



WILLOW LAWN OPEN

by Brian Sumner

The Willow Lawn Open, held May 31 in Richmond, was a big success. Thanks to a concerted effort to get out the word, forty seven players took part. Three players ended with 3½-½ scores. On tiebreak, 1st place went to Colvin Watson. Michael Callaham was awarded 2nd prize and Willy Bokelaar was 3rd. The section trophy winners were: Bo Wilson (Top Under 1600); Timothy Searcy (Top under 1300); and Jarle Anderson (Top under 1000/unrated). Tournament T- Shirts were given out as door prizes. Jon Backus was the Tournament Director and Ernie Schlich of Tidewater Chess kindly assisted with the computer pairings. Special thanks to our sponsors: The Shops at Willow Lawn, Biznet, Inc., and DibbaDabba Digs, LLC.



A complete crosstable and more photographs from the event can be found on the Kaissa Chess Club web site, www.kaissachess.org



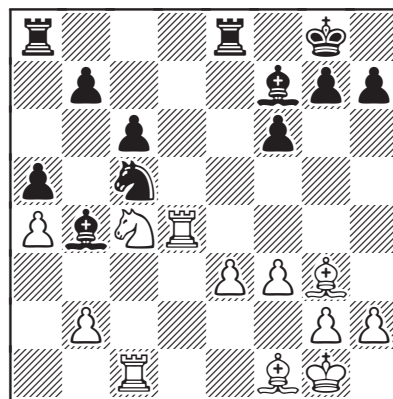
CHARLOTTESVILLE OPEN

The beloved old Best Western site may be gone but chess in Charlottesville is still alive. Eighty-six players turned out July 12-13 at the new Best Western site for the 13th Charlottesville Open. Visiting masters Emory Tate, Ilye Figler and Boris Privman tied for 1st place, each scoring 4½-½. IM Oladapo Adu, Boris Reichstein, Robert Cale, Ruixin Yang, Harry Cohen, Thomas McCumiskey, and Peter Snow were runners up at 4-1.

Emory Tate - Ilye Figler

Queen's Bishop Game

1 Nf3 d5 2 d4 Nf6 3 Bf4 c6 4 Nbd2 Bg4 5 e3 Nbd7 6 c4 dxc4 7 Bxc4 e6 8 O-O Be7 9 Qb3 Qb6 10 Ne5 Nxe5 11 Bxe5 O-O 12 Rfc1 Qxb3 13 Nxb3 Nd7 14 Bg3 a5 15 a4 Bb4 16 Bf1 Rfe8 17 f3 Bh5 18 Rd1 f6 19 Rac1 Bf7 20 Nd2 e5 21 Nc4 exd4 22 Rxd4 Nc5



23 Nd6 Nb3 24 Nxe8 Rxe8 25 Rxb4 axb4 26 Rd1 Nc5 27 a5 Bb3 28 Rc1 Na4 29 Bc4+ Bxc4 30 Rxc4 Rxe3 31 Rxb4 Nc5 32 Bf2 Re5 33 Bxc5 Rxc5 34 Rxb7 Rxa5 35 g4 h5 36 Kf2 Kh7 37 Rb6 Rc5 38 gxh5 ½-½

David Parrish - Daniel Park

English

1 Nf3 c5 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 g3 Nc6 5 Bg2 Nf6 6 O-O O-O 7 a3 d6 8 Rb1 Be6 9 d3 Qd7 10 Re1 Bh3 11 Bh1 h6 12 b4 Ng4 13 Nd5 g5

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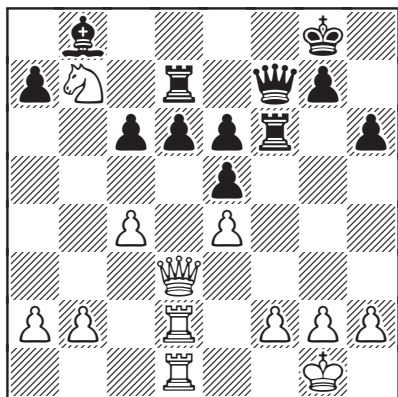




14 b5 Nd4 15 Bb2 f5 16 e3 Nxf3+ 17 Bxf3 Ne5 18 Bxe5 dxe5 19 Bg2 Bxg2 20 Kxg2 e6 21 Nc3 Rad8 22 Na4 b6 23 Nb2 Qf7 24 Qe2 Rd6 25 Rf1 Qb7+ 26 Kg1 f4 27 f3 Rfd8 28 e4 h5 29 Rbd1 Qf7 30 Qg2 Qg6 31 g4 Kf7 32 h3 (32 h4) Rh8 33 Kf2 Rdd8 34 Rh1 Rh7 35 Rh2 Rdh8 36 Rdh1 Qf6 37 a4 Qd8 38 Kg1 hxg4 39 hxg4 Qd4+ 40 Kf1 Rxh2 41 Rxh2 Rxh2 42 Qxh2 Qe3 43 Qe2 Qc1+ 44 Kg2 Qc3 45 Nd1 Qb3 46 Nb2 ½-½

Adam Hood - Edward Jankiewicz
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 e5 5 Nxc6 bxc6 6 Nc3 Nf6 7 Bc4 Bc5 8 O-O d6 9 Bg5 h6 10 Bh4 O-O 11 Qd3 Be6 12 Bxe6 fxe6 13 Rad1 Qd7 14 Na4 Rad8 15 Rd2 Bb6 16 Rfd1 Bc7 17 Bxf6 Rxf6 18 Nc5 Qf7 19 Nb7 Rd7 20 c4 Bb8



21 Na5 c5 22 Nc6 Bc7 23 Nxe5 Qe7 24 Nxd7 Qxd7 25 e5 Rf7 26 exd6 Bd8 27 a3 Bg5 28 Re2 Rf4 29 Qc3 Bf6 30 Qe3 e5 31 Qxc5 Qa4 32 Rc1 Rd4 33 Ree1 Kh7 34 Qb4 Qxb4 35 axb4 Rxd6 36 c5 1-0 A 268 rating point upset

Philip Chodrow - William Stokes
Queen's Gambit

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e4 c5 4 d5 Nf6 5 Nc3 b5 6 Bf4 (6 Nxb5 Qa5+ 7 Nc3 Nxe4) a6 7 a4 b4 8 e5 bxc3 9 exf6 cxb2 10 fxg7 Bxg7 11 Rb1 Bf5 12 Bxc4 Bxb1 13 Qxb1 Qa5+ 14 Ke2 Qxa4 15 Ba2 Qxf4 16 Nf3 Nd7 17 Rd1 O-O 18 g3 Qf6 19 d6 exd6 20 Bd5 Rab8 0-1

Matthew Freeman - Byron Hood
Nimzovich/Larsen

[Not sure who wrote the notes to this game -ed]

1 b3 d5 2 e3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6+ bxc6 5 Bb2 Nf6 6 f4 Bg4 7 Nf3 Rb8 8 h3 Bxf3 9 gxf3 a5 10 Qe2 e6 11 Nc3 Bd6 12 Qa6 Rb6 13 Qxa5 e5 14 fxe5 Bxe5 15 f4 Bd6 16 O-O-O Bb4 17 Qa4 Nd7 18 d4 Nf6 19 a3 Bxc3 20 Bxc3 Ne4 21 Be1 Qc8 22 b4 Kd7 23 Qb3 Qa6 24 Qd3 Ra8 25 Kb2 Qa4 26 Qb3 Qxb3+ 27 cxb3 f5 28 Rh2 Rf8 29 Rg2 g6 30 Rc1 Rf6 31 Rgc2 Rf8 32 b5 Rxb5 33 Rxc6 Rc8 34 a4 Rb6 35 Rxb6 cxb6 36 Rxc8 Kxc8 37 Ka3 Kb7 38 b4 Nd6 39 Kb3 Nc4 40 Bf2 Ka6 41 b5+ Kb7 (41...Ka5? 42 Be1+ mates) 42 Kc2 Kc7 43 Kb3 Kd7 44 h4 (Giving Black's king an entry to White's pawns. Prediction: White's king and bishop will become overworked.) 44...Ke6 (Black must keep an eye on a5 followed by b6 when the b pawn takes.) 45 Kb4 Kf6 46 Bg1 (The bishop cannot 'triangulate' on this diagonal.) 46...h6 47 Bf2 g5 48 hxg5+ hxg5 49 fxg5+ Kxg5 50 Be1 Kg4 51 a5 Nxa5 52 Kc3 Nc4 53 Bd2 Kf3 54 Kd3 Kf2 (54...Nd6) 55 Bc1 Ke1 (Forcing the king away from the d-file) 0-1 A 306 rating point upset. The ending—bad, bad bishop versus knight—is instructive for the lower-rated players.

VIRGINIA CHESS Newsletter

2003 - Issue #4

Editor:

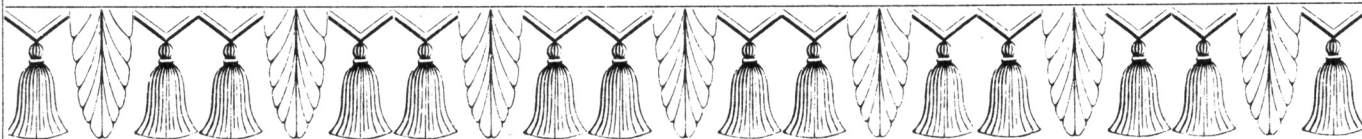
Macon Shibut
8234 Citadel Place
Vienna VA 22180
mshibut@dgs.dgsys.com

Circulation:

Mike Atkins
PO Box 6139
Alexandria, VA 22306
matkins2@cox.net



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67th Annual...

Virginia Closed State Championship

August 29-31

Virginia Commonwealth University

Student Commons Activity Bldg, Commonwealth A/B rooms on 2nd floor
907 Floyd Avenue (Corner of Floyd & Cherry), Richmond, Virginia 23284

Open to Virginia residents, military stationed in Virginia and students at Virginia Colleges and Universities with valid student ID for Fall 2003 Semester. 5SS, 30/90, SD/1, (2-day option rds 1-2 G/75). \$2500 b/100 (r/e count 50%) In two sections:

Open:

\$600-300-200-150, Top Expert, A \$100 Trophy to 1st, Top Exp and A. Title of Virginia State Champion to overall winner.

Amateur (open to Under 1800):

\$425-225-150 Top C,D,U1200, Unr \$100 each Top Upset \$50. Trophy to 1st, Top D,C,U1200. Title of Virginia Amateur Champion to overall winner.

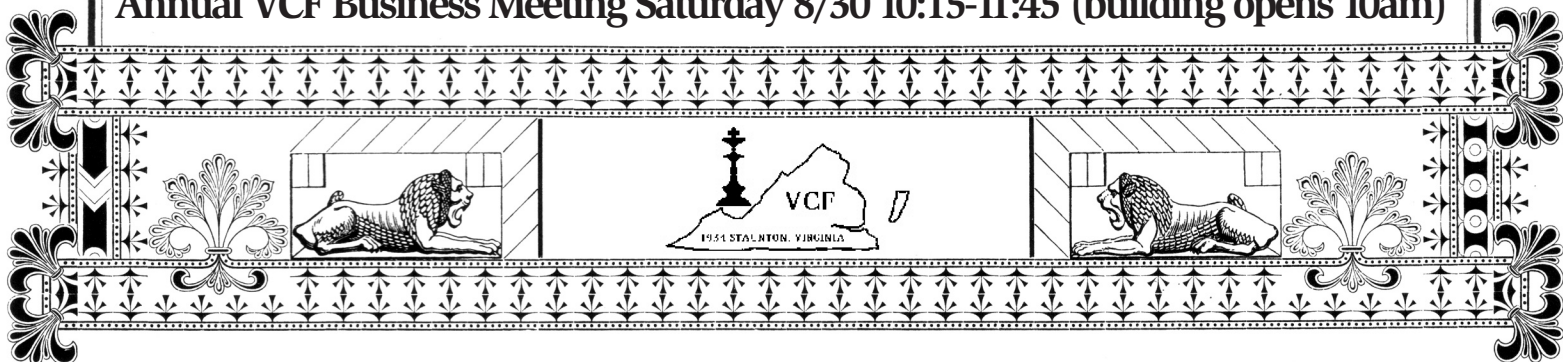
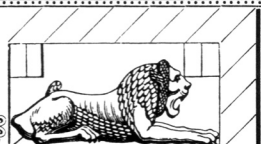
Both: 3-day: Reg Fri 5:30pm-6:45pm, rds 7, 12:00-5:30, 12:15-5:45. 2-day: Reg ends Sat 10:45am, rds 11:00-2:45-5:30, 12:15-5:45. One 1/2 pt bye available, MUST commit to bye with entry, no byes after Rd 1 starts. Trophies to Top Senior, Top Woman, Top Junior (under 18) - Open section adds 1 pt to score. EF: 3-day \$45 by 8/21, \$55 at site; 2-day \$46 by 8/21, all \$55 site. Re-entry \$30, only available 3-day into 2-day after rd 1. Tiebreaks: Cumulative, MM, S. New Pairing Rules used. W, NS, FIDE.

Free parking at VCU deck diagonally across from bldg on weekends, but only to first 50-75 cars. No smoking, food or drink is permitted in VCU auditorium or classrooms. Hotel (several blocks away): Radisson Hotel, 301 West Franklin St, Richmond, VA 23220 (804-644-9871, toll-free reservations 800-333-3333). \$70 + 12.5% tax, 2 dbl or 1 king, reserve by 7/29 to be assured of room & mention "chess tournament at VCU." <http://www.radisson.com/richmondva>.



Enter: Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA 22306. Make checks to "Virginia Chess" email matkins2@cox.net or browse <http://www.vachess.org/2003closed.htm> for latest info.

Annual VCF Business Meeting Saturday 8/30 10:15-11:45 (building opens 10am)





EARLY HISTORY OF THE VCF - WILBUR MOORMAN

Participants at the upcoming State Championship tournament in Richmond will once again vie for the Wilbur Moorman memorial trophy. This exquisite cup has been engraved with the names of every state champion since J D Matheson in 1936. "But who was Wilbur Moorman?," we are often asked. In the May 1963 issue of Chess Review, John Buck referred to Moorman as "probably the strongest chess player Virginia ever had." It's unlikely that claim has withstood the passage of time, but no doubt Moorman was a prominent figure in his day and it seems fair to call him still one of our more accomplished players. He once took a game off US Champion Frank Marshall in a short training match, for example; it would be an interesting research project to see what other Virginians have beaten reigning US champions. His peers esteemed Moorman enough to name the nascent state title trophy for him after his death in 1934.

Reader David Moody recently called Moorman back to mind when he wrote and offered game scores from a tournament played at Bath Beach, New York in the summer of 1909. All fifteen games from this six-player round robin appeared in the American Chess Bulletin for that year. They give some indication of the general level at which amateur chess was played at that time. In addition to Moorman, the aforementioned Marshall was also a participant in the tournament. Presumably all the players are representative of what would be called experts or masters today.

W Moorman - C Jaffe
Bath Beach (1), 1909
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Bb4 6 Bd3 e5 7 Nf5 0-0 8 Bg5 d5 9 Ng3 d4 10 a3 Ba5 11 b4 dxc3 12 bxa5 h6 13 Bxf6 Qxf6 14 0-0 Nc6 15 f4 exf4 16 Nh5 Qd4+ 17 Kh1 g5 18 Rb1 a6 19 g3 fxg3 20 Nf6+ Kg7 21 Nh5+ Kh8 22 Rf6 Ne5 23 Rxh6+ Kg8 24 Nf6+ Kg7 25 Qh5 Qe3 26 Rf1 g2+ 27 Kxg2 Rd8 28 Rh7+ Kf8 29 Qh6+ Ke7 30 Nd5+ Rxd5 31 Qf6+ Kd7 32 exd5 Kc7 33 d6+ Kb8 34 Rh8 Ka7 35 Qf2 Qxf2+ 36 Kxf2 Be6 37 Rxa8+ Kxa8 38 Be4 Nc4 39 Rd1 Nd2 40 Bd5 Kb8 41 Bxe6 fxe6 42 Ke3 Kc8 43 Rg1 Nc4+ 44 Kd4 Nxa3 45 Rxc5 Nb5+ 46 Kc5 Na3 47 Rg2 Kd7 48 h4 Nb5 49 h5 Nxd6 50 Rg7+ 1-0

W Moorman - H Rosenfeld
Bath Beach (2), 1909
French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Bd3 dxe4 4 Bxe4 Nf6 5 Bg5 c5 6 Bxf6 Qxf6 7 Nf3 Nd7 8 c3 Bd6 9 Nbd2 0 10 Qc2 h6 11 dxc5 Nxc5 12 0-0 Qe7 13 b4 Nd7 14 Rae1 f5 15 Bd5 Nf6 16 Bb3 Kh8 17 Nh4

Qf7 18 Nxf5 Bxh2+ 19 Kxh2 Qh5+ 20 Kg1 Ng4 21 Nf3 Rxf5 22 Rd1 Bd7 23 Rfe1 Bc6 24 Rxe6 Bxf3 25 gxf3 Qh2+ 26 Kf1 Qh1+ 27 Ke2 Qxf3+ 28 Kd2 Qf4+ 0-1

F Marshall - W Moorman
Bath Beach (3), 1909
Old Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d6 3 Nc3 Nbd7 4 e4 e5 5 d5 Be7 6 Bd3 Nf8 7 Nge2 Ng6 8 Ng3 Nh4 9 Rg1 h6 10 Nf5 Nxf5 11 exf5 Nh7 12 Be3 Bg5 13 Qd2 Bxe3 14 Qxe3 Qg5 15 Nb5 Qxe3+ 16 fxe3 Kd8 17 0-0-0 f6 18 h4 Bd7 19 Nc3 Ke7 20 b4 Rhc8 21 Kb2 a5 22 a3 c5 23 dxc6 bxc6 24 b5 a4 25 Bc2 d5 26 bxc6 Rxc6 27 Nxd5+ Ke8 28 Bd3 e4 29 Bxe4 Rb8+ 30 Nb4 Rxc4 31 Rd4 Rc5 32 g4 Nf8 33 Bd5 Bc8 34 Re4+ Kd8 35 Rd1 Bd7 36 Be6 Re5 37 Rxe5 fxe5 38 Rd5 Ke7 39 Bxd7 Nxd7 40 Ra5 Kd6 41 Rxa4 Nb6 42 Ra7 Nc4+ 43 Kc3 Nxe3 44 Rxc7 Ra8 45 Rg6+ Kc5 46 Rc6+ Kb5 47 Kb3 Nxc4 48 f6 Rf8 49 a4+ Ka5 50 Ra6# 1-0





W Moorman - H Daly

Bath Beach (4), 1909

Three Knights

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Bc4 Nc6 5 d3
d6 6 0-0 Bg4 7 Ne2 Bxf3 8 gxf3 Nh5 9 c3 Bc5
10 d4 Bb6 11 f4 Qh4 12 fxe5 dxe5 13 Ng3 Nf4
14 Qf3 g6 15 Bxf4 exf4 16 Ne2 g5 17 Bb5 0-0-0
18 Bxc6 bxc6 19 a4 a5 20 Kh1 Rd6 21 Rg1
h5 22 e5 Re6 23 Rg2 f6 24 Rag1 g4 25 Qxf4
fxe5 26 Qf5 Rhe8 27 Ng3 Kb7 28 Nxh5 exd4
29 Rxc4 Qh3 30 Rf4 Qxf5 31 Rxf5 d3 32 Nf4
Rd6 33 Rd1 d2 34 Ng2 Re2 35 Kg1 Rg6 36 Kf1
Rge6 37 Ne3 R6xe3 38 fxe3 Rxh2 39 Rf2 Rh1+
40 Ke2 Rxd1 41 Kxd1 Bxe3 42 Rxd2 Bxd2 43
Kxd2 Kb6 44 Kd3 Kc5 45 b3 Kd5 46 b4 axb4
47 cxb4 c5 48 b5 c4+ 49 Kd2 Kd4 50 a5 Kc5 51
a6 Kb6 52 Kc3 c6 53 a7 1/2-1/2

O Roething - W Moorman

Bath Beach (5), 1909

Latvian Gambit

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f5 3 Bc4 Nc6 4 d3 Nf6 5 Bg5 h6
6 Bxf6 Qxf6 7 0-0 fxe4 8 dxe4 Bb4 9 a3 Ba5
10 b4 Bb6 11 Nc3 Ne7 12 Nd5 Nxd5 13 Qxd5
d6 14 Rad1 Rf8 15 Rd3 Ke7 16 Bb3 g5 17 Rd2
g4 18 Ne1 h5 19 c4 Be3 20 Re2 Bd4 21 Nc2
c6 22 Qa5 Bb6 23 Qa4 h4 24 c5 dxc5 25 Ne3
h3 26 Bd1 hxg2 27 Kxg2 c4 28 Nxc4 Qf3+ 29
Kg1 g3 0-1



MWR Mid-Atlantic Open #2

Nov 1, 2003

Devray Hall, Naval Station,
Norfolk

4-SS G/60. Open to all who can get on base.
EF \$12 if rcvd by 10/27, else \$15. \$190
b/25. Reg 8:00-8:30am, rds 9-11:30-2-4:14.
Unrated section if entries warrant. See TLA
in *Chess Life* or browse

<http://home.earthlink.net/~eschlich>
for more details.

9th SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA OPEN

August 8-10

Ramada Inn Salem

1671 Skyview Road, Salem, VA 24153

(first right just north of Exit 137 off I-81, up hill on left)

5SS, 30/90, SD/1. (2-day option, rd 1
G/90) \$\$2225 b/80 (\$1335—60% each
prize—guaranteed): Open \$500-300-200,
top 2000-2199/unr \$100-50, top U2000
\$100-50. Amateur (open to under 1800)
\$300-200-125, U1600/unr \$100-50, U1400
\$100-50. Unrateds can win no more than
\$100 in Amateur. EF 3-day \$46, 2-day \$45
mailed by 7/28, all \$55 at site, GMs/IMs free.
Re-entry \$25. No phone entries. Checks and
Visa/MC accepted at site. 1/2-pt byes avail
(limit 2), byes for rds 4-5 must commit before
round 3. 3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 7:
30pm, rds 8, 1:30-7, 9-2:30. 2-day schedule:
Reg ends Sat 9:30am, rds 10-1:30-7, 9-2:30.
W. Free parking, many restaurants nearby.
Hotel: \$67-\$67-\$67-\$67, 540-389-7061,
mention group code RVC1, reserve by 7/14
or rate may increase. Enter: Roanoke Valley
CC, PO Box 1212, Salem, VA 24153. Info
on the web at www.roanokechess.com or by
phone, 540- 378-1316.

15 Grand Prix points





My Great Predecessors (part 1)

by Garry Kasparov

Everyman Chess, hardcover, 464 pages, \$35 list

Reviewed by Macon Shibut

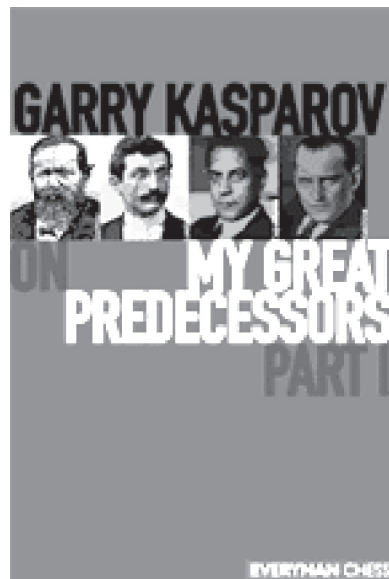
MODERN CHESS PUBLISHING offers support to the old adage, “Those who can do; those who can’t teach.” Granted, most chess authors are strong players, many of them exquisitely so. But it is also true that today’s very best players have not seen fit to devote much time and energy to writing. We’ve come to expect nothing more from them beyond the perfunctory *Best Games* collection—and even that in a formula package consisting of recycled notes from old magazine articles (*New In Chess* seems a favorite picking ground) assembled and updated by some less-distinguished co-author.

It wasn’t always so. Wilhelm Steinitz and Alexander Alekhine generated mammoth literary outputs. Emmanuel Lasker edited a magazine for a time, wrote an acclaimed *St Petersburg 1909* tournament book, and finally crowned his career with the essential and ground-breaking *Manual of Chess*. José Raoul Capablanca’s books were lighter fare, it’s true, but this was in keeping with his personality and outlook in general. In any case, *Chess Fundamentals* and *A Primer of Chess* have withstood the years and remain to this day among chess’s best introductory texts. Max Euwe wrote or oversaw dozens of important theoretical works such as *Judgment & Planning in Chess*, *The Development of Chess Style*, the *Middlegame* series, etc.

Mikhail Botvinnik set the gold standard for documenting his own play, conscientiously annotating hundreds of games that have been packaged and repackaged in numerous volumes. But with him we also see the beginning of an apparent shift in philosophy: for whatever reasons—economic, psychological, competitive—world champions from the Era of Soviet Dominance turned inward. To the extent

that they wrote at all, it was about their own chess rather than about chess in general. Much of it has been very good: Tal wrote an excellent biography with annotated games, plus his magnificent book of the 1960 world championship match. And *Sixty Memorable Games* was somehow coaxed out of Fischer, albeit before he actually became world champion. (Don’t hold your breath for the sequel.) However, the task of ruminating upon chess as a whole, of advancing and articulating our broader understanding of the game, its history, its theoretical development—since the 1950s that job has been allotted, more or less completely, to lesser lights.

All of which explains why the release of Garry Kasparov’s *My Great Predecessors* is a milestone in the history of chess publishing. Simply put, no player of Kasparov’s consequence has ever undertaken such a project. This book, sumptuously produced in hardcover only, is the first of what promises to be at least a three-volume set. (In interviews, Kasparov has intimated that four or even five are likely.)





The point of *My Great Predecessors* is as ambitious and direct as its author. Kasparov aims to lay bare the essence of how chess has been understood and played throughout the history of the game in its modern form. To this end, he dissects the achievements of world champions (and near-champions such as Tarrasch, Rubinstein, etc), reasoning that their games indicate the “cutting edge”—the highest state of knowledge and insight that was attained during a particular era. Volume 1 tells this story from the mid-19th century up through Alekhine.

In form, *Predecessors* resembles an earlier, much lesser work: R E Fauber's *Impact of Genius*. Important games and personalities are taken up more or less chronologically while a running historical narrative ties everything

together. The difference, of course, is the difference between Kasparov and Fauber: First, Kasparov's understanding of what constitutes an “important” game is itself a matter of interest. Whereas Fauber stayed with safe, well-known ‘brilliances,’ Kasparov's standard is bound up with the question of whether a game reflects its era or—more interesting—whether it presages future developments. Many games failed to become popular anthology pieces precisely because they ‘pushed the envelope’ and were misunderstood by contemporaneous writers. Second, and not surprisingly, Kasparov's analytic microscope is infinitely more refined. Fauber undertook little or no original analysis, but Kasparov's amazing skills in this area are well-known. No one will be surprised to learn that the cliché “deeply annotated” well describes his treatment of *Predecessors*' 148 main games. (There are many other analytical sidelights and nuggets throughout the text as well.) Finally—and bearing directly upon the book's stated aims—the simple fact that Kasparov was himself a world champion (“universally acclaimed as the greatest chessplayer ever,” in the typically breathless words of the back cover) lends credibility to his assumptions about what players could or could not have known or thought during a game. Unique among the writers of such books as this, Kasparov has ‘been there’ himself.

Kasparov is a very concrete analyst. His notes contain a lot of variations, which makes for some tough reading if you're determined to digest the entire work. In his game collections *Test of Time* (1986), *New World Chess Champion* (1986) and *London-Leningrad Championship Games* (1987), Kasparov leavened the analysis with a stream-of-consciousness narrative, bringing the reader into the game and evoking the shifting emotions of the original moment. In contrast, there is a terseness about the notes in *My Great Predecessors* that prevents them from realizing the same effect. Probably this was unavoidable

19th EMPORIA OPEN

October 11-12

Greensville Ruritan Club

Ruritan Rd (Off of Hwy 58 West of Emporia)

Emporia, VA 23847

5SS, 40/90, SD/60. \$\$G 500, \$400 class prizes b/5: \$250-150-100, X (if no X wins place prize), A, B, C each \$75, D, E each \$50.

Significant refreshments provided. EF \$35 if rec'd by 10/8, \$40 at site, free to unrated players - no unrated prize, players under age 19 may pay \$10 EF and play for book prizes only. VCF membership required (\$10/yr)

and available at

site. Reg 9-9:

45am, rds 10-

3-8, 9-2. NC,

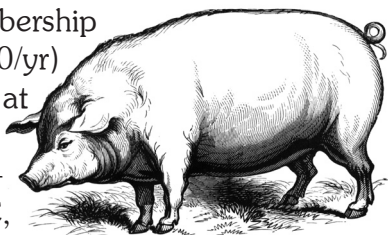
W. Hotel: Holiday

Inn 434-634-4191, ask for chess rate. Enter:

Virginia Chess Federation, c/o Woodrow

Harris, 1105 West End Drive, Emporia, VA

23847. Email fwh@3rddoor.com for info.





with Kasparov annotating games that were not his own. It will be interesting to see if the prevailing tone changes in subsequent volumes as he turns his eye towards champions he knows personally or has played.

There is some lightening of the reader's burden in the fact that Kasparov here is not really intent upon stripping these games to the bone. Often he is satisfied just to clarify essential turning points and, over and over, to pound home his theme of an evolving chess theory. In interviews and occasionally in the text of *Predecessors* itself, Kasparov speaks as if this were a novel conception. In fact, it is a time-worn idea and one cannot browse through *Predecessors* for any time without being struck by the apparent influence of two other books: Richard Reti's *Modern Ideas in Chess* and *Masters of the Chessboard*.

In *Modern Ideas* Reti sought to connect emerging strategic notions in chess with cultural and artistic movements outside the game. Likewise, Kasparov notes, "The best chess masters of every epoch have been closely linked with the values of the society in which they lived and worked." He returns to this notion from time to time throughout the book. And again, Kasparov's very first sentences of chapter one ("The stages in the development of chess resemble the path taken by everyone who proceeds from beginner to a player of high standard. Initially they all unconsciously reproduce the manner of play in the 16th and 17th centuries...") are hardly but a rewording of *Modern Ideas*'s opening line ("We perceive after a careful consideration of the evolution of the chess mind that such evolution has gone on, in general, in a way quite similar to that in which it goes on with the individual chess player...") or, again, Reti's theme for *Masters of the Chessboard* ("No intellectual activity can be properly understood unless one has passed through the several stages of its historical development, if only in a general way.")

Grandmaster

Gregory Kaidanov

will conduct an

Advanced Chess Workshop

On

September 27-28, 2003

In

Richmond, Virginia.

This workshop will offer students an opportunity to participate in an intensive weekend of lecture and interactive discussion over a wide range of topics relevant to intermediate and advanced players.

Tuition is \$175.00. Seating is very limited, so please register at your earliest convenience. Full information on this workshop is available at the Richmond Chess website:

<http://richmondchess.com/workshop.htm>

If you have any additional questions, please respond via e-mail or phone 804-304-6369

DAVID ZOFCHAK MEMORIAL

Nov 15-16, 2003

Details to follow!

Keep an eye out in *Chess Life* or
<http://home.earthlink.net/~eschlich>





Naturally, many of the particular games used by Kasparov to illustrate the methods of Morphy, Steinitz, Lasker, et al are precisely the same examples that Reti analyzed in his books. But Reti was not really trying to write honest history. *Masters of the Chessboard* was explicitly a textbook, and the historical/evolutionary shtick was just Reti's literary device for introducing successively more advanced concepts. Kasparov, on the other hand, really is attempting to sort out and record history—a history of not only events but of ideas.

Regarding the former, Edward Winter—of the wonderful “Chess Notes” (www.chesscafe.com/winter/winter.htm)—has documented a variety of lapses in *Predecessors*' account of match conditions, personalities, quotes, etc. He also rebukes the absence of a bibliography, which does seem a rather stunning omission in a book of this sort. (Kasparov has acknowledged as much and promised to rectify the problem in future volumes.) However, in an unguarded moment Kasparov would probably shrug off such criticism, maintaining that his real interest, after all, is in the *chess*. In this regard, *Predecessors* presents a vivid and compelling case. Kasparov blows away Reti's artificial, unsupportable simplifications (eg, Morphy originating the principle of rapid development) and reveals the games of old masters in all their richness and complexity. I've seen where another reviewer complains that “a very great part of the analysis (certainly more than 95%) has been copied from earlier sources.” This strikes me as unfair. These games have been combed through for decades by countless annotators, not least the players themselves. Of course much of this analysis was dead-on, and we can't expect that Kasparov could avoid reproducing known variations. Rather, given the pedigree of these games and the attention they've received, I'm impressed at how often he does unearth something new, even in the most critical positions.

Editor's note: As explained in Virginia Chess #2003/1, a sequence of unfortunate events and miscommunications led to the cancellation of the 2003 Virginia Open at its normal January time slot. VCF officers have made extraordinary efforts to arrange to conduct the tournament after all. So here, in a new and hopefully one-time-only November time slot...

36th Annual

VIRGINIA OPEN

November 7-9

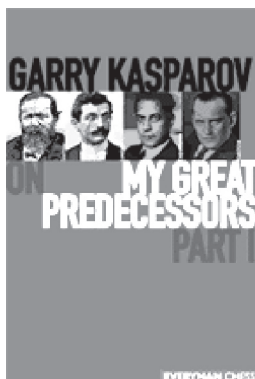
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30 Grand Prix Points



In any event, there's value added in having one of the greatest players of all time pull together the often-conflicting opinions of various analysts and render his authoritative judgment. Just his giving attention to these games brings the weight of Kasparov's credibility to bear

against popular modern conceits. There are dopes among us who see a primitive-looking opening and conclude straightaway that the masters of the 19th century were comparatively weak—that "Janowski would be a B-player today," as one of them once memorably opined to me. They patronize the old masters by allowing that, well, they may indeed have been as "talented" as modern players, and so their reincarnated selves, "with sufficient time to study," might attain our glorious level. But generally speaking—with our vast experience and knowledge—poor old doddering Tarrasch or Capablanca would really stand no chance against even a second-tier modern grandmaster.

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In fact, one could equally note that we can never know how a Sicilian Defense or Ruy Lopez might look in the hands of that same modern grandmaster if just once he had to play it, from the beginning, without benefit of trailblazing by Steinitz, Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine and the other stars of *My Great Predecessors*. Now we can, however, appreciate more of what was going on in those old games thanks to Garry Kasparov's objective and penetrating work. Consider the following excerpt: the 7th game of the 1894 world championship match:

Emanuel Lasker – Wilhelm Steinitz

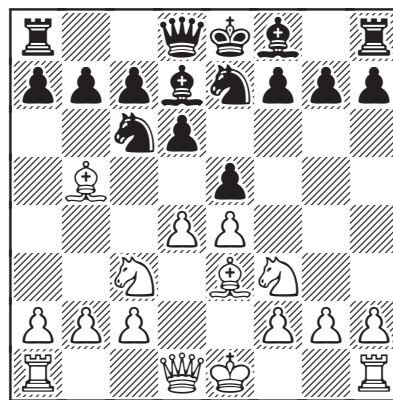
World Championship

USA/Canada 1894 7th game

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 d6 4 d4 Bd7
5 Nc3 Nge7 (Steinitz's classical defense)
6 Be3

Before this Lasker played 6 Bc4, but in the fifth game after 6...exd4 7 Nxd4 Nxd4 8 Qxd4 Nc6 9 Qe3 Be6 (Black failed to equalize by 9...Ne5 10 Bb3 c6 11 Qg3 or 10...Be6 11 f4 Nc4 12 Qg3 as in the first and third games; 9...Be7!?) 10 Nd5 Be7 11 Bd2 0-0 12 0-0 Ne5 13 Bb3 Bxd5 14 Bxd5 c6 15 Bb3 Nd7 16 Rad1 a5 17 c3 a4 18 Bc2 Re8 19 Qh3 Nf8 20 Be3 Qa5 Black obtained a solid enough position.



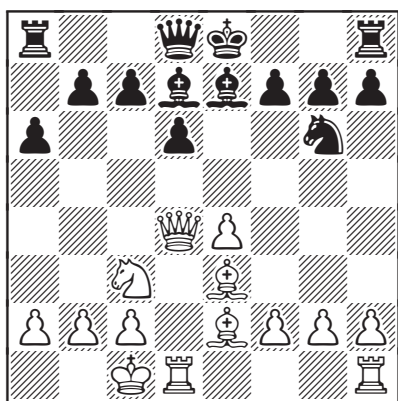


6...Ng6 7 Qd2 Be7 8 0-0-0 (8 0-0 0-0 9 Rad1 id quieter) 8...a6 9 Be2 exd4!

If 9...0-0?!, then 10 dxe5! is unpleasant, for example: 10...Ngxe5 11 Nxe5 Nxe5 12 f4 with the initiative.

10 Nxd4 Nxd4 11 Qxd4

'Not allowing the exchange of bishops after 11 Bxd4 Bg5!' (Zak). True, 12 Be3 Bxe3 13 Qxe3 leaves White with a slight advantage.

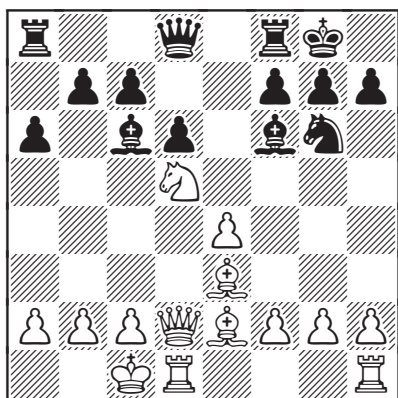


11...Bf6 12 Qd2 Bc6 (or 12...0-0 13 f3 Re8 14 Nd5) 13 Nd5

The preparatory 13 Kb1 is also possible.

13...0-0

White has merely obtained slightly the freer game from the opening, but suddenly Lasker sharply disrupts the positional balance.



14 g4?!

Pawns don't move backwards! It is hard to say whether this aggressive move was made with the desire to unsettle his tenacious opponent, or if it involved some oversight. It looks logical to play 14 f3 (Lasker), 14 g3 Re8 15 Bf3 and h2-h4-h5, or 14 Nxf6+ Qxf6 15 f3 Bb5 16 c4 Ba4 17 Rde1 with a small plus.

14...Re8 15 g5

'After 15 f3 Bxd5 16 Qxd5 Be5 Black's control of f4 would have given him a good game. If 15 Nxf6+ Qxf6 16 f3 there could have followed 16...Qe6 17 Kb1 d5 or 17 c4 b5 with excellent prospects.' (Neishtadt)

15...Bxd5 16 Qxd5

Dubious is 16 gxf6?! Bxe4 17 f3 Bf5 18 Bd4 c5! 19 Bc3 d5 20 Qxd5 Nf4 21 Qxf5 Nxe2+ 22 Kb1 Nxc3+ 23 bxc3 Qb6+ 24 Ka1 Qxf6 25 Qxf6 gxf6 26 Rd5 Re3 with an extra pawn, while after 16 exd5 Rxe3! 17 fxe3 (or 17 gxf6 Re5 18 fxe3 Qf6) 17...Bxg5 and ...Qe7 Black has stable compensation for the pawn: the drawbacks of g2-g4 are felt. [*sic – evidently 'stable compensation for the exchange' was intended. M.S.*]

16...Re5 17 Qd2?!

Much better was 17 Qxb7! Bxg5 18 Bxg5 Rxg5 19 Rhg1, although after 19...Rc5! Black has an easy game: ...a6-a5, ...Rb8, and then an attack on the kingside pawns by ...Qh4, or an attack on the king along the b- and c- files.

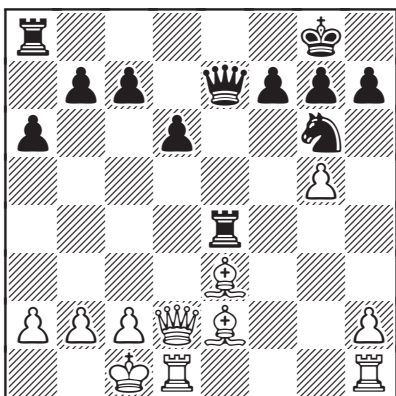
17...Bxg5!





Possibly Lasker was hoping for 17...Rxc5? 18 f4 Rg2 19 Qe1, when the Black rook is 'offside'.

18 f4 Rxe4! 19 fxg5 Qe7

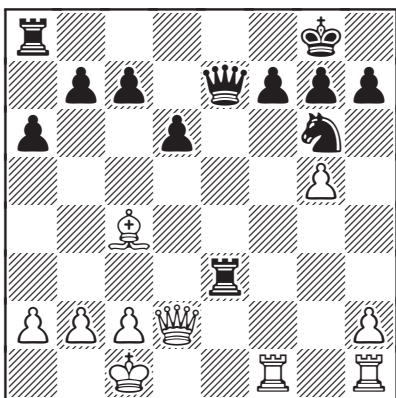


20 Rdf1?

20 Bf3 Rxe3 21 Bxb7 suggests itself, for example: 21...Rb8 (21...Re2 22 Rhe1 Rxd2 23 Rxe7 Rxd1+ 24 Kxd1 Nxe7 25 Bxa8 a5 is unclear) 22 Rhe1 Rxe1 (little is promised by 22...Re5 23 Bxa6 Qxg5 24 Qxg5 Rxc5 25 Bc4 Ne5 26 Bd5) 23 Rxe1 Qd7 24 Bd5 (24 Bxa6?! Qa4) 24...Ne5 with only some advantage to Black.

20...Rxe3 21 Bc4

Two pawns down, in a difficult, objectively lost position, White tries to create an attack by h2-h4-h5 etc.



21...Nh8!?

Typical Steinitz! The commentators admired this eccentric move, although it is apparently not the strongest. 21...Qxg5 would have retained some advantage, for example: 22 Rxf7 Kh8 23 Rxc7 Rae8 24 Rd1 Ne5 25 h4 Qf4 26 Bd5 b5, or 22 Rhg1 Qh6 23 Bxf7+ Kh8 24 Bxg6 hxg6 25 Rxc6 Qxc6 26 Qxe3 Re8. However, 21...Rf8! was the most logical, and if 22 h4 Re4 23 h5 either 23...Rxc4 24 hxg6 hxg6 25 Re1?! (25 Kb1 Re4 also brings no joy) 25...Re4! (Zak considered only 25...Qd8? 26 Reg1 and Qh2) 26 Rxe4 Qxe4 27 Qh2 f5 winning, or 23...Ne5!? (Neishtadt) 24 Bd5 Rg4 25 g6 hxg6 26 hxg6 Nxg6 27 Bxb7 Qg5 and Black should win.

22 h4 c6 23 g6!

The only chance: hopeless is 23 Rfg1 d5 24 Bd3 Ng6 25 h5 Nf4 or 23 Bd3 Re8 24 Rhg1 Qe6 25 Kb1 b5 26 h5 c5. There now begins a sequence of irrational play, in which Lasker, as it transpires, is superior to his opponent. The problem of this position is that in nearly all variations Black is close to a win, but everywhere



Emmanuel Lasker



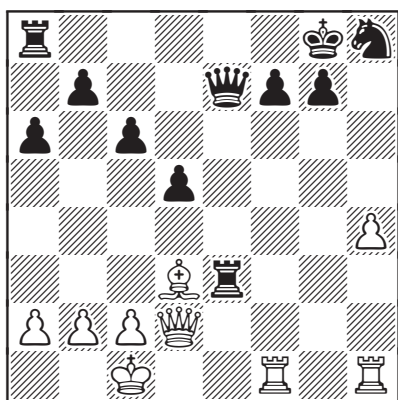
White retains some counter-chances. To evaluate where there are more of them, and where there are less, is not easy, and for more than a dozen moves Steinitz is obliged to solve a rather ticklish problem: how not to lose his decisive advantage?

23...d5?!

This possibly does not yet throw away the win, but clearly better was 23...hxc6! 24 h5 g5! (24...gxh5 25 Rxc6 Re8 26 Rhh1 Qe5! will also do, or 24...d5 25 hxc6 Nxc6 26 Bd3 Rxd3!, but not 26...Nf8?! 27 Qh2 f6 28 Bf5 with compensation for the material deficit) 25 h6 gxh6! (unclear is 25...g6?! 26 h7+ Kg7 — 26...Kf8 27 Bxf7! — 27 Qh2! f5 28 Qh6+ Kf6 29 Bg8!) 26 Rxc6 (or 26 Qh2 Qf8 27 Rfg1 Re5) 26...Re8! 27 Kd1 (27 Rhh1 Qe5) 27...Qe4 and the game is decided: 28 Rfh1 28...Ng6 29 Bd3 Qg4+ 30 Kc1 Qg3 31 Kd1 Nh4, or 28 Bd3 Qg4+ 29 Kc1 Qg3 30 Kd1 R8e6 etc.

24 gxh7+ Kxh7 25 Bd3+ Kg8

By Steinitz's standards, the position is won, but Lasker continues fighting.



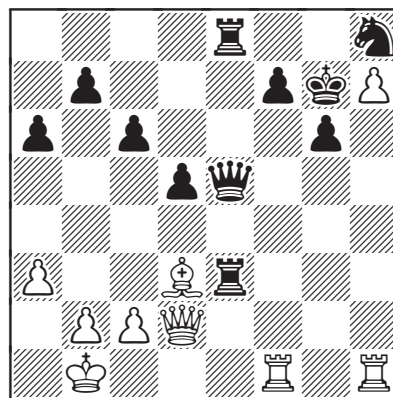
26 h5 Re8 27 h6 (27 Rfg1!?) 27...g6 28 h7+ Kg7 29 Kb1!?

In this game there is something of the 'Tal' element: White's attack is rather abstract, but it will not come to an end

— all the time some threats arise! It is a kind of lingering compensation, which there is also after 29 Qh2!? Qg5 30 Kb1 c5 31 Rfg1 Qe5 32 Qh6+ Kf6.

29...Qe5 30 a3

Lasker's last two quiet moves were completely inexplicable to his contemporaries: how do you play this way when two pawns down?



30...c5

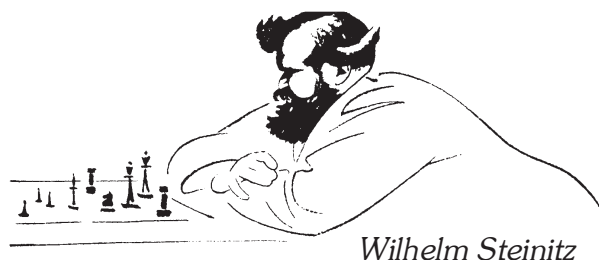
'Very strong was 30...Re6, parrying the queen maneuver carried out in the game. If 31 Qf2 there could have followed 31...Rf6' (Neishtadt) However, after 31 Qb4! b5 32 Qh4 all is by no means so clear.

31 Qf2

31 c3? c4 32 Bc2 Re2! and 31 Be2 Qe4 32 Bd3 Qd4 33 Qh2 f5 34 Rd1 Qe5 35 Qh6+ Kf7 both fail.

31...c4 32 Qh4

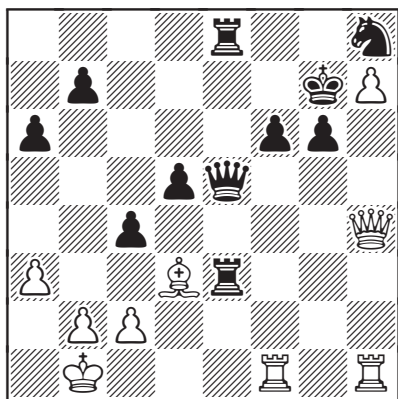
But not 32 Bxc6? fxc6 33 Qh4 Nf7.



Wilhelm Steinitz

**32...f6**

According to Chigorin, 32...Kf8 was completely safe, avoiding weakening the g6 square. But even here after 33 Bf5! gxf5 (Neishtadt suggested the 'restrained' 33...Re7?, overlooking 34 Bxg6! Nxd6 35 Rhg1 and wins) 34 Rhg1 f6 35 Rg8+ Ke7 36 Rfg1 Re4 37 Qf2 it is altogether unclear who is winning.

**33 Bf5**

A key moment: to keep his attack alive, Lasker now also gives up a piece. He subtly sensed that the misplaced Black king and the 'sleeping' knight at h8 would promise White excellent compensation: 33...gxf5?! 34 Rhg1+ Kf7 35 Qh5+ Ke7 36 Rxf5 etc. So how should Black play? Even a powerful computer required a considerable amount of time to understand this intricate position...

33...Kf7?!

Not an easy choice. Later those researching the games of Steinitz and Lasker suggested two 'ways to win':

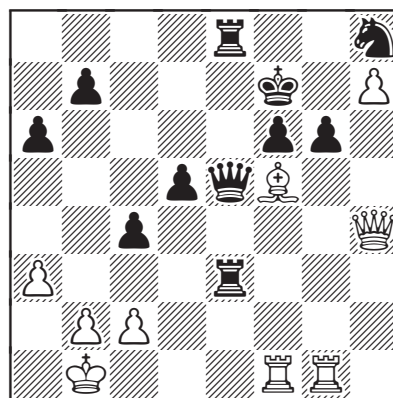
1) 33...Qg3 34 Qh6+ Kf7 35 Rhg1? Re1+ 36 Ka2 Qxg1!, but here 35 Bd7! Rd8 36 Rh3 Qe1+ 37 Rxe1 Rxe1+ 38 Ka2 Rxd7 is unclear;

2) 33...Rg3 34 Ka2 (but not 34 Re1? Qxe1+ 35 Rxe1 Rxe1+ 36 Ka2 Rgg1

and wins) 34...Qd6!, although 34 Bg4! is stronger, when there is still all to play for.

34 Rhg1!

34 Bh3 and Bg2 is too slow.

**34...gxf5**

'Here it is, the decisive mistake!' 'Suicidal!' — exclaimed the commentators, maintaining that there is nothing threatening Black, and recommending the 'winning' 34...b5 (or 34...c3): if 35 Qh6 there is 35...Rg3! in fact, far stronger is 35 Bxg6+! Nxd6 36 Qg4! (but not 36 Rxd6? Re1+ 37 Rxe1 Qxe1+ 38 Qxe1 Rxe1+ 39 Ka2 Rh1 and Black wins) 36...Nh8 37 Qg7+!? (37 Qd7+ Re7 38 Qc8 Re8 39 Qd7+ is sufficient for a draw) 37...Ke6 38 Qb7 with a powerful attack, for example: 38...f5 39 Rg8 Kd6 40 Rxe8 Qxe8 41 Rxf5 Re5 42 Qxa6+ Kc5 43 Qa7+ Kd6 44 Qb6+ Kd7 45 Qxb5+ Kd6 46 Qb4+ Kc6 47 Rf8 and wins.

35 Qh5+ Ke7 36 Rg8

Inferior is 36 Rxf5?! Qe6 37 Rg7+ Kd8 38 Rxd5+ Kc8 39 Qh2 Re5 and Black wins.

36...Kd6?!

But this really would seem to be a mistake. Safer was 36...Kd7 (or 36...Kd8) 37 Rxf5 Qe6 38 Rxd5+ Kc7 with unclear

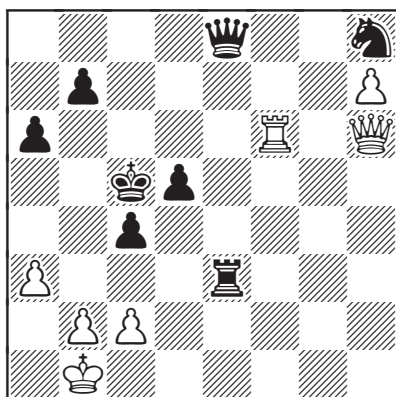


play. However, only a thorough analysis of the further events in the game enables such a conclusion to be draw.

37 Rxf5 Qe6 38 Rxe8 (38 Qh2+?! Re5)
38...Qxe8 39 Rxf6+ (39 Rxd5+ Ke7)
39...Kc5

The alternative 39...Kc7 40 Qxd5 is also very unpleasant.

40 Qh6



40...Re7?

How hard it was for Steinitz to defend! Later Chigorin recommended 40...Qe7 (and if 41 Qf8? Qxf8 42 Rxf8 Ng6 43 Rg8 Rh3, but after 41 Rf8! I was unable to find a draw for Black, although this position was on my computer for a long time. To all appearances, White's attack is irresistible:

1) 41...Re6 42 Qd2! (a very important maneuver; earlier they considered only 42 Rc8+ Kb6! with double-edged play, but not 42...Rc6? 43 Qd2!! Qxh7 44 Rxh8! Qxh8 45 Qb4+ Kd4 46 Qc3+) 42...Qxh7 43 Rc8+ Rc6 44 Rxh8 Qf7 45 Rf8 Qd7 46 Qb4+ Kd4 47 Rf1 Qd8 48 Rd1+ Ke5 49 Re1+ Kf6 50 Qc3+ Kf7 51 Qh3 Kg7 52 Rh1 winning;



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2) 41...Re1+ 42 Ka2 Re6 43 Qd2! (the same key maneuver) Qxh7 44 Rc8+ Rc6 45 Qb4+ Kd4 46 Rxh8 Qxc2 47 Rh4+ Ke5 48 Qe7+ Re6 49 Qc7+ Rd6 50 Rh3 Qg6 51 Qe7+ Re6 52 Re3+ Kf5 53 Qd7 Qg8 54 Qxd5+ Kf6 55 Rf3+ Ke7 56 Qxb7+, and the curtain comes down.

Only 40...Re2! would have saved Black, for example: 41 Qg7 Re7 42 Qg1+ Re3 (42...d4?! 43 Qg5+ Re5 44 Qg8 d3?! 45 cxd3 cxd3 46 Qb3!) 43 Qg8 Re7 44 Rf8 Qg6 45 Rc8+ Kd6 with a shaky equilibrium.

41 Qh2!!

Quite brilliant; if 41 Rf8?, then 41... Rxh7! White also fails to win by 41 Qd2!? Qd8.

41...Qd7

41...Qd8 would have been refuted by 42 Qf2+ Kb5 43 b3! (43 Rf8 Re8 is not so clear) 43...Re1+ 44 Kb2 Re3 45 bxc4+ Ka4 46 cxd5 Re4 47 d6. And if 41...Rd7 decisive is 42 Qg1+! (Neishtadt's suggestion of 42 Qf2+ d4 43 Rf8 Qe4 44 Rxh8 is inferior in view of 44...Rxh7) 42...d4 43 Qg5+ Rd5 44 Qd2.

42 Qg1+ d4 (otherwise mate) 43 Qg5+ Qd5 44 Rf5 Qxf5

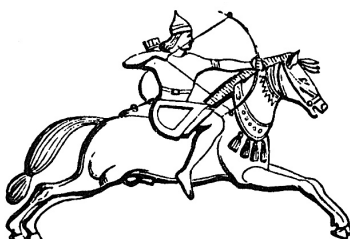
44...Re1+ 45 Ka2 does not change anything.

45 Qxf5+ Kd6 46 Qf6+ 1-0

In this game, balancing on the edge of the abyss [*again, Reti's very words! M.S.*], the young Lasker demonstrated those qualities that were to enable him to hold the crown of world champion for such a long time.

In a difficult position he managed to set his opponent very tricky problems, typical of the level of chess in the second half of the 20th century (similar to those that very strong opponents were set by Tal or, say, Shirov). Lasker was far ahead of his time, and it is hard to blame Steinitz for his mistakes: he fought with all his might, under a continual and savage attack. ...

My Great Predecessors is not a perfect book. It contains numerous flaws and oversights which I noted in browsing through: Kasparov is not particularly scholarly in the way he acknowledges sources; some of his facts are questionable; his writing is full of that great curse upon chess literature, the Reversed English Adjective-Verb Construct ('better is 15 Bc5' instead of the proper '15 Bc5 is better'). But when it came time to write this review, my overriding impression was of how special it is just to have this caliber of player undertaking this kind of an enterprise. Offhand I cannot think of another person of such stature in any field who has paused from new conquests to pay history such attention and homage. In that light my criticisms seemed petty. We live in an age that glorifies ephemeral present fame at the expense of substantial achievements by previous generations. We are ignorant of those who laid the foundation we walk upon, not only in chess but other endeavors—sports, art, politics. If the Kasparov name causes even a few "practical players" to set aside their databases or their Najdorf monographs, if only for a short while, and to look instead at Lasker or Alekhine, our chess heritage will be better for it.





READERS' GAMES & ANALYSIS

Not really "Readers' Games" this time, as the column is devoted entirely to the editor/state champion's adventures at the recent World Open in Philadelphia. The rest of you guys need to get off the mark and start sending in some annotated games!

Macon Shibut – Alexandra Kosteniuk
2003 World Open, Philadelphia PA
Sicilian

Notes by Macon Shibut

My opponent in this game has achieved a notable degree of celebrity in chess thanks to an aggressive marketing campaign that includes a book (*How I Became a Grandmaster at the Age of 14*), a web site (www.kosteniuk.com), a CD with games, photos, interviews, etc., and several other "cool products bearing her logo. (*shown at left*)" I'm not up on the exact status of the women's world championship. Last I heard, I thought Susan Polgar had defaulted and some Chinese woman holds the title. However, Kosteniuk's web site proclaims her "World Chess Vice Champion," so maybe I'm out of date. In any case, she's a strong player and there was a lot of attention to her games at the World Open. Our table was the target for plenty of photographers and a larger-than-usual crowd. Fortunately I have been in such situations before and am no longer too unnerved by them.

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 c3 d5 4 exd5 Qxd5 5 d4 Nf6 6 Be2 e6 7 0-0 cxd4 8 Nxd4

The normal practice is to avoid exchanging minor pieces when you've got (or am about to get) an isolated queen pawn. However, in this sort of position I have made a small hobby of the text move. White accepts the swap of one pair of knights in order to clear f3 for the bishop.

8...Nxd4 9 cxd4 Be7 10 Nc3 Qd6 11 Bf3 0-0 12 Be3 Bd7 13 d5 e5

One reason my Nxd4 plan is good versus high-rated opponents is that they are loath to play the boring equalizer 13...exd5 and so must accept the risky text. The queen is a poor blockader.

14 Qb3 Bg4

She thought over this a long time but it turns out to be a lemon. White just has to avoid some

tactical tricks and understand that the basic

strategic imperative in such positions is all about advancing the d-pawn. You can't afford to get sidetracked! There was a game I studied once upon a time from one of the early Kasparov-Karpov matches. Kasparov had an isolated pawn and the position was wide open with active pieces buzzing all about. There were lots of tactics—all sorts of temptations to try to win a pawn on the queenside or launch a combinative strike against Black's king. However, Kasparov ignored all this and instead kept maneuvering his pieces, especially his bishops, to fight for control over empty squares d6, d7, d8 — the squares his pawn would have to traverse eventually! This example left a strong impression on me and I certainly thought of it during the present game.





15 Nb5 Qd7 16 Bxg4 Nxc4 17 d6!

Not 17 Bxa7, which is anti-positional as I've already explained, and which is moreover tactically refuted by 17...b6! 18 Bxb6 Rfb8 and Black will win material.

17...Bd8

Of course taking the pawn would fall into a decisive pin on the d-file.

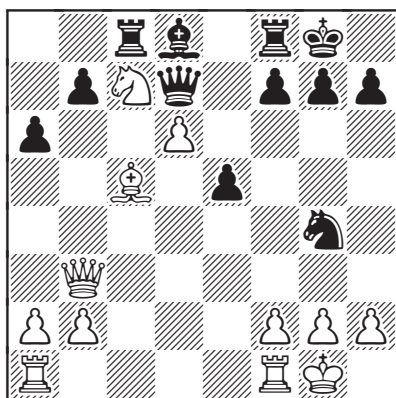
18 Bc5 a6

Trying to displace my pieces before White's rooks can get arrayed on the central files. However...

19 Nc7!

In view of the possibility 19...Bxc7 20 dxc7 Rfc8 21 Bb6 followed by Rfd1 etc.

19...Rc8



20 d6!

The star move of the game. 20 Qxb7 was not effective in view of 20...Bxc7 21 dxc7 Rxc7 but now that defense is off the board as after dxc7 the Black queen and Rf8 would both be under attack. There may be no fully satisfactory defense.

20...Qc6 21 d7! Bxc7

If 21...Rxc7 22 Bxf8 Kxf8 23 Qb4+ picks off Ng4—the legacy of her 14th move.

22 dxc8Q Rxc8 23 h3! Nf6 24 Be3 b5 25 Rc1!

Black will wind up I a pin on the c-file.

25...Qb7 26 Rfd1

26 Qc2 was also possible, but since she can't really escape the pin anyway, it's better to bring the last piece to bear.

26...h6 27 Qc2 e4

If 27...Nd5 28 Qe4 is strong.

28 Bf4 e3 29 fxe3 Qb6 30 Bxc7 Qxe3+ 31 Qf2 1-0

Calvin Blocker – Macon Shibut
2003 World Open, Philadelphia PA
Pirc

Notes by Macon Shibut

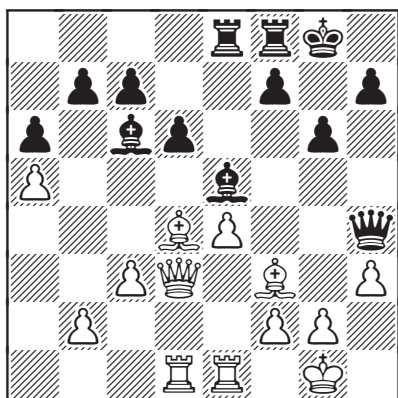
1 e4 d6 2 d4 g6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 h3 a6 6 a4 0-0 (6...b6 was also possible, to prevent White's next move. I preferred to use the tempo for development.) **7 a5 Nc6 8 d5 Ne5 9 Be2**

If 9 Nxe5 dxe5 10 Bc4 Black can choose between 10...Ne8 Δ Nd6 or 10...e6!? 11 dxe6 Qxd1+ 12 Kxd1 Bxe6 13 Bxe6 fxe6—the doubled pawns can be strong in this sort of position. I recalled a Nunn game where he later sacrificed the exchange by putting a rook on d4 and just leaving it there for White to take with a knight or bishop.

9 Nd4 would have been another story. I was intending to sacrifice a piece: 9...e6 10 f4 exd5! and after 11 fxe5 dxe5 12 Nf3 d4 I would not want to play the White side.

9...e6 10 0-0 Nxf3+ 11 Bxf3 exd5 12 Nxd5?!

(Beginning to go down the wrong path; again the higher-rated player is reluctant to play a symmetrical position after 12 exd5 and gets in trouble because of it. Here the error is all the more noteworthy because in truth after 12 exd5 White could still hope for some advantage out of the opening.) **12...Nxd5 13 Qxd5?** (13 exd5) **13...Rb8** (After this my position was better. The next phase sees growing pressure against e4) **14 c3 Bd7 15 Re1 Bc6 16 Qd3 Qh4 17 Be3 Rbe8 18 Bd4 Be5 19 Rad1**



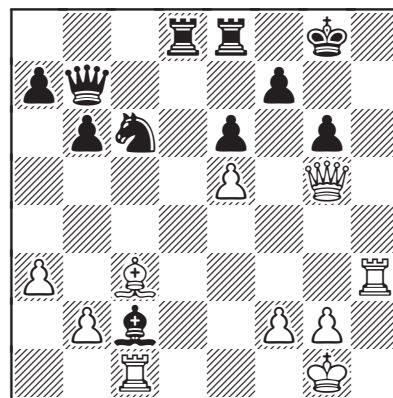
19...f5! (I was trying to exploit some concrete features of his last move: it leaves a5 hanging and puts the rook on a square where it's exposed to some tactics involving ...Bxf3xd1. However, in playing the text I overlooked White's 23rd move. Instead, I ought to have built up more by 19... Re7 and Rfe8. Of course White could still defend in that case, but the position would remain tense with Black calling the shots. Now a forcing sequence ensues, leading eventually to equilibrium.) **20 Bxe5 Rxe5** (not 20...fxe4? 21 Qc4+ d5 22 Rxd5!, a positive point of White's 19th turn) **21 exf5** (White offered a draw. By now I saw what was going to happen but could find no way around it. On the other hand, White would still have to play precisely for a few moves while I did not see much risk on my side, so...) **21...Bxf3 22 Rxe5! Bxd1 23 Re4 Qf6** (23...Qh5? 24 g4 could turn out badly for me) **24 Qxd1 Qxf5 25 Re2 Rf7** (He's picked his way through the dangers and now I offered a draw.) ½-½

Macon Shibut – Babakouly Annakov
2003 World Open, Philadelphia PA
Sicilian

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 c3 Nf6 3 e5 Nd5 4 d4 cxd4 5 Nf3 e6 6 cxd4 b6 7 a3 d6?! 8 Bb5+ (At the board I was uncertain whether this finesse was any better than the simple 8 Bd3 but it sure worked out nicely!) **8...Bd7 9 Bd3 Nc6 10 0-0 Be7 11 Qe2 Qc7 12 Bd2 0-0 13 Nc3 Nxc3 14 Bxc3 Rad8 15 Rac1** (Black suffers a certain awkwardness

since his bishop belongs on b7) **15...Qb8 16 h4 dxe5 17 dxe5 Bc8!** (A concrete solution. White can win a pawn by 18 Bxh7+ Kxh7 19 Qe4+ Kg8 20 Qxc6 but after 20...Bb7 Black obtains great compensation.) **18 Qe4 g6 19 Bc2 Bb7?** (On the cusp of emerging from his difficulties, Black slips. After the game Annakov pointed out 19...Na5 Δ Ba6, whereas the text just pushes White's queen to where she wants to go.) **20 Qg4 Ba6!** (Heading for d3—practically the only defense to White's idea of sacrificing on g6 shortly.) **21 Rfe1 Qb7** (Not immediately 21...Bd3? because 22 Bxd3 Rxd3 23 Qe4 forks rook and knight.) **22 h5 Bd3 23 Ng5 Bxg5 24 Qxg5 Rfe8** (If 24...Bxc2 25 Rxc2 Qe7 26 Qxe7 Nxe7 White maintain some pressure by 27 Bb4) **25 hxg6 hxg6?** (To be honest I didn't so much as consider anything else, but in post mortem Annakov called this a blunder and said either 25...fxg6 or 25...Bxg6 would have been safer. For sure, I do get to rekindle my attack now, but in the end we never found more than a draw for White.) **26 Re3 Bxc2 27 Rh3!**



This is the point. Even with the reduced material the position remains very sharp. White threatens mate after either Qf6 or Qh6 and there is only one defense.

27...Bf5!

Of course 27...f6 merely opens the floodgates after 28 exf6. But at first glance 27...Bd1 seems a more likely try, aiming to block the h-file with ..Bh5. White has no reason to stop sacrificing



now, however, so 28 Rxd1! Rxd1+ 29 Kh2 and the attack is irresistible. Likewise, if 27...Rd1+ 28 Kh2! all Black has done is put a rook en pris since to stop mate he'll have to go 29...Bf5 anyhow.

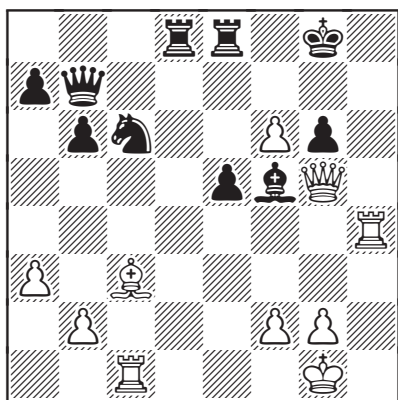
For all that, the text move looks unlikely at first. Isn't it just inviting White to recover his piece by 30 g4? And can the attack be contained after that? Actually, it's not so simple. Aside from gaining a tempo attacking the rook, Black's idea to put the bishop on g4, whereupon White will have to take it (else ..Bh5) and disrupt the attack—either the rook leaves the h-file or the queen loses contact with f6/h6 long enough for Black's queen to rush over, ...Q-e7-f8 (or some other defense).

Therefore, since Black would put the bishop there in any case(!), White should not play 30 g4 and give away a pawn.

28 Rh4!

Another fine point is that if now 28...Bg4 29 Qxg4 the h3 square is clear for the queen to occupy next move and the attack continues apace. I actually thought I had him here, but Annakov has prepared a brilliant resource.

28...f6! (The suicide move—or so I had hoped.)
29 exf6 e5!



Keeping my bishop from entering the attack. Suddenly I found that things had gotten very complicated and any result was still possible. For example, had I now played the “obvious” 30 Qh6!? there would have followed 30...Qd7—onto a defended square, a forced move—and

the king is ready to scramble out to e6. How does White then justify having sacrificed a piece? I found a variation 31 Bb4!? with the idea 31...Nxb4 32 Rc7! Qxc7 33 Qh8+ Kf7 34 Qg7+ Ke6 35 Qxc7 but was too scared to try it! I might have felt otherwise if I had seen the final position more clearly in my mind's eye, particularly the fact that 35...Nd5 fails to 36 Qc6+ White may in fact be winning this, in which case Black needs to look for something other than taking the bishop at move 31...

But none of that happened because I found a way to bail out.

30 Rh6! Rd7! and Black offered a draw, which I accepted in view of the variation 31 Rxg6+ Bxg6 32 Qxg6+ Kf8 33 Bd2 Rxd2 34 Qh6+ Kg8 35 Qg6+ Kf8 etc. A tense game! ½-½

Macon Shibut – Sergey Kudrin 2003 World Open, Philadelphia PA Sicilian

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 Qxd5 4 d4 g6 5 Nf3 Bg7 6 Be2 cxd4 (Damn! One move later and I could have been castled, setting up my Nxd4 ΔBf3 plan again!) **7 cxd4 Nh6** (Later someone told me this was the hot new defense to the 2 c3 Sicilian. I'd never seen it before.) **8 Nc3 Qd8 9 Bf4 0-0 10 0-0 Nf5 11 Be5?!** (Patrick Wolff told me that trading the bishops helps Black and I ought to have played 11 d5 here. Funny, I actually expected Kudrin to avoid the exchange! So I still have some work to do learning to evaluate these things.) **11...Nd7 12 Bxg7 Kxg7 13 Qd2 Nf6 14 Rad1 Qa5 15 d5** (ΔNd4 and Bf3) **15...Rd8 16 Nd4 Qb6!** (A very high-class move. I can't say I fully understand it even now; I certainly would never have played it myself as Black. But no question it was precisely here that I began to have a bad feeling about my position!) **17 Bf3** (Insisting on my plan, trying to deny that anything is wrong. The justification was supposed to lie in the pawn sacrifice, 17...Nxd4 18 Qxd4



Qxb2 19 Qc5! hitting e7 and also drawing the noose around Black's queen.) **17...Nxd4 18 Qxd4 Qxd4!** (Kudrin calmly ignores the pawn. And note that he, unlike Kosteniuk and Blocker, doesn't mind simplifying the position.) **19 Rxd4 e5! 20 Rc4** (With hindsight I guess I should go 20 Rd2 and dig in for a grim siege. Instead I tried to play "actively" aiming at c7. In principle this is not a bad attitude for practical play: a loss is a loss, so why not risk losing a bit faster if you can at least create some danger for the other guy? In particular I was hoping that my planned zwischenzug next turn might open his 7th rank to my advantage. But Kudrin was simply too good and he kept control of the game all the way to the end.) **20...Ne8 21 Re1!? f6 22 Nb5 Bd7 23 Nc7 Rac8 24 Nxe8+ Rxe8 25 Rec1 Kf7 26 d6** (Otherwise my pawn just gets weaker and weaker. But now since I'm hitting b7 I'd reckoned only on 26...e4 and had the following variation calculated: 27 Rxc8 Bxc8 28 Bxe4 Rxe4 29 Rc7+ Ke6 30 f3! lifting the back-rank mate and so recovering the piece. But he played...) **26...Ke6! 27 Bxb7** (Nothing else now.) **27...Rxc4 28 Rxc4 Rb8** (Yikes! The best White has after this is a bad rook ending with 29 Bc6. Instead I basically gave up, which inevitably yielded a miscalculation [I overlooked his 30th move] and I lost straightaway.) **29 Rb4? Bc6 30 d7 Ke7! 31 Rh4 Rxb7 32 Rxh7+ Kd8 0-1**



FROM THE VCF PRESIDENT...

by Mike Atkins

Rusty Potter has donated to the VCF a wonderful plaque for the Virginia Open. It is inscribed with the names of the winners going back to the first tournament in 1968. There were a few years for which the record is incomplete: 1977, 1981, 1988, 1989 and 1990. If anyone out there can identify for certain the Virginia Open winners for these 4 years, please send it to me - matkins2@cox.net - thanks! [VIRGINIA CHESS can kick in book prizes—'bounties,' if you will—for the first person(s) to provide the missing names.—ed] Speaking of the Virginia Open, see page 9 of this issue for the announcement of the 2003 Replacement Virginia Open!



TIDEWATER CHESS CLUB

The Tidewater Chess Club meets every Monday except holidays, 7-10 pm, in the Bldg D cafeteria at the Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach campus. There is no cost to attend club. USCF rated tournaments with low EFs almost every Monday. Contact Ernie Schlich at 757-853-5296 or visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~eschlich> for details or information.

The Virginia Chess Federation (VCF) is a non-profit organization for the use of its members. Dues for regular adult membership are \$10/yr. Junior memberships are \$5/yr. President: Mike Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA 22306, matkins@wizard.net Treasurer: Ernie Schlich, 1370 South Braden Crescent, Norfolk VA 23502, eschlich@aol.com Secretary: Helen Hinshaw, 3430 Musket Dr, Midlothian VA 23113, jallenhinshaw@comcast.net Scholastics Chairman: Mike Cornell, 12010 Grantwood Drive, Fredericksburg VA 22407, kencorn@erols.com VCF Inc. Directors: Helen Hinshaw (Chairman); Roger Mahach; Mark Johnson; Mike Atkins; Ernie Schlich.



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Kasparov's My Great Predecessors

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in Richmond, August 29-31
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