



# 2002 Virginia State Championship



Macon Shibut, of Vienna, captured the 2002 Virginia State Championship at the annual Labor Day tournament in Charlottesville. It is his third time winning the title. Daniel Miller ground out a last-round victory to match Shibut's 5-1 score but fell short on tiebreaks.

Steve Mayer, Daniel Arceo and Danny Derby each scored 4-2 to tie for 3rd-5th place. (Thus 60% of the top prizewinners were named "Dan"!) Matthew Grinberg, Gary DeFotis and Robert Fischer ended in a three-way tie for the top expert prize.

In the under-1800 section, young William ("Jack") Barrow was the last one standing after a tense final-round defeat of John Bninski while Bill Simmons was held to a draw by Bill Keogh on the adjacent board. Together these results left Barrow alone in 1st place with 5½-½. He is thus the 2002 Virginia Amateur Champion. Simmons was equal 2nd-5th with Michael Spitzer, Jared Casazza & Sath Vijayyakumar. Opie Lindsay, Svetlozar Kanev, Justin Burgess & Walt Carey all tied for top C. Thomas Butler, James Wilson & Thomas Carr shared the under-1200 prize. Sanda Costescu was the top woman. Edward Jankiewicz had a successful, if belated, introduction to tournament chess, winning both the unrated prize and the top senior trophy!

The VCF's annual business meeting was conducted Saturday, August 31, prior to the first round of the tournament. Reports were presented by Treasurer Ernie Schlich (highlights: the VCF is entering the 20th century by moving from a paper ledger to a computer accounting system; 2002 has been a good year finance-wise for the VCF with income exceeding expenses by about \$1500); USCF Delegate Woody Harris (USCF election news, Scholastic magazine changes, possible move of USCF offices from New Windsor, NY to Miami,

FLA); the *Virginia Chess* editor (printing cost issues); and outgoing President Mark Johnson. Professional and family responsibilities preclude Roger Mahach from continuing as VCF Web Master. Mike Atkins was elected to succeed Johnson as VCF President. He is joined on the new VCF Board of Directors by Helen Hinshaw (Chairman), Johnson, Schlich & Mahach.

Returning to the course of the championship tournament, Shibut led "wire to wire." At the midway point he was the only perfect 3-0 score remaining. The pivotal game was his 4th round matchup against former (2000) champion Miller. These were the two highest-rated players in the field. Shibut held an advantage and pressed until



2002 State Champion Macon Shibut



literally the last moments of the second “sudden death” time control. However, Miller defended extremely well and achieved a drawn position. In the final seconds, both sides’ flags were hanging. After a series of queen checks and repetitions of the position, Miller claimed a draw — but later regretfully indicated he was trying to call White’s flag down! Witnesses disagreed on the exact sequence of events, however, and Shibut for one asserted both flags were still up when the draw offer occurred. In any case, the result was evident both on the board and by the rule book, and so the draw was affirmed without any dispute.

After that, Miller needed for Shibut to stumble on the last day. It didn’t happen in the 5th round, as both contenders won. Going into the last round, Shibut’s tiebreaks were unassailable so that he needed only a draw to clinch the championship. He could even back into the title with a *loss* in the event that Miller failed to win, as there was no one

else within striking distance. As events transpired, Mayer’s early draw offer rendered all such calculations academic. On board two Miller continued to fight gamely and ultimately he got the full point to share the top prize money.

The amateur section saw a three-way tie for first going into the last round. On board one, Brninski - Barrow was the pairing, while the other co-leader, Simmons, played Keogh, the highest-rated available player from the group a half point back. Both games were taut affairs; in particular, the apparent likely result of the top board game swung around 180 degrees during a rook ending. Finally Barrow sacrificed his rook for Brninski’s advanced pawn after which his own king plus connected pawns were too much for Brninski’s rook.

A total of ninety four players participated. Mike Atkins directed the event for the VCF.

### Macon Shibut - Daniel Miller Petroff

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 Qe2  
Qe7 6 d3 Nf6 7 Bg5 Be6 8 Nc3 Nbd7 9 0-0-0 0-0-0  
10 d4 d5 11 Ne5



2002 Amateur Champion Jack Barrow (photo by Mike Atkins)

## VIRGINIA CHESS Newsletter

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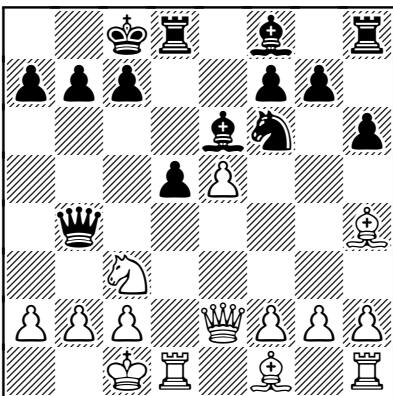


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Within thirty seconds I was pretty sure what move I would play next. However, I spent maybe five to ten minutes mulling it nonetheless. What was up? Well, my "opening theory" was tapped out after 7...Be6 but I vaguely remembered a Lasker game with what I thought was a similar variation. White sacrificed a piece on the queenside and carried off a winning attack that I remembered involved pushing his a-pawn to dislodge a defending Nb6. So I spent some time here toying with various fantasies after 11 Nb5, eg 11...a6 12 Na7+ (12 Nxc7 Kxc7 13 Bf4+ would be good if Black replies 13...Kc8? 14 Qxa6! but, alas 13...Kb6 leaves White with nothing much for the piece.) 12...Kb8 13 Nc6+ bxc6 14 Qxa6 — as I said, not because I had any intent to play this way, but just to probe the position and see if I could rake up anything more from deep in my memory. For those who are interested, I looked it up afterwards and find that the game I was thinking of is Lasker-Marshall, St Petersburg 1914 — which was only one of the most important tournaments of all time, so I'm a bit embarrassed I didn't recall it more clearly. That game went 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 Qe2 Qe7 6 d3 Nf6 7 Bg5 Be6 8 Nc3 Nbd7 9 O-O-O h6 10 Bh4 g5 11 Bg3 Nh5 12 d4 Nxc3 13 hxc3 g4 14 Nh4 d5 15 Qb5 O-O-O 16 Qa5 a6 17 Bxa6 bxa6 18 Qxa6+ Kb8 19 Nb5 Nb6 20 Rd3 Qg5+ 21 Kb1 Bd6 22 Rb3 Rhe8 23 a4 Bf5 24 Na7 Bd7 25 a5 Qd2 26 axb6 Re1+ 27 Ka2 c6 28 Nb5 cxb5 29 Qa7+ 1-0)

11...h6 12 Bh4 Nxe5! 13 dxe5 Qb4!



All of the sudden my danger sensors were tingling like crazy with the idea that maybe we were still in

territory my opponent had analyzed beforehand. And indeed, after the game Miller told me he had played this tactic numerous times!

14 Bg3 d4 15 exf6

If 15 Nb5 Nd5 things like 16 Nxd4 Qa5 (or even 16...Nc3!?) or 16 Rxd4 Qa5 looked terrifying.

15...dxc3 16 Rxd8+ Kxd8 17 Qd3+ Kc8 18 Qxc3 Qxc3 19 bxc3 Ba3+ 20 Kd2 gxf6 21 Bd3 a5

I expected 21...Rd8 both here and on the next turn.

22 Re1 c6? 23 Bh4

Suddenly White is better! Black is close to losing a pawn because ...f5 meets Re5, etc.

23...Rg8 24 g3 b5!

He found the best source of counterplay: threatening to make a dangerous passed a-pawn.

25 Bxf6 a4 26 c4

White has to prevent ...Bxa2, which will be an actual threat very soon. By the move played I give back the extra pawn but I'm still virtually like a pawn ahead since I have a healthy 3-2 kingside majority whereas Black's queenside pawns, including the doubled c-pawns, cannot produce a passed pawn.

26...bxc4 27 Bh7 Rf8 28 c3 Bc5 29 f4 Kc7 30 Rb1 Bc8 31 Be5+ Kd7 32 Bf5+?!

It only helps Black to move his king off the d-file and prepare for counterplay by ...Rd8+ This was shortly after the move 30 time control and I was still not resettled and thinking properly. Maybe 32 Rb8 was right.

32...Ke7

Now I began to concentrate again. I did not feel I was getting full value for my position with the following liquidation, but I wanted to limit possible counterplay and in any case I couldn't find anything better. Maybe this was just the price of the inferior 32 Bf5+?!



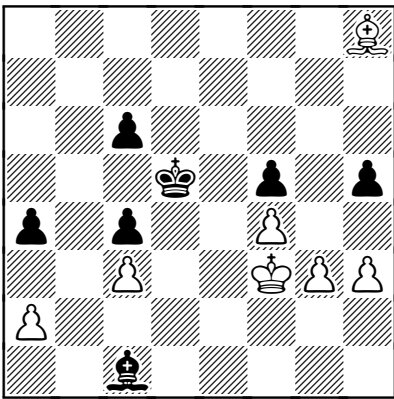
33 Bxc8 Rxc8 34 Rb8 Rxb8 35 Bxb8 Ke6 36 Ke2 h5 37 Kf3 Bb6

Threatening 38...Bb6 39 Be5 f6

38 Ke4

Now White is threatening f5+ so Black must advance his own f-pawn and grant White's bishop a secure post on e5.

38...f5+ 39 Kf3 Bc5 40 Bc7 Ba3 41 Be5 Bc1 42 h3 Kd5 43 Bg7 Bd2 44 Bh8 Bc1



45 g4?

Too quick. If I had it to do again I'd try 45 Bd4 and hope to prompt ...c5. That would make it harder for his bishop to get back to stop my pawn later. But during the game everything seemed a lot less clear!

My thinking was that his chances were connected with a counterattack against c3. If I lost that pawn he could sac his bishop for the f-pawn and draw the "wrong-color" RP ending. Accordingly, I believed the time was ripe for g4 *now*, while he was not attacking the pawn and while my bishop sat on h8 instead of, say, g7. The significance of this latter point was that if later f6 was met with ...Bxc3 I could immediately push on, f7! his taking my bishop with his would not cover the f8 queening square.

The flaw in all of this was to overemphasize the plan of counterattacking c3 while underestimating the idea of his king dashing for a2.

45...fxg4+ 46 hxg4 hxg4+ 47 Kxg4 Ke4 48 f5 Be3 49 f6 Bc5 50 f7 Kd3 51 Kf3

I analyzed a way to lose: 51 Kf5? Kc2 52 Ke6 Kb2 53 Kd7 Kxa2 54 Kxc6 Bf8 55 Kb5 Kb3 56 Bd4 a3 57 Bc5 a2!

51...a3 52 Bg7 Kc2 53 Ke2 Be7 54 Ke3 c5 55 Ke2 Kb2 56 Kd2 Kxa2 57 Kc2 Ka1 58 Bh6 Bf8!

Not 58...a2?? 59 Bc1

59 Bxf8

White could try other things but after, eg, 59 Bc1 Ka2 60 Be3 Bd6 (60...Ka1 is simpler) 61 Bh6 Be7 62 f8Q Bxf8 63 Bxf8 Ka1 it's still a draw.

59...a2 60 Kd2 Kb2 61 Bxc5 a1Q 62 f8Q Qc1+ 63 Ke2 Qc2+ 64 Kf3 Qd3+ 65 Kg2 Qg6+ 66 Kf1 Qd3+ 67 Kg2 Qg6+ 68 Kf3 Qd3+ 69 Kf2 Qc2+ 70 Kf3 Qd3+ 1/2-1/2

The precise sequence of final checks might have been a little different — we had stopped keeping score long before. No matter, the position is drawn. However, it wasn't that simple. As explained in the



Daniel Miller (photo by Mike Atkins)



main article, the second time control was sudden death and each side had less than a minute remaining, without a time-delay clock, so we were just blitzing along. The position repeated a few times and Black offered/claimed the draw just as my flag was falling. (Earlier I had been appreciably ahead on time, but moves 51-59 changed all that.) So it was a close call.

### Gary DeFotis - Matthew Grinberg Nimzoindian

*Notes by Gary DeFotis*

**Taking Satisfaction in Imperfection** — The exquisite difficulty of chess, a game in which science, art and sport are combined in roughly equal proportion, is well known. Alexander Alekhine, one of the greatest and, arguably, most creative players ever, remarked to an admirer, “You call me master, but chess will always be master of us all.” I think he meant by this not only chess as a ruling passion (for some) but as an insoluble conundrum. If one does not achieve all the competitive success desired, one should try to draw satisfaction from whatever excellence one displays in the art and science aspects of the game. Herewith, then, what promised to be one of my very best games — albeit one which ended in near ludicrous fashion.

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e3 0-0 5 Bd3 c5 6 Ne2**

Leaving aside the question of slight imprecision by both sides, the game is headed for the formidable (for Black) Hübner variation of the Nimzoindian. In recent years White has tended to avoid Nf3 in favor of Ne2. This preserves the possibility of a timely advance of the f-pawn and avoids the rather unpromising positions which tend to emerge from the Nf3 variations. A classic example of the latter was game 5 of the 1972 Spassky - Fischer world championship match: 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Nf3 c5 5 e3 Nc6 6 Bd3 Bxc3+ 7 bxc3 d6 8 e4 e5 9 d5 Ne7 10 Nh4 h6 11 f4 Ng6 12 Nxc6 fxc6 13 fxe5 dxe5 14 Be3 b6 15 0-0 0-0 16 a4 a5 17 Rb1 Bd7 18 Rb2 Rb8 19 Rbf2 Qe7 20 Bc2 g5 21 Bd2 Qe8 22 Be1 Qg6

23 Qd3 Nh5 24 Rxf8+ Rxf8 25 Rxf8+ Kxf8 26 Bd1 Nf4 27 Qc2 Bxa4 0-1

**6...Nc6 7 0-0 Bxc3 8 bxc3 d6 9 Ng3**

Now if 9...e5 10 d5 Ne7 11 f4 with good prospects.

**9...b6**

Each of the last two moves for both sides could be debated. What is interesting at this point is that Black avoids what has become the standard procedure in grandmaster practice versus the Ne2 system: ...cxd4 followed by ...d5 in order to obtain an isolated d-pawn position where White's knight is apparently less promising on e2 rather than f3. Yet many games — impressive is Kamsky - Short, PCA Semifinal, 1994, G5 — have shown that White has a fairly promising position nonetheless. I am unaware of games in which the present, very plausible idea by Black was tried.

**10 Bb2**

While inactive here, the bishop can relocate later. More precise play earlier would have given White a more promising position.

**10...Na5 11 Qe2 Qe8**

Serious threats against White's c-pawn are emerging (...Ba6, ...Qa4, etc). As both countermeasure and to further his own designs, White advances in the center.

**12 e4 e5 13 f4 Bg4**

Tempting, although this diverts the bishop from the a6 destination.

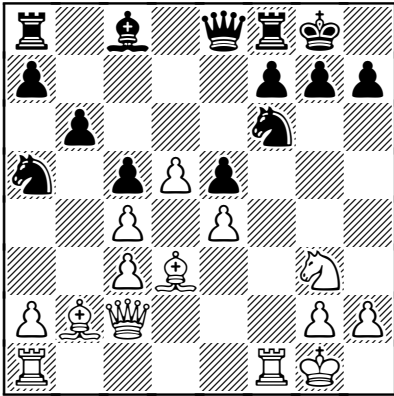
**14 Qc2 Be6**

Black may have been concerned about White playing to trap the bishop after f5, etc. The move played yields White a tempo as he establishes a passed d-pawn — although Black obtains d6 as blockading square. The biggest problem with Black's move is that it invites a promising exchange sacrifice.





15 fxe5 dxe5 16 d5 Bc8



17 Rxf6!

An essentially positional sacrifice. I calculated virtually no variations and took very little time to play this. White dramatically weakens Black's kingside, eliminates Black's best defensive piece, ruins Black's kingside pawn structure, and obtains a lasting initiative on the part of the board near Black's king. Not to make this sacrifice would be at least a bit cowardly.

17...gxf6 18 Rf1 f5

In the long run the doubled f6 pawn cannot be protected because of Nh5. Black elects to shed it now in order to obtain defensive room on the 7th rank. White can entertain the alternative 19 exf5 here in addition to the move played.

19 Nxf5 Bxf5 20 Rxf5 f6 21 Bc1

White now gradually improves the position of his pieces and denies Black squares in his own camp. The long range plan is to prepare a decisive kingside pawn advance.

Qg6 22 Be2 Nb7 23 Bh5 Qg7 24 Rf3 Kh8 25 Rg3 Qe7 26 Bh6 Rg8 27 Rf3

White must retain a rook to preserve realistic winning chances. Black could well consider the counter sacrifice of the exchange hereabouts in order to eliminate one of White's bishops and obtain a more comfortable blockading game (d6), even though he would be a pawn down.

27...Nd6 28 Qe2 Nf7 29 Bd2 Rg7 30 g3 Rg8 31 Kf1

Preparatory to the gradual kingside pawn advance, White vacates his king from the area.

31...Rd8

Black decides to play a rook to blockade square d6 in order to protect the f6-pawn laterally. There are pros and cons to this procedure.

32 Ke1 Rd6 33 h4

White needs to take g5 from Black's knight.

33...Qd7 34 Qf1 Qe7 35 Kd1 Rg8 36 g4

White begins the advance, working with threats against the pinned f6 pawn.

36...b5

Black views 36...Nd8 with distaste, while 36...h6 seems wrong in principle. However, the pawn sac promises nothing real and it puts Black even or down in material. This illustrates one of the advantages of a bind: the opponent is prone to lash out in an attempt to break it, thereby making the win easier.

White decided here that an immediate 37 g5 could lead to an eventual blockaded pawn on f6 while permitting Black to open a file on the queenside. So why not take the offered pawn and retain the g5 threat?

37 cxb5 a6 38 g5 axb5 39 Qxb5 Rc8

Black can't afford to lose all his queenside pawns and expect to survive.

40 c4

To give the rook on f3 communication with the queenside and to prepare action on the long black diagonal.

40...Qa7 41 a3 Rb6 42 Qa5 Ra6 43 Qc3 Qe7

Black must go back on defense. To the inherent difficulty of chess, regarding which we began this presentation, we now add the purely competitive factor of time-pressure. White was feeling it



especially, with fourteen minutes remaining until 'sudden death.' He deliberately selects the simplest looking solutions — alas, not always consistently.

#### 44 Bxf7

A recognized advantage of the two bishops is that one can be exchanged advantageously. Either capture on f6 also came into consideration but, as I explained, I sought simplicity.

#### 44...Qxf7 45 gxf6 Qh5 46 Kc2

Good, but White made the serious error of thinking much too long over the consequences of 46 Bg5...

#### 46...Rf8 47 Rf5 Qe8 48 Qxe5

With less than five minutes remaining, White continues to look for the simple. Objectively 48 Rxe5 was probably stronger but Black could have tried 48...Qa4+, etc.

#### 48...Qxe5 49 Rxe5 Raxf6

Not 49...Rxf6 50 Re8+ Kg7 51 Bc3 winning.

#### 50 Rf5

Again, seeking simplicity — but wrongly. White had less than 3 minutes left and proceeds to systematically throw away his win. Asked why he avoided time pressure, Fischer once replied, "Because it is then no longer chess." With, say, five additional minutes to work with I'd have selected 50 Re7. The threats of advancing the d- and e-pawns as well as Bc3 would have easily proved decisive.

#### 50...Rxf5 51 exf5 Rxf5 52 a4

White is still winning but it should not have become even as lightly challenging as it is now. The impending sudden death continues, of course, to beset White.

#### 52...Kg8 53 a5 Kf7 54 Be3 Ke8 55 Bxc5 Rf6 56 Kb3 Kd7 57 Kb4 Rh6 58 Bf2 Rf6 59 Bg3 Rf1

Neither player has necessarily played the very best — White because of his time problem and Black because of his wish to take advantage by moving quickly.

33rd Annual...

# Virginia Open

Jan 10-12, 2003

Hyatt At Dulles International Airport,  
2300 Dulles Corner Blvd, Herndon, VA 20171

*Open (open to all):*

5SS, 40/2, SD/1. \$\$1800: \$600(+trophy)-400-300-200, under 2300 \$100-50, under 2100 \$100-50. FIDE Rated. EF \$45 if rec'd by 1/3, \$55 at site. Rds 8, 10-5, 10-4.

*Amateur (open to under 1900):*

6SS, 40/90, SD/60. \$\$1450: \$300(+trophy)-200-150-125, B \$100-50, C \$100-50, D \$100-50, under 1100 \$100-50, unrated \$50-25. EF \$40 if rec'd by 1/3, \$50 at site. Rds 8, 10-3-8, 10-3:30.

*Both:*

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*Enter:*

Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA 22306, make checks payable to "Va Chess"

For more info browse

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**no email entries!!**



30 Grand Prix points



60 c5 Rb1+ 61 Kc4 Ra1

I prefer to think of this game ending here. For one thing, I no longer kept score and do not recall if my opponent did. (Nor did I ask him afterwards.) For another, I performed a miracle by way of confirming (unintentionally) Fischer's observation: I lost my a- and d- and h-pawns for *nothing!* The end had a protected White pawn on c7 with White's king trying to stop Black's h-pawn. Possibly Black was even winning, but he elected (now in his own sudden death time pressure) to liquidate to bare kings and a draw.

**Gary DeFotis - Macon Shibut**  
Old Indian

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

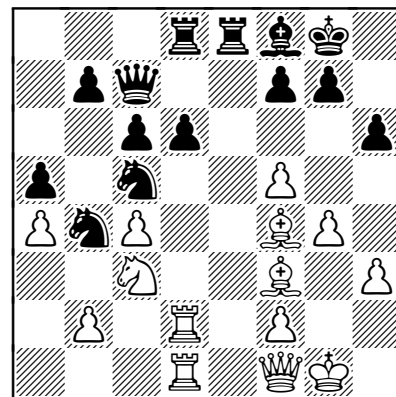
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d6 3 g3 Nbd7 4 Nc3 e5 5 Nf3 Be7  
6 Bg2 c6 7 e4 0-0 8 0-0 a6 9 a4?! a5 10 h3 Ne8  
11 Be3 Nc7 12 Qe2 Na6 13 Rfd1 Qc7 14 Rac1

White's position looks okay but under the surface his dark squares on the queenside are very weak.

14...Re8 15 Rd2 exd4 16 Nxd4 Bf8 17 Rcd1  
Ndc5 18 Qf1 Nb4 19 Bf4 h6 20 g4 Be6 21 Nf5  
Bxf5 22 exf5 Rad8 23 Bf3



Gary DeFotis (photo by Mike Atkins)



23...Qb6! 24 Re2

Not 24 Bxd6? Nb3. But otherwise Black was threatening 24...Nb3 25 Re2 Nd4 etc

24...Nba6! 25 Rxe8

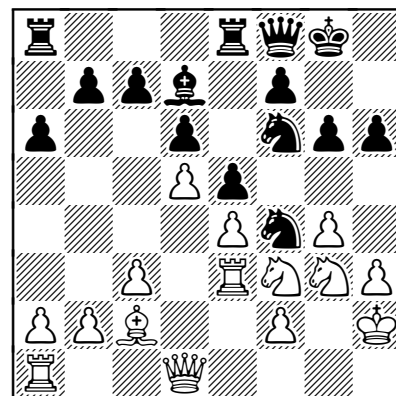
25 Qe1 Rxe2 26 Qxe2 Qb4 also looked good for Black.

25...Rxe8 26 Rd2 Qb4 27 Bd1 d5! 28 Na2? Qxc4  
29 Qxc4 dxc4 30 Nc3 Nd3 31 Bg3 Bb4 32 Be2  
Nac5 0-1

Too many threats: 33...Nxa4, 33...Nxb2, 33...Nb3  
34 Rc2 Nd4, etc.

**Al Harvey - Tim Rogalski**  
Giuoco Piano

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d3 Bc5 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 c3 d6 6  
0-0 h6 7 Re1 0-0 8 h3 a6 9 Bb3 Ba7 10 Nbd2  
Ne7 11 d4 Ng6 12 Nf1 Qe7 13 Bc2 Bd7 14 Ng3  
Rfe8 15 Be3 Bc6 16 Nf5 Qf8 17 d5 Bd7 18 g4  
Bxe3 19 Rxe3 Nf4 20 Kh2 g6 21 Ng3







21...Bxg4 22 hxc4 Nxc4+ 23 Kg1 Nh3+ 24 Kg2  
Nhx2 25 Qd2 Nxe3+ 26 Qxe3 Ng4 27 Qd2 Qg7  
28 Rh1 Rf8 29 Rh4 h5 30 Ng5 Qh6 31 Bd1 f6 32  
Bxg4 Qxg5 33 Be6+ Kg7 34 Qf2 f5 35 exf5 Qxh4  
36 f6+ Qxf6 0-1

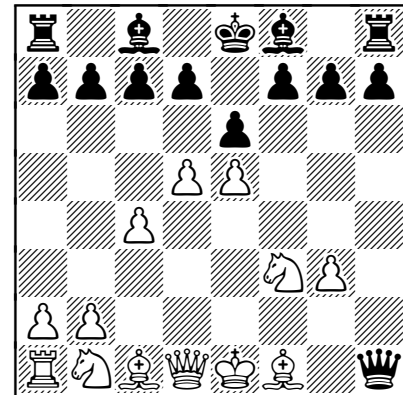
Matt Grinberg - Herbert Edwards  
Pirc

1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 Bg5 Bg7 5 f4 0-0 6  
Nf3 c6 7 Bd3 Bg4 8 Qd2 Qb6 9 e5 dxe5 10 dxe5  
Nd5 11 0-0-0 e6 12 Ne4 Bxf3 13 gxf3 Qe3 14 c4  
Qxd2+ 15 Rxd2 Ne3 16 Re1 Nf5 17 Nc5 b6 18  
Bxf5 bxc5 19 Be4 f5 20 exf6 Bxf6 21 Bxf6 Rxf6  
22 Rd8+ Rf8 23 Red1 Na6 24 Rxa8 Rxa8 25 Rd7  
Rf8 26 Rxa7 Nb8 27 Ra8 Nd7 28 Rxf8+ Kxf8 29  
Bxc6 Nb8 30 Bb5 Ke7 31 Kd2 Kd6 32 Ke3 1-0



Rusty Potter - Alan Ruffy  
Kevitz-Trajkovich

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 Nc6 3 d5 Ne5 4 e4 e6 5 f4 Nxe4  
(A theoretical duel! Ruffy repeats the variation  
from last year's game between the same  
opponents. On that occasion Potter was, by his  
own admission, "caught flat-footed," but he still  
went on to win.) 6 fxe5 Qh4+ 7 g3 Nxc3 8 hxc3  
Qxh1 9 Nf3



### Virginia Closed State Championship – Open Section

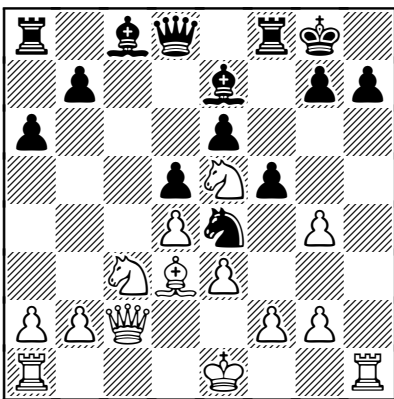
#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1	Macon A Shibut	2330	W19	W12	W13	D2	W7	D3	5.0
2	Daniel I Miller	2308	W5	D4	W8	D1	W12	W6	5.0
3	Steven F Mayer	2205	W18	D8	D4	D5	W9	D1	4.0
4	Daniel B Arceo	2015	W26	D2	D3	D16	D5	W13	4.0
5	Danny S Derby	1861	L2	W15	W10	D3	D4	W12	4.0
6	Matthew Grinberg	2002	W20	D7	W17	L12	W18	L2	3.5
7	Gary C De Fotis	2154	D9	D6	W19	W13	L1	D8	3.5
8	Efren Rod Flores	1950	W22	D3	L2	D18	W21	D7	3.5
9	David L Parrish	1835	D7	W11	D16	H---	L3	W21	3.5
10	Robert J Fischer	2094	W23	L13	L5	W14	D20	W18	3.5
11	James Robe Guill	1928	D25	L9	L18	B---	W22	W20	3.5
12	Timothy Rogalski	2072	W15	L1	W21	W6	L2	L5	3.0
13	Larry R Larkins	1921	W24	W10	L1	L7	W23	L4	3.0
14	Lucius D Hughes	1810	L16	L21	W24	L10	W25	W23	3.0
15	Alfred W Harvey	1816	L12	L5	H---	H---	W26	W25	3.0
16	Alan E Ruffy	2030	W14	D17	D9	D4	U---	U---	2.5
17	John Russel Potter	2258	W21	D16	L6	W22	U---	U---	2.5
18	Marvin Jose Lazo	1845	L3	W20	W11	D8	L6	L10	2.5
19	William Van Lear	1886	L1	W25	L7	D23	H---	H---	2.5
20	Herbert Edwards	1759	L6	L18	B---	W24	D10	L11	2.5
21	I Kremenchugskiy	1853	L17	W14	L12	W25	L8	L9	2.0
22	Ettie Nikolova	1746	L8	D23	W26	L17	L11	H---	2.0
23	William Carroll	1823	L10	D22	D25	D19	L13	L14	1.5
24	Manny R Presicci	1548	L13	D26	L14	L20	H---	H---	1.5
25	Malcolm F Scott	1578	D11	L19	D23	L21	L14	L15	1.0
26	John T Campbell	1800	L4	D24	L22	H---	L15	U---	1.0



9...d6 (This is the new move, presumably the fruit of a year's study. Last year's game went 9...exd5 10 cxd5 d6 11 Qe2 (11 e6!? fxe6 12 dxe6 Bxe6 13 Qe2 -Potter) dxe5 12 Nxe5 Bb4+ 13 Bd2 Bxd2+ 14 Nxd2 0-0 15 0-0-0 Qxd5 and 1-0 in 35 moves.) 10 Nc3 Bd7 11 Bf4 Be7 12 Qd3 0-0 13 0-0-0 Rfd8 14 Be2 Qh3 15 exd6 Bxd6 16 Bxd6 cxd6 17 dxe6 Bxe6 18 Nd5 Bxd5 19 cxd5 Re8 20 Nd4 Re5 21 Qf3 Rae8 22 Rf1 Qd7 23 Bb5 Qc7+ 24 Kd1 Rc8 25 Kd2 a6 26 Bd3 Qa5+ 27 Kd1 Qxd5 28 Qxd5 Rxd5 29 Nf5 Kf8 30 Kd2 Rd8 31 Rh1 g6 32 Ne3 Rg5 33 Rxh7 Rxd3 34 Rh8+ Ke7 35 Nd5+ 1/2-1/2

Michael Spitzer - Svetlozar Kanev  
Slav

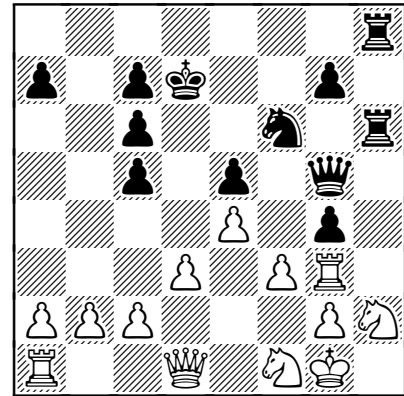
1 d4 d5 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nc3 c6 4 Nf3 Nbd7 5 cxd5 cxd5 6 Qa4 e6 7 Bf4 Nh5 8 Be5 f6 9 Bg3 Nxd3 10 hxg3 Be7 11 Qc2 f5 12 e3 Nf6 13 Ne5 a6 14 g4 0-0 15 Bd3 Ne4



16 gxf5 exf5 17 Nxe4! fxe4 18 Bxe4! dxe4 19 Qc4+ Kh8 20 Ng6mate 1-0

Tim Rogalski - Matt Grinberg  
Two Knights (Wilkes Barre)

A strange game with a stranger conclusion! 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 Bc5 5 Bxf7+ Ke7 6 Bd5 Rf8 7 0-0 d6 8 Bxc6 bxc6 9 d3 Bg4 10 Nf3 Qe8 11 Be3 Nh5 12 Bg5+ Nf6 (Clearly something has gone awry for Black.) 13 h3 h5? 14 Be3 Kd7 15 Bxc5 dxc5 16 Nbd2 Rd8 17 hxg4 hxg4 18 Nh2 Qh5 19 Re1 Rh8 20 Ndf1 Rh6 21 Re3 Rdh8 22 Rg3 Qg5 23 f3



23...Rxh2 24 Nxh2 Qe3+ 25 Kh1 Qf4 26 Qe1 Rh4 27 Rh3 gxh3 28 g3 Qg5 29 Qf2 Rh8 30 Re1 Nh5 31 Nf1 Rf8 32 Kh2 Qf6 33 Nd2 g5 34 Qxc5 a6 35 Nc4 Re8 36 Rf1 g4 37 Qf2 Rf8 38 Qc5 Nxd3 39 Nxe5+ Qxe5 40 Qxe5 Nxf1+ 41 Kh1 gxf3 42 Qd4+ Ke6 43 Qf2

18th annual

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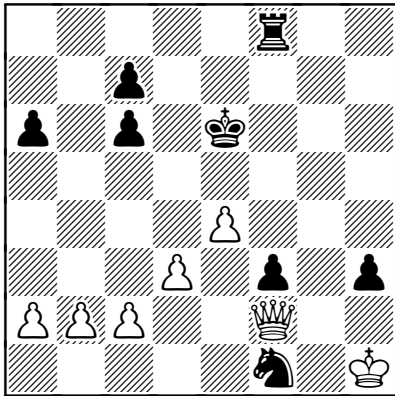
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10 Grand Prix points





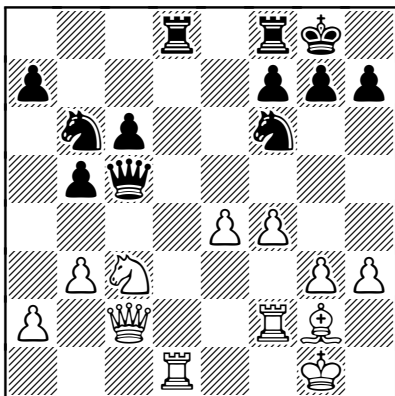
In this position Black resigned. Later, however, Grinberg offered that after 43...Nd2! the position should be drawn because White's queen is stuck on f2 lest the pawn roll on through! Maybe White can try 44 Kh2 (44 Qc5 f2 45 Qxf8 f1Q+) but after, say, 44...Rf6 45 Kxh3 Rh6+ 46 Kg4 Rf6 it's not clear what progress can be made.

1-0

David Parrish - Ilya Kremenchugskiy

English

1 Nf3 d5 2 c4 Nf6 3 b3 Bf5 4 Bb2 e6 5 g3 c6 6 Bg2 Nbd7 7 0-0 Qb6 8 cxd5 exd5 9 Nc3 Bd6 10 Na4 Qd8 11 d3 0-0 12 e4 Bg4 13 h3 Bxf3 14 Bxf3 dxe4 15 dxe4 Be5 16 Qc2 Qc7 17 Bxe5 Qxe5 18 Bg2 Rad8 19 Rad1 b5 20 f4 Qe7 21 Nc3 Qc5+ 22 Rf2 Nb6



23 Rxd8! Rxd8 24 Nd5! Qd4 25 Ne7+ Kf8 26 Nxc6 Qd1+ 27 Kh2 Qxc2 28 Rxc2 Rc8 29 Nd4 a6 30 Rxc8+ Nxc8 31 e5 Ne8 32 Bb7 Na7 33 Bxa6 Nc7 34 Bb7 g6 35 a4 bxa4 36 bxa4 Ke7 37 Nc6+ Nxc6 38 Bxc6 f6 39 exf6+ Kxf6 40 a5 h6 41 Be4 g5 42 Bd3 Ke6 43 a6 Kd5 44 a7 Kd4 45 f5 Ke5

46 g4 Na8 47 Be4 Nb6 (47...Kxe4 48 f6 etc) 48 a8Q Nxa8 49 Bxa8 and White won... 1-0

Barry Quillon - Jack Barrow

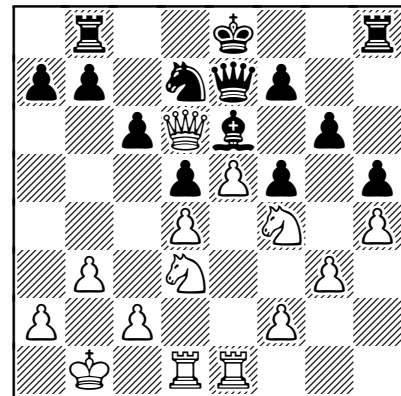
English

1 c4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 d3 Bb4 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Bd2 0-0 6 g3 d6 7 Qc2 Be6 8 Bg2 h6 9 0-0 Qd7 10 Rab1 Rae8 11 Nh4 Bh3 12 e3 Bxg2 13 Kxg2 Nh7 14 a3 Bxc3 15 bxc3 b6 16 e4 Ne7 17 f4 f5 18 Rbe1 g5 19 fxc5 hxc5 20 Nxf5 Nxf5 21 exf5 Rxf5 22 Qd1 Ref8 23 Qh5 Qc6+ 24 Kg1 Qc5+ 25 Kg2 Rf2+ 26 Rxf2 Qxf2+ 27 Kh3 Qxd2 28 Qg6+ Kh8 29 Qe4 g4+ 0-1

Daniel Miller - Rodney Flores

Modern

1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nc3 c6 4 h4 d5 5 e5 h5 6 Nge2 Nh6 7 Nf4 e6 8 Bd3 Nf5 9 Bxf5 exf5 10 Be3 Be6 11 Qd2 Nd7 12 Nce2 Bf8 13 g3 Be7 14 0-0-0 Nb6 15 Qa5 Qd7 16 b3 Bd8 17 Qd2 Be7 18 Kb1 Ba3 19 Qa5 Qe7 20 Nd3 Qf8 21 Bg5 Be7 22 Bxe7 Qxe7 23 Nef4 Nd7 24 Qc7 Nf8 25 Qa5 Nd7 26 Rhe1 Qd8 27 Qb4 Rb8 28 Qd6 Qe7



29 Nxc6 fxc6 30 Nf4 Bf7 31 Qxe7+ Kxe7 32 e6 Nf6 33 exf7+ Kxf7 34 f3 Rhe8 35 Kc1 Rxe1 36 Rxe1 Re8 37 Re5 Rg8 38 Ne6 Nh7 39 Nc5 b6 40 Nd3 Nf6 41 Re3 Nd7 42 Nb4 Rc8 43 Rc3 Nb8 44 Kd2 Ke6 45 Nd3 Rg8 46 Nf4+ Kf7 47 Nd3 Ke6 48 Ke3 a5 49 Kf4 Kd6 50 Kg5 Nd7 51 Ne5 c5 52 Nxd7 Kxd7 53 dxc5 Rc8 54 c6+ Kd6 55 a4 Rxc6 56 Rxc6+ Kxc6 57 Kxc6 Kc5 58 Kxf5 Kd4 59 Ke6 1-0



## Virginia Closed State Championship – Amateur Section

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1	William J Barrow	1696	W46	W32	W11	D7	W20	W6	5.5
2	Bill Simmons	1567	W47	W4	D21	W23	W27	D7	5.0
3	Michael Spitzer	1732	D43	W17	W42	W9	H---	W10	5.0
4	Jared K Casazza	1374	W63	L2	W48	W31	W12	W20	5.0
5	Sath Vijayakumar	1296	L27	W39	W37	W30	W28	W9	5.0
6	John Brinski	1624	W54	W8	W10	W27	D7	L1	4.5
7	Bill Keogh	1758	W18	W22	W31	D1	D6	D2	4.5
8	Patrick J Ray	1345	W37	L6	W35	D11	W40	W22	4.5
9	Opie D Lindsay	1508	W56	W51	W12	L3	W14	L5	4.0
10	Svetlozar Kanev	1421	W62	W35	L6	W49	W15	L3	4.0
11	Justin B Burgess	1536	W61	W24	L1	D8	W43	D13	4.0
12	Joe Faries	1684	W25	W30	L9	W21	L4	W32	4.0
13	William J White	1380	W48	D29	L20	W46	W41	D11	4.0
14	Stephen Graziano	1627	W53	H---	W26	H---	L9	W27	4.0
15	Thomas Landvogt	1631	L24	W61	W19	W18	L10	W33	4.0
16	Walt Carey	1400	L26	W55	W64	D24	W25	D17	4.0
17	Eric D Thode	1308	D20	L3	W68	W42	W21	D16	4.0
18	Haywood C Boling	1362	L7	W57	W63	L15	W50	W30	4.0
19	Carson Wang	1254	L35	W65	L15	W64	W45	W29	4.0
20	Barry Quillon	1709	D17	W43	W13	W28	L1	L4	3.5
21	Nathaniel Fitzgerald	1399	W60	W33	D2	L12	L17	W41	3.5
22	K W Hivick	1490	W39	L7	D34	W26	W23	L8	3.5
23	Thomas Ja Butler	1142	D67	W38	W29	L2	L22	X40	3.5
24	James P Wilson	1171	W15	L11	W32	D16	H---	H---	3.5
25	Thomas J Carr	1194	L12	W60	W33	D40	L16	W42	3.5
26	Edward Jankiewicz	unr.	W16	D42	L14	L22	W58	W46	3.5
27	Sanda Costescu	1700	W5	W45	W40	L6	L2	L14	3.0
28	G Randall Lewis	1549	W52	H---	W41	L20	L5	D34	3.0
29	Thomas H Fore	1683	W34	D13	L23	D44	W36	L19	3.0
30	Robert Weinberg	1405	W44	L12	W51	L5	W31	L18	3.0
31	Kevin J Butler	1545	W55	W49	L7	L4	L30	W52	3.0
32	Derek J O'Dell	1487	W59	L1	L24	W52	W49	L12	3.0
33	Matthew Freeman	1642	W58	L21	L25	W54	W44	L15	3.0
34	Jeff Wickstrom	1228	L29	W62	D22	L43	W51	D28	3.0
35	Woodrow Harris	1692	W19	L10	L8	W53	H---	H---	3.0
36	Ryan Fitzgerald	1439	L51	W56	L44	W63	L29	W49	3.0
37	Ernest W Schlich	1710	L8	W52	L5	L41	W56	W44	3.0
38	Christopher Burke	1586	D41	L23	L46	W48	H---	W54	3.0
39	Sean Hannifin	925	L22	L5	L52	W65	W53	W50	3.0
40	Zheng Cao	1503	W57	W64	L27	D25	L8	F23	2.5
41	Russell E Scott	1113	D38	W67	L28	W37	L13	L21	2.5
42	David N Hydorn	1493	W68	D26	L3	L17	W47	L25	2.5
43	John Brockhouse	1351	D3	L20	W47	W34	L11	U---	2.5
44	Cody Mc Clelland	758	L30	B---	W36	D29	L33	L37	2.5
45	Charles R Davis	1456	W65	L27	L49	W60	L19	H---	2.5
46	Alec Hollingsworth	1285	L1	D68	W38	L13	W59	L26	2.5
47	Nick Halgren	1110	L2	D50	L43	W68	L42	W60	2.5
48	John C Lawrence	unr.	L13	W54	L4	L38	H---	W61	2.5
49	Kevin Connelly	977	W50	L31	W45	L10	L32	L36	2.0



50	Joan H Schlich	1509	L49	D47	D58	W55	L18	L39	2.0
51	Dwight L Scotten	822	W36	L9	L30	D58	L34	H---	2.0
52	Tyler Hollingsworth	1073	L28	L37	W39	L32	W63	L31	2.0
53	Connor F Fanney	1154	L14	L63	W59	L35	L39	W65	2.0
54	Kevin Hivick	1147	L6	L48	B---	L33	W64	L38	2.0
55	Michael Krain	1070	L31	L16	W65	L50	H---	H---	2.0
56	Russel Wrightson	969	L9	L36	L60	W62	L37	W59	2.0
57	Michael Coffman	953	L40	L18	H---	H---	L66	W63	2.0
58	Thomas Hoffmann	1247	L33	D59	D50	D51	L26	U---	1.5
59	Whitney V Wilson	923	L32	D58	L53	W61	L46	L56	1.5
60	Lynelle H Lawrence	unr.	L21	L25	W56	L45	H---	L47	1.5
61	Ashwin Narla	1016	L11	L15	D62	L59	W68	L48	1.5
62	Larry Mansfield	769	L10	L34	D61	L56	L65	W64	1.5
63	Matthew White	unr.	L4	W53	L18	L36	L52	L57	1.0
64	Wesley G White	541	B---	L40	L16	L19	L54	L62	1.0
65	Theodore Mansfield	861	L45	L19	L55	L39	W62	L53	1.0
66	Bruce B George	1532	U---	U---	U---	U---	W57	U---	1.0
67	R Mark Johnson	1601	D23	L41	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.5
68	Pamela Lee	946	L42	D46	L17	L47	L61	U---	0.5



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# Dvoretsky's Promise

by Bobby Fischer

**I** WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU some thoughts on a concept in chess that I have only recently come to appreciate: prophylactic thinking. According to IM Mark Dvoretsky, a player can greatly improve the level of his play by learning to think in this manner.

Dvoretsky's students include such illustrious players as GMs Sergei Dolmatov and Artur Yusupov. He is widely regarded as the best chess trainer in the world, so a player keen to improve his game would certainly be wise to heed his advice. Dvoretsky devotes an entire chapter to in his (with Yusupov) book *Positional Play* to this topic. Yet, other than this chapter one must go back to Nimzowitsch's *My System* find a book that gives meaningful coverage to the concept. Dvoretsky elucidates the subject in a way that makes it much more accessible to the average chess player than did Nimzowitsch. In fact, it was not until I read Dvoretsky that I understood what Nimzowitsch was talking about.

Which brings me to my next point: most chess players have a poor understanding of what prophylactic thinking is. No doubt this is a consequence of how amazingly little attention chess writers have paid to the topic. With hundreds of books on chess published every year, many devoted to very narrow topics such as a particular class of ending (eg *Secrets of Pawnless Endgames*) or rare opening subvariations (eg, 4...Qh4 in the Scotch), no one has seen fit to write a book focusing on this critically important area! Most chess players consider prophylactic thinking (if they have heard of it at all) as primarily a

defensive technique of restricting your opponent's possibilities. As you will see from the examples below, prophylactic thinking can frequently be a very effective offensive weapon as well.

But first I want to review how GM Alexander Kotov, Dvoretsky's literary predecessor, taught chess players to think. The contrast will help you appreciate just how revolutionary and approach prophylactic thinking is. If you will, step back in time to the early 1970s... Bobby Fischer (alas, not me!) was world champion and we were at the height of the "Fischer boom." There were about ninety grandmasters in the world and nine of them lived in the United States. Of these, Rossolimo, Kashdan, Fine and, sadly, Fischer (although we did not know it at the time) had retired from active play. In local tournaments it was a really big deal when a player rated over 2000 showed up. Grandmasters were like sports stars — and just as inaccessible unless you lived in New York. So it was that when Kotov's classic book *Think Like a Grandmaster* first appeared in English it was greeted with great enthusiasm. Kotov was a former champion of the Soviet Union. He had won an Interzonal tournament by a then-record margin of 2½ points and at his best was probably in the top five or six players in the world. Like many players of my generation, I bought the book and studied it thoroughly.

Kotov introduced concepts such as the "tree of analysis" and "selection of candidate moves." According to *Think Like A Grandmaster*, following a general assessment of the position a player ought to make a list of possible moves and then systematically analyze each move to an

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Black pawn on d6, after which White can safely exchange queens confident that the ending two pawns up is winning. A third idea would be to attack the Black king directly with the queen and knight — yet one needs to be very careful with this technique since the White king is very exposed too. Finally, White might play to exchange queens hoping the endgame is already winning with just one pawn ahead.

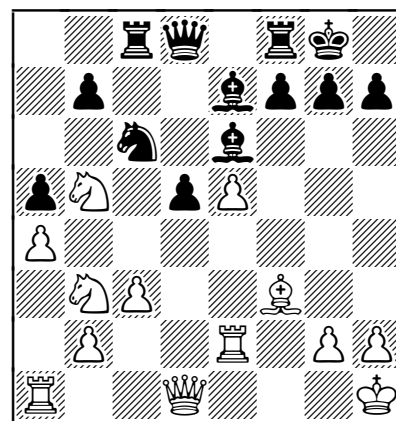
Using Kotov's technique, we can draw up a list of candidates that would include the three queen checks and perhaps some other moves. Try and solve the position this way before going further.

Now let's approach the position using prophylactic thinking. If it were Black's move, what would he play? Attempting to answer the question quickly reveals the fact that Black has *no useful checks*. This observation makes suggest that White on the move is not compelled to do anything immediately forcing; he can simply bring his knight into the attack on Black's King. Ponomarev played

1 Ne7

and Anand immediately resigned!

From this example you can see what I mean when I say that prophylactic thinking can be an *offensive* technique. Is it not much easier to find the best move if you approach the problem using Dvoretzky's method? Once you understand that Black is not threatening to bother you with checks, it becomes easier to cut right to the most incisive move without analyzing others (which might also be sufficient to win). This was a very simple example; let's look at one that is more complicated.



Sergei Dolmatov – Boris Taborov  
White to Play

Try to find the best move for White. The key to the position is of course the isolated d-pawn. White wants to increase the pressure on d5. He can double rooks on the d-file but Black may do likewise. If Black can always match White's attackers with an equal number of defenders there will be no way to win the pawn.

With this in mind: *what would Black play if it were his move?* Most likely ...Qb6. That's why Dolmatov played...

1 Qg1!

Following this White did indeed double his rooks on the d file and obtained tremendous pressure. Black's queen never could find a good square. This is a very good example of a move that both promotes White's objective — doubling on the d file — and at the same time prevents Black from

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20 Grand Prix Points





## ODU Fall Open

by Ernie Schlich

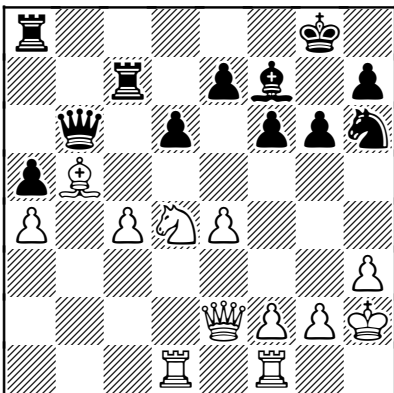
On Saturday, Sept 7, twenty players turned out at the Webb center on the ODU Campus to play in the G/60 ODU Fall Open. A surprise entry was 2406 FIDE rated Michal Kujovic, from Slovokia and temporarily living in the Richmond area. Michal played to form and finished 1st, winning all four games. Larry Larkins, Michael Neal, and Miklos Lestyan finished in a 3-way tie for the remaining place prizes. Teddy Rust, Andrew Briscoe, Stewart McBurney, Donald Means split the U1600 and U1200 prizes. Anthony Garrett, of Richmond, won the unrated prize.

Tom Landvogt, of Williamsburg, had a very nice tournament, scoring 1½ against 3 higher rated players, losing only to Larry Larkins and finishing 2½-1½ overall. His nice play deserved an award but he just missed winning one of the place prizes and was not eligible for any of the class prizes. Tom has recently organized a club in Williamsburg and it meets at Williamsburg Landing on Monday nights.

### Michal Kujovic - Larry Larkins

Sicilian Wing Gambit

1 e4 c5 2 b4 b6 3 bxc5 bxc5 4 Nc3 Nc6 5 Nf3 g6 6 Bb2 Bg7 7 Na4 Nd4 8 Nxd4 cxd4 9 Nc5 Nh6 10 Nb3 Qb6 11 a4 a5 12 Bb5 O-O 13 O-O d6 14 c3 dxc3 15 Bxc3 Bxc3 16 dxc3 Bb7 17 Qe2 Rfc8 18 c4 Rc7 19 h3 Bc8 20 Rad1 f6 21 Kh2 Be6 22 Nd4 Bf7?



23 Qe3! (winning) g5 24 Nf5 Qxe3 25 Nxh6+ Kf8 26 fxe3 Bxc4 27 Bxc4 Rxc4 28 Rd4 Rc3 29 Nf5

Rb8 30 Rf2 Rb1 31 Kg3 h5 32 Kf3 Rbb3 33 Re2 Kf7 34 Rdd2 Rb4 35 Rb2 Rcc4 36 Rxb4 Rxb4 37 Ra2 g4+ 38 hxg4 hxg4+ 39 Kxg4 Rxe4+ 40 Kf3 d5 41 Nd4 e5 42 Nc6 f5 43 Nxa5 d4 44 Nc4 Ke6 45 a5 Kd5 46 a6 Kxc4 47 a7 Rxe3+ 48 Kf2 1-0

Blaine Eley - Tom Landvogt  
Queen's Pawn

Notes by Tom Landvogt

I was happy with my results in the ODU Fall Open, especially since my play in the first three rounds earned me a game with a very good player (Larry Larkins, rated 1921) in the final round. I haven't had too many opportunities to play against players rated over 1900 so I was really thrilled to be in that position. Needless to say, Larry trounced me. While I played well in rounds 2 and 3 (drawing with a player rated 1853 and beating a player rated 1757), I decided to submit my first round game against a player who was playing his first game in his first chess tournament. I thought Mr Blaine Eley gave me all I could handle (and more). 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 d6 3 c3 g6 4 Nbd2 Bg7 5 g3 0-0 6 Bg2 c5 7 e3 Nc6 8 0-0 Bg4 9 e4 Qd7 (While this threatens ...Bh3, it also occupies the best retreat square for Black's knight should White play e5) 10 d5 Nd8 (A very awkward location for the knight.) 11 Qc2 e5 (Black would like to have played 11...Bh3 but feared 12 e5) 12 Nc4 (White pressures the the pawn on d6 and positions himself to threaten the g4 bishop) b5 13 Ne3 Bh3 14 Ng5 Bxg2 (weakens the light squares around White's king) 15 Nxc2 h6 16 Nf3 Qg4 17 Qd3 a6 18 Ngh4 Nb7 19 Kg2 Kh7 20 Re1 Nh5 21 h3 Qd7 22 g4 Nf4+ 23 Bxf4 exf4 (Earlier Black contemplated ...g5 but considered that if White sacrificed knight or bishop for the g- & h-pawns the Black king would be exposed to attack. As things turned out, it was exposed to the attack anyway!) 24 g5 Qe7 25 gxf4 Bxf4 26 Kh2 Bg5 (White plans to temporarily sacrifice a knight for the attack.) 27 Nf5 gxf5 28 exf5 Qf6 (Blocks the threatened discovered check; next Black needs to get his K out of the line of fire!) 29 Rg1 Rg8 30 Rg4 Rg7 31 Rag1 Rag8 (Black's knight is completely out of the





game while all of White's army is attacking Black's king.) **32 h4 Kh8** (Finally, Black's king is off the b1-h7 diagonal, but White still has tremendous pressure.) **33 Rxc5 Qh6!** (White probably expected Rxc5 but instead Black escapes by employing a pin. White's h pawn is now frozen and Black wins either the rook or knight. *[In fact there is no operative pin here and White could have now played simply 34 Rxc7 with a better game. -ed]*) **34 Qe4 Rxc5 35 Kh3 Rxc1 36 Nxc1 Rxc1** (Black is indeed happy to sidestep White's attack and win a Rook; however, I was in serious time trouble and might yet have lost...) **37 Qe8+ Kg7 38 Kh2 Rg4 39 Qe7 Rxh4+ 40 Qxh4 Qxh4+** (It ain't over folks. Black has less than a minute left — “sudden death!” — while White has plenty of time.) **41 Kg2 Qg4+ 42 Kf1 Qxf5 43 f3 Qb1+ 44 Ke2 Qxb2+ 45 Kf1 Qxa2 46 Ke1 a5 47 Kd1 Qf2 48 Kc1 Qxf3 49 Kc2 Qe4+ 50 Kd2 f3 51 Kd1 f2 52 Kd2 f1=Q 53 c4 Qfd3+ 54 Kc1 Qe1+** (54...Qee2 followed by Qdd1mate would have been more efficient, but time pressure often causes errors.) **55 Kb2 Qee2+** (Black misses mate again! — 55...Qeb1. The clock is ticking.) **56 Ka1 Qdd1mate** 0-1 Considering that this was Mr Eley's first tournament game, he gave an experienced 1600 player a good dose of heartburn. Mr Eley displayed an eye for attacking possibilities, kept Black's knight out of the game, and had the courage to sacrifice a piece for the attack. He deserves a lot of credit for his efforts and we look forward to his participation in future tournaments.

## Message from the VCF President

This is the first of what hopefully will be a Message from the VCF President for each issue of the *Virginia Chess* during my term in that office. Given that I am far more of an organizer and director than a Chess Politician, the first message is to encourage each member to support chess somehow in Virginia. One easy way to do that is to play in tournaments. The VCF's Northern Virginia location for its tournaments has changed and is now the Hyatt at Dulles International Airport, in Herndon. This site is wonderful: great playing conditions, world-class venue for a tournament, and fantastic guest rooms for the price. I would encourage VCF members to come play in one of the three upcoming VCF events planned for there: The Northern Virginia Open, November 2-3; the Virginia Open, January 10-12; and the Northern Virginia Chess Classic in February. Last year the VCF signed a contract with the Hyatt for several years' worth of tournaments. If we continue with the nice turnout from this past February's inaugural event there, and if players support the tournament by spending a night in the hotel, we can have a great playing venue for a long time to come! See you at the board.

— Michael Atkins

13th annual...

## David Zofchak Memorial

November 16 - 17, 2002

Tidewater Community College, Va Beach Campus

The Hampton Inn near the junction of I-264 and Newtown Rd has offered a discount and has a hot & cold breakfast buffet for guests. Check the November *Chess Life*, browse <http://home.earthlink.net/~eschlich>, or write for additional details: Ernest Schlich, 1370 South Braden Crescent, Norfolk, VA 23502.

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: 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, [jallenhinshaw@comcast.net](mailto:jallenhinshaw@comcast.net) Scholastics Chairman: Mike Cornell, 12010 Grantwood Drive, Fredericksburg VA 22407, [kencorn@erols.com](mailto:kencorn@erols.com) VCF Inc. Directors: Helen Hinshaw (Chairman); Roger Mahach; Mark Johnson; Mike Atkins; Ernie Schlich.



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# VIRGINIA CHESS

*Newsletter*

The bimonthly publication of the  
 Virginia Chess Federation

2002 - #5

**Macon Shibut Wins State Championship**  
 Jack Barrow Tops Amateur

**Lots of Big Upcoming Events:** Emporia Open (Oct 12-13); Arlington Open (Oct 12-13); DC Open, Oct 26-27; N Va Open (Nov 2-3); Zofchak Memorial (Nov 16-17, Va Beach); Arlington CC Champ (Dec 7-8); ODU Winter Fest (Dec 14-15); Virginia Open (Jan 10-12, Herndon); Millennium Fest (March 28-30, Va Beach) ... Look for details inside!



**New VCF President Mike Atkins**