

Chess Horizons

The Magazine of the Massachusetts Chess Association

Mika Brattain
NATIONAL^{8th}
CHAMPION Grade

DOUBLE SIZED ISSUE!

48
PAGES

November-May 2011-12
\$3.95



72nd New England Open

September 1-3 or 2-3, 2012

Leominster, Massachusetts

\$3000 in Projected Prizes, \$2250 Guaranteed



Where: Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster. 978-534-9000.
Hotel rate \$89 per night for 1-4 people, \$139 for Executive King room, **reserve by 8/16.**

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

Time Control: 40/120, SD/30. Rounds 1-3 in the 2-day schedule are G/45.

Registration: 3-day: Sat. 9/1 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. 2-day: Sun. 9/2 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Rounds: 3-day: Sat. 10:00 and 4:00. Sun. 10:00 and 4:00. Mon. 9:30 and 3:30.

2-day: Sun. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00 and 4:00. Mon. 9:30 and 3:30. **No 2-day Open section.**

Entry Fee: \$69 for 3-day, \$68 for 2-day if postmarked by **8/27** or online (PayPal) at www.masschess.org by **8/30**, \$80 at site. GMs and IMs free. \$30 discount to unrated in any section and to players in the U1500 section rated under 1200.

Unrated and 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 80 fully paid entries (unrated and players rated under 1200 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 **15 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, \$10 for membership with a printed N.H. Chess Journal subscription.

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

72nd New England Open, September 1-3 or 2-3, 2012

Name: _____ USCF # _____ Exp: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____ Rating: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

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

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

Adult: \$12, Junior (U18) \$6 (add \$8 [optional] for *Chess Horizons*)

3-Day or 2-Day Schedule? 3-Day / 2-Day

Entry Fee \$ _____

for the _____ section

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

(please specify section)

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The next deadline for submissions is June 15, 2012.

*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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From The Acting Editor

by Bob Messenger

Sorry We're Late!

When I took over again as the acting editor of *Chess Horizons* I intended to go to press in December with a November-December issue. This slipped out into January, and then my laptop crashed on January 11th and it took me a long time to recover from that. Because it's so late MACA has decided to make this a double issue. In terms of expiration dates, it counts as both "October-December 2011" and "January-March 2012".

Congratulations, Mika!

Congratulations to Mika Brattain for finishing clear first at the National Grade 8 Championship in Dallas, Texas in November with a score of 6½ - ½. Mika also won the Massachusetts Age 14 & Under Championship at the Spiegel Cup in February, and will represent Massachusetts at the Dewain Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions in August. Our cover photo shows Mika holding his first place Spiegel Cup trophy.

Welcome Back, Joel Johnson

Life master and former *Chess Horizons* editor Joel Johnson has agreed to become our games editor. Joel won the U.S. Senior Championship in 2007 and is the author of the books "Formation Attacks" and the upcoming "Formation Attack Strategies." If you have games for Joel to annotate please email them to him at bigbear12@hotmail.com.

Massachusetts Open

By the time most of you read this the 81st Massachusetts Open will have already been held in Marlborough on May 26-28. Coverage of the event will be in the next issue of *Chess Horizons*. Once again we will be offering prizes for the most interesting game in each section, courtesy of a generous donation from Walt Champion, who is also donating money to cover the entry fee discounts for players aged under 23 or 60 and over and to guarantee the top three prizes in the Open section. Walt has donated money to the tournament every year since 2006. Thanks, Walt!

Cover photo by En-Kuang Lung.

2011 Harry Nelson Pillsbury Memorial

by George Duval

Two days before Massachusetts's first prominent chess hero's 139th birthday, 57 players gathered on December 3, 2011 in Leominster at the Veteran's Center to play in the 2011 Harry Nelson Pillsbury Memorial. Why this is not listed as a Heritage event under USCF guidelines (tournaments held for at least 25 years) is beyond me since I looked back on MACA's tournament history for this event and it dates back to 1991. Any records before that are archived with USCF.

I have a chess blog (blunder-prone.blogspot.com) that is heavy on the historical perspective of chess, its players and major events. When asked to do the tournament report for this event, I was honored and could not resist tying in a little colloquial historical perspective to this event.

Harry Nelson Pillsbury

Born on December 5th, 1872, he was only 22 when he went to Hastings in 1895 and turned the European chess world on its head as he won the event. He learned to play chess in 1888 at the age of 15. His first chess teacher was Addison Smith, a member of the Boston Chess Club who lived in Somerville.

He moved to Philadelphia by the time he started taking this game seriously at age 17 years old. Pillsbury's creativity and resourcefulness started to show up in 1890. Pillsbury played a series of Evans Gambits with the veteran Baltimore expert, H.N. Stone. He was one of the inventors of the Stone-Ware defense in the Evans. Our Somerville native smashed him 5-2.



Harry Nelson Pillsbury

Like Fischer, his knowledge of openings showed his resourcefulness to garnish older variations with his own added twists. This was especially seen at Hastings 1895 where he played a couple of Evans Gambits against Schiffers and Bird. He played a variation not seen in Europe since the days of Kieseritzky and Mayet 50 years earlier. Having trained with this variation from local American players H.N. Stone and Addison Smith, he had an advantage over his European contemporaries.

Though our event held in 2011 didn't attract the European powerhouses of the day, we did have local GM Alexander Ivanov and two prominent local IMs, David Vigorito and Igor Foygel, among the notable players in attendance in the Open section. It was a quick draw in the final round of the 21 player Open section that ended with GM Ivanov and IM Vigorito tied for first place with 3.5 points. Masters Vadim Martirosov and Avraam Pis-mennyy followed with 3.0 scores. I was hard-pressed to collect any score sheets from these games as IM David Vigorito commented that he

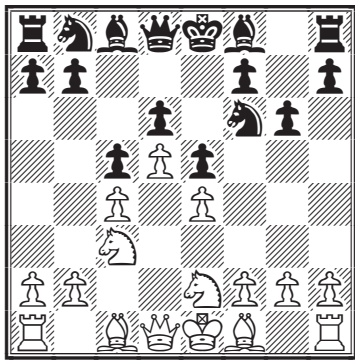
stopped recording the last 15 moves of one of his games because of the time control.

One game I collected was from a friend and fellow blogger on chess.com. Although local expert Robert King had not finished with any prize money, his final score of 2.5 points came after 1 win and 3 draws, one being against IM Foygel in Round 3. Below is the game he annotated. It appears that IM Foygel has the spirit of Pillsbury as he plays an older line of the Benoni (3...e5) against Mr. King, transposing it to an Old Indian Defense.

Robert J. King 2052
IM Igor Foygel 2528
Pillsbury Memorial 2011
[A56] Old Indian Defense
Notes by Robert J. King

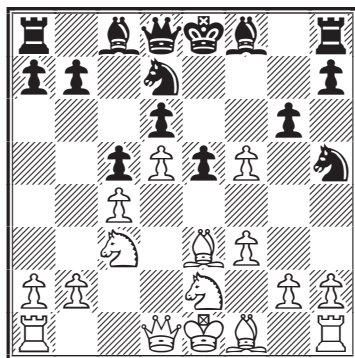
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e5 4. Nc3 d6 5. e4 g6 6. Nge2 (D)

(This game was my first experience playing against the Old Indian Defense and I had no theoretical knowledge to go by except for comparing with ideas in the King's Indian. Here there are a few key



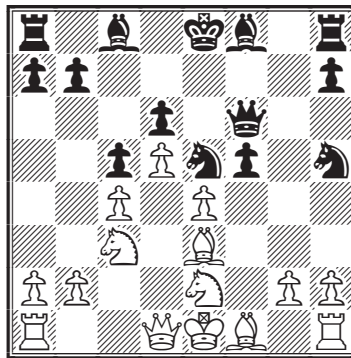
differences to the “normal” KID situations. First is that Black has not spent time playing ...Bg7 and this may help him launch a faster attack via ...Nh5 and ...f5. I would not have judged this as very dangerous if not for the fact that Black has also included the move ...c5, slowing down any Queenside play that White would normally have against a mainline KID.

Knowing this, I judged that normal play with Nf3 may be awkward because standard maneuvers such as Nf3-Nd2 lose their effect because there will be no c4-c5 push to free up the c4 square, and Ng5 ideas may not be possible as Black has the option of playing ...Be7 still. I viewed Nge2 as the most flexible as I can still play f3 and I still try and maintain control over f4. This may not be the best but not terrible by any means.) **6...Nh5 7. Be3 f5 8. f3 Nd7 9. exf5**

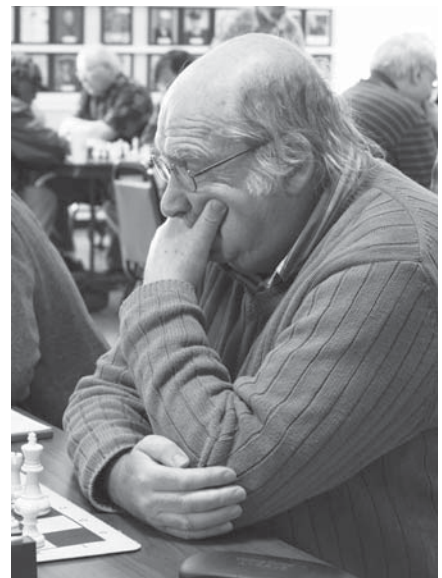


(This normally anti-positional move is best in this situation. The previ-

ous move cut off the light squared bishop from the f5 square. Now the h5-e8 diagonal is opened up and more importantly, White can try and gain a tempo attacking the f5 pawn with the queen to try and castle on the queenside.) **9...gxf5 10. Qd3 e4** (Black says there will be no castling yet! This strong pawn sacrifice gives Black a very active game.) **11. fxe4 Ne5 12. Qd1**

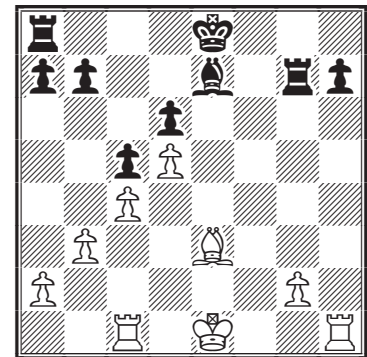


(Qc2 was better. Now White’s king is stuck in the center.) **Qf6** (Threatening f4-f3 which would most likely be decisive if achieved.) **13. Ng3** (I spent about 15-20 minutes on this move that looks like positional suicide but is by far the best move in the position. At the cost of ruining the pawn structure on the kingside, which gains control of the f4 square, the half open h-file and, most importantly, squashes Black’s attack, White will emerge from this up a pawn without any clear compensation for Black.) **13...Nxg3** (Forced as the only other variation to consider is no good: 13... Ng4 14. Nxh5 Qh4+ 15. g3 Qxh5 16. Be2 and White is winning.) **14. hxg3 fxe4 15. Qh5+ Qg6 16. Qxg6+ Nxg6 17. Nxe4 Be7 18. Bd3** (Clearly a mistake in view of ...Ne5. Better was 18. Bf4! placing pressure on the tender d6 square.) **18...Ne5 19. Be2 Bf5 20. Nf2 Rg8 21. g4** (Bf4 was probably better.) **Nxg4 22.**



IM Igor Foygel

Nxg4 Bxg4 23. Bxg4 Rxg4 24. b3 Rg7 25. Rc1



(A seemingly odd move but its idea is seen in the following forcing variation from the game.) **25...Rxg2 26. Rxh7 Rxa2 27. Rh8+ Bf8 28. Bh6 Kf7 29. Rc3 Re8+ (Forced.) 30. Kf1 Ra1+ 31. Kf2 Ra2+** (Black forces a perpetual now. The battle could have continued 32. Kf1 Bxh6 33. Rxh6 Ree2 34. Rf3+ Ke7 35. Rh7+ Ke8 with a draw.) **32. Kf1 Ra1+ 33. Kf2 1/2-1/2**

The Under 1900 section had the largest attendance with 27 players. This was my rust breaker event as I had personal matters taking priority over my chess board. Lately, with life in all its complications, the only time I get to play chess is in a



Robert J. King

one day event. I used to loath such events because of the G60 time controls and how I needed all the time in the world against a much younger opponent brought up on bullet and lightning internet chess. But I have acclimated since my love for the game versus my time for the game are on two separate and seemingly opposing axes.

Given the G60 time control, it comes as no surprise then that an eleven year old, Nithin Kavi, was undefeated and won first place in the U1900 section. Yours truly came in a clear second, playing only the last three rounds. My last round game was a raucous Central variation of the Slav

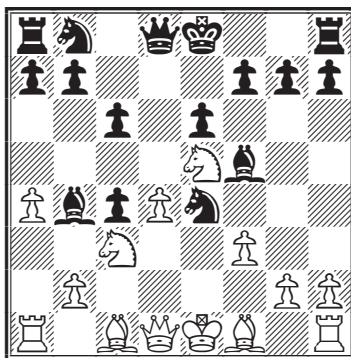


Nithin Kavi

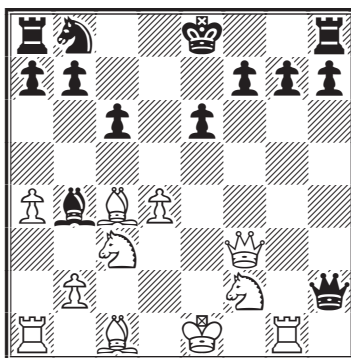
Defense where Black chose to play a minor piece exchange for 3 pawns. Here is that game with my annotations.

George Duval 1787
Nithin Kavi 1772
Pillsbury Memorial 2011 (4)
[D17] Slav Defense

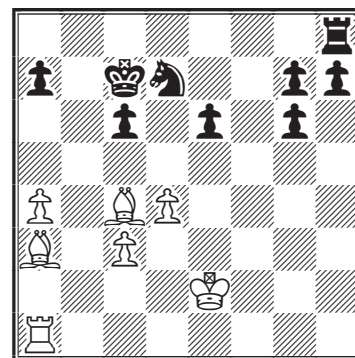
1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 dxc4 5. a4 Bf5 6. Ne5 (The Central Variation) e6 7. f3 Bb4 8. e4 Nxe4



Usually the Bishop takes here in the central variation B v 3Ps (8... Bxe4 9. fxe4 Nxe4 10. Bd2 Qxd4 11. Nxe4 Qxe4+ 12. Qe2 Bxd2+ 13. Kxd2 Qd5+) For some reason my opponent favored the Bishop over the Knight which allows White to avoid the exchange on d2. **9. fxe4 Bxe4 10. Bxc4 Bxg2 11. Rg1 Qh4+ 12. Ke2** (All forced moves) **Qxh2** (Black still gets the three pawns for the piece) **13. Ng4 Qh3 14. Nf2 Bf3+ 15. Ke1 Qh2 16. Qxf3**



(White risks a rook and three pawns for two pieces and a power play with pieces. Black only has two pieces in play. The Queen and Bishop will need an extra tempo to coordinate due to the separation on the board. The risk was worth taking to gain tempo.) **16...Qxg1+ 17. Ke2 Bxc3 18. bxc3 Qg6 19. Ba3** (This move keeps Black's king in the center and prevents castling) **19...Qf6 20. Qg3** (I was not ready to exchange. Instead, White plays to penetrate Black's under-protected fortress) **Nd7 21. Ne4 Qg6 22. Nd6+ Kd8 23. Nxb7+ Ke8 24. Nd6+ Kd8 25. Qxg6 fxc6 26. Nf7+ Kc7 27. Nxb8 Rxb8**



(Materially speaking, it's an even game. But Black has 3 isolated pawns and a rook that is out of play.) **28. Rb1 a5 29. Kd3 Re8 30. Bc1 Nb6 31. Bf4+ Kb7 32. Be5 Ka7 33. Rf1** (It was more important to increase my rook's mobility than to grab a pawn on g7 as Black's pawn will fall.) **Re7 34. Bd6 Rd7 35. Bc5 g5 36. Bxe6 Rb7 37. Ke4 Kb8 38. Rf8+ Ka7 39. Rc8 1-0**

The Under 1500 section had a total of 9 players and a three-way tie for first place from the Granite State as James Benway, Robert B Walton Jr, and Anson O'Young, all from New Hampshire, finished with 3 points each. I didn't get a chance to collect any of these games from that section.

Kelleher Tops at Greater Boston Open

by Bob Messenger

FM Bill Kelleher of Watertown topped a 22 player field at the 78th Greater Boston Open, which was held on October 23rd in Marlborough. He was held to a draw in round 2 by expert Derek Slater and won his last two games, against many-time Massachusetts champion John Curdo and NM Avraam Pismenny. Two of Kelleher's main rivals, IM Igor Foygel and NM Vadim Martirosov, drew against each other in round 3 and were held to half points in the last round, Foygel taking a half point bye and Martirosov drawing against the 2011 Massachusetts Age 14 & Under Champion, Grant Xu. Foygel, Martirosov and Xu, along with Connecticut master/expert Derek Meredith, tied for second.

Daniel Shapiro, formerly of Burlington, Mass. and now living in Nevada, won the Under 1900 section with a score of $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$. Gaetano Bompastore of West Springfield swept the Under 1700 Section 4 - 0. There was a four-way tie for first place in the Under 1500 Section between Leonard Gruenberg of Cambridge, Robert Walton Jr. of Manchester N.H., Shuvom Sadhuka of Acton, and Aaron Dunigan AtLee of Centerville, all with 3 - 1 scores.

The tournament had a total of 66 players and was directed by Bob Messenger, assisted by MACA President George Mirijanian.



FM Bill Kelleher.



NM Vadim Martirosov.



FM John Curdo.

The Continental Amateur Comes to Boston

by Bob Messenger

The 2012 Continental Amateur tournament originated in a proposal by MACA Education Coordinator and former President Stephen Dann, who had an idea for an Educational Expo to be held in conjunction with an amateur tournament at the Hyatt Harborside Hotel at Logan Airport in East Boston. He worked with New York organizer Bill Goichberg of the Continental Chess Association, who decided to run the Continental Amateur, a tournament that he'd held previously in other parts of the country, at the hotel on January 6-8, and provide a ballroom on the same floor for the Expo, which would be run by Mr. Dann on behalf of MACA. As several players said, the playing site was excellent, with a beautiful view of the Boston skyline across the harbor. 130 players entered the tournament, which was limited to players rated under 2250 and divided into five sections in a rather unusual fashion.

The top section, Group 1, was won by Massachusetts expert Brian Salomon, who finished ahead of several masters with a score of $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$. He clinched his victory with a last round draw against NM Nathan Resika, formerly from Massachusetts and now living in New York, who tied for second with Matthew Fishbein, a 14-year-old expert from Maine.

Three players tied for first in Group 2, which was open to players rated from 1600 and 1949: Valentin Levin and Scott Didham, both from Massachusetts, and Srinivasan Ramanujam of New Jersey, all with 4 - 1



Brian D Salomon. Photo: Tony Cortizas Jr.

scores. Howard Kim, from Massachusetts, was clear first in Group 3, open to players rated from 1200 to 1649, with $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$. There was another three-way tie in Group 4, open to players rated under 1350, between Phu Vo of Massachusetts, Elliott Taylor of New Jersey and Robert Sawdey of New Hampshire, all with 4 - 1. And Jamie Segee-Wright of New Hampshire won Group 5, open to players rated under 1050, with a perfect 5 - 0 score.

Steve Immitt and Bob Messenger directed the tournament for Continental Chess while Stephen Dann and MACA President George Mirijanian ran the MACA Educational Expo, with help from George Duval, who provided the use of his computer.



Valentin Levin. Photo: Tony Cortizas Jr.



Photo: Tony Cortizas Jr.

The Boston University Open – A Personal Recollection

by Richard “Doc” Kinne

In the three years I’d been living in Boston I’d never had occasion to step onto the Boston University campus. The week of 1 November would give me two opportunities in quick succession when my old graduate advisor flew in to lecture the Boston University Department of Astronomy...and when I attended my first Boston University Open.

I’d been looking particularly forward to the Boston University Open nearly since my return to chess in July of this year after an 11 year “vacation.” Everyone who mentioned the tournament praised it and its site. Oh, Boston’s chess tournaments, by and large, are well sited, don’t get me wrong. Most of my tournaments have been at the Boylston Chess Club, which has a cozy, crowded, homey style. The rest have been in very traditional hotel venues. These are good and convenient, but of necessity somewhat sterile. BU Open’s venue immediately reminded me of the tournament hall at the East Syracuse-Minoa school cafeteria where I’d grown up in the early 80s under Tournament Directors Joe Ball and Bob Nasiff, but upgraded for the 21st century – half tournament hall, half mall food court!

Immediately there was an excited vibe in the air as many of the chess players I’d met across Boston in the last few months filtered in. At the head of the table, processing an increasing tide of Boston players, were Chief Arbiter Bernardo Iglesias, assisted by BU Dean & Chess Club Advisor Robert Oresick. The player’s side was represented by veterans such as Chris



Richard “Doc” Kinne (left) vs. Eric Hu. Photo: Robert Oresick

Chase, Natasha Christiansen, Jason Rihel, newcomers such as Maurice Chalonec and Domenic Festa, and even an international visitor, Marco Falasca from Italy and Britain. All in all the 2011 Boston University Open attained Category B status drawing 101 players!

My 1st round was against Domenic Festa for whom the BU Open was his first tournament. It is unusual for me to get a 1st round win, but I managed it. Domenic & I walked out of the tournament hall and into the food court, exchanged a few nice words about the game, and I went back in to record the result. As I did so I looked at the wall chart that Bernardo and Robert had managed to get up during the first round. Domenic was listed with a 1524 rating. What? I tracked him down in the food court and asked him, if this was his first tournament, how did he have a 1524 rating? “Oh,” he said, “Those are rated games with my friends at the club.” OK, I’d just

beaten a 1500 class player (apparently). At this point I’m rated 1093. I was going to have a heart attack!

The 2nd round with Sean Blaisdell (1470) was more regular. I lost, but I played a good game. I ended up misplaying an attack on move 19, basically, but the game was free of complete blunders.

In the 3rd round I ended up delivering a mating attack against Marco Falasca, our visitor from Italy, whom Bernardo had rated 1412 or so. My brain was reeling as I went into the 4th round with Eric Hu (1387). It was one of my most memorable games. I present it here with some comments (you certainly cannot call them annotations!)

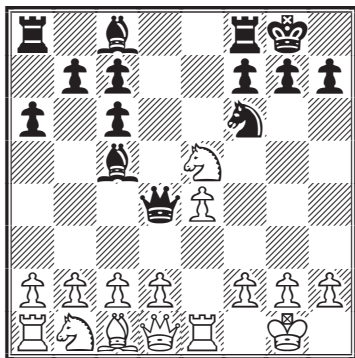
Eric Hu 1387

Richard “Doc” Kinne 1093

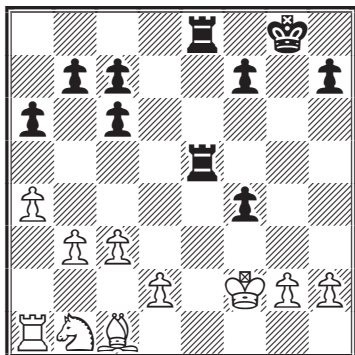
Boston University Open 2011 (4)
[C60] Ruy Lopez

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 This was one of my first learned

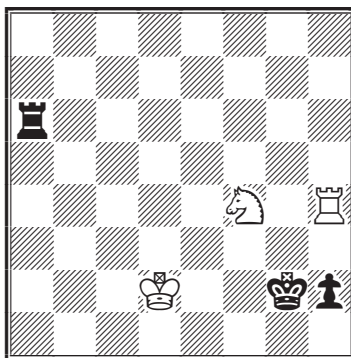
openings. I'd gone to Queen Pawn openings back in the 80s, but played King Pawn openings during this tournament. I may have to continue that! **5.O-O Bc5 6.Re1 O-O 7.Bxc6 dxc6** Here, obviously, the recapture was needed. The only reason I mention it is that for the last couple of months I'd been doing exchanges just because they didn't lose me material. I've learned to avoid that so here it was Eric that initiated this exchange. He ends up winning a pawn, but computer analysis still seems to make the position roughly equal. **8.Nxe5 Qd4**



9.Nd3? Wanting to protect f2, but it allows Black a strong attack. **Bg4 10.Re2 Bxe2 11.Qxe2 Nxe4 12.c3 Qc4 13.b3 Bxf2+ 14.Kf1 Qb5** White seems to recover. **15.Qxe4 Rfe8 16.Qf3 Re7 17.Kxf2 Rae8** Now White has the upper hand. **18.Nf4 g5 19.a4 Qe5 20.Qe3 gxf4 21.Qxe5 Rxe5**



Computer analysis now shows an equal position, but I liked this for Black due to the control of the e-file. **22.Na3 Rf5 23.d4 Kg7 24.Kf3 Re1 25.Kf2 Re6 26.Nc2 Rh6 27.h3 Rg6 28.Ra2 Rg3 29.Ne1 Rxc3 30.Bb2 Re3 31.d5+ Kg6 32.dxc6 bxc6 33.Nf3 Rd5 34.Bc1 Rxb3 35.Bxf4 c5 36.Bxc7 c4 37.Ne5+ Kg7 38.Nxc4 Rf5+ 39.Ke2 Rc3** About here, for only the 4th time since I started playing in 1978, I offered Eric a draw. I figured that while he was a pawn up, we'd just be doing a lot of moving. I was wrong. **40.Ne3 Rg5 41.Bf4 Rgc5 42.Bd6 Rc6? 43.Be5+** It's not a draw now! **Kg6 44.Bxc3 Rxc3 45.Kd2 Rc5 46.Rb2 f5 47.Rb6+ Kg5 48.Rxa6 f4 49.Ng4 Rf5 50.Nf6 h5 51.Ne4+ Kh4 52.a5 f3 53.gxf3 Rxf3 54.Rf6 Ra3 55.a6 Kxh3 56.Nc5 Ra5 57.Ne4 h4 58.Rh6 Kg4 59.Rg6+ Kh3 60.Rf6 Kg2 61.Rf2+ Kg1 62.Rf4 h3** Amazing how things can change. **63.Ng3 Rxa6 64.Rh4 h2 65.Ne2+ Kg2 66.Nf4+**



About here Eric offers me a draw. He says, "I think its going to end up as Rook vs Rook, which is a draw." I thought about it for a second, but elected to play on. **Kg3 67.Rh3+ Kxf4 68.Rxh2 Ra2+! 0-1** The lesson here? As a few friends have said to me, at this level of play, (almost) never say die!

I had three points. I'd beaten folks way above my rating. I could see my rating rising to 1400, maybe

even gaining a Category 3 norm! I felt like I was gonna throw up. I was sorta glad I no longer had a car.

When I was last really active in the early 90s TDs submitted tourney reports via mail and you'd see your updated rating two months later on your "Chess Life" mailing label. Today, it's far different. By the time I got home the tourney was rated and I looked at the crosstable...and I learned the difference between pre and post ratings, and established and provisional ratings. It turns out that this had been Domenic's first tournament and that his 1524 rating had been based on two games. Something similar was true for Marcos. I'd not beaten people 400 points higher than I was, but 100 points lower. So, no norms, but I'd garnered nearly 100 rating points and at 1180 my rating was now one point higher than it had been when I'd walked into the Boylston Chess Club that late July after not picking up a piece in 11 years. The BU Open was one of the best results of my life and I was on my way up!

Here are the results from the 2011 Boston University Open:

Open Section

1st and 2nd

Robert Perez, William Kelleher, Avraam Pismennyy 3.5

Top under 2200 Charlie Fauman 3.0

U1900

1st Ethan Dininno 4.0

2nd Mike Bohigian, Garrett Kingman 3.5

U1600

1st Thomas Brinkman 4.0

2nd Barry Lai, Syed Al-Mamun

Top U1200 Alon Trogan, Richard "Doc" Kinne, Robert Sawdey 3.0

Top BU undergrad: Gil Coarrubias Jr.

Top College: Harvard

Top High School: Cape Elizabeth (ME)

Top Middle School: Sawdey brothers

Portsmouth Open

by Ken Ho

Alex Relyea and Nita Patel brought us the 2012 Portsmouth Open, with new time controls this year of 40 moves/90 minutes, then Game/30, with an increment of 30 seconds added after each move.

In the Open section, Grandmaster Alexander Ivanov took first, while International Master David Vigorito and Ted Belanoff (the sole 3-0 going into the final round) split 2nd/top Under 2250. Niccolo Hilgendorf was top Under 2000.

In the Under 1750 section, Harry Van Der Keyl and Michael Corrigan split 1st/2nd, Eric Heinicke was top Under 1500, and Jamie Segee-Wright was top Under 1250.

John Gaspar 1958
Niccolo Hilgendorf 1843
Portsmouth Open 2012 (4)
[A48] King's Indian Defense

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Bg5 Bg7 4. e3 O-O 5. Bd3 d6 6. Nbd2 Nbd7 7. c3 c5 8. Qc2 b6 9. O-O-O Bb7 10. h4 h5 11. Kb1 a5 12. Nf1 Ba6 13. Bxa6 Rxa6 14. Qe2 Qa8 15. Ng3 b5 16. e4 e5 17. dxe5 dxe5 18. Rd2 c4 19. Bxf6 Nxf6 20. Rhd1 b4 21. Qxc4 bxc3 22. bxc3 Rc6 23. Qd3 Rfc8 24. Rc2 Qb7+ 25. Ka1 Qc7 26. Ng5 Bf8 27. f3 Bb4 28. Ne2 Rd6 29. Nd4 Bxc3+ 30. Rxc3 Qxc3+ 31. Qxc3 Rxc3 32. Kb2 Rxd4 33. Rf1 Rc6 34. f4 Rb4+ 35. Ka1 Nxe4 36. fxe5 Nxe5 0-1

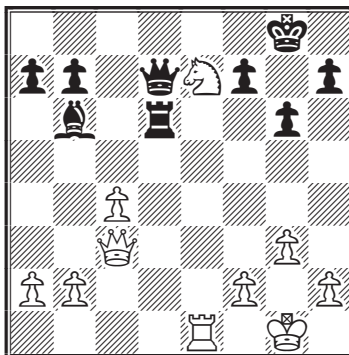
John Gaspar 1958
Vadim Martirosov 2360
Portsmouth Open 2012 (1)
[D04] Colle System

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e3 c5 4. dxc5

e6 5. b4 a5 6. c3 b6 7. a4 axb4 8. cxb4 bxc5 9. b5 Bd6 10. Bb2 O-O 11. Bd3 Nbd7 12. Nbd2 Bb7 13. Qe2 Ne4 14. O-O f5 15. Bc2 Bc7 16. Rfd1 Qe8 17. Nf1 Ba5 18. Bxe4 fxe4 19. Ne5 Rf5 20. Nxd7 Qxd7 21. Ng3 Rf7 22. Nxe4 Qe7 23. Ng3 Raf8 24. f3 Qg5 25. Ba3 Rc8 26. Rac1 Rfc7 27. Qd3 Qh4 28. e4 Bb6 29. Kh1 c4 30. Qe2 c3 31. exd5 Bxd5 32. Rxd5 exd5 33. Qe6+ Kh8 34. Qxb6 Qxa4 35. Bd6 Rd7 36. Be5 Qa3 37. Rxc3 Qa1+ 38. Qg1 Qxg1+ 39. Kxg1 Rxc3 40. Bxc3 Rb7 41. Nf5 Rxb5 42. Bxg7+ Kg8 43. Bd4 Rb4 44. Nh6+ 1-0

Michael Corrigan 1724
Mark Seedner 1585
Portsmouth Open 2012 (3)
[C07] French Defense

1. d4 d5 2. e4 e6 3. Nd2 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. dxc5 Bxc5 6. Nb3 Bb6 7. exd5 exd5 8. Nf3 Bg4 9. Be2 Nf6 10. O-O O-O 11. Bg5 Re8 12. Qc2 Qd6 13. Rad1 Bc7 14. g3 Ne5 15. Nbd4 Rad8 16. Bf4 Qe7 17. Rfe1 Bxf3 18. Bxf3 Nxf3+ 19. Nxf3 Qc5 20. Rxe8+ Rxe8 21. Be3 Qe7 22. Nd4 Ng4 23. Nf5 Qe6 24. Qd3 Nxe3 25. Nxe3 Bb6 26. Nxd5 Rd8 27. c4 g6 28. Qc3 Rd6 29. Re1 Qd7 30. Ne7+



1-0 (30...Kf8 31 Qh8#)

Jamie Segee-Wright 1001
Mark Seedner 1585
Portsmouth Open 2012 (1)
[C02] French Defense

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. c3 Bd7 6. Bf4 Qb6 7. Qb3 cxd4 8. Qxb6 axb6 9. Nxd4 Bc5 10. Bb5 Nxd4 11. Bxd7+ Kxd7 12. cxd4 Bxd4 13. Nc3 Bxc3+ 14. bxc3 Ra4 15. Be3 Ne7 16. O-O Rha8 17. Rab1 Rxa2 18. Rxb6 Kc8 19. Rfb1 Nc6 20. Rxb7 Ra1 21. h3 Rxb1+ 22. Rxb1 Nxe5 23. Bd4 f6 24. Bxe5 fxe5 25. Re1 e4 26. f3 Ra4 27. fxe4 Rxe4 28. Rxe4 dxe4 and eventually 1/2-1/2

As Mark good-naturedly commented later about this draw's effect on his rating, "That's going to hurt."

A View from the Bottom of the Open Section Barrel

At last year's event, I remember standing around with a few folks including GM Alexander Ivanov, and TD Ken Ballou, if memory serves, discussing delay/increment. Ivanov expressed his opinion that unless it was 30 seconds or more, it didn't help much. Having now tried such an increment, I have to say I really like it.

Not that it necessarily led to my making better moves, but as my time ran down, it felt much more comfortable (civilized?) to know that I'd always have at least 30 seconds to make my next move. In my first round against John Elmore, I had 5 minutes and 51 seconds left after my 38th move. After making

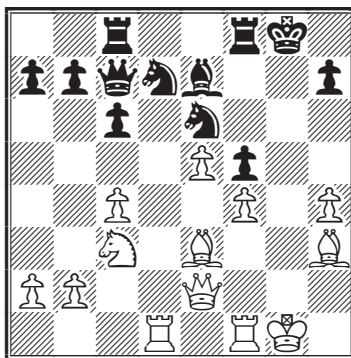
my 39th move, I was mentally congratulating myself on now having 6 minutes and 3 seconds (i.e., a little more time than after the previous move)...until I realized I had just played a gross blunder. I was, however, probably already losing, down the exchange with a bad position and my king under attack.

John's "Enjoy the game." sentiment at the start of that game was a sparkling alternative to the standard "Good luck." (which I have probably always used). Before a round's pairings are posted, that standard sentiment often becomes the wry-but-well-worn variant "Good luck, unless you're playing me later." Although wins are certainly better than draws or losses, my real desire is simply to enjoy each game, and I hope to remember to utter John's sentiment myself in the future.

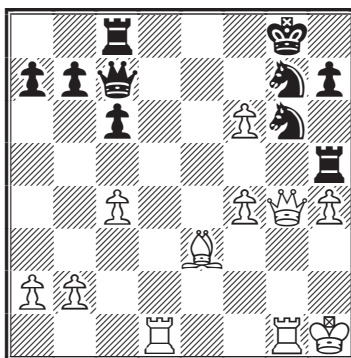
After having lost the game to John, I was out for the between-round meal, but hurried back from a half-eaten plate only to discover that I had a bye in round 2. Being the bottom player in the Open section with my 1800 rating, I should have been more aware of that possibility, but I suppose even earlier I hadn't been thinking super clearly about some normal aspects of weekend tournament play, something in which I rarely participate. Indeed, I had been surprised to realize that I had forgotten to bring my chess set, although I had brought my chess clock. I'm most often playing one round/night at the Boylston Chess Club, where a clock is all I need to bring.

I was, however, able to play an extra game during round 2 with house player Richard Judy (1949), who I last played 20 years ago. Although there were plenty of mistakes, our game was somewhat picturesque, and we landed in the

following position after **22...gxf5**:



I had been planning 23 Ne4 (23... fxe4 24. Bxe6+ followed by 25 Rxd7, winning more material). Suddenly (and quite wrongly) I thought I had an even more direct way of winning material, and I played **23 Bxf5?**, after which **23...Rxf5 24 Qg4+** was answered by **24...Ng7**, a move which I had lamely overlooked. The game continued: **25 Kh1 Nf8 26 Rg1 Ng6 27 Ne4 Rh5 28 Nf6+ Bxf6 29 exf6**



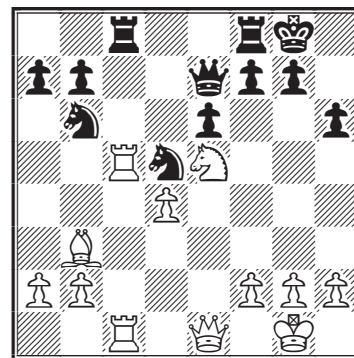
As I related to Richard the next day, I had been salivating for him to play the visually tempting but wrong **29...Rxd8** After my 23rd move error, I had been worried I was going down in flames, and for a period of time here I thought the end was near. Eventually I snapped out of it and realized that I did not

have to play **30 Rxd8**, retaining more chances. **30 Rdf1 Qf7 31 f5 Nxe4 (31...Qxf6 32 Bg5) 32 Qxg7+ Qxg7 33 Rxe7 Kh8 34 Rg5 Nxf5+ 35 Rxe5 Ng3+ 36 Kg2 Nxe5 37 f7 Rf8 38 Bc5 Kg7 39 Bxf8+ Kxf8** and White has a winning ending. **40 Rd1 Nf6 41 Rd8+ Kxf7 42 Rb8 1-0.**

The next day Richard mentioned in passing (en passant?) that Houdini showed a win for him in a position with his queen on f7. I am no tactician, so I will leave possible variations up to the reader....

In the third round I was taken totally unaware by a nice move from Kira Storm (1989). Because it didn't win any material, he wasn't totally happy classifying it as a combination, but I would definitely do so. When Kira played the move, I sat there appreciating its strength, thinking, "Wow, I am getting beaten by a beautiful combination!"

After **22...Nf5-d5?**:



23 Ng6! 23...fxg6 24 Bxd5 I had miscalculated, and thought that **24 Rxc8?** was the right move. In fact, as Kira pointed out in the post-mortem, **24...Rxc8 25 Rxc8 Nxc8** protects the queen (I had overlooked that), so **26 Bxd5 exd5** would simply lose for White. And **24...Nxc8**

25 Rxc8? Rxc8 26 Bxd5? exd5 27 Qxe7?? Rc1+ 28 Qe1 Rxe1# (It's so easy to deliver back rank mate when you assign multiple bad moves to your opponent!). Because of my incorrect assessment of 24 Rxc8, when Kira played the text move, I thought he had overlooked something and excitedly thought I was on my way to an unexpected win. After **24...Rxc5 25 Bxe6+ Qxe6** I thought I would be delivering back rank mate, realizing as I made the move that White's recapture of the queen would be with check, so I resigned. Instead of the auto-destruct 25...Qxe6, a reasonable continuation we looked at was 25...Kh8 26 dxc5 Na4 27 Bb3 Qxe1+ 28 Rxe1 Nxc5 29 Bc2 when White has an endgame edge, but Black may suffer his way to a draw.

After the tournament was over, I had the pleasure in the hotel lobby of listening to Dave Vigorito's comments to Vadim Martisirov re: opening move order finesses, which was a fascinating dessert to top off a very enjoyable tournament! A big thanks to Alex and Nita!

“

People who want to improve should take their defeats as lessons, and endeavor to learn what to avoid in the future. You must also have the courage of your convictions. If you think your move is good, make it.

—Jose Capablanca

”

Upsets Abound at the 22nd Mass Game/60 Championship

by Bob Messenger

Several masters lost games against lower rated players at this year's Massachusetts Game/60 Championship. The “upset king” was Massachusetts High School co-champion Jacob Fauman, who beat three masters and lost only to co-winner GM Alexander Ivanov. Grant Xu, winner of the 14 & Under Championship at the 2011 Spiegel Cup, did almost as well, beating two masters, drawing against FM Bill Kelleher, and losing to the tournament's other co-winner, FM Robert Perez, an MIT student from Miami Beach, Florida. The biggest victim of upsets was former Massachusetts champion SM Denys Shmelov, who lost to Fauman and Xu and drew against another young expert, Andrew Liu. With Shmelov clearly having a bad day, Ivanov and Perez split the first and second place prize money, both winning their first three games and drawing against each other in the last round. Fauman won the prize for Top Under 2200.

Richard Judy of York Beach, Maine was clear first in the Under 2000 section, winning three games and drawing against David Aldi of Connecticut. The key game in the section was in the last round, when Judy with 2.5 points out of three beat Conway Xu, an 11-year-old who started the tournament with three wins. 14-year-old Bowen Wang swept the Under 1750 section 4-0, as did 10-year-old Alan Sikarov in the Under 1500 Section. There was a three-way tie in the Under 1200 Section between Aaron Dunigan AtLee, Edward Chiu, and two younger players: 11-year-old Alvin Tan and 9-year-old Eddie Wang. Youth appears to be an advantage at this time control!

The first Massachusetts Game/60 Championship was held in 1990 and was the largest in the series, with 131 players. This year's event, held at on April 15th in Marlborough, had 90, which was well short of the record but was the highest since 2007, which had 95. Bob Messenger was the chief tournament director, assisted by George Mirijanian and Steve Frymer.

George Mirijanian contributed material which was used in this article.

New Chess Venue in Shrewsbury

We have opened 'Khel Creativity Club', a new indoor games club in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Chess is one of the prominent games we conduct at our club. ('Khel' in Indian Language Hindi means game or sport.) We have quite a few chess boards, and tables and lots of room to flexibly adjust and accommodate candidates willing to play chess. Most importantly we are looking for expert Chess coaches who can train members of our club. We are also looking forward to conduct tournaments with prizes like \$200 to winners along with certificates. Any organizational help will be greatly appreciated. Please inform your chess fraternity about our club. We can be contacted by Phone: 617-894-8694 or by E-mail: info@khelcc.com

Khel Creativity Club, 196 Boston Turnpike Road, Shrewsbury MA 01545 www.khelcc.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Eastern Class Championships Turn 21

by Bob Messenger

For the 21st year, players from all over the Northeast competed in the largest class tournament in Massachusetts: the Eastern Class Championships. The first Eastern Class was held in 1992 in Needham, with 212 players. This year's event was held March 2-4 at the Host Hotel at Cedar Lake in Sturbridge, drawing a still-respectable 183. An unusual feature of this tournament is that players are only allowed to play up one section, since it's a class championship rather than an open.

New York GM Mikheil Kekelidze won the Master section on tiebreak over fellow GM Alexander Ivanov of Massachusetts. The two leaders drew their last round

game to finish with four points out of five, finishing half a point ahead of GMs Tamaz Gelashvili and Sergey Kudrin. Joshua Colas, a promising young player from New York, won the 1st U2300 prize with 2.5 points.

Winners of the other sections were: Expert: David Carter of Vermont; Class A: Mark Bourque of Connecticut; Class B: Doug Ryan of Vermont; Class C: Patrick Gardocki of New Jersey; Class D: Erik Elbieh of Massachusetts; Class E: David Flanagan of Massachusetts.

Bill Goichberg, president of the Continental Chess Association, directed the tournament, assisted by his wife Brenda, their cat Lucky, and Bob Messenger.

Three Scholastic Qualifiers

by Bob Messenger

Each school year MACA holds four scholastic qualifier tournaments to allow players to win invitations to the state championship, the Barry S. Spiegel Cup. I reported on the 1st Qualifier of 2011-12 in the July-October issue, which leaves three qualifiers to be described here. There were no qualifiers for the High School section since it was an open tournament this year, with all players in grades 9-12 or age 15 and over eligible to play in the finals.

Of those qualifiers, the most nerve-wracking from a tournament director's point of view was the 2nd, held on October 30th at the Holiday Inn Select in Woburn. There was a freak snow storm the day before the tournament and there was some talk of canceling it. As it was, several parents called to drop their children out of the tournament, and there were some no-show forfeits; we ended up with 71 players not counting the dropouts and no-shows. Then there was a fire alarm, which turned out to be a false alarm but delayed the tournament until the fire department showed up. Finally the power went out, and it stayed off for a long time. We tournament directors had to decide what we would do if the power never came back on. Fortunately the power came back after 25 minutes so the players were able to complete the tournament. Charlie Fauman swept the 14 & Under section 4 - 0. There were two 4 - 0 scores in the 24-player 11 & Under section, with Eric Feng winning the blitz playoff against Sandeep Shankar to qualify for

the finals. Eddie Wei won the 8 & Under section with 3½ - ½. Five players tied for first in the Novice Under 800 section with 3 - 1 scores: Alex Zhang, Paulie Apostolicas, Daniel Wang, Giorgio Roscini, and Nicholas Woodman. Toby Shu won the Novice Under 400 section with a perfect 4 - 0 score.

The 3rd and 4th qualifiers were both held at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough, with the 3rd Qualifier being held on December 4th, with 75 players, and the 4th Qualifier being held on January 15th, with 82 players. The winners of the 3rd Qualifier were Siddharth Arun, who scored 4 - 0 in the 14 & Under; Tal Puhov and Justin Lin with 3½ - ½ in the 11 & Under, with Tal Puhov winning the blitz playoff; Jason Liang with 4 - 0 in the 8 & Under; Giorgio Roscini, with 4 - 0 in the Novice Under 800; and Claire Randolph, Julian Fefer, Tyler Wong, and Swapnesh Baguli with 3 - 0 in the Novice Under 400. The 4th Qualifier winners were Bowen Wang, with 4 - 0 in the 14 & Under; Alan Sikarov and Henry Liu with 3½ - ½ in the 11 & Under, with Alan Sikarov winning the blitz playoff; Maxwell Zhao with 4 - 0 in the 8 & Under; David McCabe and Noah Firmin with 3½ - ½ in the Novice U800; and Philip Adams with 3½ - ½ in the Novice U400.

All three qualifiers were directed by Brian Mottershead and Bob Messenger, assisted at some of them by George Mirijanian and Steve Frymer.

The Simul in South Station

by Richard “Doc” Kinne

On 20 October Grandmaster Larry Christiansen, three-time United States Champion, took on 21 players in a simultaneous exhibition held in a rather unusual and marvelously public place. Battle was joined in the middle of Boston’s South Station right under the train status board.

Setting up tables in a large rectangle, Grandmaster Christiansen took the inside as White as members of the Boylston Chess Club, and some brave members of the public, took Black along the rim of this arena. They were joined by a throng of very curious members of the public who largely had never seen anything like this before, certainly not as they made their usually normal way home!

After Boylston Chess Club President Jason Rihel introduced Grandmaster Larry Christiansen and explained some ground rules, the Simul in South Station started in earnest. People from all over the historic station crowded around the tables, looking over the shoulders of the players. “Who’s the guy in the middle?” some asked. Word quickly spread that he was a three-time United States Champion causing one spectator to allow that, “he probably knows what he’s doing.”

You could say that, yes, but as Larry went from board to board it slowly dawned on people that the south side of the square he was walking was giving him trouble. There, all in a row sat Expert Jesse Nicholas and Noah Kulick with National Master Andrew Wang between them. These three-boys-in-a-row comprised Grandmaster Christiansen’s only losses among his 21 battles that evening.



Photo: Richard “Doc” Kinne

We present one of these games here.

GM Larry Christiansen
Noah Kulick
Simultaneous, Boston 2011
[B19] Caro-Kann Defense

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bf5 5. Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6 11.Bf4 Qa5+ 12.Bd2 Bb4 13. c3 Be7 14. c4 Qc7 15.O-O-O Ngf6 16. Kb1 O-O 17. Ne4 Nxe4 18.Qxe4 Nf6 19. Qe2 b5 20.c5 a5 21. Ne5 Rfd8 22. Bc1 Rd5 23.g4 Rad8 24.Be3 Bxc5 25.Nxf7 Qxf7 26. dxc5 Ne4 27. f3 Ng3 28. Rxd5 exd5 29. Qg2 Nxh1 30. Qxh1 d4 31. Bc1 Qd5 32. g5 d3 33. Bd2 Qxc5 34.Qe1 hxc5 35. Qe6+ Kh8 36. Qe1 Rf8 37. Bc3 b4 38. Bd2 Qf5 39. Qe7 Qxf3 0-1

In the end Grandmaster Christiansen’s record was 18-3, but everyone – Grandmaster, players, and the public – won. South Station was impressed with the display and the Boylston Chess Club is looking forward to working with them in the future to do additional “Simuls in South Station.” Look for them!

BCC President Jason Rihel contributed to this report

“
My opponents make good moves too. Sometimes I don’t take these things into consideration.
 —Bobby Fischer

”

Barry S. Spiegel Cup

by Bob Messenger

The Massachusetts individual scholastic championship, the Barry S. Spiegel Cup, was held on February 12th at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough. There was a new format this year in the High School section. Instead of being an invitational tournament, as it was for all the other sections, the High School championship was open to all players in grades 9 to 12, or age 15 and over in grades K-12. 19 players entered the section, making it the largest in the tournament since each invitational section had ten players. James Lung and Jacob Fauman each won their first three games, and they drew their game in the last round, setting up a blitz playoff which Lung won by two games to one. This entitles Lung to represent Massachusetts at the Denker Tournament of High School Champions in August. There was a question of whether this also made him the sole High School Champion of Massachusetts. At its March meeting the MACA Executive Board decided that Lung and Fauman are co-champions. Zaroug Jaleel and Tian Rossi tied for third place, with Jaleel winning the third place trophy on tiebreak.

Mika Brattain won the 14 & Under championship and an invitation to the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions with a score of $3\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$, including a last round win against Yi Yang, who until then had never lost a rated game. Yang scored $2\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$, tying for second with three other players. On tiebreak Siddharth Arun won the 2nd place trophy, Yang won 3rd place,



James Lung with his High School 1st place trophy. Photo: En-Kuang Lung.

and Charlie Fauman and Andrew Liu won medals.

Evan Meyer swept the 11 & Under section with a 4 - 0 score, including wins against the second and third place finishers, Alex Fauman (3) and Tal Puhov ($2\frac{1}{2}$).

Lucy Cai likewise won the 8 & Under championship with 4 - 0. Her victims included Eddie Wang, who finished second with 3 points. Maxwell Zhao was third with $2\frac{1}{2}$.

Brian Mottershead (the bearded man in the above photo) directed the tournament, assisted by George Mirjanian, Steve Frymer and Bob Messenger.



Evan Meyer won the 11 & under section.



Lucy Cai won the 8 & under section.



Jacob Fauman tied for 1st in the High School section.

Gus Gosselin Grade Championship

by Bob Messenger

85 players competed in this year's Gus Gosselin Grade Championship, held March 11th 2012 in Woburn. This tournament, named after Gus Gosselin, a former MACA president and hard-working chess promoter who died in 2007, evolved out of what was originally a consolation tournament held at the same time as the Massachusetts invitational scholastic championship, now known as the Spiegel Cup. Attendance has declined in recent years – the tournament drew 102 players in 2011 and 136 in 2009 – possibly because it hasn't been as well publicized, although part of the drop has been because the event no longer has a High School section due to low attendance. The tournament has one section for each grade between first and eighth, with kindergarteners playing in a combined K-1 section.

Winners this year were: Grade 8: Siddharth Arun of Medfield (3½-½); Grade 7: David Maimon of Weston (3½-½); Grade 6: Leonardo Cheng of Westford (4-0);

Grade 5: Evan Meyer of Newton on tiebreak over Alex Fauman, also of Newton (3½-½); Grade 4: Nithin Kavi of Acton (4-0); Grade 3: Adrian Seeger of Newton (4-0); Grade 2: Maxwell Zhao (Bolton); Grades K-1 : Eddie Wei of Winchester (4-0), who was also the top-scoring player in kindergarten. Since Eddie couldn't win two trophies the Top Kindergarten trophy went to Sanjana Kadiyala of Acton, who scored 1½ points. Leonardo Cheng's performance in Grade 6 was especially impressive because he was only the 4th highest rated player in the section. He pulled off a 548-point upset against top seed Tal Puhov of Shrewsbury in the last round and gained 195 rating points in the tournament.

Brian Mottershead was the chief tournament director, assisted by George Mirijanian, Steve Frymer and Bob Messenger.

George Mirijanian contributed material which was used in the preparation of this article.

Winter Team Challenge

by Bob Messenger

22 teams entered this year's Winter Team Challenge, which was held on January 29th at the Holiday Inn Select in Woburn. In previous years the tournament, which was originally held in December, was called the Holiday Team Challenge but this year we decided to change the name because by the end of January the holidays are over. The event is open to players in grades K-12, with teams of four players, and allows both school teams and club teams, with rating restrictions on the club teams.

The K-12 section, with ten teams, was won by the Weston H.S. Wildcats (Akshay Saini, Sam Luri, Colin Luzzi, and Naveed Hedayat) on tiebreak over the Chess Patriots (Brandon Wu, Jenny Qiu, Samuel Qiu, and Justin Wu), both with 3½ match points out of 4.

The K-5 section had only four teams. This may have been because the section breaks were changed this year, with a K-5 section instead of a K-6 section. Four White Knights (Nithin Kavi, Jonathan Yin, Maxwell Wang, and Adam Yang) won all their matches to win the section.

The K-3 section had eight teams. Perhaps it should be changed to K-2 next year to balance the sizes of the sections. "R2SJ" (Luke Randolph, Gavin Randolph, Toby Shu, and Alexander Jin) won the section with 3½ match points.

Brian Mottershead was the chief tournament director, assisted by George Mirijanian, Steve Frymer, and Bob Messenger.

“

Confidence is very important – even pretending to be confident. If you make a mistake but do not let your opponent see what you are thinking then he may overlook the mistake.

—Viswanathan Anand

”

Controversy at the Hurvitz Cup

by Bob Messenger

The Hurvitz Cup is MACA's biggest scholastic tournament of the year. Competition is keen to win bragging rights as the top high school, middle school, elementary school or primary school in the Commonwealth. All players on each four-player team, plus an optional alternate, are required to attend the same school, with an exception for players from feeder schools in the same school district. The section breaks were changed this year, the four sections being for four-player teams in grades 9-12, 6-8 (6-9 last year), K-5 (K-6 last year), and K-3. The new section breaks were intended to match more closely the grade breaks in most Massachusetts school districts. A total of 40 teams entered this year, with 162 players.

The controversy in the 9-12 (High School) section began during round three, when it was reported that two players, on different teams, were in seventh grade and thus were ineligible to play in the section. As the chief tournament director I believe that this was an innocent mistake caused by a misunderstanding of the feeder school rule, but unfortunately I was forced to disqualify the two seventh graders, changing their results to forfeit losses for tournament purposes although they still counted for ratings. The BB&N team was especially hurt by this, because their win against Acton-Boxborough was changed to a draw, and without their top player, Jeffrey Yao (who had a very good tournament, gaining 47 rating points), they also lost their last round match.

Going into the last round Newton North had three match points, Acton-Boxborough had two and a half, and three teams had two, including top-seeded Lexington, which had lost to Newton North in round three. Newton North and Acton-Boxborough were paired in

the last round, and it turned out that both teams were satisfied with a quick draw, Newton North because the drawn match clinched first place for them, and Acton-Boxborough because their team was out-rated by over 200 points and they were afraid that if they lost the match they would be knocked out of prize contention. On tiebreak, Acton-Boxborough finished second, Lexington was third, and the players on the Weston team were given medals for the team's fourth place finish.

Some of the parents on the Lexington team appealed to MACA President George Mirijanian on the basis that the Newton North and Acton-Boxborough teams had violated USCF rules by playing prearranged draws. At its April meeting the MACA Executive Board passed a motion sustaining my decision to accept the drawn result of the match.

Things went more smoothly in the other sections. Diamond Middle School won all their matches in the 6-8 section, their ace Mika Brattain likewise going 4-0. The Gates Panther team won the K-5 section 4-0, as did Kings of Conant in the K-3.

I'd like to thank my assistant TDs: Brian Mottershead, George Mirijanian, Steve Frymer, Maryanne Reilly, and Irina Dronova. Congratulations to the players on the winning teams: Winston Huang, Tian Rossi, Jacob Fauman and Richard Han for Newton North High School; Mika Brattain, Vishnu Amrit, David Amirault and Mark Jones for Diamond Middle School; Allen Wang, Daniel Shih, Eddie Wang and Aaron Zhang for the Gates Panthers; and Alex Yu, Alexander Ying, James Cui, Ethan Zhong and Benjamin Lu for the Kings of Conant.

“

I won't play with you anymore. You have insulted my friend! - (when an opponent cursed himself for a blunder)

—Miguel Najdorf

”

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My Chess Journey to My First National Victory

by Max Chia-hsin Lu

Winning second place in the 2011 U.S. Junior Chess Congress is my first national victory. I went to this tournament on Halloween weekend because I have never won in any national events. I normally stay and play around the Massachusetts area and, in summer, I sometimes take part in a FIDE tournament in Asia. Since this tournament was held in San Jose near my aunt and uncle, the trip was somewhat easier.

Although there is no standard for rating points, I am comparing Californian players' ratings to Massachusetts players' ratings. I feel the players in California have a lot more variance in their play-style and strengths compared to players in Massachusetts. Maybe because California is bigger than Massachusetts there are a lot more players and also a lot more coaches to help these players achieve the next level in their chess career. In Massachusetts, most players play up to their rating and many play over their rating, in the other hand in California I felt like lower rated players were most times underrated and stronger than their rating suggests (maybe because they don't have that much time dedicated to going to chess tournaments and instead dedicate a lot of time to practice at home) and conversely the people who are higher rated play lower than their rating suggests.

Over the summer, I also went to Indonesia to attend a FIDE chess tournament. The Asian players are highly professional even though they are teens. They dedicate large amounts of time to playing chess and therefore have a lot of experience. They can, as chess players

would call it, grind you down with maybe even just a minor edge and push it into a win. In comparison, the chess players in the US would rather not push themselves as much since, I suppose, most of them are amateur and take chess as a hobby, not a job.

Being a student in Concord Academy, I am very busy and feel like there are many things to tend to other than chess. However I have managed to keep my school work as my priority and also keep chess as something I sometimes practice. I haven't really gotten that much practice except for going to big events so I guess I am not managing my time well enough to leave a lot for chess. I am however running a chess club at my school. It meets every Thursday during dinner at the dining hall. This means that many people come and go and often take a look around at the people playing. We often get 10 different people to show up and currently have 26 active members. I believe the key to making a chess club at a high school is to overcome your own reputation fighting back. Many people might "judge" but at least in the case of my school most people are pretty accepting and they don't think of chess as that much of a "nerd" thing.

It's hard to say what role chess plays in my life since I am only fifteen years old now. But I won't forget that chess has brought so many chess friends to me and, in the chess journey, it continues to bring me much enjoyment, confidence and satisfaction.

NM Lou Mercuri helped me annotate the following two games.

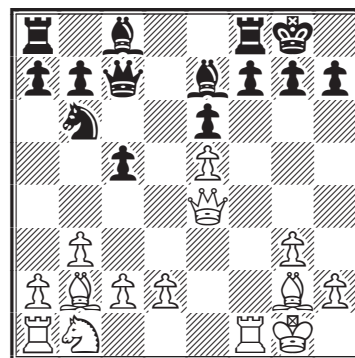
Max Lu 1895

Eric Xiao 1182

U.S. Junior Congress 2011

[A05] Larsen's Opening

1.Nf3 c5 2.b3 Nf6 3.Bb2 e6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 d5 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.f4 Nxe5 8.fxe5 Nd7 9.0-0 Qc7 [9...f6 was definitely necessary here, both to free up his bishop and to ensure a good center] **9...Qc7 10.e4 dxe4 11.Qg4** Here I considered White to have a significant edge **11...0-0 12.Qxe4 Nb6**

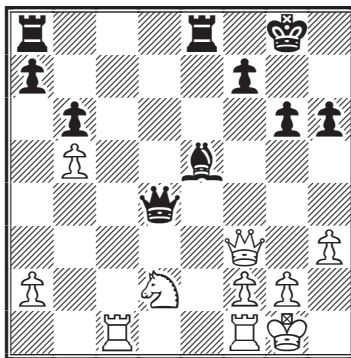


[12...Rb8 with the idea of ...b6 ands...Bb7 is better] **13.c4!** completely shuts down the knight on b6 **13...Rd8 14.Qf4 Bf8 15.Nc3 Qe7 16.Ne4 Qe8 17.Qg4 Kh8 18.Rf2! Nd7 19.Raf1** White is winning **19...f6 20.exf6 Nxf6** [20...e5 probably the best try in this bad position **21.fxg7+ Bxg7 22.Nd6 Qg6 23.Nf7+ Kg8 24.Qxg6 hxg6 25.Nxd8**] **21.Nxf6 gxf6 22.Bxf6+ Bg7 23.Qxg7#** A fast game, but it shows how important active pieces are. In the game Black couldn't develop his pieces on the queenside, his bishop, knight and rook were shut down and White's job was just to slowly maneuver his way into victory. **1-0**

Michael L Wang 1756
Max Lu 1895
U.S. Junior Congress 2011
[A48] King's Indian Defense

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Since I haven't played in a while, I forgot the lines I played to this opening **3...Bg7 4.e3 d6 5.Be2 Nbd7 6.0-0 h6?!** Questionable move by me [6...0-0 7.Nbd2 b6 develops queen-side and prepares to play c5] **7.h3 0-0 8.c4 Re8 9.Nc3 c6** I don't like these types of positions as Black; I often feel cramped and now my position is going down right out of the opening [9...e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Nxe5!] **10.b4 b6 11.b5** I feel like b5 could have been done later more effectively **11...cxb5 12.cxb5** [12.cxb5 is better because it maintains

White's flexibility in the center] **12...Bb7 13.Rc1 Ne4** Here I was deciding whether to move Ne4 or Nd5 **14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Nd2 Bb7 16.Bf3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 e5 18.Bh2 exd4 19.Bxd6 Ne5! 20.Bxe5 Bxe5 21.exd4 Qxd4**



After all of that, I feel like now I have a better position than White

after struggling in the early phase of the game. My bishop will prove more useful than the knight if I play right **22.Nc4 Bg7 23.Rfd1 Qf6 24.Qxf6 Bxf6 25.Kf1 Re4 26.Nd6 Ra4 27.Rc8+ Rxc8 28.Nxc8 Rxa2 29.Rd7** I only realized I was going to lose a pawn no matter what after **29...Rb2 30.Nxa7 h5 31.Rd6 Kg7 32.Rxb6 Bd4 33.Rb7 Rxf2+ 34.Ke1 Rxc2 35.b6 Rb2 36.Nc8 Kf6 37.Rd7 Bxb6 38.Rd6+ Kg5 39.Nxb6 Rb3 40.Nc4 Rxc3 41.Kf2 f6 42.Ne3 Rh2+ 43.Kg3 Re2** Here I thought that I had the edge but because he didn't play actively I won the game. I am winning as long as I don't let White sacrifice his knight for the two pawns. **0-1**

Bedford Rating Round Robin

by Bob Messenger

In October 2011 Alex Relyea and Ken Ballou, assisted by Alex's wife Nita Patel, ran a tournament which is unusual in New England but which is becoming popular in other parts of the country: a round robin, all-play-all, tournament designed to give FIDE (World Chess Federation) ratings to its unrated participants. It's difficult for an unrated player to gain a rating in Swiss System tournaments like the Massachusetts Open because of the requirement of playing at least three rated players in the same tournament. In a ten player round robin with at least four rated players, all the unrated players in the tournament gain ratings as long as there are no forfeits or withdrawals and every unrated player scores at least one point. This is a good way to obtain a FIDE rating but it's impor-

tant for the organizer to invite the right mix of players because a single player can spoil the tournament for everyone.

The players at the tournament in Bedford N.H. were divided into two more or less equal sections, A and B, each with ten players, which meant that the tournament lasted nine rounds. All players had to be unrated or have FIDE ratings under 2200 because under FIDE rules this meant that three games could be played each day. There were players from all six New England states, plus Frank Berry from Oklahoma and Agastya Kalra from Canada.

Section A ended in a three-way tie between David Carter of Vermont, Sherif Khater of New Hampshire, and Anatoly Levin of Massachusetts, who each scored 6 points. Yoshesh Raghunathan of

Connecticut was the clear winner of Section B with 6½ points, followed by James Dickson and David Harris, who are both from Rhode Island and scored 6. All the unrated players got their FIDE ratings. I played in the event and had a respectable but unambitious result: seven draws and two losses.

David Harris annotated two of his games, which are on page 40.

“

My problem with chess was that all my pieces wanted to end the game as soon as possible.

—Dave Barry

”

Book Review: John Herron, Total Chess: Learn, Teach, and Play the Easy 1-2-3 Way

by Nicholas P. Sterling, Ph.D.

When I first learned how to play chess in my early teens, I grew up on David Pritchard's *Begin Chess* (the original small paperback edition with the frail paper and the wooden yellow and brown chess pieces on the front cover). Poring through page after page hungrily, I memorized paragraph after paragraph of the stuffy British text ("defence" spelled with a "c"), the descriptive notation ("Kt" equaled "Knight" and "P" equaled "Pawn"), and the tiny too-dark 4 x 4 diagrams. I worshiped this book as my chess Bible. Not surprisingly, long after I ceased to own that book (having sold it to a Providence bookstore), I relied on what I could remember of its lesson outline – rules, tactics, strategy, scorekeeping, openings, endings, what's next? – to teach with.

Now, however, the time has come, as I expand my chess teaching to nine different classes plus some private students, for me to upgrade to a new manual. I need a far more organized and comprehensive primer with full-size diagrams and deeper analysis, while still keeping some sort of lesson plan in place.

Enter John Herron's **Total Chess: Learn, Teach and Play the Easy 1-2-3 Way** (2011, Hair-Ball Publishing, MI) which Herron introduces up front as "your complete guide to chess." A complete guide it is. The book is divided into six sections: Rules, Openings, Midgame, Endgame, Tactics, and Checkmates – pretty similar to *Begin Chess*. But in the details of these six sections, this chess guide

jumps light years ahead of my old Bible.

After an overview of basic rules, Herron provides a really helpful Teacher's Guide, breaking down the lessons into three levels – Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced – and three game phases – Opening, Middle-game, and Endgame. Each set of lessons is supplemented with a series of Practice Drills. Because Herron divides each section into subsections (numbered 1.1.1, for instance), and labels each subsection with its own separate heading, he can conveniently rearrange them to fit meaningfully into any of his three lessons plans. For instance, Beginner Lessons start off: (1) 1.1. Setup, Moves, Values; 1.2.1. Chess Notation; 1.5. Thinking, Playing, Sportsmanship. These will be great for me - invaluable aids for organizing lessons for my own students.

Each subdivision opens with one or more opening paragraphs to introduce its topic, followed by definitions of relevant terms or principles (highlighted in bold type or ALL CAPS) where applicable. Many subdivisions also have two or three pages of illustrative diagrams with analytical captions, lined up in two columns. The book is so convenient to use with this setup that one could just flip through, find some random topic, and see a whole lot of example diagrams right there in front of one's eyes. So it's a quick reference, or a full course textbook – it's that flexible.

Total Chess has an attractive green-and-white checked cover with

red and dark blue title lettering; the text is sans-serif font, and the paragraphs are single space. The layout of the paragraphs makes them easy to follow, and the spacing of the diagrams makes them easy to refer to. One quibble, though, comes from the diagram captions: they are printed in a tall and narrow font that is hard on the eyes, and the overall visual effect of the diagrams is to make those pages look rather overcrowded.

Herron's writing style is crisp, his explanations simple and straight to the point. Some principles he claims, such as about bishops and knights in open and closed positions, might give pause to readers of John Watson's **Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy**. However, most of Herron's claims are basic and fundamental enough to be essentially beyond dispute.

His selection of illustrative material is highly informative, particularly in his methodical illustration of different types of middle-game tactics and endgame categories (though how often his illustrative positions are likely to come up in over-the-board play remains an open question). I also appreciate his use of multiple move-by-move diagrams to illustrate especially pertinent or seminal positions, such as B-and-N checkmates, some basic K-and-P endgames, and particularly fascinating middle-game positions, such as those involving Queen sacrifices. Considering the vast quantity of possible examples he could have chosen, Herron has done fair justice

to middle-games and endgames at an introductory level.

It's with Openings, however, where I have some problems with Herron's approach. Herron goes through Opening Strategy, Plans, Mistakes, and Pawn Centers well enough, to introduce the concepts to beginners. Then come a few pages of Opening Traps, seemingly worth knowing for intermediates (I myself have fallen into the Budapest 9.

... Nd3#, I admit with an abashed grin on my face), but confined to a few positions per lesson. They are going to take a while to go through, it would appear. Then there come Opening Battles, or so-called "fire-works", all exciting stuff, to be sure.

But when I see that these are to be divided into three separate Intermediate lessons, I'm starting to question how much time, at that level, should be spent on all these non-standard sequences of play. Then we finally come to Opening Systems in 2.7, a so-called "Advanced" Lesson. But the subsections merely list a few scattered main-line variations and treat each opening with a mere summary sentence. Furthermore, whole extra variations (for instance, 2. ... e6 and 2. ... Nc6 in the Sicilian) are ignored completely. This hardly gives "Advanced" students enough credit. If a student asks, "But what if White (or Black) plays this?", is this quick sketch going to

help? For openings, I feel I'm going to need some extra openings book (such as Bill Robertie's Winning Chess Openings) rather than try to make use of what I see, unfortunately, as an inadequate treatment of openings in Total Chess.

To sum up, despite Herron's bold claims, I suspect that Advanced players are not going to find enough new material to satisfy them overall, and therefore I have reservations about recommending this book for them confidently. On the other hand, for Beginner or Intermediate players, or their teachers, no question – this reviewer recommends this book unreservedly, hands down. For that audience, it is a wonderful primer.

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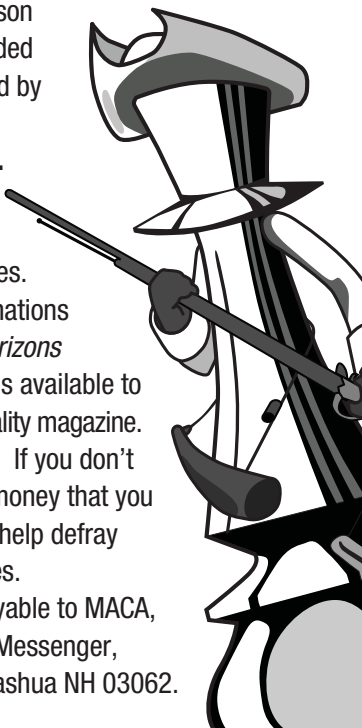
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“

Haste is never more dangerous than when you feel that victory is in your grasp. —Eugene Znosko-Borovsky

”

The Sport of Chess at NESAC

by Nicholas P. Sterling, Ph.D. NESAC, Chess Instructor

New England Sports Academy, or NESAC, in Westwood is one of the foremost sports and recreation facilities in Massachusetts, having served the community in its current location at University Avenue since 2003. Two years ago I was invited to join NESAC to start a new program teaching academic subjects and chess, to complement its curriculum that to date had emphasized mostly physical education. I am happy to report that the chess program has flourished, with over 40 students having taken lessons with me and other chess instructors in that two-year period.

Regular chess at three different levels forms the mainstay of class time, with each hour divided between casual play and lessons on the demo board. But without Bughouse, no NESAC Chess hour would be complete. Even more addictive is Vampire Chess (my own creation) and Vampire Bughouse (which is Bughouse with Vampire rules added in). If you want to know the rules of Vampire Chess (Bughouse), send me an e-mail at nsterling@nesacademy.com. It's absolutely crazy.

Our biggest success so far, however, aside from the classes and Vampire Chess, is our first USCF-rated tournament (12-round G/20) that was held last August over three Monday nights with 4 rounds per night. We had 18 Scholastic players and 2 adults in one Open section. A first place prize went to the top player each night, and a first and second grand prize were awarded to the top two players for the entire event. The winners were as follows:

First Place on 8/15/11: Max Stone

First Place on 8/22/11: Alvin Tan &

Michael Ostrovskiy
(tied)

First Place on 8/29/11: Alvin Tan

First & Second Grand Prizes: Alvin Tan &

Michael Ostrovskiy
(tied)

It was outstanding to have such a high turnout at our first tournament, and we look forward to many future events. Eventually we should have some teams going too. I am really excited at the prospects of expanding chess instruction and USCF/MACA events at NESAC.

PLAYER RESULTS		
Num	Player Name	Total Pts
1	ALVIN TAN	9.5
2	MICHAEL OSTROVSKIY	9.5
3	MAX STONE	4.0
4	RYAN RAIKMAN	4.0
5	JACK KELLEY SARGENT	3.5
6	ZLATOMIR YUNG CHI FUNG	3.0
7	ANDREW STONE	3.0
8	ALEXANDER BURNS	3.0
9	HENRY STONE	2.0
10	BEN HOPKINSON	2.0
11	SEBASTIAN JOHN GERACI III	2.0
12	BENJAMIN GUNDUZ	1.5
13	DANIEL GUNDUZ	1.5
14	ETHAN STONE	1.5
15	ALEX SHTERENBERG	1.5
16	WILLIAM MCEACHERN	1.0
17	BRUNON SZTUBA	1.0
18	LYDIA STONE	1.0
19	CHRISTOPHER PAPPAS	1.0
20	CECILIA STONE	0.5

Ivanov Annotates

by GM Alexander Ivanov

GM Alexander Ivanov 2636

GM Mikheil Kekelidze 2592

Bradley Open 2011 (4)

[B42] Sicilian Defense

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Qb6 Lines with Qb6 (also after 2...Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4) have become popular lately.

6.Nb3 The alternative is [6.c3] **6...Qc7**

7.0-0 Nf6 8.f4 In the hedgehog formation possible after 8.c4 d6 it's hard to say whether White gained or lost a tempo placing the Knight on b3 early in the opening. **8...d6**

9.a4 b6 10.Be3 Nbd7 Of course both 11.c4 and 11.Nc3 are playable.

Houdini 'likes' 11.Nd2 at first, then makes 11.Nc3 its first line, assessing the position as equal in both cases. **11.N1d2 Bb7 12.Qe2 h5?!**

This is too ambitious. Completing the development after 11...Be7 followed by 0-0 would be better. **13.a5**

[13.f5 e5 14.a5 b5 15.c4 b4 16.Ra4 Ng4 17.Rxb4 Nxe3 18.Qxe3 Be7 with compensation] **13...b5 14.c4**

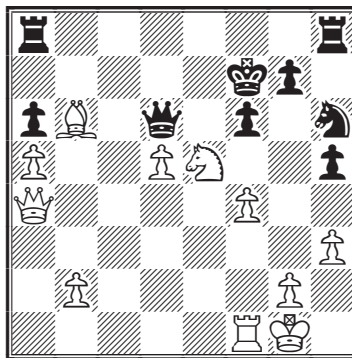
This is the point of 11.Nd2 **14...b4** There is nothing better. [14...bxc4?! 15.Nxc4+/- Nxe4 16.Nb6 and the best thing for Black is to sac the exchange: 16...Qd8 17.Nxa8 Qxa8 18.Nd2!+/-] **15.Ra4 Nc5**

[15...Ng4!? 16.Rxb4 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 d5 (17...Be7!? with compensation) 18.Rxb7 (18.c5!?) 18...Qxb7 19.exd5 Qa7 (forced) +/=] **16.Rxb4 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 d5?!** [Better was 17...Be7+/- with some play for the pawn.] **18.Rxb7 Qxb7 19.exd5 Bb4**

[19...exd5 20.Re1 0-0-0 21.Bb6+/-] **20.Nc5?!** This and the next White's move are trying to prevent Black from castling short. The computer prefers the 'materialistic' [20.dxe6

0-0 21.exf7+ Rxf7 22.Nf3+/-] **20...Qc7 21.Nce4** [21.Ndb3 0-0 22.dxe6 Rad8 23.Qe2+/-] **21...Ng4?** After this mistake Black is losing again.

Better was [21...Nxe4 22.Nxe4 exd5 (forced) (22...0-0? 23.Ng5 g6 24.dxe6+/-) 23.Ng5 (23.cxd5 Qxa5 24.Ng5 Rd8 transposes) 23...Rd8 24.cxd5 Qxa5 25.Rd1 Be7= 26.Qe4 Rh6!?) **22.Bb6 Qd7 23.h3 Nh6 24.Nf3 f6 25.Qb3** [25.Bc5 Bxc5+ 26.Nxc5 Qa7 27.b4+/-] **25...exd5** Black had 19m left **26.cxd5 Bd6 27.Nxd6+** [Houdini suggests the immediate 27.Ne5!? fxe5 28.Nxd6+ Qxd6 29.fxe5+/- with a crushing attack for the rook. My choice is much more 'human'.] **27...Qxd6 28.Qa4+ Kf7** [28...Kf8 is insufficient due to 29.Qc4 Kg8 30.Re1+/-] **29.Ne5+!**



This was the reason for choosing 25.Qb3 **29...Kg8 30.Ng6 Kh7** [In the ending after 30...Rh7 31.Qe4 f5 32.Qe6+ Qxe6 33.dxe6 all three Black pieces on the kingside cannot move.] **31.Nxh8 Qxd5 32.Rd1 Qf5 33.Qd7** The simplest way to realize the advantage. **33...Rxb8 34.Qxf5+ Nxf5 35.b4 h4 36.b5 Ra8 37.bxa6?!** Time trouble. [37.Rd8+/- was winning right away.] **37...Rxa6 38.Rd7 Ra8 39.Rd8 Ra6 40.Kf2 Ne7 41.Kf3 Kg6 42.Kg4 Kf7**



Photo: Tony Cortizas Jr.

43.Rd7 Ke6 44.Ra7 Rxa7 45.Bxa7 Nd5 46.f5+ Ke5 47.a6 Ke4 48.Bf2 1-0

GM Alexander Ivanov 2627

IM David Vigorito 2535

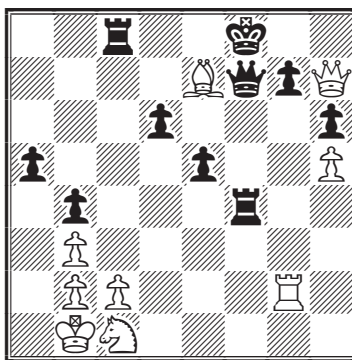
Seacoast Open 2011 (4)

[B89] Sicilian Defense

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Nc6 8.Be3 Be7 In our previous game my opponent had chosen 8...Qc7 9.f4 Na5 10.g4 with sharp play (Ivanov-Vigorito, Mass. Open 2011). **9.Qe2** The most popular move. **9...Qc7** [9...0-0; 9...Na5] **10.0-0 Na5** The alternatives are 10...0-0 and 10...b5 **11.g4 b5 12.g5 Nxb3+ 13.axb3 Nd7 14.h4** [The sacrifice 14.Nf5 which occurred in many games leads to equal play after 14...exf5 15.Nd5 Qd8 16.exf5 Bb7 17.f6 gxf6 18.Rhe1 Bxd5 19.Rxd5 Rg8 and so on.] **14...b4 15.Na2** I was sure my quick-playing opponent was prepared for the more obvious 15.Na4 [15.Na4 Nc5 16.h5 Nxe4 unclear (16...Bd7!?)] **15...Rb8** [According to theory Black shouldn't be afraid of Nb5 after 15...a5! and if

16.Nb5?! then 16...Qc6 17.Qc4 Nc5 18.Rxd6 Bxd6 19.Nxd6+ Qxd6 20.Bxc5 Qc7=+/+] **16.h5 Nc5 17.g6 Bf6 18.gxf7+ Kxf7 19.Kb1** [The active 19.Qc4 doesn't bring any dividends: 19...a5 20.Nf5?! Rd8 21.Nxd6+ Rxd6 didn't like 22.Rxd6 Nxb3+! 23.Qxb3 Qxd6-/+] **19...a5 20.Rhg1 Rf8 21.Bg5 Bxd4** This move surprised me. I was expecting [21...Kg8!? with double-edged play, for example 22.h6 g6 23.Bxf6 Rxf6 24.Nb5 Ba6! 25.Nxc7 Bxe2 26.Rxd6 Rxf2 27.Nc1 unclear (27.Nxe6?! Rf6!=+/+)] **22.Rxd4 e5 23.Rdd1 Be6?!** This allows White to start a dangerous attack [23...Kg8 unclear 24.Nc1 unclear (24.Bh6?! Rf7 25.Rg3 Kh8 26.Rdg1 Ne6=+/+)] **24.f4! h6?!** [24...Ke8!? 25.Nc1 (25.f5 Bf7 unclear 26.Bd2 a4 27.bxa4 b3 28.cxb3 Bxb3; 25.fxe5 dxe5 26.Nc1 unclear) 25...a4 26.fxe5 dxe5 27.bxa4 b3 unclear 28.Nxb3!? Nxb3 29.cxb3 Bxb3 30.Rd3 Qb6 unclear] **25.f5?!** Looks natural, but not to Houdini! [25.fxe5! dxe5 (25...hgx5 26.exd6 Qc6 27.Rxg5+/-) 26.Be3 a4 27.Rg6! axb3 28.cxb3 Bxb3 29.Nc1! Kg8 (29...Bxd1 30.Qc4+ Ke8 31.Bxc5+-) 30.Rdg1 Rf7 31.Bxh6+-] Of course it's superhuman to see all these sharp lines. **25...Bc8?** [Better was 25...hgx5 26.Rxg5 (that was my intention) 26...Ke8 27.fxe6 Nxe6 28.Rg3 Rf6 unclear] **26.Bh4?!** [After 26.Be3 I didn't like 26...Nxe4 27.Qg4 Kg8 28.Qxe4 Bxf5 29.Qg2 a4 with counterplay for the missing piece, but failed to see 27.Bxh6!+/-] **26...Ke8** [Black stubbornly refuses to move his King to g8, which was better than the text even here, although now it's less safe than on move 23: 26...Kg8 27.f6 Rf7 28.Rg6 Ne6 29.Qe3 Nf4 30.Rdg1!+/-] **27.Rg6** Now White should win. **27...Nxe4** [27...Rb6 28.Nc1+-] **28.Qxe4?!** [28.

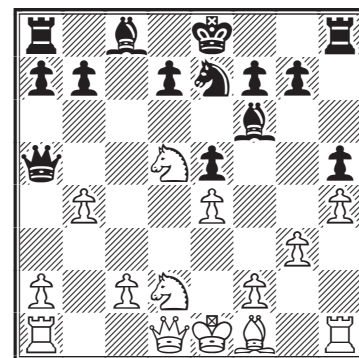
Rdx6 Bxf5 29.Rde6+!+-] **28...Bxf5 29.Qg2 Rc8 30.Rd2?!** A human decision. The computer has no fears: [30.Nc3!? bxc3 31.Rgxd6+- cxb2 32.Rd8+ Rxd8 (32...Kf7 33.Qd5+-) 33.Rxd8+ Qxd8 34.Bxd8 Kxd8 35.Qxg7; 30.Qd5!? Bxc2+ (30...Rf7 31.Nc3+-) 31.Ka1+-] **30...Bxg6 31.Qxg6+ Rf7 32.Nc1+/-** I calculated up to here before playing 27.Rg6 and concluded that with queens on the board and misplaced Black king White's attack should be decisive. Still everything hangs on a tactical nuance. **32...Kf8** Heading in the right direction at last, but now it's too late. **33.Qh7** [Of course not 33.Rxd6? Kg8 with unclear play] **33...Rf4** [33...Rf1 loses to the same trick: 34.Rg2 Qf7 35.Be7+! Kxe7 36.Rxg7+-] **34.Rg2 Qf7 35.Be7+!**



35...Ke8 [35...Kxe7 36.Rxg7+- Rf8 37.Qxh6] **36.Rxg7 Kxe7 37.Qxh6 Rg8 38.Rxf7+ Rxf7 39.Qe3 Rf1** The time control was game/65 and I remember spending most of the remaining time calculating the following forced sequence: **40.h6 Rgg1** [40...Rh1 41.h7 Rxh7 42.Qa7+++] **41.h7 Rh1 42.Qg5+ Kf7 43.Qg8+!** [43.Ka2 Rxh7! unclear] **43...Ke7 44.Ka2 Rxc1 45.Qg5+ Ke6 46.Qxc1 Rxc1 47.h8Q Rxc2 48.Qe8+?!** [Time trouble. 48.Qh3+- wins a rook.] **48...Kd5 49.Qa8+** Black resigned because he loses his a and b pawns, just failing to create a fortress by Rc5. **1-0**

GM Alexander Ivanov 2589
GM Tamaz Gelashvili 2720
Eastern Class Championships
2012 (4)
[B00] Nimzovich Defense

1.e4 Nc6 The Nimzovich Defense is seldom played on a GM level, partly because it can lead to transpositions after, say, 2.Nf3 e5. **2.d4 e5 3.d5** 3.Nf3 transposes to Scotch. **3...Nce7 4.Nf3 Ng6 5.h4 h5 6.Bg5 Be7?!** This was my second game against a GM in this opening. The first one continued [6...Nf6 7.Nc3 Bc5 8.Na4 Bb4+ 9.c3 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.d6 cxd6 12.g3 with compensation, Ivanov-Benjamin USA ch 1996] Black's 6th move allows White to double Black's pawns right away. **7.d6+/- cxd6 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.g3 Qa5?!** Black's choice of the opening looked risky, but only this premature activity makes his position bad. [10...a6+/-; 10...Be7+/-; 10...Qb6?! 11.Nd5 Qxb2 12.Rb1 Qa3 (12...Qxa2 13.Ra1 Qb2 14.Bc4+-) 13.Nc7+ Kd8 14.Nxa8+-] **11.Nd2+/-** This is better than [11.Bc4 Qc5 (11...d5!? 12.Qxd5 Qxd5 13.Bxd5+/-) 12.Qd3 a6+/-] **11...d5** planning to trade the passive Ng6 for one of White knights before the other one helps it, but now it's too late. The computer recommendation [11...Qc5 12.Nb3 Qc6 13.Bb5 Qc7 14.Nd5 Qb8+/-] doesn't look appealing either. **12.Nxd5 Ne7 13.b4!**



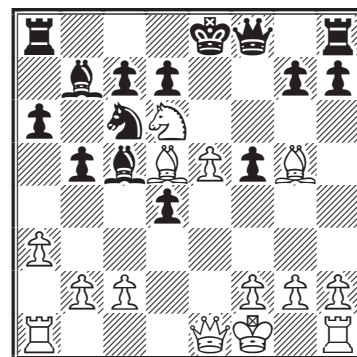
[Much less clear is 13.Nxf6+?! gxf6 14.Qf3 f5 15.Bc4 b5!? unclear] **13...Qd8 14.Nc4 Nxd5?** The only chance not to get crushed was to give up the second d-pawn right away: [14...d6 15.Nxf6+ gxf6 16.Qxd6!? (16.Nxd6+ Kf8+/-) 16...Be6 17.0-0-0+/-] **15.Nd6+/-** This zwischenzug cuts Black's position in two. Now White is winning. [15.Qxd5? 0-0+/-] **15...Ke7 16.Qxd5 Qb6** [16...Qc7 17.0-0-0 Qc3 18.Bc4 Qa1+ 19.Kd2 Qd4+ (19...Qb2 20.Ke3+/-) 20.Qxd4 exd4 I remember calculating up to this point. Now the most convincing win for White is 21.e5 Bxe5 22.Nxf7 d5 23.Nxh8 dxc4 24.Ng6+ Kf6 25.Nxe5 Kxe5 26.Rhe1+ Kd5 27.Re8+/-] **17.0-0-0 Qxb4** [17...Rf8 18.Bh3 Kd8 19.Bxd7!+/-] **18.Bc4 Qa4** There is no other way to defend against Nxc8+ followed by captures on d7 and f7 (18...Kd8 19.Nf7+/-) The inclusion of [18...Qa3+ doesn't change much: 19.Kb1 Qa4 20.f4!+/-] **19.Rd3** There were other ways as well: [19.f4+/-] **19...a6** [If 19...Qc6 then 20.Qxf7+ Kd8 21.Bb5 Qb6 22.Rhd1 Kc7 23.Rc3+ Kb8 24.Nxc8 (24.Bxd7+/-) 24...Qxb5 25.Rxd7+/-] **20.Qc5 b6 21.Nxc8+ 1-0**

GM Alexander Ivanov 2565
Ted Belanoff 2127
Portsmouth Open 2012 (4)
[C70] Ruy Lopez

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 Nf6 Since Ruy Lopez had his book published in 1561 there have been quite a number of chess players trying to find the best move order in his opening. Usually Black plays Nf6 on move 4 postponing b7-b5 until later. Can White exploit the difference? **6.d4** [The direct attack 6.Ng5?! like in the Two Knights Defense is not so good because of

6...d5 and if 7.exd5 Nd4 and the Bb3 will be exchanged for the knight.; 6.0-0 transposes to the Archangelsk Variation after 6...Bb7 (or to the Neo-Archangelsk after 6...Bc5)] Houdini also prefers 6.d4 **6...exd4?!** [Although 6...d6 looks scary here because of 7.Ng5, holding the center looks like the best option, for example, 7...d5 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Nc3!? d4!? 10.Nd5 c5 11.Nxf6+ gxf6 12.Bd5 Ra7 13.Nf3 Bg4 unclear] **7.e5 Ne4** [If 7...Ng4 then 8.0-0+/- (8.Bxf7+? Kxf7 9.Ng5+ Kg8 10.Qxg4=+)] **8.Bd5** [A safer way to get a plus was 8.0-0!?+/- Nc5 (8...d5 9.exd6 Nxd6 10.Nxd4+/-) 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Bb7 11.Nc3 and if 11...Nxb3 12.axb3 d5, then 13.exd6 (13.b4 Qe7! 14.Nxd5 Rd8 15.Nxe7 Rxd4 16.c3 Re4 17.Nf5 Rxe5=) 13...Qxd6 14.Re1+ Be7 15.Qxg7 (15.Qh4+/-) 15...0-0-0 16.Qxf7 Bf6 17.f3+/-] 8...Bb4+ [8...Nc5 9.Nxd4 Bb7 10.0-0 Ne6 (10...Nxd4 11.Bxb7 Nxb7 12.Qxd4+/-) 11.c3!?+/-] **9.Kf1** Sharper and better than [9.Nbd2 Nxd2 10.Bxd2 Bxd2+ 11.Qxd2 Rb8=] **9...f5 10.a3** [On 10.Nxd4!? Qh4 looked dan-

gerous. According to a computer 11.Be3 Nxd4 (11...f4? 12.Nf3! Qg4 13.Bc1+/- Houdini) 12.Bxa8 Ne6+/-] **10...Bc5** [10...Ba5!? 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Bxa8 Ne6+/-] **11.Nbd2 Bb7 12.Qe1** [Here I spent quite a while considering 12.Nxe4!? fxe4 13.Bxe4 0-0 (13...Qe7 14.Bg5 Qe6 15.Qd3 0-0!? unclear) 14.Qd3 Rxf3!? (14...Nxe5? 15.Bxh7+! Kh8 16.Nxe5) 15.Qxf3 Nxe5 which looked unclear; 16.Qf5+/- Houdini] **12...Ng5?** This allows a nice winning sequence. After the correct [12...Nxd2+ 13.Bxd2 h6 or 13...Na5!? things would be far from clear] **13.Nxg5 Qxg5 14.Ne4 Qe7 15.Bg5 Qf8** [15...Qxe5 16.Nxc5+/-] **16.Nd6+! (D)**
1-0



Explanation of Evaluation Symbols

=	Equal (or equal chances)	!!	Brilliant move
+/=	White is slightly better	!	Good move
+/-	White is distinctly better	!?	Interesting move
+-	White is winning	?!	Dubious move
=/+	Black is slightly better	?	Bad move
-/+	Black is distinctly better	??	Blunder
+-	Black is winning	1-0	The game ends in a win for White
+	Check	0-1	The game ends in a win for Black
#	Checkmate	1/2 – 1/2	The game ends in a draw
(D)	See diagram		

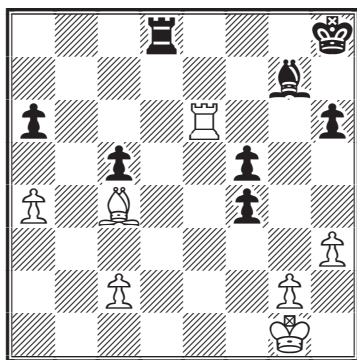
Vigorito on Chess

by IM David Vigorito

Opposites Attract

My wife is intelligent, attractive, generous, and kind. Fortunately for me, opposites attract. Personally, I have always been attracted to positions with opposite colored bishops. While it is widely understood that in the middlegame, opposite colored bishops favor the attacker, in the endgame many consider that there is a drawish quality. While this is true to a degree, the scope to allow for a decisive result is almost always underestimated. For this reason I have always liked playing such endgames, as very often the defender relaxes, and by the time they realize what is happening, it is too late.

GM Walter Browne 2538
David Vigorito 2411
North American Open 1996



Here I was facing 6-time U.S. Champion Grandmaster Walter Browne, who was well known for his prowess in rook + opposite colored bishop endgame. I even remember an old *Chess Life* referring to “the Browne ending”. In this game I played a dubious opening and came under pressure in the early middlegame. I managed to defend

and escape to a slightly worse ending.

31.Rxa6?!

This allows Black to create counterplay. Better was 31.Bd3 when White would be on the better side of a likely draw.

31...Rd2 32.Bd3 Bd4+

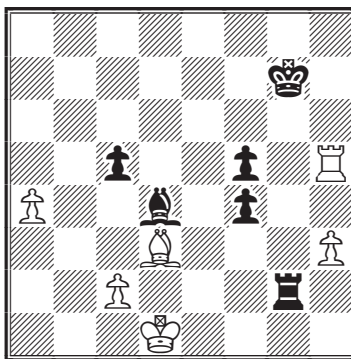
Black takes the initiative.

33.Kf1 Rf2+ 34.Ke1 Rxc2

35.Rxb6+ Kg7 36.Rh5 Rg1+

The immediate 36...c4! was also good. Black’s f3-pawn will be more dangerous than either of White’s passed pawns.

37.Ke2 Rg2+ 38.Kd1



38...c4!

This is a well-timed sacrifice in mutual time pressure. Black wants to prevent Rxf5 when White will have no trouble dealing with Black’s f3-pawn.

39.Bxc4

If 39.Bxf5 f3 creates problems.

39...Kg6!

White’s rook is suddenly very uncomfortable.

40.Rh4

Better was 40.Bf7+. Probably Browne did not want to play for a draw after ...Kxf7 41.Rxf5+, although Black could try 40...Kf6!? 41.Bd5 Rf2.

40...Be3



Photo: Tony Cortizas Jr.

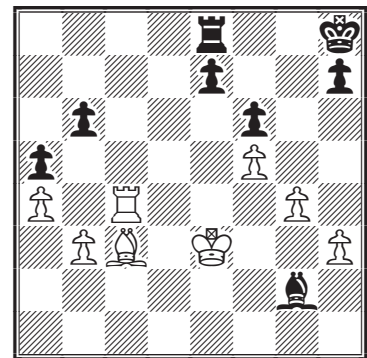
Now White has real problems.

41.Bf1?

This loses immediately, but 41.c3 f3 was also difficult.

41...f3! 0-1

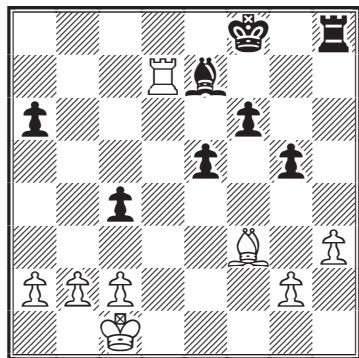
David Vigorito 2379
Stephen Brudno 2077
Pillsbury One Day Wonder 1994



In rook + opposite colored bishop endgames, the initiative is very important. Black should hold this ending, but White manages to create a mating attack. **38.h4 Bd5 39.Rc7 Bxb3 40.g5** Black is grabbing pawns but White has the initiative. **40...Kg8 41.Kf4 fxg5+ 42.hxg5 Bxa4 43.g6 hxg6 44.fxg6 Bc2 45.Kg5 Be4 46.Be5 a4??** Black could hold with 46...b5 47.Rc3

Bxg6 47.Rc4 Rd8 48.Rxe4 Rd5
49.Kf5 a3 50.Ra4 Rd8 51.Rxa3 b5
52.Rh3 Black lost on time. 1-0

David Harris 2072
IM David Vigorito 2519
Blackstone Spring Octads 2010



Here it is my opponent who has the advantage.

32...c3!

The best attempt to create counterplay. When defending, it is usually a good idea to force your opponents to make decisions, as then they are more likely to make a mistake. Here Harris was in serious time pressure of course, and he found it too difficult to deal with all of the options that came his way.

33.Ra7

It was better to take the pawn. After 33.bxc3 f5 34.Bd5 White is still better as both sides have a passed pawn but White's rook is much more active.

33...Rh4 34.Bg4

Again 34.bxc3 was better.

34...f5!

It is important for Black to activate his rook.

35.Bxf5 Rf4 36.Bd3 e4 37.Bxa6 Rf2!?

This is a risky way to play for a win. I liked that my c-pawn was still alive and figured it would cost him a tempo to take it. 37...cxb2+ 38.Kxb2 Rf2 would probably lead to a draw.

38.bxc3 e3

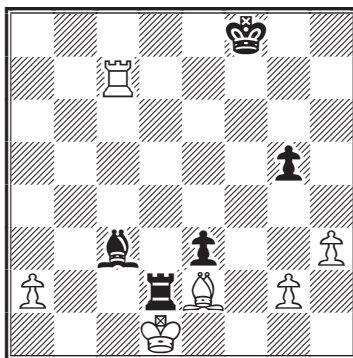
Black is down three pawns now, but he gives the impression that he is creating threats.

39.Kd1?! Rd2+ 40.Ke1

Not 40.Kc1 Ba3+ and mate.

40...Rxc2 41.Be2 Bf6 42.Rc7

Bxc3+ 43.Kd1 Rd2+



44.Kc1??

Time pressure. After 44.Ke1!= Black does not have any useful discoveries as the bishop is hanging.

44...Bb2+ 45.Kb1 Rxe2 46.Rc2 Rf2!

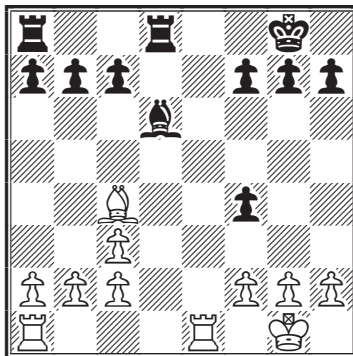
This is the most accurate and even elicited a comment from my opponent. Black can also win with 46...Rxc2 47.Kxc2 Bd4 48.Kd3 Ke7 49.a4 Kf6 50.a5 Ke5 51.g3 Kf5 52.a6 Ba7 53.Ke2 Ke4 with zugzwang.

47.Kxb2 e2 0-1

Corey Acor 2238

IM David Vigorito 2443

Foxwoods Open 2006



This endgame was played when I was suffering from pneumonia, as it turned out. A couple of rounds later I withdrew and went to the hospital for x-rays. I did not really leave the board for the game. It was 40/2, SD/1 and I used about an hour for the game, while my opponent used almost three.

15.Rad1

My opponent made a draw offer with this move. Despite the fact that I was ailing and had played the Petroff Defense, I decided to play on. Obviously the position is completely equal. However, our doubled pawns are on opposite sides, and I like this type of endgame. I decided there was enough of an imbalance to play on.

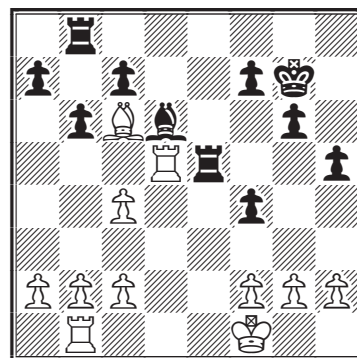
15...g6 16.Kf1 Kg7 17.Rd3 h5

It is a typical method for the stronger side in opposite bishop endgame to play the pawns on the opposite color of one's own bishop. This way the squares of both colors can be influenced. The defender, on the other hand, should usually place his pawns on the same color as his own bishop so they will not be vulnerable to attack from the enemy's bishop. Black is not really any better here, but I was playing optimistically.

18.Red1 Re8 19.Bd5 Rab8 20.c4

b6 21.Bc6 Re7 22.Rb1 Re5

23.Rd5?!



A mistake! Now Black can devalue the white pawns and get a 'real' pawn majority.

23...f3! 24.gxf3

Black also has some hope after 24.Rxe5 fxg2+ 25.Kxg2 Bxe5=/+ or 24.g3 Re2 25.Rd3 Rxc2 26.Rxf3 Be5=/+.

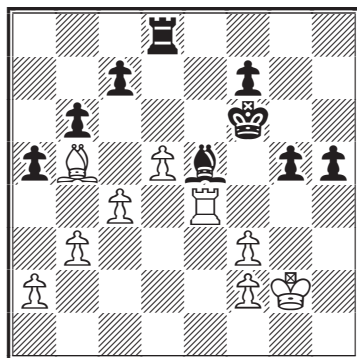
24...Rxd5 25.cxd5 Bxh2=/+.

Black has a passed h-pawn, so it's something. Even though White corrected his pawn structure a bit his majority is easily blockaded on the dark squares.

26.c4 a5 27.Re1 Kf6 28.Kg2

This was a bad decision. After 28.Re8 the rook would go off the board and White would have excellent chances to hold.

28...Be5 29.b3 Rd8 30.Re4 g5 31.Bb5



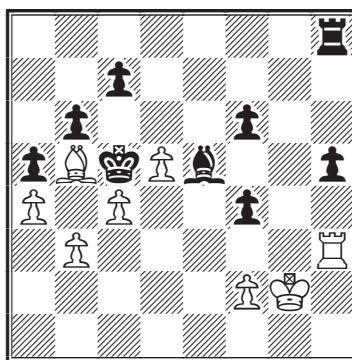
31...Kf5

Opposite colored bishop endgames are about *strategy*. Here Black intends the long march with f6, Kf5-g6-f7-e7-d6-c5 when White's queenside will begin to look vulnerable.

32.Bc6 f6 33.Ba4 Kg6 34.Bc6 Kf7 35.Bb5 Ke7 36.f4

This is an interesting decision. White grabs his one chance to mess up Black's pawns. However, Black still has the passed h-pawn and now he is up a real pawn.

36...gxf4 37.Re1 Kd6 38.Rh1 Rh8 39.Rh3 Kc5 40.a4



Now the a2-pawn is safe but b3 is vulnerable. Perhaps White thought that his fortress on the queenside would be impossible to breach.

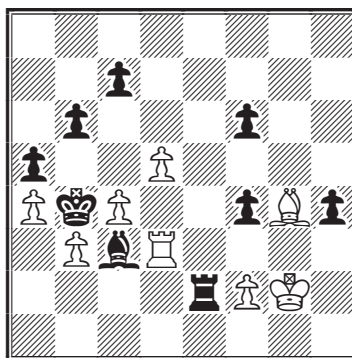
40...Kb4 41.Bd7 h4 42.Be6 Bd6 43.Kf1 Bc5 44.Rd3 Rh5!

Black is ready to activate his rook.

45.Rh3 Bd4 46.Rd3 Be5 47.Rh3 Bc3 48.Rd3 Re5 49.Kg2

The attempt to create counterplay with 49.d6 cxd6 50.Rxd6 runs into 50...f3!

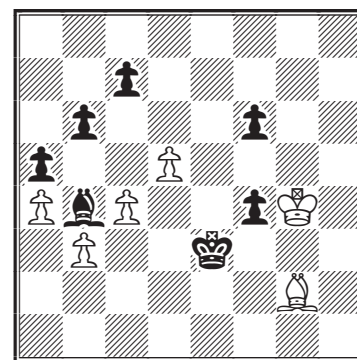
49...Re2 50.Bg4



50...Rd2!

I played this instantly. At the time, I found it amusing that Fritz said that this was a blunder and called the ending equal, as it never has any improvements to offer White from now until the end of the game. I would bet that today's engines fare a little better in assessing the resulting pure opposite bishop ending.

51.Rxd2 Bxd2 52.Bd1 Kc3 53.Kh3 Be1 54.Kxh4 Bxf2+ 55.Kg4 Kd2 56.Bf3 Ke3 57.Bh1 Be1 58.Bg2 Bb4



59.Bf1

The extra f-pawn will soon come in handy after 59.Bh1 Bd6 60.Bg2 f3 61.Bf1 (61.Bxf3 f5+) 61...Kf2 62.Bd3 f5+! 63.Kxf5 Ke1

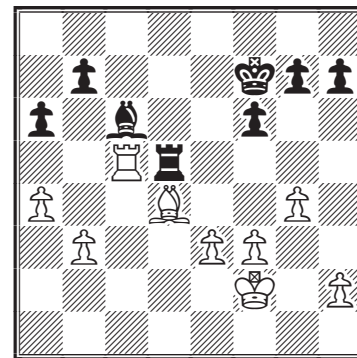
59...f3 60.Kh3 Kf2 61.c5 Bxc5 0-1

Here are a couple of game fragments for study material:

IM David Vigorito 2450

Alessandro Steinfl 2275

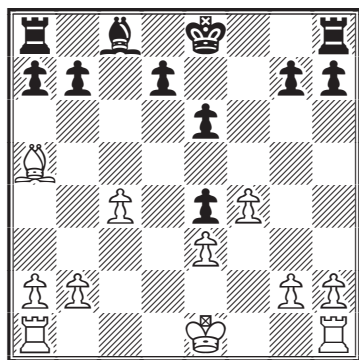
National Open 2007



35.Rc4 Ke6 36.e4 Rd8 37.Ke3 Kd6 38.h4 Rd7 39.h5 Ke6 40.Rc5 g6 41.g5 fxg5 42.Rxg5 Kf7 43.Rg1 Rd6 44.Be5 Rd7 45.hxg6+ hxg6 46.Rh1 Ke6 47.Bd4 Rd8 48.Rh6 Rg8 49.f4 Kf7 50.Rh7+ Ke6 51.Bc5 Kf6 52.Be7+ Ke6 53.Bg5 Kd6 54.Kd4 Bd7 55.Be7+ Ke6 56.Bh4 Kd6 57.a5 Bc6 58.Be7+ Ke6 59.Bg5 Bd7 60.Kc5 Rc8+ 61.Kb6 Bc6 62.Re7+ Kd6 63.e5+ Kd5 64.Rg7 Re8 65.Rxg6 Re6 66.Rg8 Ke4 67.Ka7 Bd5 68.Rb8 Bxb3 69.Rxb7 Bc4 70.Rb4 Kd5

71.Bd8 Re8 72.Bc7 Bd3 73.Bd6
Rg8 74.Rb7 Rg1 75.Bb8 Ke6
76.Rb6+ Kd5 77.Rd6+ Kc4 78.e6
Re1 79.Kxa6 Bf5 80.Kb6 Bxe6
81.a6 Bd5 82.a7 Ba8 83.f5 Rf1
84.f6 Rf5 85.Kc7 Kc5 86.Kd7 Rf3
87.Ke7 Re3+ 88.Re6 Rh3 89.f7
Rh7 90.Rf6 Bd5 91.Rf5 1-0

IM David Vigorito 2445
Matthew Goddard 1876
Portsmouth Open 2009



16.0-0-0 b6 17.Bc3 Bb7 18.Rd6
Rc8 19.Rhd1 Bc6 20.b3 0-0
21.a4 Rf7 22.Kb2 a6 23.g4 b5?
24.cxb5 axb5 25.a5 g5?! 26.fxg5
Rf2+ 27.R1d2 Rcf8 28.Bf6 Rxd2+
29.Rxd2 Ra8 30.b4 Rc8 31.h4 Bd5
32.h5 Rc7 33.g6 hxg6? 34.hxg6 1-0

U.S. Amateur Team East

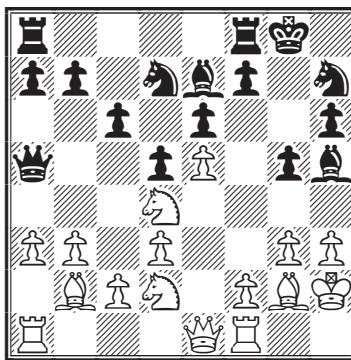
I descended on Parsippany, New Jersey in February for the fourth time in the five years since I moved back to Massachusetts. My team consisted of myself, veteran IM and renowned author Jim Rizzitano, a newly minted Expert, 14 year old Matthew Fishbein of Maine, and Mark Fins, an 'A' player who frequents both the Metrowest and Boylston chess clubs. Last year I also played with Mark, but we re-

placed the middle of the lineup this year to form the "Wannabees".

We ended up with a very decent showing with a 5-1 record, which was good enough for a huge tie for second. Unfortunately our tiebreaks were not so great, and we did not place in the top 5. The top MA team, also with 5-1, went to "The Shmelov Sox". Denys Shmelov was one of five Board 1 players to go 6-0. Denys beat such players as GM Arthur Bisguier and WGM Rusa Goletiani on the way to his perfect score. This year was unusual because even though the event had record-breaking attendance, there were no teams at 6-0 and only one team with 5.5, the winning "Forking with Tebow's Knights" led by GM Robert Hess.

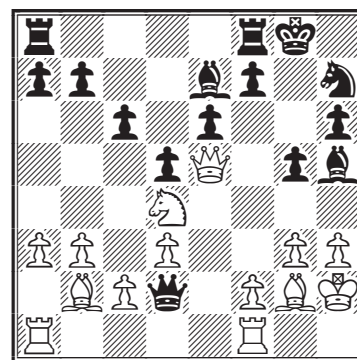
We started well enough, going 4-0 against a team of kids who were armed with assorted board-side meals for the match. The most interesting game was played by Jim.

IM James Rizzitano 2390
Jason Shi 1980
USATE 2012 (1)

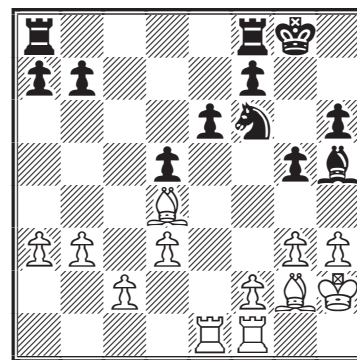


After a Reti (anti-child) Opening, Black has decimated his own king-side with the ridiculous ...g5 and stands worse. He decides that it is time for tactics.

15...Nxe5 16.Qxe5 Bf6
Perhaps Black intended 16...Qxd2.



Jim would have been happy to play 17.Qg7+! (17.Nf3 would also win, but mate is better) 17...Kxg7 18.Nf5+ Kg6 (18...Kg8 19.Nxh6#) 19.Nxe7#
17.Qe1 c5 18.Ne4! Qxe1 19.Nxf6+ Nxf6 20.Raxe1 cxd4 21.Bxd4



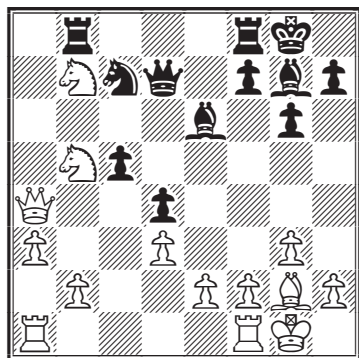
With the bishop pair and the initiative, Jim had no trouble rolling over his young opponent.

21...Nd7 22.f4 gxf4 23.gxf4 Rac8 24.c4 Bg6 25.cxd5 Nc5 26.dxe6 Nxe6 27.Bf6 Bxd3 28.Rf3 Bf5 29.Rg3+ Kh7 30.Re5 Bb1 31.f5 Nc5 32.Rg7+ Kh8 33.Re7 1-0

Our second round also proved to be pretty easy, but in the third round the wheels really came off. Mark won easily enough, and Matthew held off his higher rated opponent with the Black pieces. Things were looking good, because Jim had a big advantage against his 2200 opponent, and I was up a piece (!) against a 2300. It looked like we would cruise to a 2.5-1.5 victory or at the

worst, draw the match, but Jim gradually let things slip away to a draw and I had a complete meltdown.

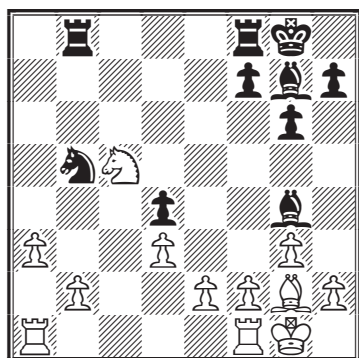
Atulya Shetty 2303
IM David Vigorito 2555
USATE 2012 (3)



Black is winning a piece, but White has got a couple of pawns at least. First, I have to decide how to take.
21...Qxb5?

In the ending it becomes a little tricky to convert, to say the least. Instead 21...Nxb5 22.Nxc5 Qd6 23.Nxe6 Qxe6 would give Black a close to winning position. The extra piece can be used on the kingside and the opposite colored bishops will help Black to attack. Black can play ...Nd6-f5 and ...h5. In the middlegame White's a-pawn is not too scary.

22.Qxb5 Nxb5 23.Nxc5 Bg4



24.h3

I expected this move. White ditches

a pawn in order to trap the bishop and look for some tactical chances. I went into this line, thinking that having two pieces against a rook combined with a passed d-pawn would be the clearest way to win. It turns out that matters are not simple at all. It is difficult to push the d-pawn, and White's own a-pawn will be very dangerous.

24...Bxe2 25.Rfe1 Rfc8

Black could also play 25...Rfe8, but after 26.a4!? it is not clear how to extricate the bishop.

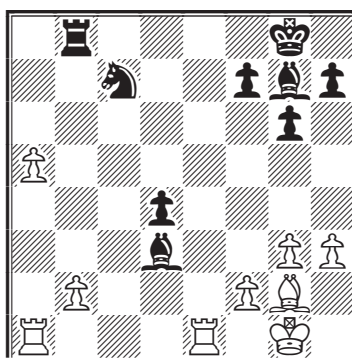
26.Nd7 Bxd3 27.a4

An interesting move order. Instead 27.Nxb8 Rxb8 28.a4 Nc7 would transpose to the game, but now I started using a lot of time.

27...Nc7

Besides the various knight retreats, there was also 27...Nc3!? to consider. Ultimately it seems that 28.Nxb8 (28.bxc3 Rb2 29.cxd4 Bxd4 -/+) 28...Ne2+ 29.Kh2 Rxb8 30.Bf1 Rxb2 31.a5 is not so clear.

28.Nxb8 Rxb8 29.a5



29...Na6

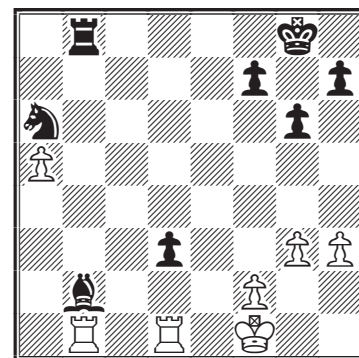
I could feel the confusion setting in. I was well aware I was on my way to botching things, but somehow I could not stop it. White is intending Bg2-f1 to gain control of the a6-square so he can push the a-pawn. This will free Black's d-pawn too however. The problem was that I could not find a good waiting

move. I saw that 29...Bc2 would allow 30.a6 which basically leads to a drawn position after 30...Nxa6 31.Rxa6 d3. Considering I had been up a piece, it was hard to accept this, plus I thought the team would need a win. The obvious move is 29...Rxb2, but I was nervous about leaving that a-pawn with a clear path. I saw 30.Re7 Rc2 31.Bf1 Bxf1 32.Kxf1 and did not like White's activity, but it turns out that Black can chase the rook with 32...Kf8! 33.Rd7 Ke8 34.Rd6 Ke7 35.Rb6 d3 when Black is still better.

30.Bf1 Bxf1 31.Kxf1 d3

I thought for a long time here too. There is nothing else really, but I had that uncomfortable feeling that I was changing my mind on every move. All of my opponent's moves were obvious enough and I had not missed anything, but it was all becoming cloudy as I saw little problems here and there.

32.Red1 Bxb2 33.Rab1



33...Bc3?

By now my clock was very low and I needed to be look for drawing lines. Better was 33...Nc5 34.Rd2 Be5 35.Rxb8+ Bxb8 and strangely enough, White's rook has no way of bothering the black minor pieces.

34.Rxb8+ Nxb8 35.Rb1!

Now things are very difficult. I had been hoping for 35.Rxd3 Bxa5 when only Black can be better. Of

course my opponent quickly played the move that I feared. At this point I have to pray to get some kind of exchange down ending with all of the pawns on one side of the board.

35...Nc6 36.a6 d2 37.Ke2 h5?

I dreamt of some ending with R vs B when this move would be necessary to stop White's g3-g4. It will never come to that.

38.Rb8+! Kg7 39.Rc8 Nd4+ 40.Kd1 Nb5 41.Rc5 1-0

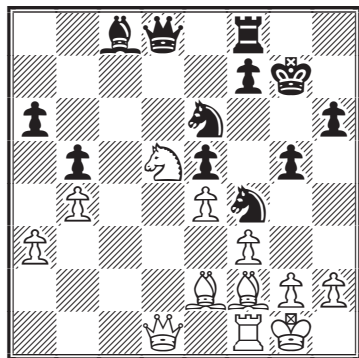
A complete disaster. Black loses a piece and does not even get the a-pawn for it.

IM David Vigorito 2555

David Hua 2299

USATE 2012 (4)

The next round I resisted the urge to play "angry chess" against another young 2300 and managed to keep a tiny edge throughout the game.



Despite the bishop pair and Black's slightly weakened kingside, White does not have much. I tried to maintain some tension, hoping for a mistake.

26.Re1! Bb7 27.Nxf4

I played this only after a very long think. Other moves are trickier but ultimately lead nowhere: 27.Bf1 Nxd5 28.exd5 Qxd5 29.Qxd5 Bxd5 30.Rxe5 Bc4! eliminates a White bishop and leaves Black with no problems whatsoever, while 27.Qa1 Bxd5 28.exd5 Qxd5 29.Bxb5!?

(with the idea Rxe5) is cute, but after 29...f6 30.Bxa6 Nxe2! gives Black enough counterplay for a perpetual, at least.

27...Nxf4 28.Bf1 Qc7

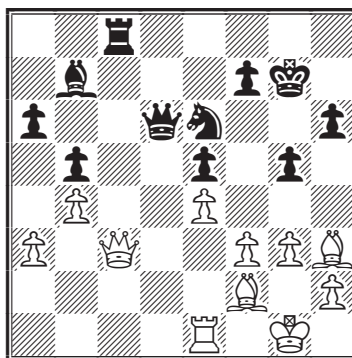
Black could play 28...Qxd1 29.Rxd1, but White can try a little here too.

29.g3 Ne6

Again White has a chance to play for a bit in the endgame after 29...Rd8 30.Qc1 Qxc1 31.Rxc1 Ne6 32.Be3. **30.Bh3 Rd8 31.Qc1 Qd6 32.Qc3!?**

White does not have anything concrete, so I maintain the tension and set a little trap.

32...Rc8?



Into which my opponent falls...

32...Nd4 was better.

33.Bc5!+/-

Suddenly White is much better because of the pin on the h3-c8 diagonal.

33...Kf6

I had not considered this daring move, but it is the best try. The queen must defend the e5-pawn, and 33...Qc7 34.Bxe6 fxe6 35.Rd1+/- is terrible. I had mostly been concerned with 33...Nxc5!/? but I did not think my opponent would play this as he was in some time pressure. After 34.Bxc8 Na4 35.Qc2 Qd4+ 36.Kf1 Bxc8 37.Qxc8 Qd3+ 38.Kg1 Qd4+ 39.Kh1 (not 39.Kg2 Qd2+ 40.Kf1 Nb2!) 39...Qf2 40.Qc1 Qxf3+ 41.Kg1+/- White is better as the knight is offside, but there is

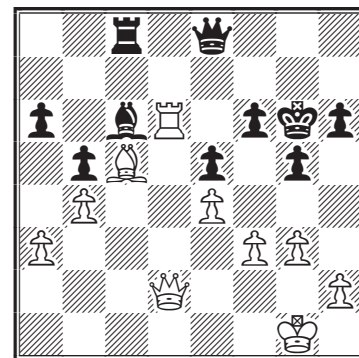
still some work to do.

34.Bxe6

So we get my favourite kind of opposite colored bishops position.

34.f4? looks fun, but it opens the g-file for Black's rook. 34.Rc1 was good while the computer's suggestion 34.Kh1!? with the idea of playing f4 is interesting.

34...Qxe6 35.Rd1 Kg6 36.Qb2 f6 37.Rd6 Qe8 38.Qd2 Bc6



Despite the symmetry of the pawn structure and opposite colored bishops, White is much better because his pieces are so much more active than their counterparts. I was a little low on time here, but my opponent was in serious time pressure.

39.h4

This is logical as it brings another unit into the attack, but there was a quick win with the funny 39.Bb6! with the deadly threat of Bd8+.

39...Rc7 40.Rd8

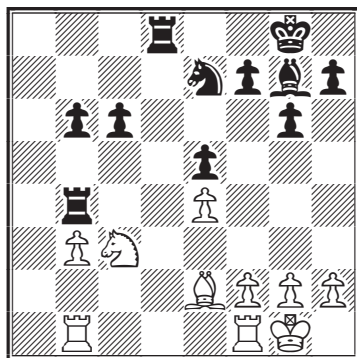
Stronger was 40.h5+! Kg7 41.Rxf6!+-. Now my opponent suddenly forgot the clock and lost on time. After 40.Rd8 Qe6 (40...Rd7? 41.h5+ Kg7 42.Rxe8 Rxd2 43.Re7+ Kg8 44.Re6+- is an easy win) 41.Rd6 Qf7 (41...Qb3? loses immediately to 42.Rxf6+, while 41...Qe8 would give me a chance to transpose to now find 42.h5+, now that the time control was reached) and now White can still probably win, but it is complicated. Some lines: 42.Qc3!

(with the idea Qxe5) 42...Qe7 (42... Qe8 43.Bb6! Rc8 44.Qd2 with the idea Bd8+–) 43.hxg5 hxg5 44.f4! exf4 (44...gxf4 45.Qf3!) 45.e5 Qh7 46.Qc2+ Kh5 47.Qe2+ (47.Qxh7+ Rxh7 48.Rxc6) 47...Kg6 (47... f3 48.Qh2+ Kg6 49.Rxf6+ Kg7 50.Qxh7+ Kxh7 51.e6+–) 48.Rxf6+ Kg7 49.Bf8+ Kg8 50.Qa2+ Rf7 51.Bh6 Be8 52.gxf4+– **1–0**

After another team win in Round 5, the stage was set – literally, as we had finally made it back to the roped off area. We ended up paired with another MA team, the 2199 rated “Overrated” led by Vadim Martirosov and Ilya Krasik. Vadim and Ilya were my teammates in my return to the USATE back in 2007. We lost on Board 4, but held on Board 3, and Jim and I both managed to win.

Ilya Krasik 2295
IM James Rizzitano 2390
USATE 2012 (6)

Despite having the Black pieces, Jim quickly was in control of his game and won a pawn early. He only needed to coordinate his pieces to win. The e7-knight is Black’s only real problem.

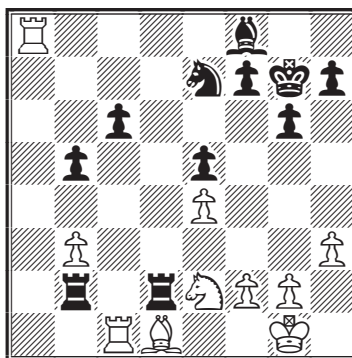


21...Rd2 22.Bd1 b5 23.Ra1 Rbd4 24.Ra8+

This helps Black implement his

plan, but there is not much to suggest to White.

24...Bf8 25.Bf3 Kg7 26.h3 R4d3 27.Rc1 Rb2 28.Bd1 Rdd2 29.Ne2



29...Ng8!

The knight quickly enters the game from its home square and Black wins quickly.

30.Kf1 Nf6 31.f3 Nh5 32.Ke1 Bb4 0–1

So we ended up with a 5-1 score. Jim, Matthew, and I also scored 5-1. For Jim and I, this was not as nice as it seemed, as he only gained a

couple of rating points, and I even lost a couple. Matthew had a great tournament – his first USATE. Mark went 3.5-2.5, but he mostly played up and also gained a few points. The tournament was great fun as usual. This is a tournament where you can catch up with lots of friends along the east coast, and the team atmosphere and camaraderie make it unlike any other event.

“*Lack of proper endgame technique allows many players to escape from lost positions, even without any spectacular play on their part.*

—Leonid Shamkovich

”

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2011 U.S. Chess League: New England Nor'easters

by IM David Vigorito

In the 2010 season, the New England Nor'easters won the USCL Championship in their inaugural year. The team did this while shattering records along the way. During the regular season, the Nor'easters scored 9.5/10 match points (the one draw was with Boston) and in the playoffs scored 2.5/3 (again, drawing with Boston). In 2010 there were four IMs, and all performed above 2650. Heading into 2011, we would see a lot of changes, even though our roster remained mostly intact.

Sam Shankland hails from California but as he is attending Brandeis University, the Nor'easters were fortunate to have him heading up our team. In 2010 Sam was one of our IMs, but he received his long overdue GM title in the USCL off-season. IM Robert Hungaski gained well over 100 points since the start of the inaugural season. Your author, IM David Vigorito, also made some gains, the most important of which was his daughter Zoe. Unfortunately we lost IM Jan Van de Mortel, who joined our friends in Boston (or Providence, rather). We added IM Jonathan Yedidia, who recently re-entered the tournament arena after a long layoff. FM and assistant manager Charles Riordan was back, as was FM and webmaster (nenoreasters.com) Braden Bournival.

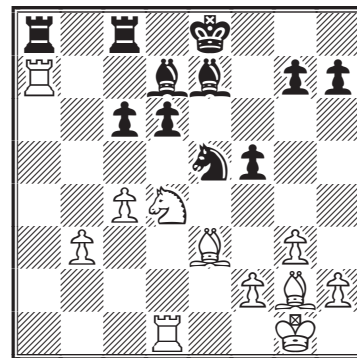
Last year NM Alex Cherniack was an absolute rock on Board 4, so he was back, although his rating gains meant that his playing time would be on Board 3, and this would certainly have some effect on the team. Due to rating compatibility NMs Chris Chase and Carey

Thiel, members of the previous year's Champion team, were not on the roster this year. We did add NMs Ben Goldberg of Rhode Island, Alex Fikiet of Connecticut, and 12 year old Mika Brattain of Massachusetts to the expanded (10 players compared to last year's 9) team.

2011 was very different, as we did not make the playoffs. This was due to several factors. Our schedule was much tougher than it was last year. Teams were also throwing their best at us. The champs always have a target on their back, and as Boston reporter Mark LaRocca noted, we were facing each team's best punch. We also had problems with player availability. Our biggest gun, GM Sam, could only play in three of the first nine matches. With Robert coming from 2 hours away and yours truly having the additional duties of fatherhood, we were stretched out quite a bit this season. There were also significant rating gains from Sam, Robert, myself, and Alex Cherniack which meant we were not go to be so underrated this year. However, the biggest factor that kept us out of the playoffs was simply the chess – we simply did not play very well.

The trouble started in week 1 as we faced our cross-town rivals, who were playing cross-region this year out of Providence. Jorge Sammour Hasbun took over most of the Board 1 duties from GM Larry Christiansen this season and he had an MVP-like season.

Jorge Sammour-Hasbun 2604
IM Robert Hungaski 2621
U.S. Chess League 2011 (1)



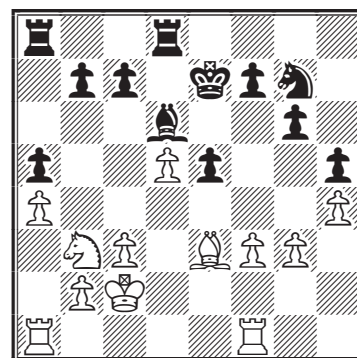
Last year Robert went undefeated and had a performance rating of 2780 (!), but 2011 belonged to Jorge.

26.Rxd7! Kxd7 27.Nxf5 Ke6?
28.Bh3! and White won quickly.

In this match I scored my only win of the season (despite the fact that I played more games than anyone) against a strong but rusty FM Griego but we still lost the match. At this point our record against Boston was 1-2 and against everyone else we were 11-0!

The pain continued in the second week as we lost to the powerful New York Knights. The one bright spot was Ben's USCL debut against a well-known NY master.

Justus Williams 2265
Benjamin Goldberg 2230
U.S. Chess League 2011 (2)



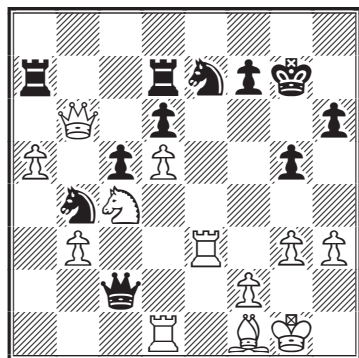
**25...Ng7 26.g4 Rh8 27.Rae1 Kd7
28.Bg5 Ne8 29.f4 exf4 30.Bxf4
hgx4 31.Bxd6 Nxd6 32.Nc5+ Kd8
33.Ne4 Nxe4 34.Rxe4 f5 35.Re6
Ra6! 36.Rxa6 bxa6 37.Rh1 Rh5
38.Kd3 g5 39.Ke3 Rxb4 0-1**

Ben ended up going 3-0 in his first year in the USCL, despite the fact that he had Black in all three games against strong opponents.

The next week, we looked poised to win against Baltimore, but I began my stumbling and lost a pleasant position to IM Enkhbat which led to a drawn match. The slide continued and we were blown out 3.5-.5 against Philadelphia. This was the first time we had ever had a match where we did not win a single game. After a 2010 season with a 9.5-0.5 regular season record, we suddenly found ourselves in a big hole after only four weeks with 0.5-3.5. We would need a tremendous run to make the playoffs now, and we almost made it. We played Boston again already in Week 5 but this time we had Sam ready and he delivered.

GM Sam Shankland 2624

Jorge Sammour-Hasbun 2604
U.S. Chess League 2011 (5)

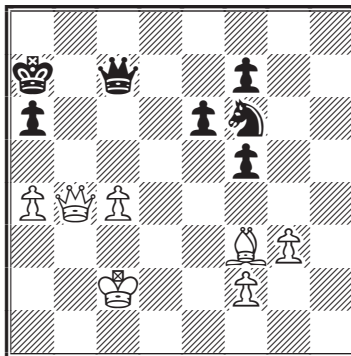


**46.Nxd6! Qxd1 47.Ne8+ Kh7
48.Qf6 Qd4 49.Qxf7+ Kh8 50.Nf6
1-0**

After this we faced the defending Western Division Champions, the Miami Sharks. They were having a similar rough season. Both sides needed to win this match, so of course neither team did. Sometimes a draw feels like a loss, and sometimes a draw feels like a win. Even though we needed this match, the draw felt like a triumph after Robert held an endgame down an exchange for nothing against the all time USCL MVP, GM Julio Becerra. The tension continued as we faced the revitalized Manhattan team in Week 7.

IM Lev Milman 2480

IM Robert Hungaski 2616
U.S. Chess League 2011 (7)



We needed to win this game to win the match, and Robert, as usual, delivered.

**44.a4? Nd7 45.Bg2 Qb6 46.Kc3
Nc5 47.a5 Qd6 48.Qb1 Qe5+
49.Kd2 Qd4+ 50.Ke1 Qc3+
51.Kf1 Qxa5 52.Qb2 Qd8 53.Bf3
Qd3+ 54.Kg2 Qxc4 55.Qf6 Kb6
56.Qxf7 Qd4 57.Qf8 Ka5 58.Qb8
Nd3 59.Qc7+ Kb4 60.Qb7+
Kc3 61.Qc7+ Kb2 62.Qb7+ Kc1
63.Qc7+ Qc5 64.Qc6 Kd2 65.Qxc5
Nxc5 66.g4 fxg4 67.Bxg4 a5 68.f4
a4 69.f5 exf5 70.Bxf5 a3 71.Bb1
Kc1 72.Ba2 Kb2 0-1**

With this victory the Nor'easters were miraculously back to 50% with two weeks to go. Unfortunately, the wheels came off in week 9 when we faced last place New Jersey. If we had won this match we would not only have been right back in the playoff mix, but we would have controlled our own destiny. It was not to be, and a drawn match meant that even after we won in the final two weeks against Carolina and Baltimore, in order to make the playoffs we needed either Boston (facing New Jersey) or Manhattan (facing Carolina) to falter.

Boston's NM Krasik destroyed the veteran IM Kapengut, who was New Jersey's biggest rating favorite, with the black pieces. Even after this setback we still had hope, however, as Carolina's NM Craig Jones was poised for an early victory on board 4. He was up a pawn in a normal ending and had a 100+ point rating advantage to boot. Somehow he was mated in a dozen or so more moves and it all went up in smoke. After this our fate was basically sealed. It was our own fault that we were in this position in the first place.

The Nor'easters set records last year and we won the championship in our very first season and unfortunately we set a distinction this year too, as we became the first team in USCL history to not qualify for the playoffs with a winning record. We could look back to our first match against Baltimore and our match against New Jersey as 'unnecessary' stumbles, but of course every team has their chances, and the teams that make it are those that make the most of those chances. We succeeded beyond our dreams last year, but this season we just came up short.

Annotated Games by Life Master Joel Johnson

2007 U.S. Senior Champion and author of "Formation Attacks".

Please email games for future annotation to me at: **bigbear12@hotmail.com**

For those of you who do not know me, the first 46 years of my life were primarily spent living in Massachusetts. Roughly 30 years of which, I competed in New England chess tournaments and was very active at many chess clubs throughout the state.

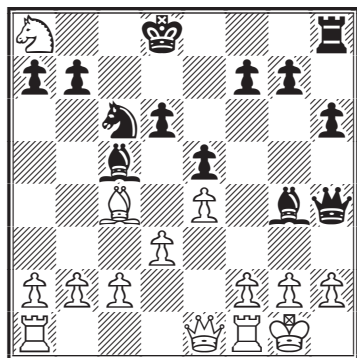
My chess coach during my early years was Harry Lyman of the Boylston Chess Club in Boston. Harry's aggressive style is still very evident in my play. For those of you who never had the pleasure of meeting Master Emeritus Harry Lyman, I present the following attack game.

White: Tomasko

Black: Harry Lyman

Boylston at Lynn, Boston MET League, Lynn, MA, 2/28/1941
[C50] Giuoco Piano

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Nd5 Qg6 9.Nh4 Qg5 10.Nxc7+ Kd8 11.Nxa8 Qxh4 12.0-0 Bg4 13.Qe1



13. ... Bf3! 14.gxf3

What else? Especially when considering 14. ... Qg4 15. g3 Qh3

is coming.

14. ... Nd4 15.Kg2 Qg5+ 16.Kh1 Qh5 17.Qa5+ b6 0-1

Next up is one of my games from when I lived in Massachusetts.

Jeff Svoboda 2015

Joel Johnson 2320

31st Pawn Eater, Providence RI October 1990

[B00] St. George Defense

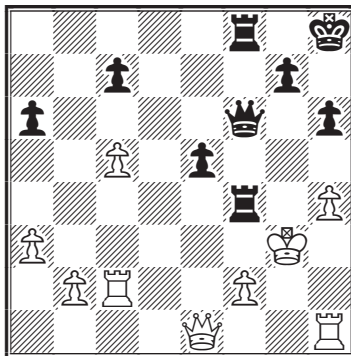
1.d4 b5 2.e4 a6 3.c4 bxc4 4.Bxc4 e6 5.Nf3 Bb7 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Qc2 Be7 8.0-0 d5 9.Bd3 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Nbd7 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.a3 0-0 15.Rac1 f5 16.Nc5 Nxc5 17.dxc5 Nf4

The purpose of this move is to prevent c6 long enough for my bishop to get in front of the White c-pawn.

18.Be2 Be4 19.Qd2 e5 20.g3 Rad8 21.Qe3 Nh3+ 22.Kg2 Ng5 23.Rfd1 f4 24.Qb3+ Kh8 25.h4 Rb8!

The White queen needs to defend both the knight on f3 and the b-pawn.

26.Qc3 Nxf3 27.Bxf3 Bxf3+ 28.Kxf3 fxg3+ 29.Kxg3 Rf4 30.Rh1 Rbf8 31.Rc2 Qf6 32.Qe1



Black has a bunch of winning moves but the upcoming move is the most devastating.

32. ... Rg4+! 0-1

Checkmate follows on every possible Black move. The choices were 33. Kxg4 Qf3#, 33. Kh3 Qxh4#, and 33. Kh2 Qxh4#.

The remaining games are recent and very interesting attack games from around the world.

GM Baadur Jobava 2713

GM Namig Guliyev 2549

World Cup, Khanty-Mansiyak, Russia 2011

[B20] Sicilian Defense

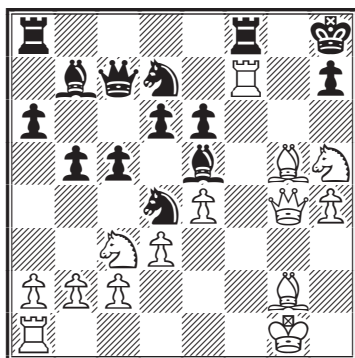
1.e4 c5 2.Ne2 Nf6 3.Nbc3 d6 4.g3 b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 e6 7.d3 Nc6 8.f4 Be7 9.h3 0-0 10.g4

The closed Sicilian appears tame but it can be transformed into an all-out pawn storm attack like this game.

10. ... a6 11.g5 Nd7 12.h4

Many players would be unwilling to risk moving all their kingside pawns in front of their king. Here, White has the right idea.

12. ... b5 13.Ng3 Re8 14.f5 Nd4 15.f6 gxf6 16.gxf6 Bxf6 17.Nh5 Be5 18.Qg4+ Kh8 19.Bg5 Qc7 20.Rxf7 Rf8? (D)



Black is more concerned with the unraveling of the pins (knight on d7 and pawn on e6) than the protection of his king. Black needed to protect his g7 square with Rg8.

21.Raf1 Rxf7 22.Rxf7 Rf8 23.Bf6+ Bxf6 24.Nxf6 1-0

White has too many checkmate threats and Black is short defenders.

A three minute game from this year's ICC Open, which was won by Hikaru Nakamura (CapilanoBridge). Nikaru suffered this setback during the event at the hands of Armenian Grandmaster Simonian Hrair (ERE-BUNI).

EREBUNI 3314

CapilanoBridge 3396

1st ICC Open (3 0), 06/05/2011

[B00] Owen's Defense

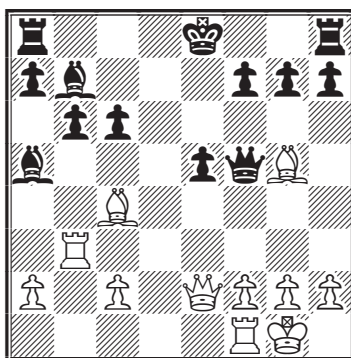
1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Nc3 e6 4.Nf3 Bb4 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.e5 Ne4 7.0-0

White gambits a pawn in order to activate and lift his queenside rook.

7. ... Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bxc3 9.Rb1 d6 10.Rb3 Ba5 11.Bg5 Qd7 12.Qe2 Nc6 13.d5

When a player falls behind in development as in this game, the aggressor should open up the position to expose the issue.

13. ... Nxe5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.Bb5 c6 16.dxe6 Qxe6 17.Bc4 Qf5



18.Bxf7+!

The most direct method of exposing the Black king.

18. ... Kd7

Black chose to run because the alternatives were unsatisfactory, i.e.

18. ... Kxf7 19. Rf3 or **18. ... Qxf7 19. Qxe5+ Kd7 20. Rf3.**

19.Qh5 g6 20.Rf3 gxh5 21.Rxf5 Raf8 22.Rd1+ Kc8 23.Be7 Kc7 24.Bd6+ 1-0

The following game is perhaps the best played in 2011.

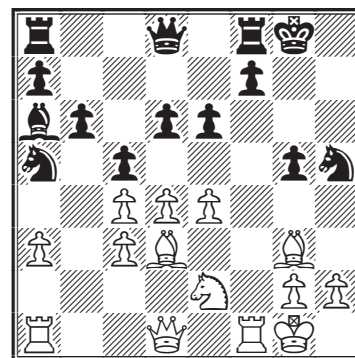
Zhao Jun 2580

Xiu Deshun 2508

Chinese Championship 2011

[E26] Nimzo Indian Defense

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 c5 6.e3 b6 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.Ne2 Ba6 9.e4 0-0 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.Bg3 d6 13.f4 Na5 14.fxg5 hxg5 15.0-0 Nh5 (D)



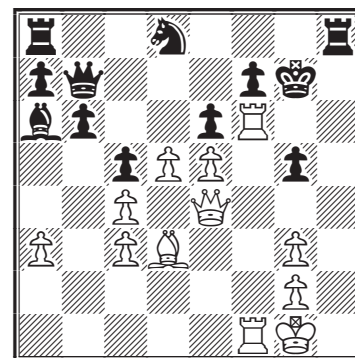
16.Bxd6!

The first move in a series of maneuvers designed to shut out Black's queenside pieces from the defense of his king.

16. ... Qxd6 17.e5 Qe7 18.Ng3 Nxg3 19.Rf6!

This move shuts off the Black pieces from the defense of the Black king.

19. ... Kg7 20.Qg4 Rg8 21.hxg3 Nb7 22.Raf1 Nd8 23.Qe4 Qb7 24.d5 Rh8



25.Qg6+!!

White finds the crushing move leading to a forced checkmate.

25. ... fxc6 26.Rxc6+ Kh7 27.Rxc5+ Kh6 28.Rg6+ Kh7 29.Rg4+ Kh6 30.Rf6+ Kh5 31.Rh4+ 1-0

“ No fool can play chess, and only fools do.
—German proverb ”

Games Around New England

by David Harris

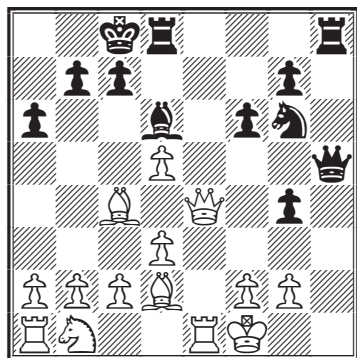
Larry Dean 2001

David Harris 2081

Sven Brask Summer Swiss 2011

[C61] Ruy Lopez

Playing to win for Black requires taking risks. Luckily, enterprising play is always welcome at the Sven Brask! **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nxd4 exd4 5.0-0 h5 6.d3 Ne7 7.Bg5 f6 8.Bd2 a6 9.Bc4 d5 10.exd5 Qd6 11.Qf3 Bg4 12.Qf4 Qd7 13.h3 0-0-0 14.hxg4 hxg4 15.Re1 Ng6 16.Qxd4 Qf5 17.Qe4 Qh5 18.Kf1 Bd6**



19.Be3 [Or the amusing **19.Qd4 Nh4 20.Re6 Nf3! 21.Qa7 Qh1+ 22.Ke2 Qxg2 23.Be1 Qf1+!!**] **19...f5 20.Qd4 f4 21.Qa7 f3 0-1**

David Harris 2106

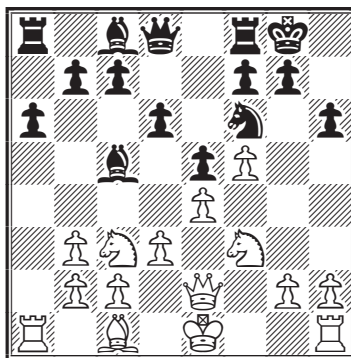
IM Jonathan Yedidia 2416

New England Open 2011 (1)

[C30] King's Gambit Declined

The King's Gambit is not often seen these days. Delaying f4 until after Nc3 or Bc4 avoids the Falkbeer Countergambit (2... d5), and encourages the King's Gambit Declined. Move order nuances like this reduce the amount of time we need to spend on opening preparation, with-

out resorting to 1.g3. **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.f4 Bc5 4.Nf3 d6 5.Nc3 a6 6.d3 Nf6 7.f5 h6 8.Qe2 Na5 9.Bb3 Nxb3 10.axb3 0-0**



11.g4! Nxg4 12.Qg2 Ne3 [The alternative is nothing to write home about: **12...h5 13.h3 Nf6 14.Bh6 Ne8 15.0-0-0**] **13.Bxe3 Bxe3 14.Nd5 Bg5** [14...Ba7 Before playing 11.g4 I had analyzed this position and found the following winning line: **15.f6 g6 16.Ne7+ Kh7 17.Ng5+ hxg5 (17...Kh8 18.h4) 18.Qxg5**; A similar fate awaits **14...Bc5 15.f6 g6 16.Ne7+ Kh7 17.Ng5+ Kh8 18.Qd2! Qe8 19.h4 Bg4 20.h5 Bxh5 21.Ne6**] **15.Nxg5 Qxg5 16.Qxg5 hxg5 17.Nxc7** [Yedidia was more worried about **17.h4 g4 18.Nxc7**] **17...Rb8 18.Nd5 f6 19.Nb6 Kf7 20.Ra4 g6** Black must free his position at all costs. White's task is to keep the position clamped down, so the pawn on f5 needs to be nailed to the board. **21.Rf1 gxf5 22.exf5 Rh8 23.Rc4 Ke7 24.Nd5+ Kd8 25.Nxf6 Bd7 26.Rg4 Rxh2 27.Rxg5 Rc8 28.c4 Rxb2 29.Nd5! Ke8** [At first glance, it appears the Black can be rescued by **29...Rb1+ 30.Ke2! Rxf1 31.Rg8+! Be8 32.Kxf1+-** with f6 to follow] **30.Rf3 Rh2 31.Rg7 e4 32.dxe4 Rc5 33.Nf6+ Kd8**

34.Rxd7+ Kc8 35.Rg3 Kb8 36.Rg8+ Ka7 37.Rdd8 Re5 38.Ra8+ Kb6 39.b4 Kc7 40.Rgc8+ Kb6 41.Nd7# 1-0

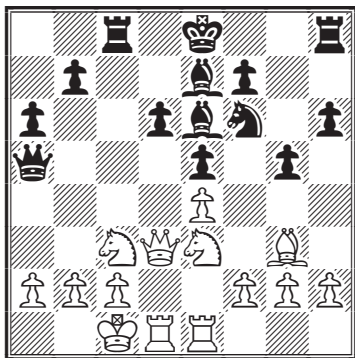
Andrew Wang 2237

David Harris 2106

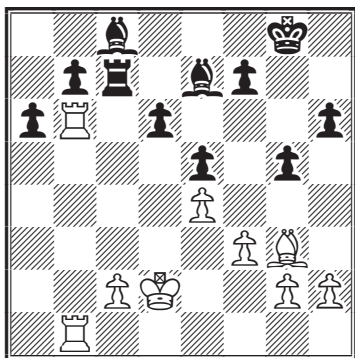
New England Open 2011 (2)

[B21] Sicilian Defense

While the move Bb5 is unlikely to put the Sicilian out of business, an understanding of the Anti-Sicilian systems is just as important as knowing the main lines of the Open Sicilian. In the Moscow Variation, I have an aversion to playing an early e5, but current opening theory does support giving White the d5 hole in exchange for the two bishops. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.d4 Ngf6 5.Nc3 cxd4 6.Qxd4 e6** Cleverly avoiding e5! **7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 a6 9.Bxd7+ Bxd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8** [10... e5! **11.Bxf6 exd4 12.Bxd8 dxc3 13.Bc7** White has a small edge] **11.Rhe1** [11.e5! **g5 12.Bg3 dxe5 13.Bxe5 Bc5 14.Qd3 Be7 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 0-0 17.h4+-** White has a strong attack] **11...e5 12.Qd3 g5 13.Bg3 Be7 14.Nd2** We finally arrive at the tabiya for this variation, with a subtle difference, Black expended 2 moves on e5. The lost tempo is O-O which is acceptable, as the king is safer in the center, given the holes in the black kingside. **14...Qc7** Inaccurate perhaps, but Black must not allow **Nc4**. **15.Nf1! Be6 16.Ne3 Qa5 (D)**



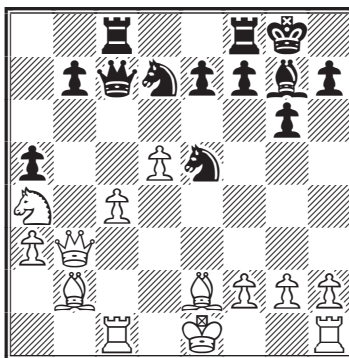
17.Kb1?! [17.Nf5! A knight must answer the call to action! 17...Bxf5 18.exf5 b5 with advantage to White] **17...Rxc3! 18.bxc3 Qxa2+** A thematic sacrifice, and a bonus point! **19.Kc1 0-0 20.Kd2 Qa4 21.f3 Qc6 22.c4 Rc8 23.Nd5 Bd8 24.Ra1 Qxc4 25.Qxc4 Rxc4 26.Nxf6+ Bxf6 27.Reb1 Rc7 28.Rb6 Be7 29.Rab1 Bc8**



The dust has settled and the position is roughly level. Black's two bishops are not a factor with the Black army in such disarray. **30.Kd3 f5 31.Be1 Kf7 32.Ba5 fxe4+!?** [32...d5!?] **33.fxe4 Rd7 [33...d5!] 34.R6b3 d5? [34...b5!] 35.Rc3! dxe4+ 36.Ke3! b6 37.Rxc8 bxa5 38.Rc6** White has eliminated the bishop pair and shattered Black's pawn structure. But the worst is yet to come. **38...Bb4 39.Kxe4 Rd2 40.c3 Bd6 41.Rb7+ Ke6 42.c4** Eliminating the other half of the bishop pair **42...Rd4+ 43.Ke3 a4 44.c5 a3 45.cxd6 a2 46.d7+ Kf5 47.Rxa6 Re4+ 48.Kd3 Rd4+ 49.Kc3 Rd6 50.Rxa2 1-0**

Joshua Quint 1989
David Harris 2129
Bedford Rating Round Robin
2011, Bedford, NH (4)
[D94] Gruenfeld Defense

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.a3 a5 7.b3 c5 8.Bb2 cxd4 9.exd4 Bg4 10.Be2 dxc4 11.bxc4 Nc6 12.d5 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Ne5 14.Be2 Rc8 15.Qb3 Nfd7 16.Na4 Qc7 17.Rc1

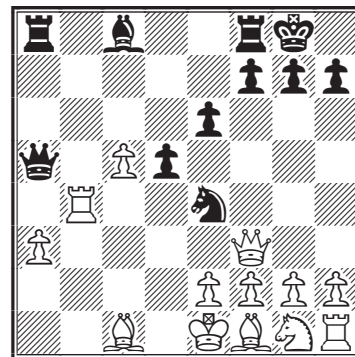


b5 18.cxb5 Qxc1+ 19.Bxc1 Rxc1+ 20.Bd1 Nc4 21.0-0 Rc8 22.Qd3 Ra1 23.Qh3 f5 24.Qd3 Rxa3 25.Qe2 Nde5 26.f4 Re3 27.Qa2 Nd3 28.h3 Bd4 29.Kh2 Nb4 30.Qf2 Nxd5 31.Bf3 Nxf4 32.Re1 e5 33.Rxe3 Bxe3 34.Qa2 Kg7 35.Bc6 Nd2 36.Nc3 Nf1+ 37.Kh1 Ng3+ 38.Kh2 Nf1+ 39.Kh1 Nd3 40.Nd1 Ng3+ 41.Kh2 1/2-1/2

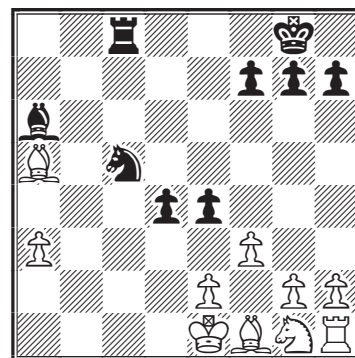
Robert Cousins 2194
David Harris 2129
Bedford Rating Round Robin
2011, Bedford, NH (6)
[E32] Nimzo-Indian Defense

There is a fine line between a calculated risk, and folly. Miscalculation is the mother of invention. **1.c4 e6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 b5 7.Qf3** [The main line of this interesting gambit runs **7.cxb5 c6 8.bxc6 Nxc6 9.b4] 7... d5 8.cxb5 a6 9.bxa6 c5 10.dxc5**

Nxa6 11.Rb1 Ne4!? 12.b4 Naxc5 13.bxc5 Qa5+ 14.Rb4



Black has donated a full bishop to the cause. White has a completely undeveloped kingside, the queen's rook is pinned, and the queen is awkwardly placed. I am happy to get positions like this when I am playing for a win with Black. **14... Ba6 15.Qe3 Rac8 16.f3 Nxc5 17.Bd2 Qc7** [Another try is **17...e5 18.Rb8 (18.Qxe5!? Nd3+ 19.exd3 Rfe8** with compensation) **18...Qc7 19.Rxc8 Rxc8 20.Qc3 d4 21.Qa5 Qxa5 22.Bxa5 e4 (D)**



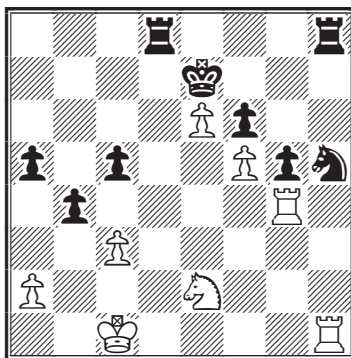
would be an odd turn of events, White has traded queens, and has an extra bishop. Yet Black is winning.] **18.Bc3?** [White seems to have decent prospects after **18.Qd4 Rfe8 19.Qb2 e5 20.Nh3] 18... Nd3+ 19.exd3 Qxc3+ 20.Qd2 Qxa3 21.Qb2 Rc1+ 22.Kf2 Rxf1+ [22...Rc2+ 23.Qxc2 Qxb4 24.g3 Rc8 25.Qa2 Qd4+ 26.Kg2 Bxd3**

27.Bxd3 Qxd3 28.Ne2 g5] **23.Kxf1 Qxd3+ 24.Kf2 Qf1+ 25.Kg3 Qe1+ 26.Kh3 e5** Black now has two pawns for a rook. White has neither developed the kingside, nor found safe harbor for the monarch. **27.Qb1 Bc8+ 28.g4 Qe3 29.Kg2 Qd2+ 30.Kg3 f5 31.gxf5 Bxf5** [31...Rxf5 In light of the defensive resource at move 34, this must be the correct recapture. In murky positions like this it is never clear which path to take, which is what makes them so interesting! 32.h4 Rf6 33.Rb8 Rg6+ 34.Qxg6 Qf4+ 35.Kf2 Qd4+ 36.Ke2 hxg6 37.Rxc8+ Kf7 38.Nh3 Qxh4=] **32.Qb2 Qg5+ 33.Kf2 d4 34.Qb3+ [34.h4! Appears to save the day 34...Qe3+ 35.Kg2. The compensation is rather sketchy] 34...Kh8 35.h4 Qd2+ 36.Ne2?** [Correct play now leads to a draw 36.Kg3 Qe1+ 37.Kg2 Qd2+ 38.Kg3 Qf4+ 39.Kf2 Qd2+] **36...Bd3 37.Rb8 Qxe2+ 38.Kg3 Qxf3+ 39.Kh2 Qf2+ 40.Kh3 Bf5# 0-1**

David Harris 2134
Paul Gavlick 1600
Max Malyuta Memorial 2011 (2)
[C26] Vienna Game

The battle of nerves is just as important as the battle on the board. Once outplayed, it is difficult to regain your composure. **1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.d3** Perhaps not one of the top ten moves **3...Be7** [3...d5 is critical] **4.f4 d6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.f5?! [Logic dictates 6.Be2] 6...Nd4!? 7.Be3 c5! Anchoring the annoying knight 8.Ne2 Nxf3+ 9.gxf3 Nh5 [Another strong idea is 9...g6] 10.c3 Bh4+ 11.Kd2 Bg5 12.Bxg5 Qxg5+=/+ 13.Kc2 Lackluster opening play by White has left him with an awkward position 13...Qe3 14.Bg2 b5 15.Qd2 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2 Bb7 17.Rhg1 a5! 18.Raf1 b4 19.f4! Nf6! Although**

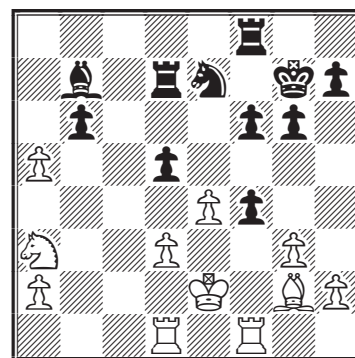
roughly level, Black has clearly won the psychological battle. Now White will begin a downward spiral. **20.d4!? exd4 21.e5 Bxg2! 22.Rxg2 dxe5 23.fxe5 dxc3+ 24.bxc3 Rd8+ 25.Kc1 Nh5 26.Rg5 g6 27.e6 f6! 28.Rg4 g5 29.h4 h6 30.hxg5 hxg5 31.Rh1?! Ke7!**



32.Rc4? Right square, *wrong* time! **32...Nf4! 33.Re1?** [33.Ng3 Ne2+! 34.Kc2 Rxh1 35.Nxh1 Rd5 wins f5, e6 and the game] **33...Nd3+ 34.Kd2 Ne5+! 35.Rd4 cxd4 36.cxd4 Nf3+ Enough already! 0-1**

Miro Reverby 2230
Denys Shmelov 2519
Max Malyuta Memorial 2011 (2)
[B20] Sicilian Defense

This pivotal battle in the Malyuta Memorial illustrates the importance of timing. A zwischenzug on move 23 would have saved the day. **1.e4 e6 2.d3 c5 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 g6 5.Ne2 Bg7 6.c3 Nge7 7.Be3 b6 8.Qd2 Ba6 9.Na3 d5 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Bh6 Qd7 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.f4 f6 14.0-0 Rad8 15.Qc2 e5 16.Qa4 Bb7 17.b4?! cxb4 18.cxb4 a5 [Now is the time for 18...Nd4! 19.Qxd7 Nxe2+ 20.Kf2 Rxd7 21.Kxe2 Nc6=/+ Black has an edge in a less complicated position] 19.bxa5 Nd4 20.Qxd7 Nxe2+ 21.Kf2 Rxd7 22.Kxe2 exf4**

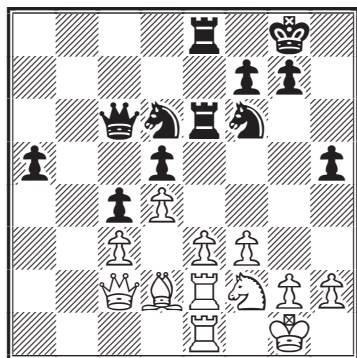


23.gxf4 [23.Bh3 leads to complications with chances for both sides 23...Rdd8 (less clear is 23...Rc7 24.axb6 Rc6 25.exd5 Nxd5 26.Nc4 Nc3+ 27.Kf2 Nxd1+ 28.Rxd1 fxg3+ 29.hxg3 Ra8 30.a3 with compensation for the exchange) 24.Rc1 Ba6 25.Rc7 dxe4 26.Rxe7+ Kh6 (26...Rf7 is necessary) 27.Rxf4 a resource missing in the line 24 Bh3, which turns the tables] **23...Ra8 24.Rb1!?** [24.Bh3 now requires precise play by Black 24...Rdd8 25.Rc1 activating the rook(s) is the key 25...dxe4 (or 25...Rxa5 26.Rc7 Kf8 the king must step out of the pin in view of the idea Rf1-c1-c7 27.e5 f5 28.Rxb7 Rxa3 with complications favoring Black) 26.Rc7 Ba6 27.Rxe7+ Kh6! Note how the pawn on f4 gives Black a much better version of the analogous 23 Bh3! line] **24...Rxa5** Black has a comfortable advantage **25.Rb3 dxe4 26.Bxe4 Bd5 27.Bxd5 Nxd5 28.Kf3 Ra4** [Or the direct hit 28...Nxf4!] **29.Kg3 h5 30.Rf2** Time pressure begins to take its toll **30...Ne3** [30...h4+!] **31.Re2? Nf5+ 32.Kg2 Nd4 33.Re4 f5** Winning an exchange and a pawn. **0-1**

Denys Shmelov 2519
Robert Perez 2418
Max Malyuta Memorial 2011 (3)
[E25] Nimzo-Indian Defense

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e3 0-0 9.Bd3 b6 10.Ne2 Ba6

11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Qd3 c4 13.Qc2
Re8 14.0-0 h5 15.Ng3 Re6 16.Bd2
Qd7 17.Nh1 Rae8 18.Nf2 Nc7
19.a4 Qc6 20.Rae1 b5 21.axb5
Nxb5 22.Re2 a5 23.Rfe1 Nd6



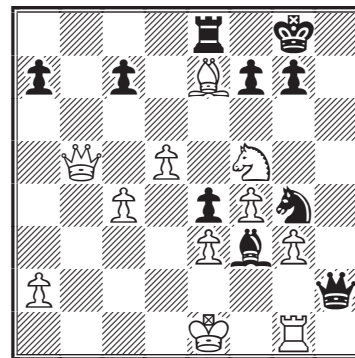
24.Bc1 g6 25.Ba3 Nb5 26.Bc1 Nd6
27.Kh1 Kg7 28.Kg1 1/2-1/2

Sinclair Banks 2234
Miro Reverby 2242
Blackstone Anniversary Vamp
2011 (2)
[D07] Chigorin Defense

The pivotal game from the annual Vamp at the Blackstone Chess Center. Reverby pulled the Chigorin Defence out of his toolbox. Banks reinforced the center and built a wall of pawns on the dark squares.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.cxd5 Qxd5 4.e3
e5 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Bd2 Bxc3 7.bxc3
Qd6 8.f4 e4 9.Ne2 Qg6 10.Rb1
Nf6 11.c4 0-0 12.g3 h5 13.Bg2 h4
14.Rb5 h3 15.Bf1 Bg4 16.Rxb7
Rab8 17.Qb3 Bf3 18.Rg1 Ng4
19.d5 Rxb7 20.Qxb7 Ne7 21.Nd4

Nxh2 22.Bxh3 Qh5 23.Bb4 Qxh3
24.Bxe7 Ng4 25.Qb2 Re8 26.Nf5
Qh7 27.Qb5 Qh2



The mate in 1 is obvious, but can you find the mate in 13? A suitable finish for a game played on November 13th. 28.c5 Qf2# 0-1

Games from the 2011 MA Open U1500 section

by Bob Messenger

Samuel Qiu 1045
Tal Puhov 1136
Massachusetts Open 2011 (2)
[C50] Giuoco Piano

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3
d6 5.Bd2 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5
8.a3 Nd4 9.g4 Bg6 10.Nxd4 Bxd4
11.Qe2 Qd7 12.0-0-0 0-0-0 13.h4 h5
14.g5 Ng4 15.Rdf1 Nxf2 16.Rxf2
Bxf2 17.Qxf2 Rhf8 18.Qxa7 Qg4
19.Bd5 c6 20.Na4 Qg2 21.Rd1 f5
22.Bxc6 Rf7 23.Ba5 b6 24.Nxb6#
1-0

Aashish Welling 1427
Robert Norris 1370
Massachusetts Open 2011 (3)
[D31] Semi-Slav Defense

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Bf4 Nf6
5.e3 Nbd7 6.Nf3 Nh5 7.Be5 Nxe5
8.Nxe5 Nf6 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0
11.Qc2 c5 12.dxc5 dxc4 13.Nxc4
Bxc5 14.Rfd1 Qc7 15.Nd2 Bb4

16.Rac1 a6 17.Nce4 Qxc2 18.Rxc2
Nxe4 19.Bxe4 Rb8 20.Nc4 b5
21.Nd6 Rd8 22.Rc6 Bb7 23.Rb6
Bxe4 24.Rxb8 Rxb8 25.Nxe4 Rc8
26.g3 h6 27.Rd4 Be7 28.Rd7 Bf6
29.Nxf6+ gxf6 30.Ra7 Rc6 31.Kg2
Kg7 32.b3 f5 33.Kf3 Kf6 34.a4 bxa4
35.bxa4 Kg6 36.a5 Kf6 37.h4 h5
38.Ke2 Rc2+ 39.Ke1 Rcl+ 40.Kd2
Rc6 41.f4 Kg6 42.Kd3 Kf6 43.Kd4
Kg6 44.Rb7 Rc1 45.Rb6 Rd1+
46.Kc3 Rg1 47.Rxa6 Rxg3 48.Kd3
Rg4 49.Ra8 Rxh4 50.a6 Rh1 51.a7
Ra1 52.Rg8+ Kf6 53.a8Q Rxa8
54.Rxa8 Kg7 55.e4 fxe4+ 56.Kxe4
1-0

Jeffrey Qu 872
Robert Walton Jr. 1287
Massachusetts Open 2011 (3)
[B23] Sicilian Defense

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 g6
5.Bc4 Bg7 6.b3 e6 7.Bb2 Nge7 8.d3
0-0 9.Qe2 a6 10.0-0-0 b5 11.Bxe6

Bxe6 12.h3 Nb4 13.a3 Bxc3
14.Bxc3 Na2+ 15.Kb2 Nxc3 16.Kxc3
Qa5+ 17.Kb2 b4 18.a4 h6 19.g4 Bd7
20.Rdg1 Bxa4 21.bxa4 Qxa4 22.h4
Qa3+ 23.Kb1 Rab8 24.h5 b3 0-1

Carissa Yip 1110
Daniel Plotkin 1027
Massachusetts Open 2011 (6)
[C50] Giuoco Piano

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3
Bc5 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6
8.Nd5 Qd8 9.h3 Nd4 10.0-0 c6
11.Nc3 0-0 12.Nxd4 Bxd4 13.Qf3
Be6 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Qg4 Qe7
16.Qg6 Rf6 17.Qg3 d5 18.Kh2 Qf7
19.f3 Rg6 20.Qe1 Qf4+ 21.Kh1 Qg5
22.Qe2 Be3 23.a4 Bf4 24.Qf2 Be3
25.Qe2 d4 26.Nd1 Bf4 27.Qf2 Bg3
28.Qe2 Rf8 29.Ra3 Rf4 30.Rb3 Rh4
31.Rxb7 Qh5 32.Kg1 Rxh3 33.Nf2
Bxf2+ 34.Kxf2 Qh4+ 35.Kg1 Rh1#
0-1

The Tyranny of Time!

by Richard “Doc” Kinne

The following is a private opinion (but, I believe, amply backed up by the Rules) from a USCF Tournament Director who happens to direct tournaments at the Boylston Chess Club. It is not necessarily the opinion of the Boylston Board of Directors, nor the Boylston CC Tournament Committee.

The use of a chess clock in modern tournament play is as much a part of the game as Staunton chess pieces, how a bishop moves, or “touch-move.” You would not expect to play a tournament game with a set other than a Staunton design no matter how pretty it was. Bishops don’t move along ranks & files. When you touch a piece, you have to move it. This is how you play a tournament game. You’re expected to know how the pieces move and you would really look strangely at anyone, of any age, really, who was participating in a tournament who didn’t know these things.

The same thing has to be true of clocks and the rules involving their use. In the defense of some players, perhaps, the way a bishop moves hasn’t changed in the last 400 years or so, but rules involving clocks and time limits are much more fluid.

Let’s take a look at some of the more important rules involving clocks, especially digital clocks, in this day and age.

US Chess Federation’s Official Rules of Chess, 5th Edition: Rule 16Bb - Players are responsible for knowing how to set their own clocks.

First of all - and this I consider the most important rule - it is the responsibility of the players to know how their clock works. It is not the responsibility of the Tournament Director to know how your clock works. It is critical that you know how to set your clock for various time controls.

For most of our tournaments that’s simple. We have Game/60 d5 - one Sudden Death time control, 60 minutes per person for the whole game, each move delayed by 5 seconds. However for a slower tournament you may have multiple time controls like, 40/90, Game/20 d10. Here the first 40 moves are made in 90 minutes, then you have 20 more minutes to complete the game. All moves give you a delay of 10 seconds. In this case, assuming the 40 moves are made on time, at the completion of the 40th move, you get 20 additional minutes on your clock in order to finish the game. The more ex-

pensive, newer clocks such as the Chronos and the DGT XL do this automatically. The older or inexpensive clocks, such as the DGT 2000 or the Saitek, require you to do it manually. It is critical that you know how to do this before your game so you can do it quickly and efficiently when your 41st move comes up!

Now, say your opponent makes an illegal move and you call him on it. The most common penalty an Arbiter can assess is to add two minutes on your clock - giving you two extra minutes - as compensation. (USCF Rules of Chess: 11D) (While a lot of us would like to just have the person who made the illegal move forfeit the game, that’s not how it works usually. :-)) You will then need to know how to manipulate your clock so that you can add or subtract time from either clock face on the fly. Remember, if it’s your clock it’s your responsibility to know this, it is not the Arbiter’s responsibility. If you cannot manipulate your clock the Arbiter may be forced to replace it with a clock that quickly can be properly manipulated in order to efficiently move the game forward.

US Chess Federation’s Official Rules of Chess, 5th Edition: 42D - A properly set clock with time delay capability is preferable to any other clock in a game with any sudden death time control.

Finally, it needs to be recognized that digital delay clocks are now the preferred default equipment for a tournament game. This means that if there is a choice of clock during a game, the digital clock gets the nod. This means that if Black, who gets choice of equipment, has an analog clock and White has a digital clock, White uses his or her clock, even though Black normally gets choice of equipment.

The digital delay clock for tournament competition is here to stay and I think there are good reasons for that fact. It is now as standard as algebraic notation or even the Staunton Chess Set. Indeed, there has been serious discussion within the USCF of banning analog clocks from tournament play, something that I am against because I feel it would put an undue burden on clubs, such as ours, that still have an inventory of analog clocks. That being said, no tournament competitor should even consider for a nanosecond buying an analog clock these days, and clubs should replace their analog clocks, as they become worn out, with digital models.

As a craftsman it behooves you to know how to use your tools. We all know how to use Bishops and Knights. We all know a few openings in order to start our games. Now, in this new digital age, we all need to review and know how to use one of our most basic tools - the clock. Before your next tournament, swap out that review session you planned on the Modern variation of the French Defense and go through your clock's manual (you do have your clock's manual, don't you?!) and

review it. Parents! If your little warriors are at less than reading age (but still flattening middle-agers like me over the board!) it is your responsibility to either teach your child how to use their clock, or to know this yourself, and be on hand to assist your child if the Arbiter requests you do so.

Time marches on, even for our venerable game of Chess. Your clock is as much a part of the game as your pieces. Take "time" to learn how to use it effectively!

Game of a Lifetime

by Richard "Doc" Kinne

The second round of the Boston Continental Amateur was a game of a lifetime for me. I lost. Why was the game so memorable?

My opponent, Henry Olynik of White Plains, NY was blind. And only in chess could you hope to play an equal game against a United States Champion!

There are specific rules for blind chess players which I'd known about from the rulebook as a Certified USCF Tournament Director since the early 80s. Blind chess players use a special board. The white squares are recessed 2 mm. All of the pieces are secured into the board via pegs. The Black pieces have tiny metal balls, or even sometimes dull pins, on their tops so that the blind player can tell the difference between the colors. Touch move is done differently. A player's hands roam all over the board and pieces as the player "sees" the board. Only when a piece is taken out of its peg is it deemed touched.

Procedures are different as well. The sighted player plays right next to the blind player on their own set, and both sets are kept in sync. Moves are called out by both players and confirmed by both players. As White, Henry's first move started out when he said, "White Pawn on e2 to e4."

"White Pawn on e2 to e4," I confirmed. My response: "Black Pawn on e7 to e5."

"Got it," Henry said. "Black Pawn on e7 to e5." In the beginning this was quite distracting, but I got into a groove after a bit.

Not only was the game - playing with a blind player for the very first time - fascinating, but Henry himself was fascinating. 70+ years old, he was born in the Ukraine and was caught up in Stalin's Ukrainian killings where his father was taken and vanished just before Henry was born. At the age of five he grew up in various concentration camps during WWII, and finally



Richard "Doc" Kinne vs. Henry Olynik Photo: Tony Cortizas Jr.

made it to the United States. He worked as an engineer in the 60s and was on the design team that created the LEM landing pads for Project Apollo.

In his early 40s he developed a brain tumor that had to be operated on. They opened up his head, sliced open a flap of his brain to get to the tumor, cut the olfactory nerves (Henry can no longer smell) to lift the non-malignant tumor out of the brain. Put back together again, Henry lost vision in one eye almost immediately, and over the next 30 years lost vision in the other eye, becoming blind.

That's what I knew during the tournament, right after we played our game. It was only when I got home that I found out how special the game, and Henry, really was.

Today in Katonah, NY the Henry Olynik Chess Club resides at the Montfort Academy where Henry teaches the school's students how to play chess. These kids are taught by a United States Chess Champion. Henry holds the 1999 United States Blind Chess Champion title! To this day he continues to compete in this championship.

Yea. Truly a game of a lifetime, with a truly unique person. Not bad for a Saturday, eh?

Chess Club News

Billerica Chess Club, 2011 News

by W. Bradley Ryan

4-Way Tie in March Swiss

The Billerica March 4-round Friday night Swiss wound up with a 4-way tie between Experts Art Nugent and Pat Sciacca and “A” players John Vaughan and Tim Bromley, all with 3-1 scores. “A” players Nate Smith and Ray Paulson tied for second, each with 2 ½ - 1 ½, only ½ point off the pace. Jeff Caruso was best under 2000, with a 2-2 result. Meyer Billmers and Paul Statem were best under 1750, with 2-2 scores. Eric Soli, back to the Club after an absence of several years, and Eric Heinecke tied for best under 1500, each with 1 ½ points. Welcome back Eric!!

David Kilgour was best under 1250, with a strong 2-2 score, based on wins over higher rated players in Rounds 2 and 3. Nate Smith directed the 19 player tournament.

Nugent and Sciacca Tie in April-May Swiss

Experts Art Nugent and Pat Sciacca tied for first in the Billerica Chess Club April-May Friday night Swiss with 5-1 scores. The 6-round tournament, who many consider to be a warm-up for the 7-round May-June Club Championship, had a strong field of 21 players, including 3 Experts and 5 “A” players. Quite appropriately, Sciacca and Nugent met in the 5th round and drew. “A” player Tim Bromley and “B” player Meyer Billmers tied for 2nd with solid 4-2 performances. John Vaughn and Jeff Caruso were best under 2000, posting 3-3 scores, while Paul Statin was best under 1750, also with a solid 3-3 result.

James Zhou, Eric Heinecke and Eric Soli tied for best under 1500 with 3-3 scores. Soli’s strong performance included an upset win over a very high rated “A” player in Round 2. Mo Lessard and Matthew Ding tied for best under 1250. Nate Smith directed.

Blackstone Chess Club

by David Harris

In August, the Blackstone Chess Club enjoyed a visit from Grandmaster Timur Gareyev, winner of the first Blackstone Chess Festival Open in 2008. Ten players accepted the challenge to play him in a simultaneous exhibition. Gareyev won all ten games.

Every summer (since 2008) we hold the Blackstone Chess Festival. This year’s festival featured a FIDE-rated

tournament, Class Championship, Quads, and a Masters & Experts Blitz. Results of this year’s festival events:

Aug. 26-27: NM Farzad Abdi topped the field at the Blackstone Chess Festival International, a FIDE-rated 4-round swiss. 10 players competed in this year’s Open, which was shortened due to predictions of severe weather. Abdi went undefeated, scoring 3.5/4. 2nd place went to William Smirnov, James Dickson, NM Stuart Finney, and NM Sinclair Banks, with 2.5/4. Time control was Game/90 with 30 second increment.

Aug. 27: Festival Saturday Quad: Howard Goldowsky, 3-0.

Special thanks to Ken Ballou for directing the hurricane weekend events!

Oct. 2: Festival Class Championship (rescheduled from Aug. 27 due to weather). Champions: Experts: James Dickson, Under 2000: Aidan Sowa/Ryan Sowa.

A variety of weekend activities take place at the club:

Friday evening blitz and club night, Saturday blitz and rapid tournaments, and Sunday Quick Play for players Under 2000, Under 1500, and Novices (Under 1200/unrated).

Recent weekend open tournaments:

Nov. 13: NM Miro Reverby swept the 3 round Blackstone Anniversary Vamp. 2nd place went to Warren “Teddy” Mackenzie, Expert Neil Fachon, and Massachusetts NM Sinclair Banks,

Oct.29: GM Alexander Ivanov swept the 3-round October Octads. Expert James Della Selva, Teddy MacKenzie, and NM Sinclair Banks tied for 2nd place, each with 2 wins, and 1 loss (to GM Ivanov).

Oct. 16: Max Malyuta Memorial. This annual event has been held 3 times at the Blackstone Chess Center. It is organized and directed by Rhode Island Chess There were 25 players in this year’s event. Time control was Game/60 with 5 second delay. 1st: SM Denys Shmelov, 3.5/4, 2nd: SM Robert Perez, 3/4. Under 2000: Paul Gavlick, 2.5/4, Under 1600: Clarke Nichols, 3.5/4. Thanks to Frank Vogel for directing this tournament.

Winners of recent Blackstone Blitz tournaments: 9/30 Masters & Experts Blitz: SM Denys Shmelov, 9/24 September Blitz: GM Alexander Ivanov (5.5/6), 7/30 Summer Blitz: GM Timur Gareyev (7.5/8).

Results from recent Sunday Quick Play: Nov. 6: 1st: MacKenzie 3-0, 2nd: James David Rush/Sarah Renshaw, 2/3. Oct. 23 1st: MacKenzie 2.5/3, 2nd: Gavlick,

Aidan Sowa/Ryan Sowa 1.5/3. Sept. 25: 1st: MacKenzie/George Duval 2.5/3, U1500: Aidan Sowa/Ryan Sowa/Lauren Smorgonsky. Sept 11: 1st: MacKenzie, U1500: Smorgonsky. Aug 21: Ross Eldridge/David Rush/Bowen Wang 2/3. Aug. 7: Cory Silva/Sean Cheng 2.5/3.

Boylston Chess Club

by Richard "Doc" Kinne

On 11 January, 2012 the Boylston Chess Club held a supplemental election meeting since the then President Dr. Jason Rihel was resigning to take a post in Oxford, England. The BCC's current officer slate is as follows:

President: FIDE Master Charles Riordan, Vice President: National Master Carey Theil, Treasurer: Robert Oresick, Clerk: Richard "Doc" Kinne

Directors: Bernardo Iglesias, Jason Rihel, Mike Griffin, Ted Gorczyca, Nathan Smolensky, WCM Natasha Christiansen, Dan Schmidt

The Boylston Chess Club continues to run an active tournament schedule with events on both weekdays and weekends. It is continuing its very successful Grand Prix event. In 2012 there will be two such events for six months each. It is also looking to revamp a scholastic competition program along similar lines this year as well. Details can be found on their website at <http://www.boylstonchessclub.org>.

Yale Beats Harvard!

by Steve Frymer

Nov 18 - The Yale/Harvard Chess Match closed tonight with Yale winning a close victory with 2 wins, 2 draws, and 1 loss. GM Robert Hess (2717, ES '15) and IM Bogdan Vioreanu (2453, GSAS '12) handily won on boards 1 and 2 versus Jake Miller (2121) and Bram Louis (2208P). Patrick O'Keefe (2140, CC '13) and Adam Weser (2147, SY '13) secured draws against Josh Bakker (2151) and Naor Brown (2023) in tough games. Gordon Moseley (1840, SM '12), the wildcard of the Yale College Chess Club, who brought wins to Yale in years when no one else could do so, lost in a tragic and unclear endgame (KQN a-pawn, c-pawn vs. KQ a-pawn, g-pawn, h-pawn) after his knight proved unable to stop the passed g and h pawns after a queen trade. Both players had under one minute, and both played well--kudos to Tony Blum (2099), the only Harvard player to secure a win. Both Bogdan and Gordon also get honorable mentions, as this is their last year playing at Yale. Both of them have played hard matches the last four years, and both leave with great results--3/4 for

Bogdan and 2/4 for Gordon. Bogdan plans to graduate with a PhD from the applied math department and Gordon with a bachelor's degree in the neuroscience track of psychology.

Waltham Chess Club

by Nicholas P. Sterling, Ph.D.

Waltham Chess Club is getting ready for its first Club Championship in several years, to be held in June over five weeks. We will have a Master Invitational with five rounds, one per night, and the rest of the field will play two rounds of G/45 per night. The fee will be \$15 per night, with a discounted rate of \$40 for the entire event, and a discounted rate for Masters. Bragging rights!

We also are considering introducing two new Prize levels to our general tournaments: Under-2000 and Under-1300. Player attendance and fund levels permitting, these two prizes (single first place) will be given either to separate sections or to the top players under the thresholds in a single section. Our increasing player numbers have made it possible for us to expand our Prizes, and I am grateful to all the players who have come regularly to Waltham Chess Club and swelled our numbers.

Some highlights from the last few months:

- GM Alexander Ivanov paid us another visit in November and swept the November First Friday with a perfect score of 7 points.
- Resident master Steven Winer won the Open Section of the Veteran's Day G/40 (one of many events he won), and Syed Al-Mamun took the Under 1500 Section. Both won with perfect scores of 3 points.
- Masters Steven Winer and Lawyer Times tied with 3.5 points out of 4 in the Open Section of the November G/20, while Steven Malcolm Sparber took the Under 1400 Section with a perfect score of 4 points.
- Masters Denys Shmelov and Steven Winer tied with 6 points out of 7 in the January First Friday.
- We had a four-way tie in the Snowbound G/40: Denys Shmelov, Steven Winer, Alex Cherniack, and David Martin, all with 2.5 points out of 3.
- Denys Shmelov edged Steve Winer with 6.5 points out of 7 in the March First Friday.
- And finally, last but not least: we had a four-way tie in the Under 1100 Section of the March G/20: Prakalya Chandrasekar, Evan MacLure, Jesse Liu, and David Peng. These last three players were all brand new that night, and scored 3 out of 4 points. This was the largest event we had run recently with a record turnout of 32 players.

In Memoriam

by IM Dr. Danny Kopec & Stephen Dann

John McCarthy

1927 - 2011

A great man and founder of the discipline of Artificial Intelligence which he named at the 1956 Dartmouth College Summer Conference, has recently left us.

John McCarthy, had stints as a Professor at MIT, Dartmouth College, Princeton University, and Stanford University. He spent most of his career at Stanford where his is Professor Emeritus.

He is credited with the invention of the LISP programming language which had been standard for developing AI programs for many years, particularly in this country. With a strong aptitude for Mathematics, McCarthy received a B.S. in Mathematics from Caltech in 1948 and then a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Princeton University in 1951 under Solomon Lefschetz.

Professor McCarthy's interests and contributions were profound and wide-ranging, covering many areas of AI, including, for example, publications on diverse areas of logic, natural language processing, computer chess, cognition, counterfactuals, common sense, and a number of philosophical problems from the standpoint of AI. His home page (<http://www-formal.stanford.edu/jmc/>) is a great treat in itself where most of his publications in these areas are available. There you can also find more recent pages on "The Sustainability of Human Progress" which he is quite optimistic about. Some other well known titles include: "Circumscription – a form of Nonmonotonic Reasoning",

"Artificial Intelligence, Logic and Formalizing Common Sense", and "The Little Thoughts of Thinking Machines".

As a founding father of AI McCarthy often used his papers as a mean of commentary on what AI systems need in order to be practically useful and effective, such as "Some Expert Systems Need Common Sense (1984) and "Free Will – Even for Robots"

He was the recipient of the prestigious A.M. Turing Award for his contributions to AI in 1971. Other awards he received include The National Medal of Science in Mathematical, Statistical, and Computational Sciences (1971), and the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Computer and Cognitive Science (2003).

Like many early AI researchers, (Turing, Newell, and Simon) McCarthy had an early interest in mastering chess via AI methods. Between 1959 and 1962, students of John McCarthy at MIT, Alan Kotok, Elwyn Berlekamp (1960), Michael A. Lieberman, Charles Niessen and Robert A. Wagner, wrote a chess program for the IBM 7090. The program was known as the McCarthy – Kotok Program and lost a match to a Soviet counterpart, 3-1 in 1966.

McCarthy stated: "We humans are not very good at identifying the heuristics we ourselves use." I believe that the early AI researchers did not appreciate how much of chess is knowledge and pattern-based. They had more inclinations towards chess being solved by "search, calculation, and logic." The pattern-based nature of chess was later more formally demonstrated

by the research of Chase and Simon (1973). However success at chess programming leading to the super-strong programs of today has been mainly accomplished through deep search and statistical techniques. In the 1990's McCarthy recognized chess as the "drosophila of AI", but recognized that the next drosophila was likely to be the game of Go.

Robert Feldstein

1956 - 2011

Robert Alan Feldstein, 54, of Brooklyn, N.Y., died Oct. 18th 2011. Renowned as the USCF member who first traveled and competed in rated tournaments in all 50 states (and many other countries), he was also one of the most active players in the nation and frequently played in Massachusetts tournaments. He was a civil servant, teacher and licensed to practice law in the state of Pennsylvania. A tribute by his widow, Debbie Rothman, appears at www.chesstour.com/Feldstein.htm.

Brad Ryan

1927 - 2011

W. Bradley Ryan, a former MACA board member and long-time President of the Billerica Chess Club, passed away on November 9th 2011. He had been promoting chess since the 1970s, when he lived in Belmont and was an active member of the Arlington Chess Club. He had a 42-year career with the law firm of Rubin and Rudman in Boston, specializing in litigation law.

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Blackstone Chess Club & Academy

250 Main St, Suite B3, Pawtucket RI - blackstonechess.com

Thursday: Monthly tournament, 4SS G/100, \$5/game, USCF
Friday: Blitz and Quick Chess (G/7-G/15), club night, casual
Saturday: Rated games, G/60-75, flexible schedule, \$5/game
Special events: Monthly Opens, Sunday Quick Play (U2000)

See the online calendar: blackstonechess.com/calendar.htm

Sun. June 17 - **Greater Providence Open:** 11am, 4SS G/45
August 17-26 - Fifth Annual **Blackstone Chess Festival**
Blitz, Festival FIDE, Amateur, and Class Championships
See <http://blackstonechess.com/festival> for festival details
Sets + clocks provided - free parking - refreshments on site

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Entry fee: \$10 (\$5 Seniors 70+ or Juniors 18/under)

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