# VIRGINIA OPEN: What Happened?

by VCF President Mike Atkins

The Virginia Open for January 2003 was canceled. I certainly never expected to write, say, or think those words. The tournament and its new site had seemed so promising back in the fall of 2001 when we first started doing business with the Hyatt Dulles. It felt really promising after the Feb 2002 Chess Classic, where we seemingly got a preview of the capabilities and playing conditions that would be available at this hotel. How it got to the point of cancellation is a story with fault on both sides. Hopefully we learned a

VCF

1934 STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

little more about dealing with hotels.



E FIRST MET with the hotel's sales manager—we'll call her "S" — in October

2001. S showed us the facilities and treated the group to lunch. Contracts were signed countersigned for the February 2002 and tournament. Also, initial contracts were signed by us for the November 2002 Northern Virginia Classic event, as well as future tournaments in January, February, June and November of 2003. Things looked good.

The February 2002 Northern Virginia Chess Classic went off without a hitch. The site drew compliments and raves; it was as nice as any regional tournament venue in the country. VCF representatives met with S a couple weeks afterwards to review the other contracts and signed them. So far, so good-but here is where the fun begins. S transferred to another Hyatt a couple weeks later. Somehow or somewhere, there was no follow-up on getting the contracts countersigned. And with S no longer in place as known contact, nothing seemed to get done.

When I reached the hotel in mid-September to finalize arrangements for the Northern Virginia Open, I met with some startling news. First, that S was gone; second, that the hotel had doublebooked our space for November; and lastly (and most disturbingly), that the hotel had no record of contracts for 2003. No countersigned contracts in their possession for any of the four tournaments set for 2003.



for our November event. SD offered the use of the ATT Conference Center next door to the hotel for Saturday, and the hotel space for Sunday. Happily, the ATT room turned out to be a more than adequate playing venue. Saturday rounds at the N Va Open went off fine from there, and on Sunday we received the Full Ballroom Treatment back in the hotel. So okay, a mistake had occurred, but the hotel had done a good job of recovering. Plans for the 2003 Virginia Open looked to be back on secure footing.

Well, sort of. The hotel had scheduled a wedding for Saturday, January 11th. Operating under the assumption that we needed to be consolidated in a single large room, SD was uncertain about prospects for the Virginia Open. But after I told him the tournament could be distributed across several different meeting rooms, wheels started turning. Evidently the Virginia Open could go on more or less as planned.

During our conversations, I remarked to SD how several chess folks had predicted that when the Hyatt realized that hordes of chess players do not stay at the hotel, and do not spend huge sums of money at its restaurants and bars, they would start "letting us know" that our business was not welcome. I asked whether the double booking of the November site and the missing contracts were intended as none-too-subtle hints of the hotel's displeasure. SD replied, ominously it seems with

"SD called again

to say the contracts

were ready —

We could have lost

most of the

VCF's bank

account."

hindsight, that for hotels it was all about bottom line profit. They need to make money. Hmmm...

At this point in mid-September, SD was saying that we could have the hotel space on Friday night and all day Sunday, but that we'd have to find alternate playing space on Saturday. Perhaps we should have seen the warning signs. but that there had been a But innate optimism and a few small changes. ... We'd desire to bring the Virginia Open to this splendid venue probably wind up owing were strong impulses, and the hotel about \$2040 for after we had seen the ATT space for the Northern room pickup, plus the \$500 Virginia Open it seemed mysterious rental charge, there was indeed no cause plus \$500+ for Security. for alarm. Friday and Sundav's Virginia Open rounds could be in the hotel's main room. For Saturday's rounds, the larger Amateur section could go in the ATT Center while the

smaller Open section could be fitted into several smaller rooms in the hotel.

SD contacted the ATT people for permission, things appeared well.

This remained the basic plan for some time, and it looked like a winner. In late November SD called to report that he had heard back from the ATT people and it looked positive for the tournament.

During the first week of December, SD confirmed to us that the ATT room was available-with a condition. It turns out ATT cuts back on security during the winter; we would have to pick up the cost of a security guard on Saturday. For one day (16 hours), \$10-15 an hour, this was doable, so I agreed.

A week later, SD called again to say the contracts were ready—but that there had been a few small changes. Instead of us having the hotel on Friday and Sunday, we were going to be in the ATT room all three nights since he thought that was what we wanted. (Huh??). We could have the use of a board room and two connected large guest suites for the Open section. But note, we were now going to be responsible for security at the ATT Center for Friday night (9 hours), Saturday (16 hours) and Sunday (13 hours). When the contracts were e-mailed

to me later that day, it got even worse. In

addition to the security expenses, additional \$500 there was an "rental fee," which had never been discussed previously. Moreover, the VCF would have to apply for credit for the master account or put up a security deposit of 50% of the potential charge—which was as much as \$1500, considering the required minimum of filling 64 room-nights at the hotel.

As I was considering this offer-I was probably going to bite the bullet. hold the tournament as scheduled. but never schedule anything else at the Hvatt Dulles-more bad news came from a different direction. The latest issue

of Chess Life arrived and our Tournament Life ad had vanished. For me, this sealed the deal. Tournament Life is a hugely important vehicle for publicizing a regional (draws players from several states) event like the Virginia Open. Not having our announcement in the edition closest to the actual tournament dates would seriously impact turnout.

# VIRGINIA CHESS Rewsletter

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So now, not only were we looking at a prospective loss for the tournament itself, we were looking at getting killed on the hotel room-nights clause of our contract. Based on my experience running events, without that second *Chess Life* ad, attendance would likely fall to the point where the VCF would have to make good on more than twenty rooms at \$85 a night. I reckoned we'd probably wind up owing the hotel about \$2040 for room pickup, plus the \$500 mysterious rental charge, plus \$500+ for Security. We could have lost most of the VCF's bank account. My one term as President was not going to be marked with the destruction of the VCF. Better to bag the tournament, reschedule it for a later day.

My apologies to anyone and everyone who planned on playing. Plans are in the works to have the rescheduled Virginia Open later in the year. Stay tuned to *Virginia Chess*, to *Chess Life*, to the VCF web page and to my regional clearinghouse web page for the details. It will happen this year!

2nd Annual

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# Arlington Chess Club Championship

by Mike Atkins

IM Larry Kaufman won his third consecutive Arlington Chess Club Championship with a 3½ out of 4 score. He tied with GM Alex Wojtkiewicz and Chris Sevilla, neither of whom were club members. Sevilla posted a FIDE-ratable result of 2490 and was in a position to win outright after Kaufman and Wojtkiewicz drew. FM Boris Privman held Sevilla to a draw but it was still an amazing tournament for Chris. Mark Young also earned a FIDE ratable result of around 2296. Top Expert was Ray Kaufman. Five players tied for ththe class A prize: Mark Young, David Slack, Nikolai Yakovenko, Fred Nelson & Jim Guill.

Jon Evans won the Amateur Championship on tiebreaks over John Donelson & Tom LaBue. Top C prize was shared by Mattew Freeman & William Wilson. Top U1400 was won by John Brockhouse & Richard Elmendorf. Brant Sanderson won the top unrated and William Nugent won the Upset Trophy.

A nice field showed up on this cold weekend braving the record low temperatures Saturday morning to get to GMU/Arlington. Congratulations to those who played, to Mark and Chris for getting FIDE performances, and to Larry and Jon for being 2002 Club Champions!

# William Busteed - Ruixin Yang Bird

1 f4 d5 2 d4 Nf6 3 e3 e6 4 Bd3 c5 5 c3 Be7 6 Nf 0-0 7 a4 b6 8 Qe2 Ne4 9 0-0 Bb7 10 Nbd2 Nd 11 Re1 Rc8 12 Nf1 Qe8 13 g4 h6 14 Ng3 f5 1 Bxe4 dxe4 16 Ne5 cxd4 17 cxd4 Nxe5 18 dxe Bc5 19 gxf5 exf5 20 Bd2 Kh7 21 b4 Be7 22 b5 g 23 Rec1 Bc5 24 Kf1 (White offered a draw here 24...Rd8 25 Rc2 Qd7 26 Nh5 gxf4 27 Nxf4 Qe 28 e6 Bd5 29 a5 Bxe6 30 axb6 axb6 31 Ra7+ Rf 32 Ra6 Bd7 (see diagram)



4th Annual







4th Annual

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# Virginia Chess *Rewsletter* 2003- #1



**Rxc5!** (a terrific combinative idea) 33...bxc5 34 h6+! Kxh6 35 Qh5+ Kg7 36 Bc3+ Rf6 37 Qg5+ 7 38 Qxf6 (But now he spoils it! 38 Bxf6 forces ite by either Qg7 or Q-h4-h8) 38...Bxb5+ 39 Kf2 4 40 Qxf5+ Kg8 41 Qxc5? (White might still have in after 41 exd4) 41...Rd7 42 Qg5+ Kh7 43 i4+ Kg8 44 Qh8+ Kf7 45 Qf6+  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ 

# Larry Kaufman, Lawrence — Matt Grinberg Nimzoindian

i4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Qc2 c5 5 dxc5 Nc6 6 3 0-0 7 a3 Bxc5 8 Bg5 h6 9 Bh4 d5 10 cxd5 i4 11 Nxd4 Bxd4 12 Rd1 Bxc3+ 13 Qxc3 Ne4 Bxd8 Nxc3 15 bxc3 Rxd8 16 e4 exd5 17 exd5 5 18 c4 Rac8



'hite has won a pawn but at first glance Black's velopment may offer suffcient compensation. hite's next move casts a shadow of doubt over s evaluation in doubt, however.) **19 Kd2!** (I'd ger that most players would not have selected s move, but it makes perfect sense. The king vances for the endgame and heads for where it is ost needed, defending the pawns.) **19...b5 20 3 Be4 21 Kd4 Bc2 22 Rc1 Bb3 23 Rc3 Ba2 24**  Bd3 Kf8 25 Re1 (White has caught up in development while Black's initiative has not yielded anything.) 25...Rd6 26 Re2 Bxc4 27 Bxc4 bxc4 28 Rxc4 Rcd8 29 Rc5 Ra6 30 Re3 Ra4+ 31 Ke5 f6+ 32 Ke6 Re8+ 33 Kd7 Rxe3 34 fxe3 Rxa3 35 d6 Rd3 36 e4 Rd4 37 e5 fxe5 38 Ke6 1-0

### Farshad Doulatshahi - Larry Kaufman Queen's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 b6 4 g3 Ba6 5 Qc2 Bb7 6 Bg2 c5 7 e3 Be7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Nc3 Nc6 10 a3 cxd4 11 exd4 d5 12 cxd5 Nxd5 13 Nxd5 (Probably played with the subsequent blunder in mind.) 13...Qxd5 14 Ng5? (Threatening both mate and the gueen. But it's asking too much to expect IM Kaufman to have overlooked such a tactic.) 14...Qxg2+ 15 Kxg2 Nxd4+ 16 Qe4 Bxe4+ 17 Nxe4 Rfd8 (And so Black has won a pawn with the better developed game besides.) 18 Bf4 f5 19 Bg5 Bxg5 20 Nxg5 h6 21 Nf3 Nxf3 22 Kxf3 Rd3+ 23 Ke2 Rad8 24 Rfd1 Rxd1 25 Rxd1 Rxd1 26 Kxd1 Kf7 27 Ke2 e5 28 f3 Ke6 29 b3 Kd5 30 Kd3 e4+ 31 fxe4+ fxe4+ 32 Ke3 g5 33 g4 Ke5 34 a4 a6 35 h3 Kd5 36 Ke2 Kd4 37 Kd2 e3+ 38 Ke2 Ke4 39 Ke1 Kd3 40 Kd1 e2+ 41 Ke1 Ke3 42 h4 gxh4 43 g5 h3 0-1

### Ray Kaufman - Ilye Figler Queen's Gambit Accepted

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e3 Nf6 4 Bxc4 a6 5 Nf3 c5 6 0-0 Qc7 7 Qe2 Bg4 8 dxc5 e6 9 h3 Bh5 10 a3 Bxc5 11 b4 Ba7 12 Bb2 Bxf3 13 Qxf3 Nbd7 14 Nd2 Rc8 15 Rac1 Qb8 16 Rfd1 b5 17 Bb3 Rxc1 18 Rxc1 Ke7 19 Rc6 Ne5 20 Bxe5 Qxe5 21 Rxa6 Bb8 22 Nf1 Rd8 23 Rb6 Rd3 24 Bc2 Rc3 25 Qb7+ Bc7 26 Rxb5 Qd6 27 Be4 Rc1 28 g3 h5 29 h4 Ng4 30 Bg2 Rc2 31 f4 f5 32 a4 Kf8 33 a5 Rc1 34 a6 Rxf1+ 35 Bxf1 Qd2 36 Qc8+ Kf7 37 Rxf5+! exf5 38 Bc4+ Kg6 39 Qe6+ Nf6? (Capitualtion, whereas 39...Kh7 40 Qxf5+ Kh6 41 Qg5+ Kh7 42 Qxh5+ Nh6 43 Qe2 Qxe2 44 Bxe2 would remain interesting.) 40 a7 Bb6 41 Qxb6 Qc1+ 42 Bf1 Qa1 43 Qa6 Qe1 44 a8=Q Qxe3+ 45 Kh1 1-0

### Boris Reichstein - Mark Young Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3 e6 6 c4 Nc6 7 Nc3 Be7 8 Be3 0-0 9 Qd2 Re8 10 Be2 d5 (As a general rule, if Black can break through the Maroczy Bind this way he has solved all his opening problems.) 11 Nxc6 bxc6 12 e5 Nd7 13 f4 Ba6 14 cxd5 Bxe2 15 dxc6 Nxe5 16 fxe5 Qxd2+17 Bxd2 Bd3



(White has won a pawn - for now - but Black has two excellent bishops and a more harmonious position.) 18 Rc1 Rac8 19 Ne2 Red8 20 Nf4 Be4 21 c7 Rd7 22 Ba5 g5 23 Ne2 Rd5 24 b4 Rxe5 (Now White can only hope that the pawn at c7 might outweigh all Black's trumps.) 25 Kf2 Rf5+ 26 Ke3 Bxg2 27 Rhg1 Bb7 28 Nd4 Re5+ 29 Kf2 Bf6 30 Rgd1 Rd5 31 Ne2 Be5 32 Rxd5 Bxd5 33 a3 h5 34 b5 Bxh2 35 Nd4 g4 36 Nc6 g3+ 37 Ke2 Bxc6 0-1

# Larry Kaufman - Floyd Boudreaux Grünfeld

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Bf4 Bg7 5 e3 c6 6 Qb3 0-0 (The so-called Schlechter defense, where Black combines the kingside fianchetto with the pawn chain d5-c6 — sort of a Slav/Gruenfeld hybrid. Its name derives entirely from a single game: the famous last round of the 1910 world championship match in which Lasker won as White and thereby managed to tie the match: 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 e3 g6 5 Nc3 Bg7 6 Bd3 0-0 7 Qc2 Na6 8 a3 dxc4 9 Bxc4 b5 10 Bd3 b4 11 Na4 bxa3 12 bxa3 Bb7 13 Rb1 Qc7 14 Ne5 Nh5 15 g4 Bxe5 16 gxh5 Bg7 17 hxg6 hxg6 18 Qc4 Bc8 19 Rg1 Qa5+ 20 Bd2 Qd5 21 Rc1 Bb7 22 Qc2 Qh5 23 Bxg6 Qxh2 24 Rf1 fxg6 25 Qb3+ Rf7 26 Qxb7 Raf8 27 Qb3 Kh8 28 f4 g5 29 Qd3 gxf4 30 exf4 Qh4+ 31 Ke2 Qh2+ 32 Rf2 Qh5+ 33 Rf3



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Rfd1 Rc8 15 Rac1 g5



16 Bxg5! (A "true" sacrifice but an enormously promising one. Black can barely contain the direct attack and even after surviving the immediate pitfalls he never manages to quelch White's initiative and gradually loses pawn after pawn after pawn.) 16...hxg5 17 Nxg5 Nhf6 18 e4 Bh6 19 Nxe6 fxe6 20 e5 Qe8 21 exf6 Bxc1 22 fxe7 Qxe7 23 Rxc1 Qf6 24 Bg4 Rce8 25 Re1 Re7 26 Re3 Rff7 27 Qd2 Rg7 28 h3 Nf8 29 Ne4 Qh6 30 Qxa5 Ra7 31 Qd8 Rgf7 32 a3 Rad7 33 Qb6 Kg7 34 Qxc6 Rxd4 35 Qxb5 Rd5 36 Qe2 Rfd7 37 b4 Qf4 38 g3 Qc7 39 Nc5 Rd2 40 Qe1 1-0

# David Sterner - Harry Cohen Caro Kann

1 e4 c6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Nf3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 h4 h6 7 Ne5 Qd6 8 d4 Nd7 9 Nxg6 Qxg6 10 Bd3 Qd6 11 0-0 e6 12 Be3 Be7 13 Qg4 Ngf6 14 Qxg7 0-0-0 15 Ne4 Nxe4 16 Bxe4 Nf6 17 Bd3 Rdg8 18 Qxf7 Rf8 19 Qg7 Rhg8 20 Qxh6 Ng4 0-1

# Alex Passov - Oladapo Adu Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 a6 3 g3 b5 4 Bg2 Bb7 5 d3 Nf6 6 f4 d6 7 Nh3 e6 8 0-0 Qc7 9 f5 b4 10 Nb1 e5 11 Nf2 Nbd7 12 a3 a5 13 axb4 cxb4 14 c4 Be7 15 Be3 Nc5 16 Nd2 0-0 17 g4 Nfd7 18 g5 Rfb8 19 Qg4 Bc8 20 Qg3 f6 21 g6 hxg6 22 Qxg6 Nf8 23 Qg3 a4 24 Ng4 Bd8 25 h4 a3 26 bxa3 Rxa3 27 h5 Rxd3 28 h6 Nh7 29 Rf3 Rxd2 30 hxg7 Rxg2+ 31 Qxg2 Ng5 (Black might try to survive 31...Kxg7!?, eg, 32 Nxf6+ Kxf6 33 Qg6+ Ke7 34 Qxh7+ Ke8 35 Qg8+ Kd7 36 Rh3 Bb7 37 Rh7+ Be7 38 Qg4 Kc6) 32 Bxg5 fxg5 33 f6 Bxg4 34 f7+ Qxf7 35 Rxf7 Kxf7 36 Qxg4 Bb6 37 Rf1+ Kg8 38 Kh1 Nd3 39 Qe6+ Kh7 40 Rf8 Nf2+ 41 Kg2 1-0

> Mark Young - Peter Gilruth Queen's Gambit Declined Notes by Mark Young

1 d4 c6 2 c4 d5 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 dxc4 5 a4 Bf5 6 e3 e6 7 Bxc4 Bb4 8 0-0 0-0 9 Qb3 Qe7 10 h3 Bg6 11 Ne5 c5 12 Rd1? (Based upon a tactical miscalculation. Better is 12 Nxg6 hxg6 13 d5) Nc6! 13 Nxg6 hxg6 14 d5 Na5 15 d6



**15...Qxd6** (Since 16.Rxd6 Nxb3 17.Bxb3 c4! the move I missed 18 Rd1 cxb3 is a positional disaster, White has just given up a pawn for not much.) **16 Qc2 Qb6 17 b3 Rfd8 18 Bb2 Rxd1**+

# Virginia Chess *Rewsletter* 2003- #1

19 Rxd1 Rd8?! (Black should have taken time out to play 19...Nxc4, after which he's practically winning) 20 Rxd8+ Qxd8 21 Be2 Qd6 22 Bf3 Nc6?! 23 Nb5 Qd7 24 Bxc6! bxc6 (Since 24...Qxc6 25 Nxa7 Black has to double his pawns, allowing White to equalize) 25 Na3 Qd5 26 Nc4 g5 27 f3 Nh5 28 Kf2 f5? (Being a pawn up will cause one to do crazy things sometimes) 29 g4 Nf6 30 Be5 fxg4 31 hxg4 Qd7? (This losing move was accompanied by a draw offer) 32 Bxf6 gxf6 33 Qg6+ Qg7 34 Qe8+ Kh7 35 Qxe6 Qc7 36 Nd6 Bc3 37 f4 gxf4 38 exf4 Bd4+ 39 Kf3 Qg7! (The only move to prevent instant death) 40 Nf5 Qg8 41 Qxg8+ Kxg8 42 Ke4 Bf2 43 Ne7+ Kf7 44 Nxc6 Ke6 (Black has staggered into a lost endgame, but I now slip up and he salvages a draw) 45 Na5 Kd6 46 Nc4+ Kc6 47 Ne3 a6



48 Nd5?! (48 g5! would have won, creating the passed g-pawn at the moment when the Black bishop is least prepared to deal with it.) 48...Bd4 49 f5? (Ugh. Again 49 g5 was called for.) 49...Bb2 50 Ne3 Bd4 51 Nc2 Bb2 52 Ne1 Bd4 53 Nf3 Bb2 54 g5 fxg5 55 Nxg5 c4 56 b4!? (A controversial move. Gilruth thought this was the blunder allowing him to draw. I thought the game was already drawn, and that this move was better than 56.bxc4 Kc5 57.Kd3 Kb4 58. Ne4 Kxa4, when his a-pawn causes me to run the risk of losing.) 56...Bc3 57 Ne6 Bxb4 58 Kd4 c3 59 Kc4! (It's worth trying some knight-fork tricks in his time trouble before accepting the draw.) 59...Kd6 60 Nd4 Ba5! (No more tricks) 61 f6 c2 62 Nxc2 Ke6 63 Kc5 Kxf6 64 Nd4 Be1 65 Nb3 Ke7 66 Kc6 Kd8

67 Kb7 a5 1/2-1/2



Chris Seville had the tournament all class players dream about. Entering with an rating of 1887, he knocked off two masters and an expert before being 'held' to a draw by yet another master in the last round. He may enter the FIDE rating list with a 2490 performance! How did this happen? For readers who secretly (or not so secretly!) regard themselves as grossly under-rated and just a break or two away from a similar triumph (in truth, who doesn't feel that way in their heart of hearts?), here are Chris's games from the Arlington Chess Club Championship. Perhaps you can his their secret!

In the first round, Chris's master-level opponent solved all the opening problems but then began to drift, unable to find a plan for exploiting his position.

## Chris Sevilla - Vladimir Grechikhin Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nd4 4 Nxd4 exd4 5 Qe2 c6 6 Bc4 d6 7 0-0 Nf6 8 c3 Be7 9 Re1 dxc3 10 bxc3 0-0 11 d3 b5 12 Bb3 a5 13 h3 a4 14 Bc2 c5 15 f4 Bb7 16 g4 Ne8 17 Be3 d5 18 d4 dxe4 19 Qxb5 Nd6 20 Qe2 c4 21 Nd2 Bd5 22 Rab1 Qd7 23 Nf1 Nb5 24 Bd2 Na3 25 Rbc1 Bh4 26 Red1 Rfe8



(Black seems to hold the initiative, but from this point he can't find anything to do with it and the balance gradually shifts until at move 39, say, White is definately okay.) 27 Ne3 Bd8 28 Rf1 Nxc2 29 Rxc2 Rb8 30 Be1 Qc6 31 f5 Rb1 32 h4 f6 33 Bg3 Rxf1+ 34 Qxf1 Bf7 35 Qf4 a3 36 Qd6 Qa4 37 Qc5 Be7 38 Bd6 Bxd6 39 Qxd6 Qb5 40 Qxa3 Qb8 41 Kg2 Qf4 42 Qc1 Qf3+ 43 Kh2 h5 44 Qg1 (The queen incursion has not accomplished anything and now White has the long-term asset of



the outside passed pawn.) 44...hxg4 45 Nxg4 Qf4+ 46 Qg3 Qxg3+ 47 Kxg3 e3? (This looks like a 'sudden death' move. Black's endgame was bleak anyway.) 48 Re2 Ra8 49 Nxe3 Re8 50 Re1 Ra8 51 Re2 Re8 52 Kf2 Bh5 53 Rb2 Re4 54 Ng2 Bg4 55 Ne3 Bh5 56 Nxc4 Bf7? 57 Nd6 1-0

Round 2, same story — Chris's opponent achieves a good position and then gets outplayed:

# Peter Gilruth - Chris Sevilla English

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 c5 3 Nf3 Nc6 4 g3 g6 5 Bg2 Bg7 6 0-0 0-0 7 d4 cxd4 8 Nxd4 Qb6 9 Nb3 d6 10 Be3 Qd8 11 Rc1 Be6 12 Nd5 Ng4 13 Bd4 Nxd4 14 Nxd4 Bxd5 15 Bxd5 Qb6 16 e3 Nf6 17 Bf3 e5 18 Nb5 Rad8 19 Qe2 a6 20 Nc3 Rfe8 21 Rfd1 e4 22 Bg2 Re5 23 Rd4 Rde8 24 Rcd1 Bf8 25 Qc2 Qc6 26 Qb1 Kg7 27 Nd5 b6 28 b4 Qb7 29 Qb2 Nxd5



30 Bxe4! (A little shot that wins a pawn.) 30...Kg8 31 Bxd5 Qc8 32 Rf4 R8e7 33 Qd4 Rh5! 34 Qxb6 (This seems an exravagence. White is already a pawn to the good and safer alternatives like 34 Bq2 or 34 h4 are available.) 34...Qh3 35 Qxd6 (This too looks like he's really asking for it, lining up for a discovery from Black's bishop. But in fact there doesn't seem to be a problem if White is careful from here on.) 35...Qxh2+ 36 Kf1 g5 (Here again this and the following moves feel like time trouble. Black is merely trying to sow confusion...) 37 Rf6 Rxe3? 38 Qd7? (...and it's working! White could have won straight away by 38 Bxf7+ Kg7 39 Rg6+! hxg6 40 Qxg6+ Kh8 41 Qg8mate) 38...Re7 39 Qf5 g4 40 Qxg4+ Kh8 41 Rxa6?? (The last illconsidered pawn grab. Try 41 Bf3) 41...Rxd5! 0-1 (There is no acceptable defense to ...Qh1)

In the 3rd round Chris's enterprising play was rewarded with a blunder by his opponent:

9

### Chris Sevilla - Alex Passov French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 c3 Qb6 5 Nf3 Bd7 6 Be2 Bb5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 Bxb5 Qxb5 9 Na3 Qb6 10 Nc2 cxd4 11 cxd4 Nge7 12 b3 Nf5 13 Bb2 Be7 14 Ne3 Nxe3 15 fxe3 0-0 16 Ne1 a5 17 Nd3 Nb4 18 Nf4 Bg5 19 Qh5 Bxf4 20 Rxf4 Nc2 21 Rh4 h6 22 Rf1 Nxe3 23 Rf6!?



23...Nf5? (23...Qb4! and ...Nf5 only afterwards would have tossed sand in the gears of White's attack.) 24 Qxf5! (Oops! — Qb6 is undefended {24...exf5? 25 Rxb6}) 24...Qb4 25 Qf2 gxf6 26 exf6 Kh7 (Materially Black is okay but his king position is indefensible. If 26...Rfc8 to try to run, just 27 Rxh6) 27 Qe3 Kg6 28 Qxh6+ 1-0

The tournament situation, and perhaps also the cautionary tale of what happened to Chris's previous opponents, led Boris Privman to play a solid game and settle for a draw in the last round:

# Boris Privman - Chris Sevilla Grünfeld

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 Bd2 Bg7 6 e4 Nxc3 7 Bxc3 0-0 8 Nf3 c5 9 d5 Bxc3+ (Earlier in the tournament Privman got a great position as White versus Dave Long after 9...Nd7 10 Bd3 Nf6 11 0-0 Qc7 12 Rc1 Qb6 13 Nd2 Bg4 14 Qc2 Rac8 15 h3 Bd7 16 Nc4 Qc7 17 a4. He went on to win in 28 moves.) 10 bxc3 Qa5 11 Qd2 Nd7 12 Bd3 Rd8 13 0-0 Nf8 14 Ne5 f6 15 Nc4 Qc7 16 a4 Kg7 17 f4 b6 18 Ne3 e6 19 c4 e5 20 g3 Qd6 21 Qc3 a5 22 Be2 Re8 23 Bg4 exf4 24 Rxf4 Qe5 25 Qxe5 fxe5 26 Rf2 Bxg4 27 Nxg4 Nd7 28 Raf1 Rf8  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ 

# **Book Reviews**

by Salvador Rosario

Chess Endings: Essential Knowledge, Yuri Averbahk, Everyman Press, \$14.95
Concise Chess Endings, Neil MacDonald, Everyman Press, \$15.95
Test Your Endgame Thinking, Glenn Flear, Everyman Press \$19.95

N BASEBALL, triple plays are a rarity. In chess, they are nonexistent. However, I think I may have found one in chess publishing. I am going to recommend the three endgame books listed above. Not surprisingly, they adhere to classic sports stereotypes: one is a veteran, another is a rookie, and finally, there is the utility player.

The veteran, *Chess Endings: Essential Knowledge*, is by the legendary Yuri Averbahk. How long has this book been around? Well, my high school crowd knew it as *Essential Chess Endings*. Either by its old title or in this new incarnation, the book had a hand in the technique breakthroughs of most players of my generation. A concise and straightforward look at basic endings, it covers all those embarrassing positions that you have seen experts botch in sudden death time controls. (The ones they never took the time to learn.)

The new title says it all. Enjoy it at home at your leisure. *Mine is autographed!* 

Next, the rookie: *Concise Chess Endings*, written by the upstart Neil MacDonald. Clearly this is a brash

attempt to surpass the veteran. It succeeds, but in an unintended way. *Concise Chess Endings* is indeed jam-packed. Its 288 pages treat the reader to a solid coverage of basic endgames and excellent prose on various, more complicated themes. (The chapter on saving difficult endings is very much worth reading.) But this book is also a "pocket pal" — it fits anywhere. Any chess piece pouch, bag, or box will have more than enough room to store this very useful resource. So I recommend buying it if only just to take with you to tournaments.

Finally, the utility player, *Test Your Endgame Thinking*, takes the field courtesy of Glenn Flear. Though intentionally not ambitious, *Test* addresses a gap left unfilled by Averbahk and MacDonald: exercises for honing you skills. Flear lays out his material well, if unimaginatively. The selection of endings spans the twentieth century, and any player would find them useful for preparation.

So there you have it. Each book offers something different and worthwhile, for use at home or at tournament, for theory and practice.

# Starting Out: The Queen's Gambit, John Shaw, Everyman Press \$16.95

You are a beginner. You have just broken 1200 and you are vaguely aware that there is more to theory than just 1 e4 e5. You wonder about these 1 d4 ideas. You may have applied your 1 e4 theory. That is, when you played White, your game looked something like this:

1 d4 d5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Bf4 Bf5 4 Nf3 Nf6...

Now you would like to branch out, starting with a more thorough investigation of  $1 \, d4 - most$ 

importantly, that 2 c4 move that all the grandmasters seem to play for some unfathomable reason. What is that? Isn't that pawn hanging? Should Black capture it? What then? And if you don't capture it—what is the correct way to play?

Worry not. John Shaw has written a book for you. *Starting Out: The Queen's Gambit* is the Mother Lode for beginners. The book's introduction elicits the promise that you must play 2 c4 as White. In

# Virginia Chess *Rewsletter* 2003- #1

return, implicitly, Black must not play the Indian systems. The reader then gets nine well-considered chapters presenting a wide choice of setups: the boring Exchange Slav; the solid Lasker defense; the aggressive the Tarrasch defense; the challenging Tartakower variation; the provocative Noteboom variation; the offbeat Tchigorin defense; the tactical Meran and Botvinnik variations; the theoretical Meran and Botvinnik variations; the complex Meran and Botvinnik variations... Whatever your style, be it positional or tactical, there is a defense in this book for you. And the material is not old either; all example games are within the last ten years.

Summing up: if you want to leap into queen's pawn openings, here is the place to start. There is, however, one tiny "flaw" in this book. Shaw clearly has not thoroughly researched his target audience!

How do I know? Because the standard beginner's mind works something like this:

Beginner: I would like an opening that is....

Author: Positional?

Beginner: No. I was hoping for something more....

Author: Tactical?

Beginner: That's closer. But I think my style leans more toward the....

Author: Cheap Trap?

Beginner: Exactly! Have anything?

Shaw could have greatly cheapened his book while broadening its appeal by including a chapter on "Simple Chess Traps I Hope My Opponents Fall Into." Aside from this small ommission, *Starting Out: The Queen's Gambit* is a gem.

# Understanding the Sacrifice: Sacrifice Your Way to Success, Angus Dunnington, Everyman Press, \$19.95

A chess player's advancement depends upon whether he can walk away from preconceived notions to reach a higher level of understanding. Consider how we come to understand the value of developing pieces. Any beginner will gladly and proudly show you his win managed with only two pieces over an even worse player. Stronger players will nod but interrupt with the refuting *"But what about this move?"* — much to the consternation and education of the amateur.

Other areas for conceptual growth include positional play, endgame technique and, of course, the sacrifice. Not *combination*, mind you. Investing material in a forced set of moves resulting in a larger material payoff is a simpler and more familiar idea. But genuine *sacrifice*, the offer of hard material for "compensation," discomforts the amateur even though it is a common enough master theme.

But help has arrived in the form of Angus Dunnington's *Understanding the Sacrifice*. The author demonstrates in short order various themes that animate master, and especially grandmaster, games. You can choose your poison: color complexes, queen sacrifices, piece sacrifices and, of course, my favorite exchange sacrifice. The example games are *not*, with the few exceptions, the perfunctory ones seen over and over in other books. In addition, Dunnington has seamlessly interwoven excellent explanatory passages into the annotations. An example from page 116 of the Exchange Sacrifice chapter:

> Rooks, of course, operate best when there is one or more open line on which to work, and they are at their least effective when the situation is generally cramped. middlegame Durina the in particular it is not unusual to see a territorial advantage being exploited by an exchange sacrifice designed to earn even more space and, consequently, further reduce the influence of the enemy rooks, thus creating a platform for more



versatile minor pieces or a wall of pawns. Watch how Chirburdanidze is so insistent on adopting such a policy that she sends her rook on a suicide mission through sniper fire and into the heart of enemy territory... And most importantly, Dunnington has chosen games that have two players. That is, the opponents do not simply roll over in the face of the sacrifice but, rather like our own irritating foes in real life, they demonstrate resourcefulness on defense and even a readiness to counter sacrificing to break the attack. In all this is an excellent book and a useful preparation for the next volume we consider...

# Chess Brilliancy: 250 Historic Games from the Masters, Iakov Damsky, Everyman Press, \$21.95

...another excellent work. In the last few years we have seen the release of good and bad anthologies of brilliant games. The bad ones have shown little in the way of originality, no new annotations, and often high prices. Happily, Damsky goes the other way. *Brilliancy* opens with reflections upon the history and philosophy of the chess "brilliancy." These chapters alone are worth the book's price. Whether or not you agree with the author's conclusions, the fact that Damsky included them is refreshing.

Subsequent chapters analyze and occasionally refute brilliant games of the past. Chapter three exhibits several games that won "best game" recognition in volumes of the *Informants* series. My personal favorite is **Portisch - Pinter, Hungary 1984**, a king vs king mate of awesome beauty:



Position after 27 Ne5

27...Kg5 28 Nf7+ Kh5 29 Be2 Rd3+ 30 g3 f3 31 Rc5+ Rg5+ 32 g4+ Bxg4+ 33 Kg3 fxe2+ 0-1

The final chapter is, unfortunately, the weakest little more than a rehash of many old and wellknown games. But there are some uncommon nuggets even in this saddle bag.

Overall, the price is a fair value for the effort. Bravo Iakov Damsky!!



# ARLINGTON CHESS WEEKEND

February 22-23, 2003 George Mason University, Arlington Campus 3401 Fairfax Drive, Arlington (Near Virginia Square Metro)

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Arlington Saturday Tornado

4-SS, G/60 \$\$1000, top 3 G, rest b/40: \$300-175-125, U1700, U1400, U1100 each \$100. EF \$35 if rec'd by 12/18, \$45 at site Reg Sat 9-9:45, rds 10-12:15-3-5:15. One ½pt bye, declare (irrevokable) with entry.

# Arlington CC Quick Championship

6-SS, G/10 \$600, top 2 G, rest b/30: \$200-100, U2000, U1700, U1400

each \$100. Trophy to highest scoring ACC member. EF \$25 if rec'd by 2/18, \$35 at sight. Reg Sat 9am-6:45pm

6 Grand Prix Points

# Arlington Saturday Quads

3-RR sectional play, G/30 \$\$50 to 1st in each section. EF \$20 if rec'd by 2/18, \$25 at site. Reg Sat 9am-12:30pm, rds 1-2:15-3:30

# SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

# Arlington Sunday Huricane

5-SS, G/30 \$\$750 top 3 G, rest b/40: \$250-150-125, U2000, U1700, U1400 each \$75. Reg Sat all day, Sun 9-9:45, rds 10-11:15-12:30-2-3:15. Two ½pt byes available, declare (irrevokable) with entry. EF \$30 if rec'd by 2/18, \$40 at site.

6 Grand Prix Points

# Arlington Sunday Quads

3-RR sectional play, G/30 \$\$50 to 1st in each section. EF \$20 if rec'd by 2/18, \$25 at site. Reg Sun 9am-4:45pm, rds 5-6:15-7:30

All: To pre-register by mail, make checvks payable to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA 22306 and clearly indicate which event(s) you are registering for!

Sponsored by the Arlington Chess Club Directed by VCF President NTD Michael Atkins http://members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/wekend.htm

Five Tournaments Over One Weekend!!

# Readers' Games & Analysis

**Richard Runke**, of Prince George, writes regarding the Adu-Samuelson game from the 2002 Northern Virginia Open, which we published last issue. White took outrageous risks and ultimately prevailed, but the impression was that he ought to have lost. Runke appears to have confirmed this.



Black to play

After 38 Re4 (see diagram) Black missed the very pretty 38...Nxg3+, a classical tactical conclusion to a positional advantage. Consider 39 fxg3 Qxg3 40 Rh4 [40 Qxh6+ Rh7 certainly doesn't help -ed] Ng4 41 Rxh6+ Kg7 42 Rh7+ Kg6 43 Rh6+ Nxh6 44 Ne4 Rxe4 45 dxe4 Ng4 etc. Of course, hindsight is always 100% correct.

The game is unique and merits close attention.



In November **John Campbell**, of Arlington, traveled to Ventura, CA and toughed it out for a few days at the Holiday Inn Beach Resort. He also played in the US Senior Open. John reports that Stephen Jones and IM Anthony Saidy tied for first place in the six-day event. Here is one of John's own games: John Campbell - Neil Bershad 2002 US Senior Open Robatsch Notes by John Campbell

1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nd7 3 Nc3 e6 4 f4 Nb6 5 Nf3 Be7 (Black adopts a passive, defensive setup with hopes of counterattacking later.) 6 Bd3 Nf6 7 0-0 0-0 8 Kh1 Ne8 9 e5 f5 10 exf6 Bxf6 11 Ng5 g6? (Black had to counter with 11...Bxg5 12 fxg5 Rxf1+ 13 Qxf1 and a playable game.)



12 Nxh7 Kxh7? (12...Rf7 appears better in a bad situation. Then 13 Bxg6 Rxh7 14 Bxh7+ Kxh7 15 Qh5+ with an attack. Black misses the strength of White's next move.) 13 Qh5+ Kg8 14 Qxg6+ Ng7 15 Rf3 Bh4? (15...e5 is imperative. Then 16 Rg3 ad later Ne4 should lead to a very strong attack. On the other hand, 15...Bxd4 would not be much of an improvement, with the possible continuation 16 Rh3 Rf6? 17 Rh8+! and mate next move.) 16 Qh7+ Kf7 17 Bg6+ 1-0 (Naturally 17...Kf6 18 Ne4+ Ke7 19 Qxg7+ Rf7 20 Qxf7 is mate.)

As an added bonus, here are the final round games of the co-winners.

IM Walter Shipman - Stephen Jones 2002 US Senior Open Semi-Slav

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 e6 4 e3 Nf6 5 Nc3 Nbd7 6 Qc2 Bd6 7 Bd3 0-0 8 0-0 dxc4 9 Bxc4 e5 10 Rd1 Qe7 11 e4 exd4 12 Nxd4 Ne5 13 Bf1 Ng6 14 h3 Bc7 15 Be3 Re8 16 Re1 Qe5 17 g3 Qh5 18 Nf5



Ne5 19 Bg2 Nf3+ 20 Bxf3 Qxf3 21 Qd1 Qxd1 22 Raxd1



22...Nxe4 23 Nxg7 Kxg7 24 Bd4+ Kg6 25 Nxe4 Bxh3 26 Nf6 Rxe1+ 27 Rxe1 Be6 28 a3 Rd8 29 Bc3 Rd3 30 Ne4 b6 31 Kg2 Bd5 32 f3 Bd8 33 Kf2 c5 34 Re3 Rxe3 35 Kxe3 Bxe4 36 Kxe4 Bf6 37 Bxf6 Kxf6 38 Kd5 h5 39 a4 Kg5 and 0-1 — White lost on time.

## IM Anthony Saidy - GM Arthur Bisguier 2002 US Senior Open Slav

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 dxc4 4 e4 b5 5 a4 b4 6 Na2 e5 7 Nf3 exd4 8 Bxc4 Ba6 9 Qb3 Bxc4 10 Qxc4 Nf6 11 Nxd4 Nbd7 12 Bf4 Nh5 13 Be3 Ne5 14 Qc2 Qh4 15 0-0-0 Nf4 16 Bxf4 Qxf4+ 17 Kb1 Bc5 18 g3 Qf6 19 f4 Bxd4 20 Rxd4 Ng6 21 Rxb4 0-0 22 e5 Qe7 23 Rc1 Qd7 24 Rd1 Qh3 25 Rd6 Ne7 26 Nc3 Rab8 27 Rxb8 Rxb8 28 Qd3 Ng6 29 Rd8+ Rxd8 30 Qxd8+ Nf8 31 Qd2 h5 32 Qf2 Qf5+ 33 Qc2 Qh3 34 Ne4 h4 35 Ng5 Qf1+ 36 Ka2 hxg3 37 hxg3 Qh1 38 Qc4 Qh5 39 Qxc6 Qd1 40 Qc4 Qd7 41 e6 fxe6 42 f5 Qd5 43 Qxd5 exd5 44 Kb3 g6 45 fxg6 Kg7 46 Nf7 Nd7 47 Nd8 Kxg6 48 Nc6 Kf5 49 Nxa7 Ke4 50 Nb5 d4 51 a5 Ke3 52 Kb4 d3 53 a6 Nb8 54 Ka5 Nc6+ 55 Kb6 Nb4 56 Nc3 1-0



The Westin Hotel in downtown Washington DC hosted a major year-end tournament, the Eastern Open. Naturally, many Virginia players took part. **Gary deFotis** was among them, as was The Editor, and they annotated several of their games.

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# Gary DeFotis - Norman Rogers King's Indian Notes by Gary DeFotis

(After a very bad start in this tournament, I played the most consistent chess I have in years over the last six rounds, scoring five points. This game, which I find satisfying for various reasons, is from the last round.) 1 d4 g6 2 c4 Nf6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 0-0 5 Nc3 d6 6 Nf3 Nbd7 7 0-0 e5 8 e4 c6 9 h3 a5 10 Be3 exd4 11 Nxd4 Nc5 12 Qc2 Re8 13 Rfe1 Qe7 (All these moves were played relatively quickly by both players. The g3 system against the King's Indian offers exceptional variety {Black has many subsystems at his disposal} and entire books have been written about it. Here Black selects perhaps the oldest response, but with a modern twist. There are famous games from the '40s and '50s involving a more immediate ...a4 and ...Qa5. With 13...Qe7 Black appears to threaten White's e-pawn, if not immediately then in a move or so. I noticed master Rogers with just this position against GM Wojtkiewicz a couple years ago at the World Open. After making the move I now played...) 14 Rad1 (...the grandmaster offered a draw, which was accepted. I asked Wojtkiewicz later if White did not still have prospects, to which he answered, "Very complicated." Indeed it is, as one can find from checking the most recent books. This shows, by the way, how difficult it is for anyone to remember everything today — unless the GM feared something not yet recorded in this position, he had fair chances for an advantage. I consulted the relevant sources after my query to Wojtkiewicz, but then of course I forgot what I read over the next two years! So, coming to this position 'fresh,' I simply reasoned: if White can't now play 14 Rad1 without Black just winning the e-pawn in a move or two, White's game is no good. {An experienced player of the g3 system will avoid the move f3 like the plague!}) 14...Bd7 (Taking the pawn immediately gets Black into trouble thanks to the loose Re8,

though it is still complicated.) 15 Bf4 (I found this quickly over the board {threat: Nxc6 followed by Bxd6} whereupon my opponent went into a long and clearly dissatisfied think. His response, no jou to play, is probably safer than the known 15...Rad8, which also yields White an advantage.) 15...Bf8 16 Nb3 (A typical move in such positions; 16 e5 peters out to equality.) 16...Qe6 (A logical follow-up, although first exchanging on b3 was probably better.) 17 Nxc5 dxc5 (White has somewhat devalued Black's queenside pawn mass.) 18 Na4 (I thought the direct approach was better than the prophylactic 18 Bf1) Bc8 (Black wants to play ...Nfd7. On 18...b5 19 cxb5 cxb5 20 Nxc5 Qc6 {20...Bxc5 followed by ...Qxa2 will lose to e5; and 20...Rac8 21 Nxe6 Rxc2 22 Nxf8 followed by e5 is likewise winning for White} 21 e5 and again White comes out ahead. Still, in the 20...Bxc5 variation, 21 Qxc5 Rac8 likely holds White to only a small edge after 22 Qa3) 19 Be3 Nd7 20 f4 Ra6 (Black's last can certainly be questioned. In what follows he suffers from a poorly integrated position, his pieces being scattered.) 21 b3 b5 (The motivation for 20...Ra6 is clear: to have a timely ...Rc6 available.) 22 cxb5 (Decidedly better than the static blockading procedure beginning 22 Nb2. White lacks a clear follow-up in that case. Undoubling Black's pawns, on the other hand, opens the position and so allows White to work against the weak light squares.) cxb5 23 Nc3!



(Now Black decides that 23...Rb6 24 Nd5 followed by e5 would leave him in bad straits. However, the pawn sacrifice he comes up with as an alternative is also inadequate.) 23...c4 24 Nxb5 cxb3 25 Qxb3 Qe7 26 e5 (The power of White's pawn majority now becomes apparent, with d6 as a potential crippling knight outpost.) Nc5 27 Qc3 Na4 28 Qc2 (Black's last set him up for a coming fork on c7, which did not work at move 26. But there were only poor choices at his disposal.) Qb4 29 Nc7 Bf5 30 Qb3 Rae6 31 Nxe8 Rxe8 32 Bc6 (Black may have overlooked this stinger. Since there are remote {very} possibilities for a cheapo based on the slight looseness of White's kingside, Black plays on. White in turn simply centralizes towards an eventual e6 break while avoiding any traps.) Rc8 33 Qxa4 Bxh3 34 Rb1 (Not 34 Qxb4 Bxb4 with c6 and e1 both under attack.) 34...Qc3 35 Rbc1 Qd3 36 Qe4 Qa3 37 Bd5 Rd8 38 e6 Bf5 39 exf7+ Kh8 (39...Kg7 40 Bd4+ Kh6 41 Qh1+ mates.) 40 Bd4+ 1-0 (After 40...Bg7 41 Qe8+, etc, soon ends it.)

# Gary DeFotis - Rodion Rubenchik Nimzoindian

Notes by Gary DeFotis

(Some issues back I presented a game where White played 6 Ne2 in order to avoid the most threatening aspects of Huebner's System in the Nimzoindian Defense. {Virginia Chess #2002/5, p 5 -ed} In the present contest Black adopts the most common response strategy: saddling White with an isolated d-pawn and trusting that the e2 knight will be ineffectually placed. Still, White emerges with decent prospects for a kingside attack or central breakthrough.) 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e3 c5 5 Bd3 Nc6 6 Ne2 d5 7 0-0 cxd4 8 exd4 0-0 9 Bg5 dxc4 10 Bxc4 Be7 (One could quarrel with Black's precise sequence, but in any case he has attained the standard type of position referred to above. In what follows, White eschews contesting the c-file with moves such as Rc1. Instead he focuses on the center and kingside. Possible fruits of this strategy might include either a kingside attack, a d5 breakthrough, or a sacrifice on e6.) 11 a3 b6 12 Qd3 Bb7 13 Rad1 Rc8 14 Rfe1 Rc7 15 Ba2 Rd7 (Black's rook maneuver is quite interesting and apparently good. Now White must do something to bother the kingside before the pressure on d4 becomes incapacitating. In this regard, the move h4 is very useful. The possibility h5 may trouble Black and in the meantime Bg5 gets support. In the event of ...h6 there may be a sacrifice by just leaving the bishop in place  $\triangle$ recapturing hxg5) 16 h4 g6 (Afterwards Black

remarked that he would have done better with immediate 16...Qc8, playing ...g6 only if forced. This seems right. If 16...h6, on the other hand, White could choose between the simple 17 Bc1 and the more adventurous 17 Bb1) 17 Qh3 (The queen eyes both the kingside and the square e6. In the event of 17...Nxd4 I originally intended 18 Nxd4 Rxd4 19 Rxe6 but then noticed 19...Bc8 However, on second look it seems all is well; White has a good alternative in 19 Bh6 and if 19...Re8 20 Bxe6 fxe6 21 Qxe6+ Kh8 22 Qf7 wins — rather thematic for positions of this nature.) 17...Qc8 18 Bxf6 (18 Nf4 with a view towards one of three possible sacrifices on e6 did not look convincing. At any rate, it would open up hugely unpredictable complications. So I opted for eliminating one d5 defender followed by the pawn push, which seems logical.) 18...Bxf6 19 d5 exd5 20 Nxd5 Rd6 (Black had to contend with Nf6+ - with or without capture — followed by Qxd7. In answer to 20...Bxb2 I probably would have gone 21 Qxd7 first. White comes out ahead but Black can fight on.) 21 Nxf6+ Rxf6 22 Qc3 Qf5 (An eminently natural move, yet it gets Black into trouble. 22...Rf5 was preferable with a view to ... Rc5) 23 f3! (Surprisingly strong! Black's pieces occupy awkward positions. Now Black ought to exchange queens by 23...Qc5+ even though this leaves him with two isolated pawns and clear inferiority.) 23... Qe5 (This would be fine except for the entry of the rook to d7, which accentuates the problems Black has covering squares in his own camp. Of course, games are not won without an opponent's mistakes.) 24 Rd7! **Qxc3** (This brings White's knight into the game with crushing effect, but of course the alternative 24...Ba8 would lose the a-pawn after a queen exchange.) 25 Nxc3 Bc8 (25...Ba8 prolongs the struggle, though 26 Nd5 Rf5 and now either 27 Ne7+ achieving doubled rooks on the 7th rank, or 27 Bb1 Re5 28 Ne7+ followed by the rook exchange and capturing a7 should eventually win.) 26 Rc7 1-0 (Some players go on too long. Here master Rubenchik did not really resign too soon. The looming threats of either Nd5 with tactics leading to a fork on e7, or Ne4 threatening the rook that cannot leave the defense of Nc6, are decisive. The domination exerted by White's pieces is, I think, artistic.)

# Macon Shibut - William Aramil 2002 Eastern Open Sicilian

### Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Nd7 (I have had good fortune against this move.) 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nc3 cxd4 6 Qxd4 g6 (Shibut-Shivaji, 2001 World Open went 6....a6 7 Bxd7+ Bxd7 8 Bg5 Qa5 9 0-0-0 Rc8 10 Kb1 h6 11 Bxf6 gxf6 12 Rhe1 Bg7 13 Nd5 threatening Nxe7—White maintained an opening advantage. On the other hand, Shibut- Samuelson, 2002 Atlantic Open, was rather less successful in the early going, 6....e5 7 Qd3 h6 8 0-0 {8 Nd2} Be7 9 Nd2 0-0 10 Bxd7 Bxd7 11 Nc4 Bc6 12 Rd1 b5! 13 Ne3 b4 14 Ncd5 Nxd5 15 exd5 Bd7 16 a3 bxa3 17 Rxa3 f5, but it still ended happily for me: 18 Nc4 f4 19 f3 Bf5 20 Qe2 g5 21 Na5 Qb6+ 22 Kh1 Bf6 23 Nc6 Rf7 24 c4 a5 25 b3 Rg7 26 Bd2 g4 27 Bxa5 Rxa5 28 Rxa5 gxf3 29 gxf3 Bh3? {29...Qxb3 30 Rg1 [or 30 Ra8+ Kh7 31 Ra7 Rxa7 32 Nxa7 e4!] 30....e4! 31 fxe4 f3 would have created dangerous counterplay} 30 Ra8+ Kh7 31 Qc2+ Rg6 32 Ra7+ Bg7 33 c5 dxc5 34 Rg1 1-0) 7 Ba5 Ba7 8 0-0-0 0-0 9 e5 dxe5 10 Oh4 (10 Nxe5 is simpler but I figured that Black would be able to wriggle out of his slight tactical inconveniences and we'd just wind up exchanging a bunch of pieces.) 10...Qc7 11 Bh6 Nb6 (One line I noticed was 11...Rd8 12 Ng5 and if Black tries to avoid the bishop exchange by 12... Bh8? there follows 13 Bc4 e6 14 Nxe6! winning.) 12 Ng5 Nh5 (In case of 12...Bf5 I had a choice of two good lines: 13 Bd3 Bxd3 14 Rxd3 and the rook joins the kingside attack; or 12 h3, depriving Black of the resource ...Nh5) 13 Bxg7 Kxg7 14 g4 Nf6 15 Nce4 h6 16 Nxf6



### 16...exf6

16...hxg5!? would have been fun. I prepared the reply 17 Nh5+! White wins directly in the event of 17...gxh5, eg 18 Qxg5+ Kh7 19 Qxh5+ Kg7 20 Qg5+ Kh7 21 Rd3. However, Black has an amazing pair of moves to make things more interesting:



17...Kh6! *(diagram)* and after 18 Qh3 F

and after 18 Qh3 Bxg4! Still, 19 Qxg4 gxh5 20 Qf5 White has excellent compensation for the two pawns, with ideas like Bd3 and Rdg1 in mind.

17 Ne4 f5 (17...g5 takes all the flexibility out of Black's pawn mass so that after 18 Qh3 ideas like Ng3-h5 or Rd6 will consign him to a difficult defense.) 18 Qf6+ Kh7 19 Nd6 (Oh! but I wanted to play 19 Ng5+?! —19...hxg5?? 20 h4 wins. But after simply 19...Kg8 there is nothing special going on except that it's obvious the knight would be much better on d6 than g5) 19...fxg4 20 Rhe1 (The Morphy move, ignoring for now the possibility of recapturing e5 in favor of just bringing the last piece into play.) 20...Be6 21 Qxe5 (If 21 Rxe5 he could dislodge my beautiful knight, 21...Rad8) 21...Bxa2 22 Re3 (Before he played his last turn I had been thinking about moving my queen to unpin the knight, eyeing N-e4-f6+ So now the first thing I looked at was 22 b3 with the idea that after 22...Bxb3 23 Qb2 comes with tempo. Alas, after 23...Be6 24 Ne4 h5 I couldn't find anything. In many lines Black can upset the apple cart with the resource ...Qf4+ The text move threatens 23 b3 for real, however.) 22...Be6 23 Rc3 Qb8 (If 23...Qe7 White can recover some material and glide into a very pleasant ending with 24 Ne4 f6 25 Rc7! fxe5 26 Rxe7+ Bf7 27 Nf6+ Kg7 28 Nxg4 But what to do after this 23...Qb8 move? I've got a wonderfully active looking position, but I need some way to add fuel to the fire.)

### 24 f4!?

I'm not swearing to the soundness of this and what follows. But it sure worked over the board! The fpawn protects my queen. If left alone, may eventually serve to pry open his king with f5. All sorts of interesting attacking chances are in the air—not surprising, considering my tremendous knight and the constrained state of Black pieces (Qb8, Ra8). For instance, if now 24...Nc8 I might have tried 25 Nxf7 Bxf7 (nor is 25...Rxf7 26 Qxe6 Qxf4+ 27 Kb1 easy for Black in view of the threats Rf1 or Rd8) 26 Rc7 Nb6 27 f5 etc.

So, he decided to swallow yet another pawn! After 24...gxf3 I can't recapture 25 Rxf3 because of 25...Bg4, of course. However, more lines are opened and now, with Black's g4 pawn out of the way, my h-pawn can join the assault.

24...gxf3 25 h4! h5 26 Bd3 (Now this comes with tempo because of the threat Qxh5+) Bg4 27 Bxg6+ Kxg6? (The aesthetic flaw in this game is that just here it could all end not with a bang but a whimper if Black had chosen 27...fxg6. After 28 Qe7+ Kg8 it appears that 29 Rc7 Nd7 does not work, so maybe I would have to force a draw by 29 Qg5, eg 29...Kh7 30 Qe7+ etc In playing the text Black counted too much on his 29th move...) 28 Qg5+ Kh7 29 Nf5! Qe5



**30 Rc5!** (This final deflection sacrifice dashes Black's illusions.) **Qh8 31 Qh6+ 1-0** (after 31...Kg8 32 Ne7 is mate)

John Bidwell - Macon Shibut 2002 Eastern Open King's Indian Notes by Macon Shibut

**1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 f3 g6 4 c4 Bg7 5 Nc3 Nc6** (Usually Black castles, waiting until after Be3 before playing ...Nc6, so that in the event of 5...0-0 6 Be3 Nc6 7 d5 Ne5 White will think twice about 8 f4 with 8...Neg4 coming with tempo on the bishop. But the text move is by no means a mistake. A guy

named Spassky has played it numerous times and it has also been tried on occasion by Kasparov, Shamkovich, Gufeld, Kavalek...) 6 d5 Ne5 7 f4 (The most principled approach, attributed to Petrosian in an old John Watson monograph {"+Petrosian"} although I'm unaware of any games by him in this line.) Ned7 8 Bd3 0-0 9 Nf3 c6 10 0-0 (In Yusupov-Spassky, Linares 1983 Black played 10...Nc5 11 Bc2 Qb6 12 Kh1 Bg4 13 Rb1 cxd5 14 cxd5 Rac8 15 Be3 Qb4 and after 16 h3 a remarkable thing occurred: 16...Ncxe4 17 Bxe4 Rxc3 18 bxc3 and here, of all places, a draw was agreed!) Qc7 11 Kh1 a6 12 Be3 Re8 13 Rc1 Rb8 (My primary plan was to set up a hedgehog formation after ... b6, but 13... b6 immediately is wrong because of 14 dxc6 Qxc6 15 e5 followed by Be4. After the text move White could have been a killjoy by 14 Ba7 Ra8 and then withdraw the bishop, either to e3 { "nichya?"} or elsewhere. In that case I would have switched to Plan B, involving ...e6) 14 b4 b6 15 dxc6 Qxc6 16 Nd5 e6!? (Optimistically delaying ... Bb7 in the hope of setting my queen behind the bishop on the diagonal, ...Qa8. For this I must first drive off his knight. The fly in the ointment is that White could now mess up both sides' positions with 17 b5!? I thought I'd prepared for this, but my judgment was perhaps skewed by my belief that he probably wouldn't play such a nonstandard move anyway. He should have, however, with the likely continuation 17...Qb7 18 bxa6 Qa7 19 Nb4 Ra8 20 Nc6 Qxa6 21 c5 Qxa2 22 cxd6. The move White actually chose gave me an easy game—an almost ideal hedgehog.) 17 Nd4?! Qb7 18 Nc3 (18 Nxf6+ would also be fine with Black) 18...Qa8



(Now his e-pawn is going to cause White headaches. He should commence the digging in by

19 Re1) 19 Nde2?! Bb7 20 Ng3 h5! 21 h4 (This is a huge weakening of the kingside. Black could already consider breaking in the center by 21...d5, but I saw that it was better to prepare things a bit more.) 21...Rbc8 (Aside from the general merit of putting the rook on an open file, the point of this move is to prepare to eliminate the rook by capturing something on the c-file, even sacrificially, at a moment when I can follow up with ...Qd8! and a decisive Qxh4+) 22 Re1 Ng4 (Sticking with the plan, although here again 22...d5 23 cxd5 exd5 24 e5 d4! might be very good also, eg 25 Bxd4 {25 exf6 Bxf6} Bxg2+ 26 Kg1 Nd5) 23 Bf1 (if 23 Bg1 d5! White's position is collapsing.) 23...d5 24 e5 Rc7! (Essentially a double threat that wins material by force: defending Nd7 prepares 23...dxc4, and moving the rook off the back rank clears the way for 23...Qd8!) **25 cxd5 Qd8! 26 Nf5** (the only defense) gxf5 27 g3 Qa8 28 Bg2 Rec8 29 Qd2 exd5 30 Bd4 Nf8 (The position is won, of course, but it remains necessary to find a good plan. I first considered 30...Bf8 but feared {probably unnecessarily} that White's queen might get into position to cause some trouble by attacking f5, 31 Qd3. I reckoned I had plenty of material and so decided to reinvest the b6 pawn.) 31 Bxb6 Rc4 32 Bc5 d4 33 Na4 Rxc1 34 Rxc1 Bxg2+ 35 Qxg2 Qxg2+ 36 Kxg2 Ne6 (The idea of the pawn sacrifice is realized: all of Black's pieces find their way to nice looking squares.) 37 Kf3 f6 (37...Bf8 would have improved the outlook of one of Black's pieces. But it occurred to me that my g4 knight, which was so powerful earlier and still looks very nice, is actually not doing much any more. That's why I chose the text move, with the plan of answering 38 exf6 with 38...Nxf6, and so improve two pieces.) 38 Nb6 Rc6 39 Nd5 Bf8 40 exf6 Nxc5 41 bxc5 Kf7 (You must remain diligent. even in "easily won" positions. 41...Rxc5?? would have ruined everything because of 42 Ne7+! Bxe7 43 fxe7 and White wins!) 42 Rc4 Nxf6 (Here I was not diligent enough. 42...Rxc5! would have finished the game straight away in view of 43 Rxd4 Rc2!-the move I missed. As explained before, I had convinced myself that the g4 knight needed to be "improved.") 43 Nxf6 Kxf6 44 Rxd4 Rxc5 45 Rd2 Rc3+ 46 Kg2 Ra3 47 Kh3 Bc5 48 Rc2 Bd6 49 Kg2 a5 50 Rb2 a4 0-1 (Black will put the pawn on a3 and maneuver the rook to b2)

# Ilya Figler - Macon Shibut 2002 Eastern Open Old Indian Notes by Macon Shibut

1 d4 d6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nc3 Nbd7 4 Nf3 c6 5 g3 e5 6 Bg2 Be7 7 Qc2 0-0 8 0-0 a6 9 Rd1 Qc7 10 a3 Re8 11 h3 Bf8 12 Be3 b6 13 Rac1 Bb7 14 d5 cxd5 15 cxd5 Rac8 16 Qb3?! (An unexpected move that set off an interesting psychological 'exchange.' I had anticipated was 16 Qb1, which I would answer 16...Qb8. More on this later... When he played the text, my immediate thought was 16...Nc5 and if 17 Bxc5 both 17...bxc5 and 17...dxc5 are worth considering. However, Lasker advised that when you see a good move you should sit on your hands and look for a better one. And indeed, I soon hit upon...) 16...Qc4?! (In playing this I considered White's hand forced inasmuch as his queen is attacked and retracing his steps by 17 Qc2 hangs the d-pawn owing to the pin on the c-file. So, 17 Qxc4 Rxc4 followed by ...Rec8 and Black will be doing quite well. However, Ilva now sank into a long thought and finally came up with...) 17 Qc2! (...after all! Now it was my turn to burn some time off the clock. Why not 17...Bxd5 {but certainly not 17...Nxd5? 18 Ng5}, "winning" a pawn? I came to understand that the reply would be 18 Qb1 and the prospective discovered attack on the queen and the exposed bishop leave Black embarrassed. I'd have to move my queen somewhere after 18...Bxf3 19 Bxf3, but in any case the position has opened up in a way that makes White's bishop pair look impressive. If, for example, 19...Qb3 White has 20 Bb7 and Bxa6 if nothing better. In short, Black cannot snatch the pawn as I had assumed; my careless 16...Qc4 has granted White a chance to retract his own inferior 16th move. Okay, but there is no reason why I cannot do the same. And so...) 17...Qc7 (This was the last round and there were a number of spectators hanging around the leading boards. I smiled inwardly at the thought that someone watching might think they were witnessing a silent peace negotiation. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. I was certain Ilya had drawn the same conclusions as I from our little digression, and he would never repeat 18 Qb3?! But if he did, I would answer with the knight move I should have

used the first time.) 18 Qb1 Qb8 (So we arrive back where I expected to be "all along.") 19 Nd2 Rc7 20 Nb3 Rec8 21 a4 g6 22 Qa2 Qa8 23 a5 b5 24 Bb6!? (Ilya deserves credit for resolutely seeking complications. He gets 'em! It's by no means clear that his pawn won't eventually prove untenable on b6.) Nxb6 25 axb6 Re7 26 e4 (I guess he was worried about ... e4) Bh6 (I couldn't resist activating this guy with tempo, but 26...Nd7 is possible too. "It will be a real bummer if White's rook turns out better at a1 than c1...," I thought.) 27 Ra1 Nd7 28 Qa3 Qb8 29 Qa5 Rc4 (This turns out to be a blank shot, so maybe 29...Nc5 immediately was better.) 30 Bf1 Rc8 (I couldn't find anything else. For a second time in this game I'd gone roaring up to c4 only to pull back next turn.) 31 h4 Nc5 32 Nxc5 Rxc5 33 Na2 f5 34 exf5 gxf5 35 Nb4 f4 (Both sides roll ahead as time control approaches. I hardly even considered the halfway measures involving ...Qc8) 36 Bg2! (Defending d5 and also introducing a new idea. It dawned on me that his knight is going to c6, not a6! Again I could have played ... Qc8 to avoid sacrificing the exchange. But in fact I saw no reason to avoid it, and besides, I had little desire to live with his knight on c6 indefinitely. Therefore...) 36...fxg3 37 Nc6 gxf2+ 38 Kf1 Qf8 39 Nxe7+ Qxe7 (Approaching the 40th move, we did not have time to seriously mull these developments. However, I was satisfied that the intruder was out of my position at no material cost. I had a couple pawns for the exchange, with the likelihood that his b6 and my f2 would both drop off in any technical ending.) 40 Qb4 Rc4 41 Qa3 Rxh4 42 Qg3+ Kh8 (And so here we are. During the game I believed I had a significant advantage. I still think Black is better, but the position is much more difficult and complicated than it appears. Ilya's victory was well deserved, as he clearly had a better grasp of what was going on and he outplayed me by a mile in the critical phase that follows.)

# 43 Ke2!!

A great move. I was completely obsessed with the b6 pawn—what happens if White ever manages to get a piece to c7?—but Ilya recognized that it was not enough for him to concentrate his play on that distant shore. So he boldly steps off the back rank, clearing the way to use his rooks on the h-file.



With hindsight, I see I was undone by my own calculations from the time when I was waiting for White to play his 43rd move. The correct move would have been 43...Qg5!, which I considered of course, but I ruled it out on the grounds that I wanted to go after b6 with my queen, ...Q-d8xb6. As I've explained, I was anxious to round up that guy as quickly as possible. But in that case we see how my position is a bit awkward: the queen is tied to the defense of the rook. The minutes passed, he hadn't moved yet, but I was figuring I'd probably reply 43...Rc4 to most anything. That would relieve the queen and guard against accidents on the c-file. Then I planned to regroup, ...R-c8-g8 and finally round up his b6 pawn.

In fact, that would have been the *second* best reply to the move White finally chose. However, it is not completely clear that Black is better in that case because White is ready to hop onto the h-file as quickly as I abandon it. Generally speaking, I underestimated White's kingide attack as much as I overestimated the significance of  $\triangle b6$ .

Finally he moved— the completely unexpected 43 Ke2. This proved very provocative. I too easily brushed aside the as-yet vague danger on the kingside ("I should hurry along before he can drum up actual threats") and I *really* wanted to bother that king! I was drawn to the unfortunate idea of moving my rook "with gain of tempo" by attacking b2...)

# 43...Rb4??

A terrible move that completely reverses the evaluation of the position.

# 44 b3

Now reality sank in and I feared I'd blown it. Far from gaining a tempo, Black has effectively *lost* a couple moves because the rook is terribly place and will have to move again—several times if he is to play on the c-file, since the c4 square is no longer available. The most sobering variation for Black now would be 44...Bf4? 45 Qc3!, highlighting all the difficulties.

So I understood, finally, that the queens were more of a danger to me than to White. "If I could just afford to get rid of them without something bad happening on the c-line...," I thought. So I calculated the variation 45 Qxg5 Bxg5 46 Rac1?! Bd8!? 47 Rc7! Yikes! But, proceeding, I found 47...Bxc7 48 bxc7 Kg7! 49 Rc1 Bc8 50 Rc6 Rxb3 51 Rxd6 Rc3 and *viola*, the point of getting the king off the back rank: there is no check Rd8 and Black will at last eliminate the menacing pawn. A few moments later I noticed that the simpler 46...Bxc1 47 Rxc1 Rg4 48 Rc7 Rg7 was also possible. So it was with relief (and no additional analysis) that I played...

# 44...Qg5

...one turn too late.

45 Qxg5 Bxg5 46 Rd3! (Another excellent move, preparing threats on both the queenside and the kingside The only way to block the kingside attack {Rh1 and R3h3} is to leave the bishop on g5 and move the h-pawn to h6. But then White invades c7 {Rc3!} and wins the sad queen's bishop.) 46...Bd8 (On the off chance that White will panic at the sight of b6 going down and waste precious time capturing f2) 47 Rh1! Rf4 48 Rdh3 Rf7 49 Be4 (Like clockwork, all the White pieces converge on h7, and because of the Bb7 he stands to win a whole piece.) 49...Rf4 (49...Bf6 would have held out longer: 50 Rxh7+ Kg8 51 Rxf7 Kxf7 52 Rh7+ Bg7, but of course White is winning after 53 Kxf2) 50 Rxh7+ Kg8 51 Rh8+ Kg7 52 R1h7+ Kf6 53 Rf8+ Kg5 54 Rg7+ Kh6 55 Rg6+ Kh7 56 Rxf4 1-0

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