

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

2019 - #3



Drawing by María José Acosta inspired by an anonymous portrait made in 1930  
in the studio of the painter Juan de Echevarría. <http://deludoscadorum.blogspot.com>

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

2019 - Issue #3

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non-profit organization for the use of its members.

Dues for regular adult membership are \$15/yr.

Junior memberships (under age 18 at expiration)

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## Colonial Open

**I**SAAC CHIU scored 4-1 to capture clear first place at the inaugural Colonial Open, played April 19-21 at the Executive Conference and Training Center in Sterling. A quartet of out-of-staters trailed half a point behind: Lev Paciorkowski (NY), IM Tegshsuren Enkhbat (Md), Akshay Indusekar (IL) & Terry Luo (Del).

The Under 2100 section also saw a clear winner as Steve Jablon recorded a clean 5-0. Barzin Badiie & Bryan Milian finished a point back. Bradley Guo, David Long & Varun Vonteru split Top U1900.

Tyson Bady was outright winner in the Under 1700 section with 4½-½. Next came Emmett Parks, Jamie Kowalski, Elliott Lee & Edward Guo, each with 4 points. Stephen Parsons won U1500.

Finally, Jagadeeshwar Sridhar topped the Under 1300 group, scoring 4½ points. Andrew Thatcher & Cristopher Ford tied for runners-up. Justin Yuan, Gautham Agilan & Maximilian Bao split the Top U1100.

A dozen players also contested a Saturday night blitz tournament, and Isaac Chiu won that too! Altogether 134 players enter this new event on the Virginia chess calendar organized and directed by Anand Dommalapati.



### Tuckahoe Chess Club MoVed (again!)

The Tuckahoe Chess Club is now meeting at the Panera Bread next to Regency Mall, 1370 N Parham Rd, Henrico Va. Chess players gather every Thursday from 5 to 9:30 pm. Call Charles Chen at 804-301-2097 with any questions.

### J'adoube

A correction from VIRGINIA CHESS #2019/1: the contributor who defeated GM Aleks Lenderman in his Eastern Open simultaneous exhibition is named Marvin Wilson, not "Marion" as reported.





## 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Virginia Closed Chess Championship



**TWO TOURNAMENTS:** Blitz on Friday Evening, Aug 30<sup>th</sup>  
and the Main Tournament on Saturday through Monday, Aug 31<sup>st</sup> - Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>

Virginia Chess Federation Annual General Membership Meeting  
Saturday, Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, 9AM at the tournament site.

**WHERE:** Hilton Garden Inn Innsbrook, 4050 Cox Rd, Glen Allen, VA. Call the hotel at (804)521-2901. Chess Rate is \$94 per night, plus taxes. You must reserve by Thursday Aug 8<sup>th</sup> to get this rate!

**ELIGIBILITY:** The Main Event is open to **all Virginia residents, military stationed in Virginia, and students attending any Virginia school** or college (must show student ID or other proof of Fall 2019 school enrollment). Blitz is open to any players. Blitz is open to ALL PLAYERS, regardless of state of residence.

**REGISTRATION:** Online at [www.vachess.org](http://www.vachess.org). Other options are specified on the website.

**FORMAT & PRIZES:** 6 Rounds using the Swiss-System format. All 3 Sections will be USCF Rated. **The Main Event, held Saturday – Monday, has 3 Sections: \$5,000 in Cash Prizes based on 90 paid players.** Choose from these 3 Sections based on your playing strength and competitive desires:

1. **Championship:** 1st-\$900+Champion's Plaque; 2nd-\$650; 3rd-\$450; Top Expert and Top Class A, \$200 each + Trophy.
2. **Amateur (Under 1800):** 1st-\$600+Champion's Plaque; 2nd-\$400; 3rd-\$300; Top Class C & Class D, \$125 each + Trophy.
3. **Under-1200 & Unrated:** 1st-\$400+Trophy; 2nd-\$300; 3rd-\$200; Top Unrated-\$100; Trophies to Top U-1000, U-800, and U600. Unrated winning a place prize is limited to \$250.

**BYE REQUESTS:** Up to two (2) Half-Point byes are available, but they must be "locked in" no later than 30 minutes before the start of Round 2. See Event Schedule below.

**EVENT SCHEDULE:** There are **two event Schedules**—a "Long" schedule that starts on Saturday at 1PM, and a "Short" schedule that starts at 5PM on Saturday.

**Option 1: Long Schedule:** Time Control is 30/90, SD/1, d5 (e.g. 30 moves in the first 90 minutes per player, then complete the game in 1 hour per player, with a 5-second time delay throughout the game).

- Saturday: Rd 1 at 1PM; Rd 2 at 7PM. Your optional 1 or 2 Half-point Bys for Rounds 2-6 must be locked in by 6:30 PM
- Sunday: Rd 3 at 11AM; Rd 4 at 5PM
- Monday: Rd 5 at 9:30AM, Rd 6 at 3:30PM

**Option 2: Short Schedule:** Time Control is G/60, d5 (e.g. 60 minutes per player, with 5-second time delay)

- Saturday: Rd 1 at 5PM; Rd 2 at 8PM. Your optional 1 or 2 Half-point Bys for Rounds 2-6 must be locked in by 7:30 PM Saturday evening
- Sunday and Monday ... All games are played with the players in the Long Schedule

**ENTRY FEES:** **Main Event is \$85 if paid online by Saturday Aug 24th;** increases to **\$100** starting Sunday Aug 25<sup>th</sup> and at the tournament site on Friday and Saturday.

**FRIDAY NIGHT BLITZ ON AUG 30TH:** 4 or 5 Rounds, depending on the number of players who enter. Time Control is Game in 5 minutes, with no time delay. You play 2 games each Round, one as Black and one as White. Entry Fee is \$35 by Saturday Aug 25th, \$45 thereafter and on-site.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Please bring your Chess Set, **Chess Clock** (delay capable), and your favorite score book.

**QUESTIONS:** Contact the Organizer and Chief TD, Mike Hoffpauir at 757-846-4805 (Cell or Text)





It has been a while since we last heard from Planet Diemer. Due to the great distance involved, it took nearly two years for this game to reach us from across the galaxy.

**Macon Shibut – Mike Lucenti**  
**2017 Continental Class Championships**

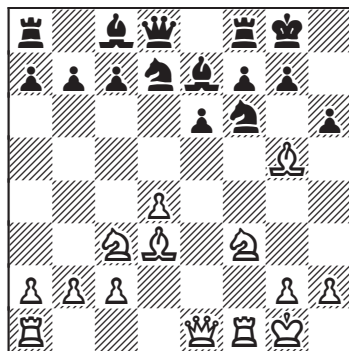
*Notes by Macon Shibut*

**1 e4 d5 2 d4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Nxf3 e6 6 Bg5** [Speaking of ‘been a while’—whatever happened to Edgarlino Innocencio? A strong player, he was a regular at VCF events throughout the 1990s. He tied for first place in the 1997 Virginia Open. I remember because it was me he beat in the decisive final round of that event, and from this very position, except on that occasion, I played 6 Bd3. Things proceeded normally enough, 6...Nbd7 7 O-O c5 8 Be3 Be7 9 Qe1 a6 10 Rd1 Qc7 11 Kh1 b5 12 Ng5 (Δ 13 Bf4 Bd6 14 Nxe6) 12...cxd4 13 Bxd4 e5 14 Qg3 Bb7 15 Rde1 but after 15...O-O-O White’s offensive never quite connected and the extra pawn eventually won out. Edgar dropped off the chess radar around the turn of the century and played no USCF rated chess since the 2001 World Open.] **6...Be7 7 Bd3 Nbd7 8 O-O O-O 9 Qe1 h6**

(diagram)

**10 Bf4?!**

I examined 10 Bxh6, but 10...gxh6 11 Qh4 Kg7 did not look promising, eg, 12 Ne5 Nxe5 13 dxe5 Nh7. But then I settled





down to debating the relative merits of *10 Bf4* (active, might combine with *Nb5/Qg3* to attack *c7*, but also exposed and blocks *f*-file); *10 Be3* (supports *d*-pawn but might just lead to exchanges after ...*c5*); *10 Bd2* (secure from exchanges but relatively passive and blocks *d*-file); and *10 Bh4* (feels like simply the wrong diagonal)—but I failed to examine the best move, which would be second nature to a native of Planet Diemer: *10 Qh4!* Then *10...hxg5?! 11 Nxg5* looks difficult for Black, but if he plays instead some neutral move, let's say *10...c6*, then I could happily go in for *11 Bxh6 gxh6 12 Qxh6 Qb6*. So *10...Nd5* looks critical, when after *11 Nxd5 Bxg5 12 Nxg5 Qxg5* (not *12...exd5?* *13 Bh7+ Kh8 14 Nxf7+*) *13 Qe4! g6 14 Nxc7* White has no complaints.

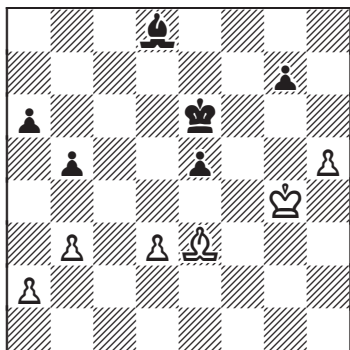
Later in the game (move 50) I play recklessly, perhaps unconsciously hoping to atone for my failing here.

**10...c5 11 dxc5** [11 *Rd1 cxd4 12 Ne4!?* looked like a step too far] **11... Nxc5 12 Rd1 Nxd3 13 Rxd3 Qb6+ 14 Kh1 Rd8** [Relentlessly pursuing simplification. I would have welcomed *14...Qxb2 15 Qd2 Bb4 16 Be5*. For the text my original intent was *15 Be3 Qxb2 16 Bd4 Qxc2 17 Ne5* but now that the position was on the board I examined more closely and didn't like *17...Bb4*. I went into a deep think trying to find the best practical chance among options like *15 Rxd8+ Bxd8 16 Qd2*; or *15 Ne5 Rxd3 16 Nxd3*; or...] **15 Qd2 Rxd3 16 cxd3 Bd7 17 Ne5 Qd4** [I expected either *Bc6* or *Be8*. On *17...Bc6* I was once again looking at *18 Bxh6 gxh6 19 Qxh6* and thought *19...Qxb2 20 Qg5+* might be a perpetual. The sacrifice on *h6* does not work against *17...Be8* (*18 Bxh6? gxh6 19 Qxh6 Nh7*) so I would have tried *18 Rf3*] **18 Ne2 Qb4 19 Bxh6! Qxd2** [19...*gxh6?* *20 Qxb4 Bxb4 21 Rxf6* would lose a pawn] **20 Bxd2 Rc8 21 Nxd7 Nxd7 22 Rc1 Rxc1+ 23 Nxc1** [Black's pawn structure is more sound (two 'islands' versus three) but White has the potential outside passer on the *h*-file.] **Nf6 24 Kg1 Bc5+ 25 Kf1 Kf8 26 Nb3 Bd6 27 h3 Nd5 28 Ke2 Ke8 29 Na5 b6 30 Nc4 Bc7 31 Kf3 Kd7 32 h4 b5 33 Na3 a6 34 Nc2 e5 35 g4 Ke6 36 Nb4 Nxb4 37 Bxb4 Bd8?!** [Black could have secured an immediate draw after *37...f5 38 gxf5+ Kxf5*. If then *39 h5 Kg5 40 Bf8 Kxh5 41 Bxg7* his king gets back with tempo, *41...Kg6 42 Bf8 Kf5*, and there is no way for White to break in.] **38 h5 f5 39 Bf8 fxg4+ 40 Kxg4**





**Bf6 41 b3 Kf7 42 Bc5 Ke6 43 Be3 Be7 44 Bd2** [Hoping for 44...Bf6? 45 Bg5! and Black must put another pawn on dark squares, 45...b4, as otherwise my king advances decisively.] **44...Bd8 45 Bb4 Bf6 46 Ba3 Bd8 47 Bc1 Be7! 48 Be3 Bd8 49 Bg5 Ba5 50 Be3 Bd8** (diagram)



**51 d4?**

An irresponsible attempt to win the drawn position. It should not have worked in the best case, as the game continuation proves. Even worse, I somehow hallucinated that I promote first and with check(!) in the line 51...e4 52 Kf4 Kd5 53 Kf5 Bb6 54 Kg6(?) when in truth I would do neither. Black wins directly after 54...Bxd4 55

Bxd4 Kxd4 56 Kxg7 e3 57 h6 e2 58 h7 e1Q 59 h8Q Qe5+

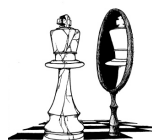
I realized my mistake while my opponent was thinking over his reply. I was investigating whether 54 Kf4 Bxd4 55 Bd2 might limit the damage when the spirit of Emil Diemer smiled...

**51...Kd5? 52 dxe5 Kxe5 53 Bc1 Ke6 54 Bb2 Bf6!** [Not only did my opponent not exploit his chance to the fullest, but my 51 d4 'gambit' achieved everything I could have hoped for. My king will penetrate to g6 and I have a spare tempo move a2-a3 to use as needed. Back when 'calculating' 51 d4 I believed this would win via a timely liquidation of the kingside pawns followed by moving my king across to pillage the queenside. Alas, all the risk was in fact for nothing.] **55 Bxf6 Kxf6 56 b4 Ke6 57 Kg5 Ke7 58 Kg6 Kf8** [Reality intruded in the form of 59 Kh7 Kf7 and now what? 60 Kh8?? g5! *Yikes!*—my king is trapped blocking my own pawn while Black's g-pawn runs to victory. The same after 60 h6?? g5. How about we cash in that golden tempo?—60 a3. That would work in case of 60...Kf6? 61 Kg8 Kg5 62 Kxg7 Kxh5 63 Kf6; but simply 60...Kf8! 61 Kg6 Kg8 is a stone-cold draw. Black keeps his king at f8/g8 and waits, since 62 h6? gxh6 63 Kxh6 Kf7 obviously makes no sense.] **59 Kf5** *sigh...* **Kf7 60 Kg5 Ke7 61 Kg4 Kf6 62 Kf4 Ke6 63 Kg5 Ke7 64 Kf5 Kf7** ½-½



# Reflections

## Reflections



by Mark Warriner

Looking Back on an Amateur Chess “Career”

### FURTHER TRAINING – PART II (WAKE UP CALLS)

So continuing from our last installment where I continued my preparations on the road back to OTB play, I wasn’t too optimistic playing my coach/trainer James Richardson, having struggled versus Adrian Rhodes. But I wanted to know what it was like to play a mini-match against the level to which I aspire. I’ve played masters several times in the past and even obtained some winning positions, but only managed to convert one game to a draw. As intrepid readers no doubt deduced, this match wasn’t going to go in my favor given the prior result.

### Mark Warriner – James Richardson 2018 Training Match G1 Sicilian

This was my first time ever playing a match with a master. I was both nervous and not; I knew that this was to help me improve and not a rated event, but I also wanted to make a good impression for my coach. Realistically, the difference in playing strength suggested a rout, so there was nothing to lose and everything to gain, most importantly knowledge. **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6** [I’d wanted to play versus the Najdorf, but I had no variation yet in mind. I was relying on games I’d studied in the past. As reader of this column in prior years may have gleaned, I started chess as a Karpov-Kasparov baby, so I tried to follow what I could remember from their games. Also, playing a much stronger opponent, I thought I’d try to play solidly and not get too adventurous.] **6 Be2 e5** [James wasn’t going to permit me to use anything I could remember of hedgehogs or Scheveningens. My library contains Kasparov’s *Sicilian:...e6 and ...d6 Systems* (Kasparov & Nikitin, Batsford 1983, ISBN 0-7134-4627-7).] **7 Nb3 Be7 8 Be3 Be6 9 O-O**





[Unbeknownst to me, this is the most common move. Anand has tried 9 Nd5, and Carlsen 9 Qd3, both with only so-so results.] **9...O-O** [I'm not sure this would be considered a *tabiya* but it's certainly a fork in the road. Over the past decade this position appeared in a lot of games by world class players. I began to feel uncomfortable and unsure of how to continue. White's position feels cramped and I had a sense that there weren't a lot of good options. In fact there are a couple, but my choice was, well, amateurish.] **10 Bf3** [This move is pretty far down candidates list and does not score well at all. 10 Qd2 is the most commonly and I considered it strongly. 10 Qd3 scores the best and I considered it briefly. I rejected 10 Nd5 immediately with the superficial assessment that it dropped a pawn to 10...Nxe4. It's not that simple (the b6 square!) and 10...Nbd7 is the indicated reply. 10 f4 is the second most popular continuation but scores poorly. I thought about it quite a bit also, but my intuition was that it loosened White's position, probably a correct assessment! Returning to the move I actually chose, I wanted to prevent Black from the thematic ...d5 break, and I thought Bf3 achieved that at least. But the price is a cramped, planless position.] **10...Nbd7 11 Re1 Rc8** [My intrepid coach is right on point with the most commonly played and best scoring move. The other option is 11...b5] **12 Qd2 Qc7 13 Rac1** [I felt this was a lemon when I played it, but just couldn't find another move that didn't feel worse. OMF (Our Metal Friend) waffles between the text and 13 a4, 13 a3, and 13 h3] **13...Nb6** [Possibly either 13...h6 securing the g5 square to prevent a possible pin with Bg5 and also preventing a possible future back-rank mate threat by giving the king an escape square on h7; or 13...b5 expanding on the queenside and solidifying Black's grip on c4 while eyeing a4 at the same time, might be better.] **14 Be2** [I was falling way behind on time and needed to move. Consider this tired, old and bad move to be an example of what GM Eric Hansen calls the "Dad-bod Shuffle." I'm old and out of shape! James and I briefly looked at 14 Na5 in the post-mortem.] **14...Nc4** [Not bad, but 14...Rfd8 further preparing for a d5 push, is pretty strong. The text gives White a glimmer of hope to play on in a slightly worse position.] **15 Bxc4 Qxc4 16 f3** [I was





worried about e4. 16 Qd3 or 16 Bg5 were slightly better.] **16...Rfd8** [16...b5 threatening b4 was maybe better; OMF suggests 16...Rfe8, for reasons I don't fully understand. James was still planning ...d5, which he executes next.] **17 Qf2** [It's funny that in annotating this game my mind immediately told me 17 Bb6 should be played now, and indeed OMF says so. But my move is its second choice.] **17...d5 18 exd5 Nxd5 19 Nxd5 Rxd5** [As I've had to note so often in my games, time pressure began to rear its ugly head. We were playing Game/70, d5, so we arrived in this situation fairly quickly.] **20 Qe2** [I never even considered ideas such as 20 c3 or 20 f4] **20...Qa4** [I expected 20...b5] **21 a3 Rd7 22 Bb6 f6 23 Qe3 Qb5 24 a4** [suddenly throwing caution to the wind] **24...Qxa4 25 Nc5 Bxc5 26 Bxc5** [I'm down a pawn, but there is some chance at salvaging a draw, especially with both of us not having a lot of time left. I was *not* factoring 'bishop-of-opposite' as a part of those chances however, as those endgames aren't drawn as often as amateurs might think, especially with major pieces still on the board.] **26...Rdc7 27 b3** [27 b4] **27...Qb5 28 b4 Rc6 29 Qd2** [I thought I was grabbing control over the open file.] **29...b6** [29...a5, here or any time over the next several turns] **30 Bf2 Rc3 31 Qd6** [I didn't notice the problems 31 f4 poses Black] **31...R3c6 32 Qd2 Bf5 33 c3** [OMF keeps liking the f4 pawn advance] **33...Bd3** [33...a5; 33...h6] **34 Red1 Rd8 35 Qe1** [It never even occurred to me to try either 35 Qa2+ or 35 c4 Rxc4 36 Rxc4 Qxc4 37 Bxb6] **35...Rcd6 36 h3** [an escape hatch, just in case] **36...Qc4 37 Qe3 Kf7** [Somewhere hereabout we were both below a minute or two. and so the quality really begins to devolve, though not the interest factor!] **38 Kh1 h6 39 Kh2 Qb5 40 Re1 Rc6 41 f4** [Finally this break, but it's not as good now.] **41...e4 42 g4** [Embarking on a highly creative though dubious plan. I figured in time pressure I might just get away with it, and as it turns out, I should have!] **42...Rd5 43 f5 h5** [Exactly what White was hoping for: an open h-file and a glimmer of future attack.] **44 Qf4 hxg4 45 hxg4 Rc4 46 Bd4** [My favorite move that I played in the game, even though it's objectively weak. It did serve to confuse and concern my opponent and that's just what I needed, especially in time pressure.] **46...a5 47 Qb8** [Bad, but here comes the "Hail Mary!"] **47...axb4** [the hoped for "panic move" due to zeitnot] **48 Kg3** [Rats, fixating on the wrong rook's file.



## Virginia Chess Federation



### 29th Annual Charlottesville Open

July 13-14, 2019 (Saturday - Sunday)

**US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15**  
**VCF Cup Tour!!**  
**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**



**Two Sections of Play:** Open and Under-1700

**Five Rounds:** Round 1: G/75, d/5; Rounds 2-5: G/90, d/5.

Round times are:

- Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> 12-noon, 3PM and 7PM. Round 1 G/75, delay 5; Rounds 2-3 G/90, delay 5.
- Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM and 1:30PM. Both rounds G/90, delay 5.
- One half-point bye allowed if requested by 2:30pm Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> or as part of your entry

**Where:** Comfort Inn Monticello, 2097 Inn Drive, Charlottesville, VA. Room rate \$115 + tax if reserved by Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Call (434)977-3300 and ask for the Chess Rate for the Charlottesville Open.

**Prize Fund: \$1,450, with Place Prize amounts guaranteed in both sections:** 1st-3rd overall, \$400-250-150; U1700/Unrated: \$300-200-150. Other payouts based on 55 entries: Top U2100 \$145, Top U1900 \$135, Top U1500 \$140, Top U1200/Unrated \$130.

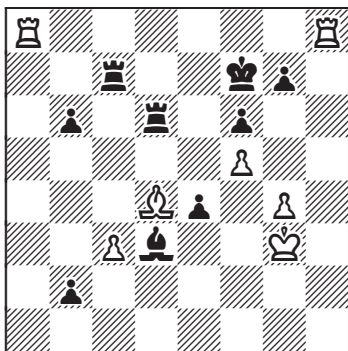
**Entry Fee:** \$65 if you sign-up or mail your Entry by Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup> and on-site the Entry Fee **increases to \$80**.

**Current Virginia Chess Federation (VCF) and US Chess Memberships required:** Other states' federation or association memberships shall be honored by the VCF. Please renew your USCF membership BEFORE the tournament. VCF and US Chess memberships will be available at the tournament site.

**Registration: 3 ways** to register ... On-Line, On-Site, US Postal Mail

1. **On-line Registration:** Online at [www.vachess.org](http://www.vachess.org) – Avoid the lines at the tournament site!!!
2. **On-site Registration at the Hotel:** Friday July 12<sup>th</sup>, 7-9PM, Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup> 9-11:15AM. **Entry fee on site is \$80.** Round 1 will start at 12-noon sharp!!
3. **Register by US Mail Entry:** Mail the information below to Mike Hoffpaur, ATTN: Charlottesville Open, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693-3356. Be sure your mail-in entry is **IN THE MAIL by Saturday July 6th!**

48 Ra1! 48...b3 [48...Qe8 shuts everything down and White's finished]  
 49 Rh1 [We both had less than 10 seconds and were living off the delay.



Again, 49 Ra1! 49...Qc6 [49...Qe8] 50 Rh8 Qd6+ 51 Qxd6 Rxd6 52 Ra1 Rc7 53 Raa8 b2 [A blunder that should have cost the win. 53...Bb5; 53...Ke7] (diagram)

I sensed I should have a draw, and indeed 54 Rae8! holds, eg 54...g5 55 Rhf8+ Kg7 56 Rg8+ and the king can't escape the checks; or 54...g6 55 Rhf8+ Kg7 56 Rg8+ Kh6 57 Rh8+ Kg7 (57... Kg5 58 Be3mate) 58 Rhg8+



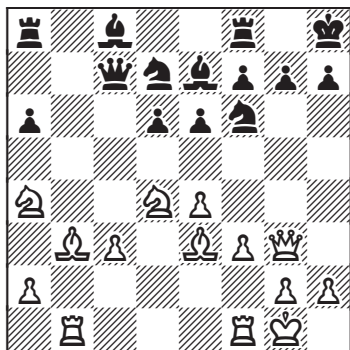
**54 Raf8+** [But I blow it.] **54...Ke7** [I realized my mistake one move too late. Oh, what could have been.] **55 Re8+ Kd7 0-1**

**James Richardson – Mark Warriner**

**2018 Training Match G2**

**Sicilian**

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bc4** [When playing a stronger player, it makes sense to stick to your prep in the main lines. I did—and my coach took advantage. I'd mentioned to him that I was uncomfortable facing this line and he went straight for it.] **6...e6 7 Bb3 b5 8 O-O Be7 9 Qf3 Qb6 10 Be3 Qb7 11 Qg3 b4 12 Na4 Nbd7 13 f3 O-O** [This position arose in a game James & I had reviewed together. Ivanchuk - Artemiev, Huaian 2017 continued 14 Rfd1 Rb8 15 Ne2 Ne5 16 a3 a5 17 axb4 axb4 18 Nb6 Qc7 19 Qf2 Nfd7 20 Ra7 Rb7 21 Nxc8 Rxc8 22 Rxb7 Qxb7 23 Bd4 Nc5 24 Qe3 h6 25 Ba2 Qa6 26 Bb1 Nc4 27 Qf2 e5 28 b3 Na3 29 Be3 Ne6 0-1. But James isn't a trainer for nothing, and now he made his student start thinking. And think I did, for too long and incorrectly.] **14 c3 bxc3 15 bxc3** [15 Nxc3 Nc5 gives Black a comfortable game. But now, having thought too long already (*"think long, think wrong"*) I go astray.] **15...Kh8** [A waste of time. 15...Ne5 is good here too, as 16 Bh6 is nothing after 16...Nh5 17 Qh3 Nf6] **16 Rab1 Qc7**



**17 Bxe6** [Yep, just so. I never even seriously looked at this. Interesting, OMF doesn't 'notice' it right away either. Demoralized, I let my play deteriorate.] **17...Ne5** [*Just... plain... bad.* As James pointed out afterward, 17...Nh5 keeps the fight going. I should not have allowed myself to have been so easily intimidated. Always keep fighting until the end! It's not normally a problem of mine, but losing a

tough first game in our match and his being my trainer and a stronger player eroded my will.] **18 Bxc8 Raxc8 19 Nf5** [It's a dream to get a knight on f5 with a queen participating in the attack.] **19...g6 20 Nxe7** [Another tactic that I didn't see is coming.] **20...Qxe7 21 Nb6 Rxc3**



## VA Senior Open 2019 – September 20-22

**Sponsored by: the VA Chess Federation (VCF)**

**5SS – G/120, d5 – 1 Section – Open to USCF members born on or before 9/22/1969 (50+)**

**Location:** Marriott Residence Inn - Ballston; 650 N Quincy St, Arlington, VA 22203; (703) 310-1999

**Prizes: \$S1900 Guaranteed!! Top Virginian also wins: FREE ENTRY to 2020 VA Sr Open**  
 1<sup>st</sup> - \$700; 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$400; 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$300; U2000 - \$125; U1800 - \$125; U1600 - \$125; U1400 - \$125

**Trophies to: 1st place & Top Age 60-69 & Top Age 70+; Standard tie breaks**

<b>Rounds:</b>	Friday:	Rd. 1: 7:00pm	
	Saturday:	Rd. 2: 10:00am	Rd. 3: 2:30pm
	Sunday:	Rd. 4: 10:00am	Rd. 5: 2:30pm

**Registration:** Friday 6:00 – 6:50pm; and Saturday 9:00 – 9:50am. To avoid delay, late registrants may have to take a 1/2 point bye. Advance entry list: <http://www.vachess.org>

**Entry Fee:** **\$85 on-site:** Pay by **Cash or Check** - No Credit Cards Accepted On-Site. **OR ...**  
**\$75 Advance Pre-entry:** at ACC Club, by mail or online (see "Pre-Pay Options" below).  
 A single half-pt. bye is available upon request up to start of Round 2.

**Pre-Pay Options:** Pay at ACC Club: up to September 13. Pay On-line, go to: <http://www.vachess.org>  
Pay By Mail: Must be received by September 16 – mail entry form below and check payable to  
“VA Chess Federation” to Adam Chrisnev, P.O. Box 151122, Alexandria, VA 22315.

**Saturday Blitz:** 5 Double-Swiss rounds; G/5; 1 Open section. EF: ( \$20 ). Prizes based on entries. 80% returned as prizes. Register any time up to Saturday 7:20pm. Round 1: 7:30pm, others ASAP.

**Memberships:** Players must be USCF members. Also, VCF membership ( \$15 ) is required for all VA residents. Both can be purchased on site. Tournament is open to non-VA players.

**More Info:** [chrisnev2@gmail.com](mailto:chrisnev2@gmail.com)

**Entry Form: VA Senior Open 2019**    Open:           Blitz:           VCF Mbr:        (Check Those That Apply)    Total \$\$:       

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last                      First                      MI.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

USCF ID: \_\_\_\_\_ USCF Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ VCF Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
mm / dd / yyyy mm / dd / yyyy mm / dd / yyyy

Phone: (        ) E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable To:** "Virginia Chess Federation"

Request half pt. bye for Rd.:

Mail Entry To:

**Adam Chrisnev (VA Sr. Open)**

P.O. Box 151122 Alexandria, VA 22315





[Hook...] **22 Bg5 Rd3 23 Qh4 Kg7 [...Line...] 24 Nd5 Rxd5 25 Bh6+ [...and Sinker] 25...Kg8 26 Bxf8 Qxf8 27 exd5** [I actually didn't realize I'd dropped *both* exchanges until the position stared me in the face.] **27... Kg7 28 Qd4 Qc8 29 Rfc1 Qf5 30 f4 Qg4 31 Rc3 Nh5 32 Rf1 Kh6 33 Qd2 Nd7 34 Rc7 Nhf6 35 f5+ g5 36 Rf3 Ne4** [I played because, as Hikaru Nakamura has noted, knights can be tricky in blitz.] **37 Qe3 Ne5 38 h4 Kg7 39 hxg5 Nxg5** [39...Nxf3+ 40 Qxf3 Qxf3 41 gxf3 Nxg5 loses too] **40 f6+ Kg6 41 Rf1 Ne4 42 Qf4 Qxf4 43 Rxf4 Nxf6 44 Ra7 Nxd5 45 Rd4 Ne3 46 Rxd6+ Kg7 47 Rxa6 N3c4 48 Rd8 f6 49 a4 Nf7 50 Rd7 1-0**

So, time for a sobering assessment of where I stand. I have a lot of work to do on my opening theory and an ocean to traverse for my general understanding of the game. Maybe that's two oceans. When I was coming along in Richmond in the 1980's, there were no strong players who taught and very few opportunities to play. I was lucky to get in 20 or so rated games a year. I read quite a few books, but in a vacuum it's difficult to gain real understanding. But now I'm on my way. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Or as Boris Spassky answered when asked what it took to become a Master: "I had to lose a thousand games of chess." I reckon I'm well on my way.

I spent the next several weeks evaluating the lessons learned and working on my shortcomings. I scheduled a new four-game match with Adrian a few months later to determine whether I was making progress. What did the results show? Was I able to benefit from the training? Stay tuned...







## Take Advantage of Your US Chess Membership Benefits

by Ernest Schlich

Many of our members may not be taking advantage of all the benefits provided by US Chess, especially for members not receiving *Chess Life* and *Chess Life For Kids* or using the website. Here are some suggestions you should consider.

**The US Chess Website.** <https://new.uschess.org/home/> There are several menu items at the top but don't stop there. Scroll to the bottom of the page and see many useful links there. Explore the website, have fun, and learn useful information. Some pages require you to create a login to see the content. To login, go to the bottom of the home page and select Home member login.

**Find upcoming tournaments.** US Chess lists upcoming Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs) that organizers/TDs submit in both the magazines and on line. The announcements are sorted by state and date. To see the listings, click on Play at the top of the page. Then select National Events or Upcoming Tournaments. The National Events listing shows 3-4 years of our most important tournaments. The Upcoming Tournaments listing also has National Events as well as Grand Prix (GP), listing by states, and Foreign events. GP events normally have higher prize funds than local events. You can find all events for USA in the state listing but if the event is a GP event, the state listing is short and full details are only listed on the GP events page.

**See your rating and rating history.** You can see your results from all your rated tournaments here. Click Ratings, then Player/Ratings look-up. You can look up ratings for every USCF member back to 1992. When you look up your record, you can see if you registered to vote in US Chess elections, What your current published rating is. You can also see your titles, game statistics, and rating history graphs. When you click on the Tnmt Hst tab you can see the crosstables for all the events you played in. When you open a crosstable and find you name, click on the pairing #. That will open a window and display the players you played and their ratings for that event. Try it! You will find it interesting. Explore all the tabs in your or other players records for interesting data and information.

**Read *Chess Life* and *Chess Life For Kids*.** The links to our magazines is found at the bottom of the page. You can select links to the On-Line Viewer, Archives, and Downloadable files for both magazines. You can do this even if you receive the printed versions of the magazines. Explore *Chess Life* and *Chess Life For Kids*. In addition to news articles, there are many features that will help you improve. I recommend the monthly 'Solitaire Chess' by Bruce Pandolfini in *Chess Life*. Each column guides you through a master game where you get points for finding good moves. You can find difficult tactical problems in *Chess Life For Kids* too. If you are rated below 1600 you may find that magazine interesting.

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