

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2008 - #1

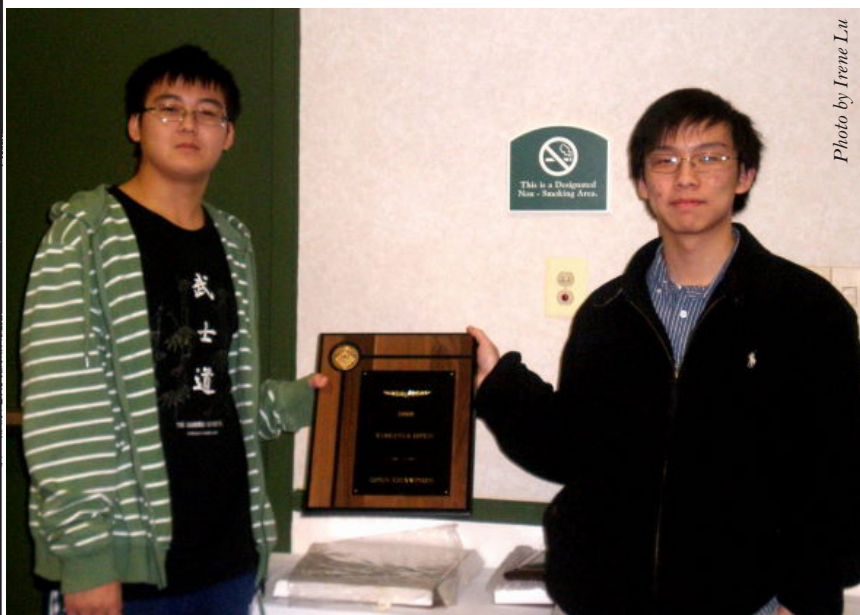


Photo by Irene Lu

Uesugi, Lu Win 40th Virginia Open

MCF coming Feb 29 - Mar 2 !!

See page 5 for full details

**MILLENNIUM
CHESS
FESTIVAL**
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2008 - Issue #1

Editor:

Macon Shibut
8234 Citadel Place
Vienna VA 22180
vcfeditor@cox.net

Circulation:

Ernie Schlich
1370 South Braden Crescent
Norfolk VA 23502
ESchlich@verizon.net



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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: Mike Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria, Va 22306, matkins2@cox.net

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





2008 Virginia Open

REIGNING VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPION EDWARD LU and Japanese national champion Shinsaku Uesugi tied for first at the 2008 Virginia Open. They both ran off four wins before drawing their head-to-head final round matchup. Uesugi took the top trophy on tiebreak. Adithya Balasubramanian scored 4-1 to take clear 3rd place. Other prizewinners in the Open section included Jason McKinney, Daniel Miller, Denis Strenzwilk, Andrew Samuelson, Abby Marshall, Daniel Clancy, William Marcelino & Jon Sjogren (a big tie for 4th-11th); and Eric Most, James Pinkerton & David Hulvey (= top class A).

The Amateur section saw a four-way tie for first/top B. Ilya Kremenchugskiy, Shane Lewis, Richard Frazer & Nicholas Cravotta all scored 4½-½ with Kremenchugskiy getting the trophy on tiebreak. Arman Khojandi, Donald Fong, Steven Kool & Burnice Bullock tied for top C. Top D was yet another four-way tie between Brenan Nierman, Gary Black, Andrew Miles & Alex Eltobgi. Ellsworth Penwell won the U1200 prize.

138 players turned out for the tournament, contested Jan 25-27 in Springfield. Mike Atkins directed on behalf of the VCF. This 40th annual Virginia Open! The late Jules Zell founded it in Fredricksburg way back in 1968. The 2008 edition



Photo by Gopalan Balasubramanian



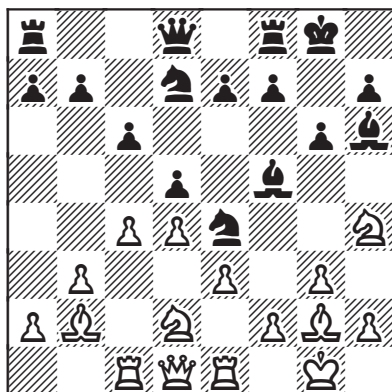
perhaps heralds a changing of the guard in Virginia chess – all three of the leading prizewinners are yet high school students. At any rate, Lu's result pushed his rating into the master range and, coming on the heels of the state championship last September, secures his place in the first echelon of Virginia players.

Only a handful of games are available at the time of this writing. Hopefully some of the participants will annotate their best game(s) for our next issue?!

Shinsaku Uesugi – Adithya Balasubramanian

King's Indian

1 Nf3 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 b3 g6 4 Bb2 Bg7 5 g3 o-o 6 Bg2 c6 7 o-o Bf5 8 Nbd2 Qc8 9 Re1 d5 10 c4 Ne4 11 Rc1 Qd8 12 Nh4 Bh6 13 e3 Nd7? Unexpectedly loses a pawn by force.



14 cxd5 cxd5 15 Nxf5 gxf5 16 Nxe4 fxe4 17 Qh5 Hitting Bd6 as well as d5. Unsettled by his oversight, Black makes it worse by dropping a whole piece. 17...Qb6? 18 Qg4+ Bg7 19 Qxd7 e6 20 Qc7 Qa6 21 a4 Rac8 22 Qxc8 Rxc8 23 Rxc8+ Bf8 24 Ba3 b5 25 Rxf8+ Kg7 26 Bf1 [Simpler 26 Bc5 bxa4 27 Ra1] Qa5 Now White needs to scramble a bit to maintain the whole material advantage. 27 Rc1 b4 28 Rc5 Qb6 [Unfortunately for Black, 28... Qxc5 doesn't work. After 29 dxc5 bxa3 30 c6 a2 31 c7 White gets a new queen too.] 29 Rb5 bxa3 [The idea 29...Qxb5 still fails: 30 axb5 bxa3 and 31 b6 axb6 32 Ra8, or 31...a2 32 b7] 30 Rxb6 a2 31 Rc8 a1Q 32 Rb7 e5 33 dxe5 Qxe5 34 Rcc7 d4 35 Rxf7+ Kg6 36 Rg7+ Kh6 37 Rxh7+ Kg6 38 Rhe7 Qd5 39 Rbd7 Qxb3 40 Rxd4 a5 41 Rxe4 Qb6 42 Re5 Qb1 43 Rd6+ Kf7 44 Rxa5 Ke7 45 Rh6 Kf7 46 Ra7+ Kg8 47 Rc6 Qb8 48 Rcc7 Kh8 49 Rh7+ Kg8 50 Bc4+ 1-o



Daniel Miller - John Farrell

Petroff

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nxf7 Kxf7 5 Nc3 Qe8 6 d4 g6 7 Bd3 Bg7 8 o-o Rf8 9 e5 dxe5 10 dxe5 Ng4 11 Bc4+ Be6 12 Qxg4 Qc6 13 Bxe6+ Qxe6 14 Qxe6+ Kxe6 15 f4 Nc6 16 Be3 a6 17 Ne4 h6 18 Rad1 b6 19 Bxb6 1-o

StanFink Jr - Gill Guo

English

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 g3 b6 4 Bg2 Bb7 5 o-o e6 6 Nc3 Be7 7 d4 cxd4 8 Qxd4 o-o 9 Rd1 Nc6 10 Qf4 a6 11 e4 d6 12 b3 Qc7 13 Bb2 Ne5 14 h3 Qc5 15 Na4 Nxf3+ 16 Bxf3 Qc7 17 e5 Bxf3 18 exf6 Bxd1 19 Qg5 g6 20 Qh6 1-o

Simon Slutsky - Macon Shibut

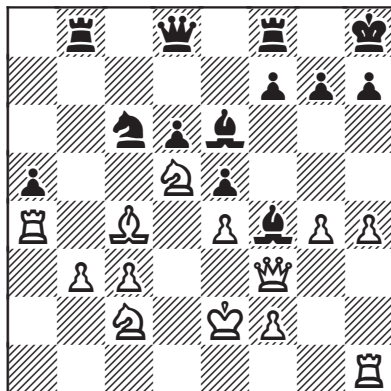
King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d6 3 Nc3 g6 4 e4 Bg7 5 f3 a6 6 Be3 Nc6 7 Nge2 Rb8 8 Rb1 o-o 9 Qd2 Re8 10 b4 b5!? 11 cxb5 axb5 12 Nc1?! [12 d5 Ne5 13 Nd4] 12...e5 13 d5 Nd4 14 Bd3 Bd7 15 o-o c6 16 Nb3 [16 dxc6] 16...cxd5 17 exd5 Nf5 18 Bf2 Bh6 19 Qe2 Nd4 20 Qb2 Nxb3 21 Qxb3 Qc7 22 Rb2 Rec8 23 Rc2 Qb7 24 Rd1 Rc7 25 Bh4 Ne8 26 Rb2 Rbc8 27 Ne4 f5 28 Re2 fxe4 29 Bxe4 Rc1 30 Rde1 R8c3 31 Qb2 Qa7+ 32 Bf2 Qa3 0-1

Andrew Samuelson - Enkhbayar Janchivnyambuu

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 Nd5 Be7 10 Bxf6 Bxf6 11 c3 o-o 12 Nc2 Bg5 13 a4 bxa4 14 Rxa4 a5 15 Bc4 Rb8 16 b3 Kh8 17 h4 Bh6 18 g4 Bf4 19 Qf3 Be6 20 Ke2





20...Ne7 21 Nxf4 Bxc4+ 22 Rxc4 exf4 23 Nd4 Ng6 24 Ra4 Qc7 25 Rh3 d5 26 exd5 Qe5+ 27 Kf1 Rfe8 28 Kg2 Qf6 29 g5 Qa6 30 h5 Re1 31 c4 Ne5 32 Qxf4 f6 33 gxf6 g5 34 hxg6 1-0

Jon Sjogren - Macon Shibut
Queen's Pawn

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 d4 d6 3 Nbd2 Nbd7 4 e4 e5 5 c3 Be7 6 Bd3 o-o 7 o-o c6 8 a4 a5 9 Nc4 exd4 10 Nxd4 Nc5 11 Re1 Nxd3 12 Qxd3 Re8 13 Bg5 h6 14 Bh4 g5 15 Bg3 Nh5 16 Rad1 Nxg3 17 Qxg3 Bf8 18 h4 Be6 19 Ne3 Qf6 20 Ng4 Bxg4 21 Qxg4 Qg6 22 h5 Qf6 23 g3 Kh7 24 f4 gxf4 25 gxf4 Be7 26 Kf2 Qh4+ [26...d5! 27 e5 Qh4+] 27 Kf3 Qxg4+ 28 Kxg4 Rg8+? [28... Rad8] 29 Kf3 Rad8 30 Nf5 Rge8 31 Re2 Bf8 32 c4 Re6 33 e5 d5 34 Red2 Rc8 35 cxd5 cxd5 36 Rxd5 Rb6 37 R1d2 Rc4 38 Rb5 Rxb5 39 axb5 Rb4 40 Nd6 f6 41 e6 b6 42 Nf5 Rxb5 43 Rd7+ Kg8 44 Rd8 Rb3+ 45 Ke4 Rb4+ 46 Kd3 Rb3+ 47 Kc2 Kh7 48 Rxf8 Rb4 49 Nd6 Rxf4 50 e7 Rf2+ 51 Kd3 Rf3+ 52 Ke2 Rg3 53 Rf7+ Kh8 54 e8=Q+ Rg8 55 Qe4 Rg7 56 Rxg7 f5 57 Nxf5 a4 1-0

Daniel Miller - William Stokes
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 c3 d3 5 Bxd3 d6 6 o-o g6 7 Qe2 Bg7 8 Rd1 Bg4 9 h3 Bxf3 10 Qxf3 Nf6 11 Qe2 o-o 12 Bg5 Nd7 13 Na3 a6 14 Bc2 Nc5 15 Nc4 Qc7 16 Ne3 Rae8 17 Rac1 Ne6 18 Nd5 Qa5 19 Be3 Qd8 20 f4 Bh6 21 g4 g5 22 Qd3 gxf4 23 e5 Ng5 24 Bxf4 Nxe5 25 Qg3 Nef3+ 26 Kg2 e6 27 Ne3 Qb6 28 h4 Nxh4+ 29 Qxh4 Qc6+ 30 Kf1 Qf3+ 31 Qf2 Qxf2+ ½-½ Black has good winning chances, eg 32 Kxf2 Nh3+ 33 Kf3 Bxf4 34 Rh1 Bxe3 35 Bxh7+ Kxh7 36 Rxh3+ Kg6 37 Kxe3.



Wojtkiewicz Blitz

The Alex Wojtkiewicz Blitz Benefit was held Sunday, Nov 18, at Ft. Meyer. Fourteen players participated in the event held to raise funds for Tamara Voitkevica, mother of the late grandmaster. \$230 in entries and \$240 in donations were collected. A pair of Skis that Alex owned were given away in a special drawing. Michael Maguire won the skis and the tournament! William Stokes, John Farrell, Alicia Delaune, Stan Fink, Laura Merciez, Roland Amos, Michael Atkins & Michael Maguire contributed beyond basic entry fees or donated without playing.

8th Annual

Millennium Chess Festival

Total prize fund **\$12,000** guaranteed!

Feb 29 - Mar 2, 2008

Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront

(same site as before, just a new name)

5700 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, Va 23451

5-SS, Game/2 hours. Open (FIDE): \$2000, 1200-900-600-400-300. U2400 & Unr \$600, U2200, U1900, U1600 & U1300 each \$800-400-300. All Guaranteed. EF \$99 if rcvd by 2/26, \$110 thereafter. Credit cards taken on site. GMs, WGMs, IMs, WIMs free w/conditions if entered by 2/1—contact organizer or see website for details. Reg Fri 2/29 5:00-7:30 pm, rds 8, 9:30-2:30, 9:30-2:30. A single ½ pt irrevocable bye available, must commit with entry. Hotel \$89 1-2, must reserve by 2/7 for chess rate, (757)428-7025. NC, NS, W.

120 Grand Prix points

SPECIAL EVENTS:

GM EXHIBITION AND DINNER

A Millennium Festival tradition! GM vs GM exhibition game with live commentary by the players themselves, with a Buffet dinner. Saturday, 7:15pm. \$20 advance, \$25 at door.

MCF BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, Mar 1, 10pm

5 rd Double Swiss, game/5 minutes. In two sections, Open and U1800. \$\$1700 b/60 (top 3 in Open G) *Open* \$400-\$225-\$150, U2200-\$125, U2000-\$100. *Amateur* \$230-\$150, U1600-\$120, U1300-\$100, U1000-\$90. EF \$35 if rec'd by 2/24, \$45 at site, **cash entries only**. Reg Any time on Saturday up until 10pm. Rds will start 10:15 pm promptly and successive rounds posted as soon as they are ready. One bye of two ½ points allowed for late entry only. Regular USCF ratings used for pairings and prizes. WBCA rules used (posted at site).

Additional info (but no phone or e-mail entries) 757-853-5296 or eschlich@verizon.net. Website: <http://vachess.org/mcf>. **Enter** (all events, printable Entry Form on website): **Make checks payable to Virginia Chess and mail to Ernest Schlich, 1370 S Braden Crescent, Norfolk, Va 23502.**





Kingstowne Chess Club

by Don Millican

Quad #44/Action-Plus #16

The final event of 2007 for Kingstowne Chess Club, the forty-fourth Quad and sixteenth Action-Plus, occurred on December 8 in Alexandria. Six players competed in the single Swiss section "Quad," while fourteen chose the Action-Plus.

Jinseok Kim of Fairfax won the "Quad" and a gold medal with $2\frac{1}{2}$ points. Michael Far Stepp and Alexandria's John Brockhouse tied for 2nd-3rd with 2 points each. Stepp won second place silver on tiebreak, leaving the bronze for Brockhouse.

In the Action-Plus, Keith Carson and Andrew Samuelson from Annandale scored $4\frac{1}{2}$ points each, tying for 1st-2nd. Aravind Ponukumati of Fairfax scored $2\frac{1}{2}$ to win the Under 1800 while Alan Coulter of Laurel, Md and Wilson Zhou of Reston shared Under 1400 with 2 points each.

Kingstowne Chess Club recognizes the most successful players for the entire year after the last Quad. For 2007, the top player 1600 and up was Adam Renfro Chrisney, scoring 13 points over seven Quads. Aditya Ponukumati & Gavin Moore tied with 7 points for most successful under 1600. The tiebreak is the fewest number of Quads to reach the score, and Ponukumati needed only three Quads for 7 points while Moore scored his in four. This is the first time in the five-year history of the Quads there has been a tie for the most successful at the end of the year. Both players will receive their trophies at the January Quad.

Quad #45/Action-Plus #17

The first Kingstowne event for 2008 occurred January 8. A lower turnout than for December resulted, with six for the Quad and twelve for the Action-Plus.

In the "Quad" (actually a 3-round Swiss), Jinseok Kim took home the gold medal with a perfect 3-0 score. William Wilson & Karl Peterson finished with 2. Wilson took the silver medal on tiebreak, leaving the third-place bronze for Peterson.

In the Action-Plus, FIDE Master Boris Zisman and expert Alexander Passov finished tied for 1st-2nd with $4\frac{1}{2}$ points apiece. Kun Liu, Adam Renfro Chrisney & Donald Fong shared Under 1800 with 3, Mark Scott took Top Unrated with $2\frac{1}{2}$, and Joseph Chen won Top Under 1400 with 1.

The Quads take February off due to the 6th Annual Kingstowne Chess Festival over the weekend of February 9-10. The series resumes on March 1.



MATE

A Psychological Thriller

by

Alexander Kane

Your next move may
be your last...

Coming Soon

www.ablekaneproductions.com

LOCAL AREA CHESS PLAYER Alexander Kane recently co-produced his first motion picture, a gritty crime thriller called *The Box*, starring Gabrielle Union and Mia Maestro. The red carpet premiere for *The Box*, which took place in Georgetown on the evening of Monday, January 7th, was a phenomenal success.

Alex is now in the process of gearing up for his directorial debut via a psychological chess thriller entitled *Mate*. Filming for *Mate* is slated to begin next month, five weeks in LA and two days in DC. Alex and his producers are in need of extras for the DC scenes, as well as anyone who may be interested in acquiring an investment position in this upcoming motion picture.

For more information about *Mate*, please visit www.ablekaneproductions.com or contact Alex at akproductionsllc@aol.com or 301-868-0215.



DC Metro High

by Dr M Khojandi

DC METRO HIGH GOT STARTED at the beginning of last summer (2007) when I was looking for a team in the open section of the DC Chess League for my son, his old team having been recently dissolved. Over the years I had been impressed by the number of promising junior players in the DC metropolitan area, thanks to the area's numerous scholastic chess programs and tournaments. It occurred to me that we might form our own team, made up purely of top high school players. I talked to some parents I knew and within a short time we had a team of six scholastic players: Eddie Lu, Aryan Khojandi & Byron Hood from Virginia; and Shinsaku Uesugi, Zhi-Ya Hu & Scott Low from Maryland.

Of course, these were not average players; they were the top High School players in the DC area. My intention was, and is, to set up a tradition such that there will always be a "resident" scholastic team, made up of top scholastic players from Virginia, Maryland and DC who can compete with the best in the League — as well as nationally, and perhaps even internationally — why not? It was also my intention that new talents join as they emerge from middle school, replacing our graduating members. That would ensure the continuation of the team and also invigorate the DC Chess League by introducing "new blood."



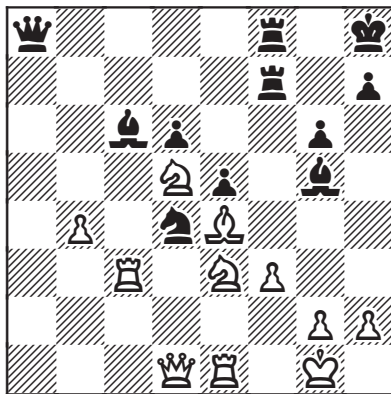
DC Metro High squares off against the Passed Pawns at the Arlington Chess Club. Photo by M Khojandi



The result amazed everyone. The very first season they competed in the DC Chess league (Summer 2007) they came out champions! For this winter season, I recruited three additional players: Craig Saperstein from Virginia; and Ian Schoch & Gill Guo from Maryland. So the team has nine members now, and they continue to perform well. Below we present some of their games, and hopefully will do so again every now and then in the future. (Analysis for the games is by Aryan Khojandi and Fritz 8.)

IM Walter Morris – Shinsaku Uesugi Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 [Shin often employs the Sveshnikov Sicilian and has had good results with it.] 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Na3 b5 9 Nd5 [Morris chooses the positional line. I personally prefer 9 Bxf6 gxf6, resulting in a very dynamic and interesting game.] Be7 10 Bxf6 Bxf6 11 c3 Bg5 12 Nc2 o-o 13 a4 bxa4 14 Rxa4 a5 15 Bc4 Rb8 16 b3 Kh8 17 o-o f5 18 exf5 Bxf5 19 Nce3 Bg6 [19...Be6 is more common] 20 b4 axb4 21 cxb4 Nd4 [Black's knight gains an important outpost.] 22 Bd3 Be8 [Fritz suggests 22...Qe8 23 Ra7] 23 Ra3 g6 [secures f5] 24 Be4 Bc6 25 Rc3 Rb7 [If 25...Bxe3 one possibility is 26 fxe3 Qh4 27 exd4 Rxf1+ 28 Kxf1 Qxe4 29 Rxc6 Qxd5 30 Qf3 Qxd4 31 Qf6+ Kg8 32 Qe6+ Kg7 33 Qe7+ Kh6 34 Rc3 Qxc3 35 Qh4+ Kg7 36 Qe7+ Kh8 37 Qf6+ Kg8 38 Qe6+ Kf8 39 Qxd6+ Kf7 40 Qxb8 Qd3+ 41 Kf2 Qd4+ 42 Ke2 Qe4+ with a draw likely.] 26 Re1 [26 f4 Bh6] 26...Rbf7 27 f3 Qa8



28 f4? [28 Rc4 Qa7 29 Kh1 Rb8] 28...Bh6?! [28...Bxf4 29 Nxf4 Bxe4 Black would be winning] 29 g3 Qa2 30 Qd3 Bb5 31 Nc4 exf4 32 gxf4 [if 32 Qxd4+ Bg7 33 Qd3 f3 threatens mate on g2 as well as ...f2+, and then 34 Bxf3 Rxf3 35 Qc2 Bd4+ things only get worse for White—ed] Bg7 33 Bxg6? [Trying to confuse Black, but 33 Kh1 would have been a better try.] 33...Rxf4!

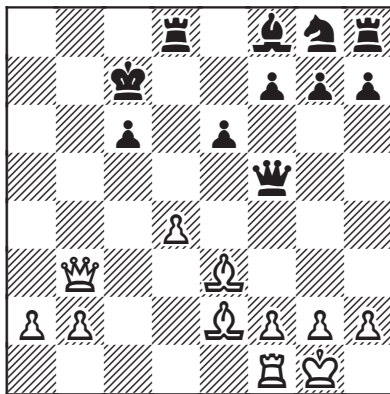


[sealing the opponent's fate] 34 Nxf4 Rxf4 35 Qg3 Bc6 [35...Bxc4 36 Qxf4 Ne2+ 37 Rxe2 Qxe2 38 Rxc4 Qe1+ 39 Qf1 Qe3+ 40 Qf2 Qg5+ 41 Qg3 Qxg3+ 42 hxg3+-] 36 Nxd6 [36 Bh5 Nf5 37 Re8+ Bxe8 38 Qxf4 Bxc3 39 Qxf5 Bd4+ 40 Kf1 Qxc4+ 41 Kg2 Bc6+ etc] 36...Ne2+ 37 Rxe2 Qxe2 o-1

Ken John – Zhi-Ya Hu

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 c3 d5 4 exd5 Qxd5 5 cxd4 Nc6 6 Nf3 Bg4 7 Nc3 Qd6 [Theory recommends 7...Bxf3, but Black prefers to keep the queens on the board.] 8 Nb5 Qe6+ 9 Be2 o-o-o 10 Be3 Qf5? [10...a6 11 Nc3 Bxf3 12 Bxf3 Rxd4 13 Qe2±] 11 Rc1 [Fritz recommends 11 d5!? e6 12 Nxa7+ though the situation is not really so clear.] 11...Bxf3 12 Nxa7+? [12 gxf3 Kb8 13 Qb3 was better] 12...Kb8 13 Nxc6+? [13 d5 Qxd5 14 Nxc6+ bxc6 15 Bxf3 Qxd1+ 16 Bxd1±] 13...Bxc6 14 o-o e6? [Forfeits the advantage! 14...Nf6 Black would be winning] 15 Rxc6! bxc6 16 Qb3+ [16 Qa4! Rc8 17 d5±] 16...Kc7



17 Rc1

If 17 d5 then:

17...Qxd5 18 Qb6+ Kc8 19 Qa7 winning;

17...cxd5 18 Qb6+ Kd7 19 Qa7+ Kd6 20 Qc5+ Ke5 21 Bd4+ Ke4 22 Qc2+ Kxd4 23 Qc3+ Ke4 24 Qe3 mate;

17...exd5?! 18 Bb6+ Kd7 19 Bxd8 Kxd8 20 Qb6+ Kd7 21 Qb7+ Kd8 22 Qb6+ Kd7 23 Qb7+ Kd8 24 Qb6±;

17...Rxd5! 18 Qb6+ Kd7±

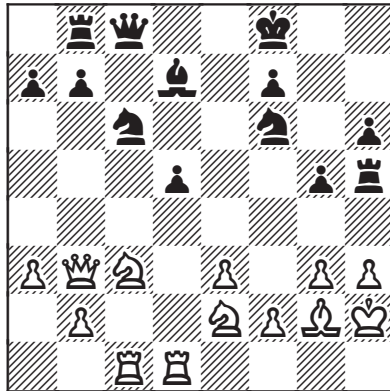
17...Ne7 [17...Qa5!?] 18 Qa4 Kd7 [18...Rd6!? 19 Qa7+ Kd8 20 Qb8+ Kd7±] 19 d5 [breaking through the pawn shield] 19...Nxd5 [19...exd5? 20 Bg4] 20 Qxc6+ [20 g4!?] Ke7 21 Bc5+? [This seemingly attacking move just facilitates the Black king's escape.] 21...Kf6 22 Bd4+ Kg6 23 Rd1 Nf4 24 Bf3 Rd5 [24...Kh6 seems even better: 25 Qc7 Bd6 26 Qc3+ according to Fritz. However,



the method that Zhi-Ya chose is simpler and leaves less room for human error.]
 25 g3 [25 Bxd5 Qxd5 26 Qxd5 Nxd5] 25...Rd6 26 Qa8 Nh3+ 27 Kg2
 Ng5 28 Bb7 Qh3+ 29 Kg1 Qg4 30 f3 Rxd4! 31 fxg4 Rxd1+ 32 Kf2
 Bc5+ 0-1

Edward Lu – Geoff Mckenna
 Tarrasch

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 Nc3 e6 4 g3 d5 5 cxd5 exd5 6 d4 Nc6 7 Bg2
 Be7 8 o-o o-o 9 Bg5 cxd4 10 Nxd4 Re8 11 Rc1 h6 12 Be3 Bf8 13
 Na4 Qa5 14 a3 [consolidates b4] 14...Ne5 15 Bd2 Qa6 16 Nc5 Qb6 17
 Bb4 Bg4 18 Na4± Qd8 19 Bxf8 Kxf8 20 Qb3 Rb8 [20...Nc6 21 e3 Kg8
 22 Nxc6 bxc6 23 Rxc6] 21 Nc3 [The pressure on the isolated pawn grows.]
 21...Nc6 22 e3 [prevents intrusion on d4] 22...Re5 23 h3 Bd7 24 Kh2
 [24 Rfd1 Qe8±] 24...Rh5 25 Nde2 [25 Nxd5 is clearly worse, eg 25...Nxd5
 26 Bxd5 Bxh3+-] 25...g5 26 Rfd1 Qc8



Can h3 get defended?

27 Ng1? [Not a good decision because now the opponent is right back in the
 game. 27 Kg1 was the best chance, eg 27...Bxh3 28 Bxd5 (but not 28 Nxd5 Bxg2
 29 Qb4+ Kg7 30 Nxf6 Qh3 31 Nxf5+ Kg8)] 27...Ng4+ 28 Kh1 Nxf2+ 29
 Kh2 Ng4+ [29...Ne5] 30 Kh1 Nf2+ 31 Kh2 Bxh3 32 Nxh3 [32 Bxh3
 Nxh3 (32...Rxh3+?! 33 Kg2=) 33 Kg2 Nxg1 34 Rxg1 Qh3+ 35 Kf2 Ne5 36 Qxd5
 Re8+-] 32...Nxh3 [32...Rxh3+!? 33 Kg1 Nxd1 34 Ne2 Nxe3 35 Qxe3 was
 possible] 33 Nxd5 Qf5? [33...Nf4+! and Black keeps the upper hand, eg 34
 Kg1 Ne2+ (34...Nxg2?? would lead to instant doom by 35 Qc3! Rh1+ 36 Kxh1
 Qh3+ 37 Kg1+-) 35 Kf1 Nxc1 36 Rxc1 g4+-] 34 Rd2= Nf2+ 35 Kg1 Ne4?
 [Releasing the pressure on the opponent, whereas 35...Nh3+ 36 Kh2 Ne5 (or of
 course 36...Nf2+) would hold out.] 36 Rxc6!+- [eliminates the defender] 36...
 Nxd2? [Black crumbles in face of a dire situation, but if 36...bxc6 37 Qxb8 etc]
 37 Qb4+ Kg7 38 Qd4+ Kh7 39 Nf6+ Kg6 40 Ne8+ 1-0



Editor's Note: This game matches the two players who tied for first place at the state championship last September.

Edward Lu - Stan Fink DC Chess League 2007 King's Indian

Notes by Stan Fink & William Stokes

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 o-o 5 o-o d6 [The contours of the battle are being drawn. The

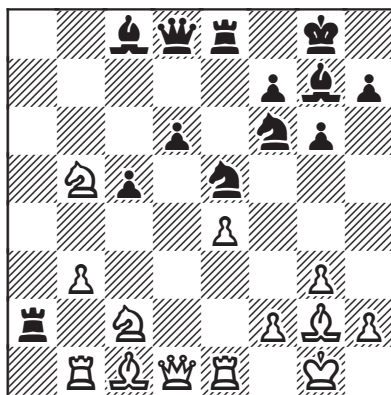
contest will evolve in the realm of the English or the KID Fianchetto variation.] **6 d4 Nbd7** [KID...]

7 Nc3 e5 8 e4 exd4 [Many players consider this concession of the center to be anti-positional and advantageous to White. While aware of, and concurring with, the general positional reasoning,

I consider it reasonable in this particular position to exchange the central foothold for the sake of liberating Black's bad king bishop, creating temporary outposts (e5, c5) for the knights, and obtaining a half-open the e-file for Black's rooks to pressure White's king pawn.] **9 Nxd4 Re8 10 Re1** [All very straightforward play by both sides. 10 Re1 is common here, yet I tend to believe the prophylactic 10 h3 (preventing future Ng4/Bg4 options for Black) is better, not yet committing the rook until it becomes clear where its best square will be. Re1 also slightly weakens f2, which could be a factor later.] **10...a6** [The so-called Gallagher variation. This English GM did not create this line, although his use did popularize it for a while in the late 80's and early 90's. This was my first game with the it as Black, although long ago (before the Gallagher Variation even arose) I successfully used the same strategic plan (...a6, ...c5, ...b5) when I was experimenting with the Exchange Philidor as Black (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 or 5...Be7). Often White had castled queenside there, when the plan was primarily an attacking concept. When White castled kingside, it becomes more positional in nature, seeking space and counter play. At any rate, the Gallagher Variation is presently in theoretical disrepute. Yet there remain enough interesting and insufficiently explored options for Black to keep it as at least a viable surprise weapon. GM Golubev seems to prefer 10...c6! here, considering 10...a6 11 Rb1! as problematic for Black. The game continuation presumes to challenge this assessment.] **11 Rb1** [Considered one of the 'refutations' of the Gallagher variation. Many years ago, playing White against a Senior Master, I encountered this defense for the first time. Possessing no prior knowledge of it, I reflected for quite some time after 10...a6 determine Black's strategic plan (...Rb8, optional Ne5, ...c5, ...b5) and attempt to discover the most effective counter measures versus the new (for me) line. I ultimately chose 11 b3, which is now also



considered by some to be another 'refutation' of Gallagher's plan. In any case, I came out on top in that theoretical duel. After sacrificing the exchange for a pawn in a complicated battle, I gained a significant positional advantage that proved sufficient to win the game.] **11...Ne5!** [Normally Black plays 11...Rb8 before the text (or ...c5) to safeguard the rook from White's e5 shots. However, the omission of h3 by White permits Black to do without Rb8, accelerating his counter play while leaving the rook more actively placed on the a-file in the event of 13...b5 being met by 14 cxb5 axb5 as indeed happens here.] **12 b3 c5** [The point of Black's setup, accepting a weak backward d-pawn to decentralize White's knight and initiate forcing and dynamic counterplay.] **13 Nc2** [If 13 Ne2 or 13 Nf3 then 13...Bg4 is very comfortable for Black.] **13...b5 14 cxb5** [If 14 f4 (intending to win material after Ne5 moves by 15 e5) then 14...Bg4 followed by 15...Nf3+ (after 15 Qd2 or 15 Ne2) is strong. The text move seems natural to avoid a weak c-pawn if Black gets to play 14...bxc4. However, 14 Ne3 bxc4 15 f4 Nd3 16 e5 is very fascinating and exciting too. I believe Black comes out ahead... but this is too complex to analyze in detail here. Besides, 14...Rb8 is a solid alternative for Black after 14 Ne3.] **14...axb5 15 Nxb5?!** [White apparently hopes to win Black's b- & d- pawns for the a-pawn. However, his pieces are not sufficiently well placed or coordinated to support this action and the Black rook on a2 will be a dangerous intruder. I believe White should ignore the b5 pawn and use the move to cover vital squares (15 h3; 15 a3) or improve the position of his pieces (15 Ne3; 15 Bf4; 15 Bg5). Other options include 15 a4 bxa4 and 15 b4 c4, but these look riskier. Were I playing White, my instincts would probably lead me to opt for 15 a3, but Black appears to be doing well in any case. He still has a weak pawn on d6, but his dangerous initiative and the unfavorably placed White pieces provide superb compensation.] **15...Rxa2**





16 Ne3(?)

During the game I considered this a mistake, but there may not be any particularly good options now. White is either correctly worried about his passive, insufficiently protected knight on c2 for the tactical sequence ahead, or he simply wants to threaten 17 Qxd6 without dropping the knight. But there is little time to re-route it to better squares right now.

Note that again 16 f4 (intending 17 e5 winning material if Black's knight moves) is strongly met by 16...Bg4. The consistent 16 Nxd6 is also dubious after 16...Bg4! 17 f3 Nxf3+ 18 Bxf3 Bxf3 19 Qxf3 Qxd6.

However, 16 Nba3 is an interesting alternative (though not 16 Nca3 d5! 17 exd5? Bg4! 18 f3 Bxf3 19 Bxf3 Nxf3+). This locks in the rook for the moment. But White is not really threatening to win it, and Black maintains the initiative with 16...Ba6.

16...Qa5! [The less critical, solid alternative 16...Ra6 looks good too. But White appears lost after the text, although some variations are extremely complex. The knight on b5 has nowhere to go (17 Nba3 Rxa3) except d6 as in the game. Attempting to maintain it with 17 Bf1 loses a rook to 17...Qxe1 18 Qxe1 Nf3+] **17 Nxd6 Rd8** [Naturally—one of the points of 16...Qa5] **18 b4** [A desperate and expected bid to save the pinned knight. Black was threatening 18...Rxd6 19 Qxd6 Qxe1+ so the pawn sacrifice blocks the queen's access to e1, buying a

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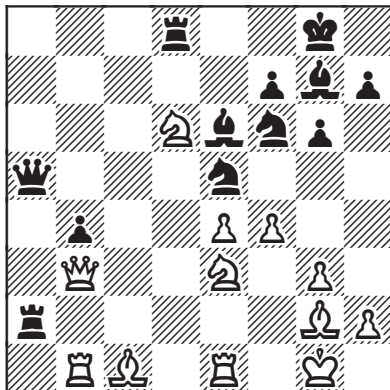
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critical move for 19 f4 with a hope of playing 20 e5 to save the knight. 18 Nxc8 appears to be the only viable—and perhaps preferable—alternative, giving up the queen for rook & bishop, eg 18...Rxd1 19 Rxd1 Qc7 20 Nd6 Neg4 with Black for choice.] **18...cxb4 19 f4 Bg4** [Once again this move is very strong vs f4] **20 Qb3** [Forced; if 20 Nxg4 Nexg4 is too strong with the devastating threat of 21...Qb6+ winning the and/or mating (21 Be3 Nxe3 22 Rxe3 Qb6).] **20...Be6!** [Simply best, renewing the attack on White's queen with tempo.]



21 Nd5?

Also not 21 Qxb4? Qxb4 22 Rxb4 Nd3 winning a rook. So either Qd1 or Nb7 appear to be the best tries left for White:

21 Qd1 Nfg4! 22 fxe5 Nxe3 23 Bxe3 Bxe5 24 Nb7 Rxd1 25 Nxa5 Rxe1+ 26 Rxe1 Rxa5 is winning for Black.

21 Nb7 Qc7 is also winning for Black but with greater complications. For instance, 22 Nd5 Rxg2+ 23 Kxg2 Nxd5 24 fxe5 Qxb7; or 22 Nxd8 Bxb3 23 Rxb3 Nfg4! and if then 24 fxe5 Nxe3 25 Rbxe3 Bh6 or 25 Bxe3 Qc2

21...Nxd5 22 exd5 [If 22 fxe5 then 22...Rxg2+ or 22...Nxf4 win quickly.] **22...Rxg2+** [‘Cashing in’ as Bobby used to say.] **23 Kf1** [23 Kh1 Bxd5 is also the end] **23...Bh3** [quickest, but 23...Bxd5 is decisive too] **0-1** White resigned in the face of threats 24...Qa6+ and 24...Rb2+ among others. For instance, if 24 g4 Rg3+ or 24...Qa6+ 25 Nc4 Nxc4 26 Qxh3 Ne3mate



Coming February 29 - see p 5

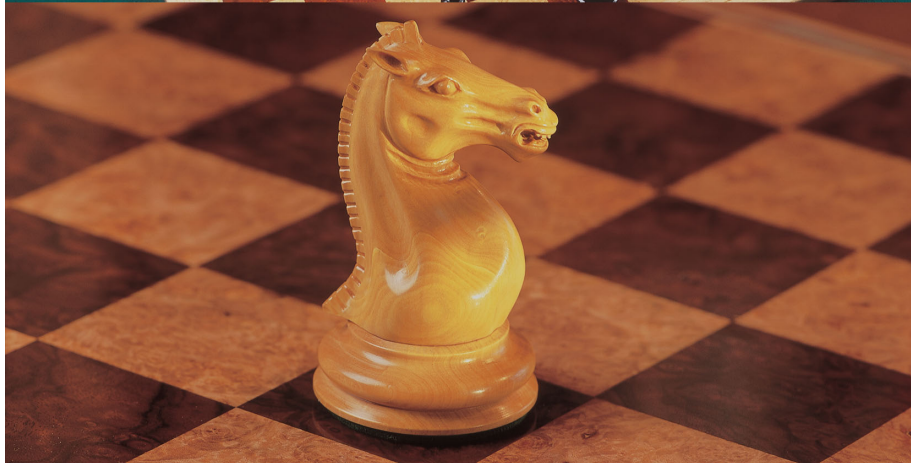
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