


VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

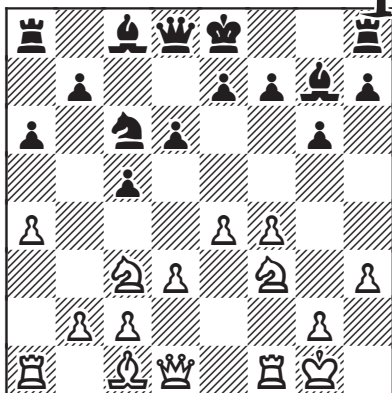
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2012 - #5

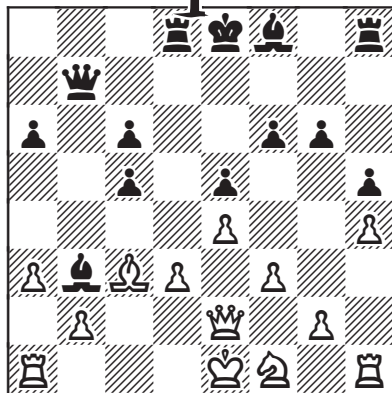
James Schuyler defends his title!

Justin Burgess ties for first - all the details inside 

State Championship Quiz:



Kitces-Burgess



Samuelson-Abrahams

From the 5th round at the recent Labor Day weekend event in Richmond. Ed Kitces and Andy Samuelson played White in these positions. Your question:

Which former state champion had castled?

(solution page 7)

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2012 Virginia State Championship

DEFENDING CHAMPION JAMES SCHUYLER posted an undefeated score of 5 points out of 6 to retain the state championship on tiebreak at the annual Labor Day tournament near Richmond. Justin Burgess, rated 2107, beat three 2300 masters and drew with Schuyler to equal Schuyler's 5 points. Former champions Macon Shibut & Adithya Balasubramanian, plus Eric Most, each scored 4½ to tie for third. Other prizewinners in the Open section included Larry Larkins (top Expert); Ray Fletcher (top class A); and Isaac Steincamp (top B).

In the Under 1800 section, Gerard Wasserbauer emerged as 2012 Amateur Champion on tiebreak over William Stoots & Shreya Shetty. They each scored 5-1. Wasserbauer and Stoots had two draws (including a draw with one another in the final round) whereas Shetty took the "Swiss Gambit" route of losing her first round game and then running the table from there on. I so doing she also claimed top female and a share of top class C prizes. Other prizewinners in the Under 1800 group included Adrian Rhodes & Todd Hammer (equal top class C with Shetty); Divij Rajesh & Chris Giofreda (= top D); Chris Yarger (top under 1200); Shiva Bokka (top unrated); and Ryan Xu (top junior).

A total of 96 players entered the event at the Hilton Garden Innsbrook in Glen Allen, which has served as the site of the last several Virginia "Closed" championships. Mike Hoffpauir directed on behalf of the VCF.

At the annual VCF business meeting, Andy Rea was reelected as President of the federation. Andy's 'inaugural address' appears on pages 14 of this issue. Adam Weissbarth & Adam Chrisney were elected to the VCF Board of Directors.

Adam Weissbarth, Yuri Barnakov & Adithya Balasubramanian finished in a 3-way tie atop the annual Blitz tournament contested Friday night prior to the main event. Andy Samuelson was half a point back. Vadim Barnakov dominated the Under 1800 blitz, his 9½-½ score putting him a point-and-a-half clear of runner up Bryant Lohr and 4½ points ahead of third prize winners Ajitha Balasubramanian, Nathan Lohr & Shiva Chait Bokka.

Justin Burgess provided notes for the 4th round meeting between the tournament co-winners.

Justin Burgess - James Schuyler Robatsch

Notes by Justin Burgess

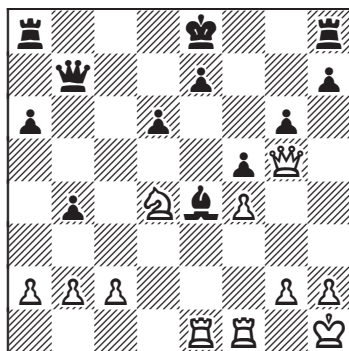
1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nc3 d6 4 f4 a6 5 Be3 Nd7 6 Nf3 b5 7 Bd3 c5 8 dxc5 Nxc5 9 Bd4? [This is a very poor move that gives Black a much better position. 9 O-O or Bxc5 would be better choices.] **9...Bxd4 10 Nxd4 Nf6 11 O-O** [Probably 11 Qe2 was necessary, as now Black wins a pawn by force.] **11...Bb7** [eyeing



e4 while also preparing for moves like b4 and Qb6] **12 Qf3 Qb6 13 Kh1 b4 14 Nd5 Nxd5 15 exd5 Nxd3 16 Qxd3 Bxd5** [Black is comfortably winning here. All White can do is try to vaguely create counterplay against the uncastled king.] **17 Rae1 Qb7** [a nice move combining defense of e7 with attack on g2] **18 Qg3** [Defending g2 while also hoping for vague counterplay with 18...0-0 19 Nf5 or f5. Unfortunately it doesn't really work as 19 Nf5 runs into 19...Be4; and 19 f5 would be met with 19...e5! 20 fxe6 fxe6 and 21 Qxd6 is not playable due to 21...Bxg2+] **18...f5 19 Qg5** [I completely overlooked Black's idea behind 18...f5. Probably 19 Ne6 was better.] **19...Be4!**

(diagram)

At this point I realized my counterplay was pretty much gone and Black would safely be up a pawn in a winning position. In order to stop him from castling, I considered 20 Ne6, but after 20...Kf7 White really has no choice but to go back to d4 with the knight. On any other move however, Black can simply castle—or, if he wants to stop Ne6 entirely, he might play Qd5. Seeing this, I discovered that I could set a trap



20 Rf2

Protecting g2 so that if Black castles, White can perhaps attempt to relocate the queen to h6 and maybe swing the e1 rook to e3 and h3. The real point, however, is that it prevents Qd5

20...Qd5? 21 Rxe4! [A lucky break for White, as now the game is about equal after either 21...0-0 Rxe7 Qxd4; or 21...0-0-0 Rxe7 Qxd4; or the move Schuyler actually played.] **21...Qxe4 22 Re2 Qb7 23 Nc6 Kd7** [I was concerned during



the game that he could escape with 23...O-O 24 Nxe7+ Kf7, but in fact 25 Qh4 Rh8 26 Nc6 Rae8 27 Rxe8 Kxe8 28 Qd8+ Kf7 29 Qxh8 Qxc6 30 Qxh7+ is a little better for White.] **24 Rxe7+ Kxc6 25 Rxb7 Kxb7 26 Qe7+ Kc6 27 Qe6** ½-½ I offered a draw and he agreed. After 27...a5 there is nothing to do except take a perpetual.

James Schuyler (Photo by Mike Atkins)



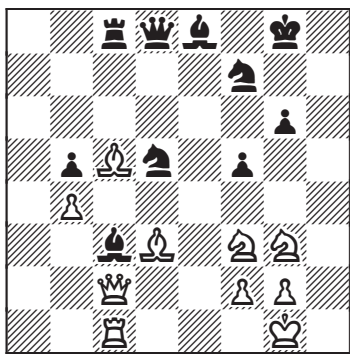
State champion Schuyler gives us a look at his second round game:

Larry Larkins - James Schuyler

Queen's Pawn Game

Notes by James Schuyler

1 d4 Nc6 2 Nf3 d6 3 e3 g6 4 b3 [Larry made a good practical choice, opposing my bishop on the long diagonal. This rare continuation also reduced the value of my preparation.] **4...Bg7 5 Bb2 Bd7** [I wanted to be able to play ...e5 without giving white the option of trading queens.] **6 Nbd2 e5 7 Be2 exd4! 8 exd4** [Now Larry's d-pawn is pinned—a slight inconvenience which allows me easy equality.] **8...Nge7 9 O-O Nf5!? 10 c3** [I was happy to have induced this move, after which the Bb2 is a bit ridiculous, however the same thing could be said of my Nc6 at this point.] **10...O-O 11 Qc2 Nce7?!** [It makes sense to try to improve this piece and mobilize the queenside pawns, but this takes away the natural retreat from my Nf5. On the other hand, this does lead to the complications I am seeking. **11...d5** was best, but it was a little dull for my tastes.] **12 Rfe1 b5 13 Rad1 a5 14 Ne4 a4 15 Bc1 Nd5 16 Bg5! f6 17 Bd2** [White's maneuver improves his dark-squared bishop and worsens mine. Correcting this problem took time and further weakened my king position.] **17...Nb6 18 Rc1 Re8 19 Bd3 Nh6** [Houdini doesn't like this, but I thought it was important to free the f-pawn, and I liked having the knight in position to close the diagonal to my king.] **20 Ng3 Nf7 21 h4!?** [We are running a bit short on time, so this is a good time to sound the charge.]



21...axb3 22 axb3 c5! 23 h5 f5 24 hxg6 hxg6 25 Rxe8+ Bxe8 26 dxc5 dxc5 27 Be3?! [Larry commits his first time-trouble inaccuracy, though he does not pay for this.] **27...Nd5?!** [Instead, **27...Qc7!** threatens **28...f4**] **28 Bxc5 Rc8?!** [The simple **28...Nxc3** is better, with approximate equality.] **29 b4 Bxc3?** [I had been counting on this move during my calculations, and with the threat of **30...Bxb4**, I felt great about my position, but I have overlooked something.] (*diagram*)

30 Nxf5?? [With seconds left on the last move of time control, Larry makes an unfortunate guess. We generally prefer to sacrifice knights and keep bishops, but **30 Bxf5!** allows the queen easy access to my king, and it is more forcing because it attacks my rook. Larry pointed this possibility out to me after the game, and it was easy to see that black's game was very bad.] **30...Bxb4 31 Qb2 gxf5 32 Bxb4 Rxc1+ 33 Qxc1 Nxb4 34 Bxf5** [After this forced sequence the smoke has cleared and black is winning, which is not to say that there is nothing that can go wrong. One thing that can go wrong is for me to wind up with two knights *vs* a



king. For this reason it is important for me to retain the bishops.】 **34...Qd5?** [In a sea of possibilities I centralize my queen and attack white's bishop. How bad can it be? Incidentally, the same centralizing ...Qd5 cost me a probable win against Burgess in the fourth round.】 **35 Qc8?** [The best move is 35 Qe1! forking Black's unfortunate pieces and virtually forcing a bishop trade. The rest of the game sees me implementing my winning plan correctly: 1) centralize the pieces, 2) bring the king to the queenside, 3) advance the b-pawn.】 **35...Kf8 36 Nh4!? Ne5** [I realized in time that my intended 36...Nd6? is bad because of 37 Ng6+ Kf7 38 Qc7+ Kf6 39 Qc3+ Kg5 40 Qg3+ and I can't escape the checks. The White bishop is always taboo because of Ne7+】 **37 Qc1 Nbc6 38 Qg5 Bf7 39 f4 Nc4 40 Qh6+ Ke7 41 Bg4 Nd4 42 Qg7 Kd6 43 Qf8+ Kc7 44 Qc8+ Kb6 45 Qb8+ Ka5 46 Qa7+ Kb4 47 Qe7+ Kb3 48 Qe1 b4 49 Bd1+ Ka3 50 Qg3+ b3 51 Qc3 Nb2 52 Qc1 Ka2 53 Bg4 Nc4 0-1** The knights do an excellent job restricting White's queen. There is no stopping the b-pawn.

As noted above, Justin Burgess had the tournament of his life with 3½ points against the event's four top-rated players and an otherworldly 2683 tournament performance rating.

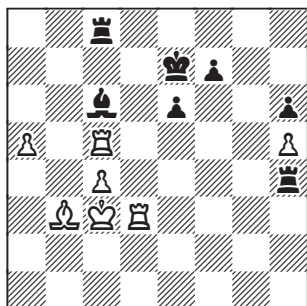
Adithya Balasubramanian - Justin Burgess

King's Indian Attack

Notes by Justin Burgess

The Virginia Closed is my favorite tournament in Virginia, not only because of its history and the importance of the state championship, but also because I love the tournament site. Located in Glenn Allen, the tournament hotel is within walking distance of numerous restaurants and is very convenient for the fast-paced schedule of tournament chess.

I wasn't feeling optimistic about my chances for this round 2 game. Not only was I paired against the second highest rated player in the event, but I had little time to rest or prepare after needing nearly 5 hours to squeeze a win in round 1 (*see diagram*).



Justin Burgess – Adam Chrisney

Black to Play

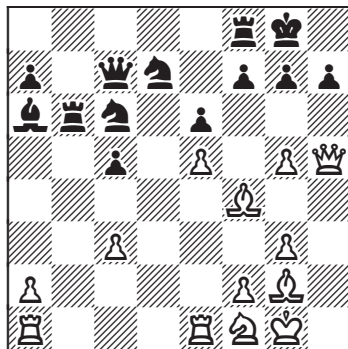
Black would stay in the game by 48...Bd7. Instead he played **48...Bb7?** and after **49 Kb4!** my king penetrates, the difference being that now 49...Rb8 is not playable due to 50 Rb5. After **49...Rxc5 50 Kxc5 Rxh5+ 51 Kb6 Ba8 52 a6 Rg5 53 c5 Rg8 54 a7 Rc8 55 Ba4 Bd5 56 Rxd5** Black resigned.

Fortunately things continued my way and I was able to score my first ever tournament win over a 2300...



1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 e6 3 Bg2 d5 4 d3 Be7 5 Nbd2 O-O 6 O-O c5 7 e4 dxe4 [Keeping the tension with 7...Nc6 is probably better] 8 dxe4 Nc6 9 c3 b6 10 Qe2 Qc7 11 e5 Nd7 12 Re1 Rb8 13 h4 b5 14 Nf1 b4 15 Bf4 bxc3 16 bxc3 Rb6 [preparing Ba6 and Rfb8] 17 Ng5 Ba6 18 Qh5 Bxg5 19 hxg5 (diagram)

Now came a critical moment in the game. I became very concerned with the idea of Nh2-g4-f6. There are numerous defensive ideas for Black but I thought they were all very unclear. Ultimately I played a move that I knew couldn't be best, but would at least put to rest White's mating threats.



19...Bxf1?! 20 Kxf1 Rfb8 21 Rad1 Rb2 22 Rd6 Ne7 23 Be4 g6 24 Qd1 Nb6 25 Re2 Rxe2 26 Qxe2 Nbd5 27 Qd2 Nxf4 28 gxf4 Qa5 29 Rd7 Nd5! [With only a couple minutes left on my clock before time control, I was fortunate to have seen this resource in advance. Black attacks the c3 pawn and if 30 Bxd5 I'll have 30... Qb5+ attacking the rook on d7. Then 31 Bc4 Qxc4+ the game should end in a draw as after 32 Kg2 Rb1 White's king is the one in more danger and he will probably have to take the perpetual with 33 Rd8+ Kg7 34 Rg8+ Kxg8 35 Qd8+ etc] 30 Kg2? [Trying to pressure me on my last move before time control, my opponent made this move pretty quickly but simply overlooked my reply.] 30... Qa4! [forking White's rook and bishop, and winning the game] 31 c4 Qxd7 32 cxd5 exd5 33 Qxd5 Qxd5 34 Bxd5 Rd8 35 Bc6 c4 36 Kf3 c3 37 Be4 Rd4 0-1 because of 38 Bb1 Rd1 39 Bc2 Rd2 40 Ke3 c2

Justin Burgess - Yuri Barnakov

Scotch

Notes by Justin Burgess

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 [Heading into round 3, there remained seven perfect scores, and I would play down against the top 1½, Yuri Barnakov. I knew we would be play a Scotch Game, so I spent about an hour on Sunday morning before the round preparing.] 3...exd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nxc6 bxc6 6 e5 Qe7 7 Qe2 Nd5 8 c4 Ba6 9 b3 Nb6 10 Bb2 O-O-O 11 Nd2 f5?! [This move totally surprised me and I was out of book. I think 11...d5 would be a better try.] 12 exf6 Qf7 13 O-O-O [13 fxg7 Bxg7 14 O-O-O Bxb2+ 15 Kxb2 is another options but I don't think that exposing my king and giving Black quick development is worth the extra pawn.] 13...gxf6 14 Qf3 [This move, in conjunction with White's next, is a strong idea.] 14...Be7 15 c5! Bxf1 16 cxb6 Ba6 17 bxc7 [My original intention was to take on a7, but I think I ultimately made the correct decision by taking c7 instead. This weakens the dark squares around Black's king much more, and a7



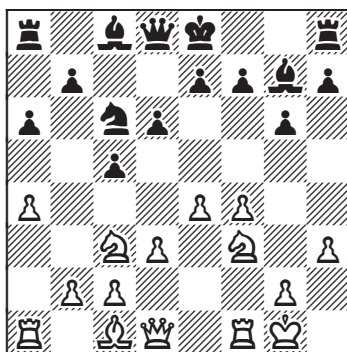
will remain a target later. Indeed, the computer engine at first recommends taking on a7 but eventually changes its mind as it looks deeper into the position.] **17... Kxc7 18 Rhe1** [White has several pleasant follow-up ideas to this, such as Ne4 or Rxe7, as well as the main idea which my opponent overlooked.] **18...Rhxf8? 19 Qe3!** [This double attack on e7 and a7 effectively ends the game.] **19...Rfe8 20 Qxa7+ Bb7 21 Nc4 Ra8 22 Qb6+!?** [I had already seen the game continuation, which is plenty for White to win. However, in my hasty reply I missed the chance for a nice checkmate with 22 Rxd7+! Kxd7 23 Qxb7+ Kd8 24 Rd1+ Qd5 25 Rxd5+ cxd5 26 Nb6 and mate next move.] **22...Kc8 23 Rxe7 Qxe7 24 Nd6+ Qxd6 25 Rxd6 Rxa2** [I got a bit sloppy in my effort to finish the game, but eventually I was able to consolidate everything again and pick up the win.] **26 Rxd7 Kxd7 27 Qxb7+ Ke6 28 Qxc6+ Ke7 29 Ba3+ Kd8 30 Qxf6+ Kc8 31 Qc6+ Kd8 32 Bb4 Ree2 33 Bc3 Ke7 34 Qf6+ Kd7 35 Bb2 h5 36 b4 Re1+ 37 Kc2 Re6 38 Qf5 Ra6 39 b5 Ra4 40 Qd5+ Ke7 41 Kb3 Rae4 42 Bd4 Re1 43 b6 Rb1+ 44 Kc2 1-0**

Edward Kitces - Justin Burgess Sicilian

Notes by Justin Burgess

Heading into round 5, there was a 4-way tie at 3½-½ that pitted Schuyler and VCF president Andrew Rea on board 1, while on board 2 I would face 3-time former state champion Edward Kitces. With his rating of 2305, this ensured that I would have to play all four of the 2300s in the event. To have any shot of tying for first, I knew I had to win this game because several weeks earlier I had requested a ½-point bye for round 6 in order to drive down to Blacksburg for Virginia Tech's football season opener. **1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 d6 3 f4 Nf6 4 Nf3 a6 5 a4 Nc6 6 h3 Nh5!? 7 d3 Ng3 8 Rg1 g6 9 Kf2 Nxf1 10 Rxf1 Bg7 11 Kg1** (*diagram*)

I'm not sure if 6...Nh5 was good or not. In essence Black wasted four moves on this plan (Nf6, Nh5, Ng3, Nxf1) while White also wasted four moves (Rg1, Kf2, Rxf1, Kg1). However, it's really like White only wasted three moves because he did managed to 'castle'. Compared to a natural continuation



such as 6...g6 7 Bc4 Bg7 8 0-0 0-0, we've reached the same position except that the c4 bishop and f6 knight are still on the board and White has not been able to play d3 yet. In my experience with the Grand Prix Sicilian, White's bishop on the a2-g8 diagonal is a very important piece, so sacrificing a tempo to get rid of it while also gaining the bishop pair seemed to me a worthwhile endeavor.



11...Nd4 12 Be3 O-O 13 a5 Nc6 [It looks odd to move the knight back to c6 so soon, but Black should now be able to collect the a5 pawn.] 14 Qe1 e6? [A mistake, but I began to fear ignoring White's developing attack with 15 f5 or Qh4 by 14... Nxa5 would be too greedy.] 15 e5! [A nice move which I had overlooked. At first I was worried because 15...dxe5 16 Bxc5 Re8?? 17 fxe5 and White is just winning. Then I saw that I could simply sacrifice the exchange with a pleasant position.] 15...dxe5 16 Bxc5 [Indeed the computer doesn't even like this move because of Black's exchange sac, preferring 16 fxe5 Nxe5 17 Nxe5 Bxe5 18 Bxc5 Bd4+ 19 Bxd4 Qxd4+ 20 Qf2 with a slight advantage for White.] 16...exf4 17 Bxf8 Qxf8 [I was pretty satisfied with this position. Black has a strong pawn center,

Solution to Cover Quiz

Of course it was a trick question. (Why else would we ask?) Samuelson castled, Kitces didn't. What happened in Ed's game is explained on the opposite page. Appearances were even more deceiving with regard to what Andy did. His position on the cover arose by the moves 1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d3 c6 4 Nf3 d5 5 Bb3 Bd6 6 Nc3 d4 7 Ne2 h6 8 Ng3 c5 9 Qe2 Nc6 10 a3 g6 11 h3 Qe7 12 Nh2 Bd7 13 Ng4 h5 14 Nxf6+ Qxf6 15 h4 Qg7 16 Bg5 f6 17 Bd2 Qe7 18 O-O-O —*there!*— 18...Bg4 19 f3 Be6 20 Ba4 a6 21 c4 dxc3 22 Bxc6+ bxc6 23 Bxc3 Qb7 24 Nf1 Bf8 25 Kd2 Bb3 26 Ra1 Rd8 27 Ke1. Andy went on to win after Qb5 28 Nd2 Bc2 29 a4 Qb7 30 f4 Bxd3 31 Qf2 Bh6 32 fxe5 Bxd2+ 33 Qxd2 Qe7 34 Rh3 Bxe4 35 Qf4 Bf5 36 Re3 O-O 37 exf6 Qd6 38 Qxd6 Rxd6 39 Kf2 Re6 40 Rae1 Rfe8 41 Be5 Kf7 42 Kg3 Rd8 43 Kf4 Rd2 44 R1e2 Rd1 45 Rb3 Rd7 46 Ree3 c4 47 Rb8 Re8 48 Rb6 Rd3 49 Re1 c3 50 bxc3 Rxe5 51 Kxe5 Rd5+ 52 Kf4 Rc5 53 Rxa6 Kxf6 54 Re3 Rc4+ 55 Kf3 Bg4+ 56 Kg3 Bd1 57 a5 Kf5 58 Ra8 1-0

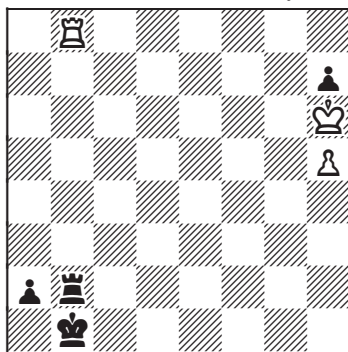
annoying dark square control, and the bishop pair advantage.] 18 Nd2 [a small inaccuracy, allowing my knight to jump into d4 and possibly later to f5 and e3/g3] 18...Nd4 19 Rc1 e5 20 Nc4 Qc5? [20...Be6 would have been much stronger as 21 Nxe5 then loses to 21...Qc5] 21 Kh2 Be6 22 Ne4 Qe7 23 c3 Nf5 24 g4?! [Running low on time before move 30, my opponent lashed out with this move, trying to remove my knight from f5 before I had a chance to consider ...Bxc4 followed by ...Ne3] 24...Bxc4 25 gxf5 Bxd3 [However, this is very strong, as now if 26 Rf3 Bb5 and Black's huge mass of central pawns will eventually decide.] 26 fxg6 Bxf1? [I was very surprised by his last move and I missed the crushing reply 26... f5! crashing through the center. Black will have a much harder time getting his central pawns rolling without the f5 pawn to dislodge White's knight from e4] 27 gxf7+ Qxf7 28 Qxf1 f3 29 Re1 Qf4+ 30 Kh1 Kh8 31 Qf2 Rg8 [Perhaps this plan was not my best. The computer recommends 31...Rf8 Δ Bh6 and Qf5 attacking h3. White could not bring the king to h2 because of ... Bf4+, and any queen move would allow Black's f-pawn to continue advancing.



From here until the end of the game, the computer thinks that all of my moves are fine, but somehow I could feel the win slipping away.】 **32 Qg3 Qxg3 33 Nxg3 Bh6 34 Ne4 Rg2 35 Rf1 Rxb2 36 Rxf3 Bf4 37 Nf6 Ra2 38 Nh5 Rxa5 39 Nxf4 exf4 40 Rxf4 Ra2** [And so, here, I'm not so sure that Black is winning anymore.】 **41 Rf7 Rb2 42 c4 Rb4 43 c5 a5 44 Rc7** [At this point I could no longer see a way to win. I haven't had time to figure out where exactly I may have gone wrong in this game, but I give credit to my opponent, who defended remarkably.】 **44...a4 45 c6 bxc6 46 Rxc6 a3 47 Ra6 Rb1+ 48 Kg2 Rb2+ 49 Kg3 a2 50 Ra7** [At this point I was resigned to a draw but thankfully luck was on my side once more.】 **50...Kg8 51 Kg4 Kf8 52 h4 Ke8 53 Kh5 Rh2 54 Kg5 Kd8 55 h5 Kc8 56 Kh6 Kb8** [Here and for the next few turns White can draw with Rxa2 followed by Kxh7. Fortunately my opponent was under a minute on his clock and had to play quickly. He told me after the game that he knew Rxa2 was probably a draw but didn't have time to calculate it.】 **57 Ra3 Kb7 58 Rb3+ Ka6 59 Ra3+ Kb5 60 Ra8 Kb4** [Here is White's last chance to play Rxa2】 **61 Rb8+? Ka3** [Now my king can recapture on a2 and I will win. The funny thing

is that I was also playing quickly and did not realize what was happening. I still thought he could sacrifice on a2 whenever he wanted and make a draw.】 **62 Ra8+ Kb2 63 Rb8+ Kc1 64 Rc8+ Kb1 65 Rb8+ Rb2** (diagram)

My opponent had 13 seconds left on his clock when I played my move. I was expecting 66 Ra8 a1Q 67 Rxa1+ Kxa1 68 Kxh7 with a draw but, to my total shock, he flagged. When I mentioned that I thought it was a draw, he said well, the problem is that if 66 Ra8 Rb7!



Black is winning. I partially blame the fact that we were moving so quickly, and also that I had simply resigned myself to the position being a draw, but hopefully if he had played 66 Ra8 I would have been able to notice the winning reply. Thankfully for me, I guess, I wasn't put to the test. 0-1 on time. Schuyler was also able to win his game, so we were both 4½ heading into round 6, with Macon Shibut the only one at 4. As I said, I had already committed to a round 6 bye, so I was finished with 5 out of 6. To become state champion, I needed Shibut to beat Schuyler, which would have given me 1st place over him on tiebreaks. However, the Schuyler-Shibut game was a quick draw, which allowed Schuyler to edge me on tiebreaks and repeat as state champion. I was very pleased nonetheless with what I can easily say was the tournament of my life. Thanks to Tournament Director Mike Hoffpauir, who ran a wonderful event, with round by round updates and game scores uploaded immediately to the VCF website.



James Schuyler - Stephen Miller Sicilian

Notes by Mike Hoffpauir

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bb5 d6 [5...Nd4 is the "usual" continuation instead of the much less frequent text.] **6 Bxc6+ bxc6 7 d3 e6** [A small mistake; 7...Nf6 probably was best.] **8 O-O Ne7 9 Qe1** [Here the computer favors 9 e5 and claims a "half-pawn" advantage for White.] **9...O-O 10 e5 d5 11 b3** [Solid, opening possibilities for the sleeping cleric on c1] **11...Ba6 12 Ba3 c4 13 bxc4** [13 dxc4 may have been stronger, but the text is winning too.] **13...dxc4 14 d4 Re8 15 Ne4 c3 16 Bxe7 Rxe7 17 Rf2 Rb8 18 Qxc3 Reb7 19 Nfd2 Qd5 20 Rf3 Rb2?** [Yikes! Allowing the Rhino to get trapped.] **21 Nb3 R8xb3** [Black probably tossed in the towel here. This move is desperation.] **22 axb3 Rxc2 23 Qe3 Re2 24 Nc3 Rxe3 25 Nxd5 Rxf3 26 gxf3 Bb5 27 Nc7 a6 28 Nxb5 axb5 29 Ra8+** [a final blow before closing out the game] **29...Bf8 30 Rc8 Kg7 31 Kf2 Ba3 32 Rxc6 Bb2 33 Ke3 b4 34 Rc4 Ba3 35 Kd2 1-0**

James Schuyler - Eric Most Queen's Pawn Game

Notes by Mike Hoffpauir

1 d4 Nf6 2 Bf4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 Qd2 h6 5 h4 d6 6 e4 c6 7 Nge2 Qc7 8 O-O-O b5 9 e5 dxe5 10 dxe5 Nh5 11 Bh2 O-O 12 e6 Qa5 13 g4 Bxe6!? [13...Nf6 is better] **14 gxh5 b4 15 Nb1** [15 hxg6 is stronger, eg, 15...bxc3 16 gxf7+ Kxf7 17 Nxc3 Bxc3 18 Qxc3 Qxc3 19 bxc3] **15...Na6 16 Nd4 Qxa2?** [And the tenuous hold Black

has on matters slips away very quickly.] **17 hxg6 fxg6 18 Qe3 Nc5 19 Be5 Bd5 20 Rg1 Na4?? 21 Rxc6 Qxb2+ 22 Kd2 Rf7 23 Qxh6 1-0** Black resigned in the face of the crushing pressure.

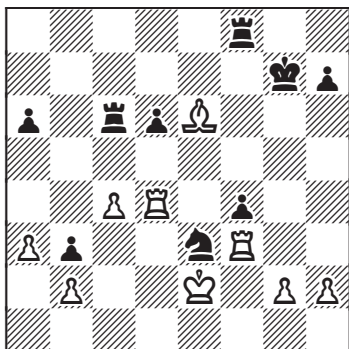
Elan Rodan - Macon Shibut Sicilian

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Bxf6 gxf6 9 Na3 b5 10 Nd5 Bg7 11 c4 b4 12 Nc2 Rb8 13 Qd2 [Not a particularly good move as the attack on b4 is no threat.] **13...f5 14 exf5 Bxf5 15 Nce3** [15 Ncxb4 Nxb4 16 Nxb4 if nothing else Black recovers the pawn in good shape after 16...Qb6] **15...Be6 16 Bd3 O-O 17 Nf5 Bxf5 18 Bxf5 Nd4 19 Bh3 Qh4 20 Qd1** [If 20 O-O Qxh3 is good—although not absolutely winning thanks to 21 Qxd4, so I might have preferred 20...Nf3+ 21 gxf3 Qxh3 etc] **20 ... Qe4+ 21 Ne3** [21 Kf1 f5 with strong pressure (but not 21...Nc2? 22 Bf5!)] **21...Bh6** [Again 21...f5 was possible, eg 22 O-O f4 23 Nd5 Kh8, but the text is fine too.] **22 Qg4+ Qxg4 23 Nxg4 Bg5 24 Rd1** [Forced. Not 24 O-O? f5 25 Ne3 Bxe3 26 fxe3 Nc2 winning material.] **24...b3 25 a3 Rb6?** [I lost the thread. 25...Rbc8 was advantageous, not fearing ghosts on the h3-c8 diagonal.] **26 Ne3 Bxe3?** [Still following the wrong concept of the position. 26...Rc6 was preferable.] **27 fxe3 Nc2+ 28 Ke2 f5 29 Rhf1 f4 30 exf4 exf4 31 Rd5** [Now it is clear that White has gotten the upper hand. Of course he doesn't fear 31...Ne3 in view of 32 Rg5+] **31...Kg7 32 Rg5+ 32**



Rf3 Ne3 [White can't take the knight after 32...Nxa3, but simply 33 Rd4 would leave me nothing better than to slink the knight back, whereupon he takes f4 with a large advantage.] **33 Rd4 Rc6 34 Be6**



Considering 34...Re8, I worked through the variation 35 Bd7 Nc2+ 36 Bxe8 Nxd4+ and now he can't go forward since 37 Kd3? Nxf3 38 Bxc6 Ne5+ forks the bishop. (39 Kd4 Nxc6+ 40 Kd5 Na5 isn't good enough for White). So I guess 37 Kf2 but then after 37...Nxf3 38 Bxc6 Ne5 the knight and pawns coordinate perfectly to restrain White's king. But alas, none of that matters. Instead of mindlessly taking the rook on e8, White plays 36 Kd3! Nxd4 37 Kxd4 followed by recouping the exchange on c8 with a winning ending.

34...Nxc2 35 Rxb3 Ne3 36 Rb7+ Kg6 37 Kf3 Nf5! [a tactical trick to stay in the game] **38 Rd1** [Not 38 Rxf4? Nd4+ unexpectedly winning; and if 38 Bxf5+ Rxf5 with counterchances, eg 39 b4 Rh5 etc] **3...h6 39 Rg1+ Kf6 40 Bd5 Rcc8 41 Kxf4 Rce8 42 Rd7?** [42 Ra7] **42...Re2** [Apart from the two attacked pawns, there is danger for White's king in the crossfire of

the rooks. For instance, if I get to play 43...Rf2+ there could follow 44 Ke4(?) Re8+ 45 Kd3 Re3mate.] **43 Rf1** [43 Rg2] **43...Rxb2 44 Rxd6+!?** [If 44 b4 Rh4+ 45 Kf3 Rh3+ 46 Kg2 Rxa3 etc. The text should lead to a draw.] **44...Nxd6 45 Kg3+ Ke5 46 Rxf8?** [Both players considered this to be an automatic move. At home I realized that 46 Re1+! practically forces a draw after 46...Kd4 47 Rd1+ Ke5 48 Re1+ etc since 47...Kc5? 48 b4+ Kb6 49 Kxh2 would not be good for Black.] **46...Rxb2 47 Ra8 Nf5+! 48 Kg4 Ne3+ 49 Kh5 Nxd5 50 cxd5 Rb6!** [Black is winning. He will capture both pawns eventually and White's king is too far away.] **51 Rd8 Rd6 52 Ra8** [If 52 Rxd6 Kxd6 53 Kxh6 Kxd5 54 Kg5 Kc4 55 Kf4 Kb3 56 Ke3 Kxa3 57 Kd2 Kb2] **52...Kxd5 53 Ra7 Kc5 54 Rb7 Rb6 55 Rc7+ Kb5 56 Rc3 Ka4 57 Rg3 a5 58 Kh4 Rb3 59 Rg6 Kxa3 60 Rxh6 a4 61 Kg4 Ka2 62 Kf4 a3 63 Ke4 Kb1 64 Rh1+ Kc2 65 Rh2+ Kc3 66 Ra2 Rb4+ 67 Ke3 Ra4 68 Ke2 Kb3 69 Rd2 a2 70 Rd3+ Kc4 0-1**

Ernie Schlich - Maggie Luo Two Knights

Notes by Ernie Schlich

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Bc4 Nf6 5 O-O h6 6 Nxd4 Bc5 7 Nxc6 bxc6 8 e5 Nh7 9 Nc3 O-O 10 Ne4 Be7 11 Be3 d5 12 exd6 cxd6 13 Bd3 d5 14 Ng3 [I thought a long time about 14 Nc5, which was the best move, but chickened out. The text is equality.] **14...Nf6 15 Nf5 c5 16 Nxe7+ Qxe7 17 c3 Ng4 18 Bf4 Qf6 19 Bg3 Ne5 20 Bb5** [20 Bc2] **20...Be6 21 Re1 Ng6**



22 Bd6? Rfc8 23 Ba6? Rc6 24 Bb7 Rxd6 25 Bxa8 Qd8 26 Bb7 Qc7 27 Ba8 Qb8 28 Bxd5 Rxd5 29 Qc2 [I am lost now.] 29...Bf5 [29...Rh5!] 30 Qe2 Qf4 31 g3 Qd2 32 Qe8+ Nf8 33 Re2 Qd3 34 Rae1 Qf3? 35 Re3 [And I miss the winning tactic. However, I get another chance because the threat was hard to meet in any case.] 35...Qg4 36 Qxf8+! Kh7 37 Qxf7 Rd2 38 f3 Qh3 39 R3e2 Rd3 40 Re7 Qxh2+ 41 Kxh2 Rd2+ 42 Kg1 Rg2+ 43 Kxg2 Bh3+ 44 Kg1 a6 45 Qxg7mate 1-0

Andrew Rea - Daniel Miller
Slav

1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 c4 c6 4 cxd5 cxd5 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 e3 a6 7 Be2 Bg4 8 O-O e6 9 Ne5 Bxe2 10 Qxe2 Bb4 11 Bd2 Rc8 12 Rac1 Bxc3 13 Bxc3 Qb6 14 Nxc6 Rxc6 15 b3 Kd7 16 Bb2 Qb5 17 Qxb5 axb5 18 Rxc6 bxc6 19 Bc3 Kc7 20 f3 Nd7 21 Rc1 f6 22 Kf2 Rb8

23 Bb4 e5 24 Ke2 Re8 25 Kd3 exd4 26 exd4 f5 27 Re1 Rxe1 28 Bxe1 Kb6 29 Bb4 g6 30 Be7 Nb8 31 Ke3 Na6 32 a4 b4 33 g4 fxg4 34 fxg4 Kc7 35 Kf4 Kd7 36 Bf8 Ke8 37 Bd6 Kf7 38 Ke5 h6 39 h4 Kg7 40 Ke6 c5 41 dxc5 d4 42 Be5+ Kh7 43 Bxd4 Nc7+ 44 Kd7 Nb5 45 Be5 1-0

Daniel Miller - David Hulvey
Sicilian

Notes by Mike Hoffpauir

1 e4 c5 2 c3 Nf6 3 e5 Nd5 4 d4 cxd4 5 cxd4 d6 6 Nf3 Nc6 7 Bc4 Nb6 8 Bb3 dxe5 9 d5 Na5 [As unusual as Black's position looks here, the chess engines give him a slight edge. Statistics, though, don't appear to support that because the Powerbook 2011 database has White winning over 53% of the games from this position.] 10 Nc3 Nxb3 11 Qxb3 e6 12 Nxe5 exd5 13 Be3 Be6 [I believe Miller was expecting 13...Bd6, the usual



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continuation. After the text, the engines shift their preference over to the White side.] **14 Bxb6** [the best continuation] **14...axb6 15 Qb5+ Ke7 16 Rd1 Ra5 17 Qe2 Qd6?! 18 Nc4!** [Now Black is in trouble.] **18...Qb4? 19 Nxa5 Qxa5 20 O-O Ke8 21 Rxd5 1-0**

Steve Greanias – Andrew Rea English

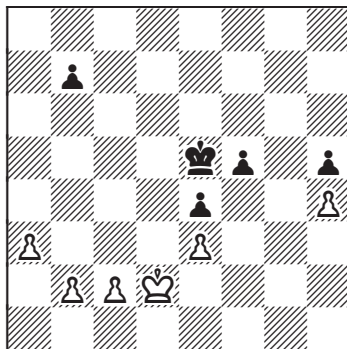
Notes by Mike Hoffpauir

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 g3 b6 4 Bg2 Bb7 5 O-O Be7 6 Nc3 O-O 7 d3 d5 8 cxd5 Nxd5 9 Bd2 c5 10 Nxd5 Bxd5 11 Bc3 Nd7 12 Qc2 Rc8 13 b3 Bf6 14 e4 Bb7 15 e5 Be7 [15...Nxe5 16 Nxe5 Bxg2 17 Kxg2 Bxe5 18 Bxe5 Qd5+ 19 f3 Qxe5 20 Rae1 Qc7=] **16 Rac1 Rc7 17 Nd2 Bxg2 18 Kxg2 Nb8 19 Ne4 Qd5 20 Rcd1 Nc6 ½-½** Andy said that he felt he had a slight advantage but transforming it into a win would be difficult, so he offered a draw.

Ryan Xu – Ernie Schlich Center Counter

Notes by Ernie Schlich

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 Nc3 Nxd5 4 Bc4 Be6 5 Qf3 c6 6 a3 Qd7 7 Nge2 Nxc3 8 Bxe6 Qxe6 9 Qxc3 Nd7 10 d3 Nb6 11 Be3 Nd5 12 Qd2 Nxe3 13 fxe3 Qf6 14 O-O-O O-O-O? 15 Qa5 e5 16 Qxa7 Bd6 17 Nc3 Bb8 18 Qc5 Bd6 19 Qb6 Bc7 20 Qc5 Bd6 21 Qc4 Qg5 22 Qe4 f5 23 Qf3 g6 24 Kb1 Kc7 25 d4 e4 26 Qe2 Rhe8 27 g3 Qe7 28 Qc4 Qe6 29 Nb5+ Kb6 30 Qxe6 Rxe6 31 Nxd6 Rxd6 32 Rhf1 c5 33 dxc5+ Kxc5 34 Rxd6 Rxd6 35 Kc1 Rd5? [35...Rf6] 36 Rd1 g5 37 Rxd5+ Kxd5 38 Kd2 h5 39 h4 gxh4 40 gxh4 Ke5



41 Ke2? [Upon seeing the position, state champion Schuyler commented, "Oops! Those tempos matter in this game." White should advance the queenside pawns. Fritz gives 41 c4 f4 42 exf4+ Kxf4 43 b4 Kf3 44 Ke1 winning. The text gives Black time to tie him up and still get back to the queenside.] **41...f4 42 Kf2** [If 42 exf4+ Kxf4 43 Kf2 Kg4 44 c4 Kxh4 45 c5 Kg4 46 b4 h4 47 b5 h3 48 c6 e3+ 49 Kxe3 bxc6 50 bxc6 h2 51 c7 h1Q] **42...f3 43 c4 Kd6 44 b4 b6 45 a4 Kc6 46 a5 bxa5 47 bxa5 Kc5 48 Kg3 Kc6 49 Kf2 Kc5 ½-½**

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A VCF Cup event



David Hulvey - Isaac Steincamp Sicilian

Notes by Mike Hoffpauir

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 d6 3 f4 Nc6 4 Nf3 g6 5 Bc4 Bg7 6 O-O e6 7 d3 Nge7 8 Qe1 a6 9 a3 O-O 10 f5?! [I believe this caught Isaac by surprise because his next move is the wrong capture.] 10...exf5 [10...gxf5 is much better.] 11 Bg5 [But here 11 Qh4 is stronger, whereas the text allows Black to (re)equalize things.] 11...Qc7 12 Qh4 fxe4 13 dxe4 b5?! [This move actually 'helps' White find the right spot for his cleric, throwing the advantage back to White.] 14 Bd5 Bb7 15 Bh6! [decisive] 15...Nxd5 16 Nxd5 Qd8 17 Ng5 1-0

David Hulvey - Perry Feng King's Gambit

Notes by Mike Hoffpauir

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 d5 4 exd5 Qxd5 5 Nc3 Qd8 6 d4 Bg4 [The text is very playable.] 7 Bxf4 [7 Qe2+ Qe7 8 Bxf4 Nc6 9 Bxc7 looks to be stronger.] 7 Bxf4 Bb4 8 Bc4 Ne7 [With his 7th and 8th moves Black dug himself into a deep hole. White's next seals the game.] 9 Bxf7+ Kf8 10 O-O Bxc3 11 bxc3 h5 12 Bb3 Nd7 13 Bg5 Nf6 14 Qe2 Qd6 15 Rae1 Re8 16 Qc4 Qd5 17 Qxc7 Qb5?? 18 Ne5 1-0

Brian Garbera - Andrew Samuelson Benoni

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 e4 g6 7 Nf3 Bg7 8 Bb5+ Nbd7 9 a4 O-O 10 O-O a6 11 Be2 Re8 12 Qc2 Ne5 13 Nxe5 Rxe5 14 Bf4 Re8 15 h3 Qe7 16 Bf3 Nd7 17 Rfe1 Rb8 18 a5 b5 19 axb6 Rxb6 20 Na4 Rb4 21 Bd2 Rb8 22 Bc3 Ne5 23 Be2 Qh4 24 Bxe5 Bxe5 25 Bf1 Rb4 26 Nc3 f5 27 Bxa6 Bd7 28 Bf1 f4 29 Qd3 Rxb2 30 Nd1 Rb4 31 Ra7 Ba4 32 Qf3 Rb3 33 Qg4 Qxg4 34 hxg4 Rb4 35 f3 c4 36 Rc7 Bb3 37 Nf2 Ra8 38 Be2 h6 39 Kf1 Rba4 40 Bd1 Ra1 41 Rb7 Bc3 42 e5 dxe5 43 d6 Bxe1 44 Kxe1 Rd8 45 d7 Kf7 46 Kd2 Bxd1 47 Nxd1 Ke7 48 Nc3 Rxd7+ 49 Nd5+ Ke6 0-1

Jim Guill - Daniel Miller Petroff

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d4 Nxe4 4 Bd3 d5 5 Nxe5 Nd7 6 Nxf7 Qe7 7 Ne5 Nxe5 8 dxe5 Qxe5 9 Qe2 Bd6 10 Nd2 Nc5 11 Bb5+ c6 12 Nf3 Qe4 13 Ng5 Qxe2+ 14 Bxe2 Bf5 15 Bd1 O-O 16 O-O Rae8 17 Bd2 Na4 18 Bc1 Be5 19 Rb1 Bf6 20 Nf3 Rf7 21 Re1 Rxe1+ 22 Nxe1 b6 23 Nd3 Re7 24 Kf1 g5 25 Ne1 Kg7 26 Be2 h6 27 Bd3 Bd7 28 c3 c5 29 Nc2 c4 30 Be2 Bf5 31 Bd1 Bd3+ 0-1



27th Emporia Open

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10 Grand Prix points — A VCF Cup Event





VCF President's Page

by Andrew Rea

I am again honored to be President for another year! In other news, we have a new addition to the VCF Board of Directors: Adam Chrisney, who has been overseeing one of the most prominent chess clubs in Virginia, the Arlington Chess Club. Welcome aboard, Adam!

But this message is necessarily about what the VCF plans to continue to do for our players, especially since we do not have much of an organization without our players! No changes in having our Scholastic Championship, our Senior Championship, and our State Championship; congratulations to our 2012 champions, respectively, Kevin Zhou, Geoff McKenna, and James Schuyler! Meanwhile the VCF Cup carries on strong, as Larry Larkins successfully defended his title in the Cup's second season. It pays to be consistent! The 2012-2013 Cup season kicks off at the Continental Class Championship in Crystal City October 4-8, continues at the Emporia Open October 20-21, and then nearly a dozen events more before the expected season finale at the Tracy Callis Jr Memorial in Roanoke next August. As before, there are prizes across the board for overall place, classes, and most games!

The VCF also continues its outreach program for areas in the state with little organized chess activity. There have been recent examples in founding tournaments in Mechanicsville and Longwood. Local players found sites and the VCF found people able to help organize tournaments there. On our Scholastic side, we have provided chess equipment for new school programs. Obviously most activity resides in our most populous area, Northern Virginia, but please be aware that VCF assistance is designated for the entire commonwealth, from Northern Neck to Bristol, from Winchester to Norfolk, and everywhere in between!

I have received inquiries as to whether the Millennium Festival in Virginia Beach can be reinstated. It's surely possible, but we will need considerable sponsorship and patronage for this to happen. Per the research conducted by our Treasurer, Ernie Schlich, we have an estimated revenue gap of \$6,000, which is too much for VCF to shoulder alone. However, if we can get donations from members or solicit sponsors for this worthy event...? It seems unlikely that we could be ready in time for a 2013 edition, but with help from our chess community I believe we can have the MCF again in 2014!

I need to graciously thank Helen Hinshaw for her decades of service to Virginia chess!! Helen has stepped down, and our new board chairman, Mike Hoffpauir, has a tall order to fill! Mike likes challenges; I am sure he will do all he can to maintain Helen's legacy of excellence.

Finally, an update regards the suspension of Clark Smiley. He was caught cheating at the Scholastic Championship in March 2012. Now a decision is in from the USCF: a two year suspension from all USCF tournaments, effective September 5, 2012. Our VCF suspension of Mr Smiley will end at the same time he is reinstated by the USCF, September 5, 2014.

All in all, it was a year of mostly good news for chess in Virginia, whether measured by tournament participation or the increasing number of schools supporting chess classes. Let's keep it going!



2012 VCF Cup

Last year's winner Larry Larkins successfully defended the VCF Cup in 2012. Yuri Barnakov finished second, followed by Tegshsuren Enkhbat of Maryland. Joe Faries won the special prize for most games played over the entire 2012 Cup series. Other prizewinners included Andrew Rea, Francisco Colorado-Morales & Harry Cohen (1st thru 3rd Expert, respectively); top class A Trung Nguyen followed by Adam Chrisney and then Raymond Duchesne; top B Justin Lohr followed by Tan Nguyen and Saad Al-Hariri; top C William Overman followed by Vadim Barnakov and Nathan Lohr. Maggie Luo was top D ahead of Vishal Kobla and Chris Giofreda; top E/Unrated was won by Tanner Nicely with Andrew Wang second and Vedant Balu third.

Altogether, more than 500 players participated in this the second year of the VCF Cup. Details for the 2013 Cup will be forthcoming. Upcoming Cup events include the Continental Class Championships (Oct 3-7); Emporia Open (Oct 20-21); Northern Virginia Open (Nov 10-11); and the David Zofchak Memorial (Nov 17-18).

Geoff McKenna - Kevin Wang DC Chess League 2012 Sicilian

Notes by Geoff McKenna



1 e4 c5 2 c3 Nf6 3 e5 Nd5 4 Nf3 e6 5 d4 cxd4 6 cxd4
d6 7 Bd3 dxe5 8 Nxe5 Bb4+ 9 Nd2 O-O 10 a3 Ba5 11
O-O Nf4 12 Bc2 Qxd4 13 Ndc4 Bc7 14 Qg4 Bxe5 15
Nxe5 Qxe5 16 Bxf4 Qxb2 17 Qe2 Qf6 18 Be5 Qh6 19
Rab1 [Surprisingly, inaccurate. I should have played
19 f4 followed by Rf1-f3-h3 with equality.] 19...
Nc6 20 Rb3 g6 21 Rh3 Qg5 22 f4 Qe7 23 Qh5?
[Irresistibly alluring—leading immediately to a clearly
lost position.] 23...f5 24 Qe2 Qc5+ 25 Kh1 Nxe5 26 fxe5 Bd7 27
Rd1 Bc6 28 Bb3 Ra8 29 Qd2 Qxe5 30 Re3 Be4 31 Rde1 Rd8 32 Qb4 Qd6 0-1

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A VCF Cup event



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Halloween Gambit

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Location TBD – check www.silverknightschess.com/tournaments.html

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Ashburn Rumble

November 17

Belmont Station Elementary, 20235 Nightwatch Street, Ashburn, VA 20147
Dual-Rated 4SS G/25 d5 all u1000 sections Championship Section: 3ss G/40 d5. Sections: Grade K-1 (unr or u400), Grade 2-3 (unr or u400), Grade 4-8 (unr or u400), Intermediate (400-699), Advanced (700-999) Championship (1000+) All Sections are USCF rated so all players must join the US Chess Federation. Trophies to top players and school teams. Entry \$20 online by 9/26; \$25 online noon 9/28; \$25 if received by mail; \$30 on-site (must complete registration by 30 minutes before 1st round) Schedule: Games begin at 1pm (*Championship begins at 12:30pm) Sets and Board supplied, bring clock if desired. Free game analysis by NM Jeremy Kane, NM Adam Weissbarth, and VA State Co-Champion Justin Burgess. Questions and Registration: 703-574-2070, www.silverknightschess.com or steve@silverknightschess.com Mail Entries to 3929 Old Lee Highway, Suite 92-D, Fairfax, VA 22030

1st annual Silver Knights Cup Chess Championship

December 8

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