



1999 FREDRICKSBURG OPEN

by Mike Atkins

Eighty-eight players came to Fredricksburg over the weekend of Jun 19-20, 1999 and two left with perfect scores. Polish GM Alec Wojtkiewicz went 4-0 to take the Open and Barry Quillon went 5-0 to win the Amateur. The field was pretty evenly split between the sections, continuing an interesting recent trend of open sections being as large as amateurs.

Three grandmasters and one international master made this surely the strongest Fredricksburg Open ever! The last (4th) round saw the expected pairings on the top board, with GMs Igor Novikov, Alex Wojtkiewicz, George Timoshenko and IM Rashid Ziatdinov (who is certainly GM strength with his many tournament wins) each bringing 3-0 scores. However, with three place prizes on the line, they couldn't afford to just both agree to quick draws and take all the money thanks to experts Andrew Johnson & Alan Rufty, playing on board three with 2½ points apiece.

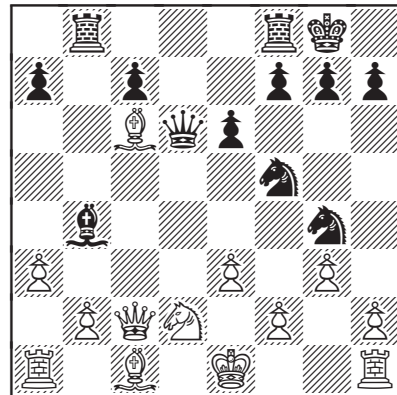
Novikov-Ziatdinov turned out to be indeed a draw, but it was a reasonable struggle. Meanwhile, Wojtkiewicz-Timoshenko turned into a wild affair. Wojtkiewicz got into severe time pressure as he

struggled to work his way out of a positional bind. The time pressure seemed to help him though, as his position got better and better.

ALEC WOJTKIEWICZ - GEORGE TIMOSHENKO

CATALAN

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 d5 4 Bg2 dxc4 5 Nf3 Bd7 6 Ne5 Bc6 7 Nxc6 Nxc6 8 Qa4 Qd7 9 Qxc4 Nxd4 10 Bxb7 Rb8 11 Bg2 Bb4+ 12 Nd2 0-0 13 e3 Nf5 14 Bc6 Qd6 15 a3 Ng4 16 Qc2



16...Bc5

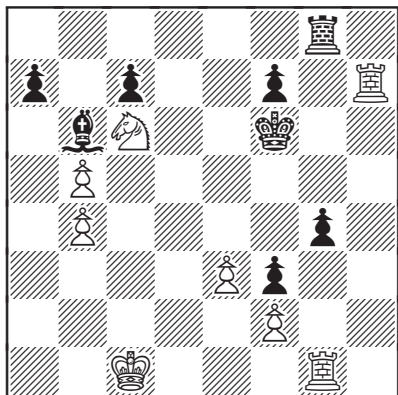
Novikov and Timoshenko analyzed in the skittles room and then used Fritz on my laptop to conclude

finally that this was the first losing move, whereas 16...Qe5! would have been better, eg 17 0-0 Nfxe3 18 fxe3 Qxe3+ 19 Kh1 Qe2 20 Bg2 Qxg2+! 21 Kxg2 Ne3+ and Black comes out two pawns ahead.

17 Be4 g6 18 Nc4 Qe7 19 Bf3 Nf6 20 Na5 Rb5 21 b4 Bb6 22 Nc6 Qd6 23 Bb2 e5 24 Rd1 Qe6 25 a4 e4 26 axb5 exf3 27 Qc3 Kg7 28 g4 Nh4 29 g5 Ng2+ 30 Kd2 Qd5+ 31 Kc1 Qxg5 32 h4 Nxh4 33 Qxf6+ Qxf6 34 Bxf6+ Kxf6 35 Rxh4 g5 36 Rxh7 g4 37 Rg1 Rg8

*Steve Jablon and Barry Quillon square off in the decisive last round of the Amateur section.
photo: Mike Atkins*





38 Rh4 Bxc3+ 39 fxe3 f2 40 Rf1 g3 41 Rf4+ Ke6 42 Kd2 g2 43 R4xf2 gxf1=Q 44 Rxf1 Rg2+ 45 Kd3 Ra2 1-0

Attention shifted to Johnson-Rufty, which lasted several hours longer. The game had 2 GMs and an IM watching every move, since it determined their prize winnings. That sort of scrutiny could have made many players nervous, but Johnson professed to having loved it. In any case he proceeded to win and so join Novikov & Ziatdinov in a share of 2nd-3rd place. Top A was split by Ricky Norman and Rovert Penn. Andrew Miller won top Scholastic.

ALAN RUFTY - ANDREW JOHNSON

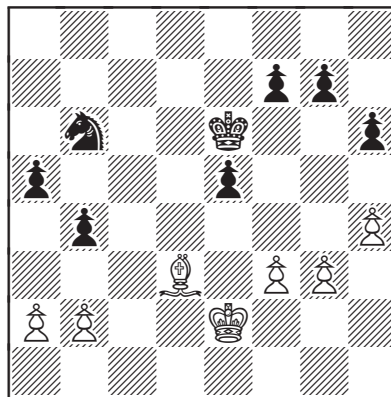
QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

1 d4 e6 2 c4 d5 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 Be7 5 Bf4 0-0 6 e3 c6 7 Bd3 dxc4 8 Bxc4 b5 9 Bd3 a6 10 0-0 Nbd7 11 Qe2 c5 12 dxc5 Nxc5 13 Bc2 Bb7 14 Rfd1 Qb6 15



Polish GM Alec Wojtkiewicz
photo: Mike Atkins

Ne5 b4 16 Na4 Nxa4 17 Bxa4 Rfd8 18 Rac1 Rxd1+ 19 Qxd1 Rd8 20 Qe1 Rc8 21 Nc4 Qc5 22 e4 Qd4 23 Na5 Rxc1 24 Qxc1 Bxe4 25 h3 Qd8 26 Nc6 Bxc6 27 Qxc6 Nd5 28 Be5 a5 29 Kf1 h6 30 Ke2 Bf6 31 Bxf6 Qxf6 32 Qc2 Qe5+ 33 Kd1 Qh2 34 Qe4 Qg1+ 35 Ke2 Qc1 36 Qc2 Qxc2+ 37 Bxc2 e5 38 g3 Kf8 39 Be4 Nb6 40 Bd3 Ke7 41 f3 Kd6 42 h4 Ke6



Black won in about 10 moves, but the scoresheet from here is missing multiple moves. 0-1

With the FIDE knockout championship in Las Vegas, the World Open, the US Championship and the US Open all happening this summer, many European titled players have come to the US, and

VIRGINIA CHESS Newsletter

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63rd Annual...

Virginia Closed State Championship

Sept 5-6, 1999

Best Western, Rt 29 and Rt 250 Bypass interchange

Charlottesville Va 22923

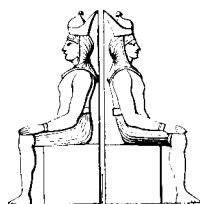
(Behind Aunt Sarah's Pancake House)**5-SS, rds 1-3 G/90, rds 4-5 game/2. \$\$2500G, in two sections:**

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.

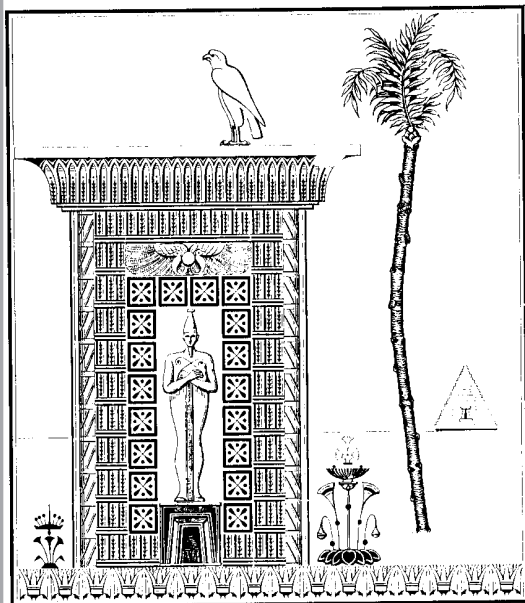


Amateur (under 1800)

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.

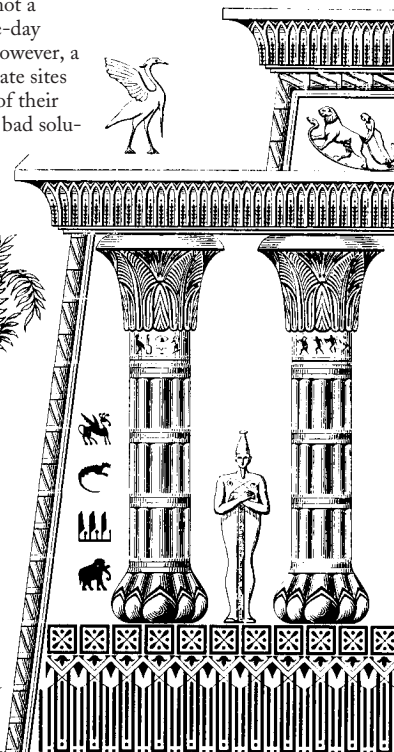


Registration 9:00-11:00 am 9/5. Scholastic entry for 18 & under: \$10, \$15 at site, play for non-cash prizes only. Round times noon-3:30-7, 9-1:30. Accelerated pairings possible. VCF membership required. One 1/2-point bye available. NS, NC, W. Hotel Rates: \$49 1-2, phone: 804-296-5501

Enter: Catherine Clark 5208 Cedar Rd, Alexandria, VA 22309. Call (703) 360-3391 for info but *no phone entries*.

Note Odd Dates!!

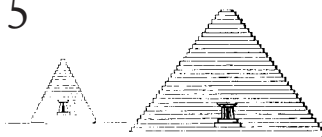
The September 5-6 schedule listed above is not a typo! Normally the Virginia Closed is a three-day event, and so it was intended for this year. However, a problem with the venue arose. Various alternate sites were considered, but all presented problems of their own. Eventually it was decided that the 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.



Annual State Membership Meeting

Sunday, Sept 5

9-11:30am



*Fredricksburg continued*

tournaments like the Fredricksburg Open are benefactors. The participation of Novikov and Timoshenko was known far enough in advance for us to advertise it, resulting in at least 3 to 5 additional entries that I know of.

There were two high 1700's atop the wallchart in the Amateur section. True to form, Steve Jablon and Barry Quillon skated through the first four rounds with the only two perfect scores. In the finale Quillon won a tough game as Black and so finished with 5-0. Judah Brownstein, rated 1442, played the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th ranked players in the section, gave up one draw and took second place with 4½. Jablon and Larry Riddick tied for 3rd. Class C was split between Nikolai Yakovenko and Eric Ma, Class D by Lindy Ergino and Wilfredo Acevedo. Wei Fan took under 1200, and top Scholastic was Jeff Thode. Young Ma and Fan, accustomed to playing for trophies in scholastic sections, had paid full entries and it was amusing to see their eyes grow wide as they accepted their cash prizes.

STEVE JABLON - BARRY QUILLON**SICILIAN**

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 a6 5 Bd3 Nc6 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Nc3 b5 8 0-0 Ne5 9 f3 Bc5 10 Kh1 Qb6 11 Nce2 Bb7 12 Bg1 g5 13 Nb3 Bxg1 14 Nxc1 Ke7 15 f4 gxf4 16 Rxf4 Rag8 17 Qe1 Rg4 18 Rxc4 Nxc4 19 Nh3 Qd6 20 g3 h5 21 Rd1 Nxe4 22 Bxe4 Bxe4+ 23 Kg1 Qb6+ 24 Rd4 Bxc2 25 Qb4+ d6 26 Nf4 Rc8 27 Kg2 Rc4 28 Qa5 Qc6+ 29 Nd5+ exd5 30 Qe1+ Be4+ 31 Kh3 Rxd4 32 Nxd4 Qd7 33 Kh4 Nxc2 34 Nc6+ Qxc6 35 Qe3 Nf3+ 36 Kxh5 Qd7 37 g4 Qe6 38 Qa7+ Kf8 39 Qb8+ Kg7 0-1

The tournament went off with only a few minor game disputes and everyone seemed to enjoy the hospitality of the Sheraton and organizer, VCF President, Catherine Clark. Michael Atkins directed for the VCF.



Shenandoah Valley Open

The Shenandoah Valley Open was held June 12-13, 1999 on the campus of James Madison University in Harrisonburg. The 5-round Swiss with one section attracted 31 players. Roger Mahach won first prize with 4½ points. Roger upset Macon Shibut on his way to 1st place. Other prizewinners were David Hulvey (2nd place), Robert Cale & Chris Bush (expert), David Long (class A), Ted Watkins (B), Judah Brownstein (C) and Svyatoslav Siminchunk (D/unrated).

The playing site was a spacious, brand new student center with the playing room featuring a separate table for each board and a breathtaking view for resting your eyes between moves or rounds. As an added benefit, National Master Rusty Potter provided free game score analyses for the players. The tournament was sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley Chess Club and directed by Ed McLaughlin. The playing site was made available due to the efforts of the James Madison University Chess Club.

ROGER MAHACH - MACON SHIBUT**PHILIDOR**

Notes by Roger Mahach aided by Fritz 5.32 (30s)

1. Nf3 d6
2. e4 e5
3. Nc3 f5
4. d4 fxe4

The alternative I found didn't look so promising: 4...Nd7 5.d5 Be7 6.g3 Nxf6 7.Ng5 Nf8 8.Qf3 h6 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Ne6 fxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe6 12.dxe6 Bxb5 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Qh5+ 1-0 Kurihara-Oliveira, Laguna ch-PanAm U18g 1996

5. Nxe4 d5
6. Nc3

Unable to fathom the complications associated with 6 Nxe5, I play the safe move. But let's see what would have happened: 6.Nxe5 dxe4 7.Qh5+ g6 8.Nxc6 Nf6 9.Qe5+ Be7 (or 9...Kf7 10.Nxc8+ Kg7 11.Bg5 Nbd7 12.Nf7 Kxf7 13.Bc4+ Kg7 14.Qxe4 Nxe4 15.Bxd8 Bd6 16.f3 Nef7 17.Kf2 Nb6 18.Bd3 c5 19.c3 Na4 20.Rab1 Be6 21.Bxf6+ Kxf6)



10.Nxh8 Nc6 11.Bb5 Bd7 12.Bxc6 Bxc6 13.Bg5 Ng8 14.c4 Qd6 15.Bd2 Qxe5 16.dxe5 Bf8 17.e6 Bg7 18.Nf7 Bxb2 19.Rb1 Bf6 20.h4 Ke7 21.Ng5 +- I certainly didn't see any of this over the board.

6 ... e4

The most aggressive and consistent with Macon's style. The alternative below gives you a view into what can happen if White's not careful: 6...Bg4 7.Be2 Bxf3 8.Bxf3 e4 9.Be2 Nf6 10.0-0 Bd6 11.f4 0-0 12.a3 c5 13.dxc5 Bxc5+ 14.Kh1 a6 15.b4 Ba7 16.Bb2 d4 17.Bc4+ Kh8 18.Ne2 b5 19.Bb3 Nc6 20.f5 Qd6 21.Nf4 Breins-Antusch, Cattolica 1992 [0-1,51]

7. Ne5 Nf6
8. Bg5 Bb4
9. Be2 0-0
10. 0-0 c6

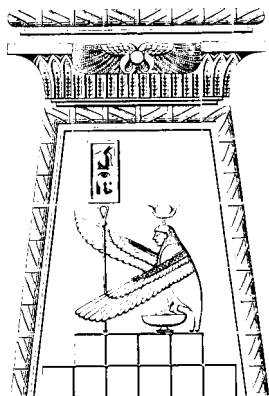
Controls b5 and takes away any cheapos White had with Nxd5 & Bc4

11. f3 exf3
12. Bxf3 Nbd7
13. Nd3 Bd6
14. Nf4 Qb6

This is the start of what should be an effective plan for Black. The idea is to pressure the weaknesses in White's camp, mainly those around the dark squares of b2 and d2. With White's dark squared bishop being a bit offside Macon probes for weaknesses.

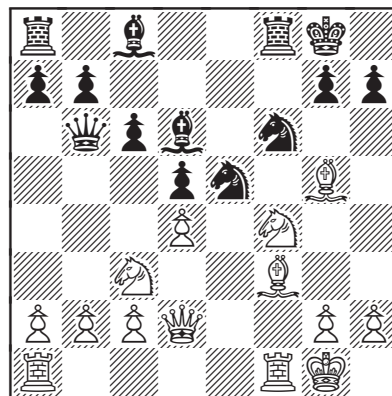
15. Qd2

Black has a very favorable QGD position to play while it seems that White's pieces are getting in each



others' way. The problem for White is that there's no places to attack.

15 ... Ne5?



This came as a shock. I didn't think this was possible, since the Queen has very few dark squares to retreat to should she be challenged. It turns out that Black gives White a chance he doesn't deserve. The complications that Black sets in motion will backfire on him here. The solid 15...h6! must definitely be considered, eg 16.Bxf6 Nxf6 and White still has to worry about twin weaknesses on b2 & d2.

16. Bxd5+!

The only move really, but one that gives White a decisive kingside attack.

16 ... cxd5
17. Nfxd5 Nxd5
18. Nxd5 Qxb2

If 18...Rxf1+ 19.Rxf1 Qxb2 20.Be7! Be6 21.Bxd6 Nf3+ 22.gxf3 Bxd5 23.Be5 Qb5 24.Qg5 Qd7 25.a4 Rf8 26.a5 Rxf3 27.Rxf3 Bxf3 28.c4 with a great advantage for White.

19. dxe5 Qxe5

Threatening mate at h2.

20. Rxf8+ Kxf8

The safe looking 20...Bxf8 could lead to disaster if Black's not careful. 21.Re1 Bc5+ 22.Kh1 Qd4 (22...Qf5 23.Nc7 Rb8 24.Qd8+ Bf8 25.Nd5) 23.Ne7+ and now:

i) 23...Kf7 24.Rf1+ Ke8 25.Qe2 Qg4 (25...Kd7 26.Rd1) 26.Qb5+ Bd7 27.Qxc5+-;



ii) 23...Kh8 24.Qxd4 Bxd4 25.Nc6 h6 26.Nxd4 hgx5
27.Re8+ Kh7 28.Nf5 b6 29.h3 Bb7 30.Re7 Kg6
31.Rxg7+ Kxf5 32.Rxb7 Rc8 33.Kh2 Rxc2 34.Rxa7
b5 35.Rb7 Rxa2 36.Rxb5+ Kf4 37.Rb8 Ra3 38.Rf8+
Ke4 39.g3 Ra2+ 40.Kg1 Ke3 41.h4 and the win be-
comes problematic.

21. Rf1+

Black is lost now.

21 ... Bf5

If 21...Kg8 22.Bf4 Bc5+ 23.Kh1 Qf5 +- (or 23...Qd4
24.Ne7+ Kh8 25.Be3)

22. Bf4

Based on a miscalculation and fear that I would botch
things up with the game so close to being in the bag.
Simply 22.g4 is winning.

22 ... Bc5+

23. Be3 Bd6

23...Rc8 24.g4 g6 25.gxf5 gxf5 26.Qd3 Bxe3+
27.Nxe3+-

24. g4 g6

24...Kg8 25.Rxf5 Qa1+ 26.Rf1+-

25. gxf5 gxf5

26. Bd4 Qe6

Capturing the knight loses to 27.Bg7+ etc

27. Qg5 1-0

27...Ke8 28.Rxf5 etc



ROGER MAHACH - ROBERT CALE BENONI

Notes by Roger Mahach aided by Fritz 5.32 (30s)

1. Nf3 Nf6

2. d4 c5

3. d5 e6

4. Nc3 d6

5. Bg5

Probably not best, given that Black gets tactical play
against the bishop on g5. The other move is e4,
which didn't appeal to me just yet. Salguero-
Szmetan, Mar del Plata 1998 went 5.e4 exd5 6.exd5
Be7 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.a4 0-0 9.Bxd7 Qxd7 10.0-0 Na6
11.Nd2 Nc7 12.Nc4 h6 13.Qd3 b6 14.Bd2 Rfe8
15.h3 Rab8 16.Ne3 a6 17.Nf5 Bf8 18.Qf3 Qd8
19.g4 b5 and Black won in 44 moves.

5 ... Be7

6. Qd2

6.e4 0-0 is equal;

6.e3 exd5 7.Nxd5 Nxd5 8.Qxd5 Nc6 9.0-0-0 Be6
10.Bxe7 Kxe7 11.Qg5+ Kf8 12.Qf4 Ke7 13.Qg5+
Kf8 14.Qf4 Ke7 15.Bc4 h6 16.Rd2 Qc7 17.Rhd1
Rad8 18.h4 Bxc4 19.Qxc4 Qc8 20.h5 Qe6 led to a
draw in 51 moves in Kotrba-Novak, Karvina 1989

6 ... e5

If 6...h6 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.dxe6 fxe6 9.Rd1= The lines
are drawn. By playing e4, White is committing him-
self to a battle in the center. In some variations Black
has tactics involving knight captures on d5 or e4.
White has to be very vigilant.

7. e4 a6

A good move; keeping the king in the center is okay
as the position is closed. The text prevents White
from getting his bishop to b5 with check, which
would trade his bad bishop for one of Black's better
pieces.

8. a4 h6

9. Bh4

Perhaps not best, but consist with White's strategy.
Black is basing his play against the weak points in



White's camp: the Nc3, e4 and the bishop's diminishing squares.

9 ... Bg4

Note that 9...Nxd5?? doesn't work in these variations where White develops the Nc3 instead of pawn c4: 10.Nxd5 Bxh4 11.Nxh4 Qxh4 12.Nc7+ winning. With the text Black is really trying to get something going in the center.

10. Be2 Nbd7

If 10...Bxf3 I was planning on playing 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Bxf3, eg 12...Bg5 13.Qe2 Qb6 14.Rb1 Nd7 15.Bg4 Nf6 16.h4 Bf4 17.g3 h5 18.gxf4 Nxc4 19.f3 Nf6 20.Rg1 g6 21.Qd2 Nd7 22.Ne2 Qd8 23.Rg5 exf4 24.Qxf4 Qe7 25.b4

11. Ng1

A good plan. Why allow Black to get rid of White's good knight? He can have the glorified "pawn" on e2 instead.

11 ... g5
12. Bg3 Bxe2
13. Ngxe2 Nh5
14. 0-0

Castling into the storm, or so it seems, but White's king is surprisingly safe. The problem is that Black has massed against the kingside but his own pieces get in the way. As play progresses, the lack of coordination in Black's camp is telling.

14 ... Nf4
15. f3 h5
16. Bf2 Nf6

Black intends g4

17. Ng3

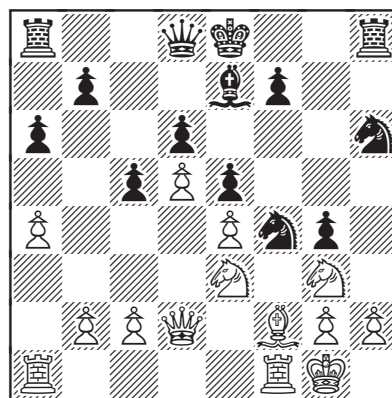
Black went into a long think here. Not only is there a weakness on f5 but, more importantly, a White piece occupying that square will shut Black's queen out of the kingside.

17 ... Ng8
18. Nd1 Nh6
19. Ne3 g4



20. fxc4 hxc4

Black has squeezed as much out of the position as he can. Having secured the safety of the king, White is now ready to open up the queenside. All of White's pieces are placed on their optimal squares and can transfer to the new front with ease.



21. b4 b6
22. bxc5 bxc5
23. a5 Bg5?!

The immediate 23...Rb8 was better, eg 24.Rfb1 Bh4 25.Rb6 Rxb6 26.axb6 Qxb6 27.Nc4 Qb4 (27...Qb8 28.Rxa6 Be7 29.Be3 0-0 30.Rb6 Qa7 31.Bxf4 exf4 32.Qxf4 Qa1+ 33.Nf1 Qd4+ 34.Nfe3 Qa1+ 35.Kf2 Qg7 36.Nxd6 Bg5 37.Qg3 Qc3 38.Nf1! Qxc2+ 39.Kg1 Qc1 40.Qf2 Ra8 41.e5 Bf4 42.Qe2 Qa1 43.Nf5 Bxh2+ 44.Kxh2 Nxf5 45.Qxg4+ Ng7 46.Qf4 Re8 47.d6 Qd1 48.Ng3 Ne6 49.Qf6 Rf8 50.Rb7 c4 51.Nf5 Qh5+ 52.Kg3 Qg5+ 53.Qxg5+ Nxc3 54.Rc7 Ne6 55.Rxc4 +-) 28.Nxd6+ Kf8 (28...Ke7?? 29.Qxb4 cxb4 30.Ngf5+ Nxf5 31.Nxf5+ Kd7 32.Bxh4 Rc8 33.Ne3 wins) 29.c3 Qb6 30.Nc4 Qb5 31.Nxe5 Bxc3 32.Bxc3 (not 32.hxc3?? Ne2+ 33.Kf1 Nxc3+ 34.Kg1 Ne2+ 35.Kf1 Nxc3+ 36.Qd3 Nxe4 etc) 32...Ne2+ 33.Kf2 Nxc3 34.Kxc3 a5 35.Qg5 Qb2 36.Rc1 Qb8 (to prevent d6) 37.Rf1 Rh7 38.Rf6 Rg7 39.Qf4! (not 39.Qxh6? Qxe5+ 40.Qf4 Qxc3+ 41.Kh4 Rh7+ 42.Rh6 Rxh6+ 43.Qxh6+ Qg7 44.Qd6+ Ke8 45.Qc6+ Kd8 46.Qxc5 Qh7+ 47.Kg3 Qxe4 and White has to try to win all over again) 39...Qb1 40.Kh4! Qe1+ 41.Kh5 Kg8 42.Rd6+-



24. Rfb1 Rb8
25. Qd1 Rb4

25...Rxb1 26.Rxb1 Qxa5 27.Rb8+ Bd8 28.Nc4 Qc3
is too risky (and 28...Qc7? 29.Rb7! Qxb7 30.Nxd6+
just loses.

26. Rxb4 cxb4
27. Nc4?

A shameful move that allows black to save himself.
27.Qf1! was right, attacking a6 and protecting c4

27 ... Ke7?

Black was dipping into time pressure or else he would
surely have played the better 27...Qc7, which equal-
izes. For instance, 28.Qf1 Bh4 29.Rb1 Bxg3 30.Bxg3
Ng8 31.c3 Nh5 32.cxb4 Nxb3 33.hxg3 Rh6 34.Ne3
Qa7 35.Qd3 Nf6 36.b5 axb5 37.Rxb5 Nd7 38.Qc3
Rh5 39.Rb4 Kd8 40.Rc4 Nc5

28. Qe1 Qc7

If 28...Qb8 29.Rb1+-; or if 28...b3 29.cxb3 Qd7
30.Be3 Qb7 31.Qd1 Rb8 32.Rb1

29. Qxb4

Now it's over.

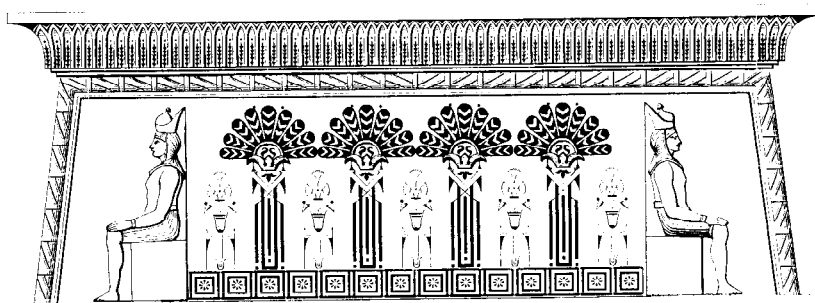
29 ... Bh4
30. Bb6 Qd7
31. Nxe5 Qb5
32. Nc6+ Kd7
33. Qxb5 axb5
34. Rb1?

One of those careless moves that could backfire.
34.Be3! was crushing, eg 34...Bxg3 35.hxg3 Ne2+
36.Kf2 Nc3 37.Rh1 Nxe4+ 38.Kg1 Nf5 39.Rxh8
Nxe3 40.a6 Nxd5 41.a7 Nb6 42.Rb8 Kxc6 43.Rxb6+
Kxb6 44.a8Q

34 ... Bxg3
35. hxg3 Ne2+
36. Kf2 Nc3
37. Rb4

Black took the knight on h6 and moved it to f6 —
an illegal move. Having touched it, he would be force
to move it. So he resigned, but the game was lost
anyway

1-0



2ND HEAT WAVE OPEN

August 14-15, 1999

Tidewater Community College, Virginia 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 seniors over 60 \$15 by
8/7, \$20 at site, USCF renewing and new members \$15 by 7/17, \$20 at site (discounts deducted from any prize), Scholastic
(under 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



ARLINGTON CHESS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

by Mike Atkins

The 1999 Arlington Chess Club Championship was won by Marvin Lazo. David Sterner won the Amateur title with a perfect 4-0. The tournament drew 69 players to the [National Rural Electric Cooperative Association \(NRECA\)](#) conference center May 22-23. Marvin dispatched with everyone placed before him and deserves congratulations as 1999 Club Champion. IM Larry Kaufman scored 3½ also but fell behind Marvin on tiebreaks; likewise Boris Reichstein, of Baltimore, also scored 3½ to tie for first, but he is not a club member and so was ineligible for the championship plaque.

The first round was marked by an incredible number of upsets and after two rounds there were but six perfect scores, none of them among the top-rated entrants — accelerated pairings doing their job. Three IMs — Eugene Meyer, Kaufman and Ron Burnett — each had 1½ and were faced with the possibility of never getting a shot at a possible tournament winner if games among the half-dozen lower rated 2-0's produced a clear winner in the two remaining rounds.

Third round pairings on the top boards were: Reichstein-Yavari, Fletcher-Boshkin, and Nekvasil-Lazo. Reichstein defeated Yavari in a long game where he had the advantage the whole way. Fletcher-Boshkin was a quieter type of draw. Lazo-Nekvasil was a long long game which ended in a wild Q+P sequence where Nekvasil was facing mate in one but had managed to catch Lazo's King in the open. After 6-8 repetitions of position through a perpetual check sequence, a claim was finally made and confirmed. Thus the 3rd round ended with Reichstein alone at the top with 3-0 and facing IM Meyer in the last round, so the perfect 4-0 would have to be earned the hard way.

Meyer-Reichstein was a fascinating game in which Meyer sacrificed a piece for pawns and positional considerations. The game eventually ground down to a draw creating the possibility of multiple 3½ winners. Meanwhile, Kaufman defeated Boshkin and Lazo defeated Fletcher, to produce the trio of winners at 3½. Burnette and Nekvasil, who could have joined the leaders with a win, drew their game.

EUGENE MEYER - BORIS REICHSTEIN

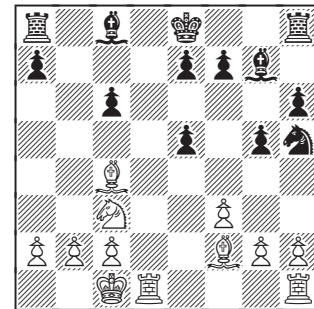
QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e6 3 Nf3 d5 4 d4 c6 5 Bg5 Be7 6 e3 0-0 7 Qc2 Nbd7
8 cxd5 exd5 9 Bd3 Re8 10 0-0 Ne4 11 Bf4 Ndf6 12 Ne5 Nxc3 13
bxc3 h6 14 Rab1 Bd6 15 Bg3 Ne4 16 Bxe4 dxe4 17 Qxe4 f6 18 Nxc6
bxc6 19 Qxc6 Bxg3 20 Qxa8 Bc7

Odds & Ends from the Arlington Chess Club Championship



Remember the Past!



Chris Bush - Ilya Figler

Black to Play

Round one, maybe not even an hour into play. Black, Ilya Figler, of New York, was the 5th-ranked player on the wall chart. His local "host" had welcomed him with a highly dubious gambit. Figler took the pawn and had every hope of holding it straight to the end, but then in the diagram position he played the catastrophic 14...0-0?? This allows White to end the game in just one move! Do you see how?

continued next page



Odds & Ends
from the
Arlington Chess Club Championship

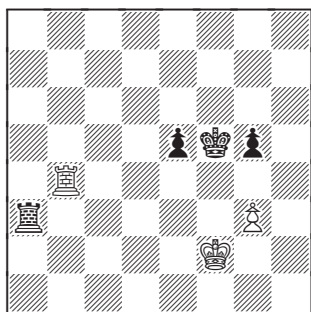


continued

The moves leading to the diagram had been 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 Nxc6 bxc6 7 e5 dxe5 8 Qxd8+ Kxd8 9 Bc4 Ke8 10 Bg5 h6 11 Bh4 Nh5 12 f3 g5 13 Bf2 Bg7 14 0-0-0. Therefore 14...0-0?? was illegal, Black's king having moved previously. Bush noted the violation, of course, and by the touch-move rule Black had to move his king. Since the only available move, 14...Kf8, allowed 15 Rd8 *mate*, that was that!

Chris Bush went on to have a noteworthy tournament. In the four rounds, he met the # 2, 3, 4 and 5 players on the wall chart. In other words Figler, at 2305, was the lowest-rated opponent he saw all weekend! For his exertions Bush earned a FIDE rating.

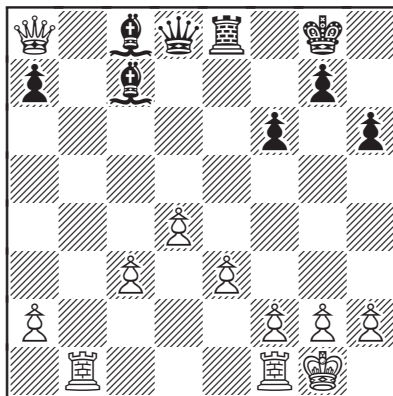
Know Your Endings (part 1)



Larry Kaufman - Chris Bush
Black to Play

In the second round Bush had managed to get a pawn up endgame versus IM Larry Kaufman. Observing the game, I was skeptical about the way he played it from here, but on further examination at home I have been surprised to discover that I can offer

continued



51 Kc3 Ke4 52 Kd2 f5 53 Ra4+ Ke5 54 a7 f4 55 e4 g4 56 Ke2 Kd6 57 Ra5 Ke6 58 Kf2 Kd6 59 Kg2 Ke6 1/2-1/2

MARVIN LAZO - RAYMOND FLETCHER

QUEEN'S PAWN

1 d4 Nf6 2 g3 d5 3 Bg2 e6 4 Nf3 c5 5 e3 Nc6 6 0-0 Bd7 7 b3 Qc7 8 Bb2 Bd6 9 Nbd2 b5 10 dxc5 Bxc5 11 Bxf6 gxf6 12 c4 dxc4 13 bxc4 b4 14 Ne4 Be7 15 Nd4 Rd8 16 Nb5 Qb8 17 Nbd6+ Bxd6 18 Nxd6+ Ke7 19 c5 h5 20 h4 Ne5 21 Qc2 Bc6 22 e4 Qa8 23 Rfd1 Rb8 24 Rd2 a5 25 Re1 Rhg8 26 Kh2 Rg7 27 Qd1 Ng4+ 28 Kg1 Rbg8 29 Nc4 f5 30 Nb6 Qb7 31 exf5 Nxf2 32 f6+ Kxf6 33 Rxf2+ Ke7 34 Qd6+ 1-0

The 1999 Arlington Chess Club Championship was FIDE rated. Chris Bush was the lone non-FIDE rated player to earn a FIDE ratable performance. He scored a win and a draw against a field of opponents sporting FIDE ratings of 2384,2420, 2417 and 2284.

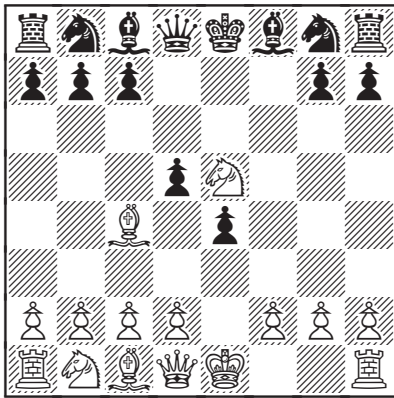
David Sterner, ranked third in the 24-player field, dominated the Amateur group with a perfect 4-0 score. In the last round he seemed determined to beat fellow 3-0 William Carroll and refused several early draw offers. His opening choice reflected the old Roman soldier credo: *With you shield, or upon it!*

WILLIAM CARROLL - DAVID STERNER
LATVIAN

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f5 3 Bc4 fxe4 4 Nxe5 d5

(see diagram opposite page)





5 Nf7 Kxf7 6 Qh5+ Ke7 7 Bxd5 Qd6 8 Bxg8 Rxc8
 9 Qxh7 Kf7 10 0-0 Qg6 11 Qh4 Be7 12 Qf4+ Qf6
 13 Qxc7 Rh8 14 Qc4+ Be6 15 Qxe4 Nc6 16 c3 Rh4
 17 f4 Ra8 18 d4 Rxh2 19 g3 Bf5 20 Qd5+ Qe6 21
 Qxe6+ Bxe6 22 Nd2 Bd5 23 c4 Rg2mate 0-1

The Conference rooms of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association were amazing, and received nothing but wondrous comments from the players. Perhaps the perfect playing site, it was spacious, well-lit, quiet, and elegant. We hope to have more future tournaments here. An additional \$360 was added to the prize fund to thank all who came and played.

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Odds & Ends
 from the
 Arlington Chess
 Club Championship



no definite improvements. Let's take a look:

Black's choices in the diagram are somewhat limited inasmuch as letting White play g4+ would be a mortal blow to Black's hopes. Bush tried 48...g4

This hems in White's king somewhat and fixes the target on g3, but it also closes off a potential infiltration route for Black, so we ought to at least look at 48...e4. It turns out that White can just sit tight, 49 Kg2, keeping the king on the g- or f-files so Black's rook can never attack the g-pawn from behind. Part of the problem is that Black's got a knight pawn, which is uniquely difficult to win with since the defender can hold some K+R+P vs K+R positions by passive defense with the rook on the first rank. Thus 49...Ra2+ 50 Kf1 Kg4 51 Rxe4+ and now if 51...Kf3, threatening both mate and the rook, 52 Re1 is good enough, though analogous positions with an f-pawn would lose. So instead 51...Kxg3 52 Re3+ Kh2 (or again 52...Kf4 53 Re1 Δ Kg1 = White cannot be budged out of the corner) 53 Re4! and I don't see how Black can make progress.

Going back to the diagram, 48...Ra2+ doesn't have much independent significance. 49 Kf1 or 49 Kg1, and then 49...e4 will be like the line above, while 49...g4 will turn into something like the game.

49 Rb8 Rf3+

If 49...Ra2+ maybe White could even try 50 Ke3, eg, 50...Rg2 51 Rf8+ Ke6 52 Re8+ Kf6 53 Ke4 Rxc3 54 Rxe5 Re3+ 55 Kxe3 Kxe5 56 Kf2 Kf4 57 Kg2 =. But the more principled reply is just 50 Kf1 suggesting that Black's check hasn't changed anything. (50...Ke4 51 Rb4+)

There followed 50 Kg2 Rd3, so as to shield against flank checks. 51 Rg8 Rd2+ 52 Kg1 Rb2 53 Rg7 reaching an important juncture.

I expected 53...Ra2 He could have done this on the previous move too but there's no problem with taking your time, building up psychological pressure on the defender who has nothing better than marking time, 54 Rg8. In any event Black should take the a-file before initiating critical operations so that in a possible bare K+R+e-pawn vs K+R ending White can't have "checking distance"—in many cases a decisive factor! Alas, here it looks like it wouldn't have made any difference: 54 Rg8 Ke4 55 Rxc4+ Kf3 56 Rg8 Ra1+ 57 Kh2 e4. Black could hardly hope for more...

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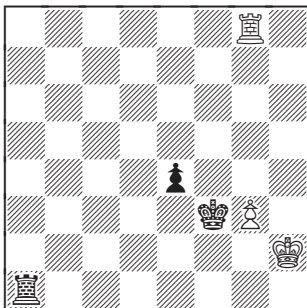




Odds & Ends from the Arlington Chess Club Championship



continued



Okay, White could plausibly mess up here, something like 58 g4 e3 59 Rf8+ Ke2 60 g5? Ra5 61 g6 Rh5+ 62 Kg3 Rg5+ but with correct defense it looks like a draw. For example, 58 Rf8+ Ke2 59 Kg2 e3 (This would be winning without the g-pawn; but then, it would be winning with an extra queen too.) 60 g4 Ke1 61 Kg3! e2 62 g5 Ra5 63 Kg4 Re5 The trickiest! Now White must go 'round to be able to sacrifice for the pawn. 64 Ra8 (not 64 g6? Kd2 65 Rd8+ Ke3) Kf2 65 Ra2 Kf1 66 Rxe2 (66 Ra1+) Kxe2 67 g6 Ke3 68 g7 Re8 69 Kf5 *nichya*

In the game Bush tacked back and forth, 53...Rb4 54 Kg2 Rb2+ 55 Kg1, and then tried an unlikely pacification of his own rook that led to an even less promising version of the above after 55...Rb6 56 Kf2 e4 57 Rf7+ Rf6 58 Rg7 Ke5+ 59 Kg2 Kd4 60 Rxf4 Ke3 61 Rg8 and a draw some 20 moves later.

continued



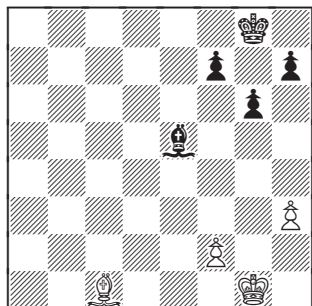
CHESS CLUBS

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 ☞ Fredricksburg: 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, Trinity Presbyterian Church, corner of S High (rt 42) & Maryland Ave (Port Republic Rd), Fridays 7:30pm, <http://cep.jmu.edu/huffmacj/svcc/svcchome.html> ☞ Mechanicsville: Stonewall Library, Stonewall Pkwy, Mondays 6:30-9pm 730-8944 ☞ 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 262-4167 ☞ 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



ACC Odds & Ends

continued**Know Your Endings (part 2)**Art Ehle - David Sterner
White to Play

This ought to be a draw but White loses it because he fails to appreciate that dynamic possibilities exist in even simple looking positions. 33 Kg2 Kg7 34 f3 Kf6 35 Be3 Kf5 36 Bd2 Bf4 37 Bc3 Ke6 38 Be1 Kd5 39 Bc3?

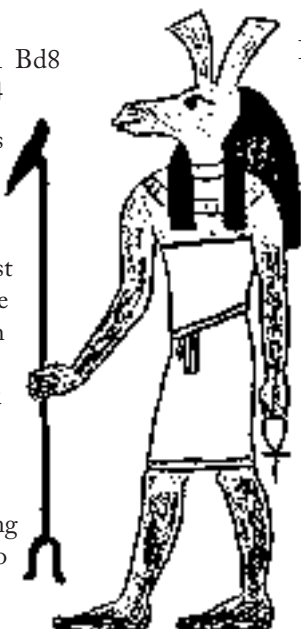
39 Kf1 Kc4 40 Ke2 should be safe, but it appears he's under the impression that White already has an impregnable fortress because his king and pawns all stand on light squares, which Black's bishop cannot attack. However, under no circumstances should Black's king be permitted to penetrate to where it can attack the f3 pawn.

39...Kc4 40 Ba5 h5 41 Bd8 Kd3 42 Bf6 Ke2 43 Bd4

43 h4!? We all know it's a cardinal sin put your pawns on the same color squares as the bishops, but maybe just this once! Then White might just tempo with his bishop on d8-e7-f6. It's not clear how Black would make progress.

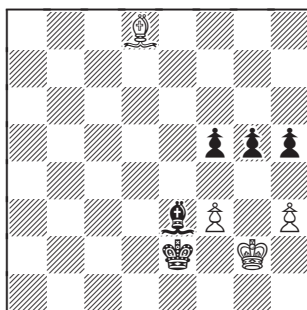
43...Be3?!

Fooling around and giving White further chances to find defensible setups



like the one suggested in the previous note; 43...Bg5! looks like the direct way, controlling dark squares in front of his pawns. Then, in some order, Bd8, f5, g5 and try for the game continuation.

44 Bf6 Bc5 45 Bd8 f5 46 Bg5? (last chance — 46 h4!) 46...Be3 47 Bd8 g5



48 Be7

Now there's no defense. For instance, 48 Bc7 doesn't help because Black reverses the order of his moves: 48...f4! now that his g-pawn is not hanging (but 48...g4? would be wrong because of 49 hxg4 hxg4 50 fxg4 f4 51 Bxf4 of course) 49 Bd8 g4 and one way or another Black gets a pawn to f3.

48...g4 49 hxg4 hxg4 50 fxg4 f4!

The whole point; Black controls all the squares to the coronation spot.

51 Bh4 f3+ 52 Kh2

If 52 Kh3 Bf4 zugzwang (52...Bd2 is good enough too since after 53 Bg3 Be1; or 53 g5 he can either take the pawn as above or go straight in, 53...Be1 54 Bxe1 Kxe1 55 g6 f2 56 g7 f1=Q+) 53 g5 Bxg5! 54 Bg3 Bd2 Δ Be1 wins;

If 52 Kh1 Bd2 Δ Be1

52...Bg5 (52...Bd2) 53 Bg3 Bf4! ("pinning and winning") 54 g5 Bxg3+ 55 Kxg3 f2 56 g6 f1=Q 57 g7 Qg1+ 58 Kh3 Qxg7 0-1

1999 STATE SCHOLASTIC CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Judah Brownstein

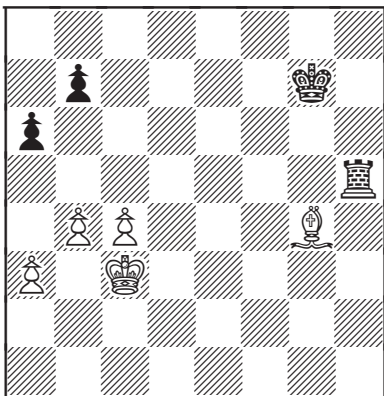
The 1999 Virginia State Scholastic Chess Championships were a huge success. The tournament illustrated how scholastic chess in Virginia is rapidly growing and strengthening. The tournament set a state record for most entries in a scholastic tournament ever. There were many strong chess players in every section, including two experts in the open section. Expert James Hare cruised to win all six games and repeat as Virginia State Champion. Nicholas Barber, from Tennessee, finished second. He gave up only one draw (to Philip Shing). I finished in third place with only a last round loss to Hare. The following is my 4th round game against Andrew Samuelson, where I lost the exchange in the early middlegame but came back and used endgame tactics for the win.

JUDAH BROWNSTEIN -
ANDREW SAMUELSON
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 d5 9 0-0-0 dxe4 10 fxe4 Bd7 11 Nxc6 Bxc6 12 Qxd8 Rfxd8 13 Bd3 Ng4! (a good move that I wasn't expecting) 14 Rde1 Nxe3 15 Rxe3 Bh6 16 Re1 a6 17 Kb1 Bxe3 18 Rxe3 Rd7 19 a3



Rad8 20 Nd5 Bxd5 21 exd5 Rxd5
 22 Rxe7 R8d7 23 Re3 Kg7 24 b4
 Rh5 25 h3 Rg5 26 g4 Rgd5 27
 Rf3 h5 28 gxh5 Rxh5 29 c4 Rd4
 30 Kc2 g5 31 Kc3 Rf4 32 Rg3 f5
 33 Be2 g4 (a costly mistake) 34
 hxg4 fxg4 35 Rxc4+ Rxc4 36
 Bxc4



36...Re5 37 Kd4 Re7 38 a4 Rc7
 39 b5 Kf6 40 c5 a5 41 Kd5 Rg7
 42 Bc8 Rc7 43 Bxb7! Rxb7 44 c6
 Rh7 45 b6 Ke7 46 b7 Rh5+ 47
 Kc4 Kd6 48 b8=Q+ 1-0 (He can't
 take the pawn because of Qe8+,
 but even if he could it is a loss.)



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!



Transmissions from Planet Diemer

Introduction by the editor

Talk about striking a chord! The response to my article from last issue, "What's the Deal with the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit?" has been greater than for anything previously published in *Virginia Chess* and the great majority of what's been said has been most gratifying. The reactions began at the Arlington Chess Club Championship, where advance copies of *Virginia Chess* 1999/3 were distributed. Subsequently at virtually every chess event I've attended, people have greeted me with kind words about that article. I also received a generally positive reaction from Tom Purser, of *Blackmar-Diemer Gambit World* fame, plus multiple requests to reprint the article in other magazines, web pages, etc. All of which goes to validate one of my central points, which is that there are a lot of loyal and energetic BDG fans out there regardless of what the Almighty Theory says.

A couple corrections are in order, however. In my article I incorrectly state that Blackmar's original 18th century gambit was 1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 f3, but in light of the troublesome 3...e5 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." Purser and other point out that the move order Diemer advocated was in fact 1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 etc. Actually I knew this all along but just made a mistake as I typed up the article "blindfold." The other revision I need to make is that





Planet
Diemer
continued



Purser informs me that **the print version of BDG World has ceased publication** after fifteen years and 80 issues. I apologize to any readers here who made futile inquiries to him about subscriptions. Purser's BDG web pages (<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/4902/index.html>) are still up and growing, and will soon (if not already) include my article.

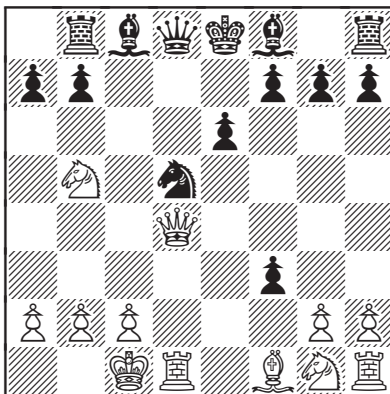
In light of BDG World's demise, and also in response to promptings from *Virginia Chess* readers who were inspired to try out the gambit after reading my article, I am persuaded to make room here for an occasional feature, Transmissions from Planet Diemer. Perhaps some of *BDG World's* former contributors would find here a new outlet for their material? We'll not let this get out of hand, of course, this is after all the *Virginia* chess newsletter... but as long as VCF members remain active among our sources from Planet Diemer, I'll be interested to see where this goes.

At any rate, our first dispatch comes from the aforementioned Arlington Chess Club Championship tourney. The BDG was played three times in this event, and three times White came out the winner! Amateur section winner David Sterner essayed gambits of one kind or another in every round en route to his 4-0 sweep, including one BDG, but unquestionably the star exhibit was Ed Hudson's demolition job (and 200 rating point upset) of Ray Kaufman.

ED HUDSON - RAY KAUFMAN

1999 ARLINGTON CHESS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 e4 dxe4 4 f3 c5
5 Bf4 cxd4 6 Nb5 Nd5 7 Bxb8 Rxb8
8 Qxd4 (Δ 9 Qxd5) e6 9 0-0-0 (Δ
10 fxe4) 9...exf3 (diagram) 10 Qe5!
(Δ either 11 Qxb8 or 11 Rxd5)
10...Bd7 11 Rxd5 Be7 12 Rxd7
Kxd7 13 Nxf3 Qb6 14 Be2 Bf6 15
Rd1+ Ke7 16 Qe4 Rhd8 17 Qb4+
Ke8 18 Nc7+ Qxc7 19 Bb5+ 1-0



DAVID STERNER -
KERRY HUBERS

1999 ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Nxf3 Bg4 6
h3 Bh5 7 g4 Bg6 8 Ne5 Nbd7 9 Nxc6 hxg6 10 Bg2
c6 11 0-0 e6 12 Qf3 Qe7 13 Bg5 Nb6? 14 Ne4 Qc7
(if 14...Nbd5 15 c4) 15 Bxf6 gxf6 16 Nxf6+ Kd8 17
b3 Bg7 18 c4 Qe7 19 g5 Bxf6 20 gxf6 Qc7 21 Rad1
Rh5 22 Qe3 Ke8 23 d5 cxd5 24 cxd5 Qe5 25 Qc5
Nc8 26 Qb4 Qe3+ 27 Rf2 Qb6 28 Qe1 Rf5 29 dxe6
fxe6 30 Kf1 Rxf2+ 31 Qxf2 Qxf2+ 32 Kxf2 Nb6 33
Bxb7 Rb8 34 Be4 Kf7 35 Rg1 Rg8 36 Rc1 Kxf6 37
Rc7 Rg7 38 Rxc7 Kxc7 39 Ke3 Kf6 40 Kd4 g5 41
Bf3 e5+ 42 Kc5 Kf5 43 Bg4+ Kf4 44 a4 Ke4 45 Be6
Kd3 46 a5 Kc3 47 axb6 axb6+ 48 Kxb6 Kb4 49 Bc4
e4 50 Kc6 e3 51 Kd5 e2 52 Bxe2 Kxb3 53 Ke5 Kb4
54 Kf5 Kc5 55 Kxc5 Kd6 56 Kf6 Kd7 57 Bb5+ 1-0

From the Lone Star State comes our first out-of-state submission. Selby Anderson, editor of *Texas Knights*, asked permission to reprint "What's the Deal..." and offered in exchange the following game he's received from "a BDG 'true believer' in San Antonio."

ZINTGRAFF-FULTON

SAN ANTONIO CHESS STUDIO TUES NIGHT SWISS
6/22/99

Notes by Zintgraff

(I knew Al would be booked up on the BDG for me since he has been playing it the last three or four years. However, I felt honor bound to offer it to him. It's the Ziegler Defense to the BDG, and can come out of a Caro-Kann or with ...c6 coming at move 5.

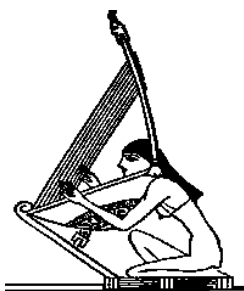
Sure enough, we got into a very tactical sideline and he transposed his prepared move for 11....Be7? I don't believe 11...Qd4 should be tried either since black is already a clear piece up. What does he need with another pawn? Black should try to get the king to safety.) 1.d4 d5 2.e4 c6 3.Nc3 de4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.f3 ef3 6.Nf3 Bf5 7.0-0 e6 8.Ne5 Bc2! (8...Bg6! Pachman 9.g4! Nbd7



10.Ng6 hg6 11.g5 Nb6 12.Bb3 Nfd5 13.Qf3 Qc7 14.Rf2 Bd6 15.Ne4 Bh2 16.Kg2 Rf8 17.c4 Ne7 18.Qh3 0-0-0 19.Qh2 Qh2 20.Kh2 Rd4 21.Nd6 Rd6 22.c5 Rdd8 23.cb6 ab6 24.Rf7! wins -Pachman) **9.Nf7! Kf7** (9...Bd1? 10.Nd8 Kd8 11.Rd1 White has a superior ending due to development -Lane) **10.Be6!?** (10.Qg4?! Qd6! 11.Qe2 Nbd7! 12.Kh1 Nb6! Black has a big plus -Purser) **Ke6 11.Qc2**



Beam over to page 21



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Book Review...

Nunn's Chess Openings

by John Nunn, Graham Burgess, John Emms & Joe Gallagher
Everyman Publishers, soft cover, 544pps, \$29.95 list.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE demand for a comprehensive, single-volume opening reference. True, the genre won't regain the prominence it enjoyed a couple decades ago, when *Modern Chess Opening* actually merited the title of "Chessplayers' Bible." In an age of inexpensive databases and specialized works on individual openings, some have likened the single-volume opening encyclopedia to a dinosaur and predicted its extinction. Don't bet on it! Even if your CD has every game since Greco, there will be times you don't want to sift through all that stuff, you just want someone to *tell you* the "best moves." For a great many amateur players, a single resource with the bare necessities on every opening is both adequate and eminently practical.

And so, the latest "chess-player's new bible," as it proclaims itself on the back cover: *Nunn's Chess Openings* (NCO). It employ to the traditional tabular format with a page of text introducing each major opening complex. You won't have to explore NCO for long to appreciate the care taken with its layout to keep every footnote within a page of the originating column. On a more subliminal level you may also draw comfort from the authors' claim to have 'blunder-checked' every line with a computer. Following NCO's as gospel, you still might encounter unpleasant surprises but at least they won't be mate in three.

Ideally the little essays on each opening should read like something out of *Ideas Behind the Chess Openings*, explaining the strategic turning points of each opening in a way that makes the moves more intelligible. Alas, NCO's offerings read more like outtakes from the *Trends...* monograph series, no more given to strategy than to the question (granted, also of practical significance) of which subvariations are most popular, which have suffered a series of reverses during the '90s, etc.

Evidently due to space considerations, NCO has omitted many game references so that some lines end with merely an evaluation symbol. For serious students this will be just a minor inconvenience, however. Once NCO has pointed you to the crucial position, you can always find references yourself with a database.

The real test for such a book is its *usefulness*. Has the editorial selection included the critical and relevant lines? Are the evaluations accurate? To examine NCO with respect to these issues, I devised a series





of practical tests; we'll call them LookUp, BookUp and CookUp. Here's a report on NCO's performance for each test. You'll have to decide for yourself how good or bad these results seem based on your own expectations and requirements of an opening reference.

LookUp

Okay, with White you only play 1 e4, and you remain blissfully ignorant of the Queen's Gambit, the Queen's Indian, the Queen's anything. But you're playing through Capablanca games in an old Dover reprint and you can't for the life of you figure out why he keeps putting his rook at d1 against the Orthodox Defense when c1 looks more natural. In short, you don't want to full-fledge *learn* an opening, you just want to look up something about it.

NCO arrived in my mailbox just as the Sarajevo 1999 grandmaster tournament began. I decided to see how useful NCO would be *vis-a-vis* getting grounded in the openings that were appearing there. I followed the moves from each of Kasparov's games at Sarajevo and the table (*right*) summarizes what the book had to say — or what it neglected to say. For each game, **boldface** indicates moves that appear in a main column in NCO. Regular type moves appear in NCO as footnotes. The point at which the game diverges from anything to be found in NCO is indicated by italics. An evaluation symbol or anything else in parenthesis at the departure point indicates what, if anything, NCO suggested as an alternative to what happened in the game. Finally, I looked up the point of divergence in a 1,000,000-game database to see what additional material might have been available to the editors of NCO that could have improved their tracking of the game. Exclamation and query marks are all from NCO. Example: In round 1, Bareev-Kasparov, the moves through 12...Bf5 appear (via a transposition) in column #1 on page 438, so they're in bold. The column continues 13 Nh4 but Bareev's 13 Qa4 does appear in footnote #4, which is why we continue in regular type at that point. NCO's footnote tracks the

Bareev - Kasparov, Sarajevo rd 1, Grünfeld: **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Bg5 Ne4 5 Bf4 Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 7 e3 0-0 8 Nf3 c5 9 cxd5 cxd4 10 cxd4 Qxd5 11 Be2 Nc6 12 0-0 Bf5 13 Qa4 Qa5!** 14 Qb3 Qb4 ≤ 15 Rfc1 Rac8 16 Bb5 Be6 17 Qd3 Qa5 18 a3 Bd5 19 Rab1 Ba2 20 Ra1 Bd5 21 Rab1 Ba2 ½-½ A couple games, neither of which saw 16 Bb5.

Shirov - Kasparov, rd 2, Sicilian: **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be3 Ng4 7 Bg5 h6 8 Bh4 g5 9 Bg3 Bg7 10 Be2 h5 11 Bxg4 hgx4 12 0-0 Nc6 13 Nf5 Bxc3** (13...Bxf5 ... ≥) A genuine innovation.

Kasparov - Short, rd 3, Nimzoindian: **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Nf3 c5 5 g3** 0-0 6 Bg2 *cx d4* (6...d6 ... =; 6...d5 ... ≥) A couple dozen games tracked farther, the most conspicuous being Piket-Korchnoi, Nijmegen 1993: 6...cx d4 7 Nxd4 d5 8 cxd5 Nxd5 9 Bd2 Bxc3 10 bxc3 e5 {Kasparov varied with 10...Nb6, for which there were also several precedents} 11 Nb5 Nc6 12 0-0 Be6 and drawn in 27 moves.

Topalov - Kasparov, rd 4, Grünfeld: **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Qb3 dxc4 6 Qxc4 0-0** 7 Bf4 Na6 8 e4 c5 9 dxc5 Be6!? 10 Qb5 Bd7 11 Qxb7 Nxc5 12 Qb4 Ne6 13 Be5 a5 14 Qa3 Qb6 15 Bc4 Rf8 16 Bxf6 Bxf6 17 Nd5 Qb8 18 Nxf6+ exf6 19 Bxe6 Bxe6 20 0-0 Qb4 21 Qxb4 axb4 1/2 Over a dozen games reached as far as the position after 12 Qb4. The most remarkable was Laketic-Pavlovic, Yugoslavia 1995 which tracked Kasparov's game all the way through 15...Rfc8 whereupon White played 16 Bd5 and... Black resigned! Or so says The Ultimate Games Collection. Probably this is an error. Either White won after some intervening moves or the game was agreed drawn. In any case there was a lot that could have been said after the point where NCO leaves off.

Kasparov - Sokolov, rd 5, Slav: **1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 dxc4** 4 e4 b5 5 a4 b4 6 Na2 Nf6 7 e5 Nd5 8 Bxc4 e6 9 Nf3 Be7 10 Bd2 (10 0-0 ... =)

Leko - Kasparov, rd 6, Sicilian: **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 f4 e5 7 Nf3 Nbd7 8 a4 Be7 9 Bc4 Qa5 10 Qe2 0-0 11 0-0 exf4 12 Bxf4 Ne5 13 Nd5 Nxd5 14 Bxd5 Be6** (14...Qb6+ ... = Leko-Sutovsky, Tilburg 1996)

Kasparov - Morozevich, rd 7, Slav: **1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e3 a6 5 Qc2** b5 6 b3 Bg4 7 Nge2 Nbd7 8 Nf4 (8 h3 ... ≥)

Timman - Kasparov, rd 8, Grünfeld: **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Qb3 dxc4 6 Qxc4 0-0 7 e4 Na6 8 Be2 c5 9 d5 e6 10 0-0 exd5 11 exd5 Bf5** 12 Be3 Qb6 (12...Re8 ... ∞ Van der Sterren - Mirallès, Lyons 1990)

Kasparov - Adams, rd 9, Scotch: **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nxc6 bxc6 6 e5 Qe7 7 Qe2 Nd5 8 c4 Nb6 9 Nc3** (9 Nd2 ... ∞; 9 b3 ... ≥; 9 g3 ... ≥; 9 Qe4 ... =)

Kasparov at Sarajevo



game as far as 14...Qb4 and then leaves off with an evaluation of slight edge for Black. (Had NCO recommended alternatives they'd be indicated here in parenthesis — see, for instance, NCO's 13...Bxf5 leading to a White advantage after a few more moves instead of Kasparov's 13...Bxc3 in rd 2 vs Shirov.) The italicized moves are the continuation of Bareev-Kasparov, not covered in NCO. The final note indicates that my database included a couple of precedents for 15 Rfc1 Rac8 but nothing beyond that.

BookUp

You go to your first tournament in four months. After registration there's still 45 minutes until the first round. You decide to whip out the trusty NCO and bone up on your favorite Tchigorin Defense to the Queen's Gambit...

For this test I recruited my traveling companion to the 1999 World Open. Ben Blair is rated 1595, which is to say a pretty typical USCF tournament

player. I asked him to pick a variation that he felt he knew fairly well, had some experience with, and intended to play at the World Open. I gave him NCO to review his opening of choice. I was interested in whether he found (a) anything significant *about which he had not been previously aware* in NCO's coverage; or (b) anything *missing in NCO's coverage* which he considered significant in light of his experience.

Ben chose the Accelerated Dragon variation of the Sicilian. (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 g6) NCO's coverage of it begins on page 179. Counting all subvariations (Maroczy Bind 5 c4 as well as normal development 5 Nc3) it runs twenty columns and over a hundred footnotes. Obviously Ben didn't minutely examine all of this, but he spent maybe a hour playing through the material. He pronounced it a good overview, useful for boning up for the tournament even if there were no striking new insights. There was, however, one omission that he considered significant for players of his level.

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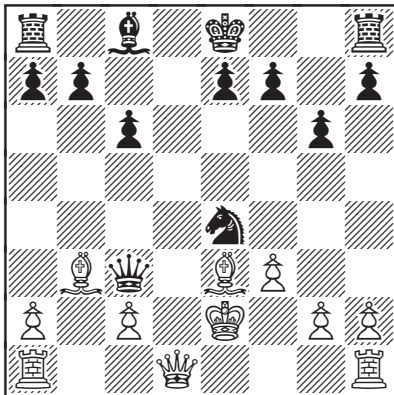
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Contact Info: (757)686-0822H, (757)487-4535W, ergfjr@erols.com



1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 g6 5 Nc3 Bg7 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Bc4 Qa5 This is column #1 on page 180. Now NCO gives 8 0-0 as the right move and notes in a footnote that if **8 f3 Qb4! 9 Bb3 Nxe4 ≠** (NCO's punctuation and evaluation) with no game reference and no further analysis.

Obviously if 10 fxe4 Nxd4 etc, but the testing line would appear to be **10 Nxc6**. Now Black's queen is attacked too. He can get it off the hook with check by **10...Bxc3+ 11 bxc3 Qxc3+** and now after **12 Ke2** (to defend the bishop on e3) the next point to Black's play is that he goes **12...dxc6** so that 13 fxe4 might be answered with 13...Bg4+



A book like NCO can't include everything, and one can make the case that it has done its duty in just getting to the point after 9...Nxe4. Even if Black's subsequent *forced* moves are not obvious, most readers would be able to work them out. But we're not at the end of the complications. Ben related how he actually reached the diagram position versus Ming Chan at a Southwest Virginia Open, in Roanoke, several years ago. White continued **13 Bd4** and now Ben found himself embarrassed! Eventually he just moved his queen and hoped to make something of White's king position, vainly as it turn out, as Ming took the rook and won easily. In fact the correct move was **13... e5!** with the point that 14 Bxc3 Nxc3+ recovers the queen. So NCO was correct as far as it went and, again, it is an open question how deeply we should expect it to explicate these points, but someone like Ben could have used more help!

And not just Ben: a database search from the diagram turned up nearly two dozen games. Indeed, grandmaster Matulovic has *more than once* chosen the apparent mistake 8 f3, sometimes with success, eg Matulovic-Kroon, Lugano 1968: 8...Qb4 9 Bb3 Nxe4 10 fxe4 Bxd4 11 Bxd4 Qxd4 12 Qf3 e6 13 Rd1 Qc5 14 Qf4 0-0 15 h4 Qe5 16 Qf2 d5 17 0-0 d4 18 Ne2 Qxe4 19 Nxd4 Na5 20 Nb5 Qf5 21 Qe2 Qc5+ 22 Kh1 Nxb3 23 cxb3 Qe7 24 Qe1 a6 25 Nc3 Qb4 26 Qg3 b5 27 Qg5 Ra7 28 Rd8 Rxd8 29 Qxd8+ Qf8 30 Rd1 Bb7 31 Qb6 Qe7 32 Kg1 Ba8 33 Ne2 Rb7 34 Qd8+ Kg7 35 Qxa8 Qc5+ 36 Kh1 Qc2 37 Nc3 Rc7 38 Qd8 Rb7 39 Qd4+ f6 40 Rf1 e5 41 Qd6 Rf7 42 Nd5 Qe4 43 Nxf6 Qxh4+ 44 Kg1 1-0 So at the very least we can say that there is room for confusion on the part of less experienced readers here, the antiseptic evaluation symbol "≠" is apt to make things seem more cut and dried than they really are. This is not so much a criticism of NCO specifically as a cautionary tale about published analysis in general!

CookUp

What if you want to add something new to your repertoire? I doubt any master would rely entirely on a book like this to learn an opening, but lots of amateur players would try something in their next club ladder game based solely on 30 minutes preparing it from NCO.

I decided to pick an opening I didn't know much about and examine it in NCO. Without any additional research or analysis, I'd then try out my new knowledge in some blitz games.

Besides wanting an opening of which I was previously ignorant, I also wanted something that didn't require me to learn too much material, plus something that I could expect to reach in practice without having to play a thousand games just to get two examples. I selected the line in the Philidor Defense where Black trades in the center and fianchettoes his king bishop, eg **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6**. (I think this might be called



the Larsen variation but I'm not sure.) Most of what NCO had to offer was on page 298:

6 **Be3** **Bg7**
7 **Qd2** **0-0**
8 **0-0-0**

8 f3 d5! 9 e5 Nfd7 10 e6 Ne5 11 exf7+ Nxf7 ∞

8 ... **Re8**

Regarding 8...Nc6, NCO indicated a transposition to a different page (p 309 - Three Knight's Game, 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 g6) but when I turned there this exact position was not treated as far as I could see, although there was certainly some relevant material and possible transposition in case of certain plausible moves now; for instance, 9 f3 Re8 would indeed reach a note on page 309 that concluded 10 g4 ≥

9 **f3** **Nbd7**

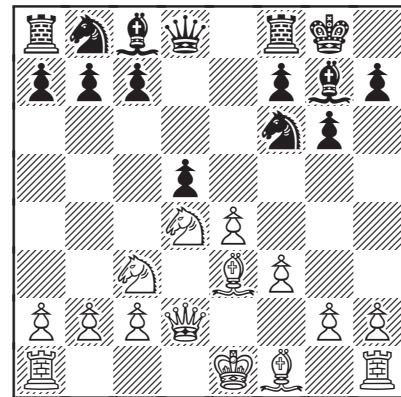
9...d5 10 Nb3 ±

10 **Bh6** **Bh8**
11 **h4** **Ne5**
12 **Bg5** **a6**
13 **h5** **b5**
14 **Qe1** **Bg7**
15 **hxc6** **fxg6**
16 **Qh4**

± Kosten

Even this brief analysis is full of untold stories, tactical details that you need to fill in yourself. As with Ben's Accelerated Dragon experience, it's not just what the book gives you, but also what you bring to the book, that will determine the quality of your preparation!

Consider the subvariation at White's 8th turn. After 8 f3 d5! (see diagram at top of next column), is NCO's terse analysis enough for you to grasp what is going on? Why this e4-5-6 thrust? Probably White doesn't want to permit the isolation of his e-pawn, but perhaps 9 Bd3 is a candidate? Or what about 8 e5 Nfd7 9 f4 with a solid central chain to restrict Black's dark square bishop?

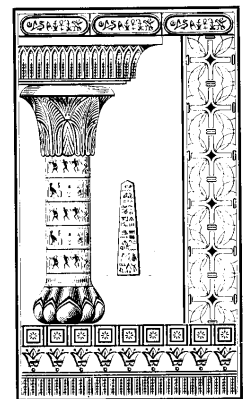


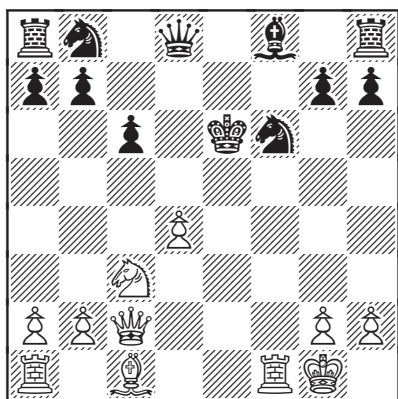
Actually, no! The point — nowhere explicit in the columns and notes — is that Black has not merely achieved a nice “freeing” pawn break, he is *threatening to win a piece* by ...c5 and then ...d4. That's why 10 e6 is more or less necessary, since otherwise 10 f4? loses to 10...c5 etc.

This appears to be a recurring motif in the line. Whole subvariations stand or fall on the question of whether it works. Note, for instance, NCO's note to Black's 9th move. This same 9...d5 idea is less effective here because White is already castled and can use the pin on the d-file to get out of the way and hold his pawn on e4.

Again not really to criticize NCO specifically but simply to point out a limitation inherent in the genre: you've got to be strong enough to notice such things for yourself. Otherwise a book like this may harm your chess as much as it helps, as you lapse into mindless, rote play. The present case turned out to be an especially vivid illustration of this: in one form or another *White fell into this trap in nearly every one of the blitz games where I tried out the variation!*

So it comes down to this: NCO, like all such volumes, is more a book of chess rather than a book about chess. And chess, as the old saying goes, is a pool in which an elephant may bathe or a gnat may drink. NCO can be treacherous for weak swimmers but if you feel you're ready, by all means, dive in!



**Planet Diemer***continued from page 16***11...Be7**

11...Kd7 12.Bg5 Be7 13.d5 cd5 14.Nd5 Nd5
15.Rad1 Qb6 16.Kh1 Qc6 17.Qf5 Kc7 18.Rd5 Bg5
19.Qg5 McGrew-MoonShot ICC 1998 [1-0,47];

11...Qd6 Fulton 12.Qb3! Nd5 13.Bf4 Qd7 14.Nd5
Qd5 15.Rae1 mates, eg 15...Kf7 16.Bd6! Kg6
17.Re6 Qe6 18.Qe6 etc;

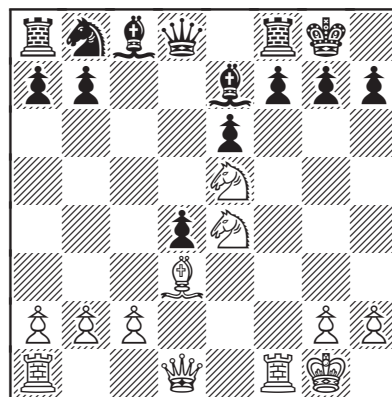
11...Qd4 12.Kh1 Qg4? 13.Qb3! Nd5 14.Nd5 cd5
15.Qb7 Bd6 16.Qf7 Ke5 17.Bf4 1-0 Hardy-
Keeling, England 1997

12.Qb3! Nd5 (12...Kd7 13.Qb7 Qc7 14.Qa8 Bd6
15.Bg5 Rf8 16.Bf6 Bh2 17.Kh1 Rf6 18.Rf6 gf6
19.Re1 Bd6 20.d5 a6 21.dc6 Qc6 22.Qa7 White
should win) **13.Nd5 Qd5** (13...cd5 14.Qh3! Kd6
15.Bf4 Kc6 16.Rfc1! Kb5 17.Qd3 Ka4 18.Qb3 Ka5
19.Bc7 wins) **14.Qh3 1-0**

Finally, all the way from France via Tom Purser, a
300 FIDE rating point upset:

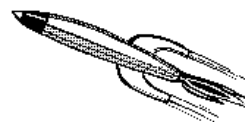
THEON - MARZOLO**1998-9 FRENCH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 e6
6.Bd3 c5 7.Bg5 cxd4 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Ne4 Qd8 10.0-
0 Be7 11.Ne5 0-0



Ramming speed! Prepare for impact!

12.Rxf7 Rxf7 13.Nxf7 Kxf7 14.Qh5+ Kg8 15.Nd6 Qxd6
16.Qxh7+ Kf8 17.Qh8+ Kf7 18.Qh5+ Kf8 19.Bg6 Bg5
20.Qxg5 Nd7 21.Qd8mate 1-0.



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photo: Mike Atkins



Who are these guys?!

At the Fredricksburg Open, local experts Andrew Johnson (*left*) and Alan Ruffy square off alongside visiting grandmasters George Timoshenko, Igor Novikov, Alex Wojtkiewicz (*not pictured*), and IM Rashid Ziatdinov (*partially obscured behind Ruffy*)