

# Chess Horizons

# The Magazine of the Massachusetts Chess Association



**January-March 2011**  
**\$3.95**



# 21st Massachusetts Game/60 Championship

Sunday, April 17th, 2011 • Leominster, Massachusetts

## \$1600 in Projected Prizes, \$1200 Guaranteed



**Where:** Four Points by Sheraton, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster MA 01453, (978) 534-9000.

**What:** 4-round USCF rated Swiss, Game/60, in 5 sections: Open, U2000, U1800, U1500, U1200.

**Registration:** 8:30 – 9:30 AM

**Rounds:** 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, 3:30 PM, 6:00 PM.

**Entry Fee:** \$34 if received by mail or online (PayPal) at [www.masschess.org](http://www.masschess.org) by **4/15**, \$40 at site. \$10 discount to unrated and players in U1200. GMs and IMs free. No phone/email entries.

**Special:** Unrated may play in any section but may not win 1st prize except in the Open section.

**Prizes:** Prizes are 75% guaranteed based on 70 players.

**Open:** \$250-150      U2150 \$100      **6 Grand Prix Points**

**U2000:** \$200-100

**U1800:** \$150-75      U1650 \$75

**U1500:** \$150-75      U1350 \$75

**U1200:** \$150-50      U1000 \$50

- One half-point bye allowed in any round if requested with entry. Limit one bye.
- USCF and MACA required. (MACA dues \$12 adult, \$6 under 18; add \$8 [optional] for a subscription to *Chess Horizons*)

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

### 21st Massachusetts Game/60 Championship, April 17th, 2011

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ USCF # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Rating: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Junior MACA - Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Need USCF membership?	Yes / No	Enclosed for USCF is	\$ _____	
Need MACA membership?	Yes / No	Enclosed for MACA is	\$ _____	Adult: \$12, Junior (under 18) \$6 (add \$8 for <i>Chess Horizons</i> [optional])

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**

## In This Issue

From the Acting Editor  
Page 4

Alex Fikiet Wins 77th Greater Boston Open  
Page 5

IMs Vojinovic, Vigorito tie with Shmelov for  
first in Pillsbury Memorial  
Page 6

MACA Scholastics  
Page 7

The Theoretical Queen Sacrifice  
Page 13

Annotated Games from "*Formation Attacks*"  
Page 14

Review: Joel Johnson, "*Formation Attacks*"  
Page 17

When g6 Means Deep 6  
Page 18

Ivanov Annotates  
Page 20

Club News  
Page 21

## On the Cover

*Chess Horizons* photography editor Warner Smith has created a montage of MACA members. Can you name them all? If you think you can, contact Bob Messenger. The first person to correctly name all the people on the cover will win a will win a free entry to the 80th Massachusetts Open (MACA board members and the *Chess Horizons* staff are not eligible.)

Cover photos by Warner Smith.

**The next deadline for submissions is April 1, 2011.**

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

# Chess Horizons

January-March 2011  
Volume 43, Number 1

### ACTING EDITOR

Bob Messenger  
4 Hamlett Dr. Apt. 12,  
Nashua N.H. 03062  
editor@masschess.org

### LAYOUT

Max Sewell

### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

George Mirijanian  
Stephen Dann

### PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Warner Smith  
www.ThePhotographySmith.com  
warner@thephotographysmith.com

### ADVERTISING MANAGER

Position Vacant

ISSN 0147-2569. Published by the Massachusetts Chess Association (MACA), [www.masschess.org](http://www.masschess.org). Entire contents copyright 2011 by MACA and by the individual authors. The opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of MACA, its board or its membership. Single-copy price, \$3.95. MACA membership: Adult: \$20 with Chess Horizons, \$12 without. Junior (under 18): \$14 with Chess Horizons, \$6 without. Subscription rates without membership: \$12 within US (first-class mail \$9 additional). Air mail rates: \$18 Canada and Mexico, \$22 Central and South America, \$25 Europe, \$28 Asia, Africa and the Pacific Rim

**Send renewals, address changes, and all money (in US funds, payable to MACA), to Membership Secretary Bob Messenger, 4 Hamlett Dr. Apt. 12, Nashua, NH 03062, USA. Include USCF ID number, e-mail and ZIP+4 if known. Or join/renew at [masschess.org](http://masschess.org). No refunds.**

# MACA

Massachusetts Chess Association

[www.masschess.org](http://www.masschess.org)

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

George Mirijanian  
176 Oak Hill Road, Fitchburg MA 01420  
(978) 345-5011  
[president@masschess.org](mailto:president@masschess.org)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Steve Frymer  
64 Asbury Street, Lexington MA 02421  
(781) 862-3799

### TREASURER

Robert D. Messenger  
4 Hamlett Dr. Apt. 12, Nashua, NH 03062  
(603) 891-2484  
[treasurer@masschess.org](mailto:treasurer@masschess.org)

### CLERK

Brian Mottershead  
118 Nowell Farme Rd., Carlisle MA 01741  
(978) 371-3960  
[clerk@masschess.org](mailto:clerk@masschess.org)

### CONTACT ADDRESS

[www.masschess.org/contact](http://www.masschess.org/contact)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

**Budget, Living Memorial Chess Fund,****Prison Chess:** Steve Frymer**Bylaws, Parliamentarian, Scholastics,****Web:** Brian Mottershead**Fundraising:** George Mirijanian**Membership Secretary, Publications,****Tournaments:** Bob Messenger**Volunteers:** Stephen Dann**Webmaster:** Tiffany Wang

## From the Acting Editor

**by Bob Messenger**

First, I have to apologize for the lateness of this issue. Frankly, spend the time that I'd like on *Chess Horizons*, and I've also found it hard to find people willing to write articles for the magazine. The good news is that this is my last issue as acting editor. MACA President George Mirijanian has agreed to become the editor of *Chess Horizons* starting with the April-June issue. George was *Chess Horizons* editor in the 1970s and over the years has been a major contributor to the magazine.

Congratulations to the New England Nor'easters for finishing first in their first season in the U.S. Chess League! Also, congratulations to Max Wiegand for winning the Elementary Varsity section of the 45th Greater New York Scholastic Championship, and congratulations to the winners of Massachusetts' own Barry S. Spiegel Cup scholastic championship: Andrew Wang, Grant Xu, Alex Fauman and Jason Tang.

Besides voting in this year's MACA election, please consider registering as a voter on [uschess.org](http://uschess.org) for the coming U.S. Chess Federation election. The registration deadline is March 31st. To check your status as a registered voter, go to: [msa.uschess.org](http://msa.uschess.org). To register as a voting member, go to: [secure2.uschess.org/voter-registration.php](http://secure2.uschess.org/voter-registration.php).

MACA notes the passing of several former members: Moiz Mutlu and Peter Zito in December and Ed Wyckoff in January, as well as Grandmaster and 5-time U.S. Champion Larry Evans, who died in November. Among his many other accomplishments, Evans was the editor of the *American Chess Quarterly*, published in Cambridge, Mass., from 1961 to 1965.

## MACA Update

Two more members of the MACA Executive Board have resigned, bringing the total number of resignations since June up to to six. President Ken Ballou resigned in December. Besides being MACA's president Ken was also the chair of the Tournament Committee, and he had taken over as chair of the Scholastic Committee in September following the resignation of Vice President Maryanne Reilly. In January Director Alex Relyea resigned for health reasons. Alex was a member of the Tournament Committee and chair of the Elections Commission, and, along with Ken, had been the chief director at many MACA tournaments. Both of them will be greatly missed.

At the January meeting of the MACA Executive Board George Mirijanian was appointed as MACA's new president, to serve the remainder of the term until the annual meeting at the end of May. Steve Frymer was appointed Vice President, Bob Messenger was appointed chair of the Tournament Committee, and Brian Mottershead was appointed chair of the Scholastic Committee.

# Alex Fikiet wins 77th Greater Boston Open

by George Mirijanian



NM Alex Fikiet. Photo: Warner Smith

Alex Fikiet, a 16-year-old master from Storrs, Connecticut, posted a perfect score of 4-0 to win the 77th Greater Boston Open, held Sunday, October 31, at the Katherine Kennedy Senior Center in Natick. Among his wins were victories against three of the four top-rated masters in the Open section. Tying for second place with 3-1 tallies were top-ranked FIDE master William Kelleher of Watertown, who lost to Fikiet in the final round, and national master Lawyer Times of Hyde Park, who lost to Fikiet in the second round. Tying for the Under 2150 prize with 2-2 results were Winston Huang of Newton and Alan Shalk of Berwick, Maine. Richard Judy of York Beach, Maine won the Under 2000 section with a score of 3.5-0.5. Siddharth Arun was second with a 3-1 tally. Capturing the Under 1850 prize with a 2.5-1.5 performance was Nicholas Zhang of Lexington. The Under 1700 section ended in a tie between John Watters of Gloucester and Kostandinos Sideras, a visitor from Rochester, Minnesota. Both tallied 3-1. Deadlocked in a tie for the Under 1550 prize with scores of 2.5-1.5 were Mark Seedner of York

Beach, Maine, Jason Tang of Belmont, and Daniel Blessing of Medfield. Andy Li of Acton won the Under 1400 section with a score of 3.5-0.5. Tying for 2nd-3rd place and sharing the Under 1200 prize with 3-1 results were Rahul Krishnan of Hopkinton and Conway Xu of Lexington. The four-section tournament drew a disappointing 45 players and was directed for the sponsoring Massachusetts Chess Association by associate national TD Alex Relyea of Bedford, New Hampshire. He was assisted by his wife, Nita Patel, national TD Ken Ballou of Framingham, and senior TD Bob Messenger of Nashua, N.H.

In the first round, expert Ed Astrachan almost upset NM Lawyer Times in this interesting game.

**Lawyer Times (2263)**

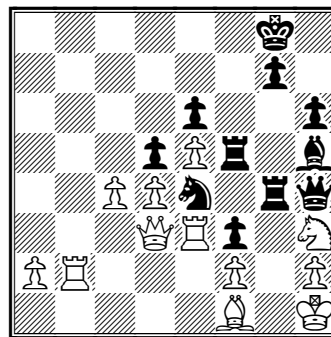
**Ed Astrachan (2028)**

**[D05] Queen's Pawn Game**

**77th Greater Boston Open Natick, MA, 31.10.2010**

**[Bob Messenger]**

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 c5 4.c3 e6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 cxd4 7.exd4 Bd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 Qc7 10.Qe2 a6 11.Ne5 b5 12.Ndf3 b4 13.Bd2 bxc3 14.bxc3 Bb7 15.Ng5 h6 16.Nh3 Ne4 17.Nf3 f5 18.g3 Rf6 19.Kg2 Raf8 20.Rac1 Qf7 21.Bf4 Bxf4 22.gxf4 Qh5 23.Ne5 Qh4 24.Qf3 Nxe5 25.fxe5 Rg6+ 26.Kh1 Rg4 27.Rc2 Bc6 28.Bxa6 Be8 29.Bf1 Bh5 30.Qd3 f4 31.Rb2 f3 32.Re3 Rf5 33.c4 (D)



[White won in sudden death. According to Fritz Black should have won after 33...Ng5 34.Ng1 (if 34.Nxg5 Rgxg5 followed by 35...Qg4 +, or if 35.h3 Rg6 followed by 36...Qg5 +) 34...Rxg1+! 35.Kxg1 Qg4+ 36.Kh1 Nh3 with a forced mate] **1-0**

# IMs Vojinovic, Vigorito tie with Shmelov for first in Pillsbury Memorial

by George Mirijanian

International master Goran Vojinovic, a noted chess coach from Serbia who recently moved to Wayland, Massachusetts from Ohio and now lives in Missouri, tied with fellow IM David Vigorito of Somerville and USCF senior life master Denys Shmelov of Pepperell for 1st-3rd place in the Harry Nelson Pillsbury Memorial tournament on Sunday, November 28, at the Leominster Veterans Center in Leominster. The trio tallied 3.5-0.5 in an Open section field of 23 players.

Capturing the top Under 2100 prize with a 3-1 score was Winston Huang of Newton. Sharing the 2nd Under 2100 prize with 2.5-1.5 results were Zaroug Jaleel of Lexington, Jacob Fauman of Newton and John Elmore of Stratham, New Hampshire. Philip Lowell Jr. of Westbrook, Maine, Daniel Pascetta of South Glastonbury, Connecticut and Jason Tang of Belmont shared top honors in the 13-player Under 1900 section, where they finished with scores of 3-1 and divided the top two prizes as well as the top Under 1750 prize. Thomas Brinkmann of Somerville and Andy Li of Acton tallied 3.5-0.5 to finish as the top two scorers in the 25-player Under 1600 section. Taking the 3rd-place prize with a 3-1 result was David Todd of Boxford. William Brown Jr. of Winchendon won the 1st Under 1300 prize with a 3-1 score, while James Zhou of Andover captured the 2nd Under 1300 prize with a 2.5-1.5 tally.

The turnout of 61 players was the largest attendance for a Pillsbury Memorial in this decade. Directing the event for the sponsoring Massachusetts Chess Association was associate national TD Alex Relyea of Bedford, New

Hampshire, assisted by his wife Nita Patel, and national TD and MACA president Ken Ballou of Framingham. Because of the larger attendance, the prize fund was increased by \$300 - with more place and under prizes being given in the top and bottom sections. A special feature of the tournament was the broadcast on the Internet of LIVE games from the top two boards in the Open section for all four rounds, made possible by a loan of two DGT electronic boards from MACA life member Walter Champion of Wellesley. This was an historic first for the state association.

**Jacob Fauman (2014)**

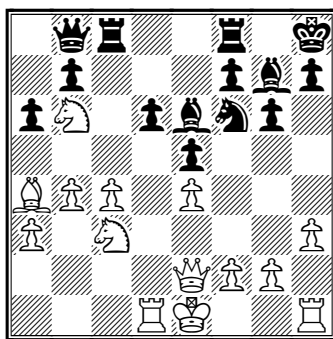
**IM David Vigorito (2510)**

**[E71] King's Indian Defense**

**Harry Nelson Pillsbury Memorial**

**Leominster, MA, 28.11.2010**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.Bg5 Na6 7.Bd3 e5 8.d5 Qe8 9.Nge2 c6 10.Bc2 cxd5 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Nxd5 Bg7 13.Nec3 Be6 14.a3 Rc8 15.Nb5 Rc6 16.Ne3 Qb8 17.Qe2 Ne5 18.Nc3 Kh8 19.Ned5 a6 20.b4 Nd7 21.Ba4 Rcc8 22.Rd1 Nf6 23.Nb6 (D)



**Bxc4! 24.Nxc4 b5 25.Nxd6? Rxc3 26.Qb2 Rc6 27.Qxe5 bxa4 28.Nxf7+ Kg8 29.Qxb8 Rxb8 30.Ne5 Re6**

**31.Nd7 Rxe4+ 32.Kf1 Nxd7 33.Rxd7 Rbe8 34.g4 Re2 35.Kg2 Rf8 36.Rf1 Ra2 37.Ra7 Rxa3 38.Rxa6 Ra2 39.b5 Bd4 40.b6 Raxf2+ 41.Rxf2 Rxf2+ 42.Kg3 Rb2 43.Rxa4 Bxb6 44.Rc4 Kg7 45.Kf4 h6 46.h4 Bd8 47.h5 Bg5+ 48.Kg3 Rb6 49.Rc7+ Kf6 50.Rc8 Rb3+ 51.Kf2 Bh4+ 52.Ke2 gxf5 53.gxf5 Kg5 0-1**

**FM William Kelleher (2373)**

**IM Goran Vojinovic (2572)**

**[C02] French Defense**

**Harry Nelson Pillsbury Memorial**

**Leominster, MA, 28.11.2010**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.a3 Bd7 7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Rc8 9.Be3 Nce7 10.Qd2 Nf5 11.Nc3 Ngh6 12.Bd3 Be7 13.0-0 0-0 14.Rfc1 Kh8 15.h3 a6 16.Qd1 Qa7 17.Ne2 Nxe3 18.fxe3 Qb8 19.Nf4 Rxc1 20.Rxc1 Rc8 21.Rc2 g6 22.Qc1 Rxc2 23.Qxc2 Nf5 24.Kf2 Qc8 25.Qxc8+ Bxc8 26.e4 dxe4 27.Bxe4 a5 28.g4 Ng7 29.bxa5 Bd8 30.a6 bxa6 31.Bc6 a5 32.a4 Kg8 33.Ke3 Kf8 34.Ke4 Ne8 35.d5 exd5+ 36.Nxd5 f5+ 37.Kf4 Ng7 38.Ng5 Ne6+ 39.Nxe6+ Bxe6 40.Nf6 fxg4 41.hxg4 h6 42.Ne4 Bb6 43.Nd6 Bd4 44.Nb7 Bb6 45.Nd6 Ke7 46.Nb5 g5+ 47.Kf3 Bb3 48.Nd6 Bd1+ 49.Kg3 Bc7 50.Nf5+ Ke6 51.Nxh6 Bxe5+ 52.Kh3 Kd6 53.Be8 Kc5 54.Nf7 Bf4 55.Nd8 Kb4 56.Ne6 Be3 57.Nc7 Bb3 58.Bc6 Kc5 59.Be8 Bc4 60.Kg2 Bf4 61.Kf3 Bxc7 0-1

*"A knight ending is really  
a pawn ending."*

— Mikhail Botvinnik

# MACA Scholastics

by Bob Messenger

MACA kicked off its 2010-2011 scholastic season with the 1st Qualifier tournament held October 3rd at the Boys and Girls Club in Hudson. (In previous years this tournament was called the Fall Foliage Festival.) Jesse Nicholas won the High School section with 3.5 points out of 4, drawing his game against Vikas Shiva and winning the other three. Michelle Chen and Tian Rossi each scored 3.5-0.5 in the 14 & Under section, with Michelle winning a blitz playoff match to qualify for the finals. Evan Meyer and Samuel Qiu swept the 11 & Under and 8 & Under sections respectively, both scoring 4-0. Brian Reidy, Adam Maimon and Eddie Wang each scored 3-1 in the Novice Under 800 section, with Brian winning the 1st place trophy on tiebreak. Audrey Gaines won the Novice Under 400 section with a 4-0 score. Ken Ballou was the chief tournament director. There were 87 players.

The other three qualifiers were all held at the Holiday Inn Select in Woburn, with Alex Relyea as the chief TD at each tournament.

## The 2nd Qualifier

The 2nd Qualifier was held on November 14th. Embert Lin won the High School section with 3-1, winning a blitz playoff against Darwin Ding, and Fangru Jiang won the 14 & Under section with 3.5-0.5, winning a playoff against Nicholas Plotkin. There were two perfect scores in the 11 & Under section; Michael Isakov won the playoff vs. Sandeep Vadlamudi. Justin Lin was the only player to score 4-0 in the 8 & Under section. Xerxes Patel, Eddie Wang, James Cassidy, and Ansh Jetly all scored 3-1 in the Novice Under 800 section, with Xerxes winning 1st on



Jason Tang.. Photo: Warner Smith

tiebreak. Nikita Roldan-Levchenko swept the Novice Under 400 section 4-0. There were 95 players.

## The 3rd Qualifier

At the 94-player 3rd Qualifier, held on December 5th, Vikas Shiva won the High School section with 3.5-0.5, getting a full point bye in the last round. There were only three players left in the section when a player withdrew after the first round, and the other two players had already received byes. There was a three-way blitz playoff in the 14 & Under section, Timothy Lung winning against Charlie Fauman and Jesse Klimov. All three players scored 3.5-0.5. Arnab Ghosh also scored 3.5-0.5 in the 11 & Under section and won clear first; his only draw was against Tal Puhov. Eric Feng swept the 8 & Under section with 4-0. Jeremy Tang won the Novice Under 800 section with 3.5-0.5, and Tyler Saklad scored 4-0 in the Novice Under 400 section.



Samuel Qiu. Photo: Warner Smith

## The 4th Qualifier

The 4th and final Qualifier was held on January 9th. Eliot Strassman won the 3-player High School Section with 3-1. He scored 1-1 against Darwin Ding, won his game against Jacob Fauman, and got a full point bye. Jesse Klimov and Amanda Chen each scored 3.5-0.5 in the 14 & Under section, with Jesse winning the blitz playoff. Anton Barash went 4-0 in the 11 & Under section. Rohan Krishnan scored 3.5-0.5 in the 8 & Under section, winning a playoff against Andrew The. James Cassidy and Gershon Gilman both scored 3.5-0.5 in the Novice Under 800 section, James winning 1st on tiebreak. Daniel Wang won the Novice Under 400 section with 3.5-0.5, drawing against Nikhil Datta and winning his other games. There were 102 players.

## The Holiday Team Challenge

The Holiday Team Challenge, held January 23rd at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough, drew 23 teams and

96 players. Sage A (Nicholas Plotkin, Bary Lisak, Kevin Hu, and Eric Hu) won all their matches to win the K-12 section. The other two winning teams each drew their match in round one and won the other three: Winchester Chess Club (Mateos Sahakian, Conway Xu, Christopher Wang, and Justin Lin) in the K-6 section and Three Boys and a Girl (Carissa Yip, Rohan Krishnan, Matthew Ding, and Maxwell Wang) in the K-3 section. The chief TD was Bob Messenger.

### Barry S. Spiegel Cup

Finally, the Barry S. Spiegel Cup, the invitational Massachusetts scholastic championship, was held at the Holiday Inn Select in Woburn. There were 10 players in each section: the six highest rated players in that age group plus the winners of the four qualifiers. Andrew Wang swept the High School section 4-0, winning an invitation to represent Massachusetts at the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions in August. Grant Xu won the 14 & Under section with a 3.5-0.5 score and will be invited to play in the new K-8 Tournament of State Champions, also in August. Alex Fauman won the 11 & Under Section with a perfect 4-0 score, while Jason Tang won the 8 & Under section with 3.5-0.5. Brian Mottershead was the chief tournament director.

In addition to Ken Ballou, Alex Relyea, Bob Messenger and Brian Mottershead, Nita Patel, Steve Frymer, George Mirijanian, Stephen Dann, Beebe Wiegand and Brian Laffety also assisted at one or more of these tournaments. For further details see the tournament reports and crosstables on the MACA web site, [www.mass-chess.org](http://www.mass-chess.org). Congratulations to all of the winners, and especially to our state champions: Andrew Wang, Grant Xu, Alex Fauman, and Jason Tang!

### (2) Evan Meyer (1241)

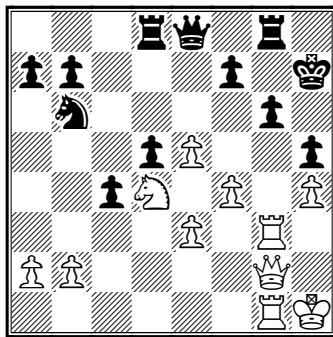
Michael Isakov (1243)

#### [D35] Queen's Gambit Declined

#### 1st Qualifier, 11 and Under (4)

[Steve Frymer & Bob Messenger]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.cxd5 exd5 6.e3** [A trap! 6.Nxd5?? Nxd5! 7.Bxd8 Bb4+ wins!] **6...c6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Be2** [8.Bd3 looks more in line with aggressive play.] **8...h6 9.Bh4 0-0 10.0-0 c5** This allows an isolated pawn, which White declines. **11.Ne5 c4? 12.f4?** [White could have won a pawn with 12.Nxd7 Bxd7 (or 12...Qxd7 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Bf3 and Black can't defend the d-pawn) 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Nxd5 (Fritz)] **12...Nb6 13.g4 Nfd7 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Rf3** Drops a pawn but gives White an attacking position. **15...Nxe5 16.dxe5 Bxg4 17.Rg3 Bxe2 18.Qxe2 Qe6** [Better was 18...f6 challenging White's pawn center and allowing the queen to defend g7] **19.Qg2 g6** Black must defend carefully. **20.Kh1 Kh7 21.Rg1 Rg8 22.h4 h5?** [This creates a nasty hole at g5. Better is 22...a6 and if 23.h5 Qf5 allows Black to hold the position] **23.Ne2 Qe8 24.Nd4 Rd8 (D)**



**25.f5?** [Instead of giving up the e-pawn White should have played 25.Rg5 threatening 26.Qf3 and 27.Rxh5+!] **25...gxf5??** [A blunder, missing White's winner. After 25...Qxe5 26.fxg6+ fxg6 27.Rxg6 Qe4 Black would have forced the exchange of queens, killing White's attack and leaving Black a pawn up

in the endgame.] **26.Rg7+ Kh8**

**27.Qg5 f6 28.Qh6# 1-0**

### (4) Michelle Chen (1917)

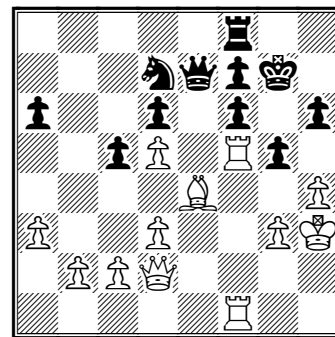
Siddharth Arun (1841)

#### [B24] Sicilian Defense

#### 1st Qualifier, 14 and Under (3)

[Steve Frymer]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nge2 d6 6.d3 Nf6 7.Be3 Bd7** [7...Ng4 was an alternative.] **8.h3 0-0 9.0-0 Qc8 10.Kh2 Rb8 11.Qd2 b5 12.a3 a6 13.f4 Ne8 14.f5 Ne5 15.Nd5 Qd8 16.Bh6 Bc6 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Ne3 Nf6 19.Nf4 Bd7 20.Nfd5 Bc6 21.Rf4 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Nxd5 23.exd5 g5** [23...Qb6 to generate queenside play is suggested.] **24.f6+!** Very nice. White sacrifices a pawn for enduring pressure. **24...exf6 25.Rf5 h6 26.Raf1 Nd7 27.Be4 b4 28.h4 bxa3 29.bxa3 Qe7 30.Qc3 Ne5 31.Kg2 Ng4 32.Qd2 Rb2 33.Kh3 Ne5 34.Qf2 Nd7 35.Qd2 (D)**



**Qd8?** Black has a choice between 35...Rfb8 and 35...Ne5. The move played gives White material. **36.Qc3 Rb5 37.hxg5 hxg5 38.Rxg5+ Kh6 39.Rg4 Rg8 40.Rxg8 Qxg8 41.Rxf6+!** An Exchange sac which leads to mate! Black declines but to no avail. **41...Kh5** [If 41...Nxf6 42.Qxf6+ Kh5 43.Qh4#!] **42.Rf5+ Kg6 43.Rf4+ f5 44.Bxf5+** A very mature and solid performance by Michelle Chen. **1-0**

**(1) Justin Lin (848)****Justin Wu (813)****[C02] French Defense****2nd Qualifier, 8 and Under (4)****[Steve Frymer & Bob Messenger]****1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Nf3**

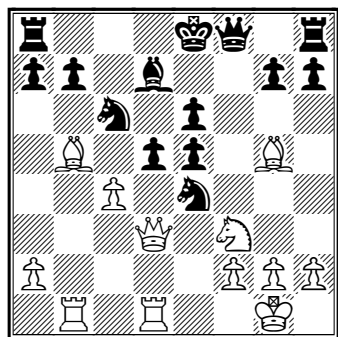
[4.c3 to maintain the pawn chain is the most common, but 4.Nf3 is also a book move.] **4...cxd4 5.Nxd4** [White can try for an advantage with 5.Bd3!?, sacrificing a pawn.] **5...Nc6 6.Nf3**

[Instead of losing time by retreating his knight White should exchange it off with 6.Nxc6.] **6...Qc7 7.Bb5 Qa5+ 8.Nc3 Bb4 9.Rb1??** Losing a piece because of the pin on the knight. [White should have played 9.Bd2 and if 9...Bxc3 10.Bxc6+ saves the bishop] **9...Bxc3+?**

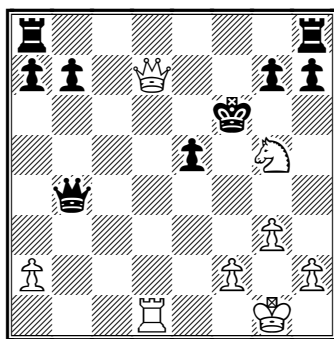
[This wins a pawn, but it was better to capture the bishop: 9...Qxb5 White can't recapture because his knight is pinned.] **10.bxc3 Qxc3+ 11.Bd2 Qc5 12.0-0 Bd7 13.Be3 Qf8?**

[Not the best burying one's Queen. 13...Qa3 is necessary.] **14.Qd2 f6 15.Rfd1 fxe5 16.c4?!** [An aggressive move to open up Black's center and take advantage of Black's misplaced Queen, but it was better to recapture the e-pawn with 16.Bxc6 Bxc6 17.Nxe5]

**16...Nf6** [Black should have played 16...e4 leaving him two pawns up. If 17.cxd5 exd5 18.Qxd5? Black wins the knight by playing 18...Nf6 (an attack-defense move: attacking the queen and defending the bishop on d7 and the pawn on e4) followed by 19...exf3] **17.Bg5 Ne4 18.Qd3 (D)**



**Nb4??** [This loses material. Better was 18...Nc5 with only a slight advantage to White] **19.Rxb4** [Better was 19.Bxd7+ Kxd7 20.Qxe4 winning a piece because of the pin on the d-file] **19...Qxb4 20.Bxd7+ Kxd7 21.cxd5?** [Missing 21.Qxe4 which would have given White two pieces for a rook instead of leaving him the exchange down. Even after this mistake White still has the advantage because of his attacking chances against Black's king.] **21...Nxc5 22.dxe6+?** [It was tempting to put Black into double check, but better was 22.Nxc5 when White would have the advantage despite being the exchange down.] **22...Kxe6?** [A better defensive move was 22...Ke7! after which the best White could do was to draw by perpetual check after 23.Qd7+ (23.Nxc5? Rad8 kills White's attack by controlling the d-file) 23...Kf6 24.Nxc5 Kxc5 25.Qxc7+ After 22...Kxe6? White has a winning attack.] **23.Nxc5+** [Better was 23.Qd5+ Ke7 24.Nxc5] **23...Ke7** [Better was 23...Kf6 although White would still be winning after 24.Ne4+] **24.Qd7+ Kf6 25.g3! (D)**

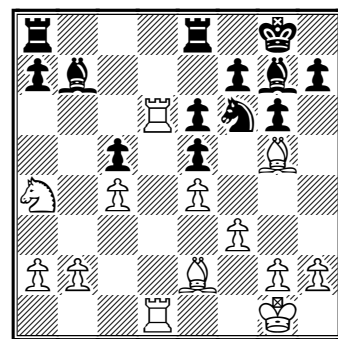


Offering a piece for a mating attack, which Black declines for now but accepts a move later. [25.Rd6+! (Fritz) would have forced checkmate in a few moves.; 25.h4 was also good.] **25...Rhd8** [If 25...Kxc5 26.Qxc7+ Kf5 (or 26...Kh5 27.Qxe5+ Kg6 28.Qe6+ Kg7 29.Rd7+ Qe7 30.Rxe7+ Kf8 31.Qf7#) 27.Qf7+ Ke4 28.Qd7 and Black has to give up his queen to stop

the checkmate] **26.Qf7+?** [The right move was 26.Qe6+ Kxc5 27.h4+ either checkmating Black or winning his queen.] **26...Kxc5 27.h4+?** [White should have played 27.Qxc7+ with a draw by perpetual check: 27...Kh5 28.Qxh7+ Kg5 29.h4+ Kf6 (not 29...Kg4?? 30.Kg2!) 30.Qh6+ Kf7 31.Qh7+ Kf6 32.Qh6+ etc.] **27...Kg4??** [Walking into checkmate. After 27...Kh6! Black's king would be safe and he'd be a rook ahead with a winning position.] **28.Kg2!** There is no defense. A great attacking effort by the winner, despite mistakes made by both players. **28...Qe4+ 29.f3+ 1-0**

**(3) Michael Isakov (1243)****Max Bennett (873)****[E61] King's Indian Defense****2nd Qualifier, 11 and Under (1)****[Steve Frymer]****1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3**

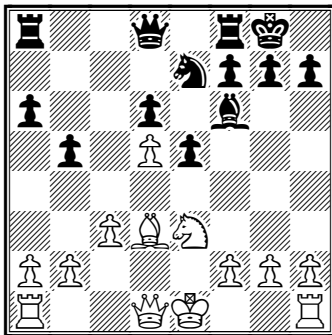
**Nc6** Provocative! Better that the c-pawn be moved to c6 or c5. **5.Bg5** [5.d5 immediately seems more enterprising.] **5...d6 6.d5 Ne5 7.Nxe5 dxe5 8.e4 e6 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 c6 11.dxc6 Qxd1** Better to not concede control of the d-file. **12.Rfxd1 bxc6 13.Rd6 Bb7 14.Rad1 c5 15.f3 Rfe8** [Black should challenge f5 immediately with 15...h6.] **16.Na4 (D)**



**Bxe4** In desperation Black tries a combination. **17.Bxf6 Bc2 18.R1d2 Bxa4 19.Bxc7 Kxc7 20.b3** Trapping the Bishop. White won in 41 moves. **1-0**

**(1) Embert Lin (1966)**  
**Jacob Fauman (1978)**  
**[B33] Sicilian Defense**  
**Barry S. Spiegel Cup, High School**  
**Waltham, Mass. (2)**  
**[Jacob Fauman]**

**1.e4 c5** I've recently started playing the Sicilian, abandoning my beloved French. Several people have congratulated me for starting to play a "real opening." **2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bf4 e5 8.Bg5 a6 9.Na3 b5 10.Nd5 Be7 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.c3 0-0 13.Bd3** Up until now, everything has been played according to the book. This move may be a slight inaccuracy. Correct is 13. Nc2 Rb8 when 14. g3, 14. Bd3, 14. Be2, and 14. h4 all offer good chances for both sides. **13...Be6** Trying to take advantage of the fact that the white bishop is blocking the queen, so Nxf6 can now be met by Qxf6. However, 13...Bg5 14.Nc2 Ne7 was also worth considering. **14.Nc2 Bxd5 15.exd5 Ne7 16.Ne3?! (D)**



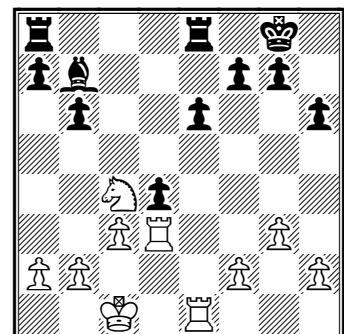
The knight is awkwardly placed here and could potentially lose an important tempo after f7-f5-f4. **16...g6** This move has the idea of retreating the bishop and rolling the f-pawn. However, stronger was 16. ...Bg5!, when the mobile black b-, e-, and f-pawns will cause serious problems for White. [Better is 16...Bg5! 17.Qh5 h6 18.Qf3 Qb6 19.Nf5 Nxf5 20.Bxf5 g6 21.Bc2 b4=+] **17.h4** Now that Black has

weakened his kingside, White starts to attack. **17...b4!?** They say the best remedy to a flank attack is activity in the center, so the idea behind this pawn sac is to initiate a tactical sequence that will open the game in Black's favor. However, simple and strong was the calm **17...Bg7 18. h5 f5 19. hxc6 hxc6**, when Black's strong pawn center seems to slightly outweigh White's attack down the h-file. **18.c4?!** This move hands the advantage to Black; White should accept the pawn sacrifice, leading to an unclear game. Possibly White missed Black's tactical idea. [Better is 18.cxb4 e4 19.Bxe4 Bxb2 20.Rb1 Bc3+ 21.Kf1 Rb8 (21...f5? fatally weakens the g6 and e6 squares. 22.Bf3 f4 23.Nc4 Rb8 24.h5 Bxb4 25.Bg4+/-) 22.h5 Rxb4 23.Rxb4 Bxb4 unclear] **18...e4!** Suddenly, Black's pieces become active. **19.Bxe4 Bxb2 20.h5!?** After 20. Rb1, I had calculated that 20... Bc3+ 21.Kf1 f5 22. Bd3 h5!? stops any White counterplay and maintains Black's space advantage. This move complicates things. **20...f5 21.hxc6** The only consistent way to play. **21...fxe4?** Over the board, I had calculated a tactical sequence that seemed to refute the piece sacrifice. However, Rybka's analysis shows that accepting the piece sacrifice leads to a loss for Black. **22.Qh5 Bc3+ 23.Kf1 h6** This is the move that I had pinned my hopes on. If White captures the pawn with 24. Qxh6, then 24...Rxf2+ 25. Kxf2 Qf8+ 26. Qxf8 Rxf8+ 27.Ke2 Bxa1 28.Rxa1 Nxc6 leads to a better endgame for Black. **24.Rb1?** This move lets Black consolidate. The winning continuation was 24. Qxh6! Rxf2 25. Kg1!! Bxa1 26. Qh7 Kf8 27. Kxf2 Bg7 28. Rf1! and Black cannot hold on to the extra piece, or even his king. **24...Bg7-+** Now Black is simply winning. White cannot increase the pressure on the h6 pawn with 25. Ng4 because 25... Nf5 defends

with the crushing threat of 26...Ng3+. **25.Qg4 Qc7 26.Rh5 Rae8 27.Qxe4??** Simply dropping more material. **27...Nf5 28.Qxf5 Rxf5 29.Rxf5 Rf8 30.Rh5 Qc5 31.Rc1??** A final blunder at the end of a long game seals White's fate **31...Qxe3 0-1**

**(2) Alex Fauman (1662)**  
**Jeffrey Yao (1799)**  
**[C13] French Defense**  
**Barry S. Spiegel Cup, 11 & Under**  
**Waltham, Mass. (3)**  
**[Alex Fauman]**

This was round 3 of the Spiegel Cup, 11 and under section. Jeffrey was the highest rated player in the section, and I was number two. I had the only perfect score at this point; Jeffrey had one and a half points. **1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Nxf6+ Bxf6** I've been in this position of the Veresov opening many times before. **7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.Qd2 Re8** [It looks like the d4 pawn is free, but it can't be captured because of: 10...Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Qxd4 12.Bxh7+ Kxh7 13.Qxd4] **11.0-0-0 Ne7 12.c3 Nd5 13.Qg5** Offering a trade of queens **13...Qxg5+ 14.Nxg5 h6 15.Nf3 Nf4** Black's fork forces a trade of the knight for the bishop, setting up a knight vs bishop showdown in the endgame **16.g3 Nxd3+ 17.Rxd3 b6 18.Re1** prevents the f3 knight from getting pinned **18...Bb7 19.Nd2 c5 20.Nc4 cxd4 (D)**

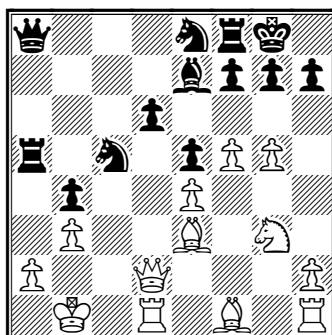


**21.Red1?** I thought I saw a possible backrank mate opportunity here, which is why I didn't immediately recapture the pawn. However, my tactic doesn't work because the king can escape to h7 **21...Rad8** [21...dxc3 22.Nd6 Re7 23.Nxb7 Rxb7 24.Rd8+ Rxd8 25.Rxd8+ Kh7 26.bxc3] **22.Rxd4 Rd5 23.Nd6 Rxd4 24.Rxd4 Rb8 25.Ra4** I moved Ra4 because it weakens the a and b pawns. **25...a5 26.Rd4 Bc6 27.Kd2 Kf8 28.Ke3 Ke7 29.Ne4 Rb7 30.Nd6 Rd7 Rd7** is a mistake because it allows me to exploit the weakness I made on b6. **31.Nc8+ Ke8 32.Rxd7 Kxd7 33.Nxb6+ Kc7 34.Nc4 a4 35.Ne5 Be8 36.b3** I went b3 because I did not want him to get a passed pawn. **36...axb3 37.axb3 f6 38.Nd3 Kd6 39.f4 g5 40.Kd4** I went Kd4 because I wanted to stop e5. **40...Bf7 41.b4 h5 42.h4 g4 43.Ke4** I went Kd4 to see if he would let me move f4. **43...Bg6+ 44.Kd4 Bf7 45.c4 Be8 46.b5 Bd7 47.c5+ Kc7 48.b6+ Kc6 49.Nb2** I went Nd2 so I could move Nc4 to Nd6. **49...Bc8 50.Nc4** Black resigns. **1-0**

**(3) Eliot Strassman (1996)**  
**Zaroug Jaleel (2107)**  
**[B90] Sicilian Defense**  
**Barry S. Spiegel Cup, High School**  
**Waltham, Mass. (3)**  
**[Elliot Strassman]**

I came into this third round game with an even score after two games as Black, and I was happy to finally get the white pieces. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Be7 9.Qd2 0-0 10.0-0-0 Nbd7 11.g4 b5 12.g5 b4 13.Ne2 Ne8 14.f4 a5 15.f5 Bxb3** [15...a4 is another main line.] **16.cxb3 a4 17.bxa4 Rxa4 18.b3** [In my first game in this line I had played: 18.Kb1 Rxa2 19.Kxa2?! (19.Nc1) 19...Qa8+ 20.Kb1 (Rybka suggests: 20.Kb3 )

20...Qxe4+ with complicated play that is probably better for Black.] **18...Ra5 19.Kb1** This was as much as I remembered from home preparation. **19...Qa8 20.Ng3 Nc5 (D)**



**21.Bxc5?** [I wanted to keep my bishop pair with 21.Qc2 but Black can take on b3 anyway: 21...Nxb3 22.Qxb3 Ra3 wins the piece back; 21.f6! is Rybka's suggestion, and definitely best, but I didn't see the idea behind it: 21...gxf6 22.Bxc5 Rxc5 23.Nf5! Qa7 24.gxf6 Bxf6 25.Rg1+ Kh8 26.Qh6 Rg8 27.Rxg8+ Kxg8 28.Rd2+-] **21...dxc5?** [I didn't see the strength of this in-between move during the game, but I needed to act immediately with 21.f6 because of: 21...Bxg5! 22.Qxg5 Rxa2 when, according to Rybka, White has to settle for at best a perpetual] **22.Bc4?** [22.f6! gxf6 23.Nf5+- is similar to the 21.f6 line, except now the d-file is open: 23...Qa7 24.gxf6 Bxf6 25.Rg1+ Kh8 26.Qh6 Rg8 27.Rxg8+ Kxg8 28.Qxf6+-] **22...Nd6?** [22...Bxg5 is still strong] **23.Bd5 Qa6 24.f6 Bd8** [If 24...gxf6 25.gxf6 Bxf6 26.Nh5 is complicated, but White is winning - for example: 26...Nb5 27.Rhg1+ Kh8 28.Qh6 Nc3+ 29.Kc1 I missed the next move in my calculations when I had played f6, but White can escape: 29...Ne2+ 30.Kd2 Rxa2+ 31.Ke3+- and Black runs out of checks.] **25.fxg7 Kxg7 26.Nf5+ Nxf5 27.exf5 f6 28.Bc4 Qa7 29.Qd7+ Be7** [29...Qxd7 30.Rxd7+ Kh8 31.g6! and mate is unavoidable.] **30.gxf6+**



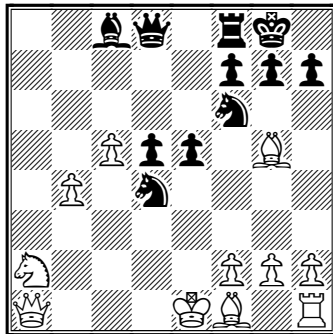
Grant Xu. Photo: Warner Smith

**Rxf6 31.Rhg1+ Kh6 32.Qd2+** This tactical battle was difficult for both sides because of the time control, but I think in general White had the easier game after ...Bxb3. **1-0**

**(4) Mika Brattain (2132)**  
**Grant Xu (2096)**  
**[E42] Nimzo-Indian Defense**  
**Barry S. Spiegel Cup, 14 & Under**  
**Waltham, Mass. (4)**  
**[Grant Xu]**

This was the crucial last round of the Spiegel Cup, with both Mika and me at 2.5 points. Whoever won this game would take the championship title. **1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4** The Nimzo-Indian. **4.e3** Rubinstein Variation. **4...c5 5.Nge2 0-0 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Nxc3 cxd4 8.exd4 d5?!** Dubious. Now White gets a massive bind on the queenside. **9.c5 b6 10.b4** [This position has actually been seen before in Conquest,S - Gormally,D Hastings 2004, when play continued with: 10.Be2 bxc5 11.dxc5 Ba6 12.0-0 Bxe2 13.Qxe2 Nc6 14.b4 White has a pleasant majority on the queenside and eventually won, albeit not without difficulty.] **10...a5?**

A move that should have cost me the title. **11.Bf4?** [11.b5! White's pawns are nearly unstoppable and it will be extremely difficult to free himself and develop counterplay: c6 is looming and Bf4 looks very strong here as well; but now Black plays actively for an advantage.] **11...axb4 12.axb4 Rxa1 13.Qxa1 Nc6 14.Na2** [Too passive. Much better would have been 14.Bd6 Re8 15.Nb5 e5 (15...Nxb4? 16.Qa4) 16.dxe5 Ne4 17.Be2 Nxd6 18.Nxd6 Rxe5 19.Nxc8 Qxc8 20.b5 Qe8 21.0-0 unclear] **14...bxc5 15.dxc5** [15.bxc5 Qa5+ 16.Bd2 Qa4+ ] **15...e5 16.Bg5 Nd4 (D)**



**17.Bd3?!** [Possibly the losing move. White could have made it a fight with 17.Qb2 Bf5 18.Be2 Nc2+ (after 18...Nxe2 19.Qxe2 White is perfectly fine) 19.Kf1-/+] **17...Ba6! 18.Qb1 Bxd3 19.Qxd3 Qa8 20.Nc1** The only move. [20.Nc3 Qa1+ 21.Nd1 Qa4] **20...Qa4 21.0-0 Qxb4 22.Bxf6** [More resistance could have been put up with: 22.Qg3 Ne4 23.Qxe5 Nxe5 24.Qxg5 Qxc5 25.Nd3] **22...gxf6 23.Qa6 Kg7 24.Qd6 Qc4 25.f4 Nf5 26.Qd7 Qxc5+ 27.Kh1 Qc8 28.Qxc8 Rxc8 29.fxe5 fxe5 30.Nd3** From here it's simply a conversion of the extra material. **30...e4 31.Ne5 Nd6 32.Kg1 d4 33.Rd1 d3 34.Nxd3 exd3 35.Rxd3 Ne4 36.g3 Rc2 37.Re3 Ng5 38.h4 Ne6 39.Rf3 Nd4 40.Re3 Re2 41.Rd3 Nf5 42.Kf1 Re3 43.Rd5 Nxe3+ 44.Kf2 Ra3 45.Rd4 Nf5 46.Rf4 Kf6 47.Ke2 Rh3 48.Ra4 Rxh4 49.Ra8 Kg5** Black won in a couple of moves. **0-1**

## Donate to MACA!

MACA is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization, so your donation is tax deductible. There are four ways you can donate:

**Living Memorial Chess Fund.** This fund is used for special projects such as furnishing free chess sets to schools, libraries and public service agencies. For a \$35 minimum donation a person you designate can be added to a list of people honored by donations to this fund.

**Prison Chess Fund.** Donations to this fund are used to mail *Chess Horizons* to prison inmates.

**Chess Horizons.** Donations designated for *Chess Horizons* increase the money that's available to help us publish a high quality magazine.

**General donations.** If you don't designate a use for the money that you donate it will be used to help defray MACA's general expenses.

Mail your check, payable to MACA, to MACA Treasurer Bob Messenger, 4 Hamlett Dr. Apt. 12, Nashua NH 03062.

## Massachusetts Blitz Championship

The Massachusetts Blitz Championship will be held Sunday, May 29th at the site of the 80th Massachusetts Open. Registration ends 9:15 p.m. and the 1st round is at 9:30 p.m. The entry fee is \$10 if playing in the Massachusetts Open, otherwise \$15. 75% of entry fees will be returned as prizes.

## Advertisers

**Page Size:** 8.5" x 11"

### Full Page Rates:

Back Cover: \$175  
Inside Back Cover: \$150,  
Inside Front Cover: \$150.

1/8th page: \$20  
Quarter page: \$35  
Half page: \$60  
Full: \$100

### Discount Rates

- 1 ad for 2 issues:  
**10% off total price**
- 1 ad for 3 issues:  
**15% off total price**
- 1 ad for 4 issues:  
**25% off total price**

**Free Ad design/layout available.**

All ad copy and its location is subject to final approval by the Editor of *Chess Horizons*. Current circulation is about 600 but varies with promotional activity. Published by MACA since 1969. Ad payments must be received prior to deadline (3/01, 6/01, 9/01, 12/01).

# The Theoretical Queen Sacrifice

by NM Miro Reverby

I had the great honor of meeting former World Champion Mikhail Tal, during the 1990 Kasparov - Karpov World Championship match in New York City.

I had volunteered to work in the press room so that I could be a part of the event, and see the games for free. Many GMs and chess luminaries visited the press room to chat, analyze, and watch the games. But I experienced a sense of 'shock and awe' when I was introduced to Tal, who was hanging around the press room, and we shook hands.

I'll never forget the smile he gave me, and the friendly, joyful glint in his eyes that accompanied it. Tal looked much older than his fifty odd years, and not in the best of health (he would pass away in 1992, just two years later). But he still had the legendary fire in his eyes, and I think he got a kick out of the fact that a young chessplayer was so obviously in awe of him.

Why am I relating this story? Because recently I had the opportunity to give Tal some homage, twenty one years later, at the Marshall Chess Club Masters Tournament in New York.

The first fourteen moves followed the famous game Bobotsov - Tal, Varna 1958. I was quite familiar with this game, and fortunately for me, my opponent was not:

IM Justin Sarkar (2431)

NM Miro Reveby (2212)

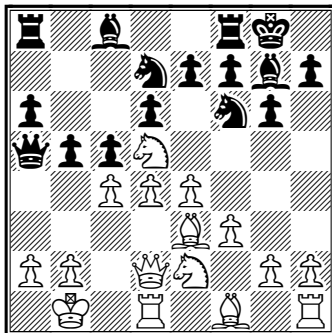
[E81] King's Indian Defense

Marshall Masters New York, N.Y.,  
15.02.2011

[Miro Reverby]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 Bg7 4.e4  
d5.Nc3 0-0 6.Be3 Nbd7 7.Qd2 c5

8.Nge2 a6 9.0-0-0 Qa5 10.Kb1 b5  
11.Nd5 (D)



**Nxd5!**

The queen sacrifice Tal played against Bobotsov over fifty years ago. No doubt Bobotsov also felt 'shock and awe' when Tal left his queen hanging on a5. Since then this sacrifice has been repeated by other players enough times, that I believe it can be placed in the rare category of a 'theoretical queen sacrifice.'

In every game I've seen with this sacrifice, Black's long term compensation has been tremendous. So much so, that I believe White's most prudent course is to decline the sacrifice, and simply recapture the knight. But 'prudence' can often look like cowardice, and many players simply cannot resist taking a queen just hanging on a5 like that. Like waving a cape in front of a bull....

Before continuing with the Sarkar - Reverby game, I suggest the reader first play through the Bobotsov - Tal 'stem' game. It will provide the proper reference, and perhaps illustrate even more clearly that Black has great play no matter how White continues.

12.Qxa5 Nxe3 13.Rc1 Nxc4 14.Rxc4  
bxc4 15.d5 [Bobotsov - Tal continued  
15.Nc1 Rb8 16.Bxc4 Nb6 17.Bb3  
Bxd4 18.Qd2 Bg7 19.Ne2 c4 20.Bc2

c3 21.Qd3 cxb2 22.Nd4 Bd7 23.Rd1  
Rfc8 24.Bb3 Na4 25.Bxa4 Bxa4  
26.Nb3 Rc3 27.Qxa6 Bxb3 28.axb3  
Rbc8 29.Qa3 Rc1+ 30.Rxc1 Rxc1+  
0-1] 15...Rb8 16.Nc3 f5 17.exf5  
Ne5! Obviously activation is far  
more important than material in this  
situation. 18.fxc6 Bf5+ 19.Ka1  
Bxc6 20.h4 h5 An important move.  
Black wants to secure the bishop's  
on the b1-h7 diagonal and also  
wants to recapture, after a future  
...Nd3, with the pawn, not the bish-  
op! 21.Be2 Nd3 22.Bxd3 cxd3  
23.Rd1 Rf4 All systems go! White  
realizes that the threat of Rfb4 is  
much more dangerous than the threat  
to the 'h' pawn. 24.a3 Rxh4 25.Qxa6  
Rh2 26.Qa7 Rb3 27.Ka2 c4 28.Qg1  
Be5 29.a4 h4 30.a5 Rb8 31.a6 h3  
32.a7 Ra8 33.Qb6 Rxc2 34.Qb8+  
Rxb8 35.axb8Q+ Kf7 So White has  
just won a rook, and Black now  
'only' has a piece and two pawns for  
the queen. But these two pawns are  
passed and far advanced; Black has  
the bishop pair, and numerous other  
threats. His compensation is still  
overwhelming! 36.Qb4 h2 37.Rh1  
Rg1 38.Rxh2 Bxh2 39.Qxc4 d2  
40.Qe2 Bf4 41.Qe6+ Kf8 42.Qc8+  
Kg7 43.Qe6 Bg5 44.f4 Bf6 45.f5  
Bxc3 46.fxc6 d1Q And Black's sac-  
rificed queen returns from the dead!  
White gave a few more checks in the  
ensuing time scramble before capitula-  
ting. It is easy to see White has no  
perpetual. 0-1

*"There are two types of  
sacrifices: correct ones,  
and mine."*

— Mikhail Tal

# Annotated Games From “Formation Attacks”

by LM Joel Johnson

Life Master Joel Johnson won the 2007 U.S. Senior Chess Championship and was a former award winning Editor of *Chess Horizons*. The following games are excerpts from Joel's recently released book entitled, “Formation Attacks”. More information about the book can be obtained from the following website: <http://www.lulu.com/product/paperback/formation-attacks/12922778>

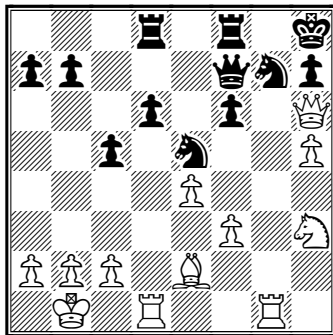
**White: FearNoEvil (2200)**

**Black: TheCrusher (2112)**

**[B07] Pirc Defense**

**ICC 5 0, 12/25/2003**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bd3 g6 5.Nge2 Bg7 6.f3 0-0 7.Be3 e5 8.Qd2 exd4 9.Nxd4 c5 10.Nde2 Nc6 11.h4 Nh5 12.g4 Nf6 13.h5 Ne8 14.Bh6 Ne5 15.Ng1 Qf6 16.Bxg7 Nxc7 17.Be2 gxf3 18.Nd5 Qd8 19.Qh6 f6 20.0-0-0 Be6 21.Nf4 Bf7 22.Nxh5 Bxh5 23.gxf3 Qe7 24.Nh3 Qf7 25.Rhg1 Kh8 26.Kb1 Rad8 (D)



White has a solid advantage primarily because of the open g-file and Black's King exposure. In addition, Black's Queen is tied down defending the Knight on g7, which also happens to be checkmate. However, on the flip side, White has a Knight on h3

doing nothing, a Bishop on e2 tied down to defending the Pawn on f3, and the Rook on d1 could be more useful on the g-file. So, what's my plan? Well, I decided that the best course of action was to improve the position of all those aforementioned pieces, and thus, increase the pressure on Black's position. The easiest piece to fix is the White Bishop. Why? Well, the Black piece hindering the Bishop is the Knight on e5 and that Knight can be knocked out with 27. f4. But, before playing a move like 27. f4, we must make sure that we aren't helping Black out by chasing his Knight to a better square. All the forward moves, Ng4, Nf3, Nd3, and Nc4 are protected by White's Bishop. Don't make the mistake thinking that the c4 square is protected, because it isn't. The Black Knight also cannot go toward his King to help defend with either Ng6 or Nf7. Therefore, Black's only real choices are either 27. ... Nc6 or 27. ... Nd7. After the Black Knight retreats, my Bishop is free to join in the attack. And, because the Black Queen is tied down defending the g7 square, we can get another free move attacking the Black Queen with 28. Bc4. I refer to this tactic as the Invisible Defender. Basically, the Bishop is protected by a stronger threat somewhere else on the board.

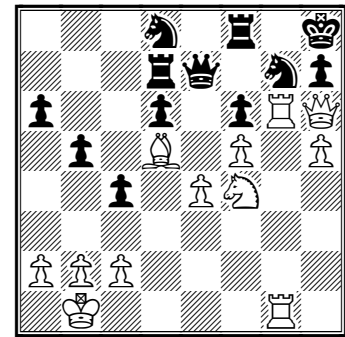
**27.f4 Nc6 28.Bc4 Qe7**

The next piece to improve is the Rook on d1 by doubling up the Rooks on the g-file. There are many moves that can accomplish this task, like, Rg2, Rg3, Rg4, Rg6, Rd2, and Rd3. I chose 29. Rg6 because it puts the most pressure on Black's position by attacking the Black Pawn on f6 also.

**29.Rg6 Rd7 30.Rdg1 Nd8**

If you haven't already noticed, Black is really tied up. He could only move the Knight on d8 and make some meaningless Pawn moves. Now, he wants to play 31. ... Nde6. I can prevent this move by playing 31. f5. Normally, I am reluctant to play a move like this because it opens up a permanent, big hole on e5, suitable for a Black Knight. But, I can see the conclusion of the game coming. More importantly, 31. f5 opens up the f4 square for my Knight, after which, I have enough pieces involved in the attack to finish Black off.

**31.f5 a6 32.Nf4 b5 33.Bd5 c4 (D)**



**34.Rxg7 Qxg7 35.Ng6+ Qxg6 36.Qxf8+ 1-0**

In our next game, white chooses to weaken his kingside Pawn formation, rather than lose a Pawn. Afterwards a fierce kingside attack by Black pays off just before White can promote one or more passed Pawns.

**White: Champbuster (2425)**

**Black: FearNoEvil (2200)**

**[B02] Alekhine's Defense**

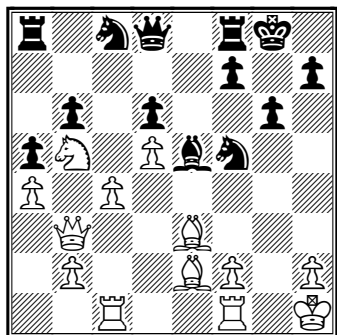
**ICC 5 0, 10/23/1999**

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.Nf3 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 cxd6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Be2

**Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.a4 a5 10.d4 Nc6  
11.Nb5 Bg4 12.Be3 Bxf3 13.gxf3**

White intentionally chooses to destroy his kingside Pawn structure rather than give away the c4 Pawn. As a result, Black responds with a kingside attack.

**13. ... e5 14.d5 Ne7 15.Qb3  
Nbc8 16.Rac1 b6 17.f4 Nf5 18.fxe5  
Bxe5 19.Kh1? (D)**

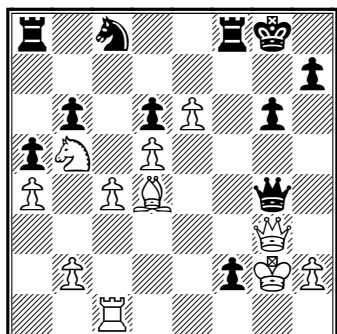


This seems like a reasonable move, however, White will be forced to play f4 to defend the checkmate on h2 which leaves the g3 square vulnerable. A better choice was Bd2.

**19. ... Qh4 20.f4 Ng3+ 21.Kg2  
Nxe2 22.fxe5 Qe4+ 23.Kf2 Nxc1  
24.Rxc1 f5**

My thoughts here are that I need some more help for my Queen. With each f-Pawn push, the Black passed Pawn becomes a bigger and bigger threat to White's King. In addition, the Black Rook on f8 also gets stronger with each f-Pawn move.

**25.e6 f4 26.Bd4 f3 27.Qe3 Qh4+  
28.Kg1 f2+ 29.Kg2 Qg4+ 30.Qg3 (D)**



**Qe4+ 31.Kh3 Rf3**

31. ... Rf5! with the idea of  
32. ... Rh5+ is even stronger.

**32.Bxf2 Rxc3+ 33.Bxc3**

Black's attack has netted the White Queen, but White still has plenty of compensation.

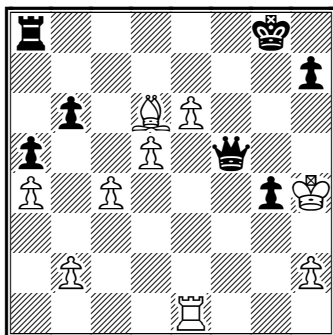
**33. ... g5**

White's exposed King is still a problem and the attack continues.

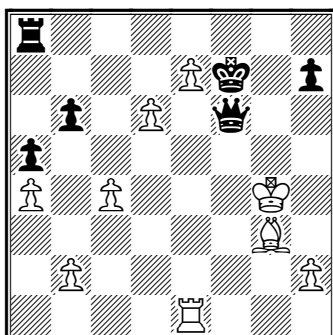
**34.Re1 g4+ 35.Kh4 Qf5**

**36.Nxd6 Nxd6 37.Bxd6**

Losing the d-Pawn was offset by the Black Rook on a8 becoming liberated and a key factor in both the attack on the White King and the defense of the back rank against the two White connected passed Pawns. (D)



**37. ... h6! 38.e7 Qf2+ 39.Bg3  
Qf6+ 40.Kxg4 Kf7 41.d6 (D)**



**41. ... h5+ 42.Kh3**

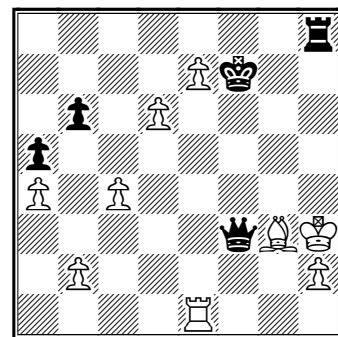
The best defense for handling the pesky White Passed Pawns is to strongly attack the exposed White King.

**42. ... h4! 43.Bxh4**

Recognizing how Black pitched his g- and h-Pawns to expose White's

King directly to Black's Queen and Rook is important.

**43. ... Qf3+ 44.Bg3 Rh8# 0-1 (D)**



**White: FearNoEvil (2200)**

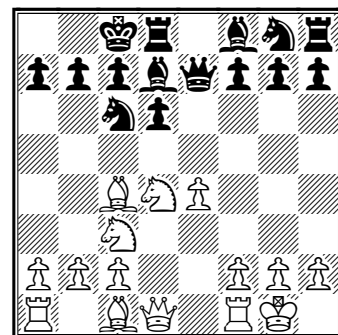
**Black: Darkness (1864)**

**[C21] Center Game**

**ICC 3 0**

Much like the last game, Black castles queenside and finds himself short of defenders. While, White develops his pieces very quickly and with the overwhelming firepower, the game is all over before Black can even complete his development.

**1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Bc4 Nc6  
4.Nf3 d6 5.Nxd4 Bd7 6.Nc3  
Qe7 7.0-0 0-0-0 (D)**



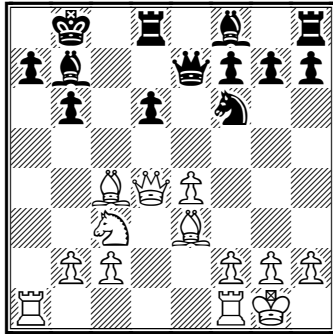
**8.Be3 Kb8 9.Nxc6+ Bxc6**

Black is down to just one defender, the Bishop on c6.

**10.Qd4 b6 11.a4 Bb7 12.a5 Nf6  
13.axb6 cxb6**

Strategically, Black is already busted, as the ratio of attackers to defenders is just too great on Black's queenside, a perfect situation for

sacrifices like... (D)



#### 14.Rxa7!!

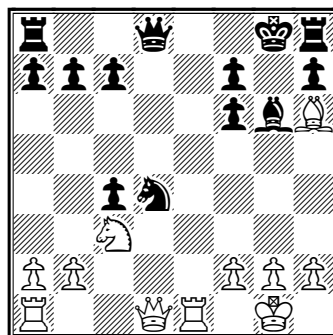
Positions like this one, where one side has a huge advantage in attackers, is where sacrifices happen. Another reason why this Rook sacrifice works is because a Replacement Attacker (the White Rook on f1) can easily and very quickly replace the lost Rook.

14. ... Kxa7 15.Nb5+ Kb8  
16.Qxb6 d5 17.Ra1  
The White Bishop is poison. 17. ... Qe6 18.Ra8+ Kxa8 19.Qa7# 1-0

**White:** Akiba Rubinstein  
**Black:** G G Bartoszkiewicz  
[C56] Two Knights Defense  
Correspondence, 1897

A fascinating Invisible Defender game where White exploits his checkmating possibilities by working over an "overloaded Black Queen".

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.0-0 Bc5 6.e5 d5 7.exf6 dxc4 8.Re1+ Kf8 9.Bg5 gxf6 10.Bh6+ Kg8 11.Nxd4 Bxd4 12.c3 Bf5 13.cxd4 Nxd4 14.Nc3 Bg6? (D)

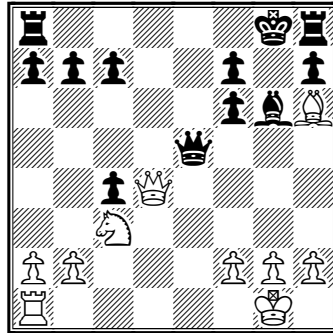


Black has so many weak dark squares to defend and the move Bg6 clearly illuminates the fact that Black is unaware of the dangers here.

#### 15.Re8+!!

A brilliant method of exploiting Black's poor King position and all the weak dark squares around the Black King.

15. ... Qxe8 16.Qxd4 Qe5 (D)



#### 17.Nd5!! 1-0

The Black Queen cannot protect all the checkmating squares. White checkmates Black after either: 17. ... Qxd4 18. Ne7#; or 17. ... Qxd5 18. Qxf6 followed by Qg7#.

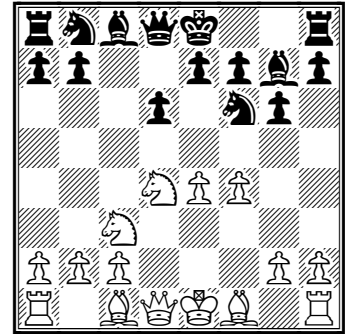
This book contains many beautiful attacking games by the great Rashid Nezhmetdinov. In America, everybody knows about Mikhail Tal. But, if you ask them to name the ten greatest attacking chess players of all-time, I feel very sure that Nezhmetdinov would be left off many people's lists. As, he was, in my opinion, the greatest attacking chess player that nobody in America has heard of. Hopefully, this book will will open quite a few eyes.

Just when you think you know how the game will end, you encounter a surprising twist.

**White:** Rashid Nezhmetdinov  
**Black:** P Ermolin  
[B71] Sicilian, Dragon, Levenfish  
Kazan Championships,  
Kazan, Russia, 1946

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

4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.f4 Bg7 (D)



#### 7.e5 dxe5 8.fxe5 Nd5 9.Bb5+

Here is that pesky check along the a4-e8 diagonal again.

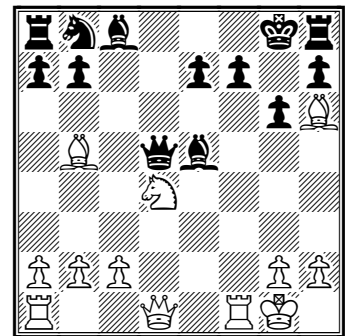
#### 9. ... Kf8

Any other move loses the Black Knight on d5.

#### 10.0-0 Bxe5?

More Pawn grabbing – very unwise.

11.Bh6+ Kg8 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 (D)



On the surface, it would appear that Black is holding everything together, but this is exactly the kind of position that attackers just love. A wide open position with loads of options against an under-developed opponent.

#### 13.Nf5!! Qc5+

Black gets checkmated after 13. Qxd1 Nxe7#.

#### 14.Be3 Qc7 15.Nh6+ 1-0

It's checkmate as either of Black's responses 15. ... Kg7 or 15. ... Kf8 are met with 16. Rxf7#.

And Black gets checkmated after 28. ... Kxh8 29. Rxf8+ Ng8 30. Be5+ Qg7 31. hxf7#.

# Review: Joel Johnson, *Formation Attacks*

by Nicholas Sterling, Ph.D.

If you're like me, you used to read games in chess books or magazines, or play games from a database, and wonder how you could ever pull off those neat triple-exclam moves that would sac the Queen and mate the King two moves after. You know, the ones you could find in Reinfeld books? The ones you could *never* make happen in *your* games?

I was devoted to Reinfeld as a teenager, and I used to pore over his florid annotations of tactical masterpieces during my free periods in high school when I used to walk across the street to the library. Naturally I was deeply envious, because I could never understand how I could play a game to the point of making those sacs. What came before the triple-exclam? And what should I look for to know that one's there waiting for me to find?

Joel Johnson goes a long way toward addressing this need in his 2010 release, *Formation Attacks*. His stated purpose in writing the book was to fill a gap he perceived left by most books about attacking: namely, that none of them explained in detail the art or the skills of attacking, beyond just providing diagrams of brilliant attacks finished off. To underscore the skills one truly needs to carry out attacks competently, Johnson opens with a short overview – what I found the most useful part of this book – of the steps masters must take to conduct productive over-the-board analysis. From there, Johnson takes us through a rapid-paced, sometimes crammed, game-by-game run-through of particular techniques, divided into three main sections of Attack Skills, Attack Info, and Attacks Games. What we get from all this is a blow-by-blow

crash course on attacking.

My impression? As to attacking tips, no doubt about it: this book is a verified treasure trove, hands down. I'll absolutely benefit big-time for my own attacking game and imagine that others will do the same. Besides the carefully detailed instructions on how to attack given positions, such as those with fianchettoed bishops (one of Johnson's most extensively explored themes), Johnson's great strength is in explicating the *thought process* to use in analyzing a position and deciding what kind of attack to use and when. It takes real dedication for a player to keep to this process on each move, and such an approach is fundamental for playing at the master level.

Most of the example games are fun to play as well as helpful for showing the attacking themes in action. Check out Johnson's games with the "Fishing Pole" (a Knight on g4 or g5 attacked on h3 or h6 and then defended on h5 or h4 with the Rook still on h1 or h8). And be sure you see his "Most Thrilling Game Ever" – a study of a King walk emanating from a Traxler Two Knights. You won't believe it when you see it!

So this is a really entertaining and educational book, and for that I'll give it a thumbs-up. Unfortunately, it has some serious and disappointing flaws. There are problems, first off, with the production, layout, and editing. The cover photo is awesome, but the interior layout leaves much to be desired. Each page is split into two columns, and the print, large for a book of this size, comes in three different fonts (serif and non-serif), giving each page a cluttered, crowded

appearance. Nor do the efforts of the "proofreading" team inspire my confidence: within minutes of opening the book for the first time, I found three fundamental grammar mistakes and two misspellings ("it's" for "its" and "siezies" for "seizes"), and there are many more.

A much bigger problem lies with the book's approach to its topic. The themes Johnson explains are without question vital for an attacking player to recognize when they occur. The trouble is that Johnson provides hardly any analysis of most of his chosen games *except* when he arrives at his theme to be illustrated; the scores of the preceding moves lie mostly unannotated. What about those parts of the games, though? What decisions were made, bad and good, to allow the analyzed positions to surface and the illustrated themes to materialize? If one does not understand how to *conduct* a game before starting an attack – and this was my predicament with reading the Reinfeld books – then, when playing a capable player who avoids the mistakes that Johnson points out, one will hardly ever see the themes crop up and will have scarce opportunity to apply one's knowledge.

What is missing here? Certainly Johnson's topic-by-topic explication of attacking techniques is wonderfully informative and a superb asset for those who want to improve their attacking games. On this basis, it will make an excellent addition to an aggressive chess player's library. But because of the omission of analysis in most games' early stages, Johnson's themes seem strictly theoretical (like studying a scientific process in the

lab and never finding out where it exists in the real world). It would have been more practically helpful if Johnson, rather than throwing out a huge *quantity* of illustrative games with only spotty bits of attacking analysis, had instead selected fewer games and examined those fewer in much closer detail, especially in the openings. (Maybe a second volume could do this with a selection of the games included in this book.) Without examining the nuts and bolts of games in their earlier stages, I do not believe most players, except for unusually diligent, devoted, or experienced ones, will substantially improve their attacking games from just knowing the techniques alone. So, as a study guide of attack, does Johnson's book do it for me? Though outstanding as far as it goes, regrettably, in this reviewer's opinion, it just does not go far enough.

### **Joel Johnson responds:**

"Formation Attacks is NOT AN OPENING BOOK. If Nicholas Sterling wants or needs help with the Openings, he should consult another book, this is not the book. Using his rationale, you could say that the book does not include enough endings either. I purposely wanted to use as much space as possible showing examples. In addition, many books (especially endgame books) simply exclude the preceeding moves altogether and I have gotten quite a few people that are glad that the moves are there.

The format of the book is what separates it from other books and I have scores of readers that agree with me. Most players can pull the attack ideas from the book and incorporate them into their game, regardless of the opening that they choose."

## **When g6 Means Deep-Six**

by Nicholas Sterling, Ph.D.

We have all been taught to keep our castled positions safe, and not to move Pawns in front of our castled Kings except to avoid a back-rank mate or when otherwise absolutely necessary. Right? Well, it's true. And if you're going to move these Pawns, do it when you choose (such as when you're going to attack the opponent's King), not when your opponent makes you do it. In the game we are about to examine, the specific castled-position weakness that crops up is the doubling of the g-Pawns. As long as Pawns stand on f7 and h7 (or f2 and h2 on the White side), the square g6 (or g3) is reasonably secure, but should the h-Pawn have to shift to the g-file in making a capture, the square g6 (or g3) becomes a much greater liability. If White can pin the f7 on the castled King, an invasion on g6 may be not far behind. White manages to pry open just enough of a weakness in Black's castled position to be able to smash it to pieces later.

The winner of this game is SM Denys Shmelov, who loyally came to the Waltham Chess Club's Friday night tournaments through most of 2010 and who recently earned his first GM norm at Berkeley. We wish Denys congratulations and all the best as he embarks on graduate school at the University of Connecticut.

**White: Denys Shmelov**

**Black: Tian Rossi**

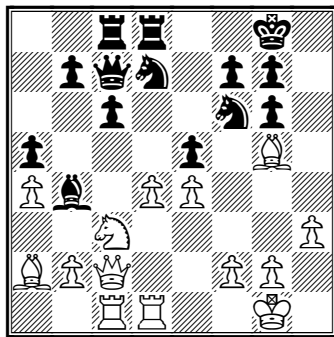
**Waltham Chess Club**

**Memorial Day G/60**

**5/21/2010**

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5** This is a main move in the Slav Accepted, and is perfectly fine provided that Black minds that fiery-

eyed steed on f3. **6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nh4** The horse charges! What should Black play? **9...Bg6** Not this. If White had played Nh4 back on move 8 (instead of castling), then this Black response would be fine as Black would then castle Q-side. But here, with Black already castled K-side, the move is an error conceding a P weakness in front of the castled K. Instead Black should stand pat and allow White to take on f5, or try the aggressive 9. ... Bg4!? [9...Bg4 10.f3 Bh5 11.g4 Nd5 12.Ng2 Bg6 13.Qb3 a5 14.Rd1 Nd7 15.e4 N5b6 16.Be2 Qe7 17.Nf4 e5 18.Nxg6 hxg6 19.Be3 Rfd8 20.Na2 exd4 21.Nxb4 dxe3 22.Nc2 Qe6 23.Qxe3 Qe7 24.Qb3 Qc5+ 25.Nd4 Ne5 26.Rac1 Qb4 - Stockfish.] **10.Nxg6 hxg6** Because of this Black can no longer prevent the c1-B from coming to g5. **11.Qc2 Nbd7 12.Rd1 Qc7 13.h3** Prophylaxis, preventing ... Ng4. Note that Black cannot follow suit, with his P on g6. **13...Rac8 14.e4** White usually achieves this move at some point in the Slav, but his being able to do it against a weakened castled position makes it more powerful than normal. **14...Nb6 15.Ba2 a5 16.Be3 Rfd8** This move is awkward for Black in view of the pin coming up on g5. **17.Rac1 Nbd7** Both players overlooked 17. ... Bxc3 18. bxc3 isolating White's a-P, since 18. Qxc3? hangs the P's on a5 and e5. White should instead have played 17. Bb3, when Black's best reply is 17. ... Be7 to guard against the Bg5 pin (Stockfish). **18.Bg5** Threatening 19. e5, and Bg5-h4-g3 is an additional latent threat. **18...e5** An unfortunate concession for Black, since now f7 is exposed and g6 may also become weak in the future. [18...Re8 is better, although 19.e5 is a strong reply - Stockfish.] **(D)**



**19.Qb3** White overlooks 19. Nd5! [19.Nd5 - note how this move too takes advantage of the pin on g5 - 19...Nxd5 20.Bxd8 Rxd8 21.exd5 exd4 22.dxc6 bxc6 23.Rxd4 Ne5 24.Qe4 Rxd4 25.Qxd4 g5 26.Bb1 Kf8 27.Be4 g6 28.Qd1 c5 29.Qb3 g4 30.Bd5 - Stockfish.]

**19...Nf8** Leaving e5 exposed. 19. ... Rf8 is more secure; 20. dxe5 is the likely response (Stockfish). **20.dxe5** Again White misses a stronger chance: 20. Bxf6. [20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.Nd5 Rxd5 22.exd5 Qe7 23.dxc6 bxc6 24.dxe5

fxe5 25.Qc4 Rc7 26.Qe4 Qf6 27.Rd3 Qf5 28.Qxf5 gxf5 29.Bd5 Ne6 30.Bxe6 fxe6 31.f3 Kf7 32.Kf2 Kf6 - Stockfish.] **20...Rxd1+** Concession of the d-file. But 20. ... Qxe5?? is unfortunately a lemon. [20...Qxe5 21.Qxf7+ Kh7 22.Bxf6 Qxf6 23.Qg8+ Kh6 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Qh8+ Nh7 26.Bg8 Rxd8 27.Qxg8 Qf4 28.Re1 Qe5 29.Re3 Bc5 30.Re2 Bd4 31.Qa8 Bxc3 32.bxc3 Qxc3 33.Qxb7 Qa1+ 34.Kh2 Qxa4 35.Qd7 Nf6 36.Qd2+ Kh7 37.e5 Nd5 38.e6 Ne7 39.Qg5 Qc4 40.Re1 - Stockfish.] **21.Rxd1 Bxc3 22.bxc3** Stronger is 22. exf6. [22.exf6 Ne6 - Stockfish.] **22...Nxe4 23.Be3** With Bb6 in mind for the future. **23...Ne6 24.f4** An important move for later; White holds the advance f5 in reserve. **24...N4c5 25.Qc2 Rd8** Loses a P; the weakening of f7 and g6 at last comes due. [25...b5 looks stronger, although 26.Bxc5 is a tough reply - Stockfish.] **26.Rxd8+ Qxd8 27.Bxc5 Nxc5 28.Qxg6**

**Qd7** More solid is [28...Qe7 29.Qf5 Nxa4 30.e6 Kf8 31.Qxa5 Qc5+ 32.Qxc5+ Nxc5 33.exf7 Ne4 34.c4 Nc3 35.Bb3 Ne2+ 36.Kf2 Nxf4 37.Kf3 Ne6 38.Ke3 c5 39.Bd1 Kxf7 40.Bf3 b6 41.Ke4 Nd4 42.Kd5 Kf6 43.Be4 Ne2 44.Kd6 g5 45.Bd5 Kf5 46.g4+ Kf6 47.Kc6 Nf4 - Stockfish.] 29.f5 Kf8 Black can get away with 29. ... Qd1+. [29...Qd1+ 30.Kh2 Qd7 - Stockfish.] **30.Qh5 Ne4** Black's last try was 30. ... Kg8 31. h4. Now, with e6 left unprotected, his position collapses. [30...Kg8 31.h4] **31.e6 fxe6 32.Bxe6 Qc7 33.Qh8+ Ke7 34.Qxg7+ Kd6 35.Qd4+** A great game by White, forcing one small concession after another from Black until eventually the house caved in. So you see, the old wisdom holds true. Keep that King of yours nestled snug behind unmoved Pawns. As long as you don't allow a back-rank mate, your King will thank you. **1-0**

## Massachusetts Open Game Prizes

The following prizes will be awarded for the *Most Interesting Game* in each section of the 80th Massachusetts Open, and are 100% guaranteed:

**Open: \$300**  
**U2100: \$200**  
**U1800: \$150**  
**U1500: \$100**

In addition, each winner will receive GM Patrick Wolff's 3-DVD set, *"Improve Your Chess"*

*"Whomever sees no other aim in the game than that of giving checkmate to one's opponent will never become a good chess player."*

— Max Euwe

## Waltham Chess Club

**Every Friday, 7 PM-Midnight**

Location: IBM Building, Cafeteria  
 (sign-in at security desk)  
 404 Wyman Street. Waltham, MA 02451  
 Phone: 781-790-103

- Diverse membership, ranging from beginners to masters
- Rated and unrated cash-prize tournaments
- Play-for-fun casual nights
- Friendly, handicapped-accessible setting
- **FREE PIZZA NIGHTS!**

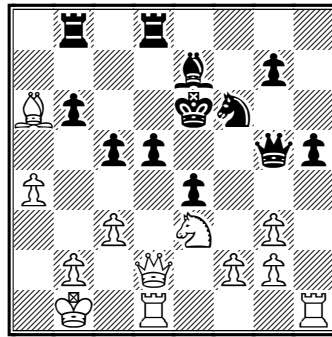
Nicholas Sterling, [nicholas@xenophon98.com](mailto:nicholas@xenophon98.com)  
 or call 781-733-0849

Todd Chase, [info@WalthamChessClub.org](mailto:info@WalthamChessClub.org)  
 or call 781-790-1033

# Ivanov Annotates

by GM Alexander Ivanov

**White:** GM Alexander Ivanov (2618)  
**Black:** FM Andrew Karklins (2241)  
**[C40] Latvian Gambit**  
**Kings Island Open,**  
**Mason OH 2010**



**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5?! "The Latvian Gambit is an aggressive but dubious chess opening which often leads to wild and tricky positions." (Wikipedia)** Since my opponent in the present game comes from Latvia, the choice is understandable. **3.Nxe5 [3.Bc4] 3...Qf6 4.d4 d6 5.Nc4 fxe4 6.Nc3 Qg6 7.Bf4?! Perhaps White's best option here is to open up the position with [7.f3, for exaple, 7...exf3 (7...Be7 8.Nxe4+/-) 8.Qxf3 Nc6 9.Bd3 Qg4 10.Qe3+/-] 7...Nf6 8.Ne3 Be7 9.Bc4** Instead of trying to keep the Black King in the center White could prevent Nh5 with [9.Be2!? 0-0 10.h4 Qf7+/-] **9...c6 10.d5 Nh5 [10...b5 11.Bb3 b4 12.Ne2 c5 13.Ba4+/-] 11.Bg3 Nxe3 12.hxe3 Nd7 13.Qd4** There were other moves, but I wanted the Black Knight on f6 to be in the way of Be7. **13...Nf6 [13...Nc5!? 14.0-0-0 (14.Qd2 a5!?) 14...Bd7 15.Be2 0-0 unclear] 14.Ne2 c5 15.Bb5+ Kf7 [15...Kd8+/-] 16.Qd2 a6 17.Nf4 Qg5 18.Be2 Rb8 [18...Re8!? unclear] 19.a4 b6?! [19...Rf8 unclear] 20.c3 [20.0-0 h5 21.Ne6!?) 20...h5** You don't want to castle short after this, so I decided to get a "wild and tricky position" with the following exchange: **21.Ne6 Bxe6 [21...Qe5 22.Nc4 Qf5+/- (22...Qxd5 23.Ng5+ Kf8 24.Qxd5 Nxd5 25.Nxe4+/-) ] 22.dxe6+ Kxe6 23.Bxa6 d5 24.0-0-0 Rhd8 25.Kb1 (D)**

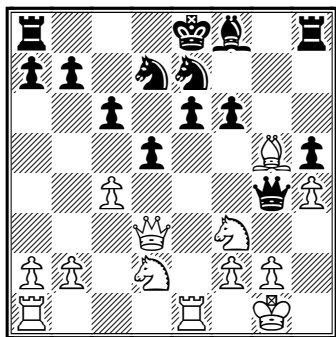
**25...d4?** This was what I was hoping for. Probably Black missed White's 27th move. According to Rybka the position remained about equal after the quiet [25...Kf7=] **26.Bc4+ Ke5 [26...Kd7 27.cxd4+/-] 27.f4+! exf3 28.gxf3 Qxg3?** [On 28...Kd6 I was planning 29.f4!? (29.cxd4 Kc7+/-) 29...Qg6+ 30.Bd3 Qf7 (30...dxe3 31.Qxe3+/-) 31.cxd4 Kc7+/- Still this was not losing right away. Of course, if, 28...dxe3 then 29.f4+! Kf5 30.Qc2+/-] **29.Rhe1+-** Now it's over **29...Ne4 [29...Kd6 30.Nf5+ Kc7 31.Nxe3+/-] 30.Nd5 [30.fxe4? dxe3] 30...Qxf3 31.Qh2+ [31.Qh2+ Ke6 (31...Kf5 32.Rf1+/-) 32.Nxb6+ Kf6 33.Rf1+/-] 1-0**

**White:** GM Alexander Ivanov (2618)  
**Black:** GM Mark Paragua (2643)  
**[B12] Caro-Kann Defense**  
**Kings Island Open Mason OH**  
**14.11.2010**

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.Bg5?! Usually I play a well-studied 5.c4 here, but in this last round game decided to try an obscure gambit variation mainly because the prize money difference between a winner and a runner-up was too big as in most Continental Chess tournaments (5 prizes altogether not counting class prizes for about 60 participants in the**

**Open Section). 5...Qb6 6.Bd3** This move which offers Black a choice between captures on either b2 or d4 has been tried in several games. The quiet [6.b3 looks like an admission that 5.Bg5 was premature.] **6...Qxd4** Probably the best. I knew the idea [6...Qxb2 7.Bxf5 Qxa1 8.e6 with compensation for the sacrificed material, which occurred in a couple of games. To a human eye White's attack looks scary, but, perhaps, a computer will find a win for Black.] **7.Nf3 [7.Bxf5? Qxe5+/-] 7...Qg4 [7...Qxb2 8.Bxf5 (8.Nbd2!? with compensation) 8...Qxa1 9.e6 Nh6 unclear, Kislinsky-Krutul Warsaw 2006] 8.0-0 Bxd3N** Only this turns out to be a novelty. [8...e6 9.Be2 Qb4 10.c4?! Robson - Rowley USAch qualifier 2008 (10.Qc1!?) 10...Qxb2! 11.Nbd2 Bc2! 12.Qe1 Bb4+/-] **9.Qxd3 e6 10.Nbd2 Nd7 11.c4 Ne7 12.Rfe1 f6?! Up to this moment both sides made logical developing moves. Now Black decides, perhaps, a bit prematurely, to open up the position to connect his wayward Queen with other pieces. There were more cautious alternatives, here are some computer generated lines: [12...Ng6 Paragua 13.cxd5 Nc5 14.Qc2 (14.Qc3!?) 14...exd5 (14...cxd5 15.Rac1!? Qa4 16.Qc3 unclear) 15.e6 Bd6 (the only move) 16.Rad1 Nxe6 (16...0-0 17.exf7+ Kxf7 18.Nc4!) 17.Rxe6+ Qxe6 18.Re1 Ne5 19.Nxe5 Bxe5 20.Nf3 f6 21.Qg6+ Kf8 22.Nxe5 Re8 23.Bxf6!? gxf6 24.Nd7+ Qxd7 25.Qxf6+ Kg8 26.Qg6+ Kf8=; 12...Nc5 13.Qc3 Ng6 14.b4 Na4 15.Qb3 Nb6 16.Rac1 Be7 17.Bxe7 Nxe7 18.cxd5 exd5 19.b5 0-0 20.bxc6 Nxc6 21.Qd3 with compensation for the pawn] **13.exf6 gxf6 (D)****

*"Chess is the art of analysis."*  
 — Mikhail Botvinnik



**14.cxd5** You don't go back in gambits: [14.Be3 Rg8 15.g3 Nf5+]  
**14...cxd5?** Black made this move quickly, I realised that my opponent doesn't see the dangers of the position. There were two better moves: [14...fxg5!? 15.dxe6!? (15.Rxe6? 0-0-0!-+) 15...Nc5 (forced) 16.Qd6 Nf5 17.Qe5 Rg8 (17...Rh7) 18.Ne4! 0-0-0 (18...Be7 19.hxg5 with compensation) 19.Nf6 Nd3! 20.Nxg4 Nxe5 21.Ngxe5+/- Rybka; 14...Nc5!? 15.Qc2 fxg5 16.Qxc5 Nxd5 17.Qd4 0-0-0!? unclear]  
**15.Bxf6!+/-** Now White is winning 15...Nxf6 [15...Rg8 16.Bg5+/-]  
**16.Qb5+ Kd8** The only move [16...Kf7? 17.Ne5+-; 16...Nc6? 17.Qxb7+-]  
**17.Ne5 Qf4** [17...Qg7 18.Qxb7 Rc8 19.Rac1+-] **18.Ndf3** The safest way to win. It was easier to go wrong in sharper lines: [18.Rac1 Nc6 19.Nxc6+ a) 19.Rxc6 bxc6 20.Qxc6+- Bc5 21.Qxa8+ Kc7 22.Qc6+!+-; b) 19.Nf7+ Kc7 20.Nxh8? (b) 20.Rxe6!+-] 20...Qxd2+-; 19...bxc6 20.Qxc6 Rb8 21.Rxe6+-] 18...Rc8 [18...Bh6 19.Qxb7 Rc8 20.Nf7+ Ke8 21.Nxh8+-] **19.Ng5 Qf5** [19...Rc6 20.Qxb7 Rb6 21.Ngf7+ Ke8 22.Qa8+-] **20.Ngf7+ Kc7 21.Rac1+** Black resigned because of 21...Kb8 22.Nd6+- **1-0**

*"Losing your objectivity  
 almost always means  
 losing the game."  
 — David Bronstein*

## Club News

### Blackstone Chess Club by David Harris

*Blackstone Chess New Year*

*Open:* Pawtucket RI, January 8 - NM Miro Reverby took top honors in the Blackstone Chess 2011 New Year Open, with a perfect 3-0, taking home the first prize of \$75. The \$50 second prize was split 3 ways between Neil Fachon, Antonio Martinez, and TD David Harris. Nine players took part in this tough tournament. Round two featuring two stunning upsets, with Teddy MacKenzie taking out Massachusetts NM Sinclair Banks, and Neil Fachon emerging victorious over another strong Massachusetts NM, Max Enkin.

The time control was Game/70 with 5 second delay, the format was a 3-round swiss.

*Blackstone Chess New Year Blitz:* Pawtucket RI, January 1 - 12 expert year old Chris Gu swept the Blackstone New Year Blitz with a score of 4-0. 14 yr old Neil Fachon finished second at 3-1. This tournament was a 4-round swiss at a time control of Game in 10 minutes.

### Wachusett Chess Club by George Mirijanian

John Moran of Jefferson, who was certified as a national master many years ago, posted a score of 4.5-0.5 to win the Hervey Brisson Memorial, played September 15 through October 13 at the McKay Campus School at Fitchburg State University. Tying for 2nd-5th place with 3.5-1.5 tallies were expert Patrick Sciacca of Salem, NH, Class A contestant Paul Godin of Burlington, and Class B entrants Michael Manisy of Otter River and Mark Marshall of Worcester.

Deadlocked in 6th place with 3-2 results were Class A players Bruce Felton of Fitchburg and Martin Laine of Lunenburg as well as Class B players Leonard Arsenault and Ken Gurge, both of Leominster. A total of 27 players competed.

Paul Godin tallied 4.5-0.5 to win the Edmund Wheeler Memorial, played October 20 through November 17. John Moran was second with a 4-1 score. Tying for 3rd-5th place with 3.5-1.5 results were George Miller of Ashburnham. Ken Gurge, and Paul Lynch of Northborough. Sixth place was shared among Bruce Felton, Mark Marshall, and Alan Condon and Brian Biglow, both of Leominster. All four finished with 3-2 scores. Twenty-eight players participated. Both tournaments were directed by George Mirijanian of Fitchburg, assisted by club Webmaster Dave Couture of Westminster.

Michael Manisy and Paul Godin scored 4-1 to tie for 1st-2nd place in the George Sturgis Memorial, played December 1-29. Manisy defeated Godin in their individual encounter in the fourth round. Tying for 3rd-5th with 3.5-1.5 results were Robert King of Worcester, Bruce Felton and Brian Biglow. Deadlocked in 6th place with 3-2 tallies were Geoff LePoer of Westford, Martin Laine, Leonard Arsenault and George Miller. A total of 30 players competed in the event.

### Waltham Chess Club by Nicholas P. Sterling, Ph.D.

In September Waltham Chess Club collaborated with Howard Goldowsky and Back Pages Bookstore to host an event at the bookstore (on Waltham's Moody St.) on the 11th. The event was designed to promote the book *Masters of Technique*, edited by

Goldowsky and published by Mongoose Press. Included was a simultaneous exhibition by Senior Master Denys Shmelov, followed by a blitz tournament run by Michael Gosselin and Todd Chase. All of the proceeds were donated to charity. I'd like to thank Howard and Back Pages for organizing this event and inviting us to participate, and Denys, Michael and Todd for running the simul and blitz tournament. The participating players enjoyed themselves, and a few copies of *Masters* were sold. We hope the bookstore will host another such event in the future and that, with more effective promotion, more players will come.

Waltham Chess Club had a slight dip in attendance in September, but came back strong in October, and in November we had our highest turnout in my tenure, 20 players. I'm especially pleased with the high influx of new players, an average of one per week.

Check out our newly designed website at <http://walthamchessclub.org>. Vitaliy Ryabinin worked really hard to get it published for us, and we thank him for the high-class upgrade.

Some highlights from the last few months:

- SM Denys Shmelov marches on! Among several victories, he had a perfect score of 7 points at the November First Friday, taking clear first place over the next contender (with 5.5 points).

- Evan Rabin split first prize with Denys Shmelov with scores of 3.5 out of 4 points in the November G/20. The two players drew in the prize round. We were pleased to welcome Evan from Brandeis University, and we thank him for his blog entry (<http://adventuresofrabin.blogspot.com/2010/11/excursion-to-other-side-of-waltham.html>) about his experience at our Club.

- Todd Chase split first prize with Denys Shmelov in the Open Section of the Day of Thanks G/60, with 2 points. Jesse Klimov took the Under-1600 prize with a score of 2 points.

- With 6.5 points out of 7, Todd Chase edged Denys Shmelov (with 6 points) to win the October First Friday. It was Todd's night!

- At the November First Friday, Brandon Wu and Allen Wang split first prize in the Under-1300 section with scores of 6.5 out of 7 points.

- Leonardo Lopez won the Under-1500 section with 2 points at the Sukkot G/60 in September.

- Brandon Wu and Peter Teodorescu split first prize in the Under -1300 section with 2 points at the Fright Night G/60.

## Billerica Chess Club

by Brad Ryan

Pat Sciacca, 2010 Club Champion, swept the 2010 4-round Billerica October Friday Night Swiss posting a 4-0 score. "A" players Raymond Paulson and Michelle Chen and "B" player Meyer Billmers finished with 3½-½ scores, only a ½ point off the pace. Craig Thomson was best under 2000 with a solid 3-0 score, while Paul Staten finished best under 1750 with 2-2. Bob Babcock was best under 1750 also with a 2-2 score. Daniel Kilgour was best under 1250 with a 1.5-2.5 performance. 20 players participated in the tournament. Nate Smith directed.

"A" player Jeffrey Caruso won the Billerica 4-round November Friday Night Swiss with a 3-0 result. Expert Art Nugent, a 35 year Club stalwart, "A" players Raymond Paulson and Michelle Chen, and "B" player Meyer Billmers all finished in a 3-way tie for 2nd with a 2.5-1.5 results. Eric Matthews was under 1750 with 1.5-2.5, while Bob

Babcock was best under 1500, also posting a 1.5-2.5 result. Eric Heineke was best under 1250 also with 1.5-2.5. Nate Smith directed the 15 player tournament.

Expert Raymond Paulson and "A" player John Vaughan tied for first in the Billerica December Friday Night Swill with a 3-1 performance in a field containing 2 Experts and 5 "A" players. Art Nugent, "A" player Jeffrey Caruso and "A" player and "B" player Meyer Billmers tied for 2nd with 2.5-1.5 scores. Paul Staten and Eric Matthews tied for best under 1750 with 2-2 performance, and Bob Babcock was best under 1500 also with a 2-2 score. Daniel Kilgour was best under 1250. 13 chess players braved the elements – snow and ice – to participate in this tournament. Nate Smith directed.

## NOTICE OF MACA ANNUAL MEETING

The annual membership meeting of the Massachusetts Chess Association will be held at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, Mass., site of the 80th Massachusetts Open, on Monday, May 30th 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

*"The laws of chess do not permit a free choice: you have to move whether you like it or not."*

— Emanuel Lasker



# 80th Massachusetts Open (State Championship)

May 28-30 or 29-30, 2011, Marlborough, Massachusetts  
\$4500 in Projected Prizes, \$3775 Guaranteed



**Where:** Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough. 508-460-0700 or 888-543-9500. Hotel rate \$89 per night single or double, reserve by 5/18.

**What:** 6-round Swiss. 4 sections: Open, U2100, U1800, U1500, with 3-day and 2-day schedules.

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

**Registration:** 3-day: Sat. 5/28 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. 2-day: Sun. 5/29 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:** \$55 for 3-day, \$54 for 2-day if postmarked by **5/24** or online (PayPal) at [www.masschess.org](http://www.masschess.org) by **5/26**, \$65 at site. GMs and IMs free. \$20 discount to unrated and players rated under 1000 in U1500. Special entry fee for players aged under 23 or 60 and over: \$30 for 3-day, \$29 for 2-day in advance, \$35 at site, no other discounts apply.

**Special:** Unrated prize limits: \$200 in U2100, \$150 in U1800, \$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% gtd. based on 100 paid entries. The top 3 prizes in the Open section are 100% gtd.

<b>Open:</b>	\$1000-400-200	U2300 \$200-150	<b>40 Grand Prix Points, FIDE rated</b>
<b>U2100:</b>	\$350-150-100	U1950 \$150-100	
<b>U1800:</b>	\$300-150-100	U1650 \$125-100	
<b>U1500:</b>	\$250-125-100	U1350 \$125-100	
		U1200 \$125-100	

• USCF and home state membership required (MACA dues \$12 adult, \$6 under 18; add \$8 [optional] for subscription to *Chess Horizons*).

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

## 80th Massachusetts Open, May 28-30 or 29-30, 2011

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ USCF # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Rating: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Junior MACA - Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Need USCF membership? Yes / No    Enclosed for USCF is \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Need MACA membership? Yes / No    Enclosed for MACA is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Adult: \$12, Junior (under 18) \$6 (add  
 3-Day or 2-Day Schedule? 3-Day / 2-Day    \$8 for *Chess Horizons* [optional])  
 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

Massachusetts Chess Association  
c/o Robert D. Messenger  
4 Hamlett Dr. Apt. 12  
Nashua, NH 03062

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Billerica, MA  
Permit No. 66

## Chess Horizons

January-March 2011  
Time-dated material  
Please expedite!

# USCF NATIONAL OPEN

JUNE 10TH – 12TH OR 11TH – 12TH

**\$80,000 GUARANTEED**

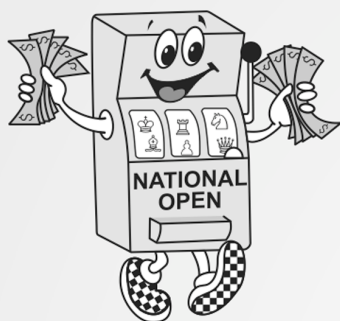
\$100,000 Based on 850 Players

6 Round Swiss in 8 Sections

40/2, SD/1 (2-day rounds 1–3 Game/45)

Top 2 Sections FIDE Rated

200 Grand Prix Points



## U. S. GAME / 10 CHAMPIONSHIP

THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH 2:00 P.M.

**\$7,000 Prize Fund**

Based on 100 Players

6 Round Swiss Game/10

60 Grand Prix Points

USCF National Championship

## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

JUNE 11TH – 12TH

**Trophies and Chess Prizes**

Including Computers with Chess Software

5 Round Swiss Game/65

4 Sections by Age and Rating

14 and Under Open & Reserve (under 1100)

9 and Under Open & Reserve (under 900)

Junior Grand Prix



## INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL

June 9th – 12th 2011

South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa

SIMULS ★ SCHOLASTICS ★ LECTURES ★ ANALYSIS  
GRANDMASTER CHESS CAMP ★ POKER TOURNAMENT ★ AND MORE

**[www.VegasChessFestival.com](http://www.VegasChessFestival.com)**