

Atlantic Chess News

Annual Edition, 2019 WORLD & U.S. AMATEUR TEAM EAST

Welcome to the 49th Annual World Amateur Team Championship!

from Steve Doyle



Welcome, all, to the 49th World Amateur Team Championship! Whether this is your first or you've attended multiple, may you enjoy the event with the same joy as you would having your favorite meal or watching your favorite movie! Team chess has a long history in New Jersey. Competition between clubs and companies has been very common here for many years. So too was a chess competition on this, the President's weekend. As far back as the New Jersey State Chess Federation's founding in 1889, play on this weekend had been a highlight of the chess year. So too today! The hotel has put out the red carpet: catch coffee in the coffee bar, sandwiches and fast food in the lobby concessions, find a luxury

steak dinner in Ruth Chris, or have an enjoyable meal in the lobby restaurant. If you desire a walk, Wendy's is about a block away. By car, you can find many fine dinners and restaurants in both directions on Route 10. The truly particular will find the best Chinese at Bill and Harry's on Route 10 and a delicious burger or steak at Arthur's in Route 202 in Morris Plains. For Italian, head into Morristown and you will find several venues that are all excellent. As for chess, buy some books and new equipment from vendors that really care about your chess needs.

Play skittles poolside or in any spot you can find. As for variant chess, the Bughouse tournament is Sunday night. Get ready by finding a friend. Two-person teams play into the night. This event is a favorite for many. Sammy Reshevsky used to say it was the most unique event he played in. It seems like yesterday that the crowds would surround him as he wore his signature hat. Roman Dzindhashvili, who was once in the top ten in the world, said this was his favorite event (even better than Lone Pine and Linares). Karpov played here in his first tournament in the United States! We have 1400 plus players this year and over 20,000 since 1971! Thank you. Enjoy the big year before next year's Golden Anniversary. Our 50th is around the corner. Steven Doyle,
Organizer and Chief Cook and Bottle Washer
(Photo credit to Mike Sommers)

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A Few Words from the Editor:

Dear Readers,

My greatest chess regret is that I only discovered the World Amateur Team four years ago. This tournament is, among many other things, the yearly reunion of the New Jersey chess family. New Jersey's numerous chess academies get a chance to introduce their up-and-comers to the family at the most fun event the year. Meanwhile, seasoned veterans take their annual pilgrimage to Morristown. After looking forward to the most fun chess weekend in the world each year for the last 3 years, I am even more excited to join the NJSCF's staff to produce this edition of the Atlantic Chess News and help to run this year's event. Putting this together has been a monumental task, and I could not have done this without several people. Longtime editor of this and countless other chess publications Pete Tamburro has graciously donated his time and extensive experience to annotate quite a few games from last year's rendition of this tournament. Aaron Kiedes, who formerly did all the digital editing, helped me to quickly pick up the know-how I needed to put everything together. Noreen Davisson invited me into the NJSCF community (which so graciously excepted me) and helped make up for my lack of connections with her enormous collection of chess friends in high places. Thanks to Steve Doyle, who suggested that I do this job even as I was too anxious about my inexperience to express interest. Thanks as well to all of those who wrote articles, gave interviews, and contributed games. Finally, thanks to you, the players. Without so many devoted patrons of this tournament and chess at large, there would be nothing to write.

On a related note, the NJSCF wants to publish your games! We hold three major tournaments every year (the current event, the US Amateur East Individual, and the NJ Open). As you will

see here, we publish a ton of games from all three tournaments. These aren't just GM games; we want to show off the skills of all of our players, from beginners up to world-class competitors.

Please, take advantage of the game-collection boxes that will be located at the TD desk during each of these tournaments this year. Give us a chance to show off your chess in our publications and on our website. Also, if you think there is something I can do to make this a more enjoyable edition next year, I want to hear about it! Finally, these pages do not fill themselves. If you have an idea of how to make this publication better or have some content that you think should be published, let me know at acneditor.njscf@gmail.com. Last, but certainly not least, enjoy this year's tournament and ACN!

Sincerely,

Alessandro De Marchi-Blumstein

The New Jersey Chess Federation is proud to support a variety of programs, tournaments and charities. These include:

The Monclair Sopranos

Alice Dong's Chess Camp for Girls

Save the Children

Chessfest 2018

The USATE

The NJ Open

The USAE

The NJ Grade School Championships and many others

Check out the NJSCF online on njscf.org or on social media @njscf on Twitter and Facebook for info about NJ chess, our organizations, tournament results, and future tournaments!

The Atlantic Chess News was founded in 1973 by Glenn Petersen with the help of Pete Tamburro. This year's edition is sponsored by the NJSCF and the United States Chess Federation.

NM Vince Klemm, RIP

By Pete Tamburro

As we were about to go to press, word came through the chess grapevine that National Master Vince Klemm was on the verge of passing on. On January 30, his sister told me he was put in hospice for his final days.

This is yet another obituary I write for a friend passing, and they always take a piece of your heart with them.

Vince was a constant fixture of this team tournament. He was one of the mainstays of the Morris County Industrial Chess League. He lived, ate and breathed chess. He LOVED Viktor Korchnoi and played over every one of VK's game. He was one of the nice guys in chess—friendly, self-deprecating, and excited about your game if you showed it to him, especially if you were a little kid. His happiest days were when he worked for the USCF in the main office.

Vince and I played a good many games and split about fifty-fifty, with only one draw I can remember! It was no holds barred stuff filled with speculative moves. The late NM Barry Spiro once complained when annotating one of our games for his column, "Why don't these guys play like this against me?"

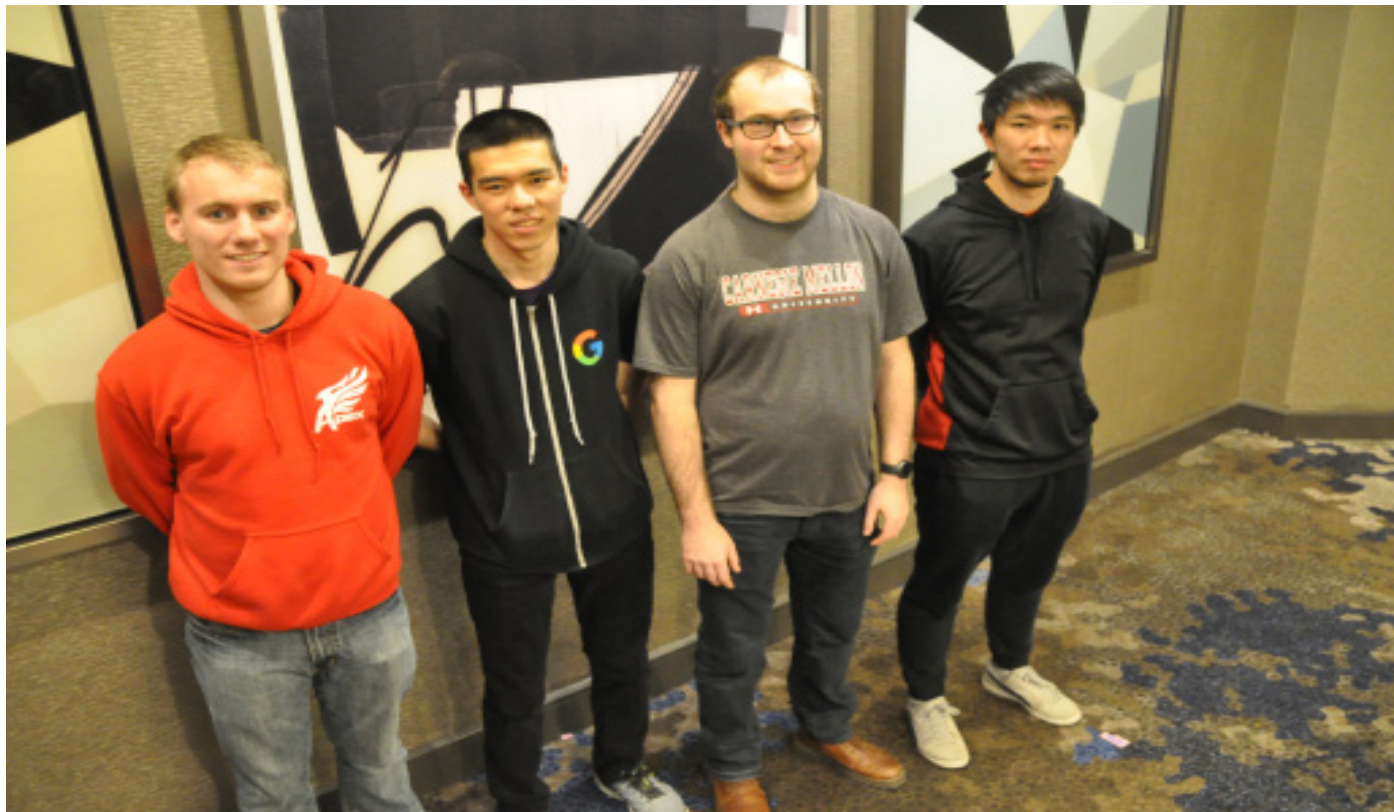
One memorable crushing defeat Vince meted out to me became one of his favorites. He even made it his lecture game when he visited an Icelandic club during his trip to watch the Fischer-Spassky match! Vince would have been 67 on March 28th of this year. Born in Iselin, NJ, he is survived by his sisters Sue and Terry. Good bye, old friend. I hope we can play again someday.

Pete Tamburro-Vince Klemm, MCICL, 1972

1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.e5 Nc6 6.Nc3 Nh6 7.h4!? Nf5 8.Be3 [8.Nf3]8...h5 9.Nf3 Bg7 10.Rc1 [10.Bd3]10...0-0 11.Bb5 Bd7 12.Nxd5? I thought I could get away with the pawn grab. Vince had looked a lot deeper into the position and proceeds with a demolition job I will never forget. 12...Qa5+ 13.Nc3 Nxe5!! Oops! 14.dxe5 Better, or less dismal, was 14.Bxd7 Nxd7 15.0-0 Rac8, but I was under the mistaken impression that I was doing well here. 14...Bxb5 15.Qd5 a6 16.a4 Rfd8 17.Qc5 Rac8 18.Qb6 Nxe3! 19.Qxe3 Rd3 20.Qe4 Rdx3 21.bxc3 Rxc3 22.Rxc3 Qxc3+ 23.Nd2 Qc1#

Last Year's Winners: Carnegie Mellon University

by Alessandro De Marchi-Blumstein



Above is the CMU team that one last year's event, from left to right: Board 4 Ryan Christainson, Board 3 Beilin Li, Board 2 Captain NM David Itkin, Board 1 NM Grant Xu (Photo credit to Mike Sommers)

The World Amateur Team is not just the most fun way to play chess all year; it is also a high-level chess competition. Each year, we get to crown one of many worthy teams the champion, and in 2018 the Carnegie Mellon University team won clear first with a perfect six match wins out of six. I had a chance to talk to three of the four members of the team at (where else?) the Pan-American Intercollegiate Championships this year. Two of them played for the CMU team there, while another, who now works at Google after graduating last year, came to support his former teammates. Their first board at both events, Grant Xu, is a 2400 NM. At USATE 2018, he was somewhat lucky in that he never had to sit across from a GM, but he still faced tough opposition from 4 IMs. Only Alex Katz, an IM from North Jersey who currently studies at MIT, was able to beat him on Grant's way to 4 points and a performance rating over 2500. On the second board was captain NM David Itkin, a math PhD student from Canada who had come to CMU to start his doctoral program earlier that year. Third board was NM Beilin Li, an avid chess blogger who wrote about this event and many others at www.chess.com/member/blitzcopter and NJ State Chess Federation

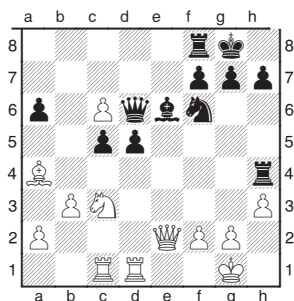
chesssummit.com, Last but not least, Ryan Christianson rounded out the team with a rating of 2056 and an impressive 5.5/6 performance.

Carnegie Mellon is no stranger to the top boards at the Team. They just missed a win in 2013, and they have been sending high-level teams with ratings pushing 2200 for many years. This year was their record, with the team clocking in at 2199.75! The team members were ready to execute yet another strong performance. The group was confident throughout, and, while the late rounds were obviously not easy, there was only one point at which the team thought they were likely to lose a match. In the third round, they had a tough fight against Alex Katz's team. As a result of the defeat on board one, the team could not afford another loss. Unfortunately, it was looking like they would be dealt that defeat on board 3, where Beilin was in trouble against fellow college senior and North Jersey chess teacher Ethan Klein. Only after a sudden turn of events that Beilin called a "swindle" was he able to eek out a victory to secure the match for his team. Ironically, round 6, in which the team played for their perfect score and tournament victory, was probably

the least stressful: Boards 2 through 4 all won within minutes of each other, eliminating the need for teammates to wait nervously for results.

The following game is one example of the team's high-level play. Here, Grant outplays New Jersey native FM Brandon Jacobson, a highly rated teenager who grew up in New Jersey chess. Beilin provides some brief annotations.

Brandon Jacobson (2450) vs. Grant Xu (2395) February 18, 2018, Round 5
1. Nf3 b5 2. e4 Bb7 3. Bxb5 Bxe4 4. O-O Nf6 5. d4 e6 6. c4 Be7 7. Nc3 Bb7 8. d5 O-O 9. Bf4 Ne8 10. Ba4 d6 11. Be3 e5 12. c5 dxc5 13. Nxe5 Nf6 14. Nc6 Nxc6 15. dxc6 Ba6 16. Re1 Rb8 17. Bf4 Rb4 18. Be5 Bd6 19. Bxd6 cxd6 20. b3 d5 21. Qf3 Bc8 22. h3 Qd6 23. Rac1 a6 24. Red1 Be6 25. Qe2 Rh4



26. Qxa6?? Seemingly clearing the king's escape via f1, but... 26... Ng4! 27. Qd3 Otherwise Black has not only ...Qh2+, but also the nasty 27...Rxh3! 27... Qh2+ 28. Kf1 Nxf2 White's king is forced to the unfortunate d2 square. 29. Kxf2 Rf4+ 30. Ke1 Qg1+ 31. Kd2 Qxg2+ 32. Ne2 Rd4 33. Qxd4 cxd4 34. c7 Qe4 35. Bb5 Bf5 36. Ke1 Qh1+ 37. Kd2 Qh2 38. Ke1 Rc8 39. Nxd4 Qg3+ 40. Kd2 Qf4+ 41. Ke1 Rxc7 42. Rxc7 Qxc7 43. Nxf5 Qe5+ 44. Be2 Qxf5 45. a4 Qxh3 46. Rd3 Qh4+ 47. Kd1 Qb4 48. Bf3 d4 49. Bd5 Kf8 50. Bc4 Qc5 51. Kc2 h5 52. Rf3 f6 53. Rf1 h4 54. Ra1 Qa5 55. Rd1 Qc3+ 56. Kb1 h3 57. Rc1 Qf3 0-1

CMU also has chess activity outside of their tournament play. Many students, such as the team members, often use online resources to train in between their busy schedules. There is also a chess club that gives all the school's players an outlet for some over-the-board play. The chess club president, Nathan Holzmüller, was also at the Collegiate Championships as the fourth board. He described the chess club as a casual environment with a range of skill levels. While the chess club is mostly just casual players playing for fun, there are often strong players, sometimes including the team members, who give the other members an opportunity for strong competition. Once again, congratulations to CMU chess on its victory, and good luck to them



as they try to defend the title against yet another field full of tough competition.

US Amateur East 2018 Recap

by Chief TD Aaron Kiedes

This Memorial weekend saw the passing of another US Amateur East Individual event. The little brother event to the ever-popular World Amateur Team saw a new time control this year changing to a slightly faster game. The event drew 172 adult players and saw a scholastic event of 55 budding young players ranging from Kindergarten to 8th grade.

In the main event Chess in the Schools dominated the U2200, U1800, and U1400 sections taking the top prize in each with impressive scores of 5.5 in each section! A full list of prizes can be found on the next page. Every year this event is held at the lovely Hyatt Regency in Morristown NJ. Players enjoy the close proximity of public transportation as well as a green to relax at in between rounds and a plethora of restaurants to enjoy. For those who finish early there is much to do, and for

the players of the longer games there is a Starbucks in house for that extra jolt to get you through the endgame.

Overall, the players seem to enjoy their time. Congratulations to all of the players who fought over the board this year. See you next Memorial Day!

Here are some key games for the winners in each section, including one from championship section winner and Chess in the Schools coach Sean Smith.

Under 1400

Lam, Desmond-Xue, Helen

May 28, 2018, Round 5

1. Nf3 d5 2. b3 e6 3. Bb2 c5 4. e3 Nc6 5. d4 Nf6 6. Nbd2 Bd7 7. Be2 Be7 8. O-O O-O 9. c4 b6 10. Rc1 Re8 11. a3 a6 12. Bd3 Bf8 13. e4 dxe4 14. Nxe4 cxd4 15. Nxd4 Nxd4 16. Bxd4 e5 17. Bb2 Bc6 18. Nxf6+ Qxf6 19. f4

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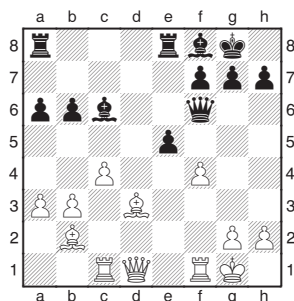
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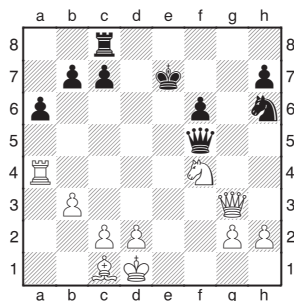
Bd6 20. Qg4 Qh6 21. Bxe5 Bxe5 22. fxe5 Qe3+ 23. Rf2 Qxc1+ 0-1

Under 1800

Sutton, Marcus-Zhang, Eric

May 27, 2018, Round 4

1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. Qg4 Qf6 5. Nd5 Qxf2+ 6. Kd1 Bb6 7. Qxg7 Nce7 8. Nh3 Qh4 9. Nxb6 d5 10. Nxc8 Rxc8 11. Qxh8 dxc4 12. Qxe5 Qg4+ 13. Ke1 f6 14. Qg3 Qxe4+ 15. Kd1 Qd5 16. Re1 Kf7 17. Nf4 Qf5 18. b3 cxb3 19. axb3 a6 20. Ra4 Nh6 21. Rxe7+ Kxe7



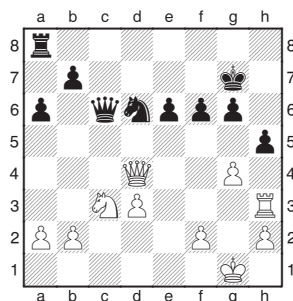
22. Qg7+ Nf7 23. g4 Qb5 24. Re4+ Kd6 25. Re6+ Kc5 26. Nd3+ Kd4 27. Qxf6+ Ne5 28. Bb2+ 1-0

Championship Section

Shaun Smith (2038) - Nicholas Cardenas (2041) [B27]

May 27, 2018, Round 3

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 g6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Qxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Qa4 d6 7. e5 dxe5 8. Nxe5 Bd7 9. Nxd7 Qxd7 10. Bb5 Bg7 11. 0-0 12. Bf4 Rfc8 13. Rad1 Qe8 14. Rfe1 e6 15. Rd6 Bf8 16. Rd3 a6 17. Bxc6 Qxc6 18. Qd4 Ne8 19. Be5 Rd8 20. Qh4 Rxd3 21. cxd3 Bg7 22. Bxg7 Kxg7 23. Re3 Nd6 24. Rh3 h5 25. Qd4+ f6 26. g4



e5 27. Qe3 Kf7 28. gxh5 gxh5 29. Qh6 Rg8+ 30. Rg3 Rxd3+ 31. hxd3 Qf3 32. Qh7+ Ke6 33. Qg8+ Kf5 34. Nd5 e4 35. Ne3+ Ke5 36. Qd5# 1-0

U2200 Championship Section:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 1: Shaun Smith | 5.5 |
| 2: Alexander Hu | 5.0 |
| 3: Nancy Wang | 5.0 |
| 4: Yuvanshu Agarwal | 4.5 |
| 5: Mikhail Cheviagine | 4.5 |
| U2000: Steve Xue | 4.0 |
| U1900: Alan Hu | 4.0 |
| U1800: Samuel Mo | 4.0 |
| Under 13: Pardhav Chakka | 3.5 |
| Under 16: Vrithik Umapathy | 4.0 |
| Senior: Tim Hall | 4.0 |

U1800 Reserve Section:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1: Marcus Sutton | 5.5 |
| 2: Ashwin Kaliyaperumal | 5.0 |
| 3: Li Heng Wang | 4.5 |
| 4: Glen B Hart | 4.5 |
| 5: Eric Zhang | 4.0 |
| U1600: Sebastian Meesin | 4.0 |
| U1500: Koiip Lam | 4.0 |
| Under 13: Cayden Yang | 4.0 |
| Under 16: Sakura Laporte | 4.0 |
| Senior: Brian Levine | 3.5 |

U1400 Booster Section :

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1: Helen Xue | 5.5 |
| 2: Eric Levin | 5.5 |
| 3: Desmond Lam | 5.0 |
| 4: Alfred Franco | 5.0 |
| 5: Aarush Iyengar | 4.5 |
| U1200: Yakov Krayne | 4.0 |
| U1100: Jason Zhong | 4.0 |
| U1000: Angelina Li | 3.0 |
| U900: Joshua Dong | 3.0 |
| U800: Ngina Valdez | 2.5 |
| Under 13: Vedanta Das | 4.0 |
| Under 16: Ayden Santiago | 4.0 |
| Senior: Brian Cige | 4.0 |

NJ Open 2018 Recap

by Chief TD Noreen Davisson

On Labor Day weekend (September 1-3), all eyes were focused on the Morristown Hyatt, where 191 players including ten GMs and two IMs were competing for

the state championship. After six grueling rounds, there was a five-way tie for first place. 96 young players competed in the one-day scholastic tournament.

OPEN

1st -5th (\$940 each) Aleksandr Lenderman, Sergei Azarov, Sergey Kudrin, Mackenzie Molner, Alexander Stripunsky (5.0 / 6.0)

NEW JERSEY STATE CHAMPION:

Mackenzie Molner

Senior (\$200) Simon Thomson (4.0 / 6.0) 2200-2399

1st - 2nd (\$400 each) Boris Privman & Gary Huang (4.5/6.0)

3rd (tie) (\$50 each) Arthur Macaspac & Akira Wood Nakada (4.0/6.0)

2000-2199

1st - 2nd (\$400 each) Roshan Ritesh Idnani & Robert Forney (4.5/6.0)

3rd (tie) (\$50 each) Arthur Macaspac & Akira Wood Nakada (4.0/6.0)

Under 2000

1st (\$500) Pranav Shankar (4.0/6.0)

2nd (\$300) Boyang Zhao (3.5/6.0)

3rd (\$10 each) Nathan Cheung, Binghui Du, Stephen Ye, Nikhil Kalyanraman, Alexander Wang, Ashrey Mahesh, Thoshan Omprakash, Kevin E Chen, Matt Gottilla & Shawn Wang (3.0/6.0)

UNDER 1800

1st (\$500) Dhriti Iyer (5.5/6.0)

2nd - 4th (\$133.33 each) Andrew Feng, Aadi Hari & Roger Zhang (4.5/6.0)

Senior (\$200) Paul Gottlieb (4.0/6.0)

UNDER 1600

1st - 2nd (\$400 each) King Arthur Curry & Eric Levin (5.0/6.0)

2nd - 4th (\$133.33 each) Nathaniel Kim, Johji Nakada, Yiming Chen (4.5/6.0)

Senior (\$200) Hal Sprechman (4.5/6.0)

Top Class D (\$100 each) Andrew Li & Raymond Liu

Top Class E (\$100 each) Bret Huang & Kenneth Shi

Top Class F (\$200) Vishrudh Ramasubramanian

NJ Open K-8 Scholastic

Under 1200

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1 Brawer, Griffin | 4.5 |
| 2 Ma, Sean | 4.0 |
| 3 Badushov, Anton | 3.5 |
| 4 Radchenko, Anna So | 3.5 |
| 5 Liu, Ryan | 3.5 |
| 6 Raghavendra, Ishan | 3.5 |
| 7 Li, Kevin Jin | 3.5 |
| 8 Yu, Alexander | 3.5 |
| 9 Prakash, Arjun | 3.0 |
| 10 Choudhary, Aditya | 3.0 |

Under 900

Place Name Pts

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1 Pryor, Cole | 4.5 |
| 2 Luo, Wesley C | 4.5 |
| 3 Shukhat, Sophia N | 4.0 |
| 4 Miller, Daniel Jos | 4.0 |
| 5 Baheti, Shuban Din | 4.0 |
| 6 Zhang, Derek | 4.0 |
| 7 Paidi, Aarav | 3.0 |
| 8 Shaffer, Nathan | 3.0 |
| 9 Romero, Pedro Elis | 3.0 |
| 10 You, Eden | 3.0 |

Under 600

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1 Qian, Bobby | 5.0 |
| 2 Mehta, Aarav Amit | 4.0 |
| 3 Pryor, Jake | 4.0 |
| 4 Mirchandani, Rishi | 4.0 |
| 5 Zhou, Alvin James | 4.0 |
| 6 Vuppala, Sreeram | 4.0 |
| 7 Shaffer, Ryan | 3.5 |
| 8 Kazanecki, Julius | 3.5 |
| 9 Kandukuri, Amogh | 3.5 |
| 10 Srivastava, Anirud | 3.0 |

2nd FIDE World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled in Cherry Hill

By Dora Leticia Martinez

[This article was originally published on us-chess.org on August 10, 2018. It is published here with the author's permission.]

On August 7th, the Opening Ceremony and the Drawing of Lots opened the 2nd FIDE World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled in Cherry Hill, New Jersey with commentary and greetings from IO Beatriz Marinello, Chief Arbiter Carol Jarecki and FIDE Commission for the Disabled (DIS) Chairman GM Thomas Luther.

The US Chess Trust's Dr. Leroy Dubeck made a surprise appearance, easily impressing and charming our young players and parents. Dr. Leroy Dubeck was the President of the US Chess Federation when Bobby Fischer was the World Champion and is the Treasurer of the US Chess Trust, the main sponsor of this prestigious and very special event. The organizing committee is especially thankful for their contribution and support.

We have two new USA Players this year, Pranav Shankar and Robert Eggleston who traveled from out of state to participate in the event. Another new face in the tournament is John Denis Mwesigye who joins Wasswa Sharif Mbaziira of Uganda as his teammate with accompanying coach
(continues on page 17)



Game analysis with GM Thomas Luther



Players from the USA, Germany, Russia and Uganda arrived in Cherry Hill, New Jersey for the opportunity to compete in this World Junior Event. (Photos courtesy of Dora Leticia)

Final Standings:

1. LIPILIN, Ilia (RUS), 7.0
2. PETROV, Maksim (RUS), 5.5
3. MCCONNELL, Griffin (USA), 5.0
4. ZIMMER, Johannes Raphael (GER), 4.0
5. MWESIGYE, John Denis (UGA), 2.5
6. MBAZIIRA, Wasswa Sharif (UGA), 2.5
7. SHANKAR, Pranav (USA), 1.5
8. EGGLESTON, Robert (USA), 0.0

Team Results:

1. Russia
2. USA
3. Uganda

2018 USATE/WAT Winners!

We have prizes for more than just the best team overall! Check out last year's best teams and players in many categories!

Team Prizes:

Overall Winners:

1st Place-Carnegie Mellon

2nd Place-NY City 1

3rd Place-Summer Chess Academy for Talented Youth

4th Place-Massachusetts Institute of Technology

5th Place-El Gran Combo

Class Prizes (Denis Barry Awards):

U2100: Ajab's Rule: No Pin, no Win

U2000: Rooks Can Be Deceiving

U1900: CK&Q A Few Good Men

U1800: Mflame UA

U1700: Pawnywise

U1600: Knights of the West

U1500: Stock Bait

U1400: Fire on the Board

U1300: Pawn Jovi

U1200: Scarlet Bishops

U1000: Ewing CC Team E

Best in State:

Connecticut: Very Fine People on Both Sides

Delaware: Brandywine Knights

Maryland: Sons of Bishops

New Jersey: CKQ Unstoppable Force

New York (Benjamin Award): Pedro and Pedro's Backups

Pennsylvania: White Knights Talking Backwards

Virginia: Chuck Berry'd Your Knights

Rhode Island: USA Chess Kids #1

Massachusetts: Ajab's Rule: No Pin, No Win

Miscellaneous Honors:

Top college team: MIT Stable Geniuses

Top HS team: Bad and Boujee

Top Middle School: SA Bed-Stuy MS 1

Top Elementary School: Success Academy Hudson Yards

Top Scholastic Team (Collins Award): Got Wooden Pieces?

2nd Scholastic Team: Los Jaque Mate

Mixed Doubles: See (King) Alpha

Seniors: Puttin on the Fritz

Company Team: Success Academy MS Coaches

Family: Georgian Wall

Parent/Child: Piece in Mind

Top Future team: ABC Rising Stars

Military: CMEDBD Pawns, M R Mine!

Top Military College: West Point

Best Gimmick: Masterman Schools

Top Skit Adults: Our Button is Bigger than Your Button

Best Name: Ruy Lopez Got Deported

Individual Prizes:

Upsets!

Round 1: Andrew Mulderrig

Round 2: Jaden J. Chan

Round 3: Lee Usiskin

Round 4: Jacob Lawren Lee

Round 5: Stephen Eckelmann

Round 6: Emery Gosswami

Board Prizes (all with perfect scores unless otherwise noted):

Board 1: GM Alexander Fishbein, GM Michael A Rhode, NM Tyrell Harriot, GM Tamaz Gelashvili

Board 2: NM Matthew Fishbein

Board 3: NM Aaron S Balleisen, Tommy Zhang, Boyang Zhao

Board 4: Sneha Ghatpande

Alternate: John Lekocevic (5.0)

Some GM Masterpieces from the NJ Open

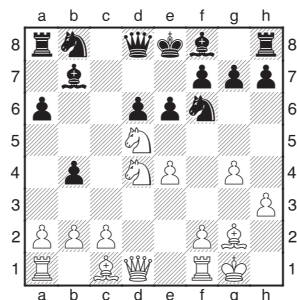
We are proud to have some amazing players in and around New Jersey. We make it a priority to ensure that the NJ Open's top section is fraught with Grandmasters. Several of them have been gracious enough to provide us with some of their games, *complete with annotations*. We hope that these demonstrations of the chess brilliance that we attract will bring more and more top-level players to the NJ Open and continue to grow the strength of one of the strongest state championships in the nation!

First up: Grandmaster Mackenzie "Mac" Molner is this year's New Jersey state champion, a player for the Monclair Sopranos, and the founder of GrandmasterMac Chess Academy. He teaches both at his own academy and at the Dean of Chess. He annotated his exciting last round victory against fellow New Jersey GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez.

Molner, Mackenzie (2571) - Corrales Jimenez, Fidel (2618) [B81]

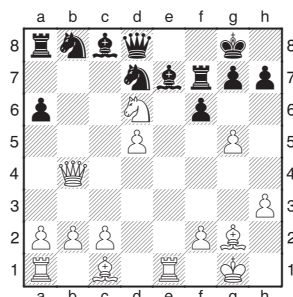
September 2, 2018, Round 6

This game was from the 6th round of the tournament. Going into the round, I was tied for third place with 4/5. The two leaders, who each had 4.5 points, drew almost immediately, and I knew that if I won the game I'd be able to tie for first. I wanted to play something fun and exciting that would give me a chance to win, even if it meant taking risks. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6** I played Fidel over the summer at the US Open, and we played the same opening with the same colors, although in that game I played 6. Bg5. We played a Poisoned Pawn variation in which I sacrificed 4 pawns(!), but after an intense opening we reached a perpetual. **6.h3 e6 7.g4 b5** I saw him play this variation earlier in the tournament. It's one of the most common ways for Black to handle this line, but I think it gives White promising attacking chances. **8.Bg2 Bb7 9.0-0** My next move is going to be 10. e5 winning material if he's not careful. **9...b4!?** The most critical move. **9...Be7?? 10.e5+-; 9...Qc7!? 10.g5 Nfd7 11.f4** would be a reasonable way for the game to continue. **10.Nd5!** An ambitious but mandatory sacrifice.



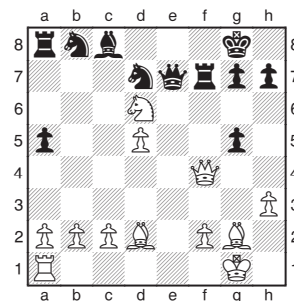
Any other move would leave White's e4 pawn critically weak and would not be in NJ State Chess Federation

the spirit of the position. White wants to open the center as soon as possible to develop pressure along the e-file. **10... exd5 11.exd5 Be7 12.g5 Nfd7 13.Nf5!?** 13.Nc6 Believe it or not, this position has actually been played a bunch of times, and nearly everyone has gone for 13. Nc6 here with White. The mainline continues... **13...Qc7 14.Nxe7 Kxe7 15.Qd4 Kf8** White has the choice to regain material or to continue building pressure with moves like Bf4 and Re1. It's a very complex position, but White should have at least enough compensation here. **13...0-0 14.Qd4 f6 15.Re1!?** This move was inaccurate. It gives Black an additional resource. **15.Qxb4!** was the correct way to reach the position on move 16. **15...Bc8 16.Re1 Rf7. 15...Rf7 16.Qxb4 Bc8?! 16... Bf8!!** A very unexpected resource! Despite all the clutter on the 7th rank, Black can untangle effectively with this move. **17.Qxb7? Nb6** trapping the Queen! **17.Nxd6!?**



I spent about 50 minutes here calculating all of the intricacies of this variation and got so caught up that I forgot to closely examine all of the alternatives. The problem for me here as far as time usage goes is that I have to be aware of tempo moves on my Queen in numerous lines, and, furthermore, that I have to have a plan against each of them. It was quite the headache! **17.Re6!?** This move was a very serious alternative which I didn't fully appreciate in the game. Even after a very close study of this game I can't say for sure which move is better between **17. Nxd6** or **Re6**. Surprisingly, the Rook is almost untouchable here because of

White's discovered attack after **dxe6**. **17... Ne5**. The main point of **Re6** is revealed after this move. (**17...Bf8 18.Nxd6 18.Nxe7+!** Now Black must recapture with the Rook, giving White time to take on f6. **18... Rxe7 19.gxf6 gxf6 (19...Bxe6?? 20.dxe6!) 20.Rxd6 (20.Rxf6!? Bxh3! Black needs to find this miraculous move to avoid getting run over.) 17...Qf8! 18.Rxe7!** This was my planned response. There is no alternative, which is why I spent so much time on the previous move. The material imbalance is bizarre. I'm down a Rook for 3 connected central passed pawns, better development, and a potentially powerful bishop pair, but I need to make sure I turn these assets into something meaningful in the near future, or I will be in trouble. **18...Qxe7 19.Bd2 a5? 19...Rf8! 20.Re1 a5** It was because of potential positions like this that I spent 50 minutes on **21.Qa3 Qd8 22.Qg3 20.Qf4 fxg5**



It felt like the intensity of the game was increasing with every move, finally leading up to this position, in which I have a mounting initiative and attacking chances on the kingside. I have a big decision here between **21. Qxf7+** heading into an endgame with equal material, **Nxc8** with a forcing sequence, or **Qg3** continuing the attack but maintaining a material disadvantage. Right when I could feel the time pressure sinking in, a young chess player came up to us and told us that he needed to take his chess board and pieces back. I had completely forgotten that we borrowed his chess set! This interruption turned out to be a small blessing. I used the extra time to compose myself mentally and break the stress. **21.Qg3!** This move puts Black under

extreme pressure. Once I play Re1, I will be completely developed with overwhelmingly active pieces. **21...Rf8?!** My opponent thought for over an hour here. I believed during the game that he had a surprising resource that was definitely the best move. The longer he thought, the less likely I thought it was that he saw it. He has almost no alternatives that avoid a losing position. **21...Ra6! 22.Nxf7! Qxf7** I thought this position is much less clear than what he ends up getting in the game. I was planning on playing **23. Qc7** here, which would be a mistake. The computer points out that White has a winning position due to the quality of development after the simple **23. Re1**. Still, this was better than the game. **22.Nxc8 Rxc8 23.d6 Qe2 24.Qxg5! Rf8 24...Ra7 25.Re1 Qa6 26.Re7!** I think this is a gorgeous position showcasing White's well-placed pieces. Black has an extra Rook, but all of his pieces are stuck in the corner, and there is absolutely nothing left to help the King. This variation is very significant because, without it, there is no way to save the a8-Rook. **25.Bxa8** At this point he was in severe time pressure, and I knew if I played reasonably with my extra material and bishop pair that I should win the game. **25...Qxf2+ 26.Kh1 Nf6 27.Rg1 g6 28.Bc3 Nbd7 29.Bg2 Kg7 30.Re1 Rf7 31.Bd5 h6 32.Qg2 Qf5 33.Be6 Qf4 34.Bxd7 Qxd6 35.Be8** He ran out of time here, but White is winning anyway. A very exciting finish to the tournament! With this win, I tied for first place and ended up getting the first place finish among New Jersey players for the second year in a row! I am very proud of the effort and fighting spirit from this game despite the interruption, but I don't plan on having any more disturbances during my games. Determined not to have any extra added excitement during my games due to pauses and restarts, I asked for a nice chess set for Christmas, and Santa delivered! I'm looking forward to using it at the upcoming Amateur Team East. **1-0**

GM Alexandr Lenderman was a top junior in New York City for a number of years before becoming a professional chess player. He has represented the United States in several international competitions. In this game, he wins a tough battle against one of the Idnani twins, a pair of promising young juniors who are identical twins.

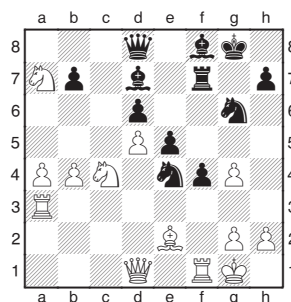
Lenderman,Alex - Idnani,Roshan [E92]

August 31, 2018, Round 2

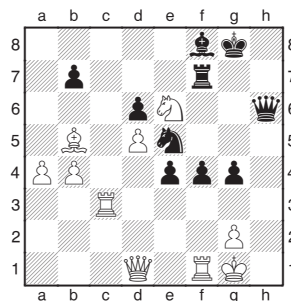
I decided to show this game from round 2 since it was a very interesting, exciting

NJ State Chess Federation

game against a promising junior from the local area. **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Be3** d5 is the main line but I thought he might be well prepared for it, so I decided to get him out of the main-line theory. **8...Nd7 9.d5 9.Qd2 f5 10.exf5 gxf5 11.Bg5 Nf6 12.Rae1 9...Ne7 10.Nd2 f5 11.f3 f4 11...c5!? 12.Bf2 g5 13.b4 Nf6 14.c5 Ng6 15.Nc4 Rf7 16.cxd6 cxd6 17.Nb5 Bf8 18.Bxa7** More accurate than...**18.Nxa7?!** Bd7 19.Nb6 Rxa7 20.Nxd7 Rxd7 21.Bxa7 b6 **18...Rxa7!?** Otherwise White plays Bb6 and keeps his strong bishop and Black has no counterplay. **19.Nxa7 Bd7 20.a4 g4 21.fxg4 Nxe4 22.Ra3!**



Black's play looks menacing, but, after this move, Black is still down material and does not quite have enough compensation for this deficit. **22...Ng5 23.Nb5 e4 23...Bxb5 24.axb5 e4 25.Kh1 Bg7 26.Qe1 e3 (26...f3 27.gxf3 exf3 28.Bxf3) 27.Bd3 24.Nd4 24.Qe1 24...Ne5 24...Bg7 25.Rc3 Qe7 25...f3 26.gxf3 exf3 27.Bxf3 Ngxf3+ 28.Nxf3 (28.Rxf3) 28...Bxg4 29.Nfxe5 **26.Nb6** 26.h4 **26...h5** 26...f3 27.Nxd7 (27.gxf3 exf3 28.Nxf3 Nh3+ 29.Kh1 Nxg4 30.Qe1 Bg7 31.Rc4 Bf5) 27...fxe2 28.Qxe2 Qxd7 29.h4 **27.Nxd7 Qxd7 28.Bb5** 28.h4 hxg4 29.hxg5 **28...Qe7** 28...Qxg4 was the best chance. **29.h4 hxg4 30.hxg5 Qxg5 31.Ne6?!****



This is blip in the rapid play, an inaccurate move order. **31.Be8!** This first was cleaner, since it would take away his Rf5 option and

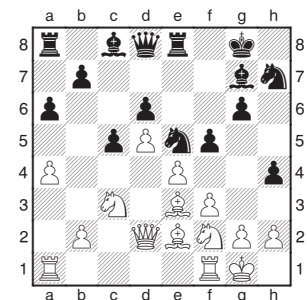
limit his options. **31...Rf6 (31...Rh7 32.Ne6 Qh4 33.Rxf4 Qh1+ 34.Kf2 Qxd1 35.Rxf8#) 32.Ne6 (32.Qc2) 31...Qh6 32.Be8 Rf6? 32...Rf5! Would still keep him in the game. 33.Qc1 (33.Qe2?? g3; 33.Rxf4 Rxf4 34.Nxf4 Qxf4 35.Qe2 Bg7!)= 33...g3 34.Rxg3+ fxg3 35.Qxh6 Rxf1+ 36.Kxf1 Bxh6 37.Ke2+ 33.Qe2 Qh4 34.Rxf4 Rxf4 35.Nxf4 1-0**

GM Alexander Fishbein has been one of the strongest players in New Jersey for years while maintaining a career in finance. He was the inaugural winner of two Tournaments of Champions, the Denker in 1985 and the Senior in 2018. He offers a masterful win of his with detailed annotations about his thought process and play.

Lu,Jason (2095) - Fishbein,Alexander (2584) [A65]

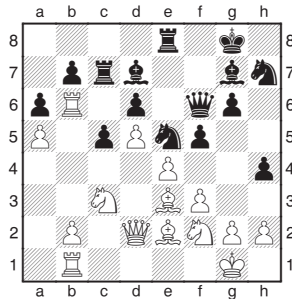
August 31, 2018, Round 2

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Be3 c5 heading for a Benoni position, which I have played many times with good results, even if objectively it is not the most secure defense. I have also played the Byrne system (early ...a6 and ...c6), which is a safer way to (almost) equalize. **7.Nge2 Nc6 8.d5 Ne5 9.Ng3 e6 10.Be2 exd5 11.cxd5 a6 12.a4 h5** A standard response against the knight on g3; however, it can effectively relocate. The pawn move also gives me a good square on h7 for my knight, where it is close to my king and opens up the diagonal for my bishop. **13.0-0 Nh7 14.Qd2 h4 15.Nh1 f5** I saw an AlphaZero game in this structure where it played an early h4-h3, but it's been known since Sophocles that divine prophesies cannot be understood properly by humans. **16.Nf2 Re8**

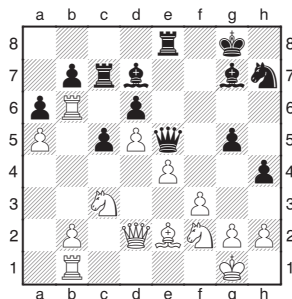


I think the first 16 moves were played quickly by both sides. This is a theoretical position, with 47 games in my database. One of the earliest was Gulko-J.Polgar (1996), a model game for Black in this variation. **17.Rfe1 Rb8** If White ever takes on f5, Black can either take with the pawn to control the

e4 square, or with the bishop to eventually exchange a white knight on e4 and leave a backward pawn which is blocked by the knight. Similarly, if White's pieces wander too far from the e4-square, Black can consider taking on e4. **18.a5 Bd7 19.Reb1!?** An interesting idea, planning b2-b4, which my next move aims to prevent. **19...Rc8 19...Nf6 20.exf5 (20.b4?! cxb4 21.Rxb4 fxe4) 20...Bxf5** was also playable. **20.Ra3 Qf6?!** This looks like an overreaction. It is not the end of the world for me to play ...c4 in response to b2-b4, so I should have played a more natural move like 20...Nf6 here, fighting for the e4-square. **21.Rb3!?** I definitely missed this one: how often do you see two rooks doubled on a file, but separated by a pawn? **21...Rc7 22.Rb6** Now I need to do something about the threat of f3-f4 and e4-e5.

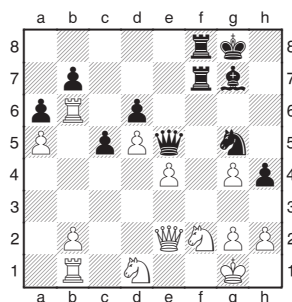


22...f4!? My computer gives this move only a question mark, suggesting cautious defense with 22...Nf7, but in a practical game this is a good chance. For a pawn, I gain control of the dark squares and restrain his pawns. **23.Bxf4 g5 24.Bxe5** I would prefer 24.Be3 h3 25.gxh3, keeping the dark-square bishop, and if 25...Nxf3+?! 26.Bxf3 Qxf3 27.Qe2! Qxe2 28.Nxe2 Be5 29.Ng3 Black has only one good piece and has problems in the ending. **24...Qxe5**



This position has a much higher emotional evaluation for Black than the numbers would suggest. White can play carefully with 25.Kh1 or 25.Rf1 and try to gradually unwind. But the move Jason plays is a very

natural one, trying to activate his knights. **25.Ncd1? g4!** The only move. The knight was going to g4, and I will gladly give up another pawn to prevent that, bring my own knight into play, weaken the e4-pawn, and open the f-file for my rooks. What more can be asked of one move? **26.fxg4 26.Kh1** was better **26...Ng5 27.Bf3?** Playing this position is difficult for White, and he needs to return the knight to c3. The text move is already a decisive mistake. **27...Rf8 28.Qe2 Bb5 29.Qe3 Rcf7** Somehow, all of my pieces are now perfectly placed, and White's rook, once so proud on b6, can only watch the devastation on the f-file. **30.Be2 Bxe2 31.Qxe2**



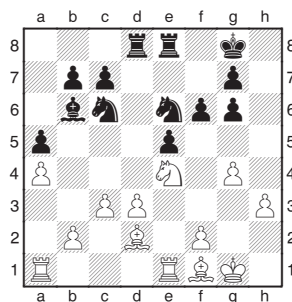
31...Nxe4 32.Nxe4 Qxe4! 33.Nc3 Bd4+ 34.Kh1 Qxb1+ 0-1

GM Alex Stripunsky is one of the country's elite chess coaches, with programs in several states and many strong students. He currently teaches the Masters classes at the International Chess Academy. He offered comments on an interesting middlegame against IM Dean Ippolito, as well as his take on an instructive game that one of his pupils played against GM Sergey Kudrin.

Stripunsky,A - Ippolito,D [C44]

NJ Open, Round 6, March 9, 2018

This game was played in the last round. Both players needed a win to clinch a their place in the inevitable first-place tie. After some standard opening adventures, this position was reached.



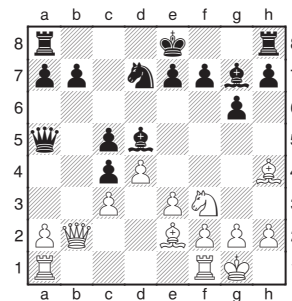
21...Ne7? In order to combat White's

bishop pair, Black had to establish outposts for his knights. 21...g5! 22.Be3 Nf4 23.Rad1= with a balanced game **22.d4! Kh8** [Better was 22...Nc6 though after 23.Bc4 exd4 24.Nxf6+ gxf6 25.Rxe6 Rxe6 26.Bxe6+ White would have an edge in the endgame. **23.Bc4 Nc8 24.dxe5 f5 25.Bg5!** This intermediate move is important. **25...Rd7 25...fxe4 26.Bxe6 Rd3 27.Bxc8 Rxc8 28.Rxe4** is hopeless for Black. **26.Bxe6 Rxe6 27.Nd2 Rf7 28.Re2 fxg4 29.hxg4 c6 30.Kg2** Black is clearly lost here; White is up a pawn and Black's pieces are getting worse every move. **30...Bc7 31.f4 Nb6 32.Kg3 Nd5 33.Ne4 Re8 34.Nc5 Rff8 35.c4 Nb4 36.Rh1+ Kg8 37.Reh2 Kf7 38.Rd2 1-0**

Ehsani,Yassamine (2125) - Kudrin,Sergey (2533) (D80)

NJ Open, 02.09.2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Ne4 5.Bh4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 dxc4 7.e3 Be6 8.Qb1 c5 9.Nf3 Qa5 10.Qb2 Nd7 11.Be2 Bg7 12.0-0 Bd5



This is the critical moment in this game. To justify his earlier pawn sac, White must play energetically. **13.Nd2!?** Better was 13.e4! Bxe4 14.Nd2 Bc6! (14...Bd5 15.Nxc4 Qc7 16.Bg3 (16.Ne3) 16...Qc6 17.Ne3 0-0 18.Nxd5 Qxd5 19.Bf3=) 15.Nxc4 Qa4 16.Rae1 0-0 17.Bxe7 Rfe8 18.Nd6! Rxe7 19.Bd1! Rxe1 20.Bxa4 Rxf1+ 21.Kxf1 Bxa4 22.Qxb7 Rb8 23.Qd5 and White's piece activity should compensate for his material losses. **13...cxd4 14.exd4 Rc8 15.Rfe1 15.Bf3 Bxf3 16.Nxf3 e6 (16...Nb6) 15...e6 16.Bf3 Bxf3 17.gxf3? 17.Nxf3 Nb6 17...Nb6-+ 18.Ne4 0-0 19.Be7 Rfe8 20.Bb4 Qh5 21.Nd6 Nd5 22.Qe2 Rcd8 23.Nxe8 Rxe8 24.Bd6 0-1**



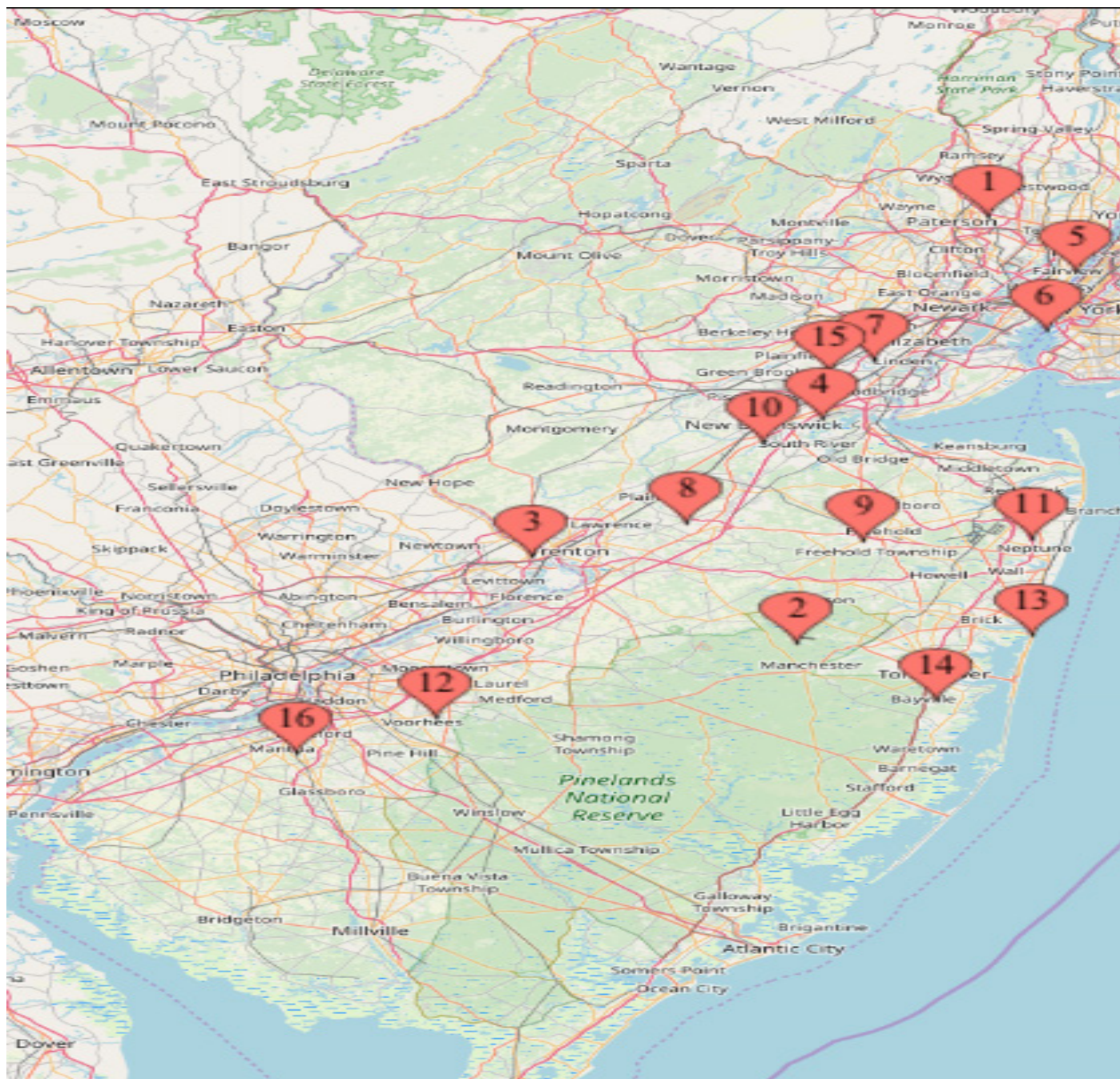
The NJ Open Trophy
(photo credit to Mike Sommers)

Chess Around New Jersey 2

Now with even more chess!

compiled by Alessandro De Marchi-Blumstein

Two years ago, we included an article called “Chess Around New Jersey” that showed several of the many places around the state where New Jersey residents can go for high-level chess games, instruction, and more. Unfortunately, there are many lesser-known clubs and academies which might not come to the mind of even a seasoned New Jersey chess veteran, but they offer a great place to play nonetheless. Below is a map of the state with the location of each chess establishment, followed by a short description of their events and activities. Some have been bastions of New Jersey chess for generations; others are new, still trying to find their regulars and their niches in the community. Whenever you get the urge to play some chess, consider going to one of these many fine establishments instead of just opening up Chess.com on your phone.



Map created with mapcustomizer.com

1. Bergen Chess Mates

The Bergen Chess Mates was founded in 1966 and is the second oldest continually active chess club in New Jersey. The club meets on Monday evenings from 7pm-11pm at the Ridgewood United Methodist Church, 100 Dayton Street, Ridgewood, NJ. Our distinguished alumni include IM Ken Regan, IM Alex Katz, and Original Life Master Arthur Feuerstein (who participated in multiple US Invitational Championships and once drew with Bobby Fischer) as well as many others. Weekly events include rated tournaments at various time controls and GM lectures. We welcome players from beginner through master and can provide opportunities to play against opponents of all ratings and ages, from scholastic players through seniors. Our tournament entry fees are very modest. We maintain a lending library of chess books for members and have a supply of sets, boards, and clocks for those in need. Our members are very friendly, and we welcome visitors as well as new members. Come and check us out. You might make a friend for life! For further information, please see our website www.bergenchessmates.com, or contact Ron Groseibl at ron1507@optimum.net.

2. Dean of Chess Academy

Dean of Chess Academy was formed in 2002 by International Master of Chess Dean Ippolito and has since grown exponentially. We teach classes for all levels and hold scholastic tournaments and league nights. Our core staff includes many notable instructors who hold national and international titles. In addition to their playing ability, our instructors have many years of teaching experience. These accomplishments and talents combined make the staff at Dean of Chess unsurpassed and one of the finest in the country. We currently coach dozens of nationally ranked scholastic players! So whether you are a beginner interested in learning the basics of chess, have ambitions of becoming a master, or even have aspirations of a national championship, the staff at Dean of Chess Academy can help you learn the lessons on what to do and what to avoid from our former child prodigies who have experienced it all.

3. Ewing Chess Club

The Ewing Chess Club was founded in late 2011 by Mike Colucci. He noticed that the central New Jersey and Bucks County, Pennsylvania area had a chess vacuum that needed attention, so he decided to create

another outlet for chess enthusiasts. It was his goal to create a traditional chess club environment that complemented other affiliates in the region to give players a possibility to play casually every Tuesday night and rated quads once a month on Saturdays.

Over the years, ECC has had over 100 rated events and 160 members. More than 15 have become masters and experts by practicing there. One year, Ewing sent 7 teams to the USATE! ECC is situated about 10 minutes from Princeton and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. It is right off Route 195 near Mercer County Airport. The parking and playing conditions are excellent, and there are usually 20-40 players every Tuesday. Players range from beginner to master and come from all age groups. Ewing creates a friendly environment for chess growth. For more information, contact Mike Colucci at zyxcol@earthlink.net.

4. Falcon Chess Club

The Falcon Chess Club is in Metuchen and is affiliated with the Saint Joseph High School chess team. The club primarily conducts matches and tournaments for students at the high school. Its players are generally rated in the 600-1600 range. The team competes in the Shore High School Chess League. In April of each year, the club hosts a Scholastic Tournament at Saint Joseph for all K-8 players to promote chess and the program. For more information, please contact Jarrett Dewelde at Jarrett_dewelde@hotmail.com.

5. Frank's Chess Academy

Frank's Chess Academy is located at 271 Fort Lee Road, Ste 7, Leonia, NJ. Close to routes 95, 4, and 46. We offer private and group lessons for all ages and levels. We host USCF Rated tournaments (both quads and open) and Friday Night Blitz. We also host GM simulms and lectures. Our 2019 yearly Grand Prix is underway! Call 201-961-4029 or email: frank@frankschess.com; Web Site: www.frankschess.com

6. International Chess Academy

2018 was an exciting year at International Chess Academy. Our students competed in many national and international events. Our annual summer camp included a week of "Super GM camp" with GM Alexander Chernin, former

trainer of Fabiano Caruana. We also hosted the New Jersey Junior North tournament. In June, Alexander Wang and Ryan Zhu were selected to play in the ChessKid Online National Invitational Championship. Ryan finished in third place for age 6, while Alexander won the Age 7 section. Alexander and Ryan also headed to Spain for the World Cadet Championship alongside Ryan's sister Florina. Alexander finished in tenth place. GM camper Jed Sloan traveled to Chile for the Pan American Youth Championship and finished in second place. At the World Open, Ilya Asulin tied for second in the Under 1200 section. At the Eastern Chess Congress, Ethan Modi tied for first place in U1900, and coach Alessandro De Marchi-Blumstein tied for second in U1700. Coach and GM Alexander Stripunsky tied for first place at the New Jersey Open, taking a share of the Champion title yet again. Even our chief tournament director, Noreen Davisson, had an exciting achievement, directing at the US Championship.

7. Kenilworth Chess Club

Established in 1972, the Kenilworth Chess Club is a fun and active club. We meet every Thursday night beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Recreation Center at 575 Kenilworth Boulevard in Kenilworth, New Jersey. Enter through the rear door. The building is easy to find, located at the corner of 24th Street and less than a mile west of Garden State Parkway Exit 138. It is to the left of the Kenilworth Municipal Building, which houses the Kenilworth Police Department.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. Membership is \$15 per year, with discounts for Seniors (age 65+) & Juniors (< age 18). Membership is not required to play, but some activities (such as our annual Club Championship & Holiday Party) are open only to members. Chess sets, boards, and clocks are provided. Most meetings feature unrated tournaments, such as our annual Summer Tournament. We also run USCF-rated tournaments, host lectures, and have other events. For more information visit kenilworthchessclub.org or send an email to kenilworthchessclub@gmail.com.

8. Kings and Queens Chess Academy

We at Kings and Queens Chess Academy help young minds learn the beautiful game of chess. Playing chess is a great way to exercise to one's mind. The planning and

strategizing skills acquired through playing chess help children far beyond the realm of the chessboard. Anticipating the opponent's moves helps students to understand, anticipate, and solve problems in real life. Our goal is to build a healthy and competitive chess culture in our community and provide children with the right tools to be able to succeed chess players as well as human beings. Our coaches are very highly ranked chess players with international titles and, most importantly, they are excellent trainers! Come join us to learn, play and have fun in our world of 64 squares!

9. Monmouth County Chess Club

The Monmouth County Chess Club meets almost every Saturday from 10am until 1pm at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters, 125 Symmes Road, Manalapan, N.J. Ages range from four and a half to over eighty. Chess ability ranges from absolute beginner to chess master. Generally, there are more young children than adults ... BUT BEWARE ... some of the younger ones are very good players. The dues for a year are "A Handshake," which most people pay in advance. If there is enough interest, we hold Scholastic & Open Quads. Boy Scouts can work towards the Chess Merit Badge under the supervision of an old scoutmaster who is a merit badge counselor. You can get more information from Jim Mullanaphy via email at jmull@aol.com

10. The Rutgers Chess Club

The Rutgers Chess Club was founded by Robert Forney in 2011 to provide chess opportunities for chess players at and around Rutgers-New Brunswick. We currently meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 8-10 PM in the College Avenue Student Center Food Court at 126 College Ave, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Though many of the patrons are Rutgers students, anyone may attend regardless of age or level. Boards and pieces are provided; people usually play casual or blitz games. The club also hosts tournaments every Friday in conjunction with Chess Kings & Queens Academy to support the Rutgers Chess Team.

11. Shore High School Chess League

The Shore High School Chess League was established in the 1970s and is one of the largest high school chess leagues in the nation, consisting of 25-30 teams. Its season lasts from November through February. Each team plays up to 10 matches per

season against other schools. In addition, the league hosts 2 free USCF Rated tournaments during the season exclusively for its members. The season culminates in the Championship Round, held in mid-February at the Monmouth Mall, where the top 8 teams battle it out for the title. The Championship Round also offers a Junior Varsity Section for extra players and teams that did not qualify for the top 8. The league is currently looking for new schools to participate. Please contact shorechessleague@yahoo.com or Jarrett_dewelde@hotmail.com for more information.

12. The South Jersey Chess Club

The South Jersey Chess Club, the most active chess club in the South Jersey/Philadelphia metro area, offers casual meetings, tournaments, lecture and instruction in chess. Our mission is to help members of the community develop life-long skills through chess. Meetings are held for kids, adults, and seniors, so everyone, regardless of age, can hone their strategy game skills. The club meets on Wednesday and Friday evenings at the South Jersey Innovation Center in Marlton, NJ. Special events are hosted throughout the year; these include monthly open tournaments, specially organized tournaments, guest lecturers, and grandmaster simulms. Rated rapid tournaments are held weekly for players of all levels. We have players rated from 1000 – 2400, and, depending on attendance, we sometimes split up tournaments into rating groups. Each tournament has a nominal entry fee, and prizes are awarded at various levels. Instruction for children and the community is offered at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels, as well as elite training for players with a rating of over 1000. Visit us in Marlton, NJ, or contact the South Jersey Chess Club at info@snjchess.com or the South Jersey Innovation Center at info@incntr.com.

13. STEM+ Academy

STEM+ Academy, located in Point Pleasant Beach, is a student-friendly learning center focused on providing tutoring, test prep, instruction, and enrichment programs designed to help students compete and thrive in tomorrow's world.

Among the STEM enrichment programs, we offer are our Chess Competition Team (for kids in grades K-8) and

our Scholastic Quads. Our tournaments are open to both rated and unrated players. The Spring Chess Competition Team will begin in April. Our Quads are held monthly. Further information and online registration is available at our website: www.STEMplusAcademy.com; 732-899-0300; ContactUs@STEMplusAcademy.com

14. Tom's River Chess Club

Events filled the calendar beginning with an award night for most improved players. The Club Championship Tournament was held. Our website (tomsriverchessclub.org) was reworked with interactive features. Incorporation as a NJ Non-Profit was made. The first "Rascal" Awards were presented (See Chess Life July 2018 "Letters"). Pizza nights and ice cream nights were appreciated! Yaacov Norowitz held a simul, going 20-0. On May 5th, Toms River Founder's Day included all-day chess by members (see website newsletters for photos). An open quad tournament featured first-time players in a rated event. A round robin tournament with TRCC and USCF Executive Board member Hal Sprechmen as TD secured his ANTD status. Orrin Hudson (see Chess Life December 2015) visited. A lecture by Paul Howe on his system and an historic retirement lecture by Eugene Salomon, introduced by Steve Doyle, were highlights. TRCC members participated in major tournaments throughout the year, including two teams in the World Amateur Team. The year culminated in our Holiday Auction and Party, with items donated throughout the year being won and a catered dinner for members. Come for a visit on Thursdays, 6-10:30 PM, 33 Washington Street, Toms River!

15. The Westfield Chess Club

The Westfield Chess Club meets most Sundays starting at 11:30 a.m. in the Westfield YMCA, which is located at 220 Clark Street, Westfield, NJ 07090. We are primarily a tournament-running entity, running a USCF-rated event almost every week. Opportunities for free, casual play are limited. No lessons or classes are offered. Westfield CC members receive discounts on most entry fees, can play in our annual club championship, and are invited to our annual holiday party. Dues are \$40 for 12 months or \$20 for 6 months. For more information visit westfieldchessclub.org email westfieldchessclub@gmail.com.

16. The Woodbury Chess Club

The Woodbury Chess Club has met continuously since 1941. There is documentation to support our proud claim to be the oldest chess club in the state, existing as early as 1933. The WCC meets every Tuesday evening in the Presbyterian Church at Woodbury in Woodbury, NJ. We currently have around 60 members. Our members enjoy serious tournaments, so the club often hosts USCF rated tournaments of various formats.

The WCC is very competitive, with members' ratings ranging from 900 to 2050. We pride ourselves on promoting the game of chess and encouraging new players to learn the game with an atmosphere of warmth and friendship. Our members are very socially oriented and friendly. We want you to feel welcome and appreciated at our club! The WCC welcomes both young and old and is smoke-free and wheelchair accessible. Visitors are always welcome. For more information about the club, you may contact me at the email or phone number below. Send me your email, and I will be happy to add you to our club email list, where club news and upcoming tournaments are announced! Contact Info: Henry 856-845-5094, woodburychessclub1@verizon.net

Eugene Salomon: Toms River Chess Club's Extraordinary Master Celebrates a Brilliant Chess Career

by Tom's River Chess Club President Stephen Shoshin

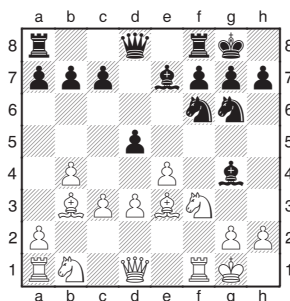
Has anyone in YOUR chess club ever played against former World Champion Alexander Alekhine? Well, Toms River Chess Club's Eugene Salomon has! In 1944, Gene (as he is known) was the final contestant against the World Champion, his idol, in an event in Gijon, Spain. Analysis shows the game could have been drawn, but the 15 year old was unable to prevail. Celebrating his 90th year and the 75th year of his chess career, he delivered a lecture in October in which he described that game and others and told anecdotes about his life and chess. The lecture, purportedly Gene's "farewell" from active chess lecturing as well as a celebration of his achievements, was introduced by Steve Doyle. The former Toms River Chess Club President, USCF President, and FIDE Vice President, and long-time organizer of the World Amateur Team Tournament, acknowledged their many years as friends and the associations

they shared.

(Photo of Steve Doyle and Gene courtesy of Stephen Shoshin)



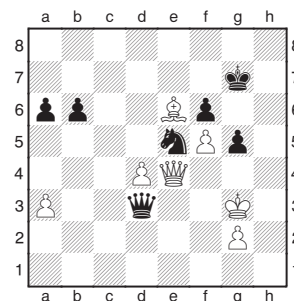
Here is the simul game (Gene had black):
1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d3 Nc6 4. f4 d6 5. Nf3 Be7 6. 0-0 Bg4 7. c3 0-0 8. b4 exf4 9. Bxf4 Ne5 10. Bb3 Ng6 11. Be3 d5 at this point, Gene felt he had equalized.



12. Nbd2 dxe4 13. Nxe4 Nxe4 14. dxe4 Qd6 15. Bd4 Bf6 16. Qd2 Rad8 17. Rad1 Qe7 18. Qe3 Bxd4 19. Rxd4 Rxd4 20. Nxd4 a6 21. Qg3 Bc8 22. Re1 Ne5 23. Nf5 Qf6 24. Rf1 Kh8 25. Qe3 b6 26. h3 g6 27. Qh6 Re8 28. Ne3 Qg7 29. Qh4 g5 30. Qg3 Be6 31. Nf5 Bxf5 32. exf5 f6 33. Rd1 Qe7 34. h4 h6 35. hxg5 hxg5 36. Qe3 Rd8 37. Rd4 Kg7 38. a3 Rh8 39. Be6 Rd8 40. Qe4 c5 Fritz says the game is dead even here. 41. bxc5?! Qxc5 42. Kf1 Rxd4 43. cxd4 Qc1+ 44. Kf2 Qd2+ 45. Kg3 Qd3+?! Gene says that this is the move that lost him the game. "I visualized 46. Qb7+ and 47. Qf7 with checkmate to follow." Fritz shows that 45. Nd3 draws: 46. Bd5 Kh6 47. Kh2 Nf2 48. Qe8 Ng4+ 49. Kh3 Nf2+ etc.



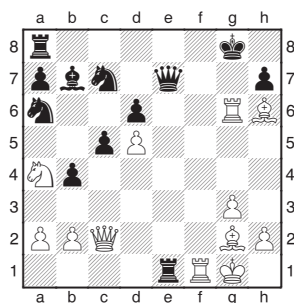
(Photo of Eugene Salomon and Alexander Alekhine courtesy of the Salomon family)



46. Qxd3 Nxd3 47. Bc4 Ne1 48. Bxa6 Nc2 49. Kf3 Nxd4+ 50. Ke4 Nc2 51. a4 Kf7 52. Bb7 Ke7 53. Kd3! Na3 54. Kc3 Kd6 55. Ba6 Nb1+ 56. Kc2 Na3+ 57. Kb2 b5 58. Kxa3 bxa4 59. g4 Ke5 60. Kxa4 1-0

From "The Genius", Gene had two important lessons: the attacking advantages of the Knight-Queen combination over the Bishop-Queen combination, and seemingly contradictory advice from the World Champion: "Young man, chess is not something that a whole life should be dedicated to." Both have stood him well throughout his life. Born on the 29th of September 1928 in the city of Gijon, Gene was one of the most promising young players in Spain, but circumstances (including the Spanish Civil War and World War II) prevented him from fulfilling his potential. Leaving Spain for Cuba at 19, he had to abandon chess for work and university, which eventually led him to the US. For a more complete history of his life, you can check out www.historiadelaedre.es/articulos/salomon_eng.htm. This link will take you to the page that Spanish chess historian Javier Cordero has dedicated to the highlights of Gene's story. One can also find reference to biographical articles that author Miguel Angel Nepomuceno, after extensive interviews, has written about Mr. Salomon. This fascinating look at Gene's life and times is an invaluable account. The many impressive games of Mr. Salomon may be visualized move by move through the links provided. After a 16 year hiatus from chess, Gene re-entered tournament play in the NJ Open in 1968, when his chess career was reinvigorated. Unrated at that time, he bested, among others, future NJ State Champion Steve Pozarek, who realized "unrated doesn't mean inexperienced!" Gene finished with a provisional rating over 2200! Steve Pozarek, along with Wayne Conover and Gene, have co-authored a book recounting their enduring interaction: 40 Years of Friendship – 100 Games of Chess. As much a memoir as a chess text, the book is a worthwhile and

enjoyable read. It is available online and is, coincidentally, the inspiration for Javier Cordero's contact with Gene, as he requested permission to publish it in Spanish. Eugene Salomon may have lost to one world champion, but he did win against another. In January, 1998, in the Linares Open, he played against World Youth Champion (under-14) Gabriel Sargissian (who has since become a GM with a 2600+ rating). The game (Gene's notation, playing white): **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.g3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 Na6 10.Nd2 Nc7 11.Nc4 Nfe8 12.e4 b5 13.Na5 b4 14.Nc6 Qd7 15.Na4 Na6 16.Qc2 f6 17.f4 Nec7 18.Be3 Re8 19.e5?! fxe5 20.fxe5 Bxe5 21.Nxe5 Rxe5 22.Bh6 Bb7 23.Rf6 Qe7 24.Raf1 Re1?** The rook on f1 may be pinned, but still participates in the attack, allowing ...**25.Rxg6+!!**



hxg6 26.Qxg6+ Kh8 27.Bg5 Rxf1+ 28.Bxf1 Rg8 29.Bf6+ Rg7 30.Qh6+ Kg8 31.Bxe7 Rxe7 32.Qg6+ Kh8 33.Qf6+ Rg7 34.Qxd6 1-0 This beautiful combination was acknowledged in Chess Informant #71, page 356.

At our club, Gene has delivered a series of lectures and simultaneous exhibitions and has helped the revitalized TRCC grow and prosper. For this reason and for his unique chess career, he was awarded a place on the TRCC Hall of Fame Plaque. This deserved honor puts him, along with Steve Doyle, in the midst of other chess luminaries who have appeared at the TRCC for lectures and simultaneous events. The following masters and grandmasters, a veritable who's who of chess, have played at the Toms River Chess Club: George Koltanowski, Lev Alburt, Victor Korchnoi, Yassir Seirawan, Mikhail Botvinnik (in his only US exhibition), David Bronstein, Boris Spassky, Edgar Mendis, Roman Dzindzichasvilli, Samuel Rashevsky, Maya Chiburdanize, Mikhail Tal, Anatoly Karpov, William Lombardy, Walter Browne, Lubomir Ftacnik, Edward Lasker, Reuben NJ State Chess Federation

Fine, Anatoly Lein, Joel Benjamin, Ron Henley, Tigran Petrosian, Arthur Bisguier, Andrew Soltis, Larry Evans, Leonid Shamkovich, Larry Christiansen, Michael Wilder, Hikaru Nakamura, Gata Kamsky, Irina Krush, Danny Kopec, and, most recently, Fabiano Caruana! All have a place of honor on our plaque.

Finally, one constant in all the international moves that Eugene Salomon has made throughout his life is that he has kept and maintained the very chess set with which Alexander Alekhine played in 1944. It is a treasure he holds dear to his heart, an inspiration! The Toms River Chess Club is indeed proud of this exceptional member!



(Photo of three generations playing with the pieces used by Alekhine in 1944 courtesy of the Salomon family)

2018 Montclair Sopranos Report

by Mackenzie Molner & Sean Finn

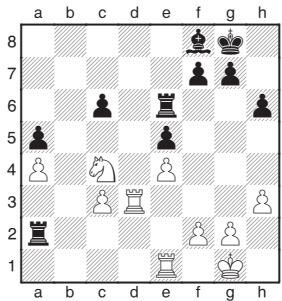
One of the biggest things happening right now in chess is the Professional Rapid Online (PRO) Chess League. 2018 was the league's second year and was even more competitive than the first. 16 teams from the previous season were relegated this year, and the league is down to just 32 teams. Teams from major cities all around the world compete against each other over the internet. Players like Carlsen, Nakamura, Caruana, Giri, and countless other top Grandmasters play in the league. The Montclair Sopranos, with sponsorship from the NJSCE, have become one of the best teams in this rapidly growing league. Here are some of the best games and moments from our last season. They feature two New Jersey players, Dan Smith and Tom Bartell. Alex Lenderman, though not from New Jersey, is not to be forgotten. The final game given here is the team's most memorable win of 2018.

Sean Finn is the Sopranos' manager and an expert player. In addition to his work as a chess coach, Sean coordinates the Sopranos' Twitch channel, on which they show the team's matches with high-level commentary.
Smith, Daniel (2070) - Hansen, Eric (2629) [C41]

PRO Chess League 2018 Round 3, January 31, 2018

In this game, we have our board 4, Dan Smith, playing against one of the most well-known online chess figures, GM Eric Hansen of the Montreal Chessbrahs. The rating difference is quite large in this matchup, but that is not unusual for Dan. He is usually playing up against chess professionals, but always gives them a run for their money. In this game, Dan outplays his elite opponent but misses a golden opportunity at move 31. **1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 6.0-0 0-0** Black chose a very solid, somewhat passive opening. The advantage of playing an opening like this in a fast game is that the plans and opening moves are very formulaic, which can save a lot of time. **7.Re1 c6 8.a4 a5!?** Black wants to take on d4 and have a permanent outpost on c5 for their knight. **8...b6** with the idea of expanding slowly on the queenside is also a common idea. **9.h3 Bb7 10.Be3 a6** is a typical way the game could continue. **9.h3 Qc7 10.Bg5 Re8 11.Qd2 Nf8** Hansen chooses a different path for the knight, possibly heading to e6 or g6. **12.Rad1 Ng6 13.Qd3 h6 14.Bc1 Nh5 15.Ne2!** This move looks passive, but it's critical that Black cannot safely outpost one of their knights on f4. **15...Bf8 16.Qb3 Rb8 17.c3 Qe7 18.dxe5 dxe5 19.Qb6 Ra8 20.Be3 Qf6 21.Rd2?** Dan has played really well up to this point and has secured himself a nice advantage. However, this last move is a serious mistake, and Black has a tactical shot that was overlooked by both players in the game. **21.Ng3! Nxg3 22.fxg3** Surprisingly, this pawn structure is very helpful for White. The black knight on g6 will never dream of the f4-square again, and White can use the f-file to target f7. **22...Bxh3? 23.Rf1!** White's pressure along the f-file is overwhelming. **21...Nh4? 21...Bxh3! 22.gxh3 Qxf3** is, of course, the point. **22.Nxf4 Nxf4 23.Bxf4 Qxf4 24.Rd3 Qf6 25.Nd2 Be6 26.Bxe6 Qxe6 27.Qxb7 Rab8 28.Qd7 Rxb2 29.Qxe6 Rxe6 30.Nc4 Ra2** We have reached the critical point in the game! White has a solid advantage here. The a5-pawn is a chronic weakness for Black. If White can safely prevent Black

from capturing on a4, there will be no counterplay in return for Black's dying pawn on a5. What should White play?



31.Nxa5? 31.Rd2! An incredibly strong move and counterintuitive idea. It turns out the best way to defend the a4-pawn is not to defend it at all! 31...Rxa4 (31...Rxd2 32.Nxd2± White has a big endgame advantage.) 32.Nb6 Ra3 33.Rd8+– The key difference in this line is that Black doesn't have time for g6 because White gained a tempo with Nb6. 31.Rd8? Natural but not strong enough! 31...g6! 32.Nb6 Kg7 Black is just in time to avoid being pinned and will untangle their pieces comfortably. **31...Bc5 32.Rf3 Rxa4 33.Nb3 Bb6 34.Re2 Rd6 35.Rd2 Rxd2 36.Nxd2 Ra1+ 37.Kh2 Re1 38.Nc4 Bc5 39.Na5 39.Nxe5?? Bd6! 39...Rxe4 40.Nxc6 f6** The tables have turned, and it's now Black who has a sizable edge. **41.g3 Re2 42.Kg1 Rb2 43.Na5 Kf7 44.Nc4 Rb1+ 45.Kg2 Ke6 46.Rd3 Rc1 47.g4 Rc2 48.Rf3 g6 49.h4 h5 50.gxh5 gxh5 51.Kg3??** Leaving the White rook with no escape. **51...f5!–+ 52.Ne3 f4+ 53.Kh3 fxe3 54.fxe3 Rxc3 55.Kg2 Rxe3 56.Rf1 Re2+ 57.Kf3 Rh2 58.Kg3 Rb2 59.Rc1 Rb3+ 60.Kg2 Be3 61.Rc6+ Kf5 62.Rc8 Bf4 63.Rg8 Rb2+ 64.Kf3 e4#** A tough result, but a very exciting game overall. Despite this loss, we went on to beat the Montreal Chessbrahs in this match. Despite having the biggest following in the league and one of the strongest teams, they couldn't avoid being relegated at the end of the season. It just goes to show you how competitive the league is. **0–1**

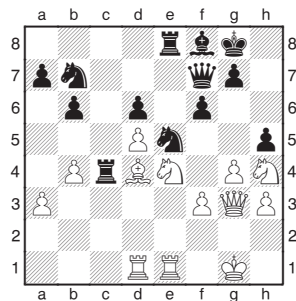
The next two games are annotated by Sopranos player GM Mackenzie Molner.

Bartell, Thomas (2344) - Shabalov, Alexander (2544) [A16]

PRO Chess League 2018 Round 6, February 14, 2018

This game is from our match against the Pittsburgh Pawngrabbers. They were a tough opponent for us last year, and this game was a gem from the match. Tom

Bartell is taking on 4-time US Champion Alexander Shabalov. Shabalov is known as a wild and aggressive genius, but here he recklessly experiments in the opening and gets punished for it. **1.c4 Nc6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 b6?! A very risky experiment. 3...e5 would transpose back to a normal variation of the English. 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.d4 5.d3!** with the plan of playing e2–e4 would be a strong way to shut down Black's light-squared bishop. **5...e6 6.a3 Na5?** Shabalov tries to ease the tension along the diagonal, but this is a time-consuming trade, and the knight that ends up on b7 is out of play. **7.Bxb7 Nxb7 8.e4 d6 9.Nf3 9.f4!?** White could also be greedy for space in the center. There is no way to punish this move. White's space advantage will be very uncomfortable for Black. **9...Be7 10.0–0–0 11.b4 c6 11...a5!?** The creation of some activity for the Black pieces was necessary. **12.d5! cxd5 13.cxd5 exd5 14.exd5 Qd7 15.Nd4!** The c6 square makes the perfect outpost for White's knight. **15...Rac8 16.Bb2 Qh3 17.Qf3 17.f3!** Keeping Black's knight out of g4 prevents any counterplay. White can pile on the open files and plant his knight into c6. A dream position for White. **17...Ng4 18.Qg2 Qh5 19.h3 Ne5 20.g4 Qg6 21.Nf5! Rfe8 22.Ne4 22.Nb5! a6 23.Na7** Heading once again for c6 would be very powerful. **22...Bf8 23.Bd4 h5 24.f3 Nd3 25.Qg3 Rc4 26.Rad1 Ne5 27.Rfe1 f6 28.Nh4 Qf7**



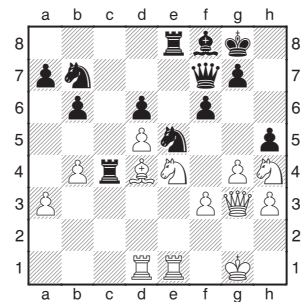
White has everything perfectly placed and is ready to strike, but how should Tommy continue? **29.gxh5? 29.g5! f5 30.g6!! Nxg6 31.Nxg6 fxe4 32.Qg5** Black can't hold everything together against White's threats on the kingside. The simple threat of Qxh5 followed by mate on h8 is decisive. **29...f5 30.Ng5 Qxh5 31.f4 Nf7?? 31...Be7!** This very tricky defense shouldn't save Black, but it makes for the biggest fight. The move played in the game allows Tommy a straightforward win. **32.Ne6! Kh7?? 33.Nxf8+ Black resigned due to the unavoidable mate on g7 next turn.**

Winning such a one-sided game against a player as strong as Shabalov almost never happens, but Bartell made it look easy. **1–0**

Lenderman, Aleksandr (2611) - Nakamura, Hikaru (2781) [B00]

PRO Chess League 2018, Round 4, March 2, 2018

Alex Lenderman has been the most consistent and strongest player for us. Last year, he was rated 2565 but had a performance over 2700 for the year! This is a remarkable achievement. In this game, he's facing off against an opponent who needs no introduction, Hikaru Nakamura. Hikaru is generally one of the best players in the world, and he is even better in fast chess. **1.d4 b6** Apparently, people really like playing early b6 openings against us... **2.e4 Bb7 3.Bd3 e6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Qe2 d5 6.e5 Nfd7 7.c3 7.c4** I don't think most players would consider this move because it allows Black to open up the light-squared bishop, but the computer is insistent that it's a good idea. **7...dxc4 8.Be4 Bxe4 9.Qxe4 c6 10.a4!** Preventing Black from playing b6–b5. White will castle and regain the pawn on c4 with a very pleasant position. **7...c5 8.Be3 Be7 9.Nbd2 Qc8 10.0–0 Ba6 11.Bg5 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Qa6 13.Qe3** Despite the odd opening, Black is doing fine. By trading off the light-squared bishops, Black has solved the problem of his worst piece. **13...Nc6 14.a3 h6 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Rfe1 Rc8 17.Nf1 cxd4 18.Nxd4! Nc5 19.Rad1 h5?** A small but lasting mistake. Now Black's kingside dark squares become a problem, and the pawn on h5 will become weak. **19...0–0** should be preferred. **20.h4!** Fixing Black's pawn on h5, where it can be targeted by White's queen and knight. **20...Ng6?** He dooms his pawn on h5. **21.Qg5 Kf8 22.Ng3 Rh6 23.Nxh5!** White doesn't have to rush to take this pawn. Black's pieces are too uncoordinated on the kingside to survive a quick attack. **23.f4! Qb7 24.f5 Nxe5 25.fxe6!+– 23...Qb7 24.g3 Qe7 25.Nf4 Ne4**



26.Ndxe6+!! A fantastic shot, overlooked by one of the world's best blitz players!
26...Kg8 27.Qxe7 Nxe7 28.Ng5 White has a healthy two pawn advantage, but how many times have we all ruined a winning position in time pressure? Alex converts his advantage smoothly. **28...Nc5 29.Nxd5 Nxd5 30.Rxd5 Re8 31.Re3 Rc6 32.c4 Rc7 33.b3 a5 34.a4 Rce7 35.Rd6 Rb8 36.e6 f5 37.h5 g6 38.hxg6 Kg7 39.Nh3 Ne4 40.Rxe4 fxe4 41.Nf4 Kf6 42.Rd4 Kf5 43.Rd5+ Kf6 44.Rb5 Reb7 45.Kf1 Rh8 46.c5 Rh1+ 47.Kg2 Rd1 48.c6 Rc7 49.Nd5+ 49.Rd5!** would end the game even faster. **49...Rxd5 50.Rxd5 Rxc6 51.g7 Rc8 52.Rd6 Kxg7 53.Rxb6 Kf6 54.Rb5 Rc2 55.e7 e3** A fantastic game from Lenderman! Last year, GM Pascal Charbanneou had a chance to beat super GM Fabiano Caruana. It was a nailbiter. Pascal eventually lost, but it has become clear that no matter who we are playing, we are always dangerous opponents. **1-0**

(continued from page 6) Robert Katende of the Disney movie, "The Queen of Katwe."

It was a heartwarming reunion for returning World Champion, FM Raphael Zimmer (Germany) and Griffin McConnell (USA) who bonded quickly at last year's event. This event is not just an opportunity for players to participate in a World Junior event, but, an opportunity to make friends with other players who may face similar challenges in tournament play.

This year we have three qualifying teams. Team USA, Team Russia and Team Uganda – each country must have a minimum of two players to qualify as a team, with the highest two scores per team counting towards team points.

The Players Technical Meeting followed the Opening Ceremony, which was open for discussion with coaches and players from all of the participating countries. The players participated in a simul with GM Sandro Pozo, which also featured game analysis with GM Thomas Luther and GM Aryam Abreu. The players also participated in the Chess Masters Training Program – rounding off their participation in the event with an educational component that is an important factor in a chess players training.

NJ Grade School Championship Recap by Chief TD Hal Sprechman

The New Jersey Grade School Championship was first held in 2003 when 236 children competed in 13 sections from NJ State Chess Federation

Kindergarten through 12th grade. It runs the Sunday before Thanksgiving. On November 18th, over 400 children participated in the 16th running of the event. The following are the 1st place teams and 1st place players in each section:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Kindergarten: | Dutch Neck School; Mason Jin Li |
| 1st Grade: | Town Center Elementary Mahend Ram Prasad |
| 2nd Grade: | Princeton Day School Ethan Fede |
| 3rd Grade: | Dutch Neck School Rishi Madiraju |
| 4th Grade: | Tower Hill School Henry Boswell |
| 5th Grade: | Radburn Elementary Gary Leschinsky |
| 6th Grade: | Eisenhower Intermediate Albert Yao |
| 7th Grade: | Heritage Middle School Dennis Li |
| 8th Grade: | Woodrow Wilson Kenneth Telebrico |
| 9th Grade: | North Hunterdon High Jonathan Chin |
| 10th Grade: | Bergen County Academies Taran Idnani |
| 11th Grade: | Christian Brothers Academy Aravind Kumar |
| 12th Grade: | Gill St. Bernards School Lucas Bernui |

2018 NJ Senior Open Recap

by Chief TD Dov Gorman

The 2018 NJ Senior Open was held December 29-30 at the beautiful Crowne Plaza Philadelphia-Cherry Hill Hotel, home of the upcoming 2021 U.S. Open. For the first time in many years, the NJSCF held an official tournament to determine the state representative for the U.S. Senior championship. The field consisted of 15 players, including four Masters and two sections, Open and Reserve.

As expected, the veteran players showed fantastic fighting spirit and creativity, and many of the matches featured tense, hard-fought battles that went down to the wire. This tournament was fun to watch. The winner was decided in the last round, wherein the top two finishers played one another.

FIDE Master Boris Privman, a strong master with excellent technical skills, prevailed with 4 points. He was followed by Todd Lunna, who got 3.5 points. Lunna, a creative player, brought to the tournament a long streak of undefeated games, which, hopefully for him, will continue for a long

time.

The reserve section winner was Sunny Sharad with 4 points; Cliff Batezel came in second with 3 points.

We expected an exciting tournament and it delivered! Congratulations to the winners. We are looking forward to continuing this event in 2019 and beyond.



Winner Boris Privman with TD Dov Gorman (photos courtesy of Dov Gorman)



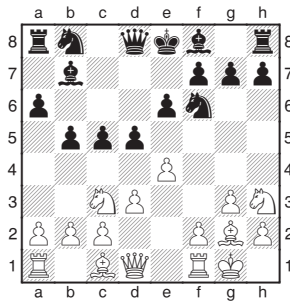
Games from the World Amateur Team 2018

with annotations by Pete Tamburro

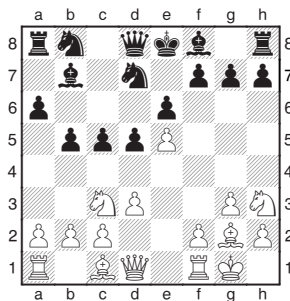
(1) Hill, Jr., L. (2080) - Ippolito, D. (2414)

[B23] February 18, 2018, Round 5

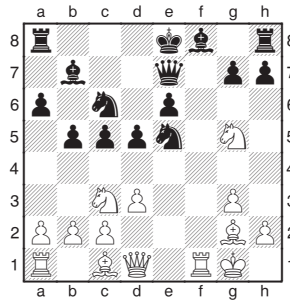
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 Nothing quite like taking your lower rated opponent out of the books. What transpires may have been unexpected, though. White, a strong player, is full of fight. 3.g3 b5 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.d3 e6 6.Nh3 A solid way to proceed is 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0; however, White wants to attack quickly along the f-file since Black seems not to feel any urgency about developing his kingside. The text move allows for f4. 6...Nf6 7.0-0 d5!?



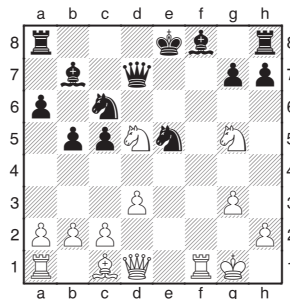
One might have expected 7...d6 or 7...Qc7, but our NJ IM plays a sharp and risky move for someone who is not castled. 8.e5 It is surprising White didn't attempt to open the center given the position of the black king. 8.exd5 Nxd5 (8...exd5?? 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Re1+ Be7 12.Qe2 wins.) 9.Bxd5 Bxd5 10.Qh5 Nc6 11.Nf4 8...Nfd7



9.f4?! Aggressive, but it's not necessary to go wild here. A very nice attack could come from 9.Re1 Be7 10.Qg4 g6 11.Nxd5 Bxd5 12.Bxd5 exd5 13.e6 Nf8 14.exf7+ Kxf7 15.Rxe7+ Qxe7 16.Qf3+ Kg7 17.Qxd5 Ra7 18.Bd2 h6 19.Re1 9...Nc6 10.f5 Ndx5 11.fxe6 fxe6 12.Ng5 Qe7



This position raises an interesting question: where is the follow-up to all this aggression? For a pawn, White has an active position with good chances to get compensation for it. However, Black is ready to castle queenside and doesn't have to worry about d4 by White. White, thus, has to be very careful with his next few moves, or the initiative dissipates rather quickly. 13.Bxd5 White needed to go another way so as to prevent those two plusses for Black from being meaningful. A sacrifice on d5 was surely thought of, but it's better if you have another piece out: 13.Bf4 g6 (13...0-0-0? 14.Bh3) 14.Bxd5 exd5 15.Nxd5 Qd8 16.c4 Bd6 17.d4 Nxd4 18.Bxe5 Bxe5 19.Nf7 Qb8 20.Nxe5 Qxe5 21.Re1 0-0 22.Rxe5 Nf3+ 23.Qxf3 Rxf3 and we have a chess game. 13...exd5 14.Nxd5 Qd7?

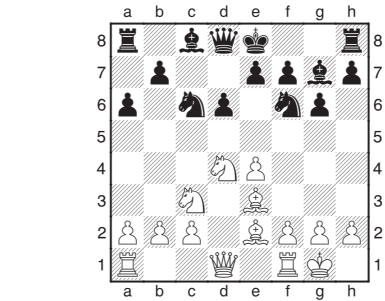


A very risky inaccuracy. 14...Qd6 15.Ne6 Rc8 15.Ne6?! White could have made this very exciting, though not decisive, with 15.Qh5+ g6 16.Nf6+ Ke7 17.Qe2 Qd6 18.c3 Qxd3 19.Qf2 h6 20.Nge4. What White played is pleasing to the eye, but Ippolito keeps his cool, and the game ends quickly. 15...Bd6 16.Qh5+ Ng6 17.Bf4 Qxe6 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.Rae1+ Nce5 20.Rf5 0-0-0 21.c4 Rde8 0-1

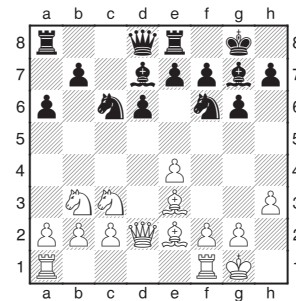
(2) Zhang, Roger - Obtock, Nick [B73]

February 19, 2018, Round 6

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Always worthy of consideration is the Maroczy Bind with 5.c4 5...Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Be2 a6!? Black shouldn't combine the Najdorf with the Dragon. Get developed with 7...0-0 8.0-0 Nc6

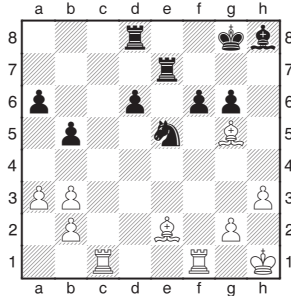


9.h3 Again, develop! Is Ng4 such a threat that White has to prevent it? 9.Qd2 Ng4 10.Bxg4 Bxg4 11.Nd5 0-0 12.c4 with some advantage in space and time, not to mention the now doing-nothing bishop on g4. If Black tries to kick the knight with e6, it makes d6 really weak. 9...0-0 10.Qd2 Bd7 11.Nb3 Develop with 11.Rad1 There is no urgency to play Nb3. Let's wait a bit and see what Black's up to. 11...Re8



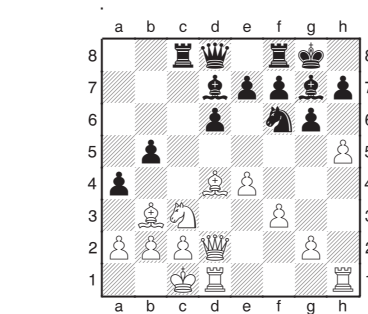
No doubt Black saw this as a sophisticated anticipatory move for the coming Bh6, but it is utterly unnecessary. Since White has been dawdling instead of developing, Black should hit on the queenside by making use of the a6 move: 11...b5 12.a3 Ne5 13.f4 Nc4 12.Bh6 So many amateurs are programmed to play certain patterns, like the queen and bishop battery pointing to h6. It's good against the Dragon if you're castled queenside and playing h4 with a Rh1. Here, it's terrible because White has no army to attack with after the bishop exchange. Tip for young players: know why and when to play the moves you do. Much more in keeping with the demands of the position was 12.f4 b5 13.a3 Rc8 14.Rad1 Qc7 15.Bf3 b4 16.axb4 Nxb4 17.Rf2 Red8 18.f5 12...Bh8 Black is similarly programmed. Just take the bishop! What's he got? Nobody else is over there. 12...Bxh6 13.Qxh6 Qb6 13.f4 b5! 14.a3 Qb6+! Black has hit upon a fine and vigorous counterattack. 15.Kh1 Rad8 The typical Sicilian idea of threatening to mess up white's pawns with an exchange on b3 would come from 15...Be6 16.f5 Get all your pieces in the game! 16.Rad1 16...Ne5 17.fxg6 hxg6! Excellent! fxg6 would

shatter the integrity of the pawn structure. **18.Nd5 Nxd5 19.exd5 e6 20.dxe6 Bxe6 21.Qg5 Bxb3** Even though the chess engine gives Black just a slight advantage after this, the game is won. Black has a passed pawn that's ready to move, and White has no attack. **22.cxb3 Qc7? Passed pawns must be pushed! 22...d5 23.Rac1 Qe7?? 23...Qb7 24.Qxe7 Rxe7 25.Bg5 f6**

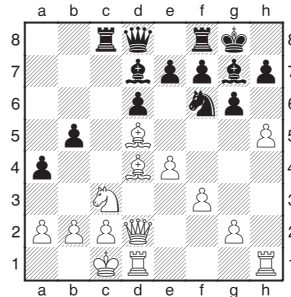


26.Bxf6?? Returning the favor. There's a right way and a wrong way to simplify. White went from losing to winning and soon to losing again. **26.Rxf6 Bxf6 27.Bxf6 Rde8 28.Bxe7 Rxe7 29.Rd1 Rd7 30.a4 26...Bxf6 27.Rxf6 Kg7** White still has the advantage, though a lesser one than he could have had; however, the path to losing again is littered with up and coming passive moves while Black turns his king into Attilla the Hun. **28.Rf2 d5 29.Bf1 d4 30.Rd2 Kf6 31.Rcd1 Red7 32.Rf2+ Kg5 33.Rfd2** You have to blockade the pawn to prevent its "lust to expand" (Nimzovich): **33.Bd3 33...Kf4 34.Kh2** There's no worry about Kg3: **34.Re1 Kg3 35.Rxe5 34...d3 35.g3+ Ke3** This is why Re1 above was better: White needs to keep the king away from the pawn. Now, White is lost again. **36.Kg2 Rc7 37.Rf2 Rc2 38.Re1+ Kd4 39.Rxc2 dxc2 40.Rc1 Nd3 41.Bxd3 Kxd3 42.Rf1 Re8 43.Rf3+ Re3 44.Rf1 Kd2 45.Kf2 Re8 46.Kf3 Rf8+ 47.Kg2 Rxf1 48.Kxf1 c1Q+ 49.Kg2** Really? White is still playing? To what purpose? A friend of mine long ago, when he had somebody who didn't know when to resign, would have taken all White's queenside pawns, then all the kingside pawns and promote his remaining three pawns to knights and have them hop around for a while. **49...Ke2 50.b4 Qf1+ 51.Kh2 Kf2 52.h4 Qg2# 0-1**

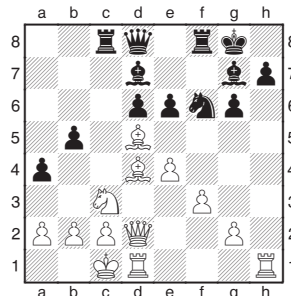
(3) **Mirabile, Tim - Khanna, Nalin [B78]** February 19, 2018, Round 6
Although marred by a blunder, the game is of theoretical interest. There is much fun in the notes!
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 If Black tries to get the advantage of the two bishops with **6...Ng4**, then **7.Bb5+** gets the advantage of extra material. **7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4** An alternative is **9.0-0-0 9...Bd7** Worthy of consideration is **9...Ne5 10.Bb3 Bd7 11.0-0-0 Rc8 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.h4 a5 14.h5 a4**



15.Bd5??



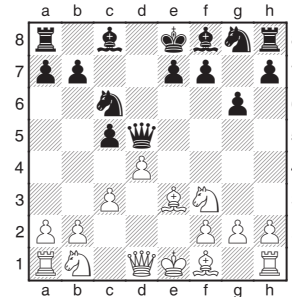
If you know theory this far, then drop a piece, you have to consider re-evaluating how you study chess. White could get a draw here with this amusing line: **15.Bxf6 exf6 16.Bd5 Qc7 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.Rh2 b4 19.Rdh1 bxc3 20.Rh8+ Bxh8 21.Rxh8+ Kxh8 22.Qh6+ Kg8 23.Qxg6+ 15...e6?** A remarkable way of getting a winning position would be **15...e5!! 16.hxg6 hxg6 17.Be3 b4 18.Ne2 Qc7 19.Bh6 Nxd5 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qh6+ Kf6 22.Qh4+ g5 23.Qh6+ Ke7 24.Qxg5+ f6** and Black has escaped a piece up!
16.hxg6 fxg6



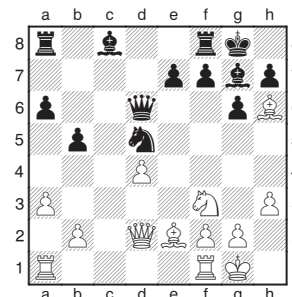
17.g4?? This desperation was not necessary. An equal fight was available by means of **17.Bb7 Rb8 18.Ba6 Qa5 19.Bxf6 Bxf6 20.Qxd6 Rbd8 21.Bxb5 Bxb5 22.Qxe6+ Kg7 23.Nd5 Bc4 24.Rxh7+ Kxh7 25.Nxf6+ Rxf6 26.Qxf6 Rxd1+ 27.Kxd1 Qc5 (27...Bxa2) 17...exd5 18.Nxd5 Be6 19.Nf4 Bxa2 20.Qh2 Bb3 21.Rd2 a3 22.bxa3 Qa5 23.Kb1 Bc4 24.Bb2 b4 25.Rxd6 bxa3 26.Rxf6 Ba2+!** A precise finish--mate in 9! **0-1**

(4) **Zhu, Jenny - Chan, Amelie [B22]** February 19, 2018, Round 6
1.e4 c5 2.c3 This is a good choice for young players and has been popular

with grandmasters as well. GM Sveshnikov has a 574-page book on it! **2...d5** This is a principled reply. In many booster games, you see **d6. 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 g6!?** Off the beaten path, but playable. White has to know what she is doing to meet it.
6.Be3



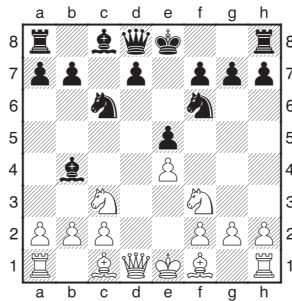
6...cxd4?! It's not generally a good idea to exchange on d4 against the c3 Sicilian as there is nothing to fear here with **6...Bg7 7.c4 Qd6 8.d5 Bxb2 9.Nbd2 Nd4 10.Rb1 Nxf3+ 11.Nxf3 Bc3+ 12.Bd2 Bxd2+ 13.Qxd2 Nf6 14.Bd3 0-0 15.0-0 e6 16.dxe6 Bxe6 17.Rxb7 Rad8 18.Rd1 Bg4 19.Qc2 Bxf3 7.cxd4 Bg7 8.Nc3 Qd8!** Good judgment! Many younger players would wander into trouble by moving along the 4th rank. **9.h3** Very lively is **9.d5 Ne5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.0-0 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 Bxb5 13.Nxb5 Qd7 14.Nxa7 Nh6 15.Rad1 Ng4 16.d6 exd6 17.Bc5 0-0 18.Bxd6 Rfd8 19.h3 Be5 20.Bxe5 Nxe5 21.Qb3 Nd3 22.Rd2 Qd5 23.Qa4 b5**, and Black is holding her own. **9...Nf6?!** More in keeping with meeting specific threats would be **9...Be6 10.Bc4** With the bishop on g7 blocked by the newly developed knight, the pawn push in the center was indicated: **10.d5 10...0-0 11.0-0 a6 12.Qd2 b5 13.Be2 Nb4 14.a3** A walk on the wildside comes from **14.Nxb5 axb5 15.Qxb4 Nd5 16.Qd2 (16.Qxb5 Ba6) 16...Nxe3 17.fxe3 e5 18.Bxb5 exd4 19.Nxd4 Bxh3 20.gxh3 Qg5+ 21.Kh1 Bxd4 22.Qxd4 Qxb5** and the vulnerability of the white king and several pawn targets gives Black a slight edge despite being a pawn down. **14...Nbd5** Setting up the blockade on d5 is the right positional idea, one that you also see in the Panov-Botvinnik Attack in the Caro-Kann. **15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Bh6 Qd6!**



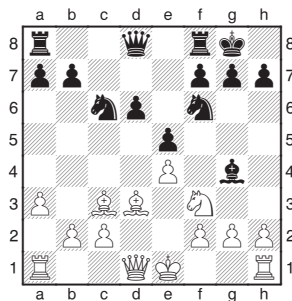
Very surprising and very good! Black ho-hums the pointless Bh6 business and goes about developing her pieces. **17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Rac1 Nf4!** Using the Qd6 move to make this excellent knight move. Suddenly,

White has some problems. **19.Rfd1 Bb7 20.Qe3 Nxe2+ 21.Qxe2 Rac8 22.Rxc8 Rxc8 23.Ne5 Qd5 24.f3** Black still has the advantage after **24.Nf3 Qh5 25.Rd3 Rc1+ 26.Kh2 Qf5 27.Qe5+ Qxe5+ 28.dxe5 Bxf3 29.Rxf3 Rc2 30.b4 Re2 24...f6 25.Ng4 Rc7 26.Qe3 g5!?** Working on the weak dark squares was a bit better: **26...Qd6 27.Qh6+ Kg8 28.Qe3 Qg3 27.h4 h5!** No fear on Black's part. The g5 and h5 moves were not obvious, as most people are protective of their castled position. This last pawn push gives the knight no good place to go. **28.Nf2 g4 29.Ne4 gxf3 30.Qxf3??** A terrible oversight! White can fight on in a disadvantageous position with **30.gxf3 Rc2 31.Rd2 Rxd2 32.Qxd2 Qf5 33.Qe3 Qh3 34.Nc5 Qg3+ 35.Kf1 Qxf3+ 36.Qxf3 Bxf3 37.Nxa6 Kg6 38.Nc7 Bc6 39.d5 Bd7 40.Kf2 Kf5 30...Qxe4 31.Qg3+ Qg4 32.Qxg4+ hxg4 33.Rd2 Rd7 34.Kh2 e5** and White hung on for 22 more hopeless and boring moves. **0-1**

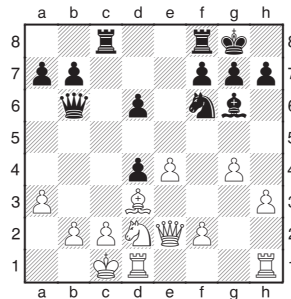
(5) Kao, Robert - Klymchuk, Daniel [B33] February 19, 2018, Round 6
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5! The exclamation is for surprise! A good OTB tournament choice. **6.Nf3** Most of us are familiar with **6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 Be6 6...Bb4**



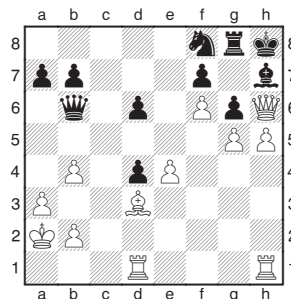
7.Bd2 A speculative line for White where Black will have to find a whole series of "only" moves to equalize is **7.Bc4 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 0-0 (8...Nxe4 9.Qd5) 9.0-0 Nxe4 10.Re1 Nxc3 11.Qd6 Qf6 12.Ba3 Re8 13.Re3 b5 14.Bb3 a5 15.Qxf6 gxf6 16.Rxc3 b4 17.Nxe5 Rxe5 (17...bxc3 18.Bxf7+ Kg7 19.Bxe8) 18.Rg3+ Rg5 19.Bb2 a4 20.Bd5 Ra5 21.Rd1 Rxc3 22.hxg3 7...0-0** Better for Black is **7...Bxc3 8.Bxc3 Nxe4 9.Nxe5 Nxc3 10.Nxc6 dxc6 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.bxc3 Re8+ 13.Kd2 Kc7 14.Bd3 Be6 8.Bd3 d6 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 Bg4**



is a necessary concept to understand in all these e5 with d6 Sicilian lines. **10...d5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Re8 13.Bd4 dxe4 14.Be2 Nd5= 11.h3 Bh5 12.Qe2 Nd4 13.Bxd4 exd4 14.g4** Why not? White has kingside attacking chances and Black is a long way from generating queenside play. **14...Bg6 15.Nd2** More dynamic was **15.0-0-0. 15...Qb6 16.0-0-0** Minimal results come from **16.f4 Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Bxe4 18.Bxe4 Rae8 19.0-0-0 d5 20.Bxh7+ Kxh7 21.Qd3+ Re4 22.Rhe1 Rfe8 23.Rxe4 Rxe4 24.Re1 f5 25.Rf1 16...Rac8**



17.h4? Now **17.f4** would be devastating. **17...h5!?** In the Sicilian, you must always be prepared to play the key breaking move, **17...d5!** **18.f3 dxe4 19.fxe4 h5 20.g5 Ng4** and the attack is broken, with an advantage to Black as that knight becomes dominant. **18.g5** White needs to open lines to the king with **18.gxh5 Bxh5 19.f3 Nd7 20.Nc4 Qc7 21.Rhg1 18...Nd7** Too passive! Black is fine after **18...Ng4! 19.f3 Ne5 20.f4 Nxd3+ 21.Qxd3 d5! 22.f5 dxe4 23.Nxe4 Bxf5 24.Nf6+ Qxf6 25.gxf6 Bxd3 26.Rxd3 g6 27.Rxd4 Rc6 28.Rf1 Rfc8 19.f4 Nc5** Black can prevent f5 with **19...Rfe8 20.f5 Bh7 21.Kb1!** Truly a poison pawn is **21.Qxh5 Nxd3+ 22.Kb1 Qxb2# 21...Na4 22.Nb3** White is clearly winning here. Black's counterplay has been stopped. **22...Kh8 23.Qxh5 g6 24.Qh6 Rc3?! Black's lost, so why not try to confuse the issue? 25.f6?** Completely overlooking **25.Qxf8+ 25...Rg8 26.Ka2 Rxb3 27.cxb3 Nc5 28.b4 Nd7 29.h5 Nf8**

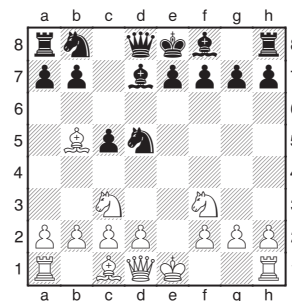


30.e5 You really have to recognize your mating patterns right off the bat. White sees it next move. **30.hxg6 fxc6 31.Qxh7+ Nxh7 32.Rxh7+ Kxh7 33.Rh1# 30...dxe5** Black needed to at least try to defend h7. Although it should only prolong the game a few moves, White may miss something as he just did. **30...Qc7**

31.hxg6 fxc6 32.e6 a5 33.e7 axb4 34.Qxh7+ Nxh7 35.Rxh7+ Kxh7 36.Rh1# 31.hxg6 fxc6 32.Qxh7+ 1-0

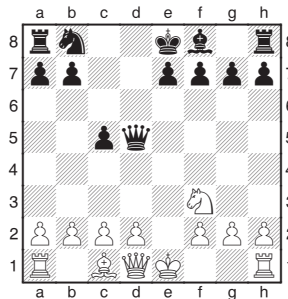
(6) Ostrovsky, A. (2498) - Ippolito, D. (2414) [B51] February 18, 2018, Round 3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nc6 4.0-0 White might well try **4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4**. Against **2...Nc6 3.Bb5 d6**, it's an even better bet as being a **2...Nc6** player, Black might not be at all familiar with the **Qxd4** line. **4...Bd7 5.Re1 Nf6 6.h3** Let the slow maneuvering begin! **6...a6 7.Bf1 g6 8.c3 Ne5 8...Bg7 9.d4 0-0 10.d5 Ne5 11.Nxe5 dxe5** gives White a space edge. **9.d4 Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 cxd4 11.cxd4 Bg7 12.Nc3** A complicated way to go was **12.Qb3 Rb8 13.e5 Be6 14.exf6 Bxb3 15.fxc7 Rg8 16.axb3 e6 12...0-0 13.e5 Ne8** Here's a fascinating alternative: **13...Bc6 14.exf6! Bxf3 15.fxe7 Qa5 16.exf8Q+ Rxf8 17.gxf3 Bxd4 18.Bh6 Rd8 19.Rad1** with advantage to White. **14.Qxb7 Nc7 15.f4 Kh8 16.Qf3** White has snatched a pawn and lived to tell about it. **16...Rb8 17.b3 dxe5 18.dxe5 f6 19.exf6 Bxf6 20.Ba3 Ne6 20...Nb5 21.Nxb5 Bxa1 22.Bxe7 Qb6+ 23.Kh2 Rfe8 24.Nc3 Qd4 25.Rd1 Qxc3 26.Qxc3+ Bxc3 27.Rxd7** would sew it all up for White. **21.Rab1 Qb6+ 22.Kh1 Bc6 23.Nd5 Nd4** Better was **23...Qd8 24.Qe4 Qa5 25.Bxe7 Nf5** Black had better chances with **25...Qxd5 26.Qxd5 Bxd5 27.Bxf8 Rxf8 28.Bxa6 26.Bxf6+ Rxf6 27.Qe5 Bxd5 28.Qxf6+ Kg8** At this point, both players were in time trouble and the score is indecipherable. Black resigned on move 31. **1-0**

(7) Senna (2201) - Yeliseyv, I. (2190) [B29] February 18, 2018, Round 3
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Surprising that we didn't see **3.e5 Nd5 4.Nc3 e6 (4...Nxc3 5.dxc3) 5.Nxd5 exd5 6.d4 3...d5 4.exd5 Nxd5 5.Bb5+ Bd7**

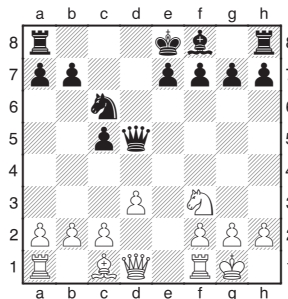


5...Nc6 6.d4! e6 7.Nxd5 exd5 8.0-0 Be7 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Ne5 6.Bxd7+ GM Michael Adams once played 6.Qe2, and it seems worth investigating. My favorite miniature in this line is Sir George Thomas vs. Sapira, Antwerp, 1932. It's a fascinating line well worth looking at for White: 6.Ne5 Nxc3? a) Black can play better, but that Qf3 idea is critical--for both sides! 6...Nc6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Qf3 f6 9.Nxc6 (Here, the queen check is not so hot: 9.Qh5+ g6 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Qxh8 Nb4 12.0-0 Nxc2 13.Rb1 Qd3 and Black has entirely too much play.) 9...bxc6 10.d3 b) 6...Bxb5 7.Qf3 f6 8.Nxb5 (And,

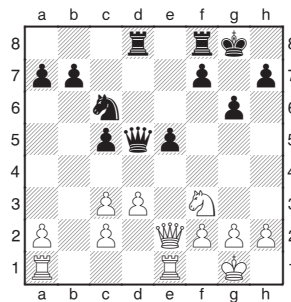
again, the queen check doesn't work: 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Nxg6 hxg6 10.Qxg6+ Kd7 11.Nxd5 Kc8 12.Ne3 b6 13.d3 Kb7 14.0-0 Be8 15.Qe4+ Nc6 and Black should win with the extra piece.) 8...fxe5 9.Qxd5 Qxd5 10.Nc7+ Kf7 11.Nxd5 Nc6 12.b3 Nd4 13.Kd1 g6 14.Nc3 b6 15.Ne4 Bh6 16.d3 Bxc1 17.Kxc1. The Adams game finished with 7.Qf3! f6 (7...Qc7 8.Bxd7+ Nxd7 9.Qxf7+ Kd8 10.Nxd7 Qxd7 11.dxc3±) 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Nxg6 Kf7 10.Ne5+ 1-0. 6...Qxd7 7.Nxd5 Qxd5



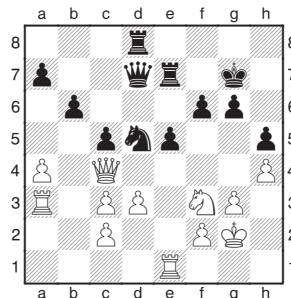
8.0-0? Castling here is the losing move! Heck of a bold statement, eh? Good for a slight pull was 8.d4 cxd4 9.Qxd4 Qxd4 10.Nxd4 a6 11.Bf4 Nd7 12.0-0-0 e6 13.Rhe1 Bc5 14.Nf5 0-0-0 15.Nd6+ Bxd6 16.Bxd3 8...Nc6 9.d3



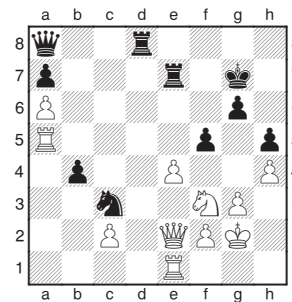
Look at this position. White can't play d4. Black can play e5. Black can fianchetto the bishop with a firm grip on d4. The black rooks come to the middle. Black plays f5 and e4 at some point. All this popped right away into your annotator's head. Nothing popped into my head for White. White has to hope Black makes a mistake. White's position is dismal. 9...g6! Definitely the spot for the bishop as opposed to the lifeless squares on e7 or d6. Even then, Black would be better. 10.Bd2 Bg7 11.Bc3 Bxc3?! One of the first lessons of positional chess is not to be eager to exchange pieces with an opponent in a cramped position. There were two moves superior to this exchange: 11...e5 or 11...Nd4 12.bxc3 0-0 13.Re1 Rad8 14.Qe2 e5



Black misses his Bg7. The chess engine says it's equal here, but some positions are more equal than others. Black still has a lock on d4, and the three pawn islands highlighted by the isolani on a2 are a minus for White. Can he set up a fortress of sorts with the chance he has been given? 15.Qe3 f6 Somewhat cautious. Why not go with the more dynamic 15...c4 16.dxc4 Qxc4 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Qxe5 Rd2, and the White queenside pawns are a mess. 16.a4 For reasons just noted, 16.Nd2 is indicated, but neither side seems interested. 16...b6 17.h4 Qd7 17...c4 is still there. 18.Nd2 At last! 18...Ne7 19.Qe4 Nd5 20.Ra3 I'm curious if White was not so much protecting c3, which this does, but more thinking along the lines of exchanges on d4 and sliding the rook over to the kingside. 20...Kg7 21.Qc4 Of course, that d4 thought wouldn't work right now: 21.d4 exd4 22.cxd4 Rfe8 21...Rf7 22.g3 h5 23.Kg2 It's not clear what the king move's purpose was. To prevent f5, White might have tried 23.Ne4 because giving White's knight a home on g5 would not help Black's effort. 23...Re7 Black is playing logical moves, building up the position while White thrashes about, unable to do anything but wait. 24.Nf3?



24...Qb7?! Black misses a shot (I tell my students: look at ALL checks and captures) 24...Nf4+! 25.gxf4 Qg4+ 26.Kf1 Qxf3 27.Qe4 Qh3+ 28.Qg2 Qxh4 25.a5 b5 26.Qe4 f5 27.Qe2 e4 The long awaited and properly timed break we talked about back on move 9! You could see it back then. That's why that castling move was so terrible. 28.dxe4 b4?! Clearing the diagonal would have wrapped this up quickly: 28...fxe4 29.Nd2 e3 30.Nf3 Rde8 31.Kg1 Rf8 32.Rf1 exf2+ 33.Qxf2 Ne3 29.cxb4 cxb4 30.a6 Qa8 31.Ra5 Nc3??



Giving White the opportunity to save the game and even get an advantage! 31...fxe4! 32.Qe3?? Declining the generous offer. When you're on defense and losing for so long, it's often hard to think in terms of winning. 32.Qc4! Nxe4 (32...fxe4 33.Qxb4 exf3+ 34.Kh2 Rxe1 35.Qxc3+ Kg8 36.Qxe1) 33.Qxb4 Red7 34.Rb5 32...fxe4 33.Ng5 Nd1 "Promote me!" 34.Qc1 e3+ 35.f3 e2?? 35...Rd2+ ends it. 36.Qa1+?? Black is in trouble after 36.Rb5 Qc6 37.Rb7 Rdd7 38.Qf4 Ne3+ 39.Kh3 Qc8 40.Rb8 36...Nc3 Well, "the right guy won" but, gee whiz, it was bumpy there at the end. There must have been time trouble considering the players' high ratings. 0-1

(8) Klimowicz,K. - Idnani,R. [B90]

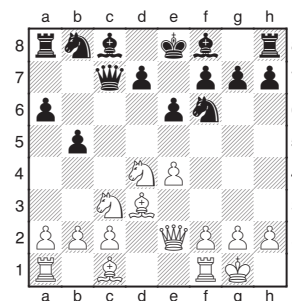
February 18, 2018, Round 3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 This is one of the lamer lines against the Najdorf. 6...e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3 Be7 9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.0-0-0 b5! There is no hurry to castle as White hasn't even the vestige of an attack. Why not start rousting the knights by White's king position? 11.a3 Nb6 12.Qf2 Nc4 13.g4?? Nxe3?! A fine example of why White players play Kb1 a lot in these lines: 13...Nxg4 14.fxg4 Nxe3 15.Rd3 (15.Qxe3 Bg5) 15...Bh4 16.Qg1 Nxg4 14.Qxe3 Nxg4 Now Black sees it. 15.Qg1 Bg5+ 16.Kb1 Ne3 17.Rxd6 17.Re1 Nxf1 18.Qxf1 and White can try to play a pawn down, but a rook down?? The farce begins. 17...Qxd6 18.Qxg5 Nxf1 19.Qxg7 0-0-0 20.Rxf1 Bxb3 21.Rc1 Be6 And yet another chess player plays on a rook down. What's the point? The annotator doesn't have to suffer the next 17 moves, so we stop here. 0-1

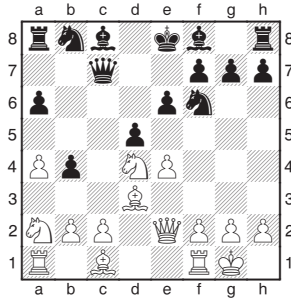
(9) Samuelson,Andrew - Hua,Charles

(B43) February 18, 2018, Round 4

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.0-0 b5 8.Qe2

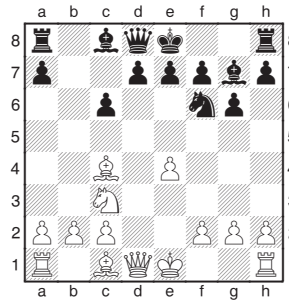


Nothing new here. Both sides seem happy with their plans, although your annotator admits to a prejudice against Black's system. White has developed naturally while Black's feverish pawn display just seems to weaken the dark squares and retard development. Yet, people play it. **8...d6 9.a4 b4 10.Na2 d5**

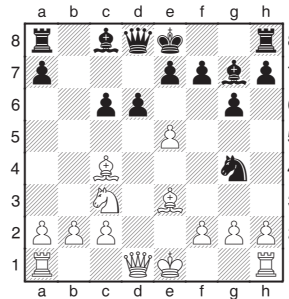


Hard to understand. You don't open up a game when you're behind in development. It is hard to find a decent move here, though. **10...Nc6 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.Nxb4; 10...Qb6 11.Be3 Qb7 12.Bd2 e5 13.Nf5 b3 14.Nb4 11.e5!?** With the king in the center, why would White want to close it? e5 does keep a White edge, but exd5 gives us two great lines for White: **11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Be4 Bb7 13.Rd1 Be7 14.Qh5 (14.c3 bxc3 15.Nxc3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Bxe4 17.Qxe4 Ra7 18.Bf4 Bd6 19.Nxe6) 14...g6 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Bxg6+ hxg6 17.Qxh8+ Bf8 18.Bh6 Nd7 19.Qh7 Ne7 20.Bxf8 Nxf8 21.Qh4 11...Nfd7 12.Re1 Bc5 12...Nc6** because the bishop move exposes the vulnerable g7 pawn to Qg4. **13.Nb3 13...Be7 14.Bd2** A possibility is **14.Qg4 Kf8 15.f4 14...Nc6 15.f4 Bb7 16.Kh1 0-0** White's problem here is his knights. They should be on the other side of the board. Black is cramped, though, so White has to be patient and not open the position too quickly. Getting the a2 knight to an improved position via c1 might be a thought. **17.c3?! bxc3 18.Bxc3 Qb6** Get the rook into the action against b3 since the c2 pawn is gone. **18...Rab8 19.f5 exf5 20.Bxf5 g6 21.e6 gxf5 22.exd7 Qxd7 23.Qf2 f6 24.Nac1 Ba8= 19.Bc2 Rfd8 20.a5 Qa7 21.Rad1 Rac8** When your opponent starts lining up pieces attacking your kingside, a little defensive preparation is needed: **21...Nf8 22.Rd3 Rab8 23.Rh3 g6 22.f5** Taking advantage of Black's inattention. **22...d4?** Better was **22...Ba8 23.fxe6 fxe6 24.Nac1 (24.Qh5 Nf8; 24.Qg4 Nf8 25.Rf1 d4) 24...Re8 25.Qg4 Bf8 26.Nd3 g6** and Black will be subjected to an attack with h4, but he might hold on, in contrast to what happens in the game. **23.Nxd4 Ndx5 24.Nxc6 Nxc6 25.fxe6 f6 26.Rd7** It was probably hard to resist playing the Rd7 move, as it is quite picturesque. Qh5 was more prosaic, but also effective. Black is finished. **26.Qh5 g6 27.Bxg6 hxg6 28.Qxg6+ Kh8 29.Bxf6+ Bxf6 30.Qxf6+ Kh7 31.Qf7+ Kh6 32.Rd7 Rxd7 33.exd7 26...Bf8 27.Qh5 h6 28.Qg6 Be7 29.Qh7+ Kf8 30.Qh8# 1-0**

(10) Borra,Vaibhavi - Maheshara,Hari [B35] February 18, 2018, Round 4
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Bc4 There's always The Bind: **5.c4 5...Bg7 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Nc3 Nf6**



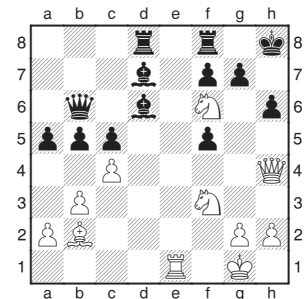
There are no worries after **7...Qa5 8.Bd2 Rb8 9.Bb3 Nf6 10.Nd5 Qd8 11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 8.Be3** Sharp play results from **8.e5!?** **Ng4 9.Qxg4 d5 10.Qf3 dxc4 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qxc4 Bxe5 13.0-0 Rc8 14.Qe2 Bxc3 15.bxc3 0-0 8...d6** Before Black takes any action in the center he should castle. **8...0-0 9.e5?** Ditto for White. **9.f3 0-0 10.Qd2 e6 11.0-0-0 9...Ng4!**



10.exd6 This would have been a fun game: **10.e6 Nxe3 11.exf7+ Kd7 12.fxe3 Qb6 13.Qd3 Qxb2 14.Kd2 Rf8 10...Nxe3 11.fxe3 exd6 12.0-0-0 13.Qf3 d5 14.Bb3 Bf5 15.e4 dxe4 16.Nxe4 Bxb2** Keep the bishop at home: **16...Qd4+ 17.Nf2 Qxb2 18.Rad1 c5** and Black has a clear advantage because of the attack on the weak White queenside and the raking power of the two bishops. **17.Rad1 Qb6+ 18.Kh1 Bxe4** Black is too eager to make exchanges because of his pawn up. The two bishops being retained is more important. Black's advantage has slipped away. **19.Qxe4 Qc7** A draw offer here would be in order. Black's extra pawn is not going anywhere, especially with opposite colored bishops. But who knew Black would toss the game away? **20.Rf3 Rae8** Now it would be a good time to offer exchanges. **20...Rad8 21.Qh4 Qe7 22.Qf2 Qe2 23.Qxe2 Rxe2 24.Rdf1 Re7 25.h4!?** A kingside attack! It should make Black's position better if White trades pawns on g6. **25...Kg7 26.g4 Be5! 27.g5 Rc7** Black should move that pawn since he unpinned it. **27...f5 28.gxf6+ Rxf6 28.Kg2 c5 29.Bc4 Rc6??** Let me see...three attacking f7, three defending f7...best keep the rook on the

second rank. **30.Rxf7+ Rxf7 31.Rxf7+ Kh8 32.Rf8+ Kg7 33.Rg8#** We've all been there. This one had to hurt. **1-0**

(11) Wong,Katrina - Wang,Alex [B20] February 19, 2018, Round 6
1.e4 c5 2.b3 Unusual, but quite a few players will do this. **2...d6 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.f4** This is a bit sketchy. It only works if Black plays passively **5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Qe2 a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.d3 g6 9.0-0** is solid and equal. **5...a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nf3?** A gift of a pawn for no reason. Probably overlooked it. It is so important to have a routine survey for one's opponent's checks and captures as well as your own. At this point, I almost quit the game for being of no interest, but my gut told me not to assume that. Glad I listened! Of course, any of these three moves were better: **7.d3, 7.Qe2, 7.Nc3. 7...Bxe4 8.d3 Bc6 9.Nbd2 Nf6 10.0-0 e6 11.Qe1 Be7 12.Qg3 0-0 13.Rae1** Do you get the feeling White is going to attack? **13...b5** Black has been doing everything right, so what can go wrong? **14.c4 Qc7** A little bit more activity is needed: **14...Nh5 15.Qg4 g6 16.g3 Qa5 15.Ne4 Qd8 16.Ned2** a5 see move 14 note. **17.d4 Rb8** A defensive inaccuracy. Best was **17...bxc4 18.bxc4 (18.Nxc4 d5) THEN 18...Rb8 18.dxc5 dxc5 19.Rd1** Worth a shot was **19.Ne5 Qxd2 20.Nxc6 Qxb2 21.Nxe7+ Kh8 22.Nc6 Rb7 23.Rf2 Qa3 24.f5 exf5 25.Qd6 19...Qb6 19...Qd3 20.Rfe1 Rbd8 21.f5 Bd7 22.Ne4** Now it is Black who is in serious trouble. White has fought valiantly and vigorously, and it has paid off. **22...exf5 23.Rd6!** White's move was quite imaginative and very good! A quick win was to be had with **23.Bxf6 Bxf6 24.Rd6 Qc7 25.Nxf6+ Kh8 26.Nh5 g6 27.Qe5+ 23...Bxd6 24.Nxf6+ Kh8 25.Qh4 h6**

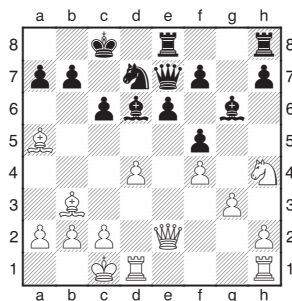


26.Nxd7 White had an advantage after **26.Qxh6+! gxh6 27.Nxd7+ Kh7 28.Nxb6 bxc4 29.Nxc4 26...Bxh2+** To clear a defense for h6 by the queen. **27.Qxh2 27.Kxh2 27...Rxd7 28.Qe5 28.Ne5 Rb7 29.Qg3 Rg8 30.Qf4 bxc4 31.Qxf5 Qe6 32.Qf3 28...f6 29.Qxf5 Rfd8 30.Re8+** Picturesque, but not as effective as **30.Re6 Qb7 31.cxb5 Qxb5 32.Bxf6 gxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kg8 34.Re4 30...Rxe8 31.Qxd7 Rb8 32.Qxb5 Qxb5 33.cxb5 Rxb5 34.Bc3 Kh7 35.Kf2 Kg6 36.Nd2 Kg5 37.Kf3 f5** At his point, the scoresheet made no sense. Too bad. Black ended up winning. I'm glad I went over it. There was lots of excitement, with opportunities missed and made. **0-1**

(12) Edelman, Danny - Yeliseyev, Igor

[B01] February 19, 2018, Round 5

1.e4 d5 There is still a following for the Scandinavian. If you need to win, it's not a good opening. 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 c6 6.Bc4 I rather like this set-up. It's simple chess. Even d3 instead of d4 is good, with the idea of using d4 for the knight to hit the bishop on f5. 6...Bf5 7.Bd2 e6 8.Nd5 Yes, it attacks to queen. There was another path: 8.Nh4 Bg4 9.f3 Qh5 10.g3 Bh3 11.Qe2 (11.Ne2 Bd6 12.Bf4 e5 13.dxe5 Bxe5) 11...Be7 12.Ng2 Bxg2 13.Qxg2 0-0 14.0-0-0 8...Qd8 9.Nxf6+ gxf6? Clearly better was 9...Qxf6 There is no worry about 10.Bg5 Qg6 10.Bb3 Although White proceeds to plan a queenside castling, he can fearlessly castle on the kingside. The g-file should not be a deterrent here. 10.0-0 Nd7 11.a4 Rg8 12.Bf4 Nb6 13.Bd3 Qd5 14.Bg3 0-0-0 15.b3 Bxd3 16.Qxd3 Qf5 17.Qxf5 exf5 18.c4 and those weak tripled pawns with their isolated brother will be very vulnerable. 10...Nd7 11.Qe2 Bd6 12.Nh4 Bg6 13.0-0-0 Qe7 14.g3 0-0-0 15.Ba5 Rde8 16.f4 f5



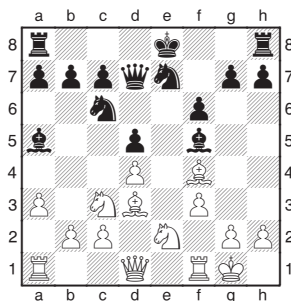
The chess engine says it's equal. Black has a miserable bishop on g6 that he will have to move yet again and an isolated h-pawn. White has clear access to the Black king. White at least has some chances...as long as White plays forcefully. However, the same goes for Black, who can counter with c5. The game hangs on these ideas. 17.Kb1 Nf6 Taking away a defender of the castle to "save" the clergyman. 18.c4 Bh5 19.Nf3 Bb4 20.Bxb4 Qxb4 21.Rd3 Rook lifts to access the Black queenside are another example of White's better position. Look at Black's rooks! 21...Ne4 22.Rf1? More threatening was 22.Rhd1 22...Qd6 Black had a thematic counter with 22...c5 23.dxc5 Rd8 24.a3 Qa5 25.c6 Bxf3 26.cxb7+ Kb8 27.Rxf3 Nd2+ 28.Ka2 Nxf3 29.Qxf3 Rxd3 30.Qxd3 Rd8 31.Qe3 23.Qe3 Bxf3 24.Rxf3 h5 25.h4 Kb8 26.Qe1 Rhg8 27.Rfe3 Qc7 28.Bd1 a nice repositioning. 28...Nf6 29.Bf3 Qd6 30.Re5 Nd7 31.Ra5 Nf6 32.Raa3 Prefacing the rook placement with a strong pawn move would have helped. 32.c5 Qd7 33.Rb3 Nd5 34.Raa3 Qc7 35.Bxh5 32...Qc7 33.Rdb3 Rd8 34.Rd3 34.Ra6! 34...Rde8 35.Ra4 Rd8 36.Rda3 Rxd4?? What was Black thinking? He had to play 36...a6 37.Rxa7 Kc8 38.Rb3 Rxc4 39.Rxb7 Everything wins. Another way: 39.Qe3! Nd7 40.Qd3 Rc5 41.Rxb7 Qxb7 42.Rxb7 Kxb7 43.Qxd7+ 39...Qxb7 40.Rxb7 Kxb7 41.b3 Re4 42.Bxe4 fxe4

43.Qb4+ Ka6 44.Qc5 Nd5 45.Qxc6+ Ka5 46.a3 Rxxg3 47.b4+ Nxb4 48.Qc5+ Ka6 49.axb4 1-0

(13) Asik, Josip - Fireman, Rich [C01]

February 19, 2018, Round 6

The editor-in-chief of American Chess Magazine flew in just to participate in the Team this year because I kept bugging him to experience this great event. He's a FIDE master rated in the 2300s. He had a great result, but I got the impression he was happy to play a fairly sedate game in the last round. He doesn't know Rich Fireman as I do, so he doesn't know that Rich goes after everybody, even in quiet French exchange positions! 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bd3 Nc6! If Black is too hasty to play the Nimzovich Ne7 and Bf5 maneuver, then 5...Ne7 6.Qh5! 6.Nge2 Nge7 7.Bg5 Temporarily preventing said maneuver. 7...f6!? A bit drastic, but, as I said, Rich is looking for a fight. 7...h6 8.Bh4 0-0 8.Bf4 Bg4 9.f3 Returning the favor. A simpler approach was 9.a3 Bd6 10.Qd2 0-0 11.0-0 9...Bf5 10.0-0 Qd7 11.a3 Ba5

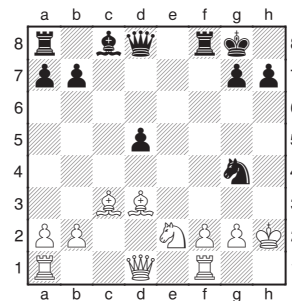


It's OK to give up a bishop for a knight if it can help your kingside attack get underway before your opponent's: 11...Bxc3 12.bxc3 g5 13.Bg3 0-0-0 14.Nc1 Na5 12.Bb5 a6 13.Ba4 b5 14.Bb3 Bb6! Putting pressure on d4 is a good idea. It freezes the knight on e2. 15.Be3 Na5 16.Ba2 Be6 17.Nf4 Bf7 18.Re1 0-0 Black has the better of it here. 19.Bf2 c6 More in keeping with his previous play of pressure on d4 was 19...Nc4 20.Bxc4 bxc4 21.b3 Rfe8 22.bxc4 dxc4 23.Ne4 Nf5 20.Re2 Rfe8 He makes the knight move later, but could have done it now with some increased pressure: 20...Nf5 21.g4 Nd6 21.Qd2 g5 22.Nd3 Nc4?! 23.Qc1?! Another guy averse to giving up his bishop. He could have gotten an edge with 23.Bxc4 bxc4 24.Nc5 Bxc5 25.dxc5 Nf5 26.Rae1 23...Nf5 Better late than never! 24.Nc5 Bxc5 Now, he shouldn't trade! Play the queen up and have Bc7 in mind, hitting h2, and Black doesn't have Bg3 because of the Nf5. 25.dxc5 Rxe2 26.Nxe2 d4 27.b3? Equalizing was 27.Bxc4 Bxc4 28.Qd2 27...Ne5 I always tell my students: Look at your pieces. Have you left one out of play? Get them all into the act! 27...Re8 28.bxc4 (28.Ng3 Nce3) 28...Rxe2 29.Qd1 Re5 30.cxb5 Bxa2 31.Rxa2 Qd5 32.Ra1 axb5 33.a4

Qxc5 34.a5 Ne3 35.Qd3 Re7 36.a6 b4 and it's still a fight with Black having some great active play. 28.Qb2 Rd8 29.Rd1 Qe7 30.Nxd4 Qxc5 31.b4 Nc4 32.Qa1 Qd5 33.Rd3 White should exchange the bishop and get an edge: 33.Bxc4 bxc4 34.Rd2 Qe5 35.Re2 Qd5 36.Nxf5 Qxf5 37.Bd4 33... Qe5 34.g4 Nxd4 35.Bxd4 Qe2 36.Qc3 And a draw was agreed. Josip finishes with an honorable 5-1 in his first team tournament. Rich was up to the challenge of his higher rated opponent. ½-½

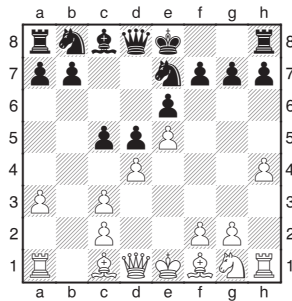
(14) Milovanovic, Dragan - Marinello, Beatriz [C06] February 19, 2018, Round 6

BxP+ on h2 or h7 is one of the most common attacking themes known by just about every amateur on the planet. Jon Edwards even wrote a book on it, "Sacking the Citadel." Here, we have the spectacle of one master allowing it and the other doing it, with several lessons for both sides on this theme. 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 The Tarrasch line, which I recommended in my book, Openings for Amateurs. It's a lot easier to understand than allowing the Winawer after 3.Nc3 Bb4. 3...Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 So far, so book, but the more adventurous will look at 9.Nf4. There are over a thousand games in the database to study! 9...Nxf6 10.0-0 Bd6 11.Nf3 0-0 12.Bd2 A novelty! Book is 12.Bf4. 12...e5 Black's move is certainly thematic in this position. Black could have tried 12...Ng4!? with the idea of 13.h3 (Although 13.Ng3! Nxd4 14.Bxh7+ Kh8 (14...Kxh7? 15.Ng5+ Kg8 16.Qxg4±) 15.Ng5 e5=) 13...Rxf3 14.gxf3 Nh2 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.Bc3 Solid and good was 15.Qb3. 15...Bxh2+!? OK, the "standard position" is there for the bishop check, but sometimes a little wrinkle creeps in. 15...Qd6 16.Bxe5 Qxe5= 16.Kxh2 16.Kh1 Ng4 17.g3 Qg5+- 16...Ng4+



17.Kg3! 17.Kg1 Qh4 18.Be5 Nxe5 19.Bc2 Be6 20.f3 Rae8 and Black is much better. 17...Qg5? Also a usual move in this pattern, but tricky here. To have a chance to draw, Black needed to play 17...Nxf2! 18.Qd2 (18.Rxf2 Qg5+) 18...Qd6+ 19.Nf4 Nxd3 20.Qxd3 Rxf4 21.Rxf4 g5 22.Raf1 (22.Qd4 Qxf4+) 22...gxf4+ 23.Rxf4 Qg6+ 24.Qxg6+ hxc6 18.f4 Rxf4 19.Nxf4 Ne3+ 20.Kh2 Nxd1 21.Raxd1 Bg4 22.Rde1 Qh4+ 23.Kg1 Qg3 24.Re7 1-0

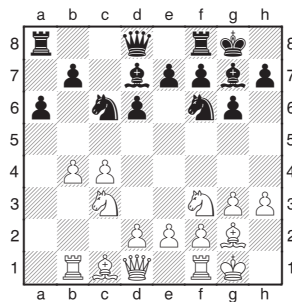
(15) Zhang, Alan (2184) - Moldovan, John (1802) [C19] February 18, 2018, Round 4
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.h4



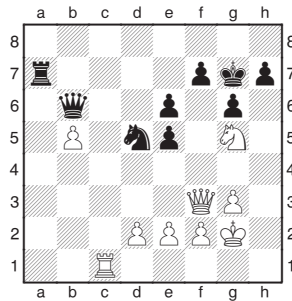
This old idea, dating back to Lajos Steiner in the 1930s, has sharp play in mind. The idea is to push the pawn until Black responds with h6, do a rook lift, and push g4 and g5 to attack the h6 pawn. The queen will also find some role over there. The trick is in how well Black knows how to promote counterplay on the queenside. **7... Qc7 8.Nf3 b6 9.h5 h6 10.a4 Ba6 11.Bd3** Worth considering was **11.Bb5+ Bxb5 12.axb5 a5 13.dxc5 Qxc5 14.Qd3 Nd7 15.Ba3 11...Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Nbc6 13.Ba3 0-0 14.0-0** Abandoning the rook lift/pawn advance idea. **14...Rfc8 15.Nd2 Na5** Black's counterplay has been well-coordinated and is giving White something to think about. **16.Rfe1 cxd4 17.cxd4 Qd7?** Too cautious. Black can win with **17...Qxc2 18.Qxc2 Rxc2 19.Bxe7 Rxd2 20.Red1 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Rc8 18.Bb4 Nc4 19.Nb3 a5 20.Bd2 Nb2** White's game is a mess, and now a pawn goes. **21.Qh3 Nxa4 22.g4 Rc4 22...Rxc2** is better, but it doesn't matter. The game is effectively over. There are a million ways to wrap it up. Nicely played by Moldovan to upset a master strength player, and with the black pieces no less! **23.g5 Nf5 24.Qg4 Kh8 25.Kh2 Nc3 26.gxh6 gxh6 27.Rg1 Kh7 28.Rg2 Ne4 29.Be3 Qe7 30.Rag1 Rxc2 31.Qf4 Qh4+ 32.Qxh4 Nxh4 33.Rg7+ Kh8 34.Rxf7 Nf5 35.Rg2 a4 36.Na1 Ra2 37.Rb7 Rxa1 38.Bxh6 Nxh6 39.Rgg7 Nf5 40.Rg6 Rf1 0-1**

(16) Fishbein, Matthew - DiCostanzo, Marc [A37] February 18, 2018, Round 4

This game was exceptionally hard fought and very interesting--a credit to both players. I don't believe Matthew is related to Mitch or that other fellow, Alex. **1.Nf3 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.g3** White should just accept the invitation and play **4.d4 4...c5!** Very alert! **5.Bg2 Nc6 6.0-0 Bg4 7.a3 Nf6 8.h3 Bd7** Neither side seems to be in a hurry so far, but White does have an idea in mind: queenside expansion. **9.Rb1 0-0 10.b4 cxb4 11.axb4 a6**



There is an appreciable difference between what happened in the game and what Black could have done if the line went in a similar direction by moving the queen: **11...Qc8 12.h4 a6 13.b5 axb5 14.cxb5 Ne5 15.Nxe5 dxe5 12.b5 axb5 13.cxb5 Ne5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.Bxb7 Bxb3! 16.Bg2** Rather than exchange the bishop, a nice active square would come from: **16.Re1 Rb8 17.Bc6 16...Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Nd5** With that passed pawn looming, it would have been best to connect the rooks right away: **17...Qc7 18.Qb3! e6** Black now takes the odd path of blockading with the queen rather than with a lesser piece, the one Nimzovich used to recommend for such duties: **18...Nb6 19.Ba3 Qd7 20.Rfc1 Rfb8 19.Ne4** Passed pawns must be pushed! Don't wait for a blockade, play **19.b6** right away. **19...Qb6 19...Nb6 20.Ba3 Re8 21.Bc5 20.Ba3 Rfc8 21.Rfc1 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Bf8 23.Bxf8 Kxf8 24.Qf3** A little switch in sequence would have helped here: **24.Rc6 Qd4 25.Qf3 Kg7 26.Ng5 24...Kg7 25.Ng5 Ra7?!**

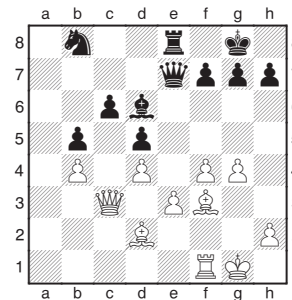


Better was **25...Qb7 26.Rc6!?** White falls in love with a pretty face, so to speak. He could have made an objectively better threat with **26.Qe4 26...Qxb5 27.Rxe6! Nf4+!?** Black need to keep his cool with **27...Qb8** He severely underestimates the strength of the resulting knight and queen team. **28.gxf4 fxe6 29.Nxe6+ Kg8 30.fxe5 Qe8 31.Qb3 Re7** White is better, but this is not an easy position. Black has defended very well these last few moves. **32.Ng5+ Kg7 33.e6?** White should bring in more infantry to help the cavalry: **33.d4 h6 34.Ne4 33...h6??** Black misses his chance: **33...Qc6+ 34.e4 h6= 34.Qc3+** Now the knight is going to get very nasty. **34...Kg8 35.Ne4 Qb5 36.Nf6+ Kf8 37.Nd7+ Kg8 38.Qc8+ Kh7 39.Qf8! Qd5+ 40.Kg1!** Any other move would allow Black to draw or even

win! For example, **40.f3 Rxe6 41.Qf7+ Kh8 42.Nf8 Rxe2+ 40...Rxd7** The importance of Kg1 is demonstrated in this line (compare with the above line): **40...Rxe6 41.Qf7+ Kh8 42.Nf8 41.exd7 Qxd7 42.Qf4 Kg7 43.d4 h5 44.e3** This is a won game, but Black should not have been so cooperative in exchanging queens and going into a really, really lost king and pawn ending. **44...Qd5? 45.Qe5+ Qxe5 46.dxe5 g5 47.f4 g4 48.Kf2 h4 49.f5 g3+ 50.Kg2 Kf7 51.e6+ 1-0**

(17) Hutama, Sandi - Dong, Andy [E46] February 18, 2018, Round 3

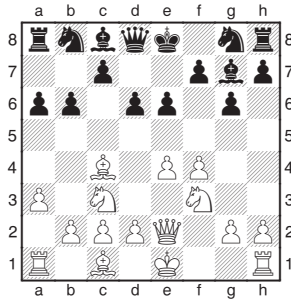
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e3 Why not play **3.e4 3...Bb4 4.Nge2 b6 5.a3 Be7 6.d4 0-0 7.Nf4 d5** It seems easy and logical to play **7...Bb7 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Be2** A bit more aggressive was **9.Bd3 9...c6 10.b4 a6** A sharp route was **10...b5 11.Bd2 a5 11.0-0 Bd6 12.Nd3 Re8 13.f4 Bf5 14.g4!?** After a cautious build-up, we get a bayonet attack! Quite good and solid was **14.Ne5 14...Ne4! 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Nf2 a5!?** Not only trappy, but good was **16...Bg6! 17.f5? (17.Nd3 f6=) 17... Qh4 17.Bd2** Also of interest was **17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.b5 c5 19.Bb2 17...axb4 18.axb4 Rxa1 19.Qxa1 Qe7 20.Qc3** A difficult decision point in the game. There are lots of possibilities, many not clear at all. Another path was **20.b5 c5 21.Nxe4 Qxe4 22.Bf3 Qc2 23.Qc1 Qd3 24.Qb2 cxd4 25.Qxd4 Qxb5 26.Rd1 Bc5 27.Qxd5** and White has better coordinated pieces vs. Black's passed pawn. **20...b5 21.Nxe4 Qxe4 22.Bf3 Qe7**



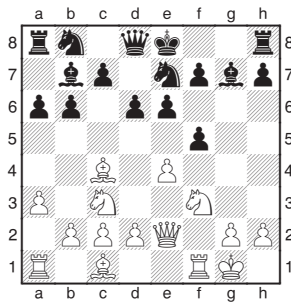
23.e4!? White could have tried **23.Kg2 g6 24.h4 Qxh4?? 25.g5** and wins, but Black doesn't have to fall for it. Still, the pawn front might have become important. Hard to tell. Tough game. **23...dxe4 24.Bxe4 Na6** Lots of traps in this game and in the notes: **24...Qxe4? 25.Re1 Qxe1+ 26.Bxe1 Bxf4 27.Bg3 25.Bxc6** Worthy of consideration was **25.Re1 Qc7 26.Qxc6 Qxc6 27.Bxc6 Rxe1+ 28.Bxe1 Nxb4 29.Bxb5 Nc2 30.Bc3 Bxf4 31.Kg2** With a fascinating endgame to ensue, but any winning chances are with White. **25...Rc8** Entering draw land. The interesting possibilities in this game were all in the notes. **26.Qf3 Nxb4 27.Bxb5 Nc2 28.Bd3 Nxd4 29.Qe4 Qxe4 30.Bxe4 Nb3 31.Be1 Rc1 32.Bd5 Nd4 33.Bd2 Ne2+ 34.Kf2 Rxf1+ 35.Kxf1 Nxf4 36.Bxf4 Bxf4 1/2-1/2**

(18) Brooks, Chris - Hutama, Sandi [B07] February 19, 2018, Round 6
 Sandi Hutama is a former US Amateur
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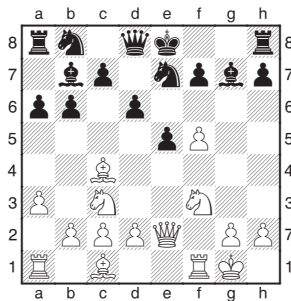
Individual champion. What happens to him here is uncharacteristic and stunning. **1.Nc3 g6** Don't expect me to comment on the moves themselves. **2.e4 Bg7 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 a6 5.a3 b6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Qe2**



The lack of concern by both players about d4 makes classical me wonder sometimes about present day chess. Go your own way, gentlemen! **7...Ne7** My brain favors White, but my chess engine favors equality. It does mention d4, though is not that high on it. **8.0-0 Bb7** These sorts of lines do try to get this move in: **8...c5** Then, there is always the threat of b5 and c4. **9.f5!? gxf5!**



10.exf5!? One might have expected **10.Ng5!** h6 **11.Nxf7 Kxf7 12.Qh5+ Kg8 13.Bxe6+ Kh7 14.d3 Rf8 15.exf5 Qe8 16.Qh3 Nd7 17.Bg5** and White clearly has the edge. **10...e5??**

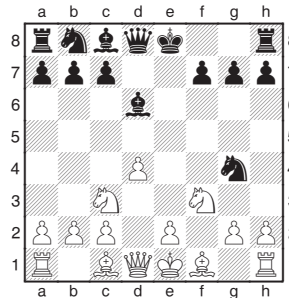


Puzzling. What didn't he see about playing **10...Nxf5!** **11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Qxe6+ Ne7 13.Ng5 Bd4+ 14.Kh1 Qc8 15.Qf7+ Kd7 16.Qe6+ Kd8 17.Nf7+ Ke8 18.Qxc8+ Bxc8 19.Nxh8 Bxh8 20.d3** and Black has two pieces for rook and pawn. Now the roof crashes in on him with hurricane force. **11.Bxf7+!! Kxf7 12.Ng5+ Kg8 13.Ne6** The key to the attack. The horse has battle armor. **13...Qd7 14.Qg4 Ng6 15.fxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6 Qe7 17.Nxg7 Qxg7 18.Qe6+ NJ State Chess Federation**

Kh7 19.Rf7 Rg8 20.Qh3+ Kg6 21.Qf5+ Mercifully, mate in two. Black resigned. 21...Kh6 22.d3+ Qg5 23.Qh7#

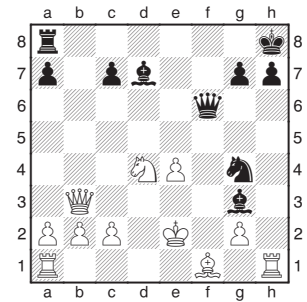
(19) **Goldberg - Chipkin, Leonard [A02]** February 17, 2018, Round 1

This harrowing game is a reminder about both gambits and tactical play. You need a certain "personality" to play gambits. You can't worry about getting back the material you gave up. Use the initiative you get from giving away material to mate your opponent. The biggest help in tactics is the same old chess motto: "Look at ALL checks and captures." **1.f4 e5** From's Gambit...a fine reply to the Bird's Opening, but you really have to study it! If I played White, I'd strongly consider playing **2.e4** and heading into the King's Gambit. **2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 Nf6!** For the truly deranged (just kidding, I think!) there is the intermittently popular **4...g5 5.d3 g4 6.Nd4 Qh4+ 7.g3 Bxg3+ 8.hxg3 Qxh1 9.Bf4 h5 5.Nc3** A game that greatly influenced me was S. Nyman-Larsen, exhibition correspondence game, 1966, with extensive notes by Larsen in his book of games: **5.d4 0-0 6.Bg5 Re8 7.Qd3 Nc6 8.a3 h6 9.Bh4? (9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.e4 Bf5 11.Nc3=** says Larsen, as Black wins the pawn back: **11...Bxe4 12.Nxe4 Qg6 13.0-0-0 Qxe4 14.Qxe4 Rxe4 15.Bd3 Re7) 9...g5 10.Bf2 Ne4 11.h3 Bf5 12.Qd1 Bf4 13.g4 Nxf2 14.Kxf2 Be3+ 15.Kg2 Nxd4 16.gxf5 Nxf3 17.Qxd8 Nh4+ 18.Kg3 Raxd8 19.Nc3 Nxf5+ 20.Kg2 Rd2.** The "big idea" from the game is the fight over control of e4 and how Black just goes about his development and pressures the Black center. **5...Ng4** More Larsen-like would be **5...0-0**, but the **Ng4** move is also common in this line. **6.d4**

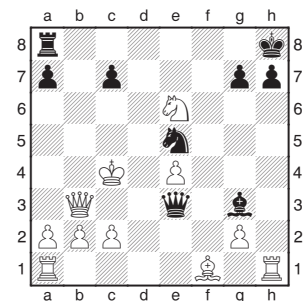


Always to be considered is **6.g3** but you have to be ready for **6...h5 7.d3 h4 8.gxh4 Nxh2 9.Ne4 (9.Nxh2 Qxh4+) 9...Nxf3+ 10.exf3 Rxh4** and it's anybody's ballgame. **6...Bxh2! 7.Ne4** Virtually forced. **7...Qe7** More madness: **7...Bd6 8.Qd3 Nc6 9.Nxd6+ Qxd6 10.Rxh7 Qg3+ 11.Kd2 Rxh7 12.Qxh7 Nxd4 13.Qxg7** and this position reminds me of Staunton commenting once how he didn't see how either player could save the game. **8.Qd3 Bf5??** Much better are either of these two moves: **8...Nc6** or **8...f5**. **9.Qb5+ Oops!** That's why you check all checks--yours and your opponent's. **9...Bd7 10.Qxb7 0-0 11.Bg5!** Greedily grabbing the rook

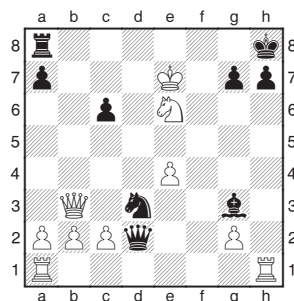
right away gives Black counterplay: **11.Qxa8 Nc6 12.Qb7 Rb8 13.Qa6 Qxe4 11...f6 12.Bh4?** White falters here. Now they've each made a key error. Does it cancel out? Much better was **12.Nxh2 Nxh2 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Rxh2 Nc6 15.Nc5 Rad8 16.c3** and White will consolidate the position with two extra pawns. **12...Nc6** Now, Black has ample compensation for the pawn. **13.Qb3+ Kh8 14.Nxf6** Wild and unclear was **14.Nxh2 Rab8 15.Qf3 Nxd4 16.Qd3 Ne3 14...Rxf6 15.Bxf6??** Too allured by the rook being available: **15.Nxh2 15...Bg3+!** A very alert zwischenzug! Now Black has a big advantage. **16.Kd2 Bf4+ 17.Ke1 Qxf6 18.e4 Bg3+ 19.Ke2 Nxd4+** This should do it. The game is over. But... **20.Nxd4**



Black has a mate in four here. Set your clock on, say, 15 minutes, and find it! **20...Qf2+ 21.Kd3 Qe3+?** The mate: **21...Ne5+ 22.Kc3 Qe1+ 23.Rxe1 Bxe1# 22.Kc4 Be6+?** Not quite aware of the power of the knight move. Mate: **22...Ne5+ 23.Kc5 Qf2 24.Qb7 Qf8+ 25.Kd5 Qd6# 23.Nxe6 Ne5+?**



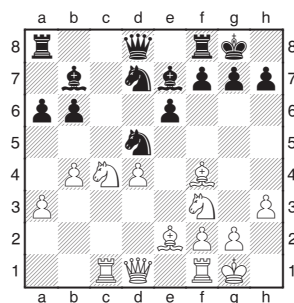
Too late! Now, the knight check only draws! Mate was to be had with **23...Qxe4+ 24.Nd4 Ne3+ 25.Kc3 c5 26.Nb5 Rd8 27.Qf7 Qb4# 24.Kd5??** Oh, no! White misses the draw!! **24.Kb4 Rb8+ 25.Bb5 Rxb5+ (25...Nc6+ 26.Ka4 Qxe4+ 27.Qc4 Qxc4+ 28.Bxc4 Rb4+ 29.Ka3 Rxc4 30.c3** and White will even win now.) **26.Kxb5 Qb6+ 27.Ka4 Qa6+ 28.Kb4** with no more than a perpetual check. **24...c6+ 25.Kd6 Qd2+ 26.Bd3 Nxd3+ 27.Ke7**



27...Bd6+!! The only move to win! 28.Kxd6 Nc1+ 29.Ke7 Nxb3 30.cxb3 Qb4+ 31.Kd7 a5 31...Qb7+ 32.Kd6 Re8 33.Rad1 Qe7+ 34.Ke5 Qf6+ 35.Kd6 Rxe6+ 32.Rac1 If you do point counting, it's even in material. It's positionally lost for White, however. 32...Ra7+ 33.Nc7 c5 34.Rhd1 Qb6 Heck of a game! 0-1

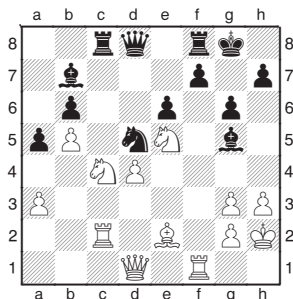
(20) George, Akhil - Koblentz, Dr. Michael [A47] February 17, 2018, Round 1

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 The London System. It has received a great deal of attention in recent years because it is solid and can often give attacking chances. The difficulty for Black is trying to create some sort of imbalance to gain winning chances without losing one's balance. 3...b6 A time-honored way of trying to win, used by Alekhine, Colle and Capablanca in the 20s and 30s. Why not fight for the square e4 and prepare counter-measures with c5? You know White is going to waste a tempo out of necessity with h3 to preserve the bishop, so Black is going to be OK. 4.e3 Bb7 5.Nbd2 Be7 6.h3 0-0 7.Be2 d6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.c4 Worth a moment's thought is 9.Bh2 although c3 is often seen here. 9...c5 10.a3 If you like hedgehog formations as Black, then you won't mind 10.dxc5 Nxc5 11.Bh2 (11.b4 Nce4) 11...Rc8; 10.d5 exd5 loses a pawn. 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Bh2 a6 13.e4 N5f6 14.Bd3 Ne5 15.Bc2 Nfd7 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.f4 Nc6 and White doesn't have quite enough compensation for the pawn. 10...cxd4 11.exd4 d5 12.Rc1 a6 Black should put the rook on the open file as soon as possible. 12...Rc8 13.b4 dxc4! 14.Nxc4 Nd5



The rook should still get to the open file with 14...Rc8. 15.Bg3? The supposed reason White played h3 was to allow Bh2. Putting it on g3 just gets in the way and may even lose another tempo when attacked by a knight. 15.Bh2 b5 16.Na5 Qb6 17.Qd2 Rac8 18.Rxc8 Rxc8 19.Rc1 Rxc1+ 20.Qxc1 g6 21.Ne5 and

White has a good position. 15...N7f6 16.Bd3 Rc8 17.Nfe5 No hurry to put the knight on e5. Putting other pieces on good squares should take priority. 17.Qd2 h6 18.Rfe1 a5 19.b5 Rxc4 20.Rxc4 (20.Bxc4? Bxa3 21.Ra1 Bb4) 20...Bxa3 21.Rd1 Bb4 22.Qc1 17...a5 18.b5 g6 19.Kh2 White should head for the typical isolated queen pawn formation with 19.Re1. 19...Nh5 White is going to lose the bishop after all. Kh2 looks like a pointless move at this juncture, as does Bg3. 20.Be2 Nxc3 21.fxg3 Bg5 22.Rc2



22...f6! Many players would be averse to weakening the castled position's pawn structure, but Black knows he has the initiative and takes action. 23.Bg4?! This is panic--an unnecessary attempt to complicate. Keep the game in hand with Nf3. 23...Qe7 24.h4 Bh6 25.Qe2 A longer, but also hopeless struggle would result from 25.Nc6 Bxc6 26.bxc6 Rxc6 25...fxe5 26.Rxf8+ Rxf8 27.Qxe5 Bc8 28.Re2 Rf6 29.Nd6 Bd7 30.Qxd5 White now helps Black liquidate to an easier and quicker ending. 30...exd5 31.Rxe7 Bxg4 32.Ne8 Re6 33.Rxe6 Bxe6 34.Nc7 Kf7 35.Na8 Ke7 36.Nxb6 Kd6 37.Na4 Be3 38.Nc5 Bxd4 39.Nxe6 Kxe6 40.a4 Bb6 0-1

(21) Ippolito, D. - Moore, D. [D43]

February 17, 2018, Round 1

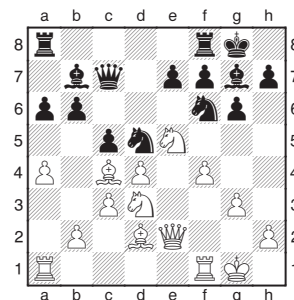
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qb3 e6 Why not just take the pawn right away? 4...dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 5.g3 Nbd7 Time for a little all-purpose defense set-up. 5...c5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 and, as Spassky demonstrated in his match with Petrosian, the IQP is not a big deal as Black gets his pieces on active squares. 6.Bg2 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nc3 Qe7 Although I've offered alternative suggestions, that does not mean what Black played was bad. The chances are still equal. 9.Rd1 dxc4 10.Qxc4 e5 From Black's previous line of play, it's apparent this is what he was preparing for. Whether it's better than the lines suggested is questionable. 11.e4 exd4 12.Nxd4 Nb6 Not terribly promising for Black is 12...Ne5 13.Qe2 Bc5 14.h3 Rd8 15.Be3 13.Qe2 Bg4? This, however, is pointless. By encouraging f3, it just helps White play his B to e3 without worrying about a Ng4 move. 14.f3 Bd7 15.Be3 Rfe8 16.Kh1 Rad8 17.Nc2 Bc5 Black needs to "uncramp" a bit: 17...c5

18.Nd4 Bc8 Black misses equalizing with 18...Nbd5 19.Bf2 Nxc3 19.Qf2 Qf8 20.Bf1 Bd6 Another path was 20...Nfd7 21.a3 Ne5 22.b4 Bd6 23.Qc2 Bc7 21.Nb3 h6 22.a4! Gaining more space. 22...Be6 23.Nc5 Nc4?? An unfortunate necessity was 23...Bc8; 23...Qe7 was playable. 24.Nxe6 Nxe3 25.Nxf8 Nxd1 26.Rxd1 1-0

(22) Brooks, Chris - Norowitz, Yaacov [B11]

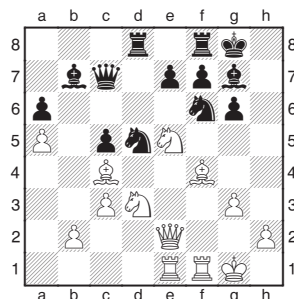
February 17, 2018, Round 1

1.Nc3 The Dunst Attack--named after New York City born Ted Dunst, a contributing editor to Chess Review back in the day. He died in Lambertville, NJ in 1985 at age 78. A highly original strong player, he demonstrated the tricky aspects if Black replies with e5 or d5. I believe Asa Hoffman used to play it in 5-minute tournaments. Thus, Norowitz's reply insures that neither player can rely on opening theory. 1...c6 2.e4 d5 Or maybe not...a Caro-Kann! 3.f4 Or maybe yes...haven't seen this yet. There are over 400 games in the database with this move, so some people like it. Without getting into analysis, the f4 move in the Caro Kann usually doesn't end well. White would have been better to just play regular lines. 3...dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Bc4 Obligated to mention 5.Qe2 Ngf6 6.Nd6# 5...Ndf6 There is no particular advantage to moving the d-knight again. Simple and safe is 5...Ngf6 6.Nf2 Nd5 7.d3 It's one thing to be original. It's another thing to just play a good classical move like 7.d4 7...Qb6 8.Qe2 Ngf6 9.c3 Qc7 Apparently the lady's shopping excursion to the mall on b6 did not yield any "purchases." 10.Nf3 g6 11.0-0 Bh6 All these moves have been playable. This hyper-fianchetto is as well, but since he goes back to g7, you have to ask, "Why?" 12.g3 0-0 13.Ne5 Bg7 14.a4 b6 15.d4 Finally! White, after all this bohemianism, has a decent position. 15...a6 16.Bd2 Bb7 17.Nfd3! Now going from "decent" to "slightly better position." If I were Black, I would be concerned. 17...c5!



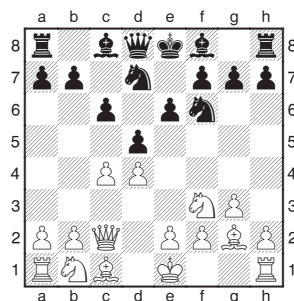
And he was! The proper counterplay emerges. 18.f5! The lines from Tennyson's poem came to mind when seeing this: "Half a league, half a league/Half a league onward/ All in the valley of Death/Rode the six hundred." "Forward, the Light Brigade!/ Charge for the guns!" he said./ "Into the valley of Death/Rode the six hundred." 18...Qd6 An alternative was 18...cxd4 19.fxg6 hxg6 20.cxd4 Rac8 21.Rac1 Qd6= 19.dxc5! bxc5

20.a5 Rad8 21.fxg6 hxg6 22.Rae1 Qc7?!
It would be better, though it would be a tough defense, to have played 22...Nd7 23.Bg5 Bf6 (23...f6?? 24.Nxg6 fxg5 25.Nxf8 Nxf8 26.Qxe7+-) 24.Bh6 Nxe5 25.Nxe5 Bg7 26.Bxg7 Kxg7 **23.Bf4**

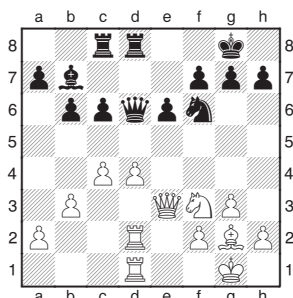


Unfortunately for White, he misses an idea from the Panov-Botvinnik Attack in the Caro Kann: 23.Nxf7! Rxf7 24.Ne5 Rff8 25.Nxg6 Rf7 26.Bf4 Qc6 27.Ne5± **23... Qc8 24.Qf2** Better is 24.Bg5 Rd6 25.Qf2 Qc7 26.Nxc5± Now, Black untangles himself...and there is that a8-h1 diagonal for White to worry about, especially if the Black queen and bishop conspire to operate together along that route. **24... Nd7 25.Nxd7 Rxd7 26.Nxc5 26.Be5 Bh6 27.Nxc5 Be3 28.Rxe3 Qxc5 29.Re4 Qc6= 26...Nxf4! 27.gxf4** Forced. **27...Rd2!?** Pretty, but not best! The prosaic 27...Rc7 28.Nxb7 Rxc4 29.Rxe7 Bf6 30.Nd6 Bxe7 31.Nxc8 Bc5 32.Nb6 Bxf2+ 33.Rxf2 Re4 and Black has the advantage, although it's still a fight. **28.Re2 Rxe2 29.Bxe2 Ba8 30.Nd3** Missing a chance to stay equal: 30.Qe3 e5 (30...Qc6 31.Bf3) 31.fxe5 Bxe5 32.Qxe5 Re8 33.Qf4 Qxc5+ **30...Qf5 31.Qe3 Qxa5 32.Bf3 Bxf3 33.Rxf3 e6 34.Kg2 Rd8 35.Nb4 35.Ne5 Qc7 36.h4 Bxe5 37.fxe5 Rd5 35...Qb5 36.Nd3 Qc4 37.Nf2 Qa2 38.Qb6 Re8** More precise was 38...Rd2 39.b3 Bf6 **39.Kg3 e5! 40.Ne4** Equally depressing was 40.Ng4 e4 41.Rf2 Qd5 42.Qxa6 Rd8 43.Re2 Qd1 44.Kg2 (44.Rxe4 Rd3+ 45.Re3 Qg1+) 44...Rd2 45.Kf2 Qc1 **40...Qd5 41.Nf6+ Bxf6 42.Qxf6 Re6 43.Qh4 e4 44.Rf1 e3 45.Re1 Qd3 46.Kg2 Re4 0-1**

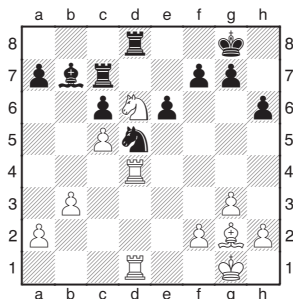
(23) Gertler,David (2234) - Hernandez,Daniel (1842) [E08]
February 19, 2018, Round 5
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 c6 5.Bg2 Nbd7 6.Qc2



The Catalan is a solid and aggressive opening. What I like about it is the way White prepares e4, and this queen move is part of that. **6...b6 7.0-0 Bb7** It doesn't seem to help to get more breathing room with 7...Ba6 **8.b3 Be7 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Rd1 Qc7 11.Bf4 Bd6 12.Bxd6 Qxd6 13.e4** Here we go! **13...dxe4 14.Nxe4 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Nf6 16.Qe3 Rfd8 17.Rd2 Rac8 18.Rad1**



It seems almost effortless for White. All the moves are very natural. The way to advantage, though, is often a properly timed d-pawn or c-pawn thrust, both of which can get complicated. Look at Black's position, though-limited to three ranks to White's four. If I could be assured Black would always play these cramped lines, I'd play the Catalan! **18... Qc7 19.c5!?** One gets the impression that White, a talented master, is not just trying to limit the Bb7, but create a queenside pawn majority as an imbalanced pawn set-up favors the more mobile party. He could also continue to build on his advantage in space with 19.Ne5 **19...bxc5** Cooperating with his opponent's plan. It would be better to avoid the exchange and keep the d-pawn backward. **20.dxc5 Nd5** Permanently blocking the d-file as no pawn can chase the knight; however, due to White's freer position, he has other options. **21.Qd4 h6?** To what purpose? **22.Ne5 Qa5 23.Nc4** "My knight will be better than yours!" **23...Qb4 24.Nd6 Qxd4 25.Rxd4 Rc7**

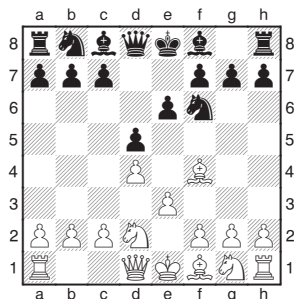


It's not like White would take the worthless bishop with his dynamite knight, but you have to protect it. With queens exchanged, what is White's plan? As stated, he is more mobile, so he can take advantage of a pawn advance on the kingside. Maybe, much later, he could push on the queenside, but that is held in

reserve. **26.Re1!** This is no idle rook move. White is going to play f4 and f5 and this adds to the coming pressure on e6. **26... Rcd7 27.f4 Ba8** He's not going to take it, so why bother? At least show your awareness of the coming attack on e6 and play 27...Bc8 **28.f5 Re7** If 28...exf5 29.Nxf5 Kf8 30.Nd6 Nf6 31.Bh3± **29.fxe6 fxe6 30.Rde4** Black is positionally busted. **30...Nc3 31.Rxe6 Rxe6 32.Rxe6 Nxa2 33.Re7** The material is even, but Black has no real moves to change the destination of this game. He tries. **33... Nc1 34.Bf1 Kh7 35.Rxa7 Nxb3 36.Bd3+ Ouch! Black resigns. 36...Kg8 36...Kh8 37.Nf7+ 37.Bc4+** A model demonstration of positional play by master David Gertler. **1-0**

(24) Evans,Paul - Mullanaphy,Jim [D00]
February 17, 2018, Round 2

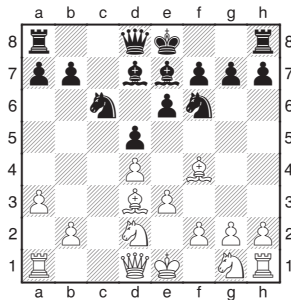
1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 Well, here we are with another London System. As we have previously said, it has solidity, some attacking chances, and gives Black a moment's thought on how to imbalance the position to play for a win. Having said all that, I am no fan of Bf4 in the queen's pawn opening. Being old school, I read the long-ago classic Masters of the Chessboard by Richard Reti. In it he gives a game, Marshall-Rubinstein, Lodz, 1908, where Rubinstein demolished my hero, Marshall, in this line. **3...e6 4.Nd2**



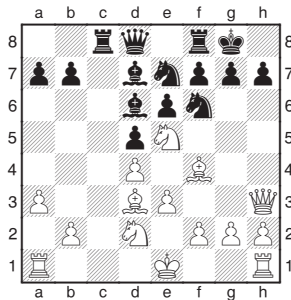
White could follow that classical game: 4.Nf3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Bd3 Qb6! Here is Reti's commentary: "Now White is somewhat embarrassed. The move 7.b3 would obviously be a serious positional mistake, owing to the weakness of c3. The move 7.Qb3 would be answered by 7...c4 8.Qxb6 axb6 and b5 and b4 and Black would then have the advantage because of the open a-file. The move 7.Qd2 has the disadvantage that White cannot continue with Nbd2. The natural move therefore would be 7.Qc2, but after Black's Bd7 and Rc8, White would again lose time on account of the threat cxd4 and Nb4; for which reason White here makes the best decision, and plays 7.Qc2 at this point." Now THAT is a grandmaster lesson on move 6!

4...c5 5.c3 cxd4 There should be no hurry to exchange on d4. If Black thought to save a bishop tempo if White played dxc5 after Be7, that would be no positional worry, as e5 would then become a possibility for

White to worry about. 5...Nc6 6.cxd4 Bd7 7.a3 Nc6 8.Bd3 Be7



8...Qb6 9.Rb1 (9.b4 Nxd4!) It looks more active to play 9...Rc8. Once that queen's bishop leaves its protection of b2 and Black has played c5, Qb6 must always be near the top of Black's list of candidate moves. It makes White deal with issues and commit pieces before fully developed. There is no hurry for Black to castle right away because White has no attack early on in the slow-stepping London System. 9.Ng3 Rc8 Black can even take advantage of White omitting the usual h3 move to protect the bishop with 9...Nh5 10.Ne5 0-0 11.Qf3 White starts a kingside demonstration, but he ought to have given thought to one on the queenside: 11.0-0 h6 12.Rc1 Qb6 13.Nxd7 Nxd7 14.Rc3 Na5 15.Qc2 Rxc3 16.Qxc3 Nc6 17.Rc1 11...Bd6 Black can sacrifice a pawn for a good deal of play with 11...Nxe5 12.dxe5 Ne4 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Qxe4 g6 15.0-0 Bc6 16.Qd4 Qc7 17.Be4 Bb5 18.Rfb1 Rfd8 19.Qc3 Qb6 20.Qb3 Rc4 21.f3 Qc5= 12.Qh3 White purposely avoids 12.0-0 here and later. This is not recommended. 12...Ne7??

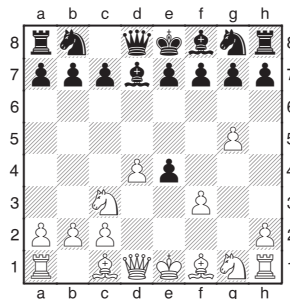


White has nothing after 12...g6 13.g4 Both sides missed the winning maneuver for White! 13.Ng4! The threat of Nxf6+ followed by Qxh7+ is devastating. 13...g6? Black should hold the position with 13...Bxe5 14.dxe5 Ne4 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Bxe4 Ng6 14.Qg3? Winning is 14.Bh6 Nc6 (14...Re8 15.Bg5 Ne4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Nxf7) 15.Nxd7 Nxd7 16.Bxf8 Bxf8 17.f4 14...Nc6 Black needs to shore up the defense with 14...Ne8 15.Ndf3?? A simple win of a piece with 15.Nxd7 15...Qa5+! Hooray! Black takes the missed White opportunities as a chance to fight back. This move does just that. 16.Ke2 Ne4!? Paying attention to

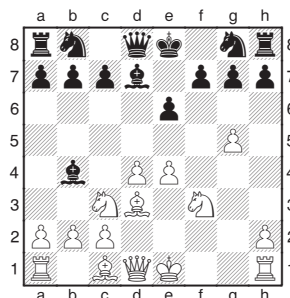
tactics would create a rout here: 16...Nxe5! 17.dxe5 Bb5 18.exf6 Bxd3+ 19.Kxd3 Qb5+ 20.Kd2 Qxb2+ 17.Bxe4 dxe4 18.Ng5? With all those unwelcome guests coming to visit, White would be well advised to abandon the area: 18.Kf1 18...Qb5+ 19.Ke1 Nxe5 White is completely lost. He had his chances. 20.Bxe5 Rc2 21.Kd1 Qe2# 0-1

(25) Zilbermintz, Lev-Li, Daniel [D00] February 18, 2018, Round 4

1.d4 d5 2.e4 Lev has been playing this for years with several commendable victorious attacks, so he is not to be trifled with. His lower rated opponent seems to mock his prowess over the board with a series of backward moves. A very odd game, but we've come to expect this with Lev's battles over the board. 2...dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 Bf5 other ways are 4...exf3 5.Nxf3 e6 (5...g6) ; 4...c5 5.d5 exf3 6.Nxf3 a6 5.g4 Must be a Zilbermintz specialty. It can rattle people. The "solid" alternative for White is OK, but not as sharp. White hopes for a mistake. 5.fxe4 Nxe4 6.Bd3 Nd6 7.Nf3 e6 8.0-0 Be7 5...Bd7 More active and, indeed, more thematic is 5...Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.h5 Bh7 8.fxe4 e5! 9.g5 exd4! 10.gxf6 dxc3 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.Ne2 Bxe4 6.g5 Ng8

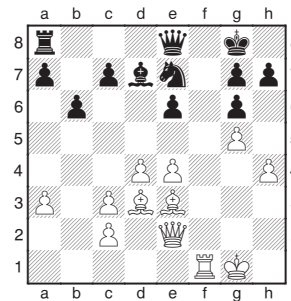


White's g4 advance has rewarded him with exactly what he wanted. Black has been moving backwards. Is he saying "come and get me" with confidence or "oh, darn, what have I gotten myself into?" 7.fxe4 e6 The best shot in this inferior position is to play an always thematic counter: 7...e5 8.d5 (8.dxe5 Nc6) 8...Bc5 9.Qh5 Ne7 and Black may have some hope of surviving. 8.Nf3 Bb4 9.Bd3!?



White should have played Qd3, a queen's

bishop move, and castles queenside for the attack. Black has no counterplay. 9...Ne7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Ne5 Ng6 12.Nxg6 fxg6 Black can better blunt the attack with 12...hxg6, but I would wager he's afraid of the white rook and queen lining up on the h-file. 13.Be3 Nc6 14.a3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 b6 16.h4 Qe8 17.Qe2 This might have worked: 17.Rxf8+ Qxf8 18.h5 Ne7 19.Kg2 Bc6 20.Kg3 Qf7 21.h6 Re8 22.Qg4 Nc8 23.Rf1 Qe7 24.e5 17...Ne7 18.Rxf8+ Qxf8 19.Rf1 Qe8

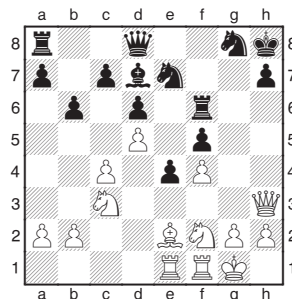


20.Bc4 Wrong bishop. White wins with 20.Bf4 Qd8 (20...Rc8 21.Ba6) 21.Qf2 Nc6 22.Bxc7 Qe7 23.d5 exd5 24.exd5 Na5 25.d6 Qe6 26.Be4 Bc6 27.Bxc6 Nxc6 28.Qf3 Qd7 29.Qd5+ Kh8 30.Rf7 20...Nc8 21.Bf4 Nd6 Much to Black's credit, he sets up a defensive perimeter. 22.Bd3 Rc8 23.Kg2 Bb5 24.c4 Bd7 25.Rh1 Qf7 26.Rf1 Qe8 27.Be5 Nf7 28.Bg3 Qe7 29.Ra1 If White has to do that, the attack is over. He could have tried 29.Qf3 e5 30.d5 h6 31.gxh6 Nxh6 32.Qe3 29...c5 30.c3 White goes conservative when there was 30.d5 e5 31.Qe3 Nd6 32.a4 30...e5 31.d5 Rf8 32.Rf1 Nd6 33.Rxf8+ Kxf8 34.Kf1 Draw agreed. The Nimzovich knight blockades the passed pawn. There are no breakthroughs, and Black can always defend e5 with Nf7. 1/2-1/2

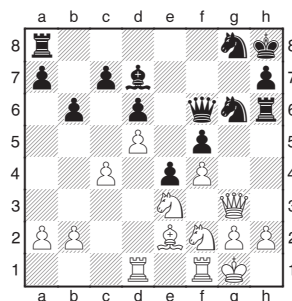
(26) Trubman, Leonid - Hall, Tim [E98] February 18, 2018, Round 3

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 Black should well consider here the King's Indian idea of putting pressure on e4 and d4 with 7...exd4 8.Nxd4 Nc6 9.Be3 Re8 10.f3 Nh5 8.d5 Ne7 Almost a hundred years ago, F.D. Yates, the great British master, used to play 8...Nb8 with the idea of a5 and putting the knight on c5. He beat Alekhine with it in a magnificent game. 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 f5 11.exf5? Frowned upon by theory. White has several ways of meeting f5: 11.f3 f4 12.b3 b6 13.a4 Nf6 14.a5 or 11.Bd2 fxe4 12.Nxe4 Nf6 13.f3 11...gxf5 The overused phrase "Every Russian schoolboy knows you take with the pawn." (to keep White pieces off e4) does not apply here. It would have been better to take with the knight because Ne4 is not a secure square and can be easily challenged by a Black knight. 11...Nxf5 12.f3 Nf6 13.Ne4? Nxe4 14.fxe4 Nd4 12.Bg5! b6 13.Qd2 Nf6 14.Bh6? Redeploying the bishop to c2 via d1 would improve the bishop, while exchanging to end up with your queen on h6, where it could not stay, seems dubious. 14...Bxh6

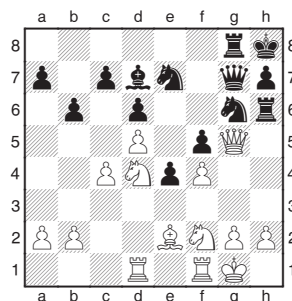
15.Qxh6 Bd7 Immediately cutting off the queen with 15...f4 would cause great embarrassment to the lady. **16.f4 e4 17.Nf2** 17.Nb4 with an eye to landing on d4 seems better than the jumble that evolves on the kingside as the game progresses. **17...Kh8 18.Rae1 Nfg8** The chess engine likes 18...b5, but you can really understand Black's desire to harass the White queen, though it turns out, as it often does in the KI, that this is a deceptive and tricky position more suited for a correspondence game. **19.Qh3 Rf6**



20.Ncd1? Houdini, just like the originator of the name, suggests an escape: a better position comes from 20.g4 Rf7 (20...Rg6 21.g5 h6 22.Kh1) 21.Qe3 **20...Rh6 21.Qg3?!** The "airplane check" was better: 21.Qc3+ Nf6 22.g4 fxe4 23.Nxe4 **21...Ng6 22.Ne3** Does White have no sense of danger? Where does the queen go? **22...Qf6 23.Rd1**



Needed to protect the pawn and give the queen some "lebensraum" with 23.Nfd1 **23...N8e7** A snatch and run was available: 23...Qxb2! 24.Rfe1 Qg7 (but not a greedy series of snatches: 24...Qxa2?? 25.Nxf5 Bxf5 26.Qc3++-) **24.Qg5** Virtually forced. **24...Qg7 25.Nc2?** The last chance to survive was 25.Nh3 **25...Rg8 26.Nd4**

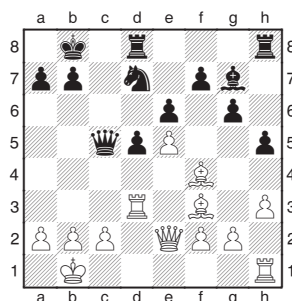


26...Qf8 A very understandable and winning move. Playing around with the NJ State Chess Federation

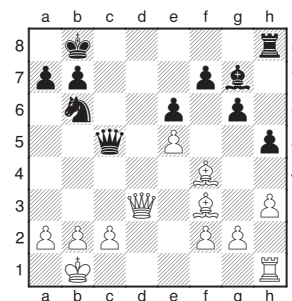
position, I became fascinated by the display of knightwork in this line: 26... Nxf4 27.Qxg7+ Rxg7 28.g3 c5 29.dxc6 Nxc6 30.Rfe1 e3 31.Nh1 Nh3+ 32.Kg2 Ne5 33.Rf1 f4 34.Nf3 Ng6 35.Rfe1 fxe3 36.hxg3 Ngf4+ 37.Kf1 Ng5 38.Kg1 Ngh3+ 39.Kf1 Nf2 40.Nxf2 Rxe3 41.Ng1 Rh2 42.Ne4 Rh1 43.Nxg3 Bh3# **27.Qg3 Nh4 28.Qh3 Rxe2+ 29.Qxe2 Nxe2 30.Kxg2 Qg7+ 31.Kh1 Qg3 0-1**

(27) Glassman, Robert - Wright, Polly [A48] February 19, 2018, Round 6

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d6 3.Nf3 g6 The London System yet again. This time Black goes into a King's Indian formation, which is OK if White continues with c4, but White has other ideas and turns it into a Pirc. Thus, Black had better be prepared for that idea. **4.Nc3!** Rarely do we give exclamations for a simple developing move, but White understands why Nc3 is better than c4. It changes the game from what Black expected. **4...Bg7 5.Qd2?!** Better would be the immediate 5.e4 to avoid Black playing Bf5 in reply to Qd2. **5...h5?** Your annotator is at a loss for an explanation for this move. **6.e4 Bg4?** Better than c4 and last move was 6...0-0 **7.Qe3** Thanks to h5, this possibility existed: 7.Ng5 0-0 8.h3 Bd7 9.0-0-0 with all sorts of attacking chances. **7...c6 8.0-0-0 Qa5 9.Kb1 Nbd7 10.e5!** "Going for it." Solid but slow was 10.h3 e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Bg5 Be6 **10...dxe5** Fatal would be 10...Nd5 11.Nxd5 cxd5 12.exd6 **11.dxe5 Nd5 12.Nxd5 cxd5 13.Be2** The rook lift right off the bat might pose a great dilemma to Black--should she get annihilated on the queenside or the kingside? 13.Rd3; however, Black could generate a defense: 13...Bxf3 14.Qxf3 e6 15.Qe3 0-0 16.h4 Qc7 17.Rc3 Qb8 18.g4 hxg4 19.Bb5 Bxe5 20.Bxe5 Nxe5 21.h5 Kg7 22.hxg6 Nxg6 23.Qd4+ (23.Qh6+ Kf6) **23...Qe5 24.Qxg4= 13...e6 14.h3 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Qc5 16.Qe2 0-0-0?** This makes the rook lift stronger! **17.Rd3 Kb8**



18.Bxd5! Nb6 Black should have just gone with it: 18...exd5 19.e6+ Ka8 20.exd7 Rxd7 21.Re1 and Black would have an isolated queen pawn to deal with alongside better-centralized White pieces, but putting up a defense was possible. **19.Bf3 Rxd3 20.Qxd3**

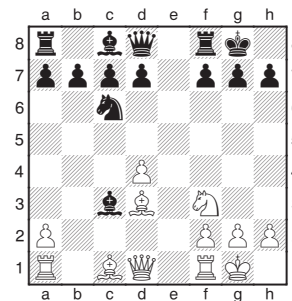


20...Bxe5? So many games in this tournament are decided by tactics. Black was in a bad position anyhow. The game was beyond saving. **21.Qe4 1-0**

(28) Jhou - Bright [C54]

February 18, 2018, Round 4

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ Disaster emerges from 6... Bb6 7.e5 d5 8.exf6 dxc4 9.d5 Nb4 10.Qa4+ 7.Nc3!? White should investigate 7.Bd2 Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Qb3 Na5 11.Qa4+ Nc6 12.Qa3 **7...Nxe4 8.0-0 0-0** Black should investigate 8...Bxc3 9.d5 Ne5 (9...Bf6 10.Re1 Ne7 11.Rxe4 d6 12.Bg5 (12.g4)) 10.bxc3 (10.Qe2 Nxf3+ 11.Qxf3 0-0 12.Qxe4 Re8 13.Qf3 Be5=) 10...Nxc4 11.Qd4 f5 12.Qxc4 d6 13.Nd4 0-0 and White may end up with a passer on e6 after the knight is exchanged there. It's a tough game, but a pawn is a pawn sometimes. **9.Bd3** White had better with 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Qd3 Nf6 11.Ng5 g6 forced, by the way 12.Qh3 Nh5 13.Nxe7+ Qxe7 14.d5 Ne5 15.Qe3 Qd6 16.Bb3 **9...Nxc3 9...Nf6!= 10.bxc3 Bxc3**



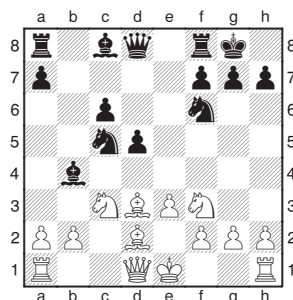
11.Rb1? It was better to do it immediately: 11.Bxh7+ Kxh7 (11...Kh8 12.Bc2 g6 13.Bg5 f6 14.Qd3+-) 12.Ng5+ Kg6 (12...Kg8 13.Qh5 Qxg5 14.Bxg5 Bxa1 15.Rxa1 Nxd4 16.Qg4 Ne6 17.Bf6 Re8 18.Re1 Kf8 19.Rxe6 gxf6 20.Rxe8+ Kxe8 21.Qf4 and the queen will dominate.) 13.Qc2+ f5 14.Qxc3 **11...Nxd4 12.Bxh7+ Kxh7 13.Ng5+ Kg6 14.Qd3+** White's best chance for survival was 14.Ne4 d6 15.Nxc3 Nf5 16.Re1 **14...f5 15.Qxc3 Ne2+ 16.Kh1 Nxc3 17.Re1 Nxb1 18.Re3 Re8 19.Rg3 Re1# 0-1**

(29) Kluska - Turcotte [E48]

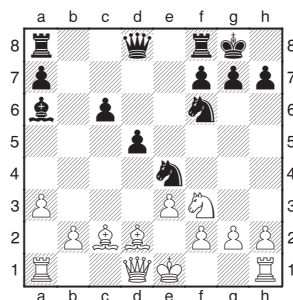
February 19, 2018, Round 6

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 Nice to see the Nimzo-Indian being used. As solid a defense as you can get to 1.d4. **4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5** Following the "Purdy Rule." If White threatens e4, play d5. People of

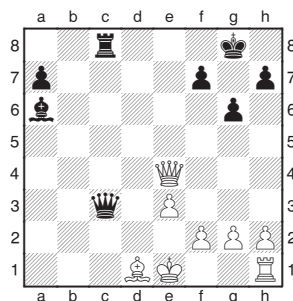
all stripes play all sorts of moves at this point: 5...b6, 5...c5, 5...Bxc3+. **6.cxd5 exd5 7.Nf3** One expects 7.Nge2 here so as to recapture on c3 with the other knight and maybe even find a nice outpost on f4 as an alternative. **7...c5!** Black plays actively, as he must. **8.dxc5 Nbd7 9.c6?** White should just leave Black with the isolated pawn. At least it's something to play against. **9...bxc6 10.Bd2 Nc5**



11.Bc2?? What was White thinking?? Leaving the a6–f1 diagonal to the Black light-squared bishop ends up being a fatal decision. **11.Be2 Ne6** and Black's a bit better. **11...Ba6 12.a3 Bxc3 13.Bxc3 Nce4 14.Bd2**

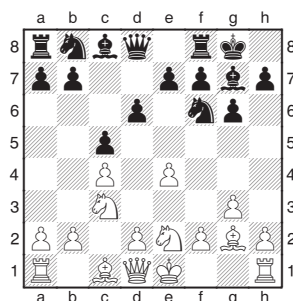


For the love of your king, obstruct the diagonal! **14.Bd3 14...Re8** The irony here is that because White can't castle Black can now practically force White to resign with **14...Ng4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Nd4 Ne5** followed by **Nd3+**. **15.Ba4 Nc5 16.Bc2 Qb6 17.b4 Nce4 18.Ba4 Nxd2 19.Qxd2 Rec8** Nasty and decisive is **19...Ne4 20.Qd4 c5 21.bxc5 Nxc5 20.Rc1 Ne4 21.Qd4 c5 22.Qxd5 cxb4 23.Rxc8+ Rxc8 24.Qxe4** White, a piece up, can resign here, but we have a few humorous moments ahead. **24...bxa3 25.Bc2 g6 26.Nd2 a2 27.Nb3 Qxb3 28.Bxb3 a1Q+ 29.Bd1 Qc3# 0–1**

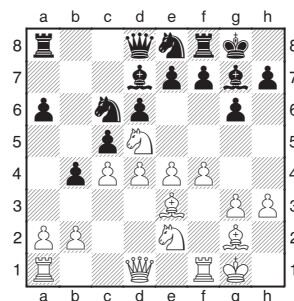


(30) Fishbein,GM Alex - Dewelde [B04] February 17, 2018, Round 1 GM Alex Fishbein is the only GM who turned in all his scores--emailed them with notes! I wish they all did that. The notes here are all mine. **1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 d6 5.c4 Nb6 6.e6** A lesser known line, but one which makes Black work hard to equalize. **6...fxe6** No choice. **7.Nc3 g6** This didn't look appetizing but was a better attempt at freeing Black's position. **7...e5 8.d5 Nd4 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.Qxd4 e5 11.dxe6 Bxe6 8.h4** Just what an A-player needs to see coming from a GM. "We're in for it now!" **8...e5** If **8...Bg7 9.Be3 d5 10.c5 Nd7 11.h5 gxh5 12.Bb5 Nf6 13.Ne5 (13. Bxc6+ bxc6 14.Qd2 Ba6 15.0–0–0) 9.d5 Nd4 10.Nxd4 exd4 11.Qxd4 Rg8 12.Bg5 h6 13.Be3** There isn't a single suggestion to help Black here. A disastrous opening. **13...e5 14.Qd2 h5 15.f4 exf4 16.Bxf4 Bg4 17.c5 dxc5 18.Bb5+ Bd7 19.0–0 Qxh4 20.Rae1+ Be7 21.Bg5 1–0**

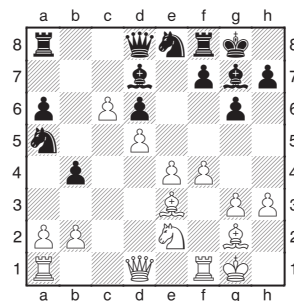
(31) Kahn,Aaron - Fishbein,Alexander [A36] February 19, 2018, Round 6 A very exciting battle between two top players. Your annotator was particularly interested because I devoted a chapter to the Botvinnik System in the English in my book *Openings for Amateurs*. My thanks to Alex for providing guidance in his notes to me, which he asked to keep private. It is very much appreciated when a grandmaster does this. He writes a fabulous endgame column--the most instructional I've ever read in a chess magazine--for *American Chess Magazine*. **1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 0–0 5.e4 d6 6.Nge2 c5!**



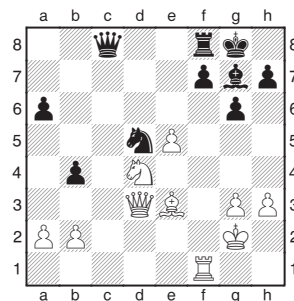
The games in my book only dealt with early Nc6 moves. This c5 move is quite good because it adds to the pressure on d4. Meanwhile, White still has the main plan of getting f4 in. Botvinnik played both sides, so he obviously thought there were winning chances for both. **7.0–0 Nc6 8.h3 a6 9.f4 Bd7 10.d3 b5 11.Be3** There was no mention of what might happen if White takes, but here's what Houdini thinks and calls equal: **11.cxb5 axb5 12.Nxb5 Qc8 13.Kh2 Nb4 14.Nbc3 Qa6 15.d4 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Rab8 11...b4 12.Nd5 Ne8! 13.d4!**



This is a real chess fight! **13...e6 14.dxc5! Whee! 14...exd5 15.cxd5 Na5** The chess engine gives this not so hot alternative for Black: **15...Ne7 16.Qd2 (16.c6 Bc8) 16... dxc5 17.Bxc5 Rc8 18.Rfc1 16.c6**



16...Nxc6! 17.dxc6 Bxc6 18.Nd4 White should have tried **18.Rc1 18...Bb7 19.Rc1 Rc8 20.Qd3** It was better placed with **20.Qb3** The game would be equal. **20...Nf6 21.Rxc8 Qxc8 22.e5 Bxg2 23.Kxg2 dxe5 24.fxe5 Nd5**



This would have been fascinating to see played out. White is understandably concerned about his e5 pawn. He pushed it to e5 because of the pressure on e4 by Black, and now determines to release it by pushing it yet again. However, there is one move in reply that forces resignation! **25.e6 Qc4!** White resigns because of **26.exf7+ Rxf7 27.Rd1 Qxd3 28.Rxd3 Nxe3+ 29.Rxe3 Bxd4 0–1**

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