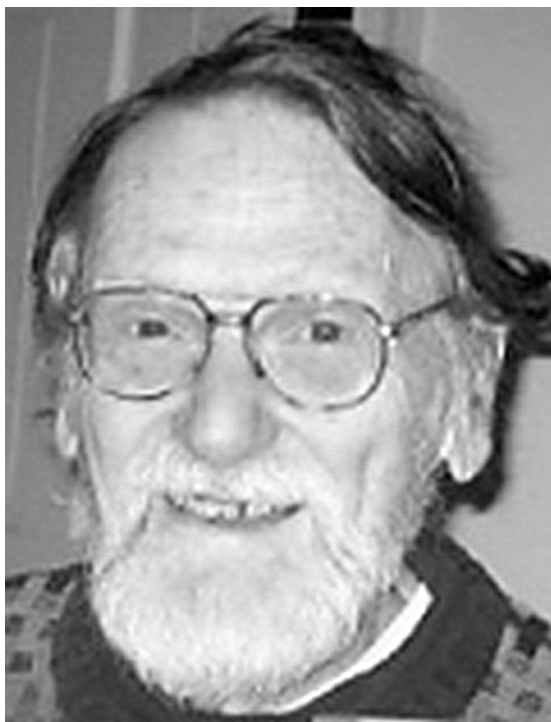


VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2011 - #5



Peter
Hopkins
(1926-2011)
see page 9

James Schuyler wins State Championship!
Full report inside

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2011 - 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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2011 Virginia State Championship

JAMES SCHUYLER and MACON SHIBUT each scored 5-1 to tie for first place at the 'Virginia Closed' state tournament, held near Richmond over Labor Day weekend. By virtue of superior tiebreaks Schuyler, who defeated Shibut head-to-head in round 4, is the 2011 Virginia State Champion.

Adithya Balasubramanian and Yuri Barnakov drew their last-round game to finish at 4½-1½ each and tie for third place. Larry Larkins, Eric Most & Andrew Rea shared the top Expert prize with 4 points apiece, and the same score made Justin Burgess clear winner of the class A prize. Vignesh Rajasekaran was top class B.

In the Under 1800 section, Adam Chrisney's clutch last-round win over previously undefeated William Stoots made him 2011 Virginia Amateur Champion with a score of 5½-½. Saad Al-Hariri, Robert Nolan & Ilya Kremenchugskiy joined Stoots at 5-1 to divide 2nd and 3rd-place plus the class C prize. Ryan Arab was top class D. Craig Bailey won top Unrated. The Under 1200 prizes race saw a logjam among Rajesh Pandit, Jeffrey Jones, Nathan Wu, Tanner Nicely & Travis Seppala.

At the annual VCF Business Meeting, Andrew Rae succeeded Mike Hofpaur as President of the state federation. Andy's first President's Message appears elsewhere in this issue. Hofpaur & Adam Weissbarth were elected to the VCF Board. Virginia's USCF Delegates for the coming year will be Ernie Schlich, John Farrell, Andy Rea & Mike Hofpaur, with Peter Snow & Helen Hinshaw selected as alternates.

The event attracted 109 entries to what is becoming the traditional Hilton Garden-Innsbrook venue. Mike Hofpaur directed smoothly on behalf of the VCF.

As for the games, it seems appropriate to begin with the one between the players who finished atop the tournament, and which therefor might be considered the 'decisive' battle for the championship. Except no one realized this at the time. The game was played in the 4th round and at that point, besides Schuyler and Shibut, Larry Larkins (a hot hand—he recently won the inaugural Virginia Cup) also had 3-0. Larry would defeat Geoff McKenna (2½) that round, so he and Schuyler went into the last day as the only remaining perfect scores.

James Schuyler – Macon Shibut London

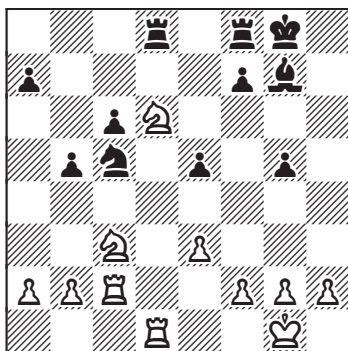
Notes by Macon Shibut

1 d4 Nf6 2 Bf4 g6 3 e3 Bg7 4 Be2 O-O 5 Nf3 d6 6 O-O Nh5 7 Bg5 h6 8 Bh4 g5 9 Nfd2 [Schuyler and I reached this same position a couple years ago. Ruining my kingside by 9...gxh4 didn't seem correct then, so I played 9...Nf6 and White retained a slight edge for a time (eventually neutralized). When I checked my database at

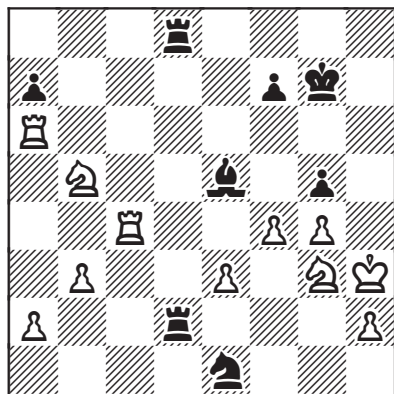


home I was surprised to find that really good players prefer 9...gxh4 after all. Not only that, they then continue as if they don't feel obliged to do anything special to justify the ugly structure! Black just plays on as if nothing has happened and his bishop pair has scored rather well in practice. I hadn't looked at it since, but I remembered this much. So after a short period of recollection and reflection...]

9...gxh4!? **10 Bxh5 e5** **11 dxe5** [11 c3 is more common but as I said, the results have not been convincing. Schuyler later opined that White's position "easier to play" after the text move.] **11...dxe5** **12 Nc3 Be6** **13 Be2 Nd7** **14 Bc4 Bf5** **15 Qh5 Bxc2** [Perhaps 15...Qg5!?!; but not 15...Bg6??] **16 Qxg6** **16 Nf3** [In the post mortem Schuyler judged that Black is in trouble now. I believe that is mostly the native optimism of a good player. Black should be okay still.] **16...c6** **17 Rac1 Bh7** **18 Rfd1 Qe7** **19 Nxh4 Rad8** [19...Nb6 followed by ...Qg5 is safer, not leaving targets.] **20 Nf5 Qg5** **21 Qxg5 hxg5** **22 Nd6 b5** [At this point 22...Nb6 would lose a pawn to 23 Nxb7 Rxd1+ 24 Nxd1!] **23 Bb3 Nc5** **24 Bc2 Bxc2** **25 Rxc2**



25...e4? [Initiating complications, and to be honest I had high hopes for them. Black gives up a couple pawns but White falls into a terrible looking pin. However, 25...Rd7! immediately was the correct implementation of the idea, and if 26 Ncxb5 Nb7 27 Rxc6 Rfd8 White's predicament is tougher than in the game. Extending my bishop's diagonal was not as important as the tempo I spent doing it.] **26 Ncxb5 Nb7** **27 Rxc6 Rd7** **28 g4!** [A more-than-adequate solution, which I had not appreciated from afar.] **28... Rfd8** **29 Kg2** [The point is now 29...Be5 fails to 30 Nxb7! Rxd1 31 Nxd8. Essentially the game is over—Black is two pawns behind. The rest was just trying to stir up some confusion] **29... Na5** **30 Ra6 Nc4** **31 b3 Ne5** **32 Rd4 Nd3** **33 Rc4** [the only square that does not get the rooks forked] **33...Ne1+** **34 Kh3 Be5** **35 Nxe4 Kg7** [threatening mate!] **36 Ng3 Rd2** [I still had hopes. Some combination of Rxf2, Nf3, Rh8... who knows?] **37 f4!**



But this wrecks everything. I spent most of my remaining time vainly searching for a new trick. For instance,



I considered 37...Bxf4 and if 38 exf4 R2d3 and at first I couldn't see how White prevents ...Rh8mate! But alas, upon second look there is 39 fxg5 Rh8+ 40 Rh6. Another idea I considered was 37...Rh8+ 38 Nh5+ Rxh5+ 39 gxh5 and then say 39...f5 envisioning some sort of mate with g4/Nf3/Rh2. But even

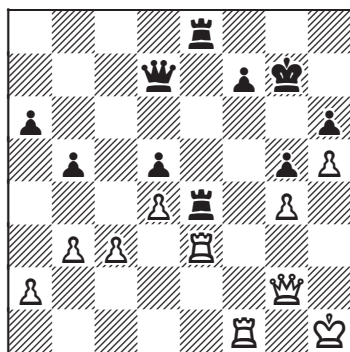
40 fxe5 is an adequate defense, since White is so far ahead in material that on 40...g4+ he always has 41 Rxg4+ if necessary. There is nothing here.

37...Nf3 38 Nf5+ Kh7 39 fxe5 Nxe5 40 Rd4 R8xd4 41 Nbx d4 Nd3 42 Kg3 Rb2 43 Nf3 1-0

As noted above, the Amateur Section was decided in the last round on the top board. To that point Stoots had sailed through to 5-0, defeating several higher-rated opponents along the way. Chrisney, at 4½-1½ was the last hurdle...

William Stoots - Adam Chrisney Stonewall

1 f4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 e3 a6 4 d4 cxd4 5 exd4 Nf6 6 Bd3 Nc6 7 c3 b5 8 O-O Bb7 9 f5 Be7 10 Nbd2 O-O 11 Ne4 Nxe4 12 Bxe4 Na5 13 Bc2 Nc4 14 Qd3 exf5 15 Qxf5 g6 16 Qh3 Bxf3?! 17 Rxf3 Bf6 18 b3 Nb6 19 Bd2 [19 Ba3!? with Raf1 to follow] 19...d5 20 Qg3 Bg7 21 Raf1 Qd7 [To this point White has played well and obtained an advantageous position. However, from here he drifts, unable to find a way to increase the pressure and gradually weakening his own position in the effort.] 22 Bg5 Rae8 23 Qf2 Nc8 24 Bf6 Re6 25 Bxg7 Kxg7 26 g4 Qe7 27 Bd3 Nd6 28 h4? h6 29 h5 g5 30 Qg2 Ne4 31 Bb1 [The safe arrival of the knight on e4 marks the end of Black's difficulties. White should exchange off this obviously superior piece and settle in for a defense, 31 Bxe4 Rxe4 32 Rf5 etc.] 31... Qd7 32 Kh1 Re7 33 Re3?! [Relaxing pressure on the f-file gave Black a chance to try 33... f5!] 33... Rfe8 34 Bxe4 [34 Ref3] 34... Rxe4



The exchange on e4 occurred under worse circumstances than White could have had earlier, but it was still possible for him to resist by counterattacking f7, eg 35 Ref3 R8e7 36 Rf5

35 Rxe4? Rxe4 36 Rf5 Qe6 [Now the exposure of White's king and superior activity of Black's pieces make the defense very difficult.] **37 Qf3 Re1+ 38 Kg2 Re2+ 39 Kf1 Re3 40 Qxd5 Re1+ 41 Kg2 Qe2+ 42 Kh3 Qe3+ 43 Rf3?** [The collapse. 43 Qf3 hangs on more tenaciously, although Black would be doing better after 43...Rh1+ 44 Kg3 Qe1+ 45 Qf2 Qxc3+] **43... Rh1+ 44 Kg2 Qg1mate 0-1**



James Schuyler - Andrew Rea

London

1 d4 Nf6 2 Bf4 c5 3 e3 d6 4 c3 cxd4 5 exd4 g6 6 Nf3 Bg7 7 Bc4 O-O 8 O-O
 Nbd7 9 Re1 Nb6 10 Bb3 Bg4 11 h3 Bxf3 12 Qxf3 Qd7 13 a4 Nc8 14 Na3
 Qc6 15 Qe2 Nd5 16 Bg3 e6 17 Nc4 Nc7 18 a5 Rd8 19 Bh4 Rf8 20 Ne3 b5 21
 d5 exd5 22 Qf3 Rb8 23 Bxd5 Nxd5 24 Nxd5 Qb7 25 a6 Qa8 26 Nf6+ Bxf6
 27 Qxf6 d5 28 Qd4 Nd6 29 g4 Rbc8 30 Be7 Rc4 31 Qe5 Ne4 32 Bxf8 Qxf8
 33 Qxd5 Nc5 34 Rad1 1-0

VCF President's Message

by Andrew Rea

The Virginia Chess Federation is a collaborative association of players, organizers and volunteers! Filling the shoes of Mike Hoffpauir as the new VCF President will be a tall order—our ship is in very good shape!—but one made easier by having the help of so many good people throughout the state.

Our goals remain the same—to promote chess at all levels. We will continue to sponsor our two main tournaments: the Virginia Open and the Virginia “Closed” State Championship. Our Scholastic Championship in March continues to attract of dozens of volunteer assistants.

The VCF will remain receptive to new and interesting ideas. Obviously the new VCF Cup Tour has my mark on it, but the reason it has been successful is the support of the players. There will be a new tournament just outside Richmond this December—a bright idea fostered by a suitable tournament site having been found, but its success will depend not on my blessing but whether players decide it is worthy of their support.

Please be assured, there is no monopoly on “theoretical novelties”, ie bright ideas for the promotion of chess in Virginia. I have been around the block some, playing chess since 1968, and you can be sure I will be glad to listen to your suggestions! Always feel free to contact me with your questions, concerns, and bright ideas. I can be reached at andrerea2@yahoo.com

Virginia is large, and clearly the greatest amount of activity has been in Northern Virginia. However, my attention, as well as that of my fellow VCF officers, will encompass the entire commonwealth! We need your help to support local chess clubs, to scholastic chess, and regular tournaments. Thanks to all for your support of Virginia chess!



Macon Shibut – Larry Larkins

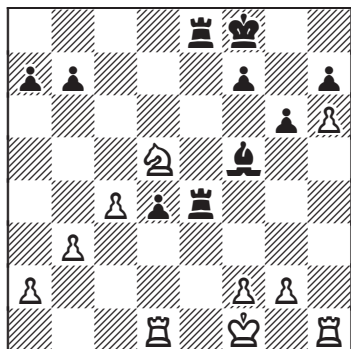
Zukertort

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 d4 d5 3 e3 Nbd7 4 Bd3 c5 5 b3 Qc7 6 Bb2 e6 7 Nbd2 a6 8 O-O b5 9 c4 bxc4 10 bxc4 cxd4 11 exd4 Rb8 12 Rb1 dxc4 13 Bxc4 [13 Nxc4] 13...Bd6 14 Qe2 O-O 15 Rfc1 Qa5 16 Ne5 Rxb2 17 Rxb2 Ba3 18 Rbc2 Bxc1 19 Rxc1 Nb6 20 Bb3 Nbd5 21 Ndc4 Qb5 22 Qc2 Bd7 23 Nd6 Qa5 24 Qc5 Qd2 25 Bxd5 exd5 26 a3 Be6 27 Qc3 Qf4 [27... Qxc3 28 Rxc3 Rb8 was safer] 28 g3 Qh6 29 Qe3 [29 f4!? and if 29...Ng4 30 Nf3. After the text move Black should again accept the proffered endgame, 29... Qxe3 30 fxe3 Rb8 and in the event of 31 Rc6 Rb1+ 32 Kf2 Rb2+ he would be fine.] 29...Qh3?! 30 f3 h5? [A clear error after which Black was fortunate not to be lost outright. 30...Rd8 looks correct and White retains some pressure by 31 Rc6] 31 Nd3! [threatening to mate the Black queen] 31...Bc8 32 Rc7 Qe6 [The last moves were forced. Black gets the endgame he avoided under much worse circumstances with his a-pawn very difficult to hold.] 33 Qxe6 Bxe6 34 Nc5 [34 Ra7] 34...Rb8 35 Rb7 Rxb7 [35...Rd8 36 Rb6] 36 Ndx7 Ne8 [36...Bc8 37 Nd6] 37 Nxa6 Bc8 38 Nbc5 Kf8 39 Nb4 Nc7 40 Nc6! domination Ke8 41 a4 f6 42 Kf2 Bd7 43 Nxd7 Kxd7 44 Nb4 Kd6 45 Ke3 g6 46 Kd3 g5 47 Ke3 Kd7 48 f4 Ke6 49 fxg5 fxg5 50 a5 Kd6 51 a6 Nb5 52 h4 gxh4 53 gxh4 Nc7 54 a7 Ke7 55 Kf3 Ke6 56 Kg3 Kd6 57 Kf4 Ne6+ 58 Kf5 Nxd4+ 59 Kg6 1-0

Jonathan Yu – Travis Seppala

Grünfeld

1 d4 d5 2 Bf4 Nf6 3 e3 g6 4 c4 Bg7 5 Nc3 O-O 6 Nf3 Nc6 7 Bd3 e6 8 h3 Re8 9 Ne5 Nxe5 10 Bxe5 Nd7 11 Bxg7 Kxg7 12 h4 c5 13 h5 Qg5 14 Qf3 cxd4 15 exd4 e5 16 Nxd5 exd4+ 17 Kf1 Ne5 18 h6+ Kf8 19 Qf4 Qxf4 20 Nxf4 Nxd3 21 Nxd3 Be6 22 b3 Bf5 23 Rd1 Rad8 24 Nf4 Re4 25 Nd5 Rde8 (diagram)



Stepping into a fork, but Black has a combination in mind. 26 Nf6 Re1+! 27 Rxe1 Bd3+ 28 Kg1 Rxe1+ 29 Kh2 Rxh1+ 30 Kxh1 g5 [To defend h7. The attempt to trap the knight by 30...Ke7 31 Nxh7 f6 would boomerang after 32 Ng5! fxg5 33 h7] 31 Kg1 Ke7 32 Nd5+ Ke6 33 Nb4 Be4 34 Kf1 g4 35 g3? [White lacks a sense of irony—his knight gets trapped on the other side of the board. He needed to provide an escape square by 35 a3] 35...a5 36 Nd5 Bxd5 37 cxd5+ Kxd5 38 Ke2 Ke4 39 a3 d3+ 40 Kd2

Kf3 41 Kxd3 Kxf2 42 Ke4 Kxg3 43 Kf5 Kh3 44 Kf6 g3 and Black won... 0-1



Ryan Arab - Jerome Muller

King's Gambit

We aren't sure who won the upset prizes at this year's State Championship, but this was surely one of the contenders—nearly 400 rating points. Ryan Arab gets it done in style with a King's Gambit. **1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 d6 4 d4 g5 5 h4 g4 6 Ng1 Be7 7 Bxf4 Bxh4+ 8 g3 Bg5 9 Ne2 Nc6 10 Qd2 Bxf4 11 Nxf4 Nf6 12 Nc3 Ne7 13 O-O-O c6 14 Nh5 Nxh5 15 Rxh5 Ng6 16 Bc4 Qe7 17 Rdh1** [17 Rf1, accentuating the pressure rather than seeking to recover the pawn, seems more in the gambit spirit] **17...f6** [17...Bd7 18 Rxh7 O-O-O and if then 19 Bxf7? Rxh7 20 Rxh7 Nf8 21 Rg7 Ne6] **18 Rh6 Qg7 19 Qh2 Nf8 20 Qh5+ Ke7 21 Kb1 b5 22 Bb3 a6** [22...Be6] **23 e5 dxe5 24 dxe5 fxe5 25 Qh4+ Ke8 26 Rd1 Bd7 27 Ne4 Qe7 28 Qh5+** [28 Nd6+ was killing, eg 28...Kd8 29 Nb7+ Ke8 30 Qh5+] **28...Kd8 29 Rxc6 Qe8 30 Bf7 Qe7 31 Nc5 Ra7 32 Qf5 h6 33 Ne6+ Nxe6 34 Rxe6 Qg5 35 Qd3 Kc8 36 Rb6** [and here he had 36 Rxa6, eg 36...Rxa6 37 Qxd7+ Kb8 38 Qxb5+ Ka7 39 Rd7+] **36...Qe7 37 Qg6 Rf8 38 Be6 Bxe6 39 Rxe6 Qf7 40 Qxg4 Qf5 41 Re8+! Kc7 42 Qg7+ Rf7 43 Qg8 Kb6 44 Rb8+ [44 b4!?] 44...Ka5?** [He might still hang on for dear life by 44...Rab7 45 Qd8+ Rc7 46 Rd6+ Ka5 although granted, it's really hard to play with such a king.] **45 Qd8+ Rac7 46 Qd2+ Ka4 47 b3+ Ka3 48 Qa5 mate 1-0**

Andrew Rea - Abhishek Penumala

Colle

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 e3 d5 4 Bd3 Bd6 5 Nbd2 O-O 6 O-O b6 7 e4 dxe4 8 Nxe4 Bb7 9 Nxf6+ Qxf6 10 Ng5 [Black counted on 10 Bg5 Bxf3 and White trusted him, overlooking 11 Qd2!] **10...g6 11 Qg4 Re8 12 Be3 Nd7 13 h4 h5 14 Qh3 Qg7 15 Ne4 f5 16 Nxd6 cxd6 17 Bb5 a6 18 Bxd7 Qxd7 19 Bf4 e5 20 dxe5 dxe5 21**

26th Emporia Open
October 29-30, 2011
Greensville Ruritan Club
370 Ruritan Rd, Emporia Va.
(off Hwy 58 west of Emporia)



5-SS, game/120. \$\$600 b/20: \$250-150-100, top U1700, U1200 each \$50. EF \$35 if rec'd by 10/25, \$45 on site. No credit cards. Reg 8:30-9:30am, Rds 10-2:30-7, 9-1:30. One ½pt bye allowed for any round if requested by 1:30pm Saturday (ie, one hour before the start of rd 2). Players who withdraw or take a zero-pt bye in rd 5 are ineligible for prizes. USCF & VCF memb reqd, other states ok. Enter Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: Emporia Open, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693. Include player's name, address & phone #, USCF ID (if known), bye requests. Info: www.vachess.org or mhoffpauir@aol.com - inquire about tentative nearby hotel deal.

10 Grand Prix Points - a VCF Cup event



Bg5 Rac8 22 Rfd1 Qf7 23 Rd2 Rc5 24 b3 Rd5 25 Rad1 Rc8 26 c4 [26 Rxd5! Bxd5 27 Qd3 Bb7 28 Qd6 hits b6 and e5] 26...Rxd2 27 Rxd2 b5 28 cxb5 axb5 29 Rd6 Kh7 30 Qd3 Bc6 31 Qc3 Qe8 32 Qa5 Qf7 33 Qb6 Qc7 34 Qxc7+ Rxc7 35 Bf6 e4 36 Rd8 g5? [Panicking in the face of the Rh8 threat, but 36...Kh6! was more tenacious. 37 Rh8+ Rh7 and at least for the moment nothing is dropping.] 37 hxg5 Rd7 38 Rh8+ Kg6 39 Rh6+ Kf7 40 Bc3 Rd1+ 41 Kh2 Bd5 42 Rf6+ 1-0

Andrew Samuelson - Geoff McKenna

French

1 e4 e6 2 b3 d5 3 Bb2 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 f4 c5 6 Nf3 Nc6 7 g3 f6 8 Bh3 f5 9 O-O Be7 10 Nc3 Nb6 11 d4 Bd7 12 Ne2 Qc7 13 Kh1 O-O-O 14 a4 Kb8 15 Ba3 c4 16 a5 Nc8 17 bxc4 dxc4 18 a6 Bxa3 19 axb7 Nb6 20 Rxa3 Ne7 21 Bg2 Ned5 22 Qd2 Qxb7 23 Rfa1 Nc8 24 Nc3 Bc6 25 Na4 Bxa4 26 Rxa4 Ndb6 27 R4a3 h6 28 c3 Qe7 29 Qb2 Rd7 30 d5 Rxd5 [30...exd5 31 Nd4] 31 Nd4 Rxd4 32 cxd4 g5 33 Rxa7! Qxa7 34 Rxa7 Kxa7 35 Qa2+ Kb8 36 Bf1 Rd8 37 Bxc4 Rxd4 38 Bxe6 gxf4 39 Bxf5 Nc4 40 Qb3+ Kc7 41 Qc3 Rd1+ 42 Kg2 Nb6 43 Be6 f3+ 44 Qxf3 1-0

Andrew Samuelson - Yuri Barnakov

Bishop's Opening

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d3 c6 4 Qe2 Bc5 5 Nf3 d6 6 c3 b5 7 Bb3 Nbd7 8 O-O h6 9 d4 Bb6 10 Nbd2 O-O 11 Re1 Re8 12 h3 a6 13 dxe5 Nxe5 14 Nf1 d5 15 Ng3 dxe4 16 Nxe5 Rxe5 17 Bf4 Re8 18 Rad1 Qe7 19 Bc2 [Having gained a couple tempi White reckoned on recovering the pawn now, but Black's next move throws sand in the gears.] 19...Nd5 [Evidently intending 20 Bc1 f5 etc. So White tries a combination, but in the end his rooks don't achieve the desired activity and he winds up in a sort of ending that the bishops nearly always win.] 20 Nxe4 Nxf4 21 Nf6+ gxf6 22 Qxe7 Rxe7 23 Rxe7 Be6 24 Bb3 Nd5 25 Bxd5 Bxd5 26 b3 Rb8 27 Re2 a5 28 Rc2 Bc5 29 Kh2 Kg7 30 Re2 f5 31 Rde1 a4 32 b4 Bd6+ 33

16th annual

Northern Virginia Open

Nov 5-6, 2011

DoubleTree Hotel Dulles Airport – Sterling

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5-SS, Rds 1-3 Game/2, rds 4-5 30/90 SD/1. \$\$2,500 b/90 (top 3 guaranteed): \$570-350-240, top X/A-Unr/B/C/D/U1200 each \$200, top Upset for rd1 \$25, rd2 \$30, rd3 \$35, rd4 \$50. EF \$50, \$60 at site or if rec'd after 10/31, VCF membership req'd for Va residents (\$10 adults, \$5 U19). Reg 8:30-9:45am, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-3:30. One irrevocable ½pt bye allowed, must commit before rd 1. Hotel \$69(!) until 10/24, 703-230-0077. Direct link for hotel registration as well as directions at www.vachess.org/nova.htm. W, NS, FIDE, JGP. Enter: Michael Atkins, PO Box 6138, Alexandria Va 22306. Make checks to "Virginia Chess".

20 Grand Prix points - a VCF Cup event



Kg1 Kf6 34 f3 Rg8 35 Kh1 Bg3 36 Rc1 Bc4 37 Rec2 Rd8 38 a3 h5 39 Kg1 h4 40 Rb2 Ke5 41 Rbc2 Kf4 42 Kh1 Ke3 43 Kg1 Rd2 44 Kh1 Rxc2 45 Rxc2 Kd3 46 Rc1 Kd2 0-1

Finally, from the penultimate round, a real fight. Vikas Rajasekaran and his brother Vignesh both had great tournaments, gaining 63 and 39 rating points respectively, but in this game experience trumped youthful ambition.

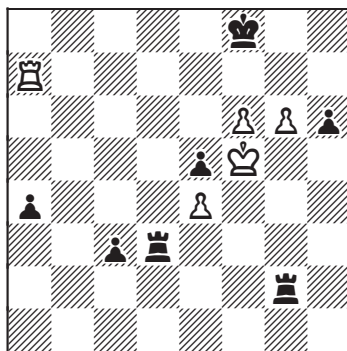
Geoff McKenna - Vikas Rajasekaran

Scotch

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Bc5 5 Nxc6 Qf6 6 Qd2 dxc6 7 Bd3 Be6 8 O-O O-O-O 9 Qg5 Bd4 10 Qxf6 Nxf6 11 Nd2 Rhe8 12 Nf3 Bb6 13 h3 h6 14 Re1 Nd7 15 b4 c5 16 c3 f6 17 Bb5 c6 18 Bf1 cxb4 19 cxb4 Ne5 20 Nxe5 fxe5 21 a4 Bd4 22 Ra3 Rd7 23 Be2 Red8 24 Bg4 Bxg4 25 hxg4 Kc7 26 Rf3 b6 27 Re2 Kd6 28 Rc2 Rc8 29 g5 hxg5 30 Bxg5 Ke6 31 g3 c5 32 Kg2 c4 33 Bc1 c3 34 Rd3 Rc4 35 Ba3 a5 36 bxa5 bxa5 37 f4 Rxa4 38 f5+ Kf6 39 Bc1 Rb7 40 Kf3 Rb1 41 Be3 Rb2 42 Rc1 Rc4 43 g4 a4 44 g5+ Kf7 45 g6+ Kf8? [Black has outplayed his opponent, but Geoff did not become four-time state champion without knowing how to pose hard questions in desperate situations. Surprisingly, Black's king would have been safer after the seeming self-mating 45... Kg8!—covering h8] **46 Rh1 Bxe3** [After this there is no advantage at all. 46...c2

was the winning try, although then 47 Bg5 Ke8 48 f6 keeps creating problems.] **47 Rd7! Bh6 48 Rxh6! gxh6 49 f6?** [Having achieved the draw (49 Rd8+ Kg7 50 Rd7+ etc— not 49... Ke7? 50 g7±) White starts trying to win. It could have cost him.] **49...Rd4 50 Ra7 Rd3+ 51 Kg4 Rg2+ 52 Kf5** (*diagram*)

Black could have regained the upper hand by 52...Rf3+! 53 Ke6 Rxf6+! 54 Kxf6 Rf2+ and White's remaining pawn is neutralized: 55 Kxe5 c2 56 Rc7 a3 etc. But instead...



52...Rg5+? 53 Ke6 Rd6+? [From winning to drawing to losing... Had he played 53...Rd8 White would have nothing better than to begin a perpetual check with his rook.] **54 Kxd6 Rxd6 55 Ke6** [The difference between this and the line given at move 52 is that White's king doesn't get separated from his pawn.] **55...Kg8 56 Rxa4 c2 57 Rc4 Rg2 58 Rc8+ Kh7 59 f7 Rf2 60 Rxc2! Rf4 61 Rc8 Kg7 62 Rg8+ Kh7 63 f8Q Rxf8 64 Rxf8 h5 65 Kxe5 h4 66 Rf4 h3 67 Rh4+ and White won 1-0**





Peter H Hopkins (1926-2011)

Peter Hopkins passed away peacefully at his home in Richmond on August 7, 2011. Peter's contribution to chess in Virginia included two terms (1973-74) as VCF President; help in bringing the 1976 US Open to Fairfax; and especially his role as founder and longtime president of the Virginia Scholastic Chess Association. Peter actively promoted the game in schools, taught chess to countless schoolchildren, and organized nearly 100 scholastic tournaments.

A native of Maryland, Peter played and studied chess for more than 70 years. He was captivated by the game from the time that he learned it as a child. Although there was very little organized scholastic chess at that time, Peter played games with many of his friends, and in college began to play competitively and to study more seriously.

Years later, he organized scholastic chess teams in the Virginia schools where he taught chemistry. In 1995 he helped organize the Richmond area's first scholastic team at his grandson's school, Lakeside Elementary in Henrico County. The following year he organized a scholastic tournament for Richmond-area students, with 15 players.

In 1996, Peter, along with other volunteers, founded the Virginia Scholastic Chess Association (VSCA). The VSCA was incorporated in September 1996 as a non-profit organization with Peter as president. For several years he ran monthly scholastic tournaments mostly by himself, with some help from parent volunteers. As the tournaments and the organization grew larger, there were more volunteers and Peter was able to spend more time doing what he loved best: teaching chess to kids.

Peter was willing to drive anywhere in the state to help put on a tournament, and he was a major supporter of grass roots efforts. On weekdays he taught afternoon chess lessons at schools throughout the Richmond area. At tournaments he could usually be found surrounded by a group of schoolchildren, analyzing their games, teaching, encouraging, and laughing with them. With his unique ability to convey a love and knowledge of chess and to amuse at the same time, it was rare to see either Peter or his students without smiles on their faces.

Even though most children will never become great players, Peter always stressed the benefits of learning and playing chess: conceptual thinking, long-range planning, concentration and sportsmanship.

In May 2005, Peter stepped down as VSCA president, but he continued to serve as treasurer and a member of the board of directors through 2008. He remained active in the organization until 2010. None of us who knew and worked with Peter will ever forget him.

Ernie Schlich, Bart Mebane, Helen Hinshaw, Mark Johnson & Woody Harris contributed to this article



2011 VCF Cup

by Andrew Rea

The Hampton Sports Festival kicked off the inaugural VCF Cup in February. There followed the Virginia Open (March), the Kingstowne Chess Festival (April), the Hampton Roads Summer Swiss (June), and two July events: the Charlottesville and Fairfax opens. **Larry Larkins** proved that it pays to be consistent and persistent! By playing in all six events, and posting a winning record in five of them (and 50% in the Fairfax Open), Larry ran up by far the most points in the cumulative scoring. Yuri Barnakov finished second and this author finished third.

Other class prize winners were Charles Yang (top Expert), Vikas Rajasekaran (A), Vignesh Rajasekaran (B), Akshaj Kadaveru (C), Eric Gan (D), Vadim Barnakov (E). Felix McCain won a special prize for the most games played through the entire series. Other prizewinners and the complete final standings can be viewed on the VCF web site, <http://vachess.org/>

Now we move to the 2012 VCF Cup, which starts this fall and will run a full calendar year! At this writing it seems likely that some 12 to 18 tournaments may qualify to award points. See opposite page for more details—and watch the VCF web site and future issues of VIRGINIA CHESS for the latest updates!



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2012 VCF Cup Schedule & Formula

by Andrew Rea

The VCF Cup is a year-long competition similar to the USCF's Grand Prix. Players accumulate points based on their performance in Cup events throughout the cycle. The cycle runs from the state championship on Labor Day weekend through the following August. Upcoming VCF Cup tournaments for the 2011-2012 cycle are:

Oct 6-10, 2011	Continental Class Championships	Crystal City
Oct 29-30, 2011	Emporia Open	Emporia
Nov 5-6, 2011	Northern Virginia Open	Sterling
Nov 19-20	David Zofchak Memorial	Hampton
Dec. 10, 2011	Hanover County Open	Mechanicsville
Jan 28-29, 2012	Springfield Open	Springfield
Feb 19-20, 2012	Hampton, VA Sports Festival	Hampton
Mar 2-4, 2012	Virginia Open	Sterling
April 2012 (TBD)	Kingstowne Chess Festival	Springfield
Jul 21-22, 2012	Charlottesville Open	Charlottesville
July 2012 (TBD)	Fairfax Open	Fairfax

I would like to shed some light on the system for calculating VCF Cup points. The formula we are using is adapted from a similar competition run by the Colorado State Chess Association (CSCA). From their website www.colorado-chess.com you can find this recipe and how it is calculated. (I will add that CSCA has used their formula, with some tweaks, since early 1980s.) Essentially, there are two or three components to determining the points a player gains from playing in a tournament:

♟ The player's *scoring percentage*. If he scores 3 out of 5, his percentage is 60%. If he scores 2 out of 4 and withdraws from the last round, his percentage is 40%. ie, it is still a 5-round event. Byes—either $\frac{1}{2}$ point byes that players choose to take or full-point byes that are sometimes necessary when there are an odd number of players in a tournament—count as games played for the purposes of Cup point calculation.

♟ The *sum total of ratings in the players section divided by 1000*. This is calculated based on post-event ratings. You just add up the ratings of everyone who played and move the decimal three places to the left.

For example, imagine you play in a 40-player event where the sum of all the entrants' ratings (post-tournament) comes to 73,400. (Just to help clarify - that would be another way of saying that the average rating of everyone in the tournament was $73,400/40=1835$). Divide by 1000 to get 73.4 and then let's say



you scored 3 points out of 5 in this event, or 60%. In the simplest case, your Cup points garnered from this event will be 60% or 73.4, or **44.04**.

For a single-section tournament, that's all there is to it. However, there is one more component to the calculation for multi-section events

♟ The *number of players in lower sections*. So to continue our example, let's say that your "40-player event" we just considered was in fact the 40-player Open section of a large tournament that also had an Amateur section for players below some rating cutoff and also a Booster section with a still-lower cutoff. And let's say that Amateur section attracted 55 entries and the Booster had 22. In that case, since you played in the Open, you (and everyone else in the Open) get 77 more points (55+22) added to your previously-calculated 44.04 for a grand tally of **121.04**. Players in the Amateur will get 22 additional points added to their point totals based on the 22 players in the section below them. No additional points are added for players in the bottom section

Generally speaking, the formula is designed to reward consistency and participation. The greater number of points available in higher sections (ie, the third component as explained above) may be likened to the 'degree of difficulty' factor in the scoring of sports like diving, gymnastics or figure skating. (Bear in mind that lower-rated players have the option to 'play up'—that is, enter a section higher than what their rating dictates, and so get the 'degree of difficulty' reward along with the greater risk of defeats.

A couple details of the Cup formula have changed from the system used in last year's inaugural Cup competition. A player who wins clear first place in his section—any section—will now earn 3 bonus point. Several minor adjustments address the problem of a really large tournament like the Continental Class Championship, with some 600 entrants, generating so many points as to overwhelm local events in the overall Cup standings. To combat this, 1) the formula will observe a 200 player/point "cap" for purposes of computing the third (*number of players in lower sections*) component; 2) those third component points will only recognize a maximum of two sections below what the player enters; and 3) players who do 'play up' in a section higher than what their rating allows will receive only 90% of the third component point.

So our formula has been refined for the upcoming season, and I expect the Virginia Cup competition will be all the more challenging! We still offer prizes across the board and it's likely there will be five or six additional events in the mix, running right up to August 20, 2012! Keep an eye on www.vachess.org and future issues of VIRGINIA CHESS for the latest Cup news, event listings, and standings!



Chess Clubs

Please send additions / corrections to the Editor:

♔ **Alexandria:** Kingstowne Chess Club, Kingstowne South Center, 6080 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Tuesdays 7-9:30pm, info Rob McKinney, robcmckinney@aol.com, (703) 924-5883 ♔
Arlington: Arlington Chess Club, Arlington Forest United Methodist Church, 4701 Arlington Blvd, Fridays 7:30pm. Registration for rated Ladder and Action events ends 8pm. Blitz/Quick tourney first Friday of each month. Info John Campbell (703) 534-6232 ♠ **Arlington Seniors Chess Club,** Madison Community Center, 3829 N Stafford St, Mondays, 9:45am, info (703) 228-5285 ♔ **Ashburn:** Ashburn Chess Club, Sakasa Tea and Coffee House, 44927 George Washington Blvd, Suite 125. Tuesdays 5pm, Saturdays 3pm. Bring board and set. Info www.meetup.com/Ashburn-Chess-Club/ or Scott Knoke, 703-433-2146 ♔ **Blacksburg:** Chess Club of Virginia Tech, GB Johnson Student Center, Rm 102, Virginia Tech, Wednesdays 7-9pm ♔ **Charlottesville:** Charlottesville Chess Club, St Mark Lutheran Church, Rt 250 & Alderman Rd, Monday evenings ♠ Senior Center, 1180 Pepsi Place, 6-8pm on Thursdays. Info 434-244-2977 ♔ **Chesapeake:** Zero's Sub Shop, 3116 Western Branch Blvd (Rt 17), (Poplar Hill Plaza near Taylor Rd intersection), Mondays 6pm to closing ♠ Great Bridge United Methodist Church, corner of Battlefiled Blvd & Stadium Dr, Tuesdays, 6:30-10pm, info 686-0892 ♔ **Culpeper:** Culpeper Chess Club, Culpeper County Public Library, Rt 29 Business (near Safeway). Adults meet Tuesdays 6:30-8:45pm, juniors Thursdays 6:30-8:45pm. Info John Clark 540-829-6606 ♔ **Danville:** Danville Chess Club, Danville YMCA, 810 Main Street. Mondays 6:30-9:30 pm. Info John Thompson 434-799-8898 ♔ **Port Eustis:** contact Sorel Utsey 878-4448 ♔ **Fredricksburg:** Spotsylvania Chess, Lutheran Church Rte West 4.7 miles from Exit 130 on I-95. Every Tuesday 6-9pm, info Mike Cornell 785-8614 ♔ **Glenns:** Rappahannock Community College - Glenns Campus Chess Club, Glenns Campus Library, Tuesdays 8-10pm in the student lounge, info Zack Loesch 758-5324(x208) ♔ **Gloucester:** Gloucester Chess Club, Gloucester Library (main branch), Tuesdays 5-8pm, www.co.gloucester.va.us/lib/clubschess.html ♔ **Harrisonburg:** Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, Trinity Presbyterian Church, corner of S High (rt 42) & Maryland Ave (Port Republic Rd), Fridays 7:30pm, <http://cep.jmu.edu/huffinacj/svcc/svcchome.html> ♔ **McLean:** Booz Allen Hamilton CC, Hamilton Bldg, Rm 2032, 8283 Greensboro Dr. Thursdays, info Thomas Thompson, 703-902-5418, thompson_thomas@bah.com ♔ **Mechanicsville:** Stonewall Library, Stonewall Pkwy, Mondays 6:30-9pm 730-8944 ♔ **Norfolk:** Tidewater Chess Club, Beth Messiah Synagogue, 7130 Granby St, Norfolk. Tuesdays, 7-10 pm, Ernie Schlich (757) 853-5296, eschlich@verizon.net ♠ Larchmont Public Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd, Wednesday 6-9pm ♠ ODU Chess Club, Webb Univ Ctr, Old Dominion University, info www.odu.edu/~chess ♔ **Reston:** Reston Community Ctr Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Thursdays 6:30-9:30 pm. Limited number of sets & boards available, or bring your own. No fee, but you must sign-in at each meeting ♔ **Richmond:** The Kaissa Chess Club, Willow Lawn Shopping Center, in the food court, Thursdays 6-9pm. info Gary Black (804) 741-1666 ♠ The Side Pocket, Cross Roads Shopping Center, Staples Mill Rd. A billiards parlor with chess tables set up any hour, every day ♠ Huguenot Chess Knights, Bon Air Library Community Room, 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-11pm, info Walter Chester 276-5662 ♔ **Roanoke:** Roanoke Valley Chess Club, Saturday afternoons 1-6 pm in the coffee shop of the Roanoke Natural Foods Co-Op, 1319 Grandin Road SW. For more information www.roanokechess.com or write PO Box 14143, Roanoke, Va 24038, (540) 725-9525 ♔ **Stafford:** Bella Cafe Chess Nights, 3869 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 103, Stafford, VA 22554. Tuesdays & Thursdays 7pm -10, sets and boards on site, frequent tourneys. Contact Will at 703-445-8855 or bellabagelcafe@yahoo.com ♔ **Virginia Beach:** Tidewater Community Chess Club, Bldg D ("Kempsville") Cafeteria, Tidewater Community College Va Beach Campus, 1700 College Crescent Rd. Mondays 7-10pm ♔ **Waynesboro:** Augusta Chess Club, Books-A-Million, 801 Town Center Dr, every Saturday 10am-noon. Contact Alex Patterson (540) 405-1111 or AugustaChessClub@gmail.com ♔ **Williamsburg:** Williamsburg CC, The Williamsburg Landing, 5700 Williamsburg Landing Drive. 2nd floor Game Room. Tuesdays 7-10pm. Don Woolfolk 757-229-8774 or Tom Landvogt 757-565-5792 ♔ **Winchester:** Winchester Chess Club, Westminster-Canterbury Home for the Elderly, Tuesdays 7pm ♔ **Woodbridge:** Prince William Chess Club, Tuesdays 7-9pm at Borders Books and Music, 2904 Prince William Parkway, Woodbridge, VA 22192. Contact Dick Stableford, 703-670-5887 or o6usmc@comcast.net



Kingstowne Chess Club

by Don Millican

HARRIS PAVILION “OPEN AIR”

The ninth annual tournament at the Harris Pavilion in Old Town Manassas—eighth in the “Open Air” format—took place on August 13. In the past, the unrated Fun section has drawn better than the serious Open. This year, however, for the second time in a row, serious players outnumbered the not-so-serious.

Twenty-four played in the Open section for \$800 in prize money and 10 Grand Prix points. Quentin Moore & Micah Herzig tied for 1st with 4½–½ apiece. William Marcelino and prior multi-time winner Roderick Brown finished just behind with 4. Shawn Acevedo took the Unrated prize, while William Moore, Bhaswar Bhattacharjee, David Edelschick & Joseph Chen shared combined Under 2000 and Under 1600. Maggie Kirtley took home Under 1200.

The Fun section had ten players and ten trophies to award, so everyone went home a winner. Stephen Jablon won the section with a perfect 5-0, with Marvin Wilson taking second place with 4. Third through sixth places went to Anthony Divittorio, Charles Thompson, Skylar Hsu & James Reed respectively on tiebreak. Ed Hsu took seventh place outright. Dick Stableford & Andrew Sucher shared 8th/9th and Shirley Millican took home the tenth place trophy.

The weather in the past nine years has been cooperative for the most part—typical mid-August Northern Virginia conditions, with occasional instances of something more comfortable. Other than the usual heat and humidity, the other constants in this tournament are traffic on Center Street and trains passing behind the Pavilion. This year, rain was almost constant and wind got some players (and the TD) a little damp around the edges, but still a good time was had by all.

Hanover County Open

Dec 10, 2011

Atlee High School

9414 Atlee Station Rd, Mechanicsville VA, 23116

4-SS, game/60. In two sections: *Open* \$135-80, top X, A, B \$60 each. EF \$30 pd by 12/7, \$35 at site. *Reserve (under 1700)* \$125-70, top C, D, E/unr \$55 each. EF \$28 pd by 12/7, \$33 at site. *Both* Reg 9:00-9:30, Rds 9:45-12-2:45-5:15. One ½pt bye available, request prior to rd2. NS, NC, no credit cards. Mail entries to Andrew Rea, 6102 Lundy Pl, Burke VA 22015. Info www.vachess.org or andrerea2@yahoo.com.

A VCF Cup event



KINGSTOWNE QUAD #76/ACTION-PLUS #48

The August 6 edition of the Kingstowne Quads and Action-Pluses took a step toward reality with regards to attendance. A single Quad section along with twenty-three in the Action-Plus made for a more “normal” turnout than we’ve seen of late.

Stephen Jablon won a gold medal in the Quad with a perfect 3-0 score. Abhishek Allamsetty took the second place bronze. 2011 Scholastic K-12 champion Quentin Moore won the Action-Plus with a perfect score of 5-0. Elijah Kirtley & Tony Bergida shared 2nd/Under 1800 with 4. Venkata Allamsetty & Alan Sorensen Under 1400.

KINGSTOWNE QUAD #77/ACTION-PLUS #49

The September 10 event saw one tournament take expense on the other. Only one entry made the Quad impossible, so the lone player joined twenty-eight others in the Action-Plus. The present dual format will continue through the end of the year. Then, starting in January 2012, the tournaments will alternate: Quad one month, Action-Plus the next.

Srdjan Darmanovic was the winner with a perfect 5-0 score. Just behind with 4½, Sathish Nath took second. Aaryan Balu & Ashish Tondwalkar took Under 1800 and Under 1400 respectively.

19th David Zofchak Memorial

Nov 19-20, 2011

Hampton Roads Convention Center

1610 Coliseum Dr, Hampton, Va 23666

5-SS, game/2. \$\$1000 b/30 increased with 35+ entries: \$200-150-130, 1500-1800/Unr \$100-80, 1200-1499 \$100-80, U1200 \$90-70 Several hotels are close by. EF \$45 if rcvd by 11/17, \$55 thereafter. No Credit Cards! VCF membership rqd. One ½-pt bye available upon request. Reg 9-9:30am, rds 9:45-2:15-7, 9:30-2. Enter: Make checks payable to “Virginia Chess” and mail to Ernest Schlich, 1370 South Braden Crescent, Norfolk, Va 23502

A VCF Cup Event



Editor's Note: The VCF assists several of our scholastic champions in attending national tournaments as Virginia representatives. In the following pages, they report on their exploits.

Denker Tournament of High School Champions

by Eric Most

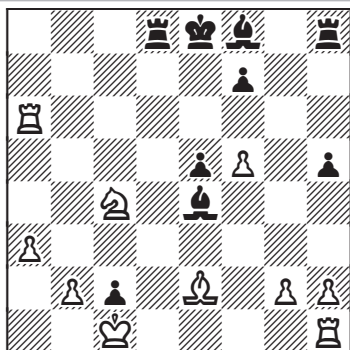
This year's edition of the Denker Tournament of High School Champions was held concurrently with the US Open at the Hyatt Regency Airport Hotel in Orlando, Florida. I am proud to be among a strong group of players who have represented Virginia in this tournament in recent history: Adithya Balasubramanian, Eddie Lu, Quentin Moore, and of course 2009 Denker champion Abby Marshall.

There was no clear favorite this year, thirteen masters competed and the competition was intense. Even the lower-rated entrants had bested strong fields to make it to Orlando. I got off to quick start with 2½ out of 3 but made several missteps in the second half of the tournament to finish a somewhat disappointing 3½-2½. I consider my games from rounds 2 and 3 to be my most interesting and best played, respectively.

Eric Most - Stuart Finney

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qc7 8 Qf3 [8 Bxf6 gxf6 9 Qd2 has its own body of theory.] **8...b5 9 Bxf6 gxf6 10 a3** [10 e5 is a major possibility: 10...d5 11 exf6 b4 (11...Nd7 12 O-O-O Nxf6 13 f5 e5?! {13...Bg7 14 fxe6 fxe6 15 Re1 O-O 16 Nxe6 Bxe6 17 Rxe6 Rac8 is probably better} 14 Nxd5 Nxd5 15 Qxd5 Bb7 16 Nxb5 {16 Bxb5+ axb5 17 Nxb5 Qe7 18 Nd6+ Qxd6 19 Qxb7 Bh6+ Zjugin-Kulaots, 2001} 16...Bh6+ 17 Kb1 axb5 18 Bxb5+ Kf8 19 Qb3 Bc8 20 a4 offers White great practical chances for the piece.) 12 Nxd5 (12 Nce2 Nd7 13 f5 e5 14 Ne6 fxe6 15 fxe6 Nxf6 16 Qxf6 Bg7 Haveland-Elsness, 1996) 12...exd5 13 Qxd5 Bb7 14 Bb5+ axb5 15 Nxb5 Bxd5 16 Nxc7+ Kd7 17 Nxd5 Kc6 with again 3 pawns for the piece in Geenen-Ringoir, 2008. These variations were fascinating, but with limited time to prepare I chose a quieter line.] **10...Bb7 11 O-O-O Nd7 12 f5 e5 13 Nb3 Rc8 14 Bd3 Nc5 15 Kb1 Na4** [15...h5 followed by h4 and Bh6 before undertaking further action on the queenside is another option.] **16 Nxa4 bxa4 17 Nd2 Rb8 18 Be2 Bc6 19 Qc3 Qb7 20 Nc4** [A mistake, seeing as I failed to consider Black's next moves. Luckily my position was strong enough to maintain equality. 20 Bd3 d5 21 exd5 Bxd5 22 Rhe1 would have held a slight advantage.] **20...Bxe4 21 Rxd6 Qb3 22 Qxb3 axb3 23 Rxf6 bxc2+ 24 Kc1** [Played after long deliberation. I realized how important it was to keep an 'attacker' on the c-pawn, but first I had to make sure that I wasn't getting checkmated by ...Bh6 ideas.] **24...Rd8** [24...Be7 25 Nd6+ Bxd6 (25... Kd7? 26 Nxe4) 26 Rxd6 is the justification for Rxf6 and Kc1] **25 Rxa6** [Gobbling



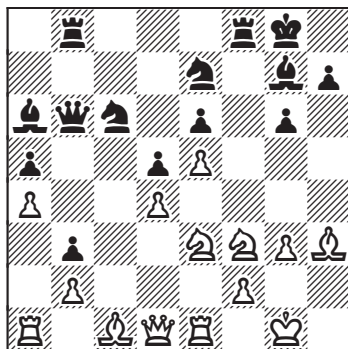
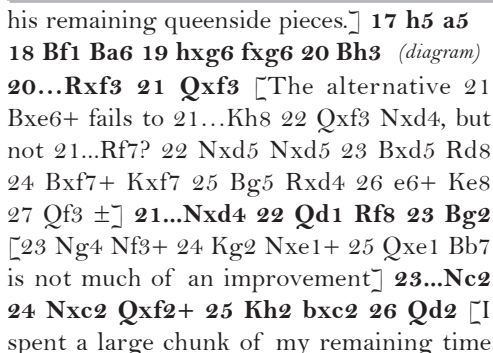
up pawns for compensation when I am forced to give the exchange on c1] **25...h5** (diagram)

26 b4 [Houdini suggests a variation which forces Black's king to f2! 26 Nd2 Bxf5 (26... Bh6? 27 Rxh6 Rxh6 28 Nxe4—I threw out 26 Nd2 because I failed to find this simple refutation) 27 Rf1 Bg6 28 Bb5+ Ke7 29 Ra7+ Kd6 30 Rf6+ Kc5 31 Bd7! Bh6 32 Ra5+ Kd4 33 Rd6+ Ke3 34 Rxe5+ Kf2 35 a4 and now the computer suggests Kg1 with supposed equality. Okay...] **26...Rh6** [Cashing in now

may offer Black the best chances: 26...Bh6+ 27 Kb2 Bxg2 28 Rg1 c1Q+ 29 Rxc1 Bxc1+ 30 Kxc1 Still, the position remains double-edged and my opponent wanted more.] **27 Ra5!** [A saving resource which my opponent admitted having overlooked. 27 Rxh6 Bxh6+ 28 Kb2 Bxg2 29 Re1 Be4 30 f6 Bf4 would have left Black in an overpowering position.] **27...Bg7 28 Rc5 Ra6 29 Bxh5 Bd3?** [29... Bh6+ 30 Kb2 Rd5 31 Rxd5 Bxd5 32 b5 Rf6 33 Be2 Bxg2 34 Rg1 c1Q+ 35 Rxc1 Bxc1+ 36 Kxc1∞] **30 Nxe5 Bxe5** [30...Rxa3 31 Nxd3 Ra1+ 32 Kxc2 Rxh1 33 h3 is also good for White] **31 Rxe5+ Kf8 32 Re3?** [With no dark squared bishop, the c2 pawn is no longer a serious threat and my extra pawns should prevail with correct play, eg 32 Kb2! Rda8 33 Bf3 Rsa7 34 f6 Rxf6 (34...Rxa3 35 Rhe1 Kgs8 36 Rh5 Ra2+ 37 Kc3 winning) 35 Rc5 Rfa6 36 Rc3 and White consolidates. Somehow I was under the impression my position was still worse(!) and bailed out into an equal endgame.] **32...Rxa3 33 Rxd3** [33 Kb2 is no longer winning: 33...Rda8 34 Rc1 (34 Rxd3 Rxd3 35 Kxc2 Raa3) 34...Ra2+ 35 Kc3 R2a3+] **33... Raxd3 34 Kxc2 Rd2+ 35 Kc3 Rxd2 36 Bf3 Rf2 37 Be4 Re8 38 Bd3 Rc8+ 39 Kd4 Rf4+ 40 Be4 Re8 41 Re1 Rxf5 42 Bxf5 Rxe1 43 b5 ½-½**

Michael Yang – Eric Most
Réti

This was an important game because it gave me the chance to prove myself against one of the highest rated players in the tournament. **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 g6** [I'm fairly convinced that this is the best move order for Black to reach Dragon-type positions. It avoids some anti-Sicilians completely (Bb5) and makes it easier to meet others (c3)] **3 g3** [But this time it won't matter.] **3...Bg7 4 Bg2 Nc6 5 O-O e6 6 d3 Nge7 7 c3 O-O 8 Nbd2** [I was surprised that my opponent didn't go for Fischer's scheme of development, 8 Re1 d6 9 d4 cxd4 10 cxd4 d5 11 e5 and Nc3 as in Fischer-Panno, Buenos Aires 1970] **8...d6 9 a4 Rb8 10 Re1 a6 11 Nc4 b5 12 Ne3 b4 13 d4 cxd4 14 cxd4** [I believed keeping my b-pawn on the board would increase my queenside pressure.] **14...d5 15 e5 b3 16 h4 Qb6** [It's important to pressure d4 immediately in order to stop White from developing



Barber Championship

The Barber Championship is a tournament for kindergarten-through-eighth grade state champions from throughout the country, similar to the Denker tournament of High School Champions. Named in honor of educator and long-time scholastic chess booster Dewain Barber, the Barber Championship is held in conjunction with the US Open.

My journey as the Virginia representative to the 2011 Barber Championship started on a Saturday afternoon from Washington DC. I reached Orlando in a couple of hours and checked into the Hyatt hotel. The tournament was conveniently located within the airport hotel. The opening ceremony included introductions and recognition of the representatives from each state. Barber participants were given a golden pawn, a unique medallion, and a voluntary quiz about the Denker and Barber history. After many speakers, including former Denker participants, we were dismissed to get ready for our first game.

Starting as seventh seed, I was paired down my first two rounds. After quick victories over Harrison Unruh (Utah, rated 1737) and Gabe Katz (VT, 1887), I anticipated a tough game on Sunday night. I was paired with Christopher Gu, of Rhode Island, a friend I met over the summer at the US Chess School in Charlotte.



NC. At 2283, he was my first higher rated opponent of this tournament. I successfully concluded a long Caro Kann to join the three other perfect scores, all three being masters and friends of mine.

Jeevan Karamsetty - Christopher Gu,

Caro Kann

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 h4 h6 7 Nf3 Nd7 8 h5 Bh7 9 Bd3 Bxd3 10 Qxd3 e6 11 Bd2 Ngf6 12 O-O-O Be7 13 Qe2 O-O 14 Ne5 c5 15 Nxd7 Qxd7 16 dxc5 Qa4 17 Kb1 Rac8 18 Bc3 Rxc5 19 Bxf6 gxf6 20 Ne4 Rc4 21 Rh4 Rb4 22 c3 f5 23 Nf6+ Kg7 24 Rxb4 Bxb4 25 Nd7 Be7 26 Nxf8 Kxf8 27 Rd4 Qc6 28 f3 Bf6 29 Rd1 Kg7 30 Qf2 a5 31 Qg3+ Kh7 32 Qd6 Qc4 33 Qd7 Kg7 34 Qxb7 Qh4 35 Qb5 Qxh5 36 Qxa5 Qh2 37 Qc5 e5 38 b4 Qf4 39 b5 e4 40 Qb4 Qe3 41 Kc2 Qe2+ 42 Rd2 Qe1 43 Qc4 Bg5 44 Rd1 Qf2+ 45 Kb3 exf3 46 Rd7 Kf6 47 Qxf7+ Ke5 48 Rd5+ 1-0

Round 4 was my first loss of the tournament, to Michael Brown (CA, 2244). After some slight opening errors and precise play by my opponent, I was forced to fight for a draw. However, I fell apart in a time scramble when both my opponent and I had one minute left. Round 5 added on to my series of long games, but I finally converted an endgame where I was up a pawn to score a full point against Peter Chen (MI, 1984).

Since the top 3 boards drew in round 5, there remained four players in contention for the championship going into the sixth and final round. On board one, Michael Brown (4½) met Grant Xu (4). On board two, I (4) faced Justus Williams (NY, 2230 - 4½). Both games came down to the last minutes of the time control. Mine was interesting. It looked like I could make a draw, but considering the must-win situation for the championship, I decided to risk going to an imbalanced endgame with two rooks against my opponent's two bishops and some very dangerous pawns. In the end both games finished within a minute of each other—and both 4½s won.

The final standings put me in 4th place. Brown won on tiebreaks over Williams (although they were declared co-champions) and a point below them came Gu. I led the pack of 4-2 scorers with the highest tiebreaks, as I had played the first, second, and third -place finishers!

The closing ceremony featured speeches by the organizers and prize distribution. The tournament was a great experience, meeting old friends and making new ones. I am very thankful to VCF for sponsoring my trip to Florida for a wonderful chess opportunity.

US Junior Girls' Championship

by Katherine Wu

I stepped into the playing hall a few minutes before the start of the first round. Familiar sights and sounds appeared before my eyes as I turned my head, examining the room. Not much has changed since my last tournament over a year ago. Water jars and cups were placed discreetly in the corners of the room, so that players and spectators seeking a short break, or simply needing a drink, could help themselves to the refreshment. People were chatting. All were eager or nervous, like me, to start the first round.



The first couple of rounds went smoothly. By the end of each of them, I was shaking from the adrenaline rush that always seems to come when I play chess. In third round I got the opportunity to sit on board one, against Elena Andreeva.

The game started normally. Just as we were entering the middle game, I noticed a tactic that would win the exchange. Thinking back, it may not have been such a good move, because it allowed Elena to attack my practically undefended position. I didn't foresee this, so I played it.

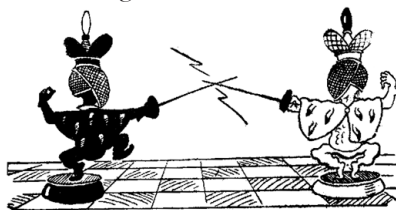
Nothing went wrong with the tactic. I wound up a pawn ahead. I was amused at the sight of my position—I still had all eight pawns on the board, all still on their original files. Rather than amused, I should have been scared or worried. My king came under a heavy attack. I managed to survive for some time, moving my king from place to place and trying protect all of my pawns. Eventually I made a mistake and lost in the endgame.

The next day I played a game where it was I who lost a pawn but gained an interesting attack.

Katherine Wu - Rachel Gologorsky Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 g6 3 d3 Bg7 4 g3 Nc6 5 Bg2 d6 6 Nf3 Bd7 7 Be3 Nd4 8 Qd2 [My opponent took a long time to think here. She told me she was considering the move 8...Bh3, which she decided would not work if I found the right move to play against it.] **8...Rc8 9 O-O b5 10 a3 h5 11 Rfe1 a6 12 Rab1 Bg4 13 Ng5 f6 14 h3 Bd7 15 Nf3 Nxf3+ 16 Bxf3 Bxh3 17 d4 c4 18 Nd5 Be6 19 e5 fxe5 20 dxe5 Bxe5 21 Bb6 Qd7 22 Bd4 Bxd5 23 Bxd5 Nf6 24 Bxe5** [Perhaps I should have played 24 f4 here. It might have led to a better result than what happened next.] **24...dxe5 25 Rxe5 Rc5 26 Rd1 Rxd5 27 Rxd5 Qxd5 28 Qxd5 Nxd5 29 Rxd5 Kf7 30 Kg2 Rc8 31 Kf3 Rc6 32 Ke3 Re6+ 33 Kd2 Rd6 34 Rxd6 exd6 35 Ke3 Ke6 36 Kf4 d5 37 c3 Kf6 38 Ke3 Ke5 39 f4+ Kf5 40 Kf3 a5 41 a4 bxa4 42 Ke3 Kg4 43 Kd4 Kxg3 44 Kxd5 h4 45 Kxc4 h3 46 Kb5 h2 0-1**

By winning this final-round game, my opponent won the tournament with a score of 5-1. Elena Andreeva finished second with 4½. I was part of a group that followed with 4. The games I played and watched were exciting and full of interesting moves. This was a great tournament.



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