

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2013 - #5

Daniel Miller 2013 Virginia State Champion

*wins the title for
the 5th time*



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2013 - Issue #5

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2013 Virginia State Championship

DANIEL MILLER WON THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP at the annual Virginia “Closed” tournament held near Richmond over Labor Day weekend. It is the fifth time that he has captured the title, a tally exceeded only Charlie Powell (seven times in the 1960s-70s).

Miller’s 5-1 score put him half a point clear of Yuri Barnakov, Jack Barrow, and former state champions Ed Kitces & Andrew Samuelson. Jennifer Yu, Felix McCain & new VCF President Adam Chrisney shared the class A prize. Justin Lohr won the Junior trophy to round out the prizewinners in the Open section.

In the Under-1800 section, Vishal Kobla also scored 5-1 to become state amateur champion. Here too there was a 4-way tie half a point behind between Bryant Lohr, Karl Peterson, Gerard Wasserbauer & Denis Liu. Other prizewinners included Evan Maxwell Ling (top class C), Daniel Zhou (top D), and Zoey Trixi Lamb & Siddhant Nair (= top under 1200).

In the Blitz tournament held prior to the main championship, GM Sergey Erenberg showed up to dominate the field with a 7½-½ score. His draw was conceded to Miller, who finished 2nd place two full points behind. Adam Weissbarth & Justin Lohr tied for 3rd. Brendan Cleary & Bryant Lohr tied for 1st in the Amateur Blitz, with Vishal Kobla coming in as runner up.

As noted above, Adam Chrisney succeeded Andrew Rea as VCF President at the annual federation business meeting, conducted Saturday morning prior to the tournament’s opening round. Mike Callahan, Ernie Schlich & Andrew Rea were elected to the VCF Board of Directors (along with Chrisney, who is automatically seated as President, and Mike Hoffpauir, whose term runs until next September). Brennan Price succeeds Ernie Schlich as VCF Treasurer; Ernie will stay on as Membership Secretary.

Another highlight of the meeting was the recognition of three-time state champion Rusty Potter for attaining 50 years of competitive chess. Rusty donated “50 Year Medals” to be awarded to others who attain this milestone. He also donated \$25 for a “brilliance” prize for the open section of the state championship, and presented the Editor with an archive of VIRGINIA CHESS back issues.

Attendance was down this year—69 entries. Mike Hoffpauir directed on behalf of the VCF.

Despite the smaller-than-usual field, there was plenty of strength at the top end of the wall chart, including five former champions. (The defending 2011 and 2012 champion, James Schuyler, was among the absentees.) Noteworthy upsets started happening as soon as the second round when two of them—Andy Samuelson and Ed Kitces—were held to draws and two others lost. (Spoiler alert: the eventual winner was among the victims!)



Andrew Samuelson - Robert Fischer

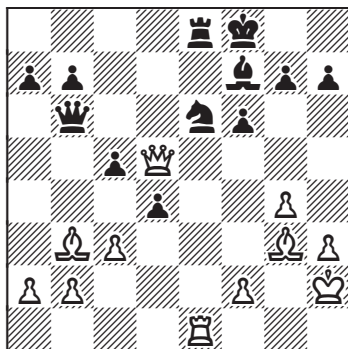
Bishop's Opening

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d3 c6 4 Nf3 d5 5 Bb3 Bd6 6 Nc3 dxe4 7 Ng5 O-O 8 Ncxe4 Nxe4 9 Nxe4 Bf5 10 Qf3 Bxe4 11 dxe4 Nd7 12 c3 Qf6 13 Qxf6 Nxf6 14 f3 Bc5 15 Ke2 Rfd8 16 g4 Rd6 17 Bg5 Rad8 18 Rad1 Kf8 19 Bh4 Rxd1 20 Bxd1 h6 21 Bg3 Bd6 22 Bb3 Ke7 23 Bf2 Nd7 24 Rd1 f6 25 h4 Nc5 26 Bc2 Ne6 27 b4 Ra8 28 Rb1 a6 29 a4 b5 30 Ra1 Nc7 31 Be3 Kd7 32 Bb3 Rb8 33 Kd3 Rd8 34 Kc2 Ne6 35 axb5 axb5 36 Ra7+ Nc7 37 Bf7 Ra8 38 Rxa8 Nxa8 39 g5 hxg5 40 hxg5 Nc7 41 Kb3 Ne6 42 gxf6 gxf6 43 Bh5 Nf4 44 Bg4+ Kc7 45 Bf2 Be7 46 Bf5 c5 47 bxc5 Kc6 48 c4 Bxc5 49 cxb5+ Kxb5 50 Bd7+ Kb6 51 Bh4 Be7 52 Kc4 Kc7 53 Ba4 Kd6 54 Be1 Ke6 55 Kb5 Bd6 56 Kc6 Ne2 57 Bb3+ Ke7 58 Bd1 Nd4+ 59 Kd5 Ne6 60 Bh4 Ba3 61 Kc4 Bd6 62 Kd3 Nf4+ 63 Kc3 Ne6 64 Kd2 Bb4+ 65 Ke2 Nf4+ 66 Kf2 Bc5+ 67 Kf1 Ne6 68 Kg2 Nf4+ 69 Kh2 Ne6 70 Kh3 Nd4 71 Kg4 Ke6 72 Bf2 Kf7 73 Ba4 Ne6 74 Bh4 Nd4 75 Be1 Ke7 76 Bc3 Kf7 77 Bd1 Kg7 78 f4 exf4 79 Kxf4 Bd6+ 80 Ke3 Ne6 81 Bb3 Ng5 82 Ba5 Be5 83 Bd5 Nf7 84 Kf3 Ng5+ 85 Kg4 Nf7 86 Kf5 Ng5 87 Bd2 Nf3 88 Be3 Nd4+ 89 Kg4 Kg6 90 Bb7 Kf7 91 Bc8 Ke7 92 Kh5 Kf7 93 Kh6 Ne6 94 Bxe6+ 1/2-1/2

Macon Shibut - Jennifer Yu

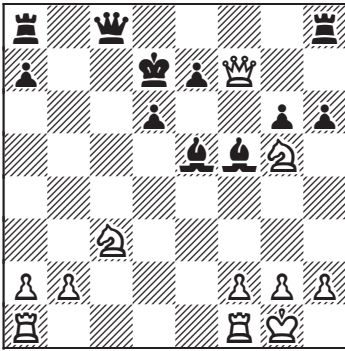
Philidor

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bc4 Be7 4 c3 Nf6 5 Qe2 c6 6 O-O Bg4 7 d4 d5 8 dxe5 Nxe4 9 Bd3 Nc5 10 Bc2 O-O 11 Re1 Nbd7 12 Nbd2 Qc7 13 h3 Bh5 14 Qe3 Rfe8 15 Nd4 f6 16 e6 Bd6 17 N2b3 Nf8 18 Nxc5 Bxc5 19 g4 Bxd4 20 Qxd4 Rxe6 21 Bf4 Qe7 22 Rxe6 [22 Qd2 Bg6 23 Bxg6 hxg6+] 22...Nxe6 23 Qe3 Bf7 24 Re1 Qd8 25 Bg3 Qb6 26 Qd2 d4 27 Bb3 c5 28 Qe2 Re8 [but not 28...Ng5?? 29 Qe8+] 29 Kh2 Kf8 30 Qd3 Bg6 31 Qc4 Bf7 32 Qd5 (diagram) 32...g6! 33 Qd6+ [33 Bd6+? Kg7 Δ Rd8] 33... Qxd6 34 Bxd6+ Kg7 35 Bxe6 Rxe6 36 Rxe6 Bxe6 37 Bxc5 d3 38 Be3 Bxa2 39 Kg3 a6 40 f3 Kf7 41 Kf2 Ke6 42 Bd4 Bd5 43 Ke3 [43 Be3 might have been better.] 43...g5! 44 Kxd3 Bxf3 45 Ke3 Bg2 46 h4 gxh4 47 Kf4 Bf1 48 Kf3 a5 49 Bb6 a4 50 Bd4 b5 51 Kf4 Be2! 52 Bc5 Kd5 53 Ba3 Kc4 54 Be7 Kb3 0-1





1 **e4 c5 2 d4** [I have played against Miller before (to be specific, a few months ago at the Richmond Spring Open) and he chose 2 c3. I guess since he narrowly escaped a loss with that line, Miller figured that he should try a different response against the Sicilian this time.] 2...**cx d4 3 c3** [Miller decides to go the Smith-Morra Gambit route this time.] 3...**dx c3 4 Nxc3 Nc6 5 Nf3 g6 6 Bc4 Bg7 7 O-O Nf6 8 e5 Ng4** [If 8...Nh5? White just plays 9 g4 threatening to take the trapped knight. 9...Nxe5 10 Nxe5 Bxe5 11 Bxf7+ Kxf7 12 Qd5+ Ke8 13 Qxe5 Rf8 (if 13...Nf6 14 Nd5 Black cannot prevent both 15 Nxf6+ and 15 Nc7+) 14 gxh5 White is up a full piece.] 9 **Bxf7+ Kxf7 10 Ng5+ Ke8 11 Qxg4 Nxe5 12 Qe4 d6** [This move frees my queen bishop from its prison on c8] 13 **Bf4 Bf5** [I figured that I would rather give back the pawn and have an equal game than try to defend the pawn with a move like 13...Qc7 when White responds with 14 Rac1 and Black has no easy way of escaping that threat Nd5 without exposing the king even more.] 14 **Qxb7 Qc8** [With the intention of trading off queens, since I have the bishop over knight advantage and I want to get rid of his main attacker.] 15 **Qd5 h6 16 Bxe5 Bxe5 17 Qf7+ Kd7**



18 Rfe1?

A better move would have been to just simply retreat the knight with 18 Nf3. White's choice commits him to significant sacrifice (loss) of material.

18...Rf8 19 Qd5 Bxc3 20 Ne6 Bxe1 21 Rxe1 Rf6 22 Qb5+ Qc6 23 Nf8+ Rxf8 24 Rxe7+ Kxe7 25 Qxc6 [The material advantage of two rooks and bishop versus a queen and pawn looks like a winning position for Black.] 25... Rfc8 26 Qb7+ Kf6 27 h3 [a little escape hatch to avoid ...Rc1*mate*] 27...h5 28 Qd5 [attacking my isolated d-pawn.] 28...Rd8 29 g4 [He offered me a draw, thinking that I would take it given that my rating going into this tourney was 254 points less than his. But I was confident enough that I was winning at this point to decline the offer.] 29...hxg4 30 hxg4 Bxg4 31 Qd4+ Kg5 32 f4+ Kh6 33 Kf2 d5 [passed pawns must be pushed] 34 Kg3 Bf5 [settling my bishop on a protected square so I can focus on pushing my passed d-pawn] 35 Kh4 Rd7 [guarding the a-pawn to relieve my queen rook of that duty] 36 b4 [Attempting to get a passed pawn on the queenside in the hopes of doing something with it,



but it's not going to work in this case.] **36...Rf8 37 b5 Be4** [cutting off the main protector of the f-pawn while relieving the d7 rook's duties of protecting the d-pawn, with the intention of getting everything into attacking White's kingside pawn] **38 Qe5 Rdf7 39 a4 Rxf4+ 40 Kg3** [At this point, all I really wanted to was get rid of White's queen, even if it meant giving up the two rooks, because that would leave with the extra bishop, which would be sufficient to win.] **40...Rf3+ 41 Kh2** [if 41 Kg2? R3f5+ wins the queen] **41...Rf2+ 42 Kh3 R8f3+ 43 Kh4 Rf4+ 44 Kg3 R2f3+ 45 Kh2 Rh4+ 46 Kg1 Rh1+! 0-1** White resigned because 47...Rf5+ will win his queen.

Jack Barrow and Jennifer Yu were unquestionably the two breakout performers at this year's championship. Barrow, who won the state amateur championship back in 2002, beat two masters plus another higher-rated opponent, expert Andrew Rea. Yu also took down a pair of masters and led the tournament alone at the midway point before stalling in the second half (against two additional masters!).

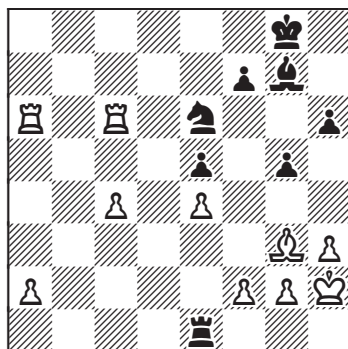
As for Miller, he took the setback with cold-eyed objectivity. "After I lost in round two, I said to myself that I would have to win four games on boards 7, 5, 3, and 1, and fortunately that is exactly what happened," he reflected later. And when it was all over, Miller allowed that this was "my toughest state championship win ever, probably because I am 41 now and not 33."

Daniel Miller - Stan Fink Nimzowitsch

Notes by Daniel Miller

1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6+ bxc6 5 O-O g6 6 Re1 Bg7 7 c4 c5 8 h3 e6 9 d4 cxd4 10 Nxd4 Nf6 11 Nc3 O-O 12 Bg5 h6 13 Bh4 e5 14 Nc6 Qd7 15 Nd5 Nh7 16 Qb3 Kh8 17 Nb8 Rxb8 18 Qxb8 c6 19 Nb6 Qe6 20 Rad1 g5 21 Rxd6 Qe8 22 Qxc8 Qxc8 23 Nxc8 Rxc8 24 Bg3 Nf8 25 Re3 Ne6 [I am about 3½ pawns up in material but facing a counter attack with the active rook and knight on either f4 or d4.] **26 Ra3 Nc5 27 Re3 Kg8 28 b4 Ne6 29 Ra3 Rb8 30 Rxa6 Rxb4 31 Rdxc6 Rb1+ 32 Kh2 Re1 33 f3?**

I spent a good amount of time on this incorrect response. The variation I calculated was 33 f4! Rxe4 34 f5 Nd4 35 Rc8+ Kh7 36 f6 Bh8 37 Rf8 Re2 38 Rxf7+ Kg6 39 Rb7 and it does win outright. However, I out-thought myself. For the longest time I believed the whole thing didn't work because of 39...Nf3+ 40 Kh1 Re1+ "mate"—not noticing that my bishop controls





e1. After I figured that out, I thought he still had a major counterattack if he just plays 39...Rd2 with the same threat. However, I could bring my rook back to b1.

So, what I actually decided was crazy. I was an exchange and two pawns up and decided to sack two exchanges for two pawns to reach what I thought was an easy win with bishop+5 pawns *vs* rook+one pawn. It was winning, but the earlier variation would have been better.

33...Re2 34 Rxe6 fxe6 35 Rxe6 Rxa2 36 Bxe5 Kf7 37 Bxg7 Kxe6 38 Bxh6 Kf6 39 Bf8 Ke5 40 Kg3 Kf6 41 c5 Rc2 42 Bd6 Ke6 43 Kh2 Kf6 44 h4 gxh4 45 Bc7 Ke7 46 Bb6 Rb2 47 Ba5 Rd2 48 c6 Ke8 49 Kh3 Ke7 50 Bb4+ Ke6 51 c7 Rc2 52 Kxh4 Rxc7 53 g4 Ke5 54 Kg3 Rc1 55 Bd2 Rg1+ 56 Kf2 Rh1 57 Ke3 Ke6 58 f4 Rh3+ 59 Kd4 Ra3 60 f5+ Kf7 61 g5 Ra8 62 Ke5 Re8+ 63 Kf4 Rc8 64 g6+ Kg7 65 Kg5 Rc2 66 f6+ Kh8 67 Bf4 Rg2+ 68 Kf5 Rg1 69 Be5 Kg8 70 f7+ 1-0

Daniel Miller - Robert Fischer

Ruy Lopez

Notes by Daniel Miller

This was my best game of the 2013 Virginia State Championship. I have been refuting ...Bg4?! for twenty-five years. The bishop belongs on e6; on g4 it only gets in the way of his pawn storm and White's attack with Be3, Nbd2, Qe2, Rfb1, a4 & b4 (suggestion by Bobby Fischer in *My 60 Memorable Games* #56 notes to move 5) gets there two tempi sooner if he castles long and plays f6, g5... etc. **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6 dxc6 5 O-O Qd6!? 6 d3 Bg4 7 Be3 Ne7 8 Nbd2 b5 9 Qe2** [waiting for the knight to move] **Ng6 10 h3!** [normally I would never push my kingside pawns in this variation as that accelerates Black's attack; however, in this case I win the Bishop pair which is Black's sole compensation for the tempo (because of 3...a6) and pawn structure. So, White is strategically winning.] **Bxf3 11 Nxf3** [With long castling unavailable, Black is in a jam.] **11... c5 12 a4 Qc6 13 axb5 axb5 14 c3 Be7 15 Rxa8+ Qxa8 16 d4 c4 17 Qc2 Bd6 18 dxe5 Nxe5? +-** [the following forced series of moves is winning for White] **19 Nxe5 Bxe5 20 f4 Bd6 21 e5 Be7 22 f5 Qc6 23 f6 gxf6 24 exf6 Qe6 25 Bf2 Bxf6 26 Re1 Be5 27 Qe4 1-0** If 27...Bg7 28 Qb7 Be5 29 Qb5+

Meanwhile, three-time champion Ed Kitces (who first won the title back in 1970!) was working his way through to a 4½-out-of-5 start, yielding only a draw to Larry Larkins. It was Kitces who finally put a stop to Yu's run in round 4. Ed's game against Andrew Rea illustrates the point that pawns cannot move backwards. White's position started to slide downhill after he advanced his c-pawn, leaving all sorts of weak squares to its rear.

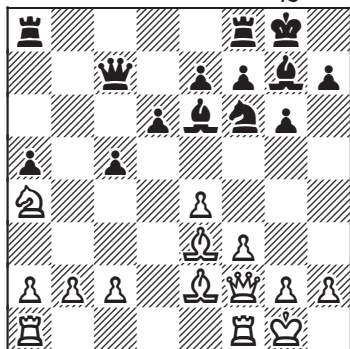




Andrew Rea - Ed Kitces

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nc3 Nc6 4 d4 cxd4 5 Nxd4 g6 6 Nxc6 bxc6 7 Be2 Bg7 8 O-O d6 9 Be3 O-O 10 f3 Qc7 11 Qe1 Be6 12 Qf2 a5 13 Na4 c5 (diagram)



14 c4 Nd7 15 Rab1 f5 16 exf5 Bxf5 17 Rbc1 Ne5 18 Rfd1 Bd7 19 Nc3 Ng4 20 fxg4 Rxf2 21 Bxf2 Bc6 22 b3 Rf8 23 Nd5 Qb7 24 Bh4 Bxd5 25 cxd5 Bd4+ 26 Rxd4 cxd4 27 Bc4 Qb4 28 Rf1 Rxf1+ 29 Kxf1 Qd2 30 a4 d3 0-1

The final round set up as the most challenging scenario imaginable for Miller: half a point behind, he had to win with Black. His approach to the task was remarkable.

Sticking with his solid core defense, he did not avoid early simplification but trusted in his ability to conjure up chances in the endgame. And he succeeded!

Ed Kitces - Daniel Miller

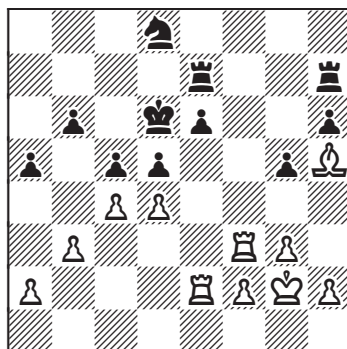
Petroff

Notes by Daniel Miller

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 Qe2 Qe7 6 d3 Nf6 7 Bg5 Be6 8 Nd4 Nc6 9 Nxe6 Qxe6 10 Qxe6+ fxe6 11 c3 Be7 12 Be2 Nd5 13 Bxe7 Kxe7 14 g3 Raf8 15 Nd2 Rf5 16 O-O g5 17 Bg4 Rf6 18 Ne4 Rg6 19 Bh5 Rg7 20 d4 Nf6 21 Bf3 Nxe4 22 Bxe4 d5 23 Bg2 Rf8 24 Rae1 Kd6 25 Rd1 a5 26 b3 b6 27 Rfe1 Re7 28 Re3 Rfe8 29 Bf3 Nd8 30 c4 c6 31 Kg2 h6 32 Rd2 Nb7 [Trying to optimally place my pieces before I tried the only chance, which will be ...dc4 followed by ...c5. I was also hoping that waiting a while first might induce some slight inaccuracy on his part.] 33 Bh5 Rf8 34 Rde2 Nd8 35 Bg4 Rh8 36 Bh5 Rhh7 37 Rf3?! [So I got the inaccuracy I was hoping for. I believe this now

leads to a series of exchanges where my better King gave me the advantage.] 37...c5 (diagram)

38 Rf8 Nc6 39 dxc5+ bxc5 [39...Kc5?? 40. cd5 wins as the knight is loose] 40 cxd5 Nd4 41 Rd8+ Kc7 42 d6+ Kxd8 43 dxe7+ Kxe7 44 Rd2? [As Ed pointed out after the game, this is a blunder; instead 44 Re1 I felt I was winning at this point, although I don't know what computers think—just going off intuition.] 44...Kd6 45 Bg6 Ra7 46 Be8 e5 47 Kh3 e4 48 Kg4 Ke5 49 Kh5 Ra6 50 Bg6 a4 51 Kxh6 axb3 52 axb3 g4





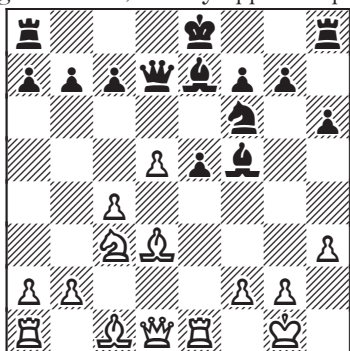
53 Rd1 Nxb3 54 Re1 Nd2 55 h3 gxh3 56 Re2?! Rxc6+ [played immediately] 57 Kxg6 Nf3 58 Rc2 Kd4 59 Rc1 h2 60 Rh1 c4 61 Kf5 c3 62 Rd1+ Nd2 63 Kg4 c2 64 Rh1 Nf3 0-1 If 65 Kh3 Kd3 (65...Ng1+?! 66 Kxh2 c1Q 67 Rxc1 is not as easy) 66 g4 Kd2 67 g5 Nxc5+ 68 Kxh2 Nf3+ 69 Kg3 Ne1

Geoff McKenna - Jack Barrow

English

Notes by Geoff McKenna

1 c4 [I spent a lot of time preparing 1 e4 for this tournament, but after seeing my opponent's amazing tactical win over Dan Miller I decided to try something positional.] 1...e5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 e3 Nf6 4 Nf3 d6?! [This isn't terrible, but 4...Bb4 is more active.] 5 d4 Bg4 6 Be2 exd4 7 exd4 h6? [I think this gives White a nice initiative. Black should develop and castle. At the time I thought that 7...g6 was best, but my opponent pointed out that then 8 Bg5 would be strong. So



maybe 7...Be7 is a good try.] 8 h3 Bf5 9 O-O Qd7 10 Re1 Be7 11 d5 Ne5? [Maybe 11...Nb8 is better; Black can then play O-O, a5, and Na6] 12 Nxe5 dxe5 13 Bd3

[Practically winning a pawn, owing to Black's poor development Typical lines include 13...Bd6 14 c5! winning immediately; or 13...Bd3 14 Qd3 Bd6 Bf4 and I don't see how Black holds the e-pawn.] 13...Bxh3 14 gxh3 Qxh3 15 Rxe5 Ng4 16 Rxe7+ Kxe7 17 Bf4 Rhe8 [Maybe 17...Rhd8 is better but Black is probably dead.]

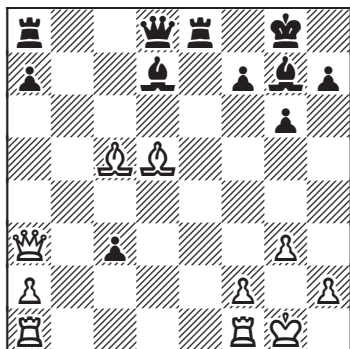
18 d6+ Kf8 19 Bf5 h5 20 d7 Red8 21 Bxc7 g6 22 Qd6+ Kg7 23 Qd4+ Kg8 24 Bxg4 hxg4 25 Ne4 f5 26 Qd5+ [winning the queen] 26...Kg7 27 Be5+ 1-0 avoiding 27...Kh6 28 Qd2+ Kh7 29 Ng5+ etc.

Steve Armentrout - Macon Shibut

Grünfeld

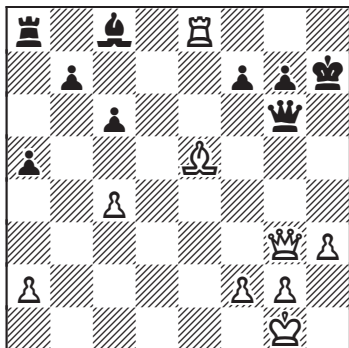
Notes by Macon Shibut

1 c4 g6 2 g3 Bg7 3 Bg2 Nf6 4 Nf3 O-O 5 O-O c6 6 Nc3 d5 7 cxd5 cxd5 8 d4 Ne4 9 Ne5 Nxc3 10 bxc3 Nc6 11 Nxc6 bxc6 12 Ba3 Re8 13 Qa4 [13 e4!? Ribli-Garcia 1971] 13...Bd7 14 Bc5 e5 15 e4? [A miscalculation. White should settle for 15 e3 although after 15...Qc7 Black is more than fine since after 16 Rab1 he has 16...Bf5 17 Rb4 Rab8 and White will not be able to keep contesting the b-file since b1 is covered. Plus there's always the possibility Black will entertain kingside ambitions connected with ...e4] 15...exd4 16 exd5 [or 16 cxd4 dxe4 17 Rab1 Qc7 with an extra pawn] 16...cxd5 17 Qa3 dxc3 18 Bxd5 [White looks nicely centralized but there is a problem.]



Stan Fink - Justin Lohr
Semi Slav

1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 c4 c6 4 Nc3 e6 5 e3 Bd6 6 Bd3 O-O 7 O-O Nbd7 8 e4 dxe4 9 Nxe4 Nxe4 10 Bxe4 e5? 11 dxe5 Nxe5 12 Nxe5 Bxe5 13 Bxh7+ Kxh7 14 Qh5+ Kg8 15 Qxe5 Re8 16 Qg3 Qd4 17 Bf4 Qxb2 18 Rae1 Rxe1 19 Rxe1 Qf6 20 Re8+ Kh7 21 h3 a5 22 Be5 Qg6



Fingerfehler!

As Stan related afterwards, he played for this position and prepared the fine *coup de grâce* 23 Qh4+ Qh6 24 Rh8+! and mate in two. Then he reached out his hand and... picked up the rook to deliver the deathblow at h8 *without having first given the queen check!*

18...Bh3! [It turns out the beautiful bishop in the center is vulnerable and cannot take the rook owing to the weakness of his king. And if now 19 Rfd1? Re1+!] 19 Rad1 Qc8! 20 Rfe1 c2 [After this White can squirm in various ways but the tactics all work in Black's favor.] 21 Rc1 Rxe1+ 22 Rxe1 Rb8 23 Bb4 Rxb4 24 Qxa7 Rb1 0-1

28th Emporia Open

Nov 2-3, 2013

Holiday Inn Express

1350 W Atlantic St, Emporia, Va 5-ss, rd 1 game/90, rds 2-5 game/120, d/5 throughout. \$\$810 guaranteed, more if over 35 players: \$325-225-125, top U1700/unrated \$90, top U1200 \$80, top Jr (under 18) \$70. Reg Friday Nov 1, 7-9pm, Saturday Nov 2, 7:30-9:15am, rds 10-2:30-7, 9-1:30. EF \$45 if received by Oct 29 (see more details further down), \$55 later/on site. VCF membership req'd, other states accepted. VCF & USCF memberships available on site. One ½pt bye allowed, must request by 2:00pm Saturday, Nov 2. Hotel: Ten rooms "blocked" for chess rate of \$79. *Enter:* Make checks payable to VCF. No credit card entries. Mail to Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: Emporia Open, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, Va 23693. No email entries but you may email your entry info by midnight Tuesday Oct 29 and pay the early entry rate at the tournament. mhoffpauir@aol.com or phone 757-846-4805.

A Heritage Event!





23 Re7 It's fortunate that such a mistake didn't cost the whole point. Finding the wrong piece gripped between his fingers, Stan made the best of the situation with regards to both the selected move and the decision to offer a draw. Black is going to be a pawn up but with good chances of defending the bishops of opposite ending after, eg 23...Be6 24 Qh4+ Qh6 25 Qxh6+ Kxh6 26 a4 b6 27 Rc7; or 23...Qxg3 24 Bxg3 Be6 25 Rxb7 Bxc4 26 a4 Rd8 27 Ra7 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Justin Lohr - Dr Saad Al-Hariri
Caro Kann

Notes by Dr Saad Al-Hariri

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nd7 5 c3 Ngf6 6 Bd3 Nxe4 7 Bxe4 Nf6 8 Bc2 Bg4 9 f3 Be6 [This move signals the intention to fianchetto the other bishop.] **10 Ne2 g6 11 O-O Bc4 12 b3** [Combined with the earlier f3 move, this creates serious issues for White on the dark colored central diagonals.] **12...Bxe2 13 Qxe2 Bg7**

14 Ba3 Nd5 15 Qd3? [15 Rfe1 would be a better try. White will lose a pawn, however.] **15...Nxc3 16 Rfe1 Qxd4+ 17 Kh1 Qxd3 18 Rxe7+** [An excellent in-between move but the fate of the game is already decided.] **18...Kd8 19 Bxd3 Nd5** [The knight comes back to the same square with another big bang. This time, both rooks are threatened.] **20 Rae1 Nxe7 21 Bxe7+ Kd7 22 Bc5 Rhe8 23 Rd1 Kc7 0-1**

Adam Chrisney - David Hulvey
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Nb3 Bb4 7 Bd3 d5 8 exd5 Nxd5 9 Bd2 Nxc3 10 bxc3 Bd6 11 O-O O-O 12 Qh5 f5 13 Bc4+ Kh8 14 Bg5 Qe8 15 Qxe8 Rxe8 16 Rad1 Be6 17 Bb5 Be7 18 Bxe7 Rxe7 19 Bxc6 bxc6 20 a4 Bd5 21 Na5 g5 22 c4 Be4 23 Rd2 f4 24 Re1 Bg6 25 Nxc6 Rc7 26 Nxe5 Be8 27 a5 Kg7 28 Rd5 Rb8 29 Nd3 h6 30 c5 Bf7 31 Rd6 Rb5 32 c6 Rxa5 33 h4 Rd5 34 Rxd5 Bxd5 35 Re5 Bf7 36 hxg5 Rxc6 37 gxh6+ Kxh6 38 Nxf4 Rxc2 39 Re7 Rc1+ 40 Kh2 1-0

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Vignesh Rajasekaran - Geoff McKenna

Queen's Indian

Notes by Geoff McKenna

1 d4 e6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nf3 b6 4 g3 Bb7 5 Bg2 Be7 6 O-O O-O 7 Nc3 Ne4 8 Qc2 Nxc3 9 Qxc3 c5 10 dxc5 bxc5 11 Be3 d6 12 a3 Nd7 13 Rfd1 Qc7 14 Qc2 Nf6 15 b4 cxb4!? [Black tries to counter White's queenside expansion by exposing the pawns to piece pressure, *à la* hanging pawns.] 16 axb4 Rfc8 17 Rdc1 Nd5 18 cxd5?! [Evidently White didn't like the look of 18 Bd2 Nb6. The text is imaginative but probably not quite right.] 18...Qxc2 19 Rxc2 Rxc2 20 dxe6 Rc7 21 Nd4 Bxg2 22 exf7+ Kxf7 23 Kxg2 Rb8 24 b5 Rbb7 25 Rxa7 [Neat-looking, but the effect is to cause some exchanges that Black wanted anyway.] 25...Rxa7 26 b6 Rab7 27 bxc7 Rxc7 28 Nf5 g6 29 Nxe7 Kxe7 30 Kf3 Ke6 31 Bd4 Kd5 32 e3 Rf7+ 33 Ke2 Kc4 34 f4 Rb7 35 h4 [If White waits around, then Black can use the Rook to force the advance of his king toward f2, so I agreed with White's moves around here.] 35...Rb5 36 Ba7 Rb2+ 37 Kf3 Kd3 38 h5 Rb7! [The idea is to force the bishop onto the optically attractive d4 square, which tends to freeze the White e-pawn.] 39 Bd4 gxh5 40 f5 Rb1 [dreaming of 41 Kf4 h6] 41 g4 hxg4+ 42 Kxg4 Ke4 43 f6 Rb5 44 Kh4 Rf5 45 Kg4 h5+ 46 Kh4 Kd5 47 Bc3 Ke6 48 Bd4 d5 49 Bc3 Kf7 50 Bd4 Kg6 51 Bc3 Rf1 52 Kg3 Rxf6 0-1

Ed Kitces - Elan Rodan

Göring Gambit

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 c3 dxc3 5 Nxc3 d6 6 Bc4 Nf6 7 Qb3 Qd7 8 Ng5 Ne5 9 Bb5 c6 10 f4 Neg4 11 Be2 Nh6 12 O-O Be7 13 h3 O-O 14 Be3 Qc7 15 Rae1 Bd7 16 Qc2 Rad8 17 g4 Kh8 18 Bd4 Ne8 19 Nf3 Ng8 20 Bd3 h6 21 Qf2 b6 22 Kg2 Qc8 23 Qg3 c5 24 Be3 Bc6 25 g5 Nc7 26 f5 hxg5 27 Bxg5 Bxg5 28 Nxc7 Nf6 29 Kh2 Kg8 30 Rg1 Nce8 31 Nd5 Bxd5 32 exd5 Qb7 33 Ne4 Nxe4 34 Rxe4 f6 35 Be2 Rf7 36 Re1 Nc7 37 Bh5 Nxd5 38 Bg6 Re7 39 Qh4 Rxe4 40 Qh7+ Kf8 41 Qh8+ Ke7 42 Qxg7 *mate* 1-0

Jennifer Yu - Andrew Samuelson

English

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e6 3 e4 d5 4 e5 d4 5 exf6 dxc3 6 bxc3 Qxf6 7 Nf3 Nd7 8 d4 h6 9 Bd3 g5 10 h3 Bg7 11 Be3 Qe7 12 O-O O-O 13 Nh2 e5 14 Qc2 Re8 15 Rfe1 c5 16 Bd2 Qd8 17 d5 Nf8 18 Nf1 Qd6 19 Ng3 b6 20 Re2 Ng6 21 Nh5 Bd7 22 Rae1 Nh4 23 Ng3 Rad8 24 Ne4 Qe7 25 Ng3 Qf8 26 Nf5 Bxf5 27 Bxf5 Qd6 28 Be4 Rf8 29 g3 Ng6 30 Bxg6 fxg6 31 Qe4 Kh7 32 Kg2 Qd7 33 Rh1 Qf5 34 f3 Rf7 35 h4 gxh4 36 Rxh4 Rdf8 37 Qxf5 gxf5 38 Re1 Rd8 39 Reh1 Rd6 40 Be3 Rg6 41 Kf2 e4 42 fxe4 fxe4+ 43 Bf4 Rd7 44 Ke3 b5 45 d6 bxc4 46 Kxe4 Rxd6 47 Bxd6 Rxd6 48 Rh5 Rd3 49 Rxc5 Rxc3 50 g4 Kg6 51 Rhh5 Rg3 52 Kf4 Rg2 53 Rc6+ Kf7 54 Ra5 Bd4 55 Rxc4 Bb6 56 Rf5+ Kg7 57 a4 Ra2 58 Rd5 Rf2+ 59 Kg3 Rf7 60 a5 Bc7+ 61 Kg2 Bf4 62 Rcd4



Kg6 63 Rd7 Rf6 64 Rb7 Kg5 65 Rg7+ Kh4 66 Rd3 Bg5 67 Rxa7 Kxg4 68 Rg3+ Kh5 69 a6 Rc6 70 Rf3 Kg4 71 Rf2 h5 72 Rb7 Be3 73 Ra2 h4 74 Rb4+ Kg5 75 a7 Bxa7 76 Rxa7 Rc2+ 77 Kf3 Rc3+ 78 Ke2 Rc2+ 79 Kd3 Rc5 80 Rh7 Ra5 81 Rhxh4 1-0

Robert Fischer - Geoff McKenna

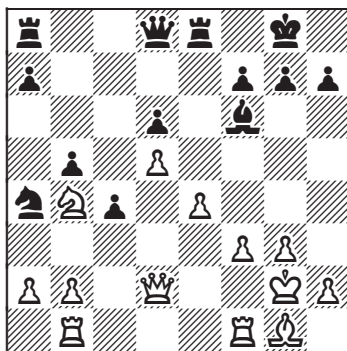
Queen's Indian

Notes by Geoff McKenna

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 b6 4 Bg2 Bb7 5 O-O Be7 6 Nc3 O-O 7 d4 Ne4 8 Nxe4 Bxe4 9 Ne5? [The idea isn't bad but 9 Ne1 is a better way. The text allows Black to gain time.] 9...Bxg2 10 Kxg2 d6 11 Nd3 c5 12 d5 exd5 13 cxd5 Nd7 [So Black gets a favorable Benoni formation.] 14 e4 Re8 15 f3 b5 16 Be3 Bf6 17 Qd2 Nb6 18 Bg1 Na4 19 Rab1 c4 20 Nb4

"A position that separates grandmasters," as Walter Browne infamously wrote in the middle of some shoddy analysis. Black has three reasonable tries here: 20...Bxb2; 20...Nxb2; and 20...Qa5. The last one is probably best, eg, 21 b3 Nc3 22 Nc6 Qa3! (Larry Larkins)]

20...Bxb2?! 21 Rxb2 c3 22 Qf4! Nxb2 23 Bd4 Nc4 24 Nc6 Qc7 25 Bxg7 Kxg7 1/2-1/2



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Andrew Rea - Francisco Morales
King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2
O-O 5 c4 d6 6 Nc3 Nc6 7 O-O Bf5 8
d5 Na5 9 Nd2 c5 10 e4 Bd7 11 Qc2
a6 12 b3 b5 13 Bb2 Rb8 14 cxb5 axb5
15 Nd1 Qc8 16 e5 Bf5 17 Qc1 Ng4
18 exd6 Bxb2 19 Qxb2 exd6 20 Ne3
Bd3 21 Rfe1 Nxe3 22 Rxe3 c4 23 Rc1
Qa6 24 Rxd3 cxd3 25 Ne4 Rfd8 26
Nf6+ Kf8 27 Nxh7+ Ke8 28 Nf6+
[28 Qg7! forces mate] 28...Kf8 29 Re1
Nc4!? 30 bxc4 bxc4 31 Nd7+ Kg8 32
Nxb8 Qa5 33 Rd1 c3 34 Nc6 Qa4 35
Qc1 d2 36 Rxd2 cxd2 37 Qxd2 Re8
38 h4 Qc4 39 h5 Re2 40 Bf1 1-0

Jack Barrow - Yuri Barnakov
Ruy Lopez

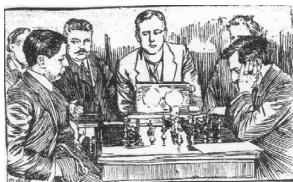
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4
Nf6 5 O-O Be7 6 d3 b5 7 Bb3 d6 8
c3 O-O 9 h3 Bb7 10 Be3 h6 11 Nh4
Na5 12 Nf5 Nxb3 13 axb3 Re8 14 f4
Bf8 15 Qf3 Re6 16 Nd2 Kh8 17 c4
Ng8 18 g4 g6 19 Ng3 bxc4 20 bxc4
Bg7 21 f5 Re8 22 Kg2 c6 23 h4 d5
24 g5 dxc4 25 dxc4 Bc8 26 f6 Bf8 27
h5 Re6 28 hxg6 fxg6 29 f7 Ne7 30
gxh6 Rd6 31 Qf2 Qd7 32 Rh1 Qg4 33
h7 g5 34 Bc5 Ng6 35 Bxd6 Nf4+ 36
Kf1 Bxd6 37 Nh5 Be6 38 Nf6 Bxc4+
39 Nxc4 Qe6 40 Nxd6 Qxd6 41 Rh6
Rf8 42 Qf3 Rxf7 43 Ng4 Qc5 44 Rd1
Rf8 45 Rf6 Qc4+ 46 Kg1 Qc5+ 47
Kh1 Re8 48 Rf7 Qc2 49 Nxe5 Qxb2
50 Qxf4 1-0

Jack Barrow - Andrew Rea
Scandinavian

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 d4 Nxd5 4 c4
Nf6 5 Nc3 Bf5 6 Qf3 Qc8 7 Bf4 e6
8 Bd3 Nc6 9 Nge2 Bg4 10 Qe3 Nb4
11 Bb1 c6 12 a3 Na6 13 h3 Bxe2 14
Kxe2 Be7 15 Bc2 O-O 16 Ne4 Nxe4
17 Qxe4 f5 18 Qe3 Bf6 19 b4 Re8
20 Rad1 Nc7 21 Qg3 Re7 22 Rhe1
a5 23 Kf1 axb4 24 axb4 Na6 25 Bd6
Re8 26 Bb1 Qd7 27 Be5 Qf7 28 Qb3
Be7 29 b5 Nb4 30 c5 Nd5 31 bxc6
bxc6 32 Qb7 Rac8 33 Bd3 Bf6 34 Ba6
Qg6 35 Bd6 Nc3 36 Rd3 Ne4 37 Qd7
Rcd8 38 Qxc6 Qg5 39 Bc7 Qh4 40
Re2 Ra8 41 f3 Ng5 42 d5 Nxh3 43
gxh3 Qxh3+ 44 Kg1 e5 45 f4 Qg4+
46 Rg2 Qxf4 47 Qxf6 Qc1+ 48 Kh2
Qf4+ 49 Rdg3 g6 50 Qg5 Qxg5 51
Rxxg5 Rxa6 52 d6 Rc6 53 d7 Rf8 54
d8Q Rxd8 55 Bxd8 Rxc5 56 Rxf5 Rc8
57 Bb6 e4 58 Re5 Rc6 59 Be3 Rc4 60
Rf2 h5 61 Re7 1-0

Andrew Samuelson - Geoff
McKenna
French

1 e4 e6 2 b3 c5 3 Bb2 Nc6 4 Bb5
Qc7 5 Nf3 a6 6 Bxc6 Qxc6 7 d3 d6 8
O-O Nf6 9 Nbd2 Be7 10 Qe2 O-O 11
Nc4 d5 12 exd5 Nxd5 13 Nfe5 Qc7
14 a4 b6 15 Ne3 Bb7 16 Rae1 Bd6
17 N3c4 Be7 18 Qg4 Bf6 19 f4 Ne7?
[19...Rad8] 20 Nxb6 1-0 because if
20...Qxb6 21 Nd7; or if 20...Bxe5 21
Bxe5; or if 20...Rad8 21 Nbc4; etc.





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Once every month, Larry will give a lecture on selected chess topics and then take questions for a total of 90 minutes. This series is mostly aimed at Intermediate to Advanced players, though anyone is welcomed to attend. Larry is a well-known computer chess researcher, chess teacher, author of *The Kaufman Repertoire for Black and White* and the earlier *Chess Advantage for Black and White*, and a regular competitor in local and national chess events.

Entry Fee: \$25, \$20 for ACC Members.

Register 7:30 - 8:00pm, lecture: 8:00 - 9:30pm. Cash or check—*no credit accepted on site!*

Note: *everyone* in attendance must pay an entry fee! Also, these special Tuesday ACC sessions are for the lecture only; there will be no ladder, skittles games or other chess play.



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2013 VCF Cup

by Andrew Rea

We have a new champion, albeit not for lack of effort from two-time defending champion, Larry Larkins... but try as he might, Larry was second best this year (still quite the notable achievement!), unable to keep pace with IM Tegshsuren Enkhbat! Our friendly neighbor from Maryland scored well at the season opener, the Oct 2012 Continental Class Championship; won the Northern Virginia Open; again won at the 2013 Virginia Open. Enkh was tough as nails, proving himself to be a worthy champion!

The complete standings can be viewed online at the VCF web site, www.vachess.org.

Third in points overall was Steven Armentrout. However, the Top of Class prize is larger than 3rd Overall, so Steven receives top Class A, while Franco Jose scores top Expert,—well done for both! This left 3rd overall for your author: David Hulvey won the Most Games prize!

Moving on to the other class prizes... 2nd place Expert (after Franco Jose) Elan Rodan; 3rd Justin Lohr. 2nd place A (after Armentrout) Sean Senft; 3rd Jennifer Yu. Top B Ryan Xu, 2nd Jason Carr, 3rd Adam Chrisney. Top C Vishal Kobla; 2nd Raponyer McClaine; 3rd Andrew Wang. Top D Aasa Dommalapati; 2nd Chris Giofreda; 3rd Nathan Wu. Top Class E/Unrated Evan Ling; 2nd Vishal Menon; 3rd John Tesorero. Well played to them all!

All told we had 511 participants in our many VCF Cup events, which remains open to all players. Not shocking, most of the prize list is Virginia players, but our new Cup champion is from Maryland and we also have one DC player among our prizewinners!

We again kick off the new season, the 2014 VCF Cup, with the Continental Class Championship, followed in short order by the Emporia Open, Northern Virginia Open, and David Zofchak Memorial. Cup events must be in Virginia, must be typical weekend format, must be open for all players (ie, as nice an event as the Senior Championship is, it does not qualify due to its the age restriction; our Virginia Closed state championship also does not meet the standard as it excludes non-Virginia players). The events have to specify on their TLA or on our www.vachess.org website that they are VCF Cup events.

Our scoring formula is also posted on the website. This year we have one notable eligibility change: a player must have played in an event in their rating class to be eligible for that particular class prize. The season runs from September (maybe next year we can have an event prior to the Continental Class?!) to Aug 20, the Tracy Callis Jr Memorial.

Thanks to all of our players and organizers who have made the VCF Cup so successful!



Personal & General

from the Editor



AS NOTED in the state championship article (p 1 of this issue), Rusty Potter showed up in Richmond with a collection of old Virginia chess newsletters for me. On behalf of the entire VCF I will repeat my “thank-you” for that to him here.

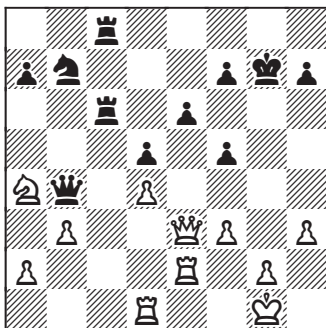
Somehow the VIRGINIA CHESS editor job acquired the ancillary “title” of VCF Archivist. Actually, I recall exactly how this happened. Back when I was a kid there was a significant collection of old newsletters and other material that belonged to the old Richmond Chess Club. After the club closed down, the material sort of disappeared. Some years ago I wrote about it in VIRGINIA CHESS and inquired if anyone knew what had become of it. Turned out that Woody Harris had rescued the collection. He gave it to me, and since then I have mined it on more than one occasion for material to publish (or republish, as the case may be).

Over the years, other individuals have sent me stuff, adding to what is now a fairly extensive library. I am more than happy to continue caretaking it—although if somebody else is *really* interested, the VCF might consider creating for them an actual Archivist position. I am writing this mainly to raise the membership’s awareness of the collection, so that it won’t just disappear again if somehow I do. Also, of course, anyone who is doing research on chess in Virginia should know about this resource.

It’s all sort of organized, but it could use a good curator’s culling through. Perhaps some day I’ll get around to cataloging what we’ve got. If that happens, I will report it here.



ALSO AT THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, an incident occurred that I was of totally clear conscience about at the time, but now I think I may owe an apology to TD Mike Hoffpauir and my 4th round opponent Justin Lohr. The incident came about after our game reached this position following Black’s 24th move.



I (playing White) determined that I could get the time control (move 30) behind me before committing to anything, and on that basis play continued **25 Qg5+ Kh8 26 Qf6+ Kg8 27 Rd3 Qd6 28 Qg5+ Kh8 29 Qf6+ Kg8 30 Qg5+ Kh8 31 Qf6+**

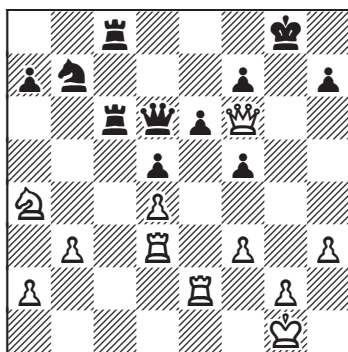
At this point Justin summoned the director (Mike) and claimed a draw, saying that he could play **31...Kg8** and the resulting position would be appearing for the third time. This is



absolutely the correct procedure under the rules, by the way—you don't actually execute your move on the board (for then it is the opponent's turn, and you have lost your standing to claim anything until it is your move again), but you *declare your intended move* and claim the repetition based on that.

Anyway, I thought I had accounted for this possibility, so I disputed the claim. My case was as follows: I have indeed played Qf6+ three times (moves 26, 29 and 31) and Black did indeed reply ...Kg8 to each check. However, the position after the first check-and-response (26 Qf6+ Kg8) was different than after moves 29 and 31 because back then my rook was still at d1 and his queen still at b4—see the intervening move 27.

All true as far as it goes, and Justin sportingly agreed when I pointed this out. This saved Mike the trouble of having to replay the whole thing on a separate board to verify or reject the claim. However, it occurred to me later that I had been mistaken. In fact Justin's claim was correct! The rule (as I understood perfectly well) is not three-fold repetition of *moves*, it is threefold repetition of *position*, and the position in question (after the intended 31...Kg8) does indeed appear three times—it's just that the *first occurrence* is not after the first check (26 Qf6+) but, rather, after that intervening 27th move!

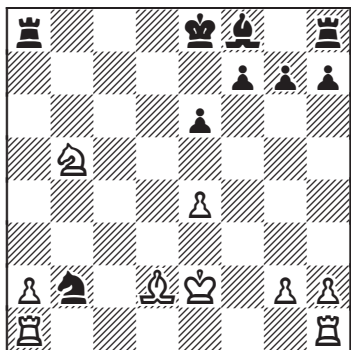


Position after 27...Qd6

There it is—just as it was again after 29 and would be again after move 31.

For the record, justice prevailed and we agreed to a draw anyway. But it goes to show how confusing this can be in practice, even for experienced players who basically know the rule. No less than Boris Spassky got flummoxed and allowed Bobby Fischer to get away with an incorrect claim of a draw in one of their 1972 world championship games! (The position had occurred three times but not always with the same side to move.)

There are other possible sources of misunderstanding. Perhaps the most diabolical example is what happened in the game Karpov-Miles, Tilburg 1986. This was the position after Karpov moved **22 Nb5**



Play continued **22...Ra4 23 Nc3 Ra8 24 Nb5 Ra4 25 Nc3 Ra8** and now, just like my opponent Justin, Karpov summoned the arbiter, declared his intention to play 26 Nb5, and claimed a draw since the position would be the same as after his 22nd and 24th turns. Miles agreed and the game ended, but in fact Karpov's claim was incorrect(!) Even though the position 'looks the same' (all pieces on the same squares) each time, the first occurrence (the one in the diagram above) is actually a *different position* from the later two *because Black still has the legal move 22...O-O-O as*

an option. He can no longer castle after that first ...Ra8-a3-a8 foray, so the potential for play is different later, and thus not the "same position" under the rules.

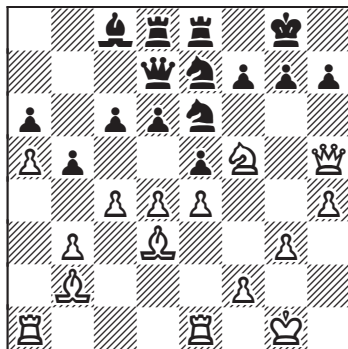
This could have been a real tragedy for Karpov if Miles had disputed the claim. The rules in force at the time called for a three minute penalty off the clock of a player making an incorrect claim. Karpov had less than five minutes remaining to reach move 40, perhaps even less than three minutes. He might easily have time forfeited or even been declared to have forfeited straightaway.

MIKE CALLAHAM and his Richmond Chess Initiative were highlighted in the Sept 12-14 issue of the RICHMOND FREE PRESS. You can check it out online at www.richmondfreepress.com/news/currentPageB.pdf

Stan Fink wrote in with a comment on my analysis of Alekhine-Hromadka, Prague 1942. (VIRGINIA CHESS #2013/4, p 13).

"I have a different notion on Alekhine's potential intended response to 29...g6. My instincts say AA's 29 Nf5 is good. My move for AA is simply 30 Qh6, which seems good for White to me. If Black takes the piece (with the pawn or knight) all of White's pieces (except the queen rook) join the attack on Black's king and it appears that White can also quickly win the piece back if he wishes, or play for mate instead."

I have to say I did not consider 30 Qh6 at all and it looks really good. If 30...gxf5 31 exf5 Ng7 at the very least White can recover the piece (32 f6 Ngf5 33 Qg5+) and maybe he has something better. In any case, Black will regret having weakened his dark squares.



Position after 29 Nf5



THE VCF MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY asks me to remind our member readers to keep VCF apprised of address changes. This is important for more than just assuring you receive all the issues of VIRGINIA CHESS that you're entitled to. The point is we send VIRGINIA CHESS by bulk mail, and postal regulations require that undeliverable bulk mail be returned to us with the VCF liable for the cost of both the initial plus the return postage. So *it costs the VCF money if you don't keep us informed when you move.*

You can send address changes by e-mail to Membership@vachess.org or by writing to **Ernie Schlich, VCF Membership Secretary, 1370 South Braden Crescent, Norfolk Va 23502.**

If you did not receive a copy of VIRGINIA CHESS either due to an unreported address change or for some other reason, again e-mail Membership@vachess.org (include your correct current address so we can verify the information in our database). You can also download back issues from the VCF website, www.vachess.org Which reminds me also... after literally years of falling into arrears, the archive of VIRGINIA CHESS back issues on the VCF web site is now up to date!

Virginians at the World Open

Last issue we invited readers to send in games from this past summer's World Open extravaganza. Saad Al-Hariri, Jack Barrow and Andy Samuelson rose to the occasion and each will receive a choice of book prizes.

Saad Al-Hariri - Jonathan Baccay
French

Notes by Saad Al-Hariri

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5 c5 5 Bd2 Ne7 6 a3 Bxc3 7 bxc3 Nbc6 8 Qg4 Ng6 [8...Nf5 was a better move.] **9 Nf3 Qb6 10 Bd3 cxd4 11 cxd4 Bd7 12 O-O h5?** [weakening an already compromised king side. 12...Qd8 was needed for defense.] **13 Qg5 Nxd4?** [Black ignores his serious kingside weakness.] **14 Bxg6** [14 Nxd4 was better, but the played move was sufficient for a significant gain.] **14...Nxf3+ 15 gxf3 Qd8** [Black realized by now he lost a piece even if he takes the bishop in g6, eg 15...fxg6 16 Bb4! Kf7 17 Qe7+ Kg8 18 Qxd7 with a dominant position.] **16 Qxd8+ Rxd8 17 Bd3 Bc6 18 Rfe1 d4 19 Be4 Bxe4 20 Rxe4 Rd5 21 Bb4 Kd7 22 Rd1 a5 23 Bd6 f6 24 Rxd4 fxe5 25 Bxe5 Kc6 26 Rxd5 exd5 27 f4 Re8 28 Rd3 g5 29 Re3 gxf4 30 Bxf4 Rf8 31 Bg3 Kc5 32 Re6** [threatening Bd6+ winning the rook] **32...Rf3 33 h4 Kc4 34 Bd6 Rc3 35 Re2 Rf3 36 Kg2 Rf6 37 Be7 Rf5 38 Bg5 b5 39 Re7 Kc3 40 Rc7+ Kb2 41 Rc5! b4 42 axb4 a4 43 c4!** [43 b5 is accurate too, but the played move makes advantage of the pin across the fifth rank.] **43...Kb3 44 b5 a3 45 b6 a2 46 b7 a1Q 47 b8Q+ Kc2 48 cxd5+ Kd3 49 Qb3+ Ke2 50 Qc2+ Ke1 51 Qd2mate 1-0**

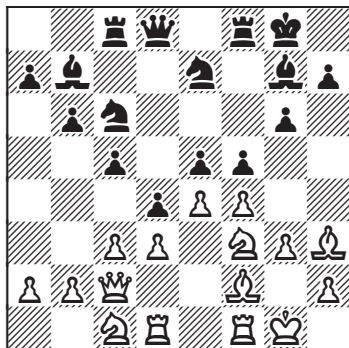


Jack Barrow - Anuprita Patil

Sicilian

Notes by Jack Barrow

I was 1-2 going into the 4th round at the World Open, after losing twice with Black. One of my opponents in those games went on to finish in the money. Because this game was played in round 4 of the 3-day U2200 section, the time control for this game was Game/45 minutes (with a time delay of 5 seconds). So there wasn't much room for wasting time. Because I was very familiar with the Closed Sicilian opening and also I made good use of my opponent's time thinking, I was able to develop a significant time advantage which helped me claim my first win against a titled player. {*Anuprita Patil is a Woman FIDE Master—ed*} **1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3** [I decided to go for the Closed Sicilian, a route that I have been familiar with



for years.] **3...g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 d3 d6 6 f4 e6 7 Nf3 Nge7 8 O-O O-O 9 Ne2 Rb8 10 c3 b6 11 Be3 Bb7 12 Qc2 Rc8** [I had a little below 44 minutes remaining on my clock and Black had about 37 minutes on her clock.] **13 Rad1 d5 14 Nc1 d4 15 Bf2 e5 16 Bh3 f5?**

[This mistake gave me the chance to take control of the b3-g8 diagonal with my queen as well as the e6 and f7 squares with my knight. I believe that a better move for black would have been to simply play 16...Rc7] **17 Qb3+ Kh8 18 Ng5**

[taking ultimate control of the e6 and f7 squares] **18...Qe8 19 Ne6 Rf6 20 cxd4 exd4** [Now I had 30-31 minutes remaining and my opponent had 21-22 minutes left.] **21 Nxc5 Na5 22 Qa3 Rxc5 23 Bxd4 Rc2 24 Bxf6 Bxf6 25 Qd6 Bg7 26 Rf2 Rxf2** [Personally, I think Black's best bet for redemption would be to play 26...Nc8 27 Qb4 Nc6 28 Qa4 Rxb2 29 Rxb2 Bxb2] **27 Kxf2 Nc8** [Now I had 19-20 minutes remaining on my clock whereas Black had a little under 9 minutes.] **28 Qc7 Bd4+ 29 Kf1 Ba6 30 Ne2 Bg7** [Black officially ran into time pressure (ie, she had less than 5 minutes remaining on her clock now).] **31 exf5 Ne7 32 Qxa7 Bb7 33 Qxb6 Nd5 34 Qxa5 Ne3+ 35 Ke1 Nxd1 36 Kxd1** [At this point it was very clear that I had both the material advantage (5 pawns up!) and the time advantage (I had a little more than 5 minutes remaining on my clock and my opponent had under 2 minutes) on my opponent.] **36...Bf3 37 Qd2 Qa4+ 38 b3 Qd4** At this point I ran into time pressure as well and stopped keeping score, but Black soon resigned. **1-0**



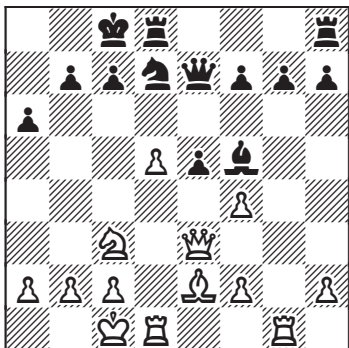


Andrew Samuelson - Jonathan Munnell

Scandinavian

Notes by Andrew Samuelson

This is almost certainly my best game from the 2013 World Open. Somehow I managed 5½ out of 9 in the U2400 section despite several horrible blunders. This game was played in round 3 when we both had 1½. **1 e4 d5** [This was already a surprise. I thought my opponent played the French!] **2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qd6 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3 a6 6 Bg5** [This is probably not the best move—6 g3 Bg4 7 Bg2 Nc6 8 O-O O-O-O 9 d5 has the point that 9...Nxd5 10 Nxd5 Qxd5 11 Qxd5 Rxd5 can be met by 12 Ng5—but it is playable and gets the game onto a somewhat less traveled path.] **6...Bg4 7 Be2 Nc6 8 d5** [I think this is basically forced to keep any opening advantage. Now the question of whether the d5 pawn is strong or weak becomes very important.] **8...Ne5 9 Qd4** [I could avoid the damage to my pawn structure by castling, eg 9 O-O Bxf3 10 Bxf3 O-O-O 11 Re1 Kb8 12 Bf4 Nfd7 13 Qe2 f6 14 Rad1 probably keeps a small advantage. However, I wasn't too worried about the doubled pawns and wanted to castle queenside to get my rook onto the d-file.] **9...Nxf3+** [This appears to be a new move, but this whole subvariation is quite rare. 9...Bxf3 has been tried once according to my database, but it seems better to keep the bishop pair.] **10 gxf3 e5!?** [10...Bf5 Δ ...e6 later was another idea here. The in-between move he played was interesting too.] **11 Qe3!?** [During the game I thought this was the natural move, but I overlooked that Black can now capture the d5 pawn. 12 Qd3 might have been more prudent, eg, 11...Bd7 12 O-O-O Qb6 13 Be3 Bc5 14 Rhg1 g6 15 Bxc5 Qxc5 16 Qe3 Qxe3+ 17 fxe3. However, the position looks unclear either way.] **11...Bf5** [This is natural too, but Black could have tried 11...Nxd5 thanks to the pin on the f3 pawn. For example, 12 Nxd5 Qxd5 13 Rd1 Qc6 14 Qxe5+ Be6 15 Qe4 Qxe4 16 fxe4 ∞] **12 O-O-O Be7** [12...h6 13 Bh4 Nd7 14 Bg3 Qc5 15 Ne4 Qxe3+ 16 fxe3 also looks okay for Black.] **13 f4** [I played this to rid myself of the doubled f-pawns. Using them to support a knight on e4 was also a thought.] **13...Nd7** [Black could also try 13...e4 14 Bxf6 Bxf6 15 Nxe4 Bxb2+! (I suspect we both missed this move) 16 Kxb2 Qb4+ 17 Kc1 Qxe4 18 Bf3 Qxe3+ 19 fxe3 with an unclear position.] **14 Bxe7 Qxe7 15 Rhg1!?** [I was trying to frighten him out of castling kingside while attacking the g7 pawn. However, since I can't really take g7 as long as ...Bg6 is possible in response, 15 fxe5 was probably a better choice. After 15...Qxe5 16 Qxe5+ Nxe5 the computer even wins a pawn by 17 Bxa6! thanks to the idea of Re1 and f4. White is slightly better here.] **15...O-O-O?** [So the idea worked! Amazingly, this is a game-losing blunder. Castling kingside was much safer despite the half-open g-file. For example, 15...O-O 16 fxe5 Qxe5 17 Qg5 Rfe8 18 f4 Qf6 19 d6 c6 20 h4 Rad8 and Black looks okay]



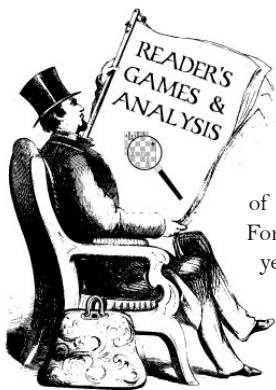
16 d6!! [Winning! White gives up the d5-pawn to clear that square for his knight. Black's forces are cut off from the defense of his king in the resulting position.] **16...cxd6** [Moving the queen isn't much of an improvement, eg 16...Qe6 17 Rxg7 Nb8 18 fxe5 cxd6 19 exd6 Qxe3+ 20 fxe3 Be6 21 Bg4 +-] **17 Nd5!** [Now the board is basically cut in half, with White's army attacking Black's king while the rest of Black's pieces are off on the other side. This reminded me of some Kasparov games with the same theme, though he often sacrificed much more spectacularly to get there!] **17...Qf8** **18 Bxa6?!** [This wins, but my original intention 18 Qa7 was much stronger. I couldn't find the right response to Be4 or Be6, when Black can take my knight on d5, but in fact 19 Qa8+ (19 Bxa6 is also good) 19...Nb8 20 Rg3 Bxd5 21 Rxd5 wins] **18...Nc5** [if 18...bxa6 19 Qa7 and Qc7mate next move.] **19 Bb5 e4** [19...exf4 was a better defense, but should not change the outcome of the game: 20 Qa3 Kb8 21 Nb6 (threatening Qa8+ and Nd5mate!) 21...d5 22 Qa8+ Kc7 23 Nxd5+ Rxd5 24 Qa5+ Kb8 25 Rxd5 etc.] **20 b4** [Dislodging the only piece effectively defending his king.] **20...Bd7** **21 Bxd7+ Nxd7** **22 Qc3+ Kb8** [I thought it was sporting of him to play out the end.] **23 Qc7+ Ka7** **24 Rg3** [revealing another advantage to having this rook on a half-open file!] **24...Nb8** **25 Ra3+** [25 Qb6+ Ka8 26 Nc7 would have been mate one move faster and made better use of that wonderful knight!] **25...Na6** **26 Rxa6+ Kxa6** **27 Qa5mate** 1-0 27 Qb6mate might have been more appropriate, using the Nd5 again!



Jared Defibaugh - Andrew Samuelson 2012 Northern Virginia Open Benoni

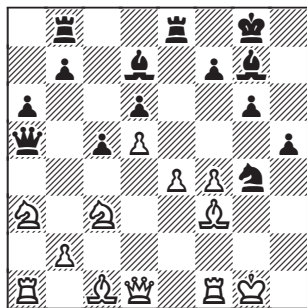
Notes by Andrew Samuelson

This game was played on board 2 in the 4th round of the Northern Virginia Open. (see VIRGINIA CHESS #2012/6, p 1) Both of us were 3-0 and the winner would have a shot at first place. For whatever reason, I've enjoyed a good score over the past few years against Jared. **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 g3** [White has many alternatives here, starting with 6 e4 or 6 Nf3. The fianchetto has often been chosen by strong positional players, as White's kingside and center tend to be more stable than in many other Benoni lines.] **6...g6 7 Bg2**



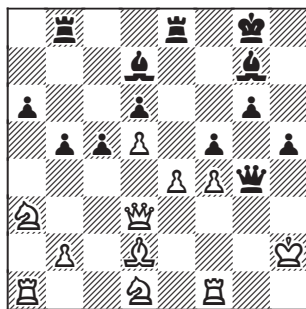


Bg7 8 Nf3 O-O 9 O-O a6 10 a4 Nbd7 11 Nd2 [This is the most popular and ambitious line. White will expand in the center and on the kingside. The main alternative, 11 Bf4, tends to lead to a somewhat quieter game.] **11...Re8 12 h3 Rb8 13 Nc4 Ne5** [Black has a significant alternative in 13...Nb6. Both moves lead to interesting games, but the text tend to be wilder as Black often winds up sacrificing the knight for pawns and play.] **14 Na3 Nh5 15 e4** [The battle of ideas between White's central expansion and Black's mobile queenside pawns gets underway.] **15...Bd7** [Black hereby traps his own knight on e5, but it's difficult for White to take it without giving some pawns and play in return.] **16 a5** [Trying to both slow Black's queenside and distract him from attacking the weakened White kingside. 16 f4 and 16 g4 have also been seen here, with a complicated game in any case, but the text is the most popular move.] **16...Qxa5 17 g4 Nf6 18 f4 Nexg4 19 hxg4 Nxg4 20 Bf3?** [The main line is 20 f5 h5 21 Bg5. Black has scored reasonably well there in practice, but at least White has counterplay based on attacking f7 or playing f5-f6 and trying to bury Black's dark-squared bishop.] **20...h5!** [Much better than moving the knight back to f6, as on g4 it controls e5 and e3, leaves the Bg7's long diagonal open, and helps to generate attacking chances on the kingside.]



21 Qd3? [Apparently the first new move of the game. I don't think it addresses the

needs of the position. White must get his kingside play going before Black's queenside pawns advance. However, White is probably already worse here even after the stronger move 21 Nc2, eg 21...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= but the text allows a tactic based on the awkward position of White's knights.] **22...Qd8?!** [The transfer of the queen to the kingside is thematic, but Black already has a direct tactical solution to win back the piece in 22...c4! 23 Qe2 b4.] **23 Nd1** [Taking on g4 isn't much of an improvement, eg 23 Bxg4 hxg4 24 Nd1 Qh4 -+] **23...Qh4 24 Bxg4 Qxg4+ 25 Kh2 f5?!** [Although demolishing White's center was tempting, this throws away much of Black's advantage. On the other hand, the winning line involves a rook sacrifice, so I feel like my choice was reasonable. After 25...Qh4+ 26 Kg2 Rxe4! 27 Qxe4 Bh3+ 28 Kf3 Bf5 Black's attack is so strong the computer recommends White play 29 Qxf5]



26 Bc3? [White collapses in time trouble. He could have tried to hang on by keeping the e-file closed: 26 e5 dxe5 27 Rg1 Qh4+ 28 Qh3 Qf6 (28...Qxh3+ is a much simpler path to retain an advantage) 29 Nf2 Rb6 30 Be3 Rd6 31 Rad1 exf4 32 Bxc5 g5 33 Bxd6 g4 34 Qxh5 Qxd6=] **26...Bh6 -+ 27 Bd2 Rxe4 28 Qg3 b4** [The tactical solution 28...Re2+! 29 Rf2 Rxd2! (this is the move I missed) 30 Qxg4 (or 30 Rxd2

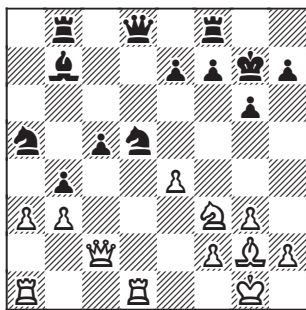


Bxf4) 30...Rxf2+ 31 Nxf2 fxg4 was even stronger. Black recovers the piece with four extra pawns and the bishop pair.] 29 Nb1 Bb5 30 Qxg4 [White made the time control (barely) but now there is no way to fix his position.] 30...hxg4 [30...fxg4 31 Rg1 Rbe8 32 Rg2 Bxf4+ was even stronger since it opens the file against the f4-pawn.] 31 Rf2 Rbe8 32 Kg3 Rd4 33 b3 Rxd5 34 Ra2 Rd3+ 35 Kg2 Rxb3 [This was hardly the only winning move, and maybe not even the strongest, but it creates quite a picture. Black still hasn't won back the sacrificed piece, but he has a bishop and six pawns for two knights, as well as an attack.] 0-1

Geoff McKenna - Christian Vogler DC Chess League 2013 King's Indian

Notes by Geoff McKenna

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 g6 3 Nf3 Bg7 4 g3 O-O 5 Bg2 d6 6 O-O a6 7 d4 Nc6 8 b3 Rb8 9 Bb2 b5 10 cxb5 axb5 11 d5 Na5 12 Qc2?! [Try a little randomness.] 12...b4 13 Ne4 Nxd5 14 Bxg7 Kxg7 15 Rfd1 Bb7 16 a3 c5 17 Nxc5 dxc5 18 e4



18...Qb6?! [I presume Black can consolidate here somehow, but there is a lot to keep track of.] 19 exd5 Rfd8 20 Ne5 f6 21 axb4 Qxb4 22 Nd3 Qxb3 23 Qxc5 Bxd5 24 Ne5 [The most visually appealing move I have made in a long time.] 24...Bf7 25 Rxd8 Rxd8 26 Nxf7 Rd1+ 27 Rxd1 Qxd1+ 28 Bf1 Nb3 29 Qxe7 Nd2 30

Nd6+ Kh6 31 Qe3+ Kg7 32 Qe7+ Kh6 33 Qe2 Nf3+ 34 Kh1 Qxe2 35 Bxe2 Nd4 36 Bc4 g5 37 Bd3 Kg7 38 Nf5+ 1-0

In VIRGINIA CHESS #2013/4 we reported that Quentin Moore won the 2013 Charlottesville Open with a clean sweep 5-0 score. It's worth noting that this excellent result also pushed his rating into the Master category. Now Quentin has provided notes to two of his games from that event, including the decisive last round encounter with top-seeded Adithya Balasubramanian where both players went in at 4-0.

Quentin Moore - Ruifeng Li 2013 Charlottesville Open Slav

Notes by Quentin Moore

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bf4 e6 5 c5 Nh5 [Black is able to trade a knight for a bishop, but has to move the knight many times in the opening.] 6 e3 Nxf4 7 exf4 Qc7 8 g3 Nd7 9 Bd3 Be7 10 Nf3 b6 11 b4 Bf6 12 Ne5 O-O 13 O-O a5 14 a3 g6 15 Qc2 Bg7 [The idea f6 followed by e5 causes problems for White.] 16 cxb6 Qxb6 17 Na4 [This tactic allows White to win the a-pawn, but the doubled pawns may be hard to hold.] 17...Qxd4 18 Nxc6 Qf6 19 bxa5 e5 [Breaking apart the center is Black's best option, since Black needs to be playing in the center or on the kingside.] 20 fxe5 Nxe5 21 Nxe5 Qxe5 22 Nb6 Rb8 23 Rac1 Bg4 24 Rfe1 Qd4 25 Be2 Be6 26 Bf3 Rfd8 27 Red1 Qe5 28 Qc7 [Logically, White would like to trade pieces and push the outside passed pawn.] 28...d4 29 Qxe5 Bxe5 30 Be4 Re8 31 Rc6 Re7 32 a6 Ra7 33 Bd3 Bc7 34 Rb1 Bd8 35 a4 Kg7 36 a5 Bf5 [This trade leaves Black with a weak pawn structure, but allows him to win the a-pawn.] 37 Bxf5 gxf5 38 Rd1 Rxa6 39



Rxd4 Rxa5 40 Nc4 Ra1+ 41 Kg2 Rc1 42 Rd7 Ra8 43 Rxf7+ [Now White is up a pawn again, and f5 is going to be hard for Black to defend.] 43...Kxf7 44 Ne5+ Kg7 45 Rxc1 Kf6 46 Nd3 Ra6 47 Kf3 Ra3 48 Rc6+ [Black's king is screened away from the f-pawn, and white will be able to win it.] 48...Kg7 49 Ke2 Ra2+ 50 Kf1 Bf6 51 Rc7+ Kh6 52 h4 [52 Rc5 was the correct move, winning a pawn.] 52...Ra6 53 Rc5 Bd4 54 Rxf5 [The rest of the endgame is pretty straightforward.] 54...Ra3 55 Ke2 Kg7 56 Rd5 Bf6 57 Nf4 Ba1 58 Nd3 Bf6 59 f4 h6 60 Kf3 Kf7 61 Ke4 Ra4+ 62 Ke3 Ke7 63 Rh5 Bg7 64 g4 Kf6 65 Rb5 Kf7 1-0 Both sides were under time pressure and the rest of the game was not recorded, but White went on to win by pushing his passed pawns

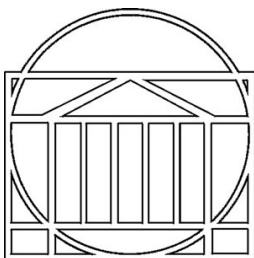
Quentin Moore -

Adithya Balasubramanian 2013 Charlottesville Open Grünfeld

Notes by Quentin Moore

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 cxd5 Nxd5 6 e4 Nxc3 7 bxc3 c5 8 Be3 Nc6 9 Bc4 O-O 10 O-O Bg4 [This pin forces White to recapture with the g-pawn, weakening his pawn structure.] 11 Rb1 Qc7 12 dxc5 [White gains a pawn but it will be hard to hold on to the material.] 12...Rad8 13 Qc2 Bxf3 14 gxf3 Be5 15 h3 e6 16 Rfd1 Bf4 [Black is pushing White around; 17...Bxe3 is threatened, and letting Black get his queen to f4 also is bad for White.]

17 Rxd8 Rxd8 18 Qc1 Be5 19 Qb2 Rd7 20 Qb3? [Black can now move back ...Bf4 and White's queen can no longer protect e3.] 20...Bf4 21 Qxb7 [The only option. This sacrifice allows White to play the endgame with the bishop pair and a couple pawns for the rook. However, White's pawn structure is awful.] 21...Qxb7 22 Rxb7 Rxb7 23 Bxf4 e5 [This move weakens Black's pawn structure.] 24 Be3 Kf8 25 Bd5 Rc7 [Now Black's position is becoming passive, giving White the advantage in the endgame.] 26 f4 f6 27 fxe5 Nxe5 28 f4 Nc6 29 Kf2 Ke7 30 Ke2 Kd7 31 Bd4 f5 32 e5 [White has two passed pawns but needs a way to activate the dark squared bishop in order to proceed.] 32...Nd8 33 Kd3 Ke7 34 Be3 Nc6 35 Kc4 a6 36 Bf2 Na5+ 37 Kb4 Nc6+ 38 Kc4 [This position is drawn if Black repeats.] 38...h6 39 h4 [39 Bh4+ fails to 39...g5 40 Bxc6 Rxc6 41 Kd5] 39...Rc8 40 Bd4 Na5+ 41 Kb4 Nc6+ 42 Kc4 Nd8 43 Kb4 Kd7 [Black allows White to win the a-pawn, thinking there is checkmate. However, this is not the case.] 44 Ka5 Nc6+ 45 Kxa6 Rb8 46 Bf7 Kc7 47 Bxg6 Ne7 48 Bh5 Nd5 49 e6? [49 Bf3 is correct. After the text Black has a draw.] 49...Kc6 50 Ka7 Rb7+ 51 Ka6 Rb8 52 Ka7 Rb7+ 53 Ka6 Rb2 54 Be8+ Kc7 55 a4 Kd8 56 Bb5 Nc7+ 57 Kb7 1-0 Now 57...Nxe6 fails to Bf6mate. Both sides were under time pressure so the rest of the game was not recorded, but after exchanging on b5 White had too many pawns for the lone rook to stop.



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