



1999 VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

MACON SHIBUT WON THE VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP by finishing clear 1st at the annual Labor Day tournament in Charlottesville. He scored $4\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$, including wins over defending champion Rodney Flores and former champions Alan Ruffy and Steve Greanias. It is Shibut's second time as champion, having first won in 1993. Expert Jason Early was a surprise 2nd-place finisher at 4-1, scoring the only draw versus the champion. Roger Mahach and James Hare tied for 3rd-4th. (Hare was also top Junior.) In the Amateur section, Joe Wheelhouse swept through the field 5-0. Bruce Taylor finished half a point behind.

Class prize winners in the open included Robert Fischer (top Expert); William Van Lear (A); Brian Dickerson (C); and John Campbell (Sr). Amateur class prize winners were Barry Quillon, Chris Gibbs, Stephen Graziano, Arthur Poskocil, Andrew Miller, Opie Lindsay & Christian Krehbiel (all =C); Leonard T Harris, Darrell Faulkner, Walt Carey, Haywood C Boling & Kelly A Ward (=D); Randal Green (E); Michael Zelina (Unr); Daniel Ludwinski, Bret Latter & Jack Barrow (1st, 2nd & 3rd Scholastic, respectively); Harriet Gibson (Women); and Art Poskocil (Sr).

At the annual VCF Business Meeting, Catherine Clark was reelected President for a second year. Roger Mahach recieved the Zofchak service award for his efforts with the federation web site and membership list. He was also newly elected to the VCF Board of Directors.



*Wilbur Moorman trophy
Rotated among Virginia state champions since 1936*

Scheduling problems with the hotel led to the championship being conducted over just two days, and five rounds, this year, instead of the traditional three days, six / seven rounds. Hopefully things will get back to normal next year. Despite initial misgivings by some, most players seemed to feel that the competition took on the feel of the usual title chase once things got underway. Still, the aberrant format probably effected the size and strength of the field, as several perennial contenders were absent this year. A total of 86 played, with Mike Atkins serving ably as director.

Hopefully more annotated games and details next issue; for now, under 'time trouble' to get this out as quickly as possible, we offer the decisive last round games with notes by the winner.

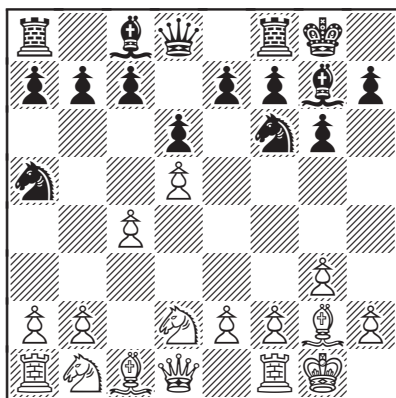
STEVE GREANIAS - MACON SHIBUT
KING'S INDIAN
Notes by Macon Shibut

Okay, it is the last round and on board number one both players need to win! I was a half point ahead of the field, so of course the requirement for Steve was clear from the beginning. But a



quick back-of-the-envelope calculation of tiebreaks warned that I could not afford to cruise home with a draw because of the surprising run put in by expert Jason Early. (Tiebreaks reflected the strong schedule Jason had played and also perhaps the fact that my opponents kept withdrawing from the tournament after I beat them.) He was playing on board two, likewise half a point behind, and while Steve and I were practically still in the opening it became apparent that Jason was heading towards victory yet again. So if I wanted to secure the state championship title (which is what this tournament is all about!) I too would need the full point.

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	d6
3	Nf3	g6
4	g3	Bg7
5	Bg2	0-0
6	0-0	Nc6
7	d5	Na5
8	Nfd2	



Generally speaking I'm not a fan of these positions with Black's queen knight out on the rim, so my King's Indian repertoire is partially designed to avoid this. However, there are some positions, certain move orders, where I make an exception. With White having already fianchettoed the king bishop, there is at least some basis for hoping the knight's pressure on c4 will amount to something. Still, I'm always a bit nervous in this Yugoslav

variation until such time as my knight either accomplishes something concrete out there, or gets exchanged, or — the last resort — completes the long march back via b7. I've had too many experiences where the game is decided on the kingside with Black a virtual piece down thanks to this offside guy. The most recent such ordeal was just one week prior to the state championship, versus IM Eugene Meyer at the Atlantic Open in Washington DC.

Sooner or later White will threaten to win the piece by b4, so ...c5 is part of Black's formation 99% of the time. However, given my obsession with this knight, I've long quested for a mechanism to solve the problem at once with ...c6!?, in order to open the c-file (...cxd5), create an outpost on c4 (...b5, ...Rc8) and swing the knight back into action, ...Nc4! Herein lies an interesting detail: the normal move order for entering the Yugoslav system is for White to play 7 Nc3 and only after, say, 7...a6 does he poke the knight 8 d5. In that case we continue 8...Na5 9 Nd2 when b4 is already a threat and 9...c5 is absolutely forced because if instead 9...c6 10 b4 Nxd5 Black's long-diagonal tricks break down against the calm 11

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cxd5 Bxc3 12 Rb1! Now the only way to save the piece is to give up the precious bishop, 12...Bxd2 13 Qxd2 Nc4, and after 14 Qd4 Ne5 15 Bh6 White's advantage is obvious.

Greanias' 7 d5 move order is, to my mind, inaccurate since it gives Black more options in the diagram position. Sure we can play the regular Yugoslav, 8...c5, but in this position 8...c6!? is also possible. White is not ready for b4 yet because of the Kings Indian bishop's unobstructed diagonal opposite White's queen rook. As a matter of fact, Steve and I have debated this question twice in tournament games! The first time was in 1995 at an event in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. Black's plan operated like clockwork against the bland 9 Qc2. After 9...cxd5 10 cxd5 Bd7 11 Nc3 Rc8 12 Rb1 b5 the initiative was already in my hands. Of course it did not stay that way without complications later, but in the end Black won. Exactly a year ago, the 1998 state championship, we had another go at it. This time Steve played the more cunning 9 a3. One purpose of this move is to free a2 for White's rook. I'd seen it before; I think there's an old Nezhmetdinov game where 9...Nd7 was played. But I stuck with "plan A" and went 9...cxd5 10 cxd5 Qc7 11 Ra2 Bd7 12 b4 Nc4 13 Rc2 b5 14 a4. Things are a little tricky but I managed to extricate myself by 14...Bf5 15 e4 Bg4 16 Qe1 (16 f3? Qb6+) 16...Qd7 17 Nxc4 bxc4 18 b5 Rfc8 and much later I even got to sacrifice my queen to force mate.

So both in principle and in practice, there was every reason for me to play 8...c6 here. However, I was put on my guard by something in the deliberate way Steve had steered the game thus far, starting with his very first move. He usually goes 1 c4 and only later commits to a choice between the English or a full-blown queen's pawn game. But 1 c4 might be answered 1...e5 with a completely different game. Hmmm... did he perhaps aim for this very position, have something special in mind against the 8...c6 line? I decided

to avoid a 'three-fold repetition' (for now, at least!) and chose the conventional Yugoslav.

8	...	c5
9	Nc3	a6
10	Qc2	Rb8
11	b3	b5
12	Bb2	Bh6

Everybody works together trying to make Na5 do something. The bishop threatens to remove Nd2 and so expose c4.

13	f4	bx c4
14	bx c4	e5

A really cool position. Some years ago at a World Open I started making combinations against a German player named Toel: 14...Ng4 15 Nd1 Rxb2 16 Qxb2 Bg7 17 Qc1 Bd4+ 18 Kh1 Bxa1 19 Qxa1 Qb6 20 h3 Qb4 21 Qc1 Nf6. Well, that's all very nice except that the smoke has cleared and White's better. He can advance *en masse* on the kingside, while Black has traded off all his good pieces (albeit in "brilliant" fashion) and left himself with, among other things, that useless lump of wood on a5. From analyzing this game I learned that Black can't rely on piece play in these positions, he must stake a claim in the center and kingside by ...e5. And the best time to do it is right away.

15 Rab1

The general point of Black's play is revealed after 15 fxe5? Ng4 crawling all over the dark squares. 15 dxe6 is a serious possibility, but then 15...Bxe6 teams up with the knight attacking c4, plus there's a chance the knight may some day reenter the game with real impact via ...N-c6-d4. So in principle I'm not unhappy about dxe6 in these sorts of position.

15	...	exf4
16	gxf4	Nh5



17 e3 Rb4
18 Bf3!

The first crisis approaches: Steve simply ignores the attack on c4 and sets up his own, far more serious threats.

18 ... Bf5

The automatic 18...Qh4? walks right into the teeth of White's idea, 19 Bxh5 Qxh5 20 Nce4. In general I was quite concerned about N-e4-f6 hereabouts so with the text I invites him to put a pawn on e4. If 19 e4 I was going to investigate the piece sacrifice 19...Bxf4 but I was already pretty sure it didn't work and so would have probably played 19...Bh3. Then I'm not sure what will happen but for the moment White's rook is attacked and f4 is weakened, and I figured that would be something to work with, at least.

19 Nce4 Re8
20 a3

One line I'd worked out was 20 Bxh5 Bxe4 21 Nxe4 Rxc4 22 Qd3 Rcx4 23 Qc3 f6 with both pawn e3 and bishop h5 *en prise*.

20 ... Bxe4

Black tosses in this exchange before abandoning the pressure against c4 so that White has to take with the bishop. This is very convenient for me since it eliminates two problems at once: he's no longer threatening to break up my kingside by Bxh5, and it will take him a couple moves at least before he can regroup to put his knight within striking distance of f6. I relaxed a bit for the first time since 18 Bf3!

21 Bxe4 Rb7
22 Qa4 Nb3!

re: the opening, and Black's queen knight — *problem solved!*

23 Bc3 Nxd2
24 Bxd2 Rxb1

I considered 24...Rbe7 of course, but the pressure on the e-line doesn't amount to much and the e7 rook interferes with Black's queen going to the kingside. Exchanging rooks allows me a more harmonious deployment in conjunction with the next two moves.

25 Bxb1 Nf6!

Regrouping with tempo; if just some move now, say 26 Qxa6, I continue 26...Ng4 hitting e3 and also Δ Qh4 etc

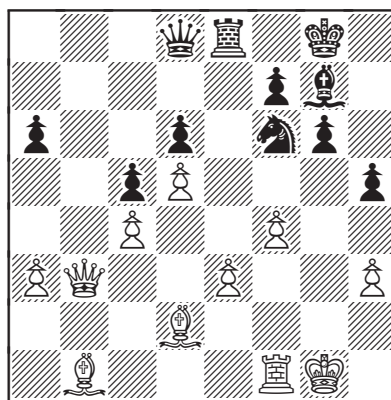
26 Qb3

He puts another defender on e3 so Ng4 can be answered h3.

26 ... Bg7!

Ditto the note to my previous move. I'm again planning 27...Ng4 since then if 28 h3 Nxe3! 29 Bxe3 Rxe3 30 Qxe3 Bd4 wins.

27 h3 h5



The last link in my plan initiated at the rook exchange. Now I can throw everything at his king without worrying so much about a possible back-rank check, plus the pawn may turn out to be useful in the attack.



10TH DAVID ZOFCHAK MEMORIAL

November 20-21, 1999

Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach

Format: 5 Round Swiss System

Memberships: USCF and VCF (available at site)

Rated: USCF Rated!

Rds: 1 G/2, Rds 2-5 35/90, SD/1.

Prizes: \$\$1150 (b/40 adult entries). First \$\$G 300, Second \$150, X (if no X is 1st or 2nd), A, B, C, D/E, each \$120, Unr \$100 (\$\$b/5 per class).

Rds: Saturday 10-2:30-7; Sunday 9:00-2:30
Half (1/2) point bye avail. rds. 1-4.

Reg: 9-9:40 am, Sat. 11/20

EF: \$30 by 11/13, \$40 at site. Over 2400 \$20 by 11/13, \$30 at site; over 2200 \$25 by 11/13, \$35 at site (discount deducted from any prize). Scholastic (under 19, grade school) \$7 by 11/13, \$10 at site (book prizes only).

HR: Fairfield Inn By Marriott, 4760 Euclid Road, (757) 499-1935. (call for rates/res.).

ENT/INFO: E. Rodney Flores, 4 Witch-Hazel Court, Portsmouth, VA 23703, (757)686-0822, ergfjr@erols.com

NS, NC, W.

15th Emporia Open Oct 9-10, 1999

Greensville Ruritan Club, Ruritan Rd.
(Off of Hwy. 58 West of Emporia)
Emporia, VA 23847

5SS, 40/90, SD/60. \$\$ 250-150-100, X (if no X wins place prize), A, B, C each \$75. D, E each \$50, class prizes b/5. EF \$35 if rec'd by 10/8, \$40 at site, free to unrated players (no unrated prize), players under age 19 may pay \$6 EF and play for book prizes. Reg 9-9:45 am, rds. 10-3-8, 9-2. VCF membership required & available at site. NC, W. *Enter:* Virginia Chess Federation, c/o Woodrow Harris, 1105 West End Drive, Emporia, VA 23847. Email: fwh@3rddoor.com

10 Grand Prix points



*Significant refreshments provided
with EF (no additional charge)*

For all that, I don't want to fall into the trap of 'annotating from the result,' so a little perspective is in order here: White's king is a bit exposed, but he has the bishop pair and a potentially winning endgame advantage in the form of assailable weaknesses a6 and d6. Overall I don't mind my practical chances, but I wouldn't claim any objective advantage for Black, and indeed a case could be made for the opposite.

28 Bd3 Ne4
29 Bxe4 Rxe4
30 Qd3 Re8
31 Rb1 Qh4?

A pointless move. I was thinking of following up with ...g5 but after his reply I noticed that it would be catastrophic due to Be1 winning my queen.





32 Kg2 Qd8

32...Qe7 was possible, and if 33 Rb6 g5 threatening to trade on f4 and win his bishop with Qe2+ etc. Since I go Qe7 two moves later, we might consider that Black would gain a tempo this way. However, in light of what actually happens next, it's not that simple. By covering b6, I provoked him to spend *two* tempi advancing his a-pawn to secure an outpost at b6. Then, this outpost never got occupied, never turned out to mean anything with regards to the result of the game. In this sense I traded one lost tempo for two, and thus *gained* time by withdrawing the queen to d8 instead of e7 directly.

33 a4 g5
34 a5 Qe7
35 Kf3 gxf4
36 exf4 Qh4
37 Kg2 Kh8

If 37...Bd4 38 Qg3+ trades queens, but Black has time for calm preparatory moves. The final crisis is approaching...

38 Qf3 Bd4
39 Bc3 f6

And now it is here. To the fatigue of a weekend full of sudden-death time control chess and the tension that accompanies such last-round showdowns, we now add time pressure: each player had less than 10 minutes remaining for the game — and it was by no means clear from the position how long it was going to last. As a consequence of all this I very nearly played the ruinous 39...Re3?? which surely would be answered 40 Qxe3. But I caught myself at the last second and straight away Steve suffered his own hallucination. I can only assume he forgot that his next move wouldn't be with *check* now.

40 Kh2??

Meanwhile, if 40 Bxd4 cxd4 41 Rb3 I'm not sure what's going to happen, although offhand it seems that Black is no worse after 41...Rc8

40 ... Bxc3
41 Qxc3 Qxf4+
42 Kh1 Re3

That does it!

43 Rb8+ Kg7
44 Rb7+ Kh6
45 Qc2 Qf1+
0-1

BOBBY FISCHER - JASON EARLY

FRENCH

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 c3 c5 6 Bd3 Nc6 7 Ne2 Qb6 8 Nf3 cxd4 9 cxd4 f6 10 exf6 Nxf6 11 0-0 Bd6 12 Nc3 0-0 13 Bg5 Bd7 14 Qd2 Rae8 15 Rfe1 Re7 16 Bh4 Be8 17 Bg3 Bxg3 18 hxg3 Bh5 (I don't know squat about the theory of this variation, but after a bunch of reasonable looking moves it's not clear what White can do about defending his d-pawn. Fischer tries a counter-combination that contains a big hole.) **19 Be2 Bxf3 20 Bxf3 Qxd4 21 Qxd4 Nxd4 22 Bxd5 Nc2 23 Rxe6** (The "point" — except that after...) **23...Nxd5** (...Black's knight defends his rook, so White drops a whole piece. The rest is, to use the cliché, a matter of technique.) **24 Rxe7 Nxe7 25 Rd1 Nc6 26 Rd7 Rf7 27 Rd2 N2d4 28 f3 b5 29 Kf2 Re7 30 Ne4 Kf7 31 Ng5+ Kg6 32 Ne4 Kf5 33 Nd6+ Ke6 34 Ne4 Kd5 35 Rd1 b4 36 Rc1 Re5 37 Rc5+ Ke6 38 Rc1 Ra5 39 Ra1 Nc2 40 Rc1 N6d4 0-1**





THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE CHARLOTTESVILLE OPEN that makes people come back to it. The 9th annual version, held over the July 10-11 weekend, was no exception. For me it's always been the people and the sites; the folks are friendly, the town itself is a beautiful little gem and the conditions are always excellent. I doubt, however, that this year's winner, Postal GM and former correspondence champion of the Soviet Union, Dimtry Barash, came to catch up with old friends. From the beginning of the tournament he made it clear that he was there to win. His smooth play and confident handling of the pieces went hand in hand with his total domination of the Open section. A first round upset defeat of NM Steve Greanias by Arlington's own William Van Lear kept the number 1 and 2 seeds from meeting. Barash did take on Rusty Potter in the 4th round on the Black side of a Saemisch King's Indian. By winning that game he all but wrapped up 1st place with a round to go.

Roger Mahach took clear 2nd in the Open section. Expert Chris Bush brought his son down for the event. Though only rated 1600, fourteen-year-old Jeremy Hummer played some very aggressive and creative chess in the open section to finish with a plus score.

Harrisonburg's Ted Watkins continued to show great form by tying with Dan Malkiel for 1st in

the Amateur section, each with 4^{1/2}. I didn't get to watch any of Dan's games but Ted really impressed me with his cool resolve, no matter how tough the position got. Well done to all the winners and thanks to VCF for hosting another class event. See you next year.

ROGER MAHACH - JEREMY HUMMER
SLAV

1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.d4 dxc4
4.e3 b5

Black chooses to for go the Slav and head into the murky depths of the Noteboom.

5.a4 Bd7

I figured we would not visit the Noteboom ward and hadn't counted on 5..Bd7. The idea is to support the pawn mass on b5-c4, which the bishop cannot do from b7. Black is counting on white to exchange on b5 and after recapturing with the pawn on c6 Black can play his knight to c6, which in turn gives Black's queen access to protecting her rook on a8 in many lines. 5..e6 would lead to more "(ab)normal" positions. A recent example is 5...e6 6.axb5 cxb5 7.b3 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Bxd2+ 9.Nbxd2 a5 10.bxc4 b4 11.c5 Nf6 12.Bb5+ Bd7 13.Qa4 0-0 14.Ne5 Bxb5 15.Qxb5 Nd5 16.Ndc4 a4 17.0-0 Ra6

CHARLOTTESVILLE OPEN

by Roger Mahach

18.Nd3 b3 19.N2b3 Nc3
20.Qb4 Na2 21.Qa3 Nc3
22.Qb4 Na2 23.Qa3 Nc3
24.Qb4 1/2-1/2 Zhukova-
Stefanova, Belgrade 1998

6.axb5

6.Ne5 Be6 =

6...cxb5 7.b3 cxb3

The start of Blacks woes. 7.. e6! would have been better, eg 8.bxc4 b4 9.Ne5 Nc6 10.Nxd7 Qxd7∞ Fritz

8.Qxb3

Now white implements a textbook plan against Blacks lack of development.

8...a6 9.Nc3 Nc6 (The knight intends Nb8-c6-a5-c4, which looks good but White has more.

10.d5 Na5 11.Qa2! Nc4

Missing White's tactical grip on the rook at a8.

12.Nxb5 Bxb5 13.Bxc4 Bxc4
14.Qxc4

Material is even but the lack of development in Black's camp is telling. The weaknesses around the white squares in particular will haunt black for the rest of the game.

**14...Nf6?**

Unfortunate. The only move was 14...Qc8 eg 15.Qc6+ Qxc6 16.dxc6 Fritz.

15.Qc6+ Nd7 16.0-0!

White is in no hurry. If Black wants to go into a endgame, White's connected rooks and quick access to the queenside will prove decisive.

16...Qc8 17.Qa4 g6 18.Bb2 f6 19.Ng5 Bh6 20.Ne6 Kf7 21.Rac1

If 21.Qh4 Bg7

Qb7 22.Qd4 Qb6 23.Qh4 Qxb2

During the game I was hoping for 23...Bxe3 as I figured opening up the f-file was worth the pawn. At home Fritz came up with 24.fxe3 Qxb2 25.Qh6 f5 26.Rc7 Ke8 27.Rfc1 Nb6 28.d6 Nd7µ 29.R7c3 and there is no way to save the king...

24.Qxh6 f5 µ 25.Ng5+ Kg8??

This must inevitably leads to mate. The right way to fight on

was 25...Ke8 26.Rc7± but not 26.Nxh7?? Nf8 -+

26.Rc7 Nf6 27.Rxe7

The mate threat is Qg7

27...Nxd5

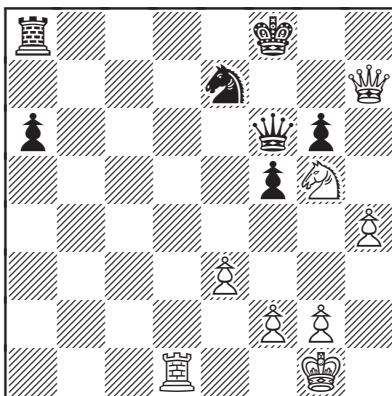
Opening the d-file accelerates White's play but 27..Ng4 was not enough either, eg 28.Qh4 Qf6 29.Ne6!! g5 (29...Qxh4? 30.Rg7#) 30.Qxg5+ Qxg5 31.Nxg5 h6 32.Ne6 Rh7 33.Rxh7 Kxh7 34.d6 Ne5 35.Rd1 Nd7 36.Nc7 Ra7 37.Kf1 a5 38.Nb5 Rb7 39.Rd5 Kg6 40.Nd4 a4 41.Ra5

28.Rxh7

28.Rd7 wins the knight [28...Nb6? 29.Rb7 Qf6 30.Ne6] but White has more.

28...Ne7 29.h4

A killer, creating luft and anchoring the knight on g5.

29...Qf6 30.Rd1! Rxh7 31.Qxh7+ Kf8**32.Rd6!**

Black is helpless. The rook is poison because of mate on f7

32...Qa1+ 33.Kh2 Qa2 34.Re6 1-0

TED WATKINS - STEVE GRAZIANO
DUTCH

1 c4 f5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 d4 g6 4 g3 Bg7 5 Bg2 d6 6 Nf3 0-0 7 0-0 c6 8 Re1 Qe8 9 Qb3 Na6 10 Bf4 Nc7 11 Rad1 Rb8 12 e4 fxe4 13 Nxe4 Nh5 14 Bg5 Qf7 15 Nxd6 exd6 16 Re7 Qf5 17 Rxc7 h6 18 Be7 Rf7 19 Bxd6 Rxc7 20 Bxc7 Ra8 21 c5+ Kh7 22 Nh4 Qe6 23 d5 cxd5 24 Bxd5 Qe2 25 Bg8+ 1-0

BILL VANLEAR - STEVE GREANIAS
DUTCH

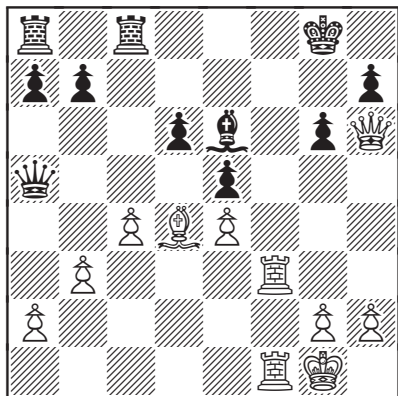
1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 e6 4 Nc3 f5 5 Bg5 Nf6 6 e3 Nbd7 7 Be2 Be7 8 Bxf6 Bxf6 9 Qc2 g6 10 0-0 0-0 11 cxd5 exd5 12 b4 a6 13 a4 Rf7 14 b5 Qa5 15 bxc6 bxc6 16 Rfb1 Nb6 17 Nd2 Nd7 18 Bf3 Kg7 19 Ne2 Ra7 20 Nf4 Nf8 21 Nb3 Qc7 22 Nc5 Qd6 23 g3 Bd8 24 Ncd3 g5 25 Nxd5 cxd5 26 Qxc8 Ne6 27 Qb8 Rfc7 28 Qb4 Qd7 29 Ne5 Qe8 30 Bxd5 f4 31 Qd6 fxe3 32 fxe3 Rc2 33 Qxe6 Qh5 34 Qg8+ Kh6 35 Qf8+ Rg7 36 Nf7+ Kg6 37 Be4+ 1-0

RUSTY POTTER - NEIL MARKOVITZ
MAROCZY BIND

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 Nf3 g6 4 Nc3 cxd4 5 Nxd4 Nc6 6 e4 d6 7 Be2



Nxd4 8 Qxd4 Bg7 9 Be3 0-0 10
Qd2 Be6 11 0-0 Ng4 12 Bxg4
Bxg4 13 f4 Be6 14 b3 Qa5 15
Rac1 Rfc8 16 f5 Bxc3 17 Rxc3
Bd7 18 Bd4 e5 19 fxe6 fxe6 20
Qh6 e5 21 Rcf3 Be6



22 Rf6 exd4 23 Rxc6+ hxc6 24
Qxc6+ Kh8 25 Qh6+ Kg8 26
Qxe6+ Kh8 27 Qh3+ Kg8 28
Qg3+ Kh8 29 Rf4 1-0

**ANDREW AGOSTELLIS - RUSTY
POTTER
CARO-KANN**

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4
Nf3 Nf6 5 Be2 Nc6 6 0-0 Bg4 7
Bf4 Bxf3 8 Bxf3 e6 9 c3 Bd6 10
Bg3 Bxg3 11 hxg3 0-0 12 Nd2
b5 13 Be2 Rb8 14 Bd3 b4 15
Re1 bxc3 16 bxc3 Qa5 17 Nb3
Qa3 18 Qc1 Qxc1 19 Rxc1
Rfc8 20 Nc5 Rb2 21 a4 Rcb8
22 Bb5 Na5 23 Rcb1 Rxb1+ 24
Rxb1 Nc4 25 Na6 Rb6 26 Rb4
Ne4 27 Bxc4 dxc4 28 Rxc4
Rb1+ 29 Kh2 h5! 30 f3 Nf2 0-1



REMEMBRANCE OF GAMES PAST Charles Powell – U.S. Open (1972)

by John Campbell & Steve Skirpan

STEVE RECENTLY SHOWED ME his new database (ChessBase 7.0) with over 1.1 million games and challenged me to give it a test. I decided on the games of Charles Powell, a resident master of Virginia who was active in this area from late sixties through the middle seventies. The database retrieved six games from the August 1972 US Open, in Atlantic City, New Jersey, — held around the same time as the Fischer–Spassky championship match in Reykjavik, Iceland. A partial cross-table was published in the November 1972 *Chess Life and Review*. GM Walter Browne won the Open ahead of GM Bent Larsen. Larry Gilden and Larry Kaufman tied for 4th, well into the prize money; Eugene Meyer came in 10th. Other locals names appearing included Mark Diesen, Frank Street, Jim Slagle (a noted blind player), Allan Savage, Duncan Thompson, Carl Diesen, Dennis Strenzwilk, Richard Delaune, Ruth Donnelly (the tournament's eventual woman's champion), John Meyer, and Don Connors. Bob Vassar, a friend of Charles, also played. Perhaps he can supply additional information on the tournament. Larry Kaufman told me that he played a match with Charles. I told him I would be interested in publishing any of the games he could find.

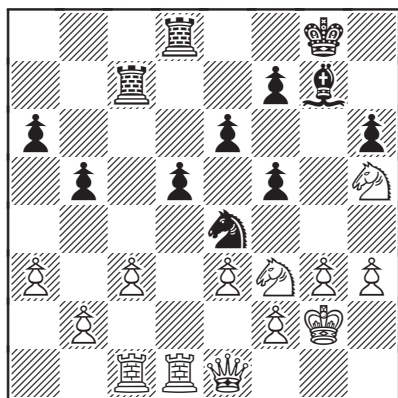
But back to Charles. He finished 39th, having started poorly with a double swiss gambit to lower rated players. However, he then reeled off eight straight wins before losing to GM Larsen in the next to the last round. In the last round he lost to a strong Canadian expert, Leon Piasetski.

Here we present the Powell games in random order, and Steve, with the help of Fritz 5.0, has selected critical positions and provided some light annotations. Enjoy the games! Perhaps the best game played

by Charles is the one against William Martz, rated in the high 2400s at the time. The Larsen-Powell game is illustrative of what often happens when a master faces a grandmaster.

**J FELDMAN - CHARLES POWELL
SICILIAN**

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e5 Nd5
4 Nc3 Nxc3 5 dxc3 g6 6 Bd3
Bg7 7 Bf4 Qb6 8 Rb1 0-0
9 0-0 Qa5 10 Qd2? Qxa2
11 b3 Qa5 12 b4 cxb4
13 cxb4 Qd8 14 Rfd1 Qe8
15 b5 a6 16 Qa5 Kh8
17 Be4 d6 18 exd6 e5
19 Be3 f5 20 Bd5 f4 21 Bc1



31 ... Nc5?

Black's Queen gets trapped after this move. 31...Bh8 would have maintained the balance.

32 Nxc7 Kxc7 33 Rd4 Qa2
34 Rc2 Ne4 35 Rb4 Rc4
36 Qd1 Rc5 37 Ne5 f6
38 Nd3 a5 39 Nxc5 Nxc5
40 Rxb5 Qc4 41 Qe2 1-0

CHARLES POWELL - LEON PIASETSKI
ALEKHINE

1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 Nc3?!
3 c4, 3 d4 or 3 Nf3 are more
standard lines for White.

3 ... Nxc3 4 bxc3 d6 5 f4 g6
6 Nf3 Bg7 7 Bc4 0-0 8 0-0
c5 9 d4 Qc7 10 Qe2 e6
11 exd6 Qxd6 12 Ba3 Nd7
13 Rad1 Qc7 14 Ne5 b6

15 Rd2 Nf6 16 Rfd1 Bb7
17 dxc5 bxc5 18 Nxf7! Bd5

If 18... Rxf7 then 19. Qxe6 Re8
20. Rd8 Bc6 21. Bxc5 Rxd8 22.
Qxf7+ Qxf7 23. Rxd8+ Ne8 24.
Bxf7+ Kxf7 25. Bxa7 is one
possible way for White to secure
a large advantage.

19 Ne5 Qa5 20 Bb2 Kh8
21 Bd3 0-1

Apparently White resigned
without even waiting for 21...c4,
which will win a piece thanks to
the possible fork Qb6+ and
Qxb2. A pity since 21 Bb3
would have maintained a large
advantage for White.

PLAYING CHESS WITH A WEAK OPPONENT is like arguing with an idiot. Even winning brings little satisfaction, certainly no excitement. On the other hand, a crack at a world-class opponent should fire up any chess player, and the probability that you'll lose ought not diminish the thrill. Likewise with books — better just set aside a moronic book rather than waste time and energy disputing it. On the other hand, a book can be good even if you don't agree with everything it says, and truly great book will almost certainly provoke some disagreement, since literary excellence entails challenging readers. IM John Watson's *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy* is a great book. It happens that I disagree with one of its central premises, but as I say, the book's rich content is worthy of serious debate. I originally intended a full-length feature to do precisely that. However, after weeks of labor I discovered that the final product ran nine pages, which seems a bit too "full-length" in a newsletter that typically runs around 20 pages total, especially for a 'reflection piece' that may not interest some readers. I also had concerns about whether my criticism would be misunderstood. There's something unconvincing about a single page exaltation, which Watson's

BOOK REVIEWS *by Macon Shibut*



modern classic deserves, when it's followed by eight carping pages. Meanwhile, other books started pouring in from Everyman / Globe Pequot Press. Since I had inquired about review copies, I feel honor bound to devote some attention to them now that they've arrived. Therefore... we change plans! We'll have short reviews of all these books this issue. Next time: the big showdown with Watson, after I've had more time at the editor's desk trying to whack it down to size.

Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy: Advances Since Nimzowitsch by John Watson

Gambit Publications Ltd, soft cover, 272 pages,
list \$24.95

IM John Watson enjoys a well-earned reputation as a writer of thoughtful opening books. His four-volume study of the English Opening, his monographs on the Saemisch Panno variation and Chigorin's Defense to the Queen's Gambit,



his French Defense book — these are quality works, the very antithesis of “database dump” books that are all too common in these days of desktop publishing. One of the things that has always set apart Watson’s work has been his sense of the connection between openings and chess as a whole. More than once his discussion of strategic themes underlying an opening has spun outside the bounds of whatever particular variation Watson was addressing at the time and touched on something more universal — one might even say more philosophical — about chess. So it’s perhaps no surprise that in turning his focus towards the wider field of middlegame strategy, Watson has produced a masterpiece.

Using Aron Nimzowitsch’s *My System* as a baseline and borrowing its organization of material, Watson reviews ‘elements of strategy’ (The Center & Development; Minorities, Majorities & Passed Pawns; Pawn Chains & Doubled Pawns; etc) with an eye towards changes in understanding that have occurred since Nimzowitsch’s time. For example, Nimzowitsch’s famous prescription that a pawn chain be attacked at its base is reviewed in light of numerous examples where modern grandmasters took on an opposing chain directly at the spearhead, eg after 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 0-0 6 Be3 e5 7 d5, plans with ...c6 instead of necessarily ...f5. In this manner the first third of *Secrets* is devoted to what Watson terms “the refinement of traditional theory”, while the second part elaborates thoroughly modern notions (“new ideas and the modern revolution”).

It is a reliable lesson of history that world champions, and perhaps one or two other preeminent players, determine an era’s prevailing style. Without letting anything slip regarding my essay for next issue, I’ll say that Watson defines “modern” chess rather broadly — anything since 1935 — and from time to time he seems to adjust this definition to fit the needs of his argument. Overall the book strikes me more as a treatise on *contemporary* chess, chess in the Age of Kasparov. Which makes it no less interesting or valuable, of

Win These Books!

Virginia Chess will give away our review copies of *Easy Guide to the Ruy Lopez*, *Easy Guide to the Bb5 Sicilian* and *Simple Winning Chess* for the 3 best **annotated games from the 1999 Virginia Closed** submitted for publication. Uh,... let’s make that clearer: first, the prizes are for the best job *annotating*, not necessarily the best games; and second, you don’t have to submit 3 games (though you can, of course!), just one will qualify to win, but I’m giving away three different prizes. No, the same person can’t win more than one book.

If response to past incentives of this sort is an indication you won’t have to do anything special to win. Just send in your game with a few notes and you’ll be in the thick of it. Submit by email (mshibut@dgs.dgsys.com) or mail to the editor at 8234 Citadel Place, Vienna VA 22180.

Deadline: October 25, 1999. Contact me if you’re having oral surgery that week and you’ve just got to have an extension but you absolutely *promise* you’re really truly going to submit something... Indicate your order of preference for the books should you win one. I’ll figure out how I’m going to allocate them after I see how the submissions fall out. In any case the editor assumes the sole authority for judging this thing and his decision will be final. Get to work! -ed

course! But one suspects that *Secrets* would have been a very different book if Watson had written it in, say, 1980, when Anatoly Karpov was still the Ultimate Role Model.

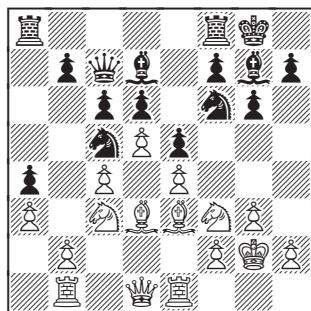
Speaking for myself, however, I’m glad he wrote when he did, and his book is as it is. Watson’s probing, rational and, above all, intellectually honest comparison of classical and ‘modern’ chess, however one defines it, is a wondrous contribution to the game’s literature. Insightful, literate, even funny at times, it manages to be simultaneously readable and profound. Its 272 pages strike a perfect balance between breezy text and probing analysis. Reading it is not just a pleasure, it’s often exhilarating. Time and again it articulates some elusive aspect of a chess player’s inner dialog in a way that is so breathtaking that I had to pause and just contemplate how perfectly Watson had nailed these slippery common experiences.



Excerpted from *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy* pps 143-144:

The New Morality of Bad Bishops

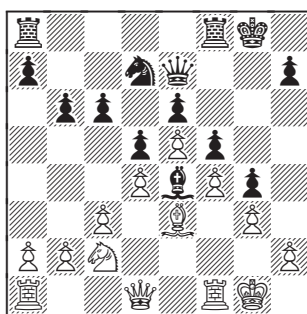
The traditional view has it that a bishop which is of the same colour as one's pawns is a 'bad' bishop, in that the mobility of the bishop is restricted by its own pawns, and the squares in front of those pawns are unprotected by the bishop. To begin with, we should make some qualifications. The first is that it is the centre pawns which for the most part determine whether a bishop is 'bad' or not. The d- and e- pawns are of the most importance, followed by the c- and f- pawns, whereas the other pawns are largely irrelevant (until the endgame, when they can once again determine how bad a bishop is). Let me illustrate this with a simple example:



This is from a King's Indian Defence. Black has six pawns on light squares and only two pawns on dark squares, and yet his light squared bishop on d7 is 'good' whereas his dark-squared bishop on g7 is 'bad.' Similarly, White has a 'bad' light-squared bishop, although only three of his eight

pawns are on light squares.

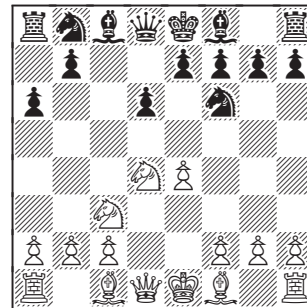
Another fairly obvious qualification is that if the bishop is 'outside' its same-colour pawns (which is to say, it is not trapped behind them); then that bishop is still 'bad,' technically speaking, but may be perfectly effective, especially in the middlegame. Here is a stark example of bad bishops of contrasting strengths:



In the endgame, there are few situations in which a bad bishop is better than a good one. The exceptions tend to be cases in which the bishop, by defending its own pawns, is able to prevent progress by the opponent and thus achieve a draw. I will assume that the reader is familiar with the typical endgame examples of a good bishop defeating a bad bishop, or a knight doing the same thing, and will not pursue this topic.

Even one centre pawn on the wrong colour can make a bishop bad, or at least a problem piece. The Sicilian Defence gives us a well known example. Larsen's tongue-in-cheek suggestion that White is positionally lost after 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 (or alternatively, 2...Nc6 or 2...e6) 3 d4 cxd4 has

as its basis the fact that Black has an extra centre pawn. White has another problem, however: his king's bishop. Consider the Najdorf Variation after 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6.



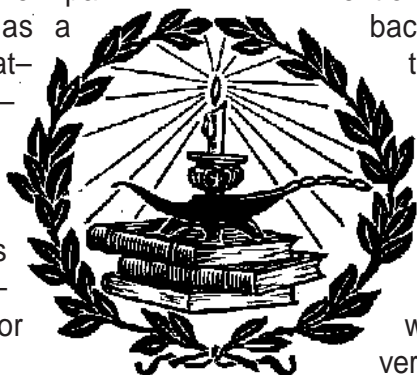
Where does the f1-bishop go? On g2 or d3, it is blocked by the e-pawn and lacks scope. On e2, it is passively placed, and if it travels further to f3 (with or without the move f4), Black can either directly or indirectly stop White's e5, rendering the bishop 'bad.' All this might suggest Bc4; but there, the bishop is subject to loss of tempi by ...b5 or ...d5, with ...Nbd7-c5 another consideration, when the e-pawn requires further protection.

So far, so obvious. But I give this example to point out a third qualification which I believe has been neglected in the literature: a bad bishop is a particular liability for the player *committed to attack*. One could say that in our Najdorf example, when Black plays ...e5 or ...e6 and puts his bishop on e7, that it is every bit as bad as White's bishop on g2 or d3. This is true, but in the Sicilian (as in many modern defences), Black holds some long-term positional

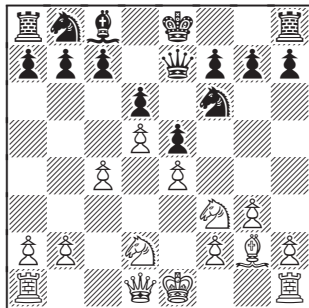


trumps: the aforementioned extra centre pawn and a ready-made minority attack aided by his open c-file. White cannot therefore sit still; it is incumbent upon him either to disturb the pawn structure or to embark upon direct attack, or both. This requires maximal activity for his pieces, in order to create threats. It would be nice if his bishop were not hemmed in for such an effort. Black, on the other hand, is well-off maintaining the structural status quo, including his bad bishop, until some point in the middle game or endgame when he can make an advantageous break in the centre or advance on the queenside. Anyone trying to devise schemes for the white side of the Open Sicilian will understand what I'm talking about and recognize the negative role White's bad light-squared bishop often plays.

We might, then, posit a provisional modern 'principle,' then, that a bad bishop is not so bad if one holds structural advantages in a stable position. Naturally, White would not play the Open Sicilian if he didn't have a reasonable chances of attacking and of favourably transforming the pawn structure. But as a rule(?), the attacker's bad bishop tends to be the more permanent problem. Similar examples abound in modern chess, for



example, in the case of Black's hedgehog formations versus a bishop on g2, or in the Bogo-Indian line 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 Bb4+ 4 Bd2 Qe7 5 g3 Nc6 6 Bg2 Bxd2+ 7 Nbx d2 d6 8 e4 e5 9 d5 Nb8.



In this line, White's bishop is bad and Black's good, of course; but if White can make effective breaks by c5 and/or f4, his attack will break down Black's structure and free his own bishop. The longer Black can prevent such breaks and stabilize the situation, the more of a problem the g2-bishop becomes.

The idea of the extra centre pawn is quite relevant here. When Suba speaks of 'bad bishops protecting good pawns,' he may have in mind the dynamic potential of such pawns. Three examples we have already mentioned with regard to backward pawns are the Open Sicilian structures with ...e6 & ...d6 versus e4, and ...e5 & ...d6 versus e4, as well as the French Defence structure with ...e6 & ...d5 versus d4 (see Chapter

3). In each case, White has an open file against a backward pawn, but the weak pawn is an extra centre pawn, and the bad bishop protecting it prevents the first player from having anything but an optical advantage. In the meantime, the constant threat of ...d5 (in the Sicilian) or ...e5 (in the French), along with the play against the opposing white e- or d- pawn (which, as a lone centre pawn, can be awkward to defend), greatly ameliorates the 'badness' of Black's bishop in these cases.



In case you have not heard the unfortunate news, Watson suffered a stroke not too long after *Secrets'* publication. He has serious medical bills and little or no health insurance. After you buy his book, it would be a worthwhile also to send a contribution to the fund that has been established for him, c/o his sister Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill MA 01376.

Easy Guide to
the Ruy Lopez
by John Emms

Easy Guide to
the Bb5 Sicilian
by Steffen Pedersen

each Everyman Publishers,
soft cover, 144 & 128 pages
respectively, list \$18.95

I will consider these opening books together because they are indeed very similar works, and



just about any praise or criticism that might be directed at one could easily apply to the other. In itself that might surprise, since the Ruy Lopez is a colossal bough on the tree of opening theory, whereas Sicilians with Bb5 constitute a relative twig. But this merely highlights the first and most important point that any reviewer should make about these books: neither of them is, or makes any pretense of being, a comprehensive study of their subjects. These are not exactly “repertoire books” either — meaning that class of opening books that present an opening strictly from the perspective of one side, advocating a set repertoire for that side and organizing the material around the opponent’s possible counters. These *Easy Guides*... are a bit more rounded than that, but there are indeed significant hollows in their treatments, especially the Lopez book. So, for example, in the event of 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 0-0 Emms recommends the anti-Marshall 8 a4 and offers nothing whatsoever on 8 c3 d5. Right away that severs off a pretty big tangle of theory, so it’s easy to imagine how just a few more such prunings could reduce the Ruy Lopez down to the size of the Bb5 Sicilian. Likewise, you’re in the wrong book if you want information on the so-called Center Gambit line (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5

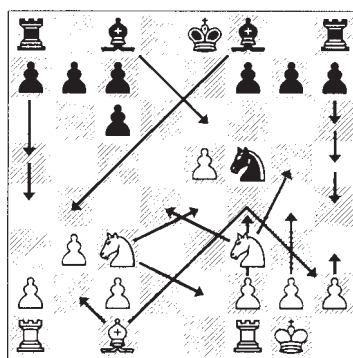
0-0 Be7 6 d4), not an important variation in grand-master praxis but one that maintains a stable following at the club level. In the Schliemann Defense, 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 f5, only the main variations with 4 Nc3 get full treatment.

Pedersen’s book, with less ground to cover, can afford to hit more of the sidelines. The overall subject matter is the Rossolimo (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5) and Moscow (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5) variations, and the book is divided into two parts along that division. The Rossolimo section is nominally about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the material, but when you consider that one of the main defenses covered in the Moscow section, 3...Nc6, is equally a Rossolimo sub-variation (with 3...d6) then the skewing of material appears even greater. I’m not sure whether this is justified by practice; I checked a database of games from *The Week in Chess* over the last two years

and found scant evidence of any such gulf between the two systems’ popularities. Perhaps the material itself accounts for most of the difference, ie, if there is actually more variety in the content of the Rossolimo lines. Offhand it doesn’t seem that way to me, but I’ll admit to being no expert on these variations.

The format for each book calls for an ‘ideas’ section to open most chapters, followed by a denser analysis / games section. Each book makes occasional use of diagrams superimposed with little arrows, boxes, stars, etc, to indicate significant piece trajectories, key squares, etc. A little bit of this may be useful, but there’s a danger of overplaying the device to the point of confusion or just silliness. (see “Cacophony”)

Browsing through these books, I was struck by their personal, almost conversational tone. It’s as if they’re trying to get beyond book form and simulate an evening sitting by the grand-master’s elbow as he explains the ins and outs of his pet system. This is especially true for Pedersen’s book, but both of them are a far cry from the detached, technical voice-of-authority that was long the standard tone in opening tomes. Instead of the clinical “Black’s pawn weaknesses outweighs the loss of the bishop pair”, we’re more apt to get a real first-person assessment, like: “I have



Cacophony

A diagram from Easy Guide to the Ruy Lopez



always been rather suspicious about this strategy since I am usually quite fond of having the bishop pair, but Black's center, albeit especially solid, is not very dynamic as most pawn moves lead to weaknesses". Emms introduces the Lopez with an account of his own personal conversion away from Vienna, Scotch and King's Gambit variations. "Keen to make more of an impression ... I vowed that as White I would give up my 'baby openings', take a deep breath and try the Ruy Lopez!" Pedersen's introduction is built upon 4 "Inspirational Games". To some this may be an inconsequential factor, a matter of style rather than substance, but I found it rather pleasant.

Simple Winning Chess by Chris Baker

Everyman Publishers, soft cover, 144 pages respectively, list \$18.95

There are books *of* chess; for example, a *Chess Informant*, or a game collection by a famous master. Then there are books *about* chess. Watson's book, reviewed above, is an outstanding example of this group, as are *My System*, *Reti's Masters of the Chessboard*, *Euwe & Kramer's Middle Game*, etc. At first glance, British IM Chris Baker's *Simple Winning Chess* may appear to fall into this category also, with lots of heavily annotated games and a diagram or two on most every page.

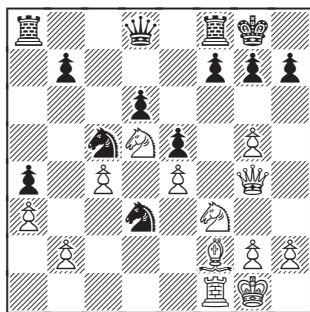
Closer examination, however, reveals this to be a member of category number three: books *about playing* chess. The mother of all such volumes is Kotov's landmark *Think Like A Grandmaster*, but since then there has been a spate of competitors, eg Soltis's *Inner Game* and Tisdall's *Improve Your Chess Now!*

Baker leads off with an overview of the stages through which a typical player passes from rank beginner to seasoned competitor. Having laid this foundation, he's ready with advice and opinion about what you should be doing at each step along the way: what sort of openings to play, how to prepare them, what sort of tournaments to enter, etc. Handling time trouble, avoiding unnecessary blunders, offering — or not offering — a draw... These are the sort of meat and potatoes issues that concern him. But there's also a goodly quotient of 'group 2' genre material, eg standard middle-game combination motifs, some fundamental R+P vs R endings, etc.

The underlying theme throughout seems to be to compensate for a reader's presumed lack of experience by packaging all sorts of diverse lessons learned the hard way in master practise. Thus, Capa-blanca's over-the-board de-fanging of the original Marshall Gambit,

Bronstein's tragic *fingerfehler* versus Botvinnik (presented here as a "logic error"), Fischer's 'blunder' to lose his bishop in the opening game of the 1972 Spassky match... they all get paraded out, but in a rather perfunctory fashion in my view. There is nothing original about Baker's presentation of this sort of material, but to be fair I suppose everyone has to first see the Lucena position somewhere.

I was struck by what a small and fast world chess publishing is these days when I noticed Kasparov's brilliancy versus Topalov, from Wijk aan Zee 1999, already included. Perhaps the most amazing entry along these lines was in the chapter titled "Faulty Tactics". Baker writes: "*Finally we consider a situation that I am sure has happened to most players — you play a normal-looking tactic, and it works as planned, but at the end there is a 'sting in the tail' which turns the game in the opponent's favour. This can be put down to bad luck — your adversary hadn't a choice until the combination ended and then there it was, staring him in the face. On the other hand, maybe he seen just that little bit further — and was merely setting you up for the fall?*" And then he gives as illustration, of all things, a game from the 1999 Virginia Open!: (see also *Virginia Chess 1999/ #1*)



Kaufman - Tate
Fredricksburg 1999

Black has just played 20...Nbc5, when White produced...

21 Nf6+!?

It is perhaps a little difficult to criticize this move too much as without it White would have little to show for his material deficit.

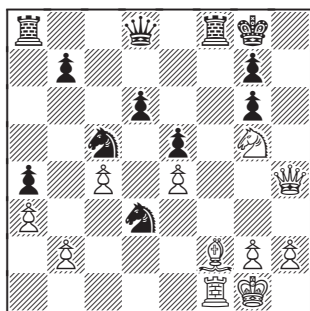
21...Kh8

21...gxf6?? allows 22 gxf6+ Kh8 23 Qg7#

22 Nxh7

Consistent with the previous move and very tempting in conjunction with White's 23rd.

22...Kxh7 23 g6+ fxf6 24 Ng5+ Kg8 25 Qh4



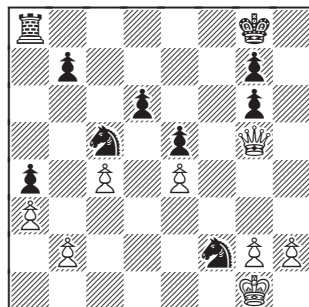
All as planned when White played 21 Nf6+ but now it goes horribly wrong.

25...Qxg5!?

Black heads for a clear-cut solution. 25...Rf4! is in fact good enough though: 26 Qh7+ Kf8 27

Qh8+ Ke7 28 Qxg7+ Ke8 and White has insufficient play for the rook.

26 Qxg5!? Rxf2 27 Rxf2 Nxf2



Now all becomes clear: after 28 Kxf2, Black wins the White queen by 28...Nxe4+. However, despite Black's material advantage he must be careful to keep his pieces coordinated as often a rook and two knights don't combine awfully well.

28 Qxg6 Nfxe4 29 g4 Rf8 30 g5!

White has stopped any immediate back-rank mates, and gained control of the f6 square at the cost of some holes on the kingside.

30...Nd2!

Giving up the d-pawn to activate the c5-knight. 30...Rf2 leads nowhere after 31 Qe8+ Kh7 32 Qh5+

31 Qxd6 Rf1+ 32 Kg2 Rf2+!

Once again exploiting the possibility of a knight fork.

33 Kh3 Nce4

34 Qe6+?! 34 Qxe5!

seems like a better

practical chance as Black must then play accurately to prove his advantage, viz 34...Nxc4+ 35 Kg4 (35 Qxg5 Rxh2+! wins the queen) 35...Rg2+ 36 Kf5 g6+! 37 Kf6 (37 Kf4? Nh3+! 38 Ke3 Nxc4+) 37...Nde4+ 38 Ke7 Rf2 39 h4 Rf7+ and now:

a) 40 Ke8 Nf6+ 41 Kd8 Nf3 42 Qg3 Kg7! 43 Kc8 Ne4 44 Qg4 Nd6+ 45 Kb8 (45 Kd8 Ne5 ends the game) 45...Ne5 46 Qd4! Nxc4. b) 40 Kd8 Rf5! 41 Qh2 Nf7+ 42 Kc7 Nfd6 and White has to sit and wait.

34...Kh7 35 g6+ Kh6 36 Qxe5

By playing g6+ and forcing ...Kh6 White has improved the position of the Black king and made his own more vulnerable.

36...Nf3!

Once again using the recurrent theme of a knight fork.

37 Qb8

Not 37 Qa5? losing on the spot to 37...Nfg5+ 38 Kg4 Rf3

37...Nfg5+ 38 Kg4 Nf6+ 39 Kg3 Rf3+

39...Nge4+ is more accurate.

40 Kg2 Nfe4 41 h4

41 Qh8+ Kxg6 42 Qe8+ Kf5 43 Qf8+ Kg4 44 Qc8+ Kf4 45 Qc7+ Ke3 46 Qb6+ Ke2 and White

finally runs out





of checks, having 'forced' Black's king to the best spot to form a mating attack.

41...Rf2+ 42 Kh1 Nf3!

White needs a perpetual, which is sadly lacking.

43 Qh8+ Kxg6 44 Qe8+

44 h5+ Kf7 only speeds up the process.

44...Kf5 45 Qd7+

45 Qf8+ Kg4 46 Qxg7+ Neg5! 47 Qd7+ Kxh4 is the end.

45...Kf4 46 Qc7+ Ke3 47

Qb6+ Ke2 0-1

White can no longer prevent the inevitable.

Maybe it was harsh to call White's combination 'faulty' but the fact was it just didn't work.



It's always a question just who is best served by a book like this. There's such a mish-mash of material, everything from "don't waste time [on the clock] on absolutely forced moves" to fairly sophisticated middlegame technique. Experienced players who might still benefit from some of its practical advice are apt to be turned off by the impression that *Simple Winning Chess* is a beginners' book. But genuine beginners will not have the experience to appreciate some of Baker's advice, to say nothing of his heavier analysis. Perhaps we can say that there's no ideal point in your development to read *Simple Winning Chess*, but it might always be useful to have read it!

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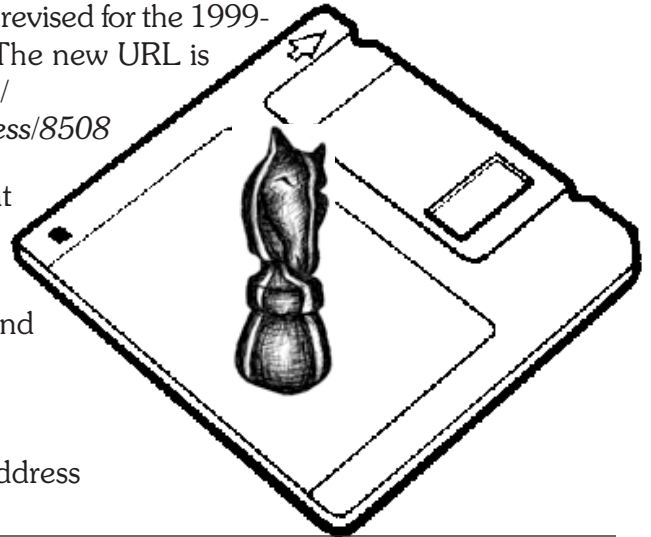
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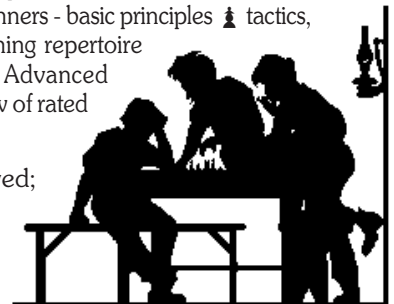
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Blindfold Chess: Morphy and Paulsen

Louis Paulsen (1833-91) was one of the great chess theoreticians, and ranked among the best players in the world in the 1860s and 1870s. Born in Germany into a chess playing family, he did not show special interest in the game early on. He joined his brother in Iowa in 1854, and entered America's first important tournament, in 1857, placing 2nd after Morphy. He became more serious about the game but remained an amateur.

Paulsen made a name for himself in blindfold chess when he bettered Philidor's performance of two blindfold games played simultaneously. Paulsen was the first to greatly increase the number of blindfold games he could play at once, managing 15 on one occasion and many times playing as many as 10.

Paul Morphy bettered Philidor's record by playing 8 games simultaneously in 1858. Unfortunately, somehow Paulsen has been largely overlooked in almost every historical account of blindfold chess. George Koltanowski, in his book *In The Dark*, does not list Paulsen as a record setter, although he does mention that in 1857 (a year ahead of Morphy) Paulsen played 10 games.

Restoring Paulsen's place among the early record setters, the list should read:

<i>Player</i>	<i>#bds</i>	<i>year</i>	<i>venue</i>
Paulsen	10	1857	Chicago
Morphy	8	1858	New Orleans
Zukertort	16	1876	London

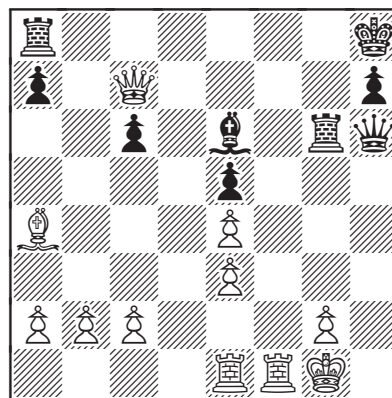
In New York, 1857, Paulsen played four blindfold games simultaneously. What adds interest to this exhibition is that Morphy was one of the four players, and Morphy also played blindfold, the only opponent of the four doing so.



LOUIS PAULSEN - PAUL MORPHY

THREE KNIGHTS GAME

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 Bc5 4 Bb5 d6 5 d4
exd4 6 Nxd4 Bd7 7 Nxc6 bxc6 8 Ba4 Qf6 9 0-0
Ne7 10 Be3 Bxe3 11 fxe3 Qh6 12 Qd3 Ng6
13 Rae1 Ne5 14 Qe2 0-0 15 h3 Kh8 16 Nd1
g5 17 Nf2 Rg8 18 Nd3 g4 19 Nxe5 dxe5 20
hxg4 Bxg4 21 Qf2 Rg6 22 Qxf7 Be6 23 Qxc7



Here Morphy announced mate in five moves:
23...Rxc7+ 24 Kxc7 Qh3+ 25 Kf2 Qh2+ 26 Kf3
Rf8+ and White can cast himself on his sword with
27 Qf7 after which 27...Rxf7 is mate.

Ten days later Paulsen and Morphy played two games, both players blindfolded. Even if these games do not qualify as a formal match, they are of great interest to the history of blindfold chess.

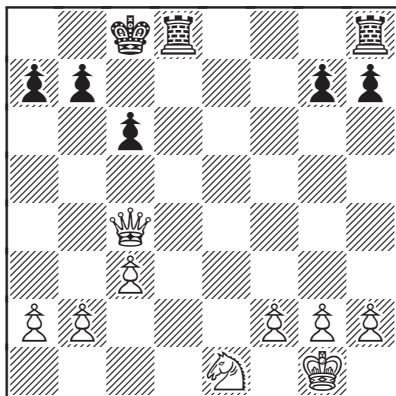
PAUL MORPHY - LOUIS PAULSEN

ELEPHANT GAMBIT

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d5 3 exd5 e4 4 Qe2 f5 5 d3 Bb4+
6 c3 Be7 7 dxe4 fxe4 8 Qxe4 Nf6 9 Bb5+ Bd7
10 Qe2 Nxd5 11 Bc4 c6 12 Bg5 Bg4 13 Nbd2

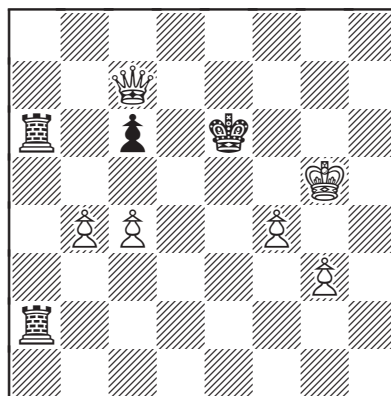


Nd7 14 0-0 N7b6 15 Rfe1 Bxf3 16 Nxf3 Nxc4
17 Qxc4 Qc7 18 Bxe7 Nxe7 19 Rxe7+! Qxe7
20 Re1 Qxe1+ 21 Nxe1 0-0-0



22 Qg4+ Rd7 23 Nd3 h5 24 Qe6 Rh6 25 Qe4
Rhd6 26 Ne1 Rd1 27 g3 Kd8 28 Qe5 Re7 29
Qb8+ Kd7 30 Qxb7+ Kd6 31 Qb8+ Kd7 32
Qxa7+ Kd6 33 Qb8+ Kd7 34 Kg2 Rdx1 (Black
wins White's extra knight; now we have a queen
vs two rooks endgame) 35 a4 Ra1 36 Qb7+ Kd6
37 Qb4+ Kd7 38 a5 g6 39 a6 g5 40 Qb7+ Kd6
41 Qb8+ Ke6 42 b4 g4 43 c4 Kf7 44 Qb7!
(Obvious, yet pretty. If 44...Rxb7 45 axb7 and
Black cannot prevent White from queening on
b8) 44...Kf8 45 h3 Ree1 46 hxg4 hxg4 47 Qc8+

Ke7 48 Qxg4 Rg1+ 49 Kf3 Rxa6 50 Qg7+ Ke6
51 Qc7 Rga1 52 Kg4 R1a4 53 Kg5 Ra2 54 f4
1-0



PAUL MORPHY LOUIS PAULSEN

ELEPHANT GAMBIT

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d5 3 exd5 e4 4 Qe2 Be7 5 Qxe4
Nf6 6 Bb5+ Bd7 7 Qe2 Nxd5 8 Bxd7+ Qxd7 9
d4 0-0 10 0-0 Nc6 11 c4 Nf6 12 d5 Nb4 13 Ne5
Qf5 14 Nc3 Nc2 15 g4 Nxc4 16 Qxc4 (Did
Morphy overestimate his ability to win after this
early exchange of queens?) Qxc4+ 17 Nxc4 Nxa1
18 Bf4 Nc2 19 Bxc7 Rac8 20 d6 Bd8 21 Nd5
Kh8 22 Rd1 Bxc7 23 Nxc7 Rfd8 24 a3 Kg8 25
c5 f6 26 Rd2 Ne1 27 Kf1 Nf3 28 Rd3 Ng5 29
b4 Rd7 30 f4 Nf7 31 Ne3 Nh6 32 b5 Kf7 33 Ke2
g6 34 a4 Ng8 35 Nc4 Ne7 36 b6 axb6 37 Nxb6
Rcxc7 38 Nxd7 Rxd7 39 dxe7 Kxe7 40 Re3+
Kf7 41 Rb3 Ke6 42 Rb6+ Kd5 43 Rxf6 Kxc5 44
f5 gxf5 45 Rxf5+ Kb4 46 a5 Rc7 47 Rh5 Kc4
48 Ke3 Kb4 49 h4 Rc3+ 50 Kd4 (This time
Paulsen defends well and holds the endgame.)
1/2-1/2



Louis Paulsen vs Paul Morphy



ZIATDINOV

We reported last issue on the Fredericksburg Open. IM Rashid Ziatdinov subsequently put an account of the event on his web page. We reproduce his narrative here, and refer readers to <http://members.aol.com/RZiyatdino/HOME.html> for more Ziatdinov adventures. -ed

My way to Fredericksburg from Vermont was in the great company of GMs Gregory Kaidanov, Igor Novikov and George Timoshenko. From Vermont with our driver Gregory Kaidanov (you will have some idea who were in the car if Kaidanov was driver!!!) we went to Hartford, Co where we spent the night in a hotel. Like a father Gregory took care just about everything - starting with finding a rental car for us. Maybe it was just his habit - he has three children at home too. In the morning he left us to teach in Boston and we were all very grateful to him for his hospitality and all the stories and thoughts he shared with us during this time. For the remainder of our journey to Washington I was driver and Novikov copilot. His 2700 elo points were useless here because two hours later we found ourselves in the middle of NYC, where we lost another hour. But in the end we reached I-95 and soon we were in Washington, where very big fan of chess Boris Rotshtein took over Kaidanov's duty: being our father. [sic; he may mean Boris Reichstein -ed] I received very special attention from him, not least of which was his paying my expenses in Virginia.

At the tournament it was the same field (Novikov, Timoshenko, Wojtkevicz) as 2 months ago in NC, where I beat Wojtkevicz (see my report about this tournament in my page) with a nice combination. This time Wojtkevicz was very lucky, not only because he played Timoshenko in the last round. but also because Timoshenko, who showed how to play Catalan with Black (I really need this lesson), failed to find the best way on his 16th move. ...

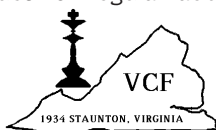
Novikov and I had easy games in the first three rounds. I just found a nice combination in my second game:

RASHID ZIATDINOV - JEAN FOUCAULT CARO KANN

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Qc7 6.Bg5 e6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.0-0 Bxg5 9.Nxg5 Nf6 10.Nd2 h6 11.Ngf3 0-0 12.Re1 Qf4 13.Nf1 Rb8 14.Ng3 b5 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Nd7 17.Nh5 Qg5 18.f4 Qh4 19.Re3 g6 20.Rh3 Qe7 21.Qg4 Kh7 (First point of game: should I keep my King on g1 or not? Probably answer is yes 22. Re1 with idea f5 probably was best solution. This solution was found by master Neil Basescu immediately after he saw the position. I broke rule about keeping every tempi during attack and met problems soon after...) 22.Kh1 b4 (I could not find attack here, I checked many moves here - 23.Nf6; 23 f5; 23.Rg3; 23 Rh4 - nothing works. I was in panic. I did not even see how my rook on a1 can help. But finally I found a point.) 23.Rf1 bxc3 24.Nf6+ Nxf6 25.Qg5 Ng8 26.Rxh6+ Nxh6 (If 26 Kg7 then after few moves we will get my discovery, but my opponent preferred to lose his Queen.) [26... Kg7 27 Rxg6+ fxc6 28 Qxg6+ Kh8 29 Qh5+ Kg7 30 Qh7 mate -ed] 27.Qxe7 Rg8 28.bxc3 Rb2 29.Qxa7 d4 30.Qxd4 Nf5 31.Qa7 Bb7 32.Rf2 Rxf2 33.Qxf2 Rd8 34.Bc2 Kg7 35.Kg1 Be4 36.Bxe4 Rd1+ 37.Qf1 Ne3 38.Qxd1 Nxd1 39.a4 Nxc3 40.a5 Nb5 41.a6 f6 42.Kf2 fxe5 43.fxe5 1-0

My last round was with Novikov (three weeks ago in LA we also played each other in the last round). He is a very experienced GM with a classical style who played the USSR championships thousands of times and I found only few of his losing games. He knows just about everything about the Sicilian, but I decided to play a very rare line and got an advantage. He offered a draw at the perfect moment; I had some pressure but nothing special. I am sure if he had instead made some moves, I could have gotten an advantage. But I could not refuse, and the rest of the day we watched the game of Wojtkevicz and Timoshenko. Finally Wojtkevicz won and took first place. With Novikov [don't forget Andrew Johnson! -ed] we tied for 2-4 .

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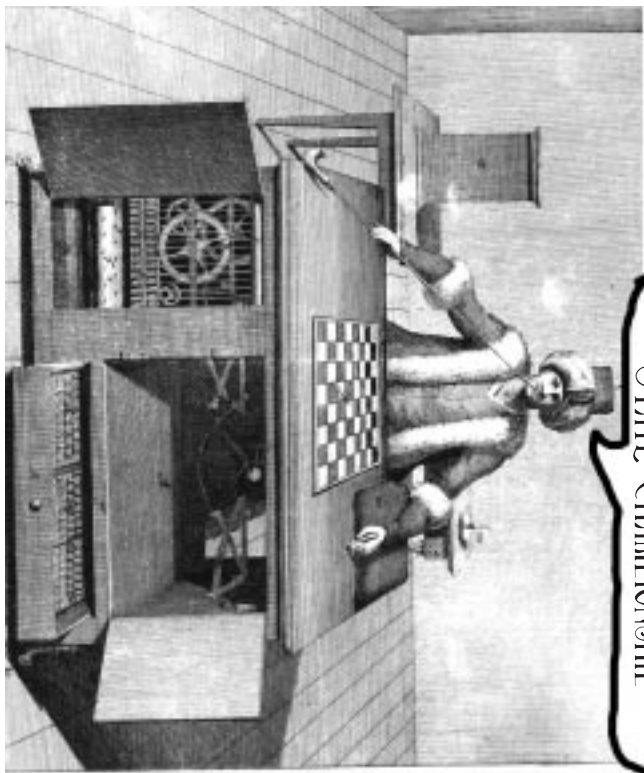
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