

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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2010 - #5



VIRGINIA CHESS

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2010 - Issue #5

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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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DOV GORMAN AND YURI BARNAKOV each scored 5-1 to tie for first at the 2010 "Virginia Closed". Gorman's superior tiebreaks earned him the title of State Champion. Eric Most, Daniel Miller, Larry Larkins & Andrea Rea scored 4½ points apiece to tie for 3rd place. Other prizewinners in the Open section included Tip Wolfe (top class A) and Bill Simmons (top B).

In the Amateur (under 1800) section, Kevin Zhou rolled to clear first place with 5½-½ and so became 2010 Virginia Amateur Champion. Jerome Mueller, Thomas Fore Jr & Thomas Saunders all scored 5-1 to tie for 2nd and, remarkably, none of them played against the winner. Timur Nomazov's 4½-1½ was an excellent top unrated score. Other prizewinners included Natan Berenshteyn & David Phillips (1st and 2nd class C, respectively), Isaac Steincamp, Charles Thompson & Dennis Liu (=top D), Yan Wu, Brian Hodges & Shreya Shetty (=top under 1200), Saad Al-hariri (top Senior), and Ezoza Nomazova (top Female).

The tournament drew 115 entries and was flawlessly directed by Mike Hoffpauir, who was also re-elected as VCF President at the annual meeting on Saturday morning. Andrew Rea was elected to a spot on the VCF Board of Directors.

In the Blitz tournament conducted the night before the main event, defending state champion Andrew Samuelson, Daniel Miller & Eric Most tied atop the Open section. Thomas Fore Jr was the clear winner in the Amateu section, followed by Natan Berenshteyn and then Winston Ou.

As for the course of the main championship, VIRGINIA CHESS is pleased to be able to present the new titlist's own account of his victory (with additional contributions from Mike Atkins and Eric Most).



2010 Virginia State Championship

by Dov Gorman

This year's championship was an exciting event featuring a competitive line-up that included several masters with four past Virginia champions among them: Danny Miller, Geoff McKenna, Steve Greanias and Andy Samuelson. As a result, the event produced uncompromising, entertaining and fighting chess; multiple upsets; a breakthrough performance by a young player; a comeback veteran; and multiple lead changes, including dramatic double come-from-behind last-round rallies by the tournament winners.

I started off with the following game.

Dov Gorman - Michael Callahan

Philidor

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 Nc3 Nbd7 5 g4 [This variation was used successfully by Shirov and other grandmasters.] 5...Nxg4 6 Rg1 Ngf6 7 Bc4 exd4 8 Qxd4 c5 9 Qd3 Nb6 10 Bb5+ Bd7 11 Bf4 a6 12 Bxd7+ Qxd7 13 O-O-O Rd8?



[13...0-0 was better. Now Black's king stays in the center, while his pieces are not coordinated. White increases his pressure by simple means.] **14 Rde1 Nh5 15 Bg5 f6 16 Bd2 Be7 17 Nh4 g6 18 Nd5 Nxd5 19 exd5 f5?** [An error in an inferior position. 19...Rb8 was better, but in any case White maintains a clear advantage.] **20 Bg5 1-0**

Michael Callahan promptly withdrew and re-entered with a bye for the first round. By then beating his next three opponents, he got as far as playing on board two in round 5.

One of the exciting battles of the first round matched the four-time champion Geoff McKenna against Mike Atkins USCF Executive Board member, former VCF President, and one of the nation's most active Tournament Directors.

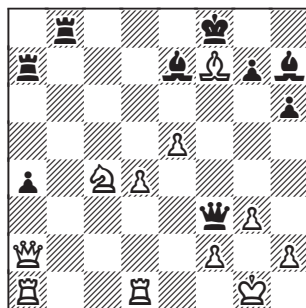
Mike Atkins - Geoff McKenna

King's Indian Attack

Notes by Mike Atkins

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 d5 3 Bg2 c6 4 O-O Bf5 5 d3 h6 6 Nbd2 e6 7 b3 Be7 8 Bb2 O-O 9 Re1 a5 10 e4 Bh7 11 a4 Na6 12 e5 Nd7 13 Qe2 Nb4 14 Nf1 Nc5 15 Red1 Qd7 16 Nd4 b5 17 axb5 cxb5 18 Ne3 [This and the next 13 moves had me and Rybka playing the same.] **18...a4 19 Ba3 Nba6 20 b4 Nb7 21 c4 Bxb4 22 cxb5 Bxa3 23 bxa6 Bc5 24 axb7 Qxb7 25 Ndc2 Rfb8 26 d4 Be7 27 Na3 Qb3 28 Qa2 Qc3 29 Nxd5 exd5 30 Bxd5 Ra7 31 Bxf7+ Kf8 32 Nc4** [Playable, but not as good as 32 Be6, eg 32...Rab7 33 Nc4 Qc2 34 Qxa4 Qxa4 35 Rxa4 Bc2 36 Raa1 Bxd1 37 Rxd1 Rb1 38 Rxb1 Rxb1+ 39 Kg2 Rd1 40 d5 Bc5 41 d6 Re1 42 Bd7 Re2 43 e6 Rxf2+ 44 Kh3 Re2 45 e7+ Kf7] **32...Qf3!** [if 32...Kxf7 33 Nd6+ Kg6 34 Qf7+ Kg5 35 Qf4+] (diagram)

33 e6?? [Abruptly switching from Rybka 2.2 to Mike 0.2 produces a losing move. 33 Nd6 was correct, eg 33...Bxd6 34 Bd5 Be4 35 Bxe4 Qxe4 36 exd6] **33... Be4 34 Kf1 Qh1+ 35 Ke2 Bf3+ 36 Kd2 Bb4+ 37 Kc2 Bxd1+ 38 Rxd1 Qe4+ 39 Kc1 Rc7 0-1**



Round two produced one of the tournament's biggest upsets and a rare practical example of mate with B+N. Expert James Guill beat the talented two-times and defending state champion Andy Samuelson.

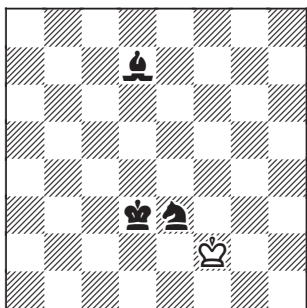
Andrew Samuelson - James Guill

Modern

1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nc3 d6 4 Be3 a6 5 f3 b5 6 Qd2 Nd7 7 Nh3 Bb7 8 Nf2 Rc8 9 a4 b4 10 Ncd1 a5 11 c3 c5 12 Bb5 Nf6 13 g4 O-O 14 h4 h5 15 gxh5 Nxh5 16 Bxd7 Qxd7 17 dxc5 Qc6 18 cxb4 axb4 19 cxd6 Rfd8 20 Qxb4 Rxd6 21 Rc1 Qd7 22 Rxc8+ Qxc8 23 Nc3 Ba6 24 Bc5 Rc6 25 Nd5 Bf8 26 Nb6 Qc7



27 Be3 Rc2 [Missing an outright win by 27...Qg3!] 28 Qb3 Re2+ 29 Kd1 e6 30 Ng4 Bc5 31 Nc4 Rg2 32 Bg5 Bd4 33 Nge3 Bxe3 34 Bxe3 Bxc4 35 Qc3 Be2+ 36 Kc1 Qxc3+ 37 bxc3 Bxf3 38 Re1 Ra2 39 e5 Rxa4 40 Bg5 Ra1+ 41 Kd2 Rxe1 42 Kxe1 Kf8 43 Kf2 Bb7 44 Ke3 Ke8 45 Kd4 Kd7 46 Kc5 Ng3 47 Kd4 Nf5+ 48 Kc4 Ng3 49 Kd4 Kc6 50 Bd8 Ne2+ 51 Kd3 Nc1+ 52 Kd4 Nb3+ 53 Ke3 Kd5 54 Kf4 Nc5 55 c4+ Kxc4 56 Kg5 Kd5 57 Kf6 Nd7+ 58 Kxf7 Nxe5+ 59 Kf6 Kd6 60 Be7+ Kd7 61 Bf8 Nf3 62 Kxg6 Nxh4+ 63 Kf6 Nf3 64 Ba3



Be4 65 Bb2 Bf5 66 Bc3 Kc6 67 Bb2 Kd5 68 Ba1 Bh3 69 Bb2 Nd4 70 Kg5 e5 71 Kh4 Bd7 72 Kg3 Ke4 73 Kf2 Kd3 74 Bc1 Nf5 75 Bg5 e4 76 Bf4 e3+ 77 Bxe3 Nxe3 (diagram)

78 Kf3 Bc6+ 79 Kf4 Kd4 80 Kg5 Ke5 81 Kg6 Bd5 82 Kg7 Nf5+ 83 Kh7 Kf6 84 Kh8 Ne7 85 Kh7 Be6 86 Kh8 Ng6+ 87 Kh7 Bf7 88 Kh6 Bg8 89 Kh5 Ne5 90 Kh4 Kf5 91 Kg3 Ng4 92 Kf3 Bc4 93 Kg3 Bd5 94 Kh4 Kf4 95 Kh5 Bf7+ 96 Kh4 Ne3 97 Kh3 Be8 98 Kh2 Bd7 99 Kh1 Kg3 100

Kg1 Bh3 101 Kh1 Ng2 102 Kg1 Nh4 103 Kh1 Bg2+ 104 Kg1 Nf3 *mate 0-1*

Round three saw another upset when Shawn Hoshall was able to overcome the formidable McKenna. Shawn is a sympathetic and friendly master who has just returned to tournament play after a 12-year self-imposed retirement. This was his first Virginia championship, and he played with an uncompromising and dynamic style, producing a couple of entertaining cliff-hangers.



VCF Grand Prix

The VCF is pleased to announce the debut of an annual Grand Prix—a year-long competition wherein players accumulate points at various tournaments around the state. Prizes will be awarded for overall results and also for various classes.

Planning is in progress for calendar year 2011 with events spanning the window from January to August 2011. In future years it is envisioned that the Grand Prix cycle would begin Labor Day weekend with the Virginia Closed (ie, the 2011 Closed will kick off the second Grand Prix) and end immediately prior to the same event the following year. Approximately eight tournaments are anticipated to comprise the 2011 Grand Prix. Both VCF-sponsored and independent tournaments may be involved.

Details are still being worked out. Look for further announcements in VIRGINIA CHESS or on the VCF website (www.vachess.org).



Shawn Hoshall – Geoff McKenna

French

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Bg5 e6 4 e4 Bb4 5 e5 h6 6 Be3 Ne4 7 Qg4 g6 8 Ne2 c5
 9 f3 h5 10 Qh3 Nxc3 11 bxc3 cxd4 12 Bxd4 Be7 13 Nf4 Nc6 14 Bd3 Nxd4
 15 cxd4 Bb4+ 16 Ke2 Bc3 17 Rad1 Qg5 18 Qg3 Qh6 19 Nh3 Bd7 20 Ng5
 Bxd4 21 Qf4 O-O 22 h4 Bc3 23 Qe3 Qg7 24 f4 f6 25 Nf3 Ba5 26 exf6 Qxf6
 27 Ne5 Be8 28 Rhf1 Bb4 29 Qg3 Kh7 30 Qh3 Kh6 31 g4 hxg4 32 Nxc4+ 1-0

Virginia championships are excellent forums for young players to display their talents. In recent years we have witnessed breakthrough performances by champions Eddie Lu and Adithya Balasubramanian, as well as others like Abby Marshal and Jeevan Karamsetty. This year the youth movement was upheld by the talented 17 year old Math and Science High School (Clover Hill, Chesterfield County) senior Eric Most. Eric plans to attend Princeton University and his area of interests include either Operations Research and Financial Engineering (which involves using engineering and branches of mathematics for decision-making and resource management). In light of the high concentration of strong chess players in quantitative fields, I have no doubt Eric will be a fine quant.

In spite of living south of Richmond in an area not known as a chess Mecca, Eric has shown consistent progress in the past few years. He is closing fast on a master rating, and attributes his progress to work with James Schuyler as well as independent study. In the past few months he has been working on expanding his opening repertoire, which resulted in a great position against GM Shabalov at the recent Atlantic Open. Eric's play at the Virginia Closed was consistent. With a little bit of luck he could have finished the tournament on top. Here is his game against the master Yuri Barnakov.

Yuri Barnakov – Eric Most

Pirc

Notes by Eric Most

1 d4 Nc6 [This offbeat opening will often transpose into something that resembles a King's Indian Defense, although White has many other ways to play.] 2 Nf3 d6
 3 e4 Nf6 4 Nc3 g6 [4...Bg4 is probably better, planning to exchange on f3 and weaken White's dark square control of the center.] 5 h3 Bg7 6 Bc4 O-O 7 Be3 Nd7 [7...Nxe4 8 Nxe4 d5 9 Bd3 (9 Bxd5 Qxd5 10 Nc3 Qc4 ♡) dxe4 10 Bxe4 f5 11 Bxc6 bxc6 leads to an imbalanced position where the bishop pair compensates for Black's weakened pawn structure.] 8 Qd2 e5 9 d5 [9 Bg5 Qe8 10 Nb5 Nb6! looks harmless for Black.] 9...Ne7 [This is an interesting position. Black's pawn structure is nearly identical to a King's Indian and he will play the traditional...f5 pawn break to strike in the center. But White's pawn structure is different from the normal setup. Having a bishop instead of a pawn on c4 rules out queenside expansion, while the pawn at h3 prevents White from retreating the knight





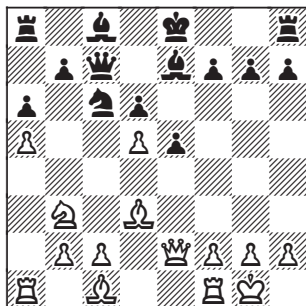
Dov Gorman – Steve Greanias

Sicilian

In the third round I met a former (1997) Virginia champion. **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 a6** [The Kan variation is a reliable, solid and flexible system used at highest level by players such as Anand, Kramnik and Topalov.] **5 Bd3 Bc5 6 Nb3 Be7** [6...Ba7 is a popular alternative.] **7 O-O** [White's other common maneuver is Qg4. After provoking a weakness in...g6, the queen can go back to e2] **7...Qc7** [7...d6 is a more popular move, where White chooses between controlling the center with the c4 Maroczy Bind set-up or classical piece activity. As an example of the former, consider 8 c4 Nf6 9 Nc3 Nbd7 10 f4 Qc7 11 Qe2 b6 12 Bd2 Bb7 13 Rae1 O-O 14 Kh1 g6 15 Nd4 Rfe8 16 Nf3 Rad8 17 Ng5 Bf8 18 Qf2 Bg7 19 b4 Nh5 20 Rc1 Rc8 21 a3 Qd8 22 Nf3 Rc7 23 Rfe1 Nhf6 24 Qh4 Qa8 25 Qh3 Rec8 26 e5 dxe5 27 Nxe5 Naiditsch-Svidler, Dortmund 2004. The game Alekseev-Milov, Biel 2005 illustrates the latter option: 8 Qg4 g6 9 Qe2 Nd7 10 Bf4 Ne5 11 N1d2 Nf6 12 Rfd1 Nxd3 13 Qxd3 O-O 14 a4 e5 15 Bg5 Be6 16 Nf1 Rc8 17 Ne3 Rc6 18 Nd2 Nh5 19 Bh6 Re8 20 c4 Bg5 21 Bxg5 Qxg5 22 b4 Nf4 23 Qf1 Rec8 24 Kh1 f5 25 Nd5 Bxd5 26 exd5 R6c7 27 g3 Nh5 28 c5 Rf8 29 Qe2 Nf6 30 Nc4 dxc5 31 d6 Rcc8 32 Nxe5 f4 33 Qc4+ Kg7 34 gxf4 Qf5 35 bxc5 Qe4+ 36 Qxe4 Nxe4 37 d7 Rcd8 38 c6 Nxf2+ 39 Kg2 Nxd1 40 Rxd1 bxc6 41 Nxc6 g5 42 fxg5 Kg6 43 h4 ½-½] **8 Qe2 d6 9 a4 Nf6 10 Nc3** [White maintains a small edge. Another option was 10 a5 Nc6 11 Be3 Nd7 12 N1d2 O-O 13 Nc4 Nce5 14 Nb6 Nxb6 15 Bxb6 Qb8 16 f4 Nxd3] **10...Nc6 11 a5 e5?** [Now White is able to increase his space advantage. 11...O-O 12 Be3 Nd7 13 Na4 Nc5 14 Nb6 Rb8 15 f4 Bd7 16 Nxc5 dxc5 17 Qf2 would have been better.] **12 Nd5 Nxd5 13 exd5**

(diagram)

13...Nb4? [Black jumps into the fire. 13...Nb8 was better, although White still has a clear advantage.] **14 Bc4 Bf5 15 c3 Rc8 16 Nd2 Nc2 17 Ra2 Bg5 18 b3 Qc5** [18...Bxd2 19 Qxd2 does not help Black. Now White wins material and in the resulting position the rook is no match for two active bishops on top of Black's suspicious king position.] **19 Ne4 Bxe4 20 Bxg5 Bg6 21 Rxc2 Bxc2 22 Qxc2 Qxa5 23 Qf5 Qc7** [23...0-0 loses after 24 Bd3 g6 25 Qf6 and Black has to surrender more material in order to avoid Bh6 and mate. However, 23...Rc7 would have offered greater resistance.] **24 f4 b5 25 Bd3 h6 26 Bh4 g6 27 Qf6 O-O 28 fxe5 dxe5 29 d6 Qxc3 30 Bxg6 Qxb3** [White also wins after 30...fxg6 31 Qxg6+ Kh8 32 Qxh6+ Kg8 33 Qg6+ Kh8 34 Bf6+ Rxf6 35 Qxf6+ Kg8 36 Qe6+ Kh8 37 d7] **31 Bf5 Qe3+ 32 Bf2 Qf4 33 Bb6 Rc1 34 Bh7+ 1-0** (34...Kxh7 35 Qxf4 exf4 36 Rxc1)





Sunday evening, round 4, featured sharp combat between Eric Most and the tenacious four-time state champion Danny Miller.

Eric Most - Daniel Miller

Bishop's Opening

Notes by Eric Most

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nf3 Nxe4 [Black can decline this gambit with 4...Nc6 or 4...Bc5] **5 Qxd4 Nf6 6 Bg5 Nc6** [The main line is 6...Be7 7 Nc3 Nc6 8 Qh4 d6 9 O-O-O] **7 Qh4 d5 8 Bxf6** [White must make this exchange to "punish" Black for playing...d5 so early.] **8...gxf6 9 Bb3** [9 Bb5 is more commonly played, as the text leaves White's bishop with limited range and mobility.] **9...Be6 10 Nc3 Ne7** [A surprising move; I expected 10...Bb4 11 O-O-O Bxc3 12 bxc3] **11 O-O-O c6 12 Ne4 Bg7 13 Rhe1?** [A blunder. Now Black almost traps the queen! The correct way to exploit Black's 10th move was 13 Nxf6+ Bxf6 14 Qxf6 Ng6 15 Qd4 ± All other moves leave Black with a permanent edge.] **13...Ng6 14 Qg3** [14 Qh5 Nf4 15 Qh4 Nxg2 16 Qg3 Bh6+ 17 Kb1 Nxe1 would be winning for Black.] **14...Bh6+ 15 Ned2** [And here 15 Kb1? Bf4 traps the queen.] **15...Qd7** [15...Bf4 16 Qg4 O-O 17 Qh5 a5 18 c3 a4 19 Bc2 is Rybka's line, with an advantage for Black in a double-edged position.] **16 Nd4 O-O-O 17 Qc3 Ne5 18 Kb1 Rhe8 19 a4** [This creates luft for the king and envisions a queenside attack with a5, Ba4 & a6] **19...Qc7 20 a5** [Preventing central expansion...c5, which I could meet by Nb5, forcing the queen back to b8 and winning the pawn.] **20...a6 21 Ba4 Bxd2 22 Rxd2 Nc4 23 Rde2 Bd7** [Here Black missed his chance: 23...Qxa5 24 Qxa5 Nxa5 25 Nxe6 fxe6 26 Rxe6 Kd7! would achieve a won endgame.] **24 Nb3 Rxe2 25 Rxe2 Qxh2 26 g3** [An important measure to shut off Black's queen on the h2-b8 diagonal, which will make White's attack with Qb4 and Nc5 more dangerous.] **26...Qh1+ 27 Ka2 Qh6** [Protecting f6, but the fact that the queen is out of the game is more important.] **28 Qb4 Be6?**

15th annual

Northern Virginia Open

November 6-7, 2010

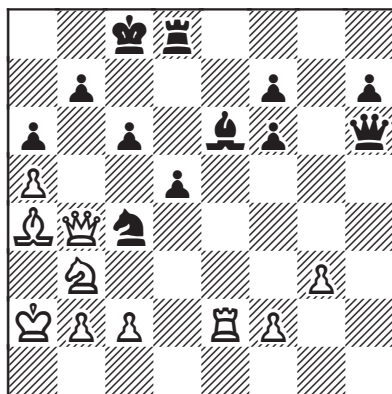
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5-SS, rds 1-3 Game/2, rds 4-5 30/90, SD/1. \$\$2,500, top 3 G, other b/90: \$570-350-240; top X, A/Unr, B, C, D, U1200 each \$200; top Upset for rd1 \$25, rd2 \$30, rd3 \$35, rd4 \$50. Reg Saturday 8:30-9:45am, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-3:30. One irrevocable ½pt bye allowed, must commit before rd 1. EF \$50 if rec'd by Nov 1, \$60 after or at site. VCF membership req'd for Virginia residents (\$10 Adults, \$5 U19). W, NS, FIDE. Hotel 703-230-0077. \$69(!) by 11/1, direct link for reservations on tournament website. *Enter:* Michael Atkins, PO Box 6138, Alexandria VA 22306. Make checks to "Virginia Chess". Info (no entries) by email matkins2@cox.net, or web www.vachess.org/nova.htm 20 Grand Prix points



Daniel
Miller



Eric
Most

*Position
after 28...Be6*

Objectively, 28...Qf8 was a better try. Then after 29 Nc5 Nd6 30 Qb6 Re8 31 Nxa6 bxa6 32 Qxa6+ Kb8 33 Qb6+ White has at least a draw for the taking, but he could also play on after 33...Ka8 34 Bxc6+ Bxc6 35 Qxc6+ Kb8 36 Rxe8+ Nxe8 37 Qxd5 with three queenside pawns for the knight.

However, the text move came with a draw offer. I accepted because if now 25 Nc5 I wasn't sure of the evaluation of 29...Nd6; nor was I convinced by 29 Nc5 Rd7 30 Nxd7 Bxd7.

In fact, 29...Nd6 30 Bxc6! bxc6 31 Qb6! is mate in seven(!) according to Rybka. And as for 29...Rd7, I overlooked the winning possibility 30 Rxe6!, eg 30...fxe6 31 Nxd7 Kxd7 32 Qxb7+ Kd6 33 f4! and Black cannot prevent 34 b3! and his knight will come off the board.

1/2-1/2

Shawn Hoshall - Dov Gorman Sicilian

1 f4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 e4 e6 4 Bb5 Nge7 5 O-O a6 6 Bxc6 Nxc6 7 d3 Be7 8 a4 O-O 9 c3 d5 10 e5 f5 11 d4 Na5 12 b3 c4 13 b4 Nb3 14 Ra2 Nxc1 15 Qxc1 Bd7 16 Kh1 Qe8 17 a5 Qh5 18 Rg1 h6 19 Qf1 g5 20 g3 Kh8 21 fxg5 hxg5 22 h4 Rf7 23 Rh2 g4 24 Ne1 f4 25 gxf4 Qf5 26 Nd2 Qxf4 27 Qg2 Rg7 28 Nef3 Kg8 29 h5 Qh6 30 Ne1 Rf8 31 Qg3 Bg5 32 Qg2 g3 33 Qxg3 Bxd2 34 Qxg7+ Qxg7 35 Rxg7+ Kxg7 36 Rxd2 Rf1+ 37 Kh2 Rxe1 38 Rg2+ Kh6 39 Rg8 Re2+ 40 Kh3 Re3+ 41 Kg4 Rxc3 42 Rd8 Ba4 43 Rd6 Bd1+ 44 Kh4 Bxh5 45 Rxe6+ Bg6 46 Kg4 Re3 47 Rd6 c3 48 Rxd5 c2 49 Rc5 Re1 50 Kf4 c1Q+ 51 Rxc1 Rxc1 0-1

At the start of play on Monday morning, I was leading with 4 points followed by Miller, Most and the re-entered Callahan with 3½ each. I was matched against Miller, while Most faced Callahan on board 2. My game had several swings. At one point I offered a draw and Miller refused, yet a few moves later he offered a draw and this time I refused. Eventually I erred, and Miller was able to convert.

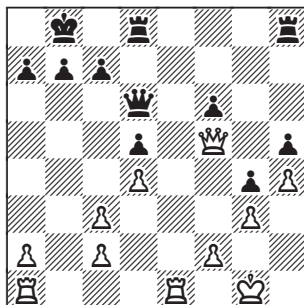


Dov Gorman - Daniel Miller

Petroff

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d4 Nxe4 4 Bd3 d5 5 Nxe5 Nd7 6 Nxd7 Bxd7 7 O-O Qh4
 8 Nc3 O-O-O 9 g3 Nxc3 10 bxc3 Qh3 11 Bf4 f6 12 Re1 g5 13 Bf1 Qf5 14
 Bd3 Qh3 15 Bf1 Qg4 16 Be2 Qe6 17 Bb5 Qf7 18 Bxd7+ Qxd7 19 Bd2 h5 20
 Qf3 Rh6 21 h4 g4 22 Qd3 Rh8 23 Bf4 Bd6 24
 Bxd6 Qxd6 25 Qf5+ Kb8 (diagram)

26 Re6 Qa3 27 Qd3 Rde8 28 Rae1 Rxe6 29 Rxe6 a5
 30 Qb5 Qxa2 31 Ra6 Qa1+ 32 Kg2 Qxc3 33 Rxa5
 c6 34 Qa4 Kc7 35 Ra7 Re8 36 Qa5+ Qxa5 37 Rxa5
 Re2 38 c3 Rc2 39 Ra3 Kb8 40 Kf1 b5 41 Ke1 Kb7 42
 Kf1 Kb6 43 Ke1 Kb7 44 Kf1 Rb2 45 Ke1 b4 46 cxb4
 Rxb4 47 Rd3 Kb6 48 Ke2 Kb5 49 Rd2 Kc4 50 f3 f5 51
 fxg4 fxg4 52 Ke3 Rb3+ 53 Kf4 Rf3+ 54 Kg5 Rxg3 55
 Kxh5 Rg1 56 Rc2+ Kxd4 57 Rxc6 Ke3 58 Re6+ Kd3



59 Kg5 g3 60 Kg4 g2 61 Kg3 Rh1 62 Kxg2 Rxh4 63 Kf2 Re4 64 Ra6 d4 65 Ra3+
 Kc2 66 Kf3 Re8 67 Ra2+ Kb3 68 Ra7 d3 69 Rd7 Kc2 70 Rc7+ Kd1 71 Kf2 d2 72
 Rc6 Rf8+ 73 Kg2 Rf5 74 Rc8 Ke2 75 Re8+ Kd3 76 Rd8+ Ke3 77 Re8+ Kd4 0-1

Meanwhile the Most-Callahan game developed into a wild, seesaw battle in the romantic style of Morphy and Anderssen. Callahan sacrificed material for the initiative and better development. For a while it seemed as if he would prevail, but then a series of careless moves enabled Most to win.



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- ◆ Three-time Virginia State Champion

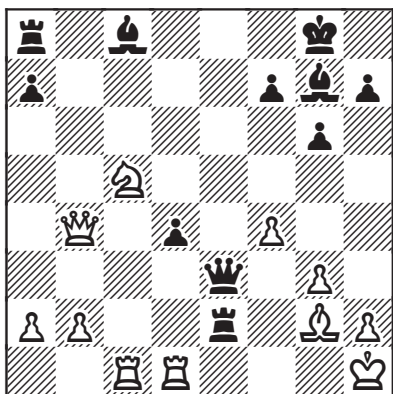
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Steve Greanias – Geoff McKenna

Black to Play

This position arose in a battle between former champions. Black could have struck a decisive blow by 24...Bh3!, eg 25 Bxh3 Qf2; or 25 Bxa8 Qf2; or finally 25 Rg1 Bxg2+ 26 Rxc2 Qxc1+. However, he switched around the move order, playing 24...Qf2? and after 25 Rg1 Bh3 26 Qb7 offered an adequate defense. 26...Rae8 27 Nd3 led only to liquidation, 27...Bxg2+ 28 Rxc2 Qxc2+ 29 Qxc2 Rxc2 30 Kxc2 and after 30...Re2+ 31 Kf1 Rxh2 32 Rc8+ Bf8 the endgame eventually concluded as a draw.

And so going into the last round Miller and Most took the lead with 4½ points. Since they had already played each other, the top board pairings drew from the 4 point group of Gorman, Barnakov and Larry Larkin. On board one Miller, with the White pieces faced, Barnakov. I had White against Most on board two, while the board three matchup saw McKenna (3½ points) brought in to face Larkin.

Dov Gorman - Eric Most

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 g6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Qxd4 Nf6 5 Bb5 Qa5+ [Other options include 5...a6 and 5...Nc6, for example 5...Nc6 6 Bxc6 bxc6 (6...dxc6 7 Qxd8+ Kxd8 8 Nc3 Bg7 9 O-O Nd7 10 Rd1 e5 11 Be3 f6 12 Nd2 Kc7 13 a4 a5 14 Nc4 Bf8 15 f4 Bb4 16 Na2 Be7 17 Nc1 b5 18 axb5 cxb5 19 Rxa5 Rxa5 20 Nxa5 Bd6 21 Nd3 Re8 22 c4 exf4 23 Nxf4 Bxf4 24 Bxf4+ Kb6 25 b4 Rxe4 26 Rd6+ Ka7 27 Bg3 bxc4 28 Rc6 Re8 29 b5 Ne5 30 Rxf6 Huzman-Greenfeld, Haifa 2008) 7 e5 Nd5 8 O-O Bg7 9 Qh4 f6 10 c4! Nc7 (10...Nb4 11 Bh6! Bxh6 12 Qxh6 Nc2 13 exf6! Rf8 (13...exf6 14 Nc3 Nxa1 15 Qg7 Rf8 16 Re1+; 13...Nxa1 14 Qg7 Rf8 15 fxe7 Qxe7 16 Re1

18th Annual

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A VCF event



Qxe1+ 17 Nxe1 wins) 14 Nc3 Nxa1 15 fxe7 Qxe7 16 Re1 winning) 11 Bh6 O-O 12 Bxg7 Kxg7 13 Nc3 Ne6 14 Rad1 (14 Nd4 c5! 15 exf6+ Rxf6) 14...fxe5 (14...f5 15 Nd4! Nxd4 16.Qxd4±) 15 Nxe5 Rf4? (15...Qe8 16.f4±) 16 Qg3 Qc7 17 Rfe1 d6 18 Nxc6! hxc6 19 Rxe6 Bxe6 20 Qxf4 Rf8 21 Qd4+ Kg8 22 Re1 Bf7 23 Qh4 e5 24 Ne4 Sax-Tatai, Rome 1986) **6 Nc3** [6 Qc3 is another interesting possibility, where 6...Qxc3+ 7 Nxc3 a6 8 e5 Ng4 9 Nd5! is to White's advantage] **6...Nc6 7 Bxc6 bxc6 8 e5 Nd5 9 Bd2 Bg7 10 O-O f6 11 Rfe1 O-O** [The game took a certain strategic character. While Black retains the bishop pair and a central pawn block, White has some space advantage and the ability to transfer his forces quickly across the board. The position can be evaluated as slightly better for White and the outcome depends on his success in restricting Black's central pawns.] **12 Nxd5 Qxd5 13 Qxd5+ cxd5 14 Bb4** [14 Rad1 immediately was more accurate. At this point I looked over see that Miller appeared to have a dominating position in an Exchange Variation of the Ruy Lopez.] **14...Re8 15 Rad1 Bb7 16 Bc3 Kf7 17 Rd4 fxe5 18 Nxe5+ Bxe5 19 Rxe5 d6 20 Re1 e5 21 Rh4 Kg8 22 Ra4 Kf7 23 Rh4 Kg8 24 Ra4 Kf7 25 h4 Red8?** [Better 25...Rec8] **26 f4 d4 27 Bb4 Ke6 28 Ra5 Bd5?** [A mistake that enables White to obtain a clear advantage. The pawn sacrifice 28...e4 was interesting.] **29 Rd1 Rac8 30 Rxa7** [At this point I looked again at board one and saw that Barnakov was able to pull a miraculous tactical blow. Miller's position became critically unstable.] **29 fxe5 dxe5 30 Ra6+ Kf5** [30...Kf7 31 Rxe5 was a better try, whereas now White is just winning.] **31 Be7 Rd7 32 Rf6+ Kg4 33 Rxe5 h6** [The threat was Rg5+ and Rf4 mate] **34 Kh2?** [Playing for g3 and Rf4 was too fancy. Simply 34 Rxc6+ was good enough for a winning advantage.] **34...Rc8 35 Rxc6+ Kf4 36 Re2 Be4?** [36...Rc6 offered a better defense.] **37 Bd6+** [Now finally Black is trapped in a mating net where White threatens g4 after the next move. Black has to surrender more material. At the same time Barnakov seemed to solidify his advantage and it was clear that he would win that game.] **37...Kf5 38 h5 Rxd6 39 Rxd6 Ke5 40 Rd7 1-0**

McKenna pressed Larkin but the game ended ultimately in a draw. And so in the end I tied for first with Barnakov, and superior tiebreaks brought me the state champion's title.

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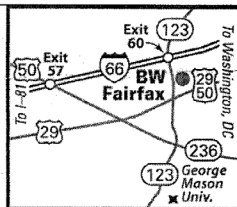
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Harris Pavilion "Open Air"

by Don Millican

Promotion for "the hottest tournament in Virginia," namely the 7th annual Harris Pavilion "Open Air" in old town Manassas on August 21, got back on track after a slight derailment last year. The numbers showed how promotion and publicity help to make a tournament successful. A total of forty-one players, one of the largest turnouts ever, took advantage of a break from the typical heat and humidity to play for either trophies and glory or cash and Grand Prix points. In the past, this tournament has been coincident with the US Open; this year either the Open was early or the "Open Air" was late, which may have contributed to the larger and stronger Open section turnout.

Twenty-eight competed in the Grand Prix Open section. The top eight consisted of three Masters, three Experts, and two A-players. The remainder covered the range from class B down to a bottom rating of 101, so all rating classes were well represented. FM Dov Gorman started and finished at the top, going 5-0 to win 1st place. With 4, Ken Borghese, William Marcelino & Deodato Obregon tied for 2nd with Borghese and Obregon also sharing Under 2000. Nathan Hoisington & Richard Faust tied for Under 1600. Sahil Sinda and brothers Boyoung & Bryan Zhao shared Under 1200.

Thirteen players entered the non-rated Fun section with John Farrell on top from beginning to end with a perfect score of 5-0. Ed Hsu finished alone in 2nd place with 4. James Reed, Charles Thompson, James Hill & S Schwarz took 3rd-6th in that tiebreak order. Sole possession of 7th place went to Skylar Hsu. Andrew Sucher, Elijah & and Ryan Tully took 8th-10th.

Harris Pavilion manager Anna Marie Morgan hosted the tournament and provided \$500 of the Open prize fund. Kingstowne Chess Club provided the remaining \$300 Open fund and trophies for the Fun section.



Craig Van Tilburg

1957-2010

FIDE Master Craig Van Tilburg died Friday, Aug 13. A professional guitar player who backed up, among others, Steve Winwood, Barry Gibb, the Coasters, the Shirelles and Gary US Bonds, Craig grew up in Northern Virginia and as a teenager developed his chess skills at the Arlington Chess Club. Later he established residence in the Virgin Islands and played in ten chess Olympiads for both British and US Virgin Islands teams. He won an Individual gold medal at the 1984 Olympiad in Thessalonica, Greece. Closer to home, he won the DC Open in 1977.



Kingstowne Quad №67/Action-Plus №39 Plus Eight

by Don Millican

Last month was a huge, near record-setting turnout which was easily accommodated because of a last-minute site change. The August 14 edition of the Quads and Action-Pluses in Alexandria had just under that number but in the usual location, and so for the first time we exceeded our venue's set-up. This required a configuration change from two boards per table to three, which meant players were more crowded than usual. A total of fourteen played in the Quads while the Action-Plus drew thirty-one.

Frank Gomez & Samuel Perez tied with 2 in the top Quad. Tiebreaks gave Perez 1st place silver and Gomez a bronze medal respectively. Anthony Conyers scored a perfect 3 in the middle Quad to win a gold medal. Tanmay Khattar scored 2 to take the bronze. Joie Wang was the winner of a gold medal in the six-player bottom "Quad" with 3, while Aditya Srikanth finished with 2, good for second place silver. Maxwell Ward had the best tiebreaks in a three-way tie for third, winning a bronze medal over Abhiram Kagitha & Steven Chilson.

Silver Knights Chess's Daniel Weissbarth won the Action-Plus with a perfect 5-0. Jesse Cai, Shicheng Zhao & Ibrahim Khazar shared 2nd place, Under 1800 and Unrated. Francis Chen took Under 1400.

The Plus Eight was the work of James Bascom who wanted to provide an authentic tournament environment, limited to players unrated or under 1000, for members of his chess clinic. Eight was the magic number determined to give unrated players a good chance for an accurate initial rating. A format and schedule identical to the Action-Plus was employed, and a prize fund was half the usual Action-Plus (which meant that Kingstowne Chess Club went slightly into the red for this section). Three of the field had ratings from 866 to just over 100 and there were "upsets" in that several unrateds defeated rated players. Rodney Bascom II was the winner with a perfect 5-0, while German Gonzalez took 2nd. Joshua Grulich was 3rd while Daniel Choi finished 4th. April Bascom & David Choi tied for 5th-6th.

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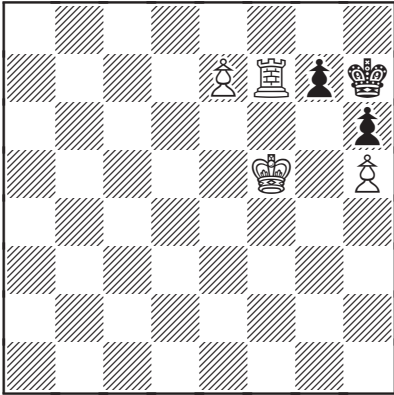
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Sleep & Creativity

by Tim Rogalski

In his book *Wonders and Curiosities of Chess*, Irving Chernev mentioned how in 1961 David Bronstein dreamed up a beautiful game. It is indeed a beauty and easy to find on the Internet. Bronstein was considered the most creative of all the grandmasters who played a World Championship title match, although he never became World Champion. The correlation between sleep and creativity is



Timothy Rogalski, 1984
Mate in 3

a fascinating subject. Between late 1979 and early 1980, I went through a creative phase. One day while napping in the middle of the afternoon I dreamed up a simple, yet unique chess problem. I didn't dream about the exact position, but the *idea behind* the problem. I abruptly awoke from intense REM sleep with the concept fresh in my mind and feverishly rushed to realize it on my chess set. Within several minutes I was able to compose my first, and only, mate-in-3 problem.

I submitted my problem to GM Pal Benko, who published it in his column in the August 1980 issue of *CHess LIFE*.

Humans can solve it, but computers still cannot! Neither Rybka nor Komodo, two of the world's strongest chess engines, is able to generate the correct solution. Eventually this flaw in computer chess programs will be resolved. Enough clues?

Virginia resident Akshita Gorti scored 6-1 to win the Under-8 Girls section at North American Youth Chess Championship held August 16-18 in Montreal, Canada.



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National Junior Girls Open

by Ashley Xue

The National Junior Girls Open was held this year in Irvine, California from July 31 to August 3. The weather was very nice and pleasant compared to the hot and humid days in Northern Virginia where I live. We had seen a record July temperature over past decades.

I was fortunate to be selected to represent Virginia girls during this four-day chess tournament. Although the participation was lower than I had expected with a total of twenty-five girls from different states, the tournament was a great experience to me. Many girls were the best of their state, and as expected, all of them played very well. I had opportunities to witness many tough games among them. As always, there were many surprising wins



Ashley Xue (right) prepared to play Margaret Hua

and losses during the tournament. There were joys to some and regrets to others. Overall I did the best I could, and won three games and drew three others. At the end, I received a third place plaque along with a \$150 award. In my mind, it wasn't my best tournament, but I am glad I attended this event.

After the tournament, my Mom and I went to the Disneyland. It's a different experience than I had with Walt Disney many times in Orlando, Florida. I enjoyed every second of it.

Before ending my short trip story, I would like to share a game with everyone. It was my third game out of six at the tournament, in which I played Margaret Hua from Missouri. She had a rating of 1845 and earned 2nd place in the final. The position and material on each side seemed to be equal most of the game, which led to a draw.

Ashley Xue - Margaret Hua

Giuoco Piano

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 d3 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 h3 h6 7 O-O O-O 8 Na4 Bb6 9 Nxb6 axb6 10 a3 Ne7 11 Nh2 Ng6 12 Kh1 Qe7 13 Be3 Be6 14 Bxe6 Qxe6 15 c4 Nd7 16 Ng4 Kh7 17 f4 f5 18 exf5 Qxf5 19 fxe5 Qxf1+ 20 Qxf1 Rxf1+ 21 Rxf1 Ngxe5 22 Nxe5 Nxe5 23 Bd4 Nc6 24 Bc3 Kg8 25 Kh2 Rf8 26 Rxf8+ Kxf8 27 Kg3 Kf7 28 Kf4 g6 29 Ke4 Ne7 ½-½

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