



## NORTHERN VIRGINIA OPEN

by Mike Atkins

Sixty-two players participated in the 7th Best Western Mt Vernon Northern Virginia Open, in Alexandria November 4-5. Stanislav Kriventsov, Yevginiy Gershov, Bryan Smith & Alex Passov tied for first with scores of 5-1. The class prize winners were: Class A - Chris Sevilla, David Sterner David Hulvey & David Slack; B - Martin Hill; C - Jacqueline Guglielmi & Leonard Harris; D - Alex Beatty & Frank Huber; under 1200 - Shekar Sidarth; unrated - Jose Hernandez.

Strategic byes! Were they ever the theme of this tournament. In the third round, no fewer than three of the remaining perfect scores took byes. And for 4th round — and in 26 years of directing I don't think I've ever seen this before — *all four* players with 3-0 took byes! Thus of the six players with 2½ points, three were able to move into a tie for the lead by winning.

Michael Atkins directed and organized for the VCF and was assisted by Grant Fleming.

STANISLAV KRIVENTSOV - STEVE GREANIAS

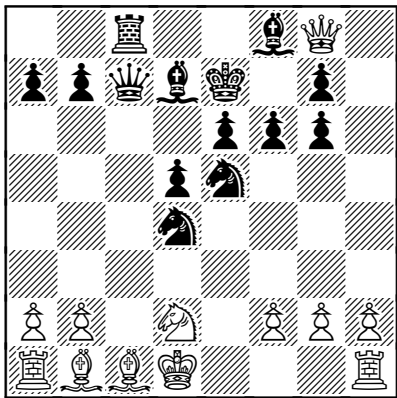
SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 a6 5 Bd3 Qb6 6 Nb3 Nc6 7 O-O Nf6 8 Nc3 Qc7 9 Qe2 Be7 10 f4 O-O 11 e5 Ne8 12 Bd2 f6 13 Rae1 fxe5 14 fxe5 Rxf1+ 15 Kxf1 g6 16 Bf4 Ng7 17 Qg4 d5 18 exd6 Bxd6 19 Bxd6 Qxd6 20 Qh4 Nh5 21 Kg1 b6 22 g4 Nf4 23 Ne4 Qc7 24 Nf6+ Kh8 25 Nxe7 Qxe7 26 Qf6+ Qg7 27 Qxf4 Bd7 28 Qg5 Nd4 29 Nxd4 Qxd4+ 30 Re3 Bc6 31 c3 1-0

PETER KURUCZ - OLADAPO ADU

FRENCH

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 Bd3 c5 6 c3 Nc6 7 Ne2 cxd4 8 cxd4 f6 9 Nf4 Nxd4 10 Qh5+ Ke7 11 Ng6+ hxg6 12 Qxh8 Nxe5 13 Bb1 Qc7 14 Kd1 Bd7 15 Qg8 Rc8 0-1



continued page 20

## THE STATE CHAMPION ANNOTATES...



BOBBY SELTZER - DANIEL MILLER

WORLD OPEN 1992

PETROFF

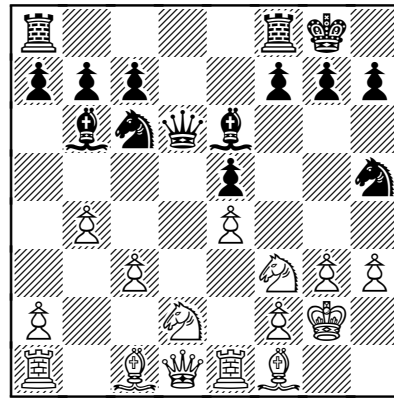
Notes by Daniel Miller

I hope it is not considered immodest or out of line for me to submit my best game. This game I considered a turning point in my "chess career" that propelled me from strong expert / weak master to strong master level. Interestingly, this was the first time I beat any human over 2300. Growing up in Mobile, Alabama, I had the opportunity to play many rated games versus computers. (Novag, Wchess were a couple.) Even though I had made 2200 I had not had much strong human opposition.

At the 1992 World Open I lost a long, tough game to Miles Ardaman in round 1. That night I became determined to prove to myself that I hadn't driven 1200 miles alone from Mobile to Philadelphia just to play in another chess tournament. It was time to improve.

I had never been "into" a game like I was here. I especially like this game because of the number of material imbalances and the level of dynamics present throughout.

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d3** (Many 1 e4 masters neglect to include the Petroff in their preparations. Against these "sidelines" it's quite easy to equalize.) **3...Nc6 4 g3 d5 5 Nbd2 dxe4 6 dxe4 Bc5 7 Bg2 0-0 8 0-0** (White has a solid King's Indian Attack position with the usual plan of queenside expansion with pressure on the d5 square.) **8...Bg4** (Black's development is positionally suspect but tactically justified. On the surface it seems like White is clearly better — indeed, my opponent was playing quickly and giving me funny looks. White needs only to play c3, b4, Nc4 and a4 to fracture Black on the queenside and achieve a winning position.) **9 c3 Qd3!** (Played quickly and forced; White's e-pawn is under fire.) **10 h3 Be6!** (Better than Bh5, the point coming on move 14.) **11 Re1 Nh5** (Δ Ng3) **12 Bf1 Qd6 13 b4 Bb6 14 Kg2** (The only move to defend against Nxg3)



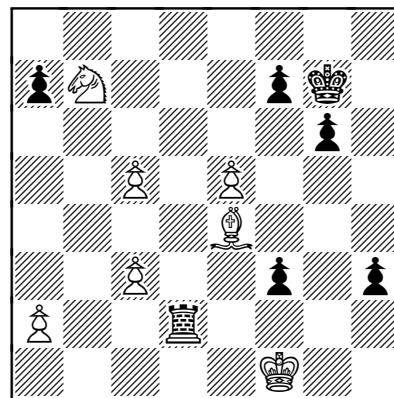


**14...Bxh3+** (Absolutely forced or Black is positionally lost.) **15 Kxh3 Bxf2 16 Bc4!** (After 16 Re2?! White's pieces would be too uncoordinated to defend his king.) **16...Nxb3!** (The rook isn't going anywhere!) **17 Nf1 Bxe1 18 Qxe1** (Two bishops vs a rook and three pawns — Black's advantage is not so much material as king safety. But two bishops have tremendous power in such positions. After a long think I decided that the best way to proceed was to use White's poor king position to neutralize his bishop pair.) **18...Nh5!** (18...Nxf1?! 19 Qxf1 ♖) **19 Bg5 Nf4+** (White's king is too vulnerable to allow this knight to stay on f4.) **20 Kh2 Qg6 21 Ng3 h6 22 Bxf4 exf4** (An exception to the rule that doubled pawns are weak — Black's pawn structure actually improves with this recapture. Now I can pressure e4 on the half-open file. A similar improvement of a 4-1 majority can be found in a line from the Exchange Lopez.) **23 Nf5** (My joy at removing his bishop pair was short-lived. His pieces are very active on the kingside. My opponent later told me that he would not have taken a draw here as the position is too complex. We were both concentrating very hard now.) **23...Qh5+ 24 Kg2 g6 25 Qh4!? Qxh4 26 N5xh4** (White threatens the same tactic (Nxb6) as Black had on move 11!) **26...Kg7 ♙ 27 Bd5 Rfe8** (This can hardly be considered an endgame. I have three connected passed pawns but if I push them his knights would eat me alive.) **28 Kf2 Nd8** (Commencing a maneuver to activate my pieces and deactivate his. White's compensation for the material is piece activity so I have to be patient — step by step, move by move, increase my position.) **29 e5 c6 30 Bb3 Ne6 31 Rg1** (△ N-f5-d6) **31...Kh7?!** (31...Kf8 was better but I didn't want to tie my rook to the defense of e6) **32 Nd2 Ng5 33 Re1** (33 Rxb5!? hxb5 34 Nh3 was highly interesting and just as good as 33 Re1. With three pieces and loads of squares for two rooks and three pawns, White would convert two points in material into about two points worth of advantages in pawn structure and piece activity but probably not change the overall assessment. The game would then turn on dynamics and pure calculation.) **33...Rad8 34 Nh3 Kg7** (White's pieces are less flexible now.) **35 Nd4** (35 Nxb5? Rxd2+) **35...c5!?** (The third major decision, and I still don't know if I was correct. My plan was to activate the rooks for an attack on his king, at the same time tying up his pieces, all for the price of a pawn.) **36 bxc5 Rc8 37 Ba4 Red8 38 N2b3 h5** (Time to ignite the steamroller.) **39 Nb5 Rd3!** (A couple months earlier I had seen a game of Kasparov where he managed to weave a net around his opponent's king with a rook, knight and pawn. Kamran Shirazi and Dmitry Gurevich were hovering around the board now. Both my opponent and I were headed towards a time scramble.) **40 Nd6** (My opponent thought he was winning. His look seemed to say, "I will take your b-pawn and queen my c-pawn. What are you going to do about it?") **40...Rb8 41 Na5 h4!! 42 Nxb7 Rxb7!**

**43 Nxb7 Rd2+ 44 Kf1** (44 Re2 Ne4+ 45 Kf3 Rxe2 46 Kxe2 Nxc3+ ≠) **44...h3 45 Bc6 f3 46 Re4!** (Forced! Now Black had to find the winning line in time pressure.) **46...Nxe4** (I rejected 46 ... h2 47 Rh4 h1=Q+ 48 Rxh1 Rd1+ 49 Kf2 Rxh1 50 Bxf3 because I felt the c-pawn gives White serious counterplay.) **47 Bxe4**

(diagram)

(Quick — Black to play and win. My opponent had set a diabolical trap into which Black might easily fall ...) **47...Rd3!** (47...Rd1+? 48 Kf2 h2 49 Bxf3 h1Q 50 Bxh1 Rxh1 51 c6 Rc1 52 c7 Rxc3 53 Nd6! and Black must fight to draw!) **48 Kg1** (forced



— 48 Bxd3 h2) **48...Rxc3 49 c6! f5??** (I fell for the same combo I'd avoided three moves earlier. I got too fancy, figuring that after 50 exf6+ Kxf6 my king would be more "active" than on f8. 49...Kf8 50 Nd6 Ke7 51 Bxf3 f6 was correct.) **50 Bxf3 Rxf3** (No choice now, but I felt Shirazi quietly mocking me now.) **51 c7 Rc3 52 Nd6 Rxc7 53 Ne8+ Kf7 54 Nxc7 g5 ♙ 55 Kh2 g4** (Another material imbalance to which we had to adjust!) **56 a4?! a5 ♙** (Now neither side has an advantage.) **57 Kg3 Ke7 58 Nd5+ Ke6 59 Ne3??** (The strain from move 14 on finally became too much and my opponent cracked. 59 Nb6 Kxe5 60 Nc4+ Kd4 61 Nxa5 f4+ 62 Kh2 Ke3!? [simpler 62...Kc5 63 Nb3+ Kb4 64 a5 Kb5 =] 63 Nc4+ Kf2 64 Ne5 g3+ 65 Kxh3 g2 66 Ng4+ Kf1 67 Nh2+ Kf2 68 Ng4+ =) **59...f4+ 60 Kxf4 h2 0-1**

## VIRGINIA CHESS Newsletter

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## EMPORIA OPEN

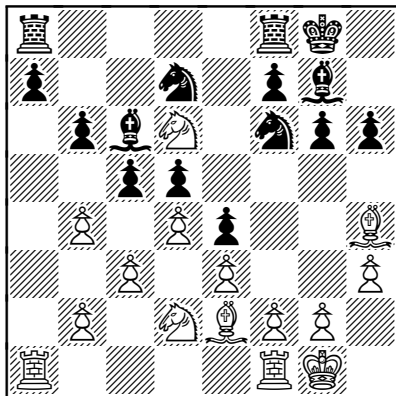
Macon Shibut scored 4½-½ to claim undivided 1st place at the 16th annual Emporia Open. Visiting master Klaus Pohl, of South Carolina, and Raymond Fletcher shared the 2nd-3rd place prizes. Other prizewinners included: Ted Watkins, top A; Mike McHale, top B; Nelson Lopez, top C; Tom Hoffmann, top D; Christopher Snell, top E; Andrew Miller & Illinna Nikolova, scholastic; Ben Bland, scholastic under 1200.

The field at this edition of Woody Harris' excellent food and chess fest was a bit weaker than some years. Shibut and Pohl were the only masters entered. After three rounds they had the only remaining perfect scores, so their penultimate round showdown could rightly be called the decisive game of the tournament.

**MACON SHIBUT - KLAUS POHL**  
LONDON

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

**1 Nf3 Nf6 2 d4 g6 3 Bf4 Bg7 4 e3 0-0 5 Be2 d6 6 h3 c5 7 c3 Qb6 8 Qb3** (I looked at various ways to gambit the b2 pawn but found nothing I liked.) **Qxb3** (Giving White an open file; it would seem more sensible to get one after 8...Be6) **9 axb3 b6 10 0-0 Bb7 11 Nbd2 Nbd7 12 Bg5 h6 13 Bh4 e5?** (This leads into a forcing variation that's advantageous for White. 13...Rfe8 was sound.) **14 Nc4 e4 15 Nfd2 d5 16 Nd6 Bc6 17 b4!**



(This is the problem. White threatens b5, and it's really awkward to meet because of pressure from White's dark-square bishop.) **17...Ne8** (or 17...g5 18 Bg3 Ne8 19 b5 Nxd6 20 Bxd6 winning an exchange) **18 b5 Nxd6 19**

**bx6 Nf5?** (Of course 19...Nb8 20 Be7 was also bad, but Black should have tried 19...Nf6. White's better then but for starters I'd have to choose between 20 Bg3 Nf5 21 Be5; and 20 dxc5 dxc5 21 Ra6) **20 cxd7 Nxh4 21 Bb5** (before he can shut him out by...c4) **cx4** (He's planning to play...a5 [and, incidentally, to set a pretty good trap — see next note] and he doesn't want me to trade and so weaken the a-pawn. But now White is able to use the c-file.) **22 cxd4 a5** (Now White has to resist the temptation to cash in right away by 23 Bc6? Rad8 24 Bxd5 because of 24...Rxd7 25 Bxe4 Bxd4! 26 exd4 Rxd4 turning the tables! However, this idea B-c6xd5 won't go anywhere, and first White can use the c-file to protect his advanced pawn.) **23 Rfc1 Rfd8 24 Rc7** (threatening to win offhand by Rac1 & Rc8 followed by Rxa8 & Rc8) **Nf5 25 Bc6** (25 Rac1 Ne7) **Rab8 26 Bxd5 Nd6 27 Bxe4** (27 Nxe4? is not as good because of 27...Nb5 28 Rb7 Rxb7 29 Bxb7 Rxd7 30 Bc6 Re7!) **Nb5 28 Rb7 Rxb7 29 Bxb7 Nd6** (but now Black can't take the pawn) **30 Bc6 Kf8 31**

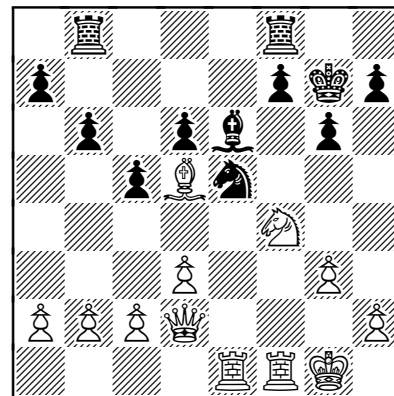


*Klaus Pohl, Macon Shibut - photo by Woody Harris*



*The Emporia Open features serious complimentary food and refreshments!*

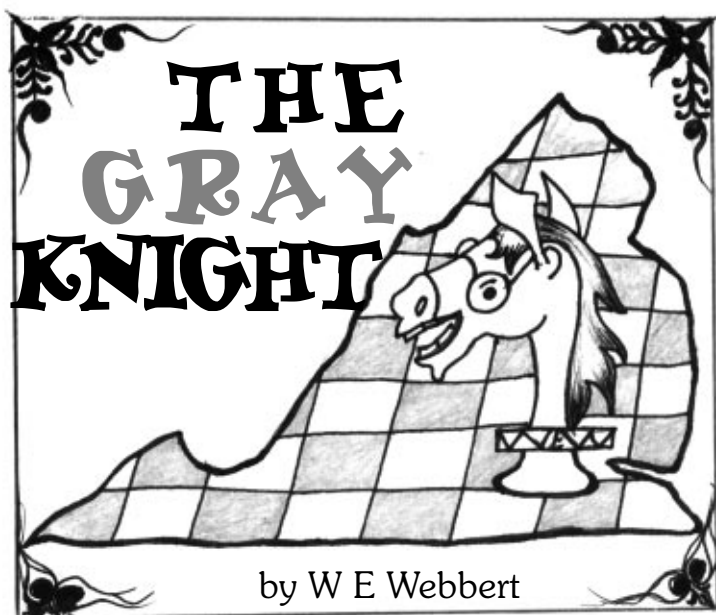
**Nb1 Ke7 32 Nc3 Rb8 33 Nb5 Nxb5 34 Bxb5 Kd8 35 Kf1?! (35 Rc1! was more accurate. As played Black could have activated his rook by R-b7-c7) 35...Bf8? 36 Rc1** (No second chance; from here it's easy) **Bd6 37 Ke2 f6 38 Kd3 Bb4 39 Ke4 Ra8 40 Kd5 f5 41 Ke6 f4 42 Ba6 Bc5 43 Bb7 Rb8 44 dxc5 bxc5 45 Rxc5 1-0**



**TOBIN LOGAN - RAYMOND FLETCHER**  
*White to Play*

White, a pawn down but with some pressure, elected to bail out with a crisp drawing combination: **21 Rxe5 dxe5 22 Nh5+ gxh5** (where Black really desperate to win he could try to extend the game by 22...Kh8 23 Nf6 Qe7 24 Qh6 Qxf6 25 Rxf6 Bxd5) **23 Qg5+ Kh8 24 Qf6+ ½-½**





Arlington Senior's Club blitz winners Constantine Russu (left), Bob Bragdon & Ralph Belter

Ilya Kremenchugskyi and the senior trophy at the 2000 Virginia State Championship



This is a column devoted to Chess Playing Seniors. For sake of argument, let's say that's anyone over 55 years of age and who can play (learn) Chess. Please feel free to call me at (703) 591-2106 with your senior chess events, notable performances, memorable games, etc. We need more games and tournament results from outside the Northern Virginia area. Especially nice are upsets where age and experience trumps a higher rating! *Send in them games!!!!*

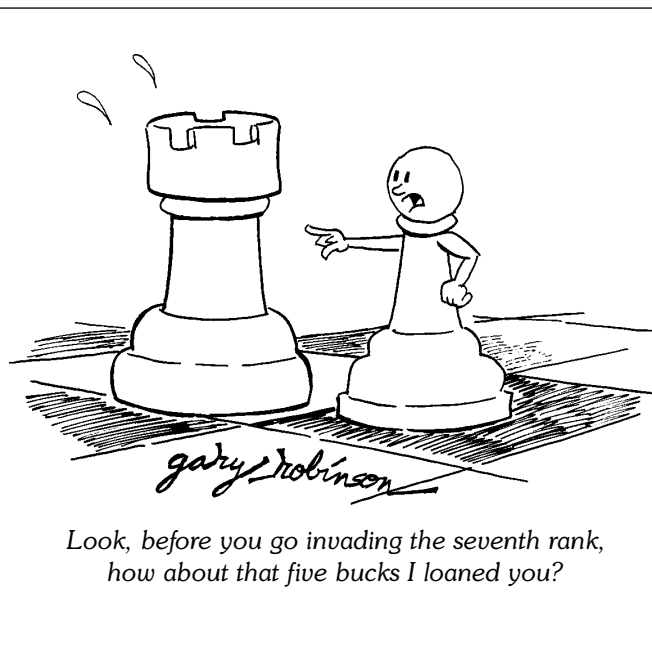
The **Arlington Seniors Chess Club Speed Championship** saw a three way tie for between Mr Ralph Belter, Dr Constantin Russu & Mr Bob Bragdon (see photo) with identical 3-1 scores. The tournament took place on September 11 at the Madison Senior Center in Arlington and was directed by Mr John Campbell. Mr Bragdon had one loss to Dr Russu, Dr Russu had one loss to Your Humble Reporter, and Mr Belter had two draws, one with YHR and one with Dr Sanda Costescu (who won the "B" section with a score of 2½). Unusual to find so many draws in a blitz tourney, but this is the first time we've played this tournament at a rate of 5 minutes per side per game. There were 4 rounds with 14 players ranging from their mid-50's to the high 80's!

This year marked the end of an era at the **Northern Virginia Senior Olympic**. For five of the last six years, YHR has won the gold medal in chess, racking up a record of 13 wins and 3 draws against all comers, and the only "off year" was 1996 when I was traveling and didn't play. But this year the Gold Medal was won by Mr Ralph Belter, on 20 September, with a score of 3½-½. YHR lost two games to claim a bronze. There were only seven entrants (the smallest field in many years). Mr Ted Mitchell directed.

**RALPH BELTER - W E WEBBERT**  
**NOVA SENIOR OLYMPICS 2000**

COLLE

1 d4 e6 2 Nf3 c5 3 e3 Nc6 4 c3 d5 5 Bd3 Nf6 6 Nbd2 c4 7 Bc2 Bd6 8 0-0 Qc7 9 Qe2 e5 10 e4 dxe4 11 Nxe4 Nxe4 12 Qxe4 f5 13 Qe2 e4 14 h3 Ne7 15 Ba4+ Bd7 16 Bxd7+ Kxd7 17 Ne5+ Bxe5 18 dxe5 Qxe5 19 Qxc4 Rac8 20 Rd1+ Ke8 21 Qa4+ Nc6 22 Be3 f4 23 Bd4 Qg5 24 Re1 Kf7 25 Rxe4 Rhe8 26 Rae1 Rxe4 27 Rxe4 b5 28 Qa6 Rc7 29 f3 Nxd4 30 Rxd4 Re7 31 Rd1 Qc5+? (31 ... Qg3) 32 Kh1 Re6 33 Qb7+ Qe7? 34 Rd7 1-0



Look, before you go invading the seventh rank,  
how about that five bucks I loaned you?



The new **Virginia Closed Senior Champion** is Mr Ilya Kremenchugskiy, of Norfolk, who scored 4½ points in the Amateur section at Charlottesville over the Labor Day weekend. Ilya came very close to winning the overall Amateur title as well, losing in the last round to the champion. In his fourth round win against Miss Ettie Nikolov, Ilya was almost six times as old as his opponent!!

ETTIE NIKOLOV - ILYA  
KREMENCHUGSKIY  
2000 VIRGINIA CLOSED  
ALEKHINE

1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 c4 Nb6  
5 exd6 exd6 6 Nc3 Be7 7 b3 Bf5 8  
Bd3 Bxd3 9 Qxd3 0-0 10 Nf3 Bf6 11  
0-0 Nc6 12 Be3 Qd7 13 Rac1 Rfe8  
14 Rfe1 a6 15 Bg5 Bxg5 16 Nxc5  
g6 17 Nce4 Kg7 18 d5 Ne5 19 Qd4  
h6 20 Nf3 Qg4 21 c5 Nd7 (21 ...  
Nxd5 Kremenchugskiy) 22 h3 Qf4?  
23 Nxd6! Qxd4 24 Nxe8+ Rxe8 25  
Nxd4 Rd8 26 Rc3 g5 27 c6 bxc6 28  
dxc6 Nb6 29 Nf5+ Kf6 30 Nxh6 Rd2  
31 Ng8+ Ke6 32 Rce3 Rd5 33 Nh6

f6 34 Rf3 Rc5 35 Ng8 Nd5 36 g4?  
Nf4 37 h4 Kd6 38 Ree3? Rc1+ 0-1  
It's mate: 39 Kh2 Nxc4+ 40 Kg3 Rg1

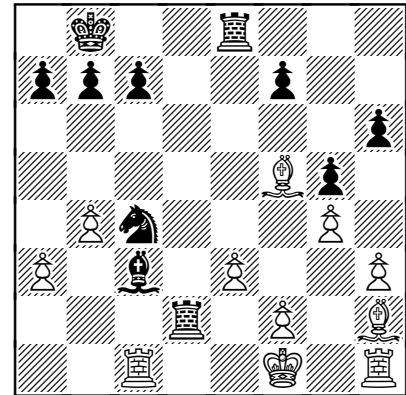
We close with another example of Mr  
Kremenchugskiy's play.

ANDREW HUBBARD - ILYA  
KREMENCHUGSKIY  
CHICAGO OPEN 2000  
TCHIGORIN

1 d4 d5 2 c4 Nc6 3 cxd5 Qxd5 4  
Nf3 e5 5 dxe5 Qxd1+ 6 Kxd1 Bg4  
7 Bf4 0-0-0+ 8 Nfd2 Nge7 9 h3 Bf5  
10 Bh2 g5 11 Ke1 Bxb1 12 Rxb1  
Ng6 13 a3 Bg7 14 Nf3 h6 15 e3  
Ngxe5 16 Be2 Rhe8 17 b4 Nxf3+  
18 Bxf3 Bc3+ 19 Kf1 Ne5 20 Be4  
Rd2 21 Bf5+ Kb8 22 g4 Nc4 23 Rc1

(diagram)

23...Rxe3! 24 h4 (24 fxe3 Nxe3+  
mates after either 25 Ke1 Rc2 or 25  
Kg1 Rg2) Rf3 25 Bg3 Rxc3 26 hxc5  
(if 26 fxc3 Ne3+ again) Rf3 27 Rh2  
Ne3+ 28 Kg1 Be5 29 Rxh6 Rdxh6  
30 Bd3 Nxc4 31 Be4 Rg3+ 32 Kh1  
Nxc6 33 gxc6 Rf4 0-1



## Fund Raiser for Scholastic Chess Jan 13

Thomas Jefferson High School  
4100 West Grace St (at Malvern  
Ave), Richmond VA RR Quads, G/  
75. Trophies 1st & 2nd in each  
quad. Reg 9-9:30, rds 10:00-12:30-  
2:30. EF \$10; USEF \$40. NS, NC,  
WA [phopinva@juno.com](mailto:phopinva@juno.com) Enter  
(checks to Virginia Scholastic  
Chess): PO Box 8314, Richmond  
VA 23226

## VIRGINIA OPEN JANUARY 19-21, 2001 Holiday Inn Select 2801 Plank Road

Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404



Two sections: *Open* (open to all) 5-SS, 40/2, SD/1. \$1800: 600-400-300-200, top U2300 \$100-50, top U2100 \$100-50. Trophy to 1st overall. FIDE rated. EF \$45 if rec'd by 1/13, \$55 at site. Rds 8, 10-5, 10-4. *Amateur* (under 1900) 6-SS, 40/90, SD/1. \$1450: 300-200-150-125, top B \$100-50, top C \$100-50, top D \$100-50, top U1200 \$100-50, top Unrated \$50-25. Trophy to 1st overall. EF \$40 if rec'd by 1/15, \$50 at site. Rds 8, 10-3-8, 10-3:30. *Both Class* \$\$ based on 8 full EF per class, place prizes guaranteed. Reg 6:30-7:30pm 1/19, 9-9:30am 1/20. Half-pt bye avail rds 1-3 or later rds if requested before start of rd 2. Scholastic EF for 19 and under \$20 if rec'd by 1/13, \$25 at site, play for non-cash prizes. VCF memb req'd (\$10, \$5 jr), OSA. Hotel (540) 786-8321, chess rate \$69 1-4, must reserve by 1/3/2000 when hotel will release the room block!! Enter Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139 Alexandria, VA 22306 Make checks payable to "Va Chess". Info 703-768-4730 or <http://www.wizard.net/~matkins/vaopen2001.htm> or e-mail [matkins@wizard.net](mailto:matkins@wizard.net), but no phone entries. 30 Grand Prix points!



## ENDGAME CONTEST: *the 1960s*

by Rusty Potter

With this issue of the *Virginia Chess* we begin the first of four contests on the Endgame. This contest is somewhat different, however, in that the endgame “studies”, if you will, are all practical examples taken from games that I have *actually played* during my 40+ year chess career. Each of the four contests will cover roughly a different decade. Thus, this first contest features games I played in the 1960’s. The next contest will concentrate on the 70’s, the one after that on the 80’s and the final one on the 90’s. (To be technically correct, I should say that since I played so many games in the 70’s, I have “loaned” a few to the 60’s contest, which was otherwise a bit sparse.)

I am offering the following modest prizes for each contest: 10 ribbons to the top ten solvers and medals to the top 3 solvers. In addition, I am also offering a **free one-hour private chess lesson** to the top 3 finishers. This lesson can be redeemed in any of three different ways: in person at my studio in Roanoke; by phone, with the student paying for the call; or via the internet at either the USCF Live! web site or the Internet Chess Club. As a bonus, *Virginia Chess* has thrown in book prizes to supplement the prizes I am offering. Whoever wins this first (1960s) contest will receive a copy of *The Best of Chess Life and Review*, volume 1. Winners in each of the subsequent three contests will get Chris Baker’s *Simple Winning Chess*. There may be additional participation prizes (books) for anyone who at least tries in all four contests. You can’t lose!

Submit your entries directly to the Editor. ([mshibut@dgs.dgsys.com](mailto:mshibut@dgs.dgsys.com) or, if you’re old fashioned: Macon Shibut, 8234 Citadel Place, Vienna VA 22180) Deadline for submitting solutions for this first quiz will be January 22 — turn them by hand at the Virginia Open that weekend if you want. The answers to each quiz, along with the winners’ names, will be published in each succeeding issue of *Virginia Chess*.

Why I am I doing all this? Hopefully, some of you may become interested in taking some lessons with me if you like what you see in these contests. Also, other Virginia masters may be encouraged to submit their games for publication. Lastly, I do think that these

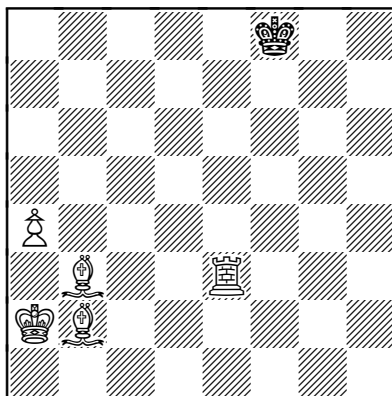
endings offer a good deal of interest and instructional value that may help in a small way to raise the standard of play among Virginia players in this vital, but often neglected, phase of the game.

If these contests prove successful, we can consider another series featuring sacrificial combinations in the future.

Your answers to these examples will be graded fairly. If you get part of an answer right you will get partial credit even if you missed part of the main idea. In general, the more relevant variations you show, the better off you are, credit-wise.

I think that you will find these examples instructive and, I hope, entertaining as well. Happy solving!

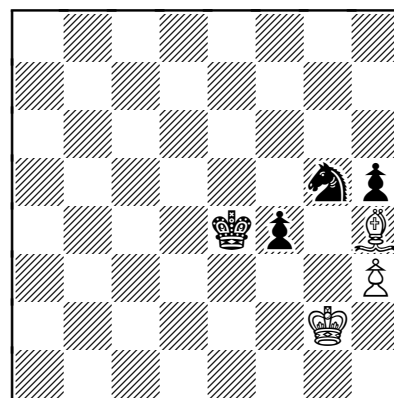
Rusty Potter, OLM



**Mark Diesen - Rusty Potter**

*Black to Play*

My opponent in this game was the soon-to-be World Junior Champion, Mark Diesen. Mark would go on to become an International Master in time. In spite of his credentials, and in spite of all appearances, I made a determined decision at this point that I was simply not going to lose this game. I made my move and explained my detailed drawing plan to my opponent. My opponent considered my move and its explanation and reluctantly agreed to my draw offer. What detailed plan to halve the point did I have in mind here?



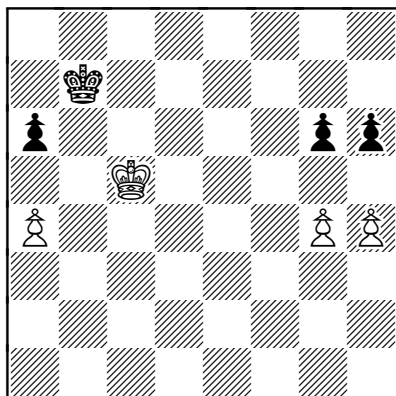
**Tony Baster - Rusty Potter**

*Black to Play*

Unaware of the theory of this particular ending, my opponent failed earlier to get his bishop to a different diagonal, which would have held the draw. How did I finish things off rather crisply here?

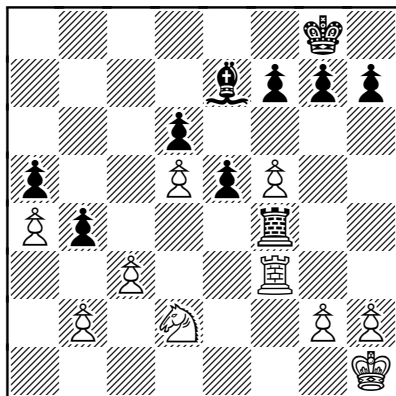


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**Rusty Potter - R Moore***White to Play*

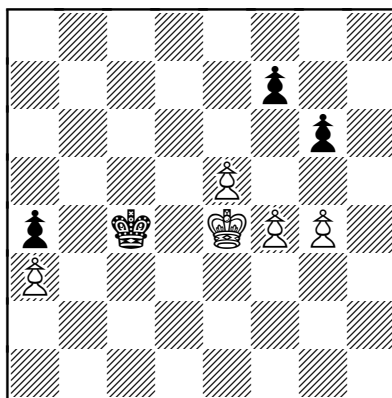
I wound up making this ending a good deal more difficult to win than it should have been. What is White's most efficient way to bring the point in here?

4

**Bob Arnold - Rusty Potter***Black to Play*

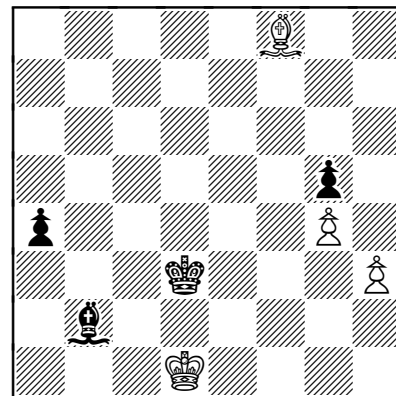
Back when Richmond's chief club was in Byrd park at the Virginia Home for the Incurable, quiet and likable Bob Arnold was one of the the city's better players. In our game, although Bob's loose pawns give some cause for alarm here, neither trading rooks after 1...Rxf3, 2.Nxf3 nor playing 1...b4xc3, 2. Rxf4 e5xf4, 3.b2xc3 seem to promise Black much. What is wrong with this thinking?

5

**Rusty Potter - J Smeltzer***White to Play*

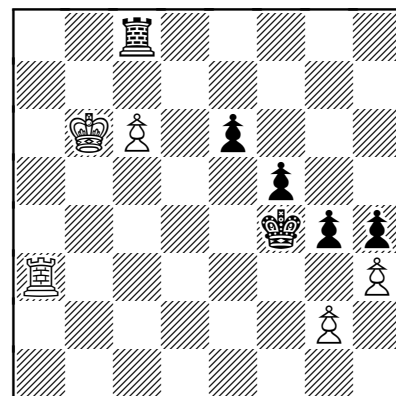
Two questions for you here: How do you defeat 1...Kb3?; and how do you defeat 1...Kc5? Give at least one convincingly winning variation against each of these defenses.

6

**R Naxlor - Rusty Potter***Black to Play*

I blew this ending into a draw. Still, it is a bit delicate. Black's best winning plan here is.....

7

**Charles Knight-Rusty Potter***Black to Play*

My opponent in this game was another long-time stalwart of the Richmond chess scene: jovial, chain-smoking Charlie Knight. My win here against Charlie is fairly straightforward. Yet when the time comes, you must not shrink from the sacrifices that you may be called upon to make...



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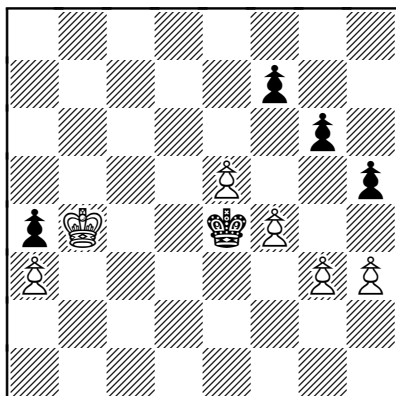
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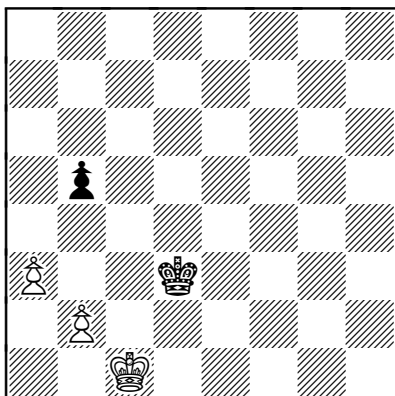


### Rusty Potter - Jeff Smeltzer

White to Play

This one is even trickier than the other pawn ending against Jeff Smeltzer (#5). How does White win this slippery position? Be sure to give Black's *best* defense...

9

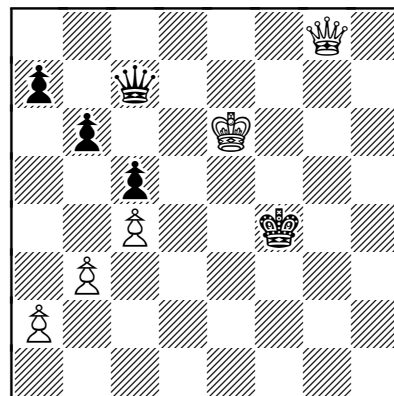


### John Gline - Rusty Potter

Black to Play

In time-pressure against New Hampshire master John Gline, I botched this very delicate ending. Although this looks like a total loss for Black, in fact he can attain a problem-like draw! You have to know some endgame theory though. Be sure to give some variations on this one!

10



### John Penquite - Rusty Potter

Black to Play

Iowa (& postal chess) icon John Penquite and I played several interesting games back in my college days. This one (which I actually lost) is highly theoretical in nature. Unless you are a grandmaster, I guarantee that you will learn something by playing over this endgame. Even computer programs *regularly* screw this up and are unable to discover how *Black* gradually gains a winning game from this position!! So give it a try; it's a real chess education!

Recap...

# 2000 VIRGINIA CLOSED

by Steve Mayer

*Editor's Note: Last issue we provided the bare results from the State Championship. Now, as promised, Arlington master Steve Mayer has used the intervening weeks to prepare a more comprehensive report*

## Before the Start— Assessing the Possibilities

### I. The Favorites

This year's Closed Championship seemed smaller than usual and a bit top heavy. Five masters and at least

two former masters were among the contenders to win the much-coveted title of Virginia State Champion. On paper, newcomer Daniel Miller and defending state champ Macon Shibus had to be considered favorites. Miller in particular may have been expected to enjoy a benefit similar to a sensational rookie baseball pitcher making his way around the league for the first time: what's his style? what are his strengths and weaknesses?

### II. Where Are They?— I Digress

Incidentally, up until Saturday morning it was anticipated that IM Eugene Meyer, the 1990 state champion, might play. He had been in Charlottesville on Friday for business. Those who aspired to win

the title were delighted by his absence! Other former champions among the missing were Joseph Feygelson, Edward Kitces, Geoff McKenna, Bill Mason and IM Walter Morris. Feygelson has already assumed a sort of mythic presence in the history of Virginia's championship. In his only appearance at the tournament, 1994, he scored a memorable 6-0 and made even (then) two-time champ McKenna look like a fish. Indeed, IM Meyer played Latvian emigre Feygelson in an Atlantic Open and assessed his strength as that of a strong IM or even "weak GM". (Needless to say, Gene





knows all the old jokes about “weak GMs” being like “small elephants.”)

Finally, an entire rating range of players was practically missing this year, namely the 1800-2100 guys. They’re too high rated for the Amateur section but perhaps don’t feel they have much chance of winning the title. In fact, the occasional expert *does* win the tournament, as happened most recently in 1998.

### III. Don’t Count Them Out— The Other Masters

This group is more or less in a slump but all three have been rated well over 2300 at some point in the past decade. 1997 Virginia Champ Steve Greanias entered third on the crosstable, while two-time champ Rusty Potter was narrowly beneath him. Potter was definitely a man to watch, for while he may have lost a step compared even to 10 years ago he had just defeated a GM at the previous weekend’s Atlantic Open in Washington, DC! Rounding out this group was Steve Mayer. He has never held the title of state champion but he tied for first in 1993 with Macon Shibut and then followed it up a month later with clear first at the now-defunct master/expert tournament known as the Powell Memorial.

### IV. Dark Horses and Notable Others

Two former masters, both now rated 2117, were Robert J Fischer (no, not *that* one) and Roger Mahach. And 18-year-old William & Mary sophomore Arthur Traldi was playing in his first Virginia Closed — like Miller, an unknown quantity. Also playing in his first Closed was junior sensation Ruixin Yang, ranked 2nd nationally among 13 year-olds; his rating is already over 2100! Expert Alan Rufty, who was actually paired up in round one, was 1977 Virginia champ.

The more interesting “A” players included 1998 Virginia Champ,

Rodney Flores; David Hulvey, whose sharp style has been known to defeat grandmasters; and Peter Kurucz, who was 2155 this time last year. Finally, juniors Judah Brownstein (son of expert Alan Brownstein) and Jeremy Hummer, both class A players, could be expected to pull off some upsets. (Hummer had defeated Daniel Miller at the Millennium Festival last March.)

### Round One— Business as Usual

Mayer was the only master who failed to win. He and high school junior Hummer quickly reached a position lacking any pawn breaks. Elsewhere, Traldi couldn’t to convert an extra pawn in a rook ending, while Ruixin Yang and Chris Bush were both victims of upsets. Probably the most impressive game of the round was Shibut’s positional strangulation of Pete Kurucz. However, for sheer wackiness and a fascinating ending, make sure you play over the terrific Flores-Greanias struggle.

#### RODNEY FLORES - STEVE GREANIAS KING’S INDIAN ATTACK

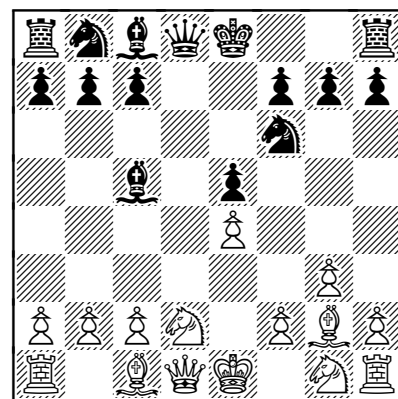
**1 e4 Nf6 2 d3 d5 3 Nd2 e5 4 g3 Bc5  
5 Bg2 dxe4!**

This is stronger than immediate 5...Ng4?! 6 Nh3 Bxf2+ 7 Nxf2 Ne3 8 Qh5! with the division:

i) 8...Nxc2+ 9 Kd1 Nxa1 10 Qxe5+ Kf8 (10...Qe7? 11 Qxg7 gives White a winning attack, eg, 11...Rf8 12 exd5) 11 b3 Nxb3 12 axb3 is a very random position. Black should probably be concerned about his lack of development, though Fritz 5 considers the position slightly favorable for him.

ii) 8...Nc6! is a steadier move, eg, 9 Ke2 Nxc2 10 Kf3 g6 11 Qh6 Ne1+ 12 Rxe1 Nd4+ 13 Kg2 Nxc2 14 Qg7 Nxe1+ 15 Kf1 Rf8 16 Qxe5+ Qe7 17 Qxe7+ Kxe7 18 Kxe1 This position is probably better for White than similar positions arising from 5...dxe4!

**6 dxe4** (Greanias suggested 6 Nxe4 after the game. If 6...Nxe4 7 Bxe4 Qd4!? White must play 8 Qd2, as both 8 Qe2 and 8 Qf3 allow 8...Bb4+. In any event, the position after White’s 7th move can hardly have satisfied Rodney)



**6...Bxf2+?** (This is a classic case right idea, wrong execution. The correct path appears to be 6...Ng4! 7 Nh3 Bxf2+ 8 Nxf2 Ne3 9 Qh5! 9...Nc6! [9...Nxc2+ 10 Kd1 Nxa1 11 Qxe5+ Qe7 12 Qxg7 Rf8 13 b4! (but not 13 b3 Qc5!) Qxb4 14 Qxa1 with an obscure game] with a further division: 10 Nb3 Nxc2+! [10...Bg4 11 Qxg4 Nxc2 12 Nxc2 0-0 is less clear] 11 Kf1 Nxa1 12 Nxa1 Be6 13 Nb3 ≠; or 10 Ke2 Nxc2 11 Rb1 Be6 and Black’s position is practically winning, eg, 12 b3 N6d4+; or 12 Nd3 g6 13 Qh6 Bg4+ 14 Nf3 Bxf3+ 15 Bxf3 N2d4+ 16 Kf2 Nxf3. One must admire Steve’s decision to seek complications at such an early stage of the game and tournament. And remember, Rodney’s rating is simply a bit low at the moment. As he showed when he won the title in 1998, he can play with anyone in this tournament.) **7 Kxf2 Ng4+ 8 Ke2** (8 Ke1 Ne3 9 Qh5 Nc6 ≠) **Qd4 9 Nh3 Ne3!?!?** (A brave winning attempt; Greanias later told me that h’d thought he had a superior continuation when he entered the combination. Instead, 9...Qe3+ 10 Kf1



Qd4 11 Ke2 leads to a draw by repetition.) **10 Nf3?** (Rudolph Spielmann talked about *sacrificial shock* and perhaps that played a factor here. Rodney missed 10 c3! Qb6 [White wins after 10...Bg4+ 11 Bf3 Nxd1 12 cxd4 Bxh3 13 Rxd1] 11 Qg1! Bg4+ [11...Nxb2 12 Qxg2 leaves Black with inadequate compensation] 12 Nf3 and White escapes with an extra piece) **10...Qxd1+ 11 Rxd1 Nxd1** (or 11...Nxb2 12 Nf2 f5! 13 Rg1 fxe4 14 Nxe4 Bf5 [14...Bh3 15 Nf2+] 15 Nf2 Nc6 [15...Bxc2 16 Nxe5] 16 Rxb2 Bxc2 17 Bg5 and one really expects White to win) **12 Kxd1 f6** (An interesting queenless middlegame/endgame has arisen. Note that White's minor pieces are passive and he has 3 pawn islands to 2. Still, it's difficult for Black to put pressure on the isolated pawn at e4) **13 Be3 Nc6 14 Nf2 Be6 15 Nd3 Rd8 16 Ke2 g5** (gaining space on the kingside) **17 b3** (Evidently 17 Nc5 Bc4+ 18 Kf2 b6 was better, eg, 19 Nb3 Nb4 20 Ne1 [20 c3 Nd3+ 21 Kg1 Nxb2 ≠] h5 with a long fight ahead; or 19 b3! Bf7 [19...bxc5 20 bxc4 Nd4 21 Rd1 Nxc2 22 Rxd8+ Kxd8 23 Bxc5 Black's rook still isn't in the game] 20 Na6 g4 [20...Rc8 21 Bh3+-] 21 Nh4 Rd7 22 Ke2 Be6 23 Nf5 Rf7 24 a3 Bc8 25 Nb4 Nxb4 26 axb4 a6 27 h4 Rd7 28 c4 ±) **17...b6 18 Rd1 h5 19 Nf2 Nb4! 20 Bd2 a5**

**21 Bxb4 axb4 22 Rxd8+ Kxd8 23 Nd3 c5** (Guarding b4; it would seem to be just a matter of time before Black's rook hammers a2, but this never happens in the game.) **24 Kd2 Ke7 25 c3 bxc3+ 26 Kxc3 h4 27 Nf2 hxb3 28 hxb3 Ra8 29 Kb2 b5 30 Nd3 Kd6 31 Nf2 c4 32 Bf1 Kc5 33 Nd2** (33 a3 Δ b4 looks better. Then 33...cxb3 34 Nd2 regains the pawn. Black might try 34...Kd4 35 Nxb3+ Ke3 36 Nd1+ Kf3 37 Bxb5 Kxb3 and he has a new passer.) **33...Kd4 34 Nd1 Rh8 35 Nf3+** (35 bxc4 bxc4 36 a4 Rh2 37 Kc2 f5 38 exf5 Bxf5+ 39 Kc1 g4 40 Bxc4 Rg2 41 Bf7 Rxb3 42 a5 Kc5 43 Be6 Bd3 [43...Bxe6? 44 Ne4+] 44 a6 Kb6 45 Nc4+ Bxc4 46 Bxc4 Ra3 47 Kd2 g3 48 Ne3= but of course this is just an exploratory analysis) **35...Kxe4 36 Bg2 Kd3 37 Bf1+ Ke4 38 Bg2 g4 39 Nc3+?** (Rodney finally cracks under the pressure. White's okay after 39 Ng5+! Kf5 40 Nxe6 Kxe6 41 bxc4 Rh2 [41...bxc4 42 Ne3] 42 Ne3 f5 [42...bxc4 43 Kc3] 43 Kb3 bxc4+ 44 Kxc4 f4 45 gxf4 exf4 46 Bd5+) **39...Ke3 40 Nd1+** (Black also wins after 40 Nh4 b4 41 Ne4 c3+ 42 Kc2 Rxh4! [wiity] 43 gxh4 Bf5 44 h5 g3 45 h6 Bxe4+ 46 Bxe4 Kxe4 47 h7 g2 48 h8Q g1Q 49 Qh4+ Ke3 50 Qxb4 Qf2+ 51 Kxc3 Qe1+ 52 Kc4 Qxb4+ 53 Kxb4 Kd3! 54 a4 e4 55 a5

e3 56 a6 e2 57 a7 e1Q+ Very entertaining and instructive!) **40...Ke2 41 Nc3+ Kf2 0-1** Quite a first round dogfight between two contenders for the title.

### Round Two— A Minority of Masters Win

The sensation of the round was Bob Fischer's win with Black over Miller on board 1. Also hitting a bump in the road were Greanias, playing White, who was nicked for a draw by Judah Brownstein; and Mayer, starting to look like a non-factor in the race for first place, who butchered a good opening and was lucky to escape with his hide half intact against David Bush. Elsewhere Shibut beat Roger Mahach and Chris Bush won against Flores.

DANIEL MILLER - ROBERT FISCHER  
CARO KANN

**1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 c4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e6 6 Nf3 Bb4 7 cxd5 Nxd5 8 Qb3** (This is a footnote continuation in ECO. 8 Bd2 and 8 Qc2 are the main options) **0-0 9 Bd3 Qc7!?** (And this is a novelty. A database scan shows 9...Nc6 is the typical move.) **10 Bd2 Nf4 11 Bxf4 Bxc3+ 12 bxc3 Qxf4 13 0-0** (White has a lead in development and more space in the center, while Black can take aim against the backward c-pawn and he's achieved the desirable goal of early simplification. Fischer's idea deserves further testing.) **13...Nd7!** (It's a good idea to have a minor piece defender on the kingside.) **14 Rfe1 Nf6 15 Ne5 b6 16 Re3 Bb7 17 Qc2 Rac8 18 Rae1 h5** (Compared to the routine 18...h6, this is provocative. One point is that a rook at g3 can be hassled by...h4 in some cases, while the queen, which was actually in some danger, now has a secure station at h6) **19 Qa4?** (19 g3 Qh6 is fine for Black) **19...Nd5!** (winning material) **20 Rh3** (Black also does well after 20 Rf3 Qd2! [even stronger than 20...Nxc3 21 Rxf4 Nxa4 22 d5! Nc5 23 dxe6 Nxe6] 21

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Rd1 Nxc3 22 Rxd2 Nxa4 with a healthy extra pawn. Further, White's still saddled with the isolani.) **20...Nxc3**  
**21 Qd7?** (Miller misses the best continuation. 21 Rxb5? was also weak, eg, 21...Nxa4 22 Bh7+ Kh8 23 Be4+ Qh6 24 Rxb6+ gxb6 25 Bxb7 Rc2 and the extra exchange wins. But 21 Qxa7! Be4 would have led to great complications. True, if then 22 Qxb6? Qd2! 23 Rf1 Bxd3 24 Rxd3 [24 Nxd3 Ne2+ 25 Kh1 Rc1!-+] Ne2+ 25 Kh1 Rc1! gives Black a fierce initiative. Instead White can try 22 Ba6! Ra8 23 Qxb6 Qd2 24 Rf1 Nd5 25 Qd6 Rfd8...Black still looks to be doing well in the complications but further analysis would take us a bit *too far* afield.) **21...Be4 22 Ba6 Qd2 23 Rhe3 Rcd8 24 Qxa7 Qxd4 25 Nc4** (Black also does well after 25 Rxc3 Qxc3 26 Rxe4 Rd1+ 27 Bf1 Qa1 28 Qa6 Qb1 29 Re3 b5) **25...Ra8 26 Qc7** (Black wins after 26 Qxb6 Qxb6 27 Nxb6 Rxa6 28 Rxc3 Rxb6) **Rxa6 27 Nd6 Nd5 28 Qb7 Nxe3 29 Qxa6 0-1** An excellent effort by Fischer. Looking ahead, Miller did well in rallying from this defeat.

### Round Three— Shibut Pulling Away

All eyes were on board one where Shibut and Potter had quite a tussle. Macon secured an early advantage but then Potter outplayed him to gain a definite plus. Then Shibut, in true champion fashion, fought back admirably to secure the full point. Thus he stood ahead of the field by half a point, with a full point lead on his fellow masters. (Greanias, for reasons of his own, took a half-point bye this round). Traldi won an excellent game from Bob Fischer, while Brownstein handed "B" player David Bush his first loss of the tournament. Thus, Traldi and Brownstein were tied for second, giving evidence that chess is a young man's game nowadays: their *combined* age is less than Shibut's, and Macon is hardly an old man. Mayer

scored his first full point with a nice win against Kurucz (annotated in depth last issue), while Hulvey beat his second 2100 in a row. Expert Johnson yielded a draw to an “A” player, putting him down nearly 90 rating points thus far for this tournament!

**MACON SHIBUT - RUSTY POTTER**  
**CARO KANN**

1 **e4 c6** (Potter used to be a committed Najdorf Sicilian player but it doesn't hurt to have a second opening in ones repertoire. Further, he had beaten Macon earlier in the year with the Caro and undoubtedly had fond memories of that game.) 2 **Nc3 d5 3 Nf3 Bg4 4 h3 Bxf3** (4...Bh5 5 exd5 cxd5 6 Bb5+ Nc6 7 g4 Bg6 8 Ne5 leads to sharper play.) 5 **Qxf3 Nf6 6 Be2 d4?! (This allows White's king bishop to take up a good post at c4. 6...dxe4 or 6...e6 are better.) 7 Nb1 e5 8 0-0 g6 9 a4 Bg7 10 Bc4 0-0 11 d3 c5 12 g4 Nc6 13 Qg3** (Clearing the way for the f-pawn and aiming to play the queen to h4 at some point.) **Ne8 14 Nd2 (14 f4!?) Bh6 15 Nf3 Bg7 16 Bg5 Qd6 17 Qh4 Rc8 18 Bh6** (This exchanges off Black's bad bishop and, generally speaking, the player with the bishop pair should not aim to exchange bishops. But White hopes to attack the opponent's king, so the text is easy to understand.) **Bxh6 19 Qxh6 Qf6 20 Ng5 Qg7 21 Qh4 Nd6 22 Bb3 c4!** (Potter eliminates the fearsome bishop.) **23 Bxc4 Nxc4 24 dxc4 Nb4 25 b3 Nxc2 26 Rad1 Rfd8 27 Rd3** (preventing...d3, which would also serve to make d4 available for the knight in some circumstances) **Nb4 28 Rd2 a5 29 Nf3 Na6 30 g5 Nc5 31 Rb1 Rd6** (Δ...Rb6 pressing on b3 later) **32 Qg4 Rcd8 33 Ne1 Rb6 34 Nd3 Nxd3 35 Rxd3 Qf8 36 Qg3 Qc5 37 h4 f5 38 Re1 Re6 39 Qf3 Rf8 40 exf5 gxf5** (40...Rxf5 41 Qxb7 Rf4 42 Re4 leaves Black's center pawns stuck in place) **41 Qd5!** (41 Qxb7 e4 42 Qd5 Qxd5 43 cxd5

exd3 44 dxe6 Rb8 45 Kf1 Kf8 46 Rb1  
Ke7 47 Ke1 Kxe6 48 Kd2 Kd5 49  
Kxd3 Rc8 would offer Black more play  
than he obtains in the game)  
**41...Qxd5 42 cxd5 Ree8 43 f4! e4**  
(43...exf4 44 Rxe8 Rxe8 45 Rxd4 Re4  
46 Rc4 ±) **44 Rxd4 Rc8 45 Re3 Kf7**  
**46 Rc4 Ke7 47 Rec3 Rxc4 48 bxc4**  
**Kd6 49 Rb3 Rf7 50 Rb5 Rc7 51 c5+**  
**Kxd5 52 c6+ Kxc6 53 Rxf5** (Material  
is even but White's kingside pawns are  
far more dangerous than Black's  
isolated passer.) **Kb6 54 Rb5+ Ka6 55**  
**f5 e3 56 Kf1 Rc4 57 f6 Rxa4 58 Rf5**  
(Rooks belong behind passed pawns!)  
**Rd4 59 f7 Rd8 60 f8Q Rxf8 61 Rxf8**  
**a4 62 Ra8+ Kb5 63 h5 Kb4 64 g6**  
**hgxg6 65 hxg6 b5 66 g7 Ka3 67 g8Q**  
**b4 68 Qe8 Kb2 69 Qxa4 e2+ 70**  
**Kxe2 b3 71 Qa1+ Kc2 72 Rc8 mate**  
**1-0**

## ROBERT FISCHER - ARTHUR TRALDI CLOSED SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 d3 d6 6 Be3 (6 f4 is more common. The text is designed to play Qd2 and perhaps exchange off Black's king bishop. It also leaves open the question of what White will do with his f-pawn and where he will develop his king knight.) 6...e6 (Black leaves his

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bishop's diagonal open and his king knight can play to c6 after the other knight plays to d4. Of course there is some weakening of the dark squares as a result of moving both the e- & g-pawns, but this weakening is usually "in name only.") **7 Qd2 Rb8** (Traldi angles to begin immediate play on the queenside. He has no interest in moving his king knight now that Bob is ready to play Bh6) **8 Nf3 b5 9 d4?** (The text is logical but doesn't work well in this specific instance. White aims to open the game in light of his lead in development and as a means of possibly exploiting the d6 & c6 weaknesses. The problem is that Black can place White's center under irresistible attack.) **9...b4! 10 Ne2 Nf6! 11 d5** (This appears to be a novelty. Earlier games featured 11 e5, though Black also did well against that.) **11...Na5** (It's risky to play 11...Nxe4 12 Qd3 Bxb2 13 Rb1 Bc3+ 14 Kf1 Ne7 [14...exd5 15 Qxd5±] 15 Qxe4 Nxd5. Black would get three pawns for a piece and the superior pawn structure but his king is stuck in the center after 16 Bh6 Qa5 17 Nc1) **12 Qd3** (12 dxe6 Bxe6 13 Ng5 Nc4 14 Nxe6 fxe6 15 Qd3 was an interesting alternative. Black would have two options: 15...Nxb2?! 16 Qb3 Nd5! 17 Bxc5! [17 exd5? c4] dxc5 18 exd5 0-0 19 dxe6 ±; or, better, 15...Nxe3 16 Qxe3 0-0 with some advantage in view of Black's superior bishop and central majority, though it's possible that e6 and d6 could later prove weak.) **12...exd5 13 exd5 Bf5 14 Qd1 0-0** (Black has a wonderful position. His plan is clear: attack White's queenside. What can White play for?) **15 0-0 Nc4 16 Bc1 Ne4!** (16...Nd7) **17 Rb1** (17 Nh4 would be an interesting try but Black remains better after either capture of the b-pawn 17...Bxb2 18 Nxf5 gxf5 19 Bxb2 Nxb2 20 Qc1 Nc4 21 Qf4 [21 c3 Ned2! 22 Rd1 b3!] Qg5; or 17...Nxb2 18 Bxb2 Bxb2 19 Nxf5 gxf5 [instead, 19...Bxa1? 20 Nh6+ Kg7 21 Qxa1+ Kxh6 22 Bxe4 is fun

for White] 20 Rb1 Bg7) **17...Qa5 18 g4** (Similarly, 18 Nh4 Qxa2 19 Nxf5 Qxb1 [19...gxf5 20 Bf4 Nxb2 21 Qc1 Nc4 is also ≠] 20 Nxe7 Nf6 21 Qd3 Nxb2 22 Qb3 c4 23 Qxb2 Qxb2 24 Bxb2 c3 25 Bc1 Kxg7 favors Black. This variation, like many, demonstrates the force of Black's queenside pawns.) **18...Qxa2** (Taking the g-pawn is also strong: 18...Bxg4 19 Qd3 Qxa2 20 Qxe4 Bxf3 21 Bxf3 Rfe8 22 Ra1 Qxa1 23 Qxc4 Bxb2 24 Bf4 Qa3 25 Bg2 Be5 and wins) **19 gxf5 Qxb1 20 Qd3 Nxb2 21 Bxb2** (Black also wins after 21 Qxe4 Rfe8 22 Bxb2 Qxf1+ 23 Bxf1 Rxe4 24 f6 Bh6) **Qxb2 22 Qxe4 Rfe8 23 Qc4 b3! 24 fxg6 hxg6** (The complications have ended and Black has a winning position.) **25 Ne1 Rb4 26 Qd3 Qe5 27 c3 Rb6** (Black's position is so good that he wins even after something stupid like 27...Qxe2 28 Qxe2 Rxe2 29 cxb4 c4) **28 Bf3 a5 29 Ng2 Qf5** (The simple 29...a4 was even stronger.) **30 Qxf5 gxf5 31 Ne3 b2 32 Rb1 Rxe3!** (eliminating any chances of White killing off the b-pawn by playing to c4) **33 fxe3 a4 34 Nc1 bxc1Q+ 35 Rxc1 a3** (The passer and the weakness of c3 make the win simple in spite of opposite colored bishops.) **36 Ra1 Ra6 37 Be2 Ra4 38 Bd1 Ra5 39 Bb3 Bxc3 40 Ra2 Bb2 41 Bc2 c4 42 Bxf5 Rxd5 43 Bd7 Rd1+ 44 Kf2 Ra1 45 Rxa1 Bxa1 46 Bb5 d5 0-1**

### Round Four— Upset City!

Expert Arthur Traldi demonstrated that he was a genuine threat for first place with a well-played win over Shibut. What's particularly remarkable about this game is that it took place in an obscure byway of the Sveshnikov Sicilian that Shibut specializes in. Traldi makes the whole line look like garbage! Fischer rammed passed center pawns down Potter's throat to score his second win with Black over masters. Greanias, Mayer and Miller all won to join

Fischer and Shibut in a mass tie for second.

### ARTHUR TRALDI - MACON SHIBUT SICILIAN

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Na3 Be6** (This developing move has a reasonable reputation but 8...b5, keeping the Na3 locked out of the game, is more popular.) **9 Nc4 Rc8 10 Ne3** (10 Bxf6 Qxf6 11 Nb6 gains control of d5 and offers White some advantage.) **Qb6!? 11 Bxf6** (11 Rb1 Nxe4! 12 Nxe4 h6 is a neat tactic discovered by IM Mark Ginsburg Δ 13 Bh4 Qb4+) **Qxb2 12 Ncd5 Bxd5 13 Nxd5 Nb4! 14 Bd3** (Attention is due 14 Rb1!? Nxc2+ 15 Kd2. Then 15...Qd4+?! 16 Bd3 Qxf2+ 17 Qe2 Qxe2+ 18 Kxe2 Nd4+ 19 Kf2 gxf6 20 Rxb7 leaves White with an extra rook and minor piece in the struggle on the queenside; 15...Qxa2! 16 Nc3 Rxc3! 17 Kxc3 Nd4 18 Ra1 [18 Bh4 d5!] Qxf2 [18...Qe6 19 Bg5 d5 20 Qa4+ Nc6 21 exd5 Qxd5 22 Qc4] 19 Bg5 Be7 20 Qd2 [20 Bxe7 Kxe7 and the looming...Rc8 gives Black a good game] 20...Qxd2+ 21 Bxd2 should

## Governor's School Scholastic VI

Jan. 13

Thomas Jefferson High School,  
4100 West Grace St (at  
Malvern Ave), Richmond VA  
5-SS, G/35. 3 sections: High (K-12);  
Middle (K-8); Elementary (K-5).  
May combine High/Middle and/or  
split Elementary/Primary. Trophies  
to top 3 teams and top 5 individuals  
K-12, K-8, K-5, K-3. Rds 1-2 9:30  
to 11:30, lunch break 11:30 to  
12:15, rd 3 12:15, then rds 4 & 5  
ASAP. EF \$8 by 1/10, \$14 on 1/13;  
VSCA members \$2 less. USEF: \$15  
age 14 or under; \$19 age 15-19.  
Reg **ends** at 9am! NS, NC, WA  
[phopinva@juno.com](mailto:phopinva@juno.com) Enter (checks  
to Virginia Scholastic Chess): PO  
Box 8314, Richmond VA 23226





also favor White, but there is a *lot* going on here and I assume that it has been analyzed deeper and with greater accuracy by Shibut as part of his opening preparation!) **14...Nxd5 15 exd5** (Black wins after 15 Bxg7? Nc3 16 Qg4 Qxa1+ 17 Kd2 Nxe4+ 18 Ke2 Qc3 19 Bxh8 Qd2+ 20 Kf3 Qxf2+ 21 Kxe4 f5+ 22 Qxf5 Qxg2+ 23 Qf3 d5+ netting the queen) **15...Qc3+ 16 Kf1** (16 Ke2 has also been played. The text looks superior, the king should be safer than on e2) **16...gxf6 17 Rb1 Rc7 18 Qf3** (Black has an extra pawn but White has good play on the light squares.) **18...Ke7 19 h4** (This gives the king luft at h2 if needed and allows the rook to be developed via h3 in some cases.) **19...Qa3** (Macon chases after pawns. I assume his search for improvements begins here if he wishes to use this line in the future.) **20 Qe3 Qxa2 21 Qb6 Kd8 22 Rb4 Kc8** (White wins after 22...Qa1+ 23 Ke2 Qxh1 24 Rc4) **23 Qa7 e4** (The point of this is obscure but Black's position already looks to be beyond saving, eg, 23...Kd8 24 Bf5!; or 23...Qa1+ 24 Ke2 Qc3 [24...Qxh1 25 Bf5+ Kd8 26 Qb8+ wins] 25 Bf5+ Kd8 26 Qb8+ Rc8 [26...Ke7 27 Rxb7] 27 Qxb7 Rc7 28 Qb8+ Ke7 29 Rb7 winning) **24 Rxe4** (24 Qa8+ Kd7 25 Bb5+ axb5 26 Qxa2 is even stronger) **Rc5 25 Re8+ Kc7 26 Kg1! Rxd5 27 Kh2 Qa4 28 Rb1 Rb5** (or 28...Qxe8 29 Rxb7+) **29 Bxb5 axb5 1-0**

DANIEL MILLER - JUDAH BROWNSTEIN  
SICILIAN

**1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 Qxd5 4 d4 e6 5 Nf3 Nf6 6 Be2 Nc6 7 0-0 cxd4 8 cxd4 Be7 9 Nc3 Qd6 10 Nb5 Qd8 11 Bf4 Nd5 12 Bg3** (We're still well within the realms of theory and each side scores his fair share of points from this position.) **0-0 13 Bc4 a6** (The text is Black's most common response, though 13...Qb6 has also been played a few times.) **14 Bxd5** (14 Nc3) **exd5 15 Nc7!** (White's ability to bring pressure on d5 allows him to play this risky looking move.) **15...Ra7** (White

does well after 15...Rb8 16 Qb3) **16 Qb3 Be6 17 Qb6** (Threatening to win the rook with the aid of tactics based on Nf3-e5) **17...Bd6** (It looks stronger to play 17...Bb4 18 Ne5 Ba5) **18 Bxd6 Qxd6 19 Ne5 Qb4 20 Qxb4 Nxb4 21 Nxe6 fxe6 22 a3** (22 Rfc1! looks superior, so as to hamper the Nb4) **Nc6 23 Nxc6 bxc6 24 Rac1** (Miller enjoys a solid advantage. The only question is whether Brownstein can hold a draw after valiant defense.) **24...Rc7 25 f4 Kf7 26 Rc5 Ke7 27 g3 Kd6 28 b4 g6 29 Kg2 Rb7 30 Rfc1 Rc8 31 Kf3 h6 32 R1c2 Rbc7 33 Kg4 Ke7 34 Ra5 Ra8** (The same reply follows after 34...Ra7) **35 b5 Rb8 36 bxc6 Rb6 37 Rac5 Kd6 38 h4 Rb3** (Of course 38...Rbxc6 39 Rxc6+ Rxc6 40 Rxc6+ Kxc6 41 h5 results in an easily won king and pawn ending.) **39 R2c3 Rxc3 40 Rxc3** (Black's inability to regain the pawn and the looming h4-h5 make this a winning position for White.) **Ke7 41 h5 Kf6 42 Rc1 gxh5+ 43 Kxh5 Kf5** (White also wins after 43...Kg7 44 a4 Kh7 45 a5 Kg7 46 Rb1 Rxc6 47 Rb6 Rc3 48 Rxe6 Rxg3 49 Rxa6 Rh3+ 50 Kg4 Rd3 51 Kf5 Rxd4 52 Ra7+ Kf8 53 a6 Ra4 54 Kg6! Rxf4 55 Rb7) **44 Kxh6 Kg4 45 Kg6 Kxg3 46 Kf6 Kxf4 47 Kxe6 Ke4 48 Kd6 Rc8 49 Rd1 1-0** An excellent strategic effort on the part of Miller. Brownstein also did well in hanging tough against an opponent rated 500 points higher.

### Round Five— 40% Still in Contention

Entering the last day, 8 players still had a chance to score 4½, which will ultimately prove to be the winning score. Miller handed Traldi his first defeat and scored his third win in a row. Shibut and Mayer had a tough fight that was agreed drawn with play still in the position. Bob Fischer, playing his third Black against a master, went down in surprisingly easy fashion against Greanias. The

apparent highlight of the game occurred at the end. In lieu of resigning, Bob attempted to induce a heart attack by sacrificing his queen for a meaningless discovered check. However, as I hope my Fritz 5 supplemented analysis shows, there was a lot going on in that game that remained beneath the surface. Yang and Hummer both won to move into a mass tie for sixth.

DANIEL MILLER - ARTHUR TRALDI  
MODERN

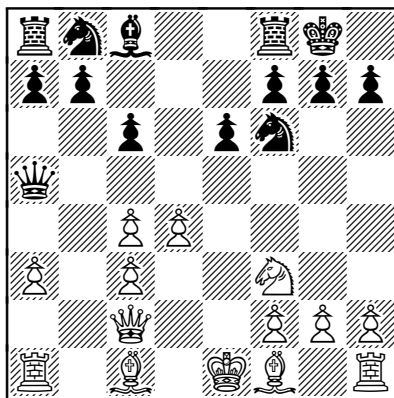
**1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 Be2 c6** (I'm not sure of the benefit of this odd move order. 4...Bg7 is more common.) **5 h4!?** (After 4...Bg7 theory considers the best response to 5 h4!? to be the central reaction 5...c5. That isn't available now thanks to Black's 4th move, so I have little doubt that White's game is better than in the comparable positions after 4...Bg7 5 h4!?) **5...h5 6 Nh3 Bxh3** (This is a novelty. Traldi didn't want the knight to settle in to the pseudo-hole at g5) **7 Rxh3 Qa5 8 Bd2 Qb6 9 Bf4 Qa5 10 Bd2 Qc7** (Traldi offered a draw somewhere in here so I'm not sure why he didn't play 10...Qb6 and pursue a triple rep.) **11 Bg5 Nbd7 12 Qd2 Bg7 13 0-0-0 Ng4** (One gets the sense Traldi played strictly for tactics and cheapos. Black now eliminates White's bishop pair but the pawn at g4 is difficult to hold.) **14 Bxg4 hxg4 15 Rhh1 f6** (a prelude to castling long) **16 Be3 0-0-0 17 Ne2!** (The move of a master; White's knight angles to get into e6 or support the advance h4-h5) **e5 18 d5 c5 19 Ng3 Nb6 20 h5** (Miller decides that he doesn't need to preserve his bishop in the closed position. Moreover, 20 b3 would have given Black a target to latch onto later.) **Nc4 21 Qe2 Nxe3 22 fxe3 gxh5 23 Nf5** (23 Rxh5 Qd7 [23...Rxh5? 24 Qxg4+ loses a pawn] 24 Rdh1 gives White a big advantage; the pawn at g4 should fall eventually.) **23...Kb8 24 Rh4 Bh6 25 Rdh1 Qf7 26 Ng3 f5 27 Rxh5** (27 exf5 Qxd5 28 Rxh5 Bxe3+ 29 Qxe3 Rxh5 30 Rxh5 Qxa2 ± but



Miller prefers to pursue a quiet game based on his kingside advantage.) **27...f4 28 Qf1!** (Not 28 Nf5 f3!) **Qf6** (White wins after 28...f3 29 Rxh6; while 28...Bg7 29 Rxh8 Rxh8 30 Rxh8+ Bxh8 31 Nf5 fxe3 32 Nxe3 [or 32 Qe2] is clearly better for White — look at the difference between the minor pieces!) **29 Nf5 Bg5** (29...Bg7 30 Rh7!) **30 Kd1** (getting away from the reach of the bishop) **Rxh5 31 Rxh5 fxe3?** (31...Qg6! was better, aiming at e4. Then 32 Rh1 fxe3 33 Qe2 Rg8 34 Qxg4 offers White some edge.) **32 Qh1 g3 33 Rh7 Qg6??** (33...Ka8 34 Qh5 Rf8 35 Rg7 Bf4 36 Rd7 favors White but doesn't allow him to clean out the 7th rank as in the game.) **34 Rg7 Qf6 35 Qh7 1-0**

#### STEVE GREANIAS - ROBERT FISCHER SLAV

**1 e4** (Interesting; Steve usually plays 1 c4 and will meet 1...c6 with 2 e4. He must have noted something about Bob's reaction to the English that suggested playing 1 e4 would be the better method of backing into his desired position.) **c6 2 c4 e6 3 d4 d5** (My database has 4 games with this position from before 1850! And Tal-Bisguier, Bled 1961 saw 4 exd5 exd5 5 e5 Na6 with a unique position in grandmaster play.) **4 Nc3 dxe4 5 Nxe4 Bb4+ 6 Nc3** (6 Bd2 Qxd4 7 Bxb4 Qxe4+ is a gambit first played by American GM Frank Marshall. White gains a lead in development, the bishop pair and play on the dark squares in return for his e-pawn. There were perhaps 100 games played with this gambit pre-1990 and there have been well over 200 games with it since 1989. In general GMs like such unbalanced positions when they're looking to play for a win.) **6...Nf6** (6...c5 was recommended by Denker in his autobiography, if my memory serves me correctly.) **7 a3 Bxc3+ 8 bxc3 0-0** (8...c5 striking at the center looks better.) **9 Nf3 Qa5** (This would be far more effective if Black had already played...c5) **10 Qc2**



#### 10...Ne4?

This move simply yields White an undisputed advantage. It was not too late to play 10...c5!, with a variety of complicated possibilities:

i) 11 Bg5? cxd4 12 Bxf6 gxf6 13 Nxd4 Rd8 14 Nf3 (14 Nb3 Qe5+ 15 Be2 b6 16 0-0 Bb7 17 Rad1 Nc6 ≠ White has no real kingside attack but has ultimately terminal c-pawns) 14...Bd7! 15 Bd3? (15 a4 Bc6 and Black has a comfortable advantage) 15...Ba4! 16 Bxh7+? (or 16 Qd2 e5! 17 Qe3 Qxc3+ 18 Ke2 Qb2+ 19 Nd2 Bc2 leaves White with a mess on his hands) 16...Kg7 17 Qe4 Qxc3+ winning.

ii) 11 Bd2 Bd7 12 Bd3 Ba4 13 Qb2 (13 Qb1 blocks in the queen rook, though perhaps it can develop later via a2) Bc6 results in fascinating complications if White is willing to continue 14 Ne5!?, a gambit fully in Steve's style. Play might continue 14...Bxg2 15 Rg1 Be4! 16 Bxe4 Nxe4 17 Bh6 g6 18 Bxf8 cxd4! (White wins after 18...Kxf8 19 Qxb7 Qxc3+ 20 Kf1 Qxa1+ 21 Kg2 Nd6 μ 22 Qxa8 Qxd4 23 Qxb8+ Kg7 24 Re1) 18...cxd4! 19 Nxc6! (White's only good move but one is all you need. Not 19 Qxb7? Qxe5 and White's game is awful, eg, 20 Kf1 [20 Qxa8? Ng3+ 21 Kd1 Qe2+ 22 Kc1 d3 is even worse] Qf5 21 Rg2 Qf3 [now White's queen is hanging] 22 Qc8 Nd2+ 23 Kg1 [23 Ke1? Na6 24 Qxa6 Qxg2 25 Kxd2 Qxf2+ wins]

23...Nd7 [23...Na6 24 Qxa6 Qxc3 is good too] 24 Qxd7 Qxc3 25 Rd1 Nf3+ 26 Kh1 Rxf8 and Black is at least clearly better) 19...hxg6 20 Bb4 with — you guessed it! — another division:

20...dxc3? 21 Qxc3! (21 Bxa5? cxb2 22 Rb1 Nc6) 21...Qc7!? (it may be better to play 21...Nxc3 22 Bxa5 Ne4 but that leaves Black with insufficient comp for the exchange) 22 Qd4 Qxh2 23 Rg4! Qh1+ 24 Ke2 Nc6 25 Rxh1 Nxd4+ 26 Kf1 (26 Ke3 Nc2+ and e4 is inviolate because of the fork...f5+) 26...f5 27 Rxc6+ Kf7 28 Rhg1 and wins;

20...Qc7! 21 cxd4 Qxh2 22 Rf1 Nc6 23 Rd1 (23 0-0-0? Nxb4 24 Qxb4 Rc8 Δ 25...Qc7 or 25...b5 looks very good for Black) 23...Nxb4 24 Qxb4 Qc7 25 Rh1 (25 Rg1 Qh2 26 Rf1 transposes back to the game) 25...Rc8 and Black's game appears to be playable.

I hasten to add that this bit of analysis (and others in this article and to this game in particular) was worked on in collaboration with the phenomenal Fritz 5. It's like having a Grandmaster in a box when it comes to tactics!

#### 11 Bb2 Nf6

Yep, this shamefaced retreat is the best thing in the position. Instead, 11...Ng5 12 Ne5! (Δ h4) h6 13 Bd3 is quite comfortable for White. Even worse is 12...f6 13 h4 Nf7 (White wins after the primarily forced 13...fxe5 14 hxg5 g6 15 Bd3 Rf7 16 Bxg6 hxg6 17 Qxg6+ Kf8 18 Rh8+ Ke7 19 Rxc8 exd4 20 Qg8 dxc3 21 Re8+ Kd6 22 0-0-0+ Kc5 23 Qxf7 cxb2+ 24 Kxb2—Black's development is incomplete and he isn't close to having perpetual check) 14 Nxf7 (14 Nf3? e5 ≠) 14...Rxf7 15 Bd3 puts Black in a quandary. For instance, 15...g6 16 h5 g5 17 Bxh7+ Rxh7 18 Qg6+ and the Bc8 hangs. It looks better to try 15...Qh5 avoiding the creation of pawn weaknesses in front of the king. However, White has 16 g4 Qxg4 (16...Qh6 17 Bc1 g5 18 Be4! Black's position collapses) 17 Bxh7+



Kh8 and now 18 h5 and 19 h6 will further disrupt Black's king position. Black must also defend very carefully in the ending that results after 18 Qg6; his queenside isn't developed and White's bishops work up a real head of steam in the open position

Finally, Black can try 11...f5. But White gets a great position with simple moves, eg, 12 Bd3 Nf6 13 0-0 c5 14 Ne5 Nc6! 15 Nxc6 bxc6 16 Rfe1 cxd4 17 cxd4 Qc7 (17...c5? 18 Re5 wins) 18 Rad1 c5? (granted, 18...Bd7 is a better try) 19 d5! exd5? (Black is also in pain after 19...Ng4 20 g3 exd5 21 cxd5 Qd6 22 h3 Nf6 23 Be5!—even stronger than grabbing the f-pawn—23...Qb6 24 d6) 20 cxd5 g6 (20...Nxd5 21 Bc4 drops a piece) 21 d6 Qa5 22 Qc4+ Kh8 23 Bxf6+ Rxf6 24 Re8+ forces mate.

**12 Bd3 Nbd7** (12...c5 may be playable but after the loss of two tempi it's psychologically critical to return to developing the pieces.) **13 0-0 b6** (The text has the disadvantage of stranding the queen on the 4th rank and ultimately a trapping net on the kingside. Instead, 13...e5?! 14 Rfe1 exd4 (14...Re8 15 c5! and both e5 and h7 come under pressure from White's "long range" pieces) 15 cxd4 is a clear advantage for White thanks to the bishops, space, development and center control. Nimzowitsch wrote of the need to "free a cramped position slowly" and this is a good example of why that is generally the best course. The problem is that one frequently ends up mowed down by better developed or more aggressively placed pieces when the cramped position is opened too hastily. However, 13...Qc7! places the queen on a sounder square before proceeding with...c5 or (less likely)...e5. Play might continue 14 Rfe1 b6 15 Ne5 Bb7 and Black's Nimzowitschian approach has "magically" resulted in a playable game.) **14 Rfe1 Qh5** (I would have tried 14...Bb7 but White's doing well

after 15 Ne5 Rad8 16 Re3 or 16 Bc1) **15 Ne5 Bb7** (It appears too late for 15...Nxe5 16 Rxe5 [but not 16 dxe5? Ng4 17 h3 Nxe5+] Qh4 17 Re3 h6 18 Rae1 bringing up the last of the reserves before playing the bishop back to c1. Now White wins after 18...Bb7, eg, 19 Bc1 Ng4 20 Rh3 Qd8 21 Rg3 Qh4 22 h3 Nf6 23 Rf3 c5 24 Rf4 Qg5 25 Rg4 Qh5 26 Re5 g5 [26...Qxe5 27 dxe5 Nxd4 28 hxd4 Black is not only material down but can't even get at the "weakness" of White's pawns] 27 Rexg5+ hxg5 28 Rxd4 Qxg5 29 Bxg5 Nd7 30 Qe2 and White's preponderance of diagonal moving pieces would soon tell. So 18...Qf4 and then 19 Bc1 Qc7 20 Rg3 Kh8 21 Qd2! lining up against the h6-g7 complex. Note that the Bc1 is 'developed,' whatever a beginner's manual might tell you, and White's attack crashes through: 21...Bb7? 22 Rxd4! Kxd4 23 Qxh6+ Kg8 24 Qg5+ Kh8 25 Qxf6+ Kg8 26 Qg5+ Kh8 27 Qh6+ Kg8 28 Qh7#; or 21...Rg8 22 Rxd4! Rxd4 23 Qxh6+ Kg8 [23...Nh7? 24 Bxh7 Rxd4 25 Qf8#] 24 Qxf6 with winning compensation for the exchange as the rook will join the attack with ruthless efficiency. Note that 24...Bb7 25 Bh6 Rg4 26 h3 traps the rook, an amusing echo of the queen trap that occurs in the game!) **16 Re3 h6** (It's no use to play 16...Nxe5? 17 dxe5 Ng4 18 Rh3 Qxe5 [18...Qxh3 19 gxh3 Nxe5 is nominally better but pointless at this level of play] 19 Bxh7+ Kh8 20 Bg8+ and mates) **17 Rh3 Qg5** (Technically it's better to play 17...Nxe5 18 Rxd4 Nxd3 19 Rh3 [19 Qxd3 Nxd3] Nxb2 [19...Nf4 20 Rf3 snuffs out any nascent attacking chances of which Black might have dreamt] 20 Qxb2 but White's advantage is an easy win.) **18 Bc1 Qxg2+** (Bob makes a joke in lieu of resignation. This sort of thing is okay between friends but shouldn't be done with strangers or more frequently than once every few years or so. [One reason it might be

viewed as rude by a stranger is that he might take it as an attempt to mar the aesthetic beauty of the game and make it "unfit" for publication.]) **19 Kxg2 c5+ 20 Kg1 1-0** (Steve actually spent a minute or two before moving his king. This win left Steve in clear first for a couple of hours as Miller had not yet beaten Traldi.)

## Round Six — The Dust Rises

Six players still had a chance to win or tie for first. Greanias and Miller, half a point ahead of the field, played a steady draw. Miller gained an edge but Greanias did a good job of damage control. Thus they finish with 4½ and guaranteed spots in the winner's circle. On 2nd board, Shibut found himself playing Jim Guill — a lower-rated opponent than one might expect, but Shibut had already played Mayer and Traldi, the remaining players with 3½. The defending champion wrapped up the point relatively quickly to join Greanias and Miller. Traldi and Mayer concluded a very quick draw to end up ultimately in a three-way tie for 4th place. Potter and Yang drew after Potter was unable to convert a two pawn advantage. And Jeremy Hummer pulled off another upset when Fischer overlooked mate in one in an unclear position! Hummer, by the way, won his last three games to tie for fourth and edge out Yang and Brownstein for top junior (defined as under-16 for this tournament; Traldi would have won it if it was under 21).

STEVE GREANIAS - DANIEL MILLER  
CARO KANN

**1 c4 c6 2 e4 d5 3 cxd5 cxd5 4 exd5 Qxd5 5 Nc3 Qa5 6 d4 Nf6 7 Nf3 e6 8 Bd3 Be7 9 0-0 0-0 10 Ne5** (This is a novelty. Other games have seen 10 Re1, 10 Bf4, 10 Bg5 and 10 a3) **10...Nc6!** (It's well-established that allowing his pawns to be split doesn't hurt Black in this type of position.) **11 Nxc6 bxc6 12 Be3 Ba6** (exchanging his bad bishop) **13 a3 Bxd3 14 Qxd3 Rfd8 15 b4 Qh5 16 Ne4 Nxe4 17**





**Qxe4 Qd5** (Black is better in the ending) **18 Qxd5 cxd5 19 Rfc1 Rdc8 20 Kf1 Kf8 21 Ke2 Ke8 22 Kd3 Kd7 23 Bf4 h5 24 Bd2 Rab8 25 Bf4 Rxc1 26 Rxc1 Rb7 27 Rc3 a6 ½-½**

So Greanias holds the draw, but his bye in round three left him an outsider in the tiebreak race for the state title.

#### JOHN GUILL - MACON SHIBUT ENGLISH

**1 c4 e5 2 g3 c6 3 d4** (3 Nf3 is almost certainly better. The text allows the queen to be booted around.) **exd4 4 Qxd4 d5 5 cxd5 cxd5 6 Nc3 Nf6 7 Bg2 Nc6 8 Qd1 d4** (White isn't well-placed to meet this aggressive advance. My database shows the score from this position to be overwhelmingly in Black's favor.) **9 Ne4 Be7 10 Nxf6+ Bxf6 11 Nf3 0-0 12 0-0 Re8 13 a3** (A novelty; an earlier game saw 13 Ne1, aiming to blockade the pawn. Guill's move isn't very good, as White really doesn't want to move in his b-pawn in this sort of position even if it *doesn't* hang material as it does here.) **13...Bf5 14 b4??** (Losing material to an elementary tactic. Black already had the better game, of course, but the text leaves matters decided from a practical standpoint.) **14...d3 15 Ra2 dxe2 16 Rxe2 Rxe2 17 Qxe2 Bd3 18 Qd1 Bxf1 19 Qxf1 Qe7 20 Be3 Rd8 21 h3 Nd4 22 Qd1 Nf5 23 Bd2 Qd7 24 Qe1 Nd4 25 Be3 Nc2 26 Qd2 Qxd2 27 Bxd2 Nxa3 28 Be3 b6 29 Kh2 Bc3 0-1**

#### ROBERT FISCHER - JEREMY HUMMER CARO KANN

**1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 Bd3** (This variation of the Caro-Kann effectively resembles an Exchange Variation QGD with colors reversed.) **Nc6 5 c3 Nf6 6 Bf4 Bg4 7 Qb3 Qc8 8 Nd2 e6 9 Ngf3 Be7 10 0-0 0-0 11 Ne5** (My database has over 30 games with this position with Black enjoying about a 50% result.) **Bh5 12 Qc2 Bd6** (12...Bg6 is more common. Black doesn't mind ceding the bishop pair in

this semi-closed game.) **13 Rae1** (13 Nxc6 Qxc6 14 Be5 Timman-Huebner, Bugojno 1982. 13 Rfe1 has also been tried.) **Qc7 14 Re3 Rac8** ( $\Delta$  Nxd4) **15 Qb1 Bg6 16 Nxc6 Bxf4!** (Hummer probably didn't like the looks of 16...hxg6 17 Bxd6 Qxd6 18 Nf3 a6 aiming to begin a minority attack against White's queenside pawns. White could continue 19 Ne5 b5 20 f4! with the attacking plan of Q-e1-h4 & Rh3) **17 Nxf8!** (17 Nxf4 Qxf4 18 Nf3 leaves White with some pull but nothing special) **17...Bxe3** (17...Rxf8 18 Re2 Bxh2+ 19 Kh1  $\pm$ ) **18 Bxh7+?!** (Bob makes a mistake in complications. He had two superior continuations: 18 fxe3! Rxf8 19 e4 dxe4 20 Nxe4 Nxe4 21 Bxe4 h6 favors White as Black's knight lacks a cool square to which it can play; and 18 Nxe6! Bxf2+ 19 Rxf2 fxe6 20 Nf3 favors White in view of the better minor piece and superior pawn structure.) **18...Kxf8** (but not 18...Kh8? 19 fxe3 Rxf8 20 Bd3) **19 fxe3 Ng4 20 Nf3 Nxe3 21 Re1 Ng4 22 Bd3 Na5 23 Bb5** (loses a tempo, as Black wants to play...a6 anyhow) **a6 24 Bf1 Nc4 25 Bxc4 Qxc4 26 Qh7** (looks menacing but Black's king will be safe enough at e7) **Nf6 27 Qh8+ Ke7 28 Qxg7 Rg8 29 Qh6 Qxa2 30 Qf4?** (30 Qc1 Ne4 31 Nd2 was a better approach) **Qxb2 31 Ne5??** (Bob played some of the more complicated games this tournament so he may well have been tired. Instead of committing hari-kari, it appears he can hold the balance with 31 Ng5! when a 'random' move such as 31...a5? loses to 32 Rf1 Rg6 33 Qc7+. Therefore 31...Qxc3, which results in equality after 32 Rc1 Qa5 33 Rc7+ Ke8 34 h4 Qe1+ 35 Kh2 Rg7 36 Rc8+ Ke7 37 Qc7+ Nd7 38 Qd8+ Kd6 39 Qc7+; or likewise 31...Rg6 32 Rf1 Qxc3 33 Rc1 Qa5 34 Rc7+ Ke8 35 h4 Qe1+ 36 Kh2) **31...Qxg2 mate 0-1**

#### Tiebreaks for the Title— The Dust Settles

As noted above, Greanias was eliminated in pursuit of the title of State Champion very quickly thanks to his round three bye. The situation between Miller and Shibut was *far* closer. They were equal through the first set of tiebreaks, so the ultimate decision would depend on the cumulative score of all their various opponents. Complicating the matter was the fact that Miller had played Alan Rufty, who withdrew after Miller's first round victory. Somehow both Miller and Shibut misunderstood TD Mike Atkins's explanation of how this circumstance is handled under USCF rules and so believed that Shibut would be champion so long as Potter didn't lose his winning position against Yang. Indeed, Miller left for home as there seemed no need for him to stick around, while Shibut waited for the game to end and make official his repeat as state champion. Unfortunately for Shibut, it developed that he needed for Potter *win*; a draw or loss would make Miller the 2000 state champion. As mentioned above, the Yang-Potter game did indeed conclude as a draw. So Shibut's disappointment at not repeating was needlessly intensified, while Miller missed out on the joy of learning about his victory while still at the tournament site. No doubt Miller is delighted at how things turned out, but certainly he would have been even happier to learn of his victory while surrounded by friends and well-wishers.

Daniel Miller, our new champion, is a worthy representative. A quick look at the USCF web site shows that he's been rated over 2300 for the past seven years. Will he repeat next year? No one knows, but I guarantee you that this tournament is a blast to play and spectate, so circle Labor Day 2001 on your calendar and plan to join the fun!

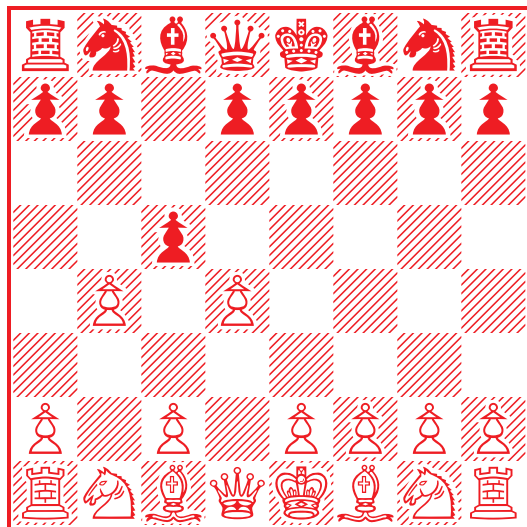




## THE ZILBERMINTS BENONI: 1 d4 c5 2 b4!

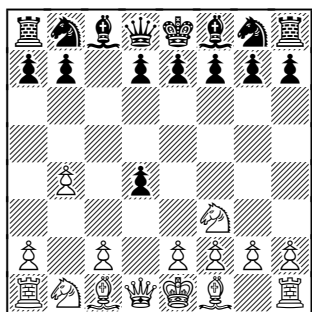
by Lev Zilbermints

*Continued from last issue*



### Part II: 2...cxd4 3 Nf3

In Part I I showed how the student of the unorthodox can gain the advantage with 1 d4 c5 2 b4! against the Benoni Defense. On psychological grounds alone White may obtain good chances, for Black usually is flabbergasted by such an unexpected response. Now we will take a look at 2...cxd4 3 Nf3, which I consider the main line.



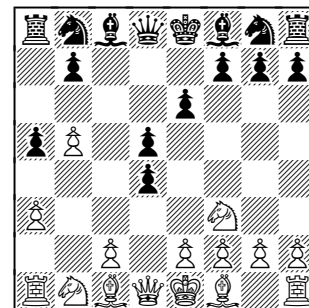
Black has tried B1) 3...e5; B2) 3...e6; B3) 3...d5; B4) 3...Nc6; B5) 3...Nf6; B6) 3...g6

B1) 3...e5 is an attempt to transpose to lines similar to the Sicilian Wing Gambit ( 1 e4 c5 2 b4 cxb4 3 a3 e5)

where Black may have some chances. However, as I stated in the previous article, the main difference between my opening and the Sicilian Wing Gambit is that the e-pawn is still on its original square. This gives independent significance. The crazy game Zilbermints - Simon, Marshall CC G/60 1995, continued 4 a3 d6 5 e3 Be7 6 ed4 e4 7 Nfd2 Nf6 8 d5? 0-0 9 c4 a5 10 Bb2 ab 11 ab Rxa1 12 Bxa1 Na6 13 Bc3 Qb6 14 b5 Nc5 15 Be2 Bf5 16 Nb3 Nxb3 17 Qxb3 e3 18 f3 Nd7 19 0-0 Re8 20 Rd1 Nc5 21 Bd4 Bf6 22 Bxc5 Qxc5 23 Nc3 h5 24 Na4 Qa7 25 Nb2? Ra8 26 Re1 Qa2 27 Qxa2 Rxa2 28 Nd1 Bd4 29 g3 Rc2 30 Kf1 Bh3+ 31 Kg1 Bc5 32 Kh1 Rc1 33 g4 hg4 34 fg Bb4 35 Rg1 Rc2 36 Bf1! Bxf1 37 Nxe3! Bxc4! 38 Rb1 Bc5 39 Nxc4 Rxc4 40 h3 Rd4 41 Re1 b6 42 Kg2 Rxd5 43 Kf3 Re5 44 Rd1 Kf8 45 Ra1 Ke7 46 Ra7 Ke6 47 Ra8 Kd5 48 Rf8 Re7 49 h4 Kc4 50 g5 d5 51 h5 d4 52 h6 gh6 53 gh6 54 h7 Bd4 55 Rd8 Re3+ 56 Kg2 Re2+ 57 Kh1 d2 58 Rd4 Kxd4 59 h8/Q Kc5 and 1-0 on time.

B2) 3...e6 is similar to B1) but just a little bit more conservative since Black does not try to grab the center outright. There are several possibilities now:

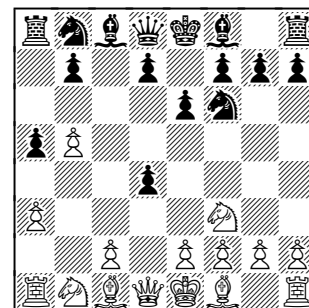
3...e6 4 a3 a5 5 b5 d5



The position is probably equal to slightly better for White.

6 Bb2 Nf6 7 Bxd4 Be7 8 Nc3 Nbd7 9 Na4 0-0 10 e3 Bd6 11 Bb2 e5 12 Nc3 e4 13 Nd4 Ne5 14 Be2 h6 15 Qd2 a4 16 h3 Bd7 17 g4 Qc8 18 Rg1 Nc4 19 Bxc4 Qxc4 20 0-0-0 Rfc8 21 Nf5! (White counter-attacks on the kingside) Bf8 22 g5! hg 23 Rxc5 g6 24 Rxd1 Kh7 25 Nb1 Bxf5 26 Bxf6 Bh6 27 h4! (Giving up the Rook for the excellent Bf6) Qxb5 28 Nc3 Qc5 29 h5! Qxa3+ 30 Kd1 Bxc5 31 Rxc5! Qd6 32 hg6 Bxc6?? (32... fg! is a permanent block) 33 Bxe5 Qe7 34 f4 Qf8 35 Nxd5 Rd8 36 Bd4 Rxd5 37 Rxd5 Qh6 38 Qg2 a3 39 f5 Bh5+ 40 Kd2 Rg8 41 Qxe4, Black overstepped the time limit, 1-0 Zilbermints - Dayen, Marshall CC 1995.

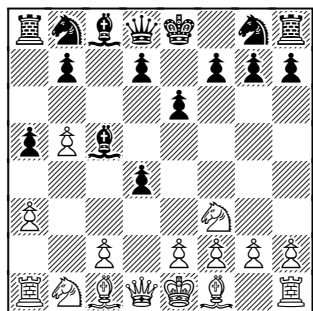
3...e6 4 a3 a5 5 b5 Nf6 was seen in the game Zilbermints - Privman, Marshall CC, 1996.





That game continued 6 Qxd4 b6 7 e3 Bb7 8 Be2 Bc5 9 Qh4 Be7 10 Qd4 d6 11 0-0 Nbd7 12 c4 Rc8 13 Bb2 0-0 14 Qd1 Nc5 15 Nbd2 a4 16 Bd4 Ra8 17 Bxc5 dc5 18 Qc2. Here Privman touched his Bb7 and had to move it. 18...Bxf3 19 Bxf3 Ra7 20 Nb1 Nd7 21 Nc3 Bf6 22 Rad1 Qc7 23 Ne4 Ne5 24 Be2 Be7 25 f4 Nd7 26 Bd3 f5 27 Ng3 Bf6 28 Ne2 g6 29 e4 fxe4 30 Bxe4 Bg7 31 Qd3 Nf6 32 Bc6 Qe7. Here I blundered by playing 33 Ng3?? too early. I should have played first 33 h3! and only then 34 Ng3. Now Privman gets positional garbage. 33...Ng4! 34 Ne4 Bd4+ 35 Kh1 Ne3 36 Rde1 Nxf1 37 Rxf1 Kg7 38 Qh3 h6 39 Ng3 e5 40 f5 Qg5 41 Ne4 Rxf5 42 g4 Rxf1 43 Qxf1 Qxg4 44 Qf6+ Kh7 45 Qf1 Qf5 46 Qe2 Rf7 47 Kg2 Qf4 48 Bc4 Rf5 49 Be6 Rh5 50 h3 Rh4 51 Ng3 e4 52 Bd5 Be5 53 Qe1 Qf3 54 Kh2 and eventually 0-1 The rest was unrecorded in mutual time pressure. The interesting thing is that ever since this game, whenever we played Privman has avoided 1...c5 against me, preferring the chicken 1...d6. Obviously I must have scared him with my Zilbermints Benoni.

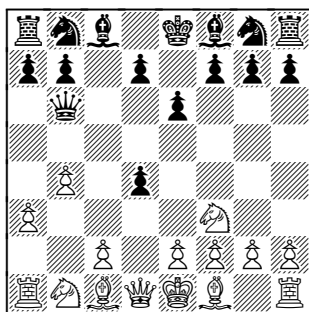
3...e6 4 a3 a5 5 b5 Bc5



Black is trying to develop his Bishop and grab space at the same time. Play resembles something out of the Orangutan (1 b4 c5 2 b5). The game continued 6 Nxd4 Qf6 7 c3 e5 8 Nf3 h6 9 Qd5 d6 10 e3 Ne7 11 Qd1 Bg4 12 Be2 Nd7 13 h3 Bh5? (Oops. Now comes the cheapo!) 14 Nxe5! Bxe2 15 Nxd7 Kxd7 16 Qxe2 Rae8 17 Bb2 Qg6 18 0-0? (This is a mistake, because 18 Qg4! would have swapped

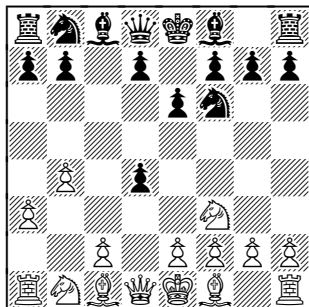
Queens and left White with an extra pawn. Now Black tries to get counter-chances.) 18...Nf5 19 Bc1 Kc7 20 a4 Re5 21 Na3 Rhe8 22 Nc4 Re4 23 Ba3 Nh4 24 g3 Qe6 25 Kh2 Rxc4 26 Bxc5 dc5 27 gh4 Rxh4 28 Qf3 g5 29 Rg1 Kc8 30 Rad1 f5 31 Qd5 Qe5+ 32 Qxe5 Rxe5 33 Rd6 Ra4 34 Rh6 Rxa2 35 Kg3 a4 36 Kf3 g4 37 hg4 a3 38 Rh7! Rd2 39 gf5 Re8 40 Rgg7! a2 41 Ra7 Kb8 42 b6 Rg8 43 Rhb7+ 1-0 Zilbermints - Polese, Westfield NJ G/20, 1999.

3...e6 4 a3 Qb6 attempts to try something on the Queenside.



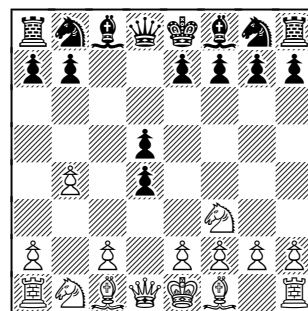
Zilbermints - Schreiber, Marshall CC G/10, 1996, continued 5 Nxd4 Nc6 6 Bb2 Nf6 7 e3 d5 8 Bb5 Bd7 9 Be2 Nxd4 10 Bxd4 Qd8 11 0-0 Be7 12 Nd2 0-0 13 Nf3 Bd6 14 Ne5 Ba4 15 f3 Nd7 16 Nxd7 Qxd7 17 f4 Rfe8 18 Bf3 Rac8 19 Rc1 b6 20 g3 e5 21 Bb2 e4 22 Bg2 Bb5 23 Rf2 Bc4 24 Qd4 f6 25 Bf1 b5 26 Bxc4 bxc4? 27 Qxd5+ Qe6 28 Qxe6 Rxe6 29 Bd4 Bb8 30 c3 Ra6 31 Ra1 Ra4 32 Kg2 Bd6 33 R2a2 Rb8 34 Kf2 a5 35 Ke2 ab 36 ab Rxa2 37 Rxa2 The rest was unrecorded due to mutual time scramble. Eventually 1-0.

3...e6 4 a3 Nf6



This is pretty conservative play. Black is adopting a wait-and-see attitude. White has nothing to fear so long as he plays accurately. Zilbermints - McCarthy, Westfield NJ 1999, continued 5 Bb2 Be7 6 Bxd4 b6 7 e3 Bb7 8 Nbd2 0-0 9 Bd3 d6 10 Bb2 Nbd7 11 0-0 a6 12 Re1 d5 13 Ne5 Nxe5 14 Bxe5 Nd7 15 Bb2 Bf6 16 Bxf6 Qxf6 17 Qf3 Qxf3 18 gf3 (Maybe 18 Nxf3 is better.) g6 19 f4 Rfd8 20 Kf1 Rac8 21 Ke2 Nf6 22 f3? (22 Nf3 is better) 22...d4 23 e4 Nh4 24 f5 Nf4+ 25 Kf2 Rc3 26 Nc4 Rxd3 27 cd3 Nxd3+ 28 Ke2 Nxe1 29 Rxe1 ef5 30 e5 b5 31 Nd6 Bd5 32 Rc1 f6 33 f4 g5 34 Kd3 fg 35 Kxd4 Be4 36 Rf1 f3 37 Ke3 fe 38 Nxe5 fxe5 39 Kxe4 Rd4 40 Kf5?? (This loses the game. After 40 Kxe5! Rd3 41 Ke4 Rxa3 42 Rxf3 Ra4 43 Rb3 Ra2 44 h3 White can still fight.) 40...Rd3 41 Kxe5 Rxa3 41 Kf6 Rc3 43 Rd1 Rc6+ 44 Kf5 Kg7 45 Rd7+ The rest was unrecorded due to time scramble. Eventually 0-1.

B3) 3...d5



Black is again trying to grab the center, but White has good chances. Three examples:

4 a3 a5 5 Bb2 ab4 6 ab4 Rxa1 7 Bxa1 e5 8 Nxe5 Bxb4 9 c3 dc?? 10 Qa4+! Nc6 11 Nxc6 c2+ 12 Nxb4+! Bd7 13 Qxc2 1-0 Zilbermints - Lewis, blitz 1996

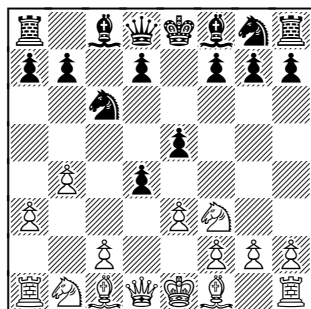
4 a3 Nf6 5 Nxd4 e5 6 Nf3 e4 7 Nd4 a5 8 b5 9 e3 0-0 10 Be2 Be6 11 a4 Nbd7 12 0-0 Rc8 13 Ba3 Bxa3 14 Rxa3 Ne5 15 f4 ef3 16 Nxf3 Nc4 17



Bxc4 Rxc4 18 Nbd2 Rc8 19 Nd4 Qe7 20 Ra1 Bd7 21 Qf3 Rc3 22 Rfe1 Re8 23 Nf1 Qe5 24 Qf4 h6 25 h3 Ne4 26 Red1 Qh4 27 Qf3 Qg5 28 Rd3 Rc4 29 Rda3 Be6 30 Rad1 Nc3 31 Rda1 Ne4 32 Rd1 Qe7 33 Rda1 Qd6 34 Qe2 Rec8 35 Qe1 Qd8 36 Nd2 Nxd2 37 Qxd2 Bd7 38 R3a2 b6 39 Nb3 Qg5 40 Kh2 Qe5 41 Kg1 Re8 42 Rd1 Bf5 43 Nd4 Be4 The rest was unrecorded due to mutual time scramble, but eventually 0-1, Zilbermints - Terzic, Marshall CC, 1997.

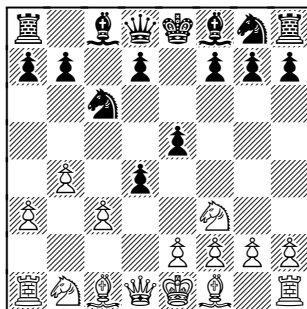
**B4) 3...Nc6** This is an attempt to stir up complications on the queenside by attacking and developing at the same time. After 4 a3 I have three examples:

4...e5 5 e3?!



An interesting, if somewhat dubious, gambit. White sacrifices the e-pawn to accelerate development and get pressure in the center. Is it sound? Who knows? I cannot make any evaluation based on one game alone! Be it as that may, Zilbermints - William, Marshall CC 1995, continued 5...de3 6 Bxe3 Nf6? 7 b5! e4 8 bc ef 9 cd+ Bxd7 10 Qxf3 Be7? 11 Bd3 0-0 12 0-0 Bc6 13 Qh3 Qc8 14 Qh4 Qg4 15 Qg3 Bd6 16 f4 Qxg3 17 hg3 Rfe8 18 Bd4 Ng4 19 Nd2 Bf8 20 Nc4 Red8 21 c3 Bd5 22 Rfe1 f6 23 Ne3 Nxe3 24 Rxe3 Re8 25 Rxe8 Rxe8 26 Kf2 b6 27 a4 Rc8 28 a5 Bc5 29 ab Bxd4+ 30 cd ab 31 Rb1 Rb8 32 g4 h6 33 g3 Kf7 34 Rc1 Rb7 35 Rc8 Ke6 36 Ke3 b5 37 Rd8 Rb6?? 38 Bf5+! Kf7 39 Rxd5 b4 40 Bd3 Re6+ 41 Kf3 Rc6 42 Rb5 Rc3 43 Ke4 b3 44 Rxb3 1-0

4...e5 5 c3!



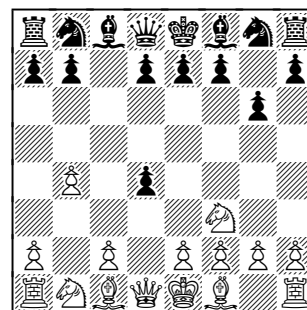
This is the correct way to undermine Black's control of the center. Once again, note that since the e-pawn is on its original square this is no Sicilian Wing Gambit but an independent variation. The game Zilbermints - Diamond, 1996 North Jersey Team Ch, continued 5...Nf6 6 b5 e4 7 Nxd4 Nxd4 8 Qxd4 d5 9 a4 Be7 10 e3 0-0 11 Ba3 Bd7 12 Be2 Bxa3 13 Nxa3 Qc7 14 0-0 Rfc8 15 c4 Bg4 16 Bxg4 Nxc4 17 g3 Qc5 18 Rfd1 Qxd4 19 Rxd4 dc? 20 Rxe4! Nf6 21 Rxc4 Rxc4 22 Nxc4 Rc8 23 Nd6 Rc7 24 e4 Kf8 25 Re1 Rd7 26 e5 Nd5 27 Rc1 Nc7 28 Nxb7 Ne8 29 Na5 Rd4 30 Rc4 Rd1+ 31 Kg2 f6 32 ef6 Nxf6 33 Nc6 Rd7 34 Rd4 Rxd4 35 Nxd4 Nd5 36 a5 Ke8 37 Nc6 a6 and Black overstepped the time limit, 1-0. Winning this game helped my team take first place.

**4...g6?** This is similar to my game against NM Ilan Kreitner — see B6 below. A game Zilbermints - Bauer Queens Futurity Tournament, continued 5 Nxd4 Bg7 6 Nxc6 bc6 7 c3 a5 8 Bb2 ab 9 ab Rxa1 10 Bxa1 Nf6 11 e3 Nd5 12 Qb3 0-0 13 Bc4 Bb7 14 0-0 Qa8 15 Nd2 Qa7 16 Bb2 Qb8 17 Nf3 Nf6 18 Be2 d6 19 c4 Bc8 20 Nd4 Bd7 21 Bf3 Rc8 22 Bc3 e5 23 Nc2 Be6 24 e4 Nd7 25 Ne3 h5 26 Qc2 Nf6 27 Rd1 g5 28 Be2 Rd8 29 b5 cb 30 cb g4 31 Qd3 Ne8 32 Bb4 Bf8 33 f3 Nf6 34 Bc3 gf 35 Bxf3 Ng4 36 Bxg4 Bxg4 37 Nxg4 hg4 38 Bxe5! Re8 39 Bd4 Qb7 40 Re1 d5 41 Qg3 f5?? 42 ef5!

Rxe1+ 43 Qxe1 Bg7 44 Qe8+ Kh7 45 Qg6+ Kg8 46 f6 g3 47 Qxg7 Qxg7 48 fxg7 gh2+ 49 Kxh2 Kf7 50 b6 1-0

**B5) 3...Nf6** A solid, if somewhat passive, move. Zilbermints - Bleak, Marshall CC G/30, 1998, continued 4 a3 a6 5 Bb2 Nc6 6 Nxd4 d5 7 e3 g6 8 Nd2 Bg7 9 Ndf3 0-0 10 Bd3 Re8 11 0-0 Bg4 12 Be2 Qc7 13 c4? Nxd4! 14 Bxd4 dc 15 Rc1 b5 16 h3 Bd7 17 Ne5 Rc8 18 Bf3 Bf5 19 a4 Be4 20 a5 Bxf3 21 Qxf3 Qd6 22 g4 Qd5 23 Rfd1 Qxf3 24 Nxf3 Rfd8 25 Bc5 Kf8 26 Nd4 Nd7 27 Ba7 Rc7 28 Bb6! Nxb6 29 Ne6+! fxe6 30 Rxd8+ Kf7 31 ab6 Rb7 32 Kf1 Be5 33 Ke2 Rxb6 34 Kd2 Rd6+? (Up to this point Colin played okay, but with time pressure looming he stumbles.) 35 Rxd6 ed6 36 Rc2 d5 37 Ra2 Bd6 38 Ke3 Bh2 39 Ra6 Bg1 40 Ra2 Kf6 41 Kd4 Kg5 42 f4 Kh4 43 Rg2 Bxe3 44 Kxe3 Kxh3 45 Kf3 Kh2 The rest is unrecorded due to time scramble. Eventually 1-0

**B6) 3...g6?**



This move pretty much lets White develop as he pleases. In some respects it weakens the a1-g8 diagonal and the f6 and h6 squares since the Bg7 will be opposed by Bb2. Zilbermints - Kreitner, Marshall CC Game/30, 1999, continued 4 Qxd4 Nf6 5 Bb2 Bg7 6 Qd1 0-0 7 e3 d6 8 a3 Bf5 9 Bd3 Qd7 10 0-0 h5 11 Nd4 Bxd3 12 cxd3 Nc6 13 Nxc6 bc 14 Nd2 d5? 15 Nf3 Rac8 16 Bxf6 Bxf6 17 d4 Rfe8 18 Ne5! Bxe5 19 dxe5 e6 20 Qd4 Qb7 21 Rfd1 Re7 22





Rac1 Qb6 23 Rc5 R7c7 24 R1c1  
Qb7 25 Qc3 a6 26 h3 Kg7 27 a4  
Rb8 28 b5 ab 29 ab Qb6 30 Rxb6  
Rxb6 31 bc6 Rc8 32 c7 Qb7 33 Qc5  
Kg8 34 Qd6 Kg7 35 Kh2 Re8?? 36  
Qd8! Qc8 37 Qxe8! 1-0

Another game continued 4 Qxd4 Nf6  
5 Bb2 Bg7 6 Qh4!? Qb6 7 a3 0-0 8  
Ng5 h6 9 Nf3 g5?! 10 Nxc5!? hg5  
11 Qxg5 d5 12 h4 d4 13 h5 Nh7 14  
Qg3 Kh8 15 h6 Bf6 16 e3 e5 17 ed  
ed 18 c3 Re8+ 19 Kd1 Qe6 20 Bd3  
Qg4+ 21 Kc1 Qxg3 22 fg3 dc 23  
Nxc3 Bg5 24 Ne4+ f6 25 Nxc5 Nxc5  
26 Bxf6 Kg8 27 h7+ 1-0 Zilbermint  
- Prus, Marshall CC Friday Rapids,  
1995.

I think this pretty much establishes the  
value of 1 d4 c5 2 b4! as an  
independent variation. Readers are  
invited to submit their games or  
comments with this line to me at  
[ldz@pegasus.rutgers.edu](mailto:ldz@pegasus.rutgers.edu). In the next  
issue of *Virginia Chess* I will look at 1  
d4 c5 2 b4! : other Black responses.



### Northern Virginia Open *continued from page 1*

THOMAS REHLE - FLOYD BOUDREAUX  
RUY LOPEZ

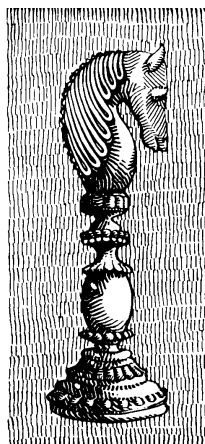
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nf6 4 O-O  
Nxe4 5 d4 Nd6 6 Bxc6 dxc6 7 dxe5  
Nf5 8 Qxd8+ Kxd8 9 Nc3 h6 10 b3  
Be6 11 Bb2 Ke8 12 Rad1 Rd8 13 h3  
Rxd1 14 Rxd1 h5 15 Nd4 Nxd4 16  
Rxd4 Rh6 17 Ne2 c5 18 Ra4 a6 19  
Bc1 Rh8 20 Bg5 Bd7 21 Rh4 g6 22  
Nf4 Be7 23 Bxe7 Kxe7 24 Nd3 b6 25  
f4 Rd8 26 Kf2 Bf5 27 Ke2 a5 28 g4  
hxg4 29 hxg4 Bxd3+ 30 cxd3 Rd4 31  
a3 Ke6 32 g5 Rd8 33 Rh7 a4 34 bxa4  
Ra8 35 Rh4 Ra5 36 Kf3 c6 37 f5+  
Kxf5 38 Rf4+ Kxe5 39 Rxf7 Rxa4 40  
Rf6 Rxa3 41 Rxc6 Rxd3+ 0-1 Just like  
Kramnik would have done it!

2ND ANNUAL

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Portsmouth VA 23703**. Info by email [rodflores2000@yahoo.com](mailto:rodflores2000@yahoo.com)  
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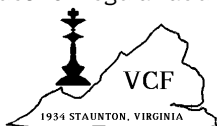
## Chess Clubs

*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](mailto: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](http://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/](http://www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Galaxy/9780/) ♖ Fort Eustis: contact Sorel Utsey 878-4448 ♖ Fredricksburg: Spotsylvania Chess, Lutheran Church Rte West 4.7 miles from Exit 130 on I-95. Every Tuesday 6-9pm, info Mike Cornell 785-8614 ♖ 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](mailto: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](http://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 ♖ Woodrbridge: Prince William Chess Club, Wednesdays 7-9pm either in the Community Room, Potomac Library, 2201 Opitz Road or C D Hylton High School, 14051 Spriggs Rd. Contact Dick Stableford, 703-670-5887 or [o6usmc@erols.com](mailto:o6usmc@erols.com)



The **Virginia Chess Federation** (VCF) is a non-profit organization for the use of its members. Dues for regular adult membership are \$10/yr. Junior memberships are \$5/yr. **President:** Mark Johnson, PO Box 241, Barboursville VA 22923, [rmj142@yahoo.com](mailto:rmj142@yahoo.com) **Vice President:** Mike Atkins, 2710 Arlington Dr, Apt # 101, Alexandria VA 22306, [matkins@wizard.net](mailto:matkins@wizard.net) **Treasurer:** F Woodrow Harris, 1105 West End Dr, Emporia VA 23847, [fwh@3rddoor.com](mailto:fwh@3rddoor.com) **Secretary:** Helen Hinshaw, 3430 Musket Dr, Midlothian VA 23113, [ahinshaw@erols.com](mailto:ahinshaw@erols.com) **Scholastics Chairman:** Mike Cornell, 12010 Grantwood Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407, [kencorn@erols.com](mailto:kencorn@erols.com) **Internet Coordinator:** Roger Mahach, 7901 Ludlow Ln, Dunn Loring VA 22027, [rmahach@vachess.org](mailto:rmahach@vachess.org) **VCF Inc. Directors:** Helen Hinshaw (Chairman); Roger Mahach; Mark Johnson; Mike Atkins; Mickey Owens.



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## Virginia Chess

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Featuring commentary and analysis  
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