

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2018 - #4



Virginia scholastic stars Praveen Balakrishnan (left) and Andy Huang hold victory certificates after winning their respective age group national tournaments of state champions. (*see inside, p 6*). The pair was back in action Labor Day weekend in Richmond, where Balakrishnan defended the overall State Championship (*see p 1*).

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2018 Virginia State Championship

PRAVEEN BALAKRISHNAN REPEATS

THE DEFENDING STATE CHAMPION did exactly that, defend his title at the 2018 Virginia “Closed”, held Labor Day weekend in Richmond. While he did not manage to duplicate the 6-0 whitewash he put up last year, 5½-½ still placed **Praveen Balakrishnan** a full point clear of the field once the final pawn had been pushed.

A massive six-way tie for 2nd place at 4½-1½ included former state champions Qindong Yang & Macon Shibut, masters Andy Huang, Shawn Hoshall & Jason Morefield, and expert (surely soon-to-be-master) Jason Liang. Larry Larkins was top class A. Himanshu Keskar won the upset prize for his round 2 takedown of former state champion Ed Kitces (459 rating point differential).

In the Under 1800 section, Joseph Cagler overtook the leader Brighton Sujit Roy (4½-½ to that point) by winning their top board matchup, thus finishing in a tie for 1st with Adrian Rhodes, who likewise won his last round. Sujit Roy joined Gerard Wasserbauer & Daniel Long in the 3rd place tie. Aaron Osborne was top class D. Adriel Barretto took the upset prize.

Luke Grogan crushed the Under 1200 section, winning all 6 of his games. Adhiralyan Murugan Ayyappan was 2nd with 5-1. Samantha Ho claimed both the upset prize and the top U1000 trophy, finishing in 3rd place overall. Leo Su was top U800, Lucia Huang top U600, and Michael Valentino top Unrated.

Mike Hoffpauir directed the event, assisted by Tina Schweiss.

At the VCF annual business meeting, conducted Saturday morning Sept 1 prior to the first round, Adam Chrisney was re-elected as VCF President. Mike Hoffpauir & Anand Dommalapati were elected to the VCF Board of Directors, replacing outgoing board members Mike Callaham & Ernie Schlich.





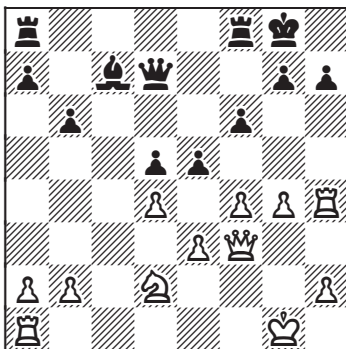
Robert Fischer - Praveen Balakrishnan

London

1 d4 Nf6 2 Bf4 d5 3 e3 e6 4 Nf3 Bd6 5 Bg3 O-O 6 Nbd2 b6 7 Bd3 Ba6 8 Bxa6 Nxa6 9 c3 c5 10 Ne5 Qc7 11 O-O Nb8 12 f4 Nfd7 13 Qg4 Nc6 14 Bh4 Ne7 15 Rf3 Nf5 16 Rh3 f6 17 Nxd7 Qxd7 18 Qf3 Bc7 19 g4 Nxh4 20 Rxh4 cxd4 21 cxd4 e5 (diagram)

22 f5 exd4 23 exd4 Rfe8 24 Nf1 [White is worse in any case, but abandoning e4 to Black's rook brings on a crisis.] 24...Re4 25 Rd1 Raes 26 Rd2 Rf4 27 Qh3 h6 28 Ng3 Re1+ 29 Kg2 Qe8 30 Rc2 Qe3 0-1

Editor's Note: This report was produced in 'time trouble' just after the state championship concluded. I hope to be able to present a more comprehensive report on the tournament, including annotated games, in the next issue of Virginia Chess.



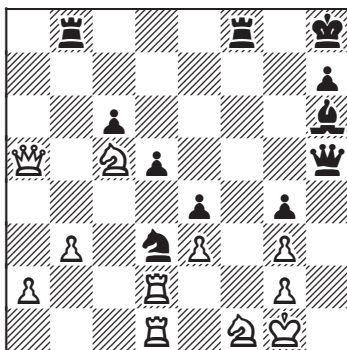
Brighton Sujit Roy – Joseph Cagler

Queen Pawn Game

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 c6 3 Bf4 d6 4 e3 Bg4 5 Be2 Nbd7 6 c4 Qc7 7 Nc3 e5 8 Bg3 Be7 9 O-O O-O 10 Rc1 Rad8 11 Qc2 Nh5 12 Rfd1 Nxc3 13 hxg3 f5 14 d5 a5 15 Ne1 Bxe2 16 Nxe2 Bg5 17 Nf3 Bh6 18 Nh4 g6 19 Nf3 Nf6 20 Qb3 Kh8 21 Qa3 g5 22 dxc6 bxc6 23 Qc3 Ne4 24 Qa3 Rb8 25 Nc3 Qf7 26 c5 g4 27 Nd2 Nxc5 28 b3 Nd3 29 Rb1 d5 30 Nf1 Nb4 31 Qxa5 f4 32 Rb2 fxe3 33 fxe3 Nd3 34 Rbd2 e4 35 Na4 Qh5 36 Nc5

(diagram)

36...Rxf1+ 37 Rxf1 Bxe3+ 38 Rdf2 Bxc5 39 Qc3+ Kg8 40 Qf6 Nxf2 41 Rxf2 Bxf2+ 42 Qxf2 Qg6 43 Qa7 Qd6 44 Qe3 Qf6 45 Qa7 Rf8 46 Qd7 Rf7 47 Qxg4+ Kh8 48 Qc8+ Kg7 49 Qg4+ Qg6 50 Qd1 Rf6 51 g4 Rf4 52 Qd4+ Kg8 53 Qe5 Rxc4 54 Qb8+ Kg7 55 Qc7+ Kh6 56 Qh2+ Kg7 57 Qc7+ Kh6 58 Qh2+ Qh5 59 Qd6+ Rg6 60 Qf8+ Kg5 61 Qe7+ Kf4 62 Qc7+ Ke3 63 Qb6+ d4 64 Qb4 Qd1+ 65 Kh2 Rh6+ 66 Kg3 Qe2 67 Qe7 Qf2+ 68 Kg4 Qf4mate 0-1



Changing Address?

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Email changes/correction to Georgina Chin at membership@vachess.org



2018 Charlottesville Open

by J Lee Bennett

A NIGHTMARE occurred for several players over the weekend following July's Friday the 13th, but not on Elm Street. Instead, the carnage took place on Inn Drive in Charlottesville. Four titled players led a field of 46 at the 28th annual Charlottesville Open. But when time expired, only one of them finished in the top six and took home a prize. Overall, there were more upsets (26) than draws (19) in the combined sections

Seemingly immune to the upset bug that plagued many others, former state champion Qindong Yang swept through the Open section with a perfect 5-0 score, finishing a whopping point-and-a-half ahead of the field. Sam Schenk, Nathan Lohr, Bryant Lohr, Jacob Painter & Peter Snow tied for second place with 3½ points apiece. Upsets were plentiful elsewhere in the 27-person Open, with Isaac Spence leading the way with a pair of them (504 points and 460 points), earning a chess book and a 173-point bump to his rating.



*Tournament winner Qindong Yang
(playing White versus Bryant Lohr)*

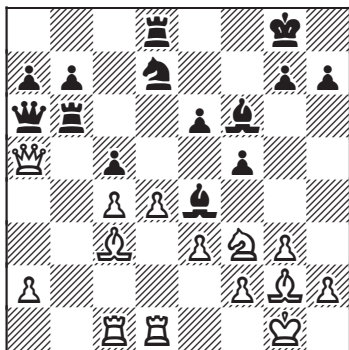
In the U1700 section, Gideon Lohr returned to Charlottesville to defend his 2017 title, but met some tough competition in rounds 3 and 4 when Eric Cecil and Stephen Styers each held him to a draw. Lohr won his final round match to finish in a 3-way tie for first with Styers and one other player. Similar to the Open section, upsets in the Under-1700 were a continuing theme on this apocalyptic weekend. Clayton Geipel earned a chess book by winning his second round game against an opponent 578 rating points above him! In addition, Roger Gray stunned his first-round opponent despite the 361-point differential (Thanks, Roger! I'm still licking my wounds!). *{A bit of clarification is needed. The "other player" who tied atop the Under 1700 section is the humble author himself, who re-entered after losing to Gray in the first round.—ed}*

In addition to keeping Freddie Krueger, Jason Voorhees, and any black cats away from the tournament room, USCF President Mike Hoffpauir directed an excellent tournament. The only notable concern the entire weekend was the lackluster turnout. This year's list of 46 players pales in comparison to the not-too-distant past when the 2011-2013 Charlottesville Opens drew 80+ participants. Hopefully, this is only a short-term decline as the Charlottesville/Monticello area is a beautiful place to visit historical sites, soak up fresh mountain air, and (of course) play some great chess.



NM Qindong Yang - CM Jason Liang
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 g3 dxc4
5 Qa4+ Bd7 6 Qxc4 Bc6 7 Bg2 Nbd7
8 O-O Be7 9 Nc3 O-O 10 Re1 Ne4
11 Qd3 Nxc3 12 bxc3 f5 13 c4 Bf6 14
Ba3 Be4 15 Qb3 c5 16 Rac1 Qa5 17
e3 Rfd8 18 Bb2 Rac8 19 Red1 Rc6
20 Bc3 [Needing only a draw to wrap
up the tournament, White offered peace
here. Black showed good fighting spirit
in declining but soon went astray.] 20...
Qa6 21 Qb5 Rb6 22 Qa5



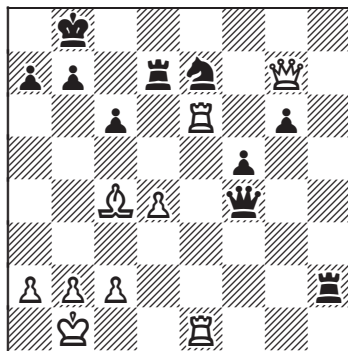
22...Qxc4? [This does not end well;
the queen is exposed to the combined
effect of practically all White's pieces.]
23 Nd2 [Leads to a winning position; 23
Bf1 Qd5 24 dxc5 Qxc5 25 Rxd7! would
have been even more compelling.] 23...
Qe2 24 Nxe4 fxe4 25 Rd2 Qh5 26 dxc5
Bxc3 27 Qxc3 Rc6 28 Bxe4 Rc7 29
Rcd1 Rxc5 30 Qb3 Qe5 31 Qxb7 Rc7
32 Qb1 Rb8 33 Bxh7+ Kh8 34 Qe4
Qxe4 35 Bxe4 Nf6 36 Rd8+ Rxd8 37
Rxd8+ Ng8 38 a4 Re7 39 Bg6 e5 40
Be4 g5 41 Bd5 Rg7 42 Bxg8 Rxg8 43
Rxg8+ Kxg8 44 Kg2 g4 45 f3 gxf3+
46 Kxf3 Kf7 47 Ke4 Ke6 48 h4 a5 49
h5 Kf6 50 g4 Kg5 51 Kxe5 Kxg4 52
h6 Kf3 53 h7 Kxe3 54 h8Q Kd3 55

Qh4 Kc3 56 Qd4+ Kb3 57 Ke4 Ka3
58 Qc4 Kb2 59 Qd3 Ka2 60 Qc3 Kb1
61 Qd2 Ka1 62 Kd3 Kb1 63 Kc3 Ka1
64 Qb2mate 1-0

Bryant Lohr - David Kennedy
Caro Kann

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4
Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 Nf3 Nd7 7 Nh4 e6 8
Nxc6 hxc6 9 Be2 Bd6 10 Ne4 Bb4+
11 Bd2 Bxd2+ 12 Qxd2 Ndf6 13 f3
Nxe4 14 fxe4 Qc7 15 g3 O-O-O 16
O-O-O Ne7 17 Rhf1 f5 18 Bc4 Qd7 19
Qe2 Kb8 20 exf5 exf5 21 Qe5+ Qd6
22 Qxg7 Rxh2 23 Rfe1 Rd7 24 Re6
Qxg3 25 Rde1 Qf4+ 26 Kb1



A very sharp and interesting position
with mutually weak back ranks.
26...Qxd4! Would put Black on top.
Instead he strikes at c2. 26...Qd2 27
Bb3 Rxd4? [And now he goes totally
wrong instead of putting his rook on
a defended square, 27...Rc7! when 28
Rxe7? would run into 28...Qxe1+!] 28
a3? [Missing the chance offered, 28
Qe5+ and then 29 a3 next—Black's
back rank vulnerability would cost him
his knight.] 28...Nc8 29 Re7 [Now
on 29 Qe5+ there is 29...Nd6, but the



move played is a good practical try.]
29...Nxe7? [And Black falls for it, whereas 29...Rd7! defends] **30 Rxe7!**
Qf4 31 Rxb7+ Kc8 32 Be6+ Kd8 33 Qe7mate 1-0

Aaron Osborne - Paul King
Dutch

1 c4 f5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nc3 e6 4 g3 c6 5 Bg2 d5 6 cxd5 cxd5 7 d4 Bd6 8 O-O O-O 9 Nb5 Nc6 10 Nxd6 Qxd6 11 Bf4 Qd7 12 Rc1 Ne4 13 Ne5 Nxe5 14 dxe5 b6 15 b4 [Black overlooks the point of this] **15...Ba6? 16 f3!** [the knight gets unexpectedly trapped] **16... g5 17 Be3 f4 18 Bd4 Nxc3 19 hxc3 fxc3 20 Qe1 Rf7 21 Rc2 Qa4 22 Rb2 Rc8 23 Qxc3 Rg7 24 Bh3 Rg6 25 Rfb1 Rc2 26 Qe1 Bxe2 27 Rxc2 Qxc2 28 Rb2 Qd1 29 Qxd1 Bxd1 30 Kf2 Rh6 31 Bg4 Rh2+ 32 Ke3 Rxb2 33 Bxb2 Kf7 34 Bh5+ Ke7 35 Kd4 Ba4 36 Bc1 Bb5 37 Bxc5+ Kd7 38 f4 Kc7 39 Bd1 Bd7 40 Bh6 a6 41 Bc2 Bb5 42 Bxh7 Bd7 43 Bc2 b5 44 Kc5 Be8 45 f5 Bf7 46 fxe6 Bxe6 47 Bb3 Kd7 48 Bxd5 Bf5 49 Kb6 Bd3 50 Kxa6 Bc4 51 Bxc4 bxc4 52 Kb7 c3 53 a4 c2 54 a5 Ke6 55 a6 1-0**



Dr Saad Al-Hariri
 send in a miniature
 from the Continental
 Class Championships,
 held from June
 15-17, 2018, at
 the Westin Tysons
 Corner in Falls Church.

Saad Al-Hariri - Ryan Frank
2018 Continental Class Champs
French

1 e4 e6 2 Nf3 d5 3 Nc3 dxc4 4 Nxe4 Bd7 5 d4 Bc6 6 Bd3 Nd7 7 O-O Ngf6 8 Qe2 Be7 9 Re1 O-O 10 Neg5 Bxf3 11 gxf3 [White boldly allows the destruction of his kingside, and his enterprise is immediately rewarded.]
11...Re8? [11...Bd6] 12 Nxf7! Kxf7 13 Qxe6+ Kf8 14 Bc4 1-0



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10 US Chess Grand Prix Points



Virginia Players Excel in US Open Invitationals

Four invitational tournaments are contested in conjunction with the US Open: the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, the National Girls Tournament of Champions and the Senior Tournament of Champions. Every state federation may send a representative to each event.

At this year's US Open in Madison, WI, Virginia's representatives won two of the tournaments outright and turned in solid results in the other two. The cumulative performance of Virginia's players exceeded that of any other state in the nation—we're number one!

Our reigning state champion Praveen Balakrishnan repeated his success from last year in Norfolk. He scored 5½-½ to repeat the Denker winner. In the Barber, Andy Huang showed incredible determination, grinding away for 127 moves(!) to haul in the full point in the last round. He thereby reached 5½ points also, while his closest rivals drew. Vivian Cao-Dao and William Marcelino each scored 3½-2½ representing Virginia in the Girls' and Seniors' (over 50) events, respectively.

Praveen Balakrishnan - Carissa Yip Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Be7 8 Qf3 Qc7 9 O-O-O Nbd7 10 g4 b5 11 Bxf6 Nxf6 12 g5 Nd7 13 f5 O-O 14 h4 b4 15 Nce2 Bb7 16 Bg2 Rac8 17 Kb1 e5 18 f6 exd4 19 fxe7 Rfe8 20 Nxd4 Rxe7 21 Qf4 Ne5 22 h5 Qc5 23 h6 Ng6 24 Qh2 Bxe4 25 hxg7 Bxc2+ 26 Ka1 Ne5 27 Rc1 Ng4 28 Qh4 Qxd4 29 g6 Qxg7 30 gxh7+ Kh8 31 Qxe7 b3 32 axb3 Nf2 33 Rxc2 1-0

J'Adoube

Part 2 of the Editor's European Vacation report ("Prague")
will be deferred to the next issue of VIRGINIA CHESS.



Prague skyline photo by Susan Shibut

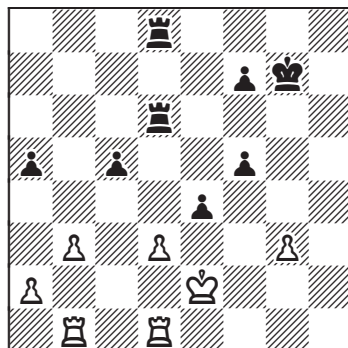
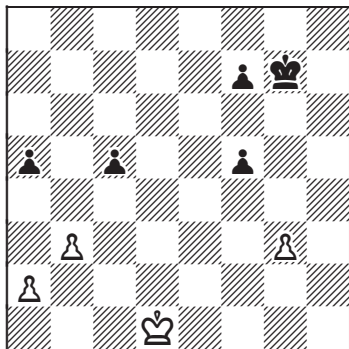


Alexander Costello - Andy Huang Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 Nge2 e5 4 Nd5 g6 5 g3 Bg7 6 Bg2 Nge7 7 O-O O-O 8 d3 Nxd5 9 exd5 Ne7 10 b3 d6 11 Bb2 Bd7 12 Qd2 Nf5 13 c4 Re8 14 Rfe1 b6 15 Be4 h5 16 Qc2 b5 17 cxb5 Bxb5 18 Bxf5 gxf5 19 f4 Rc8 20 Rad1 Bd7 21 Qd2 h4 22 Kg2 a5 23 Ng1 hxg3 24 hxg3 Qb6 25 Ne2 Qb7 26 Nc3 Be6 27 Kg1 Bxd5 28 Nxd5 Qxd5 29 fxe5 Qf3 30 Qf4 Qh5 31 Rb1 Re6 32 Kg2 dxe5 33 Qf3 Qxf3+ 34 Kxf3 Rd8 35 Ke2 Red6 36 Red1 e4 37 Bxg7 Kxg7 (diagram) 38 Rbc1 exd3+ 39 Kd2 Rd5 40 Rc3 Re8 41 Rxd3 Rxd3+ 42 Kxd3 Rd8+ 43 Ke2 Rxd1

44 Kxd1

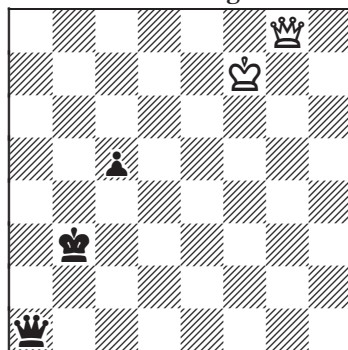
(diagram)



One game - three endgames!

44...Kf6 45 Ke2 Ke5 46 Ke3 Kf6 47 Kf4 Kg6 48 Ke3 Kg5 49 Kf3 Kf6 50 Kf4 Ke6 51 Kf3 Kd5 52 Kf4 Kd4 53 Kxf5 Kc3 54 Kf6 Kb2 55 Kxf7 Kxa2 56 g4 Kxb3 57 g5 a4 58 g6 a3 59 g7 a2 60 g8Q a1Q (diagram)

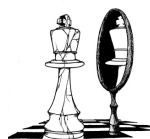
61 Qb8+ Kc4 62 Qf4+ Qd4 63 Qf1+ Qd3 64 Qc1+ Kd4 65 Qf4+ Kd5 66 Qg5+ Kc4 67 Qf4+ Kb3 68 Qb8+ Kc2 69 Qh2+ Qd2 70 Qh7+ Kc3 71 Qg7+ Kb4 72 Ke6 c4 73 Qb7+ Kc3 74 Qg7+ Kc2 75 Qh7+ Kc1 76 Qh1+ Qd1 77 Qh6+ Kb2 78 Qh2+ Kc3 79 Qe5+ Kc2 80 Qf5+ Qd3 81 Qf2+ Qd2 82 Qf5+ Kb3 83 Qf3+ c3 84 Qb7+ Kc2 85 Qe4+ Kc1 86 Qh1+ Kc2 87 Qe4+ Kd1 88 Qb1+ Ke2 89 Qb5+ Qd3 90 Qh5+ Kd2 91 Qa5 Qg6+ 92 Ke7 Qc6 93 Kf8 Kd1 94 Qh5+ Kc2 95 Qh2+ Kc1 96 Qf4+ Kb1 97 Qb8+ Ka2 98 Qa7+ Kb3 99 Qb8+ Ka3 100 Qa7+ Qa4 101 Qe3 Qb3 102 Qa7+ Kb2 103 Qd4 Ka2 104 Ke8 c2 105 Qf2 Ka3 106 Qc5+ Kb2 107 Qf2 Kb1 108 Qf5 Qb2 109 Qd3 Qb6 110 Qe4 Kb2 111 Qe2 Kb3 112 Qd3+ Kb2 113 Qe2 Qc7 114 Qd2 Qc8+ 115 Ke7 Qc7+ 116 Ke8 Qc6+ 117 Ke7 Kb3 118 Qe3+ Qc3 119 Qe6+ Qc4 120 Qe3+ Ka2 121 Qf2 Kb3 122 Qe3+ Qc3 123 Qe6+ Kb2 124 Qe2 Qc5+ 125 Ke8 Qd5 126 Qf2 Qe6+ 127 Kf8 Kb1 0-1





Reflections

Reflections



Looking Back on an Amateur Chess “Career”

THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY – AU REVOIR TO THE FRENCH DEFENSE, PART II

WE CONTINUE OUR TOUR of my adventures and misadventures playing the defense that Wilhelm Steinitz decried as “the dulllest of all openings” (*The International Chess Magazine*, January 1891, p 27).

George Bayer – Mark Warriner
Rated Match 1985

This game was part of a 4-game match with a good friend of mine, George Bayer, played in our high school chess club. I was exceptionally fortunate that he didn’t capitalize on a number my mistakes. **1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 Nf3?** [Surprisingly the second most often played move according to ChessBase, but it does not score well. Evidently this stat is skewed by ...*ahem*... amateurs.] **4...Nc6 5 c4?** [An unfortunate choice and one of the poorest performing. 5 Bd3 had to be tried.] **5... cxd4 6 Nxd4 Nxe5** [6...Nge7 may be a better try] **7 Qa4+** [an outright blunder; 7 cxd5] **7...Bd7 8 Qb3** [8 Qd1] **8...Nc6?** [I let him off the hook! 8...dxc4 9 Qg3 (or 9 Bxc4 Nxc4 10 Qxc4 Rc8) 9...Bd6 10 Qxg7 (if 10 Bf4 Qf6 11 Bg5 Nd3+) 10... Ng6 11 Nf3 or 11 Nxe6 Bxe6] **9 Nxc6 Bxc6** [9...bxc6] **10 cxd5 Qxd5** [No need to trade Queens, perhaps easing White’s defensive task, or to fear the isolated queen pawn—it’s an extra. 10...exd5] **11 Qxd5 exd5** [11...Bxd5 The dust has settled and while missing a lot of good chances, Black is in the driver’s seat and needs only to convert.] **12 Bd3 Nf6 13 O-O Bd6** [No need to allow a check. 13...Ne4] **14 Re1+ Kd7** [Gotta connect the rooks and Bf5+ doesn’t really do anything.] **15 h3** [Speaking of not really doing anything... except giving Black a free move.] **15... Ra8** [Actually either 15...Rhe8 16 Rd1 Ba4 17 Rf1 Ne4; or 15...Ne4 16 Be3 Rhe8 17 Rd1 Ke7 18 Nc3 Nxc3 19 bxc3 Be5 were better.] **16 Bf5+** [Instead either 16 Rf1 or 16 Rd1 and back to the aforementioned lines were superior.] **16...Kc7 17 Bd2 g6** [Better 17...Rxe1+ 18 Bxe1 Re8] **18 Rxe8** [18 Bd3 Rxe1+ 19 Bxe1 Be5 (19...Ne4 20 Nc3 Be5) 20 Nc3 Ne4] **18...Rxe8 19 Bc2** [19 Bd3] **19...Ne4** [19... Be5 20 Bc1] **20 Bxe4 dxe4 21 Be3?** [need to get that knight out and hopefully the rook, though the position is already tough] **21...a6** [Obviously, 21...f5 begs to be played] **22 Nc3 f5 23 Rd1** [23 g3] **23...Rd8** [23...f4] **24 f3?** [24 Rc1; 24 g3] **24...exf3 25 gxf3 Bxf3 26 Nd5+?** [It was over anyway, but 26 Rc1 was the only practical try to stumble on.] **26...Bxd5 27 Rxd5 Bh2+ 0-1**



Steve Mallis – Mark Warriner

VCU Thursday Nite Tournament 1985

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 [4 Bg5 is seen more often, but is not necessarily superior.] 4...Nfd7 5 Nf3 [5 f4 is played more often by far, and may fairly be claimed as a better choice.] 5...c5 [Up to this point the moves are good and common, having been chosen by many top-level players.] 6 Bf4 [But with this White's game begins to deteriorate. 6 dxc5 would have kept things on course.] 6...Nc6 7 Nb5 [Not one of the more common choices of the few masters who've played this, but it does score the highest, albeit with a paltry six game sample of low rated players. 7 Bb5; 7 dxc5] 7...Qb6 8 dxc5? [No need to help Black develop. 8 Be2; 8 c4] 8...Bxc5 9 Nd6+ Bxd6 [Certainly playable, but why worry about the knight? Black would be more than happy to exchange it for the entombed light square bishop. 9...Kf8; 9...Ke7] 10 exd6 Qb4+ [I recognized that this forced an exchange of queens or win of a pawn, and felt that eventually the far-afield d-pawn would fall. But just 10...e5 makes a better impression.] 11 Qd2 Qxb2 12 Rc1 Qxa2 [Again playable but not best. Better to continue development with tempo than gobble a pawn and give White some activity. 12...Nc5; 12...e5] 13 Bb5 Qa5 14 Qxa5 Nxa5 15 Ne5? [White needed to reorganize his pieces. Instead, this move can be met with a forcing line that solidifies Black's advantage. Which of course I missed... 15 Ra1; 15 Bd2] 15...f6 [15...a6 16 Bd3 f6 17 Nxd7 Kxd7 18 Ra1 Nc4 19 Bxc4 dxc4 20 Ke2 e5] 16 Nd3? [16 Bd2 fxe5 17 Bxa5 a6 18 Be2 Kf7 19 h4 b6 20 Bc3 Bb7] 16...a6 17 Bxd7+ [17 Ba4] 17...Bxd7 18 O-O Bb5 [18...Nc4] 19 Rfe1 Bd7? [No clue why I did this; it tosses a large part of



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Black's advantage. 19...Kf7 should have been clear and simple.] **20 Bd2** [allows Black to get back on track. 20 Bg3; 20 Rb1] **20...Nc4 21 Rb1** [21 Rcd1] **21...b5?** [Horrible! Why did I eschew a free piece? No clue! 21...Nxd2 22 Rxb7 Ne4] **22 Bb4 a5 23 Bc5 Nd2?** [Now I want to go to d2 with the knight? *Sigh...* 23...Kf7] **24 Rxb5?** [White's position is lost in any case, but this desperation tactic is unsound. I supposed White had to try and rattle Black somehow, but while I didn't handle it perfectly, even a weak player wouldn't be threatened by this attempt.] **24...Bxb5 25 Rxe6+ Kd7?** [Not losing, but very sloppy technique needlessly giving White counterplay. 25...Kd8] **26 Re7+ Kc8 27 Bb6** [27 Rxg7] **27...Nc4 28 Rc7+ Kb8 29 Bc5 Rd8** [just 29...a4 shows White it's over] **30 Rxg7 Nxd6** [The pawn wasn't going anywhere; again, just 30...a4] **31 Bb6 Re8** [31...Rc8] **32 f3** [32 Bc7+ Kb7 (32...Kc8 33 Bxd6 Bxd3) 33 Bxd6+ Kc6 34 Bf4 Bxd3] **32...Bxd3** [32...Ra6] **33 cxd3 33 Bc7+ Kb7 34 Bxd6+ Kc6 35 Bg3 Bg6** (but not 35...Bxc2 36 Rc7+) **33...Nb5 34 Rxh7 a4** [Finally.] **35 Bc5 a3 36 Bxa3 Rxa3 37 Rh4 Ra2 38 Kf1 Ree2** [38...Rc8 was mate-in-7] **39 Rb4 Reb2 0-1** Not forcing mate quickly, but ends the game in any case.

Ben Dorsey – Mark Warriner

1986 Richmond City Chess Championship

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 [My first time playing against the Tarrasch. I had only a vague notion of what to do, having played over several Anatoly Karpov games, plus a few earlier classics. Unfortunately, almost none of it stuck.] **3...c5 4 exd5 exd5 5 Bb5+ Bd7** [5...Nc6 is the main alternative, though the rare; 5...Nd7 might be an interesting possibility.] **6 Qe2+** [6 Bxd7+ is also playable, and scores a tad higher,



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though is seen only about a quarter as often.] **6...Qe7** [6...Be7 is played more often and scores significantly higher for Black than my move. Korchnoi employed this successfully several times, including in the 1978 World Championship: 7 dxc5 Nf6 8 Nb3 O-O 9 Be3 Re8 10 Nf3 Bxc5 11 Nxc5 Qa5+ 12 Qd2 Qxb5 13 O-O-O b6 14 Nxd7 Nbx7 15 Kb1 Ne4 16 Qd3 Qxd3 17 Rxd3 Ndf6 led to a draw in 64 moves.] **7 Bxd7+ Nxd7 8 Ndf3** [Another Karpov-Korchnoi 1978 World Championship game continued 8 dxc5 Nxc5 9 Nb3 Qxe2+ 10 Nxe2 Nxb3 11 axb3 Bc5 12 Bd2 Ne7 13 Nf4 O-O 14 O-O Rfd8 likewise drawn in 42 moves.] **8...Qxe2+** [No need to help White untangle his steeds. Just 8...Ngf6] **9 Nxe2 Ngf6** [Compare this to what Black could have had after 9 Qe7+ Be7 10 Nge2—a couple tempo would have helped!] **10 O-O Bd6 11 Bf4 Bxf4 12 Nxf4 O-O** [12...O-O-O is interesting, but probably not better.] **13 Rad1** [This gives Black a straight shot at equalization. Either 13 Rfe1 Rfe8 14 dxc5 Nxc5 15 Rxe8+ Rxe8 16 Rd1 and White's slightly better; or 13 dxc5 Nxc5 14 Rfe1 Rac8 and White has a number of pleasant ideas from which to choose.] **13...cxd4?** [No es bueno. 13...c4 14 Rfe1 Rfe8 is equal] **14 Rxd4?** [White remains slightly better after 14 Nxd4] **14...Nb6?** [Giving White back a slight advantage. 14...Rac8] **15 Nd3?** [15 b3] **15...Rac8 16 c3 Rc4** [16...Rfe8] **17 Re1** [17 Nde5] **17...Rc7?** [17...Re8] **18 Nd2?** and for some reason here Ben gave me a draw. After 18 Nf4 he might have liked to press a bit more vs. a lower rated player. ½–½

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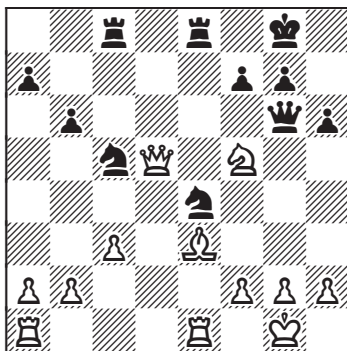
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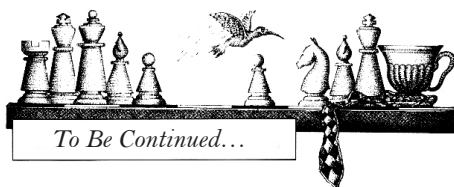
Ken Williams – Mark Warriner

1986 Richmond City Chess Championship

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 c5 4 exd5 exd5 5 Ngf3 [the most popular and highest scoring choice] **5...Nf6** [5...Nc6 is the most common] **6 Bb5+ Bd7 7 Bxd7+ Nbx d7 8 O-O Be7 9 dxc5 Nxc5 10 Nd4** [10 Nb3 is played most, and 10 Re1 is also seen.] **10...O-O 11 Nf5 Re8** [So far we've been rolling right along a popular line played by reasonably strong players.] **12 Nf3** [The first significant deviation from the norm. 12 Nb3 Ne6 13 Nxe7+ Qxe7 14 Be3 a6 15 Re1 Rad8 16 c3 A Sokolov – Short, Linares 1989 ½ 39] **12...Rc8** [12...Bf8 13 Bg5] **13 c3** [probably a small inaccuracy; 13 Nxe7+ Rxe7] **13...h6?** [Why? 13...Bf8 and Black I think is at least equal.] **14 Nxe7+ Qxe7** [14...Rxe7] **15 Be3 b6** [15...Qd7; 15...a5] **16 Re1** [16 Nd4; 16 h3] **16...Qd6?** [failing to take the light squares and making the queen a target. 16...Qd7; 16...Qb7] **17 Nd4 Nfe4?** [Honestly not sure what I was thinking here, except that I probably wasn't thinking much. 17...Ne6 or 17...Re5 are good enough for equality. Note: 18 Bf4? Rxe1+ 19 Qxe1 Qxf4] **18 Nf5** [Doesn't really do all that much if Black responds correctly. 18 f3] **18...Qg6?** [No need to just give away the d-pawn. 18...Qf6 19 Qg4 Nd3 20 Re2 h5 or 20...Ne5 and Black's fine.] **19 Qxd5** and here I mistakenly...



...resigned?! Curiously, White is only slightly better. The placement of White's queen can be used to reposition some of Black's pieces with a bit of effect. In not playing on I was showing too much respect for Ken, though he is a much stronger player. I'm planning an article for next year on resigning games that I should not have, so you may see this position again... 1-0



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 www.arlingtonchessclub.com or email chrisney2@gmail.com **▲ Arlington Seniors Chess Club,** Madison Community Center, 3829 N Stafford St, Mondays, 9:30am, 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 **▲ Centreville:** DMV Rated Ladder, 13810 Braddock Rd. Rated games (time control 30/90, SD/30, d5) Mondays 6pm, PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED via email (dmvchess@gmail.com) or text message (703-415-6600). **▲ 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:** 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, 271 Southgate Shopping Center, Culpeper, VA 22701. Wednesdays 6:30-8:30pm 540-727-0695 **▲ 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. **▲ Glens:** 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 **▲ Orange County:** Wilderness Branch Library Chess Club, 6421 Flat Run Rd, Locust Grove VA 22508 most 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm 540-854-5310 **▲ 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,** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 10660 Duryea Drive, Richmond, Va 23235-2107, 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-11pm, info Walter Chester 804-276-5662 **▲ 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, Wednesdays 5:30-9:30pm in the Community Room of the Raleigh Court Branch Library, 2112 Grandin Road, SW. For more information www.roanokechess.com or www.facebook.com/roanokechess or contact Mike Huff' info@roanokechess.com, phone 540-345-7365 **▲ Stafford:** Bella Cafe, 3846 Jeff Davis Highway, Stafford VA 703-291-5690 very chess friendly - games most days - more show up Tuesdays 6-9pm **▲ Virginia Beach:** Tidewater Community Chess Club, Bldg D ("Kempsville") Cafeteria, Tidewater Community College Va Beach Campus, 1700 College Crescent Rd. Mondays 7-10pm **▲ Warrenton:** Warrenton Chess Club, St James Episcopal Church, 73 Culpeper Street, Warrenton VA 20186, Thursdays 6:40pm info <http://warrentonchessclub.com/> or email jonathan@maxwellchess.com Occasionally the church is unavailable and the club meets 1 mile away at the Warrenton Community Center, 430 East Shirley Avenue, Warrenton VA 20186—check web page for announcements. **▲ 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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