

# VIRGINIA CHESS

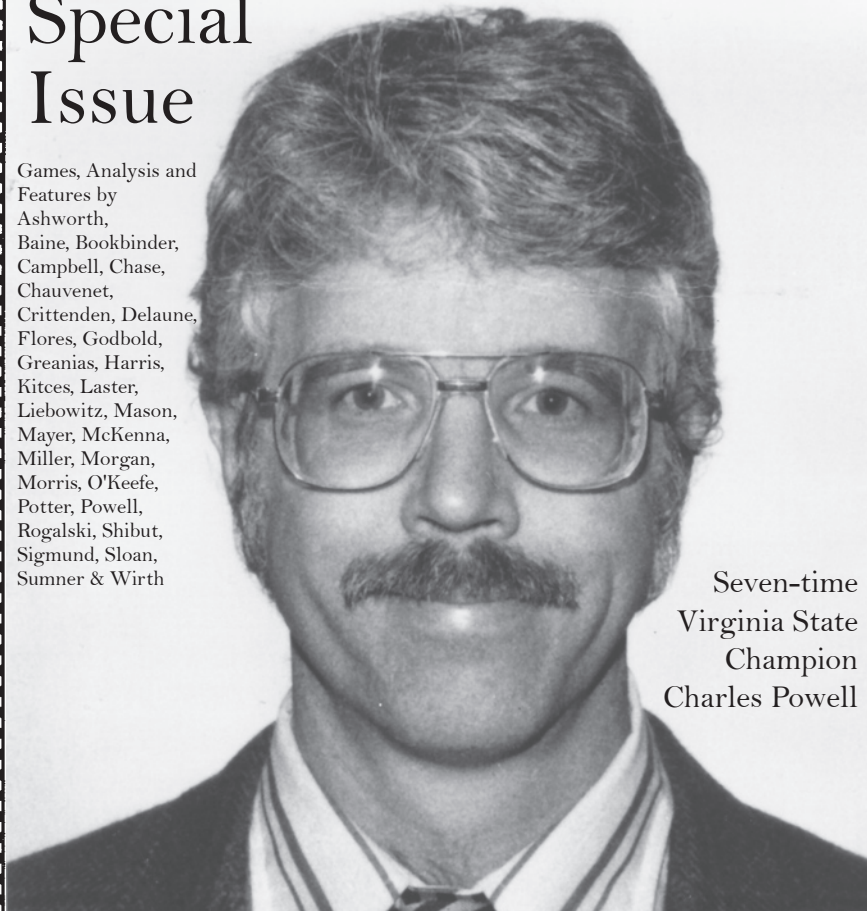
Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

2004 - #6

## Special Issue

Games, Analysis and  
Features by  
Ashworth,  
Baine, Bookbinder,  
Campbell, Chase,  
Chauvenet,  
Crittenden, Delaune,  
Flores, Godbold,  
Greanias, Harris,  
Kitces, Laster,  
Liebowitz, Mason,  
Mayer, McKenna,  
Miller, Morgan,  
Morris, O'Keefe,  
Potter, Powell,  
Rogalski, Shibut,  
Sigmund, Sloan,  
Sumner & Wirth



Seven-time  
Virginia State  
Champion  
Charles Powell

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

**2004 - Issue #6**

Editor:

Macon Shibut  
8234 Citadel Place  
Vienna VA 22180  
[vcfeditor@cox.net](mailto:vcfeditor@cox.net)

Circulation:

Ernie Schlich  
1370 South Braden Crescent  
Norfolk VA 23502  
[ESchlich@aol.com](mailto:ESchlich@aol.com)



*Virginia Chess* is published six times per year by the Virginia Chess Federation. Membership dues (\$10/yr adult; \$5/yr junior under 18) include a subscription to *Virginia Chess*.

Send material for publication to the editor. Send dues, address changes, etc to Circulation.

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, [matkins2@cox.net](mailto:matkins2@cox.net)

Treasurer: Ernie Schlich, 1370 South Braden Crescent, Norfolk VA 23502, [eschlich@aol.com](mailto:eschlich@aol.com) Secretary: Helen Hinshaw, 3430 Musket Dr, Midlothian VA 23113, [jallenhinshaw@comcast.net](mailto:jallenhinshaw@comcast.net) Scholastics Chairman: Mike Cornell, 12010 Grantwood Drive, Fredericksburg VA 22407, [kencorn@erols.com](mailto:kencorn@erols.com) VCF Inc. Directors: Helen Hinshaw (Chairman), Marshall Denny, Mike Atkins, Ernie Schlich.





## From the Editor:

**S**EVENTY YEARS AGO, 1934. Alexander Alekhine, chess champion of the world, successfully defended his title in a match at Baden-Baden, Germany versus Efim Bogolyubov. Elsewhere that year—in fact, in Staunton, Virginia... the Virginia Chess Federation (VCF) was born.

In the decades since then, the VCF has produced numerous “official publications” under various titles: *Virginia Chess News Roundup*, *Virginia Chess Yearbook*, *Virginia Chess News*, *En Pris*, *VCF Newsletter* and, most recently, our own *Virginia Chess*. Happily, our files contain a great many of these old publications, including some that date all the way back to the VCF’s earliest days.

You are holding in your hands a special holiday issue of *Virginia Chess* consisting of games and other material selected from these archival publications. New stuff—eg our report on the 2004 Zofchak Memorial (won by Larry Larkins)—will wait until #2005/1. Instead, I hope that the veterans among us will enjoy a walk down memory lane with old friends and opponents; and for newcomers, here a chance to catch a glimpse of “the old days.”

Special thanks to Lynne Murray Powell for the cover photo.

Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year to all!



*Russell Chauvenet, four-time (1942, '46, '47, '48) Virginia state champion and 1959 US Amateur Champion faces off against US Women's Champion Lisa Lane*



W W GIBBS - RUSSELL CHAUVENET

VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP 1939

NIMZOINDIAN

*Notes by Steve Chase & Brian Sumner*

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Bd2 0-0 5 e3 b6 6 Nf3 d5 (6...c5) 7 Ne5 Bxc3** (seems rushed and unnecessary; again 7...c5) **8 Bxc3 Ne4 9 Bd3 Nxc3 10 bxc3 f5** (The attempt to gain a tempo by first 10...f6 meets with 11 Qh5 and the knight is protected by mate in three; 10...Nd7 is more flexible and developing) **11 0-0 Qe8 12 Qb3** (12 f4) **12...c6 13 Rac1 Ba6 14 Rfd1** (Though on its face Rfd1 liberates Ne5 from babysitting Bd3, this move is in fact the first of an aimless six move odyssey. Either 14 Rfe1—center attack—or 14 f4—flank attack—were better.) **14...Kh8 15 f4 g6?! (15...Bb7) 16 Rf1 Rg8 17 Rf3 Rg7 18 Rg3 Qc8 19 Rf3 Nd7 20 Nxd7 Qxd7 21 Bf1 Bb7 22 Rf2** (A comparison with the position



*W W Gibbs, first President of the VCF  
and state champion in 1935 and 1937*

after 13...Ba6 is instructive: in six moves White has managed only to shift his rook from f1 to f2. Little wonder that Black is out of all difficulty.) **22...Rc8** (the wrong plan; 22...Rag8! Δ g5) **23 Rfc2 Re8 24 cxd5 exd5 25 c4 dxc4 26 Rxc4 g5 27 fxg5 Rxg5 28 Qc3?** (This merely forces a strong reply. White should play 28 R4c2) **28...Qd5?** **29 Qd2 Reg8 30 Qf2?** (30 R4c2 was practically forced. The text allows Black to march his c-pawn to c3) **30...c5 31 R4c2 c4 32 Re1 Qe4 33 Ree2 b5 34 Qf4 Rg4?!** (Black has two interesting options, both better than misplacing the rook with the text. First, 34...b4 If then 35 Qxe4 Bxe4 36 Rxc4 Bd3 wins the exchange and Black can't get a second pawn for it by 37 Rxb4

because 37...Bxe2 38 Bxe2 allows Rxg2+. If instead 37 Rb2 Bxc4 38 Bxc4 Rb8; Second, 34...Qe6 intending Be4) **35 Qxe4 Bxe4 36 Rc3 b4 37 Rc1 c3 38 g3 a5** (Although useful, this is less direct and than 38...h5! Ptying open the g-file) **39 Rf2 R4g6?! (39...h5) 40 Bc4 Rc8?! (40...Ra8 Δ a4) 41 Bb3 h5 42 Kf1 Rb8?! (42...h4 wins either a pawn or the exchange. White obliged Black earlier in the game by making a series of pointless rook moves. Now Black returns the favor: ...Kg7 would have been better on any of his next four turns.) 43 Rf4 Rg4 44 Kf2 Rxf4+ 45 exf4 Rd8 46 Ke3 Re8 47 Kf2 Bd3 48 Re1 Rxe1** (Black is still winning, and 48...Re4 would do the job more quickly. 49 Rxe4 fxe4 and White cannot stop c2; or 49 Re3 Rxd4 50 Re8+ Kg7 White soon runs out of checks) **49 Kxe1 Kg7 50**



**h4 Kf6 51 Kd1 Bb1** (51...Bb5  $\Delta$  a4, Ke6) **52 Kc1 a4?! (52...Be4) 53 Bxa4 Bxa2 54 Kc2 Bd5** (54...Bf7 protecting both the kingside and queenside pawns) **55 Bb5 Be4+ 56 Kb3 c2?** (This unfortunate move gives away *at least* the full point—we should also factor in the post-game psychological trauma of throwing away a won game, and the state championship, by a single bad move. Instead 56...Bd5+ or 56...Bf3 secure both the b- and h-pawns) **57 Kb2 Ke7 58 Be2 Kd6 59 Bxh5 Ke7 60 Be2 Kf6 61 Bc4 Kg6 62 Bb3 Kh5 63 d5 1-0**

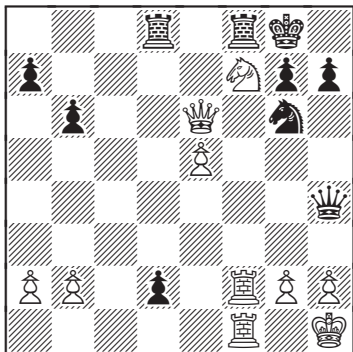
KIT CRITTENDON - NORMAN T WHITAKER

1951 VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

*Notes by Dr Rodney Baine (State Champion)*

**1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 c4 e6 4 Nc3 Nbd7 5 Bg5 Be7 6 cxd5 exd5 7 e3 0-0 8 Qc2 Re8 9 Bd3 Nf8 10 0-0 c6 11 Rae1 Ne4 12 Bxe7 Qxe7 13 Bxe4 dxe4 14 Nd2 b6 15 f3** (Of course if White had captured the e-pawn he would have lost the exchange by...Ba6) **15...exf3 16 Nxf3 Be6 17 e4 Rac8 18 Kh1 Bc4 19 Rf2 Ng6 20 e5 Bd5 21 Nd2 Qh4 22 Nde4 Rcd8 23 Ref1 Be6 24 Nd6 Rf8** (The knight looks strong at d6, but Black soon begins quietly to undermine his props. Ignoring these countermeasures in order to proceed with his attack, White gives Black an unobstructed passed pawn and a victory.) **25 Ne2 c5 26 Nf4 cxd4 27 Nxe6 fxe6 28 Nf7? d3 29 Qc6 d2 30 Qxe6**



(diagram)

**30...Qxf2!** (Naturally not 30...d1Q 31 Nh6+ Kh8 32 Qg8+ Rxc8 33 Nf7mate) **31 Nxd8+ Kh8 32 Nf7+ Qxf7 33 Qxf7 Rxf7 0-1**

LEONARD MORGAN - PETER HENDERSON

1955 VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

DUTCH

*Notes by Leonard Morgan*

This crucial last-round game decided the 1955 state championship. I lost the initiative to Peter before a dozen moves had been made: **1 d4 d6 2 Nf3 f5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e3 e6 5 Bd3 Be7 6 Ne2 0-0 7 c3 Qe8 8 Qc2 d5 9 h3 Ne4 10 Ne5 Nd7 11 Nxd7 Bxd7 12 a4 g5 13 f3 Nd6 14 g4 Qf7 15 Bd2** (Since he was pushing so forcefully on the kingside after having castled on that side, I planned castling on the queenside to be followed by an attempt to open up the kingside.) **15...b5 16 b3 bxa4 17 bxa4 Rab8 18 0-0 h5** (After the foregoing sequence, queenside castling was unthinkable. But he didn't think I'd dare castle on the kingside either, and hence immediately attacks.) **19 Ng3** (My next several maneuvers of placing



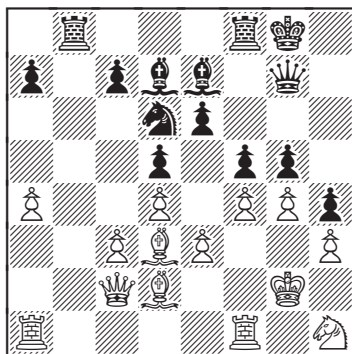


the knight on h1 ad playing f4 seem extremely unsound on the surface, but prove to be the key to the whole delightful ending — delightful for me, that is!) **19... Qh7 20 Kg2 h4 21 Nh1 Qg7 22 f4!?**

(diagram)

**22...fxg4?** (The pawn which Peter combines to seize turns out to be baited with poison, and the initiative shortly falls to White, *much to the surprise of both of us*.) **23 hxg4 gxf4 24 exf4 Qxg4+ 25 Kh2 Kh8** (Black now realizes that he has no more checks and that his king and queen are on the same file, which forces him to make a quiet move, giving White the attack.)

**26 Rg1** (After this the combinations become dynamic, ultimately driving Black's queen from the theater of action and finally leading to his resignation. Any other course would have lost material.) **26...Qh5** (If **26...Qf3** **27 Raf1** and the queen must go to h5 anyway.) **27 Bg6 Qe2+** (To play **27...Qh6** leads to **28 f5 Qg7 29 Be8 Qf6 30 Bxd7**; while to play **27...Qf3** allows **28 Raf1 Qe2+ 29 Rf2** and the queen must leave the kingside as happened in the actual play, but having permitted White's queen rook to get into the battle zone with gain of time.) **28 Rg2 Qa6** (**28...Qc4** is no better, and; **28...Qf3** loses the queen after **29 Rf2 Qg4 30 Rg1**) **29 Qd1!** (Now, as Black's queen is out of play, White makes the devastating quiet move which was evidently unforeseen by Henderson, and to which there is no reply to prevent loss of material or even the king!) **29...Nf5 30 Qh5+ 1-0**



EDMUND GODBOLD - CHARLES RIDER

1956 VIRGINIA CLOSED STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

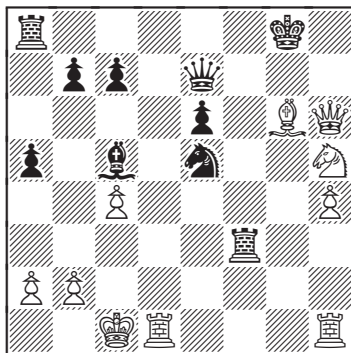
KING'S INDIAN

Notes by Edmund Godbold

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f4** (The Four Pawns Attack. It is not often played but has good points, not the least of these being that it frequently puts Black on unfamiliar ground.) **5...Bg4** (Not usually played in this type of game as it commits Black to an eventual exchange of bishop for knight or a retreat all the way to c8. The two main lines are **5...0-0 6 Nf3 c5 7 d5** and now **7...e5 8 fxe5 dxe5 9 Bd3 Ne8** followed later by **Nd6** and Black has a slight positional advantage; and **7...e6 8 Bd3 exd5 9 cxd5 b5** with complications somewhat in White's favor in my opinion.) **6 Nf3 0-0 7 Bd3 Nc6** (A better plan is **7...c5**) **8 Be3 Nd7 9 d5** (Note that White has not pushed a pawn to the 5th rank until forced to. Hasty pawn advances, particularly **e5**, play into Black's hands in the King's Indian.) **9...Nd4 10 Bxd4 Bxd4 11 Qd2 Bxf3 12 gxf3 e6 13 h4** (Necessary to prevent **Qh4+** but this is also part of White's attacking plans on the kingside.) **13...Nf6**



(Stops h5 but shuts the bishop off from g7) **14 Ne2 Bc5** (Here the bishop still covers g1 but its absence from Black's kingside is a serious weakness.) **15 Ng3 h5 16 0-0-0 a5** (This looks strong but actually loses a tempo as White intends to aim his queen's rook towards the kingside with 0-0-0 anyway!) **17 dxe6** (Now, with the preparations complete, White's pawns move forward both to break up Black's position and to clear lines behind them.) **17...fxe6 18 e5 dxe5 19 fxe5 Nd7 20 Qh6 Nxe5 21 Bxg6 Qe7 22 Nxh5 Rxf3** (diagram)



(Black's king is wide open. 22...Nxg6 allows mate in five. The text threatens the fork... Be3+, which causes White to think a while. He sees that Rg1 would lead to mate if only his bishop were off the board, and he comes up with a method to get rid of the 'offending piece'.) **23 Bf7+! Kxf7** (Best, as on the other three possible moves Rg1+ leads to mate after gobbling up the four pieces Black can interpose.) **24 Qg7+ Ke8 25 Qg8+ Qf8** (The best defense is 25...Rf8 26 Ng7+ Qxg7 the king is smothered 27 Qxg7 with an easy win for White.) **26 Ng7+ 1-0** On 26...Ke7 27 Qxe6mate This was by far my best game in the tourney and the only one in which I went for an all-out attack, Most of my games are of the solid positional type.

**KIT CRITTENDEN - IRWIN SIGMUND**  
**VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA MATCH 1957**  
**NIMZOINDIAN**

*Notes by Kit Crittenden*

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e3 0-0 5 Bd3 c5 6 Nf3 d5 7 a3 Bxc3+ 8 bxc3 b6** (More usual is...Nc6 followed by Qc7 and e5, which leads to a game where White has two bishops and a potential pawn center but Black has more immediate freedom and development.) **9 0-0 Bb7 10 a4** (More or less a waiting move with possibilities of Ba3 or a5 as the situation requires.) **10...Qc7 11 cxd5 exd5 12 dxc5 bxc5 13 Bb2 Nc6 14 c4 dxc4 15 Bxc4 Rad8 16 Qc2** (White has almost reached the position he wants; he has cleared off the pawns for the two bishops and has a strong square e5. Black has the move and he must prevent White from further organizing the attack. To meet the immediate threat Bxf6 and to occupy e5 with a knight, h plays a move which has also some threats of its own — but which is a definite mistake! The best move was probably 16...Rd6) **16...Ng4? 17 Qc3?** (White anticipated Black's reply but overlooked the succeeding move. Meanwhile, 17 Qf5 would have won the game outright. Then if 17...Nd4 18 Qxg4 Bxf3 19 gxf3 Rd6 20 Qe4 Black does not have enough for the piece. Another variation is



17...Bc8 18 Qg5 g6 19 h3 h6 20 Qxg6mate; and still another is 17...Nh6 18 Qg5 and Black must lose a piece to prevent mate. Other lines are just as decisive. Now, though, Black begins to play like the Virginia state champion!) **17...Nd4! 18 exd4 cxd4!** (This zwishenzug is better than the expected 18...Bxf3 when there would follow 19 g3 Bb7 20 d5 and Black must play 20...Nf6 (20...f6 21 d6+) 21 Rad1 White keeps a pawn.) **19 Qb3** (A better chance for defense lay in 19 Bxf7+ Qxf7 20 Nxd4 though after 20...Qf4 21 g3 Qh6 Black has good compensation. Now White has had the course, as they say in Pensacola.) **19...Bxf3 20 g3 Ne5**

## Virginia Chess Federation Championship

The first tournament for the championship of the state of Virginia, sponsored by the newly organized Virginia Chess Federation, with which the chess clubs at Richmond, Norfolk, Lynchburg, Roanoke and Staunton are affiliated, was held in Staunton on September 1, 2 and 3. John N Buck of Lynchburg, scoring 6½ points out of a possible 8, was the leader after a close finish and became officially the champion of the state. He lost only one game — to the late W L Moorman of Lynchburg — drew one and won the rest.

Half a point behind the champion was Lt John D Matheson of Ft Humphreys, graduate of West Point and winner of the intercollegiate tournament held at the World's Fair in Chicago during 1933. The brilliant young Army man also lost to Mr Moorman, and to the new champion.

Mr Moorman died a few days later, but, in the last tournament of his long career, shared the third prize with Henry M Woods. W W Gibbs of Staunton, president of the Virginia Federation, was placed fifth.

[*American Chess Journal*, November 1934]



# 2005 VIRGINIA OPEN

## January 28-30, 2005 in Springfield.

See page 52 of this issue or

<http://vachess.org/vaopen2005.htm>  
for more details





**21 Rac1 Qd7 22 Rfd1** (Note that if 22 Rfe1 Nxc4 23 Qxc4 Qh3 24 Qf1 Qxf1+ 25 Rxf1 then 25...d3 wins an entire piece.) **22...Rb8! 23 Qa2 d3! 24 Be6 Rxb2 25 Qxb2 Qxe6 0-1**

**RUSSELL CHAUVENET - IRWIN SIGMUND**

**DC CHESS LEAGUE 1960**

**KING'S GAMBIT**

*Notes by Irwin Sigmund*

**1 e4 e5 2 f4** (The King's Gambit, one of the oldest attacking openings, has been strengthened in modern times by the application of positional methods. Its infrequent adoption in serious play today is due to the fact that Black has a wide choice of defenses, each good enough to equalize. Black cannot, however, play for an immediate opening advantage without taking serious risks. Having considerable respect for Chauvenet's tactical abilities, I decided to choose one of the simplest lines.) **2...exf4 3 Nf3 d5 4 exd5 Nf6 5 c4** (A modern move. Another modern try is 5 Bb5+ but after 5...c6 6 dxc6 bxc6 7 Bc4 Nd5! As played by Botvinnik against Bronstein in the 20<sup>th</sup> Soviet Championship tourney, Black obtains satisfactory play. The old move here is 5 Nc3, but this too does not create any serious problems for Black. After the next move, Black must act immediately to break up White's imposing center.) **5...c6 6 dxc6?** (Much better here is 6 d4 though Black equalizes readily enough after 6...Bb4+ 7 Nc3 cxd5) **6...Nxc6 7 d4 Bb4+** (Book here is 7...Bg4 which is probably better. Keres gives, for example, 8 d5 Bxf3 9 gxf3 (or 9 Qxf3 Nd4 10 Qd3 Bc5 followed by 0-0) 9...Bb4+ 10 Bd2 0-0! 11 dxc6 Re8+ 12 Be2 Ne4 and Black has a decisive attack. The drawback of the text move is that Black's attack will now proceed without the direct assistance of his queen bishop while White's king knight will be a tower of defensive strength.) **8 Bd2 Bxd2+ 9 Qxd2 0-0 10 d5?** (10 Nc3 is much better so as to defend e4 and, in some eventualities, to make possible castling on the queenside.) **10...Re8+ 11 Be2 Ne4 12 Qxf4 Qb6** (Black can win the exchange here by 12...Nb4 13 0-0 (best; if 13 Na3 Nc3! or 13 Qc1 Ng3!) 13...Qb6+ 14 Kh1 Nf2+ 15 Rxf2 Qxf2 but after 16 Nc3 White has considerable play plus a pawn as compensation. Note that Black cannot continue 16...Rxe2 17 Nxe2 Qxe2 because of 18 Re1 and White wins. Consequently, I decided to keep the White king in the center.) **13 dxc6 Qf2+?** (Contrary to my impression when the game was being played, 13...Qxb2 is better. At the time I thought that White could develop a dangerous counterattack by 14 0-0 but after 14...Qxa1 Black should beat back the attack and capitalize on his material advantage. The point is that either 15 Bd3 or 15 Nbd2 is met by 15...Qf6, while if White tries 15 Ne5 the reply 15...Nf6 holds everything thanks to the attack on White's advanced knight. The flaws in the text move will soon be apparent.) **14 Kd1 Rd8+ 15 Nbd2?** (This is the losing move. After 15 Kc1 Qxe2 16 Re1 White has a satisfactory game. Black must choose between 16...Qxc4+ 17 Nc3



f5 (not 17...Nd6 because of 18 Qxd6!) 18 Ng5; and 16...Nf2 17 Qxf7+! Kxf7 18 Rxe2 and in neither of these lines have I been able to see any way in which Black can secure a clear advantage. That is why my 13<sup>th</sup> move was a mistake, but, as Tartakower so aptly pointed out, it is the player who makes the next to the last mistake who wins.) **15...Rxd2+ 16 Qxd2** (There is nothing better.) **16...Nxd2 17 Nxd2 Bg4** (17...Qxg2 was simpler and better.) **18 Bxg4 Rd8 19 Be2** (Better was 19 Bd7 though Black wins easily enough: 19...bxc6 20 Re1 Kf8 21 Re2 Qg1+ 22 Re1 Qd4 etc. After the text move Black forces a quick mate.) **19...Qe3 20 Ke1 Rxd2 21 cxb7 Qxe2 mate 0-1**

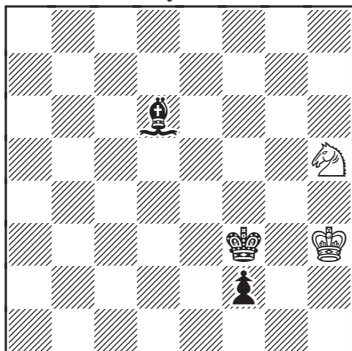
### CHARLES POWELL - IRWIN SIGMUND

#### 1964 VIRGINIA CLOSED

#### EVANS GAMBIT

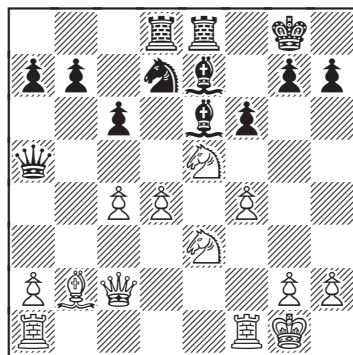
Charles Powell of the Richmond Chess Club was crowned champion with 6½ points out of a possible 7. Powell was the Junior Champion last year. The championship was decided in the last round. Powell, Richard Callaghan of Charlottesville and Irwin Sigmund of Arlington all had a chance to win the championship. Callaghan won his game and took second place in the tournament. Powell and Sigmund met in a head-on match for the championship. The game was an interesting one for both players and spectators. **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 b4 Bxb4 5 c3 Be7 6 d4 Na5 7 Nxe5 Nxc4 8 Nxc4 d5 9 exd5 Qxd5 10 Ne3 Qa5 11 0-0 Nf6 12 c4 0-0 13 Bb2 c6 14 Nd2 Be6 15 Qc2 Rad8 16 Nf3 Rfe8 17 Ne5 Nd7 18 f4 f6** Powell took 45 minutes before he made his next move. At that time he had only 15 minutes left on his clock, while Sigmund had about 45 minutes left on his.

#### STUDY BY CARL SLOAN Virginia Chess News Roundup January 1, 1958



*White to play and draw*

*(see page 50 for solution)*



**19 f5 fxe5 20 fxe6 Nf8 21 Qf5 Qd2 22 Qf7+ Kh8 23 Nf5 Nxe6 24 Bc1 Qc3 25 Rb1 Bf6 26 Rxb7 Nf4 27 Nh6 Nh3+ 28 gxh3 Qxd4+ 29 Rf2 1-0**



## Confidence Paid Dividend

*by Charles Ashworth, Richmond Times-Dispatch, March 10, 1964*

The national chess champion knocked his king on its side. Although he moves so quickly that he frequently knocks over pieces, in this case it was for keeps. His king stayed on its side and Robert Fischer of New York acknowledged defeat by resigning. The winner was Charles Powell, the Richmond chess champion.

The victory came last. Thursday at the Virginia Home here. Fischer came to Richmond to play chess with 50 Virginians simultaneously. Earlier in the evening, before the games started, Powell had fidgeted uneasily behind his card table. His black pieces were before him. The white were beside an aisle to be used by Fischer. The national champion arrived four hours late at 11:10 pm and gave a brief lecture on chess. At 11:40, the competition began, and, at 1:25 am Fischer acknowledged that Powell had beaten him.

Confidence had come to Powell during the game. Less than an hour after the match started, Fischer was willing to declare a draw. Powell decided to play on. "I just thought I could beat him. We both ended up attacking each other's king, and it was a question of who got the other guy's, king first."

More than an hour after the Powell victory, the games concluded with three last-minute victories by Virginians: S G Mathews of Charlottesville, Julian Allen of Richmond and Carl R Nichols of Richmond. Two other players, Bob Vassar and Jesse Burke, both of Richmond, achieved draws. Carl Stutz, a member of the club, later asked Fischer if such victories were common. Fischer indicated not, although, he said, there have been wins in several of his multi-game exhibitions.

Powell, 19, was graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School last June. He is now a freshman at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland. He plans to major in mathematics or physics. He learned chess from his father, B G Powell of 3106 Rendale Ave. He has been a member of the Richmond Chess Club for three years and is an avid promoter of the club. He ran through the winning game the other day for a reporter. While moving the pieces with great agility and rapidity he kept up a running commentary on the game, interspersed with plugs for the club. If it's not too much, Powell said, he would like the story to mention that the 1964 city championships will begin at 7 pm Saturday at the Virginia Home and will continue on Thursday and Saturday nights for two weeks.



*Virginia's Bobby Fischer ... the other Bobby Fischer. Yeah, he's probably heard that one before.*



RUSTY POTTER - R HAAS

1967 CAROLINAS OPEN

SICILIAN

*Notes by Rusty Potter*

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 c3 dxc3** (4...Nf6 is usually seen) **5 Nxc3 Nd7 6 Bc4 e6 7 Bf4 Qc7 8 Qe2 Ngf6 9 e5!? Nh5 10 Nb5 Qc6?** (10...Qb8 was much more solid) **11 Nfd4!** (I took over 30 minutes on my 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> moves. I was trying to visualize how I could win if I were two rooks behind! Finally I took the plunge...) **11...Qxg2 12 Qxh5 Qxh1+** (CHESS MASTER prefers the *zwischenzug* check 12...Qe4+ but I do not believe that this will save Black. After 13 Be3 the positions are basically the same as in the game. Although ahead in material, Black has an almost completely undeveloped army.) **13 Kd2 Qxa1** (Black is hungry today.) **14 Nc7+ Kd8** (if 14...Ke7 15 exd6+ Kd8 16 Ndx6+ fxe6 17 Qe8mate) **15 Ndx6+ fxe6** (if 15...Ke7 16 exd6+ Kf6 17 Qg5mate) **16 Nxe6+ Ke7 17 exd6+ Kf6 18 Qg5+ 1-0** Black resigned, knowing that after Kf7 the knight will deliver a pretty discovered mate on g7 or c7.

CHARLIE POWELL - JOHAN HANSEN

VIRGINIA CLOSED 1967

SICILIAN

Charlie Powell does it again! 6½ out of 7. For the fourth consecutive year Charlie has walked off with the state championship. What more can be said? Wait until next year! **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 e6 5 Nc3 d6 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Bd3 Be7 8 Qe2 Bd7 9 f4 Nxd4 10 Bxd4 Bc6 11 0-0-0 a6 12 e5 dxe5 13 Bxe5 Qa5 14 Kb1 Rc8 15 Ne4 Nd5 16 Nd6+ Bxd6 17 Bxd6 Qb6 18 Qe5 Ne7 19 f5 Qd8 20 fxe6 f6 21 Qh5+ g6 22 Qh6 f5 23 Qg7 Rf8 24 Ba3 Qc7 25 Bc4 Rd8 26 Qxh7 b5 27 Bxe7 Rxd1+ 28 Rxd1 bxc4 29 Rd8+ Qxd8 30 Bxd8 Kxd8 31 e7+ 1-0**

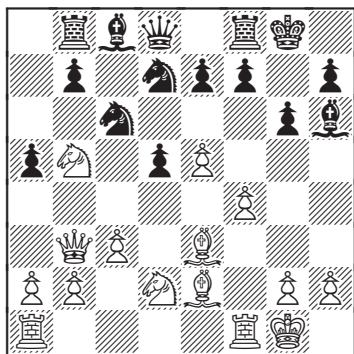
LEV BLONAROVYCH - ED KITCES

VIRGINIA CLOSED 1972

SICILIAN

*Notes by Ed Kitces*

(This is typical of my games with Lev: no real opening innovations but a tough, fascinating middlegame resulting in a time pressure scramble in which Lev's defensive prowess and endgame mastery prevailed. His chess style was unlike anyone else I've ever played. It seemed like I was able to get the kinds of position I love to play, but somehow the defending side of these positions were the sort he loved to play! I admired his unique talents.) **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 g6 5 Nc3 Bg7 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Bc4 Qa5 8 Nb3 Qc7 9 Be2 0-0 10 f4 d6 11 0-0 a5 12 Nd2 Rb8 13 Nb5 Qd8 14 c3 d5 15 e5 Nd7 16 Qb3 Bh6**



(Play gets very intricate hereabouts and naturally both sides get very short of time.)

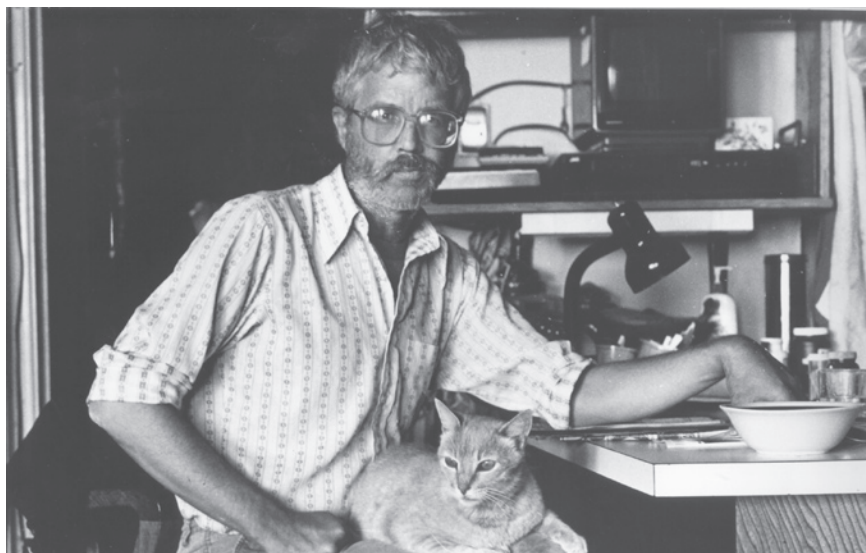
**17 Rf3 b6 18 Qxd5 Ndx5 19 Qxd8 Nxf3+ 20 Bxf3 Nxd8 21 Nc4 Ne6 22 g3 Nc5 23 a4 Nd7 24 Bc6 Nc5** (White had 20 minutes to Black's 9 for the remaining 26 moves. More pertinent is the active positioning of White's pieces. Black's dark-square bishop is totally inactive.) **25 Nxa5 bxa5 26 Bxc5 Bb7 27 Bxb7 Rxb7 28 Re1 Rc8 29 Bf2 Bf8 30 Rd1 Kg7 31 Kg2** (White begins the decisive king march.) **31...h5 32 Kf3 Rc4**

**33 b3 Rc8 34 c4 e6 35 Be1 Bb4 36 Bxb4 axb4 37 Nd6 Rd7 38 Nf5+ gxf5 39 Rxd7 Rb8 40 Ke3 h4 41 Kd4 h3 42 c5 Kf6 43 Kc4 1-0**



"Charlie Powell's achievements in chess were excellent from both sporting and creative points of view, and his Virginia chess achievements in particular were simply phenomenal. Seven times he won the state championship..."

— Rusty Potter [*Virginia Chess*, Jan/Feb 1992]



*Charlie Powell, circa 1989. Photograph by Barbara Landis, with special thanks to Lynne Murray Powell*





TONY LASTER - JIM ADDISON

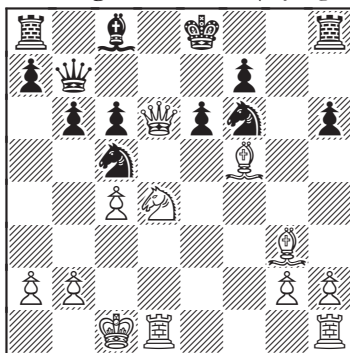
DANVILLE 1973

PIRC

*Notes by Tony Laster*

(Back in the early 1900s an American grandmaster named Frank Marshall was known as one of the world's best tacticians. Marshall referred to his brilliant games as swindles. Today, little has changed except the word "swindle" has been replaced by the word "cheapo". I myself am addicted to cheapos because of my early career as a high school player. One day my high school team went to another school for a match, and they had a demonstration board for the first board match. Boy, was I impressed! Anyway, I got White and the game proceeded 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 d6 4 Nc3 Bg4 5 Nxe5??! Bxd1?? 6 Bxf7+ Ke7 7 Nd5 *mate*. To say the least, my opponent, his teammates and about thirty spectators were shocked. They had never seen a queen sac before and assumed I was brilliant. Of course 5...Nxe5 wins a piece, but it didn't matter. I was hooked on cheapos...) 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 Bg5 h6 5 Bh4 Bg7 6 f4 c6 7 Nf3 Qc7 (This setup is Black's most recent try against the Byrne system.) 8 e5!? Nd5! 9 Ne4 Nd7 10 Bd3 dxe5? (Opening up this file is bad; better 10...0-0) 11 dxe5 Nf8 12 c4 Nb6 13 Nf6+ (Now the fun begins.) 13...Bxf6 (13...exf6 is bad because 14 exf6 wins the bishop and opens the files to Black's king.) 14 exf6 e6 (trying to keep the files closed) 15 Qd2 Nbd7 16 0-0-0 b6 17 Nd4 Bb7 18 f5! gxf5 19 Bxf5! (trying to pry open the file and get at the king) 19...Nc5 20 Qe3 Bc8? (20...0-0-0 is the only chance) 21 Bg3 Qb7 22 Qe5! (Black has no move to get his king out of the center) 22...Nfd7? (mate is now forced) 23 Qd6 Nxf6 (Jim thought he was home free with that cramping pawn gone but he is in for a surprise) *(diagram)*

24 Qd8+! (Jim was shocked. It's not often you sac a queen for nothing more than a double check) 24...Kxd8 25 Nxc6+ Ke8 26 Rd8 *mate* 1-0



CHARLIE POWELL - BOB VASSAR

BLITZ 1974

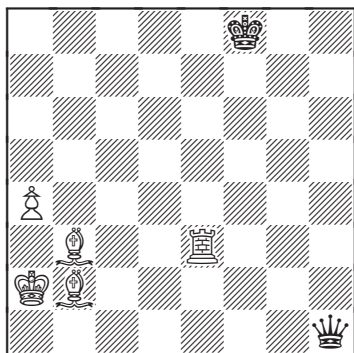
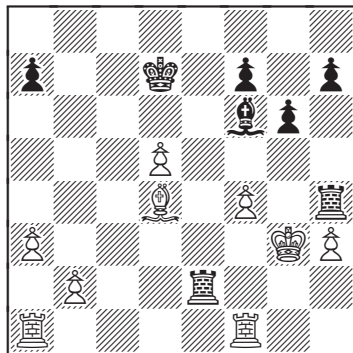
BENONI

*Notes by Steve Bookbinder*

(VCCF Sports Network is proud to be bringing you tonight's important 5-minute speed chess game between Charlie Powell, long-time holder of Virginia's coveted state championship title, and Robert Vassar, Powell's former mentor and coach. Hi everyone, this is Tom Rookfinder speaking to you from Monroe Towers



'Coliseum'. It's a beautiful night for chess and I'm sure you are as excited as I am about tonight's game. Powell said in the pre-game interview (in case you missed the report) that his basic strategy would be to throw his opponent off balance as early as possible. Vassar has labeled this "the grudge game of the decade," so I'm sure we're in for some exciting chess! Both contestants have now seated themselves at the board. Powell has won the coin toss and has chosen White; Vassar has started Powell's clock. We're ready to go!) **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4** (This is a surprise already, as Charlie is mainly an e4 man...) **2...c5 3 Nf3 e6 4 Nc3 Nc6** (A somewhat dubious idea here, as Bob wastes no time going out of the book!) **5 d5 exd5 6 cxd5 Nb4 7 a3 Na6 8 e4 d6 9 Bd3 Bg4** (If I have some time here I can mention that Black, by the order of moves he has chosen, has actually managed to lose an important tempo. Consider this move order: 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 e4 Na6 7 Nf3 Bg4 8 Bd3 with the same position except the pawn is still on a2 and it's Black's move.) **10 h3 Bh5 11 Qa4+ Nd7 12 e5** (A bold attacking gesture, but maybe something like 12 Nd2 followed by Nc4, Nb5 might be better.) **12...Bxf3 13 gxf3 dxe5 14 Bf5 g6 15 Bxd7+ Qxd7 16 Nb5 Bg7!? 17 Nd6+ Ke7 18 Qxd7+ Kxd7 19 Nxb7** (19 Nxf7 Rhf8 20 Ng5 Nc7 21 Be3±) **19...Rhe8 20 Be3 e4 21 fxe4 Rxe4 22 0-0 Rae8** (Black is throwing caution to the wind, as well as a pawn.) **23 Nxc5+ Nxc5 24 Bxc5 Rh4 25 Kg2 Re5 26 f4 Re2+ 27 Kg3 Bf6 28 Bd4** (Putting the question to Black's menacing pieces.) *(diagram)* **28...Bxd4!!** (What a brilliant move, sports fans! Powell's expression tells it all; the game has turned upside down. The place is going mad!) **29 Kxh4** (There is nothing left but to take the material before the end.) **29...Rg2!** (It's all over now, fans, it's all over! What a finish!) **30 f5 Bf6 mate 0-1**



MARK DIESEN – RUSTY POTTER  
EASTERN CHESS CONGRESS 1974

*Black to Play*  
*(position after 65 a4)*

**65...Qa1+!! ½-½**

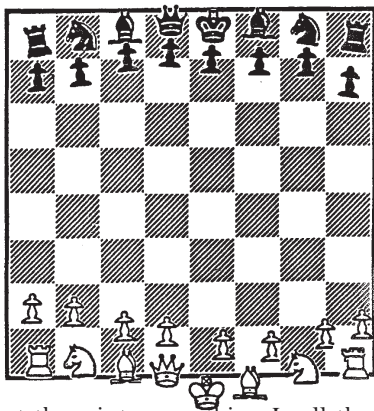


## Barney's Views On Chess

by Russell Chauvenet

Since our kittens came to us in 1979 we have had ample time to note the differences in their personalities, in spite of their nearly identical coloring. As I am fairly often to be found seated on the porch at my massive wooden chessboard with the rather large Staunton design pieces, the cats received a certain amount of exposure to the game. Billy soon concluded that it was of no interest to him. But Barney took a different view and came to enjoy joining me while I played over some game or did analysis. At first he would leap on the table and walk through the position (rarely upsetting any piece). Then, finding that I was focused on the board rather than himself, he would take to sitting down in the middle of the board, which occasionally dislodged pieces and always interrupted the flow of my thoughts. In such an event I would push the board a few inches to overhang the table and make room for Barney on my left side. Then Barney would either sit and look at the pieces or stretch out along the side of the table for a nap.

When Barney was looking at the pieces, he would note that I kept moving one or another and the spirit of the game would enter his soul. He would reach out a clever little paw and move one of the pieces himself. The independence of cat thought was illustrated by his scorn of FIDE rules, for as likely as not he would consider Ra1-b2 or Pa2-a1 as quite acceptable. One novelty he introduced was to shift the b1 knight into the four-way intersection b1-b2-c1-c2, a move for which I struggled in vain to come up with a satisfactory short notation.



When Barney is on the porch and I leave the pieces behind, set up for a new game, often I return later to find that he has reset them into something I call the Barney Position (see diagram). Barney's intuitively grasp of fundamental principles is clear from a study of this formation: he believes in occupying the center; and he puts the White king in a safe place when, obviously, Black cannot attack it. Disdainful of chess clocks and sure of safety, he takes a nap in the middle of the board and leaves this charming evidence behind.

[*Virginia Chess*, November/December 1993]



BOB VASSAR - BILL WIRTH

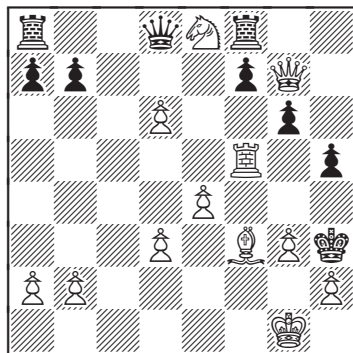
1975 VIRGINIA CLOSED

SICILIAN

The "Vassar Brilliancy" was played in Monday's 7<sup>th</sup> round and then replayed, to the enjoyment of many, in the skittles room. I have not tried to analyze the game, although a quick look at it would appear to indicate a few places where I failed to make the best move, and perhaps even a questionable move or two for Bob. This, however, is a game to be enjoyed, not analyzed. The thing to do is to play through the first 19 moves quickly and then watch as White chases the Black king from g7 to a mate nine moves later on h3, sacrificing in the process both rooks and finally his queen.

[Bill Wirth] 1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 Nge2 d6 6 0-0 e6 7 d3 Nge7 8 Be3 Nd4 9 Qd2 e5 10 f4 Bh6 11 fxe5 Bxe3+ 12 Qxe3 Nxc2 13 Qf4 0-0 14 exd6 Nc6 15 Nd5 Be6 16 Nf6+ Kg7 17 Rac1 N6d4 18 Nxd4 Nxd4 19 Qe5 h5 20 Ne8+ Kh6 21 Qg7+ Kg5 22 Rxc5+ Bf5 23 Rxcxf5+ Nxf5 24 Rxf5+ Kg4 25 Bf3+ Kh3 (diagram)

26 Rxh5+ gxh5 27 Qg4+ hxg4 28 Bg2mate 1-0

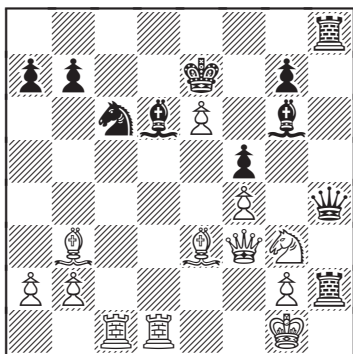


CHARLIE POWELL - JACK MAYER

CARO-KANN

VIRGINIA MASTERS/EXPERTS INVITATIONAL 1975

The first Virginia Masters/Experts Invitational ended at 8:30 Sunday evening, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1975 forty-eight hours after it began. If the tournament showed one thing, it is that Charlie Powell is still clearly the best in Virginia when it comes to chess. Although the heavy favorite before the tournament began, no one quite expected him to finish 5-0, two full points ahead of 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishers Matt



Cushing, Ed Kitces and Rusty Potter. 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 Bc4 Nf6 7 N1e2 Nd5 8 0-0 e6 9 f4 f5 10 Bb3 h5 11 c4 h4 12 cxd5 hxg3 13 dxe6 Rxh2 14 Nxg3 Qh4 15 Qf3 Na6 16 Be3 Bd6 17 Rac1 Ke7 18 d5 Rh8 19 dxc6 Nb4 20 Rfd1 Nxc6 (diagram)

21 Rxd6 Kxd6 22 Qd5+ Kc7 23 Rxc6+ bxc6 24 Qd7+ Kb8 25 Bxa7+ Ka8 26 Qxc6+ Kxa7 27 Qc7+ 1-0



## The 1976 US Open

by “*Felix Australis*” (Richard O’Keeffe)

“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings.” (Proverbs xxii.29). The 77th US Open at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., attracted 566 entrants, six grandmasters among them, received an overwhelming good press from the media and fulfilled the fondest expectations of the local sponsors, Virginia Chess Federation. This second largest US Open in the history of the event scored several firsts: The local sponsor was a State affiliate with specific contract with US Chess Federation. The Fairfax US Open is also the first time a University has been host to the event. Finally among the firsts, the local sponsor was able to broadcast by closed circuit television the first half of the tournament’s top board games (see below for players’ reactions to this first).

An extremely strong US Open commenced Sunday August 15, 1976, with 36 master level players and up in the field of 566 entrants. The top six boards were sequestered in a special conference room; closed circuit tv, operated by George Mason University’s Media Services, broadcast pictures of the demonstration Boards (four were all USCF sent, so top boards were rotated in coverage nightly) to one floor below where visitors and hooky playing contestants at the other 280 boards could follow the action remotely, play out variations, yell & scream, rattle potato chip sacks, and watch the masters’ games move by move. Two cameras displayed for remote monitors the demonstration boards while another camera zoomed in and out on the overboard play. Not enough, or rather a technical breakthrough without required warning to too many at the Open. Doris Thackery, USCF Policy Board Member and IM [*sic*] Jerry Hanken were the most articulate critics of this “undemocratic segregation.” A small host of players/visitors protested bitterly, but Dick O’Keeffe, US Open Committee Chairman, persisted in the “innovation” during the tournament’s first week. He could not see what advantage accrued to the tournament of the spectators’ “garlic proximity” to the top board players. And too, he argued, the remote monitors permitted unchecked talking, bag rattling, overboard and on-screen analysis in the Main Lounge. Still, the protests redoubled, embittered at the “sacrosanct status of the Grandmasters and their opponents” each night. The GMs themselves who at first had been rather favorably disposed to the arrangement became somewhat intimidated by their “public.” Some direct action disciple articulated his/her/their criticism of the segregation by ripping cables out of the backs of monitors, and on one occasion by snipping a (dead) tv cable. Vox populi, vox Caissae. By Sunday August 22nd an emergency meeting of the VCF/US Open Committee decided that the budget could not include replacement of the rather expensive tv equipment.





One felt the cheery presence of Jack Collins and his gracious sister Ethel, greeting GMs and some of the maestro's proteges, seemingly omnipresent. His favorite spot was the Study Lounge, a large hall where the "next 80 boards" had plenty of room, light and carpeted playing room. But the "fish" and opponents were not exiled to outer darkness at the Open. The sound of almost 200 chess clocks ticking in the New Cafeteria downstairs struck Felix as not unlike "the buzzing of a distant swarm of bees."

A no smoking tournament, this US Open, another first ... this first Open in the Old Dominion, turned out to be not as difficult as VCF had anticipated. VCF officialdom (Felixque) yet believe that given adequate ventilation, the decision as to smoking/no smoking in the playing area should be left to tournament organizers. But "noble experiments in prohibition" live on, and ... Roma locuta ...

The workshops, the parties, the meetings, the necessary distraction of twelve rounds of good Swiss System chess are insufficient for the true chess buff (Man does not live by rating points alone). VCF provided a ceaseless menu of daytime special events for all those not so jaded they went off to see the sights of Washington: Quick Quad Days; Speed Chess Championships; weekend Swisses, and a penultimate special event, something called the "\$\$ 30/30." But the first and last of the special events (directed by Frank Rollins) were GM Arthur Bisguier's heroic six hours Simul (8/16); GM Lubomir Kavalek's simul (8/28), he just back from placing 2nd at Montilla (no, Felix is sad to report: The tourney in Spain was NOT held in a wine cellar; rather in an air conditioned discotheque), and President Elect (of USCF) George Koltanowski's ever fantastic "An Evening with Kolty."

Such, schlock fans, was the article Felix submitted summarizing the 1976 US Open in Fairfax, to *Chess Life & Review*. The halcyon month of August of the bicentennial year preserves much much more in Felix's journals. A random listing of topics covered: Heuer clock with engraved plate expressing thanks to Felix, presented at end of Tourney; The six "tournament director's chairs" now at Oakcrest School in Washington; Anatoly Lein's addiction to papirosi in the corridors; Woody Harris' stamp exhibition; Joseph McLellan's play in the Open and his magnificent page one Style Section summary of the Open in Washington Post 8/28/76; the after midnight call to Judge Deierhoi's Court so that a young chess player who'd been living al fresco (apparently in a bed of *Rhus toxicodendron*) could be treated at Commonwealth Doctor's Hospital, for poison ivy, since we couldn't get parents in Cleveland on phone; Henry Tennenbaum of Channel 9 came out with full camera crew 8/16/76, which filming was shown on "Eyewitness News" that night, interview with Joel Benjamin, vignettes of Arthur Bisguier's simul, plus 30 seconds of a lightning wipeout of Henry T. by Joel Benjamin (same program played 1300 8/17/76); visit of Dr. Edward Lasker to Felix's house, two nights,



from thence the grand old man of US chess is going to Outer Banks to visit his friend Huntington Cairns; Ed Albaugh's first installment in Washington Star with picture of Lein-Ballinas game in Round 1; Sarah Hansard's article in Washington Post p. C-1, 8/17/76, "Amateurs seek to upset Grandmasters of chess;" US Open Program (18 p., Richmond, Copycat Printers) stock is quickly exhausted; Pablo's sideline of Viggiano postal chess boards; Dr. Lasker asks if he can watch top boards from close up ... in the verboten ground of broadcast studio ... Felix becomes Solomonic: "Dr. Lasker, I am appointing you assistant page to Mr. (Sal) Rosario; please assume your duty station: if Mr. R. should collapse, faint, or otherwise wilt, you will assume his duties..."; Scraps from the Open, Karl E. Peterson (White) 1466 vs. F. Harris (Black) 1679: 1 Nf3 d5 2 g3 Nc6 3 Bg2 e5 4 d3 Nf6 5 0-0 h6 6 c3 Bc5 7 Nbd2 0-0 8 c4 d4 9 Nb3 Be7 10 e3 Rb8 11 Re1 Re8 12 exd4 exd4 13 Bf4 Be6 14 Ne5 Bd7 15 Nxc6 Bxc6 16 Be5 Bxg2 17 Kxg2 Bb4 18 Re2 b5 19 Nxd4 Rxe5 20 Nc6 resigns; Woody Harris, fresh and grateful from his discovery of Picco's pizza, is Felix's bodyguard in all night game of Botticelli at Bob's House of Beef, where the cromo is A.A. Brill (1874-1948): "Brevis esse laboro, obscurus fio," When I struggle to be brief, I become obscure — Horace Ars Poetica, 25.

[from *The Brief History of the George Mason University Chess Club*]

RICHARD DELAUNE - STEVE BOOKBINDER

VIRGINIA OPEN 1975

PIRC

Notes by Tony Laster

Undoubtedly the most exciting game at the Virginia Open was the last round pairing of Delaune vs Bookbinder. The winner would most likely get a share of 1<sup>st</sup> prize. But more than money was on the line: Delaune won the Virginia Closed and is the state champion while Bookbinder won the title the year before. So pride was at stake in a game that everyone wanted to see. **1 Nf3 g6 2 e4 Bg7 3 d4 d6 4 c3 Nf6 5 Nbd2 0-0 6 Bd3 b6 7 0-0 c5 8 Qe2 Qc7** (Black's setup is the Bronstein variation, which gives good chances against White's "Geller Quiet System", although it's a tough game for both sides.) **9 Re1 e6 10 Nf1 Bb7 11 Ng3 Nc6 12 Bd2 e5 13 d5?! Ne7** (White is now committed to a strategy of queenside play while Black will attack on the kingside; it seems the latter's pieces are better placed for the ensuing struggle) **14 h3?** (weakening) **Ne8 15 c4 f5 16 Ng5 f4! 17 Nf1** (17 Ne6 fxg3 18 Nxc7 gxf2+ wins either two pieces for a rook or two knights and rook for the queen) **17...Bc8 18 Nf3** (admitting his mistake) **Nf6 19 b4 h6 20 Reb1 g5 21 N3h2 h5 22 f3 Rf7 23 Qd1 Bf8** (Black's attack is developing logically while White has wasted time; I think 23...Bf8 is not as good as 23...Bh8 because if the latter the other rook could come into play better via the



f-file, but in the game it didn't matter) **24 Bc3 Rg7 25 Nd2 Ng6 26 Be2 Nh4 27 Kf1 Qf7?** (It seems that White is just playing without a plan while Black builds up his forces. Here Steve misses 27...Bxh3! Which destroys the White position, but both players are in deep time trouble. The situation is very tense as everyone crowds around...) **28 bxc5 bxc5 29 Rb3 Bxh3!** (Steve finally sees the shot while in time pressure, but Rich is in time pressure also — and it's easier to attack in time trouble than to defend!) **30 gxh3 Qd7! 31 Kf2** (This is tantamount to suicide. It would seem White has to try 31 Ng4, returning the piece, to have any chance at all) **31...Qxh3 32 Ndf1** (32 Qg1 is better but after 32...g4 White still has problems) **32...g4!** (This destroys White's position. Delaune finally blunders, although the threat ...g3 was unstoppable anyway) **33 fxg4? Nxe4+ 0-1** The mate after 34 Ke1 Ng2 is very unusual. Seldom have two knights been prettier.

**RICHARD DELAUNE - KEN HOLROYD**  
**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY OPEN 1975**  
**SICILIAN**

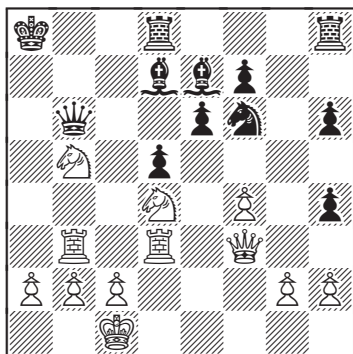
*Notes by Richard Delaune*

For the last round of the GMU Open I had 3½ points and had to face frontrunner Ken Holroyd, who had a perfect 4-0 score. I had to play for a win at all costs so I played aggressively. However... **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Be7 8 Qf3 Qc7 9 0-0-0 Nbd7 10 Bd3 h6 11 Bh4 g5 12 e5 gxh4 13 exf6 Nxf6 14 Rhe1 Bd7 15 Re3 0-0-0 16 Bxa6!?** (Not much comment up to this point except to say that earlier in the tournament I nearly had a bad accident in my game with Don Barr playing 1 Nf3 and therefore I chose here the quieter



*Jules Zell, founding father  
of the Virginia Open tournament*

and safer 1 e4) **16...d5!?** (16...bxa6 has been played, after which 17 Qa8+ drew in Delaune-Potter, as did 17 Ncb5! In Kitces-Cossette. However, the line is by no means drawish by nature. After 16...d5 White should play 17 Bb5! But I was in a wild mood.) **17 Ncb5?! Qb6 18 Bxb7+** (18 Rc3+ might be more flexible but if Black plays Kb8!, and not 18...Bc5? 19 b4 Ne4? 20 bxc5! Qxa6 21 Ra3, we get the game continuation after 19 Bxb7 etc) **18...Kxb7 19 Rb3 Ka8** (Best. Now White's attack is almost over. Rather than take the draw my opponent cunningly offered, though, I played...) **20 Rdd3** (...with the "threat" of Ra3+)



prevent *Qa5 mate*) **24...Qxf4+** **25 Kb1 Qb8** **26 Rxb8+ Rxb8** **27 Qa5+ Kb7** **28 Rd3 Rbg8** **29 Rb3+ Kc8** **30 Qa6+ Kc7** **31 Qb6+ 1-0** Ken Holroyd is probably the best high schooler playing in Virginia chess right now. I was lucky this time — but next time?

**20...Ne4?** (20...Rc8 allows White nothing. My plan was 21 Nd6??! Qxd6 22 Ra3+ but after 22...Kb8! The king escapes. Hopefully I would have instead played a continuation like simply 21 a4 where Black will consolidate with a later ...Ne4 and doubling on the c-file if he doesn't get to careless.) **21 Nc3!** (I guess Ken overlooked my 24<sup>th</sup> move) **21...Qa5** **22 Nxe4 Qe1+** (22...dxe4 is better but White has enough for the piece anyhow: 23 Qxe4+ Qd5 24 Qe1!) **23 Rd1 Qxe4** (or 23...dxe4 24 Qh5! +-) **24 Qc3** (Now all the rest is forced to

## Chess Offers No Excuses

*by Sydney J Harris*

The real reason chess has languished as a national pastime is that it possesses absolutely no factor of luck or accident; and most of all, there is no one and nothing but yourself to blame if you do badly. How can such a game ever be popular? We go through life blaming our inadequacies on other people, cursing our bad luck, identifying our errors with "accident"... The chess player is forced to accept the full personal responsibility for the caliber of his game. When he loses, it is always his own fault. His thickness of skull is nakedly exposed on the board with every move, and there is no way he can deny it.

I gave up the game for several years because I could not take this strain. After a match, I would lie awake at night and reconstruct my losing game on the ceiling, swearing at my stupidity. It is a terrible blow to one's self esteem. When I resumed playing, I was emotionally reconciled to the fact that I shall always be mediocre, and that a bright boy of 15 with a flair for the game could make me look like an absolute bonehead. This attitude hasn't improved my chess, but I like to think it has given me a deeper sense of self-honesty and has clipped away some of the perilous false pride that has prevented chess from winning a wider audience.

[*VCF Yearbook*, 1953]



## CHARLIE POWELL - RUSTY POTTER

EDINBURG OPEN 1975

SICILIAN

*Notes by Charlie Powell*

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bc4 e6 7 Bb3 Be7** (7...b5 may be better so as to put immediate pressure on White's king pawn.) **8 f4 0-0 9 Qf3 Qc7 10 f5 e5 11 Nde2 b5 12 g4!? b4 13 g5 bxc3 14 Nxc3** (Is the piece sacrifice sound? After 14...Nfd7 15 Nd5 Qd8 16 Rg1 Kh8 a position results in which White certainly does have an initiative. Such a position abounds in cheapo potential (*a la* Ed Kitces!) Black probably does best by declining the sacrifice.) **14...Bb7 15 gxf6 Bxf6 16 h4 Nd7 17 Bg5 Rfc8 18 Qh5 Qa5** (18...d5 is really intriguing. For example, 19 Nxd5 Bxd5 20 Bxd5 Qxc2 21 Qxf7+ Kh8 22 Qxd7 Qxb2 23 0-0 Rc3 and Black may very well win. Of course there are many other possibilities for White.) **19 0-0-0 Rxc3 20 Qxf7+ Kh8 21 bxc3** (In view of the shots that Black got, much better would have been 21 Bxf6 Nxf6 22 Qxb7 Rcc8 23 Rhg1 Qc7 24 Qxc7 Rxc7 25 Rxd6 Nxe4 with a slight endgame advantage for White.) **21...Qxc3 22 Kb1 Bxe4 23 Bxf6 Nxf6 24 Rhg1 Nh5** (24...Rg8) **25 f6** (If 25 Qxh5 Bxc2+ 26 Bxc2 Rb8+ 27 Kc1 Qe3+ 28 Rd2 Qxg1+ 29 Qd1 Qc5 and though Black is material down, he has tactical shots. Actually I missed 28 Qd1 and thought I had to play Rd1 allowing Black a perpetual check.) **25...g6 26 Rg4 Bf5?** (26...Qf3 27 Rxd6 Qxg4 28 Rd7 Bxc2+ 29 Kb2 (if 29 Kxc2; 29 Bxc2) 29... Qxd7 30 Qxd7 Bxb3 31 axb3 Nxf6 32 Qe7 Nh5 33 Qxe5+ Ng7 34 Qd5 Rb8 35 Qd6 and White wins the a-pawn. This is all post mortem analysis and there is no telling what actually would have happened if Black had played 26...Qf3. After the game's 26...Bf5 White's rooks quickly penetrate and decide the issue.) **27 Rc4 Qf3 28 Rxd6 Rb8 29 Rc7 Rxb3+ 30 axb3 Bxc2+ 31 Kb2 Qxb3+ 32 Qxb3 Bxb3 33 Kxb3 Nxf6 34 Rxf6 Kg8 35 Rxa6** and Black lost on time **1-0**

## RUSSELL CHAUVENET - CHARLIE POWELL

DISTRICT III CHAMPIONSHIP 1977

KING'S INDIAN

*Notes by Russell Chauvenet*

(They tell me Powell won the Virginia championship seven times to my four. He defeated me 3½-½ in our five individual contests. That margin is mathematically the same as 7-3, which is remarkably close to the 7:4 title ration.) **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 0-0 6 Be3 e5 7 d5 Nbd7 8 Bd3 Nc5 9 Bc2 a5 10 b3?** (Wasting a tempo to defend a pawn that is never attacked.) **10...Nh5 11 Nge2 Nf4** (These aggressive knight moves surprised White.) **12 Nxf4 exf4 13 Bd4 Qh4+ 14 Ke2 f5 15 Bxg7 Kxg7 16 Qd4+ Kg8 17 e5 Re8 18 e6 Bxe6! 19 dxe6 Nxe6 20 Qd2 Nd4+ 21 Kd1 c5 22 Bd3 Re3 23 Nd5 Rae8! 24 Rb1 Kf7 25 Nc7 R8e7 26 Nb5 Nxb5 27 cxb5 d5 28 Kc2 b6 29 Rbc1 R7e5 30 a4 Qe7 31 Kb1 Kf8 32**





Rhd1 Qh4 33 Ka2 Qe7 34 Rc2 Kg7 35 Rf1? Qh4 36 h3 Qe7 37 Qc3 Kh6 38 Qd2 c4 39 bxc4 Rxd3! (another shock to White) 40 Qxd3 Re3 41 Rd1 (After long thought, in view of 41 Qd4? Qa3+ 42 Kb1 Rb3+ 43 Rb2 Rxb2+ 44 Qxb2 Qd3+ and now either 45 Ka2 Qxc4+ or 45 Qc2 Qxf1+ wins for Black. I mentally honored Powell for his devastating idea, and congratulated myself for figuring it out.) 41...Rxd3 42 Rxd3 Qb4 43 Rxd5 Qxa4+ 44 Kb2 Qb4+ 45 Ka2 a4 46 Rd3 Kg5 47 Rdd2 Qb3+ 48 Ka1 a3 49 Re2 Kh4 50 Red2 Kg3 51 Re2 g5 52 Red2 h5 53 Re2 g4 54 hxg4 hxg4 55 fxg4 fxg4 56 Red2 f3 57 gxf3 gxf3 58 Rf2 a2 59 Rb2 (59 Rxa2 Qd1+ 60 Kb2 Kxf2) 59...Qxc4 60 Rfc2 Qa4 61 Rd2 Kf4 62 Rdc2 Ke3 63 Rd2 Qa5 64 Rdc2 Qa4 65 Rh2 Qa5 66 Rhc2 f2 67 Rxf2 Qe1+ 68 Kxa2 Qxf2 69 Rxf2 Kxf2 70 Kb3 Ke3 ½-½ Black can win White's pawn but White draws by hanging around b3 until Black executes his capture and then occupying the key square straightaway, eg 71 Kc4 Ke4 72 Kc3 Kd5 73 Kb4 Kd4 74 Kb3 Kc5 75 Kc3 Kxb5 76 Kb3 =

WALTER MUIR - RICHARD DELAUNE

CORRESPONDENCE 1978

SICILIAN

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 f4 Nc6 7 Nxc6 bxc6 8 e5 Nd7 9 exd6 exd6 10 Be3 Be7 11 Be2 Nf6 12 0-0 0-0 13 Kh1 Re8 14 Qd2 d5 15 Bf3 Bf5 16 Rad1 a5 17 Na4 Rb8 18 Qf2 Ng4 19 Bxg4 Bxg4 20 Rde1 Bh4 21 g3 Bf6 22 Bb6 Qd7 23 Bxa5 d4 24 Nb6 Qf5 25 Qd2 Re3 26 Kg1 Rbe8 27 Nc4 Re2 28 Qd3 Qd5 29 Rxe2 Bxe2 30 Re1 Bxd3 31 Rxe8+ Kg7 32 cxd3 h5 (32...Qf3 also looks strong) 33 Re4 h4 34 g4 h3 35 Bb6 c5 36 Bc7? (This would seem to be some sort of oversight, as now Black wins material by a direct and forcing sequence.) 36... Qd7 37 g5 Qg4+ 38 Kf2 Qg2+ 39 Ke1 Qg1+ 40 Kd2 Qxh2+ 41 Re2 Qxe2+! (The point—White's double attack is ineffectual because Black can get a new queen.) 42 Kxe2 h2 43 gxf6+ Kg8 44 Kd2 h1Q 45 Kc2 Qg2+ 46 Nd2 Qc6 47 Be5 Qa4+ 48 Nb3 Kh7 49 Kc1 Qb5 50 Kc2 g5 51 fxg5 c4 52 Bxd4 cxb3+ 0-1



*Eugene Meyer, International Master  
and 1990 State Champion*



## Virginia State Champions

1934	John N Buck	1970	Ed Kitces
1935	W W Gibbs	1971	Charles Powell
1936	John D Matheson	1972	Charles Powell
1937	W W Gibbs	1973	Steven Bookbinder
1938	W F O'Hara	1974	Richard Delaune
1939	W W Gibbs	1975	Richard Delaune
1940	John N Buck	1976	Charles Powell
1941	Edgar McCormick	1977	Alan Rufty
1942	L Russell Chauvenet	1978	Donald Barr
1946	L Russell Chauvenet	1979	Donald Barr
1947	L Russell Chauvenet	1980	Donald Connors
1948	L Russell Chauvenet	1981	Richard Delaune
1949	Leonard Helman	1982	William Robinson
1950	Leonard Helman	1983	Edward Kitces
1951	Rodney Baine	1984	Errol Liebowitz
	Walter Bass	1985	Richard Delaune
1952	Herbert Avram	1986	Edward Kitces
1953	Herbert Avram	1987	Geoff McKenna
1954	Herbert Avram	1988	Geoff McKenna
1955	Leonard Morgan	1989	Walter Morris
1956	E O Godbold	1990	Eugene Meyer
1957	Irwin Sigmund	1991	Bill Mason
1958	Irwin Sigmund	1992	John Russell Potter
1959	Andrew Schoene	1993	Macon Shibut
1960	Owen E Miller	1994	Joseph Feygelson
1961	Irwin Sigmund	1995	Geoff McKenna
1962	Lawrence King	1996	Geoff McKenna
1963	Henry Steinbach	1997	Steve Greanias
1964	Charles Powell	1998	E Rodney Flores
1965	Charles Powell	1999	Macon Shibut
1966	Charles Powell	2000	Daniel Miller
1967	Charles Powell	2001	Rusty Potter
1968	R S Callaghan Jr	2002	Macon Shibut
1969	Rusty Potter	2003	Daniel Miller
		2004	Daniel Miller

notes:

- (i) no tournament was held during war years 1943-5
- (ii) co-champions recognized in 1951 as part of shift to closed championship



ROB CALE - ERROL LIEBOWITZ

1982 VIRGINIA MASTERS-EXPERTS INVITATIONAL

SICILIAN

*Notes by Errol Liebowitz*

(This was a fascinating game. I obtained easy equality in the opening, but then White built up a dangerous attack on the queenside, forcing my king to retreat back towards the center. Then White seemed to lose the thread while I gradually improved the position of my pieces. In time pressure I won a pawn and crashed through on the kingside.) **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 a6 5 Be3?! Nf6 6 Nc3 Bb4 7 Bd3 Qc7 8 Ne2 Nc6** (8...d5 is probably equal but I was interested in the advantage.) **9 a3 Be7 10 Bf4 d6 11 0-0 Bd7 12 Ng3 h5!?** (double-edged) **13 Be2 h4 14 Nh5 Nxb5 15 Bxb5 0-0-0 16 a4!** (I had overlooked this move when I played 12...h5) **16...g5 17 Be3 Ne5 18 Be2! Rdg8 19 Ra3!** (Threatening the knight sac on b5 or d5. Black's king is no longer safe on the queenside.) **19...Kd8! 20 Rb3 Ke8 21 Bb6 Qc8 22 Bd4 Bc6 23 Bg4** (23 f4 deserves consideration) **23...Qc7 24 Bb6 Qb8 25 Bd4 Bf6** (threatening Nxg4) **26 Be2 Qc7 27 Bb6 Qe7 28 Ba5 Nd7 29 Bb4** (29 Nd5!? is a fascinating move. Black cannot accept the sac: 29...exd5 30 exd5 Bxa4 31 Rxb7 and the bishop is trapped. In this line 30...Bxd5 31 Qxd5 Qxe2 fails to 32 Re3+). The attempt to win the exchange is also dangerous after 29...exd5 30 exd5 Nc5 31 dxc6 Nxb3 32 c7! Best is 29...Bxd5 30 exd5 Nc5 with good play.) **29...Be5 30 Ra3 (30 Nd5 Bxd5 31 exd5 Nc5) 30...Nc5 31 Bd3 Qf6 32 Ne2? (32 Qg4) 32...Bxb2 33 Ra2 Be5 34 c4 h3 35 g3 Qf3 0-1**

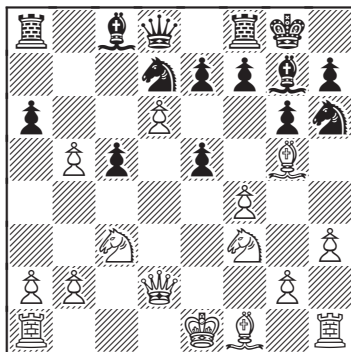
ALAN RUFTY - ED KITCES

1983 VIRGINIA CLOSED

KING'S INDIAN

*Notes by Ed Kitces*

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Bg5 Nbd7** (5...h6 is more usual and probably better) **6 f4** (White establishes a massive center and sets the central theme of the game. The development of the queen's bishop on g5 is new to me and is double-edged.) **6...0-0 7 Nf3 c5 8 d5 b5** (The first attempt at undermining the center is a Benko Gambit-like approach.) **9 cxb5 a6 10 e5!** (Sharpest; the central pawn roller starts moving.) **10...Ng4** (10...Ne8 is too passive) **11 Qd2 dxe5 12 h3 Nh6** (12...e4?! 13 hxg4 exf3 14 gxf3 followed by Qh2 +/-) **13 d6** (A crucial point in the game. The White strategy of B on g5 and a central pawn advance seems to have triumphed, but Black has resources...)





**13...exf4! 14 dxe7 Re8 15 Nd5!** (Beautiful. Threatens 16 0-0-0 or 16 Bxh6 Bxh6 17 Nf6+! Nxf6 18 Qxd8) **15...Bb7 16 0-0-0 Qc8** (16...Qb8? 17 Bxf4) **17 Qxf4 Nf5 18 Nc7 h6!** (A strong counter. White had only a couple minutes left on his clock; Black had about 10) **19 Nxe8! hxg5 20 Nd6** (keeps the exchange and threatens e8Q) **20...Qc7 21 Nxc5 Ne5!** (Combining attack with defense; if 22 e8Q+ Rxe8 23 Nxe8 Nd3+ followed by ...Qxf4. 22 Nxf5 s met similarly. 22 Qd2 may be best as Nxd6 is menaced.) **22 Ngxf7 Nxf7 23 Bc4 Bh6 24 Bxf7+ Kh7!** (24...Kg7 25 e8N+!) **25 Bxg6+?** (time pressure; 25 Qxh6+!) **25...Kxg6 26 Qxh6+ Nxh6 27 e8Q+ Rxe8 28 Nxe8 Qf4+ 29 Rd2 Be4 30 Nd6 Bd3 31 Re1 Qxd6 32 Re3 c4 33 b3 Nf5** (Threatening ...Qd4; White resigned as his flag fell.) **0-1**

**WILSON GIBBONS - ERROL LIEBOWITZ**

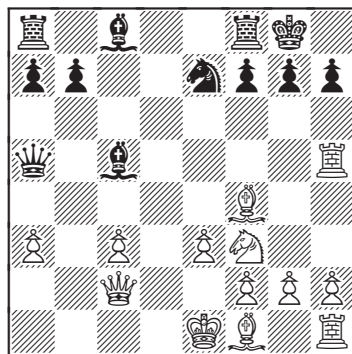
**1989 VIRGINIA OPEN**

**QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED**

*Notes by Errol Liebowitz*

**1 c4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bf4 Be7 5 e3 0-0 6 Nf3 c5 7 dxc5 Bxc5 8 Qc2** (White has the option here of initiating sharp play by the text move or opting for the more positional lines arising after 8 cxd5. I was pleased that Wilson chose the second course as it is harder to generate winning chances when White chooses the positional route.) **8...Nc6 9 Rd1 Qa5 10 a3 Ne4?!** (I had forgotten the theoretical lines after 10...Be7, which had received intense scrutiny during and after the Korchnoi-Karpov world championship match of 1979. 10...Re8 also had been explored in that match but found lacking. Thus, I was attracted to the text move, which I had never seen analyzed. In researching the move after the game I ran across a reference to it in the New In Chess Keybook, which gave?! citing the game Chehoy-Azmaiparashvili, USSR 1981. That game continued 11 cxd5 exd5 12 Rxd5 Nxc3 13 bxc3 Qxa3 14 Ng5 g6 15 Bc4 Bf5. By transposition this position had been reached in the earlier game Portisch-Berger, Amsterdam 1964. Berger played the weaker 15...Nd8, which lost brutally to 16 Nxh7 Kxh7 17 Rh5+ Kg7 18 Be5+ f6 19 Rg5! In Chehoy-Azmaiparashvili White sacrificed the exchange with 16 Rxf5 gxf5 with excellent compensation, although the game eventually ended in a draw.) **11 cxd5 exd5 12 Rxd5 Nxc3 13 bxc3 Ne7** (It seems to me that this is a significant improvement over 13...Qxa3. Black cannot afford to leave his kingside undefended. The text shifts the knight over to assist.) **14 Rh5** (diagram)

**14...Bf5!** (Gibbons pointed out a rather elegant mating attack after 14...g6? 15 Ng5 Bf5 16 Rxh7! Bxc2 17 Be5 f6 18 Bc4+ Rf7 19 Bxf7+ Kf8 20 Ne6mate. The text had been my





intention all along, but when I reached the position I spent a long time assessing the complications arising from both it and 14...g6. Gibbons mistook my long thought as a sign of desperation, and he played his next two moves hastily.) **15 Rxf5 Nxf5 16 Qxf5** (Much of my thought had been on the consequences of 16 Bd3, which would have led to a position where White appears to have compensation for the exchange. The text leads to great difficulties for White.) **16...Qxc3+ 17 Ke2 Qc4+ 18 Qd3 Qa2+ 19 Qd2 Qxa3** (Materially White stands slightly ahead but he suffers from a lack of development. Consequently, Black has the advantage.) **20 Ne5** (20 Be5 is a major alternative, planning on covering d4, In response Black would play 20...Rfd8 and an eventual Rac8. The interested reader might want to use the position as an exercise in analysis.) **20...Rad8** (With the knight on e5 Black's f7 can become vulnerable in variations such as 20...Rfd8 **21 Qc2 Rac8 22 Qf5!**) **21 Nd3** (If now **21 Qc2 Rc8** threatening to uncover an attack on the queen.) **21...Rd5 22 Qc2 Rfd8 23 Nxc5 Rxc5** (Now Black is winning. White's kingside pieces are unable to get out to assist in defending their king.) **24 Qe4 g5!** (a calculated loosening of Black's position to win material) **25 Bg3 Qa2+!** (This necessary intermezzo protects the Black king along the g1-a7 diagonal and anticipates the following move.) **26 Kf3 f5 27 Qxb7 Qa4?!** (This in fact wins, but I missed White's response. Otherwise I might have found 27...g4+ **28 Kf4 Qe6 29 Bh4 Qe5+ 30 Kg5 f4+** with mate to follow, as pointed out to me by Gary McGowan.) **28 Bf4 gxf4 29 Be2 Rcd5 30 Qb1 fxe3 31 fxe3 Rd2 32 Re1** (It is amazing how many resources White's position contains. He remains materially and positionally lost, but the open Black king makes it imperative that Black be precise in order to avoid a counterattack.) **32...Re8 33 Kf2 f4 34 Kg1 Rxe3** (This clinches the win. White has only a few harmless checks.) **35 Qb8+ Kg7 36 Rc1** (On **36 Qb7+ Kh6** there is no follow-up.) **36...Rxe2 37 Rc7+ Rd7 38 Rc1 Qd1+ 0-1** A very enjoyable game, although a little hair-raising towards the end.

**BILL MASON - RICHARD CALE**

**RICHMOND OPEN 1989**

**BENONI**

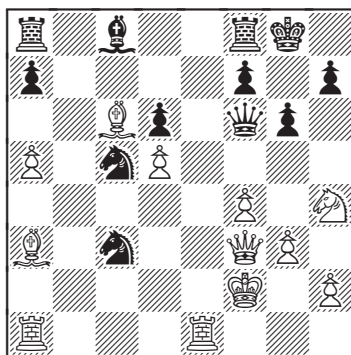
*Notes by Bill Mason*

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 e4 g6 7 f4 Bg7 8 Bb5+ Nfd7 9 a4 Qh4+ 10 g3 Qe7** (Black's maneuver Q-h4-e7 weakens White's kingside but costs valuable time. The queen used to retreat all the way back to d8 where it doesn't interfere with the eventual attack on White's e-pawn by Re8 and Nf6. In truth, however, the queen is better placed on e7 since any successful attack on the e-pawn must come immediately. Also, the Black rook often needs to help protect f7 anyway.) **11 Nf3!** (This sacrifice is best as Black's weakened kingside and awkward queen position can be exploited.) **12...Bxc3+** (If Black does not accept the challenge, 0-0, Re1 and e5 will crush him.) **12 bxc3 Qxe4+ 13 Kf2 0-0**





(13...Kd8 has not been tried, though after the simple 14 Bb2 White is much better.)  
**14 Re1 Qf5 15 Nh4?** (Better is 15 Bf1 Nf6 16 c4 with a strong attack coming on the dark squares. The Black queen must be kept out of h3. I did not think that an attack on my kingside could succeed, but this was a questionable assumption.)  
**15...Qf6?** (15...Qh3 looks dangerous, as Black's queen is almost trapped by 16 Bf1 Qxh2+ 17 Bg2 Nf6 18 Rh1 but then 18...Ne4+ 19 Ke3 Qxg3+ 20 Kxe4? Re8 *mate*. So after 15...Qh3 best for White is 16 Kg1 Nf6 17 Qd2! Guarding h2 and e3 and intending Bf1, c4, Bb2 and Qc3. Black would have counterplay but I still prefer White.)  
**16 Qf3 Na6! 17 Bb2 c4!** (Before this move I thought the game would soon be over. Lines such as 17...Nc7 18 Re2! Nxb5 19 axb5 Nb6 20 c4 Qd8 21 Qc3 f6 22 Qc2 Bd7? (22...Rf7 hangs on) 23 Nxb6! hxb6 24 Qxg6+ Kh8 25 Re4! Threatening f5 and Rg4/h4 leave Black helpless. But the text infuses his knights with life.)  
**18 Bxc4 Nac5! 19 a5?** (The surprising 19 Ra2 is probably best. If then 19...Nb6 20 Bf1 Nbx4 21 Ba1 keeps the initiative. I saw Black's next move but didn't evaluate it properly.)  
**19...b5!** (I thought this was a mistake with ...Nb6 impossible, but there are other avenues for the Black knights.)  
**20 Bf1** (Clearly not 20 Bxb5? Rb8; or 20 Ba2?? Nd3+)  
**20...Na4 21 Ba3 Ndc5!** (better than 21...Rb8 22 Rac1 ±)  
**22 Bxb5 Nxc3! 23 Bc6** (*diagram*)  
**23...Qd4+?** (Black blunders at the game's climax! The position is complicated but Black should be winning because the Nh4 is so poorly placed. So 23...Rb8, when 24 Bxc5?! Rb2+! 25 Kg1 (25 Kf1 Ba6+) dxc5 26 Rac1 (what else?) Qd4+! 27 Kh1 Qd2 28 Ng2 Bg4 wins; or 24 Rac1 Qd4+! 25 Kg2 Nd3 (better than 25...N5e4 26 Rc2!) 26 Red1 Ba6 with a commanding position.)  
**24 Qe3!** (The rest was reasonably easy to calculate. Black has too many pieces hanging.)  
**14...Nd3+ 25 Kg1 Nxe1 26 Rxe1 Qxe3+ 27 Rxe3 Nd1 28 Re1 Bg4 29 Bxa8 Rxa8 30 h3! 1-0**



*At the VCU Chess Club  
in Richmond circa 1975*



## Legendary Morphy Artifact Found In Virginia

by John T Campbell

Shortly after the onset of the American Civil War, in October 1861, Paul Morphy visited Richmond. It has long been assumed that Morphy, recently returned from his chess triumphs in Europe, came to the Confederate capital to offer his services to General Pierre G T Beauregard, a family friend (although Morphy had previously espoused some pro-union sentiments).

It is known that Morphy visited the Richmond Chess Club on October 24, winning eight of ten games at knight odds. Some years later, State Chess Association of Virginia president Gilbert R Frith related that Morphy also attended a dinner with other local players at the Richmond home of a Reverend R R Howison, and that during the meal Morphy's attention was drawn to a picture on the wall of a young man playing chess versus Mephistopheles. The youth had the White pieces (styled as Virtues) in a desperate-looking position. The Devil was depicted as gloating behind a perceptibly greater Black (Vices) army. Nevertheless Morphy, after studying the position, declared that he could take the young man's side and win. The consensus of those present was that not even Morphy could retrieve White's game, but when a board and pieces were produced he made good on his boast.

The tale is well-circulated. David Lawson's authoritative *Paul Morphy, The Pride & Sorrow of Chess* gives an account of Morphy's visit to Richmond (pp 267-269), including this anecdote. Bradley Ewart presented a detailed study in *Chess Life* ("The Devil and Paul Morphy", June 1984). However, the whole affair has been long dismissed as apocryphal in the absence of corroborative evidence. Thus historian Frank Skoff stated flatly in the November 1992 *Chess Life*: "The anecdote re the famous Retzsch etching is mythical (Man is a myth-making animal)."

However, with a small amount of historical detective work several years ago, I unearthed the actual picture and its connection with the Howison family. Recently I retraced my investigation for the purposes of this article. The picture, which is reproduced here, resides in a private home in Virginia. It is in fact a lithograph, a variant of an original painting by Moritz Retzsch. The owners have verified that they are descendants of Rev Howison, that the Morphy story is familiar to them as part of their family lore, and that theirs is indeed the actual graphic upon which Morphy gazed. They request that their privacy be honored, that their name or address not be made public at this time; however, they provided several photographs of the lithograph, including closeups of the board and pieces.



The version of the tale accepted within the Howison family differs slightly from the popular legend. Rather than “defending the young man’s position”, Morphy is said to have played several games from a position *based upon* the lithograph as a form of handicapping. That is, as a change of pace from his usual custom of conceding rook, queen or other material odds versus amateur opponents, Morphy simply concocted a starting position resembling that in the picture. Then his fellow dinner guests took turns trying out the Black (superior) side against the champion. There is no indication how Morphy scored against this handicap.

Through the years, scholars have offered differing interpretations of the chess position in the Retzsch original. It’s no easy task because the pieces are stylized and not readily equated to regular chess pieces, plus the view angle makes it hard to be certain which squares they occupy. The discovery of the ‘authenticated’ Morphy lithograph could rekindle speculation, although the issue loses much of its significance if we accept the Howison family version of the tale, there being no claim that Morphy defended a position directly from the picture. In any case, the now-established fact that Howison family descendants possess such a lithograph argues that the “Devil and Paul Morphy” legend has its basis in truth.

[*Virginia Chess*, November/December 1994]



GEOFF MCKENNA - GEOFFREY GELMAN

VIRGINIA CLOSED 1992

NIMZOINDIAN

*Notes by Geoff McKenna*

**1 c4 Nf6 2 d4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Qc2 c5 5 dxc5 Nc6 6 Nf3 0-0 7 a3 Bxc5 8 Bg5 Nd4 9 Nxd4 Bxd4 10 e3 Bxc3+?** (Black should play 10...Qa5! 11 exd4 Qxg5 12 Qd2 Qxd2+ 13 Kxd2±) **11 Qxc3 Ne4?!** (Further downhill—11...h6 was a better try) **12 Bxd8 Nxc3 13 Bc7 Ne4** (13...Na4!? looks lousy, and in fact White does have a clear plus after, say, 14 b3 Nb6 15 a4 d5 16 a5 Nd7 17 cxd5 exd5. Even so, this might seem preferable after you see what happened to Black in the game!) **14 f3! Nf6 □ 15 Bd6 Re8 16 a4!** (Black's problem piece is the bishop at c8. He can't advance his d-pawn so the only way he can hope to develop is to advance his b-pawn. But then White's a-pawn is going to give him problems.) **16...b6 17 a5 Ba6?!** (After 17...Bb7 18 a6 Bc6 19 b4 Rac8 20 Bd3 (20 b5!? Ba8±) with the plan Kf2, Rhc1, b5, c5 etc is also depressing for Black.) **18 b4 e5** (If 18...Rac8 19 axb6 Bxc4 20 Bxc4 Rxc4 21 bxa7 wins) **19 b5 Bb7 20 a6 Bc8** (White's position looks—and is—tremendous, but he must still play actively or else Black will dislodge the bishop by ...Re6) **21 c5! bxc5 22 Bc4 g5?!** (Now he can no longer move any of his pieces—for the rest of the game! The "active" idea Rd8 Δ Ne8 is suicide since in the end White wins a whole rook by Be7. Maybe K-h8-g8-h8-g8 is Black's most robust plan!? Or he could transpose back to a normal exchange-down lost game by 22...Re6. Even that option will soon disappear.) **23 h4 h6 24 hxg5 hxg5 25 e4 Kg7 26 Ke2 Kg6 27 Rh3 g4 28 Rh4 Rg8 29 Bd5** (Winning, but this is the only move of the game that I regret. 29 Rah1! would have been more consistent and elegant. Black would remain in virtual zugzwang and face mating threats after Rh6 and Be5) **29...Nxd5 30 Rxg4+ Kf6** (30...Kh7 31 Rh1mate) **31 Rxg8 Nc3+ 32 Kf2! Nxb5 33 Bxc5 Bb7** (Here I examined the amusing variation 34 axb7 Rxg8 35 Rb1 a6 36 Rxb5 axb5 37 Ba7 b4 38 Ke1 b3 39 Kd1 b2 40 Kc2 Rxg2+! 41 Kb1 Rg8 42 b8Q Rxb8 43 Bxb8 Ke6 44 Kxb2 d5 45 exd5+ Kxd5 46 Kc3 f5 47 Kd2! But I realized there were other possibilities that would need to be looked into, and I recalled the dictum, "Long analysis, wrong analysis".) **34 axb7 Rxg8 35 Ra5!** (Decides immediately since if 35...a6 36 Rxa6+ is check and then Ra8 wins; or on any knight move Ba7 will win a rook, eg 35...Nd4 36 Bxa7 Nc6 37 Ra6) **1-0**

WALTER MORRIS - SHELBY GETZ

DC CHESS LEAGUE 1992

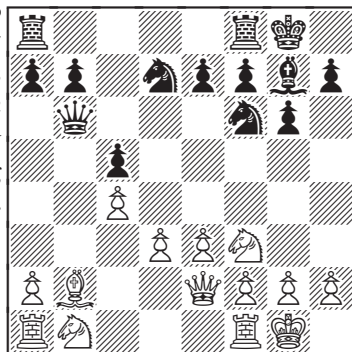
NIMZOWITSCH/LARSEN

*Notes by Walter Morris*

**1 b3** = (The idea behind this opening is to avoid prepared lines and life-or-death decisions in the opening moves. This game sees Black heading into a Queen's



Indian Reversed, where he hardly needs to worry. He can also get a good game with 1...e5 2 Bb2 Nc6 (2...d6 3 g3 Nc6 4 Bg2 f5 5 c4 Be7 6 Nc3 Nf6 7 e3 f4!? 8 Nge2 Bf5!? 9 e4? (9 exf4!) 9...Bg4 was Morris-Morgan, DC League 1992. Black is better but later he pitched a piece to give me the game.) 3 e3 (3 c4) d5 4 Bb5 Bd6 5 Nf3 Qe7 6 c4 dxc4 7 bxc4 Nf6 8 c5 Bxc5 9 Nxe5 0-0! 10 Nf3? (10 Nxc6 bxc6 11 Be2) 10...Bg4 11 Be2 Rad8 12 0-0 Ne4 = 13 d4 Bb4!? 14 a3 Bd6 (14... Ba5!?) 15 Nbd2 f5 16 Nc4 f4 17 Nxd6 Rxd6 18 exf4 desperately trying to open the center 18...Rxf4 19 Re1 Qf8 20 d5!? Be6 21 Bc4 Nf6 22 Rxe6 Rxe6 Here 23 Ba2! wins. I played 23 dxe6 in Morris-Sherzer, DC League 1991-2 and only drew.) **1...c5 2 Bb2 d5 3 e3** (3 Nf3? f6 = Petrosian-Fischer 1971) **3...Nf6 4 Nf3 g6!** (4... e6 or 4...Nc6 can lead to nice attacks for White. See Fischer-Mecking 1970 or Nimzowitsch versus etc, etc from the '20s) **5 Bb5+ Bd7 6 Qe2** (Maybe White should give 6 Bxf6 a try. However, it's easier to recommend that move than to play it!) **6...Bg7 7 0-0 0-0 8 Bxd7 Nbx d7 9 c4 dxc4!** (9...Rc8 10 Rd1 Re8 11 d3 e5 12 cxd5 Nxd5 13 Nbd2 Nb8 14 a3 Nc6 was Larsen-Pomar 1971. Pretty pathetic! ...dxc4 is a standard strategy aiming for play on the d-file.) **10 bxc4** (10 Qxc4!?) **10... Qb6 11 d3** (diagram)



(The alternative 11 d4 leads to hanging pawns. It occurred to me that White ought to be prepared to take the kind of risks associated with that structure. Thus one week later, in a game versus Bob Eberlein, I played as follows: 1 b3 d5 2 Bb2 c5 3 e3 Nf6 4 Nf3 g6 5 d4 Bg7 6 Bd3 (6 Be2) 6...0-0 7 0-0 cxd4 8 exd4 Nc6 9 a3 Bf5 10 Re1 Bxd3 11 Qxd3 e6 12 Nbd2 Rb8 13 c4 dxc4 14 bxc4 Qd7 15 Rad1 Rfd8 and here they are, the hanging pawns. Now what? I spent most of my allotted time and found myself with no time left and no plan. The continuation was comical: 16 Nb3 a6 17 Nc5 Qc8 18 a4 b6 19 Nb3 Rb7 20 Qe2 Rbd7 21 Rc1 Rc7 22 Red1 a5 23 c5 Nd5 24 cxb6 Nxb6 25 Qb5 Nd5 26 Nxa5 Nxd4! 27 Nxd4 Bxd4 28 g3!? Ne3? (28... Bc3!) 29 Nc6? (29 Rxc7 Qxc7 30 Rxd4 Rxd4 31 Qe8+ and Bxd4+) 29...Nxd1 30 Ne7+ Rxe7 31 Rxc8 Rxc8? (31...Bxf2+) 32 Bxd4 and this travesty ended in a draw. Returning to Morris-Getz, 11 d3 appealed to me because the resulting position reminded me of a reversed Sicilian.) **11...Rfd8 12 Nc3 Qe6!** (Interesting; now I should play Ng5 Δ f4) **13 Rfd1 Rac8 14 Rac1? Nb8 15 Nd2? Nc6 16 Nb3 b6 = 17 Qf1** (trying for 18 d4) **17...Ne5! 18 h3 Qf5! 19 e4** (Exposing the d4 square. Times are tough.) **19...Qd7 20 f4 Nc6 21 e5 Ne8 22 Ne4 Nc7?** (22... f6! stops White's "initiative" and leaves weaklings on c4 and d3) **23 d4 cxd4 24 Nxd4 Nxd4 25 Bxd4 Qc6 26 Nc3!? Ne6? 27 Nd5 Qb7 28 Be3 f5!? 29 exf6 exf6 30 f5 gxf5 31 Qxf5 Qf7 32 Rf1 Rf8 33 Rf3 Kh8 34 g4?! Rce8** (34...Qd7





was better) **35 Rcf1?** (Why not **35 g5**? On **35...Rg8** **36 Kh1** looks good.) **35...Qb7** **36 Qh5 Qc6** **37 Nxf6 Bxf6** **38 Rxf6 Qxc4** **39 Rxf8+** (What else? Neither **39 Rf7 Qe4**; nor **39 Qe5 Kg8** improves White's position.) **39...Rxf8** **40 Rxf8+ Nxf8** (We've made time control. White has the more pleasant game.) **41 Qe5+ Kg8** **42 Bd4 Qc1+** (I'd expected **42...Kf7** to get out of the box.) **43 Kh2 Qd2+ 44 Kg3 Qd3+ 45 Be3 Ng6 46 Qe6+ Kg7 47 h4 Qd1** (I thought **47...Qc3** was more forcing. After the text I can try **48 Bg5** or **48 Bf2**. However, by now if was 1:00 am and patience was wearing thin!) **48 h5 48...Qe1+ 49 Kf3 Qh1+?** (**49...Qf1+** is tougher: **50 Ke4 Qb1+ 51 Kd4 Qb2+ 52 Kd3 Qb5+ 53 Kd2 Qb2+ 54 Ke1 Qb1+ 55 Kf2 Qc2+ 56 Kg3 Qc7+ 57 Kf3** and now **57...Nh4+?** Loses, but **57...Qc6+!** **58 Qxc6 Ne5+ 59 Ke4 Nxc6** gives Black some chances to hold because of the reduced material.) **50 Ke2! Qg2+ 51 Kd3 Qf1+ 52 Kd2 Qa1** (if **52...Qg2+ 53 Kc3**; knight moves get mated) **53 Qd7+ Kg8 54 Qd5+ Kf8 55 hxg6 Qb2+ 56 Ke1 hxg6 57 Qa8+ Kf7 58 Qxa7+ Kg8 59 Qb8+ Kf7 60 Qc7+ Ke6 61 Qc6+ Kf7 62 Qd7+ Kf8 63 Qe6 Qc3+ 64 Kf2 Qc2+ 65 Kg3 Qd3 66 Kh4 Kg7 67 Qe7+ Kg8 68 Qe8+ Kg7 69 Bh6+! Kh7** (if **69...Kf6 70 Qd8+!**) **70 Qf7+! 1-0**

BOBBY SELTZER – DANIEL MILLER

1992 WORLD OPEN

PETROFF

*Notes by Daniel Miller*

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d3** (Many **1 e4** masters neglect to include the Petroff in their preparations. Against these "sidelines" it's quite easy to equalize.) **3...Nc6 4 g3 d5 5 Nbd2 dxe4 6 dxe4 Bc5 7 Bg2 0-0 8 0-0** (White has a solid King's Indian Attack position with the usual plan of queenside expansion with pressure on the **d5** square.) **8...Bg4** (Black's development is positionally suspect but tactically justified. On the surface it seems like White is clearly better—indeed, my opponent was playing quickly and giving me funny looks. White needs only to play **c3**, **b4**, **Nc4** and **a4** to fracture Black on the queenside and achieve a winning position.) **9 c3 Qd3!** (Played quickly and forced; White's e-pawn is under fire.) **10 h3 Be6!** (Better than **Bh5**, the point coming on move 14.) **11 Re1 Nh5** ( $\Delta$  **Ng3**) **12 Bf1 Qd6 13 b4 Bb6 14 Kg2** (The only move to defend against **Nxg3**) **14...Bxh3+** (Absolutely forced or Black is positionally lost.) **15 Kxh3 Bxf2 16 Bc4!** (After **16 Re2?! White's** pieces would be too uncoordinated to defend his king.) **16...Nxg3!** (The rook isn't going anywhere!) **17 Nf1 Bxe1 18 Qxe1** (Two bishops *vs* a rook and three pawns — Black's advantage is not material so much as king safety. But two bishops have tremendous power in such positions. After a long think I decided that the best way to proceed was to use White's poor king position to neutralize his bishop pair.) **18...Nh5!** (**18...Nxf1?! 19 Qxf1**  $\bar{\Delta}$ ) **19 Bg5 Nf4+** (White's king is too vulnerable to allow this knight to stay on **f4**.) **20 Kh2 Qg6 21 Ng3 h6 22 Bxf4 exf4** (An exception to the rule that doubled pawns are weak—Black's

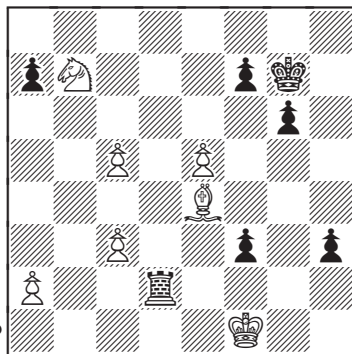




pawn structure actually improves with this recapture. Now I can pressure e4 on the half-open file. A similar improvement of a 4-1 majority can be found in a line from the Exchange Lopez.) **23 Nf5** (My joy at removing his bishop pair was short-lived. His pieces are very active on the kingside. My opponent later told me that he would not have taken a draw here as the position is too complex. We were both concentrating very hard now.) **23...Qh5+ 24 Kg2 g6 25 Qh4!? Qxh4 26 N5xh4** (White threatens the same tactic (Nxc6) as Black had on move 11!) **26...Kg7 27 Bd5 Rfe8** (This can hardly be considered an endgame. I have three connected passed pawns but if I push them his knights would eat me alive.) **28 Kf2 Nd8** (Commencing a maneuver to activate my pieces and deactivate his. White's compensation for the material is piece activity so I have to be patient—step by step, move by move, increase my position.) **29 e5 c6 30 Bb3 Ne6 31 Rg1** (Δ N-f5-d6) **31...Kh7?!** (31...Kf8 was better but I didn't want to tie my rook to the defense of e6) **32 Nd2 Ng5 33 Re1** (33 Rxc5!? hxc5 34 Nh3 was highly interesting and just as good as 33 Re1. With three pieces and loads of squares for two rooks and three pawns, White would convert two points in material into about two points worth of advantages in pawn structure and piece activity but probably not change the overall assessment. The game would then turn on dynamics and pure calculation.) **33...Rad8 34 Nh3 Kg7** (White's pieces are less flexible now.) **35 Nd4** (35 Nxc5? Rxd2+) **35...c5!?** (The third major decision, and I still don't know if I was correct. My plan was to activate the rooks for an attack on his king, at the same time tying up his pieces, all for the price of a pawn.) **36 bxc5 Rc8 37 Ba4 Red8 38 N2b3 h5** (Time to ignite the steamroller.) **39 Nb5 Rd3!** (A couple months earlier I had seen a game of Kasparov where he managed to weave a net around his opponent's king with a rook, knight and pawn. Kamran Shirazi and Dmitry Gurevich were hovering around the board now. Both my opponent and I were headed towards a time scramble.) **40 Nd6** (My opponent thought he was winning. His look seemed to say, "I will take your b-pawn and queen my c-pawn. What are you going to do about it?") **40...Rb8 41 Na5 h4!! 42 Naxb7 Rxb7! 43 Nxb7 Rd2+ 44 Kf1** (44 Re2 Ne4+ 45 Kf3 Rxe2 46 Kxe2 Nxc3+) **44...h3 45 Bc6 f3 46 Re4!** (Forced! Now Black had to find the winning line in time pressure.) **46...Nxe4** (I rejected 46...h2 47 Rh4 h1Q+ 48 Rxh1 Rd1+ 49 Kf2 Rxh1 50 Bxf3 because I felt the c-pawn gives White serious counterplay.) **47 Bxe4** (Quick—Black to play and win!)

(diagram)

**47...Rd3!** (My opponent had set a diabolical trap into which Black might easily have fallen: 47...



Rd1+? 48 Kf2 h2 49 Bxf3 h1Q 50 Bxh1 Rxh1 51 c6 Rc1 52 c7 Rxc3 53 Nd6! and



Black must fight to draw!) **48 Kg1** (forced—48 Bxd3 h2) **48...Rxc3 49 c6! f5??** (I fell for the same combo I'd avoided three moves earlier. I got too fancy, figuring that after 50 exf6+ Kxf6 my king would be more "active" than on f8. 49...Kf8 50 Nd6 Ke7 51 Bxf3 f6 was correct.) **50 Bxf3 Rxf3** (No choice now, but I felt Shirazi quietly mocking me now.) **51 c7 Rc3 52 Nd6 Rxc7 53 Ne8+ Kf7 54 Nxc7 g5 55 Kh2 g4** (Another material imbalance to which we had to adjust!) **56 a4?! a5** (Now neither side has an advantage.) **57 Kg3 Ke7 58 Nd5+ Ke6 59 Ne3??** (The strain from move 14 on finally became too much and my opponent cracked. 59 Nb6 Kxe5 60 Nc4+ Kd4 61 Nxa5 f4+ 62 Kh2 Ke3!?) (simpler 62...Kc5 63 Nb3+ Kb4 64 a5 Kb5=) 63 Nc4+ Kf2 64 Ne5 g3+ 65 Kxh3 g2 66 Ng4+ Kf1 67 Nh2+ Kf2 68 Ng4+ =) **59...f4+ 60 Kxf4 h2 0-1**

GEOFFREY GELMAN - THOMAS VICTORY

1994 US AMATEUR TEAM

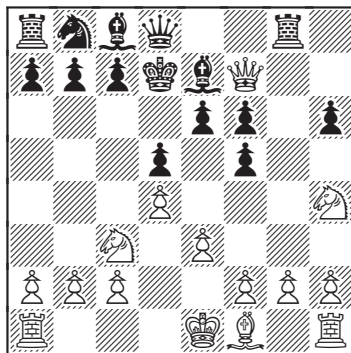
DUTCH

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

**1 d4 f5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Bg5 d5 4 e3 e6 5 Nf3 h6 6 Bxf6 gxf6?! (Well, at least he had an idea. Black reclaims control over the "hole" e5. With a solid looking clump of center pawns to hide behind, he think he doesn't mind if his king gets displaced by a check on the e8-h5 diagonal.) 7 Nh4 Rg8 8 Qh5+ Kd7 9 Qf7+ Be7**

*(diagram)*

**10 Nxf5!** (The problem is that a modest material investment can obliterate the "solid" center.) **10...exf5 11 Nxd5** (Two pawns for the piece, Black's king exposed, an immediate threat Nf6+...White is much happier.) **11...Kd6 12 c4 Be6 13 c5+! Kxd5** (If 13...Kd7 14 Nxf6+ is still there, so Black must swallow the second piece and set out on a death march.) **14 Bc4+! Kxc4 15 Qxe6+ Kb5 16 a4+ Kb4 17 b3** (Offhand 17 Ra3 looks pretty good too.) **17...b5** (forced in view of the threat Qc4) **18 a5! Qe8?** (A quick post mortem by, among others, GMs Alex Sherzer and Ron Henley, failed to turn up a mate after 18...Bxc5! For example, 19 Ra4+ (if 19 dxc5 presumably it's 19...Qd3 that throws sand in White's engine) 19...bxa4 20 Qc4+ Kxa5 21 dxc5 axb3 22 0-0 b2. Still, it's hard to have confidence in Black's survival chances. Can readers find a convincing knockout? After the text Geoffrey didn't need any help.) **19 Ra4+! bxa4 20 Qc4+ Ka3** (20...Kxa5 21 b4+mate) **21 Kd2! Ka2 22 Qc3! 1-0**





JOSEPH FEYGELSON - RUSTY POTTER

VIRGINIA CLOSED 1994

TORRE

1 Nf3 d6 2 d4 g6 3 Bg5 Bg7 4 e3 Nf6 5 Bd3 h6 6 Bh4 Nc6 7 c3 0-0 8 Nbd2 Qe8 9 0-0 e5 10 dxe5 dxe5 11 e4 Nh5 12 Re1 Nf4 13 Bf1 Be6 14 Qc2 g5 15 Bg3 Rd8 16 Nc4 Qe7 (16...Qd7 17 Rad1 Qc8 offered better chances; as played Black's queen winds up misplaced on the queenside) 17 Ne3 Rd7 18 Nf5 Qc5 19 Rac1 a5 20 a3 f6 21 b4 axb4 22 axb4 Qb6 23 Rcd1 Rfd8 24 Rxd7 Rxd7 25 Nd2 Bf8 26 Nc4 Qa7 27 Nce3 Qb8 28 Nc4 Bxf5 29 exf5 Kg7 30 Ne3 Qd8 31 Rd1 Rxd1 32 Nxd1 Bd6 33 f3 Ne7 34 Ne3 c6 35 Bf2 Bc7 36 c4! Bb6 37 g3! Nh5 38 c5 Bc7 39 Bc4 Kh7 40 Bb3 Qd4 (40...Ng7) 41 Ng4 Qxb4 42 Bf7 Ng7 43 Nxf6+ Kh8 44 Qd3 Ngxf5 45 Be6 e4 46 fxe4 Ng7 47 e5 Ngf5 48 Qd7 Qb1+ 49 Kg2 1-0 after a few more time trouble moves.

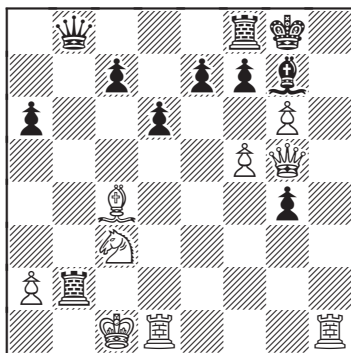
RUSTY POTTER - ALLEN COOLEY

LAND OF THE SKY 1995

KING'S INDIAN

Notes by Rusty Potter

("God—I couldn't believe it; your play was so *aggressive!* And I couldn't find this variation *anywhere* in my Kings Indian books!" These were the words of my opponent approximately one hour after the game ended. Well, it was a bit of home cooking, combined with some over-the-board inspiration. But was the prepared line all that poisonous? Let's see...) 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 0-0 6 Bg5 Nc6 7 Nge2 a6 8 Qd2 Rb8 (Although established theory says this Panno treatment is okay, I've always thought White's attack is both easier to play *and* more dangerous than Black's queenside demonstrations. I prefer 6.c5, immediately hitting White's weakened squares.) 9 h4 h5 (Not forced; 10 Bh6 supposedly gives White some edge now. 9...b5 and 9...Re8 are common alternatives here.) 10 0-0-0 b5 11 g4 (This is it! 11 Nf4 is more often seen.) 11...hxg4 12 Ng3 bxc4 (Too slow, I think. A more common defensive plan is 12...Nh5 13 Nxh5 gxh5 14 fxg4 and now either Bxg4 or hxg4 leads to interesting play. However, both MCHES PRO and CHES GENIUS like 12...b4! ≠ Happy analysis! After the text, White's king wing attack unwinds like an angry viper!) 13 h5 Nxe4? (Desperation, but White's breakthrough is *very* difficult to hold up with conventional defense at this point.) 14 fxe4 Nxd4 15 hxg6 Nf3 16 Qe3 Be6 17 Nf5 Bxf5 18 exf5 Rxb2? 19 Bxc4 (Needlessly ornate; simply 19 Kxb2 leaves Black with no useful followup.) 19...Nxc5 20 Qxc5 Qb8





**21 Rh8+!** (A pretty finishing shot! If now **21...Kxh8** **22 Qh5+ Bh6+ 23 Qxh6+ Kg8** **24 Qh7mate**; or **21...Bxh8** **22 gxf7+ Kh7** **23 Qg6mate**. It's rare that a solid master like Allen Cooley is mated in less than 25 moves. (He was a good sport about it, however!)) **1-0**

**Courtney Footman - Timothy Rogalski**

**1996 US Open, Alexandria, Va**

**Benko Gambit**

*Notes by Timothy Rogalski*

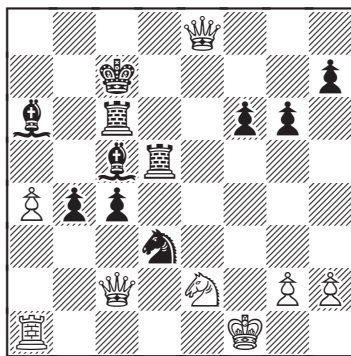
**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 cxb5 a6 5 Nc3 axb5 6 e4 b4 7 Nb5 d6 8 Bc4** (This aggressive move introduces the so-called Nescafe Frappe Attack (NFA) of the Benko Gambit. A booklet by FM Graham Burgess (1990) is dedicated to the NFA but I had never seen the line before meeting it over the board in this game.) **8...g6** (Taking the e-pawn with *8...Nxe4* yields White excellent compensation for the pawn after **9 Qe2 f5** □ (**9...Nf6?** **10 Bf4 Ra6** **11 Nxd6+ Rxd6** **12 Bb5+ Rd7** **13 Bxb8 Nxd5** **14 0-0-0** Haik-Fraguela, Lanzarote 1976) **10 f3 Nf6** **11 Bf4 Ra6** **12 Nh3 g6** **13 0-0 Bg7** **14 Rfe1 h6** **15 Rad1**. For example, Zhuravlev-Grushko, Kaliningrad 1976 continued **15...Kf7** **16 Bc1 Re8** **17 Nf4 Rb6** **18 Na7 Rb7** **19 Nxc8 Qxc8** **20 Ne6 Ra7** **21 g4!? fxg4** **22 fxg4 g5** **23 Rf1 Kg8** **24 Qc2 Rf8** **25 Qg6 Rf7** **26 Rxf6!** +-**exf6** **27 Bd3 f5** **28 Bxf5 Rxf5** **29 gxf5 Qa6** **30 Rf1**; *8...g5?*, hoping for **9 Bxg5 Nxe4**, is best met by **9 e5!** But if White's bishop is already on f4, *...g7-g5* can be an important defensive resource against the NFA; *8...Nbd7* is the safest way to avoid all the complications of the line.) **9 e5!? dxe5** **10 d6!? exd6** **11 Bg5** (White has sacrificed both center pawns to open lines and generate many potent threats. It is difficult to navigate all the dangerous pitfalls in the ensuing tactical complications, and I am glad that at the time I didn't know this remarkable statistic: White's rating performance in the NFA is 250 Elo points higher than the average rating of the players of the White pieces—roughly equivalent to scoring 25% more than would normally be expected.) **11...Bb7** (**11...Ra5** is the most common move but there too White has his attack, eg **12 Nf3 Nc6** **13 Nd2 Bf5** **14 Nb3! Rxb5?** **15 Bxb5 +- Kd7** (**15...Bd7** **16 Qf3**) **16 Nxc5+ Kc7** **17 Na6+** with a mating attack.) **12 Bd5 Nxd5!!** (My heart was pounding when making this move.) **13 Bxd8 ± Kxd8** (For the queen Black gets two bishops, two pawns, a passed d-pawn, and a lot of long-term potential if he can mobilize his central pawn mass.) **14 a4 Nd7** **15 Ne2?** (This is going in the wrong direction; the knight stands poorly in relation to the e5-pawn. **Ng1-f3-d2-c4** was a better plan to maintain pressure on the d6-pawn. However, from e2 the knight does at least prevent *...Nd5-f4-e6* which is better than *...Nd5-f6*) **15...Be7** **16 0-0 Ra6** (This was played with the idea of protecting the d6-pawn, so the d5-knight can move, so the d-pawn can advance creating rolling phalanxes.) **17 Qb3 Rf8** (Not creating any weaknesses; **17...f5** might eventually allow the queen onto e6; I liked this move when I played



it.) **18 Nbc3? N5f6?** (Too dogmatic in following my plan and inflexible in my thinking, I missed a simple tactical shot: 18...c4! 19 Qxc4 bxc3 would have won a piece.) **19 Nd1 d5 = 20 Qc2 c4 21 b3 Rc6** (21...c3 was also possible, when 22 f4? would be bad for White after 22...Bc5+) **22 bxc4 dxc4 23 Ne3 Ba6 24 Rfd1 Kc7 25 Nd5+ Nxd5 26 Rxd5 Nc5?!** (A knight on d3 will paralyze White and prevent him from connecting rooks with Rad1. This was another move that I really liked at the time—but there was a refutation!) **27 f4?** (Only after this is Black ensured of strong play. On the other hand, White might have turned the tables by sacrificing the exchange to blow open the position and expose my bare king: 27 Qb2! Nd3 28 Rxd3! cxd3 29 Qxe5+ Kd7 30 Qd4+ Bd6 31 Qa7+ Bc7 32 Nd4 Rd6 33 Nb3 Notice how well the queen and knight coordinate together on the open board.) **27...Nd3 28 fxe5 Bc5+ 29 Kf1 f6! 30 e6 Rd8 31 e7??** (This was published as the last position in Andy Soltis' Chess to Enjoy column, *Chess Life* April 1997. 31 Rxd8 was correct.) **31...Rxd5!! 32 e8Q**

(diagram)

(Such a position is too rare to occur even once in a lifetime! For the moment White has two queens vs Black's none, yet he is losing. Players on either side of my board became more absorbed in watching this game instead of playing their own.) **32...Rf5+ 33 Nf4 Rxf4+ 34 Ke2 c3! 35 Qf7+ Kb8 36 Qe8+ Rc8 37 Qe6 Nc1+** (There was even a second way: 37...Rf2+ 38 Kd1 Rf1+ 39 Ke2 Nf4mate) **38 Ke1** (Or 38 Kd1 Rf1+ 39 Qe1 Rd8+ 40 Qd3 Rxd3+ 41 Kc2 b3+ 42 Kb1 Rxe1—quite a turnaround from the diagram.) **38...Rf1mate 0-1**



GEOFF MCKENNA - STEVE GREANIAS

VIRGINIA CLOSED 1996

GRÜNFELD

Notes by Geoff McKenna

(Steve and I led the field, having won all our games—but he took an early half-point bye. We were 2-2 in our previous encounters, in all of which, as in this one, I had White. The last time we played in the tournament was two years ago; he won handily. My half-point lead in the tournament preyed on my opponent in this game, as we shall see...) **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bf4 0-0** (5...c5 is more popular, but the text is fine.) **6 Rc1 c6 7 e3 Qb6** (Once again, I am a little surprised in the opening as White. I could see nothing better than to go into an ending where my half-open a-file and slight edge in space offsets doubled pawns.) **8 Qb3 Qxb3 9 axb3 Bf5 10 Be2 Nbd7 11 h3** (to preserve my bishop on f4 and maybe later to dislodge his from f5 with g4) **11...h6 12 0-0 Rfc8 13 Bh2** (Solid, but maybe 13 g4 was better. I was afraid of loosening my position



in the ending but you an't have everything.) **13...g5!?** (Gaining space, and there isn't much I can d about it. Maybe 14 h4 should be tried anyway.) **14 Nd2 e6 15 b4?!** (Like most pawn advances, this one is probably premature. I wanted to play a lightening minority attack but Black can stop it cold, leaving me with weaknesses.) **15...Bf8 16 c5?! Re8?** (Aha. I have created a weakness by advancing my c-pawn and so Black plays for the standard counter, ...e5. Very thematic and very wrong, for the following reasons: *i*) Black should play 16...a6, freezing the White advance. In the resulting position only Black could initiate play on the a-file, the e-file, and the a1-h8 diagonal. If White doubles rooks on the a-file, Black can remove his rook from a8 and it becomes hard for White to generate tactical tricks. *ii*) The immediate advance of Black's e-pawn proves utterly toothless. The vulnerability of the bishop of f5 factors into this. *iii*) Once White sneaks in b4-b5, he undermines all the Black queenside pawns, which, coupled with White's queenside advantage, creates a winning position. As hinted at the outset of the game, my half-point lead in the tournament weighed in here as it compelled my opponent to "do something." ...e5 is the standard 'something' in this sort of position; hence his move.) **17 b5 e5 18 Nf3** (Also possible is 18 dxe5 Nxe5 19 Bxe5 Rxe5 20 Nf3 Ree8 21 Nd4 B-any 22 bxc6 with a big plus for White. After the text, if Black plays 18...exd4 then 19 Nxd4 and bxc6 yeolds the same sort of position but with the Bh2 still inhibiting b-file counterplay.) **18...e4 19 Ne5** (Inviting ...Nb8, which would threaten to eventually trap my knight with ...f6, but I was pretty confident I could drum up play in that case. I chose the text over Nd2 to reduce the number of pieces on the board, since I thought the main risk for White was a freak kingside attack.) **19...Nxe5 20 Bxe5 Nd7 21 Bh2 Nf6 22 Ra1** (Probably 22 bxc6 was more precise.) **22...Bd7 23 bxc6 Bxc6 24 b4 a6** (Black has improved his defensive posture, but an eventual b4-b5 still looks crushing.) **25 Ra2 Nd7 26 Rfa1 Rac8 27 Bg4 Red8 28 Na4** (threatening Bd7 and Nb6) **28...Bxa4 29 Rxa4 Rc6 30 Rb1 b5?! 31 Ra2 Nf6 32 Be2 Re8 33 Rba1 Ree6 34 Bd1 Bg7 35 Bb3 Kf8 36 Bd6+** (My original plan was B-e5x6, followed by Bxd5xe4, followed by winning the a- and b-pawns. The text is good too.) **36...Ke8 37 Rxa6 Rxa6 38 Rxa6 Kd7 39 Ra7+ Ke8 40 Rb7 Nd7** and 1-0

ALEXANDER IVANOV - STEVE MAYER

NATIONAL CHESS CONGRESS (PHILADELPHIA) 1997

SICILIAN

*Notes by Steve Mayer*

(My pregame impulse was to play the Dragon. After all, didn't Ivanov play the insipid 6 g3, against which I'd never had any trouble? "No, no, he doesn't do that any longer," a better-informed friend advised me. "Now he plays much sharper against the Dragon...and against all the other Sicilian lines, too." Indeed, I later discovered that NM Michael Casella had played a Dragon with Ivanov a few weeks before and that Ivanov had rattled off nearly 25 moves of theory. What





to do? “Well, he still plays 6 g3 against the Najdorf,” a little bird told me. What good did that do me? I’d never played the Black side of a Najdorf in my life! Still, Ivanov is famous as a player who always plays the same variations. I did a “gut check” and decided that I had “fall back” options available if Ivanov were to “trick” me by playing something something sharper against my “new opening.” This game is dedicated to the memory of my father and best friend, Jack Mayer, who not only would have been tremendously amused by my ploy but might have even suggested it.) **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 Nc3 cxd4 5 Nxd4 a6! 6 g3 g6** (Heading for a Dragon. An alternative means was available for this, eg, 6...Nc6 7 Bg2 Bd7 to be followed by the fianchetto of the king bishop. However, with the b6 square weakened I was concerned that later a white knight at d5 would prove powerful.) **7 Bg2 Bg7 8 b3!?** (GM Fedorowicz felt that this was a mistake as it weakens the dark squares on the queenside. I was not terrifically surprised by it as I remembered seeing such a move in similar positions.) **8...Nbd7 9 Bb2 0-0 10 Qd2 Re8!** (Black’s difficulty in this position is finding constructive waiting moves while he waits to see White’s intentions. For instance, the queenside development must eventually be implemented, but it will differ depending on what plan White chooses. The text overprotects e7 and clears f8, which may prove useful for the king or the bishop in some cases. Further, the protection of e7 ensures that Black will never be forced to change the pawn structure by swapping at d5 “against his will.”) **11 0-0-0!?** (Ivanov is a “chess purist” who always plays the move he considers best. Of course, this approach brings him great results, but it also carries with it great risks at times. For instance, a pragmatist would probably look at the rating difference and conclude that Black’s best chance of winning would come in an opposite wing castling situation.) **11...Nc5 12 h3 Bd7 13 Rhe1 Rc8 14 g4 h6! 15 Nde2** (White finds it difficult to make progress on the kingside as 15 g5? hxd5 16 Qxd5 e5! 17 Nde2 Bc6 favors Black, eg, 18 Ng3? Kh7! -+ or 18 f3, when Black has the luxury of continuing with his attack on the king or breaking in the center with 18...d5!) **15...b5 16 Ng3 Bc6** (Nimzowitsch taught that any immobile pawn eventually becomes a target. Case in point: White’s e-pawn.) **17 Kb1** (Ivanov took over half an hour on this “simple” move.) **17...a5 18 f4 b4 19 Nd5 e5!** (Black retains his dark square bishop, which is a better piece than the White counterpart.) **20 Nxf6+** (Instead, 20 f5 was possible, but then Black can capture at d5 and transform his e-pawn into a protected passer.) **20...Bxf6!?** (Offering a speculative positional pawn sacrifice that is intended to seize the initiative from White. While I believe that this pawn sac is more or less sound, there was no objection to the simpler 20...Qxf6, when 21 Qxd6? Qxd6 22 Rxd6 exf4 is winning for Black.) **21 fxe5** (He might as well accept the sac as 21 f5 Bh4! 22 Qf2 a4 (or even 22...Qf6!?) favors for Black.) **21...dxe5 22 Qxh6 Qe7 23 Qe3** (White has won a pawn and avoided having his queen trapped, but his game isn’t easy. His minor pieces all lack scope and he has a variety of weak dark squares.



It's possible that White should be able to defend here and even consolidate his extra material, but Ivanov was already short of time, which always makes being on the defensive more difficult.) 23...a4 24 Rf1 Ne6 (heading for d4) **25 Qf3 Bg7 26 Ne2 Bb5!** (This is a case of "changing the color of a bishop," which I discuss in my book *Bishop versus Knight: The Verdict* (Batsford 1997). Black is pressing an initiative on the dark squares, so he welcomes the opportunity to exchange his light-squared bishop for a piece that could oppose him on the dark squares.) **27 Rf2 Bxe2 28 Qxe2** (Presumably Ivanov preferred this to 28 Rxe2 as it doesn't commit him to swapping at d4.) **28...Nd4 29 Qf1?!** (If White is going to move his queen then it must remain in contact with b5, as otherwise Black would reply 29...Nb5! and hit on the weaknesses at c3 and a3. However, it was more flexible to play the immediate 30 Bxd4.) **29...Qa7!** (This activates the queen on the a-file and the a7-g1 diagonal. In passing, the possibility of ...Nb5 is established, as the rook at f2 is a tactical target.) **30 Bxd4 exd4 31 Rd3** (The rook soon returns to the back rank, so this appears to be another inexact defensive move in time pressure.) **31...axb3 32 cxb3 Bh6! 33 Rd1?** (33 h4 Rc1+ 34 Qxc1 Bxc1 35 Kxc1 Rc8+ 36 Kd1 (not 36 Kb1? Qc7! hitting c1 and g3) offered better practical chances, but then Black can avoid blockade draws by 36...Qa3! Δ Rc1+ and Ra1 when White's queenside pawns cave in.) **33...d3! 34 h4** (The attempt to remain in contact with a2 by 34 Rb2 also loses to 34...Rc2!) **34...Rc2! 0-1** An appropriate resignation, even for time pressure, as Black soon forces mate in all variations. Interestingly, I played my last fifteen moves or so in fewer than twenty minutes. I had nearly twenty minutes left on the clock at the end of the game, but I had wanted to hold this time in reserve so that I could use it if I really needed it. Ivanov was down to a minute or so by about move 29, which helps explain his final moves.

STEVE GREANIAS - STEVE MAYER

VIRGINIA CLOSED 1997

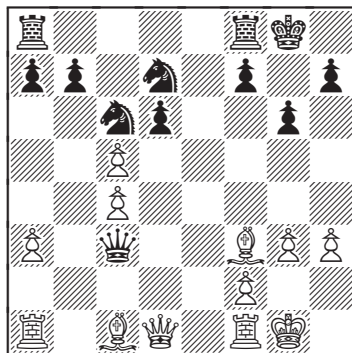
KING'S INDIAN

Notes by Steve Greanias

The key penultimate round game at the state championship. **1 Nf3** (This was played to delay committing pawns in the center. Also, by playing this before c4, as an English player, White makes it more difficult to answer ...e5) **1...Nf6 2 g3 g6 3 Bg2 Bg7 4 0-0 0-0 5 c4 d6** (5...c5 can transpose to a symmetrical English, ie 6 d4 cxd4. The text keeps the King's Indian option open, as Steve and I played in the 1993 Virginia Class Championships.) **6 d4 c6** (But here he varies. The earlier game continued 6...Nc6 7 d5 Na5 8 Nfd2 c6 and he outplayed me badly before losing on time. I thought we might repeat this line, although four years is a long time and repertoires change.) **7 Nc3 Qa5** (Some time ago I played some blitz games where Troy Conner chose this. I answered 8 d5 and though I held my own, I was not satisfied with the opening and early middlegame play. I studied it a little afterwards and now I was trying to remember some of the ideas.) **8 e4**

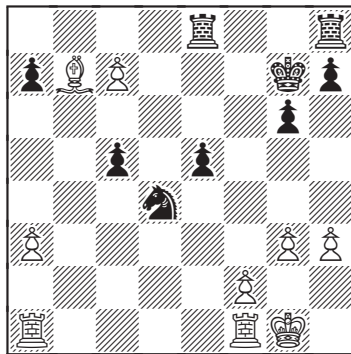


**Bg4 9 h3 Bxf3 10 Bxf3 Nfd7** (10...e5 has also been tried.) **11 a3** (I thought about 11 Rb1. It has been played with the plan of answering ...c5 with d5, offering a pawn for bishops, more space in the center and a freer game. Stern-Van der Brink, Purmerend 1993 continued 11...c5 12 d5 Bxc3 13 bxc3 Qxc3 14 Be2 b6 15 Bb2 Qa5 16 Qc2 and White built up play on the kingside which proved decisive. Black's queen ended up a spectator on the queenside. Of course Black need not accept this pawn, but I wasn't comfortable playing d5 anyway as I wanted to leave that square free for my knight. In several games 11 Be3 a6 preceded 12 a3. I didn't find any games with 11 a3) **11...c5 12 e5 Nc6** (on 12...Qa6 13 Nd5) **13 exd6** (At this point I was looking for a concrete way to get an advantage. Lines with e6 are way too optimistic given Black's pressure on the center. Otherwise, 13 Ne4, 13 dxc5, 13 Bxc6 and 13 Be3 were all possible. Razuvaev-Soltis, New York 1989 saw the latter move and continued 13...a6 14 Bxc6 bxc6 15 exd6 exd6 16 dxc5 Bxc3 17 bxc3 Nxc5 18 Qxd6 Ne4 19 Qxc6 Rfe8, where instead of 20 Rfe1 I prefer 20 Bd4, eg 20...Nxc3 21 Rae1; or 20...Rac8 21 Qb7 Rxc4 22 Rfe1) **13...exd6** (Both 13...Nxd4 and 13...exd4 can lead to sharp and dynamic positions. For instance, 13...cxd4 14 b4 Qd8 15 Nb5 e5 (15...a6; but 15...exd6 16 Nxd6 is not a good idea since c5 follows) 16 c5 is very unbalanced. White has some immediate possibilities such as Nc7, Bxc6 & Qa4; or maybe Nc7Δ b5, c6. However, he can't stray too far from the kingside. For example, 16...Nf6 17 Nc7 Rc8 18 Bxc6 bxc6 19 Qa4 Qd7 20 Kg2 e4 (20...Ne8 21 Nd5) 21 Qxa7 Qf5 Δ Qf3, e3 (21...Ra8 22 Qb6 Rfb8 23 Nxa8 Rxb6 24 Nxb6 Qf5 may also be good for Black, but the exchange seems unnecessary.) The clearest for White is probably 18 b5 Na5 19 Qa4 b6 20 Bd2 with advantage.) **14 dxc5 Bxc3 15 bxc3** (15 Bxc6 bxc6 16 Qxd6 Be5 17 Qxd7 Qxc5 18 Be3 Qxc4 probably doesn't help White much.) **15...Qxc3** (*diagram*) (On 15...Qxc5 16 Bd5 Nde5 17 Be3 Qa5 18 Qb3 Rab8 (18...Qc7 19 c5 looks better for White) 19 Rfd1 with a slight pull through ideas such as f4 or eventually c5 or Qb5. But how best to continue after the text move? What has two bishops in an open position and he wants to maximize them. His c-pawns are targets, but Black's knights are not active for the moment. It's a struggle for the initiative, wit a need to create something concrete.) **16 Bh6 Rfd8** (16...Rfe8 17 cxd6 Qxc4 18 Rc1 Qe6 19 Bxc6 bxc6 20 Qd4 Qe5 21 Qxe5 Nxe5 22 f4 Nd7 23 Rxc6 ±) **17 Bg5 f6 18 Qd5+ Kg7 19 Bd2 Qd4** (19...Qe5 was to be preferred. 20 Qxd6 Nxc5 21 Qxe5 Nxe5 is obviously losing for White, but even after 20 cxd6 Nb6 21 Qxe5 Nxe5 22 Bxb7 Nbxc4 the knights are complicating matters.) **20 Qxd4 Nxd4 21 Bxb7 Rab8** (21...Nb3 22 Rad1) **22 Ba5** (Bringing the bishop into the





fray and trying to use the c5 pawn—now c6 will not leave the bishop hanging to Nf3+) **22...Rh8** (Now the rook is poorly placed. The exchange sacrifice 22...Rxb7 (22...Nb3 23 Bxd8 Nxa1 24 c6 is winning) 23 Bxd8 Nxc5 is interesting, though 24 Rad1 Ncb3 25 Kg2, allowing a possible Ba5 to save the bishop, looks good for White. I was getting short on time, however, and this would have been more difficult than the game in time pressure.) **23 c6 Ne5 24 Bc7 Rbe8 25 c5 Nxc6** (25...dxc5 26 Bxe5 wasn't as strong for White as I thought during the game. After 26...fxe5 27 c7 *(diagram)*



Black has a well-placed knight and a potentially dangerous c-pawn for the exchange that he will lose. If, say, 27...Kf6 White should not queen immediately, but play Kg2 and Rac1, improving his piece position before cashing in. In any case, White's choices for his king and rooks are a bit limited and he would have to be careful not to allow too much play. Another possible continuation: 27...Rc8 (instead of Kf6) 28 Bxc8 Rxc8 29 Kg2 Rxc7 30 Rae1 c4 31 Rxe5 c3 32 Rfe1 Kf6 (Black shouldn't allow 32...c2 33 Re7+ Rxe7 34 Rxe7+ Kf6 35 Rc7) 33 R5e4 Nb3 (33...c2 34 Rxd4 c1=Q 35 Rxc1 Rxc1 36 Rd7; or 33...Rd7 34 R1e3 c2 35 Rc3 White has made some progress but still has to eliminate the c2 pawn) 34 Rb4 Nd2 35 Rc1 and Black is being contained.) **26 cxd6 Ne5 27 Rfd1 Nec6 28 d7 Re7 29 Bxc6 Nxc6 30 d8Q 1-0**

### MACON SHIBUT - RODNEY FLORES

#### VIRGINIA CLOSED 1998

#### MODERN

*Notes by Rodney Flores*

**1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nc3 c6 4 Be3 d6** (A departure from our encounter at the Virginia Open last January. There I played 4...d5 and 5 Qd2 Qa5 6 0-0-0!? dxe4 7 Bc4± followed.) **5 Nf3 Qc7 6 Qd2 b5 7 Bd3 a6 8 h3 Nd7 9 0-0 Ngf6 10 Rfe1** (If 10 e5 dxe5 11 dxe5 Nxe5 12 Nxe5 Qxe5 13 Bf4 Qc5 14 Be3 Qd6 15 Bf4 Qd8±) **10...0-0 11 Bh6** (Now if 11 e5 dxe5 12 dxe5 Nxe5 13 Nxe5 Qxe5 14 Bf4 Qc5 15 Be3 Qd6 16 Bf4 Qd8±) **11...e5 12 Bxg7 Kxg7 13 dxe5 dxe5 14 Qe3** (I'm not sure of the purpose of this move—perhaps to shift the queen to the kingside in a subtle manner? It does inhibit...Nc5 for the time being.) **14...Bb7 15 Ne2** (I figured Macon was going to attack me; he had played aggressive chess in his first five rounds, all strong victories. But it seems this method of attack is a bit slow.) **15...c5 16 c3 c4 17 Bc2 Nc5** (Black has close to a clear edge.) **18 Ng3 Ne6!** (This stops any nonsense with queen to g5 without playing a weakening...h6. It also prepares an invasion on d3 with...Nf4 and...Nd7c5-d3. If instead 18...Rad8?!



19 Nf5+ Kh8 20 Qh6 Rg8 21 Ng5 etc.) **19 Nh2 Rad8** (Black takes the only open file.) **20 Ng4 Nxg4 21 hxg4 Rd6?!** (The rook is awkwardly placed here, in that Black may be obliged to take on a possible Nf5! In any case, tripling of heavy pieces should not be an option for Black since White's bishop holds d1.) **22 Ne2** (22 Nf5+ doesn't work: 22...gxf5 23 exf5 Nc5 24 Qxe5+ f6 25 Qg3 Nd3+) **22...Rfd8 23 Rad1** (White offered a draw here, which was difficult to decline, not because of the position but due to a 15 minute deficit on the clock and the possibility of botching a nice position.) **23...Nc5 24 Rxd6** (24 Ng3 is White's best try to hold at this point. Then 24...Rxd1 25 Rxd1 Rxd1+ 26 Bxd1 Nd3=) **24...Rxd6 25 Kh2?!** (It seems time for White to cut his losses and trade down to an inferior ending by getting rid of pieces on the d-file.) **25...Nd3 26 Rh1 Qc5 -+ 27 Qxc5 Nxc5 28 Rd1 Rxd1 29 Bxd1 Bxe4 30 f3 Bb1 31 b4 Nd3 32 Ng3 Nc1!** (Black correctly eschews the win of the unimportant a-pawn in favor of getting to the c-pawn.) **33 a4 Na2 34 axb5 axb5 35 Ne2 Kf6** (Black takes a moment to ensure he is well within the "triangle" of the b-pawn in case White tries to sac with Ba4) **36 Kg3 Bd3 37 g5+!** (He tries every trick available.) **37... Ke6 38 f4 Bxe2 39 Bxe2 Nxc3 40 Bg4+ f5 41 gxf6+ Kxf6 42 Bd7 Na2 43 Bxb5 c3 44 fxe5+ Kxe5 0-1**

MACON SHIBUT - TOM BRAUNLICH

1999 VIRGINIA CLOSED

SICILIAN

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

**1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bb5 Nd4 6 Bd3?!** (I have a sentimental attachment to this artificial move stemming from the way I first learned anything about the variation. It was at the book concession at some big tournament a couple years ago and there was a Dzhindzhichashvili video showing on a TV in the room. Dzhindzhi was analyzing the position after 6 Bd3 and my-oh-my!, what a surprising dose of poison it contains. If Black goes 6...e6?! then after 7 Nxd4 cxd4 8 Nb5 d6 (a move like 8...Qb6 doesn't adequately protect the d6 weakness because of 9 e5±) 9 c3 I've had more than one blitz game where Black fell for 9...a6? 10 Qa4! and White is much, much better. (10...Bd7 or 10...Qd7 both lose to 11 Nxd6+; if instead 10...Ke7 11 Qa3 ♠e5 etc) So 9...dxc3 is better, but then after 10 dxc3 the position of White's Bd3 doesn't look so odd any more, plus Black still isn't out of the woods yet, eg 10...Ne7? 11 Nxd6+!) **6...d6!** (This is the problem, however. Now Black should have no real trouble.) **7 Nxd4 cxd4 8 Ne2 Nh6!** (Sifting through my memory, I thought I dredged up a game from back in the prehistoric days of this variation, which is to say the 1960s. It seemed to me Larsen had somewhere used a plan with b3, Bb2, a4 and, if everything goes perfectly, a5, Ra4 & Qa1, pressuring the d4 pawn.) **9 0-0 0-0 10 b3?** (The correct way to introduce my chosen plan was 10 a4. That would have taken a lot of the sting out of what Black now plays because, first, there's no glaring tactical weakness on the long diagonal,



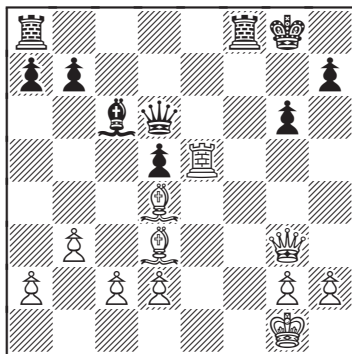
and second, because it could be a useful option in some lines for White to ditch b3 idea and swing the rook to the kingside along the third rank after Ra3) **10...f5** **11 Ng3 e5!** (It suddenly dawned on me that White is in great peril. In addition to getting steamrolled in the center by...fxe4 followed by...d5, e4 and d3 with discovered attack on my queen rook, it's not clear what can be done about the simple Neanderthal attack Qh4 & Ng4. Yikes! I allowed myself a few minutes to curse 10 b3 and then I settled down to the task of finding the best practical chance.) **12 exf5!** (At first I'd focused on 12 Bc4+ —while I've still got an e-pawn to keep him from stuffing this check by...d5— 12...Kh8 13 d3 but after 13...fxe4 White's game is dreary. The text at least poses some problems for Black. If 12...Nxf5 I intended to trade as many pieces as Black allows on f5, beginning with 13 Bxf5 so that at the end of the day White can go d3. The resulting position is still no picnic, White is weak on the c-file and the pawn on b3 looks ridiculous, but still there would be counterchances. Black's bishop and center pawns are not so good together, and his kingside attack is just a memory. I was counting on Black going for more than just that, so 12...gxf5 was the main line in my mind. Then I was planning 13 Nh5 hunting his dark-square bishop. White's development is suffering, but trading my knight for his bishop would have lots of benefits: the long diagonal danger would vanish, his king might become weak, and it would be easier defending the Qh4, Ng4 attack since I'd have the move h3 without hanging my knight on g3. If he tries to avoid the trade by 13...Bh8 then 14 Qf3! with ideas like Bc4+, or Qd5+, or Qg3+ emphasizes the tight corner in which Black has left his own king.) **12...exf4?** (Then there was this other possibility... Black abandons all subtlety and declares his intention of overrunning the kingside by...Be5, Qh4, etc. This wins material practically by force but to be honest I did not take it too seriously when contemplating my 12th move. It's positionally unconscionable for Black to break up his own center this way.) **13 Rxf4 Be5 14 Qf3** (No exclamation mark here, this is the only possible way. I did not know how the sacrifice would turn out but I had to be pleased considering how desperate for counterplay I had been just two moves earlier.) **14...Bxf4** (If he doesn't take it I'm just going to leave it there, unless of course 14...g5 when White interpolates the queen check on d5 and then withdraws the rook.) **15 Qxf4 Nxf5 16 Bb2** (The forceful 16 Nxf5? would be illogical because it develops Black's pieces for him. After 16...Bxf5 17 Qxd4 Bxd3 18 Bb2 there would be the pin 18...Qb6! The right way is for White to develop his own pieces and let the tactics on the central diagonals evolve naturally. Thus if now 16...Nxg3? White can indeed go 17 Qxd4! Qb6 18 Bc4+) **16...d5!** (Black needs to block the light-square diagonal ahead of time in order for his essential... Qb6 resource to work when he needs it.) **17 Re1!** (I was torn between this and 17 c4!, which has the threat of Nxf5 and Qxd4, whereupon...Qb6 doesn't work anymore because of c5! Likewise if 17...Nxg3 18 Qxd4 Qb6 19 c5. I figured he'd





play 17...dxc3 18 Bxc3 d4 and then I spent all kinds of time analyzing 19 Bc4+, or 19 Nxf5, or I don't remember what all else. Looking at it now with fresh eyes, White's position looks great after the simple 19 Bb2! Black has almost no useful move. For instance 19...Be6 20 Re1 etc. Somehow this did not seem clear over the board, but by now I was satisfied that White's compensation for the exchange was more than adequate and, being unable to decide between two equally promising looking continuations, I selected the more developing move.) **17...Qd6?** (The reason 17 Re1 was probably inferior to 17 c4 is that precisely now Black had an opportunity to get in 17...Nxc3! with a defensible position, although White still has compensation after either 18 Qxc3 or 18 Qxd4 Qb6 19 hxc3) **18 Re5** (It's a measure of how good White's position is that it's tempting to trade queens here: 18 Qxd6 Nxd6 19 Re5 both center pawns fall — which means White actually emerges with slight material advantage — and even without queens Black's king is still uncomfortable under the fire of White's bishops. 19...Bf5 20 Nxf5 Nxf5 21 Rxd5 Rad8 22 Bxf5 gxf5 (22...Rxd5 23 Be6+) 23 Rxd4 Rxd4 24 Bxd4 is a possible continuation.) **18...Nxc3 19 Qxc3** (There was also 19 Qxd4 to consider. If then 19...Nf5? 20 Bxf5 Bxf5 21 Rxd5 Qb6 22 Rc5! Rather, Black should play 19...Qb6 immediately, and then after 20 hxc3 we get something not unlike the queen trade variations from the previous note. So White has the advantage in any case, but keeping the queens on had worked well thus far and Braunlich was slipping into time trouble under the burden of defending against the full-blown attack.) **19...Bd7** (19...Bf5? was impossible because of 20 Rxf5 Qxc3 21 Rxf8+) **20 Bxd4 Bc6** (Here I really, really wanted to play 21 Bxg6 hxc6 (not 21...Qxc6? 22 Rg5) because I'd spotted the gorgeous follow-up 22 Re7! He can't take the rook because 23 Qxc6+ mates but meanwhile his queen is hanging too, so Black has to go 22...Qxc3 Then he's caught in a "mill": 23 Rg7+ Kh8 24 Rxb7+ . He can't even get out by sacrificing back a rook to clear f8, 24...Rf6? because White is winning the ending after 25 Bxf6+ Kg8 26 Rg7+ Kf8 27 hxc3. Therefore he has to just take his medicine by 24...Kg8 25 Rg7+ Kh8 26 Rxa7+ Kg8 27 Rg7+ Kh8 28 hxc3 (diagram)

White threatens Rxc6+ and then take the bishop. Black can defend that but at least White will get the g-pawn, winding up with five pawns for a rook. As much fun as all this would be, my head managed to get the better of my heart and I resisted the temptation to cash in my wonderful attacking middlegame for this ending.) **21 c4!** (It was good earlier and it's still good here. White threatens to take twice on d5 with the Bc4 pin at the end.) **21...Rad8** (Hoping to reach an





ending with 22 cxd5 Bxd5 23 Rxd5 Qxg3 24 hxg3 Rxd5 25 Bc4 Rd8 26 Bxa7, which I wanted no part of at this point.) **22 c5! Qf6** (Black had a tough choice. Of course he didn't want to step into the line of my bishop this way, but other queen retreats might have provoked that bishop sacrifice on g6... In fact, it appears to me that after 22...Qc7 White should contain himself for another move or so and play 23 h4! If instead 23 Bxg6 hxg6 24 Qxg6+ (24 Re7!? is a possibly improved version of the 'mill' variation since after 24...Qxg3 25 Rg7+ Kh8 26 Rxb7+ Kg8 27 Rg7+ Kh8 28 Rxa7+ Kg8 29 Rg7+ Kh8 30 hxg3 White already has three connected passed pawns; I might not have been able to resist!) 24...Qg7 there's lots of promising-looking stuff but White may also lose, eg 25 Qh5 Rde8! 26 Rg5 Re1 mate. So instead 25 Qe6+ but then 25...Rf7 and... what? Not 26 Rxd5? Bxd5 As I said, 23 h4! is more reliable.) **23 Rxd5 Qxd4+ 24 Rxd4 Rxd4 25 Bc4+?** (The irritating thing is that I had actually seen the problem with this a couple moves earlier, but at that time it was just one of many possibilities before I knew that he was going to give up his queen. Now that the position was really on the board I forgot my analysis and, caught up in my opponent's time trouble, slapped out a thoughtless move.) **25...Bd5 26 Bd3** (Fortunately I came to grips with having made a mistake and took the time to make the best of the situation. 26 Qe5? would not have turned out happily for White after 26...Bxc4 27 Qxd4 Rf1 mate. However, 26 Bxd5+ was also not so attractive as after 26...Rxd5 27 Qc3 Rfd8 Black will win the d-pawn. White would have a long grind ahead trying to win this. Best to just swallow one's pride and retract the bishop.) **26...Rdf4 27 Qg5 Bc6 28 Bc4+ Kg7 29 d4** (Threatening to blot out his bishop, and of course Black can't take this pawn because of Qe5+) **29...Re4** (threatening Re1+) **30 h4 h6 31 Qg3** (He still can't take my pawn, I'm still menacing d5, and now there's also a weakness at g6 to pick on with Bd3 or h5. Black's game is teetering.) **31...Rd8** (Ready to answer 32 Qc7+ with Rd7. But now...) **32 d5!** (...disrupts the coordination of Black's pieces, since if 32...Bxd5 33 Qc7+ wins the rook. Braunlich hesitated a few precious seconds and his flag fell.) **1-0**

**RUSTY POTTER – GARY DEFOTIS**

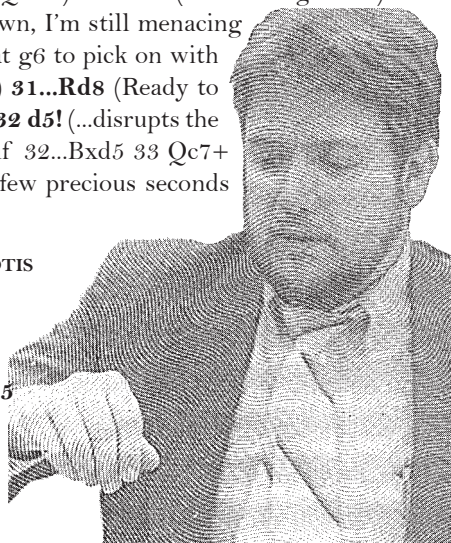
**2001 VIRGINIA CLOSED**

**NIMZOINDIAN**

*Notes by Rusty Potter*

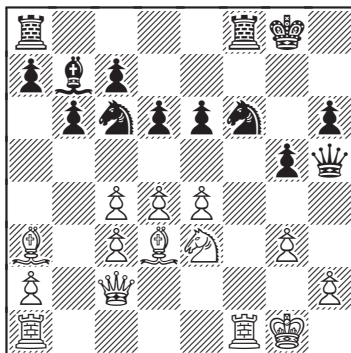
**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e3 b6 5**

**Bd3 Bb7 6 Nf3 Ne4 7 0-0 Bxc3** (Not good for Black here is 7...Nxc3 8 bxc3 Bxc3 9 Rb1 with a tremendous lead in development for the pawn.) **8**





**bxc3 f5** (Notice that Black will get his knight trapped if he tries to win a pawn with 8...Nxc3, eg 9 Qc2 Bxf3 10 gxf3 Qg5+ 11 Kh1 Qh5 12 Rg1 Qxf3+ 13 Rg2 Qd1+ 14 Qxd1 Nxd1 15 Bc2 Nc3 (or 15...Nxf2+ 16 Rxf2 d6 17 Bb2 Nd7 18 Rg1 g6) 16 Bb2 Ne2 17 Re1 The knight has behaved more like a frog than a horse in this variation! An amusing line.) **9 Qc2 0-0 10 Ne1 Qh4** (Instead of leading with his queen like this, Black should have attended to the quiet development of his army with 10...d6 11 f3 Nf6 12 e4 fxe4 13 fxe4 e5 14 Nf3 Nbd7 with a double-edged struggle in progress.) **11 f3 Nf6 12 g3 Qh5 13 e4** (White has been trying to achieve this standard central pawn thrust, while simultaneously fending off potshots against his somewhat lonesome king. Not so easy!) **13...fxe4 14 fxe4 Nc6 15 Ng2 g5 16 Ne3 h6** (16...Ng4 17 Nxg4 Qxg4, trading off pieces, may leave Black too vulnerable in view of the threat Ba3 and weaknesses on h7 and g5.) **17 Ba3 d6** (diagram)



**18 e5!** (The beginning of a sacrificial breakthrough that involves no less than four *Zwischenzugs*!) **18...dxe5 19 d5 exd5 20 Bg6** (the first Zw) **20...Qh3 21 Bf5** (second Zw) **21...Qh5 22 Be6+** (third Zw) **22...Kg7 23 Bxf8+** (the fourth Zw!) **23...Rxf8 24 Nxd5** (At last White recaptures on d5! However, notice that he prefers piece play to the routine undoubling of the c-pawns.) **24...Nxd5 25 Bxd5 Rxf1+ 26 Rxf1 Nd8** (Humiliation. Black is only too glad to undouble White's pawns after all!) **27 Qf5 Qe8 28 Qf6+ Kh7 29 Rf5 Bxd5 30 cxd5 1-0** With the pawns finally undoubled, Black decides to throw in the towel. White's threat of Re5 and Re7 is simply too strong.

MACON SHIBUT – DANIEL MILLER

2002 VIRGINIA CLOSED

PETROFF

Notes by Macon Shibut

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 Qe2 Qe7 6 d3 Nf6 7 Bg5 Be6 8 Nc3 Nbd7 9 0-0-0 00-0 10 d4 d5 11 Ne5** (Within thirty seconds I was pretty sure what move I would play next. However, I spent maybe five to ten minutes mulling it nonetheless. What was up? Well, my "opening theory" was tapped out after 7...Be6 but I vaguely remembered a Lasker game with what I thought was a similar variation. White sacrificed a piece on the queenside and carried off a winning attack that I remembered involved pushing his a-pawn to dislodge a defending Nb6. So I spent some time here toying with various fantasies after 11 Nb5, eg 11...a6 12 Na7+ (12 Nxc7 Kxc7 13 Bf4+ would be good if Black replies 13...Kc8? 14 Qxa6! but, alas 13...Kb6 leaves White with nothing much for the



piece.) 12...Kb8 13 Nc6+ bxc6 14 Qxa6 — not because I had any intent to play this way, but just to probe the position and see if I could rake up anything more from deep in my memory. For those who are interested, I looked it up afterwards and find that the game I was thinking of is Lasker-Marshall, St Petersburg 1914 — which was only one of the most important tournaments of all time, so I'm a bit embarrassed I didn't recall it more clearly. That game went 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 Qe2 Qe7 6 d3 Nf6 7 Bg5 Be6 8 Nc3 Nbd7 9 O-O-O h6 10 Bh4 g5 11 Bg3 Nh5 12 d4 Nxg3 13 hxg3 g4 14 Nh4 d5 15 Qb5 O-O-O 16 Qa5 a6 17 Bxa6 bxa6 18 Qxa6+ Kb8 19 Nb5 Nb6 20 Rd3 Qg5+ 21 Kb1 Bd6 22 Rb3 Rhe8 23 a4 Bf5 24 Na7 Bd7 25 a5 Qd2 26 axb6 Re1+ 27 Ka2 c6 28 Nb5 cxb5 29 Qa7+ 1-0) **11...h6 12 Bh4 Nxe5! 13 dxe5 Qb4!** (All of the sudden my danger sensors were tingling like crazy with the idea that maybe we were still in territory my opponent had analyzed beforehand. And indeed, after the game Miller told me he had played this tactic numerous times!) **14 Bg3 d4 15 exf6** (If 15 Nb5 Nd5 things like 16 Nxd4 Qa5 (or even 16...Nc3!?) or 16 Rxd4 Qa5 looked terrifying.) **15...dxc3 16 Rxd8+ Kxd8 17 Qd3+ Kc8 18 Qxc3 Qxc3 19 bxc3 Ba3+ 20 Kd2 gxf6 21 Bd3 a5** (I expected 21...Rd8 both here and on the next turn.) **22 Re1 c6? 23 Bh4** (Suddenly White is better! Black is close to losing a pawn because... f5 meets Re5, etc.) **23...Rg8 24 g3 b5!** (He found the best source of counterplay: threatening to make a dangerous passed a-pawn.) **25 Bxf6 a4 26 c4** (White has to prevent...Bxa2, which will be an actual threat very soon. By the move played I give back the extra pawn but I'm still virtually like a pawn ahead since I have a healthy 3-2 kingside majority whereas Black's queenside pawns, including the doubled c-pawns, cannot produce a passed pawn.) **26...bxc4 27 Bh7 Rf8 28 c3 Bc5 29 f4 Kc7 30 Rb1 Bc8 31 Be5+ Kd7 32 Bf5+?!** (It only helps Black to move his king off the d-file and prepare for counterplay by...Rd8+ This was shortly after the move 30 time control and I was still not resettled and thinking properly. Maybe 32 Rb8 was right.) **32...Ke7** (Now I began to concentrate again. I did not feel I was getting full value for my position with the following liquidation, but I wanted to limit possible counterplay and in any case I couldn't find anything better. Maybe this was just the unavoidable consequence of the inferior 32 Bf5+) **33 Bxc8 Rxc8 34 Rb8 Rxb8 35 Bxb8 Ke6 36 Ke2 h5 37 Kf3 Bb6** (Threatening 38...Bb6 39 Be5 f6) **38 Ke4** (Now White is threatening f5+ so Black must advance his own f-pawn and grant White's bishop a secure post on e5) **38...f5+ 39 Kf3 Bc5 40 Bc7 Ba3 41 Be5 Bc1 42 h3 Kd5 43 Bg7 Bd2 44 Bh8 Bc1 45 g4?** (Too quick. If I had it to do again I'd try 45 Bd4 and hope to prompt...c5. That would make it harder for his bishop to get back to stop my pawn later. But during the game everything seemed a lot less clear! My thinking was that his chances were connected with a counterattack against c3. If I lost that pawn he could sac his bishop for the f-pawn and draw the "wrong-color" RP ending. Accordingly, I believed the time was ripe



for g4 now, while he was not attacking the pawn and while my bishop sat on h8 instead of, say, g7. The significance of this latter point was that if later f6 was met with...Bxc3 I could immediately push on, f7! his taking my bishop with his would not cover the f8 queening square. The flaw in all of this was to overemphasize the plan of counterattacking c3 while underestimating the idea of his king dashing for a2.) **45...fxg4+ 46 hxg4 hxg4+ 47 Kxg4 Ke4 48 f5 Be3 49 f6 Bc5 50 f7 Kd3 51 Kf3** (I analyzed a way to lose: 51 Kf5? Kc2 52 Ke6 Kb2 53 Kd7 Kxa2 54 Kxc6 Bf8 55 Kb5 Kb3 56 Bd4 a3 57 Bc5 a2!) **51...a3 52 Bg7 Kc2 53 Ke2 Be7 54 Ke3 c5 55 Ke2 Kb2 56 Kd2 Kxa2 57 Kc2 Ka1 58 Bh6 Bf8!** (Not 58...a2?? 59 Bc1) **59 Bxf8** (White could try other things but after, eg, 59 Bc1 Ka2 60 Be3 Bd6 (60...Ka1 is simpler) 61 Bh6 Be7 62 f8Q Bxf8 63 Bxf8 Ka1 it's still a draw.) **59...a2 60 Kd2 Kb2 61 Bxc5 a1Q 62 f8Q Qc1+ 63 Ke2 Qc2+ 64 Kf3 Qd3+ 65 Kg2 Qg6+ 66 Kf1 Qd3+ 67 Kg2 Qg6+ 68 Kf3 Qd3+ 69 Kf2 Qc2+ 70 Kf3 Qd3+ ½-½** The precise sequence of final checks might have been a little different — we had stopped keeping score long before. No matter, the position is drawn. However, it wasn't that simple: the second time control was sudden death and each side had less than a minute remaining, without a time-delay clock, so we were just blitzing along. The position repeated a few times and Black offered/claimed the draw just as my flag was falling! (Earlier I had been appreciably ahead on time, but moves 51-59 changed all that.) So it was a close call.

### Macon Shibut - William Aramil

#### 2002 Eastern Open

#### Sicilian

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

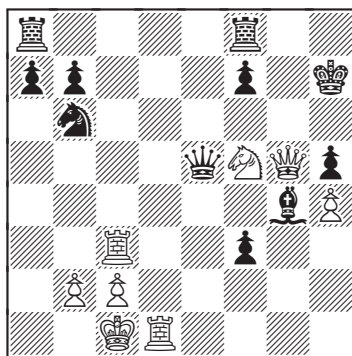
**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Nd7 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nc3 cxd4 6 Qxd4 g6 7 Bg5 Bg7 8 0-0-0 0-0 9 e5 dxe5 10 Qh4** (10 Nxe5 is simpler but I figured that Black would be able to wriggle out of his slight tactical inconveniences and we'd just wind up exchanging a bunch of pieces.) **10...Qc7 11 Bh6 Nb6** (One line I noticed was 11... Rd8 12 Ng5 and if Black tries to avoid the bishop exchange by 12... Bh8? there follows 13 Bc4 e6 14 Nxe6! winning.) **12 Ng5 Nh5** (In case of 12...Bf5 I had a choice of two good lines: 13 Bd3 Bxd3 14 Rxd3 and the rook joins the kingside attack; or 12 h3, depriving Black of the resource...Nh5) **13 Bxg7 Kxg7 14 g4 Nf6 15 Nce4 h6 16 Nxf6 exf6** (16...hxg5!? would have been fun. I prepared the reply 17 Nh5+! White wins directly in the event of 17...gxh5, eg 18 Qxg5+ Kh7 19 Qxh5+ Kg7 20 Qg5+ Kh7 21 Rd3. However, Black has an amazing pair of moves to make things more interesting: 17...Kh6! and after 18 Qh3 Bxg4! Still, 19 Qxg4 gxh5 20 Qf5 White has excellent compensation for the two pawns, with ideas like Bd3 and Rdg1 in mind.) **17 Ne4 f5** (17...g5 takes all the flexibility out of Black's pawn mass so that after 18 Qh3 ideas like Ng3-h5 or Rd6 will consign him to a difficult defense.) **18 Qf6+ Kh7 19 Nd6** (Oh! but I *so* wanted to play





19 Ng5+?! —19...hxg5?? 20 h4 wins. But after simply 19...Kg8 there is nothing special going on except that it's obvious the knight would be much better on d6 than g5) **19...fxg4 20 Rhe1** (The Morphy move, ignoring for now the possibility of recapturing e5 in favor of just bringing the last piece into play.) **20...Be6 21 Qxe5** (If 21 Rxe5 he could dislodge my beautiful knight, 21...Rad8) **21...Bxa2 22 Re3** (Before he played his last turn I had been thinking about moving my queen to unpin the knight, eyeing N-e4-f6+ So now the first thing I looked at was 22 b3 with the idea that after 22...Bxb3 23 Qb2 comes with tempo. Alas, after 23...Be6 24 Ne4 h5 I couldn't find anything. In many lines Black can upset the apple cart with the resource...Qf4+ The text move threatens 23 b3 for real, however.) **22...Be6 23 Rc3 Qb8** (If 23...Qe7 White can recover some material and glide into a very pleasant ending with 24 Ne4 f6 25 Rc7! fxe5 26 Rxe7+ Bf7 27 Nf6+ Kg7 28 Nxg4 But what to do after this 23...Qb8 move? I've got a wonderfully active looking position, but I need some way to add fuel to the fire.) **24 f4!?** (I'm not swearing to the soundness of this and what follows. But it sure worked over the board! The f-pawn protects my queen. If left alone, may eventually serve to pry open his king with f5. All sorts of interesting attacking chances are in the air—not surprising, considering my tremendous knight and the constrained state of Black pieces (Qb8, Ra8). For instance, if now 24...Nc8 I might have tried 25 Nxf7 Bxf7 (nor is 25...Rxf7 26 Qxe6 Qxf4+ 27 Kb1 easy for Black in view of the threats Rf1 or Rd8) 26 Rc7 Nb6 27 f5 etc. So, he decided to swallow yet another pawn! After 24...gxf3 I can't recapture 25 Rxf3 because of 25...Bg4, of course. However, more lines are opened and now, with Black's g4 pawn out of the way, my h-pawn can join the assault.) **24...gxf3 25 h4! h5 26 Bd3** (Now this comes with tempo because of the threat Qxh5+) **26...Bg4 27 Bxg6+ Kxg6?** (The aesthetic flaw in this game is that just here it could all end not with a bang but a whimper if Black had chosen 27...fxg6. After 28 Qe7+ Kg8 it appears that 29 Rc7 Nd7 does not work, so maybe I would have to force a draw by 29 Qg5, eg 29...Kh7 30 Qe7+ etc In playing the text Black counted too much on his 29th move...) **28 Qg5+ Kh7 29 Nf5! Qe5** (diagram)

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



*Solution to Carl Sloan study from page 8:*

1 Ng3 Bc7 2 Nf1 Ke2 3 Kg2 Bf4 4 Kh1 Kf3 5 Ng3





NELSON CASTANEDA—DANIEL MILLER  
2004 USATE

SLAV

*Notes by Daniel Miller*

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Nf3 e6 5 Bg5 dxc4 6 e4 b5 7 e5 h6 8 Bh4 g5 9 Nxg5 Nd5!?** (Alatorsev's variation. There is a general consensus that it is unsound. However, that usually works to Black's advantage in practice, as many players neglect to prepare adequately as White. In fact, I have used this line as part of my repertoire for four years with excellent results. I prepared it very thoroughly for the 2000 state championship, using Fritz to find novelties and rehabilitate lines thought to be bad. I have played this hundreds of times on ICC and have an insanely positive score with it, even against titled players. This is not due to the virtues of the line itself, but to the vast disparity in familiarity with the line. Often my opponents find themselves out of book in positions that I have previously put on Fritz and solved for the next dozen or so moves.) **10 Nf3?! (If White is to seek an advantage, he must play the main line: 10 Nxf7 Qxh4 11 Nxh8 Bb4) 10...Qa5 11 Qc2?** (I've seen even GMs and IMs play this natural developing move, which just loses. Paradoxically, White must unpin the Knight by interposing the queen, 11 Qd2, even though Black's bishop is coming to b4.) **11...Bb4 12 Rc1 Qxa2** (This would not be possible if the queen were on d2.) **13 Nd2** (I have had this position numerous times and consider Black's advantage to be decisive. White's counterplay is based on the central dark squares, pressure down the f3-a8 diagonal and insecurity of Black's king. In my preparations I decided on the following plan to neutralize White's counterplay: a) force the

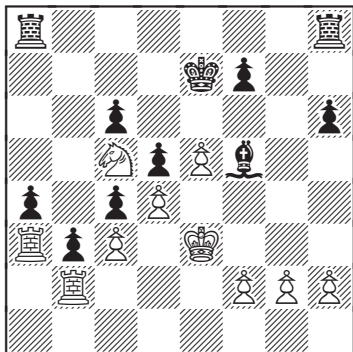


Danny Miller

exchange of queens by trading knights; b) trade dark squared bishops, which might seem counter-intuitive but it does neutralize pressure on the dark squares; c) plant the other knight on d5 to solidify my position on the long diagonal. After that, Black's space and material advantage on the queenside will win.) **13...Nxc3 14 bxc3 Qxc2 15 Rxc2 Be7 16 Bxe7 Kxe7 17 Be2 Na6! 18 Bf3 Bd7 19 Ne4 Nc7 20 Kd2 Nd5 → 21 Re1 a5 22 Nc5?! (This allows Black to use tactics to activate his pawn roller. White's knight can prance around the dark squares but can't hit anything.) 22...b4 23 Bxd5?! (I believe White had to sacrifice the exchange with 23 cxb4 c3+ 24 Rxc3 to generate some level of counterplay. The N on d5 was strong and**



trading a rook for knight and pawn, while still losing, would open up the position.) **23...exd5** (The correct recapture—away from the center. Activating the bishop was more important than minimizing the number of pawn islands. Black has a



5-2 majority on the queenside, which is now much better than White's 4-2 on the kingside.)

**24 Rb2 b3 25 Ra1 a4!** (The pawn cannot be captured. If **26 Ra4??** **Ra4 27 Na4 Ra8 28 Nc5 Ra1** White can't move.) **26 Ra3** (forced) **26... Bf5 27 Ke3** (diagram)

(White still cannot capture on a4. In fact, he is completely tied up even without Black using his king rook. I wanted to play **27...Bc2** to immobilize the b2 rook, but how would I win then? I needed to activate my unused Rook on

h8. If I could activate my rook by trading my h pawn for one of his, he wouldn't have an answer to the rooks. *Activate long-range pieces by trading pieces.* My reasoning was this: If I play **27...Bc2**, he will answer **28 g4!** so that he can meet h5 with g5. Therefore, I need to push ...f6—but that would let his knight out of the box, for example: **27...Bc2 28 g4 f6 29 ef6 Kf6 30 Nd7+ Ke6 31 Ne5**. Therefore, I prepare ...f6 by first playing my rook to a7 to make the d7 square unavailable for his knight. The danger with that in general is that it leaves my queenside unprotected, suggesting that he sacrifice his knight on b3 for two pawns and some activity. But if my bishop is on c2, b3 is overprotected and the sacrifice on b3 is not an option for White. So again, **27...Bc2** not only restricts the rook on b2 but it turns out that it enables Black to activate his unused rook.) **27...Bc2!** (Thanks to his well-considered plan, Black was in complete control throughout the rest of the game.) **28 g4 Ra7 29 Kf4 f6 30 h4 Rf8 31 exf6+ Kxf6 32 Ke3 Re8+ 33 Kf4 Re1 34 f3 Kg6 35 h5+ Kf6 36 Kg3 Re3 37 Kf2 Rxc3 38 Ke2 Kf7 39 Nxa4 Rd3 40 Ra1 Rxd4 0-1**

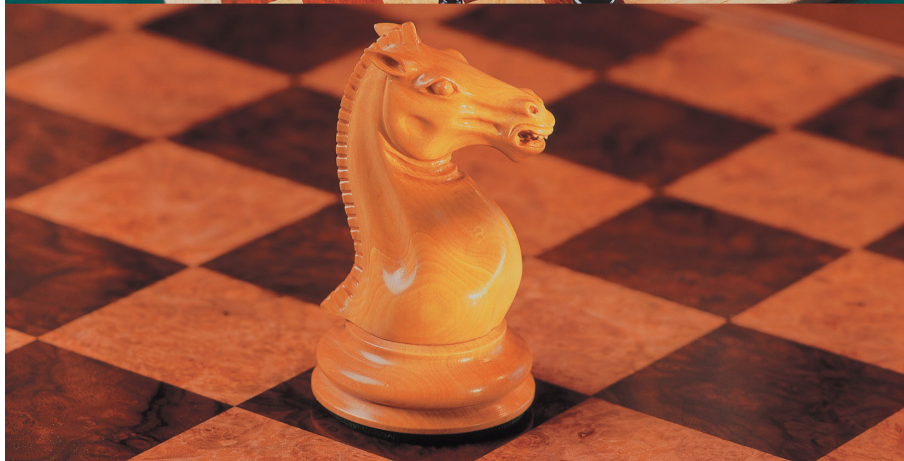
## VIRGINIA OPEN

January 28-30, 2005

Holiday Inn Express-Springfield, 6401 Brandon Ave, Springfield, VA 22150  
 5-SS, rd1 G/2, rds 2-5 40/2 SD/1. \$\$\$3400 (top 4 in Open section G, rest b/110 entries).  
*Open:* \$600-400-300-250, top X, A each \$180, plus plaque to overall winner. *Under 1900:*  
 \$400-200-150, top B, C, D, U1200 each \$160, top U \$100, plus plaque to overall winner.  
 EF \$50 if rec'd by 1/21, \$60 at site. Reg 1/28 5:30pm-7:45pm, rds 8, 10-4:30, 9-3:30.  
 One irreversible ½pt bye allowed, must be declared before rd 1. NS, NC, W, FIDE Hotel  
 \$69, 703-644-5555 ask for "Sales Department" and reserve before 1/14th! *Enter:* checks  
 payable to "Virginia Chess" and mail to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria  
 VA 22306. Info online (including special scholastic entry option) <http://vachess.org/vaopen2005.htm> or email [matkins2@cox.net](mailto:matkins2@cox.net). 30 Grand Prix points

*Incomparable Chess Sets From*

**THE HOUSE OF STAUNTON**



*Chess Sets - Chess Boards - Antique Sets - Chess Clocks*

EMAIL: [sales@houseofstaunton.com](mailto:sales@houseofstaunton.com) ~ PH: (256) 858-8070

Visit us on the Internet at [www.houseofstaunton.com](http://www.houseofstaunton.com)

**Virginia Chess**  
 1370 South Braden Crescent  
 Norfolk, VA 23502

## In This Issue:

Games & Analysis.....	2
First VCF Championship.....	6
Confidence Paid Dividend (Ashworth) .....	9
Barney's View On Chess (Chauvenet).....	14
1976 US Open (O'Keefe) .....	15
Chess Offers No Excuses (Harris) .....	20
State Champions.....	23
Legendary Morphy Artifact (Campbell) .....	28
2005 Virginia Open Announcement.....	52
VCF Info .....	inside front cover



Nonprofit Organ.  
 US Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit No. 97  
 Orange, VA  
 22960