

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2005 - #5



Trifecta!

Three Straight State
Championships for Danny Miller

VIRGINIA CHESS

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2005 - Issue #5

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2005 Virginia Closed State Championship

by Mike Atkins & Macon Shibut

WITH FOUR WINS AND TWO DRAWS over three intense days of competition, Daniel Miller successfully defended his title (again!) at the 2005 Virginia State Championship, September 3-5 in Springfield. This was his third straight championship win, a feat that had not been accomplished since the legendary Charles Powell won four in a row (en route to seven overall, the all-time record) during 1964-67.

Finishing half a point behind, with $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ scores, were FMs Dov Gorman & Macon Shibut, Adithya Balasubramanian, Andrew Samuelson & Larry Larkins. Balasubramanian took the Expert trophy and Rodney Flores won class A on tiebreak over Daniel Clancy, Ettie Nikolova & Tyler Cook. Clancy was top Junior (Adithya B's Expert trophy being a "higher" prize), Ettie Nikolova was top Woman, and Ilya Kremenchugskiy was top Senior. Tirsten Warnk won the Upset prize in the Open section while Sue He took it in the Amateur.

The state Amateur title was won by Murtuza Hashim with $5\frac{1}{2}$ points. He and Tim Chen led the field by a full point going into the final round, each having conceded but a draw to one another. Hashim was paired against last year's Amateur champ, Nick Halgren—a fitting test—and won. Meanwhile Chen only drew Senior champ Kremenchugskiy. Chen was clear 2nd and took the C trophy. Michael Donovan & Joe Faires tied for 3rd. John Ohman won the D class trophy. Sue He was top Under 1200.



2005 Virginia Closed. Photo by Mike Atkins



THE TOURNAMENT WAS AGAIN HELD at the Springfield Holiday Inn Express, the site of the VCF's Northern Virginia events over the past two years. The turnout was rather poor, the lowest since 1998. Perhaps the beautiful weekend weather or rising gas prices effected the size of the field, but whomever chose not to participate missed a great event. Aside from the defending champion, the star was clearly 13-years-old Adithya Balasubramanian. All he did was play a field of five(!) masters in six games, including three of the top four rated entrants—his opponents' resumes boast a combined ten state championships—and score 4½ points!

ADITHYA BALASUBRAMANIAN – FM DOV GORMAN

KING'S INDIAN ATTACK



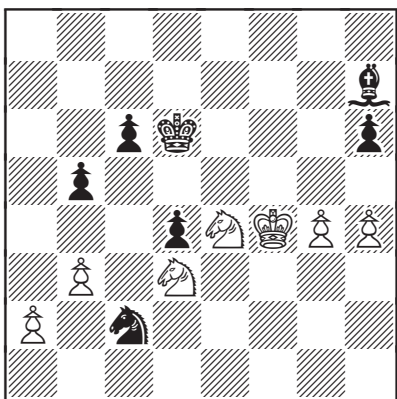
22 Bc7! Nd7 23 Bd5 Na5 24 Nd8! A real body blow! The queen is double-attacked and pinned while the connection between Black's rooks is severed. **1-0**

Another round two upset saw former state champion Rusty Potter go down after his position gradually, almost imperceptibly, turned bad.

MATT GRINBERG – RUSTY POTTER

RUY LOPEZ

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6 dxc6 5 O-O f6 6 d4 exd4 7 Qxd4 Qxd4 8 Nxd4 Bd7 9 Be3 O-O-O 10 c4 Ne7 11 Nc3 g6 12 Rad1 Bg7 13 Rfe1 Rhe8 14 f3 c5 15 Nde2 b6 16 Rd2 Be6 17 b3 Rxd2 18 Bxd2 Rd8 19 Bf4 g5 20 Be3



Rd3 21 Kf2 h6 22 Rd1 Rxd1 23 Nxd1 f5 24 Ndc3 fxe4 25 Nxe4 Nf5 26 Bd2 Nd4 27 g4 Nc2 28 Bc3 Bd4+ 29 Kg3 b5 30 f4 gxf4+ 31 Nxf4 Bg8 32 cxb5 axb5 33 Bxd4 cxd4 34 Nc5 c6 35 h4 Kc7 36 Nfd3 Bh7 37 Kf4 Kd6 38 Ne4+

(diagram)

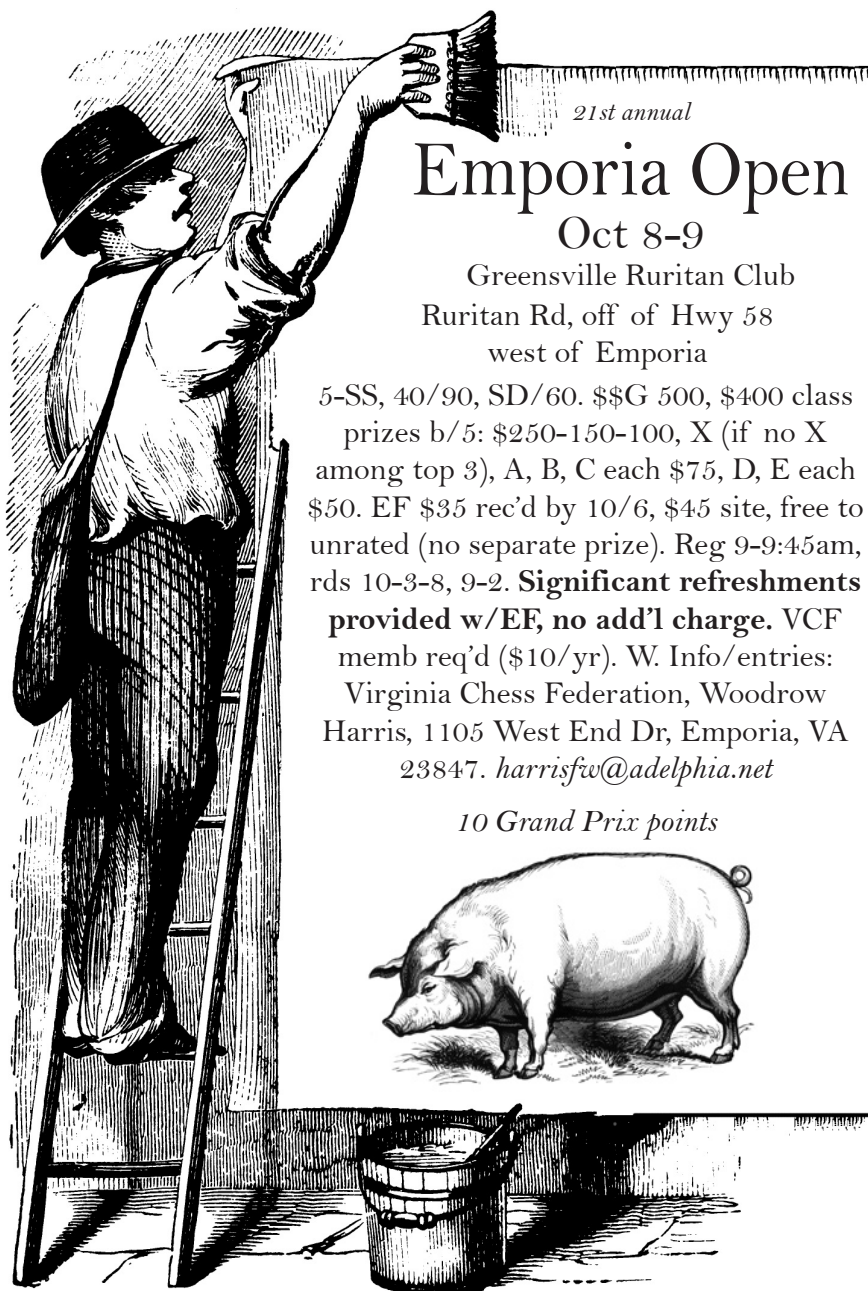
38...Ke6 (38...Bxe4 39 Kxe4 c5 can't be far from equal, but from this point on White seems to get the upper hand.)
39 g5 h5 40 a4 bxa4 41 bxa4 Ne3 42 Ndc5+ Kd5 43 a5 Ng2+ 44 Kg3 d3 45 a6 Bxe4 46 Nxe4 Kxe4 47 a7 d2 48 a8Q

Ne3 49 Qxc6+ Kd4 50 Qd7+ Ke5 51 Qe7+ Kd4 52 Qf6+ Ke4 53 Qf3+ Kd4 54 g6 d1Q 55 Qxd1+ Nxd1 56 g7 Ne3 57 g8Q Nf5+ 58 Kf4 Nd6 59 Qh8+ Kd5 60 Qxh5+ Ke6 61 Qg6+ Ke7 62 h5 Ne8 63 h6 Nc7 64 Qg7+ Kd6 65 Qxc7+ Kxc7 66 h7 Kd6 67 h8Q 1-0



Rusty Potter can only watch as his position deteriorates.

Photo by Mike Atkins



21st annual

Emporia Open

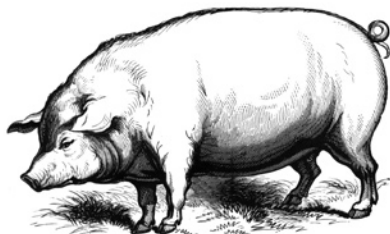
Oct 8-9

Greensville Ruritan Club

Ruritan Rd, off of Hwy 58
west of Emporia

5-SS, 40/90, SD/60. \$\$G 500, \$400 class prizes b/5: \$250-150-100, X (if no X among top 3), A, B, C each \$75, D, E each \$50. EF \$35 rec'd by 10/6, \$45 site, free to unrated (no separate prize). Reg 9-9:45am, rds 10-3-8, 9-2. **Significant refreshments provided w/EF, no add'l charge.** VCF memb req'd (\$10/yr). W. Info/entries: Virginia Chess Federation, Woodrow Harris, 1105 West End Dr, Emporia, VA 23847. harrisfw@adelphia.net

10 Grand Prix points





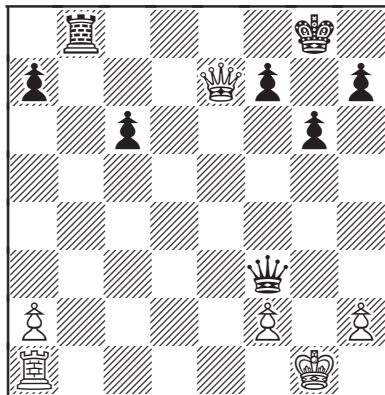
Balasubramanian met Miller in round 3. With benefit of hindsight this was the pivotal game in Miller's drive to victory. He tenaciously hung on to salvage a draw from a seemingly hopeless situation.

DANIEL MILLER – ADITHYA BALASUBRAMANIAN

SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 g6 4 c3 Bg7 5 O-O Nf6 6 Qe2 O-O 7 Rd1 Qb6 8 e5 Nd5 9 d4 cxd4 10 Bc4 Nc7 11 cxd4 d5 12 Bb3 Bg4 13 Be3 Nb5 14 Bxd5 Nbx d4 15 Qd2 (Natural, but evidently wrong; 15 Rxd4 would have maintained equality, eg 15...Bxf3 [15...Nxd4 16 Bxd4 and either 16...Qxd4 17 Nxd4 Bxe2 18 Nxe2 Bxe5 19 Nbc3; or 16...Bxf3 17 Qe3 Qa5 18 Bxf3 are worse for Black] 16 Rd2 Bxe2 17 Bxb6 axb6 18 Rxe2 Rad8 19 Nc3 etc) 15...Bxf3 16 gxf3 Bxe5 17 Bxc6 (Isn't White winning a piece?...) 17...bxc6 18 Bxd4 Bxd4 19 Qxd4 Rfd8 20 Qa4 Rxd1+ 21 Qxd1 Qxb2 (...no!, he's not, since if now 22 Nd2 Rd8) 22 Na3 Qxa3 23 Qd7 Qxf3 24 Qxe7 Rb8

(It must be admitted, this looks bleak for White—two pawns down and a real danger of getting mated... But as we have learned over the last six years, Danny has an incredible ability to hang on with nearly perfect chess when down in material or position. One cannot help but remember the 2002 championship, which he won with a 6-0 score despite appearing "lost" in at least half of his games. This is not at all to suggest the victories are somehow undeserved or tainted; on the contrary, the ability to resist



when resistance seems hopeless is a hallmark of champions—more so, than flashy sacrificial attacks.) 25 Re1 Rb5 26 Qd8+ Kg7 27 Qd4+ Kh6 28 h4 Kh5 29 Qxa7 Kxh4 30 Qd4+ Kh3 31 Qe3 Qxe3 32 Rxe3+ Kg4 33 Re7 f5 (Rather casual with his pawns; 33...Rf5 would avoid giving anything back, eg 34 Rc7 c5 35 a4 Kh3 36 a5 c4 37 Rxc4 Rxa5) 34 Rxh7 f4 35 Rh6 Kf3 36 Rh3+ (Not letting his king get driven aside rather than taking another pawn by 36 Rxc6 Rb1+ 37 Kh2 when the continuation might be 37...c5 38 Rc6 Rc1 39 a4 Kxf2 40 a5 Rc2 41 a6 Ke1+ 42 Kh3 f3 43 Re6+ Re2 44 Rxe2+ Kxe2 45 a7 f2 46 a8Q f1Q+) 36...Ke2 37 Rc3 Rg5+ 38 Kh2 Kxf2 (Black managed to drive the king to the h-file and capture f2 after all, but at a price: his rook is awkward at g5. The activity of White's rook, checking from the flank and also hitting c6, provides counterplay.) 39 Rc2+ Kf1 40 Rc1+ Ke2 41 Rxc6 f3 42 Rb6 Re5 43 Kg3 Rg5+ 44 Kh2 Rf5 45 Rb2+ Ke1 46 Rb1+ Kd2 47 Rb2+ Kc3 48 Rb3+ Kc2 49 Kg1 g5 (This still feels like it ought to be winnable somehow, but...) 50 Rb4 f2+ 51 Kf1 Kd3 52 Rb2 ½-½



CRAIG SAPERSTEIN – TIMOTHY ROGALSKI

SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 Nc6 8 Qd2 O-O 9 g4 Nxd4 10 Bxd4 Be6 11 h4 Qa5 12 O-O-O Rfc8 13 Kb1 (This has been played before, but it seems pretty certain that 13 a3 is the right move.) 13...Rxc3 14 Qxc3 Qxa2+ 15 Kc1 Bxg4 16 fxg4 Qa1+ 17 Kd2 Nxe4+ 18 Ke3 (To have any chance at all he needed to defend his rook, 18 Ke1) 18...Qxd1 19 Kxe4 Qxg4+ 20 Ke3 Rc8 21 Bxg7 Rxc3+ 22 Bxc3 e5 23 Bd3 Qg3+ 24 Kd2 Qg2+ 0-1

Gorman's earlier loss had elevated another former champion, Macon Shibut, to board one. However, round four was his turn to stumble from the lead.

MACON SHIBUT – RICHARD FRANCISCO

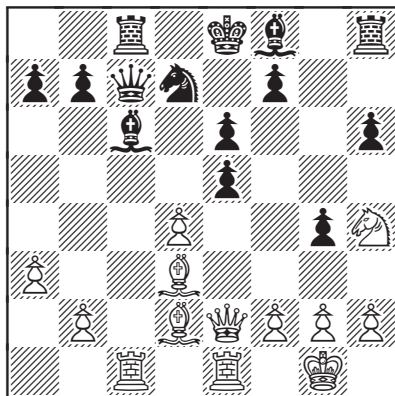
SICILIAN

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 c3 Nf6 3 e5 Nd5 4 d4 e6 5 Nf3 cxd4 6 cxd4 d6 7 a3 Bd7 8 Bd3 Bc6 9 0-0 Nd7 10 Bd2 Qc7 11 Re1 Rd8 12 Bg5 Rc8 13 Qe2 h6 14 Bd2 g5?! (I do not believe in Black's plan at all. 14...dxe5 or 14...Be7 was correct.) 15 Nc3 g4 16 Nh4 dxe5 17 Nxd5 Bxd5 18 Rac1 Bc6

(diagram)

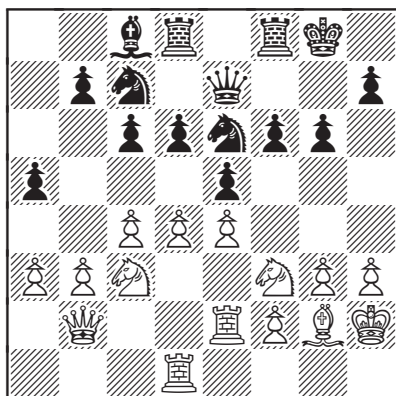
(My problem was too many attractive attacking possibilities! Of course the obvious move was to retake the pawn, 19 dxe5. But I hated to block the e-file, with his king in the center and my major pieces all lined up against him, so I looked at all sorts of things, eg 19 Qxg4; or 19 d5!? exd5 20 Qxg4 with what look like very dangerous chances. Unfortunately, I found yet another 'brilliant' idea... In general I played pretty well in this tournament. This



was my only loss, and I can't help feeling that it was right here that I muffed an excellent chance to recapture the state championship.) 19 Ng6?! fxg6 20 Qxg4 (It looked fearsome at the time, especially since my opponent was laboring under a bit of time pressure. But he defended calmly and well, and my attack simply bogs down within a very few moves.) 20...Qd6 21 Bb4 Qxd4 22 Qxe6+ Kd8 (Already I think Black is out of real peril.) 23 Ba5+ b6 24 Ba6 Bc5 25 Rxc5 Qxc5 26 Bb4 Qd5 27 Qg4 Rc7 28 Rd1 Qe4 29 Qg3 Bb7 30 Bd3 Qf4 31 Qxg6 Rc1 32 Rf1 Rxf1+ 33 Bxf1 Qf6 34 Qg4 a5 35 Bb5 Bc6 0-1 I could have resigned several moves earlier, and probably ought to have. Still, even though this was a fairly short contest which essentially ended in the middlegame, it was one of the



last games to finish that night. As I got up from the table, our end of the room was almost deserted, with only one game still underway: board #2, where I was amazed to see that Stan Fink and Miller were *still in the opening!*



FINK – MILLER
White to Play

The introductory moves had been: 1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 g6 3 Bg2 Bg7 4 O-O O-O 5 c4 d6 6 Nc3 Nbd7 7 d3 e5 8 Bd2 c6 9 Qc1 Re8 10 Bh6 Bh8 11 Bg5 Qb6 12 Be3 Qc7 13 h3 Nf8 14 Bh6 Ne6 15 e4 a5 16 Qd2 Nd7 17 b3 Ndc5 18 Rab1 Qb6 19 Kh2 Bd7 20 Rfd1 Rad8 21 Qc2 Qc7 22 Rd2 Bg7 23 Bxg7 Kxg7 24 d4 Na6 25 Rbd1 Bc8 26 a3 f6 27 Qb2 Qe7 28 Qc2 Rf8 29 Qb2 Kg8 30 Re2 Nac7. I went home without waiting to see the result. Had I stuck around, it would have been more of the same for a while—the fight developed very slowly. Eventually Black's pieces found the better squares and White's pawns began to fall away: 31 Red2 Rfe8 32 Qc1 Rf8 33 Qb2 Rfe8 34 Qc1 g5 35 b4 h5 36 d5 axb4 37 axb4 g4 38 hxg4 hxg4 39 dxe6 gxf3 40 Bxf3 Nxe6 41 Rh1 Nd4 42 Qd1 Kg7 43 Kg2 Rh8 44 Bg4 Rxh1 45 Kxh1 Be6 46 Bf5 Rh8+ 47 Kg2 Nxf5 48 Qg4+ Kf8 49 exf5 Qh7 50 Qh4 Qxh4 51 gxh4 Bxf5 52 Rxd6 Ke7 53 c5 Rxh4 54 Ne2 Rxb4 55 Ng3 Bg6 56 Rd2 Rb5 0-1

Balasubramanian rolled on defeating Andrew Samuelson, who has been hot of late, winning both the DC and Virginia Opens.

ADITHYA BALASUBRAMANIAN – ANDREW SAMUELSON SICILIAN

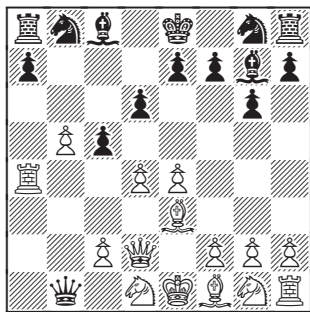
1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 g3 Nc6 4 Bg2 g6 5 O-O Bg7 6 c3 e5 7 d3 Nge7 8 Be3 O-O 9 Nfd2 f5 10 f4 b6 11 Qb3+ Kh8 12 Na3 Ba6 13 Ndc4 Rb8 14 Qa4 Na5 15 fxe5 dxe5 16 Nxa5 bxa5 17 Bxc5 Rxb2 18 Nc4 Bxc4 19 Qxc4 Qc7 20 exf5 Rc8 21 f6 Bxf6 22 Rxf6 Qxc5+ 23 Qxc5 Rxc5 24 c4 Nf5 25 Rf7 a6 26 Bd5 Ne3 27 Be4 a4 28 Ra7 Rc8 29 Re1 Ng4 30 Rf1 Rcb8 31 h3 Nh6 32 c5 Rc2 33 c6 Nf5 34 d4 Rc4 35 Bxf5 gxf5 36 d5 Rb2 37 c7 Rcc2 38 Rxf5 Kg8 39 Ra8+ Kg7 40 c8Q 1-0



Another player who seems to have had good results lately is Tim Hamilton. (See his “brilliances” versus Uesugi and Samuelson in *Virginia Chess* 2005/3 and 2005/4 respectively.) If his game here against the 1998 state champion was not quite on that order, it was still interesting!

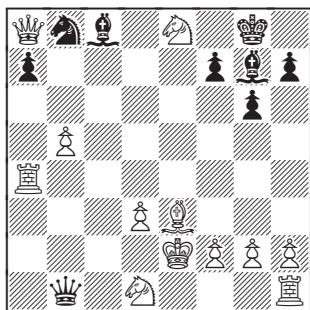
TIM HAMILTON - RODNEY FLORES MODERN

1 Nc3 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 e4 c6 4 Be3 d6 5 Qd2 b5 6 a4 Qa5 7 b4! Qxb4 8 axb5 c5 9 Ra4 Qb2 10 Nd1 Qb1



(White can't capture the queen but it sits out of play for a long time.) 11 **dx c5 Nf6** (The first order of business is to evacuate his king from the center.) 12 **cx d6 O-O** 13 **e5 Nfd7** 14 **Qd5 ex d6** 15 **Qxa8 Bxe5** 16 **Bd3 Bc3+** 17 **Ke2 Bg7** 18 **Nf3 Re8** 19 **Nd2 Qc1** 20 **Ne4 Qb1** 21 **Nxd6 Nc5** 22 **Nxe8 Nxd3** 23 **cx d3**

Not your everyday position!



23... **Qc2+** 24 **Bd2 Qxa4** 25 **Qxb8 Qg4+** 26 **f3 Qe6+** 27 **Ne3 Qxe8** 28 **Rc1 1-0**

Arlington Chess Club Championship December 3-4, 2005 George Mason University Professional Center (aka The Old Law School) 3401 N Fairfax Dr, Arlington, Virginia

(across from Virginia Square Metro Stop)
4-SS, 30/100, SD/1. \$\$2000 (b/70, top 3 G): \$550-300-200, top X, A/Unr, B, C, D each \$130, U1200 \$100. Top ACC Member wins plaque & 2005 ACC Championship; top ACC Member U1800 wins plaque & Amateur title plus \$200. EF \$45 if rec'd by 11/23, \$55 at site, \$5 discount to ACC Members. Reg 9-9:45, rds: 10-4, 10-3:30. One irrevocable ½ pt bye avail, must declare before rd 1. FIDE Enter: Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA 22306, make checks payable to Michael Atkins. For info email matkins2@cox.net or browse members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/champ05.htm

20 Grand Prix points



EDWARD PABALAN - WILLIAM CARROLL

TORRE

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 Bg5 Ne4 4 Bf4 Bg7 5 e3 O-O 6 Nbd2 Nxd2 7 Qxd2 d6 8 e4 Nd7 9 Bh6 e5 10 h4 exd4 11 Bxg7 Kxg7 12 h5 Qe7 13 O-O-O Nf6 14 hxg6 fxg6 15 Qh6+ Kg8 16 Bc4+ Be6 17 Bxe6+ Qxe6 18 Ng5 Qxa2 (attack and counterattack...) 19 Nxb7 Qa1+ 20 Kd2 Nxe4+ 21 Ke1 Qa5+ 22 c3 Qf5 23 Qh4 Qxf2+ 24 Qxf2 Nxf2 25 Nxf8 Rxf8 26 Ke2 Nxb1 27 Rxh1 dxc3 28 bxc3 a5 29 Rb1 b6 30 Kd3 Rf2 31 Rg1 Kf7 32 Kc4 c6 0-1

Going into Monday morning's penultimate round, there was a three-way tie for first between Miller, Balasubramanian & Francisco, with the former two having already played one another. The game Miller-Francisco game, on board one, ended bizarrely. Miller was White and made his 30th move. Then Francisco, with fully seven minutes remaining on his clock, simply forgot that as Black he needed to make one more move to complete the time control! And so, with everything yet to play for in a minor piece ending, he needlessly overstepped and forfeited.

On board two, Balasubramanian beat another master. Back to back wins in rounds three and four had enabled Potter to largely recover from his earlier loss. This game was a wonderfully sharp Benoni—an opening that Rusty has been playing and analyzing since literally before Adithya here was born.



Adithya Balasubramanian (left), shown here during his 2nd round game vs top-rated Dov Gorman. Photo by Mike Atkins

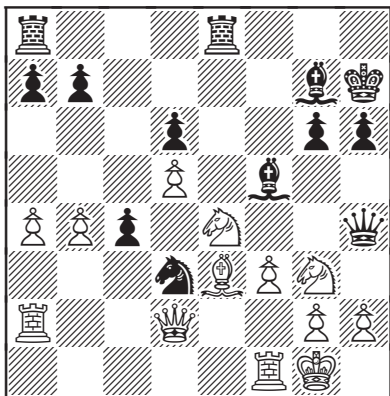


RUSTY POTTER – ADITHYA

BALASUBRAMANIAN

BENONI

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 O-O
 5 f3 c5 6 d5 d6 7 Bg5 h6 8 Be3 e6 9
 Qd2 exd5 10 cxd5 Kh7 11 a4 Re8 12
 Bc4 Nfd7 13 Nge2 Ne5 14 Ba2 Na6
 15 O-O Nb4 16 b3 Nxa2 17 Rxa2 f5
 18 Ng3 c4 19 b4 Nd3 20 Nce2 fxe4
 21 Nxe4 Bf5 22 N2g3 Qh4!?



(Here we go...) 23 Nxd6 Rxe3 24 Ndxfs
 gxf5 25 Nxf5 Qf4 26 Qxe3 Qxf5 27
 Qe4 Qxe4 28 fxe4 Nxb4 29 Re2 (The
 result of the combination is that Black
 has won two pieces for a rook and has
 a passed c-pawn as well. However, it
 takes a fine discernment to appreciate
 that White's connected passed pawns
 will not become monsters.) 29...Bd4+
 30 Kh1 c3 31 e5 c2 32 Rf7+ (Maybe
 wrong?! 32 Rc1 Bb2 33 Rxc2 Nxc2 34
 d6!?... But in any case, Black has come
 out better and White is just trying to
 muddy the waters.) 32...Kg6 33 Rc7
 Rf8 34 h4 Rf1+ 35 Kh2 c1Q 36 Rxc1
 Rxc1 37 d6 Nc6 38 e6 Be5+ 39 g3
 Bxd6 40 Rd2 Be7 41 Rd7 b6 42 Rc7

10th Annual

Northern Virginia Open

Nov 5-6, 2005

Holiday Inn Express

6401 Brandon Ave, Springfield, VA 22150

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

6-SS, G/100. \$\$2,400 (top 3 G, rest b/80): \$575-
 350-250, top X, A, B, C, D each \$180, U1200
 \$150, Unrated \$100, Upset \$75. Reg 8:45-9:45am,
 rds 10-2-6, 10-2-6. EF \$45 if rec'd by 10/28,
 \$55 at site. Two irrevocable ½ pt byes allowed,
 must commit to with entry, none allowed after
 1st round start. W, NS, FIDE. Hotel \$85, reserve
 before 10/20, 877-800-6696 (or local 703-644-
 5555) and ask for chess rate. Plenty of local
 eateries and places to visit. Enter: Michael Atkins,
 PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA 22306. Make checks
 to "Virginia Chess" Info email matkins2@cox.net
 or browse www.vachess.org/nova.htm

20 Grand Prix points



Capital Blitz Classic

November 4

Arlington Chess Club

Lyon Village Community House

1920 N Highland, Arlington, Va 22201

(Corner of N Highland & Lee Highway)

5-SS double round (10 games), G/5. \$1680 b/70
 (top 3 in Open G). Two Sections: *Open* \$400-200-
 150, Top X, A/Unr \$125; Trophy & 2005 Club
 Blitz Champion title to top ACC Member. *Amateur*
 \$250-125, Top C, D, U1200 \$110. Trophy & 2005
 Club Amateur Blitz Champion title to top ACC
 Member. Both EF \$30 if rec'd by Oct 28, \$40 at
 site. *Only cash entries at site*. Reg 6-8:15pm, rd 1
 8:25PM. Quick rated but regular USCF ratings
 used for pairings and prizes. Trophy+2005
 ACC Amateur Blitz Champion title to highest
 scoring ACC member. One ½pt bye allowed,
 announced before rd 3. WBCA Rules. NS. Info
[http://members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/
 capitalblitz.htm](http://members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/capitalblitz.htm) Enter: Make checks payable to
 Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA
 22306. 15 Grand Prix points



Kf6 43 Rc8 Kxe6 44 Rh8 Ne5 45 Rxh6+ Bf6 46 Rh7 a5 47 Rb7 Rb1 48 Kh3 Kf5 49 Rb8 Ng4 50 Rg8 Rb2 51 Rxg4 Rh2+ 52 Kxh2 Kxg4 53 Kg2 Bd4 54 h5 Kxh5 55 Kf3 Kg5 56 Ke4 Bf2 57 Kf3 Bc5 58 g4 Bd6 59 Ke4 Kxg4 60 Kd5 Bc5 0-1

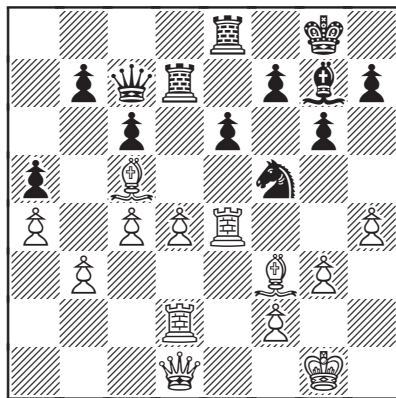
Shibut assured himself a spot back among the top boards by outplaying Hamilton in a deceptive position.

TIM HAMILTON - MACON SHIBUT

Position after 23...Rd7

Notes by Macon Shibut

Black has pressure against the d4 pawn. Tim tried to solve the problem with the tricky **24 d5!** To be honest, I had thought this simply impossible because after **24...cxd5** his rook and bishop are both hanging. True, after **25 Ba3** I can't just take the rook without losing my own to Rxd7, etc. But still I'd discounted 24 d5 altogether, reckoning that I'd simply double rooks and be a clear pawn up after whatever exchanges followed on d5.



However, once this position was actually on the board, I looked into it more deeply and convinced myself that all was not so simple. I calculated 25...Rd8 [25...dxe4 26 Rxd7 Qc6 (26...Qe5? 27 Rd8!) 27 Bg2] 26 cxd5 Rxd5 27 Rxd5 Rxd5 [27...exd5!?] and suddenly noticed 28 Qxd5 exd5 29 Re8+. A bit panicked at this discovery, I continued the variation 29...Bf8 30 Bxf8 Qd7 31 Rb8, and concluded—mistakenly—that I'd be lost, completely overlooking the saving 31...h5!

Nevertheless, the position would not have been altogether clear, so I was justified to search for an alternative. I wondered about inserting 25...Nxg3!? before capturing his rook, with the idea that after 26 fxg3 dxe4 26 Rxd7 my queen could go take g3 with check. But still the variations were not as convincing as I would have liked, so I sought to improve further. I finally hit upon a very interesting and paradoxical move, **25...Bh6!** From the previous remarks you can understand its genesis: White's rook is attacked; moving it off the d-file is out of the question (...dxe4); and if 26 Rd3 now the stroke 26...Nxg3! seems conclusive: 27 fxg3 dxe4 28 Rxd7 Qxg3+ 29 Bg2 Be3+ etc. But 'paradoxical' because there is one additional detail: White recovers his pawn and seemingly escapes all difficulties by **26 Rxd5**. Seemingly,—but he doesn't! Tim played the move after almost no thought and with an air of certitude, which was disconcerting for a moment. However, even though



this was indeed White's best chance, Black retains a strong initiative. After **26... Red8 27 Rxd7 Rxd7** Black controlled the open file and his pieces were ideally placed without exception. (Tim sank into thought now, which was as satisfying and reassuring for me as his earlier show of confidence had been troubling.)

Eventually he chose **28 Qe1 Bd2 29 Qe2 Nd4** and now if **30 Qd1** I had the variation **30...f5 31 Rxe6 Nxe6 32 Bd5 Rxd5! 33 cxd5 Nd4!** at the ready. Instead he decided to give up the exchange by **30 Rxd4 Rxd4 31 Bb2** A certain care must be taken in these kinds of positions, where the bishop on a long diagonal pointing towards the king implies some compensation for the sacrifice. Here the problem is pretty manageable, however, because my own dark-square bishop is still on the board and can soon reposition to neutralize the diagonal. The concluding moves were **31...Rd7 32 Be5 Qc5 33 h5 Bh6 34 hxg6 hxg6 35 Qe1 b6 36 Bg4 Rd2 37 Bxe6 Rxf2 38 Qxf2 Be3 39 Bxf7+ Kh7 0-1**

And so, the decisive final round... Miller and Balasubramanian were still in the lead. On board 1, Miller had to face his student, Larry Larkins, which must have been psychologically awkward for them both. Larkins has had consistently good results at the state championship over the past few years and here he might even claim the title if he could beat his teacher.

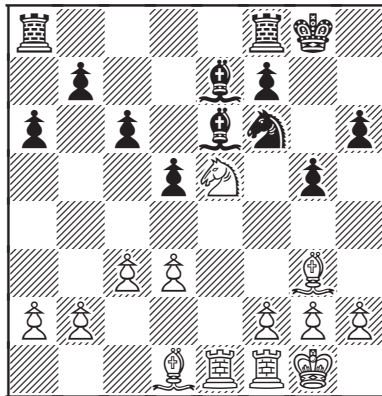
LARRY LARKINS - DANIEL MILLER

PETROFF

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 Qe2 (Miller had already seen, and defeated, this variation earlier in the tournament—round 2 *vs* Tim Rogalski) **5...Qe7 6 d3 Nf6 7 Bg5 Qxe2+ 8 Bxe2 Be7 9 Nc3 c6 10 O-O Na6 11 Rae1 Nc7 12 Bd1 Ne6 13 Bh4 d5 14 Ne2 h6 15 Ned4 g6 16 c3 a6 17 Nxe6 Bxe6 18 Ne5 g5 19 Bg3 O-O**

(diagram)

20 Ng6 fxg6 21 Rxe6 Rae8 22 Rfe1 Bd8 23 Rxe8 Rxe8 24 Rxe8+ Nxe8 25 Bg4 Bc7 26 Bd7 Bxg3 27 Bxe8 Bf4 28 Bd7 Bc1 29 b3 a5 30 Bc8 b6 31 Bb7 c5 32 Bxd5+ Kg7 33 b4 Bb2 34 bxc5 bxc5 35 c4 a4 36 Kf1 Kf6 37 Ke2 a3 38 h3 h5 39 Be4 Bd4 40 Ke1 Kg7 41 Kd2 Bxf2 42 Kc2 Bd4 43 Kb3 Bb2 44 d4 cxd4 45 c5 Kf6 46 Bxg6 h4 47 Bd3 Ke6 48 Kc4 Kd7 49 Kd5 Kc7 50 Be4 Ba1 51 Kc4 Bc3 52 Bf3 Bb2 53 Kd3 Bc3 54 Bd5 Bb2 ½-½





Thus Balasubramanian could become the youngest-ever Virginia state champion if he managed to win or draw his last round game. However, his phenomenal run finally came to an end.

ADITHYA BALASUBRAMANIAN – MACON SHIBUT

NIMZOWITSCH

1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 d6 3 c3 Nf6 4 Bd3 (4 d4 Δ 4...Nxe4? 5 d5) Bg4 5 h3 Bxf3 6 Qxf3 Ne5 7 Qe2 Nxd3+ 8 Qxd3 c6 9 Na3 e6 10 0-0 d5 11 exd5 cxd5 12 Qg3 Ne4 13 Qg4 h5 14 Qe2 g6 15 d3 Nd6 16 Bf4 Bg7 17 Be5 0-0 18 c4 Nf5 19 Bxg7 Kxg7 20 Rac1 Rc8 21 Nc2 dxc4 22 dxc4 Qf6 23 b3 Rfd8 24 Qf3 Rc7 25 Rfd1 Rcd7 26 g4? hxg4 27 hxg4 Nd4 28 Qxf6+ Kxf6 29 Nxd4 Rxd4 30 Rxd4 Rxd4 31 f3 Rd2 32 Ra1 Ke5 33 b4 Kf4 34 c5 f5 35 Re1 e5 36 gxf5 gxf5 37 a3 Rc2 38 Rf1 a5?! (makes the win a lot harder; 38...Kg3!) 39 Rf2 Rc3 40 bxa5 Rxc5 41 Kg2 Rc3! 42 a4 (if 42 Rb2 Rxf3 of course) 42...Rb3! (not 42...Ra3? 43 Rb2! Rxf3 44 Rxb7 Rg3+ 45 Kf2 Ra3 46 Rb4+ e4 47 a6 etc) 43 Rf1 Rb2+ 44 Kg1 (The pawn ending is winning for Black after 44 Rf2 Rxf2+, eg. 45 Kxf2 Kg5 46 Kg3 Kf6 47 Kh4 Ke6 48 Kg5 e4 49 Kf4 exf3 50 Kxf3 Ke5 51 Ke3 Kd5 52 Kf4 Kc4 53 Kxf5 Kb4 54 a6 bxa6 55 Ke4 Kxa4 56 Kd3 Kb3) 44...Kg3 (Finally to where he should have gone at move 38. The rest is easy.) 45 Re1 Ra2 46 Rf1 Rxa4 47 Re1 Rxa5 48 Rf1 Rc5 49 Rb1 b5 50 Rf1 b4 51 Rb1 Kxf3 52 Rb3+ Rc3 53 Rxb4 Rc1+ 54 Kh2 e4 55 Rb5 f4 56 Rh5 e3 57 Rh3+ Kf2 58 Rh4 f3 59 Ra4 Rc2 60 Ra1 e2 61 Rh1 Rc8 62 Rf1+ Kxf1 0-1



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The 2005 Virginia Closed was nonetheless a spectacular ‘coming out’ event for Adithya, and it would seem a fair bet that he has some state championship titles in his future. Meanwhile, as described above, a classic matchup took place across the room on the top board of the Amateur Section. Last year’s champion, Nick Halgren, had a chance to derail the ambitions of the co-leader. Can he do it?

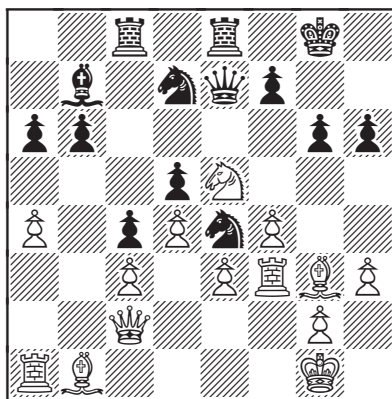
MURTUZA HASHIM - NICK HALGREN

QUEEN’S GAMBIT DECLINED

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 cxd5 exd5 5 Bg5 Be7 6 Qc2 O-O 7 e3 Nbd7 8 Bd3 h6 9 Bh4 c5 10 Nf3 a6 11 a4 b6 12 h3 Bb7 13 Bg3 Rc8 14 O-O Re8 15 Qe2 c4 16 Bb1 Bb4 17 Ne5 Qe7 18 Qc2 g6 19 f4 Bxc3 20 bxc3 Ne4 21 Rf3

(diagram)

21...f6!? 22 Nxg6 Qg7 23 f5 Ng5 24 Rf1 Rxe3 25 Bf4 Ree8 26 h4 Ne4 27 Qc1 Kh7 28 Bxe4 Rxe4 29 Qd2 Rce8 30 Rae1 Bc6 31 Rxe4 Rxe4 32 Qd1 b5 33 a5 Nf8 34 h5 Bd7 35 Bd6 Nxg6 36 hxg6+ Kg8 37 Qh5 Re3 38 Bb4 Rg3 39 Qh2 Re3 40 Qb8+ Be8 41 Qd6 Kh8 42 Qxa6 Bxg6 43 fxg6 Qxg6 44 Qc8+ Re8 45 Qf5 Qg3 46 Qxf6+ Qg7 47 Qxg7+ 1-0



In conclusion, there’s not much to say except, “Bravo, Danny Miller!” Three championships in a row, four in six tries— He is without question *the* player in Virginia chess thus far into the 21st century. We hope to arrange to get his own notes to some games for a forthcoming issue of *Virginia Chess*. In the meantime, here are a few more from the tournament:

DOV GORMAN - ETTIE NIKOLOVA

SLAV

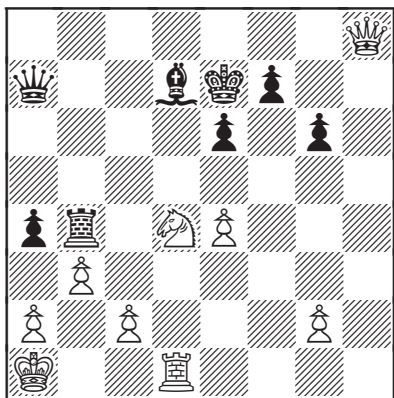
1 c4 c6 2 Nf3 d5 3 e3 Nf6 4 d4 e6 5 Nc3 Nbd7 6 Qc2 h6 7 Bd2 Bd6 8 g4 e5 9 cxd5 Nxd5 10 Nxd5 cxd5 11 dxe5 Nxe5 12 Nxe5 Bxe5 13 Bb5+ Bd7 14 Qf5 Bxb2 15 Bxd7+ Qxd7 16 Qxd7+ Kxd7 17 Rb1 Be5 18 Rxb7+ Ke6 19 Ke2 Rhb8 20 Rhb1 Rxb7 21 Rxb7 f5 22 h3 fxg4 23 hxg4 Kd6 24 f4 Bf6 25 Kd3 a6 26 Bc3 Bxc3 27 Kxc3 Rc8+ 28 Kd3 Rc7 29 Rxc7 Kxc7 30 Kd4 Kd6 31 f5 a5 32 a4 Kc6 33 Ke5 Kc5 34 Ke6 Kb4 35 Kxd5 Kxa4 36 Kc4 Ka3 37 e4 Kb2 38 e5 a4 39 e6 a3 40 e7 a2 41 e8Q a1Q 42 Qe2+ Ka3 43 Qd3+ Kb2 44 Qd2+ Kb1 45 Kb3 1-0



ANDREW SAMUELSON - TIMOTHY ROGALSKI

SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 Nc6 8 Qd2 O-O 9 O-O-O Nxd4 10 Bxd4 Be6 11 h4 Qa5 12 Kb1 Rfc8 13 Qg5 b5 14 Qxb5 Qc7 15 Qa4 Bd7 16 Qa3 Rab8 17 Ka1 a5 18 Ba6 Re8 19 Rhe1 Rb4 20 e5 Rxd4 21 Rxd4 dxe5 22 Rdd1 Bc6 23 Bd3 Rb8 24 Be4 Nxe4 25 fxe4 Bf8 26 Qc5 e6 27 Qc4 Rb4 28 Qd3 Qb7 29 b3 Bc5 30 h5 Bd4 31 hxg6 hxg6 32 Qh3 Kf8 33 Qh8+ Ke7 34 Rxd4 exd4 35 Qh4+ Ke8 36 Qh8+ Ke7 37 Rd1 Qa7 38 Ne2 a4 39 Nxd4 Bd7

*White to move & Win*

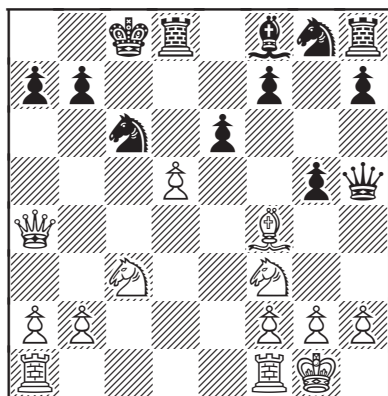
40 Nc6+! 1-0

DANIEL MILLER - PATRICK RAY

SICILIAN

*Notes based on offhand remarks by
Miller, Shibut, Gorman & FRITZ*

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Bd7 4 Bxd7+ Qxd7 5 O-O e6 6 c3 Nc6 7 d4 cxd4 8 cxd4 d5 9 exd5 Qxd5 10 Nc3 Qh5 11 Bf4 O-O-O 12 Qa4 g5 13 d5



13...exd5 14 Nd4 Nxd4 15 Qxd4 gxf4 16 Qxh8 Bd6 17 Nxd5 Be5 18 Nxf4 Bxf4 (18...Qf5 19 Rac1+ Kb8 20 Rc5) 19 Qc3+ Kb8 20 g3 Be5 21 Qa5 b6 22 Qa4 Nf6 23 Rad1 Rc8 (23...Rxd1 24 Rxd1 Qe2 25 Rd8+ Kb7 26 Rf8 Qxb2 27 Rxf7+ Bc7 28 Kg2 Qe5 29 Qf4 Qxf4 30 gxf4 Nd5 31 Rxh7 Nxf4+ 32 Kf3) 24 Rc1 Bc7 25 Rc4 Qe5 26 b3 Qd5 27 Rfc1 Ne8 28 Rd4 Qg5 29 Qc6 Qg6 30 Qf3 Nd6 31 Qc6 Qe6 (31...Nf5 32 Rd7 Qxc6 33 Rxc6; 31...Bd8 32 Qxc8+ Nxc8 33 Rxd8 Kb7 34 Rdxc8) 32 Rcd1 Rd8 33 Qc2 Qg6 34 Qd2 Qf6 35 Qd3 Qg6 36 Qf3 Qc2 37 R4d2 Qc5 38 Qf6 Kb7 39 Rd5 Ne4 (39...Qc6; 39...Qa3 40 Qc3 Ne4 41 Qf3 Re8 42 Rd7 Qc5 43 Qxf7 Rc8) 40 Qxf7 (40 Qf3 Rxd5 41 Qxe4 Kc6 42 b4 f5 43 Qe8+ Kb7 44 bxc5 Rxd1+) 40...Qf8 41 Qxf8 Rxf8 42 Rc1 Rxf2 43 Rd7 1-0 In the moment this game was widely regarded as another example of Miller's "luck" but the variations show that it was in fact rather unclear all along.

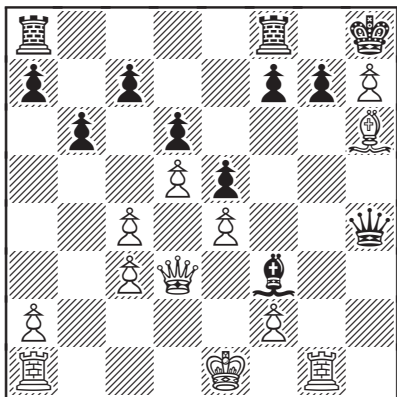


WILLIAM CARTER - MURTUZA HASHIM KING'S INDIAN

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 e3 c5 4 c3 Bg7 5 Bd3 cxd4 6 exd4 d5 7 Nbd2 Nc6 8 O-O Bg4 9 h3 Bf5 10 Bxf5 gxf5 11 Re1 Ne4 12 Nf1 Qd6 13 Ne3 e6 14 Nf1 Bf6 15 Be3 Rg8 16 Qc1 O-O-O 17 Bf4 Qf8 18 g3 (18 Ng3!?) 18...h5 19 h4 Qe7 20 Ng5? Nxg5 21 hxg5 Bxg5 22 Bxg5 Rxg5 23 Qf4 Rg4 24 Qh6 h4 25 Re3 (25 Ne3 Rg6 26 Qf4 hxg3 27 fxg3 Qd7 etc) 25...Rdg8 26 Rae1 hxg3 27 fxg3 f4 28 Rf3 Rh4 0-1

DARWIN LI - TIM HAMILTON NIMZOWITSCH

1 e4 Nc6 2 d4 e5 3 d5 Nce7 4 c4 Ng6 5 Nf3 Nf6 6 Nc3 Bb4 7 Bd3 Bxc3+ 8 bxc3 d6 9 h3 b6 10 Be3 O-O 11 g4 Nd7 12 h4 Nc5 13 h5 Nxd3+ 14 Qxd3 Bxg4 15 hxg6 Bxf3 16 gxh7+ Kh8 17 Rg1 Qh4 18 Bh6



18...Bxe4 19 Bxg7+ Kxh7 20 Qe3 Bg6 21 Rg4 Qh5 22 Bxf8 Rxf8 23 Qg5 Qh1+ 24 Rg1 ½-½

VCF President's Greeting

Hello, my fellow chess enthusiasts,

My top priority for the first two months of my administration is to attempt to keep the Millennium Chess Festival alive. Tom Braunlich has organized the Millennium Festival six years, but he lives in another state and has chosen not to continue organizing the event for next year. I would like to thank Tom for six great tournaments in Virginia Beach that became the largest annual chess tournament in Virginia. At our annual meeting, the members of the VCF overwhelmingly voted to support the idea of trying to sustain the Millennium Festival, either by finding new local organizers or perhaps even by taking over the event as a VCF tournament. I will be meeting with the hotels and potential sponsors in the next few weeks and I hope to be able to announce specifics of Millennium Festival 2006 in the next issue of *Virginia Chess*.

I would also like to thank Hank Haubold for a large donation he made to help offset a portion of the loss the VCF sustained at this year's VA Closed do to poor attendance.

I look forward to promoting chess in Virginia over the next year.

Respectfully,

William Marshall Denny II
President
Virginia Chess Federation



Kingstowne Quad #23/Action-Plus

by Don Millican

SUMMER DOLDRUMS STRUCK the August 6 edition of the Kingstowne Quads in Alexandria. The Cash Quads reached a new low in attendance with only three players. Since the Action-Plus section had an odd number of players, it was decided that the Cash Quad entrants would receive a partial refund of entry fees and play in the Action-Plus. Andrew Samuelson finished clear first with $4\frac{1}{2}$ out of 5. Second place went to Jimmie Beatty. Steve Linett won the Under 1800 prize and the Under 1400 went to Scott A Lacy. William M Moore, a well-known coach and organizer for scholastic events in Prince William County, played himself this time and won Top Unrated.

The Medal Quads, in happy contrast to the Cash Quads, had a healthy turnout with three pure quad sections plus a fourth section of six playing a Swiss. In the top Quad, Leitanyi Shi took a silver medal with a score of $2\frac{1}{2}$ over Michael C Callinan's $1\frac{1}{2}$, good enough for bronze. In the second Quad, Michael E Donovan & Jerry Wu tied with $2\frac{1}{2}$ each. Donovan won the silver medal on tiebreak leaving Wu with bronze. Quad 3 had Ted B Compher win gold with a perfect 3. Timothy J Schmal won the bronze on tiebreak. Schmal left the tournament before the prizes were determined and without leaving an address so: *Tim, if you read this, please contact me regarding your medal!* The bottom "Quad" saw Glenn M Sheldon & Jean He tie for first with $2\frac{1}{2}$ each. Sheldon won gold on tiebreak with He getting the silver second place medal. The third place bronze medal went to Andy Yang.





Harris Pavilion "Open Air"

by Don Millican

The "hottest chess tournament in Virginia," at least in terms of temperature, was held in Manassas at the Harris Pavilion on August 13. The competition was as intense as the heat of Old Town Manassas in summer. Forty-three players competed for trophies, \$800 in guaranteed prizes and ten Grand Prix points.

The Open section was for the serious players: USCF rated, cash prizes and Grand Prix points were at stake. Roderick Brown won clear first with $4\frac{1}{2}$ out of 5, with Jimmie Beattie's 4 points taking clear second. Tying for third with $3\frac{1}{2}$ points were Patrick Ray, Timothy Rogalski, Phillip Chodrow & Raymond Wang. Ray also won Under 2000 while Chodrow and Wang split the Under 1600. Andy Yang & Jimmy Wang won the Under 1200 prizewith $2\frac{1}{2}$. Top Unrated was split between Andrew Butler & Ronald Meadows with 2 each. A total of twenty-three players competed in the Open section.

The Fun section was not USCF rated but was played under regular USCF rules with trophy prizes to the top ten finishers. Most of the twenty entrants were playing in their first-ever tournament, but there were a few familiar names. WE Webbert, James Reed & John Farrell won first, second and third on tiebreak respectively with 4 points out of 5. With $3\frac{1}{2}$ points, Harry Hopewell finished fourth, Marvin Wilson fifth, & Matthew Bailey sixth on tiebreak. Seventh through ninth places went respectively to Susan McClanahan, Robert Hopewell & Dresden Garder on tiebreak with 3 points apiece. In sole possession of tenth place, with $2\frac{1}{2}$, was Matt Golaszewski (the only prize not decided by a tiebreak!).

This is the third consecutive year a tournament has been held at the Harris Pavilion, the second year for this format, but only the first time outdoors as intended. Last year, the inaugural event was forced to move indoors due to a blowhard named Hurricane Charlie. Linda Robertson, manager of the Harris Pavilion, provided the facility and \$500 of the prize fund. The remaining prize money and the trophies were provided by the Kingstowne Chess Club. In addition, Alex Passov was available to the players during the early part of the tournament for informal coaching and commentary on games and chess in general.





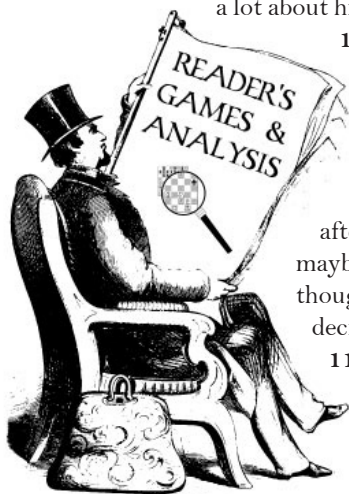
CHRIS BUSH - JUSTIN BURGESS

SICILIAN

2005 LIPKIN/PFEFFERKORN OPEN

Notes by Justin Burgess

I was a little nervous before the game. Chris has been on fire lately, winning the U2000 sections of the World Open and the Millennium Chess Festival. I'd heard a lot about him, but had never gotten to play him before this.



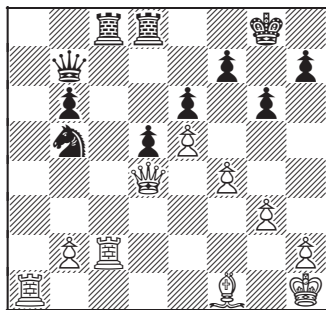
1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 d3 Bg7 5 Bg2 d6 6 f4 e6 7 Nf3 Nd4 8 Ne2 Ne7 9 Nd2

(This move seemed a little strange to me, but I confess I don't know Closed Sicilians that well. I run into it online, when White usually plays 9 c3 and lets me trade on f3. Chris told me after the game that he didn't want a trade on f3, so maybe 9 Nd2 is common.) **9...d5 10 c3 Ndc6** (I still thought White's knights looked a little strange so I decided not to help him untangle by taking on e2)

11 Qc2 b6 12 0-0 0-0 13 e5 Bb7 14 Nf3 Rc8 15

d4 cxd4 16 Nxd4 Qd7 (The next few moves are an important part of the game. My d6 square is weak but if 17 Nb5 Ba6. Chris later suggested 17 Qa4 to prevent 17...Ba6 but then Black should be fine with 17...a6) **17 Qe2 Nxd4**

18 Nxd4 Nc6 19 Nb5 (This is where White starts to get into a little trouble. 19 Qb5 Rfd8 would have been equal.) **19...Ba6** (Threatening things like ...Nxe5 or just ...Nd4) **20 c4** (Loses a pawn; I think 20 a4 was better but Chris said he didn't like his position after 20...Na5) **20...Bxb5 21 cxb5 Nd4 22 Qd3 Nxb5** (22...Nc2 as better, eg 23 Rb1 Nb4 24 Qb3 Qxb5 25 a3 Qd3! [but not 25...Qc5+ 26 Be3 +-] and Black comes out a pawn up with a better knight than in the game.) **23 a4 Nc7** (Black has won a pawn but at the cost of a poor knight that will have some trouble getting active.) **24 Be3 Rfd8** (Trying to re-activate the bishop by ...B-f-c5 to alleviate some pressure on my queenside pawns, but 24...f6 might have been better) **25 Bd4 Bf8 26 a5 Nb5** (Hoping to trade off my bad knight for White's bishop) **27 Bf2 Bc5 28 axb6 axb6 29 Kh1 Bxf2 30 Rxf2 Qc6 31 Bf1 Nc7** (An extremely passive move that gives White the initiative; better is 31...Qc5 32 Rd2 Qb4) **32 Rc2 Qb7** (32...Qd7 33 Ra7) **33 Qd4 Nb5** (diagram)





This is where the game gets crazy. I spent 15 minutes before the approaching time control trying to analyze 34 Rxc8 Nxd4 35 Rxd8+ Kg7 36 Raa8. Chris and I both ruled it out because of 36... Qc6, but then 37 Rdc8; Black's queen isn't going anywhere fast and Black would have to worry about mate threats involving White's g-pawn, bishop, and even a king march to h3 or h4. After 36...Qe7, however, Black seems to have enough to counter White's threats on the kingside and he threatens his own quick invasion on b4 if White plays passively. For example, 37 Re8 Qb4 38 g4 Qe1 39 Kg2 Qe4+ 40 Kg3 Qf3+ 41 Kh4 Qf2+ 42 Kh3 Nf3 43 g5 Ng1+ 44 Kg4 Qf3+ 45 Kh4 Qxf4 *mate*

34 Qd3 Rxc2 35 Qxc2 Nc7 (I can't remember why I was so intent on having my knight on c7; 35...Nd4 was much better.) **36 Rc1** (If 36...Rc8 37 Qc6; or if 36...Na8 37 Bb5 buries my knight; or if 36...Ne8 37 Qc6 and my pieces seem dead. So I tried to stir things up a bit, even if it meant losing my extra pawn. Earlier that day I heard a master say that pawns aren't meant to be held on to while you try to trade off all the pieces; rather they should be given back at an advantageous moment. I'm not sure this is always true, but it was something interesting to think about.) **36...d4+!? 37 Bg2 d3** (Now 38 Qxc7 Qxc7 39 Rxc7 d2 40 Bf3 d1Q+ 41 Bxd1 Rxd1+ 42 Kg2 Rd2+ and Rxb2 would be good for Black, but 38 Bxb7 dxc2 39 Rxc2 Nd5 would be unclear.) **38 Qd2 Qa7 39 g4 Ne8 40 Be4 Qa5 41 Qxa5** (I did not expect this at all, but

I was hoping for it—it seemed better for Black. Sure enough, CM8000's evaluation of White's position goes way down after 41 Qxa5) **41...bxa5 42 Kg2 f5 43 gxf5 exf5 44 Bc6 d2 45 Rd1 Kf7** (45...Nc7) **46 Kf3 h6** (46...Nc7) **47 h4** (47 Ke3) **47...Ng7 48.Ke3 Ne6** (Now I must indirectly protect d2 due to the threat on f4. This is why it was urgent for Black to get his knight to e6, and why 47 h4 was poor: it allowed Black to recover from his own inaccuracies.) **49 Ba4? Nxf4!** (Chris missed this move, which assures Black will at least stay up a pawn.) **50 Bb3+** (of course if 50 Kxf4 Rd4+, eg 51 Kf3 Rxa4 52 Rxd2 Rxh4) **50...Ne6 51 Rxd2 f4+ 52 Ke2 Rxd2+ 53 Kxd2 g5 54 h5?** (White has no way to attack h6, so all the text does is create a target on h5 while also giving Black a tempo compared to 54 hxg5 hxg5 when White would have the move.) **54...Ke7 55 Bc2?** (A further blunder that loses another pawn and effectively ends the game) **55...Nd4 56 Bd1 Ke6 57 Kd3 Kxe5** (Now it's just a matter of technique, although mine wasn't the best.) **58 Bg4 Nf5 59 Bf3 Ne3 60 b3 g4 61 Bb7 Kf5 62 Be4+ Kg5 63 Bg6 Kh4 64 Ke4 g3 65 Kf3 Kh3** (65...g2 66 Kf2 f3 67 Be4 Nd1+ 68 Kg1 Kg3 was much simpler.) **66 Be4 Nd1 67 Kxf4 g2 68 Bxg2+ Kxg2 69 Kf5 Ne3+ 70 Kf4** (If 70 Kg6 Ng4 and the Black king will soon collect white's h-pawn. It wouldn't have been as easy if White had traded on move 54!) **70...Kf2 71 Ke4 Nf1** (Now one of White's pawns will go) **72 Kd3 Ng3 73 Kc4 Nxh5 74 Kb5 Nf4 75 Kxa5 Nd3 76 Kb5 h5 77 Kc4 Ke3 0-1**



Scholastic Chess

by Mike Hoffpauir, VCF Scholastics Coordinator

Boys, Girls, Chess Parents, Coaches... by now most of you know that the 2005-06 scholastic chess season is underway across the state. By the time you read this, there already will have been several tournaments, and more are planned. A list of web links to several of the area's Scholastics Chess sites appears at the end of this article; these are the key places to look for tournament information.

At the annual VCF Business Meeting, Marshall Denny, our new President, appointed me as Scholastics Coordinator. This is an obligation I am honored to take on. My goal is to serve all of you with the excellence and professionalism of my predecessor, Mike Cornell—who, by the way, is the person that influenced me to “get involved” several years ago when I lived in the Woodbridge area.

First and foremost, across the state I see several active scholastics chess programs. They are all regional in nature -- Northern VA, the DC Metro area, Fredericksburg, Richmond, and Roanoke. The Tidewater, where I live, is breathing new life into its program. So, my biggest question to you is how can VCF help you make your own scholastics programs even better?

Let me share with you my chief objectives for this school year; I would welcome your comments and ideas:

♠ Promote Scholastic Chess throughout the state. Because today's scholastic's players are tomorrow's full-fledge VCF and USCF members, it is important to grow players while they're young. This means pointing people in the right direction -- in the direction of the state's able regional chess programs -- whenever they have questions.

♠ State Championships. I will pursue corporate funding/assistance to defray costs associated with the championships. My goal is to keep entry fees as low as possible and give the organizer more options for awards, medals, trophies, certificates for the teams and players. By the way, the 2005-06 State Championships will be held at William Fleming HS, near Roanoke, on March 11-12, 2006. Expect to see tournament details emerge before the end of the year. As soon as this happens, I'll update the VCF Scholastics web page (which will be completely redesigned shortly).

♠ Scholastics input for the VCF Newsletter. I want to solicit input from anyone and everyone for publication in *Virginia Chess*.





For instance, annotated games, tournament results, upcoming events, photos, and news of participation in national-level events is the kind of information I'm looking for. Don't be shy! Drop me a note!

♠ *Collegiate Chess.* I want to develop a list of clubs at universities around the Commonwealth. If you know of any collegiate clubs, please send me an email. I'm setting a goal to hold a State Collegiate Chess Championships before the end of 2006. FYI, the annual Pan Am collegiate tournament will be in DC in Dec 2006.

♠ *Scholastic League Play.* This is in various states of organization in different regions, from non-existent to thriving. I played in a league as a kid, as did our new VCF president and probably many of you. I just want to help out in any way I can, whether that be sharing ideas about how I've seen it succeed in other places, to helping you remove any roadblocks that maybe inhibiting your progress.

♠ *Scholastic side events at adult tournaments.* When appropriate, I'll work to organize scholastics side events during some VCF adult events. I won't let this compete with scholastic tournaments in a region where the VCF adult event is being held, or allow it to detract from the atmosphere of the adult tournament.

♠ *State Representatives to the annual Denker and Polgar tournaments.* Every year the state sends two high schoolers to participate in the annual Denker Tournament of High School Champions and Judit Polgar's Young Women's Championships. Both are held in August. The VCF determines what two players will represent the state from results at the high school section of the State Scholastics Championships. My goal is to ensure that our representatives have appropriate financial assistance.

♠ *VCF Web site.* The web site has a new webmaster and will be overhauled shortly. The scholastics portion will be modernized too. I'll build in links to scholastic web sites and resources, news, etc.

Here's the aforementioned list of the major Scholastic Chess Links in VA and DC:

- ♠ US Chess Center ... <http://www.chessctr.org/youth.htm>
- ♠ Spotsy Chess ... <http://spotsychessclub.freesevers.com/>
- ♠ VSCA ... <http://www.vschess.org/>
- ♠ Roanoke Public Schools ... <http://roanokek12.va.us/programs/ChessClub/Home.html>

If you know of other links, please send them my way. I will ensure that these, and those you send to me, are included on the soon-to-be-updated VCF web page for scholastics chess.

I want to end this short note by again emphasizing my openness towards and eagerness to hear your thoughts on how VCF can help in the scholastics arena. You can contact me, Mike Hoffpauir, at mhoffpauir@aol.com



Book Review

Goodbye to All That

by David Long

Ruy Lopez Exchange, by Krzysztof Pancyk & Jacek Ilczuk
Everyman Chess, London, 2005; paperback, 192 pages, \$23.95.

Like games with the Exchange Spanish, books devoted to the Exchange Spanish tend to be a lot alike. No author can omit Lasker–Capablanca, St Petersburg 1914, for instance, with its lesson about the variation’s subtle psychological dynamic. (“Black *must* play actively to exploit the bishop pair...” etc, etc.) Then follows the obligatory, marketing-driven invocation of Fischer’s experiences with the system—eleven tournament games total, some now 40 years behind us. Most books these days offer a selection of games sorted by main subvariations, plus repertoire recommendations. Some also compete to find early references in the literature to the position after 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bc6 dc 5 0-0. You may learn, for example, that Ernst Schallopp or some other forgotten German master actually had one of these on his board back in the 19th century. The unwritten formula further requires mention that those who enjoy endgames can play this system right away, without knowing as much theory as other Spanish lines demand. One learns that some of the endgames have even been analyzed out to wins. If several other lines are drawish, that’s okay too, since you can still get some chances without risk...



And, by and large, it’s all true. Andrew Soltis’s *Ruy Lopez Exchange Variation: Fischer’s Weapon* (Chess Digest, 1995) is a successful early example of the species, as is the more detailed *Spanish Exchange* (Batsford, 1998) by Andrew Kinsman. And GM Stefan Kindermann released a comprehensive new volume this year.

Everyman’s *Ruy Lopez Exchange*, a collaboration by an IM and a strong postal player, follows the pattern. It has 78 main games and many, many others in the notes, organized in the usual way, plus repertoire recommendations and charts of variations. The research was broad enough to include a reference to a game by our friend, Arlington Chess Club stalwart Thomas Rehle (Black against IM Ed Formanek from the 2002 Eastern Open).

However, in the final analysis *Ruy Lopez Exchange* is mostly a game collection, with fewer instructional notes than some other books. Were I taking up the variation anew, this book would work best as a supplement to other texts. One book which it might well supplement is Larry Kaufman’s excellent repertoire tome, *The Chess Advantage in Black and White* (McKay, 2004). Larry’s book, already something of a



cult classic (six of us had copies in our bags at a recent DC League match), makes no claim to being exhaustive. His section on the exchange variation for White illustrates new developments and plans through ten recent games. Together, *Ruy Lopez Exchange* and *The Chess Advantage in Black and White* would give a fair idea of the developments that have lifted GM interest in the Exchange lines.

However, the opening seems to have become a victim of its own success. As the theory has expanded, more players work out pet defenses as Black and the Exchange variation offers less economy for the club player than it used to. And if more and more study is going to be required to really play this thing anyway, the question of taste becomes more important. Yes, you can play the exchange variation your whole life, *but do you really want to?*

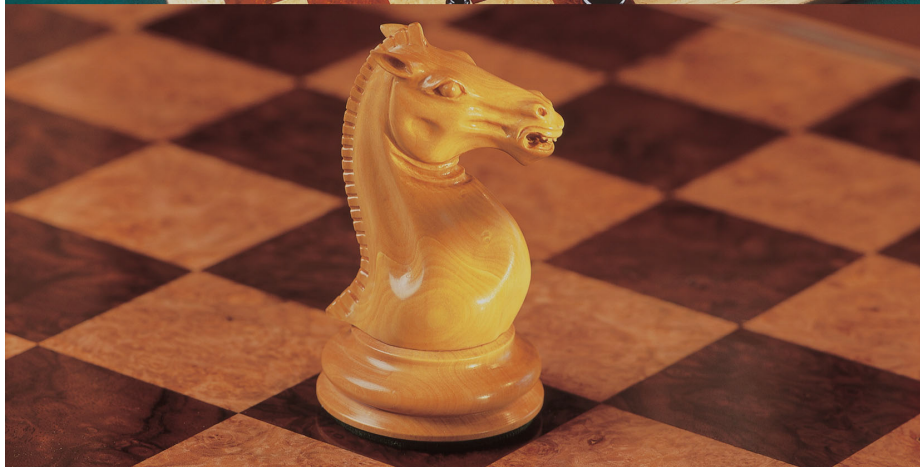
My own experience illustrates the trap. Enjoying 1 e4, I started playing the Exchange lines on and off about ten years ago. At the time I didn't get to play much, and thanks to my opponents I hardly ever had to meet 1...e5, so this seemed a practical choice for those rare moments when there wasn't a Sicilian on the board. Later on, as 1...e5 appeared more often, it was all too easy to slip into it as a regular weapon. When I finally started trying to flesh out an 1 e4 repertoire a couple years ago, the Exchange lines were already somewhat familiar and easy to build on. Without really thinking about it, there I was... a confirmed Exchange Spanish Player.

The results weren't too bad, and my occasional losses really weren't the fault of the opening. The variation delivered exactly what its proponents claimed. It still surprises me how often even strong players enter known bad lines, yielding up a nice advantage, sometimes even nearly winning positions, for White. I've also had a number of quick wins in lines where Black avoids exchanging queens. And when I mishandled things really badly, even losing an important kingside pawn wasn't always enough to lose the game. So what's the problem?

It comes down to taste and what you want out of chess. Even cutting edge Exchange theory still takes place within a narrow range of chess experience and a single pawn structure. Whatever their objective merits, these lines sometimes feel like an attempt to *wring the chess out of chess*. I don't think this has helped my game and it's just not as much fun. It's not without reason that players like my old heroes, Tal or Spassky or Bronstein (or even Karpov!) are absent from the Exchange variation literature. If you want to model your play on their rich, imaginative styles, it's simply a fact that you'll have less to work with in the Exchange variation endgames.

If you're really committed to playing the Exchange Spanish, this book is worth a look. If you're not really into it, though, you'll do better—and have a better time—with a games collection of, say, Kasparov, Anand, Spassky, or Tal or your other favorite players.

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