

VIRGINIA CHESS

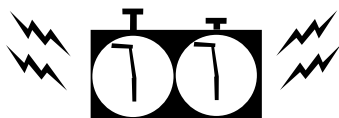
Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

1998 - #1

1998 Virginia Open

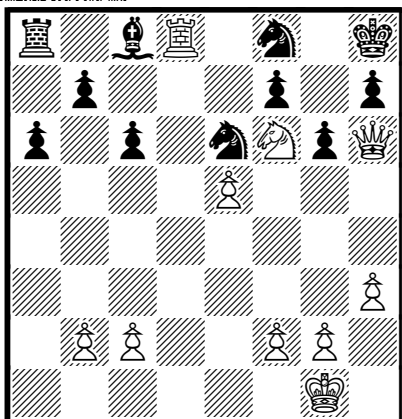
Larry
Kaufman
&
Emory
Tate
Win



Blitzkrieg!!

Dave Sherman -
Roderick Brown

see page 37



VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

1998 - Issue #1

Editor:

Macon Shibus
2101 N Harrison St
Arlington VA 22205
mshibus@dgs.dgsys.com

Circulation:

Mark Johnson
P.O. Box 241
Barboursville VA 22923
RMJ140@aol.com



Virginia Chess is published six times per year by the Virginia Chess Federation. VCF membership dues (\$10/yr adult; \$5/yr junior) include a subscription to *Virginia Chess*. Send dues, address changes, etc to the Circulation address above. Send material for publication to the editor.

The Virginia Chess Federation (VCF)



is a non-profit organization for the use of its members.

Dues for regular adult membership are \$10/yr. Jr memberships are \$5/yr. *VCF Officers, Delegates, etc:*

President: Mark Johnson, PO Box 241, Barboursville VA 22923, RMJ140@aol.com **Treasurer:** F Woodrow

Harris, 1105 West End Dr, Emporia VA 23847, fwh@3rddoor.com **Secretary:** Catherine Clark, 5208 Cedar Rd, Alexandria, VA 22309, eaglepw@erols.com

Scholastics Chairman: Mike Cornell, 12010 Grantwood Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407, macornel@pen.k12.va.us **Internet Coordinator:** Roger Mahach, rmahach@vachess.org **Blitz Coordinator:** Mike Atkins, matkins@wizard.net

USCF Delegates: J Allen Hinshaw, R Mark Johnson, Catherine Clark. **Life Voting Member:** F Woodrow Harris. **Regional Vice President:** Helen S

Hinshaw. **USCF Voting Members:** Jerry Lawson, Roger Mahach, Mike Atkins, Mike Cornell, Macon Shibus, Bill Hoogendonk, Henry Odell, Sam Conner.

Alternates: Ann Marie Allen, Peter Hopkins, Paul Leggett, John T Campbell.

VCF Inc. Directors: Helen Hinshaw (Chairman), 3430 Musket Dr, Midlothian VA 23113; Henry Odell (Vice Chair), 2200 Croydon Rd, Charlottesville VA 22901; Mark Johnson, 4688 Spotswood Trail, Barboursville VA 22923; Mike Atkins, 2710 Arlington Dr, Apt # 101, Alexandria VA 22306; William P Hoogendonk, PO Box 1223, Midlothian VA 23113.





1998 VIRGINIA OPEN

RATINGS proved accurate predictors at the Virginia Open, January 16-18 in Fredricksburg, as the two top-rated entrants, IM Larry Kaufman and Emory Tate, tied for first with $4\frac{1}{2}$ out of 5. Third-seeded Leonid Filatov was clear 3rd with 4-2. The Amateur (under 1900) section proved a bit tougher to handicap, however. 7th-ranked Ransom Carter and 28th-seeded Bruce George each ran off 5-0 starts; then Carter completed the sweep by winning their



photo: Mike Atkins

Kaufman - Peters, round 4

last round showdown. Mikael Malove slipped into clear 2nd with $5\frac{1}{2}$, while George settled for top Under 1700 plus a tie for 3rd-6th with Fred Nelson, Bora Yagiz & William Carroll.

There were several other noteworthy underdog performances. Tom Peters, 15th on the Open section

wallchart, had a great tournament in which he drew Kaufman on board 1 in the penultimate round. Only a defeat in the finale at the hands of the other co-champion denied him a share of the top prize. (*See both games below.*) And a trio of 1300 players — Jonathon Brandon, Chris Wise & Robert Seal — broke into the Amateur top 10 with excellent $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ scores. (Well okay, Seal was listed as 1400 even.) Brandon & Seal were among 29 scholastic entries.

This year's Open marked the beginning of a new era of sorts. For the first time in a quarter of a century — which is to say, in the lifetime of many if not most of the entrants — the Fredricksburg Howard Johnson's at Rt 1 & I-95 did not host the event. Several veteran players allowed that they'd played



photo: Mike Atkins

George - Carter, round 6




CONTEST!

more tournament games there than at any other single site. A rich legacy of Virginia chess history was left behind. *Readers are encouraged to send games, anecdotes and any other personal reminiscences that might be published in these pages as part of a future series, "HoJos Memories."* There will be book prizes for the best stuff submitted.

The new site is perhaps 10 minutes away at the Fredricksburg Sheraton. Located in a budding commercial development, it offers a good selection of restaurants nearby, plus other shopping.

A total of 142 players participated under the able direction of Paul Dame and Mike Atkins.

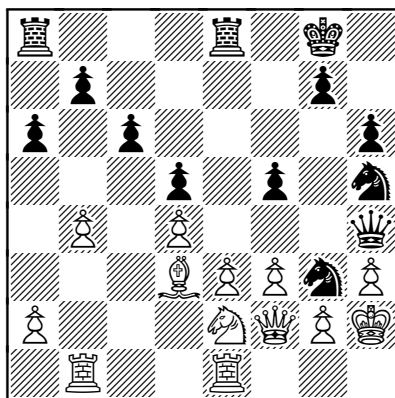


Tom Peters - Emory Tate Trompovsky

1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 d6 3 Bxf6 gxf6 4 c4 c5 5 e3 cxd4 6 exd4 Qb6 7 b3 Nc6 8 Ne2? (White never relieves the congestion that begins with this self-blocking move. He had to try 8 d5) **8...Bf5** (Now it's already quite awkward for White. Black threatens not only ...Nb4 but also ...Bxb1 followed by a Qa5xa2. And if 9 a3 Na5 looks unpleasant.) **9 Qd2 Nb4** (Threatening checks at both c2 and d3.) **10 Ng3** (White is relying on a tactic wherein he plays to trap Black's bishop, but it doesn't come off.) **Nc2+ 11 Kd1 Bg6 12 f4** (the intended point) **12...Bh6 13 Qf2 Qxd4+** (And here's the refutation. Black just takes a pawn, his knight will hold up f5. Indeed, the f-pawn is itself defenseless.) **14 Qxd4 Nxd4 15 f5 Bxf5 16 Na3 Bg4+ 17 Be2 Nxe2 18 Nxe2 Rg8 0-1**

W E Webbert - Ransom Carter Queen's Gambit Declined

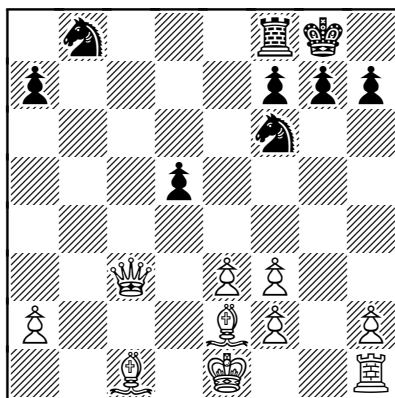
1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 exd5 5 d4 Be7 6 Bg5 0-0 7 e3 h6 8 Bh4 c6 9 Bd3 Bg4 10 h3 Bxf3 11 Qxf3 Nbd7 12 0-0 Re8 13 Rab1 Ne4 14 Bxe7 Qxe7 15 Qe2 f5 16 Rfe1 Qh4 17 f3 Ng3 18 Qf2 Nf6 19 b4 a6 20 Kh2 Nfh5 21 Ne2



21...f4 22 exf4 (22 Nxf4) Rxe2 23 Rxe2? (Why not 23 Bxe2 ? If then 23...Qxf4 24 Kg1) **23...Qxf4 24 Kg1 Nxe2+ 25 Bxe2 Re8 26 g4?** (A serious, unnecessary weakening.) **26...Ng3 27 Bd3 Re3 28 Rd1 Rxf3 29 Qe2?** (But it was bad in any case, eg 29 Qd2 Ne2+ 30 Qxe2 (30 Bxe2 Rg3+ 31 Kh1 Qe4+) Rg3+ 31 Kh1 Rxh3+ 32 Kg1 Qg3+ 33 Qg2 Qe3+ 34 Qf2 (34 Kf1 Rf3+) Rg3+ 35 Kf1 Rf3) **29...Nxe2+ 0-1**

Leonid Filatov - Ray Kaufman Queen Pawn

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 d5 3 e3 Bg4 4 c4 c6 5 Qb3 Qc7 6 cxd5 cxd5 7 Nc3 Bxf3 8 gxf3 e6 9 Bd2 Nc6 10 Rc1 Rc8 11 Na4 Bd6 12 Nc5 Bxc5 13 Rxc5 0-0 14 Be2 e5 15 dxe5 Qxe5 16 Qxb7 Rc7 17 Qa6 Nb8 18 Qa3 Rxc5 19 Qxc5 Qxb2 20 Qc3 Qb1+ 21 Bc1





21...d4 22 Qb2 Qg6 23 Kf1 Nc6 24 Rg1 Qf5 25 exd4 Rb8 26 Qc3 Nd5 27 Qd3 Qxd3 28 Bxd3 Nxd4 29 Be4 Nc3 30 Be3 Rd8 31 Kg2 f5 32 Bxd4 Ne2 33 Rb1 Nxd4 34 Bd3 Rd7 35 Bc4+ Kf8 36 Re1 Rc7 37 Bb3 Nxb3 38 axb3 1/2-1/2

Larry Kaufman - Tom Peters Dutch

1 d4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 g6 4 c4 Bg7 (There seemed to be a lot of this defense at the tournament.) 5 Nh3 0-0 6 0-0 d6 7 d5 Nbd7 8 Nf4 Ne5 9 Qb3 c5 10 Nc3 Rb8 11 Bd2 a6 12 a4 b6 13 e4 Qe8 14 exf5 Bxf5 15 Rfe1 g5 16 Ne6 Bxe6 17 dxe6 Qh5 18 Nd1 g4 19 Ra3 Nf3+ 20 Bxf3 gxf3 21 Qxf3 Ng4 22 Qg2 Ne5 23 Bf4 Nxc4 24 Rb3 Be5 (24...Bd4) 25 Qd5 b5 26 Bxe5 dxe5 27 Rd3 Rbd8 28 Qxd8 Rxd8 29 Rxd8+ Kg7 30 axb5 axb5 31 Rd5 Qf3 32 Rxc5 Qb3 33 Rc7 Kf6 34 Ne3 Nxe3 35 Rxe3 Qxb2 36 Rcc3 Kxe6 37 Rb3 Qc1+ 38 Kg2 Qc6+ 39 Kh3 Kf5 40 Rb2 Qc1 41 Rbe2 Qf1+ 42 Kh4 Qa1 43 g4+ Kf6 44 f4 b4 45 Rxe5 Qa8 46 Rf5+ Kg7 47 Rfe5 Kf8 48 R5e4 Qb7 49 R4e3 Qc7 50 Kg3 Qc5 51 Kf3 Qd5+ 52 Kf2 Qd4 53 Kg3 Qc5 54 g5 Kf7 55 h4 Kf8 56 h5 h6 57 Kg4 (Maybe 57 gxh6!? since after 57...Qxh5 58 Rxe7 the h-pawn is untouchable (58...Qxh6? 59 Re8+ Kf7 60 R2e7+ Kg6 61 Re6+) and if 58...Qg6+ 59 Kf2 there are no more checks. The pawn will go to h7, and the only question is whether Black can set up a perpetual check right away. After the move actually played the game seems headed towards a draw.) 57...hgx5 58 fxg5 b3 (forces White to regroup his rooks in a

Virginia State Scholastic Championship

Mar. 14-15, 1998

Hylton HS, 14051 Spriggs Rd
Woodbridge, Virginia

(7 miles off I-95 Exit 152, Rt. 234

North 3.8 miles, Right onto Spriggs Rd)
6-SS, rds 1-3 G/60, rds 4-6 G/90. 4 sections: Primary (K-3), Elem (K-6), JrH (K-9), HS (K-12). Prizes to top 10 individuals, top 5 teams in each section. EF: \$12 rec'd by 3/7, \$15 at site. Rds 9-12-3-6, 8:30-12. NS,NC,W Enter/Info/Hotel: Mike Cornell, 12010 Grantwood Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407, (540) 785-8614, 6-9pm.



more passive alignment) 59 Rf3+ Ke8 60 Rff2 Qc4+ 61 Kg3 Qd3+ 62 Kh2 Qd6+ 63 Kh3 Qd3+ 64 Kh4 Qd4+ 65 Kg3 Qd3+ 66 Kf4 Qc4+ 67 Kg3 ½-½

**Macon Shibut - Rodney Flores,
Modern**

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nc3 c6 4 Be3 d5 5 Qd2 Qa5! (By hitting the a-pawn Black hopes to discourage White's next move, but I was willing to sacrifice a pawn.) 6 0-0-0 dxe4 7 Bc4 Bg4 (If 7...Nf6 the answer would be likewise 8 f3) 8 f3 exf3 9 Nxf3 Bxf3?! (Black closes the f-line, reasonable enough since f7 looks more vulnerable than g6, plus he devalues White's pawns. Still, in my opinion this exchange is questionable. The bishop pair, White's light-square bishop in particular, has great potential now.) 10 gxf3 Nf6 11 Rde1 0-0 12 Bh6 Nbd7 (I confess I didn't notice beforehand that this move was playable. Otherwise I would probably have made my 11th-13th moves in some different order, though very likely winding up with the same position. Black's point is that while I could now recover the pawn, 13 Bxg7 Kxg7 14 Rxe7? Qb4 15 Qc2 Rae8 16 Rxe8 Rxe8 17 Qd3 would be a very poor return on the investment.) 13 Rhg1 Qb4 (I expected 13...Rae8 or 13...e6. The move

**2nd Annual
Best Western
Mt Vernon
Chess Classic**

February 28 - March 1, 1998

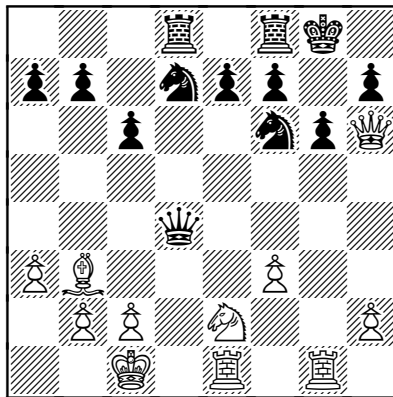
Best Western Mt. Vernon
8751 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, Va. 22309

5-SS, game/2 hours, \$\$1300: \$300-175-125, X, A, B, C, D, E, Unr each 100 (place \$\$ guaranteed, class \$\$ b/5 per class). EF \$35 if rec'd by: 2/23/98, \$45 at site. Reg 9-9:30am, 2/28, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-2:30. VCF membership req'd, OSA. 1/2-pt bye available. Hotel \$54, (1-4), 703-360-1300. NS, NC, W. For additional info browse <http://www.wizard.net/~matkins/classic.htm>
Enter: Catherine Clark, 5208 Cedar Road, Alexandria, Va. 22309. Entries also accepted by Michael Atkins at Arlington CC during the month of February. *No phone entries!*

10 Grand Prix points



Rod played poses a question. White could simply trade at g7 before securing the c4 bishop. However, I would just as soon keep that tension (and the bishop pair!) or at least extract from Black the concession of making the swap himself and thus inviting my queen into h6. However, the immediate 14 Bb3 involves the sacrifice of a second pawn, since Black can indeed trade at h6 and then take d4. If White's opening gambit could be made lightheartedly on general principles (development, bishop pair, etc), the second sacrifice was more serious, and I had to look ahead of time for a more concrete justification. It took shape when I considered the maneuver N-e2-f4) **14 Bb3 Rad8** (It can't be bad for Black to get this in. The threat to eliminate the important light-square bishop by ...Nc5 virtually compels my reply.) **15 a3** (Well, I did briefly entertain 15 Bf4?! which threatens Bc7! and wins an exchange, since if the rook moves then a3 would trap the queen. But again, I could find no good answer for 15...Nc5) **15...Bxh6** (Black also has little choice since he doesn't want to let me just take back the pawn at e7, and 15...Qd6 gets embarrassed by 16 Bf4) **16 Qxh6 Qxd4 17 Ne2!**



(After Nf4, every one of White's pieces will be on the ideal attacking squares, with immediate threat to crash though at g6. In view of this concrete threat, even the mobile centralized queen finds her options limited.) **17...Qc5** (The relevant thing is that here the queen maintains contact with Rg1. The significance is seen in the alternative variation 17...Qd6 18 Nf4 (Δ 19 Nxg6 hxg6 20 Rxg6#) Ne5 White's



g1 rook is not attacked so the other rook is free to eliminate the defender, 19 Rxe5! Qxe5 20 Nxc6! threatens a rook, a queen, and a double check — quite enough to force immediate resignation, or at least 20...Ng4 21 Nxe5 and now 1-0 after Black notices that his knight is pinned.) **18 Nf4 Ne5 19 Rg5** (But there is this other problem! Now Black is losing material because the only defense of Ne5, 19...Nfd7, runs into 20 Nh5! and mates shortly, eg 20...Nd3+ 21 Kb1 Qd4 22 cxd3 Qxd3+ 23 Ka2 Qd4 24 Ree5! Incidentally, this same 19 Rg5 would have been pretty strong even had Black avoided the pin along the rank by retreating his queen to b6 on move 17. For example, 17...Qb6 18 Nf4 (there would also be the new possibility 18 Ng3!?) Δ Nf5 but I'm pretty sure I would have opted for Nf4) Ne5 19 Rg5 Nxf3 20 Nxc6 Nxc5 21 Nxe7+ Kh8 22 Qxf6#) **19...Nxf3** (Giving up the queen leads to a little tactical give-and-take but no real counterplay.) **20 Rxc5 Nxe1 21 Nxc6! Ng4** (21...hxc6 22 Qxc6+ Kh8 23 Qh6+ Nh7 (23...Kg8 24 Rg5#) 24 Rh5) **22 Nxe7+ Kh8 23 Qh4 Ng2 24 Qxc4 Ne3 25 Qf3 Rd1+ 26 Qxd1 Nxd1 27 Kxd1 Rd8+ 28 Ke2 f6** (28...Re8 29 Re5) **29 Nf5 1-0**

1998 Hampton Roads Championship

February 21-22, 1998

Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach

(I-64 to SR-44. Take Independence Blvd. S. exit from SR-44. S. Independence to Buckner Dr., turn left. Building D "Kempsville" in the cafeteria)

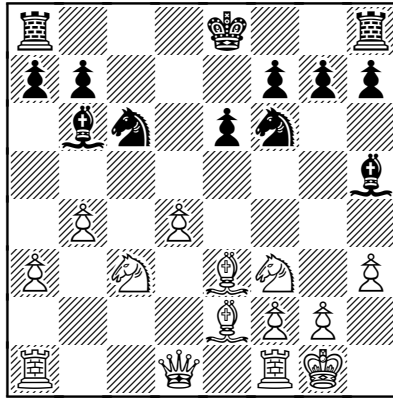
5-SS, Rds 1-2 G/2, Rds 3-5 35/90, SD/1. \$\$ 700 b/25 adult entries, more cash if > 25 adult entries): \$200G + trophy to Hampton Roads Champion, \$75 + trophy to city champion for Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Norfolk, Peninsula (b/5 per city), \$75 + trophy to Hampton Roads Scholastic Champion (b/5 scholastic players under 19). \$75 to top at-large player (b/5 players living outside Tidewater—players living outside Tidewater eligible for this prize only). Rds10-2:30-7, 9-2:30, 1/2 point bye avail rds 1-4. Reg 9-9:40 am 2/21. EF \$30 by 2/14, \$35 at site, over 2400 \$20 by 2/14, \$25 at site, over 2200 \$25 by 11/15, \$30 at site (discount deducted from any prize), scholastic (under 19) \$10 by 2/14, \$15 at site. USCF mem req'd. NS, NC, W. Hotel: \$45 Fairfield Inn By Marriott, 4760 Euclid Road, (757) 499-1935. **Enter:** Rodney Flores, 4 Witch-Hazel Court, Portsmouth, VA 23703-5091, (757) 686-0822.



Macon Shibut - Ray Kaufman Sicilian

Notes by Macon Shibut

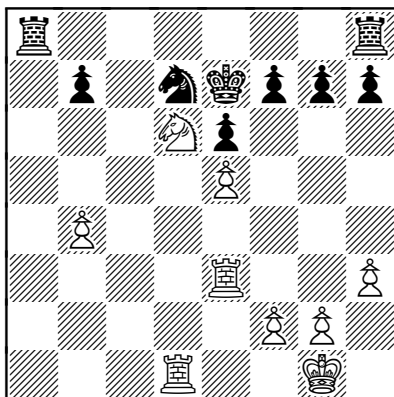
1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 Qxd5 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3 Bg4 6 Be2 e6 7 h3 Bh5
8 0-0 Nc6 9 Be3 cxd4 10 cxd4 Bb4 11 a3 Ba5 12 Nc3 Qd7? (12...Qd6
would be the famous opening game of the first (1996) DEEP BLUE
- Kasparov match, when White scored the first-ever victory by a com-
puter over a world champion at a normal tournament time control.
The result of that game notwithstanding, Kasparov's move was bet-
ter.) 13 b4 Bb6



(Maybe 13...Bc7; White is undeniably on top after the text.) 14 Ne5
(14 b5 is no good. After 14...Ne7 15 g4 Bg6 16 Ne5 Qd8 the pawn
on b5 is just in the way. However, 14 g4 was a tempting alternative,
eg 14...Bg6 15 Ne5 Nxe5 16 dxe5 Qxd1 17 Rfxd1 with Bb5 com-
ing.) 14...Nxe5 (14...Bxe2 15 Qxe2 is also \pm (but not 15 Nxd7 Bxd1
16 Nxf6+ gxf6 17 Rfxd1 which is just equal) If then 15...Nxd4?
16 Bxd4 Qxd4 17 Nb5 with a knight check at d6 promising to dis-
organize Black's game.) 15 dxe5 Qxd1 16 Bxd1! Bxd1 17 Raxd1 (I
was going to let him capture at e3 if he wanted, and so left the king
rook in place. But I had a hard time choosing between this and
17 exf6. The danger posed by the pawn capture is illustrated by the
continuation 17...Bh5 18 fxg7 Rg8 19 Ne4 and the added threat to
win the bishop by Nf6+ cements White's advantage. I decided the
best defense would be to hide the piece away by 17...Bb3, for example



18 fxg7 Rg8 19 Bh6 Bd4 etc) **17...Nd7** (The exposed knight will keep Black from castling, but there's nothing better. 17...Bxe3 18 fxe3 Nh5 19 Ne4 threatens both g4 and Nd6+) **18 Nb5** (threatening to trade bishops and win the exchange) Ke7 19 Rfe1 (The purpose of this move was to discourage him from playing 19...Rhd8 because of 20 Bg5+ f6 21 exf6+ Still, Black might have tried it.) **Bxe3 20 Rxe3** (White's advantage consists of more active rooks, plus the e5 pawn is irritating. Black won't be able just to oppose rooks on the file and chop wood, for, if nothing else, White can clamp down with f4 and Nd6) **20...a5 21 Nd6** (winning material, as both b7 and f7 are hit) **21...axb4 22 axb4**



22...Nxe5? (Certainly a mistake, but the move I expected, 22...Ra4, also leaves White in control after 23 Nxf7! A possible conclusion would be 23...Rf8 24 Red3 Nb6 25 Ng5 Rxb4 26 Rd6 with mate or big material gain) **23 Rxe5 Rhd8 24 Rb5 Ra6** (If 24...Rxd6? 25 Rxb7+ And doubling on the d-file lets White keep the extra piece after 24...Rd7 25 Rxb7 Rd8 26 Rxd7+ Rxd7 27 Nc8+ Finally, if 24...Ra7 25 Rb6 Δ Rd2 and Nc4 untangles) **25 Rxb7+ Kf8** (25...Kf6 26 Ne4+) **26 Rxf7+ Kg8 27 Rc1** (27 Rxc7+? Kxc7 28 Nf5+ exf5 29 Rxd8 still should win but is much weaker) **27...Raxd6 28 Rcc7 Rd1+ 29 Kh2 R1d2 30 Rxc7+ 1-0**

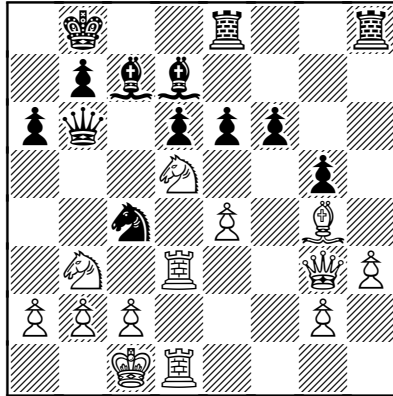


ExaChess web site!
<http://www.exachess.com>



Tim Rogalski - Larry Kaufman Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Be7
8 Qf3 Qc7 9 0-0-0 Nbd7 10 Bd3 h6 11 Bh4 g5 12 fxg5 Ne5 13 Qe2
Nfg4 14 h3 hxg5 15 Bg3 Nf6 16 Nf3 Nh5 17 Qf2 Bd7 18 Rhf1 Nxc3
19 Qxc3 f6 20 Nd4 0-0-0 21 Be2 Rde8 22 Bg4 Bd8 23 Rf2 Kb8
24 Rfd2 Nc4 25 Rd3 Qb6 26 Nb3 Bc7 27 Nd5



27...exd5 28 Bxd7 dxe4 29 Rd4 d5 30 Qe1 Rd8 31 Bf5 Ne3 32 Rb4
Qa7 33 Nd4 Ka8 34 Ne6 Ba5 35 Qc3 Nxd1 36 Qxf6 Bxb4 37 Nxd8
Qe3+ 38 Kb1 Nc3+ 39 bxc3 Bxc3 0-1

College Park Scholastic Open

February 28, 1998

College Park Elementary School, 1110 Bennington Rd, Va Beach

(I-64 to Indian River, R. Lexitt. Indian River to Providence Rd, turn left.

Providence to Amherst Lane, turn left. Amherst to Bennington, turn left.)

5-SS; rds 1-3 G/30; rds 4-5 G/40. Reg: 7-8:30, rds: 9-10:30-12:130-3. Trophies to top two Elementary, MS, & HS teams; top three individuals in each section. EF: \$8 by 2/26, 10 at site. USCF mem reqd (avail at site or with pre-entry: \$10 with *SchoolMates* magazine, \$15 with *Chess Life*). Enter: Wesley Newsome, 6099 Clear Springs Road, Virginia Beach VA 23464 (checks payable to College Park PTA). specify section (Elem [K-5], Middle School [K-8] or High School [K-12]), student's name, address, school, grade, DOB, USCF ID & rating (if known). Info: Wesley Newsome 757-424-6375.



John Geissman - Rodney Flores

Center Counter

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 c4 c6 4 dxc6 Nxc6 5 Nf3 e5 6 Nc3 Bc5 7 Qe2 Ng4 8 Ne4 Bb6 9 c5 Bc7 10 d4 Nxd4 11 Nd6+ Bxd6 12 Nxd4 Qa5+ 13 Bd2 Qxc5 14 Nb5 0-0 15 a3 (White needs to get his kingside untangled with something like 15 h3 Nf6 16 Qc4 Δ Be2 etc) 15...a5 16 Rc1 Qd5 17 Nxd6 Qxd6 18 Rxc8? Raxc8 19 Qxg4 Rc2 20 Qg5 Rd8 0-1

Jamarl Thomas - Steve Greanias

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 Nc3 Nc6 4 d4 cxd4 5 Nxd4 Qc7 6 Ndb5 Qb8 7 Bc4 Nf6 8 0-0 a6 9 Nd4 Qc7 10 Nxc6 Qxc6 11 Qe2 b5 12 Bd5 Nxd5 13 exd5 Qb6 14 dxe6 dxe6 15 Be3 Bc5 16 Qf3 Ra7 17 Bxc5 Qxc5 18 Ne4 Qe7 19 Rfd1 0-0 20 Nd6 Bd7 21 c4 bxc4 22 Nxc4 Qc5 23 Rac1 Bc6 24 Qe2 Qg5 25 Ne3 Bb5 26 Qc2 Rd8 27 Rxd8+ Qxd8 28 Qc8 Ra8 29 Qb7 Rb8 30 Qa7 h6 31 Rc7? (Thus far White has played with commendable energy against an opponent who outrates him by 600 points. But now he gets carried away, and neglecting his vulnerable back rank will cost him a pawn. Recentralization was in order, perhaps 31 Rd1 Δ Qd4) 31...Rc8 32 Rxc8 Qxc8 33 Qd4 Qc1+ 34 Qd1 Qxb2 35 a4 Bc6 36 a5 Qc3 37 Qd8+ Kh7 38 Nf1 Bb5 39 Qd1 Qxa5 40 h3 Qc3 41 Ng3 f5 42 Qb1 Qd3 43 Qb2 f4 44 Nh1 f3 45 gxf3 Qxf3 46 Ng3 Qd1+ 47 Kh2 Bc6 48 Qa2 Qf3 49 Qb1+ g6 50 Qf1 a5 51 h4 h5 52 Qg1 a4 53 Nf1 a3 54 Ne3 a2 55 Nc2 Qe4 56 Qg5 Qh1+ 57 Kg3 Qg2+ 58 Kf4 Qe4+ 59 Kg3 Qf3+ 60 Kh2 Qxf2+ 61 Kh3 Qf5+ 0-1

David Hulvey - Cameron Hudson

Modern

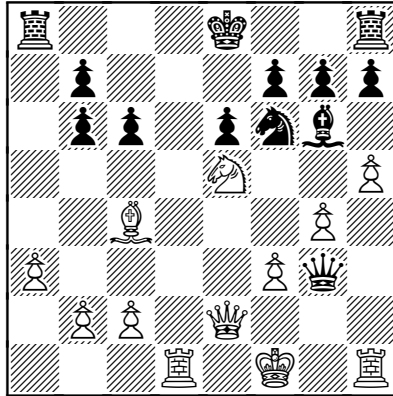
1 e4 g6 2 Nc3 Bg7 3 g3 d6 4 Bg2 e5 5 d3 Be6 6 Nh3 h6 7 f4 Qd7 8 Nf2 Nc6 9 Nd5 Nce7 10 0-0 c6 11 c4 Nf6 12 Ne3 h5 13 Bd2 h4 14 Bc3 Nh5 15 fxe5 hxg3 16 Nfg4 (16 hxg3 Nxc3 17 Re1 dxe5 ≠) 16...gxh2+ 17 Nxh2 d5? (A bit too creative. 17...dxe5 is good, but if Black insists on being showy he can try 17...0-0-0) 18 cxd5 cxd5 19 Neg4 Qc7 20 Rc1 Qb6+ 21 d4 Bh6 22 Nxc6 Rxc6 23 Ng4 Bxc4



24 Qxg4 Qe6 25 Qg5 Rh7 26 Bb4 Nc6 27 exd5 Qd7 28 Bc5 Ne7
 29 Bh3 f5 30 d6 Rg7?? 31 dxe7 Qd5 32 Bg2 Qd7 33 Bd6 Rc8
 34 Rxc8+ Qxc8 35 Rc1 Qd7 36 Rc7 Qa4 37 Rc8+ Kf7 38 Rf8+ Ke6
 39 d5+ Kd7 40 Rd8 *mate* — emphatically! 1-0

Ray Kaufman - William Van Lear
Center Counter

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qa5 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3 Bf5 6 Bc4 e6 7 Bd2
 c6 8 Ne5 Bb4 9 a3 Bxc3 10 Bxc3 Qc7 11 f3 Nbd7 12 Qe2 Nb6
 13 Ba5 Qd6 14 g4 Bg6 15 Bxb6 axb6 16 h4 Qxd4 17 Rd1 Qf4 18 h5
 Qg3+ 19 Kf1



19...Be4 20 Nxf7 Qxf3+ 21 Qxf3 Bxf3 22 Nxf8 Bxd1 23 h6 g5
 24 Ng6 Bxg4 25 Ne5 Bf5 26 Rg1 Ra5 27 Nf3 g4 28 Nd4 Re5 29 c3
 Nd5 30 Be2 Re4 31 Kf2 Nf4 32 Bf1 Kf7 33 Kg3 Kg6 34 Rh1 Nh5+
 35 Kg2 Re3 36 Bc4 Kxh6 37 Nxf5+ exf5 38 Bf7 Rg3+ 39 Kf2 Rh3
 40 Rxh3 gxh3 41 Kg1 Nf4 42 Be8 Kg5 43 Bd7 Kg4 44 Bc8 Nd3
 45 Bxb7 Kg3 46 Bxc6 h2+ 47 Kf1 Nf2 48 a4 f4 49 b4 f3 0-1

2ND SUNDAY OVER-1700 INVITATIONALS
March 8, April 12, etc.

Coliseum Mall Civic Room, Mercury Boulevard and I-64, Hampton, Virginia

Not Rated

4-SS, G/60, open to 1700 and up (for exceptions, call Tom or Rodney). \$\$ 70% of all entries to 1st.
 Reg 9-9:45 am, play begins at 10. Rds 10-12-2-5. Byes flexible, none rd 4. EF \$20. NS, NC, W. Enter-
 info: Tom Burgess (757) 898-6580, Rodney Flores, (757)-686-0822.



ZOFCHAK MEMORIAL

by Woody Harris

RODNEY FLORES captured clear first place at the 1997 David Zofchak Memorial tournament, November 15-16 in Virginia Beach. He scored 4½ out of 5. A crowd of eight scored 4 to tie for 2nd place: Errol Liebowitz, Jack Suggs, Keith Carson, James Hare, Martin Roper, Adam Sultan, Kenny Vaughn & David Hirsch. Hare & Roper also claimed the top A prize; likewise Sultan & Vaughn top C; and Hirsch top Scholastic. Other prize-winners included Larry Riddick, Thomas Philipoom, Chris Gibbs, Charles Smith, Paul Leggett & Michael Lane (3 points apiece - top B); David Delgado (3½, top D/E); Timothy Younkin (2 points - top Unrated); Jon Brandon (3½ - 2nd Scholastic); Bobby Keller & Brian Rohrbaugh 2½ - Scholastic Under 1200; Robert DeBois 2½ - Scholastic Under 1100; Ben Panitz & Greg Kehely 2½ - Scholastic Under 1000; and Louis Ferrara 2½ - Scholastic Under 900.

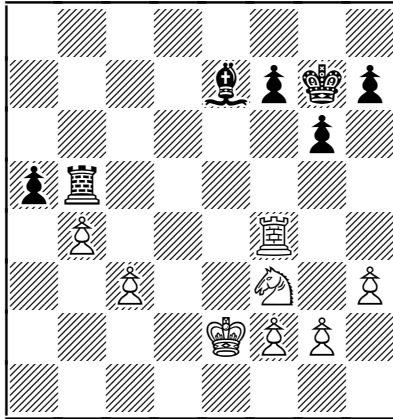
Rodney Flores - Jack Suggs French

Notes adapted from Flores' remarks in Tidewater Chess News

(The penultimate round ended up being decisive. I made a move order mistake in the opening of a French Tarrasch, after which Jack easily equalized.) 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 c5 4 exd5 exd5 5 Ngf3 Nc6 6 Bb5 Bd6 7 0-0 cxd4 8 Re1+ (8 Nb3) Ne7 9 Nb3 0-0 10 Nbx4 Bg4 11 Be2 a6 12 Bg5 Qc7 13 Bxe7 Bxe7 14 h3 Nxd4 15 Nxd4 Bxe2 16 Qxe2 Bf6 17 Rad1 Qd7 18 c3 Rfe8 19 Qd3 Rad8 (19...Qa4) 20 a3 g6 21 Nc2 Re6 22 Re2 Rb6 23 Nd4 Re8 24 Red2 Re4 25 Nf3 (Right at time control [*actually, time control was 35/90* - ed] where White probably stood a little better, I offered a draw due to Jack's extra 5 minutes on the clock. He declined, then dropped the isolani on the next move.) Qe6 26 Qc2 Qf5? 27 Rxd5 Qe6 (*It appears Black blundered in thinking his d-pawn was untouchable because of...Re1+ and overlooking that the knight can take and defend White's queen - ed*) 28 R5d2 Qe8 29 Qd3 Rbe6 30 Qd7 Rb6 31 Qxe8+ Rxe8 32 Kf1 Kg7



33 Re1 Rc8 34 Ne5 Bg5 35 Rde2 Re6 36 Nf3 Rxe2 37 Rxe2 Bf6
 38 Re4 Rd8 39 Ke2 Rd5 40 Rb4 b5 41 a4 Be7 42 Re4 Kf6 43 axb5
 Rxb5 44 Rf4+ Kg7 45 b4 a5



46 Nd4 Re5+ 47 Kd3 Bd6 48 b5 a4 49 Re4 Rc5 50 Re1 Rc8 51 c4
 a3 52 Nc6 Bc5 53 Ra1 Kf6 54 Kc3 Ke6 55 Kb3 Kd6 56 Nb4 Ra8
 57 Rxa3 Rxa3+ 58 Kxa3 Bxf2 59 Nd3 Bd4 60 Kb4 1-0 [*presumably
 after (many) more moves in "sudden death" - ed*] (This was a 5-hour
 struggle that drained both players. I offered a quick draw to Hare in
 the last round, and watched Liebowitz (2256) - Collins (1850).
 Liebowitz seemed on the verge of victory when the game dissolved
 into a knight ending where Bob eventually was winning. With 3¹/₂ of
 4 going into it, Bob looked to split first, but the chess gods... Bob,
 ever the gentleman, was quick to point out that Errol should have
 won in the beginning anyway.)

With 67 players entered (including 30 kids in the book prize only
 category!) this 8th edition of the Zofchak Memorial was the largest
 in the series. The event is held each year in memory of the popular
 Tidewater player, organizer and director, who was also a past VCF
 President. The large number of entries led to a decision to use accel-
 erated pairings in the first two rounds. The scheme worked all too
 well—almost straightaway there remained no perfect scores!—so the
 question arose as to how to *decelerate* pairings for the later rounds.

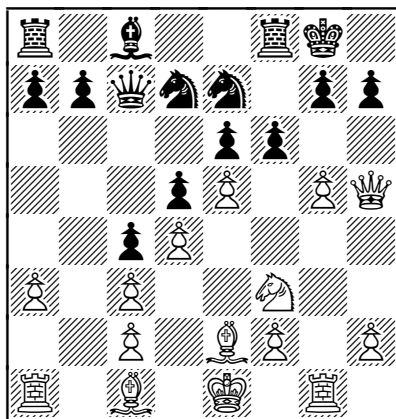


In true Zofchak Memorial style, upsets were numerous, many by scholastic players who are known to be performing above their ratings. Hare, of Hopewell, proved to be the upset king with a 3rd round win (on time) over Master and champion Postal player Errol Liebowitz, and draws against Carson and Flores.

Jimmy Hare - Errol Liebowitz French

Notes by Jimmy Hare

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 Bxc3+ 6 bxc3 Ne7 7 Qg4 Qc7 8 Bd3 (With this move White shows his readiness to sac the c3 and d4 pawns in order to develop his bishop.) **c4** (I felt Black wasn't familiar with 8 Bd3. 8...c4 is one of the lines, but he took a long time to play it and did so rather reluctantly. Now Black's queenside play is slowed. The main line is 8...cxd4 9 Ne2 dxc3 10 Qxg7 Rg8 11 Qh6! intending Bxh7, and if now 11...Qxe5 then 12 Bf4!) **9 Be2 Nf5 10 Qh5** (Δ g4. The book line goes 10 Nf3 Nc6 and then 11 Qh5, but I mixed up the move order.) **10...0-0?!** (This is dubious because White's pieces are already nicely arranged for a kingside attack. Why should Black put his king near it also?) **11 g4 Ne7 12 Nf3 f6** (the best if not only defense) **13 Rg1 Nd7** (Black needs to be able to get the knight to f8 or f6 to guard against R-g3-h3) **14 g5?!** (I went all out to keep the knight away. However, g5 was probably too bridge-burning.)





14...fxe5 (If 14...f5 then 15 g6! hxg6 (15...h6 16 Bxh6) 16 Rxg6 Nxc6 17 Qxc6 and Ng5 is overwhelming. Or if 14...fxg5 then 15 Nxc6 with the dual threats at h7 and e6. The text move forces White to find the best lines.) 15 Qh3 (Now 15 g6 doesn't work because the knight can get to f6. 15 Qh3 is simple looking but hard to meet.) 15...Nf5 16 g6 h6 17 Ng5 Nf6 18 Nf7 exd4 19 cxd4 Rxf7 (If Black doesn't do anything then after the elimination of Black's knight [B-g4xf5] the sacrifice Bxh6 will be deadly. But he can't play 19...Nxd4 20 Bxh6 Nxc2+ (if instead 20...Rxf7 21 gxf7+ Qxf7 22 Bxg7!) 21 Kd1 Nxa1 22 Bxg7) 20 gxf7+ Kxf7 21 Bh5+ Kf8 22 c3 Nxe5 23 Qxe5 Qf7 24 Qxf7+ Kxf7 25 Bf4 Bd7 26 Rb1 (At this point I offered Black a draw - he had five minutes left for his next ten moves. He declined, but the position is definitely drawish. Both sides would find it hard to break through.) b6 27 Be5 Ba4 28 Kd2 g6 29 Rbe1 Rg8 30 Re2 Rc8 31 Rge1 Bd7 32 Bf4 g5 33 Be5 Nh4 and Black's flag fell. 1-0

Linares →

Hastings →

Zürich →

Print beautiful chess diagrams and algebraic figurine notation with the **Linares, Hastings** or **Zürich TrueType chess fonts** and any Windows or Macintosh word processor. Used by *American Chess Journal* and many other chess magazine and book publishers. Scalable to any size, 6 diagram borders, 50 annotation symbols, bold, italic, PostScript and a nice User's Guide. Compatible with Chess Assistant, ChessBase, Zarkov, BOOKUP for the Mac and other chess programs. Fonts are \$29 each, two for \$49 or all three for \$59 postpaid. Specify PC or Mac and send check (or Mastercard/Visa information) to:
Alpine Electronics, 526 W. 7th, Powell, WY 82435
Money-Back Guarantee

∞ ∞ ± ± □ □ △ △ 田 田 ♀ ♂ ↻ ↻ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

Many other game diagram fonts are available. Send a postcard (or email to smiths@mail.nwc.whccn.edu) for more information and sample printouts.

Counting the 8 scholastic book prizes, the event boasted almost as many people winning prizes as not! The large turnout and enthusiasm displayed by all are evidence that Tidewater chess is booming. Martin Roper organized and Woody Harris directed for the VCF.

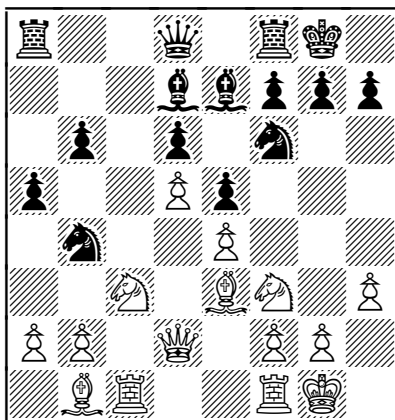


Martin Roper - Adam Sultan

Sicilian

Notes by Martin Roper

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 cxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 (5 Bd3) 5...Nc6 6 h3 e5
 7 Nf3 Bd7 8 Be3 Be7 9 Qd2 0-0 10 d5 Nb8 11 Bd3 a5 (11...Nxe4!?)
 12 Bxe4 f5 13 Bc2 f4) 12 0-0 Na6 13 Rac1 (13 Bc2 f4) 13...Nb4
 14 Bb1 b6



15 Nxe5! dxe5 16 d6 b5 17 a3 Na6 18 dxe7 Qxe7 19 Bg5 Bc6 20 Nd5
 Bxd5 21 exd5 Rfd8 22 Rc6 Rd6 23 Qc2 e4 24 Bxf6? (24 Rc8+! Rd8
 25 Rxa8 Rxa8 26 Qc6 wins) 24...Qxf6 25 Qxe4 g6 26 Rxd6 Qxd6
 27 Qf3 b4 28 Rc1 Re8 29 g3 Nc7 30 Ba2 Nb5 31 Qd3 Qd7 32 axb4
 axb4 33 Kg2 Nd6 34 Bb3 Ne4! 35 Re1 (35 Rc4? Qxh3+!) 35...Nc5
 36 Rxe8+ Qxe8 37 Qc4 Nxb3 38 Qxb3 Qe4+ 39 Qf3 f5?? (39...Qd4
 40 b3 ±) 40 Qxe4 fxe4 41 f4! +- Kf7 42 Kf2 Ke7 43 Ke3 Kd6 44 Kxe4
 1-0

C Smith - D Delgado

Sicilian

(A 324-rating-point upset) 1 e4 c5 2 Bc4 Nc6 3 Nf3 d6 4 0-0 Nf6 5 d3
 e6 6 Nc3 Be7 7 Ne2 a6 8 c3 Na5 9 Bb3 Nxb3 10 Qxb3 b5 11 Be3 0-0
 12 h3 Bb7 13 c4 b4 14 a3 a5 15 Nh2 Qc7 16 f4 a4 17 Qc2 d5 18 e5
 Nd7 19 cxd5 Bxd5 20 axb4 Qb7 21 bxc5 Bxg2 22 Rf2 Bxh3 23 c6
 Qc7 24 Ng3 Rfc8 25 Rc1 Nb8 26 Nf3 Qxc6 27 Nd4 Qxc2 28 Rfxc2
 Rxc2 29 Rxc2 Na6 30 Nc6 Bf8 31 Kh2 Bg4 32 Rc4 Bd1 33 Ne4 Bb3



34 Rc3 Nb4 35 Nxb4 Bxb4 36 Rc7 Rd8 37 Ng5 h6 38 Rb7 hgx5
39 Rxb4 Rxd3 40 Re4 0-1 (perhaps a few more moves were played)

Jack Suggs - Paul Leggett
Queen's Pawn

Notes by Paul Leggett

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nd2 g6 3 e4 d6 4 Bd3 Bg7 5 c3 Nbd7 6 f4 0-0 7 Ndf3 c5
8 Ne2 a6 9 0-0 b5 10 e5 dxe5 11 dxe5 Nd5 12 c4 bxc4 13 Bxc4 N7b6
14 Bb3 Bb7 15 Bd2 Qc7 16 Qe1 e6 ∞ 17 Qf2 Rfd8 18 Rac1 Rac8
19 Ba5! Qe7 20 Nd2? Nb4!! (Jack said this was “an absolutely
beautiful move.”) 21 Bxb4 cxb4 22 Rxc8 Nxc8 23 Nc4 Bf8 24 Rc1
Bd5 25 Nd2 Qb7 ≤ 26 Ng3 a5 27 Bxd5 Qxd5 28 Nde4 Qb5 29 Nf6+
Kg7 30 Ngh5+ Kh8 31 Qh4 gxh5 (Black should win. But...) 32 Nxh5
Bc5+?! (32...Qb6+) 33 Kh1 Qd3?? 34 Qf6+ 1-0

Paul Leggett - Amon Asghorpour
King's Indian Attack

Notes by Paul Leggett

1 Nf3 d5 2 g3 Nc6 3 Bg2 e5 4 d3 g6 5 0-0 Bg7 6 Nbd2 Nge7 7 e4 d4
8 a4 0-0 9 Nc4 Be6 10 b3 Qd7 11 Ng5 Bxc4 12 bxc4 h6 13 Nh3 a5
14 f4 f5 15 exf5 Nxf5 16 fxe5 Rfe8? (16...Bxe5) 17 Bd5+! Kh7 18 e6
Qd6?! 19 Rxf5! +- gxf5 20 Qh5 Rf8 21 Ng5+! Kg8 22 e7+ Kh8
23 exf8Q+ Rxf8 24 Nf7+ Rxf7 25 Qxf7 Ne7 26 Bf4 Qf6 27 Re1
Nxd5 28 Qxd5 c6 29 Qxa5 h5 30 Be5 Qg6 31 Bxg7+ Kxg7 32 Re7+
Kh6 33 Qe5 Qg4 34 Re6+ Kh7 35 Qc7+ Qg7 36 Re7 1-0

6th Tidewater Chess News Open

Tidewater Community College
Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach
in the Cafeteria (“Kempsville” Bldg D)
Saturday, March 21, 1998

4-SS, Reg 9-9:45 am *sharp!*—\$5 late fee for 9:46 or later. Play begins at 10am, Rd G/30, rd 2 G/45 (11:15 start), rd 3 G/60 (2:30 start), rd 4 G/80 (4:45 start). Byes flexible, none rd 4. EF \$20 by 3/14, at site \$25 adults, \$10 students under 19, \$10 over 2100 (discount deducted from prize). \$\$ 500 (b/25 adult entries, More cash if > 25 adult entries): \$125G to Top Overall, \$75 each to Top A, B, C, D, E, & Scholastic (under 19), class prizes b/5 per class, else proportional). Book prize to 2nd and 3rd Scholastic Players. NS, NC, W. Enter: Rodney Flores, 4 Witch-Hazel Court, Portsmouth, VA 23703-5091, (757)-686-0822



Blue About My Limericks

by Robert Harrison

AS YOU ARE PERHAPS AWARE, during the past year a limerick contest sponsored by one of the computer companies was advertised in *Chess Life*. It was a spin-off of the Kasparov - Deep Blue match; the limericks had to be related to that august event. A chess-playing computer was to be awarded for each of the ten best limericks. When I read the advertisement — it was in the June issue — I knew I *had* to enter: I am an English teacher and a chess player. My very honor was at stake. (Besides, I had always wanted a chess playing computer.) So... the anapests began dancing in my head.... Surely I could come up with a winner.... I'd always loved limericks, and I'd always loved chess.... This was an opportunity I could not pass up.... Surely I could win one of those computers!

Before the day was over, my Muse had dictated this to me:

*Garry is the man we knew
Would defeat the machine Deep Blue.
But in defending our race
He fell flat on his face,
So now there's a cry and hue.*

I liked it. It hit on the essential thing about the match: it was a contest between man and machine. Garry, our champion, was representing the whole human race. When he lost — and he lost rather ignominiously in the final game — there was a big uproar. I thought the last line, with its inversion of the usual “hue and cry,” was rather clever. I had my winner. The next day I showed it to one of my English teaching colleagues and was a little disappointed when she didn't enthuse over it, but I didn't let that discourage me: she didn't know anything about chess; she referred to Deep Blue as “Big Blue.” So I sent it in to *Chess Life*. Later on, though, I began to worry.... Who would the judges be? Maybe they would think I was too critical of Kasparov and thus, wanting him to endorse their products, might



not want to ruffle his feathers, or something like that. Hmm... I kept on trying. I wanted a more pro-Kasparov type of thing.

Once again my Muse came to my assistance:

*Our Garry is down but not out.
His defeat, after all, was no rout.
To IBM I declare,
"You'd better beware,
For the next match may show Garry's clout!"*

This, I figured, would do the trick if the other one wouldn't! I put the contest out of my mind and turned my attention to other things. After a few days had passed, however, I found myself once again pre-occupied with thoughts about a limerick. There was still a nagging doubt in my mind as to whether I had a winner. Then it happened. I was on a trip with my family, and I was driving.

Suddenly it came to me. I burst out laughing. I had it!! A winner!! I *knew* I had it!! I pulled into a service station, wrote it down, and recited it to my wife and children. The exquisite thing about it was that it gave an accurate account of the match — at least the way the match was being reported by the news media:

*Said Garry, grandmaster of note,
"At first I thought I could gloat.
But when in Game Two
It defeated my Ruy,
I knew it had me by the throat!"*

I had no more worries, no more nagging doubts. No more limerick lines floated into my mind. I went on with my life. I knew I had a winner! I *knew* it!! Whenever *Chess Life* arrived in the mail, I scanned it at once for a report about the contest. The August issue came... then the September... then the October... had the contest been dropped? Finally, in the November issue, the winners were announced. I quickly flipped to that section, and I could see — well, what I could see... was... that... I... did... not... win.



ABOUT TIME!

by Steve Mayer

ADREAM OF EVERY MASTER is to beat a “working Grandmaster.” There are plenty of obstacles to beating GMs, starting with the difficulty of even getting paired with one, their impressive strength and sporting ability, and psychological roadblocks.

I first had a winning position with a GM back in the mid-eighties. I got a won game with the Hungarian Istavan Farago and then hung a rook with a single move. After that game, Gene Meyer told me “GMs are hard to beat.” It would take years for the profundity of that statement to sink in. I next got a winning game perhaps a year later against Dmitri Gurevich in a Maryland Open. I completely outplayed him, but managed to spend 30 moves thrashing around in a queen & rook vs queen and bishop ending before I finally simplified to a draw. It would be nearly ten years before I got another winning game with a GM. In the 1995 New York Open, I played a very nice game against Nick DeFirmian (later that year he would tie for first in the US Championship with Patrick

Wolff and Alexander Ivanov). Unlike the other two winning positions I’d had, this one was more complicated and fleeting. I did have a cold win, but when I missed it Nick came roaring back with a pretty but obvious queen sacrifice and hacked my king to bits. To add insult to injury, a DC area experts later told me that he’d seen my game and that I’d been “inferior the whole time.”

In 1997 my luck started to change. I played a smooth draw with GM Anatoly Lein at the World Open and got a decent position with GM Gabriel Schwartzman before blundering horribly. That same tournament I held my own in tremendous complications with the Colombian IM Dario Alzate. After Thanksgiving I went up to Phila-



delphia. It was clear from the list of “advance entries” on the wall that I would play either a very strong or very weak player. Fortunately, I got my wish and was paired with GM Alexander Ivanov. My pregame impulse was to play the Dragon. After all, didn’t Ivanov play the insipid 6 g3, against which I’d never had any trouble? “No, no, he doesn’t do that any longer,” a better informed friend advised me. “Now he plays much sharper against the Dragon...and against all the other Sicilian lines, too.” (Indeed, I later discovered that NM Michael Casella had played a Dragon with Ivanov a few weeks before and that Ivanov had rattled off nearly 25 moves of

theory) What to do? “Well, he still plays 6 g3 against the Najdorf,” a little bird told me. What good did that do me? I’d never played the Black side of a Najdorf in my life! Still, Ivanov is famous as a player who always plays the same variations. I did a “gut check” and decided that I had “fall back” options available if Ivanov were to “trick” me by playing something something sharper against my “new opening.”

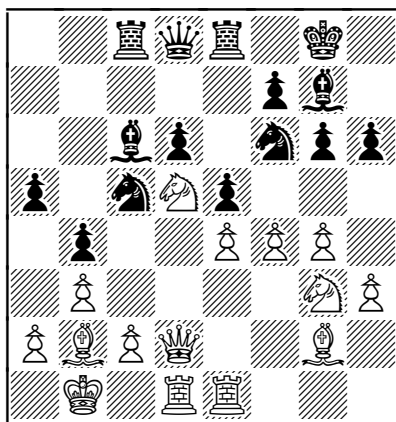
This game is dedicated to the memory of my father and best friend, Jack Mayer, who not only would have been tremendously amused by my ploy but might have even suggested it.

Alexander Ivanov - Steve Mayer
National Chess Congress (Philadelphia) 1997
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 Nc3 cxd4 5 Nxd4 a6! 6 g3 g6 (Heading for a Dragon. An alternative means was available for this, eg, 6...Nc6 7 Bg2 Bd7 to be followed by the fianchetto of the king bishop. However, with the b6 square weakened I was concerned that later a white knight at d5 would prove powerful.) **7 Bg2 Bg7 8 b3!?** (GM Fedorowicz felt that this was a mistake as it weakens the dark squares on the queenside. I was not terrifically surprised by it as I remembered seeing such a move in similar positions.) **8...Nbd7 9 Bb2 0-0 10 Qd2 Re8!** (Black’s difficulty in this position is finding constructive waiting moves while he waits to see White’s intentions. For in-



stance, the queenside development must eventually be implemented, but it will differ depending on what plan White chooses. The text overprotects e7 and clears f8, which may prove useful for the king or the bishop in some cases. Further, the protection of e7 ensures that Black will never be forced to change the pawn structure by swapping at d5 “against his will.” **11 0-0-0!**? (Ivanov is a “chess purist” who always plays the move he considers best. Of course, this approach brings him great results, but it also carries with it great risks at times. For instance, a pragmatist would probably look at the rating difference and conclude that Black’s best chance of winning would come in an opposite wing castling situation.) **11...Nc5 12 h3 Bd7 13 Rhe1 Rc8 14 g4 h6! 15 Nde2** (White finds it difficult to make progress on the kingside as 15 g5? hxg5 16 Qxg5 e5! 17 Nde2 Bc6 favors Black, eg, 18 Ng3? Kh7! +- or 18 f3, when Black has the luxury of continuing with his attack on the king or breaking in the center with 18...d5!) **15...b5 16 Ng3 Bc6** (Nimzowitsch taught that any immobile pawn eventually becomes a target. Case in point: White’s e-pawn.) **17 Kb1** (Ivanov took over half an hour on this “simple” move.) **17...a5 18 f4 b4 19 Nd5 e5!** (Black retains his dark square bishop, which is a better piece than the White counterpart.)



20 Nxf6+ (Instead, 20 f5 was possible, but then Black can capture at d5 and transform his e-pawn into a protected passer.) **20...Bxf6!?** (Offering a speculative positional pawn sacrifice that is intended to



seize the initiative from White. While I believe that this pawn sac is more or less sound, there was no objection to the simpler 20...Qxf6, when 21 Qxd6? Qxd6 22 Rxd6 exf4 is winning for Black.) **21 fxe5** (He might as well accept the sac as 21 f5 Bh4! 22 Qf2 a4 (or even 22...Qf6!?) favors for Black.) **21...dxe5 22 Qxh6 Qe7 23 Qe3** (White has won a pawn and avoided having his queen trapped, but his game isn't easy. His minor pieces all lack scope and he has a variety of weak dark squares. It's possible that White should be able to defend here and even consolidate his extra material, but Ivanov was already short of time, which always makes being on the defensive more difficult.) **23...a4 24 Rf1 Ne6** (heading for d4) **25 Qf3 Bg7 26 Ne2 Bb5!** (This is a case of "changing the color of a bishop," which I discuss in my recent book *Bishop versus Knight: The Verdict* (Batsford 1997). Black is pressing an initiative on the dark squares, so he welcomes the opportunity to exchange his light-squared bishop for a piece that could oppose him on the dark squares.) **27 Rf2 Bxe2 28 Qxe2** (Presumably Ivanov preferred this to 28 Rxe2 as it doesn't commit him to swapping at d4.) **28...Nd4 29 Qf1?!** (If White is going to move his queen then it must remain in contact with b5, as otherwise Black would reply 29...Nb5! and hit on the weaknesses at c3 and a3. However, it

Request for Information

My name is John Hilbert. Dale Brandreth and I are working on a biography and games collection about Norman Tweed Whitaker (1890-1975). Whitaker was very active in regional chess matters from about 1950 until shortly before his death. For instance, I am aware he played in an Open tournament in Virginia as late as 1971. No doubt he had other contacts with Virginia chess, as he lived in Maryland for many years.

While Dale Brandreth and I have hundreds of documents by Whitaker, including game scores, we would like to do everything we can to ensure a balanced review of Whitaker's controversial life. To that end, I am seeking game scores, anecdotes, and any stories by individuals who personally knew and/or played across the board from Whitaker. Please send any such information to John S. Hilbert, 140 Parkhurst Blvd., Kenmore, NY 14223. My e-mail address is jshchess@aol.com.

Sincerely yours,
John S. Hilbert



was more flexible to play the immediate 30 Bxd4.) **29...Qa7!** (This activates the queen on the a-file and the a7-g1 diagonal. In passing, the possibility of ...Nb5 is established, as the rook at f2 is a tactical target.) **30 Bxd4 exd4 31 Rd3** (The rook soon returns to the back rank, so this appears to be another inexact defensive move in time pressure.) **31...axb3 32 cxb3 Bh6! 33 Rd1?** (33 h4 Rc1+ 34 Qxc1 Bxc1 35 Kxc1 Rc8+ 36 Kd1 (not 36 Kb1? Qc7! hitting c1 and g3) offered better practical chances, but then Black can avoid blockade draws by 36...Qa3! Δ 37...Rc1+ and 38... Ra1 when White's queenside pawns cave in.) **33...d3! 34 h4** (The attempt to remain in contact with a2 by 34 Rb2 also loses to 34...Rc2!) **34...Rc2! 0-1**

An appropriate resignation, even for time pressure, as Black soon forces mate in all variations. Interestingly, I played my last fifteen moves or so in fewer than twenty minutes. I had nearly twenty minutes left on the clock at the end of the game, but I had wanted to hold this time in reserve so that I could use it if I really needed it. Ivanov was down to a minute or so by about move 29, which helps explain his final moves.

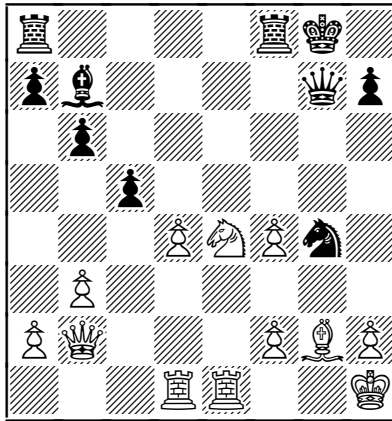
I also drew two IMs in Philly. The next round I was paired with Dr Ed Formanek, who's not only the first IM I ever played (I believe back in 1979) but is also internationally renowned as one of the very top mathematicians in algebra. (I've heard it said that his "algebra rating" might be as high as 2700 if algebra were rated by FIDE) Of course, there's no way this game could compare to my first round game, but it's a very exciting battle and the complications at move 23 are worth a look.

Steve Mayer - Ed Formanek
National Chess Congress (Philadelphia) 1997
Dutch

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 e6 4 Qc2 Bd6 5 g3 (I considered 5 e4, but decided that it was premature. Imagine my surprise when I scanned a large database and discovered that no one else has been able to bring themselves to play it, either!) **5...f5 6 Bg2 Nf6 7 0-0 0-0 8 b3 Nbd7**



(A more common approach is 8...Qe7, which prevents for the moment the exchange of Black's good bishop.) **9 Ba3 Bxa3 10 Nxa3 Ne4 11 e3!?** (Something of a lazy move. It was probably better to play 11 Qb2 Δ Nc2-e1-d3 homing in on the e5 square.) **11...Qe7 12 Qb2 g5!?** (This aggressive move was one thing I hoped to provoke by playing 11 e3. It seemed to me that the Black king position would eventually become very airy in the absence of the king bishop.) **13 Rad1 f4 14 exf4 gxf4 15 Nb1 b6 16 Rfe1** ("Baby chess" - everything goes to the center where eventually the pieces will "magically" find themselves well placed.) **16...Bb7 17 Nbd2 c5 18 cxd5 exd5 19 Nxe4 dxe4 20 Nd2 Nf6** (Black could always play 20...fxg3, but then White is just better, as the Black pawn structure is shot and he has lots of weaknesses in the center.) **21 gxf4 Qg7 22 Kh1** (Playing for mate down the g-file. In retrospect, it was probably better to play 22 Nc4, heading to set up a blockade at e3.) **22...Ng4 23 Nxe4**



Wednesday Night Quick Chess!

USCF Quick rated chess (G/20, no notation required)
on the first Wednesday of every month.

Registration: 7:15 pm, 1st rd at 7:30. EF: \$1

Tidewater Community College, Princess Anne Road, Va Beach
in the Cafeteria ("Kempsville" Bldg. "D").

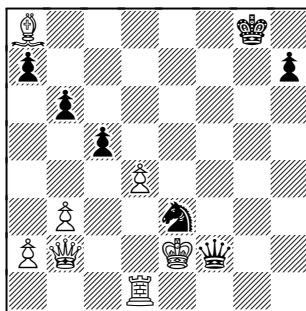


23...Rxf4

Fascinating complications arise after 23...Qh6 24 h3 Rxf4 25 Kg1!, when it appears that White wins a piece easily:

(a) 25...Nf6 26 Nxf6+ is decisive:

(b) 25...Bxe4? 26 Rxe4 Rxe4 (26...Rxf2 27 Rxc4+) 27 Bxe4 Qxh3 (27...Ne3? 28 Re1 just loses a piece) 28 Bxa8 Qh2+ 29 Kf1 Ne3+! 30 Ke1 (or 30 Ke2 Qxf2+! transposing) 30...Qg1+ 31 Ke2 Qxf2+! (*diagram*) 32 Kxf2 Nxd1+ 33 Ke2 Nxb2 34 Kd2! c4 (forced) 35 Bd5+ Kg7 36 bxc4 b5 (The knight has yet to be liberated) 37 cxb5 Na4 (or else 38 Bb3 rounds up the knight) 38 Bb3 Nb6 39 a4, and the race isn't even close, e.g., 39...h5 40 a5 Nc8 41 Be6 Nd6 42 b6 wins.



However, Black can renounce his 23rd move with the surprising 25...Qg7! and then 26 hxg4? Rxe4! 27 Rxe4 (27 Bxe4 Qxc4+ is good for Black) 27...Bxe4 as 28 Bxe4 is met by Qxc4+. Instead, White should settle for 28 f3! Bb7 and now a queen move by White leaves him a pawn up with the more secure king position.

How crucial are these variations to a practical game in progress? Not very, when you get right down to it. I saw the position after White's 25th move and was sure that I was fine, as I also saw the moves that just lost a piece on the spot. Dr Formanek may have taken (b) above a bit further than that, but in spite of all the flashy moves it affords him, it's clear by move 32 that it couldn't possibly offer Black any winning chances. So, soon enough, he played 23...Rxf4.

24 f3 Bxe4 25 fxg4! (White doesn't have anything special after 25 Rxe4 Rxe4 26 fxe4 Ne3 27 Rd2 cxd4 28 Qxd4 Qxd4 29 Rxd4 Rc8!) **25...Re8 26 Rxe4 Rfxe4 27 Bxe4 Rxe4 28 Qg2! Qxc4!** (One could hardly hope for 28...Qxd4?? 29 Rxd4 Re1+ 30 Qg1 and White wins the king and pawn ending.) **29 Qxc4+ Rxc4 30 dxc5 bxc5 31 Rd8+**



(The king and pawn ending is drawn after 31 Rg1 Rxc1+ 32 Kxc1 Kf7 33 Kf2 Ke6 34 Ke3 Ke5 35 Kd3 Kd5 and now, in one order or another, the dance of tempi moves, eg, 36 h3 h6 37 h4 h5 38 a3 a6 39 a4 a5 40 Kc3 Kd6! 41 Kc4 Kc6 =) **31...Kf7 32 Rd7+ Kg6 33 Rxa7 Rd4 34 Rc7 Rd2 35 Rxc5?** (This is a non-starter as a winning attempt. I should have tried 35 a4, though that should also be drawn with best play, I believe.) **35...Rxa2** ½-½

In fairness to Dr Formanek I should add that I actually offered the draw after looking at the position for some minutes and realizing that it's hard to win when a king down.



READERS' GAMES & ANALYSIS

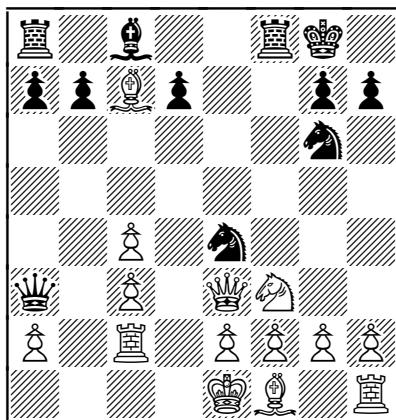
Adam Stein - Martin Roper
1997 Golden Knights Correspondence
Budapest

Notes by Martin Roper

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 (My opponent was listed as unrated at the start of the event, so I didn't think twice about playing this line - even at postal chess. But it almost turned out to be a mistake. My "unrated" opponent scored 4½-1½ versus other players in the section!) **3 dxe5 Ng4 4 Bf4** (I regard 4 Nf3 as inferior to the text move. After 4...Bc5 5 e3 Nc6 Black gets a dynamic game *and* gets the pawn back.) **4...Bb4+** (4...Nc6 is normal here, but I was offering my opponent the opportunity to enter less-explored territory. On 5 Nd2 I planned 5...d6!? and now: *i*) 6 exd6 Qf6 7 e3 Nxf2 8 Kxf2 g5 9 Ne4 Qxb2+ 10 Be2 gxf4 ∞ ; or *ii*) 6 a3 dxe5 7 Bg3 Bxd2+ 8 Qxd2 Qe7! 9 Nf3 f6 = according to Tseitlin & Gloskov. The latter seems to be a somewhat better situation than the main line of the 4 Bf4 Budapest where White gets a slight but long-term advantage after 4...Nc6 5 Nf3 Bb4+



6 Nbd2 Qe7 7 e3 Ngxe5 8 Nxe5 Nxe5 9 Be2 d6 10 0-0 Bxd2
 11 Qxd2 0-0 12 Rfd1 b6 13 b4 due to the two bishops and minority
 attack on the queenside. Some books call the position equal, but I
 don't believe it.) **5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Nf3 Bxc3+!** (Most precise 6...Qe7
 is often played, but White can gain an advantage by protecting c3 with
 7 Rc1, 7 Qc2 or 7 Qb3. Gligoric's 7 Qc2 is simplest, eg, 7...Ngxe5
 8 Nxe5 Nxe5 9 a3 Bxc3+ 10 Qxc3 d6 11 c5! ±) **7 bxc3 Qe7 8 Qd5**
 (The only attempt to hold the extra pawn.) **Qa3** (8...f6 is more
 explored, but I wanted to get into the footnotes and put the onus on
 my opponent to find his own moves and ideas.) **9 Rc1 Ne7!?** (Maybe
 even?! - usually 9...f6 is played here straight away.) **10 Qd2 Ng6**
11 Bg3 f6!? (N - an untested suggestion of Tseitlin & Gloskov.
 11...h5?! 12 h3 h4 13 Bf4 ± Gheorgiu-Shipman, Lone Pine 1979)
12 exf6 Nxf6 13 Bxc7 Ne4 14 Qe3 0-0 15 Rc2? (It's probably not too
 early to talk about "the losing move," yet the text has a computer-
 like logic to it: the rook no longer needs protection so the queen is
 free to move, and the a-pawn is protected (though Black doesn't
 necessarily want it). But the rook does nothing active on c2 and is
 itself unprotected and exposed to attack with tempo, as will be seen.
 Tseitlin & Gloskov give 15 Bg3 d6 with compensation for Black -
 White's kingside will take time to unravel.)



15...d5! 16 cxd5 Bf5 17 Nd4 (White must have thought that this
 would hold everything together.) **Nxf2! -+ 18 Nxf5 Rxf5 19 Rg1**



(19 Qe6+ Rf7 20 Rg1 Qc5 is no fun for White, eg 21 d6 (or 21 Bd6) 21...Nd3+ 22 exd3 Qxg1 -+) **19...Qa4 20 Rd2 Re8 21 Qd4** (21 Qc5 Ne4 22 Qd4 Qd7 23 d6 Nxd2 24 Qxd2 Rb5! 25 Qc2 Re3 26 g3 Ne5 27 Bg2 Qe6 -+ Δ Nc4, Rb2 etc. Though bad, this is White's best chance for prolonging the game.) **21...Qa3!** (The queen operates powerfully on the weak dark squares. If 22 g4 Qc1+ 23 Rd1 Nxd1 24 gxf5 (24 Qxd1 Qxc3+ 25 Qd2 Qxd2+ 26 Kxd2 Rxd5+ -+) 24...Nxc3+ 25 Kf2 Ne4+ 26 Kf3 Nh4+ 27 Kg4 Qxc7 28 Kxh4 Qxh2+ 29 Bh3 (29 Kg4 Nf2+) 29...Qf4+ 30 Bg4 h5! wins) **22 Rc2** (White's rooks are a pathetic sight.) **22...Re4 23 Qd2 Qc5** (It's over. If 24 Bg3 Nd3+ 25 Qxd3 Qxg1 26 Qf3 (26 Qxe4 Rxf1+ 27 Kd2 Rd1#) 26...Rxf3 wins; and on 24 d6 Ne5 Δ N5d3+ is crushing.) **0-1**

Okula - Chris Tull
1997 Northern Virginia Open
Center Counter

Notes by Chris Tull

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 Nf3 Nxd5 4 d4 Bf5 5 c3 Nd7 6 Bd3 Bxd3 7 Qxd3 e6 8 0-0 Bd6 9 Nbd2 0-0 10 Ne4 Be7 11 Ng3 c5 12 Be3 Nxe3 13 fxe3 cxd4 14 exd4 h6 15 Rae1 Bd6 16 Qe3 Qc7 17 Nh5 (I believe that White was looking for some sort of game-ending, shattering piece sac to open up lines to my King. I had a few tense moments finding a defense, meanwhile dreaming of a certain trap I had envisioned...) **17...Rae8 18 g4 f6 19 Re2 e5** (Do you see the trap? I literally sat there and silently, intensely sent thought-waves into my opponent's head; "Please please please please please push the d pawn!") **20 d5 Bc5** (At this unpleasant juncture my opponent let out what sounded like a small groan.) **21 Nd4 exd4 22 Qxe8** (And one more nasty little tactical trick. Can you see it?) **22...d3+** (Discovered check) **23 Kh1 dxe2 24 Qxe2 Qd6 25 c4 Qe5 26 Qf3 Bd6 27 Rf2 Nc5 28 Nf4 Qxf4 29 Qxf4 Bxf4 30 Rxf4 Nd3 31 Re4** (And one final tactical blow to polish him off.) **31...Nf2+** (Wins the Rook! He threw in the towel.) **0-1**





CULPEPER OPEN

107 scholastic players and 34 adults showed up at the Culpeper County Middle School on November 21 for the Culpeper Open. Top-rated Paul Waldowski justified his spot on the wall chart by sweeping into clear 1st place, 4-0. Marvin Wilson conceded a first-round draw and ran the table from there on out to claim 2nd. Vince LoTiempo, Mike Cornell and Jim Zachetti organized the event.

For more Culpeper Chess Club news and info, check out the web page at <http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Loge/6739/>

Name	rtng	rd 1	rd 2	rd 3	rd 4	TOT
1 Waldowski, Paul J.....	2052	W 15	W 25	W 16	W 9	4.0
2 Wilson, Marvin Pic.....	1808	D 10	W 31	W 8	W 11	3.5
3 Evans, Geoffrey.....	1960	D 8	W 20	D 10	W 15	3.0
4 Prokop, Edward J.....	1814	L 9	W 21	W 25	W 16	3.0
5 Hill, Martin.....	1800	W 24	D 12	D 13	W 19	3.0
6 Dickerson, Brian J.....	1643	L 14	W 27	W 22	W 13	3.0
7 Garratt, Donald.....	1810	L 16	W 28	W 17	D 10	2.5
8 Thomas, Jamarl L.....	1716	D 3	W 23	L 2	W 21	2.5
9 George, Bruce B.....	1631	W 4	W 17	D 11	L 1	2.5
10 Hippeard, Preston.....	1625	D 2	W 34	D 3	D 7	2.5
11 Patterson, Brian O.....	1492	W 27	W 14	D 9	L 2	2.5
12 Brandt, Wade.....	1344	W 29	D 5	L 14	W 20	2.5
13 Mc Cain, Felix M.....	1968	D 30	W 18	D 5	L 6	2.0
14 Lance, Mark N.....	1898	W 6	L 11	W 12	U-	2.0
15 Malove, Mickael.....	1759	L 1	W 33	W 18	L 3	2.0
16 Chedester, Michael.....	1630	W 7	W 22	L 1	L 4	2.0
17 De Marino, Joe.....	1278	W 33	L 9	L 7	W 23	2.0
18 Malove, Paul M.....	1154	W 19	L 13	L 15	W 27	2.0
19 Campbell, Howard.....	unr.	L 18	W 26	W 24	L 5	2.0
20 Burchard, H E Dvm.....	1163	D 23	L 3	W 34	L 12	1.5
21 Campbell, Sean P.....	1061	H-	L 4	W 26	L 8	1.5
22 Dimeo, Tonoose.....	unr.	W 26	L 16	L 6	H-	1.5
23 Sullivan, Greg.....	unr.	D 20	L 8	W 31	L 17	1.5
24 Miller, Andrew J.....	1495	L 5	W 29	L 19	U-	1.0
25 Mc Claine, Raponye.....	1458	W 28	L 1	L 4	U-	1.0
26 Turner, Charles E.....	1194	L 22	L 19	L 21	W 34	1.0
27 Jasinski, James T.....	1089	L 11	L 6	W 33	L 18	1.0
28 Miller, Brian D.....	1017	L 25	L 7	W 29	U-	1.0
29 Crocker, James L.....	962	L 12	L 24	L 28	B-	1.0
30 Sumner, Brian.....	1739	D 13	U-	U-	U-	0.5
31 Smith Keith.....	1102	H-	L 2	L 23	U-	0.5
32 Gospodnetic, Mark.....	995	H-	U-	U-	U-	0.5
33 Solka, Jeff.....	960	L 17	L 15	L 27	H-	0.5
34 Hurst, G. Arthur.....	unr.	H-	L 10	L 20	L 6	0.5



3rd TCN OPEN

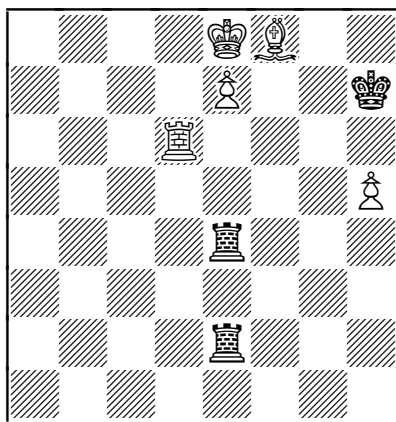
by Rodney Flores, reprinted from Tidewater Chess News

TIDEWATER CHESS seems to be breathing new life, with our last 4 tournaments averaging 30+ players. This time expert Nate Lynch came out atop a field of 36 with 4½ out of 5, which was enough for clear first at the 3rd Tidewater Chess News Open, September 20-21. Nate fought off a determined Martin Roper, who had already defeated one expert (Flores) but decided to give Nate an early Christmas present. Nate then finished strongly with a nice win:

Nate Lynch - Ernest Nix Gruenfeld

Notes by Rodney Flores

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bg5 dxc4 6 e3 Nd5?! 7 Bxc4 Nxc3 8 bxc3 c5 9 Qb3 0-0 10 Ne5 Qe8 11 Rd1 Bxe5? 12 dxe5 Kg7 (This move alone must raise a big red flag that Black's 11th was wrong. Black is too weak on the dark squares.) 13 Bb5 (13 h4!?) 13...Nc6 14 Qd5 Be6 15 Qxc5 Rc8 16 0-0 a6 17 Bxc6 Rxc6 18 Qxe7 Qxe7 19 Bxe7 Rfc8 20 Bf6+ (Now Black must always keep an eye open for the old back ranker.) 20...Kg8 21 h3 Bxa2 22 Rd7 h6 23 Rfd1 b5 24 e4 Be6 25 R7d6 Rxc3 26 Rxa6 b4 ≤ 27 Be7 b3 28 Ba3 Rc2 29 Rb1 Ra2 30 Rxe6! fxe6 31 Rxb3 Rcc2 32 Rf3 Re2 (This is a pretty amazing position. At first glance it looks like Black is winning easily, but actually White is better due to the threat of Rf6 and the weak Black king position. Therefore, more desperate measures are called for: 32...Rxf2 33 Rxf2 Rxa3 34 Rf6 Kg7 35 Rxe6 Re3 36 Re8 Rxe4 37 e6 ≥ ; or 32...Rxa3 33 Rxa3 Rc5 34 f4 Rc4 35 Re3 ≥) 33 Bd6 Rxe4? 34 Rf6 +- Re1+ 35 Kh2 Kg7 36 Bf8+ Kh7 37 Rxe6 Rxf2 38 Re7+ Kg8 39 Bxh6 Rf7 40 Re8+ Kh7 41 Bg5 Re2 42 Bf6 g5? (In fairness, Ernest was in time pressure by this point.) 43 Rh8+ Kg6 44 Rg8+ Kh7 45 Rxc5 Ra7 46 h4 Kh6 47 Kh3 Raa2 48 Bg7+ Kh7 49 g3 Re3 50 h5 Ree2 51 Bf8 Rh2+ 52 Kg4 Ra4+ 53 Kf3 Rc4 54 e6 Rc3+ 55 Ke4 Re2+ 56 Kd4 Rce3 57 e7 Re6 58 Kd5 R6e3 59 Kd6 Rd3+ 60 Rd5 Rxc3 61 Kd7 Rge3 62 Rd6 Re4 63 Ke8



63...Re5 (I thought Black had a Hail Mary drawing chance here in 63...Rxe7+ 64 Bxe7 Rh2, but 65 Rd5 Kh6 66 Bg5+ Kh7 67 h6 wins - Black doesn't get the Rook vs Rook & Bishop.) **64 h6 R5e4 65 Rf6 R4e3 66 Rf7+ Kh8 67 Bg7+ Kg8 68 Bd4 Re6 69 h7++ 1-0**

A three-way tie for second emerged: Expert Rodney Flores, Martin Roper & Lee Gibson managed 4-1 scores. Rated just 1450 going in, Lee's only loss was a tough game - against Martin.

Top Under 1800 was shared by Tom Phillipoom and Adam Sultan (another upstart 1400 player!), each scoring $3\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$. Adam seems to be getting tougher with each tournament. Top U1400 was Matt Raum (1176) with 3-2. Top Scholastic Player was Justin Bowman with 3-2. 2nd and 3rd Scholastic were the twins Cameron and Brett Hudson, both scoring $2\frac{1}{2}-2\frac{1}{2}$. The Hudson's scores are misleading; since their ratings are getting higher, they're having to play A and B players all the time, resulting in more moderate scores. That'll teach 'em! But seriously, all these hard pairings will thoroughly prepare these two young players to be the best.

Thanks goes out to Bob Kramer for a professional directing job.



4th TCN OPEN

by Rodney Flores, reprinted from Tidewater Chess News

THE FUTURE OF TIDEWATER CHESS came out in droves to the Tidewater Chess News Open #4, October 19, 1997 - twenty four of the 37 contestants were junior players!! A lot of the faces coming to the monthly tournaments (every month) belong to scholastic players, which is a good sign. That said, it was only fitting that two junior players should be part of the tie for first!! Equal first with $3\frac{1}{2}$ of 4 were Rodney Flores (2069), junior player Lucas Revellon (1909), Bob Collins (1775), and 8th grader Cameron Hudson (1556).

The even more amazing thing is that Cameron started round 4 with 3-0 (including a win over a strong A-player) and seemed to have clear first all wrapped up. Bob Kramer, with a clearly superior position, forced Rodney to take a draw in round 3. The 4th round Collins-Revellon matchup had already ended in a draw when Cameron overplayed a better position against Kramer and had to settle for a perpetual.

Top D player was shared by John Culbreth and Joe DeMarino at 2-2. Joe and Brian Patterson came down from the Eastern Shore, and plan to visit more often. I vacationed in Joe's hometown, Onancock, this summer. There people say "hello" to you on the streets, and other similar (refreshing) things.

Top E player was Oscar Smith High chess coach Dave Brandt with 3-1. Dave brought his entire team and he seems to be picking up the game a bit.

Bobby Keller and David Cavitt split the scholastic prize with 3-1 scores followed by Brain Rohrbaugh with $2\frac{1}{2}$.

Thanks to all participants for enduring my first tournament directing experience! And a special thanks to my wife, Chris, for saving my hide by helping me direct.



OF SILLY PAWN MOVES, GOOD ROOKS, & BAD BISHOPS

by Peter Hopkins

Cooper Jones - Peter Hopkins

G/30 December 9, 1997

Four Knights Defense

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4 b6 (The first of some silly pawn moves. Was I thinking of fianchettoing the queen bishop or what?) **5.0-0 d6 6.d3 Bg4 7.Bg5 Be7 8.h3 Bh5 9.Nb5 a6** (9.Nb5 is certainly a questionable move. Cooper's loss of time gave me the initiative, allowed me to double his pawns on the f-file and expose his king on the half open g-file.) **10.Nc3 Nd4 11.Re1 Nxf3+ 12.gxf3 b5 13.Bb3 Qd7 14.Kg2 a5 15.a4 b4 16.Nb1 c5 17.Qd2 Rc8** (Cooper has all but buried his queen rook and queen knight. Looking back, 16.Na2 may have been a bit better, but 16.Nd5 would lose a piece and 16.Ne2 looks like it could lose to 16...Bxf3+) **18.c3 Bxf3+ 19.Kxf3 Qxh3+ 20.Ke2 h6 21.Be3 Ng4 22.cxb4 axb4** (The inactive White pieces and exposed king seem to justify my sacrifice of the minor piece for two pawns but 22...axb4 gives White a passed pawn. Better was 22...cxb4 which would not have allowed the passed pawn and would have opened the c-file for Black's rooks.) **23.Rg1 Bh4 24.Rf1 0-0 25.a5 Kh8 26.Ba4 f5 27.Bd7 f4** (With the king rook on the f-file, I intended to use the f-pawn to spearhead a king side attack but now White's passer is on the move and Cooper activates his king bishop with a vengeance.) **28.f3 Qg2+ 29.Bf2 Nxf2 30.Rxf2 Qxf2+ 31.Kd1 Qxd2+ 32.Nxd2 Rc7 33.Bg4 Ra7 34.Nc4 Rf6** (In order to avoid losing the exchange on c8 I won the exchange on f2, but in so doing my attack is completely dissipated. Cooper's minor pieces are now very active, the passer on the a-file is a deadly menace and my pawn on d6 is a juicy target.) **35.Bc8 Rg6 36.Ra4 Be7 37.b3 Rg1+ 38.Ke2 h5 39.Kf2 Rg5 40.Ra1 h4** (The moves ...h5 and ...h4 are as bad or worse than 22...axb4. Now, with no useful file for the rooks, weak pawns at d6 and h4 and an all but helpless bishop, my game is in bad shape. Cooper has his rook behind the passed pawn and two highly potent minor pieces ready to shepherd the candidate to glory.) **41.Rh1 Rg3 42.Bf5 g6 43.Bh3 Bf8 44.Bg2 Rh7 45.a6 Rg5 46.Nb6 Rgh5** (Instead of 43...Bf8, I probably should have exchanged rooks on h3 with drawing chances. Doubling the rooks on the h-file only creates delusions of grandeur for the rook pawn.) **47.Ra1 Ra7 48.Nc8 Ra8 49.Bh3 Rh7 50.a7 Rc7 51.Ra6 Kg7** (Cooper's rook pawn is relentless and my king is too far away to help my hapless pieces.) **52.Be6 Kf6 53.Bd5 Raxa7 54.Nxa7 g5 55.Nc8? Rxc8** (Cooper reaps his reward and then commits an inexplicable blunder, returning the piece without visible



compensation. 55.Nb5 threatens to win a pawn or, at worst, force an ending against my bad bishop.) **56.Bb7 Rc7 57.Ra7 Be7 58.Ke2 h3 59.Kf1 Bd8 60.Ra8 Ke7 61.Bc8 h2** (I still had delusions of grandeur for the rook pawn but virtually condemned it to death with 58...h3. Meanwhile, Cooper still had a few tricks of his own.) **62.Kg2 Ke8 63.Bh3 Rh7 64.Kxh2 Rh8 65.Ra7 Be7 66.Rxe7+?** (Cooper blundered, giving up his rook for my hopelessly bad bishop.) **Kxe7 67.Kg2 Ra8 68.Kf2 Ra3 0-1**

The inaccuracy at move 55 (Nc8) may have been chess blindness — a malady which many of us have suffered from time to time — or possibly fatigue. As for the blunder at move 66 (Rxe7+), chalk it up to youthful inexperience. Cooper will not have his *sixth* birthday until the warmer months of 1998! Meanwhile, he and I will have a serious discussion about the relative merits of good rooks and bad bishops.



ARLINGTON CHESS CLUB BLITZ

by Mike Atkins

Fred Garcia was the clear winner of the 3rd Annual Arlington Chess Club WBCA Tournament of Blitz Champions/Club Blitz Championship (how's that for a tournament name?!), December 12.

The invitational tournament was the culmination of a year-long series in which the winners of each month's open qualifying event gained a berth in the championship. IM Larry Kaufman was the clear favorite to repeat as defending champion, especially after Alex Reprintsev moved back to the Ukraine. However, Kaufman lost to Stan Fink mid way through the event, while Fred kept earning full points. Garcia opened up a decisive margin when he encircled Kaufman's queen in their 9th round head-to-head showdown.

Fred finished with a remarkable $10\frac{1}{2}$ out of 11 points. Kaufman was second with 9-2. The winner's only draw was in the penultimate round, clinching the title from a better position versus Stan Fink. Fink finished tied for 3rd-4th ($6\frac{1}{2}$ points) with Larry's son, Ray Kaufman.

The new champion almost didn't even turn out for the event! Fred had been scheduled to do an out-of-town software demonstration for his job on the night of the tournament. But a chess addict's love for the game knows no bounds, and he managed to switch the demo to the night before. Even so, he arrived at the Arlington



club straight from the airport, having just flown in from Los Angeles. Fueled by numerous cups of coffee, Fred remarked that his result was likely to be either very good or very bad - very prophetic!

By the time you read this, the event will have entered its fourth year with the first of twelve monthly WBCA-rated Qualifiers on January 2, 1998. Qualifiers will be held generally on the first Friday of each month, except for occasional conflicts (eg July - World Open, and September - State Championship) whereupon the Qualifier will slip to the second Friday. The winners of all the Qualifiers (or a runner-up if the winner has previously qualified) will meet for the next championship on Friday, December 11, 1998. EF for the monthly events are \$5 to WBCA members and \$10 to non-members. There is no EF if you make the finale. Play at least once this year!

Dave Sherman - Roderick Brown

ACC Blitz 1997

Pirc

Notes by Macon Shibut

(Normally one doesn't annotate blitz games but this one is especially nice, with a concluding attack that would stand out even at tournament speed. Dave Sherman won this ACC blitz thing a couple years ago. During the cooling down period following this year's tournament he reconstructed this game for the entertainment of Myra Madens, Bill Carroll and your editor.) **1 Nf3 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 e4 Bg7 5 Be2 0-0 6 0-0 c6 7 Bf4 Nbd7 8 h3 a6 (8... Qa5) 9 e5 dxe5 10 dxe5 Ne8 11 Qd2 Nc7 12 Rad1 Ne6 13 Bh6 Qc7 14 Bxg7 Kxg7 15 Qe3 Nb6 16 a4 Rd8 17 Rxd8 Qxd8 18 Rd1 Qc7 19 a5 Nd7 20 Bc4 Ndf8 21 Nh2 Qxa5 22 Ng4 Qc5?** (I guess he had to go 22...Bd7. After the text it looks like White to Play and Win by force!) **23 Qh6+ Kg8** (If 23...Kh8 so that White's knights don't come in with check, just 24 Rd8 does the trick, eg 24...Bd7 25 Rxa8 Kg8 26 Bxe6 forces mate) **24 Ne4! Qxc4** (He needs to eliminate the bishop else it contributes to the attack by taking Ne6 at some opportune moment. For instance, 24... Qb4 defends against what happens in the game because the queen will defend f8 in some critical variations. However White goes 25 Nef6+ exf6 and now interjects 26 Bxe6! to see how Black recaptures. If 26... Nxe6 27 Nxf6+ Kh8 28 Qxh7#; or 26... Bxe6 27 exf6 and mates on g7; or finally, 26... fxe6 27 exf6 Kf7 28 Qg7+ Ke8 29 f7+ Ke7 30 Qf6#) **25 Nef6+! exf6 26 Nxf6+ Kh8 27 Rd8!** (A great finishing thrust - Black's defense will collapse at either f8 or h7) **1-0**

VCF World Wide Web Page

[HTTP://WWW.VACHESS.ORG](http://www.vachess.org)

In This Issue:

Tournaments	
1998 Virginia Open	1
Zofchak Memorial	13
Culpeper Open	31
3rd TCN Open	32
4th TCN Open	34
Arlington CC Blitz	36
Features	
Blue About My Limerics (Harrison)	19
About Time! (Mayer)	21
Readers' Games & Analysis	28
Of Silly Pawn Moves... (Hopkins)	35
Odds & Ends	
Upcoming Events	4,5,7,10,12,18,26
Internet Addresses	9, 37
Request (re Norman Whitaker)	24
VCF Info	inside front cover

Virginia Chess

PO Box 241

Barboursville VA 22923

Nonprofit Organ.

US Postage

PAID

Permit No. 1

Barboursville VA

22923