

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2011 - #6



The Chess Player (by Tom Bradley)

Inside:

Northern Virginia Open (Tegshuren Enkhbat wins!)

Readers Games & Analysis (contributions by Gary Robinson,

Book Reviews

Tim Hamilton & Geoff McKenna)

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2011 - Issue #6

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Northern Virginia Open

by Mike Atkins

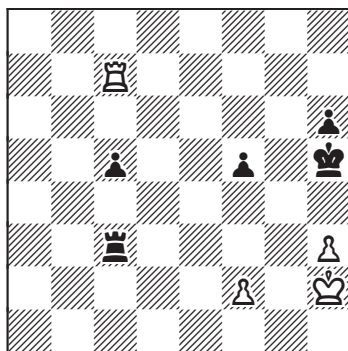
IM Tegshuren Enkhbat won the 16th annual Northern Virginia Open with a perfect 5-0 score. GM Larry Kaufman finished clear second with 4½. A large tie at 4-1, involving various combinations of place/expert/class-A prizes, included Onischuk, Samuelson, Larkins, Srdjan Darmanovic, Phil Collier, Martin Dean, Jeevan Karamsetty, Justin Burgess, Steve Armentrout, Vignesh Rajasekaran & Dobrynya Konoplev. Other prizewinners included Crecencio Burke & Abhinay Dommalapati (= top class B), Bryan Zhao & Bha Bhattacharjee (=C), Oliver Gainer (D), and Rajesh Pandit, Tanner Nicely & Vishal Kobla (= U1200).

The tournament drew 110 players to the DoubleTree hotel in Sterling. Eight of them still had perfect scores at the end of the first day. Sunday morning saw Kaufman held to a draw by Larry Larkins (whose lifetime record versus the Maryland grandmaster is 1 win and 2 draws) while Enkhbat, GM Alex Onischuk, and 2-time Virginia state champion Andy Samuelson stayed perfect by beating Harry Cohen, Denis Stenzwilk and Goran Zalar, respectively. It wasn't always easy:

Denis Stenzwilk - Alexander Onischuk

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 O-O Bc5 6 c3 b5 7 Bb3 d6 8 d4 Bb6 9 h3 Bb7 10 Bg5 h6 11 Bxf6 Qxf6 12 Bd5 O-O 13 a4 Rab8 14 axb5 axb5 15 Na3 exd4 16 Nxb5 dxc3 17 bxc3 Ne5 18 Bxb7 Rxb7 19 Na3 Nxf3+ 20 Qxf3 Qxf3 21 gxf3 f5 22 Nc4 fxe4 23 fxe4 Rf3 24 Ra8+ Kh7 25 e5 dxe5 26 Nxe5 Rxc3 27 Nd7 Bc5 28 Kg2 c6 29 Rd1 Rb2 30 Nxc5 Rxc5 31 Rf8 Rg5+ 32 Kf1 Rc2 33 Rdd8 Kg6 34 Rd6+ Kh5 35 Rf4 c5 36 Rc6 Rc1+ 37 Ke2 Re5+ 38 Kf3 Rc3+ 39 Kg2 Rg5+ 40 Kh2 Rc2 41 Rc7 g6 42 Rc6 Rc3 43 Rc7 Rf5 44 Rxf5+ gxf5 (diagram) 45 Kg2 Kg5 46 Rg7+ Kf6 47 Rh7 Kg6 48 Rc7 f4 49 Rc6+ Kg5 50 Rc8 h5 51 Rg8+ Kh4 52 Rf8 f3+ 53 Kh2 [Of course not 53 Rxf3? Rxf3 54 Kxf3 Kxh3 55 Ke4 h4 56 f4 Kg4 57 f5 h3 Black queens with check] 53...Kg5 54 Kg3 h4+ 55 Kh2 Rd3 56 Rg8+ Kf4 57 Rh8 [57 Rg4+ Ke5 58 Rxh4 was better and ought to draw. White reckoned that Black could not continue without giving back the pawn one way or another and he wrongly preferred to take the f-pawn.] 57...Kg5 58 Rg8+ Kf6 59 Rh8 Rd4 60 Rf8+ Ke5 61 Rxf3 Rf4 62 Re3+ Kd4 63 Kg2 c4 [The resulting formation is very difficult for White





as Black's rook+h-pawn enforce an iron blockade on the kingside while the king is free to escort the c-pawn.] **64 Ra3 Kc5 65 Kf1 Kb4 66 Ra8 Re4 67 f3 Re5 68 Kf2 c3 69 Rb8+ Kc4 70 Rc8+ Rc5 71 Rxc5+ Kxc5 72 Ke2 Kd4 73 Kd1 Kd3 74 f4 Ke4 75 Kc2 Kxf4 76 Kxc3 Kg3 77 Kd2 Kxh3 78 Ke2 Kg2 0-1**

Andrew Samuelson - Goran Zalar

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 g6 5 c4 d6 6 Nc3 Nf6 7 Be2 Nxd4 8 Qxd4 Bg7 9 Be3 O-O 10 Qd2 Be6 11 Rc1 Qa5 12 f3 Rfc8 13 b3 a6 14 Na4 Qxd2+ 15 Kxd2 Nd7 16 g4 Rc6 17 Nc3 Rac8 18 Nd5 Bxd5 19 exd5 R6c7 20 f4 Re8 21 Bf3 e6 22 dxe6 fxe6 23 Rhd1 Kf8 24 Ke2 Ke7 25 Kf2 Rf8 26 Kg2 e5 27 fxe5 Bxe5 28 Bh6 Rfc8 29 Re1 Nc5 30 Bg5+ Kf7 31 Bd5+ Kg7 32 Rcd1 b5 33 Re3 b4 34 Rf1 h6 35 Bh4 g5 36 Be1 a5 37 Ref3 Bf4 38 Bg3 Bxg3 39 Kxg3 Re8 40 Rf7+ Rxf7 41 Rxf7+ Kg6 42 Ra7 Re3+ 43 Kf2 Rc3 44 Rxa5 Rc2+ 45 Kg3 Rc3+ 46 Bf3 Ne4+ 47 Kg2 Rc2+ 48 Kh3 Rc3 49 Rf5 Nd2 50 Kg2 Rc2 51 Bd1 Rc1 52 Be2 Ra1 53 Rd5 Rxa2 54 Rxd6+ Kg7 55 Rb6 Nxb3 56 Kf1 Nd4 57 Bd3 b3 58 Rg6+ Kf7 59 Rxh6 Rd2 60 Be4 b2 61 Rb6 Rxh2 62 Bg2 Rh4 63 Rxb2 Rxd4 64 c5 Rf4+ 65 Ke1 Ke6 66 Rb6+ Kd7 67 Rg6 g4 68 c6+ Nxc6 69 Bxc6+ Ke7 70 Ke2 Rf6 71 Rg7+ Kd6 72 Bg2 Rf4 73 Ke3 Rb4 74 Be4 Ke5 75 Rg5+ Kf6 76 Rxd4 Rb3+ 77 Kf4 Rb4 78 Rg6+ Kf7 79 Ra6 Ke7 80 Ke5 Rb5+ 81 Bd5 Rb1 82 Ra4 Kd8 83 Kd6 Ke8 84 Ra8+ 1-0

In the decisive finale, Samuelson lost to Kaufman while Enkhbat scored a big upset versus Onischuck. He had been down a pawn for quite some time, but in a queen-and-rook ending Enkhbat generated such complications that Onischuck overstepped the time control while trying to sort them out.

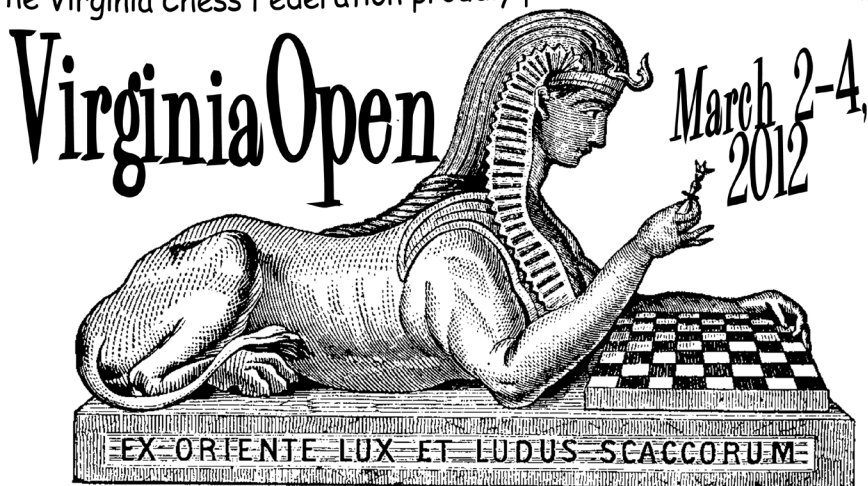
Ironically, Enkhbat almost lost his perfect score before he'd played a single move. He arrived 59½ minutes late for the first round and actually would have forfeited had the tournament not started five minutes late! Several others also arrived late, so be warned — for some reason, online directions to this hotel are inaccurate! The easiest correct way is to take Nokes Blvd off Rt 28. There is a confusing Atlantic Blvd sign at the exit suggesting you bear left; ignore this and stay right, keep in the right lane, and take the first right onto Atlantic. The hotel is a few lights down the street on your right.

The DoubleTree will also host the 2012 Virginia Open in March. They provided a special chessplayer lunch/dinner deals of sandwich, fries and drink for \$5. Many hotels attempt to gouge event attendees with high 'captive guests' prices, so the DoubleTree truly deserves commendation for this. When you add in free chocolate chip cookies, staying there seems quite a deal at \$69. Book your Virginia Open rooms early!





The Virginia Chess Federation proudly presents the 44th annual



DoubleTree Hotel Dulles Airport-Sterling
21611 Atlantic Boulevard, Sterling, Virginia, 20166

5-SS, Rd 1 Game/120, rds 2-5 40/2 SD/1 \$3400 in Two Sections, top 4 in Open guaranteed, rest based on 140 entrees.

Open: \$600(+plaque)-400-300-200 (G), top X, A each \$180.

Amateur: \$400(+plaque)-200-150, top B, C, D, U1200 each \$160, Unrated \$100. **Both:** Reg Friday 3/2 5:30-7:45pm. Rds 8, 10-4:30, 9-3:30. EF: \$50 if received by Feb 25, \$60 later and at site. \$30 Re-entry allowed from rd 1 into rd 2 only. Sat Reg 9-9:45am with $\frac{1}{2}$ pt bye allowed with entry, declared before rd 1 and then irrevocable. VCF membership required for Virginia residents (\$10 adults, \$5 under 19) Hotel \$69(!!) rooms, 1-703-230-0077, reserve by Friday Feb 17th to ensure chess rate. NS, NC, W. FIDE (Open). Chess Magnet School JGP.

Enter: Make checks payable to "Virginia Chess" and mail to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6138, Alexandria, VA 22306

www.vachess.org/vaopen.htm, matkins2@cox.net for questions,
 No Internet or phone entries.





Hampton Virginia Sports Festival

by Ernie Schlich

THE 3rd ANNUAL Hampton, Virginia Sports Festival (HVASF) will take place Feb 17-19, 2012 at the Hampton Convention Center in Hampton, Va. The Festival's chess events will include a simultaneous exhibition by IM Oladapo Adu on Friday, a scholastic tournament on Saturday, and an Open tournament on Sat-Sun. Visit the Festival web site at <http://www.hamptoncvb.com/go/conventions/sports-marketing/hampton-sports-festival> to see all the sport information.

An excellent hotel rate of \$99 is available at the Embassy Suites next to the Convention Center. You can make a reservation on-line at the Sports Festival rate through the Festival web site. We may add other hotels at a later date. The Red Roof Inn is very close by and offered an \$36 rate for the Zofchak Memorial.

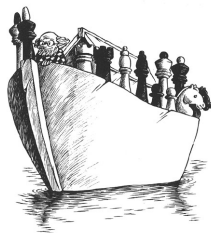
Details for the chess events (full details and printable entry forms will become available on the VCF web page, <http://vachess.org/>):

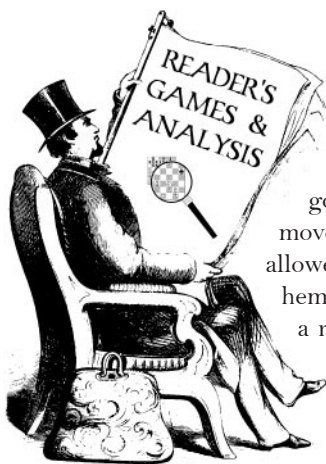
Simultaneous Exhibition, Friday evening. IM Adu will give a 30-board simul beginning at 6:30 pm. EF \$15 by 2/15, \$20 thereafter, to the first 30 who apply. There is no charge for spectators to watch this event.

Scholastic Tournament, Saturday. 5-SS, G/40. Rated K-5 & K-12 and Unrated K-5 & K-12 sections. Entry fee \$7 in advance, \$15 at the door. All participants receive a tee-shirt and Athlete's badge, which allows spectating at other non-chess events for both days. Non-participant one-day spectators' fee is \$10, which admits to all events, not just chess.

Open HVASF Championship, Saturday-Sunday. A VCF Cup event. 5-SS G/2. \$1500 in prizes based on 50 entries, prizes increased with 56+ entries. EF \$40 by 2/15, \$50 thereafter. All participants receive a tee-shirt and Athlete's badge, which allows spectating at other non-chess events for both days. Non-participant one-day spectators' fee is \$10, or 2-days for \$17, which admits to all events, not just chess.

ChessBoxing?! We are discussing the possibility of having a Chess-Boxing exhibition. Check the website for the latest information! I will update that as things firm up.



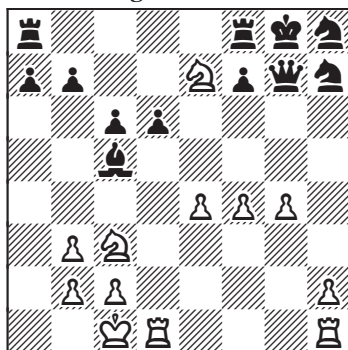


Gary Robinson - Robert Browning
2011 Hampton Roads CC Fall Championship
Centre Game

Notes by Gary Robinson

After a clumsy opening, White had to scramble for good active play. The phony-balony piece sacrifice at move 16 was due to impatience, but an error by Black allowed an unusual smothered mate with the Black King hemmed in by one pawn and four (!) pieces. Is this a record? **1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 Qxd4 Nc6 4 Qe3 Bb4+!? 5 Bd2 [5 c3] 5...Qe7 6 Nc3 Nf6 7 Bc4 O-O 8 f3 d6 [Fritz thinks ...Bc5 is better now and also for moves 7 & 8] 9 O-O-O Bc5 10 Qe1 Ne5 11 Bb3 Be6 12 Bg5 Bxb3 13 axb3 c6 14 Qh4 Ned7**

15 Nge2 h6 16 Bxh6!? gxh6 17 Qxh Ne5 [17...Ne8] 18 Ng3 Nh7 19 Nf5 Qf6 20 f4 Ng6? [White is better after this move; 20...Ng4] 21 g4 Nh8?? 22 Qg7+ Qxg7 23 Ne7mate 1-0



Tim Hamilton - John Meyer

DC Chess League 2011

King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 O-O 6 Be3 c6 7 Qd2 a6 8 Nge2 b5 9 Ng3 bxc4 10 Bxc4 d5 11 Bb3 dxe4 12 Ngxe4 Nd5 13 Bh6 Re8 14 Bxg7 Kxg7 15 O-O-O Bb7 16 h4 h5 17 g4 Rh8 18 gxh5 Rxh5 19 Ng3 Rh8 20 h5 Nd7 21 hxg6 fxg6 22 Nf5+ gxf5 23 Qg5+ Kf7 24 Qxf5+ Nf6 25 Ne4 Bc8 26 Ng5+ Kg7 27 Ne6+ Bxe6 28 Rdg1+ 1-0

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



Ken John – Tim Hamilton

DC Chess Center 2011

Nimzowitsch

1 e4 Nc6 2 d4 e5 3 d5 Nce7 4 g3 f5 5 f3 fxe4 6 fxe4 Nf6 7 Bg2 Ng6 8 Be3 Bb4+ 9 c3 Be7 10 Nd2 d6 11 h3 O-O 12 Bf3 c6 13 c4 cxd5 14 cxd5 Qa5 15 Ne2 Nxd5 16 Bg2 Nh4 17 Rh2 Nxcg2+ 18 Rxcg2 Rf1+ 19 Kxf1 Nxe3+ 20 Kg1 Nxd1 21 Rxd1 0-1

Adam Weissbarth - Geoffrey McKenna

DC Chess League 2011

French

Notes by Goeff McKenna

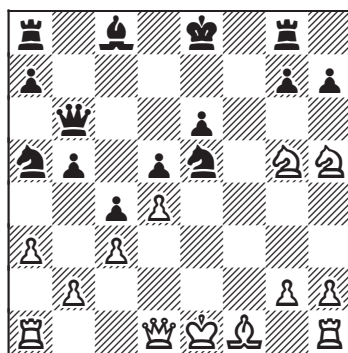
1 e4 e6 [I had intended to try an Alekhine for this match, but I knew my opponent to be an expert on that opening.] 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 f4 c5 6 Nf3 Nc6 7 Ne2!? [I think I have seen this before but I don't know what to do about it.] 7...Be7 [This is too wimpy to be right but I didn't like the alternatives.] 8 c3 b5?! 9 a3?! [Black's land grab on move eight looks too loose; this response looks too conciliatory. White should develop and attack. That said, I prefer White.] 9...Qb6 10 f5! c4 11 Nf4 Na5 12 Nh5! Rg8 [White is close to crashing through. I was aware that the text leave h7 undefended but you can't always defend everything.] 13 fxe6 fxe6 14 Bg5!? [This initiates unfathomable tactics. 14 Qc2 was an alternative.] 14...Bxg5 15 Nxcg5 Nxe5 (diagram)

Aiming at ...Qb6-e3+xcg5. My ecstasy at grabbing a pawn was sobered by my awareness that all of Black's pieces are poorly placed.

16 Nxh7 Nf7 17 N7f6+? [What's the rush?

I think White should simply complete his development, when the vulnerable Black King

position decides.] 17...gxf6 18 Nxf6+ Kf8 19 Nxcg8 Kxcg8 20 Qg4+ Kf8 21 Qf4 e5!? [I like pawns, but Black needs to get his pieces into the game.] 22 dxe5 Nc6! 23 O-O-O Be6 24 g4 a5!? [As far as I could tell, Black does okay if white tries 25 g5 b4 26 g6 bxc3 27 bxc3 Rb8 28 Kd2 Qb2+ 29 Ke1 Qxc3+ 30 Kf2 Qc2+ and Qxcg6. Rybka may differ.] 25 Bg2 b4 26 Rxd5 bxc3 27 bxc3 Bxd5 28 Bxd5 Nxe5! [This decides, as Black is a piece ahead and White is backpedalling.] 29 Qd4 Nd3+ 30 Kd2 Qb2+ 31 Kd1 Qc1+ 32 Ke2 Re8+ 0-1



Book Reviews *by Macon Shibut*



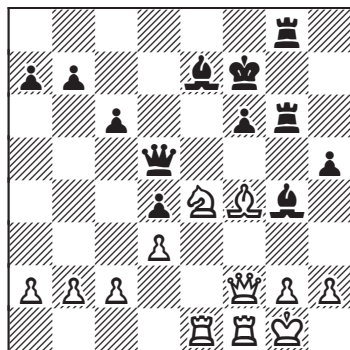
Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov Part 1: 1973-1985 (Everyman Chess, hardcover 520 pages, list price \$45) is the tenth of what shapes up to be a twelve-volume series. The opening five books bore the “My Great Predecessors” label and presented the chess of twelve official world champions before Kasparov plus selected unofficial or near- champions (Morphy, Rubinstein, Keres, Korchnoi, etc). Then came the “Garry Kasparov on Modern Chess” volumes—the middlegame of the series, if you will. These were *Revolution in the 70’s* followed by no less than three books devoted to the marathon Kasparov-Karpov power struggle. Now we enter the endgame: Kasparov’s in-depth retrospective on his own life and games. The present book examines the period before he became world champion. Subsequent volumes will cover his championship and post-championship phases.

One has to wonder at the sheer scale of the project. I remember reading an interview years ago when Kasparov revealed that he was working on “a book about the world champions”. *A book*. I’m sure he never imagined it would ultimately come to some 6000 pages, but here we are. We can argue endlessly over who was the strongest or greatest chess *player* of all time, but considering his achievements in both the practice and the literature of the game, I have come to the opinion that there is no longer much question who is the greatest *figure* in the overall annals of chess.

For obvious reasons, *Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov Part 1: 1973-1985* strikes a more personal tone than much of what preceded it. There are lots of biographical details about Kasparov’s early life that I had never heard before, touching on everything from major life and career decisions to humanizing vignettes like an account of veteran Tigran Petrosian advising 16-year-old Kasparov on which suit to buy. There also are some games that may or may not be previously unpublished, but at any rate I had not seen them, nor do they appear in my copy of the mega-database.

Kasparov’s annotations assume a fairly high level from the reader.

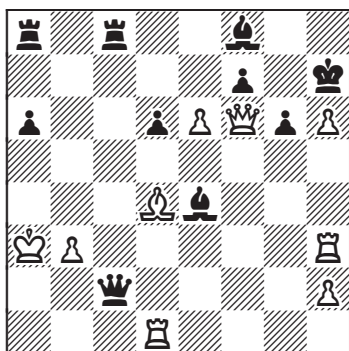
(see diagram)



Garry Kasparov - Abram Roizman
Sokolsky Memorial, Minsk 1978



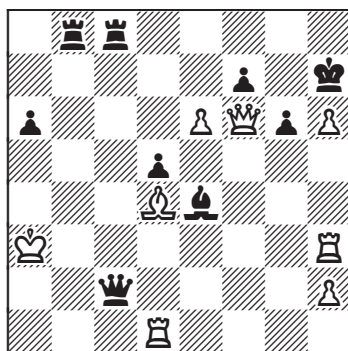
An example from page 104: Kasparov played **19 Bg5!** and quotes Botvinnik to the effect that Black's position would now collapse in the event of **19...Rxg5 20 Nxf6**. Parenthetically he adds "**19...Bh3? 20 Nxf6**"—without any elaboration. Indeed, the play is forced, but I'm guessing that finding the queen sacrifice **20...Bxf6 21 Qxf6+! Rxf6 22 Rxf6+ Kg7 23 Re7+ Kh8 24 Rh6** *mate* will slow down some readers.



Edvins Kengis – Garry Kasparov
Vilnius 1973

Visually, nothing at all stands between White's king and the full compliment Black major officers. Nonetheless, White's bishop and rooks do a fair job of covering every check!

Ah, but there is an effective check: **33... Rc3+!!**—a double interference of study-like purity rare in actual play. If the bishop captures, it blocks its own rook along the third rank, allowing **...Qb3** *mate*. If the rook captures, that blocks the bishop's defense against **...Qb2+** and *mate* next move. I find it remarkable that Kasparov omitted this variation, if only for its aesthetic qualities.



The second diagram is from one of those perhaps 'previously unpublished' games: Kasparov played **30...d5+** and Kengis answered with the obvious (and correct) **31 e7**. So obvious and correct it is, that Kasparov lets the moment pass without comment.

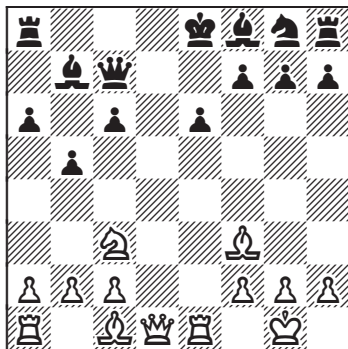
Regarding the alternative **31 b4?!** **Bxb4+** (clearly forced) **32 Kxb4**, if then **32...Qc4+** **33 Ka3** there are no more useful checks and Black succumbs. Of course **32... Rab8+** must be better, bringing in another attacker. So again **33 Ka3**, and what then?

Kasparov's latest favorite word is *resilient*. It appears somewhere in the notes to nearly every game, usually around the point where things slip from difficult to lost. A different move would have been "more resilient" but even so, it's hard to like the position. And how did it come to this? Often the root cause is, as Kasparov explains at one point, "I did not see all of [the sacrifice's] consequences, but I sensed that White should be alright: his pieces are so well placed! *At that time I did not realize that most of my opponents had a different attitude to material.*"



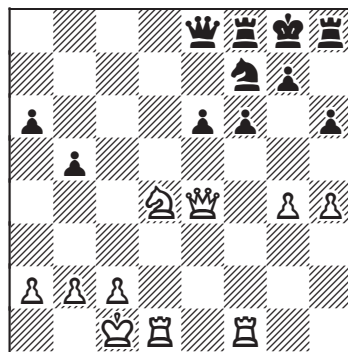
We are used to seeing sacrifices that smash an opposing structure, or sacrifices to open a floodgate into a compromised position. The young Kasparov displayed an amazing capacity for overwhelming defenses that did not suffer obvious organic weakness. In his first Soviet Championship (Tbilisi 1978) his game against one of the tournament favorites, **Lev Polugaevsky**, began **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 a6 5 Nc3 Qc7 6 Be2 b5 7 Bf3 Bb7 8 O-O Nc6 9 Nxc6 dxc6** whereupon Kasparov tried **10 e5!?** (“a novelty, devised after agonizing hesitation at the board”) **Qxe5 11 Re1 Qc7** (*diagram*)

Black’s pawn chain on the kingside is a picture of classic stability. White has no ready pawn levers to open lines there, and no pieces beyond the third rank. Even if one ventured to sacrifice the e5 pawn this way, you would probably look for compensation in something like **12 a4?!** However, Kasparov continued **12 Bh5!** whereupon the crude **Rxe6+** became just the first of many irritants that snowballed until even Polugaevsky, a world champion candidate, collapsed in time trouble.



Likewise, against **Alexander Panchenko** at **Daugavpils 1978** Kasparov as White opened **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 Bg5 e6 7 Qd2 a6 8 O-O-O Bd7 9 f4 b5 10 Nxc6 Bxc6 11 Bd3 Be7 12 e5 dxe5 13 fxe5 Nd7 14 Bxe7 Qxe7** and again the e-pawn went by and by: **15 Be4 Bxe4 16 Nxe4 Nxe5** “Here I thought for a long time—this line was unknown to me. It is clear that White has excellent compensation for the pawn: the Black king will be prevented from castling and for a long time the rook at h8 will be shut in the corner. However, it is necessary to act energetically.” **17 Qd4 f6 18 Nd6+ Kf8 19 Rhf1 Kg8 20 g4** “For the moment Black’s difficulties are largely of a psychological nature (the unresolved problem of the rook on h8 is unnerving).” **20...h6 21 h4 Nf7 22 Qe4 Rf8 23 Nf5 Qe8 24 Nd4** (*diagram*)

“It is already hard to offer Black any good advice—both his rooks are miserably placed. ... Black’s defense is very difficult after **24... Ne5 25 g5 hxg5 26 hxg5 – 26... Rh7? 27 gxf6! gxf6 28 Rg1+ or 26... Rh5?! 27 gxf6 Rxf6 28 Rxf6 gxf6 29 Qb7!** is bad for him ... **26... Qa8!** is more resilient, although here too White can transpose into a better ending – **27 Qxa8 Rxa8**

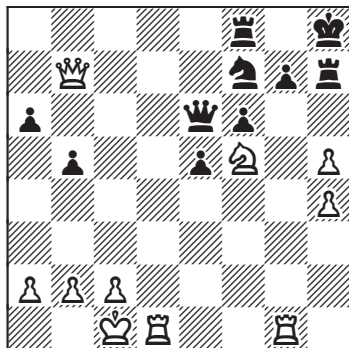




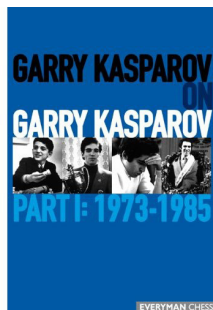
28 gxf6 Rh6!? 29 fxg7 Kxg7 30 Rde1! (with the idea of 30...Rd8 31 Nxb5 Nd3+ 32 cxd3 axb5 33 Re5) or continue to attack - 27 Qe2 Qc8 28 gxf6 gxf6 29 Qe4..."

24...e5?! 25 Nf5 h5 [25...g6? 26 Ne7+! Qxe7 27 Qxg6mate] **26 Rg1?! Kasparov** demonstrates forced wins after either 26 g5 or 26 Qb7 **26...Rh7 27 Qb7 Kh8 28 gxh5 Qe6**

29 Nxc7! Qxa2 Among others, if "29...Rxc7 30 Rxc7 Kxc7 31 Qg2+! (but not 31 Rg1+? Kh7! when after 32 Qg2 Ng5 33 hxg5 fxg5 34 Qxc5 Black has 34...Qh6!) 31...Ng5 (31...Kh7? 32 Qg6+ and Rg1) 32 hxg5 fxg5 33 Qxc5+ Kh7 34 Qg2 or 34 Kb1 - thanks to his extra pawn and the open position of the enemy king, White must win." **30 Qe7 Rg8 31 Qxf6 Qa1+ 32 Kd2 Qa5+ 33 Ke2 Rxc7 34 Rxc7 Rxc7 35 Rg1 1-0**



Just to be clear, I extracted only a tiny fraction of Kasparov's analysis for this excerpt. His actual notes to the game run for pages. A diligent reader will find them rich with rewards. As the Indian proverb said about chess itself, *Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov Part 1: 1973-1985* is a sea in which a gnat may drink and an elephant may bathe.



It used to be that opening books fell into three categories. Some offer more-or-less comprehensive analysis of the opening in question (archetypal title: *The Complete Uzbek Gambit*). Others are more text heavy, elaborating strategic themes and introducing concrete variations in the context of illustrative games (*Understanding the Uzbek Gambit*). Still others focus on the opening from just one side, curating a practical 'repertoire' of stylistically consistent variations (*Play the Uzbek!*).

A new genre has arisen of late, typified by Jeroen Bosch's *Secrets of Opening Surprises* (SOS) or Everyman's *Dangerous Weapons...* series. These books make no pretense of completeness (or ultimate soundness), offering up instead a grab-bag



of highly situational weaponry. One interesting aspect of their appeal is how they attract buyers who do *not* play the particular opening under review, but who are looking for a way to meet or avoid it with minimal study (and maximum trickiness).

Mongoose Press's new entry into this market is *No Passion For Chess Fashion*, by Alexander Raetsky and Maxim Chetverik. (Mongoose Press, softcover 234 pages, list price \$24.95) As its title implies, the book does not focus on variations likely to appear during the Anand-Gelfand world championship match next year. But you never know...

Raetsky and Chetverik deliver an anthology of offbeat pet lines in eleven different openings. Specifically:

- ♙ the King's Gambit with 1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 d6 4 d4 g5 5 h4 g4 6 Ng1 f5
- ♙ the Petroff with 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d4 Nxe4 4 dxe5 Bc5
- ♙ the Ruy Lopez with 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Bb4
- ♙ the Scandanavian with 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 d4 Nxd5 4 c4 Nb4
- ♙ Alekhine's Defense with 1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 c4 Nb6 5 f4 g5
- ♙ the French Defense with 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 Qg4
- ♙ the St George Defense, 1 e4 a6
- ♙ the Sicilian with 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e6 6 Ndb5 Bc5
- ♙ the Albin Countergambit, 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e5
- ♙ the Tchigorin Defense with 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 g3 Bg4 4 Bg2 Qd7
- ♙ the English with 1 c4 e5 2 Nc3 Bb4 3 Nd5 Ba5

Oddly, ten of the eleven proffered lines are for play by Black. As it happens, the only chapter devoted to an idea for White (Nimzowitsch's center gambit in the Advance French) is also the one where I have meaningful experience playing the line myself. For the purposes of this review, I focused my attention there and found the coverage to be pretty good. I particularly commend it in three respects:

First, the author (Raetsky for this chapter) opened with one of the line's canonical games:

Aron Nimzowitsch - Arthur Hakansson

Kristianstad 1922

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 Qg4 cxd4 5 Nf3 Nc6 6 Bd3 f5 7 Qg3 Nge7 8 O-O Ng6 9 h4 Qc7 10 Re1 Bd7 11 a3 O-O-O 12 b4 a6 13 h5 Nge7 14 Bd2 h6 15 a4 g5 16 b5 f4 17 Qg4 Nb8 18 c3 Re8 19 cxd4 Kd8 20 Rc1 Qb6 21 a5 Qa7 22 b6 Qa8 23 Rc7 Nf5 24 Nc3 Be7 25 Nxd5 Nxd4 26 Nxd4 exd5 27 Qxd7+ 1-0 27...Nxd7 28 Ne6 will be mate.

This was among the examples from Nimzowitch that inspired me to take up the variation many years ago. If you need evidence of its utility, I submit my own very first game with the variation, which garnered the Best Game prize at the 1984 state championship.



Macon Shibut – Frank Creasy

1984 Virginia Closed

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 Qg4 cxd4 5 Nf3 Nc6 6 Bd3 Nge7 7 O-O Ng6 8 Qg3 Be7 9 a3 Bd7 10 b4 Qb6 11 h4 Bf8 12 Nbd2 Qc7 13 Re1 f5 14 h5 Nge7 15 Nb3 O-O-O 16 Bd2 g5 17 b5 Nb8 18 c3 dxc3 19 Bxc3 Rg8 20 Rac1 b6 21 Bb4 Nec6 22 bxc6 Nxc6 23 Ba6+ Kb8 24 Bd6 f4 25 Bxc7+ 1-0

Second, Raetsky quickly highlights the critical line. Many writers on offbeat openings present their topic in an optimistic light. They highlight cool traps into which an opponent might stumble, but then they gloss over more awkward possibilities. Based on the indication of Nimzowitsch himself, as well as my own practice, I long considered Black's most precise and testing response to be **1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 Qg4 cxd4 5 Nf3 Nc6 6 Bd3 Qc7! 7 Qg3 f6!** Raetsky understands, and to his credit he gets to the heart of the matter as early as his second illustrative game.

Third, he tells me things I didn't already know. Years ago I examined and rejected Raetsky's recommended 'solution' to the problem noted above - 7 O-O!? instead of 7 Qg3. But Raetsky offers a lot of new (to me, at least) ideas that substantially revise my opinion of the line.

And then there is **1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 Qg4 cxd4 5 Nf3 Qa5+!?** *Patzer sees a check, patzer gives a check.* Even as a 3 Qg4! veteran, I never gave this much attention. I am so thankful no one confronted me with it in a tournament game! White is fine, as Raetsky shows, but the play is venomous and complicated; I doubt I would have survived in practice.

Thumbing through, it appears that the other chapters of *No Passion For Chess Fashion* are of similar depth and texture as the French one. If you are looking for guidance in any of the variations they present, you could do a lot worse than Raetsky and Chetverik.



In conclusion—permit your reviewer a little self-indulgence. In preparing this article, I went back through my old games with 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 Qg4 and found one that I can't resist showing, even though it has no bearing on the book at hand.

Macon Shibut – Ruth Donnelly,
Laurel, Md 1985

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 Qg4 Qc7 5 Nf3 cxd4 6 Bd3 Nc6 7 Qg3 Nb4 8 O-O Nxc2 9 Bxc2 Qxc2 10 Nxd4 Qa4 11 Be3 Bd7 12 Nc3 Qa5 13 b4 Qd8 14 Rac1 a6 15 f4 g6 16 f5 gxf5 17 Nxf5 exf5 18 Nxd5 Bc6 19 Nb6 Ne7 20 Rfd1 Qb8 21 Rxc6 bxc6 22 Nd7 1-0

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In This Issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Northern Virginia Open | 1 |
| Virginia Open Announcement | 3 |
| Hampton Sports Festival | 11 |
| Readers' Games & Analysis | 15 |
| Upcoming Events | 2, 4, 5 |
| Book Reviews | 7 |
| VCF Info | <i>inside front cover</i> |

