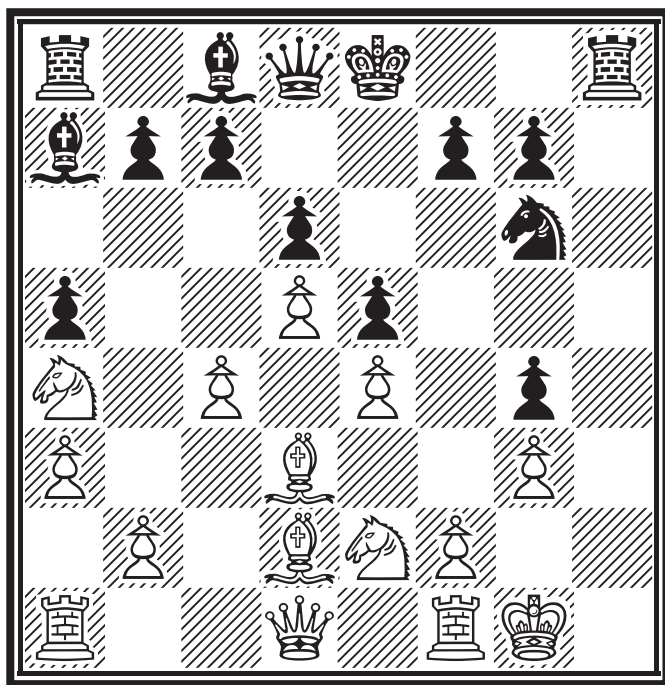


# VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

2006 - #6



Tyler Cook vs Stan Fink, 2006 Northern Virginia Open  
Position after 14 g3

*Black's winning move was...*

(see page 14)

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

**2006 - Issue #6**

Editor:

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

Circulation:

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



*Virginia Chess* is published six times per year by the Virginia Chess Federation. Membership benefits (dues: \$10/yr adult; \$5/yr junior under 18) include a subscription to *Virginia Chess*. Send material for publication to the editor. Send dues, address changes, etc to Circulation.

The **Virginia Chess Federation (VCF)** is a non-profit organization for the use of its members.



Dues for regular adult membership are \$10/yr. Junior memberships are \$5/yr. President: Marshall Denny, 4488 Indian River Rd, Virginia Beach VA

23456, [marshalldenny@gmail.com](mailto:marshalldenny@gmail.com) Treasurer: Ernie Schlich, 1370 South Braden Crescent, Norfolk VA 23502, [ESchlich@verizon.net](mailto:ESchlich@verizon.net) Secretary: Helen Hinshaw, 3430 Musket Dr, Midlothian VA 23113, [jallenhinshaw@comcast.net](mailto:jallenhinshaw@comcast.net) Scholastics Coordinator: Mike Hoffpauir, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown VA 23693, [mhoffpauir@aol.com](mailto:mhoffpauir@aol.com) VCF Inc. Directors: Helen Hinshaw (Chairman), Marshall Denny, Mike Atkins, Mike Hoffpauir, Ernie Schlich.





## Northern Virginia Open

by Mike Atkins

**E**VER 85 PLAYERS journeyed to Springfield on a crisp fall weekend for in the 11<sup>th</sup> rendition of the Northern Virginia Open, November 4–5. Bryan Smith finished clear 1<sup>st</sup> with a 4½–½ score, ahead of twelve(!) players half a point back: two FMs Boris's—Privman and Reichstein;—masters Lorand Kis, Tom Magar, Stan Fink & Floyd Boudreaux; and experts Shinsaku Uesugi, Harry Cohen, Aryan Khojandi & Edward Lu; and class A and B winners, respectively, Zach Kinney & Gill Guo.

The tournament proved to be another showcase for the area's young talent. Gil Guo, rated only 1624, started with wins over Kis (2219) and Bora Yagiz (1917). A third round loss to FM Boris Zisman gave him the three FIDE-rated opponents needed to qualify for a FIDE ratable performance of 2155, over 500 points higher than his USCF listing. Meanwhile, Shinsaku Uesugi has been improving by leaps and bounds over the past couple years. Going in rated 2168, he stood at 4–0 and in clear 1<sup>st</sup> place after upsetting Alex Barnett in the penultimate round.

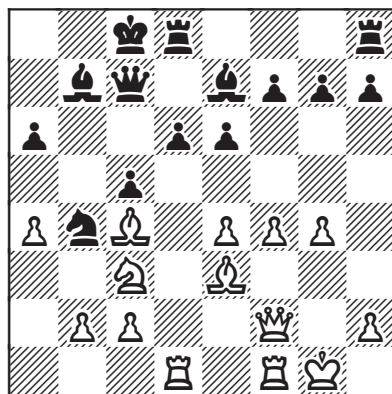
SHINSAKU UESUGI - ALEX BARNETT

SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 a6 5 Nc3 Qc7 6 Bd3 Nf6 7 0–0 Bc5 8 Nb3 Be7 9 f4 d6 10 a4 b6 11 Be3 Nc6 12 Qe2 Bb7 13 g4 Nd7 14 Qf2 Nb4 15 Rad1 Nc5 16 Nxc5 bxc5 17 Bc4 0–0–0

(diagram)

18 f5 d5 19 exd5 exd5 20 f6! dxc4 [20...Bxf6 21 Qf5+ Qd7 22 Bxd5] 21 fxe7 Rxd1 22 Rxd1 g6 [Perhaps Alex intended 22...Qc6 and saw too late that 23 Qf5+ refutes Black's attack on the long diagonal, eg 23...Kc7 24 Bf4+ Kb6 25 Rd6; or 23...Kb8 24 Rd8+ Ka7 25 Qxc5+ etc] 23 Qxf7 Qc6 24 Rd8+ Rxd8 25 exd8Q+ Kxd8 26 Bg5+ Kc8 27 Qf8+ 1–0



The last round of course paired Uesugi against top-seeded FM Bryan Smith, who was determined to win after having been previously held to a draw by FM Boris Reichstein in an opposite colored bishop's ending. And indeed, he got the win, although Bryan allowed that he needed to work a lot harder in this game compared to the last time he had played Shin.



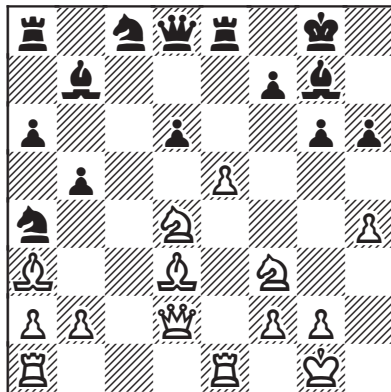
BRYAN SMITH - SHINSAKU UESUGI

SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 g6 4 0-0 Bg7 5 c3 e5 6 d4 cxd4 7 cxd4 exd4 8 Bf4  
 Nge7 9 Bd6 0-0 10 Nbd2 a6 11 Ba4 h6 12 e5 Re8 13 Bc2 Nd5 14 Re1 b5  
 15 Nb3 [probably overlooking 15 Bxg6! (15...fxg6 16 Qb3 recovers the piece)]  
 15...Nb6 16 Bd3 Na4 17 Qd2 Bb7 18 h4  
 Ne7 19 Nbx4 Nc8 20 Ba3 d6

(diagram)

21 e6 f5 22 h5 Qf6 23 hxg6 Ne7 24 Bxd6  
 Bxf3 25 Nxf3 Nxc6 26 Be5 Nxe5 27  
 Rxe5 Rxe6 28 Rxe6 Qxe6 29 Qf4 Nxb2  
 30 Bxf5 Qf6 31 Qe4 Rd8 32 Be6+ Kh8  
 33 Nh4 Bf8 34 Ng6+ Kg7 35 Nf4 Kh8  
 36 Rc1 Rd1+ 37 Rxd1 Nxd1 38 g3 a5  
 39 Bb3 Nc3 40 Qe8 Kh7 41 Ne6 Ne2+  
 42 Kg2 1-0



Katherine Wu won the class C prize outright with 3 points. Class D was shared by three kids and an adult with 2½ points: Steven Kool, Jason Kong, Ashley Xue & Scott Lacey. Dwighd Delgado & Jacob Brooks won Under 1200. James Cooper joined the money winners by taking the Unrated prize. Matthew Freeman won the upset prize (and it surely would have been the Brilliancy Prize too, had there been one) with a terrific attack against IM Oladapo Adu.



*Last round, board 1: Bryan Smith vs Shinsaku Uesugi. Photo by Shin's mom!*

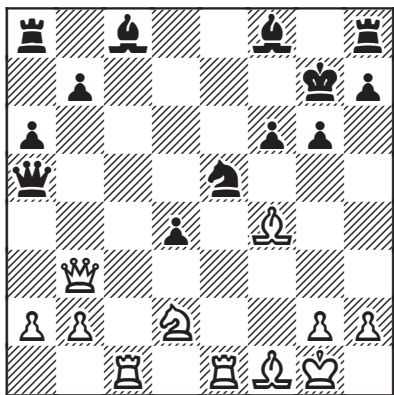


MATTHEW FREEMAN - OLADAPO ADU

SICILIAN

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Nd7 4 0-0 Nf6 5 Re1 e6 6 c3 a6 7 Bf1 Qc7 8 d4 e5 9 Nh4 g6 10 f4 cxd4 11 cxd4 exd4 12 e5! [The first in a series of very dynamic moves; White is more concerned with piece activity than material.] 12...dxe5 13 fxe5 Nxe5 [13...Nd5!?] 14 Nf3 Nd7 15 Bf4 f6 16 Nbd2 Kf7 [16...Be7!?] 17 Qb3+ Kg7 18 Rac1 Qa5? [White's play is attractive but Black has been hanging



in there. This looks like stumble, however. 18...Nxf3+ 19 Qxf3 Qa5 seems safe enough still. After the text, however...]

19 Nxe5 Nxe5 (diagram)

20 Rxe5! [...suddenly Black is in terrible trouble.] 20...b5 [An admission that things have gone off the tracks. 20...fxe5 was unattractive in any case, however, eg 21 Nc4 Qd5 22 Bxe5+ Kg8 23 Nb6 etc]

21 Qd5 Rb8 22 Nb3 Qb6 23 Rc6 Qb7 24 Nc5 Qf7 25 Qxf7+ Kxf7 26 Rc7+ Kg8 27 Re8 Rb6 28 Bh6 1-0

**T**HE NEXT EVENT scheduled for the Springfield Holiday Inn is the Virginia Open, January 26-28. The new contract calls for our space to be **free** if we get twenty paying hotel room guests on Friday and Saturday night. If that happens, we'll be able to raise the prize fund by \$400 and two lucky players staying in the hotel will get one night for free! I would encourage everyone traveling to a tournament to stay at the same hotel as the event. Even if another hotel a couple blocks away might be cheaper, supporting the tournament venue makes it easier to negotiate with hotels for space, which means more tournaments in the long run. Chess players are supposed to be able to calculate ahead; what sense is there in saving a few dollars staying elsewhere if it puts the tournament out of business? Hope to see everyone in Springfield in January!



another N Va Open game is in  
Readers' Games & Analysis, p 14



### Arlington Chess Club Blitz Championship

On the night before the Northern Virginia Open, players gathered at Arlington Chess Club for the annual Blitz Championship. This year's event was dedicated to the memory of recently deceased GM Alex Wojtkiewicz. IM Oladapo Adu won the tournament, scoring 9-1 (including 2-0 in the final round against the highest rated player, FM Brian Smith). Ray Kaufman and reigning Virginia Champ Andy Samuelson took 2nd-3rd.


39th annual

# Virginia Open


January 26-28, 2007

Holiday Inn Express, 6401 Brandon Ave, Springfield, Va 22150

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



5-SS, Rd1 game/2, rds 2-5 40/2 SD/1. \$\$3400 (top 4 Open guaranteed, rest based on 110 entries). Two Sections: *Open* \$600 (plus plaque)-400-300-250, top X, A each \$180. *Amateur* (open to under 1900) \$400 (plus plaque)-200-150, top B, C, D, U 1200 each \$160, top unrated \$100. *Both* Reg Friday 1/26, 5:30-7:45pm. Rds 8, 10-4:30, 9-3:30. EF \$50 if rec'd by 1/19, \$60 at site. One irrevocable ½ pt bye allowed, must be declared before rd 1 starts; \$30 re-entry allowed from rd 1 only into rd 2 with ½ pt bye. VCF membership required, OSA - \$10 adults, \$5 jr under 19. Hotel: Reserve before Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to get special chess rate of \$95! Phone 703-644-5555, ask for "Sales Department" and request special rate.



*Special Note:* Please stay at the hotel! If collectively we purchase 20 room nights for both Friday and Saturday, the VCF's playing site rental will be free! In that case we will increase the prize fund by \$400, plus two randomly selected players who are staying at the hotel will receive one night for free.

*Enter* Make checks payable to "Virginia Chess" and mail to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA 22306. Info (but no phone or internet entries) at <http://vachess.org/vaopen.htm> [matkins2@cox.net](mailto:matkins2@cox.net). NS, NC, W, FIDE.

*30 Grand Prix points*

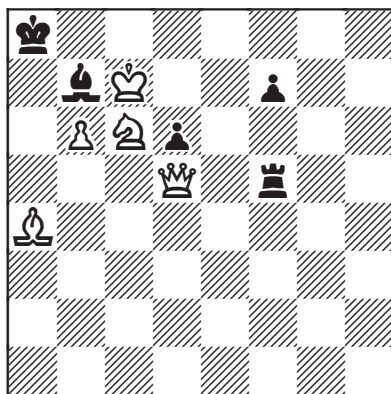


# The Mousetrap Mechanism

by Dr Steven B Dowd<sup>†</sup>

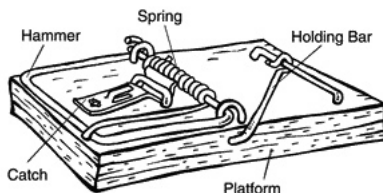
A popular mechanism in the chess problem is the mousetrap mechanism, which is characterized by the exact means by which a mouse is trapped in the traditional spring trap – flap set, flap sprung, or as the Germans say, “Klappe auf, klappe zu!”

The following problem shows the mousetrap mechanism in a simple form. However, to give the problem more appeal, there are also “tries” – moves that come close to mating black in the stipulated number of moves, but do not use the mousetrap mechanism. The goal of a try in a chess problem is to have a move that will mate, but only if black is cooperative—and only one defensive move by black will defeat white’s intentions, with all others failing.



Steven B Dowd, 2006 - *White to play and mate in 3*

Can you see the “mousetrap” and the only way to mate black in exactly 3 moves? The answer can be found on page 9, along with the relevant tries.



<sup>†</sup> - Dr Dowd is the columnist for the new Key Krackers problem chess column appearing on Chess Life On-line – <http://www.uschess.org>. With the move to the web, we are now able to offer more problem chess content than every before. Feel free to contact him at [doctorsbd@aol.com](mailto:doctorsbd@aol.com).



## Kingstowne Fall Festival

*by Don Millican*

**T**HE FOURTH EDITION of the Kingstowne Fall Festival, played over the weekend of October 21-22 in Alexandria, finally spelled success for IM Oladapo Adu, from Upper Marlboro, Md. He won the Open section convincingly with 3½ out of 4. Bora Yagiz, of McLean, another consistent participant at Kingstowne events, took second with 3. Jared Defibaugh and newly-crowned state champion Samuelson, from Annandale, tied for 3rd-4<sup>th</sup> with 2½. Under 2000 went to Badrish Chaudhari, also with 2½ points, while William H Wilson, Jr, of Vienna, captured Under 1800 with 1 point. A total of eleven players competed in the Open section, which was a considerable downturn from previous years.

Eleven also entered in the Amateur (Under 1800/unrated) section. Springfield's Francis X McCullough was the winner with 4 out of 5. Victor L Smith, Matt Freeman, of Partlow, Va, & Michael E Donovan, from Fairfax, scored 3½ apiece to tie for 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. Michael T Abron & Steven Kool, from Vienna, won Under 1600 and Under 1200 respectively with 2½ points each.

### **T**adoubé *from the Editor*

We need to correct an oversight from our last issue, where we reprinted a couple items that appeared in Susan Polgar's Chess Blog,

*<http://susanpolgar.blogspot.com/>*

GM Susan Polgar graciously gave permission for *Virginia Chess* to republish Abby Marshall's account of the 2006 Susan Polgar National Invitational For Girls. We also used GM Polgar's notes to Abby's sensational win over Danny Miller at the state championship.

As I originally pulled them from the web page, I had both of these items in the same file on my computer. It was understood that in using them we would give proper credit to the Susan Polgar's Chess Blog web site, which we did on page 11 of *Virginia Chess* 2006/5 in connection with the Marshall-Miller game. However, in the course of laying out the issue, I wound up separating the game notes from the essay — and I forgot to go back and add another attribution. As a result, "2006 Susan Polgar National Invitational For Girls" appeared on page 25 of the issue without any proximate credit to the original source. So I apologize for that and, once again, commend to you *<http://susanpolgar.blogspot.com/>*



# Arlington Open

by Mike Atkins

**SEVENTY-FOUR PLAYERS TURNED OUT** for an old-fashioned tournament in Arlington over the weekend of Oct 14-15. When it was over, FM Boris Privman had scored  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  to finish in clear first place. A huge, eight-way tie among players with 4 points followed: FM Ilye Figler, IM Oladapo Adu, Boris Reichstein, Shinsaku Uesugi, Daniel Clancy, Aryan Khojandi, Matthew Grinberg & Doug Stanley. Of these, the masters and experts split 2nd-3rd and Expert money while Stanley earned a bit more by taking home all of the Top Class A prize.

Over the years, this event has consistently drawn 66-74 players in its October time slot. This year, a nice, normal distribution of entries rated 1000-2300—and no superstar grandmasters to lap the field—promised a wide open race. While it's theoretically possible to wind up with multiple perfect scores in a 74-player tournament of only five rounds, that usually doesn't happen in practice. Upsets and draws tend to eliminate the possibility. Here, at the end of the first day, five players still had 3-0. Then, Privman won on Sunday morning while the other four all drew — so much for multiple perfect scores.

Fourteen-year-old Khojandi is a player to watch. He recently scored 7-0 in the A section of the DC Chess League and bypassed the 1900's completely, jumping his rating from 1888 to 2000 in one supplement. He's 2050 after this tournament, which amounts to a solid 200-point rise in the past year.

Coming up next at the GMU Arlington campus is the 2006 Arlington Chess Club Championship over the weekend of Dec 9-10. Looking ahead to 2007, we'll have the George Mason Open on the last weekend of April. That event will be situated in the spacious and elegant 3<sup>rd</sup> floor auditorium, with enough room for hundreds of players. Come be one of them!

**BORIS PRIVMAN - SHINSAKU UESUGI**

**GRÜNFELD**

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 f3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 e4 Nb6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 Nc3 Nc6 8 Bb5 Bd7 9 Nge2 O-O 10 O-O e5 11 d5 Na5 12 b3 Bxb5 13 Nxb5 c6 14 dxc6 bxc6 15 Qxd8 Rfxd8** [At first glance, now 16 Nxa7 wins a pawn. At second glance, that's blunder because 16...Rdb8 traps the knight. At third glance, 17 b4 mounts a successful rescue operation: 17...Nac4 (or 17...Rxa7 18 bxa5 Rxa5 19 Rfc1 winning the pawn after all) 18 Bxb6 Rxb6 19 Rfc1 Rxa7 20 Rxc4. At *fourth* glance, Black equalizes with 20...Bf8, recovering the pawn since if 21 a3 Bxb4 anyhow. Such is chess.] **16 Nc7 Rac8 17 Na6 Rd3 18 Kf2 Bf8 19 Rfc1 Ba3 20**



**Nc5 Bxc1 21 Nxd3 Bxe3+ 22 Kxe3 Nd7 23 Rc1 Nb7 24 Nc3 f5 25 Nb5 f4+ 26 Kd2 Nd8 27 Nxa7 Ra8 28 Nxc6 Rxa2+ 29 Kd1 Nxc6 30 Rxc6 Rxg2 31 Rd6 Nf8 32 b4 Rxh2 33 b5 Ra2 34 b6 Ra8 35 b7 Rb8 36 Nc5 h5 37 Ke1 Kf7 38 Rc6 g5 [38...Ke7 was a better chance but White should probably still win after 39 Rc8 Nd7 40 Nxd7 (but not 40 Rc7? Kd6) Rxb7 41 Nxe5] 39 Rc8 Nd7 40 Rc7 Ke8 41 Rxd7 g4 42 Rh7 1-0**

LEW HUCKS - OLADAPO ADU

ENGLISH

**1 c4 c5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 g3 b6 4 Bg2 Bb7 5 O-O g6 6 b3 Bg7 7 Bb2 O-O 8 d4 cxd4 9 Qxd4 d6 10 Nc3 Nbd7 11 Rad1 a6 12 Rfe1 b5 13 Nd5 bxc4 14 bxc4 Rb8 15 Ba1 Re8 16 e4 Qa5 17 Re2 Qa4 18 Rc1 Rbc8 19 Bh3 e6 20 Nxf6+ Nxf6 21 Nd2 Red8 22 Qb2 Ba8 23 Qb3 Qa5 24 e5 dxe5 25 Bc3 Qc5 26 Rxe5 Qc6 27 f3 Rd3 28 Bg2 Ng4 29 Re2 Qc5+ 30 Kh1 Nf2+ 31 Kg1 Ne4+ 32 Kh1 Nxc3 0-1**

## Emporia Open

Adithya Balasubrian swept the 22<sup>nd</sup> Emporia Open, October 21-22, with a 5-0 score. Tracy Callis was clear 2<sup>nd</sup> with 4-1, losing only to the tournament winner. Kenneth Jackson followed at 3½, and Ettie Nikolova & Guy Jackson each scored 3 points. Ettie might have had the better of Adithya during their round 4 game, but he pulled out the win. In the last round's board-one matchup, Merritt Johnson also had the better position. Adithya offered a draw at least twice. Merritt, showing good fighting spirit, declined but then went on to lose.

## Virginia Collegiate Team Championship

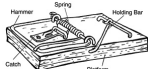
Chess teams from the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, George Mason University and George Washington University squared off Oct 28 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Collegiate Team Championship. The host GMU squad, with newly-crowned Virginia state champion Andrew Samuelson manning their top board, defended the title they won last year, scoring 2½-½ team match points in the round robin format. Virginia Tech placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, while UVa ran 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## Chess Clubs

*Please send additions / corrections to the Editor.*

♣ Alexandria: Kingstowne Chess Club, Kingstowne South Center, 6080 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Tuesdays 7-10pm, info Rob McKinney, robcmckinney@aol.com, (703) 924-5883 ♣ Arlington: Arlington Chess Club, Lyon Village Community House, 1920 N Highland St (at Lee Hwy), Fridays 7:30pm. Registration for rated Ladder and Action events ends 8pm. Blitz/Quick tourney first Friday of each month. Info [www.wizard.net/~matkins](http://www.wizard.net/~matkins) or John Campbell (703) 534-6232 ♣ Arlington Seniors Chess Club, Madison Community Center, 3829 N Stafford St, info (703) 228-5285 ♣ Blacksburg: Chess Club of Virginia Tech, GB Johnson Student Center, Rm 102, Virginia Tech, Wednesdays 7-9pm ♣ Charlottesville: Charlottesville Chess Club, St Mark Lutheran Church, Rt 250 & Alderman Rd, Monday evenings ♣ Chesapeake: Zero's Sub Shop, 3116 Western Branch Blvd (Rt 17), (Poplar Hill Plaza near Taylor Rd intersection), Mondays 6pm to closing ♣ Great Bridge United Methodist Church, corner of Battlefiled Blvd & Stadium Dr, Tuesdays, 6:30-10pm, info 686-0822 ♣ Culpeper: Culpeper Chess Club, Culpeper County Public Library, Rt 29 Business (near Safeway). Adults meet Tuesdays 6:30-8:45pm, juniors Thursdays 6:30-8:45pm. Info John Clark 540-829-6606 ♣ Fort Eustis: contact Sorel Utsey 878-4448 ♣ Danville: Danville Chess Club, Danville YMCA, 810 Main Street. Mondays 6:30-9:30 pm. Info John Thompson 434-799-8898 ♣ Fredericksburg: Spotsylvania Chess, Lutheran Church Rte West 4.7 miles from Exit 130 on I-95. Every Tuesday 6-9pm, info Mike Cornell 785-8614 ♣ Glenns: Rappahannock Community College - Glenns Campus Chess Club, Glenns Campus Library, Tuesdays 8-10pm in the student lounge, info Zack Loesch 758-5324(x208) ♣ Harrisonburg: Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, Trinity Presbyterian Church, corner of S High (rt 42) & Maryland Ave (Port Republic Rd), Fridays 7:30pm, <http://cep.jmu.edu/huffmacj/svcc/svcchome.html> ♣ McLean: Booz Allen Hamilton CC, Hamilton Bldg, Rm 2032, 8283 Greensboro Dr. Thursdays, info Charles Thrasher 703-917-2235 ♣ Mechanicsville: Stonewall Library, Stonewall Pkwy, Mondays 6:30-9pm 730-8944 ♣ Norfolk: Tidewater Chess Club, Beth Messiah Synagogue, 7130 Granby St, Norfolk. Tuesdays, 7-10 pm, Ernie Schlich (757) 853-5296, [eschlich@verizon.net](mailto:eschlich@verizon.net) ♣ Larchmont Public Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd, Wednesday 6-9pm ♣ ODU Chess Club, Webb Univ Ctr, Old Dominion University, info [www.odu.edu/~chess](http://www.odu.edu/~chess) ♣ Purcellville: Blue Ridge Cafe, Thursdays 5-7pm and Saturdays 1-4pm (& bi-wkly 4-7pm), info Douglas A Gripp, 540-668-7160 ♣ Richmond: The Kaissa Chess Club, Willow Lawn Shopping Center, in the food court, Thursdays 5-9pm. info Alfredo Franco 367-1154 ♣ The Side Pocket, Cross Roads Shopping Center, Staples Mill Rd. A billiards parlor with chess tables set up any hour, every day ♣ Huguenot Chess Knights, Bon Air Library Community Room, 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-11pm, info Walter Chester 276-5662 ♣ Jewish Ctr CC, 5403 Monument Ave. 4-6pm every other Sunday beginning 1/8/95. (804) 288-0045 ♣ VCU CC, 907 Floyd Ave, Capital Ballroom C, Saturdays 3-7pm, info Michael Neal, [grandmaster\\_2b@yahoo.com](mailto:grandmaster_2b@yahoo.com) ♣ Roanoke: Roanoke Valley Chess Club, Grandin Ct Rec Ctr, Corner of Lofton & Barham Rd SW, Fridays 7:00-11:00pm, Info Brian Roark (540) 378-1316 or [brian.roark@acterna.com](mailto:brian.roark@acterna.com) ♣ Virginia Beach: Tidewater Community Chess Club, Bldg D ("Kempsville") Cafeteria, Tidewater Community College Va Beach Campus, 1700 College Crescent Rd. Mondays 7-10pm ♣ Williamsburg: Williamsburg CC, The Williamsburg Landing, 5700 Williamsburg Landing Drive. 2nd floor Game Room. Tuesdays 7-10pm. Don Woolfolk 757-229-8774 or Tom Landvogt 757-565-5792 ♣ Winchester: Winchester Chess Club, Westminster-Canterbury Home for the Elderly, Tuesdays 7pm ♣ Woodbridge: Prince William Chess Club, Tuesdays 7-9pm at the Game Parlor, Prince William Square, 14400 Smoketown Road. Contact Dick Stableford, 703-670-5887 or [o6usmc@comcast.net](mailto:o6usmc@comcast.net)



**Solution to "Mousetrap", from p 5:** The mousetrap is the surprising 1 Ne5!, which seems to give up the already attacked white queen, only by the bishop instead of the rook. The threat Qxb7 made seems superficial. However:

- 1 Ne5! Bxd5 2 Nc6! and now:  
 2...Bxc6 3 Bxc6#;  
 2...other moves 3 b7#!

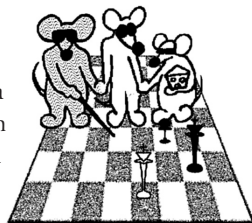
What are the tries here? 1 Qxf5?, the brutal capture, mates in 3 only if Black does not play 1...d5! The two other queen moves, 1 Qxd6? and 1 Qe4? are defeated by 1...Rd5! and 1...Re5! respectively. 1. Bb3? appears logical, another queen sacrifice, but is defeated by the very move it seeks to prevent, 1...Rd5!

I hope to see you at the new Key Krackers online, where you have the chance to earn the titles of US Solving Expert and US Solving Master!



## Shimmer and Sparkle

by Tim Rogalski



**F**OUR-TIME STATE CHAMPION Geoff McKenna and I both worked at Cable & Wireless (C&W) in Tyson's Corner in the 1990s. I persuaded Geoff to play a blindfold match against me. The moves would be relayed at our leisure, similar to a correspondence game, but verbally. Neither player was allowed to use a set & board, nor to consult another player, computer, or book. I kept score in my chess notebook. Our 21-game match spanned several years and Geoff ultimately won 11-9.

The match enhanced both of our C&W business reputations. If we passed one another in the halls, we might exchange a pair of moves, sometimes without breaking stride. Other times, I would intentionally interrupt him in a meeting with a move, and he would do the same. In the presence of co-workers, I might say, "f4", and he might shoot back with "Qb6". People were impressed that we could play several games of chess in our head, without using a set and board, and as a result, chess interest at work increased.

Here I present my best blindfold effort ever, but it was mostly preparation due to my having previously researched the Najdorf Poisoned Pawn variation while playing NM Curt Jones (from Tennessee) in a correspondence game. I triple-checked the variations in my head before giving Geoff my moves since I didn't always exactly remember the book analysis. I would think about moves while commuting to and from work, while walking to lunch, and before falling off to sleep at night. To be fair, since Geoff out-rated me by hundreds of points, I generally took much longer to reply than he did. Plus, to help compensate for the difference in our strength, I had to use psychology. I knew that Geoff sometimes liked to show off by giving me his move quickly when there were others around. So, when a position became complicated, I would wait until he was surrounded by fellow employees he wanted to impress, hoping he might blitz off an inferior reply. Occasionally this ploy worked, mostly it didn't. In any case, here is the 13<sup>th</sup> game of our blindfold match.

TIMOTHY ROGALSKI - GEOFF MCKENNA

C&W BLINDFOLD CHAMPIONSHIP, TYSON'S CORNER *circa* 1990

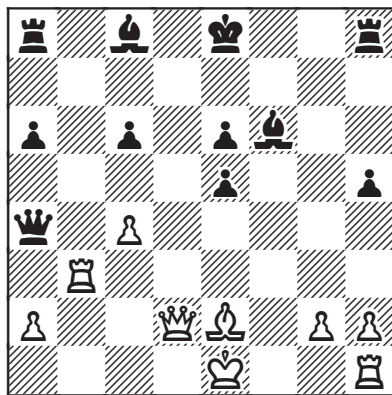
SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nx d4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qb6 8 Qd2 Qxb2 [The ultra-sharp Poisoned Pawn variation of the Najdorf Sicilian defense was showcased worldwide during the 1972 Fischer-Spassky world championship match games 7 and 11.] 9 Rb1 [In the 11<sup>th</sup> Spassky-Fischer game, after 9 Nb3



Qa3 10 Bxf6 gxf6 11 Be2 h5 12 0-0 Nc6 13 Kh1 Bd7 Spassky's fantastic 14 Nb1! forced Fischer to give up his beloved Poisoned Pawn variation for the remainder of the match. That game continued 14...Qb4 15 Qe3 d5? 16 exd5 Ne7 17 c4 Nf5 18 Qd3 h4!? 19 Bg4! Nd6 20 N1d2 f5 21 a3 Qb6 22 c5 Qb5 23 Qc3! fxg4 24 a4 h3 25 axb5 hxg2+ 26 Kxg2 Rh3 27 Qf6 Nf5 28 c6 Bc8 29 dxe6 fxe6 30 Rfe1 Be7 31 Rxe6 1-0] **9...Qa3 10 f5** [I like this tactical line because it quickly develops pieces, opens lines, and attacks the enemy king with local piece superiority.] **10...Nc6 11 fxe6 fxe6 12 Nxc6 bxc6 13 e5 dxe5 14 Bxf6 gxf6 15 Ne4** [In the 1996 Virginia Closed I moved too quickly and chose the premature 15 Be2? against IM Walter Morris. He thought for a long time and found the excellent 15...Qd6!, gaining the advantage and winning easily after 16 Bh5+ Ke7 17 Qe2 Qd4 18 Ne4 Bh6 19 Rb3 Qa1+ 20 Kf2 Qd4+ 21 Ke1 f5 etc (0-1 in 37 moves—another “book” game, like this one with Geoff.) **15...Be7** [Nunn considered 15...Qe7 dubious, citing 16 Be2 h5 17 Qd1 and White was supposed to have the advantage. However, Curt Jones improved on the book in our aforementioned game, continuing 17...Bg7 18 Bxh5+ Kf8 19 0-0 f5 20 Rb3 Kg8 21 Rd3 Rh6 22 Rd8+ Kh7 23 Bf7 Qh4 24 Rf3? Qxe4 and Black won in 31 moves. Afterwards, Jones recommended 17 Qc3! instead of the lame 17 Qd1] **16 Be2 h5 17 Rb3 Qa4 18 Nxf6+! Bxf6 19 c4!**

[The knight sacrifice was worked out by Vitolins, and first played in 1977. “White has sufficient compensation for the sacrificed knight, as Black’s king is very exposed in the center, the queen is locked out of play, and the other pieces are unprotected and uncoordinated. White has control of the open files, and the queen’s mobility is increased significantly in view of Black’s wrecked pawn structure.” (Kovacs). What attracted me to this variation is that the Black queen on a4 is virtually imprisoned, doing nothing with nowhere to go.] **19...Ra7** [The attempt to free the imprisoned queen is refuted: 19...Bd8? 20 0-0 Qa5 21 Qd6! Qc7 22 Bxh5+ Rxh5 23 Rf8mate] **20 0-0 Be7 21 Rb8 Rc7 22 Qd3 Bc5+ 23 Kh1 Ke7** [Fritz erroneously evaluates this position as even!] **24 Qe4!** [The Qd2-d3-e4 maneuver is GM Beliavsky’s idea.] **24...Bd4 25 c5!** [Black is tied in knots and can’t find a decent move.] **25...h4 26 Qg4 e4 27 Qg5+ 1-0** White mates in at most six moves.



What I find most beautiful about blindfold chess is this: Setting up a board afterwards and playing over the game with one's eyes wide open. The pieces always seem to shimmer and sparkle.



MACON SHIBUT - SHINSAKU UESUGI

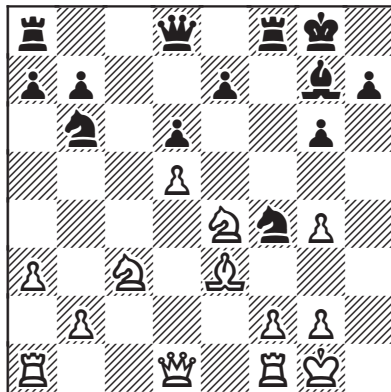
2006 ATLANTIC OPEN

SICILIAN

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 Bd3 cxd4 5 cxd4 g6 6 Nc3 Bg7 7 Nf3 0-0 8 h3 Nfd7!? [8...Nc6 followed by ...e5 is more straightforward but the text is not necessarily bad.] 9 0-0 Nc6 10 Be3 Nb6 11 d5 Nb4 12 Be2 f5 [The only consistent follow-up to 11...Nb4; Black must strike the center before his knight gets kicked away by a3] 13 a3 fxe4 14 Ng5 Nd3 [Grabbing material, 14...Bxc3 15 bxc3 N4xd5, would be risky. I intended then 16 Bc4 e6 17 Nxe6! Bxe6 18 Bxb6, eg, 18...Qxb6 19 Bxd5 Bxd5 20 Qxd5+ Kh8 21 Rab1 and Black's exposed king is more important than his extra pawn.] 15 Ngxe4 Nf4 [Of course the knight would be trapped after 15...Nxb2 16 Qb3] 16 Bg4 Bxg4 [Perhaps a mistake, but for a rather veiled reason.] 17 hxg4

He probably expected 17 Qxg4 probing the e6 weakness, but the text has more venom.

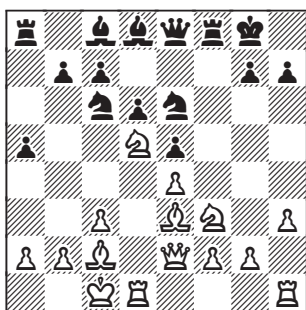
*Do you see the threat?*

Unexpectedly, Black's fine knight is in danger of being captured outright by 18 g3! Nh3+ 19 Kh2.

This reminded me of a game I lost over twenty years ago against Andrew Karklins.

After 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 Qe2 Be7 6 c3 d6 7 d3 0-0 8 Nbd2 Nd7 9 Nf1 Nc5 10 Bc2 f5 11 Ne3 fxe4 12 dxe4 a5 13 h3 Qe8 14 Nd5 Bd8 15 Be3 Ne6 16 0-0-0...



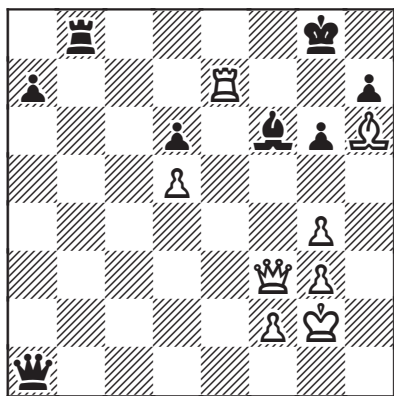


*Shibut-Karklins, from long ago...*

...the veteran master took me completely by surprise with 16...Nb8! But indeed, the prospect of ...c6 was quite awkward. Within a few moves I found myself weakening all kinds of dark squares near my king with the move c4, sadly necessary to provide a retreat for the very knight that had so recently seemed the pride of my position. (0-1 in 54 moves). But enough reminiscing; back to our game...

**17...Nc4 18 g3 Nxb2 19 Qb3 Nfd3 20 Rab1 Rc8 21 Rxb2 Nxb2 22 Qxb2 Qa5 23 Rc1 Rc4** [Black threatens ...Rxe4 and the knight cannot run away

because he needs to defend his companion on c3. So, White must move his queen out of the pin on the long diagonal. The options for doing so are seemingly limited, however, because again, c3 needs three defenders. 24 Qb3 fits the bill, but then after 24...Rfc8 25 Bd2 White could hardly move. Black's pieces harmonize beautifully while White's are tangled in a knot of pins and defensive commitments.] **24 Qxb7! Bxc3 25 Qxe7** [By not clinging too tightly to material, we've managed to virtually reverse the situation from the variation in the preceding note. Now my forces cooperate to the max, while Black has a bishop pinned against an undefended rook and a burden to address various threats: Bh6, Nxd6, Ng5, Qe6+, Qxd6,



etc.] **25...Rxe4** [A practical choice under the circumstances, but Black's troubles are hardly over.] **26 Qxe4 Qxa3 27 Bh6!** [Δ Qe3] **27...Be5 28 Rc7 Qa5** [I expected 28...Rb8 and was contemplating the reply 29 Be3!? with ideas of Rxa7 or g5 followed by Q-g4-e6 or Qh4] **29 Re7 Rb8 30 Qf3 Qa1+ 31 Kg2 Bf6** [Black has covered up as best he could. I had not foreseen my next move until the position actually turned up on the board, but every now and then chess throws you a kiss...]

**32 Bg7!** [I knew it was right the instant I saw it. There only remained to check the not-too-complicated variations: 32...Bxe7 33 Bxa1; or 32...Bxg7 33 Qf7+ Kh8 34 Re8+ Rxe8 35 Qxe8+ Bf8 36 Qxf8 mate; or, finally, 32...Rb1 33 Bxf6 Rg1+ 34 Kh2 and wins] **32...Rf8** [Black prefers a more vulgar demise.] **33 Bxf8 Kxf8 34 Re6 Kg7 35 Rxd6 h6 36 Rd7+ Kg8 37 d6 a5 38 Qa8+ 1-0**



## ANOTHER FROM THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA OPEN

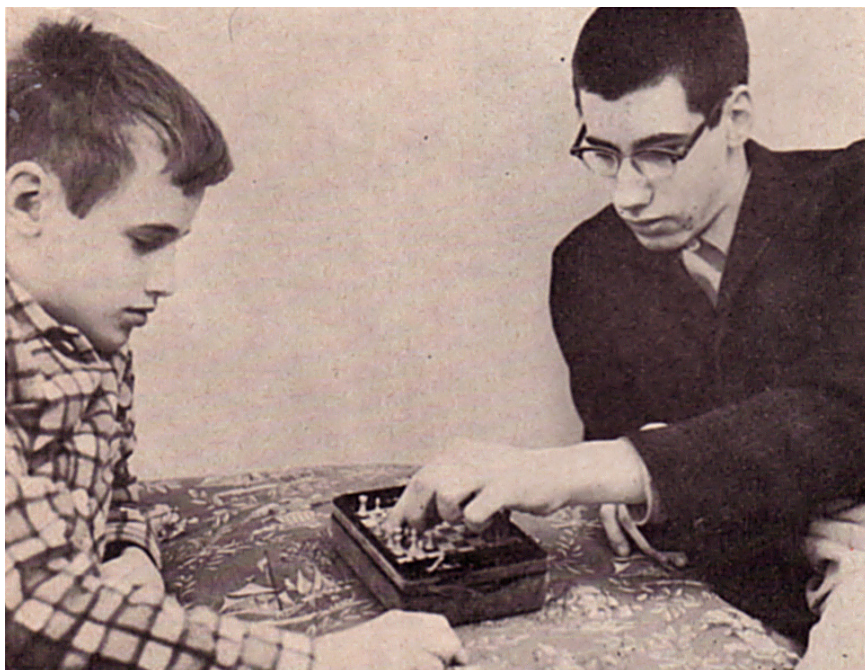
This is the game that yielded our front cover diagram.

TYLER COOK – STAN FINK

NIMZOWITSCH

1 e4 Nc6 2 d4 e5 3 d5 Nce7 4 c4 Ng6 5 Nc3 Bb4 6 Bd2 Nf6 7 Bd3  
a5 8 Nge2 d6 9 a3 Bc5 10 Na4 Ba7 11 0-0 Ng4 12 h3 h5 13 hxg4 [asking for  
it] hxg4 14 g3 Nh4! 15 Re1 [15 gxh4 Qxh4 just mates] Nf3+ 16 Kf1 Rh1+ 17  
Ng1 Rxg1+ 18 Ke2 Nd4+ 19 Ke3 Qg5+ 20 f4 gxf3+ 21 Kf2 Qxg3+ 0-1

FORTY-TWO YEARS AGO...



Arlington Chess Club veterans John and Eugene Meyer were pictured in the October 1964 edition of *Chess Life*. The photo caption read: "US Junior Champion John Meyer, on right, practices with younger brother Eugene, who is also a rising star in US chess. Indeed, the kid brother would go on to win the IM title (and the 1990 Virginia state championship). Some months earlier *Chess Life* had published John's Brilliancy Prize winning game from the previous year's US Junior:



JOHN MEYER – ROBERT WACHTEL

1963 US JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

LONDON SYSTEM

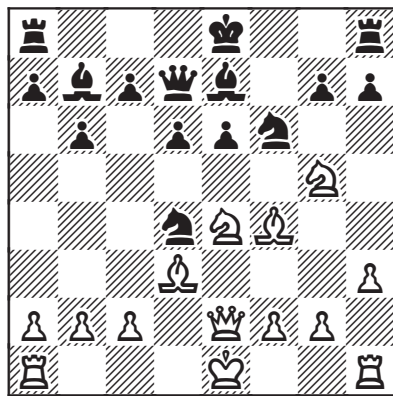
*Notes by IM Donald Byrne, reprinted from CHESS LIFE*

John C Meyer, the highest-rated expert in this year's US Junior, plays a complicated and forceful attacking game., which frequently distracts and confuses the opposition. In the fourth round of the "Junior" he gave the spectators a fine demonstration of the virtues of his energetic and speculative style when he faced Robert Wachtel, a talented player who scored six points against strong competitors.

Meyer served up an indigestible fare, but Wachtel, in a position where careful rumination was essential, gobbled every gobbet (11...Nxd4 and 15...Bxg2) and called for more with 16....Bf3. Meyer obliged and crammed a huge piece down his opponent's gullet (17 Rxc7+). At that point Wachtel got up from the table, for he had finally had more than he could stomach. The moral: A voracious player must beware of just deserts.

**1 Nf3 f5 2 d4 e6 3 Bf4 b6 4 Nbd2 Bb7 5 e3 Be7 6 h3** [Obviously, this move was not played as a defense against ...g5. It is a standard part of Meyer's system. In his 2nd round game with D Rogosin, Meyer was able to develop a kingside assault by playing g4] **6...Nf6 7 Bd3 d6 8 Qe2 Nc6** [Since White's Qe2 threatens to break with e4, Black should consider 8...Ne4. If Black wished to play Nc6, he should have done so on move seven. Then if White went ahead with 8 Qe2, Black could play 8...Nb4] **9 e4 fxe4** [Black has no good alternative. At this early stage, White's pieces occupy strong central positions.] **10 Nxe4 Qd7** [Now if White plays 11 Neg5 Black can reply 11...Nd8] **11 Nfg5 Nxd4** (*diagram*)

Judging by what followed in the game, I think it evident that Black did not carefully study the complications involved in this move; he saw a pawn and devoured it. There are interesting possibilities for Black on his 11th move. A) 11...Nd5 removes White's threat to play Nxf6+ and at the same time threatens Nxf4. If White plays 12 Nxe6, then 12...Nxd4 and White has serious problems. (12...Qxe6 is dangerous owing to 13 Nxd6+ and White's queen and extra pawns are worth more than the three pieces). If White plays 12 Be3, Black replies 12...Nxe3 13 fxe3 (if 13 Qxe3 Nb4 anyway, since 14 Nxe6 no longer works: 14...Qxe6 15 Nxd6+ Kd7 16 Bf5 Nxc2+) 13...Nb4. Or Black can play 13...0-0-0 in this line because 14 Nf7 is met by Bh4+ and ...Qxf7. B) 11...0-0-0 offering the





exchange. If 12 Nf7, then 12...Nxd4 with active play and well-placed pieces as compensation for slight material disadvantage.

### 12 Nxf6+ Bxf6 13 Qh5+ Kf8

13...g6 is an obvious blunder; 14 Bxg6+ and if the bishop is captured, Black loses his bishop on f6 and the game. Clearly, 13...Ke7 is superior to Kf8. If, for example, White answers 13...Ke7 with 14 Nxh7, we have the position reached in the game with one very significant difference—it is Black's turn to move, not White's. In this case Black could successfully play 14...Bxg2 with the following possibilities: A) 15 Rg1 Nf3+ 16 Ke2 Nxg1+ 17 Rxg1 Qc6 18 Bg5 (if 18 f3 then 18...Rhx7) 18...Raf8 and Black wins. B) 15 Rg1 Qc6 16 0-0-0 Be4 17 Rxg7+ Bxg7 18 Qg5+ Ke8 19 Qxg7 (if 19 Nf6+ Bxf6 20 Qxf6 Rf8) 19...Ne2+ 20 Kb1 (or 20 Kd2) 20...Rhx7 and wins. A reasonable reply to 13...Ke7 is 14 0-0-0, and White has a strong attack for the pawn sacrificed.

**14 Nxh7+ Ke7 15 0-0-0 Bxg2** [Black's position is difficult, but he continues to play as though he were absolutely convinced that opponents are not beaten, but eaten.] **16 Rhg1** [This is a crushing response.] **16...Bf3**

16...Qc6 would lengthen the game, but 16...Bf3 is consistent with Black's voracious approach to the problems arising in this contest. If 16...Qc6 White could win with 17 Bg5. Now A) 17...Be4 18 Bxf6+ gxf6 19 Rg7+ Kd8 20 Bxe4 Qxe4 21 Rxd4 Qxd4 22 Qf7 and wins. B) 17...Qf3 18 Qg6 Rxh7 19 Rxg2 Rgh8 20 Be4 and White wins a piece. C) 17...Nxc2 18 Bxc2 is good enough to win a piece: 18...Be4 19 Bxf6+ gxf6 20 Rg7+ Kd8 21 Rd2 Bxc2 22 Rxc2 Qh1+ 23 Qd1

**17 Rxg7+ 1-0** [If the rook is taken, Bg5+ ends the game. Meyer's play was both daring and imaginative.]

## Eastern Open Blitz Championship

Dec 29, 2006

Wyndham Washington Hotel

1400 M St NW, Washington, DC

5-rd double swiss (ie, 10 games). Game in five minutes. \$\$1680 b/60 top 3 in Open guaranteed. Two sections: *Open* \$400-225-150, U2200-\$120, U2000-\$100. *Amateur* (open to under 1800) \$225-150, top U1500 \$120, U1300 \$100, U1100 \$90 *Both sections* EF \$35 if rec'd by 12/23, \$45 cash only at site. Mail will not be checked after 12/24, so do not send late entries! At site reg any time during main Eastern Open event until 10pm on 12/29. Rounds will start 10:15pm promptly and successive rounds posted as soon as results and pairings are ready. One bye allowed for two-½ points but only for late entry (ie, no drop out/reentry option). Regular USCF ratings used for pairings and prizes, WBCA rules used (posted at site) to govern play. W, NS. Make check payable to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria Va, 22306. Info <http://members.cox.net/tournaments/eoblitz.htm>

*15 Grand Prix points*

*Incomparable Chess Sets From*

**THE HOUSE OF STAUNTON**



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

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

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

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

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

# In This Issue:

## Tournaments

Northern Virginia Open .....	1
Arlington CC Blitz Championship .....	3
Kingstowne Fall Festival .....	6
Arlington Open .....	7
Emporia Open.....	8
Virginia Collegiate Team Championship .....	8

## Features

The Mousetrap Mechanism (Dowd).....	5
Rogalski Blindfold Match .....	10
Readers' Games .....	12

## Odds & Ends

J'adoubé (a correction, from The Editor) .....	6
Upcoming Events .....	4, 16
Chess Clubs .....	9
VCF Info .....	inside front cover

