



THE MILLENNIUM CHESS FESTIVAL TOOK PLACE IN VIRGINIA BEACH, MARCH 2-4. GM Igor Novikov emerged clear winner of the Open section with 4½-1½. Following closely behind were GMs Alex Shabalov, Leonid Yudasin, Pavel Blatny and Alex Stripunsky, and IM Adrian Negulescu, all at 4-1. Kameswaran Visweswaran, Boris Privman and Macon Shibut shared top U2400. Douglas Taffinder, Richard Francisco, Walid Elgouhary and Daniel Pomerleano split top U2200. Judah Brownstein & Mark Lisle tied for 1st in the Under 2200 section. Alex Relyea, Robert Fritz and Dave Brogan came out atop the Under 1600 section. Under 1300 went to Dennis Okola.

Overall the Festival was a great success. Participation doubled from last year's inaugural event and the new Virginia Beach location proved to be a definite winner. The hotel was situated on the Virginia beach waterfront, which made for nice sleeping to the pounding surf each night. The Ramada Resort Hotel, Virginia Beach Events, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Papa John's Pizza and local restaurants Otani Japanese steak house and The Jewish Mother delicatessen all provided sponsorship. Raffles for a Palm Pilot, Pente Games, and special cups were held during the final two rounds. More than one GM called it the nicest tournament in the US, which is high praise! Tom Braunlich and Rodney Flores deserve thanks for their organizing efforts. Michael Atkins and Ernie Schlich directed the tournament itself.

Other prize winners (all sections) included: Timothy Stockton, Top Upset (drew with player rated 1078 points higher than him) in the Open; Geoffrey Evans, Andrew Johnson, Ahmed Jahangir, Kevin R Brown, Thomas Belke & Jason McKinney =3rd in the Under 2200; Dayne Nix, Jonathan Backus, George Cain & John Culbreth =4th in Under 1600; and Daniel Matz, David Brandt, Osman Aslan, Joseph Harrigan, Stewart McBurney & Kyle Ward-Dahl =2nd in Under 1300.



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Robert Fritz and Dave Brogan came out atop the Under 1600 section. Under 1300 went to Dennis Okola.

The eventual winner got off the mark in the first round by defeating Denis Strenzwilk. The veteran Maryland master appeared to come out of the opening in good shape but later missed the point of the grandmaster's subtle maneuvering.

GM IGOR NOVIKOV - DENIS STRENZWILK

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

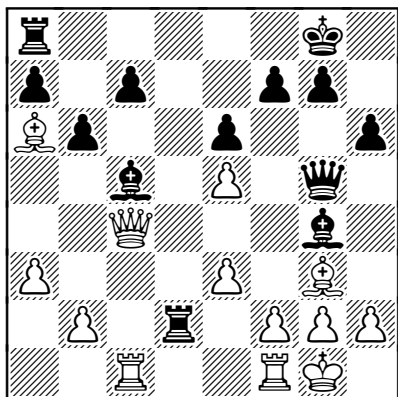
Notes by GM Ron Henley

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 Be7 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Bg5 h6 6 Bh4 O-O 7 e3 b6 8 Bd3 dxc4 9 Bxc4 Bb7 10 O-O Ne4 (A typical freeing move whereby Black plays to liquidate pieces to ease his cramped position.) **11 Nxe4 Bxe4 12 Bg3 Bd6 13 Ne5 Nd7 14 Qg4 Nxe5** (Black continues his policy of exchanging pieces.) **15 dxe5 Bf5** (This tempo allows Black to avoid the loss of a bishop.) **16 Qe2 Bc5 17 Rad1 Qe7 18 Ba6!?** (A clever move which at first site seems rather random.) **18...Rfd8** (Black seems to have equalized quite nicely. With the exchange of rooks looming along the open d file, it is hard to see how White can hope to stir things up.) **19 a3!?** (The text threatens 20 b4 trapping the black bishop on c5. Only now is the point of 18 Ba6 revealed — the black a pawn is frozen on a7! Otherwise black could simply play 19...a5 without the slightest discomfort.) **19...Qg5** (The necessity of clearing a retreat square along the c5-f8 diagonal sidetracks Black from his plan of exchanging rooks along the d file.) **20 Rc1!?** (A



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practical decision as White avoids exchanging of rooks in order to create pressure along the c-file. The threat is 21 b4 Bf8 22 Rxc7 winning a pawn.) **20...Bg4 21 Qc4 Rd2** (This looks like promising counterplay as both 22...Rxb2 and 22...Be2 are threatened.)



22 b4! (White ignores Black's threats, pursues his own goal, and enters into the tactical stage of the game.) **22...Be2 23 Qe4!** (This hit on loose black rook on a8 proves decisive.) **23...Bxa6** (The alternative capture of material does not save Black either: 23... Bxf1 24. Qxa8+ Rd8 25. Qxa7 Bxa6 [the desperado 25...Bxe3 26. Rxf1 leaves White a bishop ahead] 26. bxc5 and White will mop up the black queenside pawns — but not 26. Qxa6? Bxe3, which saves Black since 27. fxe3 Qxe3+ forks White's king and rook.) **24 Qxa8+ Rd8 25 Qxa7 Bxf1 26 bxc5** (White is already a pawn to the good, and threatens to capture on f1 and c7.) **26...Be2 27 Qxc7 Rd3 28 cxb6** (This monster passed b pawn proves decisive.) **28...Qd8 29 Qxd8+ Rxd8 30 f3** (With three extra pawns for White, the bishops of opposite prove irrelevant.) **30...Ba6 31 Be1 Rd5 32 a4** (White gives up the meaningless forward e-pawn to get the show rolling on the queenside.) **32...Rxe5 33 e4** (This advance limits the scope of the black rook.) **33...f5 34 Rc7** (The time Black uses to free his rook, allows white to run down and score the black bishop.) **34...fxe4 35 b7 Bxb7 36 Rxb7 exf3 37 Rxc7+!** (A nice finishing touch! White sacrifices his rook to simplify the position.) **37...Kf8 38**

Bb4+ Kxg7 39 Bc3 Kf6 40 a5 1-0 (40...Kf5 41 Bxe5 Kxe5 and the Black king is outside of the square of White's pawn: 42 a6 Kd6 43 a7 followed by 44 a8Q)

But already in this first round a couple of the other GMs did not escape unscathed. Expert Sam Barsky beat Pavel Blatny after the latter got a bit carried away with his attack. And Richard Francisco nicked Michael Rohde for half a point in an interesting manner.

GM PAVEL BLATNY - SAM BARSKY
NIMZOWITSCH/LARSEN

1 b3 b6 2 Bb2 Nf6 3 e3 Bb7 4 f4 e6 5 Nf3 Be7 6 g3 d6 7 Bg2 Nbd7 8 Qe2 c5 9 d3 Qc7 10 Nbd2 O-O 11 e4 d5 12 e5 Ng4 13 h3 Nh6 14 g4 Rae8 15 O-O f6 16 Rae1 Nf7 17 f5 Ndx5 18 fxe6 Nxf3+ 19 Nxf3 Nd8 20 Nh4 Bd6 21 Nf5 Rxe6 22 Qxe6+ Nxe6 23 Rxe6 Bc8 24 Re2 Bxf5 25 Bxd5+ Kh8 26 Rxf5 h6 27 Kg2 Qd8 28 Re6 Be5 29 Rxe5 fxe5 30 Rxe5 Qh4 31 Re2 h5 32 Be6 Qg5 33 Be5 Kh7 34 Bd6 Re8 35 Kf3 (Preparing Bf5+, which if played immediately would run into 35 Bf5+ Qxf5 36 gxf5 Rxe2+ But...) **35...Rxe6! 36 Rxe6 Qd5+ 37 Re4 hxg4+ 38 hxg4 Qxd6 39 a4 Qh2 40 Rc4 Kg6 41 Ke3 Kg5 42 Kf3 Qd2 0-1**

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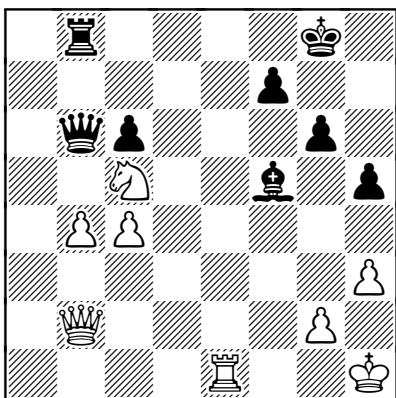


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GM MICHAEL ROHDE - RICHARD FRANCISCO
KING'S INDIAN

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 d4 O-O 6 Be2 e5 7 Be3 exd4 8 Nxd4 Re8 9 f3 c6 10 Bf2 d5 11 exd5 cxd5 12 O-O Nc6 13 Rc1 Bh6 14 Nxc6 bxc6 15 Rc2 Bf5 16 Bd3 Ne4 17 fxe4 dxe4 18 Bxe4 Bxe4 19 Re2 Bf5 20 Rxe8+ Qxe8 21 Re1 Qb8 22 Na4 Bf4 23 h3 Qc7 24 Nc5 Bg3 25 Qf3 Bxf2+ 26 Qxf2 h5 27 b4 Qb6 28 a3 a5 29 Qb2 axb4 30 axb4 Rb8 31 Kh1



This last move sets a trap: if now 31...Qxb4? 32 Re8+! wins. Perhaps to White's surprise, Francisco finds a more successful way to "fall into" the trap.

31...Qxc5! 32 Re8+ (At first blush this still looks good.) Rxe8 33 bxc5 Re6! (But it turns out Black has an unshakable blockade. Everything defends everything else in his position and Black can just sit tight forever.) 34 Qd2 Kh7 35 Kg1 Kg7 36 Qd4+ Kh7 37 Qd2 Kg7 38 Qd4+ Kh7 39 Qd2 Kg7 ½-½

Round 2 saw the top boards go almost entirely according to form.

BEACHEVENTS
**VIRGINIA
BEACH**

2001 MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL

We begin with the judgment of grandmaster Alexander Stripunsky. In only its second year the Millennium Festival is already, he says, *the nicest tournament in the United States!* And at least one other visiting grandmaster expressed a similar view. If you are a chess player in Virginia (or for that matter, anywhere on the east coast) and have not yet experienced the Millennium Festival first hand... well, *what are you waiting for?*

"Basically I threw a party," says Tom Braunlich, father of the Festival, reflecting back on last year's inaugural event in Portsmouth. The prize structure then was skewed to lure grandmasters to Tidewater. And come they did! Half a dozen GMs — Stripunsky, former world champion candidate Jan Ehlvest of Estonia, Igor Novikov of the Ukraine, Alex Wojtkiewicz of Poland, Pavel Blatny of the Czech Republic, and Alex Shabalov, formerly of Latvia, now Pennsylvania — tied for first along with IM Enrico Sevillano and Maryland master Floyd Boudreaux.

This year the format was tweaked with the aim of attracting a larger crowd of class players. But there was still plenty of incentive for the heavyweights too! Sponsorship from BeachEvents and local businesses — Papa John's Pizza, Krispy Kreme doughnuts, The Jewish Mother restaurant, Otani restaurant and Ramada hotels — allowed the Millennium Festival to roll out an even more sumptuous event top to bottom. The turnout met Braunlich's 200-player goal and the sponsors seemed satisfied, more or less assuring a renewal next year!

Part of what makes the Millennium Festival special is that it is not just a tournament but rather, as the name suggests, a *festival* — a cornucopia of events and activities with something for every chess lover. Besides the main tourney, this year there was a Friday afternoon chess camp for kids (with no less than grandmaster Michael Rohde presiding as instructor); a WBCA blitz tournament; and a Saturday evening simultaneous exhibition (also by Rohde). Throw in all the free doughnuts you could eat(!), free pizza, a beautiful and well-lit playing hall, raffle giveaways, Winona Ryder running the demo boards... well, okay, they didn't have her; but don't put anything past Tom and the rest of the organizing team for next year! Mark your calendar for early March and start preparing to experience Millennium 2002 for yourself. Naturally, *Virginia Chess* will publish details of the event as soon as they become available.



GM ALEXANDER SHABALOV - BRYAN SMITH
FRENCH

Notes by GM Ron Henley

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 (The advanced variation was first molded into a serious weapon by Aron Nimzowitsch. White gains space in the center and hopes to mass behind his spearhead e5 pawn to build a kingside attack. Black has to find counterplay or risk being squeezed off the board. Additionally the black bishop on c8 needs to find a future.) **3...c5 4 c3 Ne7** (A slightly unusual continuation. More common is 4...Nc6 or 4...Qb6) **5 Nf3 Nec6?!** (Normally Black plays to exert pressure on d4 by Qb6, Nb6 & Nf5. With the text he deprives himself of these possibilities.) **6 Bd3** (With Black unable to exert serious pressure on the base of the White pawn chain at d4, Shabalov is able to develop this bishop on the aggressive b1-h7 diagonal.) **6...Nd7 7 O-O Be7 8 a3** (White increases his control of the b4 square — for example, preventing...Nb4 in the event Black trades pawns — and contemplates possible queenside expansion with b4. Black's reply prevents b4 at the cost of potentially weakening the b5 square.) **8...a5 9 Re1 a4** (The Black a pawn crimps White's queenside may prove overextended.) **10 Bc2 Nb6 11 dxc5!?** (This exchange deflects Black's dark squared bishop from the kingside and clears the d4 square which White hopes to control.) **11...Bxc5 12 Bg5!** (This tempo on the Black queen encourages the exchange of dark squared bishops.) **12...Be7 13 Bxe7 Qxe7 14 Nbd2 O-O 15 Qe2** (White has a very comfortable position and can build up on the kingside with Nd2-f1-g3, h2-h4, followed by aggressive moves like Nf3-g5 etc.) **15...f5** (Seeks to gain space on the kingside and block c2-h7 diagonal.) **16 exf6 Rxf6** (Black hopes to obtain counterplay along the f-file but surrenders control of e5. Alternatively, he

could have played for a large pawn center with 16...gxf6. In that case White keeps the initiative with 17. Qe3 attacking the loose Nb6 and eyeing the possibility of Qe3-h6) **17 Qe3 Nd7 18 c4!** (Shabalov chips away at the Black center to open lines.) **18...Qc5 19 Ng5!** (Black offered to exchange queens to avoid having his king come under attack but this timely double attack on h7 and e6 wins a decisive pawn.) **19...Qxe3 20 Bxh7+!** (This intermezzo is important. The routine recapture of the queen would allow Black to defend h7 and e6 with 20...Nf8) **20...Kf8 21 Rxe3** (White has better development and a pawn plus.) **21...Nc5 22 cxd5 exd5 23 Rae1** (Threatening 24 Re8 mate.) **23...Bd7 24 Bb1** (Now White threatens to win the exchange with 25 Nh7+) **24...d4 25 Nh7+ Kf7 26 Rg3** (White takes control of the g-file, in particular the g6 square. Faced with the dual threats of 27 Nxf6 and 27 Ba2 check, Black resigned.) **1-0**

GM ALEXANDER STRIPUNSKY - BORIS REICHSTEIN
SICILIAN

Notes by GM Ron Henley

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e6 6 Ndb5 Bb4 7 a3 Bxc3+ 8 Nxc3 d5 (The Sicilian Four Knights has a reputation as being quite drawish. Black surrenders the bishop pair but obtains rapid development and some simplification.) **9 Bd3** (The most popular method for white



Stripunsky, Negelescu



is 9. exd5 exd5 10. Bd3 [Only about 72 hours earlier the text move was featured in the game Shirov - Grischuk at the supertournament in Linares, Spain: 9...d4 10 Ne2 e5 11 0-0 0-0 12 h3 Re8 13 Ng3 Be6 14 f4 exf4 15 Bxf4 Nd7 16 Qh5 g6 17 Qh6 Qf6 18 Bg5 Qg7 19 Qh4 Nce5 20 Bh6 Qh8 21 Nf5 Bxf5 22 exf5 Nxd3 23 cxd3 Qe5 24 Rf4 Nc5 25 Raf1 Nxd3 26 fxg6 fxg6 27 Rf7 Nc5 28 Rg7+ Kh8 29 Rff7 Ne6 30 Rxc6 d3 31 Rg4 Rg8 32 Rxc7+ 1-0 News travels fast in the computer age! -ed] 9...dxe4 10 Nxe4 Nxe4 11 Bxe4 Qxd1+ 12 Kxd1 (The bishop pair offers chances for a an enduring advantage.) 12...f5 (A double-edged decision, as Black decides to chase the White bishop but irreparably weakens his e5 square.) 13 Bxc6+!? bxc6 14 c4?! (The text is a bit loosening. It may have been more technically accurate to take control of the e-file immediately with 14 Re1!?) 14...Kf7 (Black should consider getting counterplay at he cost of a pawn by 14...e5 15. Re1 e4 16. f3 Be6 17. fxe4 O-O-O+ 18. Bd2 (18. Kc2 fxe4) 18...Rd4 19. exf5 Bxf5 20. b3 Rhd8 21. Ra2 ≥ but Black has active pieces.) 15 Re1 Ba6 16 b3 (Now the Ba6 is a mere spectator.) 16...Rad8+ 17 Kc2 Bc8 18

Bg5 Rd7 19 Rad1! (Excellent play; White uses all of the weak points in the Black position to develop his initiative.) 19...h6 (An illustration of Black's problems is seen if he tries to exchange rooks: 19...Rxd1 20. Rxd1 h6 21. Be3 a6 22. Rd6 and the pawn on c6 is lost, as 22...Bb7 allows 23. Rd7+ winning.) 20 Be3 (Now White threatens 21 Rxd7 Bxd7 followed by 22 Bxa7 winning a valuable pawn.) 20...a6 21 Rxd7+ Bxd7 22 Rd1 Ke7 23 Bc5+! (This check cuts Black's rook off from the queenside.) 23...Kd8 24 Bd4 (White threatens to win a pawn with 25 Bxc7 Rg8 26 Bf6+ etc.) 24...Rg8 25 Kc3! (In the endgame the king is a valuable attacking piece. White threatens Kc3-b4-a5-b6 devouring the queenside. Note how Black's lack of dark square control makes him helpless against this plan.) 25...g5 26 Kb4 f4 27 Ka5 Kc8 28 Kxa6 e5 (Having lost one pawn, Black desperately offers another for activity.) 29 Bxe5 Re8 30 Re1 Bf5 31 Kb6 Bc2 32 b4 Re6 33 Bc3 (White is not worried about exchanging rooks as the opposite color bishop ending is easily winning.) 33...Rxe1 34 Bxe1 Ba4 35 f3 Kd7 36 Bc3 (White's hungry bishop prepares to chase down the kingside pawns.) 36...g4 37 Bd2 gxf3 38 gxf3



IMs
and
GMs



**MILLENNIUM
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Bd1 (In order to not lose additional pawns, the Black bishop heads to the kingside. However, this frees White's passed a pawn.) **39 Bxf4 h5 40 Bg3** (Threatening to preserve his f-pawn with 41 f4.) **40...Bxf3 41 a4** (Free at last, this pawn will cost Black his bishop.) **41...Be2 42 c5 1-0** (White threatens simply a4-a5-a6 etc. A very nice example of technique by GM Stripunsky.)

GM LEONID YUDASIN - IM OLADAPO ADU
FRENCH

1 e4 e6 2 d3 d5 3 Qe2 Nf6 4 g3 Be7 5 Nf3 dxe4 6 dxe4 b6 7 Nbd2 Ba6 8 Nc4 O-O 9 Bg2 Nc6 10 e5 Nd5 11 Qe4 Qd7 (Afterwards Yudasin suggested the peculiar 11...Na5!?, eg 12 Nxa5 bxa5 13 c4 Nb4 14 O-O Qd3 15 Re1 with about an even game.) **12 Bd2 Ncb4 13 O-O b5 14 Na3 c5 15 Rfd1 Bb7 16 Qg4 Kh8 17 c3 Na6 18 Ng5 Bxg5 19 Bxg5 c4 20 Qd4 h6 21 Qh4 Kg8** (Black is in big trouble. White is about to rip open his king's shelter. For instance, if 21...Nc5 then 22 Bxh6 gxh6 23 Qxh6+ Kg8 24 Qg5+ Kh8 25 Rd4 etc) **22 Bf6 Nac7 23 Rd4 Ne8 24 Rad1 1-0**

The top players began to meet head to head in the 3rd round. They approached these initial encounters cautiously. The marquee games Negulescu-Yudasin, Novikov-Strapunsky and Perelshteyn-Shabalov were all drawn. Meanwhile, organizer Tom Braunlich was getting his money's worth, having been paired against his second GM opponent in three rounds.

GM PAVEL BLATNY - TOM BRAUNLICH
NIMZOWITSCH/LARSEN

Notes by Tom Braunlich

1 b3 d5 2 Bb2 Bg4!? 3 h3 Bh5 4 d3 Nc6 5 g4 Bg6 6 Nf3 f6! (He said in other games he's had with this rare line Black played an early ...h5, but then White later played c2-c4 with advantage because either the center gets opened or the d-pawn is weak after ...d4. A similar example is Vasiukov-Tseitlin, 1990, which went 6 Bg2 h5 7 c4 e6 8 cd5 ed5 9 Nc3 d4 10 Nb5 etc. He liked my idea of strengthening the center with ...f6) **7 c4 d4 8**



Tom Braunlich

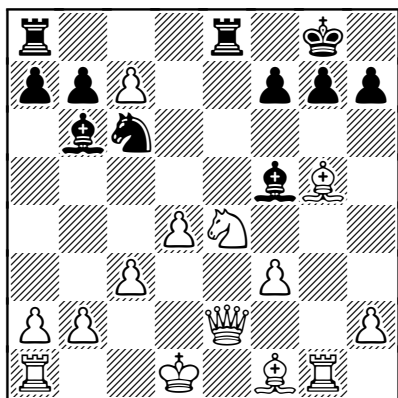
b4 e5 9 b5 Bb4+ 10 Nbd2 Nb8 11 Bg2 Nd7 12 0-0? (This is way too risky, as Pavel admitted later. Better is 12 Nh4 Nc5 13 Ng6 [13 0-0 Ne7 (or 13...Bf7) 14 Nb3 Rohde] hg6, etc) **12...h5! 13 a3** (If 13 Nh4 Ne7 14 Bxb7 Black will obviously sac the exchange with 14...hg4 and have a strong attack.) **13...Bd6 14 Nh4 Ne7 15 Ndf3 hxg4 16 hxg4 Bf7 17 Nf5 Nxf5 18 gxf5 Qe7?!** (Weak. The obvious 18...Nc5 is much stronger, followed by ...Qd7 and White must either sac his f-pawn for not much compensation or, if he holds it, Black plays ...g6 and opens attacking lines on the kingside with close to a winning position! Instead, I overlook the strength of his next move.) **19 Re1! 0-0-0 20 e3 dxe3 21 Rxe3 Bc5** (21...g6 ≠ Rohde) **22 d4 Nb6 23 Qc1 Nxc4 24 dxc5 Nxe3 25 Qxe3 Bd5 26 c6 bxc6 27 bxc6 Bxc6 28 Rc1 Rd6 29 Qxa7 Kd7 30 Qc5** (The game is roughly level here but White has a dangerous initiative to compensate for weak pawns. For example, he now threatens 31 Nxe5+) **30...Kc8 31 Qa5 Bb7 32**



a4 Rhd8 33 Ne1 (The knight will soon be threatening lots of forks on squares like b6 and c6!) 33...Ra6 34 Qb5 Ra7 35 Nc2!? (It's very complicated and I was already in bad time trouble. Probably better was 35 Qb6 Kb3 36 Qb3) 35...Bxg2 36 Kxg2 Qd7 37 Ne3 Rxa4 38 Qb3 Ra7 39 Rc5 Qa4? (Black can draw by 39...Rb7 40 Qa2 Qd3! 41 Ra5 Qe4+ 42 Kg1 Rd1+! 43 Nd1 Qg4+ with perpetual check.) 40 Qe6+ Qd7 41 Nc4 Kb8 42 Na5 Rxa5? (Black might still have some drawing chances after 42...Qe6 43 fe6 Rxa5 44 Ra5 Re8 with three pawns for the piece, but I would have lost on time anyway!) 43 Qxd7 1-0 (After the game Pavel admitted he was lucky, but obviously GMs have to be good at getting out of trouble. Later on he presented me with a very nice bottle of wine from his home region of Moldavia, with instructions to let it age for at least a couple years. A very gracious winner he is! Thanks to everyone who came out for this year's MCF. We hope to see you again next year!)

DOUG TAFFINDER - DANIEL POMERLEANO
KING'S GAMBIT DECLINED

1 e4 e5 2 f4 Nf6 3 fxe5 Nxe4 4 Nf3 Ng5 5 Nc3 (5 d4) 5...Nc6 6 Qe2 Nxf3+ 7 gxf3 Qh4+ 8 Kd1 Bc5 9 Ne4 Bb6 10 c3 O-O 11 d4 d6 12 exd6 Bf5! (That's certainly in the spirit of the variation.) 13 dxc7 Rfe8 14 Bg5 Qh5 15 Rg1



15...Bxd4! 16 cxd4 Nxd4 17 Nf6+ gxf6 18 Bxf6+ Bg6 19 Bxd4 Rxe2 20 Kxe2 Re8+ 21 Kf2 Qxh2+ 22 Rg2 Qh4+ 0-1



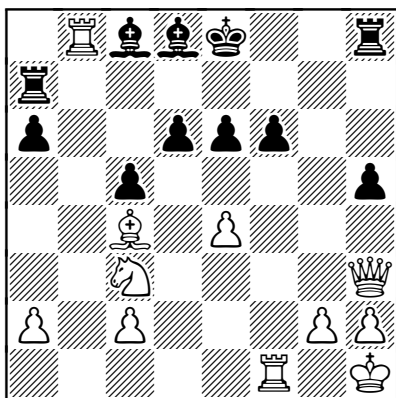
Going into the 4th round on Sunday morning there were no perfect scores left, but a logjam of players with 2½ points: GMs Yudasin, Novikov, Shabalov, Rohde & Stripunsky; IMs Negelescu & Perelshteyn; and also the upstart expert Francisco, plus masters Boris Privman and two-time Virginia state champion Macon Shibut. The most eye-catching result of the round — and also just about the last game in the room to finish — was Shibut's upset of Rohde. The grandmaster ran out of time while his opponent had perhaps two minutes left. Meanwhile Stripunsky applied the brakes to Francisco's fantasy run in a game featuring one of those openings which should bear a warning label: *For Professionals Only!*

GM Alexander Stripunsky - Richard Francisco
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qb6 8 Qd2 Qxb2 9 Rb1 Qa3 10 Bxf6 gxf6 11 Be2 h5 12 O-O Nc6 13 Nxc6 bxc6 14 Kh1 Qa5 15 Rb3 (Stripunsky has been here before! 15 Qe3 f5 16 exf5 Qxf5 17 Ne4 d5 18 Qc3 Qxe4 19 Qxc6+ Kd8 20 Bd3 Qe3 21 Qxa8 Bd6 22 Bxa6 Kd7 23 Rb7+ Bc7 24 Bb5+ Kd8 25 Rxc7 Kxc7 26 Qc6+ Kb8 27 Rb1 Bb7 28 Bf1 Qa7 29 Ba6 1-0 Stripunsky-Loskutov, Briansk 1995) Be7 16 Qe3 c5 17 f5 Ra7 18 Bc4 Qc7 19 Qh3 Qd7 20 Rb8 (Wherever it was that Black made his mistake, he's caught in a serious undertow now.) 20...Bd8 21 fxe6 fxe6

The Jewish Mother®





22 Nb5! Rb7 23 Rxc8 axb5 24 Bxe6 Qe7 25 Qf5 Rh6 26 Rf3 Qh7 27 Qd5 (27 Rg3! may be even stronger, with the point that after 27...Qxf5 28 Rg8+ Ke7 29 exf5 Black loses his bishop) 27...Rc7 28 Rxd8+! Kxd8 29 Qxd6+ Ke8 30 Ra3 Qxe4 31 Ra8+ Qxa8 32 Qxc7 1-0

And so the last round saw four players go in with 3½ points. Novikov got the golden ticket and paired off with Shibut on board 1 while the other grandmasters in the mix, Yudasin and Stripunsky, had to face one another. They drew, whereas Novikov got the job done to finish clear first. Further down, Shabalov, Blatny & Negelescu all won their games to join the tie for second.

IGOR NOVIKOV - MACON SHIBUT
KING'S INDIAN

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 a6 (This almost always leads to complicated play.) 6 Be3 Nc6 7 Nge2 Rb8 8 Rb1 0-0 9 Qd2 Re8

I didn't recall it during the game but I've actually played this position before, against Wilson Gibbons at the 1989 Shenandoah Valley Open. After 9...b5 10 cxb5 axb5 11 b4 Re8 12 d5 Ne5 13 Nd4 Bd7 14 Ndx b5 e6 15 dxe6 Bxe6 16 Nd4 Black did not really get full compensation for the pawn, although the game was eventually drawn.

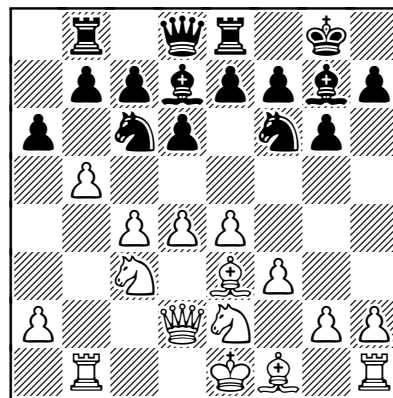
OTANI
JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE

The text move commences a little waiting game. Sooner or later White needs to move his king knight (Nc1 or Ng3) to complete development. I'm hoping I can keep finding useful moves until he does it. Only then will I play...e5 so as to be able to answer d5 with...Nd4. If White demurs, eventually I may run out of productive moves and have to go ahead and do something in the center anyway. In that case, however, I'll look to sacrificially blow open the position and get at his centralized king. The variations coming up in the note to move 11 illustrate of this theme.

10 b4 Bd7

Continuing in the policy outlined above, but Black must be aware of the risks. Note that the king knight has no moves now! [...Nh5 doesn't count — White will win it anyway by g4]. On the other hand, exploiting this involves White playing e5, which is right in line with Black's overall plan of sacrifice in the center. With his next move White heads right down the sharpest path, delaying development and further loosening his position for the sake of dislodging my queen knight to enforce (so I presumed) the piece-winning e5.

11 b5



11...axb5

After the game I was surprised when Novikov told me this is still a theoretical position and he's even played it before with the difference that Black's queen was on c8 instead of...Re8. Sure enough, I see now he's had several Saemisch King's Indian games with this early Rb1, b4-5 plan.

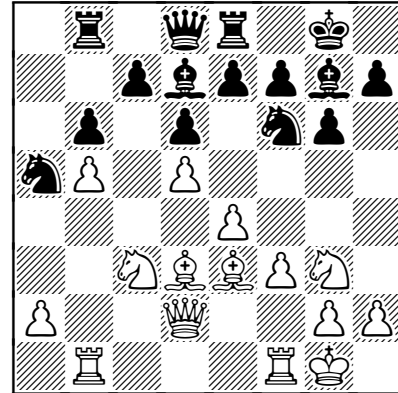


The text move seemed natural. After 12 cxb5 Na5 of course I'd focused on 13 e5!? and planned the following variation: 13...dxe5 14 dxe5 Nc4 15 Qd4 Ng4! (I was kind of proud of this) 16 fxg4 Nxe5 White queen is threatened and must move, I guess 17 Qd2. Then Black can take g4 with either the knight or bishop — I hadn't yet decided which. In either case Black already has two pawns for the piece plus massive piece activity. White's development is way behind, his king caught in the center. It seemed to me this was all quite in the spirit of the variation. Later Novikov agreed that Black has good compensation.

However, the immediate 11...Na5! would have even more effectively discouraged White from trying 12 e5, the point being 12...dxe5 13 dxe5 Nxc4 — to begin with Black gets to take something here — 14 Qd4 axb5! 15 exf6 Bxf6 16 Qd3 Bf5 White would not be happy with this position! It turns out 11...Na5! has actually been played before in master games too, with White responding 12 Nc1. My guess is that Novikov would have gone 12 Ng3, as he did after my move, and then 12...axb5 would transpose back to our game.

12 cxb5 Na5 13 Ng3 Be6!? (If I was surprised to learn we were still “book” a couple moves ago, I was shocked to discover that even this provocation of d5 has been played before [with White's knight on c1 instead of g3]. Moreover, it's discussed in John Watson's old (1982) Saemisch Panno monograph! Of course Black benefits from extending the h8-a1 diagonal and the chance to chip at White's center with...e6. Still, I confess that during play I worried that giving away two full tempi for this might be a bit “too creative.”) **14 d5 Bd7** (I would even have gone 14...Bc8!?, so

as to open d7 for the king knight, except I was afraid this might provoke White to 15 b6 c6 16 Nb5! — I didn't fear this so much with the bishop on d7, when Black can take the knight and then answer Qxa5 with...Ra8) **15 Bd3 b6 16 0-0**



16...e6?

Right plan, wrong execution, and it is amazing how fast Black's game goes down after this. Indeed, even with benefit of hindsight I find it hard to look at the position and appreciate why weakening the dark squares on the kingside must be so critical. From here on, however, every move by Novikov is a hammer blow creating the impression that Black is already lost by force!

The correct move was 16...Nb7. This was on the program sooner or later, but I resisted it just now because I was too appreciative of the role played by this knight hopping into c4 in some variations discussed earlier. I didn't want to abandon that resource. Of course White is never going to let it happen, but c5 can be a pretty good square too! A brief analysis afterward by Novikov and GM Yudasin suggested that the chances after 16...Nb7 would be fully equal.

So the final tally on 16...e6: *from equal to lost in a single turn*. Not bad for a mistimed but positionally appropriate move that doesn't even leave any material *en pris*.

17 Bg5! (Naturally I had “seen” 17 Bg5, I just didn't appreciate its full import. Again my king knight's immobility is the problem. If permitted





**MILLENNIUM
CHESS
FESTIVAL**
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

White will play Qf4 next, followed by Qh4, and I don't see any way ever to break the pin. Then White can prepare f4 and e5.) **17...Qc8** (In view of the previous note I'd relied on this move, with the tactical justification that if **18 Qf4 Nxd5!**) **18 Rbc1 exd5?**

The only way to keep playing was **18...e5**, I guess, but closing the long diagonal was not exactly my desire! Again White would prepare f4 with probably decisive tactical pressure against f6 and f7. Several of Black's pieces are misplaced.

The text move is just the sort of oversight that happens in bad positions. I was completely focused on defending against **19 Qf4** and at first I'd ruled out **18...exd5** in view of **19 Qf4 dxe4 20 fxe4** opening the f-file. But then I looked a bit closer (nothing else seemed appealing) and found to my delight that after **20...Ng4 21 Qxf7+ Kh8** Black has a great game! Suddenly White's attack has hit a wall and Black has, aside from...**Bd4+ Δ Nf2+**, a variety of other attractive candidates coming up:...**Be6**;...**Rf8**; etc. This is exactly how weaker players are sometimes able to score upsets: the sudden turnaround right after the favorite has consummated a threat. So I went for it without further thought and completely forgot about the obvious reply (which is not really so obvious, since you never expect White to just give up his dark square bishop in the King's Indian).

19 Bxf6! Bxf6 20 Nxd5 (crushing) **Bd8** (The alternative **20...Bd4+ 21 Kh1 Rb7** looked awful too, although it might hang on a bit longer than the text.) **21 Qh6 Re5** (There is no time for milder measures like **21...Be6** as White is already about to crash through with **22 Nh5 gxh5 23 e5**) **22 f4 Rxd5 23 exd5 Bf6 24 f5 Qd8** (or **24...Bg7 25 Qh4 Δ f6** and I remember thinking "gee, I sacrifice the exchange for this position...") **25 fxg6 fxg6** (Anticipating White's next move and thinking I might defend along the second rank somehow. Ha!) **26 Bxg6! Bd4+ 27 Kh1 1-0** (There is no point in continuing **27...hxg6 28 Qxg6+ Bg7 29 Rf7** etc)

ILYE FIGLER - ALEXANDER SHBALOV

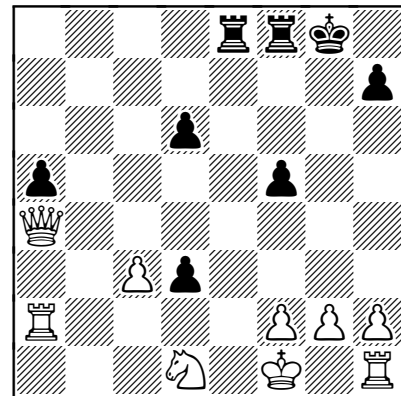
NIMZOINDIAN

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e3 c5 5 Ne2 cxd4 6 exd4 O-O 7 a3 Be7 8 g3 Qc7 9 Qd3 Nc6 10 Bg2 d6 11 O-O Bd7 12 b4 Rac8 13 c5 dxc5 14 bxc5 Rfd8 15 Rb1 Be8 16 Nb5 Qa5 17 Bd2 Qa6 18 Rfc1 e5 19 d5 e4 20 Bxe4 Ne5 21 Qe3 Bxb5 22 d6 Nxe4 23 Qxe4 Bf6 24 Nf4 Bd3 0-1

THOMAS HARTWIG - BORIS REICHSTEIN

SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Na3 b5 9 Bxf6 gxf6 10 Nd5 f5 11 c3 Bg7 12 exf5 Bxf5 13 Nc2 O-O 14 Nce3 Be6 15 Bd3 f5 16 a4 bxa4 17 Rxa4 a5 18 Qh5 e4 19 Nf4 Bf7 20 Bc4 Bxc4 21 Rxc4 Ne5 22 Ra4 Qd7 23 Ra2 Qb5 24 Qd1 Nd3+ 25 Nxd3 exd3 26 Qa4 Bxc3+! 27 bxc3 Qb1+ 28 Nd1 Rae8+ 29 Kf1



29...Re4! 30 Rb2! d2! 31 Qb3+ Kh8 32 g3 Re1+ 33 Kg2 Qe4+ 34 f3 Qe2+ 0-1

Alongside the main tournaments, GM Leonid Yudasin scored 9-1 to take clear 1st in the 41 player WBCA Blitz event on Saturday night. Clearly the class of the field, Yudasin cinched the victory with a pair of quick draws in the final round versus IM Oladapo Adu, who finished 2nd along with GMs Pavel Blatny & Alex Stripunsky with 8-2 apiece. Brian Salomon won the U1900 prize.

GM Rohde put on a great chess camp for kids Friday afternoon. Then on Saturday night he gave a 15 board simul in which 3 players — Joe Faries, Tom Belke & Frank Huber — managed draws.



MILLENNIUM
CHES
FESTIVAL
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

JOE FARIES - MICHAEL ROHDE
SIMULTANEOUS EXHIBITION
MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL 2001
SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 g3 Nc6 4 Bg2 Nf6 5 Nc3
Be7 6 0-0 d6 7 Re1 0-0 8 d4 cxd4 9 Nxd4
Qc7 10 a3 a6 11 Rb1 Rb8 12 Be3 Ne5 13 f3
b5 14 Bf2 Bb7 15 Qe2 Rfe8 16 Nd1 Nc4 17
c3 Bf8 18 Ne3 Rbc8 19 Nxc4 Qxc4 20 Nc2
g6 21 Rbd1 Qc7 22 e5 dxe5 23 Qxe5 Qxe5
24 Rxe5 Nd5 25 Re2 Nf6 26 Rde1 Nd5 27
Bd4 a5 28 Ne3 b4 29 Nxd5 Bxd5 30 axb4
axb4 31 f4 Bc4 32 Re3 b3 33 Bf1 Bxf1 34
Kxf1 Ra8 35 Kf2 Rec8 36 Kf3 Ra2 37 R3e2
Bc5 38 Bxc5 Rxc5 39 h3 Rd5 40 Rb1 Kf8
41 Ke3 1/2-1/2

**TECHNICAL
GAME SERVICES INC.**



TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE CHESS CLUB

by Ernie Schlick

The Tidewater Community College Chess Club meets each Monday from 6:30 to 10:00 pm at the Virginia Beach campus of Tidewater Community College in the cafeteria of Building D (Kempsville Building). The campus is off Princess Anne Road between Rosemont and S Independence.

The following upcoming events require USCF membership unless listed as unrated. Membership can be purchased or renewed at the club.

- π Monday, April 2nd. 1st Monday Quick Quads G/20 \$2 EF, no prizes Reg 7:00 to 7:20. Round 1 starts at 7:30
- π Monday, April 9, 16, and 23. 3 rd Swiss G/75. \$2.00 EF, no prizes. Reg 7:00 to 7:20. Each Round starts at 7:30
- π Monday, May 7 and June 4. 1st Monday Quick Quads G/20 \$2 EF, no prizes Reg 7:00 to 7:20. Round 1 starts at 7:30
- π Monday, May 14. Unrated Blitz Double Swiss. \$5.00 EF with prizes. Reg 7:00 to 7:20 with first round starting at 7:30

Please come and bring a friend. I will run a unrated section with a \$5 EF and all money collected returned as credit towards a USCF membership if at least 4 show up to play.

Charlottesville Open July 14-15

Charlottesville Mt Vernon Best Western
Rt 29 & Rt 250 bypass, Charlottesville,
VA 22901

5SS, Rds 1-2 G/60, rds 3-5 G/120. \$1100:
\$225-\$150-\$125, Top X, A, B, C, D each \$100,
Top E \$50, Top Unr \$50. EF \$30 if rec'd by 7/
12, \$40 at site. VCF

memb req'd, OSA.

Youth entry \$15

by 7/12, \$25 at

site, not eligible

for prizes. Reg

1:30-2:15pm,

rds 2:30-5-7, 10-

2:30. One 1/2-pt

bye avail, irrevocable

bye for rd 5

must declare before rd 2.

Hotel \$68, 1-4, 804-296-5501. Enter: Mark

Johnson, PO Box 241, Barboursville, Va 22923,

checks payable to "Virginia Chess." Info 540-832-

9042, but No Phone Entries!





This is a column devoted to Chess Playing Seniors. I'm still trying to find out exactly how old one has to be to qualify as a senior in the VCF. For now let's say anyone in the DC-VA-MD area who is at least 50 and who can play (learn) chess. Please feel free to call me at (703) 591-2106 with news of Senior Chess events, notable performances, memorable games, etc. We still need games and tournament results from other than the Northern Virginia area. I truly need senior example games.

The next real Seniors-only event is the ASCC Gambit Tourney which starts the 30th of April at the Madison Seniors Center in Arlington. For details call Mr Ralph Belter at (703) 560-0595. In the next couple of columns I expect to explore seniors playing chess at the Arlington Chess Club and in the DC Metro Chess League with a few pictures and games of those who take part on a regular basis.

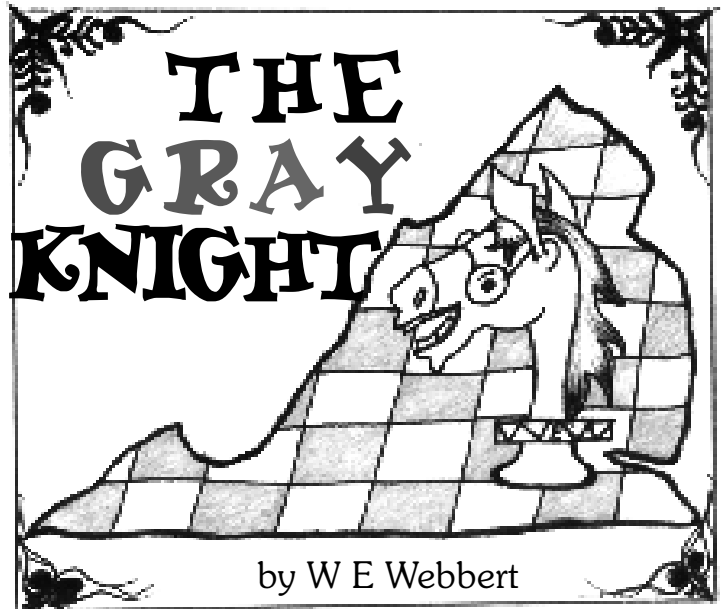
The annual Matheson Memorial (which is the club championship for the Arlington Seniors CC) was won by Ralph Belter with a score of 4½-½. Bob Bragdon was second at 4-1. The B section winner was Dr Sattar Farzan with 3-2. Here are some of the key games with notes by the winner:

RALPH BELTER - JOHN CAMPBELL
BENKO GAMBIT

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 cxb5 a6 5 Nc3 axb5 6 e4 b4 7 Nb5 Nxe4? (losing; a well known trap in the Zaitsev) **8 Qe2 f5 9 f3 Ra5** (9...Nf6 would allow Nd6 mate) **10 fxe4 Ba6 11 exf5 d6** (11...Bxb5 12 Qh5+ g6 13 fxc6 is not playable.)



Ralph Belter (left), Dr Sattar Farzan



12 Qh5+ Kd7 13 a4 bxa3 14 Nxa3 Bxf1 15 Kxf1 Na6 16 Qe2 Nc7 17 Nf3 h6 18 Bd2 Ra7 19 Kf2 Qa8 20 Nc4 Nxd5? (loses another piece; but if 20...Rxa1 or 20...Qxd5 21 Nb6+) **21 Rxa7+ Qxa7 22 Qe6+ Kc6 23 Na5+ 1-0**

EARL BROWN - RALPH BELTER
FRENCH

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 Bd3 c5 6 c3 Nc6 7 Ne2 Qb6 8 Nf3 cxd4 9 cxd4 f6 10 exf6 Nxf6 11 0-0 Bd6 12 a3 0-0 13 Re1 Bd7 14 Qc2 (endangers the queen) **14...Rac8 15 Qb1 e5 16 dxe5 Nxe5 17 Be3** (Nxe5 was needed first) **17...Nxf3+ 18 gxf3 Bc5 19 Bxc5 Qxc5 20 Qd1 Ng4 21 Nd4** (21 fxc4 Qxf2+ 22 Kh1 Bxg4) **21...Nxf2 22 Bxh7+ Kxh7 23 Kxf2 Rf4 0-1** (The knight is lost. If 24 Ke3 Rxd4 25 Qxd4 Re8+ 26 Kd3 Bf5+)

JOHN CAMPBELL - SANDA COSTESCU
PIRC

1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 f3 Bg7 5 Be3 Nbd7 6 Qd2 e5 7 d5 a5 8 0-0-0 b6 9 Bh6 0-0 10 g4 Nc5 11 h4 Bd7 12 h5 Qe8 13 hxg6 fxc6 14 Bxg7 Kxg7 15 Qh6+ Kg8 16 g5 Nh5 17 Nge2? Rxf3 18 Bg2 Rf7 19 Rdf1 Qf8 20 Rxf7 Qxf7 21 Rf1 Qg7 22 Nd1 Rf8 23 Rxf8+ Kxf8 24 Ne3 Qxh6 25 gxh6 Nf6 26 Nc3 Ng8 27 a3 Nxh6 28 b4 axb4 29 axb4 Na6 30 b5 Nc5 31 Kd2 Kf7 32 Ke1 Kf6 33 Kf2 Kg5 34 Kg3 Ng4 35 Nf1 Nf6 36 Nd2 h5 37 Nf3+ Kh6 38 Nd2 g5 39 Nf1 h4+ 40 Kf2 g4 41 Bh1 Kg5 42 Ne3 Nh5 43 Nf1 g3+ 44 Kf3 Bg4+ 45 Ke3 h3 46 Bf3 g2 0-1



JANUARY JOUST

by Bill Rulison

The January Joust, Jan 27-28 in Salem, drew ten participants. Most were from the Roanoke Valley but one came from Franklin County and another from Martinsville, in Henry County.

At the end of the 3rd round, second-seeded Sam Kennedy and Matthew Turbyfill led with 2½ point apiece. On the second day, however, top-ranked Mike Huff and Achbold Lkhagvasuren overhauled the leaders to finish in a first place tie at 4-1. Turbyfill won top under 1500. Bill Rulison was top under 1200. Billy Tyree was top under 900. Joshua Lilly won the unrated prize.

Dake Memorial

Sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Chess Club

Saturday, April 21, 2001

Salem Senior Citizen Center

110 Union Street

Salem, Virginia

4-SS, rd 1 game/40 minutes, rds 2-3 game/50, rd 4 game/60. \$\$: 20% of gross receipts to 1st overall, 18% to 2nd, top under 1500 16%, top under 1200 14%, top unrated 12%. EF \$10 if rec'd by 4/4, \$12 at site. Reg 8:30 - 9:15am. Rds 9:30-noon-2-4. Enter: Paul Yearling, 1123 Locust Bottom Rd, Eagle Rock VA 24085. (Make checks payable to Roanoke Valley Chess Club) For more information contact Bill Rulison (540) 343-0740

—•—
Arthur Dake (1910-2000), an American Grandmaster, was a strong influence in the US Olympiad teams of the early 1930s. The highlight of his career was defeating world champion Alexander Alekhine at Pasadena 1932.

VIRGINIA SCHOLASTIC CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Peter Hopkins

Four hundred fifty students, ranging in age from six to eighteen, converged on Forest Park High School in Woodbridge over the weekend of March 10 - 11 to compete in the Virginia Scholastic Chess Championships. Sixty eight teams were represented in the tournament which was divided by grade levels into four sections.

The largest single contingent, of twenty five players, represented Northern Virginia's Governor's School for Science and Technology, which claimed first place team honors in the high school (K-12) section. In the middle schools (K-8) section, the team from Henrico County's G H Moody Middle School came from behind to win the first place trophy. Trailing by one half match point at the end of the fourth round, the Raiders, a pre-tournament favorite, charged ahead and after the final round were three match points ahead of runner-up James Madison Combined Middle School, from Roanoke.

Chesterfield County's Swift Creek Elementary School captured the first place team trophy in the elementary (K-5) section, edging out Fairfax County's Louise Archer Elementary. Kent Gardens Elementary, also from Fairfax County and last year's team champions, placed third.

The Primary (K-3) section created a lot of excitement when Kent Gardens' Aryan Khojandi squared off in the last round against Primary Schools National Champion Micah Corcoran, from Roanoke's Fishburn Park Elementary. With the team championship on the line, Khojandi won the game and Kent Gardens won the team title. The third place team trophy went to Richmond Montessori and fourth place to the primary team from Chesterfield's Swift Creek Elementary.





EIGHTY-THREE PLAYERS showed up this past weekend to compete in this year's Best Western Mt Vernon Chess Classic. Boris Privman and Yevgeniy Gershov scored 4½ to tie for first. Eight players tied with 4-1, six of whom split the 3rd-4th place prizes and two took the top Expert Prize.

Until this year the Classic had always been the weak sister of Mt Vernon events. It drew less than the Northern Virginia Open, partly because that November event offers a reduced EF for scholastic players. All of that changed this time around as we nearly equaled the Mt. Vernon site record (87 players)!

This was both a strong and quiet tournament. With a dozen masters and 19 players rated over 2000 (22.9%), the event ran smoothly, no arguments to speak of, no complaints and a general feeling of good will towards all — sounds like the 19th century, not the 21st!

Privman entered the 5th round as the only perfect 4-0 score and was paired against Bryan

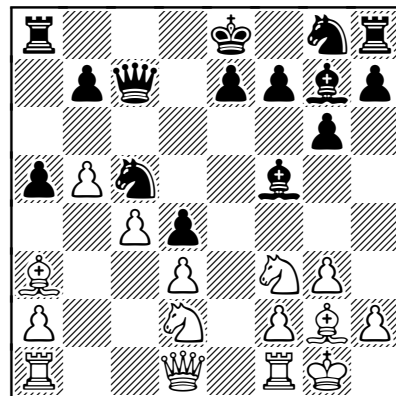
BEST WESTERN MT VERNON CLASSIC

by Mike Atkins

Smith. Smith tossed away a win and settled for a draw, which gave Privman a share of first. Meanwhile Gershov defeated IM Oladapo Adu to move into a tie for first. The eight runners-up were IM Adrian Negulescu, Stas Kriventsov, Oliver Koo, Bryan G Smith, Steven Greanias, Floyd Boudreaux, Ray Kaufman & Daniel Lam. The first six divided place money while the latter two shared Top Expert honors. Kaufman's third round upset of IM and top-rated Negulescu, with a superlative tactic on f7, was his best win ever.

RAY KAUFMAN - ADRIAN NEGULESCU
RETI

1 Nf3 d5 2 c4 d4 3 b4 g6 4 e3 c5 5 exd4 cxd4
6 g3 Bg7 7 d3 a5 8 b5 Nd7 9 Bg2 Nc5 10 O-O
Bf5 11 Ba3 Qc7 (11...Nxd3 12 Nh4) 12 Nbd2



12...Bxd3 (12...Nxd3 13 Nh4 Δ Qf3 ♞) 13 Re1
a4? (13...Rd8 14 Nb3 Nxb3 15 axb3 ♞) 14 Ng5
h6 15 Nxf7 Kxf7 16 Qf3+ Nf6 (16...Bf5!?) 17
Bxc5 Qxc5 18 Qxd3 Rab8 19 Nf3 ± Qf5 20

Best Western Mt Vernon George Washington Open June 16-17

Best Western Mt Vernon Hotel
8751 Richmond Highway
Alexandria VA 22309

6-SS, G/2. **\$\$1800** (top three G, rest b/60):
\$500-300-200, top X, A, B, C, D, U1200 each
\$120, Unr \$80. EF \$40 if rec'd by 6/9, \$50 at
site, VCF memb req'd, OSA.Reg 9-9:45 am,
rds 10-2:30-7, 10-2:30-7. Two 1/2-pt byes
avail, rds 4-5-6 must declare before rd 2. Ho-
tel \$55 + tax, 1-2, (703) 360-1300. NS,NC,W.
FIDE rated.

Info: <http://www.wizard.net/~matkins/gwo.htm>, or Michael Atkins 703-768-4730,
or matkins@wizard.net — No phone entries!

Enter: Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139 Alexan-
dria, VA 22306, make checks payable to
"VA Chess".

20 Point Grand Prix



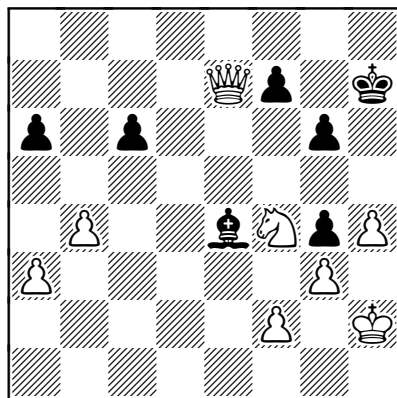
Ne5+! Kg8 21 Qxf5 gxf5 22 Ng6 Kf7 (22...Rh7 23 Nxe7+ Kf7 24 Nxf5) 23 Nxh8+ Bxh8 24 Rad1 Nd7 25 Bd5+ Ke8 26 f4 Nc5 27 Be6 Nxe6 28 Rxe6 Bf6 29 Rxf6! exf6 30 Rxd4 Rc8 31 Kf2 Ke7 32 Ke3 h5 33 Kd3 b6 34 Kc3 h4 35 Kb4 Ra8 36 gxh4 Rh8 37 c5 bxc5+ 38 Kxc5 Rc8+ 39 Kb6 a3 40 Ka7 Rc7+ 41 Kb8 Rc2 42 b6 Rxa2 43 b7 1-0

Nathaniel Lynch and Daniel Pomerleanu split the class A prize with 3½ points. Lynch had been one of the leaders for the entire tournament, defeating FM Boris Reichstein in the third round to remain 3-0 and then drawing in a better position against IM Larry Kaufman. Lynch played IM Adrian Negulescu finally halted the run in the closing round, so Lynch settled for a 2274 performance — great tournament!!

NATHANIEL LYNCH - BORIS REICHSTEIN

CATALAN

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 Bb4+ 4 Bd2 Bxd2+ 5 Nxd2 d5 6 Ngf3 Nbd7 7 Bg2 O-O 8 O-O c6 9 Qc2 Qe7 10 Rad1 e5 11 e4 exd4 12 Nxd4 dxe4 13 Nxe4 Nxe4 14 Bxe4 Nf6 15 Bf5 g6 16 Rfe1 Qc7 17 Be4 Bd7 (17...Nxe4 18 Qxe4 Bd7) 18 Bf3 Rfe8 19 Qc3 Rxe1+ 20 Rxe1 Re8 21 Rxe8+ Nxe8 22 Qe3 Qd6 23 a3 a6 24 b4 b6 25 Nb3 Nf6 26 Qxb6 Qd3 27 Qe3 Qxc4 28 Be2 Qc2 29 Nd4 Qb2 30 Kg2 Nd5 31 Qd3 h5 32 h4 Nf6 33 Bf3 Ng4 34 Bxg4 hxg4 35 Ne2 Bf5 36 Qd8+ Kh7 37 Qe7 Qb3 38 Nf4 Qc4 39 Kh2 Qe2 40 Kg2 Qc4 41 Kh2 Be4



42 h5 g5 43 Qf6!
(well calculated!)
43...gxf4 44 h6
fxg3+ 45 Kxg3
Qd3+ 46 Kh4
1-0

The Class B prize was impressively taken by Gregory Allen. His last round defeat of Steve Skirpan gave him 3½. Ben Good, Mark Josephson and Victor Smith split class C, while Wilfredo Acevedo & Amin Karim shared class D. Under 1200 money went to Shekar Sidarth, Mike R Turpyn & Vadim Korotkikn. Daniel Tatatabai was top unrated.

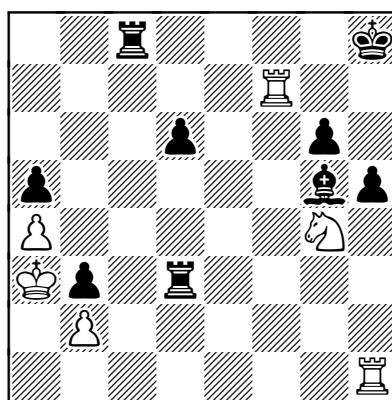
Former VCF President Catherine Clark provided invaluable help on Saturday morning and Mike Atkins directed for the VCF. Full results and a game file are available online at

<http://www.wizard.net/~matkins/classic.htm>

LARRY KAUFMAN - JASON MCKINNEY

SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be3 e5 7 Nb3 Be6 8 f3 b5 9 a4 b4 10 Nd5 Bxd5 11 exd5 a5 12 Bb5+ Nbd7 13 g4!? Be7 14 g5 Nh5 15 f4 Nxf4 16 Bxf4 exf4 17 Qg4 Ra7 18 h4 O-O 19 Nd4 Ne5 20 Qxf4 Qb6 21 O-O-O Rc7 22 Kb1 Rc5 23 Nf5 Qc7 24 Qe4 Rc8 25 Bd3 g6 26 Nh6+ Kh8 27 h5 Bxg5 28 hxg6 fxg6 29 Ng4 Nxd3 30 Qxd3 Rxc2 31 Rdf1 Rd2 32 Qb3 Qc2+ 33 Ka2 Qxb3+ 34 Kxb3 Rxd5 35 Rf7 Rd3+ 36 Ka2 b3+ (Black, outrated by almost 800 points (!!), has played well thus far but here he sets up White's salvation. Maybe ...h5 either here or on the preceding move.) 37 Ka3 h5



38 Nf6! Bxf6 39 Rxb5+!! (cool!)
39...Kg8 (Black can't get away.
39...gxh5 40 Rh7+ Kg8 41 Rg7+ also forces the stalemate) 40 Rh8+!
Kxf7 41 Rf8+!
(We'll dispense with further exclamation marks)

41...Kg7 42 Rg8+ Kf7 43 Rf8+ Ke6 44 Rxf6+ Ke5 45 Re6+ Kd5 46 Rxd6+ Ke4 47 Re6+ Kd4 48 Re4+ Kc5 49 Rc4+ Kd6 50 Rxc8 ½-½ after a few more moves

EDGARLINO INOCENCIO - STEVE GREANIAS

GRUENFELD

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Qb3 dxc4 6 Qxc4 O-O 7 e4 Nc6 8 e5 Nd7 9 Be3 Nb6 10 Qc5 Bg4 11 Be2 a5 12 h3 Bxf3 13 gxf3 Nb4 14 Ne4 N6d5 15 Bd2 b6 16 Qc4 c5 17 a3 Nc6 18 dxc5 Nxe5 19 Qa2 bxc5 20 Nxc5 e6 21 h4 Nc6 22 h5 Nd4 23 Bd1 Qd6 24 Nd3 Rfc8 (Unfortunately Black did not complete the picture by doubling rooks on the d-file.) 25 hxg6 hxg6 26 Rc1 Qa6 27 Qb1 Qb5 28 f4 Rxc1 29 Bxc1? (29 Nxc1) 29...Nc3! (alert!) 30 a4 Qb7 0-1



Book Review

HOW TO DEFEND IN CHESS

by IM Colin Crouch

Everyman Publishers, 2000. Soft cover, 224 pages. \$19.95 list price.

IM Colin Crouch has produced yet another manifestation of the Evolution school of chess literature. These books seek new insight into some aspect of chess strategy by going back, back, back in time to dig anew into the classic games that are the foundation for today's positional understanding. Or as Richard Reti put it in his preface to the grandmaster of all Evolution books, *Masters of the Chessboard*, "The modern technique of chess is based on past experience and for this reason the newer master games can be correctly understood only after a study of the older masters."

Admittedly, I am an absolute sucker for such books. I especially love them when they move beyond the same oft-recycled models and trite characterizations of, eg, Capablanca's "machine-like technique", Alekhine's "boundless imagination", Botvinnik's "iron logic", etc. — in other words, when they actually have something new and interesting to say. That is why I like Colin Crouch's *How to Defend in Chess* so very much.

Granted, the title *How to Defend in Chess* is an utter misrepresentation (though not as ridiculous sounding as *Toxic Precision*, Bob Long's 1991 English Opening book). In fact, we have here a collection of annotated Emanuel Lasker and Tigran Petrosian games. Of course any study of Lasker and Petrosian promises a large measure of defensive genius, which allows Crouch to argue that "the games as a whole form an important part of the creative legacy, in the field of defense especially, of both the main featured players." But in no sense is this a *textbook* on defensive technique such as I believe its name implies. Moreover, the selected games do not always find Lasker or Petrosian in the primary role of defender!

Crouch sustains his theme partly by his choice of games (certainly not the "best of" either Lasker or Petrosian), and partly by stepping back from the tangle of a particularly complex position to muse or generalize, mostly about problems of defense. For example (from page 59):

This [some preceding analysis] illustrates a common dilemma in defensive play: should one make a slight positional concession in order to ward off tactical dangers? Or should one play the positionally strictly logical move, and rely on the natural power of the defense to beat off any tactically driven attack? Sometimes it takes considerable tactical self-confidence to play the positionally logical move!"

There are ten main games by each champion, with some other "supplementary games" appended to the notes to the main games. The fact that over two hundred pages are devoted to the analysis of twenty games will give you an idea of how deeply Crouch probes. A lot of beautiful variations are presented, many of them new and contrary to decades-old assumptions. Still, the text-to-move ratio remains quite high. In this connection I'd rate *How to Defend* more accessible than, say, Shirov's *Fire on the Board*, but a tougher read than Tal's book on the 1960 world championship match. In tone and density *How to Defend* rather reminds me of the 1987 Peter Griffiths / John Nunn collaboration *Secrets of Grandmaster Play*.

One interesting aspect to these annotations is Crouch's habit of openly speculating (often in not very speculative terms!) about the chain of logic and associations that may have led Lasker or Petrosian to choose particular moves. This is not the same as analysis, it is something more psychological. And perhaps it relates again to the idea of characteristically *defensive* thinking. Is it not the essence of defense that you penetrate the *why* behind a move in order to anticipate the attacker's design? *How to Defend* role models this process, often with striking results. For instance, from the very first game in the book, Lasker-Pillsbury, Hastings 1895 after 1 e4 e5 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 g6 4 d4 exd4 5 Nxd4 Bg7 6 Nxc6?! Crouch writes (emphasis added):

No one could possibly describe this as a good move; Black gains a tempo by hitting the exposed bishop, and takes over the initiative. ... *The only explanation for this move* is that Lasker has looked at a variation of the Vienna Game, decided it is so bad that it gives Black comfortable play, and that it is worth repeating for White with colors reversed, even without the extra tempo. Thus 1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 g3 d5 4 exd5 Nxd5 5 Bg2 Nxc3 6 bxc3 and now 6...Bc5 transposes into Lasker-Pillsbury, but with colors reversed.

Cool! In fact, the whole treatise is engaging and thought-provoking. This is not a easy book; players below expert strength would probably prefer a more traditional, "popular" anthology of Lasker or Petrosian games. But for the serious student, *How to Defend in Chess* will provide hours of challenge and stimulation.

— M Shibut



READERS' GAMES & ANALYSIS

TIM HAMILTON - PHIL COLLIER
DC CHESS LEAGUE 2001

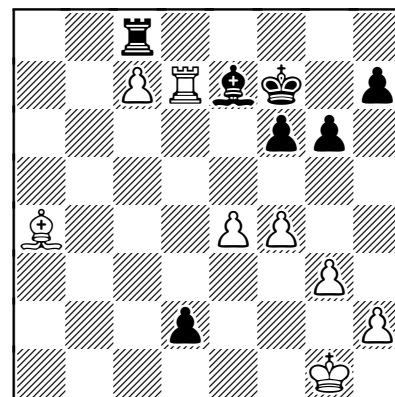
SICILIAN

Notes by Tim Hamilton

1 Nc3 c5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 d6 5 g3 Nc6 6 Bg2 Bd7 7 0-0 e6 8 e4 Be7 9 Ndb5 Qb8 10 Bf4 Ne5 11 a4 a6 (In a few examples of this position that have occurred, White has chosen Nd4 and not fared particularly well.) 12 Na3 b5 (This looks really strong. Indeed, Phil looked quite pleased with his position and began to glance around the room at the other boards. When I kept on thinking for a long time he got out one of those 500–page books he often carries to chess events and began reading...) 13 axb5 axb5 14 Bxe5 dxe5 15 Naxb5 (At this, Phil stopped reading) Rxa1 (played instantly) 16 Qxa1 Bxb5 17 Nxb5 Qxb5 18 Qa8+ Bd8 19 Rd1 (For the piece White has only one pawn, but it is difficult for Black to untangle without giving something back eventually.) 19...Qb6 (19...Qa5 20 Qc6+) 20 Qa4+ Kf8 (Evidently White could draw with 21.Qa8) 21 Qa3+ Be7 (Phil sighed with relief here.) 22 Qa8+ Ne8 23 Rd7 f6 (23...Bc5 24 Rb7 Bxf2+ is interesting.) 24 Rb7 Qd6 25 Qc8 Kf7 26 Rd7 Qb4 27 c3 (regaining the piece, with the better game) 27...Qxb2 28 Qc5 Nd6 29 Qxd6 Qc1+ 30 Bf1 Re8 31 c4 Qc3 32 c5 Qd4? 33 Bh3 (33 Qxd4 exd4 34 c6 wins out of hand.) 33...Kf8 34 Qxd4 (34 Qxe6 Qxc5 35 Bf1? Qxf2+) 34...exd4 35 c6 Rc8 36 c7 d3 37 Bxe6 d2 38 Bb3 Ke8 39 Ba4 Kf7 (39...d1Q+ 40 Rxd1+) 40 f4 g6

41 Kf1

If 41.f5 (Collier) 41...gxf5 42.exf5 Kf8 43.Kf1 and the King stops the d-pawn, and Black can do nothing but wait for the inevitable maneuver of the Bishop to a6 or b7, winning a Rook.



The time control was already reached by now, but Phil's scoresheet and the digital clock's move counter both indicated we were short a move or two. Phil had forgotten to press his clock on two occasions earlier in the game, which explains the counter, and he had also omitted a move pair. My own scoresheet was correct but I got confused under the circumstances and made a couple more quick moves to be certain. Unfortunately, the critical moment of the game had also arrived; odd how that happens. The moral is obviously to never look up from the board, I suppose.

41...Ke6 42 Rxd2? (42 f5+ is still good) 42...Bd6 (OK, last call for f5! Black could not take the pawn last turn in view of 42...Rxc7?? 43 Bb3+ Rc4 44.Bxc4#) 43 Bd7+? (43 f5+ Ke7 44 e5 fxe5 45 f6+ Ke6 46 Bd1 and Fritz says White wins. Having missed the winning move three times, another opportunity never arises.) 43...Kxd7 44 e5 fxe5 45 fxe5 Rxc7 46 Rxd6+ Ke7 47 h4 Rc5 48 Ra6 Rxe5 49 Ra7+ Kf6 50 Rxh7 Ra5 51 Kg2 Ra2+ 52 Kh3 Ra1 53 Rh8 Kg7 54 Rb8 Ra4 55 Rb2 Kh6 56 Rf2 Ra6 57 Kg4 Ra4+ 58 Rf4 Ra1 59 Rf7 Ra4+ 60 Rf4 Ra1 ½-½

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