

Rank & File

500P

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

MAY-JUNE-JULY 2012

VOLUME XXXVI, No. 3

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Cy & Jack

Recession Buster Open

*16th Metro IM:
Philip Wang Earns 3rd Norm*

19th Western Class Championships

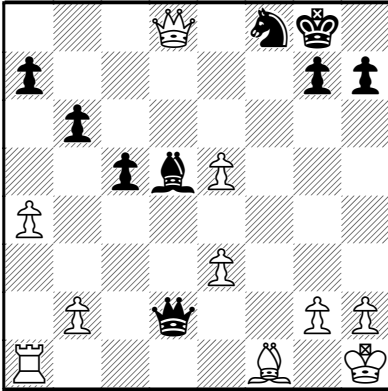
17th Metro IM



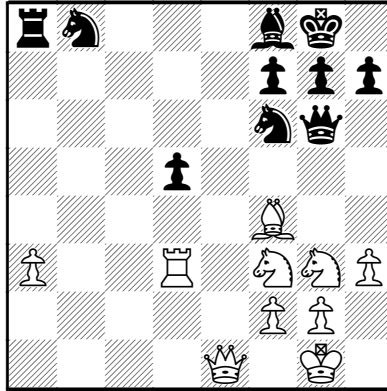
**Super States Winners
Simone Liao and
Michael William Brown**

INSIDE MOVES

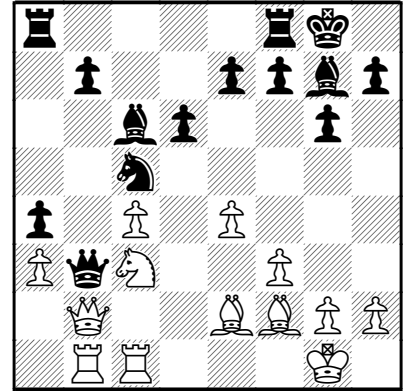
A *tactical warmup* might be a good way to start reading. Start with an easy one, and then work up to the tougher ones. Even if you are a beginner and can't solve the problems, just playing through the solutions on page 25 will open up your tactical vision. - Ed.



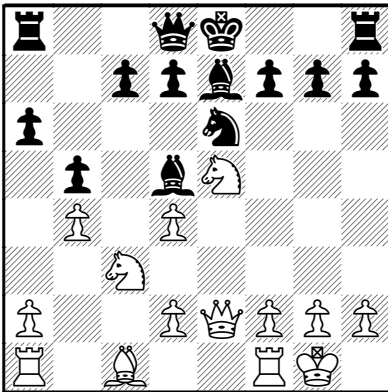
1. Black to Play



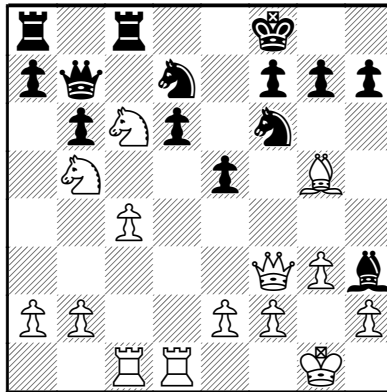
2. White to Play



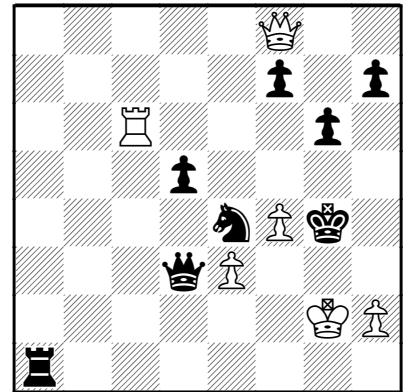
3. White to Play



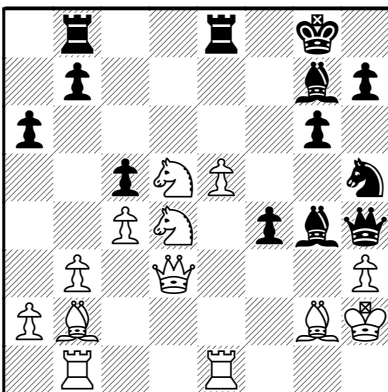
4. Black to Play



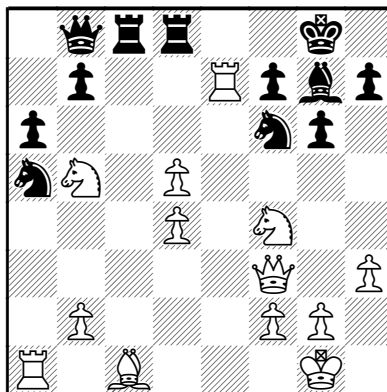
5. White to Play



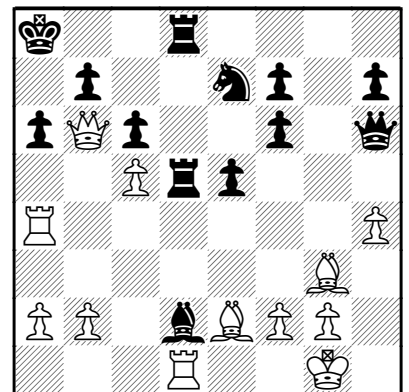
6. White to Play



7. White to Play



8. White to Play



9. Black to Play

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Rank & File

MAY-JUNE-JULY 2012

VOLUME XXXVI, No. 3

2 INSIDE MOVES

It's a warm up quiz. We'll start you out easy. But No. 9 may be too hard.

4 POSITIONS

Rank & File changes to a quarterly publication.

5 CY & JACK

By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala. Cy and Jack each annotate one of their own games, and then comment on each other's game and notes. This time, both are White in open games.

10 GMS KAIDANOV & KHACHIYAN, IM KAUFMAN TIE 5-1 IN RECESSION BUSTER OPEN

By Chuck Ensey, with three games annotated by IM Jack Peters.

14 PHILIP XIAO WANG WINS 16TH METROPOLITAN FIDE

Philip annotates two of his wins that helped him get his third IM norm!

17 IM ENRICO SEVILLANO TAKES 19TH ANNUAL WESTERN CLASS

See the final round decider, and IM Yankovsky annotates his best win.

20 MICHAEL WILLIAM BROWN AND SIMONE LIAO TOP SCCF SUPER STATES

By Jay Stallings, with two wins by top finishers, and Michael Brown annotates his last round game which clinched it for him.

26 IMs MATIKOZYAN AND YANKOVSKY TIE IN 17TH METROPOLITAN FIDE

See the decisive game between the winners, and Yankovsky's notes on his best game.

29 HERE AND THERE

Local club news, notices, and activities around Southern California. And a Vishy visit is scheduled.

33 UPCOMING EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Memorial Day Classic is in Ontario this year. See you there!

BACK COVER: OUTSIDE SHOTS!

These problems are usually harder.

View back issues of *Rank & File* at
www.scchess.com.

COVER PHOTO: Jay Stallings
OTHER PHOTOS:

cr: Chris Roberts
in: Irina Nizmutdinova
th: Tim Hanks
js: Jay Stallings



Positions



E-mail your letters to: RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com

Editor's note:

It will be an extra month until the next issue this time. Rank & File is going back to a quarterly publishing schedule; issues will be received in the mail in May, August, November, and February. The reason is to reduce our postage and printing costs.

Thanks to all of our contributors this month, who wrote extensive tournament reports as well as notes to several amazing games. And we thank our photographers, too!

Until next issue, good luck in your chess!
- Ed.

Advertising Rates: Full page \$80, half page \$45, ¼ page \$25, 1/8 page \$15, back cover (¼ page) \$80. (All rates are for camera-ready copy.) Flyer insert \$50 (advertiser must supply flyers). 50% discount for tournaments requiring SCCF membership. Payment should be sent to the Treasurer at P.O. Box 205, Monterey Park CA 91754. Display ads should be sent to the Editor, and flyers to the Publisher (addresses at right). SCCF reserves the right to reject any advertising.

A note to all SCCF members:

Balancing Act

In the last issue I discussed the economics of Rank & File and asked for feedback on options. The cost of publishing and mailing a bimonthly hard copy magazine exceeds the funds available through our current dues structure. Members were requested to weigh in as to whether it is time to transition to an electronic publication.

It is clear that a portion of our membership prefers receiving their information through the internet. It is also clear we have significant numbers of members who value receiving the magazine in hard copy.

The board has decided to balance the competing views by changing Rank & File to a quarterly publication, effective immediately. This change will enable us to print and mail this high quality magazine without a dues increase.

I want to acknowledge the receipt of a number of interesting suggestions regarding ways to enhance our "virtual" communication and information sharing. Those ideas will be carefully considered by the Board. We are in an age where technological advances are revolutionizing the manner in which information is exchanged.

As always, please feel free to share your thoughts. My e-mail address is garden909@aol.com

- Steve Morford, SCCF President

Solutions to Outside Shots!

From the back cover.

1. It's a quick mate starting with **35.Qf6+ Kg8 36.Qd8+ Kg7** (if 36... Be8 37.Qxe8+ Kg7 38.Qf8 mate) **37.Bf8+ 1-0**. Since 37...Kg8 38.Bh6+ Be8 39.Qxe8 is mate. Kretchetov - Bryant, Recession Buster Open, San Diego 2012. See the whole prize-winning game on page 11.

2. White lands a "check'em and wreck 'em" shot with **42.Rf7+!! 1-0**. Now 42...Kg6 allows 43.Ne5 mate, and Queen forks follow other moves: 42...Ke6 43.Nd4+ and 42...Kxf7 43.Ne5+. Sevillano - Matikozyan, Recession Buster Open, San Diego, 2012.

3. Black reaches out and grabs the Bishop with **33...Rxe2!** The game ended with **34.Qe8+** (for if 34.Rxe2 Black wins with 34...Qb1+ 35.Kh2 Qh1 mate.) **34...Kg7 35.Qe5+ Kh7 36.Rf1 Qc5 0-1**. Amanov -

Yankovsky, 17th Metro FIDE, Los Angeles, 2012.

4. White wins with the accurate **32.d7! Bxd5** (More testing was 32...Qb8, but Black still wins with 33.Rxe6! fxe6 34.Qxe6+ Kh8, and White has such strong control over the board that there is time for 35.Be4 and Black can't stop the mating threat of 36.Qg6 Kg8 37.Bd5+ without giving up big material.) **33.dxc8Q Rxc8 34.Bxd5** and White is a piece up. Liao - Hilby, Super States K-9, Valencia, 2012. See the whole game on page 22.

5. You may have thought that White's minor pieces were both trapped. You would have been wrong, for with **27.c6!** White starts the escape! Kretchetov - Bryant, Recession Buster Open, San Diego, 2012. See page 11 for the whole game, which also provided problem 1.

6. You need to stop Black's e-pawn, but how? **42.Rxf8+!!** (Everything else loses anyway!) **42...Kxf8 43.Bc5+** (Again, the only move.) **43...Kg8** (It takes a lengthy procedure to defeat 43...Kg7: 44.Qb7+ Kh6 45.Bf8+ Kg5 46.f4+ Kxf4 47.Bd6+ Rxd6 48.Kf2, and if 48... Re6 then 49.Qc7+ Re5 50.Ke1 and White will soon advance the c-pawn: 50...g5 51.Qd6 g4 52.c4 g3 53.c5 g2 54.Qd4+....) **44.Qa8+ Kh7 45.Qa7+! Kg8 46.Qb8+! 1-0**. Amanov - Kretchetov, 16th Metro FIDE, Los Angeles, 2012.

Black resigns, for after 46...Kg7, White stops the e-pawn effectively with 47.Qf8+ Kh7 48.Qf7+ Kh6 49.Qxe6+.

Also, after 46...Kh7 then 47.Qc7+ Kg8 48.Qd8+ Kh7 49.Qd7+. And, if Black plays 47...Kh6 in this line, then 48.Be3+ Kh5 (if 48...g5 then 49.Bd2; or 48...Rxe3 49.Qf4+) 49.Qh2+ Kg4 50.Qg3+ Kh5 51.Qh3 mate.

Cy & Jack

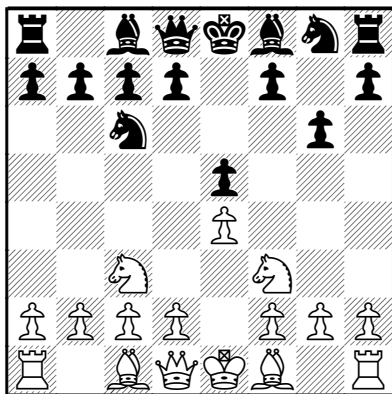
By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

Two open games are up for discussion this time. First is a Three Knights Game in which Black plays 3...g6. Cy thinks it's dubious; he shows us why, starting with a couple of vigorous moves. Next, Jack takes on IM Timothy Taylor in a critically important variation of the Modern Steinitz Defense of the Ruy. Jack was heading for an endgame win, but a cheapo at just the right time saves the day for Tim. Hey, that's what Cy calls it. See for yourself! - Ed.

**Lakdawala,Cy (2570) -
Mattern,Richard (2206)
[C46] Three Knights Game
6th Southern California Ch. (4)
Buena Park, 24.07.1994**

Cy: This game is from my book, *The Four Knights: Move by Move*, which comes out later this year.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6



Jack: A recommendation of Steinitz, but it does not hold up to modern scrutiny.

Cy: This move, though desirable, looks slow.

Question: Why slow? The position is closed.

4.d4

Cy: Answer: No it isn't! White simply transposes to a Four Knights Scotch/Belgrade Gambit, where ...g6 doesn't fit well.

4...exd4

Cy: It's too late to turn back now. 4...d6?! would be similar to a Philidor/Lion line where Black not only loses his castling rights, but also compounds his misery by tossing in the wasted move ...g6. 5.dxe5 Nxe5 6.Nxe5 dxe5 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8 8.Bc4 is tough on Black.

5.Nd5

Cy: This move tilts the scales in White's favor.

IM Richard Palliser gives the line 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Be3. Now Black should play 6...d6, transposing into a Larsen variation of the Philidor. If instead Black insists on playing it like a Scotch he gets into trouble after Palliser's analysis 6...Nf6?! 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 Ng8 9.Bc4! (White gets a massive development lead for the pawn.) 9...Bxe5 10.0-0 d5 11.Nxd5! cxd5 12.Bxd5, when White threatens both the Rook on a8 and also Bxf7+.

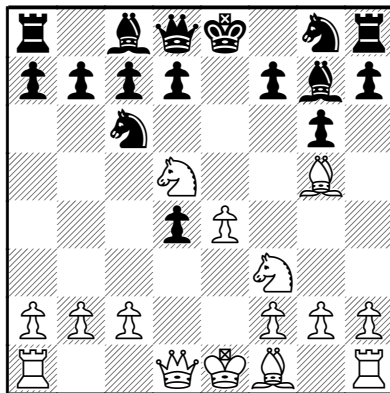
However Black plays it he faces an enduring attack.

Jack: White has two good choices! I suffered on the Black side when Tim Taylor chose 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6?! 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 Ng8 9.Qe2!?, and I consider 9. Bc4 and the "normal" 9. f4 favorable for White too.

5...Bg7

Cy: 5...Bc5?! 6.c3! dxc3 7.Qc2! leaves Black too far behind in development.

6.Bg5



6...f6

Jack: ? An irreparable mistake!

For the brief thrill of making White's Bishop retreat, Black accepts permanent damage to his Kingside.

Cy: 6...Nce7! (*The best move according to GM John Emms, in his book Dangerous Weapons: 1.e4 e5.*) 7.Nxd4 c6 8.Nc3 h6 9.Be3 (*If he retains the pin, then 9.Bh4 d5 10.exd5 Qb6 11.Nb3 Qb4! looks pretty good for Black.*) 9...Nf6 10.Bc4 (*I would have kept the Bishop away from c4 and played 10.f4 instead.*) 10...0-0 E. Gufeld - T. Petrosian, USSR Ch., Moscow 1969. Now, after 11.e5 Black has the tricky 11...Ng4! 12.Qxg4 d5 13.Qe2 dxc4 14.f4 Nd5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 with a reasonable game for Black.

6...Nge7?? loses on the spot to 7.Nxd4! Bxd4 Everything else also loses. 8.Qxd4! Nxd4 9.Nf6+ Kf8 10.Bh6 Mate! M. Movsisyan - T. Patton, Tulsa 2004. **Jack:** Steinitz mentioned this trap and advocated 6...Nce7!, which nearly equalizes.

7.Bh4

Cy: This move scores 86% in my database. 7.Bf4 d6 8.Nxd4 Nge7 9.Bc4 T. Taylor - R. McLee, US Open, Pasadena 1983. Black's position remains miserable.

7...Nce7

Jack: At the least, this looks illogical. Of course, he should have retreated his Knight on the previous turn, and avoided the weakening ...f7-f6.

8.Bc4!?

Cy: White drizzles some honey over the position, offering a pawn. Today, elderly, peace-loving Cyrus would go for the simple 8.Qxd4 Nxd5 9.Qxd5 with advantage to White without risk. A. Cela - I. Simeonidis, Athens 1999.

Jack: Yes, 8. Qxd4 does look attractive for White. Admit it, you were just a reckless young gambiteer in the last millennium!

8...Nxd5 9.Bxd5

Jack: If White keeps his Bishop on the a2-g8 diagonal, Black will not be able to castle Kingside. He should blame 6...f6.

9...Ne7 10.Bc4

Cy: Question: Why did you play to c4 and not the more stable b3.

Answer: I'm not sure! Perhaps I should increase my daily dose of Ginkgo Biloba to help remember such things. I was probably worried about ...a5 counterplay later on in case I castled Queenside.

10...d5

Cy: Question: Doesn't Black violate the principle "Don't open the game when behind in development?"

Answer: He does, but if not ...d5 then what? Black can't castle.

Question: Why didn't Black try to hang on to the pawn with 10...c5?

Answer: A try as good as any, yet it looks a bit like an attempt to cover over the problem, like a man who grows a beard over an acne scarred face. He falls fearfully behind in development. For example: 11.0-0 d6 (11...d5? 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Re1+ Kf8 Now Black gets crushed after 14.Nxd4!) 12.c3! dxc3 13.bxc3 is no picnic either since Black's King remains stuck in the middle while lines continue to open.

Jack: Maybe Black should try 10...c5 11.0-0 d6 12.c3 a6, when 13.cxd4 b5 14.Be2 0-0± seems defensible. But I'm not sure what Black would do against 13. a4.

11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Qxd4 Be6

Cy: Question: Why take on d4? He wrecks our castling rights after 12...Qe7+

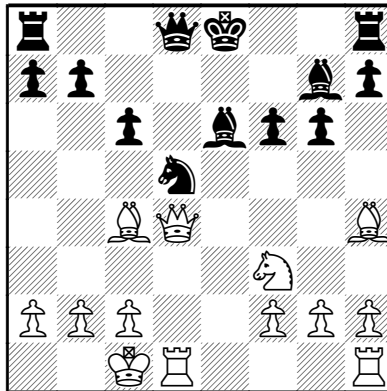
Answer: The check on e7 helps White after 13.Kf1! c6 14.Re1 Be6 15.Qd3! and there is no good defence to Nd4 next. For example: 15...0-0-0 16.Nd4 Rd6 17.Bg3 wins.

Jack: I would prefer the computer's suggestion of 12...c6 13.0-0-0 0-0 if White had to accept the pawn sacrifice and give up his dom-

inating Bishop. But, if he declines with 14.Rhe1±, Black has no useful move.

Black could exchange Queens by 12...Nb6 13.Qxd8+ Kxd8, but 14.0-0-0+ Bd7 looks awful after either 15. Be6 or 15.Ne5.

13.0-0-0 c6



Cy: Exercise: White is three tempi up in an open position. How to turn it into something tangible?

Answer:

14.Qe4

Cy: The human move.

I possess neither the attacking intuition nor the courage to go for the comp's choice and alternate answer: 14.Rhe1! (14.Ng5! is also strong) 14...Kf7 15.Rxe6! Kxe6 16.Bxd5+ cxd5 17.Qg4+! Kf7 (17...f5 18.Ng5+ wins.) 18.Ne5+ Kf8 19.Nd7+ Kf7 20.Rxd5 and White has a winning attack.

Question: Treason! Uncertainty and doubt make poor companions in a chess game. If you saw at least a part of this line why would you go for the endgame line instead?

Answer: Faintheartedness and caution are not the same thing. The trouble with the attacking line is White must come up with a bunch of exclams, while the endgame line I entered is doltishly easy to play and therefore far more suited to a math/attack-challenged guy like me. I have never been a good calculator in situations with multiple branches and know my limitations: Ask me to count to ten and I may be able to pull it off without the assistance of fingers. However, if you ask me to count to 20, I am forced to resort to taking off shoes and socks to accomplish the goal!

In essence White can go after a pawn in a simple line or go after a much bigger prize, White's King, in a much more complex line. Does it not stand to reason that whether a man steals either something small and inconsequential (a pawn) or large and valuable (Black's King!), in the end he is still a thief? The difference is simply degree.

Jack: I approve of your choice because a player should seek the surest win. If you cannot calculate a sharp line to a clear conclusion, and you have a reliable alternative that secures a winning endgame, you should not gamble on the flashy line.

On the other hand, you should be able to imagine the position arising from the forcing variation 14.Rhe1 Kf7 15.Rxe6! Kxe6 16.Qe4+ Kf7 17.Rxd5! cxd5 18.Bxd5+ Kf8, and then White has to find only one more move, 19.Nd4! to obtain an unstoppable attack. Many masters would opt for this line without further calculation.

14...Qd7

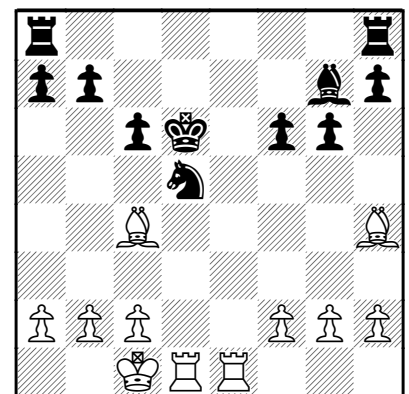
Cy: 14...Kf7? 15.Ne5+ Kf8 16.Nxc6! wins.

Jack: I like the ruthless finish to the variation 14...Kf7 15.Ne5+ Ke7 16.Rhe1 Qd6 17.Nxc6+! bxc6 18.Bg3 Qd7 19.Bxd5 cxd5 20.Rxd5 Qc8 21.Rc5!+-.

15.Nd4 Kf7 16.Nxe6 Qxe6 17.Qxe6+ Kxe6 18.Rhe1+ Kd6?

Cy: He should give up the pawn by backing off the King with 18...Kf7.

Jack: Agreed, but he would not survive after 19.Bxd5+ cxd5 20.Rxd5 Rhd8 21.Red1± if you continued carefully and kept his Rook from counter-attacking.



Cy: Exercise (combination alert):

If I found a combination over the board then you can find it too.

Answer:

19.Bxd5!

Cy: Black also can't survive the line 19.Bg3+ Kc5 20.Bxd5! cxd5 21.Re7 Bh6+ 22.Kb1.

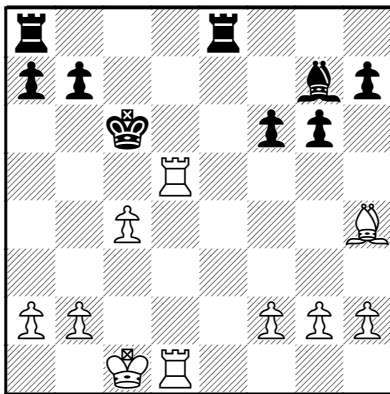
19...cxd5 20.c4?!

Cy: The wrong way to win a pawn.

Much stronger was 20.Bg3+! Kc5 21.Re7, when Black won't survive for long.

Jack: That's right! Make the pieces work, and the opponent will soon be forced to pitch pawns and beg for trades.

20...Rhe8 21.Rxd5+ Kc6 22.Red1



Cy: Correctly breaking the principle "Trade when ahead in material." Black's King is still in danger so I kept the Rooks on the board.

22...Re4

Cy: Double attack.

Jack: Black cannot stop White from invading at d7 or d6, so he might as well try to grab the c-pawn.

23.Bxf6

Cy: The quarrelsome drunk attempts to pick a fight in the bar after closing time. The move may be cute, but even stronger is the cold blooded 23.Rd6+! Kc5 24.Bg3 Rxc4+ 25.Kb1 Kb5 26.Rd7.

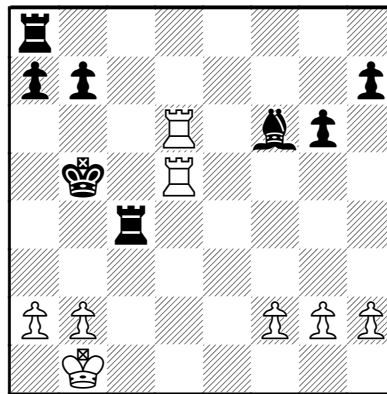
Jack: This looks convincing, although not as easy as the position White could have reached by 20. Bg3+! Kc5 21. Re7, when he did not have to worry about a loose pawn at c4.

23...Rxc4+ 24.Kb1 Bxf6 25.Rd6+ Kb5

Jack: After 25...Kc7?! 26.Rxf6,

White restores his one-pawn advantage, and he will soon pick off another by planting both Rooks on the seventh rank. Black delays disaster only a moment by 26...Rh4 27.h3+-.

26.R1d5+



26...Kb4?

Cy: Wow. Extreme provocation, but he goes too far. He had to try 26...Rc5.

Jack: I think White can barely win after 26...Rc5. One possibility is 27.Rxc5+ Kxc5 28.Rxf6 Re8! 29.Rf7 Re1+ 30.Kc2 Re2+ 31.Kb3 a5 32.Rxh7 Rxf2 33.Rxb7 Rxg2 34.a4 Rxh2 35.Rb5+ Kc6 36.Rxa5, simplifying to a position where the connected passers should win.

27.a3+ Kb3

Cy: 27...Ka4 28.Rxf6 b6 29.Ka2! Rc5 30.Rd7 wins.

28.Rxf6

Cy: Question: Why not 28.Rd3+ winning the Exchange?

Answer: It doesn't win the Exchange since Black blocks with 28...Bc3!

28...Rh4

Cy: Not 28...Rac8?? 29.Rd3+ Ka4 30.b3+ forks.

29.Rb5+

Jack: White can play for mate with 29.Rf3+ Ka4 (if 29...Kc4 then 30.Rfd3! sets up 31. b3 mate.) 30.Ka2 but he must anticipate 30...b5 31.Rf6 a6 32.Rdd6 Ka5 33.f4, planning 34. b4+.

29...Ka4

Cy: He dances close to the precipice. Only cockroaches, mice and jailers feel comfortable in a prison.

If 29...Kc4?? 30.Rb4+ picks off the stray Rook on h4.

Jack: Two question marks for

29...Kc4 is harsh! It's no worse than 29...Ka4. Or are you adding the punctuation because Black missed the proper moment to resign?

30.Rxb7

Cy: Threatening mate in one.

30...a6 31.Rc6!

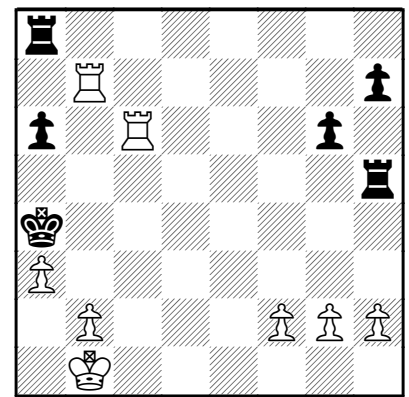
Jack: Not so obvious, but very convincing.

31...Rh5

Cy: Some alternatives:

31...Rxh2 32.Rb4+ Ka5 33.Rc5 mate; 31...Re4 32.Rc5! Rd8 33.b3+ Kxa3 34.Ra5+ Ra4 35.Rxa4 mate!

Houdini claims 31...Ra7! is Black's best move! I suppose a rat caught in a trap may make the decision to gnaw his own foot off in an attempt to escape.



Cy: Exercise (combination alert): White to play and mate in three moves.

Answer:

32.Rc4+ Ka5

Cy: The wretched and despised King asks himself: "Where is the love?"

33.b3! 1-0

Cy: The b-pawn is the mortar which seals the double Rook trombone mate on a4. Meanwhile Black's Rooks look on like brothers who lost a beloved father yet are unable to shed tears.

Summary: 3...g6?! is nothing but a self-inflicted headache for Black.

Peters,Jack (2377) -

Taylor,Timothy (2279)

[C72] Ruy Lopez

9th Metropolitan Invitational (6)

Los Angeles, 30.07.2011

1.e4

Jack: I rarely invest much time in preparing for a single game.

When I do, my opponent usually surprises me by playing something unexpected.

Before this game, I was almost positive that Tim would choose the Modern Steinitz Defense, the subject of his book *Slay the Spanish*.

I decided to devote a whole day to studying his favorite line.

1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6

Jack: For once, my hunch was correct.

5.0-0 Bg4

Jack: Tim calls this the “Yandemirov Gambit.”

In my opinion, Black’s quieter alternatives should grant White an edge, so this variation is critically important for the Modern Steinitz Defense.

6.h3 h5 7.d4

Jack: The sharpest response. Bold play must be met boldly!

Three rounds earlier, Matikozyan tried 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.d4 and Tim equalized and drew with 8...Bxf3 9.Qxf3 exd4 10.Rd1 Qf6 11.Qb3 Ne7 12.Qb7 Rd8! 13.c3 g5!, exactly following his published analysis.

7...b5

Jack: Not 7...Qf6?? 8.dxe5 (possibly 8.hxg4 hxg4 9.dxe5+- is most devastating.) 8...dxe5 9.hxg4 hxg4 10.Bg5 Qe6 11.Nh4+-, when Black has no attack for the piece.

As a teenage expert in 1970, I lost to my New England nemesis, John Curdo, after 11...Be7 12.Bb3 Qc8 13.Qd5! Nd8 14.Qxe5 Rh5 15.f4+- because I forgot that Black still had the opportunity to castle Queenside.

Cy: Maybe great minds think alike. I once lost to a hated teen rival back in the 70’s with the same bad piece sac as Black!

Jack: Black can also consider 7...Bxf3 8.Qxf3 exd4.

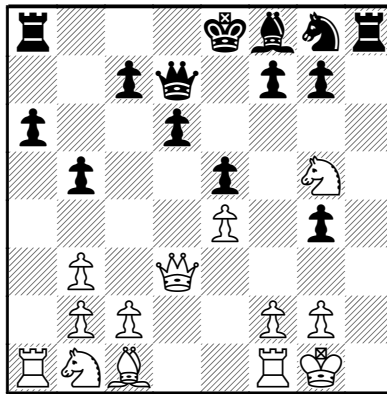
8.Bb3 Nxd4 9.hxg4 Nxb3 10.axb3 hxg4 11.Ng5

Jack: All forced. Other Knight moves lose to 11...Qh4.

11...Qd7

Jack: Threatening to win the trapped Knight by 12...f6.

12.Qd3!?



Jack: Gashimov’s idea, which Tim called “extremely dangerous” for Black.

Cy: It’s pretty cold of you to use Tim’s own analysis against him!

Jack: Tim considers 12.c4 the main line: 12...Rb8 13.Rxa6 f6 14.Nc3 fxe5 15.Nxb5±.

12...c6

Jack: Probably best.

Black must avoid the tempting 12...f6? 13.Qd5 c6 because of 14.Qe6+ Qe7 15.Rxa6! Rxa6 16.Qc8+ Qd8 17.Qxa6 fxe5 18.Qxc6+±.

I had analyzed 12...Rb8 13.Rxa6 f6 14.Nc3 fxe5 15.Bxe7 Be7 16.f4!↑ shortly after its introduction in Gashimov - Grischuk, Baku 2008.

Before I played Tim, I refreshed my memory of the game and reaffirmed my belief that Black is suffering.

Cy: I would have no hope remembering all this theory, which is why I play snoozer lines like Colle and London system.

Jack: Tim’s book praises 12...Nh6, but he admits that White gets a small advantage from 13.c4 b4 14.c5 f6 15.Rxa6±.

13.c4 b4 14.f4!?

Jack: Following my 2008 analysis. Gashimov had analyzed 14.c5 f6 15.Nd2 fxe5 16.Nc4±.

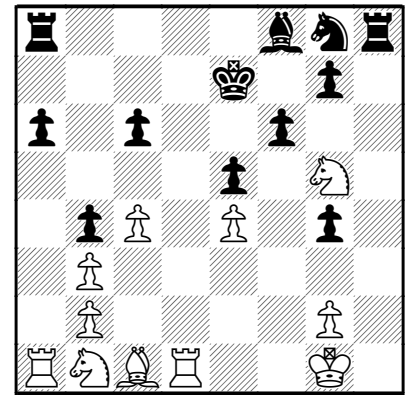
Cy: I would go for something simple, like 14.Rd1 f6 15.c5 fxe5 16.Bxe5 when Black remains just slightly short of equality.

14...f6 15.fxe5 dxe5

Jack: Against 15...fxg5, I had prepared 16.c5 Qa7 17.Be3 dxe5 18.Qc4↑.

Cy: Agreed, but I think Black is okay after 16...d5!.

16.Qxd7+ Kxd7 17.Rd1+ Ke7



Cy: The longer I play chess, the less I seem to understand it. Black is down a piece and his only developed piece is his King, and yet he may stand equal!

18.Bd2

Jack: I had used about two minutes to reach this position, while Tim was thinking deeply. After the game, he joked that all he wanted was to get me out of my pre-game preparation.

Cy: Impressive prep! Are you one of those guys who recites pi to the thousandth decimal?

18...fxg5

Jack: The computer prefers 18...c5 19.Be3 fxe5 20.Bxc5+ Kf7 21.Bxf8 Rxf8 22.Rxa6 Nf6 and claims Black has equalized. If this is true, my 14.f4 doesn’t deserve repeating.

Cy: I think the comps are right.

19.Bxb4+ Kf7

Cy: Black should stand at least equal after 19...Ke6! 20.Bxf8 Rxf8 21.Rxa6 Ne7, when ...g3 is in the air.

20.Bxf8 Kxf8

Jack: Black could save a tempo over the game by 20...Rxf8 21.Ra5 Nf6, meeting 22.Rxe5 by 22...Re8 or 22...Rb8.

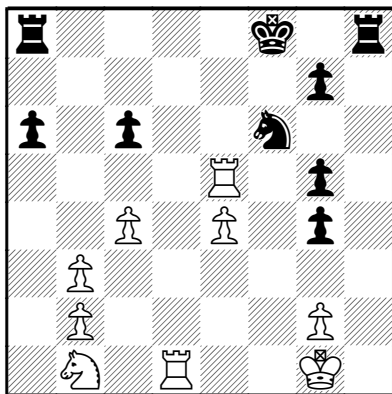
I’m not sure how to evaluate 20...Rxf8 21.Rxa6 Nf6 22.Rxc6. White has three passed pawns, but Black will cause trouble on the Kingside.

Cy: I prefer Black!

21.Ra5 Nf6

Jack: Black correctly avoids the passivity of 21...Re8 22.Rxa6 Ne7 23.Nc3±.

22.Rxe5



Jack: I assessed this position as “±,” which is optimistic but not too far-fetched. My home analysis worked! Thanks to my 4½-½ start, I began to dream of first place.

Reality soon intruded.

Cy: I hate it when that happens! The position looks more like += to me.

22...Kf7 23.Rxg5

Jack: More than mere pawn-grabbing. I wanted to pick off the foremost g-pawn before it got to g3 and boxed in my King.

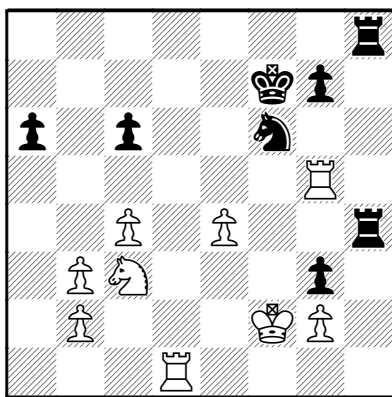
23...Rh4 ?

Cy: This looks like a waste of ammunition. Black looks okay after 23...Nxe4! 24.Rd7+ (24.Rxg4 Nf6 25.Rg3 Rab8 should give Black enough activity to justify his pawn sac.) 24...Ke6 25.Rgxg7 Rad8 26.Rde7+ Kf6 27.Nc3 Nxc3 28.bxc3 Rd1+! 29.Kf2 Rd3 and I don't see a win for White.

24.Nc3 Rah8

Jack: Thinking of 25...g3 26. Rxg3 Rh1+ 27. Kf2 Nxe4+.

25.Kf2 g3+



26.Kf3!

Cy: Sometimes one senses a dangerous disturbance approaching (for

Black!), even if it remains unseen for the moment.

Jack: I liked 26.Kxg3 Nxe4+ 27.Nxe4 Rxe4 28.Rd7+ until I realized that 26.Kxg3 Rxe4! wasn't so clear.

26...Rb8

Jack: A small relief. At least Black is no longer bothering my King!

27.e5 Nh5 28.Rg4

Jack: This move greatly appealed to me during the game, but it's the first step off course.

Cy: White should be winning now, or close to it.

Jack: I briefly considered 28.Rd7+!! (**Cy:** *The strongest move in the position, but you have to be a genius to see the comp-like finish to the line.*) 28...Ke8 but did not foresee the pretty win 29.Rc7 Rxb3 30.e6 Rxb2 31.Rxh5! Rxh5 32.Ne4 Re5 33.Nd6+ Kf8 34.e7+! Rxe7 35.Rc8+.

28...Rxg4 29.Kxg4 g6

30.Ne4?!

Jack: A second inaccuracy.

After 30.Rd6! Rxb3 31.Rxc6 Rxb2 32.e6+ White's Knight comes to d5, clinching victory.

30...Rxb3 31.e6+??

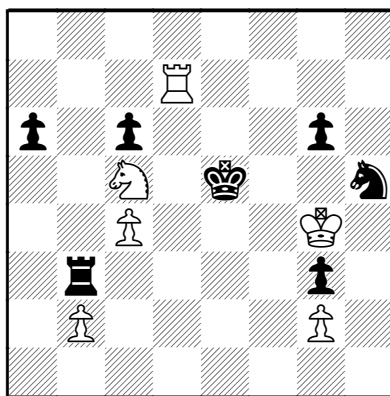
Jack: And this move completes White's disintegration. I thought Black had to lose his Rook to stop my e-pawn from promoting.

Instead, White should go after Black's Knight by 31.Ng5+ Ke7 32.Rd6 Rxb2 33.Rxg6+.

31...Ke7 32.Rd7+

Jack: As I rechecked the ways to dispatch the obviously forced 32...Kf8, Black shocked me with

32...Kxe6 33.Nc5+ Ke5



Cy: ! Ye olde cheapoe! Tim finds

a hidden defensive resource. In this game we get the impression that justice fell on Jack's side, while power somehow allied itself to Tim's position.

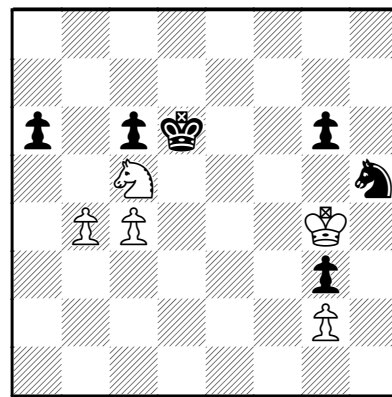
Jack: I admire a good swindle, and this is one of the neatest I've ever fallen into. Of course, 34. Nxb3 Nf6+ saves Black.

34.Re7+

Jack: The only way to make Black work.

I considered 34.Rd2 and 34.Rd8, when most of Black's Rook moves allow a fork. But 34...Nf6+ draws easily.

34...Kd6 35.Nxb3 Kxe7 36.Nc5 Kd6! 37.b4



37...Ke5!

Jack: Two good moves secure the draw. I had hoped for 37...a5? 38. Nb7+.

38.Nxa6 Kd4 39.b5 cxb5 40.cxb5 Nf6+ 41.Kxg3 Nd5

Jack: The b-pawn is doomed. I was too stubborn to offer a draw, so the game continued a few more moves.

Cy: Tim finds the way to pick the bones clean and hold the draw.

42.Kg4 Kc4 43.Nc7 Nxc7 44.b6 Na6 45.Kg5 Kb5 46.b7 Kc6 47.Kxg6 Kxb7 48.g4

Jack: Black's Knight is far away, but he can draw in several ways.

48...Kc6 49.g5 Kd7 ½-½

Jack: The Knight will sit at e6 and capture the pawn when it reaches g7.

More evidence that studying openings is worthless! If I had just worked on my endgame technique ...

Cy: I tell my students the same thing but they never listen. ♛

GMs Kaidanov & Khachiyan, IM Kaufman Tie 5-1 in Recession Buster Open

February 18-20, 2012

GMs Gregory Kaidanov and Melikset Khachiyan tied for first with IM Raymond Kaufman, scoring 5-1 in the Recession Buster Open. Tied for fourth at 4½-1½ were IM Enrico Sevillano, FM Alexandre Kretchetov, and NM Michael William Brown.

Organizer Chuck Ensey provides us with an account of the event, and IM Jack Peters annotates the prize winning best game Kretchetov - Bryant, the runner up best game Clawitter - Sevillano, and the wild Ignacio - Clawitter contest. - Ed.

By Chuck Ensey

The Recession Buster Open was a new event put in place to fill a void over Presidents' Day weekend when the Amateur Team West moved to Northern California after many years in Southern California. Many players could not afford the expense of that long trip north, plus hotel room expenses, and all that for an event that pays no cash prizes. Apparently the plan is to rotate the Amateur Team event each year to different locations, and rumor has Arizona in the mix next year, but no confirmation on that yet.

The RBO was run under a very similar format to the Southern California Open in 2011, with 6 rounds, 5 sections and a \$20,000 guaranteed prize fund.

We would have used the same hotel too, but it was booked that weekend, so we tried the nearby Sheraton Mission Valley. However there was a planning snafu and the large ballroom was suddenly not available as expected. Instead we were switched into a much smaller room, but when there was a last minute surge of entries, conditions were then quite cramped. Most of the players were flexible and understanding.



Gregory Kaidanov: playing more now.

Each day we were able to improve the tight seating arrangements to a better, more comfortable spacing. There were a few minor glitches such as the seemingly inevitable noisy wedding one night and then a boisterous church group right next door on the last night, but other than that, things went fairly smoothly, with rounds starting on time and no pairing issues or player disputes.

We were especially pleased with the very strong 48 player Open Section that featured two GMs, 7 IMs, 4 FMs, 11 NMs, plus 21 Experts and 3 Class A's playing up. The other sections were: U2000 with 33 players, U1800 with 26, U1600 with 18 and U1400 with 17, for a grand total of 142 players.

We could have used more players in the lower sections, but overall the attendance was pretty good for a first time event.

About half the players were from in San Diego, and most of the rest were from the LA area of course, but there

were also 11 from Arizona, a few from Northern California and also the states of Washington, Idaho, Illinois and Kentucky.

The last one would be famous GM Gregory Kaidanov, more about him later.

San Diego is planning on hosting an event similar to this one about every six months, with the next one being the **2012 Southern California Open**, which is coming up again on September 1-3, over Labor Day weekend at the Crowne Plaza hotel, the same excellent venue as last year.

Last year we had 180 players, and we are hoping for 200 plus this year, so please mark it on your calendar and recruit a friend. Only by ever increasing attendance can the plan of continuing to offer these large \$20,000 guaranteed events be successful.

I believe chess IS growing in popularity and the future is bright - there are so many great young players, and lots of wonderful old timers too, but

we need all of your support to help prove this point.

GMKaidanov graced the cover of the March issue of Chess Life due to his strong performance at the Eastern Open in Washington D.C. in December, and he seems to be playing much more frequently lately after a few years of lessened activity.

In this event he tied for First Place with GM Melikset Khachiyan and IM Raymond Kaufman, all with 5 out of 6 points. The 3 players pocketed \$1,866 each.

Kaidanov drew with FM Harutyun Akopyan in round 2 and IM Enrico Sevillano in the last round. Melik lost to FM Alexandre Kretchetov in round 2, but then reeled off 4 wins in a row, the last two over IMs Zhanibek Amanov and Dionisio Aldama. Dionisio was leading the event after 4 rounds with a perfect 4-0 score, but lost to both the GMs in the last two rounds.

IM Raymond Kaufman did not lose any games. He drew with Enrico in round 2 and then won 3 in a row, including a round 5 win over IM Jack Peters, before taking a last round bye to get back to Northern California where he now lives.

Sevillano and Kretchetov tied for 4th and 5th (\$750 each) with 4½-1½, and young Michael Brown won Best U2300 (\$800), also with 4½-1½.

Alexander King won \$1,000 for Best U2200 with 4 points (Paul Agron also scored 4, but unfortunately he forfeited a game, which made him ineligible for any prizes).

Four other IMs scored also scored 4-2 for 6th-7th place: Zhanibek Amanov, Jack Peters, Dionisio Aldama and Tim Taylor, along with NM Luke Harmon-Vellotti of Idaho.

Daniel Diskin and Raoul Crisologo tied for 2nd U2200 and Vadim Kudryavtsev was 2nd U2300, all with 3½-2½.

Finally, Craig Clawitter, Alaa-addin Moussa, Vanessa West and Jamieson Pryor tied for 4th U2200 with 3 points.

In the **Premier** (U2000) section, Chris Roberts scored 5-1 to claim

clear First Place and \$1,000, followed by Agata Bykovtsev, Justin Arnold and Michael Taylor, all with 4½-1½.

There was also a clear winner in the **Amateur** (U1800) section with William Li scoring 5 points and a cool grand. Fridha Melissa Becerra, Steve Perry and Gert Lykke tied for 2nd-4th with 4½-1½.

In the **Reserve** Section (U1600), fast rising David Whitten claimed \$1,000 with a 5½-½ score, followed by Theodore Pringle with 5-1 and then Kenneth Carter and Louis Wonnell with 4-2.

In the **Booster** Section (U1400), local players dominated with Stanford Talcott scoring 5, Cassidy Liu 4½, and Stephen Zhu, Keric Rivas and Walter Greismeyer of Illinois all with 4. Carlito Lanada won Best Unrated with 3½.

More details, links, pictures and games can be found on the SCCF website.

See you in September in San Diego!

- Chuck Ensey

Alexandre Kretchetov took the best game prize for the following creative performance. - Ed.

Kretchetov, Alexandre (2410) - Bryant, John Daniel (2445) [B38] Sicilian Defense Recession Buster Open (5) San Diego, 20.02.2012

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.Nf3 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.e4 c5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be2 d6 9.0-0

A standard Maroczy Bind. White wants to control d5 and keep Black cramped.

9...a6 10.Qd2 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Be6 12.Rfd1 Qa5?!

A wasted move. White's advantage is minimal after either 12...Nd7 or 12...Rc8.

13.b4! Qd8

Understandably, Black avoids 13...Qxb4? 14.Rab1 Qa3 15.Rb3 Qa5 16.Bb6 Qe5 17.f4, when he must give up a piece by 17...Nxe4 18.fxe5 Nxd2 19.Rxd2 Bxe5 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.Rxd5±.

Although Black has three pawns for the Bishop at the moment, he will have trouble hanging on to his b-pawn.

A little better is 13...Qc7 14.Nd5 (14.Rac1 a5 15.b5±) 14...Bxd5 15.exd5± because Black may find time for ...a6-a5 or ...e7-e6.

14.Qe3 Rc8 15.c5

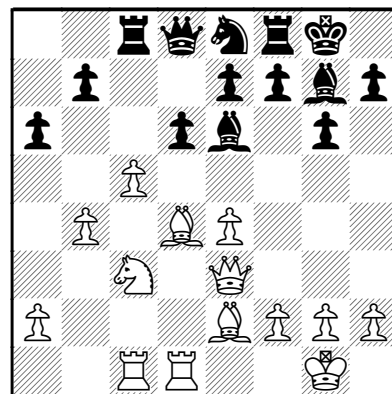
Also attractive is 15.e5 dxe5 16.Bxe5 Nd7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.c5±.

15...Ne8?!

Not 15...d5?? 16.exd5 Nxd5? because White gains a piece by 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Qe5+ f6 20.Qxd5+.

The toughest defense, 15...Qc7 16.cxd6 exd6 17.Rac1 Qe7±, accepts a vulnerable d-pawn.

16.Rac1±

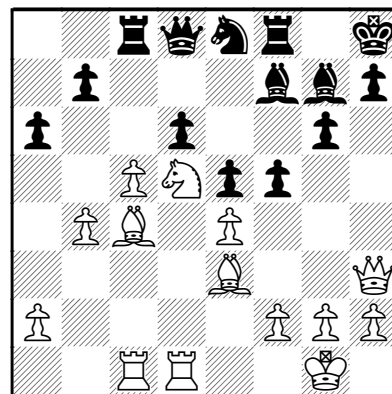


16...f6

Ugly, but a good practical decision. When White advances, the position will become complicated, and one White mistake could shift the game in Black's favor.

The "sturdy" alternative 16...Bxd4 17.Rxd4 Qc7 18.Nd5 Bxd5 19.exd5± is both miserable and passive.

17.Nd5 Kh8 18.Bc4 Bf7 19.Qh3 e5 20.Be3 f5



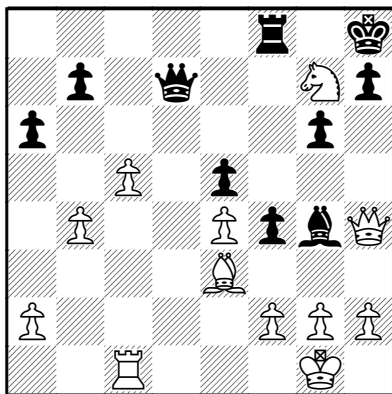
Good timing.

Neither 21...Rc7 22.cxd6 Nxd6
23.Bc5+- nor 21...Rc6 22.b5+- offers
Black any hope.

Rejecting 23...Bxd1 24.Rxd1+-, when Black has not a shred of counterplay.

Sharpest. The simpler 24.Rd2 Bg4
25.Qh4 f4 26.Nxe8 Qxe8 27.Qxg4 fxe3
28.fxe3+- works too.

Black would lose less material by 26...Qxg7 27.Bh6 Qf6 28.Qxf6+ Rxf6, but it wouldn't change the outcome. After 29.f3 Bh5 30.Rd1 Kg8 31.Rd8+ Kf7 32.Bg5 Rc6 33.Rd7+, White picks up a second pawn and clinches the win.



It looks like White's Bishop and Knight are trapped, but Kretchetov

After 27...Qxg7 28.Qxg4 fxe3 29.c7! exf2+ 30.Kf1+-, the c-pawn will cost Black at least a Rook.

Another way is 29.Ne8 Qxe8
30.Qxg4+.

White welcomes 31...Rxc7
32.Qd8+ Rg8 33.Qf6+ Rg7 34.Bf8
and 31...Kxc7 32.Qxe5+ Kh6 33.h4,
intending 34.Bd4 and 35.Qg5 mate.

As 32...Bxe8 33.Qd8 is fatal.

Or 33...Rf8 34.Qe7+.

The other Rook move, 33...Rg7, allows the pretty finish 34.Qd8+ Rg8 35.Qf6+ Rg7 36.Qf8+ Rg8 37.Nf7 mate.

34.Nxf7+ Bxf7 35.Qf6+ Kg8
36.Qd8+ Kg7 37.Bf8+ 1-0



Gregory Kaidanov and Enrico Sevillano: men at work.

Notes by IM Jack Peters

Sometimes called the Gurgendize System.

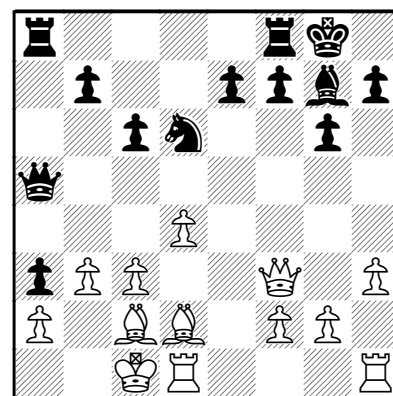
Probably better is 12.a4.

Or 13...Qb6 \Rightarrow .

**14.b3 Bg4 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3
Qa5 17.Bd2**

More active is 17.Bf4 \pm , not fearing 17...Bxd4? 18.b4.

17...0-0 18.0-0-0?!



The loosened Queenside does not provide secure shelter for White's King. Craig may have dreamed of attacking with h3-h4-h5xg6.

Much safer is 18.0-0=. Again, Black must avoid 18...Bxd4?? 19.b4+-.
18...c5 19.c4

Cooperating with Black's strategy of prying open the a1-h8 diagonal.

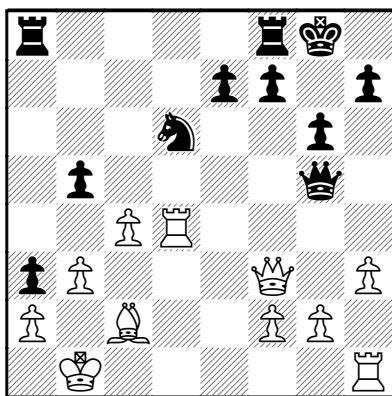
However, the alternative 19.d5 Nb5 20.c4 Nc3 21.Bxc3 Bxc3 $\bar{+}$ is also very uncomfortable.

19...Qb6 20.dxc5 Qxc5+ 21.Be3
Qa5 22.Bd4 Bxd4 23.Rxd4
Qg5+

Black could prepare ...b7-b5 with 23...Rac8 $\bar{+}$.

24.Kb1?!

White gets surprising counterplay from 24.Qe3! Qxg2 25.Rhd1±.
24...b5



25.Qd5?

There is still hope after 25.Re1 bxc4 26.Rd5! Qh4 27.g3 Qxh3 28.Rxe7±.

25...Qf6-+

White cannot prevent disaster on the long diagonal.

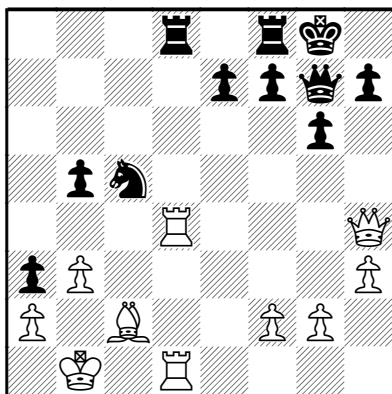
26.c5

Not 26.cxb5? Nxb5-+.

26...Rad8! 27.Rhd1

If 27.cxd6 Rxd6 28.Qxd6 exd6 29.Rhd1, Black disrupts White's defense with 29...Re8 30.f4 Re1!-+.

27...Nb7 28.Qe4 Nxc5 29.Qh4 Qg7



Threatening 30...Ne6. The fianchettoed Queen is deadly!

30.Kc1 Ne6 31.Rd3

Similarly awful is 31.Rxd8 Qb2+ 32.Kd2 Rxd8+ 33.Ke1 Qc3+ 34.Kf1 Qxc2-+.

31...Qb2+ 32.Kd2 Rxd3+ 33.Kxd3 Rc8 34.Rd2 Rc3+

Even stronger is 34...Qe5! 35.Qe4 Nc5+.

35.Ke2 Rxc2 0-1

Ignacio,Romeo (2210) - Clawitter,Craig (2161)
[C18] French Defense
Recession Buster Open (5)
San Diego, 20.02.2012

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Ba5

A Winawer sideline used by Botvinnik and Lputian.

6.f4?!

Unusual. White can try for an advantage with either 6.b4 or 6.Qg4.

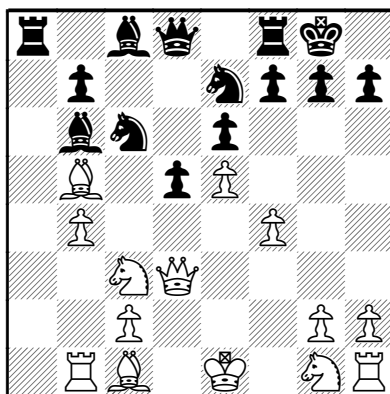
6...cxd4 7.Qxd4 Nc6 8.Bb5?!

Perhaps White can maintain equality by 8.Qd3 f6 9.Qg3.

8...Nge7± 9.b4

Breaking the pin, but creating new problems.

9...Bb6 10.Qd3 a5! 11.Rb1 axb4 12.axb4 0-0



How will White castle? The Bishop at b6 is a monster, and White cannot oppose it with 13.Be3?? because of 13...Bxe3 14.Qxe3 d4.

13.Nf3 f6

The approved strategy - open the center to embarrass White's uncastled King.

14.exf6 Rxf6 15.Ne2

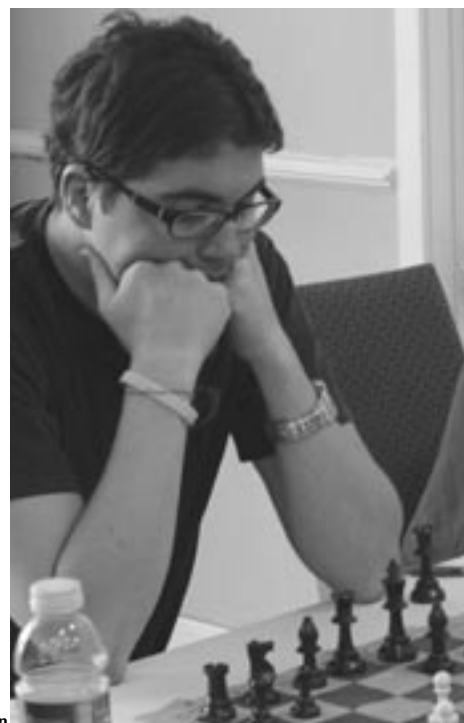
Fighting for d4.

The alternative 15.Na4 Ba7 16.Be3 does not solve White's problems on the a7-g1 diagonal because of 16...Nf5 17.Bxa7 Nxa7 18.Nc3 Qb6±.

15...e5!?

An enterprising pawn sacrifice that activates Black's other Bishop.

But the computer suggests the preparatory 15...Rg6, as 16.g3 e5± is even more effective. White would have the extra possibility 15...Rg6 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.Ne5, but 17...Ba6



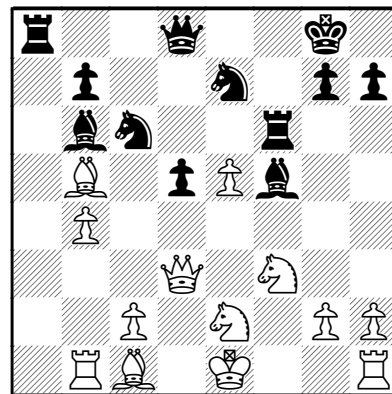
Craig Clawitter: a wild game!

18.Qf3 Rf6± leaves White struggling against two powerful Bishops.

16.fxe5

Worse is 16.Nxe5 Bf5 17.Qb3 Be4±.

16...Bf5



17.Qb3

White can change the course of the game by the Queen sacrifice 17.exf6!? Bxd3 18.fxe7 Qxe7 19.Bxd3. Black retains pressure after 19...Nxb4, but White has enough material to resist.

17...Re6!?

Another bold decision. The simpler 17...Rf8±, intending ...Bf5-e4, also keeps ample compensation.

18.Nf4

White might as well accept the of-

Please turn to page 35, RBO

Philip Xiao Wang Wins 16th Metropolitan FIDE

January 25-29, 2012

Philip Xiao Wang took first with 6½-2½ in the 16th Metropolitan IM Norm invitational tournament. IM Zhanibek Amanov was second at 6-3, and Michael Bodek was third at 5½-3½. Fourth at 5-4 was IM Andranik Matikozyan. Kayden Troff and Alexandre Kretchetov tied for fifth with 4½-4½. Konstantin Kavutskiy and Alexander King tied for seventh with 4-5, IM Larry Remlinger finished ninth with 3½-5½, and Giovanni Carreto came in tenth with 1½-7½.

Philip, who led after every round of the tournament, earned his third IM norm. When he boosts his rating slightly to get it over 2400 FIDE, he gets the title.

Michael Bodek, who visited from New York, tied for the under-16 Cadet championship last summer in Tennessee. This year, he turns 15. Matikozyan's forfeit was just hard luck; he forgot the starting time.

This Metro tournament was sponsored by California Market Center, Fashion Business, Inc, Chess.com, MonRoi, LawyerFy, the Law Offices of Steinfl & Bruno, and Betty Bottom Showroom.

Philip annotates two of his wins:

Wang, Philip Xiao (2372) - Matikozyan, Andranik (2414) [E68] King's Indian Defense 16th Metropolitan IM (2) Los Angeles, 23.02.2012

This was my first tournament in 6 months, so I was excited and nervous about playing.

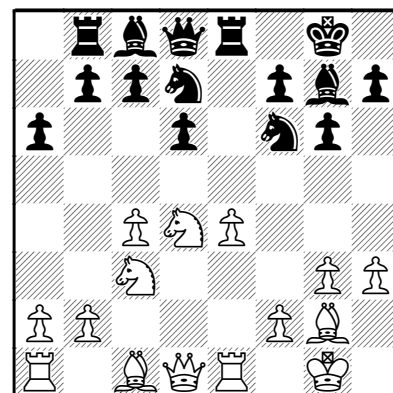
I had done well in my last three tournaments, scoring 2 IM norms and falling 1 point short in my last event (losing a painful last round game to Darwin Yang). I was determined to keep trying until I made my last norm!

The following game is from round 2, against one of the pre-tournament favorites.

Matikozyan is an enormously tal-

ented player. When you analyze with him after a game, it's obvious he sees a lot and he comes across as a GM. His weakness, in my opinion, is that he sometimes doesn't take games as seriously as he should.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Nc3 e5 8.e4 exd4 9.Nxd4 Re8 10.h3 a6 11.Re1 Rb8



The Gallagher variation. It's a tricky variation and scores well in practice (especially blitz), but White can gain the advantage if he knows what he's doing.

12.Rb1

Avrukh recommends 12.Be3 but the text is just as good and has served me well.

By the way, the danger of following the Avrukh repertoire to the letter is that it allows your opponent to know your repertoire.

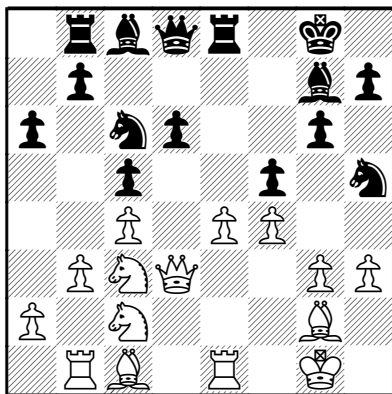
12...Ne5 13.b3 c5 14.Nc2 Nc6 15.f4

More common is 15.a4 but I like my move better because it's natural and prevents b5.

15...Nh5 16.Qd3 f5!?

Round by Round			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pairings, Colors, and Scores											
1	Carreto, Giovanni	MEX	W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9
	2261		0	0	½	1	1	1	1½	1½	1½
2	Bodek, Michael	USA	W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8
	2232		1	2	2½	3	3	4	4	4½	5½
3	Troff, Kayden	USA	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7
	2257		½	½	1	1½	2	3	3½	4	4½
4	Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	F-
	2402		1	1½	2½	3	4	4	4½	5	6
5	Kavutskiy, Konstantin	USA	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10
	2315		½	1	1½	1½	2½	2½	3	3½	4
6	Matikozyan, Andranik	ARM	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	U-
	2414		½	½	1	1½	2½	3½	4½	5	5
7	Remlinger, Larry	USA	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3
	2403		0	½	1	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½
8	King, Alexander	USA	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2
	2081		½	1	1½	2	2½	3	3	4	4
9	Kretchetov, Alexandre	RUS	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1
	2347		0	1	1	2	2	2½	3½	3½	4½
10	Wang, Philip Xiao	USA	B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5
	2372		1	2	2½	3½	4	4½	5	6	6½

Time control: 40 moves / 90 minutes + SD / 30 minutes + 30 second increment throughout.

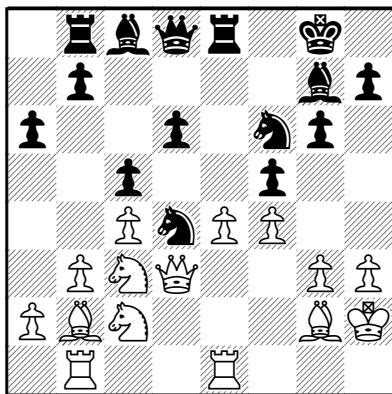


17.Kh2!

I wasn't sure what to do until I realized that Black isn't threatening anything. This move 1) defends the h3 pawn (allowing me to play Bxe4), 2) defends the g3 pawn, and 3) vacates the diagonal so ...Bd4 isn't check.

Whenever you see that a move serves three useful functions, it's almost always a good move.

17...Nf6 18.Bb2 Nd4?!



19.e5!

An excellent move that brings White's pieces to life. Black is already in trouble.

19...dxe5 20.fxe5 Nh5

Better than 20...Nd7 21.Nxd4 cxd4 (or 21...Nxe5 22.Bd5+ Kh8 23.Rxe5±) 22.Qxd4 Nxe5 23.Qxd8 Rxd8 24.Nd5±.

21.Nd5 f4?

Now White wins material.

21...Nc6 was the best chance but White is still better.

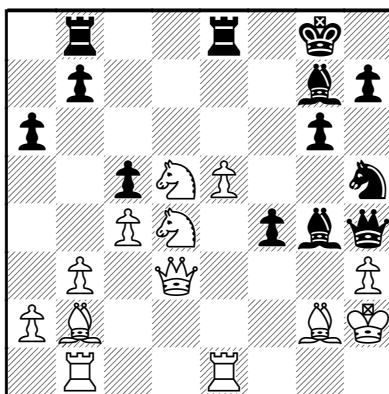
22.g4 Bxg4!?

Best was 22...Nxc2 23.Qxc2 Qh4, but White has 24.Kg1!+-.

23.Nxd4!

An important intermezzo

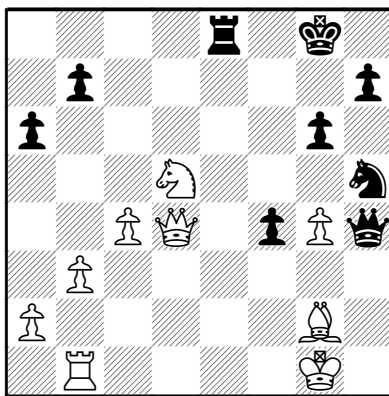
23...Qh4



24.Kg1!

Safeguarding my King and threatening hxg4. Black's attack is over and White wins at least a piece.

24...Rxe5 25.Rxe5 Bxe5 26.hxg4 cxd4 27.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 28.Qxd4 Re8



29.Nxf4

Simplest. I had to double-check that I can block with the Knight on move 32.

29...Re1+ 30.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 31.Bf1 1-0

For if 31...Qg3+ then 32.Ng2 saves the Knight and keeps the extra piece.

Wang, Philip Xiao (2372) - Kretchetov, Alexandre (2347)
[D94] Slav Defense
16th Metropolitan IM (8)
Los Angeles, 26.02.2012

I started out the tournament well with 3½/4 but hit a lull in the middle with 3 straight draws. I think I was playing poorly because I was stressed out.

The following game was played in the morning of the last day (round 8), and I needed 1½/2 for my last IM norm. I told myself to relax and just

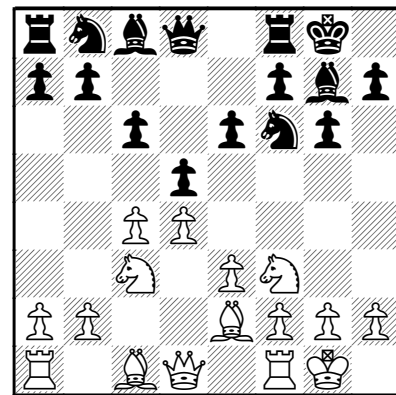


Philip Wang: achieved third IM norm enjoy playing chess and not worry about the result.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 g6

The Schlechter Slav. Black has a very solid structure.

5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be2 0-0 7.0-0 e6



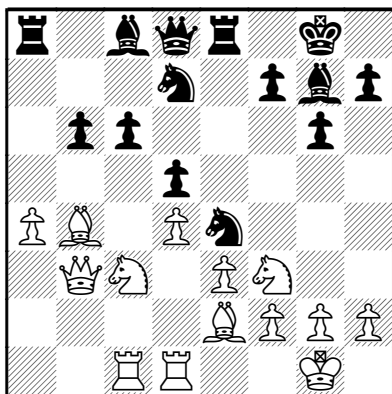
8.b4!?

Kretchetov had played this variation in other Metrochess events with good results. Troff and King played 8.Qc2 in this position and got nothing out of the opening. I tried to find something new and 8.b4 seemed like an attractive move, and I saw that it had been played by Kasparov.

Then I remembered some excellent advice from Ivan Sokolov's book *Winning Chess Middlegames*. Sokolov

wrote: "[When you have little time to prepare and want to try something new], it is useful to check the games of the world's very best. Should the line chosen by them suit you and not seem too complicated to prepare in a few hours, PLAY IT. In my professional career this strategy has served me very well."

8...Nbd7 9.Qb3 Re8 10.a4 a5 11.Ba3 axb4 12.Bxb4 Ne4 13.Rfd1 b6 14.cxd5 exd5 15.Rac1



My plan is to attack the c6 pawn, similar to a minority attack in the Queen's Gambit.

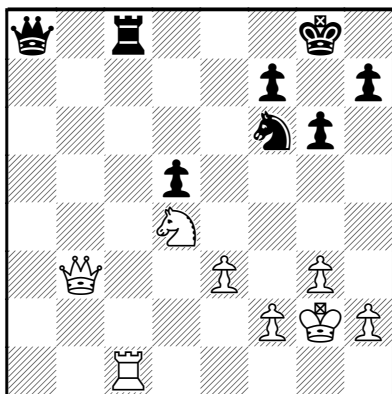
15...Nxc3 16.Bxc3 Ba6 17.Rd2 Bxe2 18.Rxe2 Ra6 19.Bb4 Qa8 20.Rec2 c5?!

Black was running low on time and missed a nice tactical shot. That often happens when you're low on time: you lose confidence and fear missing something. 20...Rxa4! 21.Rxc6?! Nc5!±.

21.dxc5 bxc5 22.Bxc5 Rxa4 23.Bd4

I have a microscopic advantage because of the pawn structure.

23...Bxd4 24.Nxd4 Ra1 25.g3 Nf6 26.Kg2 Rxc1 27.Rxc1 Rc8



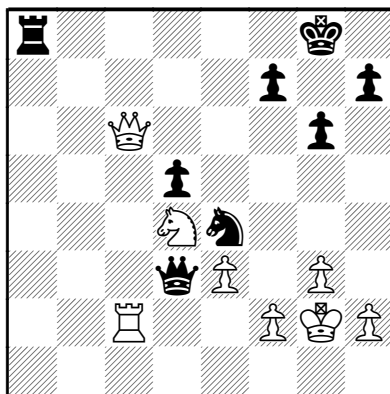
28.Rd1!

I needed to win to have a good shot at a norm and am proud of the way I played over the next few moves. I do a good job of keeping pieces on the board and creating winning chances out of nothing.

28...Qa6 29.Qb2

Avoiding a potential Queen trade and eyeing the Knight on f6.

29...Qc4 30.Rd2 Ra8 31.Qb6 Ne4 32.Rc2 Qd3 33.Qc6

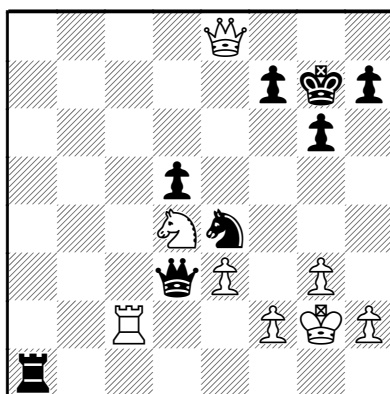


All of a sudden Black has to play accurately to maintain the balance.

33...Ra1?

The losing move.

34.Qe8+ Kg7



35.Qe5+

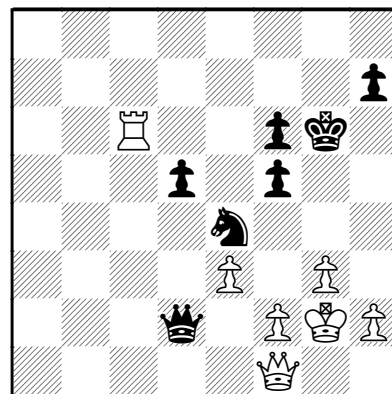
If you're Houdini running on a 4-core computer, you need only 5 seconds to see the obvious mate in 11 moves!

Start by sacrificing your Knight:

35.Ne6+ Kf6 (35...fxe6 36.Rc7+ mates in 3) 36.Qd8+ Kxe6 37.Rc6+ Kf5 38.Qc8+ Kg5 39.f4+ Kh6 40.Qf8+ Kh5 41.g4+ Kxg4 the startling Rook sacrifice 42.Rxg6+!! hxg6 (if 42...fxg6 43.Qc8+ with a mate) 43.Qc8+ f5 44.h3+ Kh4 45.Qh8 mate.

It's an amazing line, first sacrificing the Knight, and then tossing in the Rook seven moves later! - Ed.

35...Kh6 36.Nf5+ gxf5 37.Rc6+ f6 38.Qxa1 Qd2 39.Qf1 Kg6

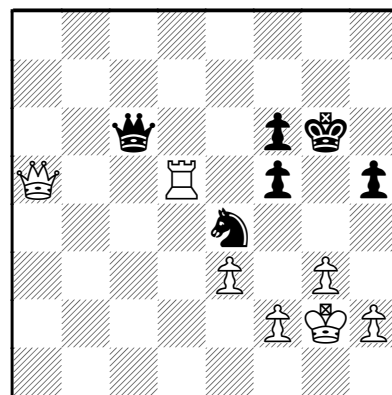


The dust has settled and this endgame has to be winning for me because I'm up an Exchange and Black has mangled pawns (4 islands vs. 1!).

But it's not easy because the Knight is strong and I'm tied down to f2.

My plan is to slowly untangle with Ra6-a1-e1-e2 and at the same time watch out for Nxf2 tricks. Over the next few moves, my Rook moves around nicely.

40.Ra6 Qb2 41.Ra7 h6 42.Ra4 h5 43.Rd4 Qc2 44.Rxd5! Qc6 45.Qb5! Qa8 46.Qa5 Qc6



47.Rxf5+-

Black has no good discovered checks because I can block with 48. Qd5 or Rf3. The rest is easy.

47...Nc5+ 48.Rf3 Kg7 49.Qc3 Qd6 50.Qd4 Qc6 51.Qc4 Qd6 52.Rf5 Nd7 53.Rd5 Qe7 54.Qd4 Ne5 55.f4 Nf7 56.Rd7 Qa3 57.Qd5 1-0

IM Enrico Sevillano Takes 19th Annual Western Class

March 9-11, 2012

IM Enrico Sevillano won the 19th Annual Western Class Championship with a 4½-½ score. Tied for second at 4-1 were IMs Roman Yankovsky and Zhanibek Amanov. Fourth place, scoring 3½-1½, were GM Melikset Khachiyan, IM David Pruess, and FM Gregg Small.

Kofi Tatum went over 2200 for the first time to win the Expert Section 5-0. Tied for second were Robert Akopian and Francisco Alonso at 4-1. Ethan Li and Pierce Shaad won the A Section 4½-½. Tied for third at 4-1 were Nicky Korba and Fernando Sevilla. The B Section ended in a three way tie at 4½-½ for Merrill Ghaney, Asatour Dovlatyan, and Jacob Portukalian.

Chris Stychinsky and James Roberts topped the C Section with 4½-½. Third at 4-1 were Jevon Thompson and David Chacon. The top of the D Section featured a three way tie at 4-1 for Sergey Zakaryan, Anthony Ong, and Gregory Mitchell. Fourth was Isaac Ruddell at 3½-1½. Jean Azcunaga won the E Section with 4½-½, and tied for second at 4-1 were Joshua Horton and Jerry Stone II.

The Sheraton Hotel in Agoura Hills hosted the tournament, which attracted 231 players in seven sections.

We feature two games from the Open section of the tournament. The first is a fine attacking win by IM Roman Yankovsky, who provides notes.

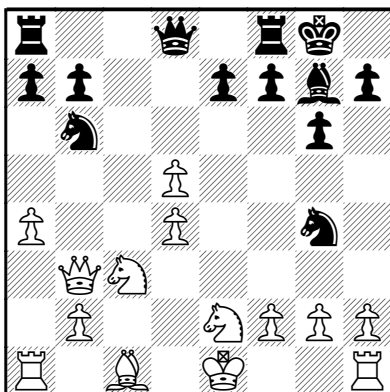
The second game is the final round win by Sevillano which gave him first place, with notes by the editor. Yankovsky created an interesting imbalance in the position, but it was ultimately Sevillano's patience and accuracy that decided it.

We hope you enjoy both! - Ed.

Yankovsky, Roman (2545) - Pruess, David (2449)
[B14] Caro-Kann Defense
Panov-Botvinnik Attack
Western Class Championships (4)
Agoura Hills, 11.03.2012

Notes by IM Roman Yankovsky.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Qb3 Bg7 7.cxd5 0-0 8.Be2 Nbd7 9.Bf3 Nb6 10.Nge2 Bg4 11.Bxg4 Nxd4 12.a4



12...Rc8?!

This move is not good. Black had to stop white's a-pawn with 12...a5. After 13.0-0 Nf6 14.Nf4 Qd6, White is slightly better.

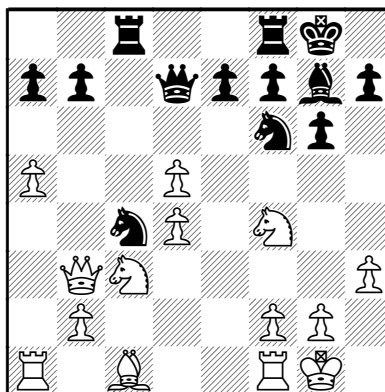
13.h3?!

To be honest, I thought that Black's last move was a theoretical line, and didn't even consider taking the b-pawn.

After 13.a5 Nc4 14.Qxb7 Black is unlikely to get sufficient compensation for a pawn with 14...Rb8 (14...Nxa5 15.Qb5 Nc4 16.Rxa7±) 15.Qxa7 Nxb2 16.0-0±.

However, I still like White's position from the game.

13...Nf6 14.Nf4 Qd7 15.a5 Nc4 16.0-0



Playing 13.h3, I wanted to get this position. It's hard for Black to improve his pieces now. The Knight on c4 stands well, but hangs. White has some ideas like Nb5, Ra4-b4 or Nd3-Ne5.

16...Rfd8

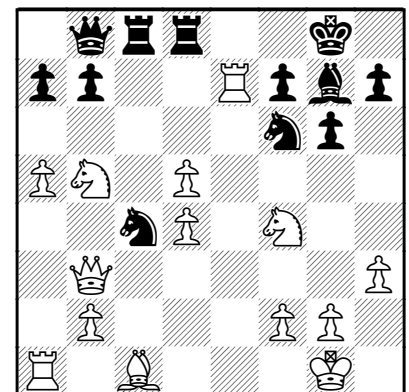
It made sense to bring the Knight to d6: 16...Ne8. I thought I could win after 17.Ne4!? Bxd4? 18.Ra4 Qc7 19.d6! Nexd6 20.Nxd6 exd6 21.Nd5±, but Black doesn't have to take this line. Simply 17...Ned6 18.Nc5 Qf5 keeps the position unclear.

17.Re1 Qc7?

Big mistake.

Playing 17...Ne8± was still a good idea.

18.Nb5 Qb8 19.Rxe7



The position becomes sharp.

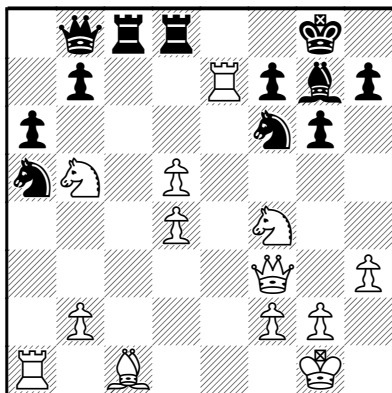
19...Nxa5

Another option was 19...Nxd5 20.Nxd5 Rxd5. Here I planned 21.Nc7? Rxd4 (21...Rxc7? 22.Bf4) 22.Be3, but completely missed simple 22...Rxc7 23.Rxc7 Qxc7 24.Bxd4 Bxd4 25.Rc1 Nxa5-+ . But White has another trick that works: 21.Nxa7! Qxa7 22.Qxc4! Rxc4 23. Re8 Bf8 24.Bh6+-.

20.Qf3±

The White pieces stand very well, but what to do after the next move?

20...a6



Now natural moves don't work: 21.Nc3? Nb3 or 21.Na3? Qd6, and Black is fine. But with the Black Queen on b8 and a White Rook on e7 some tactic must show up.

21.Ne6!

I also considered 21.Ne2?! but the position after 21...axb5 22.Bf4 Qa7 23.b4 Nxd5 24.Bb8 Nxe7 25.Bxa7 Nac6± seems to be fine for Black: his pieces stand well and the White pawn on d4 is weak. Black should be able to keep a draw.

21...Rxc1+?

This loses rather easily.

The main line is 21...fxe6 22.Bf4 Qa8 23.Bh6 (*The computer prefers 23.Nc7!? Rxc7 24.Bxc7 Nc4 25.Bxd8 Qxd8 26.Rxb7±, but I thought Black's okay after 26...exd5. Maybe I was wrong, as White wins rather quickly after 27.Rxa6.*) 23...Rd7 (23...Bxb6 24.Qxf6 Rf8 25.Qxe6+ Kh8 26.Nd6+-) 24.Rxg7+! Rxg7 25.dxe6!, and here I stopped my calculation. The position seems to be winning for White, for example, 25...Nh5 (the move I was concerned about during the game) 26.Bxg7 Kxg7 (26...Nxg7 27.Qf7+ Kh8 28.Nd6 Rf8 29.Qd7 Nc6 30.e7 Nxe7 31.Qxe7+-) 27.Qf7+ Kh8 28.Nc7 Qb8 29.e7+-.

22.Rxc1 axb5

22...fxe6 is even worse: 23.Rcc7 Bh8 24.Qe3+- I didn't see 24.Qe3, but 24.Rxh7 Rf8 25.Qg3 works also.

23.Nxg7

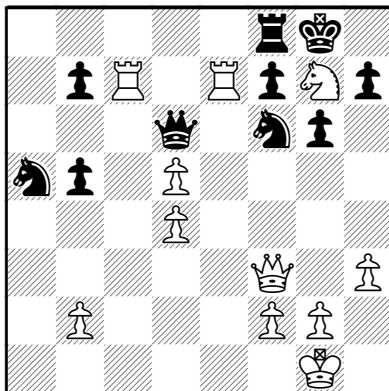
The computer chooses 23.Nxd8 Qxd8 24.Rcc7 Qf8 25.Rxf7 Qxf7

26.Rxf7 Kxf7, but I didn't feel that this position was an easy win.

23...Qd6

Another option is 23...Kxg7 24.Rcc7 Rf8 25.g4 h6 26.h4+-, and there is no way to stop 27.g5. If 26...g5, 27.hxg5 hxg5 28.Qf5 wins.

24.Rcc7 Rf8



25.Ne8!

A nice finish.

25...Nxe8

If 25...Rxe8, then 26.Rxe8+ Nxe8 27.Qxf7+ mates.

26.Rcd7 Qb6

For a second I was afraid that after 26...Qf6 27.Rxe8 Qxf3 28.Rxf8+ Kxf8 29.gxf3 Ke8 the Rook is trapped, but actually it escapes easily with 30.Rc7+-.

27.Rxe8 1-0

Sevillano, Enrico (2566) - Yankovsky, Roman (2545)

[B07] C3 Sicilian

Western Class Championships (5)

Agoura Hills, 11.03.2012

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bd3 Qc7

Black's last move has been played by Judit Polgar and a few other strong players who answered 5.Nf3 with a quick Kingside fianchetto and castling.

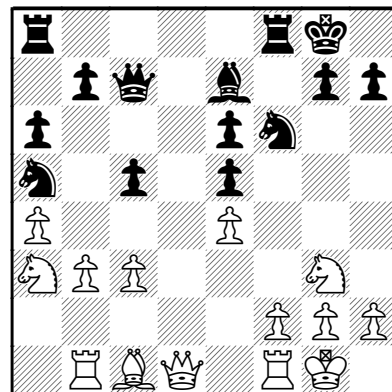
5.Ne2 e5 6.0-0 Be7

This position has not been played by anyone nearly this strong before. It certainly is not like the most usual variations in the c3 Sicilian.

7.a4 0-0 8.Na3 a6 9.dxe5

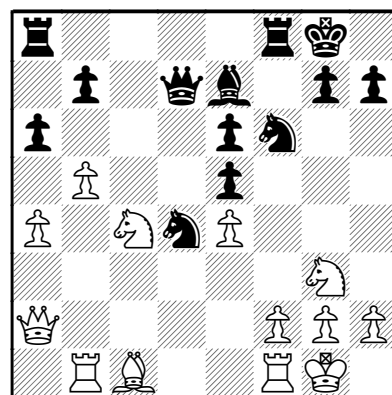
It's a judgment call. White could go for a lasting space advantage in a closed position with 9.d5.

9...dxe5= 10.Ng3 Nc6 11.Rb1 Be6 12.Bc4 Na5 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.b3



Black's doubled center pawns are effective in denying central outposts to White's Knights. Sometimes those doubled pawns are quite useful.

14...Rad8 15.Qe2 Qd7 16.b4 cxb4 17.cxb4 Nc6 18.b5 Nd4 19.Qa2 Ra8 20.Nc4=



A very unusual capture sequence follows!

20...axb5 21.Nb6 Rxa4! 22.Qxa4

Another way to go is 22.Qb2 Qc7 23.Nxa4 bxa4 24.Qxb7 Rc8=. Black's advanced pawn and centralized Knight compensate for the Exchange. White will have to spend time activating the Knight on g3.

22...Qc6

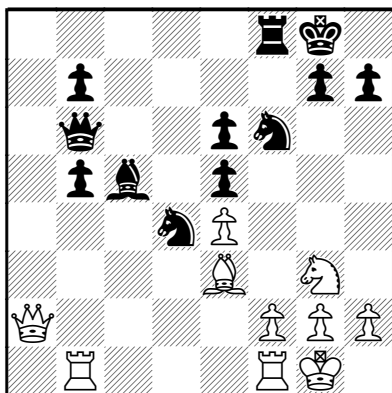
Black gets the loose Knight, as White now has to move the Queen.

If 22...bxa4? then 23.Nxd7 Nxd7 24.Rxb7 Rd8 25.Ra7± and White gets the last Queenside Black pawn. Although pawns are even and all on one side of the board, White is still up the Exchange with better pawns.

23.Qa2

Also possible was 23.Qa5 Bd8 24.Qb4 Bxb6 25.Ba3=.

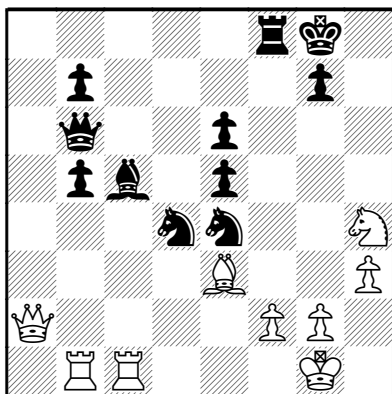
23...Qxb6 24.Be3 Bc5=



The game has been completely transformed since the previous diagram! Black has a Knight and two doubled pawns for the Rook, but the minor pieces can work with the passed pawns.

See page 11 of the previous Rank & File for an interesting win by Yankovsky in which he also coordinated doubled passed pawns with minor pieces.

25.Rfc1 h5 26.h3 h4 27.Nf5 Nxe4 28.Nxh4



28...Rf6

The computer likes 28...Qd6 guarding the e5-pawn and preventing White's next maneuver. It looks like Black has a lasting Queenside strength, keeping the White Rooks from finding work worthy of their abilities.

If White answers 28...Qd6 with 29.Rb2 as in the game, it does not work because of 29...Ba3±.

If White tries 29.Ra1 instead, then 29...b4 30.Qb2 Nc3! 31.Kh1 Qd5±.

29.Rb2=

White takes advantage of the first opportunity.

29...Kf7

Now the advantage passes to White; 29...b4!? was worthy of consideration.

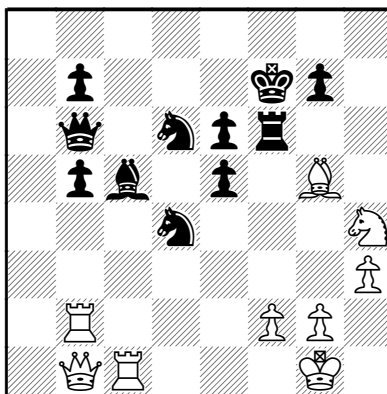
30.Qb1±

The computer likes 30.Qa8, threatening the grand Queen maneuver of Qh8 and Qh5+.

30...Nd6

A way to maintain the centralized Knight is 30...Qc6!?±.

31.Bg5±



Now Black must protect g6 from White's Knight and Queen, and White can harvest the second Exchange when he wants.

31...e4!

Not 31...Ba3?? 32.Bxf6! and the threats of Queen checks can't be answered.

32.Re1

Also, the grand maneuver is possible: 32.Qa2! threatens 33.Qa8 and 34.Qh8 or 34.Bxf6. If 32...Nc6 then 33.Bxf6 gxf6 34.Rb3±.

White can't harvest the Exchange just yet, for after 32.Bxf6 Kxf6, Black threatens to win the Exchange right back with ...Ba3 as well as to win the Knight with ...g5.

32...Qc6?

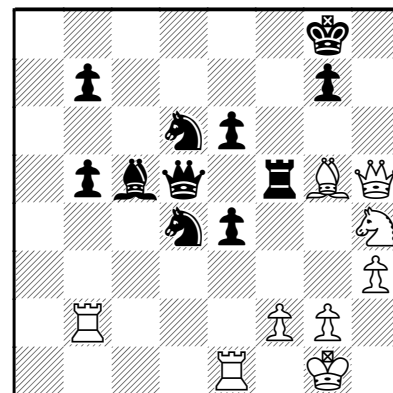
Now White can harvest the Exchange and threaten Qh5+ too.

Surprisingly, 32...Rxf2! is a viable option, for after 33.Kxf2 Nf3+ 34.Kg3 Nxf3 35.Rf1+ Kg8±, White is up the double Exchange, but Black has three pawns and active minor pieces. Also, White only has two pawns left.

33.Qd1!+-

Threatening 34.Qh5+ Kf8.

33...Qd5 34.Qg4 Rf5 35.Qh5+ Kg8



36.Ra1?

Now is the right time to take the Exchange with 36.Nxf5! Qxf5 37.Qh4 with the idea of getting a Rook into the game via a2 and then a7 or a8.

36...Rxf5?

If you are a computer, you keep the Exchange and make your King safer with 36...Rf8! 37.Ng6 and then stop the check on h8 and threaten the Bishop on g5 with 37...Nf7! 38.h4 (If 38.Nxf8? then 38...Nxf5± and Black threatens ...Ng5-f3+ winning the Queen, so he picks up the Knight on f8.) 38...Re8=. Black is only one Exchange down and it's still tough for White to make his Rooks work.

37.Ra8+

Now White's attack is in gear.

37...Nc8 38.Rxc8+ Bf8 39.Qe8 Qd6 40.Rd2 e5

Not 40...Nf3+ 41.Nxf3, as White's Rook on d2 is protected.

41.Kh1

If 41.Ra2 right away, then 41...Nf3+! 42.Nxf3 exf3± and Black might survive.

41...g6

A little better was 41...Qf6, but White still can go after the b-pawn from behind.

42.Rb8 b6 43.Ra2

The Rooks come into their own now. Both the seventh and the eighth ranks are available for threats.

43...Nf3 44.Nxf3

Not 44.gxf3?? Qd1+ 45.Kh2 Qg1 mate.

44...exf3 45.g4

White relies on the following Rook sacrifice to close the deal. Also winning was 45.g3 e4 46.Ra7.

45...e4

Please turn to page 35, WCC

Michael William Brown and Simone Liao Top SCCF Super States

March 24-25, 2012

By Jay Stallings

SuperStates Draws Almost 600 Players!

Ninth-grade Master Michael Brown (rated 2335) and 8th-grade Expert Simone Liao (2152) earned the biggest honors at the 2012 Southern California Scholastic SuperStates in Santa Clarita March 23-25th. Beyond Chess dominated the team awards.

Michael started and finished on the top board in the **K-12 Open**, using a final round draw against his closest competitor (Feiyue Yang) to secure the title of State High School Champion with $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ and earn an invitation to the Denker Tournament of High School Champions. By virtue of his 2nd place finish, a half-point back, Feiyue will serve as alternate to the Denker. Daniel Giordani of Santa Barbara took clear third with $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$.

In the **K-9 Open**, Simone Liao benefitted from a draw on Board 2 (while she drew on Board 1) to finish 5-1 and earn the right to represent Southern California at the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions. Craig Hilby, who had the best tiebreaks in second place, will be the alternate to Simone.

Worth mentioning is the performance of Solomon Ruddell of San Luis Obispo who drew the top three players (all rated over 2150) and vanquished his other opponents to finish with an undefeated score of $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$. Experts Yusheng Xia and Joshua Sheng also finished at $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$.

As it did several years ago, Southern California is developing a strong core of young female players.

Besides Simone's win in the K-9, girls took 3 of the top 4 spots in the **K-6 Open**, including a 1st place 6-0 sweep



Annie Wang: sweeps the K-6 with 6-0!

by Annie Wang, with Queena Deng, Hovanes Salvaryan (the lone boy near the top!), and Julia Sevilla a full point behind.

Tim Deng, son of the coaches of the impressive Beyond Chess team (and younger brother of the aforementioned Queena), overcame a loss to Ethan Minoofar to win the **K-3 Open** 5-1, just a half-point ahead of the crowd at $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$: Noah Daniels, Jeffrey Chou, Ethan Minoofar, Eric Chen, and Anthony Ge.

Chess Palace students Ethan Pau and Keith Daniels were co-champions in the **K-1 Open**, each with a perfect 5-0 score.

In the **Reserve** sections, Marc Eftimie took the **K-3 U600**, Alexander Chen and Arsen Abelyan shared the title in the massive (102-player) **K-6 U800** section, and unrated Daniel Wong swept the **K-12 U1000** with Junior Mejia and Matt Dickman earning 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Sunday featured 4 unrated sections. Evan Vallens won the **Unrated K-1**, just $\frac{1}{2}$ -point ahead of Shadow

Philips. Mahika Saoji was clear first in the **Unrated K-3**, ahead of Neil Tendolkar and Andrew Gong (2nd & 3rd).

Co-Champs Jake Lim and Andrew Yang were perfect in the **Unrated K-6** ahead of Joey Ruddell who surrendered only a draw. In the **Unrated K-12**, Jake Carver cruised to first, a full point ahead of the field.

Beyond Chess dominated club team prizes, winning all the Championship/Open sections! They also won the K-3 U600, the K-6 U800, the Unrated K-3 and Unrated K-6. Heber's club team won the K-12 U1000 and California Youth Chess League (CYCL) took the Unrated K-12.

Temple City High School, with an average rating of 2000, easily won the High School team title. **Coalinga** won the K-9 with most of the points coming from the Wong brothers Brett and Blake (who also won the K-6 Bughouse). Second-grader Gia Peterson led her two older brothers and younger sister, as their school, **Cimmaron** (Ridgecrest) became the State

Elementary School Champions. **Bakersfield** team Juliet Thorner won the K-3 title and Santa Clarita's own **Pico Canyon Elementary** grabbed the K-1 state title.

Other school team champions were: **American** (Bakersfield) in the K-3 U600, **Heber** (near the California-Mexico border) in the K-6 U800, **Campbell Hall** in the K-12 U1000, **Chandler** (Pasadena) in the Unrated K-3 and Unrated K-6, and **Fairmont Prep** in the Unrated K-12.

In the side events, Simone Liao won the **K-12 Blitz** 7-1, with Daniel Lin just a half-point back. Dante Peterson took first with 6-2 on tie-breaks over Bryce Wong in the **K-6 Blitz**. Tim Deng finished 7-1, a point ahead of 2nd place finisher Gia Peterson in the **K-3 Blitz**.

Nicky Korba and Leo Creger won the **K-12 Bughouse**, with brothers Brett and Bryce Wong taking the **K-6 Bughouse**.

With tons of restaurants and shopping within a few minutes' walk of the Hyatt, parents seemed to enjoy the event as much as the kids!

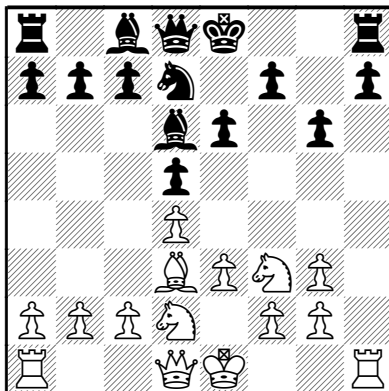
Dozens of volunteers from Santa Clarita-based CYCL helped keep things as smooth as possible in such a large event.

Randy Hough directed with help from Shirley Tavorn, Anthony Ong, Wade Tavorn, Robert Minoofar, Steven Morford and others. Jay Stallings (CYCL) teamed with Salman Azhar (Bay Area Chess) to organize the event.

We present three games by top finishers. First is a sudden attack by runner-up Feiyue Yang in the K-12. Notes by the editor. - Ed.

Yang, Feiyue (2093) - Giordani, Daniel (2064)
[D02] London System
Superstates K-12 (4)
Valencia, 25.03.2012

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 Bd6 5.Bg3 Ne4 6.Nbd2 Nxc3 7.hxc3 Nd7 8.Bd3 g6



This is an interesting decision! It seems to violate the rules we were taught as beginners. Don't move pawns in front of your King! And Black does castle Kingside soon.

But Houdini certainly likes it. Black has just gotten rid of White's Black square Bishop, so those dark squares can't be exploited any time soon, and Black can castle Kingside if he wants. Maybe that's it. The h-pawn is not actually threatened, for both captures would fail: 9.Bxh7 Nf8 and 9.Rxh7 Rxh7 10.Bxh7 g6.

9.Qe2 e5

Now Black opens the center before castling, before development is completed, before even catching up on development. You would think that this is completely wrong.

Houdini? He likes this, too!

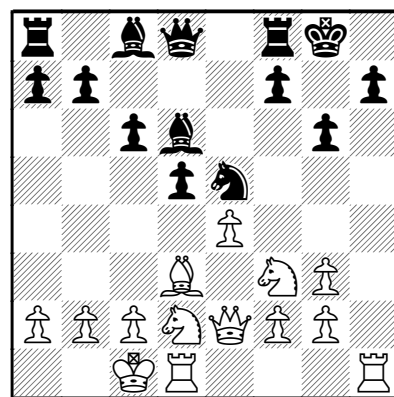
10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.0-0-0 c6

But now it really is a good time to castle, and it's still equal.



Feiyue Yang: runner up in the K-12.

12.e4± 0-0

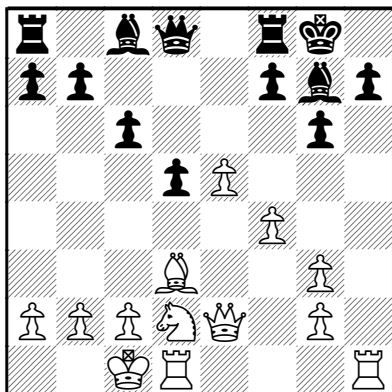


13.Nxe5

White gets an advantage with 13.exd5 Nxf3 (If 13...Re8 14.dxc6 bxc6 15.Ne4±.) 14.Nxf3 cxd5 15.Qd2 Qf6 16.Rh6 Bg4 17.Rdh1 Bxf3 (With a threat of 18.Ng5 Be5 19.c3 Qc6 20.Nxh7) 18.gxf3 Be5 19.c3 Qxf3 20.Rxh7 Bg7±.

13...Bxe5= 14.f4 Bg7 15.e5



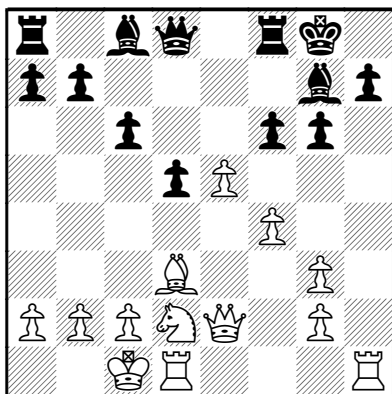


With opposite castling, it's a race to the enemy Kings. So Black should now try to be the first to achieve contact by rushing a Queenside pawn down the board: 15...a5 16.g4 a4 17.g5 a3 18.b3 Qa5= and White has to make a reply. Black can try to send another pawn after that.

If you can get your opponent to answer your moves, that's a good start.

15...f6??

This fatally weakens g6, allowing White's shot.



16.Rxh7!+-

The shot!

It doesn't end quickly, but White gets a decisive advantage.

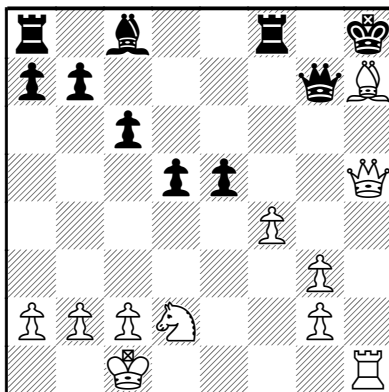
16...Kxh7?

The best of a raw deal is 16...Qe8 17.exf6! Bxf6 (Not 17...Kxh7?? 18.Qh5+ Kg8 19.Bxg6+-) 18.Qxe8 Rxe8 19.Bxg6 and White is up two pawns.

17.Qh5+ Kg8 18.Bxg6 Bh6

Not quite as bad was 18...Re8 19.Bxe8 Qe7 20.Nf3! and White keeps his two pawns up with a vigorous position.

19.Qxh6 Qe7 20.Rh1 Qg7 21.Qh5 fxe5 22.Bh7+ Kh8



23.Nf3?

Missing Black's next move. White should prevent ...Bg4 then play the powerful Nf3, threatening Ne5-g6.

23...Bg4 24.Qh4 Bxf3

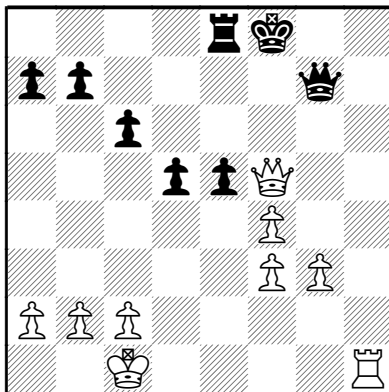
This Knight has to go, for if 24...exf4?? then 25.Ne5!! Rf6 26.Ng6+ Rxg6 27.Bxg6+ Kg8 28.Qxg4+-.

25.Bf5+ Kg8 26.Be6+ Rf7 27.gxf3

Closing the deal quicker was 27.Qe7 (threatening 28.Bxf7+ Qxf7 29.Rh8+!) Raf8 28.gxf3 exf4 29.Rh4. **27...Re8 28.Bxf7+ Kxf7 29.Qh5+ Kf8??**

With 29...Ke7 30.Qxe5+ Qxe5 31.fxe5 Rg8 32.Rh3, it's an ending, but White is up a stale two pawns.

30.Qf5+!

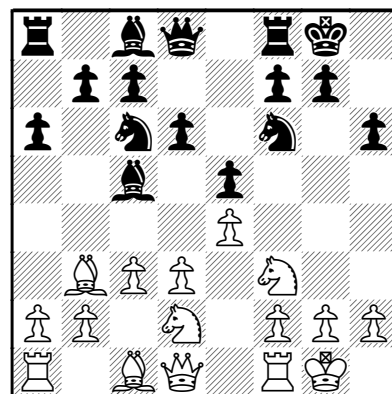


30...Kg8 31.Rh5 Qe7 32.Rg5+ Kh8 33.Qh3+ 1-0

The next game features a sparkling combination by the K-9 winner. - Ed.

Liao, Simone (2152) - Hilby, Craig (2047) [C54] Giuoco Piano Super States K-9 (5) Valencia, 25.03.2012

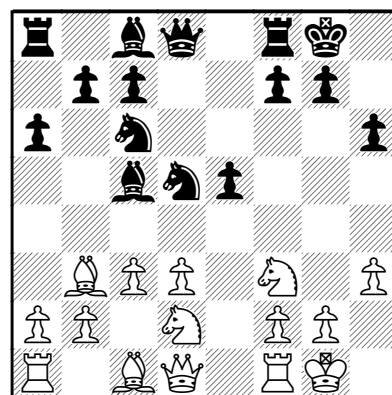
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.c3 0-0 7.Nbd2 a6 8.Bb3 h6



9.h3

The Black d-pawn can be kept back with 9.Re1, for if 9...Bg4 then 10.h3 Bh5 11.Nf1 and now 11...d5 is answered with 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Ng3±.

9...d5 10.exd5 Nxd5



11.Ne4

Now 11.Re1! looks really good:

After 11...f6 12.Ne4 Ba7 13.d4 exd4 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.cxd4, Black might have problems with those White Kingside squares.

Instead, 11...Re8 creates a self pin of the e-pawn, exploited by 12.d4! Ba7 (The pin is shown by 12...exd4?? 13.Rxe8+ Qxe8 14.cxd4 and 15.Bxd5 winning the Knight.) 13.Nxe5±.

11...Be7 12.Qe2 Bf5 13.Rd1 Nf4 14.Qe3

Or 14.Bxf4!? exf4 15.d4±.

14...Nd5= 15.Qe2 Nf4 16.Bxf4 exf4 17.Re1 Qd7 18.Rad1 Rae8

Both sides have completed their development.

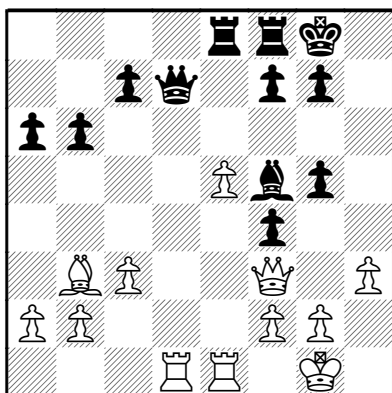
19.Nfd2 Ne5 20.d4 Ng6 21.Qf3



Simone Liao: First in the K-9.

b6 22.Nc4 Bg5 23.Nxg5 hxg5 24.Ne5 Nxe5 25.dxe5

Inferior is 25.Rxe5 Rxe5 26.dxe5 Qe7=.



25...Qc8

Black can try to float with 25...Qb5:

Now if 26.Qh5, then 26...Rxe5 27.Qxg5 Rfe8 28.Rxe5 Qxe5, and a White advantage proves elusive:

29.Rd4 c5= 30.Rxf4 Bg6=.

29.h4 g6 30.h5 Kg7=.

29.f3 g6 30.Kh2 Kg7 31.Rd5 Qf6

32.Qxf4 Re2 33.Rd4= (33.Qxc7 Be6 34.Rd3 Rxb2=).

Instead, White keeps a plus with 26.Rd5! Qc6 27.h4±.

26.Bd5

More alert was 26.Qh5! Be6 27.Qxg5, picking up the g5-pawn. The f4-pawn looks weak, too.

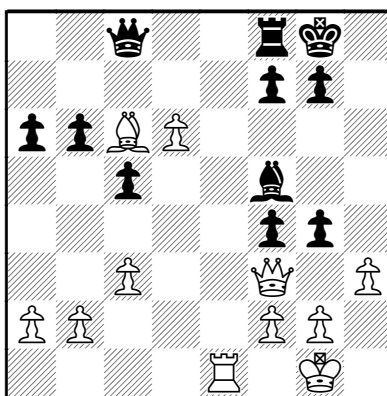
26...c5 27.Bc6 Rd8 28.Rd6 Rxd6

Now is the time for 28...g4! 29.hxg4 Bxg4 30.Rxd8 Rxd8 31.Qxf4 Qxc6 32.Qxg4 Qe6 33.Qxe6 fxe6 34.Re2± and White is a pawn up, but Black has chances to defend, controlling the only open file for a few moves.

29.exd6 g4??

Surprisingly, this loses a piece. What was best the previous move is bad now.

Black still competes with 29...Be6 30.Bd5 Qd7 31.Bxe6 fxe6 32.Rd1, and White has a big advantage with Black's Queen being the blockader of the strong d-pawn, and the White Queen eyeing a loose Black pawn or two.



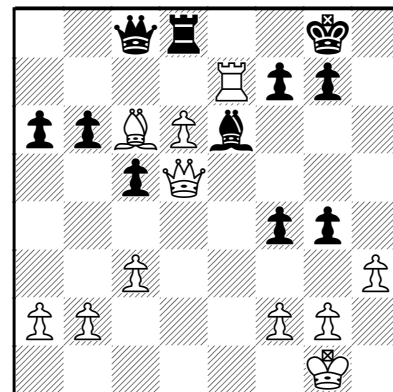
30.Qd5!+-

This move is just perfect.

30...Rd8

Best, but still losing the Bishop, was 30...Be6 31.d7 Qxd7 32.Qxd7 Bxd7 33.Bxd7 gxh3 34.gxh3 and Black can't avoid trading Rooks.

31.Re7 Be6



32.d7!!

You have to like this move, too!

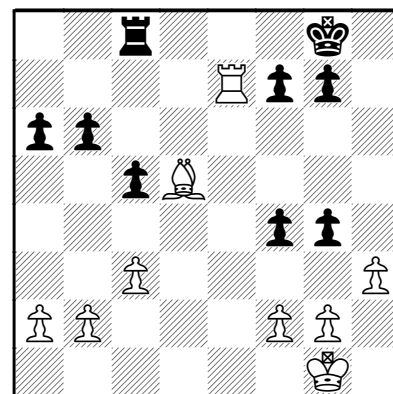
32...Bxd5

None of the three captures on d7 work: 32...Rxd7 33.Bxd7 Qd8 34.Rxe6 fxe6 35.Bxe6+; 32...Qxd7 33.Rxd7 Rxd7 34.Qxd7; or 32...Bxd7 33.Qxf7+ Kh8 34.Qxg7 mate.

Other moves also fail: 32...Qc7 33.Re8+ Rxe8 34.dxe8Q+ Kh7 35.Qh5 mate.

Toughest was 32...Qb8, but White has 33.Rxe6! fxe6 34.Qxe6+ Kh8 35.Be4, and Black can't stop the mating idea of 36.Qg6 Kg8 37.Bd5+ without giving up big material.

33.dxc8Q Rxc8 34.Bxd5

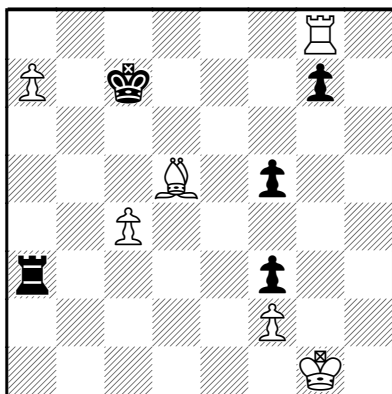


From here, White cruises to the win.

34...Rd8 35.c4 gxh3 36.gxh3 b5



37.b3 bxc4 38.bxc4 Rd6 39.Rc7 Rg6+ 40.Kf1 Rh6 41.Rxc5 Rxh3 42.Ra5 Rc3 43.Rxa6 f3 44.Kg1 Kf8 45.Ra7 Ke8 46.a4 Ra3 47.a5 Kd8 48.a6 Kc8 49.Ra8+ Kc7 50.a7 f5 51.Rg8 1-0



If 51...Rxa7, then 52.Rxg7+ does it.

The K-12 winner annotates his final round contest. - Ed.

Yang, Feiyue (2074) - Brown, Michael William (2335)
[D02] London System
Superstates K-12 (6)
Valencia, 25.03.2012
 Notes by Michael William Brown.
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4

I was expecting the London System to occur during the game, so I was not surprised at this point. Besides, I only needed a draw to get first, so I wasn't too worried.
3...c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.Nbd2

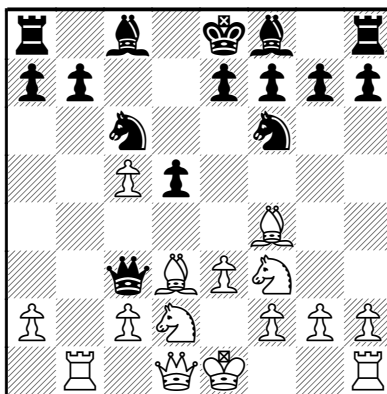


Michael William Brown: K-12 first.

This move was completely new to me here, and I had no idea what I should do, so I decided to go for a pawn-grabbing strategy that actually puts both White and Black in a really complicated position.

5...Qb6 6.dxc5 Qxb2 7.Rb1 Qc3

Here, I saw that I was going to win a pawn and then develop my pieces quickly in order to survive his attacks.
8.Bd3



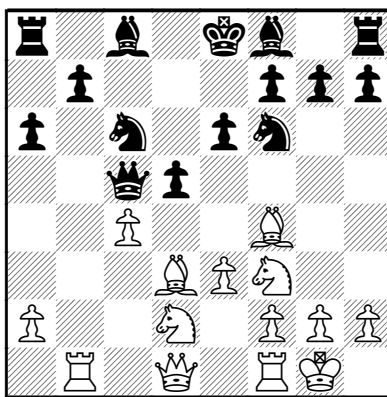
Here, after these series of forced moves and exchanges, I began to realize my position is actually a lot harder to cope with than I originally thought.

I spent a lot of time to find a good plan to get my pieces out without any trouble from White's pieces.

8...a6!?

Stopping Rb5, but other moves didn't show much promise either. 8...e6 9.0-0 Qxc5 (9...Bxc5 10.Rb3 Qa5 11.Rb5 Qa3 12.Nb1) 10.e4! opening up the game where my King is still stuck in the center.

9.0-0 Qxc5 10.c4 e6



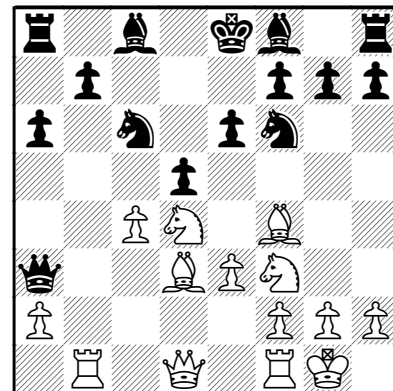
Here, I was sure that I had finally possessed a slight advantage and that my pieces would be developed

with no problem.

11.Nb3 Qa3

I am sure that this is the best square for the Queen because it covers the diagonal a3-f8 and also cannot be attacked right away. For now, my Queen is quite safe.

12.Nbd4

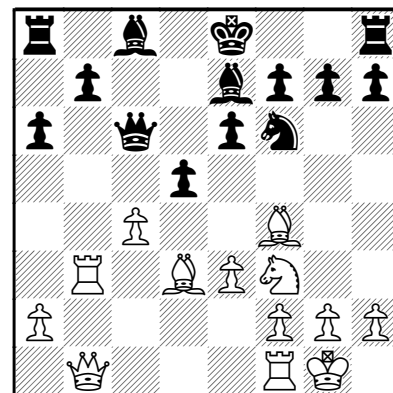


12...Be7?

This simply allows White to create some weaknesses that otherwise should not be in Black's position.

In order to get rid of the weaknesses I thought I could cope with, according to the time situation, I can trade Knights first and then develop with 12...Nxd4 13.Nxd4 dxc4!? 14.Bxc4 Be7, and Black is fine, probably slightly better with his extra pawn.

13.Rb3 Qa4 14.Nxc6 Qxc6 15.Qb1!



I missed this move, which actually puts a lot of pressure on Black's position. It will be tough to develop my pieces efficiently now, because my position has too many weak points.

15...0-0

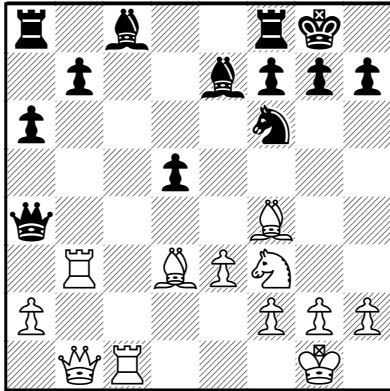
Although I have managed to castle, White still maintains a lot of

pressure on my Queenside.

16.cxd5 exd5

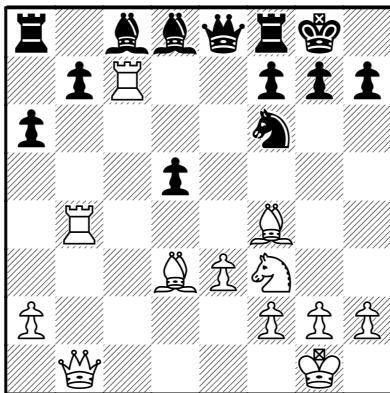
This is a necessity, because otherwise, the h7-pawn would fall, either with 16...Nxd5 17.Bxh7+, or with 16...Qxd5 17.e4! followed by e5 and a check on h7 once more.

17.Rc1 Qa4



My Queen has almost nowhere to go now, barely able to survive on its own. However, I found a series of moves that allowed no loss of significant material and allowed Black to go into an equal ending.

18.Rc7 Bd8 19.Rb4 Qe8

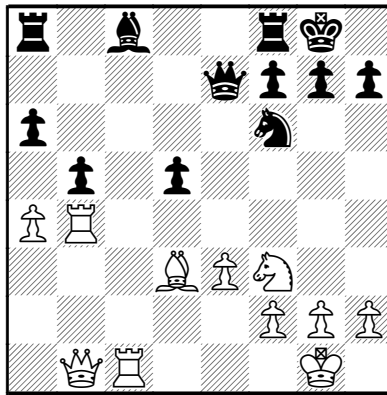


Most of my pieces have been forced on the back rank, but I am still able to hold my position because his Rook will be kicked out of the seventh rank and then I can start to develop my pieces away from the back rank and put pressure on White's position.

20.Rc1 b5 21.Bd6

This forces a series of moves in which White will be able to force Black into a position in which he has a weakness that White can attack many times, and I thought during the game that it could not be defended.

21...Be7 22.Bxe7 Qxe7 23.a4



White creates a weakness on a6 which Black cannot save. Too many pieces surround the pawn, and so Black will have to accept a draw.

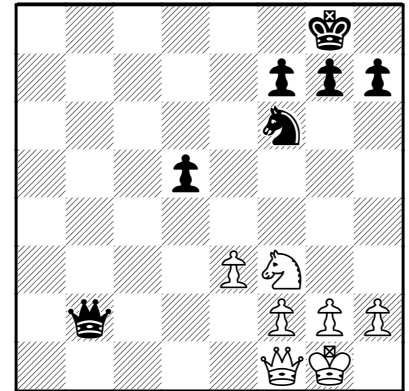
23...bxa4 24.Rxa4 Qd6 25.Qa2 Bb7 26.Rb1 Rfb8 27.Rab4 Bc8

Although the Rooks will be traded off, White can win the pawn back.

28.Rxb8 Rxb8 29.Rxb8 Qxb8 30.Bxa6

Finally, White achieves equality. Now the game is a simple draw.

30...Bxa6 31.Qxa6 Qb1+ 32.Qf1 Qb2 ½-½



Here, I offered a draw, and he accepted. I think it was more practical to keep the Queens rather than trade them, because I have a weak isolated pawn and I did not want to give my opponent any chances in the endgame to try to beat me.

Solutions to Inside Moves

From page 2.

1. Black wins the Queen and the game with **22...Bxg2+ 0-1**, in Griffith - Clawitter, Recession Buster Open, San Diego, 2012.

2. White ends it immediately with **23.Ne5!!** trapping the Queen, Bryant - Clawitter, Recession Buster Open, San Diego, 2012.

3. White traps the Queen with a backward creeper **19.Qa1!**, in Kretchetov - Carreto Nieto, 16th Metro FIDE, Los Angeles, 2012.

4. Black pilfers a pawn with **13...Bxg2!**, since if 14.Kxg2, Nf4+ wins the Queen, in Akopian - Amanov, 17th Metro FIDE, Los Angeles, 2012.

5. White pockets a pawn with **20.Nxe5!**, since Black's Queen is hanging, and White's jeopardized Knight recaptures on f3 in the event of a Queen trade, in Tatum - Akopian, 17th Metro FIDE, Los Angeles, 2012.

6. There's a quick mate starting with **42.Rxg6+!! hxc6 (if 42...fxg6 43.Qc8+ with a mate.) 43.Qc8+ f5 44.h3+ Kh4 45.Qh8 mate**. From a computer variation, note to White's 35th, in Wang - Kretchetov, 16th Metro FIDE, Los Angeles, 2012. See page 15 for the game.

7. The solution is **24.Kg1!** to safeguard the King and threaten **25.hxc4**. So White wins a piece, in Wang - Matikozyan, 16th Metro FIDE, Los Angeles, 2012. See page 14 for the whole game.

8. The flashy **21.Ne6!** makes way for **22.Bf4** and wins material, in Yankovsky - Pruess, Western Class Championships, Agoura Hills, 2012. See page 17 for the whole game.

9. There could have been an amazing shot with **35...Ba5!! 36.Qxa5 (if 36...Rxd5 then 36...Bxb6! and Black's Rook on d8 is protected.) 36...Rxd1+ 37.Bxd1 Rxd1+ 38.Kh2 Qc1 39.Kh3 Nd5**, and White has to give up big material or get mated, in Sevan - Casella, 17th Metro FIDE, Los Angeles, 2012.

IMs Matikozyan and Yankovsky Tie in 17th Metropolitan FIDE

March 28 - April 1, 2012

IM Andranik Matikozyan and IM Roman Yankovsky tied for first with $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ in the 17th Metropolitan FIDE invitational tournament. Matikozyan dealt Yankovsky, who had given up only one draw, his only loss in the final round to reach the tie.

Third at $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ was IM Zhanibek Amanov, fourth at 5-4 was Samuel Sevian, and tied for fifth at $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ were Craig Clawitter and Mark Duckworth. Seventh was Michael Casella at $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$, eighth at $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ was Kofi Tatum, ninth was Kameswaran Visweswaran at 2-7, and scoring $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$ was Robert Akopian, finishing tenth. This hard fought tournament averaged only a single draw per round!

Roman Yankovsky is now an official IM. Below, he provides notes to his win against Mark Duckworth.

In addition, we present the last round game between the leaders. Matikozyan took risks from the start in an attempt to win. It paid off!

These are interesting games! - Ed.

Yankovsky, Roman (2438) - Duckworth, Mark (2317)
[C16] French Defense
Winawer Variation

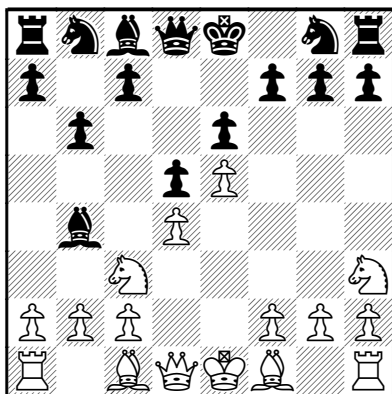
17th Metropolitan IM (4)
Los Angeles, 30.03.2012

Notes by IM Roman Yankovsky.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 b6

In this line Black doesn't put immediate pressure on White's center, but tries to trade his bad Bishop by playing ...Ba6.

5.Nh3



The main line is 5.a3 Bf8, but I don't like this move. I don't think the Bishop stands well on b4, so there is no need to push it away.

5...Qd7

5...Ba6?! is too early: 6.Bxa6 Nxa6 7.Qe2, and Black is forced to play 7...Bxc3+ (if 7...Nb8?!, 8.Qb5+ wins a piece.) 8.bxc3, and white is better.

6.Qf3!?

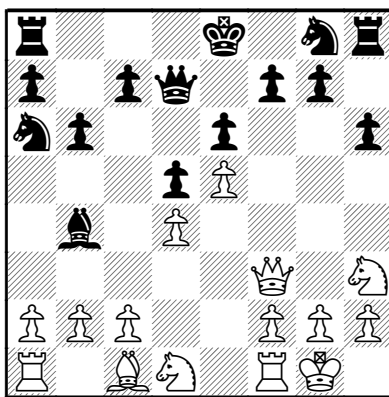
I don't think this move is very good, but at least it avoids all the theory.

6...Ba6 7.Bxa6 Nxa6 8.0-0 h6

I don't think this move is necessary. Ng5 is not a big threat.

Black could've played 8...0-0-0 9.Ne2 (or 9.Ng5 Rf8) 9...f6 10.Nhf4, and the position is unclear.

9.Nd1



9...c6

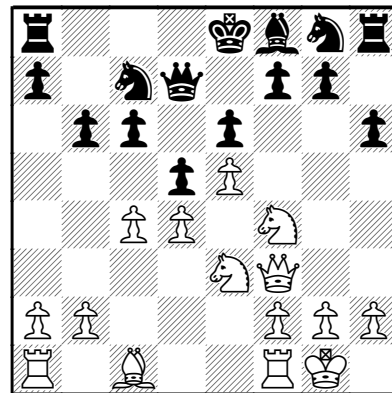
Now it's clear that b4 is not the best square for the Bishop. For exam-

ple, 9...Ne7? is impossible: after 10.c3 the Bishop is trapped.

10.Nf4 Nc7 11.Ne3 Bf8

There is no other way to play ...Ne7.

12.c4



White opens the Queenside. After a file is opened up, White's much better development will make a difference.

12...g6

Black can't be happy with 12...Ne7 13.Nh5 also.

13.Bd2 h5 14.Rac1 Nh6?!

14...Ne7 was stronger.

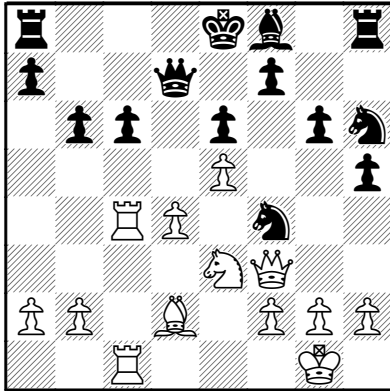
In the game the Knight is too far from the center.

15.Rc2

White doubles his Rooks on the c-file. If he can play Rfc1 and cxd5, Black loses on the spot.

So the move in the game is forced.

15...dxc4 16.Rxc4 Nd5 17.Rfc1 Nxf4



18.Rxc6!+-

This sacrifice wins. 18.Qxf4 c5 was much less clear.

18...Rd8

18...Nd5 doesn't help: 19.Nxd5 exd5 (or 19...Qxd5 20.Qf6+- with a double threat: Qxh8 and Rc8.) 20.Qf6, and Black doesn't survive:

20...Rg8 21.Bxh6 Bxh6 22.e6+-.

20...Rh7 21.e6 fxe6 22.Bxh6 Rxh6 (or 22...Bxh6 23.Rxe6+ Re7 24.Qxg6+-) 23.Rxe6+ Be7 24.Rce1 Rh7 25.Qxg6+-.

19.Rc7

19.Qxf4? Qxd4 is not so good.

19...Qb5

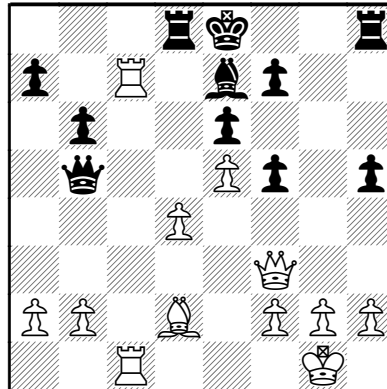
Unfortunately, Black didn't play

19...Qxd4. I was hoping to finish the game with 20.Qc6+ Rd7 21.Rc8+ Ke7 22.Bb4+! Qxb4 23.Qxd7+ Kxd7 24.R1c7 mate.

20.Qxf4

Now White has an extra pawn, while the Black pieces are still completely undeveloped.

20...Nf5 21.Qf3! Be7 22.Nxf5 gxf5



23.Rxe7+

This finishes it.

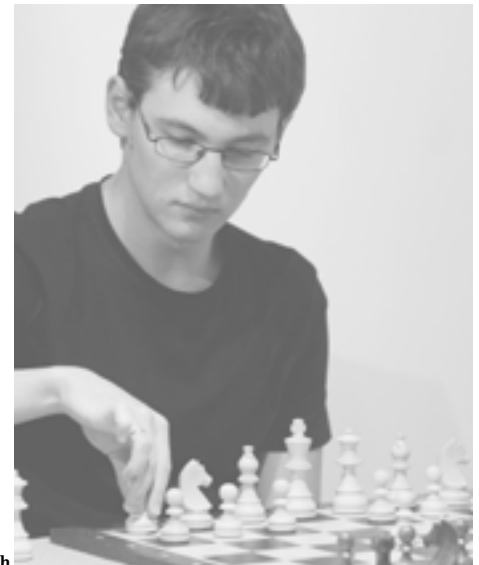
23...Kxe7 24.Bg5+ f6

Or 24...Ke8 25.Bxd8 Kxd8 26.Qa8+-.

25.Bxf6+ Kf7 26.Rc7+

1-0

Black resigned because of 26... Rd7 27.Rxd7+ Qxd7 28.Bxh8 Qc8 29.Qxh5+-.



Roman Yankovsky: seven wins!

Yankovsky, Roman (2438) - Matikozyan, Andranik (2409)

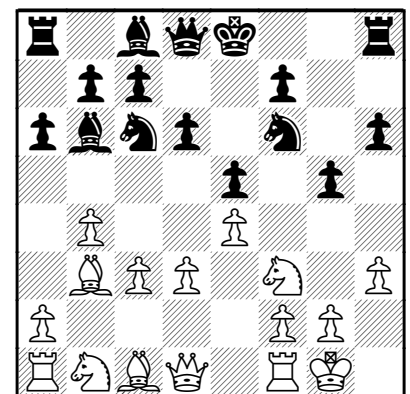
[C54] Giuoco Piano
17th Metropolitan (9) IM
Los Angeles, 01.04.2012

Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.b4 Bb6 6.d3 a6 7.0-0 d6

A duel between two big players continued 7...0-0 8.Nbd2 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Qb3 Nf4 11.d4 Be6 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Qg5 14.g3 Ne2+ 15.Bxe2 Bxb3 16.Ndf3 Qf6 17.axb3 Rae8 18.Bf4 h6 19.Bc4 g5 20.Ng4± Qxc3?? 21.Nxh6+ Kg7 22.Nxg5, 1-0/27. Short - Kortchnoi, Belgrade 1987.

8.h3 h6N 9.Bb3 g5



This looks risky. If White opens up the center, it will be Black's King that will suffer. But it's the last round, and if you want a chance for first place, you must try something! The top three were Yankovsky at 7½, Matikozyan at 6½, and Amanov at 5½.

Round by Round			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pairings, Colors, and Scores											
1 Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9	
2404		1	1½	2	3	3½	4½	5½	5½	6½	
2 Matikozyan, Andranik	ARM	W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	
2409		1	1½	2½	3½	4	5	5½	6½	7½	
3 Clawitter, Craig	USA	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7	
2097		0	1	1½	1½	2½	3	3½	3½	4½	
4 Sevian, Samuel	USA	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6	
2223		1	1	2	2	2½	3	4	5	5	
5 Casella, Michael	USA	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10	
2248		1	1	1	1½	2	2	2½	2½	3½	
6 Duckworth, Mark	USA	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4	
2317		0	1	2	2	2	2	2½	3½	4½	
7 Visweswaran, Kameswaran	IND	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	
2281		0	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	
8 Yankovsky, Roman	RUS	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2	
2438		1	2	3	4	5	5½	6½	7½	7½	
9 Akopian, Robert	USA	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1	
2077		0	0	0	½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	
10 Tatum, Kofi	USA	B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5	
2045		0	0	0	1	1	1½	1½	2½	2½	

Time control: 40 moves / 90 minutes + SD / 30 minutes + 30 second increment throughout.

10.Nh2 Rg8

Inconsistent would have been 10...Nxb4 11.Na3 (*It can get complicated with 11.cxb4 Bd4 12.Bxf7+ Kxf7 13.Nc3=*) 11...Nc6 12.Nc4=.

11.Kh1 Ne7

Also possible was continuing the Kingside advance with 11...g4 12.hxg4 (12.h4 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.d4 Be6) 12...Nxg4 and if 13.Nxg4?? Bxg4 14.Qd2 Qh4+ 15.Kg1 Bf3+.

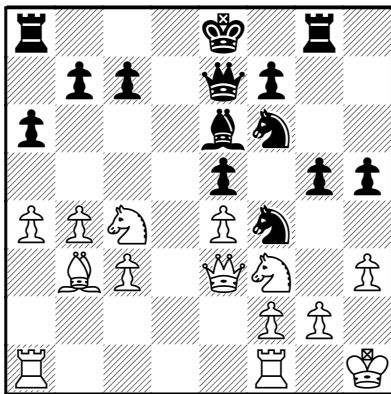
12.Na3± Ng6 13.Nc4 Ba7 14.a4 Be6 15.Be3 Nf4 16.Bxa7

Or 16.Na5!? Bxb3 17.Nxb3±.

16...Rxa7= 17.d4 Qe7

Risky would be 17...Nxe4!? because of 18.dxe5 dxe5 19.Qe1=.

18.dxe5 dxe5 19.Qe1 Ra8 20.Qe3 h5 21.Nf3



21...Nd7

More active was 21...g4!? 22.Nfxe5 gxh3 23.g3 Ng2 24.Qe2 h4.

22.Rad1 Qf6 23.Rxd7

Black is better after this point. White can try to hold it on the Kingside with 23.Nh2!? Kf8 24.Nb2, and if 24...Bxb3 then 25.Rxd7=.

23...Bxd7 24.Nfxe5

A bit better was 24.Ncxe5, avoiding the pin of White's Knight.

24...Be6 25.a5 Kf8 26.Rd1± Rd8 27.Qc5+?!

Better was 27.Rxd8+!? Qxd8 28.Kh2.

27...Kg7-+ 28.Rf1 g4 29.Kh2

If 29.Qe3 Bxc4 30.Nxc4 Rd3-+.

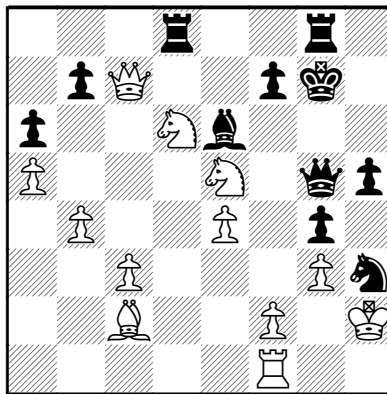
29...Kh7

Now was the time for 29...gxh3! 30.g3 Nd3! 31.Nxd3 Rxd3 threatening 32...Rxc3 and winning more material.

30.Bc2 Qg5

Much better was 30...Qh4!? threatening ...g3 with a mating attack. If 31.Qe3 Nxg2! 32.Kxg2 g3! 33.Ng4 Rxg4!-+.

31.g3 Nxh3 32.Qxc7 Kg7 33.Nd6



33...Qf6

Not 33...Qxe5?? 34.Ne8+ winning the Black Queen.

The computer sees a long forcing win with 33...Rxd6! 34.Qxd6 Rd8 35.Qc5 Rd2 36.Bb1 h4 37.Nd3 (if 37.Nc4 hxg3+-) 37...hxg3+ 38.Kxg3 Rxd3+ 39.Bxd3 Qf4+ 40.Kg2 Qf3+ 41.Kh2 Kg6!! (*not 41...Nf4?? 42.Qg5+=*) and White cannot stop 42...Nf4.

34.f4?

Both sides miss a similar combination by Black.

But Black is still much better after 34.Bd1 Rh8 or 34.Kg2 Ng5.

34...h4?

It's 34...Rxd6! 35.Qxd6 Rd8 and if 36.Qc5, White's Kingside crumbles with 36...Rd2+ 37.Kh1 h4!! 38.gxh4 (or 38.Bb1 hxg3 threatening 39...Rh2 mate) 38...Qxh4 mating soon.

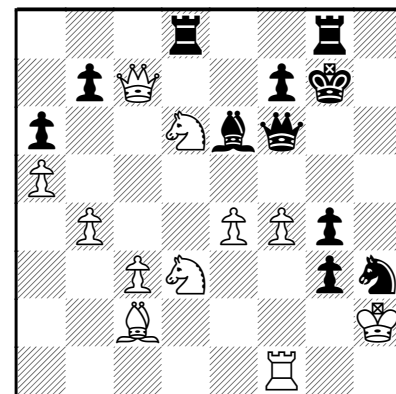
35.Nd3??



Andranik Matikozyan: risks paid off!

The best way to be stubborn was 35.Nexf7 hxg3+ Rxc7 38.exf6+ Kxf6 39.Ne5 Rxc3+ 40.Bd3 Ng5 41.Re1 Ke7-+.

35...hxg3+



Black breaks through!

36.Kxg3 Rh8

Now there's no good move.

37.Kg2 Qh4 38.Nf5+

Surprisingly best was 38.Qxf7+ Bxf7 39.Nf5+ Kh7! 40.Nxh4 Bc4-+. So actually 37...Qh6 was better for this reason.

38...Bxf5 39.Qe5+ Kg8 40.exf5 Nf2!! 0-1



Here and There

Local News and Events Around the Southland

With "Here and There" in your subject line, please send your club or tournament news and notices to the editor at: RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com.

Los Angeles

The second edition of the **Metropolitan Chess Invitational Camp** will run from August 9th to 13th, 2012. **Metropolitan Chess, Inc.** will have the pleasure of hosting GM and **World Champion Viswanathan Anand** as one of the lead instructors. This will mark the first time in 17 years that Vishy visits the US for a chess related purpose. Other instructors -- also notable -- include GM Loek Van Wely, GM Melikset Khachiyani, GM Varuzhan Akobian, IM Andranik Matikozyan, IM Armen Ambartsoumian, IM Zhanibek Amanov and FM Aviv Friedman.

For more information, please contact Ankit Gupta, President of Metropolitan Chess, Inc. at **ankit.gupta@metrochessla.com** or visit

www.metrochessla.com.

The second edition of the widely acclaimed **Metropolitan Chess International** (GM/IM/WGM/WIM norm capable), a 9-round SS, will be held from August 14th to 18th, 2012. Already committed are GM Loek Van Wely, GM Varuzhan Akobian, and GM Melikset Khachiyani. There are projected to be 15 or more GMs. \$14,100 is guaranteed in prizes, with another \$2,500 in best game prizes set aside. The time control is 40/90, SD/30, and 30 second increment from move one.

The tournament will be officially open to players over 2200 FIDE, but exceptional juniors and local players U2200 FIDE may be allowed to play, pursuant to the approval of the tournament organizers.

For details, please contact Ankit

Gupta, President of Metropolitan Chess, Inc. at **ankit.gupta@metrochessla.com** or visit **www.metrochessla.com**.

La Palma

With a perfect score of 5-0, national master Craig Faber won **La Palma Chess Club's 5th Milky Way Championship**. The event held at La Palma's Central Park ended March 9th. Tied at second were Wes White and Yoshio Dupree with a score of 4-1.

Dupree also won the Shooting Star trophy for the biggest rating gain of 128 points, a 2183 performance. Other prizewinners were Alan Chu, best under 1700; Daniel Rozsa, best under 1500, and newcomer Yusong Jiang, best under 1300.

Chu also won the Black Hole trophy for the longest winning game of 82 moves. See the club's website at **www.lapalmachess.com** for wall charts, games, pictures and a schedule of events.

On August 24th, **International Master Jack Peters** will give a **chess lecture** and then **simultaneously play all challengers**, up to a limit of 25. Anyone who wins or draws his or her game against Jack will win a special prize.

Registration: 6-7 p.m. Lecture begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$25 with \$5 off for City of La Palma residents and players under age 18.

Santa Monica

The **Santa Monica Bay Chess Club** hosted a lecture, with Q&A, and a simultaneous exhibition by IM Jack Peters, long time L.A. Times Chess Columnist, on April 2, 2012. The renowned International Master



took on 10 boards at once achieving a very plus (7½-2½) score.

But the most impressive part of the event was that three Club members actually scored against this chess veteran. Expert Dmitry Cherkasky (2006) drew his game while Master Brendan Purcell (2205), one of the Club's higher rated players, won his game against our chess celebrity guest. Arguably the biggest upset of the evening was the win by Joshua Passman (1544!) who originally joined the Club many years ago as a junior.

IM Timothy Taylor won the **2012 Club Championship** by a margin of ½ point (1st Round bye), going undefeated and collecting the \$100 prize. Just behind him was Expert Dmitry Cherkasky with 4-1 who got the 2nd Place Prize of \$80. Simon Kogan (1940) and Ray Montalvo (1740) took 3rd together with 3 points each. Ray collected extra prize money for the U-1800 Prize. Other placing players (under an unusual prize fund structure) were Master Brendan Purcell 4th Place Prize with 2½ points and Jack O'Donnell 1786, George Witcomb 1624, and Dr. Harold Valery 1587 taking U-1800 2nd-4th also with 2½ points each. The 5-round event had a prize fund fortified by the enthusiasm and generosity of members.

The **May Quads** will take place on three Monday evenings from May 7th to May 21st.

A **four round Swiss** will take place from June 4th to June 25th. On July 2nd and 9th the Club will host an **unrated team competition**.

The **July Quads** will take place on three Monday evenings from July 16th to July 30th.

Except for the July 2&9 unrated nights, Entry Fee for the upcoming events is \$10 with annual Club membership of \$60, with a cash prize fund based on entries. The events will be USCF rated, USCF membership required (you can join at the site). Time Control is Game in 1:55 (5-second delay). Registration is at 7:00 p.m. Rounds begin at 7:10 p.m.

The Club is located in the St. Andrew's Church Library at 11555 Na-

tional Blvd. West Los Angeles at corner of Federal/Barry Ave. at National Blvd. Contact:

TD Pete Savino (310) 827-2789

www.santamonicabaychessclub.sports.officelive.com

Antelope Valley

The **AV Chess House** is sponsoring the **1st Annual Antelope Valley Chess Player Of The Year competition** (POY). The rules are:

1. The 2012 competition runs from May 1 through December 31.
2. Only Antelope Valley residents are eligible to win.
3. Only USCF-rated games played in the Antelope Valley count.
4. Each win earns 1 point.
5. Each draw earns ½ point.
6. Each loss earns ¼ point.

The person with the highest number of POY points by December 31, 2012 wins 1st Place and earns the right to take possession of the **Traveling Trophy** until unseated by the 2013 winner. Also, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place each receive a certificate declaring their 2012 POY status.

Be sure the Tournament Director informs the AV Chess House of USCF-rated games by contacting daa@mahowald.org

The **AV Chess House** is sponsoring the **2nd Annual Chess Essay Contest** open to any K-8 student who resides in Antelope Valley. There is no fee to enter the contest. The title of the essay must be "*Chess is Valuable Because ...*" and the essay must discuss the benefits gained from learning and playing chess and should include a positive experience you've had through chess.

Essays must be at least 200 words but no more than 500 words and will be judged in three categories: Grades K-2, Grades 3-5, and Grades 6-8. The winner in each category will receive a Tournament Quality Chess Set.

Entries must be double spaced, either handwritten (no cursive) or typed. Entries must include a cover sheet with the following information: Entrant's full name and address; Entrant's age, grade, and school name;

Parent/guardian's name, phone number, and email address.

Send contest submissions to: Chess Essay Contest, 3710 Neola Way, Lancaster CA 93536.

Entries must be received on or before Monday, May 7, 2012. Winners will be announced May 14. The decision of the judges is final. All submissions become the property of The AV Chess House.

Edwards Air Force Base Chess Tourney April 20

Open to anyone age 6 and up. Sections: ages 6-8, 9-12, 13-18, Open, in 3 Rounds. Time Control: G/30.

Friday, April 20, 6pm at Edwards Air Force Base Oasis Community Center.

This annual tournament is held to crown the Base Chess Champion.

Registration: If you already have access to the Base, register at 6pm on Friday, April 20. If you need help getting on the base, contact:

gregory.slay@edwards.af.mil by Thursday, April 19.

Monthly **USCF-rated QUADS** 10am - 2pm, 1st-Saturday-of-every-month. LOC: AV Chess House. TC G/30. PZ 1st \$30; 2nd \$15. EF \$15 on-or-before Thursday, May 2; *Only \$10 if prepaid by 4/25* (non refundable) \$20 after 5/2. Pre - REG req - no walk-ins accepted. RDs 10:15, 11:30, 12:45. USCF req. Contact: daa@mahowald.org

Check Chess Club 5-6:30pm Wednesdays. LOC AV Chess House, 3710 Neola Way (near 37th & West Ave. J). Free club open to all ages and ability levels. Chess sets are provided - just drop in for a game or ten. No food allowed on the premises. Please park across the street from the building. Includes: free small-group lessons. Contact: daa@mahowald.org

Improve Your Chess Play with Private Lessons: Individual and small-group private chess lessons for Beginners, Beyond Beginners, and Intermediates of all ages. LOC AV Chess House. Contact: daa@mahowald.org

Sunday Tournament 2pm Sundays. LOC Mason Lodge, 44702 Cedar Ave, Lancaster. TC G/30. PZ TBA.

EF \$10. REG at door. RDs TBA. USCF req. Contact: knightblitz@verizon.net 661-917-7628.

Chess Night 6-9:30pm Wednesdays. LOC 4817 Stargazer Place, Palmdale. 5 minute games except first Wednesday of the month when it's SD/30. Contact: 661-533-3042.

Start a Chess Club at Your Child's School: Students who participate in a once-a-week Chess Club reap numerous benefits, especially improvement in math and reading skills. To learn how to start a school chess club, Contact: daa@mahowald.org.

Parent & Tot Chess Time Workshops: Free Chess Workshops for tots (by appointment) at the AV Chess House. Contact: daa@mahowald.org

Casual Chess at Starbucks: A free, casually-organized group of chess players meets at different Antelope Valley Starbucks at a variety of days and times. Contact: John Buck 661-816-1423

Chess@BeX 7:30-10pm, Mondays. LOC BeX Bar & Grill, 705 W Lancaster Blvd. Free, casual chess; occasional USCF-rated tourneys. Contact: robh.2010@yahoo.com

No Stress Basic Chess for Seniors Workshops: Free Chess Workshops for seniors (by appointment) at the AV Chess House. Contact: daa@mahowald.org.

Teachers: Use chess to enhance your students' reading and math skills even if you don't know how to play chess! If you are a teacher looking for fun activities which will improve your students' reading and math skills, consider the **Chess Mini Games**® seminar offered by Professional Chess Teacher Daa (pronounced day) Anne Mahowald. Even if you don't know how to play chess, Chess Mini Games® are easy to learn, easy to teach, fun & quick to play, and have lasting academic benefits. These Chess Mini Games® can be used with Preschool, Primary, or Elementary students. Research has shown that the pattern recognition skills needed in math and reading are readily improved through chess.

This fun, hands-on, four-hour seminar is available to teachers in

the Antelope Valley at your facility or at the AV Chess House. To schedule a seminar for your teachers' group: daa@mahowald.org.

Visit The AV Chess House website at chess4.us.

Arcadia

The Arcadia Club Championship concluded Monday, April 2 with a three way 5-1 tie for first place. Craig Faber (2204), Jesse Victoria (2072) and Henry Castro (2024) shared the spoils and will split the \$300 first prize. Congratulations to all three players! Gregg Fritchle placed second at 4½-1½. Check arcadiachessclub.com for more news.

San Diego

San Diego Chess Club

The **Club Championships** wound up on April 4th after 7 rounds of intense competition with 76 players overall. 16 players were in the Championship section, including last year's Co-Champs Raoul Crisologo, Bruce Baker and John Funderburg. Of the 3, only John survived to retain his Co-Champion status, but even he was upstaged on tie breaks for the trophy by long time club member NM David Hart.

Cyrus Lakdawala was the club champion for over 20 years, so David didn't have too many chances to win during those years before Cyrus retired from Wednesday night play. It's been a long wait and there have been many close calls over the last few years, but now is David's moment in the sun and everyone is so happy for his success.

Bruce Baker came in 3rd place and Todd Smith was 4th. Lennart Mathe was Best U2200. In the 16 player Reserve Championship (players had to qualify for these two events by doing well in the Markowski Open), there were also Co-Champions. You would think 7 rounds would be enough to get a clear winner, but both Bruce Charnov and Larry Vikander ended up with 5½-1½, the same as the winners in the Club Championship.

Bruce won the trophy on tie breaks. Ron Rezendes was 3rd and Carl Newell 4th.

In the **Lakdawala Open** (for the non-qualifiers), Ben Barquin scored 5½-1½, ahead of Jeff Turner with 5 and then Allan Virtue and Fred Deleon with 4½-2½.

In the **Fred Borges Open** (U1800), Steve Perry scored an impressive 6 out of 7, and he credited his new unorthodox opening style for the wins. Rocio Murra and Thomas Webb were Best U1600 with 4½-2½ and Aaron Moman was 3rd U1600 with 4-3.

In the **Patrick Edwards Open** (U1400) (we try to name events after current but longstanding club members, why wait until they are gone and can't appreciate the honor?), Darryl Woodson scored 5½-1½, followed by Stephen Zhu and David Palmer with 5. Ron Stanard was Best U1200 with 4 points and Patrick Edwards and Andrew Liu were 2nd/3rd U1200.

The **March Super Gambito Open** drew 29 players and ended with a tie between Cyrus Lakdawala and Kyron Griffith. David Whitten was Best U2400, Alan Tsoi Best U2200 and Ben Barquin Best U2000. Anthony Harbone was Best U1800 and Gurveer Singh Best U1600.

In the **April Super Gambito Open**, there was a robust turnout of 42 players. Peter Graves topped the field with 3½-½, ahead of Cyrus Lakdawala and newly minted master Alan Tsoi, both with 3. David Whitten was Best U2200 and boosted his rating to over 2000 for the first time; just a few months ago he was sitting around 1500! Very amazing, I have never seen anyone gain rating points so fast.

Because of the large turnout, we used 3 sections for this event. Bud Stamper went 4-0 to win the **Premier** (U2000) **Section**. Pejman Sagart and Jason Ma were 2nd with 3, while Jerry Qu and Kenneth Carter tied for Best U1800. In the **Reserve Section** (U1600), Matt Lizanich scored 4-0 while Mark Negus and Stephen Zhu tied for Best U1400 with 3.

- Chuck Ensey

Calabasas

The **American Chess Academy** (ACA) has opened their 4th location and it is in Calabasas. The address is 5034 Parkway Calabasas and it is on the 2nd floor of The All Olympia Gymnastics Center.

ACA was founded in 2008 by IM Armen Ambartsoumian, a FIDE Senior Trainer. The other locations are in Glendale, Reseda and Hollywood.

A non-profit educational organization, the American Chess Academy teaches chess to kids ages 6-18 and has developed some of the most talented players in Southern California. These players included NM Michael Yee, NM Vincent Huang, NM Christian Tanaka, NM Michael Brown and Experts Daniel Mousseri, Cheston Gunawan, Shaurya Jain and Eric Zhang.

For more information on class schedules, contact Armen at 818-640-5974 or email him at artmik@charter.net.

Pasadena

For the first time in 14 years, the club has a repeat champion. Fourteen-year-old Yusheng Xia plowed through the big 72-player field with an unmatchable 6-0 and earned his first Master rating in the process.

Trailing by a respectful full point were Rick Borgen and Randy Hough. Henry Castro (who declined Xia's final round draw offer) took Under 2000 honors with 4½-1½. Queena Deng and Alexander Hung split Under 1800 laurels, and Tim Deng, Steve Conant, Larry Hu, and Max Cheng divided the Under 1600 spoils. Cory Chen topped the Under 1400 players, Xingyu Lin and Kyle Lin tied in Under 1200, and Rolf Kuiper, a strong German player, was best Unrated.

Mel Singson was clear first in the **April Quick tournament** with 8½ of 10.

The **Pasadena Chess Club** meets Friday evenings at 7 at the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East Del Mar. The web-

site, tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html, includes an evolving catalogue of the hundreds of books that have been donated to the lending library.

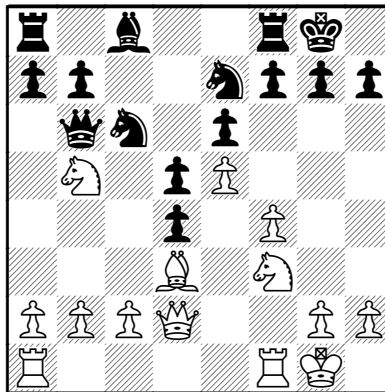
Next on the schedule is a three-round **Action event May 18**, followed by the five-round **Mount Wilson Open** in two sections, June 1-29. For further information contact Randy Hough, randallhough@yahoo.com or (626) 282-7412.

Yusheng Xia selected his favorite game from the tournament:

Stevens, Lawrence (2112) - Xia, Yusheng (2167)
[C17] Winawer French
Pasadena Chess Club Ch. (5)
Pasadena, 23.03.2012

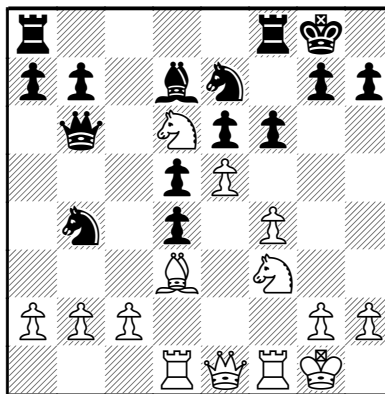
Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Bd2 Ne7 6.Nb5 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 0-0 8.f4 cxd4 9.Nf3 Nbc6 10.Bd3 Qb6 11.0-0



Better was 11.0-0-0 Bd7 12.Nbxd4=.

11...Bd7 12.Qe1 f6 13.Nd6 Nb4! 14.Rd1?



Now Black strikes!

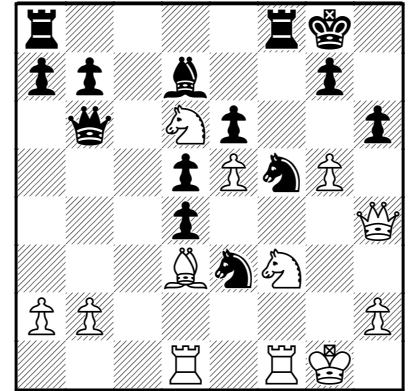
14...Nxc2! 15.Qh4 h6 16.g4

Or 16.Bxc2 d3+ 17.Qf2 dxc2 18.Rc1 Ng6 19.Qxb6 axb6 20.Rxc2+.

16...Ne3 17.g5+ fxg5

A bit better is 17...N7f5 18.Bxf5 exf5 19.gxh6 g6 20.Nxd4 Nxf1 21.Kxf1+.

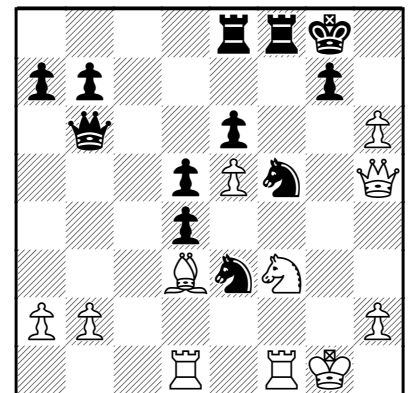
18.fxg5 N7f5



19.Qh5??

Necessary was 19.Bxf5! and after Black's best try, 19...d3 20.Kh1 Nxf5 21.Nxf5 exf5 22.Rxd3, White survives, for if 22...Qa6 (22...hgx5 23.Ngx5 Qh6 24.Qf4=) 23.Rfd1 hxg5 24.Ngx5 Qh6 25.Qd4 Qxg5 26.Qxd5+ Rf7 27.Qxb7=.

19...Be8 20.Nxe8 Raxe8 21.gxh6



21...Qc7?

Black keeps the Exchange with 21...gxh6 22.Bxf5 (22.Kh1 Nxf1 23.Qg4+ Kf7 24.Rxf1 Ke7-+) 22...exf5-+.

22.Nh4??

White's last chance is to tempo on the Queen to save the Exchange: 22.Rc1 Qf7 23.h7+ Kh8 24.Qxf7 Rxf7 25.Ng5 Rff8+.

22...Nxb4-+ 23.Qxb4 Rxf1+ 24.Rxf1 Nxf1 25.h7+ Kh8 0-1 ♚

UPCOMING EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Please check the TLA in Chess Life for any corrections, updates or other changes.

May 4-6 Western Amateur

5SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75, d/5).

Site: Sheraton Four Points LAX, 9750 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Special parking \$5/day.

Prizes: \$\$10,000 guaranteed.

In 5 sections. **Under 2300:** \$1000-500-300-200, top Under 2100/Unr \$400-200. FIDE.

Under 2000: \$1000-500-300-200, top Under 1800 \$400-200.

Under 1700: \$800-500-300-200, top Under 1500 \$400-200.

Under 1400: \$600-300-200-100, top Under 1200 \$300-150.

Under 1100: \$400-200-100-50, trophies to top 3, 1st Under 900, Under 700, Under 500, Unrated.

Unrated may not win over \$200 in U1100, \$300 U1400, or \$500 U1700. Top 3 sections EF: 3-day \$83, 2-day \$82 mailed by 4/26, all \$85 online at chesstour.com by 5/1, \$90 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 5/1 (entry only, no questions), \$100 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site. U1400 Section EF: All \$20 less than top 3 sections EF. U1100 Section EF: All \$40 less than top 3 sections EF. All: re-entry \$60.

Special: 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. Online at www.chesstour.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20.

SCCF mem. (\$18, jr. \$10) required for rated Southern CA residents.

3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. **2-day schedule:** Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun

10 & 4:15. All: Half point byes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd 3.

HR: \$89-89, 1-800-529-4683, 310-649-7025; reserve by 4/20 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, AWDD657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com.

Ent: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. \$15 service charge for refunds.

Questions: www.chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 845-496-9658. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. Chess Magnet School JGP.

May 26-28 Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic FIDE Rated! 40 Grand Prix Points Enhanced State Championship Qualifier

Ontario, CA. 6-SS, 3-day 40/2, SD/1, 2-day rds. 1-3 G/1 then merges. **Hilton Ontario Airport**, 700 N. Haven Ave., Ontario, CA 91764. \$10,000 b/200, 50% of each prize guaranteed.

In five sections: **Open:** \$\$T+1700-750-400-300-200, U2400 400, U2200 700-300-200. **Premier** (under 2000): \$\$750-300-200-100. **Amateur** (Under 1800): \$\$750-300-200-100. **Reserve** (Under 1600): \$\$750-300-200-100. **Booster** (Under 1400/unrated): \$\$400-200-100, U1200 150, Unr 150. (Unrated may win Unrated prizes only.)

EF: \$88 by 5/24, \$99 at door. **Booster** (U1400) section EF: \$72 by 5/24, \$85 door. Reg.: ends 10:30am 5/26, 9:30 am 5/27. **Rds.:** 3-day: 11-6, 11-6, 10-4:30. 2-day: 10-1-3:30 (G/1), then merges with 3-day at 6.

All: SCCF membership req. (\$18, \$10 jr), OSA. \$25 Best Game prize, all sections eligible. 1 half-point bye if requested at least 1 round in advance, rd. 6 must be requested with entry.

HR: \$89, (909) 980-0400, code

CHS, **reserve by May 4th.** Parking **free.** Free wireless in public areas, 24-hour airport shuttle.

Info: randallhough@yahoo.com.

Web site, On-line entry: www.scchess.com. **Ent:** SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754. NS. NC. F. Chess Magnet School JGP.

May 27

MDC Action Swiss

Ontario, CA 91764. 5-SS, G/30. **Hilton Ontario Airport**, 700 N. Haven Ave., Ontario, CA 91764. \$\$500 b/40, else proportional: \$150-70-40, U2100/Unr \$80, U1800 \$80, Under 1500 \$80.

EF: \$20 if received by 5/25, \$25 at door. **Reg.:** 9:30-10 a.m. **Rds.:** 10:15-11:30-12:45-2:30-3:45. **Ent:** SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754. On-line entry: www.scchess.com.

MDC Scholastics

Ontario, CA. 5-SS, G/30. **Hilton Ontario Airport**, 700 N. Haven Ave., Ontario, CA 91764 Open to gr. 12-below. In two sections: **Open:** Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated. **Grade 6/below U1000:** Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. **Reg.:** 8:30-9. **Rds.:** 9:30-11-12:15-1:45-3. **EF:** \$16 if received by 5/25, \$20 door. **Info:** randallhough@yahoo.com. On-line ent: www.scchess.com. Ent: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754.

MDC Hexes

Ontario, CA. 3-SS, G/90. **Hilton Ontario Airport**, 700 N. Haven Ave., Ontario, CA 91764.

8-player sections by rating. EF: \$21 if received by 5/25, \$24 door. \$\$ 40-20-10 each section. **Reg.:** 9:30-10:15 a.m. **Rds.:** 10:30-1:30-4:30. **Ent:** SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754. On-line entry: www.scchess.com.

June 30 - July 1 52nd Annual Pacific

Southwest Open A Heritage Event!

ChessLecture.com

Grand Prix Points: 30 State Championship Qualifier

Woodland Hills, CA. 5-SS, 30/85, SD/30 (1st 3 rounds), 40/2, SD/1 (last 2 rounds). **Warner Center Marriott**, 21850 Oxnard St, Woodland

Hills, CA 91367. \$8,000 b/200, 50% of each prize guaranteed.

2 sections: **Open**, \$1400-700-400-300-200, U2200 600-300-150, U2000 600-300-150. **Amateur**, open to U1800/Unr, 600-300-150, U1600 500-250-150, U1400 400-250, U1200 150, Unr 150. Unr may win Unrated prize only.

All, EF \$69 if rec'd by 6/29, \$79 at site. SCCF memb. req'd (\$18, jrs. U18 \$10, includes Rank & File magazine), OSA. **Reg:** 9-9:40 am **Rds:** 10-2-6, 10-4:15. **Ent:** SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754, online at www.scchess.com. **HR:** \$109 (818) 887-4800, mention chess, **reserve room by June 16th**. **Info:** (626) 282-7412 or randallhough@yahoo.com. NS, W, F. Chess Magnet School JGP.

July 1 **PSW Scholastics**

Woodland Hills, CA. 5-SS, G/30. **Warner Center Marriott**, 21850 Oxnard St, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Open to gr. 12/below. In two sections: **Open:** Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated. **Grade 6/below U1000:** Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated.

Reg: 8:30-9:15. **Rds.:** 9:30-11:12:15-1:45-3. EF: \$16 if received by 6/29, \$20 door. **Info:** (626) 282-7412 or randallhough@yahoo.com. **Ent:** SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754, online at www.scchess.com.

July 7-8 **Orange County** **Championship** **10 Grand Prix Points** **State Championship Qualifier.**

GPP: 10 California Southern Laguna Hills, CA. Orange County Championship. 5SS, 30/85, SD/30 (1st 3 rounds), 40/2, SD/1 (last 2 rounds).

Academic Chess Center, 26941 Cabot Road, Suite 110, Laguna Hills, CA 92053 (Oso Pkwy exit from I-5).

\$1,200 guaranteed: \$300-200, U2300, U2100, U1900, U1700, U1500 each \$100, U1300, U1100 each \$75, Unrated \$50.

EF: \$30 if rec'd by 7/6, \$40 at door (limited space). SCCF membership req'd of So. Californians: \$18, \$10 jrs. **Reg.:** 9-9:40 am, **Rds.:** 10-2-6, 10-4. **Info:** Randy Hough (626) 282-7412, randallhough@yahoo.com.

Ent: www.scchess.com, or SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754. WCL JGP.

July 19-22 **17th Annual** **Pacific Coast Open** **100 Grand Prix Points Enhanced**

Agoura Hills, CA. July 19-22, 20-22 or 21-22. 6SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/45,d5). Under 900 Section, July 21-22 only, G/70, d/5. **Sheraton Agoura Hills Hotel**, 30100 Agoura Rd., Agoura Hills, CA 91301 (US-101 to Reyes Adobe Road exit). Adjacent to the Santa Monica Mountains, 26 miles west of Burbank, 12 miles from Malibu, 28 miles from Ventura. **Free** parking.

Prizes \$25,000 based on 230 paid entries (re-entries count half, Under 900 one-third), minimum \$15,000 (60% each prize) guaranteed. In 7 sections.

Open: \$3000-1500-700-400, clear or tiebreak win \$100 bonus, top U2300/Unr \$1600-800. FIDE.

Under 2100: \$2000-1000-500-300.

Under 1900: \$2000-1000-500-300.

Under 1700: \$1800-900-500-300.

Under 1500: \$1500-700-400-200.

Under 1200: \$1200-600-300-200.

Under 900: \$300-200-120-80, trophies to top 7.

Unrated may enter any section, with prize limit U2100 \$1000, U1900 \$800, U1700 \$600, U1500 \$400, U1200 \$200, U900 \$100; balance goes to next player(s) in line.

If any post-event rating posted at uschess.org 7/18/11-7/18/12 is more than 30 points over section maximum, prize limit \$600.

Top 6 sections **EF:** 4-day \$134, 3-day \$133, 2-day \$132 mailed by 7/10, all \$135 online at chesstour.com by 7/15, \$140 phoned by 7/15 (406-896-2038, entry only, no questions), \$150 (no checks, credit cards OK) at tmt. No mailed credit card entries. GMs free; \$120 deducted from prize.

Under 900 Section **EF:** all \$90 less than above.

SCCF membership (\$18, jrs \$10) required for rated Southern CA residents. Re-entry \$70; not available in Open Section. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chesstour.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20.

4-day schedule: Reg Thu to 6:30 pm, rds Thu 7 pm, Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30. **3-day schedule:** Reg. Fri to 11 am, rds Fri 12 & 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30. **2-day schedule:** Reg Sat to 9 am, rds Sat 10,12:45, 3:15 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30. **Under 900 schedule:** Reg Sat to 9 am, rds 10, 1:15, 4:30 each day. All schedules: Half point byes OK all, limit 2, Open must commit before rd 2, other sections before rd 4. **HR:** \$87-87, 818-707-1220, request chess rate, **reserve by July 5th** or rate may increase.

Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633.

Ent: Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: www.chesstour.com, 845-496-9658. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com.

Chess Magnet School JGP.

August 17-19 **4th Annual Central** **California Open** **FIDE Rated!** **50 Grand Prix Points**

Fresno, CA. 5SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75, d/5). **Radisson Hotel**, 2233 Ventura St., Fresno, CA 93710. Free parking, free airport shuttle.

Cosponsored by Fresno Chess Club. \$10,000 based on 125 paid entries (re-entries & \$60 less EF count half), minimum \$7,000 (70% of each prize) guaranteed.

In 4 sections: **Open:** \$1500-700-400-300, clear or tiebreak 1st \$100, top U2200 \$600, U2100 \$500. FIDE. **Under 2000:** \$1200-600-400-200, top U1800 \$500. **Under 1700:** \$1000-

500-300-200, top U1500 \$400. **Under 1400:** \$300-200-100, trophies to top U1200, U1000, U800, U600.

Ent: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Questions: chesstour.com, Director-AtChess.US, 845-496-9658. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com.

Chess Magnet School JGP.

Please see www.uschess.org for complete info.

September 1-3 34th Southern California Open A Heritage Event! Open Section FIDE Rated 150 Grand Prix Points State Championship Qualifier

San Diego, CA. 6-SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day schedule rds 1-3 G/60, then merges). **Crowne Plaza Hotel**, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. \$\$20,000 Guaranteed prize fund. 5 Sections: **Open** 1st \$2,600-1,800-1,200-900-600-500-400, BU2300 \$800-400, BU2200 \$1,000-600-400-200; **Premier** (U2000): \$1,000-600-400-200; **Amateur** (U1800) \$1,000-600-400-200; **Reserve** (U1600) \$1,000-600-400-200; **Booster** (U1400) \$600-400-200-100, BU1200 \$300-150, Best Unrated \$100. Plus **Best Game Prizes:** \$75-50-25, one reserved for non-open sections. **Reg.:** 3-day: 8 to 9:30 AM, Sept official rating list used. 2-day: 8 AM to 9 AM Sunday. **Rds.:** 3 day: 10 AM & 5 PM on Sat-Sun, 9 AM & 4 PM on Mon. 2- day: 9:30 AM, 11:45 & 2 PM Sun, then merges.

EF: \$100 if received by 8/29, \$120 at door. No credit cards at door, checks or cash only. Special rate of only \$75 if U1400 or unrated. Special rate for GMs and IMs: \$20 if registered by 8/29, or \$60 late entry at door. Unrated players not eligible for prizes except for place prizes in the Open or the unrated prize in the U1400. Players who forfeit any round are also ineligible for prizes. SCCF membership req'd (\$18 Adult, \$10 Jr) for all So Cal residents.

Ent: SDCC, PO Box 120162, San Diego, CA 92112 or enter online at www.sccchess.com.

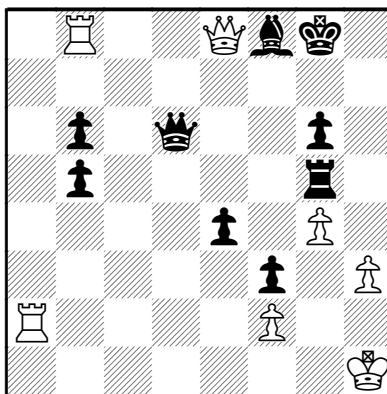
For more **info** call Bruce Baker at (619) 239-7166, email Chuck Ensey at chucnglo@aol.com or see our website at sdchessclub.multiply.com. SCCF Annual Membership Meeting: Sunday 3 PM. **HR:** Special rate of only \$110 single or double, 619-297-1101, or 1-888-233-9527 if booked by **August 15**, book ASAP, as rates may go up and rooms may sell out by mid-August. NS, NC, W.

Chess Magnet School JGP.

Please see www.uschess.org for complete info. ♖

WCC, concluded from page 19.

45...Qd1+ does not help: 46.Kh2 Qd6 47.Qd8 Qxd8 48.Rxd8 and Black can't save his Bishop.



46.Rd2!!

Winning more material. If 46... Qxd2 then 47.Qxf8+ forces mate.

Not 46.Raa8?? Qd1+ 47.Kh2 Qd6+ with a perpetual.

White still had to be careful, as 46.Rd8 looks decisive, for if 46...Qf4 47.Qe6+ Qf7 48.Qd6 Kg7 (or 48...Rc5 49.Ra7+-) 49.Rxf8 Qxf8 50.Ra7+ Kg8 51.Qd7+-, But there is an answer to 46.Rd8: 46...Re5!! 47.Rxd6 Rxe8 48.Rxg6+ Kf7 49.Rxb6± and it's not over so quickly!

46...Qa3

If 46...Qf6 then 47.Rdd8 wins the Bishop.

If 46...Qf4 then not 47.Rdd8?? Qc1+ 48.Kh2 Qf4+ which draws, but 47.Qe6+! Kh7 48.Rb7+ Bg7 49.Qe7+-, 47.Qe6+ Kg7 48.Rb7+ Kh6 49.Qf6 1-0

It's a forced mate. One line is 49... Qc1+ 50.Kh2 Qg1+ 51.Kxg1 Rxg4+ 52.hxg4 Be7 53.Rxe7 e3 54.Qh4. ♖

RBO, concluded from page 13.

fer. Declining, by 18.Bb2, lets Black attack with 18...Ng6 or 18...Nxb4 19.Ned4 Bxd4 20.Nxd4 Rxe5+.

18...Rxe5+ 19.Nxe5 Nxe5=

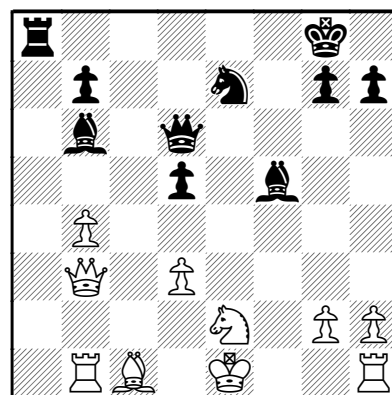
White has the extra Exchange, but neither of his Rooks seems superior to Black's Bishops.

20.Bd3 Nxd3+ 21.cxd3 Qd6

The computer prefers 21...Kh8+ making ...Ne7-c6-d4 a threat.

22.Ne2?

White must cover up by 22.h3□ Re8 23.Kd1.



22...Qg6?

Missing the crushing 22...Re8! 23.Bf4 Qe6 24.Kd2 Ng6 25.Rbe1 Bf2+-.

23.Nf4 Qd6 24.Rf1??

Better was 24.h3.

24...Qe5+

Winning.

25.Ne2

Nor does 25.Kd1 Bg4+ shield the King.

25...Bg4 26.Qc2

If 26.Rb2, all of Black's pieces creep forward by 26...Ra1 27.Qd1 Be3 28.d4 Qe4+-, And White won't last long with 26.Qb2 Bd4 27.Bf4 Qe6 28.Qc2 Nc6+-.

26...Nc6 27.Bb2 Bd4 28.Rf3

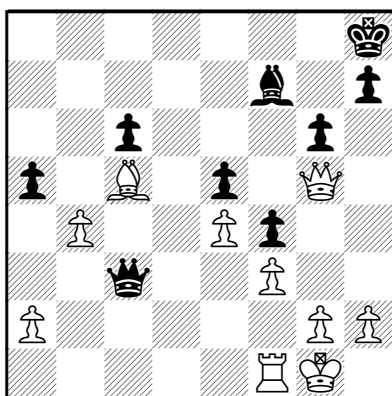
Most tenacious is 28.h3 Nxb4 29.Qd2 Bxb2 30.hxg4, when the computer suggests the amusing continuation 30...Ra2! 31.Rf5 Qe7 32.Kf1 Bc3! 33.Qd1 Nc2+-.

28...Bxf3 29.gxf3 Re8 30.Kd1?! Qe3 31.Qd2 Qxf3

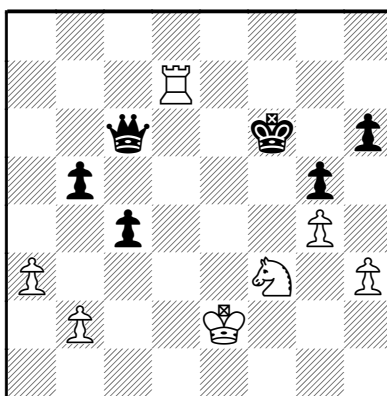
Black's Knight is ready to join the attack at b4 or d4.

32.b5 Be3 33.Qe1 Bg5! 34.Kc2 Rxe2+ 0-1 ♖

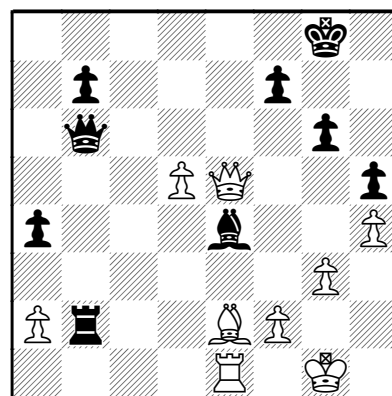
OUTSIDE SHOTS!



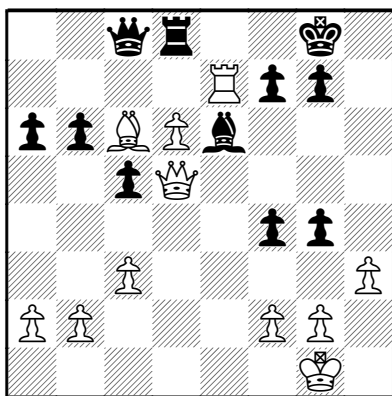
1. White to Play



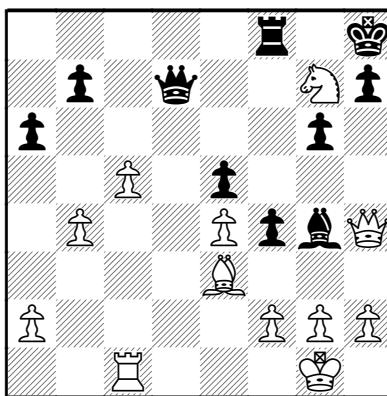
2. White to Play



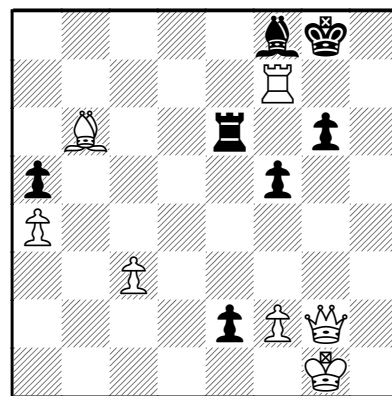
3. Black to Play



4. White to Play



5. White to Play



6. White to Play

See page 4 for solutions.