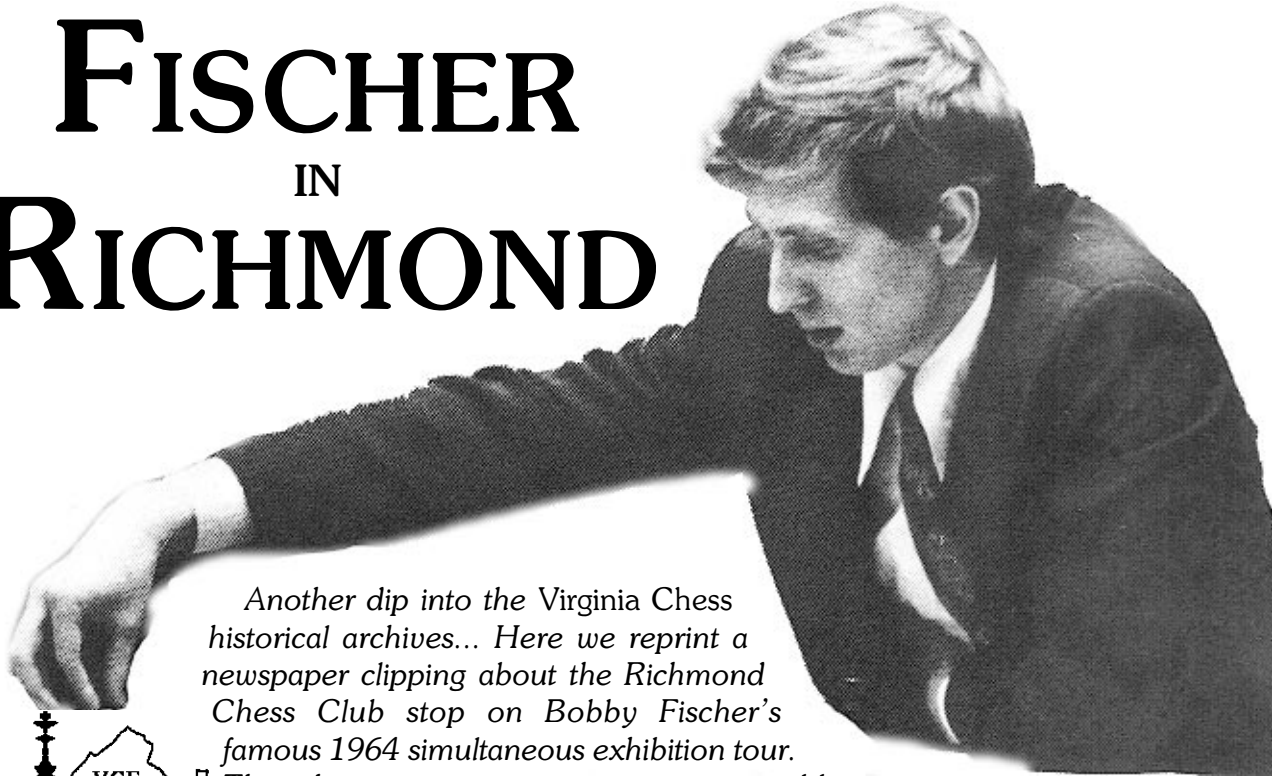




FISCHER IN RICHMOND



Another dip into the Virginia Chess historical archives... Here we reprint a newspaper clipping about the Richmond Chess Club stop on Bobby Fischer's famous 1964 simultaneous exhibition tour.



The photocopy in my possession is rubber

stamped March 10, 1964. There is no indication what newspaper it is from, but my guess would be the Times-Dispatch. Readers interested in learning more about this event or Fischer's tour might want to check out John Donaldson's book Legend on the Road. -ed

Confidence Paid Dividend

by Charles Ashworth

THE NATIONAL CHESS CHAMPION knocked his king on its side.

Although he moves so quickly that he frequently knocks over pieces, in this case it was for keeps.

His king stayed on its side and Robert Fischer of New York acknowledged defeat by resigning. The winner was Charles Powell, the Richmond chess champion.

The victory came last Thursday at the Virginia Home here. Fischer came to Richmond to play chess with 50 Virginians simultaneously.

Earlier in the evening, before the games started, Powell had fidgeted uneasily behind his card table. His black pieces were before him. The white were beside an aisle to be used by Fischer.

The national champion arrived four hours late at 11:10 pm and gave a brief lecture on chess.

At 11:10, the competition began, and, at 11:25 am

Fischer acknowledged that Powell had beaten him.

Confidence had come to Powell during the game. Less than an hour after the match started, Fischer was willing to declare a draw.

Powell decided to play on.

"I just thought I could beat him. We both ended up attacking each other's king, and it was a question of who got the other guy's, king first."

More than an hour after the Powell victory, the games concluded with three last-



minute victories by Virginians: S G Mathews of Charlottesville, Julian Allen of Richmond and Carl R Nichols of Richmond.

Two other players, Bob Vassar and Jesse Burke, both of Richmond, achieved draws.

Carl Stutz, a member of the club, later asked Fischer if such victories were common. Fischer indicated not, although, he said, there have been wins in several of his multi-game exhibitions.

Powell, 19, was graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School last June. He is now a freshman at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland. He plans to major in mathematics or physics.

He learned chess from his father, B G Powell of 3106 Rendale Ave. He has been a member of the Richmond Chess Club for three years and is an avid promoter of the club.



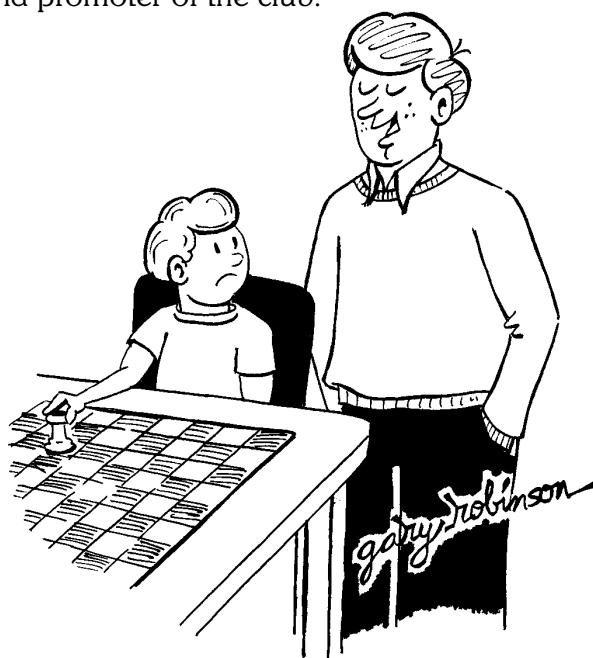
He ran through the winning game the other day for a reporter. While moving the pieces with great agility and rapidity he kept up a running commentary on the game, interspersed with plugs for the club.

If it's not too much, Powell said, he would like the story to mention that the 1964 city championships will begin at 7 pm Saturday at the Virginia Home and will continue on Thursday and Saturday nights for two weeks.

Having said this, his hand was on his queen, which had the opposing king in check.

Although the game could have been prolonged, checkmate of his opponent was only a few moves away.

At that point the real game had ended. Powell mentioned that the Richmond Chess Club would like more members, put his chessmen away, folded his board and departed.



"Chess was different a hundred years ago... rooks moved like knights and the board had fifty-nine squares."

VIRGINIA CHESS Newsletter

2000 - Issue #3

Editor:

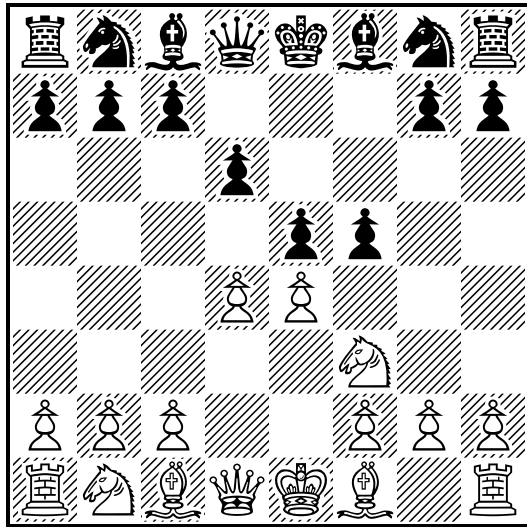
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PHILIDOR COUNTERGAMBIT

by James R West

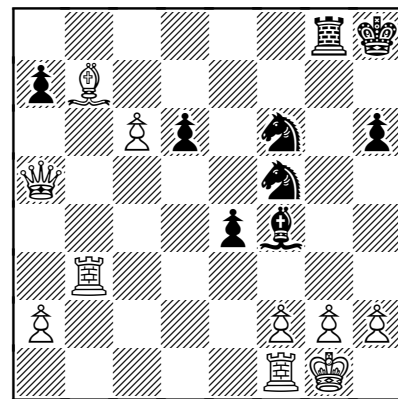
 Editor's Note: We have published several articles on the Philidor Counter gambit (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5) over the years. We also reviewed New Jersey master Jim West's monograph on the variation in our issue #1997/3. West regularly publishes additional material in a regular column in his home state's publication Atlantic Chess News. For whatever reason, ACN has ceased publication,

at least temporarily, leaving West with no journalistic outlet. Well, New Jersey's loss is Virginia's gain! We are pleased to welcome Jim West as special guest columnist with the latest scoop on his specialty.



SINCE THE PUBLICATION of my book *The Dynamic Philidor Counter-Gambit* in 1996, I have played many games of theoretical significance, some of which I will share with you now.

In February 1999 at the United States Amateur Team East tournament, which was won by my team Clinton: Insufficient Losing Chances, I defeated GREG ACHOLONU (USCF 2312) in round four on board one as follows: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.Nc3 fxe 5.Nxe4 d5 6.Nxe5 dxe 7.Qh5+ g6 8.Nxg6 Nf6 9.Qe5+ Kf7 10.Bc4+ Kg7 11.Nf4 h6 12.Be6 Bb4+ 13.c3 Nc6 14.Qf5 Qe8 15.O-O (15.Bxc8 Rxc8 16.cxb Nxb4 17.O-O (17.Qc5 Nd3+ 18.Nxd3 exd+ 19.Be3 d2+ with compensation) Nc2 18.Rb1 Nxd4 = was better, as in Leiggi-West, Somerset 1997) 15...Bd6 16.Bxc8 Bxf4 17.Bxb7 Bxc1 18.Bxa8 Bxb2 19.Rab1 Ba3 20.Rb3 Bd6 21.Bb7 Ne7 22.Qa5 Qg6 23.c4 Nf5 24.c5 Bf4 25.d5 Rg8 26.d6 cxd 27.c6 Kh8

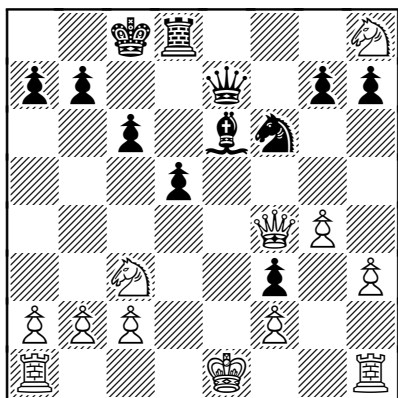


28.Rg3 Nxg3 29.hxg e3 30.Qxa7 e2 31.Re1 (31.Ra1 Qe4 32.Re1 Qb4 -+) Bd2 32.Rxe2 Qb1+ 33.Kh2 Ng4+ 34.Kh3 Qh1mate 0-1

In May 1999, playing Black at the Manhattan Chess Club in the final round of a game/30 tournament, I drew grandmaster PAVEL BLATNY (USCF 2616). From move 39 on neither player kept score, so the final moves may not be 100% accurate. The final position is correct, however: 1.Nf3 d6 2.e4 e5 3.d4 f5 4.dxe fxe 5.Ng5 d5 6.e6 Bc5 7.Nc3 c6 8.Qe2 (8.Ngxe4 Be7 9.Qh5+ g6 10.Qe5 Nf6 11.Bh6 was Lapshun-West, New



York 1997, and now Black should have played 11...Rg8 12.O-O-O Ng4 13.Qf4 Bxe6 14.Ng5 Bf5 15.Nxh7 Rh8 16.h3 Nxf2 17.Qxf2 Rxh7 18.Bf4 Qb6 19.Qd2 Nd7 20.Bd3 O-O-O 21.Bxf5 gxf 22.Qd3 Rf8 =) 8...Nf6 (8...e3 9.Bxe3 Bxe3 10.Nf7 Qb6 11.Qxe3 d4 12.Nd6+ Kd8 13.Qg5+ Ne7 14.Nc4 Qc7 15.Qxg7 Rg8 16.Qxd4+ ±) **9.Nf7 Qe7 10.Nxh8 Bxe6 11.h3** (11.Bg5 Nbd7 12.O-O-O O-O-O 13.f3 Bb4 14.Qe3 Bc5 15.Qf4 exf 16.gxf Rxh8 17.Re1 Qf7 18.Bd3 h6 19.Bxf6 gxf with compensation, Warthmann-Schlenker, Germany 1991) **11...Nbd7 12.g4 Ne5 13.Bg2 O-O-O 14.Bf4 Nf3+ 15.Bxf3 exf 16.Qe5 Bd6 17.Qg5 Bxf4 18.Qxf4**



18...Bxg4+ (18...d4 19.O-O-O dxc 20.Rxd8+ Qxd8 21.Qe3 Bd5 22.Qxa7 Nd7 ≠) **19.Kf1 Bh5 20.Qf5+ Qd7 21.Qxd7+ Nxd7 22.Rg1 Rxh8 23.Rxg7 Bg6 24.Re1 Bxc2 25.Ree7 Rd8 26.Rgf7 d4 27.Ne4 Bxe4 28.Rxe4 Nc5 29.Ree7 d3 30.Ke1 d2+ 31.Kd1 a5 32.b3 Kb8 33.a3 Rd3 34.Re3 Rd4 35.Rxf3 a4 36.b4 Nb3 37.Rxb3 axb 38.Rxb3 Rf4 39.Kxd2 Rxf2+ 40.Ke3 Rf7 41.Ke4 Kc7 42.Ke5 Rg7 43.Kf6 Rd7 44.Re3 Kb6 45.Kg5 Rd4 46.Kh6 Rh4+ 47.Kg4 Rc4 48.h4 Rd4 49.h5 Rd5+ 50.Kh6 Kb5 51.Re7 b6 52.Rxh7 Rd3 53.Ra7 Rh3 54.Kg6 Rg3+ 55.Kh7 c5 56.bxc bxc 57.a4+ Kb6 58.Rg7 Rh3 59.h6 c4 60.Rg8 Ka5 61.Rc8 c3 62.Rc4 Rd3 63.Kg7 Rd7+ 64.Kf6 Rd6+ 65.Kg5 Rd5+ 66.Kg4 Rd6 67.Kg5 Rd5+ 68.Kg6 Rd6+ 69.Kg7 Rd7+ 70.Kg8 Rd8+ 71.Kg7 Rd7+ 72.Kf6 Rd6+ 73.Kg5 Rd5+ 74.Kg6 Rd6+ 75.Kg7 Rd7+ 76.Kf8 Rh7 77.Rc6 c2 78.Kg8 Rxh6 79.Rxc2 ½-½**

In June 1999, again playing Black at the Manhattan Chess Club, I was defeated by grandmaster JAN EHLVEST (USCF 2721) in 35 moves. The opening moves were: **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.Nc3 fxe 5.Nxe4 d5 6.Neg5 exd 7.Nxd4** (7.Qxd4 Nf6 8.Qe3+ Qe7 9.Bd3 Qxe3+ 10.Bxe3 Bd6 11.Bd4 O-O 12.Bxf6 gxf 13.Nxh7 Rf7 14.O-O-O Nc6 15.Bg6 Rxh7 16.Bxh7+ Kxh7 17.Rxd5 Be6 =) **7...Nf6** (7...Qe7+ 8.Qe2 (8.Be2 h6 9.Ngf3 c5 10.Nb5 a6 11.Nc3 d4 12.Nd5 Qd6 13.Bc4 Ne7 14.Bf4 Qe6+ 15.Qe2 Nxd5 16.Bxd5 Qxe2+ 17.Kxe2 Nd7 18.Rhe1 Nb6 19.Kf1+ Kd8 20.Bf7 Be7 21.Ne5 Rf8 22.Bg3 Bf5 23.Bg6 Bd6 24.Nf7+ Rxf7 25.Bxf7 Bxg3 26.hxg Bxc2 27.Rac1 d3 28.Re8+ Kd7 29.Rxa8 d2 30.Ra1 Nxa8 31.Bh5 Nb6 32.Bd1 Bd3+ with compensation) h6 9.Nge6 Bxe6 10.Nxe6 Kf7 11.Nxf8 Qxe2+ 12.Bxe2 Kxf8 13.Bf4 c6 14.O-O-O Nf6 15.Bd3 Kf7 16.Rhe1 Nbd7 17.Bd6 Rhe8 ≥) **8.Be2** (8.Qe2+ Qe7 9.Bf4 Kd7 unclear) **8...Nc6 9.Bb5 Qd6 10.O-O Be7 11.Re1**. Now, instead of 11...O-O 12.Nde6 Bxe6 13.Nxe6 Rf7 14.Ng5 Rff8 15.Bd3 Rae8 16.Ne6 Rf7 17.Bf4 Qb4 18.a3 Qxb2 19.Nxc7 Rc8 20.Rb1 ±, I should have played 11...Ng4 12.Ngf3 O-O 13.Bxc6 bxc 14.h3 Nxf2 15.Kxf2 Bh4+ 16.Kg1 Bxe1 17.Qxe1 c5 with compensation.

Here are thirteen supplemental games, including the only encounter in which I had to face my own favorite defense as White, all played against masters or experts.

VASCONCELLOS-WEST
SOMERSET 3/14/99

1.e4 e5 2.d4 d6 3.Nf3 f5 4.dxe fxe 5.Nd4 d5 6.Be2 c6 7.O-O Bc5 8.c3 Ne7 9.b4 Bb6 10.Bh5+ Ng6 11.Nd2 O-O 12.Bg6 hxg 13.f4 Qh4 14.N2b3 Bg4 15.Qe1 Qxe1 16.Rxe1 Nd7 17.h3 Be6 18.Kh2 Rae8 19.a4 Bxd4 20.cxd Nb6 21.g3 Nc4 22.Nd2 Nxd2 23.Bxd2 a6 24.b5 axb 25.Bb4 Rf7 26.axb cxb 27.Bd6 Rc8 28.Rec1 Rc4 29.Ra8+ Kh7 30.Rca1 g5 31.Re8 Bd7 32.Re7 Rxe7 33.Bxe7 Rc2+ 34.Kg1 gxf 35.gxf Bxh3 36.Ra3 Bf5 37.Rb3 Bd7 38.Kf1 Kg6 39.Rg3+ Kf7 40.Bc5



g6 41.Ke1 Bf5 42.Rb3 Bd7 43.Ra3 Rc4 44.Ra8
b4 45.Rf8+ Kg7 46.Rd8 Bg4 47.Rxd5 e3 0-1

HALL-WEST

BOUND BROOK 2/6/00

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.dxe fxe 5.Ng5 d5 6.c4
Bb4+ 7.Nc3 d4 8.a3 Bxc3+ 9.bxc e3 10.f4 c5
11.Bd3 Ne7 12.Bxh7 Rxh7 13.Nxh7 Qa5
14.Qb3 Bf5 15.Ng5 Nbc6 16.O-O Rd8 17.h3 e2
18.Re1 dxc 19.Be3 c2 20.Rxe2 Rd3 21.Qb2
Rd1+ 22.Kh2 Rb1 23.Qa2 Qc3 24.Rxc2 Qxa1
25.Qxa1 Rxa1 26.Rd2 b6 27.g4 Bc8 28.f5? Nxe5
29.Bf4 Nxc4 30.Re2 Rxa3 31.Ne4 Kf8 32.Bg5
Nc6 33.f6 Nd4 34.fxg+ Kxg7 35.Bf6+ Kg6 36.Rf2
Nf3+ 37.Kg2 Bb7 38.Re2 Nfd2 0-1

LEIGGI-WEST

BOUND BROOK 9/12/99

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.Nc3 fxe 5.Nxe4 d5
6.Nxe5 dxe 7.Qh5+ g6 8.Nxg6 Nf6 9.Qe5+ Kf7
10.Bc4+ Kg7 11.Bh6+ Kxh6 12.Nxh8 Bb4+
13.c3 Qxh8 14.h4 Kg7 15.cxb Qf8 16.Qxc7+
Nbd7 17.Rh3 Kh8 18.Rg3 Qxb4+ 19.Kf1 Qf8
20.Qf4 b6 21.h5 Bb7 22.Qg5 h6 23.Qf5 Rc8
24.Be6 Rc2 25.Rg6 Bd5 26.Bxd5 Nxd5
27.Qxf8+ Nxf8 28.Rxh6+ Kg7 29.Rd6 Nf6
30.Re1 Kf7 31.Rd8 Rxb2 32.h6 N8h7 33.Rc1
Kg6 34.Ra8 Rxa2 35.Rc7 Rd2 36.Raxa7 Rxd4
37.Rab7 Rd6 38.Re7 Kxh6 39.Rb8 Kg6 40.Reb7
Nd5 41.Rg8+ Kh6 42.Rh8 Ndf6 43.Rhb8 Nd7
44.Rd8 Nhf6 45.Ke2 Kg5 46.Ra7 Kf5 47.Ra3
Rc6 48.Ra2 b5 49.Rb2 Rb6 50.Rc8 Ke6 51.Ke3
Ne5 52.Rb1 b4 53.f3 exf 54.gxf b3 55.f4 Nd5+
56.Kd4 Rb4+ 57.Kc5 Nd7+ 58.Kc6 Rb6mate 0-1

BURROWS-WEST

MARSHALL CHESS CLUB 3/12/00

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.Nc3 fxe 5.Nxe4 d5
6.Nc3 e4 7.Ne5 Nf6 8.Be2 Bb4 9.O-O O-O
10.Bg5 c6 11.f3 Qe8 12.fxe Bxc3 13.bxc Nxe4
14.Bd2 Nd7 15.Nxd7 Bxd7 16.Rxf8+ Qxf8
17.Bf3 Re8 18.Bxe4 Rxe4 19.Qf1 Qxf1+ 20.Kxf1
Bf5 21.Rb1 b5 22.g3 h5 23.Bf4 h4 24.Kf2 hxg+
25.hxg Re8 26.Rb2 Kf7 27.Be5 Rh8 28.Kf3
Be4+ 29.Kf2 a5 30.Bc7 a4 31.Bd6 Bxc2 32.a3

Bf5 33.Ke3 Rh1 34.Bb4 g5 35.Rf2 Kg6 36.Bd6
Rc1 37.Bb4 Rd1 38.Rd2 Rg1 39.Kf2 Rh1 40.Ke3
Be4 41.Rf2 Rg1 42.Bd6 Rc1 43.Bb4 Bf5 44.Rh2
Rd1 45.Rh8 Rd3+ 46.Kf2 Be4 47.g4 Rf3+
48.Ke2 Rg3 49.Rc8 Bd3+ 50.Kd2 Bc4 51.Rxc6+
Kf7 52.Rc7+ Ke8 53.Rc8+ Kd7 54.Rg8 Rxg4
55.Ke3 Re4+ 56.Kf3 g4+ 57.Kg3 Be2 58.Rg6
Kc7 59.Rg7+ Kc6 60.Rg6+ Kd7 61.Rd6+ Kc7
62.Rxd5 Re6 63.Re5 Rxe5 64.dxe Kd7 1/2-1/2

CHARLOTTESVILLE OPEN

July 8-9

Mt Vernon Best Western
Rt 29 & Rt 250 Bypass

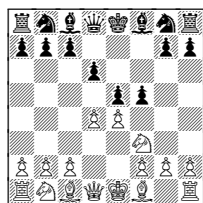
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

5SS, G/120, **\$\$1500** (top three G, rest b/50): \$400-
200-150, top X, A, B, C, D, E, U1000 each \$100, Top
Unr - \$50. EF: \$40 if rec'd by 7/2, \$50 at site. VCF
memb req'd (\$10, \$5 jrs, OSA). Youth entry \$20
advance, \$25 at site, play for non-cash prizes only,
counts as 1/2 entry for prizes. Reg 9-9:45 am, rds. 10-
2:30-7, 10-2:30. One 1/2-pt. bye available, irrevokable
bye in rds 5 or 6 declare before rd 3. Hotel \$55, 1-2,
804-296-5501. NS,NC,W. More info [http://
www.wizard.net/~matkins/co.htm](http://www.wizard.net/~matkins/co.htm) or email
matkins@wizard.net or phone Catherine Clark 703-
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15 Grand Prix Points



Thomas Jefferson's chess set



Philidor Counter Gambit
continued

HALL-WEST

BOUND BROOK 4/2/00

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.Bc4 exd 5.Ng5 Nh6
6.O-O Nc6 7.Re1 f4 8.Bxf4 Qf6 9.Qd2 Be7
10.Na3 Ne5 11.Be2 O-O 12.g3 Ng6 13.Bc4+
Kh8 14.e5 Nxe5 15.Qxd4 Qg6 16.Bd3 Bf5
17.Bxf5 Nxf5 18.Qe4 Bxg5 19.Bxg5 Qxg5 20.f4
Nxc3 21.Qxe5 Qg4 22.Qg5 Ne2+ 23.Kh1 Qf3+
24.Qg2 Qxg2+ 25.Kxg2 Nxf4+ 26.Kg3 Ng6
27.Nb5 Rf7 28.Re4 a6 29.Nd4 Ne5 30.Rae1 h6
31.Ne6 Re8 32.Nf4 Kh7 33.h4 Rc8 34.h5 Rf5
35.R1e3 Rcf8 36.c4 c5 37.Ne6 R8f6 38.Nf4 b5
39.b3 bxc 40.bxc Rg5+ 41.Kh3 Nc6 42.Rg3 Rgf5
43.Rg4 Ne5 44.Rh4 Nf3 45.Nd5 Ng5+ 46.Kg2
Rf2+ 47.Kg1 Rf1+ 48.Kg2 R6f2+ 49.Kg3 Nxe4+
50.Rxe4 Rf5 51.Nf4 R1xf4 52.Rxf4 Rxh5 53.Rf7
d5 54.Ra7 dxc 55.Rxa6 Rd5 56.Ra4 Rd3+ 57.Kf2
c3 58.Ke2 Rd2+ 59.Ke1 Rb2 60.Kd1 g5 61.a3
Ra2 62.Kc1 Kg6 63.Kb1 Rb2+ 64.Ka1 Rd2
65.Rc4 Rd3 66.a4 Rd4 67.Rxc3 Rxa4+ 68.Kb2
c4 69.Kc2 g4 70.Kd2 h5 71.Ke3 Kg5 72.Ke4 h4
73.Ke3 h3 74.Kf2 Kh4 75.Ke3 h2 76.Rc1 Ra3+
77.Kf4 Rf3+ 78.Ke4 Rg3 79.Rh1 Kh6 80.Kf4 Rg1
0-1

HANNA-WEST

MANHATTAN CHESS CLUB 2/21/99

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.Bc4 exd 5.Qxd4 Nc6
6.Bb5 fxe 7.Qxe4+ Qe7 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.Qxe7+
Bxe7 10.Nd4 Bd7 11.Nxc6 bxc 12.Bd3 O-O
13.Bg5 h6 14.Bd2 d5 15.f3 Nh5 16.O-O-O Nf4
17.Bxf4 Rxf4 18.Ne2 Rb4 19.c3 Rb6 20.Kc2
Rab8 21.Rb1 c5 22.b3 a5 23.Nf4 c6 24.Rhe1 Bd6
25.g3 Rf8 26.Bg6 Bxf4 27.gxf Rxf4 28.Re7 Bf5+
29.Bxf5 Rxf5 30.Rg1 Rf7 31.Re6 Rxf3 32.Rxh6
c4 33.Rg2 cxb+ 34.axb d4 35.cxd Rfxb3 36.Rhg6
Rb2+ 37.Kc3 Rxc2 38.Rxc2 Kf7 39.Kc4 Ra6
40.Rg3 Kf6 41.h4 g6 42.Kc5 a4 43.Kb4 Kf5
44.Rg5+ Ke4 45.Ka3 Kxd4 46.Rxc6 Ke5 47.Rg4
Kf5 48.Rxa4 Rxa4+ 49.Kxa4 Kg4 50.Kb4 Kxh4
51.Kc5 1/2-1/2

HALL-WEST

BOUND BROOK 12/5/99

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Nf6
6.dxe dxe 7.Qxd8+ Nxd8 8.Nxe5 fxe 9.O-O Bd6
10.f4 Be6 11.Bxe6 Nxe6 12.Re1 O-O 13.Nxe4
Nd4 14.Rb1 Nxc2 15.Re2 Nd4 16.Re1 Rae8
17.Nxd6 cxd 18.Nd3 Rxe1+ 19.Nxe1 Re8
20.Bd2 Re4 21.Nd3 Nd5 22.Rd1 Ne2+ 23.Kf2
Nexf4 24.Nxf4 Nxf4 25.Bxf4 Rxf4+ 26.Ke3 Rf6
27.Rc1 Re6+ 28.Kf3 Kf7 29.Rc7+ Re7 30.Rc8
Ke6 31.Ra8 a6 32.Rh8 h6 33.Ke4 Kd7+ 34.Kd3
Re5 35.Rg8 Rg5 36.g3 Rg4 37.Rb8 Kc7 38.Rg8
a5 39.a3 a4 40.Kc3 b5 41.Kd3 h5 42.Kc3 Kc6
43.Kd3 g6 44.Rc8+ Kb7 45.Rd8 Kc7 46.Rg8 h4
47.gxh Rxh4 48.Rxc6 Rxh2 49.Kc3 Kc6 50.Rg8
Rh3+ 51.Kc2 Kc5 52.Rc8+ Kd4 53.Rb8 Rb3
54.Rh8 d5 55.Rh4+ Kc5 56.Rh8 Kc4 57.Rc8+
Kd4 58.Re8 Rh3 59.Rb8 Rh2+ 60.Kb1 Kc4
61.Rc8+ Kd3 62.Rc5 Rh1+ 63.Ka2 d4 64.Rxb5
Ke3 65.Re5+ Kf4 66.Re8 d3 67.Rd8 Ke3
68.Re8+ Kf2 69.Rd8 Rh3 70.b3 Ke2 71.bxa d2
72.Rxd2+ Kxd2 73.a5 Kc3 0-1

GWYN-WEST

HAMILTON 3/25/00

1.d4 d6 2.e4 e5 3.dxe dxe 4.Qxd8+ Kxd8 5.Bc4
f5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Bg5 Bd6 9.O-O-O Ke8
10.Bxf6 gxf 11.Nb5 Ke7 12.exf Bxf5 13.Nh4 Be6
14.Bxe6 Kxe6 15.f4 a6 16.Rxd6+ cxd 17.Nc7+
Kf7 18.Nxa8 Rxa8 19.fxe dxe 20.Rf1 Rd8 21.g4
Ne7 22.g5 Rd6 23.gxf Rxf6 24.Nf3 Ke8 25.Nd2
Rxf1+ 26.Nxf1 Kf7 27.Kd2 Ke6 28.Kd3 Kf5 29.c4
Kf4 30.Nd2 Nc6 31.a3 a5 32.c5 h5 33.h5 Kg4
34.Kc4 Kxh4 35.b4 axb 36.axb Kg3 37.b5 Na7
38.Ne4+ Kf4 39.Nd6 h4 40.b6 Nc6 41.Nxb7 h3
42.Kb5 Nd4+ 43.Kc4 h2 44.Na5 0-1

HALL-WEST

BOUND BROOK 1/2/00

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.dxe Nxe5
6.Nxe5 dxe 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.Bg5 c6
10.O-O-O+ Kc7 11.exf Bxf5 12.Rhe1 Bd6
13.Bd3 Bxd3 14.Rxd3 Rae8 15.Ne4 Nxe4
16.Rxe4 h6 17.Bh4 Rhf8 18.Bg3 g5 19.Rde3 Kc8
20.f4 gxf 21.Bxf4 Re6 22.Bg3 Rfe8 23.Kd2 Be7
24.Ke2 Bg5 25.Ra3 a6 26.Ra5 Bf6 27.Ra3 Bd8



28.Rf3 Bc7 29.Rf7 R8e7 30.Rxe7 Rxe7 31.Kf3 Kd7 32.Kg4 Ke6 33.Kh5 Kd5 34.Rb4 Bd6 35.Rb3 e4 36.Bxd6 Kxd6 37.Kxh6 Ke5 38.Re3 Kf4 39.Re1 e3 40.Kg6 Re6+ 41.Kf7 Re4 42.h4 e2 43.h5 Ke3 44.h6 Rh4 45.Kg7 Rg4+ 46.Kf7 Rxc2 47.Rh1 Rf2+ 48.Kg7 Rf1 49.Rh5 e1Q 50.Re5+ Kd2 51.Rxe1 Rxe1 52.h7 Rg1+ 53.Kf7 Rh1 0-1

WEST-HALL

BOUND BROOK 3/5/00

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.Bc4 Nc6 5.dxe Nxe5 6.Nxe5 dxe 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8 8.Bg5+ Be7 9.Bxe7+ Kxe7 10.Nc3 c6 11.exf Bxf5 12.O-O-O b5 13.Bd3 Bxd3 14.Rxd3 b4 15.Ne4 Nf6 16.Nc5 Rhe8 17.Re1 Kf7 18.Nd7 Nxd7 19.Rxd7+ Kf6 20.Rd6+ Re6 21.Rxe6+ Kxe6 22.f4 Kf5 23.Rxe5+ Kxf4 24.Rc5 Ke3 25.Rxc6 Kf2 26.g4 Kg2 27.Rc7 Rg8 28.Rxa7 Kxh2 29.Rb7 Kh3 30.Rxb4 g5 31.Rd4 h5 32.gxh g4 33.b4 g3 34.Kb2 g2 35.Rd1 g1Q 36.Rxg1 Rxg1 37.a4 Rg5 38.a5 Rxh5 39.a6 Rh8 40.b5 Ra8 41.c4 Kg4 42.c5 Kf5 43.b6 Ke6 44.b7 Rb8 45.c6 Kd6 46.a7 1-0

VASCONCELLOS-WEST

BOUND BROOK 8/1/99

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 f5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Ng5 Nh6 6.d5 Nb8 7.O-O f4 8.Ne6 Bxe6 9.dxe Qh4 10.g3 Qh3 11.Qf3 Nc6 12.Qg2 Qxg2+ 13.Kxg2 Nd4 14.Bb3 g5 15.Nd2 Ke7 16.h4 gxh 17.gxf Rg8+ 18.Kh3 Ne2 19.Nf3 Nxf4+ 20.Bxf4 exf 21.Nxh4 Bg7 22.c3 Be5 23.Nf3 Ng4 24.Rad1 Raf8 25.Nxe5 Nxe5 26.Rg1 Nf3 27.Rxg8 Rxg8 28.Rd5 Ne5 29.Ra5 a6 30.c4 c5 31.Ra3 Kxe6 32.Bc2 Rg7 0-1

HALL-WEST

HAMILTON 1/29/00

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.exf e4 5.Ng5 Nf6 6.f3 Qe7 7.Be2 exf 8.Nxf3 Bxf5 9.O-O Qd7 10.d5 Be7 11.Nd4 Bg4 12.Rxf6 Bxe2 13.Qxe2 gxf 14.Ne6 h5 15.Qd3 Kf7 16.Qf5 Bf8 17.Nc3 Bg7 18.Bg5 Qe7 19.Ne4 Nd7 20.Rf1 Kg8 21.Nxg7 fxg 22.Ne6 Rh6 23.Rf2 g4 24.N4g5 Rf6 25.Qe4 Nf8 26.Rxf6 Qxf6 27.Nxf8 Qxg5 28.Ne6 Qf6 29.c3 Re8 30.a3 Re7 31.Qd3 Rf7 32.Qe2 Qf5 33.h3 g3 34.Qe1 Qf2+ 35.Qxf2 Rxf2 36.Nxc7

Rxb2 37.Kf1 Rb3 38.Ne8 Rxc3 39.Nxd6 b6 40.Nb5 Rd3 41.Nxa7 Rxd5 42.Nc8 Rf5+ 43.Kg1 Rc5 0-1

HORSEBOLL-WEST

MARSHALL CHESS CLUB 9/2/99

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.exf e4 5.Qe2 Nf6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Bxf6 exf 8.Qxe7+ Qxe7+ 9.Bxe7 Kxe7 10.gxf Bxf5 11.Kd2 Nc6 12.c3 Rhf8 13.Rg1 g6 14.Rg3 Rf6 15.Bd3 Raf8 16.Bxf5 Rxf5 17.Ke2 Rh5 18.h3 Kd7 19.Nd2 d5 20.Nf1 Ne7 21.Ne3 Nf5 22.Nxf5 1/2-1/2

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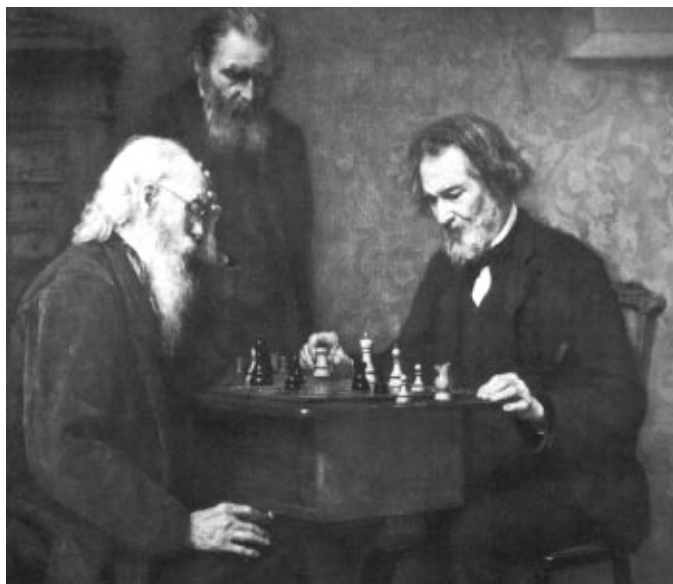
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Virginia Chess is pleased to introduce a new regular column by W E Webber, of Fairfax! Pending creation of original artwork, Richard Creifeld's painting "The Veterans" would seem to be an appropriate accompaniment to this inaugural installment of *The Gray Knight*. -ed



THE GRAY KNIGHT

by W E Webbert

THIS IS A COLUMN devoted to *Chess Playing Seniors*. We intend to include news of Seniors-Only events—events where Seniors are a separate category or have special prizes or reduced entry fees, and the games of Senior Chess Players. What defines a Senior? Well, AARP and the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics set the criteria at 50 years of age. Arlington County thinks it is anyone over 55 and the Continental Chess Association sets it at age 65 or over. We'll be happy to accept any of those groups. If you are drawing Social Security you are certainly one of us and there seems to be no upper limits. We are not exclusive to Virginia events and will include DC & Md.

We want to feature upcoming Senior Chess events and report on past ones held throughout the Commonwealth. For example, the Arlington Seniors Chess Club (ASCC) plans a **Gambit Tournament** in the month of June. The Club meets in the Madison Seniors Center on Mondays at 10:00 am and you read all about it in an article by Mr Earl Brown in the last edition of the *Virginia Chess*. You need not be a member of the Arlington club (or any club for that matter—not even the USCF) to play. Just be a Senior. The tourney will feature six or eight gambits selected at random from a large group of over two dozen. Each person will play both sides of the designated gambit (first 2 to 5 moves) in a single day (game/60 minutes). It's an exciting event which we have been holding for the past three years. For details contact Mr John Campbell (703) 534-6232, who happens to be the President of the ASCC. (And yes, of and the Arlington Chess Club as well).

Later this year will be the **Northern Virginia Senior Olympics**, where the ASCC has directed the chess portion for many years. This occurs around Labor Day, takes place in the Wakefield Recreation Center in Annandale, VA and requires two full days for the four rounds. Details will be featured in the next column.

Also in the near future is the **Matheson Memorial Chess Tournament for Seniors** which has been held at the Madison Center for the past three years and was the topic of an article by Mr Ralph Belter in *Virginia Chess* #2000/1.

That same Mr Belter was one of the three Seniors to defeat State Champion Macon Shibut in a recent **simultaneous exhibition** at the Madison Center in April (the other two winners were Mr Kanwal Kapoor and Mr Ed Arriaga). A total of 17 seniors played, ranging in age from mid-50's to



80's. We'll include Mr Belter's win in the games portion of this column next issue.

But first, here is a game from the last World Open, held annually in Philadelphia over the 4th of July. The game features the ever-popular (but somewhat obscure) Williams Gambit. According to Mr Bill Goichberg (the TD) this is the shortest rated game ever played in the World Open including Grand Master 10 and 12 move draws! Mr Walt Churchill, rated 1612 at the time of the game, is in his 40s, which gives *someone* an edge of 20+ years—depending on your viewpoint.

W E WEBBERT -WALT CHURCHILL

1999 WORLD OPEN

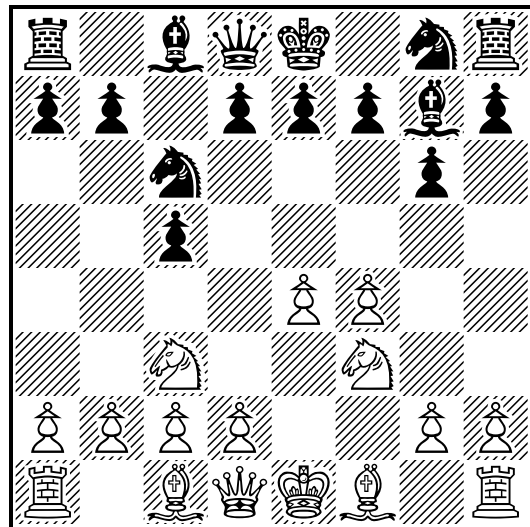
1 f4 d5 2 e4!? dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Qe2 Bf5 5 Qb5+ Bd7 6 Qxb7 Bc6 7 Bb5 Nfd7 8 Bxc6 1-0



GRAND PRIX ATTACK

by Macon Shibut

IT IS TIME FOR ANOTHER FORAY into the Culture of Chess Openings. In *Virginia Chess* #1999/3 ("What's the Deal with the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit?") we examined one particular variation and its cult of adherents. Another line with a loyal following in the amateur ranks is the so-called Grand Prix Attack against the Sicilian. Moreover — and unlike the BDG — this one actually enjoyed a period *en vogue* among the grandmaster set. The very name Grand Prix Attack comes from its success as a weapon of mass destruction in the hands of certain professionals on the British circuit. (It might have been called the English Attack except that name was already affixed to the line where White plays Be3, f3, g4 etc against Sicilian forms besides the Dragon.) A few grandmasters still employ the GPA but overall its days in the sun appear over, at least for now.

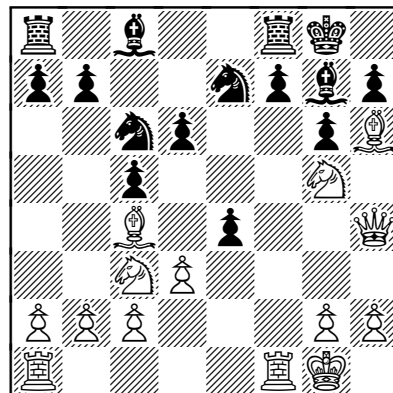




That has hardly dimmed enthusiasm further down the food chain, however. The appeal is typical: White plays more or less according to a set menu so everything is easy to learn and he doesn't have to think much about what Black is doing. Moreover, against routine development by Black he can whip up a dangerous attack. What's not to like? The basic setup is pawns at e4, f4 and d3; knights at f3 and c3; king bishop at c4 or b5; and kingside castling. Typically White feeds his forces into the kingside by something like Q-e1-h4, f5, Bg5 or Bh6 if Black has fianchettoed.

I've tried this out about half a dozen times. My very first test showcased exactly what is so beguiling about the GPA for players in search of a panacea against the Sicilian. **Shibut-Cale, 1998 Jefferson Open (Charlottesville)** went **1 e4 c5 2 Nc3** (There is some difference of opinion about move order. This is the primary line but some players prefer the more direct 2 f4 because, it is true, against certain Black defenses it would be desirable not to have committed the queen knight so early. However, 2 f4 d5!? leads to a different set of complications that White may want to avoid.) **d6 3 f4 Nc6 4 Nf3 g6 5 Bb5 a6?!** (waste of time, since White would take the knight sooner or later in any case) **6 Bxc6+ bxc6 7 d3 Bg7 8 0-0 Nf6 9 Qe1 0-0 10 Qh4 d5 11 e5 d4 12 Ng5! h6 13 exf6 exf6?** (13... hxg5 was better, although 14 fxg5 dxc3 15 fxg7 Kxg7 16 Qh6+ Kg8 17 bxc3 is still difficult for Black. He'll have to squirm hard just to avoid a quick knockout.) **14 Nce4 hxg5** (14... f5 avoids mate but White simply plays 15 Nxc5 with material advantage.) **15 fxg5 Bf5 16 Rxf5! 1-0** (16... gxf5 17 Nxf6+ Bxf6 18 gxf6 will mate)

The databases contain a few hundred similar assaults. How about **Tarjan - Rattlinger, Puerto Rico 1971**, for instance? **1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bc4 d6 6 0-0 e6 7 d3 Nge7 8 f5 exf5 9 Qe1 0-0 10 Qh4 Qd7 11 Bh6 fxe4 12 Ng5 Qg4**



13 Rxf7 Qxh4 14 Rxc7+ Kh8 15 Rxh7mate 1-0

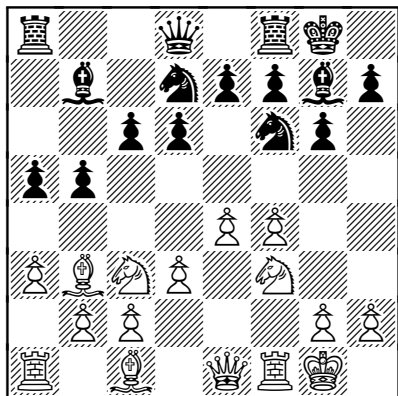
As a practical matter an opening like the GPA will win you a lot of games, some of them quite quickly. From the point of view of improving yourself as a player generally, the picture is not so rosy. Never mind the dubious mentality under which *minimizing analysis* becomes a *desired goal*... In the cold light of post mortem those easy victories will be seen to have come against weak play by opponents you might have beaten sooner or later with most openings. Meanwhile the constant repetition of the same formations, the same stock maneuvers and combinations, can turn your game stale. Worse, you acquire a mechanical way of assessing positions and an exaggerated view of "your" formations which in turn infects your understanding of chess as a whole. I once witnessed an amazing conversation that illustrates this well. The scene was the concourse hallway

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outside the main playing room at the Adams Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, during the 1999 World Open. A trio of masters — Stan Fink, Dave Sherman & yours truly — were sitting on the floor where Stan was demonstrating an anti-Pirc system he'd employed. I don't remember the exact position but it was something like this:



So there we were, minding our business and analyzing away, when this class C player who Stan and Dave had never seen before (I know his identity but I'll keep it to myself) happens by and he can't resist setting us straight. So he just *erupts* into Stan's discourse. All of the sudden his hands are moving pieces around: Qh4!... f5!... "It's a mating attack!", he exclaimed. Bh6!... Ng5!... "You just go here... here...!" Dave and I were dumbstruck but Stan recovered enough to say, well, yes, that is indeed a plan for White, and we're not unfamiliar with the theme. But the guy was unrelenting. "No, no, it's *just a win!*", he insisted. And then, as if to clinch the point, he offered "*It's just like a Grand Prix Attack.*"

Well, what can you say? At the risk of seeming to confirm this bizarre logic, I'll move on to show off the following game of mine from last summer in which White's scheme did indeed triumph. The concluding combination somehow made its way into *Informant #76*.



MACON SHIBUT - YEGENI GERSHOV
1999 ATLANTIC OPEN
SICILIAN

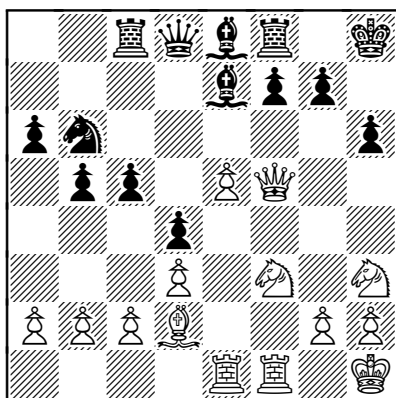
Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 e6 4 Nf3 d6 5 Bb5 Bd7 6 0-0 a6 7 Bxc6 Bxc6 8 d3 Nf6 9 Qe1 Be7 10 Kh1 0-0 11 e5 Nd7 12 Ne4 d5 13 Neg5 h6 (Black must do this immediately. If he delays even one move I go 14 f5! and answer 14...h6 with 15 fxe6!) **14 Nh3 d4 15 Qg3 Kh8 16 Bd2 b5 17 Rae1 Nb6 18 Qg4!** (I'm not sure what Black's mistake was, but all of the sudden my attack looks really menacing. There's no stopping f5 now.) **18...Rc8** (Played after long deliberation, this move is connected with a specific defensive plan: after 19 f5 exf5 20 Qxf5 his light square bishop can move with tempo, ...Bd7, and then the rook can go to c6 covering key squares along the third rank.) **19 f5 exf5** (No choice here since otherwise I go f6!) **20 Qxf5**

As indicated, I was anticipating 20...Bd7 here. Then 21 Qh5 Rc6 and one line I examined was 22 e6 Rxe6 23 Rxe6 fxe6 White's attack is hampered by the unprotected Rf1, or more precisely by pin on the f-line. Thus, for example, 24 Bxh6 is no better than a draw (24...gxh6 25 Qxh6+ Kg8 26 Qg6+) despite the total exposure of Black's king. Nonetheless, simply 24 Nf4! looks like more than ample compensation for the pawn: the e-pawn, the g6 square, the possibility of sacrificing on h6 under better circumstances a few moves later... I had quite a while to consider all this as Gershov had sunk into another long thought. He finally came up with...

20...Be8

"Well," I thought, "now what?" The first thing that struck me about the position was that Black's f8 rook is disconnected from his other major pieces. Were it not for the e7 bishop, this rook would be hanging — perhaps a precondition for some combination involving the dagger thrust e6! This train of thought originally suggested my next move, and once the seed was planted the variations followed almost of their own accord.



21 Nhg5!

This knight, so that if 21...g6 I'll have 22 Qh3. He pretty much has to take because of the mate threat.

21 ... hxg5
22 Nxc6 Bxc6
23 Bxc6

From the original piece sacrifice, it was fairly simple to determine that this position must arise by force. From here, however, there were a lot of possibilities to consider.

The first line I'd examined was 23...f6 and I found a pleasing finish: 24 exf6 gxf6 25 Rxe8! Qxe8 26 Bxf6+ Rxf6 27 Qxf6+ Kg8 28 Qxb6 with a winning position for White.

Next I'd considered 23...Qd7 and was much encouraged by a variation that seemed to validate my earlier considerations in pursuing the sacrifice, ie Black's hanging f8 rook: 23...Qd7 24 e6! Qd5 25 e7! and White wins. (25...Rg8 26 Qh3+).

Another option, 23...Qc7, introduces a theme that we'll see more of shortly: 24 Bf6! (Δ Qg5) and after 24...gxf6 25 Qh5+ Kg8 either 26 Rxf6 or 26 exf6 forces mate.

After yet another lengthy reflection Gershov tried...

23...Bd7 24 Qf4! (I could recover the piece with a pawn to the good by 24 Bxd8 Bxf5 25 Bxb6 but that would be much weaker than the text) **24...Qxg5** (Now the shortcoming of a move like 24...Qc7 is very clear: 25 Bf6! (Δ Qh6!) 25...gxf6 26 Qh6+ Kg8 27 exf6. So Black tried a despairing

queen sacrifice.) **25 Qxg5 Rc6 26 Re4 Kg8 27 Rf6!** (underscoring that White's attack isn't finished) **Rfc8 28 Rxc6 Bxc6** (if 28...Rxc6 29 Qd8+ Kh7 30 Rh4+ Kg6 31 Qh8 Δ Qh5 mate) **29 Rg4 g6 30 Qh6 1-0**

Finally we come to a game that I annotated last winter but for one reason or another The Editor hadn't found room for it in *Virginia Chess* until now. It played a critical role in my winning the state championship, having come in the penultimate round of the Labor Day tournament.

MACON SHIBUT - TOM BRAUNLICH
1999 VIRGINIA CLOSED
SICILIAN

Notes by Macon Shibut

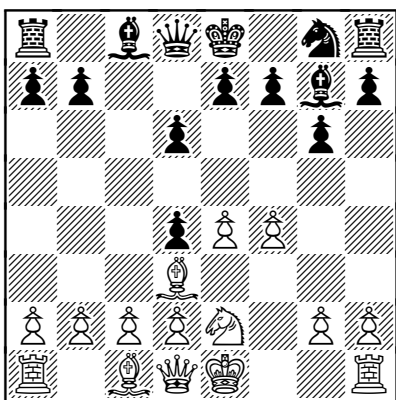
1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bb5 Nd4 6 Bd3?!

I have a sentimental attachment to this artificial move stemming from the way I first learned anything about the variation. It was at the book concession at some big tournament a couple years ago and there was a Dzhindzhichashvili video showing on a TV in the room. Dzhindzhi was analyzing the position after 6 Bd3 and my-oh-my!, what a surprising dose of poison it contains. If Black goes 6...e6?! then after 7 Nxd4 cxd4 8 Nb5 d6 (a move like 8...Qb6 doesn't adequately protect the d6 weakness because of 9 e5±) 9 c3 I've had more than one blitz game where Black fell for 9...a6? 10 Qa4! and White is much, much better. (10...Bd7 or 10...Qd7 both lose to 11 Nxd6+; if instead 10...Ke7 11 Qa3 Δ e5 etc) So 9...dxc3 is better, but then after 10 dxc3 the position of White's Bd3 doesn't look so odd any more, plus Black still isn't out of the woods yet, eg 10...Ne7? 11 Nxd6+!

6...d6!

This is the problem, however. Now Black should have no real trouble.

7 Nxd4 cxd4 8 Ne2



Braunlich now played the strongest imaginable move in a subjective sense. Let me explain: Exactly one week earlier I'd played a strong Russian guy, Kriventsov, who chose 8...Nf6 in this same position. At that time I analyzed 9 Nxd4 Nxe4 10 Bxe4 Bxd4 11 c3 Bg7 12 Qf3 Δ d4, 0-0, f5 but in the end I decided to stick with "plan A", 9 c3. After 9...dxc3 10 dxc3 0-0 11 0-0 he continued 11...Ng4 12 Qe1 e5. I guess things were okay for me after that (13 h3 Nf6 14 Ng3 exf4 15 Bxf4) but White certainly got nothing special out of the opening. I reviewed this game during the intervening days before the state championship and decided that the 9 Nxd4 idea held more promise for White after all. If I ever got this variation again, I told myself, that's how I would play. But then — just as a passing thought — it occurred to me: what happens if Black goes 8...Nh6!? instead of Kriventsov's Nf6...? Then White doesn't have the Nxd4 option, but if 9 c3 everything will unfold just as in the Kriventsov game until Black finally makes the transposition complete by 11...Ng4 — the knight can go here just as well from h6 as from f6.

As I said, it was just a passing thought which I dismissed without further consideration. "Hey, I can't analyze *everything*..." So here, *at the very first opportunity*, what does my opponent toss onto the board except...

8...Nh6!

Even though there's nothing wrong with White's position, I recalled Botvinnik's remark after his opening preparation foul-up versus Fischer (Varna

1962): "The reader can guess that my equanimity was wrecked." For purely psychological reasons there was no way I was going to choose 9 c3, so I had to think up another plan. Sifting through my memory, I *thought* I dredged up a game from back in the prehistoric days of this variation, which is to say the 1960s. It seemed to me Larsen had somewhere used a plan with b3, Bb2, a4 and, if everything goes perfectly, a5, Ra4 & Qa1, pressuring the d4 pawn. (In fact I cannot find any such game now.) Pleased with this momentous decision, I stopped thinking properly and made a careless, catastrophic mistake...

9 0-0 0-0 10 b3?

The correct way to introduce my chosen plan was 10 a4. That would have taken a lot of the sting out of what Black now plays because, first, there's no glaring tactical weakness on the long diagonal, and second, because it could be a useful option in some lines for White to ditch b3 idea and swing the rook to the kingside along the third rank after Ra3.

10...f5 11 Ng3 e5!

It suddenly dawned on me that White is in great peril. In addition to getting steamrollered in the center by ...fxe4 followed by ...d5, e4 and d3 with discovered attack on my queen rook, it's not clear what can be done about the simple Neanderthal attack Qh4 & Ng4. Yikes! I allowed myself a few minutes to curse b3 and then I settled down to the task of finding the best practical chance.

12 exf5!

At first I'd focused on 12 Bc4+ (while I've still got an e-pawn to keep him from stuffing this check by ...d5) Kh8 13 d3 but after 13...fxe4 White's game is dreary.

The text at least poses some problems for Black. If 12...Nxf5 I intended to trade as many pieces as Black allows on f5, beginning with 13 Bxf5 so that at the end of the day White can go d3. The resulting position is still no picnic, White is weak on the c-file and the pawn on b3 looks ridiculous,



but still there would be counterchances. Black's bishop and center pawns are not so good together, and his kingside attack is just a memory.

I was counting on Black going for more than just that, so 12...gxf5 was the main line in my mind. Then I was planning 13 Nh5 hunting his dark-square bishop. White's development is suffering, but trading my knight for his bishop would have lots of benefits: the long diagonal danger would vanish, his king might become weak, and it would be easier defending the Qh4, Ng4 attack since I'd have the move h3 without hanging my knight on g3. If he tries to avoid the trade by 13...Bh8 then 14 Qf3! with ideas like Bc4+, or Qd5+, or Qg3+ emphasizes the tight corner in which Black has left his own king.

12...exf4?

Then there was this other possibility... Black abandons all subtlety and declares his intention of overrunning the kingside by ...Be5, Qh4, etc. This wins material practically by force but to be honest I did not take it too seriously when contemplating my 12th move. It's positionally unconscionable for Black to break up his own center this way.

13 Rxf4 Be5 14 Qf3

No exclamation mark here, this is the only possible way. I did not know how the sacrifice would turn out but I had to be pleased considering how desperate for counterplay I had been just two moves earlier.

14...Bxf4

If he doesn't take it I'm just going to leave it there, unless of course 14...g5 when White interpolates the queen check on d5 and then withdraws the rook.

15 Qxf4 Nxf5 16 Bb2

Calm down — this is a *sacrifice*, not a combination. The forceful 16 Nxf5? would be illogical because it develops Black's pieces for him. After 16...Bxf5 17 Qxd4 Bxd3 18 Bb2 there would be the pin 18...Qb6! The right way is for

White to develop his own pieces and let the tactics on the central diagonals evolve naturally. Thus if now 16...Nxc3? White can indeed go 17 Qxd4! Qb6 18 Bc4+

16...d5!

The variation just noted explains why this is best. Black needs to block the light-square diagonal ahead of time in order for his essential ...Qb6 resource to work when he needs it.

17 Re1!?

I was torn between this and 17 c4!, which has the threat of Nxf5 and Qxd4, whereupon ...Qb6 doesn't work anymore because of c5! (Likewise if 17...Nxc3 18 Qxd4 Qb6 19 c5) I figured he'd play 17...dxc3 18 Bxc3 d4 and then I spent all kinds of time analyzing 19 Bc4+, or 19 Nxf5, or I don't remember what all else. Looking at it now with fresh eyes, White's position looks great after the simple 19 Bb2! Black has almost no useful move. For instance 19...Be6 20 Re1 etc. Somehow this did not seem clear over the board, but by now I was satisfied that White's compensation for the exchange was more than adequate and, being unable to decide between two equally promising looking continuations, I selected the one that was a developing move.

17...Qd6?

The reason 17 Re1 was probably inferior to 17 c4 is that precisely now Black had an opportunity to get in 17...Nxc3! with a defensible position, although White still has compensation after either 18 Qxc3 or 18 Qxd4 Qb6 19 hxc3

18 Re5

It's a measure of how good White's position is that it's tempting to trade queens here: 18 Qxd6 Nxd6 19 Re5 both center pawns fall — which means White actually emerges with slight material *advantage* — and even without queens Black's king is still uncomfortable under the fire of White's bishops. 19...Bf5 20 Nxf5 Nxf5 21 Rxd5 Rad8 22 Bxf5 gxf5 (22...Rxd5 23 Be6+) 23 Rxd4 Rxd4 24



Bxd4 is a possible continuation.

18...Nxc3 19 Qxc3

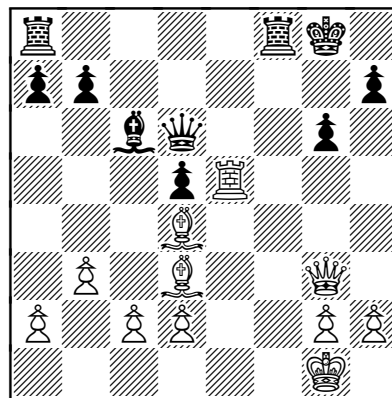
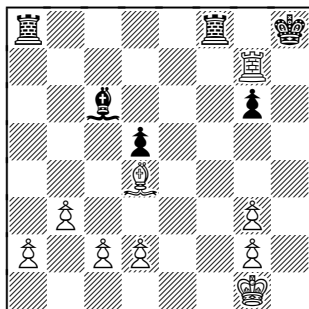
There was also 19 Qxd4 to consider. If then 19...Nf5? 20 Bxf5 Bxf5 21 Rxd5 Qb6 22 Rc5! Rather, Black should play 19...Qb6 immediately, and then after 20 hxg3 we get something not unlike the queen trade variations from the previous note. So White has the advantage in any case, but keeping the queens on had worked well thus far, and Braunlich was slipping into time trouble under the burden of defending against the full-blown attack.

19...Bd7

19...Bf5? was impossible because of 20 Rxf5 Qxc3 21 Rxf8+

20 Bxd4 Bc6

Here I really, *really* wanted to play 21 Bxg6 hxg6 (not 21...Qxc6? 22 Rg5) because I'd spotted the gorgeous follow-up 22 Re7! He can't take the rook because 23 Qxc6+ mates but meanwhile his queen is hanging too, so Black has to go 22...Qxc3 Then he's caught in a "mill": 23 Rg7+ Kh8 24 Rxb7+ . He can't even get out by sacrificing back a rook to clear f8, 24...Rf6? because White is winning the ending after 25 Bxf6+ Kg8 26 Rg7+ Kf8 27 hxg3. Therefore he has to just take his medicine by 24...Kg8 25 Rg7+ Kh8 26 Rxa7+ Kg8 27 Rg7+ Kh8 28 hxg3 (diagram). White threatens Rxc6+ and then take the bishop. Black can defend that but at least White will get the g-pawn, winding up with five pawns for a rook. As much fun as all this would be, my head managed to get the better of my heart and I resisted the temptation to cash in my wonderful attacking middlegame for this ending.



21 c4!

It was good earlier and it's still good here. White threatens to take twice on d5 with the Bc4 pin at the end.

21...Rad8

Hoping to reach an ending with 22 cxd5 Bxd5 23 Rxd5 Qxc3 24 hxg3 Rxd5 25 Bc4 Rd8 26 Bxa7, which I wanted no part of at this point.

22 c5! Qf6

Black had a tough choice. Of course he didn't want to step into the line of my bishop this way, but other queen retreats might have provoked that bishop sacrifice on g6...

In fact, it appears to me that after 22...Qc7 White should contain himself for another move or so and play 23 h4! If instead 23 Bxg6 hxg6 24 Qxc6+ (24 Re7!? is a possibly improved version of the 'mill' variation since after 24...Qxc3 25 Rg7+ Kh8 26 Rxb7+ Kg8 27 Rg7+ Kh8 28 Rxa7+ Kg8 29 Rg7+ Kh8 30 hxg3 White already has three connected passed pawns; I might not have been able to resist!) 24...Qg7 there's lots of promising-looking stuff but White may also lose, eg 25 Qh5 Rde8! 26 Rg5 Re1 mate. So instead 25 Qe6+ but then 25...Rf7 and... what? Not 26 Rxd5? Bxd5 As I said, 23 h4! is more reliable.

23 Rxd5 Qxd4+ 24 Rxd4 Rxd4 25 Bc4+?

The irritating thing is that I had actually seen the problem with this a couple moves earlier, but at that time it was just one of many possibilities



before I knew that he was going to give up his queen. Now that the position was really on the board I forgot my analysis and, caught up in my opponent's time trouble, slapped out a thoughtless move.

25...Bd5 26 Bd3

For the second time in the game I — fortunately — came to grips with having made a mistake and took the time to make the best of the situation. 26 Qe5? would not have turned out happily for White after 26...Bxc4 27 Qxd4 Rf1 mate. However, 26 Bxd5+ was also not so attractive as after 26...Rxd5 27 Qc3 Rfd8 Black will win the d-pawn. White would have a long grind ahead trying to win this. Best to just swallow one's pride and retract the bishop.

26...Rdf4 27 Qg5 Bc6 28 Bc4+ Kg7 29 d4

Threatening to blot out his bishop, and of course Black can't take this pawn because of Qe5+

29...Re4

Threatening Re1+

30 h4 h6 31 Qg3

He still can't take my pawn, I'm still menacing d5, and now there's also a weakness at g6 to pick on with Bd3 or h5. Black's game is teetering.

31...Rd8

Ready to answer 32 Qc7+ with Rd7. But now...

32 d5!

...disrupts the coordination of Black's pieces, since if 32...Bxd5 33 Qc7+ wins the rook. Braunlich hesitated a few precious seconds and his flag fell.

1-0

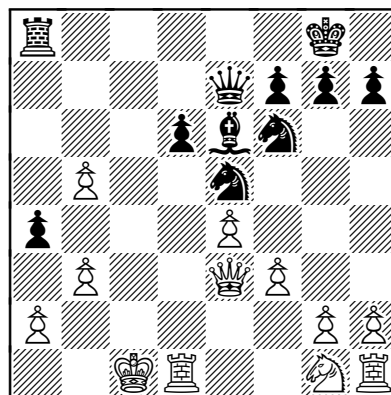


BLINDFOLD CHESS: EARLY PRACTITIONERS

The early practitioners of blindfold chess after Philidor included LOUIS CHARLES MAHE DE LA BOURDONNAIS (1795-1840). He was born in Reunion, a volcanic island about 420 miles east of Madagascar, an overseas possession of France. He was considered the strongest chess player in his day but didn't discover his talent for blindfold chess until late in his career. Two examples follow:

JOUY - LA BOURDONNAIS
CENTER GAME
PARIS 1836

1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 Qxd4 Nc6 4 Qd3 Nf6 5 f3 Bc5 6 Be3 Qe7 7 Be2 0-0 8 Nc3 Ne5 9 Qd2 Bxe3 10 Qxe3 d6 11 0-0-0 (Black's future is now a queenside attack.) Be6 12 b3 a5 13 Na4 b5 14 Bxb5 Rfb8 15 c4 c6 16 Nb6 cxb5 17 Nxa8 Rxa8 18 cxb5 a4





19 Kb2 axb3 20 axb3 d5 21 Ra1 Rxa1 22 Kxa1
Qa3+ 23 Kb1 dxe4 24 Kc2 Qa2+ 25 Kd1 Bxb3+
26 Ke1 Nd3+ 27 Kf1 Qb1+ 28 Ke2 Qe1mate 0-1

LA BOURDONNAIS - GENERAL HAXO
PARIS 1836

SCOTCH

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 Qf6? 4 Nc3 exd4 5 Nd5
Qd8 6 Bc4 Bc5 7 0-0 h5 8 b4 Nxb4 9 Nxb4 Bxb4
10 Qxd4 Nf6? 11 Bxf7+ Kxf7 12 Qxb4 d6 13 Qb3+
Be6? 14 Qxb7 Qb8 15 Rb1 Nxe4 16 Qxe4! Qxb1
17 Bh6 Qxa2 18 Ng5+ Ke7 19 Bxg7 Rhg8 20 Re1
Kd7 21 Nxe6 Rae8 22 c4 Rxb7 23 Nc5+ dxc5 24
Qxe8+ Kd6 25 Qe6mate 1-0

Another early practitioner of blindfold chess was Alexander McDonnell (1798-1835). McDonnell was the chief rival of La Bourdonnais. These two chessplayers played six matches, a total of 84 games (according to Anne Sunnucks) or 85 games (Hooper and Whyld); McDonnell won 27, lost 44, with 13 draws. The 6th match was unfinished after McDonnell fell ill and died.

McDonnell was a strong blindfold player and usually gave odds. In the following game he plays without his pawn on f7 and White is given the first two moves:

J WORRALL - A McDONNELL
LONDON 1829

(Remove Black's f7 pawn)

1 e4 ... 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 d5 4 e5 c5 5 Bb5+ Nc6 6
Bxc6+ bxc6 7 c3 Qb6 8 0-0 Ba6 9 Re1 cxd4 10
cxd4 Ne7 11 Ng5 Bc8 12 a3 Nf5 13 Nf3 c5 14 dxc5
Bxc5 15 b4? Bxf2+ 16 Kh1 Bxe1 17 Qxe1 0-0 18
a4 Rb8 19 b5 a6 20 Nc3 axb5 21 Nxb5 Bd7 22

Ba3 Rfc8 23 Nd6 Nxd6 24 Bxd6 Ra8 25 a5 Qb2
26 Rb1 Qc3 27 Qf1 h6 28 Nh4 Qc4 29 Ng6 Qxf1+
30 Rxf1 Bb5 31 Rb1 Kh7 32 Ne7 Rc3 33 h3 Bd3
34 Rb6 Rxa5 35 Bb4 Ra1+ 36 Kh2 Rc2 37 Rxe6
Be4 38 Rd6 Rxb7mate 0-1

MCDONNELL - AMATEUR
KING'S GAMBIT

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 g5 4 Bc4 Bg7 5 0-0 d6 6 d4
h6 7 c3 Nc6 8 Qa4 Kf8 9 Na3 f6 10 Bd2 Bg4 11
g3 fxg3 12 hxg3 Bh5 13 Rae1 Be8 14 Qc2 Bf7 15
Bxf7 Kxf7 16 Qb3+ Kg6 17 Qc2 Nge7 18 e5+ f5
19 g4 h5 20 gxf5+ Nxf5 21 Nh4+ Kh7 22 Qxf5+
Kg8 23 Qf7+ Kh7 24 Qg6+ Kg8 25 Rf7 Rh7 26
Nf5 Qe8 27 Rxb7+ Kf8 28 Rg8mate 1-0

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2000 - # 3

Philidor's "Evergreen Game" Legacy

Lucena Position

"A knight on the rim is dim."

1 e4 e5 2 Qh5 g6
 3 Qxe5+... uh, oh...

time trouble! ≈ ♞♞

trigger hand / execute move

technique to mate with ♗ & ♘

GENS VNA SUIVIS

pawn = 1
 knight = 3
 bishop = 3
 rook = 5
 queen = 9

♞ xh7+!

The Chess Mind