

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2011 - #2

GM Larry Kaufman

REPEATS AS
WINNER OF THE
**VIRGINIA
OPEN**



VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2011 - Issue #2

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2011 Virginia Open

THE VIRGINIA OPEN RETURNED to the Crowne Plaza, Tyson's Corner March 4-6. This was the third year in a row that this excellent venue hosted the VCF's largest annual event. GM Larry Kaufman overtook reigning state champion Dov Gorman in the final round to claim clear 1st place with a score of 4½-½.

Larry Kaufman - Dov Gorman

Dutch

1 d4 f5 2 Bg5 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 fxe4 5 Nxe4 Nf6 6 Nxf6+ exf6 7 Be3 d5 8 Qd2 Be6 9 O-O-O Qd7 10 Ne2 Nc6 11 Nf4 Bf7 12 Nd3 b6 13 Bh6 O-O 14 Bxg7 Kxg7 15 Nf4 Na5 [15...Rae8= Gorman] 16 h4 Nc4 17 Bxc4 dxc4 18 d5 Qa4? 19 Rh3 Rfd8 20 Ra3 Qb5 21 Rg3 Rd6? 22 Nh5+ Kf8 [if 22...Kh8 23 Nxf6 Rxf6 24 Qd4 Kg7 25 Rf3] 23 Qh6+ Ke7 24 Re3+ Kd7 25 Qxh7 gxh5 26 Qxf7+ Kc8 27 Re8+ Kb7 28 Rxa8 Kxa8 29 Qxc7 Qc5 30 Qxc5 bxc5 31 c3 Kb7 32 b3 cxb3 33 axb3 Kc7 34 c4 f5 35 Re1 Rg6 36 g3 f4 37 gxf4 Rg4 38 Re7+ Kb6 39 f5 Rf4 40 f6 Rxh4 41 Kd2 Rf4 42 Ke3 Rf5 43 f4 h4 44 Re5 Rxf6 45 Re6+ Rxe6+ 46 dxe6 1-0

Former state champions Macon Shibut, Rusty Potter & Steve Greanias, as well as experts Benjamin Krause & Majur Juac all seized the opportunity to catch up with Gorman in a 6-way tie for 2nd place at 4-1. Richard Skinnell & Raymond Atkins each scored 3½ to share the class A prize.

In the Amateur section, Zijun Zhou, of Shenyang, China(!), swept the field 5-0 to capture undivided 1st place.

Zijun Zhou - Alan Lofdahl

French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 Bxc3+ 6 bxc3 Ne7 7 Nf3 Bd7 8 Rb1 Qc7 9 Bd3 Nbc6 10 O-O O-O? 11 Bxh7+ [Still effective after 400 years] Kxh7 12 Ng5+ Kg8 13 Qh5 Rfb8 14 Qh7+ Kf8 15 Qh8+ Ng8 16 Nh7+ Ke7 17 Bg5+ Nf6 18 Qxg7 Be8 19 Qf8+ Kd8 20 Nxf6 1-0

Joie Wang was 2nd with 4½. A large group with 4-1 apiece, claiming various shares of place and class prizes, included Jeffrey Barth, Htay Aung Kyawe, Robert Harrison, Alan Lofdahl, Justin Lohr, Jake Koenig, Edward Maclaren & Jonathan Cao. The class D prize split among Akhil Goel, Connor Docherty, Saichaita Jampana & Tristan Ma. Jonathan Naylor, Jamaal Abdul-alim & Bryant Lohr shared top Under 1200. Michael Belcher & Martin Volaric topped the top unrateds.

Over 140 players participated under Mike Atkins' able direction.



Andrew Samuelson – Larry Kaufman
Vienna

Gorman had started 4-0 and was in the lead by himself until the last round setback.

Major Juac - Dov Gorman

25 fxg4 Qa2+ 26 Kc1 Qxb2+ 27 Kd2
Rxc2+] 25...Nxb2 26 Rxb2 Bxb2 27
Nc4 Qa2+ 28 Kc2 Bg7+ 0-1

Dov Gorman - Yuri Barnakov
Scotch

Grinding out the slightest advantage

30...Rb5+ 31 Ka4 c6 32 Bc3 Bc7 33
b4 axb4 34 Bxb4 Bd8 35 Rd2+ Ke8
36 Rc2 Kd7 37 Bf8 g6 38 Rd2+ Kc8
39 Rd6 Kc7 40 Rd4 Rb2 41 Rf4 Kd7
42 Bxh6 g5 43 Rf3 Rb1 44 Rd3+ Ke8
45 h4 gxh4 46 gxh4 Rh1 47 Rd4 Be7
48 Rc4 Kd7 49 Bd2 f5 50 Bg5 Bd6 51
Rc3 f4 52 Kb3 Ra1 53 Kb2 Rf1 54
Rf3 Be5+ 55 Kc2 Ra1 56 Kb3 Rb1+

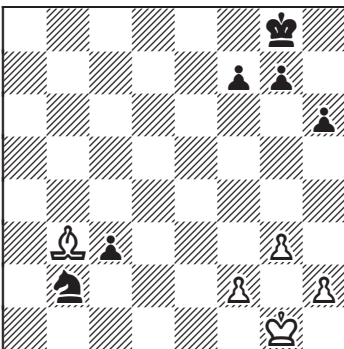


57 Ka4 Ke6? [57...Rd1 indirectly defending the pawn] **58 Bxf4 Bxf4** **59 Rxf4 Ke5** **60 Rg4 c5** **61 h5 Kd5?** [The only chance was 61...Rh1] **62 Rh4 Rb8** **63 h6 1-0**

Benjamin Krause had an excellent tournament, scoring a win and two draws against higher-rated opponents to move his own rating into the Master category. Juac also made impressive strides, gaining over 30 rating points.

Ray Kaufman - Benjamin Krause Catalan

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 d5 4 g3 dxc4 **5 Bg2 Bb4+ 6 Bd2 a5 7 O-O O-O 8 Qc2 Bxd2 9 Nbx2 b5 10 a4 c6 11 Rfd1 Qb6 12 Ng5** [12 b3] **12...h6** **13 Nge4 Nd5 14 Nc5 Na6 15 Nxa6 Bxa6 16 Ne4 Rfd8 17 Nc5 Rab8 18 e4 Nb4 19 Qc3 Nd3 20 Nxa6** [20 axb5] **20...Qxa6 21 axb5 Rxb5 22 Rd2 Rb3 23 Qxa5 Qxa5 24 Rxa5 Rxb2 25 Rxb2 Nxb2 26 d5 cxd5 27 exd5 exd5** [27...c3! 28 Rc5 Na4 29 Rc7 exd5 was stronger. However, the text provoked an immediate error...] **28 Rxd5?** [Losing by force in view of Black's trick on move 30] **28...Rxd5 29 Bxd5 c3 30 Bb3**



30...Nc4! Obviously the knight cannot be taken. However, Black threatens 31...Na3 Δ...c2, and White's king cannot approach since if 31 Kf1 Nd2+ & ...Nxb3 **0-1**

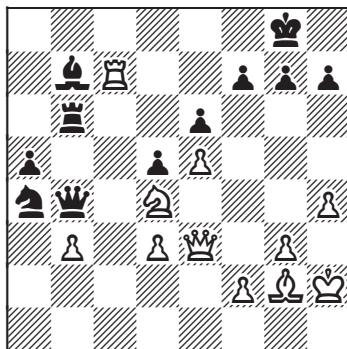
Macon Shibut - Andrew Rea King's Indian Attack

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 e6 2 d3 b6 3 g3 Bb7 4 Bg2 Nf6 5 Nf3 d5 6 Nbd2 c5 [6...dxe4 7 Ng5±] **7 O-O Qc7 8 Re1 Be7 9 Qe2 O-O 10 e5 Nfd7** [After some shadow boxing over move order we arrive at a normal type of position from the so-called Long Variation of the King's Indian Attack.] **11 Nf1 Nc6 12 h4 Nd4** [12...Rac8] **13 Nxd4 cxd4 14 Bf4 Rac8 15 Rac1** [Observing Lasker's Rule: *defend direct threats with an unemployed piece*. But as Black's queenside counterplay is coming nonetheless, 15 Rec1 was also worth considering. 15 Qg4?! on the other hand could only work well if Black replied 15...Kh8, when White covers c2 conveniently by 16 Re2. Instead, 15...Qxc2 16 Bh6 g6 17 Bxf8 Bxf8 would get more than enough for the exchange, eg 18 Qe2 Ba6 etc.] **15...b5 16 Nh2 Qa5 17 a3** [In principle White wants to play on the kingside and not allow the center of attention to shift west. However, there are targets in Black's rear—practically his entire second rank is hanging—and so I embarked on a tactical adventure.] **17...b4 18 Bd2 Qb6 19 axb4 Bxb4 20 Nf3 Rc7 21 Bxb4 Qxb4 22 Ra1 a5 23 b3 Rfc8 24 Ra4 Qb6?** [24...Qc5 would prevent 25 Nxd4? in view of 25...Nb6. White might be still a bit better after 25 Rb1, but a pawn is a pawn.] **25 Nxd4 Nc5 26 Raa1 Qb4 27 Qe3 Ra8** [At this



point I noticed the move c3! Black can't take it due to Nb5, so the reply would be Qb6. Then a question arises: have I pushed back the queen and eliminated my backward pawn? or have I, in fact, undermined my own structure? For the moment I kept c3 in reserve but the possibility drove my analysis over the next couple of turns.] **28 Re b1 Ra6** [Here 29 c3 faced a more concrete objection: 29...Qb6 and the desirable 30 b4? runs into 30...axb4 31 Rxb4 Rxa1 *with check*. Thus the root idea behind my next move, but I was also anticipating Black might have 29...Rb6 in mind, so I calculated that carefully and what I found delighted me!] **29 Kh2! Rb6** [Precluding Nb5, and thus 'preventing' c3—except it doesn't.] **30 c3! Qxc3 31 Rc1 Qb4** [Forced. 31...Qb2 32 Rxa5 leaves Black in a bad way, eg 32...Na6 33 Rxa6 Qxc1 34 Qxc1 Rxc1 35 Rxb6] **32 Ra4! Nxa4 33 Rxc7**



The attacked knight has three possible moves. If 33...Nc5 34 Qf4! and the sudden shift to the kingside abruptly collapses Black's game. 33...Nc3 is hardly better as again 34 Qf4! follows. Although Black has 34...Qf8, simply 35 Rxc3 wins. That leaves...

33...Nb2 34 Qf4! Qf8 35 Qd2

Black's knight is in mortal danger. Counterattacking White's knight by 35...Qb4 fails because 36 Qxb2 defends

2011 Virginia Senior Championship

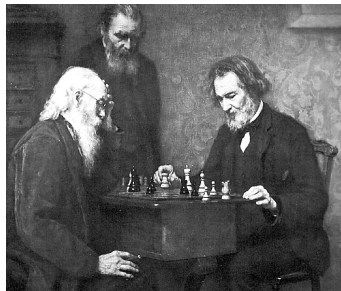
June 11-12, 2011

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htm Hotel: Comfort Inn Landmark, 6253 Duke St, Alexandria Va 22312, 703-642-3422, \$75/day rates available Fri-Sun. *Enter:* Make checks to "Virginia Chess" and mail to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6138, Alexandria, Va 22306.

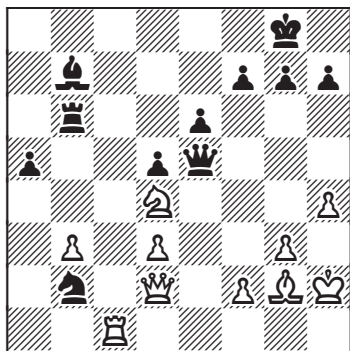




it. But the most obvious move, 35...Qa3, is a bit more complicated because if then 36 Rc2 Qb4! now works: 37 Rxb2 Qxd4; or if my knight moves away, 37...Qxb3.

As a practical matter I would have played 36 Qf4 to repeat the position one time, getting closer to the time control while taking a more careful look around. Later at home I found the solution, and it is not particularly complicated. My opponent perhaps saw it already at the board, which would explain why he didn't play 35...Qa3. White can win by 36 Qc1! (or as the case would have been, 36 Qf4 Qf8 37 Qd2 Qa3 38 Qc1!) threatening Rxb7! Making luft doesn't help (36...h6 37 Rxb7 Rxb7 38 Qc8+ Kh7 39 Qxb7 wins), so I guess Black tries 36...Ba6. But then comes either 37 Rc2, which works here (37...Qb4 38 Qxb2!), or 37 Nc2! Qxb3 38 Qf4! (again!)

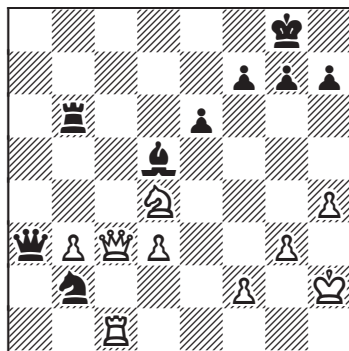
35...Qb8 [Defense by counterattack. But the rook can run away, whereas Black's knight is trapped. Black is conceding the piece and hoping to grab enough pawns.] **36 Rc1 Qxe5**



The obvious and sensible thing was simply to take the knight. But while awaiting my opponent's move, I noticed 37 Qxa5. This attacks his rook, and 37...Qxd4 is crisply refuted 38 Qa8+! Bxa8 39 Rc8mate. So 37 Qxa5 is really a double threat, Qxb6 or Qa8+. The only answer is 37...Qd6 to prepare cover on the back rank by ...Qf8. Now what? I considered that I might go back and try to win the knight after all, 38 Qc3, but then that annoying 38...Qa3 pops up again. I had just gotten over fretting about that, I was in no mood to knock my head against it again, so without further thought I took the piece.

37 Qxb2

It wins, so I don't feel inclined to adorn this with a question mark (or ?! even). However, 37 Qxa5! was best after all, and the proof is exceptionally beautiful. 37...Qd6 38 Qc3 Qa3 39 Bxd5!! White's remaining piece crashes into the game. If 39...exd5 there could follow 40 Nf5 Rg6 (or 40...f6 41 Qc7) 41 Qc8+! Qf8 42 Ne7+ Kh8 43 Qxf8mate. As for the other capture, 39...Bxd5 ...





...40 Qa5!! attacking queen plus rook and deflecting Black's back rank defense in the event of 40...Qxa5 41 Rc8 *mate*.

37...h6 [If 37...Rb4 38 Qc3 gets my queen on a defended square with tempo thanks to the mate threat, after which my knight could move.] **38 Qc3 Rb4 39 Nc6?** [At this point the priority was reaching move 40 with my flag intact, but the text gives back a huge chunk of advantage. 39 Nf3 was correct.] **39...Rxh4+?** [Returning the favor. 39...Qxc3 would have posed serious technical problems, eg 40 Rxc3 Bxc6 41 Rxc6 Rxb3 42 Bf1 a4 43 Ra6 a3] **40 Kg1 Qxc3 41 Rxc3 Rg4 42 Nxa5 Ba6 43 Bf1 Rb4 44 Rc6 Bb7** [Only move, as of course he can't afford to fall into the pin 44...Bb5 45 Rb6 etc] **45 Rc7 Ba6 46 Rc6 Bb7 47 Nxb7?!** [I weakened. White can win by 47 Rd6! consistently aiming to get behind the bishop. I missed that after 47...Rb5 I could play 48 b4! with the idea 48...Rxb4 49 Rd8+ Kh7 50 Rb8] **47...Rxb7 48 Rc3 d4 49 Rc4 Rxb3 50 Rxd4** [And so, a whole new phase begins. Of course the extra piece should win somehow, but it is not easy because for White to create a passed pawn is no simple matter.] **50...g5 51 Be2 Rb7 52 Kg2 Kg7 53 Bh5 Ra7 54 Kf3 Rb7 55 Ke3 Ra7 56 Rd6 Rb7 57 Ra6 Rc7 58 Rb6 Ra7 59 Bf3 Kg6 60 Rb8 Rc7 61 Rb2 Ra7 62 Kd4 Ra4+ 63 Kc5 Ra5+ 64 Kd6 Kf6 65 Be4 Ra6+ 66 Bc6 Ra3 67 Rd2**

I achieved two major accomplishments during these preceding seventeen moves. First, I got ahead on the clock, which I was thinking could turn out to be very

important in such an endgame with a 'sudden death' final time control. At this point I had about forty minutes remaining to my opponent's thirty. Second, I found at least the outline of a plan: transfer the bishop to c4, play Re2, and then seek an opportunity to return the piece for two pawns by Bxe6. With my king wonderfully advanced and Black's king cut off on the e-file, there ought to be ways to usher my d-pawn to victory.

If I couldn't make certain of the rook ending, another possibility would be to advance everything *en mass*, eliminate all the pawns, and go to work with R+B *vs* R. Theoretically this should be a draw, but in practice the ending is always played out even among grandmasters (see Kramnik-Carlsen from last year's London tournament, for example), and often with success. I've actually had it a couple times before, including a game I annotated for VIRGINIA CHESS (Shibut-Krisentov, 1999 Emporia Open) and another one from the DC League that involved a week-long adjournment, during which I studied the theory. Had it come to this, I would have felt pretty good about my chances of winning, especially with a clock advantage.

In a brief conversation afterwards, Andrew concurred that Black is going down one way or another if he does nothing. So he abandoned the defensive crouch and made a run for counterplay with the h-pawn.

67...h5 68 Bb5 Ra5 69 Bc4 Rf5 [if 69...h4 I probably would have played 70 f3!?] **70 Re2 h4 71 gxh4 gxh4 72 Re4 Kg5** [If 72...Rxf2 73 Rxh4 the



plan of trading the bishop for Black's pawns and a winning rook endgame remains on the agenda. Or if 72...Rh5 73 Rf4+ Kg6 (defending his pawn; instead 73...Kg5 74 Rxf7 h3 75 Rg7+ gets back and wins, eg 75...Kf4 76 Rg1 h2 77 Rh1 Kf3 78 Kxe6 Kg2 79 Bd5+ Rxd5 80 Rxh2+) 74 Rg4+ and 75 Rg2] **73 Re5** [Finally a clear win is in view. The bishop reaches the long diagonal in time and coordinates beautifully with the unmoved f-pawn to create a barrier against Black's king.] **73...h3 74 Ba6 h2 75 Bb7 Kg4 76 Rxf5 Kxf5 77 Bh1 e5 78 Ke7 f6 79 Kf7** [Black's pawns must eventually fall to zugzwang since White can make tempo moves with the bishop as needed.] **79...Kg5 80 Ke6 Kg6 81 Bg2 Kg5 82 Be4 f5 83 Bh1 Kf4 84 Kd5 e4 85 dxe4 fxe4 86 Bxe4 1-0** Played on board 3 in the final round, this was the very last game to finish at the 2011 Virginia Open. Winning it allowed me to join a tie for second place.

Thomas Magar - Edward Pabalan Benoni

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 c5 4 d5 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 Bg2 g6 7 Nc3 Bg7 8 Nf3 O-O 9 O-O Re8 10 Nd2 b6 11 e4 Ng4

12 Nc4 Ne5 13 Nxe5 Bxe5 14 Re1 Bd7 15 a4 Na6 16 Be3 f5 17 Qd2 Nb4 18 exf5 Bxf5 19 Bg5 Qd7 20 Ne4 Bxe4?! [20...Qg7] 21 Rxe4 a6 22 h4 b5 23 Kh2 Bd4? [A blunder, which could be most simply demonstrated by 24 Rxd4 cxd4 25 Qxb4. But White contrives a more elaborate way.] **24 Bh3** [Now it might seem Black could escape the worst by 24...Qg7, reinforcing his bishop. However, in that case there could follow 25 Be6+ and if 25...Kh8 26 Rxd4! is back on after all because of 26...Qxd4 27 Qxd4+ cxd4 28 Bf6mate] **24...Qxh3+** [desperate measures for a desperate situation] **25 Kxh3 Rxe4 26 axb5 Nxd5 27 bxa6 Nb4 28 Ra4 Nxa6 29 Qd3 1-0**

Charles Yang - Andrew Samuelson Benoni

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nf3 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 Nc3 g6 7 e4 Bg7 8 h3 O-O 9 Bd3 b5 10 Nxb5 Re8 11 O-O Nxe4 12 Re1 a6 13 Na3 Nf6 14 Rxe8+ Nxe8 15 Bg5 Qc7 16 Qe2 Nf6 17 Nc4 Nbd7 18 Bxf6 Nxf6 19 Re1 Bb7 20 Qe7 Qxe7 21 Rxe7 Bxd5 22 Nb6 Rd8 23 b3 Bc6 24 Ng5 Rb8 25 Nc4 Nd5 26 Ra7 Nb4 27 Be2 Bb5 28 Bf3 d5

Hampton Roads Swiss

June 18, 2011

Holiday Inn, 1815 W Mercury Blvd @ I-64, Hampton, Va

4-SS, Game/70. \$\$700 b/30: \$200-100, A, B/Unr, C, D, U1200 each \$80. EF \$37 if received by 6/16, \$45 thereafter. Reg 8:30-9:00 am, rds 9:20-12:15-2:45-5:15. One irrevocable half-pt bye available when entering. Hotel 1-4 \$69, 757-838-0200. For additional info and a printable entry form browse <http://mysite.verizon.net/eschlich> or email ESchlich@verizon.net Enter: Ernie Schlich, 1370 S Braden Crescent, Norfolk, VA 23502.





Virginia Open (cont)



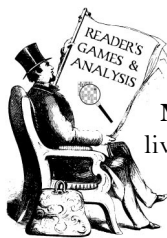
29 Ne3 d4 30 Nd5 Nc6 31 Rc7 Re8
32 Nxf7 Re1+ 33 Kh2 Ne5 34 Ng5
Nxf3+ 35 Nxf3 Re8 36 g3 Be2 37 Nd2
d3 38 Rxc5 Rd8 39 Kg2 Bd4 40 Ra5
Kf7 41 Nf3 Bxf3+ 42 Kxf3 Bb6 0-1

Tom Beckman - Abishek Penumala
Ragozin

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 c4 d5 4 Nc3 Bb4
5 Bg5 Bxc3+ 6 bxc3 c6 7 Qc2 Nbd7
8 e3 O-O 9 Bd3 h6 10 h4 Qc7 11
Bf4 Qa5 12 Bd6 Re8 13 Ne5 Nxe5 14
dxe5 Nd7 15 f4 Nc5 16 Bh7+ Kh8 17
O-O dxc4 18 Rf3 Nd3 19 Be4 Bd7 20
Rd1 c5 21 Rb1 Bc6 22 Bxc6 bxc6 23
Rg3 Qd8 24 Qe2 Qxh4 25 Rh3 Qd8
26 Rb7 f5 27 Qh5 1-0

Leif Karell - Harry Cohen
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 g6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4
Nc6 5 Nb3 Bg7 6 Be2 d6 7 O-O Nf6
8 Nc3 O-O 9 Be3 Bd7 10 f4 a6 11 a4
Na5 12 e5 Ne8 13 Nxa5 Qxa5 14 Nd5
e6 15 Nb6 Rd8 16 c3! 1-0 There is no
good defense against 17 b4.



Former VCF President
Marshall Denny now
lives in Seattle. Here is
a recent game of his
in which Marshall
defeated an opponent
rated 400 points higher!

Amith Vanmane - Marshall Denny
Seattle "Cabin Fever" 2011
Sicilian

Notes by Ernie Schlich

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7
5 d3 d6 6 h3 Nf6 7 g4 O-O 8 Be3 a6
9 Qd2 b5 10 f5 Bb7 11 Bh6 b4 12 Ne2
e5 13 Bxg7 Kxg7 14 Ng3 d5 15 g5
dxe4 16 gxf6+ Qxf6 17 Nxe4 Qxf5
18 Bg2 Rad8 [Fritz thinks that White
is winning here, and recommends 19
Nxc5] 19 Qg5 Qxg5 20 Nfxg5 Nd4 21
O-O-O? f5 22 Nxc5 Bxg2 23 Nce6+
Nxe6 24 Nxe6+ Kf6 25 Nxf8 Rxf8 26
Rh2 Bd5 27 c4 bxc3 28 bxc3 f4 29 Re1
g5 30 d4? e4 [Marshall plays for the
passed pawns. Good idea!] 31 c4 Rc8 32
c5 e3 33 a3 h5 34 Rg1 f3 35 Re1 f2 0-1

Richard Stephen Callaghan Jr. 1935-1911

Richard Stephen Callaghan Jr. died on Friday, January 28, 2011, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He was a correspondence chess IM and 1968 Virginia state champion. A perusal of newsletters from the 1960's and 70's shows that he was an active participant who regularly finished near the top in major Virginia chess events. However, I did not come across any of his games. Readers with Callaghan games or other reminiscence that they would like to share in VIRGINIA CHESS are welcome to contact the Editor.





Kingstowne Chess Club

by Don Millican

QUAD #72/ACTION-PLUS #44

Kingstowne Chess Club's seventy-second Quad and forty-fourth Action-Plus took place on February 12. Another turnout record was established with six in the "Quad" and thirty-seven in the Action-Plus. That's how it appeared at the start of play.

And then there were three. One advance "Quad" entry was a no-show. Another decided to withdraw after round 2. Having completed the second round quickly, he didn't want to hang around for the final game. Then another player decided to simply leave. That reduced the final count to three. Frank Gomez took the gold medal for 1st place with a 3-0 score. Tanmay Khattar was second, picking up the silver medal, which left the bronze for the only remaining player, Ajith Kemiseti.

Alexander Passov & Aravin Ponukumati tied with 4½ atop an Action-Plus that paid out an 85% premium above the advertised prize fund. Ken Borghese & Tan Nguyen took Under 1800 and Under 1400 respectively.

QUAD #73/ACTION-PLUS #45

Quad #73/Action-Plus #45 on March 19 broke a streak of outstanding attendance and increased prize funds. This time only thirteen turned out for the Action-Plus. Moreover, only two wanted to enter the Quads. They settled for migration into the Action-Plus, making the final field fifteen.

Alec Passov, Stephen Miller & Satish Nath finished with 4, sharing 1st through 3rd places. Alex Peng & Roberto Garcia shared Under 1800. David Chen won Under 1400.



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Leningrad Dutch

by Dov Gorman

LIKE MANY ACTIVE TOURNAMENT CHESS PLAYERS, I am ever on the lookout for new opening ideas. A few months ago I was impressed by a performance of GM Hikaro Nakamura in his game against GM Alexander Grischuk, an opponent known for his meticulous opening preparation.

Grischuk – Nakamura
2010 Tal Memorial, Moscow
Dutch

1 d4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 O-O
 O-O 6 b3 d6 7 Bb2 c6 8 Nbd2 a5 9 c4 Na6 10
 Qc2 Qc7 11 a3 Re8 12 e4 fxe4 13 Nxe4 Bf5 14
 Nh4 Bxe4 15 Bxe4 Nxe4 16 Qxe4 e5 17 dxe5
 Qb6 18 Qc2 dxe5 19 Bc1 Nc5 20 Rb1 Ne6
 21 Be3 Nd4 22 Qe4 Qc5 23 a4 Qb4 24 Kg2
 Re7 25 Nf3 Nf5 26 Rfd1 Nxe3+ 27 fxe3
 Rf8 28 Rf1 Qa3 29 h4 Ref7 30 Qc2 Qc5
 31 Rbe1 Bh6 32 Qe4 Qb4 33 Rb1 Qc3
 34 Rbd1 Qxb3 35 Rd3 Qc2+ 36 Rf2 Qb1
 37 Rf1 Qc2+ 38 Rf2 Qxa4 39 h5 gxh5 40
 Rd6 Bg7 41 Kh3 h6 42 Rg6 Qb4 43 Nh4 Qe7
 44 Rd2 Rf6 45 c5 Qe6+ 46 Kg2 Rxg6 47 Nxg6
 Ra8 48 Qb1 Qf7 49 Rf2 Qd7 50 Kh2 Qe6 51 Qxb7
 Re8 52 Nh4 Rf8 53 Rxf8+ Bxf8 54 Qa8 Qa2+ 55 Ng2 Qd5 56 Qxa5 Qxc5 57
 Qa8 Kg7 58 Nh4 Qc2+ 59 Kh3 Qe4 60 Qb7+ Kf6 61 Kh2 Be7 62 Qa8 Kf7
 63 Qb7 Qc4 64 Qc7 Qe2+ 65 Ng2 Qb5 66 Nh4 Qb2+ 67 Kh3 Qc1 68 Kh2
 Qd2+ 69 Kh3 Qd6 70 Qb7 Ke6 71 Nf3 Bf6 72 e4 Qd7 73 Qb8 Kf7+ 74 Kg2
 Qe6 75 Kh2 Kg7 76 Qc7+ Kg6 77 Qb8 c5 78 Qf8 c4 79 Qc5 h4 80 Nd2 Qg4
 81 Nxc4 Qe2+ 82 Kh3 Qxe4 83 Kh2 Qe2+ 84 Kh3 Qf3 85 Nxe5+ Bxe5 86
 Qxe5 Qh1+ 87 Kg4 Qd1+ 88 Kh3 Qh1+ 89 Kg4 Qd1+ 90 Kh3 Qh1+ ½–½



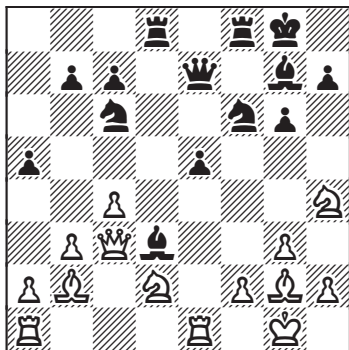
Clearly, Nakamura had a winning position and the game seemed to illustrate the dynamic features of the opening, the Leningrad Variation of the Dutch Defense. I decided to look deeper into this opening. I quickly realized that the line presents many unexplored opportunities for active play. Subsequently, while attending a tournament, I picked up a 1997 book by Neil McDonald called *Dutch Leningrad*. This book, while dated, is an excellent introductory text as it discusses the ideas behind the opening, the typical pawn structures, plans, opportunities and risks. It also includes a good collection of illustrative classic Leningrad games.



More thoroughly convinced, I decided to jump fully into the water and adopt the variation in my own games:

Tegshsuren Enkhbat - Dov Gorman
2010 Fairfax Open

1 d4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7
5 O-O O-O 6 b3 d6 7 Bb2 a5 8 Nbd2
e6 9 c4 Nc6 10 Qc2 Qe7 11 e4 e5 12
dxe5 dxe5 13 exf5 Bxf5 14 Qc3 Rad8
15 Nh4 Bd3 16 Rfe1

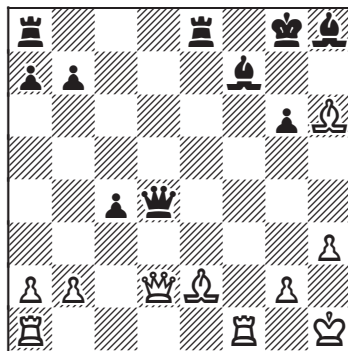


Black has a very promising position after either 16...Qc5 or 16...Rf7. Instead I played 16...Ng4? 17 Bd5+ Rxd5 18 cxd5 Nb4 19 f3 Bf6 [19... Nf6 20 Rxe5 Nfxd5 21 Rxe7 Bxc3 22 Bxc3 Nxe7 was better] 20 Ne4 Bxe4 21 Rxe4 Nh6 22 Rd1 Rd8 23 Ng2 Nf5 24 f4 Nxd5 25 Qxa5 b6 26 Qe1 Qc5+ 27 Kh1 c6 28 Bxe5 Bxe5 29 Rxe5 Kf7 30 g4 Nd4 31 Qh4 Rh8 32 f5 Nf3 33 fxg6+ Kg7 34 Qg3 Qc3 35 Rf5 Nxb2 36 Qxc3+ Nxc3 37 Rd7+ 1-0

Mark Kernighan - Dov Gorman
2011 US Amateur Team East

1 d4 f5 2 e3 Nf6 3 Bd3 g6 4 Nd2 Bg7 5
Ngf3 O-O 6 e4 fxe4 7 Nxe4 Nxe4 8 Bxe4
d5 9 Bd3 Nc6 10 Be3 e5 11 Nxe5 Nxe5
12 dxe5 Bxe5 13 c3 Qd6 14 Qd2 Be6 15
h3 c5 16 Bh6 Rfe8 [16...Rf7] 17 O-O c4

18 f4 Bh8 19 f5 Bf7 20 fxg6 hxg6 21 Be2
Qc5+ 22 Kh1 d4 23 cxd4 Qxd4



24 Rxf7 Kxf7 [if 24...Qxd2 25 Bxc4
Qxh6 26 Re7+ Kf8 27 Rf7+ Kg8 28 Re7+
draws by repetition] 25 Qxd4 Bxd4 26
Bxc4+ Ke7 27 Bg5+ Kd6 28 Bf7 Re2
29 Bxg6 Rg8 30 Bh5 Rxb2 31 Bf4+
Kc5 32 Bf3 Rc2 33 Rd1 b5 34 a3 Re8
35 Bc7 Bc3 36 Bf4 Re1+ 37 Rxe1 Bxe1
38 Bh6 Bg3 39 Be3+ Kd6 40 Kg1 Ra2
41 Kf1 Rxa3 42 Ke2 a5 43 Bc1 Ra1 44
Bd2 b4 45 Kd3 Be5 46 Kc4 Ra2 47 Be1
Ra3 48 Bxb4+ axb4 49 Kxb4 Rd3 50
Kc4 Rd4+ 51 Kb5 Bg3 52 Bg4 Be1 53
Bf3 Rb4+ 54 Ka6 Kc7 55 Ka5 Kd6 56
Ka6 Kc5 57 Ka5 Bh4 58 Ka6 Bd8 59
Ka7 Rb6 60 Bb7 Bc7 61 h4 Rb4 0-1

Larry Kaufman - Dov Gorman
Virginia Open

1 d4 f5 2 Bg5 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 fxe4
5 Nxe4 Nf6 6 Nxf6+ exf6 7 Be3 d5 8
Qd2 Be6 9 O-O-O Qd7 10 Ne2 Nc6
11 Nf4 Bf7 12 Nd3 b6 13 Bh6 O-O 14
Bxg7 Kxg7 15 Nf4 Na5?! [After 15...
Rae8 the position is even. In the next few
moves Blacks starts to lose the thread of



the position.] 16 h4 Nc4 17 Bxc4 dxc4 18 d5 Qa4? 19 Rh3 Rfd8 20 Ra3 Qb5 21 Rg3 Rd6 22 Nh5+ Kf8 23 Qh6+ Ke7 24 Re3+ Kd7 25 Qxh7 gxh5 26 Qxf7+ Kc8 27 Re8+ Kb7 28 Rxa8 Kxa8 29 Qxc7 Qc5 30 Qxc5 bxc5 31 c3 Kb7 32 b3 cxb3 33 axb3 Kc7 34 c4 f5 35 Re1 Rg6 36 g3 f4 37 gxf4 Rg4 38 Re7+ Kb6 39 f5 Rf4 40 f6 Rxh4 41 Kd2 Rf4 42 Ke3 Rf5 43 f4 h4 44 Re5 Rxf6 45 Re6+ 1-0

Daniel Maxwell – Dov Gorman

DC League 2011

1 Nf3 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 g6 4 d4 Bg7 5 O-O O-O 6 c4 d6 7 Nc3 Nc6 8 d5 Na5 9 Nd2 c5 10 Qc2 a6 [10...e5 11 dxe6

Bxe6 is more popular]

11 Rb1 Rb8 12 b3

b5 13 Bb2 e5 14

dxe6 Bxe6 15 Nd5

Rc8 16 Rbd1 [16

Nf4 Bf7 17 e4 was

better] 16...Nc6 17

Nxf6+ Bxf6 18 Bxf6

Qxf6 19 cxb5 Nb4!

20 Qb1 axb5 21 a3

Nd5 22 Qd3 Nc3 23 Rc1 b4 24 axb4

axb4 25 Nc4? [25 e3, and Black would

be just slightly better] 25...d5 26 Nb6

Rcd8 27 Ra1 Bf7 28 Na4 d4 29 Nxc3

dxcc3 30 Ra6 Rxd3 31 Rxf6 Rd2 32

Rc1 c2 33 Bf1 Bxb3 0-1



By this point I started to enjoy the opportunities this setup provides for Black. I decided to look into GM McDonald's new *Play the Dutch: An Opening Repertoire for Black based on the Leningrad Variation* (Everyman Chess, 2010. List price \$26.95).

This book is structured differently than its predecessor, beginning with a short section about typical strategic and tactical themes. It provides repertoire suggestions and sidelines against various move orders—1 Nf3, 1 c4 or 1 d4—and a very interesting section on anti-Dutch gambits (the Staunton gambit, as well as h3–g4 lines or h4–h5 lines) and variations like 1 d4 f5 2 Bg5.

McDonald elaborates on a strategic approach and provides clear guidelines for managing positional and tactical risks. I found his advice and insights very useful in formulating my own strategy for handling the Dutch. The tradeoff between dynamic activity and static, long-term weakness is the very nature of the Leningrad Variation. Understanding these relationships is key for achieving success with this opening.

The discussion in *Play the Dutch* is logical, offering the reader multiple approaches the opportunity to choose a treatment to suit one's taste. My main criticism is that the book is rather short (176 pages) and many of the classic games that were part of the author's earlier work were omitted this time. While theory of the Leningrad variation advanced rapidly, it still would have been useful to include some games of players like Tal, Larsen, Kortchnoi and Bronstein. But overall, I liked the book for its clarity and flow. GM McDonald's solid work can be useful for players in search of an uncompromising weapon as Black.

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