

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

1998 - #2

Correspondence IM
Walter Muir's
75-Year
Chess Career

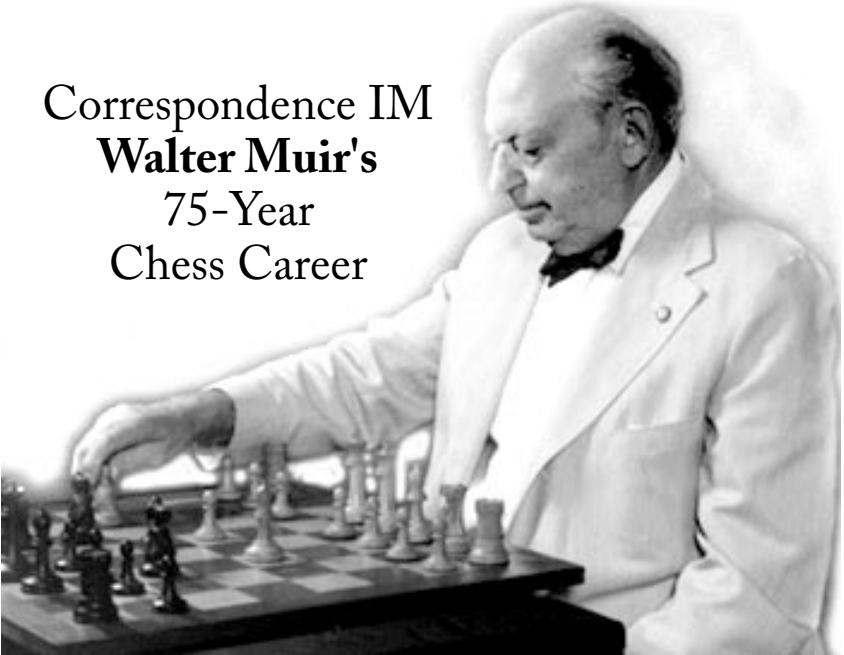


photo from <http://www.chessmail.com/images/muirplay.jpg>

Also inside...

US Amateur Team π Va Beach
Mt Vernon Best Western

VIRGINIA CHESS

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WALTER MUIR

Virginia Chess is indebted to Leonard Morgan, of Roanoke, 1955 state champion and former editor of a statewide chess newsletter, for directing our attention to the recent publication of Walter Muir's *My 75-Year Chess Career*. We quote from Morgan's letter:

"Mr Muir, now 92 years young ... has resided in Salem, Va (which adjoins Roanoke on the west) for the past 40 years [and] should certainly qualify as a Virginian. He says he is primarily an over-the-board player who plays Correspondence Chess. He likes to get his opponents 'out of the book' as soon as possible, since they have all of the book openings and theory, and then he can outplay them on his own terms. He now holds the title of International Correspondence Chess Master. He ... won handily the Roanoke City Chess Championship in 1958, 1959 and 1968, and taken second in all three Virginia State Championships he has played in (all played in Roanoke in 1938, 1958 and 1965 — spanning a period of 27 years).

"He continues to keep about 50 games running at present, and says he much prefers the leisure of snail mail chess over the Email or Internet type, but stresses the difference between the 'correspondence' chess of yesteryear versus just postal chess, consisting of just exchanging moves via postcard. He has played with competitors in over 60 countries of the world, and has developed a second hobby of stamp collecting by getting more foreign stamps in his mail than anybody else in Salem."

In a *Salem Times Register* profile (published October 2, 1997) Muir states concerning his autobiography, "This is not a typical chess book. Rather, it is a story about how the threads of chess were woven into the fabric of my life. The reader will get a history of the 20th century and my life in it."

In addition to the credentials noted by Morgan, Muir was the first American to defeat a Russian in international correspondence chess.



His opponents have included at least half a dozen inductees to the US Chess Hall of Fame — Hermann Helms, Frank Marshall, Reuben Fine, Arnold Denker, George Koltanowski and I A Horowitz.

My 75-Year Chess Career weighs in at 354 pages, including 77 games in “traditional descriptive notation.” To buy a copy by mail, send US\$19.95 plus \$5 for shipping and handling (total \$24.95) to 3648 Harbison Ave, Pittsburgh, Pa 15212-1932 USA. Make checks payable to Jerry Hopfer.

John Knudsen’s Correspondence Chess web page contains a library of Muir’s games. <http://www.arrowweb.com/chess/GAMES.HTM> (Annotations below are by the editor, *not* from Muir's book..)

Walter Muir - G Porreca Correspondence 1976 French

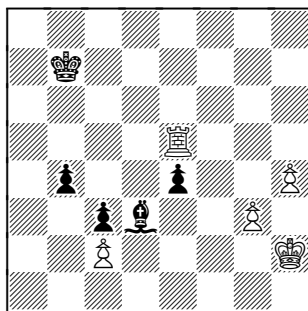
1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5
c5 5 a3 Bxc3+ 6 bxc3 Ne7 7 a4
Qa5 8 Qd2 Nbc6 9 Nf3 Bd7 10
g3 c4 11 Bh3 Nc8 12 0-0 Nb6 13
Ba3 Nxa4 14 Qg5 Rg8 15 Bd6
h6 (If 15...Qxc3 16 Qh5 defends
♗f3 and so hits ♗a4 and ♖h7) 16
Qe3 b5 (Δ Qxc3) 17 Ra3 Nd8
(This is the way French players
do it. Keeping the structure in-
tact, they repeatedly find little
maneuvers that improve their
pieces and drive White back bit
by bit, exchanging a piece now
and then, until they reach a win-
ning endgame. The strategic im-
perative for White, on the other

hand, is to *break through*, and he
must not be shy about sacrificing
when the moment arrives.) 18
Rb1 Nb7 19 Bb4 Qc7 (threaten-
ing ...a5 as White’s bishop is
short of squares) 20 Raa1 a5 21
Ba3 0-0-0 22 Nd2 Rde8 (A not-
so-mysterious rook move. An-
ticipating White’s f4, Black in-
tends ...f5 and therefore bolsters
his e-pawn.) 23 f4 f5 24 Nf3 g5?!
(With preparation this advance
could have been achieved without
sacrifice.) 25 fxg5 hxg5 26 Nxc5
Rxc5 (He wants to justify his
24th turn and 26...Nxc3 27 Nxe6
Bxe6 28 Qxc3 b4 was not the



way, as after 29 Bxb4 axb4 30 Qxb4 White has a great attack, eg 30...Qc6 31 Ra7 Rg7 32 Ra8+ Kc7 33 Rxe8 winning. So he's left with this exchange sacrifice. But Black seemed to be doing well earlier; did he really need to get involved in such adventures?) 27 Qxg5 Nxc3 28 Re1 Qb6 29 Qe3 b4 30 Bb2 Na4 (30...Nb5!?) 31 Bc1 Nd8 32 Bf1 Rg8 33 Be2 Nc3 34 Bf3 Nc6 35 Qf2 Kc7 (Black is of two minds, desirous of capturing White's center pawns but fearful of achieving the opponent's strategically indicated breakthrough (*see comment at move 17*) for him, for instance 35...Qxd4 36 Be3 Qxe5 37 Bb6 Qd6 38 Bxa5 and White's pieces are poised to infiltrate.) 36 Kg2 Be8 37 h4 Ne4 (If Black didn't like ...Qxd4 earlier he certainly had no taste for 37...Qxd4 38 Be3 Qxh4 39 Rh1) 38 Bxe4 dxe4 39 Be3 Qb5 40 d5! (Breakthrough! — before Black can blockade Qd5 or better yet N-e7-d5) Qxd5 41 Red1 Qb5 42 Rd6 Bh5 43 Rxe6 Bf3+ 44 Kh2 c3 (Certainly not 44...Nxe5? 45 Rxe5 Qxe5 46 Bf4) 45 Rf6 Kb7 46 Bf4 Bg4 47 Rf7+ Ka6 48 e6 Re8 49 Bc7 (Δ 50 Bxa5 Nxa5 51 Qa7#) Qe2 50 Qxe2+ Bxe2 51 Rxf5

Rxe6 52 Bxa5 Nxa5 53 Raxa5+ Kb7 (Presumably not 53...Kb6 so that he can answer 54 Ra4 with 54...Rb6) 54 Rae5 Rxe5 55 Rxe5 (At first glance it appears White has come through on top. His king is inside the square of the e-pawn while the rook surely can deal with the queenside. One of Black's pawns is immediately threatened, the others will come under attack shortly. Black's king seems inconveniently placed on the b-file, where it allows the rook to get behind Black's pawns with a tempo-gaining check. Meanwhile, White has those kingside units ready to roll forward. Yet Black has a move that meets every purpose.) 55...Bd3!



(This might come as a surprise over the board, but in postal both players would have seen it coming as far back as 48 e6, when White's attack could be under-



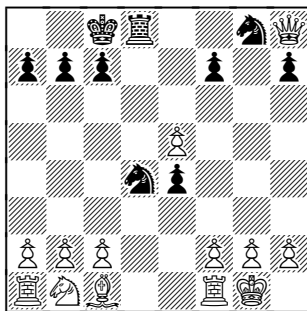
stood to force the queen exchange and, ultimately, the ending at hand.) **56 cxd3** (56 h5!? Δ 56...Bxc2 57 Rb5+ is interesting) **56...exd3** (56...c2 57 Rxe4 c1=Q 58 Rxb4+ is worse. *En passant*, we note the role and nature of “luck” in chess: White would lose if his king sat by chance on the first rank.) **57 Rb5+ Kc6 58 Rxb4 Kd5** (again, 58...c2 59 Rc4+ Kb5 60 Rc3 d2 (or similarly 60...Kb4 61 Rxd3 c1=Q 62 Rf3) 61 Rxc2 d1=Q 62 Rf2. This sort of posi-

tion is drawn because the rook and pawns can form a mutual defense ring, eg the rook can get to g5.) **59 Rb8 Ke4 60 Rc8 c2 61 h5 Kf5 62 h6 Kg6 63 Rc3 Kxh6 64 Rxd3 c1=Q 65 Rf3 Qc2+ 66 Kg1 Qg6 67 Kf2 Qc6** (The queen can beat R+P sometimes, but not here. The rook gets to f4 and can tempo as necessary between there and h4. Black’s king can never cross the 5th rank to help enforce mate.) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

J S Davis - Walter Muir Correspondence 1958 Elephant Gambit

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d5?! (One of those lines that invites scorn from everyone except a small, devoted coterie. After Lutikov confronted him with this defense in a 1964 game, Mikhail Tal wrote dryly, “White’s first task was at least to remember the name of the opening. I did not succeed in solving this problem...”) **3 Nxe5 Bd6 4 d4 dx4 5 Bc4 Bxe5 6 Qh5 Qe7 7 dxe5 Be6 8 Bxe6 Qxe6 9 Qg5 Nc6 10 Qxg7** (He may have underestimated Muir’s boldness and expected 10...Qxe5 11 Qxe5+ Nxe5 12 Bf4 etc) **10... 0-0-0!?**

11 Qxh8 Qg4 12 0-0 Nd4



(White has a whole rook. Frankly, I’m skeptical about Black’s compensation *in theory*, but there’s no denying the enormous practical chances. They



stem in part from the difficulty in determining which of Black's many candidates — Nxc2; Ne2+; Nf3+; Ne7 — poses the gravest threat.) **13 Nc3 Ne7 14 Qxh7 Rg8 15 Qxe4?** (White must have had some concrete reason for returning material this way. Off-hand, however, I don't see a problem with 15 g3) **15...Nf3+ 16 Qxf3 Qxf3 17 g3 Nf5 18 Nd1** (Heading for e3 to cover g2 against the threat Nh4) **Nd4** (Now he's got to go back to watch e2) **19 Nc3 Rh8** (The knockout is still elusive but Black's pieces are all on ideal

squares, giving him plenty of dangerous ideas to work with: Qc6 Δ Nf3+; Rh3 Δ Qh5; Qh3 Δ Nf3+; etc) **20 Rd1 Nf5 21 Rd3 Qg4 22 f3 Qh3 23 Rd2** (Not the most impressive end to the maneuver begun at move 20) **Nxg3 24 Rg2** (24 hxg3 Qxg3+ mates) **24...Nf5 25 Bg5 Nd4 26 Bf6 Re8 27 Rf1?** (27 Rg3! looks like the last chance) **27...Nxf3+ 28 Kf2** (If 28 Kh1 Black still goes 28...Nxb2) **28...Nxb2 29 Rfg1 Qf5+ 30 Ke2** (30 Kg3 Rg8+ 31 Kxb2 Qh5+ 32 Bh4 Qxb4#) **Qxf6 31 Kd1 Qxe5 32 Kc1 Qe3+ 33 Kb1 Qe1+ 34 Nd1 Nf1 0-1**

Kaïssa Chess Club

The following item was sent to me, in photocopy. It appears to be from a catalog or brochure. I don't know anything about the club, nor the persons mentioned as points of contact. But for what it's worth, here's the information. Perhaps this will be of interest to chess players in the Richmond area. Anyone who knows more is encouraged to let us know so that we may publish additional details. —ed

Practice Your Knight Moves

Thurs, Arts Café, 5:30-8 pm

The Virginia Museum's new club, Kaïssa, offers a cozy place to play and discuss serious chess while sipping cappuccino, espresso, or tea. Events include lectures on the art of chess and chess in art. Open to players of all levels. Some sets are provided; however, participants are encouraged to bring their own as well.

For details, please phone Alfredo Franco or Kenneth Pinkney at 367-1154.



1ST VIRGINIA BEACH WINTER OPEN

by Rodney Flores — reprinted from Tidewater Chess News

Expert Rodney Flores scored $4\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ to top a field that included 3 experts and 3 A-players December 13-14. The draw came in the 4th round against Martin Roper who ended up 4-1 in a tie for second with Lucas Revellon and Robert Clifton. Roper probably should have won the 4th round encounter... anyway, he has been playing strong chess lately and looks to regain an expert rating soon.

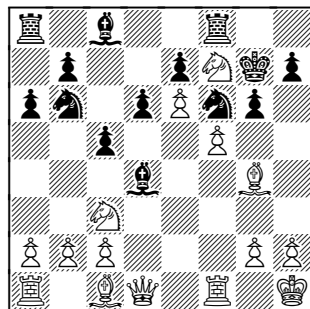
Paul Leggett was Top B player with a $3\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ score. Adam Sultan continued his excellent play by scoring 3-2 en route to capturing the Top C prize. Adam scalped his first expert this time!!

Adam Sultan - Alton Lane

Kings Indian

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. f4 c5 4. d5 d6 5. Nf3 Nf6 6. Nc3 0-0 7. Be2 a6?! (7...b5 8. e5 dxe5 9. fxe5 Ng4 10. Bxb5 Nxe5 11. Nxe5 Bxe5 12. Bh6 e6 13. Bxf8 Qh4+ ∞ The preparatory move played is unnecessary.) 8. 0-0 Nbd7? (Adam assigned the question mark, but it may be a bit harsh, as will be seen. Anyway, 8...e6 9. a4 exd5 10. exd5 Re8 =) 9. e5 Ne8? (9...dxe5 10. fxe5 Ng4 11. e6 fxe6 12. h3 Nge5 13. dxe6 Nxf3+ 14. Bxf3 Ne5 15. Bd5 Rxf1+ 16. Qxf1=) 10. e6 fxe6 11. dxe6 ± Nb6 12. Ng5 Bd4+?! (The Bishop will likely be badly missed at home, but I could find no better: *i*) 12...Nc7 13. Bg4 h6

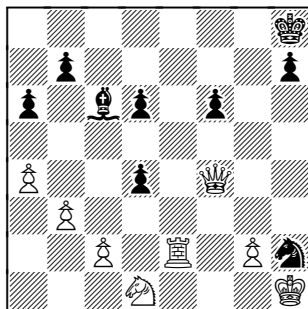
14. Nf7 Qe8 15. f5 gxf5 16. Bh5 winning; or *ii*) 12...h6 13. Nf7 Qc7 14. f5 gxf5 15. Qd3! Bxe6 16. Nxe6 Bxe6 17. Bxe6 Rf6 18. Qg3+ ±) 13. Kh1 Nf6 14. Bg4 (This move reminds me of the way GM Fedorowicz plays — like Rocky Balboa. Adam's not very shy about what he aims to do.) 14...Kg7 15. f5 Qe8 16. Nf7





16...N_xg4 17. Q_xg4 R_xf7! 18. exf7 ≥ Q_xf7 19. Q_h4?! [19. Q_e4! forces taking gxf5 due to b7 hanging. 19...gxf5 20. Q_h4 Kh8 21. B_g5 [precise — develops and attacks. Every tempo is crucial in this close of a position] 21...e6 22. R_f3 ≥ Black errs with 19...gxf5 anyway, which serves to air condition his king.) 19...gxf5?! 20. B_h6+ K_h8 21. R_ae1 B_f6? (21...e6 is mandatory. White now gets a strategically won position.) 22. B_g5 B_d7 23. B_xf6+ exf6 24. a4?! (White putzes around for a few moves and almost allows Black back in the game.)

24...R_g8 25. Q_f4 N_c4 26. b3 R_g4 27. Q_c1 N_e5 28. Q_d1 B_c6 29. R_e2 Q_g6 30. R_ff2 R_d4 31. Q_f1 f4 32. R_xf4 N_g4 33. R_xd4 cxd4 34. N_d1 Q_h5 (34. Q_h6 is better) 35. Q_f4 N_xh2?



36. Q_xf6+ K_g8 37. Q_d8+ 1-0

Top D/E player was split between Dave Delgado and Jesse Adams, both scoring $2^{1/2}$ - $2^{1/2}$. Dave is a roommate of Adam Sultan, and it seems they may be playing some chess together... Dave held an A-player to a draw this tournament.

Finally, Top Scholastic player was split between two Hickory High students, both scoring 2-3: Jon Brandon and Rob DeBois.

Thanks goes out to Paul Leggett & Bob Collins for a professional directing and organizing job.

CHESSLINKS WORLDWIDE

Jerry Lawson is in the process of moving his acclaimed "Chesslinks Worldwide" web site. The new URL is <http://www.chesslinks.org> Transfer of the page's material, including the US Chess Hall of Fame, is still underway as of this writing. You may contact Jerry at lawson@netlawtools.com or (703) 978-0680.



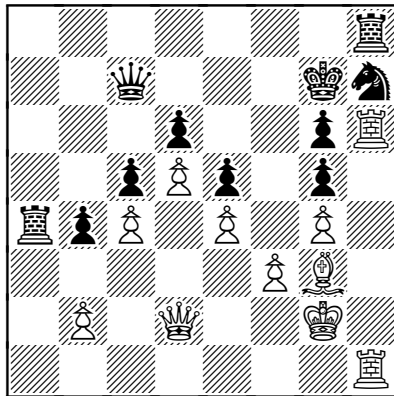
READERS' GAMES & ANALYSIS



Steve Graziano - David Law
 1998 Virginia Open
 Ruy Lopez
 Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 d6
 4 Bb5 Bd7 5 0-0 Nf6 6 Re1 a6
 7 Bc4 Be7 8 d4 b5 9 Bb3? (By
 way of a defective move order
 we've arrived at something like a
 known position in the Ruy
 Lopez. Unfortunately for White,
 it's known as a *trap*. Black could
 win a pawn in the clear by
 9...Nxd4 now because 10 Nxd4
 exd4 11 Qxd4? loses a piece af-
 ter 11...c5 etc) 0-0 10 Nd5 Rb8
 11 c3 Bg4 12 Nxe7+ Qxe7 13 d5

Na5 14 Bg5 c5 15 h3 Bh5 16 g4
 Bg6 17 Nh4 h6 18 Nxb3 fxb3
 19 Bh4 g5 20 Bg3 Rf7 21 Qe2
 Qd7 22 Kg2 Nxb3 23 axb3 Ra8
 24 c4 Rff8 25 Ra3 b4 26 Ra4
 Ra7 27 Rea1 Rfa8 28 f3 Qc7
 29 h4 a5 30 hxg5 hxg5 31 Qd2
 Nh7 32 Rh1 g6 33 Raa1 a4
 34 Rh6 Kg7 35 Rah1 Rh8
 36 bxa4 Rxa4 (Black had the up-
 per hand despite the missed op-
 portunity at move 9. From move
 22 on, however, he's been steadily
 outplayed.)



37 Bxe5+! (A good positional
 sacrifice! White's least-effective
 piece sells its life as dearly as pos-

sible, capturing a pawn, weaken-
 ing Black's remaining pawns and
 opening a way for his queen into



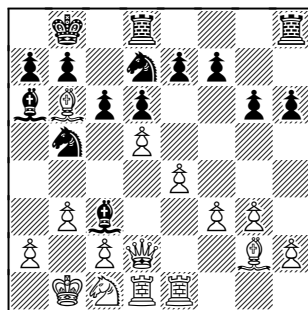
Black's game.) **dx**e5 **38 d6 Qd7** (If 38...Qd8 39 Qd5 Qf6 40 Qb7+ Qf7 41 Rxh7+ wins) **39 Qd5 Kf6 40 Rxh7! Rxh7 41 Rxh7 Qxh7 42d7 Ra8** (White's going to promote with check, so there's no time for setting up a counterattack with ...Ra1) **43 d8=Q+?** (White is lucky this slip doesn't cost him the fruits of his earlier fine play. 43 Qc6+! was an immediate win: 43...Ke7 44 Qxa8 Kxd7 45 Qa7+) **43...Rxd8 44 Qxd8+ Qe7 45 Qd5** (Material is balanced but Black's defense remains difficult. White's queen has a dominating post and Black can never afford to trade on d5. The plan Kg2-f2-e2-d2-c2-b3-

a4-b5 and finally Qxc5 is remarkably hard to meet. The best try is probably to hide Black's king as best as is possible and wait for the right moment to counterattack with the queen. For instance, 45...Kg7 46 Kf2 Kh6 47 Ke2 Kh7 48 Kd2 Qf6!? In the game Black tried to bring his own king to the queenside, which turns out to be hopeless.) **Qc7 46 Kf2 Ke7 47 Ke2 Qd6 48 Kd3 Qc7 49 Kc2 Qd6 50 Kb3 Kd7 51 Qf7+** (He could win now by 51 Qxd6+ Kxd6 52 Ka4 Kc6 53 Ka5) **51... Kc6 52 Qd5+ Kc7 53 Qxd6+ Kxd6 54 Ka4 Kc6 55 Ka5 b3 56 Ka6 Kc7 57 Kb5 Kb7 58 Kxc5 Kc7 59 Kb4 Kb6 60 Kxb3 1-0**

AN ANALYTIC NOTE

Virginia Chess issue 1997/#6 included the annotated game Shibut-Dennis as part of our Emporia Open report. The opening moves were **1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. Bg5 h6 5. Bh4 c6 6. Qd2 Qb6 7. 0-0-0 Bg4 8. f3 Be6 9. Nge2 Bc4 10. Kb1 Nd7 11. Bf2 0-0-0 12. g3 Kb8 13. Bg2 Ngf6 14. Nc1 Ne8 15. Rhe1 Nc7 16. b3 Ba6 17. d5** and here the annotator (Yours truly) mentioned with the possibility 17...Bxc3 18 Bxb6 Bxd2 19 Bxc7+ Kxc7 20 Rxd2, whereas the actual continuation was 17...Qb4 18 Bd4 Bxd4 19 Qxd4 Qxd4 20 Rxd4.

Martin Roper writes, alerting us to a shot that was overlooked both during and after the game. In the **17...Bxc3 18. Bxb6** line, Black has **18...Nb5!!** (Roper's punctuation).



18...Nb5



Aside from keeping the queen under attack, Black threatens mate in one. Roper: “Now 19. Bxa7+ seems to be best, when 19...Ka8! opens a serious can-o’-worms. (It really does help when you get to pick up the pieces and move them around!)”

“After 20 minutes work (and a headache), and the hour getting late, the rest was too murky to figure out so I expedited things with my program Chessica, which came up with (after five minutes thinking time): 20. a4 Bxd2 21. axb5 [21. Rxd2? Nxa7] 21...Bxe1 22. Bd4 Bxb5 23. Bxh8 Bxg3 24. hxg3 Rxh8 and Black is up a healthy pawn. I’m sure that there is probably more to it than this, and few (except maybe Korchnoi and some nutzoid postal players) would have even taken the time to look into all this, but Black’s chances are much improved over what was actually played.”

Quite so! It goes without saying that I completely overlooked 18...Nb5! In practice, if not in truth, Martin’s suggestion may have turned the game in Black’s favor. That said, I haven’t completely surrendered yet, and I offer the following counter-analysis:

19. Bxa7+ captured a pawn with check, but it also relieved Black from having to worry about Bxd8. The immediate 19. a4 is better. True, after **19...Bxd2** it would be bad to avail ourselves immediately of the possibility: 20 Bxd8? Nc3+! 21 Kb2 Nxd1+ 22 Rxd1 Bxc1+ and Black wins. It’s worth noting, *en passant*, that the knight check intermezzo is necessary. If instead 20...Bxe1, then 21 axb5 Rxd8 (21...Bxb5 22 Bxe7) 22 bxa6 Ba5 23 axb7 is not favorable for Black.

The correct move, just as in Roper’s line, is **20. axb5!** (20 Rxd2 also proves unsatisfactory after 20...Nc3+ 21 Kb2 Nxa4+ 22 bxa4 Nxb6) Only here I think White’s chances are indeed improved through his menacing Black’s rook, for 20...Bxe1 21. Bxd8 transposes to the acceptable subvariation given above. Therefore Black plays **20...Nxb6**, but then after **21. Rxd2 Bxb5 22. c4 Ba6 23. Nd3** it seems to me White has excellent compensation for the pawn. To begin with, the prospect of Nb4 is an irritant to Black. White threatens not only to regain the pawn outright on c6, but to take on a6 and render Black’s pawns weak and ineffectual. Moreover, if we do not rush to execute this latter idea but preserve it as a threat, prospects arise for even greater compensation on the kingside, where White operates with virtually an extra piece. Thus White obviously benefits from the half-open e-line in the



event of ...cxd5, but if Black prevents Nb4 altogether by 23...c5 he invites 24 e5 (or 24 f4 Δ 25. e5) and White gets pressure much as in the actual game, plus the Ba6 is really out of it.

We await readers' comments.

THE GAMBITEER



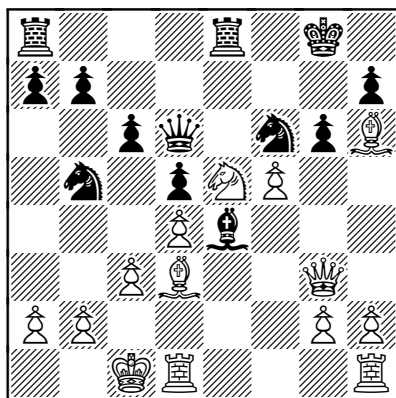
WE BEGIN THE COLUMN with a gambit played by an old friend of mine, Rob Rittenhouse. There is a continuing controversy over the soundness of the Latvian. In *The Complete Book of Gambits*, Raymond Keene gives the gambit a $\star\star\star$ verdict, which means the game is playable for both sides. So the controversy can rage on. And on.

Rob Rittenhouse - IM Kjell Krantz Elberg 1993 Latvian

from the magazine Northwest Chess

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f5 3 Nxe5 Qf6 4 d4 d6 5 Nc4 fxe4 6 Nc3 Qf7 7 Ne3 c6 8 Nxe4 d5 9 Ng5 Qf6 10 Ng4 Bb4+ 11 c3 Qe7+ 12 Ne5 Bd6 13 Qh5+ g6 14 Qe2 Nf6 15 Ngf7 0-0 16 Nxd6 Qxd6 17 Bh6 Re8 18 f4 Na6 19 Qf3 Nc7 20 0-0 Bf5 21 Bd3 Be4 22 Qg3 Nb5 23 f5! (diagram)

23... Nxc3! 24 fxg6! Nh5! 25 Bxe4!! Nxe4 26 Qf3 1-0



The gambit is defeated in this game, but there are many more Latvians yet to be played.



Otto M Tennison (1834-1909) was not the first to open the chess game with 1. Nf3 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Ng5, however the gambit owes its present existence to his analysis and practice. Bob Dudley, of Chess Enterprises, has granted me permission to quote from W John Lutes' *Tennison Gambit* [Chess Enterprises, 1995]. After playing over the following games, you may wish to try this gambit on your opponent for its surprise value. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Tennison - B
New Orleans 1891

Tennison

1 Nf3 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Ng5 f5 4	Bxc8+ Qd6 10 Qe8+ Kb6 11 Qa4
Bc4 Nh6 5 Nxh7 Rxh7 6 Qh5+	1-0 (11...Qc6 12 Qb3+ Ka6 13 Nc3 any
Kd7 7 Qg6 Rh8 8 Be6+ Kc6 9	14 Bxb7+; 11... e6 12 a3 etc —Tennison)

The Tennison Gambit made one of its early major appearances in a correspondence match between the cities of Pernau and Kukuruse in 1933, where Paul Keres played against K Teltvecker.

Keres - Teltvecker
correspondence 1933
Tennison

1 Nf3 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Ng5 Bf5 4	Qxe6+ Ke8 13 0-0 b5 14 Qc8+
Nc3 Nf6 5 Bc4 e6 6 f3 exf3 7	Qd8 15 Re1+ Be7 16 Rxe7+
Qxf3 c6 8 Nxf7! Kxf7 9 Qxf5	Kxe7 17 Qe6+ Kf8 18 Qf7 mate
Qe7 10 Ne4 h6 11 Nc5! g6 12	

These two games illustrate the possibilities of Nxh7 and Nxf7. Amaze your opponent, hack away at the enemy castle. Lutes writes “... there is much controversy in the literature about Black’s supposed advantage. For example, V Geier, writing in the 1926 *Wiener Schachzeitung*, cited a 1925 game played in an “analytical correspondence tournament” of the *Slowo Polskie* between S Gorawski and A Z Skarszewski: 1 Nf3 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Ng5 e5 4 h4 Be7 5 Nc3 Nf6 (5... Bxg5 6 hxg5 Qxg5 7 d4!) 6 Bc4 0-0 7 Ncxe4 Nc6 8 Nxf6+ Bxf6 9 Qh5 Bxg5 10 hxg5 Bf5 11 d3 Bg6 12 Qh4 Nd4 13 Bb3 Nxb3 14 axb3 Qd4 15 Qxd4 exd4 16 Bf4 c6 17 Kd2 Rfe8 18 Rhe1 Re6 19 Rxe6 fxe6 20



Be5 a6 21 Bxd4 Rd8 22 Bb6 Rd5 23 Ra5 Rb5 24 Rxb5 axb5 25 Ke3 Kf7 26 Kf4 Ke7 27 Bd4 Bh5 28 f3 1-0 “It proves to be a fact,” Lutes writes, “that in an examination of the gambit as a whole, White’s game may be improved in a number of lines and the opening idea may not be as bad as its textbook reputation would lead us to believe.”

Not to overlook Raymond Keene’s verdict in his *Complete Book of Gambits*, where he gives it ★★, meaning the gambit is doubtful. He claims that after 3...Nf6 White can only hope to recover his gambit pawn. You may wish to check out Lutes’ analysis after 3... Nf6; it usually pays to keep an open mind.

A final word from Lutes:

“... debuts like the Tennison are not intended ... as heavy duty openings ...; they are rather the side-arms of the chess arsenal of the openings, to be utilized as surprise weapons against those opponents prepared for and welcoming standard debuts. Thus, every player should have in his repertoire several of these novel openings, merely to keep the opposition slightly off balance. However they are not for the timid nor the cautious; they belong exclusively to those who play with ruthless courage and precision ... The Tennison should be played in harmony with Charousek’s utilization of the gambit — so misunderstood by his contemporaries. The great Bohemian master used a gambit, not necessarily to produce a startling combination or mating attack, but rather to dislocate his opponent’s position and procure a favorable or winning endgame.”

Tartakower, commenting about a particular chess move, reportedly said, “Dubious, therefore playable.” Charousek’s idea in using a gambit was psychological in nature: surprise value and, perhaps more practical, to avoid prepared lines and get the opponent out of the book. In brief, chess skill not based on analysis. The great Lasker is said to have deliberately made weak moves to throw his opponent off. Scientific precision in chess at times gives way to a psychological spin on the opening.





MT VERNON BEST WESTERN CHESS CLASSIC

by Mike Atkins

Sixty-four players came to Mt Vernon on the February 28-March 1 weekend to compete in the 2nd Annual Mt Vernon Best Western Chess Classic. Organized for the VCF by Catherine Clark (Treasurer) and Mark Johnson (President), and directed by Mike Atkins, the event was pretty much incident free and received many comments of "Nice tournament." Oh, there was one incident, the newest tradition in VCF tournaments — a fire alarm during a Saturday game. This happened mid-way through the 2nd round and forced a ten minute delay. Hotel officials commented that smoke detectors went off in the area of the tournament, which points to smoking chessplayers. Not good!!

There was a three-way tie for first at $4\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ among reigning state champ Steve Greanias, Floyd "Bud" Boudreaux, of Baltimore, and Bob Fischer of Midlothian. Greanias and Fischer dominated through the first four rounds, and drew on board one in the fifth round. Boudreaux defeated Phil Collier in his finale to catch up with the leaders.

Bookseller Walter Bohdaniw and David Hulvey tied for Top Expert. Top A honors were shared by Sheham Jaradat, William Van Lear & Dennis Dunn. Top B was won outright by William Keogh. William



Virginia's Bobby Fischer →



Acevedo (who started the events with a a win over an expert and an A player), Charles Willis & Patty Meade split Top C, while Top D was shared by Chris Wise, Jose Dalusung, & Adam Stein. Gary Taylor won Top E outright. The unrated prize was won by Brian Takei.

Tim Hamilton - Steve Greanias

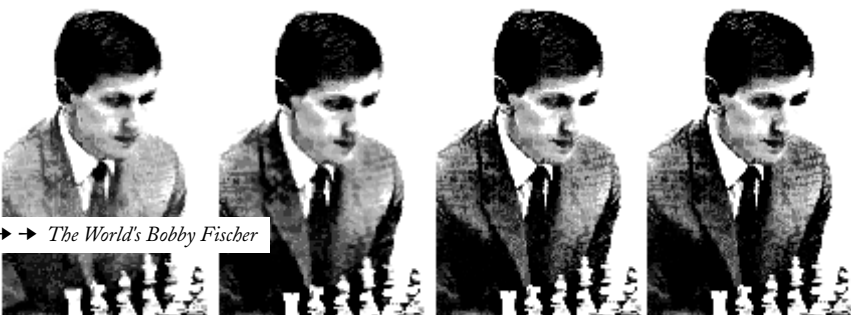
Alekhine

<p>1 Nc3 d5 2 e4 Nf6 3 e5 Ne4 4 Nce2 f6 5 d3 Ng5 6 Nf4 fxe5 7 Nxd5 Qxd5 8 Bxg5 e4 9 Bf4 Bf5 10 dxe4 Qxe4+ 11 Ne2 e5 12 f3 Qb4+ 13 c3 Qxb2 14 Bxe5 Nd7 15 Bf4 0-0-0 16 Qc1 Ba3 17 Qxb2 Bxb2 18 Rd1 Nc5 19 Rxd8+ Rxd8 20 Kf2 Nd3+ 21 Kg3 Nxf4 22 Kxf4 Be6 23 a4</p>	<p>Rd1 24 g3 Ra1 25 Ke5 Bd7 26 Bg2 Rxh1 27 Bxh1 Bxa4 28 Kd4 Bc2 29 Bg2 a5 30 Bh3+ Kd8 31 Be6 Bb1 32 Nf4 a4 33 Kc4 g5 34 Nd3 Ba2+ 35 Kb4 Bxc3+ 36 Kxc3 Bxe6 37 Nc5 Bd5 38 f4 gxf4 39 gxf4 a3 40 Nd3 Ke7 41 Nb4 Kd6 42 f5 a2 43 Kb2 c5 0-1</p>
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Vassil Dimitrov - Robert Fischer

English

<p>1 Nf3 d5 2 c4 e6 3 b3 Be7 4 Bb2 Bf6 5 d4 c5 6 e3 Nc6 7 Nbd2 Nge7 8 Rb1 cxd4 9 exd4 0-0 10 Be2 b6 11 Ne5 Bb7 12 0-0 dxc4 13 Ndx4 Qc7 14 Ng4 Bxd4 15</p>	<p>Bxd4 Rfd8 16 Bxb6 axb6 17 Qc1 Rxa2 18 Bf3 Nd4 19 Qg5 Bxf3 20 Nf6+ Kh8 21 Ne5 Ng6 22 Nfg4 Nxe5 23 Qxe5 Qxe5 24 Nxe5 Bh5 0-1</p>
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→ → *The World's Bobby Fischer*



US AMATEUR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

A quartet of Arlington Chess Club members, including three former state champions, won the Top Virginia Team prize at the 1998 US Amateur Team Championship (East), February 14-16 in Parsippany, NJ. Geoff McKenna, Macon Shibut, Bill Mason & David Sullivan competed under the name *Pride & Sorrow* and scored 5-1.

Among other all-Virginia lineups present in Parsippany, Paul Leggett brought his usual *Moose & Squirrel* contingent, while Harry Cohen captained a second strong Arlington team that called itself *My Other Karpov is a Portisch*.

The event was highlighted by the participation of FIDE champion Anatoly Karpov, who duly went 6-0. However, his team lost on tiebreaks to an outfit called *Light Blue* (Dylan McClain, Nathan Resika, Brian Hulse, and Alan Price). The tournament set a new attendance record with 268 teams and 1,305 players.

James Lewis - Macon Shibut Sicilian

Notes by Macon Shibut

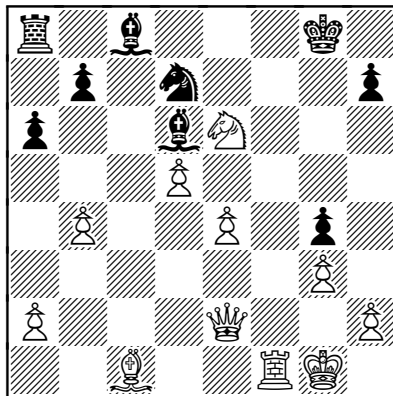
1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Nd5 (This move is popular with players who simply don't want to be bothered with the heavy complications that arise in the main lines after 7 Bg5) **7...Nxd5 8 exd5 Nb8** (8...Ne7 is also important but the text is not really the time waster it might appear since the knight will have to move again anyway. Meanwhile Black avoids certain pitfalls

that could result from the knight blocking his other pieces on e7, for example 9 c4 a6? 10 Qa4) **9 c4 Be7 10 Be2 0-0 11 0-0 a6 12 Nc3 f5 13 f3 Nd7 14 Be3 Bf6** (There are other plans. For instance, Black could offer to exchange dark square bishops, 14...Bg5. Or he could set a kingside pawn storm in motion straightaway by 14...g5) **15 Qc2 g6 16 Rad1 Qe7 17 b4 Qg7 18 Na4 g5?! (Clearly White intends**



The tactics *appear* to work out, you recover the sacrificed material with interest. And then, the one move that looks like an easy choice turns out to be a mistake! What could be simpler than trading the attacked rook and then setting about to unravel the queenside and convert my extra piece? In fact I grossly overesti-

mated my position, plus I hadn't calculated much of anything concrete since seeing 25 g3, so there was little hope of my realizing that 26...Rf6! was necessary here. Even then White would have more than ample compensation for the piece after 27 Bf4, but the text should have lost outright.) **27 Rxf1 Bxd6**



28 Rf5?

After the game Lewis remarked that he should have played 28 e5 since if 28...Nxe5 White has 29 Qxe5! thanks to the mate possibility on f8. This is incorrect; Black can repay White in his own coin, 29...Qxe6! After 30 Qxe6+ Bxe6 31 dxe6 Re8 Black is slightly (okay, *very* slightly) better, for example 32 Re1 (or 32 Bd2 Rxe6 33 Re1 Kf7) 32...Bxb4 33 Re4 Bc5+

The move I really feared, however, was 28 Bb2! Then White threatens e5 for real, and with 28...Ne5? still out of the question I'm not sure what Black can do. For example, if 28...Nf8 29 Rf6 Qh5 30 Rf5 Δ Rg5+

The text threatens Rg5, but now tactics come to the rescue.



28...Ne5! (With the point 29 Rg5? Nf3+ Black also threatens to just take the knight, White's pieces are suddenly misplaced, and Black has an extra unit to boot.) **29 Kg2 Nf3 30 Qc4 Bd7** (Threatens Rc8 and aside from the hanging f c1 there would be a pretty deadly looking check at c2, which White can't stop by Qb3 since the rook will be indirectly protected by a knight fork on e1) **31 Bf4 Rc8 32 Bxd6 Bxe6** (Last chance to mess up: 32...Rxc4?? 33 Rf8# After the text White's queen and rook are

both attacked, forcing further simplification and — more important — a decisive passing of the initiative.) **33 Rf8+ Rxf8 34 Bxf8 Qh5!** (Winning. If now 35 dxe6 Qxh2+ 36 Kf1 Nd2+. Or 35 h4 gxh3+ 36 Kh1 Qe5! Δ Qa1+/Qxg3 White finds a trickier move, threatening mate, but it's all arithmetic from here.) **35 Qc3 Qxh2+ 36 Kf1 Qg1+ 37 Ke2 Nd4+ 38 Kd3** (or 38 Kd2 Qf2+ 39 Kd1 (39 Kc1 Ne2+) 39...Qf3+ 40 Qxf3 gxf3 41 Ke1 μ 41...Kxf8 42 dxe6 Ke7) **38...Qxg3+ 39 Kxd4 Qxc3+ 40 Kxc3 Kxf8 0-1**

Bill Mason - Anatoly Trubman Kings Indian

Notes by Bill Mason

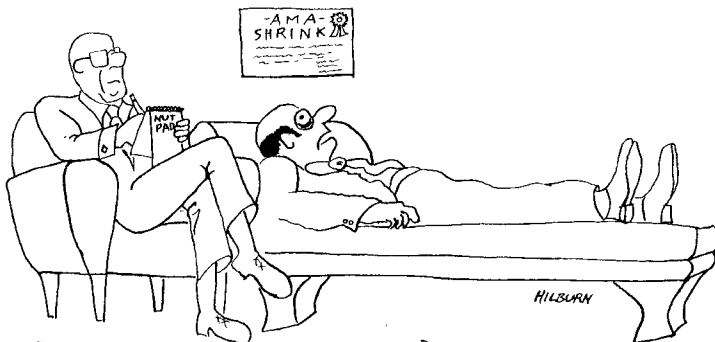
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 a5 (This and the immediate ...Nh5 are the current main lines in the Bayonet Attack.) **10.bxa5** (Anand and I. Sokolov both play Ba3 here but I prefer the text which keeps the option of Bf4 if Black should bring a knight to f4. Note that ...Bh6 is also out with the bishop on c1, as in the line 10.Ba3 axb4 11.Bxb4 Nd7 12.a4 Bh6! 13.Nd2 f5 14.Nb3 b6 15.a5 Nc5 ⇒) **10...Nh5** (Nunn has suggested

this combination of moves. Nunn also suggest ...c5) **11.Re1** (Kramnik's favorite idea, also played by Karpov. The idea is to tuck away the bishop on f1 and then try and demonstrate that the f4 knight gets in the way of attacks rather than strengthens them.) **11...Rxa5** (In this position without ...a5 ba thrown in Kramnik answers ...f5 and ...Nf6 with Ng5 and Bf3 and if ...fe then Nge4 with Bg5 and Nb5 to come with lots of pressure.) **12.a4** (I'm still trying to hold off committing



the placement of my queen bishop. Also, I want to keep d2 free for Nd2 but still be able to answer ...f5 with Ng5. The text is thus flexible and good.) **12...b6** (Black also waits for White to commit the c1 bishop.) **13.Ba3** (Finally deciding on a Ba3, Bf1, Nd2 set-up.) **13...Nf4 14.Bf1 f5 15.Nd2** (This made more sense to me than Ng5 lines as I can bring real pressure to bear against c7 via Nd2-b3-a5) **15...g5** (Often played but I think it reveals deficiencies in Black's attacking set-up. Perhaps ...Bh6 is a better plan for Black, striving to activate the bishop.) **16.Nb5!** (I was very pleased to play this move which has as goals tying the Black queen to c7 and building up pressure on the queenside via Bb4, a5, Bxa5. I felt White's kingside to be very

secure. I decided on not touching my kingside pawns unless the lines were very clear. Thus no g3 unless it clearly wins material or avoids murky piece sac lines where Black allows gf. One benefit of this strategy is that I'll be able to rook lift my rook through a3 over to the kingside. It is rare indeed that White attacks straight on in a King's Indian game.) **16...fxe4** (Black decides on Nf5-d4 to challenge the b5 knight. Note how impotent Black's attacks are without an active queen.) **17.Nxe4 Nf5 18.Bb4** (If White is going to play plans involving g3 challenging the f4 knight, then now or next move is the time. I was lazy in not checking closely to see whether ...Nh4 was a valid response or not. Nor was I sure that the

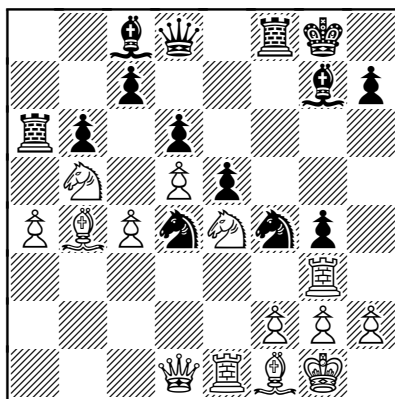


"EVERY NIGHT IT'S THE SAME DREAM, DOC.
I TAKE THE POISONED PAWN!"



simple ...Ng6 wouldn't lead to a position in which my small advantage had not increased. Looking at it now, ...Nh4 looks very unsound as White can capture on h4 and then defend with rook(s) along the third rank or counter attack with Nc7 and Bd6. Ng6 faces a tough Qh5 so White should have a real working advantage after 18.g3.) **18...Ra6!?** (Trubman is a strong player who may have played ...Ra6 in order to lure me into c5 and Ba6. Another possible explanation is that he may have hoped to double major pieces on the a-file by

keeping a8 open.) **19.Ra3** (Again, I was very pleased to play another multi-purpose attacking/defending move. Alternatives are a5 and g3 but I also wanted to give Black a chance to commit himself further. The text was deemed the most flexible yet g3 looks best.) **19...Nd4!?** (Adopting a risky course of action in order to challenge one of White's damaging knights. However, further waiting would likely only help White who is ready to go after c7 as well as possibly build up against the Black king.) **20.Rg3 g4**



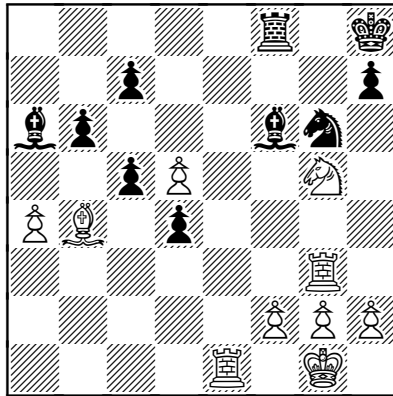
21.Nxd4 (White has a big choice to make, Nxc7 or Nxd4. I didn't trust slower options as Black is ready to play ...h5-h4 or swap on b5 in some cases. Both resulting positions are advantageous for

White but messy, particularly the Nxc7 lines: 21.Nxc7!? Qxc7 22.Bxd6 Qd8 23.Bxf8 Bxf8 24.c5 Ra5 25.Rxg4+ Bxg4 26.Qxg4+ Bg7∞) **21...exd4 22.c5** (The point of my last move. I played it



realizing that Black's pawns would be very dangerous but thought that I would have too strong an attack against his king. On quiet moves, I was worried that some combination of ...h5-h4, ...Be5, ...Nh5 would be good for Black. The text is certainly most consistent.) **22...dxc5** (22... bxc5?! 23.Bxa6 cxb4? 24.Bxc8 Qxc8 25.Rxg4 Nxd5 26.Rxg7+! Kxg7 27.Qxd4+ Nf6 28.Re3√) **23.Bxa6 Bxa6** (Black correctly keeps both bishops even at the cost of the g4 pawn. One bishop is not enough to escort a pawn to a coronation ceremony, eg 23... cxb4?! 24.Bxc8 Qxc8 25.Rxg4! d3 26.h3! Qd7 27.Qb3 Nxd5 28.Qxd3±]) **24.Qxg4 Ng6** **25.Qe6+ Kh8** **26.Ng5** (Looks lethal though I saw that Black's

next move would lead to difficult play. I didn't want to retreat the b4 bishop as Black would gain a valuable tempo for moves like ...Bb7. Geoff McKenna presented an insightful case for Ba3 with two points: (i) ...c4 is hindered; and (ii) White can play for a5 which is a key move attacking the base of Black's pawns. Still, the lines we examined were very double edged with Black winning plenty of times. Note that Black had roughly five minutes left for 25 moves; I had ten or so.) **26...Qf6** μ (The hit on f2 forces White's hand.) **27.Qxf6 Bxf6** (Black must keep the two bishops to support his passed pawns. 27... Rxf6?! 28.Bd2 Bc4 29.Rh3! h6 30.Ne6 Bxd5 31.Nxg7 Kxg7 32.Bxh6+ Kf7 33.Bg5±)





28.Ne6? (Geoff again argued for Ba3. Black has plenty of compensation, eg 28.Ba3 Bxg5 (28... d3 29.Bc1 Bc3 30.Rd1 c4∞) 29.Rxg5 Bc4 30.a5 Nf4 31.axb6 cxb6 32.d6 Ne2+ 33.Kh1 Rd8 = However, the text gets me into positions where I am struggling to hold on.) **28...cxb6!** (28... Rf7?! was definitely weaker, eg 29.Bd2 Bc4 (29... Bb7 30.Nf4±) 30.Nf4! Ne7 31.a5! ba 32.Bxa5 Bg7 33.Rc1 Be5 34.Rxc4 Bxf4 35.Rf3 Nxd5 36.Rxc5 Rd7 37.g3± After the text, on the other hand, Black has two dangerous passers. I headed for a position where Black would have his pieces all tied up but, unfortunately, his pawns are too strong. I can reach positions where I am a rook up and still lose.) **29.Nxf8** (If 29.Rxg6 hxg6 30.Nxf8 d3 the bishops and pawns will murder White.) **29...Nxf8 30.Re8** (I was banking on this move but again, Black's

pawns are too strong.) **30...Bg7 31.Ra8?!** (Missing my best chance. White's only hope is to go after one of the two passed pawns and use his d- or a- pawns to secure a rook versus two minor piece endgame or rook and many pawns versus 3 minor piece ending. The White kingside pawns are too far back to generate serious threats in these lines. So, 31.Rb3! d3 32.Rxb4 d2 33.Rb1 Kg8 34.Re7 Bc4 35.Rd1 Bc3?! 36.Rxc7 Bb3 37.Rf1 (37.Rxc3! Bxd1 38.Rd3 Bxa4 39.Rxd2 Kf7≠) 37... Be5 38.Rb7 Bxa4 39.Rxb6 d1Q 40.Rxd1 Bxd1≠. However, Black should still win with best play. 35... Bh6! is one improvement in the above line, eg 36.Rxc7 Bb3 37.d6 Bxd1 38.d7 Ne6! (38...Bxa4 39.d8Q d1Q+ 40.Qxd1 Bxd1 41.Rc6≠) 39.Rc8+ Kf7 40.d8Q Nxd8 41.Rxd8 Bxa4 wins.) **31...Be2** (Naturally, Black wishes to escort his d-pawn and cut off the g3

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rook.) **32.d6!** (With the idea of getting after the resulting b-pawns from behind. 32 d6 sets up my last hope.) **32...cd 33.Rb8?** (Time pressure and discouragement take their toll. This was the last game still going and the score in the match was tied. Rg5-d5 is forced when Black must be surprisingly accurate to avoid entering a problematically winning

ending, eg 33.Rg5 d3 (33... b3 34.Rb8 b2 35.Rxb6 d3 36.Rxg7! Kxg7 37.Rxb2 Ne6 38.a5 Nc5 39.Ra2 Na6 (39... d5 40.f3 d4 41.Kf2∞) 40.f4 Kf6 (40... Nb4 41.Rd2∞) 41.Kf2∞) 34.Rd5 Bh6 35.Rxd6 d2 36.Rad8 d1Q+ 37.Rxd1 Bxd1 38.Rxd1≠) **33... d3 34.Rxb6 d2 35.Rxd6 d1Q+ 36.Rxd1 Bxd1 37.a5 b3 0-1**

Bill Mason - Tim Mirabile English

Notes by Bill Mason

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Be7 6.Bf4!? (Not played very often. I decided not to be ambitious in the opening and just get my pieces out. Thus I declined to play 6.e4, which is likely best. One problem with Bf4 is that after ...d6, I must watch out for ...e5 forks. Another is that it's easy for Black to get in ...d5. My plan was to allow this, rely on quick development (Rc1, e3, Be2-f3, 0-0), and hope that it would be tough for Black to get his queen bishop effectively into the game.) **6...a6 7.Rc1** (7.e3 0-0 8.Be2 d6 9.Bg3 Nbd7 10.0-0 Qc7 11.b4 Ne5 12.Qb3 Bd7 13.Rac1 Rac8 14.Bxe5 dxe5 15.Nf3 e4 16.Nd4 e5 17.Nc2

Be6 18.Na3 b5 19.Naxb5 axb5 20.Nxb5 Qb8 21.a4, Ward - Mortazi, London, 1992. White's loss of time with Bg3-e5 let Black effectively pressure c4 after White's ambitious b4.) **7...0-0 8.e3 d6?!** (I don't like this move. Black should get on with the natural 8...d5 with good chances of equalizing but White still having a gentle first move edge.) **9.Nb3** (Ducking ...e5, hindering ...d5, and pressuring d6. I felt comfortable with my game which is always important in a last round encounter.) **9...Nc6 10. Be2 e5** (Okay, here's the deal: All of Black's moves are perfectly respectable; White's too, though I have invested quite a bit of time



in my king knight. Yet, somehow, Black has reached a critical point. If he doesn't do anything, I castle, then Rd2 and Rfd1 with good pressure. 10...e5 gets the computer's thumbs up as it breathes life into Black's queenside pieces, but I was pleased to see it. I thought I could make Black pay for his light square transgressions. Note how useful it is having the pawn on e3 rather than e4: I can play Bf3 to an open, diagonal, ...Nd4 is out, and I can run knights through e4. I was more concerned about 10...a5, which offers squares for squares. Thus if I commit with 11.a4 hoping for Nb5, then 11...Nb4 Δ ...d5 looks okay. But if I let him have ...a4 he'll get space and redeployment opportunities like N-d7-c5/e5.)



Anatoly Karpov

11.Bg5 (Preparing swap options on f6. Another advantage of e3 is that I don't have to work out ...Nxe4xc3 combinations, which might work with a pawn on e4. **11...Be6 12.0-0 Rc8?!** (The text allows White a chance to get a positionally attractive 2 vs game. 12...a5!?! is committal but gives good fighting back chances, eg, 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Nd5 a4 15.Nd2 e4!?! [15...Bxd5 16.cxd5 Nb4?! (16...Nb8) 17.a3 Nxd5 18.Bf3] 16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 17.Nxe4 Qxb2 18.Nxd6 Qxa2 19.Nxb7) **13.Bxf6! Bxf6** (Black can consider ...gxf6 but I still prefer White.) **14.Bg4!** (Karpov's presence was continuing to have a good effect. We were on something like Board 6 so he wasn't far away, smunching Brian McCarthy. I'm quite sure he would have approved of this move, which puts Black on the spot.) **14...Qd7?!** (So natural that I didn't think to stop and look for something special and quickly played my reply...) **15.Bxe6?!** (Alas, there was something much better, 15.Nc5! dxc5 16.Qxd7 Bxd7 17.Bxd7 Rcd8 18.Bxc6 (18.Rfd1) 18...bxc6 White would still have plenty of work to do as he must make sure Black's rooks



don't get too active but this would be a solid \pm) **15...Qxe6!** (Black's queen is too poorly placed for ...fxe6 to work. Qg4 Δ Rfd1 would give White a very dangerous edge.) **16.Nd5?!** (I didn't see his next move and thought that the text was more aggressive than 16.Qe2. In fact, the queen move is best as is supports c4 and clears d1 for my king rook. Black wouldn't have a great square to go to with his knight so it would be hard to interrupt White's plans, eg, 16...e4 17.Nd5 Rfe8 18.Rfd1 Ne7! 19.Nxf6+ (19.Nf4! Qe5 20.Nd4) 19...Qxf6 20.Nd4 Nc6 21.Qg4 Nxd4 22.exd4) **16...Ne7!** (He must challenge my trusty steed before reinforcements ensure that all recaptures on d5 are made by my big people.) **17.Nxe7+** (I preferred this over 17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.Qd2 Rfd8 19.Qb4 Rd7 20.Rfd1 for its clarity and long term chances to dominate the white squares. Surprisingly, however, it's not clear White has an advantage after the text. But I was in a optimistic state of mind, which helped me through the rest of the game.) **17...Bxe7 18.Qd5!?** (Consistent with my last move. Yes, the hole on d5 gets sealed up, but the

threat of Na5 will win the open c-file or encourage ...b6, when c6 becomes an inviting target. Of course, all this is dependent on Black swapping on d5.) **18...Qxd5?** (This is the kind of situation where I've learned a lot from letting computers analyze my games. Humans do not like big hostile things staring at them from the middle of the board. I suspect Black traded queens with a sense of relief, but doing so plays into White's hands. Only he can realistically expect to control the c-file. 18...Rc7! was much better, followed by Rfc8 continuing to build pressure against c4. The game would then be fully equal — a conclusion to which I acquiesce with much reluctance! For example, 18...Rc7! 19.Qxe6 [19.Na5?! Rfc8!] fxe6 20.Nd2 Rfc8 21.Rcd1 b6 [21...b5 22.b3 d5 23.cxd5 exd5 24.Nf3 e4 25.Nd4 Bf6 ∞] 22.Ne4 Rd8 23.b3 d5=) **19.cxd5 Rxc1** (Black must choose his poison, but I'd prefer 19...f5!? 20.Na5 b6 21.Nc6 Bf6 22.Rc2 as giving more chances to drum up counterplay.) **20.Rxc1 Bd8 21.Kf1!** (Again, the Karpov thing — I decided to bring my king to the center and possibly even infiltrate on the



queenside. I wasn't too concerned about giving Black kingside counterplay as I felt my active pieces could handle it. A more difficult question was assessing my chances in a minor piece ending. This question is relevant as Rc8 [threatening Rb8] practically forces Bb6 when I could swap on f8. It didn't take long to decide that this was a bad plan, however. Black would gain decent counterplay with ...f5; moreover, why should I rush to swap my active rook for his passive one while simultaneously bringing his king into the center? This is when I decided to centralize my king and try and probe with my rook and knight.) **21...f6?!** (Black's big failing during the next phase is that he doesn't post his pawns as actively as possible. The goal of 21...f6 is to let his king come to the center, but 21...f5 gains space and doesn't lock in the bishop.) **22.Ke2 Kf7 23.Rc8!?** (A testing move. I want to see whether he thinks he can hold the minor piece ending. Also, I want him to clearly know who was controlling events. For all that, 23.Nd2 deserved consideration, eg, 23...Ke7 24.f4!? Ba5 25.Ne4 f5 26.Ng5 h6 27.Ne6

Many minor piece endings do win for White if his king has entry points. The plan of getting in f4 and later swaps creates them.) **23...Bb6!** (Black will not be bluffed.) **24.Rc4** (Now I threaten Rb4 as well as probing his kingside.) **24...Rb8** (Not 24...a5 when White has Kd3, Rc1 and K-c4-b5 with or without inserting a4) **25.Kd3 f5** (Finally, Black plays this helpful move.) **26.f3** (To hinder ...e4 and prepare g4 or e4 depending on how Black plays it. 26.f4 as another option but I disliked committing my pawns so much.) **26...h5!?** (I like this move, which makes it difficult for White to play g4 as then ...e4+ is often a good counter. Black is on the right track in generating counterplay away from the knight. Note that a pure rook ending would be very bad for Black so long as White controls the c-file.) **27.Rh4?** (This turns out to be bad probing as ...g6 is useful and the rook is not well placed on h4. White should push the bishop back with 27.Rb4 then play f4, when ...e4 gives up d4 and other moves allows fe and Nc5. For example, 27...Bd8 28.f4! e4+ 29.Ke2 b5?! 30.Nd4 [gaining a useful tempo, which



will not happen in the actual game now that I've "forced" g6] g6 31.Nc6 Ra8 32.a4 Bf6 33.axb5 a5 34.Ra4 Bxb2 35. Rxa5±) **27...g6 28.Rb4 Bd8 29.g3?!** (29. a4 is not good as it just invites ...b5, the minor piece endings being fine for Black, who can play ...Rb6 if need be to clarify the queenside tension. However the text, played with the idea of holding up ...f4 as an answer to my coming e4, is too slow and allows a surprising tactical chance. 23. f4 looks best, when Black can consider Kf6) **29...Ke8?** (Missing the amazingly effective 29...b5! — White is faced with ...a5 trapping his rook, and after 30.a4 Black can quietly improve his kingside play. Suddenly it's White who can't move his minor piece, as for instance Nd2 gets hit by Ba5. 30...g5 31.h3 Kg6 32.axb5? [32.Kc3! Bf6 33.e4 Rc8+ 34.Kd3 bxa4 35.Rxa4 Rb8 36.Ra3 Rb6=] 32...a5! 33.Rc4 Rxb5≠ Note that ...b5 remains available to Black over the next few moves, though with diminished effect.) **30.e4! Kd7?! 31.f4! b6?** (Now it's Black's turn to miss a tactical shot.) **32.fxe5 dxe5 33.Nc5+ Kd6 34.Ne6!** (I am very proud of my-

self for resisting grabbing the a-pawn. The text is much stronger as it contains plenty of direct threats and greatly reduces Black's counterplay. I almost hate to admit how close I came to just automatically snapping up the pawn, as I was sure he had missed Nc5+. This is going to sound stupid, but I had a vision of Karpov shaking his head after I examined some of the Na6 lines. In truth White keeps an edge, but at the price of crummy piece activity, after 34.Nxa6?! Ra8 35.Ra4 b5 36.Ra3 Bb6 37.Nb4 Rxa3+ 38.bxa3 Bc5. On the other hand 34.Ne6! sets up great piece coordination.) **34...b5** (Not much choice as Nd8 and R-c4-c6 were both threatened.) **35.Rb3** (Angling for Rc3) **35...Bb6?!** (Black does a poor job defending this miserable position. I suspect he was getting kind of depressed around here, but 35...Be7 was better, eg, 36.Rc3 a5 37.Rc6+ Kd7 38.Rc7+ Kd6 39.Ra7± The point is that he needs to keep my rook from swinging over to the kingside via Rc6 & knight moves, or R-c7-g7) **36.Rc3± Kd7 37.Rc6 Bg1 38.b4!** (38.Ng7 is also strong but I prefer the text, which sets up Nc5+ whether or



not Black plays Bxh2. From c5 the knight can close the c-file and escort the d-pawn.) **38...Bxh2?** (Black should try 38...Rc8!, when White must play very accurately to win. The themes in the accompanying variations are that pawn endings risk *losing*, not winning; that rook ending are drawish, as are any lines where Black is allowed to activate his rook; and that the correct path is to push back Black's king and win through a combination of grabbing kingside pawns and pushing the d-pawn. So: *i*) 39.Nc5+? Bxc5 40.Rxc8 Kxc8 41.bxc5 a5; *ii*) 39.Rxa6? Rc4 40.Nc5+ [40.Nf8+ Ke8 41.Nxg6 fxe4+ 42.Ke2 Bxh2 43.Nxe5] Bxc5

41.bxc5 Rd4+! 42.Kc3 Rxe4; *iii*) 39.Rxc8! Kxc8 [39...fxe4+ 40.Kxe4 Kxc8 41.d6 Kd7 42.Kd5 Bxh2 43.Nc5 wins] 40.exf5 gxf5 41.Ng7±) **39.Nc5+ Ke7 40.Rxg6?** (Of course the text is perfectly lethal, but 40.Rc7+ was more efficient, eg, 40...Kd6 41.Rd7#; or 40...Kd8 41.Ne6+ Ke8 42.d6 Bxg3 43.Re7#; or 40...Ke8 41.d6 Bxg3 [41...Rd8 42.Re7+ Kf8 43.Ne6] 42.d7+ Ke7 43.Rc8 etc; or finally 40...Kf6 41.Nd7+ Kg5 42.Nxb8 Bxg3 43.d6 winning) **40...Kf7?** (He had to play 40...f4 though he's still lost after 41.gxf4 Bxf4 42.Rxa6 h4 43.d6) **41.exf5** (The rest is carnage.) **41...h4 42.gxh4 Rh8 43.Rg4 1-0**

Virginia Chess has recently extolled the accomplishments of Chesapeake's Cameron Hudson (*see issue # 1997/5*) but at Parsippany it was his brother Brett who scored an upset of nearly 500 rating points:

Brett Hudson - Bill Kyburz

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 g6 5 Nc3 Bg7 6 Be3 Nf6 7 f3 0-0 8 Qd2 Qb6 9 0-0-0 d6 10 Ne6 Qa5 11 Nxf8 Kxf8 12 Bh6 Be6 13 Bxg7+ Kxg7 14 Kb1 Nb4 15 a3 Nc6 16 Nd5 Bxd5 17 exd5 Qxd2 18 Rxd2 Ne5 19 Be2 Rc8 20 Rhd1 Ned7 21 h4 Nb6 22 g4

Rc5 23 b4 Rxd5 24 Rxd5 Nfxd5 25 Kb2 Nf4 26 Bf1 h6 27 c4 Nd7 28 Re1 Ne5 29 Re3 Kf6 30 Kc3 g5 31 hxg5+ hxg5 32 Kd4 Neg6 33 Rc3 e5+ 34 Ke4 Ke6 35 Rb3 Nf8 36 c5 d5+ 37 Ke3 Nd7 38 Bd3 Nf6 39 Bf5+ Ke7 40 b5 Kd8 41 b6 a6 42 c6 1-0

Virginia Chess

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