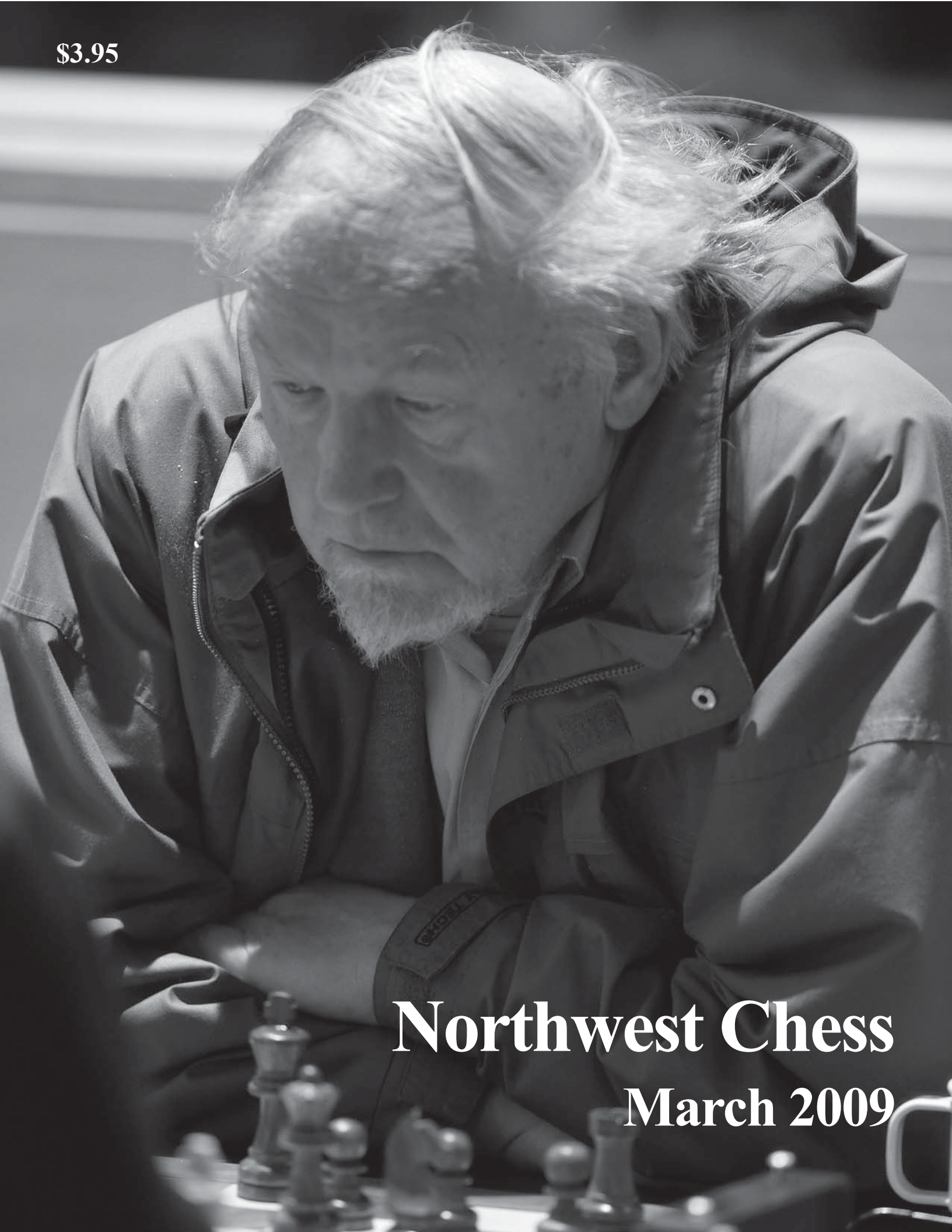


\$3.95



Northwest Chess

March 2009

Northwest Chess

March 2009, Volume 63,03 Issue 735
(corrected from 728, see nwchess.com)
ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.
Office of record: 3310 25th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Northwest Chess, PO Box 84746,
Seattle WA 98124-6046.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Seattle, WA

USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

NWC Staff

Editor: Ralph Dubisch,
editor@nwchess.com

Publisher: Duane Polich,
publisher@nwchess.com

Business Manager: Eric Holcomb,
eric@holcomb.com

Board Representatives

David Yoshinaga, Karl Schoffstoll,
Duane Polich & Mark Ryan

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photo by Philip Peterson

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nwchess.com: WCF meeting minutes Gary Dorfner

Last month we ran a significantly edited version of Mark Ryan's interview with Devon Manber. To see the complete interview in its original Q&A format, a picture, and both included chess games, please visit nwchess.com.

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From the Editor's Desk

Ralph Dubisch



People try to put us down (Talkin' 'bout my generation)....

Just how many issues of *Northwest Chess* have there been? Aside from a small number of double issues, *NWC* has published monthly pretty continuously since 1947, first as the *Washington Chess Letter*, then with a name change to the *Northwest Chess Letter*, then to *Northwest Chess*.

Russell Miller and John Donaldson did some research into back issues, identified a few numbering discrepancies, and concluded that this issue is not number 728, following last month's stated number 727. In fact, it is number 735, if I followed all of their analysis. Check out nwchess.com for the details. I understand issue number 750 will be a pretty big deal. Maybe we'll send cake and ice cream along with the magazine.

February is the season for state championships in the Northwest, with both Washington and Oregon holding high-powered round-robin events spanning two weekends. The Washington Championship was held on Microsoft's Redmond campus; the Oregon Championship was hosted at the acknowledged center of chess in Oregon, the Portland Chess Club.

For the first time, Washington Championship games were broadcast live on the Free Internet Chess Server (freechess.org), using borrowed DGT electronic boards. This would be a good idea in any case, but this year part of the prize fund was donated conditionally on the live relay, so there was sufficient incentive for the WCF to start figuring out the technical details. Let me emphasize that they've *started* working out the technical details. There's plenty of room for improvement next year.

Just because we get around (Talkin' 'bout my generation)....

Former Romanian junior champion Costin Cozianu came through with a clutch win in the last round of the Washington Championship to clinch the title by half a point, while one week later, Carl Haessler had the Oregon Championship all wrapped up with a round to play. We'll have much more on both championship sections in the coming month(s). Watch especially for the games of two 15-year-olds playing in Redmond: Michael Lee and Howard Chen. Michael was the second-highest rated player in the tournament, and he was in the lead going into the final round. Howard, however, was the lowest-rated player in the event as well as the youngest, qualifying from one of the junior championships. This didn't prevent him from playing some very serious chess, and he was in the hunt for first place until he lost in the last round.

Had either of these players won, they would have broken the record for youngest Washington Champion, set in 1976 – by another just-turned-16-year-old kid named Yasser Seirawan. Remarkable.

In addition to the Championship, Washington held two concurrent round-robin tournaments. The Premier and the Invitational provide a training ground for those not currently qualified by rating (or other means) for the Championship, and also seed players up the ladder into next-year's higher events. Our feature this month is Viktors Pupols, the winner of the Washington Premier. Viktors will be seeded into the Washington Championship next year as a result.

Things they do look awful cold (Talkin' 'bout my generation)....

Those playing through Viktors' games in this issue will notice that luck was definitely on his side. Do not suppose that this is somehow unusual or unfair. One needs a little luck to win tournaments. There are blunders in human chess games at all levels, and nobody expects games in the Premier, the State Championship, or even the World Championship, to be exempt from this principle. Sure, Uncle Vik picked up a point or two when opportunity knocked. He also gave away some half points. This is what tournament chess is all about: taking advantage of those opportunities that come along, without giving away too much. Viktors is very experienced at this game, and he is a formidable competitor. He knows not to give up when faced with a poor position. He knows to look at the clock before allowing the opponent to checkmate. This sounds basic, but you would be surprised how many players fail to do these kinds of things in the heat of battle.

Viktors is featured here, in March 2009. Looking back at Rusty Miller's history column, we see that Viktors was also mentioned in some previous March issues. March 1959 and March 1969, to be specific. Viktors may not be as young as he was in 1959 or 1969, but he's proving that age, in chess, can be both an advantage and an illusion. He out-experienced the field, and when that didn't work, he out-blitzed 'em. Viktors makes the case that "old" is just a state of mind.

Now *that's* pretty remarkable.

Hope I die before I get old (Talkin' 'bout my generation)....



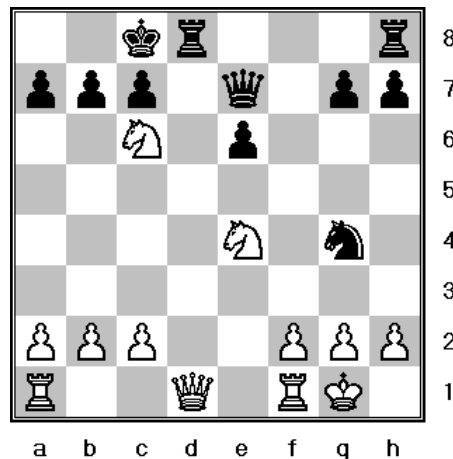
Games From the Washington Premier:

Part One

Viktors Pupols Annotates

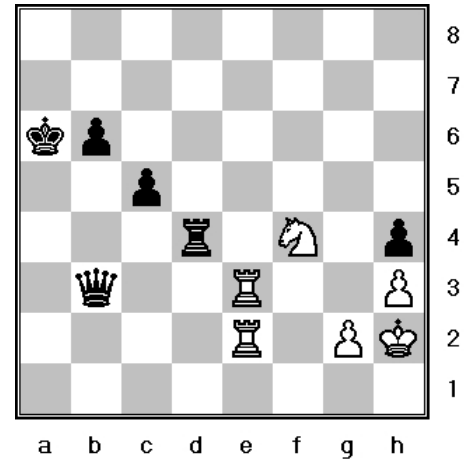
Michael MacGregor – Viktors Pupols
Washington Premier, Round 1
Redmond, February 7, 2009

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d4 Nc6 4. Nf3
exd4 5. e5 Ng4 6. 0-0 d6 7. exd6 Qxd6 8.
Bg5 Be6 9. Nbd2 Be7 10. Ne4 Qd7 11.
Bxe6 fxe6 12. Bxe7 Qxe7 13. Nxd4 0-0-0
14. Nxc6



14. ...Qh4 15. Qxg4 Qxg4 16. Nxd8
Rxd8 17. Rf1 Qf5 18. b4 b6 19. c3 h6 20.
Rac1 Qb5 21. f3 Qa4 22. Ra1 Kb7 23. h3
Qa3 24. Re2 a5 25. bxa5 Qxa5 26. a4 Kc8
27. Rb2 Qa6 28. Kh2 Rd5 29. Rba2 Ra5
30. Rd2 Rxa4 31. Rad1 Ra2 32. Rd8+ Kb7
33. R1d7 Qe2 34. Rxg7 Qxf3 35. Rd4 Qf4+

36. Ng3 Qe3 37. Rc4 Qe5 38. Re7 Rd2 39.
Re4 Qxc3 40. R4xe6 Qb2 41. Ne2 Ka6 42.
Re4 c5 43. Nf4 h5 44. R7e6 h4 45. Re7
Rd1 46. Ne2 Rd2 47. Nf4 Rd4 48. Re2 Qb3
49. R7e3

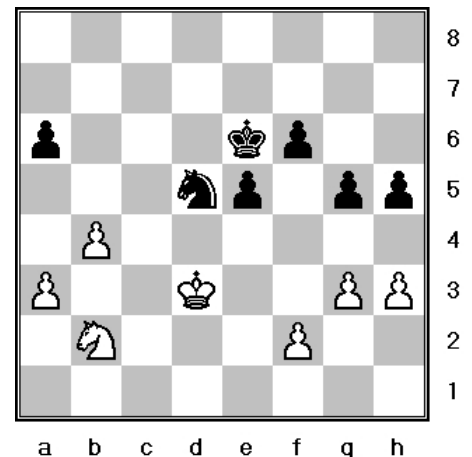


49. ...Qxe3 50. Rxe3 Rxf4 51. g4 hxg3+
52. Kxg3 Rf8 53. h4 c4 54. h5 b5 55. Re6+
Ka5 56. Rc6 Kb4 57. Kg4 c3

0-1

Viktors Pupols – Nathan Lee
Washington Premier, Round 2
Redmond, February 7, 2009

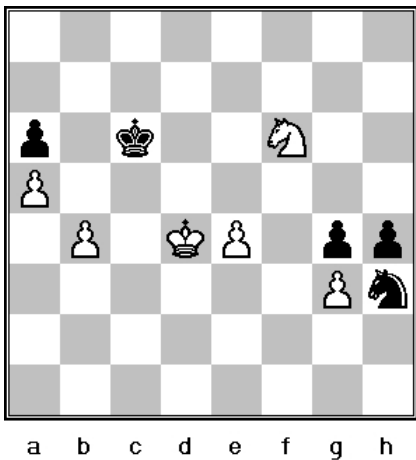
1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Bf4 e6 4. e3 Nbd7
5. Bd3 Be7 6. h3 b6 7. Nc3 a6 8. e4 dxe4 9.
Nxe4 Bb7 10. Qe2 Qc8 11. 0-0 0-0 12. c3
Nxe4 13. Bxe4 c5 14. Rad1 Nf6 15. Bxb7
Qxb7 16. Be5 Nd7 17. Bg3 Nf6 18. dxc5
Bxc5 19. Bd6 Rfe8 20. Bxc5 Rxc5 21. Rfe1
b5 22. Rd4 Rd5 23. Red1 Rad8 24. Rxd5
Rxd5 25. Rxd5 Qxd5 26. Qe5 Qxe5 27.
Nxe5 Kf8 28. c4 bxc4 29. Nxc4 Nd5 30.
Kf1 Ke7 31. Ke2 f6 32. g3 h5 33. a3 e5 34.
b4 Ke6 35. Kd3 g5 36. Nb2



36. ...Nb6

36. ...h4 wins.

37. a4 Kd5 38. a5 Nd7 39. Nd1 e4+ 40. Kc3 Ne5 41. Ne3+ Kc6 42. Kd4 Nd3 43. f3 Nf2 44. fxe4 Nxh3 45. Nd5 g4 46. Nxf6 h4



47. Nxc4?

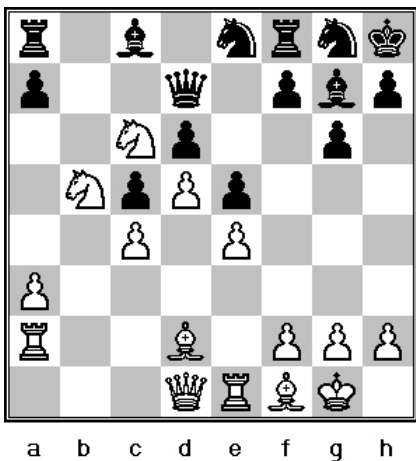
An optical illusion. 47. gxc4 g3 48. Ng4 is the same line, but White is a pawn up and wins.

47. ...hxc3 48. Ne5+ Kb5 49. Nf3 g2 50. e5 Ng5 51. Ng1 Kxb4 52. Ke3 Kxa5 53. Kf2 Kb5 54. Ne2 Kc5 55. Kxg2 a5 56. Nc3 Kd4 57. Na4 Kxe5 58. Kf2 Kd4 59. Ke2 Ne4 60. Kd1 Nc3+

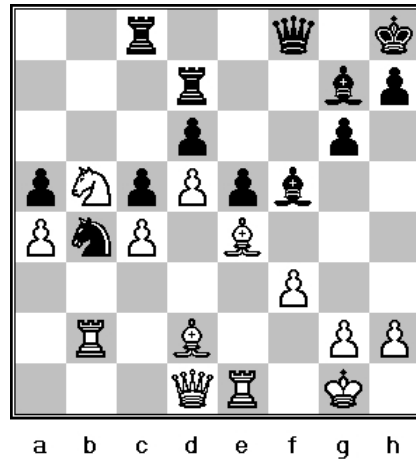
1/2-1/2

Elston Cloy – Viktors Pupols
Washington Premier, Round 3
Redmond, February 8, 2009

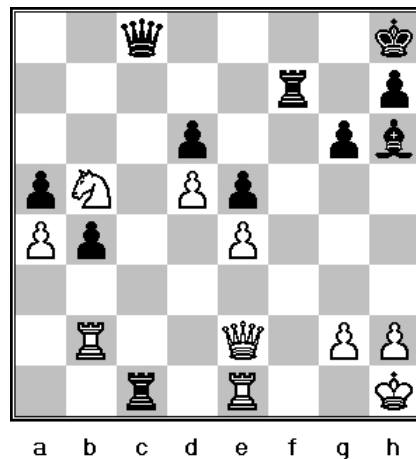
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 0-0 5. Nf3 d6 6. Be2 e5 7. 0-0 Nbd7 8. Re1 c6 9. Bf1 Re8 10. d5 Qe7 11. Nd2 Kh8 12. b4 c5 13. a3 Ng8 14. Nb3 b6 15. Ra2 Qd8 16. Nb5 Ndf6 17. bxc5 bxc5 18. Bd2 Rf8 19. Na5 Ne8 20. Nc6 Qd7



21. a4 f5 22. Bd3 fxe4 23. Bxe4 Ne7 24. Nxe7 Qxe7 25. f3 Bf5 26. Nc3 Nc7 27. Rb2 Na6 28. Nb5 Rf7 29. Qc2 Raf8 30. Qc1 Rc8 31. Qc2 Qf8 32. Qc1 Rb7 33. Qc2 Nb4 34. Qb1 a5 35. Qd1 Rd7



36. Qc1 Bxe4 37. Bxb4 cxb4 38. fxe4 Bh6 39. Qd1 Rxc4 40. Rf1 Qc8 41. Kh1 Rc1 42. Qe2 Rf7 43. Re1



43. ...Qc4 44. h3 Rxe1+ 45. Qxe1 Rf1+ 46. Qxf1 Qxf1+ 47. Kh2 Be3 48. h4 Bg1+ 49. Kh3 Bc5 50. Nc7 Qd3+ 51. g3 Qxe4

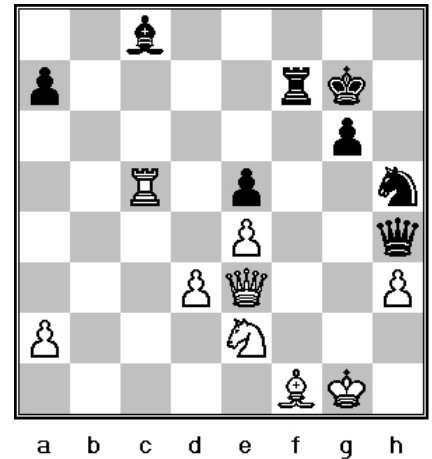
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Viktors Pupols – Allen Smith
Washington Premier, Round 4
Redmond, February 8, 2009

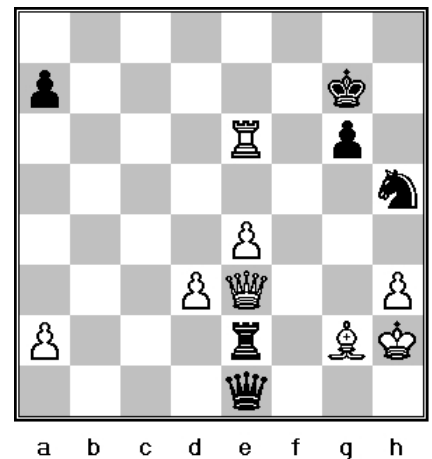
There are many slip-ups, particularly when both players get down to hanging flags.

1. e4 c5 2. d3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. f4 e6 6. Nf3 Nge7 7. 0-0 d6 8. h3 0-0 9. Nbd2 b5 10. Re1 Rb8 11. Nf1 b4 12. g4 f5 13. Ng3 e5 14. gxf5 exf4 15. Bxf4 Bxb2 16. Bh6 Bg7 17. Bxg7 Kxg7 18. Qc1 Ng8

19. Rf1 Ne5 20. Nxe5 dxe5 21. Kh2 Rb7 22. Qe3 Rc7 23. fxc6 hxc6 24. Rxf8 Kxf8 25. Ne2 Qh4 26. Kg1 Kg7 27. c3 Nf6 28. Rc1 bxc3 29. Rxc3 Qe1+ 30. Bf1 Nh5 31. Rc1 Qh4 32. Rxc5 Rf7



33. Bg2? (33. Rc1!) 33. ...Qe1+? (33. ...Bxh3!) 34. Kh2 Be6? (34. ...Nf4!) 35. Rxe5 Rf2 36. Rxe6 Rxe2



37. Qxa7+?? (37. Qg5 mates.)

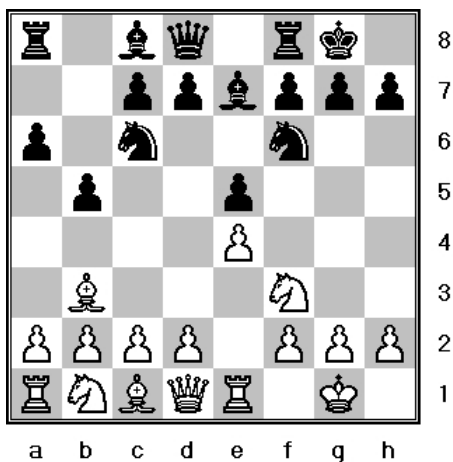
37. ...Kh6 38. Qe7 Qg3+

Faced with mate in one, White makes the correct move: look at the clock!!

1-0

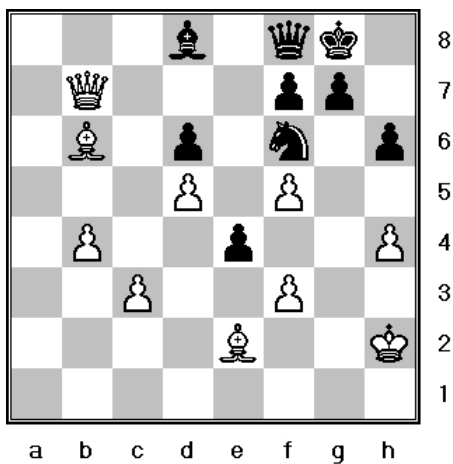
Paul Bartron – Viktors Pupols
Washington Premier, Round 5
Redmond, February 14, 2009

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 0-0



This is frequently played; by threatening the Marshall gambit, Black hopes to dissuade White from making the strongest move, 8. c3.

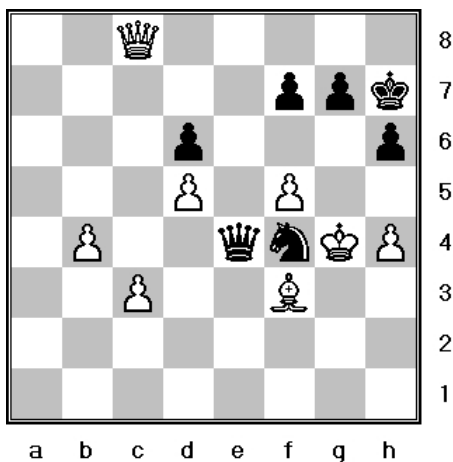
8. a4 Bb7 9. c3 d6 10. d4 h6 11. axb5 axb5 12. Rxa8 Qxa8 13. d5 Nb8 14. Nh4 Nbd7 15. Nf5 Re8 16. f3 Nf8 17. Na3 Ba6 18. Nc2 Ng6 19. Nb4 Bf8 20. Qd3 Qb7 21. Bc2 Nd7 22. Qf1 Nc5 23. h4 Ra8 24. Be3 Ne7 25. g4 Qc8 26. Ra1 Bb7 27. Kh2 Qe8 28. Rxa8 Bxa8 29. Qa1 Nxf5 30. gxf5 c6 31. Qa7 cxd5 32. Nxd5 Bxd5 33. exd5 Be7 34. b4 Nd7 35. Bd3 Nf6 36. Qb7 e4 37. Bxb5 Qd8 38. Bb6 Qf8 39. Be2 Bd8



40. Bxd8??

Now Black can actually get behind White's lines. 40. Bd4 would win.

40. ...Qxd8 41. Kh3 Nh5 42. Bd1 Qe8 43. fxe4 Nf4+ 44. Kg4 Qxe4 45. Qc8+ Kh7 46. Bf3



46. ...Qe5

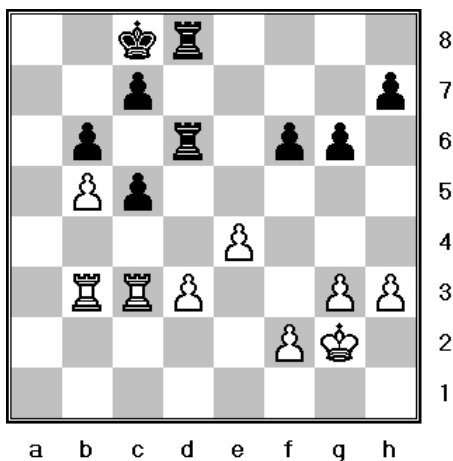
Not as forcing as the immediate 46. ...h5+.

47. Qc4 h5+ 48. Kg3 Qe1+

0-1

Geoffrey Gale – Viktors Pupols
Washington Premier, Round 6
Redmond, February 14, 2009

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Bc5 5. Nxc6 Qf6 6. Qd2 dxc6 7. Nc3 Bd4 8. Bd3 Ne7 9. 0-0 Ng6 10. Rb1 Ne5 11. Ne2 Bb6 12. b3 Qe7 13. Bb2 Bd7 14. Qc3 f6 15. a4 Bc5 16. Qd2 Bg4 17. h3 Nxd3 18. cxd3 Bxe2 19. Qxe2 0-0-0 20. Bc3 Bd4 21. Rfc1 g6 22. b4 Qe5 23. Qb2 Rd6 24. Qb3 Rhd8 25. b5 c5 26. a5 Bxc3 27. Rxc3 b6 28. axb6 axb6 29. g3 Qe6 30. Kg2 Qxb3 31. Rbxb3



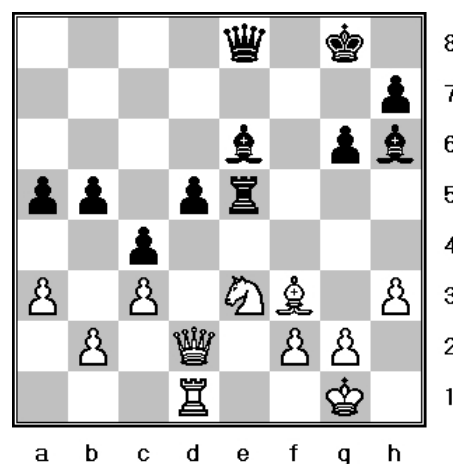
31. ...Rd4 32. Kf3 Ra4 33. h4 Rd6 34. Ke3 Kd7 35. f4 c6 36. bxc6+ Kxc6 37. Ra3

Rdd4 38. Rxa4 Rxa4 39. Rc4 Ra3 40. Rc1 b5 41. Kd2 c4 42. dxc4 b4 43. e5 fxe5 44. fxe5 Rxc3 45. Re1 Kd7 46. Re4 Ke6 47. c5 Rc3 48. Rxb4 Rxc5 49. Rb7 Rd5+ 50. Kc3 Rxe5 51. Rxh7 Rd5 52. Kc4 Ra5 53. Kd4 Kf5 54. Rh6 Ra8 55. Ke3 Rb8 56. Kd4 Re8 57. Kd3 Re1 58. Kd4 Re4+ 59. Kd3 Rg4 60. Ke3 Rg3+ 61. Kf2 Ra3 62. Kg2 Ra6 63. Kg3 Ra3+ 64. Kg2 Rb3 65. Kf2 Rb2+ 66. Kg3 Rb3+ 67. Kf2 Rb2+

1/2-1/2

Viktors Pupols – Kerry Xing
Washington Premier, Round 7
Redmond, February 15, 2009

1. d4 f5 2. Bg5 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 fxe4 5. Nxe4 d5 6. Ng3 Nh6 7. Nf3 Nf7 8. Be3 0-0 9. Qd2 c5 10. c3 c4 11. Be2 Nc6 12. 0-0 b5 13. Bd1 a5 14. a3 Rb8 15. Bf4 Rb6 16. Re1 Re8 17. h3 e5 18. dxe5 Nxe5 19. Nxe5 Nxe5 20. Bxe5 Rxe5 21. Bf3 Rbe6 22. Rxe5 Rxe5 23. Ne2 Be6 24. Nd4 Bd7 25. Rd1 Qe8 26. Nc2 Be6 27. Ne3 Bh6



28. Nxd5

The drawn endgames a pawn up are avoided by the less flashy 28. Qd4.

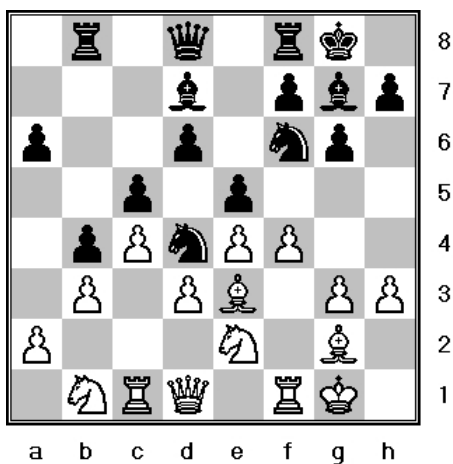
28. ...Bxd2 29. Nf6+ Kf8 30. Nxe8 Re1+ 31. Rxe1 Bxe1 32. Nd6 b4 33. axb4 axb4 34. Be2 bxc3 35. bxc3 Bxc3 36. Bxc4 Ke7 37. Bxe6 Kxd6 38. Bg8 h6 39. Kf1 g5 40. Ke2 Ke5 41. Kf3 Bd4 42. Bf7 Be5 43. Bg6 Bb6 44. Kg3 Be5 45. Bc2 Bd4 46. f3 Kf6 47. h4 gxh4+ 48. Kxh4 Be3 49. Kg4 Bd2

1/2-1/2

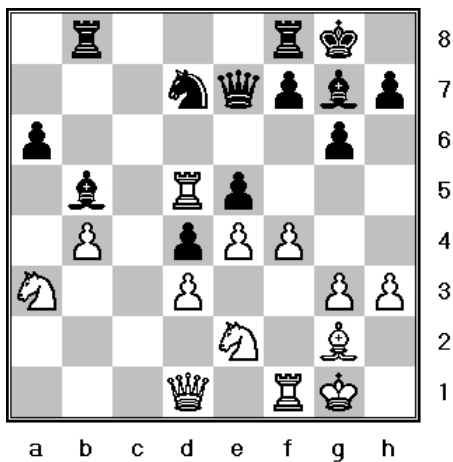
Alex Guo – Viktors Pupols
Washington Premier, Round 8
Redmond, February 15, 2009

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 g6 3. e4 d6 4. g3 Bg7 5. Bg2 c5 6. Nge2 Nc6 7. 0-0 0-0 8. d3 Bd7 9. h3 a6 10. Be3 Rb8 11. b3 b5 12. Rc1 b4

13. Nb1 e5 14. f4 Nd4



15. Bxd4 cxd4 16. c5 Bb5 17. a4 bxa3
18. Nxa3 dxc5 19. Rxc5 Qe7 20. b4 Nd7
21. Rd5



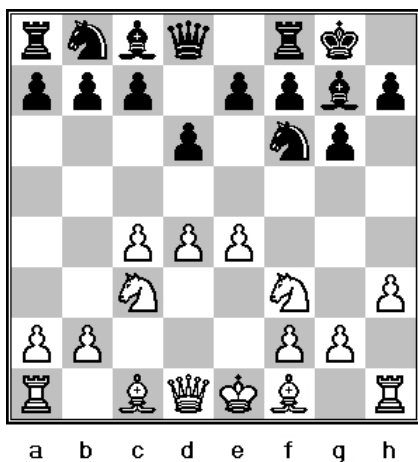
21. ...Nb6 22. Nxb5 Nxd5 23. exd5
Rxb5 24. Qa4 Qxb4 25. Qxa6 Rb6 26. Qa7
Rbb8 27. Qd7 Qd2 28. Qg4 Qxd3 29. f5
Rb1 30. Be4 Qe3+ 31. Kg2 Rxf1 32. Kxf1
h5 33. Qf3 Qxf3+ 34. Bxf3 gxf5 35. Bxh5
Rd8

0-1

Viktors Pupols – Dereque Kelley
Washington Premier, Round 9
Bellevue, February 16, 2009

As the last round started, Dereque might still tie for first with a win. Having the white pieces enables me to have a pawn structure that cannot be broken.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6
5. Nf3 0-0 6. h3



Introduced by the Baku master (and mathematician) Makogonov. In 1944, he beat Bronstein and Taimanov by playing g2-g4 and castling Queenside. There is also an idea of allowing Nf6-h5-f4 and attacking it with g3.

6. ...Na6

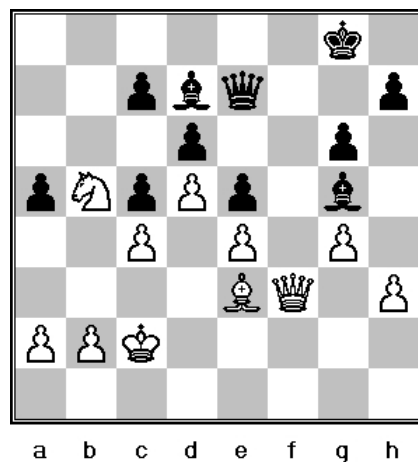
More usually Black plays 6. ...c5 7. d5 e6, and when he exchanges on d5, cxd5 would lead to Benoni variations, but exd5 would stay symmetrical.

7. Bg5 e5 8. d5 Qe8 9. Be2 Nh5 10. Ng1
Nf4 11. g3 Nxe2 12. Qxe2 f5 13. f3 fxe4
14. fxe4 Qf7 15. Rh2 Nb4



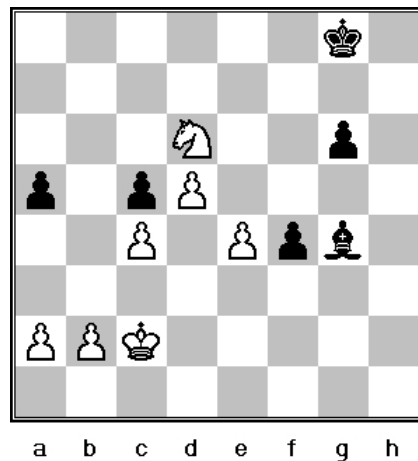
Cheap threats on c2 or d3, but 16. 0-0-0 avoids them. Soon Dereque repositions the knight.

16. 0-0-0 a5 17. Be3 Bd7 18. Rf2 Qe7
19. Rdf1 Bf6 20. Qd2 Na6 21. g4 Bh4 22.
Rf3 Nc5 23. Kc2 Bf6 24. Nge2 Bg7 25. Nc1
Rxf3 26. Rxf3 Rf8 27. Qg2 b6 28. Nd3
Rxf3 29. Qxf3 Bf6 30. Nxc5 bxc5 31. Nb5
31. ...Bg5



This winning attempt fails because the pawn chain favors White. Maybe next time Dereque will try 6. ...c5, when his black-squared bishop would have more scope.

32. Bxg5 Qxg5 33. Nxc7 Qf4 34. Qxf4
exf4 35. Nb5 h5 36. Nxd6 hxg4 37. hxg4
Bxg4



38. Kd2!

Avoids ...f4-f3-f2, when the white king cannot approach.

38. ...Kf8 39. e5 Ke7 40. Ne4 Bf5 41.
Nxc5

41. Ng5 would block Black's pawns, but 41. ...Bb1 would be very annoying.

41. ...g5 42. d6+

1-0

Transitions

by Pete Prochaska



“Don’t just do something...sit there!”

Student: Pete, I’ve been wrestling with an idea you recently shared with me. It makes a great sense to me, but I’m having problems with the mechanics.

Coach: Not to worry; such things happen. Understanding often has to be dragged kicking and screaming out of even an apparently straightforward concept. What’s giving you trouble?

Student: Well, you said masters decide what they want to do before they decide how to do it. Then you said the “what?” comes from reading the board like a wilderness guide reads a landscape. A master may use his experience, judgment and knowledge to find the right path, but...I’m not a seasoned wilderness guide, I’m just a tenderfoot!

Coach: We all were once. Do you know who Wilhelm Steinitz was?

Student: The first World Champion, wasn’t he?

Coach: Yes, he was. Steinitz was a great player, but he was an even greater thinker. He was the first really strong player to attempt a description of the strategic principles of chess.

Student: Did he get it right?

Coach: To a large degree—yes, especially when one remembers he was mapping a wilderness no one had previously explored in any systematic way. Of course, there’ve been many refinements and a number of additional insights over the last century or so. However, his central perception unlocked the door to most all of the serious study of chess that followed.

Student: And that was?

Coach: That proper play—a plan, a move, anything—arises from the specific features of the specific position a player is confronting.

Student: But isn’t that obvious?

Coach: Well, it certainly wasn’t before Steinitz. The common view was that a great player—Anderssen, Morphy, Blackburne, any of them—won games because of their

unique, individual genius, mostly for making combinations. Even today, many players seem to ignore Steinitz’s profound insight.

Student: Really?

Coach: Of course everyone gives lip service to Steinitz’s idea. However, many players still bang out whatever move occurs to them, and hope that they’ll somehow find a way to win. “Hope chess” isn’t a whole lot different than chess before Steinitz’s revolutionary insight.

Student: Hope chess?

Coach: “I’m going to play this, and I hope I can find a way to win...or at least deal with whatever my opponent plays.”

Student: Oh, I get it. I guess I do that more often than I like to admit.

Coach: Good for you. It’s hard to admit something like that, but it’s a key step towards solving the problem. So the first thing to do is to resist the temptation to bang out a move. Instead, take a good look at what’s going on in front of you.

Student: That makes sense, but even when I do sit on my hands, mostly I just get confused.

Coach: Again, that’s pretty normal. As I’ve said before, confusion is a constant companion of any serious chessplayer. There are many differences between masters and other players, but—in this context—the key one is that masters refuse to give into that confusion and just make a move, any move. The maxim “Don’t do something, just sit there—and look!” is normally the key to unlocking the secrets in a position.

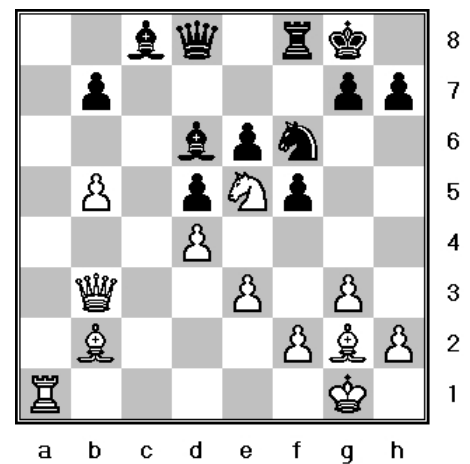
Student: Okay, I get it. What am I looking for, and how do I know if I’ve found it?

Coach: You mentioned “What? Before How?” a minute ago. “What?” is really a two part question: “What’s going on here?” and “What do I want to do about it?”

Student: That makes sense.

Coach: At this point, an example will probably help. This was played in an open

tournament in Hungary in 1993. British Grandmaster **Peter Wells**, is playing White. His opponent is **Leonid Totsky** of Russia, who was—I believe—an International Master at the time of the game.



Here Black to played 20...Nf6-e4. You’re playing White. What’s your first question?

Student: What’s the threat?

Coach: Good. Bye-the-way, that’s better phrasing than “Is there a threat?” It makes sense to assume there is a threat until you’ve know there isn’t.

Student: Let’s see...he doesn’t have any checks. There are two captures—on f2 and e5. The first one goes nowhere, and the second one—well, I guess I’m not sure whether that’s a threat or not. I know chess games are often decided in the captures, but I don’t know how to figure out whether this one is critical.

Coach: It’s important to see that it *might* be. Put that on hold for a second. Does 21...Bd6xe4 cost you material in the traditional sense?

Student: No—3 points each. But...

Coach: Yes, I know—those values are subject to modification, but we can’t really

assess that question until we've dug further into the position. So does he have a threat that—at least at this initial phase—you need worry about.

Student: I don't see one.

Coach: Okay, then let's move on to your active possibilities. What's the fundamental question you need to answer?

Student: Hmm... "How can I improve my position?"

Coach: Right! So what's next?

Student: Forcing sequences, I suppose. I don't have any checks either, and I don't see a way to threaten mate, win his queen or make any other big threats. I do have two captures. 21.Qb3xd5 looks dumb, but even moves like that need a quick glance. Here, I don't see any follow up, and so I'll discard it. I can play 21.Bg2xe4, but I'm as unclear on that possibility as I am about 21...Bd6xe5. It doesn't lose material, at least in terms of points. Beyond that, I'm not sure.

Coach: I like your attitude. Humility in the face of the complexity of a middlegame position is the first step towards wisdom—and playing strength! When you're sure of everything, you're sure to be missing something! Of course, there are positions—forced mates, for example—in which you can be absolutely sure. But on the whole, doubt is a powerful tool for exploring a chess position.

Student: Thank you. So how do we go forward here?

Coach: Well, we probably should clarify a couple of things before we really start digging.

Student: Like what?

Coach: To start with... what does it mean to improve the position? What makes one position better than another one? [Chuckles] Are we striving for some visually pleasing arrangement of the pieces, or something like that?

Student: Of course not. But I see what you mean. It's hard to do something well if you don't have a clear sense of what you're trying to do. I guess we're looking for ways to increase our chances to win the game.

Coach: Good for you. I know that seems really simple, but it's the key to seeing a position accurately, and to assessing it properly. As is often the case, mastery is rooted in a profound understanding of basic

principles.

Student: Okay, I guess that makes sense. What else?

Coach: Contrary to popular opinion, the goal of assessment is not some mathematically precise decision about who stands better. Rather, the goal of assessment is a deep understanding of the imbalances in a given position. Understanding the interplay of the various imbalances is the key to understanding where our chances lie, and to deciding which ones are most promising.

Student: I'll need to think about that a bit; knowing whether I'm ahead or behind seems pretty important to me. However, I do get the idea of understanding the imbalances in a position. So what are the key imbalances I need to consider?

Coach: (smiling) That can get pretty confusing since everyone seems to have their own list! However, everyone agrees the material balance is crucial, so let's start there. How do things stand here?

Student: Well, the "point count" it is balanced, but that's hardly the whole story. Look at Black's c8-bishop. It's so badly blocked in that it can hardly move. White's g2-bishop seems like a much better piece.

Coach: You're right. One useful way to dig into a position is to compare like pieces, especially pieces that might be traded for each other. Follow that line of thought for a moment: how do the other pieces compare with each other?

Student: Hmm...both knights seem well placed, and Black's d6-bishop seems like a good piece. White's b2-bishop also seems okay—supporting the center, and perhaps being able to challenge the a3-f8 diagonal. Both queens seem like they have reasonable possibilities. White's rook has more obvious possibilities because of the two open files on the queenside, but the Black rook might be powerful if Black were able to create an attack against the White king.

Coach: Good job. In most cases, the same pieces *aren't* the same because of the impact of other aspects of the position. This is a matter of *scope*—what each piece adds to the overall war effort. You also touched on the question of *structure*—the arrangement of the pawns—which form the terrain on which the chess battle is fought. And you noticed that the most obvious aspect of *safety*—the safety of the kings—

might also play a role.

Student: Is there more to safety than that? Many books just talk about "king safety".

Coach: Let's look at the position in front of us. Is White likely to build a strong attack against the Black king, at least at this point?

Student: It doesn't look like it.

Coach: Does that mean there are no vulnerable points in the Black position?

Student: Well, no...there are those two open files on the queenside. If the White rook could penetrate...I see what you mean; a player's king could be safe, but his position could still be vulnerable. Are there other things I need to consider?

Coach: Well, there are the final two S's—*space* and *synergy*.

Student: I think get the space thing. What's synergy?

Coach: Other words that are often used are teamwork, coordination, or harmony. While scope refers to the impact of an individual piece, synergy refers to the impact of the whole army. Space and synergy are closely related, by-the-way. If pieces lack space, it's often hard for them to operate in a coordinated way.

Student: That makes sense. Here White has a spatial advantage on the queenside, and the c8-bishop is suffering as a result. Didn't someone say that if one piece is bad, the whole position is bad? Is that true?

Coach: It was Tarrasch. He was a great teacher, and sometimes phrased things more for pedagogical clarity and impact than for absolute accuracy. However, it is often true that a badly placed piece can be a cancer that destroys one side's synergy. Okay, what about the rest of the position?

Student: Well, things seem balanced in the center, and Black has some spatial advantage on the kingside. However, White doesn't seem to have any problems coordinating his pieces there, so maybe that's not a big deal. I have a question that might be related. I remembering reading something by Garry Kasparov which talked the "quality of the position." What's that?

Coach: (chuckling) A confusing topic, but a critical one. I'm reminded of that Supreme Court Justice who said that he couldn't define obscenity, but he knew it when he saw it! In a nutshell, quality

represents all those factors that add to or detract from the “value” of the pieces. The five S’s—safety, structure, space, scope, and synergy—give us a pretty reasonable starting point for assessing the quality of a position.

Student: I see. Isn’t time also an important factor in a position?

Coach: Indeed it is, though one always needs to ask “Time for what?”

Student: What do you mean?

Coach: Is having the move always an advantage?

Student: Heck no. In fact, in many king & pawn endings you want your opponent to move.

Coach: Absolutely right. So the value of having the move is always related to what you can do with it. For that reason, I think the key thing to consider is what opportunities we have or might have in the position. There are two more factors that impact our opportunities—initiative and control.

Student: Can you spin those out for me?

Coach: They’re related. The simplest way to think of initiative is that having it is like having the ball on the soccer pitch. You’re putting on the pressure; you’re making the threats. You’re acting and your opponent is reacting. Control is a harder concept to grasp. It is similar, but in a somewhat broader sense; perhaps one could call it “strategic initiative.” When you have control of the position, play is flowing in your direction. A classic example is playing for two results.

Student: Two results?

Coach: Playing for two results means playing a position that you can win or draw; there’s no realistic option of losing. In fact, one key goal in defending many simplified middlegames or endings is putting the third result on the table—that is finding ways to give your opponent losing chances as well.

Student: I think I understand, but I’ll need to see some examples to really get it.

Coach: Okay, I’ll keep that in mind. We’ve covered a lot of ground, and it’s time to start putting things together. Spend a few minutes just looking at the position and mulling over the various imbalances you’ve uncovered. Where do you see opportunities to improve your position?

Student: Don’t I also have to worry about his opportunities?

Coach: You do, indeed. However, my experience is that far too many—in fact, most—non-master players take a defensive stance far too quickly. So I’d rather have you start thinking about your possibilities. We can factor in his opportunities after you have a sense of yours. Given all we’ve discussed, what might you imagine doing to cause your opponent problems?

[The Student thinks for awhile.]

Student: Well, I’d like to use the open files to get my heavy pieces into his position. However, if I penetrate on the a-file with my rook, I’m not sure how much pressure I can bring to bear. The c8-bishop holds the b-pawn pretty securely, and the bishop itself is solidly defended. The c-file would be a better possibility, but the c7-square is...oh wait a minute...if I could trade the d6-bishop with 21.Bb2-a3 then I might well be able to penetrate, so maybe I just play it.

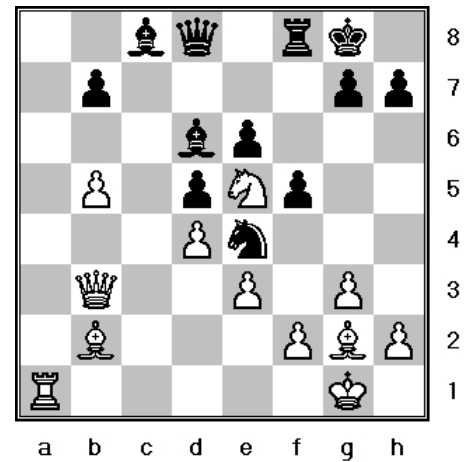
Coach: Hang on a second. You’ve seen some important stuff, but don’t go too fast. You’ll certainly increase your chances by trading the dark-squared bishops, but is that the best you can do? What’s Black’s worst piece?

Student: His bishop on c8. Oh, I see. If I also captured the e4-knight, he’d be left with his silly c8-bishop against my powerful e5-knight—and that will only make it harder for him to defend the queenside. And exchanging off the e4-knight and the d6-bishop will also reduce any chances he might have against my king. Let’s see, I want to take the knight first...if I play 21.Bb2-a3, he’ll play 21...Bd6xa3 and then retreat the knight...or retreat the bishop if I take the knight—so one more minor piece survives. So can I go ahead and take the knight?

Coach: Almost. However, you still need to check the move from a tactical point of view. If you play, 21.Bg2xe4, is he forced to recapture?

Student: He isn’t, is he? He could play 21...Bd6xe5 instead, couldn’t he? Okay, then I play 22.Be4xd5 and he can take either with the queen or the pawn. If he plays 22...e6xd5, I’ll have 23.d4xe5. I’m a pawn up with a strong passed e-pawn and he has weak pawns at d5 and b7. That looks delightful to me. So he probably takes back with the queen; then I can trade queens with

23.Qb3xd5 e6xd5 and take the bishop with 24.d4xe5. I guess he could attack my b-pawn with 24...Bc8-d7, but I could advance it, or even better play 25.Ra1-a7 and meet 25...Bc8xb5 with 26.Ra7xb7 with a great position. He could defend the b-pawn with 25...Rf8-b8, I guess, but then I have 26.e5-e6 and his position is collapsing. All that looks fine for me, so 21.Bg2xe4 looks like the move.



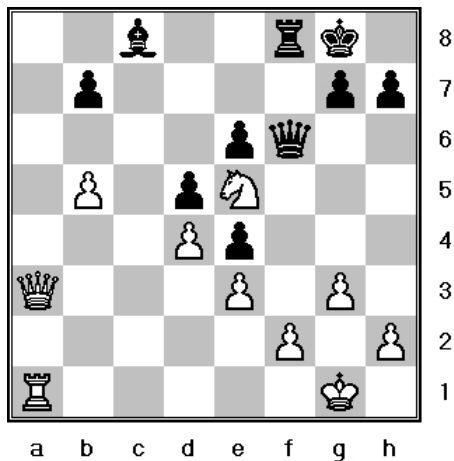
Coach: Indeed it does. Wells played 21.Bg2xe4! and Black replied 21...f5xe4. In his notes to the game, Wells suggests that Black should probably prefer 21...Bd6xe5, and gives the same lines you worked out.

Student: Cool! Thanks for slowing me down and making me really look. In a game, I’m afraid I might have just banged out 21.Bg2xe4 and then been surprised by 21...Bd6xe5. I don’t like surprises!

Coach: Neither do I. The key is not rushing...even when you’re “sure” you know the right move. Wells now continued with 22.Bb2-a3! and for all intents and purposes, Black is lost. The game continued 22...Bd6xa3 23.Qb3xa3 Qd8-f6. What would you do now?

Student: Hmm...he has a threat: 24...Qf6xf2+. So what? Well, he wins a pawn and starts play against my king...no point in that unless I have something powerful in return, and that doesn’t seem likely. So the threat is real. Can I ignore it because I have something even stronger? I don’t see any forcing sequences, so I doubt it. So I need to defend. What’s possible?...24.Ra1-f1, 24.Ra1-a2 and 24.Qa3-b2. Does one of those meet the threat while also advancing my own goals? Well, 24.Ra1-f1 is completely passive, so

let's skip that unless everything else goes down the drain. 24.Ra1-a2 seems better, but it also ties the rook to a defensive role when I really want it blasting through to Black's 7th rank. So 23.Qb3-b2 seems best; not only does it meet the threat, it also keeps the rook free for active duty and supports the advance of the b-pawn, which might be needed to allow the rook to invade on c7.

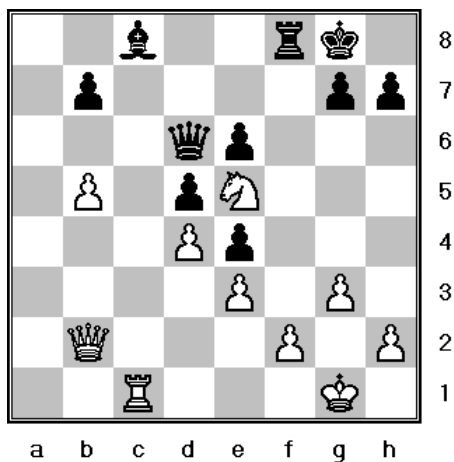


Coach: Good job! Wells did, indeed play 24.Qa3-b2! and after 24...Qf6-e7, he brought his rook to the c-file with 25.Ra1-c1, and Black continued with 25...Qe7-d6.

Student: Wouldn't 25...Bc8-d7 make more sense, trying to activate his bishop?

Coach: Sure, if it weren't for 26.Rc1-c7, hitting the b-pawn and the bishop. Then 26...Rf8-d8 looks forced, and after 27.Rc7xb7, resignation is a reasonable option.

Student: Point made. What did White play now?



Coach: 26.b5-b6, preparing the decisive penetration of the rook. Now Black was

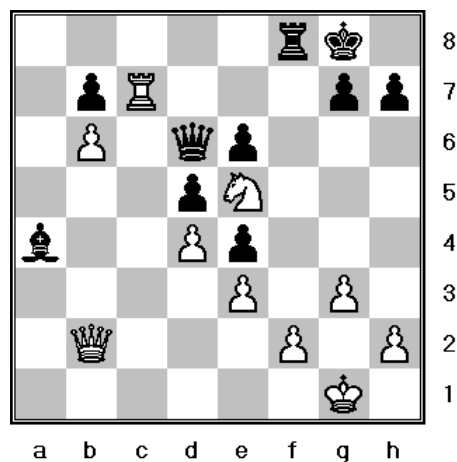
finally able to get the bishop off the back row with 26...Bc8-d7 and after 27.Rc1-c7 tried to activate his bishop with 27...Bd7-a4

Student: Shouldn't he play 27...Bd7-c6 defending the b-pawn?

Coach: 27...Bd7-a4 certainly is a desperate attempt to create some play, but 27...Bd7-c6 doesn't really help, either. White plays 28.Ne5xc6 b7xc6 29.Qb2-c3 and Black won't be able to resist much longer. So what should White do now?

Student: Just take the pawn, I guess. No...wait a minute, that's sloppy thinking. Does he have a threat? Not really; his bishop can invade White's kingside light-squares via d1 and f3, but there's no way for Black to increase his pressure before White breaks through on the queenside.

Coach: Well done! Countless players have lost countless games by rushing ahead with an apparently "obvious" move, only to be blindsided by some nasty counterblow. In this case, Black doesn't have anything that need worry White. But the only way to know that is to take a good hard look at the position. As always, the truth is in the variations. One of the most important moments to remember the injunction "Don't just do something, sit there—and look!" is when you're converting an advantage to victory.

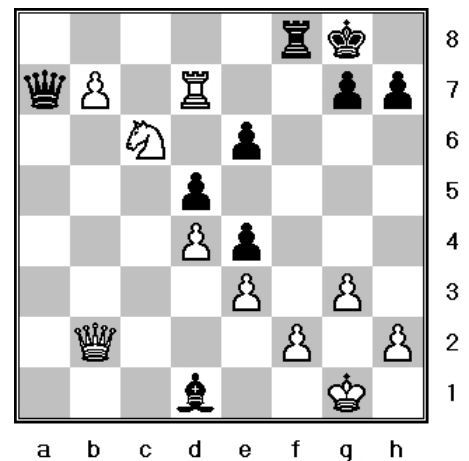


Now the game continued 28.Rc7xb7 Ba4-d1

Student: Well, that's consistent, I guess, but wouldn't 28...Rf8-c8 at least try to get the rook into the game? It looks like too little, too late, but still...

Coach: Right on all counts. From here, Black has no way to put up any meaningful

resistance, and the game finished quickly: 29.Rb7-d7 Qd6-b8 30.b6-b7 Qb8-a7 31.Ne5-c6



1-0

Student: That's a neat game. I know your next question is going to be what lessons I can draw from the game and our discussion of it. As you said earlier, we've covered a lot of ground today; let me see if I can summarize some key ideas.

To start with, finding your way through a position starts with studying the actual position in front of you. I like your phrase, "Don't just do something, sit there—and look!" As you consider the position, the key thing is to see the various imbalances. Those imbalances will lead us to our opportunities to improve our chances to win the game. How's that?

Coach: Good job. One thing I'd add is the conclusion of the Wells-Totsky game is a good illustration of what strong players mean when they talk about "controlling a position." After the exchange of the minor pieces, the only question was whether White was going to win or if, by some miracle, Black could draw. Wells was in total control of the proceedings. Also, once again—the game was decided in the captures. Not all captures are critical, but it makes sense to assume a capture is critical until you know otherwise.

Student: Thanks, Pete. I'll see you again soon.



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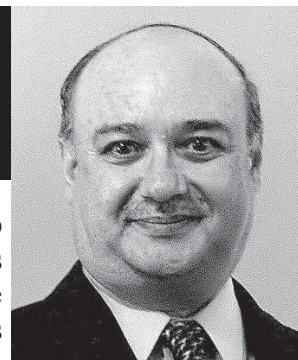


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Publisher's Desk

by Duane Polich



February. Love is in the air, or is that my shadow? I cannot tell a lie, I have not met a cherry pie that I didn't like. Many things go on in the month of February, but chess-wise here in Washington State it means the State Chess Championship, which has grown over the years to include the Premier, and now the Invitational.

Thirty lucky and somewhat skilled players converged this year at Microsoft's Cafeteria 43 in Redmond to battle for over \$5,000 in prizes. Some might recall this as being the site for the Washington Open back at the beginning of the century. This year, using inside contacts, we were able to secure the site for this event, although we didn't get approval till the week before. Thanks to the hard work of many people, including Josh Sinanan, Dan Mathews, Greg Prentice, Fred Kleist, Eric Holcomb and others, the event came off surprisingly well with just a few hitches (not including the plugged up toilet).

For those of us with a few gray hairs showing we remember the state championships being dominated by the likes of Uncle Vik and Dirty Jim McCormick, John Braley and such. Then along came members of my generation, like John Donaldson, Neil Salmon, and Eric Tangborn (the Tacoma trio); others right behind included Bill Schill and at the time 15/16-year-old Yasser Seirawan, the youngest winner of the State Championship. Yasser, of course, went on to become an international star.

So this year we had a former Romanian junior champion who came to Seattle to work for Amazon, Costin Cozianu, and a member of the U.S. Women's Olympiad team, WGM Katerina Rohonyan, who has moved to Seattle for a job at Microsoft.

But the story of the event was the result of another 15-year-old player, Michael Lee, who ended up tied for second place. Only his last round loss to Katerina prevented him from becoming the youngest State Champion (by a matter of months) in history. Seemingly another rising star like Yasser, it will be interesting to see just how far Michael is able to progress. Understandably, Michael has a variety of interests and is a very talented piano player; it is unknown whether he wants to make the dedication to chess to become a Grandmaster and a top player. Yasser was fortunate to have the mentoring of Vik, Jim, and other local masters, but blossomed into a world class competitor with his relationship with Viktor Kortchnoi (acting as his second in preparation for World Championship matches). Will Michael take a similar path to the top?

Not to be overlooked was the result of the winner of the Washington Junior Closed seed, another 15-year-old, Howard Chen. Usually the winner of the Washington Junior becomes fodder for the other players, but not this year. Howard's mature style helped him hold his own against higher-rated competition and showed that the Junior seed actually belongs in the State Championship. He has the potential to go far as well.

Missing from this year's event was Washington's only resident grandmaster and our top international master. For the last few years WCF has been fortunate to receive a couple of prize-fund donations, which have allowed us to increase the prize fund in the State Championship to \$3500. First prize alone was over \$1500. The intent of the donations was to make it attractive enough for the top players to play in the qualifying events and in the State

Championship as well. This hasn't quite worked out as intended. The

top players have not played in the qualifying events as much as we would have liked, and it seems each year we are granting some exception to the events participation requirement. But this year it seemed that to attract the top players it would once again require appearance fees, something the donors were adamantly against. Yes, the players need to make a living, but first place was nothing to sneeze at. So how do we solve that problem? This is a topic of discussion for another column or on the forum.

In closing I want to offer my congratulations to Costin Cozianu, our new Washington State Champion, Viktors Pupols, winner of the Premier, and Peter Watts, winner of the Invitational. Way to go guys!. Oh, just as a sidenote, I played in the Invitational. In each of my games my opponent was busted, dead lost, position resignable. Then I made my first move. Play On !

Oh and don't forget the Washington Open is in Spokane this year on the Memorial Day weekend at the Red Lion on the Spokane River. Make your plans now to attend.

Duane

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Entry Fee: Online, \$135 by 5/15, \$155 by 7/29. By mail, \$137 postmarked by 5/15, \$157 postmarked by 7/23. By phone, \$140 by 5/15, \$160 by 7/29. At site, all \$180. GMs free.

Entry: USCF, ATTN: 2009 US Open, PO. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557. Online entry: <https://secure.uschess.org/webstore/tournaments.php>. Phone entry: 800-903-8723. Tournament website: main.uschess.org/tournaments/2009/usopen/. FIDE rated, no cell phones. Bring a clock - none supplied. Sets/boards supplied for tournament but not for skittles. WCL JGP.

Opening Arguments

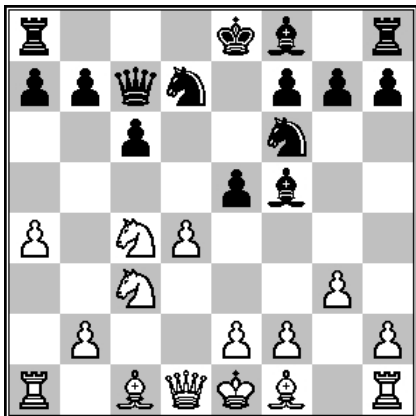
by Harley Greninger



Chess is a battle of ideas. You have an idea and your opponent also has an idea. If your ideas are better, you win (or you're enjoying the stronger side of a draw). If your opponent has the better ideas, then you lose (or are suffering the weaker side of a draw). This is what chess is all about. This month I present my personal favorite game of the recent Washington State Championship. Josh Sinanan and I have been arguing an opening here of late. Josh believes White should be winning and I believe Black has sufficient resources to (at least) hold the position. Let's take a look...

Josh Sinanan – Harley Greninger
Washington Challenger's Cup, Round 4
Tacoma, December 28, 2008

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 d5 4. d4 dxc4
 5. a4 Bf5 6. Ne5 Nbd7 7. Nxc4 Qc7 8. g3
 e5



a b c d e f g h

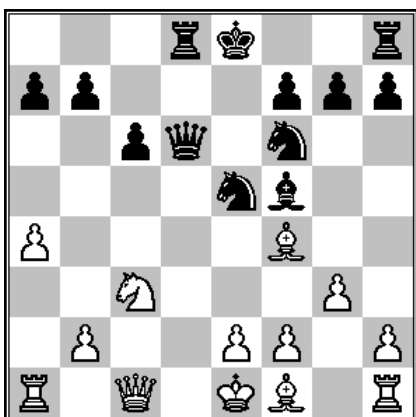
9. dxe5 Nxe5 10. Bf4 Rd8

Main line is 10. ...Nfd7

11. Qc1

The other key line is 11. Qb3 Be6!=.

11. ...Bd6 12. Nxd6+ Qxd6



a b c d e f g h

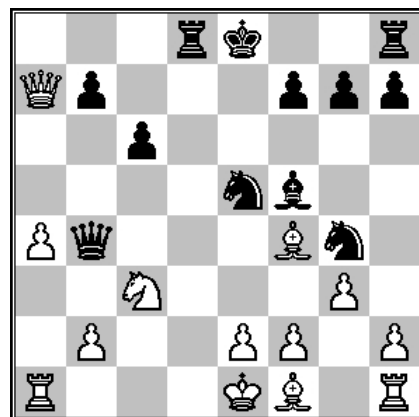
The key position in both games.

13. Qe3?!

Of course I analyse all my games—especially serious games but even my blitz games—and I concluded that the better move here is 13. Bg2 with the following plausible line: 13. ...0-0 14. 0-0 a5 15. Qe3 Nfg4 16. Qb6 Qb4 17. Qxb4 axb4 18. Na2 Ng6 19. Bc7 Rd2 20. e4 Be6 21. Nxb4 Rc8 22. Bb6 Rxb2=, 1/2-1/2 Manninen,M (2380)-Hector,J (2470)/Finland 1993 (43).

Funny thing is, in the Washington State Championship played 45 days later, Josh & I would actually reach this exact position (see next game).

13. ...Nfg4 14. Qxa7 Qb4



a b c d e f g h

Bill Schill and Mike MacGregor were playing (the championship game) next to us. Both players were watching our game. I couldn't resist the urge and asked them, "you bored with your game." To which Bill promptly replied, "your game is much more interesting!"

15. Bg2

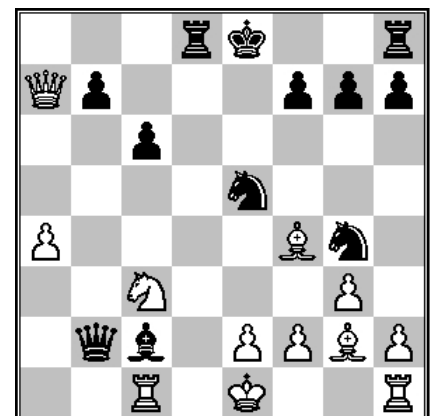
White doesn't have time for 15. h3? Qxb2 16. Rc1 Bc2! In this position, the Bishop move is very strong. 17. Nd1 (17.

Qc5 Ng6 18. hxc4 (18. Bd2? Rxd2! 19. Kxd2 Bb3+ 20. Kd3 N4e5+ 21. Ke4 Qxc1-+) 18. ...Nxf4 19. Qe3+ Ne6 20. Bg2 h6. Black has the edge. (20. ...0-0 allows White to escape with a draw after the Exchange sac on c2, eg. 21. Rxc2 Qxc2 22. Be4 Qb2 23. Bxh7+ Kh8 24. Be4+ Kg8 25. Bh7+, etc.)) 17. ...Qxc1! 18. Bxc1 Rxd1#

15. ...Qxb2

Safer is 15. ...0-0 16. Bxe5 (16. 0-0?! Ra8 17. Na2 (forced, otherwise the Queen on a7 has no escape) 17. ...Qxf4 18. gxf4 (18. Qxa8?? Qh6-+) 18. ...Rxa7 19. fxe5 Rxa4-/+ 16. ...Nxe5 17. 0-0 Qxb2 18. Qc5 Rfe8=

16. Rc1 Bc2?!



a b c d e f g h

During the game, I thought this to be quite strong—I am quickly brought back to reality. Better is 16. ...0-0=.

17. 0-0!

Black has the convenient option of forcing a draw after 17. Qc5!? Nd7 18. Qd4 Nde5 19. Qc5=

17. ...Qxc3?!

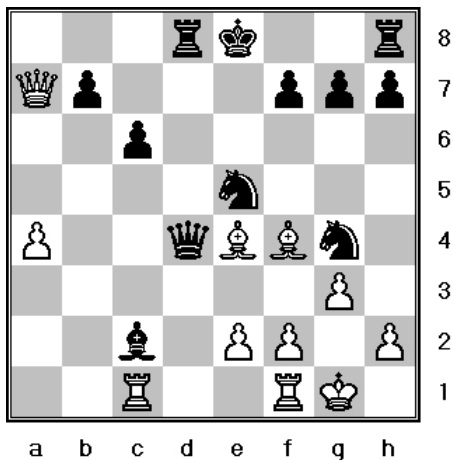
More circumspect is 17. ...0-0 18. Ne4 Bxe4 19. Bxe4 Qxe2 20. Rce1 Qc4 21. f3 Ra8 22. Qb6 Nd7 23. Qb1 Ngf6 24. Qxb7=

18. Be4!

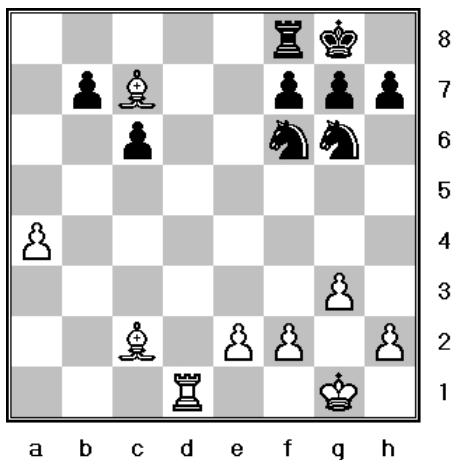
White now gains the edge. Less strong is 18. h3 Qb2 (Inferior is 18. ...Qb3 19. hxg4 Nc4 20. Qc5+/-) 19. hxg4 f6 20. Qc5 Bxa4 21. Rb1 Qd4 22. Qxd4 Rxd4 23. Rxb7 0-0=

18. ...Qd4

I thought it best to go into a Queenless middlegame. 18. ...0-0 19. Bxc2 Qb2 20. Qc5+/-.



19. Qxd4 Rxd4 20. Bxc2+/- Ng6 21. Bc7 0-0 22. Rfd1 Rxd1+ 23. Rxd1 Nf6?



You ever play a move and then immediately realize it was an error? This is what happened here. The moment I punched the clock, I noticed White can gain winning advantage. Better is 23. ...Rc8 24. Bb6 (24. Rd7 Nf6=) 24. ...Nf6+= The Bishops are better than the Knights in this position (pawns on both sides of the board) and White's Rook is more active than the Black counterpart. ...however Black's position is tight and free of any weaknesses. The only hope for White to make anything of this position is to coordinate attack against the

b7 pawn.

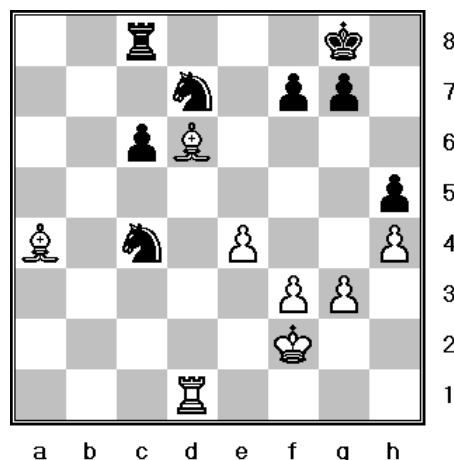
24. e4?

White misses an excellent opportunity. 24. Rb1! b5 There is nothing better. (24. ...Re8 25. Rxb7 Rxe2 26. Bb3 and the a-pawn is unstoppable.) 25. axb5 (25. a5? Nd5 26. Bd6 Ra8 27. Ra1 Ra6+/-) 25. ...cxb5 26. Rxb5 Rc8 27. Rb8 Rxb8 28. Bxb8+/-, and Black can only hope to survive the pawn-down endgame.

24. ...Rc8 25. Bb6 Re8 26. f3 h5 27. h4 Ne5 28. Kf2 Nfd7 29. Bc7 Rc8 30. Bd6 b5! 31. Bb3

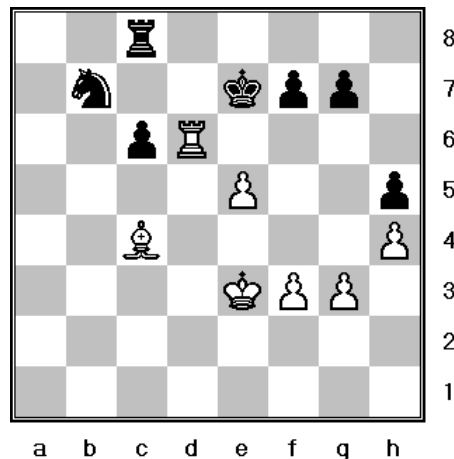
31. a5? Ra8 32. Bb4 c5 33. Bc3 b4 and Black has excellent play.

31. ...bxa4 32. Bxa4 Nc4+=



Once Black eliminates one of the two powerful Bishops (notice the threat to move to b2), the endgame becomes much more manageable.

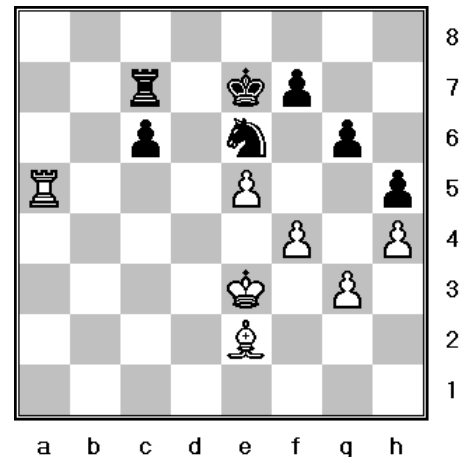
33. Bb3 Nxd6 34. Rxd6 Nc5 35. Bc4 Kf8 36. Ke3 Ke7 37. e5 Nb7



38. Rd2

I was hoping White would go for the tricky and seemingly strong 38. Ba6 (??) Nxd6 (38. ...Rc7 39. Bxb7 Rxb7 40. Rxc6 +/-) 39. exd6+ Kd7 40. Bxc8+ Kxc8 41. Kd4 Kd7 42. Kc5 f5 43. f4 g6 and Black wins!

38. ...Nc5 39. Ra2 Rc7 40. Ra5 Ne6 41. f4 g6 42. Be2



42. ...c5!

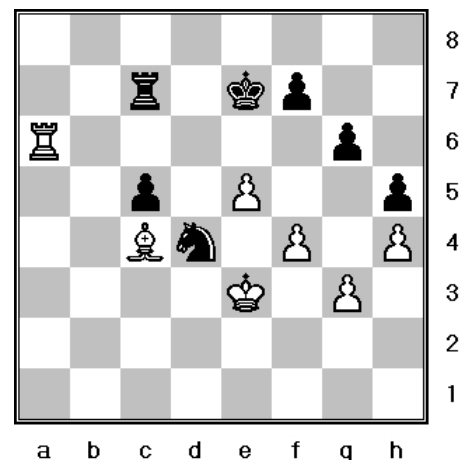
This way, if White continues with his intended g3-g4, Black will make use of his trumps, the passed c-pawn and the fact that White's kingside pawns are on dark squares.

43. Bc4

43. g4 hxg4 44. Bxg4 c4 45. f5 c3! 46. Ra1 (46. fxe6? c2 47. Ra1 c1=Q+ 48. Rxc1 Rxc1-/+ 49. exf7 Rc4 50. Be6 Rxh4) 46. ...gxf5 47. Bxf5 Rc5=

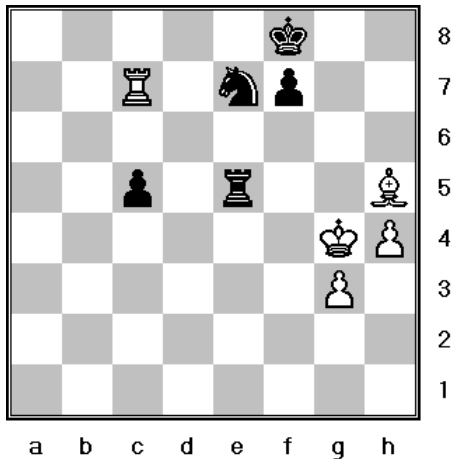
43. ...Nd4 44. Ra6

Threatening to play against the f-pawn with Rf6.



44. ...Nf5+ 45. Kf3 Nd4+ 46. Kf2 Ne6 47. Ke3 Nd8 48. f5 gxf5 49. Kf4 Rd7 50. Kxf5 Rd4 51. Ra7+ Kf8 52. Be2 Ne6 53.

Rc7 Ne7+ 54. Kg5 Re4 55. Bxh5 Rxe5+ 56. Kg4=



Now that all four of White's pieces on the K-side are 'stuck,' Black has an easy draw. 56. Kh6?? Ng8+ 57. Kh7 Rxh5#

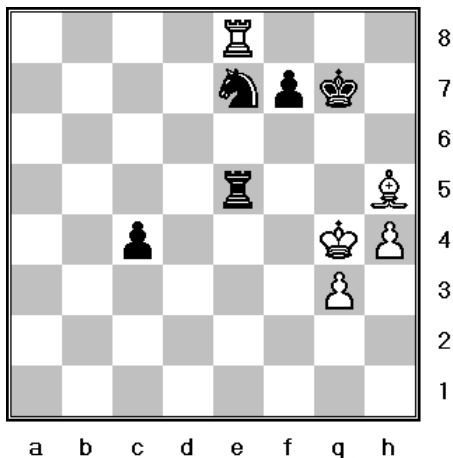
56. ...Rd5

56. ...f5+ 57. Kf4 (57. Kg5 f4+ 58. Kg4 fxg3) 57. ...Re4+ 58. Kg5

57. Ra7 Re5 58. Ra8+ Kg7 59. Re8?

White should simply accept the drawn result.

59....c4!-/+



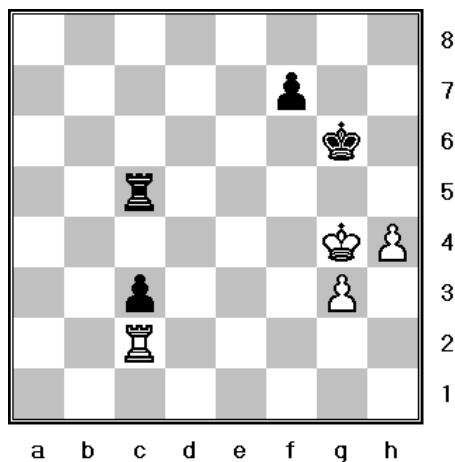
60. Kh3

60. Kf4 Ng6+ 61. Bxg6 Rxe8+

60. ...Rxh5?!

60. ...Ng6! 61. Rxe5 Nxe5 62. Bd1 c3 63. Kg2 Nd3 64. Kf1 (64. Kf3 c2 65. Bxc2 Ne1+ 66. Kf4 Nxc2-/+) 64. ...Nb4 65. Ke2 c2 66. Bxc2 Nxc2-/+

61. Rxe7 Rc5 62. Re2 c3 63. Rc2 Kf6 64. Kg4 Kg6



64. ...Ke5 65. Kg5 Ke4+ 66. Kf6 Kd3 67. Rc1 Kd2 68. Rh1 c2 69. g4 c1=Q 70. Rxc1 Rxc1 71. h5 Rf1+ 72. Kg7 Ke3 73. h6 Kf4 74. Kxf7 Kg5+ 75. Kg7 Rd1 76. h7 Rd7+ 77. Kg8 Kg6+ 78. h8=N+ (78. h8=Q Rd8#) 78. ...Kf6 79. g5+ Kxg5, and here Fritz announces mate in 38!

65. Kf4

65. h5+?? Kh6-+

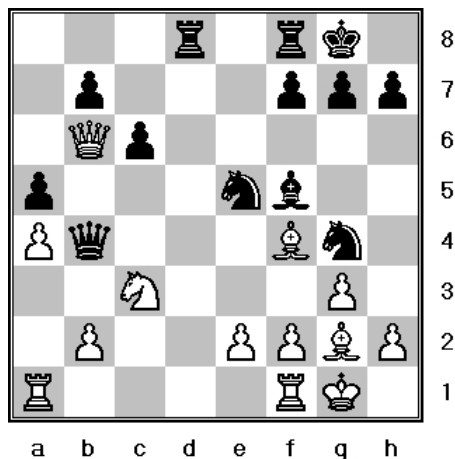
65. ...f5 66. Ke3 Kh5 67. Kd4 Rc7 68. Rxc3 Rxc3 69. Kxc3 Kg4 70. Kd2

Draw Agreed

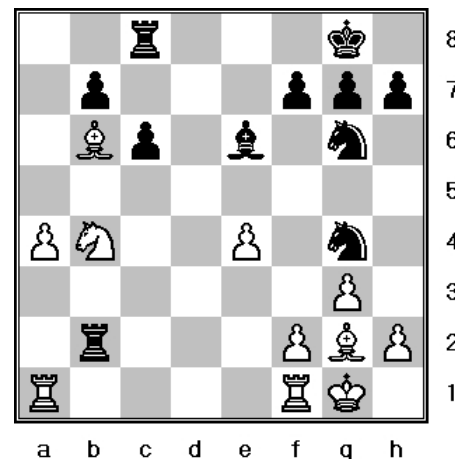
1/2-1/2

**Josh Sinanan – Harley Greninger
Washington Championship, Round 8
Redmond, February 18, 2009**

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 d5 4. d4 dxc4 5. a4 Bf5 6. Ne5 Nbd7 7. Nxc4 Qc7 8. g3 e5 9. dxe5 Nxe5 10. Bf4 Rd8 11. Qc1 Bd6 12. Nxd6+ Qxd6 13. Bg2 0-0 14. 0-0 a5 15. Qe3 Nfg4 16. Qb6 Qb4



17. Qxb4 axb4 18. Na2 Ng6 19. Bc7 Rd2 20. e4 Be6 21. Nxb4 Rc8 22. Bb6 Rxb2

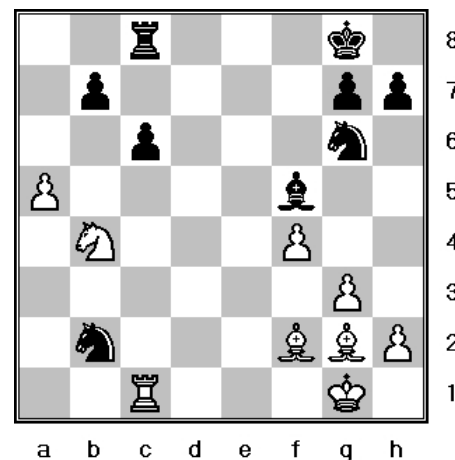


Reaching the key position in the note of previous game

23. Rab1 Rxb1 24. Rxb1 N4e5

The first new move. The prior-referenced game continued 24. ...N6e5 25. h3 Nd7 26. Nd3 Ngf6 27. Be3 Bc4 28. Nb2 Be2 (28. ...Bb3!?) 29. f4 Re8 30. Re1 (30. Kf2!? Ba6 31. e5+/-) 30. ...Ba6+/-, 1/2-1/2 Manninen,M (2380)-Hector,J (2470)/Finland 1993 (43).

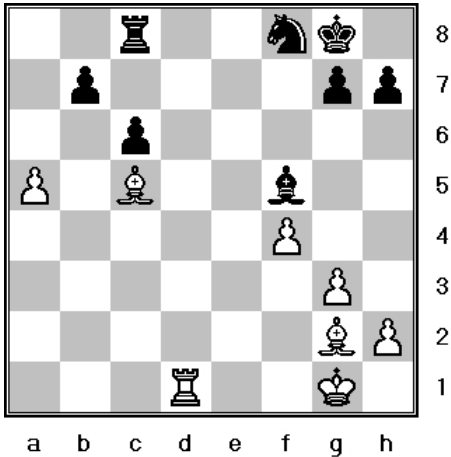
25. f4 Nc4 26. Bf2 f5 27. exf5 Bxf5 28. Rc1 Nb2 29. a5



In the post-mortem, Josh & I were looking over the game with Ignacio Perez and Curt Collyer. Josh suggested that a GM could win this position as White. This is not so clear. The computers favor White (Fritz +.87 & Rybka +.75), however Black also has an important trump— Q-side pawn majority with an already passed c-pawn. One can't help but notice that in each game

presented, Black winds up with an extra pawn—this passed c-pawn!

29. ...Nd3 30. Nxd3 Bxd3 31. Rd1 Bf5
32. Bc5 Nf8



33. h3

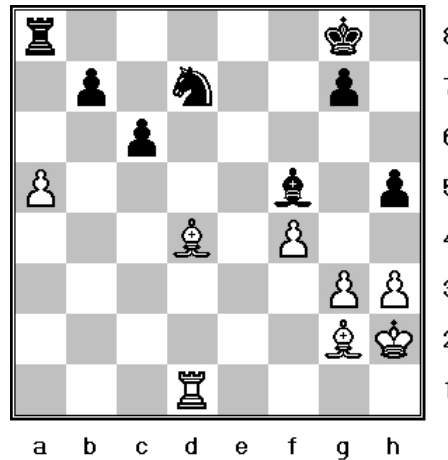
Here, Ignacio suggested 33. Bf3, but it would appear that Black can hold his own after 33. ...Nd7 34. Bd4 Nf6, for example, 35. Bxf6 gxf6 36. g4 Be6 37. Rd6 Bc4 38.

Rxf6 Ra8 39. Rf5 Bb5. The a-pawn falls and Black is left with two connected passed pawns on the Q-side.

33. ...h5 34. Kh2

The main alternative is to force the issue with 34. Bf3 Nd7 35. Bd4 Bxh3 36. Bxh5 Ra8 37. Bc3 Nf6 38. Bg6 Nd5, and, once again, Black is holding.

34. ...Nd7 35. Bd4 Ra8!



An important move. The idea is simply to compel White to move his dark-squared Bishop to c3, thus relinquishing control over e3.

36. Bc3 Re8! 37. Bf3?

White falls into the trap. I expected 37. Re1 Rxe1 38. Bxe1 Bd3 39. g4 hxg4 40. hxg4 Nf6 41. Kg3 Nd5, and Black is comfortable.

37. ...Re3 38. g4

The only other try would be 38. a6!?, with the following possibilities: 38. ...Rxc3 (38. ...Rxf3 39. axb7 (threatening Rxd7) 39. ...Rd3 40. Rxd3 Bxd3 41. Be5, when it would appear that White can hold the draw; 38. ...bxa6 39. Bxc6 Rxc3 40. Bxd7 Bxd7 41. Rxd7 Rc2+ 42. Kg1 is clearly drawn; 39. axb7 Rd3 40. Rxd3 Bxd3 41. Bxc6 Nb8 42. Bf3, and Black will be hard-pressed to win this. White has two pawns for the piece, Black's knight is stuck on b8, and Black has too few pawns left.

{Continued top of next page...}



Washington Open Chess Tournament May 23-25, 2009 in Spokane!

WA Open Sections and Early Entry Fees by April 15

OPEN EF \$79

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Free entry to GM's, IM's, WGM's.
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**Prize guarantees will soon be
announced by the WCF!**

Entries/Information:

Dan Mathews
WCF Tournament Coordinator
730 Olympic Ave
Edmonds, WA 98020
Dthmathews@hotmail.com

Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation.
Also see www.nwchess.com.

Red Lion River Inn, 700 N Division Street, Spokane, WA 99202. This location is 100 yards from the Spokane club's normal tourney site at the Schoenberg Center at Gonzaga University. Hotel reservations: (509) 326-5577, or toll free (800) Red-Lion. Ask for \$99 chess rate. (Some Red Lion customers may qualify for a lower online rate.)

Registration/Byes: Saturday 8:15-9:15AM for 3-day, or 3:30-4:15 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Sunday 8:15-9:00 AM for 2-day, or 9:00-9:30 AM if entering 3-day event with two half-point byes. Two half-point byes available in advance.

Format/Ratings: Four sections (see bar at left), six round Swiss system, USCF rated. The Open Section is also FIDE rated. USCF May supplement ratings will be used. Unrated players may play in open or booster section only, for limited prizes.

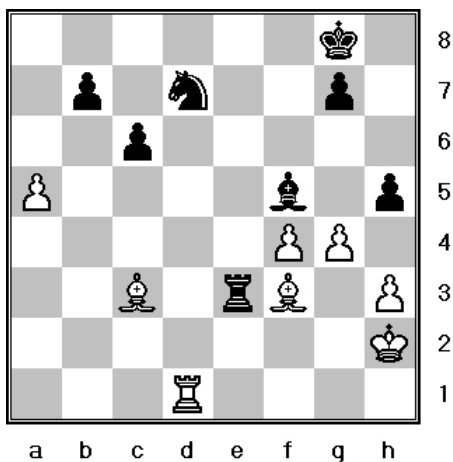
Time Controls: 3-day schedule: 40/2 Hrs., SD/1 Hr. 2-day schedule: Rounds 1-3: Game/60 minutes. (Rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule.) Both schedules: Digital clocks preferred. 5-second time delay used from start of game.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Saturday: 10:00AM, 5:00PM, Sunday: 10:00AM, 5:00PM, Monday: 9:00AM, 3:30PM. 2-day schedule: Sunday: 9:30AM, 11:45AM, 2:30PM, then join 3-day schedule for rest of tourney. WCF annual meeting: 3:30 PM Sunday, May 24.

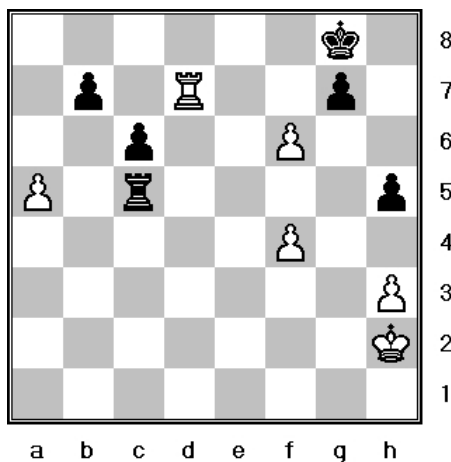
Memberships: USCF and either WCF or OCF membership required in all sections, OSA. Memberships (including USCF) must be current or paid fully.

Miscellaneous: 2009 Chess Cafe Grand Prix event (50 pts), Harmon Memorial NW Grand Prix event. Please bring set, board and clock. No smoking. No computers. Entry form is expected to be available by early March on the NWC website.

Look for Scholastic and Side Events info in April and on the NWC website.



38. ...Rxf3 39. gxf5 Rxc3 40. Rxd7 Rc5
41. f6!?



Also clearly drawing is 41. Rxb7 Rxa5
42. Rc7 Rxf5 43. Rxc6 Rxf4 44. Rc3! White
will simply keep his Rook on the 3rd rank &
await events.

The drawing method is to allow Black to create the passed g-pawn and when this pawn advances to the 6th rank (3rd rank from White's point of view), transfer the Rook to c8 when Black's King will never escape checks without allowing an elementary King & pawn draw.

41. ...gxf6 42. Rxb7 Rxa5 43. Kg3 Kf8
44. Rc7 Rc5 45. Kf3

Draw Agreed. Less clear is 45. Kh4 Ke8
46. Rh7 (46. f5? Kd8 47. Rh7 Rxf5+) 46.
...Kd8 47. Rxh5 Rxh5+ 48. Kxh5 c5 49. Kg4
Ke7 50. Kf5 Kf7 51. h4 Kg7 52. Ke4!= Only
not 52. h5 Kh6! when Black wins! 52. ...Kg6
53. Kd5 (53. f5+? Kh5 54. Kd5 Kxh4 55.
Kxc5 Kg4 winning.) 53. ...Kh5 54. Kxc5
Kxh4 55. Kd5 Kg4 56. Ke4=

1/2-1/2

Chess Business by Eric Holcomb



Online Editions – If you're a USCF member, you've probably noticed that USCF is now offering a "Regular" adult membership for \$29 that includes online access to *Chess Life*, and a "Premium" adult membership for \$42 that includes receiving printed copies of *Chess Life* the old-fashioned way, by periodicals mail. Over the past couple of years, I have received several suggestions that *Northwest Chess* should also take this course, or convert to online editions exclusively. In fact, just about every magazine now in print on any subject will have to address this issue in the coming years.

For *Northwest Chess*, it's likely that we'll stay with printed editions for the immediate future, although we are beginning to make back issues available online in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). There are several reasons for continuing to publish *Northwest Chess* in print. The first reason is our size – our circulation is so small (about 600) that converting to an online edition would essentially have to be "all or nothing" – the savings from printing and mailing say 300 fewer copies would be small, and could put us at risk of no longer qualifying to use periodicals mail. (With this class of mail, we only pay about \$0.25 postage to mail a 32-

page magazine, versus \$1.17 for a First-Class Mail® Large Envelope. Delivery times can be a bit longer, but it's very economical.) Another important reason is the preferences of our readers – there are still many chess players who enjoy the convenience of having a paper copy at the board, or who don't yet have a modern computer with high-speed Internet access. Paper copies are also convenient for publicity purposes – many people enjoy receiving paper copies at a chess tournament or other event where computer access may not be readily available. Lastly, paper copies are currently mailed to over 50 libraries, helping to promote chess with the public.

The *Northwest Chess* board of directors also understands the arguments in favor of online editions, such as cost savings, convenience of access and storage (if you normally use a computer to study chess), ease of maintaining historical archives, and reduced environmental impact. Therefore we are proceeding (albeit a bit slowly) with converting back issues to PDF format files on the NWC website (nwchess.com). The desktop publishing files created by our former editor, Fred Kleist, have been recovered and will be converted to PDF's,

although some photos and other content may need to be scanned from printed copies. Magazine editions

created by our new editor, Ralph Dubisch, will be available online in their entirety for free after about three months. Eventually we will have an online membership database that will allow paid members to have additional access, including access to the current edition.

While you're perusing the NWC website, note that there are articles available on a number of subjects, including especially the historical "recaps" from *Washington Chess Letter* and *Northwest Chess* magazines dating back to the 1940's. Thanks to former business manager Russell Miller for preparing these summaries, and for scanning some of the old covers. If you prefer to study actual chess games, there are now many games from recent local (mostly WCF) events available to download or view online. Thanks to Drayton Harrison for compiling most of these games.

Games Corner

by Charles Schulien



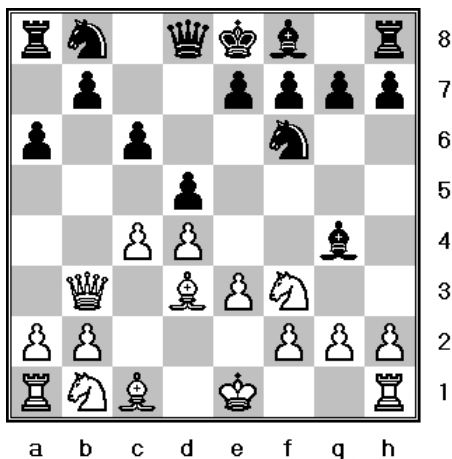
Tiger Hillarp-Persson – Wesley So
Corus C, Round 12
Wijk aan Zee, January 31, 2009

15 year old Filipino GM Wesley So won the “C” group at the Corus tournament in Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands, this January. He overtook Swedish GM Tiger Hillarp-Persson by half a point just before the penultimate round. That was the situation when this battle was joined, determining first place.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e3 a6

This very solid move, which allows Black’s bishop to safely develop while maintaining his center pawn, is now a main line.

5. Bd3 Bg4 6. Qb3



White tries to exploit the weakness on the queenside.

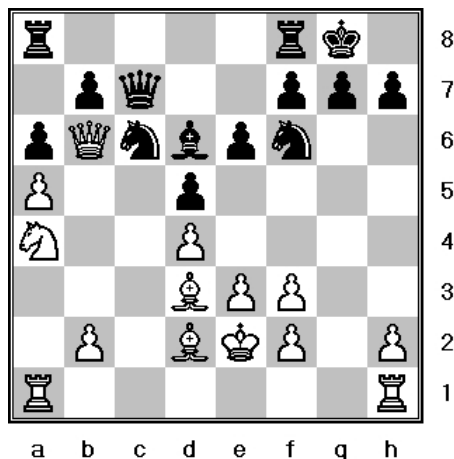
6. ...Bxf3 7. gxf3 Qc7 8. Nc3 e6 9. a4 Nbd7 10. cxd5 cxd5 11. a5

White fixes the b6 square as a weakness – but how much this really matters is not clear.

11. ...Nb8

Wesley shows good understanding of Exchange Slav structure. His knight stands best on c6, blocking the c-file and aiming at b4, a5, and d4. Given White’s slow maneuvers, Black has the time for this reorganization.

12. Bd2 Nc6 13. Ke2 Bd6 14. Na4 O-O 15. Qb6?!

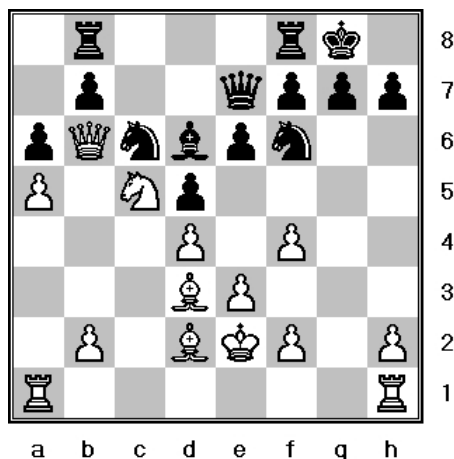


White’s queen is poorly placed on b6 and must lose time. If he hoped that Black would exchange, he was sorely disappointed. 15. Nb6 Rad8 was better, and now White should remove his king from the center: 16. Kf1. Basic principles such as king safety often hold true, and strong players can be punished for making exceptions to them.

15. ...Qe7

Black’s queen is now aligned with the white king – a significant detail.

16. Nc5 Rab8 17. f4

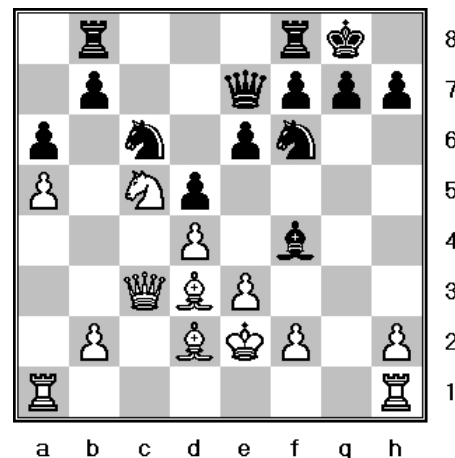


White sets up a typical pawn structure, aimed at controlling e5. I imagine that he was feeling reasonably confident at this point – but in fact Black has a tactical sequence which wins a pawn and prepares

to tear down White’s defenses.

17. ...Bc7
18. Qb3 Bxf4!
19. Qc3?

White reacts by moving his queen and guarding d4 – but this is another mistake. The queen and king are both in the area of Black’s attack in the center, which allows for further tactical operations. Even grandmasters sometimes react poorly to a shot which they missed. It is generally the second successive mistake which is fatal. Black’s main point is that if White captures the bishop, 19. exf4? Nxd4+ is a winning knight fork. Better defense is offered by 19. Bc3 guarding d4, or 19. Qa3.



19. ...e5!

Another shock! Yet the move is most logical, and should be at the top of one’s list when looking to open lines in front of the white king.

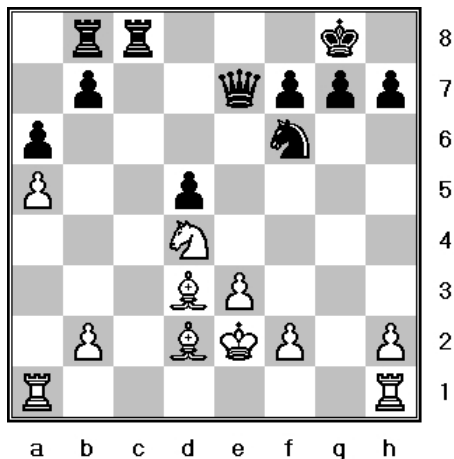
20. Nb3?

At this point, White is reeling from the blows, and allows Black to activate yet another piece. White still cannot safely capture the bishop: 20. exf4 exd4+ discovered check wins the white queen. 20. Kf1 removing the king from the e-file is the lesser evil.

20. ...Rfc8!

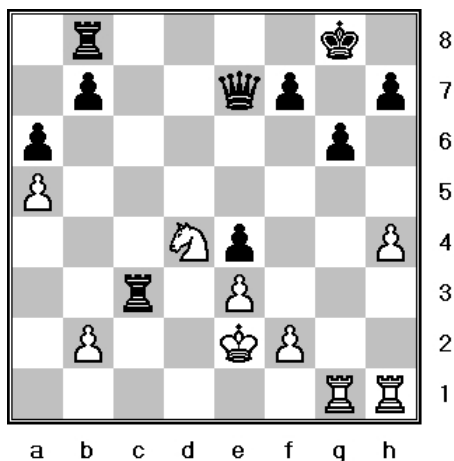
Black now threatens ...Nxd4+, winning the queen a third way – all in three turns.

21. dxe5 Bxe5 22. Qc5 Nd4+ 23. Qxd4 Bxd4 24. Nxd4



White gets two bishops for the queen - not nearly enough given Black's coordinated forces and the centralized white king.

24. ...Ne4 25. Rag1 g6 26. Bxe4 dxe4 27. h4 Rc4 28. Bc3 Rxc3



Here simplification is an easy path to victory, enabling Black to break the blockade on the queenside.

29. bxc3 Qc7 30. Kf1 Qxa5 31. h5 Qa1+ 32. Kg2 Qxc3 33. hxg6 fxg6 34. Rh4 Re8 35. Rb1

35. Rgh1 Re7 offers White no hope.

35. ...b5 36. Rhh1 Qc5 37. Rbc1 Qg5+ 38. Kf1 Rf8 39. Rh2?

A last mistake before time control, which only speeds up the inevitable result.

39. ...Qxe3
0-1

Anish Giri – Manuel Leon-Hoyos
Corus C, Round 12
Wijk aan Zee, January 31, 2009

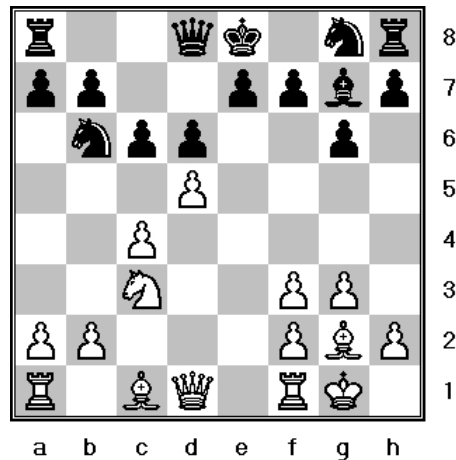
Anish Giri took second place in the "C" group at Corus, and in the process he completed requirements for the grandmaster title. Once confirmed, he will become the world's youngest grandmaster – not in history, but at the time.

Giri has a Nepalese father and Russian mother. They spent some years in Japan before moving to Holland, where they currently reside.

1. d4 d6 2. Nf3 Bg4

Hoyos tries an irregular defense against his young opponent, probably hoping to confuse him in an unfamiliar position.

3. g3 Bxf3 4. exf3 g6 5. c4 Nd7 6. Bg2 Bg7 7. O-O c6 8. Nc3 Nb6 9. d5



White plays to gain space and attack where he is strongest - on the light squares. Black must be careful with his pieces since White's king is castled and his is not.

9. ...Rc8

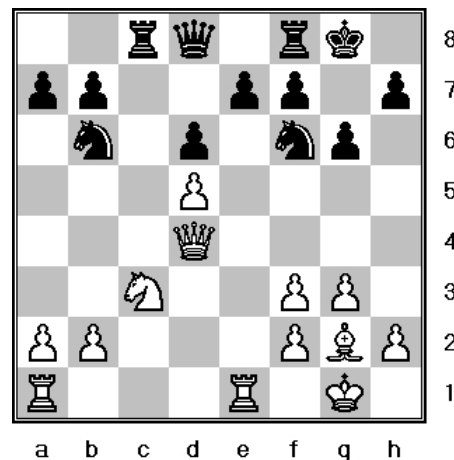
9. ...Nxc4 was indeed possible, but Black either disliked the endgame, or did not want to risk missing something tactical. 10. dxc6. Hoyos had to account for other options too. We should consider 10. f4 Qd7 11. Qb3 Nb6 12. Be3 Nf6 and Black will be fine after returning the extra pawn: 13. Bxb6 axb6 14. dxc6 bxc6 15. Qxb6 d5. Simply the quiet 10. Re1, developing the rook and pressing on e7, gives White compensation for the lost pawn: 10. ...Nf6 11. dxc6 bxc6 12. Qa4 Nb6 13. Qxc6+ Qd7 again reaching the endgame. 10. ...bxc6 11. Qa4 {regains the pawn, though after 11. ...Nb6 12. Qxc6+ Qd7 White's advantage is small, as he must either

exchange or lose time retreating his queen: 13. Qxd7+ (13. Qe4 Nf6) 13. ...Kxd7 Black has a passed pawn and better structure, while White's bishops should be powerful.

10. Qd3 Nf6 11. Be3 cxd5 12. cxd5 Nfd7

12. ...Nc4 13. Bd4 Nxb2? is met by 14. Qb5+ forking king and knight.

13. Bd4 Bxd4 14. Qxd4 O-O 15. Rfe1 Nf6



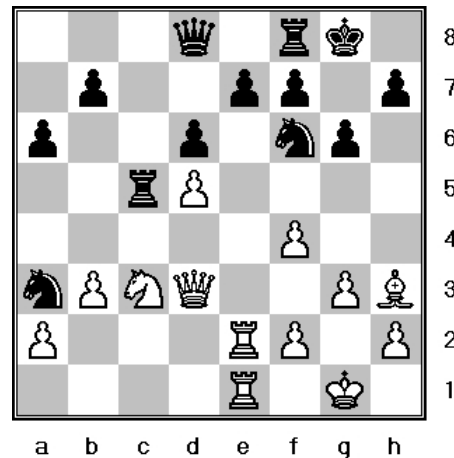
16. Re2

White's plan is simple - double rooks and press on the backward pawn. After that, any further attack will likely aim at the slightly weakened kingside.

16. ...Rc4

Black's counterplay is on the c-file, and queenside in general. Since White has no weakness there, it will be difficult to generate serious threats.

17. Qd3 a6 18. Rae1 Rc7 19. f4 Nc4 20. b3 Na3 21. Bh3 Rc5



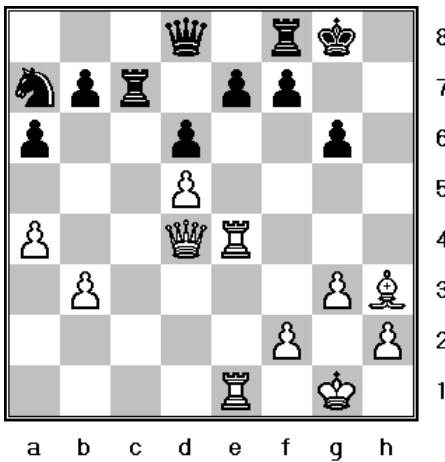
Exploiting a tactical point, based on the

move of White's bishop from g2.

22. Ne4

22. Rxe7 Rxc3! 23. Qxc3 Nxd5

22. ...Nxe4 23. Rxe4 Rc7 24. f5 Nb5
25. fxg6 hxg6 26. a4 Na7 27. Qd4

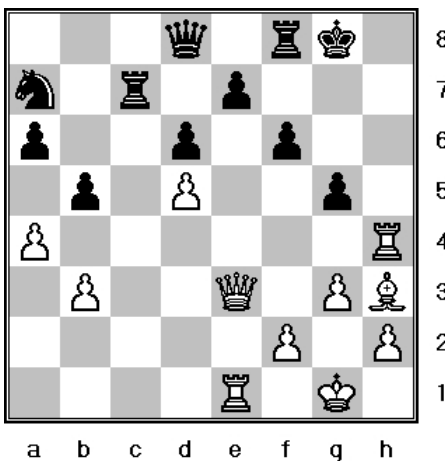


White's pieces dominate the center, and his advantage increases with gain of time – the knight must move.

27. ...b5

Finally White launches a direct attack on the black king.

28. Rh4 f6 29. Qe3 g5



30. Qe4! f5

30. ...gxh4 31. Qg6+ Kh8 32. Qh6+ Kg8
33. Be6+ wins quickly 33. ...Rf7 34. Re4!
when Black is helpless: 34. ...Qf8 35. Rg4+
Qg7 36. Qxg7#

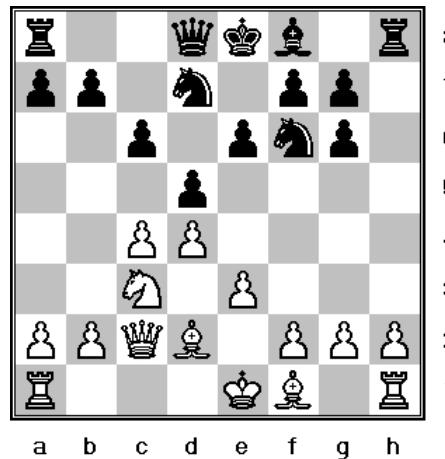
**31. Qe6+ Kg7 32. Qh6+ Kf7 33. Bxf5
1-0**

**Eduardo Iturrizaga – Anish Giri
Corus C, Round 11**

Wijk aan Zee, January 30, 2009

This was technically the game which earned Giri the GM norm.

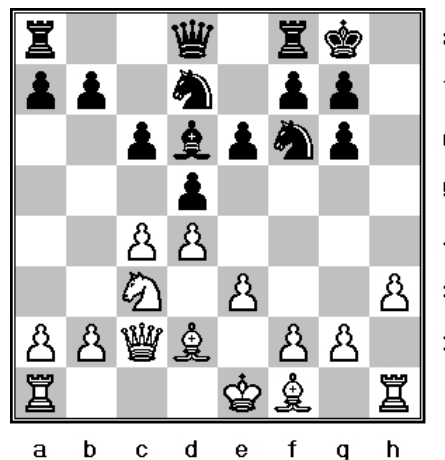
1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e3 Bf5 5.
Nc3 e6 6. Nh4 Bg6 7. Bd2 Nbd7 8. Nxc6
hxg6 9. Qc2



White announces his intention to castle queenside. Many top players such as Kasparov and Topalov prefer more solid paths, developing and maintaining tension such as 9. Rc1 or 9. g3, and also 9. b3.

9. ...Bd6 10. h3 O-O!?

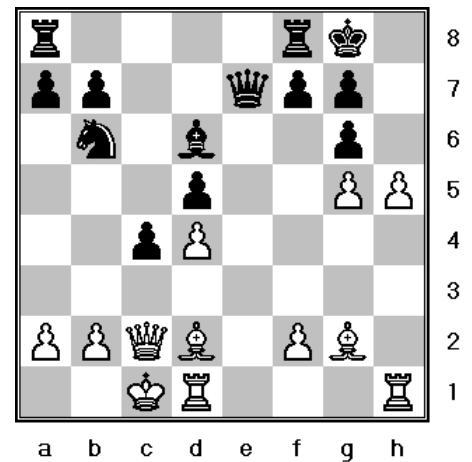
Black could instead wait for White to castle, and copy him.



11. O-O-O Qe7 12. g4 dxc4 13. g5!?

13. Bxc4 Nb6 14. Be2 is safer, followed by Kb1. White instead chose a battle of competing attacks.

**13. ...Nd5 14. h4 c5 15. Nxd5 exd5 16.
Bg2 cxd4 17. exd4 Nb6 18. h5**



18. ...c3!

Black must open lines and fight for the initiative. He is up to the task!

19. bxc3 Ba3+ 20. Kb1 Qd6 21. Rh4

Perhaps defensive measures such as 21. Bf1 deserved attention.

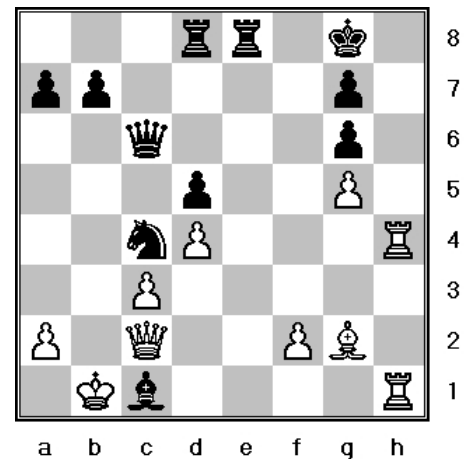
21. ...Nc4 22. Bf4 Qb6+?! 23. Qb3 Qc6

Exchanging queens certainly favors White.

24. Rdh1

24. h6 deserved attention as well.

**24. ...Rfe8 25. Bc1 Rad8 26. hxg6 fxg6
27. Qc2 Bxc1**



28. Qxc1

28. Kxc1 takes the white king out of the line of fire, and prevents the incursion of a black rook on the seventh rank.

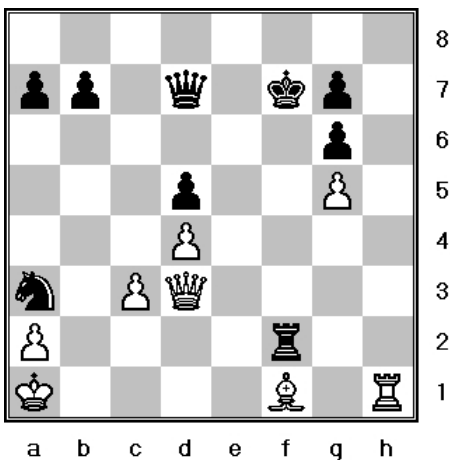
**28. ...Re2 29. Rh8+ Kf7 30. Rxd8 Qb6+
31. Ka1 Qxd8 32. Qb1 Qd7 33. Bf1?**

The right idea, attacking Black's rook – but this move allows Black a counterattack

that wins by force. 33. Qd1 was necessary.

33. ...Na3 34. Qd3 Rxf2?

34. ...Re1+ 35. Kb2 Rb1+ 36. Kxa3 Qd6+ 37. Ka4 Rb2! leads to mate or win of the queen.



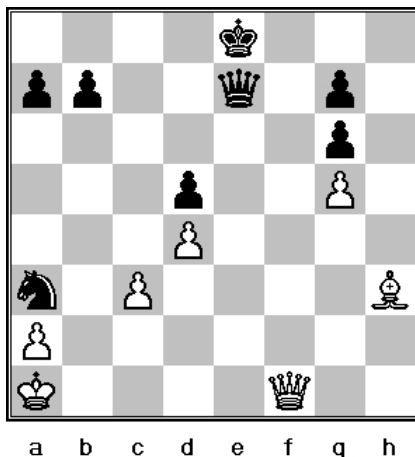
35. Bh3

35. Qg3 again latching on to the rook was stronger: 35. ...Nc2+ 36. Kb2 Qf5 37. Qc7+ Kg8 38. Qd8+ Kf7 39. Qc7+ with a draw by repetition.

35. ...Qe7

35. ...Qd6 prevents Qg3 – fortunately White did not see that maneuver.

36. Rf1 Rxf1+ 37. Qxf1+ Ke8



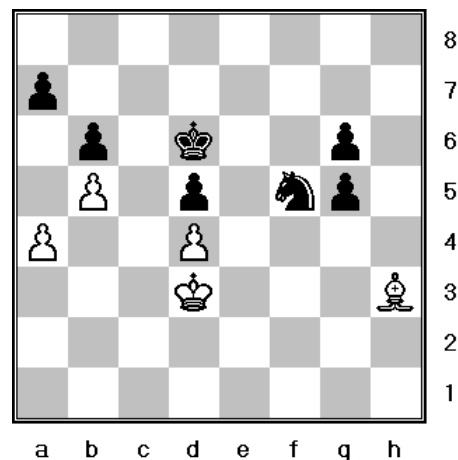
Black has an extra pawn, though it is doubled. Key points are White's king stuck in the corner for any endgame, and the cooperation between queen and knight.

38. Qc1 Nc4 39. Qb1? (39. Bf1) 39. ...Qxg5

Now Black's advantage is probably decisive. 39. ...Qe3 was even stronger, with

a winning double attack on c3 and h3.

40. Qb5+ Kf8 41. Qb4+ Qe7 42. Kb1 Qxb4+ 43. cxb4 Ke7 44. Kc2 Nd6 45. Kd3 Nf5 46. a4 Ke6 47. Bg4 g5 48. Bh5 Ne7 49. Bg4+ Kd6 50. b5 b6 51. Ke3 g6 52. Bh3 Nf5+ 53. Kd3



53. ...Nh6!

Now Black can advance his pawns.

54. Ke3 g4 55. Bf1 Nf5+ 56. Kd3 g3 57. Bh3 g5

0-1

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Theoretically Speaking

by Bill McGearry



Botvinnik Symmetrical English: 5. Nf3 e5, Part Four

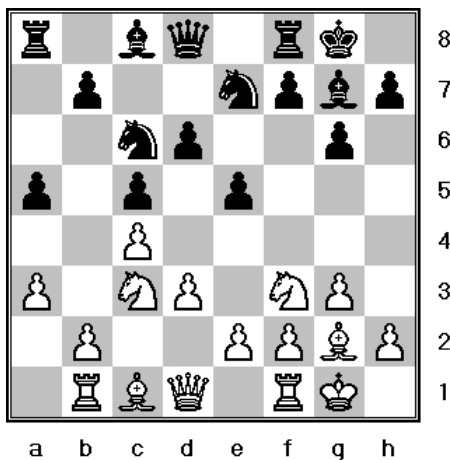
Opening variations evolve with the impetus of ideas. Sometimes variations are quite popular and have numerous players working out the intricacies, or perhaps only a few extremely inspired players are cogitating the problems at hand. In either case, the ideas that are at the heart of this evolution can take many forms. In the Botvinnik English one of the ideas was simply a matter of altering the function of one minor piece. White's Q-Bishop had been assigned to a support role as going to d2 aimed to get the b4 advance in. Noting that Black knights guard b4 and d5 an idea came to light, perhaps we can try to exchange the Bc1 for the Ne7? So, the maneuver Bg5xe7 was born. Here is an example:

Piet Peelen – Sofia Polgar

Hoogovens B, Round 6

Wijk aan Zee, January 1990

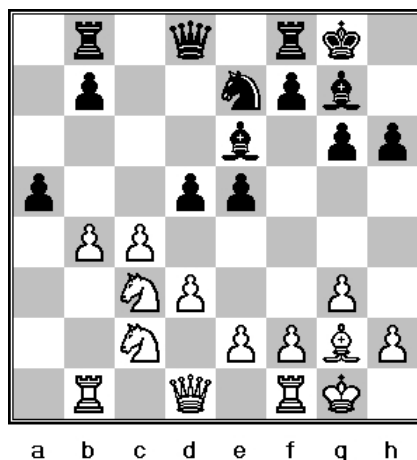
1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7
5. Nf3 d6 6. d3 e5 7. a3 Nge7 8. Rb1 a5 9.
0-0 0-0



10. Bg5 h6 11. Bxe7 Nxe7 12. Ne1 Rb8
13. Nc2 Be6 14. b4 cxb4 15. axb4 d5

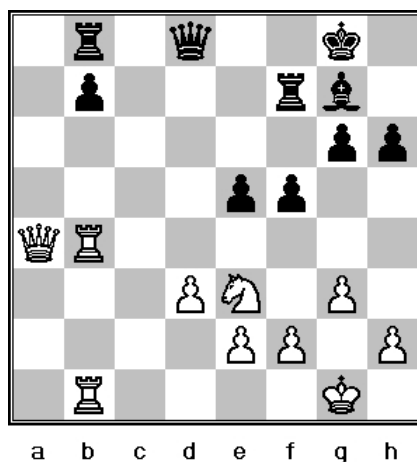
Black has played all the moves in the formula – Rb8, Be6, d5 – and expects the simplification to offer good drawing chances. There remain two problems for Black which White can exploit: White's pawns are together in one island while Black has a problem child on b7, and the Bg7 is a

very poor minor and only gets worse as the other minors are exchanged.



16. cxd5 Nxd5 17. Nxd5 Bxd5 18. Bxd5
Qxd5 19. Ne3 Qd8 20. Qa4 axb4 21. Rxb4
f5 22. Rfb1 Rf7

Attempts by Black to get activity on the K-side risk too much. Advancing to f4 seems like a positive step, but with so little support coming from the Bg7 and Rb8 it is not likely to produce anything tangible. At the same time it further reduces the Bg7 and cedes the e4 square to White.

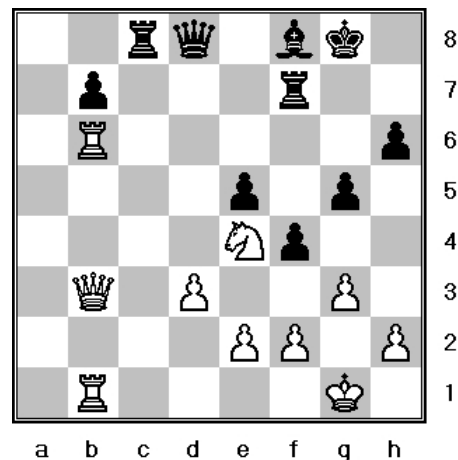


23. Qa2 Kf8 24. Qe6 Qf6 25. Qc4 Qd8
26. Rb6 f4

The problems in Black's position have come into focus and so she decides to try

for some action. White does a nice job of further highlighting the increasing value of the knight.

27. Nd5 g5 28. Nc3 Rc8 29. Qb4+ Kg8
30. Ne4 Bf8 31. Qb3



31. ...Rcc7 32. Qe6 f3 33. Qg6+ Bg7
34. Rd6 Qf8 35. exf3 Rxf3 36. Re6 Re7
37. Rxe7 Qxe7 38. Rc1 b5 39. Rc6 b4 40.
Re6

1-0

Players of Black shrugged and decided that kicking the Bg5 was right, but only with f6 to prevent an exchange for the Ne7.

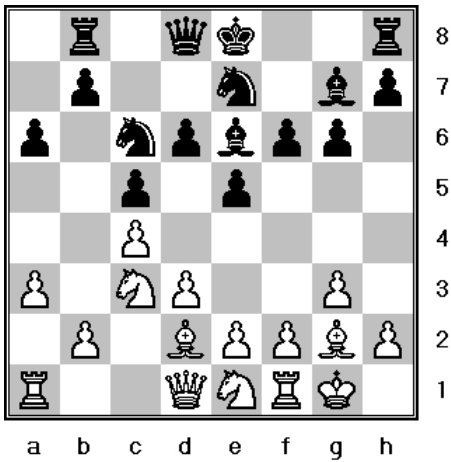
Colin McNab – Ronald Burnett

London Agency, Round 8

England, June 15, 1998

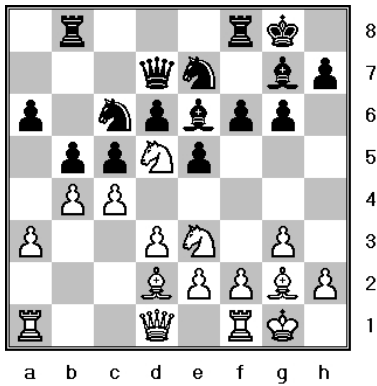
1. c4 g6 2. g3 Bg7 3. Bg2 c5 4. Nc3 Nc6
5. Nf3 e5 6. d3 Nge7 7. Bg5 f6 8. Bd2 d6 9.
0-0 Be6 10. Ne1 Rb8 11. a3 a6

Very smart and effective play by Black aiming develop play on the Q-side early in order to limit White's chances. GM McNab doesn't appreciate the implications of Black's setup and ends up in a completely defensive position. Three years later against Hanley, McNab improved here: 12. Nc2 b5 13. cxb5 axb5 14. b4 0-0 15. Rb1 c4 16. dxc4 Bxc4 with equality.



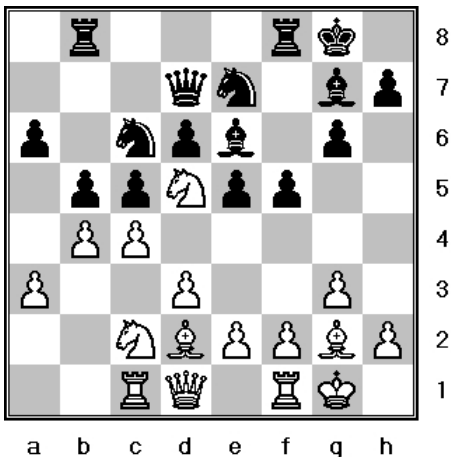
12. Nd5 b5 13. b4 0-0 14. Nc2 Qd7 15. Rc1

I am not certain why 15. Ne3 wouldn't be a good try to improve.



White's direction is to setup and attack hanging Black pawns on b5 / c5, but the game doesn't develop that way. So, Ne3 to clear the c-file and offer to exchange pieces via d5 could work better.

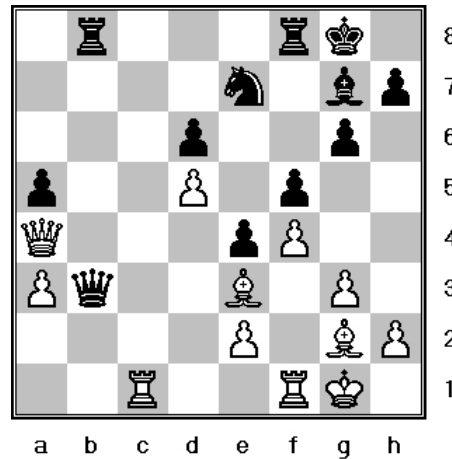
15. ...f5



16. f4

16. Bg5!?

16. ...bxc4 17. dxc4 e4 18. Be3 cxb4 19. Nxc4 Nxb4 20. Nxb4 a5 21. Nd5 Bxd5 22. cxd5 Qb7 23. Qa4 Qb3



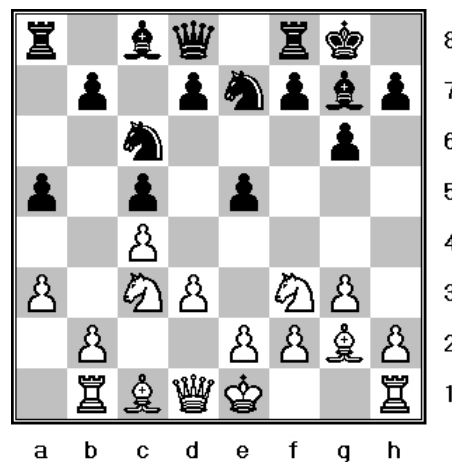
24. Qxb3 Rxb3 25. Bd2 Rxa3 26. Rfd1 Nxd5 27. e3 Nxe3 28. Bxe3 Rxe3 29. Bf1 Bb2 30. Rc7 Ba3 31. Bc4+ Kh8 32. Kg2 Rc3 33. h4 Rc2+ 34. Kh3 h5 35. Rd5 Bc5 36. Bb3 Rb2 37. Ba4 Rb4 38. Bd1 Rd4 39. Rxd4 Bxd4 40. Bb3 e3 41. Re7 Rb8 42. Bf7 Kg7 43. Bc4+ Kh6 44. Kg2 a4

0-1

Not the end for McNab. He played the following game a few years later

Colin McNab – Feliks Kwiatkowski
Hastings Challengers, Round 4
Hastings, December 28, 2003

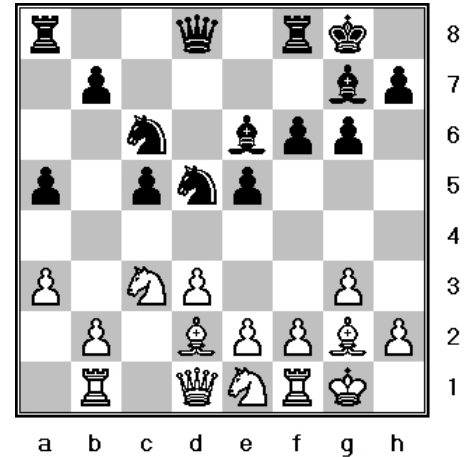
1. c4 c5 2. Nf3 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 Nc6 5. Nc3 e5 6. d3 Nge7 7. a3 0-0 8. Rb1 a5



Note the change in order. McNab takes up the Bg5-d2 maneuver after inserting a3 / Rb1 to induce Black to play a5, thus

eliminating the Q-side idea that Burnett used.

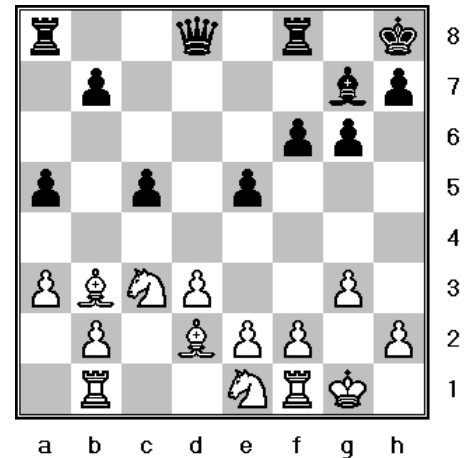
9. Bg5 f6 10. Bd2 d6 11. 0-0 Be6 12. Ne1 d5 13. cxd5 Nxd5



14. Qb3

With the pawn on f7 this wouldn't be anything, but watch.

14. ...Nd4 15. Bxd5 Nxb3 16. Bxe6+ Kh8 17. Bxb3



Three minors for the queen. The Black position is more exposed, which will give impetus to the White small pieces.

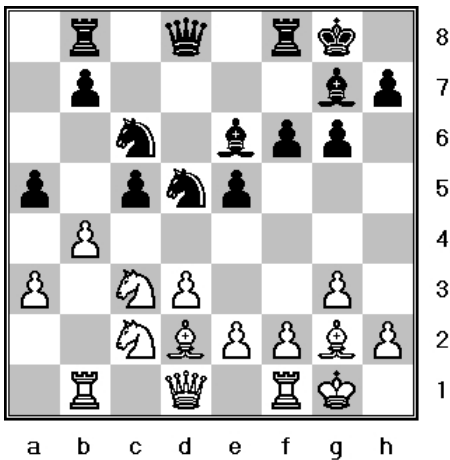
17. ...f5 18. Bd5 Qd7 19. Rd1 Rae8 20. a4 h6 21. Bg2 Kh7 22. Nc2 Rd8 23. Ne3 b6 24. Nc4 Qe6 25. b3 e4 26. dxe4 Rxd2 27. Rxd2 Bxc3 28. Rd6 Qe8 29. Rxb6 fxe4 30. Nd6 Qe5 31. Rb7+ Kg8 32. Nxe4 Rf7 33. Rb6 Kg7 34. Rd1 Bb4 35. Rdd6 Qa1+ 36. Bf1 Qb1 37. Rxc6+ Kf8 38. Rb8+ Ke7 39. Rgg8 Rf5 40. Rb7+ Kc6 41. Re8+ Kd5 42. Rb6 Re5 43. Nf6+ Kd4 44. e3+ Kc3 45. Rxe5 Kxb3 46. Rxc5 Kxa4 47. Rxa5+

1-0

This was quite an interesting game because of the combination of the a3 / Rb1 ploy with the Bg5-d2 gadget. One thought would be for Black to hold off on d6-d5 so that after the Ne1 moves White might not have access for Qb3. McNab had played that position the previous year.

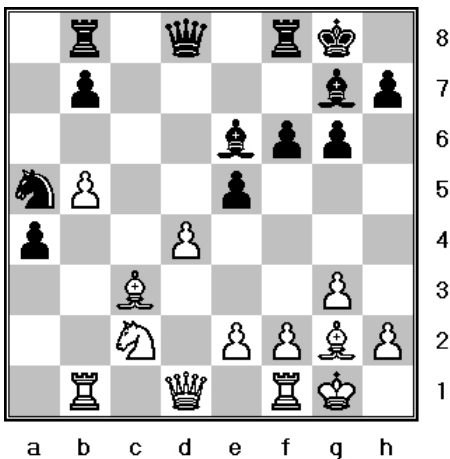
Colin McNab – Zong Yuan Zhao
37th Olympiad, Round 10
Turin, Italy, May 21, 2006

1. c4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. g3 e5 4. Nc3 g6
 5. Bg2 Bg7 6. a3 d6 7. Rb1 a5 8. d3 Nge7
 9. 0-0 0-0 10. Bg5 f6 11. Bd2 Be6 12. Ne1
 Rb8 13. Nc2 d5 14. cxd5 Nxd5 15. b4



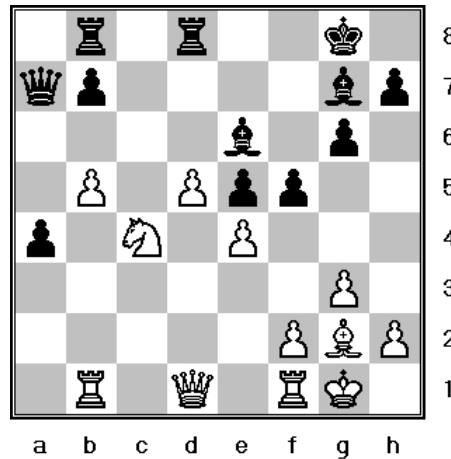
12. ...Rb8 was a semi-bluff to deter Nd5 or a waiting move for Nc2. The idea seems to have worked, as Black has achieved d5. Yet Black looks to be a little worse after 15. b4. White wants to exchange minors leaving Black with the Bg7, and that boy on b7 will be cold. Very similar to the Peelen – Polgar game, but with f6 played instead of h6.

15. ...Nxc3 16. Bxc3 cxb4 17. axb4 a4
 18. b5 Na5 19. d4



Trying to get the Nc2 active.

19. ...Qc7 20. Bxa5 Qxa5 21. d5 Rfd8
 22. Ne3 f5 23. Nc4 Qa7 24. e4

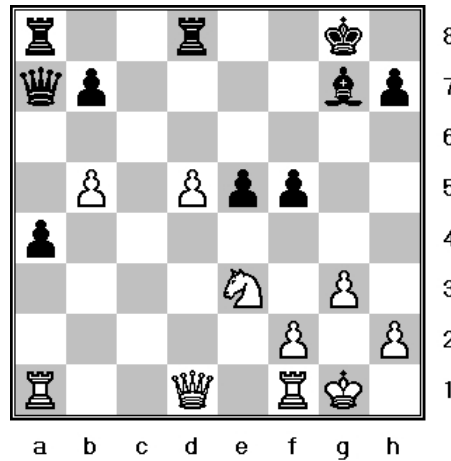


24. ...fxe4

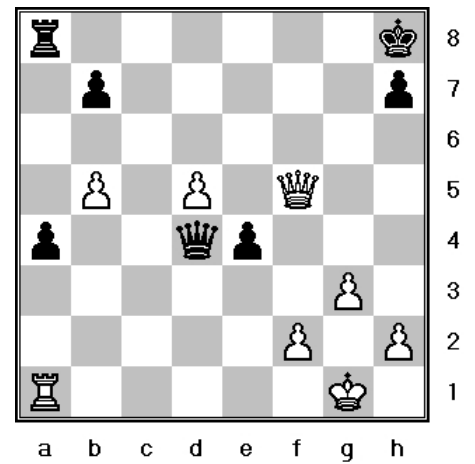
White still had some work to do: eliminate the Black a-pawn, keep Bg7 out of the game, try to break in via the c-file.

25. Bxe4 Ra8 26. Ra1 Bf5 27. Bxf5 gxf5
 28. Ne3

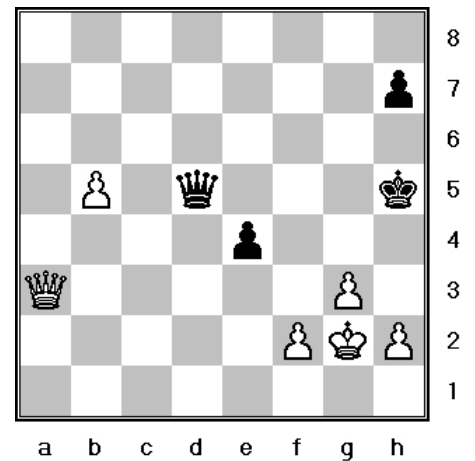
There is a new spot on the screen, f5 and the Black K-side.



28. ...Rf8 29. Qh5 e4 30. Nxf5 Bxa1
 31. Rxa1 Rxf5 32. Qg4+ Kh8 33. Qxf5
 Qd4



34. Rc1 a3 35. Rc8+ Rxc8 36. Qxc8+
 Kg7 37. Qxb7+ Kg6 38. Qa6+ Kh5 39.
 Qxa3 Qd1+ 40. Kg2 Qxd5



41. Qe3 Qxb5 42. Qxe4 Kh6 43. h4
 Kg7 44. Qe7+ Kg6 45. Qg5+ Qxg5 46.
 hxg5 Kxg5 47. Kh3 Kf5 48. Kh4 Ke4 49.
 f4

1-0

So, we have briefly seen how an idea evolved. White took the idea of using the Bc1 for an alternate function and worked with it. Black countered with a simple move (f6) and White further refined the play. Then we encountered the interaction of the plans for White of Bg5 and Rb1.

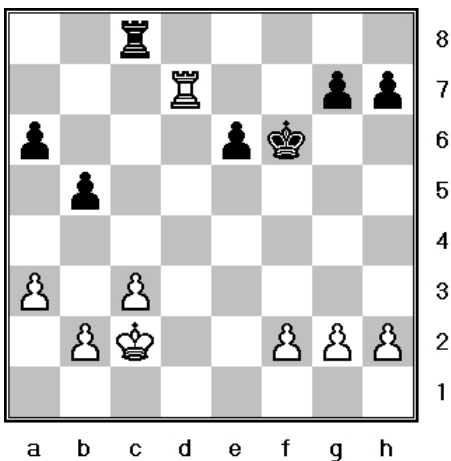
There is certainly more out there, but now we at least have a path to follow.

And In The End by Dana Muller



This month we look at another rook and pawn endgame. In this case White has a huge advantage; the only question is whether Black can do anything to stop a fairly straightforward winning plan. In this case, Black's initial position is bad enough that there aren't any good plans (for Black) to be had. My memory of the game was that it was a smooth conversion of a good position; upon further review, perhaps there should have been a few more bumps in the road.

Dana Muller - Russ Ridderbush
Puget Sound League, 1981



White is clearly better, likely winning. White is not only a pawn ahead; his rook is active on d7, and Black has an extra pawn weakness at e6. White's plan is straightforward: create a passed pawn and threaten to advance it. Black has an important decision to make, try and play actively or sit tight and see if White can force his way in. Playing actively is usually preferred, but while pawn exchanges are welcome, advancing the kingside pawns too far may expose them (on the other hand such an advance may lead to the desired pawn exchanges). Playing to hold the line has a chance at success, the black rook is well placed to make the queenside pawns safe and as long the black king stays on the kingside the kingside pawns are safe as well, and white may find it hard to penetrate after creating a passed pawn on c4.

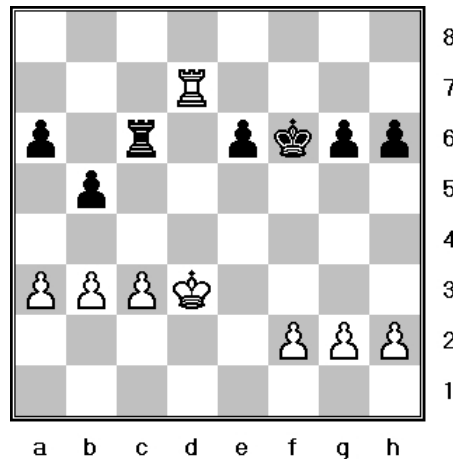
27. ... Rc6

Sensible, the a6 and e6 pawns are covered.

28. b3

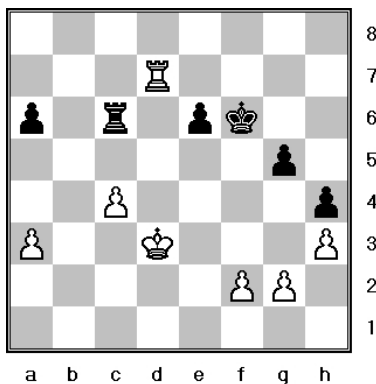
The first step in the creation of a passed c-pawn. The white rook is very well placed on d7, for the moment there are no weak pawns to justify moving it off its perch.

28... h6 29. Kd3 g6



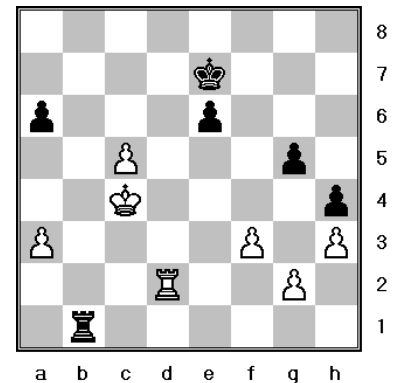
Black has decided to hold tight. The h- and g-pawns have been removed from the view of the white rook and placed on a rank where the black rook can defend them.

The alternate plan is to aggressively advance the pawns, i.e. 28. ...h5 29. Kd3 g5 30. c4 bxc4 31. bxc4 h4 32. h3 (allowing black to play h3 complicates matters).



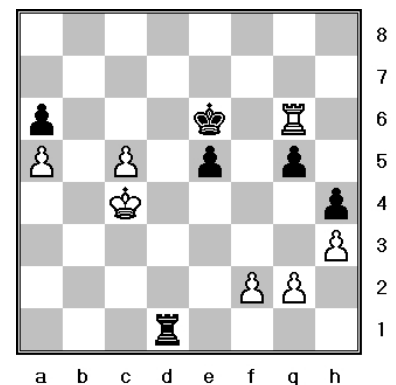
Two possible continuations are (1) 32. ...Rb6 (trying to invade ASAP) 33. Kc3 Rb1 34. Rd2 Ke7 (on Ke5 35. c5 and the black king is awkwardly placed, King moves can

be answered with c6) 35. c5 Rg1 36. f3 Rb1 37. Kc4



37. ...Rc1+(?) 38. Kb4 Rb1 39. Ka5

(2) 32. ...e5 (allowing the king to move the queenside) 33. Kc3 Ke6 34. Rd8 Ke7 35. Rg8 Kf6 36. a4 Kf5 (36. ...a5 37. Rb8 idea Rb5) 37. a5 Rd6 (sitting allows Rg8-b8-b6) 38. c5 Rd1 39. Kc4 Ke6 40. Rg6+



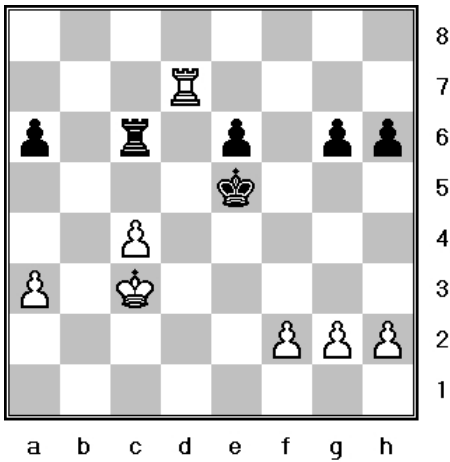
While far from comprehensive, these sample lines show that White is good shape to deal with a more active defense.

30. c4 bxc4 31. bxc4 Ke5

If 31. ...e5 then Rd5. 31. ...Ke5 looks active, but is really sort of stuck there since there are no weaknesses (yet) in the white kingside and the black king can't cross to the queenside.

32. Kc3

With the idea of advancing the c-pawn via Kb4, c5, Kc4.



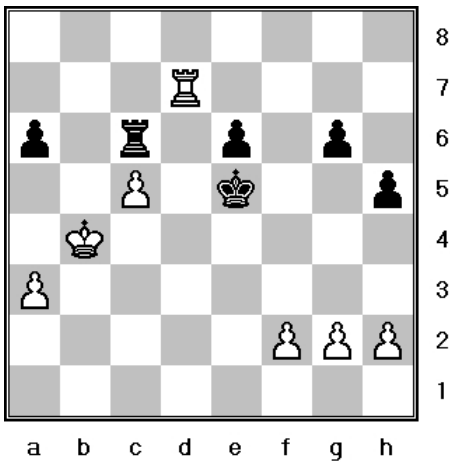
32. ... Ke4

Maybe this is the time to start advancing the kingside pawns.

33. Kb4 Ke5

If 33. ...Rb6+ then a sample line is: 34. Kc5 Rb2 35. Rf7 g5 36. a4 a5 (else 37. a5 and White wins the a-pawn) 37. Kd6 Rd2+ 38. Kc6 Ra2 39. c5 Rxa4 40. Kb5 Ra1 41. c6 wins.

34. c5 h5



Black has decided that he needs some activity from the kingside pawns after all.

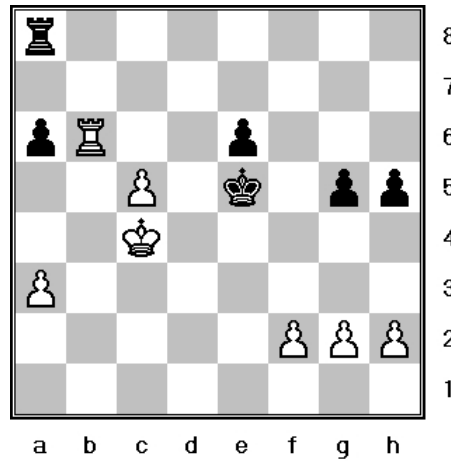
35. Kc4

The idea now is Rd7-b7-b6. If White completes the plan then Black then has to either exchange rooks or defend the a-pawn passively from a7 or a8. 35. Kc4 is necessary before starting the rook maneuver in order to stop the black king from coming to the queenside via d5. What I missed was 35. Rd6! immediately wins the a-pawn since 35. ...Rxd6 36. cxd6 Kxd6 37. Ka5 is a winning king and pawn ending.

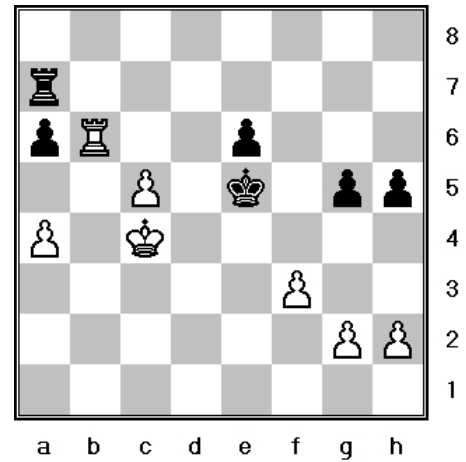
35. ...g5 36. Rb7 Rc8

Otherwise 37. Rb6 will win the a-pawn or exchange rooks. Of course 36. ...a5? is not an option: 37. Kb5 penetrates decisively.

37. Rb6 Ra8



Perhaps counter play with Rf8 is better, but white should still be winning. For example 37. ...Rf8 38. f3 Rf4+ 39. Kc3 g4 40. fxg4 Rxg4 41. g3 h4 42. gxh4 Rxh4 43. Rxa6 Rxh2 44. Kc4 Rc2+ 45. Kb5



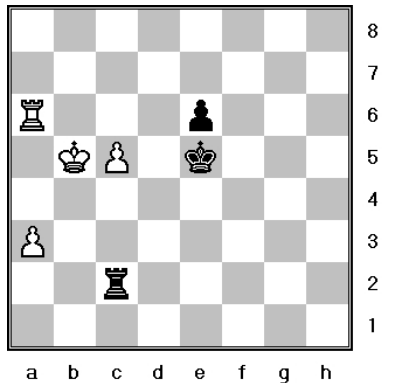
1-0

Time.

The purpose of f3 is to prevent a tempo loss if black moves his rook to the f-file.

I believe the final position is a win for white. 39. ...Ra8 40. Kb4:

(1) 40. ...Kd4 (40. ...Kd5 41. Rd6+) 41. Rxe6 Rb8+ 42. Rb6 Ra8 42. c6 Kd5 43. Ka5 picks up the a-pawn.

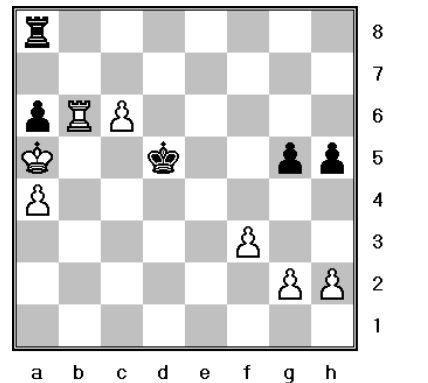


(note: this is not the notorious rook-pawn + bishop-pawn endgame since the black king is cut off for the foreseeable future).


38. a4

White could have played 38. f3 with same plan as started with the next move. Still, this move doesn't spoil anything and useful in some variation. Both sides were running very short of time at this point.

38. ...Ra7 39. f3



(2) 40. ...Ra7 (waiting) 41. Ka5 Kd5 42. Rxa6 Rc7 (42. ...Rxa6+ 43. Kxa6 Kxc5 44. Kb7 Kb4 (otherwise the a-pawn runs) 44. Kc6 +-) 43. Kb4 h5 (43. ...Rb7+ 44. Rb6, 43. ...Rxc5 44. Ra5) 44. h3 Rc8 45. Rd6+

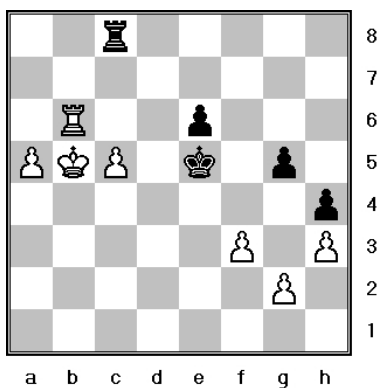


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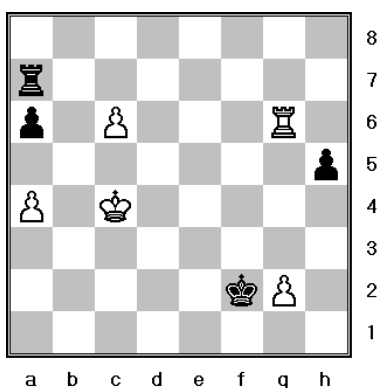
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3-Time Oregon Champion

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ssmith6154@aol.com

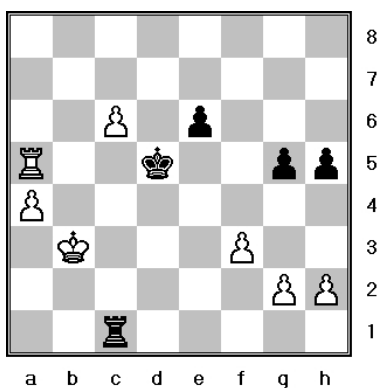
Ke5 46. Kb5 Rb8+ 47. Rb6 Rc8 48. a5 wins.



On 39. ...g4 Fritz suggests 40. f4+ Kxf4 41. Rxe6 g3 42. hxg3+ Kxg3 43. Rg6+ Kf2 44. c6 winning



On 39. ...Rd7 40. c6 Rd4+ 41. Kc3 Kd5 42. Rxa6 Rc4+ (42. ...e5 43 Ra5+) 43. Kb3 Rc1 44. Ra5+ winning.



Send renewals and changes of address to the business manager:

Eric Holcomb
 NW Chess Business Manager
 1900 NE Third St, Ste 106-361
 Bend OR 97701-3889
Eric@Holcomb.com

This Month in Northwest Chess History

by Russell Miller



1949

The March 1949 was the last issue for editor Lawrence Taro of Everett, Washington. *"I find it impossible, impractical, and inconducive to the betterment of my peronal life for me to continue longer in my duties as editor of the WCL, so I must resign."* Appears he stopped playing postal chess also. This issue was only 7 pages of material.

Taro and Neil Power tied for first place in the Everett CC tournament and were to play a ten game match to decide the winner of trophy plus "a fine hand carved chess set made by Peter Husby."

The officers of the Seattle CC recently elected were: T. Davidson- Pres, C. E. Shurman - V-P, Ben L. Carson - Sec-Tres, Jack Finnegan-TD, C.C. Bushnell- Director. The ones for Everett were: J. A. Naas-Pres, E. J. Tweeddale - VP, Peter Husby - Sec-Tres, J. A. Naas- WCF Director. Tacoma CC leads the Puget Sound League at this point in play. Crain of Tacoma had the best board score 9.5-.5.

The last of the five part article by Olaf Ulvestad about his trip to Soviet Russia was printed in this issue. Naas of Everett was the top rated postal player in this issue.

1959

Dan Wade of Seattle does the editor work on the March 1959 *Washington Chess Letter* issue of 22 pages. He reports on the 7-player round-robin Washington State Closed. It was won by Elmars Zemgalis 6-0. James McCormick was 2nd at 3 wins 2 losses and 1 draw. Viesturs Seglins scored 3-3. At 2.5-3.5 were Daniel E. Wade and Dr. A. A. Murray. Donald Kendall had 2-4 while 7th place went to Edward Diedrich with 1.5-4.5. The event was held at the Seattle CC. This event continued Zemgalis record of never losing a game in Washington State events, 25 wins and 2 draws. Al Livingston and Buz Eddy were the

tournament directors. The Seattle Times printed a picture of Kendall playing Zemgalis.

In a match held in Vancouver BC the group from Washington State was beaten 7.5-1.5. Elod Macskasy vs Zemgalis 1-0, Murvald Jursevakis vs Olaf Ulvestad 1-0, Gerhard Neufahrt vs Seglins 0-1, Jack Taylor vs Charles Joachim 1-0, Jac Patty vs G.S.G. Patterson 1-0, Don Murray vs O. W. Manney 1-0, George Zergecich vs Dr. Murray 1-0, Kad Nielsen vs Wade .5-.5, Frank May vs Ivars Cakarbus 1-0.

Tacoma CC elections report finds C. R. Hewitt elected President. Others Dick Somsen VP, J. Dolle Tres, Vernon Holmes TD and Jack Finnegan-Seg at Arms.

Three photos from the 1959 Washington Open were printed and did not turn out too badly for a mimeograph-printed publication.

Clark Harmon took the first Oregon Centennial Open on tie-break over John Bell when both scored four wins and two draws. They were both Portland junior players. 34 players took part with Deane Moore as TD. The event was held at the Oregonian Hostess House in downtown Portland.

Buz Eddy did a report on University of Washington chess play. Viktors Pupols gave a 7-board blindfold exhibition and the result was Pupols 2.5-4.5. Uof W topped a team from Seattle Pacific 7-2. They also topped a team from West Seattle 6.5-3.5

Bruce Fredstrom gave WCL a report on Inland Empire Junior Chess. High School teams taking part in a league were: Cocur d' Alene, Sandpoint, Spirit Lake and Wallace all of Idaho plus Lewis & Clark of Spokane.

Writing of Spokane, the club championship ended in tie between Dr. David Groenig and Gordon Cornelius at 5-1. 11 players took part.

Editor Wade was listed on top of the Postal Rating List.

The March 1969 issue of *Northwest Chess* had Russell Miller of Yakima as editor. It was 16 pages printed on newsprint paper. He had help from Layout Editor - Larry Ball of Portland, Tournament News - Buz Eddy of Kent, Rating Director - Peter J. Olson of Seattle, Circulation Director - Kathy Miller of Yakima, Postal Director - John Ward of Tacoma, Idaho Chess Bulletin - Richard Vandenburg of Boise, Oregon Editor - Harry Glidden of Medford, B. C. Bulletin - Bob Eldridge of Burnaby BC, High School Editor - Howie Chin of Seattle. The cover was done by Larry Ball.

Tournament announcements for the following events were printed: Chess for Fund at the Seattle CC, Inland Empire Open at Gonzaga U in Spokane, B.C. Open in North Burnaby BC, Ruse De Guerre Open in Washougal, WA, Puget Sound Open at Boeing Plant #2 cafeteria in Seattle.

The crosstable of the 1969 Washington Closed listed James McCormick and Kent Pullen as winners at 6-1. McCormick lost to 3rd place finisher Viktors Pupols and Pullen lost to McCormick. McCormick won the one-game playoff match. This was the 6th win for McCormick and 5th in a row. The Alternates Cup was won by Digne deLenea with 5-1.

The Boeing Employees Chess Club round-robin of 8 players was won by Mike Murray 6-1.

The Northwest Ratings list page for this month reported that 23 new unrated players had taken part in events rated for this month.

Howie Chin reporting for High School Chess says there are leagues all over the western Washington. There is the Northwest League, Northwest Metro League, Seattle Catholic, Seattle Metro, King County, Tacoma. High School play in Eastern Washington was having a rough go. The state team tournament was set for April 26-27 at Seattle U.

Harry Glidden in Oregon Chess News reports two matched in the Portland Metro League. Dark Avengers with Ivars Dalbergs on board one drew the Bookends team with top board of Dennis Waterman at 4-4. Clark Harmon was top board for the Black Knights who beat Rocky Butte Raiders 7-3. The 1968 Oregon Woodpusher ended in a 5-way tie at 3.5-.5 between Robert Mitchell, Owen Dvoshak, Mike Montchalin, Rod Espey and

Bruce Betzer. Mitchell won on tie-break. 46 players had taken part.

Bob Eldridge in the B.C. Bulletin section reported on the Vancouver Open a win on tie-break for Ray Kerr of Victoria. Elod Macskasy of Vancouver had matched his 5.5-.5 score. They drew in round 5. 50 players took part the strongest Vancouver Open in history. Russ Vogler was the TD. J. Lee and Viesturs Seglins finished 3rd and 4th with 5-1.

Norm Hardy presented a report on Seattle Metro League play. Queen Anne High School won the first round robin over 11 other teams with 9 wins 1 loss and 1 drawn matches. Owen Overton of Roosevelt High won a 10-player Seattle Metro League RR with 7-2 score.

Boeing "A" won the 68-69 Puget Sound League play with a 6-1 match score. They lost only to 2nd place Seattle CC. 8 teams took part.

In history articles the editor gave short reports on what was in issues of the magazine in 1949, 1954, 1959 and 1969 plus printed "A History of Organized Chess in Washington State," by John Nourse that had appeared in the *Washington Chess Letter* of May 1950.

Dan Rogers came from Bozeman, Montana, to play in the Wenatchee Valley Open. He won the 16-player event 4-0.

Richard Schultz's name was atop the Postal Chess Rating list this month.

1979

Robert A. Karch with a PO address in Kenmore is the editor of *Northwest Chess* for March 1979. The list of regular columnists was Postal Chess by Larry Swan, Games Editor by Ron Norman, Russian Translation by Jim Perry, Cartoonist by Les J. Roselle, and British Columbia by Harold Brown, plus Problems by David L. Brown. Others writing for this issue were: Harold W. Kohn, Tom Moore (Oregon Chess News) and Yasser Seirawan.

Display ads in this issue were a full page for 1979 Canadian Open, 1/2 page ad for Portland Spring Open with \$625.00 prize fund guaranteed, Continental Life Idaho Open with \$1,260.00 guaranteed. About a 1/2 page ad for 5th Annual Grants Pass Open also with guaranteed prizes, \$300.00.

Topping the 5 postal masters list was Borek Groschl. There were 10 Experts

topped by Ron Norman. The Class A list of 15 was topped by Fred Van Natta. 20 players were in the Class B list topped by Richard Solorio. Class C had 17 names on the listing topped by William Dillon. George Hayes that the top of the 20 player Class D list.

Yasser Seirawan's article was called "Breaking into the Arena," part one. It is about his play in the Hastings Challengers of 1977 with his games and his notes to them plus other comments on his starting to play as a chess pro.

Kevin Casey, a newcomer from California, won \$50.00 for 1st place in the 24-player Hobgoblin Hectic, sponsored by the Tacoma CC. Ernst Rasmussen was 2nd and winners of the Class prize were Duane Polich, Bill McGeary and Eugene Foman.

George Duleba won the 7-round Boeing Swiss with a 6-1 score. Jeff Treder of Ellensburg took the Ellensburg Grand Prix No. 2 over 7 other players.

Kevin Casey also won the South Eye Street Blues over 17 others with a 5-0 score. Neil Salmon of Tacoma was the 1978 Washington Challengers Cup winner with 5-0 score beating Casey in round 5. 30 players took part in this one. The Christmas Congress was held in 4 sections. Yasser Seirawan scored 3.5-.5 in the Championship section of 9 players. Gerard Van Deene topped the Alekhine section with 4-0. Ronald Silley and Michael Darby both scored 4-0 in the 25 player Morphy Section. The Scholastic event drew 18 players and was won by Kirk Radeck with 5-1.

Ollie LaFreniere directed a seven-team Shoreline Invitational High School Team event which was won by Lakeside.

Gordon Taylor won the 36-player Victoria Winter Open. His 5-0 score earned \$75; his third perfect score in a row.

The article by Harold Kohn was about Pre Chess and "Super Pre Chess".

Portland "A" won the 78-79 Cascade League with a 5-1 match score. Gerard Van Deene of the Portland "A" team had a 6-0 record.

Tournaments and Activities section had an ad for Norwescon, a Science Fiction Convention in Seattle. Two 30-board simulms by GM Larry Christianson as part of his USA Church's Fried Chicken sponsored tour were announced. Steve Christopher advertised Jerger Chess Clocks for \$35.00.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address ←
 17517 15 Ave NE ←
 Seattle WA 98155
Infoline ↗
 206-417-5405
www.seattlechessclub.info
kleistcf@aol.com
Address for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

One-Day Events

☞ Mar. 1, Apr. 5 Sunday Tornado ☞

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

☞ Mar. 14, Apr. 25 Saturday Quads ☞

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

March 7 SCC vs. TCC Match

Format: 1-rd, 7-board (class) match. **TC:** G/120. **Prizes:** Win-Tornado EF, Draw-Quad EF. **Rd:** 1:00 p.m. **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

May 2 SCC Novice

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 4/29, \$16 at site. (\$2 disc. for SCC mem., \$1 for mem. of other dues-req'd CCs in WA, OR, & BC). **Prizes:** Memberships (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3 or 4-commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Seattle Spring Open

March 27-29 or March 28-29

A two-section Swiss (4 rounds – Open, 5 rounds – Reserve) with a time control of 40/2 and SD/1 (two-day Reserve schedule – Round 1, G/64). The prize fund of \$750 is based on 40 paid entries, 5 per prize group.

a Harmon Memorial Grand Prix event

Championship		Reserve (U2000)	
First	\$140	First	\$100
Second	\$100	Second	\$70
U2200	\$75	U1800	\$50
U2000	\$40	U1600	\$40
		U1400	\$30
		U1200	\$25
		Unrated	\$15

Plus Score Pool – \$100

Entry Fees: \$33 if rec'd by 3/25 (\$24 for SCC memb., \$29 for memb. of other dues-required CCs in BC, OR, and WA), \$42 at site (\$33, \$38). **Unrated-Free** with purchase of 1-yr USCF & 1-yr WCF. **Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

Registration: Open-Sat. 11- noon; Reserve-Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am.

Rounds: Open-Sat. 12:30-6:45, Sun. 10-4; Reserve-Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 10-4.

Byes: 1 in Open, 2 in Reserve (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: USCF & WCF membership req'd. No smoking. No computers.

The Green Open II!!!

G/90 + 30 sec./move

4-round Swiss

coming May 9-10

Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

♣ March 14 – 15

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E, Rm #11 (2nd flr DTI soccer bldg), Tacoma, WA. **Format:** 5-SS TC: G/120, w/5-sec. delay. **EF:** Adv \$30, jrs \$20; site \$35/\$25; Economy (no prizes) \$12. **Prizes:** If 9+ non-Economy, 25% 1st, non-E in three groups, 15%, 14%, 13%. If <9 non-E, 30% 1st, two groups 20%, 17%. **Reg:** 9-9:30 am. **Rds:** Sat 10; 2:30; 7 (or ASAP); Sun 10; 3 (or ASAP) **Byes:** 2 HPBs req before rd 4. **Misc:** USCF & OCF/WCF memb req, OSA; NW, NS, NC; unr plays for 1st or free entry w/no prizes. **Info:** ggarychess@aol.com, 253-535-2536. **Ent:** Gary Dorfner, 8423 E "B" St, Tacoma, WA 98445.

Northwest Open ♣

♣ March 21 – 22

Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219. **Format:** 5-SS TC: 40/90, SD/30 **EF:** \$30 adv, \$35 site, \$10 disc. PCC memb **Prizes:** \$\$650 b/40: Open \$150, \$100, U2000 \$75; Reserve (U1800) \$100, \$75, C, D, E/Unr \$50 **Reg:** 9-9:30 am. **Rds:** Sat 10; 2; ASAP; Sun 10; ASAP **Byes:** 2 HPBs req at reg. **Misc:** USCF & OCF/WCF memb req, OSA **Info:** portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978. **Ent:** Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219.

Portland Spring Open ♣

♣ March 28

Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219. **Format:** 4-SS TC: G/60. May switch to 5-SS and G/45 if entries > 25. **EF:** \$20, \$5 disc for PCC memb. No adv ent. **Prizes:** \$\$200 b/20. \$60-40-30, U1800 35, U1500 35. **Reg:** 9-9:30 am. **Byes:** 1 HPB if req at reg. **Misc:** USCF & OCF/WCF memb req, OSA. **Info:** portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.org.

PCC Game-in-60 ♣

♣ April 4 – 5

Site: Gonzaga University, Schoenberg Center, Rm 202 N 900 Pearl St, Spokane. **Format:** 5-SS TC: G/120. **Rds:** Sat 10; 2:30; 7; Sun 9; 1:30 (or ASAP). **EF:** \$26 by 4/3, \$31 site. \$5 disc for U-19. Telephone entries OK. **Prizes:** \$\$600 b/25, 5 per section. \$100-85-65; A, B, C, D/E/U 50-25; Upset 50 (non-prov.). **Reg:** 8:30-9:30 am. **Bye:** 1 hpb req. before end of preceding round; Sunday by end rd 3. **Misc:** USCF & OCF/WCF memb req, OSA. Cookies and coffee provided; class pairings possible final rd. **Info:** www.spokanechessclub.org. David Griffin, 509-928-3260 or cell 509-994-9739 **Ent:** Spokane CC, c/o David B. Griffin, PO Box 631, Spokane Valley, WA 99037.

Inland Empire Open ♣

March 2009

1	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
1	TCC Sunday Quads G/30	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
3	PCC Tuesday Quads begin	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
6-13	Pierce County League Rds 5-6	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
7	PCC Saturday Quads	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
7	SCC vs TCC match	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
11	TCC Wednesday Quads G/15	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
14	♣ SCC Saturday Quads	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
14-15	♣ TCC Northwest Open	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
14-15	Grants Pass Open XXXV		Grants Pass, OR
21-22	♣ Portland Spring Open	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
27	TCC Gambit Tourney	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
27-29	♣ Seattle Spring Open	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
28	♣ PCC G/60	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
28	Java Fusion Coffee Shop Tourney	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA

April 2009

1	TCC April Fools Quads G/15	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
3	Pierce County Champ (through May 13)	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
4	PCC Saturday Quads	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
4	Campbell Center Open		Eugene, OR
4-5	♣ Inland Empire Open	Spokane CC, www.spokanechessclub.org, 509-928-3260	Spokane, WA
5	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
7	PCC Tuesday Quads begin	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
8	TCC Wednesday Quads G/15	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
10-12	9th Annual Far West Open	Jerry Weikel, www.renochess.org/fwo, 775-747-1405	Reno, NV
10-13	Grand Pacific Open	Victoria CC, victoriachessclub.pbwiki.com/Victoria+Chess+Festival+2009	Victoria, BC
16-30	♣ Taxing Quads (one round/week)	Spokane CC, www.spokanechessclub.org, 509-928-3260	Spokane, WA
18-19	♣ TCC Daffodil Open	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
25	♣ SCC Saturday Quads	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
25	♣ PCC G/60	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
25	Java Fusion Coffee Shop Tourney	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
25-26	♣ 3rd Annual Clark Harmon Memorial	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR

May 2009

2	SCC Novice	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
2	PCC Saturday Quads	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
3	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
5	PCC Tuesday Quads begin	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
9-10	♣ H.G. Pitre's Green Open II	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
15-18	34th Paul Keres Memorial		Vancouver, B.C.
16	♣ SCC Saturday Quads	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
23-25	♣ Washington Open	Spokane CC, www.spokanechessclub.org, 509-270-7720	Spokane, WA
30	♣ PCC G/60	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
30	Java Fusion Coffee Shop Tourney	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
31	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA

June 2009

2	PCC Tuesday Quads begin	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
4-7	Las Vegas Chess Festival, National Open	www.vegachessfestival.com	Las Vegas, NV
6	PCC Saturday Quads	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
13	♣ SCC Saturday Quads	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
19-21	♣ SCC Emerald City Open	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
27	♣ PCC G/60	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
27	Java Fusion Coffee Shop Tourney	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA

For scholastic tournament listings, please visit www.nwchess.com.