

Chess Horizons



The Magazine of the Massachusetts Chess Association

IVANOV WINS THE 80TH MASS OPEN

April-June 2011
\$3.95



71st New England Open

September 3-5 or 4-5, 2011 • Leominster, Massachusetts

\$3000 in Projected Prizes, \$2250 Guaranteed



Where: Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster. 978-534-9000.
Hotel rate \$85 per night for 1-4 people, \$110 for Executive King room, **reserve by 8/19.**

What: 6-round Swiss. 4 sections: Open, U2000, U1750, U1500, with 3-day & 2-day schedules.

Time Control: 40/2, SD/1. Rounds 1-3 in the 2-day schedule are G/45.

Registration: 3-day: Sat. 9/3 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. 2-day: Sun. 9/4 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Rounds: 3-day: Sat. 10:30 and 5:30. Sun. 10:00 and 5:00. Mon. 9:30 and 4:30.
2-day: Sun. 10:00, 12:30 and 2:45, then merge with 3-day schedule.

Entry Fee: \$49 for 3-day, \$48 for 2-day if postmarked by 8/29 or online (PayPal) at www.masschess.org by 9/1, \$60 at site. GMs and IMs free. \$20 discount to unrated and players rated under 1000 in the U1500 section.

Unrated & Byes: Unrated prize limits: \$200 in U2000, \$150 in U1750, \$100 in U1500, can't win title except in the Open section. Byes 1-5 in Open, else 1-6, limit 2, rds 4-6 must commit before rd 2.

Prizes: Prizes are 75% guaranteed based on 100 fully paid entries (unrated and players rated under 1000 in the U1500 section count half). New England Champion title to the top-scoring New England resident or student in each section.

Open:	\$500-250-150	U2200 \$200-100	10 Grand Prix Points, FIDE rated
U2000:	\$300-150-100		
U1750:	\$300-150-100		
U1500:	\$250-125-100	U1350 \$125	U1200 \$100

• USCF membership required for all players, plus state membership for Mass. & N.H. residents.
Mass.: MACA \$12 adult, \$6 under 18; add \$8 (optional) for a subscription to *Chess Horizons*,
WMCA O.K. N.H.: NHCA \$8 adult, \$6 under 19; add \$2 (optional) for a printed *N.H. Chess Journal* subscription.

Questions: Bob Messenger. Phone (603) 891-2484 or send email to info@masschess.org

71st New England Open, September 3-5 or 4-5, 2011

Name: _____ USCF # _____ Exp: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____ Rating: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Need USCF membership? Yes / No Enclosed for USCF is \$ _____

Need state membership? Yes / No Enclosed for state memb. \$ _____

3-Day or 2-Day Schedule? 3-Day / 2-Day Entry Fee \$ _____ for the _____ section
(please specify section)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail checks, payable to MACA, to: Bob Messenger, 4 Hamlett Dr. Apt. 12, Nashua, NH 03062-4641

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Cover photo by Aime LeBonte Jr..

The next deadline for submissions is August 1, 2011.

All submissions are accepted and appreciated. Submissions are preferred via e-mail and in ChessBase, PGN or MS Word formats.

Chess Horizons

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MACA Update

by George Mirijanian

FIDE master John Curdo of Auburn, who has won more Mass. Opens than any other player in the state's history, has judged the winning games for the 80th Massachusetts Open "Most Interesting Game" prizes — generously donated by MACA life member Walter Champion of Wellesley. The winners will be mailed checks for significant cash prizes as well as 3-DVD sets of GM Patrick Wolf's "Improve Your Chess." Winners are as follows:

Open section: Carey Theil of Arlington for his game against David Plotkin of Newton

Under 2100 section: Nicholas Plotkin of Sharon for his game against Richard Rose of Buzzards Bay

Under 1800 section: Larry Eldridge of West Newton for his game against Alex Szejman of Cambridge

Under 1500 section: Brandon Wu of Littleton for his game against Arthur Tang of Durham, New Hampshire

MACA congratulates all the winners, thanks all those who submitted games for judging, and especially thanks FM Curdo for his service in judging nearly 100 games! The winning games, as well as scores of other games submitted, will be published in the July-September issue of *Chess Horizons*.

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A Heritage Event!

GPP: 10 (enhanced)

Oct. 23, 2011 Massachusetts

78th Greater Boston Open

4SS, G/60. Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlboro MA (I-495, exit 24B, Rt 20W, one mile from exit). 508-460-0700 or 888-543-9500. \$\$ 1,600 b/60 paid entries (U1000/unrated count half), 75% G. 4 sects. Open: \$350-150, U2150 \$125. U1900: \$200-125. U1700: \$200-125. U1500: \$150-100, U1200 \$75. Unrated prize limits: \$75 in U1500, \$100 in U1700. \$125 in U1900. EF: \$39 if postmarked by 10/17 or online by 10/20, \$45 at site. GMs and IMs free. \$20 discount to players rated under 1000 or unrated. Reg: 8:30-9:30 a.m. Rds: 10-1-3:30-6. Bye: 1-4 with entry, limit 1. Ent: payable to MACA and mail to Robert Messenger, 4 Hamlett Dr. Apt. 12, Nashua NH 03062 or enter online at www.MassChess.org. Info: send email to info@masschess.org or phone 603-891-2484. NS, NC, W.

GM Alexander Ivanov wins 80th Massachusetts Open

by George Mirijanian

Grandmaster Alexander Ivanov performed the "classic hat trick" this past Memorial Day weekend, winning for the third consecutive year the Massachusetts Open. The 55-year-old GM from Newton tallied 5-1 (four wins, two draws) in an Open section field of 34 players to claim first place in the 80th Mass. Open, held May 28-30 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough. It was Ivanov's 11th state championship victory since 1988. Tying for 2nd-3rd place with scores of 4.5-1.5 were 2007 Mass. Open winner IM David Vigorito of Somerville (who lost to Ivanov in round 4), six-time Mass Open winner IM Igor Foygel of Brookline (who drew Ivanov in round 5 and Vigorito in round 6), as well as Matthew Derek Meredith of West Hartford, Connecticut, who - as an expert - was also the top-scoring Under 2300 player and gained a master rating of 2205 for the first time in his tournament career. Posting 4-2 scores and sharing the 2nd Under 2300 prize were national master Stuart Finney of Barrington, Rhode Island and experts Libardo Rueda of Winthrop, Mika Brattain of Lexington and Grant Xu of Shrewsbury. Also scoring 4-2 but finishing out of the prize money was 2008 Mass. Open winner, USCF life senior master Denys Shmelov of Pepperell, who drew Ivanov in round 3, lost to Vigorito in round 5, and drew Meredith in round 6, as well as FIDE master Charles Riordan of Somerville, who lost to Vigorito in round 2 and to Ivanov in the final round. A total of 123 players competed in the MACA-sponsored four-section tournament, which was directed by USCF senior TD Bob Messenger of Nashua, New Hampshire. He was assisted by national TDs Ken Ballou of Framingham and George Mirijanian of Fitchburg. Additional assistance was provided by Brian Mottershead of Carlisle. Roughly one out of four players - 32 in all - won prize money. Because of the increased attendance, the prize fund was totally guaranteed and raised to more than \$5000 - a record for a Mass. Open tournament. Many thanks are given to MACA life member Walter Champion of Wellesley, who made generous donations to the tournament to assure that all the top place prizes in the Open section were guaranteed and that participants were eligible for an additional \$750 in special game prizes for the "Most Interesting Games" in each section as well as a 3-DVD set of GM Patrick Wolff's *Improve Your Chess*.



Photo: Tony Cortizas Jr.

80th Massachusetts Open prize winners

UNDER 2100 SECTION (23 players)

- 1st-2nd: Jason Rihel of Cambridge and Scott Didham of Sharon, 4.5-1.5
- 3rd: Alonzo Ross of Shrewsbury, 4-2
- 1st-2nd U1950: George Winsor of South Easton and Valentin Levin of Lynn, 4-2

UNDER 1800 SECTION (38 players)

- 1st-2nd: Mateos Sahakian of Medford and Cornel of Osadsa of North Grafton, 5-1
- 1st U1650: Jesse Klimov of Waban, 4.5-1.5
- 3rd/2nd U1650: Brian Smith of Connecticut, Thomas Sifter of Quincy, Kevin Hu of Sharon, Cory Silva of Fall River, Jason Tang of Belmont, 4-2

UNDER 1500 SECTION (28 players)

- 1st: Robert E. King of Plymouth, 5.5-0.5
- 2nd/1st U1350: Jenny Qiu of Acton, Eric Hu of Sharon, 4.5-1.5
- 3rd: Anton Barash of Brighton, Sean Blaisdell of Revere, Eric Soli of Westford, 4-2
- 3rd/2nd U1350: Brian Santiago of Springfield, Brandon Wu of Littleton, 4-2
- 1st U1200: Adam Weiss of Natick, 4-2
- 2nd U1200: Justin Lin of Lexington, Samuel Qiu of Acton, 3.5-2.5

Destructive Discoveries

by Nicholas P. Sterling, Ph.D.

If you are an average wood-pusher or fish like me (under the Expert level), you have experienced from time to time the painful indignity of trying – and failing – to play decently against a master.

The experience goes like this: you play some line, one you think you know fairly well, against the master, and you get through, say, twenty moves in not too bad shape. Then you get just a little uncertain trying to choose between two or three moves, and finally you pick one. Bam! Suddenly the master unleashes some unseen resource from some mystical, unseen part of the board, and the game, which until then was just fine, blows up in your face.

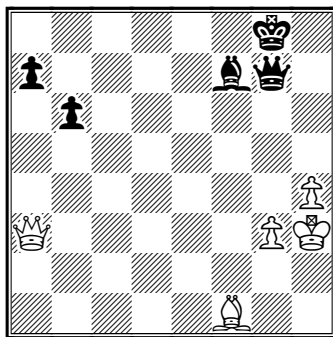
Why does this happen over and over again? Actually, this is the wrong question to ask. It's not why it happens with a master that's important, but why it *doesn't* happen (as often) with lower-ranked players. We'd find, through analysis of our games against players of all strengths, that often we make similar mistakes repeatedly. Why, then, do we get such distinctively appalling results against masters? For a simple reason: masters know how to punish those mistakes, while other players don't (or not as often, or not as effectively).

The discovered attack is an excellent tactic to illustrate this principle. A master has a superb chance, to be sure, of spotting a discovery tactic and having the confidence to execute it. Fair enough. But, as the saying goes, "it takes two to make a bully." Why is the master in position to execute that discovery? Because his opponent has let him!

Now, if we allow a favorable

discovered attack to a *lower-ranked* player, we might (emphasis on *might*) dodge a bullet, because he might miss it, or might not sufficiently recognize the advantage of playing it, or might be afraid that there's a refutation he doesn't see. But with a master? No chance. Provide him such a golden opportunity, and almost assuredly he'll seize it at once, and the loss will be all our fault.

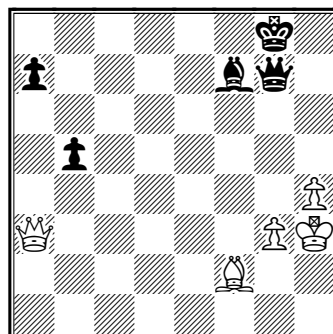
Why should a discovered attack be blamed on the loser? Look at the following position:



White is to play. Should he play 1. Qxa7? Of course not, you say. Black plays 1. ... Be6+ and wins the Queen.

Now whose fault is it for bestowing such a gift on Black? White of course – he moved his Queen from a3, where she was perfectly safe, to a7, a death trap.

But now look at this:



Can White play 1. Qxa7 now? Absolutely! Black's discovery is meaningless because this time the Queen is safe on a7. The Bishop, if on a7, would also be safe.

What is the difference? In the second position, White's Queen on a7 is *defended*. A discovered attack is pointless against defended pieces; it works successfully only on *undefended* pieces such as the Queen on a7 in the first position.

Now you can see why a player who exposes himself to a discovered attack really has only himself to blame. He digs himself into his own grave with his own careless move – in this case, his own *unnecessary* placement of a piece on a vulnerable square. And a discovered attack like this is not really that tough to avoid: a player just has to not leave pieces around undefended, especially on concealed attack lines.

Easy enough? Sure, when explained in such facile terms. But what do you suppose happens over the board, between even relatively experienced players? Let's see two games in which the losing player blatantly violates this seemingly simple principle and is immediately brought to heel.

White: SM Denys Shmelov 2507
Black: Edward Astrachan 2028
Waltham Sukkot G/60
Waltham Chess Club, 9/24/2010
B23 Closed Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.d3 g6
 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 e6 6.f4 d6 7.Nf3
 Nge7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Nd4 10.Rb1

All book in the Closed
 Sicilian thus far.

10. ... Qa5

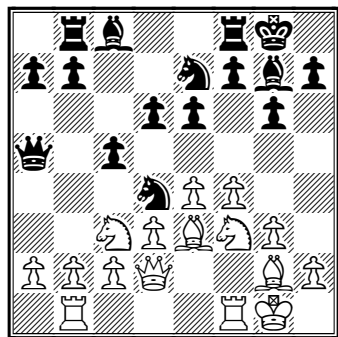
This move takes the game out of book. 10. ... Rb8, preparing ...b5-b4, is more usual. The text move has the disadvantage of inviting White's Queen to come to d2, setting up a potential discovered attack.

11.Qd2

11. a3 is more usual, but White chooses instead to set up the aforementioned discovered attack. If Black plays the most common response 11. ... Nec6, defending his Queen, he should be OK.

11. ... Rb8

A move too late – Black fails to appreciate the danger in leaving his Queen undefended on a5. White pounces:



12.Nd5

There you have it: Black is obliged to play 12. ... Qd8 13. Nxe7+ Qxe7, thereby wasting his Queen foray. Despite some later vicissitudes in the game, White kept the initiative and went on to win.

The Queen left undefended on a5 is a perfect example of a potential victim to a discovered attack – not just because White's Queen was on d2, but particularly because White had the *chance to move his Queen to d2*. Although the discovery was minor in this instance and did not end the game, its occurrence alone conceded White a small but lasting edge – all that the master needed.

Now let's see a case where the discovered attack has immediate effect:

White: Michael Gosselin 1820
Black: SM Denys Shmelov 2507
Waltham Sukkot G/60
Waltham Chess Club, 9/24/2010
C11 French Defense, Steinitz
Variation, Bradford Attack

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6
 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nf3 c5 6.Be3

Taking the variation out of book. 6. dxc5 is the most usual.

6. ... Nc6 7.Be2 cxd4 8.Bxd4
 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Bc5 10.Qg4 0-0 11.0-0 Qe7

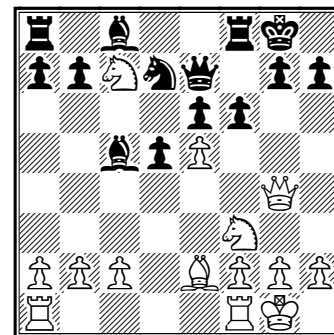
Here Black could improve with 11. ... Qc7, to put indirect pressure on White's c-Pawn.

12.Nb5

Risky. 12. Na4, striking at Black's Bishop, seems a safer bet.

12. ...f6 13.Nc7?!

White pushes too far. It's tempting to fork Black's Rook and e-Pawn, but White does not observe that he leaves his Knight undefended on an attack line with Black's Queen. As with the previous game, this is just the concession not to make against a master. Black strikes back with:



13. ... Nxe5

Winning a Pawn outright! That was Black's first step to victory.

One must always take care, then, about leaving pieces loose. If they lie on lines of attack that can be easily cleared, a discovered attack is in the offing. Trust a master to take advantage of it at his earliest opportunity.

These examples should suffice to show that the mistakes we make against masters are often quite elementary. Although we might make comparable mistakes against average players and get away with them, masters, on the other hand, almost always will get us. With few exceptions, masters will see the mistakes and know just what to do to make us feel, once again, like the mere wood-pushers we are.

Faces of MACA

Last month *Chess Horizons* photography editor Warner Smith created a montage of MACA members for our cover. Here's a list of the members:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1) John Curdo | 12) ** Andy Li |
| 2) Siddharth Arun | 13) Audrey Gaines |
| 3) Harold Dondis | 14) Timothy Lavoie |
| 4) **Sandeep Vadlamudi | 15) Jacob Brockman |
| 5) Jesse Nicholas | 16) Samuel Qui |
| 6) William Kelleher | 17) Rohan Krishnan |
| 7) Justin Lee | 18) Eric Feng |
| 8) Piyusha Kundu | 19) Tian Rossi |
| 9) Christopher Chase | 20) Nicholas Zhang |
| 10) Eddie Wang | 21) **Andy Li |
| 11) **Sandeep Vadlamundi | 22) Lawyer Times |

** Shown twice

Heroic king, Super Bishop

by Ross Eldridge, Gregory Koch, Jason Rihel, and Carey Theil

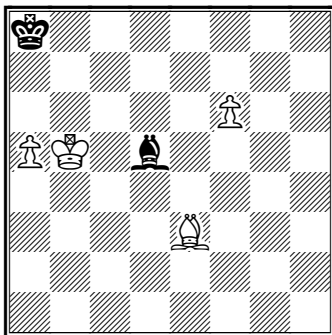
In his book *Complete Endgame Course*, Jeremy Silman recommends using the “flowchart mentality” to break a complex endgame down into a previously learned simpler position. Using this method, we can demonstrate a draw in a very complex position that occurred in the 2010 U.S. Chess League Championship between the New England Nor’Easters and the Miami Sharks.

The Basic Idea

In *Basic Chess Endings*, Reuben Fine examines bishops of opposite color endings where one side has two disconnected pawns against none:

“Here is the general rule which is applicable to all cases: If the Pawns are two or more files apart, they win; if they are only one file apart they draw. The reason is simple: if the Pawns are far apart, the Bishop must blockade one, while the King stops the other, so that the White King can support the Pawn held by the Bishop and win that piece...a rook Pawn and Bishop of the wrong color, of course are an exception to this rule, since the Bishop can be sacrificed for the other Pawn, when rook Pawn + Bishop draw.”

For the following position:

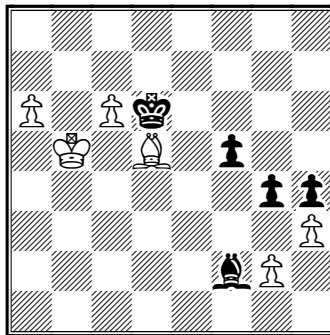


Fine writes, “Draw, since the Black Bishop stops the f-pawn and the Black King takes care of the a-pawn.” This will serve as our simple, previously learned position to which we will strive.

The More Complex Case

The following critical position appeared on Board 1 of the 2010 U.S. Chess League Championship, IM Shankland vs. GM Becerra. Please refer to the USCL website (<http://www.uschessleague.com/games/shanklandbecerra10finals.htm>) for the full game score.

Shankland-Becerra, US Chess League: NE vs. MIA

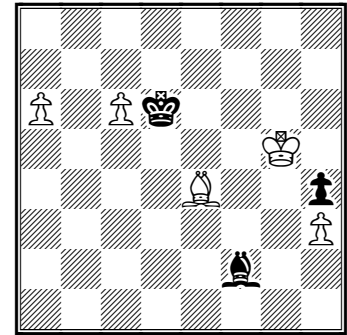


Black to move

The path towards equality starts with Black simplifying White’s king-side to the “wrong rook” h-pawn.

43...gxh3 44.gxh3

To see why this will work, consider the following “fantasy” position in the context of Fine’s theoretical draw. If we can achieve this position, the game will be a draw.



White to move

From Diagram 3, White has one major idea to try for a win. White will sacrifice his a-pawn in order to win the Black h-pawn: 1.a7 Bxa7 2.Kxh4 Bb8 3.Kg5 Ke7 4.h4 Kf8 and Black’s King reaches the corner with Reuben Fine’s draw. If 4.Kg6 (with the idea of 4...Kf8? 5. Bd5), Black can freeze the h pawn with 4...Bg3. Since 5. Kg7 Bh4 6. Bf5 Kd6 7. Be4 Ke7 doesn’t lead anywhere, White’s last attempt to make progress is with 5.Bf5 (with the idea 6. h4 Bxh4 7. c7), but this is easily met by 5...Kf8 when White cannot make progress: either the Black King reaches the h8 corner or 6. Kh7 Ke7 is not productive for White. For example, trying to force matters with 7.h4? loses a pawn to 7...Kd6.

Additionally, from Diagram 3, White can try to reposition his pieces to “optimal” squares, but this also will fall short. For example, 1. Bf3 Ke7 2. Bg4 Kd6 3. Bd7 Ke7 4. a7 Bxa7 5. Kxh4 Bb6 6. Kg5 Kf7 7. h4 Kg7 also leads to the drawing position described by Fine. One tricky try for White is to deploy the White Bishop to b5: 1. Bf3 Ke7 2. Be2 Kd6 3. Bb5 when Black must play 3...Kc7 (White was threatening c7 should Black move his King back to e7). Now 4. a7

Bxa7 5. Kxh4 Kd6 6. Kg4 Bb6 (this is the only move-- if 6...Bb8?? 7.Kf5 and Black gets boxed out.) 7. h4 (or 7.Kf5 Bd8 covering the c7 and h4 squares in the nick of time) Ke7 8. Kg5 Kf7 9. Kh6 Kg8 and Black has made it to Fine's draw.

From this analysis, we conclude that if Black can get to the fantasy position, the game is a draw. In fact, if Black can achieve ANY of these positions, the game is a draw.

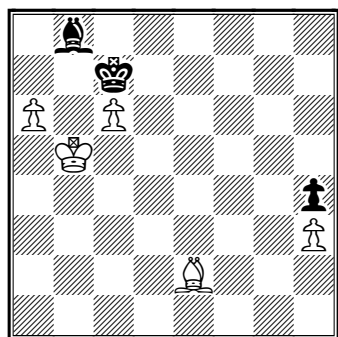
Getting to the 'Fantasy' Drawing Position

As long as Black maintains a blockade of the dark a7, c7, and h4 squares, the "wrong rook pawn" assures a draw. Black will aim for our theoretically drawn positions.

44...Kc7 45.Be6

As we can see from our fantasy position above, the Black f5 pawn does not play a role in this position, and, if moved to the f4 square, can even actively hinder Black's dark squared Bishop. Therefore, Black can happily sacrifice this pawn in order to set up a blockade of the dark squares. White's alternative was 45.Kc4 Ba7 (45...Kb6?? 46.a7) 46.Kb5 (46.Kd3 Kb6) 46...Kb8 with no progress.

45...Ba7 46.Bxf5 Bb8 47.Bd3 Ba7 48.Be2 Bb8



White to move

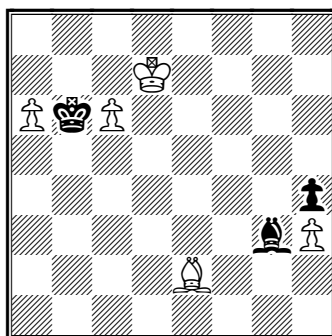
Black has now established a blockade on the critical squares. Black will continue hopping the Bishop back and forth if White continues to maneuver his Bishop around.

49.Kc5 Ba7+ 50.Kd5 Bf2 (for 50...Kb6!?, see below) 51.Bb5 Ba7 52.Ke5 Bb6 53.Kf5 Bf2 54.Kg5 Kd6 and Black has achieved a line from our fantasy drawing positions. It is clear from this straightforward play that White can't stop the creation of the 'fantasy' drawing position, and therefore the complex position must be a draw as well.

An Intriguing Detour to a Draw

For a complete assessment, let us now examine an interesting line that demonstrates the solidity of Black's position. It turns out Black can go astray and still draw this position.

From our main line, what if Black tries to force the issue with 50...Kb6!? Black's play seems contradictory to the idea of keeping his King ready to head for the h8 corner, but he is relying on another 'building block draw' involving a Black square blockade. 51.Kd6 Black need not be concerned with 51.Bg4 followed by Bc8 and Bb7 as the Bishop will be too vulnerable to the Black King from there to assist with the advance of his pawns. **51...Bb8+ 52.Kd7 Bg3**



White to move

We have now reached a critical point, where Black looks to be in serious trouble. However, despite advanced pawns, White lacks control over not only the dark a7 and c7 squares, but also the light b7 square! This is exemplified in the following variations:

1) 53.Bb5 Bb8 54.Ke6 Bg3 55.Kf5 Bb8 56.Kg4 Bg3 =

2) 53.Ke6?? Kxc6 54.a7 Kb7 and the draw is assured.

White's last attempt to win, then, involves trading the two passed pawns for the Black Bishop and then grabbing the h-pawn. However, this brings us to the final factor of this incredible position: the black h-pawn is so far advanced that White does not have enough time to both capture this pawn and keep the Black King out of h8.

53.a7 Kxa7 54.c7 Bxc7 55.Kxc7 Ka8.

White can try to box out Black's King from coming to h8, but will fall short by one tempo. For example, **56.Ba6 Ka7 57.Bc8 Ka8 58.Bg4 Ka7 59.Bf3 Ka6 60.Kc6 Ka7** (Not 60...Ka5?? leading to mate in 45 moves! 61.Be2 Kb4 etc.) **61.Kd6 Kb8 62.Bc6 Kc8 63.Ke7 Kc7 64.Bd7 Kb6 65.Kd6 Ka7 66.Bg4 Kb6 67.Bf3 Ka7 68.Ke5 Kb8 69.Kf4 Kc7 70.Kg4 Kd6 71.Kxh4 Ke7 72.Kg5 Kf8 73.Kh6 Kg8 =**

Amazing! Black has just enough time to reach the h8 square from the a-file. Even when Black gives White a lot of play, trading down to the wrong rook pawn already saved the day.

"Amberley excelled at chess - a mark, Watson, of a scheming mind."

— Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Vigorito on Chess

by IM Dave Vigorito

I'm back...

Hello all. It has been well over a year since my last column. Managing and playing for the U.S. Chess League expansion team and 2010 champion, the New England Nor'easters took some time, while the arrival of Zoe (10/22/10) has also taken up a bit of my time! I have no complaints on either front, but alas, it seems that it is time to start up the column again...

A friendly game

Very often we have to face our friends in tournament play. This may be at a local club, or it could be in a big money game in the last round of a major tournament. Sometimes playing against these too familiar opponents can be awkward. Maybe a draw is ok sometimes, but inevitably there comes a time when one must fight. And then sometimes a draw is ok, but a fight ensues anyway...

White: J.Fang

Black: D.Vigorito,

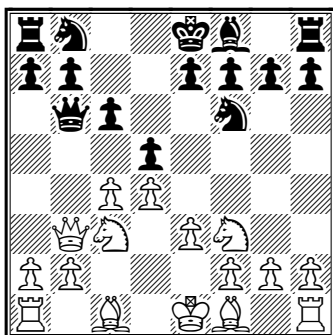
[D11] Queen's Gambit Declined
NH op (2), 10.07.2010

Vigorito,D

IM Joe Fang is not only one of my best chess friends – he is one of my best friends, period. I had three groomsmen in my wedding, and Joe was one of them. But sometimes I have to try to kick his butt. Joe and I have probably played tens of thousands of blitz games, and this was our 22nd tournament game. In our first 9 games, 8 were decisive, with four wins apiece. The last of these games was in 1991. 11 consecutive draws followed, and most of these

were admittedly short. In 2008 we had our first decisive game in 17 years. This game looked like it would be the next.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bg4 5.Qb3 Qb6 6.Nc3



Joe plays the line recommended by Boris Avrukh in his excellent book *Grandmaster Repertoire 2*.

6...Bxf3

This is a bit unusual. Usually Black plays 6...e6, when the funny looking 7.Nh4 is Avrukh's recommendation to hunt down the black bishop with h3 and g4.

7.gxf3 Nbd7

Black more frequently has tried 7...e6, but then 8.e4 takes the initiative in the center.

8.cxd5!

The point of Black's play is seen after 8.e4 e5! when White has trouble maintaining control. I was also aware that IM John Watson had mentioned 8.Qxb6 Nxb6 9.cxd5 Nfxd5 10.Nxd5 cxd5 11.Bb5+ Kd8 12.Bd2 Rc8 13.Ke2 e6 14.Rhc1 Nc4 when Black is fine. Joe's move is stronger.

8...Qxb3 9.axb3 Nxd5 10.Nxd5 cxd5 11.Bd2 e6 12.Bd3

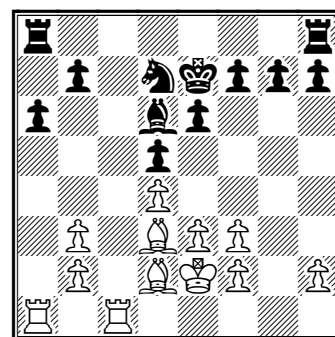
White has a very small edge with the bishop pair and the open a-file, but it is not much. Perhaps 12.b4 Bd6 13.b5 would be better, to pin down the



Photo: Tony Cortizas Jr.

black a-pawn a bit.

12...Bd6 13.Ke2 Ke7 14.Rhc1 a6



After the game, we realized we both would have pretty much been ok with a draw. I did not offer one because Joe had White in the first round and would likely be left with two Blacks, so I did not think he would accept. Joe figured I had about 150 rating points on him now, so I would not accept. In fact, especially considering the rather dry position, we were both ok with calling it a day. But no one offered (perhaps for the best!?). Here White can just kind of sit around, but Joe decided to go for it.

15.e4 dxe4

I saw the idea, but was not afraid. Instead 15...f6 was more solid, if a bit passive.

16.fxe4 e5 17.f4 f6

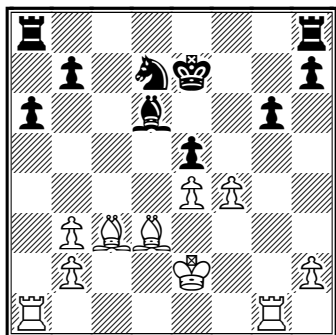
After 17...exd4 18.e5 Bc5 19.Be4 White's bishop pair and advanced pawns give him excellent compensation.

18.Rg1 g6 19.dxe5

There are multiple ways to play for something. 19.fxe5 fxe5 20.Bg5+ Ke8 21.d5 was also possible.

19...fxe5 20.Bc3?

This looks for too much. Instead 20.f5 would allow White to maintain some pressure.



20...exf4!

I did not hesitate to play this. Immediately the tables are turned and White's position becomes critical.

21.Bxh8 Rxh8

Suddenly all of Black's pieces are better, and the kingside pawns are ready to roll. Black has more than enough for the exchange.

22.h3

Joe wanted to get the pawn off of a square where it was attacked, but this move should allow Black to create another passed pawn more easily. It is hard to offer advice however, as 22.Bc4 Ne5 23.Bd5 f3+ is very uncomfortable for the white king. Going to f2 drops the exchange back to ...Bc5+, while Kd2 is met with ...Bb4+. If the White king goes to the back rank, the rooks will be next to useless.

22...Ne5 23.Rgd1

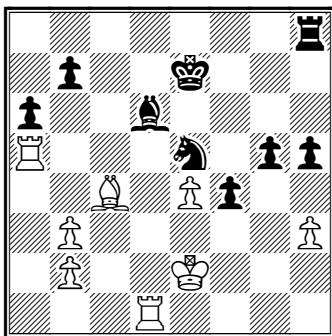
Again 23.Bc4 f3+ is trouble.

23...g5 24.Bc4 h5

I wanted to get the pawns moving, but 24...Rc8!? was good too.

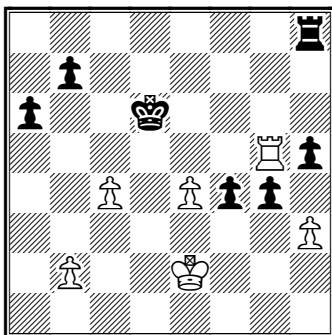
25.Ra5

Joe cannot defend by normal means, so he must activate his pieces and hope for a tactical opportunity.



25...Rh6?

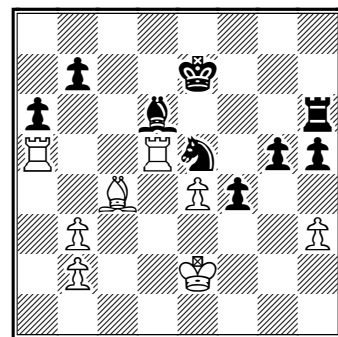
I spent a long time on this move. Joe was very critical of it after the game, but I thought it made sense. I hesitated to play 25...g4 because of 26.Rxd6 (not 26.Rdd5 f3+! 27.Ke3 [27.Kf2 g3+] 27...Nc6μ) 26...Nxc4 27.bxc4 Kxd6 28.Rg5



Here I thought it would be difficult to win because it is difficult to maintain the advanced pawns without them becoming blockaded. In fact I can play 28...gxh3! when White needs time to round up the pawn, and Black can strike on the other side, for example: 29.Kf3 Ke6 30.Rf5 h2 31.Kg2 Rd8 32.Kxh2 Rd2+ 33.Kh3 Rxb2+—

Another good idea would have been 25...Bb8!? 26.Rdd5 Kf6μ keeping all of Black's positional advantages intact.

26.Rdd5



26...b5??

A total meltdown. As soon as I moved I saw the gaping hole in my calculations. It was better play 26...Nc6. Here we both thought during and after the game White would be reduced to 27.Rxg5 Nxa5 28.Rxa5 b5 29.Bd5 Bc7 30.Ra1 Rg6 when Black still has good chances to play for a win. In fact White could hold rather easily with 27.Rxd6! Rxd6 28.Rxg5=.

27.Rxa6 f3+

If 27...bxc4 28.Rxe5+ exploits the loose rook on h6, so suddenly Black is lost. Oops.

28.Kf2 Nxc4 29.Ra7+

There are many ways. 29.bxc4 Bc5+ 30.Rxc5 Rxa6 31.Rxb5+- is also pretty convincing.

29...Ke8

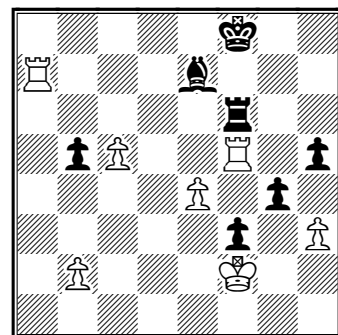
29...Kf8 30.Rf5+ wins.

30.bxc4 g4 31.Rg5 Kf8 32.c5

I was the most worried by this move, but the simple 32.cxb5 was probably best, while 32.Rf5+ Ke8 33.c5 also wins handily.

32...Be7 33.Rf5+ Rf6

Hoping for a miracle.

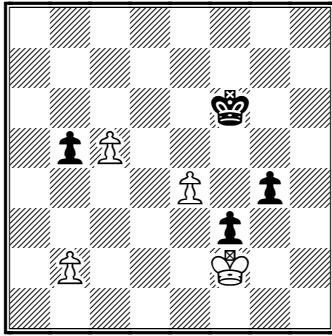


34.Rxe7??

And there it is. In time pressure Joe has his turn with a hallucination. I had seen 34.c6 Rxf5 35.exf5 Bc5+ 36.Ke1 Bxa7 37.c7 and lights out.

34...Kxe7 35.Rxf6

Also drawing is 35.b4 Rg6 36.hxg4 hxg4 37.Kg3 Kd7.

35...Kxf6 36.hxg4 hxg4

Joe had realized that the white pawns protect each other, but then cannot advance.

37.c6 Ke7! 38.e5 Ke6 39.Ke3 b4 40.b3 Ke7 ½-½

White: R.Hungaski

Black: D.Vigorito

[B25] Sicilain

USATE Parsippany (3), 20.02.2011

IM Robert Hungaski is a big talent and I was well aware of this. Robert was the team MVP for the New England Nor'easters. He entered the season with a 2420 rating although by the time the season started he was 2500+. In his 8 games for the Nor'easters Robert posted a 7/8 score with a 2780 performance rating, including 3-0 in the playoffs. He beat such players as Denys Shmelov, Jorge Sammour-Hasbun, FM Marcel Martinez, and GM Pascal Charbonneau. The wins were not always flawless, but Robert is a complete gamer and displayed tremendous energy and a will to win. Robert would drive 2 hours from Connecticut each week in his jalopy

and never complained. He's just a cool dude with great energy.

At the USATE in NJ Robert came up to me during the first round and it was very good to see him, as we had not run into each other since the USCL Finals. The sight of him was less pleasant when we were paired against each other the next morning...

1.e4

This move already requires a little explanation. Robert leans a bit more towards 1.d4 these days, but back in November a young 2100 student of mine pushed Robert to the brink of defeat in the B.U. Open with the Slav Defense. Although Robert managed to win anyway, I imagine the memory of this game may have come to mind. Robert took some time on his first move, perhaps figuring if my student did so well with the Slav, I may be tough to beat. As I was Black in a team event and I was the only one paired up, a draw would not be a bad result for me. Even so, I did not want Robert to be able to push 'for free', so I planned on playing the King's Indian!

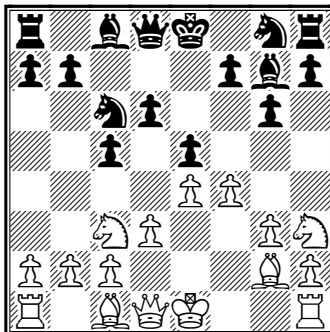
1...c5!

In the USCL I had defeated FM Brooks with the Caro-Kann. Perhaps Robert's first move had taken that game into consideration.

2.Nc3

The Closed Sicilian. While this is a reasonable way to play, the advantage of White's first move is quickly negated.

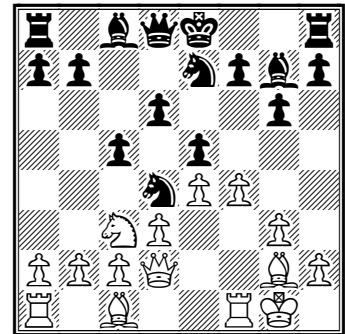
2...Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.f4 e5 7.Nh3



This is a tricky move, but I still do not think much of it. The knight ends up getting stuck here.

7...Nge7 8.0-0 Nd4!

White's point is that after 8...0-0? 9.f5! Black comes under a strong attack. By playing 8...Nd4 immediately, Black does not present his king as a target just yet. The knight also reinforces the f5-square and puts some pressure on c2.

9.Qd2!?

This is very odd indeed. White blocks in his own bishop. The idea is to play Nd1 and c3, but this is not that scary.

9...Bg4!?

I like this move. The bishop goes to a square that it would not normally have access to and from here it controls f3 and e2, so it gives White a lot to think about. 9...0-0 is also fine.

10.f5?!

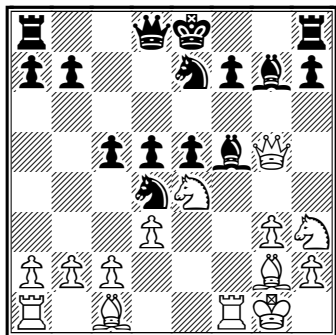
This is too speculative. 10.Nd1 is still possible, while 10.Nf2 would be met with 10...Bf3! (but not 10...Nf3+ 11.Bxf3 Bxf3 12.Qe3 Bh5 13.g4 and the bishop is trapped).

10...gxf5 11.exf5 Bxf5

11...Nexf5 was possible too, but I prefer the text.

12.Ne4 d5! 13.Qg5

Another speculative move, but White has made his bed. Instead 13.Nxc5 Qc8! attacks both white knights.

**13...Kf8!**

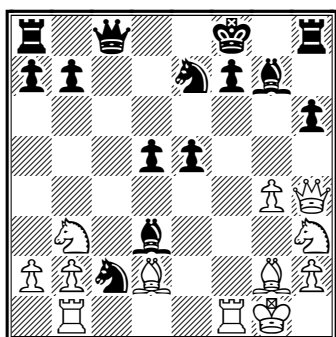
I had intended 13...Ne6 14.Nf6+ Kf8 15.Qh4 Ng6?! but then 16.Nxh7+ (it took me a while to notice this) 16...Kg8 17.Qxd8+ Rxd8 18.Rxf5 Rxh7 19.Ng5 and White has won back his pawn and activated his position. By moving the king, Black ensures that Nf6 by White will never be check, so Black will have new possibilities.

14.g4

The point of Black play is seen after 14.Nf6? h6 15.Qh4 Ng6.

14...h6 15.Qh4 Bg6 16.Nxc5 Qc8 17.Nb3 Nxc2 18.Rb1 Bxd3

It is time to take pawns. White's next move came as no surprise from a practical player like Robert.

19.Bd2

White is already down a couple of pawns, so adding an exchange does not matter.

19...a5!

Black has enough material to win, and there is no reason to be greedy at the cost of one's position. This stops any Bd2-b4 ideas, ...a4 is possible, and most importantly ...Ra6 is useful

to both defend the king and possibly go to c6 to break any pin along the c-file. Instead 19...Bxf1 should be winning as well, but it allows White greater swindling chances. If I take the rook, I am essentially trading my strong bishop for the passive b1-rook. The bishop protects the c2-knight and may come back to g6 to defend f7. Now White is down material but has trouble getting any initiative at all.

20.g5?! hxg5 21.Qf2 f6**22.Bxg5 Bf5**

This move blocks the f-file and attacks the h3-knight. 22...Ra6 23.Nc5 Bxf1 24.Rxf1 Rc6 was also possible

23.Rbc1 Ra6 24.Be3 d4 25.Bxd4

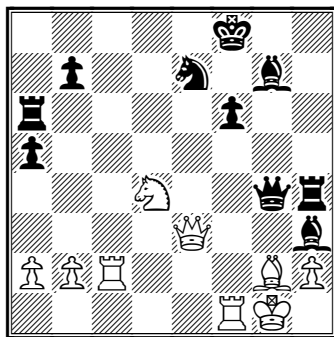
There is nothing else. 25.Bd2 Bxh3+

25...exd4 26.Nxd4 Bxh3**27.Rxc2 Qg4 28.Qe3**

Now Black is up a piece for basically nothing. I only have to be a bit careful, but I was very short on time.

28...Rh4?

This natural (well, to me at least) move is a big mistake. Instead 28...Rd6 was good, while 28...Bh6! with the idea 29.Qxh3 Qxh3 30.Bxh3 Be3+ was probably the best of all.

**29.Nf5!**

I had in fact seen this move, but I had missed a little something...If 29...Nxf5 30.Rc8+ Kf7 runs away, but I missed 31.Qe8#!

29...Qxf5!

With time ticking down I find a way. Of course it was better to be up

a whole piece, but Black will still have rook and two minors for the queen.

30.Rxf5 Bxf5

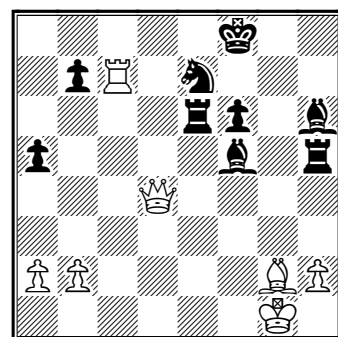
Black is still clearly better, but I had 2 minutes to White's 8. Fortunately Robert needed some time here and I was able to calculate while he was thinking.

31.Rc7 Re6 32.Qf2

This freaked me out a bit and I fell into a trance, almost completely forgetting about the clock.

32.Rh5

Now I was down to 48 seconds.

33.Qd4 Bh6!

Black's attack is stronger.

34.Qd8+ Kf7 35.Bd5 Be3+**36.Kg2?**

Now down to 11 seconds himself, Robert comes undone. If 36.Kh1 Be4+ 37.Bxe4 Rxe4+ is winning. 36.Kf1 Bh3+ 37.Ke2 Rxd5 (honestly I had intended 37...Bb6+ when 38.Bxe6+ is both uncheck for me and check for him! I like to think I would have realized this had the position arose...) 38.Rxe7+ Rxe7 39.Qxd5+ Kg7-+ when Black is winning, but there is work to do.

36...Rg5+ (time pressure)

I made this move with 8 seconds left and White lost on time. It is mate after 37.Kf3 (37.Kh1 Rg1# or 37.Kf1 Bd3+ 38.Ke1 Rg1#) 37...Bg4+ 38.Kg2 Be2+ 39.Kh3 Bf1+ 40.Kh4 (40.Bg2 Bxg2+ 41.Kh4 Bf2#) 40...Bf2#.

0-1

The MA G/60 Championship brought me out of my semi-retirement.

White: D.Vigorito

Black: W.Kelleher

**[D10] Queen's Gambit Declined
MA G/60ch (3), 17.04.2011**

Vigorito,D

Bill Kelleher is another good friend who I have known for 20+ years. He is difficult to play against because even though he has a relatively narrow opening repertoire, he knows it really well and has built up impressive experience in all of his pet lines.

**1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6
4.cxd5 cxd5**

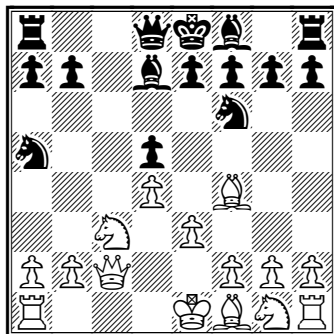
The Exchange Variation is pretty harmless, but I did not have anything special prepared in any 'real lines' despite having many years to come up with something. Laziness!

5.Bf4 Nc6 6.e3 Bf5 7.Qb3

This is a tricky sideline that I had used only once before with success...against Bill! Instead 7.Nf3 heads for the normal (equal) lines.

7...Na5 8.Qa4+ Bd7 9.Qc2!

This is a little annoying for Black although it should not be too scary. 9.Bb5 has been played a lot more, but exchanging light-squared bishops should never give White anything. I discovered this line when I faced it a few times on the ICC against some GM.



9...Rc8 10.Bd3 e6 11.Nf3
White's idea is revealed. Even

though he has wasted some time with the queen, Black has had to lock in his queen bishop. Still, the Exchange Slav lines with an early ...e6 are not so bad, and Black's ...Na5 move is kind of normal to get some queen-side play going.

11...Nc6?!

This is a new move, but it is too passive. I suspect Black should just develop with 11...Be7 or 11...b5 12.a3 Be7.

Instead practice has seen 11...Bb4 12.0-0 and here:

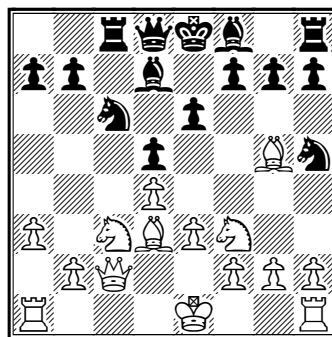
a) 12...0-0 13.Ne5 Bxc3 14.bxc3 h6 15.h3 Nc4 16.Bxc4 dxc4 17.e4 Be8 18.Rab1 b5 19.Rfd1 Nh5 20.Bc1!? f6 21.Nf3 and White had a nice edge in D.Vigorito-W.Kelleher, NH Open 2007.

b) 12...Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.Ne5 Rc8 15.Qb3 Qa5 16.Nxd7 Nxd7 17.a3 Bxc3 18.Qxb7! was also good for White in V.Kramnik-L.Aronian, Shanghai (blitz) 2010. No slouches!

12.a3 Nh5?!

This is not an unusual idea, but it does not work out well here. Again, 12...Be7 was called for.

13.Bg5



Now Black is uncomfortable.

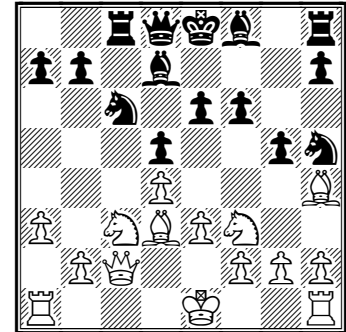
13...f6?

After 13...Be7 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 White has a pleasant edge with 15.0-0, while 15.g4!? Nf6 16.g5 would also be tempting.

14.Bh4

I played this quickly, but it was simpler to play 14.Bxh7! fxe5 15.Qg6+ Ke7 16.Qxh5 when Black has no way to exploit the pin on the h-file.

14...g5



This was a G/60 and I was a good 10 minutes ahead on the clock. I used up all of that time here, as I had to decide...

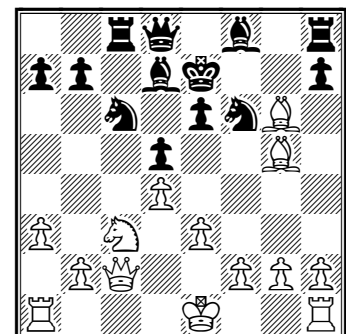
15.Nxg5!

This is absolutely correct, although my opponent could have given me some practical issues. Instead 15.Bxh7 gxh4 16.Qg6+ Ke7 17.Qxh5 is not so good now because of 17...Be8 18.Qxh4 Bg6, even though White probably has enough after 19.Bxg6 Rxh4 20.Nxh4. I could also consider 15.Bg3!? with the idea 15...Nxg3?! (Black should hold off on this) 16.hxg3 f5 17.g4!±.

15...fxg5 16.Bg6+ Ke7

Not 16...hxg6 17.Qxg6+ Ke7 18.Bxg5+ Kd6 19.Nb5 mate!

17.Bxg5+ Nf6

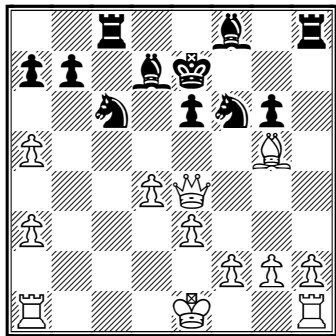


18.Ne4!

This is the key move which I had to see (and sees!) at move 15. I found this idea by first noticing the unsuccessful 18.Nxd5+?? exd5 (now Black has a square) 19.Qc5+ Ke6!

18...hxc6?

This loses academically. The critical line was 18...Qa5+. When I first noticed this during my big think, I thought it would be a shame if a move like 18.Ne4 did not work. So I kept trying... After 19.b4 dxe4 (not 19...Nxb4 20.Bxf6#) 20.bxa5 hxc6 (20...Nxd4 fails to either 21.Qxe4 or 21.Bxf6+ Kxf6 22.Qb2) 21.Qxe4



Here Black has 3 minors for the queen and some pawns. The computers think it is easy, but in a fast time control White will have to be very accurate. A good start would be 21...Kf7 22.Bxf6 Kxf6 23.Rb1 and White should be winning.

19.Bxf6+ Kf7 20.Bxd8 Nxd8?!

A better try was 20...dxe4 21.Bg5 Nxd4 22.Qxe4 Nc2+ 23.Kd2 Nxa1 24.Rxa1, but this should be pretty easy too.

21.Nc3!

Now Black has only two minors for the queen and pawns. Black could give up, but with the momentum of the fast time control, the game continues. I probably did not play too precisely, but it was good enough.

21...Bd6 22.h4 Kg7 23.Qe2 Nf7 24.f4 Be7 25.h5 g5 26.g4 Nd6 27.0-0 Kh6 28.e4 Rxc3

This is actually the best practical chance. If 28...dxe4 29.Nxe4 Bb5 30.Qe3.

29.bxc3 Nxe4 30.c4 Bf6 31.Qd3 Rg8 32.f5

32.Rae1 may have been more accurate.

32...exf5 33.cxd5 Nd6 34.Rad1 f4 If 34...Bb5 35.Qg3 f4 36.Rxf4! 35.Qf3 Nb5 36.Rfe1 Nxd4

37.Qf2 Nb5 38.Re6 Bxe6 39.dxe6 Nc3 40.Rd7 Rg7 41.Qc2 1-0

IM David Vigorito is the author of several highly acclaimed books. Signed copies are available, and he can also be reached for private and group lessons, lectures, and exhibitions at dvigorito@msn.com.

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Annotated Games From “Formation Attacks” Part 2

by LM Joel Johnson

Black goes Pawn grabbing and just when it looks like he has gotten back on defense, White comes crashing through the kingside. Just too much firepower for White at the point of attack. And, although this game does not end in checkmate, you will have to agree that it belongs in this book.

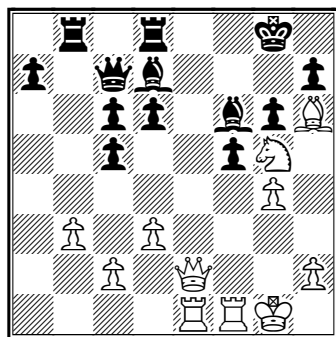
White: Joel Johnson (2100)

Black: John Cline (2200)

[B23] Closed Sicilian

Northeast Chess League, Nashua, NH, 02/15/1979

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 e6 5.e5 Nge7 6.Bb5 Nd5 7.Ne4 Be7 8.0-0 f5 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 12.Qe2 0-0 13.Rb1 Qa5 14.d3 Qxa2 15.Bd2 Rb8 16.f5 exf5 17.Bh6 Rd8 18.b3 Qa5 19.Ng5 d6 20.g4 Qc7 21.Rbe1 Bd7

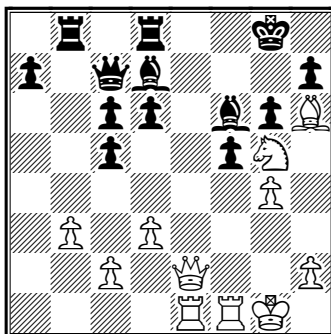


It's my move, what do I see? First, I realize that I have given up two Pawns and need to do something significant soon, otherwise, the two Pawns down will eventually cost me the game. Also, because I am down two Pawns, I cannot play moves that will just trade off pieces.

Next, I notice that all of White's pieces are on the kingside, while Black currently only has one piece defending the kingside (the Bishop on f6).

My plan, therefore, is to continue with my kingside attack by exploiting my localized material advantage.

When I started analyzing this position, I felt comfortable playing a move like 22. gxf5. However, as I looked some more, the shocking move, 22. Qe7 popped up on my radar. A very interesting move indeed. Yes, the move loses my Queen for Black's lone kingside defender, but does it work? You need to be really sure when you give up your Queen for what amounts to a positional checkmating attack. You need to be aware that Black will be looking very hard for ways to disrupt and even completely derail my plans. He could for example, sacrifice some material back to kill my attack and win the endgame. So, I analyze: 22. ... Bxe7 23. Rxe7 (threatening 24. Rg7+ if 24. ... Kh8 25. Nf7# mate and if 24. ... Kf8 25. Nxh7+ Ke8 26. Nf6+ Kf8 27. Rh7#.) 23. ... Rf8 (only move) 24. Rg7+ Kh8 25. Rxh7+ Kg8 26. Rg7+ Kh8 27. Re1 - Wow! Black cannot stop the other White Rook from also reaching the 7th rank and joining in on the attack. For example, if 27. ... Rbe8 28. Rxe8 and Black cannot recapture the Rook without losing a Queen or getting checkmated. At this point, it is apparent that my plan is very, very strong, so, I played:

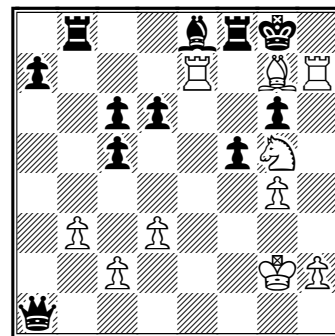


22.Qe7!! Bxe7 23.Rxe7 Rf8 24.Rg7+ Kh8 25.Rxh7+ Kg8 26.Rg7+

Just trying to gain some more time on the clock, as I have used quite a bit. This is very common in events where the time control is based on a specified number of moves in a specified amount of time.

26. ... Kh8 27.Re1 Qa5 28.Ree7 Qa1+ 29.Kg2 Be8 30.Rh7+ Kg8 31.Bg7 1-0

Black has only one way to avoid checkmate, with the following line: 31. ... Rf7 32. Rxf7 Bxf7 33. Bxa1 (threatening 34. Rh8#) 33. ... Kf8 34. Rxf7+ with an easy win.



Final Position

Life Master Brian Wall has created two wonderful videos on YouTube titled “First Blood - Parts I & II”. “Must see” videos for any serious chess player looking for more information about the “Fishing Pole”.

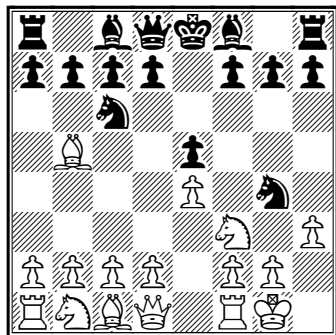
White: Walter Browne (2550)

Black: Francisco Baltier (1550)

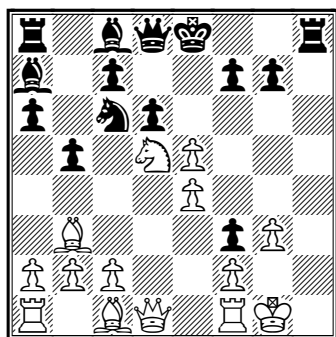
[C65] Ruy Lopez

40 Board Simul, Las Vegas, NV, (Round 1), 10/11/2007

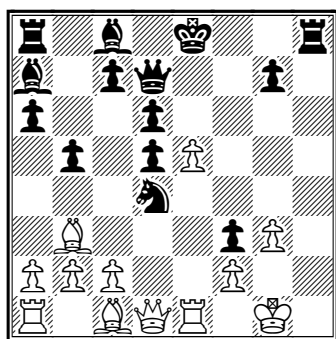
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Ng4 5.h3



5. ... h5 6.Nc3 Bc5 7.Nd5 a6
8.Ba4 d6 9.d4 Ba7 10.hxg4 hxg4
11.dxe5 gxf3 12.g3 b5 13.Bb3



13. ... Nd4 14.Re1 Qd7 15.e6
fxe6 16.e5 exd5 0-1

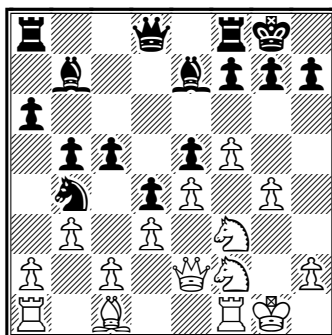


Final Position

Behind a huge wedge, White just crashes through Black's kingside during a Dos Hermanas Qualifier on the Internet Chess Club.

White: MassCarnage (2200)
Black: rspaine (2526)
[B23] Closed Sicilian
S16B Dos Hermanas Qualifier
(ICC), (Round 8), 03/16/2010

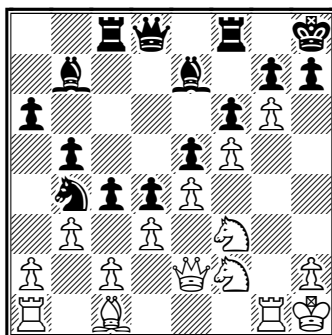
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 e6 4.Nf3
d5 5.Bb5 Nge7 6.Qe2 d4 7.Nd1 a6
8.Bxc6+ Nxc6 9.d3 Be7 10.b3 0-0
11.0-0 b5 12.Nf2 Bb7 13.g4 Nb4
14.f5 e5



15.Kh1

White has a huge spacial advantage on the kingside and Kh1 clears the g1 square for White's Rook.

15. ... Rc8 16.Rg1 f6 17.g5 Kh8
18.g6 c4



This Pawn formation (a massive Pawn wedge from c2 to g6) leaves White with a strategical win. Why? Well, there are three reasons.

The first reason is related to the fact that the Black Pawn formation completely shuts out Black's pieces, leaving him very vulnerable at the weakest point of his formation (the h-file). His Rook and maybe his Bishop can help defend g7 with his King, but the h7 square is his Achilles' Heel.

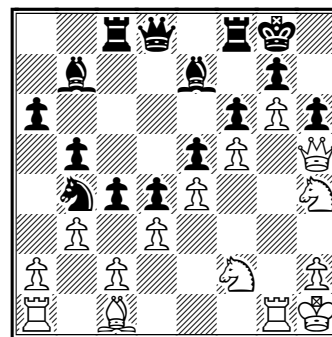
The second reason is that White controls a huge spacial area in front of Black's King, stretching from c1 to g5 to h5 to h1. Within that area,

White can build up a massive force before breaking through the Black kingside, if necessary.

The third reason is White's attack happens significantly faster than Black's queenside counter-play.

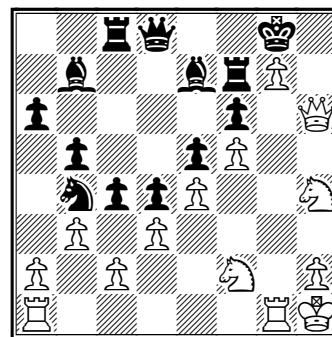
At this point in the game, Black's King is in a Mating Net. White wins simply by moving his Queen to the h-file, attacking Black's very weak h7 square, and when, Black attempts to shield his weak h7 square with the move h6, White can crash through by sacrificing on h6. All of the following moves work (Qf1, Nh4, Ne1, and even, Nxe5). I chose:

19.Nh4 h6 20.Qh5 Kg8



Black tries to run away, but there is no place to run to, as all his pieces are in the way.

21.Bxh6 gxh6 22.Qxh6 Rf7
23.g7 1-0



White can also checkmate after 23. gxf7+ Kxf7 24. Qg6+ Kf8 25. Qg8#.

The threat of 24. Qh8# cannot be adequately defended.

Eastern Class Championship Games

by Bob Messenger

White: Michael Pascetta (1856)

Black: Dennis Moore (1999)

[B20] Sicilian

Eastern Class Championships (2)

1.e4 c5 2.d3 Nc6 3.g3 d6 4.Bg2
Bd7 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.c3
Nge7 9.Be3 0-0 10.Na3 Qb8 11.d4
cxd4 12.cxd4 d5 13.e5 a6 14.Nc2
Na5 15.b3 b5 16.Qd2 Nac6 17.Rac1
Rc8 18.Nce1 Bf8 19.g4 a5 20.Nd3
b4 21.Nc5 Qa7 22.Nh4 Nd8 23.f5
exf5 24.gxf5 Bxf5 25.Nxf5 Nxf5
26.Bxd5 Rab8 27.e6 Bxc5 28.exf7+
Nxf7 29.dxc5 Rd8 30.Rxf5 gxf5
31.Qg2+ Kf8 32.Bd4 Rxd5 33.Qg7+
Ke8 34.Re1+ Kd8 35.Qf8+ Kc7
36.Re7+ Kc6 37.Qxf7 Qxe7
38.Qxe7 Rxd4 39.Qe6+ Kb7
40.Qb6+ Kc8 41.Qc6+ Kd8 42.Qf6+
1-0

White: IM Sam Shankland (2583)

Black: GM Alexander Shabalov (2668)

[D11] Queen's Gambit Declined

Eastern Class Championships (5)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3
a6 5.Bd3 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.b3 0-0
8.Qc2 dxc4 9.Qxc4 Bg4 10.Nbd2
Nbd7 11.Bb2 Rc8 12.b4 a5 13.bxa5
Qxa5 14.Rfc1 Nd5 15.Qb3 N7b6
16.h3 Be6 17.Nc4 Nxc4 18.Bxc4 b5
19.Bf1 Nb6 20.Qa3 Na4 21.Bc3 Qa7
22.Bb4 Rc7 23.Bd3 Ra8 24.Be4
Qb7 25.Nd2 Ra6 26.Qd3 Qa7
27.Nb3 Bc4 28.Qc2 c5 29.Nxc5
Nxc5 30.Bxc5 Rxc5 31.dxc5 Bxa1
32.Rxa1 Qxc5 33.Qb2 Qa3 34.Qe5
Re6 35.Qf4 Rd6 36.Rb1 f5 37.Bf3
Qxa2 38.Re1 Qb2 39.e4 Qc3 40.Rb1
fxe4 41.Qxe4 Re6 42.Qf4 Re1+
43.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 44.Kh2 Qe6 45.g3
Qd6 46.Qe4 Qc5 47.Kg1 b4 48.Bg4

Kf7 49.Bd1 Kg7 50.Bc2 b3 51.Bb1
Bf7 52.h4 e5 53.Qe1 Qd4 54.Kh2
Bd5 55.Kh3 Bf3 56.Qa5 Bd5
57.Qc7+ Bf7 58.Qe7 Qxf2
59.Qxe5+ Qf6 60.Qc7 h5 61.Bd3
Qd4 62.Bb1 Qg4+ 63.Kh2 Qe2+
64.Kh3 Qf1+ 0-1

White: Alexander Paphitis (1852)

Black: Daniel Pascetta (1877)

[A37] English

Eastern Class Championships (5)

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Nc6
4.g3 d6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 e6 7.e3
Nge7 8.d4 0-0 9.Rb1 a6 10.a3 Nf5
11.d5 Na5 12.Qd3 Nb3 13.Qc2
Nxc1 14.Rfxcl e5 15.b4 cxb4
16.axb4 Qc7 17.Ne2 Ne7 18.Nd2 f5
19.e4 f4 20.Qc3 g5 21.c5 Bd7
22.Nc4 Ne8 23.Qa3 g4 24.Nc3 Qd8
25.Nd1 Qg5 26.Bf1 Rf6 27.h4 Qh5
28.Be2 Rh6 29.Nd2 Bf6 30.Kf1
fxg3 31.fxg3 Na7 32.Bc4 Rf8
33.Nf2 Bxh4 34.Ke2 Bg5 35.Rh1
Qf7 36.Rbf1 Nb5 37.Qd3 Rf6
38.Rh2 Bxd2 39.Qxd2 Nd4+ 40.Kd1
Nf3 41.Qh6 Nxe2 42.Qxe2 Rxf2
43.Rxf2 Qxf2 44.Qxf2 Rxf2 45.c6
Bc8 46.Kc1 Rf3 47.Kb2 Rxg3 48.b5
axb5 49.Bxb5 h5 50.cxb7 Bxb7
51.Bc6 Bxc6 52.dxc6 Rf3 0-1

White: GM Alexander Ivanov (2592)

Black: IM Jacek Stopa (2529)

[C03] French

Eastern Class Championships (4)

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7
4.Bd3 c5 5.dxc5 Nf6 6.Qe2 a5
7.Ngf3 0-0 8.c3 Na6 9.e5 Ne8
10.Bxa6 bxa6 11.c6 Qb6 12.Nd4 a4
13.N2f3 a5 14.Qc2 a3 15.bxa3 Ba6
16.Rb1 Qa7 17.a4 Rc8 18.Nb5 Qa8

19.Nfd4 Bc5 20.0-0 Bxd4 21.cxd4
Rxc6 22.Qd2 f6 23.Ba3 Rf7 24.exf6
Nxf6 25.Qxa5 h6 26.Rfc1 Ng4
27.Rxc6 Qxc6 28.Rc1 Qa8 29.Rc2
Qb8 30.Bd6 Qb7 31.h3 Nf6 32.Be5
and White won. 1-0

White: Neil Fachon (1951)

Black: Michael Pascetta (1856)

[A21] English

Eastern Class Championships (3)

1.c4 e5 2.g3 d6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nc3
Bg7 5.d3 f5 6.e3 Nf6 7.Nge2 0-0
8.d4 c6 9.0-0 Be6 10.b3 Bf7 11.Ba3
e4 12.Qc2 Re8 13.Rac1 Na6 14.c5
d5 15.Rb1 Qa5 16.b4 Qxa3 17.Rb3
Nxb4 18.Qb1 Qa5 19.Rxb4 Qd8
20.Rxb7 Rb8 21.a3 Qc8 22.Rb4 Nd7
23.Qb2 Rxb4 24.Qxb4 Qa6 25.Qa4
Qxa4 26.Nxa4 Rb8 27.Nec3 g5
28.Rb1 f4 29.Bh3 Be8 30.Rxb8
Nxb8 31.gxf4 gxf4 32.Ne2 fxe3
33.fxe3 Bh6 34.Kf2 Bd7 35.Bxd7
Nxd7 36.Ng3 Kf7 37.Nf5 Bf8
38.Kg3 Ke6 39.Kf4 Nf6 40.Nc3 h5
41.h3 Ng8 42.Kg5 h4 43.Na2 Be7+
44.Kg6 Bd8 45.Nb4 Kd7 46.Kf7
Ne7 47.Nxe7 Bxe7 48.Nxc6 Bxc5
49.Ne5+ Kd6 50.a4 Bb4 51.Ng6
Be1 52.Ne7 Bf2 53.Kf6 Bg1
54.Nf5+ Kc6 55.Ke6 Bf2 56.Ne7+
Kb6 57.Kxd5 Bxe3 58.Kxe4 Bg5
59.Nc8+ Kb7 60.Nd6+ Kc6 61.Nc4
Bf6 62.Ne5+ Kd6 63.Nd3 Bg7 64.d5
Bf6 65.a5 a6 66.Nb4 Bc3 67.Nxa6
Bxa5 68.Nb8 Kc7 69.Nc6 Bc3
70.Nd4 Kd7 71.Nf5 Bf6 72.Kf4 Kc7
and White won. 1-0

White: IM Jacek Stopa (2529)

Black: GM Alexander Shabalov (2668)

[B98] Sicilian

Eastern Class Championships (3)

Vigorito wins 21st Mass Game/60

by George Mirijanian

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4
Be7 8.Qf3 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.fgx5
Nfd7 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Qh5+ Kf8
13.Bb5 Rh7 14.Qg6 Rg7 15.0-0+
Kg8 16.Qxe6+ Kh8 17.gxh6 Rh7
18.Bxd7 Nxd7 19.Bxe7 Qxe7
20.Qxe7 Rxe7 21.Nd5 Rh7 22.Nc7
Rb8 23.Ne8 Rxh6 24.Rad1 Kg8
25.Nxd6 Ne5 1/2-1/2

White: Maxwell Schwartz (2099)
Black: Muharrem Brahimaj (2069)
[B30] Sicilian
Eastern Class Championships (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3
d6 5.Bg2 Bd7 6.Nbd2 g6 7.0-0 Bg7
8.Nc4 Qc7 9.a4 Nge7 10.c3 0-0
11.Be3 a6 12.a5 Ne5 13.Nb6 Rad8
14.d4 Ng4 15.Bg5 Be8 16.h3 Nf6
17.Re1 h6 18.Bf4 e5 19.dxe5 dxe5
20.Bxe5 Rxd1 21.Bxc7 Rxa1
22.Rxa1 Nxe4 23.Ne5 f5 24.Nd3
Bc6 25.Bxe4 fxe4 26.Nxc5 e3
27.fxe3 Rf3 28.e4 Bb5 29.Bf4 g5
30.Kg2 Be2 31.Bd6 Rf7 32.e5 1-0

White: GM Sergey Kudrin (2612)
Black: FM Nelson Castaneda (2335)
[B90] Sicilian
Eastern Class Championships
Sturbridge, Massachusetts (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.a4 e6 7.g3
Be7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Be3
Bd7 11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.a5 Rc8
13.Re1 Qd7 14.g4 h6 15.f4 d5 16.e5
Nh7 17.Bd4 Bb5 18.Nb1 Bc5 19.c3
Qc7 20.Na3 Bd7 21.Nc2 f6 22.Bxc5
Qxc5+ 23.Nd4 fxe5 24.fxe5 Rf4
25.Rf1 Rcf8 26.Rxf4 Rxf4 27.h3
Ng5 28.Qe2 Rxd4 29.cxd4 Qxd4+
30.Kh1 Bb5 31.Rd1 Qf4 32.Qe1 Nf3
33.Bxf3 Qxf3+ 34.Kh2 Be2 35.Rd2
Qf4+ 36.Kg1 Qe3+ 37.Kh2 Qf4+
38.Kg1 Qe3+ 39.Kh2 1/2-1/2

International master David Vigorito proved once again why he is one of the most successful tournament players in New England, winning the 21st Massachusetts Game/60 Championship on Sunday, April 17, at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Leominster. The 40-year-old Somerville resident tallied 3.5-0.5 in an Open section field of 18 players to capture first place. Tying for the 2nd- and 3rd-place prizes with 3-1 scores were FIDE master William Kelleher, 61, of Watertown (who lost to Vigorito in round 3), FIDE master John Curdo, 79, of Auburn, and national master Miro Reverby, 41, of Providence, Rhode Island (who drew Vigorito in the final round). Tying for the top Under 2150 prizes with scores of 2.5-1.5 were Yogesh Raghunathan of West Hartford, Connecticut and Andrew Liu, 12, of Westborough. The tournament drew 87 players, including two no-shows, in five sections. There was an expanded prize fund of more than \$2000 - more than \$400 in addition to the projected prize fund and more than \$800 added to the minimum guaranteed prize fund. MACA clerk Brian Mottershead of Carlisle was the chief TD and was assisted by MACA treasurer and tournament committee chairman Robert Messenger of Nashua, New Hampshire. MACA president George Mirijanian of Fitchburg provided logistical support and assisted both TDs in their duties. Nearly 30 percent of the tournament entrants won prizes. Sectional prize winners were as follows:

Under 2000 section (13 players, including one no-show)

- 1st-2nd: Max Valau of Hyannis and Armen Martirosyan of Lynn, 3.5-0.5
- 3rd: Neil Cousin of Franklin, 3-1

Under 1800 section (22 players)

- 1st-3rd: Martin Laine of Lunenburg, George Duval of Sudbury, Varun Palnati of Westford, 3.5-0.5
- 4th: Robert Holmgren of Wayland, 3-1
- Top Under 1650: Chirantan Neogy and Allen Wang, both of Acton, 3-1

Under 1500 section (18 players, including one no-show)

- 1st: Aashish Welling of Nashua, New Hampshire, 3.5-0.5
- 2nd: Sean Barkowsky of Hanson, 3-1
- 2nd/Under 1350: Siddhesh Kudtarkar of Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania, Brandon Wu of Littleton, Tal Puhov of Shrewsbury, 3-1
- 3rd/2nd Under 1350: Conway Xu of Lexington, 2.5-1.5

Under 1200 section (16 players)

- 1st: Aram Martirosyan of Lynn, 4-0
- 2nd-3rd: Carissa Yip of Chelmsford and Matthew Manzo of Beverly, 3-1
- 1st Under 1000: Henry Liu of Northborough, 3-1

“Young players calculate everything, a requirement of their relative inexperience.” — Samuel Reshevsky

Ivanov Annotates

by GM Alexander Ivanov

White: Alexander Shabalov (2658)
Black: GM Alexander Ivanov (2605)
[E30] Nimzo-Indian
Atlantic City International,
Atlantic City NJ (6), 19.12.2010

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4
4.Bg5 The so called Leningrad variation of Nimzo-indian.

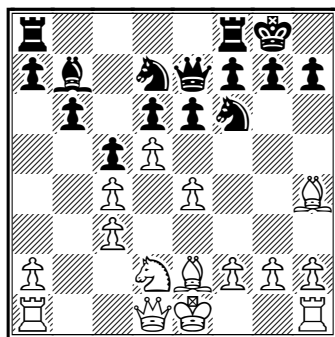
4...c5 5.d5 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 d6
7.e3 Qe7 This turns out to be the most common move here [7...e5 8.f3!?]
 Now 8.f3 is pointless because after 8...h6 White has to exchange his Bg5

8.Nf3 Another move order is [8.Bd3 Nbd7 and now 9.Nf3 or (9.Ne2)]

8...Nbd7 9.Nd2 0-0 Going for the Pc3 is dubious: [9...exd5?! 10.cxd5 Qe5?! 11.Bf4 Qxc3 (11...Qxd5 12.Nc4 Qxd1+ 13.Rxd1 d5 14.Nd6+ Kf8 15.Nb5+/- and Black can't keep his extra Pawn) 12.Rc1 Qa5 13.Bxd6+/- Ne4 14.Bc7! Qxc7 15.Nxe4+/-]

10.Bh4 Now if [10.Be2 then 10...exd5 11.cxd5 Qe5 is playable 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.c4 Bf5= With his last move White avoids the exchange of his dark squared Bishop]

10...b6 11.Be2 Bb7 12.e4 During the game I was more concerned about [12.Ne4 still, Black is OK here 12...exd5 13.Nxf6+ Nxf6 14.cxd5 Bxd5 15.Bf3 (15.Bxf6? Qxf6 16.Qxd5? Qxc3+-+ I didn't see this) 15...Bxf3 16.Qxf3=/+]



12...Rfe8?! It was more logical to try to get rid of the pin by [12...Ne5 13.0-0 Ng6 for example 14.Bg3 e5 15.a4!? Nf4 16.a5 Rfb8!?=]

13.0-0 Ne5 I was planning to win the Pawn [13...exd5 14.cxd5 Bxd5 but then didn't like 15.Bb5 Be6 16.f4!+/-]

14.Re1 Ng6 15.Bg3 e5 16.Bd3 h5 17.h3 [17.Nf3!? Nh7 18.h4 Bc8 19.Bc2 Bg4 20.Qd3 Qf6 21.Ba4 Re7 with counterplay]

17...h4 18.Bh2 Bc8 19.Nf1 Nf4 20.Bc2 Bd7 21.Ne3 If White changes the Pawn structure by [21.Bxf4 exf4 22.Nd2 then according to the computer the position is still about equal after 22...Nh7 23.e5!? dxe5 24.Bxh7+ Kxh7 25.Qh5+ Kg8 26.Ne4 (with compensation for the sacrificed material) 26...Rad8!? 27.Ng5 (27.Rad1 Bc8) 27...Bf5 28.Rxe5 Qxe5 29.Qxf7+ Kh8 30.Qh5+ Kg8= Now with the Knight on f4 Black has no reasons for concern not counting the approaching time trouble (the time control was 1 hour 55 minutes per game with 5 second delay). For the next ten moves both sides are maneuvering.]

21...g6 22.Kh1 Nh7 23.Rg1 Kg7 24.Qd2 Nf6 25.Rae1 N6h5 26.Bd1 Rh8 27.Nf1 Raf8 28.Qe3 Qd8 [28...f6=; 28...f5 29.exf5 g5 unclear]

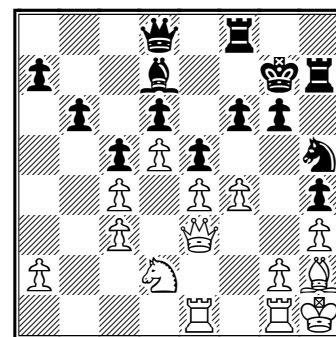
29.Nd2 Rh7 [29...Qe7]
30.Bxh5 Nxh5 31.f4 I don't see any other active play for White who had 19min left on the clock at this point.

31...f6 Black had 11m left here. With the time trouble approaching White's next move allows the following exchange, which is objectively too risky, but who can stay objective with a few minutes left on the clock in a last round game with a sudden death time control?



Photo: Tony Cortizas Jr.

32.Nf3? [32.Rgfl exf4 33.Bxf4 Nxf4 34.Qxf4 Qe7=]



32...Ng3+ Black could play it safe here [32...exf4 33.Bxf4 Nxf4 34.Qxf4 Qe7 and if 35.Nxh4?! (35.Qe3=) 35...Rfh8 36.Nf3 g5! 37.Qe3 g4 38.Nd2=/+ but being short on time I got carried away too, besides, 32...Ng3+ is the best move in the position!]

33.Bxg3 hxg3 34.Rgfl Qc8?!
 [34...Bxh3! 35.gxh3 Qd7 36.Ng1 (36.f5 gxf5 37.Ng1 f4 38.Qe2 Rfh8 39.Qg2-/+) 36...Rxh3+ 37.Kg2 Rfh8 38.f5 Rh2+ 39.Kxg3 I calculated the line up to this point, but didn't have time to see the next move which wins: 39...Kg8!-+ Rybka]

35.Ng1 The following 'computer tactics' are hard to see for a human player in time trouble [35.fxe5 dxe5

(35...Bxh3? 36.exf6+ Rxf6 37.Ng5+-) 36.Kg1 (36.Ng1? Bxh3+-) 36...Bxh3 37.Ng5! fxg5 38.Qxg3! Re8 39.gxh3 Rxh3 40.Qxg5 Qd8-/+]

35...Rfh8? Black errs on the side of caution [35...Bxh3 36.gxh3 Rxh3+ 37.Kg2 Rh2+ 38.Kxg3 (38.Kf3 Rfh8) 38...Rfh8 39.f5 Qg8!-+ and if 40.Rf2 gxf5! To find Black's last 2 moves was beyond me]

36.f5 Now, as they say, all three results are possible [36.Rf3!? Bxh3 37.gxh3 Rxh3+ 38.Kg2 Rh2+ 39.Kf1 Qg4 40.Rxg3 Qxf4+ 41.Qxf4 exf4 42.Rg2 g5 with compensation for the sacrificed material]

36...gxf5 37.Qxg3+ Kf7 38.exf5 Rg7 [38...Bxf5?! 39.Qf3 Bxh3 40.Qxf6+ Ke8 41.Qg6+ Kd8 42.Qxd6+ Bd7+ 43.Nh3+/=]

39.Qe3 [39.Qf3 Qg8!? 40.Qe2 Rg5=/+]

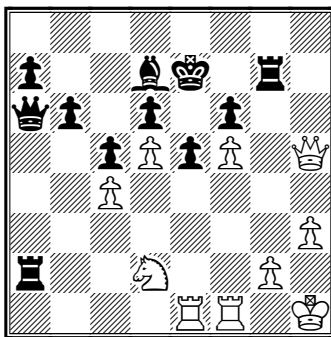
39...Qa6 [39...Rg4!? 40.Nf3 Rxc4=/+ (40...Bxf5=/+)]

40.Qe2 [40.Qe4!? Qxa2 (40...Rg3!? 41.Ne2 Rg5 42.Kh2 Rgh5 43.Qg4 R8h6 44.Ng3 Rh4; 40...Qa3!?) 41.Ra1

Rh4!? 42.Rxa2 Rxe4 43.Rxa7 Kf8=]

40...Rh4 41.Nf3 Rxc4 42.Nd2 Ra4 43.c4 [43.Qh5+ Ke7 44.Ne4? Rxe4+- This line was one of the few which I saw. Generally, when short on time, you see the lines which work for you first. Otherwise it would be even worse.]

43...Rxa2 44.Qh5+ Ke7



45.Ne4?? White gets down to the last 3 minutes and blunders first, obviously, forgetting about the Black Rook on a2. Strangely, the computer says this highly unbalanced position is about equal [45.Qh6 Rf7 46.Ne4 Qxc4 47.Nxf6 (47.Qg6!?) 47...Qc2!

(47...Rxf6? 48.Qg7+ Rf7 49.f6++-) 48.Rg1 (48.Ng8+ Kd8 49.Qg5+ (49.Qg6? Kc7!-+) 49...Kc7 50.Nh6 Rh7 51.Ra1!=/+ 48...Bxf5 49.Ng8+ Kd7 50.Ref1 Ra3 (50...Kc7!? unclear) 51.Nf6+ Kc7 (51...Kc8!?) 52.Ne8+ Kd7 and according to the computer White has no more than a perpetual] **45...Rgxg2 0-1**

"When you sit down to play a game you should think only about the position, but not about the opponent. Whether chess is regarded as a science, or an art, or a sport, all the same psychology bears no relation to it and only stands in the way of real chess."

—Jose Capablanca

May Tournament Winners at Various Massachusetts Clubs

by George Mirijanian

The following are winners in top sections of USCF-rated tournaments held in May at various chess clubs in Massachusetts:

- MCC 27th Anniversary Swiss (MetroWest CC, Natick, 73 players): IM James Rizzitano, 4.5-0.5
- BCF May \$10 Open (Boylston CC, Somerville, 42 players): NM Christopher Gu, 3.5-0.5
- BCF Grand Prix #5 (Boylston CC, Somerville, 30 players): IM Jonathan Yedidia, 4-0
- Sven Brask Chess Club Championship (Plainville, 24 players): Andrew Hoy (club champion), David Harris, 5.5-1.5
- Newburyport Chess Club Tournament #106 (21 players): Patrick Sciacca, 6-1
- Waltham Triskaidekaphobia #9 Game/13 (Waltham CC, 20 players): SM Denys Shmelov, FM Steven Winer, 6-1
- Waltham First Friday Tournament #109 (Waltham CC, 17 players): FM Steven Winer, 6.5-0.5
- BCF Quads (Boylston CC, Somerville, 17 players): IM Jonathan Yedidia, 2-0
- Waltham Mid-Spring Game/60 (Waltham CC, 15 players): SM Denys Shmelov, Todd Chase, 2-0
- Mayte in Four Open (Greater Worcester CC, 15 players): Muharrem Brahimaj, 3-1
- May Quick Chess Open (Greater Worcester CC, 13 players): Donna Alarie, 3.5-0.5
- BCF Thursday Night Swiss (Boylston CC, Somerville, 12 players): IM Jonathan Yedidia, 4-0
- MetroWest Chess Club Championship (Natick, 6 players): IM Igor Foygel, 5-0
- MetroWest Chess Club Class Championship (Natick, 6 players): Robert Harvey, 3.5-1.5

Review: *Bobby Fischer for Beginners*

by Nicholas Sterling

Among all chess masters, Bobby Fischer must surely be the most discussed in print, and certainly the best known, for good or for ill. Even chess players who have not studied World Championships closely have likely heard of Fischer's defeat of Spassky in 1972 in Reykjavik, Iceland. The international chess world was captivated by him in 1972 and again, with more than a few misgivings, in 1992. Fischer's *My 60 Memorable Games*, co-authored with the late Larry Evans, continues to be a classic. He is renowned for his clashes with GM Samuel Reshevsky, his notorious interview with Dick Cavett, his refusal to defend his World Championship title against Anatoly Karpov, his later brushes with the law, his anti-Semitic fulminations, his inflammatory comments after 9/11, his arrest in Japan, and his final reclusive years back in Iceland. Even after death Fischer continues to be a source of controversy as various family relations – real or alleged – quarrel over his estate and the paternity of certain children.

For all that, however, to explain Bobby Fischer briefly to someone not particularly familiar with him is a surprisingly difficult challenge. Fischer is so complex, enigmatic, multivalent, and ultimately perplexing a public figure and chess player that it is nearly impossible truly to understand him. The enormous number of publications about Fischer, such as Edmonds and Eidinow's *Bobby Fischer Goes to War*, testifies to the amazing fascination this player holds for the chess world, and the difficulty any author will have in getting the definitive last word.

Renzo Verwer's short monologue *Bobby Fischer for Beginners* makes a superb effort to introduce Bobby Fischer briefly for players not already intimately familiar with him. The 2010 New in Chess edition is an English translation of the original Dutch edition published in 2008. The book summarizes the American grandmaster's life in an easily readable and quick-moving but informative account. There are six chapters dedicated to the biography, each wittily titled with a famous quotation of the American grandmaster. The final Chapter 7 presents ten of Fischer's career games with some brief analysis, and the book closes with a list of Fischer's notable tournament results.

The brief but sparkling details that Verwer provides for his readers make for an engaging chronological overview of Fischer's tumultuous life. Each quotation that heads a chapter helps stimulate interest by relating to some aspect of Bobby's life. For instance, Chapter 1 is

titled, "Children who grow up without a parent become wolves," alluding to Bobby's growing up with his single mother Regina. Chapter 4 is even blunter: "I'm Bobby Fischer, the greatest chess player." This was Bobby's (failed) pick-up line with a girl on the beach.

The details in the stories are entertaining, yet spare, as befits an introduction. Seasoned devotees of Bobby Fischer may enjoy having this book in their collections, but are unlikely to learn much new. On the other hand, newcomers to Fischer should find this book an enjoyable intro that may spark their interest to learn more.

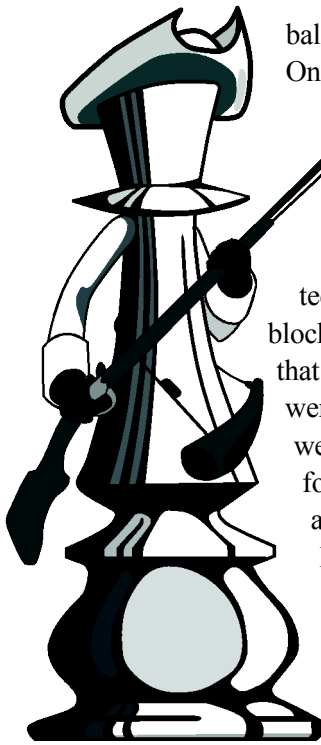
Verwer is especially masterful when he uses Fischer's own words, or those of other related parties, to demonstrate Fischer's moods, philosophies on life, or motives. For example, in the first Chapter, Fischer's warped mentality comes across from his attitudes on school (bad, useless, waste of time – maybe not so warped if you happen to agree with him), aristocrats (good as long as they dress properly as millionaires should), and Russians (a bunch of Communist cheaters). The brief highlights from the big 1972 and 1992 tournaments are well-chosen to give the flavor of the uproar that often accompanied Fischer's tournament play. An especially neat anecdote on pg. 35, narrates Schmid's obligation to make Fischer and Spassky play Round 3 by pushing them down in their chairs (to quell an ongoing quarrel) with the peremptory order, "Play chess!" Had Schmid not done this, the text implies, Fischer might well have skipped out altogether, and history would have been completely different.

Some descriptions are brief to a fault. With the 1961 tournament with Reshevsky, for example, we are given the assertion, "Fischer refused to cooperate with the sponsor", when the latter wanted to change the time and date of a scheduled game. This makes it sound as if the trouble was all Fischer's fault. In fact there was a big imbroglio over, first, Reshevsky's need to observe the Jewish Sabbath and, second, a further subsequent rescheduling after Fischer had reluctantly agreed to the first. Verwer does not, it seems, give this historical event proper justice, so that in general his accuracy may be subject to question.

Despite this caveat, I am deeply impressed with this book. It should whet a new devotee's hunger for reading more about this great yet puzzling American genius. While this book may be too simplistic for some, this reviewer gives this book very high recommendation.

MACA Election Commission Report – 2011

by Ken Belt, Election Chair



There was a total of 108 ballots counted for this election. Only two ballots were returned with addressee unknown, and both were reported promptly to Bob Messenger. Of the ballots that were submitted, many had various voting blocks left blank, so just the votes that were cast on those ballots were counted, and the blanks were not tallied. This accounts for the difference of totals among candidates and Bylaw Ratifications. On just one ballot, nine Directors were marked, so according to MACA rules, this ballot was not tallied only for its votes for Directors.

Additionally, the new MACA Bylaws specify that a candidate must receive ten votes, and for all write-ins, none received the required ten votes, so I believe that means they are not part of the official results, or can be grouped as ‘Other,’ but I have included the write-ins as informational.

Finally, although Nicholas Sterling received a qualifying number of votes for Director, since he has been elected as Clerk, he forgoes his result for Director, and it is listed just as information.

Nita Patel of the Election Commission can confirm the accuracy of the election results and that the counting was conducted properly. Steve Dann will represent the Election Commission at the State Meeting, and I assume, will present the election results to the MACA Board. My gratitude goes to my two co-commission members for their valuable assistance with the 2011 MACA elections.

Victorious candidates are highlighted below in bold. My congratulations go to all the candidates. Thank you for your participation with MACA. My wishes to you all for successful terms in office.

Results:

President:	George Mirijanian	96 votes (Write-Ins: Ken Ballou, John Elmore, Maryanne Reilly - 1 vote each)
Vice President:	Steven Frymer	97 votes (Write-Ins: Bill Kelleher – 1 vote)
Treasurer:	Bob Messenger	104 votes (Write-Ins: Brian Mottershead – 1 vote)
Clerk:	Nicholas Sterling	93 votes (Write-Ins: Steve Dann, Beebe Wiegand – 1 vote each)
Director:	Larry Eldridge Steve Dann Walter Driscoll Ken Belt Robby King Dan Sullivan Brian Mottershead Peter Majahad	81 votes 74 votes 74 votes 73 votes 63 votes 62 votes (Nicholas Sterling 58 votes) 55 votes 49 votes (Write-Ins: Donna Alarie, Margaret King – 2 votes each. Bruce Denis, Steve Frymer, Brian Lafferty, Peter Sherwood, Joe Sparks – 1 vote each)

All eight Bylaw Ratifications passed:

Bylaw Ratification #1	89-10
Bylaw Ratification #2	86-13
Bylaw Ratification #3	92-6
Bylaw Ratification #4	90-7
Bylaw Ratification #5	81-16
Bylaw Ratification #6	86-11
Bylaw Ratification #7	92-5
Bylaw Ratification #8	86-8

“A player surprised is half beaten.”
—Proverb

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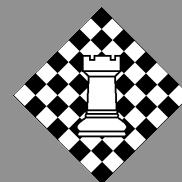
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Under 1935 Section

Advance Entry Fee: \$44,
Prizes: \$175 — 120 — 75

Top Under 1750 **\$120—60**
No unrated may win over \$75

Under 1635 Section

Advance Entry Fee: \$44,
Prizes: \$175 — 120 — 75
Top U1450 **\$100**, Top U1250 **\$75**,
Top U1050 **\$50**
No unrated may win over \$75

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Three Round Swiss:
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Special EF \$28 to players 18/under who are U1250 or Unr, or 65/over. All entry fees \$5 higher if paid after July 14.

Two Day Sections: Rounds on Saturday at 10:00 & 3:30, on Sunday at 9:30 & 3:00. Optional half-point bye available for any one of the first three rounds. Registration for "at-door" entrants: **8:30 to 9:30 AM** on Sat. Sunday Swiss: Two sections with duplicate prizes if entries permit. Rounds on Sunday at 11-1:30-4. At-door registration **9:30-10:30 AM** Sun. 7/17. All entrants must be USCF members; NHCA membership required for rated New Hampshire residents: dues \$8 adult, \$6 junior. **Hotel Information:** To reserve a room, call the Comfort Inn at (603) 668-2600, mention "NH Chess." **Hotel rates:** \$89 single or double. **INQUIRIES:** Alex Relyea at (603) 232-1373 or relyea@operamail.com