

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

2009 - #6

## Big Turnout at the Northern Virginia Open



*Also...*

Emporia, Zofchak Memorial, Rogalski,  
Virginia Open details (see p 4),  
big Book Review, and more!

*Photo by Masako Uesugi*



# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

2009 - Issue #6

Editor:

Macon Shibut  
8234 Citadel Place  
Vienna VA 22180  
[vcfeditor@cox.net](mailto:vcfeditor@cox.net)

Circulation:

Ernie Schlich  
1370 South Braden Crescent  
Norfolk VA 23502  
[ESchlich@verizon.net](mailto:ESchlich@verizon.net)



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

President: Mike Hoffpauir, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown VA 23693, [mhoffpauir@aol.com](mailto:mhoffpauir@aol.com)

Treasurer: Ernie Schlich, 1370 South Braden Crescent, Norfolk VA 23502, [ESchlich@verizon.net](mailto:ESchlich@verizon.net) Secretary: Helen Hinshaw, 3430 Musket Dr, Midlothian VA 23113, [jallenhinshaw@comcast.net](mailto:jallenhinshaw@comcast.net) Scholastics Coordinator: Mike Hoffpauir, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown VA 23693, [mhoffpauir@aol.com](mailto:mhoffpauir@aol.com) VCF Inc. Directors: Helen Hinshaw (Chairman), Rob Getty, John Farrell, Mike Hoffpauir, Ernie Schlich.





# Northern Virginia Open

by Mike Atkins

**W**HAT HAPPENS when a site becomes too good? Is that possible? Can a chess venue be too good for its own good? That seems to be the issue with the Hotel Sierra in Sterling. For the past three events we have gotten dangerously close to having to turn people away!

120 players came for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Northern Virginia Open. Previous turnouts had twice reached 117 and it was looking like this would be the event that exceeded the capacity of the facility. With the natural growth of tournaments in Loudoun County (the area has new clubs in Leesburg and Ashburn), word of mouth alone can overflow a nice venue.

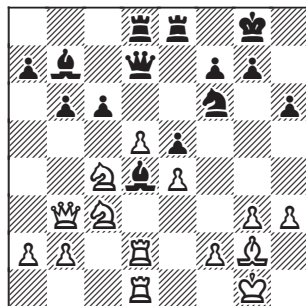
The tournament ended in a three-way tie among IM's Tegshuren Enkhbat (fresh from his capture of the Maryland state title last month) & Oladapo Adu, and FM Anton Paolo Del Mundo. Enkhbat and Del Mundo entered the final round with perfect 4-0 scores and met on Board 1. (The swiss system working perfectly - the two highest rated players faced off in the final round.) They played to a very tough draw and were joined at 4½-½ when Adu somehow found a way to win from a losing position against young Charles Yang.

## Tegshsuren Enkhbat - Anton Del Mundo

### Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 d5 4 Qb3 e6 5 g3 Bd6 6 Bg2 O-O 7 O-O Nbd7 8 Rd1 Qe7 9 Nc3 Re8 10 Bg5 h6 11 Bxf6 Nxf6 12 e3 b6 13 Nd2 Bb7 14 e4 dxc4 15 Nxc4 e5 16 d5 Rad8 17 Rd2 Bc5 18 h3 Bd4 19 Rad1 Qc5 20 Na4 Qb5 21 Nc3 Qc5 22 Na4 Qe7 23 Nc3 Qd7

24 dxc6 [If 24 Nxe5 one possibility is 24...Bxe5 25 dxc6 Qxd2 26 Rxd2 Rxd2 27 cxb7 Rb8 28 Qb5 Bd4 29 Qc4 Bxf2+ 30 Kh2 Nh5 31 Ne2 Rxb7 32 Qc8+ Kh7 33 Qf5+ g6 34 Qxf2 Rxb2] 24...Qxc6 25 Nxe5 Bxf2+ 26 Kh1 Qc7 27 Rxd8 Qxe5 28 Rxe8+ Nxe8 29 Rd7 Nd6 30 Rd8+ Kh7 31 Qc2 Bc5 32 Qd3 f5 33 Rd7 fxe4 34 Qe2 Bc6 ½-½



In a field this size it almost takes 4-1 to win anything in class A or above. This year two excellent results extended that down to classes B and C where Kartik Gupta and Andrew Miles outclassed their respective classes. Ian Schoch, Eric Most & Jeevan Karamsetty achieved the same 4-1 score to win top Expert, and Tim Rogalski scored the same to be clear top A. Joseph Tan won Class D and Nicholas Naylor won Under 1200.



Yash Tekriwal took home the prize for the top cumulative upset points (1004.5) and Vijaya Sajja won a digital chess clock for notching the top individual upset.

The percentage of scholastic players has been creeping slowing up for years. With the average USCF modal age of 10 (more members aged 10 than any other age), that is not surprising. For this tournament, there were 59 players under 18, so it is almost at the 50% level. The scholastic players also seemed better behaved and more in control than in previous events, perhaps because of more and better parental control or perhaps because the weather was nice they could go outside and run off steam. Whatever the reason, it makes for a better playing environment with less noise and less complaints from the hotel.

### Shawn Hoshall - Tegshsuren Enkhbat

#### Caro Kann

1 d4 d5 2 Nc3 c6 3 e4 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 Nf3 Nd7 7 h4 h6 8 h5 Bh7 9 Bd3 Bxd3 10 Qxd3 e6 11 c4 Ngf6 12 Bd2 Be7 13 O-O-O O-O 14 Ne4 Nxe4 15 Qxe4 Nf6 16 Qc2 b5 17 c5 Qd5 18 Kb1 Ng4 19 Bf4 Rfd8 20 Ne5 Nxe5 21 Bxe5 Rd7 22 g4 Rad8 23 Bf4 Qf3 24 Be3 e5 25 Qc1 exd4 26 Bd2 Rd5 27 b4 Qxg4 28 Bxh6 Qf5+ 29 Ka1 Bf6 30 Bd2 d3+ 31 Bc3 d2 32 Qb2 Rd4 33 a3 Qf3 34 Ka2 Qd5+ 35 Kb1 Qxh1 36 Rxh1 d1Q+ 37 Rxd1 Rxd1+ 38 Kc2 R1d2+ 0-1

### Anton Del Mundo – Stan Fink

#### English

1 c4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 g3 c6 4 Bg2 d5 5 cxd5 cxd5 6 d4 exd4 7 Qxd4 Nc6 8 Qd1 d4 9 Ne4 Be7 10 Nxf6+ Bxf6 11 Nf3 O-O 12 O-O Bf5 13 Qb3 Qe7 14 Bd2 Rfd8 15 Rfe1 Be6 16 Qd3 Nb4 17 Qe4 Rac8 18 Red1 Na6 19 Ne1 Rc7 20 Nd3 Qd7 21 Bf4 Bf5 22 Bxc7 Bxe4 23 Bxd8 Bxg2 24 Bxf6 Be4 25 Be5 f6 26 Bf4 Bc6 27 Ne1 Qe6 28 Nf3 Qe4 29 Rac1 Kf7 30 Rd2 g5 31 Bxg5 d3 32 Rxd3 Qxe2 33 Re3 Qxb2

34 Rce1 Qb4 35 a3 Qa5 36 Re7+ Kg8 37 Bh6 Qd5 38 Rg7+ Kh8 39 Ree7 Qf5 40 g4 Qb1+ 41 Ne1 Nc7 42 Rgf7 Ne6 43 Rxe6 Qg6 44 Rf8+ Qg8 45 Rxg8+ Kxg8 46 Rxf6 0-1

### Oladapo Adu - Andrew Freix

#### King's Indian Attack

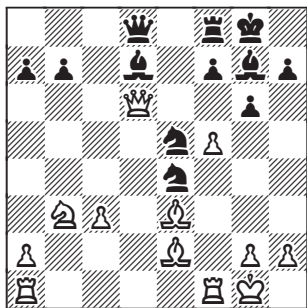
1 e4 e6 2 d3 d5 3 Nd2 Nf6 4 Ngf3 c5 5 g3 Nc6 6 Bg2 Be7 7 O-O O-O 8 Re1 Re8 9 e5 Nd7 10 Nf1 f6 11 exf6 Nxf6 12 Bf4 Bd6 13 Ne5 Qc7 14 Ng4 Nxg4 15 Bxd6 Qxd6 16 Qxg4 e5 17 Qh5 Be6 18 c3 Bf7 19 Qh4 d4 20 c4 Bg6 21 Be4 Nb4 22 Rad1 Rf8 23 a3 Bxe4 24 Qxe4 Nc6 25 Nd2 Rae8 26 Rf1 b6 27 Rde1 Re7 28 Re2 Rfe8 29 Rfe1 Nd8 30 Qh4 Qf6 31 Qg4 Nf7 32 Ne4 Qe6 33 Qh5 Qh6 34 Qf3 Re6 35 h4 Rg6 36 Qg2 Qh5 37 Nd2 Qf5 38 Qe4 Qxe4 39 Rxe4 Kf8 40 Kg2 Ke7 41 f4 Kd6 42 Rf1 Re7 43 f5 Rf6 44 Rg4 Nh6 45 Ne4+ Kc6 46 Nxf6 gxf6 47 Re4 Rg7 48 Kh3 Re7 49 g4 Nf7 50 g5 fxg5 51 f6 Re8 52 hxg5 Nxg5+ 53 Kg4 Nxe4 54 dxe4 Kd6 55 Kf5 Rd8 56 Rg1 Re8 57 Rg7 a6 58 a4 a5 59 b3 h5 60 f7 1-0



## Floyd Boudreaux - Timothy Rogalski King's Indian

*Notes by Timothy Rogalski*

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 c5 5 d4 Qa5 6 Bd2 [A 2009 World Senior Chess Championship game went 6 Bd3 Ng4!? 7 Be2 cxd4 8 Nxd4 Qc5 9 Bxg4 Bxd4 10 O-O Bxc3 11 bxc3 Qxc4 12 Qe1 Nc6 13 Bd1 Na5] 6...cxd4 7 Nxd4 Nc6 8 Nb3 Qd8 9 Be2 O-O 10 O-O d6 11 Be3 Be6 12 f4 Rc8 13 f5 Bd7 14 c5 Ne5 15 cxd6 exd6 16 Qxd6 Rxc3! 17 bxc3 Nxe4



[After the game, White commented that Black has "swarming knights!"] 18 Qb4 Nxc3 19 Rae1 Nd5 20 Qc5 Nxe3 21 Qxe3 Bxf5 22 Qxa7 Be4 23 Qe3 f5 24 Rd1 Qh4 25 Nc5 Bc6 26 Ne6 Re8 27 Nxg7 Nf3+! 28 Qxf3 [28 Rxf3!? Rxe3 29 Nxf5 Qg5 30 Bc4+ Kf8 31 h4 Rxf3 32 hxg5 Rxf5 was too difficult to see under severe time pressure.] 28...Bxf3 29 Bxf3? [29 Nxf5!] 29...Kxg7 30 Rd7+? [By 30 Bxb7! White would have real possibilities of creating a fortress.] 30 ... Re7 -+ 31 g3 Qb4 32 Rfd1 Rxd7? [32...b5!] 33 Rxd7+ Kf6 34 Rxb7 Qe1+ 35 Kg2 Qd2+ 36 Kg1 Qxa2? [36...Qd4+! 37 Kf1 Qa1+ 38 Kf2 Qxa2+ 39 Be2 h5 captures the a-pawn with check and

saves the h-pawn.] 37 Rxh7 g5 38 h3 g4? [38...f4! was strongest.] 39 hxg4 fxg4 40 Rh4 [if 40 Bxg4?? Qb1+; or if 40 Rh2 Qb1+ 41 Kg2 gxf3+ 42 Kxf3 Qf1+ 43 Rf2 Qh1+ 44 Ke3+ Kg5 45 Rf4 Qg2 Black wins the g-pawn.] 40... gxf3 41 Rf4+ Kg5 42 Rxf3 Qd5?? [Complete blindness throws away the win. 42...Kg4! wins the g-pawn and eventually the rook.] 43 Rf4 Qd2 44 Kh1 Qxf4 45 gxf4+ Kxf4 ½-½

## Jeevan Karamsetty - Steve Greanias Sicilian

Karamsetty doesn't play as much as some scholastic players, but when he does the results have him rated 2050 and climbing. Here he showed some creative aggression against a former state champion that wasn't perfect (according to Rybka) but was effective. Look for bigger things from Jeevan. 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 a6 5 Bd3 Bc5 6 Nb3 Be7 7 O-O Qc7 8 Nc3 b5 9 Qg4 Bf6 10 Bf4 d6 11 Bxb5+!? [simply 11 Qg3 looks good] 11...Kf8 12 Qd1 e5 13 Be3 axb5 14 Nxb5 Qc6 15 Nxd6 [15 Na7] 15...Ba6 16 Na5! Qc7 17 Qd5 Bxf1 18 Qxa8 Qxd6 19 Rxf1 Qd8 20 Nb7 Qe8 21 Nc5 Ne7? 22 Qxb8 Qxb8 23 Nd7+ 1-0

## Craig Saperstein - Dov Gorman Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 g6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Bg7 5 c4 Nc6 6 Nc2 Nf6 7 Nc3 O-O 8 Be2 b6 9 O-O Bb7 10 Bd2 Rc8 11 b3 d6 12 Rc1 e6 13 Bf4 Ne5 14 Bxe5 dxe5 15 Qxd8 Rfxd8 16 Bf3 Bh6 17 Rcd1 Bd2 18 Nb1 Bg5 19 Nc3 Bd2 20 Nb1 Bf4 21 Nc3 Rd2 22 Rxd2 Bxd2 23 Nb5 Rd8 24 Rd1 Bxe4? 25 Bxe4



Nxe4 26 f3 a6 27 fxe4 axb5 28 cxb5  
Kf8 29 Kf2 Ke7 30 Ke2 Bf4 31 Rxd8  
Kxd8 32 h3 f5 33 a4 Kc7 34 Na3 Kd6  
35 b4 h5 36 Nc4+ Kc7 37 a5 bxa5 38  
bxa5 Kb7 39 Nd6+ Ka7 40 b6+ Ka6  
41 b7 Ka7 42 a6 Bg5 43 Nc8+ Kb8  
44 Nb6 1-0

### Shinsaku Uesugi - Craig Saperstein Queen's Pawn

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 g6 3 Bg2 Bg7 4 O-O  
d5 5 d4 Ne4 6 c3 O-O 7 Nfd2 f5 8  
Nxe4 fxe4 9 f3 exf3 10 exf3 Be6 11  
Re1 Bf7 12 Qb3 b6 13 Bg5 Re8 14  
Bh3 h6 15 Bf4 e5 16 Bxe5 Nc6 17  
f4 Bxe5 18 fxe5 Be6 19 Bxe6+ Rxe6  
20 Nd2 Na5 21 Qd1 c5 22 Qg4 Qe7  
23 Nf3 Rf8 24 Nh4 h5 25 Qe2 Nc6  
26 Rad1 cxd4 27 cxd4 g5 28 Ng2  
Qh7 29 Qd2 Qg6 30 Rf1 Rxf1+ 31

Rxf1 Kh7 32 Ne1 h4 33 Nf3 hgx3 34  
Nxxg5+ Kg8 35 Nxe6 gxh2+ 36 Kh1  
Qxe6 37 Qg5+ Kh7 38 Rf6 1-0

### Sy Samet - Denis Strenzwilk Sicilian

*Notes by Denis Strenzwilk*

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 e6 4 Bxc6  
bxc6 5 O-O d5 6 e5 Ne7 7 d3 Ng6 8  
Bg5 Qc7 9 Re1 h6 10 Bc1 Be7 11 b3  
O-O 12 Bb2 Rb8 13 Nbd2 a5 14 g3  
a4 15 h4 Rd8 16 h5 Nf8 17 Nh2 c4  
18 Qg4 Nh7 19 d4 c5 20 Rad1 cxb3  
21 cxb3 axb3 22 axb3 c4 23 Rc1 Qd7  
24 Re3 Qe8 25 Ba1 f5 26 Qd1 cxb3  
27 Nxb3 Qa4 28 Nc5 Qxd1+ 29 Rxd1  
Ng5 30 f3 f4 31 gxf4 Nh3+ 32 Kg2  
Nxf4+ 33 Kf2 Bh4+ 34 Kf1 Nxxh5 35  
Ra3 Ng3+ 36 Kg2 Nf5 37 f4 Be7 38  
Nf3 Bd7 39 Kf2 Bxc5 40 dxc5 Ra8

42<sup>nd</sup> Annual



## Virginia Open

March 5-7, 2010

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

5-SS, Rd1 Game/2, Rds 2-5 40/2, SD/1. \$3400 in two sections, top 4 in Open guaranteed, rest b/140. *Open*: \$600-400-300-250, top X, A each \$180. Winner gets plaque and title 2009 Virginia Open Champ. *Amateur*: (under 1900): \$400-200-150, top B,C,D, U1200 each \$160, Unrated \$100. Winner gets plaque and title 2009 Virginia Open Amateur Champ. *Both*: Reg Friday 5:30-7:45pm, rds 8, 10-4:30, 9-3:30. EF \$60 if received by 2/28, \$70 later and at site. \$5 discount to active military. \$35 Re-entry from rd 1 into rd 2 only, Sat 9-9:45am. One irrevocable ½pt bye allowed with entry before rd 1. VCF membership req'd for Virginia residents (\$10 adult, \$5 U19). Hotel: chess rates \$79 for single/double, reserve before Feb 27. Walk-up chess rate possible but not guaranteed, so reserve early!! See [www.vachess.org/vaopen.htm](http://www.vachess.org/vaopen.htm) for online link to register for hotel. No Outside Food allowed in playing room! NS, NC, W. FIDE (Open) JGP. *Enter*: Make checks payable to "Virginia Chess" and mail to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6138, Alexandria VA 22306. Info [www.vachess.org/vaopen.htm](http://www.vachess.org/vaopen.htm) or email [matkins2@cox.net](mailto:matkins2@cox.net) for questions only, no internet or phone entries!!



41 Rxa8 Rxa8 42 Rc1 Ra2+ 43 Kg1 Ng3 44 Nd4 Ne2+ 45 Nxe2 Rxe2 46 c6 Bc8 47 Bc3 Re4 48 Bd2 g5 49 fxg5 hxg5 50 Re1 Rc4 51 Rc1 Rd4 52 Rd1 Kg7 53 Kf2 Kg6 54 Kf3 Kf5 55 Kf2 Ba6 56 c7 Rc4 57 Rc1 Rxc1 58 Bxc1 Kxe5 59 Bxg5 Ke4 60 Ke1 e5 61 Kd2 Kf5 62 Be7 d4 63 Bf8 e4 64 Bh6 Ke6 65 Bg5 Kd5 66 Bf4 Bc8 67 Bh6 Bf5 68 Bf4 Kc6 69 c8=Q+ Bxc8 70 Be5 Kd5 71 Bf4 Bf5 72 Bh6 Kc4 73 Bg5 Bg4 74 Bf4 Kd5 75 Bh6 Bh5 76 Bg5 [The players stopped keeping score on move 76. The following moves are close to the actual moves made at blitz pace -Stenzwilk] 76...Ke5 77 Bh6 Kf5 78 Bg7 e3+ 79 Ke1? [79 Kd3 = eg 79... e2 80 Kd2 d3 81 Bc3 Ke4 82 Ba5 etc; or 79...Kf4 80 Kxd4 e2 81 Bh6+ Kf3 82 Bd2] 79...d3 White's flag fell 0-1

### Jeevan Karamsetty - Shinsaku Uesugi Sicilian

This was the very last game to finish. Shin found himself opposite a younger, and improving, player—a situation he has posed for adults for several years now. 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Na3 b5 9 Nd5 Be7 10 Bxf6 Bxf6 11 c4 b4 12 Nc2 Rb8 13 b3 Bg5 14 Be2 a5 15 O-O Ne7 16 a3 bxa3 17 Nxa3 Bb7 18 Nb5 Nxd5 19 exd5 O-O 20 Qe1 Ra8 21 b4 axb4 22 Qxb4 Be7 23 Rxa8 Qxa8 24 Rb1 Ba6 25 Nc7 Qc8 26 Nxa6 Qxa6 27 Qb7 Qxb7 28 Rxb7 Bg5 29 g3 Rd8 30 h4 Bd2 31 g4 Bc3 32 Kg2 Bd4 33 g5 Bc3 34 Bh5 g6 35 Be2 Kf8 36 Kg3 Bd4 37 Bg4 Ra8 38 Rd7 Bc5 39 f3 Ra2 40 h5 Be3 41 Rxd6 Bxg5 42 f4 exf4+ 43 Kf3 Ra3+ 44 Kf2 Bh4+ 45 Ke2 Re3+ 46 Kd2 Be1+ 1/2-1/2

## David Zofchak Memorial

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual David Zofchak Memorial was played Nov 21-22 in Hampton. Yuri Barnakov topped a 22-player field with a 4½-½ score. Abhishek Penumala finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4-1, having lost to Barnakov in round 2 but then winning out the rest of the way. Tom Burgess & Matthew Shih tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>. Other prizewinners included Charles Smith, Joe Faries & Craig W Haines (tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> 1500-1800); Correy Xu (top Jr); Timothy Andersen (1<sup>st</sup> 1200-1499); Ted Rust, Alexander Liang, Andrew H Luo & Minh-quan Pham (=2<sup>nd</sup> 1200-1499); Timothy Younkin (under 1200); and Long-quan Pham (2<sup>nd</sup> under 1200). Ernie Schlich directed.



## Gloucester Chess Club

The Gloucester Chess Club has been around for a couple of years and meets at the main branch of the Gloucester Library on Tuesdays, 5:00 to 8:00pm. A great little group of adult club level players and young scholastic players has a club ladder (but no USCF tournaments). See <http://www.co.gloucester.va.us/lib/clubschess.html> for more information



## Personal & General

*from the Editor*



### DAVID DICKEY (1941-2009)

From Pedro Saavadra we learn of the death of former VCF president (1968-1969) David Dickey. David was a fixture at Virginia tournaments when I was growing up in the 1970s and I remember him well. The enduring image has him puffing on a pipe as he contemplates his position. He was a lawyer in Stanardsville (near Charlottesville) and helped seven-time state champion Charlie Powell pass the bar exam without ever attending law school! There is a nice obituary online at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailyprogress/obituary.aspx?n=david-charles-dickey&pid=136465607](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailyprogress/obituary.aspx?n=david-charles-dickey&pid=136465607)

### MISSING PAGE

I am always please when chess players contribute their analysis work to Virginia Chess, and I want to make a point to acknowledge receipt of Michael Callham's piece on the Philidor Defense. It would certainly have appeared in this issue except for a little technical problem involving a missing page! Attempts to address this with Mr Callaham through Ernie Schlich (who for some reason received the original submission) have not yielded fruit so far. I am printing this notice in hopes that we can yet establish contact and publish the work in a future issue.

### JERRY HANKEN AT US OPENS

Denis Strenzwilk is trying to collect games played by the late Jerry Hanken. In particular, Hanken participated in the US Open at Fairfax in 1976, but thus far none of these games have been found. If anyone can help out, please send whatever info you've got to the Editor ([vcfeditor@cox.net](mailto:vcfeditor@cox.net)) and I will see that it gets to the right place.

### VIRGINIA CLOSED BEST GAMES

Mark Warriner, of Richmond, donated prizes for the Best Games in the Open and Amateur sections of the recent Virginia Closed State Championship. He also collected the candidate games and oversaw the judging/selection. The winning game in the Open section was Andrew Samuelson's victory over Danny Miller, which Andy annotated in the previous issue of VIRGINIA CHESS. Honorable mentions go to the games Samuelson-Schuyler, Kitces-Samuelson, Farrell-Samuelson, McKenna-Kitces & Shibut-Samuelson. The winning game in the Amateur section was Ernie Schlich's last round defeat of Jerome Mueller.

### Jerome Mueller – Ernie Schlich

#### English

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 d5 3 b3 c6 4 g3 Bf5 5 Bb2 Nbd7 6 Bg2 e6 7 O-O h6 8 d3 Bd6 9 Nbd2 O-O 10 a3 Bh7 11 Re1 a5 12 e4 dxe4 13 dxe4 e5 14 Qc2 Qe7 15 Re2 b5



**16 Ne1?** [The knight burns a few tempi to exchange itself, leaving behind other, less active pieces.] **16...Nc5 17 Nd3 Rfd8 18 Nxc5 Bxc5** [Compare the knights, the light square bishops, and the kings' rooks to see the Black advantage.] **19 cxb5 cxb5 20 a4 Rac8 21 Qb1 b4 22 Nc4 Ng4 23 Qc2 Bd4 24 Bxd4 exd4 25 Rd1 Ne5 26 Red2 d3 27 Qc1 Nxc4 28 bxc4 Bxe4 29 Re1 f5 30 f3 Qc5+ 31 Kh1 Bc6 0-1**


Honorable mentions go to the games Cortese-Chamberlain, Faries-Schlich & Wolfe-Edwards

We intend to publish and these and perhaps other games from the Closed. However, that will be pushed off to next issue due to space considerations.

## PRIMES

Way back in VIRGINIA CHESS #1999/1 we published an article about G L Honaker's "Prime Queen Attacking Problem"—a math diversion involving prime number theory and chess's classic "Eight Queens" and "Knight's Tour" puzzles. For those interested in this sort of thing, I recently received the following from Mr (Dr?) Honaker:

A knight's tour is a numbered tour of a knight over an otherwise empty chessboard visiting each square once only. A queen placed on the start of a tour discovered by George Jelliss can attack all of the odd primes, and every odd number attacked by the queen is a prime. It is also a more restricted version known as a re-entrant tour, in which the knight, on its 64th move, could arrive back at its starting square. The sum of the odd primes in the tour is 499.

04	<b>07</b>	10	<b>23</b>	64	<b>19</b>	12	15
09	24	<b>05</b>	18	<b>11</b>	14	63	20
06	<b>03</b>	08		22	<b>61</b>	16	<b>13</b>
25	30	<b>37</b>	60	<b>17</b>	50	21	62
36	<b>59</b>	02	<b>29</b>	42	<b>53</b>	46	51
<b>31</b>	26	33	38	49	40	<b>43</b>	54
58	35	28	<b>41</b>	56	45	52	<b>47</b>
27	32	57	34	39	48	55	44

I urge you and others at VCF to check out ... the new book "Prime Curios!" ([www.primecurios.com](http://www.primecurios.com)).



## Fancy Flights in the Two Knights\*

Fun and Games at the US Senior Open

by Timothy Rogalski

Months before the 2009 US Senior Open in Tulsa, Oklahoma, I booked a flight and reserved a hotel room to share with my fellow Arlington Kings teammate, GM Larry Kaufman, who won last year's 2008 Senior Open. Later, Larry's son, IM Ray Kaufman (another fellow Arlington Kings teammate) decided to join us to play in the concurrent Master Invitational event. Larry and Ray spent a night at my home before we caught an early flight to Tulsa via Chicago. The experience was enjoyable all around: the camaraderie, the chess, the food, and especially the analysis sessions.

In the end, Larry came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, earning a \$500 stipend toward the upcoming World Senior Championship (where he captured his grandmaster title last year). Ray tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the Master Invitational and was sole winner of the Fischer-Random event. [*Larry wound up tying for 3rd at the World event, which was in Italy—ed*]

On the last night, a group of us dined at the Delta Cafe, which had delicious Oklahoma food. Others in our group of about 20 included Tom Braunlich, Larry Christiansen, Jim Berry, Ruth Harding, and Frank Berry. Tom (past organizer of the Millennium Chess Festival) kindly shuttled us to and from the airport. This was GM Christiansen's first participation in the Senior Open and he captured sole first place, locking in a spot in the 2010 US Championship. Jim Berry and Ruth Haring were recently elected to the USCF Executive Board as President and Vice President, respectively. The organizer of the Senior Open, Frank Berry, generously handled the entire restaurant bill, which made for an even more enjoyable evening.

Ray quietly ventured off after midnight to the local casino where he would remain until 6:00 am, winning an additional \$1800 at the poker tables. Ray told me about his winnings as we waited for our ride to the airport. Incredulously, I asked him to show me the money, so he beamingly produced his wallet stuffed with dozens of 100-dollar bills. During the long weekend, I observed firsthand how the Kaufman Machine cranks out success after success.

Although I have qualified for several years now, this was my first Senior Open. I achieved a plus score against four masters and regained dozens of rating points. Personally, I neither look nor feel like a senior, yet I highly recommend the event to those who feel young inside.



\* - a tip of the hat to the late I A Horowitz, who published a series of analytic articles under this title in CHESS REVIEW back in the 1950s



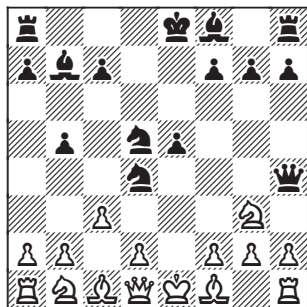
The following game, against master Dana Mackenzie, of California, featured my second queen sac of the Senior Open. The game's opening is the interesting Fritz variation of the Two Knight's Defense. For a while I gave up the "duffer's move" 4 Ng5 for the "more correct" 4 d3; however, the fun went out of my openings and my results tanked, so I am back playing lines that I love. In fact, the Two Knight's Defense is an opening I enjoy from either side. Nakamura crushed Friedel in 22 moves using 4 Ng5 at the 2009 US Championship. Professional players trust Rybka, which puts 4 Ng5 on top of its evaluation stack. I predict that more grandmasters will turn to the Italian 3 Bc4 instead of the Spanish 3 Bb5—maybe attacking Black's weak f7-square is "more correct" after all?

**Tim Rogalski - Dana Mackenzie**  
**2009 US Senior Open**  
**Two Knights**

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5  
d5 5 exd5 Nd4 6 c3 b5 7 Bf1 Nxd5  
8 Ne4 [After the game, Dana and I  
enjoyed an excellent post mortem.  
We agreed that 8 cxd4 was 2<sup>nd</sup> best,  
but we were both probably thinking  
of Estrin's dated recommendations.  
Rybka, on the other hand, gives 8 cxd4  
as best, perhaps because Black's king  
will be checked onto d8, stranded in  
the middle of the board with the rooks  
disconnected. A recent ICC game (time  
control G90+30) indicates the future  
direction of chess openings: 8...Qxg5  
9 Bxb5+ Kd8 10 O-O Bb7 11 Qf3 e4  
12 Qh3 Bc8 13 d3 Qf6 14 Qh5 Qxd4  
15 dxe4 Nf6 16 Qh4 Bd6 17 Nc3 h6 18  
Rd1 Qc5 19 Be3 g5 20 Qg3 Qb4 21 e5  
1-0, Charbonneau-Schneider, US Chess  
League 2009] 8...Qh4 9 Ng3 Bb7!?

(see diagram)

[This is a move that I have always wanted to try as Black, and instead I found myself facing it as White! It makes more sense to me than Berliner's dubious 9...Bg4?!] **10 cxd4 O-O-O 11 h3** [I was unable to find a single game

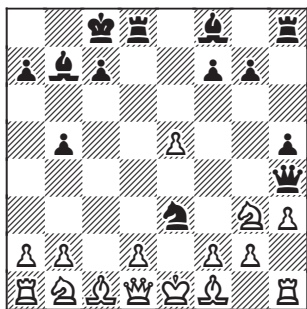


of 11 h3 within any of my databases, but I like the move! The direct idea is to play Qg4+, trading queens, effectively neutralizing any Black attack. I also had in mind a unique way to handle a future attack on my g2-pawn. However, the text does weaken White's kingside and seemingly provoke a useful response in 11...h5—another potential drawback for White is that the h5-pawn may have the option to kick the g3-knight after the Black queen moves.] **11...h5** [11...Nb4 was another possibility, directed against White's weak d3-square, eg, 12 a3?! exd4! 13 axb4 Re8+ 14 Be2 d3 and Black has easy play.] **12 dxe5** [What else? The e5-pawn may buy me



some time by closing things up on the e-file, whereas if I allow ...exd4 the open file will lead straight toward my king and the d4-pawn will cramp my development.]

**12...Ne3!!**



This spectacular move came as a surprise—I thought that my opponent had misplaced putting the knight on f4! I was expecting 12...Nf4 13 Nc3 Nxcg2+ 14 Bxcg2 Bxcg2 and now the idea behind my 11<sup>th</sup> move: 15 Rh2!? If then 15...Bxh3??

16 Qf3! Qg4 17 Qa8+ Kd7 18 Qh1! White's beautiful, problem-like maneuver guarantees the win of a second piece.

However, the knight's leap to e3 is indeed possible, again because of my 11<sup>th</sup> move weakening g3.

**13 dxe3** [Of course not 13 fxe3?? Qxcg3+ 14 Ke2 Bxcg2 and White is getting crushed. Dana thought that 13 Qb3 was better, eg 13...Nxcg2+ 14 Bxcg2 Bxcg2 15 Rh2 Bc6, but I gave it insufficient thought. I played rather quickly, happy to sacrifice my undeveloped queen for a boatload of extra material. In addition, my pawn structure is improved. With each piece trade, my remaining pieces become stronger.] **13...Rxd1+ 14 Kxd1 Bb4** [The only move I considered, but Rybka likes going after e5 immediately with 14...Qg5!] **15 a3!?** [I had a nagging fear that this might have been a



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blunder, but Rybka affirms it as best. As indicated in the note to move 13, White is simply looking to trade pieces.] **15... Rd8+ 16 Bd2** [16 Nd2 Bc5 17 Ke1 was another okay approach, but I felt my king belonged on the queenside. Now 17...Bxe3? 18 Nf3 Bxf3 19 Bxe3! would be bad for Black.] **16...Bxd2 17 Nxd2 Qe7?** [17...Qa4+! would have revealed the flaw with my 15<sup>th</sup> move: 18 Kc1 b4! (but not 18...h4? 19 Ne2 b4 20 Nd4 and White defends) 19 b3 (or 19 Bc4 Bxg2 20 Rh2? (20 Rd1 Bxh3 leads to a dismal position for White) 20...Qd7 21 Rxg2 Qxd2+ 22 Kb1 Rd3! 23 Bxd3?? Qd1+ 24 Ka2 b3mate) 19...Qd7 20 Ra2 h4 21 Ne2 Qf5 and Black infiltrates. White's advantage has evaporated, and his defense is becoming increasing difficult. The longer Rybka thinks, the larger it sees Black's advantage. This seems to confirm my intuitive alarm over my 15<sup>th</sup> move. It is now evident to me that I needed to play 13 Qb3 instead of sacrificing my queen.] **18 Rc1 Qxe5?!** [I was afraid of 18...b4 but it is not a genuine threat since White is fine after

19 Nf5! Qxe5 20 Nd4 Qf6 21 Ke1 Qe7 22 Nc2. Instead, Black should have regained some material by 18...Qd7! 19 Rc2 h4 20 Ne2 (The careless and greedy 20 Be2? would cost White all his advantage: 20...hxg3!! 21 Bg4 Qxg4+! 22 hxg4 Bxg2 23 fxg3 (23 Rg1? gxf2 24 Rxg2?? f1Qmate) 23...Bxh1 and who would prefer White's mangled pawn formation? This is a very pretty line for Black.) 20...Be4 21 Nd4 Bxc2+ 22 Kxc2 Qd5. White has three minor pieces for the queen but Black is poised to go on a pawn-grabbing expedition.] **19 Rc3 h4?!** [Kicking the knight gives White a crucial tempo to defend on the queenside. Instead 19...Qd5! 20 Rd3 Qe5 21 Kc1 (21 Rxd8+ surprisingly leads to a repetition of moves, 21...Kxd8 22 Kc1 Qc5+ 23 Kb1 Qd5 etc) 21...Rxd3 22 Bxd3 Bxg2 23 Bf5+ Kb8 24 Rg1 Bb7 25 Bc2 g6 restrains White to just a minimal edge.] **20 Ne2 Kb8** [20...c5 21 Nd4!? Kb8 22 N4f3 would have lead to a favorable consolidation for White, all because Black needs a move to break the pin on the c-pawn.] **21 Nf4! Be4** [21...Qf5 22

## Springfield Open

Jan 29-31, 2010

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Kc1 g5 23 Nd3 Bxg2 24 Bxg2 Rxd3 25 Rxd3 Qxd3 26 Rd1 g4!? 27 hxg4 Qe2 was more pressing. After 28 Ne4, not 28...Qxg4?!, which loses the queen to the forcing 29 Rd8+ Kb7 30 Nc5+ Kb6 31 Nd7+ Ka6 32 Bb7+! Ka5 (32...Kxb7 33 Rb8+ Ka6 34 Nc5+ Ka5 35 b4+) 33 b4+ Ka4 34 Nc5+ Kxa3 35 Rd3+ Kxb4 (35...Ka2 36 Bd5+ Ka1 37 Ra3mate) 36 Rd4+, demonstrating that three pieces are a force to be reckoned with when they are harmoniously coordinating; but 28...c6 29 g5 Qg4 and Black can fight on with hope of making something of his passed h-pawn. (However, the bishop controls the queening square.) **22 Kc1 Qd6 23 Nd3** [Having consolidated successfully, White is winning, primarily due to his material plus. The d3-knight is ideally located, clogging up the d-file and defending weak pawns.] **23...c5?** [Unfortunately blundering away a whole piece. Dana had spent so much

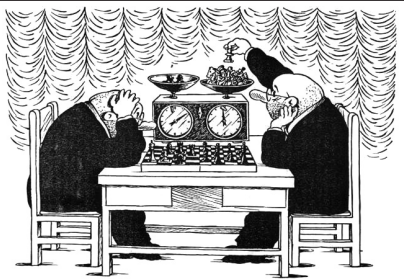
time on his 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> moves that he left himself less than 10 minutes at this point. We analyzed 23...Bh7 24 Be2 c5 25 Rd1 but Black just doesn't have enough firepower.] **24 Nxe4 Qd5 25 Nexc5 Qa2?!** **26 Nb3 a5 27 Nxa5 Qa1+ 28 Kc2 b4 29 Nc6+ Ka8 30 Ncxb4 f5 31 g3** and the trapped queen is soon lost. Dana missed several stronger moves that would have pressured me into defending accurately. This was a flawed game, but it was certainly an exciting showcase for 9...Bb7!?, which I will play myself eventually. This was fun chess! Yet, the jury is still out on the double-edged 11 h3!?!—is it good or is it bad? For those who want the answer to this question, visit <http://www.danamackenzie.com/blog/> and read Dana's excellent perspective to my notes in "Are You Rad Enough?" You might even first want to read Dana's initial notes in "Blogging from 32000 Feet". 1-0

## Hampton Sports & Chess Festival?

Planning is just starting, but this event will hopefully be held February 19-21, 2010 in Hampton and include a Friday evening Blitz and simultaneous exhibition; a Saturday scholastic tournament under VSCA; an Open chess tournament on Saturday and Sunday; and an unrated area city championships on Sunday. Keep an eye on <http://mysite.verizon.net/eschlich> for latest news. Volunteers to help staff the event and do publicity are needed - contact Ernie Schlich, [ESchlich@verizon.net](mailto:ESchlich@verizon.net)

### Augusta Chess Club

This new club meets 10am-noon every Saturday at Books-A-Million in Waynesboro. To attend you **must** register either by phoning Alex Patterson at 540-405-1111 or by emailing [AugustaChessClub@gmail.com](mailto:AugustaChessClub@gmail.com)





# Kingstowne Fall Festival VI

*by Don Millican*

**AFTER TAKING A YEAR OFF** because of a cutback in revenue-producing Quads and Action-Pluses, the Kingstowne Fall Festival returned over the weekend of October 10-11 in Alexandria for its sixth occurrence. Advance entries promised a large turnout but the Saturday morning walk-up proved disappointing. The final turnout was forty-one, right in line with the tournament's historical numbers.

Sixteen played in the FIDE-rated Open section. Stephen Jablon, of DC, did not win a prize but had a great influence in the tournament's outcome, starting with his first round defeat of IM Oladapo Adu, of Indian Head, Maryland. Adu's loss opened a chance for Alex Passov, from Falls Church, who finished clear 1<sup>st</sup> with 3½-½. Going into the final round it looked as if there would be a three-way tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> places—a decisive result in the game between Jablon and Wilbert Brown would complete the trio. However, the encounter ended in a draw, eliminating both players from the winners' circle. That left Adu and Matthew Grinberg, of Kingstowne, tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> with 3 points apiece. Richard Cordovano, of Baltimore, took Under 1800. Alexandria's Isuru Attanangoda won top Under 1600.

The thirteen-player Amateur (U1800-Unr) section saw the restriction on Unrateds' prizewinning come into play as Amanullah Ranja, of Alexandria, scored a perfect 5-0 to win his first-ever tournament. Joel Dewyer, of Catonsville, Maryland, took 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 3½-1½. Thomas Saunders, of Springfield, & Pamela Lee, of Kingstowne, shared 3<sup>rd</sup> with Lee also picking up Under 1600. Kiffa Conroy, of Fairfax, & Ryan Zhou, from Herndon, tied for Under 1400.

Shicheng Zhao, from Herndon, won the twelve-player Reserve (U1600-Unr.) section by defeating his sister Shiling in the last round! I had tried to avoid pairing the siblings, but in the finale pairing was unavoidable in light of the standings. David Hauge & Ryan Jones, both from DC, tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. Alexander Ratliff, also from DC, won Under 1400. Shiling Zhao wound up as top Under 1200. Charles Shi, of North Potomac, Maryland, & Jnanadeep Dandu, from Herndon, shared top Under 1000.

Although three players took final round byes, most everyone else stayed until the end. There were only one withdrawal and one forfeit, both in the last round. Until now, I had never had a tournament of two-day duration with so few dropouts.

The first Kingstowne event for 2010, another Quad/Action-Plus, is scheduled for January 10. Valentine's Day weekend will bring our flagship event: the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Kingstowne Chess Festival. Information on all three is in CHESS LIFE or on USCF's website.



## Emporia Open

by Sam Conner



They say all good things must come to an end, and such is the Emporia Open. After twenty-five years, Woodrow Harris decided to turn out the lights on one of the most unique chess tournaments the Old Dominion has ever seen. The final event was won by Raymond Fletcher with  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ , followed by Keith Carson with 4 and a logjam at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  points.

Woody claims he closed down because of professional concerns and a Vice-Mayoral reelection campaign in 2010. I think it's because he is no longer assured of the same quality of country ham to make the biscuits that became a trademark of the event.

When I heard the event was on its last lap, I decided to come out of *caissic* retirement and play. I joined 28 others on October 23-24 at the Ruritan club in Emporia on the grounds of Virginia Pork Festival. My old pal Steve Miller had to cancel on attending due to work demands, so I ventured to Emporia on my own. I immediately experienced a few shocks. First, ten-time Emporia winner Macon Shibut came down sick and had to miss the event. Second, because of Macon's absence, your humble reporter found himself the top seed in the event.

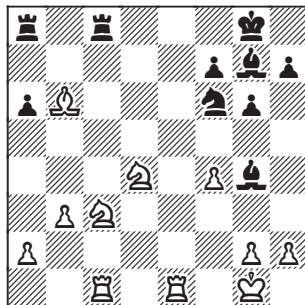
The event was highly competitive. Early draws and the like led to a third round contest between undefeated players:

### Yuval Shemesh-David Hulvey Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bb5 Nd4 6 O-O Nxb5 7 Nxb5 d5 8 exd5 Qb6 9 c4 Nf6 10 Nc3 O-O 11 b3 e6 12 Na4 Qc7 13 Bb2 exd5 14 Be5 Qc6 15 cxd5 Qxd5 16 d4 cxd4 17 Qxd4 Qxd4+ 18 Nxd4 b6 19 Rac1 Bd7 20 Nc3 a6 21 Rfd1 Rfd8 22 Bc7 Rdc8 23 Bxb6 Bg4 24 Re1 (diagram)

24...Rxc3 25 Rxc3 Nd5 26 Rce3 Nxb6 27 Re8+ Rxe8 28 Rxe8+ Bf8 29 h3 Bc8 30 a4 Kg7 31 Kf1 Bd7 32 Re5 Bd6 33 Ra5 Bc8 34 g3 Bb7 35 Kf2 Nd5 36 Nc2 f6 37 f5 Bc7 0-1

As so often happens in a five round swiss tournament, rds 3-5 were a sort of round robin experience. I drew Carson in rd 3 while Fletcher won a nail biter against Joe Fairies. Raymond beat Dave Hulvey in rd 4, while Carson and your humble reporter won their respective games and Yuval lost (and withdrew). In the final round, Carson defeated Hulvey and I was paired against Fletcher.





Our game proved a lesson I first learned in 1972: in the Orthodox King's Indian, Black's avalanche attack had better break through! Raymond defended extremely well in time pressure and compelled my resignation at around move 56 with exactly 17 seconds left on the clock. (I was confident he saw the mate in one.)

After so many years away, I suffered a degree of culture shock. The prevalence of digital clocks meant there was no "thock" sound of clock plungers, even in time trouble. Yuval Shemesh kindly showed me his handheld electronic scorebook, allowing immediate play-by-play of your brilliancies and blunders.

Woody again made this a most hospitable event. He provided the traditional "substantial refreshments," brought out decades worth of chess magazines, and showed off the tournament scrapbook with crosstables and press clippings of the previous events. But even the refreshments had changed. A groaning board that in former years was dominated by bacon and cheese and potato chips now had plenty of fruit and more healthy alternatives.

It was a lovely weekend. I regret that I had missed so many Emporia Opens. It seemed like poetic justice that I was part of the last game of the last round of the last one.

My thanks—and the thanks of the many players who have journeyed to Emporia—go out to Woodrow Harris for his longtime hosting of an event that was unique for its down-home flavor. While it is officially "over," I hope that down the road Woodrow gets the itch to host another one.

Until then... well, can someone let me know where I can get good ham biscuits?





## Book Review

## The Complete Hedgehog

by Sergey Shipov, Mongoose Press 2009,

532 pages, cover price \$29.95



### GREATEST OPENING BOOK EVER?

It is becoming a pleasant tradition: every year, just in time for Christmas shopping, the publishing house Mongoose Press ([www.mongoosepress.com](http://www.mongoosepress.com)) sends a review copy of their latest chess offering. In 2007 it was *Chess Gems: 1000 Combinations You Should Know*, by Igor Sukhin, an anthology of beautiful tactical creations that we judged “the rare gift that would suit players of all levels!” (See VIRGINIA CHESS #2007/6, p 23) Last year it was Zhivko Kaikamjov’s *The Genius and the Misery of Chess*, a collection of biographical sketches and games that I thought had some issues, but also contained material of interest. (VIRGINIA CHESS #2008/6, p 26) This year the Mongoose crew has been twice as nice, providing two books: Dan Heisman’s *The Improving Chess Thinker* and Sergey Shipov’s *The Complete Hedgehog*.

I will touch on the Heisman book only briefly. Its author is perhaps best known from his regular column “Novice Nook” on the ChessCafé.com web site. Heisman’s interest is not so much chess itself as teaching chess and exploring the mental processes that distinguish chess players. Although I never followed him carefully, I have a recollection his writing somewhere the most cogent explanation of Nimzowitsch’s “overprotection” that I have ever read.

The premise of *The Improving Chess Thinker* is that identifiable tendencies distinguish the thought patterns of players at any given level. That is, encountering a particular chess position, class D players will almost all begin by noticing X and Y, and they will set off in their analysis by trying to make Z work; whereas class A players will notice that A and B are the critical features, and accordingly their analysis will focus exclusively on deciding between C and D.

If this is true, looking at the characteristic habits of where you are now, and comparing them to what they ought to be if you want to step up to the next level, would seem like a promising way to improve. This book attempts to provide a resource for doing just that. The material is organized by class (rating) and includes concrete examples and exercises geared to each step up the food chain. Personally I’ve never cared much for such books; but if they are your cup of tea, this appears to be a good and useful one.

Ah, but now I get to tell you about Sergey Shipov’s book... It’s an opening manual, and yet it is much more. It is a highly personal reflection on chess—all of chess really, even though the author has chosen to look at the game through the peculiar



lens that is the Hedgehog. I learned a lot from reading it, but more than that, as a practical player I related to it on nearly every page.

Opening books tend to fall into two camps. The classical format—think of the great Chess Digest monographs of the 1960s and '70s—divide an opening into “variations,” each with its own chapter. Chapters typically begin with a short text introduction to key strategic and structural features of the variation. Then follows an exhaustive crawl through the Analysis Tree. (“Line B3c11: 7 Nbd2...”) Each branch of the tree gets extended out to where a more or less definitive evaluation can be offered. Then, on to the next branch.

Sometime around 1990, the idea came into vogue that understanding an opening ought not be disconnected from understanding the ensuing middlegame. This gave rise to the Illustrated Games format. The underlying tree of variations still exists in these books, but it is not so explicit. Basically, these books are just game collections. For whatever variation you are interested in, expect to find two or three complete, heavily annotated games: complete because a game was selected based on supposedly ‘thematic’ or ‘typical’ qualities of its middlegame or even its ending; and heavily annotated inasmuch as, for the opening moves at least, every worthy alternative gets a full airing. In this manner, Illustrative Games books try to match Analysis Tree books in terms of exhaustively covering the entire opening.

Well, forget all that as you open *The Complete Hedgehog*. Welcome to what I will call the Thematic/Chronological approach to openings. The book is again a game collection, but one that makes hash of trees and variations. No, chess is a game of ideas. Games that turn on the same underlying strategic idea are related—and ought to be considered together—even if the moves are completely different. Variations with divergent core ideas, on the other hand, ought not be cojoined ‘merely’ because they share some introductory moves.

An example from familiar territory outside the Hedgehog will clarify the point. Opening literature falls in line with a taxonomy of standard, named move sequences. Anyone interested in, for example, the ramifications of 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 knows to look for books with “Ruy Lopez” in the title. Inside such books we expect to find the Closed Variation (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 O-O Be7 6 Re1); the Open Variation (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 O-O Nxe4); the Berlin Defense (e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nf6); the Exchange Variation (e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6); the Marshall Gambit (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 O-O Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 O-O 8 c3 d5); etc, etc. However—is it not fair to question whether this is artificial? How closely related are, say, the Open and the Exchange variations, really? Would not the Exchange Variation feel more at home in a book that also discusses 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4? Thematically, of course, it



would. But it doesn't usually happen that way, at least in part because we've accepted labels—Ruy Lopez, Nimzoindian—that force ideas to live out their days in separate tomes, forever apart from their conceptual kinfolk.

Within the (admittedly limited) realm of the Hedgehog, Shipov ventures a different, more holistic approach. Instead of 'variations' in the traditional sense, the focus here is on Ideas. Chapter titles include, eg. "Trading Off the Bishop at f6"; "White Aims for a Quick Attack on the Pawn at d6"; and the ever-popular "Knight goes to c6".

Move orders come and go. Certain sequences get considered and reconsidered multiple times. There may be others that are never mentioned at all. Occasionally Shipov spins off into lengthy digressions. Other times he will point out a move, perhaps even hint that it may be the critical continuation, and then—put off any further discussion of it so as not to distract from his point at hand! "Later, children," he purrs, "all things in good time..."

But surely there is some guiding organizational principle? Indeed there is, and this is where the Chronological part comes in. Again, the motive is to treat the opening holistically. It is historical fact that certain ideas were discovered first. Others came later, and often they had to come later because they originated not of themselves but as reactions—attempts to address problems that had come to light with earlier ideas. The triumph of Shipov's selection and ordering of material is that he successfully recreates a sense of the intellectual path of discovery that produced theory's verdict on each idea. Guiding the reader through the grandmasters' collective experience of trial and error, Shipov does not even attempt to be 'comprehensive'. Were this put to him as criticism, I imagine he'd shrug it off with something like, "Nobody can remember all the moves anyway."

Personally, I love every page. It fits me and my way of thinking just like my messy desk: it may appear to be a pile of chaos, but I know exactly where everything is. Clean it, organize it, on the other hand, and I would be lost. I should mention another book I enjoyed for much the same reason: Ilya Odessky's *Play 1 b3!*, *The Nimzo-Larsen Attack: a Friend for Life*. I suspect that not every opening would benefit from this methodology. Indeed, is it not fitting somehow that old, classical openings like the Ruy Lopez or the Queen's Gambit are documented using the old, classical formats? Whereas the only two Thematic/Chronological opening books that I am aware of both treat 'modern' systems with indefinite pawn structures, fluid move orders, myriad transposition possibilities.

### Virginia Senior Championship

June 12-13, 2010 — Lincolnia Senior Center, Alexandria

Age 50+ - Look for details in future issues



Most opening text are not to be read straight through. You jump around, you pick and choose chapters based on your needs and which variations are in your repertoire. The Complete Hedgehog is different. Shipov takes the reader in hand and says, "let me tell you a story..." Start at page 1 and work straight through to 527(!) Your guide's tone throughout—casual, often humorous, but also experienced and authoritative—is perfect for what Shipov is offering: not knowledge, not data, but wisdom. Each game builds on the previous one. Still, I managed to pluck out an excerpt to give you the flavor of this unspeakably fine book.

—Macon Shibut

### L Espig – S Shipov Berlin 1995

The German grandmaster is an experienced Hedgehog hunter. He was successfully defeating woodland creatures when I was still learning the subtleties of chess. So it was that much more interesting to play him, and test his knowledge.

**1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 Nc3 e6 4 g3  
b6 5 Bg2 Bb7 6 O-O Be7 7 d4  
cxd4 8 Qxd4 d6 9 Rd1 a6 10 b3  
Nbd7 11 e4 Qc8!**

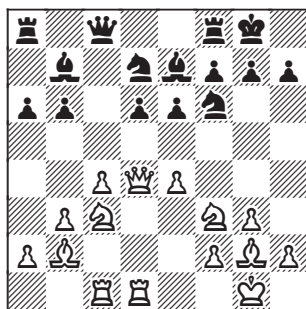
No endgames with a veteran!

*[Reviewer's Note: The game appears in the course of discussing plans with an e5 break, steering toward a favorable endgame, as in, eg, 11...O-O 12 Ba3 Nc5 13 e5 dxe5 14 Qxd8 Rfxd8 15 Nxe5 Bxg2 16 Kxg2 De Firmian - Zivanovic 1981; or 11...Qc7 12 Ba3 Nc5 13 e5 dxe5 14 Qxe5 Rc8 15 Qxc7 Rxc7 Ribli - Ambroz 1982. 11...Qc8 is Shipov's prescription for avoiding an early queen exchange.]*

### 12 Bb2 O-O 13 Qe3

In accordance with the Uhlmann doctrine, White's queen begins its retreat deep inside its own fortress, letting the minor pieces advance.

What should Black do if White takes a theatrical pause - something like 13 Rac1?



Here Black should refrain himself from 13...Qc7 since even with the loss of a tempo, White can play the center shot: 14 Ba3 Nc5 15 e5! dxe5 (15...Bxf3 16 exd6!) 16 Qxe5 Rfc8 (on 16...Qc8, 17 Nd5! is strong) 17 Bb2 - the bishop retreats, so as not to expose itself to the ...Nc5xb3 shot. The results of the operation do not inspire confidence: Black has a dull endgame ahead.

So for now, Black does better to play 13...Re8! - this move is always useful. And if the white queen retreats to e3, then he can re-establish the proper distance by ...Qd8-c7. On the other hand, White



could continue the opposition by 14. h3!? - one of the last useful moves he can make in this position! Such Hedgehog experts as Gheorghiu and Suba retreat the bishop to f8 in this case, handing the move back to White again. Real cat-and-mouse play!

On the other hand 14...Qc7 is now quite playable. The point is that after 15. Ba3 Nc5 16. e5 dxe5 17. Qxe5 Qxe5 18. Nxe5 Bxg2 19. Kxg2, Black can set his opponent problems by 19...Nxb3! My own calculations show that Black gets a pleasant endgame out of this. For example, 20. Bxe7 Nxc1 (and the bishop on e7 is en pris!) 21. Bxf6 gxf6 22. Ng4 Rec8! 23. Rxc1 Rxc4. With play on both flanks, Black's rook and pawn must prove stronger than White's two knights.

White can get off this roller-coaster ride with the in-between move 19. Bxc5 (instead of 19. Kxg2), and after 19...Bxh3 20. Bxb6 Rac8 21. f3 h5, we get a very complex position, which is equally dangerous for both sides.

### 13...Qc7

Now, with the pressure on d6 removed, Black can set out his pieces in a more human fashion.

### 14 h3 Rfe8 15 Rac1 Rad8

Making it look as though Black wants to break out in the center right away. Or perhaps I am only making it look that way, when actually I really want to break out! It's a double bluff - a necessary element of mastery.

### 16 Qe2

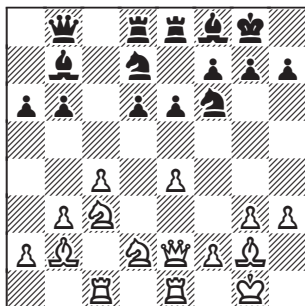
White has learned a bitter lesson!

A couple years before our encounter, the grandmaster forgot to take his queen out of danger, for which he paid the price: 16. Nh2 Qb8 17. Ng4 (the Hedgehog does not fear this typical Ruy maneuver) 17... Ba8 18. Ne2 Nxc4 19. hxc4 h6 20. Rc2? (he had to put the point on his lance immediately with 20. Nd4!, when 20...d5 would be bad in view of 21. cxd5 exd5 22. Nf5! Bf8 23. g5!) 20...Ne5 21. f3 (playing 21. Bh3 now would be psychologically difficult) 21...d5! 22. exd5 Bc5 (another demonstration of what had been demonstrated long ago) 23. Bd4 exd5 24. Bxc5 bxc5 25. cxd5 Bxd5 26. Qc3 - and Black was able to exploit the weakness of White's back rank by a simple combination: 26...Bxf3! 27. Rxd8 Qxd8 28. Bxf3 Qd1+ 29. Kf2 (29. Kg2 Nxf3! 30. Kxf3 Qf1#) 29...Nd3+. White painfully gave up is queen, and soon resigned. (L. Espig - M. Womacka, Germany 1993).

### 16...Qb8 17 Re1

Normal back-and-forth maneuvering.

### 17...Bf8 18 Nd2





Possibly deviating from the standard plan. Of course, this cannot be the most dangerous setup of White pieces for Black to face. The knight does solidly defend the e4 and c4 squares from d2; but at the same time, it gets in the way of the rooks, and what's more important, it fails to control b5.

### 18...g6

The planned transfer of the bishop to the long diagonal. The d6-pawn no longer needs its protection.

### 19 Nf1

The first surprise for my young self. Where is the knight headed?

### 19...Bg7 20 Rcd1 Nc5

Besides putting pressure on e4, the knight constantly provokes White to play the active b3-b4, which most often offers no benefit, but merely weakens c4.

### 21 Qc2 Ba8 22 Ne3

Here's the final stop for this pony. This way, White nails down d5 forever, and supports the c4-pawn against a possible ...b6-b5.

But! In the meantime, first of all, he hinders any defense of the e4-pawn, since the knight is blocking the rook on e1; and secondly, White in fact does not prevent the execution of the ...b6-b5 break. It still seems to me that the knight stood better on d4 than here - and it would have gotten there three times faster!

### 22...Rc8

When you can't see how to break through, you need to make a few senseless moves that don't alter the position. This is a normal player's tactic, but to tell the truth, it's much better to see it, anyway!

I didn't play 22...b5!? because of 23 b4 Ncd7 24 cxb5 axb5 25 Qd3, failing to see the beautiful shot 25...Nxe4! 26 Bxe4 d5, when Black recovers the piece with good counterplay. And it's a very good thing that I didn't see it! Because instead of 25 Qd3, White has the much stronger 25 Qe2!, after which the natural reply 25...Bc6 meets with the combinative refutation 26 e5! Nxe5 27 f4 Bxg2 28 fxe5 when Black doesn't get sufficient compensation for the piece.

Here's a case where my inadequate calculation allowed me to avoid a miscalculation! It's a paradox!

### 23 Qb1 h5!

A small battlefield feint, a useful tool in the Hedgehog. Black threatens to "cut up" the dark squares in White's position with ...h5-h4. Either that, or he's bluffing again... For the White player, this possible stab by Black's pawn will grate constantly on his nerves. In fact, I didn't want to put this threat into action right away. I simply decided to scare my opponent a bit!

### 24 h4

And he got scared! Now the g4 square becomes accessible to



Black's knight. And only the presence of the nonstandard, unattached white knight on e3 mitigates its effect. For the time being...

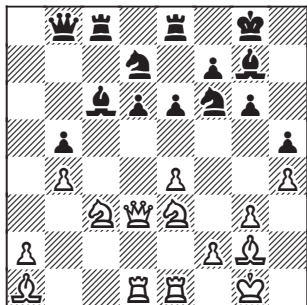
### 24...Bc6

Of course, Black could not play 24...Nfxe4 25 Nxe4 Bxe4 26 Bxe4 Bxb2 because of 27 Bxg6! Bc3 28 Bxh5 Bxe1 29 Rxe1, when White obtains a pawn and a powerful initiative for the exchange.

### 25 Ba1 b5

Black could have continued his round-about maneuverings; but I decided that if I did not set my opponent some concrete tasks to solve in the next few moves, he would be able to survive the impending time pressure without losing anything. And that wasn't part of my plans.

### 26 b4 Ncd7 27 cxb5 axb5 28 Qd3



As often happens, a sparkling breakthrough has left Black with a weak pawn on b5; in return, he has the opportunity to establish one of his pieces at c4. The disappearance of the c4-pawn also makes it easier to get in ...d6-d5.

### 28...Bf8

Played with gritted teeth. One hates to put such an active fighter in such a passive position. In fact, the Hedgehog nearly always offers an opportunity to defend weaknesses indirectly, by means of tactical counterthreats. And such is the case here: 28...Rc7!? contains the idea of replying to 29 Qxd6 by 29...Bf8! 30 Qd4 e5 31 Qd3 Bxb4, when Black is just fine.

### 29 f4

Sensing my uncertainty, the mature hunter sets off on the chase...

### 29...Qa8

An exchange of the b5-pawn for the e4-pawn is almost always in Black's favor.

### 30 Re2 Be7 31 Bb2 Red8?!

A typical case: I'm not sure what to do. I am trying to maneuver in such a way that some sort of tactical idea may come up. The rook must always be placed opposite White's queen! But the unprotected bishop should not be left alone to face the opponent's forces.

I didn't want to play 31...Nb6 in view of 32 f5!, when the black king's fortress unexpectedly faces ruin. So 31...Qb8! was the more practical choice.

### 32 Nc2?!

When the grandmaster took hold of the knight, I grew thoroughly frightened, as I saw a strong move for it to make. Fortunately, the knight went off in the wrong direction, heading off to snap up the poor pawn on b5!

He could have made my nightmare a reality by 32 Ned5!, with terrible complications, which certainly would



have ended in the fall of one flag or the other. The variations here are numberless. Interestingly, after 32...Bf8 33 Nx6+ Nxf6, White would send a second suicide attack onto the same square: 34 Nd5! This one, however, would survive: 34...Nd7! 35 Qc3 e5, with a small advantage to White.

Black's strongest reply would be 32...Qa7+, when White should trade queens at e3, since after 33 Kh1 exd5 34 exd5 Ne5! 35 fxe5 dxe5, the threat of ...Nf6-g4-f2 would render White's position difficult.

### 32...Ng4!

The square Black's knight has been lusting after.

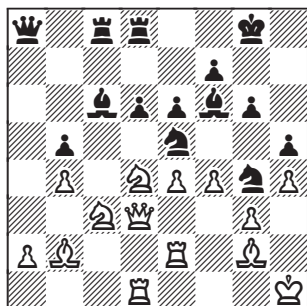
### 33 Nd4 Bf6

I begin to play on the dark squares.

### 34 Kh1

34 Ndx5 would be strongly met by 34...Rb8! 35 a3 (or 35 a4 Bxb5 36 axb5 Qa7+ and White loses the exchange) 35...Bxb5 36 Nxb5 Bxb2 37 Rxb2 Rxb5! 38 Qxb5 Qxa3 39 Re2 Qxg3, which results in the white king falling into a mating net.

### 34...Nde5!



A most unpleasant shot! Especially with the seconds ticking away. As so many times before in the Hedgehog's history, the opposition of Black's rook and White's queen tells.

### 35 Qb1

Black's idea consists of the variation 35 fxe5 dxe5 36 Nd5 exd5 37 Nxc6 dxe4!, and White must lose material.

### 35...Nc4

Black has succeeded in activating all his minor pieces: White's in trouble. What followed was organized chaos! With our flags hanging, we set out to gobble everything we could at a dead run; being younger and quicker, I managed to gobble one piece more than he did!

### 36 Nxc6 Nxb2! 37 e5?

37 Nxd8! Nxd1 38 Nxd1 would have held out longer; but here too, none dare call it equal: 38...Bxd8! 39 Bf3 Rc4 40 Kg2 Bb6! 41 Qd3 Qc6 42 a3 Ba7!, and Black gradually increases his threats. To continue, he could throw more fuel on the fire by ...e6-e5! and send his queen to g1.

### 37...Nxd1 38 Qxd1 Rxc6 39 exf6 Qc8! 40 Bxc6 Qxc6+ 41 Ne4 Qxe4+!

The fork at f2 will result in the win of a piece. White resigned. Pleasant memories!





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# In This Issue:

## Tournaments

Northern Virginia Open .....	1
David Zofchak Memorial .....	5
Kingstowne Chess Festival.....	13
Emporia Open.....	14

## Features

Fancy Flights in the Two Knights (Rogalski) .....	7
Book Review (Shibut).....	16

## Odds & Ends

Virginia Open Announcement.....	4
Gloucester Chess Club .....	5
Personal & General ( <i>from the Editor</i> ).....	6
Augusta Chess Club .....	12
Upcoming Events .....	4, 11, 12, 18, 24
VCF Info .....	<i>inside front cover</i>



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