

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2008 - #4



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2008 - Issue #4

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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



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Charlottesville Open

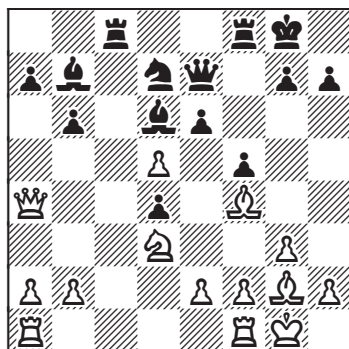
by Rob Getty

The 2008 Charlottesville Open was held July 12-13 at the Best Western Cavalier Inn just on the edge of the UVA campus. Fifty players came out to enjoy a weekend of chess. FM Raymond Kaufman topped a powerful group of Maryland players who made the trip to join us. In addition, a large number of scholastic players also tried their luck in the open forum.

After three rounds, 6 perfect scores remained: the top seeds—FM Kaufman (2363), IM Oladapo Adu (2310), Alex Barnett (2278), John Rouleau (2273), Adithya Balasubramanian (2195)—plus "A" player James Watson (1934). In the penultimate round Rouleau & Balasubramanian upset Kaufman & Adu, respectively, while Watson continued his fine performance with a draw against Barnett.

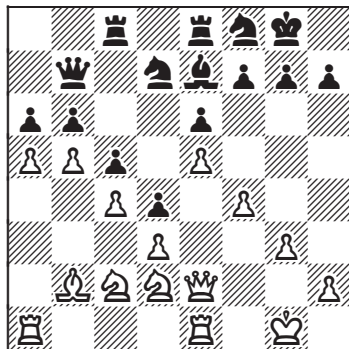
Ray Kaufman - John Rouleau Dutch

1 d4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 e6 4 c4 d5 5 Nh3 c6 6 Qc2 Bd6 7 Nf4 0-0 8 0-0 Qe7 9 Nd3 b6 10 Bf4 Bb7 11 Nd2 Nbd7 12 Nf3 Rac8 13 Nfe5 c5 14 Qa4 cxd4 15 Nxd7 Nxd7 16 cxd5 (diagram)
16...e5! 17 Bg5 Qf7 18 Qxa7 Rc7 19 Qa4 Qh5 20 Rac1 Nc5 21 Nxc5 bxc5 22 Bd2 Qxe2 23 Qc2 e4 24 Rfe1 Qa6 25 Bf1 d3 26 Qb3 c4 27 Qc3 Qb5 0-1



Adithya Balasubramanian - Oladapo Adu Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d3 d6 4 g3 b6 5 Bg2 Bb7 6 c3 Nf6 7 0-0 Be7 8 Re1 Qc7 9 a4 Nbd7 10 Na3 a6 11 b4 Rc8 12 Bb2 0-0 13 Qe2 Rfe8 14 Nd2 Nb8 15 b5 d5 16 e5 Nfd7 17 Nc2 Nf8 18 f4 Nbd7 19 c4 d4 20 Bxb7 Qxb7 21 a5 (diagram)
21...axb5 22 cxb5 bxa5 23 Rxa5 Bd8 24 Ra2 Qxb5 25 Nc4 Bc7 26 Qg2 Nb6 27 Ra5 Qb3 28 Ra3 Qb5 29 Ra5 Qd7 30 Rxc5 Na4 31 Rc6 Nxb2 32 Nxb2 Ba5 33 Rd6 Qb5 34 Nxd4 Qc5 35 Re2 Bc3 36 Qf2 Qa5 37 Nc4 Qa1+ 38 Kg2 Ng6 39 Ra2 Qb1 40 Rc2 Ba1 41 Rb6 Qd1 42





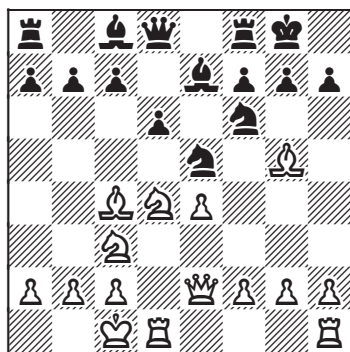
Rd2 Qa4 43 Nb5 Red8 44 Nbd6 Ra8 45 Rb7 f6 46 d4 Bc3 47 Re2 f5 48 d5 Qd1 49 Ne3 Qd3 50 dxe6 Rxd6 51 exd6 Qxd6 52 Qf3 Qxe6 53 Nd5 Qc6 54 Nxc3 Qc8 55 Qd5+ Kh8 56 Rc7 Qa6 57 Qb5 Qd6 58 Re8+ Rxe8 59 Qxe8+ Nf8 60 Rc8 1-0

In the final round Balasubramanian, playing Black, completed a perfect tally for the weekend, taking home the 1st place prize with a win over Rouleau.

John Rouleau - Adithiya Balasubramanian Philidor

1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 Nbd7 4 Nf3 e5 5 Bc4 Be7 6 Qe2 0-0 7 Bg5 exd4 8 Nxd4 Ne5 9 0-0-0? (diagram)

9...Nxe4 10 Bxe7 Nxc3 11 Bxd8 Nxe2+ 12 Bxe2 Rxd8 13 Nb5 Rd7 14 Rhe1 a6 15 f4 axb5 16 fxe5 dxe5 17 Bxb5 Rxd1+ 18 Rxd1 Bg4 19 Rd2 c6 20 Bc4 Re8 21 h3 Bc8 22 a4 Kf8 23 a5 f5 24 a6 Ke7 25 Re2 e4 26 g4 g6 27 gxf5 gxf5 28 Rg2 bxa6 29 Rg7+ Kd6 30 Rxh7 f4 31 Kd2 a5 32 Rf7 Ke5 33 Ra7 Bxh3 34 Rxa5+ Kd4 35 Be2 e3+ 36 Ke1 Rg8 37 Ra4+ Ke5 38 Ra5+ c5 0-1



Rouleau fell into a 6-way tie for 2nd with Kaufman, Adu, Yang Dai, Keith Carson & and Manoj Sapre (1605!). Perry Feng & Jamie Polackwich both scored 3-2 to split the U1600/U1400 prize, and Isuru Attanagoda, Kiffa Conroy & Kaizen Conroy scored 1½ apiece to split the U1200. Akerim Uraz won top Unrated in his first tournament.

Sig's Chess provided superb book vendor services once again. It is always a pleasure to have him up from Florida, and we look forward to the next time he is in Virginia.





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, U1200, Unr each \$100, trophy to 1st, top C, D, U1200. 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





Comings and Goings of the State Champion

by Edward Lu

With the annual Virginia Closed nearly upon us again (see announcement on p 3), defending Virginia state champion Edward Lu reports on a trio of recent events. Another of Eddie's games can be found in Readers' Games & Analysis, p 13. —ed

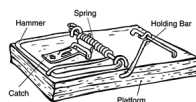


photo by Irene Lu

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS TOURNAMENT (May, 2008)

The Champion of Champions Tournament is an online event in which only the champions of each state were invited to play. I had never participated in such a tournament before, and was looking forward to it. While I did realize that there would be IMs and even GMs participating, my anxiousness quelled a bit knowing that anything can happen in a speed chess event.

I found the format of this tournament to be unique. An online blitz event seemed interesting and far more efficient than an online slow event. I knew I was going to be one of the underdogs, as I assumed at least one grandmaster would enter. (I was wrong – an IM eventually won the event by a convincing margin.) My only goal was not to get slaughtered. After I won my first four games, including a swindle over IM Bryan Smith, I was confident that I would finish in a decent spot. Unfortunately, that confidence wavered after four consecutive losses, and I was beginning to panic. Somehow, though, I was able to remain calm and win the majority of my games. I was particularly proud of my game against Chris Mabe, where I overlooked a tactic in the endgame to lose a piece but was able to take advantage of my passed pawn and force his bishops into passivity. Another highlight was my $1\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ score against Kazim Gulamali, although it should be mentioned that I swindled him in our first game. At one point I was down to one second on my clock, but was saved by the increment (and the pre-move function) until I managed to deliver checkmate. In the end, I finished with 10½ points out of 18 and placed 5th out of twelve. My parents commended me for my achievement but I did not feel as victorious as I probably should have. Still, in an online blitz tournament full of state champions, many of whom are considerably higher rated, I should be proud of my accomplishment.

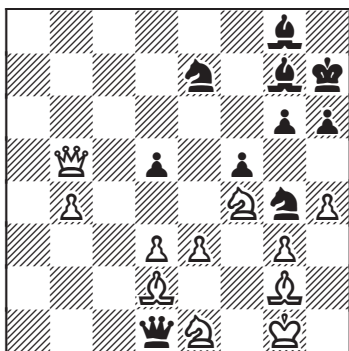




Edward Lu - Bryan Smith

English

1 Nf3 g6 2 g3 Bg7 3 Bg2 c5 4 c4 Nc6 5 0-0 e5 6 Nc3 Nge7 7 d3 0-0 8 a3 a6
9 Rb1 Rb8 10 b4 cxb4 11 axb4 b5 12 cxb5 axb5 13 Ne4 d6 14 h3 h6 15 Bd2



f5 16 Nc3 d5 17 Qc1 Kh7 18 e3 Be6 19
Qd1 e4 20 Ne1 Ne5 21 Ne2 N7c6 22 Nf4
Bg8 23 h4 Qe8 24 Rc1 Rc8 25 Rc5 Ne7
26 Qc2 Qd7 27 f3 exf3 28 Nxf3 Ng4 29
Rc1 Rxc5 30 Qxc5 Rc8 31 Qb6 Rxc1+
32 Bxc1 Qc8 33 Bd2 Qc2 34 Qxb5 Qd1+
35 Ne1?? (diagram)

35...Qxd2 36 Nf3 Qxe3+ 37 Kh1 Qc1+
38 Ng1 Bd4 39 Ne2 Qe3 40 Qd7 Bg7 41
b5 Nf2+ 42 Kh2 Ng4+ 43 Kh1 Nf6 44
Qc7 f4 45 Nxf4 Nf5 46 Nfe2 Ng4 47 b6

Nf2+ 48 Kh2 Ng4+ 49 Kh1 Kh8 50 Qf4 Nf2+ 51 Kh2 Qxb6 52 d4 Nd3 53

Qf3 Ne1 54 Qf2 Nxg2 55 Kxg2 Nxd4??

(diagram) 56 Nf3 Qb2 57 Nexd4 Qc3 58 g4

Qd3 59 g5 h5 60 Kg1 Qe4 61 Kg2 Qg4+

62 Qg3 Qe4 63 Qf2 Kh7 64 Kg1 Qf4 65

Kg2 Bf7 66 Qg3 Qe4 67 Qf2 Be8 68 Kg1

Bd7 69 Kg2 Bg4 70 Kg1 Qf4 71 Kg2

Bxf3+ 72 Nxf3 d4 73 Qg3 Qe4 74 Qf2

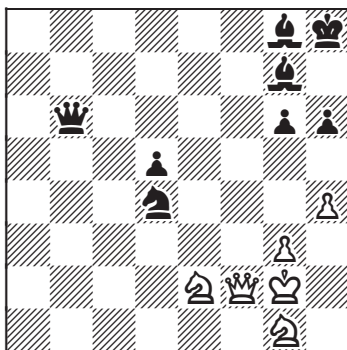
d3 75 Qd2 Bd4 76 Qa2 Qe2+ 77 Qxe2

dxex2 78 Ne1 Bc3 79 Kf2 Be5 80 Kxe2

Kg7 81 Nf3 Bf4 82 Kd3 Kf7 83 Ke4 Ke6

84 Kxf4 Kd5 85 Ne5 Ke6 86 Nxg6 Kf7

87 Ne5+ Kg7 88 Kf5 1-0



Edward Lu - Chris Mabe

Slav

1 Nf3 d5 2 d4 Nf6 3 c4 c6 4 Qc2 g6 5 Nbd2 Bg7 6 e4 dxe4 7 Nxe4 Nxe4 8
Qxe4 Bf5 9 Qe3 0-0 10 Bd3 Bg4 11 Ne5 Be6 12 0-0 Nd7 13 Be2 Nxe5 14
dxe5 Qb6 15 Qxb6 axb6 16 Bf4 Rfd8 17 Rfd1 Rxd1+ 18 Rxd1 h6 19 a3 g5
20 Bg3 Bf5 21 Bd3 Rd8 22 Be2 Rxd1+ 23 Bxd1 Bd3 24 b3 Kf8 25 f3 Ke8 26
Kf2 Kd7 27 Ke3 Bf5 28 b4 c5 29 f4 Ke6 30 Bf3 gxf4+ 31 Bxf4 Bxe5 32 Bxb7
Bd4+ 33 Kd2 h5 34 Bd5+ Kf6 35 b5 e5 36 Be3 Ke7 37 Ke2 f6 38 Bd2 Kd6
39 a4 Bg4+ 40 Kd3 f5 41 a5 Bd1 42 a6 e4+ 43 Bxe4 fxe4+ 44 Kxe4 Kc7 45
Bf4+ Kc8 46 Kd5 Bc2 47 h3 Bc3 48 g4 hxg4 49 hxg4 Ba5 50 g5 Bg6 51 Kc6
Be4+ 52 Kd6 Kd8 53 Ke5 Bg2 54 Kf6 Ke8 55 Bd6 Bc3+ 56 Ke6 Bh3+ 57 Kd5
Ba5 58 g6 Bf5 59 a7 Bxg6 60 a8Q+ Kf7 61 Qf8mate 1-0



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS (April, 2008)

Thomas Jefferson High School placed 2nd in the nation this year, fueled by arguably the strongest team to ever have existed in the school. While we were only half a point from first, what needs to be emphasized is not our failure to capture the team championship but our strength as individuals and teammates. It is thanks to the solid efforts of everyone on the team that we were able to accomplish this feat.

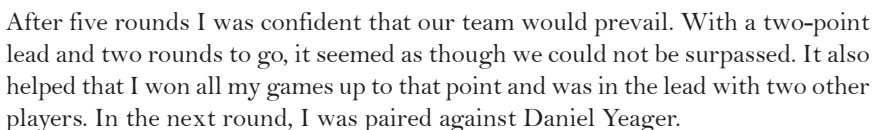
I would like to mention the difficulty of performing well in a Nationals tournament. Not only do you have to have the skill necessary to defeat your opponents, but you must also have an edge in other factors as well. Getting more sleep comes to mind, and confidence is imperative in the early rounds. In addition, a little luck really helps in the long run. Being psychologically stable is probably the most important factor in national tournaments. The lack of this consistency is why you see so many upsets every year. Masters and experts have the skill to defeat lower rated players in the beginning rounds but every now and then, they become nervous and lose confidence.

For some reason, whether it is in a state scholastic or Nationals tournament, I have trouble during the first round. I always end up winning, but the effort requires much more energy than necessary. This year was no different. I played an opponent rated 1800 and quickly misplayed the opening. Despite being forced to trade into a pawn-down endgame with the odds clearly against me, for some reason I was still playing for a win. I managed to win the pawn back and then the position transformed into a queen endgame where I was even up one pawn. Objectively it was drawn, but in the time scramble I managed to outplay my opponent and queen my pawn.

After this game I calmed down a bit and won my next few games without much difficulty. I especially liked the tactical game I played in the third round:

Scott Lalli - Edward Lu Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nc6 5 Nc3 Qc7 6 Nb3 Nf6 7 Bd3 a6 8 0-0 Be7 9 f4 d6 10 Qf3 Rb8 11 Bd2 b5 12 a3 Bb7 13 Qh3 b4 14 axb4 Nxb4 15 Kh1 d5 16 e5 Ne4 17 Bxe4 dxe4 18 f5 exf5 19 Qxf5 0-0 20 Bf4 Qb6 21 Nxe4 Qg6 22 Qxg6 hxg6 23 Nec5 g5 24 Bg3 Nxc2 25 Rac1 Ne3 26 Rf2 Bd5 27 e6 Rb5 28 Nd7 Rd8 29 Nd4 Rb4 30 Be5 Bxe6 31 Nc6 Rxd7 32 Nxb4 Bxb4 33 Rc8+ Kh7 34 Rc1 Ng4 35 Re2 Nxe5 36 Rxe5 Rd2 37 Rxg5 Rxb2 38 Rh5+ Kg6 39 Rh4 a5 40 Rd4 a4 41 h4 a3 42 g4 a2 43 Rdd1 Bxg4 44 Rf1 Be6 45 Rg1+ Kh7 46 Rgd1 Bd2 47 Ra1 Bc3 48 Kg1 Bf6 49 h5 Rc2 0-1



Slav

Rxd8 21 Kf1 Rcs 22 Nc3 Nd7 23 g4 f6
[I saw that most of my teammates were
in bad positions and losing, so I felt that
I should try hard to play for a win.] 24
g5 e5 25 gxf6 e4 26 Ne5 Nxe5 27 dxe5
Nf7 28 e6 (diagram)

28...Ng5 [Objectively not too bad, but I was trying too hard. 28...exd3 29 exf7+ Kxf7 was pretty drawish, but White would

still need to play accurately. A sample line: 30 Rd1 a5 31 Ke1 Ba6 32 Nxd5 Rc2 33 Rd2 Rc1+ 34 Rd1] **29 Bc2 Nxe6 30 Bb3 Kf7 31 Rd1 Kxf6 32 Bxd5 Bxd5 33 Rxd5 Ke7** [This is pretty much equivalent to giving up. 33...Rc4 is better, but I don't know how I can avoid losing a pawn eventually.] **34 Re5 Rd8 35 Ke2 Kf7 36 Rxe4 Nc5 37 Rc4 Rd6 38 b4 Ne6 39 Ne4 Rd5 40 Rc6 a5 41 b5 Rh5 42 Rxb6 Rxh2 43 Ra6 Rh4 44 Kd3 Rh1 45 Rxa5 h5 46 Ra7+ Kf8 47 b6 Rd1+ 48 Ke2 1-0**

24th annual...

October 11-12

Greenville Ruritan Club, Ruritan Rd
(off of Hwy 58 west of Emporia)



5-SS, game/120. \$\$\$ 500, \$400 class prizes b/5: \$250-150-100; X (if no X wins top 3), A, B, C each \$75; D, E each \$50. EF \$35 rec'd by 10/3, \$45 site, free to unrated (no separate unrated prize). Reg 9-9:45am, rds 10-2:30-7, 9-1:30. Refreshments provided w/EF, no add'l charge. VCF membership req'd, \$10/yr & available at site. W. Info: Virginia Chess Federation, Woodrow Harris, 1105 West End Dr, Emporia, VA 23847 or harrisfw@comcast.net.

10 Grand Prix points



We lost our lead after round six. Half a point behind the lead team at this point, our situation was tense. Despite our best efforts, we were not able to catch up in the final round.

On the way home I realized that, although we could have improved at certain points, our overall performance was unprecedented. Never before has our team obtained such a high ranking, and with only one year left in high school I fully intend for us to reach the top. In addition, this tournament proved to be successful for me personally as this was my highest placing in a national high school event (tied at 2nd place). I felt the biggest difference for me between this tournament and previous ones was that I was able to play less committing moves in each game. I would often wait for my opponents to make mistakes instead of rushing the position. Overall I am happy with my performance and look forward to conquering Nationals next year.

2008 US JUNIOR CLOSED (June, 2008)

I received my invitation to the US Junior Closed Championship in mid-April. As excited as I was, I realized how difficult it would be just to break even in such a strong tournament. As the date of the event approached, I got an email detailing the participants. There were only six or seven people confirmed in mid-May - usually there is a total of ten players in the round-robin. It came as a surprise when I learned in June that there were only six confirmed participants and that director Tom Brownscombe was trying his best to find replacements. Unfortunately, when the time came, even the sixth player, Chris Williams, dropped out in the last minute (the morning of the day before the tournament began!). I did not know what to expect at that point, but even with just five players, the field was still strong.



photo by Irene Lu



Lindsborg, also known as “Little Sweden, USA,” is a town with a population of just over 3000 and covers one and a half square miles. Being unaccustomed to such an environment, I did not really know what to expect and so set my expectations low in order to not be disappointed. Unsurprisingly, I did enjoy the stay, if not for the chess, then for the surroundings. There were various small shops that offered unique items including Swedish handmade crafts. An example of this was a Swedish clogs store nearby our motel. I was also relieved to find that, contrary to what I had been told, there were restaurants other than Pizza Hut in the vicinity. The Swedish-style breakfasts were particularly delectable, and often woke me up prior to my games. Speaking of which, I was not off to a good start...

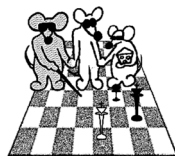
As I kept telling myself, “I am doing it for the experience.” Losing my first three games, I realized I had to slow down and just play chess. This attitude adjustment led to a strong fourth round win, but it was impossible to recover from such a disastrous start. I blame it on my first round loss to the eventual tournament winner, Tyler Hughes. I won a pawn in the middle game, but after committing a few inaccuracies the game was steering towards a draw. However, I stubbornly tried to win and unfortunately had to give up an exchange after missing a tactic. The endgame that arose still was not clear-cut, but in the end I lost by one tempo. This five-and-a-half hour grind really affected my performance in the next two games, in which I lost a lot of willpower.

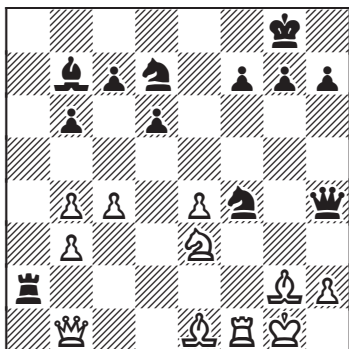
The round four turning point was versus Bradley Sawyer, who was a 2006 National High School co-champion. I relaxed a lot for this game and managed to stop myself from playing horrible blunders. My waiting strategy paid off, and I punished him severely for a badly-timed pawn break.

Bradley Sawyer - Edward Lu

Petroff

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 a3 Bxc3 5 dxc3 d6 6 Qd3 Qe7 7 c4 Nbd7 8 b4 a5 9 Rb1 Nf8 10 g3 b6 11 Bg2 Bb7 12 Nd2 Ne6 13 Nf1 axb4 14 axb4 Ra2 15 Ne3 0-0 16 0-0 Rfa8 17 Bb2 R8a4 18 Bc3 R4a3 19 Rb3 Rxb3 20 cxb3 Nd7 21 f4 [Probably too rushed, but I had yet to see what he was up to.] **21...exf4 22 gxf4 Qh4 23 Be1** [At this point the best practical decision would have been to repeat moves: 23 Qb1 Re2 24 Qd3] **23...Nxf4 24 Qb1??** [24 Bxh4 Nxd3 25 Bd8! keeps White in the game, but this is a hard move to see.]





24...Rxc2+! [Now it's over.] 25 Nxc2 Nh3+ 26 Kh1 Qxe4 [I could have kept the queens on the board by 26...Qg4 but I felt my win would be easier if I played the text move.] 27 Qxe4 Bxe4 28 Bc3 f5 29 Re1 g5 30 Bd2 Ne5 31 Be3 Nf3 32 Re2 Nh4 33 Bxc5 Nxc2 34 Rxe4 fxe4 35 Bc1 Ngf4 36 Be3 Kf7 37 b5 Ke6 38 b4 Nd3 39 Bd2 Ke5 40 Bc3+ Kf4 41 c5 dxc5 42 bxc5 bxc5 43 Ba5 Kf3 44 Be1 e3 45 b6 cxb6 46 Bh4 Nh2+ 47 Kg1 e2 48 Bxf2 Nxf2 0-1

After this win I began to play better but still missed some chances, including a win in a pawn-up rook endgame against the defending champion, Daniel Yeager. My endgame against Tyler Hughes also left a lot to be desired. Still, considering that I had superior positions in my three games as Blacks, it is clear that I was returning to form.

To finish off, I would like to offer a few points of criticism. There were several things about the tournament that could be improved in the future. First, the timing was inconvenient, as many of the nation's top junior chess players had yet to finish the school year. I found out that one player in the Cadet championship would have to take two finals that he missed upon returning home from Kansas. No one should be put in that situation; it would seem easy enough to avoid such conflicts by holding the event in late June or sometime in July. Second, reimbursement for travel expenses this year was only \$200, which is clearly not what it actually costs to get to Lindsborg. Chris Williams cited this as one of his main reasons for not playing (however, his withdrawal at the last minute was not a good decision either). Four years ago, the players' entire travel expenses were reimbursed, which accounted for a much larger turnout.

For now, I can remember this event from the perspective of someone who is used to city life. It was a unique experience, and I'm sure I won't find another Lindsborg anywhere else.



photo by Irene Lu



Roanoke Valley Chess Club

THE Roanoke Valley Chess Club (RVCC) celebrated its 60th anniversary last November, making it the longest continuously-running chess club in Virginia. To mark the occasion, the club received a special proclamation from the Roanoke City Council and Mayor C Nelson Harris. The RVCC has operated with a non-discrimination, open-door policy to the public since its inception and has enjoyed a long and fruitful partnership with the City of Roanoke and the City Department of Parks and Recreation.

On May 10, 2008 the club conducted the Walter Muir Memorial in honor of the late Correspondence Chess IM, several-time RVCC champion, and three-time runner-up in the Virginia state championship. Top-rated Rusty Potter won the 8-player top section 3-0, followed a point behind by Josh Lily & Mario Arias. Andrew Krawczyk, Gilbert Stone & Christopher Moore score 2½ points each to share top honors in the 7-player second section.

The RVCC sponsored an exhibit at Roanoke's annual Memorial Day "Festival in the Park" celebration (May 22-26). Beginning on Friday, May 24, club members were on hand to answer questions for numerous visitors who visited the display of information about the club. Potter was back in action on behalf of the club on Sunday May 25th, conducting two simultaneous exhibitions. Medal winners from this "Beat the Master" Competition were:

2:00pm exhibition:

Toughest to Beat - Daryl Doyle

2nd - James Taylor

3rd - Robert Steelman

4:00pm exhibition:

Toughest to Beat - Meyen Bior

2nd - Robert Zack

3rd - Mike Huff

Special Competitiveness Prize -

Nikki Davis

This event was part of RVCC's ongoing commitment to promote chess in the region, and was open to the public free of charge. It is estimated that over 500 people saw the exhibit, and dozens stopped for more information. Fifteen signed up for the club contact list, and will hopefully turn up at one of the club's regular meetings soon!

RVCC wants to thank the volunteers who made this possible: club President Richard White, Mike Huff, and Russell Potter; special thanks to Donny Doyle and his son Daryl - their help transporting tables, chairs, and equipment was essential to the effort.



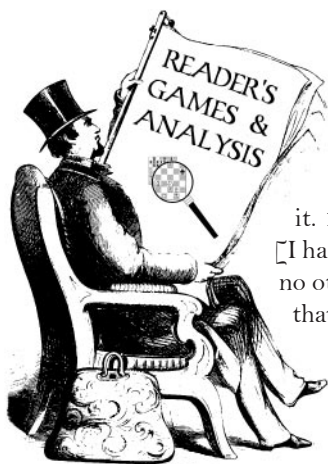
From the creators of "The Box"...

MATE

A Film by Alexander Kane

YOUR NEXT MOVE MAY BE YOUR LAST...

SUMMER 2009



Larry Kaufman - Edward Lu
2007 Eastern Open, Washington DC
Petroff

Notes by Edward Lu

It's been almost a year since I played this game, but only now do I feel up to the task of annotating it. 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 c4 [I had only encountered this move once before. Having no other resources I decided to repeat my moves from that previous game.] 5...Be7 6 d4 0-0 7 Bd3 d5 [7...

Ng5 has been played but I did not consider this at all.] 8 0-0 Nc6 [8...Nf6 is probably more solid.

The point is that I can take back on d5 with the knight.] 9 cxd5 Qxd5 10 Re1 Nf6 [This was an unfortunate retreat. 10...Bf5 was the alternative I

spent a lot of time on, and I rejected it because I thought

I was losing material after 11 Qc2. {11 Bxe4 Bxe4 12 Nc3 Bxf3 13 Nxd5 Bxd1 14 Nxe7+ Nxe7 15 Rxe7 Rfe8 -ed} It turns out that I simply miscalculated: after 11...

Nb4 12 Bxe4 Nxc2 13 Bxd5 I focused on 13...Nxa1 14 Rxe7 Bxb1 winning the exchange but leaving the situation unclear—White can start taking my queenside pawns, eg 15 Bxb7 Rad8 16 Rxc7. However, after instead 13...Bd6!, the move I missed, Black should be fine.] 11 Nc3 Qd8 12 h3 [This looks too slow. I was afraid of 12 d5 Nb4 13 Bc4 and White has a large space advantage. Even if I

manage to get c6 in, I'm still behind in development and he can use this to his advantage.] 12...Nb4 13 Bb1 Re8 14 Bg5 Nfd5?! [My original intention was 14...Be6 but I got too caught up in trying to exchange as many pieces as possible.]

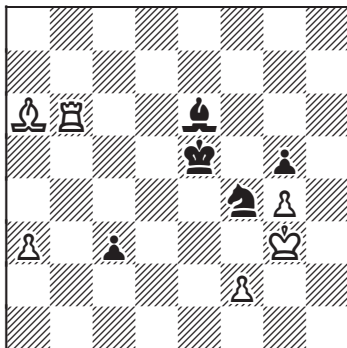
15 a3 Nxc3 16 bxc3 Nd5 17 Qd3 g6 18 Qd2 [This looks slow as well. I'm not threatening to win the bishop because he takes my rook with check, so he should be able to create more threats.] 18...Bxg5 19 Rxe8+ Qxe8 20 Nxb5 Qc6 [I

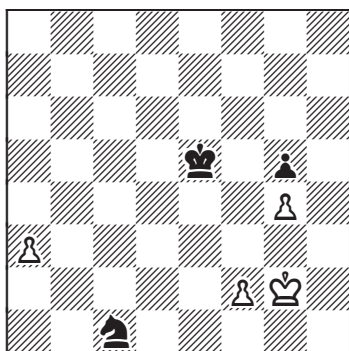
was proud of this move because it marks the start of aggressive intentions. I was going to play something solid like c6 until I realized the text was the only way I could have any winning prospects. White is still better but this looked to be my chance.] 21 Ba2 Qxc3 22 Qd1 [It would be unfair to call this a blunder as the alternative is not a move that easily comes to mind, but he had a far more

promising continuation: 22 Qe1! Qxe1+ (forced) 23 Rxe1 and Black's defense is difficult.] 22...Nf4 23 Nxf7 Kg7 24 Ng5 h6 25 Ne4 Ne2+ 26 Kh2 Qxd4 27 Qxd4+ Nxd4 [I was satisfied that I won a pawn, and although objectively Black should indeed be fine, I underestimated the potential of his compensation.] 28 Rd1 Nc6 [28...Ne6 prevents Nc5, but then it's hard to find a square for my bishop.] 29 Nc5 Ne7? [This is a result of panic and is the start of my near demise. 29...g5



is necessary. At first glance that seems absurd, but upon further inspection White lacks a concrete plan. Black doesn't have to commit and can simply move his king back and forth until White decides to make some sort of threat. A sample line by Fritz runs 30 Re1 Kf8 (preventing the rook's entrance) 31 Bd5 Nd4 32 Bxb7 (32 Nxb7 c6!) Bxb7 33 Nxb7 and Black is fine.] **30 Rd8 b6 31 Re8 Nf5 32 Rg8+** [The next few moves feature mutual blunders due to time trouble. I didn't apply any question marks because, given the available time, most of the correct moves would only be found by a computer.] **32...Kh7** [32...Kf6 looks risky; during the game, in fact, I thought 33 Bd5 would win straight away. Although the computer shows things are not so simple, White does maintain the advantage: 33...c6 34 Bxc6 Ne7! (an exclamation mark for the only move) 35 Ne4+ Kf7 36 Rxg6 Nxg6 37 Bxa8 with a pawn-up minor piece endgame. Objectively White is winning, but even if he reaches this point there would remain three moves before time control and accuracy is still needed.] **33 Ne4 h5 34 Nf6+ Kh6 35 g4** [Here 35 Bd5 does win. I doubt I could have provided any sort of defense if he had played this.] **35...hxg4 36 hxg4 Kg5 37 Bd5** [37 gxf5 looks simpler, but 37... Kxf6 38 Bd5 Rb8 39 fxg6 Bb7 40 Rxb8 Bxd5 41 Rd8 c6 42 Rd7 Kxg6 43 Rxa7 is not so easy to win and I suspect that he purposely avoided this.] **37...Ne7** [37...Kxf6 would have been more accurate, transposing to the game after 38 Bxa8 Ne7] **38 Bxa8** [My inaccuracy opened the door to the following insane, practically forced win (naturally found by Fritz): 38 Ne4+ Kxg4 39 Rf8 Bb7 40 f3+ Kh5 41 Rf7! and Black loses a piece due to mate on h7] **38...Kxf6 39 Rf8+ Kg7 40 Rf4 g5** [Time control, and I could better assess the position. Even though I am down an exchange, I think my side is easier to play: move the knight to f4 and centralize my king, responding to his threats along the way. Black's queenside pawns provide readymade counterplay.] **41 Ra4 a6 42 Bf3 c5 43 Kg3 Kf6 44 Rc4 Ng6 45 Rc1 Nf4 46 Rh1 Be6 47 Bb7** [I somehow missed this move and I began to use a lot of time here.] **47...c4 48 Rb1 Ke5 49 Bxa6 c3 50 Rxb6** [An understandable mistake - it was easy to overlook my next move.] (diagram) **50...Bc4!** [Now White is in trouble. The next few moves are forced.] **51 Rc6 Bxa6 52 Rxa6 c2 53 Rc6 Ne2+ 54 Kg2 c1Q 55 Rxc1 Nxc1**





[Over the next ten or so moves I tried to provoke some weakness, but I couldn't find any win. I was frustrated, but not even close to giving up. If any reader can provide a winning continuation, I would appreciate it, because right now I'm convinced it's a draw.] **56 a4 Nb3 57 Kf3 Kd4 58 Ke2 Ke4 59 f3+ Kf4 60 Kf2** [The problem is that triangulation is difficult due to the a-pawn. If I play Nd4, he plays a5 and I can't take f3 and get back in time.] **60...Na5 61 Ke2 Nc4 62 Kf2 Ke5 63 Ke2 Kd4 64 Kf2 Kd5**

65 f4?? [He probably thought this was a forced draw but he missed my 68th move.] **65...gxf4 66 Kf3 Ke5 67 g5 Kf5 68 g6 Ne5+ 69 Ke2 Kxg6 70 a5 Nc6 71 a6 Kf5 72 Kf2 Ke4 73 Ke2 f3+ 74 Kf2 Na7 75 Kf1 Ke3 76 Ke1 f2+ 77 Kf1 Nc6 0-1** After six hours of play I managed to win this incredible game where I was lost at several points during the time scramble. Even during the last phase it was probably drawn with best play. I'm glad I was able to seize this opportunity. Larry Kaufman is an incredible force and I give him my highest regard.

Ian Schoch – Macon Shibut

2008 Maryland Open

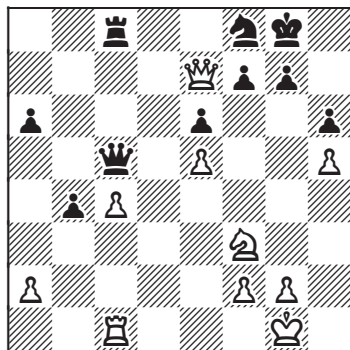
Smith-Morra Gambit

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 c3 dxc3 4 Nxc3 Nc6 5 Nf3 e6 6 Bf4 a6 7 Bc4 Nge7 8 0-0 Ng6 9 Bg3 Be7 10 Qe2 0-0 11 Rfd1 b5 12 Bb3 Qb6 13 h4 Rd8 14 h5 Nf8 15 e5 Bb7 16 Ne4 Na5 17 Bc2 Nc4 18 b3 d5 [I thought I was being really smooth, "returning the pawn for a better ending". In fact I was simply... returning the pawn. I'd underestimated how quickly the c-pawn could become dangerous, which became clearer to me only after White's 24th move.] **19 bxc4 dxe4 20 Bxe4 Bxe4 21 Qxe4 b4 22 Qf4 Rxd1+ 23 Rxd1 Rd8 24 Rc1! h6 25 Bh4 Bxh4 26 Qxh4 Rc8** [not 26 Nd7? 27 Rd1] **27 Qe7 Qc5**

(diagram)

28 Qd6 [28 Qxc5 Rxc5 29 Ne1 looks okay for Black after 29...a5! (but not 29...Rxe5? 30 Nd3 Rxh5 31 c5) 30 Nd3 Rc6 followed by Nd7 etc] **28...Rc6 29 Qb8 a5 30 Nd2 Rc8** [False leads included 30...Qd4? 31 Nb3 Qb2 32 Rd1! penetrating to the

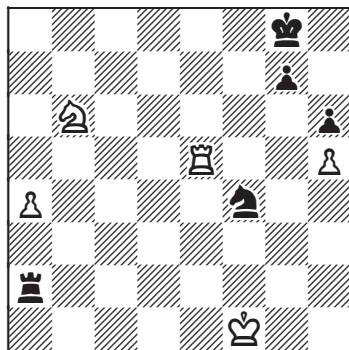




8th rank; and 30...a4? 31 Qa8] 31 Nb3 [31 Qd6 a4] 31...Rxb8 [31...Qxf2+?! could entail some risk after, eg, 32 Kxf2 Rxb8 33 c5 Nd7 34 c6 Nxe5 35 c7 Rc8 36 Ke3] 32 Nxc5 Rc8 33 Nb7 Nd7! 34 f4 [if 34 Nxa5 Nxe5 with ...Rc5 coming and White cannot play 35 c5? Nd3] 34...a4 35 Nd6 [If 35 c5 I saw 35...b3 (35...Rc7 works out to equality, I think) 36 axb3 axb3 37 c6? (37 Rb1=) Rxc6! 38 Rxc6 b2 touchdown] 35...Rc6 [not 35...Rb8? 36 c5 b3 37 axb3 axb3 38 c6 b2 39 Rb1 Nc5 40 Rxb2!] 36 Rb1 f6 [if 36...Rb6 37 Nb5] 37 Rxb4 fxe5 38

fxe5 Nxe5 39 c5 Rxc5 40 Rxa4 Rd5 41 Nc8 [41 Re4 =] 41...Rd2 42 Re4 Nd3 43 a4 e5 44 Nb6 Nf4 45 Rxe5 [Not 45 g4? Ne2+ winning an exchange; however, 45 Kf1 would have been a good move.] 45... Rxg2+ 46 Kf1 Ra2 (diagram)

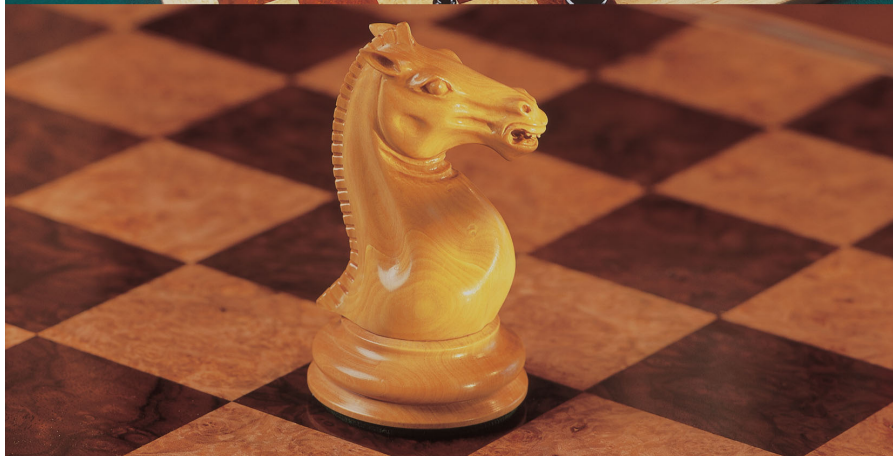
47 a5? [White finally cracks! One would not expect Black to let White's king off the back rank so he was primed to overlook my next move, especially after a tiring middlegame. 47 Rf5 was still =] 47... Ra1+! [Since the only king move allows



a knight fork, White must cough up both of his remaining pawns.] 48 Re1 Rxa5 49 Re4 Nxb5 50 Kf2 Ra2+ 51 Kf3 Ra3+ 52 Kf2 Kf7 53 Nc4 Nf6 54 Nd6+ Kg6 55 Re7 Rd3 56 Nc4 Ng4+ 57 Ke2 Rd4 58 Nd2 h5 59 Re8 Nf6 60 Rh8 Rd7 61 Nf3? Re7+! 62 Kf2 Re8 63 Nh4+ Kg5 64 Nf3+ Kf4 65 Rxe8 Nxe8 66 Nd4 g5 67 Ne6+ Kg4 68 Nd4 Nf6 69 Nf3 [With less than five minutes remaining in the sudden death, this was the last move I recorded on my score sheet. The rest is a reconstruction and while probably not 100% accurate, it's generally right. The conclusion with White's knight stalemated on g1 was indeed the way it happened.] 69...h4 70 Kg2 Kh5 71 Kf2 Ne4+ 72 Kg2 g4 73 Ng1 Ng3! 74 Kf2 Kg5 75 Ke3 Kf5 76 Kf2 Ke4 77 Kg2 Ke3 78 Kh2 Kf2 79 Nh3+ gxh3 80 Kxh3 Nf5 81 Kh2 Kf3 82 Kh3 Kf4 83 Kh2 Kg4 84 Kg2 h3+ 85 Kh2 Kh4 86 Kh1 Kg3 87 Kg1 Ne7 88 Kh1 Nd5 89 Kg1 Nf4 90 Kh1 Nd3 0-1



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