

# VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

2021 - #4



*Fernand Léger 1935*

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

2021 - Issue #4

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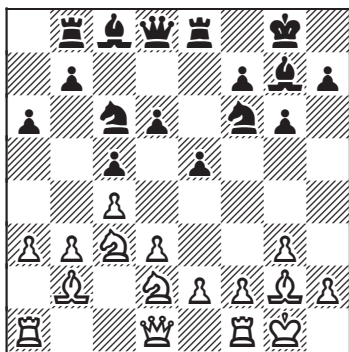


## Cherry Blossom Classic

As reported in our previous issue, the 8<sup>th</sup> Cherry Blossom Classic (May 27-31 in Dulles, Virginia) ended in a three-way tie for 1<sup>st</sup> between GMs **Illia Nyzhnyk** & **John Burke** and IM **Nikolas Theodorou**. The winners each scored 7 out of 9 in an incredibly strong field that featured 14 grandmasters.

### Illia Nyzhnyk - Jianchao Zhou English

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 b3 Bg7 4 Bb2  
c5 5 g3 Nc6 6 Bg2 O-O 7 O-O Re8 8  
d3 e5 9 Nc3 d6 10 a3 a6 11 Nd2 Rb8



12 b4 cxb4 13 axb4 Nxb4 14 Qb3 a5  
15 Ba3 Be6 16 Bxb4 axb4 17 Qxb4 d5  
18 cxd5 Nxd5 19 Nxd5 Bxd5 20 Bxd5  
Qxd5 21 Ra5 Qd4 22 Qb3 Rec8 23 Ne4  
Qd7 24 Rb5 h6 25 Rb1 Rc7 26 Nc5

Qc6 27 Nxb7 e4 28 Rb6 Qc2 29 Nc5  
Rxb6 30 Qxc2 Rxc5 31 Qd1 Rxb1 32  
Qxb1 exd3 33 Qxd3 Re5 34 f4 Re8 35  
e4 Bf6 36 e5 Bg7 37 Kg2 h5 38 Kf3  
Re6 39 Qd8+ Kh7 40 Ke4 Bh6 41 h3  
Ra6 42 Qd7 Kg7 43 g4 hxg4 44 hxg4  
Ra1 45 g5 Re1+ 46 Kf3 Bxg5 47 fxg5  
Kg8 48 Qd8+ Kg7 49 Qd2 Rf1+ 50  
Ke4 Rf5 51 Qd6 Kg8 52 Qf6 1-0

### Brian Escalante - John Burke Scotch

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4  
Nf6 5 Nxc6 bxc6 6 e5 Qe7 7 Qe2 Nd5  
8 h4 a5 9 Nd2 f6 10 Nf3 fxe5 11 Bg5  
Qe6 12 Qxe5 Bb4+ 13 Kd1 Qxe5 14  
Nxe5 O-O 15 f3 Re8 16 Nd3 Ba6 17  
c3 Bd6 18 Kc2 c5 19 Rd1 h6 20 Bc1  
c6 21 Nf2 Bxf1 22 Rdx1 Nf6 23 Kd3  
Bg3 24 Rh3 Bc7 25 Ng4 Nh5 26 f4 d5  
27 Be3 Re4 28 Rhf3 Rae8 29 R1f2 c4+  
30 Kc2 Bd6 31 g3 Kh7 32 a4 Bc7 33

### from the Editor...

Just to be clear, this is *Virginia Chess* issue #4 for 2021!

Not to be confused with our previous issue, which was 2021/ #3 despite having been labelled "2021 - #4" on its cover and literally every other page due to an

editorial blunder. I apologize to anyone who was confused or fearful that you somehow missed an issue. I also regret that this issue will reach our readers too late to publicize the **2021 Virginia 'Closed' State Championship**. If things go as planned, the live over-the-board state championship will have been played in over Labor Day weekend by the time you read this. Look for a report in **issue #5!**

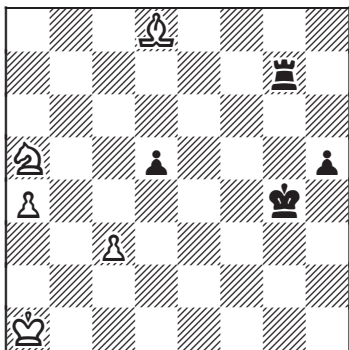




### Cherry Blossom Classic *continued*



Kd2 Rse6 34 Rg2 Re8 35 Bd4 Nxg3  
36 Rfxg3 Bxf4+ 37 Ne3 Bxg3 38 Rxg3  
Rse7 39 Rg2 Rb7 40 Kc2 Rbe7 41 Kd2  
Rf7 42 h5 Re6 43 Kc2 Rc7 44 Bc5 g6  
45 hxg6+ Rxg6 46 Rh2 Rf7 47 b3  
cxb3+ 48 Kxb3 Rg3 49 Rh5 Rg5 50  
Rh3 h5 51 Nc2 Rb7+ 52 Ka3 Kg6 53  
Nd4 Rg1 54 Ka2 Rg2+ 55 Ka1 Kg5 56  
Nxc6 Rc7 57 Be7+ Kg4 58 Rh4+ Kg3  
59 Bd6+ Kxh4 60 Bxc7 Rg7 61 Bd8+  
Kg4 62 Nxa5

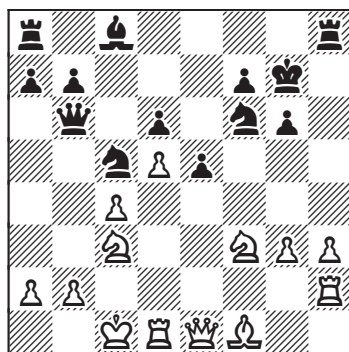


62...Rd7! 63 Nc6? [63 Bf6 Kf5 64 Bd4  
h4] Rxd8! 64 Nxd8 h4 65 Nf7 h3 66  
Ne5+ Kg3 0-1

IM Theodorou's performance earned  
his second GM Norm.

### Brandon Jacobson - Nikolas Theodorou King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 h3  
Nbd7 6 Be3 e5 7 d5 h5 8 Bd3 Bh6 9 Bxh6  
Rxh6 10 Qd2 Rh8 11 O-O-O h4 12 Qe3  
Kf8 13 Nf3 Kg7 14 g3 hxg3 15 fxg3 Nc5  
16 Bf1 c6 17 Rh2 cxd5 18 exd5 Qb6 19 Qe1



19...e4 20 Nd4 Bg4 21 Rdd2 Bxh3 22  
Bxh3 Nd3+ 23 Rxd3 exd3 24 Qe3 Ng4  
25 Bxg4 Rxh2 26 Nd1 Qa6 27 Qxd3  
Qxa2 28 Nc2 Re8 29 Qd4+ Kg8 30  
Nc3 Qb3 31 Bd1 Re1 32 Qd3 b6 33  
g4 a5 0-1

The prizewinners' circle in the Open section was rounded out by GMs **Nicholas Checa, Brandon Jacobson & Titas Stremavicius** who shared 4<sup>th</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> places with 6½ points apiece.

The Under 2300 section saw a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> between **Daniel Lowinger & Ellen Wang**. They each scored 6-1. (All sections except the Open were 7 rounds.)

### Fredericksburg Open & Blitz

Oct 29-30, 2021 at the Country Inn & Suites (South) in Fredericksburg

\$2,900 Prize Fund ... plus 80% payout of Blitz entries

See [vachess.org](http://vachess.org) for details





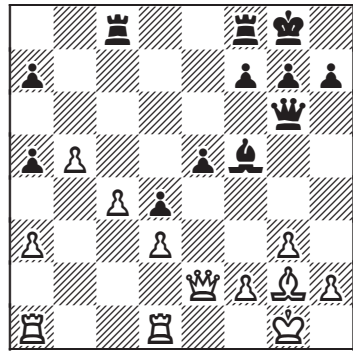
### Daniel Lowinger - Ernest Colding Two Knights

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 d3 h6  
5 O-O d6 6 c3 g6 7 Re1 Bg7 8 a4 O-O  
9 a5 Kh7 10 Nbd2 Qe7 11 d4 Nd8  
12 Bf1 Nh5 13 Nc4 f6 14 g3 Nf7 15  
Bg2 Be6 16 Ne3 c6 17 a6 Bc8 18 axb7  
Qxb7 19 d5 c5 20 Nh4 Bh8 21 Bf1  
Ng5 22 Nef5 gxf5 23 Qxh5 Qf7 24  
Qxf7+ Rxf7 25 exf5 Bb7 26 f4 exf4 27  
gxf4 Bxd5 28 fxg5 fxg5 29 Ng2 Be5  
30 Ne3 Be4 31 Nc4 Re8 32 Nxe5 Rxe5  
33 Bg2 d5 34 Ra5 Rxf5 35 Bxe4 dxe4  
36 Rxa7+ Kg6 37 Rf1 Rf3 38 Ra6+  
Kh5 39 Rf6 Kg4 40 Kg2 Rxf6 41 Rxf6  
e3 42 h3+ Kh5 43 Kf1 e2+ 44 Ke1 c4  
45 Rf3 Kh4 46 Be3 Rb5 47 Bf2+ Kh5  
48 Kxe2 Rxb2+ 49 Ke3 Rb8 50 Kd4  
Rc8 51 Rf5 Kg6 52 Rc5 Rf8 53 Ke3  
Re8+ 54 Kf3 Rf8+ 55 Ke2 Re8+ 56  
Be3 Re4 57 Kf3 Rh4 58 Kg3 Re4 59  
Bd4 h5 60 Rc6+ Kf7 61 Rxc4 h4+ 62  
Kg2 Re2+ 63 Bf2 Ke6 64 Rc5 Kf6 65  
Kf3 Rc2 66 Be3 Rh2 67 Bxg5+ Kg6  
68 Bxh4 Rxh3+ 69 Bg3 Kf6 70 Rd5  
Ke6 71 Rd6+ Ke7 72 Rd2 Rh1 73 Ke4  
Rc1 74 Kd4 Kd7 75 c4 Kc6 76 Rd3  
Rc2 77 Rf3 Rd2+ 78 Kc3 Rd1 79 Rf6+  
Kb7 80 Kb4 Rd3 81 Bf2 Rh3 82 Kb5

Rb3+ 83 Kc5 Rh3 84 Bd4 Rh5+ 85  
Kd6 Rh4 86 Rf7+ Kc8 87 Kc6 Rh6+  
88 Rf6 Rh8 89 Bc5 1-0

### Ellen Wang - Sal Rosario Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 g3 Nc6 4 Bg2 Nf6  
5 Qe2 d5 6 exd5 Nxd5 7 O-O Be7 8  
Rd1 Bf6 9 Nc3 O-O 10 Ne4 Nd4 11  
Nxf6+ Qxf6 12 Nxd4 cxd4 13 c4 Nb4  
14 d3 e5 15 a3 Nc6 16 b4 Bf5 17 b5  
Na5 18 Qb2 Rac8 19 Bd2 b6 20 Bxa5  
bxa5 21 Qe2 Qg6 [21...Rc5]

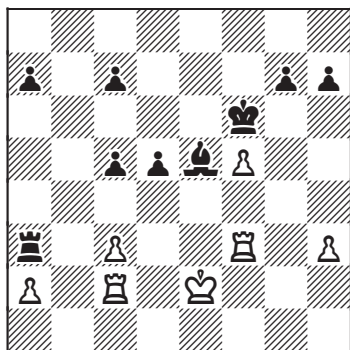


22 Qxe5 Bxd3 23 Qxd4 Bxc4 24 Rac1  
Be6 25 Rxc8 Bxc8 26 Qxa7 Qc2 27 Qd4  
h5 28 b6 Qb3 29 Bd5 Qxa3 30 b7 Bh3  
31 Rb1 Kh7 32 Qd1 Bg4 33 Qc2+ f5  
34 b8Q Rxb8 35 Rxb8 Qd6 36 Rb5 1-0

Kent Slate won clear 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Under 2000 section with a score of 6½-½. Aleks Fetlyaev did the same to pace the Under 1700 group. Under 1400 also saw a clear winner, Andrew Jing with 6 points.

### Sritej Sattaru - Kent Slate Italian

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 c3 Nf6 5 d4 exd4 6 e5 d5 7 Bb5 Ne4 8 cxd4 Bb6  
9 Nc3 Bg4 10 Be3 O-O 11 O-O f6 12 h3 Nxc3 13 bxc3 Bxf3 14 gxf3 fxe5 15  
Bxc6 bxc6 16 dxe5 Qh4 17 Kh2 Rf5 18 f4 Rxf4 19 Bxf4 Qxf4+ 20 Kg2 Qxe5  
21 Qe1 Qg5+ 22 Kh2 Rf8 23 Qe6+ Kh8 24 f4 Qf6 25 Qe5 Kg8 26 Rae1 Bc5  
27 Kh1 Bd6 28 Qxf6 Rxf6 29 f5 Kf7 30 Rb1 Rh6 31 Rf3 Rh4 32 Rbf1 Ra4 33  
R1f2 Ra3 34 Kg2 Be5 35 Rc2 Kf6 36 Kf2 c5 37 Ke2



37...c4 38 Kf2 c5 39 Kg2 Ra4 40 Rf1 d4 41 cxd4 cxd4 42 Rb2 c3 43 Rb5 d3 44 Re1 d2 45 Rxe5 d1Q 46 Re6+ Kg5 47 f6+ Kg6 48 Rg5+ Kxg5 49 fxg7 Qd5+ 50 Re4 Qxe4+ 51 Kg3 Qf4+ 52 Kg2 Rxa2+ 53 Kh1 Qf1 *mate* 0-1

The Cherry Blossom Festival features several tournaments besides the main event. Virginia state champion **Daniel Miller** swept through the Friday Night Rapid event 5-0. The Blitz tournament featured Open and Amateur sections. GMs **Nicholas Checa**, **Vladimir**

**Belous** & **Joshua Ruiz** went 7-2 apiece to share top honors in the former, while **Sritej Sattaru**'s 7-1 was sufficient to take the Amateur all by himself.

Thanks are due to the tournament staff who made the event run smoothly even as we learn to navigate the transition to the COVID endgame (hopefully!). Co-organizer **Jonathan Kenny** provided several dozens fine wood chess sets, including 24 DGT live boards setup. Chief TD **Anand Dommalapati** captained a group that included National Tournament Director/International Arbiter **Rudy Abate**, NTD **Sam Shoykhet**, Senior TDs **Rob Getty**, **Andy Rea** & **Josh Hibban**, plus assistants **Brian Costella**, **Robert Jackson** & **Christina Scheible**.

## Andrew Samuelson - Vladimir Belous Sicilian

*Notes by Andy Samuelson*

This game was played in the first round of the 2021 Cherry Blossom Classic. Thanks to the pandemic, this was the first game I played over the board in 15 months. So, I was paired with a Russian GM to start off. 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nc6 5 Nc3 Qc7 6 Be3 a6 7 Bd3 Nf6 8 O-O b5 [8...Bd6 9 f4 Bc5 10 Nf5 Ne7 11 Nxc6 9 f4? [9 Nxc6 Qxc6 10 Be2 Bb7 11 Bf3 is calmer and may lead to a small advantage for White.] 9... Bc5 10 Nf5 Ne7 [This forces White to sacrifice a piece.] 11 Nxc6 [The general idea for this piece sacrifice is something I saw in *Experts vs the Sicilian*.] 11...Kf8 12 Bxc5 Qxc5+ 13 Kh1 Kxg7 14 e5 Ne8 15 Ne4 Qd5 [15...Qb6 may be a bit safer. For example, 16 Qh5 h6 17 Rae1 Nf5 18 g4 Ne3 19 Rf3 Nc4 20 f5 White has some attacking chances for the piece, but maybe objectively not enough.] 16 Qh5 Bb7 17 Rf3 Ng6 [Black could try giving up the queen to break White's attack: 17...Qxe4 18 Bxe4 Bxe4. This wouldn't have been possible if Black hadn't had the extra tempo for ...b5.] 18 Rg3 Qd4?! [18...Kf8 trying to run away 19 Qh6+ Ke7



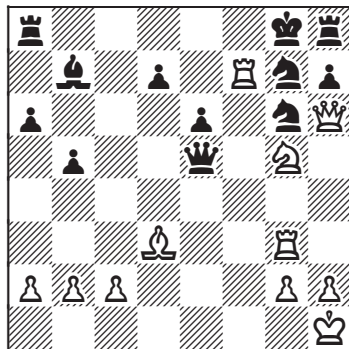
20 Qg5+ Kf8 may just be a repetition] **19 Ng5 Qxf4** [Black decides to grab some more material.] **20 Rf1 Qxe5 21 Rxf7+** [the only move that makes any sense] **21...Kg8** [I thought for a while here and found the best (and probably only) move.] **22 Qh6! Ng7** [I saw the refutation of 22...Nd6—23 Nxh7 Kxf7 24 Bxg6+ Ke7 25 Qh4+ and the Nd6 blocks the king's escape.]

### 23 Re3

(diagram)

The computer suggests 23 h3! Rf8 24 Bxg6 Rxf7 25 Bxf7+ Kf8 26 Re3 Qxe3 27 Nxh7+ Rxh7 28 Qxe3 Kxf7 29 Qd3 Kg8 30 Qxd7 but I never really even looked at it during the game.

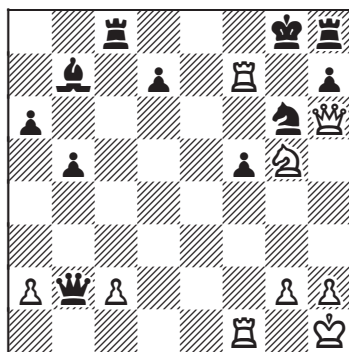
I did look at 23 h4, but didn't see a good follow-up. 23...Bd5 24 c3 Nh5 25 Rg4 Ng7 26 Bxg6 hxg6 27 Qxg6 Rxh4+ 28 Rxh4 Qe1+ 29 Kh2 Qxh4+ is just a draw by repetition.



**23...Qxb2?** [23...Qd4 24 h3 Bxg2+ 25 Kxg2 Nh4+ 26 Kf1 Nh5 27 Bxf5 Nxf5 28 Rxf5 Qxe3 29 Rf2 Qc5 30 Nxe6 Qxf2+ 31 Kxf2 dxe6 32 Ke3 Kf7 may be a little better for White due to Black's lack of coordination. I'd still have to try to find targets to attack before the rooks get into the game. As for the move played, continuing to take material gets him into trouble.] **24 Re1** [The computer really likes 24 h3! Now. For example 24...Rc8 25 Rg3 Qa1+ 26 Kh2 Nf5 27 Bxf5 Bxg2 28 Rxg2 Qe5+ 29 Kh1 exf5 30 Rxd7 is pretty much over. White's attack is too strong.] **24...Rc8** [Black could also try 24...Nf5 25 Bxf5 exf5 26 Rxd7 Qc3 27 Rf1 Bxg2+ 28 Kxg2 Qc6+ 29 Ne4 Qxe4+ 30 Kg1 Qg4+ 31 Kh1 Qe4+ with yet another repetition] **25 Ref1 Nf5 26 Bxf5**

(diagram)

**26...exf5 27 Rxd7!** [This is practically the only move to keep the balance. 27 R7xf5 loses to 27...Qxc2 due to the counterattack on g2; 27 Rxh7 Nf4 is no good for White either; and on 27 Nxh7 Kxf7 28 Rxf5+ Ke7 29 Qg5+ Kd6 30 Qxg6+ Kc7 the Black king would escape. I decided to eliminate the d7 pawn to gain access to the e6 square, but to be honest I didn't fully grasp its importance.] **27...Bxg2+!** [Basically forced, but this should be enough to hold on. If instead 27...



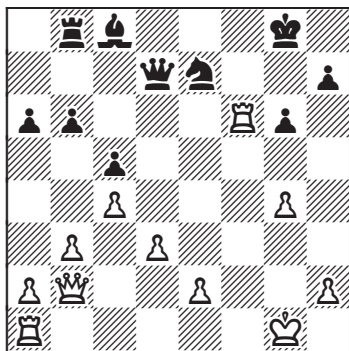
Bc6 28 Nxh7 Bxd7 29 Qxg6+ Qg7 30 Nf6+ Kf8 31 Nxd7+ Qxd7 (31...Kg8 32 Nf6+ Kf8 33 Qxf5—compare with what follows) 32 Rxf5+ Qxf5 33 Qxf5+ Ke7 and again, compare with the game...] **28 Kg1** [If 28 Kxg2 Qxc2+ (I was afraid of 28...Rxc2+ during the game but Black's attack actually amounts to nothing) 29 Kh3 Qc3+ 30



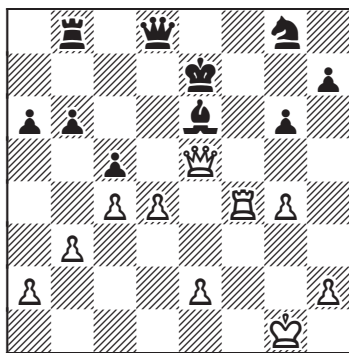
Rf3 Nf4+ 31 Kh4 Qe1+ 32 Rg3 Ng6+ 33 Kh5 Nf4+ with yet another repetition. After I played the text, my opponent reached out to play 28...Bxf1, then pulled his hand back. It's probably good I was wearing a mask as I was shocked and trying not to show it.] 28...Bxf1?? [Black's appetite for material finally results in a blunder. 28...Nf8 may have been the toughest move to meet over the board 29 Rxf5 Qc1+ 30 Kxg2 Rxc2+ 31 Kh3 Rc3+ 32 Kg2 leads to a repetition. I thought 28...Bc6 was best during the game, forcing me to find 29 Nxf7 Bxd7 30 Qxg6+ Qg7 31 Nf6+ Kf8 32 Nxd7+ Kg8 (32...Qxd7 is also a viable option 33 Rxf5+ Qxf5 34 Qxf5+ Ke7 with approximate equality. Note that the missing g2 pawn keeps Black in the game.) 33 Nf6+ with another repetition. I don't have Qxf5 due to the pin on the g-file.] 29 Ne6 1-0 Black is caught in a mating net despite all the extra material.

### Nikolas Theodorou - Andrey Stukopin Réti

1 Nf3 c5 2 g3 Nc6 3 Bg2 g6 4 O-O Bg7 5 c4 d6 6 d3 Nh6 7 Nc3 Nf5 8 Qd2 O-O 9 b3 Rb8 10 Bb2 a6 11 Nd5 e5 12 Ng5 Nce7 13 f4 b6 14 g4 Nxd5 15 Bxd5 Ne7 16 Nxf7 Rxf7 17 Bxf7+ Kxf7 18 fxe5+ Kg8 19 exd6 Bxb2 20 Qxb2 Qxd6 21 Rf6 Qd7



22 Rf8+?! [22 Raf1] Kxf8 23 Qh8+ Ng8 24 Rf1+ Ke7 25 Rf4 Qd8 26 Qe5+ Be6 27 d4 (diagram next column) 27...Qc8? [27...Kd7! 28 d5 Bxg4! 29 Rf7+ (29 Rxg4 Qe8) 29...Kc8 30 Qg7 Nf6 31 Rxf6 Rb7] 28 d5 Rb7 29 dxe6 Ke8 30 Qd5 Re7 31 Qf3 Qxe6 32 Rf8+



Kd7 33 Qb7+ Kd6 34 Qb8+ Rc7 35 Rd8+ Kc6 36 Qa8+ Rb7 37 Rc8+ Kd6 38 Qxb7 Qxg4+ 39 Kh1 1-0

### Naman Kumar - Ming Lu French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 f4 c5 6 Nf3 Nc6 7 Be3 Rb8 8 Qd2 Qa5 9 dxc5 Bxc5 10 Bxc5 Nxc5 11 Nd4 O-O 12 O-O-O Bd7 13 Kb1 Nxd4 14 Qxd4 Rfc8 15 g4 Na4 16 Nxa4 Bxa4 17 Bd3 Bb5 18 f5 Bc4 19 b3 Bxd3 20 Rxd3 b5 21 Rf3 Qa3 22 Rhf1 Qc5 23 Qd2 d4 24 Re1 Rd8 25 f6 g6 26 Rh3 Qf8 27 Re4 Rd5 28 Qg5 Kh8 29 Qh4 Qg8 30 g5 h5 31 Qe1 Rc8 32 Reh4 Qh7 33 Qd1 Rxe5 34 Rxh5 gxh5 35 Rxh5 d3 36 cxd3 b4 37 a3 a5 38 axb4 axb4 39 Rxh7+ Kxh7 40 Qh5+ Kg8 41 Qh6 Re1+ 42 Kb2 Re2+ 1/2-1/2



## Virginia Senior Championship

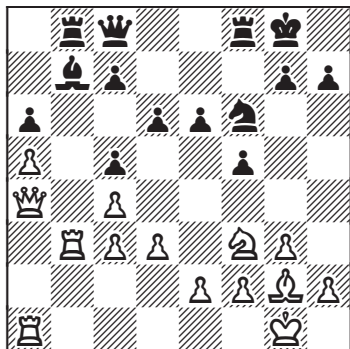
The Virginia Senior Championship was organized on short notice for the weekend of July 10-11 and attracted 26 players to the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott. Out-of-state entries were accepted but only Virginia players were eligible for the title. **John Farrell** emerged as the top scoring Virginian and went on to represent our state at the US Senior Tournament of Champions.

Maryland IM **Enkhbat Tegshsuren** scored  $4\frac{1}{2}$  out of 5 to win the 1<sup>st</sup> prize. He was followed by Nigerian IM Oladapo Ado. Farrell followed half a point farther back, taking the title on tiebreak over William Marcellino & Carla Naylor, with Marylander Leif Karrell also achieving the same score. Ted Covey took the Under 1600 prize.

### John Farrell – Carla Naylor English

1 c4 b6 2 Nc3 e6 3 Nf3 Bb7 4 g3 f5 5 Bg2 Nf6 6 O-O Bb4 7 d3 Bxc3 8 bxc3 O-O 9 a4 Na6 10 a5 Qc8 11 Ba3 d6 12 Qb3 Nc5 13 Bxc5 bxc5 14 Rfb1 Rb8 15 Qa4 a6 16 Rb3

(diagram)



16...Qd7 17 Qxd7 Nxd7 18 Rab1 Ba8 19 Ng5 Rxb3 20 Rxb3 e5 21 Ne6 Rc8 22 Bxa8 Rxa8 23 Rb7 Rb8 24 Rxc7 Nf8 25 Rxg7+ Kh8 26 Re7 Nxe6 27 Rxe6 Rb1+ 28 Kg2 Ra1 29 Rxd6 Rxa5 30 Rd5 e4 31 Rxf5 exd3 32 exd3 Ra1 33 Rxc5 a5 34 Rc7 a4 35 Ra7 Kg8 36 c5 Kf8 37 d4 a3 38 c6 Ke8 39 d5 Rd1 40 Ra8+ 1-0



### Enkhbat Tegshsuren – William Marcellino Dutch

1 d4 e6 2 g3 d5 3 Bg2 c6 4 c4 f5 5 Nh3 Nf6 6 O-O Bd6 7 b3 O-O 8 Ba3 dxc4 9 bxc4 Bxa3 10 Nxa3 Qe7 11 Qb3 Kh8 12 Rad1 Nbd7 13 Nc2 a5 14 Ne3 g6 15 Qc3 Qb4 16 Qa1 Qe7 17 f4 h6 18 Nf2 Kh7 19 c5 Nd5 20 Qc1 b5 21 cxb6 Bb7 22 Nd3 N7xb6 23 Nc5 Bc8 24 Rfe1 Nd7 25 Nxd7 Bxd7 26 Nc4 Rfc8 27 e4 fxe4 28 Bxe4 Nf6 29 Bb1 Rab8 30 Qc2 Be8 31 Qe2 Bf7 32 Ne5 Be8 33 Nf3 Bf7 34 Nh4 Nd5 35 f5 Qg5 36 fxg6+ Bxg6 37 Bxg6+ Kh8 38 Qxe6 Rf8 39 Qe5+ Qxe5 40 dxe5 Rb2 41 Be4 Nc3 42 Ng6+ Kg7 43 Nxf8 Nxd1 44 Rxd1 Kxf8 45 Rf1+ Ke7 46 Rf2 Rb4 47 Bf5 Rb5 48 e6 Re5 49 Bh3 c5 50 Rf7+ Ke8 51 Ra7 c4 52 Rc7 Re4 53 Bf5 Re5 54 g4 c3 55 Rxc3 h5 56 h3 1-0



## Vladimir Simagin

by Macon Shibut

My old friend Ron Tekel and I passed the some quarantine hours translating Soviet-era chess literature. While Ron is not a serious chess player, he has previous contributions to *Virginia Chess*. Our translation from ШАХМАТНЫЙ БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ of an old Richard Reti essay (Do “New Ideas” Stand Up In Practice?, VIRGINIA CHESS #1993/5) is a piece that I get occasional requests for from all over the world! Lately, Ron and I have been working (remotely!) on Vladimir Simagin’s *Best Games*.

Perhaps younger readers have never heard of Simagin. He was a 1950s-60s era grandmaster. Although never among the world’s elite, champions like Mikhail Botvinnik and Tigran Petrosian expressed high regard for his imagination and level of chess understanding. Simagin’s competitive results were possibly hampered deficiencies of nerves and health. He played little outside the Soviet Union and died young.

I first became interested in Simagin many years ago after I noticed his name associated with several opening variations I liked. Later I applied the reciprocal: whenever an opening gave me trouble, one thing I would do is check how Simagin handled it. Ron and I are approaching a complete translation of Simagin’s 1963 monograph *Best Games*. Here are a couple selection.

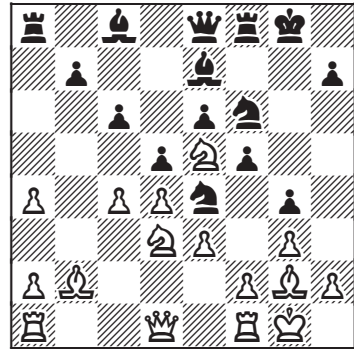
### Vladimir Simagin - Alexander Chistiakov Moscow Ch 1946 Dutch

**1 d4 e6 2 Nf3 f5 3 g3 Nf6 4 Bg2 Be7 5 O-O O-O 6 c4 d5 7 Nc3** [Other good development schemes are possible here. For example: 7 b3 c6 8 Ba3 aiming for the exchange of dark square bishops; or 7 Bg5 c6 8 Bxf6. White chooses a more complex option in which all the pieces remain on the board.] **7...c6 8 b3 Qe8 9 Bb2 Nbd7 10 e3 Ne4 11 Ne2** [White continues to avoid exchanges, considering that the knight cannot be maintained on e4.] **11...a5 12 Nf4** [In the Dutch Defense, the struggle is often fought on both flanks. Black’s chances are primarily on the kingside. Diversions to the queenside should be understood as having an auxiliary character, which in the present case would be as follows: Black hopes by the maneuver ...a5-a4 and a4xb3 to open the a-file and solve the problem of his queenside development. White might have played 12 a3 so that on 12...a4 he could reply 13 b4. However, I did not want to waste time on pawn moves.] **12...Ndf6 13 Ne5 a4 14 bxa4** [14 f3 could be answered 14...a3] **14...g5** [Necessary. Black secures the position his central knight against White’s threat of seizing the initiative by 15 f3. Of course Black’s move has its dark side, which in fact led his downfall in the end. But for the time being at least he



Vladimir Simagin

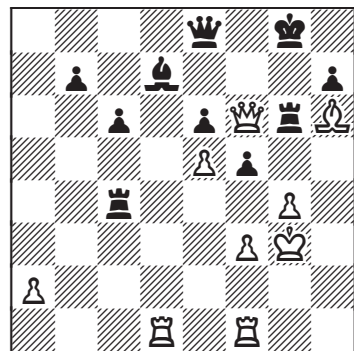
holds the initiative and White must attend to the defense.] **15 Nfd3 g4**



**16 h3!** [White's plan is to counterattack the Black king. For this, it is necessary to eliminate the g4 pawn so as to drive the knight out of e4.] **16...gxh3 17 Bxh3**

**Kh8** [Further intensifying the struggle. Black inhibits the move f2-f3 by targeting the pawn on g3. But it is very unpleasant for the Black king to have a 'neighbor' like the bishop on b2. In the terminology of the late master B. M. Blumenfeld, such an "X-ray attack" can lead to various combinations.] **18 Nf4 Rg8 19 Kh2 Bd6 20 Qc2 Ng5** [Perhaps this move is a mistake that allows White to get his kingside play underway. Black should use all means to prevent the move f2-f3. To that end, perhaps 20...Rg7 and if 21 Rg1 then 21...Qg8] **21 f3! Nh5 22 g4! Nxf4 23 exf4 Nxh3 24 Kxh3 Bxe5 25 dxe5** [Despite a number of exchanges, the situation remains very sharp. Neither king is comfortably placed, but more so Black's due to the contrasting activity of the bishops.] **25...dxc4 26 Qf2!** [Under the circumstances, the c4 pawn is a mere trifle not worth the time it would take to

capture it. The queen rushes to the kingside. 26 Kg3 could have been answered 26...Qg6] **26...c3!** [The only chance! Black's rook enters the game and starts attacking pawns.] **27 Bxc3 Rxa4 28 Qh4 Rxf4?** [A decisive mistake. Rather than collecting material, a tireless pursuit of the White king was called for. To that end, 28...Ra3 would have kept up the pressure. Now, however, White is free to carry out his fundamental idea, with his bishop playing the star role in the final attack.] **29 Qf6+ Rg7 30 Kg3 Rc4 31 Rad1 Bd7 32 Bd2 Kg8 33 Bh6 Rg6** (diagram)





34 Rxd7! Rxf6 35 Rg7+ Kh8 36 exf6 Qb8+ 37 f4 Rc3+ 38 Kh4 Qf8 [Black had no satisfactory defense against threats 39 Rf7 or 39 f7] 39 Rxh7+ Kxh7 40 Bxf8 Kg8 41 Be7 fxg4 42 Rg1 Rh3+ 43 Kxg4 1-0

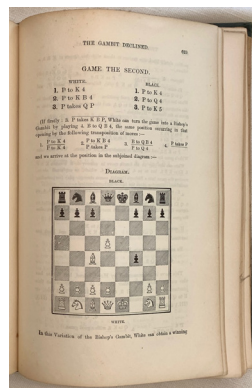
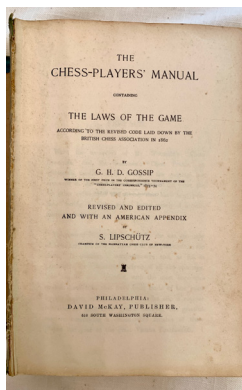
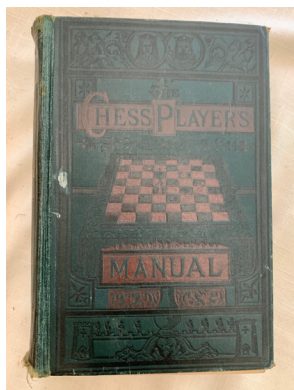
## Vladimir Simagin - Nikolay Golovko Moscow Ch 1950

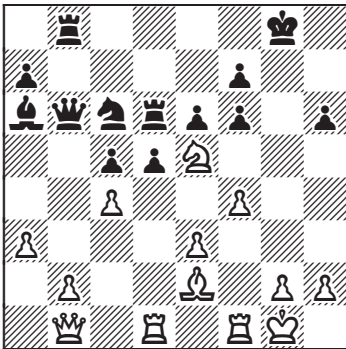
### Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Bg5 Be7 5 e3 h6 6 Bh4 O-O 7 Nf3 b6 8 Qc2 [Not the strongest continuation. The main variations of this opening follow 8 cxd5 and after 8...Nxd5 9 Bxe7 Qxe7 10 Nxd5 exd5 White can get a small but reliable positional advantage. The move chosen here by White leads to more difficult positions, but Black can get a good game.] 8...c5 9 dxc5 bxc5 10 Rd1 Qa5 11 Be2 Nc6 12 O-O Nb4 13 Qb1 Ba6 [Black has activated his pieces and will soon be able to start active operations on the queenside (the b-file). White must figure out a way to create counterplay on the kingside.] 14 Ne5 Qc7 [White threatened both 15 a3 and 15 Bxf6 Bxf6 16 Nd7] 15 Bg3 Bd6 16 f4 Rad8 [A serious mistake, after which complications arise favoring White. He should have played 16...Nc6 and eliminate the White outpost in the center.] 17 Nb5! Qb6 [Black allows the exchange of his dark square bishop. It would have been better to try 17...Bxb5 18 cxb5 d4! with great complications.] 18 a3 Nc6 19 Nxd6 Rxd6 20 Bh4 Rb8 [The final mistake, after which White's attack becomes irresistible. The knight should retreat. After 20...Ne4 21 Nxc6 Qxc6 22 cxd5 exd5 23 Bxa6 Qxa6 24 Be7 it would not be easy for White to realize the small material advantage.] 21 Bxf6 gxf6

## Antiquarian Book

For those who love or collect old chess books, Rane Kamens is looking to sell an 1882 edition of Gossip's *The Chess-Players' Manual*. Contact him at [ranekamens@hotmail.com](mailto:ranekamens@hotmail.com) if you're interested.





**22 Nxf7!** [The Black pieces are concentrated on the queenside. Exploiting this circumstance, White sacrifices a piece to develop a strong attack against the lonely king.] **22...Kxf7 23 Qh7+ Ke8 24 f5!** [The Black pawn center must be demolished.] **24...d4** {White must still justify his sacrifice after 24...exf5 -ed} **25 fxe6 Rxe6 26 Bg4 Rd6 27 exd4 Bxc4 28 Rde1+ 1-0**

## Walter Muir Memorial

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2515 Grandin Road, Roanoke, Va 24015

Saturday, October 16, 2021

3-Round Open chess tournament sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Chess Club. G/60, inc 20. Rds 10am-2pm-6pm. \$\$ (b/20): \$400-200-100, U1600 75, U1200 \$75. If there are two perfect 3-0 scores, one Armageddon game will be played to award title, trophy, and bonus \$25 prize. EF \$45 if rec'd by 10/13, \$55 after/at door. On-site registration 8:30-9:30 a.m., Saturday, October 16, 2021. RVCC Members get \$5.00 discount on entries. USCF memb req'd. ½ pt byes avail, request before rd 1. No smoking, no computers. Wheelchair accessible. Enter: Roanoke Valley Chess Club, PO Box 4141, Roanoke, Va 24015. Info [rmmegginson@gmail.com](mailto:rmmegginson@gmail.com) or phone 540-309-4165.



*The Editor's daughter found this while searching some Richmond photo archive. I recognize my old friend David Harlow. Circumstantial evidence makes it nearly certain the event is the 1973 Virginia Closed, which was held in Richmond at the then Howard Johnsons on Boulevard right at the I-95 interchange.*



*12th annual...*

## Washington Chess Congress

Oct 7-11, 8-11 or 9-11

Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 20191

Premier Section, 9SS, Oct 7-11, 40/80, SD/30+30; GM & IM norms possible, FIDE rated. Other Sections, 7SS, Oct 8-11 or 9-11, 40/80, SD/30+30 (3-day option, rounds 1-2 G/60 d10). Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 20191 (21 miles from Washington). Free parking, free airport shuttle, free shuttle to Metro subway & Reston Town Center. \$30,000 guaranteed prizes. In 4 sections: Premier: Open to FIDE 2000/over, foreign FIDE 1900/over, or USCF 2100/over. \$3000-1500-1000-800-700-600-500-400, clear or tiebreak first bonus \$100, top FIDE Under 2300/Unr \$1700-900. FIDE. Foreign GM prize pool: \$4000 divided evenly among foreign GMs who play all 9 games with no byes. Minimum prize \$300 to US GMs and foreign IMs/WGMs who play all 9 games with no byes. Under 2200: \$2000-1000-500-300-200, top Under 2000 (no Unr) \$1200-600. Under 1800: \$1700-900-500-300-200, top Under 1600 (no Unr) \$800-400. Under 1400: \$1000-500-300-200-100, top Under 1200 (no Unr) \$400-200. Prize limits: Unrated cannot win over \$200 in U1400 or \$400 in U1800. If current Online Regular rating is more than 50 points over section or prize maximum, prize limit \$300. Mixed doubles bonus prizes: best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$1000-500. Only first 7 rounds of Premier counted. Team must average under 2200; may play in different sections; register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2. Ratings: October FIDE ratings used in Premier, USCF October official in other sections. Unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated, Top 3 sections EF: \$168 online at chessaction.com by 10/5, 5-day \$175, 4-day \$174, 3-day \$173 if check mailed by 9/23, all \$200 at site or online until 1 hour before rd 1. U1400 Section: all EF \$50 less than top 3 sections EF. Premier GMs & foreign IMs/WGMs \$50 at chessaction by 9/23, \$100 after 9/23 or at site; US IMs/WGMs, foreign FIDE rated \$90 at chessaction by 9/23, \$140 after 9/23 or at site. Special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Youth \$18. Mailed or at site, \$45, \$27 & \$20. No checks at site, credit cards OK. Re-entry: \$80, no Premier to Premier. 5-day schedule (Premier only): Reg. ends Thu 6 pm, rds. Thu 7 pm, Fri 1 pm & 7 pm, Sat 11 am & 5 pm, Sun 10 am & 4 pm, Mon 10 am & 3:30 pm. 4-day schedule: Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds Fri 7 pm. Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 4, Mon 10 & 3:30. 3-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 4, Mon 10 & 3:30. Byes: OK all; limit 3 (limit 2 in last 4 rds), must commit before rd 3. Electronic device rules: see [devicerules.com](http://devicerules.com). Awards: If not claimed at tournament, paid electronically by Zelle or Paypal. HR: \$99-99-109-119, link at [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us) or 703-620-9000, reserve by 9/17 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633 or reserve car online at [chesstour.com](http://chesstour.com). Ent: Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803. Questions: [Director@Chess.US](mailto:Director@Chess.US), [www.chesstour.com](http://www.chesstour.com). Refunds, \$15 service charge. Entries posted at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) (click "entry list" after entering). Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied. Blitz tournament Sun. 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm.

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1938	W F O'Hara	1982	William Robinson
1939	W W Gibbs	1983	Edward Kitces
1940	John N Buck	1984	Errol Liebowitz
1941	Edgar McCormick	1985	Richard Delaune
1942	L Russell Chauvenet	1986	Edward Kitces
1946	L Russell Chauvenet	1987	Geoff McKenna
1947	L Russell Chauvenet	1988	Geoff McKenna
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1970	Ed Kitces	2012	James Schuyler
1971	Charles Powell	2013	Daniel Miller
1972	Charles Powell	2014	James Schuyler
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1974	Richard Delaune	2016	Qindong Yang
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