

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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2008 - #5



Adithya!

2008 State Champion

VIRGINIA CHESS

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2008 - Issue #5

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2008 Virginia Closed State Championship



THE 2008 VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP attracted 103 entrants to Richmond over Labor Day weekend. Adithya Balasubramanian, of Yorktown, scored four wins and two draws to capture clear 1st place. It was the second year in a row that a high schooler has won the title, and also the second year that the issue came down to a last round game between Balasubramanian and Edward Lu, of Annandale. Last year their game ended in a draw, which proved sufficient for Lu to claim the championship (on tiebreak over Stan Fink). This year's game also ended in a draw, good enough for Balasubramanian who had entered the last round with a half-point lead over the field.

Other prizewinners in the Open section included: Lu, Dov Gorman, Andrew Samuelson & Ashish Dhamdhare tied for 2nd, with Lu and Samuelson claiming the Junior and Expert prizes, respectively; and Tom Alston & Brian Garbera equal Top Class A.

In the Under 1800 section, Thomas Belke scored 5½-½ to win the Virginia Amateur Champion title outright. Arun Sundaramoorthy & Ernie Schlich tied for 2nd-3rd; Jim Grantz was top Class C; Abhishek Penumala won Class D; and Emily Collins won Top Female. Eric Bo claimed the Top U1200 prize. Top Unrated went to Amit Anant Shirude. Gregory Akerman, rated 885 scored the top upset twice over with two wins against opponents rated of 600 point above him!

Balasubramania made his first splash at the state championship in 2005 when, as a 13-year old expert, he beat a trio of masters and finished 2nd-6th. Since then he has gained a lot of experience and established his own master rating. His run to the title this year did not begin too auspiciously as he was held to a draw by A-player Craig Saperstein in one of the first round's few upsets, and then he had to struggle to bring home the full point in round three against another A-player. But he became a most deserving champion with all he did after that, beginning with a spectacular round 4 win over Gorman, the second rated player in the event. He followed that up by besting the top-rated entrant, James Schuyler, in round 5, setting up the last-round showdown against defending champion Lu.

MIKE HOFFPAUIR DIRECTED the tournament on behalf of the VCF. Mike was also elected VCF President for the coming year at the federation's annual business meeting on Saturday morning. Ernie Schlich, Helen Hinshaw and Mike Atkins continue on the VCF Board for two year terms, while John Farrell will join the Board for a one-year term.



Outgoing VCF President Mike Atkins was awarded a lifetime membership in recognition of his myriad services to Virginia chess, including several stints in office and organizing and directing countless tournaments. Also, prior to the championship's final round, Alicia Delaune introduced a prize for the top Junior player in the Open section in memory of her late husband, 4-time state champion IM Richard Delaune.

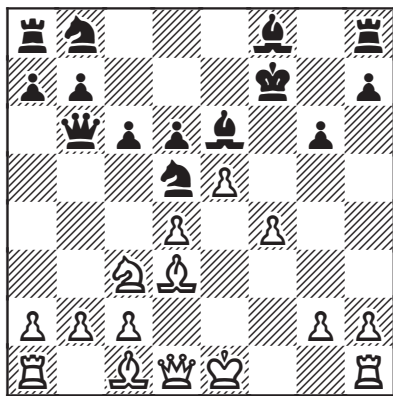
The Friday night Va Closed Blitz Tournament was won by Edward Lu. Andrew Samuelson took 2nd and Danny Miller was 3rd. Brett James won the Amateur (under 1800) section, followed by Tip Wolfe and then Jeffrey Patubo.

Maintaining a happy tradition of recent years, the new state champion has provided notes to a couple of his games from the tournament for *Virginia Chess*. There seems no better place to start than at the finish, with the above-mentioned final round contest, in which Adithya really showed the heart of a champion by essaying a risky gambit even as his half-point lead in the tournament might have suggested a more cautious approach.

Adithya Balasubramanian - Edward Lu Petroff

Notes by Adithya Balasubramanian

Going into the round, I was half a point ahead of Eddie and James Schuyler, who was playing on board 2. Schuyler would have had better tiebreaks than me if he won and I drew. So, I was really going for a win in this game. Only problem was that my last four games with Eddie were draws. As we were both trying to win, I thought I'd play an opening that could not possibly end in a draw...1 **e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nxf7!?** [This is the so-called Cochrane Gambit, where White sacs a piece early on for a couple pawns and an active position. It's considered to be a bad opening, but I'd done some analysis and was pretty confident.] **4...Kxf7 5 Nc3 c6 6 d4 Be6?!** [This just sets up the bishop as a target for later on. 6...Be7 is a much better try.] **7 f4 g6 8 Bd3 Qb6?! 9 e5! Nd5?** [9...Ng4 is much better, although White still has a very strong attack.] (diagram)

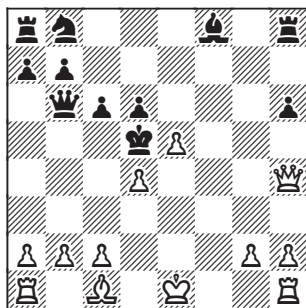


10 f5!! gxf5 [10...Bxf5 11 Bxf5 gxf5 12 Qh5+ Ke6 13 Nxd5 cxd5 (13...Kxd5 leads to mate after 14 Qf7+ Kxd4 15 c3+ Kxe5 16 Bf4+ Kxf4 17 Rf1+ Ke4 18

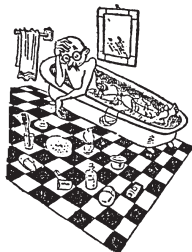


Qxf5+ Ke3 19 Rf3#) 14 Qe8+ winning the rook; 10...Qxd4 is a much better try, but I win back the piece and maintain a strong attack with fxe6+] **11 Qh5+ Ke7 12 Bxf5 h6 13 Qh4+?! [13 Nxd5+ Bxd5 14 exd6+ Kxd6 15 Bf4+ Ke7 16 0-0-0 is a much easier way, where black gets quickly checkmated.] 13...Kd7 14 Bxe6+ Kxe6 15 0-0**

After 15 Nxd5 Kxd5! (*diagram*) I couldn't find a forced mate. However, my computer shows the way: 16 c4+!! Kxc4 17 Qe4!



15...Kd7 16 Qh3+ Kd8 17 Bg5+ Be7 [17... hxc5 18 Qxh8 wins] 18 Bxe7+ Nxe7 19 exd6! [keeping up the pressure] 19...Qxd4+ 20 Kh1 Qxd6 21 Rad1 Nd5 22 Nxd5? [22 Qf5! is an easy win after 22...Nd7 23 Nxd5 cxd5 24 Rxd5 Qe7 25 Rfd1 Rh7 26 Rxd7+ Qxd7 27 Rxd7+ Rxd7 28 h4] 22...cxd5 23 Qb3 [As the game approached time control, Eddie had less than 15 minutes left while I had around 30.] 23...Nd7! [After thinking about this move, however, he had less than 3 minutes(!) left. 23...Qc6? 24 Rxd5+ Kc8 25 Qh3+ Nd7 26 Rxd7! Qxd7 27 Qc3+ would have been winning for White] 24 Rxd5 Qe6 25 Qxb7 Rc8 26 Rfd1 Rh7 27 Qb4? [This gives away all the advantage. I was concentrating more on flagging my opponent than on the game, a bad decision on my part.] 27...Rf7 [Done with 1 second left!...] 28 Qa5+ Rc7 29 Qb5 Qc6 30 Qb3 Qxc2 [...and thanks to time delay clocks he made the time control.] 31 Qb8+ Rc8 32 Qxa7 Rc7 33 Qd4? [33 Qb8+ Rc8 34 Qg3 is better.] 33...Qf2 34 Qd3 Re7 35 h3 [I started getting worried about not being able to win this position but suddenly I noticed Schuyler was losing on board two, making a draw sufficient for me. Here I offered a draw.] 35...Rg7 36 Qe4 Rc2 37 Rd6 Kc7 [37...Qxg2+ 38 Qxg2 Rgxc2 39 Rxd7+ Ke8 40 Rd8+ Ke7 41 Rsd7+ Ke6 42 R7d6+ =] 38 Rg6 [Avoiding forced draw lines involving ...Qxg2 so I could retain winning chances just in case.] 38...Rxc6 39 Qxc6 Rd2 40 Rc1+ Kd8 41 Qg8+ Nf8 42 Qg4 Nd7 43 a4 Rxb2 44 a5 Re2 45 Qg8+ Ke7 [Schuyler lost just now.] 46 Qg7+ Kd8 47 Qg8+ 1/2-1/2 And so, after a wild game, my draw streak with Eddie Lu continues.





James Schuyler – Adithya Balasubramanian

King's Indian

Notes by Adithya Balasubramanian

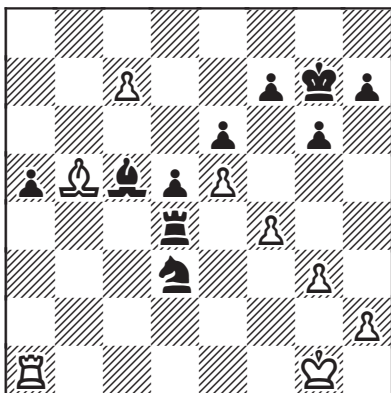
1 d4 d6 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Bf4 g6 4 e3 Bg7 5 Be2 0-0 6 O-O Nbd7 7 h3 Qe8 8 c4 e5 9 Bh2 Qe7 10 Nc3 c6 [White has employed a London system, to which I have responded with a King's Indian set-up.] **11 Qc2 Re8** [I offered a draw here, even though I expected him to decline, because it works as a good psychological trick in this situation, as he might assume I'm playing for a draw. If he accepts, then oh well, he's higher rated, and I live to fight another day.] **12 c5?! dxc5 13 dxe5** [He offered me a draw now.] **13...Nd5** [And I declined!] **14 Nxd5 cxd5 15 Rfd1 b6! 16 Rxd5 Bb7 17 Rd2 Nxe5 18 Nxe5 Bxe5 19 Bxe5 Qxe5** [It should be about equal here, but I have a comfortable position and thus do not mind playing on.] **20 Rad1?! Qg5 21 Bf1 Bf3! 22 Re1 Rad8 23 h4?! [23 Rxd8 Rxd8 24 e4 =] 23...Qg4 24 g3? Qb4! -+ 25 Rxd8 Rxd8 26 Qc3 [26 Rc1 Rd2 and the queen can't even go anywhere to create counterplay.] 26...Qxc3 27 bxc3 Rd2 28 e4 Rxa2** [Now it's just technique.] **29 Re3 Bg4 30 Bc4 Rd2 31 Ba6 Bd7!** [playing for an eventual b6-b5 push] **32 Kf1 Kf8 33 Ke1 Ra2 34 Bc4 Ra1+ 35 Kd2 Ke7 36 h5 b5 37 hxg6 hxg6 38 Bd5 a5 39 e5 Bf5!** [getting the square that the White pawn just left, and stopping the White king from moving to the queenside further] **40 Rf3 c4 41 g4 Ra2+ 42 Kc1 Be6** [I'd already calculated that the resulting endgame would be won for me.] **43 Bxe6 Kxe6 44 Rf6+ Kxe5 45 Rxf7 [45 Rb6 Ke4 46 Rxb5 Kd3 47 Re5 Rxf2 winning] 45...b4 46 Rc7 Kd5 47 Rd7+ Kc6 48 Rg7 Rxf2 49 Rxg6+ Kb5 50 cxb4 axb4 51 g5 b3 52 Rf6 Rc2+ 53 Kb1 Rg2 54 g6 c3 55 Rf1 Rxg6 56 Rf5+ Kb4 57 Rf4+ Ka3 58 Rf1 Rg2** with mate in 4 to follow 0-1

Adithya Balasubramanian & James Schuyler analyse as Eric Most, Andrew Samuelson & Larry Larkins look on.





1 c4 g6 2 Nc3 Bg7 3 g3 c5 4 Bg2 Nc6 5 e4 Nf6 6 Nge2 0-0 7 0-0 Ne8 8 a3
Nc7 9 b4 cxb4 10 axb4 Nxb4 11 d4 a5 12 Be3 [12 Ba3] 12...d6 13 Qd2 Bd7
14 Ra3 b5 15 cxb5 Nxb5 16 Nxb5 Bxb5 17 Rfa1 Bxe2 18 Qxe2 Qb6 19 e5 d5
20 Rc1 Rfc8 21 Rc5 Rxc5 22 dxc5 Oc7 23 f4 e6 24 Bf2 Bf8 25 Ob5 Nc6 26



38...Bb6 39 c8Q Rc4+ 40 Kf1 Rxc8 41
Bxd3 Rc3 42 Ke2 h5 43 Rb1 Bc5 44 Ra1
Bb4 45 Ra2 Rc1 46 Bb5 g5 47 fxg5 Re1+
48 Kf3 Rxe5 49 h4 d4 50 Be2 Re3+ 51

Kf2 Be1+ 52 Kxe1 d3 53 Rxa5 Kg6 54 Ra4 Rxe2+ 55 Kf1 e5 56 g4 hxg4 57
Rxc4 Kh5 58 Ra4 e4 59 Ra7 Kxh4 60 Rxf7 Kxg5 0-1

NORTHERN VIRGINIA OPEN

November 15-16, 2008

Hotel Sierra, 45520 Dulles Plaza

Sterling VA 20166

5-SS, rds 1-3 Game/2, rds 4-5 30/90 SD/1. \$\$2,100 (top 3 guaranteed) b/80: \$575-300-200, top X/A-Unr/B/C/D each \$175, top U1200 \$150. EF \$45 if rec'd by 11/8, \$55 at site. Reg 8:30-9:45am, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-3:30. One irrevocable ½pt bye allowed, must commit before rd 1. W, NS, FIDE. Hotel: Wonderful new playing site near Dulles Airport! See tournament website for directions and more information. Luxurious single and double suites, 20 Single Suites available at \$99 if reserved by Oct 21. Doubles are great for families! Contact hotel at 703-435-9002 or 1-800.4.SIERRA or lauren.osburn@hotel-sierra.com and be sure to ask for Virginia Chess rates. *Enter:* Michael Atkins, PO Box 6138 (yes 6138!), Alexandria VA 22306. Make checks to "Virginia Chess". For more info, email matkins2@cox.net (but *no* e-mail entries, just information) or online www.vachess.org/nova.htm.

20 Grand Prix points



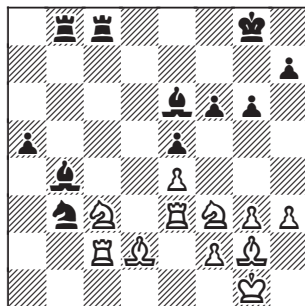
Edward Lu - Macon Shibut

King's Indian

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 0-0 5 0-0 d6 6 d4 c6 7 Nc3 Qa5 8 h3 e5 9 e4 Be6 10 Qb3 b5 11 d5 Bd7 [I really wanted to play 11...bxc4, eg 12 Qb7 cxd5 13 Qxa8 d4 but I don't trust the variations and was not so dissatisfied with my position as to warrant the risk.] 12 dxc6 bxc4 13 Qxc4 Nxc6 14 Rd1 Rfc8 15 Qe2 Be6!? [Nothing is wrong with 15...Ne8 but the text seemed normal; Black shifts all his pieces to the queenside and he'll have plenty of open lines there.] 16 Rxd6 Nd7 17 Be3 Nb6 18 Rc1 Bf8 19 Rdd1 Nc4 20 Bg5 Rab8 [I should have noticed that 20... Nd4!? was worth looking at—if 21 Nxd4 exd4 my queen attacks his bishop.] 21 b3 Nb6 22 Qb5 Ba3 23 Rc2 Bb4 24 Qxa5 Nxa5 25 Rd3 Nd7 26 Rc1 f6 27 Bd2 Nc5 28 Re3 Nc6

Again I refrained from big sacrifice, 28... Naxb3! For instance, 29 axb3 Nxb3 30 Rc2 a5! (diagram) Black has only one pawn for the piece but White is so incredibly tangled up that he seems sure to recover the material with interest. If this is not apparent at first blush, try playing out the position a few moves and you'll quickly appreciate White's difficulties. Managing the Black's side is relatively easy: every turn you either push the a-pawn, hack off material, or (occasionally) play ...Nd4 with devastating effect.



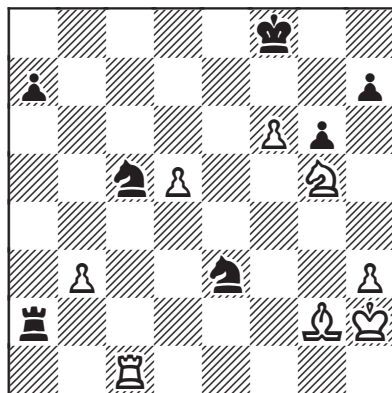
Perhaps as punishment for wavering, or perhaps simply because my opponent played well, I wound up in a poor position. The idea of the text move was to steer the knight to d4, but White's reply breaks his bonds and then even the centralized knight is not adequate compensation for the pawn.

29 Nd5 Bxd5 30 exd5 Bxd2 31 Nxd2 Nd4 32 g4 [He gave me a break here. I was more fearful of 32 Kf1, dispensing with the fork ...Ne2 and so threatening Rec3. At the very least I wouldn't have gotten the c-file.] 32...Na6 33 Rxc8+ Rxc8 34 g5 Rc1+ 35 Kh2 Nf5 36 Re4 Rc2 37 Nf3 Rxf2 38 gxf6 Nc5 39 Rxe5 Nd3? [After looking the situation over more carefully, I could find nothing better than to retract this move next turn. 39...Kf8 seems better.] 40 Re4 Nc5 41 Re1?! [41 Rc4 would have been very strong] 41...Rxa2 [Not merely for the sake of the pawn but also hoping to play ...Kf7, which was no good immediately due to 42 Ne5+ Kxf6 43 Ng4+] 42 Ng5 Kf8 [only move] 43 Rc1? [43 Ne6+ Obviously Black loses if he trades knights and connects White's pawns, so I'd try 43...Kf7 44 Nxc5 Nh4, but then 45 Kg3 Nxc6 46 d6 should win.] 43...Ne3!

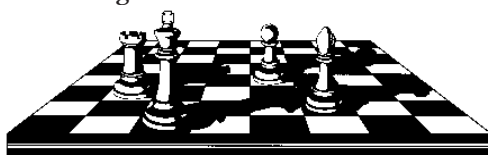


Threatening to remove both of White's minor pieces: 44 Rxc5 Rxg2+ 45 Kh1 Rxg5 relieves the mate.

With this happy turn of events, the game is back in balance and a brand new phase begins. It will prove to be a highly tactical chapter where, during the actual play, my opinion shifted 180 degrees a couple time—“Good, I’ve got him now... oh no!, I’m doomed ... oh wait, yes!, I’ve got him...” With hindsight, both sides apparently handled the complications well and the position never strayed outside the drawing envelope.



44 Nxh7+ Kg8 [Not 44...Kf7 because after 45 Rxc5 Rxg2+ 46 Kh1 the rook check is coming, followed by the pawn push.] 45 Rxc5 Kxh7 [If 45...Rxg2+ 46 Kh1 Kxh7 47 Rc7+ Kh6 48 Re7 Rg3 49 d6 and I stopped analyzing here as it appeared the White pawns would force their way through. Depending on how much credit you want to give me, this was either sloppy analysis or good intuition. Continuing the variation, we can see that after 49...Rxb3+ 50 Kg1 Rf3 51 d7 Rf1+ 52 Kh2 Rd1 I could stop the pawn and the ending would be tenable if White captures the knight. On the other hand, we can also see now 53 f7 Kg7 54 f8Q+ Kxf8 55 Re8+ Kf7 56 d8Q Rxd8 57 Rxd8, which would be very hard to hold (although Lasker did once draw such an ending.) 46 Rc7+ Kh6 47 Kg3 Nxg2 [My original intent was 47...Rxg2+? 48 Kf3 Nxd5 but I saw 49 f7! Kg7 50 Rc8 and next White either takes my rook or promotes. So with regret I understood I must take his bishop with my knight. The coordination of my pieces seems much worse in that case—but it all depends on what you’re coordinating to do. For the purposes of stopping White’s pawns, yes, the knight is not so good down at g2. But then I noticed a different purpose that restored my confidence about the game’s outcome...] 48 Rc8 Kg5! [...and this was the point: 49 f7 Nh4 50 f8Q Rg2mate] 49 d6! Nh4 [of course 49...Kxf6? 50 d7 etc] 50 Rc5+ Kxf6 [Alas, it turns out 50...Nf5+? loses to 51 Rxf5+ and whichever way Black recaptures, the f-pawn goes through.] 51 Kxh4 Rd2 [So White recovers the piece and the resulting ending is a draw thanks to the strong position of the Black rook] 52 Rc6 Kf5 53 Ra6 Rd4+ 54 Kg3 Rd3+ 55 Kg2 Rxb3 56 d7 Rd3 57 Rxa7 g5 58 Ra5+ Kf4 59 Ra4+ Kf5 60 Ra5+ 1/2-1/2





Adithya Balasubramanian - Hubert Neumaier
Centre Counter

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 Qd6 5 d4 a6 6 Bc4 e6 7 0-0 b5 8 Bb3 c5 9 a4 b4 10 Ne2 a5 11 Bf4 Qb6 12 Ne5 Nc6 13 Nc4 Qd8 14 dxc5 Bxc5 15 Qxd8+ Kxd8 16 Rad1+ Ke7 17 Bd6+ Bxd6 18 Rxd6 Bb7 19 Rfd1 Rhd8 20 Rxd8 Rxd8 21 Rxd8 Kxd8 22 Nd6 Ba6 23 Bc4 Bxc4 24 Nxc4 Kd7 25 f3 Nd5 26 Kf2 Kc7 27 Ke1 Nb6 28 Nxb6 Kxb6 29 Kd2 Kc5 30 Nf4 g6 31 b3 e5 32 Nd3+ Kd4 33 Nb2 f5 34 Nc4 e4 35 f4 h5 36 h4 e3+ 37 Nxe3 Ke4 38 Nf1 Kxf4 39 Kd3 Ke5 40 Nd2 Kf4 41 Nf1 Ke5 42 Ng3 g5 43 hxg5 h4 44 Ne2 f4 45 g6 f3 46 gxf3 h3 47 g7 Ne7 48 f4+ Kf6 49 Ke4 h2 50 Ng3 Kxg7 51 Kf3 Nd5 52 Ke4 Nc3+ 53 Ke5 Nd1 54 Ke6 Kf8 55 Kd6 Ne3 56 Kc5 Nxc2 57 Kb5 Nd4+ 58 Kxa5 Nxb3+ 59 Kxb4 Nd4 60 Kc5 Ne2 61 Nh1 Nxf4 62 a5 and Black resigned a few moves later 1-0

Alex Herrera - Adithya Balasubramanian
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 Qxd5 4 d4 Nc6 5 Nf3 Bg4 6 Be2 cxd4 7 cxd4 e6 8 Nc3 Qa5 9 0-0 Nf6 10 Bf4 Rd8 11 Qb3 Qb4 12 Ne5 Nxd4 13 Bb5+ Nxb5 14 Nxg4 Nxg4 15 Qxb4 Bxb4 16 Nxb5 a6 17 a3 Bd2 18 Nd6+ Ke7 19 Bxd2 Kxd6 20 Bb4+ Kc7 21 Rac1+ Kb8 22 Rfe1 Rd7 23 Bc3 Rg8 24 Re4 Nf6 25 Be5+ Ka7 26 Bd4+ b6 27 Bxf6 gxf6 28 Rec4 Kb7 29 Kf1 f5 30 g3 f6 31 Ke2 Rgg7 32 Rh4 Rc7 33 Rd1 Rc2+ 34 Rd2 Rxd2+ 35 Kxd2 Kc6 36 Rh6 Rf7 37 Ke3 Kd5 38 b3 e5 39 Rh5 Ke6 40 Rh4 b5 41 a4 Rc7 42 axb5 axb5 43 Rb4 Rb7 44 Rh4 Rc7 45 Rb4 Rc3+ 46 Kd2 Rc5 47 Rh4 Rc7 48 Rb4 Rb7 49 Rh4 Kd5 50 Rh5 Ke6 51 Kc3 e4 52 Kb4 Rc7 53 Rh4 Rc2 54 Rf4 Rb2 55 g4 fxg4 56 Rxe4+ Kf5 57 Re7 h5 58 Rc7 Rxf2 59 h3 gxh3 60 Kxb5 h2 0-1 after further moves (sudden death time control)



Experience versus Youth.



Stan Fink - A Harvey

Catalan

1 Nf3 d5 2 c4 e6 3 g3 Nf6 4 Bg2 Be7 5 0-0 0-0 6 d4 c6 7 Nbd2 Nbd7 8 Qc2 Re8
9 e4 dxe4 10 Nxe4 Nxe4 11 Qxe4 Bf6 12 Rd1 Nb6 13 Qc2 Qe7 14 Be3 Bd7 15
Rac1 Rac8 16 h4 Red8 17 Ng5 Bxg5 18 Bxg5 f6 19 Be3 e5 20 Be4 g6 21 dxe5
Qxe5 22 Bxg6 hxg6 23 Qxg6+ Kh8 24 Bd4 1-0

Tom Belke - Mike Burras

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Bd7 4 Bxd7+ Qxd7 5 0-0 Nc6 6 c3 g6 7 d4 cxd4 8 cxd4
Bg7 9 Nc3 Nf6 10 h3 0-0 11 Be3 Rfc8 12 Qe2 a6 13 Rfd1 Qc7 14 Rac1 Qa5 15 Nd2
b5 16 Nb3 Qd8 17 e5 Nd7 18 f4 Nb6 19 Nd2 Nb4 20 g4 N4d5 21 Nxd5 Nxd5 22
Nf3 Nxe3 23 Qxe3 Qb6 24 e6 Qb7 25 exf7+ Kf8 26 Rxc8+ Rxc8 27 Ng5 h6 28
Ne6+ Kxf7 29 Nxg7 Kxg7 30 Re1 Rc7 31 f5 Qd5 32 fxg6 Qxa2 33 Qe4 Qxb2 34
Qf4 Qa2 35 Rf1 Qg8 36 Qf5 Rc8 37 Qe4 Qe8 38 Rf7+ Kg8 39 Qe6 1-0

Felix McCain - Geoff McKenna

Bird

1 f4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 b3 Bg7 4 Bb2 0-0 5 e3 c5 6 Be2 Nc6 7 0-0 d5 8 Bb5 Bd7 9
Bxc6 Bxc6 10 d3 b5 11 Nbd2 Qb6 12 Ne5 Bb7 13 Qe1 Rad8 14 Qh4 Bc8 15 Ndf3
Ng4 16 Rae1 Nh6 17 h3 Nf5 18 Qf2 d4 19 Bc1 dxe3 20 Bxe3 Nxe3 21 Qxe3 Bb7
22 Kh2 Qc7 23 g3 e6 24 Nd2 Rfe8 25 Ne4 Rc8 26 Ng4 Red8 27 Ng5 h6 28 Nf3
c4 29 f5 exf5 30 Nxh6+ Bxh6 31 Qxh6 cxd3 32 cxd3 Rxd3 33 Rc1 Rc3 34 Rxc3
Qxc3 35 Qf4 Qb2+ 36 Nd2 Rc2 37 Rf2 Qc1 38 Qb8+ Bc8 39 Qd6 Qb2 40 Re2
Kg7 41 h4 Bb7 42 h5 Qa1 43 h6+ Kh7 44 Rg2 Bxg2 45 Kxg2 Qc3 0-1

Bill Keogh - Thomas Belke

King's Indian Attack

Notes by Bill Keogh? (marginal notes from the scoresheet)

1 e4 e6 2 d3 d5 3 Nd2 Nf6 4 Ngf3 c5 5 g3 Be7 6 Bg2 Nc6 7 0-0 0-0 8 e5 Nd7
9 Re1 Qc7 10 Qe2 b5 11 c3 Qb6 12 Nf1 Ba6 [12...Bb7; 12...a5 ΔBa6] 13 Bf4
Rfe8 14 h4 Rac8 15 N1h2 d4 16 Ng4 [16 Ng5 Bxg5 17 hxg5 Δ Qh5, N-g4-f6]
16...f5 17 exf6 Bxf6 18 Nxf6+ gxf6 19 Bh3 Nd8 20 Bh6?! [insipid; 20 cxd4
cxd4 21 Qe4±] 20...Bb7 21 Nd2 Kh8 22 Ne4 Qc6 23 Qh5? [23 Kh2] 23...
Rg8 24 Kh2 f5 25 Ng5 Nf6 26 Nf7+ Nxf7 27 Qxf7 Ng4+ 0-1





VCF President's Message

Fellow VCF Members:

My name is Mike Hoffpauir. It is my privilege to serve as your President for 2008-2009. I'd like to layout my priorities for 2008-09, but before doing that I want to tell you a little about myself.

Some of you know me, but most probably don't. I grew up in south-Louisiana in "Katrina-land," dodging hurricanes and pushing pawns. I served for 28 years in the US Army, starting my "second career" in 2005. I have been extremely active in chess since 2000, mostly in Scholastics as a Tournament Director and organizer, but, thanks to the mentorship of Mike Atkins and Ernie Schlich, I have become more active in events other than Scholastics such as the Virginia Closed and the Millennium Chess Festival. I am very grateful to Mike and Ernie for their tutelage; they are superb TDs, as you all know.



Now about my priorities: for my year as VCF President I have two primary goals with which I seek your support. First, ensuring our Federation continues to serve you through top quality tournaments and a periodic Newsletter; and second, working with you to grow the next generation of chess players across the Commonwealth.

The first priority—top quality tournaments and a Newsletter—are easy. Between Mike Atkins, Ernie Schlich, Rob Getty, and myself we'll continue hosting events that all of you want to play in. And I know that Macon Shibut, editor of our Newsletter for more than 15 years, will continue to crank out a rich product filled with his expert analyses from which we can all learn.

The second priority—growing the next generation of Caissa lovers—is a greater challenge. I believe we should focus efforts on the K-8 age group. Most of us picked up our beloved game when we were that age. We learned from our parents, siblings, from a friend, or at school, but in any case the majority of us started pushing pawns when we were young. So, how do I intend to focus on K-8? By applying VCF resources—that is, our membership (you) and some financial assistance.



In my first three months as President, or no later than the 1st of December 2008, I will work with the Board to establish formal procedures whereby schools and chess youth groups in the state can ask for assistance (financial assistance) from the VCF to start new clubs, to improve existing clubs, and to create opportunities for young players to participate in tournaments at the local, state, and National levels. Once we get that process established, I will direct that it be published in our Newsletter.

The Board cannot accomplish these goals alone. We need your assistance. Whether you volunteer to organize a local event, help or lead a local club or school, write an article for *Virginia Chess*, or just play in our tournaments, the VCF cannot get there without your help.

I look forward to working with all of you throughout the next year.

Yours in chess,



Mike Hoffpauir
Senior Tournament Director
VCF President



At the conclusion of the VCF's annual Labor Day event, Alicia Delaune presents the new state champion an award in memory of her late husband, four-time champion IM Richard Delaune



Harris Pavilion "Open Air" V

by Don Millican

HARRIS PAVILION'S ANNUAL CHESS TOURNAMENT, the sixth overall and the fifth in the "Open Air" format, ran on August 16 in Old Town Manassas. "The hottest tournament in Virginia" lived up to its billing, but not due to the weather. For the second year in a row, moderate temperatures and low humidity made outdoor playing conditions comfortable. A near-record turnout of forty players, along with the intensity of competition, generated the heat.

Twenty-three players contested for \$800 in prize money and 10 Grand Prix points in the Open section. Four of them shared 1st-4th place: Maryland FMs Ray Kaufman & Boris Zisman, Pennsylvania IM Edward Formanek, & Roderick Brown from Manassas. The competition was so intense that none finished undefeated! Charles Willis & Thomas Labue each scored 3 points and shared Under 1800. Manassas's Josaph Vaikasas, Mark Scott of Sterling, April Tran from Springfield, Gavin Moore from Centreville, and Erik Toribio of Bethesda split the Under 1400. Top Unrated Akerim Uraz was the only player to win a prize outright.

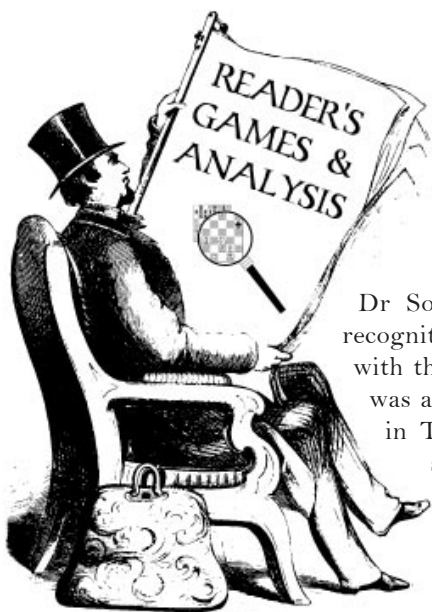
Seventeen additional players battled in the non-rated Fun section. John Farrell of Alexandria continued his winning ways scoring a perfect 5 for 1st place. James Reed & Joseph Tan scored 4-1 for 2nd and 3rd respectively on tiebreak. Harry Hopewell stood alone in 4th place. Tiebreaks gave Matthew Cherry, James DePaolo & John Cary 5th, 6th, and 7th places respectively. William Moore of Centreville (Open section's Under 1400 co-winner Gavin's father), Dick Stableford from Dumfries & Ashish Tondwalker took 8th, 9th, & 10th places respectively. Susan Mc Clanahan had the same score but lowest tiebreak and so just missed taking home a trophy.

Anna Marie Morgan, Harris Pavilion's manager, provided the site and \$500 of the prize fund. Kingstowne Chess Club contributed the trophies for the Fun section and the remaining prize money for the Open section. In addition to playing, Erik Toribio served ably as Assistant Tournament Director.



Books, New & Noted

We have a backlog of new books on hand, including the latest Kasparov tome, *Kasparov vs Karpov, 1975-1985*. We'll definitely review that one in the next issue of *Virginia Chess*. Other titles awaiting attention include *Secrets of Spectacular Chess* (Levitt & Friedgood), *Practical Endgame Play* (Grivas), and a slew of opening books. Anyone who might be interested in having reviewing one or more of the books on hand should contact The Editor.



Timothy Rogalski - Somseen Chanawangsa

Arlington Chess Club Ladder 1984
Nimzowitsch/Larsen

Notes by Tim Rogalski

Dr Somseen Chanawangsa has received recognition from Thai Royalty for his work with the English language. At one point he was among the top ten rated chess players in Thailand, and has outranked me on several rating lists; however, I have a disproportionate plus score against him. Our games are always emotionally tense with errors committed on both sides where I (almost always) walk away with the point. The same

pattern held true in Shogi. This particular game was played decades ago in the ACC ladder, and remains one of my favorites because of how it ended.

1 b3!

A humble sweet little thing b-pawn will see the most interesting action.

1...e5 2 Bb2 d6 3 e3 f5 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 d4 e4 6 Ng1!?

Sacrificing tempi to initiate the Modern French Attack. White surrenders the center and provokes Black to over-estimate his chances. I first saw this system when Petrosian (as Black playing the Modern French Defense) impressively defeated Christiakov in a highly positional work of art, (1956 Moscow Championship). Two other great examples are Olafsson-Petrosian, Bled, 1961 and Joppen-Petrosian, Belgrade, 1954.

6...d5 7 Qd2 a6 8 Ne2 Bd6 9 Nbc3 0-0 10 0-0-0 Qe7 11 Nf4 c6

Black plans a queenside pawn storm to pry open the a-file against White's king.

12 Be2 b5 13 Rdg1 a5 14 h3 a4

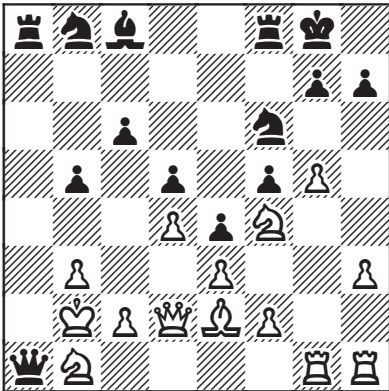
Black is slightly better and he believes that he can mate White outright.

15 g4 Ba3?!



Incorrectly trading his most active bishop for White's least active bishop. 15...Bb4! is a better way that clamps a vise on White's queenside.

16 Nb1 Bxb2+ 17 Kxb2 axb3 18 axb3 Qa7 19 g5 Qa1+



"Checkmate" ?!

With an air that enthused, "Finally!" Somseen cried, "Checkmate!" and happily stopped the clocks. Quietly, I nimbly moved my king, restarted his clock, looked him in the eyes — and noticed his shoulders slump. When I saw him last, in Bangkok in 2006, we reminisced about old times. To this day he still has bad memories about this queen check that he mistakenly thought was mate, and the end of his jinx.

20 Kc1 Ne8

Ironically, Black started with a space advantage and now has all of his pieces on the edge of the board.

21 Qc3 Qa2?

21...Qa7 and if 22 Nxd5?? cxd5 23 Qxc8 Nc7 traps the White queen.

22 Qb2?

22 Nxd5 could now have been safely played, something we both overlooked.

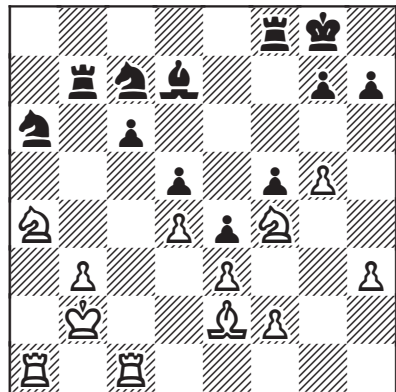
22...b4 23 c3 bxc3?!

23...Qa5 keeps some pressure on White.

24 Qxa2 Rxa2 25 Nxc3 Ra7 26 Kb2 Nc7 27 Ra1 Rb7

It is worth recalling that, less than 10 moves ago, Black had total control of the a-file.

28 Na4 Nba6 29 Rhc1 Bd7



30 Bxa6!

A very good move that even the all-seeing Rybka 3 does not include in her list of top candidates. Somseen was surprised since my bishop is a most excellent piece. Yet, strong-knight-*vs*-weak-bishop endings are a lot of fun for the knight and torture for the bishop. This capture immediately shoves a thin bamboo shoot under one of Black's fingernails.

30...Nxa6 31 Nc5 Nxc5 32 Rxc5 Rfb8



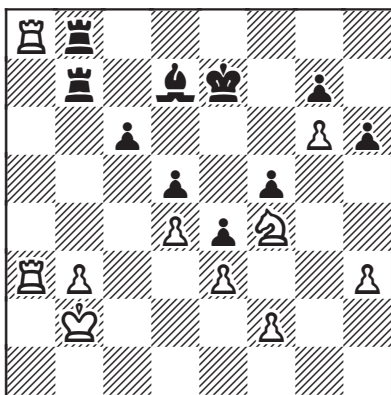
Clearly, the b-pawn is the weakest piece on the board, being subjected to boos and hisses from the fickle crowd. It is not even the original healthy b-pawn but a reincarnated, crippled a-pawn. This sickling is also a wimpy, isolated, Forrest Gump of a pawn that can barely stand. It promptly needs protection and can't even move without being subjected to immediate capture; but it leads a remarkably charmed life and soon it will throw off its leg braces.

33 Ra3 h6 34 g6

I just wanted to keep things closed since my knight taunts his bishop. Plus, I didn't want any black rook causing havoc if I allowed things to open up on the kingside.

34...Kf8 35 Rca5 Ke7 36 Ra8??

One square too far. Before showing me the analysis of this move, my computer unexpectedly displayed a pop-up window that freakishly asked, "Do you really want to know?" Puzzled, I timidly clicked, "Yes"...



Damn! The unblinking Seeing Eye is merciless in revealing tactical shots overlooked for years. This has happened to me more times than I care to reveal. One of these days I am going to jam my pen into that infernal electronic Cyclops!

36...Kf6?

36...Rxb3+! would have killed Cinderella at the stroke of midnight, and no one would ever have heard of Wagner's wonderful opera song, *Flight of the b-Pawn*.

37 Rxb8 Rxb8 38 Ra7 Be8 39 Rc7 Rd8?!

It would have been better to keep the inactive White king bottled up and tied to defending the frail b-pawn with 39...Rb6

40 Kc3 h5 41 h4 Rd6?

41...Rb8

42 Kb4!

42 Nxh5+ Kxg6 43 Nxg7 also wins, but Black's weak kingside pawns aren't going anywhere. Let me activate my powerful king before taking decisive action.

42...Bd7?

42...Rd8

43 Kc5

White's pieces are ideally placed, and the b-pawn gets set to sprint where it will cut through Black's position like a hot knife through butter.



43...Ke7

While the lovely White queen is
holding her schoolbooks to her chest,
you can hear her urgently yelling,
"Run b-pawn! Run!"

Clearly, the b-pawn is the strongest
piece on the board, and the crowd is
on its feet cheering and applauding.
The sweet little thing b-pawn is only
one small step for man away from
promoting into Gold.

44 b4! Rf6 45 b5! Kd8 46 b6! Ke7 47 b7! 1-0



Tim Hamilton-Stan Fink

DC Chess League 2008

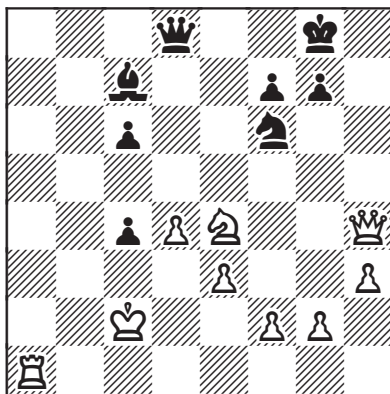
Notes by Tim Hamilton

1 Nc3 Nf6 2 d4 d5 [I suspected some serious preparation for the Blackmar Diemer Gambit (3 e4) so I chose a rarely-seen alternative.] **3 Nf3 Bf5 4 e3 e6 5 Ne5!? Nbd7** [5...Be7 6 g4 Bg6 7 h4 Ne4 8 h5 Nxc3 9 Qf3 f6 10 hxg6 fxe5 11 Qf7+ Kd7 12 bxc3 hxg6 13 Rxh8 Qxh8 14 dxe5 Nc6 15 f4 Nxe5 16 fxe5 Rf8 17 Bb5+ c6 18 Qxg6 Qh1+ 19 Kd2 cxb5 20 Bb2 Qh2+ 21 Kd3 Rf2 22 Bc1 Rxc2 23 Kd4 Qe2 24 Qd3 Bc5+ 0-1 Flaskos-Alexopoulos, Kallithea 1977] **6 Nxd7** [6 g4 Bg6 7 h4 Nxe5 8 dxe5 d4 9 exd4 Nd5 10 h5 Nxc3 11 bxc3 Be4 12 Rh3 Qe7 13 Bd3 Bd5 14 Qe2 0-0-0 15 a4 c5 16 Be3 c4 17 Bxc4 Qc7 18 Bg5 Qxc4 19 Qxc4+ Bxc4 20 Bxd8 Kxd8 21 Rf3 Ke8 22 a5 Be7 23 Rh3 Kd7 24 f4 Rc8 25 Kd2 Rc6 26 Rhh1 Bd8 27 Rhb1 Kc8 28 Rb4 Bd5 29 Rba4 Ra6 30 Ke3 Bc6 31 R4a2 Be7 32 c4 Bb4 33 Kd3 Bf3 34 c3 Be7 35 Rg1 Bd8 36 Rg3 Bc6 37 g5 h6 1/2 Melnikov-Eschke, Koblenz 2002] **6...Qxd7 7 Bd2** [7 Bd3 Bd6 8 Bd2 0-0 9 f3 c5 10 dxc5 Bxc5 11 0-0 Bxd3 12 cxd3 d4 13 Na4 Be7 14 b3 b5 15 Nb2 dxe3 16 Bxe3 Nd5 17 Bf2 Ba3 18 Qd2 Rfc8 19 d4 Nb4 20 Nd3 Rc2 21 Qe3 Nxd3 22 Qxd3 Rac8 23 h4 h6 24 Rfd1 Qd5 25 Rd2 Rxd2 26 Qxd2 Rd8 27 Rd1 Bc5 28 Qd3 Bb6 29 f4 h5 30 Kf1 g6 31 Qe3 Rc8 32 Rc1 Rd8 33 Rd1 Rd7 34 Qd3 a6 35 a4 Rc7 36 Be3 bxa4 37 bxa4 Rc4 38 Qb3 Ba7 39 Kf2 Kg7 40 Rd3 a5 41 Qb5 Rc2+ 42 Rd2 Rxd2+ 43 Bxd2 Bxd4+ 44 Kf1 Qxb5+ 45 axb5 a4 46 Bb4 Kf6 47 Ke2 Kf5 48 Bd6 Ke4 49 g3 Kd5 0-1 Ilic-Wallace, Gold Coast 2001] **7...c6 8 Be2 Bd6 9 a4 e5** [Stan had used up about an hour of the 30/90 first control here, so I thought a few complications were called for.] **10 Nb5!? Bb8** [Keeping the bishop pair and hoping to regain time driving the knight back later.] **11 Bb4 e4** [Gaining space with a prospect of a Kingside attack; White is in no mood to castle into this attack, however, and can carry on with Queenside counterplay.] **12 h3 h5 13 Qd2 a6** [The knight must go if he is to untangle.] **14 Na3 h4** [Rather pointless unless ...Rg8, ...g5, and ...g4 are to follow. Here or next turn, ...b5 might be a sharp try. The point is that after exchanges the eventual Bb5 might not win the Queen if Qxb5 is possible when the a-pawn is pinned.] **15 c4 a5 16 Bxa5 0-0 17 Bb4 Rxa4** [This at least



avoids the avalanche, but White is happy enough with the exchange.] **18 Bxf8 Kxf8 19 b3 Ra8 20 Qb4+ Kg8 21 Nc2 Rxa1+ 22 Nxa1 Qd8 23 Qa3 Bc7 24 Kd2 dxc4 25 bxc4 Ba5+ 26 Kc2 b5 27 Nb3 Bc7 28 Ra1 Kh7 29 Qc5 Bd7 30 Qg5 Be6 31 Nc5 Bxc4 32 Bxc4 bxc4 33 Qxh4+ Kg8 34 Nxe4** [We will return to this position—see diagram below] **34...Nxe4? 35 Qxd8+ Bxd8 36 Ra8 Nxf2 37 Rxd8+ Kh7 38 Rd6 Nd3** [It is not yet too late to lose to a fork.] **39 Kd2 c5 40 Rc6 f6 41 Rxc5 1-0**

Black has seen enough. His move 34 was weak, but was Black busted in any event? The position after 34 Nxe4 is actually trickier than it looks and worth some analysis.



His best practical chance must be **34...Qb8**, when (on first impressions) White ought to be winning easily—and the computer seems to agree, to the tune of five or six pawns. Probably its evaluation function really hates those doubled pawns. Nevertheless, Black has ideas of annoying the king and using the c-pawn. Some sample lines: **35 Nxf6+ gxf6** [White is not forced to trade knights, but it seems to me the most logical. “*Never retreat!*” Other replies, whatever their merits may be, allow Black a nice knight outpost on d5. White can try defending by bringing the knight back to c5, d2, or (after 35 Rb1 Qa8) to c3 but in all cases Black has resources. So let us first see whether White can do without Rb1 or knight retreats.] **36 Kc1 c3! 37 Ra2 Qb3!!** [I like this move, though ...Bd6 was another interesting idea. Black says, in effect, “Mate or be mated!” White can now check on g4 and bring the Queen to e2, but this is passive: 38 Qg4+ Kf8 39 Qe2 Bd6 40 Qc2 Ba3+ 41 Kd1 Qc4 threatening mate on f1!] **38 Ra8+ Kg7** [forced; 38...Bb8 39 Qg3+ Kh7 40 Qxb8 wins, of course. Now let’s try the most direct-looking plan for White.] **39 Qh8+ Kg6 40 Rg8+ Kf5 41 Qh7+** [White must not run out of checks: 41 e4+ Ke6 42 Re8+ Kd7!] **41...Ke6 42 Qe4+ Kd6** [Now let’s try stopping the threats.] **43 Qc2 Qa3+ 44 Kd1 Qa1+ 45 Qc1 Qa4+** [Hmm. Shall we

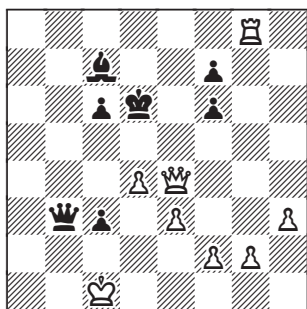
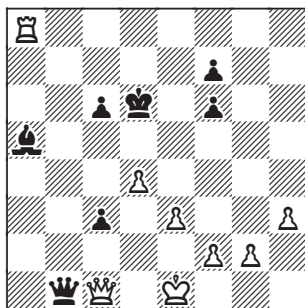


Readers' Games (cont)

try to get out of the checks?] **46 Ke2 Qb5+ 47 Ke1 Ba5 48 Ra8** [prevents the discovered check, but...] **48...Qb1!!**

Oh dear, something has gone horribly wrong after all. Now we have to try building a fortress a Queen down after **49 Qxb1 c2+ 50 Rxa5 bxc1Q+** etc, a grim prospect.

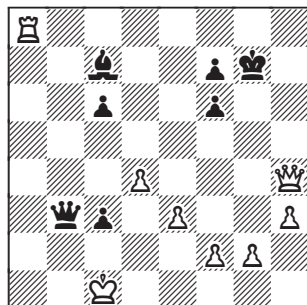
Okay, so let's backtrack and try gaining a move and grabbing another pawn before returning home to the c2 square.



as above until 42...Kd6

when Black's king just moves somewhere with discovered check and White's queen hangs. Who knows, instead of **52...Qb2**, even **52...Ke6+!** might work: **53 Kg5 Qd5** and Black has scary threats!

So we backtrack all the way to the analysis position after 38...Kg7 ...



43 Qb1 Qc4 44 Qf5 Qb3 [or 44...Qf1+ 45 Kc2 Qe2+ 46 Kxc3 Ba5+ 47 Kb3!!] **45 Qxf6+ Kd7 46 Qf5+ Kd6 47 Qc2** [Back as before except Black is missing one of his f-pawns. 47 Qe5+ leads nowhere, eg 47...Kd7 48 Qe8+ Kd6 49 Qf8+ Ke6 50 Rg6+? Kd7!] **47...Qa3+ 48 Kd1 Qa1+ 49 Ke2 Qb2 50 Kd3 Qb5+ 51 Ke4** [unfortunately 51 Kxc3? Ba5 is mate] **51...f5+ 52 Kf4 Qb2**

...and White seems to be worse yet again, either after **Qxf5 Qxf2 check**, when Queens come off and the c-pawn promotes; or after the blunder **Rg6+**,

The best I can find for White is the following: **39 Qg4+ Kh7 40 Qg8+ Kh6 41 Qf8+ Kh7** [Going to the 5th rank is suicide, while ...Kg6 is not clearly superior to ...Kh7] **42 Qa3 Qc4 43 Qa6 Qb4** [43...Qb3 44 Qa2 and wins] **44 Qd3+ Kg7 45 Ra2** and finally White appears to have the upper hand with perhaps **Kc2** and the fall of the c-pawn, returning the exchange if needed. But, in my opinion, it's a hard maneuver to find (**Qg4-g8-f8-a3-a6**) even with an hour more, and some technical hurdles would remain for White!



Kingstowne Quad #48/Action-Plus #20

by Don Millican

A player at the latest edition of the Kingstowne Quads and Action-Pluses, on July 5 in Alexandria, didn't play a single game and wasn't even a USCF member, but he had a great influence on what happened. This player has only a single name and is in the legal profession: Murphy. His Law was in effect for much of the day.

Despite the competing World Open in Philadelphia, 8 players entered the Quads while 25 others contested the Action-Plus. Thus for the second time in a row, the Action-Plus's prize fund was expanded beyond the advertised amount.

Murphy's first move involved players showing up at the last minute, all but ensuring a delay in the start. I tried temporarily cutting off Action-Plus registration to get the Quads underway along with the already-registered Action-Plus. Alas, several players ended up in the wrong tournament, undiscovered until the pairings were made, which led to further delay getting everyone properly assigned.

Yang Dai won the top Quad and a gold medal with a perfect 3-0 score. Second place and a bronze medal went to Francis Chen. The bottom Quad's winner, with 2½ points and a silver medal, was Greg Anderson, while Walter Nativo took second place and a bronze medal in his first tournament. These results were among the few day's few things untouched by Mr. Murphy, Esq: *no tiebreaks needed!*

The Action-Plus was won by Andrew Samuelson with 4½ out of 5. Atul Kannan & Kevin Huo tied for 2nd-3rd and Huo also picked up the Under 1800 prize. Four players shared the Under 1400 prize: Jesse Cai, Daniel Li, Eric Bo & Arun Kannan (co-runner-up Atul's brother). Daniel Hwang finished with a goose-egg but still took home Top Unrated by virtue of being the only unrated entry.

Murphy committed his greatest mischief after the tournament ended. I attempted to submit rating report online for the first time. While setting up the tournament report, I mis-typed the date, and most of the Monday was devoted to trading emails with USCF to get that straightened out. (By Tuesday, all was well.)

The final touch from Murphy was that all this happened while I was trying to train a new club director! Just my luck that Erick Toribio saw me at my worst in nearly six years! He didn't seem too concerned, however; he realized it just wasn't my day, and he'd seen me in action at last year's Armed Forces Open Championship. I reminded him that NTD Mike Atkins was running that tournament and that, as merely assistant TD, I wasn't in position to really mess things up. Still, he is willing to work with me again. He has faith in my recuperative qualities—or just enjoys seeing me my fall on my face. Hopefully, it's the former.



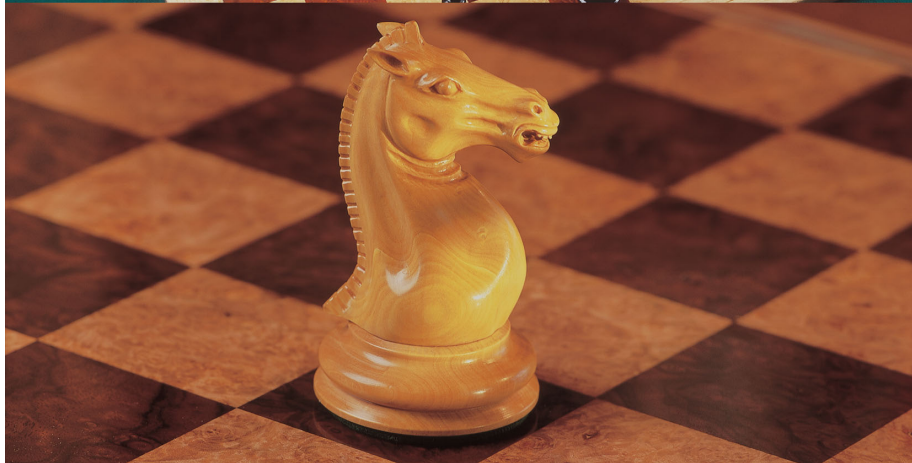
Chess Clubs

Please send additions / corrections to the Editor.



♠ Alexandria: Kingstowne Chess Club, Kingstowne South Center, 6080 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Tuesdays 7-9:30pm, info Rob McKinney, robcmckinney@aol.com, (703) 924-5883 ♠ Arlington: Arlington Chess Club, Lyon Village Community House, 1920 N Highland St (at Lee Hwy), Fridays 7:30pm. Registration for rated Ladder and Action events ends 8pm. Blitz/Quick tourney first Friday of each month. Info www.wizard.net/~matkins or John Campbell (703) 534-6232 ♠ Arlington Seniors Chess Club, Madison Community Center, 3829 N Stafford St, Mondays, 9:45am, info (703) 228-5285 ♠ Blacksburg: Chess Club of Virginia Tech, GB Johnson Student Center, Rm 102, Virginia Tech, Wednesdays 7-9pm ♠ Charlottesville: Charlottesville Chess Club, St Mark Lutheran Church, Rt 250 & Alderman Rd, Monday evenings ♠ Chesapeake: Zero's Sub Shop, 3116 Western Branch Blvd (Rt 17), (Poplar Hill Plaza near Taylor Rd intersection), Mondays 6pm to closing ♠ Great Bridge United Methodist Church, corner of Battlefiled Blvd & Stadium Dr, Tuesdays, 6:30-10pm, info 686-0822 ♠ Culpeper: Culpeper Chess Club, Culpeper County Public Library, Rt 29 Business (near Safeway). Adults meet Tuesdays 6:30-8:45pm, juniors Thursdays 6:30-8:45pm. Info John Clark 540-829-6606 ♠ Fort Eustis: contact Sorel Utsey 878-4448 ♠ Danville: Danville Chess Club, Danville YMCA, 810 Main Street. Mondays 6:30-9:30 pm. Info John Thompson 434-799-8898 ♠ Fredricksburg: Spotsylvania Chess, Lutheran Church Rte West 4.7 miles from Exit 130 on I-95. Every Tuesday 6-9pm, info Mike Cornell 785-8614 ♠ Glenss: Rappahannock Community College - Glenss Campus Chess Club, Glenss Campus Library, Tuesdays 8-10pm in the student lounge, info Zack Loesch 758-5324(x208) ♠ Harrisonburg: Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, Trinity Presbyterian Church, corner of S High (rt 42) & Maryland Ave (Port Republic Rd), Fridays 7:30pm, <http://cep.jmu.edu/huffinacj/svcc/svcchome.html> ♠ McLean: Booz Allen Hamilton CC, Hamilton Bldg, Rm 2032, 8283 Greensboro Dr. Thursdays, info Thomas Thompson, 703-902-5418, thompson_thomas@bah.com ♠ Mechanicsville: Stonewall Library, Stonewall Pkwy, Mondays 6:30-9pm 730-8944 ♠ Norfolk: Tidewater Chess Club, Beth Messiah Synagogue, 7130 Granby St, Norfolk. Tuesdays, 7-10 pm, Ernie Schlich (757) 853-5296, eschlich@verizon.net ♠ Larchmont Public Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd, Wednesday 6-9pm ♠ ODU Chess Club, Webb Univ Ctr, Old Dominion University, info www.odu.edu/~chess ♠ Reston: Reston Community Ctr Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Thursdays 6:30-9:30 pm. Limited number of sets & boards available, or bring your own. No fee, but you must sign-in at each meeting ♠ Richmond: The Kaissa Chess Club, Willow Lawn Shopping Center, in the food court, Thursdays 6-9pm. info Gary Black (804) 741-1666 ♠ The Side Pocket, Cross Roads Shopping Center, Staples Mill Rd. A billiards parlor with chess tables set up any hour, every day ♠ Huguenot Chess Knights, Bon Air Library Community Room, 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-11pm, info Walter Chester 276-5662 ♠ VCU CC, 907 Floyd Ave, Capital Ballroom C. Saturdays 3-7pm, info Michael Neal, grandmaster_2b@yahoo.com ♠ Roanoke: Roanoke Valley Chess Club, Grandin Ct Rec Ctr, Corner of Lofton & Barham Rd SW, Fridays 7:00-11:00pm, Info Brian Roark (540) 378-1316 or brian.roark@acterna.com ♠ Stafford: Bella Café Chess Nights, 3869 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 103, Stafford, VA 22554. Tuesdays & Thursdays 7pm -10, sets and boards on site, frequent tourneys. Contact Will at 703-445-8855 or bellabagelcafe@yahoo.com ♠ Virginia Beach: Tidewater Community Chess Club, Bldg D ("Kempsville") Cafeteria, Tidewater Community College Va Beach Campus, 1700 College Crescent Rd. Mondays 7-10pm ♠ Williamsburg: Williamsburg CC, The Williamsburg Landing, 5700 Williamsburg Landing Drive. 2nd floor Game Room. Tuesdays 7-10pm. Don Woolfolk 757-229-8774 or Tom Landvogt 757-565-5792 ♠ Winchester: Winchester Chess Club, Westminster-Canterbury Home for the Elderly, Tuesdays 7pm ♠ Woodbridge: Prince William Chess Club, Tuesdays 7-9pm at the Game Parlor, Prince William Square, 14400 Smoketown Road. Contact Dick Stableford, 703-670-5887 or o6usmc@comcast.net

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