

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2010 - #3



GM Alexandra Kosteniuk

(see page 9)

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2010 - Issue #3

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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.

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Kingstowne Chess Club

by Don Millican

KINGSTOWNE QUAD #63/ACTION-PLUS #35

Chessplayers popped out like spring flowers at Kingstowne Quad#63/Action-Plus #35 on April 3 in Alexandria. A respectable eight played in the Quads while an all-time high of thirty-two went for the Action-Plus.

Steven Chilson & Aditya Singh tied for 1st in the top Quad. Chilson took the 1st place silver medal on tiebreak, leaving Singh the 2nd place bronze. The Singh family made it two for two as Aditya's sister Kritika won the bottom Quad by 3-0. Saroj Chintakrindi finished in second place.

In the Action-Plus, Scholastic K-12 Champion Quentin Moore won with a perfect 5-0. Narciso Victoria, Adam Renfro Chrisney & Jesse Cai tied for 2nd-4th with Cai also winning Under 1800. Under 1400 split four ways between Ryan Zhou, Jerry Wu, Jason Liu & Akshaj Kadaveru. Anusha Allamsetty took Top Unrated with 1.

KINGSTOWNE QUAD #64/ACTION-PLUS#36

The May 1 edition of the Quads/Action-Plus had me screaming *MAYDAY!* Nineteen players turned out for the Quads, but due to computer problems or my own errors (most likely the latter), players mysteriously disappeared from the data files or found themselves entered in two sections. Adding to my panic was that bane of every TD: throngs arriving ten minutes before the registration cut-off. In the end I wound up with five sections, but the mix-ups left two of them only three players.

Peter Snow won the top Quad and a gold medal with a perfect 3-0. Amanullah Ranja took the second place bronze. Another 3-0 gold medal for Quad 2 went to Amin Karim. Carlston Boucher took second place. Shorthanded Quad 3 was won by Aaryan Balu, followed by Anthony Greenwood. Shorthanded Quad 4 saw Aditya Srikanth win, with Delont Richardson second. Quad 5 had Rahil Shah go 3-0 to take a gold medal while Marwan Lloyd came second.

Twenty-two played in the Action-Plus. Narciso Victoria, Quentin Moore, Alexander Passov & Adam Chrisney finished in a 4-way tie for first, all with 4-1. Chrisney also won Under 1800. Alexander Taborn, Jason Liu & Gavin Moore (brother of co-winner Quentin) finished in a 3-way tie for Under 1400 with 2½ points each.

Besides the large turnout, these were the strongest tournaments ever for the Quad/Action-Plus series. The top Quad sported an Expert, a B-player and two Cs. The ten highest rated of the Action-Plus consisted of three Experts, an A-player, three B-players and three Cs.

74th Annual

Virginia Closed State Championship

September 4-6, 2010

Hilton Garden Inn Richmond-Innsbrook

4050 Cox Rd, Glen Allen, VA

Open to Virginia residents, military stationed in Virginia, and students attending any Virginia school, college or university (must show valid ID or other proof of Fall 2010 enrollment). 6-SS, 30/90, SD/1. \$\$2,350 b/75 paid entries. Two sections, Open and Amateur (under 1800). *Open* \$500-300-200, X, A \$100 each. Trophy + title of Virginia State Champion to 1st overall, additional trophies to top X & A. *Amateur* \$400-200-150, C, D, U1200, Unrated \$100 each. Trophy + title of Virginia Amateur Champion to 1st overall, additional trophies to top C, D, U1200. Trophies to top Senior (60+), Junior (U18) and Woman across both sections based on adding 1 point to Open section scores. Reg Friday, Sept 3, 3-6:30pm & Saturday Sep 4, 10:00am-12:30pm. Rds 1-7, 11-5, 10-3:30. EF \$55 if received by Sept 2, \$65 thereafter and on site. Re-entry with ½-pt bye allowed for rd 2 only, \$30. Two irrevocable ½-pt byes available, must declare before start of rd 2. Hotel \$89, reserve before 8/16 and ask for chess rate (804) 521-2900, <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com>. W, NS, NC, FIDE. Chess Magnet School JGP. *Enter* Make checks to "VIRGINIA CHESS" and mail to Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: VA Closed, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693. Info mhoffpauir@aol.com, 757-846-4805, or <http://www.vachess.org/2010closed.htm>.

Annual VCF Business Meeting
Saturday, Sept 4, 10am-12 noon.

Friday Night Blitz

Sept 3

Open to all USCF members. Same venue, pre-entry address, etc as main tournament. 4 or 5-DblSS depending on number of players. EF \$25 if received by Sept 2, \$35 thereafter and at door. Two sections, Open and Amateur (U1800). \$\$500 b/30 paid entries. Rd 1 at 7:00pm, subsequent rounds paired as soon as practicable.





Bill Hook (1925-2010)

Chess master William (Bill) Hook died on May 9. For many years he lived in the Washington, DC area and played in many local tournaments. He captained Washington's champion-winning National Chess League team in 1976. As a part-time resident of British Virgin Islands, Bill represented that island nation in 19 chess Olympiads, including 1980 in Malta gold medal on first board. (The British issued a stamp bearing a position from games in honor of this accomplishment.)

Beyond chess he was a renowned photographer. His 2007 memoir *ON CHESS* has many interesting stories years as a young chess hustler in New York in the 1950s.

Bill and his wife Mimi hosted local masters in countless legendary blitz tournaments, played in the basement of their home. Frequently these events featured noteworthy international guests who Bill had met during his travels.



Vladimir Liberzon – Bill Hook
21st Chess Olympiad, Nice, France 1974
French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 Bxc3+ 6 bxc3 Qa5 7 Bd2 Qa4 8 Qg4 Kf8 9 Ra2 Nc6 10 Nf3 b6 11 Bd3 Ba6 12 O-O Bxd3 13 cxd3 c4 14 dxc4 Qxc4 15 Raa1 Na5 16 Qf4 h6 17 Bc1 Qa4 18 h4 Ne7 19 h5 Rc8 20 Bd2 Qc2 21 c4 Nb3 22 Rad1 Rxc4 23 Bb4 Ke8 24 Rfe1 a5 25 Bd6 b5 26 g4 Nc6 27 Kg2 a4 28 Kg3 Rg8 29 Kg2 g6 30 Qxh6 gxh5 31 Qxh5 Qg6 32 Qxg6 Rxg6 33 Kh3 Ncxd4 34 Nxd4 Nxd4 35 Rd3 Nb3 36 f3 Kd7 37 Kg3 Rh6 38 Rf1 Nc5 39 Rdd1 Rc3 40 Kf4 Rh3 41 Bxc5 Rxc5 42 Rd3 Rh2 43 Kg5 Ke7 44 Rb1 Rh8 45 Rd4 Rg8+ 46 Kh4 Rc4 47 Rd3 Rb8 48 Kg5 Rg8+ 49 Kh4 Rb8 50 Kg5 b4 51 axb4 Rxb4 52 Rxb4 Rxb4 53 Ra3 Rb3 54 Rxa4 Rxf3 55 Kh6 Kd7 56 Ra6 Re3 57 Ra7+ Kc6 58 Rxf7 d4 59 g5 d3 60 Rf1 Kd5 61 g6 Rg3 62 g7 Kxe5 63 Rf8 d2 64 Rd8 Kf6 65 Rf8+ Ke7 66 Rf1 e5 67 Rd1 Rg2 68 Kh7 e4 69 g8Q Rxg8 70 Rxd2 Rg4 71 Kh6 Ke6 72 Kh5 Rg8 0-1



The School of Rapid Undevelopment

by Timothy Rogalski

WARNING: Do not read! Information herein may be hazardous to your tournament results! This article, which highlights two serious rated games of the Modern French, contains entertaining satire and parody. Blindness will occur if your eyes divert downward. You will lose your next game if you continue reading. Stop!

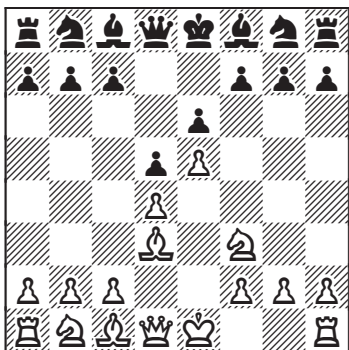
PAUL MORPHY pioneered accurate, rapid development. In his day, he was the undisputed King of the Open Board and produced sparking combinations that will forever illuminate the corridors of Chess. However, there was one place that he hesitated to enter: the closed position! Morphy instinctively knew that a terrible demon lives in the dark cave of closed positions. The floor of this dangerous cavern is littered with the bones of countless victims who dared to enter, and their screams forever echo their terror.

Yes, few enter, and even fewer have escaped. Those who lived to tell their terrible tale have been horribly disfigured. They may look normal on the outside, but inside their chess souls have been ripped out of their psyche.

What is the demon that Morphy dreaded? Well, where there is Ying, there must be Yang. Where there is matter, there must exist anti-matter. Morphy pioneered the School of Rapid Development, but there exists its sinister foil: the School of Rapid Undevelopment, where every classical opening rule is broken! Few ever speak of this school, and even then only in hushed tones while mothers cover the ears of their children. Morphy spent his entire life struggling with this demon.

Roberto Jose (1434) - Tim Rogalski (1676)
Buffalo Cheapo Open, Buffalo, NY 1979
French

1 e4? Hungarian master Gyula Breyer said that White's game is in its last throes after this move, and rightly so. White recklessly throws his e-pawn into the middle of the board, alone and unprotected. Actually, Breyer intended his famous remark to apply to the position after **1 e4 e5 2 f4**, but somehow that became morphed because Morphy loved the King's Gambit. **1...e6 2 d4 d5 3 Bd3?!** Developing bishops before knights is classically considered bad. From here on, Black takes control of the game. **3...Nf6!? 4 e5?** Poor White. He actually thinks the knight was foolish for exposing itself to attack. In fact, he has naively entered the Twilight Zone of closed positions, where normal rules are bent and distorted. **4...Ng8!** If you must break classical opening principles, then to be successful you must break them all. This valiant knight hasn't lost time with undevelopment. No. This brave steed has successfully provoked... the dreaded closed position! **5 Nf3**



5...Qd7 Correct! Bring the queen out early and block the development of your other pieces. This works because the king's knight isn't on d7. **6 Nc3 Bb4** Black needlessly pins the knight, but the laws of time and space are already warped. **7 Bd2 Nc6** Cramp yourself further by blocking the c-pawn. **8 a3 Bf8!** One of the demon's favorite moves, which was played instantly and with a little flurry while pressing the clock. Don't bother trading pieces to relieve your cramp. The School of Undevelopment states that the more time you lose, the more overconfident your opponent

will become, and the greater will be his downfall. **9 Qe2 b6** With the intention to fianchetto the bishop on a closed diagonal. No need to control open lines; the open lines will come to you. **10 Be3 Bb7** This bishop is brimming with energy and has its cross-hairs on g2. **11 O-O O-O-O** Castle boldly into the coming queenside attack. **12 Bf4 f5** Further blocking the position is the smart thing to do. **13 Rab1 Nh6** Develop the knight to the edge of the board. **14 h3 Nf7** Don't bother completing development by connecting rooks. Move a piece twice. **15 b4 a5** Weaken the pawns around your own king. **16 bxa5 Nxa5** Knights *like* being on the edge of the board because from there they can only improve their position. **17 a4 Be7?! Of** course Black's first sensible looking piece move of the game is dubious, allowing a small shot that White overlooks. **18 Bb5?! White** fails to exploit Black's lapse by 18 Bxf5 and instead makes a dubious move of his own. **18...Nc6** Okay, back on track. Self-pin the knight. **19 Na2** White is so bedazzled by Black's incredible play that he can't see what's coming. **19...g5 20 Bd2 h5 21 c4** White feels honor-bound to punish Black for his many eccentricities, and so blows open the position. **21...dxc4** The very ground before g2 is splitting apart. **22 Bxc4?** White actually touched his bishop with the intention of moving it. Touch move rules apply! And so White belatedly tries some undevelopment of his own—alas! with dire results. **22...g4 23 hxc4 hxc4 24 Ne1 Nxd4 25 Qe3 Bg5** The demon flicked one of his fingers. **26 Qa3?? Qd5!!** Black crowns his resplendent play by offering a queen sacrifice. This has greater shock value than capturing free pieces. **27 Qg3??** and **0-1** as my opponent didn't wait for 27... Qxc4 but simply resigned in disgust. He looked at me in complete disbelief, and I could read his thoughts. He was mentally shouting: *Why must I lose to this idiot?* He was completely shell-shocked. Minutes later, while still shaking his head, he said that he never should have lost, and that he would beat me next time. Then he glanced into the eyes of the demon, and fled the tournament hall. That was the last tournament I ever saw him play.



G L Pote (1794) - Tim Rogalski (1733)

World Open 1980

French

This was a last round game, and I am certain that my higher-rated opponent was happy that he had White. 1 e4? e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Bd3 Nf6!? 5 e5?? We now know that this is really very bad. 5...Ng8! 6 Qg4 Bf8! 7 f4

(diagram)

7...Qd7 Correct! 8 Nf3 Nc6 9 a3 b6 10 O-O

g6 What is Black trying to accomplish? Does

he intend to fianchetto the f8-bishop, or is he

simply weakening the dark squares around

his kingside? 11 Ne2 h5 12 Qh3 Nh6 13

Ng5 Bb7 14 b4 O-O-O 15 b5 Na5 Just the

type of position the demon likes: undeveloped, weaknesses galore, both knights on

the edge of the board, a fianchetto bishop on a closed diagonal, and no clear idea

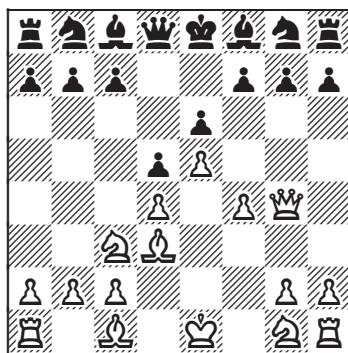
of what Black is doing. 16 Bd2 Nc4 17 Bxc4 dxc4 This diagonal opens with a

blinding flash of light. I could hear thunder reverberate off into the distance. 18

a4 Be7 19 Nf3 Nf5 Suddenly the demon blinked, and Morphy's skeleton twitched

in its grave. 20 g3?? Bxf3 Black happily exchanges his best piece. 21 Rxf3 Nxd4

22 Qg2 Nxe2+ 23 Qxe2 Qd4+ 24 Kg2 Qxd2 25 Qxd2 Rxd2+ 26 Rf2 Rhd8 0-1



What is Black's best move here?

My opponent glared at me and resigned. I politely offered to go over the game, but he refused and said that he knew where he made his mistakes. He bore that same shell-shocked expression, and angrily stormed out of the playing hall, apparently giving up on chess. I don't think he ever played in another tournament.



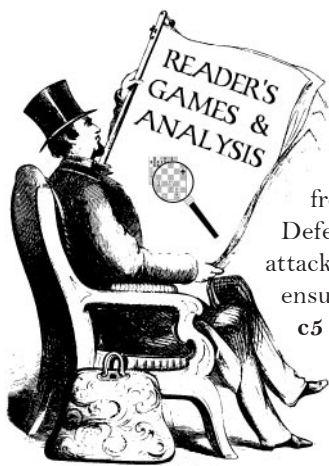
20th Charlottesville Open

July 10-11, 2010

Comfort Inn Monticello, 2097 Inn Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22911

5-SS, Game/90. \$\$1525 b/50, top 3 places guaranteed: \$400-250-150, class prizes b/50 U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600 each \$125, U1400 & U1200 each \$100, Unrateds eligible for U1600 prize. EF \$45 if rcvd by 7/6, \$55 after, VCF membership req'd (\$10, \$5 jr), OSA. Reg 11-11:40am, rds: 12-3:15-7:15, 9:30-1:15. One irrevokable ½-pt bye available, request prior to rd 1. Hotel \$99.95+tax, must reserve by 6/25 for chess rate, (434) 977-3300 NS, NC, W Enter: Checks payable to VCF, mail to Ernest Schlich, 1370 S Braden Crescent, Norfolk, VA 23502. Info email eschlich@verizon.net or online www.vachess.org.

15 Grand Prix points



Chris Erickson - Brian Higgins
US Chess Center Champ 2010
French

Notes by Brian Higgins

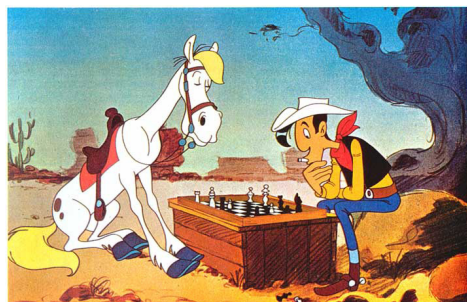
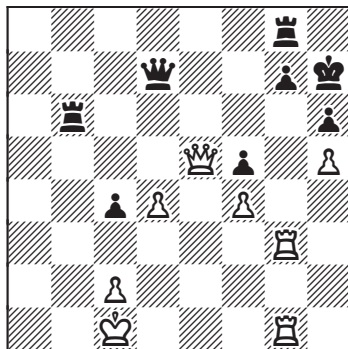
1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5 Ne7 [Breaking from the usual move order. This was my first French Defense over the board and I was not sure about attacking the center so soon with 4...c5. I wanted to ensure a lead in development and king safety.] **5 f4 c5 6 a3 Bxc3+ 7 bxc3** [Although White's control of the center is superior, pawn moves have left him behind in development. That's why it is important for Black not to waste a tempo with the dark square bishop.] **7...b6 8 Qg4 O-O 9 Nf3 Nbc6 10 Bd3 Nf5** [White was threatening 11

Bxh7+ Kxh7 12 Qh5+ Kg8 13 Ng5 and mate next move. {*Actually, there is no mate after 13...Re8 -ed*} The text simply blockades the diagonal while also increasing pressure on d4.] **11 Bb2?** [Bxf5 followed by Bd2 would have been sufficient for development.] **11...c4!** [A move with four good points to it: Black locks in the b2 bishop, attacks the d3 bishop, gains queenside space, and structurally resolves weaknesses along the b1-h7 diagonal.] **12 Bxf5 exf5 13 Qh5 Be6** [Developing and blockading on e6, although bishops do not make the best blockaders.] **14 Ng5 h6 15 h4 Ne7** [15...hxg5? leads to disaster for Black after 16 hxg5 f6 17 g6! White is putting real effort into this attack, but Black's structure remains solid and the attack misses White's navel-gazing cleric on b2.] **16 O-O-O Qd7 17 Rde1 b5 18 Re3** [Developing the rook with ominous intentions, while Black begins counterplay on the queenside.] **18...Ng6 19 Nh3 Rfb8 20 g3 Qe8 21 Nf2 a5 22 Qf3 b4** [Black would like to break through on the queenside, but not in a manner that awakens White's sleeping bishop.] **23 h5 Ne7 24 g4 fxg4 25 Nxg4 Bxg4 26 Qxg4 Qc8!** [White would like to play f5, threatening to open up Black's kingside pawn cover, so the text move challenges White for the light squares.] **27 e6!?** [This is too early and too weak of a thrust, but White must keep the queens on the board without retreating from g4.] **27...f5!** [Although g6 is now a gaping hole, the pawn is safe so long as the knight is there to defend it and the move gains an important tempo for the queen.] **28 Qg3?** [28 Qg2 saves time!] **28...Qf8 29 Rg1 Kh7** [White's bishop would come in real handy right now somehow attacking g7] **30 Qh4 Qf6** [Still looking to trade queens; White has wasted several tempi shuttling his queen around while Black has used the time to shore up the kingside defenses.] **31 Qf2 Ra7 32 Reg3 Rg8 33 Qg2 Rb7 34 axb4 axb4 35 cxb4 Rxb4 36 Ba3** [While this appears to gain a tempo (White's



obvious intention is to remove the defender of g6), in fact Black's rook is pushed to a square where it doubles up on the e6 pawn.] **36...Rb6! 37 Bxe7 Qxe7** [White successfully trades his bad bishop for the superior minor piece and now g6 is in his total control, but his king position is dangerously open.] **38 Qxd5 Qxe6 39 Qe5 Qd7** [White says, "Okay, I'll exchange, but only on my terms: creating a connected passed pawn on e5."]

40 d5 [If 40 Rg6 Rxg6 41 Rxg6 Re8 (with c4 hanging, it is imperative to grab the initiative) 42 Qc5 (42 Rxg7+ Qxg7 43 Qxe8 Qg1+ is similar to the game; due to the open king positions, neither player has time to 'set the table' for mate) 42...Rc8 (42...Re1+ 43 Kd2 Qe8 44 Rg3 Qe2+ 45 Kc3 Qxh5 46 Qxc4 Qe8 47 Qd3 Re4 both sides having passed pawns, with White in the lead since the f4 pawn still stands in the way, but Black's more active queen and rook may tilt the balance.) 43 Qe5 Re8 is equal (but not 43...c3? when Black loses after 44 Rxg7+ Qxg7 45 Qxf5+ White picks up the rook with check, and the c3 pawn falls as well).] **40...Rd6** [It was imperative to grab the initiative, and although the direct threat could be easily defended by 41 Rd1, that would deflect White's attack from the g-file.] **41 Rxg7+!?** [A combination that wins a pawn, but White's open king will allow Black to consolidate.] **41...Rxg7 42 Rxg7+ Qxg7 43 Qxd6 Qa1+ 44 Kd2 Qd4+ 45 Ke2** [45 Kc1 leads to a draw because there is no time to weave the mating net with ...c3 since Black's own king is also vulnerable. But White simply collapses in the endgame. He walks his king to the worst possible squares, allowing Black to grab two pawns with check, and finally finishes the queens off with a fatal fork. White's queen is useless for defense because the d-file and the b8-h2 diagonal are both blocked by her own pawns.] **45...Qe4+ 46 Kf1 Qf3+ 47 Ke1 Qe3+ 48 Kd1 Qd4+ 49 Ke2 Qe4+ 50 Kf2? Qxc2+ 51 Kg3 Qc3+ 52 Kf2 Qd2+ 53 Kg3 Qe3+ 54 Kh4 Qf2+ 55 Kh3 Qf3+ 56 Kh2 Qxh5+ 57 Kg2 Qg6+ 0-1** White resigned about 14 moves later





Book Reviews



Heart of a Champion by Dov Gorman

DIARY OF A CHESS QUEEN

by Alexandra Kosteniuk, translated by James Marfia

Mongoose Press, paperback, 244 pages, list price \$24.95

WHAT DOES IT TAKE to be a world champion? Is it natural talent? Hard work? access to financial and professional resources? political connections? Or is it pure tenacity and determination? And need a champion focus exclusively on a single goal, or is there a place for a more balanced approach to life, including family and education?

Alexandra Kosteniuk's insightful **DIARY OF A CHESS QUEEN** touches on many of these issues in a very personal way. The book, which can be described as mainly as a memoir, follows the author's personal and chess development from early childhood in Moscow to the period after she become the 12th Women's World Chess Champion.

The book is set against a backdrop of tremendous political turmoil and rough financial realities in Russia. Kosteniuk's dad lost his military position and as such, the family had to survive on modest income and limited opportunities. For her fifth birthday Alexandra received a chess set, and before long she and younger sister Oxana (today a woman FIDE master) were playing for stakes in places like Hotel Rossiya.

Young Alexandra started participating in tournaments, initially in Moscow and then throughout Europe. **DIARY OF A CHESS QUEEN** is organized around Kosteniuk's major developmental milestones, following her preparation, training, games and tournaments. As such, it provides valuable training tips.



Kosteniuk's chess career is impressive. Among the important tournaments she has won are the European Under 10 and Under 12 as well as the World Under 12 titles. Her major breakthrough came in 2001 at the FIDE women's world championship in Moscow. The 17-year-old Kosteniuk upset formidable opponents including Alisa Galliamova and Xu Yuhua in her way to the final. The following game, from the semi-final match, displays her aesthetic, attacking, uncompromising style.

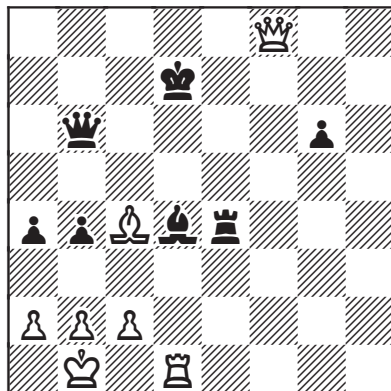


Alexandra Kosteniuk - Xu Yuhua

Moscow 2001

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Nbd7 8 Qf3 Qc7 9 O-O-O Be7 10 g4 b5 11 Bxf6 Nxf6 12 g5 Nd7 13 f5 Bxg5+ 14 Kb1 Ne5 15 Qh5 Qd8 16 Nxe6 Bxe6 17 fxg6 g6 18 exf7+ Kxf7 19 Qe2 Kg7 20 Qf2 b4 21 Nd5 a5 22 h4 Rf8 23 Qg3 Bh6 24 Be2 Ra7 25 h5 Raf7 26 Qh3 Rh8 27 Ne3 Qb6 28 Nc4 Nxc4 29 Bxc4 Re7 30 hxg6 hxg6 31 Qg3 Re5 32 Rdf1 Re7 33 Rhg1 d5 34 Bxd5 Be3 35 Rh1 Rxh1 36 Rxh1 Bd4 37 Qh4 Kf8 38 Rf1+ Ke8 39 Qg4 Qa6 40 Qf3 Qb6 41 Qf8+ Kd7 42 Rd1 a4 43 Bc4 Rxe4 (diagram)
44 Qa8 Qc6 45 Bb5 1-0



Although she went on to lose the final match to the Chinese GM Zhu Chen in a tie-breaker, the Moscow event sent a clear signal of the arrival of Alexandra Kosteniuk.

Even with her chess success, Kosteniuk developed her life in other areas. She married at 18 and later gave birth to a daughter, Francesca. Like Gary Kasparov, Kosteniuk



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embraced the role of chess ambassador. Aside from traditional chess events she participated in various unconventional promotionals such as Chess960 and Mind Sports. She also pursued a modeling career (see cover) and even participated in a movie.

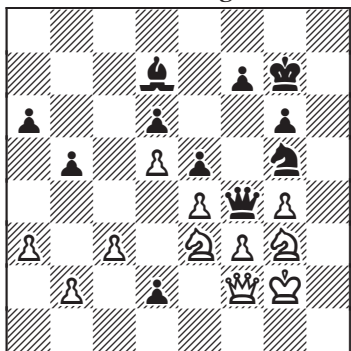
Kosteniuk reached the chess Olympus at the 2008 Women's World Championship in Nalchik, Russia. After eliminating strong rivals such as Tatiana Kosintseva and Pia Cramling, she was able to outplay the Chinese wondergirl Hou Yifan in the final.

Yifan Hou - Alexandra Kosteniuk

Nalchik 2008

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 O-O Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 O-O 8 a3 d6 9 c3 Bg4 10 d3 Na5 11 Bc2 c5 12 h3 Bd7 13 d4 Qc7 14 d5 c4 15 Nbd2 Nb7 16 Nf1 Nc5 17 g4 h5 18 N3h2 hxg4 19 hxg4 Qc8 20 f3 Nh7 21 Ng3 Bg5 22 Nf5 Qd8 23 Kg2 g6 24 Ng3 Kg7 25 Rh1 Rh8 26 Nh1 Qf6 27 Be3 Bxe3 28 Nxe3 Ng5 29 Qe2 Rg8 30 Raf1 Qf4 31 Rxh8 Rxh8 32 Rh1 Rxh1 33 Nxh1 Nd3 34 Bxd3 cxd3 35 Qf2 d2 36 Ng3 (diagram) 36...Nxf3 37 Qxf3 Bxg4 38 Qf2 d1Q 39 Nxd1 Bxd1 40 Qe1 Bf3+ 41 Kg1 f5 42 exf5 gxf5 43 Qf2 Kg6 44 b3 e4 45 c4 bxc4 46 bxc4 Qg5 47 c5 f4 48 cxd6 fxg3 0-1



I applaud Alexandra Kosteniuk for sharing *DIARY OF A CHESS QUEEN*, full of informative and entertaining revelations about life, family, struggles and triumphs.



New & Noted by Macon Shibut

A TORRENT OF BOOKS from publisher Everyman have graced The Editor's mailbox lately. Apart from the usual surfeit of opening manuals, a few titles stand out as demanding spots on my summer reading list. So perhaps I shall report back later with proper reviews, but for now I can only share my impressions based on an initial thumb-through.

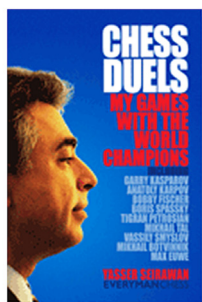
First up is Yasser Seirawan's *Chess Duels: My Games With the World Champions*. It is a handsome hardcover with dust jacket, basically the same production quality that Everyman gives Kasparov's *Predecessors* and *Modern Chess* books. At heart, *Chess Duels* is Seirawan's retrospective on his entire career. It is a worthy topic for a memoir, distinguished by winning the world junior championship, four US championships, and two trips to the candidates phase of the world championship. However, as the book's title implies, Seirawan has chosen to spotlight his various



contacts, on and off the board, with different world champions. There are lengthy text passages, full of anecdotes and personal impressions of every champion from Euwe to Kasparov, plus 56 heavily annotated games. Naturally it is Karpov and Kasparov, Seirawan's closest contemporaries, who generate the greatest portion of material (over half the book). I fondly recall Seirawan's entertaining and instructive writing from *Inside Chess*, and I very much look forward to immersing myself in this new offering.

English grandmaster Danny Gormally speculates on the process by which champions achieved the heights in his regrettably titled book *Play chess like the PROs*. [sic] At first glance it appears to be a motley collection, but perhaps a unifying theme will emerge as I read it in detail. In the Introduction, Gormally highlights "the three most important factors that separate the best players from the rest... 1) Will to win... 2) Preparation... 3) Understanding." Then he embarks on an ambling journey that includes a dozen of his own games intermingled with about fifty examples by everyone from Morphy to Carlsen. In fact, "Morphy vs. Carlsen" is the title of chapter 2, which reflects on how chess evolves. Other chapters address the influence of computers on modern play; the range of playing style that chess permits; the significance of opening preparation; a grab-bag of "Practical Play" examples; and a small collection of combination exercises.

Finally, I want to call the reader's attention to Colin Crouch's *Modern Chess: Move by Move*. Here, as the saying goes, the play is the thing. A quirky introduction opens the way to thirty-three deeply annotated games. How "deeply" annotated? Well, it's 412 large and dense pages, so you can do the math. The organizing idea is one win apiece by every player who has exceeded the 2700 rating benchmark between 2005 (specifically the occasion of Kasparov's retirement) and 2008. Crouch ruminates on the value and limitations of modern analysis engines, which he credits with allowing him to presume to explain the most complicated games of players beyond his ken. *Modern Chess* appears to be a serious attempt at uncovering ultimate Truth at the cutting edge of 21st century chess.



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