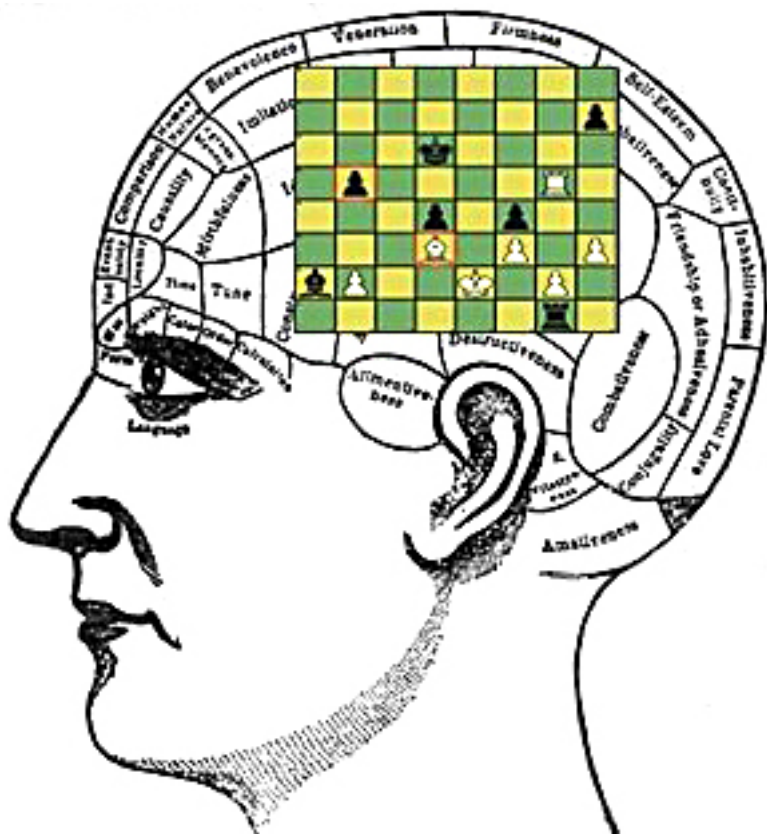


# 2013 - #1



# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

2013 - Issue #1

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The **Virginia Chess Federation (VCF)** is



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# Fairfax Open

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Fairfax Open was played December 8-9, 2012 at the Best Western Fairfax City. As reported briefly in the previous issue of VIRGINIA CHESS, Maryland IM Tegshsuren Enkhbat swept to victory in the open section with a 4-0 score. Oliver Fernando finished 2<sup>nd</sup> half a point behind. Kevin Zhou was top expert and moreover joined former state champions Andrew Samuelson & Macon Shibut in third place. Vikas Rajasekaran, Elan Rodan, Christophe Snell, Charles Musselman & David Hulvey shared the class A prize.

The Amateur (under 1800) section saw Akshaj Kadaveru & Aasa Dommalapati tie for 1<sup>st</sup> with 3½-½ each. Neha Pattanaik was top class C.

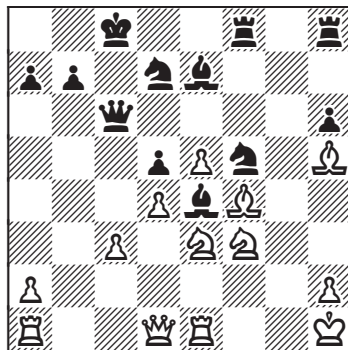
Alex Jian won the Booster section, also with 3½-½. Ravi Kiran Manapuram, Arvind Rathnashyam & Andrew Chin shared 2<sup>nd</sup> place/under 1200.

Brennan Price organized the event, which was originally scheduled for last summer but got postponed after a power outage shut down the tournament venue. VCF President Andrew Rea directed.

## Andrew Samuelson - Enkbaht Tesgusuren

### Caro-Kann

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 Bf5 4 Nf3 e6 5 Be2 Ne7 6 O-O h6 7 Nbd2 Nd7 8 c3 Bg6 9 Nh4 Bh7 10 f4 c5 11 Nb3 Nc6 12 g3 Qb6 13 Bh5 g6 14 Bg4 c4 15 Nd2 O-O-O 16 Nhf3 g5 17 Bh5 gxf4 18 gxf4 f6 19 Kh1 Ne7 20 b3 Bd3 21 Re1 fxe5 22 fxe5 Qc6 23 Nf1 Nf5 24 Bf4 Be7 25 Ne3 Rdf8 26 bxc4 Be4! 27 cxd5 exd5 28 Rg1? [28 Ng2] 28...Bg5 29 Nxf5 Rxf5 30 Bxg5 hxg5 31 Bg4 Rf4 32 Qe2 Rh4 33 h3 Rhxg4 34 Raf1 Rxf3 35 Rxf3 Rf4 36 Rg3 Rxf3 37 Rxf3 Qxc3 38 Kg2 Qxf3+ 39 Qxf3 Bxf3+ 40 Kxf3 Nf8 41 Kg4 Ne6 42 Kf5 Kd7 0-1



Maryland IM Enkbaht Tesgusuren

45<sup>th</sup> annual

# Virginia Open

March 15-17, 2013

Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Hotel  
45020 Aviation Dr, Dulles, VA 20166

5-SS, rd 1 game/120, rds 2-5 40/2, g/60. \$\$\$3500 guaranteed, in 2 sections: *Open* (FIDE rated): \$620-410-310-250, top X, A each 190. *Amateur* (under1900) \$420-210-160, top B, C, D, under 1200 each 160, top unrated 100. Winner of *Open* and *Amateur* each also gets plaque and title. Reg Fri 3/1 6-7:30 pm, rds 7:45, 10-4:30, 10-4:30. EF \$58 if rec'd by 3/12, \$68 at site. VCF membership req'd for Virginia residents (\$10 adults, U19 \$5). One ½pt bye allowed, commit before rd 2. Re-entry \$40 avail, start rd2 with ½pt. *Enter*: mail checks payable to "Virginia Chess Federation" to Andrew Rea, 6102 Lundy Place, Burke, Va 22015. Info [www.vachess.org](http://www.vachess.org) or email [andrearea2@yahoo.com](mailto:andrearea2@yahoo.com). NS. Hotel [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com), 703-471-9500, rooms \$89, ask for chess rate and reserve by 2/8 800-228-9200.

*30 Grand Prix points — a Heritage Event — a VCF Cup Event!*





## Hanover County Open

by Andrew Rea

The first Saturday of December was prime time for second annual Hanover County Open, drawing a crowd of 29 players to Atlee High School in Mechanicsville, just north of Richmond! The school again provided an excellent venue, and our host there, Natan Berenshteyn, landed in the prize pool (top B) along with several others.

I was in good form, and managed to win the Open with a  $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  score by holding a determined Keith Carson to a draw in round 3 and then defeating an uncharacteristically languid Larry Larkins in the final round. Franco Jose caught up to Keith to tie for 2<sup>nd</sup>/= top A with 3 points apiece, while Larry earned top Expert.

Sharing 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Reserve section were Chris Giofreda and Srini Aiyer, well played at  $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  each! Having three players tie for top C was an additional reflection of the closeness of the competition: kudos for Raponyer McClaine, Stephen Wunschel & Aasa Dommalapati! Ajitha Balasubramanian was all alone with 3 points for top D. Finally, we had Neall Samry scoring the E prize, Sathya V (*yes, V is his last name -ed*) earning top U1000, and Paul Kugelman earning top U800—well done by all!

Despite not having quite enough players for break-even, the guaranteed prizes were paid out in full. We had the benefit of an excellent tournament director in Ernie Schlich, and we look forward to returning to Atlee HS for the Richmond Spring Open in May!

## Continental Class Championships

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Continental Class Championships was held from October 4–8, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia. Grandmasters Sergei Azarov & Sergey Erenburg finished at the top of the standings after nine battling rounds in a thrilling event that saw many lead changes at the top. Both players scored 7-2 but Azarov had the better tiebreaks.

The Continental Class Championships over the last three years have served as a sort of shakedown cruise for the Hyatt Regency Crystal City venue, which will host the World Open beginning this summer. *The largest annual chess tournament in the United States is coming to Virginia!* Look for the full details about this in future issues of VIRGINIA CHESS!



*The chess club at Greenbriar West Elementary in Chantilly, Va, has enjoyed a number of recent successes and received widespread notice, including an article in the Washington Post that can be viewed online at [http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/chantilly-school-home-to-chess-champs/2013/01/15/b8de26c4-592c-11e2-88d0-c4cf65c3ad15\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/chantilly-school-home-to-chess-champs/2013/01/15/b8de26c4-592c-11e2-88d0-c4cf65c3ad15_story.html). One of the team parents provides a report especially for VIRGINIA CHESS. -ed*

## Greenbriar West Elementary Chess Club

*by Ramesh Vejjju*

Following their success in May 2012 at the National Elementary Championships in Nashville, Tennessee, Virginia scholastic chess powerhouse Greenbriar West Elementary (GBW) was in the spotlight again recently, this time at the 2012 National K-12 Grade Championship held from 11/30-12/2 at in Orlando, Florida.

Over 1300 young chess players from 40 states competed at the Marriott Orlando World Center Resort in a 3-day, 7-round tournament. GBW was represented by eleven students from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade team, consisting of Ryan Xu, Revanth Vejjju, and Vivian Cao-Dao, won the team championship by a landslide with a 3-point margin ahead of the field. Ryan Xu also captured the 5<sup>th</sup> grade individual co-championship. After a disappointing draw in the third round, Ryan came back strong to record an impressive score of 6 wins and 1 draw, losing out to the first place player by tiebreakers in a field of 125 players.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade team, made up of Diego Gutierrez, Pranav Karthik, Rishabh Krishnan, Aditya Koneru, and Aditya Gude came home with fifth place in their team championship. Diego's strong performance of 5 wins won him 13<sup>th</sup> place individually in a field of 131 players. Rishabh Krishnan won the under 1000 2<sup>nd</sup> place class trophy and 1<sup>st</sup> place in the K-6 blitz 800-999 section. 4<sup>th</sup> grader Vaghul Mahadevan also participated.

Also among the prize-winners was Andrew Wang, who won 15<sup>th</sup> place in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade section in a field of 145 players. Asrith Biradavolu won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the under 1000 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in K-6 under 1000 blitz.







Our previous issue reported on the Northern Virginia Open but, unfortunately, no games from the event were available. Happily, former state champion Andrew Samuelson, who tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place, has redressed that situation. Regular contributor Tim Hamilton also sent in several recent games. Thanks, guys! And I will take this opportunity to note that this is Readers' Games and Analysis, and all VIRGINIA CHESS readers are invited to submit for publication your brilliancies, or near-brilliancies, or would-have-been-except... brilliancies, or anything else you think interesting. -ed

**Elijah Kirtley - Andrew Samuelson**  
**2012 Northern Virginia Open**  
**Closed Sicilian**

*Notes by Andrew Samuelson*

1 e4 c5 2 d3 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 Nc6 5 f4 d6 6 Nf3 e6 7 O-O Nge7 8 c3 O-O 9 Be3 Rb8 10 a3 b5 11 b4 cxb4 12 axb4 f5 [12...Nxb4?] 13 e5 Nd5 14 Qd2 dxe5 15 fxe5 Nxe5 [15...a5 16 Bc5 axb4 17 cxb4 Nxe5 18 Nxe5 Bxe5 19 d4 Bg7? 16 Nxe5 Bxe5 17 Rxa7 [17 Bc5 Rf7 18 Rxa7 Rxa7 19 Bxa7 Ra8 20 Bf2 ?] 17...Rf7 [17...Nxe3 18 Qxe3 Bc7 19 d4 e5 20 Na3 e4?] 18 Rxf7 Kxf7 19 g4 [19 Ba7 Ra8 20 Bf2 Ra1 21 c4 Ne7 22 d4 Bg7 23 c5?] 19...Qh4 [19...Nxe3 20 Qxe3 Qd6 21 h3 Bf6 22 d4 e5?] 20 Bxd5 exd5 21 gxf5 [21 Qe2 Bd7 22 Ba7 Re8 23 Qg2 Kg7?] 21...Bxf5 22 d4 Qg4+ 23 Qg2 Qxg2+ 24 Kxg2 Bf6 25 Nd2 Ra8 26 Nf3 Ra3 27 Bd2 h5 28 Ne5+ Ke6 (28...Bxe5 29 dxe5 Ke6 30 Kf2 h4 31 Rd1 Kxe5?) 29 Nc6 Kd6 [29...Kd7 30 Ne5+ Bxe5 31 dxe5 d4 -?] 30 Na5 Bh4 31 Nb7+? [Loses a piece. 31 Kg1 Kc7 32 Be1 Bd8 33 h4 Be7?] 31...Kc7 32 Nc5 Ra2 33 Nb3 Rb2 34 Rf4 Rxb3 35 Rxh4 Rb2 36 Rf4 Rxd2+ 37 Rf2 Be4+ 38 Kf1 Rxf2+ 39 Kxf2 Kd6 40 Kg3 g5 41 Kf2 Ke6 42 Ke3 Kf5 43 h3 Bg2 44 h4 gxh4 45 Kf2 h3 46 Kg3 Ke4 47 Kh2 Kd3 [47...Kf3 48 c4 dxc4 49 d5 c3 50 d6 c2 51 d7 c1Q 52 d8Q Qh1mate] 48 Kg1 Kxc3 49 Kh2 Kxd4 50 Kg1 Kc3 51 Kh2 d4 52 Kg1 d3 53 Kf2 d2 54 Kg3 d1Q 55 Kf4 Qd4+ 56 Kg5 Qe4 57 Kxh5 Qf4 58 Kg6 Kd4 59 Kh5 Qg3 60 Kh6 h2 61 Kh7 h1Rmate 0-1

2006, 2009 state champion Andy Samuelson





Andrew Samuelson - Chris Que

2012 Northern Virginia Open

Bishop's Opening

*Notes by Andrew Samuelson*

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d3 d6 4 f4 Nc6 5 Nf3 Bg4 6 c3 Qd7 7 h3 Bxf3 8 Qxf3 Na5  
 9 Bb3 Nxb3 10 axb3 Qb5 [10...Be7 11 Na3 Qe6 12 Nb5 Bd8 13 c4 c6∞] 11 b4  
 a5 12 O-O Ra6 13 Na3 Qd7 14 Nc4 [14 bxa5 Rxa5 15 fxe5 dxe5 16 Bg5 Bc5+  
 17 Kh1 Be7 18 b4 Ra8 19 Nc4 O-O 20 Nxe5 Qe6 21 Nc4±] 14...exf4 [14...axb4 15  
 Rxa6 bxa6 16 fxe5 dxe5 17 Nxe5 Qe6 18 Qg3±] 15 Rxa5 [15 e5 d5 16 Nxa5 Ng8  
 17 Bxf4 +-] 15...Rxa5 16 bxa5 g5 17 e5 dxe5 18 Nxe5 [18 Qxb7 e4 (18...Bc5+  
 19 d4 Bxd4+ 20 Kh2 Qe6 21 b3 Ng4+ 22 Kh1 Nf2+ 23 Rxf2 Bxf2 24 Qa8+ +-) 19  
 a6 Bc5+ 20 d4 Bxd4+ 21 Kh2 O-O 22 cxd4 Qxd4 23 Qxc7 Nd5 24 Qc6 +-] 18...  
 Qd5 19 Re1 Be7 20 a6 Qxf3 [20...bxa6 21 Nc6 Kd7 22 Rxe7+ Kxc6 23 Rxf7 Ne8  
 24 Qxd5+ Kxd5 25 Rf5+ Kc6 26 Rxd5 +-] 21 Nxf3 bxa6 22 Nxd5 1-0

## Cherry Blossom Classic

April 19-21, 2013

Marriott Washington Dulles Airport

45020 Aviation Dr, Sterling VA 20166

6-SS in 3 Sections: Open (FIDE rated), Reserve (under 2000) and Amateur (U1600). \$\$6700 - Open 100% guaranteed, other sections 80% b/130 total paid entries in 3 sections combined. EF \$79 received by 4/14, \$89 later or at site. Open: \$1000-500-300-175, U2350 250-125, U2150 225-100. Reserve: \$900-450-300-150, U1800 225-125. Amateur: \$750-375-250-100, U1400 200-100, Top U1100 100. Unrated players must enter Reserve. Schedule options for all three sections: 3-day (time control for rds 1-3 game/100, rds 4-6 30/100, g/60) register Friday 6-7:30, rd1 7:45, rds 2-4 Saturday 10-2-7, rds 5-6 Sunday 10-4:30. Or 2-day (rds 1-3 game/70, rds 4-6 30/100 g/60) register Saturday 8:15-9:30, rds 1-4 9:45-12:45-3:30-7, rds 5-6 Sunday 10:00-4:30. NS, NC. Boards & sets provided for Open, boards for Reserve and Amateur. ½pt bye info, etc on [www.cherryblossomchess.com](http://www.cherryblossomchess.com). Hotel [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com), rooms \$84 per night, reserve by 3/22, 703-471-9500. Enter: PayPal via [www.cherryblossomchess.com](http://www.cherryblossomchess.com), or mail to Cherry Blossom Classic, Attn. Jonathan Kenny, 4405 Lanham Dr, Falls Church Va 22043. NOTE- Free entries to past US (Closed) champions, see list on [www.cherryblossomchess.com](http://www.cherryblossomchess.com) for eligibility. Contacts Andrew Rea, [andrea2@yahoo.com](mailto:andrea2@yahoo.com), Jonathan Kenny, [benonijump@gmail.com](mailto:benonijump@gmail.com), or Chief TD Brennan Price, [brennanprice@verizon.net](mailto:brennanprice@verizon.net).







Jeffrey Chang - Andrew Samuelson

2012 Northern Virginia Open

Sicilian

Notes by Andrew Samuelson

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be3 Ng4 7 Bg5 h6 8 Bh4 g5 9 Bg3 Bg7 10 Be2 h5 11 h3 [11 Bxg4 Bxg4 12 f3 Bd7 13 Bf2 Nc6 14 O-O e6] 11...h4 12 Bh2 [12 Bxg4 hxg3 13 Bxc8 gxf2+ 14 Kxf2 Qxc8 15 Nd5 e6 16 Ne3 Qc5+] 12...Nhx2 13 Rxh2 Nc6 14 Nb3 [14 Nf3 Bxc3+ 15 bxc3 Qa5 16 Qd2 f6 17 Bc4 Ne5 18 Bd5 Nxf3+ 19 gxf3 Be6 20 Bxe6 Qe5 21 Rb1 Qxe6 22 Rxb7 Kf7+] 14...Ne5 [14...Be5 15 Rh1 Bd7+] 15 Bg4 Bxg4 [15...Nc4 16 Qc1 Be5 17 Rh1 Bxg4 18 hxg4 Rc8+] 16 hxg4 Rc8 17 Qe2 [17 Rh3 Qd7 18 Qe2 Qxg4 19 f3 Qd7+] 17...Nc4 18 Nd1 Nxb2 19 Nxb2 Bxb2 20 Rb1 Be5 21 Rh3 Qc7 22 Kd1 b5 23 Qd3 Qd7 24 f3 Qa7 25 Ke2 Rc3 26 Qd2 f6 [26...Qc7+] 27 Rbh1 Kd7 28 f4 Rxh3 29 Rxh3 gxf4 [29...Qg1+] 30 Nc1 Qg1 31 Kd3 Rc8 0-1

Jared Defibaugh - Andrew Samuelson

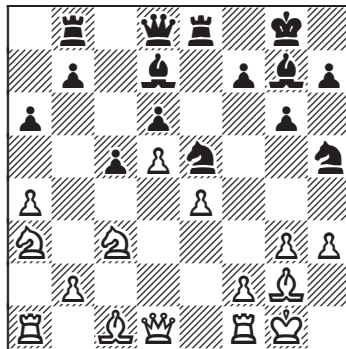
2012 Northern Virginia Open

Benoni

Notes by Andrew Samuelson

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 g3 g6 7 Bg2 Bg7 8 Nf3 O-O 9 O-O a6 10 a4 Nbd7 11 Nd2 Re8 12 h3 Rb8 13 Nc4 Ne5 14 Na3 Nh5 15 e4 Bd7 (diagram)

16 a5 [16 f4 Nxg3 17 fxe5 Bxe5 (17...Nxf1 18 Qxf1 b5 19 axb5 axb5 20 Naxb5 Bxb5 21 Nxb5 Bxe5 22 Ra6 f5 23 Na7 Bd4+ 24 Kh1 Qh4 25 Nc6 Rxe4 26 Bxe4 Qxe4+ 27 Kh2 Qc2+ 28 Kh1 Qe4+ =) 18 Rf2 Bxc3 19 bxc3 Nxe4 20 Bxe4 Rxe4 21 Qf3 Qe7 22 Bf4 Re8 23 a5 Bf5 24 Nc2 h5 25 Raf1 Ra4 26 Re1 Re4 27 Rxe4 Bxe4 28 Qe3 Qd7+] 16...Qxa5 17 g4 Nf6 18 f4 Nexg4 19 hxg4 Nxg4 20 Bf3 [20 f5 h5 21 Bg5 Bd4+ 22 Kh1 Bxc3 23 Nc2 Qc7 24 bxc3 Bb5 25 Rf4 f6 26 Bh4 g5 27 Rxg4 hxg4 28 Be1 Kg7+] 20...h5 21 Qd3 [21 Nc2 Qd8 22 Qd2 b5 23 Kg2 b4 24 Nd1 a5 25 Nce3 a4+] 21...b5 22 Bd2 [22 Nc2 Qd8 23 Bxg4 hxg4 24 Rf2 b4 25 Ne2 Bb5+] 22...Qd8 [22...c4 23 Qe2 b4 24 Kg2 bxa3+] 23 Nd1 [23 Bxg4 hxg4 24 Nd1 Qh4 25 Kg2 Rxe4 26 Qxe4 Re8 27 Qxe8+ Bxe8 28 Rh1 Qf6 29 Re1 Bd7 30 Nc2 g5 31 f5 Bxf5 32 Re8+ Kh7 33 Ne1 Qd4+] 23...Qh4 24 Bxg4 Qxg4+ 25 Kh2 f5 [25...Qh4+ 26 Kg2 Rxe4 27 Qxe4 Bh3+ 28 Kf3 Bf5+] 26 Bc3 [26 e5 dxe5 27 Rg1 Qh4+ 28 Qh3 Qf6 29 Nf2 Rb6 30 Be3 Rd6 31 Rad1 exf4 32 Bxc5 g5+] 26...Bh6 27 Bd2 Rxe4 28 Qg3 b4 [28...Re2+ 29 Rf2 Rxd2 30 Qxg4 Rxf2+ 31 Nxf2 fxg4+] 29 Nb1 Bb5 30 Qxg4 hxg4 [30...fxg4 31 Rg1 Rbe8 32 Rg2 Bxf4+ +] 31 Rf2 Rbe8 32 Kg3 Rd4 33 b3 Rxd5 34 Ra2 Rd3+ 35 Kg2 Rxb3 0-1

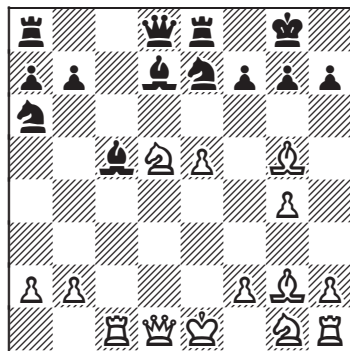




Andrew Samuelson - Tegshsuren Enkhbat  
2012 Northern Virginia Open  
Caro Kann

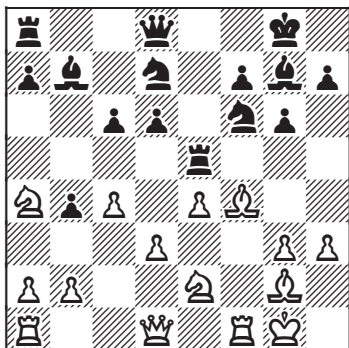
Notes by Andrew Samuelson

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 Bf5 4 g4 Bd7 5 c4 e6 6 Nc3 c5 7 cxd5 exd5 8 dxc5 [8 Be3 cxd4 9 Qxd4 Ne7 10 Nf3 Nbc6 11 Qf4 Ng6 12 Qg3∞] 8...Bxc5 9 Bg2 [9 Qxd5 Qb6 10 Bc4 Be6 11 Bb5+ Nc6 12 Bxc6+ bxc6 13 Qg2 Ne7∞] 9...Ne7 10 Bg5 [10 h3 Qb6 11 Qe2 O-O 12 Nf3 d4 13 Ne4 Bb5 14 Qd2 Nbc6 15 a3 Ng6 16 b4 Be7 17 Bb2 Rfd8] 10...O-O [10...Nbc6 11 Nxd5 Nxe5 12 Qe2 f6 13 Bxf6 Qa5+ 14 Kf1 gxf6 15 Nxf6+ Kf7 16 Qxe5 Bb5+ 17 Ne2 Bxe2+ 18 Qxe2 Kxf6] 11 Nxd5 Re8 [11...Nbc6 12 Ne2 h6 13 Bxe7 Bxe7 14 h3 Nxe5] 12 Rc1 Na6 (diagram)  
13 Ne2 [13 Rxc5 Nxc5 14 Ne2 h6 15 Bh4 Ba4 16 Qd2 g5 17 Nf6+ Kf8 18 Nxe8 Kxe8 19 Bg3 Qxd2+ 20 Kxd2 Rd8+ 21 Kc1 Bc6 22 Bxc6+ Nxc6∞] 13...Qa5+ 14 Bd2 Qxa2 15 Nec3 Qc4 16 Ne3 [16 Ne4 Qxd5 17 Nf6+ gxf6 18 Bxd5 Nxd5 19 O-O Rxe5] 16...Bxe3 17 Bxe3 Bxg4 18 Ne4 [18 Qa4 Qxa4 19 Nxa4 Nc6 20 f4 f6 21 Kf2 fxe5 22 Kg3 Bd7] 18...Qb4+ 19 Qd2 Nf5 20 O-O Qxd2 [20...Rxe5 21 Qxb4 Nxb4 22 Rc7 Nh4 23 Rxb7 Bf3 -+] 21 Bxd2 Rxe5 22 Nc3 [22 h3 Nh4 23 Nf6+ gxf6 24 hxg4 Nxg2 25 Kxg2 Nc5 26 Bc3 Rg5 27 f3 Nd3 28 Rc2 Rc5] 22...Nc5 23 Nd5 Nb3 24 Bf4 Nxc1 25 Bxe5 Nd3 [25...Ne2+ 26 Kh1 Re8 27 Bf6 Re6 28 Bg5 f6 -+] 26 Bc3 Nh4 27 Ne3 Be2 28 Ra1 Nf3+ 29 Bxf3 [29 Kh1 Nxf2mate] 29...Bxf3 30 Nf5 f6 31 Ra3 Rd8 32 Nd4 Ne5 [32...Bd5 33 Rxa7 g5 34 f3 Kf7 35 Kf1 Kg6 36 b3 Nc5 37 Ra3 Nd3 38 Ke2 Ne5] 33 Rxa7 [33 Nxf3 Nxf3+ 34 Kg2 Rd3 35 Rxa7 Nh4+ 36 Kf1 Rd7] 33...Nc6 34 Ra4?? [34 Ra3 Nxd4 35 Bxd4 Be4 36 Ra4 h5] 34...b5 -+ 35 Ra3 b4 36 Bxb4 Rxd4 37 Rxf3 Rxb4 O-1



Steve Armentrout - Tim Hamilton  
2013 Chesapeake Open, Gaithersburg Md  
English

1 c4 Nf6 2 g3 g6 3 Bg2 Bg7 4 Nc3 O-O 5 e4 d6 6 Nge2 e5 7 O-O Nbd7 8 d3 Re8 9 f4 c6 10 h3 b5 11 Be3 b4 12 Na4 Bb7 13 fxe5 Rxe5 14 Bf4 (see diagram top of next page) 14...Nh5!? 15 Bxe5 Bxe5 16 g4 Ng7 17 d4 Bf6 18 Qd2 Qa5 19 b3 Bg5 20 Qd3 Rf8 21 Qg3 Be7 22 Nb2 Qg5 23 Qf4 Qa5 24 Qg3 h5 25 Nd3 h4 26 Qe1 c5 27 a3 Qb6 28 axb4 cxd4 29 Nef4 Ne5 30 Nxe5 dxe5 31 Nd3 a6 32 Ra5 f6 33 b5 Ne6 34 b4 axb5 35 Rxb5 Qc6 36 Qxh4 Ba6 37



Position after 14 Bf4

Qh6 [37 Nxe5!] 37...Bxb5 38 Qxg6+ Ng7 39 cxb5 Qxb5 40 Nc5 [40 Rf3 Bxb4 41 Bf1] 40...Bxc5 41 bxc5 Qxc5 42 Rxf6 d3+ 43 Kh2 d2 44 Rxf8+? [44 Rd6 would maintain the balance; the need to defend his king precludes Black from forcing through his far-advanced pawn while the need to keep up direct threats to the king preclude White from mobilizing his connected pawns. -ed] 44...Qxf8 0-1

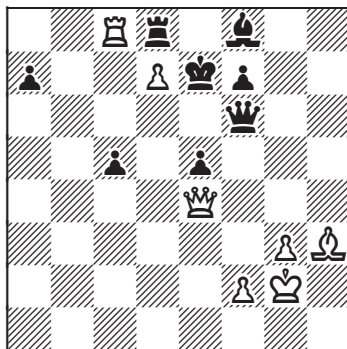
Tim Hamilton - Harry Cohen  
2013 Chesapeake Open, Gaithersburg Md  
Catalan

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 d4 d5 3 c4 e6 4 Nc3 Be7 5 g3 O-O 6 Bg2 c6 7 O-O Nbd7 8 cxd5 exd5 9 b3 Re8 10 Bb2 Nf8 11 Ne5 Ng6 12 Rc1 Nxe5 13 dxe5 Nd7 14 e4! dxe4 15 Nxe4 Nb6 16 Nd6 Rf8 17 Nxc8 Qxc8 18 Qh5 Rd8 19 Bh3 Qc7 20 e6 Bf6 21 Bxf6 gxf6 22 e7 Rd5 23 Bf5 Rxf5 24 Qxf5 Qxe7 25 Rfe1 Qd6 26 Re4 Qd2 27 Rg4+ Kf8 28 Qc5+ 1-0

Tim Hamilton - William Stokes  
DC Chess League, 2013  
Neo-Grünfeld

My team, the Arlington Passed Pawns, beat the Coral Reef 4-2. The Reef didn't have Sal Rosario or Greg Acholonu available, so their lineup was weaker than usual. 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 g3 g6 5 Bg2 Bg7 6 O-O O-O 7 Nc3 Ne4 8 cxd5 Nxc3 9 bxc3 cxd5 10 Qb3 Nc6 11 Bg5 h6 12 Bf4 g5 13 Bc1 Na5 14 Qc2 Bg4 15 e4 Rc8 16 exd5 Bxf3 17 Bxf3 Bxd4 18 Qf5 Bg7 19 Be4 Re8 20 Qh7+ Kf8 21 h4 Qd6 22 hxg5 hxg5 23 Bxg5 Rxc3 24 Bf4 Qf6 25 Kg2 Rc4 26 Rae1 e5 27 Bd2 Ra4 28 Bc2 Rxa2 29 Bb4+ Re7 30 d6 Rd7 31 Bf5 Nc6 32 Bc5 Rd8 33 d7+ Ne7 34 Rc1 Ra6 35 Bxe7+ Kxe7 36 Rc8 Bf8 37 Rfc1 Rc6 38 R1xc6 bxc6 39 Bh3 c5 40 Qe4 1-0

Stokes remarked afterwards that he could use this with his students to illustrate zugzwang in the middlegame.





Tim Hamilton - Elan Rodan  
Baltimore Chess League, 2013

Trompovsky

1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 e6 3 e4 Be7 4 Bxf6 Bxf6 5 e5 Be7 6 Bd3 c5 7 c3 Nc6 8 Nf3 cxd4  
9 cxd4 Qb6 10 d5!? Qxb2 [We spent some time after the game looking at various  
lines including 10...Nxe5 11 Nxe5 Qxb2 12 Nxf7!? with obscure complications.]  
11 dxc6 Qxa1 12 Qb3 a5 13 O-O a4 14 cxb7 Bxb7 15 Qxb7 O-O 16 Qxd7  
Bc5 17 Qc6 Be7 [17...Rfc8] 18 Bxh7+! Kxh7 19 Qc2+ Kg8 20 Nc3 Qxf1+ 21  
Kxf1 a3 22 Nd4 Rfc8 23 Qe4 Rab8 24 Nc6 Rb7 25 Nb5 Bf8 26 Nd6 Rxc6 27  
Qxc6 Rb1+ 28 Ke2 Rb2+ 29 Kf3 Rxa2 30 Qe8 Rb2 31 Qxf7+ Kh7 32 Ne8 1-0

Macon Shibut – Maxwell Schwartz,  
2013 Liberty Bell Open, Philadelphia PA  
Nimzowitsch

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

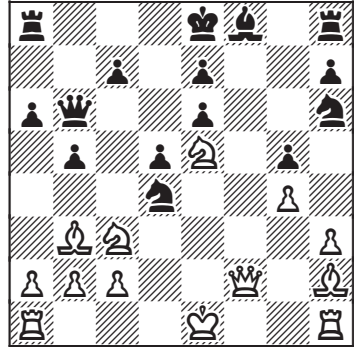
My opponent in this game appears to be one of those players who looks first for moves with surprise value, with actual quality being of secondary importance. While I don't subscribe to this approach myself, I won't disparage it. We must appreciate the practical danger posed by an opponent whose creativity and resourcefulness confronts us with unexpected move after unexpected move. Not the least result of this is that it can disorient our own thought processes. 1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e5 Ng4 [And so it begins right in the opening. Fortunately I have been reading the Skinner and Verhoeven book of Alekhine. In particular, Alekhine's efforts in simultaneous displays demonstrate the right mix of caution and enterprise for handling such irregular deployments.] 4 d4 d6 5 h3 Nh6 6 Nc3 [With the idea of meeting 6...dxe5 7 d5 and meanwhile we will let his knight sit at h6] 6...Bf5? [A provocation because my next move makes his knight look really bad.] 7 g4 Bg6 [And here he should probably retreat to d7] 8 Bb5! [Now the absence of his light square bishop from the queenside will be felt. There is a threat of d5, but if he tries to break this pin by 9...b5 that runs into 10 Nxb5, eg 10...axb5 11 Bxb5 Be4 12 d5 etc] 8...a6 9 Ba4 d5 10 e6! fxe6? [All Black's kingside pieces become entombed after this. He had to try something like 10...b5 11 exf7+ (or 11 Bb3 fxe6 12 Bf4) 11...Nxf7 12 Bb3] 11 Ne5 Qd6 12 Bf4 [At this point I thought the game was in the bag. Indeed, my position is strategically winning. But subjectively, there was danger. My opponent's method of play had gradually undermined my self-discipline. *Since it seems I can never guess his moves, why bother even try? Just play 'naturally' and trust the position...* Such an attitude sows the seed of blunder.] 12...Be4 13 f3? [I win a piece, so why think? I should have first inserted the capture on c6, which I actually did consider, but my state of mind was such that I did not think clearly to understand why it is important.] 13...b5 14 Bb3 Bxf3 [Of course! Now Black will capture ...Nxd4, with ...c5 maybe



soon to follow. His compensation is obvious: several pawns, and my extra piece, the bishop at b3, is not looking so fine.] **15 Qxf3 Nxd4 16 Qf2 g5** [Still giving me the unexpected.] **17 Bh2 Qb6** [And again!, as here I anticipated 17...c5 with for instance 18 Nf7 Qc6 (18...Qb6 19 Nxh8 c4 20 Be5) 19 Nxh8 Bg7 20 Rf1 c4 to follow. Truly, in this game my opponent surprised me, at least mildly, on more turns than not!]

(diagram)

**18 Ne2?** [An out-and-out oversight, all the more confounding because I actually saw and calculated the correct winning line. But I did not play it because it seemed unduly “complicated” when I could “exploit” his delay in playing ...c5 to get in c3 myself and cruise to safe harbor with my extra piece.] **18...Qa5+**



[I simply didn't see this check. Of course now I can't play 9 c3 Nxb3 but moving the king is no bargain either. Here fortune came to my rescue. My 18th move turns out to be a case of 'no harm, no foul' thanks to a purely accidental tactic.] **19 Nc3!** [I am pleased that I had the composure to choose this. If now 19...Nxb3 I've got 20 Nc6! shooing his queen off the a-file so I can recapture with my a-pawn after all, 20...Qb6 21 Qxb6 cxb6 22 axb3 etc. And for once I actually guessed his reply!] **19...Qb6** ["Offering" a draw. However, now chastened, I did not hesitate with my next move at all because, as explained, I had already seen and unwisely rejected



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it the first time we reached the position in the diagram.] **20 Bxd5!** [The point is in the variation 20...exd5 21 Nxd5 Qc5 22 Qxd4! Qxd4 23 Nxc7+ Kd8 24 Nc6+] **20...O-O-O!** **21 Be4!** [Crucially leaving g2 free for my queen. With hindsight this looks clear, but I have to admit that during the game I was not certain of anything.] **21...Bg7** [Now 22 O-O-O? Nb3+ wins my undefended queen; or 22 O-O Rhf8 23 Qe3 Ne2+ with the same result. So it is essential that White has the following resource.] **22 Qg2! b4** [I sort of expected this, although the real main line was 22...Rhf8 23 O-O-O Rf2 (based on the tactic 24 Qxf2 Nb3+). Then there comes a counterattack 24 Bb7+ Kb8 25 Nc6+ Nxc6 (or 25...Kxb7 26 Nxd8+ etc) 26 Qxc6 Rxd1+ getting rid of his *en pris* rook with check, but 27 Nxd1 hitting the other rook 27...Rxh2 28 Rxh2 Qxb7 29 Qe8+ Qc8 30 Qxe7 with a winning position!] **23 Na4! Qb5 24 Bc6 Nxc6 25 Qxc6** [Finally things get clearer, although even in victory I continued to miscalculate. I considered 25 Nxc6! Qxa4 26 Nxd8 Rxd8 but stopped there, somehow overlooking the simple knockout 27 Qa8+ Kd7 28 Rd1+] **25...Bxe5 26 Qxb5 axb5 27 Bxe5 bxa4 28 Bxh8 Rxh8 29 O-O!** [Perhaps my latest-ever castling in a real game, although it's hard to verify such records. Black's original sin, the misplaced knight at h6, still vexes him.] **29...Rd8 30 Rae1 Rd6 31 Re5 Rd2 32 Rxe6 Rxc2 33 Rf2** [I was in no mood to test 33 Rxh6 Rxb2 when there could be funny tactics with his advanced pawns and rook on my second rank. In fact, after 34 Ra1! I don't think Black can do much and I am a rook ahead.] **33...Rxf2 34 Kxf2 Ng8 35 Ra6 Nf6 36 Rxa4 c5 37 Ra7 Nd5 38 Ra5 Kd7 39 Rxc5 Nf4 40 Ke3 Nxh3 41 Rb5 h6** [41...Nf4 42 Rxg5] **42 Rxb4 1-0** If 42...Nf4 I would have liquidated 43 Rxf4 gxf4+ 44 Kxf4 etc.



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