



2003 VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

THE VIRGINIA CLOSED attracted 98 players to the Student Commons building at Virginia Commonwealth University, in Richmond, over Labor Day Weekend. Daniel Miller scored 5-0 to claim the state championship title for the 2nd time. (His first was in 2000.) Andrew Samuelson and Danny Derby scored 4-1 to take 2nd-3rd. Defending champion Macon Shibut, Robert Fischer & Raymond Fletcher followed with 3½ points apiece.

In the Amateur Section, Justin Burgess also won with a perfect 5-0. Edward Lu was 2nd with 4½ followed by R Balasubramanian, Peter Snow, Andrew Briscoe, Joe Faries & David DeClark, all 4-1. Eric Jensen took top Class D and Daniel Lacker won the U1200 prize. Top Unrated was Kenneth Martin.

Briscoe's score made him the Top Junior. Top Senior went to Sanda Costecu. Ettie Nokolova, in the open section, captured the Top Woman trophy. Mike Atkins was sentenced—oops!—reelected to a second term as federation President at the VCF's Annual Business Meeting.

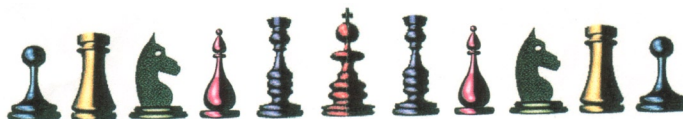
The turnout was up over recent years as the Closed returned to the state capital for the first time since 1992. Thank you to the Richmond folks for getting us the VCU site and turning out to play! The tournament was only five rounds instead of six this year as site constraints forced us to a Friday night–Saturday–Sunday schedule this time instead of the traditional Saturday–Sunday–Monday routine. If this was a bit unfortunate, at least everyone had their Labor Day Monday holiday free!

The last player before this to win the championship with a clean score was Joseph



photo by Mike Atkins

2003 State Champion Daniel Miller



Feygelson, who creamed everyone en route to 6-0 at Charlottesville in 1994. Miller's performance this year was, shall we say, more interesting. At least two of his opponents had plainly winning positions at some point. This is not to discredit Miller, however; he demonstrated a champion's qualities in fighting through to win time and again.

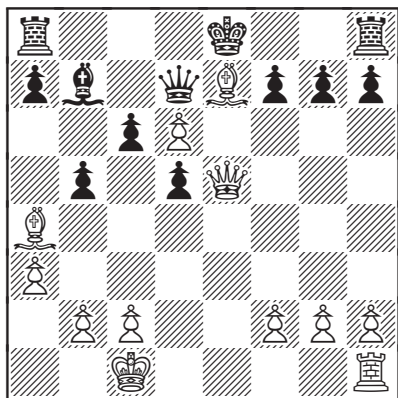
ROUND 1

Daniel Miller - Ronald Chatham
French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 Ne7 4 Bd3 dxe4 5 Nxe4 Nbc6 6 Nf3 b6 7 Bg5 Bb7 8 Qe2 Nb4 9 Bb5+ c6 10 Ba4 Qc7 11 Ne5 Ng6 12 a3 Nxe5 13 dxe5



Nd5 14 O-O-O Be7 15 Nd6+ Bxd6 16 exd6 Qd7 (Not wanting 16...Qxd6 17 c4 but even that is possible in view of 17...b5) 17 Rxd5!? b5 18 Be7 (18 Rxb5) 18...exd5 19 Qe5



19...Rg8 (19...f6 20 Qh5+ g6 21 Qh6 Kf7 22 Bb3 Qf5 with defensive chances.) 20 Re1 Qe6 21 Qc3 Qg6 22 Bxb5 Rc8 (if 22...cxb5 23 Qc7 is too strong) 23 Qh3 f5 24 Bd3 Qh6+ 25 Bg5+ 1-0

Danny Derby – Macon Shibut

Caro-Kann

1 e4 c6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Nf3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nf6 5 Ng3 (5 Nxf6+) h5 6 Bc4 h4 7 Ne5 e6 8 Ne2 Nbd7 9 Nf3? (9 Nxd7) 9...b5 10 Bb3 Bb7 11 d4 h3 (The combination of pressure along the a8-h1 diagonal and the threat to trap the bishop by ...c6-c5-c4 makes White's position nearly untenable already.) 12 Nf4 hxg2 13 Nxg2 c5 14 c3 cxd4 15 cxd4 Bb4+ 16 Kf1 Qb6 17 Qe2 Qc6 18 Bd1 Rh3 19 Rg1 (19 Nf4 was relatively best but, frankly, still hopeless: 19...Qxf3 20 Qxf3 Rxf3 [but not 20...Bxf3 21 Nxh3 Bxh1 22 f3] 21 Bxf3 Bxf3 22 Rg1 g6 with a better position plus the exchange.) 19...Qxf3 20 Qxe6+? (Losing his head, White surrenders a second piece.) fxe6 21 Bxf3 Bxf3 22 Nf4 Rxh2 23 Nxe6 Bd5! (threatening mate by ...Bc4 snuffs out all counterplay) 24 Nc7+ Kf7 25 Nxd5 Nxd5 26 a3 Be7 27 Bd2 Rc8 0-1 Not a good show by White, but from here Derby went on to win all of his remaining games!

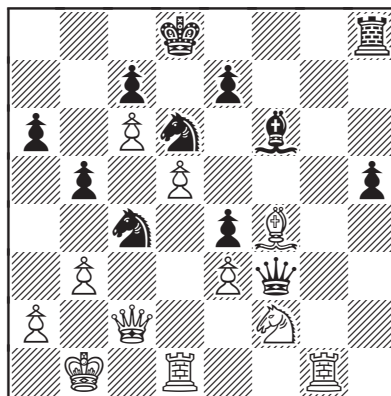
ROUND 2

Already the top two boards featured games between four former state champions!

Alan Rufty - Daniel Miller

Queen's Pawn

1 d4 d5 2 Bg5 Bf5 3 e3 Qd6 4 Bd3 Be4 5 Bxe4 dxe4 6 Nh3 Nd7 7 Nd2 f5 8 Qe2 O-O-O 9 O-O-O Ngf6 10 Bf4 Qd5 11 c4 Qg8 12 f3 h6 13 fxe4 fxe4 14 Nf2 Qe6 15 Kb1 g5 16 Bg3 Bg7 17 d5 Qf5 18 Nb3 a6 19 Nd4 Qg6 20 Ne6 Ne8 21 c5 Ne5 22 Nxd8 Kxd8 23 c6 b5 24 b3 Nd6 25 Rhf1 h5 26 h4 Bf6 27 hxg5 Qxg5 28 Bf4 Qxg2 29 Rg1 Qf3 30 Qc2 Nec4



VIRGINIA CHESS Newsletter

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Trying his best to mix it up in an objectively lost position. The effort was successful insofar as Rufty took an hour to make his next two moves(!), which eventually cost him dearly in the sudden-death time control.

31 Bxd6 Nxe3 32 Bxc7+ Kxc7 33 Qc5 Nxd1 34 Rxd1 e3 35 d6+ exd6 36 Qa7+ Kxc6 37 Rc1+ Kd5 38 Qb7+ Ke6 39 Qxf3 exf2 40 Qxf2 (That should do it, except now the clock has its say...) **h4 41 Re1+ Be5 42 Rf1 Kd5 43 Qf3+ Kc5 44 Qb7 b4 45 Rc1+** (45 Qc7+ would have done the trick: 45...Kb5 46 Rf7 with irresistible threats, principally Qc4+; or 45...Kd4 46 Qc4+ Ke3 47 Re1+ Kf3 48 Qe4+ and mates) **45...Bc3 46 Qxa6 h3 47 Qc4+ Kb6 48 a3?? h2 49 Rh1 Be5 50 axb4 Rh3 51 Qd5 Rg3 52 b5 Rc3**

White still had one minute left but he was losing his composure. After...

53 Ka2 Rc5

...there followed a flurry of repeated moves — White's queen went to f7 and back to d5 a couple times, Black moved his rook up and down. Miller tried to claim a draw by repetition but was denied because he had no adequate score sheet. Still, the 'gambit' worked to his advantage: Rufty spurned the draw 'offer' and used up almost all his remaining time. In the end he marched his king all the way across to the h-file, which merely set him up for a simple combination where Black queened the pawn and skewered White's queen at h1. So, **0-1** after many more moves.

Macon Shibut - Rodney Flores Gurgidze

1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nc3 c6 4 f4 d5 5 e5 h5 6 Nf3 Bg4 7 Be2 Nh6 8 Be3 Nf5 9 Bf2 e6 10 0-0 Nd7 11 Qd2 Bf8 12 Nd1 c5 13 c3 Be7 14 Ne3 Nxe3 15 Bxe3 Rc8 16 Rfc1 0-0 17 h3 Bxf3 18 Bxf3 h4 19 Kh2 Nb6 20 b3 cxd4 21 cxd4 Qd7 22 Rxc8 Rxc8 23 Rc1 Ba3 24 Rxc8+ Qxc8 25 Qe1 Be7 26 Bf2 Qc2 27 Bxh4 Bxh4 28 Qxh4 Qxa2?

FROM THE EDITOR...



Just to reiterate the latest in case you haven't heard: **the 2004 Virginia Open will be Nov 7-9 in Quantico**. See page xx for details. This is traditionally the VCF's biggest annual event. It normally occurs in January but, alas, a confluence of events and miscommunications forced a cancellation this year. Instead of writing off the tournament, however, intrepid volunteers found a venue and the show goes on, better late than never.

It would seem a bit much to hold another Virginia Open in January, just two months later. Accordingly, the further plan is to run the **2004 Virginia Open in June**. Then, hopefully, we will reclaim the traditional January date in 2005.

Meanwhile, the VCF's comfortable arrangement in Charlottesville has been demolished—literally—as the Best Western was razed to make way for a Best Buy store. This was a sad development. That Best Western hosted the last several state championships as well as other tournaments. Its closure forced some scrambling to find a home for this year's state championship. Thus it was that the Virginia Closed returned to Richmond for the first time in over a decade. It is always most convenient to place these events at a hotel, but that proved impossible this time. Happily, the Virginia Commonwealth University site proved more than adequate for the competition itself, and it didn't seem that anyone was too inconvenienced by the short drive to nearby hotels. With only five rounds and running Friday thru Sunday (instead of the customary Saturday thru Monday schedule), it somehow never quite felt like a Virginia Closed to me — I say this as a veteran of about two dozen of these events — and here again I hope to see things get back to normal next year. But **the well-lit, well-ventilated, well-staffed VCU Student Commons ballroom is a nice venue** and I look forward to the opportunity of perhaps playing additional tournaments there in the future.

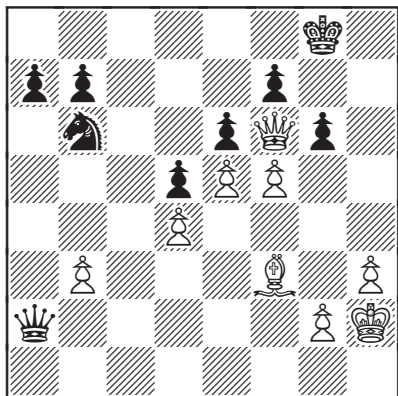
An important announcement regarding *Virginia Chess*: please note that **the Editor's contact information has changed!** This appears on page 2 of every issue but clearly there is value in highlighting it when a change occurs. If you're emailing, please send all material for publication, as well as all other correspondence for the editor, to: **vcfeditor@cox.net**

Speaking of material for publication, this issue of *Virginia Chess* features the drawings of VCU student **Ryan Schell**. Ryan was present throughout the state championship **sketching the players** and he kindly consented to our using his work. Look throughout this issue and see if you recognize anyone you know!

From time to time we have had regular columnists (eg Jerry Lawson's "Woodpushers' Scrapbook"; Anders Tejler's "The Gambiteer"; Bill Webbert's "The Gray Knight") but at present we have none. With the level of activity we see in scholastic chess, there ought to be some young journalist covering that beat. Any high school player who attends a bunch of these scholastic events and would be willing to write about them in *Virginia Chess* should contact the editor. (How would the title "**Scholastic Chess Editor**" look on your college applications?)



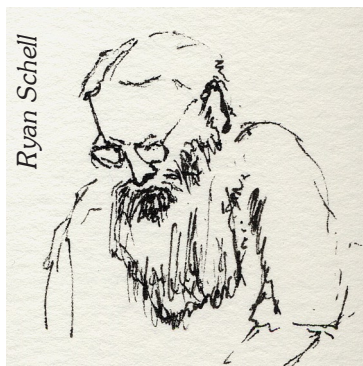
(Loses. 28...Qd2 was necessary.) **29 Qd8+ Kg7**
30 Qf6+ (30 f5! was slightly more accurate but
 White has a winning attack anyhow.) **30...Kg8**
31 f5!



31...exf5

If 31...gxf5 32 Bh5; White's 30th move has
 allowed Black the defense 31...Nd7 but then
 there would have followed 32 Qg5! exf5 (or
 32...Nf8 33 f6 Δ Qh6 and mate) 33 e6 etc

32 e6 fxe6 33 Qxg6+ Kh8 34 Qf6+ Kg8 35 Bh5
1-0 because Bf7+ and mate will follow.

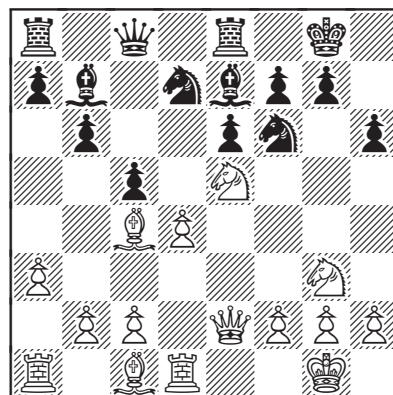


Ryan Schell

ROUND 3

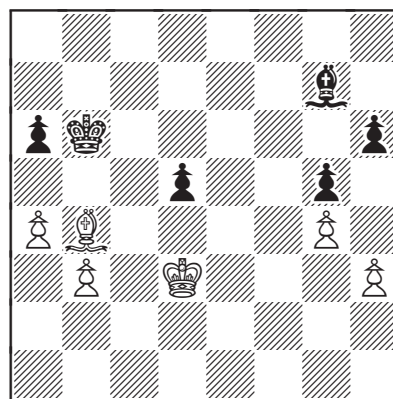
Robert Fischer - Andrew Johnson
French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Ne2 dxe4 5 a3 Be7
6 Nxe4 Nd7 7 N2g3 Ngf6 8 Ng5 h6 9 Nf3 b6 10
Bc4 Bb7 11 O-O O-O 12 Qe2 c5 13 Rd1 Re8
14 Ne5 Qc8



15 Nxf7! Qc6 (Evidently Black allowed Nxf7
 intentionally, relying on this move as a refutation.
 But it's not that simple!) **16 d5! exd5 17 Bb5**
Qc7 18 Qe6 Bf8 19 Nxf6+ Kh8 20 Nf7+ Kg8
21 Nh6+ Kh8 22 Qh3 (Of course White declines
 to repeat the position again. Even if Black can
 defend somehow—and that's a big 'if'—it's
 nearly impossible over the board.) **22...gxh6**
23 Bxf6 Re7 24 Bf4+ Rh7 25 Qxh7+ Kxh7 26
Bxc7 (So it is White who winds up with material
 advantage.) **d4 27 Bd3+ Kg8 28 Nf5 Bd5 29 b3**
Rc8 30 Bg3 Ne4 31 Re1 Nxf3 32 Ne7+ Bxe7 33
Rxe7 Nf6 34 hxg3 a5 35 Bf5 Rc6 36 Rae1 Kf8
37 Be6 1-0

Meanwhile, on board 1...



Daniel Miller – Andrew Samuelson
Position after 43...Kb6



White is processing a very favorable technical ending: outside pawn majority plus Black's kingside pawns stuck on the wrong color. Later Miller termed the position "winning anyway," but in the moment he was careless...

44 Bc3??

Both players assumed Black must avoid the exchange of bishops in view of 45...Kc5 46 b4+ Kc6 47 Kd4 and the outside passed pawn assures White of winning the eventual race to the kingside. However, everyone overlooked that paradoxical decentralization 45...Ka5! would have *won for Black*. White can no longer play b4+ because his a-pawn would drop off, but otherwise Black has the diagonal opposition and penetrates with his king, eg 46 Kd4 Kb4 47 Kxd5 Kxb3 48 a5 Kb4 49 Ke4 Kxa5 50 Kf5 Kb4 51 Kg6 a5 52 Kxh6 a4 53 Kxg5 a3 54 h4 a2 55 h5 a1Q wins.

44...Bf8?? 45 Bf6 Kc6 46 Be5 Kd7 47 Kd4 Ke6 48 Bh8 Ba3 49 Kc3 Bf8 50 b4 Kd6 51 Kd4 Ke6 52 b5 axb5 53 axb5 Ba3 54 Kd3 Bc5 55 Bg7 Kf7 56 Bd4 Bd6 57 b6 Ke6 58 b7 Bb8 59 Bg7 Kd6 60 Bxh6 Kc6 61 Kd4 Ba7+ 62 Ke5 d4 63 Bxg5 Kxb7 64 h4 Kc6 65 h5 Bc5 66 h6 d3 67 h7 Ba3 68 Ke6 Bb2 69 Bd2 Kc5 70 g5 Kc4 71 g6 Kb3 72 Kf7 Kc2 73 Bg5 Bc1 74 Bxc1 Kxc1 75 h8=Q d2 76 Qc3+ Kd1 77 g7 1-0

ROUND 4

The top-rated masters collided in board 1, but but the game turned out to be an anticlimax.

Macon Shibut - Daniel Miller

Catalan

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 b3 d5 3 Bb2 e6 4 g3 Be7 5 Bg2 0-0 6 0-0 Nbd7 7 c4 c6 8 d4 b5 9 Nbd2 a5 10 Ne5 Nxe5 11 dxe5 Nd7 12 e4?! (Not wishing to relieve Black of the obstructing pawn at c6, but in fact 12 cxb5 cxb5 13 e4 was \pm) 12...dxc4 13 bxc4?

Fearing he may have blundered, White loses his nerve and blunders! Meanwhile, 13 Qg4 would have been a promising pawn sacrifice. If 13...cxb3 14 Nxb3 the queen's rook goes to d1, the knight goes to d4 (and then perhaps to f5!). There is also a charge by the f2 pawn for Black to think about. After the text, on the other hand, Black's pieces simply pour into White's position. The awkward Bb2 and Nd2 prevent White from generating any play whatsoever.

13...Nc5! 14 Qc2 Qd3 15 Rac1 Ba6 16 Rfd1 Rfd8 17 cxb5 Qxc2 18 Rxc2 Bxb5 19 Ra1 Bd3 20 Rxc5 (Desperation. If 20 Rc3 Na4 21 Rb3 Bc2 wins the d2 knight; or 20 Rcc1 Na4 21 Bc3 Ba3 etc) 20...Bxc5 21 Nb3 Be7 22 Rc1 Rab8 23 Bc3 (The try 23 Nxa5 Rxb2 24 Nxc6 loses to 24...Rb1! 25 Rxb1 Bxb1 26 Nxe7+ Kf8 27 Nc6 Rd1+ 28 Bf1 Bd3) 23...a4 24 Nd2 (to prevent ...Rb1 but it's all hopeless) Ba3 25 Re1 Bb4 26 Bxb4 Rxb4 27 Rc1 Rb2 28 Nf1 Rb1 29 Rxc6 Kf8 30 f4 Bxf1 31 Bxf1 Rdd1 32 Rc8+ Ke7 33 Rc7+ Ke8 34 Ra7 Rxf1+ 35 Kg2 Rfd1 36 Rxa4 h5 37 f5 exf5 38 exf5 Rb5 0-1

John Brninski - Justin Burgess

English

1 c4 e5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 d4 exd4 5 Nxd4 Nxd4 6 Qxd4 Be7 7 e3 d6 8 Bd3 Be6 9 b4 (Woah! Terribly loosening.) c5 10 bxc5 dxc5 11 Qxd8+ Rxd8 12 Ke2 Ng4! (Tactics at f2 [eg, ...Rxd3+ followed by ...Nxf2+] and d3/c4 [after ...Ne5] are too much for White to defend.) 13 Nd1 Ne5 14 Nb2 Nxd3 15 Nxd3 Bxc4 16 Rd1 O-O 17 Rb1 Ba6 18 Ba3 Rxd3 19 Rxd3 Rd8 20 Rxb7 Rxd3 21 Rxa7 Rxa3+ 22 Ke1 Bf8 0-1





Andrew Johnson - Michael Neal

Slav

1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 c4 c6 4 Nc3 Bf5 5 Qb3 b6
 6 Bf4 e6 7 cxd5 Nxd5 8 Bg5 Be7 9 Bxe7 Qxe7
 10 Nxd5 exd5 11 e3 O-O 12 Be2 Nd7 13 O-O
 h6 14 Rac1 Rfc8 15 Rc3 Be6 16 Qc2 c5 17 dxc5
 bxc5 18 Rc1 a5 19 Bb5 c4 20 Bxd7 Qxd7 21
 Nd4 a4 22 a3 Rcb8 23 Rd1 Qb7 24 Rd2 Ra6
 25 Qc1 Rb6 26 Rcc2 Kf8 27 e4 dxe4 28 Nxe6+
 Rxe6 29 Rxc4 e3 30 fxe3 Rxe3 31 Rdc2 Rbe8
 32 Rc8 Qe4 33 Rxe8+ Kxe8 34 Rc8+ Ke7 35
 Qc5+ 1-0

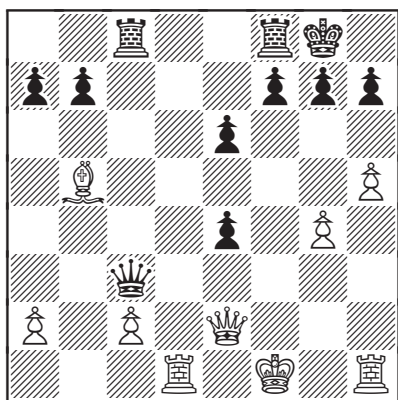
ROUND 5

Miller had the only perfect score but Fischer
 could still overhaul him by winning.

Daniel Miller - Robert Fischer

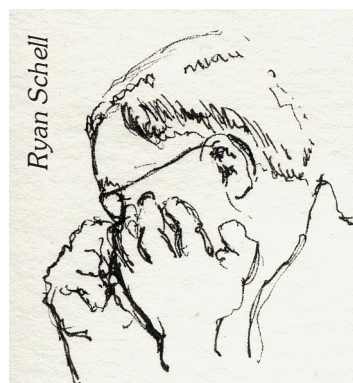
Caro-Kann

1 e4 c6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Nf3 Bg4 4 h3 Bh5 5 exd5
 cxd5 6 Bb5+ Nc6 7 g4 Bg6 8 Ne5 Rc8 9 d4 e6
 10 Qe2 Bb4 11 h4 Ne7 12 h5 Be4 13 f3 (For this
 decisive game the players have selected one of
 the most critical tactical variations.) 13...O-O 14
 Nxc6 Nxc6 15 Be3 Qf6 16 fxe4 Nxd4 17 Bxd4
 Qxd4 18 Rd1 Bxc3+ 19 bxc3 Qxc3+ 20 Kf1
 dxe4 Still in the 'book'!



21 h6

This may or may not be an innovation but 21
 Qxe4 is certainly more usual. For instance,
 Kudrin-Lobron, Wijk aan Zee 1985 ended in a
 draw after 21...Qxc2 (also 21...f5!? as in Van der



36th Annual

VIRGINIA OPEN

November 7-9

Ramada Inn – Quantico

4316 Inn St, Triangle, VA

(Conveniently located between DC and
 Fredericksburg. Exit 150A off I-95, left before
 the traffic light and immediate left on Inn St)

5-SS, 30/90 SD/1. Open: \$1800: \$600-400-300-
 200, top U2300 \$150, top U2100 \$150. Trophy
 to 1st overall. FIDE rated. Amateur (open to under
 1900): \$1300: \$350-225-150, top B \$125, top C
 \$125, top D \$125, top U1100 \$120, top Unr \$80.
 Trophy to 1st. Unrateds limited 60% of place prizes.
 Both: Top 4 prizes in Open Gtd, rest in both sections
 b/100 adult entries. EF \$45 if rec'd by 10/31, \$55
 at site. VCF membership required, \$10, \$5 Jr, OSA.
 Scholastic EF, both sections, for 18 & under: \$25
 if rec'd by 10/31, \$30 at site, play for non-cash
 prizes only, trophies to 1st & 2nd Scholastic in each
 section. Reg 11/7 5:30-730pm, 11/8 9-9:45am. Rds
 8, 10-4, 10-3:30. One 1/2pt. bye available for any
 rd if requested before start of rd 1, no byes allowed
 after that. W, NS. Hotel: Ramada Inn-Quantico,
 703--713-1234, \$58+tax, reserve by 10/20 to be
 assured of room—Great hotel rate! Enter: (Checks
 payable to VA Chess) Michael Atkins, PO Box
 6139, Alexandria, VA 22306. Info (no entries)
 by email matkins2@cox.net or on the web at
www.vachess.org/virginiaopen.htm

30 Grand Prix Points



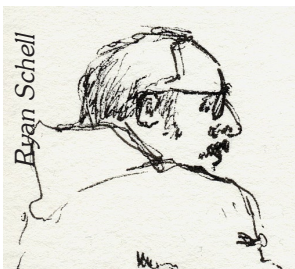
Wiel-Timman, Amsterdam 1986) 22 Qxc2 Rxc2
23 a4 Ra2 24 Rd7 Rc8 25 Be2 Rxa4 26 Rxb7
Ra1+ 27 Kg2 Rxh1 28 Kxh1 Kf8 29 Rxa7 h6 etc
(1/2-1/2, 63)

21...Qe5 22 hxg7 Kxg7 23 Kg2 Rc3 24 Bd3 f5
25 Qe3 Qf6 (Fritz opines that 25...Kh8 holds,
but who can say in like this?) 26 g5 Qg6 27 Rh6
Rd8 28 Rxc6+ hxg6 29 Qf4 exd3 30 Qe5+ 1-0



Andrew Samuelson - Raymond Fletcher
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nx4 Nf6 5 Nc3
e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Na3 b5 9 Bxf6 gxf6
10 Nd5 f5 11 c3 fxe4? (An opening trap; Black
should play 11...Bg7 whereupon White has
nothing better than transposing back to normal
lines.) 12 Bxb5! (Now this sacrifice is stronger
than the analogous 11 Bxb5 variation because
the inserted move c3 for White is more useful
than ...fxe4 for Black. For one thing, after 12...
axb5 13 Nxb5 Black doesn't have the popular
...R-a4xe4 resource.) 12...Bd7 (Most games
follow the course 12...axb5 13 Nxb5 Be6 14
Nbc7+ Kd7 15 Nxa8 Bxd5 16 Qxd5 Qxa8 17
Qxf7+14 Nbc7+ Kd7 15 Nxa8 Bxd5 16 Qxd5
Qxa8 17 Qxf7+ but White has scored well here.)
13 Qa4 Rc8 14 Qxa6 Bg7 15 Nc4 0-0 16 Ncb6
Nb8 17 Qb7 Bxb5 18 Nxc8 Kh8 19 Qxb8 Qxc8
20 Qxb5 1-0



19th EMPORIA OPEN

October 11-12

Greensville Ruritan Club

Ruritan Rd. (off 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 more info.

10 Grand Prix points



ARMED FORCES OPEN

Oct 11-13, 2003

Henderson Hall, Arlington Va

Open to US Military Personnel (Active Duty,
Reservist, Retiree, or Cadet) 5-SS, rds 1-2 30/
90, SD/1; rds 3-5 40/2, SD/1. EF: \$0.00 — zilch,
nada, free! *Open Section:* Top 6 of each branch
compete for the Armed Forces Open trophy.
Trophies to Top 3 overall players, Top player of
each DoD service on Active Duty, Top Reservist,
Top Retiree, Top Cadet, Highest Upset. *Unrated
Section:* Trophy and USCF membership for top
player. *Both:* Rds 10-4, 8-3, 10. See TLA in
Chess Life or browse <http://home.earthlink.net/~eschlich> for any additional details.



Tribute/retrospective...

Mr. Boldt

by Sam Conner

CHESS HAS A LONG HISTORY, yet chess organizations often have limited memories. In the wake of the 2003 State Championship, it seemed appropriate to recall that this is the 40th anniversary of one of the most memorable events in VCF championship play. It was a fascinating and peculiar moment in our organization's history, yet one little remembered... and one I learned of by accident.

Like so many other middle-age chess players, I am a product of the Fischer Boom. His victory caused chess clubs to spring up everywhere, and Northern Virginia was no different. On Thursday nights I played at the George Mason University Chess Club whenever possible, but such opportunities were few for a teenager without wheels or license. On Saturdays, however, I could walk to the HUB furniture store, head for the Community room, and play in the Manassas Chess Club. We were a collection of C/D/E players who were either young and rapidly improving or middle-aged and at peak strength, and everyone was a threat to beat everyone else.

Except for Mr Boldt...

His name was Alan Boldt, and he was the class of the club. Fischer and Reshevsky were legends, but the stuff of magazine stories. Mr Boldt was flesh and bones, and my first chess hero.

He was a published expert long before rating inflation. Everything he did at the board was a little different than the rest of us. We had plastic USCF clocks, and our plungers made a loud "thock" noise when depressed; he had a wooden clock with rooks carved into the ends,



and the t-shaped plungers made an almost silent "snick" when pushed. We had dime store sets, or solid plastic USCF sets purchased through our schools; Alan had a plastic set in the Windsor pattern like you saw in the photographs of the Marshall and Manhattan chess club. Our vinyl boards had pristine white and green squares we carefully carried in round shipping tubes; his board was folded into a box with his pieces, and bore the stains and scars of countless encounters. While we sought to live on the bleeding edge of opening theory, he played older lines and obscure variations and got out of the books as quickly as possible.

Each week he played five minute games against us, giving various odds based on your strength. Typically I got five minutes to his two. It was one of the great days in my young life when I beat him three straight games and he announced that



I was improving and from now on he got *three* minutes per game against me. My feet did not touch the ground for a week.

In August 1974 several of us made plans to play in the state championship. We encouraged Mr Boldt to come too but he declined, saying he didn't play in tournaments any more. There was something enigmatic in the way he said it, however — a vague suggestion that there might be more to the story.

On Labor Day weekend we traveled to the Holiday Inn on Parham Road in Richmond. For the first time I saw players I had heretofore only read about in local publications: Rich Delaune (the tiebreak champion in a seven player log jam), Charlie Powell, Ed Kitces, Tony Laster, Lev Blonarovych, Bob Vassar and so many others. There was even this long-haired guy on the board next to me in round two who played the Marshall Gambit with extreme confidence and ease, and I remember wishing I could play as well as he did. Thirty years later, I still wish I played as well as Macon Shibut.

I returned to the HUB full of stories from the event. They drew a wistful grin from Mr Boldt. As we left the meeting, I approached him with the audacity of a fourteen-year-old and asked, "Why didn't you play in the state championship?"

We stood on the sidewalk in the chill September air, and he took me back to 1963...

The 1963 Virginia State Championship was held in Charlottesville. In those days it was still a three-day, seven round event with all players in one section. This would be the last state championship prior to the domination of Charles Powel. It also proved to be the site of one of the more exciting and unfortunate last rounds in the event's history.

Mr Boldt led through six rounds with 5½ points. He was followed by Henry Steinbach, of Falls

Church, and Irwin Sigmond, of Arlington, each with 5 points. Sigmond was a three-time champion; Steinbach, and Boldt were after their first championship.

For the last round Boldt was paired against Steinbach, while Sigmond was paired down. As play progressed, the Median tiebreaks created an interesting situation:

- a) If Boldt wins, he takes the title cold.
- b) If Boldt draws and Sigmond wins, Sigmond is champion on tiebreaks. If Boldt draws and Sigmond loses, Boldt captures the prize.
- c) If Steinbach wins, he takes the championship regardless of Sigmond's result.

Mr Boldt was tired. He'd played a long game in the 6th round and missed lunch. He suffered from epilepsy, and in the excitement of the day had neglected his medicine. How fatigue and hunger played into what happened next is unknown.

The round began and Steinbach opened 1 e4. Well, since this was in 1963 he likely played 1 P-K4. In any case, Mr Boldt replied with the Sicilian Defense, Accelerated Fianchetto Variation. Steinbach fell into an opening trap and just like that, Boldt won a piece for a pawn.

Steinbach battled back, however. Soon Mr Boldt erred and White picked up another pawn. Moreover, he had connected and crimping pawns at d5 and e5. A slam-dunk win for Boldt was now a struggle. Meanwhile, Sigmond won his game in a quick crush, adding additional pressure. The stakes were clear: A decisive result would make the winner the state champ, while Sigmond would take the title in case of a draw.

According to John Campbell, who was in the room, there suddenly arose a "bloodcurdling" yell and Boldt pitched backward from the board. Many thought he had suffered a heart attack. Boldt lay there twisting with a catatonic look in



his eyes. Someone stuck a wallet in his mouth to keep him from biting his tongue or choking. A doctor was summoned, who diagnosed an epileptic seizure. An ambulance arrived and Mr Boldt was taken to UVA hospital.

What to do? The TDs decided that there was no provision for suspending play under the rules, so Boldt's clock was left to run. When his time expired, it was declared Boldt had lost on a time forfeit. The game, and with it the state championship, was awarded to Henry Steinbach. Five years would pass before someone with a name other than Charles Powell would again hold that title!

Mr Boldt finished his story, smiled, shrugged, and went off to his car.

A year later, the Manassas Chess Club folded. I have seen Mr Boldt only once since then. But over the years I have witnessed several variation of the episode he described. I have seen players succumb to pressure on the last day of championships. In 1991, in Atlanta serving as a TD at the National JHS championship, I had to call an ambulance when a player in the concurrent Georgia State Championship suffered an epileptic seizure during play. Yet, none of this had quite the impact of that story from 1963, nor have they stayed as green as the years passed...

Perhaps it is because I heard it when I was still young and more absorbing of information. Or perhaps it was because even then I was an avid historian and this was clearly a wild and wooly moment in VCF lore. Maybe it stays fresh because the tale has the romantic quality of what you hear, not the realism of what you live firsthand. Maybe, I get older, I simply have a greater appreciation of what it must have meant to be so close to the prize only to lose it in that "perfect storm" of fatigue, hunger, and sickness.

But I like to think it is because of the humor and the lack of rancor or bitterness Mt Boldt showed as he told an aspiring young player about this moment. That and my memory of his generosity in those many odds games in the back of a furniture store. In those many hours, he helped create a lifelong fan of a game that has given me so much pleasure, so many friends, and so many memorable moments.

Whatever the reason, I know that forty years ago my old hero Alan Boldt almost won the Virginia State Closed Championship — and I don't want it forgotten.



The author is a former VCF President. Welcome back to the pages of Virginia Chess, Sam! — ed



RUSSELL POTTER

- National Chess Master
- Over 30 Years of Chess Teaching Experience
- Three-time Virginia State Champion

CHESS LESSONS BY PHONE OR IN PERSON

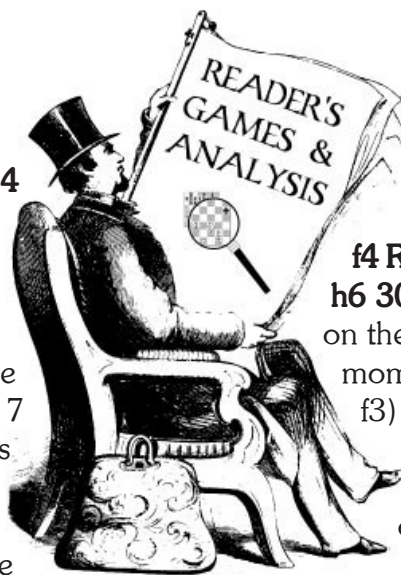
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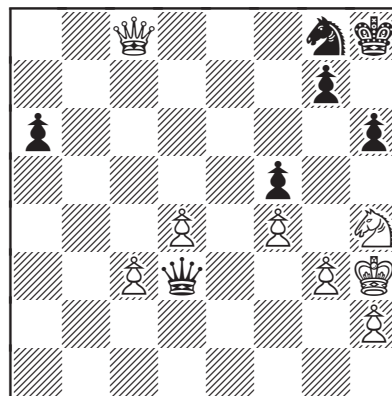
Tim Rogalski - Harry Cohen
July Kingstowne Quads 2003

Notes by Tim Rogalski

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 Bd3 Nc6 5 c3 Nf6 6 Bf4 Bg4 7 Qb3 Qd7 (According to my TR-database statistics, every player rated over 2000 has chosen 7...Qc8) **8 Nd2 e6 9 Ngf3 Bxf3** (The most likely continuation of the 7 Qd7 line; with six or more pawns per side, knights have a slim edge over bishops and Black's next move ensures that White will not enjoy the advantage of the bishop pair.) **10 Nxf3 Bd6 11 Bxd6 Qxd6 12 0-0** (Rushing to grab material with 12 Qxb7 0-0 13 Bb5? will backfire after 13...Nb4! 14 cxb4 Qxb4+ 15 Nd2 Rab8 16 Qxa7 Rxb5) **12...0-0 13 Rfe1 a6 14 a4!** (restraining black's minority attack) **14...Qc7 15 Qc2 Rfc8 16 Qe2 Na5 17 Ne5 Nc4 18 Bxc4 dxc4 19 a5!** (Artificially isolating the c4 pawn. Black must create further weaknesses after he is forced to defend the c4 pawn with b7-b5) **19...Nd5 20 Ra4 b5 21 axb6 Nxb6 22 Ra5** (Threatening to win a pawn with 23 Rc5. White has a comfortable game playing against the weak pawns on c4 and a6.) **22...Qd6** (22...Nd7 might have been tried to entice an unsound sacrifice with 23 Nxf7? Nf8! [taking the knight with 23...Kxf7? only leads to a perpetual after 24 Qxe6+ Kf8 25 Rf5+ Nf6 26 Rxf6+ gxf6 27 Qxf6+ Qf7 28 Qh8+ Qg8 29 Qf6+; and taking the rook with 23...Qxa5?? loses to 24 Qxe6] 24 Nh6+ gxh6 25 Rc5 Qb7 26 Qxc4 Rxc5 27 dxc5 Qd5 and while White may have three pawns for the piece, Black is the one with practical winning chances.) **23 Rea1 f6** (Forcing the knight off his e5 outpost, but weakening e6) **24 Ng4?!** (Misplacing the knight and causing White to go through contortions to get it back into the game without trading it for its counterpart. A better way to maneuver the



knight to c5 was by threatening to capture the c4 pawn with 24 Nf3!± Nd5 25 g3 Rc6 26 Nd2 Rac8 (26...Qc7 27 Nxc4!) 27 Ne4 Qd7 28 Nc5) **24 Nd5 25 g3 Rc6 26 f4 Rb8 27 Nf2 f5 28 R5a4 Rbc8 29 Nh3 h6 30 Kg2** (The king doesn't want to be on the open h1-a8 diagonal, but I have to momentarily vacate g1 to allow Nh3-g1-f3) **30 Nf6 31 Ng1 Rb6 32 Nf3 Qc6 33 Kg1 Qb7?!** (33 Qe4 is better. The undefended White queen is the only piece defending b2.) **34 R1a2 Rb8 35 Rxc4 Rxb2?** (Shielding e6 with 35...Ne4 is tougher but Black is still down a pawn after 36 b4) **36 Rxb2 +- Qxb2 37 Qxe6+ Kh8 38 Rc8+ Rxc8 39 Qxc8+ Ng8 40 Nh4!** (White is threatening a decisive Q+N mating attack beginning with 41 Ng6+ Kh7 42 Qxf5) **40...Qb1+ 41 Kg2 Qe4+ 42 Kh3 Qd3!**



43 Nxf5??

43 Qxf5 was still winning, eg 43...Qf1+ 44 Ng2, but during the game I thought this was a good move too. I was shocked when Fritz found a deep saving resource for Black! After 43...Qf1+! 44 Kh4 Qe2 White is forced to allow a perpetual because 45 h3?? even loses after 45...g6! threatening mate. Either the knight is lost or, if 46 g4, Black ignores the knight and weaves an amazing mating net with 46 Qf2+!! 47 Ng3 Qxf4! and mate in 6, at most!



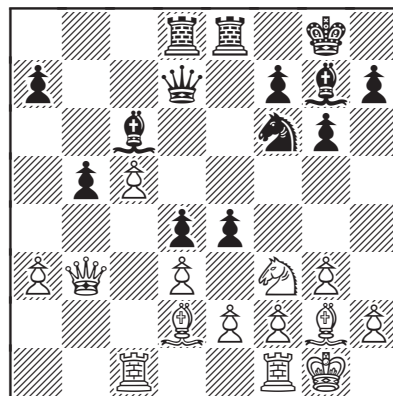
Therefore, (after 43...Qf1+! 44 Kh4 Qe2) White must play 45 Qf8 and then 45...Qxh2+ 46 Kg4 Qe2+ 47 Kh3 Qf1+ 48 Kh4 Qh1+ 49 Kg4 Qd1+ etc, draw.

43... Qf3?? (Both players were in time trouble.)
44 Qe8! Qf1+ 45 Kh4 Qf2 46 h3 Kh7 47 Qf7
 Forcing mate, and avenging my loss to Harry in the Amateur section of the 2002 Oscar Shapiro DC Open **1-0**

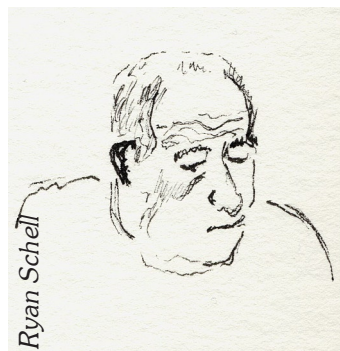
Harry Cohen – Tim Rogalski
August Kingstowne Quads 2003
Notes by Tim Rogalski

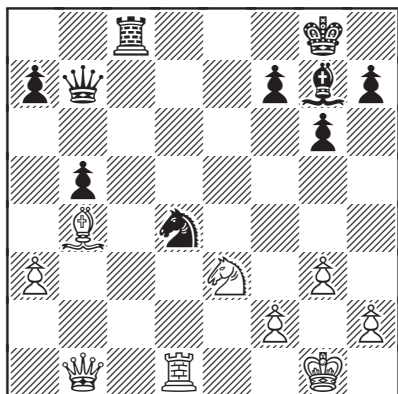
One month later, Harry and I each had 2-0 going into this last round game, and were fighting for the gold. **1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 b6 3 Bg2 Bb7 4 0-0 g6 5 c4 c5 6 Nc3 Bg7 7 Rb1 0-0 8 a3 d5 9 d3 d4 10 Na2?! (Playing a reverse Yugoslav variation of the King's Indian Defense with 10 Na4! would have justified White's previous three moves, and given him a good game with an extra tempo. Now Black's game gradually improves...) 10 Nbd7 11 b4 Re8 12 bxc5 Nxc5 (This c5 knight is nicely placed. Notice that Black could not have occupied this outpost if White had a knight on a4) 13 Bf4 Nh5 14 Bd2 Qd7!?** (I liked this multi-purpose move. 14...e5 might be objectively stronger (according to Fritz), but moving the queen to d7 considerably increases the her scope, connects the rooks, further protects the b7 bishop, discourages White from harassing the h5 knight with 15 g4, and prevents White from breaking up black's queenside with a3-a4-a5. And since the light squared bishops are the most likely to be exchanged first, it is worth something to put the queen on a light square, distantly complementing the dark g7 bishop. Try programming all that into a computer!) **15 Nc1 Rad8** (Again not the best according to Fritz, but I wanted to protect the queen after the exchange of knights on b3 and envisioned an eventual d-pawn push after exploding open the center with e7-e5-e4) **16 Nb3 Nxb3 17 Qxb3 e5 18 c5?!**

(The pinned b6 pawn could have been better exploited with a3-a4-a5) **18...Bd5 19 Qb5 Bc6 20 Qc4 b5!?** (Another human move; the machine really liked 20...Rc8. But I wanted to isolate the c5 pawn and close the b-file to the b1 rook, all with tempo. Black effectively has a static 2-vs-3 pawn island advantage which he quickly converts into dynamic piece play.) **21 Qb3 Nf6** (improving my worst-placed piece before breaking through in the center) **22 Rbc1 e4**



23 dxe4 Nxe4 24 Ba5 Rc8 25 Rfd1 Bd5 (attacking the White queen, unpinning the d4 pawn, and winning the c5 pawn) **26 Qb1 Nxc5 27 Bb4 Ne6** (The knight clearly belongs in the center protecting the d4 pawn. Fritz initially preferred to put it on the edge with 27...Na4 28 Rxc8 Rxc8 but gradually changed the assessment after it saw 29 Nxd4! Bxg2 30 Kxg2 Bxd4 31 Qe4=) **28 Rxc8 Rxc8 29 e3?** (fatally weakening f3) **29...Qb7! -+ 30 Ne1 Bxg2 31 Nxg2 dxe3 32 Nxe3 Nd4!**





(A very annoying move to have to face under time pressure! Black's active pieces control the important open lines and suddenly White's king is unsafe. By this point everyone else had finished their games and gone home, with only the TD and a lone spectator still watching us. I knew that it would not be easy for White to find good moves here, so I permitted myself a short stroll, knowing Harry would probably need to use a few minutes.) **33 h4 Qf3! 34 Qd3** (A good try, hoping to spring some kind of back rank mate with Qd8+ if I get careless. Others leave little hope, eg 34 Bd6 Rc3 [or 34...Bh6]; or 34 Be1 Rc3! 35 Bxc3? Ne2+ 36 Kh2 Qxf2+ 37 Ng2 Qxg3+ 38 Kh1 Qh3#) **34...Be5**

We both stopped keeping score somewhere around here because we had less than five minutes remaining. I'd spent several minutes looking at 34...Ne2+ threatening to obliterate the White king's protection with sacs on g3. However, seeing that all the key moves would lie at the end of the variations, I played the text to avoid mishaps.

Later Fritz indicated that there are indeed several winning lines after 34...Ne2+ 35 Kf1 Nxc3+ 36 Ke1: (i) 36...Bh6!; or (ii) 36...Ne4 37 Qd8+ Bf8! (also 37...Rxd8 38 Rxd8+ Bf8 39 Bxf8 Qxf2+ 40 Kd1 h5); or, again, (iii) 36...Qh1+ 37 Kd2 Ne4+ 38 Ke2 Qxh4! covering d8 and threatening mate.

35 Re1 Rc2! 36 Qf1 (36 Qxc2 Nxc2 37 Nxc2 Bc3 38 Re8+ Kg7 39 Ne3 Bxb4 40 axb4 Qc6 is easy for the nimble queen.) **36...Ne2+ 37 Rxe2** (37 Kh2 Nxc3! is crushing, the point behind 34...Be5) **37 Rxe2 38 Qd1? Qxf2+** and it's mate next **0-1**



John Bninski, of Charlottesville, sends a game from the 2003 World Open in Philadelphia.

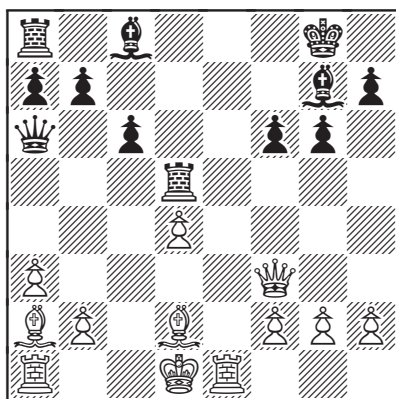
JOHN BNINSKI - DANIEL PARK
WORLD OPEN 2003
DUTCH

Notes by John Bninski

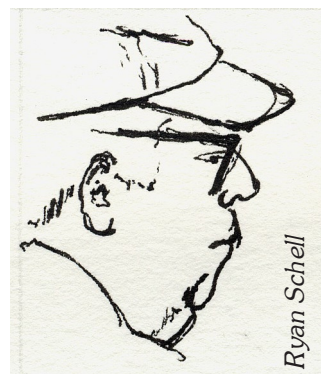
1 c4 g6 2 d4 f5 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 fxe4 5 Nxe4 Nc6 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Bd3 0-0 (I don't claim to know much about opening theory, so it's quite possible that early moves on both sides were not the best. In particular, I think Black could have made the e4 push much more difficult for me.) **8 Ne2** (I preferred this to 8 Nf3 because I may want to play my pawn to f3, blunting any Black attacks on the f-file and adding to my control of the center.) **8...Nb4 9 Bb1 d5 10 a3 Nc6** (11 Black does not like the prospect of giving me a huge queenside pawn mass, and doubled e-pawns for himself, so he turns down 10...dxe4 11 axb4. The ...Nb4 foray appears to have been a waste of time.) **11 Nxf6+ exf6** (If he takes on f6 with a piece then 12 cxd5 chases his knight into uncomfortable places like b8 or a5 since he could not just recapture 12...Qxd5?? on account of 13 Ba2) **12 cxd5 Ne7 13 Ba2 Nxd5** (Forced, or he will remain down a pawn at least. [13...Kh8 lets me guard d5 with 14 Qb3] He might eventually be able to recover it, but only



with lots of trouble.) **14 Nf4 c6 15 Qb3 Qa5+** (I had been expecting him to play some move that would let me win a pawn with **16 Nxd5 cxd5 17 Qxd5 Qxd5 18 Bxd5+** In this line, an attempt to counter-pin with **16 Nxd5 Be6** would come to nothing after **17 Nf6+** unless he plays **15...Kh8!** So that was probably best, but I would still have a comfortable game.) **16 Bd2 Re8+ 17 Kd1 Qa6 18 Re1 Rd8 19 Nxd5 cxd5** (If **19...Rxd5 20 Qf3** wins the exchange. I thought about my next move for half an hour.)



20 Qxd5+! Rxd5 21 Bxd5+ Be6 (21...Kf8 gets mated by **22 Bb4+ Qd6 23 Bxd6#**; while 21...Kh8 fails to **22 Re8+ Bf8 23 Rxf8+ Kg7 24 Rg8#**) **22 Rxe6** (Re8# is threatened, as well as Rxa6) **22...Qxe6** (The alternatives **22...Qf1+ 23 Re1+** or **22...Qa4+ 23 b3** also lose. From here on it's easy; I'm up material.) **23 Bxe6+ Kf8 24 Rc1 Ke7 25 d5 f5 26 Rc7+ Kf8 27 Bb4+ 1-0**



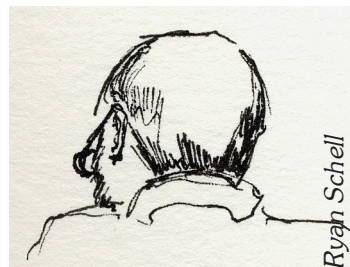
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Details to follow. Keep an eye out in *Chess Life* or <http://home.earthlink.net/~eschlich>



Book Review

Nimzo-Indian: Kasparov Variation**The dynamic 4 Nf3 as popularized by Garry Kasparov**

by Chris Ward, Everyman Chess, list \$19.95

THE FIRST QUESTION that will arise in the mind of anyone seeing this new, much-needed book on the Nimzoindian will be, "Isn't this the Romanishin Variation?" If you look carefully you will find a small clarifying note. The *popularity* of the variation is owing to Garry Kasparov, who played it in a world championship. To which I would reply: *Get real!* Of course this is the Romanishin Variation. But let's be honest: Kasparov sells books. That is the real point

That bit of shameless name-dropping aside, Everyman Chess has admirably filled a hole in opening literature. Chris Ward poses the basic question in his introduction: How do I respond to 3...Bb4? Do I use the all too-well-trodden 4 e3? Or perhaps something as radical as *developing a piece*? Thus we consider 4 Nf3.

The standard Nimzoindian bargain—White has pawn weaknesses but also space and piece activity—is writ large in this variation. Whereas the main lines of the Nimzo are essentially blocking games—Black sets his cannon against the pawns at c3, c4 & d4 in a semi-closed or closed situation—in the Kasparov/Romanishin variation the weak pawns at c3 and c4 are accompanied by a White knight at d4 (and a fianchettoed bishop at g2). Which is to say, more glaring (isolated) pawn weaknesses and more open, centralized activity. White's pressure tends to focus against Black's weak square d6 and queenside.

Ward demonstrates the wide-open nature of some of these positions. Along with sudden attacks and/or positional pressure, White should also expect to find himself in the occasional two-bishops vs bishop-and-knight ending. Black, on the other hand, must be ready to maneuver against those crippled pawns with a subtle grasp of the elements of material and weakness. ("When to hold'em, when to fold'em") The bottom line is that the game

demands a strong understanding of all the dynamic and static elements of chess. Is there any surprise that we find Gary Kasparov advocating the White side of such a line? Or iconoclast Mikhail Suba the Black?

The "positional" subvariations where White captures on c3 with his queen, also give rise to tense and explosive possibilities due the sudden rush of Black pawns through the center. However, here Ward exhibits a weakness of judgment in my opinion. Once upon a time he suffered a traumatic defeat at the hands of Suba in the variation—see Suba's book *Dynamic Chess* or also the videotape *Grandmaster Chess* for details, but here is bare score: Ward – Suba, 1990: 1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 c5 3 Nf3 e6 4 d4 cxd4 5 Nxd4 Bb4 6 g3 0-0 7 Bg2 d5 8 Qb3 Bxc3+ 9 Qxc3 e5 10 Nb3 d4 11 Qa5 Qe8 12 0-0 Nc6 13 Qa4 h6 14 Nc5 a5 15 a3 e4 16 b4 Qe7 17 Nb3 Rd8 18 Bb2 e3 19 f4 Bh3 20 Bxh3 axb4 21 Qb5 bxa3 22 Bc1 Ne4 23 Bg4 d3 24 exd3 Rxd3 25 c5 Nf2 26 Rxf2 exf2+ 27 Kxf2 Qe4 28 Ra2 Qd5 29 Rd2 Rxd2+ 30 Bxd2 a2 31 Bf3 Qxf3+ 32 Kxf3 a1Q 33 Qxb7 Qh1+ 34 Ke3 Rb8 0-1 Now Ward just won't give it up. Whereas he mostly gives a variety of lines for both sides, here he exhibits an over-fondness for the variation, especially his idea Qa5. In this critical variation, he considers nothing else. (Suba considered White's plan suspect, incidentally).

This one lapse notwithstanding, *Nimzoindian: Kasparov Variation* is an excellent work for players 1800 and up.

—Sal Rosario



Ryan Schell

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Newsletter

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2003 - #5



**Daniel Miller Sweeps
2003 State Championship**

Justin Burgess also 5-0 in Amateur Championship

also inside...

Sam Conner recalls
his first chess hero
Readers' Games &
Analysis
Ryan Schell Sketches

