

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

2012 - #4



Four-time (1942-46-47-48) Virginia state champion (also US Amateur champion 1959 and 3-time Maryland state champion 1963-69-76) Russell Chauvenet and US Women's champion Lisa Lane. Chess history lovers—check out page 4.

# VIRGINIA CHESS

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2012 - Issue #4

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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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## Charlottesville Open

**Y**URI BARNAKOV won the 2012 Charlottesville Open, played July 14-15. He overtook Larry Larkins, who went into the last round in clear first place with the only 4-0 score. Losing to Barnakov dropped Larry into a five-way tie for second with top-rated IM Oladapo Adu, Quentin Moore, Shawn Pealer & Franco Monce Jose (the latter also taking the under 2100 prize).

### Yuri Barnakov - Larry Larkins, Zukertort

Game score from Barnakov by memory, so the precise move order may be incorrect! In other words, don't get too excited if you think you find concrete blunders or improvements. The general course of the contest was that Larkins got into a terrible bind out of the opening and had to give up a piece. He soon got it back, but in doing so he lost more pawns than he had gotten himself earlier. After that everything preceded 'normally' and the extra center pawn eventually told. **1 d4 e6 2 Nf3 d5 3 e3 c5 4 b3 cxd4 5 exd4 b6 6 Ne5 Bb4+ 7 c3 Bd6 8 Bb5+ Bd7 9 Nxd7 Nxd7 10 O-O a6 11 Bd3 Qh4 12 h3 Ne7 13 Nd2 h6 14 Nf3 Qf6 15 Qe2 a5 16 Re1 Ng6 17 Bb5 Qe7 18 Bc6 Rc8 19 Qb5** [White threatens Bxd5] **O-O 20 Bxd7 Rxc3 21 Be3 Rc7 22 Bc6 Rfc8 23 Bxd5 exd5 24 Qxd5 Qf6 25 Rac1 Nf4 26 Bxf4 Bxf4 27 Rc4 Rd8 28 Qe4 Rxc4 29 bxc4 Bd6 30 g3 Rc8 31 Qd5 Bb4 32 Re2 g6 33 Kg2 Rd8 34 Qe4 Bc3 35 d5 Kg7 36 h4 Bb2 37 h5 g5 38 Nh2 Qd4 39 Qxd4+ Bxd4 40 Nf3 Bf6 41 g4 1-0**

Other open section prizewinners included Bob Nolan & Kosta Isic (=top under 1900; Nolan also won the upset prize); and Kai Ruppert (under 1800). 12-year-old Isic comes to Virginia via Serbia. The young veteran of European junior chess entered Charlottesville as nominally unrated but earned a provisional rating of 2136 in his first USCF event.

In the Under 1700 Section, Caijun Luo swept through the field 5-0. Here too there was a big tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place between Charles Huffman, Gary McMullin, William Moore Jr, Jonathan Yu, Edward Boyers, William Overman & Meredith Lee at 4-1 apiece. Lee qualified for the top under 1500 prize. Other prizewinners included Eric Jensen Jr, Yuyang Wang, Maxwell Lee & Ajitha Balasubramanian (=2<sup>nd</sup> u1500); Nathan Donglia Wu & Santosh Dasari (=u1200); and Miles Anderson, Zachary Gallagher, Atesh Camurdan, Alexander He & Rose Gallagher (=u1000). Camurdan also took the upset prize.

The tournament attracted 81 players. Ernie Schlich directed, assisted by his wife Joan.





Jonathan McNeill - Yuri Barnakov

## Two Knights

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Bc4 Nf6 5 e5 d5 6 Bb5 Ne4 7 Nxd4 Bd7 8 Bxc6 bxc6 9 O-O Be7 10 f3 Nc5 11 f4 O-O 12 f5 f6 13 e6 Be8 14 Nc3 Rb8 15 Qg4 Bd6 16 Rf3 Be5 17 Nb3 d4 18 Nxc5 dxc3 19 bxc3? [19 Rd3±] 19...Qd1+ 20 Kf2 Qxc2+ 21 Kg1 Qd1+ 22 Kf2 Bxc3 23 Ba3 Qd4+ 24 Qxd4 Bxd4+ 25 Kf1 Bxa1 26 Rg3 Rb1+ 27 Ke2 Bh5+ 28 Ke3 g6 29 Nd7 Re8 0-1

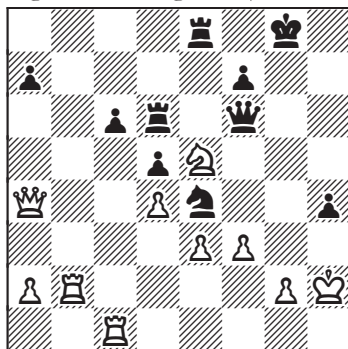
Bob Nolan - Thomas Burgess

## Semi Slav

*Notes by Bob Nolan*

Here is my game from the final round of the Charlottesville Open. This was also a revenge opportunity since Tom beat me in at the Hanover County tournament in May. 1 **d4 d5** 2 **c4 c6** 3 **Nf3 Nf6** 4 **Nc3 e6** 5 **Bg5 Nbd7** 6 **cxd5 exd5** [transposing to a QDG Exchange] 7 **e3 Be7** 8 **Qc2 h6** 9 **Bh4 O-O** 10 **Bd3 Re8** 11 **O-O Ne4** 12 **Bxe7 Qxe7** 13 **Rab1** [I want to play a minority attack. My database gives 13 b4 right away, and if 13...Qxb4 14 Nxe4 dxe4 15 Bxe4] 13...Ng5 14 **Nxg5 Qxg5** 15 **b4 Nf6** 16 **Ne2** [If 16 b5 I was worried about 16...Bh3. I saw that 17 f4 would hold, but I didn't want the backward pawn. What I didn't see was that after 17...Qg4 18 Rf3! will win the bishop and protect the backward e-pawn.] 16...Ne4 17 **b5 Bd7** 18 **bxc6 Bxc6** [My minority attack has worked, giving Black an isolated d-pawn. That by itself is probably not enough for a win.] 19 **Nf4** [to prevent any rook lift ideas] 19...Rad8 20 **Rfc1 h5** 21 **Be2?** [This was a wasted move. I should have played 21 Bb5 right away.] 21...h4 22 **Bb5 Rd6** 23 **Bxc6 bxc6** [This gives me a second weakness (isolated a-pawn) to work on.] 24 **Qa4 Qf6** 25 **Rb2** [With two ideas: to double rooks on the c-file, and to protect my second rank.] 25...g5 26 **Nd3 g4** [I suppose the big question is "Will it matter if I win a pawn or two on the queenside if he breaks through on the kingside?"] 27 **Ne5 g3** 28 **f3** [My e-pawn is backward but can't be attacked down the e-file as long as my knight is on e5] 28...gxh2+ 29 **Kxh2?** [I considered 29 Kh1 and it's probably better because it avoids the check in the exchange sacrifice line in the next note.] (diagram)

29...Ng5?! [29...Rxe5! is the only way to stay alive. Then 30 Rb8+ not (30 dxe5? Qxe5+ forking king and rook) 30...Kh7 31 dxe5 Qxe5+ would be much better than what Black got in the actual game.] 30 **Rbc2** [I could have taken the a-pawn but I rather liked the idea that the c-pawn was pinned to the rook on e8] 30...Ree6 31 **Rxc6 h3?** [either 31...Rxc6 or 31...Rd8 would hold out a bit



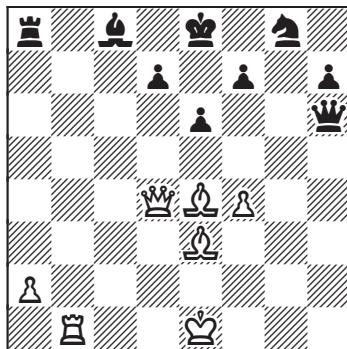


longer.] 32 Rxd6 Rxd6 33 Qe8+ Kg7? [33...Kh7 puts up more of a fight since the queen can drop back to defend.] 34 Rc8 Qh6 35 Qg8+ Kf6 36 Ng4+ 1-0

**Atesh Camurdan - David Giltinan**

**Sicilian**

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nc6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be3 Qc7 7 f4 Bb4 8 Qd2 Nf6 9 Nxc6 Nxe4 10 Qd4 Bxc3+ 11 bxc3 Qxc6 12 c4 Nf6 13 Rb1 b5 14 cxb5 axb5 15 Bxb5 Qxg2 16 Rg1 Qxc2 17 Bd3 Qxh2 18 Rxg7 Qh6 19 Rg5 Rg8 20 Rxg8+ Nxg8 21 Be4 (diagram) 21...Qh4+ 22 Bf2 Qxf4 23 Bxa8 Qxd4 24 Bxd4 f5 25 Be5 Ne7 26 Rb8 Kf8 27 a4 Nc6 28 Rxc8+ 1-0



76<sup>th</sup> annual

## Virginia Closed State Championship

September 1-3, 2012



**Hilton Garden Inn Richmond-Innsbrook, 4050 Cox Rd., Glen Allen, Va**  
Open to Virginia residents, military stationed in Virginia, and students attending a Virginia school or college (must show valid ID or other proof of Fall 2012 enrollment). 6-SS, 30/90, SD/1. \$\$2825 b/75 paid entries. Two sections: *Open* \$600-350-250, top Expert & A \$125 each. Trophy and title of 2012 Virginia State Champion to 1<sup>st</sup>, trophies to top Expert & A. *Amateur (under 1800)* \$500-300-175, top C, D, U1200, Unrated \$100 each. Trophy and title of 2012 Virginia Amateur Champion to 1<sup>st</sup>, trophies to top C, D, U1200. Trophies to top Senior (60+), Junior (U18) and Woman awarded across both sections with 1pt added to Open section scores. Reg Fri Aug 31, 3-6pm and Sat Sep 1, 8:30am-12:15pm. Rds 1-7, 11-5, 10-3:30. Two ½pt byes available for rds 1-5 only, must declare before start of rd 2. EF \$60 if received by Aug 30, \$75 thereafter and on site. Re-entry with ½pt bye allowed for rd 2 only at \$30. Hotel (804) 521-2900, reserve before 8/10 and mention the Virginia Closed Chess Tournament for \$89 chess rate. <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com>. W, NS, NC, FIDE. Chess Magnet School JGP. *Enter:* Make checks to "VIRGINIA CHESS" and mail to arrive by Aug 30 to Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: VA Closed, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693. Info [mhoffpauir@aol.com](mailto:mhoffpauir@aol.com) or phone 757-846-4805.

### Friday Night Blitz Tournament - Aug 31

Open to all USCF members, not just Virginia residents. 4 or 5-DblSS depending on number of players. EF \$25 if received by Aug 30, \$35 thereafter and at door. \$\$500 b/30 paid entries. Two sections, Open and Amateur (U1800). Rd 1 at 6:30pm. W, NS, NC. *Enter:* Make checks to "VIRGINIA CHESS" and mail to Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: VA State Blitz, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693. Info [mhoffpauir@aol.com](mailto:mhoffpauir@aol.com) or phone 757-846-4805.

**Annual VCF Business Meeting - Sat, September 1, 10am-12 noon**





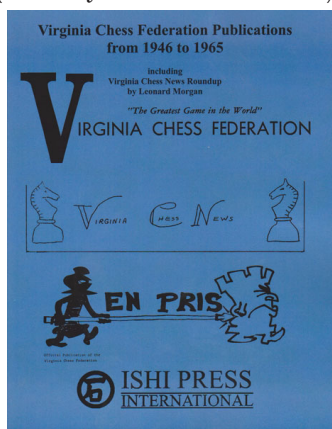
## A Treasure TroVe of Virginia Chess History

VIRGINIA CHESS is but the latest in a line of Virginia chess periodicals that have appeared over the years. Ishi Press International has just published a reprint compilation of Virginia chess literature from the period 1946 to 1965. Weighing in at 354 full-size (8½ x 11) pages, VIRGINIA CHESS PUBLICATIONS FROM 1946 TO 1965 offers a massive collection of games, crosstables, tournament reports, rating lists and much more—a fantastic resource for anyone interested in the history of chess in our state.

The included material consists of the 1946 *Virginia Chess Federation Yearbook* (by Russell Chauvenet), the *Virginia Chess News Roundup* from 1954 to 1958 (edited by Leonard Morgan), *En Pris* from 1959 to 1962 (edited by Richard Tarravechia), *Virginia Chess* from 1962 to 1965 (edited by H A Smith), the December 1972 *Virginia Chess News* (edited by Fred Reams), and the Nov 7, 1960 *Carolina Gambit* (edited by Mrs Gilliam Hornstein).

Former USCF board member Sam Sloan assembled and published the material. To whet your appetite for diving into the material, the following anecdotes are from Sloan's introduction to the collection, extracted and edited especially for VIRGINIA CHESS.

VIRGINIA CHESS PUBLICATIONS FROM 1946 TO 1965 is available from Amazon or the USCF for \$25.95



by Sam Sloan:

I was born and grew up in Richmond Virginia. My mother was from Creston, Iowa. Every summer we went to Creston to visit my mother's family members. In the summer of 1952 I saw my uncle Cassel Jacobson playing with little pieces. I asked him what that was and he said that it was a game called chess.

I was interested in the game, and when we got back to Richmond I asked my father about chess. By the third game I could beat my father every time and he would not play me any more. Ever since, he claimed that he taught me how to play, but in reality I already knew how to play. My uncle had shown me how the pieces moved but that was all. I never had a chess lesson in my entire life; nobody taught me.

I was attending the JEB Stuart school in Richmond, named after the famous Civil War general. I took my chess set to school but I could beat all the other kids easily. A man heard about me and came to the school to play me. He was a strong player but I do



not remember his name. It might have been Lee Ribble. In any case, he beat me easily, so I finally learned that there was somebody in the world who could beat me at chess.

My father took me to see a chess player he knew. This was Andrew Briggs. In our first game, I played 1 e4 and he replied 1...c5. I had never seen the Sicilian Defense before. I played 2 Bc4 and my reason was that I wanted to block the pawn on c5 from advancing. Of course this was a silly reason, but that was why I played this move. I have noticed ever since that beginners usually respond to 1 e4 c5 with 2 Bc4 and I wonder if that is the reason they do it.

It was Andrew Briggs who told me and my father that the Richmond Chess Club met at the Virginia Home for Incurables. We started attending the chess club. Audrey Dean, an invalid who was one of the incurables residing at the home, served as its secretary. He later wrote a book entitled *THE VIRGINIA HOME FOR INCURABLES, 1894-1958*. However, I have not been able to obtain a copy. It is listed on Google Books but is not available from any known source except for the Virginia Historical Society Library.

Most of the patients at the Virginia Home for Incurables who attended the chess club were weak players. However, but there was one strong player exception. Jesse Burke was literally all skin and bones. Confined to a wheelchair, he moved the pieces with a wooden back-scratcher. He was carried to tournaments by Bobby Vassar.

The first big-time chess game I ever watched was between Jesse Burke and John Palmer, at the Virginia Home for Incurables, for the championship of Richmond. It was an exciting game. Palmer, the defending champion, launched a ferocious attack. Burke defended valiantly. All of Palmer's pieces were advanced and the result was in doubt. Then, suddenly, Jesse Burke pushed a pawn the sixth rank with his wooden back-scratcher. Everybody in the room watching realized that Palmer's pieces were so far advanced that they could not come back in time and catch that pawn before it queened. So, Palmer resigned.

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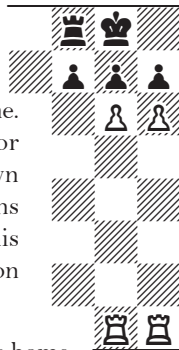
**L**YNCHBURG had two strong chess players. The most famous and probably the strongest was John Buck. He had been both Virginia champion and Southern champion. [*Buck was in fact the winner of the very first VCF state championship in 1934, and he won the title again in 1940. -ed*] He was famous in another field, psychology. He invented the "House, Tree, Person" psychology test that is still in use today. I know this because when my daughter was tested a few months ago, that was one of the tests they used. John Buck was a colleague of my mother, who was a child psychiatrist. However, by the time we moved to Lynchburg he did not want to play chess any more, so I never got to meet him, even though he lived nearby.

The other strong player was Peter Henderson. He was a 1900 player, which made him one of the strongest in Virginia by the standards of that time. He was sometimes considered a North Carolina player because he attended the University



of North Carolina. You can find a lot of his games in the old VIRGINIA CHESS NEWS ROUNDUP. He was several times just one game away from winning the Virginia state championship. For instance, Leonard Morgan defeated him in the decisive game of the 1955 championship.

Peter Henderson once played a great game against senior master Eliot Hearst. It was at the 1959 National Capital Open in Washington DC. I remember the basics of the game. Henderson was White and he played a Yugoslav Attack or something similar. At one point he pushed both his g and h pawn to the sixth rank backed up by rooks while Hearst had pawns on f7, g7, h7 and a rook on f8 and a king on g8. In spite of this brazen and ferocious attack, Hearst beat back the attack and won both the game and the tournament.



As we both lived in Lynchburg, Peter Henderson gave me a ride home, and he let me copy down the score of the game. I later mailed the score to Richard Tarravechia, who had recently become editor of the *Virginia Chess News Roundup*. A few weeks later, the score sheet arrived back in the mail along with a letter from Tarravechia saying he could not use unannotated games and I should provide some colorful anecdotes about the game in order to get it published.

I was truly shocked. This was a great game involving two strong players, especially Eliot Hearst. How could I annotate it or provide colorful anecdotes about it? Tarravechia had evidently not even so much as played over the game. (I later found out that he was a weak player.)

I was so discouraged by this that it was five years before I sent another game to anybody for publication. Five years later I had the score of the great game Pal Benko – Duncan Suttles from the 1964 US Open in Boston. I had the score because

### Tracy Callis Jr Memorial

Aug 18, 2012

St. John's Lutheran Church

4608 Brambleton Ave SW, Roanoke, Va 24018

3-SS, Game/90 with 5 second delay. \$\$G top section \$250-\$150-\$100, additional sections \$150-\$125 if Octagonals or \$125-\$100 if Hexagonals or \$125 if Quads. EF \$30 if rec'd by Aug 17, \$40 at site. Reg 6-9 pm on Aug 17, 8:30-9:30am on Aug 20. Rds 10-2:30-6:30. One ½pt bye allowed, must request in advance. NS. NC. W. Bargain Book Sale on site. Free lunch provided! Enter: Roanoke Valley Chess Club, PO Box 14143, Roanoke, Va 24038. Info by phone (276)692-6418 or by email [info@roanokechess.com](mailto:info@roanokechess.com) or online at [roanokechess.com](http://roanokechess.com)

10 Grand Prix Points – VCF Cup event





I had been Suttles' roommate during the tournament. I gave the score sheet to Hans Kmoch who published in in *Chess Review* magazine. I also gave Kmoch the score sheet for the game Roy Hoppe - Duncan Suttles from the National Open, in Las Vegas, and he published that too in the same issue.

ANOTHER INCIDENT involving Peter Henderson I can now reveal since all the people involved are dead. Henderson and I both played in the 1959 Virginia state championship in Arlington. That was a breakthrough tournament for me because it was the first time in my life that I ever defeated a 1900 rated player, James R Stowe, who hung a piece. Anyhow, Peter Henderson gave a ride back to Lynchburg to both me and Peter Paul Kerr. He had an old clock with him in the car. After Peter Paul Kerr got out of the car at the bus station, Peter Henderson explained the chess clock.

He said that the clock belonged to the Lynchburg Chess Club. It had been kept in the mahogany chest with the other equipment belonging to the club. One of the club members had been Herbert Nagan, a veterinarian who had lived in Lynchburg for many years. However, when Herbert Nagan had moved his veterinary practice to Arlington, he had stolen the chess clock and taken it with him. Upon seeing the clock used at the state championship, Henderson had stolen it back on behalf of the Lynchburg Chess Club.

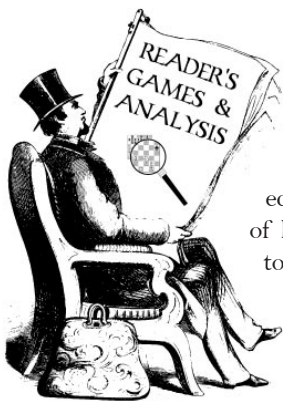
A month or so later, an issue of *En Pris*, the new publication of the Virginia Chess Federation, arrived in the mail. It included the following statement in the championship report: "Dr Herbert Nagin of Arlington felt slightly heart struck at the conclusion of the tournament. He lost a chess clock."

Peter Henderson called me and asked if I had seen the item. I said that I had seen it. He later told me that he had mailed the clock back to Herbert Nagin. I never asked about it again, but I suppose he concluded that it was possible that Nagin had originally owned the clock as he said, but had just left it with the Lynchburg Chess Club for many years.



## Great Deals for Scholastic Players, Programs

Virginia Scholastic Chess Association (VSCA) Secretary **Mike Callaham** wishes to publicize two free services. First, Mike offers **free simultaneous exhibitions, classes and coaching assistance** to the chess programs at schools in central Virginia. Second, he will provide **analysis** for games sent to him by scholastic players from anywhere in Virginia. Again, both of these services are free. You can find out more details at the VSCA web site, [www.vschess.org](http://www.vschess.org) (check the "Resources" tab) or just email Mike directly at [waterman2010kir@aol.com](mailto:waterman2010kir@aol.com)



**C**ALL this the Former Virginians Edition of Readers' Games & Analysis, and maybe subtitled it "Something Old, Something New". Steve Mayer, now living in Arizona but originally of Arlington (and a former VIRGINIA CHESS games editor), looks back here on one of the memorable battles of his youth. Steve also contributed a couple book review to our previous issue and he's got another one on p xx of this issue. Then Sam Sloan, now of New York but with Virginia roots that are partly detailed beginning on page 4), sent us 'hot off the board' a game against a grandmaster from the recently concluded World Open in Philadelphia.

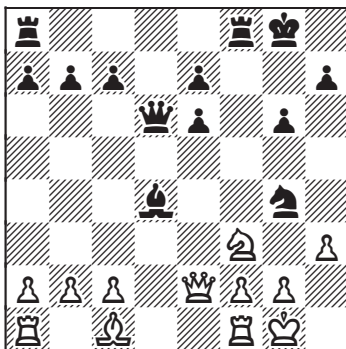
**Brad Shaeffer – Steve Mayer**  
**1984 Maryland Open**  
**Pirc**

*Notes by Steve Mayer*

Positional chess, while expedient, isn't the type of game I like best. I've always preferred games with some imagination to them. I played the following game in the first round of the 1984 Maryland Open, when I was 20. **1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nf3 d6 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Bc4 O-O 6 O-O Nc6 7 e5?! [This 'forcing move' simply gives Black the advantage.] 7...dxe5 8 dxe5 Ng4 9 e6 Bxe6 10 Bxe6 fxe6 11 Qe2 [if 11 Ng5 Qxd1 12 Nxd1 Nd4 winning; or if 11 h3! Bxc3! 12 bxc3 Nge5] 11... Qd6! 12 Nb5 Nd4! 13 Nbx d4 Bxd4 14 h3? [If 14 g3 (not 14 Nxd4? Qxh2mate!) Bb6 15 Bf4 Rxf4 16 gxf4 Qxf4 17 Kg2 Rf8 18 Rae1 e5 19 Qe4 is messy, but just 14...Ne5 is more pleasant for Black.]**

*(diagram)*

**14...Rxf3 15 hxg4 Raf8! 16 gxf3? [16 Be3 Bxe3 17 fxe3 Rxf1+ 18 Rxf1 Rxf1+ 19 Qxf1=] 16...Qg3+ 17 Kh1 Qh3+ 18 Kg1 Qg3+ 19 Kh1 Qh3+ [gaining time on the clock] 20 Kg1 Rxf3 21 Qxe6+ Kh8 22 Be3 Rg3+! 23 fxg3 Qxg3+ 24 Kh1 Qh3+ 25 Kg1 Qg3+ 26 Kh1 Qh3+ 27 Kg1 Bxe3+ 28 Rf2 [28 Qxe3 Qxe3+ winning] 28... Qg3+ 29 Kh1 Bxf2 30 Qb3 Be3 31 Qc3+ e5 [Conquering the center; my opponent sportingly allowed me to play mate on the board.] 32 Rg1 Qh3mate 0-1**





Ilia Smirin - Sam Sloan

2012 World Open

Damiano

Notes by Sam Sloan

Grandmaster Ilia Smirin has been ranked as high as in the top ten in the world. By luck of the pairing system, I faced him in the second round of the recent World Open. **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f6** [When Grandmaster Smirin saw my second move, first he started laughing. Then his face turned beet red. Finally he went into deep thought. He was probably realizing that he was not up on the latest theoretical developments on this important line. He spent about ten minutes thinking about this position until finally he played...] **3 d4** [He probably realized that it is not possible that I had made a beginner's blunder. After all, what was I doing playing him on the top boards if I was a beginner? He must have realized that I had thoroughly analyzed the complications arising after 3 Nxe5 fxe5 4 Qh5+ Even a top grandmaster could not feel confident of working out all the possibilities over the board, so it made sense for him to play a developing move instead.] **3...d5 4 exd5 e4 5 Nfd2 Qxd5 6 Nc3 Qxd4 7 Ncxe4**

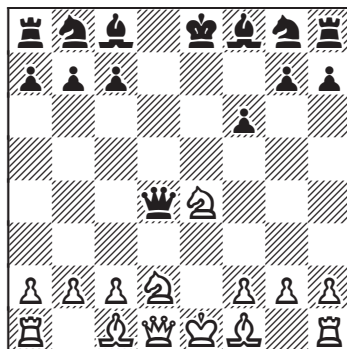
(diagram)

At this point I think I have achieved at least equality and possibly the advantage. I even considered offering him a draw since he is a much stronger player than I am, but he might take it if he felt that his position was inferior.

**7...Bf5 8 Qf3 Bxe4 9 Nxe4 Nc6 10 Bb5 O-O-O 11 Bxc6 bxc6 12 O-O Nh6 13 Bxh6 gxe4 14 Rad1 Qe5 15 Rxd8+ Kxd8 16 Nxf6 Bd6 17 Ng4 Qxb2**

[This, I think, was my fatal error. I could have played 17...Qg4 forcing a trade of queens or 17...Qg7. Although I would have been a pawn down, my more active pieces would have made it difficult for him to win, I believe.]

**18 Nxe6 Rf8 19 Nf7+ Kd7 20 Qf5+ Ke8 21 Nxd6+ cxd6 22 Re1+ 1-0**

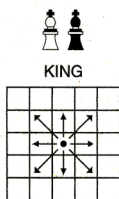


Our own Mike Hoffpauir has been elected to the USCF Scholastic Council. The election was among members of the Scholastic Committee, on which he has served for the past three years. *Congratulations, Mike!*

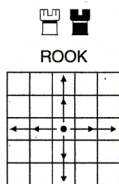


## CHess WORDS

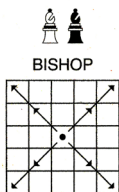
Sixteen 4-letter words are scrambled on the chessboard. You can unscramble them by following standard chess moves. A king can move forward, back, left, right, or diagonally, but only one square at a time. A rook can move in a straight line forward, back, left, or right any number of squares. A bishop can move diagonally any number of squares. A queen can move in any direction any number of squares. A knight can move one square forward, back, left, or right plus one square diagonally away from the starting square. These possible moves are shown in the diagrams.



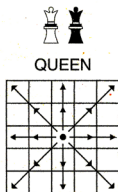
KING



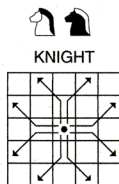
ROOK



BISHOP



QUEEN



KNIGHT

Each word begins in the first square for that piece. Keep in mind that each move creates a new starting square for the next move. Cross off the letters as you use them; the letter in a square can be used in only one answer word. Noting the position on the board of each letter you use will make it easier to change a word. You will probably want to look first for the kings' words and the knights' words.

### WHITE

Queen's Rook

I \_ \_ \_ \_  
a1

Queen's Knight

Z \_ \_ \_ \_  
b1

Queen's Bishop

K \_ \_ \_ \_  
c1

Queen

U \_ \_ \_ \_  
d1

King

J \_ \_ \_ \_  
e1

King's Bishop

F \_ \_ \_ \_  
f1

King's Knight

A \_ \_ \_ \_  
g1

King's Rook

W \_ \_ \_ \_  
h1



8	Y	R	M	S	C	D	B	G
7	E	L	P	T	H	D	M	O
6	I	F	T	O	P	L	U	P
5	D	U	N	I	S	Y	B	H
4	K	R	N	Y	X	T	T	E
3	L	R	U	E	S	N	G	P
2	A	I	W	A	E	E	E	S
1	I	Z	K	U	J	F	A	W
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h



### BLACK

Queen's Rook

Y \_ \_ \_ \_  
a8

Queen's Knight

R \_ \_ \_ \_  
b8

Queen's Bishop

M \_ \_ \_ \_  
c8

Queen

S \_ \_ \_ \_  
d8

King

C \_ \_ \_ \_  
e8

King's Bishop

D \_ \_ \_ \_  
f8

King's Knight

B \_ \_ \_ \_  
g8

King's Rook

G \_ \_ \_ \_  
h8

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## Volume Two of an Underground Sensation

by *Steve Mayer*

Chess players like to pay lip service to the idea that we are creative problem solvers who are expert at thinking 'outside of the box'. Those of us who are honest know that an awful lot of chess players—even players with lofty ratings and exalted titles—not only lack creativity creative, but they may even have difficulty figuring out how to open a box they encounter. That helps to explain why most chess books are opening books, or HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR RATING BY 25 POINTS books. Not only are they no fun to read, but more often than not they are waste a time and money.

Such is emphatically not the case with FORMATION ATTACKS and FORMATION ATTACK STRATEGIES, two mammoth attacking manuals written and published by Original Life Master, games editor for the highly regarded CHESS HORIZONS, and former US Senior Champion Joel Johnson.

As a player, Johnson is the sort who is always playing for mate, sometimes as early as move one it seems! His swashbuckling style emphasizes development and piece activity over material, especially relatively small amounts of material such as a pawn or three. Like all classical attackers, he's more interested in "local force" than in the count across the entire board. The basic idea is that an attack will usually succeed if it can bring more force (material) to bear on the *critical area* of the board (ie, where the defender's king is) than the defender can muster



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there. It doesn't matter if you're down a rook on the queenside if you're delivering mate on the kingside.

Volume One of this series, *FORMATION ATTACKS*, appeared in late 2010. Although self-published, Johnson's systematic examination (including 435 games in 500 pages) of how to attack different defensive pawn formations proved such an underground sensation that it scaled the peak of the prestigious *New in Chess* bestseller list! Now Volume Two has appeared. *FORMATION ATTACK STRATEGIES* is of similar scope to its predecessor. To this reviewer, the sheer number of games is a refreshing change from what has become the norm. Many chess books these days offer fifteen pages analysis for every game—but only twenty games. *FORMATION ATTACK STRATEGIES* reminded me more of Tartakower & DuMont's *500 MASTER GAMES OF CHESS* in this respect.

The books have a list price of \$40 each, and can be ordered from Lulu.com. However, they can also be found on other sites, eg, Amazon and New in Chess. They make a perfect introduction to attacking play for any junior or beginning adult player, but will also greatly benefit anyone who aspires to become a better attacker or who's concerned that their offensive game has grown stale. As a standard disclaimer, I should add that Joel and I are on good terms and have worked chess camps together in the past, as well as played an action game in a tournament where he modeled his attacking skills for me, much to my chagrin. I received copies of both books for review but no other recompense.



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