



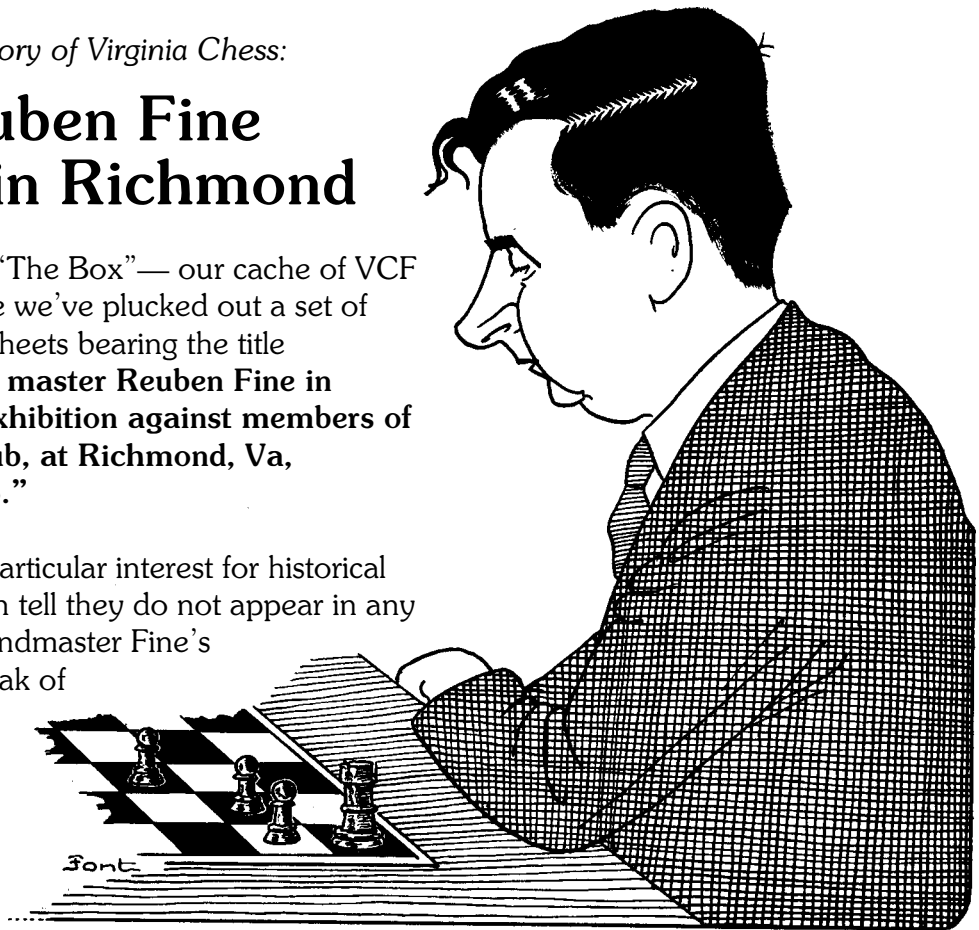
*More Early History of Virginia Chess:*

## GM Reuben Fine Exhibition in Richmond

Time for another dip into “The Box” — our cache of VCF archival material. This time we’ve plucked out a set of yellowed mimeographed sheets bearing the title “Games played by chess master Reuben Fine in simultaneous blindfold exhibition against members of the Richmond Chess Club, at Richmond, Va, Sunday, January 7, 1945.”

These games might hold particular interest for historical researchers; as best we can tell they do not appear in any published collection of grandmaster Fine’s play. Fine was near the peak of his powers in 1945, which was also the year of the landmark USA-USSR cable match.

We have converted the original’s descriptive notation to algebraic. Also reproduced are some penciled notes by an unknown author/analyst. Some of these notes may have been based on remarks by grandmaster Fine at the time of the exhibition. There are no diagrams in the original manuscript but we’ve added a couple.



Board 1  
FINE - KNAPP  
ENGLISH

1 c4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 g3 Bc5 4 Bg2 Nc6 5 e3  
d6 6 Nge2 0-0 7 0-0 Bg4 8 h3 Bf5 9 d4 exd4  
10 exd4 Bb6 11 g4 Bc8 12 Bg5 h6 13 Bh4 g5  
14 Bg3 Nh7 15 Nd5 Ne7 16 Nec3 Nxd5 17  
Nxd5 c6 18 Nxb6 axb6 19 Qb3 Kg7 20 Rad1  
Nf6 21 f4 Re8 22 fxf5 hxg5 23 Rd2 Ne4 24  
Bxe4 Rxe4 25 Qf3 f5 26 gxf5 d5 27 f6+ Kg6  
28 f7 Qf8 29 Qf6+ Kh7 30 Bd6 Re6 31 Bxf8  
Rxf6 32 Rxf6 1-0

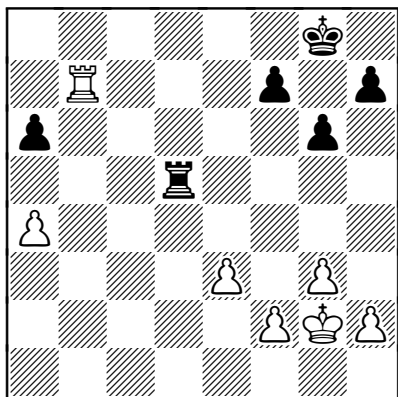
Board 2  
FINE - SCOTT  
GRUENFELD

*Notes were penciled into margin of original document - Source unknown*

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Qb3 c6 5 Bf4  
Bg7 6 e3 Qa5 7 Nf3 0-0 8 Nd2 Nbd7 9 Be2  
Qb6 10 Qc2 Re8 11 Nf3 Qd8 (11...dxc4) 12  
cxd5 cxd5 13 0-0 a6 14 Ne5 Nb6 (14...Nxe5)  
15 Rac1 Be6 16 Qb3 Rc8 17 a4 Nc4 18 Nxc4  
dxc4 19 Qxb7 Qa5 20 Bf3 Bd7 21 b4 cxb3 22  
Qxb3 e6 (22...Ng4) 23 Rc2 Bc6 24 Bxc6 Rxc6



25 Ne4 Rxc2 26 Nxf6+ Bxf6 27 Qxc2 e5 28 dxe5 Bxe5 29 Bxe5 Qxe5 30 g3 Rb8 31 Rb1 Rd8 32 Qc4 Qd6 33 Rb7 Qf6 34 Kg2 Rd2 35 Qf4 Qe6 (35...Qxf4 probably draws) 36 Rb4 Qc6+ 37 Qf3 Qc7 (37...Qe6) 38 Qe4 Qd7? 39 Rb7 Qd5 40 Qxd5 Rxd5



41 Rb6 Ra5 42 Rb4 f5? loses; 42...h5 better) 43 Kf3 g5 44 g4 Kg7 45 Kg3 Kg6? (loses; 45...Kf6!) 46 Rb6+ Kg7 47 gxf5 h5? (47...Rxf5) 48 Rg6+ Kf7 49 Rxg5 h4+ 50 Kxh4 Rxa4+ 51 Kg3 Kf6 52 h4 a5 53 f3 Rb4 54 e4 a4 55 Kf4 a3 56 Rg6+ Kf7 57 Ra6 Rb3 58 Ra7+ Kg8 59 e5 Rb4+ 60 Kg5 Rb3 61 Kg6 Kf8 62 f6 Ke8 63 e6 Kd8 64 e7+ 1-0

Board 3

FINE - PECK  
NIMZOWITSCH

1 e4 Nc6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 Bf5 4 c3 f6 5 f4 e6 6 Bd3 Nh6 7 Nf3 Be7 8 Bxf5 Nxf5 9 g4 Nh6 10 exf6 gxf6 11 f5 Bf8 12 Qe2 Qe7 13 fxe6 Nxc4 14 Nh4 Bh6 15 Nf5 Qf8 16 Bxh6 Nxh6 17 Qh5+ Nf7 18 exf7+ Qxf7 19 Qxf7+ Kxf7 20 Nd2 Rae8+ 21 Kf2 Kg6 22 Ne3 Ne7 23 Rae1 c6 24 Nf3 Kf7 25 Ng2 Rhg8 26 Ngh4 b6 27 Re2 Rd8 28 Rhe1 Rd7 29 Rg1 Rxc1 30 Kxc1 Rd6 31 Nd2 Rd7 32 Nf1 Rd8 33 Ng3 Rg8 34 Kf2 Rg4 35 Ng2 Rg5 36 Re1 Rg4 37 Rg1 Kg6 38 Ne3 Rg5 39 h4 Rxc3 40 Rxc3+ Kf7 41 Rf3 h5 42 Kg3 Kg6 43 Kf4 Kf7 44 Nf5 Ng6+ 45 Kg3 Nf8 46 b3 Ng6 47 c4 Nf8 48 cxd5 1-0

Board 4

FINE - LINFIELD  
BIRD

1 f4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 e6 4 Bd3 Bd6 5 b3 0-0 6 Bb2 Nc6 7 0-0 Bd7 8 Ne5 Ne7 9 Nc3 Ng6 10 Ne2 c5 11 Ng3 Qc7 12 Nxd7 Nxd7 13 Nh5 e5 14 Qg4 exf4 15 exf4 d4 16 Rf3 Kh8 17 Rh3 Rfe8 18 Rf1 Re7 19 c3 Rae8 20 Qd1 Nxf4 21 Nxf4 Bxf4 22 Rxh7+ Kg8 23 Qh5 Bh6 24 Rxh6 gxh6 25 Qxh6 f6 26 Bc4+ Re6 27 Rf3 Kf7 28 Rg3



Another Reuben Fine simultaneous exhibition, this one in New York, from about the same time as the Richmond event.

## VIRGINIA CHESS Newsletter

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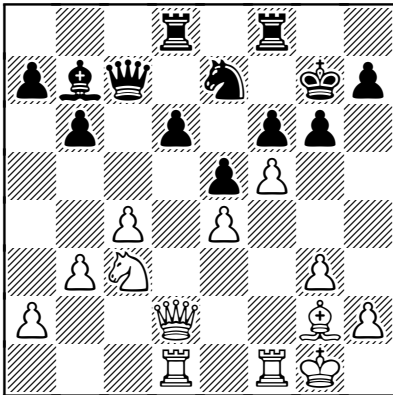
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Ke7 29 Bxe6 Kxe6 30 cxd4 cxd4 31 Qg6 Re7  
32 Qg4+ Kf7 33 Qg8mate 1-0

Board 5  
FINE - LEVY  
ENGLISH

1 c4 e6 2 e4 c5 3 Nc3 Nc6 4 g3 g6 5 Bg2 Bg7  
6 Nge2 Nge7 7 0-0 0-0 8 d3 d6 9 Be3 b6 10  
d4 cxd4 11 Nxd4 Nxd4 12 Bxd4 Bb7 13 Bxg7  
Kxg7 14 Qd4+ e5 15 Qd2 Qd7 16 Rad1 Rad8  
17 f4 Qc7 18 f5 f6 19 b3



19...gxf5 20 exf5 Qc5+ 21 Kh1 Bxg2+ 22 Qxg2  
a6 23 Nd5 Nxd5 24 Rxd5 Qc7 25 Rfd1 Rf7 26  
g4 h6 27 R1d3 Kh7 28 Qd2 b5 29 Rh3 Kg8  
30 Qxh6 Rh7 31 Qxh7+ Qxh7 32 Rxh7 Kxh7  
33 c5 Kg7 34 cxd6 Kf7 35 d7 Ke7 36 h4 Rxd7  
37 Rxd7+ Kxd7 38 g5 ffg5 39 hxg5 Kd6 40  
Kg2 e4 41 g6 Ke7 42 g7 Kf7 43 f6 a5 44 Kf2  
Kg8 45 Ke3 Kf7 46 Kxe4 1-0

Board 6  
FINE - MICHIE  
ALBIN

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 d4 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Nbd2  
f6 6 exf6 Qxf6 7 g3 Bf5 8 Bg2 Bb4 9 0-0 Nge7  
10 Nb3 0-0-0 11 a3 Bd6 12 Bg5 Qg6 13 Nbx4  
Nxd4 14 Qxd4 Nc6 15 Qc3 Rde8 16 Be3 Bg4  
17 Rad1 a6 18 b4 Qf7 19 b5 axb5 20 cxb5 Be5  
21 Nxe5 Nxe5 22 Qa5 c6 23 Qa8+ 1-0

Board 7  
FINE - KAFKO  
RUY LOPEZ

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0  
d6 6 Bxc6+ bxc6 7 d4 Bg4 8 dxe5 Bxf3 9 Qxf3  
dxe5 10 Bg5 Be7 11 Nd2 h6 12 Be3 Qd7 13

Rad1 Qe6 14 b3 Nd7 15 Nc4 0-0 16 Qe2 Rad8  
17 f3 f5 18 exf5 Rxf5 19 Bf2 c5 20 Bg3 h5 21  
Rfe1 Bf6 22 Ne3 Rg5 23 Qc4 Qxc4 24 Nxc4  
Kf8 25 Re2 Ke8 26 Red2 Rf5 27 Ne3 Rg5 28  
Nd5 Rc8 29 f4 Rg6 30 fxe5 Bg5 31 Bf4 Nxe5  
32 Re2 Bxf4 33 Nxf4 Rd6 34 Rxe5+ Kd7 35  
Rde1 Rf8 36 Nd3 1-0

Board 8  
FINE - CLEEK  
BIRD

1 f4 Nf6 2 g3 d5 3 Bg2 Bf5 4 Nf3 e6 5 0-0 Nbd7  
6 b3 Bd6 7 Bb2 c6 8 d3 0-0 9 e3 Re8 10 Nbd2  
e5 11 fxe5 Nxe5 12 Nxe5 Bxe5 13 Bxe5 Rxe5  
14 d4 Bg4 15 Qe1 Re7 16 Qf2 Qd6 17 Rae1  
Bd7 18 h3 Ne4 19 Nxe4 dxe4 20 Qf4 Qxf4 21  
gxf4 f5 22 Kf2 h6 23 h4 Be6 24 Rg1 Bf7 25  
Bh3 Be6 26 Rg3 Kh7 27 Reg1 Rg8 28 Rg6 Bf7  
29 R6g3 g6 30 h5 Re6 31 hxg6+ Bxg6 32 Rxg6  
Rge8 33 Rxe6 1-0

Board 9  
FINE - SHERMAN  
QUEEN'S PAWN

1 d4 Nf6 2 e3 d5 3 Bd3 Bg4 4 Ne2 e6 5 c4  
Bd6 6 Qb3 b6 7 Nbc3 dxc4 8 Bxc4 Bxe2 9  
Bxe2 0-0 10 e4 e5 11 d5 a6 12 0-0 Nbd7 13  
Be3 Nc5 14 Qc2 Ne8 15 g3 Qc8 16 Kg2 f5 17  
exf5 Qxf5 18 Qxf5 Rxf5 19 b4 Nd7 20 a3 Rf7  
21 Bg4 Nf8 22 Ne4 Be7 23 Rfc1 Nf6 24 Nxf6+  
Bxf6 25 Rc6 e4 26 Re1 Rd8 27 Be6 Nxe6 28  
dxe6 Re7 29 Bf4 Rd3 30 Rxe4 Rc3 31 Rxc3  
Bxc3 32 Bxc7 b5 33 Bd6 Re8 34 Re2 Bf6 35  
f4 g6 36 Bc5 Kg7 37 Kf3 Be7 38 Bxe7 Rxe7  
39 g4 h6 40 h4 Kf6 41 g5+ hxg5 42 hxg5+ Kg7  
43 Kg4 Kf8 44 f5 gxf5+ 45 Kxf5 Kg7 46 g6 Kg8  
47 Kf6 Kf8 48 Rh2 1-0

Board 10  
FINE - HARRINGTON  
BISHOP'S OPENING

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d3 Nc6 4 f4 d5 5 exd5  
Nxd5 6 fxe5 Nxe5 7 Qe2 Bb4+ 8 Kf1 Qf6+ 9  
Nf3 Bg4 10 Qxe5+ Qxe5 11 Nxe5 Be6 12 c3  
Bd6 13 Nf3 0-0-0 14 Kf2 Bf4 15 Bxd5 Bxc1  
16 Bxe6+ fxe6 17 Rxc1 Rxd3 18 Nbd2 Rf8 19  
Nf1 g5 20 Ke2 Rd5 21 Ne3 1-0

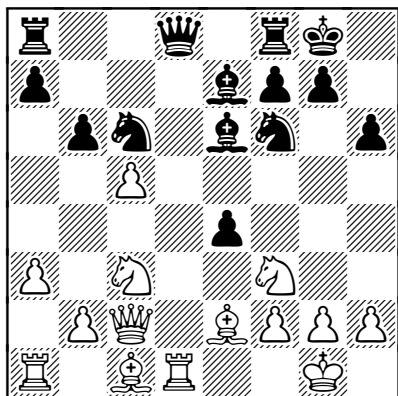




opposite-colored bishops game, keeping the bishop active is worth a pawn. Also, when White grabs the pawn he has to take some time out to protect his queen.) **21 Qxe4+ Kf8 22 Bc4 Qc8 23 0-0?! Bxb2** (Mission accomplished: my important c-pawn is safe and I'm still up a pawn.) **24 Rc2 Bf6** (Avoiding the exposed post on d4 where an exchange sac might prove lethal.) **25 Rd1 Kg7 26 g3 Re8 27 Qg2 Rae7 28 h4 Qg4 29 Rd5 Bd4** (Black has built up a nice initiative over the last few moves, which he proceeds to dissipate. The White king position is almost collapsing but I couldn't figure out how to put him away.) **30 Kh2 Re1 31 Rg5 Qd7 32 Rd5 Qe7 33 Qf3 h5 34 Kg2 Bf6 35 Bb5 Rc8 36 Rd7 Qe4 37 Qxe4 Rxe4** (Things are looking more drawish.) **38 Bc4 Re7 39 Rcd2 Kf8 40 Kf3 Bd4 41 Rd5 Rc6 42 Rd8+ Kg7 43 Re2?? Rf6+ 44 Kg2 Rxe2 0-1**

GEOFFREY MCKENNA - JAMES LEWIS  
SEMI TARRASCH

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 e3** (I avoid theory because I'm rusty.) **3...e6 4 Nc3 Be7 5 Nf3 O-O 6 Be2 d5 7 O-O Nc6 8 a3 b6 9 cxd5 exd5 10 Qc2 h6?!** (To secure e6 for the bishop but this is a serious loss of time.) **11 Rd1 Be6 12 e4 dxe4 13 dxc5**



(At this point, my opponent sighed, said, "Here we go", and surprised me with...) **13...exf3!** (This is better than I thought.) **14 Rxd8 Raxd8?** (Natural, but Rfxd8 is probably better. Defending the a-pawn turns out to be a worthwhile goal.) **15 Bxf3 Nd4 16 Qa4 Bxc5 17 Be3 a5** (He wants to trap my queen with ...Bb3) **18 Bxd4 Rxd4 19**

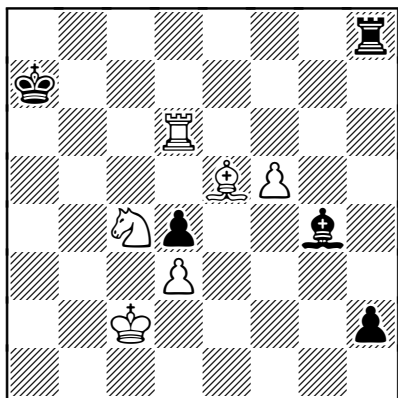
**Qc2 R8d8 20 Rd1 Rxd1 21 Nxd1 Ng4 22 h3?!** (The Black pieces become terrifyingly active over the next few moves.) **22...Ne5 23 Be2 Nc6! 24 Qe4 Nd4 25 Bf1 Bf5 26 Qf4 g5** (Look who's playing for a win! This is very brave since queens are usually effective at exploiting weakened pawns.) **27 Qe5 Bxh3** (I missed this.) **28 Qh2 Bf5?** (Losing! Black has a couple of reasonable alternatives: i) 28...Nf3+ 29 gxf3 Bxf1! 30 Kxf1 Rxd1+ 31 Ke2 Rd6 with an edge, or ii) 28...g4!? 29 Ne3 Bd6 30 Qh1 with complications—I think it's a draw.) **29 Qxh6 Ne6 30 Ne3 Bg6 31 Bc4 Bf8 32 Qh2 Bd6 33 Qh3 Nf4 34 Qh6 b5 35 Qxg5 Rc8 36 Qxb5 Rc5 37 Qa6 Bf8 38 g3 Rg5 1-0** on time

STEVE STOYKO - GEOFFREY MCKENNA  
SICILIAN

**1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 Bb5 e6?** (Pushing the king pawn one square on the third move worked well last game. Here it's not so hot; White gets something like a Nimzo reversed with a huge number of tempi. Never again!) **4 Bxc6 bxc6 5 d3 d6 6 f4 Ne7 7 Nf3 Ng6 8 0-0 Be7 9 Kh1 Bf6 10 Qe1 e5 11 f5 Nf8 12 g4 g5 13 Kg2 Qe7 14 Ne2 h5 15 h3 Bb7 16 Ng3 h4 17 Nh5 Nh7 18 Qa5 Rg8 19 Nxf6+ Qxf6 20 Bd2 Qd8 21 c4 Qxa5** (Black shouldn't have survived the opening but he did. But my initial optimism about the resulting endgame waned over the next few moves.) **22 Bxa5 f6 23 Rab1 Kd7 24 Nd2 Rab8 25 Nb3 Ba8** (securing the good bishop) **26 Kf2 Rb7 27 Bc3 Rgb8 28 Na5 Rb6 29 Ke2 Nf8 30 Kd1 Kc8 31 Kc2 Nd7 32 b3 Kc7 33 a3 Kc8 34 Bd2 Ra6 35 Ra1 Rab6 36 Rfb1 Kc7 37 Be3 d5** (Here I concluded that I was losing so I started moving pawns in the dim hope of altering the position's character.) **38 b4 d4 39 Bd2 cxb4 40 axb4 c5 41 Nb3 cxb4 42 Rxa7+ R6b7 43 Ra5 Rb6 44 Rba1 Bc6 45 Ra7+ Kc8 46 R1a5 R6b7 47 Rxb7 Rxb7 48 Ra6 Rc7 49 Bxb4? Bxe4!** (I'm probably still losing but it's a complete mess.) **50 Na5 Bg2 51 Re6 Ra7 52 c5 Nxc5 53 Rxf6 Nd7 54 Rg6 Bxh3 55 Rg8+ Kc7 56 Rxc5 Ra8** (Probably ...Ra6 is more accurate.) **57 Rg6 Rh8 58**



Rc6+ Kb8 59 Bd6+ Ka7 60 Rc7+ Ka6 61 Nc4 Bxg4 62 Rxd7 h3 63 Bxe5 h2 64 Rd6+ Ka7! (Avoiding the lethal 64...Kb7 65 Na5+) 65 Rd7+ Ka6 66 Rd6+ Ka7



Here my opponent requested confirmation that he had another hour available for the game. This confirmation was withheld as he was in fact nearing the end of a sudden-death time control. With only five minutes remaining, he expressed his annoyance and offered a draw, which I cheerfully accepted. Afterwards we considered the consequences of 67 Bxh8 h1Q 68 Bxd4+, with most people expressing the view that White had the better of a drawn position. Dzhindzhi, who had just hung his queen, stepped forward and opined that White is winning. My opponent thought so too, although they differed sharply as to methods. My satisfaction at surviving the game was tempered by disappointment in my teammates' 0-3 showing this round against lower-rated opposition. 1/2-1/2

Geoffrey McKenna - Yu Zhang Lu

#### Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Nf3 Be7 5 Bf4 0-0 6 e3 b6 7 Bd3 c5 8 dxc5 bxc5 9 0-0 Nc6 10 a3 Bb7 11 cxd5 exd5 12 Qc2 Bd6? (Black presumably wants to challenge White's control of b8, but this is a lemon. His position goes from equal to losing in one move.) 13 Bg5 Ne5 (Either d5 or h7 will fall anyway.) 14 Nxe5 Bxe5 15 Bxh7+ Kh8 16 Bf5 d4 17 f4! Bc7 18 Qf2 g6 19 Qh4+ Kg7 20 Ne4 Nxe4 21 Qh6+ Kg8 22 Bxd8 Bxd8 23 Bxg6 1-0

Ernest Johnson - Geoffrey McKenna

#### Benko Gambit

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 cxb5 a6 5 bxa6 g6 6 g3 d6 7 Bg2 Bg7 8 Nh3 0-0?! (After this game I repeated something I read by Benko a couple of decades ago, that the g3 lines of the Benko gambit are toothless. Bill Mason, who had faced the same line in a dramatic round 2 game, disagreed. The secret is for White to launch a kingside onslaught right out of the opening, the goal being to provoke some modest weakening of the Black kingside pawns for much later exploitation. Here's the idea: if White can provoke the advance of the Black h-pawn, then after an eventual e4-e5 (in about ten or fifteen moves) he will be propitiously placed to throw the kitchen sink at g6) 9 Nf4 Nxa6 10 Nc3 Qb6 11 0-0? (He should play h4 first to provoke ...h5) 11...Nc7 12 Re1 Ng4 13 h3 Ne5 14 Qc2 Nb5 15 Qb3 Bd7 16 Nxb5 Qxb5 17 Qxb5 Bxb5 (A rule of thumb in the Benko is that endings are good for Black unless White can first stake out some space on the queenside. Here Black has complete control of the queenside.) 18 Bd2 Nc4 19 Bc3 Bxc3 20 bxc3 Na3 (gaining both time and space) 21 Rac1 Bc4 22 e4 Nb5 23 h4 Rxa2 24 e5 Rfa8 25 Re4 Ra1 26 Rxa1 Rxa1+ 27 Kh2 Bb3 28 c4 Na3 29 exd6 exd6 30 Re8+ Kg7 31 Rb8 Bxc4 32 g4 Nb5 33 Rb7 Ra7 34 Ne6+ Kf6 35 g5+ Ke5 36 f4+ Kf5 (Imagine if White could add just a little gas to the attack. But he can't.) 37 Rxa7 Nxa7 38 Nd8 Kxf4 39 Nxf7 Nb5 40 Nd8 Kg4 41 Ne6 Kxh4 42 Bf3 Nd4 0-1

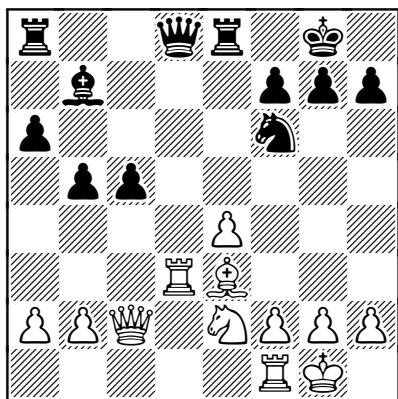
Geoffrey McKenna - Irina Krush

#### Semi Slav

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 (One of the reasons I had a good tournament is whenever I played White my opponent played the QGD, which I find more congenial than the Indians.) 3 Nc3 c6 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 e3 Nbd7 6 Qc2 Bd6 7 Bd3 0-0 8 Bd2?! (An outright slip of the hand. I meant to play 8 cxd5 first.) 8...dxc4! 9 Bxc4 b5 10 Bd3 Bb7 11 e4 e5 12 0-0 Re8 13 Ne2 (White's chances lie on the kingside but this looks pretty slow.) 13...a6 14



dx e5 Bxe5 15 Rad1 c5 16 Nxe5 Nxe5 17 Be3  
Nxd3 18 Rxd3



18...Qc8? (White's 17th move was aimed at the c-pawn so that in the event of 18...Bxe4 19 Rxd8 Bxc2 I would be able to play 20 Rxa8 Rxa8 21 Bxc5, but even in this line I think Black is significantly better owing to the unfortunate placement of White's knight. The text avoids simplification at the cost of a whole tempo.) **19 f3!** (What a difference! Now the e-pawn locks out Black's bishop, giving White much the better game.) **19...c4 20 Rd6 Nd7 21 Ng3 Ne5 22 Qc3 f6 23 Nf5 Qc7 24 Bb6 Qf7** (During the game I thought Black's defense hereabouts was brilliant, bringing my initiative to a grinding halt. White is always on the verge of busting in around f6 and g7 but I

65th Annual

## VIRGINIA CLOSED STATE CHAMPIONSHIP Sept 1-3, 2001

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Trophies and title of State Senior (over age 60), Woman and Junior (under 16) champions will also be awarded to the top-scoring qualifying player in each category, adding one point to the scores of players in the open section.



Annual VCF Business Meeting  
Saturday, Sept 1, 11am-1pm

More info:

<http://www.wizard.net/~matkins/closed.htm> or e-mail [matkins@wizard.net](mailto:matkins@wizard.net)



couldn't figure out a way.) **25 Rfd1 Bc8 26 Ne3 Be6 27 Nd5 Bxd5 28 R1xd5 Qg6 29 Kh1 Nd3 30 Be3 h6 31 b3** (I was feeling sad to see my nice knight go, and here I was trying to undermine Black's knight by softening the c-pawn. The trouble is that with the b-file open it is White whose king is vulnerable.) **31...Rec8 32 bxc4 bxc4 33 g3 Kh7 34 Kg2 Rab8 35 h4 Qf7** (Here I thought Black should keep an eye on the weak squares around the White king.) **36 Rd7 Qf8 37 Bd4 Rc6 38 Ra7 Rd8 39 Rdd7 Rxd7** (Here I showed 55 seconds left to play 11 moves. My opponent had a few minutes, but...) **40 Rxd7 Qc8 41 Re7 Qd8?? 42 Bxf6 Ne1+ 43 Kf2** (...here she used up almost all of her time, played a succession of bad moves, and went over. The remainder of the time scramble was played in the best amateur tradition as described in the song "City of New Orleans", viz, *ain't no one keepin' score.*) **43...Rxf6 44 Qxf6 Qd2+ 45 Kf1 Qd3+** (45...Qg2+ was a better try) **46 Kxe1 Qe3+ 47 Kf1 Qd3+ 48 Kg2 Qe2+ 49 Kh3 Qf1+ 50 Kg4 1-0** (Irina is actually the highest-rated opponent I have beaten in 13 years. I had a very heavy meal right before this game and played most of it in a wimpy, diffident frame of mind. I would have been happy with a draw. She held the initiative at various points, so I am pleasantly surprised to be writing this article.)

## MEMORABLE MOMENTS

by Roger Mahach

Scariest moment at the US Amateur Team-East: facing a cute-as-a-button 8-year-old girl who wiped out the first fifteen moves of a Pelikan Sicilian in less than a minute. She played with her Barbie, all the while producing one great move after another.

Most dreadful moment: losing a won game (and the match) to guy who brought along his own blow-up butt cushion and then sitting frozen at the board while I listen to him deflate the cushion.

Funniest moment: sitting next to an American legend and listening to his wife berate him for playing so soon after a massive heart attack, to which the GM's only response was to order prime rib (rare) and another double scotch 30 minutes before the round!

This year marked my 12th visit to the US Amateur Team Championship-East, held in Parsippany, NJ over the President's weekend (February 17-19, 2001). Having received the blessing of a new family, I pretty much stopped playing chess but somehow always find time for the USATs. My first was in 1989 after an unknown

## CHess IN RICHMOND

The Kaïssa Chess Club now holds monthly USCF rated quads. The entry fee is \$1, which covers the rating fee. Each quad begins play at 6:30pm on the first Thursday of each month, with subsequent rounds played on subsequent Thursdays. The time control is game/75 minutes. If you would like to play in a KCC quad, then please be at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts at 6:15pm to sign up. Membership in the club is free. For more information, call club President Angelo Crisci at 804-560-5476 (email [angelocrisci@cs.com](mailto:angelocrisci@cs.com)), or Vice-President Brian Sumner at 804-304-6369 ([bsumner@planet2000.com](mailto:bsumner@planet2000.com)) The new web site for Richmond Chess is <http://www.richmondchess.com> The old URL still works for the time being but you should update your bookmark soon.

### UPCOMING USCF RATED EVENTS:

Thursday Nights Quads  
 Kaïssa Chess Club Open VII tournament July 21, 2001  
 Kaïssa Chess Club Quick Championship August 18, 2001  
 Kaïssa Chess Club 2001 Championship Sep-Nov, 2001  
 Kaïssa Chess Club Open VIII tournament Sept 22, 2001  
 Kaïssa Chess Club Open IX tournament October 20, 2001  
 Kaïssa Chess Club Team Championship Nov 10, 2001

### UPCOMING UNRATED EVENTS:

Kaïssa Chess Club 2001 Blitz Championship June 23, 2001  
 Kaïssa Chess Club Blindfold Championship August 4, 2001  
 Novice Classes June 16 & July 14, 2001 (dates tentative)





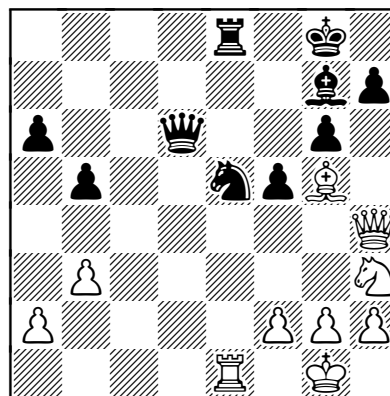
caller left a chilling message: “You don’t know me but I’ve been told you’re an underrated A player. We need a strong 4th. Call me at...”

In that first outing I teamed with three masters I didn’t know. Subsequent years found me on 3rd or 4th board behind great local players like Macon Shibut, Steve Mayer, Tim Hamilton, Harry Cohen and former Pennsylvania legend Craig Jones. But it seems that I have finally found a permanent home back with my mates from the Arlington Passed Pawns. This year Hamilton (1st board), myself (2nd), Cohen (3rd) and David Long (4th) defended the good name of the Old Dominion. Harry and Dave had exceptional tournaments. Long scored 6-0 and won a board prize, while Cohen went undefeated at 5-1. Hope to see you there next year.

GREGORY TOMKOVICH - ROGER MAHACH  
NIMZOINDIAN

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e3 c5 5 Bd3 Nc6 6 Nge2 cxd4 7 exd4 d5 8 0-0 0-0 9 Bg5 dxc4 10 Bxc4 Be7** (It’s important for Black to keep the dark square bishop in this IQP position where White is fully developed and can whip up a nasty attack.) **11 Bf4** (Trying to set up threats against c7 is inconsistent. White would be better off getting his rooks into play and playing against Black’s center and kingside, eg 11 Rc1 Qd7 12 Qd2 a6 13 Rfd1 Rd8 14 Qf4 b5 15 Bb3 Na5 16 Bc2 Bb7 17 Bxf6 Bxf6 18 Ne4 Bxe4 19 Qxe4 g6) **11...a6 12 Rc1 b5 13 Bb3 Na5 14 Bc2 Bb7** (Black has solved is space problem and doesn’t have to fear the d5 break that is so common in these IQP positions.) **15 Qd3** (If the bishop was still on g5 this would be awkward for Black.) **15...Nc4** (This is a dream position for Black—a Sicilian-like set up against the IQP. I was counting on White to regroup and defend the b-pawn but...) **16 Qg3** (What White had been planning all along. Forget the b pawn, he’s going after the king! He had two ways to protect the pawn: 16 b3 Na3 17 Be5 Nxc2 18 Rxc2 Rc8 19 f3 Nd7 20 Bf4 b4 21 Ne4 Rxc2 22 Qxc2 Qa5 23 Nd6 Ba8 24 Rc1 Nf6 25 Nc8 Bd8 26 Nd6 Nd5=; or 16 Rb1 Rc8 17 Bg5

g6 18 f3 Re8 19 Rfc1 e5!) **16...g6** (The safe move. Were it not a team event I may have just grabbed the pawn but I just couldn’t calculate the risks. 16...Nxb2 17 Bh6 Ne8 18 Bf4 Rc8 19 Qh3 Nf6 20 Be5 h6 [Black can play this since there is no threat of the bishop sacrificing itself against h6] 21 Nf4 Nc4 22 Bxf6 Bxf6 23 Qd3 [if 23 Nxe6 fxe6 24 Qxe6+ Rf7 25.Bg6 Rcc7 26.Bxf7+ Rxf7 and after Bc8 Black would be better] 23...Re8! [but not 23...g6? 24.Nxg6 fxxg6 25.Qxxg6+ Bg7 26.Qh7+ Kf7 27.Qg6+ Kg8=] 24 Qh7+ Kf8 25 Nce2 Qd6 26 Nh5 Bxd4 27 Rfd1 Qc6! winning) **17...Bh6 Re8 18 Nf4** (Bothersome. White has managed to direct almost all of his minor pieces against the kingside and is ready to sac on g6) **18...Qd6** (It’s important to pin the knight against the queen. If 18...Nxb2 19 Nxe6 fxe6 20 Bxg6 Kh8 21 Bxe8 Nxe8 22 Rfe1—groan!) **19 b3 Nb6** (Again the safe move, though Black could have had more: 19...Na3 20 Bd3 Qxd4 21 Nxe6 fxe6 22 Bxg6 Qg4! 23 Bxe8 Qxg3 24 Bf7+! Kxf7 25 fxxg3) **20 Rfe1 Bf8** (To prevent hi-jinx on e6; if 20...Rac8 21 Rxe6 fxe6 22 Bxg6 Kh8 23 Bxh7 Nh5 24 Qg6 e5! 25 Qf7 Qxh6 26 Ng6+ Qxxg6 27 Bxg6 Ng7 28 dxe5 Rc6 29 Re1 Bc8 30 Re3 Nd5 31 Qxd5 Rxxg6 White has too many pawns for me) **21 Bg5 Nbd7 22 Qh4 Bg7 23 Ne4 Nxe4 24 Bxe4 Bxe4 25 Rxe4 e5 26 Rce1 f5 27 dxe5 Rxe5 28 Rxe5 Nxe5 29 Nh3** (Both players were short of time here and the control was not until move 50) **29...Re8??**



(Unbelievable; after all the defensive work, Black blunders a piece.) **30 Rc1??** (White returns the



favor. 30 f4!—I forgot that the queen protects e1!—30...Re6 31 fxe5 Bxe5 32 Kh1! Bg3 33 Qxg3 Qxg3 34 hxg3 Rxe1+ 35 Kh2 Ra1 36 Bd8 Rxa2 37 b4) **30...Nd3 31 Rb1 Qe6 32 Be3 h6 33 Nf4 Nxf4 34 Qxf4 g5 35 Qb4 f4 36 Bd2 Qf5 37 Rc1 f3 38 gxf3** (Time trouble. 38 Be3 fxe2 39 Qd6 Kh7 40 Qxa6 Qf3 41 Qa7 Re4 42 Qc7 b4 was correct) **38...Qxf3 39 Bc3??** (39 Re1 Rxe1+ 40 Bxe1 Be5; 39 Be3 Rxe3 40 Rc8+ [40 fxe3 Qxe3+] Kh7 41 fxe3 Qxe3+ 42 Kg2 Qe2+ 43 Kg1 [43.Kg3?? Be5+ 44.Kh3 Qf3#] Qd1+ 44 Kg2 Qd5+ 45 Kg3 Be5+ 46 Kf2 Bd4+ 47 Ke1 Qe4+ 48 Kf1 Qf4+ 49 Ke2 Qg4+ 50 Kd3 Qxc8 51 Qxd4) **39...Re4 -+ 40 Qc5 Rg4+ 41 Kf1 Qd3+ 42 Ke1 Re4+ 0-1**

GERARD McDONNEL - HARRY COHEN

CARO KANN

**1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nf6 5 Nxf6+ gxf6** (The Bronstein variation— very fitting since it was the great master's birthday that day.) **6 Bc4 Bf5 7 Ne2 e6 8 Be3 Nd7 9 Bb3 Bd6 10 Nf4 Qc7 11 Qf3 0-0-0 12 c3 Bg6 13 h4 e5 14 Nxc6 fxe6 15 dxe5 Bxe5 16 0-0-0 f5** (Black has undoubled his kingside pawns and proceeds to place them on light squares.) **17 h5** (White could try the scary looking 17 Bxa7 b6 18 Be6 Rhe8 19 Bxd7+ Rxd7 20 Rxd7 Kxd7 21 Qd3+ Ke7 [21...Kc8? 22 Qa6+ Qb7 23 Qxb6] 22 Qa6 Ra8 23 Qa3+ Qd6 [23...Kf6 24 Bxb6 Qb8 25 Qc5 Rxa2 26 Kb1 Ra6 27 Qxc6+ Kg7 28 Qd7+] 24 Qxd6+ Bxd6 25 Re1+ Kd7 26 Bxb6 Rxa2 27 Kb1 Ra4 28 Rd1 Ke6) **17...Nf6 18 hxg6 hxg6 19 Rxd8+ Rxd8 20 Rh6** (playing against the only weakness in Black's position) **20...Qg7 21 Rh4** (21 Qh3 Ne4 22 Rh7

Qf6 23 Qh4 Bxc3 24 bxc3 Qxc3+ 25 Kb1 Qe1+ 26 Kb2 [or 26 Bc1 Nd2+ 27.Kc2 Qe2 28.Qxd8+ Kxd8 29.Bxd2 b5 30.f4 Qxg2 31.Rxa7 c5 32.Bg8 Qe4+ 33.Kc1 Qh1+ 34.Kb2 Qg2] 26...Qc3+ 27 Ka3 Qa5+ 28 Kb2 Qc3+) **21...Qd7 22 Bc2 Ng4 23 Bf4 Qd5** (Black finds a nice trap in the position.) **24 Bxe5??** (White's playing as if he has an advantage!) **24...Qd2+ 0-1**

DAVID LONG - JEFFREY MITCHELL

SICILIAN

Notes by David Long

**1 e4 c5 2 c3 Nf6 3 e5 Nd5 4 d4 cd 5 Nf3 e6 6 cd b6 7 Nc3 Nc3 8 bc Qc7 9 Bd2 Bb7 10 Bd3 d6 11 0-0 Nd7 12 Re1 Be7 13 Bf4 0-0 14 ed6 Bd6**

It turns out this was all theory through move 13. Sveshnikov evaluates the variation as unclear in his Encyclopedia monograph on the c3 Sicilian (B22, page 140, col 122). Perhaps my opponent knew all this, since he spent only a few minutes on the clock to reach this point.

My idea had been to exchange pawns on d6 to divert his bishop from control of g5 and then play the stock sacrifice Bh7, but I couldn't find a win if



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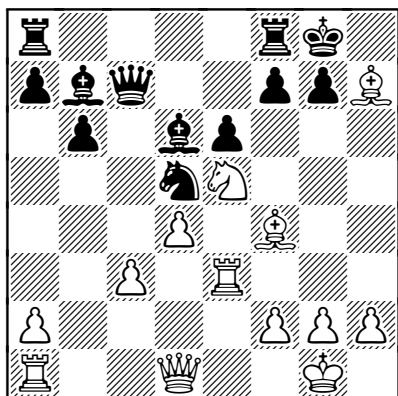
5SS, Rds 1-2 G/60, rds 3-5 G/120. \$1100:  
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\$100, Top E \$50, Top Unr \$50. EF \$30 if rec'd  
by 7/12, \$40 at site. VCF memb req'd, OSA.  
Youth entry \$15 by 7/12, \$25 at site, not eli-  
gible for prizes. Reg 1:30-2:15pm, rds 2:30-5-  
7, 10-2:30. One 1/2-pt bye avail, irrevocable  
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payable to "Virginia Chess." Info 540-832-  
9042, but No Phone Entries!



the Black king just retreats to g8. For example, 15 Bh7+ Kh7 16 Ng5+ Kg8 17 Bd6 Qd6 18 Qh5 Nf6 18 Qh4 Qd5 19 f3 Qf5 followed by Rac8 and play on the c-file.

Instead of 14 ed, White should have played either 14 c4 or 14 Rc1. Then Black must be careful about exchanging on e5. For example, 14 Rc1 de5 15 Ne5 Ne5 16 Be5 Bd6 17 Bh7+! Kh7 18 Qh5+ Kg8 19 Bg7 Kg7 20 Qg5+ Kh8 (or Kh7) 21 Re3 winning decisive material. If Black does not play 16...Bd6 and instead substitutes 16...Qc6 then 17 Be4 Qc8 18 Bh7+ with the same combination.

**15 Ne5 Nf6 16 Re3 Nd5 17 Bh7**



**17...Kh7??**

Played instantly and walking into forced mate. Black must try 17...Kh8, when I intended 18 Bg5 to keep the knight off f6 and f4. This was also winning in the post mortem, eg 18...g6 19 Rh3 Kg7 20 Bh6 Kh7 21 Bf8 Kg8 22 Bd6 Qd6 23 Qd2! with the threat of 24 Rh8 followed by 25 Nf7 as well as 24 Qh6; or 18...Nf6? 19 Bf6. But now it appears 18...Be5 holds, eg 19 Qh5 (19 de5 Kh7 and keeps the piece!) Nf4! 20 Qh4 (20 Bxf4 Bxf4 the bishop can drop back to h6) Ng2 Black can draw by perpetual attack on the queen.

As for attempts by White to get more, 18 Qh5 also leads to a draw: 18...Nf4! (not 18...Nf6? 19 Qh4 Nh7 20 Rh3 winning) 19 Qh4 Ng2 20 Qh5 Nf4=. And 18 Ng6 fails to 17...fg6 (but 18...Kh7? allows mate in two) 19 Rh3 Bf4 20 Bg6 Bh6 wins. (Also

in this line Black could play 19...Nf4 20 Bg6 Nh3 21 gf Bf3 (or...Rf3) winning.) The best move, not found until many days later, appears to be 18 Bc2! After 18...Nxf4 19 Qg4 Kg8! (other moves appear to lose) 20 Qxf4 f6 21 Rh3 Bxe5 22 dxe5 Qxe5 23 Qxe5 fxe5 would be about equal.

**18 Rh3 Kg8 19 Qh5 Rfc8 20 Qh8 mate 1-0**

DAVID LONG - FRED FOLLIS

PHILIDOR

*Notes by David Long*

**1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 e5 4 Nf3 Nbd7 5 Bc4 Bc7 6 0-0 0-0 7 Bb3 c6 8 Re1 b5 9 d5 Bb7 10 dc Bc6 11 Nd5 Nd5** (White got very little from the opening but now plays to weaken the d5 square and give his opponent a bad bishop.) **12 Bd5 Qc7 13 c3 Nf6 14 Bc6 Qc6 15 Bg5 Rfe8 16 Bf6 Bf6 17 Qd2 Rad8 18 Rad1 Re7 19 Qd5 Qd5 20 Rd5 a6 21 Red1 Red7 22 g4! h6** (tying up the bishop further) **23 h4 g5 24 h5 Bg7 25 Kf1 f6** (Maybe it was better to start transferring the knight to the queenside right away.) **26 Ne1 Kf7 27 Nc2 Ke6 28 Nb4 a5** (My original idea was to play 29 Nc6 and I should have stuck with that. I wanted to attack the queenside pawns right away before the Black rooks were freed from guarding the pawn on d6. But I thought that somehow Nc6 would allow the rooks out.) **29 Ne3?!** (Threatening Nc5, but this interferes with the Rd1 and allows ...d5, which releases some pent up energy in the Black position at the cost of a pawn. Fortunately, things still work out well for White.) **Bf8 30 Rb5 d5 31 Ra5 de 32 Nc5 Bc5 33 Rd7 Rd7 34 Rc5 Ra7** (34...Rd2!?) **35 a3 Rb7 36 b4 Ra7 37 c4 Ra3 -+ 38 Rc6 Ke7 39 b5 Rb3 40 b6 Rb1 41 Ke2 Rb2 42 Ke3 Kd8 43 c5 Rb3 44 Ke4 Rb4 45 Kf5 Rf4 46 Ke6 Rb4 47 Rc7 e4 48 Ra7 Kc8 49 Kd6 Rd3 50 Kc6 Kb8 51 Rb7 Ka8 52 Rd7 Rd3 53 Kc7 Rd7 54 Kd7 f5 55 Kc7 1-0**





## Hopewell VSCA Interscholastic

by Peter Hopkins

NEARLY 100 STUDENTS CONVERGED on Hopewell High School Saturday, May 12 for the Virginia Scholastic Chess Association's final interscholastic tournament of the academic year. Teams from as far away as Alexandria and Franklin County participated in three scholastic sections while "chess dads" vied for trophies in an open section.

Going undefeated through all five rounds, Chesapeake's Nikolova sisters, Ettie and Illina, claimed the 1st and 2nd place high school trophies as well as the 1st place team trophy. The Nikolovas, representing Indian River Middle School, are both ranked among the top 50 in the nation among girls under the age of 16. Andrew Carroll, representing Richmond's Governor's School for Government and International studies, placed 3rd in the 37-player section, with Patrick Ray from C. D. Hylton HS in Woodbridge and Matt Schudel from Prince George HS 4th and 5th respectively among high school players.

The 2001 Virginia state championship team from Henrico County's G H Moody Middle School took middle school team honors, scoring 12 match points to Indian River's 10 match points. Tied for 2nd-3rd among middle schools, Chesterfield County's Manchester & Hopewell's Carter G Woodson were awarded 2nd and 3rd place team trophies after tying with 9 match points each. A short handed team from Benjamin Franklin MS in Franklin County placed 4th. (At full strength Ben Franklin recently placed 14th among some 60 teams in the nationals in Kansas City, Missouri.) The 1st place individual middle school trophy went to Franklin's Malcolm Scott, 2nd, 3rd and 4th to Moody's Yuri Cherepnaya, Collen Fox and James Habboush, and 5th to Billy Trischler from St Louis School in Alexandria.

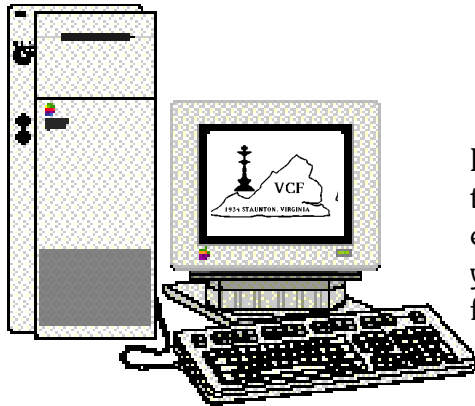
The K-5 section, also with 37 players, was dominated by the 2001 Virginia state championship team from Chesterfield County's Swift Creek Elementary School, which scored 16½ match points to 9½ for Pocahontas ES from Powhatan County. Pocahontas proved itself to be a force to be reck-

oned with since this was their first all out team effort. Alexandria's St Louis ES and Henrico County's Lakeside ES tied for 3rd. St. Louis' Johnny Trischler and Swift Creek's Erik Golden battled to a draw in the last round, ending up with 4½ match points each. Johnny was awarded the 1st place trophy on the basis of tie break points. Philp Chodrow from Staunton, Timothy Atkinson from Luray, and Palmer Mebane, Erin Bradner, Kevin Donaldson, Wil Collins & Christopher Crossley from Swift Creek, scored 4 match points each and shared trophies and medals for 3rd-9th place.

Twenty four players participated in the Primary (K-3) section. The Swift Creek ES team, led by Eric Sawchak and Brian Crossley, placed 1st just ahead of Richmond Montessori's team led by Logan Webb and Allen Qiu. Henrico County's Lakeside team of Kyle and Ethan Lundquist & Susan Brown placed 3rd. There was a four way tie for 1st place individual honors. Katie Verba, a home schooler from Washington, scored 4 points, as did Webb, Sawchak and Crossley. The 5th place trophy went to Collegiate's Lee Beaucham with 3½. Medals were awarded to Montessori's Qiu and Swift Creek's Connor Kaufmann, also with 3½.

The open section, a fund raiser for scholastic chess, was won by Mike Schudel from Fort Lee. The 2nd place trophy went to Dave DeClark, coach of the Collegiate and Glen Allen teams in Henrico County. Jeff Thode, from Fredericksburg, placed 3rd.

For complete results check the VSCA web site at <http://www.uschess.org>



## NEW VCF WEB PAGE

If you haven't been to the VCF home page in a while now's a great time to head back. The site has been completely redesigned. It's easier to navigate, loads quicker and is easier on the eye. Hope you enjoy your site! And should you have any questions, please feel free to drop us a line.

Our Home Page - <http://www.vachess.org>

Everything starts here. A uniform navigation bar above each page sets the stage. Several sections provide immediate information on upcoming events, news and other chess tidbits. We would like to keep the focus on chess in Virginia. If you have anything that you want to share with the world, please forward it to me at <mailto:rmahach@vachess.org>. If you don't find what you want on the front page, a search section allows you to probe the entire VCF web site or go to the best chess search tools out there.

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There's no better chess experience than a weekend of fun with your fellow players. Check out the VCF's roster of Grand Prix events and get the information you need to play and win! Want more playing opportunities? Check out what's going on at the regional tournament clearinghouse or who is sponsoring non-VCF sanctioned events in your area.

Scholastic Chess - <http://www.vachess.org/scholastic.htm>

Virginia's youngsters love chess. Old Dominion youth compete in local, state, national and even international arenas. The VCF's scholastic page is a great launch pad for getting in touch with the many dedicated scholastic volunteers through out the state. Listings of major scholastic events and resources can also be found here.

Newsletter - <http://www.vachess.org/newsletter.htm>

Chess players in Virginia are fortunate to have Macon Shibut as our editor. Macon is not only a two time state champion but is also an internationally acclaimed author of two highly regarding books: *Paul Morphy and the Evolution of Chess Theory* and *The US Chess Hall of Fame*. On this page you'll find a two-year archive of newsletters available to the public. All you need is Adobe's free Acrobat Reader, which you can obtain at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>. There is usually a two to three month delay in posting the most current issue up so that members enjoy the newsletter first.

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What better way to get to know your chess neighbor than to join him or her in a friendly match at your local hangout? From Alexandria to Woodbridge and points between you'll find a listing of places to play in Virginia. Can't find a club near you? Email <mailto:rmahach@vachess.org> and I'll try to steer you to the closest club.

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# Readers' Games & Analysis

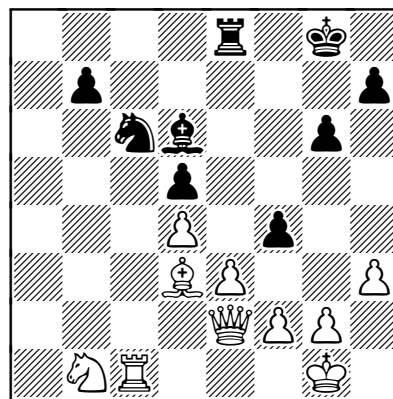


Geoff McKenna - Phil Collier  
DC Chess League 2001  
Semi Slav

Notes by Geoff McKenna

(After the game against Krush (*US Amateur Team* — see page 6) I had an opportunity to put my rating where my mouth was. I think that the opening somewhat vindicated my opinion about the 8th move but the subsequent course of the game wasn't so propitious. Here's what happened:) **1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 c4 d5 4 Nc3 c6 5 e3 Nbd7 6 Qc2 Bd6 7 Bd3 0-0 8 cxd5!? exd5! 9 Bd2** (Here I had two thoughts: (1) White's position is better than in the Krush game; (2) Given the wimpy placement of the White QB, why not play a normal QGD Exchange variation instead? On the other hand, Reshevsky, who understood the QGD about as well as anybody, actually played in the dull.) **9...Re8 10 0-0** (White plays to avoid drama. It was still possible to go for something like g4, Rg1, or O-O-O, but given the placement of my QB I had little confidence in any of these lines.) **10...Nf8 11 h3 Ne6 12 a3 a5** (I suspect this is a mistake, as it weakens b5) **13 Na4 g6 14 b4 axb4 15 axb4 Ng7** (Black proceeds with the normal Stahlberg plan against the exchange QGD. It seems like a bit of a concession to let White get in b5 without a fight.) **16 b5 Ne4 17 Nc3 Bf5 18 Rxa8 Qxa8 19 Nh4?! Nxd2 20 Nxf5? Nxf5?** (Black should call White's bluff with 20...Nxf1, eg, 21 Nxd6 Nxe3 22 fxe3 Rd8 and the knight is trapped on d6. I had hallucinated that after 23 Nxb7 Qxb7 24 bxc6 the Queen on c2 defended the pawn on c6 but there is an intervening knight.) **21 Qxd2 Ne7 22 Qb2?!** (White has emerged from the opening with an advantage that is both tiny and psychologically dangerous — to himself. In a bid to exploit Black's queenside pawn weaknesses White now systematically denudes his own king. As Tarrasch would say, after the opening the Gods have placed the

rest of the game.) **22...Qc8 23 Rc1 Qe6 24 Nb1?! f5!** (Very energetic; White should probably try 25 Qd2 now but this would involve an admission of error in the knight placement, so...) **25 Qe2?! f4 26 bxc6? Nxc6!** (Winning material. After the game Phil said this was the point at which he believed himself to be winning. I agree. Instead of 26 bc White could try either 26 Qg4 or 26 ef achieving an inferior position with reasonable practical chances in either case.) **27 Rxc6** (A little baroque but I didn't want to face ...Nd4)



**27...bxc6 28 e4 Qd7?!** (I think 28...f3 is more energetic, quickly breaking up the White Kingside position. Naturally Black avoids the loss of his queen after 28...de 29. Bc4) **29 Nd2 Bb4?! 30 Nf3 dxe4 31 Bxe4 Kg7 32 Qc2 Rc8** (The game has become a bit messy again. Now 33 h4 and 33 Qb2 both have their points.) **33 Qc4 Bd6 34 h4 h6 35 Qc2 Qe8 36 h5 gxh5 37 Nh4 Kh8 38 Bg6 Qe1+ 39 Kh2 f3+ 40 g3 Qe2!** (Nice move. I was pleasantly surprised not to get mated during the time scramble although as far as I could tell we were both playing good moves.) **41 Kh3 Be7 42 Qf5** (Natural but unreasonable. A better try is 42 Bd3 to encourage a Queen swap. After 42...Qxc2 43 Bxc2 Bxh4 44 gxh4 (and not 44 Kxh4 Re8 Δ Re2) Black is winning but it will require some patience as the c6, f3 and h5 pawns



are all vulnerable. After the text White gets a concussion.) **42...Qf1+ 43 Kh2 Qxf2+ 44 Kh3 Qf1+ 45 Kh2 Qe2+!** (It's good to centralize the queen before otherwise defending the king.) **46 Kh3 Rf8 47 Qxh5 Bg5 48 Bf5 Rf6 49 Ng6+ Kg7 50 Ne5 Qf1+ 51 Kg4 f2 52 Qe8 Qe2+ 0-1**



JOHN McNERNEY - JOHN CAMPBELL  
ARLINGTON SENIORS CHESS CLUB  
CENTER COUNTER

*Notes by Ralph Belter*

(We have recently published several losses by John Campbell. This may be a compliment in disguise. John is such a strong player that when he does lose a game it is newsworthy. Anyway to help set the record straight, here is a more typical Campbell game — one in which he wins with a nice attack.) **1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 Nc3 e6 4 Bc4** (This just loses time. 4 d4 and development was correct. [4 dxe6 ± -ed]) **4...exd5 5 Qe2+** (Now the queen and king are in a dangerous line. 5 Bb3 was relatively best.) **5...Be7 6 Bb3 0-0 7 Nf3 Re8 8 0-0 Bd6 9 Qd3** (Has anybody asked the queen's bishop what it thinks of this development plan?) **9...c6 10 Ne2 Na6 11 c4 Nc5** (White's terrible opening now costs him a piece since the queen must move away.) **12 Qb1 Rxe2 13 cxd5 Nxb3 14 axb3 Nxd5 15 d4 h6 16 Qd3 Qe7 17 Be3 Rxb2 18 Rfe1 Be6 19 Bc1 Nb4 20 Qe4 Rxb3 21 Bd2 Nd5 22 Qc2 Rb5 23 Ne5 Qh4 24 Re4 Qd8 25 Rae1 Nf6 26 Rh4 Bxe5 27 dxe5 Ng4 28 g3 Rxe5 29 Rd1 Qb6 30 Bc3 Bb3 31 Qd3 Qxf2+ 32 Kh1 Bd5+ 0-1** (Of course 32...Bxd1 also won. As for the move actually played, a cute finish would be 32...Bd5 33 Qxd5 cxd5 34 Rxd7 47 Rxe2 Rd3+ 48 Kg4 Rd4+ ½-½) Nicely played John!

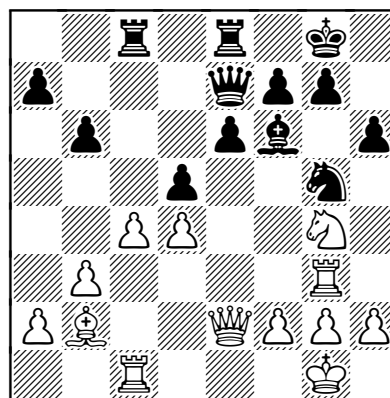


Frank Huber provides another game from the Michael Rohde simultaneous exhibition at the Millennium Festival. Frank was one of three players who managed to draw with the grandmaster.

FRANK HUBER - MICHAEL ROHDE  
SIMULTANEOUS EXHIBITION 2001

QUEEN'S INDIAN

**1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 e3 c5 4 b3 b6 5 Bb2 Bb7 6 Bd3 Be7 7 Nbd2 0-0 8 0-0 cxd4 9 exd4 d6 10 c4 Nbd7 11 Qc2 Rc8 12 Rfe1 Re8 13 Ne4 Nxe4 14 Bxe4 Bxe4 15 Rxe4 d5 16 Rg4 Nf6 17 Rg3 Ne4 18 Rh3 Bf6 19 Ne5 h6 20 Qe2 Ng5 21 Rg3 Qc7 22 Rc1 Qb7 23 Ng4 Qe7**



**24 Nxh6+ gxh6 25 h4 Kh7 26 hxg5 Bxg5 27 Rcc3 Qf6 28 Rcf3 Qg6 29 Bc1 f6 30 Bxg5 hxg5 31 Rh3+ Kg7 32 Rh1 Qb1+ 33 Kh2 Rh8+ 34 Rh3 Qf5 35 g4 Rxb3+ 36 Kxh3 Qe4 37 Qxe4 dxe4 38 Rc1 f5 39 gxf5 exf5 40 d5 Kf6 41 Rd1 f4 42 d6 e3 43 fxe3 fxe3 44 d7 Rd8 45 Kg3 e2 46 Re1 Rxd7 47 Rxe2 Rd3+ 48 Kg4 Rd4+ ½-½**

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT QUICK CHESS!

1st Wednesday of every month  
Tidewater Comm. College, Virginia Beach  
Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach  
in the Cafeteria (Kempsville Bldg D)  
Game in twenty minutes - notation not required.

USCF Quick rated!

Reg: 7:00-7:20 pm, rd 1 at 7:30.

Entry fee: Only one buck!



This is a column devoted to Chess Playing Seniors. After more than a half dozen letters over a period of 8 months I still don't know the age to qualify as a senior in the VCF. I also can't seem to get an answer on a Seniors recruitment drive (or much else). I should give up on this. For now let's say it's anyone in the (DC-VA-MD) area who is at least 50 and who can play (or learn) chess. Please call me at (703) 591-2106 and inform me of your Senior Chess events, notable performances, memorable games, etc.

*Upcoming Senior Chess events.* Over Independence Day we have the World Open in Philadelphia, which gives a \$20 discount on entry fees to seniors over 65 (see *Chess Life*).

*Senior Chess Results:* Dr Constantin Russu won the Blitz championship for the Arlington Seniors Chess Club (again!). The tourney was played in March with Mr Ralph Belter directing.

*Games:* Seniors don't win *all* their games, so here are a few from recent local events where the younger opponent was victorious.

JOHN BROCKHOUSE - JIRI KOVATS

VIRGINIA OPEN 2001

LONDON

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 Bf4 d5 4 e3 Be7 5 c4 0-0 6 h3 h6 7 Nc3 Nbd7 8 Be2 b6 9 0-0 Bb7 10 a3 c5 11 Rb1 cxd4 12 exd4 dxc4 13 Bxc4 Ne4 14 Rc1 Ndf6 15 Re1 Nxc3 16 Rxc3 Bd6 17 Bxd6 Qxd6 18 Ne5 Rfd8 19 Rd3 Nd5 20 f3 Rac8 21 Bb3 Qe7 22 Qd2 b5 23 f4 a6 24 Rg3 Nf6 25 f5 Nh5 26 fxe6 Nxc3 27 exf7+ Kh7 28 Qd3+ Ne4 29 Rxe4 Rc1+ 30 Kh2 Qf6 31 Rf4+ 1-0

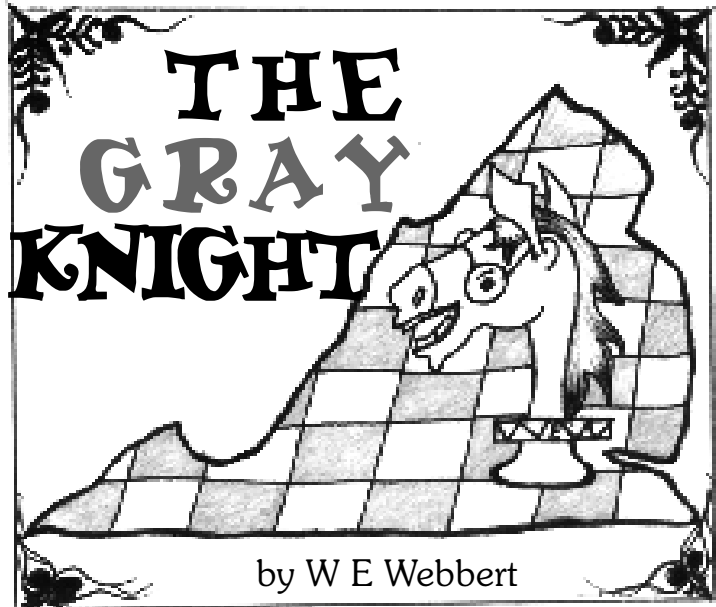
DR SANDA COSTESCU - ANDREW SCHECHTER

DC CHESS LEAGUE 2001

KING'S INDIAN ATTACK

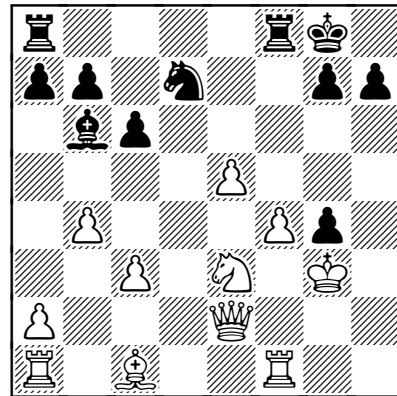
Notes by Andrew Schechter

1 Nf3 d5 2 g3 Bg4 3 Bg2 c6 4 d3 Nf6 5 Nbd2 Nbd7 6 0-0 e5 7 e4 dxe4 8 dxe4 Bc5 9 c3 Qe7 10 b4 Bb6 11 Qc2 (Black was worried about 11 Qb3 with c3-c4-c5 to follow.) 11...0-0 12 Nc4 Bc7 13 h3? Bxf3 14 Bxf3 Qe6 15 Ne3 Qxh3



by W E Webbert

16 Bg2 Qh5 17 f4 (opening the king position and allowing a bad pin) exf4 18 gxf4 Bb6 19 Bf3 Ng4 (risky considering White's reply) 20 Qe2 f5 21 e5 Qg6 22 Bxg4 fxc4 23 Kg2 (23 Qc4+) Qe4+ 24 Kg3



24...Nxe5 25 fxe5 (if 25 Qc2 Nd3 26 Nxc4 Bc7; or if 25 Rd1 Rxf4) 25...Rxf1 26 Qxf1 Bxe3 27 Bxe3 Qxe3+ 28 Kxc4 Rf8 29 Qc4+ Kh8 30 Rf1 h5+ 31 Kh4 g5+ 32 Kxh5 Qh3+ 33 Kg6 Qxf1 34 Qd4 Rg8+ 35 Kh5 Qh3+ 0-1







## Book Review

*Understanding Chess Move by Move*

by John Nunn

Gambit Publications Ltd, softcover, 240 pages. \$19.95 list

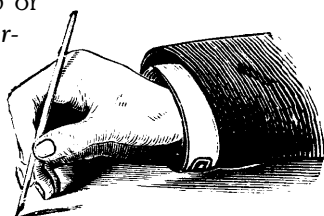
At this point I think it fair to say that English grandmaster John Nunn is the preeminent chess writer of our age. He is prolific, he writes with clarity and authority, and his range is truly astounding — traditional game collections, beginners' textbooks, a series of computer-assisted endgame tomes, a single-volume opening encyclopedia, books on chess problems and endgame studies, and the definitive monographs on a variety of mainstream openings! His new offering, *Understanding Chess Move by Move*, is another worthy, if slightly schizophrenic, effort.

The book features thirty heavily annotated games selected and organized to comprise a series of lessons on basic strategic themes: opposite-side castling, the defensive sacrifice, weak color complex, isolated d-pawn, rook on the seventh rank, etc. Of course modern grandmaster chess is not really so one-dimensional. Happily, Nunn does not short change the reader in this regard, but readily ventures into whatever digression or ancillary lesson the game indicates.

Each game concludes with a list of "key lessons." These include both technical ("A rook can prove an effective defender along the second rank, while still continuing to operate aggressively along a file.") and psychological ("Avoid laziness. Clarifying the position might be a good idea, but making a pawn exchange too early can reduce one's options later.") points. I suspect most readers will find these summations very useful in helping step back from the messy complications of practical chess to refocus on The Big Picture.

What is not so clear is the intended audience of the book as a whole. In his desire to let almost no move pass unexplained, Nunn elucidates the most basic principles in connection with a move like, eg, 2 Nf3 (after 1 e4 e5). These discussions seem aimed at 'advanced beginners.' Yet later in the same game Nunn will offer detailed analysis of middlegame complexities that would hardly be comprehensible to any reader below expert.

Be that as it may, this is a nice book that will entertain and instruct practically any club or tournament player. *Understanding Chess Move by Move* is beautifully printed and bound in a large (10"x7") format.



*Deadline for Next Issue:*  
**July 4**

(will assemble the issue  
immediatly after the World Open)

### 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. **\$\$1,800** (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 (\$10, \$5 jr), OSA.Reg. 9-9:45  
am. Rds. 10-230-7, 10-230-7. Two 1/2-pt byes  
avail, rds 4-5-6 must declare before rd 2. Hotel  
\$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](mailto:matkins@wizard.net) — No phone entries! **Enter:**  
Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139 Alexandria, VA  
22306, make checks payable to "VA Chess".

*20 Point Grand Prix*

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, PO Box 6139, 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

*Pewsletter*

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More Early History:  
A Complete Account of  
GM Reuben Fine's  
Simultaneous Exhibition  
at the Richmond Chess Club  
January 7, 1945

