

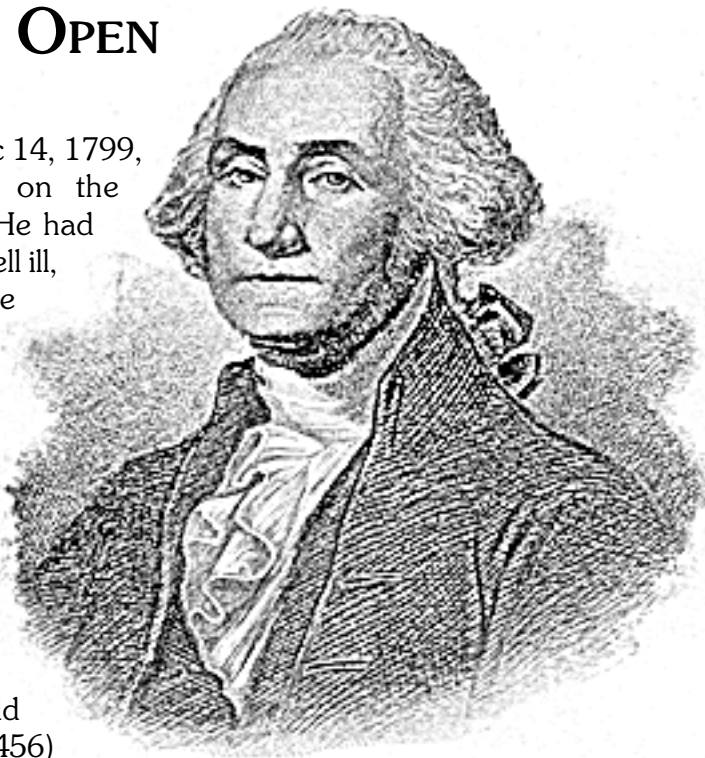


GEORGE WASHINGTON OPEN

by Mike Atkins

ON A COLD WINTER'S NIGHT on Dec 14, 1799, George Washington passed away on the grounds of his estate in Mt Vernon. He had gone for a tour of his property on a rainy day, fell ill, and was slowly killed by his physicians. Today the Best Western Mt Vernon hotel, site of VCF tournaments since 1996, stands only a few miles away. One wonders how George would have reacted to his name being used for a chess tournament, the George Washington Open.

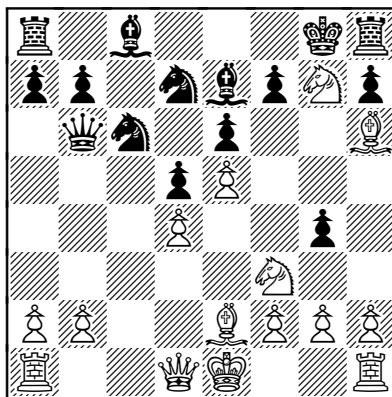
Eighty-seven players competed, a new record for Mt Vernon events. Designed as a one year replacement for the Fredericksburg Open, the GWO was a resounding success in its initial and perhaps not last appearance. Sitting atop the field by a good 170 points were IM Larry Kaufman (2456) and FM Emory Tate (2443). Kudos to the validity of the rating system, as the final round saw these two playing on board 1, the only 4½s.



Tate is famous for his tactics and Kaufman is super solid and rarely loses except to brilliancies. Inevitably one recalls their meeting in the last round at the 1999 Virginia Open, there also on on the top board. During that game Larry became very sick and almost passed out. He managed to put up a good struggle before losing and was hospitalized right afterwards. This time around, the two produced a game that epitomized their contrasting styles and left spectators spellbound and dumbstruck. Emory won again and so claim undisputed first prize.

EMORY TATE -LARRY KAUFMAN FRENCH

1 e4 e6 2 Nf3 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6
4 e5 Nfd7 5 Ne2 c5 6 d4
Nc6 7 c3 Be7 8 Nf4 cxd4 9
cxd4 Qb6 10 Be2 g5 11
Nh5 g4 12 Ng7+ Kf8 13
Bh6 Kg8



(13...gxf3!?) 14 Nh5 gxf3 15 gxf3 Nf8 16 Rg1+ Ng6 17 Rg4 Bd7 18 Kf1 Nd8 19 Qd2 Bb5 20 Re1 f5 21 exf6 Bb4 22 f7+ Kxf7 23 Rf4+ Nxf4 24 Qxf4+ Ke7 25 Qf6+ Kd7 26 Qg7+ Kc8 27 Rc1+ Kb8 28 Bxb5 Qxb5+ 29 Kg2 a5 30 Qxh8 Ka7 31 Qxh7 Nc6 32 Be3 Rf8 33 Nf4 e5 34 Ne6 (34 dxe5+? d4) 34...exd4 35 Nxd4 Nxd4 36 Bxd4+ Ka8 37 Qc7 Qe8 38 Qb6 Rg8+ 39 Kh1 Qb8 40 a3 1-0

Below the top two the field was very evenly dispersed. There were players in every 100 point group down to 700, except for

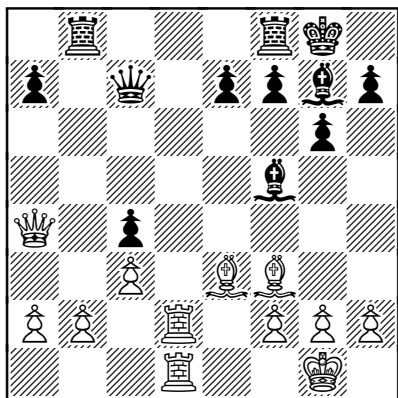


2300 and 900. Tarit Mitra, rated 1531 had the biggest upset of the first round and the tournament when he defeated life master Phil Collier. Paired way up every game, Mitra also defeated Sohail Uppal (1920) and Virgilio Rollamas (1894) to realize a C player's dream tournament.

PHIL COLLIER - TARIT MITRA SICILIAN

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 g6 5 Nc3 Bg7 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Be2 0-0 8 0-0 d5 9 exd5 Nxd5 10 Nxd5 Qxd5 11 Bf3 Qd6 12 Nxc6 bxc6 13 c3 Bf5 14 Qa4 Rab8 15 Rad1 Qc7 16 Rd2 c5 17 Rfd1 c4



White has some advantage: his rooks are doubled on the open file and Black's queenside pawns are separated. But now Collier became too clever for his own good. He worked out a classic combination, only to discover there was a hole in the envisioned mating net.

18 Bxa7?

Obviously Black can pin this bishop and, it would seem, win two bishops for a rook. Ironically, that would be enough for a less skilled or experienced player to avoid the calamity that follows since he would probably not see the hidden potential in the text move.

18...Ra8 19 Bxa8 Rxa8 20 Be3!? (the "point"!) **Rxa4 21 Rd8+ Bf8 22 Bh6**

This was the position White must have foreseen back on move 18. At first glance mate seems

inevitable. Phil may have also anticipated Black's next move, but he certainly overlooked what happened next!

22...Ra8! 23 Rxa8 Bc8!

And that's that! There is no mate and Black comes out with material advantage. Maybe White should try 24 Bxf8 Kxf8 25 Rd2 now, but it's next to impossible to remain objective in the face of such a turnabout, so it's no surprise Phil keeps trying to extend the tactical play.

24 Ra7 Qb6 (not 24...Qxa7? 25 Rd8) **25 Be3 Qxb2 26 h3 Kg7 27 Rd8 Bb7 28 Bd4+ f6 29 Rb8? Qc1+ 30 Kh2 Qf4+ 31 g3 Qxb8 0-1**

Boris Privman, Ilye Figler, Oladapo Adu & Vladimir Grechikhin scored 5-1 for =2nd. Top experts were John Rouleau & Sergei Kanevsky scoring 4½-1½ each. A logjam among the class A players found Krishnan Sudharsan, Joshua Berch, Kai Huang, David Sterner, Chris Sevilla & William Van Lear with 4-2. Top B were John Farrell & William Carroll at 4-2. Josh Specht was the only clear class winner, taking the C prize with 3½-2½. Class D was shared between Brian Jacokes & Michael Neal with 3½-2½ apiece. Top Under

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1200 were Wei Fan, William Corner, Craig Perkins & Josh Flickinger, all at 2-4. Cuong Dinh & Walter Kemp scored 3-3 to share top Unrated.

VCF President Catherine Clark organized and Michael Atkins directed for the VCF.

DAVID STERNER - BRIAN JACOKES FRENCH

(Another big upset, over 600 rating points) 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 e4 e6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 f4 c5 6 Nf3 Nc6 7 Ne2 Be7 8 c3 Qb6 9 b3? cxd4 10 cxd4 Bb4+ 11 Kf2 f6 12 Ng3 (White needs to play exf6, perhaps preceded by 12 a3) 12...fxe5 13 fxe5 Ndx5 (13...Bc3 might be even better) 14 Nxe5 Nxe5 15 Qh5+ Ng6 16 Be3 0-0+ 17 Kg1 Bd2! (He exploits the close quarters of the king to drive White into complete passivity.) 18 Qe2 Bxe3+ 19 Qxe3 e5 20 Rd1 Bg4 21 Be2 Bxe2 22 Nxe2 Rae8 23 Qg5 exd4 24 Nxd4? (24 Qxd5+ Kh8 25 Nxd4 Nf4! was hardly any better) 24...Qxd4+ 0-1

LARRY KAUFMAN - BORIS REICHSTEIN HEDGEHOG

Notes by Larry Kaufman

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 b6 4 Bg2 Bb7 5 0-0 Be7 6 Nc3 0-0 7 Re1 c5 8 e4 d6 9

d4 cxd4 10 Nxd4 Qc8 11 b3 Nc6 12 Bb2 Rd8 13 Rc1 Qd7 14 Nc2 Rac8 15 Qe2 Ne8 16 Rcd1 Qc7 17 Ne3 Bf8 18 f4 Qe7 19 Bh3 g6 20 Ncd5 Qd7 21 Ba1 f5 22 Nf6+ (22 exf5 exd5 23 Qf1 d4 24 fxe6 Qg7 25 gxe7+ Qxe7 26 Be6+ Kh8 27 Bf5 Qh5 28 Bxc8 Rxc8) 22...Nxf6 23 Bxf6 Re8 24 exf5 gxf5 25 Bg2 Na5 26 Ba1 Bxg2 (26...Rcd8 27 b4 Bxg2) 27 Qxg2 Nb7 28 g4 Kf7 29 gxf5 Bh6 30 Qh3 Rg8+ 31 Kf2 1-0

TED HALSTEAD - W E WEBBERT CENTER COUNTER

Notes by W E Webbert

(Yet another big upset, 542 point difference!)

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 Nf3 Nxd5 4 d4 Bg4 5 Bc4 e6 6 0-0 Bd6 7 Bxd5 exd5 8 Re1+ Be7 9 Bg5 f6 10 Bh4 0-0 11 h3 Bh5 12 Nbd2 Nc6 13 c3 Qd7 14 Qb3 (weak) b6 15 Bg3 Bf7 16 Re3 Na5 17 Qc2 Rae8 18 Rae1 Nc4 19 R3e2 g5 20 b3 Bg6 21 Qd1? Nb2 22 Qa1 Nd3 23 Rf1 Bd6 24 Rxe8 Rxe8 25 Bxd6 cxd6 26 Nh2 h5 27 Qd1 Qf5 28 g4 hxg4 29 Nxg4? Kg7 30 Qf3 Nf4 31 c4 (weak) Rh8 32 Ne3 (losing) Nxe3+ 33 Kg2 Nf4+ 34 Kg1 Qd3 35 Qd1 Be4! 36 Nxe4 Qxe4 0-1 (if 37 f3 Qxe3+ 38 Rf2 Nh3+)



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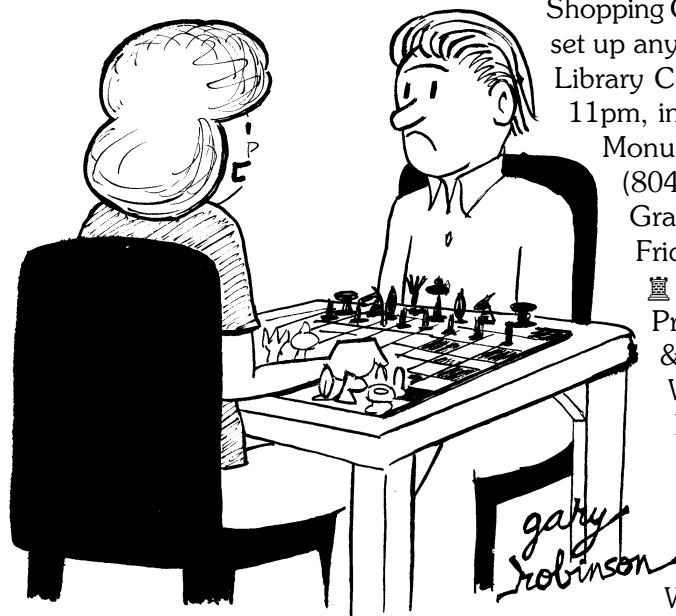
10 Grand Prix points



Chess Clubs

Please send additions / corrections to the Editor

♖ Alexandria: Fairfax County Chess Club, Lee District Park, Thursdays 6:30-9:30pm in the Snack Bar, info Walter Scott, WScott123@aol.com ♖ Arlington: Arlington Chess Club, Central United Methodist Church, 4201 N Fairfax Dr (across street from Ballston metro), Fridays 7pm. Registration for rated Ladder and Action events ends 8pm. Blitz/Quick tourney first Friday of each month. Info www.wizard.net~matkins or John Campbell (703) 534-6232 ♠ Arlington Seniors Chess Club, Madison Community Center, 3829 N Stafford St, info (703) 228-5285 ♖ Blacksburg: Chess Club of Virginia Tech, GB Johnson Student Center, Rm 102, Virginia Tech, Wednesdays 7-9pm ♖ Charlottesville: Charlottesville Chess Club, St Mark Lutheran Church, Rt 250 & Alderman Rd, Monday evenings ♖ Chesapeake: Zero's Sub Shop, 3116 Western Branch Blvd (Rt 17), (Poplar Hill Plaza near Taylor Rd intersection), Mondays 6pm to closing ♠ Great Bridge United Methodist Church, corner of Battlefiled Blvd & Stadium Dr, Tuesdays, 6:30-10pm, info 686-0822 ♖ Culpeper: Culpeper Chess Club, Culpeper County Public Library, Rt 29 Business (near Safeway). 1st, 2nd & 3rd Thursday of month, 6-9pm, info Vince LoTempio (540) 672-0189 or www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Galaxy/9780/ ♖ Fort Eustis: contact Sorel Utsey 878-4448 ♖ Fredericksburg: Spotsylvania Chess, Lutheran Church Rte West 4.7 miles from Exit 130 on I-95. Every Tuesday 6-9pm, info Mike Cornell 785-8614 ♖ Glenss: Rappahannock Community College - Glenss Campus Chess Club, Glenss Campus Library, Tuesdays 8-10pm in the student lounge, info Zack Loesch 758-5324(x208) ♖ Hampton: Peninsula Chess Club, Thursdays 7pm, Thomas Nelson Community College, info Tim Schmal, 757-851-3317 (h) or 757-764-2316(w) or tcschmal@aol.com ♖ Harrisonburg: Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, Trinity Presbyterian Church, corner of S High (rt 42) & Maryland Ave (Port Republic Rd), Fridays 7:30pm, <http://cep.jmu.edu/huffmacj/succ/succhome.html> ♖ Mechanicsville: Stonewall Library, Stonewall Pkwy, Mondays 6:30-9pm 730-8944 ♖ Norfolk: Larchmont Public Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd, Wednesday 6-9pm ♠ ODU Chess Club, Webb Univ Ctr, Old Dominion University, info www.odu.edu/~chess ♖ Purcellville: Blue Ridge Cafe, Thursdays 5-7pm and Saturdays 1-4pm (& bi-wkly 4-7pm), info Douglas A Gripp, 540-668-7160 ♖ Richmond: The Kaissa Chess Club, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2800 Grove Avenue. Thursdays 5:30-9pm. info Alfredo Franco 367-1154 ♠ Knights at Noon, 12noon at Dumbarton Library, 6800 Staples Mill Rd. Peter Hopkins 262-4167 ♠ The Side Pocket, Cross Roads Shopping Center, Staples Mill Rd. A billiards parlor with chess tables set up any hour, every day ♠ Huguenot Chess Knights, Bon Air Library Community Room, 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-11pm, info Walter Chester 276-5662 ♠ Jewish Ctr CC, 5403 Monument Ave. 4-6pm every other Sunday beginning 1/8/95. (804) 288-0045 ♖ Roanoke: Roanoke Valley Chess Club, Grandin Ct Rec Ctr, Corner of Lofton & Barham Rd SW, Fridays 7:30-11:00pm, Info Brian Roark (540) 772-1435 ♖ Virginia Beach: Tidewater Community College CC, Princess Anne Rd, Bldg D Kempsvill Cafeteria, Mondays & Wednesdays 7-10pm, <http://users.exis.net/~rybarcz/> ♖ Williamsburg: Williamsburg Chess Club, Williamsburg Landing - Main Building, 2nd floor lounge, 5700 Williamsburg Landing Dr, Mondays 7-10pm, info Don Woolfolk (757) 229-8774 ♖ Winchester: Winchester Chess Club, Westminster-Canterbury Home for the Elderly, Tuesdays 7pm ♖ Woodbridge: Prince William Chess Club, Wednesdays 7-9pm either in the Community Room, Potomac Library, 2201 Opitz Road or C D Hylton High School, 14051 Spriggs Rd. Contact Dick Stableford, 703-670-5887 or o6usmc@erols.com



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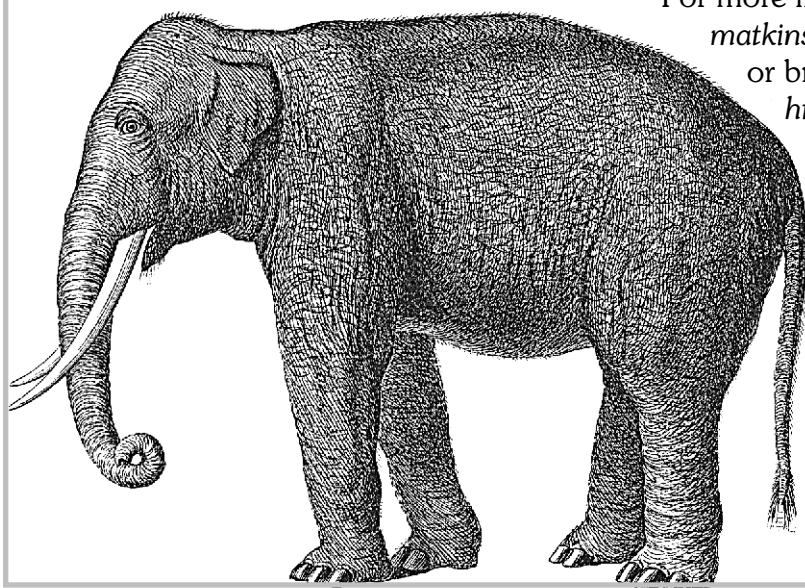
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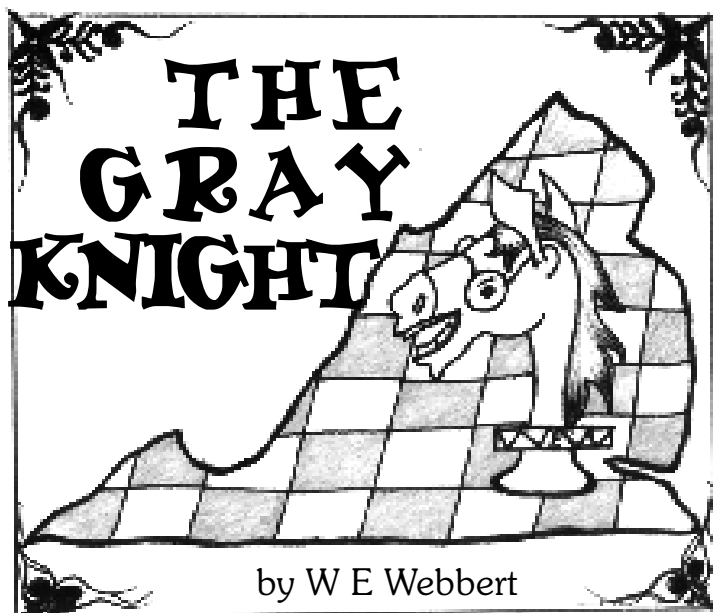
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Alexandria, VA 22309





This is a column devoted to Chess Playing Seniors. For sake of argument, let's say that's anyone over 55 years of age who can play (learn) chess. If you live in this general area (Virginia-DC-Maryland) please feel free to call me at (703) 591-2106 about your senior chess events, notable performances, memorable games, etc.

As indicated last issue, the next major scheduled **upcoming senior event** is the chess portion of the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. It will take place at the Wakefield Recreation Park in Annandale, Va (first right turn, just off Braddock Road West from the 495 Beltway) on 19-20 September. To participate you must be 50 or older and sign up for the

Olympics themselves at a modest cost of around \$5. (This one fee will cover entry into most events, although some—like golf & bowling—have additional costs.) Four rounds will be played at a rate of game in 60 minutes and the top three winners will receive medals. For a complete Olympic information sheet (including the events and registration requirements) call any Seniors Center or Mr Ruairi Murray at Linconia Seniors Center (703) 914-0223. For chess information you may call the TD, Mr Ted Mitchell, at (703) 941-2329. The chess portion will start at 10am each day.

The next event for the Arlington Seniors Chess Club (ASCC) will be their blitz tournament, which is also slated for the month of September at the Madison Seniors Center. There is no entry fee and the winner will take possession of the Madison Traveling Trophy for one year (with the winner's name to be engraved thereon). Call Mr Ralph Belter (the new ASCC President!) at (703) 560-0595 for the exact date and further details as they become available.

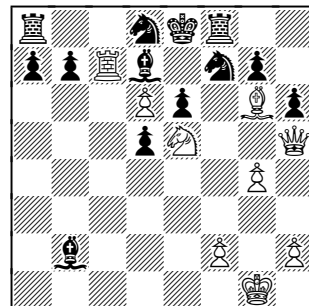
Moving to **senior chess results**, the start of the ASCC annual Gambit Tourney was delayed until June 19 with a break for the 4th of July, so we won't know the final result in time for this issue. As we go to press Your Humble Reporter stands in the lead with the only perfect score, 6-0. Ralph Belter follows a point behind. Next issue we'll report the winners, the gambits played and perhaps a good game or two. Also, now that we have art work with the column, we will try for an occasional photo showing some of our various

senior tourney winners accepting their trophies, medals and cash.

Here is a simultaneous game played in April at the Madison Center where the Virginia state champ, Mr Macon Shibut, took on 17 seniors.

MACON SHIBUT - RALPH BELTER FRENCH

1 e4 e6 2 Nf3 d5 3 e5 c5 4 b4 cxb4 5 a3 Nc6 6 axb4 Bxb4 7 c3 Ba5 8 d4 Nge7 9 Bd3 Bd7 10 0-0 Qc7 11 Ng5 Nf5 12 Ba3 h6 13 Qh5 Nd8 14 g4 Bxc3 15 Rc1 Nxd4 16 Bd6 Qxd6 17 exd6 Bxa1 18 Nd2 Bb2 19 Rc7 N4c6 20 Nxf7 Nxf7 21 Bg6 Nd8 22 Nf3 Rf8 23 Ne5





3RD ANNUAL JUNIOR ORANGE BOWL INTERNATIONAL SCHOLASTIC CHESS TOURNAMENT

by Peter Hopkins

Once again the Virginia Scholastic Chess Association plans to send one or more teams to participate in the only open international scholastic chess tournament held in the United States, the Junior Orange Bowl (JOB). At the JOB last December, VSCA's 6-member age 13-and-under and 7-member age 16-and-under teams placed first in their respective sections. Team members came from Richmond, Fredericksburg, Waynesboro, Lexington & Chesapeake, a fair cross section of Virginia which we hope to better this year.

The Junior Orange Bowl Festival is more than 50 years old. Each year it attracts as many as 50,000 young people who participate in swimming, soccer, tennis and other sports as well as in debate and essay contests. Chess was added in 1998. Last year our teams, carrying our "Virginia Chess" banner, marched with thousands of other youngsters in the Junior Orange Bowl parade in Coral Gables.

For the 1999 trip VSCA was able to provide funding for entry fees and 13 airfares, plus transportation between Richmond and Raleigh, as well as transportation while in Miami. The 13 players and 7 adults who participated paid their own hotel and meal expenses. How much we will be able to do this year will depend on the success of our fund-raising events between now and November. The plan is to enter teams in four sections: U-10, U-13, U-16 and U-19. Candidates for the year 2000 teams must be members of VSCA (\$5/year) and are expected to participate in some fund-raising activity.

Now that we have our letter of determination from the IRS recognizing VSCA as a 501-c-3 charity, we can accept tax deductible donations from other non-profit organizations as well as from businesses and individuals. Our accounting system is set up to create individual accounts for members and/or chess clubs who raise funds for VSCA. Funds in these segregated accounts can be used for whatever chess-related activity the donors specify, whether it be tournament entry fees and related expenses, USCF membership, chess books and equipment, etc.

Anyone who might be interested in this year's JOB trip should contact Peter Hopkins as soon as possible (email: phopinva@juno.com). Plans are still in the formative stages but we would expect to leave from Richmond on Christmas Day, December 25, and return to Richmond on Saturday, December 30. Specific tournament information can be found on page 9 of the May/June 2000 issue of the USCF's *School Mates* magazine.

Gray Knight *continued*

23...Bxe5 24 Qxe5 Rc8 25 Qxg7 Rxc7 26 dxc7
Nc6 27 Qxh6 a5 28 Qe3 Ne7 29 Bh5 a4 30 Qa7
b5 31 g5 Rh8 32 g6 Rxh5 33 gxf7+ Kxf7 34 Qa5
d4 35 Qb4 Rd5 36 Kf1 Nc6 37 Qb1 d3 38 Ke1
Ke7 39 h4 Kd6 40 h5 Rxh5 41 Qxd3+ Kxc7 42
Qg3+ Kb7 43 Qg7 Rd5 44 Qa1 Nd4 45 Qb2 e5
46 Kd1 Bg4+ 47 Ke1 Nf3+ 48 Ke2 Rd2+ 0-1



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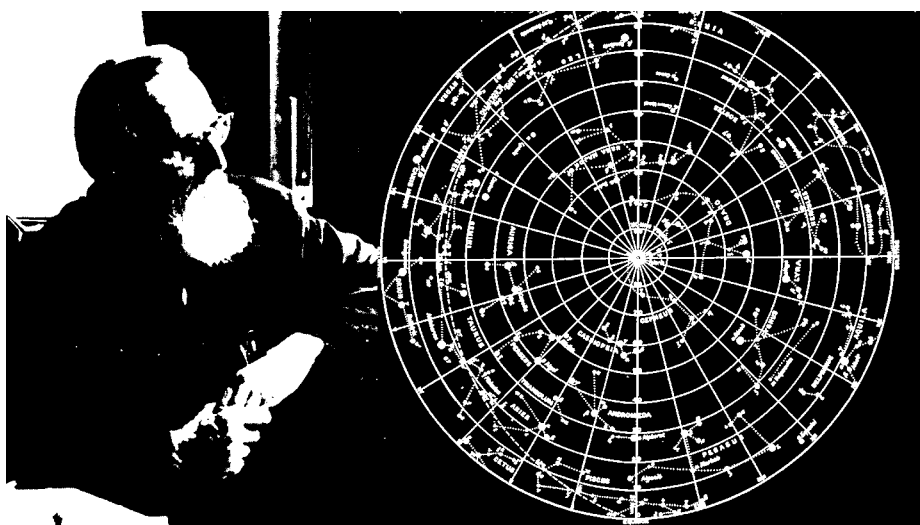
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Transmissions From Planet Diemer

The Blackmar-Diemer Gambit saw a rare moment on grandmaster center stage when Nigel Short sprang it against Evgeny Bareev in the 3rd round of the big Sarajevo tournament in May. (Perhaps he was inspired by Morozevich, just a few feet away, rolling out the King's Gambit vs Sokolov during the same round.) The BDG arose in one of its common transpositional forms. Typically, most commentators didn't even acknowledge it for what it was and instead labelled the opening an irregular Caro Kann. That may be just as well for the BDG's reputation; against Bareev's accurate and unprejudiced defense, White's attack slumped within ten moves! No doubt the *Gemeinde* is busy patching up Short's play but in the meantime let's review the ugly facts.

NIGEL SHORT - EVGENY BAREEV SARAJEVO 2000

1 e4 c6 2 Nc3 d5 3 d4 dxe4 4 Bc4

Presumably the reason for doing it this way is to wait for Black's knight to come to f6 before venturing f3 to discourage the counter ...e5. Not that there's anything terminally wrong with immediate 4 f3 e5, but 5 dxe5 Qxd1+ 6 Nxd1 is not what White has in mind. (He may have no choice but to reexamine this if the game continuation proves as futile as Bareev makes it look.)

4...Nf6 5 f3

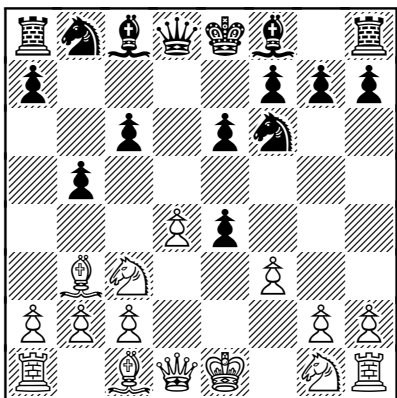
For whatever it suggests regarding the value of the BDG in general, GM Shipov, commenting on the Kasparov web site, judged that after 5...exf3 6 Nf3 White has good compensation for the pawn. 6...Bf5 7 0-0 e6 8 Bg5 Be7 9 Qe2 0-0 10 Rad1 Nbd7 11 Ne5 Nxe5 12 dxe5 Nd5 13 Nxd5 cxd5 14 Bxe7 Qxe7 15 Bxd5 Bxc2 16 Qxc2 exd5 17

Rxd5 Rad8 18 Rfd1 Rxd5 19 Rxd5 Rd8 1/2-1/2 Alexander-Golombek, Nottingham 1946.

5...b5!

Now if 5...e5 6 dxe5 the fact that Black has to move his knight again would improve White's chances. However, the text in combination with Black's next move permits him to maintain the f3-e4 tension rather than capturing and so developing White's game. 5...b5! is not quite an innovation as some commentators claimed, however. Even the Editor had seen it before in his limited BDG experience, eg Shibut - La Rota, 1997 New York Open, except there after 6 Bb3 Black played the inferior 6...a5?! and after 7 a4 exf3 8 Nxf3 b4 9 Ne5 e6 10 Ne2 c5 11 Bg5 Be7 12 Qd3 0-0 13 0-0 White managed to create the usual chaos. (But alas, 0-1 in the end.)

6 Bb3 e6!



So maybe this is the real innovation. Now if 7 fxe4 then 7...b4 followed 8...Nxe4 keeps the pawn without developing White's kingside for him. But 7 Nxe4 would be even worse on account of 7...Nxe4 8 fxe4 Qh4+ etc, which demonstrates the point of Black's 5th move.

7 fxe4 b4 8 Nce2 Nxe4 9 Nf3 Ba6 10 0-0 Bd6
11 c4

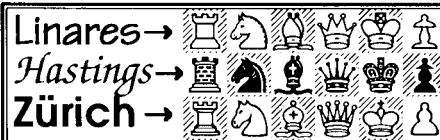
Short makes the best of it but the fact is his game is disorganized and he's a pawn behind to boot. One is reminded of Roman Dzindzhichashvili's assessment of a dubious sacrifice: "Black has pawn *and* compensation." At any rate White lacks the easy, carefree attack that characterizes many lines of the BDG. Maybe there are still chances against a lesser opponent but GM Bareev got the job done in the end. The game concluded as follows:

11...bxc3 12 bxc3 Nd7 13 Qc2 Nef6 14 c4 0-0
15 c5 Bc7 16 Bg5 h6 17 Bh4 Qc8 18 Rfe1
Bxe2 19 Rxe2 Nd5 20 Rf1 Qa6 21 Re4 Rae8
22 Rfe1 N7f6 23 Bxf6 Nxf6 24 Rh4 Qa5 25 Re2
Re7 26 g3 Rb8 27 Kg2 Rbe8 28 Qd3 Nd5 29
Ne5 Qc3 30 Qxc3 Nxc3 31 Rd2 Bxe5 32 dxe5
Nd5 33 Ra4 Rb8 34 Ra5 Kf8 35 Kf3 Reb7 36
h4 Ke7 37 Rd4 f6 38 exf6+ gxf6 39 Rda4 Nc3
40 Ra3 Nb5 41 R3a4 Rd7 42 Bc4 Nc3 43 Ra3
Nb1 44 R3a4 Nd2+ 45 Ke3 Rg8 46 Be2 Rxc3+
47 Kf2 Rc3 48 Rxa7 Ne4+ 49 Kg2 Nxc5 50
Rxd7+ Kxd7 51 Ra7+ Kd6 52 a4 Rc2 53 Kf1
Ke5 54 a5 Kf4 55 Rg7 Ne4 56 Bd3 Ra2 57 a6
Nd2+ 58 Kf2 Nf3+ 59 Be2 Nd4 60 Rg4+ Ke5
0-1

3rd Heat Wave Open August 19-20 2000

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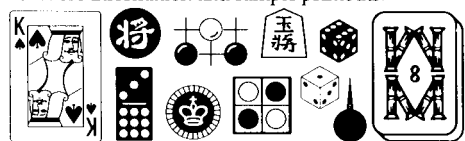
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Readers' Games & Analysis

MARTIN HILL - DAVID NORRIS
MILLENNIUM CHESS FESTIVAL

*Notes by Rodney Flores, reprinted from
the Spring/Summer 2000 issue of*

Hampton Roads Chess Association News

(Chess recluse David Norris submitted this game from the 1st Millennium Open, a fine win over a 1700 player. I've always felt that David had a decent game, and it could really improve if he graced us with his presence more often.) **1 e4 d5 2 Nf3** (I don't know the name of this variation, but it doesn't seem like it should be good for White.) **2...dxe4 3 Ng5** (I researched my database of a million games and only found 30 or so that went this way. The further course of those games generally went 3...Bf5 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Qe2 Nc6 6 Ngxe4 e6 and already Black has a slight plus since his light squared bishop is developed and his development is easier than White's) **3...e5 4 Nxe4 f5** (I see nothing wrong with the way that David approaches this opening.) **5 Ng3 Be6 6 Nc3 Nf6 7 d3 Nc6 8 Be2 Be7?! (8...Bc5 9 Na4 Bd6 10 Nc3 a6 was more aggressive. Then the bishop could go back to c5 and hide at a7. White's bishop cannot go to e3 due to ...f4) 9 f4?! (I agree with David that this move is probably wrong and too risky. Castling was indicated.) 9...Qd4!? (9...Bc5!? 10 fxe5 Nxe5) 10 fxe5 (10 Nb5 Qb4+ 11 Nc3 exf4 Fritz) 10...Bc5 11 Rf1 Nxe5 12 Nxf5 Bxf5 13 Rxf5 0-0** (Fritz says this position is roughly equal but I disagree. It's game in 2 hours, so Black's game will be much easier to play... he is attacking. Besides, White is behind in development and will have trouble getting his pieces to effective squares.) **14 Nb5 Qg1+ 15 Rf1 Qxg2 16 Nxc7 Nfg4 (16...Ne4! 17 dxe4 Rxf1+ 18 Kd2 Rd8+ wins) 17 Bf4 Bf2+ 18 Kd2 Rxf4 19 Rxf2 Rxf2 20 Nxa8?** (Dave gave this the ?, but there is little else to do.) **20...Nf3+ (20...Rxe2+ 21 Kc3 (21 Qxe2 Nf3+ 22 Kd1 Qh1+ 23 Qe1 Qxe1#) 21...Ne3 Black wins) 21 Kc3 Rxe2 22**

Rc1 Qxh2 23 Qf1 Qe5+ 24 Kb4 Qd4+ 25 Ka3 Re5 26 c4 Ra5+ 27 Kb4 b6 0-1



WORKING MY WAY THROUGH THE MILLENNIUM OPEN

*by Errol Liebowitz, reprinted from
the Spring/Summer 2000 issue of
Hampton Roads Chess Association News*

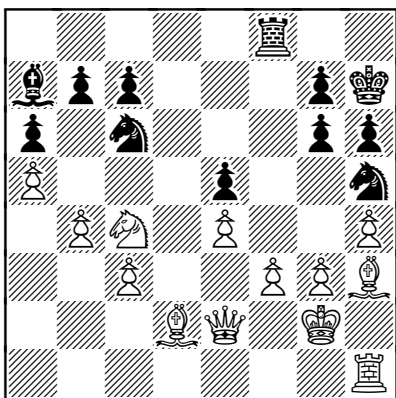
When Tom Braunlich offered to sponsor the Millennium Open I knew I had to attend. It had been years since I had played out of the area. It's one of those things that having kids and owning a business can do to you. I had watched my rating go down into the low 2200s, a place I had not been since the late 1970s. I didn't necessarily feel any less strong than I was years ago, it's just that anything less than a win locally cost a ton of points. I was anxious to see whether my belief that I was still as strong as I used to be was based reality or was, in fact, a delusional belief of a chess player past his prime.

I entered the Holiday Inn a few minutes late and glanced at the pairings. Six grandmasters, a bunch of senior masters and multiple masters. I searched for my name but could not find it. I came to discover that somehow the tournament director had not transcribed my name from a sheet Rodney Flores sent in. Apologies were appropriately offered, along with the understanding that I would get a first round bye. I was disappointed but figured that I would face someone extremely strong the next round. So I set off to observe the top players. That didn't last long; an opponent was uncovered and down I sat to play. The tournament director, noting that about ten minutes had elapsed, indicated that we should move the clocks ahead. I refused, for obvious reasons, and won the argument.



My first round opponent, Daniel Pomerliano, was a scholastic player rated in the 1700s. I played the White side of a King's Indian, using one of my pet lines. Daniel did not understand it and soon got into difficulties. I won a pawn but allowed counterplay in the process. Almost immediately afterwards I realized I had a simple way to win an exchange. I was rattled. But Daniel did not take advantage of his compensation and soon I had traded down to a simple bishop and pawn endgame. Time pressure was beginning to appear and again I made things difficult for myself. Ultimately I won, but I was not pleased with my play and somewhat nervous going into my second round.

My second round opponent was Miles Ardaman, a strong FIDE master from South Carolina. He played 1 g3 as White and we ended up with a London-type system where he didn't play Nf3. I was not impressed with his opening and tried to take advantage of what I thought was a rather passive play. I should have been more impressed. My attempt to "refute" his opening left me with a positional disadvantage and I was soon fighting to stay in the game. Eventually, we reached the following position:



(Lost positionally and in severe time pressure, I nevertheless managed to play for an interesting idea.) 1...Qe7 2 Bc1 Rd8 3 Rd1 Rxd1 4 Qxd1 Nd8 5 Qd5 c6! 6 Qd3? (White, of course, had multiple opportunities to play differently but did not see Black's idea. He recognized that 30 Qxe5 allows counterplay after 30...Qf7 threatening

queenside penetration. That idea, however, is only a diversion for Black's true intention.) 6...Nf7? (As I noted, I was in severe time pressure, having literally seconds left. Out of sheer momentum I moved the knight. But I had intended the following combination: 6...Nxg3! 7 Kxg3 Qxh4+!! 8 Kxh4 (All things considered 8 Kh2 Qf2+ would be best, with a draw by repetition) 8...Bf2+ 9 Kg4 h5+ 10 Kg5 Nf7mate. Given the time situation, however, Ardaman would have simply declined the knight sacrifice and won on time.) 1-0

Although I lost the game, I was pleased to have discovered the combination and even more pleased when I discovered after the game that Miles had totally overlooked it. Even in losing, I felt far more confident than after my first round win.

The next game took a similar path for me. I had White against another FIDE Master, Emory Tate. I played a variation of the Benko Gambit I'd toyed with some. He answered with a subtle move order that left me down an exchange for an inconsequential pawn. Following that, however, I grabbed the initiative and was able to infiltrate Emory's position. Again I got in severe time trouble attempting to extricate from the pickle I'd gotten myself into and ended up losing. Still, despite my opening disaster, I had held my own against another strong player.

Having played two FM's in a row, I next found myself facing another B player. This time, I played a very solid game which pleased me greatly.

ERROL LIEBOWITZ - JAQUELINE GUIGLIEMI MILLENNIUM CHESS FESTIVAL GRUENFELD

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 e4 Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 7 Bc4 0-0 8 Be3 c5 9 Ne2 Nd7 (9...Nc6 is usual. The move played is very passive, doing nothing to contest White's center. After brief thought I decided that the most appropriate response was a kingside attack.) 10



h4 Nf6 11 f3 cxd4 12 cxd4 a6 13 Qd2 b5 14 Bb3 a5 15 a3 a4 16 Ba2 Qa5

(Black's idea is to stop the kingside attack by trading queens. Unfortunately she compromises her

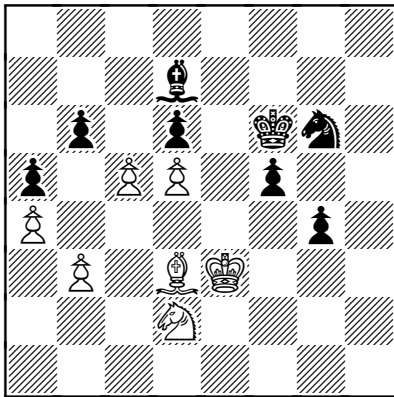
queenside to accomplish this and gives White another area of the board to assault. Black has no counterplay and is pretty much lost even at this stage.) **17 Qxa5 Rxa5 18 Rb1** (threatening 19 Bd2 winning the knight pawn) **18...Bd7 19 e5! Ne8 20 Bd2 Ra7 21 Bb4** (White's pieces move effortless in sync with each other while Black's are totally disorganized.) **21...Bf5 22 Rc1 Rd7 23 g4! Be6 24 Bxe6 fxe6 25 Rc8** (White is now effectively a piece ahead since Black's bishop is trapped behind a pawn wall. I can therefore trade into the endgame confident of winning.) **25...Nc7 26 Rxf8+ Kxf8 27 Kf2 Nd5 28 Rc1** (Black's passed pawn will not be a threat.) **28...Nxb4 29 Rc8+ Kf7 30 axb4 Ra7 31 Nc3 a3 32 Na2 Rd7 33 Ke3 Bxe5** (desperation) **34 dxe5 Rd1 35 Rc1 Rd7 36 Rc3 Ra7 37 Rc8 Rd7 38 Ra8 Rd1 39 Rxa3** and White went on to win in 46 moves. 1-0

Although I clearly had a strength advantage over my opponent, I felt pleased with my play and entered the last round feeling confident. My opponent was IM Rich Delaune, an old foe whom I had drawn a few times but never beaten.

RICHARD DELAUNE - ERROL LIEBOWITZ 1ST MILLENNIUM CHESS FESTIVAL ENGLISH

1 c4 c5 2 g3 Nc6 3 Bg2 g6 4 Nc3 Bg7 5 d3 d6 6 e4 e5 7 Nge2 Nge7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Rb1 Rb8 (Although I offered a draw somewhere around here, my play was not designed to elicit a draw. Rather, I was looking to minimize White's first move advantage. I intended to break symmetry when the resulting imbalance would not be to my disadvantage.) **10 Be3 a6 11 a4** (Rich told me after the game that he declined my draw offer as he did not have experience with this position and thought it would be instructive to play. Now the

game begins in earnest.) **11...Bd7 12 h3 Qc8 13 Kh2 f5 14 f4** (In a matter of just four moves we have gone from a boring symmetry to dynamic tension.) **14...Kh8** (A prophylactic waiting move which takes the king away from checks on d5 as well as potential knight forks on e7, both of which are common themes in this type of position.) **15 Qd2 Nb4 16 Rbc1** (Now if White plays 16 fxe5 dxe5 17 Bh6? Bxh6 18 Qxh6 Nxd3 and the queen pawn falls.) **16...b6 17 b3 Qc7 18 Kh1 Rbd8** (Again Black plays prophylactically to discourage 19 fxe5 dxe5 because of the juxtaposition of Black's rook and White's queen. But after moving I noticed that 20 Bg5 maintains White's advantage.) **19 Nd5 Nexd5 20 exd5 Rde8** (White has maintained his first move initiative to this point. Here, however, I believe Black is starting to gain a minuscule edge.) **21 Nc3 Qc8 22 Kh2 Bh6!?** (I was really proud of finding this move. After the game, however, Rich questioned it and suggested the possibility of 22...g5, which, quite honestly, I never considered. I analyzed it at home and did not reach a firm conclusion.) **23 Rce1 exf4 24 Bxf4 Bxf4 25 gxf4** (Forced. Black has now secured an advantage in pawn structure.) **25...Kg8 26 d4 a5** (A move which surprised Rich. I felt it was necessary, however, both to fix White's pawns on light squares and to free my knight to maneuver to c5.) **27 dxc5 Qxc5 28 Nb5 Na6** (I would have liked to play Bxb5 but that would have left my knight without scope.) **29 Nd4 Qb4 30 Qxb4 Nxb4 31 Kg1** (On 31 Ne6 Black responds 31...Rf7 and White has not accomplished much (32 Nc7 Rd8). The problem for White is that his bishop is ineffective. Incidentally, in light of what happens Rich suggested 31 Kg3 as an improvement.) **31...Kf7 32 Nf3 h6 33 Rxe8 Rxe8 34 Re1 Nd3** (Winning a pawn. If White's king were on g3 this would not be the case. Still, Black would be for choice.) **35 Rxe8 Kxe8 36 h4 Nxf4 37 Bf1 Kf7 38 Kf2 Kf6 39 Ke3 g5 40 hxg5+ hxg5 41 Nd2 Ng6 42 Bd3** (White might try an immediate 42 c5 here.) **42...g4** (42...Ne5 would be better.) **43 c5!**



(IMs don't go down easily. I missed this continuation in time pressure. Fortunately my position is substantial enough to withstand this shot.) **43...bxc5 44 Nc4 f4+ 45 Kd2 Ne5 46 Nxd6** (The sequence 46 Nxa5 Nxd3 47 Kxd3 Ke5 does not improve White's situation.) **46...Nxd3 47 Kxd3 Ke5 48 Nc4+ Kxd5 49 Nxa5 Bc8!** (Black is now clearly winning. He must only avoid one last pitfall.) **50 Ke2** (If 50 Nc4, Ba6 pins the knight and wins.) **50...Ke4 51 Nc4 Ba6 52 Kf2 Bxc4 53 bxc4 Ke5!** (and not 53...Kd4? 54 a5. So, with no more possibilities of surviving, White resigned.) **0-1** And so I finished 3-2, in a massive tie for 2nd under 2400. A great end to a great tournament. Thanks again Tom!!!

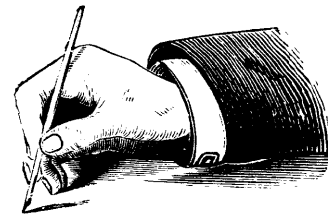


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PERSONAL & GENERAL



from the editor

A lot gets written and said these days about the state of FIDE and the world chess championship. Most of the verbiage is produced by people with a stake in the issue: Garry Kasparov; Kirsan Ilyumzhinov; sundry FIDE officers; elite grandmasters with ambitions to challenge for the title; lesser grandmasters without title pretensions but whose living is nonetheless impacted by FIDE's behavior; national federation poo-bahs from countries great and small... And, of course, lawyers for all of the above.

I possess none of those "qualifications". It probably won't affect my world whether FIDE goes belly-up or, alternately, consolidates all chess power and authority under its umbrella. But I'm interested in chess, have followed the game for a long time, have some acquaintance with a few of the key personages involved but no particular allegiances to any of them. Moreover, one need not formulate a strong *opinion* about the affairs of world chess to bring some clarity to the issues. All that's required is a little historical perspective, clearly stated. Accordingly, here's how we got to where we are, as I see it:

Prior to the 1880s there were players recognized as the best in Europe or the world, although the designation "world champion" was not used. The 1886 match between Wilhelm Steinitz and Johannes Zukertort introduced the explicit claim on the title World Champion of Chess. From that time until the 1940s, when Alexander Alekhine died while holding the title, chess's world championship was regarded as the private property of the bearer. No organizing body could



dictate when a champion must defend his title or who the challenger should be. Instead, the marketplace governed these matters. Since champions needed to eat, and since for most of them chess was their primary source of income, they would engage in matches where they put their title at stake against those challengers who managed to raise a prize fund. Assembling a purse required investors, so the “candidates cycle” of that era, the test of credibility for any would-be challenger, was whether he could perform impressively enough in major tournaments to convince investors that he was worth backing (read:betting on) in a match against the champion.

Today we hear disparagement of this system, as if it were self evident that we never want to go back to those bad old days. Thus we see all sorts of ephemeral “governing bodies” cobbled together to “sanction” what are, in truth, private matches.

In fact, the old system worked pretty well. It gave us a series of champions who comprise a virtual pantheon of chess: Steinitz, Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine... The standard objection is that a champion could duck dangerous challengers. But the power of money is not to be underestimated, plus champions feel a strong psychological pressure to justify themselves before the public. In any case history does not justify the criticism, and at no time was the title in the hands of anyone who was clearly unworthy. Yes, there were matches that took a long time to materialize; but there were also a lot fewer big tournaments through which prospective challengers could raise their profiles. The world was moving much slower in those days, transatlantic travel was a much bigger undertaking. If you think it took a decade too long before Lasker and Capablanca played

their match, consider that the total content of those ten years in terms of chess events was only about one year’s worth by modern standards. In the specific cases of Lasker and Alekhine – the two whose reigns are most often cited as extending beyond what was right – their delay in meeting legitimate challengers had as much to do with the first and second world wars as with any desire on the champions’ part to evade dangerous rivals.

In any event, Alekhine’s death ignited a controversy over what to do next.

The idea arose to turn over management of the world championship to an organization, the Federation Internationale des Echecs (French: world chess federation), or FIDE, which had existed prior to that and organized the world team tournament (chess olympiad) but otherwise played no major role in world chess affairs.

We should be very clear on why this plan prevailed, as opposed to simply naming Euwe champion (as he was the most recent title holder still living), or a match between Keres and Fine (winners of the big AVRO tournament, which some at the time had viewed as a virtual qualifying event for Alekhine’s next challenger). The Soviet Union had recently emerged as a major chess power. Botvinnik was probably already of “world champion strength”, whatever that means, and there were other Soviet players not far behind. This had been demonstrated convincingly in a series of team competitions following World War II. The leading western masters were terrified of the prospect of a Soviet becoming world champion because the Soviet masters were state-sponsored, which is to say not “chess professionals” in the sense of depending on the title to earn a living. The traditional capitalist market forces would not exert

If you think it took a decade too long before Lasker and Capablanca played their match, consider that the total content of those ten years in terms of chess events was only about one year’s worth by modern standards.



the desired influence on such a champion. For their part, the Soviets had doctrinal problems when it came to wheeling and dealing with individual “free agents” like the western masters. For individuals like Botvinnik, Keres or Smyslov, negotiating private matches with foreigners was out of the question, an express ticket to the gulag. But even their overlords, the sports committee bosses, were only comfortable speaking as representatives of The Workers’ Paradise before an organization of national federations. In short, the FIDE solution was nothing more or less than an expediency by which the western and communist chess worlds to do business together.

They got the ball rolling with a tournament of leading candidates in 1948, staged – appropriately – half in the the west and half in Moscow. Botvinnik won. Then FIDE kicked off a regular system of qualifying matches to generate challengers. With minor modifications this cycle remained in place for over forty years, albeit with a couple hiccups along the way.

In 1975 Bobby Fischer declined to defend against duly-anointed challenger Anatoly Karpov after Fischer and the FIDE muckety-mucks couldn’t come to terms on the precise format of the match (number of games, what to do in the event of a tie). In 1984 the Karpov-Kasparov match was terminated without a decision after neither player garnered the required six wins after months of play. (They were using a format with draws not counting.) Finally, in 1993, Kasparov and challenger Nigel Short flew the coop. Rejecting

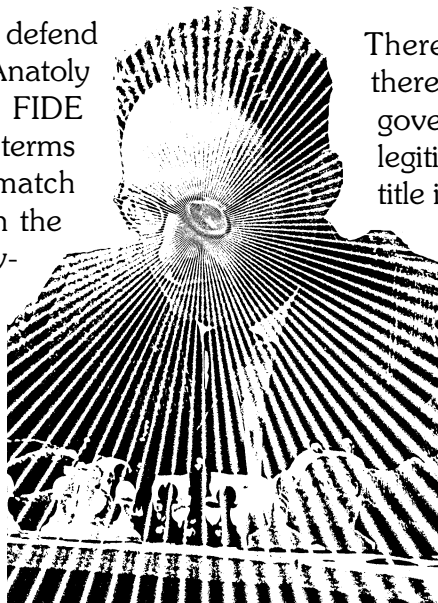


FIDE’s arrangements for their match (venue, sponsorship, prize fund), they announced that they had found their own sponsor and would run the match themselves.

It’s noteworthy that in the entire FIDE era there were exactly two forfeitures of the title and they were committed by the two – the only two – non-Soviets to wear the FIDE crown: Fischer and Kasparov, the latter having dutifully played no less than five matches while bearing the hammer-and-sickle but seeing things differently once the USSR collapsed. Coincidence? Hardly.

For free-world chess masters there was never any value in FIDE beyond getting a shot at Soviet title-holders. *No free champion has ever seen it worth his while to defend his title under FIDE’s auspices.*

Fischer was stuck with a Soviet challenger in his day. FIDE declared Karpov the champion by default and the system soldiered on. But the very first time two non-Soviets were set to play in the title match (Short is from England) the whole FIDE scheme came unglued.



There are many potential benefits to there being some kind of a centralized governance of organized chess, but the legitimacy of the world championship title is not one of them. Indeed, history shows that the title gets along very well without FIDE or a similar body interceding between the champion and his rivals. With the Soviet Union disappeared, the *raison d’etre* for FIDE’s connection to the championship has evaporated. Still, there are many who unthinkingly accept the idea that FIDE’s blessing is somehow



necessary to validate a champion's credentials. And of course there are others who have a personal stake in the organization and stand to lose if it is allowed to die a natural death. Thus, since 1993 we've had at least two parallel universes as far as the world championship is concerned.

Kasparov defended against Short in 1993 and again against Viswanathan Anand in 1995. He's run through a whole series of sham organizations (Professional Chess Association, World Chess Association, World Chess Council — it's too tiresome a job looking up all the precise names) to sanction his various undertakings and promise a fair selection of future challengers. None of them lasts very long because of their self-contradictory nature. They all rely on the champion's personal endorsement for whatever power they wield. If they behave essentially as an agent for the champion's wishes, the body may survive but challenger candidates soon realize that they are not negotiating on even terms so long as they work through such organizations. However, if the organizations actually try to work impartially with regard to all players, it's only a matter of time before they do something contrary to the champion's wishes. Kasparov has never hesitated to withdraw his blessing from such uncooperative agencies. Once he's thrown them off, the source of their influence is gone and the organization typically disappears with little fanfare.

A couple years ago there was a sponsor in place for a match between the world's # 2 and 3 players on the Elo rating list, Anand and Vladimir Kramnik, of Russia, with the winner to play Kasparov for the title. But trouble arose — they didn't think to consult Anand before charting his future! Anand declined to participate and Alexis Shirov, also of Russia and who happened to be showing well at the big Linares tournament where all of this was

supposed to be announced, was hastily enlisted as a substitute. A few months later Shirov upset the plan by beating Kramnik in the qualifier, whereupon the sponsorship deal (and the associated "organization") evaporated. Which only goes to show that in the post-Soviet era, the old market forces are at work again. That is, for whatever reason Anand and Kramnik were saleable commodities, but no one rated Shirov's chances against Kasparov high enough. Subsequent efforts to find sponsorship failed and that match was never held.

The old market forces are at work again. For whatever reason Anand and Kramnik were saleable commodities, but no one rated Shirov's chances against Kasparov high enough.

Now Kasparov is set to defend his title against Kramnik this coming October, in London.

Going back to 1993, FIDE responded to the Kasparov/Short revolt by simply moving down the pecking order, staging a "world championship" match between Karpov and Jan Timman, two of the players eliminated en route to Short becoming Kasparov's official challenger. Karpov won, thereby earning the distinction of not once but twice becoming FIDE world champion without defeating his predecessor at the board! The FIDE candidate's cycle also continued, anointing Gata Kamsky in 1996. The

Karpov-Kamsky match was duly held and Karpov defended successfully.

However, there was a certain "loser's bracket" quality about these events. The participants were below the level of Kasparov and his match opponents, plus there was funding trouble, rumors of checks bouncing and contracts not being met. For obvious reasons, sponsorship for these FIDE title matches got harder to find, to say nothing of sponsorship for the three-year challenger cycle. Traditionally the world championship had been FIDE's cash cow, but in the new world order it had become an intolerable drain. In 1998 FIDE



decided on a radical solution. Ditching their own system as well as over a century of chess custom, they declared that the “world championship” would no longer be decided by a match between the defending champion and a challenger. Rather, there would be an annual tournament with about one hundred of the world’s top players.

In a strange sort of deference to tradition, they decided to seed the defending champion to the finals of the inaugural event in 1998. That is, they’d hold the tournament and then the winner would play Karpov in what was essentially an abbreviated (8 games) world championship match. Supposedly the champion would receive no such advantage in subsequent years. Anand fought his way through to win the 1998 tournament (Kasparov did not play, of course) and then straightaway (a couple days later) faced a tanned-and-rested Karpov, who beat him.

The 1999 tournament was held in Las Vegas after numerous delays, mostly connected with attempting to satisfy demands from Karpov. In the end the defending champion skipped the tournament anyway, claiming he still ought to be seeded to the final. (It’s possibly I’m misrepresenting Karpov’s position here; facts get murky when both sides of a dispute are negotiating both privately and through the press.) Kasparov and Anand were foremost among the other top players who likewise declined to participate. Alexander Khalifman, a Russian who’s

ranked something like 25th in the world on the Elo list, won the tournament. So for whatever it’s worth, he is the reigning FIDE world champion. FIDE has announced that their 2000 tournament final will be in – get this – Teheran, Iran.

If all of this isn’t enough, there remain people who still consider Fischer the undefeated world champion. He’s getting older now and doesn’t play tournaments any more, but in 1992 he gave a rematch to Boris Spassky, the guy he’d beaten for the title back in 1972. Fischer won again, and so has never been actually defeated since winning the then-undisputed championship. For some, as a matter of principle, that’s all that counts.

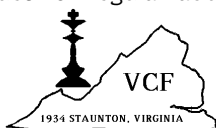


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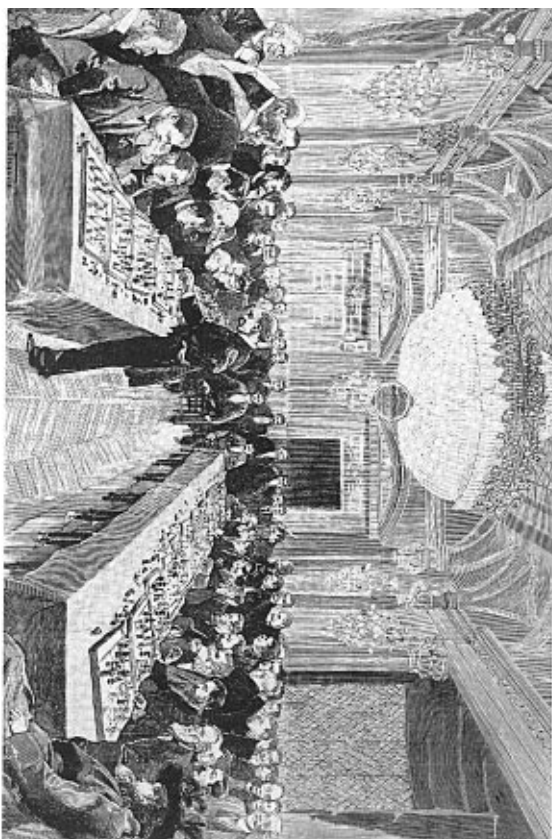
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VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
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