



Northern Virginia Open

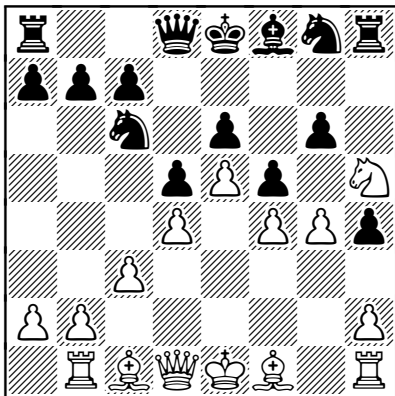
by Mike Atkins

The 8th Northern Virginia Open drew 65 players to the Hyatt-Dulles, in Reston, over the weekend of Nov 2-3. Amidst gorgeous, crisp Virginia fall weather, IM Larry Kaufman score a perfect 5-0 to take clear first in the 65 player event. IM Oladapo Adu, also undefeated at 4½-½ (with a ½-pt bye on Sunday morning) took clear 2nd. The tournament went off without a hitch after some initial confusion about the playing site, with playing time split between the AT&T building next door to the Hyatt on Saturday and then the Hyatt Ballroom on Sunday. The AT&T conference center turned out to be a nice venue, quiet and well lit. However, the Hyatt Ballroom, which will host the Virginia Open in January, was nothing short of spectacular! I've directed tournaments all over the east coast, and I can attest that this ranks with any site I've seen. Come judge for yourself, January 10-12, 2003! (*See announcement elsewhere in this issue*)

Other prizewinners included: Alex Passov, Kimani Stancil, Harry Cohen & Chris Bush (3rd/top Expert/top Class A); Alexander Kane (top Class B); Tyler Cook, Julien Scharl & Patrick Ray (top Class C); Beau Horner & Glenn Shelton (top Class D); and Erik Schaeffer (top U1200). Mike Atkins directed. Thanks to everyone who played!!

Andrew Samuelson - William Carroll
Nimzowitsch

1 e4 Nc6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 Bf5 4 c3 e6 5 Ne2 f6 6 f4 h5 7 Ng3 Bxb1 8 Rxb1 h4 9 Nh5!? (practically committing White to a piece sacrifice) f5 10 g4 g6



11 gxf5! (11 Nf6? keeps the piece but loses a pawn for nothing and offers no justification for 9 Nh5!?) exf5 (11...gxh5 12 fxe6 Qe7 to evacuate the king 13 Bh3 0-0-0 14 f5 Δ f6, e7, etc) 12 Rg1 gxh5 13 Be2 h3 14 Bxh5+ Kd7 15 Rg5 Nh6 16 Qf3 Be7 17 Qxh3! Bxg5 18 fxg5 Ng4 19 Qf3 Ne7 20 Bxg4 fxg4 21 Qxg4+ Ke8 22 h4 Qd7 23 e6 Qa4 24 b3 Qxa2 25 Rb2 Qa5 26 Rc2 Rd8 27 h5 Qb6 28 b4 Qb5 29



IM Larry Kaufman (photo by Mike Atkins)

g6 Qd3 30 g7 Rg8 31 Rf2 Qxc3+ 32 Bd2 Qa1+ 33 Ke2 Qa6+ 34 Kf3 Rxg7 35 Qxg7 Qxe6 36 Bg5 Qe4+ 37 Kg3 Qe1 38 Qxe7+ Qxe7 39 Bxe7 Kxe7 40 Kh4 Rg8 41 h6 Rg1 42 Kh5 Rh1+ 43 Kg6 Rg1+ 44 Kh7 b6 45 Kh8 (45 b5) a5 46 bxa5 bxa5 47 h7 Kd6 48 Ra2 c5 49 dxc5+ Kxc5 50 Rxa5+ Kc4 51 Ra8 d4 52 Rg8 Rh1 53 Kg7 Rxh7+ 54 Kxh7 d3 55 Rd8 ½-½



Alexander Passov - Jeremy Hummer
Caro-Kann

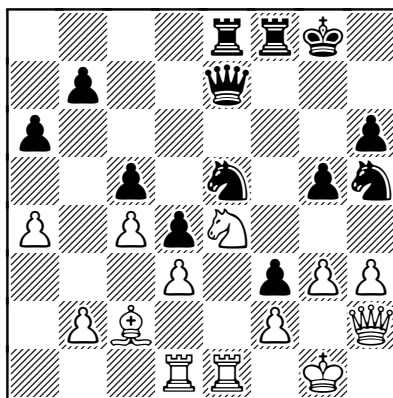
1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3
Bg6 6 N1e2 Nd7 7 Nf4 e5 8 Nxg6 hxxg6 9 dxe4
Nxe5 10 Qe2 Qe7 11 Bf4 Nd7 12 0-0-0 Qxe2 13
Bxe2 0-0-0 14 Bc4 f6 15 Ne4 Nh6 16 Be6
(White's activity makes it very hard for Black to
play, and indeed his next move blunders a pawn.
Perhaps 16...Be7) g5? 17 Nxg5 Be7 (17...fxg5 18
Bxxg5 Black will lose the Nd7) 18 Ne4 g5 19 Bg3 f5
20 Be5! (Again the pinned knight hurts Black, ie, if
20...fxe4 21 Bxxh8 Rxxh8 22 Bxxd7+) Rh7 21 Rxd7
Rxd7 22 Rd1 Bf8 23 Nxg5 Re7 24 Rxd7 Rxd7 25
Nh7! Be7 26 Nf6 Bxxf6 27 Bxxf6 Kc7 28 Bxxd7 Kxxd7
29 h4 Ng4 30 Bd4 Ke6 31 Bxxa7 1-0

Larry Kaufman - Chris Bush Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 e6 5 Bg5 Nbd7 6
 cxd5 exd5 7 e3 Be7 8 Qc2 h6 9 Bf4 0-0 10 Bd3
 b6 11 0-0-0 Bb7 12 g4 Rc8 13 g5 hxg5 14 Nxcg5
 c5 15 Rhg1 Nh5? (Inviting a standard combination;
 presumably he should open the c-file, 15...cxd4)
 16 Bh7+ Kh8 17 Bg8 Ndf6 18 Nxf7+ Rxf7 19 Bxf7
 Nxf4 20 exf4 Bd6 21 Qf5 cxd4 22 Rd3 Ng8 23
 Rxc7! Qh4 (23...Kxc7 24 Rg3+ mates) 24 Rg4
 Qxh2 25 Rh3+ Qxh3 26 Rxc8+ Rxc8 27 Qxh3+
 Kg7 28 Bxc8 Bxf4+ 29 Kc2 1-0

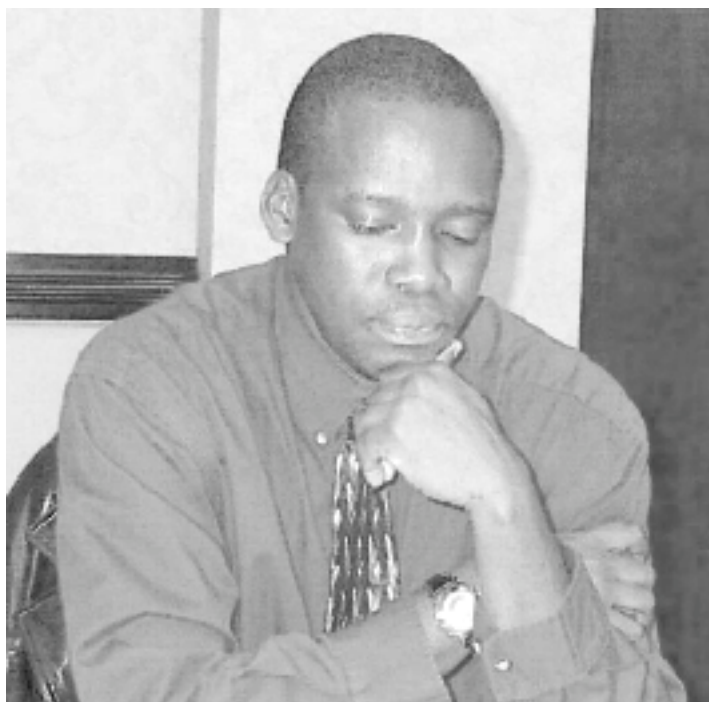
Oladapo Adu - Andrew Samuelson
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bc4 e6 4 O-O Nf6 5 d3 a6 6 c3 Be7 7 a4 0-0 8 Re1 d5 9 exd5 exd5 10 Bb3 Bg4 11 Bf4 Nc6 12 Nbd2 d4 13 c4 Bd6 14 Bg5 h6 15 Bh4 g5 16 Bg3 Nh5 17 Bxd6 Qxd6 18 h3 Bxf3 19 Qxf3 Nf4 20 Ne4 Qe7 21 Ng3 Qf6 22 Ne4 Qe7 23 Rad1 (It says something about the mindset of the two players that Black *might* be ready to accept a draw here, and that White is definitely willing to avoid it!—see the next note) Ne5 24 Qg3 Rae8 25 Bc2 f5 26 Nd2 Nh5 27 Qh2 f4 28 Ne4 f3 29 g3 (*diagram*)



(All right, White has gotten his way: for this position, with his queen ridiculously closeted alongside the king, he has spurned a possible repetition.) **Qc7**
30 Kh1 b6 31 Qg1 Qd7
32 Kh2 a5 33 Qh1 Kh8
34 Kg1 (Rubik's cube chess!—Kh1, Qg1, Kh2, Qh1, Kg1...) **Re7 35 Kf1**
g4? (better to maneuver a knight towards b4) **36**

hxg4 Qxg4 37 Nd2 Rf5 38 Re4 Qg6 39 Rde1 Nf6 40 Rh4
h5 41 Bd1 Rf7 42 Bc2 Nfg4 43 Re4 Qg5 44 Rf4! (Δ
44...Rxf4 45 Rxx5+) Kg8 45 Ne4 Qh6? 46 Rxxg4+ Nxg4
47 Rxxg4+ Kh7 48 Rf4 Rxf4 49 gxf4 Rxf4 (Δ Rxe4, Qc1+)
50 Bd1! Rf5 51 Qh3! Qf4 52 Bxf3! Kg6 (X f3,h5) 53 Ke2
Qc1 54 Qg3+ Kh6 55 Qd6+ Kg7 56 Qe7+ Kh8 57 Nd2
Qxb2 58 Qe4 Rg5 59 Qf4 Rg7 60 Qh6+ Black loses his
rook 1-0



IM Oladapo Adu (*photo by Mike Atkins*)

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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36th 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:

Top 4 prizes in Open guaranteed, all other prizes in both sections based on 100 adult entries. Reg 6:00-7:30pm 1/10 and 9-9:30am 1/11. One ½-pt bye avail rounds 1-3 or later rounds if requested before start of round 2. Scholastic (19 and under) entry fee option: \$20 if rec'd by 1/3, \$30 at site, play for non-cash prizes (trophies) only. VCF membership required (\$10, \$5 jr), OSA. NS,NC,W. Hotel \$79+ tax, 1-2, 703-713-1234. Must reserve room by Dec 27! *Enter:* Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA 22306, make checks payable to "Va Chess" For more info browse <http://members.cox.net/tournaments/virginiaopen/> or email matkins2@cox.net but **no email entries!!**

30 Grand Prix points

THE MODERN VIRGINIA OPEN began in 1968. The inaugural event was organized by the late Jules Zell and for that first year, at least, the tournament was also referred to by some as the "Fredricksburg Open." The list of winners in the intervening years includes many of Virginia's greatest players, as well as distinguished grandmasters and other guests from out of state. Rusty Potter, who himself tied for first place in three Virginia Opens (1974, 1979 & 1996) has undertaken to compile a complete list of the event's winners. His results to date are show below. Note that for years 1988-1990 the winners' names have not been found yet. Also, the entry for two other years, 1977 & 1981, are unreliable, being based on frail memory rather than documentation. If anyone has old copies of *Virginia Chess Newsletter* or otherwise can help fill in the blanks (or point out errors), please contact either the editor (mshibut@dgs.dgsys.com) or Rusty Potter (chessmastr@earthlink.net). It would be nice to offer the completed list as part of our report on the 2003 Virginia Open next issue! We are also interested in learning tiebreak orders, if known. In the table below, * indicates that the player was declared overall winner on tiebreak.

1968	Ed Kitces	1987	Anna Achsharumova
1969	Larry Kaufman	1988	?
1970	David Floreen	1989	?
1971	Duncan Thompson	1990	?
1972	Charles Powell	1991	Alex Sherzer*, Eugene Meyer, Ron Burnett
1973	Branko Vujakovic	1992	Macon Shibut, Steve Stoyko
1974	Frank Thornally*, Charles Powell, Russell Potter	1993	Sergey Kudrin, Alex Sherzer
1975	John Cline, Steve Bookbinder	1994	Eugene Meyer
1976	John Fedorowicz	1995	William Morrison
1977	Steve Odendahl (?)	1996	Shelby Getz, Gennadi Zaitshik, Boris Reichstein, Russell Potter
1978	Richard Delaune	1997	Edgar Inoncencio*, Eugene Meyer, Ron Burnett, Rich Delaune
1979	Russell Potter*, Boris Bacynsky, Steve Bookbinder	1998	Larry Kaufman, Emory Tate
1980	Art Smith	1999	Adrian Negelescu*, Emory Tate, Leonid Filatov
1981	Igor Ivanov, Boris Bacynsky (?)	2000	Larry Kaufman
1982	Tim Taylor, Errol Liebowitz, Stephen Stoyko	2001	Ilye Figler
1983	Rich Delaune	2002	Alex Wotkiewicz*, Rodion Rubenchik
1984	Igor Ivanov, Arthur Bisguier, Lubomir Kavalek, Dennis Strenzwilk		
1985	Rich Delaune		
1986	Roman Dzindzichashvili, Emory Tate, Vince Mc Cambridge, Steve Greanias	2003	You ?



Emporia Open

State champion Macon Shibut, of Vienna, scored 4½-½ to take clear first place at the 18th annual Emporia Open, October 12-13. Beau Horner, of Ruther Glen, and Miklos Lestyan, of Virginia Beach, tied for second at 4-1. Newcomer Horner is clearly a player to watch; he was paired up in every game, including Shibut's last-round draw.

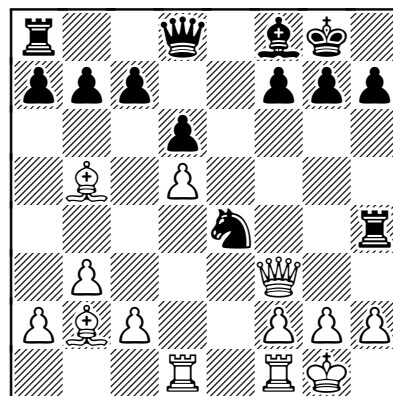
Other prizewinners included Terry Newman (top class A); Joe Faries & Tobin Logan (= top B); Mark Bland, Ted Rust & David Hydorn (=C); Tom Hoffmann (D); Dwight Scotten (E); and Jack Barrow & Ettie Nikolova (= top scholastic).

Macon Shibut - Tobin Logan Four Knights

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nc3 Nc6 4 Be2 (Basically I just didn't feel like bothering with the Petroff Defense on that day. However, it also should be said that this deceptive little move contains more venom than you might expect. For example, White got a decisive advantage practically right out of the opening in Shibut - R Benjamin, 1986 Fredricksburg Open, after Bc5 5 Nxe5 Nxe5 6 d4 Bd6 7 dxe5 Bxe5 8 0-0 Bxc3 9 bxc3 Nxe4 10 Qd4 Nf6 11 Ba3 d6 12 Bb5+ Bd7 13 Rfe1+ Kf8 14 Bxd6+!) **Be7 5 0-0 d6 6 d4 exd4 7 Nxd4 Bd7 8 b3 0-0 9 Bb2 Nxd4 10 Qxd4** (With this we complete our transposition into a sort of Ruy Lopez, Steinitz Defense. Compare to games that commence 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 d6 4 d4 Bd7 5 Nc3 Nf6 6 0-0 Be7 7 Re1 exd4 8 Nxd4 0-0 9 Bf1, for instance.)

Bc6 11 Rad1 Re8 12 Nd5 Bxd5? (A positional mistake. Now White has a stable advantage in the form of the bishop pair and space created by the cramping pawn at d5. Black needed to play 12...Bf8, not fearing 13 Nxf6+ (I probably would have played 13 Bd3), which is in fact nothing for White after 13...Qxf6 14 Qxf6 gxf6 15 Bxf6 (other moves are likewise fine for Black) Rxe4 etc) **13 exd5 Bf8 14 Bb5 Re4 15 Qd3 Rh4 16 Qf3 Ne4?** (16...Ng4 was better. After the text Black slips irretrievably into a lost position owing to the awkward state of his rook and knight.)



17 g3! Ng5 18 Qg2 Nh3+ (18...Rh6 19 h4 traps the knight) 19 Kh1 Rh6 20 Bc1! g5 (or 20...Ng5 21 h4 ΔKg1 — Black can't wriggle off the hook.) 21 Rde1 Qf6 (21...Be7 holds longer but the position is sorry in any case.) 22 Bd7 g4 23 Bxh6 Bxh6 24 Bxg4 Ng5 25 f4 Qb2 26 fxe5 Bxe5 27 c4 Qd4 28 Re4 1-0



Onlookers follow the conclusion of the first-round game between Ettie Nikolova and Beau Horner.
(Photo by Macon Shibut)



Arlington Open

by Mike Atkins

Seventy players participated in the second Arlington Open, held Oct 12-13 at the Arlington Campus, George Mason University. The weather was perfect for chess: cloudy, rainy, an atmosphere for staying inside. It was also another weekend where normal people in the area felt abnormally terrorized by a sick sniper. I congratulate everyone who played and didn't let their lifestyle be disrupted by these events.

Lacking the senior masters and internationally titled players featured in recent local tournaments, this Arlington Open took on the feeling of a tournament from the 1970's, with a wide variety of players in the 2300's. At the end of the weekend, it was the ex-champs who were in charge: former (1997) Virginia state champion Steve Greanias and former Maryland champion Stan Fink each scored 4½-½ to tie for first.

Six players finished at 4-1. Sharing 3rd and top Expert moneys were Ilya Figler, Boris Privman, Boris Reichstein, Ruixin Yang & Matt Grinberg. Harry Cohen also scored 4-1 but was top class A. Other section winners included John Binski (B); Michael Abron & William H Wilson (C); Sath Vijayakumar (D); Eric Schaeffer (under 1200); and Manoj Supre (unrated).

Jason McKinney - Steve Greanias
Alekhine

1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 c4 Nb6 4 c5 Nd5 5 Bc4 e6 6 Nc3 Nxc3 7 bxc3 Nc6 8 d4 b6 9 cxb6 axb6 10 Nh3 Ba6 11 Bxa6 Rxa6 12 0-0 Qa8 13 Qe2 Be7 14 Nf4 0-0 15 Nh5 Kh8 16 f4 f5 17 exf6 Bxf6 18 Be3 Ne7 19 Rf3 Nf5 20 Bf2 Ra5 21 Rh3 Nd6 22

Qc2 Qe4 23 Qd1 Be7 24 Re3 Qg6 25 Rh3 Rff5 26 Ng3 Rxf4 27 Qe2 Rh4 28 Rxh4 Bxh4 29 Qf3 Be7 30 h3 h6 31 Qe2 Bh4 32 Kh2 Kh7 33 Qf3 Qc2 34 a3 Nf5 35 Nh1 Bxf2 36 Nxf2 Nxd4 37 cxd4 Rf5 38 Qg3 Rxf2 39 Re1 Rf6 40 d5 exd5 41 Re7 Rg6 42 Qf3 Rd6 43 Qf8 Rg6 44 Qf3 Qc6 45 Re8 Qd6+ 46 Kh1 Qf6?! 47 Qd3 (47 Qxd5! Greanias) Qg5 48 Qc2 d4 49 Qa2 d5 50 Qf2 d3 51 g4 Rf6 52 Qb2 Qf4 53 Re1 Qf3+ 54 Kg1 Qg3+ 0-1

Stan Fink - Andrew Samuelson
Benoni

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 e4 g6 7 Bd3 Bg7 8 Nge2 0-0 9 0-0 a6 10 a4 Nbd7 11 h3 Qc7 12 Ng3 c4 13 Bc2 Rb8 14 a5 b5 15 axb6 Rxb6 16 Kh1 h5 17 Ra2 Re8 18 Be3 Rb8 19 f4 h4 20 Nge2 Nc5 21 e5 dxe5 22 f5 e4 23 fxg6 Nd3 24 Bd4 Qd6 25 gxf7+ Kxf7 26 b3 cxb3 27 Bxb3 Kg8 28 Bxf6 Bxf6 29 Nxe4 Rxe4 30 Qxd3 Rbb4 31 Rc2 Bd7 32 Rc6 Rxb3 33 Qxe4 Bxc6 34 Qg6+ Kh8 35 Rxf6 Rb1+ 36 Ng1 Qc5 37 Qh5+ Kg8 38 Qf7+ 1-0

Steve Greanias - Ruixin Yang
Tarrasch

1 c4 e6 2 g3 d5 3 Bg2 Nf6 4 Nf3 Be7 5 0-0 0-0 6 d4 c5 7 cxd5 exd5 8 Nc3 Nc6 9 dxc5 Bxc5 10 Bg5 d4 11 Bxf6 Qxf6 12 Nd5 Qd8 13 Nd2 Be6 14 Nf4 Qd7 15 Rc1 Bb6 16 Nc4 Bxc4 17 Rxc4 Ne5 18 Rc1 Rad8 19 Qb3 Nc6 20 Nd5 Na5 21 Qd3 Qe6

Chess Club of Virginia Commonwealth University (CCVCU) Open

Saturday, January 25, 2003
VCU Student Commons

907 Floyd Ave, Richmond, Va 23220

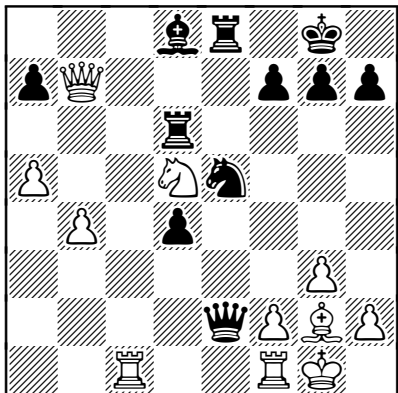
4-SS, G/60. \$\$ (b/25 entrees) \$275. EF \$15 at site only. Reg 10-11am, rds 11:15-1:30-4-6:15. USCF memb req'd. No smoking, no computers, wheelchair access.

WANTED

If anyone has a copy of the crosstable for the **1976 US Open**, held at George Mason University, in Fairfax, please contact the editor (mshibut@dgs.dgsys.com) or Helen Hinshaw (HinshawHS@vadoc.state.va.us)



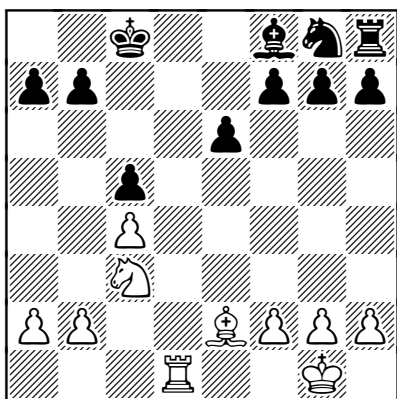
22 b4 Nc6 23 Qb5 Qe5 (23...d3 24 e3 Rd6 25 Nxb6 axb6 26 Rcd1 ∞ Greanias) 24 Qc4 Rfe8 25 a4 Rd6 26 a5 Bd8 27 Qb5 Qxe2 28 Qxb7 Ne5



29 Qb8 Rd7 30 Rce1 Qh5 31 f4 f6 32 fxe5 fxe5 33 Qb5 Rd6 34 Nf4 a6 35 Bd5+ Kh8 36 Nxb5 axb5 37 Rxe5 Be7 38 Rxe7 Red8 39 Ref7 h6 40 Rf8+ Rxf8 41 Rxf8+ Kh7 42 Be4+ g6 43 Nf6+ 1-0

Alexander Passov - William Carroll
Nimzowitsch

1 e4 Nc6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 Qxd5 4 Nf3 Bg4 5 Be2 O-O-O 6 c4 Qf5 7 Be3 Bxf3 8 Bxf3 Nxd4 9 Bxd4 Qe6+ 10 Be2 c5 11 0-0 Rxd4 12 Qc2 Qe4 13 Qxe4 Rxe4 14 Nc3 Rd4 15 Rad1 Rxd1 16 Rxd1 e6



White has a lead in development, but a pawn is a pawn... 17 Ne4 Be7 18 f4 h6 19 Bf3 Nf6 20 Nd6+ Bxd6 21 Rxd6 Kc7 22 Rd1 b6 23 Kf2 Rd8 24 Rxd8 Kxd8 25 h4 Nd7 26 Ke3 Kc7 27 g4 Nb8 28 g5 Nc6 29 Bh5 f5 30 Bf7 Kd7 31 Bg8 Ke7 32 Kf3 Nb4 33 a3 Nd3 34 b3 Nc1 35 b4 cxb4 36 axb4 Nd3 37 b5 Nb2 38 Ke3 Nxc4+ 39 Kd4 Nd6 40 Ke5 Nxb5 41 Bxe6 Nd6 42 Bxf5 Nxf5 43 Kxf5 a5 44 Kg6 Kf8 45 Kh7 a4 46 f5 hxg5 47 hxg5 Kf7 48 f6 g6 0-1

Boris Privman - David Slack
Grünfeld

Notes by Boris Privman and CRAFTY

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 Bd2 Bg7 6 e4 Nxc3 7 Bxc3 c5 8 d5 Bxc3+ 9 bxc3 0-0 10 Nf3 Bg4 11 Be2 Bxf3 12 Bxf3 Qd6 13 0-0 e6 14 Qb3 exd5 15 Rfd1 (15 Qxb7 Nc6) Nc6 16 Rxd5 Qe7 17 Qb5 Ne5 18 Qxc5 Nxf3+ 19 gxf3 Qxc5 20 Rxc5 Rac8 21 Rxc8 Rxc8 22 Rc1 Rc4 (22...Rc5! equalizes as White cannot move to the center due to the threat of Rh5) 23 Kf1 Kg7? (23...f5! =) 24 Ke2 Kf6 25 Kd3 Ra4 26 Rc2 Kg5 27 Ke3 Rc4 28 f4+ Kf6 29 f3 b5 30 Kd3 a6 31 Rd2 Ke6 32 Kc2 f5 33 Rd4 Rc6 (33...Rxd4! 34 cxd4 a5 35 Kb2 Kd6 36 d5 Kc5 37 Kc3 h6 38 h4 b4+ 39 Kb3 Kb5 40 d6 a4+) 34 Kd3 Rc5 35 e5 Rd5 36 h4 a5 37 a4? (37 Rxd5 Kxd5 38 a4!) Rc5 38 axb5 Rxb5 39 Rd6+ Ke7 40 Ra6 Kf8 41 Ra7 h6 42 Kd4 Rb1 43 e6 Re1 44 Kd5 Re3 45 Rxa5 Rxc3 46 Ke5 1-0

Marvin Lazo - Vladimir Grechikhin
Queen's Indian

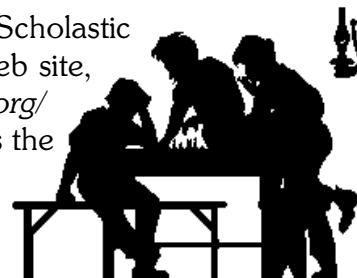
1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 g3 b6 4 Bg2 Bb7 5 0-0 Be7 6 c4 0-0 7 Nc3 d6 8 Re1 Ne4 9 Qc2 f5 10 Nd2 d5 11 cxd5 Nxc3 12 bxc3 exd5 13 c4 c6 14 Nf3 Nd7 15 Bf4 Rc8 16 e3 c5 17 Qb3 dxc4 18 Qxc4+ Kh8 19 d5 Bf6 20 Rad1 Re8 21 h4 Ne5 22 Bxe5 Bxe5 23 Ng5 Qd7 24 d6 Rf8 25 Bxb7 Qxb7 26 d7 Rcd8 27 Nf7+ Rxf7 28 Qxf7 Qb8 29 Rd5 Bxg3 30 Kg2 Bxh4 31 Rh1 Bf6 32 Rxf5 Qd6 33 Rxh7+ 1-0

Virginia Scholastic Championship

March 8-9, 2002

Deep Run High School
4801 Twin Hickory Road
Glen Allen, VA 23059

Follow the Virginia Scholastic
Chess Association web site,
<http://www.vschess.org/>
for more information as the
event approaches.





Book Reviews

by Sal Rosario

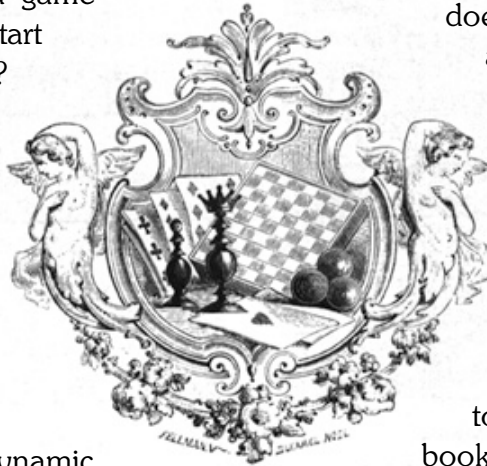
Could You Be A Tactical Chess Genius?

by James Plaskett, \$19.95, Everyman Chess

Could You Be A Positional Chess Genius?

by Angus Dunnington, \$19.95, Everyman Chess

A perennial argument in chess concerns whether skill or luck has the greatest influence on practical results. Every chess player has had the disturbing experience of blundering away a game that was “completely won” from start to near finish. Is this luck or skill? Even your humble narrator has faced this situation: many a time, my opponent’s *luck* has cheated me out of a deserved point! Granted, it has also happened from time to time that my surpassing *skill* has enabled me to salvage a horrible position...



Is it possible that this same dynamic could appear into chess publishing? One book succeeds and becomes a modern classic; another disappears with hardly a ripple. Was it the authors’ skill or luck that made the difference? *What if the same man wrote both books?* A comparison of two new books from Everyman Chess publishers — James Plaskett’s *Could You Be A Tactical Chess Genius?* and Angus Dunnington’s *Could You Be A Positional Chess Genius?* — brings these questions to mind.

First, consider the skill with which each volume is crafted. They both do a nice job of laying out the salient detail of various, well-chosen positions. They both pose well-considered questions concerning the goals of the players, the motives for moves. In addition, each book offers a Hint section that can enhance the reading/solving experience. Finally, each book concludes with the perfunctory

Answer section, where we finally see the yellow brick road of brilliant or insightful moves leading to the Emerald City. In short, both *Could You Be Tactical Chess Genius?* and *Could You Be Positional Chess Genius?* are very good professional efforts offered at a reasonable price.

One quibble: for some reason, Everyman elected to put the term “puzzles” on the covers. To me the word has always conjured images of the schlock throw-together books peddled to rank beginner. Almost anything — ‘exercises’, ‘positions’, ‘problems’ — would be better. ‘Puzzle’ does not do justice to these volumes and the wealth of fine chess therein. Inasmuch as other intermediate-to-strong players may feel the same and be alienated from the books, this was a display of poor skill in putting the books together.

And now — luck. Any moderate tournament player will tell you that books — indeed, very good books — on tactical combinations are plentiful. Thus Mr Plaskett has the bad luck to release his book into an already crowded field. On the other hand, books concerning the exercise of positional judgment are more rare. It is Mr Dunnington’s good fortune that he was commissioned to write something destined to fill a void in many players’ libraries.

In themselves, either *Could You Be A Tactical Chess Genius?* or *Could You Be A Positional Chess Genius?* would be a good addition to any library. However, if you already own one or more books of combinations, you’re likely to find that the *Tactical* book does not add much new. The *Positional* book, on the other hand, will almost surely deliver your money’s worth. Yes, even in chess publishing, there is luck and skill.

4th Annual



MILLENNIUM CHESS FESTIVAL

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

MARCH 28-30 2 0 0 3

4th Annual



\$15,500 PRIZE FUND

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Readers' Games & Analysis



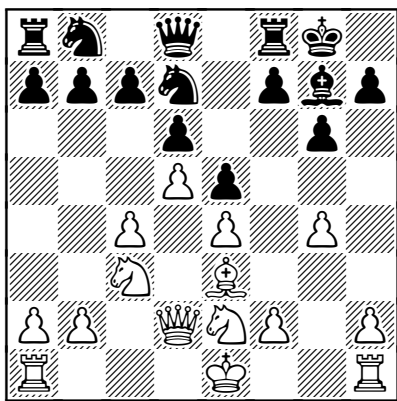
Jerry Wheeler - Macon Shibut

Atlantic Open 2002

King's Indian

Notes by Macon Shibut

Everyone has their own criteria for 'good' or 'favorite' games. Personally, I like tough, epic sorts of struggles—the kind where, when it's finally over, the opening seems three rounds ago. Such games are never models of precision, but that is part of their charm. The mistakes, the grand swings of fortune, are essential components in the unfolding drama. I think this is my favorite game among those I've played (so far!) in 2002.) **1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 c4 Bg7 4 Nc3 d6 5 e4 0-0 6 Be2 Bg4 7 e3 Nfd7 8 Qd2 Nc6 9 Ng1 Bxe2** (An unusual mix of systems: I have seen 8 Ng1 and also 8 0-0 Bc6 9 Qd2, but never this combination of Qd2 and Ng1. Here Black could consider 9...Nf6!? but I decided on a more conventional plan.) **10 Ngxe2 5** (If 10...Na5?! 11 b3 c5 12 dxc5 is a clear advantage for White in view of 12...Nxc5 13 b4 or 2...dxc5 13 Rd1 etc) **11 d5 Ncb8** (Attempting to 'exploit' the position of his queen at d2 I opted for a plan with my knight heading for c5 — various tactics might lead to it eventually landing on b3!) rather than the normal retreat 11...Ne7) **12 g4!?**



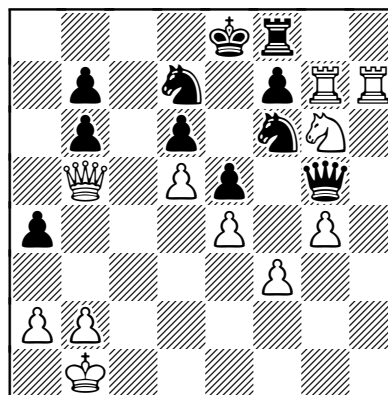
This move figures in a number of King's Indian variations. In this particular position, however, I believe there are several good counters to it available. First of all I looked at 12...f5!?, with the

continuation 13 gxf5 gxf5 14 exf5 Qh4 being especially attractive—Black is hitting the c4 pawn. If then 15 b3 maybe 15...e4!?, which is precisely the sort of thing that a King's Indian player has to love... However, I also dissected White's projected attack and believed it to be defensible. So, ultimately, I decided there was no reason to diverge from my prior plan. It seemed to me White's procedure must involve the moves h4-h5xg6, B-h6xg7 & Qh6+, etc, in one sequence or another. But suppose Black defends with a timely ...f6 and ...Qe7 (or ...Rf7), recapturing on g7 with the queen? I did not see how White could reinforce the assault against that. Meanwhile Black's own queenside aspirations could continue to inch resolutely forward.) **a5 13 h4 Na6 14 h5 Nac5 15 0-0-0 a4** (If 15...Nb6 16 b3 a4 White must be careful, eg 17 Kc2? axb3+ 18 axb3 Nxe4! 19 Nxe4 Ra2+. But 17 Kb2 seems to defend (although even here 17...f5!? gives interesting chances) whereas after the text move I'm threatening ...Nb6 more strongly.) **16 Ng3 Nb6 17 Qe2** (A strategic success! White is forced to abandon his direct attack with Bh6 etc and employ his queen passively in defense of c4) **Bf6 18 Kb1** (I expected 18 g5 whereupon I don't advise 18...Bxg5? as White's attack with Rdg1 and Nf5 looks irresistible. Instead I would just play 18...Bh8 and, during the game at least, I thought the advance of his pawn to g5 made my kingside more secure somehow. My bishop could revive later with ...f6 etc.) **18...Bg5 19 Rdg1 Qf6 20 Bxg5 Qxg5 21 Rh3** (In principle Black ought to be better: my queen and both knights are superior to their White counterparts. But now White threatens to double rooks on the h-file, forcing me to devise a new defensive plan.) **Rfc8** (I decided to simply bring the king to e7, now intending to recapture on g6 with the h-pawn, of course. Meanwhile, the rook on c8 might make him at least have to think about ...c6!?) **22 Rgh1 Kf8 23 Nf1** (Seems like a good maneuver: White transfers the knight to e3 where it relieves his queen from defending c4 and g4) **Ke7 24 Ne3 Nbd7** (With his knight on e3, the pressure against c4 was not worth so much. My



plan for further progress on the queenside involved ...Ra6 followed by either doubling rooks on the a-file (when ...Nb3! might follow, with either mate on the a-file or ...Nd4 if White doesn't take the knight) or by ...Ra6-b6-b4. Withdrawing my knight furthers this scheme in two ways. First, of course, it clears b6 for the possible rook maneuver. Second,—well, one concern I had was that after ...Ra6 White might trade on g6 followed by Rh8, relieving pressure by swapping a pair of rooks. So I figured I might avoid that exchange by preparing ...Nf8) **25 hxg6 hxg6 26 f3 Ra6 27 Rh7** (Introducing a new idea: doubling rooks laterally, eg Rg7 and Rhh7. Moreover, if now 27...Rca8 28 Rg7 Nb3 there is 29 Nf5+ Ke8 30 Rh8+ Nf8 31 Rgg8) **Rb6 28 Rg7 Qf4** (Stepping out of the pin on the g-pawn so as to avoid Nf5+; 28...Qf6 was a safer way to do the same thing but much less active and therefore less desirable. I had a tactical justification for the text in mind—see the next note.) **29 Rhh7 Rf8 30 Ng2** (Recycling the knight to where he can hit both f5 and g6. But what about 30 Rxc6—? White wins a pawn, but in doing so he would leave himself off

balance to a counterpunch: 30...a3 31 Nb5 (or 31 b3 Nxb3!) and now, happily, 31...Nxe4! and the tactics confirm the value of Black's centralized pieces. If ever White inserts Nf5+ in this line, I just retreat my king and then his Rg6 would be *en pris* as well.) **30...Qg5 31 Nh4 Ke8** (Stepping away from all threats and also menacing ...Nf6 to embarrass White's rooks.) **32 Nb5!** (White does not back off one bit but fights for the initiative! Now the play becomes very sharp just as time control approaches.) **Rxb5! 33 cxb5 Nf6 34 b6!** (The queen breaks on from the other side.) **35 Qb5+ Ncd7 36 Nxc6**



RUSSELL POTTER

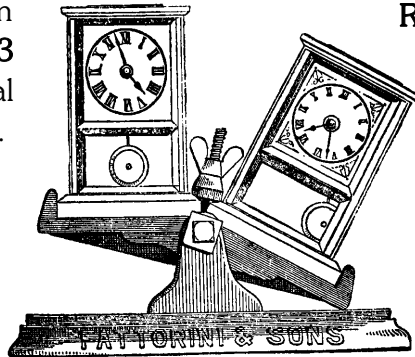
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(Honest truth—I had anticipated all of this, including White's clever point that if now 36...Nxb7 (or 36...fxg6 37 Rxd7) 37 Nxf8 Qxg7 38 Qxd7+ Kxf8 39 Qd8mate, and I had prepared the following counter-shot.) 36...Qd2! (Black can also threaten mate. And this, it turns out, cannot be defended satisfactorily since if now 37 a3 Qd1+ 38 Ka2 Qb3+ 39 Qxb3 axb3+ 40 Kxb3 fxg6, whereas the only other way...) 37 Rh1 (...relieves the pressure on the 7th rank, so again Black can capture material.) 37...fxg6 38 Rc1 (Around to threaten mate from the other direction. I cannot say that I had foreseen all of this, but I trusted the good placement of my pieces and it does seem that Black can maintain control.) Rf7 39 Rxd6 Ke7 40 a3 Qa5 (Here I was guilty of an ethical lapse, although not intentionally. The control was at move 40 and there was minor time pressure on both sides, although nothing extreme. In the heat of the moment I knew that I had made the control, but somehow in my mind I considered that it was *as if I was White*, not Black, ie, that although my last move put me safely past the mark, my opponent still needed to play one more turn. So, when Mr Wheeler (a master from Tennessee who I had never met or played before) paused to consider this position for a minute—his flag fell and I called it. Naturally he dismissed my 'claim' with the disdain it deserved. And finally realizing my error, I muttered an embarrassed apology.) 41 Qe2 Nc5 42 Qe3 Qb5 43 Rh6 (Preparing to push the g-pawn twice with tempo followed by Qg5+, which was more than enough to convince me that the time had come to trade queens. I did not trust stuff like 43...Nd3 44 Rc2 Nxd4 45 Qg5+ Nf6 46 Qf5) Qd3+ 44 Qxd3 Nxd3 45 Rc8 (45 Rc7+ leads nowhere, eg, 45...Nd7 46 Rxb7 Nc5 47 Rc7 Rxf3) 45...Nc5 46 Rhh8 Nfd7 (Again establishing the ideal knight position, whereby the queenside holds itself together and the counter pressure



against White's kingside pawns can take hold.) 47 g5 (A practical try: if now 47...Rxf3? 48 Rh7+ Rf7 49 g6 wins) Rg7! (But with this Black takes over the initiative.) 48 Rh5 Nb3 (Δ ...Nd2/d4xf3) 49 Rch8 (Again White keeps fighting to regain the initiative. Here he hopes for R8h7 to trade rooks and sound an echo to the variation in the note to his 47th move.) Nf8! (And again Black's knights frustrate the rooks and box them in, down near this corner of the board!) 50 R8h6 (Finally out of active ideas!) Nd2+ 51 Kc2 Nxf3 (The harvest phase begins, but Black still must be careful.) 52 g6 Nxd6 53 Rh7 Nd4+ (A necessary *zwischenzug* to prevent Rf5+) 54 Kc3 Kf6 55 Kb4 b5 56 Ka5 Nf4 57 R5h6+ Rg6 58 Rxd6+ Kxd6 59 Rd7 (Going after d6, which is clearly more relevant than b7. White's last chance is to make something of his own d-pawn.) Nd3 60 Rxd6+ Kg5 61 Rd8 Nxb2 62 Rf8 (The knights are too good; if 62 d6? Nc4+ 63 Kb4 Nc6+ Therefore, White moves the rook and cuts off Black's king.) 62...Nc4+ 63 Kb4 Nd6 64 Rd8 Nxe4 65 Rd7 (He still can't push his pawn. The centralized knights are terrific.) Nf6 66 Rd8 b6! (With the idea ...Nd5mate! if White ever pushes his pawn (or after ...K-f4-e4)) 67 Kc3 Kf5 68 Rf8 Kg6 69 d6 (Hopeless, but no more so than 69 Rd8 Kf7 etc) Ne4+ 70 Kb2 Nxd6 71 Rb8 Kf5 72 Kc3 Nc4 73 Rf8+ Ke4 74 Rf7 Nxa3 75 Kb4 Nac2+ 76 Kc3 b4+ (White played the last few moves out of inertia, the carryover from a long, true struggle.) 77 Kb2 a3+ 0-1

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Chess Clubs

Please send additions / corrections to the Editor.

♔ ♔ **Alexandria:** Fairfax County Chess Club, Lee District Park, Thursdays 6:30-9:30pm in the Snack Bar, info Walter Scott, WScott123@aol.com ♔ **Arlington:** Arlington Chess Club, Lyon Village Community House, 1920 N Highland St (at Lee Hwy), Fridays 7:30pm. Registration for rated Ladder and Action events ends 8pm. Blitz/Quick tourney first Friday of each month. Info www.wizard.net/~matkins or John Campbell (703) 534-6232 ♠ **Arlington Seniors Chess Club**, Madison Community Center, 3829 N Stafford St, info (703) 228-5285 ♔ **Blacksburg:** Chess Club of Virginia Tech, GB Johnson Student Center, Rm 102, Virginia Tech, Wednesdays 7-9pm ♔ **Charlottesville:** Charlottesville Chess Club, St Mark Lutheran Church, Rt 250 & Alderman Rd, Monday evenings ♔ **Chesapeake:** Zero's Sub Shop, 3116 Western Branch Blvd (Rt 17), (Poplar Hill Plaza near Taylor Rd intersection), Mondays 6pm to closing ♠ **Great Bridge United Methodist Church**, corner of Battlefiled Blvd & Stadium Dr, Tuesdays, 6:30-10pm, info 686-0822 ♔ **Culpeper:** Culpeper Chess Club, Culpeper County Public Library, Rt 29 Business (near Safeway). 1st, 2nd & 3rd Thursday of month, 6-9pm, info Vince LoTempio (540) 672-0189 or www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Galaxy/9780/ ♔ **Fort Eustis:** contact Sorel Utsey 878-4448 ♔ **Fredricksburg:** Spotsylvania Chess, Lutheran Church Rte West 4.7 miles from Exit 130 on I-95. Every Tuesday 6-9pm, info Mike Cornell 785-8614 ♔ **Glenns:** Rappahannock Community College - Glenns Campus Chess Club, Glenns Campus Library, Tuesdays 8-10pm in the student lounge, info Zack Loesch 758-5324(x208) ♔ **Harrisonburg:** Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, Trinity Presbyterian Church, corner of S High (rt 42) & Maryland Ave (Port Republic Rd), Fridays 7:30pm, <http://cep.jmu.edu/huffmacj/svcc/svcchome.html> ♔ **Mechanicsville:** Stonewall Library, Stonewall Pkwy, Mondays 6:30-9pm 730-8944 ♔ **Norfolk:** Larchmont Public Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd, Wednesday 6-9pm ♠ **ODU Chess Club**, Webb Univ Ctr, Old Dominion University, info www.odu.edu/~chess ♔ **Purcellville:** Blue Ridge Cafe, Thursdays 5-7pm and Saturdays 1-4pm (& bi-wkly 4-7pm), info Douglas A Gripp, 540-668-7160 ♔ **Richmond:** The Kaissa Chess Club, Willow Lawn Shopping Center, in the food court, Thursdays 5-9pm. info Alfredo Franco 367-1154 ♠ **The Side Pocket**, Cross Roads Shopping Center, Staples Mill Rd. A billiards parlor with chess tables set up any hour, every day ♠ **Huguenot Chess Knights**, Bon Air Library Community Room, 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-11pm, info Walter Chester 276-5662 ♠ **Jewish Ctr CC**, 5403 Monument Ave. 4-6pm every other Sunday beginning 1/8/95. (804) 288-0045 ♠ **VCU CC**, 907 Floyd Ave, Capital Ballroom C, Saturdays 3-7pm, info Michael Neal, grandmaster_2b@yahoo.com ♔ **Roanoke:** Roanoke Valley Chess Club, Grandin Ct Rec Ctr, Corner of Lofton & Barham Rd SW, Fridays 7:30-11:00pm, Info Brian Roark (540) 772-1435 ♔ **Virginia Beach:** Tidewater Community College CC, Princess Anne Rd, Bldg D (Kempsville) Cafeteria, Monday & Wednesday 6:45-10pm, Ernie Schlich eschlich@aol.com or 757-853-5296 ♔ **Winchester:** Winchester Chess Club, Westminster-Canterbury Home for the Elderly, Tuesdays 7pm ♔ **Woodbridge:** Prince William Chess Club, Wednesdays 7-9pm either in the Community Room, Potomac Library, 2201 Opitz Road or C D Hylton High School, 14051 Spriggs Rd. Contact Dick Stableford, 703-670-5887 or o6usmc@erols.com

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from the VCF President...

How to Enter a Chess Tournament

by Mike Atkins

Silly you might ask? Everyone knows how to enter a tournament: you just send off the money and you're in. Well, therein lies part of the problem. Entering a tournament is a pretty simple task as long as the TLA (*Chess Life* ad) is read and directions are followed. Over the next several issues I will provide some guidelines and ideas on how to best enter a tournament and some funny anecdotes concerning what happens when players do not follow directions.

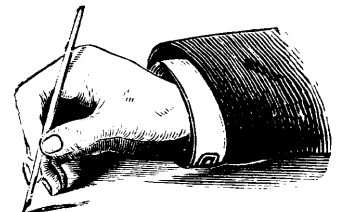
The TLA — reading one of these can seem like a foreign language until one masters the abbreviations. *Chess Life* provides a summary of the meanings of all these abbreviations—*read them!!* Mysterious letters like NS, WC, NC... all these will start to make sense.

The Entry Check — The TLA usually tells you to whom to write the check. If it doesn't, it's usually safe to assume that you can write it to the person or organization listed as the address where to send to check. In my personal case it can get confusing as I direct tournaments for multiple organizations. My TLAs will always say to whom to write the check — either "Virginia Chess" or "Michael Atkins." Over the past couple years I've gotten checks addressed to Virginia Chess Association, VCF, VA Chess, the name of the tournament, the name of the venue (eg, George Mason University), Arlington Chess Club, Michael Adkins, Matkins and even one to the English Grandmaster Michael Adams! Just pay attention :)

More next month.

From the Editor...

This is the first issue trying out new page layout software, so please excuse any gremlins that creep in... Several big events coming up, in addition to the holidays. During the week between Christmas and New Year's there will be the annual Eastern Open, in downtown Washington DC. Then January 10-12 comes the Virginia Open, a couple weeks earlier than usual this year and moved from its traditional Fredricksburg home to the gorgeous Dulles Hyatt site in Herndon. This is the VCF's biggest event, so please try to come out and support it. Looking a couple months further ahead, the Millennium Festival is back in Virginia Beach for its 4th running. If you have never played in this tournament you're missing a real treat! Find announcements with additional details about both the Virginia Open and the Millennium Festival elsewhere in this issue... Deadline for submitting material for the next issue will be January 12 — hand it over in person at the Open!














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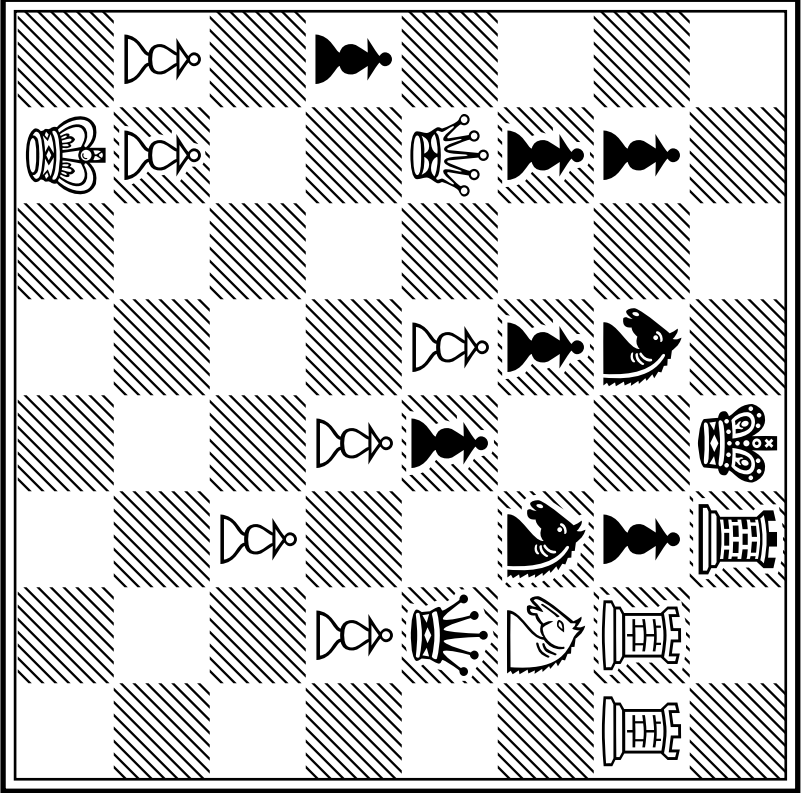
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VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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2002 - #6



The state champion annotates
his favorite game from 2002—see page 9