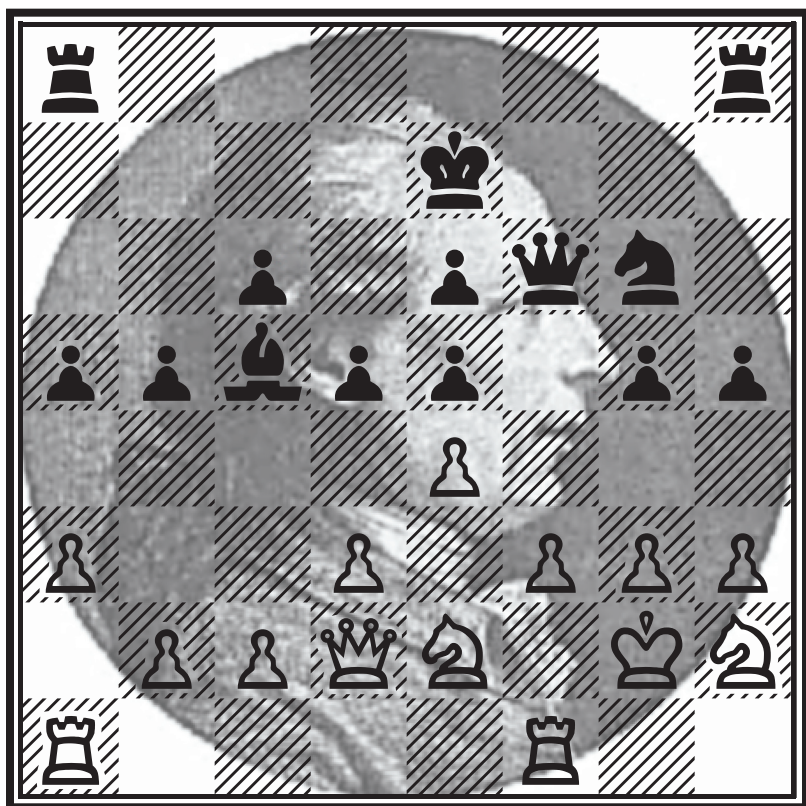


# VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

2006 - #4



## Philidor's Legacy

*see page 3*

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

2006 - Issue #4

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Atkins, Mike Hoffpauir, Ernie Schlich.





# Charlottesville Open

by Ernie Schlich

**A** HOT WEEKEND IN JULY found 57 players enjoying the Charlottesville area for chess at the Best Western Cavalier Inn. This was one less than last year's turnout but still allowed the payment of the full prize fund. Indeed, with 8 unrated players entered, we decided to award an additional unrated prize.

The field's four Masters and five Experts made for an interesting test for all who wanted to win the top guaranteed prizes. IM Oladapo Adu, the 2005 winner, returned to try to defend his title and did he so emphatically, scoring a clean 5-0. Carson Wang was 2nd with 4½-½. Andrew Samuelson, Thomas Magar, Larry Larkins & William Stokes all scored 4-1 to tie for 3<sup>rd</sup>, Larkins and Stokes claiming the Expert and class A prizes, respectively. Other prizewinners included Adam Christney & Byron Hood (= top B); Adam Hood, Dexter Wright, Haywood Boling & Russell Scott (= C); Andrew Butler & Helen Karn (+ D); Chester Lamm & Fiona Lam (= under 1200); Witold Pacheco & Carl Barth (top and 2<sup>nd</sup> unrated, respectively).

Dominion Scholastic Chess Supplies ran the book store and donated two books as prizes. They were awarded by lot to the lowest-scoring rated and unrated players at the end of round 4. Ron Karnes of Richmond & Balkrishna Sharma of Midlothian were the lucky winners. Many thanks for Rich Thode for running the concession and providing these additional prizes. DSCS will also be our B&E vendor at the Virginia Closed.



*As is traditional for VCF events, snacks and coffee were provided throughout the event. The most popular snack was the peanuts. This was the first time I've provided nuts at my events, but Mike Atkins usually has them at those he runs. The picture below is of the "Mike Atkins Memorial Nut Farm," named in honor of his idea.*



# 2006 VIRGINIA CLOSED STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

*70th Annual! - A Heritage Event*

September 2-4, 2006

Hilton Garden Inn Richmond Innsbrook

4050 Cox Rd, Glen Allen

*Conveniently located just off I-295*

Open to VA residents, military stationed in VA and students at VA Colleges and Universities with valid student ID for Fall 2006. 6-SS, 30/90, SD/1. \$\$2,700 b/100 paid entries. *Open:* \$600-300-200-150, X, A each \$100 ea. Title of 2006 Virginia State Champion to 1<sup>st</sup> overall. Trophies to 1<sup>st</sup> overall, top X & top A. *Amateur (under 1800):* \$425-225-150, top C, D, U1200, Unr each \$100, top Upset \$50. Title of 2006 Virginia Amateur Champion to 1<sup>st</sup> overall. Trophies to 1<sup>st</sup> overall, top C, top D, top U1200. *Both:* Trophies to top Senior (60+), Junior (U18) and Woman from overall tournament (both sections) with 1pt added to Open scores for the purposes of awarding these prizes. EF \$55 if rec'd by August 27, \$65 thereafter. Reg Saturday 9/2 9am-12:30, rds 1-7, 11-5, 10-3:30. Two irrevocable ½pt byes available—must be declared before rd 2. Re-entry with ½ pt bye allowed for rd 2 only for \$30. W, NS, FIDE. Hotel \$85+taxes if reserved before 8/18. 804-521-2900, mention the tournament and ask for chess rate. Enter: Make checks to "Virginia Chess" and send to Ernest Schlich 1370 S Braden Crescent, Norfolk, Va 23502. Info by email [eschlich@verizon.net](mailto:eschlich@verizon.net) or on the web [www.vachess.org/2006closed.htm](http://www.vachess.org/2006closed.htm)

Annual VCF Business Meeting

Saturday Sept 2, 10am -12 noon



# Philidor

by Tim Rogalski

FRANCOIS-Andre Danican Philidor (1726-95) was the strongest chessplayer of his time and author of one of the most influential books on the modern version of chess. In *L'analyse des Echecs* (1749) Philidor stated, "...the pawns; they are the very Life of the Game." Philidor's intended point was that ignorance of correct pawn play was a serious failing of his contemporaries — not that pawns were somehow more important than pieces. But either poor translation or simple misunderstanding transformed this into an ubiquitous misquote, "Pawns are the Soul of Chess."



Regarding "correct pawn play," Philidor understood that harmony among pieces was interrelated with, and to a large degree determined by, qualities of the pawn structure. However, his belief in the importance of maintaining pawn structure mobility led him to rather dogmatically think that the pieces should support the pawns from the rear, rather than get out front where they might tend to obstruct the pawns.



*Editor's Note: I never know what's going to come in the door here at Virginia Chess World News Headquarters. Who'd have imagined two articles in a single issue about a player who died over two centuries ago? Thus our cover artwork, overlaying Philidor's profile on a position from the game Tim annotates here. In addition to Tim's article, check out our New Jersey correspondent Jim West's Philidor Countergambit piece on page 18.*



Philidor is credited with inventing the opening that bears his name, Philidor's Defense (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6), yet there exists no recorded game where he employed it. Thus, based on the evidence, one could argue that the most famous chess player of the 18<sup>th</sup> century neither originated the quote nor played the opening for which he is best remembered! Personally, I am inclined to believe he did play "his" defense since he recommended it in his book. Moreover, at the risk of being controversial, I suspect that his famous quote might have been a clever, intentional French-to-English mistranslation by a publisher eager to sell copies of the book. "Pawns are the Soul of Chess!" echoes like the fiery finger of God writing upon sizzling stone tablets.

Contrary to Philidor's French school, extreme Italian school frolickers considered pawns to be a hindrance. They lived for a direct attack on the enemy king. Thus swashbucklers of the day played openings like 1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Bc5 3 b4 Bxb4 4 f4 exf4 5 c3 Be7 6 Nf3 Bh4+ 7 g3 f3g3 8 0-0 gxh2+ 9 Kh1— White intends to sac on f7 and hunt down the black king all over the board until he is mated.

## Southwest Virginia Open

August 18-20

Americas Best Value Inn

1671 Skyview Road, Salem, VA 24153

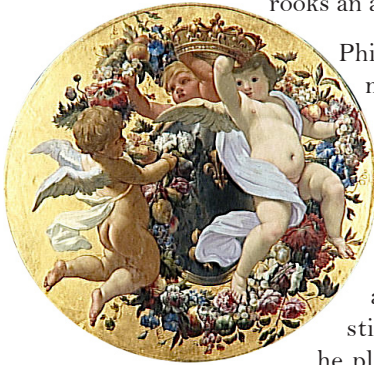
*(first right just north of Exit 137 off I-81, up hill on left)*

5-SS, 30/90, SD/1. (2-day opt. rd. 1 G/90). \$\$1500 b/60 in upper 2 sections, 70% gtd. Three sections, two schedule options: *Open*: \$400-225-125, U2000 \$125-75. *Amateur*: (under 1800) \$225-125-75, U1500 \$75-50, Unrated players cannot win prize exceeding 2nd place. *Booster*: (U1200) \$\$\$300 b/20, 50% gtd: \$125-75-50, U1000 \$50, Unrated players cannot win prize exceeding 3rd place. Schedules: 3-day reg Fri 6-7:30pm, rd 1 at 8pm; 2-day reg 8-9:30am, rd 1 Sat 10 (G/90), then both merge to Sat 1:30-7, Sun 9-2:30. One ½ pt bye permitted, must commit before rd 3. EF Open & Amateur \$45 (2-day) or \$46 (3-day) if postmarked by 8/10, \$10 more at site, \$5 less for RVCC members or jrs under 19, limit 1 discount, GMs/IMs, free entry and room. Booster \$25 (2-day) or \$26 (3-day) postmarked by 8/10, \$10 more on site, RVCC member \$5 discount. No phone entries. Re-entry from 3-day to 2-day schedule \$25 (Open, Amateur), \$15 (Booster). Free parking, many restaurants nearby. NS, NC, W. Hotel \$60/night, 540-389-7061, reserve by 7/15 or rate may increase. *Enter*: Roanoke Valley CC, PO Box 1212, Salem, VA 24153. [www.roanokechess.com](http://www.roanokechess.com). 540-521-4699.

*15 Grand Prix points*



Philidor criticized the French custom of allowing more than one queen on the board, perhaps considering it tantamount to condoning adultery. In any case, his tendency to exchange queens early was influenced by the old rule that pawns could only promote to pieces that had previously been removed from the board. (If none were available, the pawn remained dormant on the 8th rank until a piece was captured.) There may have been other, more practical reasons as well: some 18th century villages may have possessed only one chess set, so locating a second queen was not always physically possible! Nor did chess sets in those days have flat-topped rooks to flip upside down in a pinch. (I've always considered these inverted rooks an abomination, eyesores on the chessboard.)



Philidor may have been medieval in his ideas on multiple queens, but he was ahead of his time in terms of general chess strategy. His play and analyses include modern positional sacrifices where he gives up material to accelerate his pawns toward promotion.

Philidor received a pension from the King and gave lessons for a crown. He also received stipends from patrons and chess clubs where he played blindfold and odds games. At Paris in 1744, he played against two opponents simultaneously, which was thought to be unprecedented. At Berlin in 1751, Philidor played three simultaneous *blindfold* games, winning them all. But it was not until 1782 in London (on which occasion he played only two games) that his blindfold simultaneous feat caught the attention of the public at large and made Philidor a celebrity. Some sources consider him to be the first World Champion, reigning for 48 years from 1747-1795.

Parallel to his chess career, Philidor was a gifted musician and composer. I've seen several scores of his music but have never heard any of it played, nor do I know of anyone else who has. His music ceased abruptly following the French Revolution, along with the income it generated.

The following game is typical of the period, slow moving and tediously inaccurate. The chess world would have to wait for Paul Morphy to explode onto the scene and dazzle everyone with his resounding accurate play, which is reverberating even to this day. However, the game should have historical interest to those who are fascinated with pawn play. Captain Smith (presumably of His Majesty's Royal Navy) missed more than half a dozen strong pawn moves, and could have turned the game around several times. Ironically, Philidor, the recognized Pawn Master, even missed strong pawn moves of his own.



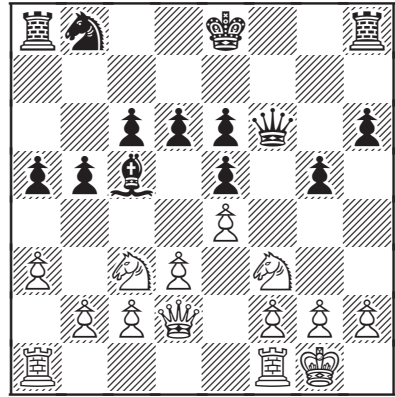
## SMITH – PHILIDOR

LONDON, 1790

Notes by Tim Rogalski

**1 e4 e5 2 Bc4** [Philidor advocated the Bishop's Opening in his book despite the almost universal appeal of the King's Gambit.] **Nf6 3 d3 c6** [Initiating Paulsen's Defense, "which Louis Paulsen introduced in 1859," or so we read in Gary Lane's book *Winning with the Bishop's Opening*. But wait—this is 1790 and Louis Paulsen wouldn't be born for another 43 years! So correct would be: initiating Philidor's Defense to the Bishop's Opening, which Philidor introduced in 1790. Today this is mostly called the Bishop's Opening, Berlin Defense (C24), however.] **4 Bg5** [Modern players prefer 4 Nf3 because it contains a threat.] **4...h6 5 Bxf6?!** [Contravening all modern standards—to surrender the two bishops without any compensation feels to us like giving up material. Early in a game a pawn structure with six or more pawns favors the knight, but an early exchange of a bishop for a knight usually involves compensating factors such as gaining time or inflicting pawn structure damage. Smith's exchange gives Black an uncontested dark squared bishop and speeds Black's development.] **Qxf6 6 Nc3** [Playing to prevent the d7-d5 pawn roller simply allows a different type of pawn roller.] **6...b5 7 Bb3 a5 8 a3 Bc5** [This unchallengeable dark-squared bishop will be White's downfall. It is curious that Philidor choose to push his queenside pawns first, before threatening mate on f2.] **9 Nf3 d6 10**

**Qd2 Be6!?** [Philidor chooses a plan of trading one advantage for another by relinquishing his two bishops. 10...Bg4 would have forced either 11 Ng1 or 11 Qe2, both awkward moves.] **11 Bxe6 fxe6** [This strengthens the center, allows d6-d5, and opens the f-file toward white's king.] **12 0-0 g5!?** [A gutsy move! After only a dozen moves, already every Black pawn has moved off its original square! Certainly 12...0-0 and 12...Nd7 look like more natural candidates.]

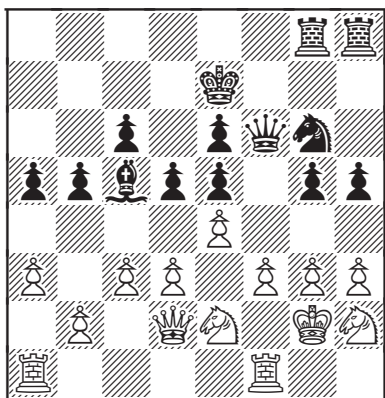


**13 h3?!** [Such a weakening can only invite future trouble. Steinitz preached not to make pawn weaknesses around one's king. Better was Nc3-d1-e3 to blunt the power of the bishop.] **13...Nd7 14 Nh2 h5!** [You have to admire these pawn moves.] **15 g3 Ke7!?** [Completing his development by connecting rooks. Black can get away with this daring if he keeps the center closed, but his next move invites





his opponent to open things up.] **16 Kg2 d5?! 17 f3?!** [This wimpy pawn push is too passive. It increases the scope of the bishop and weakens g3. 17 exd5! exd5 18 Rae1, threatening 19 d4, would have coerced the audacious king to move off the e-file. Philidor immediately sets his sights on taking advantage of the weakening around g3. ] **17...Nf8 18 Ne2 Ng6 19 c3?!** [White cannot submissively allow Black to point all his guns in his king's direction. 19 Qc3 Kd6 20 b4 Bb6 21 a4! was better, to pry open the queenside and expose the drafty Black king. Smith might have thought he was emulating his renowned opponent's pawn play, but his last two pawn moves carry little weight.] **19...Rag8**



[White's position is beginning to look uncomfortable, yet it is sound. I am always amazed at the defensive potential of even hopeless-looking positions. World Champion Lasker probably understood this better than anyone.] **20 d4?!** [Consistent with his last move, yet Smith misses a 3rd opportunity to make an advantageous pawn move: 20 c4! b4

21 Qc2 Kd6 22 cxd5 cxd5 23 Rfc1 would have demonstrated the porous quality of Black's queenside.] **20...Bb6** [Keeping the queenside relatively closed after 20... Bd6 21 a4 b4 was slightly more accurate.] **21 dxe5?** [Ouch! This is clearly wrong. Having succeeded in blocking Black's bishop by closing the g1-a7 diagonal, White voluntarily reopens it. Smith did not appreciate that the more essential feature of the position was the clearing of a path toward the weak g3 pawn—a pawn that is holding his kingside together. Better was—you guessed it, another pawn move!—21 a4! bxa4 22 Rxa4 charting his ship toward calmer positional waters.] **21...Qxe5?!** [Carelessly giving White opportunities he doesn't deserve. 21... Nxe5! was stronger; Black threatens to win material with ...Nc4 and after 22 b3 g4! unleashes a tempest against White's king, eg, 23 fxg4 Qg6 24 Rf4 hxg4 25 h4 Nf3! and the energetic attack causes White to dash himself against the rocks.] **22 Nd4** [A fifth pawn opportunity, 22 exd5! would have allowed White to go on the offensive and save the game: 22... exd5 23 Nd4 Kd7 24 Rae1 and now, for example, 24...Qc7 (24...Qb8 25 Nxc6! Kxc6 26 Re6+ with a position Tal would relish) 25 Nxb5! cxb5 26 Qxd5+ Qd6 27 Qb7+ Qc7 28 Qd5+ with perpetual check. Black is walking the plank if he tries to avoid the draw by 28...Kc8 because the strong 29 Re6! poses too many threats.] **Kd7 23 Rae1?!** [Captain Smith doesn't realize that he is slowly sinking with his ship, and he can't seem to see the Caissa lifeline that is continuously thrown to



*continued, p 9*



11th annual

## Northern Virginia Open

November 4-5, 2006

Holiday Inn Express

6401 Brandon Ave, Springfield, VA 22150

*(conveniently located at the junction of I-95, I-495 and I-395)*

5-SS, rds 1-3 game/2, rds 4-5 30/90SD/1. \$\$2,400, top 3 guaranteed, rest b/80. \$575-350-250, top X/A/B/C/D each \$180, top U1200 \$150, top unrated \$100, top upset \$75. Reg 8:45-9:45am, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-3:30. One irrevocable ½-pt bye allowed, must commit prior to 1st round. EF \$45 if rec'd by 10/26, \$55 at site. Hotel \$85, reserve before 10/20, 877-800-6696 (local 703-644-5555) ask for chess rate and mention the tournament! Plenty of local eateries and places to visit. W, NS, FIDE. *Enter:* Make checks to "Virginia Chess" and mail to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria, Va 22306. Info via email, [matkins2@cox.net](mailto:matkins2@cox.net), or online at [www.vachess.org/nova.htm](http://www.vachess.org/nova.htm)

*20 Grand Prix points*

## Alex Wojtkiewicz, 1963-2006

GM Alex Wojtkiewicz passed away July 14 at St Agnes Hospital in Baltimore. He had looked really sick even while tying for first at the World Open and having taken first on tiebreaks at The National Open. Five days before he passed he was winning yet again at the Columbus Open — a man clearly on top of his chess game as his body was failing.

I decided to change the name of the Capital Blitz Classic to the Alex Wojtkiewicz Memorial Blitz. He played in the event last year and would have been there this year. I must have directed him 20 times in blitz events. Alex was one of chess's true original personalities. —Mike Atkins

**Alex Wojtkiewicz Memorial Blitz**, November 3, 2006, Arlington Chess Club, Lyon Village Community House, 1920 N Highland, Arlington, Virginia 22201 *(corner of N Highland & Lee Highway)* 5 round double swiss (ie, 10 games), game/5 minutes. \$\$1680 b/70, top 3 in Open guaranteed. Two Sections: *Open* \$400-200-150, top X, A/Unr \$125, top ACC Member wins 2006 club blitz championship & trophy. *Amateur* \$250-125, top C, D, U1200 \$110, top ACC member wins club amateur blitz championship & trophy. *Both* EF \$30 if rec'd by Oct 27, \$40 at site. *Entries by cash only at site.* Reg 6-8:15pm, rd 1 at 8:25, others follow ASAP. USCF Quick rated but regular OTB ratings used for pairings and prizes. One bye allowed if requested before rd 2. WBCA Rules. NS. 50% of profit goes to Wojtkiewicz Burial Fund. *Enter:* Make checks and send entries to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria Va 22306. Info at <http://members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/capitalblitz.htm> *15 Grand Prix points*

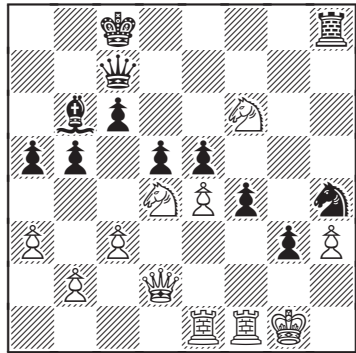


## Philidor, *continued*

him. Once again, 23 exd5! And 23...exd5 leads to variations similar to the above; whereas 23...Qxd5 24 Rad1 leave Black's king and queen too precariously aligned on the open d-file. 23...h4?! [23...Bc7 also threatened to capture on g3 and would have prevented counterplay by keeping the h2-knight out of g4.] 24 Qf2?

For the *seventh* and final time, White misses a favorable pawn move. 24 f4! was the only way to fight for survival. 24...gxf4 (if 24...Qc7 25 Nxe6!) 25 Ng4 Qc7 and now 26 gxf4! successfully beats back Black's attack—but not, instead 26 Nf6+?! Kc8 27 Nxc8? hxc3!! 28 Nf6 Nh4+ 29 Kg1 e5

This beautiful, computer-generated, 21st century position actually sprang up from an 18th century, candle-lit cloakroom game. White is helpless despite being for the moment up a rook for two pawns. Black is going to win the d4-knight, however, and once the monstrous phalanx is created on g3 and f3 then Black will generate unanswerable threats.



*Analysis, after 29...e5*

24...Bc7? [Unbelievably careless for someone reputedly so strong. It was high time to draw first blood and come crashing through with 24...hxc3!] 25 Ne2? [Tougher was 25 Ng4! Qxc3+ 26 Qxc3 Bxc3 27 exd5 Nf4+ 28 Kh1 Bxe1 29 dxc6+ Kc7 30 Rxe1 was tougher. Black might be materially better but White made a fight of it, and at any rate he no longer faces a crushing attack.] hxc3 [Now Black is easily winning, and the rest is history.] 26 Qxc3 Qxc3+ 27 Nxc3 Nf4+ 28 Kh1 Rxh3 29 Rg1 Rxh2+ 30 Kxh2 Rh8+ 31 Nh5 Rxh5+ 32 Kg3 Nh3+ 33 Kg4 Rh4 *mate* 0-1 A flawed yet alluring game that showcases Philidor's propensity for making numerous pawn moves in the opening. At the same time it illustrates his opponents' tendency to overlook favorable pawn opportunities in the middlegame.



### Arlington Tornado, November 11, 2006

Lyon Village Comm'ty House (*site of Arlington CC*), 1920 N Highland St Arlington, Va 22201 4-SS, G/45. \$1000 b/40, top two guaranteed: \$300-200, under 2200 \$125, under 1900 \$125, under 1600/unr \$125, under 1300 \$125. Reg 8:30-9:30am, rds 9:45-11:25-1:30 - 3:15. EF \$35 if rec'd by Nov 11, \$45 at site. One irrevocable ½-pt point bye allowed, must declare before round 1. NS, NC, W. *Enter*: Make checks to "Michael Atkins" and mail to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria Va, 22306. Info via email, [matkins2@cox.net](mailto:matkins2@cox.net), or online at <http://members.cox.net/tournaments/tournado.htm>

*10 Grand Prix points*



## Kingstowne Quads

by Don Millican

The 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the Kingstowne Quads, held July 8 in Alexandria, attracted the second-largest turnout in the series' history. A near-record twenty players battled for medals and glory.

In the top Quad, Christopher P Snell took home a gold medal with a perfect 3 points. The bronze second place medal went to Darwin H Li. Michael L Burrus took a silver medal back home to Glen Allen, scoring 2½, while Adam Renfro Chrisney's 2 points secured the bronze in the second Quad. Jimmy Wang won Quad number three and a gold medal with 3 points. Aravind Ponukumati took the bronze on tiebreak over Byron O'Neal. Kevin Huo won gold in the bottom Quad, again with 3 points. Saroja Erabelli finished second with 2.

We have lots of summer activity on the calendar! August 5, the date for our next Quad, will mark the return of Kingstowne's popular Action-Plus tournaments: a five-round Swiss with a time control slightly longer than the classic Action rate. Also, August 19 will see the third running of the Harris Pavilion "Open Air" tournament. This tournament is truly *open* -- there's a "Fun" Section that's not USCF-rated and has trophy prizes, so truly anyone can play. If you know somebody who might have considered playing chess but balked at jumping in, tell them about this chance to experience the competitive atmosphere of rated play without needing to join USCF (although we hope that they'll do that eventually!). The tournament is held in Old Town Manassas's outdoor centerpiece and the Open section (USCF-rated) has \$800 in guaranteed prize money plus 10 Grand Prix points at stake.

6th annual

## Arlington Open

October 14-15, 2006

George Mason University Professional Center (The Old Law School)

3401 N Fairfax Dr, Arlington Virginia

(Across from Virginia Square Metro Stop)

5-SS, rds 1-3 game/2, rds 4-5 30/90SD/1. One Section, \$\$1800 b/60, top 3 guaranteed: \$500-300-200, top X, A, B, C, D each \$120, under 1200 \$100, Unr \$100. EF \$45 if rec'd by 10/6, \$55 at site, \$5 discount to GMU students with valid Univ.ID. Reg 9-9:45, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-3:30. One irrevocable ½pt bye avail, must declare before rd 1. NS, NC, FIDE rated. *Enter:* Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139 Alexandria, Va 22306, make checks payable to Michael Atkins. Info via email, [matkins2@cox.net](mailto:matkins2@cox.net), or online at [members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/arlopen.htm](http://members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/arlopen.htm) *20 Grand Prix points*



# Delaune Memorial redux

by *Denis F Strenzwilk*

[Virginia Chess #2006/3 reported on the 2nd annual Richard Delaune Memorial, which was held 16-18 June 2006 in Springfield. Veteran master Denis Strenzwilk, of Maryland, attended the event and here contributes his observations and memories of Richard. —ed]

**T**HE 2nd Richard K Delaune Memorial Tournament was organized to honor the life of Richard K Delaune, Jr., who passed away two years ago at the age of 49, too soon for his friends. Richard grew up in Virginia, but as an adult he lived in Maryland for many years. For most avid chess players, our lives can be divided into three parts, ie, family, work and chess. Prior to the memorial service at this tournament, I knew very little about Richard's family life. His mother and his wife, Alicia, were in attendance. I chatted with his brother, Jed, who bears a strong resemblance to Richard.



*Denis Strenzwilk*

His sister was unable to attend. In his professional career Richard was an IT Senior Engineer and Manager, and also a Senior Principal at SRA International. Early in Richard's career he interviewed for a job at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, where his father had worked several years before. By chance I happened to see Richard on this interview trip, and I hastily organized a blitz tournament in his honor for that evening, where many local chess players turned out. Richard never came to work at the Aberdeen Proving Ground so we will never know how his presence might have sparked the chess careers of GM Alex Sherzer, FM Shelby Getz, and the other players in the area.

Tournament Director Michael Atkins passed out a flyer, compiled by Stan Fink and Alicia Delaune, which listed some of Richard's achievements. It stated that Richard attained the International Master title, won the Virginia State Championship four times (1974, 1975, 1981, 1985), the Maryland State Championship (1991), the Virginia Open four times (outright in 1978, 1983, 1985 and tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in 1997), and the DC Open (1987). Some of Richard's wins and draws against GM's are included, where his draw with formidable Victor Kortchnoi at the 1985 Toronto International is a testimony to his chess skill.

On Saturday afternoon between the second and third rounds there was a reception at the hotel in honor of Richard, where some of his friends reminisced. GM's Joel Benjamin and John Fedorowicz were there. Three non-chess friends of Richard from his University of Virginia days, where Richard was an Echols Scholar, also





MACON SHIBUT - WILLIAM ARAMIL

FOXWOODS 2006

SICILIAN

Notes by Macon Shibut



This was the second time I've played this guy, and both games have been memorable fights! At the 2002 Eastern Open, in Washington DC, I sacrificed a pawn against him at move 9; another pawn at move 19; yet another at move 21 (true, I'd recovered one in the meantime); one more pawn at move 24; then threw in a bishop sac at move 27; and capped it off with a rook offer at move 30 to more or less force mate! (see VIRGINIA CHESS #2003/1, p 17) As fun and memorable as that was, this time around

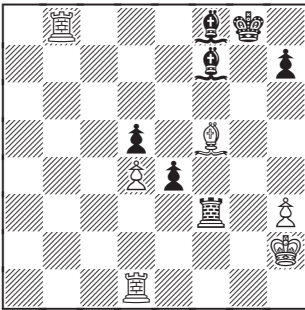
turned out to be just as remarkable, although in a very different way. **1 e4 d6 2 g3 c5 3 Bg2 Nc6 4 Ne2 g6 5 0-0 Bg7 6 c3 e5 7 Na3 Nge7 8 Nc2 0-0 9 h3?!** [Probably a waste of time. After the direct 9 d4 there was no need to fret 9... Bg4 as 10 f3 is a more than adequate reply.] **9...f5! 10 exf5 gxf5 11 d4 cxd4 12 cxd4 e4** [I expected the pawn sacrifice 12...f4!?] White must accept in view of the threatened ...f3. Thus, 13 gxf4 and then simply 13...exd4 leaves White with a bad kingside structure. The text, on the other hand, was a welcome surprise. It exerts less pressure and the resulting structure is fundamentally inferior for Black. The position is closed and the weaknesses not so evident for now, but later, inevitably, something *interesting* will happen. When it does, White will enjoy a safe king and overall sound position whereas Black will feel extended.] **13 Nf4 Ng6 14 Be3 d5 15 Qd2 Nxf4 16 Bxf4 Qb6 17 Rfd1 Be6** [17...Qxb2?? 18 Rdb1 was too much to hope for.] **18 Bf1** [I considered 18 b4 and if 18...a5 19 b5!? Qxb5 20 Rab1 Qa6 21 Bf1 Qa7 22 Rb5 with the initiative, although a pawn is a pawn. The tipping point for rejecting this came when I noticed he could conveniently cover b7 with the defensive move ...Rf7. After the text 19 b4 was a positional threat but Aramil was not asleep.] **18...a5! 19 Rab1 Rfc8 20 Be3 Bf7 21 Be2 Nb4?!** [The prospect of an open a-file appeals to Black, but then the predicted, "something interesting" begins to happen, which will benefit White on balance.] **22 Nxb4! Qxb4** [Trading queens, first because that opens the 7th rank for his rook to invade at c2, and second because Black's queen would prove inconvenient on the b-file after 22...axb4 23 a3 bxa3 24 bxa3 followed by Rb3 and perhaps trebling on the b-file.] **23 Qxb4 axb4 24 a3! Rc2 25 Bb5 bxa3 26 bxa3 Rxa3 27 Bd7**

Proving the evaluation offered at move 12: Black's rooks have penetrated but find little to do against White's sound foundation. White, on the other hand, sees the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> ranks wide open and Black's pawn spearhead built upon exposed bases, d5 and f5. Black's extra pawn is temporary as both b7 and f5 are under fire.



At this critical moment Aramil demonstrated fine instincts. First, he sat on his hands. Sensing the crisis, he thought long and hard, even to the point of risking time trouble. Second, he reached the correct conclusion: Black's position is slipping away anyhow, so there's little risk in bold, even "unsound" play to seize whatever chance he can find.

**27...Re2! 28 Rxb7 Raxe3! 29 fxe3 Rxe3 30 Bxf5** [On principle there's a case for defending g3 and keeping more pawns on the board. However, I'd calculated out an ironclad solution with the text.] **30...Rxcg3+ 31 Kh2 Rf3 32 Rb8+!** [The point of my 30th move and, indeed, absolutely winning.] **32...Bf8**



I needed to make a fairly quick decision as I had just a couple minutes left to reach move 40. *No problem*, I thought, *the position is completely in hand*. I had two different ways to win another pawn here: Bxh7+ followed by Rxf8; or Rg1+ and, after ...Bg6, Bxg6 and Rxcg6+.

Either way I wind up eliminating the h-pawn and going forward with two rooks vs rook and bishop. The difference, it seemed to me, lay in which bishop I

leave him: Bxh7+ eliminates his dark-square bishop whereas Rg1+ takes off the light-square one. Considering the central pawn constellation, I reckoned *of course* I want to stick him with the 'bad' light square bishop. Plus—*positional play and tactics converge!*—I noticed that if I leave the dark square bishop instead, I'd have to watch out for the cheap Bd6+ and Bxb8.

So: *What are we waiting for?*, and without further calculation...

**33 Bxh7+?**

...I committed this serious error and it's surprising what a large portion of White's advantage disappears. Meanwhile, 33 Rg1+ would have won rather simply: 33...Bg6 34 Bxg6 hxcg6 35 Rxcg6+ Kf7 36 Ra6. In theory Black has the right pieces to target White's d-pawn, but his coordination is so poor that he'll never get the chance. His king falls under the combined effect of White's rooks and his bishop is little more than a target, eg, 36...Rd3 37 Rb7+ Kg8 38 Rg6+ Kh8 39 Rf7! Bb4 40 Rb6 Kg8 41 Rd7

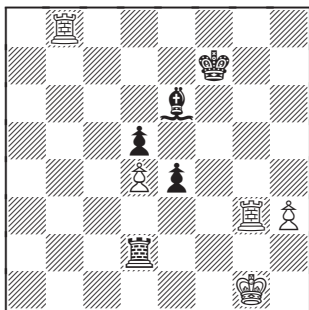
But why should the situation be any better for Black after the text move? It's true that the static factors are even more in White's favor now—the bishop is on the same color square as its own pawns—but dynamic evaluation tells a different tale. In the 33 Rg1+ line we saw how White's rooks coordinated nicely to attack Black's king. Now that situation gets practically reversed.

**33...Kxh7 34 Rxf8 Kg7 35 Rb8 Be6**





[Still, an exchange up is significant. White can yet win, it's just harder now. The bigger problem was that I *didn't realize* what had happened and therefore was unprepared to make the sharp decisions that soon will be necessary. Now we see Black's forces already coordinating to produce a threat, but I'd foreseen this much and had a comfortable looking defense in mind...] **36 Rg1+ Kf7 37 Rg3 Rf2+ 38 Kg1 Rd2**



The preceding moves were played at blitz pace, having been calculated on the 33rd turn. My main objective was simply make it to move 40 and then set about converting the technical win. Never imagining that the critical moment was in fact upon me now, I quickly continued with the obvious move.

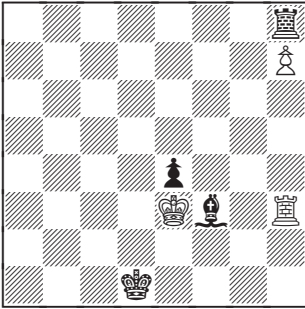
### 39 Rb4?

Who wouldn't? But it was precisely here that resolve is called for: 39 h4! wins, eg, 39...Rxd4 40 h5 Rd1+ 41 Kf2 Rd2+ 42 Ke1 Rh2 43 Rb7+ Kf8 (or 43...Kf6 44 Rg6+ Kf5 45 Re7) 44 Rg6 etc. After the text, on the other hand, Black's pieces *really* begin to harmonize while White's stand utterly uncoordinated.

**39...Kf6 40 h4 Kf5!** [Time control, but I'd have been better off with still a few more moves to make. In time trouble easy to just shove your passed pawn and hope for the best, no regrets. That would have been correct here! Instead, with time to think, I burned half of my sudden death hour on this one turn. I saw deeply enough into the position to see dangers—but not deeply enough to find my way out.] **41 Rg5+?** [I figured 41 h5! Kf4 42 Rg2 e3 43 Rb1 Bf5 was losing. In fact, rooks have surprising resources. For instance, 44 Rf1+ Ke4 45 h6 e2 46 Re1 Ke3 47 Rg3+ Kxd4 48 Rg7 Ke3 49 h7 Rd1 50 Rg3+ Kd2 51 h8Q Rxe1+ 52 Kh2 Rh1+ 53 Kxh1 e1Q+ 54 Kh2 may yet win!] **41...Kf4 42 Re5** [Getting behind the dangerous pawn and hoping to draw the ending after 42...Rxd4 43 Rxd4 Kxe5 44 Ra4] **42...Bg4!** [Unfortunately he found a much better move. The idea is simple but deadly: Bf3, e3 and mate!] **43 Rb1** [The only defense. 43 Rxd5? Rd1+ 44 Kf2 (or 44 Kg2 Bf3+) e3+ 45 Kg2 Bf3+ would get checkmated in short order.] **43...Rxd4 44 Re7** [Now my position is lost, so I adopted the mode of finding irritating moves to make his task as difficult as possible.] **44...Rd2 45 Re1 Bf3 46 Rg7 d4 47 Rf1!** [My only chance is to get my own pawn moving. Pinning his bishop threatens exactly that.] **47...Ke3 48 Rg3! d3 49 h5 Ra2 50 h6 Ra6! 51 Rh3 Rg6+ 52 Kh2 Rg2+ 53 Kh1** [If this looks like the end—well, it is. However...] **53...Rg8+?** [53...Rf2+ 54 Rxf3+ Rxf3 wins. Of course he could repeat the position and get back on the winning



track two moves later, but Aramil was tired too and chose a different way.] **54 Kh2 d2? 55 h7 Rh8 56 Kg1 Ke2 57 Rh2+ Kd3 58 Rh3 Kc2 59 Kf2** [Remarkably, White is back in the game even as Black finally succeeds in getting a pawn through.] **59...d1Q 60 Rxd1 Kxd1 61 Ke3**



I believe that with proper play it's a draw now! Black's bishop is bad, passively defending his pawn and otherwise just staring into a corner. His king is inferior to mine too, and his rook is simply terrible. Black can't even give up his last pawn in order to free the bishop to capture h7 and try to win R+B vs R because in the resulting position (after ...Bxh7) his bishop will be unable to escape the pin before my king sweeps in Kf5-f6-g7.

If now **61...Ke1 62 Rg3!** threatens mate and prepares to transfer the rook to the 7th rank: **62...Kf1 63 Rg7** (Black has hardly any moves) **Bg2 64 Re7 Kg1 65 Kf4 Kf2 66 Kg5 e3 67 Kg6** and **Kg7**—draw.

**61...Kc2** is a much better try but White can implement the same basic idea by **62 Rh6!** With his king out in the open, Black cannot prevent the rook

from again switching to the 7th rank where it simultaneously defends h7 and restrains Black's pawn. Whatever freedom this grants Black's rook is illusory since at any time White can go **Rg7** and the threat **Rg8** will force Black back into the corner. So **62...Kc3 63 Rc6+ Kb4 64 Rc7 Kb5 65 Kf4** would be a plausible continuation, and then **65...Re8 66 Rg7!**; or **65...Rf8+ 66 Kg5 e3 67 Re7**; or, most likely, **65...Kb6 66 Re7 Kc6 67 Kg5 Kd6 68 Kf6 Rf8+ 69 Rf7 Re8 70 Rg7!** (but not **70 Kg7 e3 71 h8Q Rxh8 72 Kxh8 e2** winning!) **70...e3 71 Rg8** with a draw.

Unfortunately, all of this is academic. In the real world of tournament standard chess I was doomed by the approaching 'sudden death' on my clock. (Remember that 30 minutes I consumed back on move 41?) Now I had only a couple minutes left for however long the game might last. In a position with plenty of finesse remaining, even using a time-delay digital clock (which we were *not*) probably wouldn't be enough to deny victory to the superior side.

**61...Kc2! 62 Kd4?** [Right away, a decisive mistake.] **62...Kd2!** [Δ ...e3! so my reply is forced] **63 Rh2+ Ke1! 64 Ke3 Kf1!** [A cold shower. I used my last thirty seconds looking for the escape that's no longer there. The difference between this position and what we considered previously is that now **65 Rh6 Kg2** his king is no longer cut off on the g-file and after **66 Rg6+ Kh3 67 Rg7** he simply approaches my pawn, K-h4-5-6 and wins.] **65 Kf4 Bg2** [Δ Kf2 & e3] **66 Ke3 Kg1 67 Rh6 Bf3**



and Black king comes up the g- and h-files. Except he didn't need to, as my flag fell. 0-1

**TIM ROGALSKI - GEOFF MCKENNA**

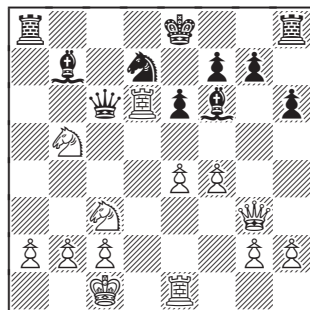
**DC CHESS LEAGUE 2006**

**SICILIAN**

*Notes by Geoff McKenna*

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5** [I had given up on the Najdorf for about fifteen years following the advent of the English Attack, in which White normally plays, in sequence, Be3, f3, Qd2, O-O-O, g4, h4 and g5. This often yields a good attack, even against a strong opponent, without White even having to know much theory. Kasparov answered 6 Be3 with 6...Ng4 and his example convinced me to give the opening another try.] **6... e6 7 f4 Nbd7** (Black has about seven reasonable moves here. In approximate descending order of popularity, they are 7...Qb6, 7...Be7, 7...Qc7, 7...Nc6, 7...b5, 7...Nbd7 and 7...h6. All of them are quite intricate, so it takes courage to play 6 Bg5. The Perenyi-Wolff attack has cast a pall over my old favorite here, 7...Be7. In the old days people thought that 7...Nbd7 stank because of 8 Bc4, but Boris Gelfand has shown that things aren't so simple.) **8 Qf3 Qc7 9 0-0-0 b5 10 Bd3 Bb7 11 Rhe1 Be7 12 Qg3 h6** [Walter Morris pointed out that this position has a famous antecedent. In game #15 of his 1972 match with Spassky, Fischer played 12...0-0-0 and got a draw. In choosing the text I was planning to answer 13 Bh4 with 13...g5, which might have lead to a flashy draw after 14 fxg5 Nh5

15 Qg4 hg 16 Bg5 Ne5 17 Qh4 Ng6 18 Qg4 Ne5. Instead, Rogalski found a better move.] **13 Bxf6! Bxf6 14 Bxb5!** [I neglected this move. My general experience in the Najdorf is that White usually loses after this sac on b5, even if it's objectively correct. But here, 'correct' doesn't do it justice—White is winning.] **14...axb5 15 Ndxb5 Qc6** [Trying to maintain contact with the d7 square, because I was worried about Nb5-d6-f7] **16 Rxd6** [The most natural-looking move, but IM Larry Kaufman recommended 16 Nxd6+] ]

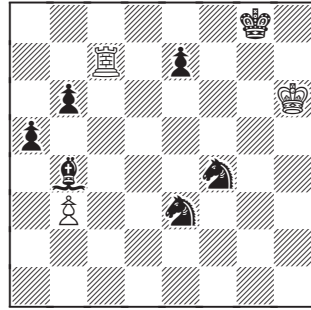


**16...Qc5** [The hardest move of the game. The hairy alternative 16...Bxc3 17 Rxc6 Bxe1 18 Nc7+ Ke7 19 Qxe1 Bxc6 20 Qb4+ looks good for White; maybe Black can improve with 18...Kd8] **17 e5 Nxe5** [On 17...Be7 White grabs a pawn on g7 with continuing pressure.] **18 fx e5 Bg5+ 19 Kb1 0-0** [White is up two clear pawns, but now we see one of the problems with b5 sacs: the queenside is open so it's hard to keep the Black pieces away from White's King.] **20 h4 Be7 21 Rd3?** [This move probably costs a full point. Instead, Rd4 covers a4 and prepares Rg4] **21...Ba6 22 a4 Bxb5 23 axb5 Qa7 24 Kc1 Qa1+ 25 Kd2** [On



25 Nb1 I planned 25...Qa4 recovering a pawn with continuing pressure. But the White King is too exposed on d2.] 25...Qxb2 26 Rb1 Qa3 27 Ne4 Qa4 28 Nc3 Qc4 29 h5 Rfc8 30 Rb3 Bg5+ 31 Ke2 Rc5 32 Kf3 f5 33 b6 Rb8 34 b7 [A cute sideline: 34 Rd6 Qxb3 35 cxb3 Rxc3+] 34...Rc7 35 Nb5 Qe4+ 36 Kf2 Rxc2+ 37 Kg1 Rc1+ 38 Kh2 Bf4 39 Rd7 Rxb7 40 Nd6 Bxg3+ 41 Rxg3 Rh1+ 42 Kxh1 Qe1+ 43 Kh2 Rxd7 0-1

Finally, Richard Runke, of Prince George, pointed out a difference between the score of Edmund Nash's win over Bobby Fischer as it appears in the ChessBase database and as we published it in Virginia Chess #2006/3 (p 9).



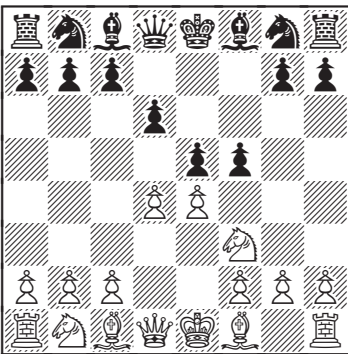
FISCHER – NASH, 1956 US AMATEUR  
Position after 51 Kh6

Our database gave 51...Bc5, which The Editor dutifully copied and pasted. As Runke alertly noted, the ChessBase version with 51...Nf5+! seems more likely if for no other reason than it explains White's decision to resign at this particular moment (52 Kg5 Ne6+ and Nxc7).



## The Philidor Countergambit

by James R West



It has been more than four years since I last wrote an article on the Philidor Countergambit for *Virginia Chess*. In the meantime I have had many adventures (and a few misadventures!) with my favorite defense against 1 e4. Some of the material in this article I've published previously in *Atlantic Chess News* and *Empire Chess*. I present it here in a different format, and I have added new material as well. I hope that you enjoy analyzing the games as much as I enjoyed playing them!

Not long after my last Virginia Chess article, I had what was arguably the best day in the history of the Philidor Countergambit: on June 30, 2002, I defeated first a grandmaster and then a player rated FIDE 2280 in my two Black games of



a 4-round tournament at the Marshall Chess Club in New York City. Since I was playing in the one-day schedule, the Ashley game in round one was played at game/30 while the Koenig game in round three had the slower time control of 30/90 followed by game/60.

**MAURICE ASHLEY - JIM WEST**  
**MARSHALL CC, NEW YORK 2002**  
**PHILIDOR**

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bc4 f5 4 d4 Nc6 5 dxe5 dxe5 6 Qxd8+ Nxd8 7 Nc3 fxe4 8 Nxe4 Nf6 9 Nc3 Bd6 10 0-0 Be6 11 Bb5+ c6 12 Bd3 Nf7 13 Ng5 Nxc5 14 Bxc5 0-0 15 Bh4** [White should have played 15 Rae1 when Black's next move could have been met advantageously by either 16 Bd2 or 16 Rxe5] **15... Bb4!** [This move threatens to smash up White's queenside pawns, and if the white knight retreats Black has a good game after 16...e4] **16 Ne4??** [This blunder can only be attributed to the fast time control because ordinarily GM Ashley is an excellent tactician.] **16... Nxe4** [After this simple capture White is lost due to 17 Bxe4 Rf4! winning one of the bishops. Now Ashley tries his best to mix things up tactically.] **17 c3 Bc5 18 Rae1 Nxf2! 19 Bxf2 Rxf2 20 Rxf2 Rf8 21 Re2 Rxf2 22 Rxf2 Bxa2 23 Kf1 Bxf2 24 Kxf2 g6 25 Ke3 Kf7 26 h4 h5 27 g3 Be6 28 Be2 Kf6 29 Bd1 a5 30 Bf3 Bd5 31 Be2 b5 32 Bd3 a4 33 Be2 Kf5 34 Bd3+ e4 35 Be2 Bc4 36 Bd1 Bd3 37 Kd4 c5+! 38 Ke3 Bb1 39 c4 bxc4 40 Bxa4 Kg4 41 Be8 Kxg3 42 Bxg6 Kxh4 43 Kf4 e3! 0-1**  
 To date, this is my only win against a grandmaster!

**DAVID KOENIG - JIM WEST**  
**MARSHALL CC, NEW YORK 2002**  
**PHILIDOR COUNTERGAMBIT**

**1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nc6 3 Nf3 d6 4 d4 f5 5 exf5 Bxf5 6 Nc3**

Peter Tamburro suggested an interesting idea: to transpose into a position from the Vienna Game with colors reversed by 6 Bb5!?, eg, Spielmann-Lasker, St Petersburg 1909 (1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 f4 d5 4 d3 exf4 5 Bxf4 Bb4 etc) The book continuation would be 6...exd4 7 Nxd4 Bd7 8 Bxc6 bxc6 9 0-0 Nf6 10 Re1+ Be7 11 Qe2 c5 12 Nf3 Bg4 13 Bg5 with a clear advantage according to theory. Now Lasker gave 13...Bxf3 14 Qxf3 O-O 15 Qh3 Rf7 16 Nc3 with inescapable pressure after 16...Qf8 17 Re6. However, 16...Nd5! solves Black's problems after either 17 Bxe7 Nxe7 18 Qe6 Qc8; or 17 Nxd5 Bxg5 followed by ...c6.

**6...Nf6 7 Bg5 Be7 8 dxe5 dxe5 9 Qe2 e4 10 Bxf6 exf3 11 Qxf3 Bxf6 12 Qxf5 Qe7+ 13 Kf1** [White might have tried 13 Qe6 Qxe6+ 14 Bxe6 when I had two playable continuations: 14...Bxc3+ 15 bxc3 Ke7; and 14...Nd4 15 Bb3 Nxb3 16 axb3 0-0] **13...Bxc3 14 bxc3 Rf8 15 Qb5?!** [15 Qh3 would have been a better move. After 15...Qc5 16 Re1+ Ne7 17 Qh4 Rf6 18 Qd4 Qxd4 19 cxd4 Rd8 20 c3 Kf8 Black has compensation due to White's awkwardly placed king.] **15...0-0-0 16 Re1 Qf6 17 f3 Rd6 18 Qc5 Rfd8 19 Kf2 Kbs 20 Bd3 Rd5 21 Qa3 Ne5 22 Re4 Nxd3+ 23 cxd3 Rxd3 24 Rb1 Qxc3 25 Qxc3 Rxc3 26 Re7 Rc2+ 27 Kg3 Rg8 28 Rbe1 b6 29 Re8+ Rxe8 30 Rxe8+ Kb7 31 Re7 g5**



**32 Rxh7 Rxa2 33 h4 gxh4+ 34 Rxh4 a5 35 f4 Kc6 36 Rh7 Kd6 37 Kf3 a4 38 g4 a3 39 g5 Rb2 40 Rh8 Ke6 41 Re8+ Kf7 42 Ra8 a2 43 Ke4 b5 44 Ra7 Rb4+ 45 Kf5 Ra4 46 Rxc7+ Ke8 47 Ke6 Ra6+ 0-1**

Finally, this recent game from Europe:

**KACPER PIORUN - PIOTR MARKOWSKI  
POLAND 2006**

**PHILIDOR COUNTERGAMBIT**

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 f5 4 Nc3 fxe4 5 Nxe4 d5 6 Nxe5**

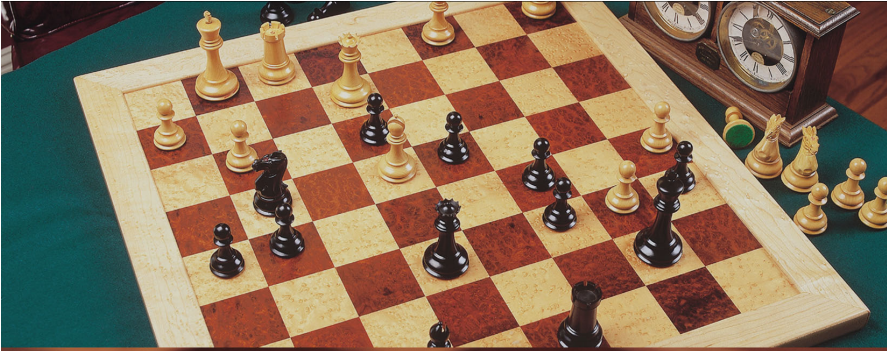
GM Paul Motwani, in his book *C.O.O.L. Chess*, likes 6 Neg5 mentioning 6...h6 and 6...e4 but not considering Black's best response, 6...exd4 7 Nxd4 Qe7+, as already played by me against NM Dragan Milovanovic in December 2005 at Hamilton, NJ. The game proceeded 8 Qe2 h6 9 Nge6 Bxe6 10 Nxe6 Kf7 11 Nf4 Qxe2+ 12 Bxe2 Nf6 13 c4 Bb4+ 14 Bd2 Bxd2+ 15 Kxd2 c6 16 cxd5 cxd5 17 Bf3 Nc6 18 Rhd1 Rhd8 19 Ke1 Ne7 20 Rac1 Rd7 21 h4 g5 22 hxg5 hxg5 23 Nd3 Ng6 24 Nc5 Re7+ 25 Kf1 Rd8 26 Rd4 Ne5 27 Rcd1 Nxf3 28 gxf3 Rh8 29 Kg2 Kg6 30 Nd3 b6 31 Nb4 Nh5 32 Nxd5 Re5 33 Kf1 Nf4 34 Nxf4+ gxf4 35 Re4 Rxe4 36 fxe4 f3 37 Ke1 Kg5 38 Rd7 Re8 39 Rxa7 Rxe4+ 40 Kf1 Rc4 41 Kg1 Rg4+ 42 Kf1 Rd4 43 Kg1 Rg4+ 44 Kf1 Rc4 45 Kg1 ½-½ The real test would have been 11 Nxf8 Qxe2+ 12 Bxe2 Kxf8 13 Bf4 c6 14 0-0 Nf6 15 Bd3 Kf7 16 Rfe1 Nbd7 17 Bd6 Rhe8. White has the absolute bishop pair but Black has no pawn weaknesses. In fact, this position is almost identical to one reached in a game from 1990 where NM

Jerry McDonnell was White against me: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 f5 4 Nc3 fxe4 5 Ng5 d5 6 dxe5 c6 7 Ncxe4 Qc7 8 Nd6+ Bxd6 9 exd6 Qxd6 10 Bd3 Nf6 11 Qe2+ Qe7 12 Qxe7+ Kxe7 13 0-0 h6 14 Re1+ Kf8 15 Ne6+ Bxe6 16 Rxe6 Kf7 17 Re1 Nbd7 18 Bf4 Rhe8. That game was drawn in 52 moves.

**6...dxe4 7 Qh5+ g6 8 Nxg6 Nf6** [In August 2005 at Mount Arlington, NJ, I tried the wild 8...hxg6 against expert David Grasso. The game continued 9 Qxg6+ Kd7 10 Qf5+ Ke8 11 Qg6+ Kd7 12 Qf5+ Ke8 13 Qe5+ Be6 14 Qxh8 Nd7!? 15 Be2 Ndf6 16 Be3 Qd5 17 0-0 Rd8 18 c4 Qf5 19 d5 Rd7! 20 Qh4 when 20...Bd6! 21 f4 Rh7 22 Qg3 Bf7 would have given me good attacking chances as compensation for my slight material deficit. Instead I played 20...Rh7 21 Qg5 Bd6 22 h4 Qxg5 23 Bxg5 Bf5 and held on to draw in 54 moves.] **9 Qe5+ Kf7 10 Bc4+ Kg7 11 Bh6+ Kxh6 12 Nxh8 Bb4+ 13 c3 Qxh8 14 h4!? Kg7 15 Qxc7+ Bd7 16 cxb4 Qf8 17 0-0 Nc6 18 b5 Ne7 19 Rac1 Kh8 20 Rc3 Nf5 21 Rfc1 Qg7 22 Qxb7 Rf8 23 Qxa7** [It looks like an easy win for White who is way ahead in material. But Black finds a fantastic shot on his 25th move, enabling him to draw.] **23...e3 24 fxe3 Nxh4 25 Qb7 Ne4!!** [Ordinarily, double exclaims are reserved for winning moves. Here they are given for snaring White's queen.] **26 Qxe4 Nf3+ 27 Qxf3 Rxf3 28 Bd5 Rf8 29 Bc6 Rg8 30 R1c2 Bxc6 31 bxc6 Qg4 32 Rd2 Qe4 33 c7 Qb1+ 34 Kh2 Qe1 ½-½** The finish could have been 35 c8Q Qg3+ with perpetual check.

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