

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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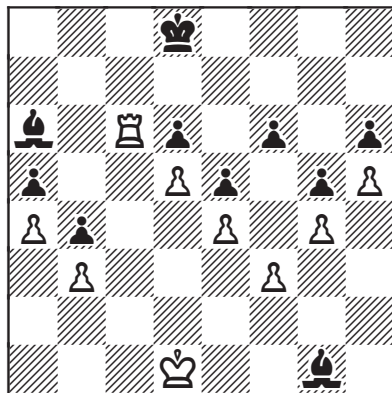
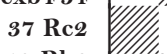
2009 Virginia Open

Grandmaster Eugene Perelshteyn came down from Massachusetts to take clear first in one of the largest ever—if not *the* largest—Virginia Opens. The VCF's biggest annual event drew 165 players to a beautiful new venue at the Crowne Plaza Hotel near Tyson's Corner, in McLean, Feb 27-March 1. Perelshteyn went into the last round alone in first place after defeating fellow-GM Larry Kaufman in round 4, but then FM Daniel Yeager pushed him to the max in a game that ended in a draw after nearly six hours. Eugene picked up a couple rating points on his quest to qualify for the US Championship and took home the plaque and \$600 for his effort.

Daniel Yeager – Eugene Perelshteyn

King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 h3 O-O 6 Bg5 h6 7 Be3 e5 8 d5 Na6 9
Bd3 Nc5 10 Bc2 a5 11 g4 c6 12 Nge2 cxd5 13 cxd5 Bd7 14 a4 Qb6 15 Ra2
Qb4 16 Ng3 Rac8 17 Bd2 Qc4 18 Qe2 Qxe2+ 19 Kxe2 Ne8 20 f3 Nc7 21 Be3
N7a6 22 Ra3 Nb4 23 Bb1 Kh7 24 h4 Rh8 25 h5 Kg8 26 Nf1 Kf8 27 Nd2 Ke7
28 Bxc5 Rxc5 29 Nb3 b6 30 Nxc5 bxc5
31 Bd3 Bf6 32 Na2 Bg5 33 Nxb4 cxb4 34
Ra2 Rc8 35 b3 Rc3 36 Rb1 Bf4 37 Rc2
Rxc2+ 38 Bxc2 g5 39 Bd3 Bc8 40 Rb2
Kd8 41 Rc2 Bb7 42 Kf2 f6 43 Ke2 Bh2 44
Kd1 Bg1 45 Ba6! Bxa6 46 Rc6



[It appears Black must go down, eg 46... Bb7 47 Rxd6+ Ke7 48 Re6+ Kf7 49 Kd2 Bc5 50 Kd3 and the king comes in on the light squares. But Perelshteyn throws up a remarkable barricade—even if it ought not to have worked, it's a testimony to a

grandmaster's resourcefulness in practical play.] **46...Bc8 47 Rxd6+ Ke7 48 Rc6 Bd7 49 Ra6 Bc8 50 Rxa5 Kd6 51 Rb5** [try 51 Ra8 Kc7 52 d6+ Kd7 (52...Kb7 53 d7 and the rook breaks through to the kingside) 53 a5 etc.] **Ba7 52 Kd2** [52 Rxb4 Ba6—an optical illusion?—53 a5 Δ Ra4] **52...Kc7 53 Kd3? Ba6 54 Kc4 Bf2 55 Kxb4 Be1+ 56 Kc4 Kd6 57 b4 Bf2 58 Kc3 Bxb5 59 axb5 Bb6 60 Kc4 1/2-1/2** Now could *Black* have won? Readers are invited to try and figure this out. At the board, at least three factors probably figured in the result: Perelshteyn's relief at having survived the previous ordeal, the fact that merely a draw was sufficient for him to win the tournament outright, and the looming 'sudden death' time deadline.



Six players finished a half-point behind with 4-1 scores. Aside from his last-round game, Yeager had an earlier draw with 4-time Virginia state champ Geoff McKenna. FM Dov Gorman & IM Oladapo Adu drew in the 5th round to join the 4-point club, Adu had been held to a draw earlier by Ali Almuktawakel. (Ali, a regular at US Chess Center and the Arlington Chess Club, also beat Stan Fink in round 1 for a FIDE performance and a rating gain of 50 points.) IM Ray Kaufman also finished 4-1 after drawing with Gil Guo and McKenna. Finally, expert Eddie Mark defeated McKenna in final round to join the four pointers and bring the Expert money into the 2nd-4th place pot. Harry Cohen won the Class A prize.

Three players tied atop the Amateur Section. Raghu Rajaram won the plaque and Virginia Open Amateur champ on tiebreaks over Deodato Obregon & JinSeok Kim. They each scored 4½-½. Ties also occurred for every class section prize! Thomas Fore Jr, Adam Chrisney, Alan Lofdahl, Robert Harrison, Karl Peterson & Ashley Xue all shared top class B. Steve Kouse, Jesse Cai, William Hall & Isuru Attanagoda shared the class C prize. Keith Burghardt & Brian Perez-Daple split class D. Emil Danalache, Brian Schneider & Jeremy Knox won the E prize. Raghav Ramraj scored the Top Upset.

What goes into making a really successful tournament? A quality site in a convenient location that has a good room rate (\$79), nice playing conditions and good food that doesn't crack your budget create the venue. Players eager for competition coming from various places up and down the east coast and from as far away as California fill the playing room. We also had a lucky break in timing, as the morning after the tournament found the area in the midst of the biggest snowstorm of the year, which might have destroyed the tournament had it arrived three days earlier.





The tournament had the feel on an older-style event, with the traditional breakout of approximately a third of the field in the Open group and two-thirds in the Amateur. Forty-seven players came from outside Virginia. The majority came from chess-starved Maryland, but Texas, California, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, DC and Ontario were also represented!

A number of players turned in FIDE performances: Goran Zalar, Ali Almuktawakel, Ed Pabalan, Charles Yang, Ramen Sreenivasan & Geoff McKenna (but he should have an old FIDE rating from years ago).

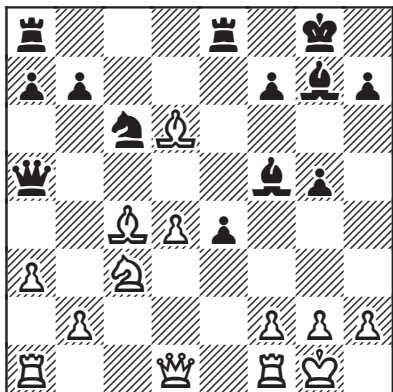
Scholastic players have been a larger showing at Open tournaments. The chance to play adults helps the rapid gains they often make. A full 33% of the field in 2008 were scholastic players and the figure went up to 39% this year. (The date was changed to late February, from the Virginia Open's traditional late January slot, mainly to avoid a conflict with a big scholastic event.)

Mike Atkins directed the Open section and ran the event as a whole. Don Millican came to direct the Amateur section and get more experience with large events on his way from Senior TD to a higher level.

Eugene Perelshteyn - Larry Kaufman Slav

Notes by Larry Kaufman/Rybka

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 cxd5 cxd5 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Bg5 Ne4 6 Nxe4 dxe4 7 a3 Qd5 8 Bh4 Nc6 9 e3 e5 10 Ne2 exd4 11 Nc3 Qa5 12 exd4 g5 13 Bg3 Bg7 14 Bc4 O-O 15 O-O Bf5 16 Bd6 Rfe8 [16...Rfc8 17 Qb3 Bxd4 (17...Bg6) 18 Bxf7+ Kg7 19 Rad1]



17 Nb5 [17 Qb3 Bg6 18 Qxb7 Nxd4 19 Nd5; 17 Bc5 Rad8 18 Nb5 Rd7 19 Nd6 Rxd6 20 Bxd6 Nxd4 21 b4 Qd8 22 Bc5 b6 23 Bxd4 Bxd4 24 Qb3 Qf6 25 Rae1 Bg6 26 Qg3 (26 b5 Qf4 27 Qb4 Be5 28 g3 Qf6 29 Rd1 Bf5 30 Bd5 Bh3 31 Qxe4 Bxf1 32 Kxf1 Kg7 33 f3 Re7 34 Qg4 Bd6 35 a4)] 17...Rec8 18 Bc5 Bg6 19 Nd6 Rcb8 20 f4 gxf4 21 Rxf4 Nd8 22 Qb3 b6 23 Nxf7 Nxf7 24 Bxf7+ Bxf7 25 Rxf7 Kh8 26 Rxc7 Kxc7 27 Qg3+ Kh8 28 Qe5+ Kg8 29 Qe6+ Kh8 30 Be7 Rf8 31 Bf6+?! [31 Rf1! wins more quickly—in fact, mate in 19! 31...Rxf1+ 32 Kxf1 Qa6+ 33 Kg1 Qb7 34 Bf6+ Qg7 35 Bxc7+ Kxc7 36 Qe5+ etc] 31...Rxf6 32 Qxf6+ Kg8 33 Qe6+ Kh8 34 Qxe4 Rf8 35 Qe5+ Qxe5 36 dxe5 Rc8 37 e6 Kg7 38 Re1 Kf8 39 e7+ Ke8 40 Re2 Rc4 41 Kf2 h5 42 Kf3 Rd4 43 g3 Rc4 44 h3 Rd4 45 g4 hxg4+ 46 hxg4 Rc4 47 g5 Rd4 48 g6 1-0

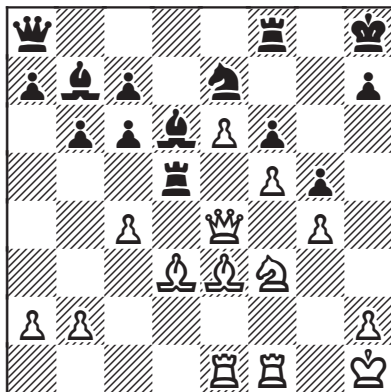


Goran Zalar - Daniel Yeager
Catalan/Bogo-Indian

1 d4 c6 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 c4 e6 4 g3 d5 5 Bg2 Bb4+ 6 Bd2 Be7 7 cxd5 exd5 8 Nc3 O-O 9 O-O Re8 10 Bg5 h6 11 Bxf6 Bxf6 12 Re1 Bf5 13 e3 Nd7 14 b4 Be7 15 Qb3 b5 16 a4 a6 17 axb5 axb5 18 Ne5 Nxe5 19 dxe5 Bf8 20 Rxa8 Qxa8 21 f4 Qa7 22 Ne2 Qe7 23 Rc1 Bd7 24 Nd4 Qxb4 25 Qxb4 Bxb4 26 Kf2 Rc8 27 e4 dxe4 28 Bxe4 c5 29 Rb1 g6 30 e6 Bxe6 31 Nxe6 fxe6 32 Bxg6 Rd8 33 Rb2 Kf8 34 Be4 Ke7 35 Bc6 Kd6 36 Bf3 Kc7 37 Bg4 Rd6 38 Re2 Kd7 39 f5 exf5 40 Bxf5+ Kc6 41 Re6 c4 42 Ke2 Rxe6+ 43 Bxe6 Bd6 44 Ke3 Kc5 45 Bd7 b4 46 Be6 Be5 47 Kd2 b3 0-1

Geoffrey McKenna - Jason Braun
Scotch Game

1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 Nf3 Nc6 4 Nxd4 Bc5 5 Nxc6 Qf6 6 Qd2 dxc6 7 Bd3 Ne7 8 O-O O-O 9 Kh1 Ng6 10 f4 Qd4 11 Qe1 f6 12 Nd2 Qd8 13 Nb3 Be7 14 Qc3 Qe8 15 Nd4 Kh8 16 Be3 Bd7 17 Rae1 Bd6 18 Qd2 Rd8 19 Qa5 b6 20 Qh5 Ne7 [20...Bxf4 21 Bxf4 Nxf4 22 Qxe8 Bxe8] 21 Qh4 Ng6 22 Qg3 Ne7 23 e5 Bc5 24 e6 Bc8 25 Qh4 g6 26 f5 g5 27 Qe4 Rd5 28 c3 Bd6 29 g4 Bb7 30 Nf3 Qa8 31 c4 [31 Kg2 c5 32 Qc4 Re5 33 Bd2 Rxe1 34 Bxe1]



31...Re5 32 Nxe5 c5 33 Qxb7 Qxb7+ 34 Nf3 Rd8 35 Bd2 Qa6 36 Bc3 Kg7 37 Nxc6 Bxh2 38 Rd1 [38 Bxf6+! Kxf6 39 Nxc6 Kg7 40 f6+ Kh8 41 fxe7] 38...Bd6 39 Ne4 Ng8 40 Nxf6 Nxf6 41 g5 Qb7+ 42 Kg1 Rg8 [42...Be7] 43 Bxf6+ Kf8 44 Rde1 Qb8 45 Be4 c6 46 Bxc6 Bh2+ 47 Kh1 1-0 time





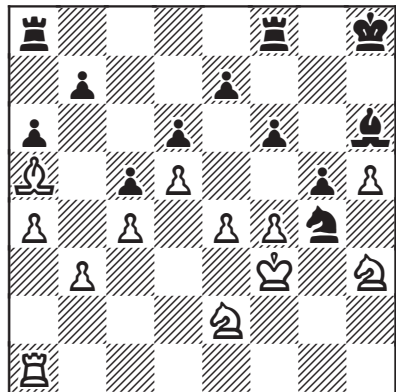
Daniel Yeager - Macon Shibut

King's Indian

Notes by Macon Shibut

[I write these notes in 'time trouble' trying to get the issue of VIRGINIA CHESS out the door, so I will qualify my remarks by acknowledging that I'm basically just relaying impressions from during play and from the post-mortem, without any proper analysis.] **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d6 3 Nf3 g6 4 Nc3 Bg7 5 e4 Bg4 6 Be2 0-0 7 Be3 Nfd7 8 Ng1 Bxe2 9 Ngxe2 c5 10 d5 a6 11 a4 Qa5 12 Bd2** [Anticipating ...Ne5, it turns out that covering c4 is a little awkward for White because of Nc3 is vulnerable. For instance, 12 0-0? Ne5 13 b3 Nxc4 etc. And if 12 Qc2 b5 becomes possible because Ra1 is undefended. Or, 12 Rc1 Qb4 13 b3 b5 etc. Yeager solves the problem by giving up castling, which is only a minor inconvenience under the circumstances.] **12...Ne5 13 b3 Nd3+ 14 Kf1 Nb4** [I looked at 14...e5 15 Bg5 f6 (15...Nb4 16 Be7 Re8 17 Bxd6 Nd7 18 f4) 16 Qxd3 fxg5. Of course Black could also just go 14...Nd7. Whatever, I expected him to correct the king position with g3 and Kg2, while I would bring my queen back to d8 or c7 and then play ...e5, with a normal King's Indian game.] **15 h4!?** [a new and sharper course] **15...h5** ["Flank play with an eye towards the center"—Nimzowitsch. Given a chance, I will continue Nb8-d7-e5 and be very happy since I need not worry about it being dislodged by f4 as then it would plop into the 'hole' prepared at g4. In view of this strong plan, the violent complications White now initiates are 'forced' in a sense.] **16 g4!?** **hxg4 17 h5 Nd7 18 Nf4 Ne5 19 Rg1** [19 hxg6

fxg6 20 Ne6 Rf7 (20...Nbd3!?) is double-edged at best—White has a king too.] **19...g5 20 Rxc4** [In for a dime, in for a dollar. I didn't seriously consider taking this rook, but the following, definitely *not-forced*, variation suggests I may have been fearing ghosts: 20...Nxc4 21 Qxc4 Nc2! and if 22 Qxc5 Black can just eat everything, 22...f6 23 Qg6 Nxa1 24 h6 Rf7 25 Nh5 Nxb3 26 Nxc7 Nxd2+ 27 Ke2 Qxc3! and I don't see how anything bad will happen.] **20...Bh6 21 Nh3 f6 22 f4 Nxg4 23 Qxc4 Kh8 24 Ne2 Nc2** [A good shot, if the analysis around moves 27-28 holds up. I also looked at the related 24...Nxd5! However, pieces move differently when the clock is ticking. In the heat of battle I thought that hitting Ra1 in addition to everything else might be worth something.] **25 Bxa5** [Essentially forced because I was threatening the bishop anyway, eg 25 Rd1 Qxd2!] **25...Ne3+ 26 Kf2 Nxg4+ 27 Kf3**



The Critical Moment!

**27...f5!**

The immediate issue is rescuing my knight. The text move can be understood by considering the more straightforward 27...Nh2+? when the forced sequence 28 Kg3 g4 29 Nf2 Nf3 30 Nxg4 would follow and Black loses a piece because both his knight and bishop are under attack. The point of ...f5 is to open the long diagonal so Black can withdraw ...Bg7 with tempo against White's rook at an opportune moment.

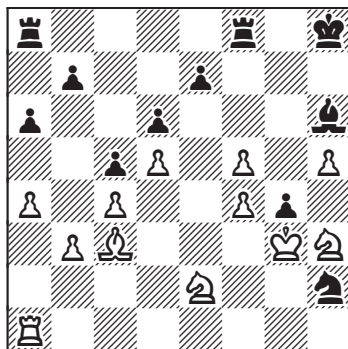
At an opportune moment—in that phrase lies the problem. Timing ...Bg7 is everything. It is remarkable how often chess comes down to a question of move order. We see all the right moves and we still fail to put a combination together because something blocks us from considering them in the correct order. 'Insignificant' transpositions can in fact make all the difference in the world.

My opponent thought for quite a while now, which gave me opportunity to discover all sorts of hidden resources for both sides—some real, some imagined.

28 exf5

The expected reply. Now the first variation for us to look at—and to be honest, my original intention at the moment I flicked out 27...f5—is the analog to the previous note: 28...Nh2+ 29 Kg3 g4 30 Nf2 Nf3 31 Nxg4 Bg7. Unfortunately can be refuted two different ways. First of all, we can simply continue the variation a couple moves further, 32 f6 exf6 33 h6! (but not 33 Kxf3? f5) and White is winning.

Second, we can step back a couple moves and see that White could have inserted 30 Bc3+! (instead of 30 Nf2), taking the opportunity to be first on the long diagonal.



after 30 Bc3+! (analysis)

Black is losing after 30...Bg7 31 Bxg7+ Kxg7 32 Ng5 Nf3 33 Ne6+ Kf7 34 Nxf8 Rxf8 35 Kxg4 Nd4 36 Nxd4 cxd4. Therefore, I would have to try 30...Kh7 (defending my bishop) 31 Ng5+! Bxg5 32 fxg5 Rxf5! 33 Kxh2 Rf2+ 34 Kg3 Rxe2. Still, after 35 Re1! Rxe1 36 Bxe1 I would much prefer White.

But as I mentioned previously—*move order!* Why can't Black adjust the sequence so that he gets first on the diagonal after all? Indeed, why not go there right away? Once I had clarified this idea, it certainly "felt right"—which is to say, it seemed pleasingly "flexible" that I should clear the square h6 while my knight was still at g4. Maybe I wouldn't even need the Nh2/g4/Nf3-d4 mechanism, but could simply drop the knight back to h6 (with attack on f5 as a bonus). By the time Yeager



finally moved 28 exf5, I already knew what I wanted to do and so made my reply with no further thought.

28...Bg7?

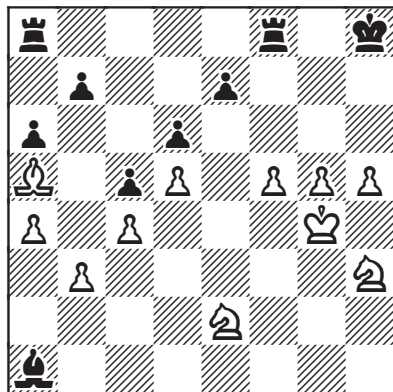
Alas, this gives White a new resource that never occurred to me until it appeared on the board.

Regarding the timing of ...Bg7, the right way was the ‘golden mean’—neither too late as we saw in the previous note, nor too early as in the actual game. Correct was 28...Nh2+! 29 Kg3 and now 29...Bg7! After 30 Rc1 g4 31 Ng5 (or 31 Nf2 Nf3 32 Nxg4 Nd4) 31...Nf3 32 Kxg4 Nd4 there would have been everything to play for. White could also try playing as in the game, but then he winds up in an inferior version with his king at h2 instead of g4, as we shall see...

29 Kxg4! Bxa1 30 fxg5

White offers up a second exchange to get his pawns straightened out. This caught me unaware, but it needn't have. For a curious footnote, take another look at “The Critical Moment!” diagram after White's 27th move. As I mentioned, I played 27...f5 with nary a clue of what I was unleashing. It was only afterwards, while my opponent was thinking, that I began to sense how the timing of ...Bg7 might be paramount. Otherwise, I might have considered the ‘hyper-accelerated’ variation: 27...Bg7!? Δ 28 Kxg4 f5+ If I had, I would surely continue following the thread 29 exf5 Bxa1 30 fxg5 *which yields exactly the same position in the game!* And having

previously seen this, I might have been wary of it later and so have played correctly on move 28!



Be that as it may, here we are. I am two exchanges ahead but there is a serious storm brewing on the kingside. My bishop occupies the ideal defensive diagonal but it will not hold out long against White's pawns, advanced king, and two agile knights.

White's disposition is very flexible; the attack can take so many different forms that searching for a defensive posture to anticipate them all was pointless. On the other hand, it was imperative to open lines and activate a rook. Thus—forward!

30...b5! 31 h6 bxa4 32 bxa4 [Which rook to take to the b-file? The one at f8 might prove to be an essential defender against attacks involving a knight check at f7. Then again, against other forms of attack it might turn out to be merely a target that costs me a critical tempo; for example, if it has to run away from a pawn reaching g7. The a8 rook at least guards my first rank



against pawn promotions. And so, “on principle”...] **32...Rfb8** [The game continuation would seem to mark this a mistake (see moves 36-37). However, I stand by my reasoning. Had I played the other rook to b8, I probably would have lost a different way with the Rf8 obstructing a key square that my king needs.] **33 g6 Rb4?!** [I was pleased with this move. The rook jumps right into the fray, threatening c4 with check. If he takes it, I get my own passed pawn. Whatever White was going to do to me on the kingside, ...b3-b2-b1Q seemed my likeliest resource for distracting him from it. However, I am not so sure about this in hindsight. *Distracting* is nice, but a passed b-pawn does nothing to directly *impede* White. On the other hand, after the alternative 33...Rb1 my rook might have been able to do something from h1/g1/f1. Maybe it's hopeless in any case, but Black is definitely lost after the text.] **34 Bxb4 cxb4 35 Ng5 b3 36 Nf4! Kg8** [There is no escaping the basic construction 36...b2 37 Nf7+ Kg8 38 Ne6! b1Q 39 h7mate] **37 Nfe6 Rf8 38 h7+ Kh8 39 Nxf8 1-0** in view of, eg, 39...b2 40 Nf7+ Kg7 41 h8Qmate

David Hulvey – Adithya Balasubramanian Closed Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 d3 e6 6 f4 Nge7 7 Nf3 O-O 8 O-O d6 9 Be3 b6 10 Bf2 Qc7 11 Qd2 Ba6 12 Nd1 h5 13 c3 d5 14 e5 d4 15 c4 b5 16 b3 bxc4 17 dxc4 Nf5 18 Ng5 Bb7 19 Ne4 Qe7 20 Rb1 f6 21 exf6 Rxf6 22 Nxf6+ Bxf6 23 Re1 e5 24 fxe5 Nxe5 25 Rxe5 Bxe5 26 Bxb7 Qxb7

27 b4 Rf8 28 Rb3 Qf7 29 bxc5 Qxc4 30 Nb2 Qxc5 31 Nd3 Qd5 32 Nxe5 Qxe5 33 Qg5 Qf6 34 Qxf6 Rxf6 35 Rb7 Rf7 36 Rb8+ Kg7 37 Rd8 Rc7 38 Bxd4+ Nxd4 39 Rxd4 Rc1+ 40 Kg2 Rc2+ 41 Kh3 [41 Kf3!, eg 41... Rxh2 42 Rd7+; or 41... Rxa2 42 Rd7+ Kf6 43 h4=] **41...Rxa2 42 Rd7+ Kf6 43 Rd6+ Kf5 44 Rd5+ Ke4 45 Rb5 Kd4 46 Rb4+ Kc5 47 Rb8 Re2 48 Rb7 a5 49 Rg7 Re6 50 Kh4 Ra6 51 Kg5 a4 52 Rxg6 Rxg6+ 53 Kxg6 a3 0-1**

Shinsaku Uesugi – Steve Greanias Reti/English

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 d5 3 Bg2 Bf5 4 c4 c6 5 cxd5 cxd5 6 Qb3 Qc7 7 Nc3 e6 8 d3 Nc6 9 Bf4 Qd7 10 Ne5 Nxe5 11 Bxe5 Bd6 12 Bxd6 Qxd6 13 e4 dxe4 14 dxe4 Bg6 15 Rd1 Qc6 16 O-O e5 17 Qa3 a5 18 Rd6 Qc4 19 Rb6 Qc7 20 Rxf6 gxf6 21 Nd5 Qd8 22 Rc1 b5 23 Nc7+ Kd7 24 Bh3+ f5 25 exf5 b4 26 f6+ 1-0

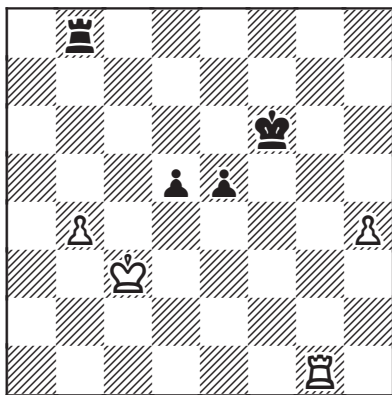
Geoff McKenna - Eddie Mark King's Indian/Benoni

1 c4 Nf6 2 d4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Be2 O-O 6 Bg5 h6 7 Bh4 c5 8 d5 e6 9 Nf3 exd5 10 cxd5 a6 11 a4 Re8 12 Nd2 Nbd7 13 O-O b6 14 Qc2 Ne5 15 f4 Neg4 16 Nc4 Rb8 17 Bxg4 Bxg4 18 e5 Bf5 19 Qd1 dxe5 20 fxe5 b5 21 axb5 axb5 22 Na5 Rxe5 23 Nc6 Qd6 24 Nxb8 Qxb8 25 Bxf6 Bxf6 26 g4 Bxg4 27 Qxg4 Rg5 28 Qxg5 Bxg5 [28... Bd4+ 29 Qe3 Bxe3+ 30 Kh1 b4 31 Ne4 f5 32 Nf6+ Kg7 33 Rfe1] **29 Rae1 Qd6 30 Re8+ Kg7 31 Rd1 b4 32 Ne2 Qd7 33 Re4 Qa4 34 Rf1 Qc2 35 Ng3 Qd3 0-1**



Adithya Balasubramanian - Dov Gorman
King's Indian Attack

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d3 Nc6 4 g3 g6 5 Bg2 Bg7 6 O-O Nge7 7 c3 O-O 8 Re1 d6 9 Nbd2 Rb8 10 a4 a6 11 Nf1 b5 12 axb5 axb5 13 Be3 h6 14 d4 cxd4 15 Nxd4 Qc7 16 f4 Rd8 17 Qd3 Nxd4 18 Bxd4 d5 19 Bxg7 Kxg7 20 Qd4+ Kg8 21 e5 Nc6 22 Qc5 Qb6 23 Qxb6 Rxb6 24 Ra8 Bb7 25 Rxd8+ Nxd8 26 Ne3 Ra6 27 Bf1 Ra2 28 Rb1 Ba6 29 Nc2 Nc6 30 Kf2 Ra4 31 Ke3 b4 32 Bxa6 Rxa6 33 Nxb4 Nxb4 34 cxb4 Rb6 35 b5 Rxb5 36 b4 Kg7 37 Kd4 g5 38 fxg5 hxg5 39 Kc3 f6 40 exf6+ Kxf6 41 h4 gxh4 42 gxh4 e5 43 Rg1 Rb8



44 h5 Rc8+ 45 Kb3 e4 46 h6 d4 47 h7 Rc3+ 48 Kb2 Rh3 49 Rg4 Kf5 50 Rg7 Rh2+ 51 Kb3 d3 52 Re7 Kf4 53 b5 d2 54 Kc2 e3 55 b6 Rh1 56 Rf7+ Kg3 57 Rg7+ Kf3 58 Rf7+ Ke2 59 Rd7 Rxh7 0-1

Edward Pabalan - Andrew Rea
Alekhine

1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 c4 Nb6 4 c5 Nd5 5 Bc4 e6 6 d4 b6 7 Bxd5 exd5 8 cxb6 axb6 9 Nc3 Bb7 10 Nge2 Be7 11 O-O O-O 12 Nf4 c6 13 Nh5 f5 14 Re1 Na6 15 Nf4 Nc7 16 g4 Ne6 17 Kh1 c5 18 gxf5 Rxf5 19 Qg4 Qf8 20 Nxe6 dxe6 21 Be3 cxd4 22 Bxd4 Bc5 23 Rad1 Rf4 24 Qxe6+ Kh8 25 Nb5 Rh4 26 Rd3 Bxd4 27 Nd6 h6 28 Nf7+ Kh7 29 Rg1 Bxf2 30 Qf5+ Kg8 31 e6 Bxg1 32 Qg6 Bxh2 33 Rd4 Bf4+ 34 Kg2 Rxa2 35 Rxf4 Rxb2+ 36 Kg3 Qa3+ 37 Kxh4 Rh2+ 38 Kg4 Qh3mate 0-1

6th annual

George Washington Open *20 Grand Prix points!*
June 13-14, 2009

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5-SS, rds 1-3 Game/2, rds 4-5 30/90SD/1. \$2,200 (top 3 G) B/90: \$580-320-200, top X/A-Unr/B/C/D each \$190, top U1200 \$150. Reg Saturday Jun 13, 8:30-9:45am, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-3:30. One irrevocable ½pt bye allowed, must commit with entry, none allowed after 1st round starts. EF \$50 if rec'd by Jun 7, \$60 at site. W, NS, FIDE. Hotel: www.hotel-sierra.com, luxurious single and double suites. 20 reserved single suites available by June 6 at \$99. Contact hotel at 703-435-9002 or 1-800-4.SIERRA and ask for Virginia Chess rate. Enter: Michael Atkins, PO Box 6138, Alexandria VA 22306. Make checks to "Virginia Chess". Email matkins2@cox.net for info but no e-mail entries, just information. www.vachess.org/nova.htm



Kingstowne Chess Club

by Don Millican

KINGSTOWNE QUAD #52/ACTION-PLUS #24

The first Kingstowne event for 2009, Quad #52/Action-Plus #24, was conducted on January 10. Eight players chose the Quad, while twenty-two went into the Action-Plus.

Peter Kurucz won the top Quad and a gold medal with a perfect 3-0 score, while Stephen Jablon scored 2 and took home the 2nd place bronze. Carlston Boucher likewise scored 3-0 in the bottom Quad winning the gold medal. Clinton May finished with 2 and snagged the 2nd place bronze.

The Action-Plus started 2009 with a 110% payout. Alexander Passov finished alone in 1st place with 4½ out of 5. Deodato Obregon, Sachin Singhal, Jinseok Kim & Karl Peterson tied for 2nd-5th with 3½ apiece. In addition, Kim and Peterson shared Under 1800. Kiffa Conroy rounded out the winners by taking Under 1400.

KINGSTOWNE CHESS FESTIVAL

Kingstowne Chess Club held its 7th annual Chess Festival over Valentine's Day weekend in Alexandria. The turnout was the best in the tournament's history despite the holiday and the competing US Amateur Team-East less than 200 miles away. Seventy-four players decided to forgo love, trophies and clever T-shirts to play in Kingstowne's flagship event.



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Sixteen played in the FIDE-rated Open section for \$1,000 in guaranteed prizes and fifteen Grand Prix points. More than half of them had FIDE ratings, so several others had the chance to play three FIDE-rated players and thus qualify for FIDE ratings of their own. International Master Oladapo Adu, of Upper Marlboro, and Andrew Samuelson, from Annandale, split 1st-2nd places with 3½ each. 3rd-6th went to Matthew Grinberg, Patrick Ramsey, Brian Li & David Fischler, each with 2½. Ramsey and Li also split the Under 2000 while Fischler took the under 1800 outright.

Nineteen entrants competed in the Amateur (U1800-Unr) and Richard Li emerged the winner with 4 points. Five finished with 3½: Ted Udelson, Francis McCullough, Karl Peterson, Hans Li (prizewinning Li's Hans, Richard & Brian Li are not related each other), and Hardy Xu. Hans Li and Xu shared the Under 1600 as well. Pamela Lee took the Under 1400.

James Kurucz won the thirteen-player Booster (U1600-Unr) section with 4 points. Joie Wang & Christopher Liu tied for 2nd/3rd. Philip Yu, Mark Scott & Sean Senft shared U1400. Daniel Xu (no relation to Hardy) took home the Under 1200 prize.

The Novice (U1400-Unr) group had twenty-seven players. Shicheng Zhao, brothers Kiffa and Kaizen Conroy, Wendy Sun, Aditya Srikanth tied for 1st with 4½ apiece. Srikanth & Kaizen Conroy also shared the Under 1200. Shiling Zhao (Shicheng's sister) took the Under 1000 with 4, while David Bourne won Top Unrated with 2½.

Rybka Regina

by Tim Rogalski

IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY, in the center of the chess universe, resides the checkered Caissa Nebula.

On one of the spiral arms of the Caissa Nebula, near the dark side, exists the multicolored G2V Omega Star System. The robust capital of the chess universe thrives on the third planet from the Omega sun, called Omega-3. Omega-3 is a blue, watery, silicon planet whose dominant intelligent life forms all swim in the sea. The ruler of Omega-3 is Darth Rybka, Empress of Caissa. She addresses herself as Benevolent Mother, but her beleaguered subjects call her Rybka the Merciless. She sits alone, at the top, on her sparkling 777-carat white diamond throne, and any drone suitor that mates with her is quickly killed and devoured. Darth Rybka is a sentient computer consisting of 1,048,576 biometric nanoprocessors, all performing accurate calculations at eutronic speeds. The royal blood that flows





through her veins is the precious oil of fatty acids so corrosive that they eat straight through glass. In all the millions of galaxies of the known chess universe, there are innumerable Kings, Rooks, Bishops, Knights, and Pawns. But there is only one Queen, and her name is Rybka.

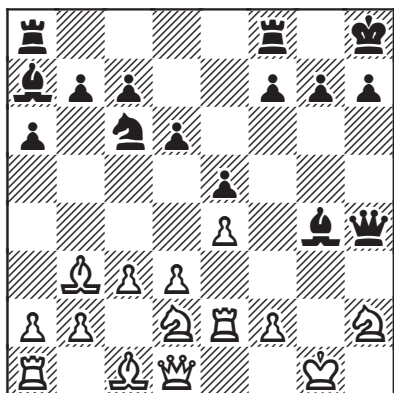
This is the Immortal Game of Rybka. Her opponent in this game, Shredder 10, has razor sharp piranha teeth. But Rybka has teeth like a Tyrannosaurus Rex, which she sneers as a full sarcastic grin whenever she is displeased. She plays with all the lesser computers as a hungry killer whale plays with a terrified baby seal, and when she is occasionally wounded, she fatally stings them with her venomous light saber. Rybka is so strong that she gives pawn and move to the great god Ghote. When Ghote first played her and lost, he angrily caused a tremendous deluge to flood Omega-3, but that failed to kill off all the evil, for she does not breathe like you or me. For *in the beginning, there was darkness and void across the deep, and it came to be that Rybka was, truly, the only fish in the sea.*

Shredder 10 - Rybka 2.1

WBEC13 Premier Division, 2006

Giuoco Piano

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d3 Nc6 4 Nf3 Bc5 5 0-0 d6 6 c3 0-0 7 Nbd2 a6 8 Re1 Ba7 9 Bb3 Ng4!? [I believe that playing ...a6 and ...Ba7 is Black's best way of handling the Giuoco Piano. Allowing this early attack on f2 can be risky for White.] **10 Re2 Kh8 11 h3 Nh6 12 g4** [White's most natural move is 12 Nf1. I can understand Shredder's desire to inhibit 12...f5, but playing Rybka is as if traversing a minefield—one misstep, and you are blown to smithereens! My 2007 Mega Database of 3.5M games contains ten examples of 12 g4 where Black scored seven wins and three draws. Crosa-Sorin, 2nd American Continental 2003, is the most extensively analyzed in detail, and worth further investigation, especially since Rybka refutes some of the analysis.] **12...Nxc4** [Out of the above-mentioned ten games, Black chose this exciting piece sacrifice five times and scored four wins and one draw. My 32-bit Rybka 3, running for 2+ hours, choose 12...Ng8, so I speculate that Rybka 2.1 selected the piece sac from her opening library.] **13 hxc4 Bxc4 14 Nh2?** [Another lemon, allowing Black's queen to enter the fray with devastating effect. Computers are renowned for their defensive skills, but we can thank Shredder for permitting Rybka a sparkling nova-like refutation of these mistakes. 14 Qf1 is the reason why the evaluation heuristics of Rybka 2.1 consider 12...Nxc4 as inferior to 12...Ng8. As I said, Rybka's 2.1 book may have overruled her move calculator (considering that five masters scored 90% with 12...Nxc4), but I have been unable to locate a score with time taken per move to verify my conjecture.] **14...Qh4!!**



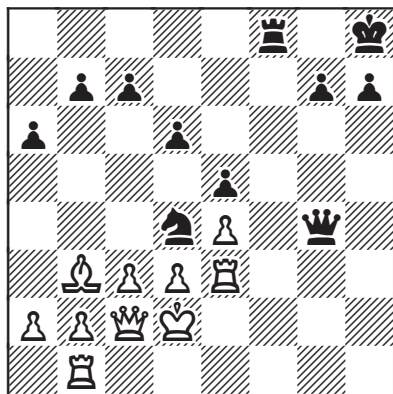
A player's first impulse might be to restore material equality by capturing the rook. Strong computers can easily work out this beautiful sacrifice, but for humans it is a real sacrifice since we cannot see through the dense thicket of variations. At any rate, with this brilliant move Rybka continues the game in 19th century romantic style using 21st century accuracy.

15 Nxg4 Qxg4+ 16 Kf1 f5 [Black already has a winning attack.] **17 Rb1**

White is so tied in knots that both computers consider this little doing-nothing rook move one of the best, but a human would never consider it. Opening lines for Black's rooks cannot be good, and indeed the tactics work like a well-oiled machine after 17 exf5? Rxf5 18 Ne4 Rh5! (however, this is the only move that wins) 19 Ng3 Rh2! (ditto) 20 Be3 Rf8 21 Bxa7 (21 Ke1?! Bxe3 22 Rxe3 Qf4 and White is overwhelmed) 21...Qxg3 22 Ke1 Rh1+ 23 Kd2 Rxd1+ 24 Rxd1 Qh4 25 Be3 Nd4! 26 cxd4 exd4.

Another futile attempt is 17 Re1? Qh3+ 18 Ke2 Qh5+ 19 Kf1 Qh2! and the pressure on f2 is fatal.

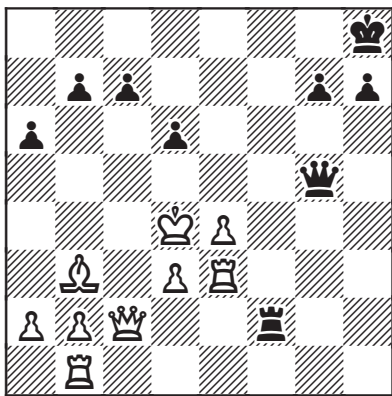
17...Rad8!? 18 Qc2 [The reason for Black's mysterious rook move is that if White continues with something like 18 a4 fxe4 19 Nxe4 d5 then Black's attack continues unabated.] **18...f4! 19 Ke1** [19 f3?? Qg1 mate] **19...f3** [Rybka gets her material back and preserves all her positional trumps.] **20 Nxf3 Rxf3 21 Be3 Rdf8 22 Kd2** [What happens now is magical, proving that chess is 99% tactics, where Rybka elevates the tactics into fantasy.] **22...Rxe3!** [A mere human might consider 22...Bxe3+ 23 fxe3 Rxe3! 24 Rxe3 (24 Kxe3?? Qf4 mate) 24...Rf2+ 25 Kc1 Rxc2+ 26 Kxc2 Qg2+ 27 Kd1 Qf1+ 28 Re1 Qxd3+ and the queen overpowers White's uncoordinated pieces.] **23 fxe3 Bxe3+! 24 Rxe3 Nd4!!**



Incredible! I believe that 10 out of 10 masters would play 24...Rf2+ and grab the White queen. This amazing knight sacrifice is a stunning bolt from the blue, and must be accepted.



25 cxd4 Rf2+ 26 Kc3 [Nearly every continuation is answered by brilliant moves. If **26 Kc1 Qf4!!** and Black is down two pieces, but White is forced to return more just to stay alive. **27 Qxf2 Qxf2 28 Rh3 Qf1+** and Rybka's queen is completely dominating. A normal queen is worth 9¼ points, but a Rybka queen is worth somewhere between 10-11 points!] **26...exd4+ 27 Kxd4 Qg5!!**



Wow, one fantastic move after another! Her Preeminence, the Black queen, magnanimously offers a third piece to

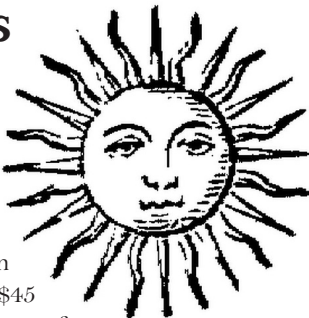
White. Mere humans would play the mundane, but still winning, **27...Rxc2 28 Rf1**, but Rybka snuffs out any whiff of counterplay and does not allow her helpless prey even to squirm.] **28 e5** [Since Black is threatening mate in two, this hapless pawn thrust is White's best. Clearly, the prettiest finish would be **28 Qxf2 Qc5mate** and a symphony chorus of heavenly angels burst into thunderous applause!! **28 Qxc7** loses the White queen after **28...Qe5+ 29 Kc4 d5+!**] **28...Rxc2 29 Bxc2 c5+** [... and wherever White's king runs, the e3-rook is lost.] **30 Kd5 Qxe3** [What a dazzling display of tactical fireworks! Now Rybka's technique is flawless, like her tiny throne.] **31 Kxd6 Qd4+ 32 Kc7 Qxe5+ 33 Kxb7 g5 34 Bb3 g4 35 Kxa6 g3 36 Kb5 g2 37 Kc6 Qd4 38 Bd5 g1Q 39 Rxc1 Qxc1 40 a4 h5 41 Be4 0-1**

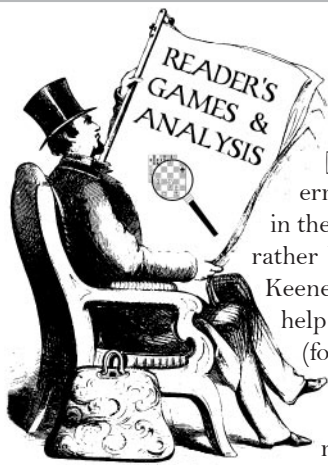
The game was adjudicated here in Rybka's favor. The Imperial March played continuously between moves 12-30. The Force is strong with this one.

Virginia Beach Swiss Moving for 2009

The 2009 Virginia Beach Spring Swisses are moving. The new site is the Springhill Suites at 6350 Newtown Road, Norfolk, Virginia 23502 (phone 757-333-3100). This is just a couple of blocks from the previous site. \$700 prizes based on 30, increased with 35+ entries. EF \$37 in advance, \$45 at the door. TLAs will appear in the Feb and June issues of

CHES LIFE. Dates are Saturdays, March 6 and June 20. Sad news is the new hotel will not allow me to bring in the free snacks. Visit <http://mysite.verizon.net/eschlich/> for full details. The past two events awarded \$900 and \$800 in prizes.





Tim Hamilton - Paul Yavari

DC Chess League 2009

Dunst

Notes by Tim Hamilton

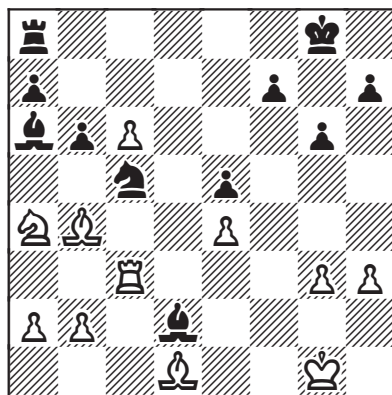
[Here is a lively tactical game, somewhat marred by errors in time-pressure and unpleasant distractions in the tournament room. (Some guy was taking his loss rather badly.) The day before this match I was reading Keene's 2006 book *Petrosian vs The Elite*, which may help to explain the excessive number of exchange sacs (four).] **1 Nc3 b6 2 e4 Bb7 3 g3 e5 4 Bg2 Nf6 5 Nge2 Nc6 6 0-0 Bc5 7 Na4 Be7 8 d4 d6 9 d5 Nb8 10 c4 Nbd7 11 h3 c6 12 f4 cxd5 13 cxd5 0-0** [White has reason to be happy with this middlegame position. His pieces enjoy greater mobility and various holes

are appearing in the Black structure.] **14 fxe5 Nxe5 15 Nd4 Ba6 16 Rf5 g6?! [provoking the first exchange sac] 17 Rxe5! dxe5 18 Nc6 Qd6** [By no means the worst choice, but 18...Qc7 seems better here or next turn. Black is seeking a tactical solution to his problems.] **19 Bd2!? Nd7 20 Bb4 Nc5 21 Rc1 Bg5** [A nice move, but it should be insufficient.] **22 Rc3 Rfc8!?** ["Threatening" ...Rxc6. Both of us were short of time, and someone began making a scene in the playing area. In my hasty assessment, I wrongly supposed I couldn't take on c5 with the knight. I guess I was afraid of ...Rxc6 and/or some ...Be3+ deflection sacrifice, but the tactics just don't work for him. Nevertheless, I found an inferior, but tricky, alternative.] **23 Bf3?! Rxc6** [Quite right. Now he sacs back the exchange!] **24 dxc6 Qxd1+ [My bishop will defend the a4 knight. Instead of simplifying, he could have taken the c-pawn and hoped for the best.] 25 Bxd1 Bd2!?**

Of course, instead of this bishop move, Black might have tried 25...Nxe4 26 Ra3!?: or better yet 25...Rd8! 26 Bc2!? with an interesting struggle in either case.

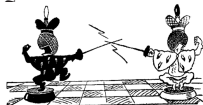
Faced with this position, Petrosian would likely have proceeded with 25 Nxc5! and won the game without further incident.

However, I could not resist making another exchange sac.





26 Rxc5?! bxc5? [Missing 27...Be3+ 28. Kg2 bxc5 29. Ba5, which is a tactical mess that Black may well win eventually. Now it spins further out of control.] **27 Bxd2 Rd8 28 Bg4 Rxd2** [There was nothing better, but now the pawn has its say.] **29 Nxc5 f5?** [Definitely losing the game. 29...h5 30 Bd7 Bb5 was the last chance.] **30 exf5! Bc8 31 fxg6! Bxg4 32 gxh7+ Kxh7 33 hxg4 Rd6 34 c7 Rc6 35 Na6 Kg6** [Black is without a good plan, whereas White can leisurely advance the king and pawns.] **36 Kf2 Kf6 37 b4 Ke6 38 Ke3 Kd7** [Why not one last exchange sac for the road?] **39 Nb8+ Kxc7 1-0**



Bill Mason - Andrew Samuelson
DC Chess League 2007
Sicilian

Notes by Andrew Samuelson

An older game that I long intended to annotate for VIRGINIA CHESS. **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e5 7 Nf5!?** [This is an unusual move. Nf3 and Nb3 are the normal moves here.] **7...d5!** [Taking advantage of the awkward placement of White's knight to strike in the center.] **8 Ng3?! [8 Bg5** at least attempts to justify Nf5, while the move played seems too passive to keep any edge for White.] **8...d4** [Taking more central space and forcing White to retreat his knight.] **9 Nb1 Nc6 10 0-0 h5!?** [This is very ambitious. It was possible to develop simply with Be7 or Be6 with a reasonable game.] **11 Bg5** [11 Nxb5?? Nxb5 12 Bxb5 Qh4 wins] **11...h4!?** [11...g6 is given in *Winning with the Najdorf* by Daniel King. It stops White from playing Nf5 or Nh5 as in the game, and is thus probably better than the move I played.] **12 Nh5 h3 13 g4 Qd6** [Trying to force White to take on f6.] **14 Bxf6 gxf6** [Now Black has immobile doubled pawns. In return for this weakness, he has the bishop pair and some open lines against White's king.] **15 Nd2 Be7 16 a4 Be6!?** [16...Rg8 would stop Ng7+ and takes over the g-file. Black would have been somewhat better in that case.] **17 Ra3!?** [Winning the h3 pawn, but this lets Black develop quickly and create threats against White's weakened kingside. 17 Ng7+ would have prevented Black from castling and gotten rid of one of the bishops.] **17...0-0-0 18 Rxh3 Rdg8 19 Rg3 Rg6 20 h3 Bf8 21 Nf3 Qb4** [Played to incite b3 so that later it will be harder to undermine Black's center with c2-c3] **22 b3 Qe7 23 Nh4 Bh6 24 Rf3** [If 24 Nxb6 fxb6 White's remaining knight is trapped.] **24...Bg5 25 Nxb6?** [25 Nf5 Qc5 ≡ Black's compensation consists of the bishop pair, safer king, and central control. However, at least White would keep the files leading to his king closed for a while.] **25...fxg6** [Now the doubled pawns are straight and Black will immediately recover a pawn. White has an extra exchange, but Black has the bishop pair and will control the only open file. It's difficult for White to use



his rooks, and without counterplay from him Black can target the weak pawns on c2 and g4. Even the supposedly materialistic computers are happy to be Black here.] **26 Ng3** [26 h4 Bxh4 27 Rh3 gxh5 28 Rxh4 f5 29 Rxh5 Rxh5 30 gxh5 fxe4 would leave Black with good compensation for the exchange in the form of central control and a much less exposed king. However, White's passed h-pawn might generate some counterplay.] **26...Rxb3** [This is somewhat better for Black, but the computer points out that 26...Qh7! is even stronger, eg, 27 Nh1 Bxg4 28 Rd3 Bd7] **27 Kg2** [27 Nf5 Qh7 28 Rxh3 Qxh3 is another try. Either way, Black maintains good compensation due to the bishop pair, safer king, and central pawns.] **27...Qh7 28 Rh1 Rxh1 29 Nxh1** [White could also have taken with the queen: 29 Qxh1 Qxh1+ 30 Kxh1 Kc7 31 Kg2 Bxg4 32 Rd3 (if 32 Rxf6 Bxf6 33 Bxg4 Nb4 Black recovers the sacrificed material and remains slightly better in the ending due to his active pieces and the weak c2-pawn) 32...Be6 33 Rd1 Nb4 34 Bd3 Kd6 when Black seems to have enough compensation for the exchange in the form of the active bishop pair, well-centralized position, and pressure against the c2-pawn.] **29...Bxg4 30 Rg3 Be6 31 Bg4 f5** [I didn't want to give up the bishop pair without getting some type of positional concession from White.] **32 Bh3?!** [32 Bxf5 gxf5 33 Rxg5 fxe4 was a better try, although Black's strong central pawn mass is still has good compensation for the exchange.] **32...Bf4 33 Rd3 Qd7** [Threatening to take on e4. However, 33...Nb4 was even stronger, as the rook is short of safe squares, eg 34 Rf3 g5 (Δ ...g4) 35 exf5 (35 Bxf5 Qh2+) 35...Bd5 winning] **34 exf5** [This gives up White's only center pawn, yet it is difficult to find a good alternative.] **34...gxf5 35 Qh5!?** [This loses the c2 pawn, but at least it complicates the position a bit. Passive defense offered few chances, if any. If White cannot generate any counterplay, Black can start pushing the center pawns and/or go after c2.] **35...Nb4 36 Rd1 Nxc2** [Now Black has two pawns for the exchange.] **37 Ng3 Qc6+ 38 Kg1 Bxg3** [Trying to take the pressure off f5 and gain the e3-square for the knight.] **39 Qh8+** [Played in order to take on g3 with the queen. If instead 39 Bxf5 (39 fxg3 Ne3 wins) 39...Kb8 40 Bxe6 Bxf2+ 41 Kxf2 Qxe6 Black's connected passed pawns promise a clear advantage.] **39...Kc7 40 Qg7+ Kb6 41 Qxg3 f4!** [Driving a wedge into White's position.] **42 Qg2 f3** [White's queen maneuver avoided giving up the e3-square to the knight, but now the pawn on f3 will give him headaches. Combined with Black's soon-to-be-centralized queen, this ensures that the White king will always be vulnerable.] **43 Qg3 Bxh3 44 Qxh3 Qg6+ 45 Kh1 Qe4** [The queen is usually best placed in the center in endgames. Now White has to keep his eye on the g- and h-files.] **46 Qh6+ Ka5 47 Qg5 Nb4 48 Qe7 b6** [48...Nd3 is also good] **49 Rc1** [Threatening mate starting with Rc5+!] **49...Nd3 50 Ra1** [if 50 Rf1 Nxf2+ 51 Rxf2 Qe1+ wins] **50...Nxf2+** [♔+♚ can be a fearsome attacking combination! Checkmate is now forced.] **51 Kg1 Qg4+ 52 Kf1 Qg2+ 53 Ke1 Nd3+ 0-1**



Book Review *by Dov Gorman*

Pawn Sacrifice – Winning at Chess the Adventurous Way

Timothy Taylor

Everyman Chess, paperback, 192 pages, list \$24.95

ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE ASPECTS OF CHESS is that its complexity and richness allows you to unleash creativity in a way that matches your personality and temperament. Experienced chess players are familiar with an interesting phenomenon: in some types of position they feel like tigers in the jungle while in others like a tiger's prey, completely vulnerable. Some positions are easy to play, where a player can see multiple good options to make progress. Some offer no clear indication of even where to begin analysis.

Pawn Sacrifice, by IM Taylor, is an excellent book for those creative players with a very aggressive style and who look first at sacrificing material.

Taylor's book is a modern extension of Rudolf Spielmann's classic *The Art of Sacrifice in Chess*. It explores the themes associated with various types of pawn sacrifices. Some of the themes include: attack on the king, line opening sacrifices, sacrifice for development purposes, deflection, sacrifices to achieve better pawn formation, etc. Each one of the themes is supported with multiple examples from top tier grandmasters such as Tal (of course), Petrosian, Stein, as well as from Taylor's own game. The book avoids discussion of opening theory and, when necessary, describes the general characteristics of the underlying topic. At the critical moment of the game, Taylor describes in detail the "favorable omens" for the pawn sacrifice and its impact on the ensuing game.

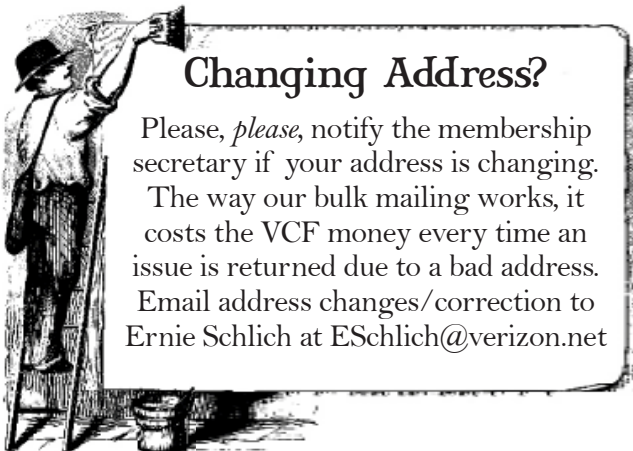


The author also consults with Fritz in order to compare notes with its “unbiased” opinion. In some cases, the human consideration is deeper than what this particular version of Fritz was able to comprehend. Taylor describes the reasons for this and the timing before Fritz catches up. In other cases, when the accuracy of a particular sacrifice is in question, Fritz provides a clue of how to improve the overall quality of a plan. After each example, Taylor recaps with a general summary of the main event as well as with a risk assessment of the topical sacrifice.

Taylor’s style is informal, humorous and easy to follow. The organization of the book is excellent and the structure of discussion is consistent. Taylor provides interesting insights regarding the considerations that could lead to the needed action in each example. These include internal issues such as lead in development, the dynamic features of the positions and coordination of the pieces, but also external considerations such as the element of surprise, time pressure confusion, the strength of the players and their tournament and game objectives, etc.

As stated earlier, Taylor’s examples include Tal and Petrosian games as well as his own. One weakness of the book is a lack of objectivity and quality when discussing some of the latter. Moreover, the final chapter (“You Don’t Have to be a Master”) features a very weak example from Taylor’s wife. In my opinion this chapter can be skipped all together.

Overall, in spite some deficiencies, this is a good book for the creative and aggressive player.





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 ♙ Fredericksburg: 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/huffmacj/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 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 o6usmc@comcast.net



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