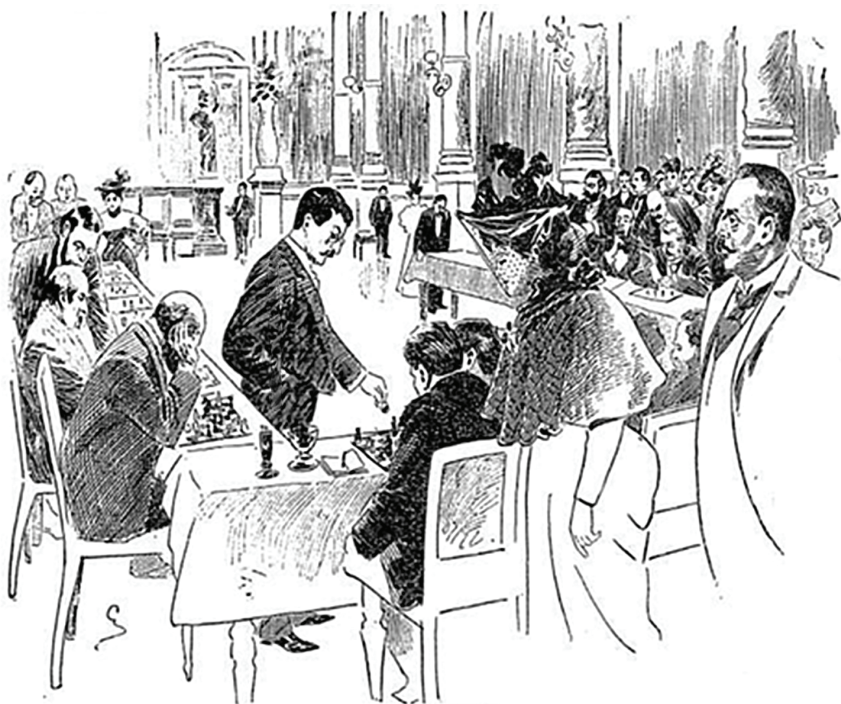


VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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2014 - #5



VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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2014 National Girls Invitational Tournament

Editor's Note: Jennifer Yu reports here on her success at the 2014 National Girls Invitational Tournament, but it turns out that was just a warm-up. At the 2014 World Youth Championships, in Durban, South Africa, Jennifer became world champion in the Girls' Under 12 division. We hope to have a report from Jennifer on this great achievement in our next issue.



Photo by Reint Dykema, reproduced from http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/at-12-ashburns-jennifer-yu-wins-world-chess-title-first-us-girl-to-do-so-in-27-years/2014/10/12/920fd028-5025-11e4-8c24-487e92bc997b_story.html

by Jennifer Yu

The **National Girls Invitational Tournament** is a very interesting and unpredictable event with ups and downs for everyone. I was thrilled when I won this year's tournament on tiebreaks although I had lost the last round. I annotated two of my games.

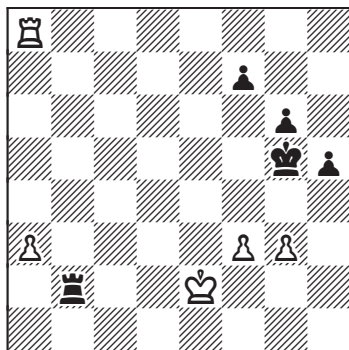
Evan Xiang - Jennifer Yu

London

1 d4 d5 2 Bf4 Nf6 3 Nf3 c5 4 c3 e6 5 e3 Nc6 6 Nbd2 Bd6 7 Ne5 Qc7 8 Bb5 O-O 9 Ndf3 Nd7 [I missed this interesting plan. 9...cxd4 10 exd4 (10 cxd4? Qa5+ White loses this bishop) 10...Ne4 11 Bg3 (11 O-O f6 12 Nxc6 Bxf4) 11...



Ne7 12 Bd3 Nf5 13 O-O f6] 10 Bd3 h6 [if 10...Bxe5 11 Nxe5 Nxe5 12 dxe5 Nxe5 then White gets the pawn back, 13 Bxh7+ Kxh7 14 Qh5+ Kg8 15 Bxe5] 11 Nxd7 Bxd7 12 Bg3 cxd4 13 exd4 e5 [trying to open up the position] 14 dxe5 Nxe5 15 Nxe5 Bxe5 16 O-O Bxg3 17 hxg3 Rad8 18 Qf3 Bc6 19 Qf5 [Even though this move looks threatening, it doesn't really do anything because the dark squares, although weakened, are all defended.] 19...g6 20 Qg4 d4 21 Rac1 [if 21 cxd4 h5 22 Qh4 Qb6 White can't keep the extra pawn and Black gets an active position] 21...dxc3 22 Rxc3 Qe5 23 Bc4 Kg7 24 Rc2 Rd4 25 Qe2 Qxe2 26 Bxe2 Rfd8 27 Bf3 Bxf3 28 gxf3 a5 29 Rc7 b6 30 Rc6 R8d6 31 Rfc1 Rxc6 32 Rxc6 b5 33 Rc5 Rb4 34 b3 a4 35 bxa4 bxa4 36 Ra5 Kf6 37 a3 Rc4 38 Kf1 h5 39 Ke2 Rc2+ 40 Ke1 Rc3 41 Rxa4 Rxf3 42 Ke2 Rb3 43 Ra8 Kg5 44 f3 Rb2+ (diagram) 45 Ke3? [This was a mistake because it gives me a chance to play ...Rg2 and after this I am just winning] 45...Rg2 46 g4 hxg4 47 f4+ Kf6 48 Ra6+ Kg7 49 a4 Ra2 50 Ra5 f5 51 Ra8 g3 52 Rd8 g2 53 Rd1 Rxa4 54 Rg1 Ra2 55 Kf3 Kf6 56 Re1 Kg7 57 Kg3 Kh6 58 Rg1 Kh5 59 Re1 Ra6 60 Rg1 Ra2 61 Re1 Ra4 0-1

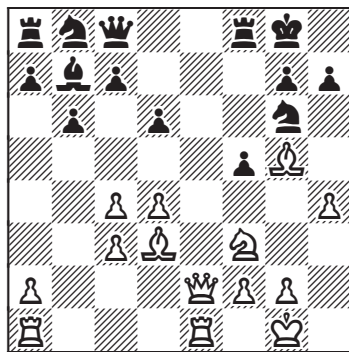


Jennifer Yu - Lilia Poteat English

1 c4 e6 2 Nc3 Bb4 [None of my opponents have played this before so I made my own plan out of book.] 3 e4 Ne7 4 d4 O-O 5 Nf3 f5 6 Bd3 b6 7 O-O Bxc3 [probably to weaken my control on the e4 square] 8 bxc3 Bb7 9 Qe2 Ng6 10 Bg5 Qc8 [My position is simply better because Black is not fully developed, isn't active, and now the queen is placed badly. 10...Qe8 was more active than the move played in the game but then 11 exf5 exf5 12 Qxe8 Rxe8 13 Bxf5 would win a pawn.] 11 exf5 exf5 12 Rfe1 [tying Black down so there would be no ...Re8 tricks] 12...d6 13 Nh4

This loses a little bit of my advantage compared to 13 h4!

That would have either won material right away or forced an advantageous position by driving the knight to h8 by h5 and penetrating into e7. For instance, 13...h6 (Trying to force the bishop away but White can still play h5 anyway; if instead 13...Nd7 14 h5 Nh8 15 Be7 Re8 (15...



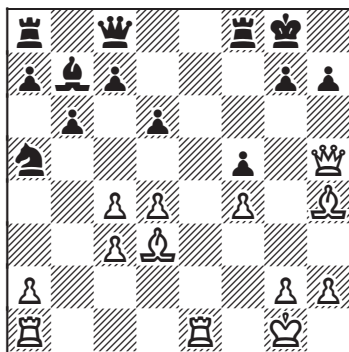
13 h4!



Rf7 16 Ng5) 16 Bxf5; or if 13...Rf7 to give the knight a better square on f8, 14 h5 Nf8 15 h6 Ng6 16 hxg7 Kxg7 17 Qe3 with penetration into the dark squares around Black's king) 14 h5! Nh8 (14...hxg5 15 hxg6 g4 16 Ng5 is no better) 15 Be7 Rf7 (15...Re8 16 Nh4 Nf7 17 Bxf5 Nd7 18 Qg4 winning the knight with a crushing advantage) 16 c5 (clearing c4 for White's bishop) 16...dxc5 (if 16...d5 17 Bh4 clearing the e-file and making things like Ne5 possible in certain variations, eg 17...bxc5 18 Ne5 Rf8 19 Qf3—White is down a pawn but Black cannot do much to improve her position so White has a huge advantage nonetheless) 17 Bc4 Nc6 18 dxc5 Nxe7 19 Qxe7 etc.

13...Nxh4 14 Bxh4 Nc6 [developing the knight and possibly preparing to attack c4 with ...Na5/...Ba6] **15 f4** [preparing to play d5 where Black will not the reply ...Ne5] **15...Na5 16 Qh5** (diagram)

16...g6 [Weakens the dark squares but if, eg, 16...c5 17 g4 cxd4 18 cxd4 Be4 I would have 19 Rxe4! fxe4 20 Bxe4—threatening to take the exchange back and also mate—20...g6 21 Qg5 threatening Bd5+ followed by Qf6 if the king goes to h8 or Qe7 if it goes to g7] **17 Qg5 Re8** [This is a blunder but I didn't catch it.] **18 Re7?** [The right way was 18 Rxe8+ Qxe8 19 Re1 (19 Bxf5 is also good, simply taking a pawn) 19...Qf8 20 Re7, eg 20...Re8 (20...Rc8) 21 Rxc7 Be4 22 Bf1 d5 23 cxd5 Bxd5 24 Rxa7 Bxa2 25 Bb5] **18...Rxe7**



threatening g4!

[if 18...Nc6 19 Rxe8+ Qxe8 20 Bxf5 wins a pawn and then if 20...Qe3+ and ... Qxc3 White will have Be6+ at the end] **19 Qxe7 Qe8** [if 19...Nc6 20 Qg5 Qf8 21 d5 Nd8 22 Re1 with a seventh rank invasion] **20 Re1 Qxe7 21 Rxe7** [Once the rook penetrates the 7th rank I am simply winning] **21...Ba6 22 Rxc7 d5 23 Bf6 Bxc4 24 Bxc4 Nxc4 25 Rg7+ Kf8 26 Rxh7 Re8 27 Be5 a5 28 Rd7 g5 29 Rxd5 g4 30 Kf2 Kf7 31 Rd7+ Ke6 32 Rc7 Kd5 33 Rf7 1-0**



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Reflections Reflections

LOOKING BACK ON AN AMATEUR CHESS "CAREER"

by Mark Wariner

What Could Have Been...

WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE, and many times. You have a much stronger player on the ropes, and just need to find the right continuation to finish them off. Only you don't. And you lose. It aggravates you for the rest of your life. It's happened so many times to me that it's a wonder I continued playing chess as long as I did. Research has shown that the pain of losing hurts more than the thrill of winning. It's a wonder any of us keep playing. But we keep going back for more, especially if we like chess enough to buy books, DVD's, software, computers, too many sets of pieces, too many boards, too many clocks, and subscribe to assorted magazines and online services. And write articles.

There are a few games that particularly stick in my craw. Maybe if I write about them it will help get them unstuck, but I rather doubt it. The first one that happened of note was against Ruth Donnelly. Older players like me (I'll be eligible to play in the VA Seniors Ch. soon—yikes!) will remember Ruth from the latter 20th century. For years she was the strongest woman chess player in Virginia. She



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even played in the US Women's Championship. I was still in my provisional rating period when I played her, just my ninth rated game, in the first round of the 1984 Virginia "Closed" State Championship. A couple of funny things about this game come to mind. I was suffering from a terrible allergy attack. This was back when smoking was allowed, and I'm allergic. Right up until I missed the winning idea, it kept getting worse: runny nose, sneezing, wheezing, eyes watering, coughing, the works. I knew my symptoms disturbing my opponent and other players, so I went to the bathroom to take an antihistamine, although "non-drowsy" formulations didn't exist then. These days I'd probably be disqualified for taking a "performance enhancing drug." Anyway, I came back about 15 minutes later feeling much better. Except that my play went in the toilet as the drug kicked in and made me sleepy. No runny nose, no cough, no bothering anybody—and no game. Not that I really had any idea of what in the world I was doing anyway.

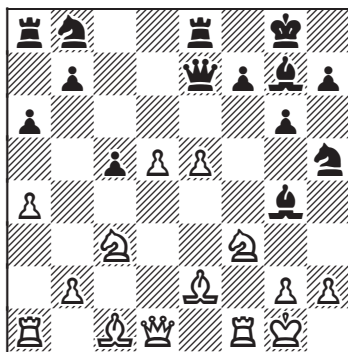
Mark Warriner - Ruth Donnelly
1984 Virginia Closed
Benoni

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f4 O-O 6 Nf3 c5 7 d5 e6 8 Be2 exd5 9 cxd5 [So far, so good. Plenty of strong grandmasters play this line on both sides.] **9...Re8 10 Qc2** [Not so hot. Chessbase's online database shows no GMs playing this move, and Stockfish 5 indicates a plus for Black after 10...Nxe4 11 Nxe4 Bf5 12 Nfd2 Qe7 13 Bxf3 Bxe4 14 Nxe4 f5 etc. I certainly wouldn't like that mess.] **10...a6 11 a4 Qe7** [11...Nxe4 would have been still better; it was somewhere around here that the antihistamine was taken.] **12 e5 Nh5 13 O-O Bf5 14 Qd1 dxe5?** [Oops. Either 14...Bg4 or 14...Nd7 were better. Now Black has a serious problem.] **15 fxe5 Bg4** [Too late now. Again 15...Nd7 was necessary, or even 15...Bxe5.]

(diagram)

So now I missed my big chance. Actually, the move I played isn't a lemon, but there was a better plan.

16 Bg5 [16 d6 threatens Nd5 next and then Nc7 or Nb6, depending on where the Queen goes, winning an exchange.] **16...f6 17 Bc4** [Black missed 17 d6, but so did I!] **17...Kh8**



18 exf6 [18 d6 isn't effective now as Black wriggles out with something like 18... Qd7 19 Nd5 Bxf3 20 Qxf3 fxg5 21 Nb6 g4 22 Qd5 Qd8 23 Qxb7 Qg5 24 Qf7 Nc6 25 Nxa8 Rxa8] **18...Bxf6 19 Bxf6+** [Last chance for any plus now was—you guessed it—19 d6. After the text White is just equal.] **19...Qxf6 20 Qd2 Nd7** [20...Bxf3 was better. The text gives White another shot at life, but after



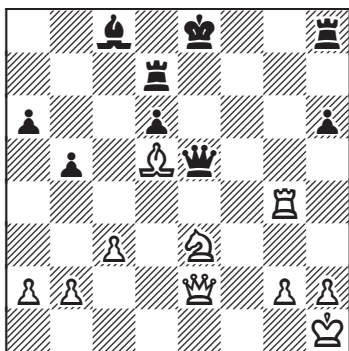
realizing that d6 should have been played, I let my guard down and got dejected, which always hurts one's play.] **21 Ng5 Qd4+ 22 Qxd4+ cxd4 23 Nce4 Ne5 24 Nd6** [24 Bb3 would have maintained a slight plus.] **24...Nxc4 25 Nxe8** [Here my inexperience kicked into high gear. The rest of the game is indicative of the thinking of a player still in his "provisional period," unable to execute even basic calculations or positional assessments.] **25...Rxe8 26 Rf7 Nd6 27 Rxh7+ Kg8 28 Rf1 Re5 29 h3 Rxg5 30 hxg4 Kxh7 31 gxh5 Rxh5 32 Rf6 Rxd5 33 Rf1 d3 34 Rd1 d2 35 Kf2 Nc4 36 Ke2 Nxb2 37 Rxd2 Rxd2+ 38 Kxd2 Nxa4 0-1**

At one point during the game, before I went cliff-diving, Dr Errol Leibowitz, a strong player over-the board and also at correspondence chess, came over and was trying to figure out who the heck was this new kid (I was 17 at the time) with a provisional rating apparently about to beat Ruth Donnelly—over a 700 rating point upset. Well, that didn't happen, and it would be years before I gave him (or anyone else) another reason to look at "the kid"—at Errol's correspondence chess, as it happened, which in 1984 I viewed as an obscure and mysterious practice only of Masters.

ANOTHER GAME that keeps me wondering "what if" was versus New Jersey master Steve Stokyo. He was the strongest opponent I'd played to that date, about 2350 at the time, and I was determined to try and get him despite a 500 rating point difference. Funny thing is, I almost did. But "almost" doesn't cut it...

Steve Stokyo - Mark Warriner
1991 Virginia Open
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Na3 b5 9 Nd5 Be7 10 Bxf6 gxf6 [10...Bxf6 is correct] **11 c3 f5 12 Qh5** [But this gives Black a lot of play, allowing 12...fxe4; 12 Bd3 was better.] **12...Be6** [After this unfortunate mistake, White is back in the game again and Black drifts aimlessly for several moves.] **13 Bd3 Bf8 14 Nc2 Bg7 15 Nce3 fxe4 16 Bxe4 Rb8 17 O-O Ne7 18 Rad1 h6 19 Nxe7 Qxe7 20 Bc6+ Kf8 21 Bd5 Rd8 22 Kh1** [Unfocused; 22 Bxe6 Qxe6 23 Nd5 keeps posing Black serious problems.] **22...Qg5 23 Qe2 Bc8 24 f4** [Not an out-and-out blunder, but it allows Black more play and requires greater precision from me in pursuing the attack. Just 24 a4 or 24 c4 would have exposed Black's queenside issues. I was desperately short of time and I think he may have been considering the flag situation.] **24...exf4 25 Rxf4 Qxf4 26 Rf1 Qe5 27 Rxf7+ Ke8 28 Rxg7** [Now a blunder. After the required 28 Rf4! Black could defend the threats only by the pitiful 28...Rd7 29 Re4 Re7 30 Rxe5 Rxe5] **28...Rd7 29 Rg4** [Better chances lay in 29 Bc6 Kd8 30 Bxd7 Qxg7 31 Bxc8 Kxc8, whereas after the text Black would have been for choice with 29...Re7 and Black's for choice.]



So here I sat with a potentially winning position and only a single problem between me and victory: I had less than two minutes for the next 11 moves to make the time control. *Mmmmm, yeeaaahhh...* I crumbed faster than a dry cookie without a glass of milk.

29...Kd8 [letting slip the one shot at victory]
30 Re4 Qg5 31 h4 Qg7 [letting slip the draw that could have been held by 31...Qf6] **32 Be6 Re7** [32...Bb7 would have at least kept Black in the game. Now it's just a massacre.] **33 Nf5**

Qf6 34 Nxe7 Bxe6 35 Rxe6 Qxh4+ 36 Kg1 Rf8 37 Ng6 Rf7 38 Nxh4 1-0

SO I HAD TO CRY in my soup. Again. And it wouldn't be the last time. The last stinging slip-up that I'll present here happened against Craig Jones. He was also rated around 2300, and I tried to get him too. But these darn masters are slippery characters. You have got to nail them or they just wriggle loose and bite you back.

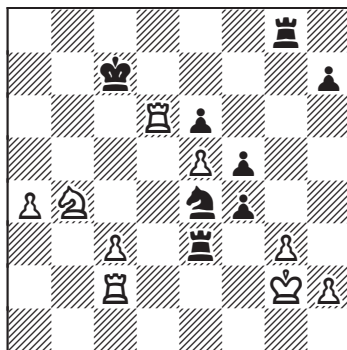
Mark Warriner – Craig Jones 1991 Charlottesville Open Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Qb6 4 Qe2 [Unusual but certainly playable. I was trying to get him out of 'book' ASAP.] **4...e6 5 O-O Nge7 6 Na3** [With the idea of 7 Nc4 Qxb5 8 Nd6+ forking king and queen. Sadly, masters don't fall for such things.] **6...Ng6 7 e5** [Curiously, 7 Nc4 still works! Then if 7...Qxb5 8 Nd6+ Bxd6?? 9 Qxb5. But I never even considered it. Instead I begin 'amateur drifting' ie, operating without a plan.] **7...a6 8 Bxc6 Qxc6 9 Re1 b5 10 d3 Bb7 11 Qe4 d5 12 exd6 Bxd6 13 Qxc6+ Bxc6 14 Ng5 O-O 15 Ne4 Bxe4 16 dxe4 c4 17 Nb1 Rfd8 18 Be3 Be5** [Without going too far down a rabbit hole, this position is one of those funny "critical moments" things go better for White if he plays the optically displeasing 19 Nc3. I leave it to you to work that out, with or without a silicon friend.] **19 c3 Bf4 20 Bxf4 Nxf4 21 g3 Nd3 22 Re2** [Here Black just needs to squeeze a while, but instead we both get a little knight 'hoppy'.] **22...Ne5 23 Na3 Rd3 24 Nc2 a5 25 Nd4 b4 26 f4 bxc3 27 bxc3 Nd7 28 Nb5** [I was worried about holding onto the c-pawn, but it was better to pay attention to positional considerations by either 28 e5 or 28 Rb1. I surprise myself looking back on this now, as it seems so obvious.] **28...Nc5** [Just so, Black misses the opportunity. Either 28...e5 or 28...Rb8 directly show what White should have done. Now 29 Rc1 would pose Black a tough nut to crack, but White blunders on.] **29 a4 Rb8 30 e5 Kf8 31 Kg2 Ke7 32 Rc2 f5 33 Nd6 g5** [Probably not a good idea in view of just 34 fxg5. Instead I got greedy—



and it almost paid off.】 34 Nxc4 gxf4 35 Nxa5 Rg8 36 Nc6+ Kd7 37 Nb4 Re3 38 Rd1+ [It would have been better to start advancing the a-pawn.] 38...Kc7 39 Rd6 Ne4 (diagram)

40 Na6+ [It's probably still is only a draw, but White was pressing. 40 Rxe6 f3+ 41 Kf1 Rd8 42 Rd6 Nxd6 43 Nd5+ Kc6 44 Nxe3 Ne4 45 Ke1 Rb8 46 Kd1 f2 47 a5 Rb1+ 48 Rc1 Rb2 49 Rc2 is a fanciful drawing line.] 40...Kb7 41 Rb2+ Ka7 [And here my nerves broke badly. I'd made time control but didn't even realize it.] 42 Rd7+ Kxa6 43 Rbb7 f3+ 0-1



Emporia Open



Former state champion Daniel Miller swept to 1st place at the 2014 Emporia Open, held Oct 25-26, with a perfect 5-0 score. Class A player Dexter Wright scored 4-1 to claim a surprising undivided second. A logjam at 3 ½ saw Praveen Sanjay, Raymond Fletcher, Isaac Steincamp, Keith Carson & Lucas Revellon tie for 3rd.

Four players shared the under 1700 prize: Avijith Rajan, Joe Faries, Raponyer McClaine & Srinii Aiyyer. Nick Failon rounded out the prizewinners as top under 1200.

A total of 33 players participated. Mike Hoffpauire directed on behalf of the VCF. Next year's Emporia Open is already set for the same venue (Holiday Inn Express, Emporia) October 24-25, 2015.

Forty-two years after their previous rated game, Geoff McKenna and Sal Rosario play a rematch in the decisive round of the Summer 2014 season of the DC Chess League—see Readers' Games & Analysis starting on the opposite page.





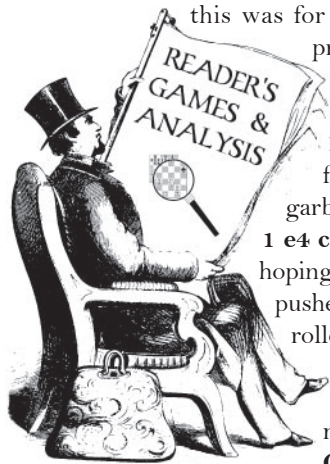
Geoff McKenna - Sal Rosario

DC Chess League 2014

Sicilian

Notes by Geoff McKenna

This game is remarkable for a couple of reasons. For one thing, Sal and I last played a rated game 42 years ago; we were wondering if this was a record. Also,



this was for the DC League summer championship, so the prevailing mood was kind of like when they shut down traffic in Moscow to accommodate chess fans during the Kotov-Botvinnik face-off at the 1940 Soviet Championship. Finally, the game featured an unusual zugzwang. I think I may have garbled move 50, but by that point the issue is decided.

1 e4 c5 2 c3 Nf6 3 e5 Nd5 4 Nf3 e6 5 Bc4 d6 [I was hoping for the lines where Black plays a quick ...Nb6 and pushes his c-pawn, when it looks like White is getting rolled but matters are not so clear.] 6 d4 cxd4 7 Bxd5

[I used a ton of time around here trying to find an unusual plan. In the end I settled for the quirky, modest text.] 7...exd5 8 Qxd4 Be6 9 O-O Nc6 10

Qa4 dxe5 11 Nxe5 Bd6!? 12 Nxc6 Qd7 [I had

been counting on playing 13 Qd4 bxc6 14 Qxg7 now, but then

Black castles queenside and punches back on the g-file. Concluding that my real problem was the clump of dark matter clustered around d6, I try to chip away at his central mass.] 13 c4 Qxc6 [Maybe 13...d4 refutes but it's complicated.] 14 Qxc6+

bxc6 15 cxd5 Bxd5 [15...cxd5 is a reasonable alternative] 16 Nc3 Be6 17 Rd1 Be7

18 Bf4 O-O 19 Bd6 Bxd6 20 Rxd6 c5 [I was content here. Black has two weak pawns on the queenside and White is in position to harass them.] 21 b3 Rab8?

[allowing White to gain a little time] 22 Ra6! Rb7 23 Ne4 Rc7 24 Rc1 Rd8 25

f3 Rd5 26 Ra5 c4 27 Rxd5 Bxd5 28 Nd6 Kf8 [Black's enthusiasm waned for the prospect 28...c3 29 Nb5] 29 Nxc4 Ke7 30 Kf2 h5!? 31 Rc2?! [Probably it would

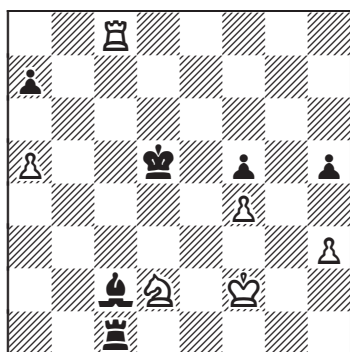
be better to play 31 h4] 31...g5 32 Re2+ Be6 33 h4 [I was very concerned about the possibility of ...h4 followed by some later assault on h3 by the bishop.] 33...gxh4

34 Re4 Rd7 35 Ke3 h3 36 gxh3 Rd1!? [I thought Black had done a good job of activating.] 37 Rh4 Ra1 38 a4 [I this move struck me as somewhat miraculous; it

looks so flimsy but it's hard to refute.] 38...Rb1 39 Nd2 [with the point that if 39... Rb2 40 Rxh5 Bxb3 there is 41 Rb5] 39...Re1+ 40 Kd4!? Rd1 41 Kd3! Bxb3 42

Ke2! Bc2 43 Rc4 [This better work, or I'll be stuck with the inferior minor piece.] 43...Rc1 44 Kf2 [So Black is in a bind, and barring a miracle involving Rc1-h1-h3

White should eventually win material. But White has to be careful to avoid things like 44 Nf1 Rxh1 45 Kxf1 Bd3+] 44...f5?! 45 f4 Kd6 46 Rc8 Kd5 47 a5



Zugzwang

If...Kd4 then Nb3+

47...Kd6 48 Nf1 Rxf1+ [else 49 Ne3] 49 Kxf1 Be4 [49...Bd3+ and...h4 might be a better try, but Black is losing.] 50 h4 Kd7 51 Rc5 Kd6 52 Re5 Bd3+ 53 Kf2 Be4 54 Ke3 1-0

Boris Zisman-Lew Hucks
Maryland Chess League
Nimzoindian

Notes by Steve Mayer



It's easy to forget that chess was once thought of as an old person's game. Here we indeed see two old-timers puzzling out complex positions, but let me tell you a bit of background about these players. White emigrated from the old Soviet Union to the United States many, many years before the Berlin Wall came down. He holds the title of FIDE Master and it's richly deserved! Zisman was born in 1941 and never picked up lot of English, but you could tell his great love of chess by his frequent play!

The origin and even the exact meaning of the name "Zisman" is a matter of dispute among those who research such things, but the interpretation I like best when it pertains to such a player is *one who strives for glorify*. Boris has always been a terrific endgame player who loves positions where he can grab space and choke his opponent to death. I only played him once, at the 1992 DC Open, and he tried exactly that on me in a Maroczy Bind Sicilian. It was one of the toughest and most exciting games of my life! I established a Petrosian-like wall of pawns across the third rank, with one of my knights oddly stationed on f7. As the first time control approached, I was able to break out with great force by playing ... f6-f5. All my pieces sprang to life and I managed to win in a pretty attack, but in fact it was a glorious game for us both.

I've known the player of the Black pieces forever, but only played him twice. Lew hucks, born in 1933, loves a good tactical slugfest! As this game proves, he can still make the pieces 'dance' in most extraordinary ways. Lew once told me that he didn't really become a good payer until 1959—and by then he'd already gone



through the Great Depression, World War II, Korea, getting married, and raising a family. All by the ripe ‘old age’ of 28. In 1964 he smashed Bobby Fischer in under 30 moves during the legend’s great nationwide simul tour.

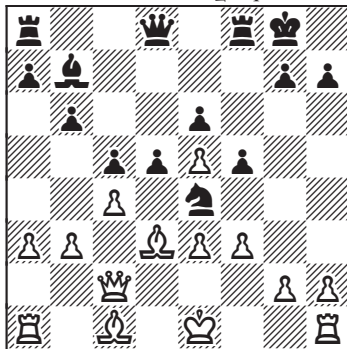
His county accent notwithstanding, Lew grew up in Maryland. He’s a renowned authority in the field metals, particularly steel. His technical writings on the subject have been translated into nearly 20 languages. And when it comes to languages, he taught himself to read and speak Russian, which is notoriously difficult for English-speaking adults. He reads the great Russian novelists (Tolstoy, *et al*) in the original!

My chess record with Lew? A loss—I made a silly transposition error in the midst of an exchanging combo that I thought should come out even, but an ‘in-between move’ cost me a pawn—and a tough draw, where I definitely had the edge but the game burned out to a draw in less than 40 moves.

My thanks go to Lew, who graciously provided the score.

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Qc2 c5 5 Nf3?! [5 dxc5 Na6! was introduced by Ilya Kan according to Botvinnik, who awarded the move an exclamation mark and considered it best.] 5...O-O!? [Immediately hammering at d4 with 5...cxd4! 6 Nxd4 Nc6! is stronger. If then 7 Nxc6 bxc6 favors Black thanks to his more flexible development and pawn center.] 6 e3 d6 7 Be2 Nc6 8 a3?! [Not a disaster, but Zisman should have played the safer 8 O-O when White still has the slight “the advantage of the first move.”] 8...Bxc3+ 9 Qxc3 Ne4 10 Qc2 f5 [My own private name for the type of central grip is “the pigeon-chested center.” Black’s four central pawns are all ‘alive’. A born attacker like Hucks loves this kind of dynamic potential!] 11 b3!? [Perhaps Zisman loses the thread of the game hereabouts. Objectively, he still had an acceptable position after 11 O-O, as the Bc1 could be very strong once the game opens up, but it looks as if he couldn’t decide where his king should go.] 11...b6 12 Bd3 d5 13 Ne5?! [A positional mistake such as often occurs in the Stonewall Dutch. Now Black can seal the hole at e5 and make it difficult for the Bc1 to break loose on the long diagonal.] 13...Nxe5 [13...Bb7 would also favor Black, as he’s better developed and has more than his fair share of the center.] 14 dxe5 Bb7 15 f3? (diagram) Ng5?

Both players either overlooked or disdained 15...Qh4+ 16 g3 Nxc3, but maybe the wisdom of age was a factor—the variations are something else after 17 Qf2! Black should continue 17...f4 (bolting the Ng3 in place) and then:



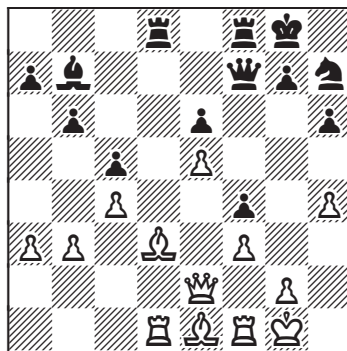


i) 18 cxd5?—definitely inferior, but tempting!—18...Qh3! 19 Rg1 Nf5! 20 Bxf5 Qxf5! 21 d6 Qd3! with an inferno of an attack;

ii) 18 exf4 Nf5! 19 Bxf5 Qxf2+ 20 Kxf2 Rxf5 21 a4 a5! (21...d4?! 22 a5 Raf8 23 axb6 axb6 24 Ra7 Rf7 is not as good) with an enduring advantage, although in practice White's position is a tough nut to crack.

16 O-O d4! 17 Bd2 dxe3 18 Bxe3 f4 19 Bf2? [Zisman has always been an excellent technical and endgame player, but he dislikes complicated and messy positions. In this one he missed the far superior 19 Rad1! fxe3! (19...Nh3+? is natural but bad: 20 Kh1 Qh4 21 Bc1! Ng5 22 Qf2 Qh6 23 b4 Rac8 24.Bb2 and the once promising attack has been repelled) 20 Bxh7+ Nxh7 21 Rxd8 Rfxd8 22 Re1 Rd2 23 Qg6 Nf8 24 Qg5 Rad8 25 Rxe3 Rsd4 26 h4! Ra2! 27 h5 Kf7! resulting in a lurid mess of a position where Black is at least holding his own.] **19...h6?** [Now it was Hucks' turn to miss the best move. Black could have won with the destructive and thematic 19...Nxf3+! 20 gxf3 Qg5+ 21 Bg3 fxg3 22 Bxh7+ Kh8 23 Be4 Qe3+ 24 Kh1 Rad8 25 Rad1 Bxe4 26 Qxe4 Qh6] **20 Rad1 Qc7 21 Qe2 Rad8 22 Be1 Qf7?** [22...Qe7! is a bit better, as after 23 Bc2 the Qe7 is closer to both kings] **23 h4!** [This very gutsy move should win, though the variations are astonishing!] **23...Nh7** [23...Nxf3+? loses after 24 gxf3 Qh5 25 Bc2!] (diagram)

24 Bf2?! [It would probably take a strong, tactically-inclined grandmaster to discover the wonderous 24 Qc2 g5! 25 Rf2! Qg7! 26 Rfd2! Rd7 27 Bf5!—analysis engines are something, aren't they? After 27...Re7 28 Bg4 gxh4 29 Bxh4 Ng5 30 Re1 Ree8 31 Kf1 Black's counterplay is finally snuffed out and White should win with continued precise play.] **24...g5! 25 Bc2?!** [This is inaccurate as now Boris can't setup a Qc2-Bb1 battery as he could after 25 Bb1! eg, 25...Qe7 26 Qc2 Qg7 27 h5! (27 Rd6! Rxd6 28 exd6 g4 29 Qxh7+ Qxh7 30 Bxh7+ Kxh7 31 fxg4 Rd8 32 Rd1 Kg6 33 b4! cxb4 34 axb4 e5! 35 c5 bxc5 36 bxc5 Kf7 37 g3) 27...g4! 28 fxg4 Ng5 29 Qg6!±] **25...gxh4 26 Bxh4 Ng5 27 Kf2?!** [Occupying the outpost on the open d-file with 27 Rd6! is also strong.] **27...Qg7 Qe7 28 Rfe1 Bxf3 28 Rfe1?** [28 Rh1! would help suppress Hucks' counterplay. White still has lots of "positional advantages" but the position is so messy that anything could happen.] **28...Bxf3!!** [Normally I would only give this pseudo sacrifice a single exclamation mark, but I love the way it smashes an apparently well constructed defense to pieces as 29 gxf3 loses to the sweet 29...Nh3+ 30 Kf1 Qg1 mate] **29 Qf1 Bxd1 30 Bxd1 Rd2+ 31 Be2 f3 0-1** An extraordinary effort that shows two true masters of chess in a favorable light, despite some oversights. After all, between them they've been around over 150 years!

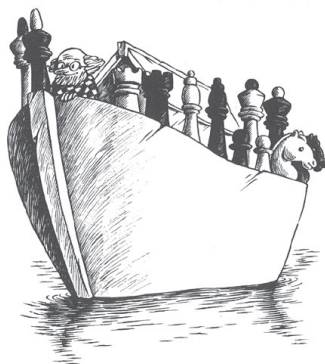




Andrew Rea - Justin Lohr
 Charlottesville Open 2014
 Queen's Pawn Game

Notes by Justin Lohr

This is my last round game from the recent Charlottesville Open. {*The Charlottesville Open was played in July; Justin won clear 1st place with a 4-1 score. —ed*} **1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 Bg4 4 h3 Bxf3** [This removes a defender of e5 and misplaces the white queen.] **5 Qxf3 Nbd7 6 c4 e5 7 cxd5 Bb4+** [I will need to castle soon as the center is going, so this check lets me do that, while continuing with my plan.] **8 Bd2 Bxd2+ 9 Nxd2 exd4 10 e4 Qe7 11 Rc1 Nxd5 12 Bb5** [if 12 Be2 Ne5 13 Qg3 Nf6 14 Qxg7 Rg8 15 Qh6 Rxg2 White's king would have nowhere to run and the center is unstable.] **12...c6 13 O-O Nc7 14 Bc4 Ne5 15 Qg3 O-O-O** [The queenside is safer than the kingside.] **16 Rfd1** [Taking on g7 only leads to an attack on White's king.] **16...g6 17 Nb3 Nxc4 18 Rxc4** [I had wanted to maintain my good knight on e5 and keep my position stable, but my opponent wisely chose to open things up to give himself a fighting chance.] **18...Qxe4 19 Rcxd4 Qe7 20 Rxd8+ Rxd8 21 Qg4+ f5 22 Rxd8+ Qxd8 23 Qe2 Qe8 24 Qd2 Qd7 25 Qe3 b6 26 Nd2** [This is too slow. It has basically just gives me a free move since the knight was safer on b3.] **26...Qe6 27 Qf3 Qe1+ 28 Nf1 Kb7 29 h4 Ne6 30 Qd3 Nc5 31 Qd4 Ne4 32 h5 b5** [I want to play ...c5 but I need to give my king somewhere to run so that it isn't perpetual check.] **33 hxg6 hxg6 34 b4 Ka6** [This looks odd but it prevents ...Qd7, where I could take on f2 then bring my queen back to b6.] **35 a3 c5 36 bxc5 Qc3 37 Qxc3 Nxc3 38 Nd2 Kb7 39 g4 Kc6 40 gxf5 gxf5 41 Nb3 Nb1 42 Kf1** [This move attempts to bring the king into play, but it is already to late.] **42...Nxa3 43 Ke2 Nc4 44 Kd3 a5** [Get those pawns rolling!] **45 Nd4+ Kxc5 46 Nxf5 a4 47 Kc2 b4 48 f4 b3+ 49 Kb1 a3 50 Ng3** [Now I can force promotion in three moves.] **50...Nd2+ 51 Kc1 b2+ 52 Kxd2 b1Q 0-1** I really liked this game as I felt it was a 'clean' win, without any major blunders on my part. I also appreciated my opponent's fighting spirit. If I had been playing White's position, I feel I would probably have cracked much sooner than he did.



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In This Issue:

Jennifer Yu at the National Girls Invitational...	1
Mark Warriner Reflections	4
Emporia Open.....	8
Readers' Games & Analysis	9
VCF Info	<i>inside front cover</i>

