

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2008 - #3

Springfield Chess Festival

Paragua, Kaufman Enkhbat & Gorman top GW Open
Marshall, Rubenchik & Samuelson
tie for 1st-3rd in Invitational RR



Coming Soon: **Virginia Closed State Championship**
in Richmond Aug 30-Sept 1 — see page 2 for complete details

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2008 - Issue #3

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



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: 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.





Springfield Chess Festival

SPRINGFIELD WAS THE EYE OF A CHESS TORNADO over the weekend of June 13-15 as the VCF hosted no fewer than eleven separate rated tournaments at the familiar Holiday Inn site. The feature events were the George Washington Open, a major regional tournament that drew 81 players; and the Springfield Invitational, an 8-player round robin with an all master/expert field. Other tourneys included various one-day quads and the Virginia Blitz Championship. Big time kudos to Mike Atkins and Mike Hoffpauir for organizing and keeping all these trains running on time.

Virginia Blitz Championship



The blitz tournament kicked things off on Friday night. Twenty-five players entered and Ray Kaufman, of Maryland, won it in the clear. He ran up a massive 9-1 score, conceding only a pair of draws to top-rated entrant, GM Mark Paragua. Paragua finished 2nd, half a point behind, after dropping an additional half point to IM Bryan Smith. Anton Del Mundo scored 8-2 to finish 3rd and claim the state Blitz Champion title as the highest scoring Virginian. Smith finished 4th place with 7½ points. You can see the complete crosstable online at http://main.uschess.org/assets/msa_joomla/XtblMain.php?200806138971-10183481

George Washington Open



Whereas the top four spots in the blitz fell out without any ties – an unusual occurrence – the main open event of the weekend resulted in a four-way logjam at the top. GM Paragua, Marylanders IM Larry Kaufman & FMs Tegshsuren Enkhbat, and Virginia's Dov Gorman all scored 4½-½. Paragua and Kaufman drew their head-to-head game on board one in the final round; Enkhbat and Gorman allowed draws earlier in the tournament versus youngsters, respectively, Yang Dai and Eric Most.

Other prizewinners included FM Ruixin Yang, Daniel Clancy & Matthew Grinberg, who were tied as top Expert; Goran Zalar, Darwin Li & Jonathan Shapiro = top class A; Aravin Ponukumati won top B; Ramanuja Sreenivasan & Richard Li were = top C; and Andrew Miles took top D/below. Special note is also due to Eric Most, who broke through the 2000 rating barrier on the strength of an equal score (+1 -1 =1) against three masters in the final three rounds; Jon Shapiro, a class A player who gained almost seventy rating points by beating Ray Kaufman (2363) and William Marcelino (2109); and Aravind Ponukumati, a B player who

72nd Annual

Virginia Closed State Championship

August 30-September 1, 2008

Hilton Garden Inn Richmond-Innsbrook

4050 Cox Rd, Glen Allen, VA

Conveniently located just off I-295



Open to Virginia residents, military stationed in Virginia, and students attending any Virginia school, college or university (must show valid ID or other proof of Fall 2008 enrollment). 6-SS, 30/90, SD/1. \$\$2,350 b/75 paid entries. Two sections: *Open*: \$500-300-200, top Expert & A each \$100, trophy to 1st, Top X & A. Winner is Virginia State Champion for 2008. *Amateur* (under 1800): \$400-200-150, top C, D, U 1200, Unr each \$100, trophy to 1st, top C, D, U 1200. Winner is Virginia Amateur Champion for 2008. *Both* Trophies to top senior (60+), junior (U18) and woman across both section with 1 point added to Open section scores. EF \$55 if received by 8/26, \$65 thereafter and on site. Reg Fri 8/29, 4pm-7pm and Sat 8/30, 10:30am-12:30pm. Rds 1-7, 11-5, 10-3:30. Two ½ pt byes available, must declare before start of rd 2. Re-entry \$30, allowed for rd 2 only with ½ pt rd 1 bye. Hotel (<http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com>) \$99+tax, 804-521-2900, mention the tournament and ask for chess rate before 8/15. W, NS, NC, FIDE. *Enter*: Checks payable to "Virginia Chess," mail to Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: VA Closed, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, Va 23693. Info via email mhoffpauir@aol.com or online www.vachess.org/2008closed.htm.

Virginia Closed Friday Night Blitz

Friday, August 29

Same location as Virginia Closed. Four or five round double swiss depending on number of players. \$\$500 b/30 paid entries. EF \$25 if received by 8/26, \$40 thereafter and at door, two sections: Open & Under 1800. Rd 1 at 7:30pm, subsequent rounds to follow as quickly as results allow. W, NS, NC. *Enter*: Checks payable to "Virginia Chess," mail to Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: VA Closed, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, Va 23693. Info via email mhoffpauir@aol.com or online www.vachess.org/2008closed.htm.

Annual VCF Business Meeting

Saturday, August 30

10 am - 12 noon

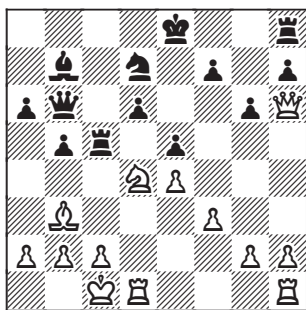


finished undefeated (+2 -0 =2 with one ½ pt bye) against a field that included a master and two experts.

Gill Guo - Bryan Smith Sicilian

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 a6 8 Qd2 Nbd7 9 Bc4 b5 10 Nd5!? Bb7 [10...bxc4 11 Nc6 would mate Black's queen!] 11 Nxf6+ Bxf6 12 Bb3 Rc8 13 Bg5 Bxg5 14 Qxg5 Qa5+ 15 Qd2 Qb6 16 0-0-0 Rc5 17 Qh6 e5

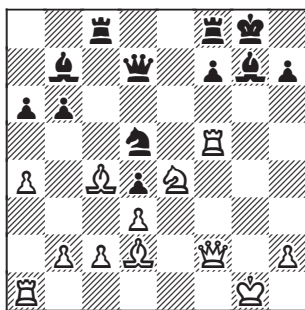


18 Bxf7+! Kxf7 19 Nf5! gxf5 20 Rxd6 [It may look clear once it has been demonstrated, but this seems a really hard combination to see because the initial piece sacrifice is followed by a quiet move. When you consider something like 18 Bxf7+, the natural procedure is to seek a forcing follow-up. Failing to find one, a player will normally give up on Bxf7+ and move on to something else, especially since there are a lot of other things worth exploring in the position (Qg7, etc). Even if you stick with it a bit longer because instinct tells you the position just "smells right" after Bxf7+, to follow up with a quiet move—moreover one that puts another piece en pris—is really

impressive.] 20...Qxd6 [Otherwise Whites Q+R combine to create a mating attack] 21 Qxd6 Bc6 22 exf5 [Even the end result of the combination bespeaks a subtle evaluation since material-wise Black is more than okay. However, his exposed king and lack of support posts for his pieces make it almost impossible to resist the queen.] 22...Re8 23 Rd1 e4 24 Qh6 e3 25 Qxh7+ Kf8 26 Rxd7 Bxd7 27 f6! Rxc2+ 28 Kxc2 Bf5+ 29 Qxf5 e2 30 Qd7! e1N+ 1-0

Ruixin Yang - Mark Paragua Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 a6 3 a4 Nc6 4 f4 g6 5 Nf3 Bg7 6 Bc4 d6 7 0-0 Nf6 8 d3 0-0 9 Qe1 Nd4 10 Nxd4 cxd4 11 Ne2 d5 12 exd5 Nxd5 13 Ng3 e6 14 Bd2 b6 15 Ne4 Bb7 16 g4 Rc8 17 f5 exf5 18 gxf5 gxf5 19 Rxf5 Qd7 20 Qf2



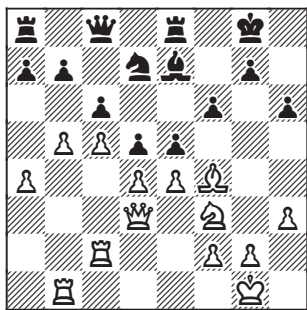
20...Rxc4 21 dxc4 Ne3 22 Ng3 Nxf5 23 Nxf5 Be5 24 Bh6 Re8 25 Kf1 Qc6 26 Qg1+ Qg6 27 Rd1 Bf3 28 Rd2 Bg4 29 Nxd4 Kh8 30 Be3 Qe4 31 Ne2 Bxe2+ 32 Kxe2 Bxh2 33 Qf2 Bf4 34 Rd3 Bxe3 35 Rxe3 Qxc2+ 36



Kf3 Rxe3+ 37 Qxe3 Qg6 38 b4 h5
39 Qe4 Qf6+ 40 Qf4 Qc6+ 41 Qe4
Qd6 42 Qf5 Kg7 43 Ke4 f6 44 b5
axb5 45 axb5 Qd1 46 Qf2 Qg4+ 47
Kd5 Qd7+ 48 Ke4 Qe6+ 49 Kd3 Kf7
50 Qf3 Qd6+ 51 Ke2 Qc5 52 Qe4 f5
53 Qh4 Ke6 54 Kd3 Qa3+ 55 Kd4
Qa1+ 56 Kd3 Qd1+ 57 Ke3 f4+ 58
Ke4 Qe2+ 0-1

Larry Kaufman - Shawn McIntosh Slav

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Qb3 Qb6
5 Nc3 Bf5 6 c5 Qc7 7 Bf4 Qc8 8 Rc1
Nbd7 9 h3 h6 10 e3 e6 11 Be2 Ne4 12
Nxe4 Bxe4 13 0-0 Be7 14 Nd2 Bh7 15
Bd3 Bxd3 16 Qxd3 Nf6 17 b4 0-0 18 b5
Nd7 19 Rc2 f6 20 Nf3 Re8 21 Rb1 Bf8
22 Qg6 Kh8 23 Bg3 Kg8 24 a4 Be7 25
Bf4 Nf8 26 Qd3 Nd7 27 e4 e5!?



28 dxe5!? Nxc5 29 Rxc5 fxe5?! [29...
Bxc5] 30 Be3 Bxc5 31 Bxc5 Qe6 32
bxc6 b6? 33 Ba3 d4 34 Rc1 Rac8 35
c7 Kf7 36 Qb5 Kg8 37 Rc6 Qd7 38
Qd5+ Qxd5 39 exd5 1-0

Ruixin Yang - Curtis Winter Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7
5 Bb5 Nd4 6 0-0 Nxb5 7 Nxb5 Nf6
8 e5 Nd5 9 d4 cxd4 10 Qxd4 Nc7 11
Nxa7 Ne6 12 Qf2 Qa5 13 Nxc8 Rxc8

14 c3 0-0 15 Be3 Qc7 16 Rfd1 f6 17
Qd2 fxe5 18 fxe5 Rfd8 19 Qd5 Qc6 20
Bg5 Qxd5 21 Rxd5 Nxc5 22 Nxc5 e6
23 Rb5 Rc7 24 Ne4 Rc6 25 Rd1 b6 26
Rd6 Rxd6 27 Nxd6 Kf8 28 Nc4 Ke7
29 a4 Bh8 30 Nxb6 d6 31 a5 dxe5 32
a6 Kd6 33 a7 Kc6 34 Rb4 1-0

Eric Most - Shinsaku Uesugi Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 c3 d3 4 c4 g6 5
Bxd3 Bg7 6 Nc3 Nc6 7 Nf3 d6 8 h3
Nf6 9 0-0 0-0 10 Be3 Nd7 11 Rc1
Nde5 12 Nxe5 dxe5 13 c5 Nd4 14
Bc4 Kh8 15 b4 e6 16 Nb5 f5 17 f3 a6
18 Nd6 Qe7 19 Qe1 b5 20 Bd3 Nc6
21 a4 bxa4 22 Ra1 Bd7 23 Rxa4 Rfb8
24 Qd2 Bf8 25 Rb1 Qg7 26 Bh6 Qf6
27 Bxf8 Rxf8 28 Rxa6 Rxa6 29 Bxa6
Nd4 30 Qf2 Qg5 31 b5 fxe4 32 Nxe4
Qh5 33 Nd2 Ra8 34 c6 Bc8 35 Bxc8
Rxc8 36 b6 Nxc6 37 b7 Re8 38 Qc5
Nb8 39 Rc1 Kg7 40 Qd6 1-0

Larry Kaufman - Jonathan Shapiro King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6
5 f3 0-0 6 Be3 Nc6 7 Nge2 a6 8 Qd2
Rb8 9 Rc1 h5?! 10 g3 Re8 11 Bg2
Na5 12 Nd1 Nc6 13 0-0 e5 14 d5 Ne7
15 c5 Nh7 16 Qb4 b6 17 cxb6 cxb6
18 Nf2 a5 19 Qd2 Ba6 20 Rc2 Nf8
21 a3 Qd7 22 Bh3 f5 23 Rfc1 Rec8
24 Nc3 h4 25 b3 Nh7 26 Na4 Rxc2
27 Rxc2 hxg3 28 hxg3 Qd8 29 Qc1
b5 30 Nb2 Rc8 31 Bf1 Rxc2 32 Qxc2
g5 33 Bd2 fxe4 34 fxe4 Qb6 35 Nd1
Bf6 36 Qc3 b4? 37 axb4 Bxf1 38 Kxf1
Qb5+ 39 Qc4 Qxc4+ 40 bxc4 a4 41
Nc3 a3 42 Be1 Nc8 43 Bxa3 Nb6 44
c5 dxc5 45 bxc5 Nc4 46 Be1 1-0



Quads, Quads & More Quads

Quadrangular side events ran throughout the weekend. Friday night quads, played at a rate of Game/30 minutes, drew a total of 14 entrees and produced section winners Gill Guo, Matthew Freeman & Ken Borghese. Saturday's quads drew the same number of players to compete at Game/60 minutes speed. Alex Herera, Brian Li & Philip Yu competed best, winning their respective sections. Sunday's Quads featured a Game/75 time control and drew eight entrees. Alex Herrera again won his section; Francis Chen topped the other one.

Springfield Invitational

The most noteworthy event of the weekend was the round robin Springfield FIDE Invitational. Strictly speaking it was not an "invitational" inasmuch as anyone could apply for entry; however, you had to do so in advance and the field was ultimately limited to the eight highest rated applicants. The tournament offered the anointed eight an opportunity to compete for a decent prize fund for just a token entry fee. That several high-rated players (eg GM Paragua, IMs Kaufman & Smith, *et al*) nonetheless opted to play in the swiss GW Open instead of the Invitational can be attributed to the latter's demanding (*punishing* might be a better word) schedule: seven full fledged tournament games (game/2 hours) over three days — one Friday night, then three on Saturday and again on Sunday).

The lineup, in rating order:

Rodion Rubenchik (2340) - from Pennsylvania but a frequent guest at Virginia tournaments. Indeed, he tied for 1st place at last year's George Washington Open.

Danny Miller (2321) - four times Virginia State Champion.

Peter Minear (2243) - another Pennsylvanian who's no stranger to Virginia including last year's George Washington and Springfield Opens.

Adithya Balasubramanian (2196) – reigning Virginia Scholastic Champion.

Adam Weissbarth (2186) – Yet another Pennsylvania player(!) although in his case this may have been the first foray into the Old Dominion.

Andrew Samuelson (2157) –2006 Virginia State Champion.

Larry Larkins (2115) – reigning US Armed Forces Champion.

Abby Marshall (2074) – young talent with already a boatload of experience including the 2007 World Youth Championship in Antalya, Turkey.

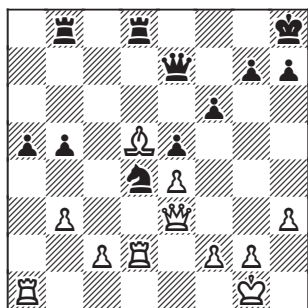


Friday, 7:30pm

The tournament got underway with a quartet of games most noteworthy in that... nothing especially noteworthy happened. The higher rated player won on each board.

**Abby Marshall - Adithya Balasubramanian
Philidor**

1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 Nbd7 4 Nf3 e5 5 dxe5 dxe5 6 Bc4 Be7 7 0-0 0-0 8 h3 c6 9 a4 Qc7 10 Bg5 Nc5 11 Qe2 a5 12 Bh4 Nh5 13 Qe3 b6 14 Bxe7 Qxe7 15 Rfd1 Nf4 16 Bf1 f6 17 Nd2 Be6 18 Nc4 Kh8 19 b3 Rab8 20 Rd2 Bxc4 21 Bxc4 Nce6 22 Rad1 Nd4 23 Ne2 Nfxe2+ 24 Bxe2 Rb7 25 Bc4 b5!? [This leads to one of those situations where a pawn gets half-lost, half-sacrificed.] 26 axb5 cxb5 27 Bd5 Rbb8 28 Ra1 Rfd8



29 Rxa5 f5 30 Ra1 f4 31 Qe1 Qg5 32 Qd1 f3 33 g3 Rb6 34 Ra8 Rxa8 35 Bxa8 Rh6 36 c3? [Black's pieces are offside so 36 Rxd4! exd4 37 Qxf3 maintains some advantage. But no more...] 36...Rxh3! 37 Rxd4 exd4 38 e5 Rxg3+ 39 fxg3 Qxg3+ 40 Kf1 Qg2+ 41 Ke1 f2+ 0-1

**Daniel Miller - Adam Weissbarth
Alekhine**

1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 Nf3 Bg4 5 Be2 e6 6 0-0 Be7 7 c4 Nb6 8 Nc3 0-0

9 Be3 Nc6 10 exd6 cxd6 11 d5 exd5 12 cxd5 Bxf3 13 Bxf3 Ne5 14 Be2 f5 15 f4 Nec4 16 Bd4 Bf6 17 b3 Ne3 18 Bxe3 Bxc3 19 Rc1 Bf6 20 Bf3 Re8 21 Bf2 Rc8 22 Qd3 Qd7 23 h3 Rxc1 24



Daniel Miller

- photo by Mike Hoffpauir



Rxc1 Rc8 25 Rxc8+ Qxc8 26 Kh2 g6 27 Qb5 Qc1 28 Qe8+ Kg7 29 Qb8 Qxf4+ 30 Bg3 Qe3 31 Bxd6 Nd7 32 Qxb7 Be5+ 33 Bxe5+ Qxe5+ 34 g3 Qd6 35 Qc6 Qe7 36 Qc7 a6 37 d6 Qe6 38 Qc3+ Qe5 39 Qxe5+ Nxe5 40 Bb7 a5 41 Kg2 Kf6 42 Bc8 Nf7 43 d7 Ke5 44 Kf3 Kd4 45 Kf4 Kc5 46 Ba6 Kd6 47 Bc4 Nd8 48 Kg5 Kxd7 49 Kh6 Ke7 50 Kxh7 Kf6 51 Bd5 g5 52 Kh6 f4 53 gxf4 gxf4 54 Kh5 Ke5 55 Bf3 Kf5 56 a3 Nf7 57 b4 axb4 58 axb4 Ne5 59 Be2 f3 60 Bf1 f2 61 b5 Ke6 62 h4 Nf3 63 Bg2 Kd6 64 Kg4 1-0



Rodion Rubenchik - Peter Minear
Slav

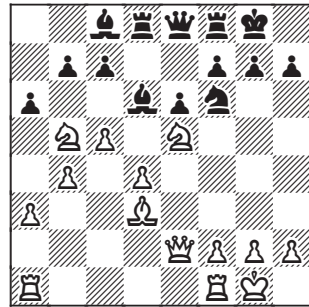
1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 cxd5
cxd5 5 Bf4 Nc6 6 e3 Bf5 7 Qb3 Qb6
8 Qxb6 axb6 9 Bb5 e6 10 Nf3 Nd7 11
0-0 Be7 12 Ne5 Ndx5 13 Bxe5 f6 14
Bc7 Bd8 15 Bg3 0-0 16 Rfc1 Rf7 17
f3 Bg6 18 Bf1 Bc7 19 Bf2 Rd7 20 Bb5
Rdd8 21 Rd1 Bd6 22 Rac1 Bb4 23
a3 Bxc3 24 Rxc3 Rdc8 25 Rdc1 Be8
26 Bg3 Kf7 27 Bd3 g6 28 h4 Bd7 29
Rb3 Ne7 30 Re1 Bc6 31 Rxb6 Nf5 32
Kf2 Nxc3 33 Kxc3 Ke7 34 h5 gxh5
35 Rh1 Rg8+ 36 Kf2 Rg5 37 f4 Rg4
38 Rxh5 Rag8 39 Rxh7+ Kd6 40 Rh2
R4g7 41 Rb3 Rg4 1-0



Rodion Rubenchik
- photo by Mike Hoffpauir

Andrew Samuelson - Larry Larkins
French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5
dxe4 5 Nxe4 Nbd7 6 Nf3 Be7 7 Bxf6
Nxf6 8 Bd3 Qd5 9 Qe2 Bd7 10 0-0
0-0 11 c4 Qa5 12 Ne5 Rad8 13 a3
Bc8 14 b4 Qa4 15 Nc3 Qe8 16 Nb5
Bd6 17 c5 a6



18 cxd6 axb5 19 dxc7 Rxd4 20 Rfd1
Rd5 21 Rac1 Bd7 22 Bb1 Bc6 23
Rxd5 exd5 24 Qe3 d4 25 Qxd4 Qe7
26 Nxc6 Qxc7 27 Qe5 Qd7 28 Nd4
Re8 29 Qc5 b6 30 Qxb6 Rd8 31 Bf5
Qd5 32 Qxd8+ Qxd8 1-0

Saturday, 10am

The big news of the second round was Larkins upsetting his mentor Miller. Larkins actually allowed a winning shot in a pawn ending but Miller missed it and then went down himself. Samuelson and Rubenchik broke free from the pack to stand at 2-0.

Larry Larkins - Daniel Miller
Alekhine

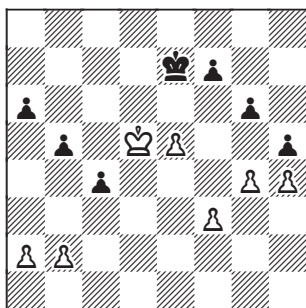
1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 Nf3 dxe5
5 Nxe5 g6 6 Bc4 c6 7 Qf3 Be6 8 Nc3
Bg7 9 0-0 0-0 10 Ne4 Nc7 11 Bxe6
Nxe6 12 c3 c5 13 Ng5 Bxe5 14 dxe5

Nc6 15 Qe4 Qd7 16 Nf3 Rad8 17
Bh6 Rfe8 18 Rfe1 Qd3 19 Re3 Qxe4
20 Rxe4 Rd5 21 Rae1 Red8 22 Kf1
a6 23 h4 R8d7 24 Ke2 b5 25 Be3 c4
26 Rh1 h5 27 Rg1 Ng7 28 Bg5 Nd8
29 Rd4 Rxd4 30 Nxd4 Nde6 31 Rd1



Larry Larkins - photo by Mike Hoffpauir

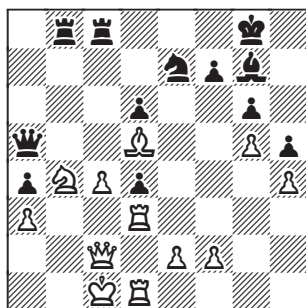
Nxd4+ 32 Rxd4 Rxd4 33 cxd4 e6 34 Kf3 Ne8 35 Bd8 Kf8 36 Ke4 Ng7 37 f3 Nf5 38 g4 Ne7 39 Bxe7+ Kxe7 40 d5 exd5+ 41 Kxd5



41...Kd7? [These things are so deceptive. (See also Weissbarth-Minear from the next round.) For just this instant White's king position is actually bad and Black could have won by 41...g5! After 42 gxh5 (42 hxg5 h4) gxh4 43 h6 Kf8 he catches White's pawn while his own cannot be stopped. But after the text the same king position becomes a dominating factor in White's favor.] **42 gxh5 gxh5 43 f4 b4 44 Kxc4 1-0**

Adithya Balasubramanian - Andrew Samuelson
Réti

1 Nf3 c5 2 d3 g6 3 c4 Bg7 4 Nc3 Nc6 5 g4 d6 6 h3 e5 7 Bg2 Nge7 8 Be3 h5 9 g5 Nf5 10 Qd2 Be6 11 0-0-0 Rb8 12 h4 a6 13 Ne1 0-0 14 Nc2 Ncd4 15 Bxd4 exd4 16 Nd5 b5 17 b3 bxc4 18 dxc4 a5 19 Rh3 a4 20 b4 Bxd5 21 Bxd5 cxb4 22 Nxb4 Qb6 23 a3 Rfc8 24 Qd3 Ne7 25 Qc2 Qa5 26 Rhd3



26...Rxb4! 27 axb4 Qxb4 28 Qb2 Nxd5 29 Qxb4 Nxb4 30 Ra3 Rxc4+ 31 Kb1 Nd5 0-1



Andrew Samuelson - photo by Mike Hoffpauir





Adam Weissbarth - Rodion Rubenchik French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nc6 4 e5 f6 5 Bb5 a6 6 Bxc6+ bxc6 7 Nf3 c5 8 0-0 cxd4 9 Nxd4 c5 10 Nf3 f5 11 Ne2 a5 12 c4 d4 13 Nf4 g5 14 Nd3 h6 15 Nfe1 Qd7 16 b3 Bb7 17 Qh5+ Qf7 18 Qxf7+ Kxf7 19 Ba3 Rc8 20 Nb2 Ne7 21 Ned3 Ng6 22 f3 Bc6 23 Na4 [23 Bxc5 might have led to an orgy of "desperado" sacrifices: 23...Bxc5 24 Nxc5 Bxf3 25 Nxe6 Bxg2 26 Nxcg5+ hxcg5 27 Kxg2 Nf4+ White comes out a pawn to the good but Black has activity.] 23...Be7!? [23...Bxa4] 24 Rab1 [fearful of stepping into an awkward pin by 24 Naxc5!]? 24...Rc7 25 Bc1 Bb7 26 Bd2 Ra8 27 Rfe1 Nf8

28 Re2 Nd7 29 Ne1 Bc6 30 Nb2 a4 31 Nbd3 axb3 32 axb3 Ra2 33 Rb2 Rxb2 34 Nxb2 Rb7 35 b4 cxb4 36 Nbd3 b3 37 Bc1 Nb6 38 Nb2 Ra7 39 Ned3 Ra1 40 Re1 Ba3 41 Bd2 Bxb2 42 Nxb2 Rxe1+ 43 Bxe1 Na4 0-1

Peter Minear - Abby Marshall Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nf6 4 0-0 Bc5 5 c3 0-0 6 d4 Bb6 7 Bg5 h6 8 Bh4 d6 9 Qd3 Qe7 10 Nbd2 Nb8 11 Rfe1 c6 12 Ba4 Rd8 13 Nc4 Bc7 14 Bc2 Nbd7 15 Ne3 Nf8 16 Nf5 Bxf5 17 exf5 N8d7 18 Re2 Re8 19 Rae1 Rad8 20 h3 Nb6 21 Bb3 Nbd7 22 g4 Qf8 23 Nd2 exd4 24 cxd4 d5 25 a3 Rxe2 26 Rxe2 Re8 27 Bc2 Rxe2 28 Qxe2 Qe8 29 Kf1 Qxe2+ 30 Kxe2 Kf8 ½-½

Saturday, 2:30pm

The pace slackened as both leaders settled for draws in round three. Weissbarth begin to look like the unfortunate story of the tournament; a third straight goose egg marked him as a target for the other competitors.

Andrew Samuelson - Abby Marshall Vienna

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d3 Bc5 4 Nc3 d6 5 f4 Ng4 6 f5 Bf2+ 7 Kf1 Ne3+ 8 Bxe3 Bxe3 9 Qh5 0-0 10 Nf3 Nd7 11 Nd5 Nf6 12 Nxf6+ Qxf6 13 g4 Qh6?! [13...g6] 14 Qxh6 gxh6 15 Ke2 Bf4 16 h4 c6 17 Rag1 b5 18 Bb3 Bb7 19 g5 Kh8 20 f6 d5 21 gxh6 Rad8 22 Rg7 Bxh6 23 Rhg1 Rd6 24 Ng5 Rxf6 [24...Bxg7! 25 fxg7+ Kxg7 26 Ne6+ Kh8 27 Nxf8 Rd8] 25 Rxh7+ Kg8 26 Rxh6 Rxh6 27 Ne6+ Rg6 28 Rxc6+ fxc6 29 Nxf8 Kxf8 30 exd5 cxd5 [So the complications have produced an endgame that looks about

even. Yet White proceeds to extract a big advantage only to wind up drawing after all.] 31 Kf3 Ke7 32 Kg4 Kf6 33 c3 Bc6 34 Bd1 Bd7+ 35 Kg3 Bf5 36 d4 Bd3 37 dxe5+ Kxe5 38 Kg4 a5 39 Kg5 Kd6 40 Kf6 b4 41 Ba4 bxc3 42 bxc3 Kc5 43 Be8 Kc4 44 Bxg6 Be2 [It's around here that it appears White ought to be able to win somehow, eg, 45 h5 Bxh5 46 Bxh5 Kxc3 47 a4! (but not 47 Ke5 a4!) 47...d4 48 Ke5 d3 49 Bd1 with the right color bishop for the remaining rook pawn.] 45 Bf7 Bf3 46 Ke5 a4 47 a3 Kxc3 48 Bxd5 Bd1 49 Bc6 ½-½



Rodion Rubenchik - Larry Larkins Semi-Slav

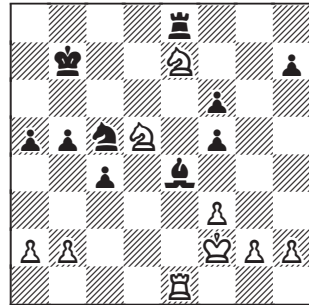
1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 c6 3 d4 d5 4 Nc3 e6 5 Bg5 dxc4 6 e4 b5 7 e5 h6 8 Bh4 g5 9 Nxg5 hxg5 10 Bxg5 Nbd7 11 g3 Qb6 12 exf6 c5 13 Bg2 Bb7 14 d5 0-0-0 15 0-0 b4 16 Na4 Qb5 17 a3 exd5 18 axb4 cxb4 19 Be3 Nc5 20 Qg4+ Kc7 [This is one of those openings where theory runs ridiculously deep into the middlegame. Those who play this variation tend to know a lot of it. Aside from the text move, 20...Kb8 (eg, in Agzamov-Chandler, Belgrade 1982) and 20...Rd7 (eg, Van Wely-Shirov, Melody Amber 2004; Ivanchuk-Shirov, Wijk aan Zee 1996; etc) are possible.] 21 Bf4+ Kc6 22 Nxc5 Bxc5 [Still in known territory, eg a game Shirov-Lampes, 2000 reached this position and White played 23 Rfe1] 23 Rfd1 Kb6 24 Be5 Qd7 25 Qf4 a6 26 h4 Rhg8 27 Bd4 Qd6 28 Be5 Qd7 29 Bd4 Qd6 30 Be5 Qd7 21 Bf4+ Kc6 22 Nxc5 Bxc5 23 Rfd1 Kb6 24 Be5 Qd7 25 Qf4 a6 26 h4 Rhg8 27 Bd4 Qd6 28 Be5 Qd7 29 Bd4 Qd6 30 Be5 Qd7 1/2-1/2

Daniel Miller - Adithya Balasubramanian Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 Qxd5 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3 Bg4 6 Be2 e6 7 0-0 Nc6 8 h3 Bh5 9 Be3 cxd4 10 cxd4 Bb4 11 Nc3 Qd6 12 Qb3 0-0 13 Rfd1 Nd5 14 Nxd5 exd5 15 Rac1 Rae8 16 a3 Ba5 17 Qxb7 Re6 18 b4 Bc7 19 Ne5 Nxe5 20 dxe5 Qxe5 [Black had been counting on this to hold his game together, but after...] 21 Bxh5 [...it's check, yes, but not mate!] Qh2+ 22 Kf1 Bb6 23 Bxf7+ Kh8 24 Bxe6 Bxe3 25 Qf7 1-0

Adam Weissbarth - Peter Minear Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6 dxc6 5 0-0 Qd6 6 Na3 b5 7 c3 c5 8 Nc2 Bb7 9 Re1 0-0-0 10 d4 cxd4 11 cxd4 exd4 12 Nfxd4 Qg6 13 Qe2 c5 14 Nb3 f5 15 Be3 Bxe4 16 f3 Bd3 17 Qf2 c4 18 Na5 Nf6 19 Bc5 Nd7 20 Bxf8 Rhxf8 21 Nd4 Qb6 22 Nac6 Rde8 23 Ne7+ Kb7 24 Re6 Qc5 25 Rae1 Rf6 26 Rxf6 gxf6 27 Ndc6 Qxf2+ 28 Kxf2 Nc5 29 Nb4 a5 30 Nbd5 Be4!? [Triggering interesting complications.]



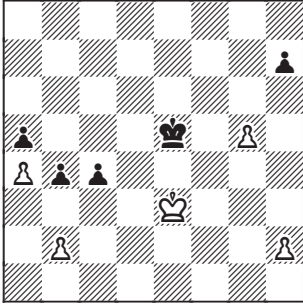
31 fxe4 [On 31 Nxf5!? there might have followed 31...Nd3+ 32 Kf1 Nxe1 33 Nd6+ Kc6 34 Nxe8 Nxf3 35 gxf3 (or



Adithya Balasubramanian - photo by Mike Hoffpauir



35 Ndx₆ B₂ + 36 Kf₂ N₂h₂) B₂ + 36
Kf₂ K₂d₅ 37 N₂f₆ + K₂d₄] 31...N₂d₃ +
32 Kf₁ N₂e₁ 33 K₂e₁ [33 N₂f₅] f₂e₄
34 K₂d₂ b₄ 35 g₃ R₂d₈ 36 g₄ K₂a₆ 37
K₂c₂ K₂b₅ 38 N₂x₆ e₃ 39 N₂d₅ e₂ 40
K₂d₂ K₂c₅ 41 K₂e₂ R₂x₅ 42 N₂x₅ K₂d₅
43 K₂e₃ K₂e₅ 44 a₄ K₂d₅ 45 g₅ K₂e₅



And so another pawn endgame; this one is about kings jockeying for position in the center of the board. The just result would be a draw after 46 h3!, eg:

i) 46...Kd5 47 h4 Ke5 48 h5 Kf5 49 g6
hxg6 50 hxg6 Kxg6 51 Kd4 c3 52 bxc3
bxc3 53 Kxc3 Kf6;

Saturday, 7pm

The complexion of the race changed dramatically in the 4th round. The field bunched towards the center as co-leader Rubenchik blundered early and was beaten at one end while Weissbarth got onto the scoreboard at the other. Miller suffered his second defeat.

Adithya Balasubramanian – Rodion Rubenchik
King's Indian Attack

1 g3 d5 2 Bg2 e5 3 d3 c5 4 Nf3 Nc6
5 0-0 Nf6 6 Na3 Be7 7 e4 0-0 8 exd5
Nxd5 9 Nc4 f6 10 Re1 Be6 11 c3 Qd7
12 Qe2 Bg4? 13 Nfxe5 fxe5 14 Bxd5+
Qxd5 15 Qxg4 Bf6 16 Bg5 Qxd3 17
Bxf6 Rxf6 18 Rad1 Qf5 19 Qxf5 Rxf5
20 Nd6 Rff8 21 Nxb7 1-0



Peter Minear

- photo by Mike Hoffpauir

ii) 46...Kf5 47 Kd4 c3 48 bxc3 bxc3 49 Kxc3 Kxg5 50 Kc4 Kh4 51 Kb5 Kxh3 52 Kxa5 h5 53 Kb4 Kg2 54 a5 h4 55 a6 h3 56 a7 h2 57 a8Q+ Kg1.

Instead, White played...

46 h4? ...and fell into zugzwang.

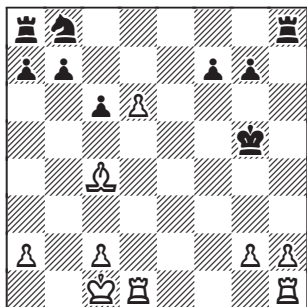
46...Kf5 47 Kd4 Kg4 48 Kxc4 Kxh4 49
Kb5 Kxg5 50 Kxa5 h5 51 Kxb4 h4 52 a5
h3 53 a6 h2 0-1 [A few more moves may
have been played but not recorded.]

Abby Marshall - Daniel Miller Falkbeer Countergambit

Notes by Abby Marshall from her blog at <http://main.uschess.org/content/view/8508/463/>
 1 e4 e5 2 f4 d5 3 exd5 e4 4 d3 Nf6
 5 dxe4 Nxe4 6 Nf3 Bc5 7 Qe2 Bf5 8
 Nc3 Qe7 9 Be3 Bxe3 10 Qxe3 Nxc3
 11 Qxe7+ Kxe7 12 bxc3 Be4 13 Ng5
 Bxd5 14 0-0-0 c6 15 c4 [All theory



up to this point. Normal is 15 Re1+ but I forgot the moves.] **15...h6?! [After the game Daniel told me that he should have played 15...Be6, where Fritz gives White a +.31 and I said I thought White has a small advantage. Andrew Samuelson said +.33 is ± Um, yeah, so can we agree that it's probably manageable for Black? :-)]** **16 cxd5 hxcg5 17 d6+! Kf6 [Oh wow, can he really do this? 17...Kd8 18 fxg5 Nd7 was what I expected. 19 h4 Nc5 20 Bc4 Rf8 21 Rhe1... yeah maybe what he did is best, otherwise White will squeeze Black to death.]** **18 fxg5+ Kxcg5 19 Bc4**



19...Nd7! [Black can't allow the rook to reach the seventh rank (19...f6 20 Rhe1 b5 21 Bb3 Na6 22 Re7)] **20 Bxf7**



*Abbey Marshall
- photo by Mike Hoffpauir*

Rad8 21 h3 Ne5?! [This lets me get organized. 21...Rh8 22 Bb3 Rf2 23 g3 Nc5 24 Rhe1 Kf6 is better.] **22 Bb3 Rhf8 23 Rhe1 Ng6 24 Rd4 [I thought for a while on this move. I think the best approach is to take it slow. I want to get to the seventh rank and eventually push my kingside pawns.]** **24...Rf4?! [I don't like this for him because I get the seventh rank. Maybe my advantage is not so large but my position is easier to handle.]** **25 Rxf4 Nxf4 26 Re7 g6 27 Rxb7 [27 g3 Nxh3 28 Be6 Ng1 29 d7 Ne2+ 30 Kd2 Nd4]** **27...Rxd6 28 Rxa7 Nxg2 29 a4 Ne3 [If 29...Nf4 30 Rh7 Rd8 31 Kb2 Kf5 32 Kc3 g5 33 Kb4 Ra8 34 Kc5 Kg6 35 Rc7 Nxh3 White is probably winning but suddenly the position is a little more wild. It was Black's best shot to go after the h-pawn with the knight.]** **30 a5 Rd1+ 31 Kb2 Rh1 32 Rh7 Nd1+ 33 Ka3 Ne3 34 Kb4 Ra1 35 Rc7! Rh1 36 Rxc6 Rxh3 37 a6 Rh4+ 38 Kb5 Nf5 39 a7 Nd4+ 40 Kb6 Nxc6 41 a8Q?! [41 Kxc6 Rh8 42 Bd5 Kf4 43 Kc5 is simpler.]** **41... Nd4 42 Qd8+ Kh5 43 Qh8+ Kg5 44 Qd8+ Kh5 45 Bf7 Rf4 46 Qh8+ Kg5 47 Qe5+ Rf5 48 Qg3+ Kf6 49 Qxcg6+ Ke7 [Here I almost died. I thought I would lose the bishop or have to fight a bishop+pawn vs knight endgame. I don't know why I thought this. Chess makes me paranoid.]** **50 Qg4 Rf6+ 51 Kb7 Nxc2 52 Bb3 Rd6 53 Qg7+ 1-0**



Peter Minear - Andrew Samuelson
Sicilian

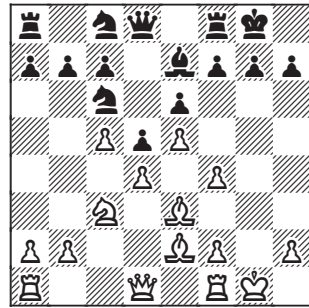
1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4
Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 f3 e5 7 Nb3 Be6 8 Be3
Nbd7 9 g4 Nb6 10 g5 Nh5 11 Nd5
Nxd5 12 exd5 Bf5 13 Bd3 Qd7 14
Qd2 Be7 15 0-0-0 0-0 16 Kb1 Bxd3
17 Qxd3 f5 18 gxf6 Rxf6 19 Nd2
Raf8 20 c4 Bd8 21 b4 Nf4 22 Qc2
Rg6 23 Rhg1 Rxc1 24 Rxc1 b5 25
Ne4 bxc4 26 Qxc4 Qb7 27 Rd1 Be7
28 Bxf4 Rxf4 29 Rd3 Rh4 30 Rd2
Rh3 31 Rf2 g6 32 a3 Kg7 33 Qc6 Qa7
34 Qc8 Rxh2 35 Rxh2 Qg1+ 36 Kc2
Qxh2+ 37 Kd3 Qh1 38 Ke2 Qg2+ 39
Ke3 Bg5+ 40 Nxg5 Qxg5+ 41 Ke2
Qg2+ 42 Ke3 h5 43 Qd7+ Kh6 44
Qxd6 Qg1+ 45 Ke2 Qg2+ 46 Ke3
Qg1+ 1/2-1/2



Adam Weissbarth - photo by Mike Hoffpauir

Larry Larkins - Adam Weissbarth
Alekhine

1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 Nf3 Bg4
5 Be2 e6 6 0-0 Be7 7 c4 Nb6 8 Nc3
0-0 9 Be3 d5 10 c5 Bxf3 11 gxf3 Nc8
12 f4 Nc6



13 f5 exf5 14 Bf3 Bg5 15 Nxd5 f4
16 Nxf4 Bxf4 17 Bxf4 Qxd4 18 Bxc6
Qxf4 19 Bxb7 Rb8 20 Qf3 Qxf3 21
Bxf3 Rxb2 22 Rfd1 Rc2 23 Rd5 c6 24
Rd7 Rxc5 25 Re1 Ra5 26 Re2 Nb6 27
Rc7 Nd5 28 Rxc6 Nf4 29 Re4 Nh3+
30 Kg2 Ng5 31 Re2 Nxf3 32 Kxf3 g6
33 Kg4 Kg7 34 Rc7 Ra4+ 35 f4 h6
36 h4 Ra5 37 h5 Ra4 38 hxg6 Kxg6
39 Rc6+ Kg7 40 Kf5 Rd8 41 Rg2+
Kf8 42 Rxh6 Rdd4 43 Rf2 Ke7 44 Rf6
Rdc4 45 Kg5 Rc1 46 Rb2 Rg1+ 47
Kf5 Rf1 48 Rb7+ Ke8 49 Kg4 Rg1+
50 Kf3 Rf1+ 51 Ke3 Ra3+ 52 Ke4
Ra4+ 53 Ke3 Ra3+ 54 Kd4 Ra4+ 55
Kd3 Rf3+ 56 Ke2 Rh3 57 Rb8+ Ke7
58 Rb7+ Kd8 59 Rd6+ Kc8 60 Rbd7
Rxa2+ 61 Rd2 Rh2+ 62 Ke3 Raxd2
63 Rxd2 Rxd2 64 Kxd2 Kd7 65 f5
Kc6 1/2-1/2





Thus the standings at the close of the tournament's second day looked like this:

Samuelson - 3

Rubenchik - 2½

Balasubramanian, Larkins, Miller, Marshall, Minear - 2

Weissbarth - ½

To jump ahead briefly, it's evident that the grueling schedule influenced the final result. Going into Sunday we see that more than half the field stood at 2-2. Included in this group were the tournament's two oldest players (Larkins and Miller) and also its two youngest (Marshall and Balasubramanian). On the last day the elder pair managed to score only two draws and four losses between them whereas the junior pair added five wins(!) and a draw to their scores.

Sunday, 9am

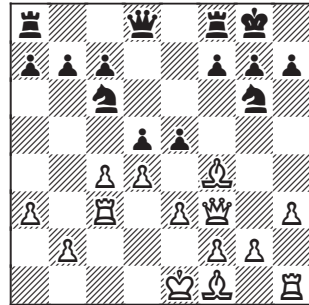
The lowest rated player (Marshall) beat the highest rated (Rubenchik). This allowed Samuelson to remain in first place for the time being by drawing his game.

Rodion Rubenchik - Abby Marshall

Tchigorin

Notes by Abby Marshall from her blog at <http://main.uschess.org/content/view/full/8503/463/>

1 Nf3 Nc6 [What, no Tarrasch?? The Tarrasch is what I like to call the Dracula opening: no one seems able to put a stake through its cursed heart. Perhaps it does need some updating, but Tarrasch died in 1934 and he has been slow to undertake further revisions. Anyway, I thought it was time to bust out the new stuff.] **2 d4 d5 3 Bf4 Bg4 4 e3 e6 5 c4 Bb4+ 6 Nc3 Nge7** [This is the usual set-up in the Tchigorin, with knights on e7-c6 and bishops pinning the White knights. ...e5 is a typical idea and the emphasis is on piece play and rapid development.] **7 Rc1 O-O 8 a3** [8 Be2 may be more accurate to develop some pieces.] **8...Bxc3+ 9 Rxc3 Ng6 10 h3** [10 cxd5 is best: 10...Qxd5 11 Bg3 e5 12 Bc4 Qd7∞] **10...Bxf3 11 Qxf3 e5**



12 dxe5 [If 12 cxd5 Nxd4 13 exd4 exf4 Black threatens ...Nh4; or if 12 Bxe5 Ngxe5 13 dxe5 d4 14 Rb3 Nxe5 is probably about even.] **12...d4 13 Rb3?** [This loses time. After 13 Rc2 Re8 14 Rd2 Ngxe5 15 Qg3 Qe7 Black is a little better.] **13...Na5 14 Rd3** [if 14 Rb4 c5 15 Rb5 b6 and ...a6 wins the exchange next move.] **14...c5!** [I liked this move because it opens the d8-a5 diagonal for my queen.] **15 b3** [If 15 Qe4 Nxc4 16 Qxb7 Rb8 17 Qxa7 Nxf4 18 exf4 Nxb2



the twin passers are deadly.] **15...Nc6**
16 exd4 [This opens the e-file for my rook and gets my knight active but it's hard to recommend anything for White. If **16 Rd2 Re8 17 Be2 Qa5**; maybe **16 Qd5!? Qb6 (16...Qe7 17 Qd6) 17 b4 cxb4 18 Qb5 bxa3 19 Rxa3 Qc7 20 Be2** White's position is a mess but at least his other pieces can get out.] **16...Nxd4 17 Qg3 Re8** [Simple and strong. My next move will be either **...Qc7** or **...Qa5+** and it's hard to see how White can untangle himself. **18 Be2 Qa5+ 19 Kf1** (or **19 b4 cxb4 20 Rxd4 bxa3+ 21 Bd2 a2 22 0-0 a1Q 23 Bxa5 Qxd4 -+**) **19...Qxa3** was a possible continuation but my opponent resigned instead.] **0-1**

Daniel Miller - Andrew Samuelson Sicilian

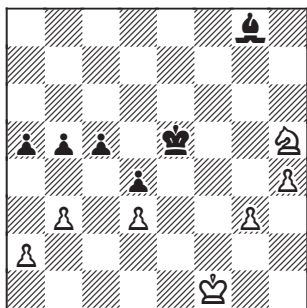
1 e4 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 c3 g6 4 cxd4 d5 5 exd5 Nf6 6 Bb5+ Bd7 7 Bc4 b5 8 Bb3 a5 9 Bg5 Bg7 10 d6 exd6 11 Qe2+ Qe7 12 Qxe7+ Kxe7 13 Nc3 Re8 14 Nge2 Kf8 15 0-0 a4 16 Bd1 Bc6 17 a3 Nd5 18 Nxd5 Bxd5 19 Nc3 Bc4 20 Bf3 Ra6 21 Rfe1 Nc6 22 Rxe8+ Kxe8 23 Re1+ Kd7 24 Be2 Bxe2 25 Rxe2 h6 26 Be3 Nxd4 27 Bxd4 Bxd4 28 Nxb5 Be5 29 f4 Bxf4 30 Re4 Be5 31 Nc3 Bxc3 32 bxc3 Rc6 33 Rxa4 Rxc3 34 Kf2 Rc2+ 35 Kf3 Ra2 36 h4 h5 37 g4 hxg4+ 38 Kxg4 Ke6 39 Ra8 d5 40 Kf4 Rc2 41 Ra6+ Ke7 42 Ke5 Rc4 43 h5 gxh5 44 Kxd5 Rc1 45 Ke5 h4 46 Kf4 Rc3 47 a4 h3 48 Rh6 Ra3 49 Kg4 f6 50 a5 Ke6 51 Rxh3 f5+ 52 Kh4 Rxa5 53 Rb3 Ke5 54 Kg3 Ke4 ½-½ [White gets his king in front of the pawn and achieves Philidor's position, the standard drawing formation.]

Larry Larkins - Peter Minear Ruy Lopez

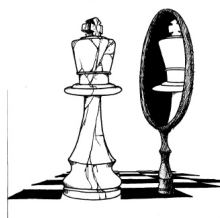
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6 dxc6 5 0-0 Qf6 6 d4 exd4 7 Bg5 Qg6 8 Qxd4 Bd6 9 Re1 Be6 10 Nbd2 c5 11 Qd3 f6 12 e5 Qxd3 13 cxd3 fxe5 14 Nxe5 Nf6 15 Nec4 Kf7 16 Bxf6 gxf6 17 Nxd6+ cxd6 18 Ne4 Rad8 19 a3 b6 20 Rac1 Rhe8 21 Re3 d5 22 Ng3 Bg4 23 h3 Rxe3 24 fxe3 Be6 25 d4 c4 26 Ne2 Ke7 27 Kf2 b5 28 Ke1 Rg8 29 Nf4 Bf7 30 Kd2 Rg3 31 Rf1 a5 32 Rf3 Rg8 33 Kc3 Rb8 34 Rg3 b4+ 35 axb4 axb4+ 36 Kc2 Kf8 37 Kb1 Re8 38 Kc1 Re7 39 h4 Ra7 40 Kb1 Ra6 41 h5 Be6 42 Nxe6+ Rxe6 43 Kc2 Re4 44 Kd2 Rh4 45 Ke2 Rxh5 46 Rf3 Kf7 47 Rf1 Rg5 48 Rg1 Rg8 49 Kf3 Ra8 50 g4 Ra2 51 Rb1 b3 52 Kf4 Ke6 53 e4 dxe4 54 Kxe4 Kd6 55 Rc1 Ra4 56 Rc3 Kc6 57 Rf3 Ra2 58 Rxf6+ Kb5 59 Rf5+ Kb4 60 Rf2 c3 61 bxc3+ Kxc3 62 Rf8 Ra4 63 Rc8+ Rc4 0-1 [White resigned with only had 3 seconds left on his clock.]

Adam Weissbarth - Adithya Balasubramanian Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 g6 4 Bxc6 dxc6 5 d3 Bg7 6 h3 Nf6 7 Nc3 Nd7 8 Be3 e5 9 Qd2 Qe7 10 Bh6 f6 11 Bxg7 Qxg7 12 0-0 Nf8 13 Ne2 Ne6 14 Rae1 Nd4 15 Nh2 Be6 16 b3 0-0-0 17 Qc3 Qe7 18 f4 h5 19 fxe5 fxe5 20 Nf3 Rhf8 21 Nexd4 exd4 22 Qd2 Bg8 23 Qg5 Qxg5 24 Nxg5 Kd7 25 h4 Ke7 26 g3 b5 27 Rxf8 Rxf8 28 Rf1 Rxf1+ 29 Kxf1 c4 30 Nf3 cxb3 31 cxb3 c5 32 Ne5 Kd6 [perhaps not what White expected] **33 Nxg6 a5 [33...c4] 34 e5+ [34 Nf4] Ke6 35 Nf4+ Kxe5 36 Nxb5**



36...Bxb3! 37 a3 [If 37 axb3 a4 of course, but in any case things have gone terribly wrong for White] **37...a4 38 Ke2 b4 39 Kd2 bxa3 40 Kc1 c4 41 Nf4 c3 42 Kb1 c2+ 43 Kc1 a2 0-1**



Sunday, 1:30pm

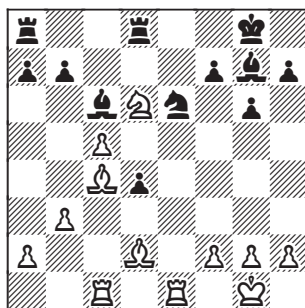
Rubinchuk knocked Samuelson off the top perch. When Abby Marshall beat luckless Weissbarth, she suddenly found herself in first place. Miller saved a hopeless ending against Minear.

Andrew Samuelson - Rodion Rubenchik French

1 e4 e6 2 b3 c5 3 Bb2 Nc6 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Nf3 d5 6 e5 Nd7 7 Bb5 Qc7 8 Qe2 Nd4 9 Nxd4 cxd4 10 Bxd7+ Bxd7 11 Nb5 Qxc2 12 Bxd4 a6 13 Nc3 Bb4 14 Qg4 0-0 15 0-0 Bb5 16 Rfc1 Qg6 17 Qf4 Rfc8 18 a4 Bd3 19 Re1 Be7 20 h4 Bc2 21 Re3 Qh5 22 Rc1 Bf5 23 Rce1? [strangely indifferent to the fate of his h-pawn] **Bxh4 24 Rf3 Bg5 25 Qg3 Bxd2 26 Ra1 Rc6 27 Ra2 Bh6 28 a5 Be4 29 Rf6 Rac8 30 f4 Kh8 31 Rxh6 Qxh6 32 b4 Rc4 33 Bc5 Qg6 34 Qe3 Bd3 35 Rd2? Rxc3 0-1**

Abby Marshall - Adam Weissbarth Alekhine

1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 c4 Nb6 5 exd6 cxd6 6 Nc3 g6 7 Be3 Bg7 8 Rc1 0-0 9 b3 e5 10 dxe5 dxe5 11 Qxd8 Rxd8 12 c5 N6d7 13 Nf3 Nc6 14 Bc4 Na5 15 Bb5 Nf8 16 Ne4 Ne6 17 Nd6 Nc6 18 0-0 Ncd4 19 Nxd4 exd4 20 Bd2 Bd7 21 Bc4 Bc6 22 Rfe1



22...Nxc5 23 Nxf7 Rf8 24 Bb4 Nd7 25 Ng5+ Kh8 26 Bxf8 Bxf8 27 Ne6 Bb4 28 Red1 Ne5 29 Nxd4 Rf8 30 Nxc6 bxc6 31 a3 1-0 [The final move might be a notation error as it's not clear what would be the point of throwing away the a-pawn like that. White is winning in any case, of course.]

Peter Minear - Daniel Miller Petroff

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 d4 d5 6 Bd3 Bd6 7 0-0 0-0 8 c4 c6 9 Nc3 Nxc3 10 bxc3 dxc4 11 Bxc4 Bg4 12 Rb1 Nd7 13 Be2 b5



14 h3 Bf5 15 Bd3 Bxd3 16 Qxd3 h6
17 c4 a6 18 Qc2 Rc8 19 a4 Re8 20
Be3 Bf8 21 Qb3 b4 22 Rfd1 a5 23 c5
Nf6 24 Ne5 Nd5 25 Qc4 Qc7 26 Bd2
Be7 27 Re1 h5 28 Qc2 Bf6 29 Nf3
Qd7 30 Qd3 Red8 31 Bg5 Bxg5 32
Nxc5 Nf6 33 Rbd1 Re8 34 Nf3 Qc7
35 Ne5 Nd5 36 Qf5 Nf6 37 Nc4 Qd7
38 Rxe8+ Rxe8 39 Qxd7 Nxd7 40
Nxa5 Nf6 41 Nxc6 Nd5 42 Rb1 Rc8
43 Nxb4 Rb8 44 c6 Nxb4 45 c7 Rc8
46 Rxb4 Rxc7 47 Kf1 [White missed
a chance to score a technical win by 47
Rb1! Rc4 48 Ra1 Rxd4 49 a5 Rd7 50 a6
Ra7 51 Kf1 etc. Of course his position
is still winning but the problem is that
he had only a couple minutes remaining
on his clock, with most of that melting
away over the next few moves as he
sought to shake off Millers harassing

defense.] 47...Rc2 48 Ke1 Kf8 49 h4
Ra2 50 g3 Ke7 51 Kf1 g6 52 Kg2
Ra3 53 Rb7+ Ke6 54 Rb6+... [No
score was kept from this point. White
eventually gave up his queenside pawns
in order to invade with his king on the
opposite flank. With practically no time
remaining, the players bashed out moves
until only two kings remained.] ½-½

Adithya Balasubramanian - Larry Larkins English

1 g3 e5 2 Bg2 Nf6 3 c4 Nc6 4 Nc3 d6
5 d3 Be6 6 Nf3 h6 7 0-0 Qd7 8 Re1
d5 9 cxd5 Nxd5 10 a3 Be7 11 Qc2 0-0
12 b4 Nxc3 13 Qxc3 Bf6 14 e4 a6 15
Bb2 Rfd8 16 Rad1 Bg4 17 Qc5 Qe6
18 d4 Qb3 19 Rb1 Bxf3 20 d5 Be7 21
Qc1 Bg5 22 Qc5 Bxg2 23 Kxg2 Be7
24 Qc1 Bg5 25 Qc5 ½-½

Sunday, 6pm

As the George Washington Open wound down and most everyone headed home, the eight weary Invitational players set up the pieces yet again. Marshall played with a sure hand against Larkins to clinch at least a share of first prize. Rubenchik won the battle of the two highest rated players to join her at 4½-2½. Samuelson also got back on the winning track to make it a three-way tie.

Larry Larkins - Abby Marshall

Ruy Lopez

Notes by Abby Marshall from her blog at
<http://main.uschess.org/content/view/8503/463/>
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nf6 4 0-0
Bc5 5 c3 0-0 6 d4 Bb6 7 Qd3 d6 8 a4
a5 9 Na3 Qe7 10 Re1 Bg4 11 Nc4 Nd7
12 Bg5 f6 13 Bd2 Rad8 14 Ne3 Bxf3
15 gxf3 exd4 16 Nf5 Qe8 17 cxd4
Ne7 18 Ng3 Kh8 19 b4! axb4 20 a5
Ba7 21 Bxb4 Qf7 22 a6 bxa6 23 Rxa6
Bb8 24 Bxd7 Rxd7 25 d5 Rdd8 26
Bd2 Rc8 27 Rb1 f5 28 Nxf5 Nxf5 29

exf5 Qd7 30 Qe4 Rxf5 31 Ra8 Rff8
32 Qg4 Qf7 33 Qxc8? [33 Bc3 keeps
up the pressure.] 33...Qg6+ 34 Qg4
Qxb1+ 35 Kg2 Qb7? [35...Qd3!] 36
Bc3 Rg8 37 Ra5 c6 38 dxc6 Qxc6 39
Rh5 d5 [It's insane but there is no win
here for White.] 40 Bd4 Bc7 41 f4 [41
Qf5 h6 42 Rg5 Qd6 43 Rg6 Qf4] 41...
Bd8 42 f5 h6 43 Qg6 Qxg6+ 44 fxg6
Re8 45 Rxh6+ Kg8 46 Rh5 Re6 47
Rxd5 Rxg6+ 48 Kf1 Bb6 ½-½
[I don't think White can win this.]



Rodion Rubenchik - Daniel Miller

Semi-Slav

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e3 e6 5 Nf3 Nbd7 6 Qc2 Bd6 7 Bd3 0-0 8 0-0 dxc4 9 Bxc4 b5 10 Be2 Bb7 11 Rd1 Qe7 12 h3 a6 13 e4 e5 14 dxe5 Nxe5 15 Nd4 Bb8 16 Nf5 Qc7 17 f4 Ng6 18 e5 Nxe5? [Woah! White has an edge but there was nothing so terrible about 18...Nd7 as to justify this. In truth, Black never recovers from the handicap incurred by this sacrifice.] 19 fxe5 Qxe5 20 Bf3 Ba7+ 21 Kh1 Bc8 22 g4 Bb8 23 Qg2 Bxf5 24 gxf5 Qxf5 25 Bh6! Qg6 26 Qxg6 hxc6 27 Bxc6 Ra7 28 Be3 Rc7 29 Bf3 b4 30 Nd5 Rc2 31 Nxf6+ gxf6 32 Rd2 Rfc8 33 Rad1 Be5 34 b3 Rxd2 35 Rxd2 Rc3 36 Re2 Bf4 37 Bxf4 Rxf3 38 Bd6 Rxh3+ 39 Kg2 Rh4 40 Re8+ Kh7 41 Ra8 Re4 42 Kf3 f5 43 Rxa6 Re6 44 Rb6 g5 45 Bc5 g4+ 46 Kf2 Re5 47 Bxb4 f4 48 Bd2 f3 49 Be3 Rh5 50 a4 Rh2+ 51 Kg3 Rg2+ 52 Kf4 f5 53 Kxf5 g3 54 Ke4 f2 55 Rf6 Rg1 56 Bxf2 Rf1 57 Bd4 g2 58 Rf3 1-0

Adam Weissbarth - Andrew Samuelson

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 g6 3 c3 Bg7 4 d4 cxd4 5 cxd4 d5 6 e5 Bg4 7 Nc3 Nc6 8 Be2 Bxf3 9 Bxf3 e6 10 0-0 Nge7 11 Rb1 0-0 12 Bg5 Qb6 13 Bxe7 Nxe7 14 Qd3 Nc6 15 Rfd1 f6 16 Bg4 Rae8 17 Bxe6+? [You have to give Weissbarth credit for continuing to demonstrate

fighting spirit throughout what must have been a discouraging event. But this move doesn't work.] 17...Rxe6 18 Nxd5 Qd8 19 Qb3 Na5! [refuting White's faulty combination] 20 Nf4 Nxb3 21 Nxe6 Qd5 22 Nxf8 Na5 0-1

Adithya Balasubramanian - Peter Minear

Two Knights

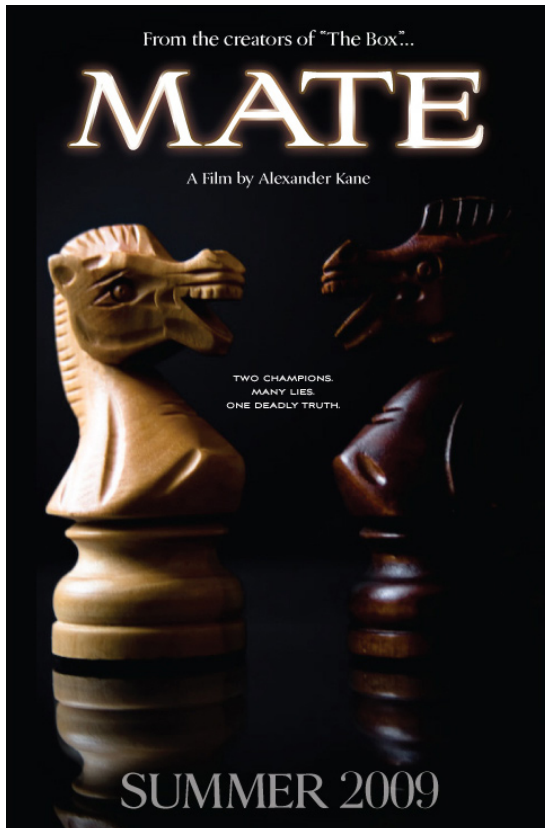
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 d3 Be7 5 0-0 0-0 6 Nc3 d6 7 h3 Na5 8 Bb3 Nxb3 9 axb3 a6 10 Be3 b6 11 b4 Bb7 12 b5 Re8 13 Ne2 d5 14 Nxe5 dxe4 15 dxe4 Nxe4 16 Nd4 Qd5 17 Ndc6 Bxc6 18 Nxc6 Qxb5 19 Qd7 Kf8 20 Rfe1 Bd6 21 Bd4 Qg5 22 Be3 Qf6 23 c3 a5 24 Qg4 Qe6 25 Qh5 Nf6 26 Qh4 Qe4 27 Qxe4 Nxe4 28 Bd4 Nc5 29 Rxe8+ Rxe8 30 Bxc5 Bxc5 31 b4 Re6 32 Nd8 Re8 33 Nc6 axb4 34 cxb4 Bd6 35 b5 g6 36 Kf1 Re4 37 Ra8+ Kg7 38 Ra2 Rc4 39 Ke2 Rc1 40 Kf3 Rb1 41 Na7 Bc5 42 Ke4 Rd1 43 Nc6 Kf6 44 Kf4 Rd3 45 f3 Rb3 46 Na7 Be3+ 47 Kg3 Ke6 48 Rc2 Bc5 49 Re2+ Kd5 50 Ra2 h5 51 Rd2+ Ke6 52 Re2+ Kd7 53 Ra2 Bd6+ 54 Kf2 h4 55 Ke2 Rb1 56 Kd3 Rd1+ 57 Ke2 Rd5 58 Rc2 Bf4 59 Ra2 Re5+ 60 Kd3 Bg5 [Minear's third long ending with time pressure of the day! Play continued unrecorded for another dozen moves or so. The draw was agreed with White having only 11 seconds remaining on his clock.] 1/2-1/2





The 2008 Springfield Invitational FIDE RR

	AM	RR	AS	PM	AB	LL	DM	AW	Score
Abby Marshall	x	1	=	=	0	=	1	1	4½-2½
Rodion Rubenchik	0	x	1	1	0	=	1	1	4½-2½
Andrew Samuelson	=	0	x	=	1	1	=	1	4½-2½
Peter Minear	=	0	=	x	=	1	=	1	4-3
Adithya Balasubramanian	1	1	0	=	x	=	0	1	4-3
Larry Larkins	=	=	0	0	=	x	1	=	3-4
Daniel Miller	0	0	=	=	1	0	x	1	3-4
Adam Weissbarth	0	0	0	0	0	=	0	x	½-6½





Kingstowne Chess Club

by Don Millican

QUAD #46/ACTION-PLUS #18

The 46th edition of the Kingstowne Quads was held on March 1 along with the 18th Action-Plus. Fourteen players met in the Quad, while twenty competed in the Action-Plus. For the first time in my directing experience, a “based-on” tournament attracted the required number of entrants to pay the full advertised prize fund.

The top quad’s winner was Wyatt Banks, taking home a gold medal for a perfect 3-0 score. William Wilson Jr finished 2nd with 2 securing the bronze medal. The middle quad kept things in the family for the Banks clan as Stacey Banks (Wyatt’s wife) likewise snagged gold with 3 points. Gavin Moore took home the bronze medal with 1½. Jacob Daniels won the six-player bottom “quad” and a gold medal with 3 points. With 2 points apiece, Brian Perez-Daple & William Sun tied for 2nd-3rd. Tiebreaks gave Perez-Daple the silver medal, Sun the bronze.

The Action-Plus saw Alexander Passov, Keith Carson & Kun Liu tie for 1st-3rd with 4 points each. Liu also picked up Under 1800. Mark Scott rounded out the winners by taking Under 1400 with 2½ points.

QUAD #47/ACTION-PLUS #19

The 47th edition of the Kingstowne Quads / 19th Action-Plus, on April 12, 2008 in Alexandria, had the largest collective turnout in five years! Sixteen competed in the quads, 22 in the Action-Plus, for a total attendance of 38. As a result, the Action-Plus paid out 110% of the advertised prize fund, also a record for the series.

John Brockhouse won the top quad and a silver medal with 2½ points. James Williams took the bronze. Quad 2’s winners were Wendy Sun & Dale Lichtblau, both with 2 points. They received silver and bronze medals respectively based on tiebreaks. Daniel Xu & Stephen Kim scored 2½ apiece in Quad 3 and all tiebreaks came out even, so Xu won the silver medal based on a blitz game victory. Kim got bronze. The bottom Quad had the only outright winner as Cristian Geraldo scored a perfect 3-0 to take a gold medal. The remaining players in the section all scored 1 point, with Krishna Korupolu receiving the bronze medal on tiebreak.

Keith Carson was the Action-Plus winner with a score of 4½-½. Alexander Passov & Kun Liu tied for 2nd with 4-1, Liu also picking up the Under 1800 prize. Under 1400 went to Jimmy Wang while John Dragonetti snagged Top Unrated.

Incomparable Chess Sets From
THE HOUSE OF STAUNTON



Chess Sets - Chess Boards - Antique Sets - Chess Clocks

EMAIL: sales@houseofstaunton.com ~ PH: (256) 858-8070
Visit us on the Internet at www.houseofstaunton.com

In This Issue:

Springfield Chess Festival	
Virginia Blitz Championship.....	1
George Washington Open	1
Quads	5
Invitational FIDE RR.....	5
<i>crossstable of final results.....</i>	19
Virginia State Championship announcement	2
Kingstowne CC Events	20
VCF Info	<i>inside front cover</i>



Virginia Chess
1370 South Braden Crescent
Norfolk, VA 23502

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