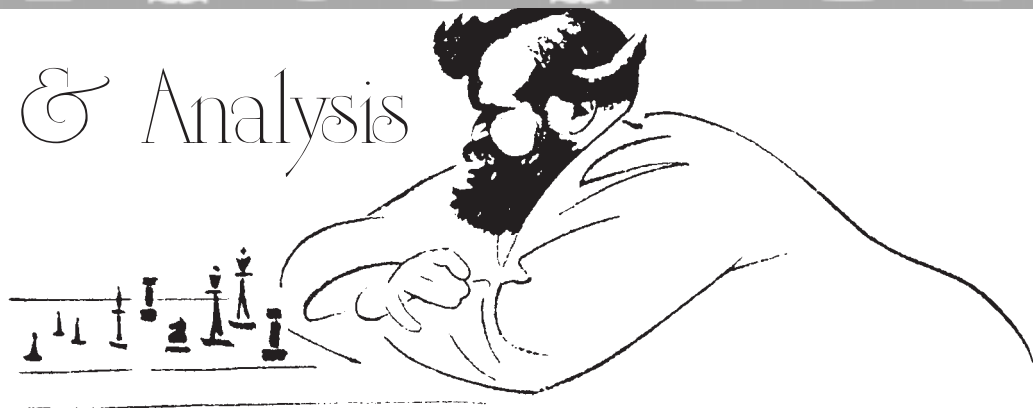




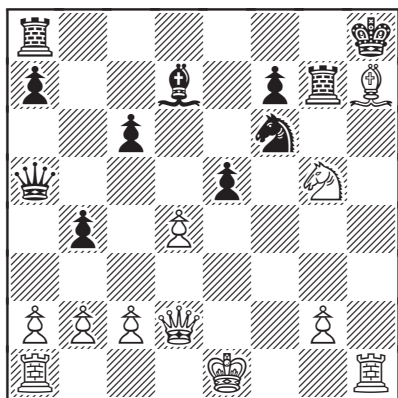
Games & Analysis



TIM HAMILTON - DENNIS DUNN
1999 UMBC OPEN
PIRC

Notes by Tim Hamilton

1 Nc3 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 e4 d6 4 Be3 Nf6 5 f3 c6 6 Qd2
 0-0 7 Bh6 b5 8 h4 b4 9 Nce2 Qa5 10 Bxg7 Kxg7 11
 h5 gxh5?! 12 Nf4 Kh8 (12...Qg5? 13 Ne6+) 13
 Nxb5 Nbd7 (13...Nxb5? 14 Qh6) 14 Ng3 e6 15 Bd3
 Rg8 16 e5 (16 N1e2!?) Rxb3 17 exf6 Nxf6
 (17...Ba6?? 18 Rxb7+ Kg8 19 Rh8+ Kxh8 20 Qh6+
 Kg8 21 Bh7+ Kh8 22 Bg6+ Kg8 23 Qg7 mate) 18
 Nh3 Rg7 19 Qh6 Ng8 20 Qd2 Bd7 21 Ng5 Nf6
 (21...Qxg5?? 22 Qxg5 Rxb3 23 Rxb7 mate) 22 f4 e5
 23 fxe5 dxe5 24 Bxb7 (played with seven seconds left
 to reach the control at move 25)



24...exd4

If 24...Nxb7 25 Nxb7 Rxb7 26 Rxb7+ Kxh7 27 0-0
 0-0 Qxa2 (or 27...exd4 28 Rh1+ Kg8 29 Qxd4 Qg5+
 30 Kb1) 28 Rh1+ Kg6 29 Qh6+ Kf5 30 Rh5+ Ke4
 31 Rxe5+ Kxd4 32 Qe3+ Kc4 with a choice of mates;
 or if 24...Rxb3 25 Bg8+ Kxg8 26 Qxg5+ Kf8 27
 Qxf6

25 0-0-0 Qxg5

If 25...Rxb3 26 Bf5+;

or if 25...Qxa2 26 Nxf7+ Rxf7 27 Bg6+ Rh7 (or
 27...Kg8 28 Qh6; or 27...Nh7 28 Qxd4+) 28 Rxb7+
 Kg8 29 Qh6 Nxb7 30 Bxb7+ Kf7 31 Rf1+

**26 Bg6+ Kg8 27 Qxg5 Rxb3 28 Qh4 Kg7 29 Qxd4
 Rg4 30 Rh7+ Kg6 31 Rh6+ 1-0**

D EISEN - D KILGOUR
1996 NORTH ATLANTIC TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
SICILIAN

Notes by David Eisen

This is the decisive game that won me the Postal IM
 title with a 6^{1/2}-3^{1/2} score on first
 board (Danny Kopec on second!)
 in the recent North Atlantic
 Team Tournament IV. Kilgour
 is Scottish and a postal GM. De-
 spite the loss he finished with the
 highest board score, 7-3.



1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	g6
5	c4	

The Maroczy Bind, still a potent attacking weapon
 despite persistent claims that it has been at least
 blunted.

5	...	Bg7
6	Be3	Nf6
7	Nc3	0-0
8	Be2	d6



9 0-0 Bd7
 10 Re1 Nxd4
 11 Bxd4 Bc6
 12 Bd3 Nd7

The exchange of bishops severely weakens the dark squares around Black's king.

13 Bxg7 Kxg7
 14 Qd2 a5
 15 Re3! h6

Already Black has to take his dark-square weakness into account. The threat Rh3 will now be met by Rh8. The price: a further weakening of the king.

16 Rd1 Nc5
 17 Bb1

The importance of preserving this piece will soon be apparent.

17 ... d7?

The first of two wasted moves that Black can ill afford. The Black knight wants to go — or at least threatens to go — to e5. But that could have been done at move 16, with equal effect on White light-square bishop. However, since the bishop could not have been driven off the b1-h7 diagonal even then (in view of 16...Ne5 17 Bb1 Nc4?? 18 Qd4+ Ne5 19 f4) it would have been just as well to tether the knight in favor of 16...Rc8.

18 Nd5 Rh8?

Another wasted move, as demonstrated three moves later. Black is defending before he is attacked. This move needn't — and shouldn't — be played unless and until White plays Rh3

19 Kh1 Rc8
 20 Qe2

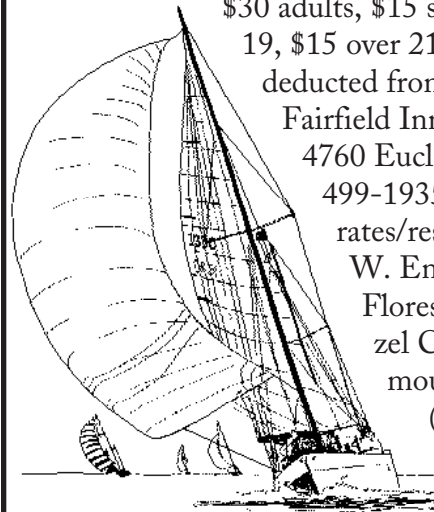
Short-term, so that White can meet ...Bxd5 by recapturing with the king pawn; long-term, heralding the queen's imminent arrival on the kingside. Still, Black would do well to eliminate White's dangerous knight, despite the play White would get along the e-file after exd5.

20 ... b6
 21 f4 Re8

13TH TIDEWATER CHESS NEWS OPEN Saturday, May 15th, 1999 Tidewater Community College, Vir- ginia Beach

4-SS, Rd 1 G/30, rd 2 G/45, rd 3 G/60, rd 4 G/80. \$\$\$500 (b/25 adult entries): \$125G, top A, B, C, D, E, Scholastic each \$75 b/5 per class, else proportional. Registration 9-9:40 am, round times 10-11:15-2:30-4:45. 1/2 pt byes flexible, none rd 4. EF \$25 adults, \$10 students under 19 by 5/08; at site

\$30 adults, \$15 students under 19, \$15 over 2100 (discount deducted from prize). Hotel: Fairfield Inn By Marriott, 4760 Euclid Road, (757) 499-1935. (call for rates/res). NS, NC, W. Enter: Rodney Flores, 4 Witch-Hazel Court, Portsmouth, VA 23703, (757)686-0822, ergfjr@erols.com



VIRGINIA CHESS Newsletter

1999 - Issue #3

Editor:

Macon Shibut
 8234 Citadel Place
 Vienna VA 22180
mshibut@dgs.dgsys.com

Circulation:

Roger Mahach
 7901 Ludlow Ln
 Dunn Loring VA 22027
rmahach@vachess.org



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 material for publication to the editor. Send dues, **address changes**, etc to:

Catherine Clark, 5208 Cedar Rd, Alexandria, VA 22309.



The square it should have gone to in the first place is now the square it is all but forced to occupy.

22 f5

This lets Black anchor his knight on e5 but badly undermines his king position.

22 ... e6
23 Nf4 Ne5
24 fxe6 fxe6
25 Rg3 g5
26 h4 Rc7
27 Qh5 Qf6

The most vigorous defense — but it is double-edged.

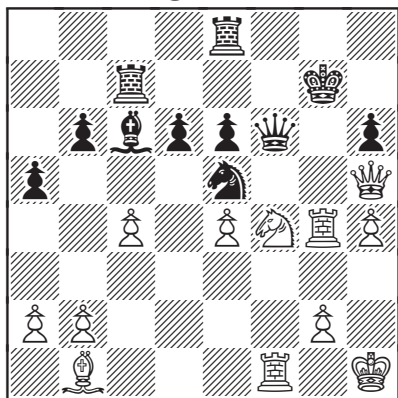
28 Rf1!

Putting the knight into a pin is the only way of refuting Black's queen foray. A discovery now would be deadly. But how? Kg1 can be met by Rf8

28 ... g4

What else? Giving up the pawn on g5 would remove the last shred of the Black king's pawn protection.

29 Rxe4+!



Black cannot accept the sacrifice. 29...Nxe4 30 Qxe4 loses the queen immediately after any retreat other than 30...Kf7 (30...Kh7 31 e5+; 30...Kh8/f8 31 Ng6+) but Kf7 provides only momentary respite. 31 Rf3 renews the threat of discovery and then 31...Rg8, the only plausible defense, runs into such lines as 32 Qh5+ Ke7 33 Nd5+! exd5 34 Rxf6 Kxf6 35 Qxh6+ followed by exd5 with three pawns ahead and Black's king exposed — White's advantage would be overwhelming.

32...Kg7 is even worse: 33 e5! dxe5 34 Nd5 exd5 (34...Qxf3 35 gxf3 exd5 36 Qg6+ Kf8 37 Qd6+) 35 Rxf6 Kxf6 36 Qf5+ Ke7 (36...Kg7 37 Qxe5+) 37 Qh7+

29 ... Kh7

This is a dangerous square, as quickly becomes evident. But any other retreat exposes Black to a knight check discovering on the queen.

30 Rf3!

Black of course cannot take either rook because of e5+. But he is counting on the next move to bail him out and make the double threat meaningful.

30 ... Qf7!

Frankly, I had not seen this move, reckoning on the overwhelming appearance of my attack and the immediate threat of the lethal knight discovery to carry the day. Black's move merits an exclamation because

9TH ANNUAL CHARLOTTESVILLE OPEN

July 10-11, 1999

Best Western

Rt 29 and Rt 250 Bypass interchange,
Charlottesville Va, 22923

(behind Aunt Sarah's Pancake House)

5-SS, game/2 hours. \$\$1500 b/60 full adult EF.
2 sections. *Open* \$\$ 300-200-150, top X, A each 100. EF \$35 if received by 7/3, \$45 at site. *Amateur* (open to under 1800) \$\$ 200-150-125, top C, D, E each 75, top Unr 50. EF \$30 if received by: 7/3, \$40 at site. *Both* Scholastic entry for 18 & under, \$5, \$10 at site, non-cash prizes only. Reg 9-9:45, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-2:30. VCF memb req'd, OSA. One 1/2 pt bye available. NS, NC, W. Hotel \$49 1-2, 804-296-5501. Enter Catherine Clark 5208 Cedar Rd, Alexandria, Va 22309. Info (703) 360-3391 but no phone entries.

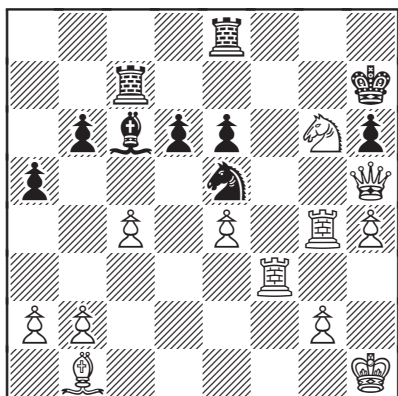
10 Grand Prix points





it is the only move that seems to offer hope of survival, and the refutation is not easy to find. In fact, game continuation appears to be the only line that doesn't end the attack and cost White the exchange.

31 Ng6!!



There is no escape. 31...Qg8 loses at least the knight; 31...Qg7 ends in mate after...32 Nxe5 Qxe5 33 Qg6+ Kh8 34 Qxh6+ Rh7 35 Rf8+; and 31...Qd7 ends similarly after 32 Nxe5 dxe5 33 Qg6+ Kh8 34 Qxh6+ Qh7 35 Rf8+ Rxf8 36 Qxf8+

Of course Black can try 31...Qxg6 32 Rxg6 Nxc6 but then 33 Rf6 Rg8 34 e5 Be8 35 Qg4 and 35...h5 is conclusive

The most arresting sequence follows 31...Nxf3 32 e5! (see front cover diagram) and Black, on move and a rook up, can do nothing to save the game. For doubters, two plausible tries:

(i) 32...Kg7 33 Nh8+ Kf8 (33...Kxh8? 34 Qxh6+ Qh7 35 Bxh7 Rxh7 36 Qf6+ and mate next) 34 Nxf7 Rxf7 35 Bg6 Nxe5 36 Bxf7 Nxf7 37 Rf4 Re7 38 Qxh6+ Ke8 39 Qg6 Kf8 40 h5 and Black, in an unbreakable bind, cannot stop the pawn.;

(ii) 32...g5 33 hxg5 Qf1+ 34 Kh2 Qxb1 35 Qxh6+ Kg8 36 Qh8+ Kf7 37 Qh7++

Black had no doubts. He studied the position for two weeks and resigned.

1-0



VIRGINIA SCHOLASTIC CHESS COUNCIL



The Virginia Scholastic Chess Council (VASCC) is a non-profit organization

dedicated to promoting chess in the schools. The officers and staff as well as assistant tournament directors are made up of volunteers who give their time to make this mission a success. Parent volunteers as well as teachers and others who work in education combine their efforts to provide an outlet for student chess players to get involved and have fun.

The VASCC is composed of individuals very interested in educating the public about the benefits of playing chess in the schools. In general, we maintain the following points of view:

1. Chess has been demonstrated to benefit children in terms of teaching math concepts and developing critical thinking skills.
2. Chess has been used with dramatic success as a main curriculum component in drop-out prevention programs for school systems.
3. As competition, chess is an area in which many students can excel who otherwise experience only the frustration of obstacles imposed by their handicaps with traditional academic subjects. It is no surprise that individuals with extended chess experience are found to have good skills in math, music, and computer programming.
4. Due to the richness and complexity of chess, it is rewarding to students who participate in chess clubs and on chess teams in competition. Chess competitions are inclusive in that all interested parties *play*. No one is left "on the bench."

Contact the VASCC at kencorn@erols.com



ANALYTIC POSTSCRIPT

by Tim Hamilton

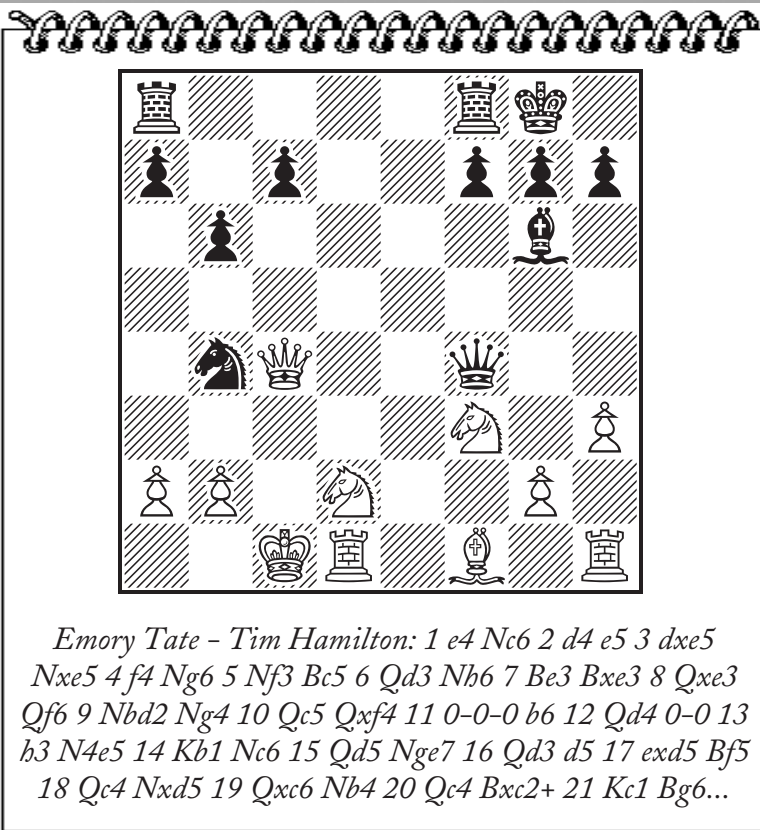
IN THE TATE-HAMILTON GAME recently published (*Virginia Chess* 1999/2, p 8) I failed to note that Stan Fink's suggestion 22.g3 could have been strongly met by 22...Qf5! with the serious threat of ...Nxa2+ and ...Qc2 mate.

White would be obliged to continue with either 23.Nd4 or 23. Re1:

(i) 23. Nd4 Qa5?! 24.a3 c5 looked interesting at first glance, but White wins with the amusing 25. Nc6. So instead, 23...Qc5! and White has problems.

(ii) 23.Re1 (giving the king a square) b5!! [Fritz] and White is in a horrible mess. For example, 24.Nb4 Rae8 25.Be2 Nxa2+ 26.Kd1 bxc4 27.Nxf5 c3; or 24.Nd4 Qf2 25.Re2 Rae8 26.Ne4 Qxf1+; or finally 24.g4 Nxa2+ 25.Kd1 Qxf3 26.Nxf3 bxc4 27.Bxc4 Rfd8.

Since Tate's postmortem 22. Ne5 is unclear, it looks more and more as though 22.a3! was the only decent continuation. While Black can then improve in various ways on the queen sac 22...a5 23.axb4 axb4[?] that I gave in the article, I admit that things look really tough. Given the circumstances, one could play on a bit with lines like 23...Qf6 24.b5 a4!?! trying to pry open the a-file and remove White's pawn cover (at the cost of two pieces). As I recall, Tate said he didn't even consider 22.a3 or 22.g3 — after all, he had only about two minutes left for moves 22 through 40, with a crowd of spectators watching intently.



Emory Tate - Tim Hamilton: 1 e4 Nc6 2 d4 e5 3 dxe5 Nxe5 4 f4 Ng6 5 Nf3 Bc5 6 Qd3 Nb6 7 Be3 Bxe3 8 Qxe3 Qf6 9 Nbd2 Ng4 10 Qc5 Qxf4 11 0-0-0 b6 12 Qd4 0-0 13 h3 N4e5 14 Kb1 Nc6 15 Qd5 Nge7 16 Qd3 d5 17 exd5 Bf5 18 Qc4 Nxd5 19 Qxc6 Nb4 20 Qc4 Bxc2+ 21 Kc1 Bg6...



1999 Fredericksburg Open

June 19-20, 1999

Sheraton Inn, 2801 Plank Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22404

(use I-95 & Rt 3 Exit 130 for Culpepper/Fredericksburg, go to first stoplight, turn right into the Park Complex)

\$\$2200 (Top 3 Open G) b/80 full entries. Two sections: *Open* 4-SS, 40/2 SD/1. \$500-300-200, X \$100, A \$100, Unr \$75 Rds 10-4:30, 9-3:30. *Amateur* (Under 1800) 5-SS, rds 1-3 G/90, rds 4-5 game/120. \$300-200-125, C, D, under 1200 each \$100. Rds 10-1:30-5, 9-1:30. *Both* reg Sat 6/19 9-9:50, EF \$40 by 6/12, \$50 at site, scholastic \$15 by 6/12, \$20 at site & play for non-cash prizes only. VCF membership required, OSA. 1 half-pt bye allowed, rd 4 or 5 must declare before rd 2. Accel pairings possible. NS, NC, W. Hotel: \$59 1-4, **must reserve by 6/3/99**, 540-786-8821 or 1-800-682-1049, ask for chess rate. Olympic Size Pool and lots for a family to do! *Info* Catherine Clark 703-360-3391, no phone or e-mail entries. <http://www.wizard.net/~matkins/fred99.htm> e-mail matkins@wizard.net **Enter:** Catherine Clark, 5208 Cedar Rd. Alexandria, VA 22309



63rd Annual...

Virginia Closed State Championship

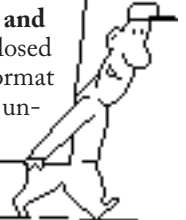
Sept 5-6, 1999



Best Western, Rt 29 and Rt 250
Bypass interchange
Charlottesville Va 22923
(Behind Aunt Sarah's Pancake House)
5-SS, rds 1-3 G/90, rds 4-5 game/2.
\$\$2500G, in two sections:

Note Odd Dates!!

The September 5-6 schedule listed above is not a typo! Normally the Virginia Closed is a three-day event, and so it was intended for this year. However, a problem with the venue arose. Various alternate sites were considered, but all presented problems of their own. Eventually it was decided that the least bad solution would be to run the tournament as a two-day event this year, on the **Sunday and Monday of Labor Day weekend**. The Virginia Closed will definitely revert to its traditional three-day format in 2000, and it is hoped that traditionalists will understand and bear with us for this year.



Open

EF \$40 if rec'd by 8/30, \$50 at site.
\$\$ 500-300-200-150, top X, A each 100. Trophy and title of State Champion highest scorer.

Amateur

(open to under 1800)

EF \$35 if rec'd by 8/30, \$45 at site.
\$\$ 400-200-150, top C, D, E, Unr each 100.
Trophy and title of State Amateur Champ to highest scorer.

Both

Registration 9:00-11:00 am 9/5. Scholastic entry for 18 & under: \$10, \$15 at site, play for non-cash prizes only. Round times noon-3:30-7, 9-1:30. Accelerated pairings possible. VCF membership required. One 1/2-point bye available. NS, NC, W. Hotel Rates: \$49 1-2, phone: 804-296-5501
Enter: Catherine Clark 5208 Cedar Rd, Alexandria, VA 22309.
Call (703) 360-3391 for info but *no phone entries*.

Annual State Membership Meeting
Sunday, Sept 5
9-11:30am



TIDEWATER STUFF

The most recent (May/June) issue of *Tidewater Chess News*, edited by state champion Rodney Flores, seemed unusually packed with news and info. Get your own free copy by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to *TCN*, 4 Witch-Hazel Ct, Portsmouth Va 23703. In the meantime, here's a digest of the latest highlights :

HOME SCHOOLED 5th grader **Nelson Lopez** made it two years in a row as he tied for 1st in the **Virginia Elementary State Championships**. 4th grader **Ettie Nikolova** scored 5-1 to join a big tie for 2nd place along with fifth grader **Ben Bland** and a few others. In the high school division, Hickory High did Tidewater proud by taking the 4th place team trophy ... "New Kid On Block" NM **Daniel Miller** steamrolled through the 1999 **Hampton Roads Championship**. Miller (2350) is about to wrap up Regent Law School and had been away from competitive chess for 4-5 years, so he did have some rust en route to his 5-0 sweep. **Rodney Flores** won the Portsmouth title on a tiebreaker with 4-1. **Jack Suggs**, also of Portsmouth, equaled that score with 3 wins and 2 draws. **Ilia Kremenchugsky** took top Norfolk honors, **Bryan Flores** was tops in Suffolk, Peninsula champ was **Christian Jecht** with 4-1, and **Rob DeBois** and **Nelson Lopez** split the Top Scholastic prize. **Martin Roper** ably directed ... **Nate Lynch** (1980) and **Ilia Kremenchugsky** (1710) were the unlikely winners of **TCN #12**, both cruising to 4-0 scores after the two top seeds (experts) both lost to much lower rated opponents in the 2nd round. Neither of the winners seemed to have much difficulty in posting a solid performance. Newcomer **Brian Sumner** took Top C honors with a 3-1 score. Webmaster **Kelly Ward**, **Pete Fairchild**, and newcomer **Michael Kleder** all scored 2-2 to tie for the Top D prize. **Robert Limjoco** took Top E with a 2-2 score. Virginia Elementary Champ **Nelson Lopez** was the Top Scholastic player with a 2^{1/2}-1^{1/2} score ... Twenty players showed up to help support the fledgling Hampton Roads Chess Association and to get a shot at the very tough NM **Errol Liebowitz** in a simultaneous exhibition. When the smoke cleared, Errol had almost a shutout: 19 wins and 1 draw. Expert **Jack Suggs** held the only draw from a slightly better position ... The **Langley Chess Club** had it's first chess tournament of 1999 on Saturday, February 13th, and the winner, going undefeated at 4-0 was **Tim Schmal** ... **Ray Balucanag** successfully battled his way to a 4-0 record to take the **April Langley tournament** ... **Rob DeBois**, of Hickory High, and **Matt Raum**, of Great Bridge High,



SHENANDOAH VALLEY OPEN

June 12-13, 1999

College Center of James Madison Univ
Harrisonburg, Virginia.

(Take I-81 exit 247A, E on 33, right at 2nd stoplight
(Univ blv.) go through 3 lights, right at JMU sign)

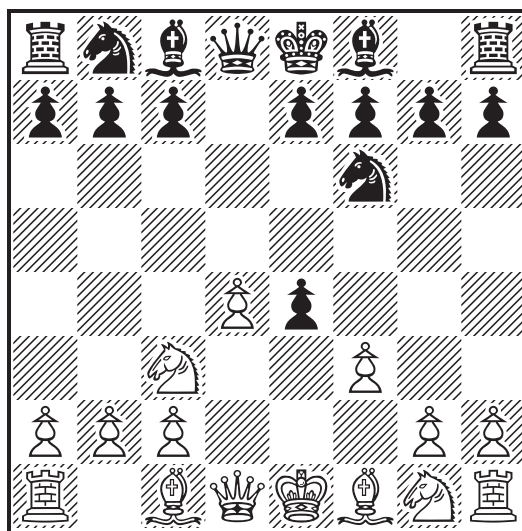
5-SS, 40/90, G/60. EF \$25 by 6/1, \$30 at site.
\$750G: \$180-120, X,A,B,C,D/UNR each \$90.
Reg 9-9:40, rds 10-3-8,10-3. Hotel: Sheraton
(540)433-2521, Econo-Lodge (540)433-2576 (lots
of other hotels nearby) Half pt bye available rds 1-
3, request bye for rds 4-5 before rd 1 (limit 1 bye).
NS, NC, W. Info (540) 298-7613. Enter: Phillip
Nolley, 21 Barristers Row, Staunton, VA 24401.
Checks payable to SVCC.

finished equal first with 4^{1/2}-1^{1/2} at this year's **Chesapeake High School championships**. Matt took first on tiebreaks. Great Bridge took top team honors ... **Sean Jones**, of Hickory High, in his senior year swept the field 5-0 at the **Regional High School Championships**. In an impressive show of poise and concentration, Sean found himself in trouble a couple of times but kept his cool and played tough, resourceful chess. ... Expert **James Walker**, visiting from West Virginia, walked away with the **2nd Chess Madness** title, with 8 points, taking only one draw and a half-point bye at the end of day one. James already had the tournament wrapped by the time he played his last round game, entering it with a 1^{1/2} point lead! **Dwight McCurry** returned to the local chess scene after a long absence, taking clear second with seven points.



WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE BLACKMAR- DIEMER GAMBIT?

by Macon Shibut



THERE IS SOMETHING WEIRD about the notorious Blackmar-Diemer Gambit (1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3). No, not about the gambit itself, but the *notoriety*. I began exploring this opening only fairly recently, after Tom Purser, the editor of a magazine called *Blackmar-Diemer World*, contacted me offering to swap issues of his publication for copies of *Virginia Chess*. It was not long before I detected something odd about the way mainstream “theory” dismisses this gambit — not by analysis so much as by scorn and neglect.

My point is not to claim that this gambit is actually any *good*. For argument’s sake, let’s even stipulate that the Blackmar-Diemer is nothing more than a dopey squandering of White’s first-move initiative. Even so, I can name plenty of other openings that don’t rise even to that level, yet enjoy greater... well, maybe not *esteem*, but greater recognition at least. Books that still reserve a column for good old Damiano’s Defense (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f6), which I’ve never known anyone to actually play, are apt to ignore the Blackmar-Diemer altogether. Unnatural and eccentric openings like the Grob, or even the Englund Gambit (1 d4 e5!?) — which has *got to be* worse than the BDG if you think about it — routinely get more attention.

Nunn’s Chess Openings, the latest single-volume “chessplayers’ Bible,” is all too typical: 544 pages, Lord knows how many columns, and *not a single one of them are devoted to the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit*. There is, however, coverage of 1 d4 d5 2 Bg5!?! And under that column you will find a solitary footnote that mentions, among others, 2 e4 and cites (recom-

mends?) the defense 2...dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Nxf3 e6 — concluding, incidentally, with an evaluation of ☹

In spite of its disrepute — or maybe because of it — a legion of rabid patrons essay their beloved “BDG” at every opportunity. Even when the chance does *not* present itself, these true believers are apt to wage some dubious pseudo-Blackmar-Diemer. But playing the opening in normal tournaments is just the beginning; they also organize Blackmar-Diemer thematic tournaments, build Blackmar-Diemer web sites, fill the pages of the aforementioned *Blackmar-Diemer World*. They’re like sci-fi fans who inhabit a parallel chess universe, where hot developments don’t occur in the Sicilian or Kings Indian, but rather in the Gunderam Defense or the Lemberger Counter Gambit.

For all that, it remains true that even back during a more gambit-friendly era, swashbucklers from Anderssen to Speelman hitched their wagons to the



Evans, the Scotch, the King's Gambit... but rarely the BDG. In this respect the BDG resembles the Smith-Morra Gambit (1 e4 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 c3), another line that's popular at club level but scorned by pros even though there's no consensus on the best way to answer it. (Annotating a game by the late Ken Smith in the San Antonio 1972 tournament book, Bent Larsen attached a question mark to Mario Campos-Lopez's 1...e6 and quipped that against Smith, who missed no opportunity to essay his gambit, "1...c5 would have won a pawn.") However, it cannot be said that the Smith-Morra gets short shrift in mainstream chess *literature*. Which brings me back to the mystery of The Establishment's contemptuously dismissive attitude towards the Blackmar-Diemer.

I suspect part of the explanation is simple elitism. Many of those who comprise the Blackmar-Diemer *Gemeinde*¹ are frankly weak players, whose silly and exaggerated claims on the BDG's behalf invite ridicule. The alternative literature coming out of Planet Diemer is filled with horrible little games like Berthelsen - Gassauer, correspondence 1968 (1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Nxf3 g6 6 Bc4 c6 7 0-0 Nbd7 8 Qe1 h6 9 Ne4 Nb6 10 Nxf6 *mate*) whose only redeeming feature, it would seem, is that White wins. Objectivity is not the *Gemeinde's* strong suit.

But neither can I see the objectivity in simply discounting the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit without bothering to fill anyone in on the refutation. "On

the chessboard lies and hypocrisy do not survive long," [Lasker] but perhaps there are other factors in play here, factors quite apart from the chessboard *per se*. These would pertain to the life and career of Emil Josef Diemer (1908-1990), High Priest of the *Gemeinde*. Diemer was just a minor master, but he pioneered a simple move order refinement to a fringe opening.²

**THEY'RE LIKE
SCI-FI FANS WHO
INHABIT A
PARALLEL CHESS
UNIVERSE,
WHERE HOT
DEVELOPMENTS
DON'T OCCUR IN
THE SICILIAN OR
KINGS INDIAN,
BUT RATHER IN
THE GUNDERAM
DEFENSE OR THE
LEMBERGER
COUNTER
GAMBIT.**

Dutch columnist Hans Ree relates how, "*Diemer wrote in countless little magazines and papers, sold chess books, gave simulms, but often he was hungry. He was simply not strong enough to be a chess professional. ... Success he had not, but there were disciples who wrote passionate polemics about the merits of the Blackmar-Diemer gambit, 1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3. For one year, from 1955 till 1956, Diemer published his own magazine, Blackmar-Gemeinde (Blackmar-Community), that he had to close down when his creditors became too impatient. Everyone of importance in the chess world was bombarded by Diemer with letters that contained endless analyses of his gambit.*"

Alas, Diemer's fanaticism was not limited to opening analysis. Among other disagreeable things, he was an ardent Nazi, "a relentless agitator for the party in the years that the Nazi's romantically called the 'Kampfzeit,' the years of struggle before they took power," according to Ree. In time Diemer became "the 'chess reporter of the Great German Reich,' [who] was present at all important international chess events and sang the praise of

1 From the official Blackmar Diemer web pages: "On November 25, 1955 E J Diemer published the first issue of a small chess paper which he called the *Blackmar Gemeinde*. ... In English, *Gemeinde* equates to parish or community, and through his *Blackmar Gemeinde* Diemer sought to expand the community of believers in the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. His paper, which was not financially sustainable, lasted little more than a year, but the *Gemeinde* continued in a small group of players dedicated to playing, analyzing, and popularizing the BDG." See <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/4902/Gemeinde/community.html>

2 Blackmar's original 18th century gambit was 1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 f3 but 3...e5 proved a troublesome rejoinder. Diemer proposed 2 Nc3 and only after 2...Nf6 3 e4 when 3...dxe4 4 f3 e5?! is not as good because 5 dxe5 hits Black's knight.



'Kampfschach,' chess as a struggle, in the Nazi newspapers and magazines."

Here's a theory to ponder: might Diemer's Naziism have somehow landed his opening on a kind of unwritten blacklist, a taboo that persists at some level even to this day? In the former Soviet Union — power center of world chess throughout the last half of the century — one's taste in art, music, or literature could be a life and death matter, especially during Stalin's day. Certainly chess was not exempt from the Bolsheviks' determined politicization of all life. If it was dangerous to admit a taste for "decadent," or "counterrevolutionary" art, perhaps it was also not such a good idea to champion the brainchild of The Chess Reporter of the Great German Reich... And not only in the USSR could such associations lead to trouble. Composer Richard Wagner died in 1883; he never heard of Adolph Hitler. However, his German nationalist themes made Wagner a favorite in the Third Reich, and even today there are people who cannot bear listening to his music on account of this connection.

No doubt at least 99.9% of the *Gemeinde* don't know or care about such things. Their interest is chess. They play and write and analyze for the joy in it, and they revere the BDG for its aggressive tactical spirit. But one can understand how, in the eyes of some, their zeal takes on a more unsettling connotation when they naively rally behind Diemer's proclamation that "the Blackmar gambit changes the whole man!" It may be indeed troubling, considering Diemer's associations, for writers in *Blackmar Diemer World* to hail this second-rate master as "our leader," "the great man," and similar tributes. That magazine, well produced and rich in stimulating analysis, has also published adoring reminiscences of personal encounters with "the old

master." One disciple was not so lucky, his pilgrimage came too late. The resulting article, titled "A Dream Come True," reported its author's "dream of visiting the area where Diemer lived and played and was laid to rest...":

"The evening we arrived, my friend and I first checked with the restaurant manager at the Gasthaus Rebstock (where Diemer played). ... The next morning, my friend and I visited the cemetery. It is located in back of the town in a beautiful forest. It was small but nicely maintained. I searched for the grave and found it. It was hard to believe — I was so many miles away from home and standing next to E J Diemer's grave! ... I only wish that I had the opportunity to visit Herr Diemer before he passed away. That would have been quite an experience."

Do Lasker or Steinitz inspire such devotion?

I made it my goal to chart the middle ground between the *Gemeinde's* fatuous enthusiasm for their gambit and the mainstream's scoffing dismissal of it. I read a few articles and started test-driving the BDG in speed chess.

On maybe the very first night out, I got to try the beast against four-time state champion Geoff McKenna. "Not easy to defend..." he remarked as he took White's pawn and survived a typical kamikaze onslaught to win what would wind up a clear majority that evening. Still, I was sufficiently reassured about White's prospects to continue looking at the gambit and eventually to play it from time to time in tournaments.

My overall assessment is that the Blackmar-Diemer is: a useful situational weapon — perhaps too speculative as the centerpiece of one's repertoire, but White does get an active, attacking game and defi-

**IN THE
FORMER
SOVIET
UNION,
PERHAPS IT
WAS NOT
SUCH A GOOD
IDEA TO
CHAMPION
THE BRAIN-
CHILD OF
"THE CHESS
REPORTER OF
THE GREAT
GERMAN
REICH"**



nite practical compensation. And an unprepared Black may easily get fried. My observation of the *Gemeinde's* general level notwithstanding, there are some wonderful players who specialize in this gambit and they've produced some truly remarkable games and analyses.

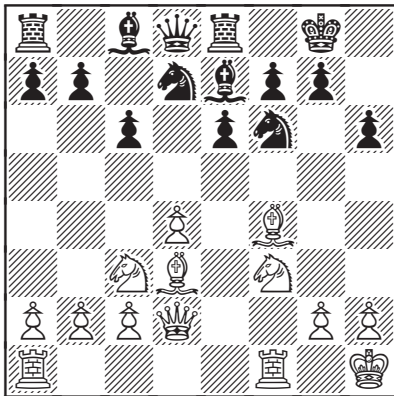
CHARLES DIEBERT - JOHN BURKE
USA 1987

BLACKMAR-DIEMER

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 e4 dxe4 4 f3 exf3 5 Nxf3 e6 6 Bg5 Be7 7 Bd3 Nbd7

7...0-0 8 0-0 Nc6 9 Qe1 Nd5 10 Bxh7+ Kxh7 11 Qh4+ Kg6 (or 11...Kg8 12 Bxe7 Qxe7 13 Ng5 Nf6 14 Rxf6) 12 Bxe7 Qxe7 13 Qg4+ Kh6 14 Qh3+ Kg6 15 Nh4+ 1-0 Purser-Casteel, corr 1982, was another typical BDG denouement

8 0-0 h6!? 9 Bf4 c6 10 Kh1 0-0 11 Qd2 Re8



12 Bxh6

This may look premature to the uninitiated, but on Planet Diemer such sacrifices are routine. White's immediate threats don't amount to much, but his initiative proves to have surprising endurance.

12...gxh6 13 Qxh6 Bf8 14 Qh4 Bg7 15 Ne5

Calmly wheeling pieces into assault position. Yes, this is the BDG way: first sacrifice, then prepare the attack. At any rate, White didn't have to fear defense by exchange here: if 15...Nxe5 16 dxe5 Nd7 the end would have been 17 Qh7+ Kf8 18 Rxf7+ Kxf7 19 Bg6+ Kf8 20 Rf1+

15...Qe7 16 Rf3 Nf8 17 Rh3

Menacing for sure, but note: for the present at least, there is no threat.

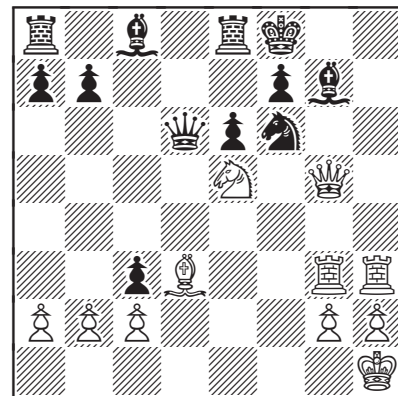
17...c5 18 Rf1 cxd4 19 Rff3!

White's exaggerated nonchalance is delightful. Material be damned, he's got a plan and he's sticking to it. The fact that Black ultimately fails to stem the attack despite his two extra pieces and a half dozen moves to brace himself creates the impression that the whole thing may well have been sound!

19...dxc3 20 Rfg3

At last a threat! — Qh8 mate. And it draws blood.

20...Ng6 21 Bxg6 Qd6 22 Bd3 Kf8 23 Qg5



Now if 23...cxb2 24 Qxg7+ Ke7 25 Qxf7+ Kd8 26 Qxf6+ Kc7 27 Rh7+ Kb8 (or 27...Bd7 28 Rxd7+ Qxd7 29 Nxd7 b1Q+ 30 Bf1 Kxd7 31 Rg7+ Kc6 32 Qc3+ winning) 28 Nc6+! bxc6 (28...Qxc6 29 Qe5+) 29 Qxb2+ [Diebert] Great stuff!

23...Ng4 24 Ng6+! fxg6 25 Rf3+ Bf6 26 Rxf6+ Ke7 27 Rh7+ Kd8 28 Rf8+ 1-0

Who wouldn't want to play such a masterpiece?

Virginia Chess columnist Anders Tejler ("The Gambiteer") has published more than one book on the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. His latest (with Tom Purser) is *Blackmar, Diemer & Gedult* (Blackmar Press 1998). Its core content is a couple hundred annotated games by French Foreign Legionnaire and amateur chess player David Gedult. Nearly all the games in this book are BDGs, although there are a few other oddities, eg 1 f3?!,



*Blackmar, Diemer & Gedult:
David Gedult Plays the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit*
by Tom Purser & Anders Tejler
1998, Blackmar Press.
Softcover, 88 pps, \$11.95 list.



which, according to the authors, “most BDG partisans know as Gedult’s Opening.” Chapters are organized according to Blackmar-Diemer sub-variant. The core annotations are by Gedult himself. The contributions of Purser and Tejler seem to have been organizing the material; translating a considerable portion of it from German; and writing the Introduction and Epilogue, plus brief introductions to each chapter. The production quality is quite good, with a stylish cover and sturdy binding.

If you’ve never heard of Gedult you aren’t alone, merely outside the *Gemeinde*. Among true believers he’s absolutely in the pantheon, just a rung or two below “The Old Master” himself; maybe not a Capablanca, but perhaps a Tartakower, if you will. The commercial database “Ultimate Game Collection” contains 269 Gedult games, wherein he amasses a record even Kasparov would die for: 266 wins, 1 draw, 2 losses. Of course, here again we see the effects of tastes and editorial selection. Who do you suppose assembled these games and entered them into a computer in the first place? (Gedult plays White in over 200 of the games, the great majority of them Blackmar-Diemers.) Offhand I don’t recognize any of Gedult’s opponents in *Blackmar, Diemer & Gedult*, and it’s not clear from the biographical material whether he ever entered an actual tournament, or merely played skittles games in clubs and cafés. Here’s one of them from *Blackmar, Diemer & Gedult* :

GEDULT - POBELLE

MAISON DES ÉCHECS, PARIS 1971

1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Nxf3 Bf5 6 Ne5 e6 7 g4 Bg6 8 Bg2 c6 9 h4 Bb4 10 Bg5! Qd6

Monsieur Pobelle had seen a game I had played a day earlier, and also knew what a wretched game Black had got here after 10...h6. So he chose to play something else. Now, is 10...Qd6 better than 10...h6? I believe that after 10 Bg5 it would be difficult to find a really good move for Black. (The exclamation point after White’s 10th move come [*sic*] from Gunderam — and he must know! He was also the one who recommended the variation for Black.)

11 Bxf6

I also wanted to introduce “something new” here.

11...gxf6 12 h5 fxe5

To each his piece...

13 hxg6 exd4

With the mere difference that Black, it appears, wins a piece.

14 Rxh7 Rxh7

Naturally!

15 gxh7 Qe5+ 16 Qe2 Qg7 17 Qe4 Ba5

Forced! (If Black really wants to win a piece.)

18 0-0-0 dxc3

Now Black has actually won the piece! Well, how can I now play to extract some “compensation” for that lost piece?...

19 Rh1

It is clear! This h-pawn remains my only hope!

19...Qh8 20 g5! Bd8

A remarkable “development” of the Black pieces!

21 g6

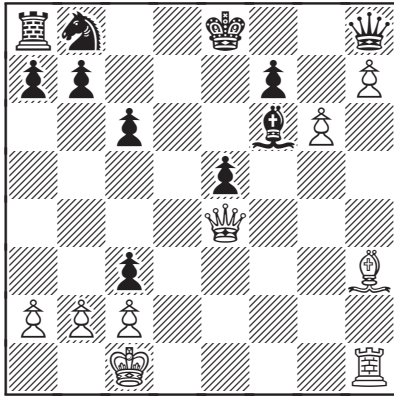
Always this “Diemer-pawn.” Also, very energetically played — how does it go?: “Hammer the iron as long as it’s warm...?”



21...Bf6

This or what else? (It's clear the g-pawn may not be captured.)

22 Bh3 e5



23 gxf7+ followed by 24 Qxe6+ was threatened.

23 Qf5 Ke7

With the principle, "the king is also a piece." It is clear the knight can't move — it would be mate in two.

24 Rf1 fxg6

What can Black play here? Not a single Black piece can move. (24...Na6 25 Qd7+ and mate; or 24...B any 25 Qxf7+; or 24...Qg7 25 Qxf6+, etc.) Good, but now...

25 Qe6+ 1-0

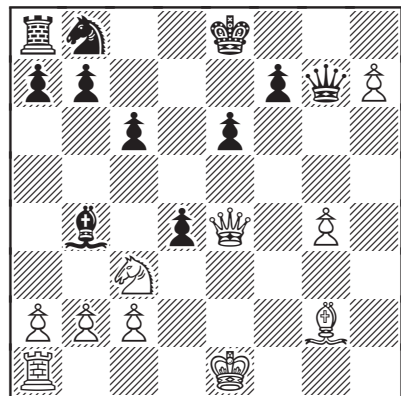
One thing is certain: the move 10 Bg5 (which Gunderam himself gave) will always remain a very strong move; I cannot conceive how it will be easily refuted.

FIND THIS EXCERPT to be in many respects representative of the book as a whole. We might also say that *Blackmar, Diemer & Gedult* as a book is typical of much BDG literature...

To begin with, there are grounds for questioning the strength of opposition. I found another Gedult-Pobelle that does not reflect well on the commander of les noirs: 1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 c5 4 Bf4 cxd4 5 Nb5 d3 6 Nc7+ Kd7 7 cxd3 Nc6 8 dxe4+ 1-0.

For sure, though, we can see that Gedult had a good eye for combination. Indeed, many of the games in *Blackmar, Diemer & Gedult* feature nice sacrificial finishes. (See Gedult-Halevy, below.)

Alas, we also note a tendency to overlook or ignore inconvenient details. Let's return to the position after 17 Qe4.



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

∞ ∞ ± ± □ △ ▢ Ⓒ Ⓓ ↺ ↻ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

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



Black is menacing White's knight, but the h7 pawn may prove to be worth more than a piece. Gedult's notes draw the reader's attention to the knight's peril and do everything possible to keep it there. He highlights Black's priority of winning the knight in three successive notes (moves 13, 17 & 18). He even uses the word "forced" in discussing Black's 17...Ba5 (so as to take the knight without White replying Qxb4), albeit with the parenthetical qualifier, "if Black really wants to win a piece."

That's a big "if"! In fact Black has several preferable plans. He is already a pawn up and the main thing should be to prevent the position from getting out

of hand, what with the h-pawn and his own undeveloped queenside. So, for example, Black could play 17...Be7 with the idea that after, eg, 18 Ne2 Bh4+ White will have to move his king. At d1 the king will keep White's rook out of play, but d2 would be even worse, exposed to another bishop check whereupon Kd3 is out of the question. Meanwhile Black's bishop has gotten around to the correct side of the board, where it can help cover h8 if necessary, and Black can set about rounding up the pawn: Nd7, 0-0-0, Rh8, Nf8 etc. What can White do about this? Granted, things are not so clear if White tries 18 Nb5!? (maybe just "!") instead of Ne2. Without at all conceding this variation, we'll just move on as Black has other possibilities back at the diagram.

Another simple move that makes a lot more sense than Pobelle's 17...Ba5 is 17...Nd7. Presumably White gets out of the pin and mobilizes his rook, 18 0-0-0, but then 18...Bxc3 (maybe Black could do without this exchange) 19 bxc3. Now it's true 19...Nf6 would not be good because of the pin after 20 Qxd4 and if 20...Qg5+ 21 Kb2 Nxh7 22 Qd7+ i Qxb7; nor would 19...Nf8 20 Rh1 Ng6 work out as Black hoped after 21 Qxg6! But again, simple chess,

2ND HEAT WAVE OPEN

August 14-15, 1999

Tidewater Community College, Va Beach

5-SS, rds 1-2 G/2, rds 3-5 35/90, SD/1. \$\$\$800 (b/25 adult entries): \$200(G)-125, \$75 each to top A (if no A wins place prize), B, C, D, E (b/5 adult entries), \$100 to top Scholastic (under 19), (b/10 scholastic entries). Rds 10-2:30-7; 9-2:30.

One 1/2 point bye avail

rds 1-4. Reg: 9-9:40

EF \$35 by 8/7,

\$40 at site, over

2200 free, over

2000 and se-

niors over 60

\$15 by 8/7,

\$20 at site,

USCF renew-

ing and new

members \$15 by

7/17, \$20 at site (dis-

counts deducted from any prize), Scholastic (un-

der 19) \$10 by 8/7, \$15 at site. (HRCA members

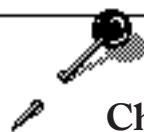
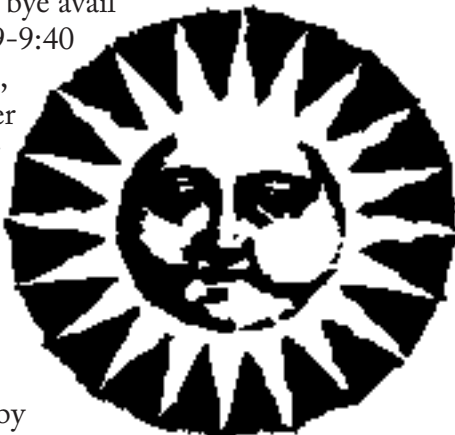
get \$5 discount). NS, NC, W. Hotel: Fairfield

Inn By Marriott, 4760 Euclid Road, (757) 499-

1935. (call for rates/res). Enter: Rodney Flores, 4

Witch-Hazel Court, Portsmouth, VA 23703,

(757) 686-0822. ergfjr@erols.com



Virginia Chess Change of Address!

In case you missed it last time, the *Virginia Chess Newsletter* editorial address is now **8234 Citadel Place, Vienna, Virginia 22180**. If you're the editor of a publication that exchanges with *Virginia Chess*, please update your mailing list. Please continue sending questions about your membership, renewals, complaints about not getting your newsletter, etc, to the Circulation Editor, not to me!

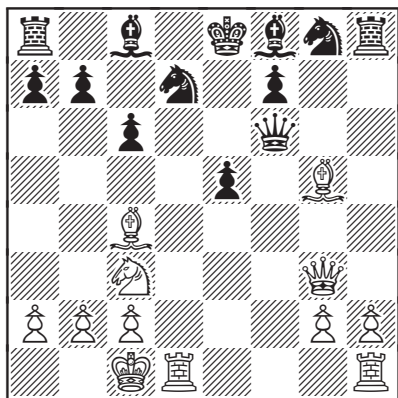
— Macon



18...0-0-0 with the same plan — Rh8, Nf8 etc — will leave the burden of proof on White, who can win back the pawn on d4 but will probably lose it again on h7.

Finally, if Black is bound and determined to threaten White's knight, why not do it with a developing move: 17...Na6. He does not win the piece this way since White has the typical device for slipping out of the pin, 18 a3, but then 18...Bxc3+ 19 bxc3 0-0-0 and again White's position does not seem so appetizing. If 20 Rb1 Black has 20...Nc5.

With a little effort, one can find similar omissions throughout *Blackmar, Diemer & Gedult*. Another example comes in the game Gedult-Halevy, Trouville 1968 (page 84), which began 1 f3 c6 2 e4 d5 3 d4 dxe4 4 Nc3 exf3 5 Qxf3 Qxd4 6 Be3 Qf6 7 Qg3 Nd7 8 Nf3 e5 9 0-0-0 h6 10 Bc4 g5 11 Nxc5 hxg5 12 Bxg5



There followed 12...Qg6 13 Rxd7 Kxd7 14 Rd1+ Bd6 15 Qxe5 Kc7 16 Rxd6 Qxd6 17 Nb5+ cxb5 18

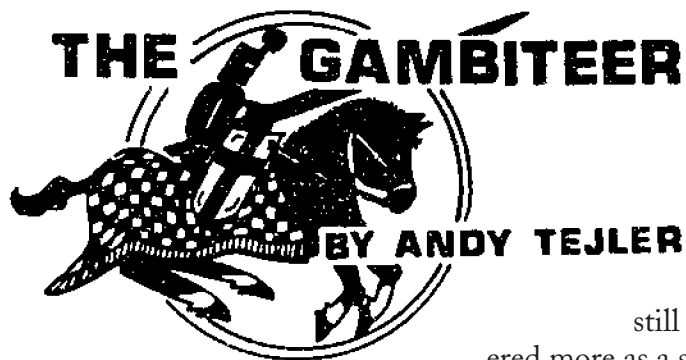
Bd8+ Kd7 19 Bxb5+ 1-0. This is all very impressive on the surface, the finish almost Morphyesque. Gedult's annotations are basically inconsequential, no analysis to speak of, mainly just toting up White's considerable material sacrifices. One could hardly criticize what he said. However, what he *failed to say* permits a wrong impression of the game, since for instance in the diagram position Black might have defused most danger and come out a piece to the good after the elementary 12...Qxg5+ 13 Qxg5 Bh6 — a variation that I doubt escaped notice by a player capable of producing the game overall.

In short, if the value of annotations is only connected with how they clarify the struggle and highlight salient issues, then these notes don't measure up. In fairness, however, Purser and Tejler acknowledge as much and set a different purpose: "We made the decision early on in producing this collection not to introduce our own analysis or corrections of Gedult's notes. To do so, we believe, would distract from the spirit and enjoyment of Gedult's commentaries. The reader should take these games as examples of the tactical possibilities that can develop in the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit, but not necessarily as gospel in the theory of the opening." So then, if your goal is to glean something of the personality of a player unknown to most of the chess world; or, to entertain yourself with some light tactical fireworks; or, for those already among the faithful, simply to drink again from the well of the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit, then this book will satisfy. Whether that ought to be enough is a question worth contemplating for those who worship at Diemer's shrine and await its acceptance in the mainstream.

On-line Richmond Chess Club

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/richmondchessclub>

Focuses on the Richmond area, but anyone can join! All you need is a Yahoo! ID.



Blindfold Chess (continued)

The Status of Blindfold Chess

EARLY IN THE HISTORY OF CHESS, blindfold chess was perceived as a "wonder." It is still a wonder but later on it came under a cloud, considered more as a stunt and viewed as inferior play compared with the games of players with open eyes.

Blindfold players increased the number of their opponents from three (Philidor) to fifty-two (Flesch). Not surprisingly, there were those who believed that playing blindfold chess could be injurious to mental health. The human brain could not compare with the computer, and in the Soviet Union blindfold exhibitions were banned after 1930.

Blind Chess Olympiads

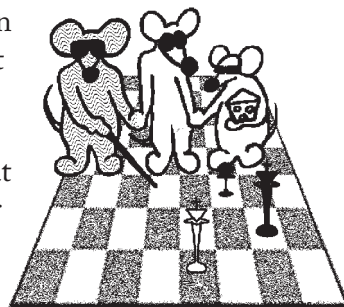
Anne Sunnucks, in her *Encyclopedia of Chess*, 2nd Ed, lists three Chess Olympiads for blind players: 1961 in Meschede, West Germany; 1964 in Kuehlungsborn, East Germany; and 1968 in Weymouth, England. The first two were won by Yugoslavia and the third by Russia. These olympiads were held under the auspices of the International Braille Chess Association. I cannot help wondering what has happened to these events, considering that 19 countries participated in 1968 and since that time the efforts at granting of opportunity to the handicapped has expanded in our society.

The Present

In recent years chess skills other than conventional sighted play has received impetus as illustrated by the development of the Amber Cup series of tournaments, in which participants play not only a section of Rapid chess but also a section of blindfold chess. This type of tournament elevates blindfold play to the status of special skill, rather than mere stunt.

Monaco was the scene of the Amber Cup played from March 26 to April 8, 1994. Several world class players participated. Final scores in the blindfold section: Anand (India) 8 points; Ivanchuk (Ukraine) and Kamsky (USA) each 7 1/2 points; Kramnik (Russia) and Seirawan (USA) each with 7 points; Karpov (Russia) earned 6 1/2 points... and trailing was Korchnoi (Switzerland) with 2 points.

In conclusion, here are game scores from an historic blindfold match between Carl Schlechter and Jacques Mieses, played in Stuttgart, Germany, 1909. It was a short match, consisting of only three games. Fred Wilson remarked about the match: "It is amusing to see the mighty Schlechter being outplayed in incredibly complex positions by an opponent who was never able to defeat him when his eyes were open." [*Mieses defeated Schlechter on at least two other occasions: Vienna 1907 and St Petersburg 1909 -ed*] As a byproduct of the Amber Cup, perhaps we may see other individual blindfold matches.



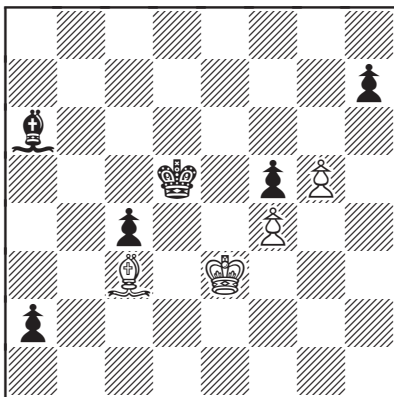


Schlechter - Mieses
Blindfold Match (game #1)
Center Counter

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qa5 4 Bc4 Nf6 5 d4 Nc6
 6 Ne2 Bf5 7 Bd2 Qb4 8 b3 e5 9 Nb5 Qe7 10 d5 Nd4
 11 d6 cxd6 12 Nbx d4 exd4 13 0-0 d5 14 Bb5+ Bd7
 15 Nxd4 0-0-0 16 Bf4 Ne4 17 Re1 Bxb5 18 Nxb5
 Qc5 19 Nd4 Bd6 20 Bxd6 Rxd6 21 Qg4+ Rd7 22
 Qxg7 Re8 23 Rad1 f5 24 Qh6 Rde7 25 Re3 Nc3
 26 Rde1 Qxd4 27 Rxe7 Ne2+ 28 R7xe2 Rxe2 29
 Rxe2 Qd1+ 0-1 Lost on a blunder; 29. Rf1 was nec-
 essary, after which Schlechter believed he had win-
 ning chances.

Mieses - Schlechter
Blindfold Match (game #2)
Göring Gambit

1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 c3 dxc3 4 Bc4 Nf6 5 Nxc3 Nc6
 6 Nf3 Bb4 7 0-0 0-0 8 e5 Bxc3 9 bxc3 d5 10 exf6
 dxc4 11 fxg7 Kxg7 12 Nd4 Nxd4 13 cxd4 Re8 14 d5
 Qf6 15 Be3 Qg6 16 Rc1 Bh3 17 Qf3 Bg4 18 Qg3
 Be2 19 Rfe1 Qxg3 20 hxg3 Bd3 21 Bf4 Rxe1+ 22
 Rxe1 Rd8 23 Re7 Rxd5 24 Rxc7 Ra5 25 Rxb7 Rxa2
 26 g4 Kf6 27 Be3 a5 28 f4 Rxg2+ 29 Kxg2 Be4+ 30
 Kf2 Bxb7 31 Bd4+ Ke6 32 Ke3 f5 33 g5 Kd5 34 Bc3
 a4 35 Bb4 Ba6 36 Bc3 a3 37 Bb4 a2 38 Bc3



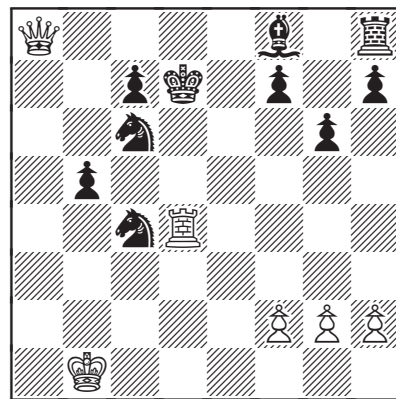
38...Bb5 39 Bd4 ½-½ After the Queen exchange on
 move 19 Schlechter commented: "This leads to an
 interesting endgame, though a very difficult one for
 blindfold play, which would seem to yield Black the
 victory by reason of his extra pawn, but the bishops
 being of opposite color the advantage is insufficient."

[quoted by Fred Wilson in *Classical Chess Matches
 1907 - 1913* (Dover, New York, 1975) from
 Schlechter's notes in the *Deutsche Schachzeitung*]

Andy Soltis published the 3rd Game in his Chess
 to Enjoy column in *Chess Life*. (Unfortunately I can-
 not cite the date.) Soltis commented that, "The qual-
 ity of play was astonishingly good, despite a blun-
 der that cost Schlechter game one."

Schlechter - Mieses
Blindfold Match (game #3)
Center Counter

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 d4 Nf6 4 Nc3 Qa5 5 Nf3 Nc6
 6 Bd2 Bg4 7 Nb5 Qb6 8 a4 (This clever move, con-
 sistent with his sixth, is a novelty introduced here
 by Schlechter to trap Black's Queen. If Black plays
 8...a5 to stop White from 9 a5, White wins with 9
 Bf4 Nd5 10 c4!! Nxf4 11 c5 - Soltis) Bxf3 9 Qxf3
 a6 10 a5 axb5 11 axb6 Rxa1+ (And now two threats
 of a knight fork with check costs Schlechter a bishop
 and two pawns.) 12 Bc1 Rxc1+ 13 Kd2 Rxc2+ 14
 Kd1 Rxb2 15 Qa3 Rb1+ 16 Kc2 Rxf1 17 Qa8+ Kd7
 18 Rxf1 Nd5 19 Qxb7 Nxb6 20 Kb1 e6 21 Rc1 Nc4
 22 Qa8 g6 23 d5 exd5 24 Rd1 d4 25 Rxd4+



25...Nxd4 26 Qd5+ Bd6 27 Qxd4 Re8 28 Qd5 c6
 29 Qxf7+ Re7 30 Qg8 Re1+ 31 Kc2 Re2+ 32 Kd3
 Rxf2 33 Qxh7+ Kc8 34 Kc3 Be5+ 35 Kd3 Rd2+ 36
 Ke4 Rd4+ 37 Kf3 b4 38 Ke2 Rd2+ 39 Kf1 b3 40
 Qg8+ Kc7 41 Qf7+ Rd7 42 Qxc4 b2 43 Qb3 Rd5
 44 Qc2 Rc5 0-1



CHESS CLUBS

Please send additions / corrections to the Editor.

♖ Alexandria: Fairfax County Chess Club, Lee District Park, Thursdays 6:30-9:30pm in the Snack Bar, info Walter Scott, WScott123@aol.com ♖ Arlington: Arlington Chess Club, Central United Methodist Church, 4201 N Fairfax Dr (across street from Ballston metro), Fridays 7pm. Registration for rated Ladder and Action events ends 8pm. Blitz/Quick tourney first Friday of each month. Info www.wizard.net/~matkins or John Campbell (703) 534-6232 ♖ Arlington Seniors Chess Club, Madison Community Center, 3829 N Stafford St, info (703) 228-5285 ♖ Blacksburg: Chess Club of Virginia Tech, GB Johnson Student Center, Rm 102, Virginia Tech, Wednesdays 7-9pm ♖ Charlottesville: Charlottesville Chess Club, St Mark Lutheran Church, Rt 250 & Alderman Rd, Monday evenings ♖ Chesapeake: Zero's Sub Shop, 3116 Western Branch Blvd (Rt 17), (Poplar Hill Plaza near Taylor Rd intersection), Mondays 6pm to closing ♖ Great Bridge United Methodist Church, corner of Battlefiled Blvd & Stadium Dr, Tuesdays, 6:30-10pm, info 686-0822 ♖ Culpeper: Culpeper Chess Club, Culpeper Middle School Library, 14300 Achievement Drive (off route 229 North Main St Extended), mobile trailer #5. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of month, 6:15-10pm, info Vince LoTempio (540) 672-0189 or www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Loge/6739 ♖ Fort Eustis: contact Sorel Utsey 878-4448 ♖ Fredericksburg: Spotsylvania Chess, Lutheran Church Rte West 4.7 miles from Exit 130 on I-95. Every Tuesday 6-9pm, info Mike Cornell 785-8614 ♖ Glens: Rappahannock Community College - Glens Campus Chess Club, Glens Campus Library, Tuesdays 8-10pm in the student lounge, info Zack Loesch 758-5324(x208) ♖ Hampton: Peninsula Chess Club, Thursdays 7pm, Thomas Nelson Community College, info Tim Schmal, 757-851-3317 (h) or 757-764-2316(w) or tcschmal@aol.com ♖ Harrisonburg: Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, Lutheran Church across from Burger King on Rt 33, Fridays 7pm ♖ Norfolk: Larchmont Public Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd, Wednesday 6-9pm ♖ ODU Chess Club, Webb Univ Ctr, Old Dominion University, info www.odu.edu/~chess ♖ Purcellville: Blue Ridge Cafe, Thursdays 5-7pm and Saturdays 1-4pm (& bi-wkly 4-7pm), info Douglas A Gripp, 540-668-7160 ♖ Richmond: The Kaissa Chess Club, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2800 Grove Avenue. Thursdays 5:30-9pm. info Alfredo Franco 367-1154 ♖ Knights at Noon, 12noon at Dumbarton Library, 6800 Staples Mill Rd. Peter Hopkins 358-2842 ♖ The Side Pocket, Cross Roads Shopping Center, Staples Mill Rd. A billiards parlor with chess tables set up any hour, every day ♖ Huguenot Chess Knights, Bon Air Library Community Room, 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-11pm, info Dean Taylor, 794-0986 ♖ Jewish Ctr CC, 5403 Monument Ave. 4-6pm every other Sunday beginning 1/8/95. (804) 288-0045 ♖ Roanoke: Roanoke Valley Chess Club, Grandin Ct Rec Ctr, Corner of Lofton & Barham Rd SW, Fridays 7:30-11:00pm, Info Brian Roark (540) 772-1435 ♖ Virginia Beach: Tidewater Community College CC, Princess Anne Rd, Bldg D Kempsvill Cafeteria, Mondays & Wednesdays 7-10pm, <http://users.exis.net/~rybarcz/> ♖ Williamsburg: Williamsburg Chess Club, Williamsburg Landing - Main Building, 2nd floor lounge, 5700 Williamsburg Landing Dr, Mondays 7-10pm, info Frank Preston (757) 565-3811 ♖ Winchester: Winchester Chess Club, Westminster-Canterbury Home for the Elderly, Tuesdays 7pm ♖ Woodrbridge: Prince William Chess Club, Wednesdays 7-9pm either in the Community Room, Potomac Library, 2201 Opitz Road or C D Hylton High School, 14051 Spriggs Rd. Contact Dick Stableford, 703-670-5887 or obusmc@erols.com

14TH TIDEWATER CHESS NEWS OPEN

Saturday, July 24th, 1999

Tidewater Community College, Va Beach

4-SS, Rd 1 G/30, rd 2 G/45, rd 3 G/60, rd 4 G/80. \$500 (b/25 adult entries): 1st (G) \$125, top A, B, C, D, E, Scholastic each \$75 b/5 per class, else proportional. Registration 9-9:40 am, round times 10-11:15-2:30-4:45. 1/2 pt byes flexible, none rd 4. EF \$25 adults, \$10 students under 19 by 7/17; at site \$30 adults, \$15 students under 19, over 2200 free, \$15 over 2000 and seniors over 60 (discount deducted from prize). Hotel: Fairfield Inn By Marriott, 4760 Euclid Road, (757) 499-1935. (call for rates/res). NS, NC, W. Enter: Rodney Flores, 4 Witch-Hazel Court, Portsmouth, VA 23703, (757)686-0822, ergfjr@erols.com

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
QUICK CHESS!**

1st Wednesday of every month
Tidewater Comm. College,
Virginia Beach
Princess Anne Road, Virginia
Beach in the Cafeteria
(Kempsville Bldg D)

Game in twenty minutes -
notation not required.
USCF Quick rated!
Reg: 7:00-7:20 pm,
rd 1 at 7:30.
Entry fee: Only one
buck!



1999 Arlington Chess Club Championship May 22-23, 1999

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, Va 22203-1860

Arlington Chess Club's 1999 Club Championship will feature a fabulous new playing site, more prizes, grand prix status, and we're sure even more players. May 22-23 is the date this year, and the location will be the amazingly elegant conference center in the National Rural Electric Association building at 4301 Wilson Blvd in downtown Arlington. The playing room is gorgeous, and if you are worried about parking in Arlington, forget about it!! The site has a free underground parking garage and is located across the street from Ballston Mall, so there is plenty of choices for lunch. This year the Open section will be FIDE-rated!

4-SS 30/100 SD/1 Two Sections, Open and Amateur (U1800). \$\$1500 (B/50): Open \$300-175-125 (G) Exp-\$100 A-\$100; Amateur \$250-125-100, B-\$80, Under 1400-\$70 Unr-\$50. Trophy and title to highest scoring ACC Member in each section. EF Open club members \$40 in advance, \$45 at site; Amateur club members \$35 advance, \$45 at site; non-club members \$5 more. Reg 9-9:50am Sat 5/22 (and Fridays 5/7-14 at club). Rds 10-4, 10-3:30. One 1/2 point bye available, rd 4 must declare before end of rd 2. Accelerated pairings possible. Enter: Michael Atkins, 2710 Arlington Drive, #101 Alexandria, VA 22306. Make checks payable to Mike. Phone questions to John Campbell, 703-534-6232.

CHess WIDOW'S OPEN - June 5-6, 1999 Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach

Two Sections! *Open* 5-SS, rds 1-2 G/2, Rds 3-5 35/90, Sd60. \$\$ \$150(G)-100, top A, B, C, D, E each \$75 (b/5 each class). Rd times 10-2:30-7, 9-2:30. EF \$35 by 6/1, \$40 at site, over 2200 and USCF renewing and new members \$15 by 6/1, \$20 at site, discount deducted from prize. *Scholastic* (K-12 and recent 1999 HS grads) 7-SS, rds 1-2 G/30, rds 3-7 G/60. \$\$ 100-60-40. Rd times 10-11:15-2:30-5, 9-11:15-2:30. EF \$10 by 6/1, \$15 at site, HRCA members get \$5 discount. *Both*: Reg 9-9:40, USCF memb req'd, HRCA optional. NS, NC, W. Hotel: Fairfield Inn By Marriott, 4760 Euclid Rd, (757) 499-1935 (call early). Enter: Rodney Flores, 4 Witch-Hazel Court, Portsmouth, VA 23703, (757) 686-0822. ergfjr@erols.com

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:** Catherine Clark, 5208 Cedar Rd, Alexandria, VA 22309, eaglepw@erols.com **Vice President:** Mike Atkins, 2710 Arlington Dr, Apt # 101, Alexandria VA 22306, matkins@wizard.net **Treasurer:** F Woodrow Harris, 1105 West End Dr, Emporia VA 23847, fwh@3rddoor.com **Secretary:** Helen Hinshaw, 3430 Musket Dr, Midlothian VA 23113, ahinshaw@erols.com **Scholastics Chairman:** Mike Cornell, 12010 Grantwood Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407, kencorn@erols.com **Internet Coordinator:** Roger Mahach, rmahach@vachess.org **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 Shibut, Bill Hoogendonk, Henry Odell, Sam Conner. *Alternates:* Ann Marie Allen, Peter Hopkins, 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; Catherine Clark, 5208 Cedar Rd, Alexandria, VA 22309; Mike Atkins, 2710 Arlington Dr, Apt # 101, Alexandria VA 22306; William P Hoogendonk, PO Box 1223, Midlothian VA 23113.



In This Issue:

Features

Readers' Games & Analysis	1	♘
Tidewater Stuff	7	♘
What's the Deal with the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit	8	♘
The Gambiteer	16	♘

Odds & Ends

Virginia Scholastic Chess Council	4	♘
State Championship Announcement	6	♘
Virginia Chess Change of Address	14	♘
Chess Club Directory	18	♘
Upcoming Events	2,3,5,6,7,14,18,19	♘
VCF Info	19	♘

Virginia Chess
7901 Ludlow Ln
Dunn Loring VA 22027

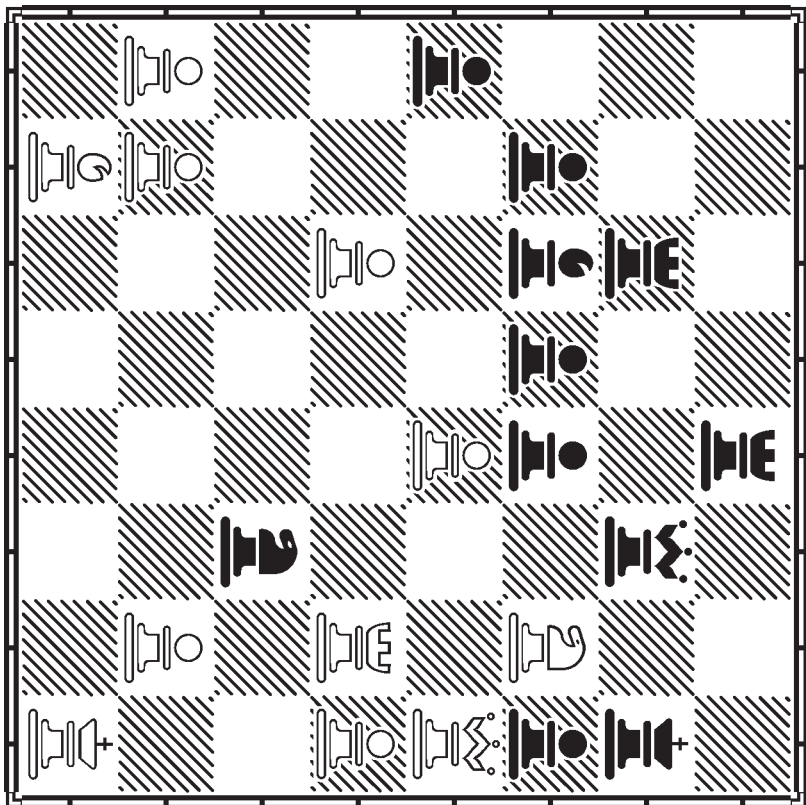
Nonprofit Organ.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 97
Orange VA
22960

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

1999 - #3



Line Opening

32 e5! would have finished Black despite his extra rook (see p 4) so he resigned, handing David Eisen the Postal IM title