

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2015 - #2



Michael "King Philidor" Callaham and the Richmond Chess Initiative —see p 16

VIRGINIA CHESS

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2015 - Issue #2

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2015 Virginia Open

by Andrew Rea

THE 47th Virginia Open was held March 20-22 and won—again!—by IM Tegshsuren Enkhbat. It was the Marylander's fourth consecutive title! He still has a way to go to catch GM Larry Kaufman's record thirteen Virginia Open wins, but he may yet make a run at that, and in any case no one else has won four in a row.

Jennifer Yu, Evan Ling & Robert Fischer split 2nd thru 4th places in the Open section. Vishal Kobla, Tamara Balkhamishvili, Andrew Rea, Justin Paul & Arthur Tang all shared top Expert. The class A prize saw another multi-way tie among Jason Morefield, Mike Kobily, Rodney Flores & Alex Jian.

In the Amateur (under 1900) section, Joel Dewyer & Aaryan Balu tied for 1st. Jimmie Beatty, Saigautam Bonam, Andrew Song & Ako Heidari made a 4-way split of top B and 3rd place. An even bigger 5-way tie for top C grouped Harvey He, Nicholas Xie, Rachel Naidich, Ethan Zhou & Ashley Xing. Akshay Kobla, Varun Chilukuri & Sabareesh Pitchumani Sundarraj shared the class D prize. Ritika Bawa was top Under 1200.

122 players participated, 58 of whom played in the Open section. Many of those not among the prizewinners still had noteworthy results. Our 2014 Virginia Closed Reserve champion, Jason Moorefield, did not have pairing luck early on but was able to draw this writer (and I had to scrape for that!) in the first round, then draw again against Justin Paul, followed by a veritable slugfest against Robert Fischer in round 3. Bob was in good form and prevailed en route to his 4-1 result, but Jason brushed off the defeat by winning his last two games! And who knew that the first round game between Jennifer Yu and Evan Ling would prove so important!? Evan lost, no problem, as he then won 4 in a row, great stuff!

The support of our VCF chess community is well appreciated! We had an excellent site at the Dulles Airport Marriott, and per usual Chief TD, Mike Hoffpauir had events under control, free of controversy throughout, which speaks well for Mike and for our players





both! The tournament was also a VCF Cup event, notably seeing Jennifer Yu move into first place. The next two are coming soon: the 3rd Annual Cherry Blossom Classic, at the same Dulles Marriott over Memorial Day weekend, and the Charlottesville Open in July.

All of the winner's games follow; notes are by Enkhbat himself—ed

Abhinay Dommalapati - Tegshsuren Enkhbat

Slav

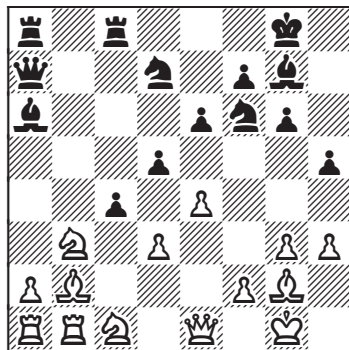
1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 cxd5 cxd5 4 Nf3 Nf6
5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Bf4 a6 7 e3 Bg4 8 Qb3
Na5 9 Qa4+ Bd7 10 Qd1 e6 11 a3 Rc8
12 Rc1 Be7 13 Ne5 O-O 14 Bd3 b5 15
b4?! [15 O-O =] 15...Nc4 16 Qb3 [16
Bxc4 dxc4] 16...Be8 17 O-O? Nd2 ≠ 18
Qc2 Nxf1 19 Kxf1 a5 20 Qb1 axb4 21
axb4 h6 22 h4 Bd6 23 Ke2 Nh5 -+ 24
g3 Nxf4+ 25 exf4 Bxe5 26 fxe5 f6 27
Nxb5 Bxb5 28 Bxb5 Rxc1 29 Qxc1
fxe5 30 Qc6 Qf6 31 dxe5 Qxf2+ 32
Kd1 Qd4+ 33 Kc2 Rf2+ 0-1

Tegshsuren Enkhbat – Vishal Kobla King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nf3 Bg7 4 g3
O-O 5 Nc3 d6 6 Bg2 c6 7 O-O Qa5
8 h3 Be6 9 Nd2 Qa6 10 d5 cxd5 11
cxd5 Bd7 12 a4 Rc8 = [12...b5? 13
axb5 Qxa1 14 Nb3 +,-] 13 Re1 Qb6
14 a5 Qd8 15 Qb3 Qc7 16 Nf1 Na6
17 Be3 Nc5 18 Qa3 Qb8 19 Rac1 b5
20 b4 Na6 21 Nd2 Qb7 22 Qb3 [22
Bd4 ±] 22...Rc7 23 Na2 Rac8 24 Kh2
[24 Bd4 =] 24...Rxc1 25 Rxc1 Rxc1
26 Nxc1 Nc7 ≠ 27 Bg5 h6 [27...Nfxd5
28 Bxe7 Qc6 ≠] 28 Bxf6 Bxf6 29 Nd3
Na6 30 f4 Qc8 31 Qb1 Bg7 32 g4 Qc3
33 Nf3 Qc4 34 Qg1 Nxb4 35 Nxb4
Qxb4 36 Qxa7 Qxf4+ 37 Kg1 Qc1+
38 Kh2 [38 Kf2 Bc8 (38...Qc5+? 39
Qxc5 dxc5 40 a6 Bc8 41 a7 Bb7 42 Nd2
+,-) 39 Qb6 Qc5+ ≠] 38...Qf4+ [38...
Bc8 39 Qb8 =] 39 Kg1 Qc1+ ½-½

Isaac Steincamp - Tegshsuren Enkhbat English

1 c4 c6 2 g3 d5 3 Bg2 Nf6 4 Nf3 g6
5 b3 Bg7 6 Bb2 O-O 7 O-O Re8 8 d3
Nbd7 9 Nbd2 e6 10 b4 a5 11 bxa5?!
[11 b5 is better] 11...Qxa5 12 Nb3
Qa4 13 Nfd2 b5 14 cxb5 Qxb5 15
Qc2 Bb7 16 e4?! [16 a4!? Qa6 (16...
Rxa4? 17 Nd4 ±) 17 a5 =] 16...Rec8
17 Rfb1 Ba6 18 Nc1 Qc5 ≠ 19 Qd1
h5 20 h3 Qa7 21 Ndb3 c5 22 Qe1 c4



23 dxc4 dxc4 24 Nd4 Nc5 25 Kh2?
[25 Nc2] 25...Na4 26 Qb4 Nxb2 -+
27 Qxb2 Ng4+ 28 hxg4 Bxd4 29 Qe2
Bxa1 30 Rxa1 Qd4 31 Rb1 hxg4 32
Qc2 Rab8 0-1

Tegshsuren Enkhbat – Jennifer Yu Grünfeld

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Qb3
g6 5 Nc3 Bg7 6 Bg5 Ne4 [6...dxc4
7 Qxc4 Qb6] 7 Bh4 [7 cxd5 Nxd5 8
Nxd5 e6 9 dxc6 Nxc6 10 Nf3 Nxd4 11
Nxd4 Qxd4 12 e3 ±] 7...O-O 8 e3 dxc4
9 Bxc4 Nd6 10 Be2 Be6 = 11 Qc2 Nf5
12 Bg5 Nd7 13 h3 Nb6 14 O-O Rc8

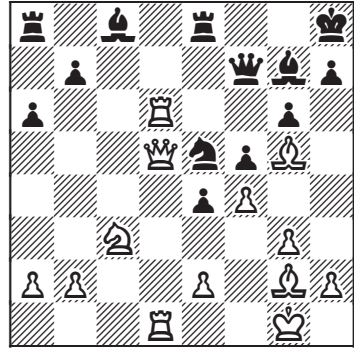


[14...Bc4] 15 Ne4 h6 16 Bf4 Nd5 17 Be5 f6 18 Bh2 Nfxe3 19 fxe3 Nxe3 20 Qc3 Nxf1 21 Rxf1 Bd5 22 Nc5 b6 23 Nb3 Qd7 24 Ba6 Rcd8 25 Bd3 Bxf3 26 Rxf3 f5 27 Kh1 Kh7 28 Qe1 a5 [28...c5!? 29 dxc5 e5] 29 Re3 Rfe8?! [29...a4! 30 Nc1 (30 Rxe7 Rfe8 -) 30... Qxd4 31 Rxe7 Rd7 ♣] 30 a4 Qd5 31 Be2 Rc8 32 Bf3 Qc4 33 Rc3 Qxa4 34 Qe6 Qa2 35 Be5 Qxb2?? [35...Bxe5 36 dxe5 Rg8 =] 36 Qf7 Rg8 37 Bh5 +- Qb1+ 38 Rc1 Qxc1+ 39 Nxc1 gxf5 40 Qxf5+ Kh8 41 Qg6 1-0

Tegshsuren Enkhbat –
Tamara Balkhamishvili
Dutch

1 d4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 O-O O-O 6 c4 d6 7 Nc3 Nc6 8 d5 Ne5 9 Nxe5 dxe5 10 Qb3 Kh8 11 Rd1 a6 12 c5 Qe8 13 d6 exd6 14 cxd6 cxd6 15 Rxd6 Qe7 16 Qb6 [16 Rb6!? Nd7 17 Nd5 Qf7 18 Rd6 Nc5 19 Qb6

Ne4 20 Rd8 ±] 16...e4 17 Bg5 Qf7 18 Rad1 ± Nd7 19 Qb3?! [19 Qa5 Ne5 20 b3 ±] 19...Ne5 = 20 Qd5?! [20 Qb4] 20...Re8 [20...Qxd5 21 R6xd5 Nc4 ♣] 21 f4 [21 Rb6 Be6 22 Qxb7 ±]



21...Qxd5? [21...exf3 22 Bxf3 Nxf3+ 23 exf3 Be6 =] 22 Nxd5 +- Nf7 23 Nc7 Nxd6 24 Rxd6 h6 25 Nxe8 hxg5 26 Rd8 1-0

Henrico Chess Club Rated Tournament

by Corey Hancock

The new Henrico Chess Club currently meets twice a week, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6-9pm, in the food court of Virginia Center Commons mall (10101 Brook Rd, Glen Allen, Va). They are also hosting monthly tournaments and publishing a web site and a monthly newsletter. This brief report on the club's first tournament was adapted from www.henrichessclub.com —ed

The first rated tournament of the Henrico Chess Club, held March 7, was a blast! I was very happy to see some new faces and to have the opportunity to have conversations with members playing in their first rated tournament, discussing more ways to promote chess in the community, and seeing both the joy and intensity every one brought into their games. Congratulations to winners Bill Keogh (undefeated 1st place with a 3-0 score) and Aaron Osborne (2½!)

Thanks are due Legacy Coffee for coming out to provide handcrafted coffee brewed right in front of us.





Virginia Assassins at the US Team

by Andrew Samuelson

WHEN Dan Miller suggested to me that the two of us get another master and an underrated B-player to form a team for the 2015 US Amateur Team East, I thought this was a great idea. Dan and I played together in 2011, along with Eric Most and Rodney Flores, and our team finished with $5\frac{1}{2}$ out of 6 to finish third on tiebreaks (tied for second). Dan was able to get our current state champion James Schuyler for board 1, so we had a team where the top three players had won ten state titles in all. We still needed somebody around 1700 for fourth board. James suggested his student Lucas Knoll, who was around 1650 but on the rise. Dan and James took turns training Lucas for six weeks, with Dan covering endgames and James covering openings. Matthew, Lucas's father, agreed to come along to help the team with the hotel arrangements, keeping an eye out for us during matches, and other logistics.

Dan posited that for us to win, James should win his first two games and draw the rest; I should get 5 points out of 6, and Dan would need to go 6-0. On our way through New Jersey, Dan and I also discussed the tiebreak system. Neither of us was entirely sure what it was, Dan thinking the first tiebreak was game points while I thought it was the sum of the score versus each opponent multiplied by that team's score. Finally Dan said something like, "I've learned not to argue with Andy about things like this" and we continued on our way—more on this later!

We arrived at the hotel around dinner time on Friday and were dismayed to find that we couldn't legally turn left while driving anywhere near the hotel.

We opened the tournament by playing *Exodus Opening Red c-file Trap* (average rating 1909), which went on to win the prize for the top U2000 team. We won the match $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ with Dan and James winning their games. A series of inaccuracies culminating in a blunder near the time control cost me half a point against Larry Larkins, who forced a perpetual in a queen ending. Lucas eventually lost a long game to Victor Smith, who would go on win the board prize on board 4 with a 6-0 score.

Lucas's game did not end until after the round 2 pairings had been posted. Overall, our round 1 result did not seem like a great start to the tournament for us, but got the match point. I told Dan afterwards that this would probably portend one of two things for me: either I would be galvanized to focus and do very well, or I would simply continue with my bad form. I was hoping for the former!

In round 2 we played *Masterman We Have Arrived* (average rating 2010). This team would eventually capture the prize for the top middle school team. Temperature in the playing room was 87 degrees for this round, which was rather uncomfortable



for many of the players, included me. I suffered my only loss of the tournament and was relieved that my teammates bailed me out. The left lens fell out of my glasses in the middle of my game, the first of many times that would happen during the weekend. I'm not interested in making excuses for my loss, though I definitely think I play better when I can see the board clearly.

Dan won, and Lucas saved a pawn-down king-and-pawn ending thanks to a 'mined squares' theme. Dan had reviewed mined squares with Lucas in the preceding month, and it definitely paid off. James seemed to have no advantage as White, but managed to launch a mating attack in time trouble near the end of the first time control. So again 2½-1½ in our favor, and we were 2-0 after the first day, which gave us reason for optimism going into Sunday.

We changed hotel room arrangements after round 2...

Dan Miller: *I woke up early and realized I had kept Andy up, so for the good of the team I took my set and 2000 pages of King's Indian Defense material and set up in the*

Personal & General

FROM THE EDITOR



VIRGINIA CHESS is once again behind on the clock. **This issue #2015/2 should have come out in April, and as I write this it is May already.** There are several circumstances responsible, some of them personal with the Editor and others having to do with waiting for certain articles to arrive. I hope at least that readers will share my opinion that Andy Samuelson's great inside account of the Virginia Assassins' run through the US Amateur Team championship, in particular, was well worth the wait.

Naturally, when material did arrive, it came at me like a fire hose. Suddenly I had too many good articles for a single issue. For this reason, I have had to **hold back until next issue** Jeevan Karamsetty's account of the Thomas Jefferson High School at the National High School Championship, an article about the Virginia Scholastic & Collegiate championships, and an annotated game from Geoff McKenna. I want to reassure all contributors that their work is appreciated and, as I say, these items will be featured in VIRGINIA CHESS #2015/3

The good news is of course that I already have a head start on my goal of getting that issue out around the end of June. For anyone who wants to contribute additional material for that issue, let's call **June 13 the deadline for submission.**

The 2015 Virginia Closed, the 79th iteration of this historic event, **will be held September 5-7 at the Westin Dulles Airport in Sterling, Va.** The venue in Richmond that the VCF has used for the past several years is undergoing extensive renovation and not available this year. The plan is for a return to Richmond for 2016. Sometime beginning in June you will be able to check www.vachess.org for complete details and online registration.

As far as I know, **the VCF is still looking for someone to volunteer to serve as the federation's Treasurer.** Contact Mike Hoffpauir at mhoffpauir@aol.com if you think you might be interested.



lobby. It was completely quiet even though the tournament would start hours away as I was poring through line after line of the King's Indian Defense. I had a premonition that I would probably get caught up in a line that I did not fully know and have to work my way out of it. This happened later in round 5 where I was completely busted but managed to trade down to a technical position I could draw.

James and I took the room with two beds and Dan moved to the room James had been using. Meanwhile, the hotel adjusted to the high playing room temperature the night before by turning off the heat altogether. This was perhaps not the optimal plan, as it was well below freezing outside. As a result, the main playing room was now quite cold! Nonetheless, Sunday morning was in some respects our best round. We played *Conquistadors #1* (rating 2116)—amazingly the only team we played that didn't ultimately win a prize! I finally felt a bit better about my play after winning a fairly straightforward game against Arthur Macaspac, who went 5-1 for the tournament. James drew grandmaster Leonid Yudasin a candidate for the world championship cycle years ago, settling for a perpetual in a superior position.

Leonid Yudasin - James Schuyler Nimzowitsch

1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 c3 g6 5 Bd3 Bg7 6 O-O O-O 7 h3 e5 8 Re1 Nh5 9 Bf1 h6 10 dxe5 dxe5 11 Qxd8 Rxd8 12 g3 Be6 13 Na3 Nf6 14 b4 Nd7 15 Nc4 Nb6 16 Nb2 f6 17 a4 a5 18 b5 Nb8 19 Be3 N8d7 20 Nd2 Bf8 21 Nd3 Kf7 22 Red1 h5 23 h4 Rac8 24 f3 c5 25 Kf2 c4 26 Nb2 Bc5 27 Be2 Ke7 28 Nf1 f5 29 exf5 gxf5 30 f4 exf4 31 gxf4 Nd5 32 Bxc5+ Nxc5 33 Bxc4 Nxc3 34 Rxd8 Rxd8 35 Ke3 Bxc4 36 Nxc4 Rd3+ 37 Kf2 Rd4 38 Nfe3 Kf6 39 Kf3 Nd3 40 Ra3 Rxf4+ 41 Kg2 Ne1+ 42 Kh2 Rf2+ 43 Kh3 Rf3+ 44 Kh2 Rf2+ ½-½

After 45 Kh3 Ne2 seems to lead to an irresistible attack. Taking the perpetual ensured we would win the match, however, as Dan had won a wild game in which he traded into a king-and-pawn endgame two pawns down! This was the only blemish on Yudasin's otherwise perfect score for the tournament.

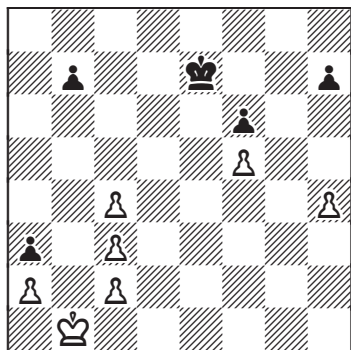


Virginia Assassins (l-r)
Lucas Knoll, James
Schuyler, Daniel Miller
& Andrew Samuelson



Robert Keough - Daniel Miller
Petroff

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 Nc3 Nxc3 6 dxc3 Nd7 7 Be3 Be7
8 Qd2 Ne5 9 Nd4 c5 10 Nb3 O-O 11 Be2 Be6 12 f4 Nc4 13 Bxc4 Bxc4 14
O-O-O a5 15 Kb1 Ra6 16 Qf2 Qb6 17 Rhe1 Bf6 18 Nxc5 dxc5 19 Bxc5 Qc7 20
Bxf8 Kxf8 21 g4 Ra8 22 g5 Be7 23 h4 a4 24
f5 a3 25 b3 f6 26 Rxe7 Qxe7 27 gxf6 gxf6 28
bxc4 Rd8 29 Rxd8+ [29 Rd5] 29...Qxd8 30
Qc5+ Qe7 31 Qxe7+? [31 Qf2 =] 31...Kxe7



(diagram)

32 c5 [32 Kc1 Kd6 33 Kd2 Kc5 34 Kd3 h5 etc.]
Kd7 33 c4 Kc6 34 c3 Kxc5 35 Kc2 Kxc4 36
h5 h6 37 Kd2 Kd5 38 Kd3 Ke5 39 c4 Kxf5
40 c5 Kg5 41 Kc4 f5 42 Kb5 f4 43 Kb6 f3 44
Kxb7 f2 45 c6 f1Q 46 c7 Qb5+ 47 Ka8 Qc6+
48 Kb8 Kxh5 0-1



His extra pawns inhibit White's king

I can't remember ever seeing anything quite like that. Lucas won his game by consolidating after his opponent sacrificed a piece for an unsound attack. So we won 3½-½ against a strong team. Things seemed to be going our way.

BEFORE the start of round 4 is when the costume and gimmick contests get judged, one of the team championship's distinctive traditions. Our opponents, *The Unduttable Dutchmen* (2093), were among those called to the stage for their gimmick. They also would eventually claim the tournament's U2100 prize.

Lucas and Dan won, while James held onto the draw against IM Carlos Mena's very hard attempts to win as Black. My opponent gave up two knights for a rook and pawn and offered a draw fairly early. I played on and was better much of the way, even posting both knights on the sixth rank at one point. ("*a Double Octopus*"? —ed) In the end, however, I went astray and drew a long game after my young opponent reached an rook ending with a- and g- pawns versus my g-pawn. He made a few efforts to win before again offering a draw, making our final score 3-1.

James got up early Monday and picked up an eyeglass repair kit from a local drug store. We tried to fix my glasses, but wound up removing and then losing the wrong screw! We finally managed a good enough job that the lens did not fall out again.

In round 5 we faced *All About That Mate*, a young team with the highest rating average (2199) in the entire tournament.



Miller: *Lucas smashed a young 2100 using opening preparation from James and forcing his will on his opponent with no regard for the 400+ point rating difference. It was unquestionably the game of the tournament for us out of the 24.*

Lucas Knoll - Dennis Li
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bb5 d6 6 Bxc6+ bxc6 7 O-O e6 8 d3 Ne7 9 e5 Nd5 10 Ne4 dxe5 11 fxe5 O-O 12 Nxc5 Rb8 13 d4 Nb6 14 b3 Nd7 15 Ba3 Re8 16 Qd2 h6 17 Rae1 g5 18 Qf2 Nf8 19 Nd2 Re7 20 Nce4 Rd7 21 Nd6 Qc7 22 N2e4 Nh7 23 Nc5 Re7 24 Nxc8 Rxc8 25 Na6 Qb7 26 Bxe7 Qxe7 27 Nc5 Nf8 28 Ne4 Ng6 29 Qxf7+ Qxf7 30 Rxf7 Rd8 31 Nd6 c5 32 c3 cxd4 33 cxd4 a6 34 Ra7 Nf4 35 Rxa6 Nd3 36 Rb1 Nb4 37 Ra7 Nc6 38 Ra4 Nxd4 39 Rxd4 Bxe5 40 Rbd1 Bxd4+ 41 Rxd4 e5 42 Rd2 h5 43 Nc4 Re8 44 Rd5 e4 45 Rxcg5+ Kh7 46 Rxf5+ Kg6 47 Re5 Ra8 48 a3 Rb8 49 b4 e3 50 Rxe3 Rxb4 51 axb4 Kg7 52 b5 Kh8 53 Re7 Kg8 54 b6 1-0

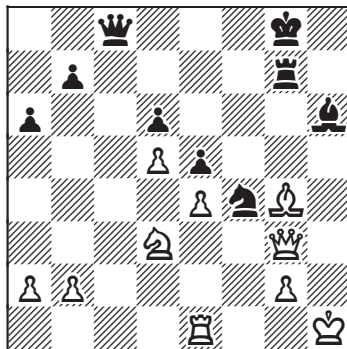
James and I both commented later that the game looked like a 2100 *vs* 1600 matchup, but with Lucas in the role of the 2100 rather than the 1600. Picking up an unexpected full point on board 4 was a big boost. True to his premonition from the morning before, Dan mixed up moves in his King's Indian preparation and had to fight back from a losing position to save half a point in a technical ending.

Brandon Jacobson - Daniel Miller
King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 O-O 6 Be2 e5 7 O-O Nc6 8 d5 Ne7
9 Ne1 Nd7 10 Be3 f5 11 f3 f4 12 Bf2 g5 13 Nd3 Nf6 14 c5 Ng6 15 Rc1 Rf7 16
Kh1 h5 17 cxd6 cxd6 18 Nb5 a6 19 Na7 Bd7
20 Qb3 Qb8 21 Qb6 g4 22 Rc7 Rxa7 23 Rxd7
Rxd7 24 Qxa7 Qc8 25 Re1 g3 26 hxxg3 fxg3 27
Bxxg3 h4 28 Bh2 Bh6 29 Qf2 Nh5 30 f4 Ng3+
31 Bxxg3 hxxg3 32 Qxxg3 Rg7 33 Bg4 Nxf4

(diagram)

34 Bxc8 Rxg3 35 Nxf4 Bxf4 36 Bxb7 a5 37 Bc6 Rd3 38 a3 Rd4 39 g4 Kg7 40 Re2 Kf6 41 Bd7 Kg5 42 Bf5 Rd1+ 43 Kg2 Rb1 44 Kf3 Rf1+ 45 Rf2 Rxf2+ 46 Kxf2 a4 47 Bd7 Bc1 48 Bxa4 Bxb2 49 Bd7 Bxa3 50 Bf5 and the game was soon drawn. ...1/2-1/2



I simplified to a won pawn ending after a long climb to apparent victory in a queen and rook ending—and then managed to blow it and draw! Everyone has bad games or bad days, but it was frustrating for me to have so many in one tournament. James eventually drew to make the final score 2½-1½. A major upset by Lucas combined with three draws from our masters was hardly the strategy we had envisioned, but we were happy reach 5-0. Our opponents won their last match to claim the top scholastic prize.



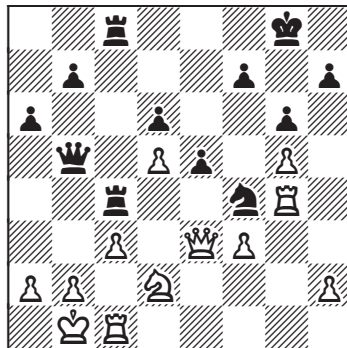
AND SO going into the last round we were in a 3-way tie at 5-0. Thus we were not assured of winning the tournament even if we won our final match. We played *Magnus et Potens* (2183), another strong 5-0 team, on table #1—exactly where we'd hoped to finish the tournament. Lucas, paired with another low expert, was outmatched this time and lost. His opponent won the prize for top alternate. Dan blundered twice in a good position but was able to overcome the oversights and win to finish 5½-½. It wasn't quite the 6-0 he targeted before the tournament, but close. James followed the program with his fourth draw in a row, which meant the match came down to my game on board 2.

Haik der Manuelian - Andrew Samuelson

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be3 e5 7 Nb3 Be6 8 f3 Nbd7 9 Qd2 Nb6 10 O-O-O Rc8 11 Kb1 Be7 12 g4 O-O 13 g5 [The alternative 13 h4 is more popular and probably leads to a slight edge for White.] **13...Nh5 14 Rg1 g6 15 Qf2 Nc4 16 Bxc4 Rxc4** [I remembered that 16...Bxc4 was the main move, but over the board the rook capture seemed more natural. 16...Bxc4 17 Na4 Be6 18 Nb6 Rc7 19 Qd2 Rc6 20 Nd5 Bxd5 21 Qxd5 Qc8 Black should be okay.] **17 Qd2** [The natural 17 Nd5 seems a bit better. Now Black starts taking over the initiative.] **17...Qc7 18 Rc1 Rc8 19 Rg2 Qd7 20 Nd5 Bd8 21 Qd3 Qb5?!** [The natural 21...b5 was better as it helps to involve the pawns in my attack, eg 22 Nd2 Bxd5 23 exd5 Nf4 24 Bxf4 Rxf4 25 Ne4 Rc4 26 Qa3 Ra4 27 Qb3 Rd4 Black would have easier play thanks to White's pawn weaknesses.] **22 c3?** [Getting the knight back into the game by 22 Nd2? doesn't work: 22...Rxc2! 23 Qxc2 Rxc2 24 Kxc2 Bxd5 25 exd5 Ng7 Black is winning as White has too many weaknesses, including his king. But White should have sat tight with a move like 22 Rd2, eg 22...a5 23 Rcd1 a4 24 Nc1 f5 with an unclear mess—in other words, a normal Najdorf middlegame!] **22...Bxd5** [Now White has to put a pawn on d5, denying his pieces that square.] **23 exd5 Bb6** [This trades my bad bishop and conquers the f4 square for my knight.] **24 Nd2?!** [This looks tempting, but probably isn't the best move. In any event, Black has a good initiative now and I began looking for ways to exploit my advantage. Black also be better in the event of 24 Rgc2 Bxe3 25 Qxe3 Rh4 26 Nd2 Qxd5 27 Ne4 Qe6 thanks to the extra pawn and weaknesses in White's position.] **24...Bxe3 25 Qxe3 Nf4!** [A nice in-between move to keep the advantage; Black will simply take d5.] **26 Rg4**

(diagram)



26...R4c5? [An oversight that lets White off the hook. The complications got the better of me this time. I tried to avoid giving up the two rooks for the queen and pawn, but overlooked something in the correct line 26...Nxd5 27 Rxc4 Nxe3 28 Rxc8+ Kg7, eg 29 c4 Qd7 30 Rb8 Qc7 31 Ra8 f6

If Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend, what is a man's Best Friend?

**A 2-DAY CHESS FESTIVAL FEATURING
"CHESS CELEBS" FROM ENGLAND AND U.S.!**

OCTOBER 23-24, 2015

MEET

**GM SIMON WILLIAMS • IM ANDREW MARTIN
FM Macon Shibut • chess publisher: Bob Long**



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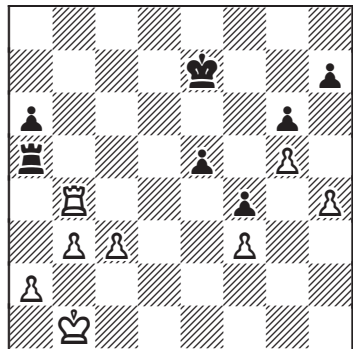
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32 Rc3 Nf5 33 gxf6+ Kxf6 34 Ne4+ Kg7 35 Re8 Qd7 36 Ra8 Nd4 Black is clearly better since his pieces are much better coordinated while White has kingside pawn weaknesses and lacks open files.] **27 Ne4 Nxd5** [My computer suggests 27... Nd3, eg 28 Rc2 Rxc3 29 Nxc3 Rxc3 30 a4 Qb3 31 Rgg2 Qa2+ 32 Kxa2 Nb4+ 33 Kb1 Rxe3 White's probably only a little better here. This would have been a tough line to calculate.] **28 Qd2!** [I missed this move. Now Qxd5 wins a piece if my rook moves away from c5.] **28...Nf4 29 Nxc5 Qxc5 30 Rd1 Rc6 31 h4 Qc4 32 Qe3 Kg7??** [Black should be okay in spite of the earlier mistake after 32... Qe6 33 Rgg1 b5. The strong knight on f4 and extra pawn seem to be adequate compensation for the rook. The knight also would keep White from opening the h-file, and it's hard to find another way to break into Black's position. But I realized I'd made a serious mistake after my opponent started grinning at me.] **33 Rxd6!** [Oops! I certainly didn't mean to give away the d-pawn, which was holding my center together.] **33...Rc5** [Unfortunately forced to protect e5; if 33...Rxd6 34 Qxe5+ White wins.] **34 Rd1 Ra5 35 b3 Qe6 36 Rxf4?!** [With the time control approaching my opponent decided to steer the game toward a simpler position. He could have kept the extra material, however, eg 36 c4 b6 37 Rgg1 Rc5 38 Qe4 h5 39 Rd8 Qc6 40 Rgd1 with full control of the d-file and an extra exchange White should win.] **36...exf4 37 Qxe6 fxe6 38 Rd7+ Kf8 39 Rxb7 e5** [39...Re5 isn't enough either, eg 40 c4 Re3 41 Kc2 Rxf3 42 c5 Rf2+ 43 Kd3 Rf3+ 44 Kd4 Rf1 45 Ke5 Rc1 46 Kxf4 Rxc5 47 Rxh7 Rb5 48 Ra7 a5 49 Ke4 Black would be a pawn down and almost out of moves.] **40 Rb4 Ke7**

We'd made the time control and I was facing a losing rook endgame. However, I seem to recall the Editor commenting in *VIRGINIA CHESS* a number of years ago to the effect that there's often a big difference between having a losing position and actually losing it! With the match, and with it the whole tournament, seemingly coming down to my game, I was determined to exhaust every defensive resource the position offered. (diagram)



41 Re4?! [The first move of the new time control and already a step in the wrong direction. With another hour my opponent probably should have calculated further: 41 a4 Rc5 42 Kc2 Rc8 43 Kd3 Rd8+ 44 Ke4 Rd7 45 c4 Kd6 46 Rb6+ wins pretty easily.] **41...Ke6 42 c4 Rc5 43 b4 Rc8 44 a4 h6!** [I need active counterplay to have any hope of saving the game. This should still be insufficient, but now I have some practical chances.] **45 gxh6 Rh8 46 a5?** [This seems like a real mistake. White is off the right path, which was 46 b5 Rxh6 47 c5 Rxh4 48 c6 axb5 49 axb5 Kd5 50 c7 Rh8 51 Kc2 Rc8 52 b6 Kc6 53 Rb4 and wins, rather simply in fact.] **46...Rxh6 47 b5 Rxh4** [Now material is



equal again and it's no longer one hundred percent clear that Black is losing.}] **48 b6 Rh8 49 c5??** [And now the position becomes absolutely unclear again. With my opponent moreover starting to get into time trouble. I even began to think I might have some slight chance of playing for a win. White could have still hoped to win after 49 Kc2 g5 50 Kc3 Rg8 51 Re1 Kd6 52 c5+ Kxc5 53 Rxe5+ Kc6 54 Kd4 etc.] **49...Kd5!** [Winning the c-pawn; Black's chances are probably no worse than White's now.] **50 Re2 Re8 51 Kc2** [51 Rc2 Kc6 52 Rg2 Kxc5 is also fine for Black.] **51...Kxc5 52 Kd3 Kd5!** [denying his king e4.] **53 Rb2** [Here my opponent offered a draw, and objectively that is what the position should be. But with the match tied, a pawn more, and lots of extra time on the clock, I decided to play on. That could have backfired, but I was confident I wouldn't lose. I figured I would just play the best moves I could find and see what happened.] **53...g5 54 b7 Rb8 55 Rb4 e4+** [55...Kc6 also leads to a draw. For instance, 56 Ke4 Rxb7 57 Rxb7 Kxb7 58 Kxe5 g4 59 Kxf4 gxf3 60 Kxf3 Kc6 61 Ke3 Kb5 62 Kd2 Kxa5 63 Kc1. I think the move I played gave my opponent more chances to go wrong.] **56 fxe4+ Ke5 57 Ke2** [57 Rb5+ Kd6 58 Rxg5 Rxb7 59 Rf5 Rb3+ 60 Kc4 Rf3 61 Kd4 Ra3 should also be drawn.] **57...g4** [This is a case where connected passed pawns don't win since my rook is so passive.] **58 Kf2 Kd6 59 Rb6+ Kc7 60 Rf6 f3** [60...Rxb7 61 Rxf4 Rb5 was a bit simpler, eg 62 Rf5 Rb3 63 Rf6 Kb7 64 e5 Ra3 65 Rb6+ Ka7 66 Rg6 Rxa5 67 e6 Re5 68 Kg3 Re4 69 Rg7+ Kb6 70 e7 Kc6 71 Rg6+ Kd7 72 Rxa6 Kxe7 and the draw would be obvious.] **61 Rg6 Rxb7 62 Rxg4 Rb3 63 Rg6 Kb7 64 Rg7+ Kb8 65 Rg8+** [65 Rd7 Ra3 66 Rd5 Kc7 67 e5 Rc3 68 Rd1 Rc5 69 e6 Rxa5 70 Kxf3 Re5 71 Rd7+ Kc6 72 Ra7 Kb6 73 Re7 was another way.] **65...Kc7 66 Rg7+ Kd6 67 Rg6+ Ke5 68 Rxa6 Kxe4 69 Re6+ Kf5 70 Re8 Ra3 71 Rf8+ Ke4 72 Re8+ 1/2-1/2** There really isn't much left to play for, even with my opponent down to 30 seconds. The 5 second delay is perfectly sufficient to hold such a position. So the match ended in a tie.

This left both teams at 5½-½. The third team 5-0 had lost, the team that beat them also achieved 5½, and so we finished in a three-way tie for first. It turned out I was correct about the tiebreak system, which was lucky since we were third on game points thanks to all the close matches. Still, we didn't hold out a lot of hope for a first place finish. We had our pictures taken and left the hotel not knowing how the tiebreaks worked out. Our trip home saw us driving straight into a snowstorm. At least we could make left turns! James eventually gave up and we stopped for the night at a motel about 20 miles north of Baltimore. We went to sleep still not knowing our team's fate.

The next morning, we heard from Lucas that we'd won! James and I checked online and confirmed the good news. We had a lot of close matches, but the strong results by our opponents (remember—five of the six teams we played won prizes) put us on top. Our last round opponents finished with the most game points of the three teams at the top, but came in third on tiebreaks.



We then continued on our way home. Miller: *After dropping Andy off, James and I texted him that James had factored his supposedly prime number address 8711 into 31 and 281. In the state championship and this tournament James had 6 wins and 6 draws including two strong GM's and a string of strong masters and titled players. I joked that it was James's picture on the Chess Life Online website, and not Ben Finegold, which is the ultimate revenge given Ben's scathing, unfair review of James's Dark Knight System!*

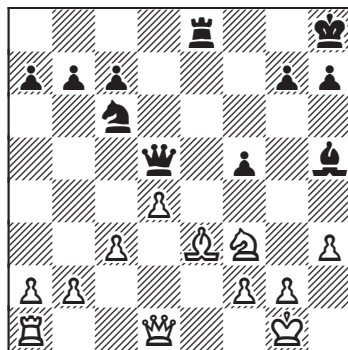
(I) UR WIN at the Amateur Team East qualified us for an online playoff against the winners of the South, West, and North amateur team tournaments. The playoff is contested in a knockout format on the Internet Chess Club (ICC), with a sudden death time control of 90 minutes plus a five second increment. For the first round, or 'semi-finals' if you wish, we were paired against the winners from the South, while the North played the West. The winners of these matches would meet for the title later the same day.

We were supposed to play our games from the same location on Saturday, March 28th, so I arranged to take an Amtrak train to the Newport News station on March 27. Rodney Flores let us use his company's office for the match, and Ernie Schlich agreed to be our on-site tournament director. James had the bright idea of using paper scoresheets so that the online games would feel more like real tournament games. He and I both kept score manually in our playoff games, and it seemed to help.

Our Amateur Team South opponents' team name was *Thad's No Fun*. Dan won his game quickly by following preparation he had on his computer ten years ago.

Frank Johnson - Daniel Miller Petroff

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4
5 d4 d5 6 Bd3 Bd6 7 O-O O-O 8 Re1 Bg4
9 h3 Bh5 10 Bxe4 dxe4 11 Rxe4 f5 12 Re1
Nc6 13 c3 Kh8 14 Nbd2 Qf6 15 Nc4 Rae8
16 Rxe8 Rxe8 17 Nxd6 Qxd6 18 Be3 Qd5
(diagram)
19 Bf4 Nd8 20 Bxc7 Ne6 21 Be5 Ng5 22
Qa4 Nxf3+ 23 gxf3 Qxf3 24 Qd7 Rg8 25
Re1 Qxh3 26 Qe7 Bf3 0-1



As for my own game, I left my preparation fairly early on...

Andrew Samuelson - Sanjay Ghatti Caro Kann

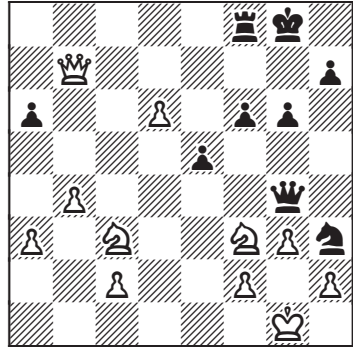
1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 [I'd prepared for the Caro Kann, since my opponent seemed to play it every game against e4] 3 e5 c5 4 dxc5 Nc6 5 a3 [I thought it was more likely he would play 5...e6] 5...Nxe5 6 b4 g6 7 Bb5+ Bd7 8 Qxd5 Bxb5 [I expected Bg7,



so after this I was out of my preparation.] **9 Qxe5 Nf6 10 Nc3 Bc6 11 Nge2** [It might have been better to play 11 Nf3, eg 11...Bg7 12 Bb2 O-O 13 Rd1 Qc8 14 O-O Bxf3 15 gxf3 Qh3 16 Rd3 e6 17 Qg5 h6 18 Qg3 with an extra pawn and a definite edge.] **11...Bg7 12 O-O O-O 13 Qe3** [if 13 Bb2 Ne4 14 Qf4 Qd2 15 Qxd2 Nxd2 16 Rfe1 Nc4 17 Bc1 Rfd8 Black has enough compensation for the pawn thanks to the bishop pair activity.] **13...Nd5 14 Qg3 Bb5?!** [Black could try 14...a5 15 Rb1 Nxc3 16 Nxc3 axb4 17 axb4 Qd4 18 Rb3 Ra1 19 h3 Be5 20 Qe3 Qxe3 21 Bxe3 Rxf1+ 22 Kxf1 Ra8 23 f4 Bxc3 24 Rxc3 Ra2 with an unclear ending.] **15 Nxb5!** [This exchange sacrifice is virtually forced, but a little better for White.] **15...Bxa1 16 Bh6 Bg7 17 Bxg7 Kxg7 18 Rd1 Nf4 19 Qc3+** [I didn't see 18...Nf4 until after I'd moved. Fortunately 19 Qc3+ bails me out since 19 Rxd8 Nxe2+ 20 Kf1 Nxc3+ 21 hxg3 Rfxd8 would lose.] **19...Kg8 20 Qe1 Qb8 21 Ned4 a6 22 Nc3 e5 23 Nf3 f6 24 g3 Qc8** [Again I noticed this only after I'd moved, having counted on 24...Ne6 25 Rd6 Qe8 26 Rb6 a5 27 Qe4 axb4 28 axb4 with a good queenside pawn mass and pressure on b7] **25 Qe4!** [At least I found the right reply! White keeps a nice advantage thanks to his queenside superiority.] **25...Qg4 26 Rd6?** [But this lets Black off the hook. Simply 26 Qxb7 was much better, eg 26...Rad8 27 Rd6 Rxd6 28 cxd6 Rf7 29 Qe4 Kg7 30 Nd2 Rf8 31 Qb7+ Rf7 32 Qxa6 Nh3+ 33 Kg2 Nf4+ 34 Kf1 the four connected passed pawns are probably has enough to win.] **26...Rad8?** [Black returns the favor, failing to take advantage of the move order inversion. The game might have ended in a repetition had he played 26...a5 27 b5 Rac8, eg 28 c6 bxc6 29 b6 Rb8 30 Rxc6 Rbd8 31 Kh1 Nh3 32 Kg2 Nf4+ 33 Kh1] **27 Qxb7!** [I corrected my error!] **27...Rxd6 28 cxd6 Nh3+**

This move was accompanied by a draw offer. I consulted Dan about the offer, even though I thought I was better. (*The team event rules allow players to consult with their team captain on the specific question of whether to offer or accept a draw.* —ed) He told me it was my decision. I thought that I had a better position if I avoided the perpetual. I also thought Lucas was probably going to lose to his expert opponent, and that James might be worse, so I played on.

(diagram)

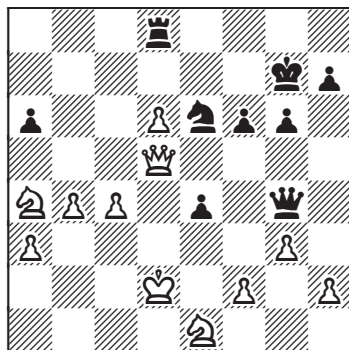


29 Kg2 Nf4+ 30 Kf1 [I managed to escape the repetition.] **30...Ne6 31 Qd5 Kg7 32 Na4 e4 33 Ne1** [33 Ng1! was stronger, leaving Black no good checks. White's passed pawns give him the advantage.] **33...Qh3+ 34 Ke2?!** [And here 34 Kg1 was better, with good winning chances.] **34...Qg4+ 35 Kd2?** [The way to keep the advantage was to move forward—35 Ke3! It seemed too dangerous during the game but after, for instance, 35...Re8 36 d7 Rd8 37 Nb6 Nf8 38 Qxe4 Qxe4+ 39 Kxe4 Nxd7 40 Nxd7 Rxd7 41 Nd3 Re7+ 42 Kd4 the knight and two pawns



are better than the rook as Black has no passed pawns and most of the action is on one side of the board. And of course White's king is much more active than his counterpart.] **35...Rd8 36 c4** (diagram)

36...Qg5+? [My opponent was low on time and traded into a bad endgame. Black could draw by playing the astonishing 36...Nf4!! The point is that after 37 gxf4 Qxf4+ 38 Ke2 Rxd6 the queen, rook and e-pawn have my king cornered, forcing something like 39 Qb7+ Kh6 40 Qa7 Qg4+ 41 Kf1 Qh3+ 42 Ke2 Qg4+ 43 Kf1 etc.] **37 Qxg5 Nxg5 38 c5 Kf7 39 Ke3 f5 40 Ng2 Nf3 41 h3 g5 42 Nb6** [With the constant threat of c5-6-7, White has a big edge.]



42...Ke6 43 g4 [Cracking Black's pawn structure makes things easier.] **43...Ne5** [43...Ke5 was much more resilient. After 44 Nc4+ Kd5 the computer suggests 45 gxf5! Kxc4 46 Kxe4 Nd2+ 47 Ke5 Nf3+ 48 Kf6 Kb5 49 Ke7 Ra8 50 d7 Ne5 51 d8N (51 Ke6 might be stronger but not as entertaining!) 51...a5 52 Ne3 axb4 53 axb4 Kxb4 54 c6 Rc8 55 f6 h5 56 Kd6 Rxd8+ 57 Kxe5 and Black can't deal with the passed pawns.] **44 gxf5+ Kxf5 45 Kd4 h5 46 Ne3+ Ke6 47 Kxe4 h4 48 Ned5 g4?** [48...Nc6 49 Nc7+ Kf7 50 f3 Nb8 51 Nc4 Nc6 52 Nxa6 would have prolonged the game but shouldn't change the outcome.] **49 Nf4+ Kf6 50 Nbd5+ 1-0** The knight is lost, so Black resigned.

That put us ahead 2-0. Lucas did lose, but James reached an ending with a rook and doubled c-pawns against a rook and c- and a-pawns. He held it without difficulties, so we advanced to the final match by a score of 2½-½.

NorCal House of Chess, winners of the Amateur Team West three years running and the playoff the past two years, advanced to the final as well by winning 3-1 against the North champions, *Pinoy of Chicago Revamp 2015*. The only blemish on their score was a time scramble loss on board 1 with a 3-0 lead already in hand.

THE FINAL match didn't go very well for us. Miller: *I've won 35 games and drawn 4, gaining nearly a hundred rating points, since losing in round 2 of the state championship in 2013. I've won or tied for first in my last seven tournaments. I told my teammates that the following Sunday morning in 2013 when I came down to look at the wall charts that Andy Rea was joking to me that maybe I need to take a bye in round 2 every time. So I just decided that morning to score 95% over the next two years. That's a conversation I'll never forget.*

In view of those streaks, Dan's loss on board 3 came as a surprise to all of us. His FIDE master opponent seemed to play all the right moves in a sharp position and the game was over quickly. Lucas lost a pawn in the opening to a tactic, and then lost a second pawn to a second tactic. This proved to be too much to overcome against his



young opponent, who played forcefully to take the full point. James's grandmaster opponent made a potentially decisive mistake early on, but also played all the right moves in the subsequent sharp position. The game ended with James's opponent playing a wild king march out to h4 with many pieces still on the board. I declined a relatively early draw offer since we were trailing in the match. We kept playing even after the score was 3-0 and the match decided. I eventually drew this last game of the event with my international master opponent to get us on the scoreboard.

So we didn't win the final match, but we still felt good about our team experience. We hope to play again next year!



The Richmond Metropolitan Grand Prix

by Michael Callahan

I guess you could sum it all up in our slogan. The Richmond Metropolitan Grand Prix is chess instruction and chess tournaments that are near or at a bus stop! For years I've been saying that in every major city in the world, there is someone walking, boarding, cycling, or using public transportation to play chess. Why not here?

Teaching middle school in Richmond, I coached kids who had lived near their elementary schools but then were scattered to middle schools all over the city. Even if I held the tournaments at their schools, many of them still lived so far away that they wouldn't be able to get there. That was when I got the idea to approach the library.

The Grand Prix will blanket the city in a full network of chess learning and tournament activity. At one library in the east, one in the west, one north of the river, one south of the river, The Richmond Chess Initiative (RCI) will run tournaments and provide weekly 90 minute chess training sessions for all levels of player at each location—*see the full schedule opposite page!*

RCI also means professional development and employment opportunities to young people. 11-yr-old Jason Morefield, the state 2014 Amateur Champion, is the coach for a library branch! With parental consent or accompaniment, kids like Jason can earn real money coaching, directing tournaments, or being a camp proctor.

This has been a joint effort! The Richmond Public Library, Richmond Public Schools, the Virginia Scholastic Chess Association, the Virginia Chess Federation, and Growth Management Group are all integral parts of this ongoing achievement. You can help too! You can sponsor or donate to the Grand Prix at our website, www.richmondchessinitiative.wordpress.com. We'll provide receipts and invoices upon request. Sponsor list will be available at the website no later than 4/25/15 and will be updated weekly. Ask about our tournament, banner, logo, print and web advertising sponsorships! (804-398-2310)



RICHMOND METROPOLITAN GRAND PRIX WEEKLY TRAINING AND TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Main library (101 East Franklin St, Richmond, Va 23219): Training sessions every Wednesday, 6-7:30pm. Tournaments May 2, June 6, July 11, Aug 8, Sep 12, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5, and Jan 9.

North Ave branch library (2901 North Ave, Richmond, Va 23222): Training sessions every Monday, 6-7:30pm. Tournaments May 30, June 27, July 25, Aug 29, Sep 26, Oct 24, Nov 28, and Jan 30.

Westover Hills branch library (1408 Westover Hills Blvd, Richmond, Va 23225): Training sessions every Monday, 6-7:30pm. Tournaments May 9, June 20, July 18, Aug 15, Sep 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19, and Jan 23.

Belmont branch library (3100 Elkwood Ave, Richmond, Va 23221): schedule to be announced.

All tournaments scheduled to be 4-round swiss system. Adult trophies to 1st & 2nd, Scholastic 1st k12, k8, and k5. USCF and RCI membership required. Entry fee \$20 for prior RCI member, \$25 for non-members. Sets provided, bring clocks. On site registration will be 10am to 10:25 followed by rounds/time control:

Round 1 10:30am, game/25 minutes (+5 sec delay).

Round 2 11:40am, game/30minutes (+5 sec delay).

Round 3 1:15pm, game/35 minutes (+5 sec delay).

Round 4 2:45pm, game/40 minutes (+5 sec delay).

Grand Prix final prizes still need to be determined. There will be a 1st-2nd-3rd for adult and scholastic for sure, others depending on sponsorship and fundraising.



Richmond Chess Initiative founder Mike Callaham gives a simultaneous exhibition at St Andrews School on South Cherry Street in Richmond. Thirty-two 3rd- and 4th- graders took on "King Philidor" but experience and guile trumped youthful energy and enthusiasm: Mike scored 32-0!



The 3rd R2R Chess Invitational



When: Saturday, May 30th, 2015

Where: Catholic University

Edward Pryzbyla University Center, Great Room-A

Address: 620 Michigan Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

(Registration: 9:00 a.m. to 10: a.m.)

Rounds: 7SS – G/30

Entry Fee:

- \$0 – Disabled Veterans
- \$0 – Retired Veterans
- \$0 – Homeless Participants
- \$0 – Participants of the 1st and 2nd Event



For New Participants & Special Guests:

- \$50 by April 30th, 2015
- \$65 by May 23rd, 2015
- \$80 on site May 30th, 2015

Prizes:

- 1st Place - \$500 + Trophy
- 2nd Place - \$250 + Trophy
- 3rd Place - \$125 + Trophy
- 4th Place - \$75 + Trophy
- 5th Place - \$50 + Trophy



Note: This is not a USCF Event. No membership dues required.

Please bring your chess sets (and chess clocks, if you have one)



For more information, participant inquiries, or to **make a donation** to this special event,
please contact Alex Kane via e-mail at: Akproductionsllc@aol.com





The R2R Scholastic and Collegiate Chess Championships

When: Saturday, May 30th, 2015

Where: Catholic University

Edward Pryzbyla University Center, Great Room-A
Address: 620 Michigan Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

(Registration: 9:00 a.m. to 10: a.m.)

*** 7 Rounds – G/30 ***

Note: The Collegiate and Scholastic players
will play in separate sections

Event Schedule

Round 1: 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Round 2: 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Round 3: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Round 4: 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Round 5: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Round 6: 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Round 7: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Scholastic Entry Fee:

- \$25.00 if by April 30th, 2015
- \$35.00 if by May 23rd, 2015
- or--
- \$45.00 on site May 30th, 2015

Collegiate Entry Fee:

- \$30.00 if by April 30th, 2015
- \$40.00 if by May 23rd, 2015
- or--
- \$50.00 on site May 30th, 2015



Prizes:

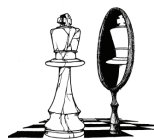
- 1st Place – Collegiate: \$100 + Trophy
- 2nd Place – Collegiate: \$50 + Trophy
- 3rd Place – Collegiate: \$25 + Trophy
- 1st Place – 12th Grade: \$50 + Trophy
- 2nd Place – 12th Grade: \$25 + Trophy
- 1st Place – 11th Grade: \$50 + Trophy
- 2nd Place – 11th Grade: \$25 + Trophy
- 1st Place – 10th Grade: \$50 + Trophy
- 2nd Place – 10th Grade: \$25 + Trophy
- 1st Place – 9th Grade: \$50 + Trophy
- 2nd Place – 9th Grade: \$25 + Trophy
- 1st Place – 4th thru 8th Grade: Trophy + Gift Certificate
- 2nd Place – 4th thru 8th Grade: Trophy + Gift Certificate
- 3rd Place – 4th thru 8th Grade: Trophy + Gift Certificate

For more information, please contact Alex Kane via e-mail at: akproductionsllc@aol.com.





Reflections Reflections



LOOKING BACK ON AN AMATEUR CHESS "CAREER"

by Mark Warriner

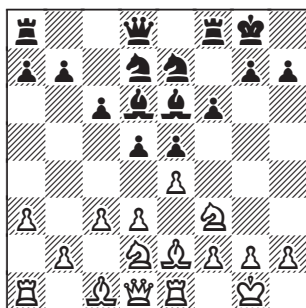
STRANGE CHESS

EVERY now and then you play a game that is just plain strange looking. Everything about it is different, makes no sense, and you've certainly never seen any of the strategies/tactical ideas in any game before. You're totally in the dark and on your own. Why-oh-why didn't I buy that how-to-handle-strange openings book/DVD I saw online a while back? Well I'll encourage you to allow the situation to embolden you. Instead of worrying, seize the opportunity and go for it!

At the time, I called this the "You-Name-It" Opening. I still have no idea what it is called, other than "Irregular Opening", but I can tell you the ECO code is A00. Anyway, it was a lot of fun to play. I remember that my opponent displayed a range of subtle emotions during the game—from seemingly disinterested, to merely bored, to mildly intrigued, to uncomfortable, and then to ticked off. Been there myself; it's not fun or funny, unless you're on the winning side. Sorry friend. For once I wasn't the one who had to suffer.

Kenneth Blevins – Mark Warriner
1987 McRoberts Memorial
Irregular Opening

1 d3 [My opponent out-rated me by about 150 points at the time, and it was the last of four rounds with us both on ½, so I'm thinking he just wanted to get me out of book, roll me with better knowledge, and go home with a small rating loss. Well, I rather enjoy a good opening challenge, so I decided to go for it.] **1...d5** [Just to prevent c4 or e4, which would now entail a queen trade and loss of castling privileges for White.] **2 c3** [Maybe not best as it allows Black to establish a nice pawn center without challenge.] **2...e5 3 Nf3** [Right about here is where I concocted the crazy setup I chose. I figured I had nothing to lose and might as well try out something different.] **3...Bd6 4 e4 c6** [According to databases this has occurred twice before: Hintikka-Solozhenkin (0-1) and Hauenfrers-Milicevic (½-½), both played in 2001. No particular reason for citing the names in these games except for posterity, and that I enjoy seeing unusual names from around the world. A neat side-benefit of learning and studying chess. My opponent's 5th move was a novelty.] **5 Be2** [Here are some fun alternatives to consider had White played 5 d4: 5...Qe7 6 Bg5 f6 7 dxe5 Bxe5 (or 7...fxg5 8 exd6 Qxe4+) 8 Be3 dxe4 9 Nxe5 fxe5; or 5...dxe4 6 dxe5 exf3 7 Qxd6 fxg2 8 Bxg2] **5...Ne7** [Okay, probably not best (5...Nf6 instead?), but I had something specific in mind.] **6 O-O f6** [Probably either 6...Nd7 or 6...Bc7 were a bit better.] **7 Re1 Be6** [You can figure out where I'm headed now.] **8 Nbd2 O-O 9 a3** [This seems like a wasted tempi, but our metal friend says "nay, it's OK." 9 d4 is surely a try with more resolve.] **9...Nd7**



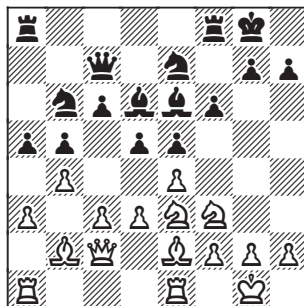
[So this was my envisioned position, and it's certainly playable. White really hasn't pressured Black in any way, and seems to lack a clear plan as to how to proceed.] **10 b4** [10 d4 kept begging to be played for some time now, but White eschews it for another plan.] **10...a5 11 Bb2 b5** [Also Black could have tried 11...Ng6, and again our metal friend likes the idea of 12 d4 in either case.] **12 Nf1** [White's not having any part of d4, but this leads him to a situation where his pieces become starved for oxygen, ie, no room to maneuver and no good squares.] **12...Nb6** [obvious and good] **13 Qc2 Qc7** [Correctly so, I wanted to connect my rooks, but d7 was the right square, not c7.] **14 Ne3** [Again 14 d4 was preferable.]

14...axb4

But this jeopardizes Black's advantage. After 15 axb4 White would be fine, if a little worse for wear. For reasons I don't understand, engines prefer lines such as:

i) 14...Na4 15 Rab1 Nxb2 16 Rxb2 Kh8 17 h3 axb4 18 axb4 Rfd8 19 Nh4 Qd7 20 Bg4 Bxg4 21 hxg4 Bc7 22 Rbb1 Bb6 23 g5 d4 24 cxd4 fxg5 25 Nf3 exd4 26 Nf5 Nxf5 27 exf5 Rf8

ii) 14...Ng6 15 g3 Na4 16 Rab1 Nxb2 17 Rxb2 Qd7 18 Nd2 Ne7 19 d4 a4 20 Nf3 h6 21 Bd3 Rad8 22 Rd1 dxe4 23 Bxe4 Nd5 24 dxe5 fxe5 25 Nxd5 cxd5 26 Rxd5 Bxd5 27 Bxd5+ Kh8



However, to my move White replied...

15 cxb4? ...and now Black is firmly in the driver's seat.

15...d4 16 Nf1 Ra7 [Not terrible, but 16...Ra6 would have saved time (*see move 19*). Instead of doubling rooks, 16...c5 17 bxc5 Na4 was another idea.] **17 N3d2 Rfa8** [Again 17...c5 was possible, eg 18 bxc5 Qxc5 19 Qxc5 Bxc5] **18 Nb3 Na4 19 Rec1** [19 f4 Ra6 20 Nfd2 Nxb2 21 Qxb2 Qa7 22 fxe5 fxe5 is different than the game but still bad for White.] **19...Ra6 20 Nfd2 Qa7 21 Nb1?** [21 f4 Nxb2 22 Qxb2 Rxa3 23 Na5 Rxa1 24 Rxa1 Qc7 25 fxe5 fxe5 prolongs the fight.] **21...Nxb2 22 Qxb2 Bxb4 23 Nxd4?** [misses the obvious...] **23...Qxd4 0-1**

Not the type of game or tactics you see every day. A great little book, **CHESS FOR TIGERS** (2nd ed), by Simon Webb, Pergamon, ISBN 0-08-037788-2, is worth tracking down—there may be a later edition available now. Look up the chapter called "How to trap Heffalumps". It provided my inspiration for this little foray into the unknown.

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