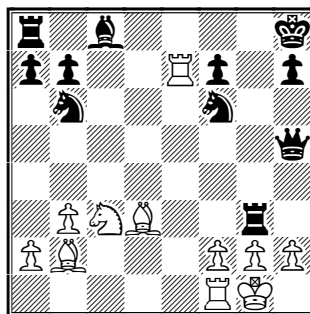
1a) 21...Nbx5 22 Bxd5 Rg6 23 Be4 Qh5 24 Bxg6 Qxg6 25 Qc7 Bd5 (25...Rg8!?) 26 Qg3 Be6 27 Qc7 with a draw by repetition.

1b) 21...Rxc2+ 22 Bxc2 Nbx5 23 Qg5 h6 (23...Qxc2+ 24 Kxc2 Rg8 25 Qg3 Rxc2+ 26 fxc2 Kg7 with roughly level chances despite the unusual material balance) 24 Bxh3 hxc3 25 Bxe6 fxe6 26 Rxe6 Kg7 27 Re5 Kg6 28 Rd1 Rc8 29 Rxd5 Nxd5 30 Rxd5 Rc2 31 Be5 Rxa2 32 Kg2 with an equal endgame.

2) 19...Bh3 20 g3 Bxf1 21 Bxf1 Ng4 22 h3 Bf6 23 hxc4 Qg6 24 Re7 (24 g5 Nd5 25 Nxd5 Bxb2 is fine for Black) 24...Qg7 (or 24...Bxe7 25 Nd5+ Rg7 26 Nxe7 Qe6 27 Nf5 f6 28 Nxc7 Kxc7 29 g5 and the nasty bishop-pair gives White a strong

attack) 25 Qxf6 Qxf6 26 Nd1 Qxb2 27 Nxb2 Rab8 and White doesn't quite have enough compensation for the exchange.

19...Rxc3



20 Ne4??

I was surprised when John played this blunder after only a few minutes' thought - he had completely overlooked Black's next move. White should also avoid 20 fxc3? Qc5+, but the patient recapture 20 hxc3! is correct. Black has two options:

1) 20...Bf5 21 Ne4 Qg6 (after 21...Bxe4 22 Bxf6+ Kg8 23 Bxe4 Qh6 24 Bc3 the raking bishops give White a strong attack) 22 Nxf6 Bxd3 23 Rfe1 and now:

1a) 23...h5 24 Re8+ Kg7 25 Rxa8 Nxa8 26 Re8 Nc7 27 Rg8+ Kh6

28 Bc1+ Qg5 29 Bxc5#.

1b) 23...Kg7 24 Nd7+ Kh6 25 Ne5 and White wins.

1c) 23...Bb5 24 Nd7+ f6 25 Nxf6 Rf8 26 Ne8+ (26 Rd1 is a strong alternative) 26...Kg8 27 Rg7+ Qxg7 28 Nxc7 with a two-pawn advantage.

2) 20...Ng4! (this leads to a draw with best play) 21 Nd5+ f6 22 Bxf6+ Kg8 (during the game I incorrectly thought that Black was winning after this move) 23 Bxh7+! (a nasty surprise) 23...Qxh7 (not 23...Kf8?? 24 Bg7#) and now:

2a) 24 Rxh7 Kxh7 25 Nxb6 (25 Nc7 Nxf6 26 Nxa8 Nxa8 and Black has a clear advantage) 25...axb6 26 Bd4 Rxa2 and the black knight is superior to the white pawns.

2b) 24 Re8+! Kf7 25 Re7+ Kg8! (not 25...Kg6?? losing to 26 Nf4+ Kxf6 27 Rxh7) 26 Re8+ forcing a draw by perpetual check.

20...Rxc2+!

Now it is Black's turn to sacrifice! White has no adequate way to defend against the mating threat on g2.

21 Kxg2 Bh3+ 22 Kg1 Qf3 23 Bxf6+ Kg8 0-1

Game Lessons

1) Black made too many pawn moves in the opening - the central liquidation beginning with 9...d5?! only succeeded in opening the position for the better-developed white pieces.

2) Black intuitively rejected the queen retreat 17...Qd8!? for subjective reasons, but it does not appear to be inferior to the game continuation 17...Qh5.

3) Do not underestimate the opponent's attacking chances, particularly when you are not fully developed. White had hidden resources which worked because two of Black's queenside pieces were glued to their original squares - several later games also contain examples of this common attacking theme.

4) Even in the middle of the attack, the most important consideration is parrying the opponent's direct threats. White could have held the balance with the patient recapture 20 hxc3! instead of the flawed 20 Ne4??.

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