

Chess Horizons

The Magazine of the Massachusetts Chess Association

**CARISSA
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in USCF History

Summer 2013
\$3.95



73rd New England Open

August 31- September 2 or September 1-2, 2013

Leominster, Massachusetts

\$3000 in Projected Prizes, \$2250 Guaranteed



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

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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.**

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

73rd New England Open, August 31 – September 2, or September 1-2, 2013

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Cover photo: Steve Stepak. This last month MA's own Carissa Yip became the youngest female USCF Expert on record. The staff at *Chess Horizons* offer our congratulations to Carissa on this wonderful achievement. Look for more details about Carissa's ratings climb in the Fall issue.

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The next deadline for submissions is September 1, 2013.

*All submissions are accepted and appreciated.
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 and in PGN, Word, LibreOffice, or RTF formats.*

Chess Horizons

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Opening Moves: An Editorial

by Doc Kinne

Welcome, folks, to what I hope is a regenerated *Chess Horizons*. This particular issue may be a bit rough, and I'll certainly take responsibility for that. I'm sure you'll note we've had a lot of threads to pick up after a year of non-publication.

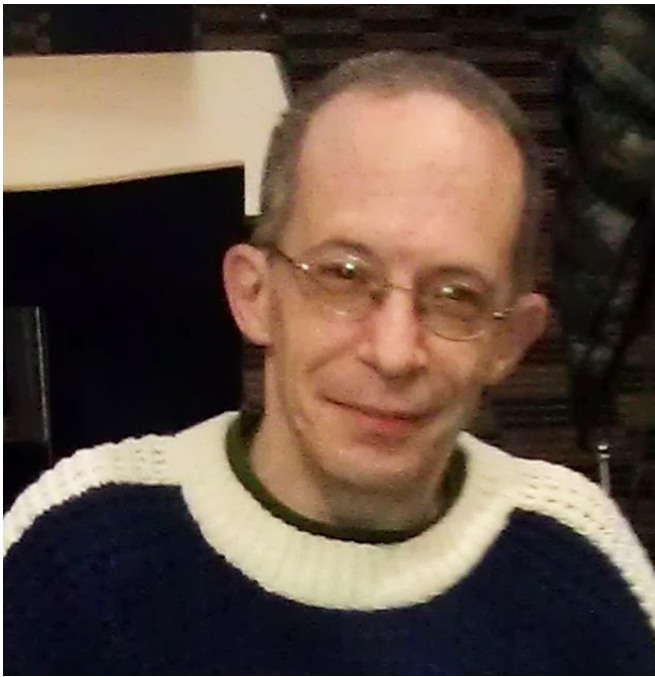
As our fans (I'm sure we have a couple!) know, we have had a hard time of late getting *Chess Horizons* actually published. My largest goal as Editor is to get us back on a regular, quarterly schedule. As such, *Chess Horizons* will be seasonably labeled now. You'll notice that you now hold the Summer issue in your hands. Next, in late September, you'll receive the Fall issue. My goal, since I'm an Astronomer in real life, is to publish *Chess Horizons* on or about the Solstices and Equinoxes, if only because those are the easiest dates for me to remember.

So, who is your new Editor? Well, as the byline above says, I'm Doc Kinne. I'm a chess player, but not a very good one. I started playing 25 years ago in central NY state, and, along with many, many others, largely quit when I went to college in 1983. After college there was the requisite need to find a job and largely find my life and career. Part of that career was a large change of jobs and living places 7 years ago. Now living in the Greater Boston area, one of the great city areas of the nation, I looked back to my childhood for some comfort and an anchor - and found myself taking up Chess again in one of its greatest historical environments. I joined the Boylston Chess Club, started playing again, and re-took up Tournament Directing. Here, also, oddly enough since the opportunities never presented themselves in NY state, I found myself drawn to chess politics and found myself on both the BCC and MACA Boards. It is said, usually falsely I find, that "those who can't do, teach." Well, in this case, those who are bad chess players - I'm currently a very high Class E - go into chess politics.

So, what can you expect to see from a new *Chess Horizons* editor? What kind of experience do I have? I have professional writing credits in the magazine trade, mainly in computer and writing publications. I have academic writing credits in the field of astronomical history. I also spent a year editing and publishing a small magazine something like *Chess Horizons* in format about 20 years ago.

I think that you'll recognize the *Chess Horizons* you'll be reading this quarter. *Chess Horizons* has been an award-winning magazine in the past, and I have a policy that, "if it's not broke, don't fix it." You can also expect some changes, of course, with a new Editor. I believe that the core of our Chess community are its players and its clubs. I'd like to start a series that concentrates on, and introduces us to, the various USCF clubs in our Commonwealth.

In this age of instant publishing via the web, what is the value of a print publication such as *Chess Horizons*? Indeed, this was



a large discussion amongst the MACA Board as we struggled to figure out what to do with *Chess Horizons* in view of its troubled times over the past two years. Print publications as a whole are going through this type of review process as they all struggle to find a niche in what is very much a new environment. I see the value of print publications to be that of both thoughtful analysis - hopefully deeper than you'll get from a web site - and an historical record. As a technologist, I find the web is still struggling with historical records. Being current is the strength of the web. Historical records, I find, are still a strength of print publications, and this is why I fought to keep *Chess Horizons* as a print publication, with an electronic (PDF) component.

With all that being said, I'd like to introduce you to the *Chess Horizons* Editorial Team as it is now:

Max Sewell will remain as our Layout and Photography Editor. Max, I think, is one of the main reasons why *Chess Horizons* has won awards, and I would be dumb to not take advantage of his experience and talents.

Nathan Smolensky will be our new Games Editor. I once harbored the thought that I'd be able to beat Nathan over the board. Now, not so much. While not a titled player (yet!), I trust Nathan to be able to edit games, and perhaps try his hand at analysis should that Muse strike him.

Bob Messenger will be on staff as Associate Editor. While a lot of this changeover in Editors was to get things off of Bob's plate, having him on staff to provide continuity with regard to procedures and recent history

will be invaluable.

I'm hoping that the most interesting addition to *Chess Horizons* will be you! In order to make any publication work, it needs writers, and this is where you come in. With *Chess Horizons*, hopefully, on a more regular schedule we can entice you folks to become writers and contribute to the future of chess writing in MA. I hope to welcome you aboard soon!

Finally, I wanted to say something with regard to what will be happening with MACA memberships with regard to *Chess Horizons* after not publishing for a bit over a year. To compensate *Chess Horizons* subscribers and MACA members receiving *Chess Horizons* for missed issues, MACA has extended their expiration dates so that they will receive four issues of *Chess Horizons* for each year of dues. The last issue that was published was the November-May 2011-12 double issue, which was published in May 2012 and counted as October-December 2011 and January-March 2012. The issues missed would have been: June 2012 (counting as April-June 2012), July-September 2012, October-December 2012, January-March 2013, and April-June 2013. In terms of the old naming system this issue, Summer 2013, will count as July-September 2013.

The new expiration dates are posted in the Membership section of the MACA website.

And away we go!

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Opening Primer

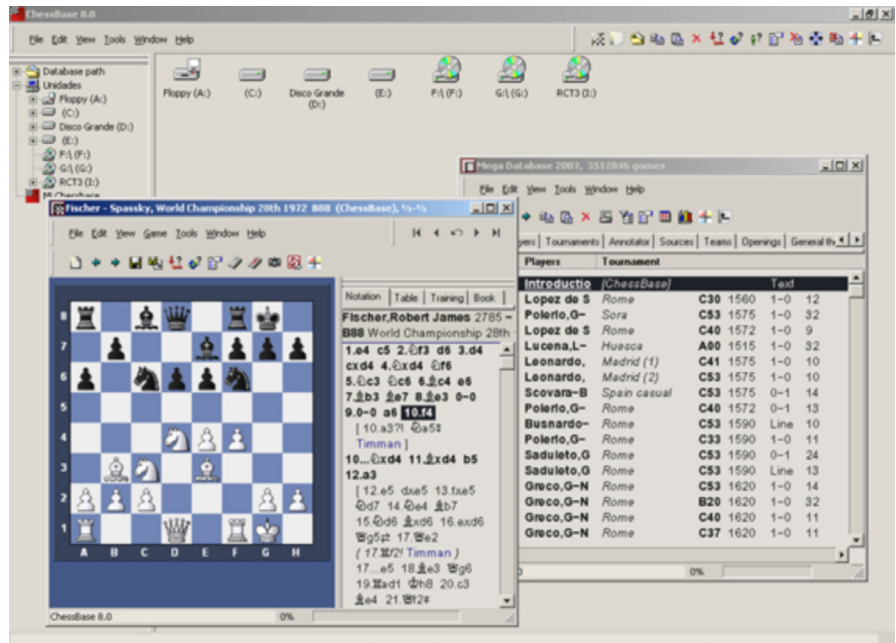
by Chuck Grau

I play my good friend Phil just about every Friday. Phil has his favorite openings, and he knows them well. He plays them against all comers. I decided I wanted to learn them. But how? There are books, but they are a pain: setting up the board, losing track of variations, forgetting what you went over - there is no way to practice against the book. There are DVDs, but they're limited to the games and lines presented. There are ChessBase opening CDs, but I find them cumbersome to use.

One over-the-counter product I found pretty good are the Everyman Ebooks. You can play through them easily on the computer, navigate through all the variations without losing your place, and you easily can go over the same line as many times as you need, to understand what's going on. Plus, you can download Everyman Ebooks and get to work right away. Nothing beats instant gratification.

Then there is ChessBase itself. Give it a good research database, and it's a great tool. I use two research databases. Primarily I use the online ChessBase database. Its comprehensive and up-to-date. I also have the Mega Database 2008. Its out-of-date, but it's not hard to find annotated games that provide the commentary missing in the more comprehensive online database. Here's a typical screenshot from ChessBase 8. I'm using ChessBase 10. ChessBase 11 is now out.

I start from a position I can expect to get to. Lately Phil's been playing the Sveshnikov Sicilian against 1. e4. He's playing the Svesh-



nikov because I used the method I'm about to explain against his old "e4" defense, the Taimanov, and came to crush it with alarming regularity. There is a particular position for the Sveshnikov, with White's Knight on d5 and his other Knight on a3, having been driven back by a6 and threatened with b5-b4. White's dark-squared bishop has been exchanged for the Knight on f6, doubling Black's pawns on the f-file. The lead Black pawn is advanced to f5 threatening to undermine White's pawn on e4 which is supporting Nd5. I run a search on this position and get back hundreds of games that reached this position in the database.

One of the nice features of ChessBase is that the search generates a tree that shows how often a particular move is made and how White scores with it. I like looking at that and following down the branches to get a feel for what's going on, but don't use it for much more.

I'm playing White, and interested in plans that White used to win, so I run the filter. I sort for games that White won where one player was rated, say, 2200 or more. Now I'm down to about 200 games. What do I do with 200 games?

The first thing I do is play through a bunch of them to get a feel of what's going on. Now if I can plow through a game in a book in 20 minutes, I'm happy. But I don't have that kind of time to invest in this. ChessBase has a great tool—Autoplay. I sort the games by White's rating, highest rated ones first. Then I select the first 25 games or so, and right click for the menu, where I select Play Games Automatically. ChessBase then starts playing the games. It lets you pick the speed and I pick a pretty fast pace. I want to see what's going on. I'll slow down later. ChessBase cranks through the games in no time and I find I focus better when I'm not the one hitting



the space bar to make the move. I'm through the games in no time. I'm surprised at the feel for the opening and the ideas I walk away from with just those sessions.

How can you systematize the data and attack it more thoroughly? That's the job for the next software tool - Chess Opening Wizard. A typical screen shot is shown below. There are several versions. I bought the Cadillac version because I could. Chess Opening Wizard displays a board on the left. On the right are three windows. One shows the moves played so far. One shows all the possible moves in the position that have been entered. One allows you to enter notes and comments. You can open a window under the board to run an engine. It comes with Shredder. I loaded Rybka 3.

Chess Opening Wizard lets you systematically explore each branch,

evaluate it, and move on to the next. It lets you save your evaluations, the engine's evaluations, and other notes. The only thing it doesn't come with are the moves themselves. That's where my database comes in. I take the ChessBase database that I've compiled, and make a PGN copy of it. Chess Opening Wizard imports PGN games and databases. I take my 200 games and import them into the Wizard. Presto! I have an instant opening book, in software optimized for studying openings.

Now that the raw moves (even variations) are imported, how do I determine what the best lines are? I don't want go through every line and evaluate it with Rybka! That's where my books come in. I now have nearly all the moves grandmasters and masters have played in this opening entered into the database so I don't even have to play through games or

set up positions or lines. All I have to do is click the move in the Wizard. DaVilla has written a brilliant book for White in the Sicilian—Dismantling the Sicilian. I go through the games and the lines in his chapter on the Sveshnikov. It takes about a week at a game or two per day. I enter in his evaluations and type in many of his observations. Now I have a roadmap for the best moves, at least according to DaVilla. I could supplement it with other books—or DVDs—or other opening works.

What do I do with this information? Well, Wizard has a training mode. You get to the position you want to train, and then you play it against the computer. Again and again and again until your get it right according to the moves, analyses, and rankings you have entered through your research. Then Wizard moves you through each variation and subvariation, and you play and play until you get it right.

Every so often Phil plays some line that no master I had found ever ventured. I set up the position, and run it through ChessBase's search position function. Sometimes I find games the first search hadn't turned up. I import them into my Wizard opening book. Then I look for commentary in secondary opening materials. If I find some, I go through it with the Wizard, and incorporate it. Then I train on it. If I don't find secondary materials, then I go through the line with the engine and annotate the lines the engine likes. Then I train on them.

This method has proven highly successful. I urge you to try it. It involves some work, but it really gives you some return on that work. And it's fun, too.

Writing for Chess Horizons

by Doc Kinne

The lifeblood of a magazine such as *Chess Horizons* is its writing. The Editor is important - sort of. The Layout & Photographic Editors make the publication beautiful. But it is the writers that make the publication what it is. It cannot exist without them.

Writing for a magazine like *Chess Horizons* is not difficult. We don't take the exclusive copyright to your article. We request a non-exclusive copyright that allows us to print your article in the print and electronic copies of Chess Horizons and the MACA web site. You retain all other rights, including the right to republish and even sell your work. *Chess Horizons* competes with other chess publications, including Chess Life, for various awards from the Chess Journalists of America. We've won several! How do you get started?

The most difficult part of the process is getting the idea. It needs to be interesting, of course. If it's interesting to you, you'll make it interesting to others. Such ideas don't have to be earth-shattering, and they can be broad. What is going on in your own club, for example? Club and players are the lifeblood of chess just as writing is the lifeblood of publications. We enjoy hearing about Magnus and Viswanathan sure, but describing how a club player did well in a local tournament works well because your readers have more of a chance of identifying with that story.

You have to sit down and type the article out. Worse, it has to be written in correct English. This writing be an iterative process.

You'll go through a few drafts for a good article.

Type out the first draft, then forget about it for a day. When you come back to it you'll probably see different ways you want to say things. Once that second draft is done, give the article to a friend and have them read it. Someone who has never seen it before will tend to do an even better job finding errors.

What font should you use? What font size? We recommend the default font for your word processor and a size of around 11 point. Write single space. I tend to write paragraphs with no indents and a space between them, but the final decision on that will be made by the Layout Editor.

How about file format? Fortunately, *Chess Horizons* accepts .doc or .docx files written out by Microsoft Word. Word doesn't need to be your word processor, but if your word processor doesn't output

in Word format, you honestly need another one. We can also read .rft format, and, if you use Linux, we can read .odt files written out by LibreOffice.

With the article done and checked, punch up your email program, attach the file to it, and send it off to "editor@masschess.org." When I get it, I'll write you back and let you know. I'll look it over and if it doesn't need much editing, I'll just end up doing it. If the edits are extensive, and we have time, I'll probably give the article back to you for your approval. It is common for articles to be very slightly different from what you submit, but it's your article so we try to make sure it retains your stamp.

I welcome questions regarding articles at editor@masschess.org, and look very forward to your ideas gracing our pages!

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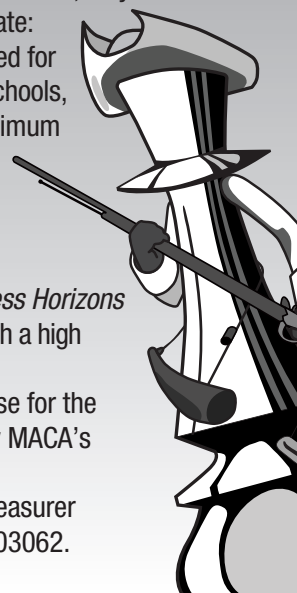
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The Times They Have A-Changed

by Ken Ho

Since the year 2000, the Boylston Chess Club has been running Bryan Clark's sparkling invention, the Paramount Tournament. This annual 10-week (one round per week) tournament has a generous first time control and offers that rare bird - the adjournment. Last year's time controls were 40/120;d5, then G/50;d5. Each player got a chance to play both White and Black against the other players in their section (normally 6 players in each).

I recently exchanged e-mail about this tournament with a friend who left the area before the year 2000, and he commented, "Double Round Robin and adjournments? Has Boylston gone back in time to some Soviet-era style tournament?"

My crotchety self thinks, "When I started playing in chess tournaments back in 1985, we didn't have no increment or delay clocks. We had to wind our BHB clocks by hand, and we liked it. And we certainly didn't have no stinkin' strong, affordable chess programs."

Well, actually some of Boylston's loaner clocks are still BHBs that need to be wound by hand. Today, I love increment/delay, and I also quite appreciate the iOS tChess Pro app pointing out gaps in my chess thought processes.

The Paramount tournament has had a couple of incidents related to time controls and adjournments, incidents which highlight how much things have changed since the 1980's.

Ed Astrachan and Greg Bodwin were playing a chaotic game and were approaching the first time control. Ed was very low on time and neither of them had been keeping score for

some moves. There was some brief uncertainty about whether Greg could, without a complete record of the moves, claim a win on time if Ed's flag were to fall (he could not).

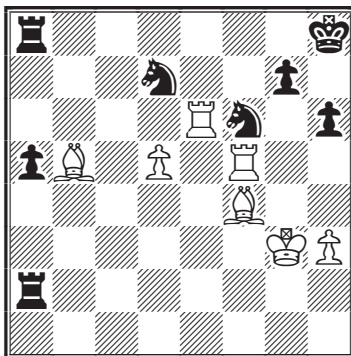
What shocked me was that after the game (which Ed won), Greg told me that he had never played in a tournament that had more than one time control (!!). How does a player get to a 1900 rating like Greg without having played a game with two or more time controls? When I started playing in tournaments, most or all had unlimited time controls, including the 1986 U.S. Open, where I resigned one game at 2:45 AM, after having played continuously for seven hours and forty-five minutes. For that game an adjournment had been offered to us but we both preferred to play on.

Affordable chess programs were quite weak back in those days. Without a strong player's assistance, assessment of adjournments could be very uncertain. One of my adjournments from the Boylston Chess Club, back when it was at it's YMCU location, was from this position:

Tim Maxwell - Ken Ho

2 April 1987

After 46. Kg3:



I had sealed 46...Ra3+, and pummeled my brain for some days but remained bewildered about whether I was worse or better. Sure, I had an extra passed pawn, but Tim had his own passed pawn and a pair of Bishops on a very open board. I eventually offered Tim a draw by phone before resumption, which he accepted. Ironically, here in today's world, iOS's tChess Pro assessed Black as worse by 0.18 pawns after 46. Kg3, but assessed the position as exactly equal after 46...Ra3+, intending repeated checks with 47. Kg2 Ra2+ 48. Kg1 Ra1+ 49. Kf2 Ra2+ 50. Kf1 Ra1+.

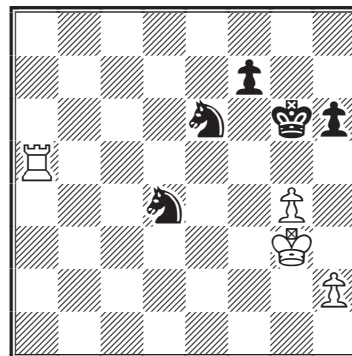
Fast forward to the present, to my game as Black against Ed Astrachan at the Paramount.

After mutual mistakes I ended up with the fragile advantage of two Knights versus a Rook, while each of us also had our respective f, g, and h pawns. Ed exchanged off his f-pawn for my g-pawn. After that, despite various maneuvering, I had trouble convincing myself that I would be able to make anything out of my minimal material edge.

Ed Astrachan - Ken Ho

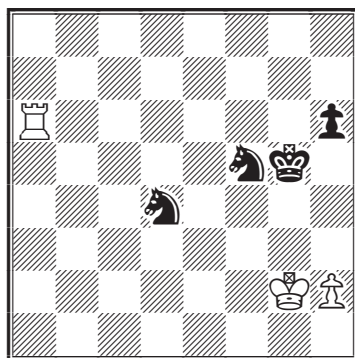
23 April 2012

After 44. Ra5:



Having come back from a material disadvantage thanks to those darn tricky Knights and their forks, I decided to violate endgame principles and make an additional pawn exchange in hopes of getting Ed's Rook close enough for a magical series of surprising and deadly Knight moves. This is the "praying to Caissa" approach.

Subsequently, after **47...Kg5**:

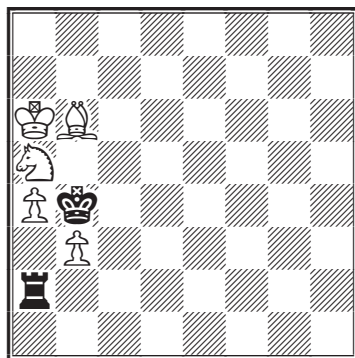


Before we reached this position, I was eminently aware that Ed could play 48. Rxh6, when we would be in the fabled Troitzky Line endgame. I'd given some thought as to whether I should try to engineer a particular board position for the possible adjournment, but hadn't come to a definitive decision about what might be optimal.

My senses were particularly attuned to Ed's possible Rook sacrifice due to this previous experience:

Ken Ho - John Fanning
12 March 1988

After 56. Na5:



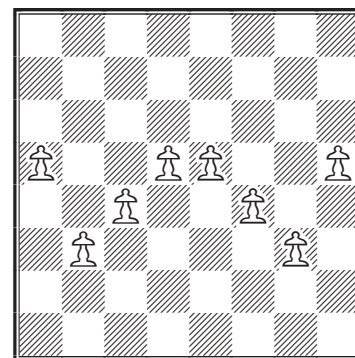
In that game I did not notice my opponent's Rook sacrifice possibility until just after having played 56. Nc4-a5. He did indeed play **56...**

Rxa4, which was of course followed by **57. bxa4 Kxa4**. I did not prove up to the task of checkmating with Bishop and Knight, and was forced to concede the draw after move 99. Okay, perhaps I should not have accepted the beer he offered me (we played at the Framingham Chess Club in the American Legion hall, where libations were available), but the sad truth is that I have yet to learn the Bishop + Knight mate technique.

Back to Ho-Astrachan. Ed did take my last pawn with 48. Rxh6. He later shared that he had had some concern that if he hadn't sacrificed the Rook, I might be able to corner his King, advance my pawn to help contribute to making mating threats, all while shielding my own pawn with my Knights against capture by his Rook. However, he had felt both that possibility, and forcing mate in the Troitzky Line scenario (in which he thought forced wins were more rare than would seem to be the case), were both rather daunting tasks.

Let me first inject two pieces of Ludek Pachman's eminently human commentary on the Troitzky Line from his swell 1983 book *Chess Endings for the Practical Player*:

"If I found myself with this type of ending in a game, I would be very worried how to win (perhaps), the technique of winning is so hard! Besides there is another condition attached: The opposing pawn must not be too far advanced."



If the white pawn has advanced beyond any of the pawn positions shown above, a win is no longer possible (Pachman's original diagram concerned itself with Black pawns, but I show the case for White pawns here, which aligns with Ho-Astrachan). Pachman continues:

"That is all the reader should know about this end-game. It is also the limit of my own knowledge. If I ever blockade my opponent's pawn behind this border and have two knights, I will try and win, but I can hardly say with certainty, if I could indeed force the win."

During the game I was aware of the existence of the X-piece Nalimov endgame table bases, which contain the optimal moves to force checkmate when a win is possible. I was pretty sure those were solved for all positions with 5 or fewer pieces.

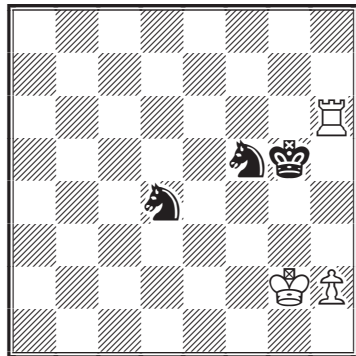
As I learned after the game, they are solved where X is 6 (the number of pieces remaining on our board after 48. Rxh6) or fewer. Even more scary (or excellent) is the fact that access to these huge databases is available on the web, for free.

As Ed shared later, he was not fully aware of the state or availability of endgame table bases, or he might

“ *A bad plan is better than none at all.* ”
— Frank Marshall

not have so lackadaisically sacrificed his Rook.

After 48. Rxb6:



So, which way to recapture the Rook? Well, improvising "like Pachman" (Kenator, you're no Ludek Pachman. -Sam Lloyd Bentsen), I thought:

- 1) I want to maintain my Knights' current restraint of the Black King.
- 2) The farther back I can restrain the pawn the better.

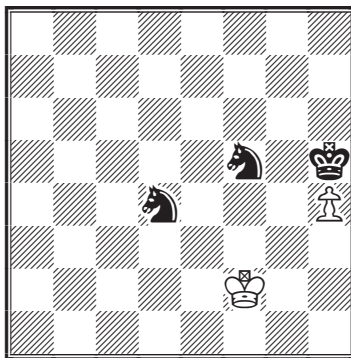
I considered that after 48...Nxh6 49. h4+ Kg4 50. h5, I might run into difficulties coordinating getting my h6 Knight back while not letting Black's pawn grow up "too soon." I was aware that it might be possible to allow the pawn to queen, yet checkmate White on the next move.

So I played 48...Kxh6?, after which the Nalimov table bases coldly tell me that it's now checkmate in the nightmarishly extended 93 moves.

After 48...Nxh6, it's checkmate in "a mere" 42 moves. Now, 42 still seems like quite a lot of moves. However, after 48...Nxh6, 49. h4+ would seem to be the most natural move, inasmuch as if Black can get rid of that pawn, he should get at least a draw. But "Mr. Nalimov" would tell you that it's now checkmate in the significantly fewer 31(!) moves. You darn well better check any complacency about the effectiveness of natural-looking moves at the door!

While investigating endgame table bases, I was reminded that Lewis Stiller had done early work on the 5-piece ones. I remember him telling me, back in the later 1980's, that it was difficult to get computing time for such analysis on that era's super computers.

Back to the game. After 48...Kxh6 49. h4 (Unlike after 48...Nxh6, this pawn move does not shorten the 93 move checkmate.)



49...Kh5 50. Kf2 (The most natural-looking and best move; the horrible-looking 50. Kh1 and 50. Kh2 both "rightly" lose in the dramatically fewer 33 moves.)

I now considered that I had probably made a mistake with my earlier 48...Kxh6, since I saw that at this time I want my Knight in front of the pawn. Unfortunately, it looked like getting the Knight there would cost more critical moves. So I expected that I was probably faced with a very tight path to force checkmate, and I may have ruined my chances of doing so before Ed could claim a draw under the 50-move rule.

So, as I subsequently shared with Ed, having concluded after some thought that I had neither the motivation nor the time to try to memorize relevant Nalimov variations for an adjournment, I played the thunderingly decisive, pacifisti-

cally unambitious, and blazingly practical 50...Nxb4 to force the draw.

With the benefit of hindsight, the extra half-point might only have been within my reach had we gone down the 48...Nxh6 49. h4+ line and then adjourned. Even then, I would have had to have been able to gather common threads from the myriad remaining Nalimov possibilities. Ed would have been obliged to presume that I would have memorized the longest checkmate path, so he might gamble and choose one or more of the non-optimal paths in hopes that I wouldn't know or find the checkmate there.

The times, they have indeed a-changed. If you journey back in time to join us for double Round Robins and adjournments at the Boylston Chess Club's Paramount tournament, don't forget to pack the present day's advancements in endgame theory.

“

A player can sometimes afford the luxury of an inaccurate move, or even a definite error, in the opening or middlegame without necessarily obtaining a lost position. In the endgame ... an error can be decisive, and we are rarely presented with a second chance.

—Paul Keres

”

Games from the 81st Mass Open

by IM James Rizzitano

The 81st MA Open - the Commonwealth Championship - was held in late May of 2012. Here is a selection of award-winning games from that championship annotated by International Master James Rizzitano.

Round 3, Under 1800 Section

White: V. Mayorskiy

Black: T. Provost

[C87] Ruy Lopez

Under 1800 Section

The U1800 section had 17 entries - the winning game stood out because of White's consistent utilization of the d5-square by his pieces. The endgame also demonstrates the importance of bringing the king into the game.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 O-O 7. c3 b5 8. Bc2 d6 9. d4 Bg4 10. d5 Nb8 11. Nbd2 c6 12. dxc6 Nxc6 13. h3 Bxf3 14. Nxf3 Re8 15. Bg5 h6 16. Bxf6 Bxf6 17. Bb3 Qc7 18. Qd5 Rf8 19. Red1 Rad8 20. a4 Ne7 21. Qd3 bxa4 22. Rxa4 a5 23. Bd5 Qb6 24. b4 axb4 25. cxb4 Nxd5 26. Qxd5 Be7 27. Rb1 Rc8 28. b5 Rc2 29. Nd2 Rc5 30. Qd3 Rb8 31. Nc4 Qd8 32. Ne3 Qd7 33. Rab4 Bd8 34. b6 Rb7 35. Nc4 Be7 36. Qa3 f6 37. Na5 Rxa5 38. Qxa5 d5 39. R4b2 d4 40. Qd5+ Qxd5 41. exd5 Kf7 42. Rc2 Bd8 43. Rc6 Ke7 44. Kf1 Kd7 45. Ke2 Ke7 46. Kd3 Kd7 47. Kc4 1-0

White: L. Cai

Black: R. Walton

[E30] Nimzo-Indian Defense

Under 1600 Section

The U1600 section had only 2

entries - the winning game demonstrated several key Nimzo-Indian themes involving the exploitation of White's doubled c-pawns and the advantage of a knight over a bishop in a blocked position. Black played very well for this section.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Bg5 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 O-O 6. Nf3 d6 7. e3 Nbd7 8. Bd3 h6 9. Bh4 b6 10. O-O Bb7 11. Re1 Qc8 12. Rc1 c5 13. Bg3 Ne8 14. a3 Ndf6 15. a4 Qd7 16. Bc2 Nc7 17. Bb3 Rfd8 18. Bh4 Nce8 19. Bc2 Rab8 20. e4 Rdc8 21. e5 Nh7 22. Qd3 g6 23. Red1 Ng7 24. dxc5 Rxc5 25. exd6 Nf5 26. Bg3 Nxc3 27. fxc3 Bxf3 28. gxf3 Rbc8 29. Bb3 a5 30. Qe3 h5 31. Rd2 Nf6 32. Qf4 Ne8 33. Rcd1 Rd8 34. Rd3 Rc6 35. R3d2 Rxd6 36. Rxd6 Nxd6 37. Qe5 Qc7 38. Kg2 Qc5 39. Qe2 Rc8 40. Rd4 Nf5 41. Rd3 Qa3 42. Qc2 Qc5 43. Qe2 Kg7 44. Rd7 Rc7 45. Qxe6 Rxd7 46. Qxd7 Ne3+ 47. Kh1 Nf5 48. Qd1 Qf2 49. Qg1 Qxf3+ 50. Qg2 Qxc3 51. Bc2 Ne3 52. Qe2 Nxc2 53. Kg2 Ne3+ 54. Kh1 Qc1+ 55. Qf1 Qxf1# 0-1

White: T. Keegan

Black: C. McCormick

[C14] French Defense

U2000 Section

The U2000 section had 30 entries - the winning game stood out because of White's courageous piece sacrifice on move 10. Despite some inaccuracies, this game illustrates some important sacrificial ideas in the French Defense. White's play in this game is very impressive.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Be7



81st Mass Open Champion GM Alexander Ivanov

This is the Classical Variation - Black breaks the pin on the f6-knight and prepares to castle kingside.

5. e5 Nfd7 6. Bxe7 Qxe7 7. f4 O-O 8. Bd3 c5 9. Nf3 Nc6

Black usually plays 9... f6 here.

10. Bxh7+ Kxh7 11. Ng5+ Kg6

Black must give up his queen to avoid mate after 11... Kg8 12. Qh5

12. Qd3+ f5

Forced in view of 12... Kh5 13. Qh3+ Kg6 14. Qh7#

13. exf6+

This capture should lead to a draw. Alternatives:

a) 13. Qh3 Nf6 14. exf6 gxf6.

Note how the black queen is defending the h7-square. 15. Nf3 Bd7 16.

O-O-O Rh8 17. Qg3+ Kf7, with roughly level chances.

b) 13. Qg3 cxd4 14. Nxe6+ Kh6 15. Ng5 Qe8 16. Nxd5 Qh5, and the battle rages on.

13... Kxf6 14. Nh7+ Kf7 15. Ng5+ Ke8

Black should repeat the position with 15... Kf6 when White has nothing better than 16. Nh7+ Kf7 17. Ng5+

with a draw by perpetual check.

16. Qg6+ Rf7

Forced as 16... Kd8 17. Nxe6+ Qxe6+ 18. Qxe6 Re8 19. Qxe8+ Kxe8 20. Nxd5 gives White a decisive material advantage.

17. Nb5 Nd8 18. Nc7+ Kf8 19. Qh7 Qd6

No relief is offered by 19... Qf6 20. Qh8+ Ke7 21. Nxf7 Nxf7 (21... Kxf7 22. Qe8#) 22. Qe8+ Kd6 23. Nxa8 and White wins.

20. Qh8+ Ke7 21. Qe8+ Kf6 22. Qxd8+ Kg6 23. Nxf7 Kxf7 24. Nxa8 Qc6 25. Qc7 Qa4 26. Qxc8 Qxc2 27. Qxd7+ Kf8 28. O-O 1-0

White: J. Curdo

Black: GM A. Ivanov

**[A02] Bird's Opening
Open Section**

The 81st Massachusetts Open Most Interesting Game contest attracted 64 entries. I tried to select games that demonstrated strong play with consideration given to the strength of the players within the section. The Open section had 10 entries - the winning game stood out because of Black's high-octane play. The middlegame play is very instructive - White makes a slight inaccuracy in the opening and Black is able to develop and maintain a strong initiative despite the exchange of queens.

1. e3 g6 2. f4 Bg7

We have a Bird's Opening by transposition - Black's move-order is designed to inhibit White from employing a queenside fianchetto.

3. Nf3 d6 4. Be2 e5 5. fxe5 dxe5 6. Nc3 Ne7 7. O-O O-O 8. e4

White could consider unraveling his queenside by playing 8. b3 Nf5 9. Ba3 Re8 10. e4 Nd6 11. Qel with equal chances.

8... Nbc6 9. Bc4 Na5 10. Bb3

White can maintain equality by

playing 10. Be2 to retain his light-squared bishop.

10... Nxb3 11. axb3 f5

Black has the bishop pair and a comfortable position.

12. Qe2 Nc6 13. exf5 Nd4

A nice intermezzo to disrupt White's development.

14. Nxd4 exd4 15. Qc4+ Kh8 16. f6

Relatively best is 16. Ne4 gxf5 17. Nc5 Qd6, with a slight edge for Black thanks to his potent pair of bishops.

16... Rxf6 17. Ne4 Be6 18. Qe2 d3

Black's play is very energetic - he opens lines for his pieces and prevents White from developing his dark-squared bishop.

19. Qxd3 Qxd3 20. cxd3 Rff8

The most precise move - Black prepares ...Bd4+ to keep the white king bottled up in the corner. Note that the black initiative has not been diminished by the exchange of queens.

21. Re1 Bd4+ 22. Kh1 Bxb3

Black recovers his sacrificed pawn - note that White's dark-squared bishop has no prospects for entering the game.

23. Ra3 Bd5 24. b4 Rae8

White's resignation may appear slightly premature, but he is unable to save his weak pawns after 24... Rae8

25. h3 Rf4 26. Kh2 Bxe4 27. dxe4

27. Rxe4 Rxe4 28. dxe4 Rf1 wins a piece.

27... Rfxe4 28. Rf1 Re1 29.

Raf3 Rxf1 30. Rxf1 Re4

And Black has an extra pawn and a decisive positional advantage. Black's play in this game makes a very powerful impression.

0-1

White: J. Nicholas

Black: J. Elmore

**[C10] French Defense
Under 2200 Section**

The U2200 section had only 5 entries - the winning game stood out because White was able to obtain a decisive advantage by playing natural developing moves. Black carelessly allowed his queen to become trapped.

1. e4 e6 2. Nf3 d5

Black could switch gears and opt for a Sicilian Defense with 2... c5

3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bd7 5. d4 Bc6 6. Bd3 Bxe4

Black's opening is solid, however, he loses time by exchanging a bishop which has moved three times for a knight which has only moved twice. The popular alternative is 6... Nd7

7. Bxe4 c6 8. O-O Nf6 9. Bd3 Nbd7 10. Bf4 Be7 11. c4

White utilizes his slight space advantage to establish control over the central d5-square.

11... O-O 12. Re1 Qb6 13. Qc2

A good square for the queen - White applies pressure along the b1-h7 diagonal.

13. ... Rac8 14. Rac1 Rfd8

The decisive error - Black must leave the d8-square free for his queen.

15. c5 Qa5 16. b4 Qxb4

The b-pawn was poisoned - the only chance was 16... Qa3 17. Rb1 b5 18. Rb3 Qa4 19. Bd2 Qa6 20. Ra1 Qb7 21. a4 a6 22. Rba3 with a clear edge for White because his space advantage and pressure along the a-file outweigh Black's control over the d5-square.

17. Bd2 Qa3 18. Re3 Nf8 19. Bc4

White wins the queen for a rook - the alternative 19. Bxh7+ N8xh7 20. Rxa3 was even stronger.

1-0

“

Chess is a meritocracy.

—Lawrence Day

”

Vigorito on Chess

by IM David Vigorito

Nowadays I do not get to play as many tournaments as I used, so heading into the 2012 Mass Open I decided to play every game out to the end without worrying too much about results. The tournament was very strange for me, as I felt I played quite well, but I finished with a rather dismal 3.5-2.5 score. Looking back at the games, I felt I was very close to getting something more like 5.5-.5, but my opponents also played well and my little mistakes proved to be costly.

After a quick first round win, I ended up in a 6 hour marathon against FM Nelson Castaneda.

FM N.Castaneda (2385)

IM D.Vigorito (2557)

MA Open, 2012

[A04] Reti Opening

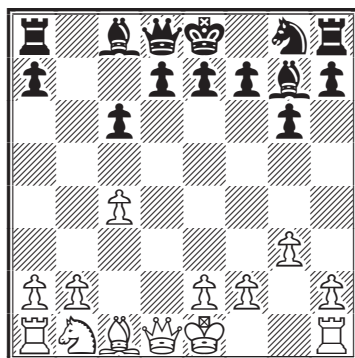
1.c4

Already a surprise. I thought Nelson was just a 1.e4 player, but lately I have seen him mixing it up a bit. Recently he played 1.d4 against me too.

1...g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.g3 c5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Nxc6

This is rather unusual, but not necessarily bad.

6...bxc6 7.Bg2



7...Rb8

This is not a bad move, but I hindsight I would have preferred 7...Nf6.

8.0-0!? Nf6

And so I changed my mind... Black cannot play 8...Bxb2?? 9.Bxb2 Rxb2 10.Qd4, and I decided against 8...Rxb2 9.Bxb2 Bxb2 10.Nd2 Bxa1 11.Qxa1 Nf6 12.Ne4 0-0 13.Nxf6+ exf6 14.Rd1 when White has some compensation. I decided that this would be too difficult to try to win.

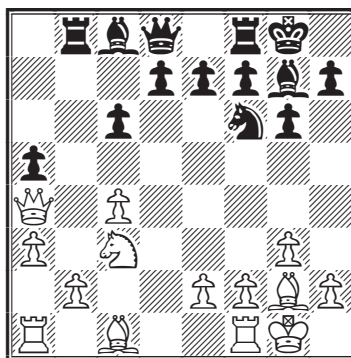
This position can be compared to the known line 1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Rb1 0-0 8.Rxb7 Bxb7 9.Bxb7 Nd7 10.Bxa8 Qxa8 11.Nf3 Ne5 12.0-0 Nxf3+13.exf3. In the game however, White has the extra move c2-c4, and thus Black will have trouble getting in ...d5. Black is ok, I have no doubt, but winning the position is another matter.

9.Nc3 0-0 10.Qa4

Now this is a bit annoying. I came up with an idea to break the chains.

10...a5 11.a3

Now is Black plays 11...c5, the b5-square is forever weak.



11...d5!?



Photo: Tony Cortizas Jr.

Black offers a pawn for activity.

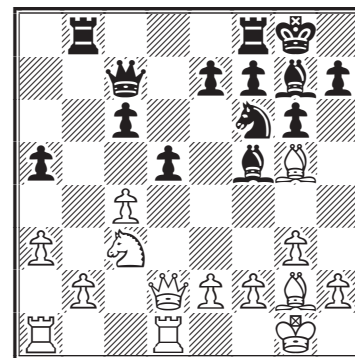
12.Rd1

And White declines. If 12.Qxc6 Bd7 (12...d4!?) 13.Qa6 dxc4 14.Qxc4 Qc8!?! gives decent play.

12...Bd7 13.Qc2 Qc7!

Black uses the pin along the c-file to fight for the initiative.

14.Bg5 Bf5 15.Qd2



15...d4

It was difficult to resist this move, but 15...dxc4! was better, when Black is a bit better.

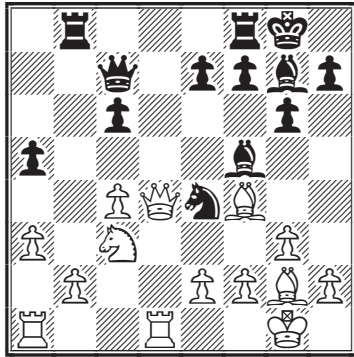
16.Qxd4 Ne4

After 16...Nd5 17.Nxd5 cxd5 18.Qxd5 Bxb2 Black is doing well, but 17.Qh4 is ok for White.

Also 16...Rxb2 17.Bf4 with the idea Be5 is level.

17.Bf4

Forced.



17...e5

I play for maximum tension.

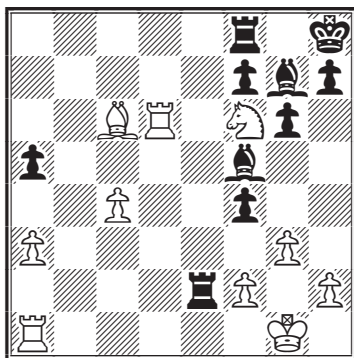
Let's look at the alternatives:

a) 17...Bxd4 18.Bxc7 Bxf2+ 19.Kf1 Nxc3 20.Bxb8 (20.bxc3=) 20...Nxd1 21.Rxd1 (not 21.Bc7 Bc2!-+) 21...Rxb8 22.Kxf2 Rxb2 23.Bxc6 is equal, and Black has no chance to play for a win.

b) 17...Nxc3 was my original intention, but then I saw 18.Qxg7+! Kxg7 19.Bxc7 Nxd1 20.Bxb8 (or 20.Rxd1 Ra8 21.c5 with compensation) 20...Rxb8 21.Rxd1 Rxb2 22.Bxc6 Rxe2 23.Rc1 is

c) 17...Qxf4!? 18.gxf4 (Black also has compensation after 18.Qxg7+ Kxg7 19.gxf4 Nxc3 20.bxc3 Rfc8) 18...Bxd4 19.Rxd4 Nxc3 20.bxc3 Rfc8 with enough for a pawn.

18.Nxe4 exf4 19.Nf6+ Kh8
20.Qd6 Qxd6 21.Rxd6 Rxb2
22.Bxc6 Rxe2



Black is doing pretty well with

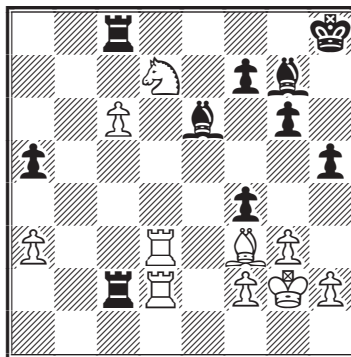
the bishop pair. But I was getting very low on time.

23.Rad1 Be6?!

23...Ra2

24.Nd7 Rd8 25.Bf3 Rc2 26.c5 h5 27.c6 Rc3

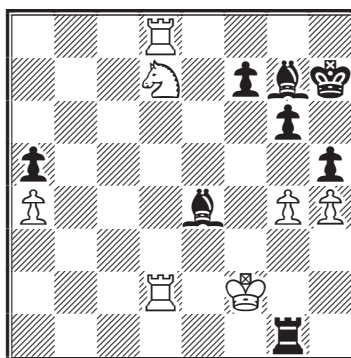
I was under a minute now and there were still 13 moves to be made to reach time control. White had 4 minutes. I was glad to get rid of the c-pawn.



30...R2xc6! 31.Bxc6 Rxc6
32.Nb8 Rc4 33.Rd8+ Kh7 34.Nd7 Bf5 35.h4 Rc3

It is important not to rush with ...fxg3, despite the natural urge to make forcing move to reach the time control.

36.a4 Be4+ 37.Kh2 fxg3+
38.fxg3 Rc1 39.g4 Rh1+
39...hxg4-+
40.Kg3 Rg1+ 41.Kf2



Time control reached, and Black is winning. I thought the win was going to be easy now, but now

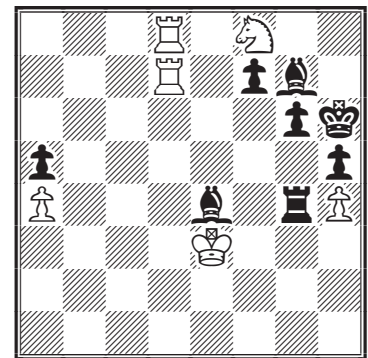
comes a stupid "finesse".

41...Rg2+?

It is amazing how common it is to make a mistake on move 41. Usually this happens because one is still moving quickly, but I had settled down and gave this some thought. The simple 41...Rxc4 would win, as the trick White used in the game would not work: 42.Nf8+ Kh6 43.R2d7 Bf6 44.Rxf7 Bxh4+!-+ is check and with the h4-pawn gone, Black can then take the on d8.

42.Ke3 Rxc4 43.Nf8+ Kh6
44.R2d7

White has some counterplay and nothing is easy now.



44...Rhx4

If 44...Bf6 45.Rxf7! Bxh4 (45... Bxd8?? 46.Rh7# is the point!) 46.Rdd7

45.Rxf7 Bc2

I have to avoid more of Nelson's dirty tricks. If 45...Bf5? 46.Rxf5 gxf5 47.Rd6+ Kg5? 48.Rg6# 46.Rf4 Rh3+

Also 46...Rxf4 47.Kxf4 Bxa4 48.Ne6 did not seem easy.

47.Kd2 Be5

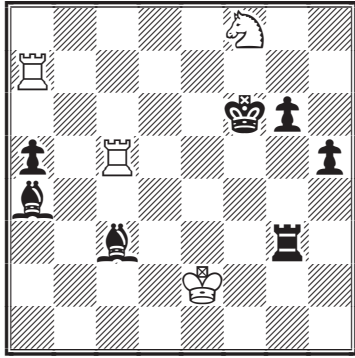
It was probably a better try to play 47...Bf5! with the idea 48.Rxf5 Bc3+

48.Rf7 Bxa4?!

48...Bf5 was still good for Black. Now my opponent plays very accurately.

49.Rh7+ Kg5 50.Rd5 Kf6

51.Ra7 Bc3+ 52.Ke2 Rg3 53.Rc5!



This “nothing move” is very annoying. It was almost midnight and I felt it all slipping away. It dawned on me that I could still lose this game.

53...Bb4

I had trouble finding a move, but this is objectively as good as anything else.

54.Nh7+ Ke6 55.Ng5+ Rxc5

This was more lucky than anything else. I had seen that 55...Kf6 56.Rf7# was not possible, but only now I realized that 55...Kd6 56.Ne4+ Ke6 57.Ra6+ would win for White. Fortunately Black can lose a second exchange and draw easily because White has no pawns.

56.Rxc5 Kf6 57.Rd5 Bb3

58.Ra6+ Kg7 59.Raxa5

½-½

After this game I made the drive home and went to bed around 1am. Before I knew it I was back at the tournament and I had another 6 hour game. I botched it again as some strange double blindness came over my opponent and me in a queen ending, as I missed a chance to simply force the queens off and get an easily won king and pawn ending. So, another half point in yet another 6 hour game. Then I had a yet another 6 hour game. Then I had a quick lunch and found myself facing 8th Grade National Champion,

NM Mika Brattain. It took me over 5 hours to overcome my student, which is always an uncomfortable matchup. The next morning, I faced 16 year old M.I.T. student Robert Perez, who had shot up from 2200 to 2500 very quickly.

D.Vigorito (2557)

R.Perez (2519)

MA Open, 2012

[D85] Grünfeld

All that I knew of Perez was that he was young, tactical, and fast. I thought I would try to put him off of his Grünfeld, but he was not to be bothered by my move order.

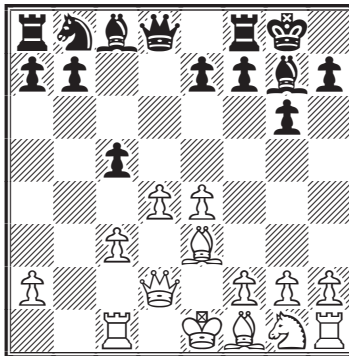
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4

I acquiesce. No Anti-Grünfeld today.

3...g6 4.cxd5

And here I thought for a long time. Which line to play today?

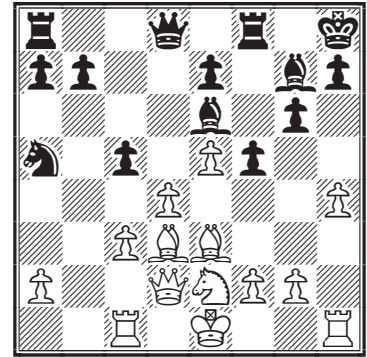
4...Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Be3 c5 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Rc1



This is a normal position, although it was a line that I had never played before. My opponent came up with a novelty in a position that has been seen hundreds of times. This may not be the best move, but it is not clearly bad. I thought for a long time. I based my play on my assessment of the position after my 14th move.

10.Bc4+ Kh8 11.e5 Nc6 12.Ne2

Instead 12.Nf3 f4! 13.Bxf4 Bg4 would give Black good counterplay.
12...Na5 13.Bd3 Be6 14.h4!



White’s plan is pretty straightforward. My opponent seemed calm enough but after the game he confessed that he was terrified at this point.

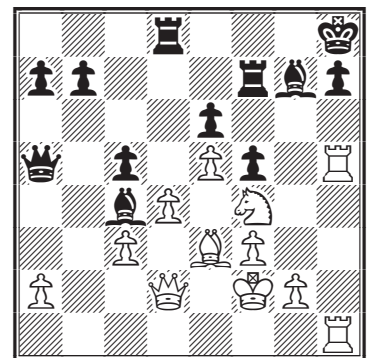
14...Nc4

After a long think.

15.Bxc4 Bxc4 16.h5 gxh5

This was the point of Black’s play. There was no real alternative however. White’s attack is not so easy.

17.Nf4 Rf7 18.Rxh5 e6 19.f3 Qa5 20.Kf2 Rd8 21.Rch1



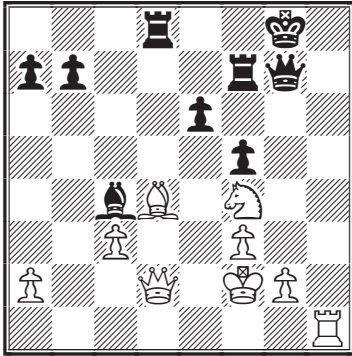
21...Kg8!

This move occurred to me too while my opponent was thinking. I have always liked this kind of move – Black dodges the check before it comes. I had half-expected 21...Bf8 22.Ng6+ Kg8 23.Nxf8 Rxf8 24.Bh6 with a winning attack, for example 24...Re8 25.Qg5+ Kh8

26.Bg7+ Rxc7 27.Rxc7+ Rxc7
28.Qf6+ Kg8 29.Qg6+ Kf8 30.Rxc7
with a quick mate.

22.Rxc7 23.Bxc7 Qxe5?

This too, I had expected, and I replied rather quickly. Objectively better was 23...Qxa2, but White still keeps pressure in the ending.



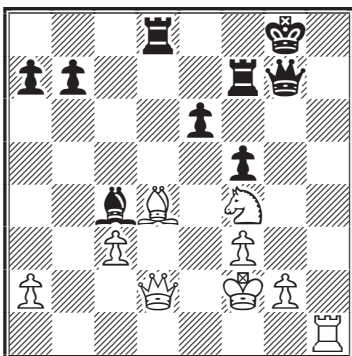
24.Rxc7+

As planned, but there were two better moves:

a) 24.Nxe6 is the human way to win. If 24...Bxe6? (24...Rxd4 25.Nxd4+- is a normal win)

b) With this theme in mind, there is the engine's 24.Nd3! when humans would just see 24...Rxd4 and reject it, but the quiet killer 25.Qg5! leads to mate.

24...Qxc7



25.Nxe6?

Another mistake, based on a hallucination. The alternatives:

a) 25.Qe3 was what I had planned on playing. After 25...e5

(25...Rxd4 26.cxd4 is just good for White) 26.Bxe5 Re7 (26...Re8? 27.Bxc7 Rxe3 28.Bd4 wins) 27.Bxc7 Rxe3 28.Kxe3 Kxc7 29.a3
b) 25.Rh3! was shown to me by Robert after the games. I should have seen this as I saw the idea. 25...e5 (25...Rxd4 26.cxd4+-) 26.Rg3 (26.Nh5! is even better 26...Qg6 27.Rg3 Qxc7+ 28.Nxc7 f4 29.Nh5 exd4 30.cxd4+-) 26...Qxc7+ 27.Kxc7 exd4 28.cxd4± Perez.

If 25...Rxd4 26.Nxd4 f4 27.Rh3 was what I had seen. I thought that Black could not take the knight.

26.Rh8+

Winning, I had thought. Drawing was the truth, but I was lucky it was not losing.

26...Qxc7 27.Qg5+ Rg7

I had overlooked that this shut my bishops attack on h8. I am lucky I have a draw.

28.Qxd8+ Kh7 29.Qh4+ Kg8
½-½

This third near-miss left me in a terrible position. Had I won this game, I would have been tied with GM Alexander Ivanov at 4/5 and we would have played in the last round. In the event that we drew, only Denys Shmelov could catch us if he won his last game with Black. By failing to win this last game, not only had I not knocked out Perez, but now I would still face Ivanov and I would be a half a point back. So now I would have to win, and I would have Black (my third consecutive MA Open facing Alex with Black!). I actually managed to seize the initiative very quickly, but Ivanov defended well, and then with 10 minutes to 3, I managed to think for six minutes to hang a piece outright on move 27... So I managed to hose Perez and Shmelov out of a possible tie for first, and so Alexander Ivanov deservedly won the state championship yet again!

In Memoriam

Robert J. McConnell Jr. (1923-2008)

This notice of Mr. McConnell's passing was sent to us recently. Robert J. McConnell Jr., a former USCF member from Whitinsville, Massachusetts, formerly of Northbridge, Mass., died June 2, 2008 in St. Camillus Nursing Center in Whitinsville. He was 84. Mr. McConnell was born Dec. 12, 1923 in Salem, Mass., the son of Robert J. McConnell Sr. and Sadie (Wakefield) McConnell. He attended public schools in Northbridge and graduated from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific theater. A certified public accountant, Mr. McConnell was a partner at the Singer & Lusardi accounting firm in Worcester, Mass. for many years, retiring in 2005. Active in over-the-board chess two decades ago, he competed in tournaments at the Worcester Chess Club in the early 1990s and participated in events at the former Milford (Mass.) Regional Chess Club in the mid-1990s. He was also a correspondence player. In addition to chess, Mr. McConnell enjoyed woodworking and playing the piano. His wife of 55 years, Priscilla "Sis" (Leonard) McConnell, died in 2002. Burial was in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Whitinsville.

Chess Masters in Guangzhou

by Max Chia-hsin Lu

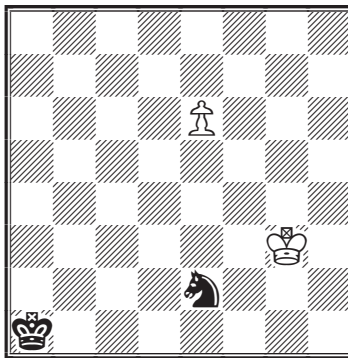
I had the honor of visiting Guangzhou, China over the summer. There I met two of my Chinese chess friends. One of them was Grandmaster Li Shilong and his coach Huang Min Ju. We went out to dinner and had a nice conversation about chess.

I first met Shilong at the Thailand Open a few years ago. He was among the first Grandmasters that I met in my chess career and he taught me some basic concepts in openings. Shilong is impressive not only for his chess ability, but because he has overcome significant adversity. He started having serious back pain from Ankylosing Spondylitis before pursuing his GM norms and could not sit down in a place for extended periods of time without being in severe pain. However, Shilong did not despair, and continued his chess career with Mr. Huang's encouragement. Although it has been a long and difficult journey to become a Grandmaster, Shilong is humble and says that without Mr. Huang, he would never be as accomplished as he is today.

In the meeting, I thought that if he shared some thoughts of how he considers moves, it would really help me a lot. One technique that he taught me is listing the moves that you have available to you and deciding which one is the best one. I believe that most people do this when they are playing chess, however I didn't realize that chess could be a multiple choice problem as well. Using the process of elimination, we can quickly eliminate choices that are illogical, or simply bad, for

our position. After sorting through those moves, we can carefully consider the important moves that are left over.

Another technique that Shilong talked to me about was necessary moves. For example, if you are participating in a Queen exchange, the only reasonable move would be to recapture the Queen, unless there is a mating combination or an in-between move. Instead of thinking about the next forty moves after you take the Queen, you can save an invaluable resource: time. By taking the Queen and then thinking, you are allowed to use some of his time to consider some moves that might be useful to you.



White to move

Imagine that you were playing White in the position above. Would you like to pursue a win, or settle for a draw? That is the first question that most players think of if presented with this position. Imagine also that you are under time pressure. In the position above, there are 7 squares where White's King can move. If there are so many possibilities that you have to calculate, it is

easy to be distracted. In fact, in this position, there is only one move that guarantees a victory and the other six can only hold a draw.

39...Ne2+ 40. Kh2! This move simply wins because the Knight has no hope to catch up to the e6 pawn there are no checks or forks available to take the pawn

If White plays, 40. Kf3? this move simply loses the pawn 40...Nd4+ 41. Ke4 Nxe6

40. Kf2? also draws because of an unexpected Knight check! 40...Nc3 41. e7 Ne4+ 42. Ke3 Nf6.

40. Kg4? Nc3 41. e7 Ne4 42. e8(Q) Nf6+ knight fork simply wins the Queen making the game drawn after 43. Kf5 Nxe8.

40. Kh3? another Knight fork simply picks off the pawn 40...Nf4+ 41. Kg4 Nxe6.

40. Kh4? another Knight fork simply picks off the pawn 40...Nf4 41. e7 Ng6+ 42. Kg5 Nxe7.

40. Kg2? another Knight fork simply picks off the pawn 40...Nf4+ 41. Kf3 Nxe6.

This example clearly shows the importance of calculating every single possible variation. Shilong said that there are 3 main kinds of calculation. One is similar to a stick; it is straightforward up until the very end where it splits. Another is more like a branch; it might have 3 or 4 variations split in the middle. The third and the most difficult is the forest, which is the most complicated having each branch split off in to different branches that all need calculation in depth. He recommended that players first start the position by identifying what kind of

position it is and purposing candidate moves. After the initial process of identifying the candidate moves, we can evaluate each in depth and eventually utilize one to our advantage.

Another skill that Shilong taught me was about right and wrong moves. He says that there are several ways to approach a position. If you consider a move the right move in this position, you should start out by presenting the best moves for the opponent and seeing if it works. If you consider a move the wrong move, try simple moves in the opponent's position and then try hard moves. This way, you will not have to calculate as much and can approach the same results. A wrong move will be disproved, and the right move may be chosen if there are no complexities involving it.

During our dinner trip, we were able to have a cultural exchange among the chess players and discuss the similarities and differences in chess in our countries. In the United States and Taiwan alike, most chess players are not professionals. It is part of our recreation and a hobby that interests us. However, in China, chess players take the game very seriously from an early age. Ever since the early age of 12, Shilong entered the Guangzhou Chess School, which was a life changing experience for him. His coach, Mr. Huang, started teaching him the basics of chess and he was immediately hooked. "I recall Shilong practicing chess problems while the other kids were merely playing in the playground. His determination and stubbornness

has enabled him to achieve extraordinary feats." Shilong still respects his teacher and they have been, and will be, lifelong friends. Shilong serves as an example among the brothers and sisters of the Guangzhou Chess School and is thinking of becoming a coach to share his experiences sometime soon in his life.

I felt like Shilong was a great example for me because not only was he one of the best chess players I have met so far, he was also very good at overcoming the many difficulties that faced him. He taught me about a lot of thinking in chess that I was rarely exposed to and it was a great learning experience. Seeing him and his coach was one of the most interesting encounters in my chess career so far.

MACA Gains Its 2013-2014 Board!

by Richard "Doc" Kinne

On 27 May at the 82nd Mass Open held in Marlboro, MA, a new Board of Directors were elected and installed. Here are the details.

Directors:

George M. Mirijanian of Fitchburg	89 votes
Steven J. Frymer of Lexington	85 votes
Richard C. "Doc" Kinne of Somerville	85 votes
Walter A. Driscoll III of Cambridge	80 votes
Marc Turgeon of Plymouth	71 votes
Stephen A. Dann of Worcester	66 votes
Robert E. King of Plymouth	54 votes
Kenneth P. Belt of Concord	52 votes

Clerk: Nicholas Sterling of Needham 95 votes

Treasurer: Bob Messenger of Nashua, NH 103 votes

Vice President: John Sadoff of Somerville 59 votes

President: Nathan Smolensky of Brookline 73 votes

This election was one of the most exciting in recent history since the offices of President and Vice President were heavily contested. In its June Board Meeting Committee Chairs and Coordinators were selected. The following are the MACA Committees as they are currently set up.

Budget Committee: Chair Bob Messenger, Steve Frymer.

Tournament Committee: Chair Bob Messenger, George Mirijanian.

Scholastic Committee: Chair Steve Frymer.

Education Committee: Chair Nicholas Sterling, Stephen Dann, John Sadoff.

Bylaws Committee: Chair Richard "Doc" Kinne, Bob Messenger, Ken Belt.

The Publications Committee was disbanded now that *Chess Horizons* has an Editor.

The following Coordinators were also selected:

Membership Secretary: Bob Messenger.

Budget Committee Chair: Bob Messenger.

Prison Chess Coordinator: Steve Frymer.

Web Coordinator: Nicholas Sterling.

Education Committee Chair: Nicholas Sterling.

LMCF Coordinator: Steve Frymer.

Scholastic Committee Coordinator: Steve Frymer.

Club Coordinator: Robert King

Parliamentarian: Richard "Doc" Kinne

Assistant Clerk: Richard "Doc" Kinne

Bylaw Committee: Richard "Doc" Kinne

Promotion Coordinator: Nathan Smolensky

Volunteer Coordinator: Stephen Dann

Fund Raising Coordinator: George Mirijanian

The *Chess Horizons* Editorial Board offers its congratulations and best wishes to the MACA Board of Directors winners and looks forward to an exciting and productive year.

Club News

Blackstone Chess Club

by David Harris

The Blackstone Chess Club celebrated its fourth anniversary last year. The Fifth Blackstone Chess Festival ran the weekend of October 26-28 2012, and the Anniversary Championship, which celebrated the fourth anniversary of the dedicated chess center in Pawtucket (250 Main Street), took place Sunday November 11, 2012.

The highlights of the Club's first four years were posted on their web site: blackstonechess.com — the best games, the most interesting positions, the notable upsets, theoretical novelties, photos, inside stories, and more.

The club has regular Thursday evening (7-11PM) and Saturday afternoon (1-5PM) meetings. Thursday rated games are G/90 with a 10 second increment. Games begin at 7:30pm. Rated and unrated games take place on Saturday. 2SS Quads and training games are offered when nothing else is on the calendar.

Drop-ins are welcome. The club has hot and cold beverages on site, snacks, WiFi, a comfortable skittles and waiting area, and free parking.

The club's "Pawn Shoppe" carries a wide selection of chess books and gear at competitive prices -- at the club, online, and at select tournaments in New England.

During the past year, a series of Master Classes has been led by USCF Senior Master, FIDE Master, and 3-time New England Champion David Griego. Topics have included Analytical Skills, Strategic Planning, Positional Play, some "need to know" endings, and training games with post-mortem analysis. All analysis was interactive, without the use of computer engines, and presented on the "big screen" -- projected on the wall.

Tournaments were held in a variety of formats each weekend, with at least one feature tournament each month, usually on a Sunday. Here are some of the results of the feature events at the club in the first half of 2012:

Jan. 21 New Year Open: GM Alexander Ivanov 3-0 (G/45).

Feb. 25 Winter Rapids: Ivanov 3-0, IM Jim Rizzitano 2/3 (G/45).

Mar. 17 RI Fall Quads (run by RI Chess): Quad 1 William Smirnov 2.5/3, Quad 2 Kenneth Straus/Earl Salisbury 2/3, Quad 3 Eric Zuberi/Louis Giarrusso 2/3 (G/45).

Mar. 25 Spring Open: Tim Sage 3-0, Boris Zhevlyuk 2.5/3 (G/45).

Apr. 29 Pawtucket Open: David Harris 3-0 (G/45), May 20 Blackstone Rapids: NM Sinclair Banks 4-0, David Harris 3/4 (G/25+10s inc.).

June 17 Greater Providence Open: Ivanov 3-0, Farzad Abdi 2/3 (G/55).

U1800 Johnny Recinos/Sarah Renshaw 2.5/3.

July 1 Summer Knockout Quads: Quad 1 David Harris 2-0, Quad 2, Edmund (Ned) Staples 2-0 2SS (G/60).

July 22 Lime Rock Open: David Harris 3-0, U1800 Alan Sutton 2/3 (G/50).

Noteworthy upsets: David Harris (2151) defeated Robert Perez (2487), Sarah Renshaw (1563) defeated David Harris (2119).

You can visit the Blackstone Chess Club at 250 Main Street, Suite B3, Pawtucket, RI. Like "Blackstone Chess Club" on Facebook to get up to the minute postings on upcoming activities, live reports, and events. Events are posted on our calendar, blackstonechess.com/calendar, and at masschess.org.

Boylston Chess Club

by Doc Kinne

Joel Wald and Brandon Wu each scored 3 points in the Boylston Chess Club's Weaver Adams tournament to gain first place, and a seed in the 2013 Reubens-Landey club championship qualifier. Wu's victory gained him over 70 rating points.

The BCC Grand Prix participants continue to gain points in the event. June's Grand Prix Open Section was won by Nithin Kavi with 3 points. Kavi's rating rose over 50 points to 1954 in this event. Daniel Wang scored 3.5 points for 1st place in the Under 1800 section of the same event with his rating gaining over 100 points.

One of our most exciting pieces of news is that member Carissa Yip has been declared the youngest female Expert in the United States Chess Federation! Congratulations Carissa! We look forward to you climbing more mountains!

Meanwhile the Boylston Chess Club's sponsored monthly Simul in South Station with Grandmaster Larry Christiansen continues to go great guns. It continues to draw folks to play the 3-time US Champion under the

great sign in South Station Terminal, and Larry continues to have sweep after sweep in terms of wins.

By the time you read these words, BCC should have had its famous annual picnic as well. Started a few years ago, this popular club membership and family activity includes food and chess.

Waltham Chess Club

by Nicholas Sterling, PhD

A great deal has happened since the last Club update over a year ago. In between there have been two Club Championships and a host of other changes to the Club's program! Besides the Club Championship, there are two pieces of news.

First, Waltham CC now offers three class prizes besides 1st and 2nd Places overall: Under 2000, Under 1700, and Under 1200. We do not, however, pay out a class prize unless we have five players competing for it.

Second, the Game/40 d5 tournaments are now Quad events rather than Swiss, to allow players of like strength to play only each other.

For the 2013 Club Championship, Denys Shmelov, with 4.5 points out of 5, took the Invitational and is 2013 Waltham Chess Club Champion. In the Open Swiss, Jesse Nicholas took 1st Place overall with 9 points, followed by David Martin and Andrew Luff who split 2nd Place overall, and Under 1700, and finally Daniel Wang, a player who has improved by leaps and bounds over the past year, took the Under 1200.

We'll see you over the board in Waltham!

Wachusett Chess Club

by George Mirijanian

Here is the news from the Wachusett Chess Club over the first half of 2013. As you can see, we've been active!

June 26: Bruce Felton of Fitchburg scored 5.5-1.5 to win the Wachusett Chess Club Blitz Championship at the McKay Campus School at Fitchburg State University. Tied for 2nd-3rd place with 5-2 tallies were Paul Godin of Burlington and Larry Gladding of Leominster. Jackson Parker of Fitchburg finished 4th with a score of 4.5-2.5. A total of 16 players competed.

June 19: George Mirijanian of Fitchburg tallied 5-2 to win the 2013 Wachusett Chess Club Championship in a round-robin field of 8 players. It was Mirijanian's 16th club championship victory since 1977. Finishing

as runners-up with 4.5-2.5 scores were Bruce Felton, 9-year-old Carissa Yip of Chelmsford, and Larry Gladding. Anil Marthi of Shrewsbury won the club's "B" Division Championship, scoring 6.5-0.5 in a field of 29 players. Runners-up with 4.5-2.5 tallies were Paul Godin, Paul Connelly of Marlborough, NH, and Dave Thomas of Leominster.

April 24: Ray Paulson of Lowell and Mike Lally of Leverett tied for 1st-2nd place in the Evert Siiskonen Memorial. Both scored 4.5-0.5. Trevor Bierig of Leominster was 3rd at 4-1 in a field of 36 players.

March 20: Section winners in the Wachusett CC G/25 Quick Quads were as follows: #1: Mike Lally, 3-0; #2: Gary Brassard of Leominster, 2.5-0.5; #3: Dave Thomas; #4: Don Briggs of Lunenburg and Francis Scanlon of Fitchburg, both 2-1.

March 13: George Mirijanian, Paul Godin, Ray Paulson and Bruce Felton tied for 1st-4th place in the George E. O'Rourke Memorial, scoring 4-1 in a field of 35 players.

Feb. 7: Paul Godin tallied 4.5-0.5 to win the Wachusett CC Quick Chess Championship. Bruce Felton scored 4-1 to finish 2nd in a field of 19 players.

Jan. 30: Arthur Barlas of Chelmsford scored 4.5-0.5 to win the Reggie Boone Memorial. Tying for 2nd-3rd place with 4-1 tallies were Carissa Yip and Martin Laine of Lunenburg. Geoff LePoer of Westford finished 4th with a score of 3.5-1.5.

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	A win for White
+	Check	0-1	A win for Black
#	Checkmate	1/2 – 1/2	A drawn game
(D)	See diagram		

Bill Lukowiak — An Appreciation

by Bill Kelleher

I first met Bill at the old Boston Chess Studio on Newbury Street in 1972. It was the height of the Fischer boom, and it seemed as if everyone was playing chess. And if you were interested in chess the Chess Studio was the place to be. I had just moved to Boston and spent quite a bit of time there.

At the time, Bill was the partner of Erik Helmreich, a recent immigrant from Germany, in running the studio. They made a colorful pair. Erik worked the day shift and Bill presided over the evenings 4 days a week. Bill sat at his desk in an old sweater smoking his pipe (Yes, you could smoke inside in those days.) And he would greet the customers as they came in, usually with some acerbic observation for the regulars. He kept a bottle of Scotch in a cabinet which he would take out as the evening wore on. It made for a convivial evening. We soon became good friends. We even roomed together for a couple of years in the mid-seventies.

Bill was a good player (his peak rating was about 2300), and an even better teacher. I learned a lot from him during the days we roomed together. He always emphasized the endgame, which most American players neglect. Through our analysis together I developed an appreciation for this phase of the game from him, and this knowledge has served me well over the years.

Bill never completed college but he was a very educated and knowledgeable person. His apartment was crammed with books and he had an extensive collection of classical records. He was a voracious

reader and acquired a vast, if slightly quixotic, store of knowledge.

Where Bill really made his mark was as a tournament director. He was a National Tournament Director for the USCF, and also a FIDE arbiter. He directed several international events. Even as a high school student he made his mark as a TD. He assisted in directing several US Championships in the late 1950's. He also organized and directed the US Open Championship, held in Boston in 1988.

His most memorable moment was in the 1959 US Championship, which was won by Bobby Fischer. He collected Fischer's score sheet after Fischer defeated IM James Sherwin. Fischer won a beautiful game which was game number 1 in his book "My 60 Memorable Games." Bill kept the score sheet, but at some point threw it away. He didn't realize it would become famous, and always regretted this blunder.

Bill was also President of the Boylston Chess Club for several years, both at its original location at 48 Boylston Street in Boston and at the YWCA on Clarendon street. As his "day job" Bill worked as a security officer at the historic Trinity Church in Copley Square Boston.

Bill moved from Boston to Somerville in the late seventies. He had a nice apartment and still had his great collection of books and records. He would periodically host chess events there. His most memorable event was hosting a party for Mikhail Tal during the ex-world champion's visit to Boston. in 1988. It was a great event.

Bill and Mikhail became immediate friends, and the following evening Bill invited Tal to his apartment for a few drinks. It was a festive evening and Tal, who was a very amiable person, played blitz chess against all comers. He was chain smoking, drinking and making jokes, while giving exorbitant odds at blitz chess. It was amazing to watch his wizardry under these conditions.

In some sense this was the "last hurrah" for Bill. He had always been his own person, but in the early 90's he lapsed into depression. He lost his job at the Trinity Church and then in 1995, after a dispute with his landlord, he lost his apartment and slipped into homelessness. Nonetheless, Bill would still come to visit from time to time. He would wash his clothes and clean up, and perhaps stay for a day or two when the weather was especially cold. He was still very sharp and well informed on current events. He and my wife became good friends and went to the Kendall Square Cinema to watch independent movies. The rest of his time was spent in the Malden area, especially in the area around the mystic lakes. He was a regular at the town library, and had established a daily routine.

Over the years his visits became fewer and fewer and we gradually lost contact. This past March a hiker in the woods around Malden found a body in a makeshift tent. It was eventually identified as Bill. He had just turned 70. Bill was a good friend of mine. I will miss him.

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