



# MILLENNIUM CHESS FESTIVAL

## VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

MARCH 1-3 2 0 0 2

THE 3rd MILLENNIUM CHESS FESTIVAL was held March 1-3 at the Ramada Plaza Resort in Virginia Beach. Thanks in large part to sponsorship from Virginia Beach and various local businesses, this young event has already emerged as one of the most pleasant and interesting highlights on the national chess calendar. This year, 217 players participated — only a slight increase over last year's festival, but not bad considering an unfortunate schedule conflict that put the tournament opposite two other large events (the US Masters and the Eastern Class Championships).

GMs Alex Shabalov & Julio Becerra tied for 1st place in the Open section at 4½-½. In the final round they defeated, respectively, GM Alex Ivanov and IM Larry Kaufman.



photo: Mike Atkins

*William Stokes employs his novel motivational approach at the Millennium Festival. He made a vow to take a plunge in the frigid March surf after losing a game. As our exclusive photo proves, William did not go undefeated.*

ALEXANDER IVANOV - ALEXANDER SHABALOV  
RUY LOPEZ

Notes by GM Alexander Shabalov

1 e4 e5

In the last round game when you're in a must win situation with Black pieces the choice of a classical opening is almost universal.

2 Nf3 Nc6  
3 Bb5 a6  
4 Ba4 Nf6  
5 O-O Be7  
6 Bxc6

Ivanov deviates from his usual 6 Re1 and goes for a much safer option. However the text gives Black two bishops very early in the game and leaves White without too much hopes for opening advantage.

6 ... dxc6  
7 d3

I used 7 Qe1 to beat Alexander with White pieces more than 10(!) years ago: 7 Qe1 Nd7 8 b3 c5 9 Bb2 f6 10 Nh4 O-O 11 Nc3 g6 12 f4 exf4 13 Nd5 Bd6 14 Nxf4 Ne5 15 Qg3 g5 16 Nf5 Bxf5 17 exf5 Nc6 18 h4 h6 19 Qg4 Bxf4 20 Rxf4 Qd7 21 hxg5 hxg5 22 Re4 Rf7 23 Rae1 Raf8 24 R1e3 Rh7 25 Rd3 Qg7 26 Qe2 Rh6 27 Re8 Qf7 28 Rde3 Rxe8 29 Rxe8+ Kh7 30 Re6 Qh5 31 Qxh5 Rxh5 32 Rxf6 g4 33 Rf7+ Kh6 34 d3 Kg5 35 g3 Rh3 36 Bc1+ 1-0, Shabalov - A Ivanov, London (Lloyds Bank), 1991

7 ... Nd7  
8 Nbd2 O-O  
9 Nc4 f6  
10 Nh4 Nc5

10...g6 denying White f5 square access is another popular move.

11 Qf3

Even though this is the main line, 11 Be3 is slightly more precise, leaving White with an option to play Qh5 later.



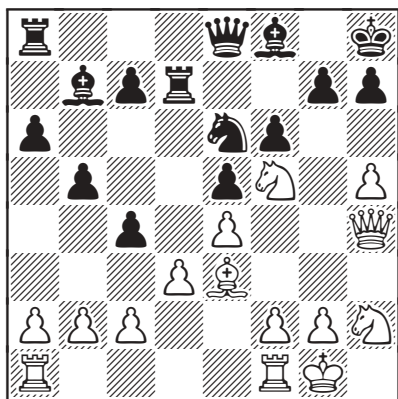
11 ... Rf7  
 12 Nf5 Bf8  
 13 Be3 Ne6  
 14 h4

According to Ivanov, just this move was a novelty and attempt to improve his recent game against Ziatdinov where he was playing Black(!) It followed 14 Qg3 Kh8 15 f4 and eventually the draw was agreed. In my opinion Black still has a very pleasant position because of two bishops.

14 ... b5  
 15 Nd2 c5  
 16 Qg3 Kh8  
 17 h5 Rd7

This move is designed to stop White's Nd2-f3-h4 maneuver with its quite unpleasant idea Ng6+.

18 Nf3 Qe8  
 19 Qh4 Bb7  
 20 Nh2 c4



An important move in Black's strategy; it opens d- and b- files and also extends diagonals for Black bishops.

21 dxc4 bxc4  
 22 c3 Rad8  
 23 f3 Qf7  
 24 Ng4 Bc6!

White's build-up on the kingside looks impressive but in fact it is absolutely harmless. h5-h6 always runs into g5. In a course of a few moves now, White switches to passive defense.

25 Nf2 Rb8  
 26 Rfb1 Nc5  
 27 g4

The only move. Threatening g5, White wins a tempo and frees his queen for queenside defense.

27 ... h6  
 28 Qh2 Na4  
 29 Nd1 Rbd8  
 30 b3

Even though the rule says do not open the position against the bishops, this move is forced in view of the threat ...Bc5 followed by ...Rd2

30 ... Nc5  
 31 Qc2 a5  
 32 Nf2 Kg8  
 33 Kg2 Bb5

Move by move Black is increasing pressure on White's position and the latter is eventually running out of useful moves. Also the situation on the clock was quite unfortunate for White. Therefore, Alexander decides to force the play.

34 b4 axb4  
 35 Rxb4 c6  
 36 Rbb1 Ra8

## VIRGINIA CHESS Newsletter

2002 - Issue #2

Editor:

Macon Shibut  
 8234 Citadel Place  
 Vienna VA 22180  
 mshibut@dgs.dgsys.com

Circulation:

Roger Mahach  
 7901 Ludlow Ln  
 Dunn Loring, VA 22027  
 rmahach@vachess.org



Virginia Chess is published six times per year by the Virginia Chess Federation. VCF membership dues (\$10/yr adult; \$5/yr junior) include a subscription to *Virginia Chess*. Send material for publication to the editor. Send dues, address changes, etc to Circulation.



37 Bxc5 Bxc5  
38 a4

By this sac White is managing to exchange one pair of rooks and prevent Black's intrusion on d-file.

38 ... Rda7  
39 a5 Rxa5  
40 Rxa5 Rxa5  
41 Rd1 Ra8  
42 Rd2 Qe8  
43 Nh1 Ba4  
44 Qc1 Bb3  
45 Nhg3 Kh7

This is important prophylaxis before challenging White on d-file and the final invasion.

46 Kh3 Ra7  
47 Qe1 Rd7  
48 Rxd7 Qxd7  
49 Qa1?

White is dreaming of the construction Qa8 and then Nf5-h4-g6 but he is one tempo short of making it work.

49 ... Bd1!

This move, attacking f3 pawn and cutting off White's queen from kingside defense, decides the game. Black's queen will invade on d2 and soon the mate must follow.

50 Nh4 Qd2  
51 Nf1 Qe2  
52 Ng3 Qc2  
53 Nf1 Bg1  
0-1



3rd-4th place and top U2400 went to GMs Igor Novikov & Alex Stripunsky and WGM Martha Fierro. It was a tough section with 6 grandmasters, several IMs, and several titled women among the 50+ players.

The Under-2000 section also ended in a two-way tie for 1st at 4½ points between Robert Walker & Jason McKinney. Mark Bland won the Under-1600 section outright with a perfect 5-0 sweep. Jonathan Motley's 4½ points took the Under-1300 group.



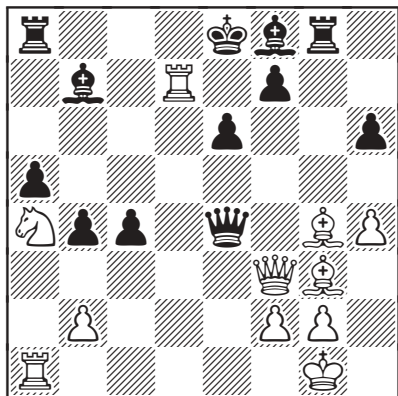
LARRY KAUFMAN - ALEXANDER STRIPUNSKY  
SLAV, BOTVINNIK ANTI-MERAN

Notes by GM Alexander Stripunsky

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 e6 5 Bg5 h6 6 Bb4 dxc4 7 e4 g5 8 Bg3 b5 9 Be2 Bb7 10 h4 g4 11 Ne5 Rg8 (11...h5) 12 Nxc4 (12 O-O Nbd7 13 Nxc4 (13 Nxd7 Qxd7 14 e5 Nh5 15 Bxc4 Nxc3 16 fxc3 O-O-O 17 Kh2 c5 18 dxc5 b4 19 Na4 Qc6= Smirnov-Shinkevich, St Petersburg 2001) 13...Nh5 14 e5 Nxc3 15 fxc3 Qb6 16 a4 Glek-Dreev, Essen 2000; 12 h5?! Nbd7 13 Nxd7 Nxd7 14 Bxc4 Qb6 15 O-O Rd8 16 e5 Nf6 17 Bxe6 Rxd4 18 Qe2 Nd5 19 Bxd5 cxd5 20 Kh2 b4 21 Nd1 Re4 22 Qd2 Rg5 23 Ne3 d4 24 Rad1 Bc5 25 Qe2 dxe3 26 f4 Rg8 27 b3 Qe6 28 f5 Qxe5 0-1 Timman-Vallejo Pons, Pamplona 1999) 12...Nxc4 13 Bxc4 Nd7 14 O-O (14 Bf3 Qb6 15 a4 a6 16 Qd2 O-O-O 17 a5 Qa7 18 Qf4 Rxc3 19 Qxc3 Qxd4= Pavlov-Yagupov, St Petersburg 2000) 14...Qb6 (14...Nf6 15 Be2 Qb6 16 a4 O-O-O 17 a5 Qxd4 18 Qxd4 Rxd4 19 a6 Ba8 20 Be5 Rd2 21 Bf3 Rd3 22 Be2 Ng4 23 Bxd3 Nxe5 24 Be2 Kc7= Filippov-Dreev, Neum 2000) 15 a4 a5 (15...a6!?) 16 axb5 cxb5 17 Qf3!? (17 Bxe6 fxe6 18 Qh5+ Kd8 19 Nxb5 Bxe4! Δ20 Bc7+



Qxc7 21 Nxc7 Rxc2+) 17...b4! 18 Na4 (18 Nd5 exd5 19 Bxd7+ Kxd7 20 Qxf7+ Be7 winning; 18 Ne2 Nf6! 19 Qxf6 Rxc2+) 18...Qxd4 19 Rfd1 Qxe4 20 Rxd7

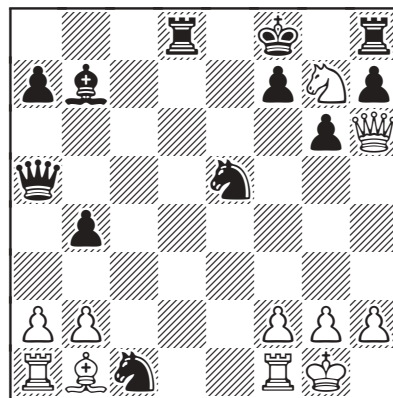


20...Qxf3 21 Bxf3 Bxf3 22 Rc7 (22 gxf3 Kxd7 23 Nb6+ Kc6 24 Nxa8 Bc5! wins) 22...Bd5 23 Nb6 Ra6 24 Rc8+ Ke7 25 Nxc4? (25 Rc7+! Kf6 26 Nd7+ (26 Nxc4 Bxc4 27 Rxc4 a4 -+) 26...Kf5 27 Rc8 Ra8 (27...Rxc3 28 fxc3 Bg7 29 Rf1+±; 27...a4!? 28 Nxf8 a3 29 bxa3 Rxa3 30 Re1 f6±) 28 Rxa8 Bxa8 29 Rxa5+ Bd5 30 Nxf8 Rxf8 31 Bd6 Rg8 32 f3 b3±) 25...Kd7 26 Rc7+ Kd8! -+ (White's rook, knight & bishop are all vulnerable) 27 Ne3 Rxc3 28 Rxf7 Rg8 29 Nxd5 exd5 30 Rf5 a4 31 Rxd5+ Bd6 32 g3 a3 33 bxa3 bxa3 34 Ra2 Kd7 35 Kf1 Rb8 36 Rdd2 Rb3 37 Ke2 Ke6 38 Kd1 Rab6 1-0

RUSTY POTTER - IGOR NOVIKOV  
SLAV, MERAN

Notes by GM Igor Novikov

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 c6 4 e3 Nf6 5 Nf3 Nbd7 6 Bd3 dxc4 7 Bxc4 b5 8 Bd3 Bb7 9 e4 b4 10 Na4 c5 11 dxc5!? (11 e5 Nd5 is theory) 11...Qa5 (11...Nxe4 12 Bb5 Bxc5 13 Ne5 Bxf2+ 14 Ke2 Ba6 15 Bxa6 Nxe5 16 Bb7 Qh4∞) 12 O-O Bxc5 13 e5 Ng4 14 Nxc5 Nxc5 15 Bb1 Rd8 16 Nd4 Nxe5 17 Qh5 Ncd3 (17...Rd5!±) 18 Nxe6 g6 19 Ng7+ Kf8 20 Qh6 Nxc1 (20...Qd5 21 Nh5+! (21 Nf5+ Ke8 22 Ne3 Qxc2+ 23 Nxc2 Nf3+ 24 Kh1 Nxf2+ 25 Rxf2 Rd1+ 26 Ne1 Rxe1+ 27 Kg2 Rg1+ 28 Kh3 Bc8+) 21...Ke7 22 Qg5+ f6 23 Nxf6 Qxc2+ 24 Qxc2 Bxc2 25 Kxc2 Kxf6±; 20...Kg8!?)



21 Rxc1 (21 Ne6+ Ke7 22 Nxd8 Ne2+ 23 Kh1 Rxd8 24 Qe3 Kf6 25 Qxe2 Ba6 26 Qe1 Bxf1 27 Qxf1 Ng4! threatening 28...Rd1 or 28...Qe5) 21...Kg8 (X Ng7) 22 Bf5 Qd5 23 Bh3 Ng4 24 Qh4 h5 25 Nf5 gxf5 26 Qg5+ Kf8 27 Re1 Qd6 28 g3 Rg8 29 Qxf5 Qc6 30 f3 Qb6+ 31 Kh1 Rd2 32 Bxc4 hxc4 33 Rf1 Rf2 0-1



GM Igor Novikov

photo: Mike Atkins

RICHARD FRANCISCO - ALEXANDER SHBALOV  
KING'S GAMBIT

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 g5 4 h4 g4 5 Ne5 d6 6 Nxc4 Nf6 7 Nxf6+ Qxf6 8 Nc3 c6 9 Qf3 Bh6 10 g4 Bg7 11 g5 Qe7 12 d4 Bxd4 13 Bxf4 Be5 14 O-O-O Be6 15 Bxe5 dxe5 16 Nd5 cxd5 17 exd5 Bd7 18 d6 Qe6 19 Bh3 Qxa2 20 g6 f5 21 Bxf5 Nc6 22 g7 Rg8 23 Bxd7+ Kxd7 24 Rd5 Ke6 25 Rd3 Rxc7 26 Rf1 Kd7 27 Rb3 Qa1+ 28 Kd2 Qa5+ 29 Kd1 Rd8 30 Qf6 Rg2 31 Rxb7+ Kc8 32 Rc7+ Qxc7 0-1



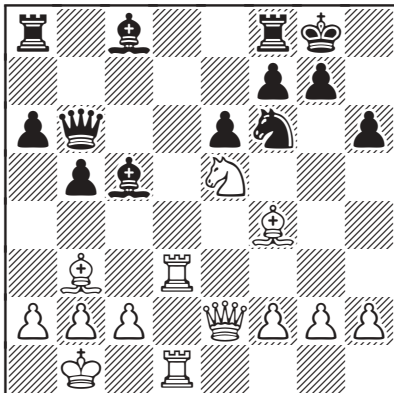


**ALEXANDER SHABALOV - DANIEL MILLER**  
**MERAN DEFENSE**

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e3 e6 5 Nf3 Nbd7 6 Bd3 dxc4 7 Bxc4 b5 8 Bd3 Bb7 9 O-O a6 10 e4 c5 11 d5 Qc7 12 dxe6 fxe6 13 Bc2 Be7 14 Ng5 Qc6 15 Qf3 h6 16 Qh3 hxg5 17 Qxh8+ Kf7 18 Qh3 g4 19 Qe3 Ne5 20 Ne2 Nc4 21 Qg3 Nxe4 22 Qxg4 Rh8 23 Nf4 Ne5 24 Qe2 Bf6 25 f3 Nd6 26 Bd2 c4 27 Rae1 g5 28 Nxe6 Kxe6 29 Bxg5 Kf7 30 f4 Nd7 31 Rf2 Ne8 32 Qg4 Bd4 33 Bg6+ Kxg6 34 f5+ Kf7 35 Re7+ Kf8 36 Qxd4 Ndf6 37 Bxf6 Nxf6 38 Re6 1-0

**ALEXANDER IVANOV - JOHN ROULEAU**  
**FRENCH**

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 c5 4 exd5 Qxd5 5 Ngf3 cxd4 6 Bc4 Qd6 7 Qe2 Nf6 8 Nb3 Nc6 9 Bg5 Be7 10 O-O-O a6 11 Nbx4 Nxd4 12 Rxd4 Qc7 13 Rhd1 O-O 14 Ne5 h6 15 Bf4 Qa5 16 Kb1 Bc5 17 R4d3 b5 18 Bb3 Qb6



State Champion Rusty Potter

photo: Mike Atkins

19 Bxh6 gxh6 20 Rg3+ Kh8 21 Qf3 Be7 22 Qxa8 Bb7 23 Nxf7+ Kh7 24 Bxe6 Qxe6 25 Qxb7 Qxf7 26 Qxa6 Qh5 27 Re1 Bb4 28 c3 Bc5 29 Qxb5 Rf7 30 Qd3+ Kh8 31 Rf3 Kg7 32 Qf5 Qxf5+ 33 Rxf5 Bd6 34 h3 Kg6 35 g4 h5 36 Re6 Bb8 37 Rb5 Bc7 38 g5 1-0



WIM Anna Hahn

photo: Mike Atkins

Saturday evening's events included a WBCA blitz event that had an exciting finish. Going into the final round, four players were tied with 7-1: GMs Ivanov & Becerra, IM Luis Chiong, and Richard Francisco. WGM Martha Fierro was only a ½ point back. In the finale, Becerra defeated Francisco 2-0 while Chiong defeated Ivanov by the same score to tie for 1st, 9-1 each. Fierro got to 8½ to finish 3rd. Francisco won a well-deserved top under 2100 prize. Brian Salomon was top under-1800 and Deneil Brazell took top under 1500.

Saturday night also featured a Millennium Festival innovation: the Grandmaster Buffet/Exhibition Game. GMs Michael Rohde & Alex Stripunsky played from two different rooms at a time control of game/60 minutes. The basic idea was for the players to think aloud for the benefit of the audience, who simultaneously enjoyed dinner catered by the Ramada.



**ALEXANDER STRIPUNSKY - MICHAEL ROHDE**  
**MCF III EXHIBITION "DINNER GAME," FEB 3, 2002**  
**KINGS INDIAN ATTACK**

*Notes edited by Tom Braunlich based on  
 comments by GMs Rohde & Stripunsky*

*This year's Millennium Festival included an experimental exhibition game played by two grandmasters from separate rooms, with moves relayed via radio by two helpers (Tom Braunlich and Rodney Flores, respectively). Each player had his own audience, to whom he explained his thoughts as the contest proceeded. Occasionally the grandmasters considered questions or suggestions from the audience. In each room there were two demo boards: one displaying the current position and one used by the grandmaster to demonstrate analysis.*

*The exhibition proved to be very popular with the audience, who unanimously praised the experience of gaining insights to the thought patterns of the grandmasters. They also liked the dinner buffet and open cash bar available during the game!*

*The following notes are primarily from a video tape made in the Rohde room, and are thus mostly Rohde's comments. I also include a few notes from Stripunsky's comments. [TB]*

**1 e4 c5**

This may be my longest think of the game, answering his expected 1 e4. There are seven real possibilities here, including French, Alekhine, etc.

**2 Nf3 e6**

This move is the most flexible of the Sicilian moves, leaving open the option to play the Taimanov, Kann, Scheveningen, etc

**3 d3 d5**

**4 Nbd2**

Played in order to preserve the queens in the event of a pawn trade on e4

**4 ... Nc6**

**5 g3**

Most of White's moves for the first 10 or so moves are "automatic" in this opening, whereas Black must really think about where to place his two kingside minor pieces.

**5 ... Bd6**

If the bishop goes to e7 White's likelihood of playing e5 goes up. One of the ideas of playing ...Bd6 is to make e5 more difficult.

**6 Bg2**

Stripunsky prefers playing Nh4 and f4 to attack. NM Macon Shibut played 6 Qe2!? against me last year in Millennium Festival II. The idea there is to enforce e5 and also to discourage ...Nf6

**6 ... Nf6**

6...Nge7 is the right move but I'm using this game as a sort of experiment. To play e5 White must prepare with c3 and d4. Black will make queenside counterplay to discourage this setup. If White achieves e5 he can continue with a flank attack with h4-h5.

*In Stripunsky's room 6...Nf6 came as a great surprise. Alex had just spent some time outlining the main defensive setups by Black, explaining that he usually favors a kingside fianchetto. He also mentioned that the setup with ...Bd6 and ...Nge7 is common, but just as he was pointing out that ...Bd6 and ...Nf6 is not considered good we found that that was indeed what had been played! For a long time Stripunsky warily continued with the buildup he knew should be good against it, playing for c3 and d4, wondering what Rohde was up to.*

**7 0-0 0-0**

**8 Re1 Bc7**

**9 c3 b5**

I've convinced myself that 9...b5 is best. White may take on d5 and play 10 c4... perhaps I should cheat and see what that looks like! (Rohde plays it out for the crowd). 9...b6?! is too slow and will not distract White from playing e5 and continuing his attack.



**10 exd5 exd5**

10...Nxd5 looks dubious due to 11 c4 and the danger on the h1-a8 diagonal.

*Over in the other room Stripunsky had indeed demonstrated many lines for his audience where the Bg2 spits fire on the diagonal.*

**11 Nb3**

Makes d4 strong for himself, perhaps to eventually get a Nc5.

*After analysis lines with c2-c4, Stripunsky selected this move as a solid way to go for a clear edge. He correctly anticipated the next several moves on his analysis board at this point, declaring it is good for White.*

**11 ... Bb6**

**12 Be3**

12...Qd6 is a provocative possibility, enticing 13 Bf4 Qd8

**12 ... c4**

**13 Nbd4**

*Stripunsky explained that although taking 13 dxc4 is tempting to the audience (to open the long diagonal or else leave a backward pawn after 13...bxc4), in fact it is better to leave the tension and wait for the right moment, if ever, to make this exchange. Keeping the d-pawn on also controls e4 for a long time, unless Black plays cxd3 at some point. In the meantime, this immediate Nbd4 move comes with tempo due to the threat on the b-pawn.*

**13 ... Nxd4**

**14 Nxd4**

It's important to note that Stripunsky left the d3 pawn on to keep my pieces out of e4. Otherwise I could maybe get counterplay with ...Ne4 in some instances.

**14 ... Bg4**

Played for "irritation value." If now 15 Qd2 Qd7 16 Bg5 Bd8!?

*This bishop sortie came as a surprise in the Stripunsky room.*

**15 Qd2**

*Time on the clocks was about even here.*

**15 ... Qd7**

He may play Bg5 and double my f-pawns and eventually win the f6 pawn... I cannot worry about one pawn, but definitely do not want to give up the d5 pawn.

**16 a4! a6**

*One of the spectators asked "What's wrong with 19...bxa4 here.' Rohde replied White plays 20 dxc4 and rips Black's center to shreds.*

**17 Bg5**

The move 16 a4 makes ...Bd8 impossible here due to the pin on the a-file.

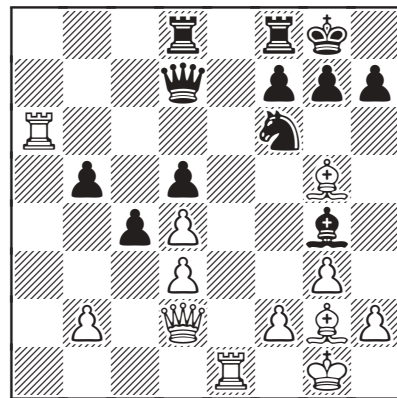
**17 ... Bxd4**

**18 cxd4 Rad8**

White's position is active. He threatens infiltration with Ra6, and mating attacks with Re5.

**19 axb5 axb5**

**20 Ra6**



This is a committal move in that it leaves the first rank somewhat open.

*Stripunsky demonstrated several lines in which this rook takes on f6, rather than the bishop, to create a mating net.*



20 ... Rfe8  
 21 Bxf6 gxf6  
 22 Rxf6 cxd3  
 23 Bf1 Bf5  
 24 h4 Bg6  
 25 Rxe8+ Rxe8  
 26 Bxd3 Qe7

This gets to a pawn down ending that Black may be able to hold.

27 Rf3

*The time limit has become a factor. (The time control was game/i hour.) White had 10 minutes left, to Black's 75 seconds!*

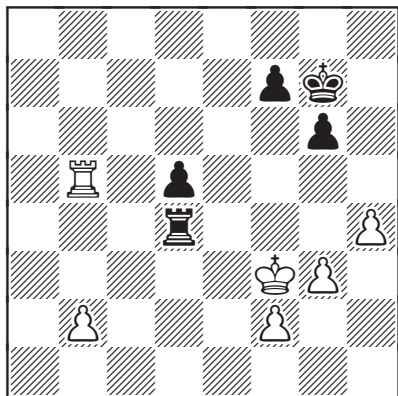
27 ... Qe1+  
 28 Qxe1 Rxe1+  
 29 Kg2 Rd1

The position still looks bad. There is not enough distance between the white king and the black d5 pawn.

30 Bxg6 hxg6  
 31 Rb3 Rxd4  
 32 Rxb5 Kg7

White may play Rb6 to cut off my king, and this is the move I'm most concerned about.

33 Kf3



"With this move, I propose a draw," says Stripunsky. "We very gratefully accept," answers Rohde... Black has drawing chances with his active rook but the draw offer is still generous.

1/2-1/2

If the main tournament, the blitz tournament, and the grandmaster exhibition game weren't enough, there was also a Friday afternoon chess camp. Attendees were treated to instruction from GM Rohde.

And finally, perhaps the best news of all — Virginia Beach has again offered to sponsor the event for next year, so planning is already underway for Millennium Chess festival IV ! Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to attend this crown jewel of Virginia tournaments: **March 28-30, 2003**. In view of its inaugural success, the Exhibition Dinner Match will be back again too, bigger and better.

Tom Braunlich & Rodney Flores once again organized the Millennium Chess Festival III. Ernie Schlich and Michael Atkins served as tournament directors.

*3rd annual*

## George Washington Open

June 15-16, 2002  
 Best Western Mt Vernon Hotel  
 8751 Richmond Highway  
 Alexandria VA 22309

6-SS, Game/2 hours. \$\$1800, top three G, rest b/60: \$500-300-200, top X, A, B, C, D, U1200 each \$120, unr \$80.

EF \$45 if rec'd by 6/8, \$55

at site. VCF memb req'd,

OSA. Reg 9-9:45am,

rds 10-2:30-7, 10-

2:30-7. Two 1/2 pt byes

available, rd 4-5-6

byes irrevokable and

must be declared before

rd 2. Hotel \$69+tax, 1-2,

(703)360-1300. NS, NC, W, FIDE rated. For

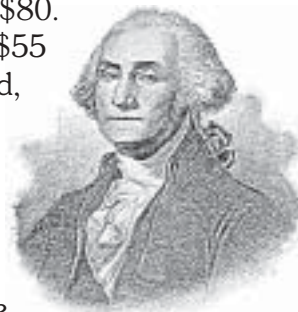
more info email [matkins@wizard.net](mailto:matkins@wizard.net) or

browse <http://www.wizard.net/~matkins/gwo.htm>. Enter: Michael Atkins, PO Box

6139 Alexandria, VA 22306. Make checks

payable to "VA Chess"

*20 Grand Prix points*







# NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHESS CLASSIC

## Chess in the 21st century, Old Dominion Style

by Mike Atkins

The VCF's Northern Virginia Chess Classic got off to a flying start at its new Dulles Airport Hyatt Hotel venue over the weekend of February 23-24, 2002. Eighty-nine players jetted in for the weekend of 64-square action and all seemed to enjoy the new site.

With each local tournament I finding myself remarking yet again at the strength of the field, and still each tournament gets a little stronger. Twenty-two of the entrants here were rated over 2000; fourteen were over 2200; eight were over 2300; and five topped 2400 mark. A player like IM Larry Kaufman is accustomed to being top-rated on the wallchart at local events, but here he was number 5! The top seeds this time were GMs Igor Novikov & Alex Wojtkiewicz, both regulars on the chess circuit. As the rating system would predict, both finished at 4½-½, as did IM Eugene Meyer and FM Rodion Rubenchik, from Pennsylvania, in a four-way tie for 1st place.

The opening round was marked by several upsets. NM Phil Collier began with a loss to Rene Stolbach. (Thereafter Phil reeled off 4 straight wins, the textbook Swiss Gambit style.) David Slack dropped a point to rapidly improving Marika Litras in a game that held up as the upset prize with a 609-point rating differential.

By the 4th round, the leader board had shaped up with Novikov, Wojtkiewicz, Meyer, Kaufman, Rubenchik, Yevgeniy Gershov & Boris Privman all with 3-0 scores. Novikov defeated Kaufman while Meyer was defeating Gershov to set up the final round match of the only two perfect scores, as Privman lost to Tegshsuren and Wojtkiewicz drew with Rubenchik. The final logjam was created when Meyer and Novikov played a tough



draw, Rubenchik defeated Tegshsuren, and Wojtkiewicz defeated Wang Lee.

Other prizewinners included Alex Passov & Paul Yavari (= top expert); David Slack, Mark Young & Andrew Samuelson (= top class A); Kebadu Belachew (B); Wil Acevedo, Chris Johnson, Ken Samuel, Daniel Aisen, Lindy Ergino, Luois Helly & Chris Snell (= C); Malcolm Scott, Tyler Cook, John Brockhouse, Jordan Levine & Jordan Flemer (= D); Paul Coffey (under 1200); and Allan Salgado (unrated). Jordan Flemer had the best rating gain in the tournament, picking up over 90 points. Congrats!

I have played and directed at dozens of different hotel sites on the east coast. The Hyatt at Dulles compares favorably with the best of them and I'd have to say it is among the top 3-4 playing venues, ranking alongside the Foxwoods and the DC Wyndham as 4-star chess arenas. The hotel guest rooms are also superb, and at \$79 a night a value that is hard to beat. One side of the hotel offers panoramic views of the Airport, yet with the best of modern construction materials everything is soundproof with no jet noise at all.

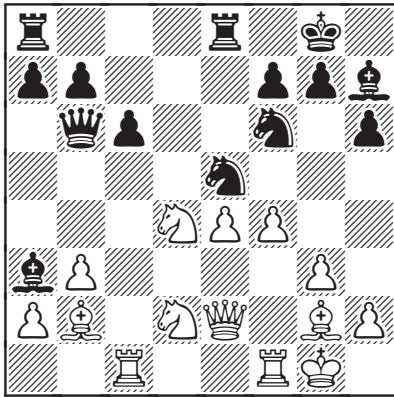
'Thanks to all who played in the tournament and helping the VCF get off to a great start at a classy new locations. And kudos to Catherine Clark for finding the site!

**EUGENE MEYER - TED UDELSON**

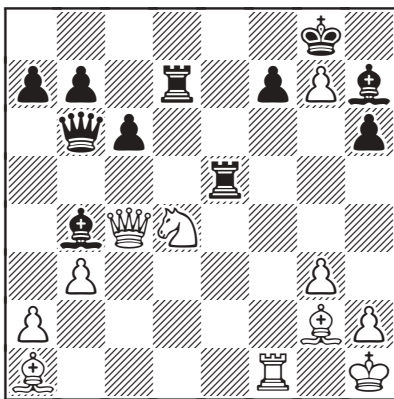
**RETI**

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

**1 c4 c6 2 Nf3 d5 3 b3 Nf6 4 Bb2 Bf5 5 g3 h6 6 Bg2 e6 7 O-O Be7 8 d3 O-O 9 Nbd2 Nbd7 10 cxd5 exd5 11 Nd4 Bh7 12 e4 dxe4 13 dxe4 Re8 14 Rc1 Ne5 15 Qe2 Qb6 16 f4 Ba3** (This invites a tactical retort. Obviously 17 Bxa3 Qxd4+ 18 Kh1 Neg4 would be nothing special for White, but...)



**17 Ba1! Bxc1 18 fxe5 Bxd2 19 exf6 Bb4 20 fxg7** (For the exchange White has gotten to drive the g7 pawn into the opponent's king position. It's very hard for Black to stabilize such a position.) **20...Rad8 21 Qc4 Re7** (Possibly he could defend f7 with the other rook so as to use this one to support capturing e4, ie, 21...Rd7 22 Kh1 Bxe4 since after 23 Bxe4 Rxe4 a "trick" like 24 Nf5 is adequately covered by 24...Re6) **22 Kh1 Rdd7 23 e5** (The natural continuation of the attack, clearing the diagonal of his light-square bishop and preparing to pry open lines around Black's king with e6. (Mate with Rf8 looms in the event of ...fxe6) **23...Rxe5?**



(Understandable, since the prospect of e6 was really intimidating, but evidently a mistake. He should try to get the queens off, 23...Qc5, and if 24 e6 Qxc4 25 bxc4 Rc7 offhand I don't see a knockout for White.) **24 Nxc6!**

Now things get fun. The Re5 is attacked but Black was relying on his next move:

### 24...Bd3

and now if, for instance, 25 Qxb4 Qxb4 26 Nxb4 Bxf1 27 Bxe5 Bxg2+ 28 Kxg2 a5 Black picks up another piece! However...

**25 Nxe5! Bxc4 26 Nxd7** (As noted earlier, Black can never feel safe as long as that g7 pawn is lodged near his heart. Tactics will always work out against him in the end. Thus, if now 26...Qe6 27 bxc4 Qxd7 28 Bd5 followed by Bxf7+ will produce an ending like the actual game except Black lacks his f-pawn) **26...Bxf1 27 Nxb6 Bxg2+ 28 Kxg2 axb6 29 Kf3** (White could also play to maintain the g7 pawn with 29 Bf6 as Black could never get his bishop around to eliminate the intruder without exposing his h-pawn. For example, 29...Bd2 30 a4 h5 31 Kh3 Bh6 32 Kh4 Bxg7 33 Bxg7 Kxg7 34 Kxh5 with a winning pawn ending for White. But Meyer reckons that the monster pawn was more a middle game asset. He lets it go for the sake of an endgame prize: a monster king.) **29...Be7 30 Ke4 f6 31 Kf5 Kxg7 32 Ke6 Bc5 33 Bxf6+ Kg6 34 a4 Bg1 35 h3 h5 36 Bd8 Bf2 37 g4 hxg4 38 hxg4 Be3 39 Kd7 1-0**

## GEORGE MASON OPEN

April 27-28, 2001

George Mason University  
Professional Center  
3401 N. Fairfax Dr  
Arlington, VA

*(The old Law School, across from Virginia Square Metro Stop)*

5-SS, Rds 1,2,3 G/100, rds 4,5 G/2. \$1800  
b/60 (top 3 G): \$500-300-200; top Expert,  
A,B,C,D,U1200 each \$120; unr \$80. EF \$40  
if rec'd by 4/20, \$50 at site. Reg 9-9:45 am,  
rds 10-2-6, Sun. 10-2:30. One unrevokable ½  
pt bye avail; rd 4-5 bye must declare before  
rd 2. FIDE rated. Enter: Michael Atkins, PO  
Box 6139, Alexandria, VA 22306.

Info: <http://www.wizard.net/~matkins/gmo.htm>, [matkins@wizard.net](mailto:matkins@wizard.net)

15 Grand Prix points

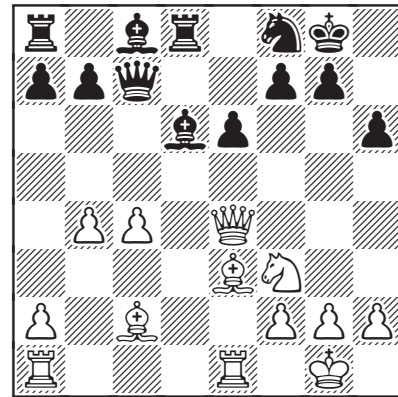


PHIL COLLIER - CHRIS BUSH

SLAV

*Notes by Phil Collier*

(This game was played in the last round of the Northern Virginia Classic. I had to win in order to retain any chance for a prize. I succeeded but, unfortunately for me, there arose a four-way tie for 1st so that even my four points got nothing. The game had to be my reward, and it did have some interesting moments.) **1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 e6 5 e3 Nbd7 6 Bd3 Bd6 7 0-0 0-0 8 e4 dxe4 9 Nxe4 Nxe4 10 Bxe4 h6 11 Bc2 Qc7** (I thought this might be a new move — Nunn's opening book gives 11...e5 leading to ± — but in fact the position has occurred a few times. Vidmar-Spielmann, New York 1927 continued 12 b3 [immediate 12 Qd3 is more common] b6 13 Bb2 Bb7 14 Qd3. In any case, the whole line seems difficult for Black, who experiences great problems developing his queenside.) **12 Re1 Rd8 13 Qe2 c5 14 Qe4 Nf8** (This is a good defensive square for the knight. It would not have been available had I set up the Q+B battery earlier, before ...Rd8) **15 dxc5** (I wanted to clear up the situation in the center and have a queenside majority for an endgame.) **Qxc5 16 Be3 Qc7 17 b4!**



(One of the most profound pawn sacrifices ever. White lures the Black pieces to the queenside in order to better attack the kingside. Black is also tempted into adventures which distract him from developing his queenside. It would be nice if I had planned it that way. However, my idea was just to follow this up with c5, cramping Black, and I simply *overlooked* the loose pawn. It turns out to be a sound sacrifice! Afterwards we thought 16 b3 was White's best, but that stops the bishop from going to that square as it did during the game. 16 Rac1 was another possibility. However, Black would probably reply 16...Bd7, deploying his queenside — which he never got around to in the game until it was too late. I am not sure if my move was the best, but it now seems the most

**RUSSELL POTTER:**

- National Chess Master
- Over 30 Years of Chess Teaching Experience
- 2001 - 2002 Va. State Chess Champion

**CHESS LESSONS BY PHONE OR IN PERSON**

Tel: (540) 344-4446



e-mail: chessmr@att.net





interesting possibility in this position.) **17...Bxb4**  
**18 Bf4 Qa5** (Black might consider 18...Bd6. With his queen at a5 the pawn on b7 is unprotected, making development more difficult.) **19 Re2 f5** (Black is trying to get some space. Although this does weaken the kingside it's difficult to recommend a good plan. Perhaps Black should just hold back and defend. If he wants to play ...f5 in any case, however, a better way would be to insert first the preparatory 19...Ng6 to prevent the ensuing sacrifice.) **20 Qe3 Bc3 21 Rb1 Bf6 22 Bb3 Ng6** (This leads directly to the above-mentioned sacrifice, which is very strong. White would have full compensation for the pawn in any case at this point.) **23 Bxh6! gxh6** (Black intended 23...f4 24 Bxf4 Qf5 forking the bishop and rook. He saw too late that White can play 25 Bc2. In fact, I was thinking 24 Qe4 was even better, but on second thought Black can answer 24...Qf5 25 Qxf5 exf5 26 Bg5, which may still be a better ending for White but not as good as the extra pawn he gets in Bush's line.) **24 Qxh6 Kf7 25 Qh7+ Bg7 26 Rbe1** (I felt certain that with Black's queenside still at home and every one of White's pieces aimed at the king I had to be winning.) **26...Nf4** (If instead 26...Rh8 White plays 27 Ng5+ Kf6 28 Rxe6+ Bxe6 29 Rxe6+ Kxg5 30 Qxg6+ with a quick mate. That variation is also White's chief threat, which Black's move seeks to prevent.) **27 Re5** (I looked at 27 Ne5+ Kf6 28 Qh4mate but there's nothing immediate if Black doesn't walk into this, whereas I saw a clear win after the text.) **27...Qc3 28 c5** (Now White threatens Rxf5+ among other things.) **28...Kf8** (Black has no good moves. One point about this game is that White never made air for his king with a move like h3. Such moves are often good, but after sacrificing material time is all-important. One lost tempo and Black might be able to defend.) **29 Rxf5+ Ke7** (29...exf5 30 Qg8mate) **30 Rxf4 Bd7 31 Rfe4 Rh8 32 Qg6 Rh6 33 Qg5+ Kf8 34 Ne5 Be8 35 Ng4 Rh5 36 Qf4+ Kg8 37 Rxe6 Be5** (If 37...Bf7 White plays 38 Qxf7+ Kxf7 39 Rf6mate) **38 Rxe8+ 1-0** This finish reminded me of a game I played against GM Alex Sherzer several years ago. His attack

concluded with a queen sacrifice leading to mate. I avoided the sacrifice and lost prosaically instead. On reflection, I now think that this sort of "defense" is mistaken. It's usually easy to find a prosaic win, whereas there's always a chance (however remote) that your opponent will miss a "brilliancy." A case in point: during this game, when I played 37 Rxe6 I had not seen the queen sacrifice in the event of 37...Bf7 and was intending 38 Re8+ in any event, which also wins easily. I only noticed the sacrifice a moment later while my opponent was thinking over his 37th turn. A more extreme case happened some years ago where a computer sacrificed a whole rook for no apparent reason. After the game it was discovered that the computer was avoiding a hidden queen sacrifice and forced mate. Yet, losing the rook simply rendered the game hopeless, whereas a human player in that situation should allow the sacrifice and hope the opponent misses it, as indeed the onlookers did during the above-mentioned computer game.

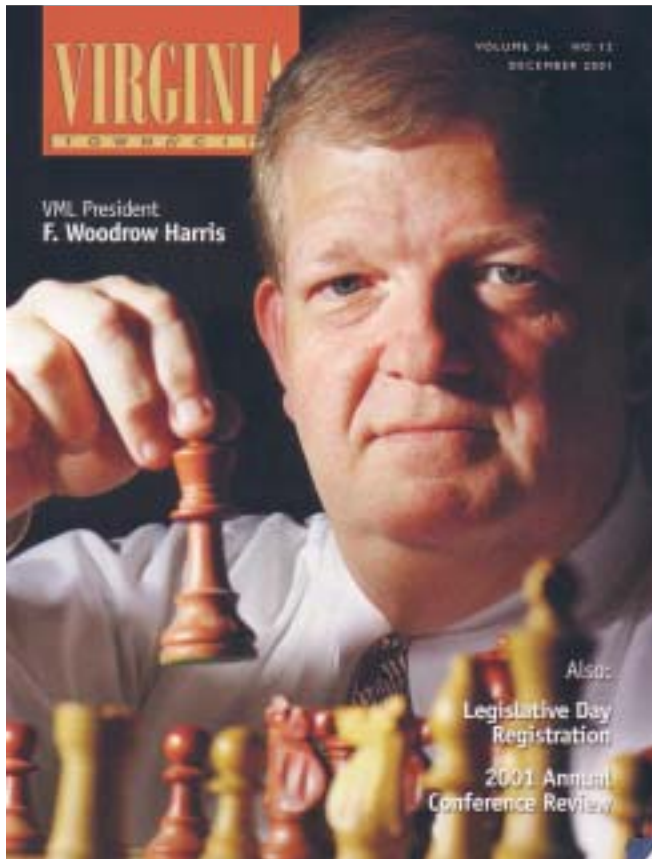
Coming back to the present, I recalled a precedent for my pawn sacrifice here. Erich Cohn won a brilliancy prize game against Mikhail Tchigorin in the early part of the last century. The prize committee praised his "profound" sacrifice. Cohn then admitted that it was just a blunder. *[I'm guessing the game in question was Cohn - Tchigorin, Karlsbad 1907: 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d6 3 Nc3 Nbd7 4 e4 e5 5 Nge2 Be7 6 g3 0-0 7 Bg2 Re8 8 0-0 Bf8 9 h3 exd4 10 Qxd4 Ne5 11 f4!? (overlooking Black's reply?) c5 12 Qf2 Nxc4 13 b3 Na5 14 Bb2 Nc6 15 Rad1 Qa5 16 g4 Nd4 17 Nxd4 cxd4 18 b4 Qxb4 19 Rxd4 Qa5 20 g5 Nd7 21 Nd5 Qd8 22 h4 Nb6 23 f5 Nxd5 24 Rxd5 Bd7 25 e5 Bc6 26 e6 fxe6 27 fxe6 Qe7 28 Qf7+ Kh8 29 Rdf5 Qxf7 30 exf7 Re2 31 R1f2 Rxf2 32 Rxf2 d5 33 Bd4 h5 34 g6 Bd7 35 Re2 Bd6 36 Bh3 Bb5 37 Re6 1-0 -ed.]*







## Familiar Face...



Our own **Woody Harris** is president of the Virginia Municipal League for 2001-2. When, as such, he was featured on the cover of the the December 2001 *Virginia Town & City* magazine, Woody opted for a *Chess Life*-style glamour shot! The accompanying article is laced with chess references too, beginning with the title ("Emporia Vice Mayor Contemplates Right Moves for Local Government). Photo by Elaine Odell, reproduced with permission.



## VCF on the Web

[HTTP://WWW.VACHESS.ORG](http://www.vachess.org)

The VCF provides a low volume, moderated email mailing list to keep members informed of chess events, updates to our web site, and tournament announcements. It's a great way to stay in touch with the 'virtual' VCF! Joining is simple, private and secure. You can subscribe via your email program or directly on the web.

Subscribe: [vachess-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:vachess-subscribe@egroups.com)

Unsubscribe: [vachess-unsubscribe@egroups.com](mailto:vachess-unsubscribe@egroups.com)

## TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE CHESS CLUB

The TCC Chess Club meets every Monday 6:45-10 pm for tournament and casual chess, and Wednesday for casual chess, at Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach Campus, in the cafeteria in Building D. Browse <http://home.earthlink.net/~eschlich> to keep up to date on Tidewater chess or phone Ernie Schlich (757) 853-5296. Upcoming TCC events are:

♔ May 6 USCF quick rated G/20 Quads. EF \$2, no prizes. USCF membership required. Reg 7:00-7:15. Rd 1 @ 7:30

♔ May 13 & 20 USCF Rated G/40 Swiss. EF \$3, no prizes. USCF membership required. Reg 6:40-6:55. Rd 1 @ 7:00. Two games a night for 2 nights.

♔ May 27 Blitz (G/5) tournament 5 round double Swiss. \$5 EF with small cash prizes based on entries. Not rated and USCF membership is not required. Reg 7:00-7:15. Rd 1 @ 7:30

♔ Jun 3 USCF quick rated G/20 Quads. EF \$2, no prizes. USCF membership required. Reg 7:00-7:15. Rd 1 @ 7:30

♔ Jun 10 & 17 USCF Rated G/40 Swiss. EF \$3, no prizes. USCF membership required. Reg 6:40-6:55. Rd 1 @ 7:00. Two games a night for 2 nights.

♔ Jul 1 USCF quick rated G/20 Quads. EF \$2, no prizes. USCF membership required. Reg 7:00-7:15. Rd 1 @ 7:30



A further tribute to the late Anders Tejler,  
who was remembered by John Campbell in our previous issue. - ed.

## MY FRIENDS ARMAND, EMIL, AND ANDY — Especially Andy (April 13, 1920 – December 25, 2001)

by Tom Purser

**I**N 1976, at a tournament in Atlanta, I happened across a Chess Digest booklet and discovered a chess opening and a gentleman that were both destined to become lifelong friends. The opening was the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. The gentleman was Anders Tejler.

Between rounds of that Atlanta Swiss I studied Andy's little book and alternately confused myself and any available skittles opponent with my newly-discovered weapon. When Andy's column appeared shortly thereafter in the *American Postal Chess Tournaments News Bulletin* I knew further resistance was futile. I wrote him and we began a correspondence that continued off and on over three decades.

Andy loved chess, correspondence chess, and just plain correspondence. I don't know which he enjoyed the most. He came to chess a bit late. He was 14 before he learned the game from his father. And it was not until his service in the US Coast Guard in World War II that he discovered the Correspondence Chess League of America, and succumbed to the lure of that form of the game.

In 1954 Andy met Nikolajs Kampars in a CCLA correspondence section. "Nick trounced me royally with a BDG," he wrote. "This encounter led to a long correspondence, which lasted until Nick's untimely death in August 1972." From 1962 to 1967 he assisted Kampars in writing his BDG newsletter (first *Blackmar Diemer Gambit* and then *Opening Adventures*). Andy then worked with Nick to put together the Chess Digest booklets on specific BDG variations. From 1970 to 1973 his

column on the BDG appeared in *Chess Digest* magazine. Later Andy served Virginia chess as editor of and contributor to its newsletter, and as vice president of its federation.

From the beginning of our correspondence 35 years ago Andy stimulated and encouraged my interest in the BDG, generously sharing his ideas and material, including games and original letters from Diemer, Kampars, and others. More than any other person or event, Andy's influence was responsible for my little magazine, *BDG World*. Its model was admittedly *Opening Adventures*, and through Andy I have always felt a kinship and continuity with that paper. Although we corresponded for over three decades, and collaborated on a small book of his friend David Gedult's BDGs, we never met face to face.

Andy once wrote me that "there is room in chess journalism for other than the analyst." He never claimed to be one, and made that clear in the introductions to the Chess Digest booklets he wrote with Kampars. His approach was that of a true lover of the game, a fan. "For so we must count those who play and enjoy the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit: the true fans of chess, who play not for rating points or tournament glory, but for the thrill of a good fight, the adventure of an exciting game, the once-in-a-lifetime ecstasy of pulling off an immortal mating combination." (*Euwe Defense*, Chess Enterprises, 1979).

From one fan to another, Andy, many thanks. Play on, old friend — as I know you will, for that immortal combination yet beckons.



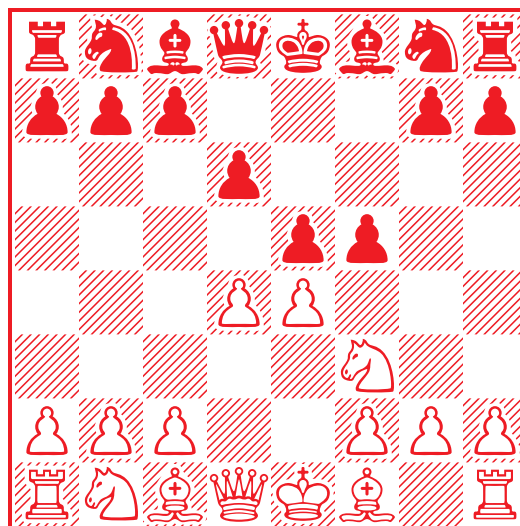


# PHILIDOR COUNTERGAMBIT

by James R West

**T**HE MYTHS surrounding the Philidor Countergambit are astonishing to me!

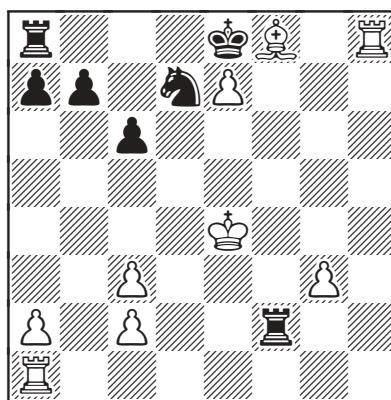
In *Morphy's Chess Masterpieces*, authors Fred Reinfeld and Andy Soltis describe Morphy's victory with the PCG against Thomas Barnes as an example of "the technique of adopting inferior lines of play to induce weaker opponents to involve themselves in complications which will prove too much for them." But, in fact, this "weaker opponent" had more lifetime wins against Morphy than anyone and was Morphy's partner in his two consultation games against Howard Staunton and John Owen, one of which was a PCG won by Morphy and Barnes!



Reinfeld and Soltis then label 3...f5 as "not quite sound - and Morphy knew it," probably on the basis of the 1863 *La Nouvelle Regence* article written, supposedly, by Morphy and Jules Arnous de Riviere. However, during a conversation at the US Amateur Team East championship in New Jersey several years ago, chess historian and bookseller Fred Wilson confided to me that he had serious doubts about the authenticity of any analysis by Morphy dated after his retirement from active play in 1859.

A 1997 book review by IM Jeremy Silman on my *The Dynamic Philidor Counter-Gambit* lamented, "sadly, Mr West recommends lines that are virtually losing." Silman gave as his only example of this tendency **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 f5 4 dxe5 fxe4 5 Ng5 d5 6 e6 Nh6 7 Nc3 c6 8**

**Ngxe4 dxe4 9 Qh5+ g6 10 Qe5 Rg8 11 Bg5 Bg7 12 e7 Qd2+ 13 Kxd2 Bxe5 14 Bxh6 g5 15 h4 gxh4 16 Rxh4 Rg6 17 Bf8 Rd6+ 18 Ke3 Bxc3 19 bxc3 Bf5 20 Be2 Nd7 21 Bh5+ Bg6 22 Bxg6+ Rxc6 23 g3 Rf6 24 Rxh7 Rf3+ 25 Kxe4 Rxf2 26 Rh8**

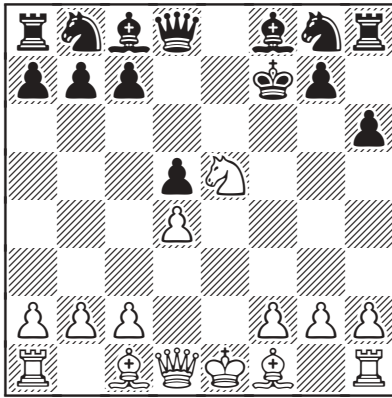


Now 26...Kf7? indeed loses brilliantly to 27 Ke3 Rf5 28 Rd1!, as Silman points out. But after the correct 26...Nxf8 **27 exf8Q+ Rxf8 28 Rah1 Ke7 29 R1h7+ Ke6 30 Rxf8 Rxf8 31**

**Rxb7 Rg8 32 Kf3 Rf8+ 33 Kg2 a5** (or 33...Rd8 34 Rxa7 Rd2+ 35 Kf3 Rxc2 36 Ra3 with technical difficulties for White) **34 Rb6 Kd6 35 Ra6 Rf5** with the idea of 36...Rc5, Black has good drawing chances!

I find myself agreeing with candidate master Lev Zilbermintz who recently wrote to me that, "many masters are so biased towards gambits that they will do anything (and say anything) to 'prove' gambit play as unsound." He added: "In my experience, learning to play the PCG takes time, effort, skill, and patience. Only after playing dozens of games did I become proficient with the PCG."

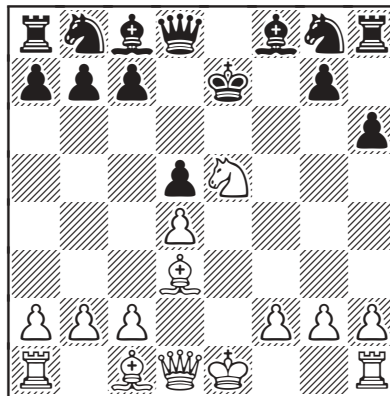
Another "refutation" of the PCG is **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 f5 4 Nc3 fxe4 5 Nxe4 d5 6 Neg5 h6 7 Nf7 Kxf7 8 Nxe5+** as recommended by GM Paul Motwani.



But the game Stepanov-Maliutin, Moscow 1992 continued 8...Ke7 9 Ng6+ Kf6 10 Qf3+ (10 Nxf8 Qe8+ 11 Be3 Bf5 12 Bd3 Bxd3 13 Qxd3 Bd6 with an unclear position) 10...Bf5 11 Nxf8 Qe7+ 12 Be2 Qe4 13 g4 Qxf3 14 Bxf3 Bxc2 15 h4 (15 Bxd5 Nc6 16 Bxg8 Bb4+ 17 Kf1 Rxc8 favors Black) 15...Nc6 16 g5+ Kf5 17 Be3 Bb4+ 18 Kf1 Nge7 19 Nf7 Rf8 20 Bh5 Ke6 21 a3 Ba5 22 Ne5 Nxe5 23 dxe5 Nf5 24 Bc5 Rh8 25 b4 Bb6 26 Bxb6 axb6 27 Rc1 Nd4 28 Re1 Be4 29 Bg4+ Kxe5 30 f3 Rf8 31 Rh3 Kd6 32 Kg2 Bc2 33 Kg3 c5 34 Rh2 Bd3 35 bxc5+ bxc5 36 Rb2 b5 37 gxh6 gxh6 38 Kf2 c4 39 Rd2

Ra8 40 f4 Rxa3 41 Re8 Nb3 42 Rxd3 cxd3 43 f5 Nc5 44 f6 Ne4+ 45 Kg2 Ra2+ 46 Kg1 Ra7 47 Re6+ Kc5 0-1

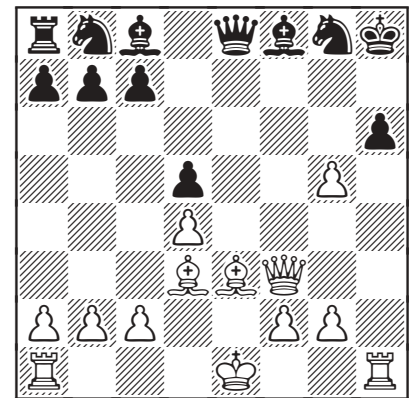
Atlantic Chess News editor Pete Tamburro came up with the interesting suggestion 9 Bd3 to deprive Black of a later ...Bf5.



However, after 9...g5 10 Ng6+ Kf6 11 Nxf8 Qe8+ 12 Be3 Ne7 13 h4 Kg7 14 hxg5 Kxh8 15 Qf3 Nd7 16 0-0-0 Bg7 (16...c6 looks dangerously slow) 17 gxh6 Bf6 18 g4 Ng6 19 Qxd5 Ndf8 20 h7 Qe6 21 Qxe6 Bxe6 22 g5 Bg7 23 f4 Ne7 24 Rde1 Nf5 Black has reasonable chances of blockad-

ing the kingside pawns with minor pieces. If instead White plays 16.gxh6 then 16...Nc6 17 Qxd5 Nb4 18 Qf5 Nxd3+ 19 Qxd3 Nf6 20 d5 Bb4+ 21 c3 Bc5 22 0-0-0 Bxe3+ 23 fxe3 Ng4 24 e4 Qe5 25 Qf3 Bd7 is far from clear.

Since Black is planning on sacrificing the d5 pawn anyway to complete his development, the move 15...Ng8 is an alternative worthy of consideration.



After 16 Qxd5, two possible continuations are 16...Nc6 17 Qe4 Qxe4 18 Bxe4 Bd7 19 0-0-0 Re8 20 f3 Nge7 (20 ... Bf5!?) 21 gxh6 Nd5 22 Bg5 Be7 23 Bxe7 Ncxe7; and 16...Nd7 17

12th annual

## Charlottesville Open

July 13-14, 2002

Best Western Mt. Vernon Hotel

Rt 29 and Rt 250 Bypass Interchange, Charlottesville, Va. 22906

5-SS, rds 1-2 game/60, rds 3-5 game/90. \$\$1500: \$400-250-150, top X, A, B, C, each \$125, top D \$100, top U1200, unr each \$50. Class prizes b/5. EF \$30 if rec'd by 6/8, \$40 at site, VCF memb req'd, OSA. Reg 1:45-2:30pm 7/13, rds 3-6-9, 10-2. One ½pt. bye available, irrevocable byes in rds 4-5 must declare before rd 2. Hotel \$64+tax, 1-2, (434) 296-5501. NS, NC, W. Info Mark Johnson 540-832-9042, or 540-832-2150, or email [rmj142@yahoo.com](mailto:rmj142@yahoo.com). Enter: Mark Johnson, PO Box 241, Barboursville VA 22923. Make check payable to "Va Chess"

15 Grand Prix points





0-0-0 c6 18 Qe4 Qxe4 19 Bxe4 Nb6. In either case, the middlegame of rook and four pawns versus two minor pieces hinges on Black's ability to blockade and prevent rook penetration.

In his correspondence, Zilbermintz included three of his triumphs and one draw with the PCG played on the Internet Chess Club. Before reproducing those games here (without revealing Zilbermintz's ICC name) I would like to disavow the anonymous ICC player who uses the handle "Jim West." I am not a member of the ICC and do not play chess on the Internet anywhere. Recently at tournaments in New Jersey, players have said that they played "me" on the Internet. Apparently this impostor uses many of my openings, including the PCG, and belongs to the New Jersey affiliate. I'm not sure whether I should feel flattered or insulted but must say that I find it appalling that the ICC would allow this pretense to happen. Yet another myth surrounding the PCG!

JACKB (2203) - ZILBERMINTZ  
ICC 1/14/02, BLITZ

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f5 3 d4 d6 4 dxe5 fxe4 5 Ng5 d5 6 e6 Nh6 7 f3 Bc5 8 fxe4 0-0 9 Qxd5 Bf2+ 10 Kd1 Qe7 11 Bd3 c6 12 Qb3 Bh4 13 Nf7 Bxe6 14 Nxh6+ gxh6 15 Bc4 Rd8+ 16 Bd2 Bxc4 17 Qxc4+ Kg7 18 e5 Bg5 19 h4 Be3 20 Qe4 Bxd2 21 Nxd2 Na6 22 c3 Nc5 23 Qg4+

Kh8 24 Kc2 Qxe5 25 Rae1 Qd6 26 Qd4+ Qxd4 27 cxd4 Rxd4 28 Re7 Rad8 29 Nf3 R4d7 30 Rhe1 Rxe7 31 Rxe7 Rd7 32 Re5 Na4 33 b3 Nb6 34 h5 Kg7 35 Re6 Nd5 36 Ne5 Re7 37 Rxe7+ Nxe7 38 g4 Kf6 39 Nc4 Kg5 40 Ne3 Kf4 41 Kd3 Nd5 42 Nxd5+ cxd5 43 Kd4 Kxg4 44 Kxd5 Kxh5 45 Kd6 Kg4 46 Kc7 h5 47 Kxb7 h4 48 Kxa7 h3 49 b4 h2 50 b5 h1=Q 51 a4 Qd5 52 b6 Qd7+ 53 b7 Qxa4+ 54 Kb6 Qb4+ 55 Kc7 Qxb7+ 0-1

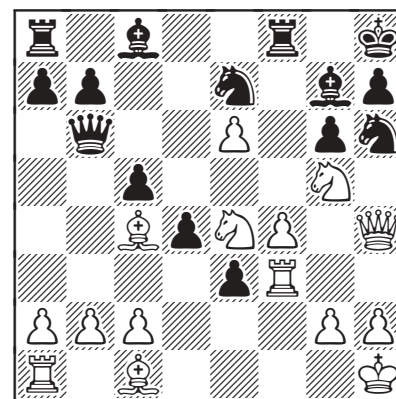
PSYCHICVENOM (2073) -  
ZILBERMINTZ  
ICC 1/14/02, BLITZ

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Nc3 f5 4 d4 fxe4 5 Ng5 d5 6 dxe5 c6 7 e6 Nh6 8 f3 Bc5 9 Qe2 0-0 10 h4 Nf5 11 Rh3 Nd4 12 Qd1 exf3 13 Nxf3 Nxf3+ 14 Rxf3 Qxh4+ 15 g3 Qe7 16 Rxf8+ Qxf8 17 Qe2 Qd6 18 Bf4 Qxe6 19 0-0-0 Qxe2 20 Bxe2 Be6 21 Bd3 Nd7 22 Na4 Bf8 23 Re1 Re8 24 Bf5 Kf7 25 Bd3 g6 26 Nc3 Bg7 27 Nd1 Bg4 28 Rf1 Bf6 29 Bg5 Kg7 30 Bf4 Be5 31 Kd2 Bxf4+ 32 Rxf4 Bxd1 33 Kxd1 Nf6 34 Kd2 Ne4+ 35 Bxe4 Rxe4 36 Rf3 h5 37 Kd3 g5 38 b3 h4 39 Rf5 Kg6 40 Rf3 hxg3 41 Rxg3 Rf4 42 c4 Kf5 43 cxd5 cxd5 44 Ke3 g4 45 Kd3 Rf3+ 0-1

EGGWHITE (2150) - ZILBERMINTZ  
ICC 1/14/02, BLITZ

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f5 3 d4 d6 4 dxe5 fxe4 5 Ng5 d5 6 e6 Nh6 7 Nc3 c6 8 Be2 g6 9 0-0 Bg7 10 f3 Qb6+ 11 Kh1 e3 12 f4 0-0 13 Rf3 d4 14 Nce4 c5 15

Bc4 Kh8 16 Qe1 Nc6 17 Qh4 Ne7



18 Nxh7 Nef5 19 Qh3 Kxh7 20 g4 Bxe6 21 Bxe6 Bf6 22 g5 Qxe6 23 gxh6 Bh4 24 Ng5+ Bxg5 25 fxg5 e2 26 Bd2 Qe4 27 Re1 Nh4 28 Rxe2 Qxf3+ 0-1

GOODGOD (2232) - ZILBERMINTZ  
ICC 1/14/02, BLITZ

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 f5 4 Bc4 Nc6 5 dxe5 dxe5 6 Qxd8+ Nxd8 7 Nxe5 fxe4 8 0-0 Bd6 9 f4 exf3 10 Nxf3 Be6 11 Re1 Kd7 12 Bb3 Nf6 13 Nc3 a6 14 Bg5 Bxb3 15 axb3 Ne6 16 Bxf6 gxf6 17 Rad1 Rhg8 18 Ne4 Raf8 19 Nxd6 cxd6 20 Re2 Ng5 21 Nxc5 fxg5 22 Red2 Rf6 23 h3 Rgg6 24 c4 Ke7 25 b4 Re6 26 c5 Rgf6 27 Rd5 h6 28 Kh2 Kd7 29 Kg3 Kc6 30 Kg4 dxc5 31 bxc5 Rf2 32 g3 Rxb2 33 Rd6+ Rxd6 34 cxd6 Kd7 35 Kh5 Rb3 1/2-1/2



Philidor

*Book Reviews...*

## MASTERING THE OPENING

by Byron Jacobs

## MASTERING THE MIDDLEGAME

by Angus Dunnington

## MASTERING THE ENDGAME

by Glenn Flear

Everyman Publishers, soft cover, 176, 144,  
& 176 pages respectively, \$19.95 each.

by David Forsee

**T**HE BOOKS of this trilogy share a common format although a different author produced each volume. The concept for the series grants each writer latitude to develop his individual style but it is not difficult to go from one book to the other and still feel as if you know your way around.

In *Mastering the Opening* (M/O) we find sections, each containing several chapters, that cover King Pawn Openings, Queen Pawn Openings, and Other Openings. Every chapter discusses a single major opening branch, eg: Sicilian with d2-d4; Sicilian without d2-d4; King's Indian, etc. Chapters further subdivide to cover more specific variations (Sveshnikov, Dragon, etc in the Sicilian with d2-d4; Winawer, Tarrasch, etc, in the French; and so forth). One aspect that sets M/O apart from others in the set is the amount of discussion *before* its "Illustrative Games" presentation and the lack of detailed discussion *during* the games. Each opening receives a brief introduction at the beginning of its chapter, but the individual variations are examined quite thoroughly before the "Illustrative Games" appear. The discussions focus on strategies of both sides; the "tactical/strategic/dynamic;" the amount of theory behind the openings; and the popularity of that particular variation. All of this was nice, but I would have liked more commentary during the games.



*Mastering the Middlegame* (M/M) has six chapters which propose to cover "some of the more crucial aspects of the game." From the chapter titles we learn that these crucial aspects include: Attacking the King; Defending - Keep Calm!; Opening Lines; Using the Pieces; Using the Pawns; and the catch-all "Further Ideas." Chapters break down further into sections which explain different aspects of the main topic. Here we find little or no commentary before rolling out the "Illustrative Games," but the annotations within the games far exceeds those of M/O. The end of every chapter presents a summary of main points. Several chapters also include "Try it Yourself" problems whereby the reader can judge his own progress. (Solutions to these exercises comprise the seventh and final chapter of the book). I very much liked Dunnington's expansive game notes.



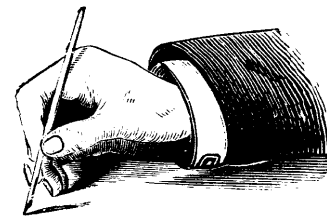
*Mastering the Endgame* (M/E) resembles M/M with its six instructive chapters: Learn from the Masters; Principles of Rook Endgames; Theory of Rook Endgames; Pawns and Queens; Minor Pieces; Rook vs Minor Piece. The chapter format is similar as well, offering only slight introduction to each section and good amounts of commentary during the games. The only difference is that instead of a summary at the end of each chapter, Flear finishes off with "My Advice" just before the "Try it Yourself" which closes every chapter. Again the last chapter has the solutions to the exercises. I was attracted to this book for many of the same reasons that M/M appealed to me.

One characteristic that is carried throughout all of the books is a system of icons and boldfaced type for bringing out special points: Note (the icon is a clipboard); Warning (skull and crossbones); Tip (a light bulb); etc. Some pages were littered with these ornaments, elsewhere they might become quite scarce. In any case, I found that they indeed helped me understand the author's point or they simply gave me a better perspective on certain situations.

All three of the books were helpful to some extent, but the opening book did not really appeal to me. For some reason I found it difficult to see in the lightly-annotated games a clear expression of the points intimated in the preliminary discussion of each opening. The middlegame book benefited from having lots of commentary during the games, which helped tie together all that was going on. I also found that the main points made by the author in each of the chapters were relevant to my own play. I likewise enjoyed the

endgame book tremendously, although I am only recently starting to arrive at meaningful endgames in my own play. Still, I found that many points made in M/E have been applicable to situations that I've gotten myself into.

I would recommend *Mastering the Middlegame* and *Mastering the Endgame* for sure. I liked just about everything in them and found these books extremely helpful in my play. *Mastering the Opening* was less attractive and less beneficial to this reviewer. Although this might mean only that all of the helpful information in the book was simply over my head, if that is so then it also can be said that the other two books managed to reach a broader range of readers.



## Editor's Greeting

This issue comes a couple weeks later than planned due to the editor having spent the middle of March touring his elder children around France. Life is good! I also managed to get away to play a couple blitz tournaments in a cafe in Paris while I was there; perhaps I'll write something about this for next issue. In any case, that next issue should reach you all in the first part of June and we'll make the deadline for submitting material for it to, oh, let's say... May 15. *Au revoir!*



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:** Ernie Schlich, 1370 South Braden Crescent, Norfolk VA 23502, [eschlich@aol.com](mailto:eschlich@aol.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.



Nonprofit Organ.  
 US Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit No. 1  
 Barboursville, VA  
 22923

Virginia Chess  
 7901 Ludlow Ln  
 Dunn Loring VA 22027

**In This Issue:**

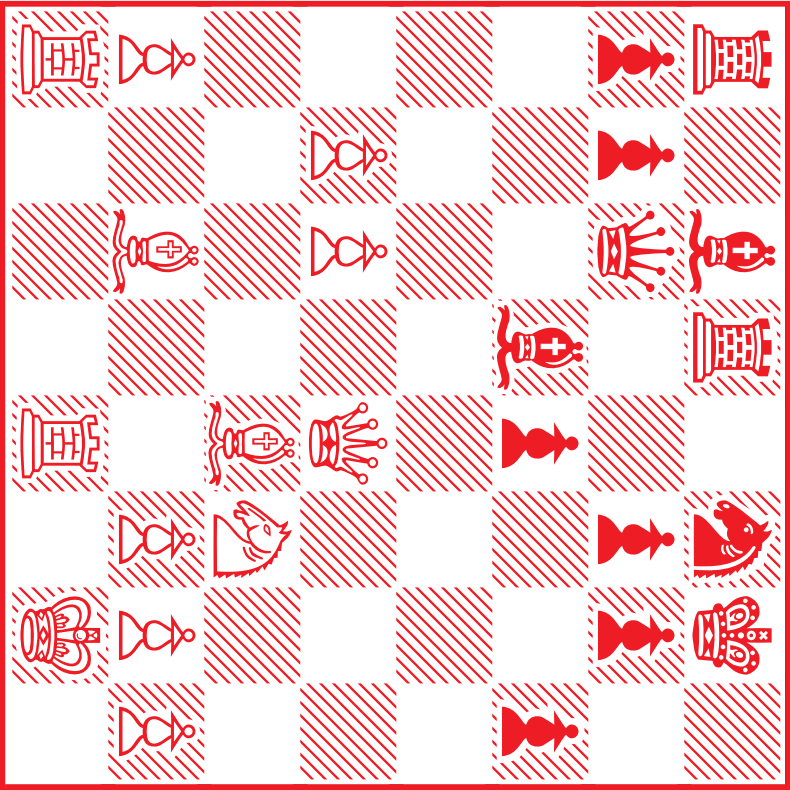
Tournaments		
<b>Millennium Chess Festival III</b>	<b>1</b>	♘
Northern Va Chess Classic	9	♘
Features		
Woody Harris	13	♘
T Purser tribute to Anders Tejler	14	♘
Philidor Countergambit	15	♘
Book Reviews	18	♘
Odds & Ends		
Upcoming Events	8, 10, 13, 16	♘
VCF On the Web	13	♘
VCF Info	19	♘

**VIRGINIA CHESS**

*Pewsletter*

The bimonthly publication of the  
 Virginia Chess Federation

**2002 - #2**



**17. b4!?**

"One of the most profound pawn sacrifices ever." — see page 11