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USCF Delegates Have Second Thoughts in Irvine

by Fred Kleist

The USCF Annual Delegates' Meeting was not as exciting as last year's: no one was removed from office or kicked out of the Federation. We did, however, almost go into executive session! We also reversed one of last year's rule changes as well as delaying implementation on a rule change passed earlier in the session.

The meeting began with the seating of new Executive Board (EB) members Mike Nietmann (~1500 votes) and Gary Walters (~1400 votes). President Jim Berry's report, published in the pre-meeting information package was upbeat and frivolous, including pictures of his grandchildren and a couple of games in which he defeated Masters. Executive Director Bill Hall was more sober, addressing office needs—computer hardware updates, employee benefits/incentives—and improved services—web enhancement, club support, and on-line training for chess instructors—as well as the “dangerous shape” of the membership curve (a high peak around age 10 with a much lower secondary peak around age 50 which advances in age and falls in membership numbers each year). VP of Finance Randy Bauer was pleased that losses were kept to \$26,393 for the last fiscal year despite over \$113,000 in bad debt (chiefly due to Chess Cafe's failure to live up to its contract to operate as 'USCF Sales') as well as about \$240,000 in legal fees. He touted the fact that the budget's bottom line was very close to the projected surplus of \$4,700 (+0.2% vs. -1.0%). This year's budget projects a \$102,000 surplus and was quickly passed by the delegates.

After a brief celebration of his staff by Director of Publications Dan Lucas, the delegates were subjected to an hour-long harangue by Richard Conn, a Vice-Presidential candidate on GM Anatoly Karpov's slate in the FIDE elections. Conn, on the phone from Europe, spent about half his time on his biography, establishing his chess credentials and explaining his connections with Russia, Karpov, and GM Garry Kasparov, who is actively supporting Karpov's Presidential bid. The rest of his time was spent villifying FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov's administration as corrupt and incompetent. Whereupon former USCF President Beatriz Marinello, candidate for Treasurer on Ilyumzhinov's ticket, requested time for rebuttal. She cited the worldwide growth in scholastic chess during the Ilyumzhinov years and suggested that the Karpov campaign had proffered bribes in some South American countries.

We returned to the agenda with Harold Winston's snappy report from the U.S. Chess Trust, the highlight of which was the move of the Chess Museum and Hall of Fame to Saint Louis with a projected reopening date in June 2011. FIDE Delegate Michael Khodarovsky reported that housing conditions for the Olympiad in Siberia would not be as advertised, for the promised hotels have not been built. In addition, the venue of the Candidates' Matches was suddenly changed from Azerbaijan to Russia. Before breaking for lunch, the delegates approved the composition of the Audit, Bylaws, Election, Ethics, and LMA (Life Member Assets) Committees.

The Saturday's afternoon session began a half-hour late with a report from the Rules Committee. Four motions arose from the report. The Delegates agreed that when a player with a dollar-limit on prize winnings qualifies for a higher prize (e.g., a Junior medal-only player places first in a U1600 section), the prize money must be redistributed within the event. The proposal to lower the waiting time before assessing a forfeit to 30 minutes from one hour was rejected. Those who are seeking FIDE Norms may find it more difficult, as the provision for “tweaking” the pairings to increase norm-making opportunities was removed from the USCF Rules. The fourth motion was split into two motions by the delegates. Passed was the removal of the option to take time off of time controls using time delay (i.e., if a tournament is advertised as 40/2 and SD/1, then the time control with t/d is 40/2 and SD/1 + 5s/d). However, the second half, recognizing G/25 + 5s/d as a ratable time control failed. This means that tournaments such as the Marshall CC's “4 Rated Games Tonight” will be about 40 minutes longer (more about this later). All were to take effect on January 1, 2011.

We then zipped through a number of “Old Business” advance motions stating at what time Delegates are deemed to have resigned in favor of Alternate Delegates, setting a term limit—nine consecutive years—on EB membership and requiring EB members to also be members of USCF. New Business began with a motion that arose from the General Membership Meeting which endorsed the actions of the EB in support of the Karpov ticket, i.e., that the USCF has become a party to Karpov's arbitration suit in the International Court of Sport against Ilyumzhinov. The attorney could not discuss “the merits of the case,” in other words, he would not tell us what was at issue (but we could surmise from Conn's earlier monologue that the case dealt with some members of Ilyumzhinov's team who had been improperly nominated). [This is where we almost went into executive session in order to hear the details.] However, he assured us that there was no cost to the USCF and that the power of attorney granted to his firm was quite limited. He dismissed an objection that he had threatened the President of Chile's Chess Federation with a “secret dossier,” saying that he merely had a publicly available biography, that the conversation was cordial, and that there would likely be another friendly meeting. The delegates passed the motion.

In the brief time remaining on Saturday, a number of ‘cleanup’ motions were passed to remove outdated or contradictory aspects of a list of items of continuing interest.

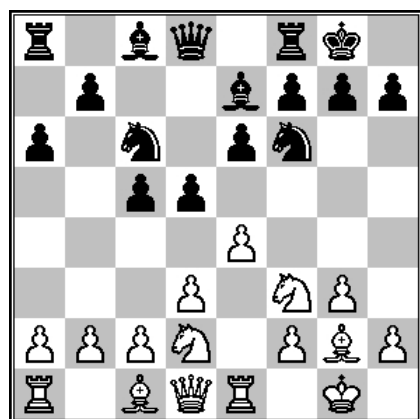
Sunday began in very promising manner with a series of governance motions from Massachusetts delegate Donna Alarie withdrawn. Her final motion, however, to require delegates to acknowledge their appointments or elections in writing was considered and passed. Then a motion was made to suspend the rules in order to reconsider the removal of the option to take time off of time controls using time delay. It was argued that this would cause undo hardship on some scholastic organizers as well as the Marshall CC where three-round tournaments, quick-rated events and tourneys ending after midnight do not draw well. We voted to delay implementation until January 1, 2012.

Returning to the agenda, we were faced with three motions from the Governance Task Force. The first of these proposed to restrict voting to delegates, Life Members, members for five consecutive years, and those who had voted in 2009 or 2010. In addition, voter registration would be required. A reduction in the number of potential voters would result in fewer ballots being sent out and thus save the USCF money. After nearly an hour and a half filled with discussions of amendments to increase the potential number of voters and arguments against disenfranchisement, what passed was simply a requirement that voters register. The second motion increased the number of signatures necessary for nomination from 30 to 50 and added the requirement that 15 be delegates representing at least five states. It also made the filing date ten days earlier. It passed quickly. The third motion to make recall easier (500 signatures vs. 1500) and more timely (shorter times for the EB to respond and to set up a recall election) also passed.

The next several motions were either withdrawn or congratulatory with the exception of a motion to prevent the various Scholastic Nationals from being organized by other than USCF, which, after some wording changes passed easily. We then confronted Rule 14H, the claim of insufficient losing chances in sudden death. Last year, the delegates voted to make the employment of a time-delay clock the first option. This year, we were asked to undo that and restore 14H to the status quo ante, with the addition that not permitting claims of insufficient losing chances was to be allowed as well. This passed after a short discussion. Of the motions not published in advance, the most important was one which would allow FMs as well as the current GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs to receive assistance from the Professional Players Health and Benefit Fund. It passed.

Your delegates were Carl Haessler (OR), Fred Kleist (WA), and Murlin Varner (WA).

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d3 d5 4. Nbd2 Nf6
5. g3 Nc6 6. Bg2 Be7 7. 0-0 0-0 8. Re1 a6



a b c d e f g h

9. e5 Nd7 10. Nf1 b5 11. h4 Bb7 12. h5
Qc7 13. Bf4 Nb6 14. h6 g6 15. N1h2

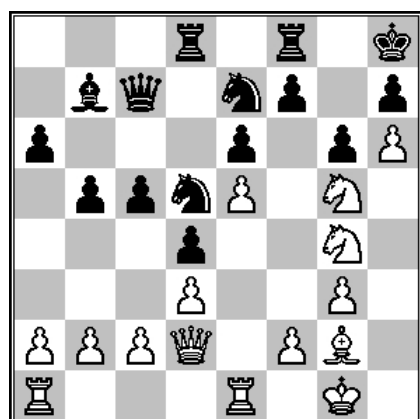


a b c d e f g h

15. ...d4?!

Giving me the e4 square for my Knights
to reach f6.

16. Ng4 Rad8 17. Bg5 Nd5 18. Qd2
Kh8 19. Bxe7 Nxe7 20. Ng5

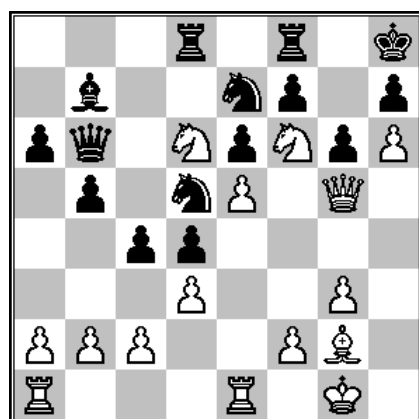


a b c d e f g h

20. ...Qb6

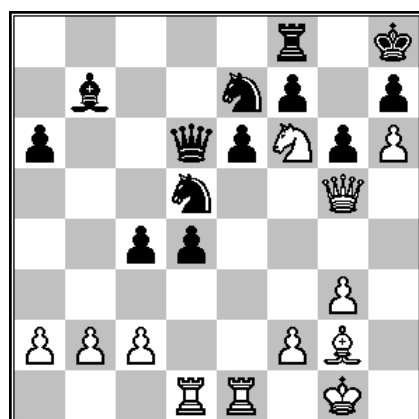
Unnecessary. 20. ...c4. If he was afraid
of 21. dxc4 bxc4 22. Qxd4, he shouldn't
have been. For example, 22. ...Nf5 23. Qd2
(23. Qe4 Ba8 and White has to be careful, if
he's not already worse, or lost: 24. Qe2 Nd4)
23. ...Nde3 would have hurt.

21. Ne4 Nf5 22. Qg5 c4 23. Ngf6 Nfe7
24. Nd6



a b c d e f g h

24. ...Rxd6 25. exd6 Qxd6 26. dxc4
bxc4 27. Rad1



a b c d e f g h

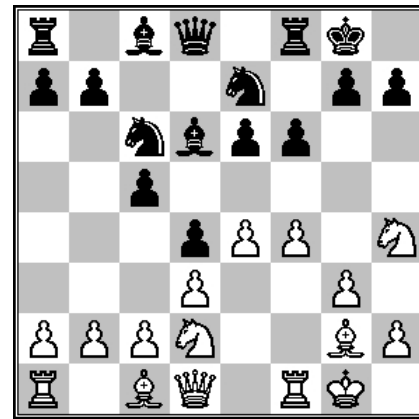
27. ...c3 28. bxc3 dxc3 29. Bxd5 exd5
30. Ne4 Qc6 31. Qxe7

1-0

Howard Chen – Josh Sinanan
Washington Championship, Round 6
Bellevue, February 15, 2010

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d3 d5 4. Nbd2 Nc6
5. g3 Bd6 6. Bg2 Nge7 7. 0-0 0-0 8. Nh4 d4
9. f4 f6

Washington State Champion Howard Chen Annotates

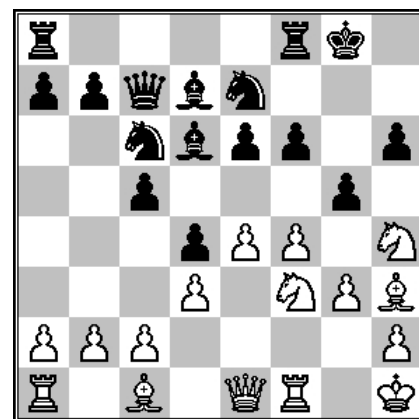


a b c d e f g h

10. Ndf3

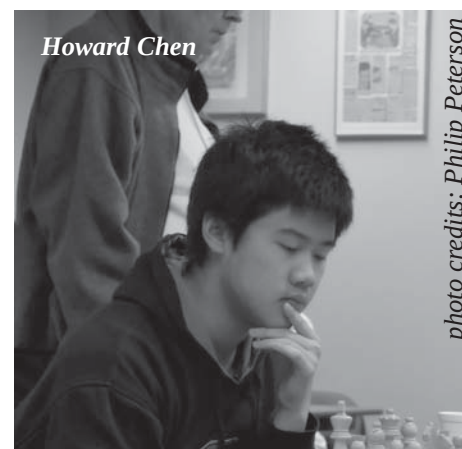
A somewhat strange move that needs to
be backed up by knowledge. Unfortunately,
I didn't really know what I was doing. 10.
a4 was another way to play.

10. ...Qc7 11. Qe1 Bd7 12. Kh1 h6 13.
Bh3 g5



a b c d e f g h

14. Ng2

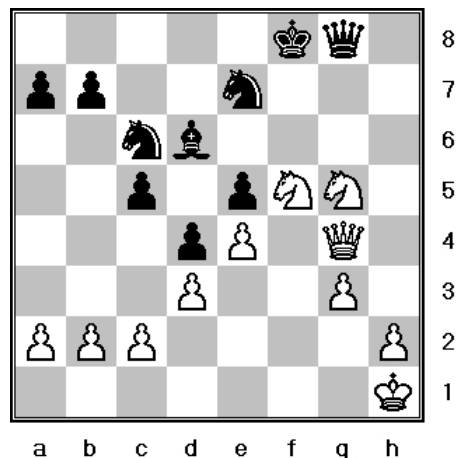


Howard Chen

photo credits: Philip Peterson

14. fxg5 to sacrifice as in the game was best here: 14. ...fxg5 15. Bxg5 hxg5 16. Nxg5 Rxf1+ 17. Qxf1 Rf8 18. Bxe6+ Bxe6 19. Qxf8+ is one line, and White wins.

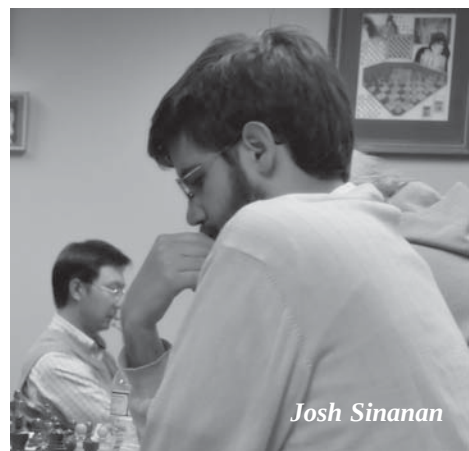
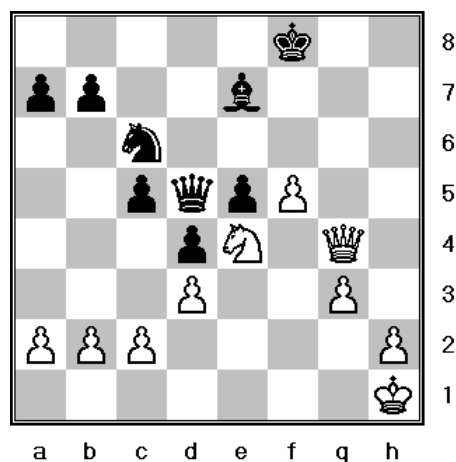
14. ...e5 15. Bxd7 Qxd7 16. fxg5 fxg5 17. Qe2 Qe6 18. Bxg5 hxg5 19. Nxg5 Qg6 20. Qg4 Rxf1+ 21. Rxf1 Rf8 22. Rxf8+ Kxf8 23. Nh4 Qg8 24. Nf5



Even with the rooks off, I have good compensation.

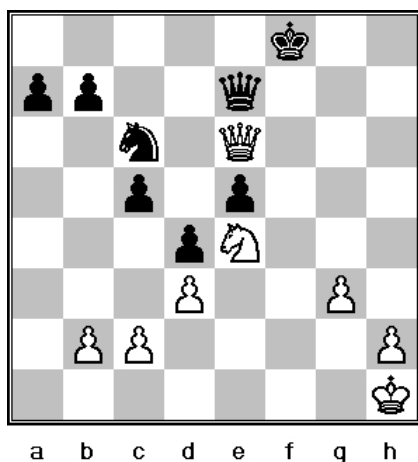
24. ...Nxf5 25. exf5 Qd5+ 26. Ne4 Be7

Josh decides to give back the piece, but I have two connected passed pawns.

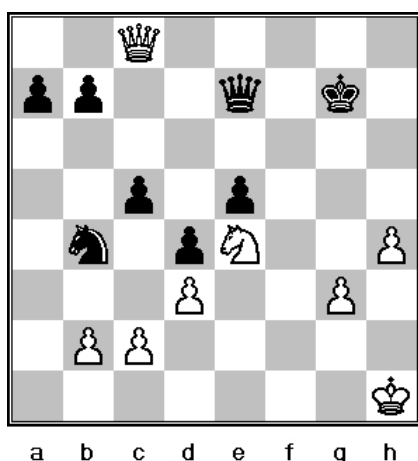


Josh Sinanan

27. f6 Bxf6 28. Qf3 Qxa2 29. Qxf6+ Qf7 30. Qh6+ Qg7 31. Qe6 Qe7



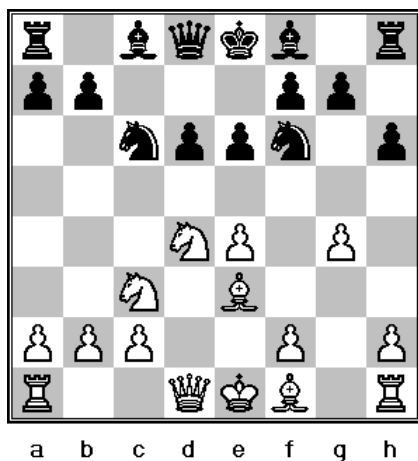
32. Qc8+ Kg7 33. h4 Nb4



34. Qg4+ Kf8 35. h5 Qf7 36. h6 Qf1+ 37. Kh2 Nxc2 38. Qg7+ Ke8 39. Nf6+ 1-0

Ignacio Perez – Howard Chen
Washington Championship, Round 7
Bellevue, February 15, 2010

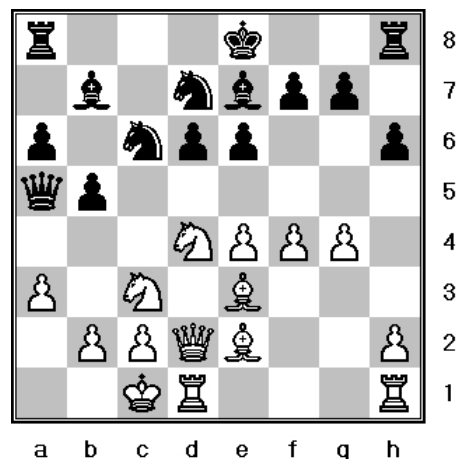
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e6 6. g4 h6 7. Be3 Nc6



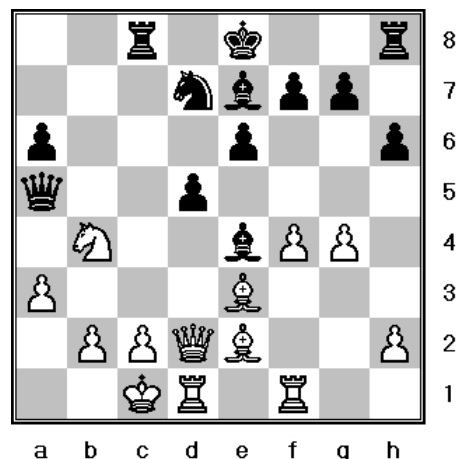
8. Be2

This move is strange for the Keres Attack.

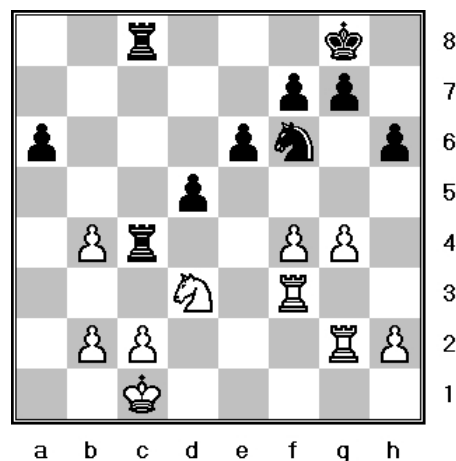
8. ...Be7 9. f4 Nd7 10. Nf3 a6 11. Qd2 b5 12. a3 Bb7 13. 0-0-0 Qa5 14. Nd4



14. ...b4 15. Nxc6 Bxc6 16. Na2 Bxe4 17. Rhf1 Rc8 18. Nxb4 d5



19. Bd3 Bxd3 20. Nxd3 Qxd2+ 21. Bxd2 0-0 22. Rf3 Rc4 23. Bb4 Bxb4 24. axb4 Rfc8 25. Rd2 Nf6 26. Rg2



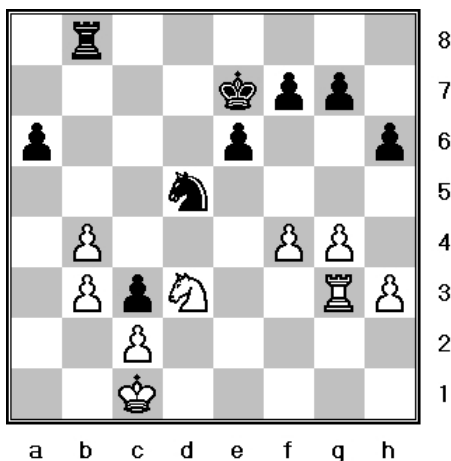
26. ...d4

Fixing c2 as a weakness.

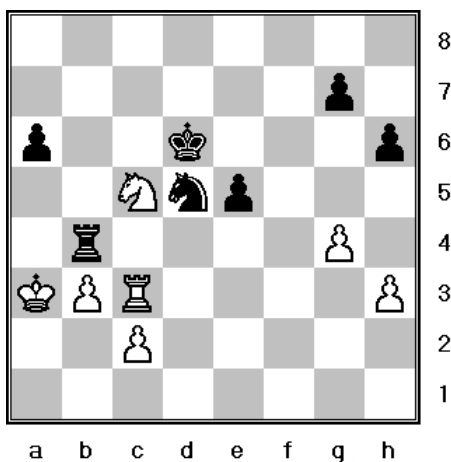


Ignacio Perez

27. b3 Rc3 28. Ne5 Nd5 29. Rxc3 dxc3
30. Nd3 Rb8 31. Rg3 Kf8 32. h3 Ke7



33. Kb1 Kd6 34. Ka2 f6 35. Ka3 e5
36. fxe5+ fxe5 37. Nc5 Rxb4 38. Rxc3



38. ...e4

Trying to win a piece by taking away all the Knight's squares, but not the best.

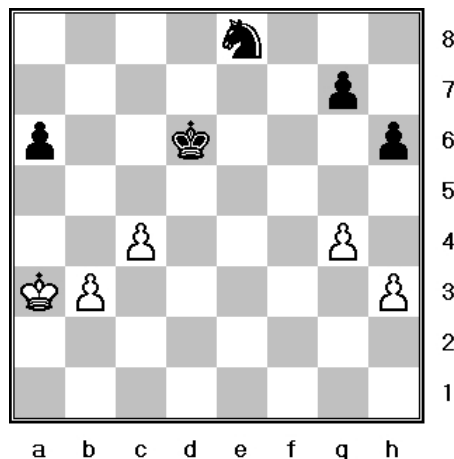
38. ...a5! I missed this because I did not spend enough time on this critical position.

39. Nd3 Nxc3 40. Nxb4 axb4+ 41. Kxb4 and Black wins.

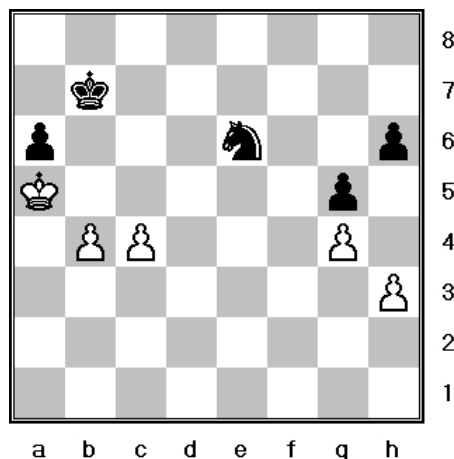
39. Nxe4+ Rxe4 40. Rc8 Nc7 41. c4

Allowing me to trade the rooks, but he is lost anyways.

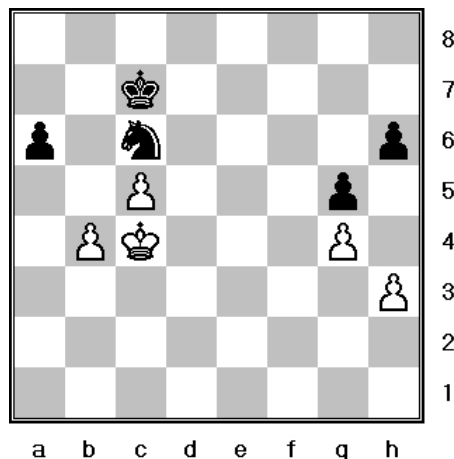
41. ...Re8 42. Rxe8 Nxe8



43. b4 g5 44. Ka4 Nc7 45. Ka5 Kc6
46. Ka4 Ne6 47. Ka5 Kb7



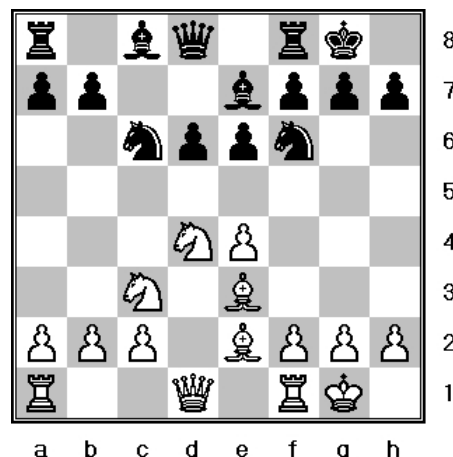
48. c5 Nd4 49. Ka4 Nc6 50. Kb3 Kc7
51. Kc4



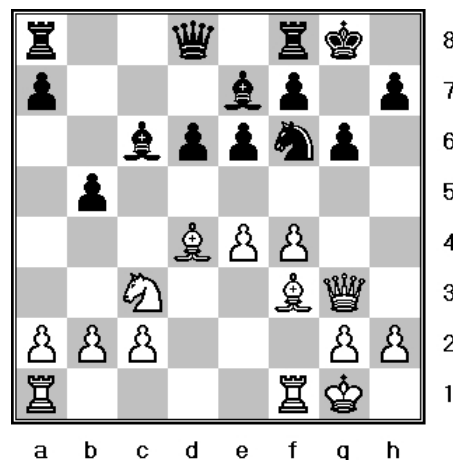
51. ...Nxb4 52. Kxb4 Kc6 53. Kc4 a5
54. Kd4 a4 55. Kc4 a3 0-1

William Schill – Howard Chen
Washington Championship, Round 9
Bellevue, February 16, 2010

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4
Nf6 5. Nc3 e6 6. Be2 Nc6 7. Be3 Be7 8.
0-0 0-0



9. f4 Bd7 10. Qe1 Nxd4 11. Bxd4 Bc6
12. Qg3 g6 13. Bf3 b5

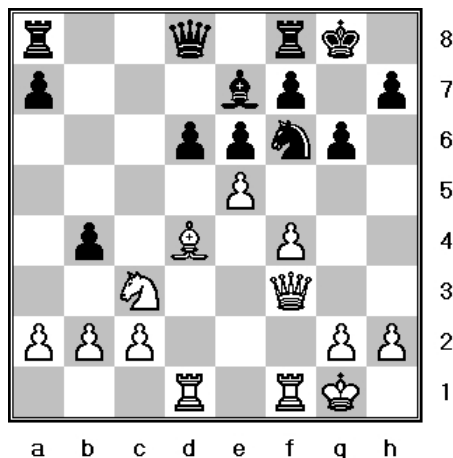


Michael Omori

14. Rad1

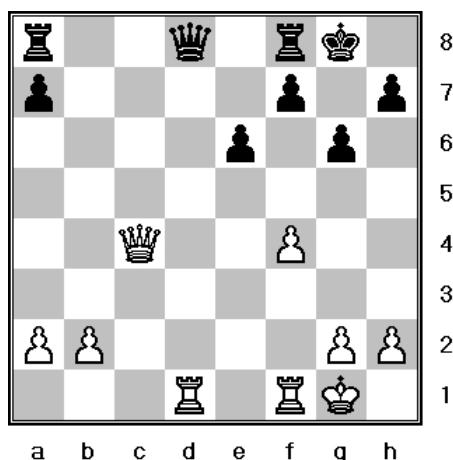
Mr. Schill deviates. 14. a3 is more usual.

14. ...b4 15. e5 Bxf3 16. Qxf3

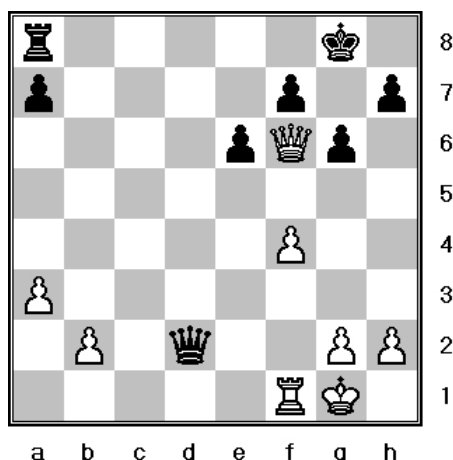


16. ...bxc3 17. exf6 Bxf6 18. Qxc3 Bxd4+ 19. Qxd4 d5 20. c4 dxc4 21. Qxc4

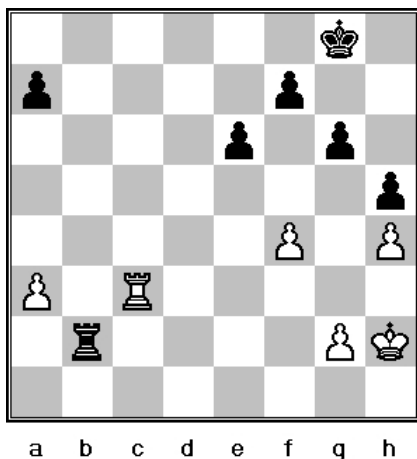
Here I was offered a draw, but I declined because I have the initiative.



21. ...Qb6+ 22. Qd4 Qa5 23. a3 Rfd8 24. Qf6 Rd2 25. Rxd2 Qxd2



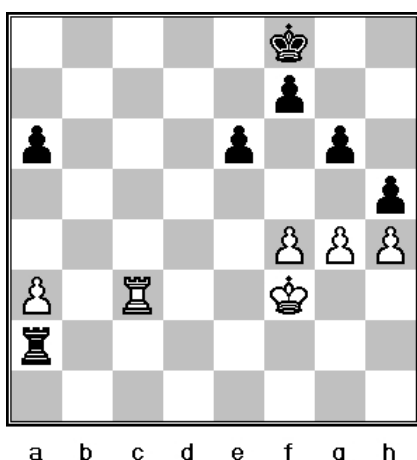
26. h4 Rc8 27. Rf3 Rc2 28. Rg3 Rxb2 29. Kh2 h5 30. Qc3 Qxc3 31. Rxc3



31. ...Ra2

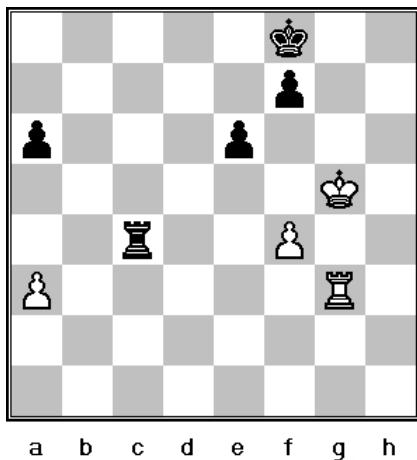
31. ...Rb5

32. Kg3 Kf8 33. Kf3 a6 34. g4



Though it trades pawns, it does give him more weaknesses.

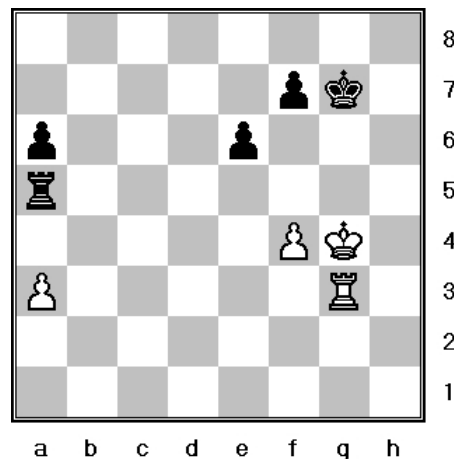
34. ...hgx4+ 35. Kxg4 Ra1 36. Rg3 Rc1 37. h5 gxh5+ 38. Kxh5 Rc4 39. Kg5



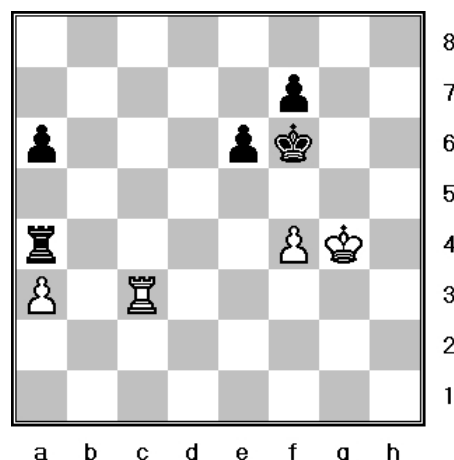
39. ...Ra4

Improving my rook's position.

40. Rb3 Kg7 41. Rf3 Rc4 42. Rg3 Kf8 43. Rb3 Ra4 44. Rc3 Rd4 45. Rb3 Kg7 46. Rf3 Rc4 47. Rg3 Rc5+ 48. Kg4 Ra5



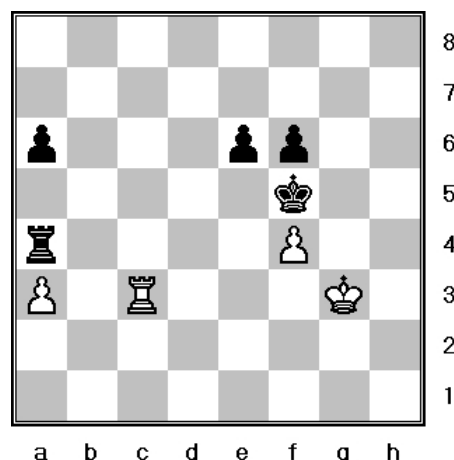
49. Re3 Kg6 50. Rc3 Ra4 51. Re3 Rc4 52. Kf3 Rc1 53. Kg4 Rc5 54. Rb3 Rb5 55. Rc3 Kf6 56. Rc6 Ra5 57. Rc3 Ra4



58. Kf3?

I mess around for a while, and Mr. Schill finally makes a mistake in some time trouble. He needed to play 58. Re3.

58. ...Kf5 59. Rc5+ Kg6 60. Rc3 f6 61. Kg3 Kf5



62. Rc5+ e5 63. fxe5 Rxa3+ 0-1

Harmon Memorial Report

by Gary Dorfner

Only 18 players attended the Harmon Memorial at the Evergreen College in Olympia the weekend of July 17-18, 2010, so half of the players shared the \$1700 guaranteed prize fund.

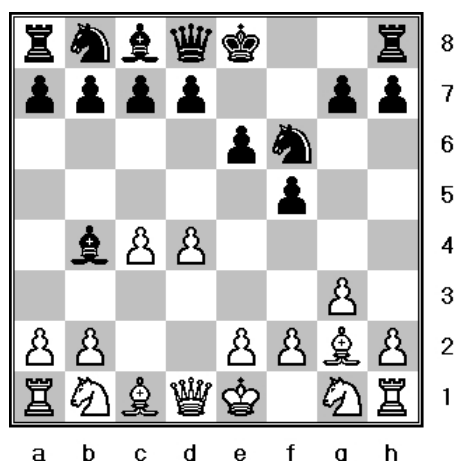
Clear first was Matt Edwards, who scored 4.5/5, yielding only a final round draw to Randy Dean to collect the \$500 first place money. Second was Dave Rupel, earning \$300 for his 4.0/5, losing only to Edwards. Randy Dean won \$150 for his clear third place finish with 3.5/5 points. His loss was to Paul Bartron. Bartron was perfect after three rounds, but fell to both Edwards and Rupel on Sunday to finish out of the money with 3.0/5.

First and second under 2000 (and \$125 each) went to Drayton Harrison and John Schwarz; first under 1700 (\$150) was won by Becca Lampman, with second under 1700 (\$100) going to James Colasurdo. The top two under 1400 prizes (\$125 each) were taken by Derek Zhang and Jerrold Richards.

Matt Edwards supplied his third- and fourth-round game scores. Light comments are by the editor.

Dave Rupel – Matt Edwards Harmon Memorial, Round 3 Olympia, Washington, July 17, 2010

1. d4 f5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 e6 4. c4 Bb4+



Black has committed his pawns to the light squares, so of course he has no intention of exchanging his dark-square bishop. Instead, he plans to retreat his bishop next move, apparently losing a tempo. But does it? Not really, as White's bishop on d2 will need to reposition, too, and in the end the two bishops will use the same number of moves.

So why check? Because sometimes White will attempt to exchange the dark-square bishops with b3 and Ba3, a dangerous plan that would seriously weaken Black's dark squares, if allowed to succeed. By making White interpose either the bishop or the knight, Black has prevented or at least delayed any chance of the bishop heading to the a3-f8 diagonal.

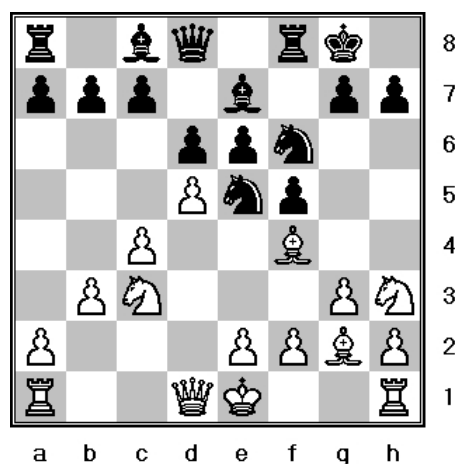
5. Bd2 Be7 6. Nc3 0-0 7. Nh3 d6

Some Dutch Defense players get excited by move-order tricks. They'll wait around to see if the white knight develops to h3 or

f3. You'll often see someone make a waiting move such as ...c6 before committing the d-pawn in these positions. If Nf3, then ...d5 and Stonewall. But one of the more feared developments against the Stonewall (black pawns on c6, d5, e6, f5) involves bringing the knight to f4/d3/e5 via h3. So when Black sees Nh3, he gleefully bangs out ...d6, when the rim development doesn't make as much sense.

Actually, as we'll see in the next game, Matt is probably planning to play ...d6 against anything – he's generally been a classical attacking player, and this opening fits his style pretty well.

8. Bf4 Nc6 9. d5 Ne5 10. b3

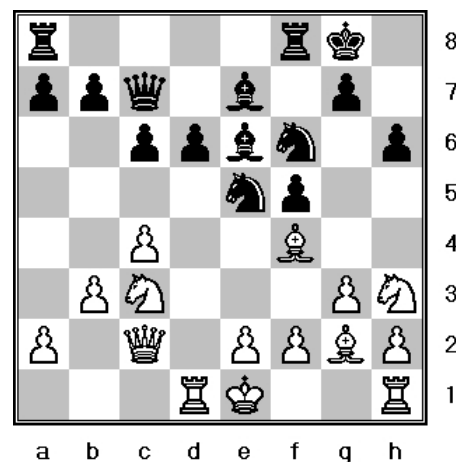


10. ...h6

Possible here is 10. ...Ng6, hoping to get in ...e6-e5 with a good game.

White probably prevents that with 11. dxe6 c6, when the weakness of Black's d6-pawn is probably not very serious – yet. Call it about even, though there's plenty of game left for both players.

11. dxe6 c6 12. Qc2 Bxe6 13. Rd1 Qc7



14. f3

This move seems weakening, and it definitely doesn't contribute to development. Somewhere between moves 12 and 14 White should bite the bullet and castle kingside.

Does Black get an attack? Yes, of course. Is it decisive? I think not. The game should be exciting, though.

Here, for example, Black can't easily swarm the kingside with pawns: 14. 0-0 g5!? 15. Bc1 d5?! 16. f4!, with complications that seem to favor White.

14. ...Rad8 15. Nf2

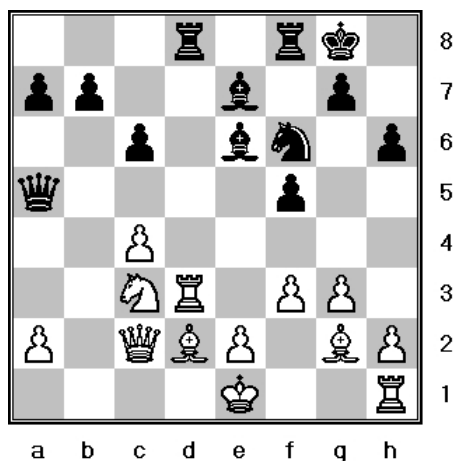
This may be White's last decent chance to play 15. 0-0 or 15. Be3 and 16. 0-0.

15. ...d5! 16. Nd3

Now the c-file play makes 16. cxd5 cxd5 dangerous, and it's too late for 16. 0-0, since 16. ...dxc4 creates a weakness on c4 that will eventually drop – or Black could try to gain space with 16. ...d4.

Choices, choices.

16. ...Nxd3+ 17. Rxd3 Qa5 18. Bd2 dxc4 19. bxc4



19. ...Qc5

Dave was probably hoping for the ultra-messy 19. ...Bxc4? 20. Nd5!, though Black may have a forcing route to (fairly small) advantage with 20. ...Bxd3 21. Nxe7+ Kh7 22. Qxd3 Rxd3 23. Bxe5 Re3 24. Nxf5 Re5 25. Bb4 c5.

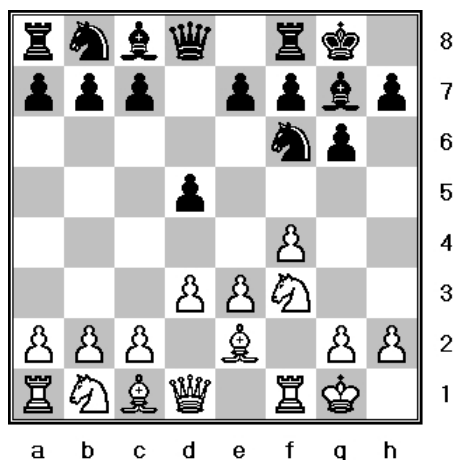
20. Be3 Qxc4 21. f4 Nd5

Black has a material and positional advantage, so White gives up.

0-1

Matt Edwards – Paul Bartron
Harmon Memorial, Round 4
Olympia, Washington, July 18, 2010

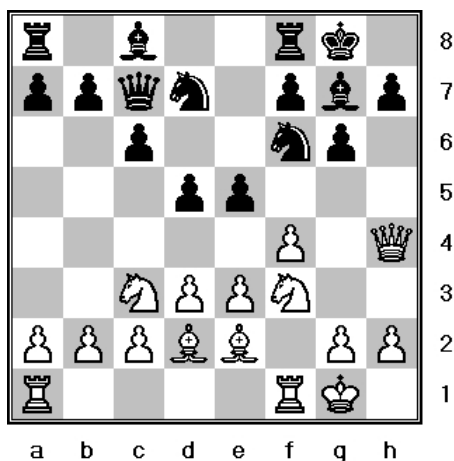
1. f4 d5 2. Nf3 g6 3. e3 Bg7 4. Be2 Nf6
5. 0-0 0-0 6. d3



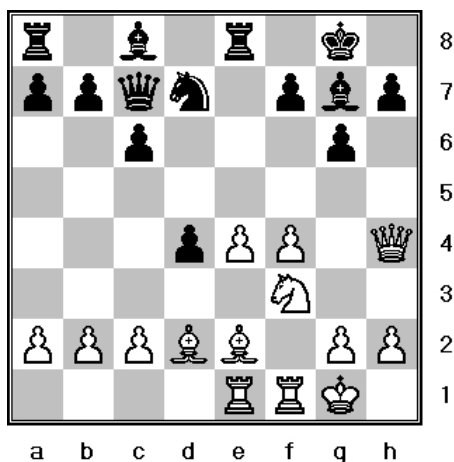
If the Dutch Defense is such a good attacking weapon with Black, why not play it with an extra tempo as White? Despite the tempo loss versus the Classical Dutch, I'd probably go with 6. ...c5 here.

Of course, I'd probably have tried 1. ...e5 (From's Gambit) to avoid the whole issue!

6. ...Nbd7 7. Nc3 c6 8. Bd2 Qc7 9. Qe1 e5 10. Qh4

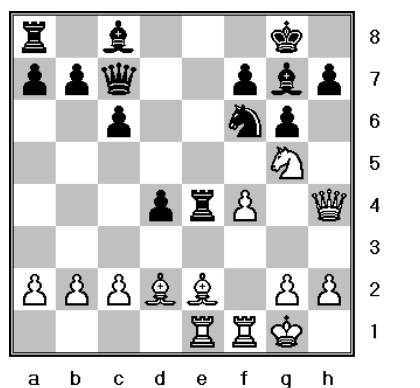


10. ...d4!? 11. exd4 exd4 12. Ne4 Re8
13. Rae1 Nxe4 14. dxe4



14. ...Bf6

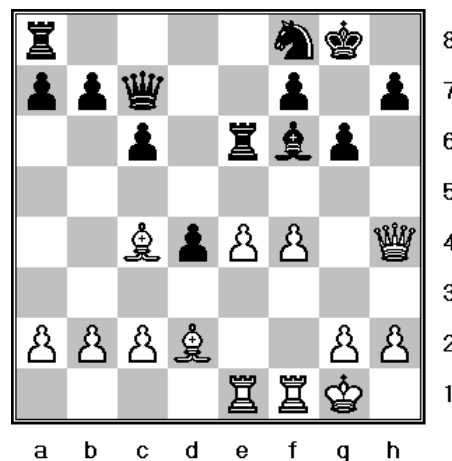
One critical question is whether White's fork, winning the exchange, is actually favorable after 14. ...Rxe4!? 15. Ng5 Nf6.



If 16. Nxe4 Nxe4 17. Bc1, Black can force a draw with 17. ...Bf6 18. Qh6 Bg7.

White may have better by ignoring the rook and treating the e-pawn as a gambit: 16. Bc4!?, trying to can-opener the black king position. 16. ...Rxe1 17. Rxe1 Bf5?! (17. ...Be6 18. Nxe6 fxe6 19. Rxe6 Nd5 20. Re7 +/-) 18. Bxf7+ Kh8 19. g4! Bxg4 20. Bxg6 seems to be getting the job done.

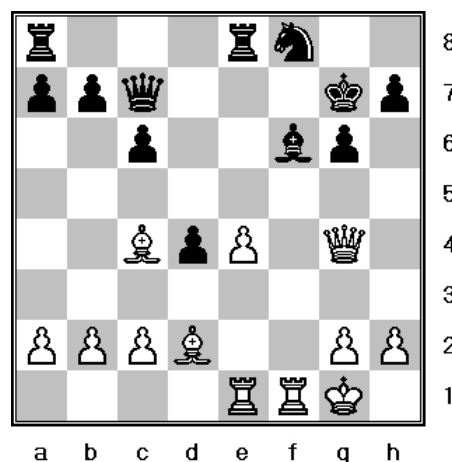
15. Ng5 Nf8 16. Bc4 Be6 17. Nxe6 Rxe6



18. Qg4

Crass and materialistic (therefor pretty good) is 18. Qf2 Re7 19. e5, followed by Qxd4. Matt's way works, too.

18. ...Ree8 19. f5 Kg7 20. fxe6 fxe6



Increasing the scope of the light-square bishop can't be good, but it's hard to suggest any substantial improvement for Black.

20. ...hxg6 looks best, but 21. Qh3! presents insoluble problems: 21. ...Qe5 22. Qh6+ (or the equally direct 22. Rxf6 Qxf6 23. Rf1) 22. ...Kg8 23. Bg5! when the f6-bishop is pinned to the f7-pawn, and defending the bishop with the knight leaves the g6-pawn undefended (since the f-pawn is pinned).

21. Rxf6! Kxf6 22. Rf1+

Even stronger(!) is 22. Qh4+, with forced mate: 22. ...Kg7 23. Bh6+ Kh8 24. Qf6+, or 22. ...Ke5 (22. ...g5 23. Qxg5#) 23. Qf4#.

22. ...Kg7 23. Qh4 h5 24. Qg5 Kh8 25. Rf7 Nh7 26. Qxg6

1-0

Championship Training

by Corey Russell

Ralph,

Here's another training game (annotated). Opponent was Lili, supposedly a 2358 player. She played pretty good except for her significant opening mistakes. Her mistakes, however, are going to look VERY familiar to you if you remember my last round. Going to jump to a 2500 opponent next I think; this is getting a bit silly.

There is stuff to learn for intermediate players in the game, mostly in the endgame. The opening was only instructive in the sense the reader learns what NOT to play.

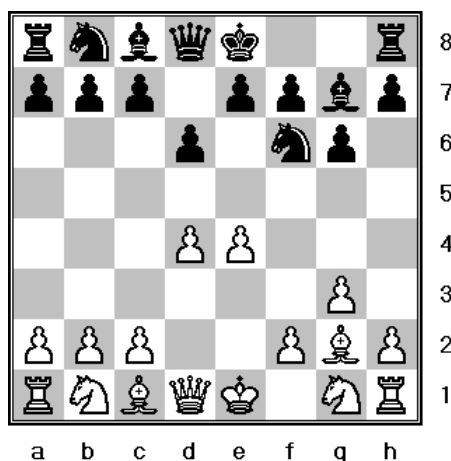
Corey

CM 6000: Lili – Corey Russell
Training Game Four; Lili Round 1
Corey's PC, January 8, 2010

1. g3 Nf6 2. Bg2 g6

Lili took a while on move three, so apparently I am out of Lili's "book." But that isn't good as it might make an opening mistake by not looking enough ply (computer word for search depth: one ply is one half move of depth).

3. e4 d6 4. d4 Bg7



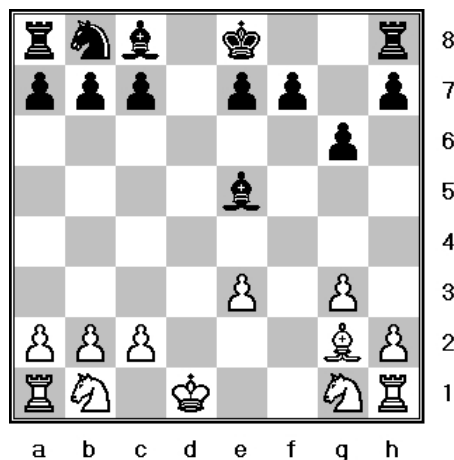
5. e5?

There are quite a few viable moves here: 5. Nc3, 5. Ne2, 5. c3, even 5. h3 has merit. The text, unfortunately for Lili, is NOT one of the viable moves. Now White will have to struggle just to get equality.

5. ...dxe5 6. dxe5 Qxd1+ 7. Kxd1 Ng4 8. Be3

While this does defend against the threat, does White really want to weaken its pawn structure, especially since White is about to be down a pawn? I really think 8. Nh3 is more reasonable here, as it develops a piece, does not weaken pawn structure, and when ready, White can always play Nf4, which is a reasonable post.

8. ...Nxe3+ 9. fxe3 Bxe5



10. Nc3?

Most human masters will consider doubled pawns if queens can remain on the board. But in the endgame a player should avoid doubled pawns unless you can gain something significant for doing so, such as a piece, passed pawn, etcetera. I would think most masters would consider 10. c3 here to both defend b2 and blunt the power of the black bishop. The text move allows Black to give White three isolated pawns; this is in addition to the fact White is down a pawn. White does get the b-file, but b7 isn't about to be cracked anytime soon.

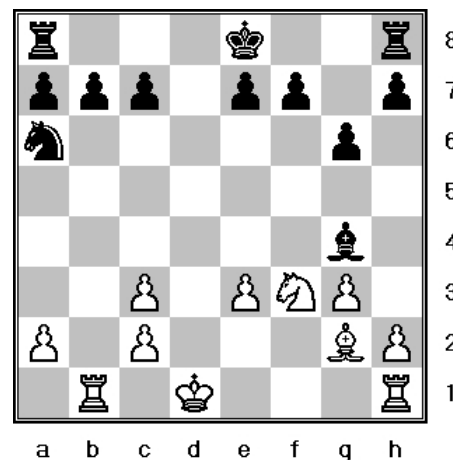
10. ...Bxc3 11. bxc3 Na6

Of course I wasn't about to return the favor with 11. ...Nc6? 12. Bxc6! bxc6. On a6 can go to nice post on c5 since there is no white d- or b-pawn to push him around. Often, if you have a choice of getting to a point through the center or side, such as d7 or a6 in this case, you should take the center route to be more flexible. In this case, however, I wanted to keep the c8-h3 diagonal clear, since a check or pin might



be quite useful.

12. Nf3 Bg4 13. Rb1



13. ...0-0-0+

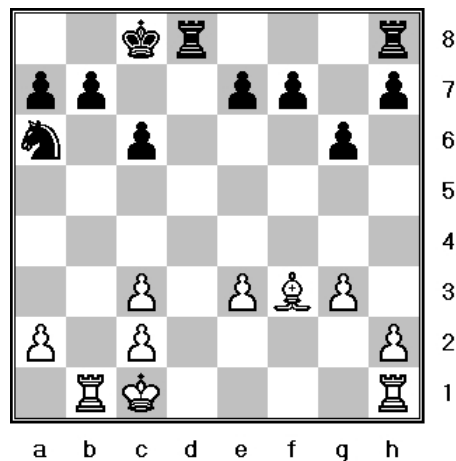
Between masters, often the victor is decided by economy of moves (who got his plan first). With this single move I connected my rooks, defended b7, and checked to boot. It's rare that a move that does two or three things at once is wrong – in fact, likely only if there were a tactical reason would it be the wrong move.

14. Kc1 Bxf3

I traded for the knight as there wasn't really a good bishop-post. Just as important, I certainly didn't want some knight move that has a threat plus the double hit on b7. The more I exchange, the less likely White will be able to recover from the pawn deficit and weaknesses.

15. Bxf3 c6

This is certainly better than 15. ...b6. Whenever it is safe for your pawns to do so, use them to blunt the power of the enemy bishops by putting them on the same color as the opposition.



16. Rd1

I don't like this move. White can't infiltrate on the d-file, nor could Black, as of yet. I think keeping the rook on with 16. Rf1 was a better way to try to generate play and complications, and therefore some material back.

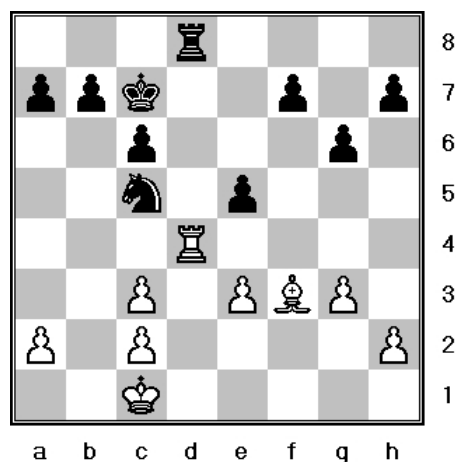
16. ...Nc5 17. Rxd8+ Rxd8 18. Rb4 Kc7

Now seemed like a good time for this. If Black ever needs to play ...b6, then the c6 pawn will have to be defended. Also, I would like to be able to route my knight to e6 or d7 without having to worry about any pins.

19. Rd4

White would love 19. ... Rxd4? 20. cxd4. Unfortunately for White, Black isn't required to take.

19. ...e5



20. Rxd8?

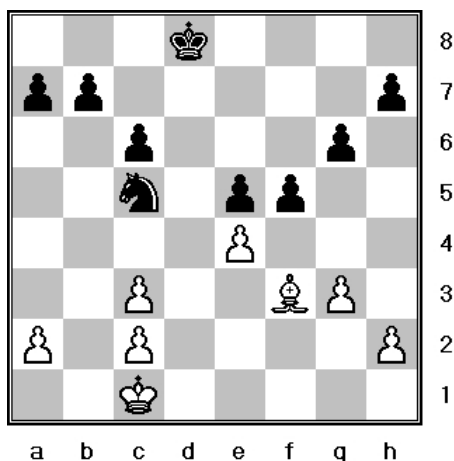
Trading rooks is almost like resigning. The principle is: when down material, trade

pawns, not pieces.

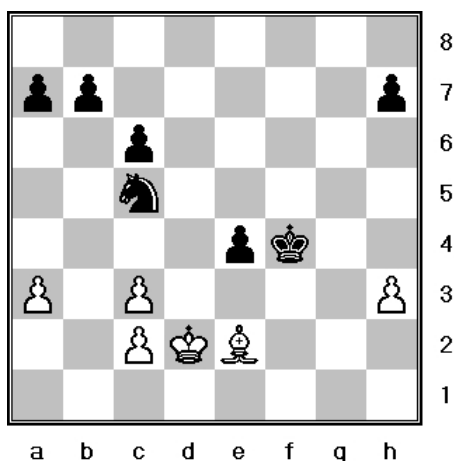
The best way to apply that principle here would be 20. Rh4 h5 21. g4 hxg4 22. Rxd8. This sets up another possible trade with h4-h5 and even prevents an immediate ...f5 by Black, since White can respond Rxd6.

20. ...Kxd8 21. e4 f5

Now was a good time for this move, both because if I didn't White would play 22. g4 and slow down my advance, and also because this move creates a passed e-pawn which eventually wins the game for me.



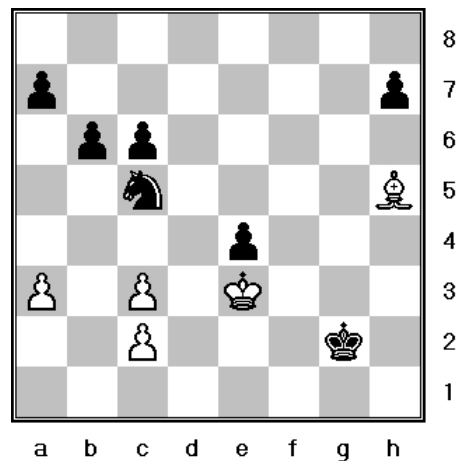
22. exf5 gxf5 23. Kd2 Ke7 24. a3 Kf6 25. h3 e4 26. Be2 Ke5 27. Bc4 f4 28. gxf4+ Kxf4 29. Be2



I spent a good amount of time here. Do I advance ...e3 now, followed by ...Ne4, or do something different?

I couldn't see anything substantial in that line, but I did see that I can establish a second passed pawn with 29. ...Kg3. I had to calculate to make sure it worked.

29. ...Kg3 30. Ke3 Kxh3 31. Kd4 b6 32. Bh5 Kg2 33. Ke3



33. ...Nd7!

The key move. This re-routes the knight to another square that defends e4 pawn, enforces the h7-h5 advance and, thanks to the knight fork, protects the e-pawn for a move while I do the re-route.

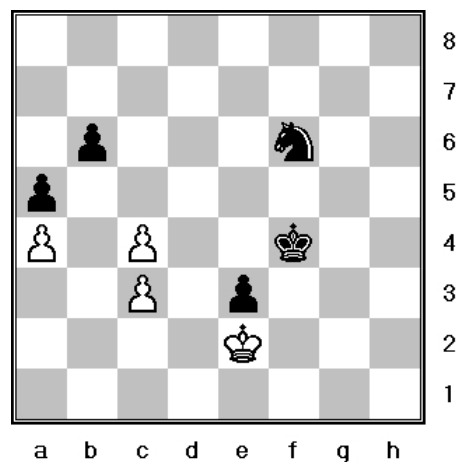
34. Be8 Nf6 35. Bxc6 h5 36. Bb7

You can't really call this move a mistake, since all roads lead to Rome, or White's defeat in this case. The only reason for White to play on is for a stalemate possibility.

36. ...h4 37. Bc8 h3 38. Bxh3+ Kxh3 39. Kf4 Kg2 40. Ke3 Kg3 41. c4 Kg4 42. a4 a5

I played this to prevent any pawn trade/establish passed pawn ideas of White sacrificing a pawn with a5. Even though it's easier to win pawns the farther advanced they are, that isn't a factor here since any move by White toward Black's queenside pawns will result in the black e-pawn queening.

43. c3 Kf5 44. Kd2 Kf4 45. Ke2 e3



46. c5

An amusing line is 46. Ke1 Kf3 47. Kf1 e2+ 48. Ke1 Ke3 49. c5 Ne4 50. cxb6 Nd2

51. b7 Nf3 mate.

46. ...bxc5 47. Kd3 Kf3 48. Kc4 e2 49. Kxc5 e1/Q 50. c4 Qb4+ 51. Kc6 Qxc4+ 52. Kd6 Kf4 53. Ke7 Ke5 54. Kd8 Nd5 55. Ke8 Qc7 56. Kf8 Kf6 57. Kg8 Qg7#

0-1

Ralph,

Computer finally played a decent opening. And got a decent result, lol.

Corey

Corey,

Okay, now we're talking (smile). I don't understand the computer's desire in the two earlier games to give away a center pawn with those early e5/queen exchange pushes.

Ralph

**CM 6000: Griffin – Corey Russell
Training Game Five; Griffin Round 1
Corey's PC, January 9, 2010**

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5

This is the Najdorf variation of the Open Sicilian. There is a ton of theory on this, so it's risky against a computer, but I might learn something.

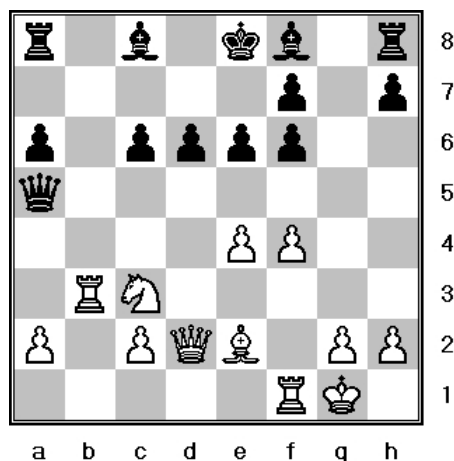
6. ...e6 7. f4 Qb6 8. Qd2 Qxb2

This is the Poisoned Pawn variation. I have mixed results with this with Black (about 50%), but it's fun.

9. Rb1 Qa3 10. Bxf6 gxf6 11. Be2 Nc6 12. Nxc6 bxc6 13. Rb3 Qa5

13. ...Qc5 would allow Na4-b6.

14. 0-0



Corey,

I'm not up on current theory in this opening. Is ...h5 book? I was wondering whether ...d5 there might be better than waiting until it's virtually forced when White has doubled on the b-file, and I wasn't sure if ...h5 was necessary to avoid some kind of f5/Bh5 plan, or if the kingside might hang together better with the pawn back on h7.

Ralph

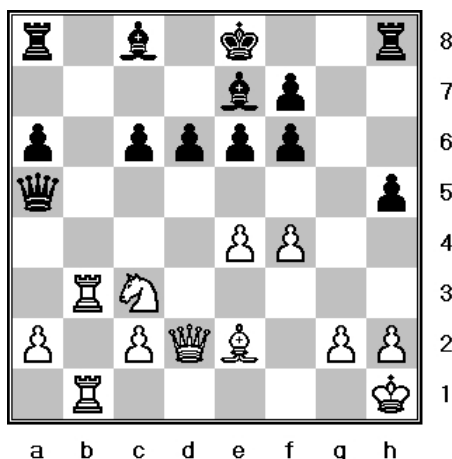
Ralph,

In Najdorf, the ...h5 theme is very common. Black is often safer in the center than the kingside. I actually have played this very position with ...h5 against a number of human opponents with good results. Often times it's forced because White plays f5 and fxe6 and then Bh5+ Black loses the right to castle. Getting h5-h4-h3 pawn lever has been quite useful in my prior games. And even with the text, the kingside didn't fall apart, the queenside did. The other thing is if I don't play ...h5, White can play f5, Bh5, threatening fxe6 which is quite a problem.

As for whether it's current theory, can't say about that, but it's MY theory if that makes any sense.

Corey

14. ...h5 15. Kh1 Be7 16. Rfb1



This is a simple move, but just what is Black supposed to do about it? ...Kd7-c7 is unsound because of Nd5+ picking up the black queen. ...Qc7 allows Na4-b6 which is strong for White, and 16. ...Bd7 17. Rb8+ Rxb8 18. Rxb8+ Bd8 19. Qxd6 loses material.

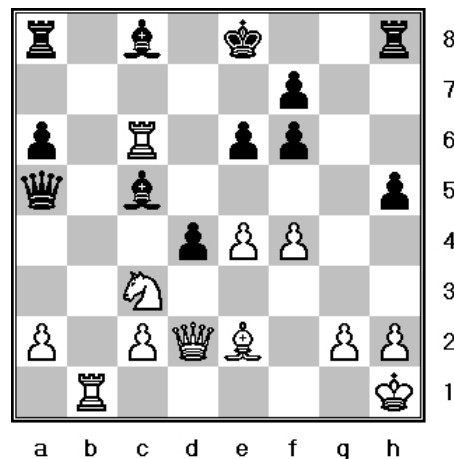
16. ...d5 17. Rb6!

A great move by White. White saw deeper....

17. ...Bc5?

Tempting but unsound. 17. ...Kd7 is better since now 18. Rb8? Rxb8 19. Rxb8 Bb4! wins material for Black.

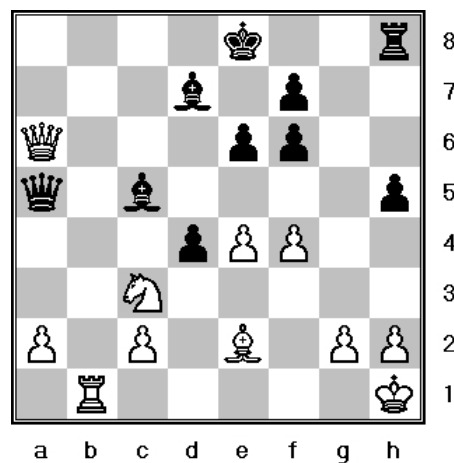
18. Rxc6 d4



19. Qd3!

Another great move by Griffin. 19. ...Qxc3 20. Qxc3 dxc3 21. Rxc5 is a great endgame for White. And on 19. ...dxc3 20. Qc4! regains White's material with initiative.

19. ...Bd7 20. Rxa6 Rxa6 21. Qxa6



White didn't fall for 21. Rb8+? Ke7 22. Rxh8 Rb6 23. Ne1 Qe1+ 24. Bf1 Rb1 and it's lights out for White.

21. ...Qxa6

Corey,

I have two possible improvements for you.

First, take a look at the win of a piece with 21. ...Qxc3, instead of the queen

exchange (which may actually turn out all right). White's 22. Rb8+ Ke7 23. Rxh8 gets mated: 23. ...Qe1+ 24. Bf1 d3! 25. Qxd3 Qf2. The other way to take h8 doesn't look too good, either: 22. Qa8+ Ke7 23. Qxh8 Qxc2, forking the rook and bishop.

Ralph

Ralph,

I saw this variation earlier (in a different move order), but missed your ...Qxc2!

Corey

22. Bxa6 0-0

Corey,

Second, the move 23. Bb5 for White

looks very strong, which in turn suggests that 22. ...0-0 is an error, unguarding the d7-bishop. Since you want to keep it protected and also threaten ...Ra8 (while gaining a tempo, finally, on that attacked knight), I'd prefer 22. ...Ke7. I'm not sure how White tactics out of those threats.

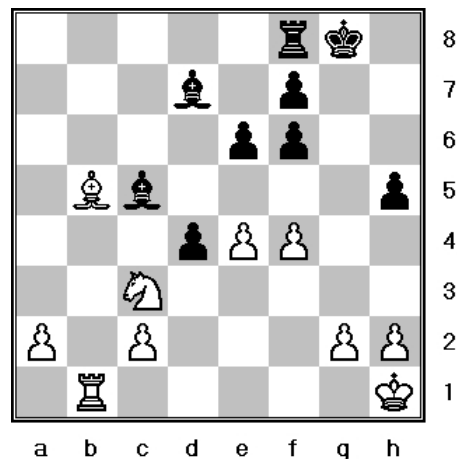
Ralph

Ralph

I rejected 22. ... Ke7 in the game, but looking at it again don't know why. White has to move the knight then ...Bc6 (which is what I wanted to play) looks OK. Think was worried about the immediate Rb7 but of course that is impossible with the knight en prise.

Corey

23. Bb5



21. ...Rb8??

For some reason I had the illusion that the bishop was pinned. The right move now appears to be 23. ... Rd8 with plus to White.

24. Bxd7

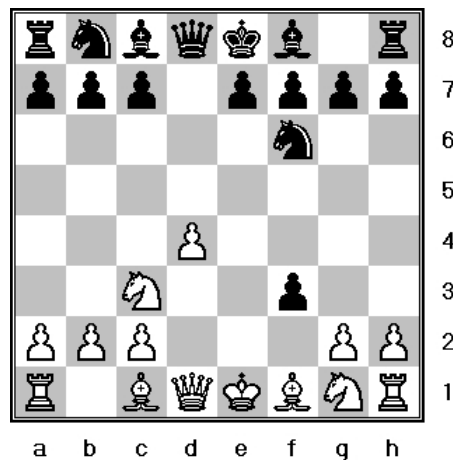
1-0

Port Townsend Chess Players Honor Ernst Rasmussen With a Blackmar Diemer Gambit Tournament by Stephen Chase

In 1971 I was contacted by Russell Miller to direct the Clallam and Jefferson County tournament that were a part of the County Championship series. I did not play in the tournament in Port Angeles, but I did in Port Townsend. In the second round I met Ernie for the first time, and I fell afoul of his Albin Counter Gambit, and was beaten rather soundly.

Long time chess players in Washington know that Ernie is a gracious gentleman who always plays a gambit – he is truly of the romantic school of chess, the kind of play that was dominant in the mid-1800s. Ernie's favorite opening is the Blackmar Diemer Gambit; he has several of his games in manuals on the opening and has even contributed to chess theory on the gambit.

Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. White to move.



Ernie is perhaps Washington State's senior player – he turns 85 in October – and a tournament in his honor is being arranged at the Towne Point Club House with a \$1000 guaranteed prize fund. Cost for the tournament is \$10. The event will not be rated, and the time limit is game in one hour. All games must start from 1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 exf3.

A catered lunch is included, and of course, a birthday cake. It is hoped that players from Seattle, Tacoma, and any who consider Ernst a friend or good acquaintance will plan to come out for this event. The prize fund is: 1st, \$300; 2nd, \$200; 3rd, \$100; 1st under 2000, \$100; 2nd, \$75; 1st under 1700, \$100; 2nd, \$75. There is also a best game prize of \$50, and more money will be added depending on the turnout.

Contact Stephen Chase at 360-385-3457 for driving instructions or to have any question answered.

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Opening Arguments

by Harley Greninger

In our make-believe tournament, Phil Positional arrived at six points in a most balanced way. With four wins, two losses and four draws, Mr. Positional obviously pushed for wins but without going overboard in a win-at-all-costs fashion.

Middle of the road, tempering aggression with solidity, the Positional philosophy is a mature, well-rounded approach to the game.

Here are the openings I'd suggest for Mr. (or Ms.) Positional.



Willy Wild
+6 -4 =0

Abel Active
+5 -3 =2

Phil Positional
+4 -2 =4

Perry Powerful
+3 -1 =6

The Rock
+2 -0 =8



Aggressive
Win at any cost!

Positional

Solid

Win some, lose some Never say die!

As White:

1. c4/1. Nf3

English or Reti main lines; this opening will be incorporated with more frequency than in the other playing styles.

1. d4

Queen's Gambit, main lines

Queen's Gambit, exchange variations

Catalan with early c2-c4

1. e4

vs. Sicilian- Open Variation

vs. 1. ...e5, Ruy Lopez main lines

vs. 1. ...e5, Giuoco Piano

vs. French-Tarrasch Variation

vs. Caro-Kann, Main lines

As Black:

vs. 1. e4

Sicilian Defense, Dragon & Accelerated Dragon

1. ...e5 Ruy Lopez, Chigorin Defense

1. ...e5 Ruy Lopez, Breyer Defense

French Defense, Classical

French Defense, Winawer

vs. 1. d4

Nimzo-Indian Defense

Queen's Indian Defense

Bogo-Indian

Grunfeld Defense

QGD-Slav Defense

QGD-Orthodox Defense

vs. 1. c4

1. ...c5 with Kingside Fianchetto

Queen's Gambit Declined:

Slav or Orthodox transposition

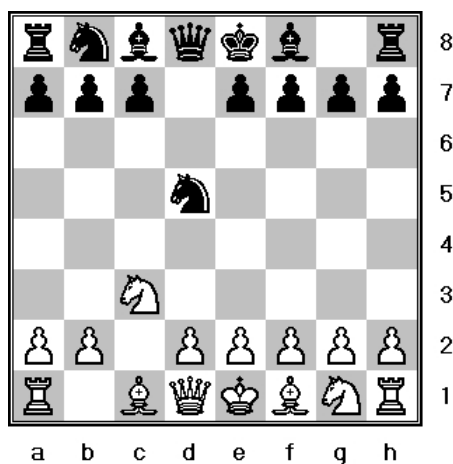
Once again, where multiple options exist for a single line, the student should begin by selecting one opening from each category, rather than trying immediately to play each of the recommended lines.

Once you feel entirely confident with one opening, incorporate a second from that category. Eventually, your repertoire will be *flexible and perfectly tailored to your style*.



Keith Arkell – Simon J B Knott
Hastings Chess Congress, Round 5
England, January 1, 2010

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. cxd5 Nxd5



4. Nf3

To some players this may seem very curious. Not that it is an exceptional move or anything requiring special understanding. It is just that 4. g3 is the move that a couple of generations of NW players would think of immediately. As a player of the Queen's Gambit, GM Arkell has used 1. c4 as a bit of a detour around players' favorite lines, as well as a change up.

So he is not looking for straight lines in the English opening, and that is why 4. Nf3. Arkell considers that if he plays 4. g3 Black might reply 4. ...g6 and arrive at the opening of this game, but Black could also play 4. ...e5 or 4. ...c5. The second of these possibilities is of greater concern to Arkell as he would not be comfortable on the Sicilian side of a Maroczy bind formation. After 4. Nf3, if Black plays 4. ...c5 we have

Theoretically Speaking

by Bill McGeary

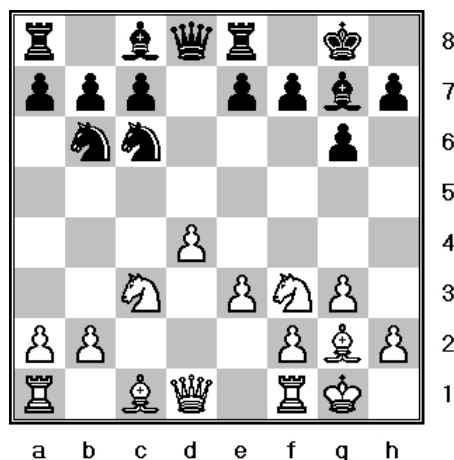
a simple transposition to some mainlines of the Asymmetrical English when White can play 5. d4/5. e4/5. e3. Also to be kept in mind is that White could have played 4. d4 here and looked for transpositions from that, likely to a Grunfeld.

4. ...g6 5. g3

Arkell – Knott, York 2000, had seen 5. e4 Nxc3 6. dxc3 Qxd1+ 7. Kxd1 f6 8. e5 Nc6 9. exf6 exf6 10. Bf4 Bc5 11. Bxc7 Bxf2 12. Bc4 Bf5 13. Ke2 Rc8 14. Bd6 when White might claim to be nominally better, but with a bit of accurate defense and the exchange of white-square bishops Knott equalized and drew in 28 moves.

5. ...Bg7 6. Bg2 0-0 7. 0-0 Nc6 8. d4 Nb6 9. e3 Re8

Via transposition we reach a main position in the fianchetto Grunfeld.

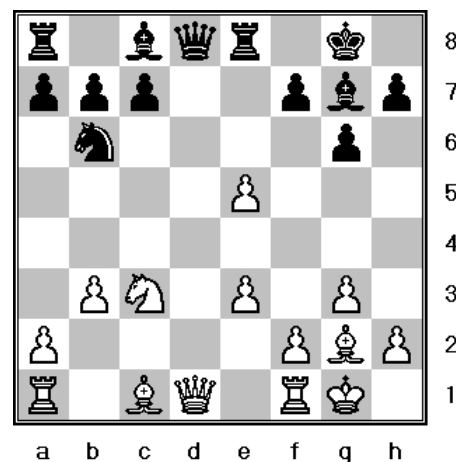


In a sense this position represents a battle of philosophies. White is happy to have an advantage in the center, while Black contends that, with his quicker development, the central counter ...e7-e5 will give at least dynamic equality. Black's last move is a trendy choice in Black's philosophy. When Black has played ...e7-e5 the position is likely to become more open, and the rook will ready to go.

White's next is rather a minor line, but is a clear sign of GM Arkell's style. Traditionally White would seek to make something out of a space advantage by limiting exchanges with a move such as 10. Qe2 or restrict Black further with 10. h3. Arkell's move, 10.b3, just makes a place for

the Bc1 and doesn't avoid exchanges. Actually, it invites a small skirmish to remove material as Arkell loves to play with the minority attack. This is an example of a player understanding what kind of position they play well and not playing to "theory."

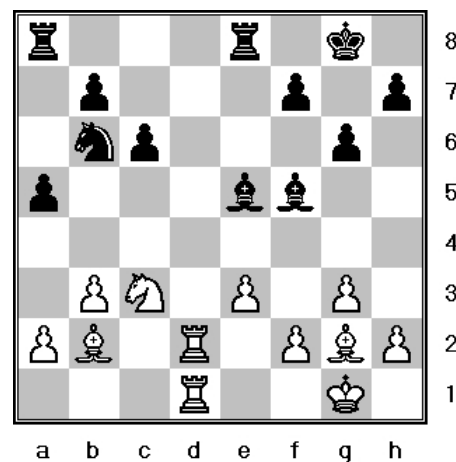
10. b3 e5 11. Nxe5 Nxe5 12. dxe5



12. ...Qxd1

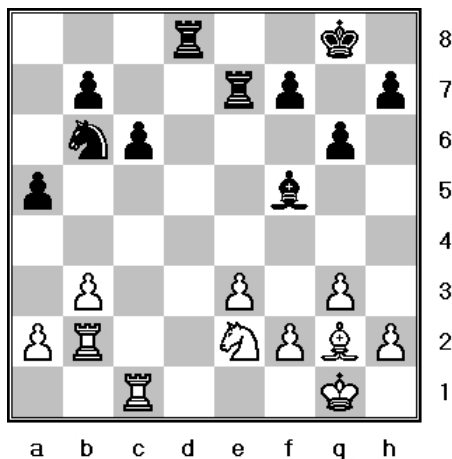
There is limited experience with 10. b3, yet Beliavsky and Mihailchasin indicate that 12. ...Bxe5 is slightly preferable. In a simple position it is not likely that White's extra tempo with Rxd1 will be decisive, yet it is something.

13. Rxd1 Bxe5 14. Bb2 c6 15. Rd2 Bf5 16. Rad1 a5



17. Ne2 Bxb2 18. Rxb2 Rad8 19. Rc1 Re7

How do we evaluate the last five moves? White doubled on the open d-file and then completely abandoned it?

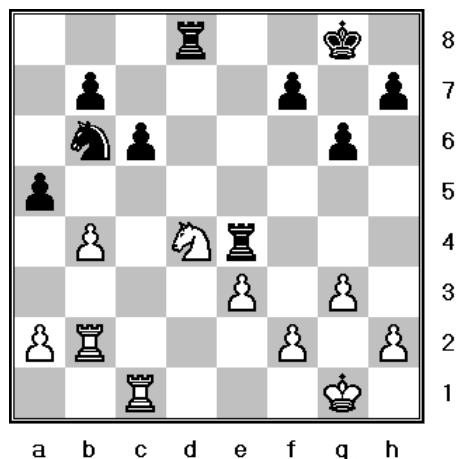


Remember, Arkell is placing his chances in the minority attack, and that particular device is not so effective without some heavy pieces. If we compare the minor pieces we note that either knight will be happy going to d4/d5, while White's Bg2 is better than the Bf5. There really aren't any targets on the d-file, so White just slips away to advance the Q-side pawns.

20. Nd4 Be4

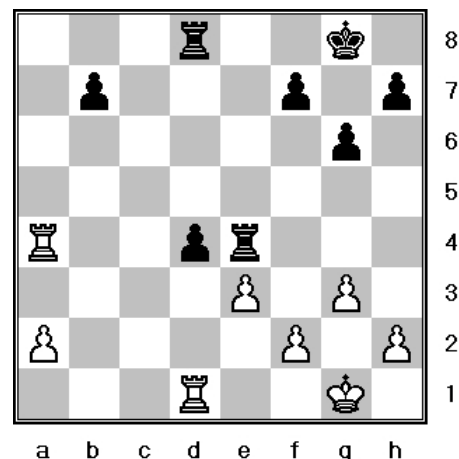
As mentioned in the previous note, the move b3-b4 is up next and Black has to find a way to deal with that. Clearing the Bg2 from the long diagonal seems proper, yet the Re7 loses its defense of b7. Black must be banking on a tactic around the d4/b4 squares and looking to get to an ending with all pawns on one side of the board.

21. Bxe4 Rxe4 22. b4



22. ...Na4 23. Rb3 axb4 24. Rxb4 c5

25. Rxa4 cxd4 26. Rd1



How often do you see a pawn pinned in two directions? I have seen it a few times, but usually it is on crossing diagonals and not file and rank.

Black might have missed this back on move 20, and so now must defend a pawn-down ending. With that, over to the endgame corner...

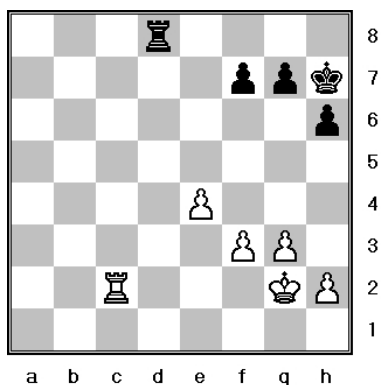
Our experiment with two columnists analyzing their favored parts of the same game continues this month with Arkell – Knott, Hastings 2009-2010. Theoretically speaking, the opening phase into the middle game is treated above, in “Theoretically Speaking.” The endgame phase is treated below, in “And In The End.” And in the end, you’ll probably be less confused if you just follow along as if it’s all one game. Because, after all, it is.

– editor

Thanks Bill. We now join the game with White being on the verge of picking up the d-pawn.

Typical of rook endings, Black will have reasonable drawing chances despite being a pawn down. One technical problem White faces is that if a pair of rooks and the queenside pawns come off, then the resultant rook + four pawns vs. rook + three pawns ending will usually be a theoretical draw.

Having said that, even those endings will give White some play for the win. Here are a couple examples lifted from “Fundamental Chess Endings.”

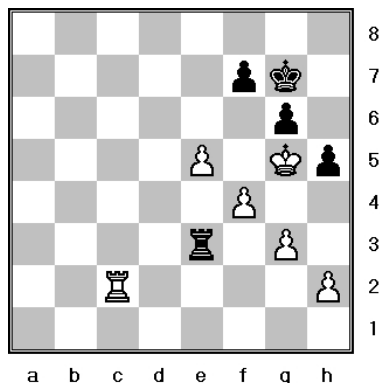


Piket – Kasparov, with Black to move.

1. ...h5! 2. f4 g6

Black has achieved the desired formation of pawns on f7, g6 and h5, but there still a need for accurate play. The fact that Kasparov fails to hold the draw demonstrates the need for vigilance.

3. e5 Rd3 4. Kh3! Re3 5. Kh4 Kg7 6. Kg5

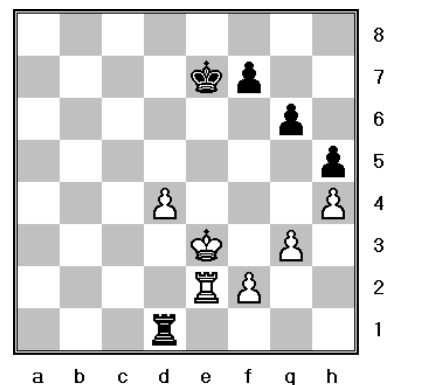


6. ...Re1?

6. ...Ra3 7. Rc7 Ra6=.

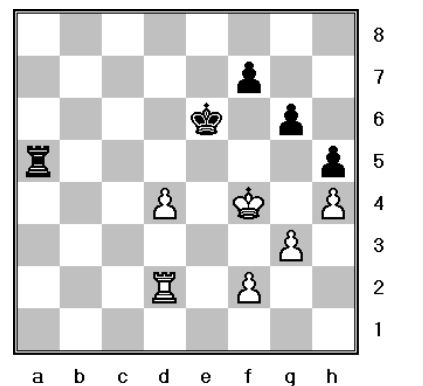
7. Rc7 Re2 8. Re7 Ra2 9. f5! gxf5 10. e6 h4 11. Rxf7+ Kg8 12. Kf6 1-0

Next up is Ghitescu – Rajkovic, with White to play.



1. Ra2 Ke6 2. Rd2 Ra1 3. Kf4 Ra5?

3. ...f6.



4. Re2+?

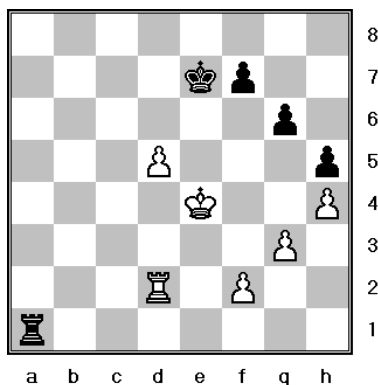
4. d5+! wins.

4. ...Kd6 5. Rb2 Ke6 6. Ke4 Ra1 7. d5+ Kf6?!

7. ...Kd6 =.

8. Rd2 Ke7?

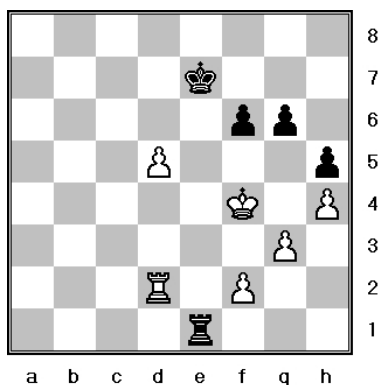
8. ...Ra8 =.



9. Ke5?

9. d6+! +-. .

9. ...Re1+ 10. Kf4 f6! (=)



11. Ra2 Re5 12. Ra7+ Kd6 13. Ra6+ Ke7 14. Ra7+ Kd6 15. Ra6+ Ke7 16. d6+ Kd7 1/2-1/2

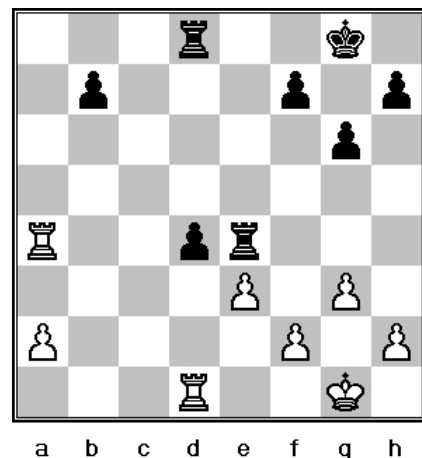
Moving back to the game at hand, White should try to keep both sets of rooks and the queenside pawns on the board in order to complicate the defense for Black. White doesn't really have a specific plan, but rather looks to suppress Black's activity as much as possible, while at the same maneuvering his rooks around looking for something to "turn up."

Some things that could turn up include unbalancing the pawns (by giving up his a-pawn for a black kingside pawn) or finding a favorable transition to a rook + four pawns vs. rook + three pawns ending.

This sort of tacking by White may not lead to anything concrete, but it is frustrating to defend against. Even if Black can trade

down to a standard rook + four pawns vs. rook + three pawns ending, the "drawn" ending still requires some care before the point is split.

Summing it all up, White is much better, but has no forced win. On the other hand, Black faces a long and tortuous struggle to draw.



26. ...Rc8

Black is looking for counterplay via the seventh rank. A more direct move worth considering is 26. ...b5 with the idea of immediately forcing an exchange of rooks. Play could continue 27. Raxd4 (27. Rb4? Ra8 and either the a2-pawn drops or the pin is released on the d4-pawn) 27. ...Rexd4 28. Rxd4 (28. exd4!?) 28. ...Ra8 29. Rd2 (29. Rb4 Rxa2 30. Rxb5 h5 is a theoretical draw as mentioned Piket – Kasparov) 29. ...h5.

This seems fine for Black; I don't see how White can make much progress with his rook tied to the second rank. If White frees his rook by an indirect trade of pawns (e.g. 31. Rb2 Kg7 32. Rxb5 Rxa2), we once again reach a standard "drawn" position as in Piket – Kasparov above.

27. Rb1

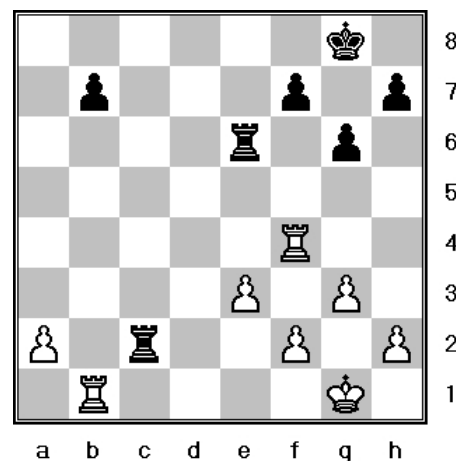
The immediate capture of the pawn by 27. Raxd4 Rxd4 28. Rxd4 prematurely exchanges rooks.

27. ...Re6 28. Rxd4

28. exd4 seems inferior: 28. ... Rc2 29. Ra3 (29. Rxb7 Re2 =) 29. ...Rf6 30. f4 (30. Rf1 Ra6 31. Rxa6 bxa6 32. a3 Rd2 = or 31. Rb3 Rxa2 32. Rxb7 Rd2 33. Rd7 Ra4 34. d5 Rd4 =) 30. ...Re6 31. g4 Ree2 32. Rg3 Rxa2 =.

28. ...Rc2 29. Rf4

Both targeting f7 and preventing counterplay against f2 with 29. ...Rf6.



29. ...b6

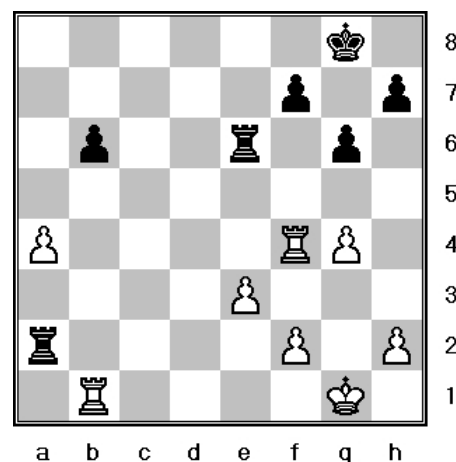
Taking the a-pawn is poor: 29. ...Rxa2 30. Rxb7 f5 31. Rc4 with Rc7 or Rc8 to follow.

30. a4 Ra2 31. g4!

A standard (but good) move prevents Black from playing ...h5 for the time being. Black's defense in a rook + four pawns vs. rook + three pawns ending is more difficult when ...h5 is not available.

White also could be using g4 as the start of a general advance of the kingside pawns; the purpose being either to restrict Black further or create tactical chances for the rook.

At the risk of being repetitive, with accurate defense Black can still hold the draw.



31. ...g5

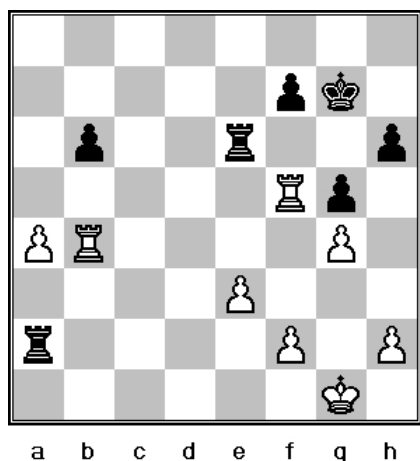
A standard reaction to White's g4. The idea is that White will be exchanging pawns as he tries to advance them. However, White is able to effectively regroup based on the looseness of the g5-pawn. To be considered is 31. ...h6 with idea of preparing ...g5 without allowing Rf5 to gain a tempo with attack on the g-pawn.

If White waits with 31. ...h6 32. h3, then 32. ...g5 33. Rb4 Kg7 34. Rbb2 (what else?) 34. ...Rxb2 35. Rxb2 Re4 seems theoretically fine for Black. White can lash out with h4, as he does in game: 31. ...h6 32. h4 g5 33. hxg5 hxg5 34. Rf5 Rxa4 35. Rg5+ Kf8 36. Kg2 f6 37. Rgb5 Rxb4+, but this also seems drawable.

32. Rf5 h6

32. ...Rxa4 32. Rxb4+ Kf8 (32. ...Rg6? 33. Rxb4+ hxg6 34. h3 Ra6 35. Kg2 is good for White) 33. h3 unbalances the pawn position; presumably this is what white was aiming for. The four versus two pawn mass on the kingside looks ominous, but the b-pawn may offer enough counterweight to draw. It's understandable that Black had no interest in such adventures.

33. Rb4 Kg7



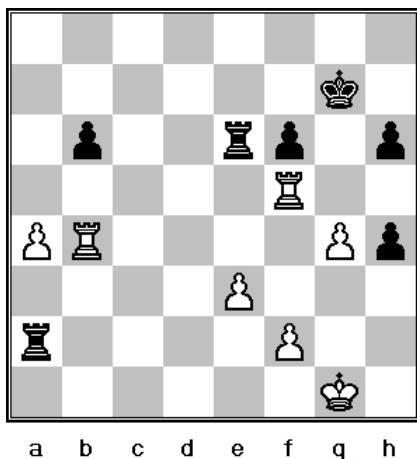
34. h4

This move keeps up the pressure. The alternative 34. h3 guards the g-pawn in anticipation of activating the king, but lacks punch. For example after 34. h3 Kg6 35. Rfb5 f6 36. Kf1 Kg7, does White have anything better than the indirect exchange of his a-pawn for Black's b-pawn? The white king is still stuck on the first rank since Kg2 or Kh2 drops the e-pawn.

34. ...gxh4

34. ...f6?! 35. h5 improves White's chances in a potential four vs. three rook ending.

35. Rbf4 f6 36. Rb4



36. ...Rc6?!

This releases the pressure on the e-pawn, allowing White to start centralizing his king. Black can sit tight with 36. ...Kg6, with the idea that White can't make any further progress without his king.

It's more complex if White forces the issue by advancing his king at the cost of his e-pawn, but Black should be OK, e.g.: 37. Kh2 (37. Kg2 Rxe3 38. Rxb6 Rg3+) h5 38. Rf3 Re5 39. Kh3 hxg4+ 40. Rxb6 Rg5 41. Rxh4 b5 42. axb5 Rxb5 43. Rg3+ Rg5.

37. Kg2

White takes the opportunity to bring his king into play.

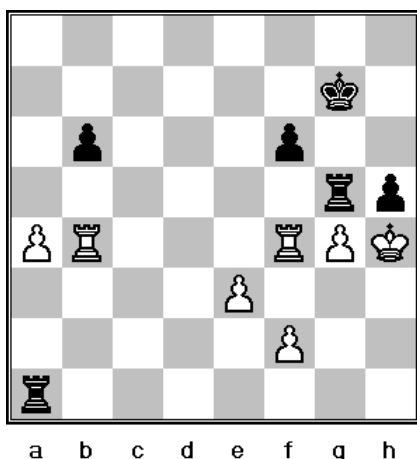
37. ...Rc6

Trying to exchange rooks.

38. Rff4

White declines the offer.

38. ...Rg5 39. Kh3 Ra1 40. Kxh4 h5



41. Rxf6!

White takes advantage of a tactical opportunity to win another pawn, and quickly seals the game.

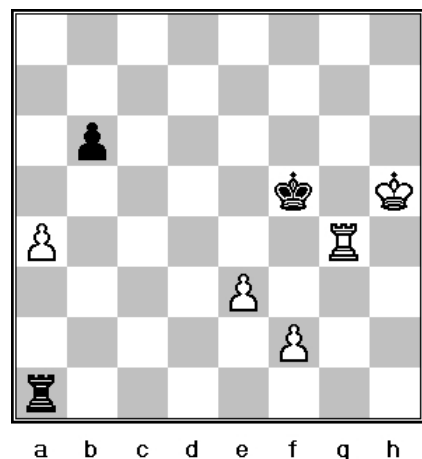
41. ...Rxb4+

41. ...Kxf6 42. Rxb6+ Kg7 43. Kxg5; 41. ...Rh1+?? 42. Kxg5; 41. ...Rc5 42. Rfxb6.

42. Rxb4 Kxf6

42. ...hxg4 43. Rxb6 and the g-pawn will be rounded up shortly.

43. Kxh5 Kf5



44. Rf4+

1-0

Two passers ahead is enough to win easily.

{Dana and Bill would like to know how well their combined column format is working for Northwest Chess readers.

Please address comments to Northwest Chess editor Ralph Dubisch; e-mail: editor@nwchess.com. – editor}



And In The End by Dana Muller

The Robert Karch Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

by: Murlin Varner, tallymaster

We have not yet reached the target level for donations to the Robert Karch Memorial Grand Prix fund, but I have affixed the name anyway, at least for the remainder of 2010. If enough donations come in, we could keep the name through 2011 as well. If you are able to contribute to this memorial fund, please send your donation to Eric Holcomb, NWC Business Manager, 1900 NE Third St., STE 106-361, Bend, OR 97701-3889. Please make checks payable to **Northwest Chess**. Any amount will help reach our goal to honor the memory of a long-time chess figure in the northwest, and all collected funds will go directly to the Grand Prix prize fund. Thank you for your support.

The standings below show just a few changes from the previous month, but three are new names, so look hard and see if you are among them. After the Oregon Open is complete, I am sure there will be plenty of changes, especially in the Oregon standings, where just a few points separate first from tenth in many classes. The Oregon Open will have a multiplier of four. After that event, the only event remaining on our schedule with a multiplier of more than three will be the Washington Class on Thanksgiving weekend. The upcoming Silverdale event should also have a multiplier of two or three. Six events were completed in August and will show up in my next set of standings. The Oregon Open may or may not make it into October's magazine, depending on when the rating report is completed.

There will be changes in classes as well. The ratings used here are for the month of August, but looking ahead, I see a few players will be moving up in September or October, myself included. Remember, your class in the Grand Prix is determined by your peak rating for the year, so you may go up, but you cannot go down; at least, not until the next year.

The standings below are for all events through 7/31/2010. So far this year, 433 players have made 1206 entries into Grand Prix events. This puts us right on pace to match last year's results.

Oregon

Washington

Masters

1 Raptis, Nick	129	1 Malugu, Satyajit	83
2 Breckenridge, Steven ...	69	2 Selzler, Ricky	54
3 Roua, Radu	19.5	3 Bragg, David R	49
4 Schulien, Charles	16.5	4 Pupols, Viktors	44
4 Haessler, Carl A	16.5	5 Sinanan, Joshua C	41
.....		6 Cozianu, Costin	35

Experts

1 Gay, Daniel Z	42.5	1 Bartron, Paul R	98.5
2 Davis, Mikeal	40	2 Ummel, Igor	84.5
3 Morris, Michael J	34.5	3 Rupel, David	59

4 Heywood, Bill	26	4 Wang, Michael	51.5
5 Pendergast, Michael	23	5 Lessler, Peter	45.5
6 Daroza, Eduardo J	20	6 Schemm, Michael A ..	45

Class A

1 Grom, Alex	51	1 Ambler, Dennis L	142.5
2 Bannon, David T	47.5	2 Mathews, Daniel R ..	120.5
3 Botez, V Alexandra	44.5	3 Buck, Stephen J	119
4 Esler, Brian	25	4 Sen, Samir	75
5 Surak, Steve S	24	5 Watts, Peter O	71.5
6 Herrera, Robert	18	6 Qu, Frank	69.5

Class B

1 Chu-Kung, Ben	31	1 Monahan, Darby P ..	103.5
2 Niro, Frank A	29.5	2 Gibbon, Brian C	72
3 Waterman, Jeremy	28.5	3 Szabo, Marcell	70
4 Parnon, Calvin J	27	4 Hua, Daniel	66.5
5 Rhoades, Alan J	26.5	5 Chang, Austin	66
6 Witt, Steven A	24.5	6 He, Daniel M	65.5

Class C

1 Shimada, Masakazu	46	1 Piper, August	107
2 Skalnes, Erik	34.5	2 Davis, Frederick A	81
3 Dalthorp, Dan	23.5	3 Lampman, Becca	80
4 Donchenko, Peter	23	4 Kramlich, Dan	72.5
4 Dalthorp, Matt	23	5 Cordero, Rowland	70
6 Dietz, Arliss	20.5	6 Nagase, Masayuki	62.5

Class D and Below

1 Butson, Jeffrey C	25	1 Richards, Jerrold	85
2 Molchanov, Valentin I ..	15.5	2 Soetedjo, James C	55.5
3 Chatterjee, Dhruva	15	3 Nagase, Toshihiro	51.5
4 Meaders, Jedidiah C	14.5	4 Dhingra, Sangeeta	50
5 Jeffrey, Caleb	13.5	5 Zhang, Derek	47
6 Coonrod, Larry F	12	6 Zhang, Brendan	46

Overall Leaders, by State

1 Raptis, Nick	129	1 Ambler, Dennis L	142.5
2 Breckenridge, Steven ...	69	2 Mathews, Daniel R ..	120.5
3 Grom, Alex	51	3 Buck, Stephen J	119
4 Bannon, David T	47.5	4 Piper, August	107
5 Shimada, Masakazu	46	5 Monahan, Darby P ..	103.5
6 Botez, V Alexandra	44.5	6 Bartron, Paul R	98.5
7 Gay, Daniel Z	42.5	7 Richards, Jerrold	85
8 Davis, Mikeal	40	8 Ummel, Igor	84.5
9 Morris, Michael J	34.5	9 Malugu, Satyajit	83
9 Skalnes, Erik	34.5	10 Davis, Frederick A	81
11 Chu-Kung, Ben	31	11 Lampman, Becca	80
12 Niro, Frank A	29.5	12 Sen, Samir	75
13 Waterman, Jeremy	28.5	13 Kramlich, Dan	72.5
14 Parnon, Calvin J	27	14 Gibbon, Brian C	72
15 Rhoades, Alan J	26.5	15 Watts, Peter O	71.5

Players in Database 2010

	Oregon	Washington	Other	totals
Master	5	17	1	23
Expert	8	24	1	33
Class A	11	45	13	69
Class B	25	67	7	99
Class C	19	54	11	84
Class D-below	26	92	7	125
	94	299	40	433



Washington Class Championships

A NW Grand Prix Event

November 26-28, 2010

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Prizes \$500, \$350, \$200, U2300 \$150

Expert (2000-2199) EF \$65 / \$70 / \$80
Prizes \$400, \$300, \$175, U2100 \$125

Class A (1800-1999) EF \$60 / \$65 / \$75
Prizes \$300, \$250, \$150, U1900 \$100

Class B (1600-1799) EF \$60 / \$65 / \$75
Prizes \$300, \$250, \$150, U1700 \$100

Class C (1400-1599) EF \$60 / \$65 / \$75
Prizes \$300, \$250, \$150, U1500 \$100

Class D (1200-1399) EF \$60 / \$65 / \$75
Prizes \$300, \$250, \$150, U1300 \$100

Class E (1199&below) EF \$55/\$60/\$70
Prizes \$150, \$125, \$100, U1000 \$75,
U800 \$75, Unrated \$75

Advance entries must be received by Nov. 20. Reentry 1/2 of your entry fee. Add \$25 to play up one class (can't play up two classes). Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs. Juniors (U21) may play for medals only for an advance EF of \$25. (Medals awarded for top two in each class.) Canadians may pay C\$ at par (no coins) for entry fee only.

**ALL PRIZES WILL BE MAILED
starting December 1, 2010.**

Entries/Information:

Send entries to Dan Mathews, WCF
Tournament Coordinator:

107 7th Ave N Apt 100

Edmonds, WA 98020

Cell Phone (425) 218-7529

E-mail: Dthmathews@aol.com

Also see www.nwchess.com.

Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation.

Marriott Redmond Town Center, 7401 164th Avenue NE,
Redmond, WA 98052, phone (425) 498-4000

**Online Registration at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>
Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.**

Format: Seven class sections as shown at left, six round Swiss system. Sections may be combined if less than 12 players in a section. Late registrations may receive half-point byes for first round.

Rating: USCF rated. Master/Expert sections also FIDE rated. USCF November supplement will be used. Unrated players may only win 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes in Master section, or unrated prize in class E.

Registration: Friday 8:00-9:00 AM for 3-day schedule, or 3:00-3:30 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Saturday 8:00-9:00 AM for 2-day schedule, or 8:30-9:00 AM if entering 3-day schedule with two half-point byes. Two half-point byes available at registration or before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking two half-point byes.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Fri: 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Sat 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Sun 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. 2-day schedule: Sat 9:30 AM, 12:00 noon, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 4 at 5:30 PM.

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: 30/90 and SD/1 with 5-second delay. 2-day schedule: G/60 with 5-second delay (rounds 1-3), rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule. Please bring tournament chess set, board and digital clock.

Miscellaneous: Current USCF membership and WCF or OCF membership required in all sections. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. NW Grand Prix event. National Grand Prix Points: 20. Chess Magnet School JGP. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

Entries/Prizes/Info: See left column. Please use entry form (available soon on NWC website) for a list of all discounts and fees, and to indicate schedule, section, side events and byes requested – or use online registration.

Hotel Info/Rates: \$95.00 for single, double, triple or quad. Reservation link is available on Northwest Chess website (www.nwchess.com). The cut-off date for reservations at the discount is November 19th.

Side Events: Blitz and Novice events on Saturday. See page 2 of this flyer (available at www.nwchess.com if not published herein).

Washington Class Scholastic (Nov 26): A separate flyer/entry form/online registration link will be published on the NWC website for this event, or contact: David Hendricks, WCF Scholastic Coordinator, 2439 220th Place NE, Sammamish, WA 98074-6418, phone 425-868-3881, e-mail: DavidCHendricks@comcast.net.

Revised 8/19/2010.



28th Annual Sands Regency Reno - Western States Open

An American Classic & Heritage Event!!!

A Weikel Tournament

200 Grand Prix Pts. (Enhanced) • October 22-24, 2010 • F.I.D.E. Rated

\$37,000 (b/400) \$25,250 Guaranteed

40/2 - 20/1 - G 1/2

Entry: \$142 or Less • Rooms: \$35/\$59 While they last!

Wednesday 10/20 - Clock Simul (with Analysis!) - GM Sergey Kudrin - ONLY \$30!!

Thursday 10/21 - Free Lecture by GM Larry Evans • Simul GM Khachiyan (\$15) - Blitz (\$20)

Saturday 10/23 - GM Larry Evans Game/Position Lecture (FREE)

Sunday 10/24 - Quick G/20 - (\$20)

Main Tournament

Registration: Thursday (5-8 pm) - Friday (9:00-10 am)

Round Times: 10/22 (Fri.) - Noon - 7 pm • 10/23 (Sat.) - 10 am - 6 pm • 10/24 (Sun.) - 9:30 am - 4 pm

For a flyer, call or e-mail: Chief TD N.T.D. Jerome V. (Jerry) Weikel, (775) 747-1405 / wackyykl@aol.com

Room Reservations: Terrible's Sands Regency Casino Hotel, **1-866-FUN-STAY** - Ask for code: **CHESS 1022**

For complete details, visit: www.renochess.org/wso



For more information: Call, write, or e-mail:

Organizer and Chief TD

N.T.D. Jerome V. (Jerry) Weikel, (775) 747-1405

6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno NV 89523,

wackyykl@aol.com

Room Reservations: Call the Sands Regency,

1-866-FUN STAY. Ask for code CHESS 1022

To confirm receipt of entry:

See player list at

www.renochess.org/wso

To download an application and for more info, visit www.sandsregency.com (Events Calendar Page)

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address ↙
2150 N 107 St ↘
Seattle WA 98133
Infoline ↙
206-417-5405
www.seattlechess.org
kleistcf@aol.com
Address for Entries
SCC Tnmt Dir
2420 S 137 St
Seattle WA 98168

Attendance: 2010's previous tournaments

Novice (1/30)–11, (4/25)–5; Quads (1/2)–29, (1/23)–32, (2/27)–34, (3/20)–30, (4/24)–19, (5/15)–20, (6/5)–20, (7/3)–26, (7/31)–10; Tornados (1/31)–24, (2/21)–22, (3/14)–28, (4/11)–25, (5/9)–8, (6/26)–20, (7/18)–16, (8/15)–22; Seattle City Championship (1/15–17)–29, Seattle Spring Open (3/26–28)–57, Adult Swiss (5/1–2)–11, Emerald City Open (6/18–20)–33, Seattle Seafair Open–62.

SCC Fridays

Autumn Leaves (40/90, 30/60):

Sept 10, 17, 24.

SCC Championship (35/100, 25/60):

Sept 10, 24; Oct 1, 8, 22, 29; Nov 5.

How to Find the SCC Site

The SCC is in the Northway Square East Building just across I-5 from Northgate Mall where large signs proclaim "Northwest Kidney Centers" and "City University." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th St. from Meridian Ave. N. The club is in the basement (B-85), just take the elevator down one floor.

Sept. 25, Oct. 16 NEW DATE

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120. **EF:** \$7 (+\$5 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quad. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-ASAP. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

Saturday Quads

Sept. 12, Oct. 10

Sunday Tornado

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/64. **EF:** \$17 (+\$5 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

November 6

SCC Novice

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 11/3, \$16 at site. (\$2 disc. for SCC mem., \$1 for mem. of other dues-req'd CCs in WA, OR, & BC). **Prizes:** Memberships (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3 or 4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

New Event!!

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY QUICK QUADS

Sept. 15; Oct. 6, 20; Nov. 3, 17; Dec. 1, 15.

Format: 3-RR. **TC:** G/20. **EF:** \$5 (+\$3 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quick quad. **Reg:** 5:15-5:45 p.m. **1st Rd:** 6 p.m. **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS. NC.

Seattle Fall Open

September 17-19 or September 18-19

A 2-section, 5-round Swiss chess tournament with a time control of 40/2 & SD/1 (except Rd 1 of the 2-day option — G/64) with a prize fund of \$1000 based on 58 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

A Karch Memorial Grand Prix event

Open: \$180 gtd-\$120 gtd, U2200

\$100, U2000 \$95, U1800 \$90

Reserve (U1700): \$110-\$80, U1550

\$70, U1450 \$65, U1350 \$60, UNR \$30

Entry Fees: \$33 by 9/15, \$42 at site. SCC members –subtract \$9. Members of other dues-req'd CCs in BC, OR, & WA –subtract \$4. Unrated players FREE with purchase of 1-yr USCF & WCF. **Add \$1 for 2-day option.** Make checks payable to SCC.

Registration: Fri. 7-7:45 pm or Sat. 9-9:45 am. **Rounds:** Fri. 8 pm, Sat. (10@G/64)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

Byes: 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc.:** USCF & WCF required. NS. NC.

Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

♣ September 4-6

Oregon Open ♣

Mount Hood Community College, Gresham, OR. See display ad in the August issue of *Northwest Chess*.

♣ September 11

Tacoma Mini-Swiss ♣

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave. E., Room 11, 2nd floor. Located in the DTI Soccer Bldg. across the St. from Alfred's Café and two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 3 round Swiss. Time Control: G/90. Entry Fee: \$20. Prizes: B/10, 1st \$50, 2nd \$40, U1700, U1400, \$35 each. Reg: 9:00-9:45, Rds: 10:00, 1:30, 4:00 or ASAP. USCF/WCF required. 1 bye available. Info/entries: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, phone (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ September 25

Portland Chess Club G/60 ♣

4SS, G/60. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9-9:30. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30 U1800, U1500 \$35 each. Info: portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.com.

♣ October 2-3

Silverdale Beach Hotel Classic ♣

Site: Silverdale Beach Hotel, 3073 N.W. Bucklin Hill Road, Silverdale, WA. Format: 4SS, 3 sections. Time control: G/90 + 30 seconds/move increment. Registration: 10:00-11:30 AM. Rounds: Sat. 12:30 PM, 6:00 PM; Sun. 9:45 AM, 3:00 PM. Prize fund: \$1000 b/50: Open section >= 1900 USCF \$200, \$100, \$100; Premiere section: U1900 \$100, \$70, \$55 plus top score U1700 \$75; Reserve U1400/unr. \$100, \$70, \$55 plus top Unrated score \$75. Entry fee: \$40 if received by 9/24, \$50 by 10/1, \$60 on-site; USCF/NWC req. Half-point bye: must be requested at registration, max. of one. Entries: (checks payable to) Kris Dietsch, 2251 High View Ln. NW, Apt C-102, Bremerton, WA 98312-5345 (please use a separate line for Apt C-102); cash/checks at site. You may also register online at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>. Info: Kris (360) 479-0847, mrkrisyawho@yahoo.com, Joe Eversole joeversole@q.com. USCF TD, returning from 2009, is H.G. Pitre, (206) 284-9314. Hotel: indoor heated pool, view, waterfront park: players \$80/\$90dbl.; use code #200834 by 9/21: www.silverdalebeachhotel.com, (360) 698-1000, 1-800-544-9799. See the Dec. 2009 NWC issue for an excellent article with photos on last year's event.

♣ October 9-10

Eastern Washington Open ♣

Site: Gonzaga University, Schoenberg Building room 201, N. 900 Pearl St. Spokane, WA 99201 (southwest corner of GU campus, one block east of Division/Ruby couplet off DeSmet Ave). Reg: 8:30-9:30. E.F. \$21 rec'd by 10/8; \$26 at site; under 18 \$5 less. USCF rated (NWGP) event. T/C: G/2hr. Rds: Sat: 10:00; 2:30; 7:00, Sun: 9:00; 1:30 or ASAP. \$600 Prize Fund Guaranteed; additional classes and class prizes may be added if more than 30 entries; class prizes based on at least 5 per class. 1st Overall: \$150; 2nd Overall: \$100; Class prizes: \$65/\$35 in classes B, C, and D/E/Unr; Biggest Upset (non-provisional ratings), \$50. Contact: Dave Griffin (509) 994-9739 (cellular), dbgrffn@hotmail.com. Mail entries: David B. Griffin, P.O. Box 631, Spokane Valley, WA 99037.

♣ October 16-17

Portland Fall Open ♣

5SS, 2 sections: Open & Reserve (U1800), TC: 40/90 SD/30 Rds 1-3, 40/2 SD/1 Rds 4-5. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th, Portland, OR 97219. EF: \$35. \$10 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA. Prizes: (\$650 b/40). Open \$325: 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, U2000 \$75. Reserve \$325: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, U1600 \$50, U1400 \$50, U1200/Unr \$50. Reg: 9-9:30AM 3/21, Rds: Sat 10-2-ASAP, Sun 10-ASAP. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg., maximum two. Adv. Ent.: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219. Info: portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.com.

October 22-24

Reno Western States Open

Terrible's Sands Regency Casino Hotel, Reno, NV. See display ad on page 22 of this issue of *Northwest Chess*.

October 23

Ernst Rasmussen Blackmar-Diemer

Site: Towne Point Club House, 2240 Towne Point Avenue, Port Townsend, WA. Format: Four-round Swiss. TC: G/1 hr. EF: \$10. This is a non-rated event. Prizes, guaranteed: \$1,000: 1st, \$300; 2nd, \$200; 3rd, \$100; 1st U2000, \$100; 2nd \$75; 1st U1700, \$100; 2nd, \$75. Best game \$50; more prize money possible as entries permit. Refreshments and a catered lunch are included(!). 1 HPB allowed. Reg.: 8:00-8:45 AM. Rds 9:00, 11:30, 2:30, 5:30. All games must start from the position following 1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 exf3. Info: Stephen Chase, 11 W. Hayden St., Port Hadlock, WA 98339-9570. Phone: 360-385-3457. Entries: Gary Dorfner, 8423 E. B ST., TACOMA, WA 98445, Phone 253-535-2536, E-mail ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ November 26-28

Washington Class Championships ♣

Marriott Redmond Town Center, Redmond, WA. See display ad on page 21 of this issue of *Northwest Chess*.