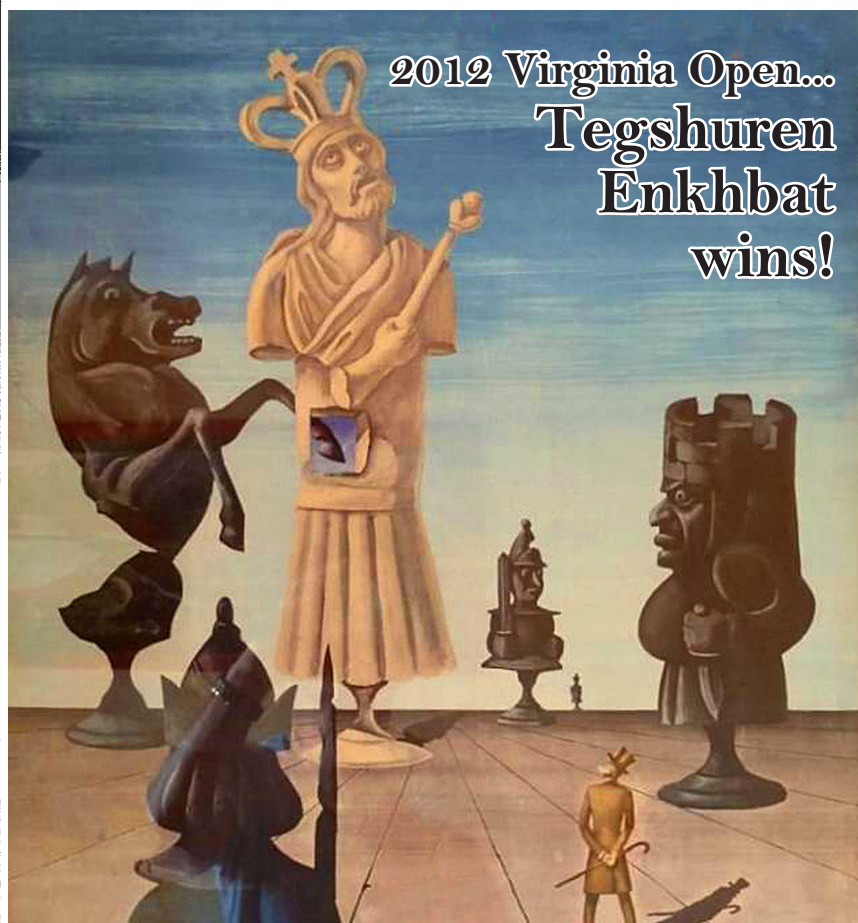


VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2012 - #2



VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2012 - Issue #2

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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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Virginia Open

IM Tegshuren Enkhbat steamrolled the 2012 Virginia Open with a perfect 5-0 score over the weekend of March 2-4. This was his second consecutive 5-0 sweep at this venue, having won the 2011 Northern Virginia Open also at the Sterling Doubletree Hotel in November. Enkhbat also won the UMBC Open and Baltimore Open last month, so he is currently dominating the local chess scene.



IM Tegshuren Enkhbat

GM Larry Kaufman, former state champions Macon Shibut & Andrew Samuelson, and up-and-coming Jeevan Karamsetty all scored 4-1 to tie for second. Goran Zalar & Ramakrish Gundala split the class A prize.

Clark Smiley scored 5-0 to win the Amateur section. 80-year-old Richard Sherman and 14-year-old Saroja Erabelli drew with each other and won their remaining games to tie for second with 4½-½. Adam Chrisney & Ross David Ray shared top B. Isaac Steincamp won the C prize. Class D saw a four-way tie between Tanner Nicely, Charles Compton, Vishal Kobla & Andrew Wang. Sadhana Suri, Andy Huang

Bruce Ferguson was the top unrated player. & Abhiram Kagitha split top U1200.

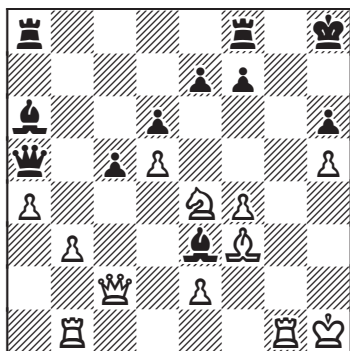
155 players competed under the ever-able directorship of Mike Atkins. The former VCF president is leaving the state and this was his last tournament to direct here. All Virginia chess players are indebted to Mike for a couple decades' worth of tireless chess promotion and organization.

Tegshsuren Enkhbat - Ralph Zimmer Benko Gambit

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 cxb5 a6 5 bxa6 g6 6 Nc3 Bxa6 7 Nf3 d6 8 g3 Bg7 9 Bg2 Nfd7 10 Qc2 Nb6 11 h4 h6 12 Nh2 [This seems like a very unusual approach to the Benko Gambit!] 12...N8d7 13 h5 g5 14 Ng4 Nc4 15 O-O Nf6 16 Nxf6+ Bxf6 17 Rb1 Qa5 18 Ne4 Bg7 19 a4 O-O 20 b3 Ne5 21 f4 gxf4 22 gxf4 Ng4 23 Bf3 Bd4+? [The Black knight had to hang tough with 23...Bc8 The text move, and the planned follow-up of moving the knight to e3, hands White



an attack on the g-file.] **24 Kh1 Ne3**
25 Rg1+ Kh8 26 Bxe3 Bxe3



*White to move and deliver
 an unpleasant surprise*

27 Nf6! exf6 28 Qf5 1-0 There is no defense against the twin threat of **Qxf6** and **Be4** Δ **Qh7**

Peter Giannatos – Macon Shibut
Sicilian

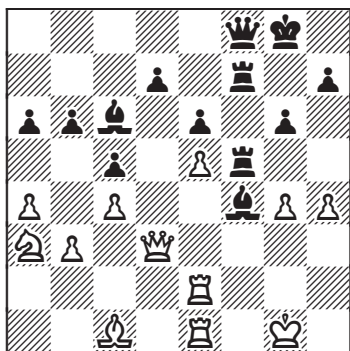
Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 e6 4 O-O Nge7 5 b3 [My past study of this fianchetto plan has yielded a single insight, but a valuable one: Black should not shy away from the ‘ugly’ move ...f6 to blunt the bishop.] **5... a6 6 Bxc6 Nxc6 7 Bb2 Qc7 8 a4 b6 9 d3 Bb7 10 Nbd2 f6 11 Qe2 Be7 12 Nc4 O-O 13 Ne1 Rae8** [hinting at ...d5] **14 Ne3 Bd6 15 Qh5 Be5 16 c3** [If **16 Bxe5** I would have played either **16... Nxe5** or **16... fxe5!**; but not **16... Qxe5?**! **17 Qxe5 Nxe5 18 f4 Nc6 19 Nc4** etc.] **16... g6 17 Qh4 f5 18 f4 Bf6 19 Qg3 fxe4 20 dxe4 Ne7 21 e5 Bg7 22 Rd1 Nf5 23 Nxf5 Rxf5 24 c4** [Otherwise I might put my own pawn on this square.] **24... Ref8 25 Nc2 Bh6 26 Bc1 Be4** [Highlighting White’s

tactical vulnerability: **27 Ne3? Bxf4**; or **27 Ne1? Qxe5!** So his knight has to go into exile.] **27 Na3 Bc6** [After forcing such an embarrassing move, it was disappointing that I couldn’t find a really powerful follow-up. In the end I simply removed my bishop from its exposed, undefended post and reinforced my d-pawn. I expected him to bring his knight back. Then I would have to consider whether to return the bishop to e4 and look around some more, or just be satisfied with having gotten the useful **Bb7-c6** for free.] **28 Qh4 Bg7** [Now White has to watch out for ...g5 Δ **fxg5 Qxe5/Bxe5**] **29 Bb2 Qb7** [Probing! One idea is to introduce the idea ...d5! exploiting the pin on the long diagonal (since now **exd6** doesn’t hit my queen).] **30 Qg3 Qb8** [I decided against **30... d5** because **31 cxd5 Bxd5 32 Nc4** relieves White of his terrible knight; or **31... exd5**, which would be better, but it also increases the chance I might lose control if things open up and his pawns mobilize. I figured I could come back to this later if necessary, but for now the structure favors me and I wanted to maneuver around some more.] **31 Nc2** [Threatening **Ne3**, so I repeated the device...] **31... Bh6 32 Bc1 Be4 33 Na3 R8f7!** [One of my basic ideas is ...g5, and having the rook ready to go to g7 obviously could play a role in making that work. Another thought was to reinforce d7, although it wasn’t really hanging yet in light of **Rxd7 Qxe5!** Δ **fxe5 Rxf1 mate**. But the real point of the text was my idea **Q-f8-g7(!)**, again angling for ...g5. The potential downside was that



my other rook has no moves now, so I must watch that White cannot lash out g4?! at some inopportune moment. But in general I didn't believe exposing his own king this way was something I should fear.] **34 Rf2** [Tired of perpetual tactics based on the f-file pin, White sets out to rearrange his rooks.] **34...Bg7!?** [I was trying to be cagey: 35...Bxe5 is threatened, and if he goes 35 Bb2 I would revisit the 35...d5!? idea, the difference now being that after 36 cxd5 exd5 my bishop is in front of the pawn (e4 instead of b7), which of course favors Black.] **35 Re2 Bc6 36 Rde1 Qf8!** [Suddenly threatening ...g5 in earnest due to the veiled mate threat at f1. Removing his rook from that square has not achieved White's desired result.] **37 h4 Bh6!** [Now f4 is collapsing. In desperation, White resorted to his g4 trick.] **38 Qd3 Bxf4** [I had to move a little faster than I would have liked due to the time control, but I was pretty sure I'd spotted a crusher. I figured the text was correct even if I'd miscalculated something since I could always bail out with two pieces for a rook in the event of 39 g4 Bxc1 40 gxf5 Bxa3 etc] **39 g4**



I used my last spare minutes to recheck that everything was in order with my intended knockout. It was! **39...Rxe5! 40 Rxe5 Bh2+!! 41 Kxh2 Rf2+ 0-1** White resigned as he is mated after 42 Kh3 Rh2+! 43 Kxh2 Qf2+ and Qg2; or similarly, 42 Kg1 Rg2+ 43 Kh1 Rh2+! etc.

Andrew Samuelson - Jared Defibaugh

Bishop's Opening

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d3 d5 4 exd5 Nxd5 5 Nf3 Nc6 6 O-O Be7 7 Re1 Bg4 8 h3 Bh5 9 g4 Bg6 10 Nxe5 Nxe5 11 Rxe5 Nb6 12 Qe2 Nxc4 13 dxc4 Kf8 [Black's position is not as bad as it looks because White's king position is loose and Black's king rook is not shut in by the loss of castling privilege.] **14 Nc3 Bd6 15 Re3 h5 16 Ne4 hxg4 17 Nxd6 Qxd6 18 Qxg4 Bxc2 19 Rg3 Bg6 20 Bf4 Qf6 21 Bxc7 Qxb2 22 Re1 Qxa2 23 Bd6+ Kg8 24 Re7 Rh5 25 Rxb7 Rf5?!** [Black is absolutely fine but he has to watch g7! Therefore 25...Qa1+ was correct, whereas now...] **26 Qd4!** [...White gets the diagonal and Black is under some pressure. Still, he could defend by 26... Kh7, but instead he blundered.] **26...Rd8? 27 Rxg6 1-0**

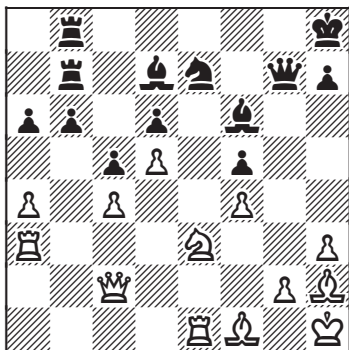
Larry Kaufman - Andrew Samuelson

Benoni

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 Nf3 g6 7 Bf4 a6 8 a4 Bg7 9 h3 O-O 10 e3 Re8 11 Nd2 Nbd7 12 Be2 Ne5 13 O-O Nfd7 14 Qc2 f5 15 Bh2 Rb8 16 b3 Qe7 17 Rab1 b6 18 Nc4 Nxc4 19 bxc4 Rb7 20 Rb3 Ne5 21 Rfb1 Qc7 22 Bf1 Bd7 23 Ra3



Reb8 24 Qa2 Qd8 25 Bg3 Qe8 26
Re1 Qf8 27 Qd2 g5 28 f4 gxf4 29
exf4 Ng6 30 Kh1 Bf6 31 Qc2 Qg7 32
Nd1 Ne7 33 Bh2 Kh8 34 Ne3



34...b5 35 axb5 axb5 36 Ra6 bxc4 37
Nxc4 Nxd5 38 Rxd6 Nb4 39 Qd1 Rg8
40 Ne5 Bb5 41 Qf3 Nc2 42 Rc1 Nd4
43 Qd5 Bxf1 44 Rxf1 Rc7 45 Ra1 Nb5
46 Rda6 Nc3 47 Qf3 Ne4 48 g4 Rb7
49 R6a2 Rgb8 50 Ra8 Qg8 51 Rxb8
Qxb8 52 gxf5 Rb1+ 53 Rxb1 Qxb1+
54 Bg1 Bh4 55 Nd3 Ng3+ 56 Kg2
Qa2+ 57 Bf2 Nxf5 58 Nxc5 Nd4 59
Qe3 Bxf2 60 Qe5+ Kg8 61 Qe8+ Kg7
62 Qd7+ Kg6 63 Qg4+ Kf7 64 Qd7+
Kf8 65 Qd8+ Kg7 66 Qd7+ Kg6 1/2-1/2

Alvin Cao - Andrew Samuelson
English

1 Nf3 c5 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nc3 e6 4 g3 b6 5
Bg2 Bb7 6 O-O Be7 7 d4 cxd4 8 Nxd4
Bxg2 9 Kxg2 O-O 10 e4 Qc7 11 Qe2
d6 12 Rd1 a6 13 f4 Nbd7 14 g4 Rfc8
15 g5 Ne8 16 f5 Nf8 17 Qg4 Qxc4 18
f6 Nxf6 19 gxf6 Bxf6 20 Be3 Qb4 21
Rab1 Ng6 22 a3 Qc4 23 Rbc1 Ne5
24 Qe2 Qxe2+ 25 Ndx2 Nc4 26 Bf2
Be5 27 Rb1 b5 28 Kf3 Bxh2 29 Ng3
Nxb2 30 Rxb2 Rxc3+ 31 Kg2 Bxg3
32 Bxg3 Rxa3 33 Bxd6 Ra4 34 Kf3
Rc8 35 Rd3 f6 36 e5 Kf7 37 exf6 Kxf6
38 Re2 g5 39 Kg3 Rc6 40 Rf3+ Kg7
41 Rxe6 Rc8? 42 Be5+ Kg8 43 Re7
Re4 44 Rg7+ Kh8 45 Rxg5+ Rxe5 46
Rxe5 Rb8 47 Ref5 Kg8 48 Rb3 Kg7
49 Rc5 Rb6 50 Kg4 Kf6 51 Rh5 Kg7
52 Rc5 Kf6 53 Rh3 Ke7 54 Rxh7+
Kd6 55 Rg5 Rc6 56 Rh6+ Kc7 [The
computer program Stockfish sees *mate*
in 39 here!] 57 Rxc6+ Kxc6 58 Rg6+
Kc5 59 Rxa6 b4 (See diagram next page)
60 Kf4? [60 Kf3 wins, eg 60...b3 61 Ra8
Kd4 62 Ke2 Kc3 63 Kd1 etc] 60...b3
61 Ra8 Kd4! [This is the difference—



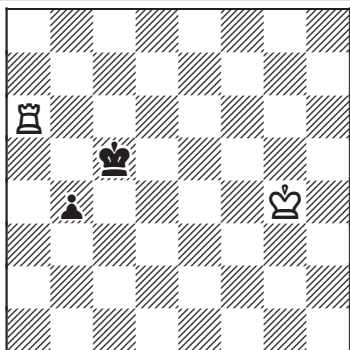
Charlottesville Open

July 14-15

Comfort Inn Monticello

2097 Inn Dr, Charlottesville, VA 22911

5-SS, game/90. \$\$2000 b/60. Two sections *Open*: (place prizes guaranteed) \$400-250-150, U2100 \$150, U1900 \$130. *Under 1700*: \$300-200-150, U1500 \$140, U1200 \$130. *Both*: EF \$55 by 7/12, then \$65. Hotel \$99.95 + tax, 434-977-3300. Reg 11-11:40am, rds 12-3:15-7:15, 9:30-1:15. Single 1/2-pt bye available. VCF membership required for Virginia residents. For on-site entries, cash only please—no credit cards! *Enter*: Ernest Schlich, 1370 S Braden Crescent, Norfolk, VA 23502. Checks to VCF. Info by email eschlich@verizon.net or online www.vachess.org



*A missed opportunity for a
400+ rating point upset...*

Black advances to support his pawn while simultaneously keeping White's king at bay. 62 Rb8 Kc3 ½-½ After 63 Ke3 b2 White has no useful move.

Richard Sherman directed the Coronado Chess Club, Albuquerque, NM, for nearly three decades. Tying for second place in the Amateur group was his biggest tournament success since moving to Virginia, but he explains that it happened by accident...

Ted Covey - Richard Sherman Stonewall

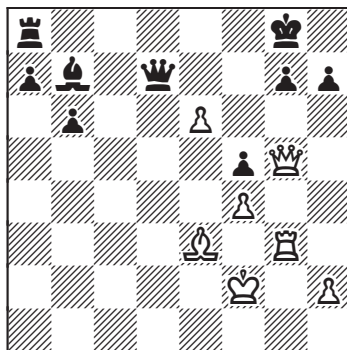
Notes by Richard Sherman

Part of my so-called success came from sloppy reading of the tournament advisory. I failed to note that the tourney had an Amateur (below 1900) section. Normally I would have entered the top section (eg, seven times I invariably played in the top section at the National Open in Las Vegas) but I failed to ask for that with my entry. Only upon reading the pairing for the opening round did I recognize my error. 1 d4 Nf6 2 e3 g6 3 Bd3 d5 4 f4 Bg7 5 Nf3 c5 6 c3 cxd4 7 exd4 O-O 8 O-O Bg4 9 Qb3 Bxf3 10

Rxf3 Qc7 11 f5 Nc6 12 fxg6? Nxd4! 13 gxf7+ [13 gxh7+ would have been preferable but in any case after 13 ... Kh8 the game has swung decisively in Black's favor. Opening the f-file simply speeds Black's counterattack.] 13...Rxf7 14 cxd4 Qxc1+ 15 Bf1 Raf8 16 Qxb7 Kh8 [obviating a possible future pin] 17 Qb3 Ne4 18 Rxf7 Rxf7 [18...Bxd4+ 19 Kh1 Qxf1+! was swifter, with an x-ray mate.] 19 Qb8+ Rf8 20 Qb5 Bxd4+ 21 Kh1 Rxf1+ 22 Qxf1 Qxf1 mate 0-1

John Rouleau - Daniel Clancy French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 f4 c5 6 dxc5 Bxc5 7 Qg4 O-O 8 Nf3 Nc6 9 Bd3 f5 10 Qh3 Be7 11 Be3 Nc5 12 Rd1 Qb6 13 b3 Qa5 14 Bd2 Nxd3+ 15 cxd3 d4 16 Ne2 Qxa2 17 g4 Qxb3 18 Rg1 Qxd3 19 gxf5 exf5 20 Qh6 Rf7 21 Kf2 Qc4 22 Rg3 Qe6 23 Qh5 b6 24 Nexd4 Nxd4 25 Nxd4 Bc5 26 Be3 Bxd4 27 Rxd4 Rd7 28 Qg5 Bb7 29 Rxd7 Qxd7 30 e6



30...Qc7 31 e7 Qc2+ 32 Kg1 Qb1+ 33 Kf2 Qb2+ 34 Kg1 Rc8 35 Qxf5 Rc1+ 36 Bxc1 Qxc1+ 37 Kf2 Qd2+ 38 Kf1 Ba6+ 39 Kg1 Qe1+ 40 Kg2 Qf1 mate 0-1



Rusty Potter - Tegshsuren

Enkhatbat

Slav

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e3 a6
5 Qc2 e6 6 b3 c5 7 Nf3 Nc6 8 dxc5
Bxc5 9 Bb2 O-O 10 cxd5 exd5 11
Rd1 Nb4 12 Qc1 Bf5 13 Rd2 Qe7 14
Be2 Rac8 15 a3 Ne4 16 Nxe4 Bxe3
17 Nc3 Bxd2+ 18 Qxd2 Nd3+ 19 Kf1
Nxb2 20 Qxb2 Qf6 21 Nd1 Qxb2 22
Nxb2 Rc1+ 23 Nd1 Re8 24 Ke1 Ra1
25 Nd4 Bd3 26 f3 Bxe2 27 Nxe2 d4
28 Kf2 Ra2 29 Re1 d3 30 Nc3 Rc2
31 Rc1 dxe2 32 Rxc2 e1 *Qmate* 0-1

Andrew Rea - Denis Strenzwilk

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 e6 3 c4 Be7 4 Nc3 Nf6
5 Bf4 O-O 6 e3 c5 7 Bxb8 Rxb8 8
dxc5 Bxc5 9 cxd5 exd5 10 Bd3 Bg4

11 O-O Re8 12 Rc1 Rc8 13 h3 Bh5
14 g4 Bg6 15 Bxg6 hxg6 16 Qb3 Re6
17 Rfd1 Bb6? [17...Rb6] 18 g5 Ne4
19 Qxd5 Rd6 20 Qxe4 Rxc3 21 Re1!
Rxc1 22 Rxc1 Rd1+ 23 Rxd1 Qxd1+
24 Kg2 Qd7 25 Nd4 a6 26 b3 Kf8 27
Nc2 Bc5 28 Ne1 Be7 29 Nf3 Bc5 30
Qc4 Qe7 31 Qd5 Bd6 32 Nd2 Qe5 33
Qxe5 Bxe5 34 Kf3 Ke7 35 Ke4 Bc7
36 Kd5 Kd7 37 Nc4 f6 38 gxf6 gxf6
39 e4 b5 40 Nb2 Bb6 41 Nd3 a5 42
f4 Be3 43 a4 bxa4 44 bxa4 Ke7 45
Kc6 Bd2 46 f5 gxf5 47 exf5 Kf7 48
Kd7 Be3 49 Nb2 Bd2 50 Nc4 Bc3 51
Nd6+ Kg7 52 Ke6 Be1 53 Ne8+ Kh6
54 Nxf6 Kg5 55 Nd5 Kh4 56 f6 Bd2
57 f7 Bh6 58 Nf4 Kg3 59 Ng6 Kxh3
60 f8R Bxf8 61 Nxf8 Kg4 62 Kd5 Kf5
63 Nd7 Kf4 64 Kc5 1-0

Richmond Spring Open

May 26, 2012

Atlee High School

9414 Atlee Station Rd, Mechanicsville VA, 23116

4-SS, game/65. \$\$786 guaranteed. Two sections *Open*: EF \$32 by 5/23, \$36 at site, \$140-83, top X/A/B each \$64. *Premier (under 1700)*: EF \$29 by 5/23, \$33 at site, \$128-72, top C/D/E-unrated each \$57. *Both*: Reg 9-9:30, rds 9:45-12:15-3:00-5:30. One ½-pt bye available if requested before rd 2. Prizes increase if more than 50 players total. NS, no credit cards. A VCF Cup event. *Enter*: Andrew Rea, 6102 Lundy Pl, Burke Va 22015. Info online www.vachess.org or email andrerea2@yahoo.com

Eastern Shore Scholastic and Open Quads

April 28, 2012

Nandua High School, 26350 Lankford Highway, Onley Va 23418
Scholastic: 4- or 5-SS, game/40, rated and unrated K-5 and K-12 sections with trophy prizes. EF \$7 in advance. *Adult Quads*: 3-RR, game/60, cash prizes to 1st and 2nd. EF \$20 in advance. *Both*: EF \$5 more at site. Be aware of \$5 toll on Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, covers return trip within 24 hours w/receipt. *Enter*: Ernest Schlich, 1370 S Braden Crescent, Norfolk, Va 23502, or register online (opens April 2) at www.vschess.org. Information eschlich@verizon.net or phone 757-853-5296.



VCF President's Report

by Andrew Rea

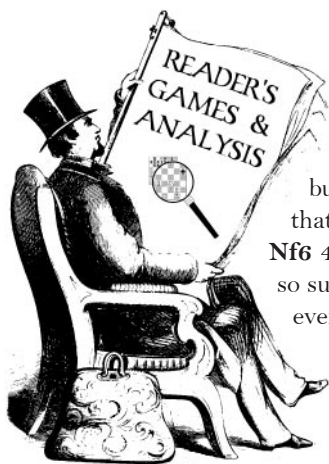
AN INTERESTING YEAR it has been! We have two tournaments from Richmond, with one more coming in May, compared to just one tournament previously. Moreover, Richmond has also seen an increase in scholastic events! Meanwhile, we see more participation in the third year of the Hampton Sports Festival Chess Championship. Will this be matched at the third annual Fairfax Open?

I would be glad to claim credit for all of this good news, but for the most part it has been a question of local organizers taking matters in their own hands! The VCF did help with the two new Richmond area tournaments (the Hanover County Open and the Richmond Spring Open), coordinating with local players who found playing sites but were uncertain how to organize a chess tournament. Be assured the VCF stands ready and willing to help elsewhere—we have places such as Winchester, the Northern Neck, and others that suffer a dearth of activity.

Our first full season of the VCF Cup is off to a storming start, abetted by participation from the Continental Chess Association. But it can be observed from the standings that there are players who did not play in the Continental Class Championships in October who have surged near the top of the lists! Of course one player who did play, IM Tegshsuren Enkhbat, tied for first at that tournament. He has won two others on top of that to establish himself as the player to beat! But with at least four more VCF Cup tournaments ahead (Kingstowne Chess Festival, Richmond Spring Open, Fairfax Open & Charlottesville Open—others may yet join) there is room still at the top for all of our categories!

There has been some rain, but part of chess is being able to handle adversity. It will not be easy doing without Mike Atkins' valuable efforts on behalf of the VCF. Mike set a high bar for organizing and directing in Virginia, but now he is moving to Maryland. We continue to need a webmaster to manage www.vachess.org—please step forward if you are so inclined! A final bit of bad news came from the recent Scholastic Championship where a player was caught using an electronic device (pocket Fritz) at the board during round 5. An ethics complaint has been filed with the USCF. Pending its resolution, Clark Smiley's VCF membership is suspended and he is ineligible for our events.

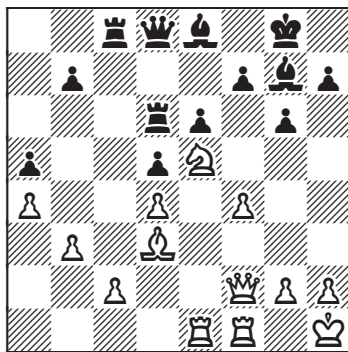
The Senior Championship is coming up June 9-10! It will be at same site as last year, the Lincolnia Senior Center in Alexandria, with details posted on www.vachess.org! Best wishes to all our members, with special thanks to the best Editor any federation could ask for, Macon Shibut! I look forward to more interesting times the second half of this year!



David Long – Eve Litvak
2012 US Amateur Team
Zukertort

Notes by David Long

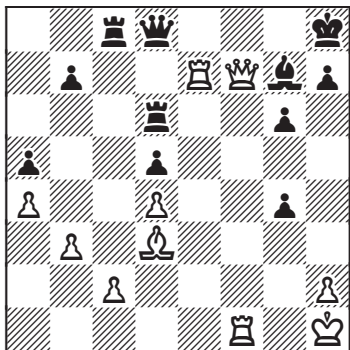
1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 e6 3 e3 [I like this quiet move but I've learned the hard way in recent experiments that now White must proceed very concretely.] 3... Nf6 4 Bd3 c5 5 b3 Nc6 6 Bb2 Bd7 7 Ne5 [I'm not so sure about this. Alternatives are 7 O-O, 7 Nbd2, and even 7 c4] 7...cxd4 8 exd4 Qb6 9 Nxc6 [Looking to castle next and occupy e5 with the other knight. I thought at the time that this stopped all the ideas for Black of playing against the pawn on c2 or the Bd3, or trying to force an early e5.] 9...Bxc6 10 O-O Be7 11 Qe2 [Preventing the exchange of light square bishops after ...Bb5 as well as supporting e5. These sorts of issues just don't come up when White plays d4/c4 right away...] 11...Rc8 12 Nd2 a5 13 a3 [To keep Black pieces off b4 and be able to play b4 if the a5 pawn advances.] 13...O-O 14 Kh1 Ne8 15 f4 Bf6 16 Nf3 g6 17 Ne5 [finally] 17...Nd6 [renewing the possibility ... Bb5] 18 a4 Bg7 19 Ba3 [to exchange the Nd6 before it can settle on either e4 or f5] 19...Rfd8 20 Bxd6 Rxd6 21 Qf2 Be8 22 Rae1 Qd8



A critical moment - the White pieces are all on good squares and stand a little better than their Black counterparts, even allowing for Black's bishop pair. The Rd6 is awkwardly placed in light of the Ne5, and exchanging Bg7 for the Ne5 would leave White with the better bishop and space. But how can White further improve the position? The idea to force f5 drew all my attention. There were two possible move orders: either f5 directly with g4 to follow; or the reverse sequence, g4 and then f5. The first seemed the more active, so...



23 f5?! exf5 24 g4 fxg4 [24...Bxe5 25 dxe5 followed by gxf5 is advantageous for White. But I—and, fortunately, my opponent!—overlooked the possibility 24...Bf6! threatening the disruptive ...Bh4. Black looks to be more than okay after this. White can either sidestep the skewer (25 Qf3 fxg4); or he can recapture the f-pawn and sacrifice an exchange (25 gxf5 Bh4 26 Qe3 Bxe1 27 Rxe1) when it's not clear he gets enough for the material. Rybka 3 likes Black in both cases but prefers the exchange sac as White's best try.] **25 Nxf7 Qb6?**



Time pressure. Black has instead 25...Bxf7, and although White gets more than enough for the pawn after 26 Qxf7+ Kh8 27 Re7, it's not over.

(diagram)

27...Qg8 28 Rxb7 (White can also exchange queens on g8 with active play for the rooks: 28 Qxg8+!? Rxg8 (28...Kxg8) 29 Rff7 Black's kingside is paralyzed and White can play to advance queenside pawns or bring the bishop into play

on both wings via the queenside) 28...h5 29 b4 axb4 30 Rxb4 with an edge.

26 Nxd6 Qxd6 27 Rxe8+! 1-0

Geoff McKenna - John Meyer

DC Chess League 2012

Sicilian

Notes by Geoff McKenna

1 e4 [I first played John in 1980 and I won a nice English game. Since then we had played many games in many different openings, with one common thread: I hadn't won any. This time I resolved to try to play sharply.] **1...c5 2 c3 Nf6 3 e5 Nd5 4 d4 cxd4 5 cxd4 Nc6 6 Nf3 d6 7 Nc3** [I once saw a game edited in the old KING'S FILE magazine where this move was erroneously given two question marks.] **7...Nxc3?!** [This gives White too free a hand in the center.] **8 bxc3 Bg4?!** [Instead, 8...e6 and 8...Qa5 are better tries.] **9 Qb3** [Black is threatening to wreck White's pawn structure on f3, while White is threatening to grab the pawn on b7 and follow up with threats from the light-square bishop. It turns out that White's threats are much more serious, so Black should have left the bishop on c8 until he is otherwise developed.] **9...Bxf3 10 gxf3 Qc7 11 Rb1 O-O-O 12 Qxf7** [The computer favors 12 e6 over this for reasons inaccessible to humans.] **12...dxe5 13 Qe6+ Kb8** [avoiding problems related to Bh3] **14 Ba6 Rd6** [14...b6 is better. After the text I saw a long forced sequence leading to less advantage than I expected.] **15 Qc4 Na5 16 Qxc7+ Kxc7 17 Be2 exd4 18 Bf4 dxc3 19 O-O Nc6 20 Bxd6+ exd6 21 Rfc1 Be7 22 Rxc3 Bf6 23 Rc4 d5 24 Rc5**



Rd8 25 Rd1 d4 26 Bd3 h6 27 Be4 Rd6 28 Kf1 Kb6 29 Rc4 Be5 30 h3 a5?! [Now Black is almost losing.] 31 Rb1+ Ka6 32 Rc5 Bf6 33 Rcb5 Nb4 34 Rxb7 [White has broken through.] 34...d3 35 a3 d2 36 Ke2 Rd4 37 Rb8 [White can also liquidate with 37 axb4] 37...d1Q+ 38 Rxd1 Rxd1 39 Kxd1 Na2 40 Bc6 Be5 [playing to dominate the knight, which has no safe posts] 41 Rb3 a4 42 Rd3 [avoiding a knight fork] 42...Nc3+ 43 Kd2 Kb6 44 Be8 Nb5 45 Bxb5 Bf4+ 46 Kc3 Kxb5 47 Rd5+ Kc6 48 Ra5 Bc7 49 Rxa4 Kb5 50 Rb4+ Ka6 51 Kd4 White can even allow Black to exchange off bishop for rook while the White king marches to g7 **1-0**

Allan Savage - Geoff McKenna

DC Chess League 2012

French

Notes by Geoff McKenna

1 e4 Nf6 [Savage is known to be an expert in the French, which is my main defense. So, Black seeks redemption in the Alekhine, in which I had a perfect 0% record.] **2 Nc3 d5 3 e5 Nfd7 4 d4 c5 5 Nf3** [The pawn sacrifice 5 e6 is also good.] **5...e6 6 Bg5 Qb6 7 dxc5 Bxc5 8 Qd2** [My opponent played the last three moves rapidly and with great self-assurance, so I thought I was falling into a trap. Here I saw the possibility 8...Bxf2+ 9 Qxf2 Qxb2 10 Qd2 Qxa1+ 11 Kf2 when Black is far ahead in material but none of it is developed. So...] **8...O-O 9 O-O-O Nc6 10 Qf4 Nxe5!?** [The text is okay, and is based on a set of mutually offsetting miscalculations. The nightmare possibility for Black here is something like 11 Na4 Qc6 12 Nxc5 Qxc5? 13 Nxe5 Nxe5 14 Qxe5 f6 15 Be3 winning a piece. However, in this sequence Black can improve with 11...Qa5 or 12...Ng6 with a good game in either case. The computer prefers 10...Bf2 to the text, but Black is generally okay here.] **11 Nxe5 Bd6! 12 Bd3 Nxe5 13 Qh4** [Here I saw the manly sequence 13...Nxd3+ 14 Rxd3 f6 15 Rh3 when Black can grab a piece and survive. Probably. But my thirst for violence was slaked by the last few moves, so Black chooses a quieter course.] **13...Ng6 14 Bxg6 fxg6** [This opens a path to f2, and puts one more piece of furniture before the door at h7.] **15 Be3 Qc6 16 Kb1 Bd7 17 Qd4 Be7 18 Rd2?! Bf6 19 Qc5 Qxc5 20 Bxc5 Rfc8 21 Bd4 e5 22 Be3 d4 23 Ne4 Bc6** [winning a second pawn] **24 Nxf6+ gxf6 25 Bh6 Bxg2 26 Rg1 Be4 27 f4 Rc5 28 fxe5 fxe5 29 Re1 Bf5 30 b4 Rb5 31 Kc1 Rc8 32 a4 Rxb4 33 Rxe5 Rxa4?** [Throwing away much of Black's advantage. Better moves include 33...Rbc4 and 33...d3. In the latter case I was worried about 34 Rxf5 gxf5 35 Rxd3 when White can still pose technical challenges. Still, that would have been preferable.] **34 Kd1 Rac4 35 Re7 Bxc2+ 36 Ke1 R4c7 37 Rxc7 Rxc7 38 Rxd4 b5 39 Bd2 Kf7 40 Rd6 Be4** [Black misses the neat trick 40...Bf5-c8, defending everything and permitting further consolidation.] **41 Ra6 Bd3 42 Be3 b4 43 Rxa7 Rxa7 44 Bxa7 Ke6** [I thought White had real chances for a draw here; my opponent did not. In any event, to defend Black must cobble together a perimeter on the Kingside. In the sloppy sequel, that didn't happen.] **45 Kd2 Bc4 46 Ke3 Kf5 47 Bd4 g5 48 Bc5 b3 49 Bd4 h5 50 Bb2 h4 51 Bc1 g4 52 Kf2 Ke4 53 Bb2 Kd3 54 Ba3 Kc2 0-1**



Book Review by Dov Gorman

CHess DEVELOPMENTS: THE SICILIAN DRAGON by David Vigorito

Everyman Chess, softcover, 320 pages. \$27.95 list.

ONE OF THE MORE INTERESTING QUESTIONS about a chess player's quest to improve his skills is

how to approach opening study. What is the impact of opening knowledge on results? How much time should be devoted to opening theory? Theory moves fast these days due to the impact the Internet, chess databases and analysis engines. The effort required to keep up can be enormous, so many players choose to rely on thematic systems, avoiding complicated tactical positions at all costs.

Boston IM David Vigorito's impressive *Chess Developments: The Sicilian Dragon* is an attempt at allowing the practical player to do a bit more. The Dragon is of course a rich and complex defensive setup fully suited playing for a win with Black. It is also sharp and concrete, having yielded some of the most thrilling games in chess history. Its practitioners among the world's elite including Carlsen, Radjabov, Nakamura, and Topalov. Kasparov used it to beat Anand twice in their 1995 world championship match.

Vigorito focuses on current trends and critical lines, not aiming to provide a comprehensive reference book about the Dragon. For example, he does not cover unfashionable lines by White such as the Classical and Levenfish variations, which are not considered overly dangerous. Nor does he divert the reader with vintage ...Qa5/...Rfc8 setups for Black. Instead, he focuses on the topical lines of the Yugoslav Attack after 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 O-O 8 Qd2 Nc6. Vigorito uses 45 illustrative games played between 2004 and 2011 as focal points for the discussion.

The organization of the book is well thought out. Part 1 deals with 9 Bc4—the Soltis Variation; the modern 12 Kb1; Topalov's 11...Nxd4 followed by 12...b5; the Chinese Variation 10...Rb8; and the Accelerated Variation 10 Bb3 Nxd4 11 Bxd4 b5. Part 2 deals with 9 O-O-O (variations such as 9...d5 10 exd5; 10 Qe1; 10 Kb1; 9...Nxd4; and 9...Bd7) and 9 g4. Every chapter includes a coherent introduction and a conclusion that provides added value in terms of assessing underlying concept, adoption and performance, and unexplored opportunities. I found these considerations refreshing.

A significant amount of chess wisdom is to be found in *Chess Developments: The Sicilian Dragon*. I am impressed with the level of discussion and analysis, and Vigorito points to interesting possible improvements for Black, especially in less tested waters of the Chinese Dragon and some lines of the main variation.



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