

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

2005 - #4



*Three-time US champion GM Joel Benjamin lectures at the Arlington Chess Club.  
His appearance was part of the Richard Delaune Memorial event. (see p 6)*

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

**2005 - Issue #4**

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# Charlottesville Open

by Mike Atkins

**R**EARLY TO SIXTY PLAYERS came to Charlottesville over the blazing hot July 16-17 weekend to compete in the Royal Game. As the hot swirling dust settled near Tom Jefferson's home, IM Oladapo Adu wound up in clear first with  $4\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$ .



The tournament was held at the Best Western - Cavalier Inn, a classy little hotel associated with the University of Virginia. I have to admit that it is really strange playing in Charlottesville at any place other than the old Best Western. It's even stranger driving by and seeing a Best Buy sitting on the old site! With a location next to Sarah's Pancakes, its huge older rooms, and its slowed down southern comfort style, that was a special place... But, back to the present:

This year's Charlottesville Open was expertly run by Ernie Schlich. Speaking personally, it is a pleasure to actually *play* chess and not have to worry about anything (other than remembering how to play!). full results can be viewed on the tournament website, [http://mysite.verizon.net/eschlich/Charlottesville\\_std.html](http://mysite.verizon.net/eschlich/Charlottesville_std.html)

Adu played a tough schedule and his victory was deserved. He beat expert Larry Larkins (an increasingly difficult task, it seems) in rd 3 and master Ray Kaufman in rd 4. Then came a last round showdown with State Champ Dan Miller. Miller had to win outright, having been previously nicked for a draw by William Carroll. NM Tom Magar, from Pennsylvania, was also in position to tie for first had he won his final round game with Kaufman.

The verdict: Adu-Miller drew and Kaufman won, leaving Adu in clear first - well done! Six players finished with 4-1 to split Place and Expert money: Miller, Kaufman, NM's Andrew Samuelson &



Floyd Boudreaux, and experts Larkin & Adithya Balasubramanian. Harry Cohen & Bora Yagiz took Class A money while Byron Hood was taking clear first among Class C (a ½-point ahead of the Class B winners). Byron seems to be hitting that adolescent spurt of tremendous improvement. He played like an experienced expert, defeating me in rd 4 and then Alex Herrera in the final round for a 2000 performance rating!

Four players split the B prize: Craig Saperstein, Joe Faries, Ryan Fitzgerald & Malcomb Scott. Haywood Boling turned in a great performance to take the D prize, gaining almost 100 points with a performance 450 points above his rating. Wesley Kandare won both the U1200 and the special upset prize while Andrew Butler took top Unrated.

The Best Western – Cavalier Inn is a good playing site; perhaps we should hold another annual tournament there. On another personal note, this will be my last tournament article as VCF President. It has been a fun ride over the past three years. It started out looking like we might not have a playing site (re: the Debacle at Dulles) but Springfield has turned out to be a good venue which attracts lots of DC and Baltimore players. Getting the Richard Delaune Memorial tournament off the ground was a pleasure. I highly encourage anyone interested in getting involved in Virginia Chess Federation activities to attend the Annual VCF Membership Business Meeting on Saturday Sept 3 at the Springfield Holiday Inn, right before the 69th Annual Virginia Closed State Championship. Member participation is essential for the future of the VCF. We need new blood!! Come check us out!

### OLADAPO ADU – GEORGE HARRIS SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 O-O 8 Qd2 Nc6 9 O-O-O d5 10 exd5 Nxd5 11 Nxc6 bxc6 12 Bd4 Bxd4 13 Qxd4 Qb6 14 Na4 Qa5 15 b3 Rb8 16 Qc5 Qxc5 17 Nxc5 Nc3 18 Re1 Nxa2+ 19 Kb2 Nb4 20 Rxe7 Bf5 21 c3 Nd5 22 Rxa7 Rfe8 23 Bc4 Re3 24 Rc1 Rd8 25 Rd1 Rde8 26 Rd2 Re1 27 Bxd5 cxd5 28 Ra1 Rxa1 29 Kxa1 Re5 30 Kb2 Bc8 31 c4 d4 32 Ne4 f5 33 Ng3 Re3 34 Rxd4 1-0

### ROBERT CALE – ANDREW SAMUELSON SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Nc6 8 Nxc6 bxc6 9 Be2 Qb6 10 Qd3 a5 11 Qf3 a4 12 Bh4 a3 13 b3 d5 14 exd5 Nxd5 15 O-O-O Bc5 16 Kb1 O-O 17 Nxd5 cxd5 18 f5 Ra4 19 Bg3 Re4 20 f6 Bd4 21 fxg7 Bxg7 22 Bf2 Qc7 23 Bg3 Be5 24 Bd3 Rb4 (24...Qc3 25 Bxe5 Qxe5 26 Qg3+ Kh8! 27 Qxe5+ Rxe5) 25 Bxh7+ Kg7 26 Bd3 f5 27 Be1 Rg4 28 h3 Rf4?! (The rook gets in trouble here.) 29 Qe3 Bd4 30



IM Oladapo Adu

**Qg3+ Kf7 31 Bd2 Be5 32 Qe1 Rg8 33 g4 Rf3 34 gxf5 Rg2 35 fxe6+ Kxe6 36 Rf1 Rxd3 37 cxd3 Qc5 38 Qe3 Qxe3 39 Bxe3 Rb2+ 40 Kc1 Rxa2 41 d4 Bd6 42 Rf2 Ra1+ 43 Kc2 Ra2+ 44 Kb1 Rxf2 45 Bxf2 Kf5 46 Re1 Ba6 47 Ka2 Bd3 48 Bh4 Be4 49 Rf1+ Ke6 50 Bd8 Kd7 51 Ba5 Bd3 52 Rf2 Kc6 53 Bd2 Be7 54 Bc1 Bh4 55 Rf8 Be7 56 Rf7 ½-½** Evidently a “sudden death” result, as White is clearly winning on the board.



### FLOYD BOUDREAUX - DANIEL MILLER SLAV

**1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 c6 3 d4 d5 4 cxd5 cxd5 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Bf4 Ne4 7 e3 Nxc3 8 bxc3 g6 9 Bd3 Bg7 10 h3 O-O 11 O-O b6 12 e4 Bb7 13 exd5 Qxd5 14 Re1 Qa5 15 Qb3 e6 16 Ne5 Ne7 17 Nc4 Qd5 18 Be4 Qd7 19 Bxb7 Qxb7 20 Be5 Rfd8 21 Bxg7 Kxg7 22 Re3 Rac8 23 Ne5 Nc6 24 Nxc6 Rxc6 25 a4 Qc7 26 Ra3 Rxd4 27 g3 Rd2 28 Ra1 Rc5 29 Ra2 Qd6 30 Rxd2 Qxd2 31 Rf3 Qe1+ 32 Kg2 Qe4 33 Qb4 Qc6 34 Qd4+ e5 35 Qb4 Qd5 36 g4 Rc4 37 Qb3 0-1 (37...Rxc4+)**

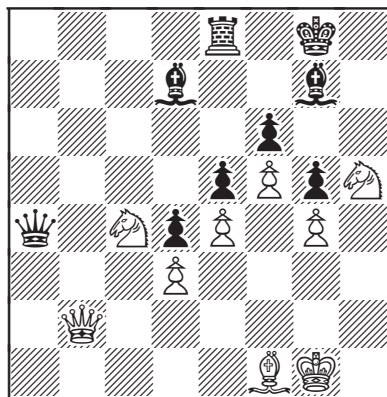


MICHAEL ATKINS - BYRON HOOD

### KING'S INDIAN ATTACK

*Notes by Mike Atkins*

1 Nf3 d5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 c5 4 O-O Nc6 5 d3 g6 6 Nbd2 Bg7 7 Re1 O-O 8 e4 d4 9 Qe2 Qc7 10 a4 Nd7 11 Nf1 e5 12 h4 Rb8 13 Ng5 a6 14 f4 b5 15 axb5 axb5 16 h5 Nb6 (Byron continues his general strategy of ignoring my kingside build-up while pursuing his own queenside play. This pattern continued and it felt like I was playing a master. Well done Byron!) 17 Qf3 f6 18 Nh3 Nb4 19 Re2 c4 20 hxg6 hxg6 21 g4 Na4 22 f5 Qd7 23 Nf2 g5 24 Ng3 Qc6 25 Bf1 c3 26 b3 Nb2 27 Nh5 Ra8 28 Rb1 Na2 29 Bxb2 (Probably not the best idea; kingside play with the queen or knight would have been consistent with my earlier strategy.) 29...cxb2 30 Rxb2 Nc3 31 Rd2 Qc5 32 b4 Qa7 33 Nd1 Qa1 34 Rb3 (I am probably strategically lost and have to give up the exchange to cool off white's invasion.) 34...Qc1 35 Nxc3 Qxd2 36 Nxb5 Qxc2 37 Ra3 Rxa3 38 Nxa3 Qb3 39 Nc4 Qxb4 40 Qe2 Bd7 41 Qa2 Qa4 42 Qb2 Re8?



(The first mistake Byron makes but I don't take advantage of it. Now 43 Nb6 looked attractive, but after 43...Qb5 I missed the 44 Qa2+ followup, which almost forces a draw, eg 44...Kf8 45 Qa3+ Kf7 46 Qa2+ — Black cannot allow White to play Qf7, so it's tough to escape the checks.) 43 Qb6? Qc6 44 Qa7 Ra8 45 Qb6 Qxb6 46 Nxb6 Ra7 47 Nd5 Kf7 48 Be2 Bf8? (Another mistake, but it comes too late to really mean anything for me.) 49 Nhxg6 Bc6 50 Kf2 Bg7 51 Nb4 Bb5 52 Nh7 Bh6 53 Nd5 Kg7 54 Nhf6 Kf7 White has some Knight play that could get annoying but Black has a win. The game continued in sudden death and Black indeed won. 0-1 A nice game by Byron, who beat another class A player in rnd 5.



# VIRGINIA CLOSED STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Sept 3-5, 2005

Holiday Inn Express  
6401 Brandon Ave

Springfield, VA 22150

*Conveniently located at the junction of I-95, I-495 & I-395*

Open to Virginia residents, military stationed in Virginia  
& students at Virginia colleges and universities with valid  
student ID for Fall 2005

6-SS, 30/90, SD/1. \$\$2,700 b/100 (reentries count 50%). *Open:* \$600-300-200-150, X, A each \$100; trophies to 1st, top X & A. *Amateur (U1800):* \$425-225-150, C, D, U1200 & Unr each \$100, top Upset \$50; trophies to 1st, top C, D & U1200. *Both:* Reg 9am-12:30pm Saturday June 4, rds 1-7, 11-5, 10-3:30. Two ½pt byes allowed, must be declared before the start of rd 2. EF \$50 if rec'd by August 27, \$55 at site, VCF Membership req'd (\$10-\$5) Reentry allowed after rd 1 only, with ½pt bye for \$30. Trophy & state title to top scorer each section (tiebreaks: Cumulative, MM, S), trophies to top Senior (60+), Junior (U18) and Woman — all 1 pt added to Open section scores. State Champion will represent Virginia in online ICC Tournament of State Champs (a US Championship qualifier). W, NS, FIDE. Hotel \$75, reserve before 8/14, 877-800-6696 (local 703-644-5555) and ask for chess tournament rate. Plenty of nearby eateries and places to visit. *Enter:* Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA 22306, make checks to "Virginia Chess". For info email [matkins2@cox.net](mailto:matkins2@cox.net) or browse [www.vachess.org/2005closed.htm](http://www.vachess.org/2005closed.htm)

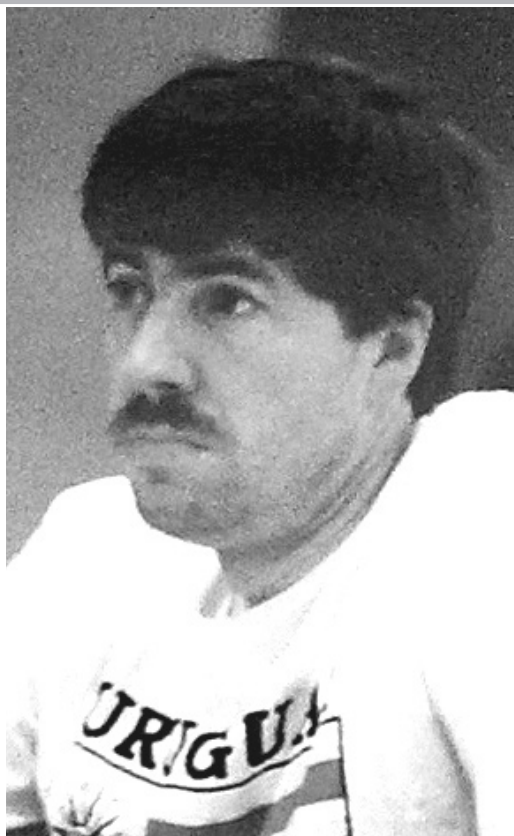


Annual VCF Business Meeting  
Saturday, Sept 3  
10-Noon



# Richard Delaune Memorial

Chess players from Virginia, DC, Maryland and beyond gathered to remember four-time state champion Richard Delaune at the Richard Delaune Memorial tournament, June 17-19 in Springfield. The Open section finished in a 4-way tie for first place with the three top-ranked players—GMs Alex Wojtkiewicz, Joel Benjamin & John Fedorowicz—and local master John Meyer all finishing 4-1. Tiebreaks fell



out in rating order, so the three GMs took home beautiful trophies. Rodion Rubenchik, Macon Shibut, Ray Kaufman & Steve Mayer split the 4<sup>th</sup> place money four ways. In the U2200 section, Larry Larkins scored 4½, followed by a crowd: Edward Pabalan, Milo Nekvasil, Harry Cohen, Chris Bush & Ray Fletcher, all 4-1. Kyle Askine won the U1600 section with a perfect 5-0 and Adam Chrisney & Jerry Wu came next with 4 points apiece.

**M**ANY CHESS TOURNAMENTS carry as a name “The So-and-So Memorial” but it was nice to see that this event really did seem to be about Rich in many ways. Several of the entrants (121 in all) were players who rarely if ever play tournament chess any more, but they came out of ‘retirement’ to honor the memory



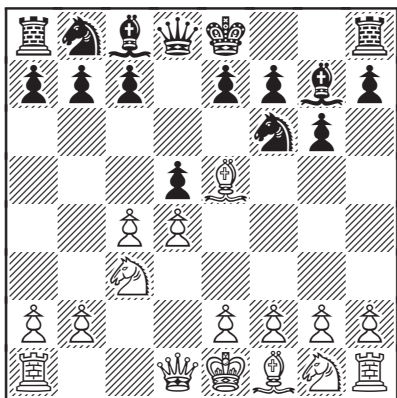


of their old friend. GMs Benjamin and Fedorowicz came down from New York especially for the event. They had known Richard through most of their chess lives, having played with him in junior events back in the 1970s. Benjamin kicked off the weekend with a lecture and simultaneous exhibition at the Arlington Chess Club on Thursday night, June 16. Joel played 26 people and allowed just 2 draws for a score of 25-1. Friday evening began with an opening ceremony at which Richard's widow Alicia greeted the players. Saturday afternoon featured a reception between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rounds attended by Richard and Alicia's families.

The Open section began the way it should, with wins by the GMs, but a few other highly rated players were upset in rd 1. In round 2, Phil Collier nicked GM Fedorowicz for a draw with an unusual opening move better described as a rarity than a novelty.

#### PHIL COLLIER - JOHN FEDOROWICZ GRÜNFELD

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Bf4 Bg7 5 Be5!?



5...dxc4 6 e3 O-O 7 Bxc4 c5 (Nbd7 8 Nf3 c5 9 0-0 a6 10 a4 cxd4 11 exd4 Nxe5 12 dxe5 Nh5 13 Qb3 Nf4 14 Rfd1 Qc7 15 Rac1 Bxe5 16 Nd5 Nxd5 17 Bxd5 Qb8 18 Bxf7+! Colle-Gruenfeld, Baden Baden 1925, 1-0,57) 8 Nf3 Nc6 9 O-O cxd4 10 exd4 Bg4 11 h3 Bxf3 12 Qxf3 Rc8 13 Rad1 Qa5 14 Bb5 Qb4 15 Qe2 Rfd8 16 a3 Qa5 17 Rfe1 e6 18 Kh2 Nxe5 19 dxe5 Nh5 20 g3 Rxd1 21 Rxd1 a6 22 Bd7 Rd8 23 f4 Qc7 24 Ba4 Bf8 25 Ne4 Be7 26 Rxd8+ Qxd8 27 Qd2 Qxd2+ 28 Nxd2 Bc5 29 Bd7 h6 30 b4 Be3 31 Ne4 Bc1 32 a4 Ba3 33 a5 1/2-1/2

After GMs Benjamin and Wojtkiewicz drew in rd 4, the three GMs were alone with 3½ out of 4 points, which speaks to the predictive ability of the rating system. Then in the last round



Fed and Wojo drew in blazing style while FM Rubenchik was holding Benjamin to a half point, which created a four-way tie after FM John Meyer joined the winners circle with a final round defeat of Dov Gorman.

**RODION RUBENCHIK - JOEL BENJAMIN**

### OLD INDIAN

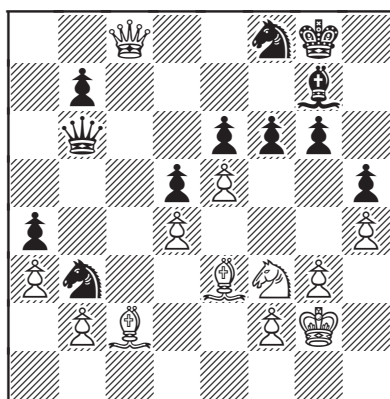
1 Nf3 d6 2 d4 Bg4 3 e4 c6 4 c4 Nd7 5 Be2 e5 6 Nc3 Be7 7 Be3 Bxf3 8 Bxf3 Bg5 9 Bxg5 Qxg5 10 O-O Qd8 11 Qd2 Ngf6 12 Rad1 O-O 13 g3 Re8 14 d5 cxd5 15 Nxd5 Nc5 16 Nxf6+ Qxf6 17 Qxd6 Qxf3 18 Qxc5 Qxe4 19 Rfe1 Qc2 20 Rd7 Qxb2 21 Qd5 Rf8 22 Rxe5 Rac8 23 Ree7 Qc1+ 24 Kg2 Qxc4 25 Qxc4 Rxc4 26 Rxb7 a6 27 Rb6 Ra4 28 Ra7 Rxa2 29 Rbxa6 Rxa6 30 Rxa6  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$



*Tournament co-winner GM John Fedorowicz  
photo by Macon Shibut*

**JOHN FEDOROWICZ - LARRY KAUFMAN**  
SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 g6 3 c3 Bg7 4 d4 cxd4 5 cxd4 d5 6 e5 Bg4 7 Bb5+ Nd7 8 Nbd2 Bxf3 9 Qxf3 e6 10 O-O a6 11 Ba4 Ne7 12 Qd1 O-O 13 Nf3 h6 14 Bc2 Rc8 15 Be3 Qb6 16 Rb1 Rc7 17 Qd2 Rfc8 18 Rfc1 Nf8 19 Bd3 Rxc1+ 20 Rxc1 Rxc1+ 21 Qxc1 Nc6 22 h4 a5 23 g3 h5 24 Kg2 a4 25 a3 Na5 26 Qc3 Nb3 27 Bc2 f6 28 Qc8



28...Qc6 29 Qxc6 bxc6 30 Bxb3 axb3 31 exf6 Bxf6 32 Nd2 e5 33 Nxb3 Ne6 34 dxe5 Bxe5 35 Nc5 Kf7 36 Nd3 Bd6 37 b4 d4 38 Bf4 Nxf4+ 39 Nxf4 c5 40 bxc5 Bxc5 41 a4 Kf6 42 a5 Kf5 43 Kf3 Ba7 44 a6 Bb8 45 Nd3 Ba7 46 Nb4 Bc5 47 Nc6 d3 48 a7 d2 49 Ke2 1-0



### JOHN MEYER – STAN FINK BENONI

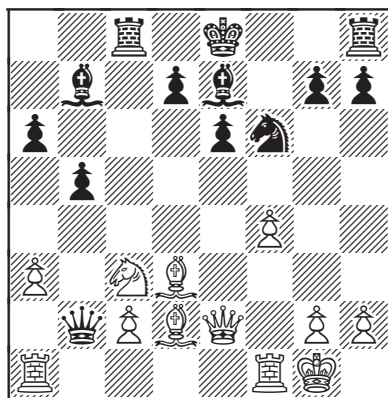
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 c5 4 d5  
exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 Nc3 g6 7 Nd2  
Nbd7 8 e4 Bg7 9 Bd3 0-0 10 0-  
0 Ne5 11 Be2 a6 12 a4 Re8 13  
h3 Rb8 14 f4 Ned7 15 a5 b5 16  
axb6 Nxb6 17 Ra3 Ra8 18 Qc2  
Kh8 19 Nc4 Nxc4 20 Bxc4 Nh5  
21 Kh2 Qe7 22 Bd2 g5 23 g3  
gxf4 24 gxf4 Rg8 25 Ne2 Nf6  
26 Ng3 Ng4+ 27 hxg4 Qh4+  
28 Kg2 Bxg4 29 Rh1 Qe7 30  
e5 h6 31 Re3 Rgf8 32 Kf2 f5  
33 Bc3 Rfe8 34 e6 Kg8 35 Nh5  
Bd4 36 Bxd4 cxd4 37 Rg3 Kh8  
38 Rxg4 fxg4 39 Qg6 Qh7 40  
Qf6+ Kg8 41 Bd3 g3+ 42 Kg2  
1-0



*Tournament co-winner GM Joel Benjamin  
photo by Macon Shibut*

### OLADAPO ADU - JOEL BENJAMIN SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4  
Nxd4 a6 5 Nc3 Qc7 6 Be3 Bb4  
7 Ne2 Nf6 8 a3 Be7 9 Nd4 b5  
10 Bd3 Bb7 11 Qe2 Nc6 12  
Nxc6 Qxc6 13 Bd4 Qd6 14 Be3  
Rc8 15 Bd2 Qb6 16 e5 Nd5 17  
Ne4 Qd4 18 f4 Qxb2 19 0-0 f5  
20 exf6 Nxf6 21 Nc3



21...Rxc3 22 Rfb1 Bc5+ 23  
Kf1 Rxa3 24 Rxb2 Rxa1+ 25  
Be1 Bd4 26 c3 Bxc3 27 Rb1  
Rxb1 28 Bxb1 Bxe1 29 Kxe1  
0-0 30 g4 Rc8 31 Kd2 Rc4 32  
g5 Ne4+ 33 Bxe4 Bxe4 34 Qe3  
Kf7 35 Qa7 Bc6 36 Qb8 b4 37  
h4 b3 38 h5 Rc2+ 39 Ke3 b2 40  
h6 Re2+ 41 Kd4 gxh6 42 Qb3  
hxg5 43 f5 Be4 44 Qh3 Bxf5 45  
Qh5+ Bg6 46 Qf3+ Kg7 0-1



## MACON SHIBUT - ANTON USKOV

### SICILIAN

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

This was not a great game, but it was a good fight. A lot of people asked me about it afterwards and urged me to annotate it, so here we are despite the mistakes... As the pairings went up, someone kindly warned me about my young, unrated opponent. He is, I was told, from Kazakhstan and his American tournament debut had been “winning the US Junior Open”. *Good grief, that means the kid is probably something like 2450...* Turns out what he actually won was his age group (15-and-under) at the US Junior, but still... (For the record, the USCF has assigned him an initial 2100 provisional rating.) So I began the game suitably wary.

**1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 Qxd5 4 d4 g6**

I guess I'm going to have to actually spend some time preparing for this move. This was the second game in a row where I'd played c3 against the Sicilian and my opponent responded this way. GM Kudrin also played 4...g6 against me at a World Open. All of that constitutes a *trend*.



*Spectators crowd around the conclusion of the game between Ray Kaufman and Jack Barrow; tournament co-winner John Meyer plays in the background. Photo by Macon Shibut*



**5 Nf3** (Well, I've already learned one thing about the variation: 5 dxc5 Qxc5 6 Be3 Qc7 White can venture the shocking 7 Bxa7!? if he dares. 7...Rxa7 8 Qd4 Nc6 9 Qxh8 Nf6 10 Nf3 and White is the exchange up. Of course his queen looks ridiculous, but can Black do anything with that? Another detail worth noting is that White evidently will manage to castle but—I can promise you—Black won't. I hope somebody tries this and sends me the game!) **5...Bg7 6**



*Tournament co-winner GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz  
photo by Macon Shibut*

**Be2** (I looked at 6 dxc5 Qxc5 7 Na3!? Bxc3+ 8 bxc3 Qxc3+ 9 Bd2 Qxa3. Moreover, I recalled working through the same variation during the aforementioned Kudrin game! Even if you reject such lines, they can be good to chew on early in a game to get the analytic pump primed.) **6...Nh6**

The text may be a slight inaccuracy; White's g-pawn is momentarily undefended, which argues that this is the right time for Black to insert 6...cxd4, when 7 Nxd4 is not possible. Indeed, that's exactly what Kudrin played. After 7 cxd4 Nh6 8 Nc3 Qd8 9 Bf4 0-0 10 0-0 Nf5 I went 11 Be5, which Patrick Wolff later told me was wrong although I never exactly understood why.

I mentioned before that this was my second consecutive c3 Sicilian where Black played 4...g6. The preceding one had been at the HB Global fest in Minneapolis. There my opponent continued 6...Nf6—certainly a natural move, but it seemed to me that pressuring d4 by ...Ng8-h6-f5 is more consistent with having fianchettoed his king bishop. I got some initiative by gaining time at his queen's expense after 7 0-0 cxd4 8 Nxd4 0-0 9 Bf3 etc, and there followed 9...Qc5 10 Nd2 e5 11 N2b3 Qe7 12 Re1 Nbd7 13 Nb5 Ne8 14 Be3 a6 15 Na7

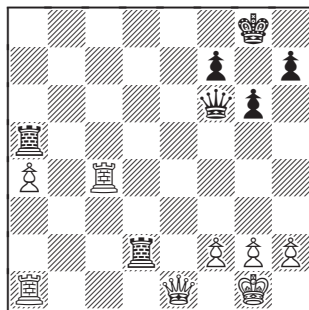




Nd6 16 Na5 e4 17 Nxc8 Raxc8 18 Bf4 Be5 19 Bxe5 Nxe5 20 Bxe4 Rfd8 21 Qe2 Qc7 22 Nxb7 (22 Nb3!?) Nxb7 23 Bxb7 Qxb7 24 Qxe5 Qxb2 25 Qa5 Qxc3 26 Qxa6 Ra8 27 Qf1 Rd2 28 a4 Ra5 29 Rec1 Qd4 30 Rc4 Qf6. I was a pawn ahead—an outside passed pawn no

less. Of course Black's active pieces gave him compensation. Still, I harbored hopes of winning after my previous move because I'd safely made time control and, continuing 31 Qe1, I set a little trap. (See diagram)

Black's rooks are skewered. In looking for a way out, he might consider 31...Rxf2 with the point that after 32 Qxa5 (of course not 32 Qxf2? Qxa1+) 32...Qxa1+ 33 Kxf2 Qa2+ he recovers the rook with even material. I'd still have the



outside pawn but it's a long way from queening and my king is totally exposed, so Black should have little trouble drawing this. That was the bait; in fact White has a winning intermezzo, 32 Rc8+! and only after 32...Kg7 do we take the rook, 33 Qxa5 Qxa1+ 34 Kxf2 White remains a rook ahead and easily escapes the checks.

Unfortunately my opponent thought a while and found the dreadfully convincing 31...Re2!, completely disabusing me of any illusions about winning this game! After this I had no choices left since the pathetic 32 Qf1 wouldn't in fact stop 32...Rxf2!; whereas if 32 Qxa5? either Qxf2+ or Qxa1+ would mate me. So I played 32 Qxe2 and after 32...Qxa1+ 33 Qf1 Rxa4 the draw was agreed (Shibut-Kustar, HB Global 2005). But we digress; back to Shibut-Uskov...

**7 0-0 0-0** (Now if 7...cxd4 I could have answered 8 Nxd4 Δ Bf3 etc) **8 dxc5 Qxc5 9 Na3 Nf5 10 Nc4 Be6** (Black has to be a bit careful. For example, 10...Nc6? 11 b4! would be unpleasant.) **11 Ne3 Nc6 12 Ng5 Nfd4!?** (Fearlessly entering complications. As I indicated before, I was cautious in my approach to this kid from the outset, and the course of the game thus far had done nothing to ease my apprehension. First, he'd quickly and confidently essayed what seemed to me a trendy, specialized opening line. Now he was





confidently stirring up tactics with 'spectacular' looking moves.) **13 cxd4** (I looked at simplifying, eg 13 Nxe6 Nxe6 14 Qd5!? or 14 Qa4, but didn't think White got anything that way. So I plunged into the most critical variation.) **13...Qxg5 14 d5 Rfd8 15 f4** (His queen is a bit crowded on the kingside, plus I take away e5 from his knight. I wanted to play 15 dxc6 Rxd1 16 Nxd1 but after 16...Qa5! 17 cxb7 Rb8 18 Bf3 Bd5! Black succeeds in eliminating the b7 pawn.) **15...Qf6 16 Bf3** (Some instinct deep inside me argued for 16 f5!? gxf5 17 Bf3 but I couldn't quite figure out the point of this pawn sacrifice.) **16...Bc8 17 Bd2** (Completing development with gain of time. It seemed at the time that things were going along okay...) **17...Nd4 18 Bc3 Qxf4!** (...but they weren't. Truth be told, I was stunned by this move. I hadn't exactly 'not seen' it, but right up until the moment he played it I'd casually assumed there must be something wrong with just capturing that pawn! Now the truth sunk in: my whole plan was ill-concieved, I should have either simplified earlier or muddled things up more with 16 f5... And as often happens, one mistake leads to another.) **19 Qe1?** (19 Nc2 Nxc2 20 Qxc2 was relatively best, just playing a pawn down.) **19...Be5!** (Now I'm going to lose more.) **20 g3** (I might have tried 20 Bxd4?! if he was forced to grab my queen by 20...Qxh2+ 21 Kf2 Bg3+ 22 Ke2 Bxe1 23 Raxe1; but instead 20...

## 5th Arlington Open Oct 1-2

George Mason University Professional Ctr (the Old Law School)  
3401 N. Fairfax Dr  
Arlington Virginia

*(Across from Virginia Square Metro Stop)*

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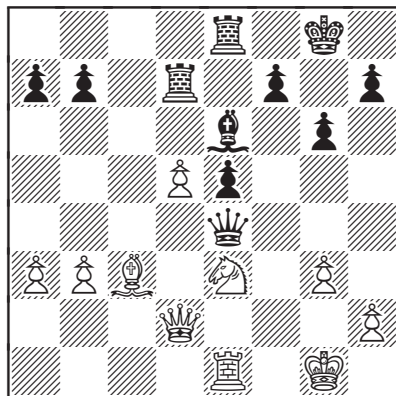
*20 Grand Prix points*



Bxd4! was just too ugly a prospect, eg 21 Kf2 Bg4 22 Qe2 Rxd5 etc) **20...Nxf3+ 21 Rxf3 Qxf3 22 Bxe5 Bh3!** (He can't force mate (yet!) but just the threat limits White's mobility.) **23 Rd1 Rac8 24 Bc3 Rc5 25 Qd2** (I was afraid he'd find a way to advantageously sac back the exchange on d5. The text at least prevents that for the moment. 25...Rcxd5? 26 Nxd5 Rxd5 27 Qxd5 my queen still defends the mate!) **Qe4 26 Qf2 Rd7 27 Rd4?** (In playing 27 Rd4 I hoped to tempt him into displacing his queen by 27...Qb1+ 28 Rd1 Qxa2? 29 Qf4 etc, but the instant I'd made my move I saw that Black could end the game here and now by the combination 27...Qxd4—so elementary that I won't even rate this an exclamation mark—28 Bxd4 Rc1+ 29 Nf1 Rxf1+ 30 Qxf1 Bxf1 31 Kxf1 Rxd5 etc. But my opponent began to think and think. After a while I took reassurance from Lasker's dictum that if a player doesn't see such a move in an instant, he probably won't see it at all.) **27...Qb1+?** (The great Lasker proved right yet again.) **28 Rd1 Qe4 29 Re1** (Thank you, I will not tempt fate a second time.) **29...Rc8 30 Rd1 e5 31 Re1 Re8 32 a3 Kg7 33 Qd2 Kg8 34 b3** (Let's be objective: White has nothing much for the lost material. I'm busted. But having a lost game and actually losing it are two different things. I'd actually become a bit more confident over the preceding moves, as even though I couldn't do much myself, it was obvious that my opponent was also having a hard time finding a good plan. Meanwhile, I went about little tasks, like preparing Qb2 or Nc4 in some future instance.) **34...Be6?!**

(diagram)

After some minutes' thought, Black points out a downside of my last move: the queenside pawns are exposed. But I figured losing the b-pawn wasn't the worst thing that could befall me in this game—heck, worse than that had *already* happened—whereas I was thrilled to be released from the light-square headlock on the kingside.



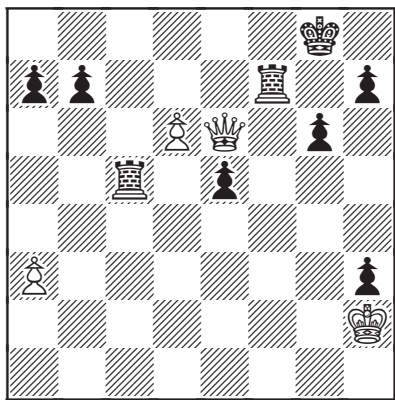


**35 d6 Bxb3 36 h3!** (By a mile my best move so far, coolly playing as if nothing extraordinary was going on. White does not hurry to force compensation for the lost material but simply improves his own king position, preparing to play Kh2 so that nothing like the previous bind could recur over there. Oh, and there is one other little point... and it is precisely at moments like this that oversights tend to happen.) **36...f5?** (Right on schedule. Black would still be definitely winning, albeit in the face of a certain amount of cheapo potential, after, eg, 36... Qc6 37 Ng4 Qc5+ 38 Kh2 Rxd6 39 Qb2) **37 Ng4!** (This was the other point of h3, securing square g4! All of the sudden White has unstoppable dual threats Rxe4 & Nf6+) **37...Qxe1+!** (The kid kept his cool and found the right response. Something like 37... Qf3, for instance, would turn out much worse after either 38 Re3 or 38 Nf6+ Kf7 39 Nxd7 Qxg3+ 40 Qg2. By giving up his queen and eliminating White's knight, Black keeps the outcome very much up in the air.) **38 Qxe1 fxg4 39 Qb1!** (White's chances lie with the d-pawn—*not* in a mating attack on the

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dark squares. Thus 39 Bxe5? Rxd6 would be a mistake. But how to defend the d-pawn? If Bb4 he might deflect my bishop by ...a5 and, after Bc5, then ...b6. But if we first put our queen on the b-file...) **39...Bf7** (39...Be6? 40 Bxe5) **40 Bb4** (...now if 40...a5 41 Bc5 b6 just 42 Qxb6, of course) **39...gxh3?!** (A time pressure decision. Black should fight for the initiative by 40...e4!—"Passed pawns must be pushed!" The danger was that clearing the long diagonal will open the way for a White attack, but as things stand the e-pawn promotes too quickly and it takes White a tempo too long to line up a bishop+queen battery. Instead messy positions arising from, eg, 41 hxg4 e3 42 Kf1 but Black's chances are certainly not worse.) **41 Kh2** (Not only attacking his pawn but getting my king off the back rank, which may amount to a critical tempo later—the e-pawn no longer queens with check!) **41...Be6** (Now, for instance, if 41...e4 42 Qb2 e3 43 Qd4 e2 44 Bc3) **42 Qe4** ( $\Delta$  g4) **Bf5** **43 Qc4+ Rf7!** (I certainly didn't expect this—voluntarily lifting the blockade of my pawn and walking into a pin—but it's a good move. The point is to clear the



light diagonal from his bishop back to c8, preparing R-c8-c2+!) **44 g4 Rc8!** **45 Bc5! Bxg4** **46 Qxg4 Rxc5** **47 Qe6** (*see diagram*)

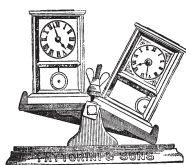
We were both having to move briskly—sudden death time control—and I remember tossing out this move without any concrete analysis but just because it felt right. I wasn't sure if I was winning: his rooks are a little clumsy, one pinned

and the other on the file right adjacent to the pawn, so maybe I could sneak the pawn to the 8<sup>th</sup> rank somehow. On the other hand, my king is really exposed... Oh well, no time to ponder, he's moved:

**47...Rc2+** (The rook hurries to get behind my pawn, insuring that it can't simply run through. With benefit of hindsight and time to reflect I see that Black is absolutely okay here.) **48 Kxh3 Rd2** **49**



**Qe8+** (Hoping to take the e-pawn with check if I can get him to move his king to g7) **49...Rf8** (Black offered a draw, but I was having none of it at this point.) **50 Qe6+ Rf7 51 Qe8+ Rf8 52 Qxe5 Rd3+** (The text move is fine but, out in the hallway after the game, IM Eugene Meyer suggested during a blindfold (ie, without board and pieces) conversation that **52...Rdf2** assures Black “at least” a draw. Indeed, **53 d7** with the possible continuation **53...R2f3+** and since **54 Kg4** loses (**54...h5+ 55 Kg5 R3f5+**) White plays **54 Kg2** and concedes perpetual check after **54...Rf2+** etc. Even so, the game would not be totally devoid of poison. If Black tries for more than a draw by **55...R8f3+** (instead of **R2f3+**) **54 Kg4 h5+** it is White who wins: **55 Kg5 Rf5+ 56 Kxg6 Rxe5 57 d8Q+ Rf8 58 Qd7 53 Kg4 h5+?! (A kibitzer later called this a “suicide move,” but that’s not right as Black is still okay. Granted, 53...Rf7 might have been simpler.) 54 Kh4** (of course not **54 Kg5? Rf5+**) **54...Rff3?** (This is the real losing move. Meyer’s **54...Rdf3** was still good enough, eg **55 d7 R3f4+ 56 Kg3 Rf3+** etc; and **54...Rf7** probably still holds too, despite Black having weakened his g-pawn) **55 d7!** (a winning



## Capital Blitz Classic

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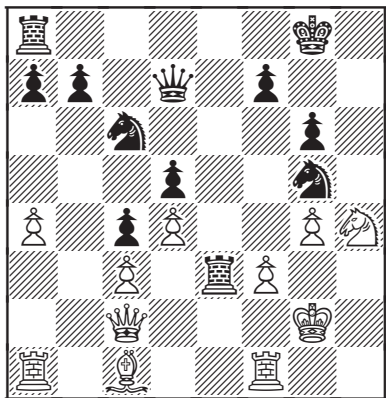
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*15 Grand Prix points*



1 Nf3 d6 2 c4 e5 3 Nc3 c6 4  
g3 Be7 5 Bg2 Be6 6 b3 Nf6 7  
0-0 Qc7 8 Bb2 Nbd7 9 Qc2 h6  
10 a3 0-0-0 11 d3 g5 12 b4 g4  
13 Nd2 h5 14 b5 Nb8 15 Rab1  
Rdf8 16 bxc6 bxc6 17 Ba1 Kd8  
18 Rb2 Bc8 19 Rfb1 Nbd7 20  
Qa4 Nc5 21 Qc2 a6 22 Nce4  
Nfd7 23 Nxc5 Nxc5 24 Ne4  
Nd7 25 Rb3 f5 26 Nd2 h4 27  
Nf1 f4 28 d4 hxg3 29 fxg3 fxg3  
30 Nxc3 Bf6 31 dxe5 Nxe5 32





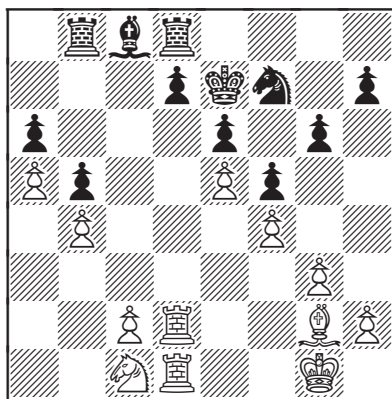
Bd4 Nd7 33 Bf2 Rf7 34 Qe4 Rfh7 35 Qxc6 Qxc6 36 Bxc6 Rxh2 37 Nf1 R2h7 38 Bg3 Be5 39 Be4 Rg7 40 Kf2 Rf8+ 41 Ke1 Bxg3+ 42 Nxg3 Nc5 43 Bg2 Kc7 44 Ba8 Bf5 45 Bg2 Bxb1 0-1

STEVE MAYER – GREG ACHOLONU  
ENGLISH

1 Nf3 d6 2 g3 g6 3 Bg2 Bg7 4 c4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 0-0 0-0 7 Rb1 a5 8 a3 Bf5 9 d3 Qd7 10 Re1 h6 11 b4 axb4 12 axb4 Bh3 13 Bh1 Ng4 14 Bd2 Qf5 15 Nd5 Qd7 16 Nf4 Nf6 17 Nxh3 Qxh3 18 Bg2 Qd7 19 b5 Nd8 20 Bc3 Ne6 21 Ra1 Nc5 22 Qc2 e5 23 Rxa8 Rxa8 24 Nd2 Rb8 25 Ra1 Nh7 26 h3 Ng5 27 Kh2 f5 28 Nb3 Nge6 29 Nxc5 Nxc5 30 Ra7 Kh8 31 Bb4 Ne6 32 Rxb7 Rxb7 33 Bxb7 f4 34 Bg2 e4 35 Bxe4 Be5 36 Bc3 fxg3+ 37 fxg3 Nd4 38 Qd2 Qg7 39 Bxd4 Bxd4 40 Qf4 Be5 41 Qg4 Kh7 42 h4 Qf7 43 h5 Qf2+ 44 Kh3 Qf1+ 45 Bg2 Qf6 46 hxg6+ Kg8 47 Qc8+ Kg7 48 Qd7+ Kf8 49 Qf7+ Qxf7 50 gxf7 Kxf7 51 Kg4 Kf6 52 e3 Bc3 53 d4 Be1 54 Kf4 Bd2 55 g4 Be1 56 Ke4 Ke6 57 Bh3 Ke7 58 Kd5 Bf2 59 e4 Kd8 60 c5 1-0

JACK BARROW – DANIEL OLIM  
SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 a6 3 f4 Nc6 4 Nf3 g6 5 g3 Bg7 6 Bg2 e6 7 d3 Nge7 8 0-0 f5 9 e5 b5 10 Be3 Qb6 11 Qd2 Rb8 12 d4 cxd4 13 Nxd4 Qc7 14 Nxc6 Nxc6 15 Rad1 Nd8 16 Qd6 Qxd6 17 Rxd6 Bf8 18 Rd2 Nb7 19 Rfd1 Bc5 20 Bxc5 Nxc5 21 b4 Nb7 22 a4 Nd8 23 a5 Nf7 24 Ne2 Ke7 25 Nc1 Rd8



26 Rd6 Nxd6 27 Rxd6 Bb7 28 Nb3 Bxg2 29 Kxg2 Rbc8 30 Nc5 Rc6 31 Rxc6 dxc6 32 Nxa6 Rd2+ 33 Kf3 Rxc2 34 Ke3 Rxh2 35 Nb8 Ra2 36 Kd4 Kd8 37 Nxc6+ Kc7 38 Na7 h6 39 Nxb5+ Kc6 40 Nd6 Ra4 41 Kc4 g5 42 Nf7 gxf4 43 gxf4 h5 44 Ng5 h4 45 Nxe6 h3 46 Nd4+ Kd7 47 e6+ Ke8 48 Nf3 Ra3 49 Nh2 Ra2 50 Nf1 Rf2 51



Ng3 Rxf4+ 52 Kc5 Rf3 53 Nh1  
Rf1 54 Ng3 Rc1+ 55 Kb6 f4  
56 Ne2 Re1 57 Nxf4 h2 58 a6  
h1Q 59 b5 Qa8 60 Kc7 Qa7+  
61 Kd6 Qb8+ 62 Kc6 Qxf4 63  
a7 Qa4 64 Kb7 Qxb5+ 0-1

STEVE MAYER - JEREMY HUMMER

KING'S INDIAN ATTACK

1 Nf3 d5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 e6 4  
0-0 Be7 5 d3 0-0 6 Nbd2 b6

7 e4 Bb7 8 e5 Nfd7 9 Re1 c5  
10 Nf1 Nc6 11 h4 Re8 12 Bh3  
Bf8 13 N1h2 Qc7 14 Bf4 Ne7  
15 h5 d4 16 Ng4 Nd5 17 Bd2  
Qc6 18 Bg2 f6 19 exf6 N5xf6  
20 Nh4 Qc8 21 h6 g6 22 Bg5  
Nxc4 23 Qxc4 Bxc2 24 Nxc2  
e5 25 Qe4 Be7 26 Qd5+ Kh8  
27 Rxe5 Bxc5 28 Rxc5 Nf6 29  
Qf7 1-0

*The Richard K Delaune Memorial Tournament is mutually sponsored by the Virginia Chess Federation and from private contributions to the Richard K Delaune Memorial Fund.*

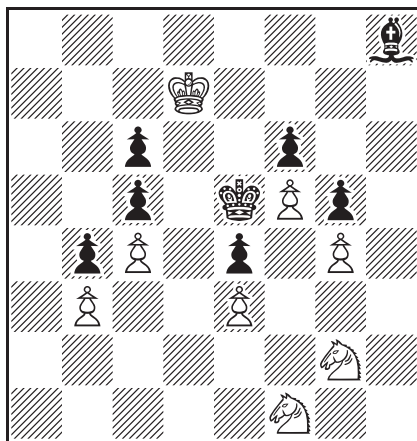


## Chess Problems for the OTB Player

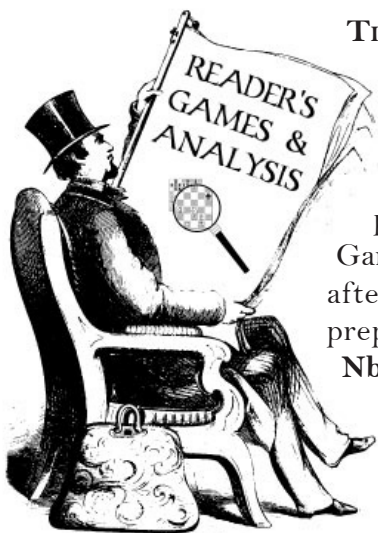
by James Rynd

A HORRIBLE BAD BISHOP for Black, to be sure! In a game, the easy route would be of course to capture pawns and promote. But what if, horrors of horrors, Black finds some way to sacrifice the bishop for the promoted pawn and come to a 2N vs K position? Not likely, but again, such things happen, especially in quick time controls.

Instead, white can use the impotence of the bishop to force mate. Interestingly, removing pawns b3/b4 and White's g2 knight allows an even quicker mate in 4! Can you see how? (*Solutions on p 28*)



*Mate in 5*



TIM HAMILTON - ANDREW SAMUELSON  
DC CHESS LEAGUE 2005

ALEKHINE

*Notes by Tim Hamilton*

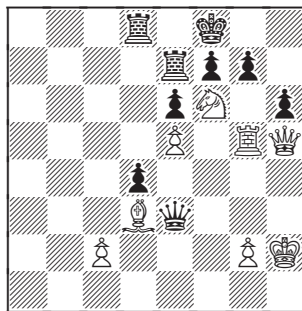
**1 Nc3 Nf6 2 e4 d5** (I considered playing the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit here but feared—and confirmed afterwards!—that my opponent had prepared for it.) **3 exd5 Nxd5 4 Bc4**

**Nb6 5 Bb3 Nc6** (As played by Alekhine as early as 1921; White has usually replied with 6 Nf3 or 6 Qf3) **6 a4 Nd4 7 Ba2 Bf5 8 d3 e6 9 a5** (Another game, Roselli Mailhe-Bryson, Moscow 1994, went 9 Nge2

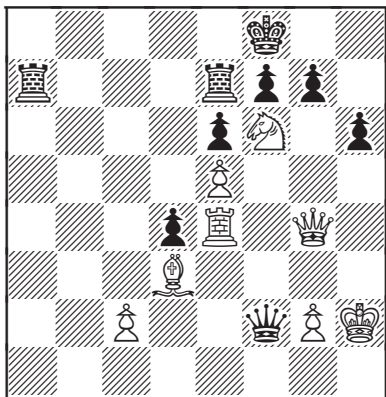
c5 10 Ng3 Bg6 11 0-0 Be7 12 Nce2 Nd5 13 c3 Nc6 14 d4 cxd4 15 Nxd4 0-0 16 Re1 Bf6 17 Nxc6 bxc6 18 Nh5 Bg5 19 Ng3 Bxc1 20 Qxc1 Rb8 21 Bb1 Rb3 22 Bxg6 hxg6 23 Ne4 Qe7 24 Nd2 Rb7 25 b4 a5 26 bxa5 Qc5 27 c4 Nf6 28 Qc3 Rfb8 29 Rab1 Nd5 30 Rxb7 Nxc3 31 Rxb8+ Kh7 32 Re3 g5 33 Rxc3 Qxa5 34 Rbb3 Qxa4 35 Nf1 Kg6 36 Rb7 g4 37 Rd3 Qxc4 38 Rdd7 f5 39 Rxg7+ Kf6 40 Rgf7+ Ke5 41 Rbc7 Qd5 42 Rc8 1-0) **9...Nd7 10 a6 bxa6 11 Bc4 Ne5 12 Bxa6 Bc5 13 Ra5 Qd6 14 Be3 Ng4 15 Nf3** (Normal development finally?) **15...Nxe3 16 fxe3 Bb6** (A committal move allowing White a strong initiative at a nominal cost.) **17 Nxd4 Bxa5 18 Bb5+ Kf8** (With his king misplaced, Black is not going to use his extra exchange anytime soon.) **19 Qf3 Rb8 20 0-0 Bxc3** (He wouldn't want the knight jumping into e4) **21 bxc3 Bg6 22 Bc4 Kg8 23 Nc6 Re8** (A passive looking move, but it avoids cheap shots at least.) **24 Nxa7 h6 25 h4 Qc5 26 Nb5 Kh7 27 Qg3 c6** (weakening d6) **28 Nd6 Re7** (holding f7) **29 d4 Qa5 30 e4 Rd8 31 e5 c5?! 32 h5!** (those rook pawns!) **32...Bxh5** (if 32...Bxc2 33 Nxf7) **33 Bd3+ Kg8** (not 33...Bg6 34 Rxf7!) **34 Qh4 Rdd7 35 Qxh5 Qxc3 36 Rf4** (also 36 Nb5 Qa5 37 c3 cxd4 38 cxd4 Rd5 39 Qh4 Red7 40 Qe4 g6 41 Nd6 was



possible.) **36...cxd4 37 Rg4 Qd2 38 Ne4 Qe3+ 39 Kh2 Kf8** (maybe **39...Ra7**) **40 Nf6** (Making the time control with only a minute or less to spare; Black had about an hour more but still continued to play rapidly.) **40...Ra7** (If **40...gxf6?** **41 Bh7...** Whoops! It's mate or the queen! And if **40...Rd8** White has the striking move **41 Rg5!** (*diagram*)



interfering with the queen's defense of h6 so that **41...gxf6?** gets mated: **42 Qxh6+ Ke8 43 Bb5+ Red7 44 Rg8+ Ke7 45 Qxf6mate**; **41...Rc7** is better but still **42 Nh7+ Ke7** (or **42...Kg8 43 Qxh6 Qxe5+ 44 g3 f5 45 Nf6+!**) **43 Rxg7 Qf4+ 44 g3 Qf2+ 45 Kh3** White would be for choice) **41 Re4** (Here **41 Rg5?** isn't so good because of the reply **41...Ra1**) **41...Qf2 42 Qg4** (**42 Nh7+!?**)



#### 42...Ra1??

In the post mortem Andy suggested just taking the knight. We reached no conclusion but I think he left suspecting that White's attack was all unsound. However... it seems White wins anyhow: **42...gxf6 43 Qh3** (or **Qh5**, with the same idea; but not **43 Rf4?** **f5**) **43...fxe5** (**43...Qd2?** **44 exf6**) **44 Qxh6+ Ke8 45 Qh8+!** (**45 Bb5+** is less clear: **45...**

**Red7! 46 Qh8+ Ke7 47 Bxd7 Rxd7 48 Qxe5 Qxc2 49 Qg5+! Kd6! 50 Rxd4+ Kc6! 51 Qg8!! ∞**) **45...Kd7 46 Qxe5 f5** (**46...f6?? 47 Rxd4+ Ke8 48 Rd8+! Kxd8** [or **48...Kf7 49 Qh5+ Kg7 50 Qg6mate**] **49 Qb8+ Kd7 50 Bb5mate**) **47 Rxd4+ Ke8 48 Qh8+ (not 48 Rd8+? Kf7 49 Rh8 Kg6 50 Rg8+ Rg7 51 Qxe6+ Kg5!) 48...Kf7 49 Rh4! (49 Rd8 Kg6!) 49...Qe3 (49...Kg6? 50 Rg4+ Kf7 51 Rg3 Ra1 52 Qg7+ Ke8 53 Bb5+ Kd8 54 Qf8+ Kc7 55 Qxe7+ Kb6 56 Qxe6+ Kxb5 57 Rb3+ etc) 50 Rh3 Qe1 (50...Qf4+ 51 Rg3 Qd6 52 Kh3) 51 Rh6 Qa1 52 c3**



and mate or heavy losses ensue! It's a good thing I didn't have to find all this at the board, however. The text move allows mate in three!

**43 Qxg7+ Kxg7 44 Rg4+ 1-0**

**GEOFF MCKENNA - TIMOTHY HAMILTON**

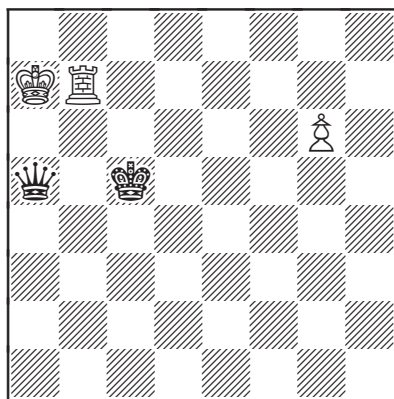
**NIMZOVICH**

**DC CHESS LEAGUE**

*Notes by Tim Hamilton*

This was the decisive game in our July match. 1 d4 Nc6 2 Nf3 d6 3 e4 f5 4 Nc3 fxe4 5 Nxe4 Bf5 6 Ng3 Bg4 7 c3 e5 8 h3 Bxf3 9 Qxf3 Qf6 10 Qxf6 gxf6 11 Bb5 Ne7 12 O-O a6 13 Ba4 exd4 14 cxd4 b5 15 Bd1 Nxd4 16 Bh5+ Ng6 17 b3 Nc2 18 Rb1 O-O-O 19 Bb2 Ne5 20 a3 d5 21 f4 Nd7 22 Rbc1 Rg8 23 Kh2 Ne3 24 Rf3 Rxg3 25 Kxg3 d4 26 Bg4 Nxg4 27 hxg4 Nc5 28 b4 Ne4+ 29 Kh2 d3 30 Rd1 d2 31 Bc3 c5 32 g3 cxb4 33 axb4 Kb7 34 Kg2 Nxc3 35 Rxc3 Bxb4 36 Re3 a5 37 Re6 Bc3 38 Re7+ Kc6 39 Rxh7 Re8 40 Rhh1 Re1 41 Kf2 Rxh1 42 Rxh1 a4 43 Ke2 b4 44 Rh8 Kd5 45 g5 fxg5 46 Rd8+ Ke6 47 fxg5 Kf7 48 Ra8 a3 49 Ra6 Kg7 50 Kd1 Kf7 51 g4 Kg7 52 Ke2 Bb2 53 Kxd2 b3 54 Kd3 a2 55 Kc4 Ba3 56 Rxa3 b2 57 Rxa2 b1Q 58 Rd2 Kg6 59 Rd5 Qe4+ 60 Kc5 Qxg4 61 Kd6 Qc8 62 Re5 Qb8+ 63 Ke6 Qb3+ 64 Kd6

Kh5 65 Ke7 Qb8 66 Kf6 Qd6+ 67 Kf5 Qf8+ 68 Ke6 Kg6 69 Kd7 Kh5 70 Ke6 Qg8+ 71 Kf5 Qf7+ 72 Ke4 Kg4 73 Rd5 Qb7 74 Kd4 Kf4 75 Rc5 Qb6 76 Kc4 Ke4 77 Rb5 Qe6+ 78 Kc5 Kd3 79 Kb4 Kd4 80 Ka5 Kc4 81 Rb4+ Kc3 82 Rb6 Qa2+ 83 Kb5 Qd5+ 84 Ka6 Qd7 85 Ka5 Kc4 86 Ka6 Kc5 87 g6 Qe8 88 Ka7 Qd8 89 Rb7 Qa5+



The game was adjourned here (yes, adjournments are still alive and well in the DC League!) and I sealed this move. At home



my computer revealed that it was mate in 19 with best play. Black must play precisely however and at 2AM I was not confident of finding the way home to Reston let alone mate in twenty-odd moves. I might have given him a draw in other

circumstances, but with the match score tied I figured I should try to win it.

**90 Kb8 Kc6 91 g7 Qd5 92 g8Q Qxg8+ 93 Ka7 Qd8 94 Rb1 Qd4+ 95 Kb8 Qh8+ 96 Ka7 Qh7+ 0-1**

## To play blitz or not to play blitz, that is the question..

*by Mark Warriner*

MARVIN NAGEL – MARK WARRINER

FRIENDLY GAME, 1M + 0S PLAYCHESS.COM 2005

Do online bullet or blitz games ruin your chess? World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik certainly felt that a steady diet was harmful, but I differ (with apologies). I am of the opinion that it is good practice for both rehearsing one's opening repertoire and gaining experience at handling time pressure. That having been said, I'm not sure the following game supports my theory. **1 d4 e6 2 e4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 f3 Nd7 5 Be3 exf3 6 Nxf3 Be7 7 Bd3 Ngf6 8 0-0 0-0 9 Qe1 b6 10 Qh4 Bb7 11 Bg5 c5** (Okay, a little explanation. My opponent is a fairly high-rated player on playchess.com (provided by Chessbase). When you play 1m+0s games (*aka* "bullet"), you have to accept some risks. You

simply cannot put thought into every move. I realized that I was going to have to take significant chances to even play something remotely resembling a credible game. As it turns out I didn't even come close to doing that, but then my significantly higher rated opponent didn't fair any better! Here I just flat missed the continuation **12 Bxh7+ Nxh7 13 Bxe7**, etc. Oops!) **12 dxc5** (But so does he!) **12...bxc5** (And then I miss it a second time...) **13.Rad1** (...and he does likewise! Obviously, blindness tends to occur repeatedly in games with time controls this fast. It's not uncommon to see players "hallucinate" protection of pieces, pins, etc.) **13...h6 14 Bxh6** (Interestingly, this is not





all that bad for Black. With a little help from my trusty silicon friend (Shredder 9), I see now that this position is playable, if not pleasant. After a few minutes of calculation, Shredder rates this as ( $=0.06$ )—certainly good enough for bullet.) **14... Ne4** (But this howler deserves strong condemnation. **15. Qg4 Bg5 16. Bg5** etc. is one way. **15.Bg5** Screamer. One good blunder deserves another. After this I manage to hold the upper hand for awhile, but of course I let that slip away. Hey, that's speed chess!) **15...Bxg5 16 Nxg5 Nxg5 17 Bb5** (White had any number of moves here, but after 21(!) seconds of thought (in a one minute game?!)) he uncorks a dud. "Think long, think wrong") **17... Nf3+** (Even in the face of a 645 pt rating difference, I should be able to win this, right? The more so since I had around 21 seconds to his 11 at this point.) **18 gxf3 Qxh4 19 Rxd7 Qg5+ 20 Kf2 Bd5 21 Nxd5 exd5 22 Rd1 Rae8 23 R7xd5 Qe3+ 24 Kg3 Re6 25 Bd3 Rh6** (Not all of Black's last several moves have been best, but here I missed one that could have really sealed the deal, **25...f5**

threatening **26... Rg6+** and **27... Qh6mate**) **26 Rf5 Qe6** (Oh man... missing the second chance to end it straightaway.) **27 Rf4 Qh3+ 28 Kf2 Qxh2+ 29 Ke3 Re8+ 30 Be4** (Somewhere around here both players realized they had under three seconds left for the game. I had got into this trouble trying to find the win (burning my 10 second time advantage), but now I invoked the tried and true method of sacrificing my capital to force my opponent's flag to fall. It got ridiculously expensive, but it works.) **30...Qe2+ 31 Kxe2 Rh2+ 32 Ke3 Rxe4+ 33 Kxe4 Re2+ 0-1 (time)** (Lag:  $Av=0.45s$ ,  $max=0.7s$ ). You'll notice the lag statistics at the end of the game. This can have a big influence for online games, especially so with quicker controls. Lag can throw off a player's rhythm and cause a lot of confusion. For more on that issue, I'd recommend reading the definition of "lag" at wikipedia.com. At any rate, I still encourage the judicious use of quick play games, but don't expect works of art!





## Kingstowne Quads #21 & 22/Cash Quads #7 & 8

by Don Millican

**JUNE.** In spite of my best efforts, it looked as if the start of the June 4 edition of the Kingstowne Quads in Alexandria was going to go the way of our May event (see *Virginia Chess* #2005/3). Okay, this time I did remember to copy the advance entries to a floppy disk for loading to my laptop... but the disk went belly-up at the tournament. Add to that a last minute change of location, and the Quads seemed headed for near-disaster twice in a row.

Fortunately I was able to reconstruct most of the advance entries from memory. My mistakenly leaving out one player who registered on-site meant that first round pairings had to be redone, but in total the computer problem and TD error cost only half an hour delay.

### THE SNAKE WHO CAME TO PLAY

Towards the end of round one, several players and parents noticed a six-foot long snake lurking in the flowerbed just outside the playing site. At first glance I thought it was venomous, but a closer look convinced me otherwise. Everyone was smart enough (we're talking about chess players, after all!) to keep away and leave the snake to his/her/its business. Later the snake moved *toward the entrance to the tournament room*. Thankfully, this turned out to be only a maneuver towards a spot where only a snake could go, under the building's deck. Within fifteen minutes, the snake had reached its lair with no harm done to players, parents, TDs, or itself. (Update: around 4:00 pm, the same snake made an appearance at the swimming pool on the lower level of the playing site, which must have made life interesting for all concerned there.)

Snake incident notwithstanding, there *was* some chess played. Four players competed in the Cash Quad with Ji Yunqi repeating last month's Cash Quad #6 success to win 1<sup>st</sup> place with a perfect 3 points. Chris Bush was clear 2<sup>nd</sup> with 2 points.



Nineteen players played for medals in four sections. Yang Dai and Shi Leitianyi tied with  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points in the top Quad. The second Quad had Jeffrey Matthews and Sergei Okhlopkov tie with  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . Raymond Wang won a medal in the third Quad with  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points. Finishing just behind with 2 points was Scott Lacy. Seven players made up the bottom "Quad," with Jerry Wu taking the gold medal with a perfect 3 points, just ahead of Nick Kousen, Jimmy Wang & John Holt with 2 points each.

This tournament marked the tournament directing debut of John Mirone, a newly minted Club Director. John assisted in the Cash Quad and in medal Quads 1-3, and was chief director of the Swiss format fourth "Quad."

**JULY.** At 9:45 am on Saturday, July 9, I reluctantly cut off entries to Kingstowne Quad #22 and Cash Quad #8, resigned that I would have odd numbers of players in both. There were nineteen entrees for the medal Quads and seven for cash. That meant a single section Swiss for the Cash "Quad," along with three sections and a seven-player fourth "quad" playing a Swiss.



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However, just after I made assignments and posted the pairings, Raymond Wang appeared and wanted to play. I was reluctant to redo the assignments for the Cash “Quad” since some games had already started, but — it’s so nice to have another experienced TD at a tournament, and NTD Mike Atkins offered the perfect solution: make the swiss “Quad” an Octagon and pair Wang against the bye player. To make life totally interesting, Bora Yagiz appeared an hour into round one, delayed by personal business. With his addition, the Octo became a Nonogon!

### SO WHAT HAPPENED?

In the Cash Nonogon, Andrew Samuelson and Ji Yunqi tied for 1st-2nd with  $2\frac{1}{2}$  each. Harry Cohen and David Slack were just behind with 2 tying for 3rd-4th. Late arrival Ray Wang picked up the Under 1900 prize. This was the most competitive cash “quad” ever; the prizes were not determined until almost all games were completed.

There were fewer fireworks in the medal quads, but intense play nonetheless. In the top medal quad, Shi Leitianyi took the silver medal with  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , just ahead of Darwin Li’s 2. The second quad had Wilfredo Acevedo win silver with  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , with John Compher taking the bronze with 2. Ted Compher won a gold medal in the third Quad with a perfect 3-0. Adam Renfro Chrisney took home a bronze medal with 2. The fourth “quad” had competition that rivaled the cash section. Jerry Wu and Kingstowne Chess Club President Rob McKinney tied with  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . McKinney won the gold medal on tiebreak, leaving Wu with silver. Jimmy Wang & Gavin Moore tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> with 2. Moore took the bronze medal on tiebreak.



*Solution to Rynd Mate in Five from p 20:*

1 Ng3! Bg7 2 Ne2 (threatening Ngf4!) 2...Bh6 3 Kxc6 (tempo) Bg7 4 Ngf4! Bf8 (or 4...gxf4 5 exf4mate) 5 Ng6mate

The mate in four after removing pawns b3/b4 and White knight on g2 is Nd2-b3-a5xc6. This certainly shows how a knight can severely overpower a bad bishop in blocked positions!

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