

# VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

2008 - #6

Grandmaster  
Larry  
Kaufman

*See page 1*



# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

2008 - Issue #6

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*Virginia Chess* is published six times per year by the Virginia Chess Federation. Membership benefits (dues: \$10/yr adult; \$5/yr junior under 18) include a subscription to *Virginia Chess*. Send material for publication to the editor. Send dues, address changes, etc to Circulation.

The **Virginia Chess Federation (VCF)** is



a non-profit organization for the use of its members. Dues for regular adult membership are \$10/yr. Junior memberships are \$5/yr.

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*Larry Kaufman, of Maryland, is a familiar face at Virginia tournaments. Among others he won the Virginia Open in 1969, 1998, 2000, 2006 and 2007! Recently Larry achieved a lifelong goal by attaining the title of International Grandmaster, and agreed to tell VIRGINIA CHESS readers how it happened. -ed*

## World Senior Chess Championship

*by Larry Kaufman*

**D**URING THE LAST FIVE YEARS OR SO, whenever someone asked me if I still hoped to become a GM, I would reply something like this: "I'm too old now to try to do it the normal way, but perhaps when I reach 60 I will try to win the World Senior, which carries an automatic GM title. Winning the World Senior is no easier than making a normal GM norm, but you only have to do it once, not three times, and there is no rating requirement."

I didn't actually expect to win the World title, especially on my first try, but I considered it at least possible enough to justify going all out towards that goal. So when I won the US Senior and with it much of the expenses towards the World Senior, I didn't think twice about going. Furthermore I decided to do everything possible to maximize my chances, regardless of the cost. I bought a faster notebook computer, I stayed five days in Bonn before the event to recover from jet lag and to prepare my openings without interruption, and I stayed at a more expensive hotel in Bad Zwischenahn (the tournament locale) with a heated pool so I would get enough exercise. Still, it all seemed for naught after the first two rounds, because in the first round I got a lost position (the only one I had in the whole event!) against a player rated only 2044, although I did go on to win it, and in the second round I reached a clearly won position only to allow my opponent to reach a drawn pawn-down endgame. This appeared to doom me to losing on tiebreaks even if I did manage to tie for first, because the tournament website quoted a 1991 FIDE handbook which stipulated "progressive" tiebreaks (sum of scores after each round).

I felt a bit better after a 23 move win in round 3 and a nice win over an FM with the help of a Rybka-prepared novelty in round 4. However, in round 5 I reached a totally won position only to miss one win after another until I finally had to settle for perpetual check. In round six I won a long game that oscillated back and forth between being won for me and being drawable by my opponent, another FM. So with a 5-1 score I was still in the running, but with the tiebreak situation as it was I had little hope.

Still I prepared very thoroughly for each game. Then in round 7 I played last year's champ, GM Butnoričius, and won a nice game after he went after a "poisoned"



pawn. Next, I played three time Senior Champion GM Janis Klovans. He played into my preparation until move 14, and on move 16 made a fatal oversight that allowed me to win a pretty game in just 25 moves. Only now did I start to have real hope of victory.

Next I faced the top seed, GM Suba, and the game was a well-fought draw. I was still expecting to lose out on tiebreak, but at this point the organizer announced that he had made a mistake on the website in that he quoted from an obsolete FIDE rulebook, and that current FIDE rules call for average rating of opponents (other than the lowest) as the tiebreak for the World Senior title. Now my hopes rose higher, as despite a slow start I was playing many GMs.

In round ten I had to play Black against the number two GM, Cebalo, and I figured if I could draw this game I would “only” need to win with White in the final round to have a good chance to be the champion. The game was even for a while, then I made an error which he failed to capitalize on, and with a couple errors on his part I was soon winning a piece and the game, after making some careful moves to head off his attack.

At this point I had a half-point lead on the field, and the organizer told me (and other interested parties) that his calculations showed that in the event of a tie for first, GM Uhlmann had the best tiebreaks, but mine were second, followed by Suba’s. In the final round, I got a nice advantage and a huge time lead against IM Zakharov, and he offered a draw after move 16. I said I would consider it. Then I watched the Uhlmann game for a while, until it was clear that he was probably losing and almost certainly would not win, at which point I accepted the draw. Uhlmann did lose, and although Suba won his game from a losing position to tie for first with me, I won out by 4 Elo points average rating of opposition, getting the gold medal, the trophy, nearly \$3000 (minus European taxes), the title of World Senior Champion, and the GM title. GM Suba has asked FIDE to declare him a co-champion on the grounds that he would be the winner based on the tiebreak system mistakenly posted on the website, but however FIDE rules on this should have little impact on me.

Here is the win over GM Klovans

**Janis Klovans – Larry Kaufman**  
**French**

**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 dxe4 5 Nxe4 Be7 6 Bxf6 gxf6 7 Nf3 f5 8 Nc3 a6 9 g3 b5 10 Bg2 Bb7 11 0-0 0-0 12 Ne5 Bxg2 13 Kxg2 b4**

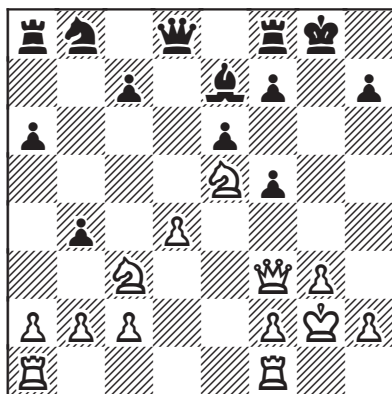
So far this was all part of my preparation the night before, but as this was one of many possible lines I studied, I only remembered that after White moved his



knight Black should equalize by ...Qd5+. At this point I had used only a minute or two, while Klovans had used over half an hour. Now he played...

#### 14 Qf3

...which I had not studied, although I later learned that this had been played in a few games already.



Here I had to decide between saving the rook (by ...Ra7 or ...c6), or sacrificing the exchange for a pawn or two. Instead of just doing normal chess analysis, I reasoned as follows: Since Rybka did not recommend Qf3 in my preparation, it is probably not superior to moving the knight move. However if I save the rook, it is pretty obvious that White has profited by the inclusion of this pair of moves. So it follows that Rybka must have intended to sacrifice the exchange after 14 Qf3, as otherwise she would have given Qf3 as best. Of course I checked out some lines before making the sacrifice, but I didn't need to work everything out to justify playing the move. I later learned that both the sacrifice and the move ...c6 had been played by GM level players. So now play continued:

#### 14...bxc3 15 Qxa8 Qxd4

Now I left the board certain that 16 Nd3 would be played, since defending the knight looked shaky and 16 Nf3 would take away the queen's retreat. When I returned to the board I was amazed to see...

#### 16 Nf3??

...on the board, as after I played...

#### 16...Qb6

White's queen was in serious trouble. He had to repeat with...



17 Ne5

...to stop ...Nc6. Of course I didn't give him a chance to correct his error, but played...

17...f6 18 Nc4 Qb5

...and due to the threat of trapping the queen White had to let the knight go by.

19 Qf3 Qxc4 20 bxc3 Nc6

Now I'm up two minor pieces for a rook, with the better pawn structure to boot. In the endgame sometimes two minors aren't much better than a rook, but on a crowded board it's no contest. The game finished:

21 Rfe1 Ne5 22 Qe2 Qc6+ 23 Kh3?

23 f3 was the last chance to fight on.

23...Nf3 24 Red1 Ng5+ 25 Kh4 Qg2 0-1

Later analysis of my exchange sac led to the conclusion that with best play the result should be a draw. I give this game primarily for the reasoning behind my 14th move.

41st Annual

## Virginia Open

February 27 - March 1, 2009



Crowne Plaza Tysons Corner, 1960 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean, Va 22102

5-SS, rd1 Game/2, rds 2-5 40/2 SD/1. \$\$3400, top 4 in Open section guaranteed,

rest based on 140. In two Sections: *Open* FIDE rated. \$600-400-300-250, X,

A each \$180. *Amateur (U1900)* \$400-200-150, B, C, D, U1200 each \$160,

Unrated \$100. *Both* Reg Friday 2/27 5:30p-7:45pm, rds 8, 10-4:30, 9-3:30.

EF \$60 if received by 2/21, \$70 later and at site. \$5 discount to active

military. \$35 reentry allowed From rd 1 into rd 2 only at Saturday Reg, 9-9:45.

One irrevocable ½ point bye allowed with entry, declared before rd 1. VCF

membership required for Virginia residents (\$10 Adults, \$5 U19). Hotel *www.*

*cptysonscorner.com* Chess room rates of \$79 for single and double, reserve before

2/6. Walk-up chess rate possible but not guaranteed; reserve early!! *No outside*

*food allowed in tournament playing room!* See <http://www.vachess.org/vaopen.htm>

for online link to register for hotel. NS, NC, W. *Enter* Make checks payable

to "Virginia Chess" and mail to: Michael Atkins, PO Box 6138 Alexandria

VA 22306. In addition to entering by mail, entries will be accepted at the site

during registration, at the Arlington Chess Club, and at the Tidewater Chess

Club (Norfolk). No Internet or phone entries! Info <http://www.vachess.org/vaopen.htm>

or email [matkins2@cox.net](mailto:matkins2@cox.net) 30 Grand Prix Points





# Northern Virginia Open

by Mike Atkins

IM Justin Sarker scored 5-0 to take clear first in the 13th Annual Northern Virginia Open, in Sterling, November 15-16. Dan Yeager & Alejandro Fernandez tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>. Larry Larkins, Yang Dai & Alex Passov shared the top Expert prize with 4-1. Five others with the same score got the A prize: Majur Juac, Patrick Ramsey, Tim Rogalski (loving the 11 minute drive!), John Farrell & Chris Snell.

Class B was won outright by Matt Freeman. Deodato Obregon took top Unrated and acquired a nice initial rating of 1875. Hercules Del Mundo, Edward Lippman, Richard Li & Abhishek Penumala shared top C. Hans Li won the D prize by himself. Krisha Korapolu took the U1200.

With such a large field, it could well happen that you wind up with multiple winners at 5-0. After three rounds, seven players still had perfect scores: Sarker, newly-minted Grandmaster Larry Kaufman, FM Anton Del Mundo, Larry Larkins, Tim Hamilton, Christopher Johnson & James Pinkerton. A-players Johnson had defeated FM Tegshsuren Enkhbat in round 2 in a wild game.

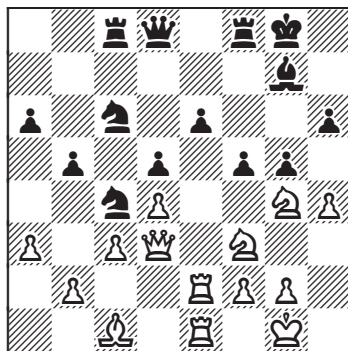
## Christopher Johnson - Tegshsuren Enkhbat

### Caro-Kann

1 e4 c6 2 Nf3 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 d4 Nc6 5 c3 Nf6 6 Bd3 g6 7 O-O Bg7 8 h3 O-O 9 Re1 Bf5 10 Bf4 Bxd3 11 Qxd3 e6 12 Nbd2 Nd7 13 Re2 a6 14 Rae1 Rc8 15 Nf1 b5 16 a3 Nb6 17 N1h2 h6 18 Ng4 g5 19 Bc1 Nc4 20 h4 f5

(diagram)

21 hxg5 fxg4 22 gxh6 gxf3 23 Rxe6 Qd7 24 hxg7 Rf7 25 Qg6 Ne7 26 Qh5 Rxg7 27 Rh6 Rxg2+ 28 Kf1 Ng6 29 Bg5 Nd2+ 30 Bxd2 Qf7 31 Bg5 Rxg5 32 Qxg5 Rc6 33 Re7 1-0



In the fourth round, Sarker beat Johnson and Larkins upset Kaufman. Del Mundo (2007 US Open co-champ) beat Hamilton, and Yeager picked off Pinkerton to set the final round pairings: Sarker and Del Mundo would square off on board one with 4-0 scores; Yeager, with 3½, would play Larkins and his perfect 4-0. Experts Loran Bela Kis & Alejandro Fernandez, a pair of late entrants (½ points byes in round 1), would also be playing for a piece of the pie after each had won three straight.

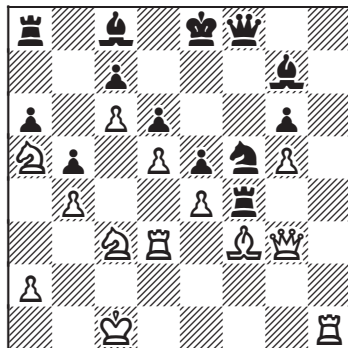


Justin Sarkar - Christopher Johnson

King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Be2 0-0 6 Nf3 e5 7 Be3 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7  
 9 Nd2 Nd7 10 b4 f5 11 f3 Nf6 12 c5 Rf7 13 Nc4 fxe4 14 fxe4 b5 15 Na5 a6  
 16 c6 h5 17 h3 Qf8 18 Qd2 Kh7 19 g4 hxg4 20 hxg4+ Kg8 21 g5 Ng4 22  
 0-0-0 Nxe3 23 Qxe3 Rf4 24 Qg3 Kf7  
 25 Bf3 Ke8 26 Rd3 Nf5 (diagram)

27 exf5 Bxf5 28 Re3 Rxb4 29 Rh4 Rxh4  
 30 Qxh4 Kf7 31 Be4 Qh8 32 Qf2 Ke7 33  
 Rf3 Rf8 34 Qa7 Rc8 35 Rxf5 gxf5 36  
 Bxf5 Kf7 37 Bxc8 Qxc8 38 Ne4 Kg6 39  
 Nb3 Bf8 40 Nbd2 Be7 41 Qb7 Qd8 42  
 Qxa6 Bxg5 43 Qxb5 Be3 44 Qd3 Bxd2+  
 45 Kxd2 Kf7 46 Qf3+ Kg6 47 a4 Qh4  
 48 Qf6+ 1-0

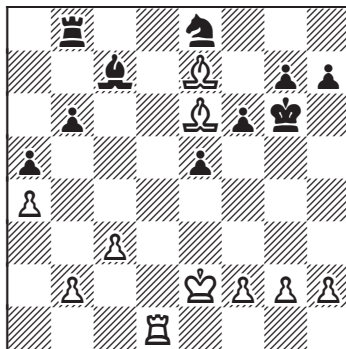


Larry Larkins - Larry Kaufman

French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 Be7 4 Ngf3 Nf6 5 Bd3 c5 6 dxc5 dxe4 7 Nxe4 Nxe4 8  
 Bxe4 Qxd1+ 9 Kxd1 Bxc5 10 Ke2 Nd7 11 Rd1 Nf6 12 Bd3 Ke7 13 Ne5 Ne8  
 14 Be4 Nd6 15 Bf3 Rd8 16 c3 Bb6 17 a4 Bc7 18 Nd3 f6 19 Nb4 a5 20 Nc2  
 Rb8 21 Be3 e5 22 Bc5 b6 23 Ba3 Kf7 24  
 Bd5+ Be6 25 Ne3 Ne8 26 Bc6 Rxd1 27  
 Rxd1 Rd8 28 Nd5 Bxd5 29 Bxd5+ Kg6  
 30 Be7 Rb8 31 Be6 (diagram)

31...b5 32 Rd7 Rb6 33 Bd5 f5 34 Bc5  
 Rf6 35 axb5 Bd6 36 Bb6 a4 37 Bd8 Rf8  
 38 b6 Bb8 39 c4 Nf6 40 Bxf6 gxf6 41 c5  
 e4 42 c6 Be5 43 c7 1-0



Sarkar was clearly the man to beat. Although the top seed, he was if anything a little underrated at 2487, as he is usually

over 2500 and has several GM norms. Sure enough, he took down Del Mundo in 31 moves to reach 5-0 while Yeager-Larkins was still underway. Yeager eventually won, moving into second place. Fernandez joined him with a win over Kis.







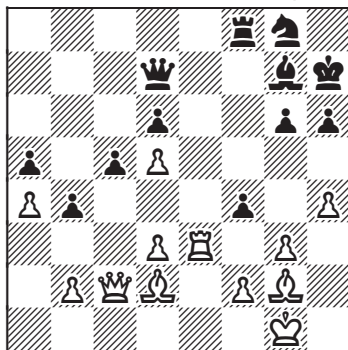
## Anton Del Mundo - Justin Sarkar

## English

1 c4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 Nf3 d6 6 0-0 e5 7 a3 a5 8 d3 Nge7 9 Ne1 Be6 10 Nd5 0-0 11 Nc2 Bxd5 12 cxd5 Nd4 13 Nxd4 exd4 14 Bg5 h6 15 Bd2 b5 16 Qc1 Kh7 17 h4 f5 18 Re1 Ng8 19 a4 b4 20 e4 dxe3 21 Rxe3 Qd7 22 Qc2 Rae8 23 Rae1 Rxe3 24 Rxe3 f4

(diagram)

25 gxf4 Rxf4 26 h5 Qg4 27 hxg6+ Kh8 28 Re7 Rf6 29 Qc4 Qd1+ 30 Bf1 Qxd2 31 Qe4 Qxf2+ 0-1



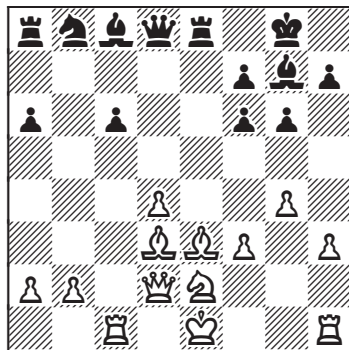
## Lorand Kis - Alejandro Fernandez

## King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 h3 0-0 6 Bg5 c6 7 g4 Qa5 8 Qd2 a6 9 Bd3 b5 10 Nge2 bxc4 11 Bxc4 d5 12 Bd3 dxe4 13 Nxe4 Qb6 14 Nxf6+ exf6 15 Be3 Re8 16 Rc1 Qd8 17 f3

(diagram)

17...Ra7 18 Kf2 Rae7 19 Bf4 Bb7 20 Rhe1 Nd7 21 Nc3 f5 22 Bf1 fxg4 23 hxg4 Nf8 24 Red1 Ne6 25 Be3 Rd7 26 Ne2 c5 27 d5 Rxd5 28 Qc2 Qh4+ 29 Kg2 Rxd1 30 Rxd1 Qxg4+ 0-1



Other noteworthy performances: Darwin Li pushed his rating over 2000 for the first time. Hans Li gained 80 points en route to taking the Class D prize, making it a 500 point year for him. Krisha Korupolu gained 222 points in this event alone, leaping from 1131 to 1352! Isuru Attanagoda gained 80 points; he has gained almost 900 this year!

Anyone who tries to make a living predicting turnout at chess tournaments will starve to death. This event had averaged 83 players over the previous four years in Springfield. This year's big (almost 50%) increase was almost certainly was related to the novelty of a major tournament in Loudon County. The setup was for 96 players and 5 additional tables had to be added during registration. Thanks to all who came, supported the event, and had a great time.



This was the first tournament at the VCF's new Hotel Sierra venue near chess-starved region of Reston, Herndon, Ashburn, Leesburg and Loudon County. Overall impressions of the hotel were great, and 117 people came, making it the largest N Va Open ever. The playing room was a little smaller than at the Springfield site, but the hotel itself was 300% better, with elevators and ice machines that worked, a much better complimentary breakfast, etc. We should do everything we can to ensure our ability to continue running events there into the future.

*However...* Shortly after the Northern Virginia Open, the Manager of the Sierra Hotel contacted me with some complaints about the behavior of chess players and their families/friends during the tournament:

♟ *Eating off the breakfast buffet.* I made announcements on both playing days, plus signs were posted in the tournament area: **food at the buffet is only for paying hotel guests.** It is hard to understand why chessplayers would think that they were entitled to free food, essentially stealing from the hotel.

♟ *Taking over the Bistro area in the evening, so that (paying) Hotel guests were unable to find seating for dinner.* Okay, this one is harder. 117 players have to be somewhere. However, we have to respect the fact that paying hotel guests have priority for Bistro seating during dinner hours. I will police this one better.

♟ *Bringing outside food and beverage into the Bistro.* Common sense ought to tell us that it's not cool to bring food into a restaurant.

♟ *Noise levels and lack of respect for the hotel (scuffing up walls, leaving trash lying around, breaking items).* I don't know why players at a tournament seem to feel that they can do anything they want, including leaving trash at the tables. Kids run through the hotel unchecked, making noise. I had to speak to numerous kids about quieting down. I asked one child to stop scraping the tournament window; then he started scraping the wall.

For the next event, I guess I will have to hand out behavioral expectation notices to all players and families. It will probably be our last chance to show civilized behavior, or we will lose the site. As the manager's e-mail acknowledged, it wasn't everyone at fault, and it never is. But a small minority is always capable of ruining things for everybody. I expect parents to do a better job in keeping their children quiet and under control. Players in general seem to forget that when they stand in the hallway outside the playing room, people inside are bothered by loud talking. *We simply have to do better as a group next time, or a nice playing venue will vanish!*



Brian Li – Larry Kaufman  
French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 exd5 4 Bd3 Nc6 5 c3 Bd6 6 Nf3 Bg4 7 h3 Bh5 8 0-0 Nge7 9 Re1 Qd7 10 Be3 0-0-0 11 Nbd2 f5 12 Bg5 Rdf8 13 Bb5 Ng6 14 Qa4 h6 15 Bh4 Nxh4 16 Nxh4 g5 17 Nh3 Bxf3 18 Nxf3 g4 19 Nd2 gxh3 20 Nb3 Qg7 21 g3 Bxg3 22 Bxc6 bxc6 23 Qa6+ Kd8 24 Qxc6 Bf4+ 25 Kf1 Qg2+ 26 Ke2 Qe4+ 27 Kf1 Qh1+ 28 Ke2 Re8+ 29 Kd3 Qf3+ 30 Kc2 Qxf2+ 31 Nd2 Qxd2+ 32 Kb3 Rxe1 33 Rxe1 Qxe1 34 Qf6+ Kd7 35 Qxh8 Qd1+ 36 Ka3 Bd6+ 37 b4 h2 38 Qh7+ Kc6 39 Qf7 Qd3 40 Qe8+ Kb7 41 Qe1 h1Q 42 Qf2 Qxc3+ 43 Ka4 Qxb4<sup>mate</sup> 0-1

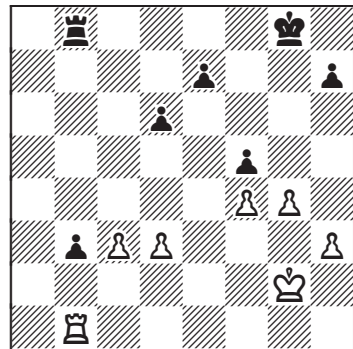
Tegshsuren Enkhbat – Craig Saperstein  
King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 c4 Bg7 4 g3 d5 5 cxd5 Nxd5 6 Nc3 0-0 7 Bg2 Re8 8 0-0 Nc6 9 Nxd5 Qxd5 10 Ne5 Qb5 11 Nxc6 bxc6 12 Qc2 Bb7 13 a4 Qb6 14 Be3 a5 15 d5 Qb4 16 Bc5 Qg4 17 dxc6 Ba6 18 Bf3 Qe6 19 Rfd1 Rab8 20 Bd4 Bxd4 21 Rxd4 Red8 22 Rad1 Rd6 23 Rxd6 exd6 24 Rd5 Qf6 25 Rxa5 Rxb2 26 Qe4 Rb6 27 Kg2 Qc3 28 Qe8+ Kg7 29 Bd5 Qf6 30 h4 h6 31 Ba2 g5 32 hxg5 hxg5 33 Bxf7 Bxe2 34 Qxe2 Kxf7 35 Ra8 Qe5 36 Qh5+ Kg7 37 Qh8+ Kf7 38 Rf8+ Kg6 39 Rg8+ Kf7 40 Qh7+ Kf6 41 Qg6+ 1-0



Alex Passov – Justin Sarkar  
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 d3 d6 6 f4 Nf6 7 Nf3 0-0 8 0-0 Rb8 9 h3 b5 10 g4 b4 11 Ne2 Nd4 12 Be3 Nxe2+ 13 Qxe2 Ba6 14 Qf2 Nd7 15 Rfb1 Bb7 16 a3 a5 17 axb4 axb4 18 Nd2 Ra8 19 Nc4 Qc7 20 Qd2 Nb6 21 Nxb6 Qxb6 22 c3 f5 23 cxb4 Qxb4 24 Qxb4 cxb4 25 Rxa8 Rxa8 26 exf5 Bxg2 27 Kxg2 gxf5 28 Bd2 b3 29 Bc3 Bxc3 30 bxc3 Rb8



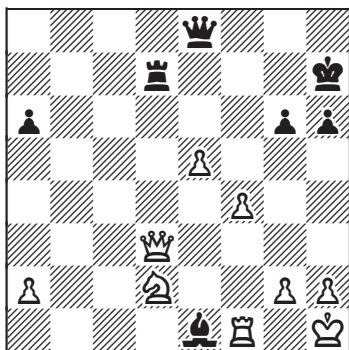
31 Kf3 Kf7 32 Ke3 Kg6 33 c4 h5 34 gxh5+ Kxh5 35 Kd4 Kh4 36 Kc3 Kxh3 37 Rxb3 Rxb3+ 38 Kxb3 Kg4 39 d4 Kxf4 40 Kb4 Ke4 41 c5 Kd5 42 Kb5 f4 43 c6 f3 44 c7 f2 45 c8Q f1Q+ 46 Kb6 Qb1+ 47 Ka7 Qa1+ 48 Kb7 Qb2+ 49 Ka6 Qxd4 Black won after a series of white checks 0-1

Larry Kaufman – Timothy Rogalski  
Benko Gambit

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 cxb5 a6 5 b6 e6 6 Nc3 Nxd5 7 Nxd5 exd5 8 Qxd5 Nc6 9 e4 Be7 10 Bc4 0-0 11 Nf3 Rb8 12 0-0 Rxb6 13 Qh5 d6 14 b3 Be6 15 Bxe6 fxe6 16 Bb2 Qe8 17 Qg4 Qf7 18 Rad1 e5 19 Nd2 Nd4 20



Bxd4 exd4 21 Nc4 Rb7 22 Rd3 Rd8  
23 f4 Bf8 24 Rh3 Qe8 25 Qh4 h6 26  
Rg3 Kh7 27 e5 d5 28 Nd2 c4 29 bxc4  
dxc4 30 Nxc4 d3 31 Qg4 Bc5+ 32 Kh1  
d2 33 Qf5+ g6 34 Qc2 Bf2 35 Rd3  
Rxd3 36 Qxd3 Be1 37 Nxd2 Rd7



38 Ne4 1-0

### Jamarl Thomas - Curtis Winter Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4  
a6 5 Nc3 Nf6 6 f3 e6 7 Be3 b5 8  
Qd2 Bb7 9 h4 h5 10 0-0-0 Nbd7 11  
Bd3 Nb6 12 e5 dxe5? 13 Nxe6! Qd6  
[13...fxe6 14 Bg6+ Ke7 15 Bc5+] 14  
Nxe7+ Kd8 [14...Bxe7 15 Bxb5+ Ke7  
16 Qxd6mate] 15 Nf5 Qe6 16 Bc4+  
Qd7 17 Bxb6+ Kc8 18 Qg5 Bh6 19  
Nxe6 Qc6 20 Qf5+ Kb8 21 Qxe5+  
Kc8 22 Qd4 Kb8 23 Qe5+ Kc8 24  
Rd6 Qxc4 25 Rhd1 Bd5 26 Nxd5  
Nxd5 27 Qxe8+ Kb7 28 Rd7+ Kxb6  
29 Qxa8 Ne3 30 R1d6+ 1-0



## Emporia Open

by Woody Harris

The 24<sup>th</sup> Emporia Open was held over Columbus Day weekend. Only twenty players entered, making this the lowest attended in the series since its inaugural year. Eric Most, of Midlothian, scored 4½-½ to take clear 1<sup>st</sup> place. Raymond Fletcher, of Colonial Heights, was half a point behind. There was a four-way tie for third, with 3½ points apiece, between Keith Carson, Gary Robinson, Stephen Johnson & Adam Kuriloff, the latter two also taking the class B and C prizes, respectively. George Shearin was top class D and Larry Ford was top E.

The round 4 game between Carson and Johnson attracted quite a crowd and led to a lively post mortem discussion:

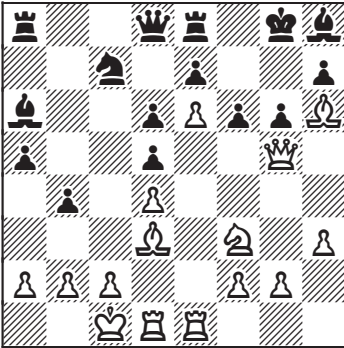
### Keith Carson-Stephen Johnson Pirc

Notes by Macon Shibut

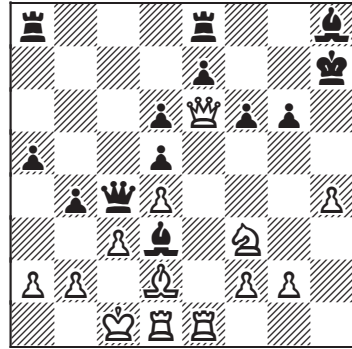
1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 h3 0-0 6 Be3 c6 7 Qd2 Re8 8 0-0-0  
b5 9 Bd3 a5 10 Bh6 Bh8 11 e5 b4 12 Ne2 Nd5 13 Nf4 Na6 14 Nxd5 cxd5



15 Rhe1 Nc7 16 Qg5 Ba6 17 e6 f6?!  
 [17...Nxe6 was playable and good.  
 White would have to settle for 18 Qxd5  
 when Black is fine as 18 Rxe6?! would  
 be dubious: 18...fxe6 19 Bxg6 Bf6 20  
 Qg4 hxg6 21 Qxg6+ Kh8 and I see no  
 convincing continuation of the attack.  
 The text allows a tactical shot.]



18 Bxg6! [the point being 18...fxg5?  
 19 Bf7mate] 18...Nxe6 19 Qg4 hxg6  
 20 Qxe6+ Kh7 21 Bd2 Qc7 22 h4!  
 [Resourcefully introducing new  
 threats. If 22 Qf7+ Bg7 23 Nh4 Black  
 can defend with 23...Bd3!] 22...Bd3  
 23 c3 Qc4



24 Qf7+?

After playing so well, White executes  
 the right idea in the wrong order. 24  
 Ng5+! was winning, eg 24...fxg5 (24...  
 Kh6 25 Qf7) 25 Qf7+ Bg7 26 hxg5 and  
 the check on the h-file is irresistible.

24...Bg7 25 Ng5+ [Too late; Black  
 has h8 as a retreat. Now a counterattack  
 sets in.] 25...Kh8 26 b3 Qc6 27 Ne6?  
 [White's position is perilous but  
 perhaps he could play 27 Rxe7 Rxe7 28  
 Qxe7 bxc3 29 Nf7+ Kh7 30 Bh6! Then  
 if 30...a4 31 Bxg7 axb3 Black is going  
 to mate next turn except 32 Ng5+! –  
 White gets him first. Therefore, 30...  
 Re8! Black is surely better, isn't he? (31  
 Ng5+ Kxh6)] 27...Rg8 28 Kb2 a4! 29  
 Rc1 axb3 30 axb3 Ra2+! 0-1 in view  
 of 31 Kxa2 Qa6+ and Qa3mate



**VIRGINIA  
 PORK  
 FESTIVAL**



# Kingstowne Chess Club

*by Don Millican*

## KINGSTOWNE QUAD #49/ACTION-PLUS #21

Roseanna Rosanna Danna, a famous creation of the late comedienne Gilda Radner, had a well-known tag line: “If it’s not one thing, it’s another.” That seemed appropriate for the September 13 incarnation of the Kingstowne Quads and Action-Pluses in Alexandria. For the most part things went well; an on-time (gasp!) start, and all players assigned to their proper tournaments. The major feature for this event was the length of the games and the late hour that play finished, nearly 11:00 p.m.

Eleven players competed in the Quads. The top section’s winner was Fiona Lam with  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points and a silver medal. Michael Donovan was just behind with 2, good for the bronze medal. The bottom Swiss “Quad” of seven saw Michael Burrus take gold with a perfect 3-0. Joie Wang & Abhinay Dommalapati tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> with 2 each. Wang took 2<sup>nd</sup> place silver on tiebreak, leaving 3<sup>rd</sup> place bronze for Dommalapati.

What is becoming normal for the Action-Plus, turnout exceeded the “based-on” number for the prize fund. With twenty-six players, prizes were accordingly increased by 30%. Alexander Passov wound up the clear winner scoring  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ . 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> went to Keith Carson, Matt Freeman & Adam Chrisney with 4 each. In addition, Chrisney & Freeman shared Under 1800. Karthik Gupta & Hans Li shared Under 1400 with 3 points apiece.

## KINGSTOWNE QUAD #50/ACTION-PLUS #22

The October 11 edition of the Kingstowne Quads reached a milestone: the Big Five-O. However, it was in fact only the forty-ninth played since Quad #12 was cancelled back in July 2004. Since future tournaments had already been numbered and announced, the original numbering was retained and the actual number of Quads played has been one less than its number ever since. Still, reaching nominal #50 gives a reason to celebrate if only because it means next month for the actual fiftieth Quad. In addition, this was the twenty-second Action-Plus—no skipped tournaments here.

Eight players competed in the quads. The top foursome was won by Matthew Grinberg, scoring a perfect 3 points and thereby winning a gold medal. Thomas Saunders finished with  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , which was good for second place bronze. The bottom Quad saw Ashley Xue win gold with 3 points while Pamela Lee snagged the bronze for second with 2.





I was hoping for a hat trick for the Action-Plus: a three-peat of good attendance leading to extra prize money. Alas, it was not to be this time, but twenty entrants did ensure the full advertised prize fund. Andrew Samuelson finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place with a perfect 5-0. Saroja Erabelli followed at 4-1. Kevin Huo's 3½ points took Under 1800, and Kaizen Conroy rounded out the prize winners' list with 3 points, good enough to win Under 1400.

This was the smoothest tournament I've run in a long time. No prize winners required tiebreaks or complicated division of multiple cash prizes. Each winner won his or her prize outright, which made paying cash prizes especially easy.

### KINGSTOWNE QUAD #51/ACTION-PLUS #23

The *real* fiftieth was held November 8 in Alexandria. The final Kingstowne event for the year, it drew ten players, along with fifteen competing in the Action-Plus.

Christopher Snell won the top Quad with a perfect 3 points and a gold medal. Two withdrawals left only Stephen Jablon remaining with Snell at the end, so he took the bronze medal. Ashley Xue won the seven-player bottom "Quad" and a gold medal by likewise scoring 3-0. James Bascom & William Franklin tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. Tiebreaks gave Bascom the silver medal, leaving bronze for Franklin.

In the Action-Plus, James Carl Pinkerton & Patrick Charles Spain (Ps and Cs wild here) tied for 1st-2nd with 4½ each. Brothers Aravind & Aditya Ponokumati, along with Adam Renfro Chrisney & Matt Freeman, shared the Under 1800. Kiffa Conroy was the only outright winner in this intense tournament, taking the Under 1400.

The next Kingstowne event is on January 10: Quad #52/Action-Plus #24. The Quads and Action-Pluses take February off for the 7<sup>th</sup> Kingstowne Chess Festival, with \$1,000 in guaranteed prize money in the FIDE-rated Open section along with 15 Grand Prix points. Three other sections will feature prize funds up to \$500 based on entries. Details on both are in *Chess Life*.



*Rosanna Rosanna Danna*

**Anton Del Mundo - Timothy Rogalski**  
**2007 George Washington Open**  
**Sicilian Dragon**

*Notes by Tim Rogalski*

This game was initially difficult for me to analyze since both players experienced serious disconnects in the middlegame, disconnects that neither player was able to satisfactorily explain. This last round win against the tournament's second-highest rated player helped me achieve a good result. BTW, my opponent is from the Philippines, which I visited in 2006, and where I played dozens of interesting games with the trike taxi drivers.

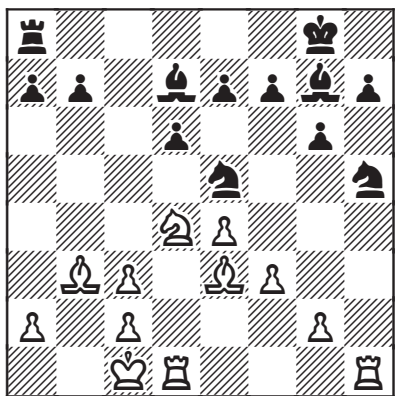
A trike is a three-wheeled motorcycle with a sidecar. Chess is as popular in the Philippines as

baseball is in America. Nearly every trike station that I saw had a chess game or two being played, much like how in The Land of Smiles Thailand the motorbike taxi drivers play Thai Chess. In fact, the very first shopping mall that I entered in Angeles City had a chess tournament of around 30 boards being played in the open area. I thought that I was walking into a chess paradise. However, my second visit to the Philippines in 2008 was a major chess disappointment. First, an intended simultaneous exhibition failed to materialize. Next, I visited more than ten bookstores, and not one decent chess book could be found. All the 2006 chess areas were gone, and not a single trike driver could be seen playing chess. Instead, the trike drivers appeared fixated with their cellphones, texting away with their thumbs. Apparently, the Daniel Craig movie *Casino Royale* made cellphone texting popular, replacing chess. If James Bond must single-handedly text to be cool, then so must everyone else. Unlike MacArthur, I left the Philippines doubting that I would ever return.



**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 0-0**  
**8 Qd2 Nc6 9 Bc4** [This may be the most popular move, but I believe that it plays right into Black's fire-breathing intentions.] **9...Bd7 10 0-0-0 Ne5**  
**11 Bb3 Qa5 12 h4 Rfc8 13 h5 Rxc3!** [Played instantly, and the secret key to Black unlocking the position's hidden treasures. In a flash, the medieval landscape changes, and few White players are psychologically prepared for such a dramatic shift of tectonic plates.] **14 Qxc3 Qxc3 15 bxc3 Nxh5**





For the meager price of an exchange, Black gets many tangible advantages: an extra pawn, a better pawn structure (two islands versus three), and weak targets along the c-file. Nevertheless, the intangible advantages are even more significant. The rook sac on c3 forces a queenless middlegame where Black's practical chances may be greater than White's. With a single stroke, this positional sacrifice kills any dreams White may have had of outright mating Black along the h-file. I like to think that

this position should be played like an ending—an ending with lots of fireworks!

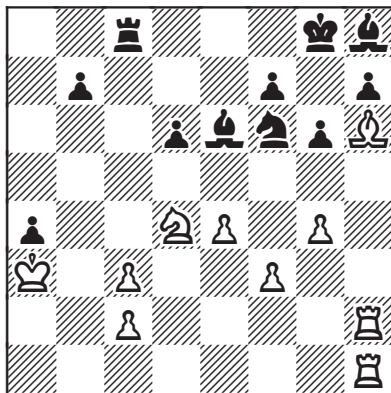
**16 g4** [Everyone seems to play this move, but how can it be good? It looks imposing, but it also weakens White's kingside. By trying to stay aggressive in the middlegame White incurs endgame weaknesses and makes his g-pawn a target.] **16...Nf6 17 Bh6 Bh8** [Attempts to trap a White rook on h6 fail: 17... Bxh6+ 18 Rxh6 Nh5? 19 gxh5 Kg7 20 hxg6 Kxh6 21 gx7 and White is much better. In general, Black now has to be careful because there are many mating patterns that would spell doom. For instance, a White knight on either f5 or d5 threatens mate on e7.] **18 Rdf1 Rc8** [Another secret key to playing these types of exchange-down positions is simple: Do not trade your only remaining rook! Conversely, the side with the extra exchange should be seeking a rook trade at any and every opportunity.] **19 Ne2 a5 20 a3 a4 21 Ba2 Bb5 22 Rh2 Nc4** [The weak double isolated c-pawns aren't going anywhere, and it would be a mistake to prematurely grab material with 22...Bxe2? 23 Rxe2 Rxc3 24 Re3 Rc5 25 Kd2 and Black hasn't improved his position. He has given up his precious bishop pair for a weak doubled isolated pawn. Yet if Black were to choose this route, then at least he would be safe from a rook trade for the moment since White could not play 26 Rc3? Nxe4+! 27 fxe4 Rxc3 28 Kxc3 Nxe4+ 29 Kd3 Nxe6 30 Rb1 Ng4 31 Rxb7 Bf6 32 Rb4 h5 and Black's passed kingside pawns will be faster than White's passed queenside pawn.] **23 Rfh1?** [The ghosts of dragon slayers still haunt White with a dream of delivering mate along the h-file. Black's simple threat is to capture the a3-pawn, thereby making his own a-pawn passed. Whether he liked it or not, White had to capture this annoying knight. Statistics have irrefutably proven that the bishop pair is worth half a pawn. White may have been reluctant to part with his bishop pair, but it is better to relinquish an intangible half pawn instead of a tangible full pawn.] **23...Nxa3 24 Nf4 e6?** [Prevents the knight leap into d5, and blunts the scope



of the a2-bishop, or so I thought. I took a stroll away from the board. When I returned and saw my opponent's next move, my heart sank. I shook my head, sighed, and tsked at my stupidity. I thought I might have blundered the game away. In retrospect, 24...Bc4! was best since 25 Kb2 is simply answered by 25...Nb5] **25 Nxe6!** [Believe it or not, I completely missed this. However, going forward it appears the shift in fortunes had a more detrimental effect on my opponent than on me.] **25...Bc4** [Better late than never. Of course, not 25...fxe6?? **26 Bxe6mate**] **26 Nd4??** [26 Bxc4! was White's only move to stay in the game.] **26...Bxa2** [After this, I felt that I would win.] **27 Kb2 Be6 28 Kxa3**

Now the dynamic dragon power within Black's position gets unleashed, like the ignition roar of a napalm flame-thrower!

**28...Nxg4! 29 fxg4 Rxc3+ 30 Nb3 axb3 31 Bd2** [31 cxb3 Rxb3+ 32 Ka2 Rb5+ 33 Ka3 Bc3! weaves a mating net.] **31...Rxc2 32 Bf4 Ra2+** [I spent about 25 minutes on this move, not wanting to let slip another winning position against a master.] **33 Kb4 Rxh2** [Since the landscape has dramatically changed, it is completely appropriate to now trade



rooks. Note that the above combination, beginning with 28...Nxg4, required Black's lone rook.] **34 Bxh2 b2 35 Ka3 Bxg4 36 e5 Bxe5 37 Bxe5 dxe5 0-1** After 38 Kxb2 Bf3 the bishop will park itself as a sentinel on c6 supporting an unstoppable armada of passed pawns. This game initiated a performance rise for FM Del Mundo. Like Tal, he used this loss to spur himself on to greater accomplishments. The next three tournaments that he played that year would be the U2400 section of the World Open, the US Open, and then the Atlantic Open, where he would impressively tie for 1st in each.

### Adithya Balasubramanian - Dov Gorman 2008Atlantic Open Grob

1 g4 d5 2 h3 h5 3 g5 e5 4 d4 exd4 5 Qxd4 Nc6 6 Qa4 Be6 7 Nf3 Qd7 8 c3 Bc5 9 Nbd2 Nge7 10 b4 Bb6 11 b5 Na5 12 Ne5 Qd6 13 Ndf3 Qc5 14 Qd4 Qxb5 15 e4 Nc4 16 Nxc4 dxc4 17 Qxg7 O-O-O 18 Be2 Nc6 19 Qf6 Qa4 20 g6 Qc2 21 Ba3 Qxe4 22 gxf7 Bxf7 23 Kf1 Bd5 24 Rg1 Rhe8 25 Re1 Qc2 26 Rg5 Qxa2 27 Nd4 Nxd4 28 Rxd5 Nxe2 29 Rxd8+ Rxd8 30 Be7 Re8 31 Qf7 Qa4 32 Rxe2 a5 33 Kg2 Qc6+ 34 Kh2 Kb8 35 Qxh5 a4 36 Qg5 Qf3 37 Ra2 Bxf2 38 Rxa4 Rh8 39 Qg2 Qf4+ 40 Kh1 Qc1+ 41 Kh2 Bg1+ 42 Kh1 Be3+ 0-1



## Book Reviews



### *Kasparov vs Karpov 1975-1985*, by Garry Kasparov

Everyman Chess, hardcover, 424 pages, list price \$45

EARLY IN HIS CHESS CAREER Garry Kasparov proclaimed Mikhail Botvinnik's notion that a player's progress comes mainly through analyzing his own games and *publishing the analysis* in order to expose it to public review and criticism. By the time he was in his early twenties, Kasparov had already released volumes on his second and third (Moscow 1985 and London/Leningrad 1986) matches versus Karpov, as well as the game collection *Test of Time*. Each of these books was hailed for the depth and objectivity of its analysis. However, things changed after that. For the remaining two decades of his great run as the world's highest rated player, Kasparov's literary analytic output was mostly limited to occasional annotated games in magazines like *New In Chess*.

One suspects it is more than coincidence that Kasparov's evident change of heart coincided with the expanding role of computers in his work. Databases provided Kasparov both source material (near-instant access to antecedents for the opening moves or other features of whatever game he was analyzing) as well as a new facility for keeping and organizing the results of his research. At the same time, fast-improving analytic engines brought on a fundamentally new method of analysis. This development, in turn, forced Kasparov to re-think the problem of how best to prepare himself for competitions. In short, Kasparov was no longer analyzing just chess positions, but the entire system of chess thought and preparation. The purpose and benefit of publishing his analysis would naturally come under reconsideration as well.



Thus history will remember Kasparov as the champion who reigned through the era when computers came of age as a force in professional chess. Kasparov's personal success was in large part the consequence of his being ahead of this trend, the professional player who best adapted to the changing environment. When he unexpectedly retired from competitive chess following the 2005 Linares tournament, no longer world champion but still number one on the Elo rating list, I remember reading an interview in which some top player half-whimsically wondered about the asking price for Kasparov's legendary private database.

Instead of entertaining the highest bidder, however, it seems Kasparov decided to release it piecemeal to the whole world. His post-competitive years have made up for the decades when he published little. Five volumes of the *My Great Predecessors* series (which actually began pre-retirement, the first book appearing in 2003) followed by (so far) two volumes of the *Garry Kasparov on Modern Chess* series are already as great a literary legacy as any chess champion could boast, and we are assured that several more volumes are on the way.

We reviewed *Predecessors* in past issues. (See VIRGINIA CHESS #s 2003/4 and 2004/1, et al). The books are basically games collections—the choicest fruit of all the world chess champions (plus selected near-champions) from Steinitz to Karpov, along with Kasparov's running commentary on the evolution of top-class chess theory and technique. Inasmuch as the series is devoted to Kasparov's *predecessors*, it necessarily ends with Anatoly Karpov. But of course Kasparov has much to say about what happened in chess after 1984. Thus the new *Modern Chess* series.

Its first volume actually raised questions about this overall scheme, inasmuch as the book actually took a couple steps back in time from *Predecessors V* to examine chess's technical "revolution" (Kasparov's term, by no means universally accepted) in the 1970s. (See VIRGINIA CHESS #2007/2)



This second *Modern Chess* book commences an exhaustive review of all the head-to-head games between Kasparov and Karpov. They contested no less than five world championship matches, plus numerous tournament duels—nearly two hundred games in total. (These games were of course excluded from the Karpov *Predecessor* volume.) According to the plan sketched out in the Forward to the present book, the Karpov-Kasparov games will eventually fill three volumes. This one contains the first 76 games: four early, pre-world championship encounters, 48 games from the "aborted" 1984–5 match (regulations called for the winner to be the first to score six victories, but after nearly five months the contest was terminated without either player having reached the mark), and 24 games from the 1985 match that finally brought Kasparov the world champion title.





Speaking of titles, the full name on the front of the new book is a mouthful: *Garry Kasparov on Modern Chess, Part two: Kasparov vs Karpov 1975–1985 including the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> matches*. All of that makes sense in light of what is said above, but it's still apt to cause confusion. Some people are bound to think that “part two” refers to the Kasparov vs Karpov rivalry rather than to the *Modern Chess* series, ie, that this is a book of their second match.

Aside from the annotated games, Kasparov has written lengthy text accounts of what was going on in his life and within his war counsel during the period under review. The reader is treated to lots of interesting behind-the-scenes glimpses, such as details of Kasparov's opening preparation and strategy before the first match, or how the gambling activities Kasparov aid Josif Dorfman may have inadvertently tipped off the Karpov team regarding Kasparov's opening plan for particular games (see p118). Of course there is also Kasparov's own extended take on what really happened at the conclusion of the aborted match.

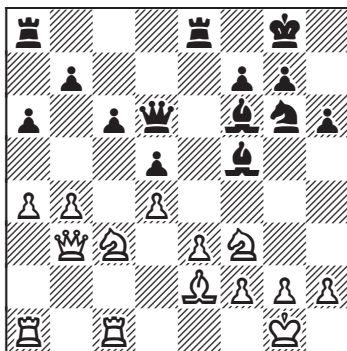
Chess-wise, the 1984–5 match is perhaps best remembered for having a lot of the short draws. However, in a paradoxical way, these games make *Kasparov vs Karpov 1975–1985* more readable and give it a different sort of interest. As the match wore on, as both teams exhausted their pre-match preparation, they began



to approach games as mere reconnaissance probes—throw out an opening just to see which variation the other side will counter with, then called it a day. The play seemed disappointing, even insulting, at the time, but here where we are privy to Kasparov's inner calculations there is a certain tension and interest to how the dance plays out. Moreover, Kasparov argues that even the stupid games were not always devoid of value: (p 157) "The drawn games, which were largely unpretentious and disappointing for the spectators, were not in fact so bad: many new opening ideas occurred in them, and sometimes genuinely interesting battles flared up."

One impression that arises from the account as a whole is of the enormous emphasis on the players' state of mind. For example, Kasparov explains his defeat in the 22<sup>nd</sup> game of the second (1985) match almost entirely in terms of poor psychology, recalling: "I was effectively paralyzed by the enormous feeling of responsibility for every decision taken. This made me over-cautious, which led to severe time trouble, excessive nervousness, two impulsive blunders and a catastrophe... But Karpov should be given his due: at a critical moment of the match he showed he had nerves of steel, and he was rewarded for his patience and resourcefulness."

You don't sit opposite an opponent for nearly 200 games without knowing the inner man in a way that few non-chessplayers could understand. Stories of Karpov's steely behavior in *Kasparov vs Karpov 1975-1985* are both amusing and revealing. In the 23<sup>rd</sup> game of the second match, adjournment time came and Karpov was to seal his next move. Kasparov, having just played his 41<sup>st</sup> turn, offered a draw. Karpov responded by inquiring of the arbiter whether he could perhaps seal his move but *still retain the option to accept the draw offer* at any time prior to opening the envelope at resumption! And then there is the following remarkable account of how a game from the 1981 Moscow "Tournament of Stars" concluded:



Eighteen-year-old Garry Kasparov is facing the imposing World Champion Anatoly Karpov. Playing White, he moved 17 Ra2 and offered a draw. But instead of answering yes or no, Kasparov recalls how Karpov...



...instantly replied 17...Be7 and suddenly, in violation of the rules, said: 'Make a move!' Surprised, I replied 18 b5, and it was only then, after some thought, Karpov condescendingly nodded: 'Well, alright, draw.'

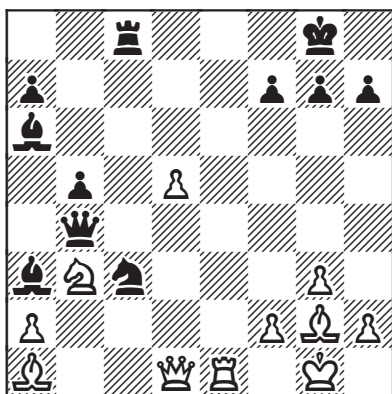
In analysis after the game the champion remarked that after 18...axb5 19 axb5 it was indeed a draw, but 18...a5!? 19 bxc6 bxc6 was possible, exploiting the weakness of the b4 square. And he added something like: 'That's how Spassky tricked Korchnoi' (obviously having in mind the 11<sup>th</sup> game of their match in Belgrade 1977/78). That is, Karpov had taken up Spassky's idea. True, in the given concrete situation after 20 Qd1, with the idea of Bd3, Ne2 and Rac2, the weakness of the c6 pawn is more significant, so that 18...axb5 is nevertheless better.

The notes to the 76 games are marvelous and deep, of course. As I said, Kasparov addressed the second match back in the 1980s (bundled with his notes to the third (1986) match as *Dva matcha* in Russian; English translations appeared as separate books, *New World Chess Champion: All the Championship Games With Annotations* and *London-Leningrad Championship Games* (Pergamon, 1986 and 1987, respectively). The notes offered here are completely revised, however, making frequent reference to *Dva matcha* but as often as not reversing old assessments.

It's not possible to excerpt any game in total (unless, perhaps, I selected one of the short, uninteresting draws!) because Kasparov's annotations are so expansive that they would fill our entire issue of VIRGINIA CHESS. However, I harbor a certain affection for the sixth game of the 1984/5 match. I remembered it in a general way from when it was played, and it is one of those model games that I recall from time to time during my own play. Kasparov's annotation to this game in *Kasparov vs Karpov 1975-1985* run fully eleven pages and conclude with him declaring it, "one of the most nightmarish games in my career!" I will close this review by giving the game with a selection of just two of Kasparov's representative notes—and a recommending that you get the book (or put it on your Christmas list) so you can revel in the full story.

### Garry Kasparov - Anatoly Karpov Queen's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 b6 4 g3 Ba6 5 b3 Bb4+ 6 Bd2 Be7 7 Bg2 0-0 8 0-0 d5 9 Ne5 c6 10 Bc3 Nfd7 11 Nxd7 Nxd7 12 Nd2 Rc8 13 e4 b5 14 Re1 dxc4 15 bxc4 Nb6 16 cxb5 cxb5 17 Rc1 Ba3 18 Rc2 Na4 19 Ba1 Rxc2 20 Qxc2 Qa5 21 Qd1 Rc8 22 Nb3 Qb4 23 d5 exd5 24 exd5 Nc3

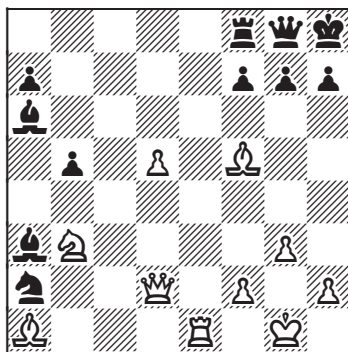
**25 Qd4?**

To this day I just can't understand why I went in for the exchange of queens, instead of making an obvious attacking move in my style – 25 Qf3!? or 25 Qh5!, for example:

1) 25 Qf3!? Nxa2 26 Re4 Qd6 27 Bh3 Rf8 (27...Rd8 28 Re6!!) 28 Qd1! Qc7 (if 28...b4 or 28...Rd8, then 29 Bxg7!) 29 Qd2, trapping the knight and winning, or 25...Nxd5 26 Re4 Qd6 27 Rd4 Bb7 28 Qh5! f5 (there is nothing else: 28...g6? 29 Qxh7+! or 28...Rd8 29 Rg4) 29 Qxf5 Rd8 30 Rd3 Bb4

31 Qg5 Rd7 32 Bxg7! Rxg7 33 Bxd5+ Bxd5 34 Qxd5+ Qxd5 35 Rxd5 a6 36 Rd8+ Kf7 37 Ra8 Rg6 38 Ra7+ Kg8 39 Kg2 with an extra pawn and a won ending.

2) 25 Qh5! – excluding both 25...Nxd5 in view of 26 Re4 Qd6 27 Rd4, and 25...Qf8 26 Bh3 Rc7 27 Re3 Nxa2 28 Bxg7! Qxg7 29 Re8+ Bf8 30 d6!. And if 25...Nxa2, then 26 Qe5! Qf8 (26...f6 27 Qe6+ Kh8 28 Bxf6! with crushing threats) 27 Be4! (threatening Qf5) 27...Kh8 28 Qh5 Qg8 29 Bf5! Rd8 (otherwise Re4-h4) 30 Qg5!, and Black is completely helpless: 30...Rxd5? 31 Qxg7+!, 30...Rb8 31 Re4!, or 30...Rf8 31 Qd2! – a sudden change in the target of the attack.



*Analysis diagram*

A fantastic position, which could well have rivaled the finish to the 16th game of the second match. In practice things would probably not have got this far: all Black's pieces are stuck on the edge of the board – look at the queen on g8! White gains a decisive advantage: 31...Nb4 32 Bc3, or 31...Bb4 32 Qxa2 Bxe1 33 Qxa6 etc.



It is clear that 25 Qh5! would have brought me a swift and spectacular win, and with it the score 1-1. The entire match would have turned out differently! But how – that I do not know...

**25...Qxd4 26 Nxd4 Nxa2 27 Nc6 Bc5 28 Bh3 Ra8 29 Bd4 Bxd4 30 Nxd4 Kf8 31 d6 Nc3 32 Nc6 Bb7 33 Bg2 Re8 34 Ne5 f6 35 d7 Rd8 36 Bxb7 fxe5 37 Bc6 Ke7 38 Bxb5 Nxb5 39 Rxe5+ Kxd7 40 Rxb5 Kc6**

#### 41 Rh5?

The final blunder, after which White's hopes are dashed. I played this almost instantly (wishing to make my opponent have to seal a move), whereas I should have thought, calmed down and exploited a real drawing chance – '41 Re5!, and if 41...Ra8, then 42 Re6+ Kc5 43 Re7, picking up both of the kingside pawns' (Averbakh).

Here are some sample variations: 44...a5

44 Rxg7 a4 45 Rxh7 a3 46 Rc7+ Kb4 47

Rc1 a2 48 Ra1 Kb3 49 Kg2! (an accurate

move - 49 h4 is bad: 49...b2 50 Rxa2+ Rxa2 51 h5 Kc3 52 g4 Kd4 53 Kg2 Ke5!

54 Kg3 Ra3+ 55 Kh4 Kf6 56 f4 Rf3 57 g5+ Kf5) 49...Kb2 50 Rd1! (but not 50

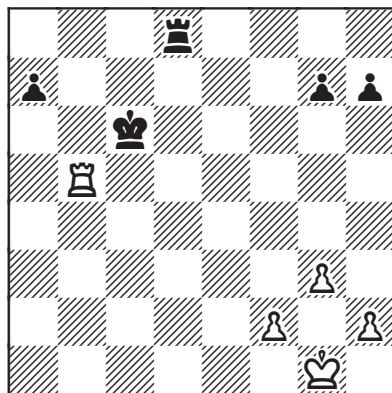
Rxa2+ Rxa2, and the Black king, having an extra tempo, reaches the kingside

more quickly) 50...a1Q 51 Rxa1 Rxa1 52 Kf3 Kc3 53 Ke4! (the saving 'shoulder-

charge') 53...Ra2 54 g4 Rxf2 55 g5 Rxh2 56 g6 or 53...Ra4+ 54 Ke5 Kd3 55 g4!

Rxg4 56 f4 Ke3 57 f5 gaining a draw. I think that in home analysis this could have

been found even without a computer.



**41...h6 42 Re5 Ra8 43 Ra5 Kb6 44 Ra2 a5 45 Kf1 a4 46 Ke2 Kc5 47 Kd2 a3**

**48 Kc1 Kd4 49 f4 Ke4 50 Kb1 Rb8+ 51 Ka1 Rb2 52 Rxa3 Rxh2 53 Kb1 Rd2**

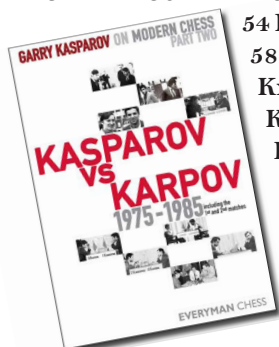
**54 Ra6 Kf5 55 Ra7 g5 56 Ra6 g4 57 Rxh6 Rg2**

**58 Rh5+ Ke4 59 f5 Rf2 60 Kc1 Kf3 61 Kd1**

**Kxg3 62 Ke1 Kg2 63 Rg5 g3 64 Rh5 Rf4 65**

**Ke2 Re4+ 66 Kd3 Kf3 67 Rh1 g2 68 Rh3+**

**Kg4 69 Rh8 Rf4 70 Ke2 Rxf5 0-1**



—Macon Shibut



## *Secrets of Spectacular Chess* (2nd edition)

by Jonathan Levitt & David Friedgood

Everyman Chess, paperback, 288 pages, list price \$24.95

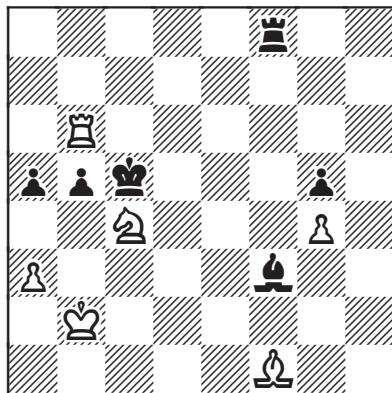
**C**HESS IS A MIXTURE of sport, art and science and to appreciate the game one should look deeper into its elements. The artistic aspects of chess are arguably the most exciting and enjoyable dimensions of the game. Chess players enjoy showing off games that demonstrate creativity and surprising tactical elements.

*Secrets of Spectacular Chess* focuses on the artistic and aesthetic components of chess. The authors provide a logical framework to understand and evaluate the topics and accompany the framework with an excellent discussion of its underlying elements. The abstract notions of chess aesthetics are discussed at length and the elements of chess beauty are defined by the aspects of paradox, depth, geometry and flow. The book is full of relevant examples from composed endgames and over-the-board games that are clear and easy to follow. For those who are interested in exploring this magnificent side of chess, this book with its amazing examples is highly recommended.

As I said, many of the examples are from the world of chess composition, which includes composed endgames and problems such as ‘mate in x moves’, selfmates, helpmates, and various unorthodox problems. This enchanting and fantastic domain seems to be underappreciated in the US chess scene. That is a shame, as chess problems can be excellent training tools for improving tactical and logical thinking. For me, the book brought memories from my teen years, where I spend much time in a chess club in Tel Aviv with a group of world-class problemists such as IM Afek, Avni, Costeff and Comai who regularly discussed their latest and greatest ideas.

The following diagram is an illustration for the element of ‘Flow’:

Yochanan Afek  
*White wins*



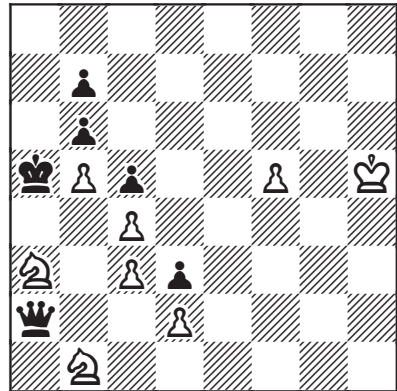




**1 Rxb5+ Kxb5 2 Ne5+ Ka4** (2...Kc5 3 Nd7+) **3 Nd7** (threatens mate on b6 and c5; Black tries for a stalemate) **3...Be2 4 Bxe2 Rb8+ 5 Bb5+! Rxb5+ 6 Ka2** and in the fascinating final position Black is in zugzwang. The white knight dominates the Black rook. Black loses the rook and the game.

An example of the element of 'Depth' is provided through Dr Noam Elkies' study:

Dr Noam Elkies  
*Draw*



**1 f6 Qb3**

White can now continue with either Kh6 or f7. What is the difference?

**2 f7! Qd1+ 3 Kh6 Qf3 4 Kg7 Qg4+ 5 Kh7 Qf5+ 6 Kg7 Qg5+ 7 Kh7 Qf6 8 Kg8 Qg6+ 9 Kf8 Ka4 10 Ke7 Qg7 11 Ke8 Qe5+ 12 Kd7 Qf6 13 Ke8 Qe6+ 14 Kf8 Kb3 15 Kg7 Qe7 16 Kg8 Qg5+ 17 Kh7 Qf6 18 Kg8 Qg6+ 19 Kf8 Kb2 20 Ke7 Qg7 21 Ke8 Qe5+ 22 Kd7 Qf6 23 Ke8 Qe6+ 24 Kf8 Kc1 25 Kg7 Qe7 26 Kg8 Qg5+ 27 Kh7 Qf6 28 Kg8 Qg6+ 29 Kf8 Kd1 30 Ke7 Qg7 31 Ke8 Qe5+ 32 Kd7 Qf6 33 Ke8 Qe6+ 34 Kf8 Ke2 35 Kg7 Qe7 36 Kg8 Qg5+ 37 Kh7 Qf6 38 Kg8 Qg6+ 39 Kf8 Kf3 40 Ke7 Qg7 41 Ke8 Qe5+ 42 Kd7 Qf6 43 Ke8 Qe6+ 44 Kf8 Kf4 45 Kg7 Qe7 46 Kg8 Qg5+ 47 Kh7 Qf6 48 Kg8 Qg6+ 49 Kf8 Ke5 50 Ke7 Qd6+ 51 Ke8 Ke6**

...and now, fifty moves later, when Black threaten mate in one (or a simple technical win based on material advantage) we can see the difference: because he had the foresight to play the pawn move as soon as possible, White *got the fifty move count underway*. As it happens, his doom lies just beyond the limit, and so he draws. This shows depth and a great sense of humor.

These and many other fantastic examples make *Secrets of Spectacular Chess* fun and valuable. It presents chess with many subtleties and surprises. Thinking about the underlying issues and studying the composed endgames can be valuable to any player. Reading this highly recommended book is a joy and mastering its central ideas could well mean the difference between winning or drawing a practical game.

—Dov Gorman



## *The Genius and the Misery of Chess*

by Zhivko Kaikamjozov

Mongoose Press, paperback, 224 pages, list price \$19.95

In form, *The Genius and the Misery of Chess* resembles many other chess books: short biographical sketches of famous players, each with a photo and a representative game or two. The good news is that this book addresses a number of more contemporary players who to date have not been included in such anthologies. Thus, in addition to the usual gallery of famous names (Steinitz, Morphy, Pillsbury, Rubinstein, Capablanca, Reshevsky, Alekhine, Spassky, Fischer, *et al*) similar treatment is afforded players like Short, Kamsky, Topalov, Leko, Bacrot, Ponomarev, Radjabov, Karajakin, Carlsen, etc. There are also sketches of noteworthy female players not named Polgar (although Judit is also included): Maya Chiburdanidze, Antoaneta Stefanova, Humpy Koneru, Kateryna Lahno. You will find a few relative curiosities among the old-timers too, like Isidor Gunsberg, Rudolf Charousek, Cecil de Vere, Carl Walbrodt, Klaus Junge...

The bad news, unfortunately, is that the whole project appears hastily assembled and prone to baffling factual errors. And not just on arcane points of detail, but... well, to cite just one of many similar missteps, how to explain the assertion that the 1921 Lasker-Capablanca match was played in the Netherlands? Hyperbole abounds; Zukertort, for instance, is declared to have been “the most universally talented person in chess history,” and for justification the myths about his linguistic and academic achievements are trotted out as fact. Karl Schlechter is hailed as “the most noble, generous, and honorable of the great masters whose names are written with gold in the pages of chess history.” The author seems relatively less impressed with Gata Kamsky, whose career and life he rates as merely “beyond the borders of chess miracles”.

There is some interesting content here but the whole project begs for a good editor. The order in which players are presented is sort of chronological—except that it’s not. Within each particular player’s career summary, the spotlight is apt to jump back and forth through time in a manner that is bizarre and confusing to no apparent purpose. Even the title seems a mistake; I suspect most of the individuals covered would demur at placing themselves in either the ‘genius’ or the ‘miserable’ category.

Kaikamjozov fleshes out even the most routine events with details that could only be known by someone who was present—even if he wasn’t. Often the results sound strange and stand at odds with things we have read elsewhere. Regarding the young Bobby Fischer, we are told that:



After the triumph at Portoroz, Fischer returned to New York satisfied, but not flushed with success. An important decision was forming in his mind: the idea of leaving school and dedicating himself completely to preparation for the Candidates Tournament in the fall of 1959. ... It is hard to believe that in the year that brought him his first big chess successes, Bobby's most exciting moment could be connected to something else. However, life often presents variations even more complicated than in chess.

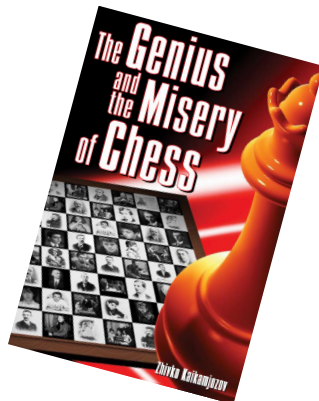
And sometimes just one gesture, one word of unaffected kindness and warmth can work wonders. That's exactly what happened to the 16-year-old student of Erasmus Hall High School, Robert James Fischer. At the school's annual awards ceremony, the principle's voice quavered with emotion when she called his name. Seconds later, full of pride, her eyes welled with up tears as she presented him with a gold medal "for achievements in chess."

The young prodigy was touched no less by the unexpected event. Still, he managed to get ahold [*sic*] of himself and gave his thanks accordingly. However, even at that moment, nothing could make him change his decision to end his high school education.

The author's Soviet era sensibilities also show through. Again regarding Fischer, Kaikamjov writes, "The young master, for all his brilliance, was considered an eccentric, often acting scornfully and suspiciously. He was capable of not showing up for matches and making strange demands. He even accused Russian chess professionals of conspiring against him in international tournaments."

*Even that?* Oh, my.

—Macon Shibut



## 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 Battlefield 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 ♤ Glenns: Rappahannock Community College - Glenns Campus Chess Club, Glenns 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/svcc/home.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 Cafe 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 ofusmc@comcast.net



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