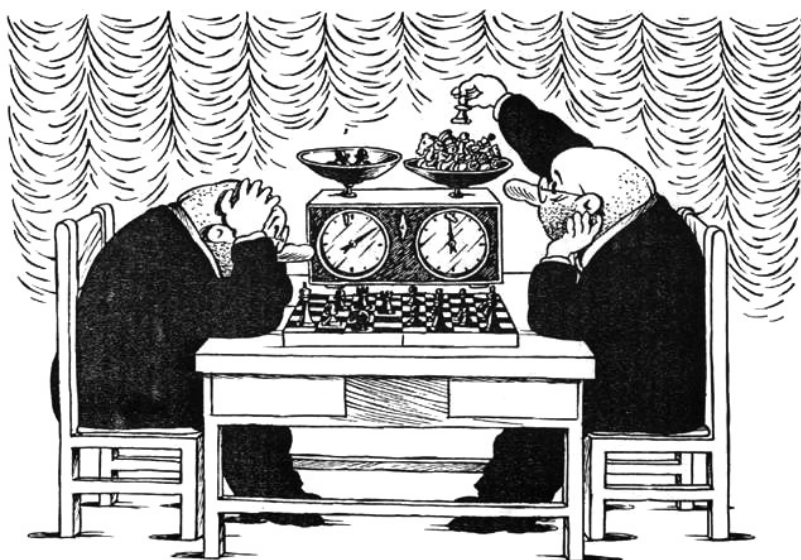


VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2007 - #2



Inside...

Ehlvest, Shabalov & Stripunsky Win Millennium
Tim Rogalski on the Death of Romanticism
Kasparov's *Revolution in the 70s* reviewed

...and more

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2007 - Issue #2

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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.



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2007 Millennium Chess Festival

Happily, the Millennium Chess Festival returned to the Virginia chess calendar March 2-4, 2007 after a one-year interruption in the series. Tom Braunlich created the MCF in 2001 and through the succeeding years it grew into one of the east coast's premier annual events. However, organizational problems led to cancellation of the 2006 Festival. The VCF stepped up to revive the tournament for this year and hopefully beyond.

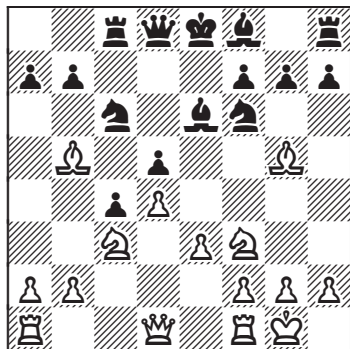


THE MILLENNIUM IS PREEMINENT AMONG VIRGINIA TOURNAMENTS as an opportunity for VCF members to witness top grandmasters perform in person. Three of them tied for 1st in the open section this year: Alexander Shabalov, Alexander Stripunsky & former world champion candidate Jaan Ehlevest. They each scored 4-1. Another GM, John Fedorowicz, was joined by IMs Bryan G Smith & Larry Kaufman plus Maryland master John Rouleau at 3½. GM Nick De Firmian, former state champion Macon Shibut & North Carolinian Chris Mabe rounded out the Open section prize winners.

JAAN EHLVEST - KATERINE ROHONYAN

TARRASCH

1 c4 e6 2 Nf3 d5 3 d4 c5 4 cxd5 exd5
5 Nc3 Nf6 6 Bg5 Nc6 7 e3 Be6 8 Bb5
Rc8 9 0-0 c4 (diagram)





GM Jaan Ehvest

10 e4! dxe4 11 d5 exf3 12 Qxf3 Bxd5
13 Nxd5 Qxd5 14 Rfe1+ Be7 15
Rxe7+ Kf8 16 Qxd5 Nxd5 17 Rxb7
Nde7 18 Bxe7+ Nxe7 19 Re1 1-0

ALEXANDER SHABALOV – JOHN
ROULEAU
RUY LOPEZ

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6
5 0-0 b5 6 Bb3 Bc5 7 c3 d6 8 a4 Rb8
9 d4 Bb6 10 axb5 axb5 11 Qd3 [11
Na3 is more common but we're still in

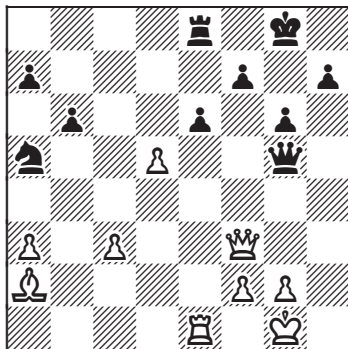
theory in either case.] 11...0-0 12 Bg5 Bg4 [GM Ganguly did not do any better
against Shabalov with 12...h6 at the 2005 Canadian Open: 13 Bxf6 Qxf6 14 Qxb5
Na5 15 Bd5 Bg4 16 dxe5 dxe5 17 Nxe5! Be6 18 Nd7 Bxd7 19 Qxd7 White was
several pawns ahead.] 13 Nbd2 exd4 14 cxd4 h6 15 Bh4 g5 16 Bg3 Bh5 17
d5 Ne7 18 Nd4 Nd7 19 Ba2 Bg6 20 Nf5 Kh7 21 b4 Re8 22 Kh1 Nf6 23 Nd4
Qd7 24 Nf5!? [24 Nxb5] 24...h5 [Not sure what's wrong with just 24...Nxf5
25 exf5 Qxf5] 25 f4 gxf4 26 Bxf4 Ng4 27 Nd4 f5 28 h3 Nf6 29 exf5 Nxf5 30
Nxf5 Bxf5 31 Qf3 Bd4 32 Rad1 Rb6 33 Bg5 Kg6 34 Bxf6 Bxf6 35 Bb1 Re5
36 Rde1 Bxb1 37 Nxb1 [Must be time trouble, else 37 Qxf6+!] 37...Qe7 38
Qg3+ Kh6 39 Nd2 Bg5? 40 Nf3 1-0

ALEXANDER STRIPUNSKY – LARRY KAUFMAN
NIMZOINDIAN

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 c4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e6 6 Nf3 Bb4 7 Bd3 dxc4 8 Bxc4
0-0 9 0-0 b6 10 Bg5 Bb7 11 Rc1 Nc6 12 a3 Be7 13 Bd3 Rc8 14 Bb1 Re8 15
Re1 Nd5 16 h4 Na5 17 Qd3 g6 18 Ba2 Nxc3 19 Rxc3 Rxc3 20 bxc3 Bxf3 21
Qxf3 Bxg5 22 hxg5 Qxg5 23 d5



GM Alexander Stripunsky





23...Qd2 24 Re2 Qc1+ 25 Kh2 Qxa3 26 dxe6 Qd6+ 27 g3 fxe6 28 Qf6 Qf8
29 Bxe6+ Rxe6 30 Qxe6+ Qf7 31 Qd6 Nb7 32 Qb8+ Kg7 33 Qxa7 g5 34
Kg1 Qd7 35 Re1 Qc7 36 Rb1 1-0

Larry Larkins won the Under 2200 Section outright with a 4½-½ score. He did it the 'professional' way, four straight wins followed by the clinching draw in the final round. What was really impressive, however, is that he scored his points against the strongest possible competition: Larry's opponents turned out to be *the five players who finished in 2nd thru 6th place on the final crosstable!* It's hard



GM Alexander Shabalov

to recall that happening before in a big open event. Tom Alston & Scott Baldwin scored 4 points apiece to tie for 2nd-3rd, each winning all their games except of course for defeats at the hand of Larkins. Dwight McCurry's earned 4th place with 3½ points including the only draw versus the winner. Chris Bush, Ryan Thunder Rust & Danny Derby claimed the last of the prizes.

Jonathan Hundley ran up one of the two best scores of the weekend by sweeping the Under 1900 section 5-0. Robert Collins was runner up, half a point behind, and Kevin Brown was clear 3rd with 4-1. Carson Wang, Al Harvey & John Brooks scored 3½ apiece to claim the remaining prizes.

AL HARVEY - JONATHAN HUNDLEY

CARO-KANN

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 Bd3 Nc6 5 c3 Nf6 6 Bf4 g6 7 Nf3 Bg7 8 h3
0-0 9 0-0 Qb6 10 Qc2 Bd7 11 Nbd2 Rac8 12 a3 Nh5 13 Be5? Nxe5 14 dxe5
Nf4 15 Rfe1 Bh6 16 Nd4 Nxd3 17 Qxd3 Qxb2 18 N2f3 Rxc3 19 Qb1 Qxb1
20 Raxb1 b6 21 e6 fxe6 22 Ne5 Rd8 23 Nxd7 Rxd7 24 Rxe6 Bg7 25 Nc6 Kf7
26 Rbe1 Bf6 27 Nb8 Rdc7 28 Na6 R7c6 29 Rxc6 Rxc6 30 Rd1 d4 31 Rd3
Rc1+ 32 Kh2 Rc3 33 Nb4 a5 34 Rxc3 dxc3 35 Nc2 Ke6 36 Kg3 Kd5 37 Kf3
Kc4 38 Ke3 b5 39 Ke2 b4 40 axb4 axb4 41 Ne3+ Kb3 42 Kd3 Kb2 43 Nc4+
Ka2 44 Ne3 b3 45 Nd5 b2 46 Nb4+ Kb3 0-1

Ryan Santos & Brian Roark shared 1st-2nd in the Under 1600 group with 4½-½ scores. Christian Zarate followed at 4-1 while Bhavesh Patel, Walt Carey & Timothy Benning each scored 3½.



The Under 1300 section saw the other 5-0 score of the weekend. Dwighd Delgado registered the perfecto to finish a full point clear of Alfred Rucienski & George Purnell. Wesley Kandare & Cheng Wang each scored 3½.

One thing that distinguishes the Millennium is that it is indeed a chess *festival*, with various ancillary events besides the main tournament. One of the most popular is the Grandmaster Exhibition Dinner, held on Saturday evening. Two guest grandmasters contest a sort of consultation game, playing from different rooms while discussing the ongoing contest with the audience. The audience simultaneously feasts on a catered buffet dinner. The featured performers this year were GMs DeFirmian and Fedorowicz. They played a spirited Yugoslav Dragon game in which DeFirmian distinguished himself as the first to ever win the exhibition, the previous editions having always ended in draws!

3rd Annual

Richard K Delaune, Jr Memorial

June 1-3, 2007

US Chess Center

1501 M St NW,

Washington, DC 20005

5-SS, rd1 game/2, rds 2-5 30/90, SD/1. \$\$\$3300 (top 4 in Open G, rest based/120). *Open Section:* \$600-400-200-100 (top 4 G), top U2300 \$175; *U2200 Section:* \$400-200, top A, B each \$150, top Unr \$125; *U1600 Section:* \$325-175, top D, U1200 each \$150. *All Sections:* Top 3 in each section receive beautiful etched trophies. One irrevocable ½ pt bye allowed, must commit before rd 1. Reg Friday, 5/31 6:30-7:30pm, Opening Ceremony 7:45pm, rds 8, 10-5, 10-3:30. EF \$55 if rec'd by 5/24, \$65 afterwards and at site. W, FIDE. Special announcement: Richard's friends, two-time US Champ GM Joel Benjamin & GM John Fedorowicz will be playing! *Enter:* Make checks payable to US Chess Center, 1501 M St NW, Washington, DC 20005.

20 Grand Prix points

There was also the annual blitz tournament later that same Saturday night, conducted in two sections this year. Jaan Ehlevest won the Open group with 8½-1½, followed by Alexander Stripunsky (7½) and recent National High School Championship co-winner Alex Barnett (6½). David Paulina & Joseph Calapati were top U2200 and U2000 respectively. The Under 1800 Section was won by John Suess (8-2) followed by Adam Chrisney & Kevin Zhou both a point behind. Steven Romine was top U1300.

Sponsorship for 2007 Millennium Chess Festival was provided by Beach Events, Bit of England Dart and Game Shoppe, The Jewish Mother Deli & Restaurant and the Virginia Chess Federation. Ernie Schlich, Mike Atkins & Mike Hoffpauir directed ably. Attendance was a bit down compared to previous

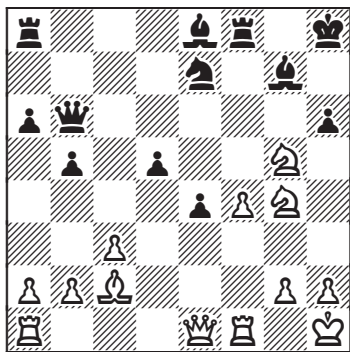


MCFs, attributable to the previous year's interruption in the series and especially to the USCF's inexplicable failure to print the Tournament Life announcement that had been submitted to *Chess Life*. Hopefully the event will regain its full glory next year. If you have never played in the Millennium Festival, you are missing a real treat: great competition in a beautiful venue with lots of amenities and extras.

NICK DEFIRMIAN - ALEXANDER SHABALOV

SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Na3 b5 9 Bxf6 gxf6 10 Nd5 f5 11 c3 Bg7 12 exf5 Bxf5 13 Nc2 0-0 14 Nce3 Be6 15 Bd3 f5 16 0-0 e4 17 Nf4 Bf7 18 Bc2 Be5 19 Nh3 Kh8 20 f4 Bf6 21 Nxf5 d5 22 Nh6 Be8 23 Ng5 Ne7 24 Qe1 Qb6+ 25 Kh1 Bg7 26 Ng4 h6



27 Nxe4 dxe4 28 Bxe4 Rc8 29 f5 Ng8 30 Qh4 Nf6 31 Nxf6 Qxf6 32 Qg3 Bf7 33 a3 Rc4 34 Rae1 Qg5 35 Qf3 Bf6 36 Bd5 Bxd5 37 Qxd5 Rh4 38 Qf3 Rg8 39 g3 Rg4 40 Re6 h5 41 Rxa6 h4 42 Ra8 hxg3 43 Rg1 g2+ 44 Qxg2 Rxg2 45 Rxg8+ Qxg8 0-1

ADITHYA BALASUBRAMANIAN - BRYAN SMITH

KING'S INDIAN ATTACK

1 Nf3 c5 2 g3 Nc6 3 Bg2 g6 4 0-0 Bg7 5 e4 Nf6 6 d3 0-0 7 c3 d5 8 Nbd2 e6 9 Re1 a5 10 Qa4 Bd7 11 Qc2 a4 12 Nf1 b5 13 Bf4 c4 14 exd5 Nxd5 15

Bd6 cxd3 16 Qxd3 a3 17 Bxf8 Qxf8 18 Ne3 axb2 19 Rab1 b4 20 Nxd5 exd5 21 Qxd5 bxc3 22 Qxd7 c2 23 Nd2 Ne5 24 Qb5 Rb8 25 Qa4 Qc5 26 Rxb2 Rxb2 27 Rc1 Nd3 28 Ne4 Nxc1 29 Qe8+ Qf8 0-1

ABBY MARSHALL - LARRY KAUFMAN

SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nc6 5 Nc3 d6 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Be2 Be7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Nb3 b6 10 Qd2 Bb7 11 Rad1 Rc8 12 f4 Qc7 13 Bf3 Qb8 14 Qf2 Rfe8 15 Kh1 Bf8 16 Rfe1 Ba8 17 Bc1 b5 18 e5 dxe5 19 fxe5 Nxe5 20 Bxa8 Qxa8 21 Rxe5 Ng4 22 Qe2 Nxe5 23 Qxe5 b4 24 Ne2 Rxc2 25 Nbd4 Rc5 26 Qg3 Qe4 27 Qf3 Qxf3 28 Nxf3 Rec8 29 a3 bxa3 30 bxa3 Rc2 31 Nfd4 Ra2 32 Ng3 Ra1 33 Nge2 Bxa3 34 Nb3 Rb1 35 Rd3 Bxc1 36 Rd1 Rxb3 37 Nxc1 Rb1 0-1

NICK DEFIRMIAN - ADITHYA BALASUBRAMANIAN

SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Na3 b5 9 Bxf6 gxf6 10 Nd5 Bg7 11 c3 f5 12 exf5 Bxf5 13 Nc2 0-0 14 Nce3 Be6 15 Bd3 f5 16 0-0 Ne7? 17 Nxe7+ Qxe7 18 Bxf5 [Oops! Now if 18...Bxf5 19 Nxf5 Rxf5 20 Qd5+ and Qxa8] 18...Kh8 19 Bxe6 Qxe6 20 Qd5 Qg6 21 Rad1 Rad8 22 Qc6 e4 23 Qxa6 Rf3 24 Qxb5 Rg8 25 g3



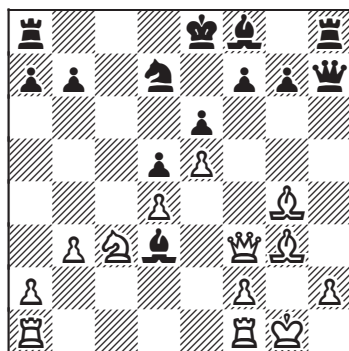
Be5 26 Qe2 h5 27 Ng2 Qg4 28 Rfe1
Rgf8 29 Qxe4 Qh3 30 Re2 R8f7 31
Nh4 R3f6 32 Ng6+ Kg7 33 Nxe5
dxe5 34 Qxe5 h4 35 Rd6 Qg4 36 Re4
Qxe4 37 Qxe4 Rxd6 38 Qxh4 Rdf6
39 Qd4 Kg8 40 b4 Rg6 41 a4 Rff6
42 a5 Rd6 43 Qc4+ Kf8 44 b5 Rd1+
45 Kg2 Rgd6 46 b6 Rb1 47 b7 Rd8
48 Qf4+ 1-0

LARRY KAUFMAN - ALEXANDER SHABALOV
SLAV

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 e3 e6
5 Bd3 Nbd7 6 Nbd2 c5 7 0-0 Be7 8
cxd5 Nxd5 9 Ne4 cxd4 10 exd4 0-0
11 Qe2 b6 12 Neg5 N7f6 13 Ne5 Bb7
14 Re1 Bb4 15 Rd1 Ne7 16 a3 Bd6 17
Bf4 Bd5 18 Rac1 Nf5 19 Bc4 h6 20
Ngf3 Rc8 21 h3 Bxc4 22 Rxc4 Nd5
23 Bc1 Qe7 24 Re1 Rxc4 25 Qxc4
Nh4 26 Qd3 Nxf3+ 27 Qxf3 Bxe5 28
dxe5 Rc8 29 Qg3 Kf8 30 Qd3 Kg8 31
Bd2 a5 32 Re4 Qc7 33 Qg3 Ne7 34
Bc3 Rd8 35 Kh2 Qc6 36 Rg4 Nf5 37
Qf4 Qc5 38 h4 Rd1 39 Qf3 Rc1 40
Rf4 Qb5 41 g4 Nxh4 42 Qa8+ Kh7
43 Rxf7 Qe2 44 Rf8 Ng6 45 Qf3 Qxf3
46 Rxf3 Ne7 47 Rf7 Nd5 48 Rb7 Kg6
49 Bd4 Rc2 50 Kg3 Rd2 51 Bc3 Rc2
52 f3 a4 and ½-½ after a few more
moves.

BRYAN SMITH - LARRY KAUFMAN
CARO-KANN

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 Bf5 4 Nf3 e6 5
Be2 Nd7 6 0-0 Bg6 7 b3 Nh6 8 c4
Nf5 9 g4?! Nh4 10 Nxh4 Qxh4 11
Bf4 h5 12 Bg3 Qh3 13 Bf3 hxg4 14
Bxg4 Qh7 15 cxd5 cxd5 16 Nc3 Bd3
17 Qf3!? (diagram)



Presumably with stuff like 17...Bxf1 18 Nxd5 in mind....

17...Rc8 18 Nxd5? Be4! 19 Rac1
Rxc1 20 Rxc1 Bxd5! 21 Rc8+ Ke7
22 Qf4 Qb1+ 23 Rc1 Qe4 0-1

LAMONT ROGERS - AL HARVEY
SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4
Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be3 e5 7 Nb3 Be6 8
f3 Nbd7 9 Qd2 Rc8 10 0-0-0 b5 11
g4 Nb6 12 g5 Nh5 13 Kb1 Be7 14
Rg1 g6 15 h4 Nc4 16 Bxc4 bxc4 17
Nc1 Rb8 18 Nd5 Rb5 19 Ne2 Bxd5
20 exd5 Qb8 21 Qc3 Kd7 22 Bc1 Rc8
23 Rgf1 f5 24 f4 Rcc5 25 Ka1 Qc7 26
Qa3 Ra5 27 Qf3 Qb7 28 Nc3 Bf8 29
Qf2 Bg7 30 Be3 Rc8 31 Rb1 Rb8 32
Ba7 Ra8 33 Bb6 Rb5 34 Nxb5 axb5
35 fxe5 Rxa2+ 0-1

MACON SHIBUT - JAAN EHLVEST
ENGLISH

1 e4 g6 2 g3 Bg7 3 Bg2 c5 4 Ne2
Nc6 5 0-0 Nf6 6 c4 0-0 7 Nbc3 Ne8
8 d3 Nc7 9 Be3 Ne6 10 Qd2 d6 11
Bh6 Rb8 12 Bxg7 Kxg7 13 f4 Bd7
14 f5 Ned4 15 Rf2 Nxe2+ 16 Nxe2
Ne5 17 h3 b5 18 b3 a5 19 Nc3 a4 20
Nd5 f6 21 cxb5 Bxb5 22 Nf4 Bd7 23



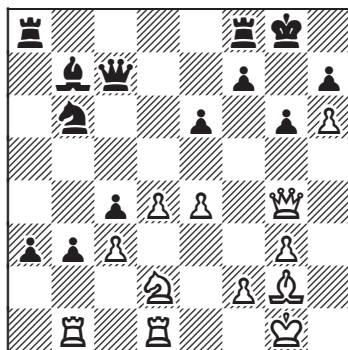
bx4 g5 24 Nd5 Bc6 25 d4 cxd4 26 Qxd4 Bxd5 27 exd5 Qa5 28 a3 Rfc8 29 Bf1 Rb3 30 Kh2 Nf3+ 31 Rxf3 Rxf3 32 Bg2 Qc3 33 Qa7 Re3 34 Rb1 Qe5 0-1

Finally, an amazing turnabout from the Under 1900 section.

VICTOR SMITH - ROBERT CLIFTON

SLAV

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 dxc4 5 a4 Nd5 6 e4 Nxc3 7 bxc3 b5 8 axb5 cxb5 9 Ba3 Bb7 10 Qc2 Nd7 11 g3 e6 12 Bxf8 Nxf8 13 Bg2 Nd7 14 0-0 a5 15 Rfd1 Nb6 16 Qe2 0-0 17 h4 b4 18 Rab1 b3 19 Nd2 Qc7 20 h5 a4 21 h6 g6 22 Qg4 a3 (diagram)



23 Nxb3 a2 24 Nc5 axb1Q 25 Rxb1 Bc6 26 Qf3 f5 27 Nxe6 Qa7 28 Nxf8 Bxe4 29 Qf4 Bxg2 30 Nxg6 Be4 31 Ne5 Bxb1? [Too much; 31...Nd5] 32 Qg5+ Kf8 33 Qf6+ Ke8 34 Qh8+ Ke7 35 Qxh7+ Kd6 36 Qg6+ Kc7 37 Qc6+ Kb8 38 h7! Qxh7 39 Qxb6+ Qb7 40 Nc6+ 1-0



Springfield Open

May 19-20, 2007

Holiday Inn Express- Springfield

6401 Brandon Ave, Springfield, Va 22150.

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

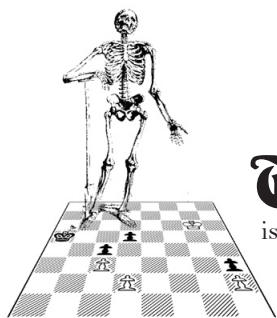
5-SS, rds 1-3 game/2, rds 4-5 30/90 SD/1. \$\$2,100, top 3 G, rest b/70: \$550-350-200 (G), top X, A, B, C, D and Top U1200 each \$150, Top Unrated \$100. Reg Saturday May 19, 8:45am-9:45am, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-3:30. One irrevocable ½ pt bye allowed, must commit with entry, none allowed after after play starts. W, NS, FIDE. Hotel \$85, reserve before 10/20 ask for chess rate and mention the tournament, 703-644-5555. **Prize fund increased if more than 25 stay overnight at hotel May 19!** Plenty of nearby eateries and places to visit. EF \$45 if rec'd by May 12th, \$55 at site. *Enter:* Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA 22306. Make checks to "Michael Atkins". Email Info matkins2@cox.net but **no email entries**. Web info at <http://members.cox.net/tournaments/springfield.htm>

15 Grand prix points



The Death of Romanticism in Chess

by Tim Rogolski



THE LATVIAN GAMBIT, centuries earlier romantically known as the Greco Counter Gambit, is an aggressively wild, double-edged opening that is entertaining to play with either color. World Champions and future World Champions have all fallen under the razor-sharp blade of 2...f5! This rare opening, infrequently seen in over-the-board (OTB) tournaments, is nonetheless championed by devout legions of loyal correspondence players. Even as serious OTB players dismiss the Latvian as dubious, thematic correspondence tournaments dedicated to it are being reverently contested in dim shadowed attics as you read these very words... Here is a thought-provoking statistic: Dr Marius Bartsch won the finals of the 3rd Latvian Gambit Correspondence World Championship without losing a single game as Black. That's a very revealing fact! So what is the real verdict?

In his excellent book *The Chess Advantage in Black and White*, IM Larry Kaufman recommends Bronstein's pet line, 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f5 3 Nxe5 Qf6 4 d4 d6 5 Nc4 fxe4 6 Be2!, and to the dismay of Latvian Gambit connoisseurs everywhere, Black is suddenly pressed for a good continuation. I suspect that if you ever get to play 6 Be2 in an OTB game, you could take an early break and find Black still thinking about his move when you get back to the board.

So first Larry took all the enjoyment out of the Schliemann Ruy Lopez, locking it forever into a museum showcase like a stuffed animal; and now he's relentlessly pounding nails into the Latvian Gambit coffin!! When is this going to stop? Chess is first and foremost a game, and aren't games supposed to be fun? Someone needs to please resurrect J H Donner and hand him back his pen! Yes, yes, and after calming down, one reluctantly agrees that Larry's evaluations are correct, of course, and that the above remarks are just ramblings borne out of impotent frustration. Sigh... Why (while I am shaking my head and knitting my eyebrows), oh, why do I love dubious openings?!

In the mid-1980s, before Fritz, I played in the Pablo Atars Latvian Gambit Memorial correspondence tournament. Here I crossed swords with players from the US, France, Netherlands, East Germany and the Soviet Union. I got the impression my opponents were more interested in receiving the stamps on my postcards than in my moves! I joked with my Soviet opponent, thanking him for revealing state secrets; the next card that I received from him was from Siberia!



One of my games was against Kon Grivainis, who literally wrote the book on the Latvian Gambit. Rogalski-Grivainis went 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f5 3 Nxe5 Qf6 4 d4 d6 5 Nc4 fxe4 6 Nc3 Qg6 7 f3 exf3 8 Qxf3 Nc6 9 Bd3 Qg4 10 Qf2 Qxd4 11 Be3 Qf6 12 Qe2 Be6 13 Ne4 Qh4+ 14 Bf2! [improves on book] Qg4 15 Qe3 Kd7 16 0-0 Re8 17 Rae1 Nf6 18 h3 Qh5 19 g4 Nxg4 20 hxg4 Qxg4+ 21 Bg3 Re7 22 Rf4 Qh5 23 Bh4 Re8 24 Ng5 Bh3 25 Qxh3+ Kd8 26 Nf7 *mate!* 1-0 This game was published on page 65 of the Oct 86 issue of *Chess Life*; however, it has never been published in a Latvian Gambit book, including any Grivainis revision.

Ten years later, in 1996, I came across a really obscure sacrificial line for White and decided to try it against my master-rated Mach III computer. Using a time control of game/60, Rogalski-Mach III went 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f5 3 Nxe5 Qf6 4 Nc4 fxe4 5 b3!? Qxa1 6 Bb2 Qxa2 7 Nc3 Qa6 8 Nd5 Qc6?! [The greedy machine did not put up the strongest defense. With the correct 8...Kd8 it could have demonstrated that Black can win in the opening playing nothing but pawn, queen, and king moves!] 9 Qh5+ Kd8 10 Ne5 Qxd5 11 Nf7+ Qxf7 12 Qxf7 Ne7 13 Bxg7 Bxg7 14 Qxg7 Rg8 15 Qxh7 d5 16 Be2 Rxg2 17 h4 Rg8 18 h5 Nbc6 19 h6 Nd4? 20 Qxg8+! Nxg8 21 h7 and White went on to win. The shockingly unexpected 5 b3 is a great line to play in blitz!

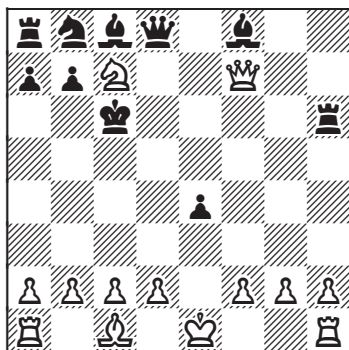
The following game was played in that same Pablo Atars Memorial. My polite French opponent went all out for a quick kill. He didn't realize that I was like-minded.

PIERRE ALLOIN - TIMOTHY ROGALSKI

CORRESPONDENCE , MID 1990S

LATVIAN GAMBIT

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f5 3 Bc4 fxe4 4 Nxe5 d5 [Surprisingly, few participants played the more adventurous 4...Qg5 in this tournament.] **5 Qh5+** [Black looks completely busted, but he is only taunting White.] **5...g6 6 Nxg6 hxg6 7 Qxg6+** [As White, I played both 7 Qxg6+ and 7 Qxh8 because I wanted to experiment with different variations to learn the opening. As Black, I had more success against 7 Qxh8, so I believe that 7 Qxg6+ is stronger.] **7...Kd7** [Because of the highly tactical nature of the position, Black's plan is simply to survive! And hope to win later with his extra material.] **8 Bxd5 Nf6 9 Nc3 Nxd5** [9...Qe7 is considered stronger and has more published material associated with it. At the time I didn't see any appreciable difference between 9...Nxd5 and 9...Qxe7 and chose the text because I reasoned that with fewer pieces on the board, White's attack should be diminished.] **10 Nxd5 Rh6** [*The Latvian Gambit Lives!* by Kosten labels this "?!" while the rare 10...c6 is now considered better—but the books continue with making White play an amateurish-looking 11 Qf7+, whereupon 11...Be7 12 Nf6+ Kc7 13 Nxe4 Rf8 14 Qg7 Bf5 and Black's pieces are indeed becoming more active than White's. 11 Nf6+ seems better, eg 11...Kc7 12 Nxe4 Qd5 13 Qg3+ Kd8 14 d3 with the idea of pushing the h-pawn as far as it will go to tie down Black's pieces.] **11 Qf7+ Kc6 12 Nxc7!**

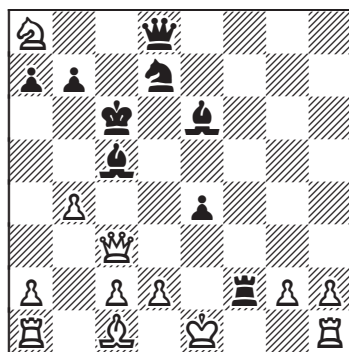


12 Nxc7!

material and making threats. The key to his activity lies in preventing White from castling to safety. If that happens then Black would indeed be lost. I had to make my decision to sacrifice based on intuition because it was simply impossible to analyze every concrete variation, just like in Shogi.] **13 Qc4+ Bc5 14 Nxa8** [Taking the undeveloped rook with the active knight looks somewhat forced for White; not 14 d4 exd3 15 Nxa8 Be6 16 Qe4+ Bd5 17 Qxd3 Bxf2+ 18 Kd1 Bf3+! 19 gxf3 Rd6 and Black wins the queen while getting good counterplay. The Black queen will dance around the board firing off salvos before White can bring his rooks into play.] **14...Be6 15 Qc3 Rxf2 16 b4** [What else? If White gives back material to connect his rooks, after 16 d3 exd3 17 Qxc5+ Kxc5 18 Be3+ Kb5 19 Kxf2 dxc2 it is Black that is to be preferred. With the text White is now going to win another piece outright, but his backward development looks telling.] **16...Nd7** (diagram)

In this increasingly complicated position, White is an exchange and three pawns up, and can immediately capture the c5-bishop; however, he should be thinking about king safety, and then win with his material preponderance.

17 bxc5? [Here is where White greedily goes wrong and gives Black the one-move breather he so desperately needs to stay alive. The alert 17 Qg3! protects the g2-pawn, prevents Black's restraining Bg4, and threatens to brutally end all counterplay by exchanging queens with 18 Qc7+ Black could then only sheepishly retreat his rook, and allow the c5-bishop

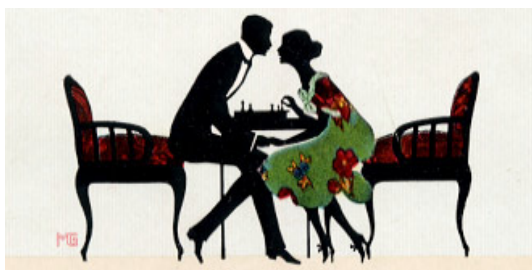


16...Nd7

to be captured. White would be winning cleanly.] **17...Rxcg2** [Ravenous rooks on the 7th are like insatiably hungry wolves. White is now exposed to too many nasty threats.] **18 Ba3** [The fascinating, study-like 18 h4 Bg4 19 Qg7 e3!? 20 dxe3 Nf6



21 Qc7+ Qxc7 22 Nxc7 Ne4! appears to give Black just enough for the half-point, even after White's best move, 23 Ne6! Remarkable.] 18...Bg4! 19 Kf1 [White can force a perpetual with 19 Qd4 Qh4+ 20 Kf1 Bh3 21 Qa4+ (however, one way to ruin everything is to take the fiery road into Gehenna starting with 21 Qd6+?? Kb5 22 Rb1+ Ka5 23 Bb4+ Ka4 24 Qxd7+ Bxd7 25 Kxg2 and Black mates in five) 21...Kd5 22 Qb3+ Kc6 23 Qa4+] 19...Re2 [19...Qg5!? would have forced White to capture the g2-rook and acquiesce to an open-board Black perpetual after 20 Kxg2 Bf3+, but this line would have provided more practical chances for a Black win. If White tries for more by disdainfully refusing the rook, he could have easily gone astray and himself feel the poisonous sting at the end of the scorpion's tail. For example, 20 h4? Be2+ 21 Ke1 Qf5 22 Qd4 e3!! 23 Qd6+ (or 23 Qxe3 Ne5 and White is busted since he is left with nothing but spite checks.) 23...Kb5 24 Rb1+ Ka5 25 Bb4+ Ka4 and White is helpless.] 20 Qd4 Qf8+ [20...Qh4 21 Qd6+ Kb5 22 Rb1+ Ka5 23 Bb4+ Ka4 leads to several tranquil paths of peaceful equality. Believe It or Not!] 21 Kg1 Qf3 22 Qa4+ [Again not 22 Qd6+?? Kb5 23 Rb1+ Ka5 24 Qc7+ Nb6! 25 Qg3 Bh3 26 Qxf3 exf3 27 cxb6 f2mate—very pretty!] 22...Kd5 23 Qb3+ [White is relieved to be rescued by this resource.] 23...Qxb3 24 cxb3 Bh3! [The saving coup de grace! Black is materially down more than a full rook but forces a beautiful miniature windmill combination.] 25 Bb2 Rxd2 26 Bc3 Rg2+ 27 Kf1 Rxh2+ 28 Kg1 Rg2+ 29 Kf1 Rh2+ 30 Kg1 ½-½ This game was published on page 62 of the book, *The Latvian Gambit* by Lein & Pickard; and again on page 48 of the September 1987 issue of *Chess Life*. Each side had the comforting safety of their pawn structures explosively blown apart, forcing both kings to make arduous journeys against their will. Material was callously sacrificed like hot-air ballooners furiously jettisoning ballast overboard to remain afloat over life-threatening terrain. Tactical eruptions violently shook the entire board causing the resulting positions to be imbalanced and unstable. And yet, with a chorus of angels singing in the background, the warm sun broke through the stormy clouds and the final position crystallized into a calm and soothing equality. Although the result was only a split point, the spirit of the Latvian Gambit was vibrantly alive in this game, and cheerfully singing throughout like a hysterically happy bird.





Kingstown Chess Club News

by Don Millican

KINGSTOWNE CHESS FESTIVAL

Kingstowne Chess Club held its 5th annual Chess Festival over the weekend of February 10-11 in Alexandria. We were forced to scale back the tournament from previous years due to a low turnout at the Fall Festival in October of 2006. However, the reduced amenities and prize money did not hurt turnout this time; a record 65 players competed for more than \$1,400.

The Open section drew 18 players, including two FIDE titleholders and 7 FIDE-rated players. FMs Boris Reichstein & Boris Zisman, both from Silver Spring, Md, tied for 1st along with Gill Guo of North Potomac. John Farrell of Alexandria and Tyler Cook of Vienna won Top Under 2000 and Top Under 1800 respectively.

Lisa Kong of Rockville & Michael Donovan of Fairfax tied for 1st in the Amateur (U1800-unrated) while Alan Lofdahl was 3rd. Dexter Wright from Newport News secured the U1600 prize and Kevin Huo won Under 1400. 11 players competed.

Brian Li of Fairfax & Wyatt Banks finished atop the 9-player Booster (U1600-unrated) section. Saroja Erabelli was 3rd. Byron O'Neal took Under 1400.

It looked like James Johnson was going to win the 27-player Novice (U1400-unrated) section going away, but William Moore foiled his bid for a perfect score. Still, Johnson emerged the clear winner while Moore tied for 2nd-4th with Richard Li & Brian Higgins. Eric Huang won Under 1200, Rahul Ramraj took Under 1000, and Top Unrated went to Wei Feng.

1st Fort Myer Open Chess Tournament

May 12, 2007

Recreation Center, 228 McNair Rd, Bldg 405
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4-SS, game/60. Open to all current USCF members. \$\$300 b/25 paid entries: \$100-60, U1800, U1400, Unrated, & Upset each \$35. EF \$20 by May 11, \$5 more afterwards, \$5 discount to Armed Forces retirees, \$10 discount to active duty Armed Forces and jrs under 18 years old. Reg 8:30-9:10am, rds 9:15-11:30-1:45-4:00. NS, NC, W. Please register in advance! Please brings sets & clocks. *Enter:* DGavin, Box 142, Braddock Hts MD 21714. Info by email (no entries) chessgrunt2000@hotmail.com. Photo ID required for access; mention chess tourney at Rec Center to security guards. Cars subject to inspection so come clean and early. Tournament proceeds support the Ft Myer Recreation Center - support the troops while playing chess!



KINGSTOWNE QUAD #36/ACTION-PLUS #8

A major tournament at University of Maryland Baltimore County and a large scholastic event near Richmond reduced attendance at the March 10 edition of the Kingstowne Quads. Only three registered for the Action-Plus, too few to have the tournament. Two decided to play in the Quads instead, while the remaining player decided to make it a non-chess day. This left a total turnout of ten in the Quads, with the bottom section of six playing a Swiss.

Virginia State Champion Andrew Samuelson won a gold medal in the top Quad with a perfect 3-0 score. The second-place bronze medal went to Michael Callinan with 2. The Swiss saw four players finish on top with 2 points apiece: Samuel Golant, William Wilson Jr, Wyatt Banks & Stacey Bryden. With only three medals to award, tiebreaks left Bryden as the odd player out. Golant got the 1st place gold, Wilson scored 2nd place silver, and Banks the 3rd place bronze.

On May 5, the Quick-and-Done format returns along with Quad #38 and Action-Plus #10. Full details on both events are in *Chess Life*.

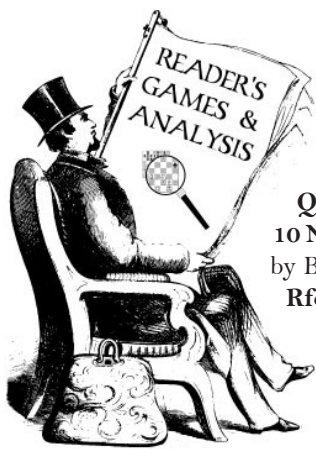
KINGSTOWNE QUAD #37/ACTION-PLUS #9

If the previous month's event was a famine with only ten players participating, the April 7 event turned out to be a feast: a total of thirty-one players combined, with plenty of participants for both the Quad and the Action-Plus.

Sixteen played in the Quads, four full sections. Billy Louis White won the top Quad and a silver medal with 2½ points. Kun Liu took the 2nd place bronze medal with 2. Quad 2's winner was Andy Yang, scoring 2½ points and a silver medal. With 1½, Pamela Lee took home the bronze as runner-up. Jimmy Wang scored 2 points to win the third Quad and a silver medal. Aravind Ponukumati & Fiona Lam tied for second with 1½, Lam winning the bronze medal on tiebreak. The bottom Quad saw the only gold medal (perfect 3-0 score) winner in the person of Aditya Ponukumati. All the remaining players in the section scored 1 and Gavin Moore was awarded the bronze medal on tiebreak.

With fifteen players, the Action-Plus enjoyed its second-best turnout ever. The winner, with 4½ points, was Quentin Moore (brother of Quad 4 runner-up Gavin Moore). Harry Cohen & Bofan Wu tied for 2nd with Wu also claiming the Under 1800. William Moore made it a trifecta (sons Gavin and Quentin also prize winners for the day) by taking the Under 1400 prize. Top Unrated went to Sarma Ragavr with 2½.

The next Kingstowne event will be Quad #38/Action-Plus #10/Quick & Done # 4 on May 5. Details are in *Chess Life*.



LEIF KARRELL - TIM HAMILTON
BALTIMORE CHESS LEAGUE 2007

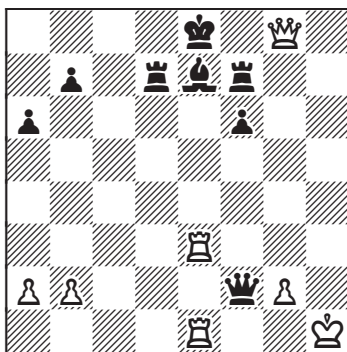
FRENCH

Notes by Tim Hamilton

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 c5 4 Ngf3 Nf6 5 exd5
Qxd5 6 Bc4 Qd6 7 0-0 cxd4 8 Nb3 Qc7 9 Qe2 Nc6
10 Nbxd4 Nxd4 11 Nxd4 a6 [So far, a position reached
by Botvinnik among others as Black] 12 Bg5 Bd6 13
Rfe1 [There are no games in my database with this.
13 Rad1 0-0 has been seen before. {The position after
13 Rfe1 has occurred by transposition, eg, in Van der
Weil-Noguieras, Rotterdam 1989 and again in Oim-
Sloth, Correspondence World Championship Jubilee
2004. In both of those instances Black responded by

13...0-0. The Van der Weil-Noguieras game then continued
14 g3 Ne4 15 Qxe4 Qxc4 (½, 35 moves), while Oim-Sloth developed in a much more

interesting fashion: 14 Bxf6 gxf6 15 Bd3 Bxh2+
16 Kf1 Bf4 17 Qh5 f5 18 g4 (1-0, 55 moves)
—ed}] 13...Bxh2+ 14 Kh1 Bd6 15 Bxe6
Bxe6 16 Nxe6 fxe6 17 Qxe6+ Be7 18 Re3
Rf8 19 Rae1 Rf7 20 Bxf6 gxf6 21 Rg3 Rd8
22 Qg4 Qxc2 23 Qg8+ Rf8 24 Qe6 Qc5
25 Qe4 Rd7 26 Qxh7 Qxf2 27 Rge3 Rf7
28 Qg8+ ½-½



Draw?

I should have declined the draw offer, eg
28...Rf8 29 Qh7 Kd8! 30 R3e2 (30 Rxe7?
Qxe1+ ouch) 30...Qg3 31 Re3 Bb4! winning,
as Crafty points out. I didn't see this stuff:

a) 32 Rxg3 Rxh7+ and wins a rook; b) 32 Qxd7+ Kxd7 33 Rd1+ Qd6;
c) 32 Qh6 Qg8 [Δ Rh7 or Bxe1] 33 Qh2 [tactically answering both threats
but failing to a shot] 33...Bd6! spoils all the fun for White. [But obviously not
33...Bxe1? 34 Qb8#; nor the tempting 33...Rh7? 34 Rd1+ Bd6 35 Rxd6+ with
two lines: 35...Kc8 36 Rh3 and White is no worse; or 35...Kc7? 36 Re7+!! Rxe7
37 Re6+ and White even wins.]

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TIM HAMILTON - LARRY LARKINS

2007 VIRGINIA OPEN

FRENCH

Notes by Tim Hamilton

A good game against a difficult opponent for me; he won in our previous couple of encounters. Shredder and I had a look at it, with no definite conclusions reached.

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 f4 c5 6 Nf3 Nc6 7 Be3 a6 8 Be2 b5 9 f5!? [One of those moves that may not be objectively best (in fact it doesn't even rank among Shredder's top ten candidate moves for the position) but it puts Black into a maze of tempting possibilities and challenges him to find his way. It is moreover in keeping with the Nimzowitsch idea of attacking a pawn chain at the base.] **9...cxd4** [I can only find one precedent, which ended in a draw: 9...exf5 10 Nxd5 cxd4 11 Nxd4 Ndxe5 12 Nxc6 Nxc6 13 0-0 Bd6 14 Nb6 Rb8 15 Nxc8 Rxc8 16 Rxf5 Qc7 17 Rh5 g6 18 Rh3 0-0 19 c3 Rfe8 20 Bg5 Bc5+ 21 Kh1 Qe5 22 Bg4 Qxg5 23 Bxc8 Rxc8 24 Qd7 Qd8 25 Qg4 f5 26 Qf3 Ne5 27 Qb7 Rc7 28 Qxa6 Ng4 29 Qe6+ Kg7 30 Rf3 Re7 31 Qc6 Nf2+ 32 Kg1 Qd2 33 Rf1 Nh3+ 34 Kh1 Nf2+ 35 Kg1 Nh3+ 36 Kh1 Nf2+ 37 Kg1 Diaz -Trabanco, Asturias 1999] **10 fxe6 fxe6!** [10...dxe3 11 exf7+ Ke7 (11... Kxf7 12 Qxd5+) 12 Qxd5 Qc7 13 Qe4 Nb6 14 0-0 Bb7 15 e6 Rd8 16 Qxe3 White wins -Shredder 10] **11 Nxd4 Nxd4** [11...Ndxe5!?] **12 Bxd4 b4? 13 Nxd5! exd5 14 Bh5+ g6 15 0-0 Bg7** [15...Qc7 16 Qf3 (16 e6 Ne5; 16 Bf3 Bc5) 16...Bc5 17 c3 gxh5 18 Qxh5+ Kd8 19 e6 bxc3 20 bxc3 Qb6 21 Qxd5 Qb7 22 Qg5+ Be7 23 Qa5+ Qc7 24 Qxc7+

Kxc7 25 Bxh8] **16 Qf3 Qe7** [16...Rf8 17 Qxd5 Rb8 18 Rad1 Rb5 19 Bxg6+ hxg6 20 Qe6+ Qe7 21 Qxg6+ Kd8 22 Bb6+ Rxb6 23 Qxb6+ Ke8 24 Qg6+ Kd8 25 Rxf8+ Bxf8 26 e6 Qc5+ 27 Kh1 Qc6 28 e7+] **17 Qxd5 Rb8 18 e6 Ne5 19 Bxe5 Bxe6 20 Qc6+ Bd7** [20...Qd7 21 Qe4 Qb7 22 Bxg6+ hxg6 23 Qxg6+ Bf7 24 Qg3 Qb6+ 25 Kh1 Qg6 26 Bxb8 Qxg3 27 Bxg3 0-0 28 Be1 wins; 20... Kd8 21 Rad1+] **21 Bxg6+ hxg6 22 Qxg6+ Kd8 23 Bxb8 1-0**

GEOFFREY MCKENNA - RAY KAUFMAN

DC CHESS LEAGUE 2007

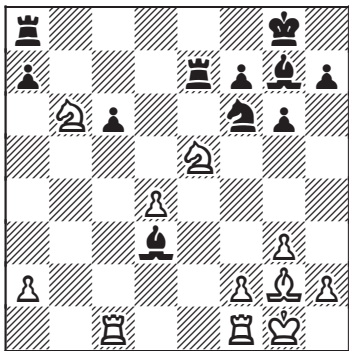
ENGLISH?

Notes by Geoff McKenna

1 c4 g6 2 Nc3 Bg7 3 g3 e6!? [Very enterprising. Maybe I'm supposed to play 4 e4 here.] **4 d4 d5 5 cxd5 exd5 6 Bg2 c6** [White has grounds for concern here. The pawn structure resembles an exchange Queens Gambit Accepted, where White usually aims for c6 while Black tries to mate him, but in this case the modest weakening of White's kingside guarantees Black a lot of play. Therefore, White tries to steer the game in a different direction, aiming for the Q+B battery pointing at h6.] **7 Bf4 Qb6** [Didn't see that one. Now I lose a pawn.] **8 Nf3 Qxb2 9 Rc1 Ne7** [Here and again on the next move ...Bf5 is an interesting alternative.] **10 O-O Nd7** [It looks more natural to play 10...O-O but then 11 Bd6 Re8 12 Rc2! Qb6 13 Bxe7 Rxe7 14 Nxd5 is good for White.] **11 Qd3** [Threatening, e.g. 11...O-O 12 Rb1 Qa3 13 Nd5] **11...Qb6 12 e4** [White's lead in development is worth more than a pawn.] **12...O-O 13 Bd6 Re8**



14 Bxe7 [14 Re1 is a more principled continuation. One of the problems with gambits is that after a while you want your pawn back.] **14...Rxe7 15 exd5 Nf6 16 dxc6 bxc6 17 Ne5** [Maybe 17 Na4 is better.] **17...Ba6** [Didn't see that one either.] **18 Na4 Bxd3** [The other tries work out surprisingly well for White, eg 18...Qa5 19 Nxc6] **19 Nxb6**



[Now maybe Black should play 19... Bxf1 20 Nxa8 Bxg2 21 Kxg2 when an eventual ...Ne8 might leave the White knight trapped on a8.] **19...axb6 20 Nxd3 Rxa2** [Now White has three ways to recover the pawn on c6. My

current favorite is 21 Rxc6 but in the game I took with the bishop to help nudge the my d-pawn forward and clear an escape off the back rank in time pressure.] **21 Bxc6 Rd2 22 Rfd1** [Here I worried a lot about 22...Ne4] **22...Rxd1+ 23 Rxd1 Ne4 24 d5 Rc7? 25 Rb1** [The b-pawn can't be defended, eg 25...Bd4 26 Rb4 Nd2 27 Kg2 Bc5 28 Nxc5 bxc5 29 Rb8+ Kg7 30 d6 Rxc6 31 d7] **25...Ra7 26 Rxb6 h5 27 Rb8+ Kh7 28 Rb7?** [Black is probably holding anyway but after the text it's trivial.] **28...Rxb7 29 Bxb7 Bd4 30 Kf1?! Nc5** [In team events one must sometimes play on against his better judgment, but after another dozen moves we nonetheless agreed to a draw.] ... 1/2-1/2

GREG ACHOLONU - GEOFF MCKENNA
DC CHESS LEAGUE 2007

RÉTI

Notes by Geoff McKenna

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 g6 3 d3 d5 4 c4! [White has a small initiative. I spent most of my time thinking about 4...dxc4 5 Qa4+

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There are a couple possibilities: 5...Qd7 6 Qxc4 Qc6 7 Qxc6+ and White is a little better; or the complicated 5...Bd7 6 Qxc4 Bc6 7 Bg2. I opted for a slightly crummy Gruenfeld formation.] **4...Bg7 5 Nc3?! d4** [The point is that after 6 Nb5? e5 7 Nxe5?? c6 8 Na3 Qa5+ Black wins, so Black grabs a couple of tempi.] **6 Nb1 0-0 7 Bg2 Nc6** [Walter Morris proposed 7...c5 in the post-mortem. I was a afraid of some sort of deferred reversed Benko with b4. Also, my biggest fear here was a direct Kingside assault involving h4-5, to counter which the text is supposed to threaten the rapid advance of Black's e-pawn.] **8 0-0 Bf5** [Black has a space advantage, so he's trying to discourage White from liberating his game with e2-e3.] **9 Nbd2 a5 10 Nb3 e5 11 Nc5 Qe7** [Now if 12 Nb8 Rfb8 13 Qb3 Ra7 14 Qb5 Nd8 traps the Knight on b7] **12 Na4 Rfe8** [Black should have a big advantage around here but my next few moves drift badly.] **13 Qb3 Qd6?! 14 Ng5?!** [White might actually gain the advantage by 14 c5 Qd7 15 Nh4 allowing either 15...Rab8 16 Nxf5 with

a small edge; or the shocking 15...Be6 16 Qxb7 Bd5 17 Nb6! +-] **14...Rab8 15 Bd2 Bf8 16 a3 e4 17 Bf4 Qd7 18 dxe4 Nxe4 19 Nf3 h6 20 Rad1 g5** [Black has a space advantage and the White knight on a4 is a little out of play. Therefore, Black pushes hard on the Kingside.] **21 Bc1 Nf6** [It is painful to retreat such a seemingly active piece but the defense of its advanced post was tying up my whole army.] **22 Rfe1 Bh3 23 Qb5?** [White should preserve his fianchetto Bishop with 23 Bh1] **23...Bxg2 24 Kxg2 Qg4 25 h3?** [This was played in the hope of 25...Qh5 26. Qf5+-, but by centralizing Black gets a small advantage.] **25... Qe4 26 Kg1 Bd6 27 c5** [The last few moves of the time scramble are pretty random.] **27...Qd5 28 b4 axb4 29 axb4 Ne4 30 Bb2 Be5 31 e3??** [An extra move played *a tempo* after the time control.] **31...Nxg3 32 Kg2** [Agony, but Nf3-any allows ...Qh1#] **32...Nh5** [I had enough time to notice that my intended 32...Nf5 gets forked by e4] **33 Qe2 Bg7** [Δ ...Nf4] **34 Qd2 Ne5 35 Qe2 Ng6** with unstoppable threats a knight to f4 or h4. **0-1**

4th George Washington Open - Jun 15-17, 2007

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30 Grand Prix points



Book Review

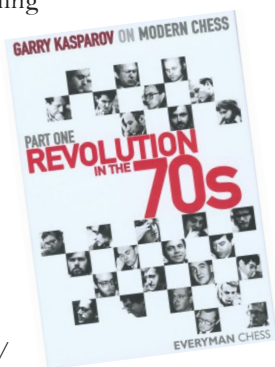
Garry Kasparov On Modern Chess – Revolution In the 70s, by Garry Kasparov
Everyman Chess, hardcover, 416 pages, list price \$45

WE WROTE AT LENGTH about the initial two volumes of Garry Kasparov's *My Great Predecessors* series back in *Virginia Chess* issues #2003/4 and 2004/1. Three additional *Predecessors* books appeared subsequently but we did not review them, having assessed the situation thus in our discussion of volume 2. "*Part II* flows seamlessly from *Part I*. ... Do we roll out the full parade for each volume? Even if we wind up repeating ourselves? Or do we defer serious assessment of *any* of them until the entire series is finished, reasoning that in fact they comprise a single book that is as yet a work in progress?"

Now Kasparov has declared *Predecessors* finished and a new project begun, so perhaps the time has come to reconsider the work as a whole. One thing that became clear over time is that the word **My** in its title is just as important as **Predecessors**. That is, these books are as much about Garry Kasparov as they are about the games and lives of great masters past.

Time and again Kasparov pounds home an historical/evolutionary context—a move was important not just because it won a game but because it “foreshadows the chess of twenty years in the future,” or simply because it was “amazing for 1931.” Turns out this was no aimless progression. Rather, it had a very definite end in sight, and that end is nothing less than the apex of 20th century chess: the style and technique of Kasparov himself. Thus what *Predecessors* highlighted as most praiseworthy or important in each champion turns out to be precisely those qualities that came we recognize as hallmarks of Kasparov's own style. For example, Bobby Fischer's most important theoretical contribution is judged to be that he took opening preparation to new and unimagined level.

The title thus emerges as something blindingly honest: *My Great Predecessors*! The books do not simply anthologize masters of the past; they revisit and lay bare the author's own roots. Which is not bad or unduly immodest in this case. After all, Kasparov was absolutely the world's dominant player for two decades, and his style and technique represent the highest achievements of chess understanding. So he rightly strikes the Isaac Newton pose: “If I have seen further it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.”





The line of Kasparov's predecessors ends with Karpov, who was the subject of *My Great Predecessors, Volume 5*. But there remains much to tell, so now we supposedly enter a new phase as explained in the Forward of *Revolution In the 70s*:

With this volume I open a new, essentially autobiographical 'Modern Chess Series', which will also cover all my matches with Anatoly Karpov, my selected games, and my matches with computers. Initially the history of the openings revolution of the 1970-1980s and of the battles with Karpov was conceived as the final part of the project *My Great Predecessors*, but the chapter about the 12th world champion brought us to this natural conclusion. What will now be described are events in which I took a direct part.

Kasparov was born in 1963. He learned chess at age 6 and joined his first chess club a year later, ie around 1970. By 1972 he had attained a rating equivalent to approximately 2000 USCF. Although he had missed most of Fischer's career, we can accept that the 1972 Fischer-Spassky match would have been the big event energizing and shaping the chess environment in which the future champion developed. Later in the Forward to *Revolution*, Kasparov writes:

Fischer demonstrated the need for the further refining and deepening of opening preparation for both colors. Although, after becoming word champion, Fischer gave up playing, and many of his schemes soon became outdated, the tectonic shifts that he had caused generated a powerful avalanche, which over a period of ten years redrew the entire opening 'map of the world.' Between 1972 and 1975 alone the progress in the field was more significant than in the entire preceding decade! ... In one volume it is hardly possible to describe all the innovations of the 1970-1980s, but I will try to give as full an impression as possible of this important stage in the enormous progress that chess has taken from Philidor to the present day.

That, then, is the program for this latest book. Kasparov discusses a couple dozen opening variations selected on the basis of their impact on theory. For the most part he follows the Illustrative Game approach. But whereas opening textbooks that employ this format usually organize schematically (eg, "White Closes the Center," or "Opposite Flank Castling," etc), Kasparov's interests is not so much the chess itself as the intellectual journey that led 1970-era masters down a particular path. Thus he mostly presents games chronologically and his notes try to show each innovation as a link in an evolving chain. The following paragraph happens to be from page 90 in the 'Najdorf Variation - 6 Be3' chapter, but plug in different particulars and virtually the same sentences appear over and over throughout the book:



Perenyi's victories created the impression that in this variation the extra knight does not play any role – the insecure position of the Black king is far more important, as well as the ease with which the White pieces take up attacking positions. Although, as we have seen, both games were not without their problematic moments, in practice Black avoided 11...Ne4 and 11...d4 became established as the main reply.

The resulting sketches are quite readable and interesting, although, as other reviewers have noted, their intended audience is not clear. The level of discussion is likely to place *Revolution* beyond the comprehension of weaker players, but stronger players have come to practice a deeper and more concrete sort of opening preparation following the example of Kasparov's own groundbreaking work in the field of computer-aided analysis. The irony of *Revolution* is that in trying to convey the intensely analytical nature of opening play in the post-Fischer era, Kasparov serves up precisely the sort of schematic, "idea"-driven form that one associates more with the pre-Fischer approach!

Revolution's closing fifty or so pages veer off in a different direction, offering what are essentially essays (produced in response to a questionnaire) by 28 grandmasters who played important roles in 1970-1980s opening theory. The guest essayists, who include such names as Averbakh, Velimirovic, Gulko, Soltis, Keene, Browne, Sveshnikov, Timman, Nunn, et al, were asked to comment on the broad topic of Opening Revolution in the 1970s – what it was about, what of importance it produced. Not surprisingly, their opinions run the full gamut, from, eg, Sveshnikov, who embraces the general concept of an opening revolution and tries to detail its important technical attributes, to Taimanov and Gulko who (for different reasons) basically deny the whole premise that anything special went on in 1970s openings. Ljubomir Ljubojevic picks up the Marxian dialectic theme (a mainstay throughout the *Predecessors* series) and runs with it, offering the Nimzowitsch/Larsen Attack (1 b3) as manifesting the same social forces that gave us Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones. This stuff is always good for a laugh.

I'm not sure I believe the stated rational for *Revolution in the 70s*. In the final analysis, it feels like outtakes from *Predecessors*—leftover material highlighting the achievements of players who simply didn't make the cut in a series about world champions and near-champions. That doesn't mean there isn't great stuff here, but the basic selling point boils down to the power of Kasparov's personal authority. Is whatever he has to say about chess intrinsically interesting to chess lovers? I think so, but *My Other Pretty Good Predecessors* would have been a more honest title.



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