

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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2015 - #5



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2015 - Issue #5

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Jennifer Yu Wins State Championship

Jennifer Yu made history by becoming the first female Virginia State Champion at the annual “Virginia Closed” tournament, held in Dulles over Labor Day weekend. Her $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ score was half a point clear of former state champion Steve Greanias in 2nd-place. Newcomer Qindong Yang, recently arrived from China, finished clear third with $4\frac{1}{2}$ points in his first US tournament.

Other prizewinners in the Open section included Robert Fischer & Justin Lohr (tied for top Expert); and John Gaspar, Raymond Duchesne & Aasa Dommalapati (3-way share of top class A).

In the Under 1800 section, Duncan Guthrie won his first five games and then clinched the Virginia Amateur Champion title with a final round draw versus Wayne Porter, who thus finished in a three-way tie for 2nd place along with Susheel Vishwa & Ashley Xing one full point behind the winner. Other prizewinners included Sudars Sriniaiyer & Yoseph Mak (+ top class C); and Omkar Kovvali (top D).



2015 Virginia State Champion Jennifer Yu (photo by Sharon Gustafson)



Finally in the Under 1200 section, Deepika Gunturu scored 5½ points to finish clear first, followed by Robert Teachey a point behind, followed by Georgina Chin a further hal point back. Rithika Kobla won the top Under 800 prize, while James Croll was top unrated.

A total of 90 players participated under the direction of Andrew Rea and Mike Hoffpauir. The attendance was likely reduced by the necessity of moving the event from its normal Richmond venue due to renovations at the host hotel there. The annual VCF Business Meeting was also put off until the Northern Virginia Open, Nov 7-8 in Dulles.

WE ARE GRATEFUL to the new state champion for providing annotations to a couple of the event's key games.

Jennifer Yu - Daniel Miller

King's Indian

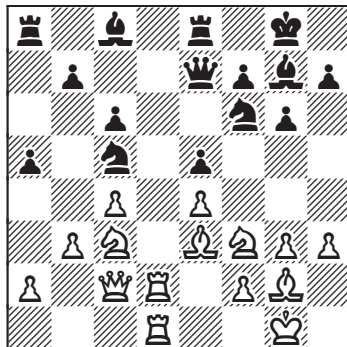
Notes by Jennifer Yu

When the Virginia Closed Championship rolled around the corner, I was more than surprised at how fast the year had flown by. Summer had come and gone and school has started once again. I had focused on chess this year and was disappointed when I didn't achieve any special improvement other than experience. A few months ago, after my dismal performance in the US Girls Junior, my parents and I changed my goals completely. I had been trying to cross the 2300 threshold for some time, and I think that may have affected my style of play and certain choices in my games. My new goal was simply to play good chess. It seemed to be working as I sensed improvement in my game, and I approached this tournament the same idea in mind. Of course I wanted to win the championship and go over 2300, but my main focus was just to play good games. I admit I got lucky many times in this tournament, but overall I am very happy about my performance.

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 O-O 5 Nf3 d6 6 d4 Nbd7 7 O-O e5 8 e4 c6 9 h3 Qb6 10 dxe5 dxe5 11 Qc2 Qb4 12 b3 Qe7 13 Be3 Re8 14 Rad1 Nc5 15 Rd2 [Simply doubling rooks. It is also okay to go 15 b4 before he stops me with ...a5, eg 15... Ne6 16 a3 a5 17 c5 but I didn't want create a weakness.] **15...a5** [securing the strong knight on c5 by stopping b4] **16 Rfd1** (*diagram*)

16...Nfd7

16...Bf8 was an interesting option. The point of this is to stop the rook advance Rd6, as





now if this was ever to happen Black would trade the queen for the two rooks. A possible continuation may be 17 Ne1 Be6 18 Nd3 Nxd3 19 Rxd3

The problem with 16...Be6? is not just that e5 is hanging: 17 Nxe5 Bxh3 and now in-between move 18 Nxc6 (or 18 Nxc6) 18...bxc6 19 Bxc5 (to get rid of the attack on the e4 pawn) 19...Qxc5 20 Bxh3 and White ends up a pawn up. In fact, 17 Rd6 is actually stronger than 17 Nxe5, eg 17...Nfd7 (17...Ncd7 18 Ng5 Bf8 19 c5) 18 Ng5 Bf8 19 Nxe6 fxe6 20 R6d2 White has a much better position because of the pawn structure and control on the d-file.

I thought the move from the game gave me the chance to get a better position by pushing my pawns on the queenside.

17 a3 [Δ b4] **Nf8 18 b4 Na6** [Keeping the knight centralized 18...Nce6 is slightly better, though after 19 c5 White has total control over d-file.] **19 b5 Nc5 20 bxc6 bxc6 21 Rd6!** [This was the position I was hoping to get when I chose 17 a3. The rook is attacking the c6 pawn as well as cutting off Black's queen from defending the c5 knight.] **21...Nce6** [Getting another piece out with 21...Nfe6 is probably better.] **22 Rxc6 Bd7** [If 22...Qxa3 right away 23 Bc1 Qe7 24 Nd5 White has a huge initiative as Black's pieces are uncoordinated.] **23 Rb6 Qxa3 24 Rb3 Ba4** [The best move; if 24...Qe7 25 Nd5 Qd8 26 Nb6 Nd4 27 Nxd4 exd4 28 Bxd4 Bxd4 29 Rxd4 I get the pawn back in a better position.] **25 Rxa3 Bxc2 26 Rd2** [The bishop is trapped and saving it will cost a pawn.] **26...Nd4 27 Nxd4 exd4 28 Bxd4 Bxd4 29 Rxd4 a4 30 Nd5** [Simple 30 f4 would have been better so the knight could block Black's rooks from penetrating on the b-file by Nb5] **30...Reb8 31 Rd2 Rb3 32 Ra1 Rb1+ 33 Rxb1 Bxb1 34 Rd1 Bc2 35 Ra1** [Now my one pawn advantage is disappearing.] **35...a3** [35...Nd7 would stop the c5 push and leave the bishop protecting the a-pawn in case Black's rook leaves the a-file.] **36 c5 Ne6 37 c6 Ra7 38 c7 Nxc7 39 Nxc7 Rxc7 40 Rxa3 Re7 41 Rc3** [Although this position looks like a draw, I played on because of the extra pawn.] **41...Bb1 42 Rb3 Bc2 43 Rb2 Bd3 44 Rd2 Bb1 45 Rd4 g5 46 f4 gxf4 47 gxf4 f6 48 Kf2 Kg7 49 Ke3 Ra7 50 Rb4 Ba2 51 Kf3 Be6 52 Kg3 Ra3+ 53 Kh4 Ra7 54 Bf3 Re7 55 Rb2 Kg8 56 Rb4 Kg7 57 Bg4 Bf7 58 Bf5 Bg6 59 Bxg6 hxg6 60 Kg4 Rf7 61 Kf3 Re7 62 h4 Kf7 63 Rb5 Ra7 64 Kg4 Re7 65 e5 Kg7 66 exf6+ Kxf6 67 Rb6+** I stopped recording moves here because I had under five minutes remaining. 67...Re6 would be a dead draw now because of 68 Rxe6 Kxe6 69 Kg5 Kf7 70 Kh6 Kf6 71 Kh7 Kf7 etc, but in the game my opponent played **67...Kf7** and after **68 Kg5** I was up two pawns. This is supposed to be a win for White with accurate play, but considering that the game ended with me having 1 (!) second remaining on my clock, the actual result— ½-½ —seemed reasonable. A hard fought and good game on both sides.



Jennifer Yu - Qindong Yang

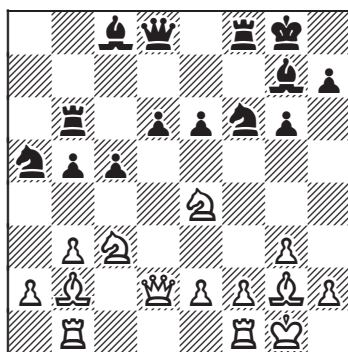
King's Indian

Notes by Jennifer Yu

For my final round game I was paired as White against Qindong Yang. He had played very well considering this was his first USCF tournament (of course it wasn't his first tournament ever) and I knew he would be a strong and tough opponent. Going into the last round, I was surprised I was not nervous. It seems that my experience in the past year playing many different tournaments in various situations has paid off. I just wanted to play a good, solid game. **1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 O-O 5 d4 d6 6 Nf3 Nc6 7 O-O a6 8 d5 Na5 9 Nd2 c5 10 Rb1** [10 Qc2 is more popular but 10 Rb1 is fine too.] **10...Rb8 11 b3 b5 12 Bb2 e6** [This has not been played very recently and has gone out of style.] **13 cxb5** [13 dxe6 fxe6 14 cxb5 is the same thing] **13...axb5 14 dxe6 fxe6 15 Nde4** [The d6 pawn is now a target and Black cannot move it because of his c-pawn. However, if I do succeed in exploiting this, Black will end up with a large connected center.] **15...Rb6 16 Qd2**

16...Nxe4*(diagram)*

16...b4 is interesting, not allowing me to recapture on e4 with the knight. 17 Na4 Nxe4 (the only move since if 17...Ra6? 18 Naxc5! dxc5 19 Qxd8 Rxd8 20 Nxf6+ Bxf6 21 Bxf6 White recaptures the piece with a pawn advantage; and 17...Rc6? loses the exchange to the discovered attack from the bishop on g2 18 Nxf6+ Bxf6 19 Bxc6 Nxc6 20 Bxf6 Rxf6) 18 Bxe4 Ra6 19 Bxg7 Kxg7 with chances for both sides.

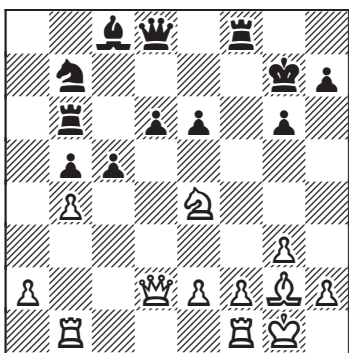
*Preparing to double*

16...Bb7 would also have been a good move, preparing to trade my good g2 bishop.

17 Nxe4 Nb7 [I thought Black needed to get in ...b4 before I do it myself and create possible weaknesses in his camp. However, 17...b4?! right away is dubious because after 18 Bxg7 Kxg7 19 Rbd1 Nb7 I could gang up on the weakness d6, plus the spectacular idea off g4-g5 and then putting the knight on f6. The right way was 17...Bxb2 18 Rxb2 and now 18...b4. My pieces are not as well placed (b2 rook) as the other variation and the game would be equal.] **18 Bxg7 Kxg7 19 b4**

*(diagram top of opposite page)***19...c4**

Although this creates a protected passed pawn, the pawn may turn into a possible target once I attack the base of the b5-c4 chain by a4. If Black had declined to



push the pawn and played 19...Kg8 instead (or 19...cxb4 20 Qxb4 with a new weakness on b5) then after 20 bxc5 Nxc5 (20...dxc5 21 Qxd8 Rxd8 22 Rfc1 Black cannot avoid losing a pawn) 21 Nxc5 dxc5 22 Qa5 White is clearly better due to the weakness of Black's queenside pawn structure.

20 Rfd1 Kg8 21 Qd4 Ra6 22 Nc3 Qb6 23 a4 Qxd4 24 Rxd4 bxa4 25 Rxc4 d5 [The point is after 25...a3 White has 26 Rxc8 Rxc8 27 Bxb7 Rxc3 28 Bxa6 winning] **26 b5 Ra5** [if

26...dxc4 27 bxa6 winning] **27 Rxa4 Bd7 28 Rxa5 Nxa5 29 e3?! [An inaccuracy 29 Bh3 Rd8 30 Ra1 Nb3 31 Ra7 would have made the win more straightforward.] 29...Rc8 30 Ne2 Rb8 31 Nd4 Nc4 32 Ra1 Rb6 [if 32...Bxb5 33 Rb1 Nd6 34 Bf1 the bishop is lost from the b-file pin.] 33 Bh3 Kf7 34 Ra7 Ke7? 35 Bxe6 Rxe6 36 Nxe6 Kxe6 37 b6 1-0**

Daniel Miller - Qindong Yang Pirc

1 e4 d6 2 d4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 h4 Nf6 5 Be2 c5 6 dxc5 Qa5 7 Kf1 Qxc5 8 Be3 Qa5 9 Nh3 h5 10 Ng5 Nc6 11 f3 O-O 12 Qd2 Bd7 13 Bc4 Ne5 14 Bb3 Rfc8 15 Kf2 Be8 16 Ne2 Qc7 17 c3 Nc4 18 Bxc4 Qxc4 19 Nf4 a5 20 Rhd1 b5 21 Qd3 b4 22 Ne2 Qxd3 23 Rxd3 Bb5 24 Rd2 Bxe2 25 Kxe2 bxc3 26 bxc3 Rxc3 27 Rb1 Rc7 28 a4 Nd7 29 Rb5 Ne5 30 Rdb2 Rc4 31 Rb8+ Rxb8 32 Rxb8+ Bf8 33 Ra8 Rxa4 34 Nh3 Kg7 35 Bd2 Ra2 36 Kd1 Nc4 37 Bc3+ e5 38 Ra7 Ne3+ 39 Ke1 Nxc2+ 40 Kf1 Nxc4 41 Ng5 Kg8 42 f4 Rc2 43 Be1 Ng2 44 fxe5 Nxe1 45 e6 fxe6 46 Kxe1 Rc8 47 Nxe6 Re8 48 Nxf8 Rxe4+ 49 Kf2 Kxf8 ... (The scoresheet was indecipherable for the final moves) 0-1

Macon Shibut - Qindong Yang, Nimzowitsch/Larsen

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 b3 Nf6 2 Bb2 g6 3 Bxf6 exf6 4 c4 Bg7 5 Nc3 O-O 6 g3 f5 7 Bg2 d6 8 Nh3!? 8 Rc1 Re8 9 e3 f4!? 10 gxf4 Nd7 9 Rc1 Nc5 10 Nf4 [10 d3; 10 Qc2] 10...Re8 [10...Ne6!] 11 O-O Ne4 12 e3 Nxc3 13 dxc3 a5 14 Qd2 c6 15 Rfd1 Be5 16 c5 Qf6 17 Nd3 [17 cxd6 Rd8 18 c4 Rxd6 19 Qc2] 17...dxc5 18 Nxc5 Bc7 19 Qc2 Qe7 20 Nd3 Be6 21 Nf4 Red8 [21...Bxf4 =] 22 Ne2 Qc5 23 Nd4 [Chances are equal. Black has the bishop pair but it's hardly no better than White's bishop plus excellent knight, and Black's pawn formation has the (mostly insignificant, but in the future...?) doubled pawn.] 23...Bd5 24 c4 Bxg2 25 Kxg2 Be5 26 Ne2



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On-line registration. Advance entries, links to maps and additional information can be found at
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Rounds: Saturday: Rd. 1 9:45 Rd. 2 2:00 Rd. 3 7:00
 Sunday: Rd. 4 9:30 Rd. 5 2:45

Byes: A single half pt. bye is available & must be requested before the start of Rd.3. Byes for rounds 4 & 5 may not be removed after the start of Rd. 3.

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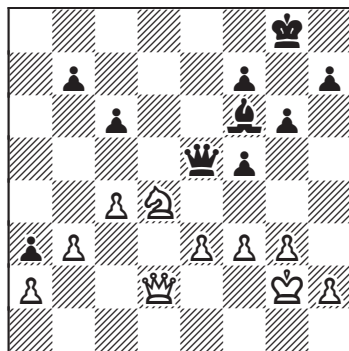


Bf6 27 Rxd8+ Rxd8 28 Rd1 Qe7 29 Rd2 Rxd2 30 Qxd2 a4 31 Qd3 a3!? [Ambitious, and no worse than the bland equality after 31...axb3, but the chances remain equal.] **32 Nd4 Qd6 33 Qd2 Qe5 34 f3?** [This could have had serious consequences. The balance would have been maintained after 34 Qd3 Qe4+ 35 Qxe4 fxe4 36 f3 exf3+ 37 Kxf3 Kf8]

34...g5

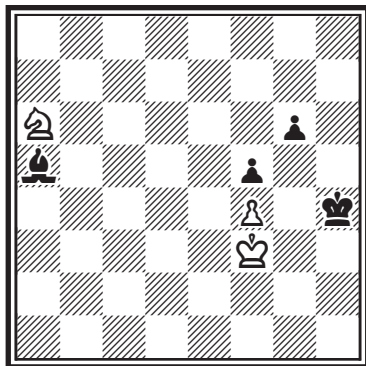
(diagram)

Black plays to undermine the knight by ...f4. However, he missed a subtle chance in 34...c5! 35 Nb5 Qb2 36 Qf2—the very point of my 34th move, but it turns out White falls into a kind of zugzwang: 36...h5 37 h4 (37 h3 would be no better, eg 37...h4 38 g4 fxg4 39 fxg4 Be5 40 Kf3 Bg3 41 Qe2 Kf8; and 37 Kf1? can never be played because of 37...Qb1+ 38 Kg2 Bb2 and captures a2) 37...f4! 38 exf4 Bd4 forcing White to endure a difficult defense after 39 Qxb2 axb2 40 Na3 Kf8 41 Kf1 Ke7 42 Ke2 Ke6 43 Nb1



35 Qd3! [Hitting f5 turns the tables. 35 f4 Qe4+ 36 Kf2 Bxd4 37 exd4 Qh1 38 Ke3 Qe4+ 39 Kf2 would be equal, whereas after the text White can even claim a nominal edge.] **35...f4 36 Qf5! fxe3 37 Qxe5 Bxe5 38 Nc2 Kg7 39 Nxe3** [39 Nxa3? would be wrong because of 39...f5! Δ f4 preserving the e3 pawn; but not 39...Bd4? 40 Kf1 f5 41 Nc2 Bb6 42 f4 gxf4 43 gxf4 Bc7 44 Nxe3 Bxf4 45 Nxf5+ Kf6 46 Ng3 etc] **39...Kf6 40 Nc2 Bb2** [White cannot lose as the knight and pawns form an complete blockade against Black's king; and if Black is not careful, there might arise a chance for even more.] **41 Kf2 Ke5 42 Ke3 Bc1+ 43 Kd3 h5 44 Nd4** [44 b4!? opens new vistas, not clearly favorable to either side.] **44...Bb2 45 Ne2 c5 46 h3 h4 47 gxh4 gxh4 48 Ke3 Kf5 49 Kd2 Ke5 50 Kd3 Kf5** [My opponent had about 7 minutes left in the sudden death phase—I had about 14--so I tried to gain a bit more clock advantage by tacking around before trying anything. However, he moved quickly and confidently at each turn.] **51 Kc2 Ke5 52 Kd2 Kf5 53 Ke3 Be5** [for the moment not interested in letting me even consider 53...Ke5 54 f4+ Kf5 55 Kf3] **54 Kf2 Bb2 55 Kg2 Ke5 56 Kf1 Kf5 57 Kf2 Ke5 58 Ke3 Kf5 59 Kd3 ½-½** White cannot achieve anything after 59 f4 b6 60 Kf3 Bf6 61 Nc1 Bd4 62 Nd3 Bc3.

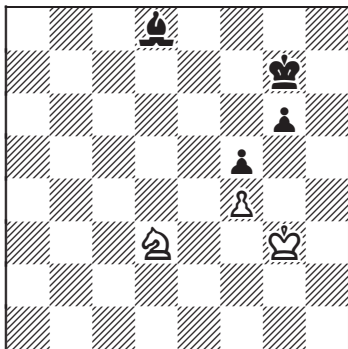




Stephen Miller - Andrew Samuelson

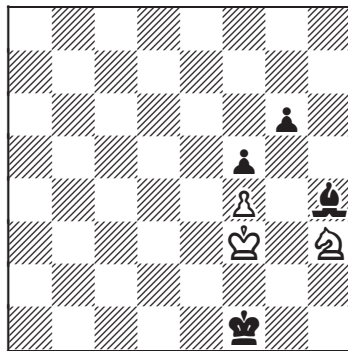
Position after 56 Nxa6

At first glance this looks hopelessly drawn. White's king is defending his pawn from a square inaccessible to the bishop, no danger of the knight getting trapped is evident... what does Black have to play for? Well, let's watch. **56...Bd2 57 Nc5 Bc1 58 Nd3 Bd2 59 Ne5 Kh5 60 Nf7 Bc3 61 Ng5 Bf6 62 Nf7 Be7 63 Ne5 Bf8 64 Nf7 Bh6 65 Kg3 Bg7 66 Ng5 Be5 67 Ne6 Bd6 68 Ng5 Bb8 69 Nf7 Bc7 70 Ng5 Bd8 71 Ne6 Bf6 72 Kh3 Kh6 73 Kg3 Kh7 74 Nc5 Kg7 75 Nd3 Bd8**

(diagram)

Twenty moves towards the '80-move rule' and if anything Black has achieved negative progress as the knight has established contact with the rest of White's small army. **76 Ne1 Kf6 77 Nf3 Ke6 78 Ng1 Bb6 79 Nh3 Kd5 80 Kf3 Bd8 81 Ng1 Kd4 82 Nh3 Bh4 83 Ng1 Kd3 84 Nh3 Kd2 85 Ng1 Ke1 86 Ne2 Bf6 87 Ng1 Kf1 88 Nh3 Bh4** *(diagram)*

But what is this? It turns out that the knight is short of air on the kingside! At least that is how it seemed to Miller with the clock beginning to tick down in the sudden death time control. It appears White is in zugzwang—but appearances are deceptive. **89 Nf2!** would demonstrate that Black really has no chances of winning this. Instead there followed...

*The moment of crisis arrives...*



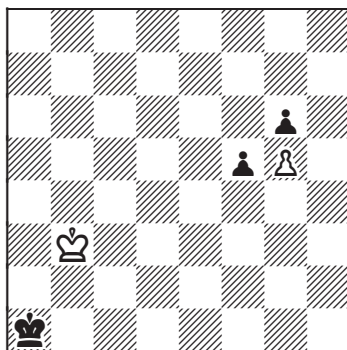
89 Ng5? Bxg5 90 fxg5

Now Black is indeed winning, although the procedure amusingly requires that he maneuver his king all the way to a1(!) to outflank his counterpart.

90...Ke1 91 Ke3 Kd1 92 Kd3 Kc1 93 Kc3 Kb1 94 Kb3 [still inside the square of Black's passed pawn, but now...] 94...Ka1!

(diagram)

95 Kc3 Ka2 96 Kd4 Kb3 97 Ke5 Kc3 [off the a2-g8 diagonal so White's pawn will not promote with check, just in case] 98 Kf6 f4 99 Kxg6 f3 100 Kh7 f2 101 g6 f1Q 102 g7 Qh3+ 103 Kg6 Qg4+ 0-1



Andrew Samuelson - Jennifer Yu
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be3 e5 7 Nb3 Be6 8 f3 Be7 9 Qd2 O-O 10 O-O-O Nbd7 11 g4 b5 12 g5 b4 13 Ne2 Ne8 14 f4 a5 15 f5 Bxb3 16 cxb3 a4 17 bxa4 Rxa4 18 b3 Ra5 19 Kb1 Qa8 20 Ng3 Nc5 21 Bxc5 dxc5 22 g6 Nd6 23 gxf7+ Rxf7 24 Qc2 Kh8 25 h4 Bf8 26 Rh2 Rfa7 27 Rdd2 Qc6 28 Bd3 c4 29 Bxc4 Rc5 30 Rxd6 Bxd6 31 h5 Ra3 32 h6 Rxc4 33 hxg7+ Kg8 34 bxc4 Rxg3 35 f6 Bc5 36 Rh1 Qxf6 37 Qd1 Bd4 38 Rf1 Qxf1 39 Qxf1 Rg1 40 Qxg1 Bxg1 41 Kc2 h5 0-1



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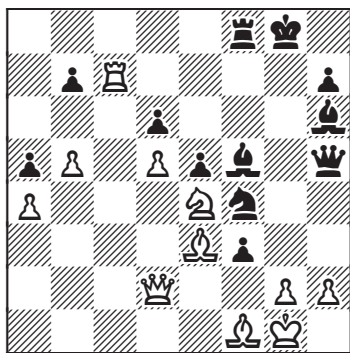


John Gaspar - Daniel Miller

King's Indian

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 O-O 6 Be3 e5 7 Nge2 c6 8 Qd2 Nbd7 9 d5 cxd5 10 cxd5 a6 11 a4 Nh5 12 Nc1 f5 13 b4 Ndf6 14 Be2 Nf4 15 O-O N6h5 16 Nd3 Qg5 17 Nxf4 Nxf4 18 Bd3 Bd7 19 Rfc1 Qh5 20 Bf1 Rac8 21 b5 a5 22 Ra2 Bh6 23 Rac2 g5 24 exf5 g4 25 Ne4 Rxc2 26 Rxc2 gxf3 27 Rc7 [27 Nxd6, not so much for the pawn as to keep Bd7 from joining the attack since now Bxf5 would be answered 27...Nxf5] 27... Bxf5 (diagram) 28 Nxd6



In conversation after the game, I think Danny indicated in the event of 28 Ng3 the queen sac 28...fxg2 but it doesn't seem to work, eg 29 Nxh5 gxf1Q+ 30 Kxf1 Bh3+ 31 Ke1 Ng2+ 32 Qxg2+ etc. Perhaps I misunderstood him (we were discussing it without benefit of a board and pieces); in any case Black is winning after instead 28...Qg4 29 gxf3 Qxf3 30 Bxf4 (30 Rxb7 Nh3+ 31 Bxh3 Bxe3+) Bxf4 31 Qg2 Qe3+ 32 Kh1 and now the immediate 32... Bxg3 33 Qxg3+ doesn't work because of

check, but after 32... Bg6 Black is up a protected passed pawn and has a strong attack, eg 33 Rxb7 Bxg3 34 hxg3 Be4 etc.

28... fxg2 29 Bxg2 Ne2+ 30 Kf1 Bg4+ 31 Ke1 Qh4+ 32 Kd1 Nd4+ 0-1

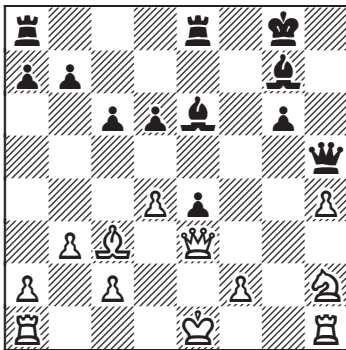
Siddhart Nair – Macon Shibut

King's Indian

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 d6 3 e3 g6 4 b3 Bg7 5 Bb2 O-O 6 Be2 e5 7 Nbd2 [7 dxe5 Ng4 would be more normal. His decision to block the d2 square provoked my next move as the king knight no longer has its natural retreat.] 7...e4 8 Ng5 Re8 9 h4 Nbd7 10 Nh3 h5 11 Nf4 Nf8 12 Nf1 Ne6 13 Nxe6 Bxe6 14 Nh2 c6 15 g4 [15 Qd2 Δ 0-0-0] 15...hxg4 16 Nxg4 Nh5! 17 Qd2 f5 18 Nh2 f4! 19 Bxh5? [He probably overlooked my 20th move. After 19 O-O-O f3 20 Bf1 Qxh4 White is a pawn down and his pieces are sort of gummed up (check out that knight!) but the open files in front of my king offer hope for future counterplay.] 19...fxe3 20 Qxe3 [or 20 fxe3 Qxh4+ etc] 20...Qa5+! 21 Bc3 Qxh5



**22 Qg3**

The main line I'd looked at was 22 Qg5 where I intended 22...e3 (although 22...Kh7 23 Qxh5+ gxh5 24 Nf1 Rf8 may be more reliable) 23 fxe3 Bd5 eg 24 Rf1 Qxg5 25 hxg5 Rxe3+ 26 Kd2 Rh3;

If 22 Qe2 e3 (also there is 22...Qxe2+ 23 Kxe2 c5 24 Rad1 Rac8) 23 fxe3 Bd5; one other possibility was 22 Nf1 Rf8 23 Ng3 Qg4 24 Ne2 Rf3 25 Qg5 Qxg5 26 hxg5 Raf8

22...e3 [to disconnect his queen from his bishop as preparation for the next move] 23 fxe3 c5 24 Nf3? [I didn't take 24 O-O seriously—White king just looks so exposed—but it's actually a rather tough nut to crack. At any rate this is what he should have tried as the text loses by force.] 24...Bd5 25 Ke2 cxd4 26 Bd2 dxe3 27 Bb4 Bxf3+ [27...Bxa1 28 Rxa1 Bxf3+ also wins] 28 Qxf3 Qb5+ winning the bishop and allowing no counterplay via 29 c4 Qxb4 30 Qd5+ Kh8 31 h5 in view of 31...Qd2+ 0-1

Jonathan Maxwell - Bryant Lohr

Queen's Pawn Game

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 d5 3 d4 e6 4 Bg2 c5 5 c4 Nc6 6 O-O cxd4 7 cxd5 Nxd5 8 Nxd4 Bc5 9 Nxc6 bxc6 10 Qc2 Qb6 11 Nc3 Nxc3 12 Qxc3 Ba6 13 Qxg7 Bd4 14 Bxc6+ Qxc6 15 Qxd4 Rg8 16 Be3 Bxe2 17 Rfc1 Qb7 18 Rc5 Rd8 19 Qa4+ Rd7 20 Rac1 Ke7 21 Qh4+ Kf8 22 Bh6+ Rg7 23 Rc8+ 1-0

Jay Lalwani - Saigautam Bonam

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Be7 8 Qf3 Nc6 9 Nxc6 bxc6 10 O-O-O d5 11 e5 Nd7 12 h4 h5 13 Bxe7 Qxe7 14 g4 hxg4 15 Qxg4 g6 16 Bd3 Rb8 17 a3 Nc5 18 h5 Qb7 19 hxg6! Rxh1? [19... Nxd3+ 20 Kd2 (if 20 cxd3 Qxb2mate; if 20 Rxd3 Rxh1+) Rg8 21 Kxd3] 20 gxf7+ Kxf7 21 Rxh1 Qxb2+ 22 Kd2 Nb3+ 23 Ke3 d4+ 24 Kf2 Rb7 25 Qg6+ Ke7 26 Qg7+ 1-0

Raymond Duchesne - Al Harvey

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nc6 5 Nxc6 bxc6 6 Bd3 Qc7 7 O-O Bb7 8 Qe2 Bc5 9 Kh1 Bb6 10 c4 c5 11 Nc3 Ne7 12 f4 O-O 13 f5 Nc6 14 f6 g6 15 Qe3 Kh8 16 Qh6 Rg8 17 Rf3 1-0





Isaac Chiu - Saad Al-Hariri

English

1 c4 c6 2 Nc3 d5 3 b3 d4 4 Ne4 e5 5 d3 f5 6 Ng3 Nf6 7 e3 c5 8 Be2 Nc6 9
exd4 Nxd4 10 Nf3 Bd6 11 Nxd4 cxd4 12 O-O O-O 13 Bf3 Rb8 14 Re1 Qc7
15 Bd2 b5 16 Rb1 Bd7 17 Qe2 b4 18 Rec1 Qc5 19 a3 a5 20 a4 Rbe8 21 Re1
e4 22 Nxe4 fxe4 23 dxe4 Bf5 24 Qd3 Bg6 25 g3 Nd7 26 Bg2 Ne5 27 Qf1
Nf3+ 28 Bxf3 Rxf3 29 Qg2 Ref8 30 Rb2 Rxf2 31 Qxf2 Rxf2 32 Kxf2 d3+ 33
Be3 Qe5 34 Rd2 Bxe4 35 Rc1 Bc5 0-1

Al Harvey - Saigaubam Bonam

Grünfeld

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 e4 Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 7 Bc4 c5 8
Nf3 Nc6 9 Be3 cxd4 10 cxd4 Bg4 11 h3 Bxf3 12 Qxf3 O-O 13 Rc1 Nxd4 14
Bxd4 Qxd4 15 O-O e6 16 Rfd1 Qb6 17 Rb1 Qc7 18 Bb5 a6 19 Ba4 b5 20 Bb3
Rfd8 21 Rbc1 Qe5 22 Qe3 a5 23 Rxd8+ Rxd8 24 Rc5 Qa1+ 25 Rc1 Qb2 26
Qf4 Be5 27 Qg5 Kg7 28 Rf1 Bf6 29 Qf4 a4 30 Bd1 Qxa2 31 Bg4 Qb2 32 Qc7
Re8 33 f4 Bd4+ 34 Kh1 a3 35 f5 exf5 36 exf5 Bf6 37 fxg6 hxg6 38 Qc6 Re7
39 Rd1 a2 40 Rd8 a1Q+ 41 Bd1 Re1+ 42 Kh2 Be5mate 0-1

Justin Lohr - Anil Marthi

Torre

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 Bg5 h6 4 Bxf6 Qxf6 5 e4 d5 6 Nbd2 c5 7 c3 Nc6 8 Bb5 Bd7
9 exd5 exd5 10 O-O cxd4 11 Bxc6 bxc6 12 cxd4 Bg4 13 Rc1 Bb4 14 Re1+ Kf8
15 Qa4 a5 16 Re3 c5 17 a3 cxd4 18 Rd3 Bxd2 19 Nxd2 Be2 20 Rb3 Qf4 21 Qd7
Qxd2 22 Rc8+ Rxc8 23 Qxc8+ Ke7 24 Rb7+ Kf6 25 Qc6+ Ke5 26 Re7+ Kf4 27
Rxf7+ Ke5 28 f4+ Ke4 29 Qg6+ Ke3 30 Re7+ Kxf4 31 g3+ Kf3 32 Qf5+ 1-0

Vishal Kobla - Bryant Lohr

French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 Bd3 c5 6 c3 Nc6 7 Ne2 Rb8 8 O-O
b5 9 f4 Qb6 10 Nf3 a5 11 Kh1 c4 12 Bc2 b4 13 f5 Nd8 14 Nf4 Bb7 15 fxe6
Nxe6 16 Nxe6 fxe6 17 Ng5 h5 18 Bg6+ Ke7 19 Nf7 Nf6 20 exf6+ gxf6 21
Nxh8 Kd7 22 Nf7 Be7 23 Bf4 Rg8 24 Qxh5 1-0

Daniel Miller - Anil Marthi

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6 dxc6 5 O-O Bg4 6 h3 Bxf3 7 Qxf3 Nf6 8
d3 Be7 9 Qg3 Qd6 10 Nd2 Nh5 11 Qg4 Qg6 12 Nf3 Bd6 13 Qxg6 hxg6 14
d4 f6 15 dxe5 Bxe5 16 Rd1 Bd6 17 Rxd6 cxd6 18 g4 O-O-O 19 gxh5 Rxh5
20 Kg2 Rdh8 21 Bf4 d5 22 exd5 cxd5 23 Rd1 Re8 24 Rd3 Re4 25 Bg3 Kd7
26 Nd2 Rb4 27 b3 Kc6 28 Rc3+ Kb6 29 Rd3 Kc6 30 a3 Rb5 31 b4 Kb6 32
c4 dxc4 33 Nxc4+ Ka7 34 Rd8 Rhd5 35 Bb8+ Ka8 36 Rxd5 1-0





20th Northern Virginia Open Saturday & Sunday, November 7-8, 2015

20 Grand Prix Points! A VCF Cup Event!!

Tournament Site: Executive Conference Center, 22685 Holiday Park Dr, Dulles, VA 20166

Hotel: Holiday Inn Dulles, 45425 Holiday Inn Dr., Dulles, VA 20166; Call the Hotel at 703-471-7411, tell them you or with the group called **"Virginia Chess Federation"** to get the \$69 chess rate!!

Reserve your room by Friday Oct 16th!!

Format: 5 Rounds, Swiss System. All players play in one Section.

Round Times and Time Controls:

- Saturday, 3 Rounds of chess at 10am, 2:30pm, 7pm. **G/115, with 5-second time delay.**
- Sunday, 2 Rounds of chess at 10am and 4:30pm. **40/120, SD/30, with 5-second time delay throughout.**
- One 1/2 pt bye is available, must declare during Registration or 30 min before start of Round 2 on Sat.

Prizes: **\$2,800 payout is guaranteed.** More if we have over 110 paid players!!

- 1st-4th Place Prizes: \$600, \$375, \$275, \$130 ... **all guaranteed!!**
- Class and Under Prizes: Expert, A and unrated, B, C, D, and Under 1200 ... \$220 each, **guaranteed!!**
- Top Upset on Saturday \$50 and on Sunday \$50 ... both guaranteed!!

Entry Fees: **Early Entry rate is \$65 if payment or entry information is received by Tuesday Nov 3rd.** Entry fee on-site and after Nov 3rd is \$75. **Checks payable to Virginia Chess Federation.** **Current USCF Membership is required. Virginia residents must be members of the VA Chess Federation (VCF).** We will honor other state's chess federation memberships for non-VA residents. Renew your USCF membership before the tournament at www.uschess.org. VCF and USCF memberships will be available at the tournament site.

Registration: **Three ways to Register:** Online at www.vachess.org, by US Mail, or On-site. **AVOID THE LAST MINUTE LINE BY ENTERING EARLY ONLINE OR THROUGH THE MAIL.** No email entries.

1. **OnLine:** www.vachess.org, with payment through PayPal. \$65 until midnight Tuesday Nov 3rd. OnLine entry increases to \$75 on Wednesday Nov 4th. Online Entry will be available until 8AM on Saturday.
2. **Mail:** Complete the entry form (on the back of this flyer) and send it to: **Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: NoVA Open, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693.** Your entry must be POST-MARKED by **Tuesday November 3rd** for you to get the early entry fee of \$65. Entries post-marked after 3 November will be assessed a \$10 late fee.
3. **On-Site** (at the Tournament): Registration opens at the event site at 8AM and **closes at 9:15AM.** If you wait to enter at the tournament you will pay the \$75 late entry fee.

**Players who have not paid their Entry Fees by 9:15am on Saturday Nov 7th
will NOT be paired for Round 1!!**

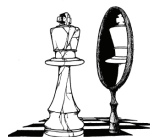
INFO: Andy Rea (andrerea2@yahoo.com), or Chief TD Mike Hoffpauir (mhoffpauir@aol.com). **No email entries.**

Chess Magnet School JGP points.





Reflections Reflections



Looking Back on an Amateur Chess "Career"

by Mark Warriner

SIMUL CITY

One of the more esoteric endeavors of Chess is the Simultaneous Exhibition, or "Simul" if you're into the whole brevity thing. I've both played in and given simul. I'd much rather give them than play in them. There's something inherently just not right about failing to beat someone who is playing several opponents at once. For crying out loud. And yet I failed all four times when I was just one in the crowd. Okay, I'm not a very good player, but still. *Just... not... right.*

SAMUEL RESHEVSKY, 1985

When I first started playing seriously at the age of 17, I began going to the club at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). They had Experts and category A and B players, along with many rated lower. I was excited to learn that former world championship contender and many-time US champion Samuel Reshevsky was going to be giving a simul there. I was vaguely familiar with some of his games, particularly those from his match against Bobby Fischer, from the 1953 Candidates Tournament, and of course from the 1948 World Championship Match Tournament.

One of the funnier things I recall is that Reshevsky specifically asked that he be provided with fresh-squeezed orange juice during the simul. The organizer mistook his request for "fresh oranges". He didn't look amused when he was presented with a bag of oranges.

As special treat, I was invited to have dinner with him afterwards. When the event ended, we went to Aunt Sarah's Pancake Restaurant for the requisite fresh squeezed orange juice and he politely put up with us peppering him with the usual questions about Bobby Fischer. I could tell he was a little annoyed with the "same 'ol same 'ol" and as I was interested in Garry Kasparov and Soviet politics at the time, I asked him what it was like playing there. He mentioned that it was very plain, that the country was generally impoverished (1940-60s), and that his rooms were always bugged. And that of course, the Soviets colluded, often drawing or throwing games to ensure that one of them won the competition.



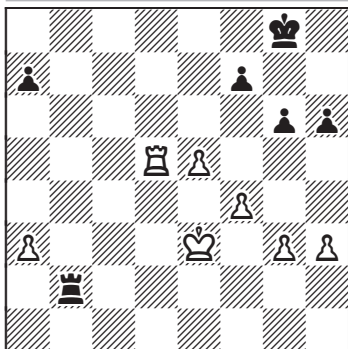
Fascinating stuff to me, especially as Fischer contended with the same. This, along with many chess books about Soviet chess and Kasparov's early political writings (things like *Perestroika* 1989, ISBN 0-684-19117-2, Kasparov et. al., Scribner 1988, and *Child of Change*, ISBN 0-09-172722-7, Kasparov/Treloard, Hutchinson, 1987) led me to the study of Political Science/International Studies at VCU.

Samuel Reshevsky - Mark Wariner

VCU Simul 1985

King's Indian

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 d4 d6 5 g3 O-O 6 Bg2 Nbd7 7 O-O c6 8 e4 e5 [This position has occurred many times in practice, from Dyner-Koltanowski (½-½, Ostend 1937) to as recently as Melkumyan-Kamsky (½-½, Baku 2015). What I unfortunately did not know what that it occurred in one my esteemed opponent's games just seven years earlier (Reshevsky-Matera, 1-0 USA Ch 1977)! It's generally not a good idea to exactly fall in line with your opponent's winning strategy unless you've researched and found an improvement. Just saying.] **9 Qc2 Re8** [9...Qe7 10 Rd1 exd4 11 Nxd4 a5 12 h3 Nc5 13 Bf4 Rd8 14 Nb3 Be6 15 Bf1 Nh5 16 Be3 f5 17 Nxc5 dxc5 18 exf5 Bxf5 19 Qe2 Nf6 20 g4 Be6 21 Na4 Nd7 22 Bg5 Bf6 23 Bxf6 Qxf6 24 Re1 Re8 25 Bg2 Bf7 26 Qd2 Qd4 27 Rad1 Ne5 28 Qg5 Nd3 29 Re3 Bxc4 30 Nb6 Qxb2 31 Rxd3 Qxb6 32 Rd7 Qb2 33 Qh4 Qh8 34 Rxb7 Rab8 35 Ra7 Bd5 36 Rxd5 Re1+ 37 Kh2 cxd5 38 Bxd5+ Kf8 1-0 Reshevsky-Matera, 1977] **10 Rd1 exd4 11 Nxd4 h6** [So this was my "TN." You know you might be in for a rough day when Kasparov, Gligoric, Benko, Dorfman, Mamedyarov *et al* are on the opposing column as having also played this line. Everyone else in the databases managed to avoid my mistake, and there are at least half-a-dozen better tries.] **12 h3 Nc5** [Black was just "fishing" here, that e-pawn is not going anywhere.] **13 Be3** [This is a simul after all, but White let Black off the hook a bit as either 13 Nb3 or 13 Bf4 put Black on his heels.] **13... Ne6** [This was no time for timidity. Black was aiming for Qe7, and it should have been played.] **14 Nxe6 Rxe6** [Don't ask me what I was thinking, I don't know. Obviously 14...Bxe6 was better.] **15 c5 Ne8 16 cxd6** [16 Ne2 posed bigger problems.] **16...Rxd6 17 Rxd6 Qxd6 18 Rd1 Qe7 19 f4 Be6 20 e5 Qc7** [Stinky. 20...Nc7 had to be tried.] **21 Ne4 Bf8 22 Bc5** [Again letting Black live longer than would 22 b3.] **22...Bxc5+ 23 Nxc5 Qe7** [23...Bd5 24 Bxd5 cxd5 25 Qf2 (25 Rxd5 b6) Rd8 26 Nb3 b6 and it's a game.] **24 a3 Rc8 25 Nxe6 Qxe6 26 Qd3 Nc7** [26...Ng7] **27 Qd7 Nd5** [Not a great idea. Several moves were better but I was in desperation mode.] **28 Qxb7 Rc7 29 Qa8+** [29 Qb8+ Qc8 (29...Rc8 30 Qxa7; 29...Kg7 30 Bxd5) 30 Qxc8+ Rxc8 31 b4 Ne3 32 Rc1 Nxc2 33 Kxg2 and White's in control. After the text, Black continues to fight.] **29...Qc8** [29...Kg7 was necessary] **30 Qxc8+ Rxc8 31 Bxd5** [31 b4 transposes to the winning line above] **31...cxd5 32 Rxd5 Rc1+ 33 Kf2 Rc2+ 34 Ke3 Rxb2**



So now we have an interesting R+P endgame. Reshevsky said afterwards that he thought I missed a draw somewhere but to me this looks very hard to hold with the a-pawns still on the board.

35 Ra5 Rb3+ 36 Kf2 Rb2+ [36...h5 37 h4 Rb2+ 38 Kf3 Rb3+ 39 Kg2 Rb2+ 40 Kh3 Rb7 41 a4 might have gone longer but it still seems like Black is running out of moves.] 37 Kf3 Rb3+ 38 Kg4 h5+ 39 Kh4 Rb7 40 Kg5 Kg7 41 Ra6 Rb3 42 Kh4 Rb7 43 g4 hxg4 44 hxg4

Re7 45 Kg5 Rb7 46 a4 Re7 47 a5 Rc7 48 Rf6 Rc5 49 a6 Rc7 50 Rd6 Re7 51 Rc6 Rd7 52 f5 gxf5 53 gxf5 1-0

*Samuel Reshevsky, 1985
VCU Chess Club simul &
lecture (photo by
Mark Warriner)*



LEV ALBURT, 1986

The following year I became President of the VCU Chess Club and secured as the next guest lecturer and the reigning US champion, formerly of the Ukraine, grandmaster Lev Alburt. Lev had participated several times in Soviet chess championships. Again, with my interest in Soviet politics, it was particularly fascinating to meet one of the last defectors to the West. Lev stayed at the house of Eugene Brown, a friend of mine who had in fact been the one who introduced me to “organized” chess. Eugene used to enjoy playing the Sokolsky or Orangutan (1 b4). With youthful hubris and ignorance, I plied Lev with the mistaken belief that this was just a “trash” opening—“*how could it possibly be playable?*” He smiled and listened and just gave some generalizations as to its efficacy. The next day, my nerves got the better of me and I struggled to introduce him properly. My apologies Lev, if you should read this! Anyway, to our consternation, he opened with 1 b4 on several boards, mine included. So I have only myself to blame for what happened next.

Lev Alburt - Mark Warriner 1986 VCU Simul Sokolsky

1 b4 [Me and my big mouth, LOL!] **1...e6 2 Bb2 Nf6 3 b5** [A very nice point that Lev demonstrated the night before. How did he know we wouldn’t research that? Oh yeah, no ChessBase or engines back in those days!] **3...Bb4** [Novelty—I



thought I was being clever, and it's not a bad move, but he just laughs it off.】 4 Nf3 O-O 5 e3 d5 6 c4 c6 7 a4 Ne4 [There were many more palatable alternatives.】 8 Be2 b6 9 O-O c5 [9...Bb7] 10 d3 Nf6 11 Qc2 Nbd7 12 Nbd2 Re8 13 Nb3 Bb7 14 Ne5 Qc7 15 f4 dxc4 16 Nxc4 Nd5 17 Bf3 f6 18 Rac1 Re7 [18...e5] 19 g4 [19 g3] 19...Rd8 [19...Nf8] 20 Qg2 Nf8 21 g5 [So up to this point, everything was more or less fine. But then I hallucinated.】 21...Nxe3?? 22 Nxe3 Rxd3? 23 gxf6 Red7 24 fxg7 Ng6 25 Ng4 1-0 Time to put the pieces back in the box.



Lev Alburt addresses my board. Former VCF President Woody Harris is visible in the background. (photo by George Bayer)

ED KITCES, 1986

Later the same year, we were fortunate to have several time state champion Dr Ed Kitces perform a lecture and simul. I was determined to try and win one of these games, and this seemed like my best chance. Well it was, but this one really hurts to look back on as I had not one but several opportunities to win. It's one thing to lose to a better player, but something else entirely to flat out miss several one-move wins.

Ed Kitces - Mark Warriner 1986 VCU Simul Sicilian

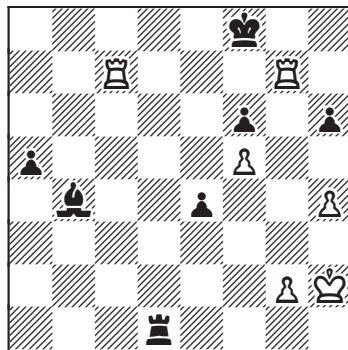
1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 [If you knew Dr Kitces then, you knew this was coming.】 2...Nc6 3 f4 e6 4 Nf3 d5 5 Bb5 Ne7 6 exd5 Nxd5 7 Bxc6+ bxc6 8 Ne5 Qc7 9 Qf3 Nb4 [9...f6] 10 Kd1 Be7 11 d3 O-O 12 Ne4? [12 Bd2 ; 12 Re1] 12...f6 13 Nc4 Nd5 14 Be3 e5 15 f5 Nxe3+ 16 Nxe3 Ba6 17 b3 Rad8 18 Ke2 Rd4 19 h4 Rfd8 20 Rh3? [20 Kf2] 20...Qd7?? [Black could have crashed through after 20...Rxe4! 21 Qxe4 Rd4 22 Qf3 e4, eg 23 Qf2 exd3+ 24 Kf1 Rf4 25 Rf3 Qe5 26 c3 Re4 (or 26...Qxc3)] 21 Nc4 Bxc4 22 bxc4 Qb7 23 Qe3? [23 Rd1] 23...Qb2 [23...Rxd3! 24 Qxd3 (if 24 cxd3 Qb2+) 24...Rxd3 25 Rxd3] 24 Qc1 Rxe4+ 25 dxe4 Qd4 26 Qe1? Qxe4+ 27 Kf1 Qxc4+? [27...Qxc2] 28 Kg1? [28 Qe2—it was beginning to get



At the Strawberry St Caf  after the simul. L-R: Mark Warriner; Former VCF Newsletter editor Anne Graham (back to camera, mostly obscured by me), Eugene Brown, Osman "Fatih" Guner, GM Lev Alburt, Dr Bill Groman (inventor of "Hyper-Chess ") (photo by George Bayer)



38 Rh7?? Kg8?? [38...Bd6+] 39 Rhg7+ Kf8
40 Rh7?? [again?!] 40...Kg8 [and again??
40...Bd6+] 41 Rxb6?? [incredibly missing
it yet again] 41...e3?? [There aren't enough
question marks for having missed the win
three times for Black. Oh, but wait, there's
worse coming...] 42 Rg6+ Kf8 43 Rxf6+
Kg8 44 Re6 [44 Rc8+ Kg7 45 Re6] 44...
Bd6+ [There it is!] 45 Kh3 Rd3?? [Yes,
having played Bd6 finally for the win, I totally



LEV ALBURT, 1987

VCU had the opportunity to invite GM Lev Alburt back the following year. The USCF Board was meeting in Richmond that year, at the prestigious Jefferson-Sheraton Hotel, and we worked it out so he could give a simul that same weekend at the hotel. The one thing that sticks in my mind about the public portion of the board meeting was the shocking lack of respect accorded the grandmaster. You had to be there, it was simply appalling. Of course I don't know the backstory, what



*Ed Kitces, 1986 VCU Chess Club lecture & simul
(photo by Mark Warriner)*



*L-R: Ed Kitces (standing); Mark Warriner,
Gerald Lutkenhaus, David Harlow
(photo by Eugene Brown)*



history may have transpired between Alburt the various other meeting participants, but a US champion deserved better, even if they disagreed with his views.

Anyway, getting back to the topic at hand, Lev duly cleaned the floor with me in the exact same number of moves as the year before.

Lev Alburt - Mark Warriner
1987 Jefferson-Sheraton (VCU) Simul
Catalan

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 g3 c5 5 cxd5 exd5 6 Bg2 Nc6 7 O-O Be7 8 Bg5 O-O 9 dxc5 Qa5? [9...Bxc5 10 Bxf6 Qxf6 11 Qxd5 Qxb2 12 Nbd2 Bb4] **10 Nc3 Rd8 11 Rc1** [or 11 Bxf6 Bxf6 12 Nxd5 Bxb2 13 Ng5 with an advantage.] **11... Bf5?** [11...d4] **12 Nd4 Nxd4** [12...Bg4] **13 Qxd4 Bxc5 14 Qf4 Be6 15 Bxf6 gxf6 16 Qxf6 Qb4?** [16...Bf8 This situation is a mess, but if you insist on playing on...] **17 Nxd5 Bxd5 18 Qg5+ Kf8 19 Bxd5 Qb5?** [19...Qd4, not that it matters really at this point.] **20 Qh6+ Ke8 21 Bxf7+** [21 Bb3 was technically better but not as much fun] **21...Kxf7 22 Qh5+** [22 Qxh7+] **22...Kf8** [Again not that it matters, but the King ought to go to the g-file.] **23 Rxc5 Qe8 24 Qxh7 Qe6 25 Rc7** [25 Rf5+ was a cleaner kill, but nonetheless...] **1-0**

MY OWN SIMUL, 2014

Last year, as a former Virginia Correspondence Champion, I was asked by the Mechanicsville Chess Club to put on a simul for school children. I was more than happy to “give back” and help chess grow in the area where I grew up. There is much more activity there now than when I was struggling just to find an opponent, much less rated players. It was a real treat to be on the other side of the board(s) and help kids learn about a great game. Even though my opponents weren’t highly rated, it did prove helpful to read about simul strategy to make the event go smoothly for myself and for the participants. It made for a nice way of bringing my chess experiences to come full circle.



*Mark Warriner Mechanicsville Chess
 Club Simul at Atlee Library, Hanover, Va
 (photo by George Bayer)*



WASHINGTON CHESS CONGRESS



The Continental Chess Association staged their annual Washington Chess Congress in Crystal City (Arlington) October 7-12. The 198 entrants included Jonathan Kenny, who provided annotations to his final round game.

Sam Schenk - Jonathan Kenny
Washington Chess Congress (7) 2015

Petroff

Notes by Jonathan Kenny

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 Nc3

[So I decide to give the Petroff a go in the last round and now must face this move, which seems to be a

fairly popular choice among young attack-minded players. This system has no name of which I'm aware and the main lines can appear somewhat coffeehouse, often turning into one of the few double-king pawn openings with opposite side castling. (Who says the Russian Defence is boring?). This is not to suggest that the variation is weak; on the contrary, it is positionally well-founded: in exchange for a compromised pawn structure on the queenside, White gets a lead in development and "dangerous attacking possibilities against careless play" (GM Janjgava). If that is not enough to convince anyone to take it seriously then maybe the endorsement of GMs Dolmatov, Nunn & Tal in the 1980's, and Shirov, Morozevich, Naiditsch, Topalov & Caruana more recently will. If Black now plays 5...Nxc3, which is what happens in practice 90-something % of the time, White will be able to bring the queenside pieces rapidly into play and castle to that side. The doubled c-pawns can provide additional defensive coverage for White's king while the first player launches a kingside attack. This system also has the benefit of economy of preparation for White. Rather than study the latest nuance in multiple lines in an attempt to chisel away at the rock-solid Petroff, why not just develop rapidly and attack? I opted for a move played a couple times (including against Tal in a rapid game!) by a one of my chess idols, the 7th world champion Vasily Smyslov, which is enough to convince me of its soundness.] **5...Nf6 6 d4 Be7 7 h3 c6 8 Bd3 Na6** [In exchange for playing a move about which almost nothing is written on move 5, I get to think for myself at an early stage. 8...O-O, 8...Nbd7 & 8...d5 suggest themselves, but I opted for this improvisation.] **9 O-O O-O 10 Bf4 Nc7 11 Qd2 Ne6 12 Be3** [I expected him to keep the bishop on the h2-b8 diagonal.] **12...Re8** [12...d5 was okay, but I was reluctant to tolerate a knight on e5 solidified by f2-f4. What I didn't appreciate was that if 13 Ne5 I could hit with 13...c5 effectively to undermine the knight's outpost. The game continuation is not bad, however, and simply leaves White somewhere between equal and just slightly better.] **13 Rfe1** [13 d5. to free up square-d4 for piece



activity, is an interesting idea which I thought about during the game.] **13...Qc7**
14 Rad1 Bd7 [The computer says Black is equal here, which may vindicate my preceding play but is meaningless when you still have to find twenty or thirty more good moves to not blow it in the nervous tension of a tournament game.]
15 Ng5 Nxe5 [I considered a few moves here: 15...h6; 15...g6; 15...a5; 15...Rac8; 15...Rad8. Though the text is not bad—on principle it is good to trade pieces when your opponent has a space advantage—15...a5 was the way to go. I didn't appreciate this move beyond gaining some queenside space and controlling b4 in preparation for later queenside play. I was worried about f4-f5 and g4-g5 for White, but this gets him nowhere due to an idea I simply didn't see: 16 f4 d5 17 f5? (in fact White should bring the knight back to f3, when after 17...Bd6 or 17...c5 the computer gives Black the better of equal) 17...Nxe5 18 Bxe5 Qb6! (the pawn-d4 is undefended as White no longer has the Bh7+ discovered attack tactic) 19 Be3 a4! In some lines this allows the pawn-b2 to be taken as White can't play Rb3 trapping the queen. Black might also advance the pawn to a3, when moves like ...Bb4 come into consideration.] **16 Bxe5 Qd8** ± [Ideas of white sacrificing an exchange on e7 danced in my head as I considered moves like 16...d5 or 16...h6. 16...Be6 seemed good but I guess I was in more of a defensive and simplifying mindset when I played the text. Sam now opts to shift his remaining knight to the kingside, though doubling rooks on the e-file is a consideration as well.] **17 Ne2** [If 17 Qf4 d5, a move Black would like to play once White's knight can't easily occupy e5] **17...Ne4!?** [The biggest consequence of this move was the amount of time I put into it. After moving I was down to 18 minutes to reach





move 40 (refer to my comment at move 14). Instead, 17...h6 18 Bh4 Ne4 may be an improved version of this idea.] **18 Bxe7 Rxe7** [Recapturing with the queen was better but I miscalculated that trying to exploit the pin on the knight can't be done without losing the exchange, eg 18...Qxe7 19 Ng3? Nxd2 20 Rxe7 Rxe7 21 Rxd2 White is down a rook for knight. However, in my head—with the clock ticking as I considered my 14th turn—I thought I was giving up two minors for the rook...or losing a piece!] **19 Qf4 d5 20 f3** [It is understandable that White avoids trading knights, especially if he wants to mount an offensive on the kingside, but 20 Ng3 would have been a better option to maintain an edge (and it is not entirely clear whether Black should even take the knight). The silicon beast meanwhile suggests the Karpovian 20Nc1, a farsighted, counterintuitive idea that I don't understand.] **20...Nf6 21 Ng3 Be6** [The machine indicates 21...Rxe1+ 22 Rxe1 Qa5 (22...Qb6 may be a superior option) 23 Re5! Be6 24 Nh5 Ne8 with initiative.] **22 h4 Qc7 23 Qxc7 Rxc7 24 Ne2 Re8 25 Nf4 Bc8?** [Played with 6 minutes on my clock, this may be the first real mistake by either player so far. Doubling rooks on the e-file with 25...Rce7 suggests itself.] **26 Rxe8+?** [Missing 26 Nh5! when I can't avoid having my kingside pawns wrecked. It may not be fatal but it definitely would give me something more to think about.] **26...Nxe8 27 Re1 Nd6 28 Kf2 h6 29 b3 Kf8 30 c3 Re7 31 Rxe7 Kxe7 32 g4 g6** [With 3 minutes on my clock I didn't see the variation 32...g5! 33 hxg5 hxg5 34 Nh5 f5 35 f4 Kf7! =] **33 Ke3 Kf6 34 Ne2 g5 35 h5 b5** [I thought this was bad, putting another pawn on the light squares, after I played it with a minute to go. The computer says everything is fine, though.] **36 Bc2 Bd7** [Waste of a move but all is okay. 35...Ke7 makes more sense.] **37 Bd3 a5 38 Bc2** [If 38 Ng3 b4!



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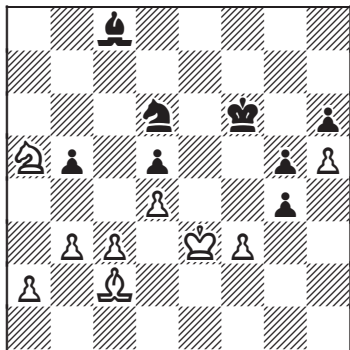
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39 cxb4 axb4 and if White tries to hunt down the b-pawn with his knight Black has time for...Ke7 followed by...f5. If White takes on f5 then Black recaptures with his knight with check, forking the pawn-d4] **38...Bc8** [Just trying to make time control; 38...Ke7 to play ...f5 or...f6 makes more sense.] **39 Nc1 Ke7 40 Nd3 f5!?** [Playable but risky; I feared it was bad during the game. I was also not aware that this was my 40th move as I was missing a move pair on my score sheet. After 40 ...f6 I don't see how either side can make progress.] **41 Ne5 fxg4!!?** [I played this instantly as I had only a couple of seconds on my clock. I thought it was a losing blunder but...] **42 fxg4?**

...Sam also responded rather quickly. After the game I pointed out to him **42 Nxc6+ Kf6 43 Nxa5**, which I thought was surely winning. Had I noticed this check winning two pawns I most surely would've played 41...f4+ (instead of 41...fxg4) **42 Kd2 Bd7** when Black should be fine.

However, it turns out that things are not so simple here. In fact, my 41st move is the computer's top choice! (Hence my choice of punctuation—the ? is because I thought it was losing while the !! for the calculation needed to properly justify it.)



The computer's continuation runs as follows: 43...g3 (43...gxf3 44 Kxf3 Bd7 appears tenable as well) 44 Nc6 g4 (jettisoning the pawn to bring the king forward) 45 Ne5 Kg5 46 fxg4 Bxg4 47 Nxc6 Kxc6 48 Bd1+ Kh3 49 Bf3 g2 50 Kf2 Ne4+ 51 Kg1 Nxc3 52 Bxg2+ Kg3! (it's important not to allow the White king out to f2) 53 a3 Ne2+ 54 Kf1 Nxd4 55 Bxd5 Nc2 and Black can, if necessary, sacrifice his knight for the last queenside pawn and White has the wrong color bishop to support his h-pawn.

42...Bd7 [A sweeter idea is 42...Kf6! 43 Kf3 c5! 44 Nc6 cxd4 45 cxd4 b4 46 Nxa5 Bd7 (White's knight can't move) 47 Bd3 Ke7 48 Ba6 Ne4 49 Bd3 (or 49 Be2 Nc3 and a2 falls) 49...Bxg4+! 50 Kxc6 Nf2+ 51 Kf3 Nxd3 52 Ke3 Nf4 =] **43 Bg6 Kd8** [43...a4!] **44 Bd3 Ke7 45 Kf3 Nf7 46 Nxf7 Kxf7 47 Bg6+ Ke7 48 b4 axb4 49 cxb4 Kf6 50 a3 Ke7 51 Bb1 ½-½** and with this Sam offered a draw, which I saw no good reason to turn down. In general I think this was a well-played game by both of us. Afterwards we realized that, with 4 points each, we were both half a point out of the U1900 class prize. For myself, following some awful results during the summer, I was satisfied to finish +3 =1 -2 (plus a half-point bye) in the U2100 section.



A GAME OF VICISSITUDES

Justin Paul - Geoff McKenna

DC Chess League 2015

King's Indian

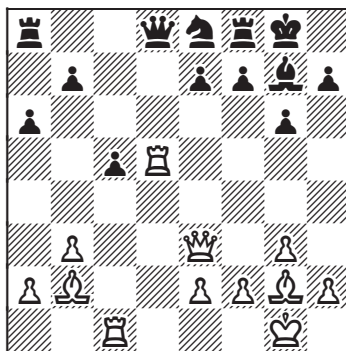
Notes by Geoff McKenna

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 b3 [This move order prevents the early ...d5/c5/f6 response seen in Petrosian-Fischer Buenos Aires 1971] **2...g6 3 Bb2 Bg7 4 g3 d6 5 d4 c5** [probably bad, but I am trying to inject some life into the position] **6 Bg2 cxd4 7 Nxd4 O-O 8 O-O a6 9 c4** [White has a very nice reverse Grunfeld. Black's game deteriorates steadily over the next eight moves; I can't pinpoint the failures.] **9... Qc7 10 Nc3 Nc6 11 Rc1 Nxd4 12 Qxd4 Bd7 13 Nd5 Qd8 14 c5 Ne8 15 Qd2 dxc5 16 Rfd1 Bc6 17 Qe3! Bxd5 18 Rxd5**

*(diagram)***18...Bxb2**

Faced with inevitable material loss and a complete absence of counterplay, Black tries for randomness.

19 Rxd8 Rxd8 20 Qxe7 Ng7 21 Rb1 [probably not 21 Rxc5 Ba3] **21...Rd2 22 Bxb7?** [With victory almost in hand, White starts drifting. Some combination of Bf3 and e3 would probably have sealed the win.] **22...Re8 23 Qxc5 Bd4 24 Qb4? Rxe2 25 Rc1 Ne6 26 Rf1 Bxf2+ 27 Kh1?** [He should give up the exchange, but White is at most playing for an unlikely draw now.] **27...Bd4** [preventing Qh4] **28 Bg2 Rxc2 29 Qb8+ Kg7 30 g4 Rxa2 31 Rd1 Rxh2+ 32 Qxh2 Rxh2+ 33 Kxh2 a5 34 Kg2 Bc3 35 Kg3 Be5+ 36 Kg2 Kf6 37 Kf2 Kg5?** [Serious students of the endgame may wish to cover their eyes before playing out the remainder of the game. The two opponents exchanged multiple serious errors for very different reasons: Black because he was old and tired (the combined age of the opposing four-man team was less than mine), and White because he his annoyance at having a lost position led him to bang out random moves.] **38 Rd5 f6 39 Rxa5 Kxg4 40 b4 h5?!** [Black should redeploy to freeze the Black b-pawn. Maybe 40 ...Kf5 is a better way to achieve this.] **41 b5 Bd4+ 42 Kg2 h4 43 Ra4 f5 44 Rb4 Nf4+ 45 Kh1 Bb6 46 Rc4 Kf3 47 Rc3+ Ke4 48 Rc6 Be3 49 Rc3?** [This is at most third-best. On 49 b6 I had planned for a while to give up the bishop for the b-pawn, but I think White has good practical chances in the resulting ending.] **49...Nd5** [winning again] **50 Rc4+ Bd4 51 Rc6 g5 52 Re6+ Kf4 53 Rd6 Ke5 54 Rg6 g4 55 Rh6 h3 56 Rh8 Ke4 57 Re8+ Be5** [no more stalemates, and g4-3-2 looms] **58 Ra8 g3 59 Ra4+ Bd4 60 b6 g2+ 61 Kh2 g1Q+ 62 Kxh3 Nf4+ 63 Kh4 Qg4^{mate} 0-1**





Chess Clubs

Please send additions / corrections to the Editor:

♖ **Alexandria:** Kingstowne Chess Club, Kingstowne South Center, 6080 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Tuesdays 7-9:30pm, info Gary McMullin, gary.at.kcc@gmail.com, (571) 295-5463 ♖ **Arlington:** Arlington Chess Club, Arlington Forest United Methodist Church, 4701 Arlington Blvd, Fridays 7:30pm. Registration for rated Ladder and Action events ends 8pm. Blitz/Quick tourney first Friday of each month. Info John Campbell (703) 534-6232 ♖ **Arlington Seniors Chess Club,** Madison Community Center, 3829 N Stafford St, Mondays, 9:45am, info (703) 228-5285 ♖ **Ashburn:** Ashburn Chess Club, Sakasa Tea and Coffee House, 44927 George Washington Blvd, Suite 125. Tuesdays 5pm, Saturdays 3pm. Bring board and set. Info www.meetup.com/Ashburn-Chess-Club/ or Scott Knoke, 703-433-2146 ♖ **Blacksburg:** Chess Club of Virginia Tech, GB Johnson Student Center, Rm 102, Virginia Tech, Wednesdays 7-9pm ♖ **Charlottesville:** Charlottesville Chess Club, St Mark Lutheran Church, Rt 250 & Alderman Rd, Monday evenings ♖ **Senior Center,** 1180 Pepsi Place, 6-8pm on Thursdays. Info 434-244-2977 ♖ **Chesapeake:** Zero's Sub Shop, 3116 Western Branch Blvd (Rt 17), (Poplar Hill Plaza near Taylor Rd intersection), Mondays 6pm to closing ♖ **Great Bridge United Methodist Church,** corner of Battlefield Blvd & Stadium Dr, Tuesdays, 6:30-10pm, info 686-0822 ♖ **Culpeper:** Culpeper Chess Club, Culpeper County Public Library, Rt 29 Business (near Safeway). Chess players casually drop by on Wednesday nights starting at 6:30pm ♖ **Danville:** Danville Chess Club, Danville YMCA, 810 Main Street. Mondays 6:30-9:30 pm. Info John Thompson 434-799-8898 ♖ **Fort Eustis:** contact Sorel Utsey 878-4448 ♖ **Fredricksburg:** Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania area chess players get together every Friday evening 6-10pm on the second floor of Wegman's in Central Park. ♖ **Glenns:** Rappahannock Community College - Glenns Campus Chess Club, Glenns Campus Library, Tuesdays 8-10pm in the student lounge, info Zack Loesch 758-5324(x208) ♖ **Gloucester:** Gloucester Chess Club, Gloucester Library (main branch), Tuesdays 5-8pm, www.co.gloucester.va.us/lib/clubschess.html ♖ **Harrisonburg:** Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, Trinity Presbyterian Church, corner of S High (rt 42) & Maryland Ave (Port Republic Rd), Fridays 7:30pm ♖ **McLean:** Booz Allen Hamilton CC, Hamilton Bldg, Rm 2032, 8283 Greensboro Dr. Thursdays, info Thomas Thompson, 703-902-5418, thompson_thomas@bah.com ♖ **Mechanicsville:** Mechanicsville Chess Club, various times and locations—see www.mechanicsvillechessclub.org for up-to-date details ♖ **Stonewall Library,** Stonewall Pkwy, Mondays 6:30-9pm 730-8944 ♖ **Norfolk:** Larchmont Public Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd, Wednesday 6-9pm ♖ **ODU Chess Club,** Webb Univ Ctr, Old Dominion University, info www.odu.edu/~chess ♖ **Reston:** Reston Community Ctr Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Thursdays 6:30-9:30 pm. Limited number of sets & boards available, or bring your own. No fee, but you must sign-in at each meeting ♖ **Richmond:** Henrico Chess Club, Virginia Center Commons food court, 10101 Brook Rd, Glen Allen, Va, Wednesdays & Fridays 6-9, www.henricochessclub.com, 443-823-5530 ♖ **Huguenot Chess Knights,** Bon Air Library Community Room, 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-11pm, info Walter Chester 276-5662 ♖ **Panera Bread Chess,** Panera Bread-Ridge Shopping Center, 1517 N Parham Rd, Richmond, Va 23229. Thursdays 6-10 pm, casual games, blitz, rapid or no clock. Lots of tables and room to play, heated outdoor patio. ♖ **Roanoke:** Roanoke Valley Chess Club, Saturday afternoons 1-6 pm in the coffee shop of the Roanoke Natural Foods Co-Op, 1319 Grandin Road SW. For more information www.roanokechess.com or write PO Box 14143, Roanoke, Va 24038, (540) 725-9525 ♖ **Stafford:** Bella Cafe Chess Nights, 3869 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 103, Stafford, VA 22554. Tuesdays & Thursdays 7pm -10, sets & boards on site, frequent tourneys. Contact Will at 703-445-8855 or bellabagelcafe@yahoo.com ♖ **Virginia Beach:** Tidewater Community Chess Club, Bldg D ("Kempsville") Cafeteria, Tidewater Community College Va Beach Campus, 1700 College Crescent Rd. Mondays 7-10pm ♖ **Waynesboro:** Augusta Chess Club, Books-A-Million, 801 Town Center Dr, every Saturday 10am-noon. Contact Alex Patterson (540) 405-1111 or AugustaChessClub@gmail.com ♖ **Winchester:** Winchester Chess Club, Westminster-Canterbury Home for the Elderly, Tuesdays 7pm

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