

# Rank & File

500P

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

FEBRUARY-MARCH-APRIL 2013

VOLUME XXXVII, No. 1

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*Cy & Jack*

*IM Matikozyan*

*Tops 9th L.A. Open  
and the 22nd Metro FIDE, too!*

*Southern California Players at the  
World Youth Championships*

*Sevian, GM Khachiyan  
Win 23rd Metro FIDE*

*Four-way Tie at the  
Century West Open*

*Two From La Palma*

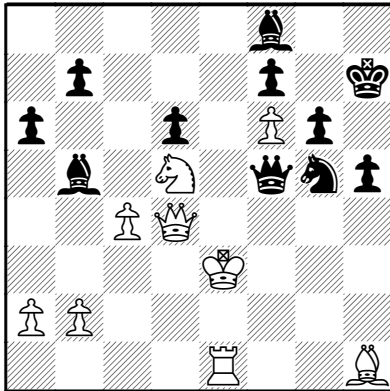
*A King & Pawn Ending*

*What Was He Thinking?*

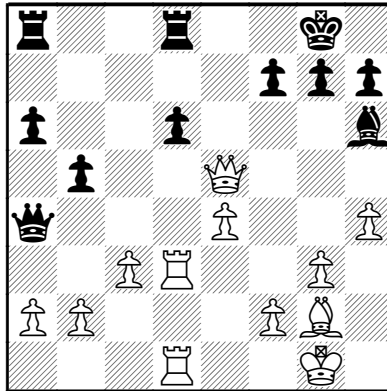
**GM Melikset Khachiyan  
Takes 48th American Open  
Now a Seven-Time Winner!**

# INSIDE MOVES

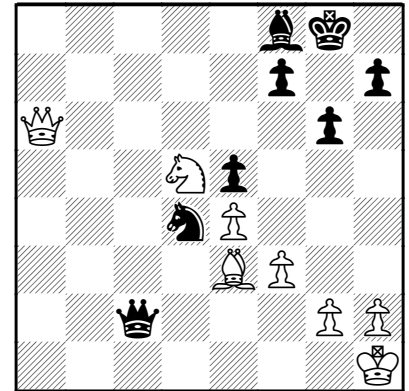
A *tactical warm-up* might be a good way to start reading. Begin with an easy one, and then work up to the tougher ones. But watch out for 8 and 9, the really hard ones. Even if you are a beginner and can't solve them, just playing through the solutions on page 4 will open up your tactical vision. - Ed.



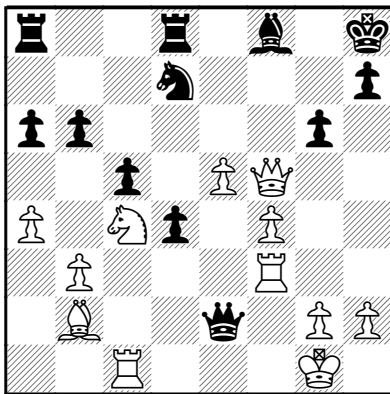
1. Black to Play



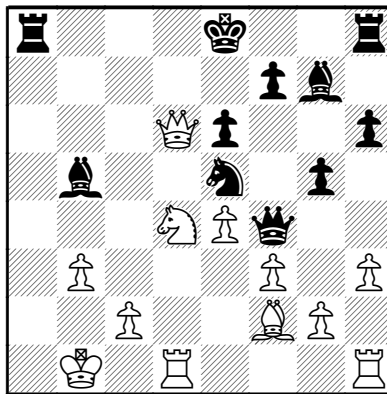
2. Black to Play



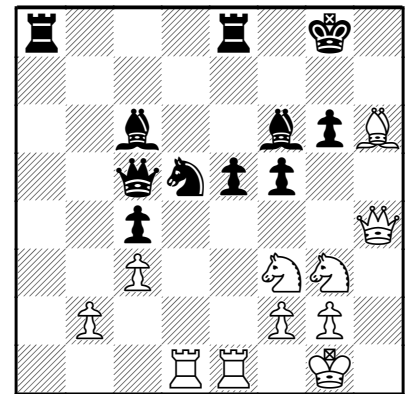
3. Black to Play



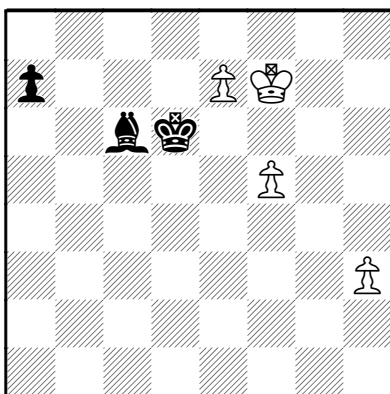
4. White to Play



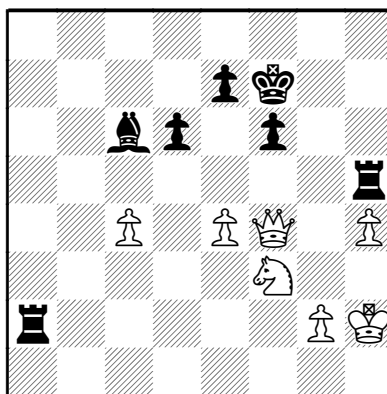
5. White to Play



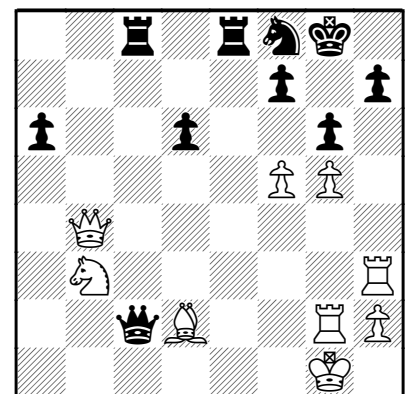
6. White to Play



7. Black to Play



8. White to Play



9. Black to Play

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# Rank & File

FEBRUARY-MARCH-APRIL 2013

VOLUME XXXVII, No. 1

- 2 INSIDE MOVES**  
It's a warm-up quiz. We'll start you out easy, but Nos. 8 & 9 may be too hard.
- 4 POSITIONS**  
A note on the Southern California Championship.
- 5 CY & JACK**  
By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala. Two interesting games!
- 10 IM ANDRANIK MATIKOZYAN TOPS 9TH L. A. OPEN**  
We present the winner's best game.
- 12 IM MATIKOZYAN WINS THE 22ND METRO FIDE, TOO!**  
Jack Peters annotates Andranik's best game, too
- 15 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMPETES IN THE WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
We have stories, photos, and games, even Gary.
- 22 GM MELIKSET KHACHIYAN TAKES 48TH AMERICAN OPEN**  
Melik annotates his best game, Jack does two others.
- 28 GM KHACHIYAN AND FM SAMUEL SEVIAN TOP 23RD METRO FIDE GM**  
11-year old Sevian gets his third IM norm!
- 32 FOUR-WAY TIE AT THE CENTURY WEST OPEN**  
Jack Peters annotates the 123-move final round Bryant - Aldama battle!
- 37 TWO FROM LA PALMA**  
By Jack Peters. See the Best Indian Defense Games.
- 40 A KING & PAWN ENDING**  
By Jack Peters. A tricky ending from the recent Snowdrops vs. Old Hands, young women players vs. 20th Century Chess Legends.
- 43 WHAT WAS HE THINKING?**  
By Phil Chase. Thoughts during an adventure in the US Open.
- 45 HERE AND THERE**  
Local club news, notices and activities around Southern California.
- 50 UPCOMING EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
Earn those Grand Prix points!
- 51 FINAL POINTS**  
Another quiz, until our next issue.
- BACK COVER: OUTSIDE SHOTS!**  
They are often from inside games.

View back issues of *Rank & File* at  
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# Positions



E-mail your letters to: [RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com](mailto:RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com)

## The Southern California Championship:

At the SCCF Board meeting Jan. 6 at the Beverly Hills Chess Club, the SCCF gave me authority to handle all preparations for the invitational state championship this summer. I intend to do all I can to make the 25<sup>th</sup> Southern California Championship the best ever. My chief responsibility is to persuade the highest-rated players to participate, and I'm confident that many of our top pros will agree to play.

Tentative plans call for a round robin of eight players to be held June

20-23 in Monterey Park. By the time you read this, plans should be set.

The SCCF will not have to contribute any money to the tournament. Donations will cover all costs, including the substantial prize fund.

This is where every SCCF member can help. If you think Southern California deserves an outstanding state championship, please help out by making a donation. Whether you can afford \$10 or \$1,000, your contribution will be much appreciated.

The easiest way to donate is to send a check (payable to SCCF) to:

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Thank you to all donors, large and small.

-Jack Peters

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## Solutions to Inside Moves

From page 2.

1. Decisive is **50...Bh6! 0-1**, and there's nothing White can do. Hopeless are 51.Nf4 Ne6, 51.Be4 Nxe4+, and 51.Qf4 Nh3. Amanov - Ramirez, 23rd Metro GM, Los Angeles 2012.

2. Black hooks a Rook with **23...Qxd1+! 24.Rxd1 dxe5**. Wang - Perkins, World Youth U8, Maribor 2012.

3. Black wins a pawn with **36...Qd1+ 37.Bg1 Nxf3!** because 38.gxf3 allows 38...Qxf3 mate. Remlinger - Abrahamyan, Century West Open, Los Angeles 2013.

4. White makes The Unanswerable Threat: **28.Qb1!!** and Black has no good answer to 29.Re1, trapping the Black Queen. Relatively best was 28...b5 29.Re1 Qxf3 30.gxf3 bxc4 31.bxc4+-, but White has Queen and Pawn for Rook and Knight in a good position. The game ended with **28...d3 29.e6+ 1-0**. Manukyan - Duckworth, 22nd Metro IM, Los Angeles 2012.

5. The cruncher would have been **25.Nxe6!** and if 25...fxe6 then 26.Qxe6+ Kf8 27.Bc5 mate. Hilby

- Tifferet, World Youth U12, Maribor 2012. See notes from the game on page 16.

6. White wins material with **32.Rxd5! 1-0**. If 32...Qe7 (or 32...Bxd5 33.Qxf6 and 34.Qxg6+) then 33.Qxc4 Bxd5 34.Qxd5+ with a pawn and two Knights for a Rook. Amanov - Remlinger, 22nd Metro IM, Los Angeles 2012.

7. Black makes the save with **59...Bf3! 60.e8Q Bh5+ 61.Kf8 Bxe8 62.Kxe8 Ke5=**, from a variation in Bryant - Aldama, Century West Open, Los Angeles 2013. See the whole game, starting on page 33.

8. White exploits the uncoordinated Black position and unprotected pieces with **46.Ng5+!**. If now 46...Kg8 then 47.Qg4 Rxh4+ (or 47...Rh8 48.Qe6+ Kg7 49.Qxe7+ Kg6 50.Qf7+ Kh6 51.Qxf6+ etc., and if 47...Rh6 48.Qe6+ Kh8 49.Nf7+ Kh7 50.Qxe7!) 48.Qxh4 fxd5 49.Qxg5+ and White exploits Black's position further with 49...Kf8 50.Qf5+ Kg7 51.Qe6 Kf8 52.c5+-.

If instead 46...Kg7 then 47.Ne6+ Kh8 48.c5! and neither 48...dxc5 49.Qg3! Rh7 50.Qb8+, nor 48...Bd7 49.Nf8 Ra7 (if 49...Be8 then 50.cxd6) 50.Nxd7 Rxd7 51.Qg4 will survive.

The game ended with **46...Ke8 47.Qg4 1-0**. The threat of mate at c8 forces Black to give up the Exchange with 47...Rxh4+ 48.Qxh4 fxd5 49.Qxg5+- and now if 49...Bxe4?? then 50.Qg8+ Kd7 51.Qg4+ picks up the Bishop. Sevan - Amanov, 23rd Metro GM, Los Angeles 2012.

9. The quickest win is **28...Rc4!**. The other winning move, 28...Qd1+ is strong but wrong. After 29.Kf2 Re2+ 30.Kg3 it's still a win, but we wish the Rook were at c4. Black now has two ways to win, one starting with 30...Rce8 threatening 31...R2e4, and the other is 30...a5.

The game continued with **29.Be1**. If 29.Qxd6 then 29...Qd1+ 30.Kf2 Re2+ 31.Kg3 Qxb3+-+. The advantage of the Rook at c4 is seen in the line 29.Qa5 Qd1+ 30.Kf2 Re2+, where the Rook keeps the King from escaping. After 31.Kg3 the simplest mate is 31...Qxb3+ (Houdini would be a total show-off with the quicker 31...Rg4+! 32.Kxg4 Re4+ 33.Kg3 Qg4+ 34.Kf2 Re2+ and it's mate on g2.) 32.Bc3 Rxc3+ 33.Qxc3 Qxc3+. **29...Qxf5! 0-1** There are too many threats. White's Rook and Queen are attacked, and 30.Qxc4 is met with mate starting with 30...Rxe1+. Amanov - Shen, 23rd Metro GM, Los Angeles 2012.

# Cy & Jack

By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

Cy's choice is a great game from his new book about Kramnik which is hot off the press. From the first few diagrammed positions, it hardly seems possible that Black's Knights are headed for great success. Subtle positional considerations soon give way to very sharp tactics for both sides. In Jack's game from the American Open, something seems to go wrong early on, and at move 22, he has one of those painful moments of realization we all know only too well. However, remember that chess can be difficult for your opponent, too! - Ed.

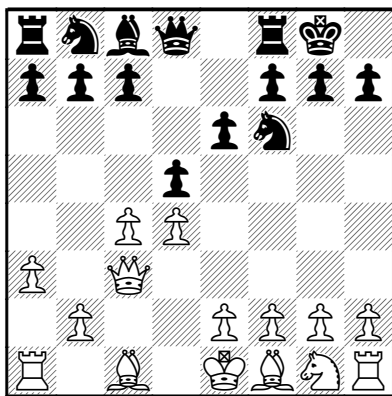
**Morozevich, Alexander - Kramnik, Vladimir**  
**[E36] Nimzo-Indian Defense**  
**Tal Memorial 2009 (3)**  
**Moscow, 07.11.2009**

**Cy:** This game is from my book *Kramnik: Move by Move*.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4**

**Cy:** A bold choice, since Morozevich has a nearly 70% plus score with the Capablanca line of the Nimzo-Indian.

**4.Qc2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 d5**



**Cy:** A painter needs more than just one color to work the canvas. A no-nonsense move. Black stakes a claim in the centre.

Last chapter we looked at 6...b6 in Kramnik - Polgar.

**Jack:** Although 6...b6 is by far Black's most popular continuation, some great players have recently preferred 6...d5.

**Cy:** *Question:* Does White stand better? He has the Bishop pair and Black has a bad remaining Bishop.

*Answer:* Actually, it's quite difficult for White to even claim a small edge. First, Black receives compensation for giving away the Bishop

with his lead in development. Second, Black's remaining Bishop can easily enter the game via a Queenside fianchetto.

**7.Nf3**

**Cy:**

a) Next game Carlsen tries 7.e3.

b) After 7.Bg5 dxc4 8.Qxc4 b6 9.Rd1 Ba6 10.Qc2 h6 11.Bh4 Nbd7 12.e4 Bxf1 13.Kxf1 Qc8 14.Ne2 Qb7 15.f3 c5 16.Kf2 Rac8, Black had harmoniously completed his development and equalized. Ivanchuk - Kramnik, Monte Carlo 2011.

**Jack:**

c) And White achieved nothing with 7.cxd5 Ne4! 8.Qc2 exd5 9.Bf4 Nc6 10.e3 Re8 11.Nf3 g5 12.Bg3 g4 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 c5= in Carlsen - Kramnik, Tal Memorial 2009, played two rounds before Morozevich faced Kramnik.

**7...dxc4**

**Cy:** ...b6 and ...Ba6 will soon pick up a tempo on White's Queen.

Black can also try 7...Ne4 8.Qc2 b6 9.g3 Ba6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Bg2 c5 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.0-0. White gets the Bishop pair and hopes to apply pressure upon Black's hanging pawns, while Black controls more central territory and his pieces remain quite active. Kharlov - Nisipeanu, Tripoli 2004.

**8.Qxc4**

**Cy:** *Question:* Why can't White postpone capture and play 8.e3 intending to take on c4 with his Bishop?

*Answer:* Believe it or not, I don't see a single game with your suggestion in my database. I think the reason is Black can force a favorable Noteboom variation with 8...b5! 9.a4

c6 10.axb5 cxb5 11.b3 a5! 12.bxc4 b4 when Black is ahead in development, compared to the normal Noteboom line.

**8...b6**

**Cy:** One small change and Black's bad Bishop is no longer bad.

**9.Bf4**

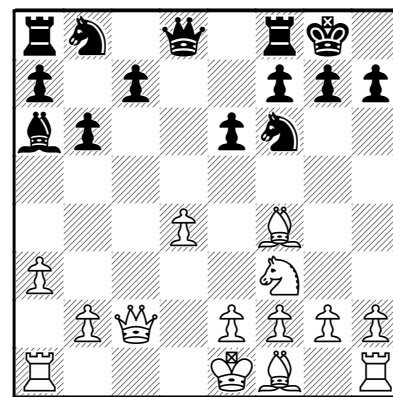
**Cy:** 9.Bg5 is the safer alternative.

**Jack:** Aronian succeeded with 9.g3 Ba6 10.Qc2 Nbd7 11.Bg2 c5 12.b4!? Rc8 13.Qa4 Bb7 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.0-0 against Topalov in 2008, but Black could have maintained equality with 15...Bc6= or 15...Qb6 16.Be3 Rfd8=.

**9...Ba6**

**Jack:** Offering a pawn seems much better than 9...Nd5 10.Bg5 f6 11.Bd2±.

**10.Qc2?!**



**Cy:** Moro inexplicably puts his plans on hold, like a book mark inserted between pages. If I remember my cartoon lore correctly, the main reason Wile E. Coyote failed repeatedly in his dream to trap or kill the roadrunner was overly ornate planning, which always involved complex schematic charts

and graphs. (We firmly believe that the dangerous, faulty products of the Acme Corporation deserve a great deal of the blame. -Ed.) It seems to me Moro is guilty of the same transgression here: Why attack c7 if not to take it?

GM John Emms writes: "Perhaps an important moment from a theoretical point of view. But if White isn't going to take on c7, my feeling is the Bishop should be on g5 rather than f4."

I suppose an unmade promise can never be broken.

**Question:** What happens if White does go pawn hunting on c7?

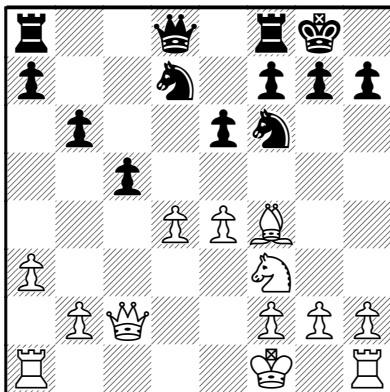
**Answer:** White falls back considerably behind in development and Black gets full compensation. 10.Qxc7 Qd5 Pelletier - Bacrot, Basel 2011. Black sometimes trades Queens here but it seems more logical to me to keep Queens on the board if you lead in development. **Jack:** Agreed! Black has ample compensation after 11.Qd6 Qe4 12.Rc1 Nbd7 13.Nd2 Qg6 14.f3 Rac8, as in Irina Krush - Boris Gulko, US Ch., St. Louis 2009.

**10...Nbd7 11.e4**

**Cy:** After 11.Rd1 Qc8 12.g3 c5 Black equalized. Gurevich - Adams, Khanty-Mansiysk 2007.

11.Bxc7?! doesn't make as much sense, since White could have taken the pawn last move. Now if 11...Qc8 12.Rc1 Qb7 13.Bf4 Rfc8, White's development lags dangerously behind. Likavsky - Delchev, Fuegen 2006.

**11...Bxf1 12.Kxf1 c5!**



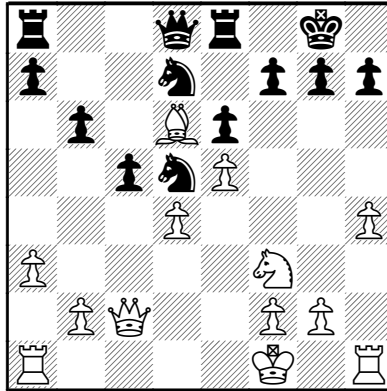
**Cy:** Surprisingly, this rather natural move was a theoretical novelty at the time. It is in Black's best interest to open the position while White's King lags behind in the cen-

tre. Kramnik's move is far more potent than 12...Qc8 13.Rc1 Qb7 14.Qc6 Calugaru - Leroy, ICCF email 2007.

**13.Bd6 Re8 14.e5**

**Cy:** White is in deep trouble after 14.dxc5?! Nxc5 15.Bxc5 Rc8 16.b4 bxc5 17.b5 c4.

**14...Nd5 15.h4!?**



**Cy:** Moro continues to fight the currents in opposition to the natural flow. Attacking from a position of inferiority is a sure recipe for trouble. But I don't have any better suggestions. Perhaps White should try and complete development with 15.g3.

**Jack:** If White wants to draw, he should try 15.dxc5 Nxc5 16.Bxc5 Rc8 17.b4 bxc5 18.bxc5, holding Black to a negligible advantage. For example, 18...Qa5 19.Ng5! f5 20.exf6 Nxf6 21.Rc1 h6 22.h4! is all right.

**15...cxd4 16.Ng5!?**

**Cy:** After 16.Nxd4 Nc5 17.Bxc5 Rc8 18.b4 bxc5 19.bxc5 Qc7 20.Rh3 Qxe5, Black clearly stands better since he threatens both d4-knight and also ...Rxc5!

**16...f5 17.Qc4**

**Cy:** Threat: Nxe6!

**Jack:** If 17.exf6, Black should take the initiative with 17...N5xf6! 18.Qb3 Nc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nxe6 Rb8! 21.Qa2 Qd5 22.Nxc5 Qxa2 23.Rxa2 Rec8 24.Nd3 Rc2.

**17...Qc8!**

**Cy:** Not 17...Rc8?! 18.Qxd4 and White threatens Nxe6! once again.

**18.Qxd4 Nc5 19.Rd1**

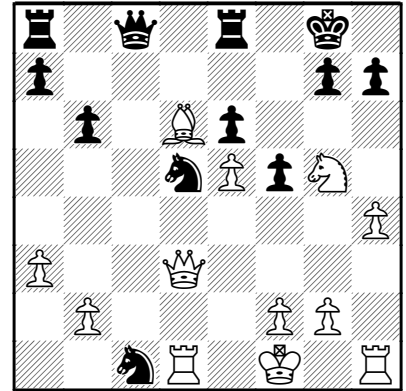
**Cy:** Renewing the Nxe6! threat. Now Kramnik's Knights put on a show and completely take over the game.

**Jack:** After 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Qc4 Qb8 21.Re1 Qxb2 22.Qxc5 Qb7

23.Qd4 Rac8! Black controls vital Queenside files, while White's Rooks can do little.

Nor does 19.Rc1 h6 20.Nf3 Qa6+ 21.Qc4 Qxc4+ 22.Rxc4 Ne4 appear satisfactory for White. Next Black will claim the c-file by ...Ra8-c8.

**19...Nb3! 20.Qd3 Nc1!**



**Cy:** Kramnik extracts the essence of the position and distills poison in a few deadly drops by taking control over e2 and d3.

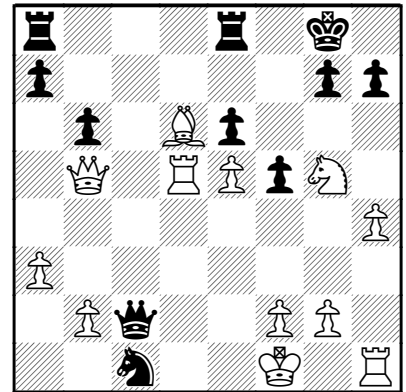
**Jack:** I cannot blame Morozevich for underestimating the potential of a Knight on the eighth rank. Cy once beat me by bringing a White Knight to e8, unexpectedly striking at f6.

**21.Qb5!?**

**Cy:** This move allows Queen infiltration to c2. He had to try 21.Qf3.

**Jack:** Unfortunately for White, 21.Qf3 isn't much better. Black pockets a pawn by 21...Qc4+ 22.Kg1 (worse is 22.Ke1? Nf4) 22...Ne2+ 23.Kh2 Qxh4+ 24.Nh3 Nef4.

**21...Qc2! 22.Rxd5**



**Cy:** Question: Did Black just blunder horribly? If he takes the d5-rook he gets smothered mated.

Answer: Kramnik foresaw Moro's last move. Let's do an exercise:

Exercise (combination alert): Black can't touch the Rook... yet. Find one powerful move and the Rook is indeed his for the taking.

22...a6!

Cy: Answer: Zwischenzug/deflection. This sneaky in-between move throws White's tactic off balance.

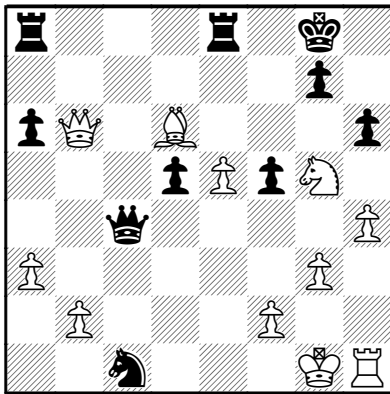
23.Qxb6 Qc4+ 24.Kg1 exd5!

Cy: Creating a passed d-pawn.

25.g3

Jack: The counterattack 25.Qb7 fails to 25...Ne2+ 26.Kh2 Qf4+! (even stronger than 26...Qxh4+ 27.Nh3 Nf4+) 27.Kh3 h6 28.Qxd5+ (Houdini points out the startling 28.Nf3 Re6!! 29.Qxa8+ Kh7-, leaving White helpless against ...Re6-g6.) 28...Kh8 29.Nf7+ Kh7 30.Qf3 Qxf3+ 31.gxf3 Kg8-+.

25...h6



26.Nf3

Cy: Question: Can White sac his Knight here with 26.Qb7?

Answer: It doesn't work but it may be a terrific practical try, since Black must find a series of strong moves to win. 26...hxd5 27.e6 (It looks like Black is in danger. Both Qf7+ and Be5 hang in the air. But Black is first.) 27...Ne2+! 28.Kh2 Rxe6!! 29.Qxa8+ Kh7 30.hxd5 Qe4! (The greedy 30...Rxd6?? fails to 31.Kg2+ Kg6 32.Qe8+.) 31.Qb8 Qf3 32.Rf1 Rg6! (with the terminal threat ...Rxd5 followed by ...Rh5 mate!) 33.Bf4 Nxd3!! 34.Bxd3 Rxd3 35.Kg1 f4, when White gets crushed.

26...f4!

Cy: White's King is in greater danger than Black's.

27.g4

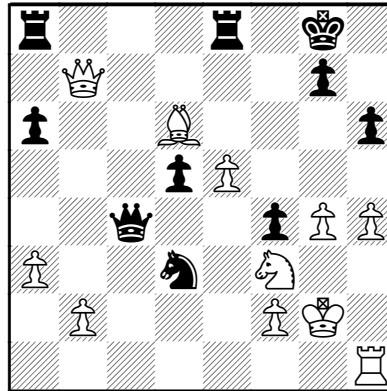
Jack: The sturdier 27.Kg2 Nd3 28.b3 Qe4 29.Qd4 merely reaches a lost endgame.

27...Qe4

Cy: More accurate was 27...Qe2! (Target: f2.) 28.Kg2 Nd3 29.Rf1 Rac8 30.g5 Rc2 is decisive.

28.Kg2 Nd3 29.Qb3 Qc4

30.Qb7



Cy: Also busted is 30.Qd1, but it has the virtue of not allowing Kramnik a killing combination.

Exercise (combination alert): White's last move wasn't the best. Find a way for Black's attack to crash through.

Answer: The heartless monarch's tax collector strips the peasants of the few remaining coins they have in their possession. Suddenly White's Kingside is nothing more than an abandoned home, with all sense of human warmth vacated as well.

30...Nxf2! 31.Kxf2 Qc2+ 32.Kg1

Jack: As 32.Kf1 Qd3+ will cost White his Knight.

32...Qd1+ 33.Kf2

Cy: 33.Kg2 Qe2+ is also totally hopeless.

33...Qxh1

Cy: White's forlorn King sits alone, reminding us of that Van Gogh self portrait--the one with the bandaged head just after he cut off his ear.

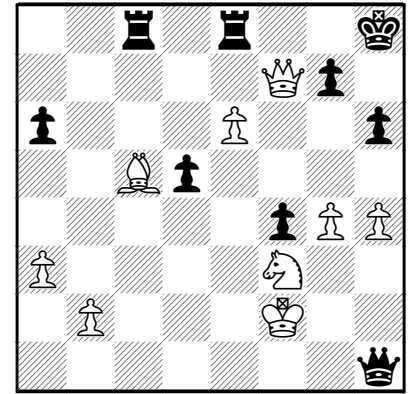
34.e6

Cy: Threat: Be5.

34...Rac8!

Cy: A reminder to White that Kramnik's threat takes precedence.

35.Qf7+ Kh8 36.Bc5!



Cy: Moro finds a clever interference trick to remain alive.

Of course if White insists on attack, he is too slow after 36.Be5?? Rc2+ 37.Nd2 Rxd2 mate!

36...Qc1 37.b4 Qc2+ 38.Kg1 Qe2!

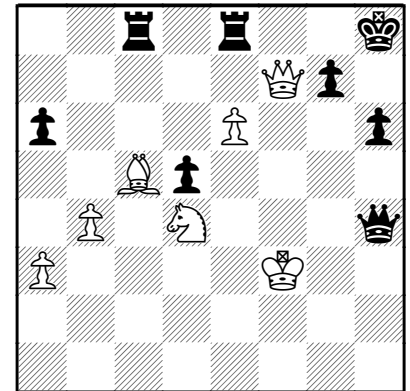
39.Nd4

Jack: Still fighting! White would lose routinely after 39.Qxf4 Rxe6-+.

39...Qxg4+ 40.Kf2

Cy: The King arrives on f2 sweating profusely and with labored breathing.

40...Qxh4+ 41.Ke2 f3+! 42.Kxf3



Cy: Exercise (combination alert): White's King continues to pace his cage aimlessly but safely, for now. The Beatles expressed the White King's sentiments when they sang "I get by with a little help from my friends!" Magically, Moro managed to keep Kramnik's rooks at bay--until now. How can Black release one of his rooks into the attack?

Answer: Deflection. The non-spatiotemporal malevolent non-entity, without name or form, arises outside the continuum of space and time on f8, confident in the knowledge that

nothing whatsoever in the universe can threaten or harm it. It strikes at White's heart, so that its equally evil twin on c8 is freed to terrorize the universe.

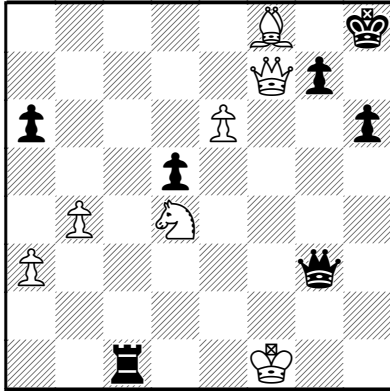
**42...Rf8!! 43.Bxf8 Rc3+**

**Cy:** A phone call received very late at night is generally the harbinger of bad news.

**44.Kg2 Qg3+**

**Cy:** 44...Qh3+ was one move quicker.

**45.Kf1 Rc1+ 0-1**



**Cy:** White's King, a fleeting thing, arrives and passes away, the way a bird hops onto a branch of a tree outside your window, sings her song, and then flies off to who-knows-where, never to be seen or listened to again. The farewell would be 46.Ke2 Qe1+ 47.Kf3 Rc3+ 48.Kg4 Qg3+ 49.Kf5 Qg5 mate!

**Le,Cau Duong (2074) -**

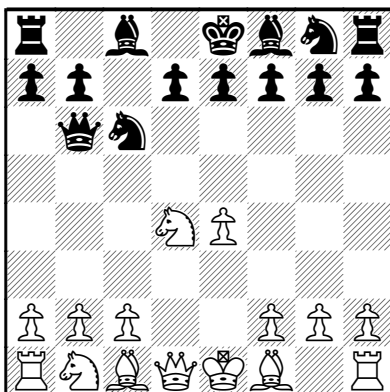
**Peters,Jack (2355)**

**[B33] Sicilian Defense**

**American Open (6)**

**Los Angeles, 24.11.2012**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Qb6**



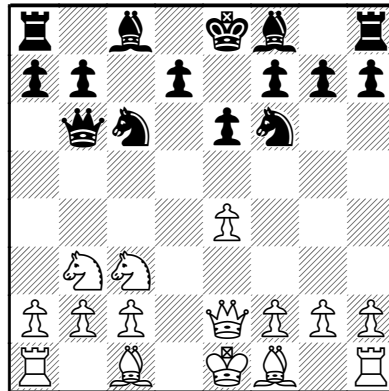
**Jack:** An unnamed variation of the Sicilian Defense that I have played frequently since my student Bob Ciaffone asked me to analyze it 20 years ago.

**Cy:** The question: Is it worth a tempo to force White's Knight to the more passive b3-square?

**5.Nb3 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6**

**Jack:** Black's idea is to reach a position similar to the Scheveningen variation, but with White's Knight at b3 rather than d4.

**7.Qe2!?**



**Jack:** Only the second time I've faced this well-regarded variation.

A typical continuation is 7.Be3 Qc7 8.Bd3 a6 9.f4 d6 10.Qf3 Be7, when White can castle on either side.

**7...d6**

**Jack:** Probably too slow, as White effortlessly obtains an attacking position.

Black has tried 7...Bb4 8.Bd2 0-0 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 e5 11.0-0-0 Rd8 in several games. The problem is that 12.Rd6 Qc7 13.Rxf6! gxf6 14.Qg4+ Kh8 15.Qh4 gives White more than enough compensation for the Exchange.

Theory currently prefers 7...Bb4 8.Bd2 0-0 9.a3 Be7 10.0-0-0 (also promising is 10.e5) 10...d5 11.e5 Nd7 12.f4, but this French Defense structure seems to favor White.

Another theoretical battleground begins with 7...Qc7 8.g4 h6.

**8.Bd2**

**Cy:** !? White reasons that it is to his benefit that Black's Queen is on b6, since it blocks ...b5 Queenside counterplay. So he refuses the tempo

by declining to play Be3. The trouble is if Black plays ...a6 and ...Qc7 voluntarily, followed by ...b5 and ...b4, White is now denied access to the d4 square for his Knight, so in the end, I don't trust White's idea.

**Jack:** I prefer 8.g4±. White can wait a move to decide if his Bishop belongs at d2 or e3.

**8...a6 9.0-0-0 Qc7 10.g4 h6**

**Jack:** Very committing, as Black forgoes Kingside castling. However, I did not have much faith in Black's chances to counterattack after 10...b5 11.g5 Nd7 12.f4↑.

**11.f4 b5**

**Jack:** In a similar position, Vladimir Akopian chose 11...b6 and soon castled Queenside.

**12.a3**

**Jack:** I believe that when White has to pause for a2-a3 in a sharp Sicilian position, he has already gone wrong. In this case, White can afford to spend a move on defense, as he will still create threats before Black.

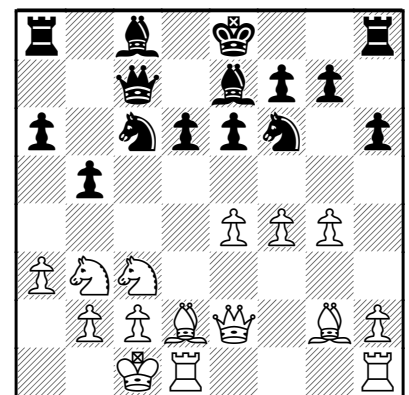
Rightly or wrongly, I was more worried about 12.h4 and 12.Bg2.

**Cy:** The reason he must take time out for a3 is the fact that he declined to play his Bishop to e3 earlier.

**12...Be7**

**Jack:** Perhaps Black should plunge forward with 12...b4 13.axb4 Nxb4. I rejected this because I thought White could reply 14.h4?! Rb8 15.Bh3?!, intending g4-g5-g6. But the excellent answer 15...Qb7! favors Black, thanks to the threat of 16...Nxc2.

**13.Bg2**



**13...Nd7**

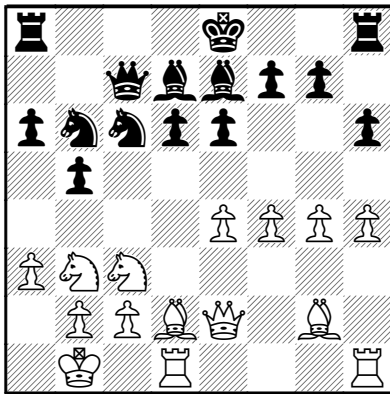
**Jack:** Dreaming of planting a Knight at e5 after ...g7-g5.



**Jack:** Quite different is 13... Rb8 14.h4 h5!? 15.g5 Ng4 16.Bf3 b4 17.axb4 Nxb4±, when Black gladly offers a pawn to distract White from attacking Black's uncastled King. **Cy:** Here is a forcing line which leads to a perpetual check: 18.g6 Qb6 19.Bxg4 Nxc2! 20.gxf7+ Kf8 21.Qc4 d5! 22.exd5 Na1! 23.Bh3 Nxb3+ 24.Kb1 Na5 25.Qa2 Nc4 26.Bc1 Na3+ 27.Ka1 Nc2+ with a draw.

**Jack:** White could meet 13... Rb8 with 14.Bf3, preparing h2-h4. Then 14...Nd7 would improve on the game, as Black's additional move (... Ra8-b8) is more useful than White's (Bg2-f3).

**14.h4 Nb6 15.Kb1 Bd7**



**Jack:** I realized that White had the edge, but I was content with the outcome of the opening. Black has fortified his pawns at d6 and e6, and I hoped that Black's Knight could cause trouble from a4 or c4. One must be optimistic to play the Sicilian!

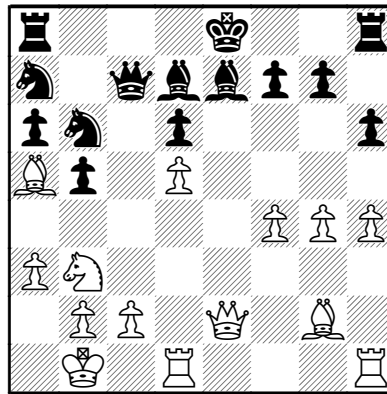
**16.Nd5!?**

**Cy:** ! White cranks the crossbow to maximum tension, takes aim and fires. I like his move, if only for practical reasons. If an expert is going to upset an IM, then this kind of move is his best chance. The sac looks sound and Black's game is harder to play over the board. For this very reason, if we examine the fine print carefully, we may discover this isn't such a great deal for Black.

**Jack:** A thematic sacrifice, but what's the hurry? After 16.g5, White might play Nc3-d5 with greater effect in a move or two. Certainly Black should not

venture 16...0-0-0? 17.Nd5 exd5 18.exd5±.

**16...exd5 17.exd5 Na7 18.Ba5±**



**Jack:** A very annoying pin. Black can save the Knight, but he must also watch out for Rh1-e1, g4-g5 and Nb3-d4-c6.

**Cy:** Jack, I really think you should consider switching to Caro-Kann!

**18...Nac8**

**Jack:** Two features of this move appealed to me: the Knight protects the Bishop at e7, and Black's Queen can escape the pin. On the other hand, Black cannot develop his Rook at a8. I think chances are just about even.

**Jack:** Houdini prefers 18...Kf8 19.Qf2 Rb8 20.g5, claiming “±.” But neither Black Rook can work, and the Knight at a7 is out of action too.

**Cy:** All well and good, but your King looks safer in this line and this is exactly how I would play it as Black.

**19.Rd4**

**Jack:** I expected either 19.g5 or 19.Nd4.

**19...Qa7?**

**Cy:** Jack's pampered, aging Queen's disposition deteriorates in sync with her fading looks, and so she goes off and sulks on a7.

**Jack:** Considering what happens in the game, Black should insert 19...h5.

**20.Re4 Nc4 21.Bc3 0-0**

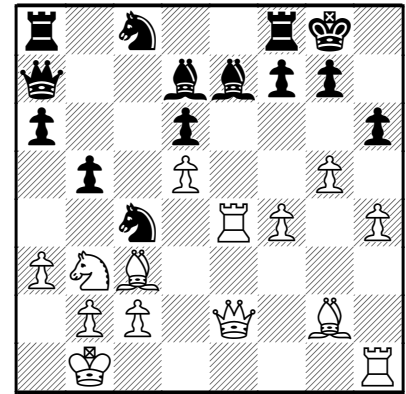
**Jack:** Reaching the position I imagined when I selected 19...Qa7. That doesn't mean it's good for Black! In fact, White has regained the advantage.

After the game, I thought Black had to play 21...f6, but this runs into 22.Re1 0-0 23.g5 Bf5?!

24.gxh6, which looks tremendous for White.

Houdini suggests 21...Kf8 22.Re1 Kg8 23.Rxe7 Nxe7 24.Bd4 Qc7 25.Qxe7 Qd8=.

**22.g5**



**Jack:** Now I stopped to examine my two candidate-moves. Gradually I lowered my expectations. I saw no simple win for Black, no path to a clear advantage, no hope even for a tiny edge. Then I looked for a reliable defense and came up empty. By the time I chose my move, I felt Black was lost.

**Cy:** At this point Black must have experienced that awful intuition a driver gets. At some point in the previous 15 minutes, he took a wrong turn. Suddenly White whipped up a very dangerous attack and that which is a matter of bored indifference to White turns out to be a matter of great defensive consequence to Black.

**22...Bf5**

**Jack:** My other “defense” was 22...h5 23.Qxh5 Bf5. White should refute it by 24.Nd4 Bg6 25.Qe2+-. Black's “extra piece” (the Rook at a8) does not play a role.

**23.gxh6?!**

**Jack:** Not best, but good enough to win. The position is too complicated to calculate to a clear finish.

The finesse 23.Bd4! makes g1 available for White's Rook. White's attack is unstoppable after 23...Qd7 24.gxh6 Bf6 25.hxg7 Bxg7 26.Rg1 f6 27.h5, threatening simply h5-h6. White refutes 27...Kh7 neatly

Please turn to page 11, **Cy & Jack.**

# IM Andranik Matikozyan Tops 9th L. A. Open

October 5-7, 2012

**Andranik Matikozyan took first place by a full point in the 9th Annual Los Angeles Open** at the Sheraton Four Points LAX, with a score of 4½-½. Tied for second were IM Roman Yankovsky, WGM Tatev Abrahamyan, and Shijie Chen. Tied for fifth at 3-2 in the strong tournament were IM Timothy Taylor and Michael William Brown. Matikozyan defeated both Yankovsky and Taylor, while drawing in the final round to Abrahamyan, who scored the biggest upset with her victory over GM Melikset Khachiyan.

In the Under 2200 section, Liulia Cardona was first with 4½-½, and tied for second a half-point behind were Mike Zalzoznyy, Jonathan Homidan, and Rory E Wasiolek.

Steven Morford swept the Under 1900 section with 5-0. You may know Steve as current president of the SCCF! The Under 1600 section was also swept, by Stuart Kusdono.

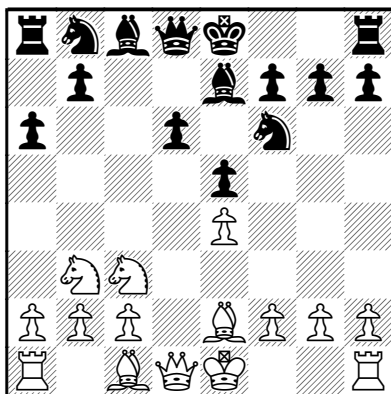
In the Under 1300 section, Alexander Mosser took first with a score of 4½-½, and in the Under 1000 section, tops was Roger Wong with 4-1.

Steve Immitt, Randall Hough, and Quan Andrew Luong directed for Continental Chess.

We present the winner's best game.

**Yankovsky, Roman (2565) -  
Matikozyan, Andranik (2480)**  
[B92] Najdorf Sicilian  
Los Angeles Open (3), 06.10.2012  
Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5  
7.Nb3 Be7



The weak d-pawn on the open file is guarded by the bad Bishop.

8.g4

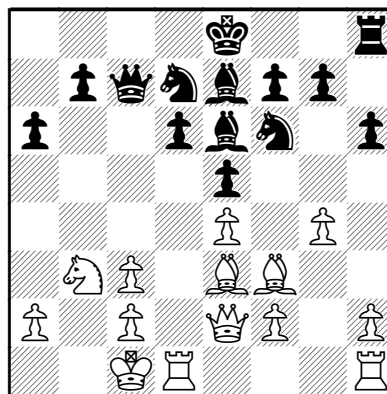
This line seems to be a little suspect.

A main line is 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Be6 10.Qd2 Nbd7 11.a4, and Black chooses between 11...Nb6 and 11...Rc8, with the world's top players willing to take on either side.

8...h6 9.Be3 Be6 10.Bf3 Nbd7

Black has no problem getting out his pieces in this line.

11.Qe2 Rc8 12.0-0-0 Rxc3  
13.bxc3 Qc7



Black wastes no time breaking up White's King position. The advantage of the Exchange, Rook for Knight, is about 1½ pawns, but with the current lack of open files for Rooks, and the broken White King position, if Black wins the next pawn, he's going to be happy with his game.

14.h4 Qc6!N

Houdini likes this way of answering the threat of 15.g5, and thinks it's equal now.

15.g5 Nxe4 16.Qd3 d5

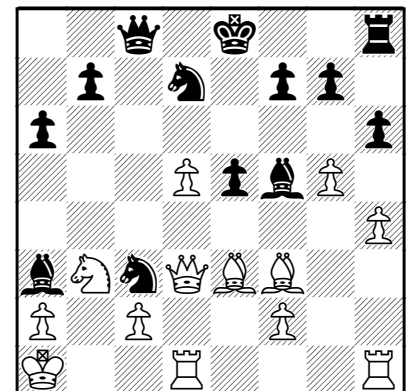
Also possible was 16...f5 17.c4 (if 17.gxf6 then Ndx6) 17...Qxc4 18.Qxc4 Bxc4 19.Bxe4 fxe4 20.gxh6 21.Na5=.

17.c4 Bf5 18.cxd5

Black gets the advantage after this move.

Houdini maintains equality with White in the complications after 18.Bxe4! Bxe4 19.cxd5 Qa4 20.Qc3.

18...Ba3+ 19.Kb1 Nc3+ 20.Ka1 Qc8



21.Qd2

Giving back the Exchange with 21.Qxf5 Nxd1 22.Qd3 Nxe3 23.fxe3 is best, but Black is still better.

21...Nxd1 22.Bxd1 hxg5 23.Bxg5

This allows the Black Knight to maneuver into the attack on the King.

But if 23.h5 then Black still has ways to improve his position, for example 23...Qc4 24.Rg1 f6 25.c3 b5-+.

23...Nb6

24.Kb1

24.Qa5 is answered by 24...Nc4 25.Qe1 f6 26.Bd2 Qd7-+.

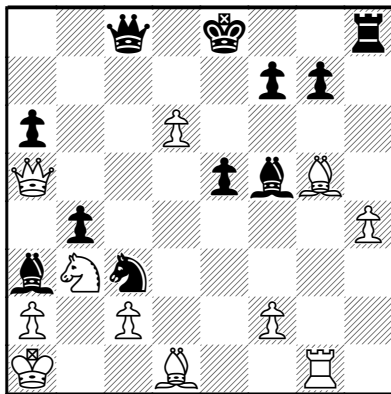
24...Na4 25.Qa5 b5 26.Rg1 Nc3+ 27.Ka1 b4

With a big threat. However, it lets Black off the hook if he answers properly.



Andranik Matikozyan: 1st by a point

Much better was 27...Bd6 28.h5 Nxd1 29.Rxd1 Rxb5 30.Rg1 Bxc2--. **28.d6??**



White must keep the Black Queen out by blocking the c-file with 28.Nc5 Nxd1 29.Rxd1 0-0 30.Be3 Bxc2 31.Rg1 Bg6 32.Qxa6, and White hangs on for quite a while longer.

**28...Bb2+! 29.Kxb2 Nxd1+ 0-1**

If now 30.Ka1 then 30...Qc3+ 31.Kb1 Qb2 mate. Or if 30.Kb1 then 30...Qxc2+ 31.Ka1 and Black has mate in three, that is, three ways to mate in one. ♚

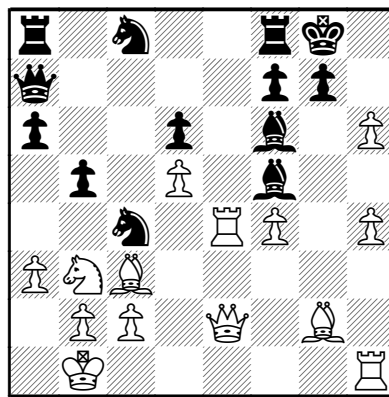
**Cy & Jack, continued from page 9.**

by 28.Re6! and next Bg2-e4. Cy: Agreed. Black's defenders are as useless as waterlogged wood, next to the fireplace.

**Jack:** If Black tries 23.Bd4! Qd7 24.gxh6 f6, White steps up the pressure with 25.Rg1 Rf7 26.Re6!+-, again intending Bg2-e4.

Perhaps Black's toughest defense is 23.Bd4! Qd7 24.gxh6 g6, but Houdini dismisses it with 25.h5 Kh7 26.Bg7!+- and soon Nb3-d4. **Cy:** This looks really bad. Black's pieces sob and dab away tears at their beloved King's memorial service.

**23...Bf6**



**Jack:** The only try.

Black cannot stand 23...g6? 24.h7+! Kxh7 25.h5 g5 (or 25...Kg8 26.hxg6 f6 27.Re6 Kf7 28.Nd4+-, and Black won't escape.) 26.Nd4 Bxe4 27.Bxe4+ Kg8 28.Nf5+-.

**24.Bxf6?**

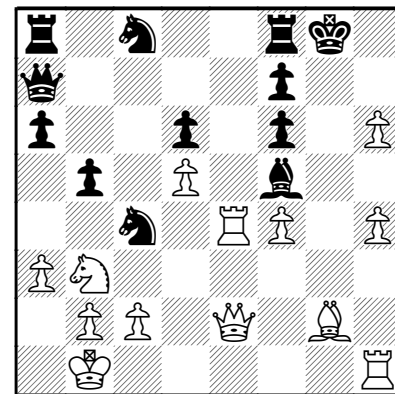
**Jack:** White used nine of his remaining 15 minutes trying to spot the elusive win.

I feared 24.hxg7! Bxg7 25.Qh5?! Bxc3 26.bxc3, but Black may be able to survive after 26...Bxe4 27.Bxe4 f5 28.Bxf5 Rxf5 29.Qxf5 Qg7∞.

The right way is 24.hxg7! Bxg7 25.Nd4! Bxe4 (or 25...Bh7 26.h5+-) 26.Bxe4 Ne7 27.Rg1, taking aim at the pinned Bishop. Then the plausible 27...Ng6 loses to 28.Bxg6 f6 29.Rxg6 Rf6 30.Rg5 Qf7 31.Ne6 Rg6 32.Rxg6 Qxg6 33.Nxg7+-.

**Cy:** If an assassin's target is one imbibed in great power, my advice is: Don't miss! You only get one shot.

**24...gxf6**



**25.Nd4??**

**Jack:** White's third mistake throws away the game.

**Cy:** d4 seems to be the epicenter of diverse ambitions. By some miracle, Jack's King survived his dark passage without incident.

**Jack:** Instead, 25.Qh5! Bg6 26.Qg4 (Cy: ! Now the Queen radiates malice.) 26...Ne7 (not 26...f5? 27.Qg5 Kh7 28.Qf6 Rg8 29.Re2+- because h4-h5 will gain material) 27.Re2 forces Black to return material, with about even chances.

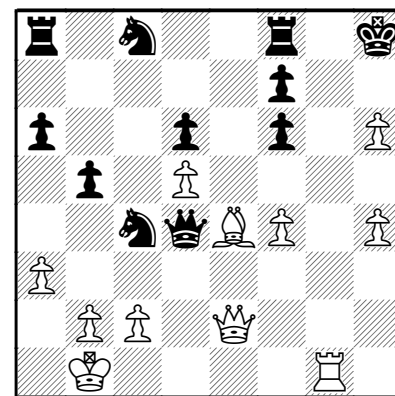
**25...Bxe4 26.Bxe4**

**Jack:** After 26.Qg4+ Bg6 27.f5, Black simplifies by 27...Ne3 28.Qe4 Qe7+-.

**26...Kh8 27.Rg1?**

**Jack:** Against 27.Qg4 Rg8 28.Qf5, both 28...Rg6+- and 28...Nd2+ 29.Ka2 Nxe4+- clinch victory.

**27...Qxd4 0-1**



**Cy:** A move which effectively short circuits the nervous system of White's attack. At long last, the Queen unexpectedly resurfaces, the same way my wife Nancy marvels at finding her car keys within the dense jungle of her purse. ♚

# IM Matikozyan Wins the 22nd Metro FIDE, Too!

October 10-14, 2012

After a two-day break, IM Andranik Matikozyan resumed winning at chess, scoring a 7-2 victory, again by a full point, at the 22nd Metropolitan Invitational FIDE Tournament. Second at 6-3 was Samuel Sevia, and tied for third a half point behind were FM Konstantin Kavutskiy and IM Zhanibek Amanov. IM Larry Remlinger was next with 5-4. Sixth was Garush Manukyan at 4½-4½ and seventh was Madiyar Amerkeshev with 4-5. Tied for eighth were Robert Akopian and FMs Michael Casella and Mark Duckworth, all scoring 2½-6½.



Matikozyan led after every round. Although Remlinger caught him as late as round 7, two losses on the final day dropped him to fifth.

We present Andranik's best game from the event.

**Casella, Michael (2235) - Matikozyan, Andranik (2411)**

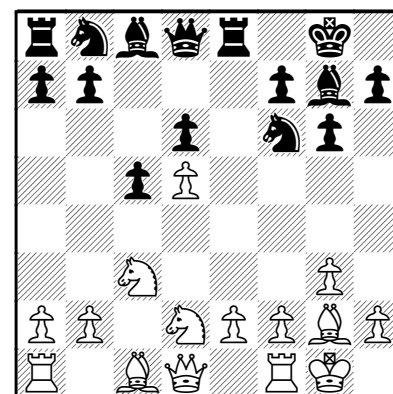
**[A64] Benoni Defense  
22nd Metropolitan IM (3)  
Los Angeles, 11.10.2012**

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3  
exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.g3**

The Fianchetto system, one of many good replies to the Modern Benoni.

**6...g6 7.Bg2 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0  
Re8 10.Nd2**



Most popular, though White often chooses 10.Bf4.

**10...Nbd7 11.a4 a6 12.h3 Rb8  
13.Nc4 Ne5 14.Na3**

Still following the main line. White hopes to restrain ...b7-b5 and to chase Black's Knight by f2-f4.

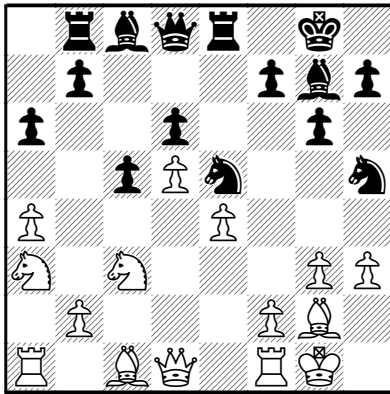
Black must counter on the Kingside, even if it means sacrificing a piece.

**14...Nh5 15.e4**

ap

Round by Round			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pairings, Colors, and Scores											
1	Madiyar Amerkeshev 2161	KAZ W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9	
			½	<b>1½</b>	1½	2½	3	3	3½	4	4
2	Konstantin Kavutskiy 2287	USA W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	
			0	0	½	1½	2	2½	3½	4½	5½
3	Samuel Sevia 2336	USA W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7	
			½	1	2	2	3	4	4½	5½	6
4	Michael Casella 2235	USA W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6	
			<b>1</b>	1	1	1	1½	1½	1½	1½	2½
5	Zhanibek Amanov 2374	KAZ W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10	
			<b>1</b>	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4½	5½
6	Mark Duckworth 2281	USA B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4	
			0	0	1	1	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½
7	Robert Akopian 2093	USA B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	
			0	1	1	1	1½	1½	2	2	2½
8	Garush Manukyan 2260	ARM B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2	
			½	<b>1½</b>	2	3	3½	3½	4	4½	4½
9	Andranik Matikozyan 2411	ARM B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1	
			<b>1</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>2½</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3½</b>	<b>4½</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
10	Larry Remlinger 2322	USA B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5	
			½	<b>1½</b>	2	<b>3</b>	3	4	<b>5</b>	5	5

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



**15...Bd7**

The modern choice.

Black used to play 15...Rf8 16.Kh2 (as 16.f4 Nxc3 17.fxe5 Nxf1 18.Qxf1 Bxe5= does not worry Black) 16...f5 17.f4 b5 $\Rightarrow$  following one of the greatest Benoni successes ever, Korchnoi - Kasparov, Lucerne 1982.

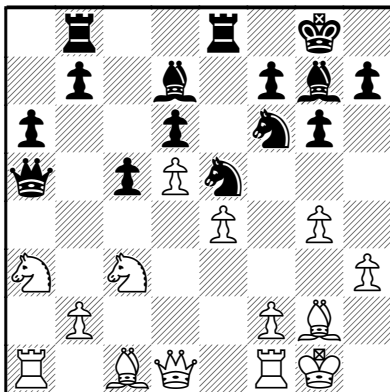
However, theoreticians question the soundness of Black's attack, and White has a second continuation, 15...Rf8 16.g4 Qh4!? 17.gxh5 Bxh3 18.h6! Bh8 19.Qe2, which also looks promising.

**16.a5!?**

White chooses the most fashionable reply. In my opinion, masters who follow known lines for many moves should not be praised for their preparation or criticized for lack of originality.

The crucial question is whether the position at the end of theory is complex enough to support a fight in the middlegame. By this measure, 16.a5 certainly qualifies. In addition, White has not managed to prove an edge with either 16.g4 b5! or 16.f4 Nxc3 17.fxe5 Nxf1.

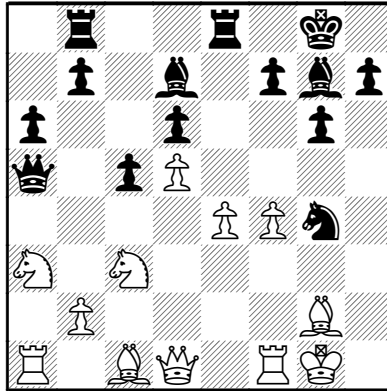
**16...Qxa5 17.g4 Nf6**



**18.f4**

Boris Avrukh's improvement over 18.g5 Nh5 19.f4 Nc4 20.Nxc4 Qxa1 21.Nxd6 Bxc3 22.bxc3 Qxc3 23.Nxe8 Rxe8 $\bar{=}$ , which led to a Black win in Avrukh - Kamsky, World Cup, Khanty-Mansiysk 2007.

**18...Nxc4 19.hxc4 Nxc4**



This sharp position won't clarify for a dozen moves. Chances are close to even, but one misstep by either player is likely to be costly. Black may threaten ...Bg7-d4+ or ...Qa5-d8-h4, and his Queenside pawns are ready to roll.

White chooses the best defense - attack!

**20.f5!**

White has tried 20.Nc2 Qd8 and 20.Bf3 h5 without success.

**20...h5**

Avrukh's opponent replied timidly with 20...Ne5 and did not quite equalize with 21.Bg5 h6 22.Nc4 Qb4 23.Nxe5 Bxe5.

The greedy 20...Bd4+ 21.Kh1 Nf2+ 22.Rxf2 Bxf2 23.Bg5 would yield the initiative to White.

Matikozyan finds a third path that allows Black to make his share of threats.

**21.Bg5**

Developing while stopping ...Qa5-d8. Again White offers the Exchange, by 21...Bd4+, and Black sensibly declines.

**21...c4!? 22.f6**

It's tempting to bury Black's Bishop.

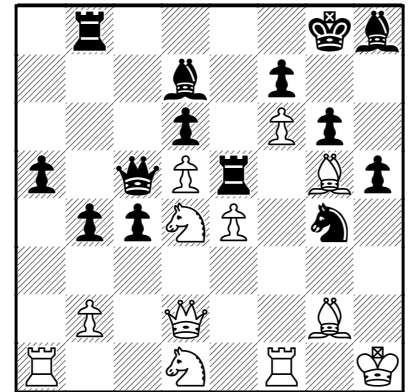
Another approach is 22.Qf3, hoping to use the f-file.

**22...Qc5+ 23.Kh1 Bh8 24.Qd2 b5 25.Nc2 b4 26.Nd1 a5 27.Nd4!?**

Characteristic of Casella, a born attacker.

A more defensive player would try to exchange Black's Knight by 27.Nce3, or even 27.Be3.

**27...Re5!?**



The prelude to another sacrifice.

**28.Bh4**

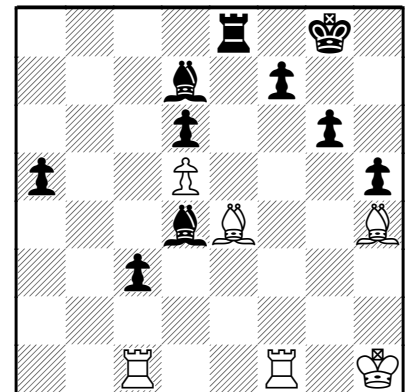
Black's intention was 28.Bf4 Bxf6! 29.Bxe5 Bxe5, with fine compensation for a Rook. White cannot wriggle out with 30.Nc6 if Black replies accurately with 30...c3! (The hasty 30...Bxc6? 31.dxc6 c3 32.bxc3 bxc3 33.Qd5! Qxd5 34.exd5 c2 35.Rc1 cxd1Q 36.Rcxd1 is dangerous for Black because of White's passed c-pawn.) 31.bxc3 bxc3 32.Qc2 Bxc6 33.dxc6 Rc8 $\bar{=}$ .

**28...Rbe8 29.Rf4**

To eliminate Black's Knight.

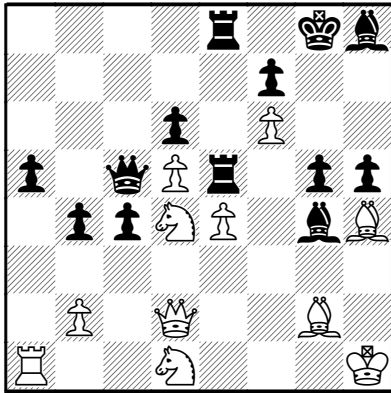
White would welcome 29.Nf2 Nxf6 30.Qf4! Qxd4 31.Bxf6 Bxf6 32.Qxf6 $\bar{=}$ . Black must beware of threats to a5, d6 and f7.

A second plausible variation, 29.Nf2 c3 30.bxc3 bxc3 31.Qd3 Nxf6 32.Rac1 Nxe4 33.Nxe4 Rxe4 34.Bxe4 Qxd4 35.Qxd4 Bxd4, produces this wild position:



I would rather have the extra Rook, but I'm not at all sure that White actually has any advantage.

**29...g5 30.Rxg4 Bxg4**



**31.Bf2!**

Black would not mind 31.Bg3?! Bxf6 32.Bxe5 Rxe5 33.Nc6 Re8 34.Rxa5 because 34...c3! 35.bxc3 bxc3 36.Qc1 Qc4+ gives Black three passed pawns for the piece, plus threats such as ...Re8xe4.

**31...Qc8**

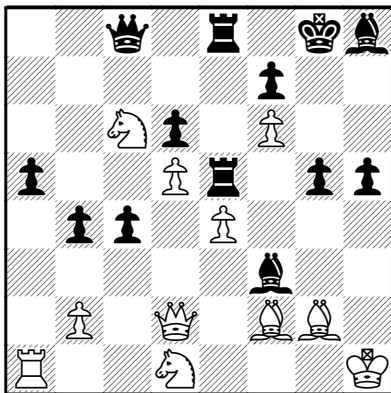
Black's Bishop at h8 is about to awake from hibernation. White has only one move to maintain the tense balance.

**32.Nc6??**

Black's reply decides the game.

White had to play 32.Bg3 Bxf6 33.Bxe5. Then Houdini suggests 33...Rxe5 34.Nc6 Bxd1 35.Rxd1 Qg4 36.Rf1 (White falls into trouble by 36.Nxe5?? Bxe5+) 36...Rxe4 37.Bxe4 (not 37.Rxf6?? Re2) 37...Qxe4+ 38.Qg2 Qh4+ 39.Kg1 g4 40.Qe4 Qg3+, drawing.

**32...Bf3!**

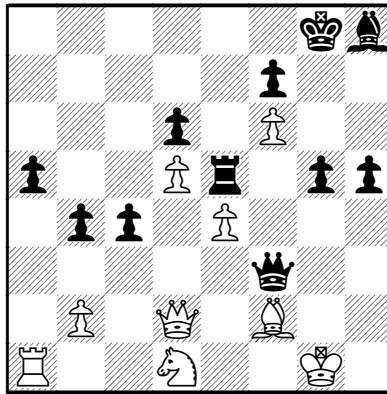


Threatening mate in two with 33...Qh3+.

**33.Bxf3**

Useless is 33.Bd4 Qh3+ 34.Kg1 Bxg2 35.Qxg2 Qxg2+ 36.Kxg2 Rxe4-+.

**33...Qh3+ 34.Kg1 Qxf3 35.Nxe5 Rxe5-+**



White's e- and f-pawns will fall, activating Black's pieces for a mating attack.

**36.Ne3**

If 36.Qe3, Black avoids a Queen trade by 36...Qg4+ 37.Qg3 Qxe4-+.

Or if 36.Bd4, Black complies with 36...Qg4+ 37.Qg2 Rxe4 38.Bf2 Bxf6-+, as five pawns will overwhelm the Knight.

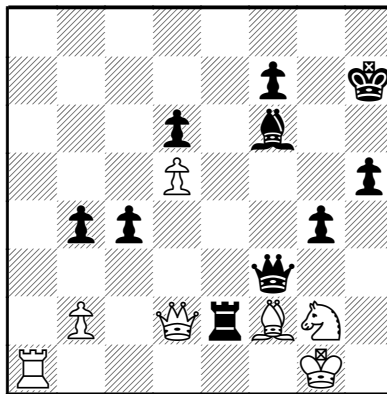
**36...Rxe4 37.Rxa5 Bxf6 38.Ra8+ Kh7 39.Ra1**

Black easily evades the pinning 39.Qc2 by 39...b3 40.Qb1 Kg7-+.

**39...g4 40.Ng2**

It's mate after 40.Nd1 Re2 41.Qxb4 Bd4.

**40...Re2 0-1**



White resigns.

A beautiful performance by Matikozyan against a worthy opponent. ♖

## Solutions to Outside Shots!

From the back cover.

1. It's lights out after **24...Rxa2+! 0-1**. Black mates after 25.Nxa2 Qxa2+ 26.Kxa2 Ra4. See the game on page 18. Pallas - Sheng, World Youth U12, Maribor 2012.

2. Once again, it's lights out: **28...Bb2+! 29.Kxb2 Nxd1+ 0-1**, and Black mates. Yankovsky - Matikozyan, Los Angeles Open, 2012, see the game on page 10.

3. White closes the deal with **57.g5! fxg5+ 58.f6**. See Perkins - Praggnanandhaa, World Youth U8, Maribor 2012, on page 19.

4. Black wins the White Queen with **45...Qa5+ 46.Qa4 Rxa2+! 0-1**. Chop 'em and rock 'em! After 47.Kxa2 Qxa4+, White can't recapture because of the pin on the b-pawn. Duckworth, - Casella, 22nd Metro IM, Los Angeles 2012.

5. The shot is **34...Nhg3+! 35.hxg3** and now 35...Rxf2+ 36.Kxf2 hxg3+ would have been a cute mate! See Yankovsky - Khachiyan, American Open, Los Angeles 2012, page 22.

6. White sees a super strong move ahead and plays **31.R1xe5!**. Transposing is 31.f6+ Kxf6 (not 31...Kh8 32.R1xe5 Rxe7 33.Rxh5 with a mate) 32.R1xe5. White gets an edge after 31.Rxc7 Nxd3 32.Re6! but it's not nearly as good. **31...Rxe7** If 31...Qxe7 then 32.Rxe7 Rxe7 33.f6+ Kxf6 34.Qxh7+- with Queen, Bishop, and an insecure Black King for two Rooks.

Now White exploits the weakened Black Kingside: **32.f6+ Kxf6 33.Qf5+ Kg7 34.Qg5+ Kf8 35.Qh6+ Ke8 36.Rg5 Kd8 37.Qf6!** This is it! **37...Qd7** Not 37...Kd7, as it's a mate starting with 38.Bh3+ Re6 39.Bxe6+. **38.Bh3** Also 38.Rg8+! Kc7 39.Rxa8+-. **38...Qe8 39.Qxd6+ Rd7 40.Bxd7 Qe2+ 41.Kh3 Qf1+ 42.Kh4 1-0**. Kavutskiy - Sevian, 22nd Metro IM, Los Angeles 2012.

# Southern California Competes in the World Youth Championships

November 7-19, 2012

Over one thousand five hundred players from around the world participated in the 2012 World Youth Championships in Maribor, Slovenia. Top US finishers were Kayden Troff of Utah, who took the Under 14 gold by winning his final three games, and Samuel Sevian, who took the gold Under 12 scoring 9-2, and Cameron Wheeler, also with 9-2, finishing second on tiebreaks. The US contingent had a squad of 13 coaches working with their players both before each game (opening preparation) and afterwards (postmortem analysis).

Southern California competitors included Michael Brown in the Under 16 Open, scoring 6-5, Craig Hilby scoring 7-4 and Joshua Sheng 6-5 in the Under 12, and Joaquin Perkins finishing 10th at 8-3 in the Under 8. In the Under 14 Girls, Agata Bykovtsev scored 7-4 and Stephanie Shao 5-6, and Annie Wang scored 7½-3½ in the Under 10 Girls.

Maribor, the second largest city in Slovenia with about 95,000 people, has hosted world class skiing and mountain biking events in the nearby Pohorje mountains. Part of the U.S. team stayed in a hotel there and commuted by taking a 10-minute cable car ride down the mountain.

The city hosts the University of Maribor, established in 1975, and many other schools. It is also home to the oldest grapevine in the world,



*Craig Hilby (right) with tenth round opponent from Macedonia, Toni Lazov.*

called Stara trta, which is more than 400 years old, and the European Youth Forum announced that this year, Maribor will be the 2013 European Youth Capital. The people of Slovenia were gracious and a large percentage of them spoke English as well as the native Slovene.

The World Youth Chess Championship is an annual competition attracting many of the best under 18 chess players from 92 countries.

The U-12 Open division was represented by several chess Masters and high level players coached by some of the best adult Grandmasters. There was intense preparation before every game and review afterwards. There were times, however, when there was a break to play soccer with kids from other nations at a soccer field close by, or to visit the city, or to hike in the mountains.

We present several games and combinations by Southern California players, starting with a second round win by Craig Hilby.

*We would like to thank Brian Hilby, Karen Jin, Rita Makogon and Kele Perkins for their contributions to this article. Parents are always encouraged to contribute games, stories, and photos. - Ed.*



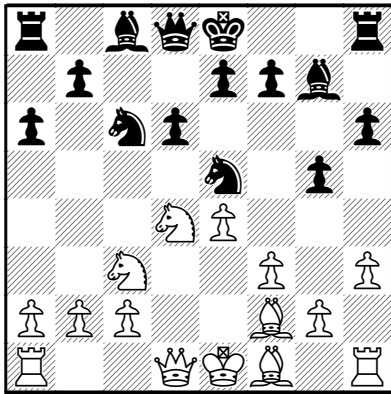
*In the team room: Vignesh Panchanatham, Cameron Wheeler, Criag Hilby, and Joshua Sheng.*

Hilby, Craig (1955) -  
Tifferet, Shaked, Israel (1791)  
[B90] Sicilian Najdorf  
WYCC 2012 U12 (2)  
Maribor, 09.11.2012

Notes by Craig Hilby.

*Notes in italics added by the Editor.*

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4  
7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Bg7  
10.h3 Ne5 11.f3 Nbc6 12.Bf2

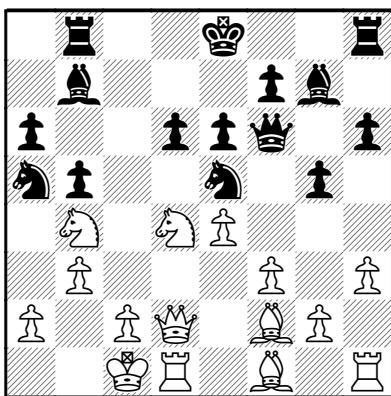


A popular variation these days.

12...b5

Karjakin - Grischuk, Sochi 2007 continued with 12...Ng6 13.Qd2 Qa5 14.Nd5 Qxd2+ 15.Kxd2 Bxd4 16.Bxd4 Nxd4 17.Nc7+ Kd7 18.Nxa8 Kc6 19.a4 Be6 20.Ra3 Rxa8 21.Rd3 Kc5 22.b4+ Kxb4 23.Rxd4+, but White won in 77 moves.

13.Nd5 Rb8 14.Qd2 e6 15.Nb4 Na5 16.0-0-0 Bb7 17.b3 Qf6



18.Nxa6!

White gets a winning position with this shot.

18...Nxb3+ 19.axb3

White can activate the Queen with 19.Nxb3! and the tricky complications all work out: 19...Bxa6 (two

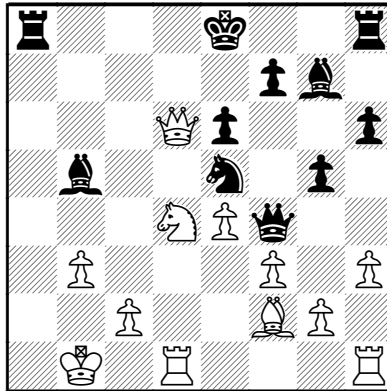
other tries are 19...Nc4 20.Bd4+- and 19...0-0 20.Nxb8 Nxf3 21.Bd4 Nxd4 22.Qxd4+-) 20.Qxd6+-, preventing Black from castling.

19...Bxa6 20.Qa5 Bc8 21.Qc7 Ra8 22.Bxb5+ Bd7 23.Qxd6 Qf4+

Better than 23...Bf8 24.Bxd7+ Nxd7 25.Qc6+-.

Similar is 23...Bxb5 24.Nxb5 first.

24.Kb1 Bxb5??



Allowing a shot.

25.Nxb5?

A natural recapture, but the surprising 25.Nxe6! wins big material after 25...Nd7 (or 25...fxe6 26.Qxe6+ Kf8 27.Bc5 mate) 26.Nxg7+ Kd8 27.Qb6+ Kc8 28.Qxb5.

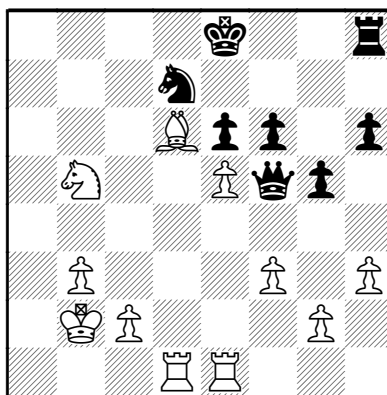
25...Ra1+ 26.Kxa1 Nc4+

White had to allow this discovered check which wins the White Queen.

27.Qd4 Bxd4+ 28.Bxd4 Ne5 29.Bc5

Keeping the lid on both the King and Rook.

29...Nd7 30.Bd6 Qf6+ 31.e5 Qf5 32.Kb2 f6 33.Rhe1



33...Qg6

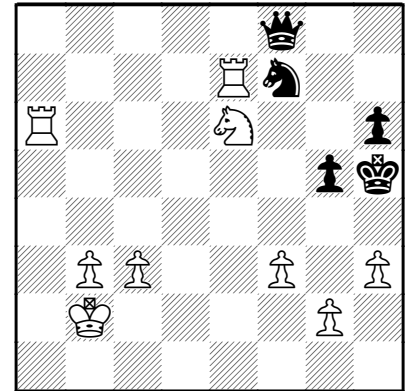
Black's in a tough spot, for if he tries to get his Rook out with 33...

Kf7 then White plays 34.Bb4 and the Knight fork threat on d6 wins Black's Knight on d7.

34.Ra1 Qh7 35.exf6 Kf7 36.Ra7 Kxf6 37.Nc7

Even better was 37.Nd4 Re8 38.Be5+ Kg6 39.Nc6.

37...e5 38.Bxe5+ Kg6 39.Bxh8 Qxh8+ 40.c3 Ne5 41.Ra6+ Kh5 42.Re3 Nf7 43.Re7 Qf8 44.Ne6



44...Qg8

If Black takes the Rook, it's mate: 44...Qxe7 45.Ng7+ Kh4 46.Nf5+ Kh5 47.g4!

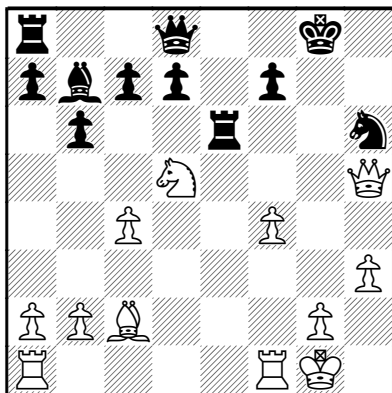
45.g3 Qh7 46.Ra5 Ne5 47.Rxh7 1-0



The 400 year old Church of St. Arah, in the Pohorje Mountains along a hiking trail.



Annie Wang, in round 3 of the Under 10 girls section, reached this position as White against Karina Stroganova of Russia.



She completed the Kingside offensive with  
**20.f5 Rd6 21.f6 Bxd5 22.Qg5+ Kf8 23.Qg7+ Ke8 24.Qh8+ Ng8 25.Qxg8 mate**

In the under 14 girls section, also in round 3, Agata Bykovtsev showed us how a Queenside attack should go, playing Black in a Najdorf.

**Rodionova, Daria, Russia (2069) - Bykovtsev, Agata (1940)**  
**[B98] Najdorf Sicilian**  
**WYCC U14 Girls (3)**  
**Maribor, 10.11.2012**

Notes by the Editor.  
**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 h6 9.Bh4**

After 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.0-0-0, usual is 10...Qb6 11.Nb3 Qc7.

**9...Qc7 10.0-0-0 Nbd7 11.Bg3?!**

This seems a bit dubious.

White has had decent results with 11.Be2 b5 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.e5 Bb7 14.Qg3.

**11...b5 12.f5?!**

Better was 12.e5 Bb7 13.Qe2 dxe5 14.fxex5 Nd5 15.Ne4=.

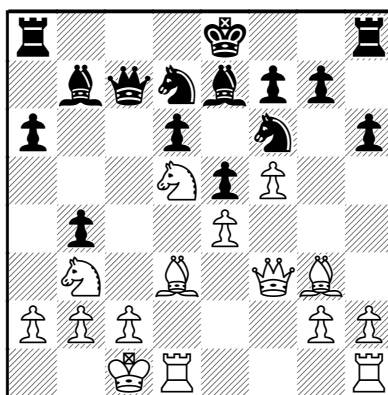
**12...e5 13.Nb3 Bb7**

Houdini prefers 13...b4 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 (or 15.Rxd5 a5+) 15... Bb7+.

**14.Bd3**

White needed to play 14.a3 to stop Black's pawn push.

**14...b4 15.Nd5**



**15...Bxd5**

Houdini prefers 15...Nxd5 16.exd5 Nf6+ for if 17.Be4, then 17...a5 followed by ...a4 is a winning attack.

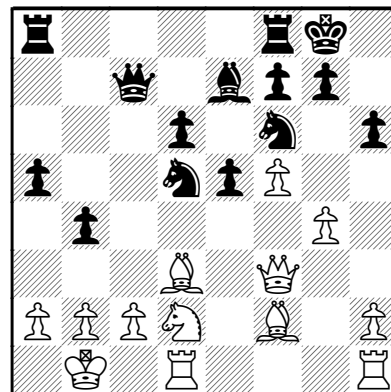
**16.exd5 Nb6 17.Bf2 Nbx d5 18.Kb1**

If 18.Be4, then 18...Rc8 prevents Bxd5 due to the mate on c2. Then if 19.Kb1 Nxe4 20.Qxe4 Nf6 Black has a big advantage.

**18...0-0-0 19.g4 a5**

Now the Queenside advance is decisive.

**20.Nd2**



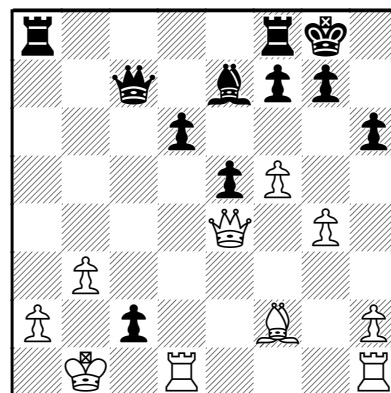
**20...Nc3+!**

Open a file and beat 'em in style!

**21.bxc3 bxc3 22.Nb3**

Giving back the piece with 22.Bb5 cxd2 23.Rxd2 loses differently, to 23... Rab8 24.a4 Qc4 25.Kc1 (or 25.Qb3 Qxg4) 25...Rxb5 26.axb5 Ne4! and if 27.Re2 then it's Bg5+ 28.Be3 Qd4 29.Kb1 Qb4+ with a quick mate.

**22...a4 23.Be4 Nxe4 24.Qxe4 axb3 25.cxb3 c2+! 0-1**



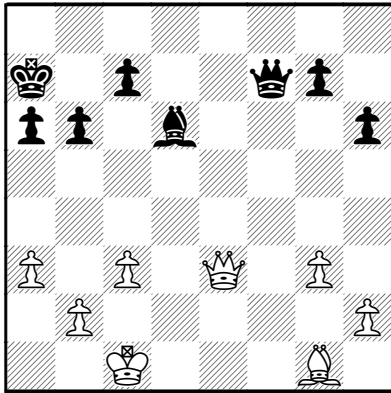
It's over, for if 26.Qxc2 then 26... Qxc2+ 27.Kxc2 Rxa2+ wins the loose Bishop on f2.

A nice Najdorf attack!



Pictured with US Ambassador Joseph A. Mussomeli are Agata Bykovtsev, second to the left of the Ambassador, and Stephanie Shao and Michael Brown to the right, with other U14 and U16 boys and girls.

Stephanie Shao, against Simona Lakinska from Macedonia in round 6 under 14 girls, reached this position as Black:



She won a piece and the game after:

**38...Qf1+ 39.Kc2 Bc5 40.Qe5 Qg2+ 41.Kb3 Bxg1, 0-1/55**

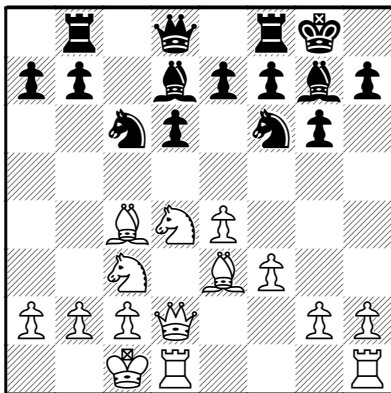
**Pallas, Sebastian, Germany (1814) - Sheng, Joshua (1994)**

**[B78] Sicilian Dragon WYCC 2012 U12 (6)**

**Maribor, 12.11.2012**

Notes by the Editor.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rb8**



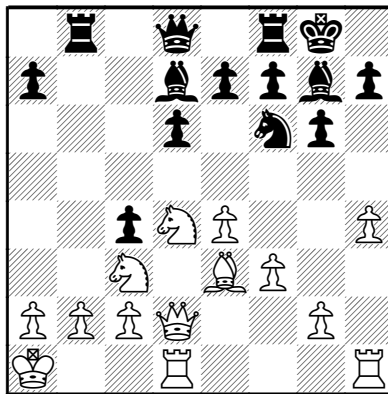
The Chinese Dragon, an alternative to such lines as 10...Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.h4 h5 and 10...Qa5 11.Bb3 Rfc8. It's attracted the attention of a few 2700+ players, and Magnus Carlsen has won from both sides.

**11.Bb3 Na5 12.Kb1**

Against Carlsen, Dominguez Perez continued 12.Bh6 Bxh6 13.Qxh6 b5 14.g4 Nxb3+ 15.Nxb3 b4 16.Nd5

Nxd5 17.exd5 Rb6 18.Rhe1 e5 19.dxe6 fxe6 20.Re3 Rf7 and Black won in 54 moves, in Dominguez Perez (2717) - Carlsen (2776), Linares 2009.

**12...b5 13.h4 Nc4 14.Bxc4 bxc4 15.Ka1**

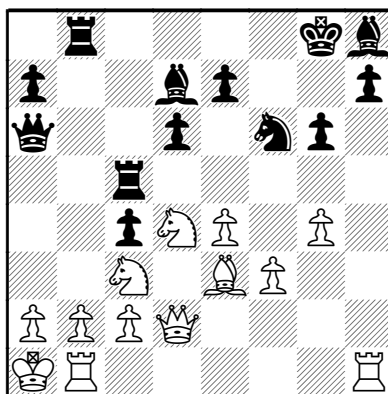


The idea of the Chinese Dragon is to open the b-file as soon as possible on the castled White King.

**15...Qb6**

Probably better was 15...h5, and now Carlsen as White, a year earlier than the previous game, continued with 16.Rb1 Qa5 17.Bh6 Bxh6 18.Qxh6 Rb6 19.g4 hxg4 20.Qe3 Rfb8 21.h5 g5 22.fxg4 Nxg4 23.Qd2 and White won in 37 moves, in Carlsen (2775) - Radjabov (2744), Bilbao 2008.

**16.Rb1 Qa5 17.h5 Rfc8 18.hxg6 fxg6 19.Bh6 Bh8 20.g4 Rc5 21.Be3 Qa6**



**22.Qh2**

Houdini likes 22.Nf5! gxf5 23.Bxc5 dxc5 24.e5+-, winning the Exchange.

**22...Ra5 23.Nde2 Rb4**

The position is about equal, but Black does have a threat!

**24.Bd4 Rxa2+! 0-1**

White missed it and goes down suddenly. It's mate after 25.Nxa2 Qxa2+! 26.Kxa2 Ra4.

In the following game, a Queenless middlegame goes suddenly sharp, with both players facing tricky choices at every turn.

**Saraci, Nderim, Turkey (1760) - Brown, Michael William (2276) [D27] Queen's Gambit Accepted WYCC U16 (10)**

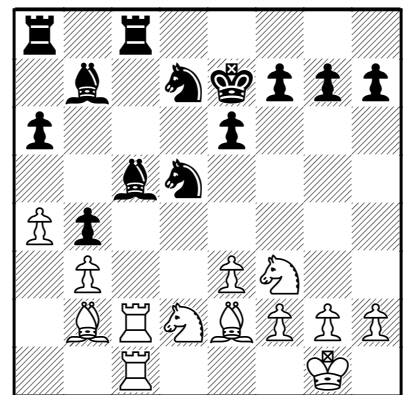
**Maribor, 17.11.2012**

Notes by the Editor.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bxc4 e6 5.Nf3 a6 6.0-0 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8**

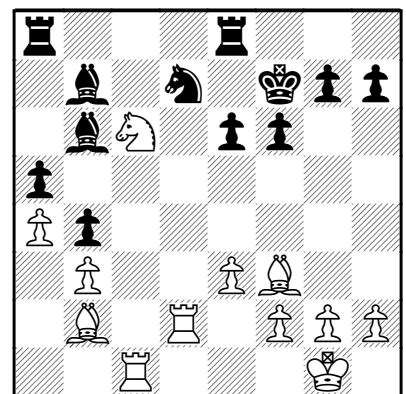
It's a sedate, calm, Queenless middlegame. Or is it?

**9.b3 b5 10.Be2 Nbd7 11.a4 b4 12.Nbd2 Bb7 13.Bb2 Ke7 14.Rac1 Rhc8 15.Rc2 Nd5 16.Rfc1**



White enjoys a great position. What could go wrong?

**16...f6 17.Nc4 a5 18.Nd4 N5b6 19.Nxb6 Bxb6 20.Nc6+ Kf7 21.Bf3 Re8 22.Rd2±**



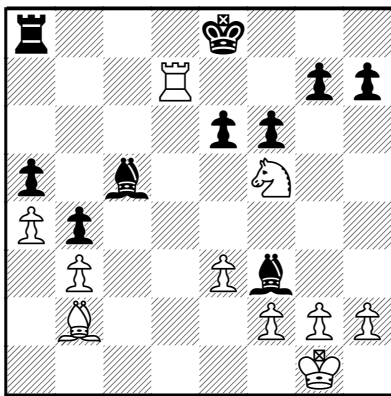
**22...Nc5!**

A difficult position for Black, as alternatives lead to bigger disadvantages: 22...Nf8 23.Nxa5 Bxf3 24.Nc4 Rd8 25.Rxd8 Bxd8 26.gxf3± or 22...Nb8 23.Ne5+ (similar to the previous line is 23.Nxa5 Bxf3 24.Nc4 Rd8 25.Rxd8 Bxd8 26.gxf3±) 23...fxe5 24.Bxb7 Ra7 25.Be4±.

**23.Rxc5! Bxc5** □ **24.Rd7+** □ **Re7** □ **25.Nxe7**

Better is 25.Bh5+ g6 (White stays a piece up after 25...Kf8 26.Nxe7) 26.Nxe7 Bxe7 27.Rxb7 gxh5± and Black's King-side pawns are broken up.

**25...Bxf3** □ **26.Nf5+** **Ke8** □



Other moves lose: 26...Kf8 27.Nxg7+- or 26...Kg8 27.Rxg7+ Kf8 28.gxf3 exf5 29.Rxh7+-.

**27.Rxg7?**

White had to keep attacking the biggest unprotected piece with 27.Rc7 exf5 (if 27...Bf8 then 28.Nxg7+ Bxg7 29.gxf3 Kf8 30.Bd4 and White is up a pawn and has more active pieces) 28.gxf3 (not

28.Rxc5 Bd1⊕) 28...Be7 29.Bd4 and White's at least equal.

**27...Bd5** ⊖

Now White's Queenside pawns, all on light squares, are there for the taking.

**28.Rg8+?**

Once again 28.Rc7 should be played, and after 28...exf5 29.Rxc5 Bxb3 30.Kf1 Bxa4 31.Rxf5 Bc6 32.Rxf6 Rc8⊖ Black has big compensation for his pawn down in view of his advanced Queenside pawns.

**28...Bf8 29.Nh6**

Houdini's last idea is 29.e4 Bxb3 30.Nd4 Kf7 31.Rh8 Bxa4 32.Rxh7+ Kg8 33.Rc7, but Black's two Bishops and connected pawns on the Queenside should win. In this line, 30...Bxa4 allows too many trades, as after 31.Nxe6 Kf7 32.Rxf8+ Rxf8 33.Nxf8 Kxf8 34.Bxf6, it's a Bishops of opposite color ending. Despite Black's advanced pawns, White will get his center pawns moving, too, and it should be drawn.

Black answers 29.Nd6+ with 29...Ke7 30.Nc4 Bxc4 31.bxc4 Rd8 32.Kf1 Kf7+- . The White Rook is out of play and the Black Rook is going to be very much in play.

**29...e5 30.Rh8 Rc8**

Even more effective is 30...Bxb3 followed by ...Rd8.

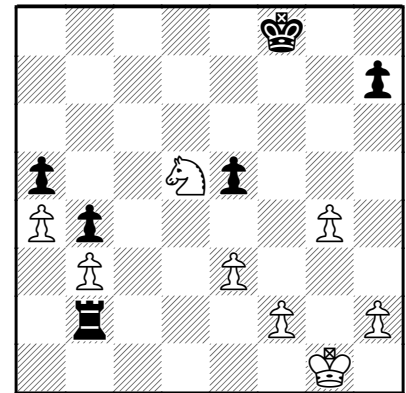
**31.Ng4 Rc2 32.Nxf6+ Kf7 33.Nxd5 Rxb2**

It's the Rook that's after those Queenside pawns now, instead of the Bishop.

**34.g4**

Not 34.Rxh7+? as 34...Kg6 threatens both the Rook and the mate at b1.

**34...Kg7 35.Rxf8 Kxf8**



The sharp contest has turned into a rout!.

**36.Nb6 Rxb3 37.Nc4 Rc3 38.Nxa5 b3 39.Nxb3 Rxb3 40.Kg2 Rb4 41.Kg3 Rxa4 42.f4 Kf7 43.g5 Kg6 0-1**

We conclude with Joaquin Perkins's final round victory, which brought him 10th place in the Under 8 section. It was a tough battle with many adventures.

**Perkins, Joaquin K - Pragganandhaa, R India (1535)**

**[C44] Göring Gambit**

**WYCC 2012 U8 (11)**

**Maribor, 18.11.2012**

Notes by the Editor.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.c3 dxc3 5.Nxc3**



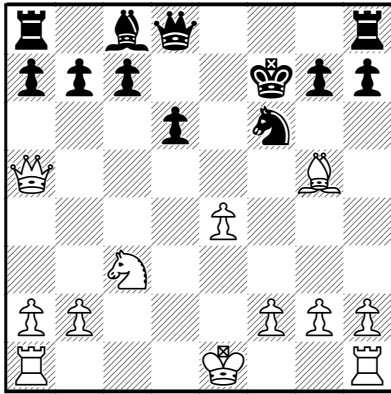
I can see IM Armen Ambartsoumian, GM Alejandro Ramirez, Agata Bykvtsev, and Kayden Troff, in addition to Gary.

The Göring Gambit. If you are tactically minded, you can offer a second pawn with 5.Bc4.

**5...d6**

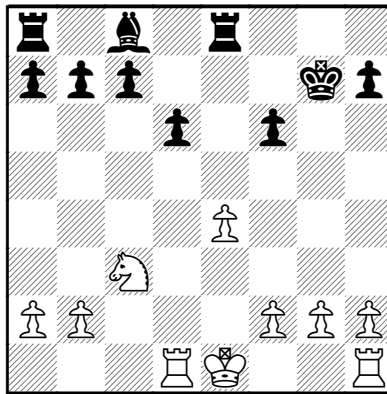
Easier to play is 5...Bb4 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.0-0.

**6.Bc4 Be7 7.Qb3! Na5 8.Bxf7+ Kf8 9.Qa4 Kxf7 10.Qxa5 Bf6 11.Ng5+ Bxg5 12.Bxg5 Nf6**



Here, White should castle King-side and bring those Rooks into the game, to build up a big fighting force against the center and the Black King.

**13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Qh5+ Kg7 15.Rd1 Qe8 16.Qxe8 Rxe8**



It's a shame to wind up with Queens off the board when a few moves earlier, White's better King safety would have counted in his favor.

In this position, White has fewer pawn islands, but Black has a Bishop against Knight, so it's about equal.

**17.0-0**

A Houdini line is 17.f3 Bd7 18.Kf2 Bc6=.

**17...Be6 18.Nb5 Re7 19.Rc1 c6**

Also possible is 19...Bxa2 20.Nxc7 Rd8 21.f3 a6=.

**20.Nxd6**

Black can't take the a-pawn now because of the Knight fork on f5.

**20...Rd8 21.Nf5+**

Black gets the pawn back after 21.Nc4 Rd4 22.Ne3 Rxe4=.

**21...Bxf5 22.exf5 Rd2**

Black's Rook on the seventh, going after the White pawns, compensates for being a pawn down.

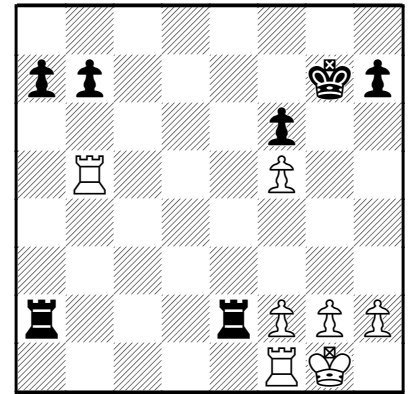
**23.Rb1**

It's almost always best to stop the opponent from doubling on the seventh.

But it's hard to say, in this position. If 23.Rfe1 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Rxb2 25.Kf1 White is still fighting to try to stay even for if 25...Kh6 (or 25...Rxa2 then 26.Re7 a5, and Black looks like he's having an easier time of it, to me. But Houdini says after 27.h4 b5 28.g4 Rxa2 29.f4 Rd2 30.Ke1! Rd8 it's equal.

**23...Ree2 24.b4 Rxa2 25.b5 cxb5**

**26.Rxb5**



Black's doubled Rooks on the seventh are holding down White's Rook on f1, so he should be able to advance those Queenside pawns. It would be easy to get discouraged, yet Houdini gives Black only a slight advantage.

**26...Rab2**

Houdini sees 26...b6 27.g3 Reb2 28.Rxb2 Rxb2 29.Ra1 a5. To advance the Queenside pawns, Black had to offer a Rook trade which freed up White's remaining Rook. But this position looks very good to me, because of the two connected passed pawns and White's doubled majority.

**27.Rd5 Rbd2 28.Rc5 Rd7 29.Ra5 a6 30.h3**

White begins to advance his majority. You have to go with your advantage!

**30...Red2 31.Raa1 R2d5 32.g4 h5 33.f3 Rb5 34.Kg2 Rb2+ 35.Kg3 Rb5 36.Rfd1 Rf7**

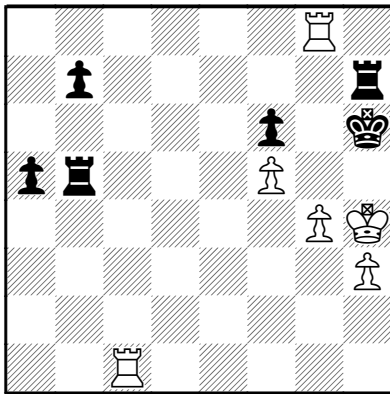


Joaquin Perkins outside the Dras Center, the tournament hall.

Black has not advanced his Queenside pawns, and the once menacing Rooks have both been withdrawn, and this Rook hides, to boot. He did not go with his plus!

It ought to be easier to try to win a single Rook ending by advancing the Queenside pawns, instead of hiding Black's second Rook away on f7, so trading must be correct: 36... Rxd1 37.Rxd1 a5. But after 38.Rd7+ Kh6 39.Rf7, White's remaining Rook wakes up. One Houdini line is 39... a4 40.Rxf6+ Kg7 41.Rd6 a3 42.Kf4 a2 43.Rd7+ Kf8 44.Rd8+ Kf7 45.Ra8 Rb2 46.g5±. It's White with the plus. **37.Kh4 Kh6 38.Rd8 hxc4 39.fxc4 a5 40.Rc1**

White maintains an initiative with 40.Rg8! b6 (40...Kh7 41.Ra8 b6 42.Rc1±) 41.Rd1±. **40...Rh7 41.Rg8**



**41...Re7**

Black has drifted into an uncomfortable Kingside situation. The plausible 41...Rg7? loses to 42.Rh8+ Rh7 43.Rxh7+ Kxh7 44.Kh5, as White can check on c7 and get his King to g6.

**42.Rf8**

White should harvest the pawn with 42.Rg6+ Kh7 43.Kh5 and start to enjoy his admirable Kingside strength. Black can't guard the f-pawn now, for if 43...Rf7 (or 43...Rb6) he gets mated after 44.Rc8 Rb3 45.h4 Rh3 46.Rh6+ Kg7 47.Rch8.

**42...Rb6 43.Rc5 Ra6**

This is more like it, with Black's Rook behind the passed a-pawn and ready to roll.

Pushing the pawn right away with 43...a4 leads to 44.Ra5 Kg7 45.Rfa8 Rb3, and now White must

play 46.Rc5 to keep the Black Rook on e7 from doubling on the rank of the White h3 pawn, on pain of mate, and if 46...a3 then 47.Rcc8=.

**44.Rh8+!+-**

But it's just a bit too late for Black. White has the position and the moves!

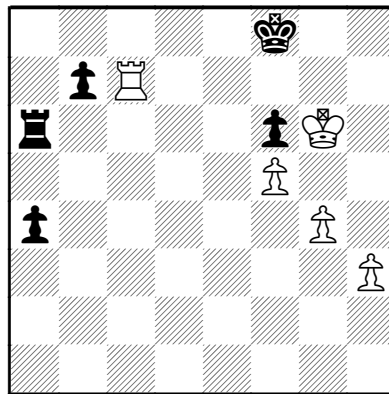
**44...Rh7**

Surprisingly, Black can't play 44...Kg7 because White has 45.Rcc8!, winning a Rook due to the deadly mating sequence of 46.Rh5, 47.Rch8, and 48.R5h7.

**45.Rxh7+ Kxh7 46.Kh5 a4**

According to Houdini, White's initiative is now so strong and swift that Black's best is to give up the a-pawn with 46...Rc6 47.Rxa5, still losing.

**47.Rc7+ Kg8 48.Kg6 Kf8**



**49.Rxb7**

This is the moment. Continuing the Kingside attack with the deadly 49.g5! fxc5+ 50.f6 Ke8 51.Kg7 soon gains big material.

**49...a3 50.Rb1 a2 51.Ra1**

But White still has some possibilities left.

**51...Kg8 52.h4 Kh8 53.h5 Kg8**

More stubborn was 53...Ra4 54.Kxf6 Kh7 (not 54...Rxc4 55.Rxa2+) 55.g5 because now 55...Ra6+ draws, for if White approaches the checking Rook with 56.Ke7 Ra7+ 57.Kd6 Ra6+ 58.Kc7, then 58...Ra5 wins the Kingside pawns.

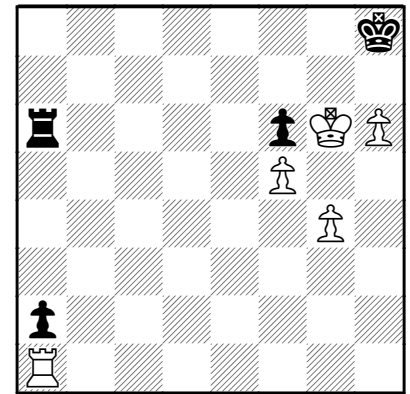
**54.h6+- Kh8 55.Rd1**

Once again, it's time for the decisive 55.g5! fxc5+ 56.f6+-.

**55...Ra8 56.Ra1!**

It's good to go back when it's best! What has to be done, has to be done.

**56...Ra6**



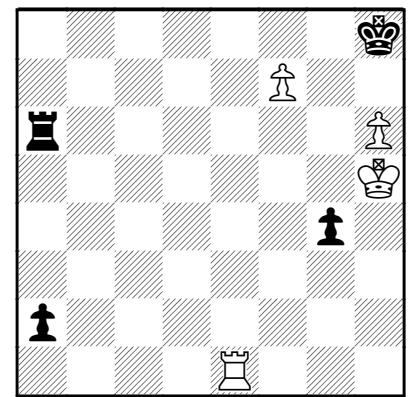
**57.g5!**

Seizing the chance!

**57...fxg5+ 58.f6 g4 59.Re1!**

Co-ordinating with the f-pawn.

**59...Ra8 60.f7 Ra6+ 61.Kh5**



**61...Ra5+**

Black gets the draw with 61...Rf6!. For example, if 62.Re8+ Kh7 63.Re7, threatening to Queen with discovered check, then simply 63...Kh8! =.

At move 61, White wins by keeping Black's Rook off the f-file, climbing down the chimney with 61.Kg5 Ra5+ 62.Kxc4 Ra4+ 63.Kg3 Ra3+ 64.Kg2 Ra8 65.Re8+.

**62.Kh4 Ra8**

Black still draws with 62...Rf5!

**63.Re8+**

But now it's over.

**63...Rxe8 64.fxe8Q+ Kh7 65.Qf7+ Kxh6 66.Qxa2 g3 67.Kxc3 Kh5 68.Qg8 Kh6 69.Kf4 Kh5 70.Qg5 mate**

Both players made mistakes and had chances in this game. You may get discouraged, but keep on trying!

This victory was Joaquin's sixth in a row, and was very definitely a great way to finish such a long tournament so far from home. ♔

# GM Melikset Khachiyan Takes 48th American Open

November 22-25, 2012

**GM Melikset Khachiyan, pictured on this month's cover, scored 6½-1½ for a clear first in the 48th American Open** at the DoubleTree Hotel in Anaheim. He joins IM David Strauss (1992) and GM Walter Browne (1997) by winning his *seventh* American Open title. His previous six were in 2011, 2004, 2006, and 2008-2010.

Tied for second at 6-2 were IM Andranik Matikozyan and FM John Daniel Bryant. FM Julian Landaw finished third at 5½-2½, ahead of GMs Enrico Sevillano and Joshua Friedel, and NM Varun Krishnan, who all scored 5-3.

In the Under 2200 section, early leader Simone Liao lost to Jonathan Homidan and John Ward, who both tied with her for first place at 6-2.

The Under 2000 section saw a three way tie at 6½-1½, by Leo Cregar, Karl Tolentino, and Wes White.

Bryan Shapiro and Derek Zhang scored 7-1 each to tie for first in the Under 1800. Jeff Sinick with 7-1 topped the Under 1600 section.

Twelve-year-old George Shan swept the Under 1400 section 8-0, winning by a point and a half and gaining 156 rating points in the process. He continued his success at the North American Open, scoring 6½ out of 7 to gain another 143!

The above sections totaled over 200 players.

The scholastic events attracted 292 players this year. The winners in the Varsity events were:

K-12: Daniel Riley Wong 5½-½

K-6: Daniel Zhu 5½-½

K-3: Alexander John Costello 6-0

The Junior Varsity winners were:

K-12: Evan Yu 4½-½

K-9: Samuel Kliewer and Arden Wang 4½-½

K-6: Henry Tang, Andrew Yang and Michael Zhu 5-0

K-3: Paul Jia and Stanley Zhou 5-0

K-1: Alton Qian 5-0

IM Dionisio Aldama took the Action event 4½-½, yielding only a last round draw to Michael Cooper.

NM Eduardo Ortiz took the Blitz tournament 9-1, only splitting two points with Aldama, who finished second at 8-2.

Chief TD Anthony Ong was assisted by Aaron Ong, Alfred Ong, R. C. Rice, and Quan Andrew Luong.

Seven-time winner David Strauss won the American open in the years 1971, 75, 78, 80, 83, 85, and 92, while seven-timer Walter Browne won it in 1971, 76, 80, 86, 89, 90, and 97. Two of those years, 1971 and 1980, they tied with each other for first.

We present three games. First, the tournament winner Khachiyan winner remarks on his best game, his round three victory against Roman Yankovsky. Jack Peters provides notes to his own game against John Daniel Bryant, and Yankovsky's attacking win against Alexandre Kretchetov, who tried Khachiyan's third round line against him.

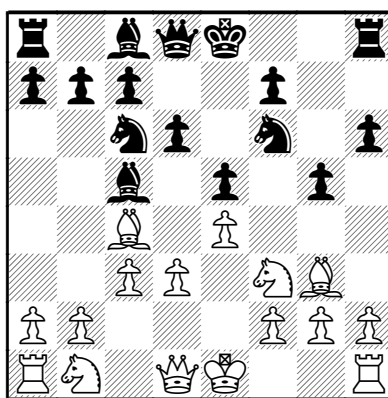
**Yankovsky, Roman (2570) - Khachiyan, Melikset (2545)**

**[C54] Giuoco Piano American Open (3)**

**Orange, 23.11.2012**

Notes by GM Melik Khachiyan.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 g5 8.Bg3**



8...0-0

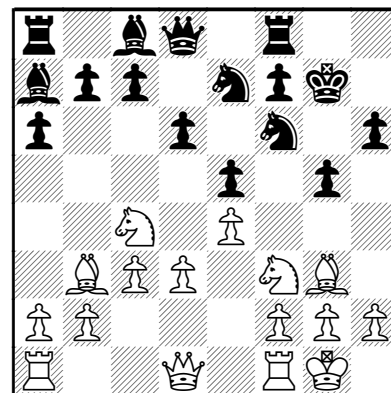
From my previous experience I have learned that my King belongs on the Kingside. In general, I believe that the White Bishop doesn't belong on g5, and that's why I always like to chase it with h6 and g5.

Also good, according to Houdini are: 8...Qe7 9.0-0 a6 10.Nbd2 Ba7 11.b4 Bd7 12.h3 Rg8=; and 8...a6 9.0-0 Ba7 10.Nbd2 Rg8 11.d4 g4 12.Nh4 exd4 13.Qb3 Qd7=.

**9.Nbd2 Kg7**

The computer likes ...g4 in these positions; I have never understood why. I believe you should play ...g4 as a reaction to h4. Also, the moves ...h6 and ...g5 combine to restrict the Bishop, so I continue playing on the Kingside.

**10.0-0 a6 11.Bb3 Ba7 12.Nc4 Ne7**



**13.Kh1**

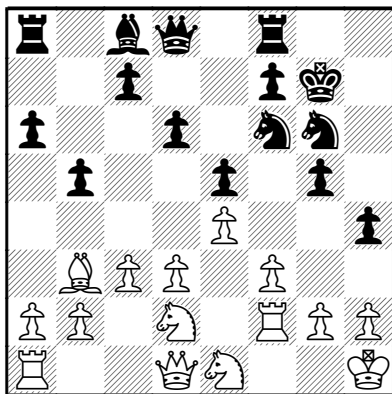
I thought this was a wrong plan, way too slow. White should play 13.Ne3 followed immediately by 14.d4 to fight for the initiative.

**13...Ng6 14.Ne1 h5 15.f3 b5**

First, I need to kick the Knight away from its control of the e3 square,

and then try to control the Black squares on the Kingside.

**16.Nd2 h4 17.Bf2 Bxf2 18.Rxf2**



**18...Nh5**

Houdini prefers 18...c5 19.Nc2 Nf4 20.Qf1 g4 21.fxg4 Nxg4 22.Rxf4 exf4 23.Qxf4 Qf6 24.Qxf6+ Nxf6; or 18...Nf4 19.Nf1 g4 20.Rd2 c5 21.Ne3 g3.

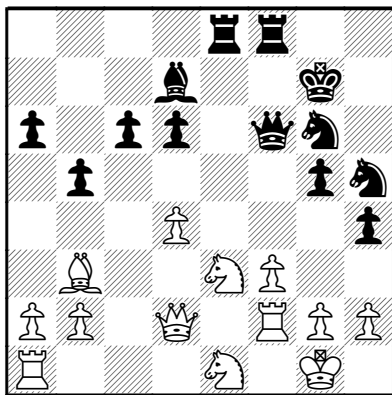
**19.Nf1 f5 20.exf5 Bxf5 21.Ne3 Bd7 22.Qd2**

I thought that 22.d4 straight away was a better option.

**22...c6 23.d4 Qf6 24.Kg1**

Better was Houdini's 24.d5 c5 25.Bc2=.

**24...exd4 25.cxd4 Rae8**



**26.N1c2?!**

Too passive. White needs to be more aggressive and play a4 ASAP.

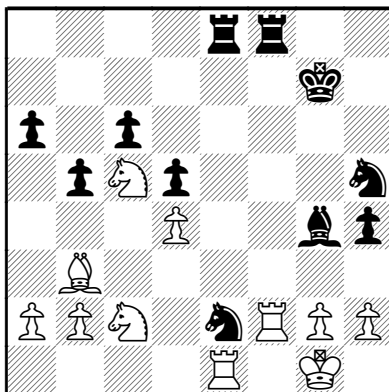
**26...Qf4 27.Nf1?**

Again 27.a4 was the only option. White tries to trade Queens in time pressure, but it is the wrong decision.

**27...Qxd2 28.Nxd2 Ngf4**

Houdini likes 28...Ng3! 29.Ne4 Nxe4 30.fxe4 Rxf2 31.Kxf2 Rxe4.

**29.Ne4 d5 30.Nc5 Bf5 31.Rd1 g4 32.fxg4 Bxg4 33.Re1 Ne2+**



**34.Kf1?**

A blunder, but even after the best move, 34.Rexe2, White's position was lost.

**34...Nhg3+ 35.hxg3 hxg3 0-1**

I missed a pretty mate with 35...Rxf2+ 36.Kxf2 hxg3+ 37.Kf1 Rf8, but still...

**Bryant, John Daniel (2416) - Peters, Jack (2355)**

**[B22] C3 Sicilian**

**American Open (8)**

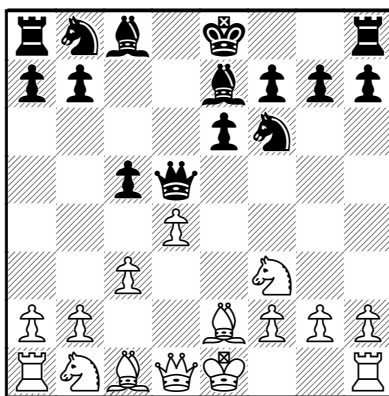
**Orange, 25.11.2012**

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

**1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 e6**

All four of our games have begun with this variation. My score is 0-4, but I don't think my choice of opening is the reason. Unfortunately!

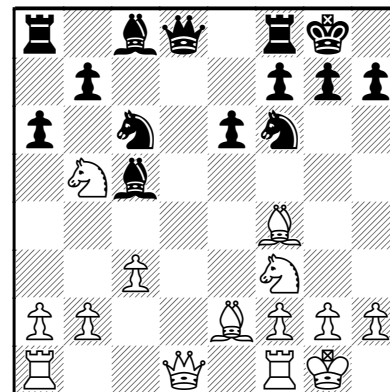
**5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Be2 Be7**



**7.0-0**

Twice we reached the position after 7.Na3 Qd8 8.Nc2 0-0 9.0-0. Black came close to equalizing with both 9...Nbd7 and 9...b6 10.Ne5 Bb7.

**7...0-0 8.Na3 Nc6 9.Nb5 Qd8 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Bf4 a6**

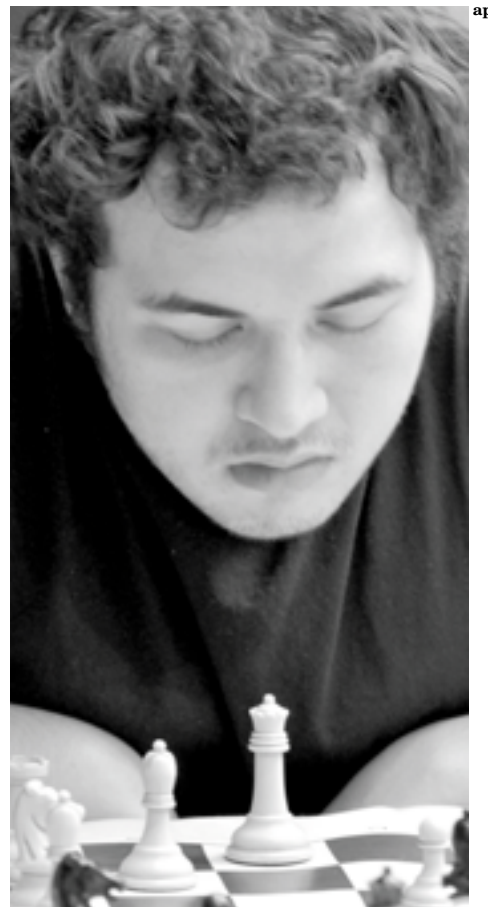


I did not remember our first game, which continued 11...Nd5 12.Bg3 a6 13.Nbd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Qf6=. Again, Black has nearly equalized.

**12.Nc7?!**

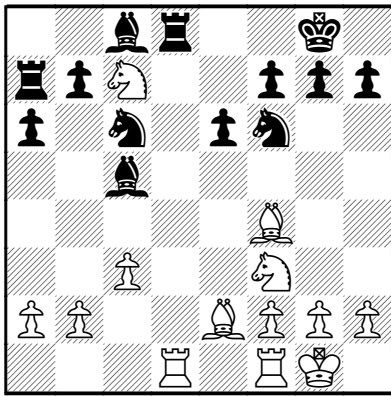
After thinking 31 minutes, Bryant boldly plunks his Knight in Black's territory. Now we have to calculate if it can be trapped.

White can safely retreat with 12.Nbd4 although he has little advantage after 12...Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Bxd4 (also reasonable are 13...Qb6 and 13...Nd5) 14.cxd4 Bd7.



John Daniel Bryant: tied for 2nd.

12...Ra7 13.Qxd8 Rxd8 14.Rad1



14...Bd7?

I did not want to concede the d-file, and I thought this move would keep the threat of ...b7-b5 and ...Bc5-b6.

But Black should act at once with 14...Rxd1 15.Rxd1 b5, threat-

ening both 16...Bb6 and 16...e5. Houdini suggests 16.Ne1 with the very sharp continuation 16...e5 (ineffective is 16...Bb6?! 17.Bf3 Bd7 because of 18.Bxc6 Bxc6 19.Be3! Bxe3 20.Rd8+ Ne8 21.Nxe8 Kf8 22.Nxg7+±) 17.Bxe5! Bg4! 18.Bxg4 Nxe5 19.Rd8+ Bf8 20.Ne6□ fxe6 21.Bxe6+ Nf7 22.Nf3 Re7 23.Rd6 Ne4 24.Rxa6 Nc5 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7 26.Rb6 Re2 27.Rxb5 Na4. I didn't consider any of this.

A second possibility after 14...Rxd1 15.Rxd1 b5 is the more comprehensible 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Bb6 18.Rc1 Bd7 19.Be5. White's Knight remains trapped, but Black cannot win it. The plausible 19...Ne4 20.Bf3 produces bewildering complications after either 20...f6 or 20...Nd2 21.Bc6 Nc4 22.Bxd7 Nxe5.

My best guess is that White falls slightly short of equality after 14...Rxd1. If so, 12.Nc7 will not rewrite opening theory. As a one-time weapon, though, it brought White a point, and that's more important.

15.Ne5± Nxe5 16.Bxe5 b5 17.Bf3 Ne8??

A blunder caused by an elementary thinking error. I decided within a few seconds that 17...Ne8 was all right, and I spent almost all of my 17 minutes rejecting more ambitious alternatives. You're supposed to spend your time on the move you play.

I gave up on my original intention, 17...Bb6?!, when I calculated 18.Na8! Bc5 (as 18...Raxa8? drops material to 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Bxa8+-) 19.b4 Bf8? (not noticing the clever 19...Nd5□



White in the penultimate round, right to left, Matikozyan, Banawa, and Peters, playing against... ap



which may survive) 20.Bd4±, trapping Black's Rook.

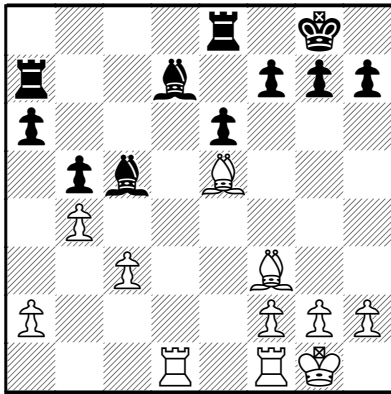
Nor does 17...Rc8?! 18.Nxa6 Rxa6? work, as 19.Bb7! puts most of Black's pieces in danger.

Houdini claims Black can hold White to a nominal advantage with 17...h5!? (hoping for ...Nf6-g4) 18.h3 Nh7.

**18.Nxe8?!**

Even stronger is 18.Rxd7 Rxd7 19.Nxe8 Rd2 (as 19...f6? 20.Bb8+- embarrasses Black's Rook.) 20.Nxg7 Rxb2 21.Nh5+-.

**18...Rxe8 19.b4**



**19...Bf8**

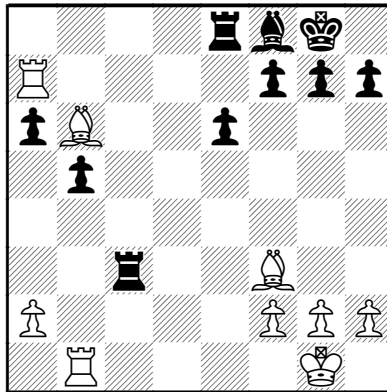
I foresaw the reply and decided that my only chance was in a piece-down endgame.

It's true that 19...Bb6 20.Rd6 Bd8? loses to 21.Rfd1 Re7 22.Bd4 Rc7 23.Bb6 Rc8 24.Bc5! Rc7 25.R6d3, but 19...Bb6 20.Rd6 f6□ improves. I do not see a persuasive finish to 21.Bg3 Bd8 22.Rfd1 Re7±, but I do not trust Black's passive position.

**20.Bd4 Rc7 21.Bb6 Rxc3**

Black could lose "only" the Exchange by 21...Rec8 22.Bxc7 Rxc7 23.Rd3±.

**22.Rxd7 Bxb4 23.Rb1 Bf8 24.Ra7+-**



White will win the a-pawn too.

**24...Ra3 25.Rb2**

Another method is 25.Bc6 Rc8 26.Bd7 Rc2 27.Be8+-.

**25...Rb8 26.Bb7 b4**

White would have to work harder after 26...Rd3 27.g3 Rd7 28.Bf3 Rxa7 29.Bxa7 Rc8 30.Rd2+-.

**27.g3**

White could fall into my "trap" 27.Bc7 Rc3 and still win by 28.Bxa6+-.

**27...Rc3 28.Kg2 a5 29.Bxa5! Ra3**

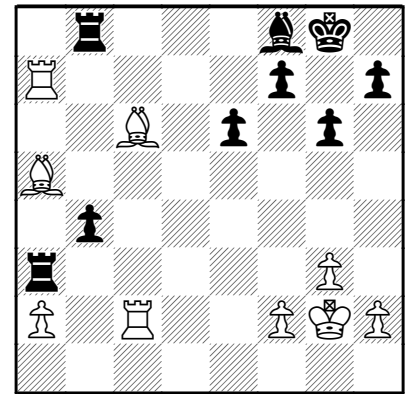
White welcomes 29...Bc5 30.Bxb4+-.

**30.Rc2?**

Imprecise.

After 30.Be4 Bc5 31.Ra6, Black can accomplish no more than the trade of Queenside pawns, as in the game. If 31...g6, White unpins by 32.Bc7 Rxa6 33.Bxb8+-.

**30...g6 31.Bc6**

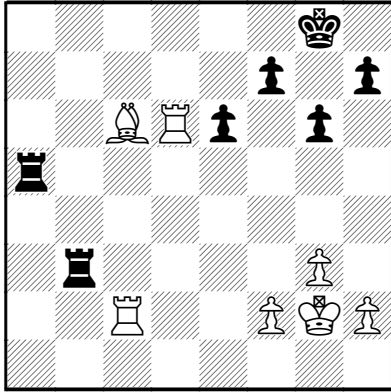


ap ... Sevillano, Ortiz, and Friedel playing Black. The results: 1-0, ½-½, and ½-½.

### 31...Bd6?

With 31...Rc8, Black creates a second pin and threatens 32...Rc3. White must reply 32.Ra6□ but he cannot escape both pins without yielding material. For example, 32...h5 33.Rd2 Rxa5 34.Rxa5 Rxc6 gives Black hope of drawing.

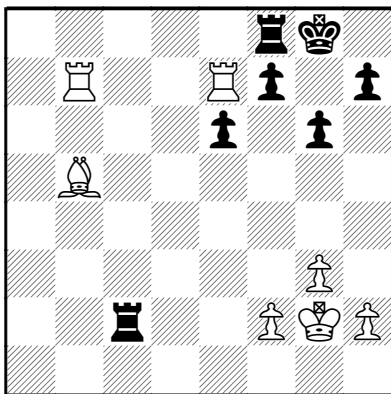
**32.Rd7 Rxa5 33.Rxd6+- b3 34.axb3 Rxb3**



There are a few piece-down draws when all the pawns are on the King-side. In addition, White is hampered by the “wrong” Bishop for the h-pawn. But Bryant demonstrates very convincing winning technique.

**35.Rd7 Rb8 36.Bf3 Rab5 37.Rcc7 Rf8 38.Re7 Ra5 39.Rb7**

The next step is to bring the Bishop to e8, but not by 39.Bc6 Rc5 40.Be8?? Rxc7 41.Rxc7 Rxe8. **39...Rc5 40.Be2 Rc2 41.Bb5**



### 41...Rb2

To trade Rooks. White can threaten f7 and e6 too easily with four Rooks on the board.

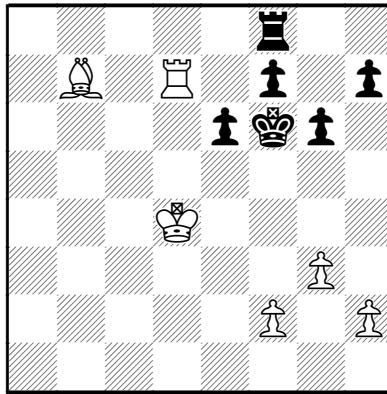
Against 41...Rc5 42.Be8 Rf5, White runs Black out of moves by 43.g4! Rf4 44.g5 Rf5 45.h4 Rf4 46.Kg3

Rf5 47.f4 - Zugzwang. Then 47...Kg7 permits 48.Bd7! Kg8 49.Bxe6 fxe6 50.Rg7+ Kh8 51.Rxh7+ Kg8 52.Rbg7 mate.

Preventing Bb5-e8 by 41...Rcc8 lets White take aim at e6 with 42.Bd7! Rb8 43.Rc7 Rfd8 44.Bxe6! fxe6 45.Rg7+ Kf8 46.Rxh7 Kg8 47.Rcg7+ Kf8 48.Rxg6+-.

**42.Red7 Kg7 43.Ba6 Rxb7 44.Bxb7**

Black still cannot free his Rook. **44...Rb8 45.Kf3 Kf6 46.Ke4 Rf8 47.Kd4**



Revealing the plan: White's King will go to c7, enforcing a Rook trade at d8.

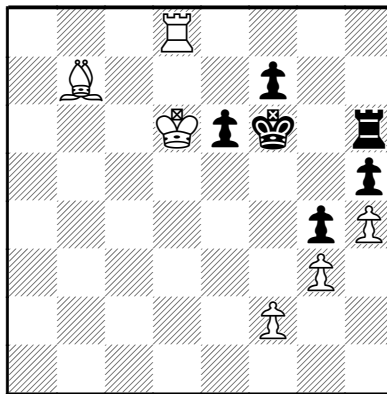
**47...h5 48.h3 Rh8 49.Kc5 g5 50.Kd6 g4**

No better is 50...h4 51.g4+-.

**51.h4 Rf8 52.Kc7 Rh8**

Black can avoid the Rook trade by 52...Re8 53.Bc6 Kg6 54.Rd8 Re7+, but White wins anyway with 55.Bd7! f5 56.Kd6 Kf7 57.Rh8+-.

**53.Rd8 Rh6 54.Kd6 1-0**



White intends Bb7-e4, Rd8-f8 and Kd6-e7. If Black crosses this plan by 54...Kf5 55.Bc6 Rg6, then

56.Ba4 e5+ 57.Kd5 Ra6 (or 57...e4 58.Rd6 Rg8?! 59.Bd7 mate) 58.Bc2+ Kf6 59.Rd6+ Rxd6+ 60.Kxd6 mops up.

**Yankovsky,Roman (2474) - Kretchetov,Alexandre (2306)**

**[C54] Giuoco Pianissimo American Open (8)**

**Orange, 25.11.2012**

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

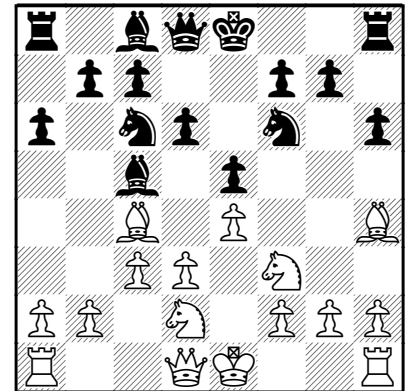
**1.e4 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3**

The Giuoco Pianissimo, a cautious opening often compared to Ruy Lopez lines with d2-d3. But White's Bishop does not always retreat to c2.

**5...a6 6.Bg5**

Rare. White usually tries 6.Bb3 or 6.0-0.

**6...h6 7.Bh4 d6 8.Nbd2**



**8...g5**

Most challenging.

A second sharp treatment begins 8...Na5!? 9.Bxf7+ (also possible is 9.Bd5 c6 10.b4 cxd5=) 9...Kxf7 10.b4 Bxb4 11.cxb4 Nc6=. Black's pieces will work harmoniously after he “castles” by ...Bc8-e6, ...Rh8-f8, and ...Kf7-g8.

**9.Bg3 Nh5?!**

Kretchetov would not overlook the discovery against this unprotected Knight, but he could not have calculated all the consequences.

Instead, he could emulate Khachiyan's idea from the third round with 9...0-0!? or rely on the non-committal 9...Ba7=.

**10.Nxe5! Nxg3 11.Bxf7+**

Did Black expect 11.Nxc6?? Qf6!, winning the Exchange?

**11...Kf8**

The only difference with 11...Ke7 is that 12.Ng6+ forces 12...Kxf7.

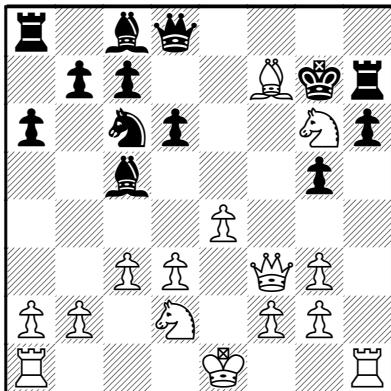
**12.Ng6+ Kg7!?**

After 12...Kxf7 13.Nxh8+ Qxh8 14.hxg3 Qf6, Black has enough material, but 15.d4 Ba7 16.f4!↑ takes full control of the center. Black's Bishops can do little.

**13.hxg3**

Hardly an automatic recapture. The alternative 13.fxg3!? Kxf7□ (Black cannot recover material after 13...Rh7? 14.Rf1+-) 14.Nxh8+ Qxh8 15.d4 Ba7 16.Qh5+ Ke7 17.h4↑ looks promising for White too.

**13...Rh7 14.Qf3**



Now Black must find a way to attack White's Bishop, the sole support of the trapped Knight.

**14...Qf6?!**

This won't do the job.

Nor will 14...Qd7?? because White can harass Black's exposed King with 15.Bg8! Kxg6 16.Qh5+ Kf6 (hopeless is 16...Kg7 17.Bxh7 Kxh7 18.Qxh6+) 17.e5+! Nxe5 (as 17...Kxe5 18.Qg6! forces mate) 18.Ne4+ Kg7 19.Bxh7+-.

Black has no time for 14...Ba7? because 15.e5! dxe5 16.Bd5! extricates the Bishop. If 16...Kxg6 17.Be4+ Kg7 18.Bxh7 g4 19.Qe4+-, White keeps a decisive advantage in material.

Only 14...Bd7 15.d4 Qf6! resists (the slow 15...Ba7? 16.e5+- won't disturb White), but the unbalanced position arising from 16.Nf4! gxf4□ 17.Bb3 Ba7 18.gxf4± should favor White anyway, thanks to his formidable wall of pawns.

**15.Be8! Qxf3**

White would refute the developing move 15...Be6 by the picturesque 16.Qxf6+ Kxf6 17.Nf8!, anticipating 17...Rxe8 18.Nxh7+ Kg7 19.d4 Ba7 20.Nxg5 hxg5 21.0-0-0± and soon f2-f4.

**16.gxf3**

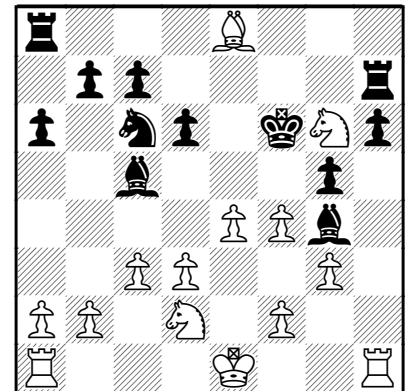
Avoiding the trap 16.Nxf3? Bh3! 17.Rxh3 Rxe8=.

**16...Kf6**

If 16...Be6, the Knight returns to safety by 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Ne7 Bd7 19.Nf5+.

Or, if 16...Nd8, White can fortify the Knight by 17.f4 Nf7 18.Bxf7 Kxf7 19.f5+-.

**17.f4 Bg4**



**18.fxg5+!**

Clearer than 18.Bxc6?! bxc6 19.f5 Bxf5 20.exf5 Kxf5.

**18...Kxg5 19.Bxc6 1-0**

Black gives up before the Knight finds a home at f4 or h4.



IM Jeremy Silman lectured first, and answered questions later.

# GM Khachiyan and FM Samuel Sevian Top 23rd Metro FIDE GM

Sevian gets third IM norm!

December 19-23, 2012

GM Melikset Khachiyan and 11-year-old FM Samuel Sevian tied for first with 6-3 at the year end's 23rd Metropolitan FIDE Invitational. Sevian earned his third IM norm, concluding a great year in which he won the Under-12 World Championship in Maribor a month before, and jumped up a full rating class. When his FIDE rating gets to 2400, it will complete the requirements for his IM title. Other highlights of 2012 were winning the 19th and 20th, and placing second in the 22nd, Metropolitan FIDE Invitational tournaments.

Finishing third at 5-4 was GM Alejandro Ramirez, the only other player with a plus score. Fourth through sixth at 4½-4½ were 16-year-old IM Darwin Yang, 19-year-old IM Victor Shen, and GM Artur Chibukhchian of Armenia. Seventh at 4-5 was IM Roman Yankovsky of Russia. Finishing eighth through tenth at 3½-5½ were IMs Andranik Matikozyan of Armenia, Keaton Kiewra, and Zhanibek Amanov, Kazakhstan.

Sevian and Khachiyan led after the third round and exclusively shared the lead in every round from the fourth. When Sevian won, so did Khachiyan, and they drew with each other in round seven.

It was a fairly even field in that the tournament saw no winning streaks of 3 games, and only three streaks of two, by the top three finishers.

We present three games from the tournament, with notes by IM Jack Peters. The first is the early clash between two GMs, Ramirez and Khachiyan, a very interesting game with some comments added by the winner. He wins a pawn, but it does take some work to convert it, which he does, using an interesting Bishop and pawn ending.

In addition, two fine wins by Yankovsky and Yang, a Sicilian and a Nimzo-Indian, are presented.

Ramirez, Alejandro (2554) -  
Khachiyan, Melikset (2479)  
[D97] Grunfeld Defense  
23rd Metropolitan GM (3)

Los Angeles, 20.12.2012

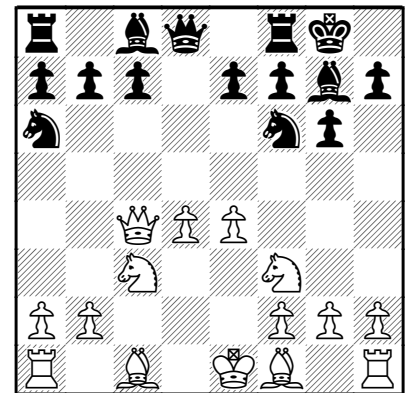
Notes by IM Jack Peters.

Additional remarks by the winner.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3  
Bg7 5.Qb3

The Moscow variation. As in the Exchange variation (4.cxd5), White will construct a mighty pawn center and challenge Black to attack it.

5...dxc4 6.Qxc4 0-0 7.e4 Na6



The Prins variation, largely neglected until Kasparov adopted it in his 1986 world championship match against Karpov.

Recently I have been playing mostly 7...Nc6, but since I didn't expect this line at all from Ramirez, I decided to play my backup line 7...Na6.

Smyslov advocated 7...Bg4 8.Be3 Nfd7 in the late 1940s, while the Hungarian variation 7...a6 took center stage in the 1970s.

8.Bf4

Most games continue 8.Be2 c5 9.d5 e6 10.0-0 exd5 11.exd5.

8...c5 9.dxc5

Round by Round										
Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Samuel Sevian 2343	USA	W10 ½	W2 1	B3 2	W4 3	B5 3½	W6 4	B7 4½	W8 5½	B9 6
2 Andranik Matikozyan 2426	ARM	W9 0	B1 ½	W10 1	W3 1½	B4 2	W5 2½	B6 3	W7 3	B8 3½
3 Darwin Yang 2493	USA	W8 ½	B9 1	W1 1	B2 1½	W10 2½	B4 3½	W5 3½	B6 4	B7 4½
4 Roman Yankovsky 2474	RUS	W7 ½	B8 ½	W9 1½	B1 1½	W2 2	B3 2	W10 2½	B5 3½	B6 4
5 Artur Chibukhchian 2448	ARM	W6 ½	B7 1	W8 1½	B9 2	W1 2½	B2 3	W3 4	B4 4	W10 4½
6 Alejandro Ramirez 2554	USA	B5 ½	B10 1	W7 1	B8 2	W9 3	B1 3½	W2 4	B3 4½	W4 5
7 Melikset Khachiyan 2479	USA	B4 ½	W5 1	B6 2	B10 3	W8 3½	B9 4	W1 4½	B2 5½	W3 6
8 Zhanibek Amanov 2359	KAZ	B3 ½	W4 1½	B5 2	W6 2	B7 2½	B10 3	W9 3	B1 3	W2 3½
9 Victor Shen 2419	USA	B2 1	W3 1½	B4 1½	W5 2	B6 2	W7 2½	B8 3½	B10 4	W1 4½
10 Keaton Kiewra 2422	USA	B1 ½	W6 1	B2 1½	W7 1½	B3 1½	W8 2	B4 2½	W9 3	B5 3½

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

Another aggressive choice is 9.d5, when 9...Qa5 10.Qb5± assures White an edge.

### 9...Qa5

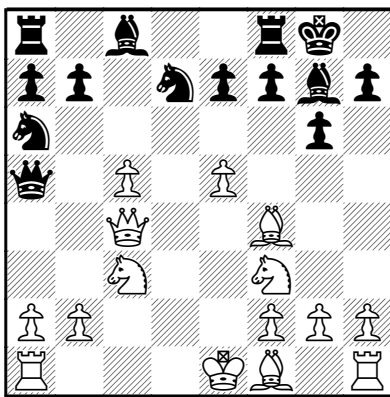
In Topalov - Kasparov, Sarajevo 1999, the interesting pawn sacrifice 9...Be6! 10.Qb5 Bd7 11.Qxb7 Nxc5 12.Qb4 Ne6 13.Be5 a5 14.Qa3 Qb6 gave Black enough compensation to draw.

*Another psychological moment. I made my move quite fast. I knew the main line was 9...Be6, but I wanted to play something less known.*

### 10.e5

Ambitious. White could still settle for safety by 10.Qb5=.

### 10...Nd7



### 11.e6??

A novelty that will inspire no followers. White should not disregard the general advice about opening the position before castling or when trailing in development. Just consider which pieces benefit most from 11.e6 - Black's Rook at f8 and Black's Bishop at g7.

Instead, White has scored well with 11.a3 Qxc5 12.Nd5±.

*Since I knew 11.a3 was the main move, I had a feeling 11.e6 had to be bad, but clearly I missed 11...b5.*

### 11...fxe6?

Reasonable, but White can hang on.

Houdini points out a startling refutation of 11.e6 with 11...b5! 12.cxb6 (12.Qxb5 drops a piece, to 12...Bxc3+ 13.Nd2 fxe6-) 12...Nxb6 13.Qd3 Bxe6-, when Black's pieces will converge on White's uncastled King.

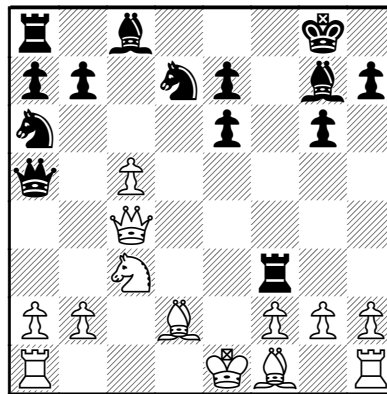
### 12.Bd2

Probably best.

After 12.Qxe6+ Kh8 13.Bd2 Ndxc5 14.Qc4 (avoiding 14.Qe3? be-

cause 14...Nb4 15.Rc1 Qb6!-+ sets up 16...Ncd3+) 14...Be6 15.Qb5, Black leaves White's Queen precariously placed by 15...Qc7 16.Be2 Rad8†.

### 12...Rxf3!



*This move is the reason I played 11...fxe6, not considering alternatives at that point.*

### 13.gxf3?

So natural!

Yet White misses the opportunity to restore equality. The interpolation 13.Ne4! imagines 13...Qc7 14.gxf3 Ne5 15.Qc3±, limiting Black's activity. Thus 13.Ne4! Ne5! 14.Bxa5 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Rf4 16.f3 is critical. According to Houdini, Black should sacrifice the Exchange by 16...Nxc5 17.Bc7 Rh4 18.g3 Nxe4 19.gxh4 Nd6, with even chances.

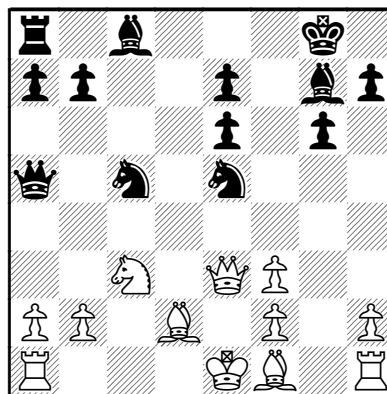
### 13...Ne5† 14.Qe4

Acquiescing to a pawn-down ending.

Alternatives seem no better. White will not manage to trade Queens with 14.Qb5 Nxf3+ 15.Kd1 Qd8 16.Qd3 Nd4†.

Or, if 14.Qe2, both 14...Nxc5† and 14...Nb4 15.Qe4 Bd7† are powerful.

### 14...Nxc5 15.Qe3



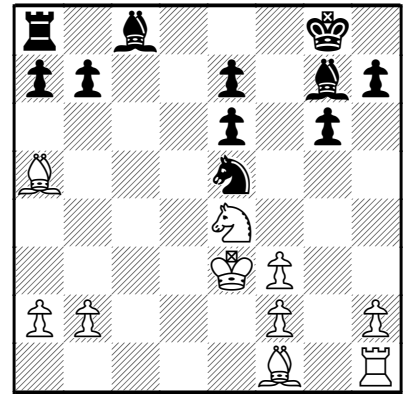
### 15...Nb3!

Else White may survive.

### 16.Ne4

The problem with 16.Rd1 is 16...Nd4!-+, hitting c2 and f3.

### 16...Nxa1 17.Bxa5 Nc2+ 18.Kd2 Nxe3 19.Kxe3†

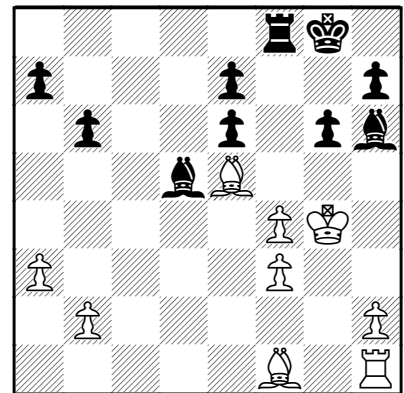


Black has won a pawn, but he must work hard to create a passer from his damaged Kingside majority. Khachiyan makes steady progress with excellent technique.

### 19...Bh6+ 20.f4

If 20.Ke2, then 20...b6 21.Bd2 Ba6+ 22.Kd1 Bxf1 23.Rxf1 Rd8 completes development, and 24.Ke2 Bxd2 25.Nxd2 Nd3† secures a valuable outpost at f4.

### 20...b6 21.Bc3 Ng4+ 22.Kf3 Bb7 23.Kxg4 Bxe4 24.f3 Bd5 25.a3 Rf8 26.Be5



### 26...Bg7!

Trading White's best-placed piece.

*Alejandro sets a nice trap: 26...Bxf4 27.Bxf4 e5 28.Bxe5 Bxf3+ 29.Kg3 Bxh1 30.Bc4+ Rf7 31.h4 Kf8 32.Bxf7 Kxf7 33.Kf4 could be drawish. In fact I didn't see this line, but I just felt something could be wrong.*

Another trap is 26...g5?! 27. Rg1!, when 27...gxf4?? 28. Kh5+ costs Black a piece.

**27.Bxg7 Kxg7 28.Be2**

Worse are 28.Bd3? e5-+ and 28.Bg2?! Rc8 29.Kg3 Rc2-+.

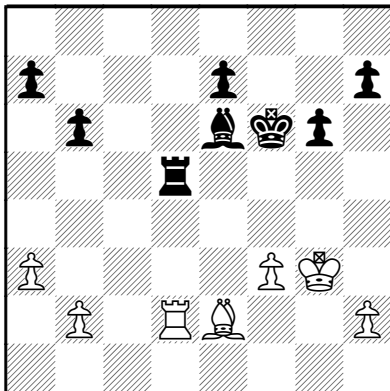
**28...e5!**

Clearer than 28...Rc8 29.Bd3.

**29.fxe5 Rf5 30.Rd1 Rxe5 31.Rd2 Kf6**±

Black has straightened out his pawns, and each of his pieces is more active than its White counterpart.

**32.Kg3 Be6 33.Kf2 Rh5 34.Kg3 Rd5!**



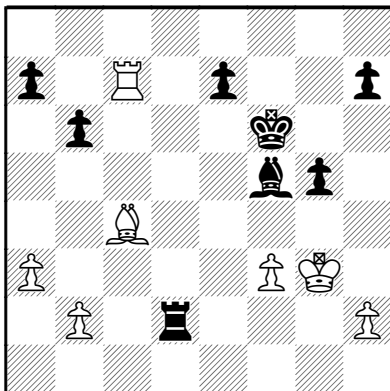
Offering the right trade.

An extra pawn almost always decides a same-color Bishop ending. White has much more chance to draw if he preserves a Rook for counterplay.

**35.Rc2 Bf5 36.Rc6+ Rd6 37.Rc7 Rd2**

Also 37...Rd7 38.Rc6+ e6±, intending ... Rd7-d2, should win.

**38.Bc4 g5!**



Creating the mate threat ...h7-h5-h4.

**39.h4**

Not 39.Rxa7? h5 40.h4 because Black wins a piece by 40...gxh4+ 41.Kxh4 Rd4+.

**39...gxh4+ 40.Kxh4 Ke5?!**

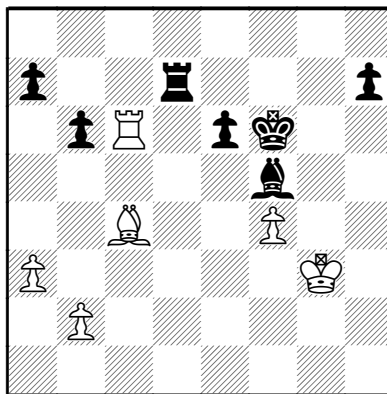
Another mate threat, with 41...Kf4. But White can parry the threat and continue to resist.

After the correct 40...Rd4+ 41.Kg3 h5 42.f4 e5!-+, the h-pawn will run.

**41.Kg3 Rd7 42.Rc6 e6 43.f4+**

White has improved his pawn structure and activated his pieces. Now he has fair drawing chances.

**43...Kf6**



**44.Be2?**

A glimmer of hope appears, and White immediately goes wrong. Every experienced chessplayer can sympathize.

Black has a much more difficult task after 44.Rc8 Rd2 45.b3. He's not ready to exploit his passer because 45...h5 46.Rf8+ Kg7 (or 46...Ke7 47.Rh8±) 47.Re8 gives White counterplay.

**44...Rd2-+ 45.Bh5**

White must have been attracted by the possibility of 46.Rc7 and 47.Rf7 mate.

**45...Rc2!**

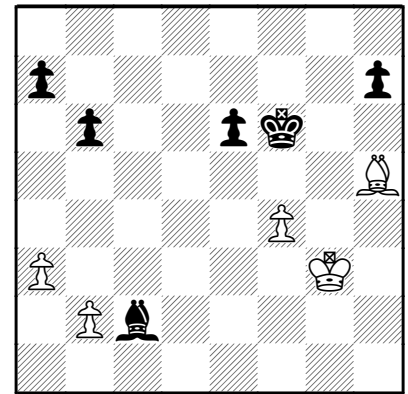
Forcing the desired trade.

Black has an alternate, and more conventional, winning plan too. Not with 45...Rxb2? 46.Rc7 Bg6 47.Bxg6 Kxg6 48.Rxa7±, when a draw is likely. But 45...Rd3+! 46.Kf2 Rh3 47.Be2 Rb3 safely picks off a second pawn.

**46.Rxc2**

White would lose a second pawn by 46.Rd6? Ke7! 47.Rd1 Rxb2-+.

**46...Bxc2**



**47.Be8**

Letting Black's King invade.

However, even the tougher 47.Bg4 won't restrain Black for long. A typical sequence is 47...Bg6 48.Bh3 h5 49.Bf1 e5 50.Kf3 (after 50.fxe5+ Kxe5, Black's King will capture White's pawns) 50...Bf5 51.Ke3 h4 52.Ba6 e4 53.Bb5 h3 54.Bf1 Ke6 55.Bc4+ Kd6 56.Bf1 h2 57.Bg2 Kc5 58.b3 a5 59.Bh1 b5 60.Bg2 b4 61.a4 Be6 62.Kf2 (or 62.Bxe4 Bd5-+) 62...Bxb3 63.Kg3 e3-+.

**47...Kf5 48.Bd7**

Neither 48.Bc6 h5 nor 48.Bh5 Ke4 49.Bf7 Bb3 alters the outcome.

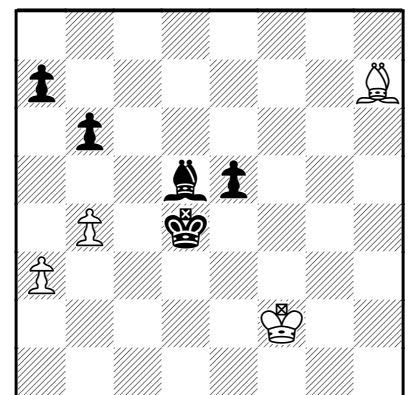
**48...h5-+**

Black will trade the h-pawn for the f-pawn. Then his King can assist the e-pawn or raid the Queenside.

**49.b4 Bb3 50.Be8 h4+ 51.Kxh4**

White cannot hold the f-pawn by 51.Kf3 Bd5+ 52.Ke3 because 52...h3 promotes.

**51...Kxf4 52.Bf7 Bd5 53.Bg8 Ke3 54.Kg3 Kd4 55.Kf2 e5 56.Bh7 0-1**

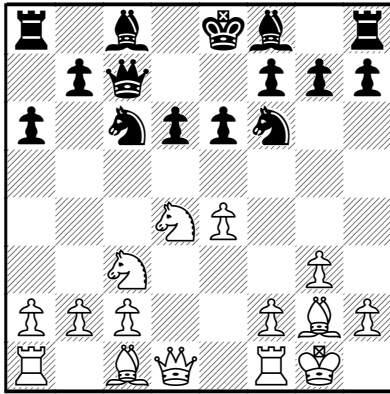


An easy winning plan begins 56...b5 57.Ke2 e4 58.Kd2 e3+ 59.Ke1 Bc4, followed by ... Kd4-c3-b2xa3xb4.

**Yankovsky,Roman (2474) -  
Shen,Victor C. (2419)  
[B80] Sicilian Defense  
23rd Metropolitan GM (3)  
Los Angeles, 20.12.2012**

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.g3 a6  
7.Bg2 d6 8.0-0 Nf6



Now Black's Taimanov variation resembles a Scheveningen.

**9.Re1**

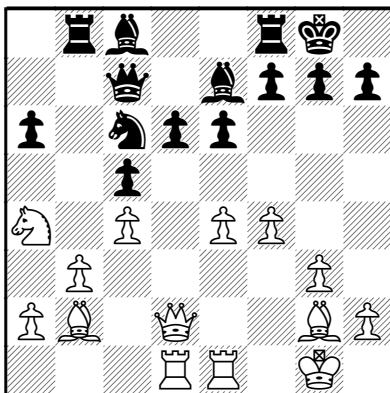
Sharpest.

**9...Nd7**

White's idea appears in the variation 9...Be7 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.e5 dxe5 12.Rxe5±.

Black used to avoid it by 9...Bd7 10.Nxc6 bxc6, but recently 9...Nd7 has become Black's top choice.

**10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Na4 Rb8 12.c4 c5 13.b3 Be7 14.Bb2 0-0 15.Qd2 Ne5 16.Rad1 Nc6 17.f4**



**17...Rd8**

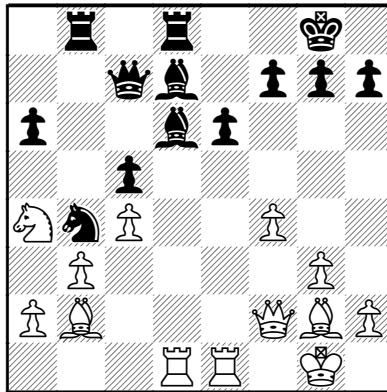
The committal 17...e5!? 18.Nc3 Nd4 19.Nd5 Qb7 seems satisfactory too.

**18.Qf2 Nb4?!**

The Knight should observe d4.

**19.e5!↑ Bd7**

White welcomes 19...Nxa2, as 20.exd6 Bxd6 21.Rxd6! forces 21... Rxd6 22.Be5 Nb4 23.Qxc5 Qxc5+ 24.Nxc5 Rbb6. Then 25.Na4 Rbc6 26.Bxd6 Rxd6 27.c5 Rd8 28.Nb6 Kf8 29.c6± leaves Black helpless.  
**20.exd6 Bxd6**



**21.Rxd6!?**

Houdini prefers 21.Nc3 Bc6 22.Bxc6 Nxc6 23.Ne4, which does look promising. But we shouldn't underestimate sacrificial shock!

**21...Qxd6 22.Nxc5 Qf8??**

By trying to nullify the threats of 23.Be5 and 23.Nb7, Black runs into something worse.

He would not land in serious trouble after 22...f6 23.Bc3 (gaining a pawn by 23.Nb7? Rxb7 24.Bxb7 Nd3 25.Rd1 ends badly after 25...Bc6, as White cannot stand 26.Rxd3 Qxd3 27.Bxc6 Qd1+ 28.Qf1 Qc2 29.Bf3□ Qxb2⊕) 23... Bc8 24.Bf1 a5 25.a3 Nc6, although White has ample compensation for the Exchange.

Both players had to foresee 22... Nd3? 23.Nxd3 Qxd3 24.Be4 Qd6 25.Be5+-.

**23.a3+- Nd3**

As good as any.

Of course, 23...Nc6 loses to 24.Nxd7 Rxd7 25.Bxc6.

**24.Nxd3 Rxb3 25.Ne5 Be8 26.c5**

White's horde of minor pieces will support this passer. Black has no real counterplay.

**26...Rc8 27.Bd4 Bb5 28.Bb7 Rb8**

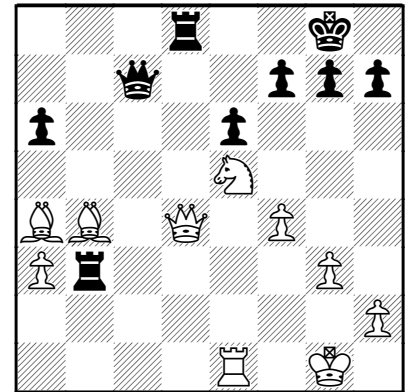
Or 28...Rc7 29.c6, intending 30. Bb6.

**29.c6 Bxc6**

Black's position is absolutely hopeless, but he plays on until the

time control at move 40. Perhaps Yankovsky was short of time.

**30.Bc5 Qe8 31.Bxc6 Qd8 32.Qd4 Qa5 33.Bb4 Qc7 34.Ba4 Rd8**



**35.Qc5**

Simple. White could also keep the Rook trapped by 35.Nd7+-.

**35...Qxc5+ 36.Bxc5 Rb2 37.Nc4 Rbb8**

The Rook does not escape after 37...Ra2 38.Bb3+-.

**38.Nb6 Rd3 39.Rd1 Rc3 40.Bb4 1-0**

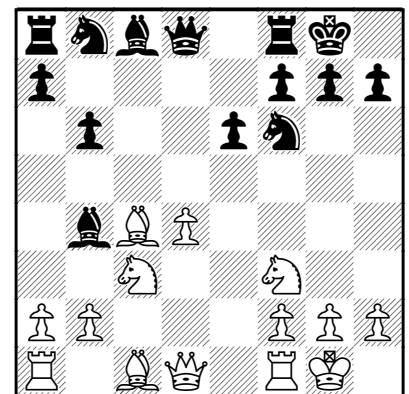
**Yang,Darwin (2493) -  
Kiewra,Keaton (2422)**

**[E54] Nimzo-Indian Defense  
23rd Metropolitan GM (5)**

Los Angeles, 21.12.2012

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 c5 6.Nf3 d5 7.0-0 cxd4 8.exd4 dxc4 9.Bxc4 b6



This treatment of the Nimzo-Indian Defense was popularized by Karpov. Thanks to the isolated

Please turn to page 42, 23rd Metro.

# Four-Way Tie at the Century West Open

January 11-13, 2013

**IMs Dionisio Aldama, Andranik Matikozyan, and Zhanibek Amanov, and WGM Tatev Abrahamyan all scored 4-1 to tie for first at the Century West Open, held at the Radisson LAX.** Aldama and John Daniel Bryant were 3-1 after four rounds and played each other in the fifth. While the top players drew fairly quickly to reach their 4-1, Bryant and Aldama battled it out over six hours, into the final sudden death seconds in a 123-move marathon, and the point went to Aldama. See the whole game in this article, with notes by IM Jack Peters.

Jeremy Stein won the Under 2200 prize with a score of 3½-1½.

The event attracted 87 players in the five sections, and was played in the penthouse floor of the Radisson. There were nice views all around, and the unused bar area served for analysis and bookselling.

Annie Wang swept the Under 2000 section with 5-0, Chris Stychinsky, Gabriel Sam, and Alexander Costello tied for first in the Under 1800, scoring 3½-1½. Peter Selvin took first in the Under 1600 with 4-1, with three wins and taking two ½-point evening byes. Evan Moran, Chad Woodard, and Joshua Shaham scored 4-1 and tied for top honors in the Under 1400.

The scholastic event was held January 12th and attracted 26 players, with Leo Creger sweeping the open with 5-0, and William Liu taking the reserve with 4½-½.

Before the Bryant - Aldama game, we present a final round win by IM Larry Remlinger with his notes, in which he used an Exchange sacrifice to develop a dominating center. He later ended it on the Kingside.

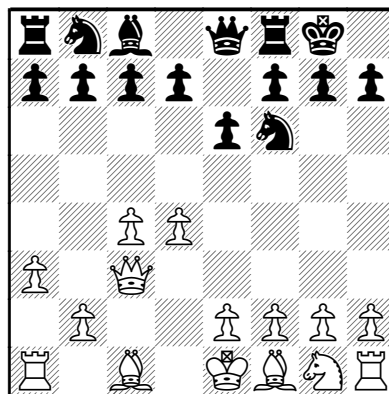
**Remlinger, Larry (2374) - Amerkeshev, Madiyar (2295) [E32] Nimzo-Indian Defense Century West Open (5) Los Angeles, 13.01.2013**

Notes by IM Larry Remlinger.

**M**y opponent is a bright young talent who approaches chess in a serious and balanced way. We have played several times recently and the games were challenging for both

sides. I suspected that he would have something ready for me this game and he did.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 Qe8**



Here it is. It looks a bit unusual, but Black has a clear strategy in mind. He is hoping to get his Knight to e4, play ...f5, and eventually swing his Queen to g6 or h5, similar to what we see in the Dutch. Black will fianchetto his Queen's Bishop and put pressure on White's Kingside.

I had to spend some time thinking about how to respond; it's not a common scheme and it had been a long time since I had played against it.

**7.g3=**

This fianchetto approach seemed the most natural at the time and is frequently seen in the Nimzo.

However, 7.f3, which is more common and may be slightly stronger, may have been a better choice psychologically, since it prevents Black's Knight from getting to e4 and asks Black to come up with a different plan.

Of course, I was a little bit more familiar with the 7.g3 approach, so I selected it instead.

**7...d6**

If 7...Ne4 then 8.Qd3 f5 9.Bg2 d5 10.Nf3± is fine.

**8.Bg2 a5 9.b3 Ra7!?=**

An interesting idea. The Rook will allow Black to place his Bishop on b7. Also, there are some variations where the Rook can swing over to the e, f, g, and h files. However, there will be some time lost in bringing this Rook back into play.

Alternatives were 9...Nbd7= and 9...Nc6 10.Nf3 b6 11.0-0 Bb7 12.Nd2±.

**10.Bb2**

Also equal is 10.Bg5 Nbd7 11.c5=.

**10...a4?!**

In my view this helps White to go where he wants to go anyway.

I would prefer 10...b5!, putting pressure on White's Queenside formation.

**11.b4± b5!**

An important part of Black's strategy on the Q-side, namely, to weaken White's White squares.

**12.c5?!=**

I made this move automatically, without really considering other alternatives. I felt I was a little behind in development and wasn't quite ready to open the position yet. As is so often the case, knowing when to calculate concretely and when to rely on general principles is difficult.

White does better with 12.Rc1 Ba6 (or 12...bxc4 13.Qxc4 Nbd7 14.Bc6 Bb7 15.Bxb7 Rxb7 16.Nf3±) 13.cxb5± (13.c5!? Bb7 14.Nf3=), or just 12.Nh3±. **12...Bb7 13.f3?!**





IM Larry Remlinger

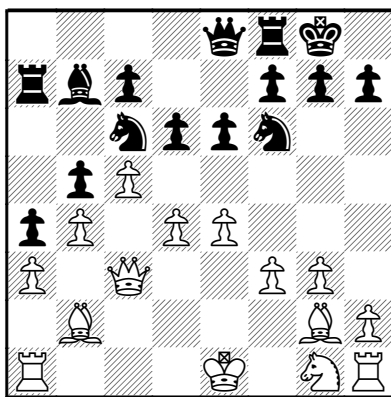
Here, too, I moved too quickly and in the process, overlooked an important resource for Black.

I didn't want to exchange Bishops, but White is probably better served with the White square Bishops off the board, for example 13.Bxb7 Rxb7 14.Nf3=.

Instead, I envisioned a big center with the King's Bishop supporting it. **13...Nc6?!±**

Black misses a chance, 13...Bd5!, a move I had not considered at all, which gets Black's Bishop on an active square and makes White castle by hand. After 14.e4 Bc4 15.Ne2 Qd7 16.Rd1 Rd8 17.Kf2 it's equal.

**14.e4**



**14...e5?!**

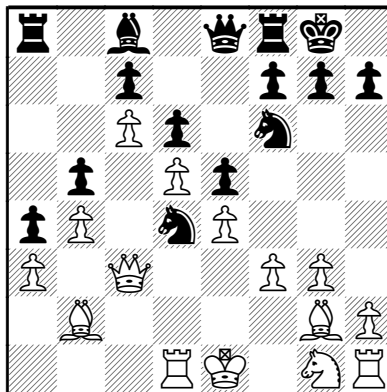
Allowing White to open lines to his advantage.

Keeping it closed with 14...d5 15.e5 Nd7 16.Ne2± was better.

**15.d5?!±**

A natural move, setting up my 18th move, but not best.

The common-sense developing move 15.Ne2 would have favorably maintained the tension for White, for example 15...exd4 (or 15...h6 16.d5 Ne7 17.Qd3±) 16.Nxd4 Ne5 17.0-0±. **15...Nd4 16.c6 Bc8 17.Rd1 Ra8**



**18.Rxd4!?!±**

An intuitive decision, thinking that I was getting a pawn and Bishop for the Exchange, plus the a1-h8 diagonal and a powerful center, while freezing out Black's Queenside pieces. I had this idea in mind when I played 15.d5.

**18...exd4 19.Qxd4 Qe7± 20.Ne2 Ne8 21.g4!±**

Making it difficult for Black to activate his Queenside pieces.

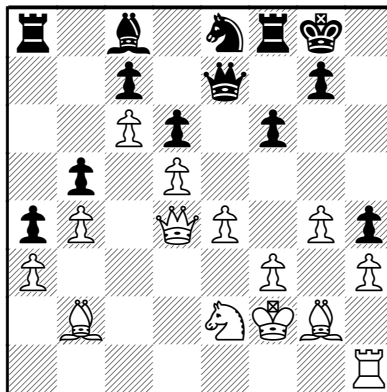
**21...h5**

If 21...Qh4+ then 22.Qf2 Qxf2+ 23.Kxf2±.

**22.h3 h4 23.Kf2**

Both 23.f4± and 23.Qf2± are more to the point.

**23...f6?!!**



Creating more liabilities on the Kingside. However, given the lack of space, it is difficult for Black to come up with a plan.

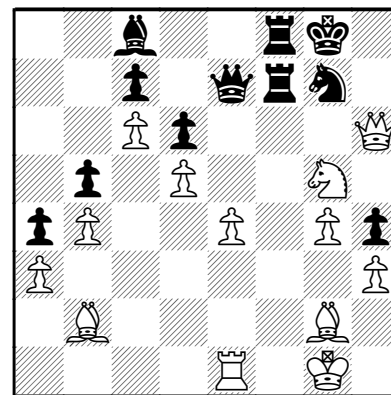
**24.f4 g6?! 25.Re1**

Black appears helpless to interfere with White's build up and plan to go after Black's weaknesses and King.

**25...Ng7**

No better is 25...Ba6 26.Qd3 Qh7 27.Kg1 Qh6 28.e5 dxe5 29.fxe5 fxe5 30.Bxe5.

**26.Ng1 g5 27.Qd2+- Ba6 28.Nf3 Rae8 29.Kg1 Bc8 30.fxg5 fxg5 31.Nxg5 Rd8 32.Nf3 Rf7 33.Qh6 Rdf8 34.Ng5 1-0**



*Next is the final round marathon. We would like to think Jack for recording the moves after the 60th, and there was help from video for the final dozen. A number of us stayed to the end.*

*We hope you enjoy looking at this great battle! - Ed.*

**Bryant, John Daniel (2428) - Aldama, Dionisio (2430)**  
[B27] C3 Sicilian  
Century West Open (5)  
Los Angeles, 13.01.2013

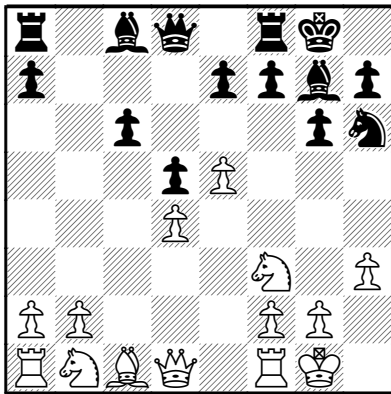
Notes by IM Jack Peters.  
**1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d5 6.e5**

Sometimes White prefers 6.exd5 Nf6 7.Bb5+ or 7.Nc3.

**6...Nc6 7.Bb5**

Forestalling Black's plan to apply pressure to d4 by ...Bc8-g4 and ...Ng8-h6-f5.

**7...Nh6 8.h3 0-0 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.0-0**



The games on the top two boards had already ended in draws, producing three 4–1 scores. It was clear that Bryant or Aldama needed to win to share first place and get a substantial prize. Under pressure, they combined to create one of the fiercest battles I have ever seen.

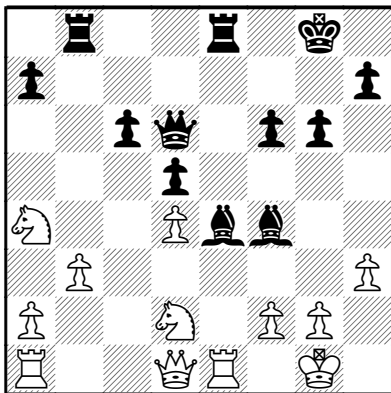
**10...f6 11.exf6 exf6**

Black has just about equalized. Now White makes a bold decision to prevent Black from relocating his Knight to d6.

**12.Bxh6!? Bxh6 13.Nc3**

The rigid pawn structure favors the Knights, but the Bishops will overpower them if the position ever opens. For the next 15 moves, the evaluation “=” applies.

**13...Bf4 14.Na4 Rb8 15.Re1 Qd6 16.Qe2 Bf5 17.b3 Be4 18.Nd2 Rfe8 19.Qd1**



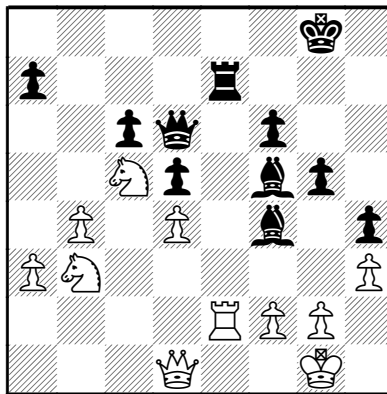
**19...Rb4**

Black can double his Rooks more quickly by 19...Qb4 20.Nf1 Re7, but the difference seems unimportant. Soon White's Knight will land on c5 and become the best piece on the board.

**20.Nf1 Rbb8 21.Nc5 Re7 22.a3 Rbe8 23.b4 Bf5**

After the trade of Rooks, White has less to fear on the e-file. But it's difficult to suggest an improvement for Black.

**24.Rxe7 Rxe7 25.Ra2 h5 26.Re2 h4 27.Nd2 g5 28.Ndb3**



**28...g4?!**

Aggressive, but not completely sound.

Black cannot set up ...g5-g4 with 28...Rg7?? because 29.Re8+ Kf7 30.Qh5+ Bg6 31.Qh8 and next Nc5-b7 wins for White. But the patient 28...Kf8= maintains the balance.

**29.Rxe7 Qxe7 30.hxg4 Bc2 31.Qf1** □

Hardly a desirable spot for the Queen, but Black cannot exploit it.

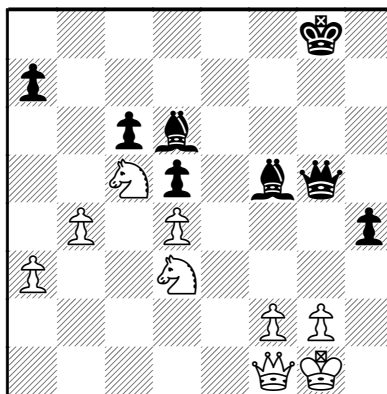
**31...f5**

After the game, the players looked at 31...Bc7 32.Qc1 (probably better is 32.Nd2) 32...Qe2 33.Qd2±, when 33...Qxg4?? 34.Qxc2 h3 35.g3 Qf3 fails to 36.Qg6+ Kh8 37.Qh6+ Kg8 38.Qxh3+-.

**32.gxf5 Bxf5 33.Nc1 Qg5**

Black gets almost enough compensation from 33...Qg7 34.Ne2 Bc7.

**34.N1d3 Bd6**



**35.f4!?**

To plant the Knight at e5.

The computer recommends 35.Qc1 Qg4 36.Qe3 Qd1+ 37.Ne1, which does not appear attractive at first. However, 37...Kf7 38.Nb7 Bc7 39.Na5 Bxa5 40.bxa5± does secure a clear advantage for White. The Knight may reach e5, or White could free his Queen to attack Black's loose pawns after f2-f3 and Kg1-f2.

**35...Qg6?!**

Tougher is 35...Qg4. Then 36.Ne5?! Bxe5 37.dxe5 Kf8 (but not 37...h3?? 38.Kh2 hxg2 39.Qxg2+, as the Queen trade lets White exploit his extra pawn) 38.Qf2 h3= escapes danger. After 39.g3? Qd1+ 40.Kh2 d4, only Black has winning chances.

**36.Ne5 Bxe5 37.dxe5 h3?!**

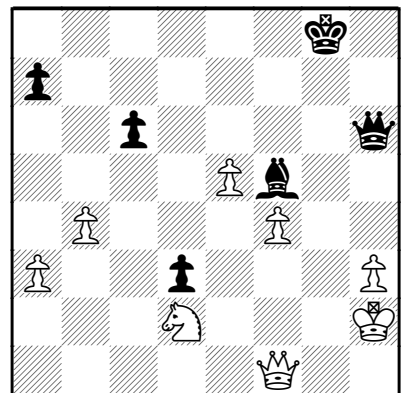
Black should pause for 37...Kf8, although 38.Nb7± or 38.Nb3± will break the blockade at f5.

**38.Kh2 d4**

A practical decision. Black yields a second pawn for counterplay.

The alternative 38...hxg2 39.Qxg2 Bg4 □ 40.Nb3± would let White blockade the d-pawn.

**39.gxh3 d3 40.Nb3 Qh6 41.Nd2±**



It will not be easy for White to capitalize on his extra pawns because his pieces are tied to defense and his passers are blockaded.

**41...Kf7 42.Kg3 Ke7 43.Kf3**

Stronger is 43.Nf3.

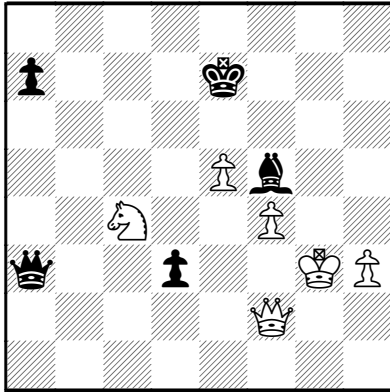
**43...c5!**

Black rejects the hopeless 43...Qxh3+? 44.Qxh3 Bxh3, when either 45.Ke4 or 45.Ne4 should win routinely.

**44.bxc5 Qc6+ 45.Kg3 Qxc5**

At this point, all other games had finished. Bryant consumed a lot of time to find the best way to parry Black's threat of 46... Qe3+.

**46.Qf2 Qxa3 47.Nc4?!**



This looks like a knockout, as Black cannot hold the a-pawn without allowing a deadly check at c5. Yet Aldama's reply reduces White's advantage and brings him closer to drawing.

Houdini claims White should keep command with 47.h4±.

**47...Qb4! 48.Ne3**

After another long think, Bryant preserves winning chances.

The hasty 48.Qxa7+?! Kf8 leaves White vulnerable to a check at e1. For example, 49.Qd4 Qe1+ 50.Qf2 Qh1 51.Qg2 Qe1+ 52.Qf2 Qh1 will repeat moves or make White drop the h-pawn.

**48...Be4 49.f5 d2**

The position has become too sharp to handle reliably. In addition, the players had to reckon with the 60-minute sudden death period. Don't judge them too harshly for subsequent mistakes.

**50.Qf4!**

The immediate 50.f6+? Kf7 51.e6+ Kxe6 52.f7 lets Black draw with 52... Qf8.

At this point, White had 30 minutes left, and Black 46. Clock times dwindled during the next dozen moves, and the tension rose.

**50...Qc3?**

The subtle 50...Qb3! may hold. Black would meet 51.Kh4 by 51... Bc2±.

**51.Kh4?**

Missing a forced win involving mate threats.

White must foresee 51.f6+! Ke8 52.e6 d1Q 53.f7+ Kf8 54.Qb8+, and 51.f6+! Kf7 52.Qxe4 d1Q (Black lasts longer with 52...Qxe3+ 53.Qxe3 d1Q, but 54.Qxa7+ Ke6 55.Qe3 promises White an eventual win.) 53.Qh7+ Ke6 54.Qe7 mate. Finally, 51.f6+! Kd7 52.Kh4+- prepares to advance the f-pawn.

**51...Bc6?**

There is still hope with 51... Qd4□±.

**52.Kg5?!**

The right way is 52.f6+ Kf7 53.e6+! Kxe6 54.Qf5+! (Black would draw after 54.f7? Qh8+ 55.Kg3 Qg7+ 56.Kf2 Qxf7) 54...Kd6 (forced, as 54...Kf7? loses the Queen to 55.Qh7+ Kxf6 56.Qh8+) 55.f7 Qh8+ 56.Kg5 Ke7 57.Kg6!+-, setting up 58. Qc5+.

**52...Qxe3?**

Sturdier is 52...Kf8 although 53.e6 (not so clear is 53.f6? Kf7) 53...Qg7+ 54.Kh4± still appears very strong for White.

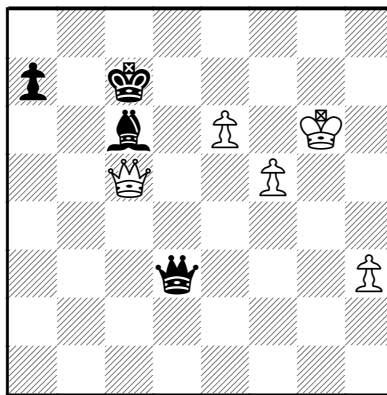
**53.Qxe3 d1Q 54.Qc5+!**

Better than 54.Qxa7+ Bd7±.

**54...Kd7□ 55.e6+ Kc7 56.Kg6**

Also reasonable is 56.Qxa7+ Kc8 57.Qa6+ Kc7 58.Qa5+ Kc8 59.Qc5+-.

**56...Qd3**

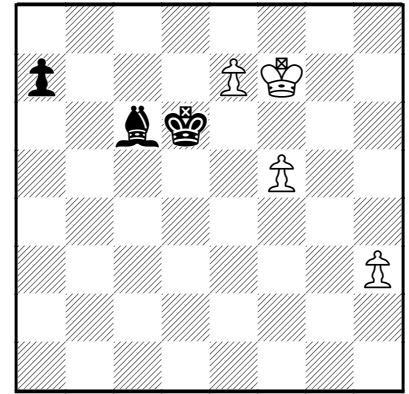


**57.e7?**

White can clinch the full point by 57.h4 Qg3+ 58.Kf7 Qxh4?! 59.Qe7+ Qxe7+ 60.Kxe7+- or 57.Qxa7+ Kc8 58.Qc5+-.

**57...Qg3+?**

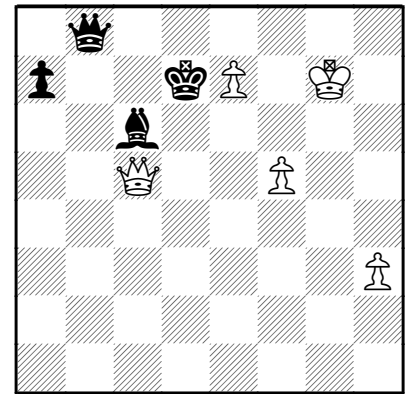
Aldama considered 57...Qd6+! 58.Qxd6+ Kxd6 but thought 59.Kf7 would win.



Bryant pointed out the saving idea 59...Bf3! 60.e8Q Bh5+ 61.Kf8 Bxe8 62.Kxe8 Ke5, when White must run for the draw with 63.Ke7! Kxf5 64.Kd6 a5 65.Kc5=.

**58.Kf7+- Qb3+ 59.Kf8 Qb8+ 60.Kg7 Kd7**

Nor does 60...Qb2+ 61.f6+- help Black.



**61.f6?**

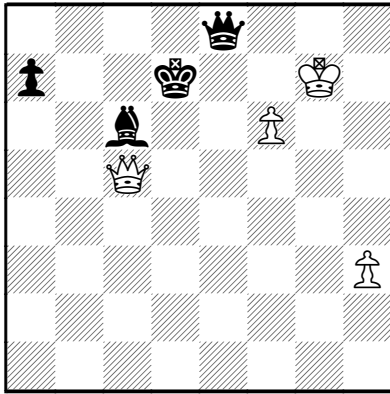
With only a couple of minutes on the clock, Bryant understandably picked the most obvious move. White could have won with 61.Qd4+! Kxe7 (or 61...Ke8 62.f6 Qg3+ 63.Qg4 Qxg4+ 64.hxg4 Bd5 65.g5 a5 66.g6+-) 62.f6+ Ke6 (or 62...Ke8 63.f7+ Ke7 64.Qf6+ Kd7 65.Qf5+-) 63.Qg4+! Kd5 64.f7 Qc7 65.Kg8+-.

**61...Qg3+ 62.Kf7 Qb3+**

The spectators relaxed as they realized Black would check perpetually at b3, b8, or g3. Bryant kept searching as his clock ticked below one minute.

Astonishingly, he revealed one more winning attempt.

**63.Kf8 Qb8+ 64.e8Q+! Qxe8+ 65.Kg7**



No perpetual, no checks, and no obvious way to stop the f-pawn.

But don't expect a quick decision! The game has just passed the half-way mark!

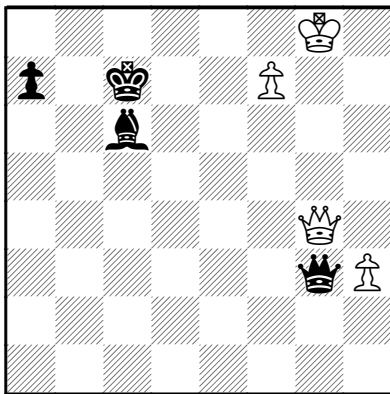
**65...Qe1?**

Black wants to check on the g-file, but he should accomplish it with 65...Qe4! 66.Qxa7+ Bb7, when White has no useful check. Then 67.f7 Qe5+ 68.Kg6 Qe6+ 69.Kg5 Qe5+ really does draw.

**66.Qf5+! Kc7 67.Qf4+?!**

It makes sense to insert this check and keep Black's Queen off g3, but it's a step in the wrong direction.

Instead, Houdini demonstrates a win by 67.f7 Qg3+ 68.Kh8 (but not 68.Kh6 Qh4+ 69.Kg6? Be4, drawing) 68...Qh4+ 69.Kg8 Qg3+ 70.Qg4!

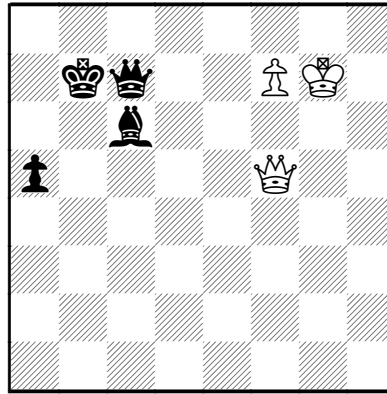


70...Qb3 (White wins the race after 70...Qxg4+ 71.hxg4 Bd5 72.g5 a5 73.g6 a4 74.Kg7+) 71.Qf4+ Kb7 72.h4 Bd5 73.h5 a5 74.h6 Qd3 75.Kg7 Qc3+ 76.Qf6 Qg3+ 77.Kh8+-. This is too much for any human to work out at the board, even with unlimited thinking time.

**67...Kb7 68.f7 Qc3+ 69.Kh6?**

White has a second chance to reach the winning line above by 69.Kg6!

Qd3+ 70.Kf6 Qc3+ 71.Qe5 Qf3+ 72.Qf5 Qc3+ 73.Kg6 Qg3+ 74.Kh7 Qh4+ 75.Kg8 Qg3+ 76.Qg4+-.  
**69...Qxh3+ 70.Kg5 Qg2+□ 71.Kf6 Qb2+□ 72.Qe5 Qf2+□ 73.Qf5 Qb2+ 74.Kg6 Qg2+ 75.Qg5 Qc2+ 76.Kg7 Qc3+ 77.Kg8 Qc4 78.Kg7 Qc3+ 79.Qf6 Qg3+□ 80.Qg6 Qc7 81.Qf5 a5**



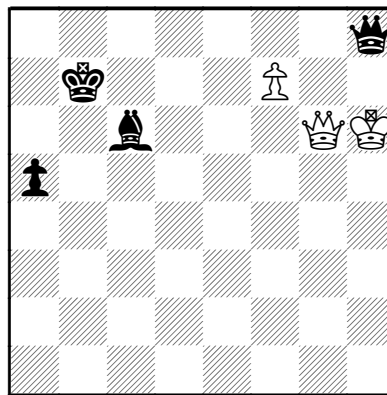
Black uses the respite to advance his passer. Believe it or not, this will matter at the end of the game!

**82.Kf6**

Persistent!

If 82.Kh8, White has to accept repetition after 82...Qh2+ 83.Qh7 Qe5+ 84.Qg7 Qh5+ 85.Qh7 Qe5+.

**82...Qd8+ 83.Kg7 Qd4+ 84.Qf6 Qg4+ 85.Qg6 Qd4+ 86.Kh6 Qh8+**



**87.Qh7**

After 87.Kg5? Bd5, Black has all the winning chances.

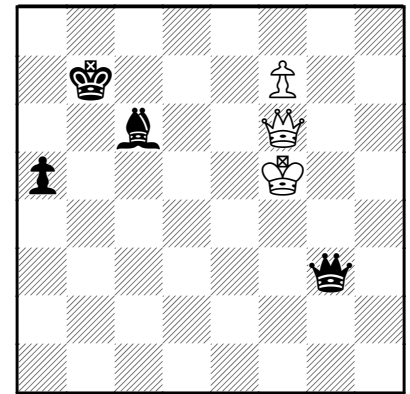
**87...Qf6+ 88.Qg6 Qh4+**

Easier is 88...Qh8+ 89.Qh7 Qf6+, drawing.

**89.Kg7 Qd4+ 90.Qf6 Qg4+ 91.Kh6 Qh3+ 92.Kg5 Qg3+ 93.Kh6 Qh3+ 94.Kg5 Qg3+ 95.Kf5**



Dionisio Aldama



**95...Bd7+ 96.Ke4 Qg2+ 97.Ke3 Qg1+ 98.Ke2**

If Black meets 98.Qf2 properly by 98...Qg5+□ 99.Qf4 Qg1+ 100.Kd2 Qg2+□ 101.Kc3 Qg7+, the draw appears inevitable.



John Daniel Bryant

Please turn to page 39, Century West.

# Two From La Palma

By IM Jack Peters

The La Palma Chess Club offered a special prize for the “Best Indian Defense Game” in their recent tournament, imaginatively titled “An Indian Defense to the Mayan Calendar.” Many tournaments do not produce any outstanding games, but this one produced two with qualifying openings.

Both games are flawed but very interesting. In each, the winner built up a fine attack but gave the opponent an opportunity to restore equality. Siddharth Somasundaram won the special prize. If the world has not ended, you will enjoy looking at these games.

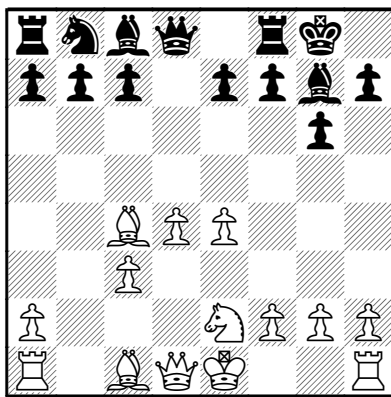
**Somasundaram, Siddharth (1872) - Hunt, Leigh (1978)**

**[D87] Gruenfeld Defense**

**An Indian Defense to the Mayan Calendar**

**La Palma (3), 26.10.2012**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Ne2**



The old main line of the Exchange Gruenfeld.

**8...c5 9.0-0 Qc7**

Varying from the usual 9...Nc6.

**10.Bd3**

Theory recommends 10.Bf4 e5 11.Bxe5 Bxe5 12.dxe5 Qxe5 13.Bd5 Nc6 14.f4 (14.Rb1±) 14...Qc7 15.f5 Ne5 16.Qd2†.

**10...b6**

Also reasonable is 10...Nc6 11.Bf4=.

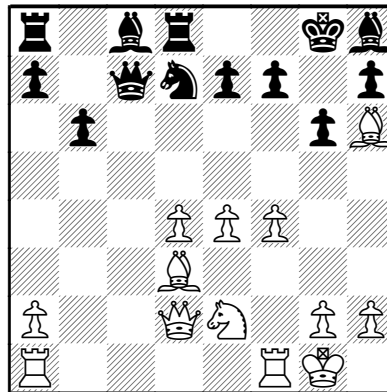
**11.Be3 Nd7 12.Qd2 Rd8**

One of three good moves that give Black equality, along with 12...Bb7 and 12...e5.

**13.Bh6 Bh8 14.f4**

Safer is 14.Qe3, getting the Queen off the d-file.

**14...cxd4 15.cxd4**



**15...Nf6?!**

Now White takes the initiative.

Black could mix it up with the startling 15...Nc5! 16.Rac1 (not 16.dxc5?? Qxc5+ 17.Kh1 Ba6-+) 16...Qd7 17.dxc5 Qxd3 18.Qxd3 Rxd3 19.c6 Ba6±.

Even the risky 15...Nc5! 16.Rac1 Bxd4+ seems playable. The game could end in repetition by 17.Nxd4 Rxd4 18.Qb2 e5□ 19.fxe5! Qxe5□ (Black must avoid 19...Rxd3?? 20.e6 f5 21.exf5+- and 19...Nxd3?? 20.Rxc7 Nxb2 21.Rxf7 Bd7 22.e6!+-) 20.Bf4 Qg7 21.Bh6 Qe5 22.Bf4=.

**16.h3**

Not bad, but 16.e5 favors White after 16...Ng4 (worse is 16...Nd5?! 17.Rac1 Qd7 18.f5→) 17.Bg5 Bg7 18.h3 Nh6 19.Rac1±.

**16...Bb7 17.e5!**

White must commit himself to attack.

After the overly cautious 17.Qe3 e6=, he will not find a promising move for f4-f5.

**17...Ne4**

Most natural. White would maul 17...Nd5? by 18.f5→. Houdini suggests 17...Qc6!? 18.Rf3 Qa4 19.exf6

(if 19.Rff1 then Qc6 repeating; or 19.Bc2 Ne4! 20.Qd3 Qb4=) 19...Bxf3 20.gxf3 (not 20.fxe7?? Bxe2 21.exd8Q+ Rxd8 22.Bxe2 Qxd4+ 23.Qxd4 Bxd4+ 24.Kf1 Bxa1-+) 20...Bxf6 21.Be4 Rac8= as Black's best defense.

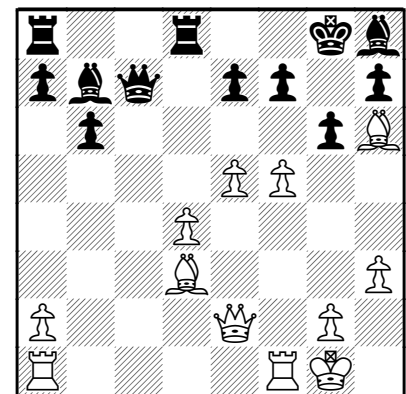
**18.Qe3 Nc3?**

The refinement 18...Qc6! 19.Rac1 (not 19.f5? Nc5 20.Rf2 Nxd3 21.Qxd3 Bxe5±) 19...Nc3□ 20.Rf2 Nxe2+ 21.Bxe2 Qd7 22.Rd1 (or 22.f5 Qxd4=) 22...e6= keeps the position balanced.

**19.f5! Nxe2+**

It's too late for 19...Qc6 because of 20.Nf4±.

**20.Qxe2?**



A slip, giving Black a chance to escape with a draw.

The correct 20.Bxe2± retains a powerful attack after 20...Qc2 (also unpleasant are 20...Bd5 21.Rac1 Qd7 22.h4± and 20...Qd7 21.Rf4±) 21.Bf3 Bxf3 22.Rxf3±.

**20...Rxd4??**

Losing.

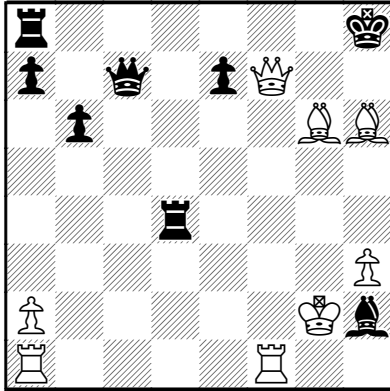
Only 20...Qc3! hangs on. Then 21.fxg6 hxg6 22.Qf2 (Black can

stand 22.Be3 Bxe5) 22...f5 (avoiding 22...Bd5? 23.Be4 Qc6 24.Qxf7+ Bxf7 25.Bxc6±) 23.Bxf5 gxf5 24.Qxf5 Qxd4+ 25.Kh1 Bxe5□ apparently leaves White nothing better than 26.Rae1 Bf6 27.Qg6+ Kh8 28.Bg7+ (Black parries 28.Rf5 by 28...Rd5) 28...Bxg7 29.Qh5+ Kg8 30.Qf7+ Kh8 31.Qh5+ , drawing.

**21.fxg6 hxg6 22.Qf2+**

Double attack against d4 and f7.

**22...Bxe5 23.Qxf7+ Kh8 24.Bxg6 Bh2+ 25.Kh1 Bxg2+ 26.Kxg2 1-0**



Black could set the trap 26...Rd2+ 27.Bxd2 Qg3+ 28.Kh1 Qxh3 29.Bc3+?? Be5+ 30.Kg1 Qh2 mate. Of course, White would win with 29.Bf5! Qh4 30.Bg5!

**Warhula, Joseph (1884) - LeFevre, Howard (1824)**  
**[A40] Queen's Indian Defense**  
**An Indian Defense to the Mayan Calendar**

**La Palma (7), 07.12.2012**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.a3**

It's not worth a move to prevent ...Bf8-b4.

**3...b6 4.Nc3 Bb7 5.Bg5**

Original.

With 5.Nf3, the game would transpose to a variation of the Queen's Indian Defense popularized by Petrosian and Kasparov.

**5...h6 6.Bh4 g5 7.Bg3 d6**

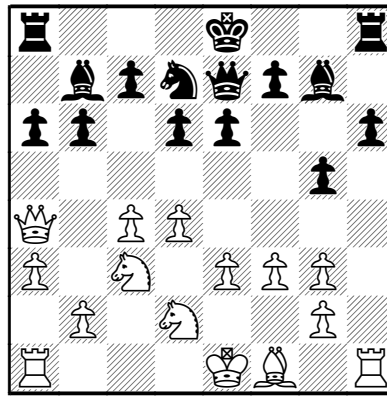
Preparing ...Nf6-h5.

The immediate 7...Nh5 does not work, as 8.Be5 f6?! 9.e3 Ng7 10.Bg3± preserves the Bishop.

**8.e3 Nbd7 9.Qa4**

Probably 9.h4 is best.

**9...a6 10.Nf3 Nh5 11.Nd2 Bg7 12.f3 Nxc3 13.hxc3 Qe7**



Soon ...c7-c5 will shiver the dark-square foundation of White's center.

**14.0-0-0 0-0 15.Qc2 c5 16.dxc5**

White could consider 16.Kb1, inviting 16...cxd4 17.exd4 Bxd4 18.Rxh6±.

**16...dxc5 17.f4 Rf6**

Black's intentions are obvious. White reacts well by closing the a1-h8 diagonal.

**18.e4 Bc6 19.e5 b5 20.Nde4?!**

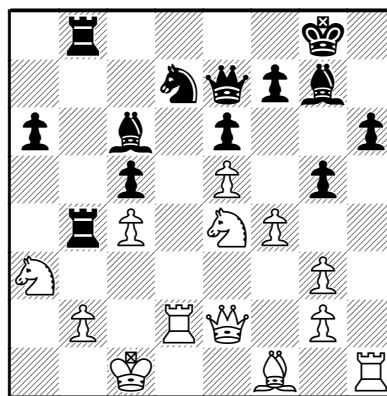
This move and White's next do not hinder Black's attack.

White could try to close the Queen-side at the cost of the a-pawn, by 20.Nce4!? b4 21.a4 b3! 22.Qd3!∞, or he could instigate a brawl with 20.Nb3 b4 21.Na5! Nxe5! 22.fxe5 Be8∞.

**20...b4 21.Nb1?! bxa3 22.Nxa3 Rb4 23.Qe2?**

The last chance to disrupt the attack is 23.Rd6.

**23...Rab8 24.Rd2**



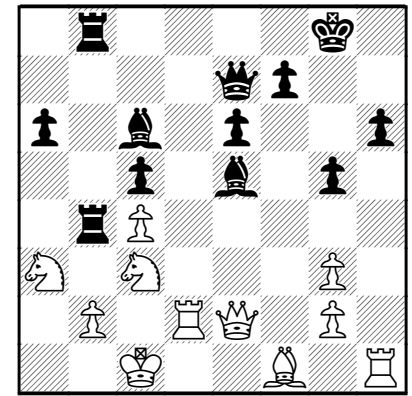
**24...Nxe5!-+**

Blasting open the diagonal leading to b2.

**25.fxe5 Bxe5**

It looks like White was right to fear this Bishop!

**26.Nc3**



**26...Qf6?!**

Strong, but Black had a simpler alternative that would have ended the game quickly.

After 26...Bxc3 27.bxc3 Rb3, if White saves his Knight by 28.Ra2, Black applies more pressure with 28...Qf6 29.Qd2 Rxc3+ 30.Nc2 (or 30.Kd1 Rd8-+) 30...Be4, and next 31...Rxc2+ will win White's Queen.

Or, if White aims for confusion with 26...Bxc3 27.bxc3 Rb3 28.Rxh6, then 28...Qf8! 29.Qh5 Qg7 kills the counterattack before capturing the Knight.

**27.Rxh6**

A good try.

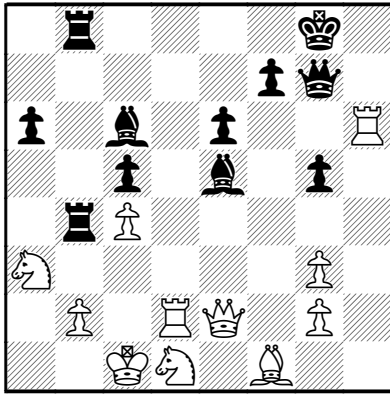
Black refutes 27.Nab1 neatly by 27...Bxc3 28.Nxc3 Rxb2! 29.Rxb2 Qxc3+. Then 30.Rc2 (it's easy to dismiss 30.Kd1 Ba4+ and 30.Kb1 Be4+ 31.Ka1 Qa3+, while 30.Qc2 drops material to 30...Qe1+ 31.Qd1 Qxd1+ 32.Kxd1 Rxb2-+) 30...Qa1+ 31.Kd2 Rd8+ 32.Qd3□ Rxd3+ 33.Kxd3 won't save White because Black gains more material by 33...Qb1! 34.Kc3 (or 34.Kd2 Ba4 35.Rc3 Qd1+ 36.Ke3 Qd4+) 34...Ba4. One cute finish is 35.Rf2 Qe1+ 36.Rd2 Qe3+ 37.Bd3 Qd4 mate.

Or, if 27.Qd3, the sneaky 27...g4! opens g5 for Black's Queen. For example, 28.Qe3 Bxc3 29.Qxc3 Qg5 (threatening 30...Rxb2) 30.Nb1 Rb3 31.Qc2 Re3! 32.Nc3 (neither 32.Bd3 Rd8-+ nor 32.Kd1 Be4 33.Qc1 Qe5-+ will last long) 32...Re1+ 33.Nd1 Be4 34.Qc3 Rd8-+ leaves White tied up by three pins.

**27...Qg7!**

Correctly avoiding 27...Qxh6?

**28.Nd1**



**28...Bxg3??**

Squandering his advantage. Perhaps Black still expected a middle-game knockout.

He should settle for recovering material. After 28...Bxb2+! 29.Rxb2 Rxb2 30.Nxb2 Qxh6--, his Rook and two passed pawns will outplay the Knights.

**29.Rxe6! Ba4**

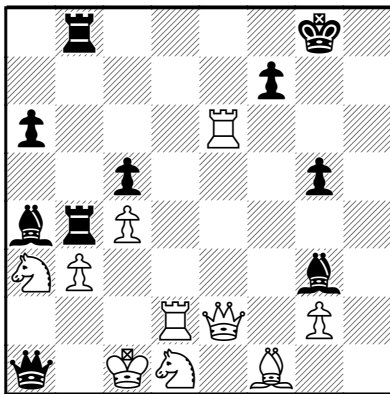
The win has vanished. White can survive 29...fxe6 30.Qxe6+ Qf7 31.Qxc6 Bf4 32.Nb1= and 29...Bf4 30.Re3 Ba4 31.Nb1 Bxd1 32.Kxd1 Bxe3 33.Qxe3 Rxb2 34.Rxb2 Rxb2 35.Nd2=.

**30.b3??**

This blunder spoils White's comeback.

Instead, 30.Re4! Bf4 31.Rxf4 gxf4 32.Qe7! Bxd1 33.Rd8+ Rxd8 34.Qxd8+ Kh7 (or 34...Qf8 35.Qxd1±) 35.Bd3+ Kh6 36.Kxd1 is safe, and the tricky 36.Nc2! appears even stronger.

**30...Qa1+ 0-1**



After this check, the finish could be 31.Nb1 Rxb3 32.Rb2 (or 32.Nb2 Rc3+ 33.Rc2 Qxb2+) 32...Bf4+ 33.Re3 Rxb2 34.Nxb2 Bxe3+ 35.Qxe3 Qxb2 mate.

**Century West, continued from page 36.**

**98...Bb5+ 99.Kd2 Qg2+ 100.Ke3**

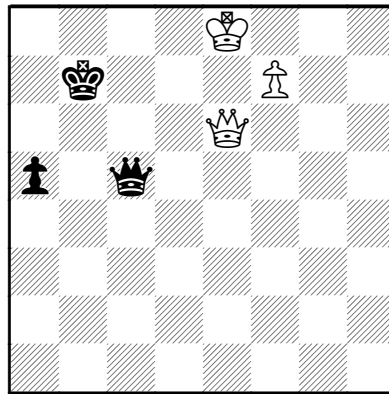
Bryant had only a few seconds. Disregarding the five-second delay, he began moving almost instantly. Caught up in the tense atmosphere, Aldama did the same, and the remainder of the game was played at blitz speed.

**100...Qg1+ 101.Qf2 Qc1+ 102.Kd4 Qa1+ 103.Kd5 Bc6+??**

Either 103...Qh1+ or 103...Qd1+ 104.Kc5 Qh5+ holds the draw.

**104.Kd6??**

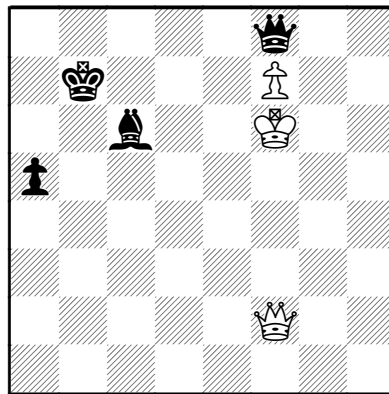
White should win with 104.Ke6. Black can extend the game by 104...Bd5+ 105.Kxd5 Qd1+, but the tablebase reveals how White eludes checks: 106.Ke5 Qh5+ 107.Ke6 Qh6+ 108.Qf6 Qh3+ 109.Ke7 Qe3+ 110.Qe6 Qc5+ 111.Ke8



and then gets a second Queen by 111...Qh5 112.Kd8 Qh8+ 113.Qe8 Qg7 114.Qe7+ Kb6 115.f8Q+.

**104...Qa3+**

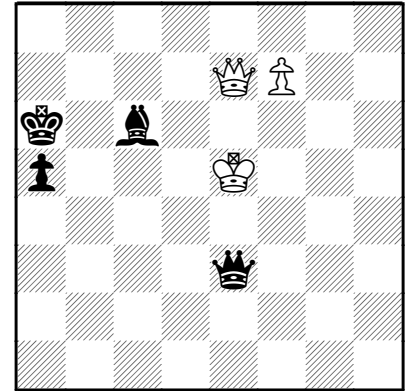
Back to equality.  
**105.Ke6 Qh3+ 106.Ke7 Qa3+ 107.Kf6 Qf8**



**108.Qb2+ Ka6 109.Qe2+ Kb6 110.Qb2+ Ka6 111.Qe2+ Kb6 112.Qe3+ Ka6 113.Qd3+ Kb6 114.Qe3+ Ka6 115.Qe7 Qh6+□**

Not 115...Qh8+?? 116.Kg6+-.  
White had five seconds left, and Black 17 seconds.

**116.Ke5 Qe3+**



**117.Kd6??**

Only 117.Kf6 draws.  
**117...Qd4+??**

Black should win by 117...Qa3+ 118.Ke6 Bd5+! 119.Kf6 Qxe7+ 120.Kxe7 Bxf7.

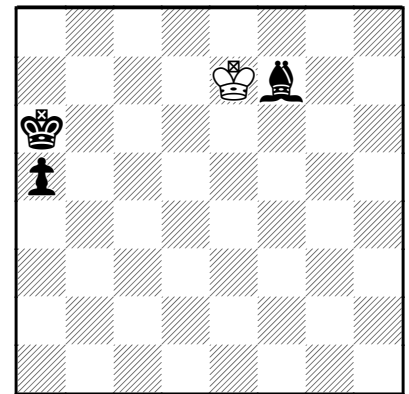
**118.Ke6??**

Of course, 118.Kxc6 is correct. According to the tablebase, Black can still eke out a draw by 118...Qb6+ 119.Kd5 Qb3+.

**118...Bd5+ 119.Kf5 Qf2+ 120.Ke5**

If 120.Kg5, Black wins with 120...Bxf7 121.Qd6+ Qb6--.

**120...Qe3+ 121.Kd6 Qa3+ 122.Kd7 Qxe7+ 123.Kxe7 Bxf7 0-1**



Here Bryant slumped in his chair for a moment and then resigned. His clock showed 0:03, while Aldama had 14 seconds left.

# A King & Pawn Ending

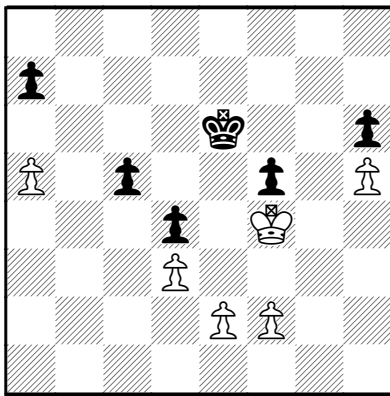
By IM Jack Peters

*King and pawn endings are lovable but tricky, and even a 20th century legend can make a costly mistake. There is a lot to consider in this one; prepare to be amazed at the truth about the first diagram on the top of the next page. -Ed.*

This endgame attracted attention because Wolfgang Uhlmann, one of the world's best players in the 1960s, blundered and lost.

First, let's look at the tragic finish.

**Uhlmann,Wolfgang (2319) - Tania,Sachdev (2400)**  
**Snowdrops vs. Oldhands**  
**Podebrady (5), 13.12.2012**

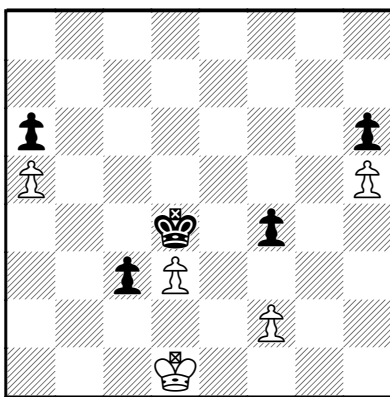


**46...a6 47.e3?? c4!-+**

Winning. Black will get a passed pawn on the c- or d-file.

**48.dxc4**

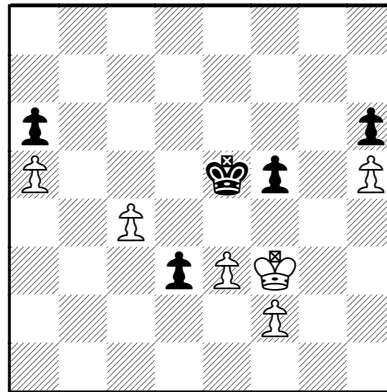
No better is 48.exd4 c3 49.Ke3 f4+ 50.Ke2 Kd5 51.Kd1 Kxd4



52.Ke2 (as 52.Kc2 f3 is Zugzwang)  
 52...f3+ 53.Ke1 Kxd3 54.Kd1 c2+  
 55.Kc1 Ke2 56.Kxc2 Kxf2-+.

Or, if 48.Kf3 cxd3 49.exd4 f4! White's King must move away from the d-pawn.

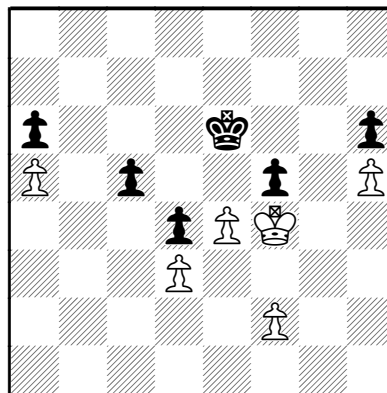
**48...d3 49.Kf3 Ke5 0-1**



After 50.c5, an easy way to win is 50...Ke6 51.e4 f4. Once White runs out of pawn moves, the d-pawn promotes.

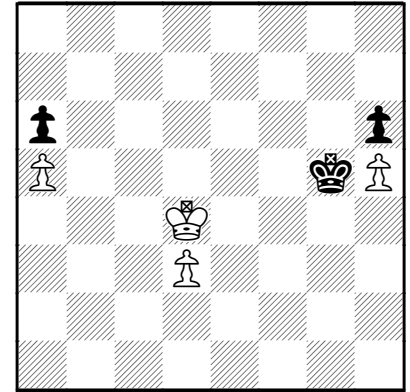
That was amusing to everyone except Uhlmann. But let's find out what should have happened.

Uhlmann was on the right track, but he had to play **47.e4!** instead of 47.e3:



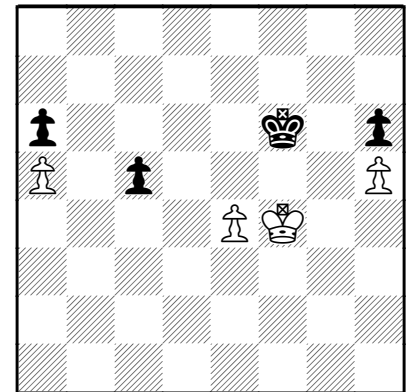
**47...dxe3 e.p.**

Black puts up less resistance with 47...fxe4 48.Kxe4 Kd6. The long but clear variation 49.f3 Ke6 50.f4 Kd6 51.f5 Ke7 52.Kd5 Kf6 53.Kxc5 Kxf5 54.Kxd4 Kg5:



gives White two ways to win by one tempo: 55.Ke5 (also sufficient is 55.Kc5 Kxh5 56.Kb6 Kg4 57.Kxa6 h5 58.Kb6 h4 59.a6 h3 60.a7 h2 61.a8Q+-) 55...Kxh5 56.Kf5 Kh4 57.d4 h5 58.d5 Kg3 59.d6 h4 60.d7 h3 61.d8Q h2 62.Qd5+-.

**48.fxe3 Kf6 49.e4 fxe4 50.dxe4!**



Concluding the first stage of a surprising winning idea. Next, White will trade the passed pawns by

**50...Ke6**

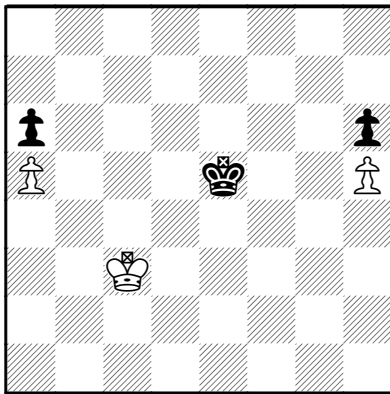
Or 50...c4 51.e5+ Ke6 52.Ke4, transposing to our main line.

**51.e5 c4**

Black's joy is short-lived after 51...Kd5 52.Kf5 c4 53.e6 c3 54.e7 c2 55.e8Q c1Q, as White picks off the new Queen by 56.Qd7+ Kc4 57.Qc6+.

**52.Ke4 c3 53.Kd3 Kxe5 54.Kxc3**

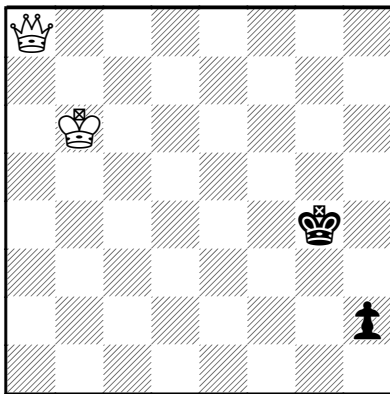




At first, you might think Black's King is better placed.

The decisive factor, though, is that White's pawns are further advanced. Black can win either White pawn, but White's last pawn will win the race to queen.

If Black goes after the h-pawn by 54...Kf5, he will fall one tempo short in the race: 55.Kd4 Kg5 56.Kc5 Kxh5 57.Kb6 Kg4 58.Kxa6 h5 59.Kb6 h4 60.a6 h3 61.a7 h2 62.a8Q+:-

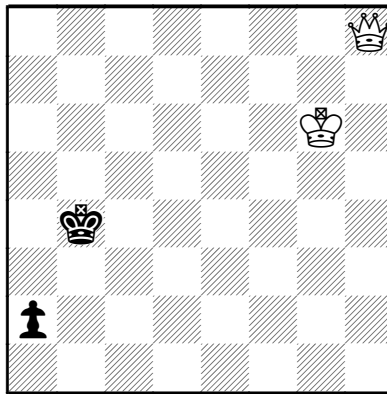


Going after the a-pawn also loses by one tempo:

**54...Kd5 55.Kd3 Kc5 56.Ke4 Kb5**

Nor can Black save the game by boxing in White's King: 56...Kc4 57.Kf5 Kd5 58.Kg6 Ke6 59.Kxh6 Kf6. White abandons the h-pawn and rushes back to the Queenside with 60.Kh7 Kf7 61.h6 Kf8 62.Kg6 Kg8 63.Kf6 Kh7 64.Ke6 Kxh6 65.Kd6 Kg6 66.Kc6 Kf6 67.Kb6 Ke6 68.Kxa6 Kd7 69.Kb7+-, winning by one tempo yet again.

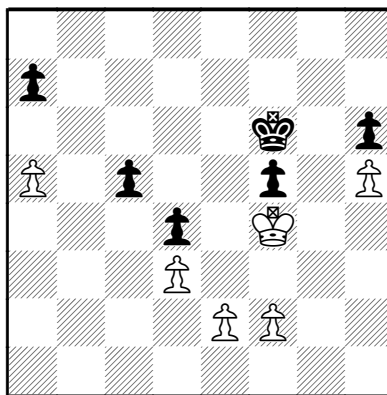
**57.Kf5 Kxa5 58.Kg6 Kb4 59.Kxh6 a5 60.Kg6 a4 61.h6 a3 62.h7 a2 63.h8Q+-**



This is a mirror image of the position at the end of the variation beginning with 54...Kf5.

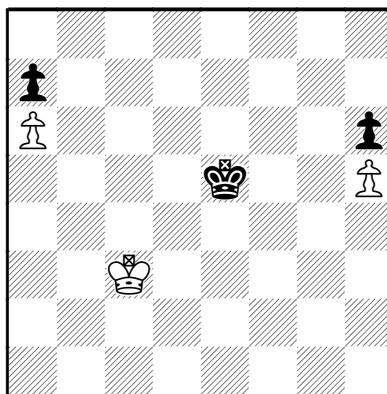
So we have proved that Uhlmann blundered in a winning position.

But we can strip away one more layer of mystery by reconsidering Black's first move. Instead of 46...a6?!, Black should play **46...Kf6**:



If White advances **47.a6** the game should end in a draw. The difference appears after

**47...Ke6 48.e4 dxe3 49.fxe3 Kf6 50.e4 fxe4 51.dxe4 c4 52.e5+ Ke6 53.Ke4 c3 54.Kd3 Kxe5 55.Kxc3**



We have seen that White wins the similar position with pawns at a5 and a6. Black can draw this one, though, by keeping White's King away from the h-pawn.

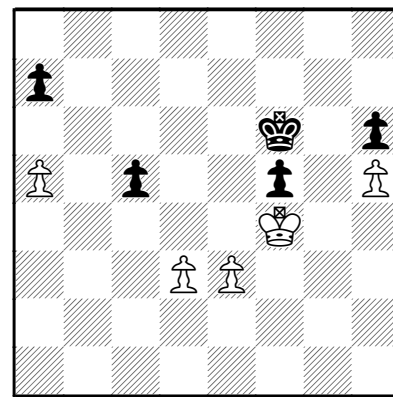
For example:

**55...Kd5 56.Kd3 Ke5 57.Kc4 Ke4 58.Kc5 Ke5 59.Kc6 Ke6 60.Kb7**

What else? Unfortunately for White, Black draws by boxing in the White King:

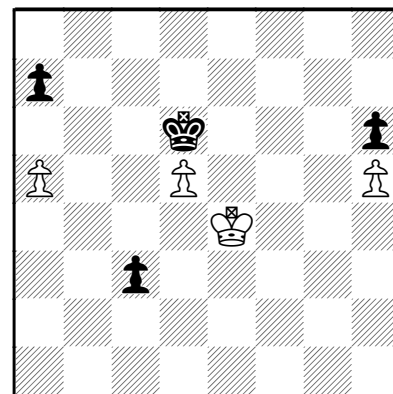
**60...Kd7 61.Kxa7 Kc7 62.Ka8 Kc8=**

But what if White refrains from a5-a6 and meets **46...Kf6** by **47.e4 dxe3 48.fxe3**, producing another tricky position?



**48...Ke6 49.e4**

After 49.d4, neither player can deviate from 49...c4 50.e4 fxe4 51.Kxe4. In fact, White is the one who must be careful. If 51...Kd6 52.d5 c3:



White barely draws by **53.Kd3 Kxd5 54.Kxc3 Kc5 55.Kd3 Kb5 56.Ke4 Kxa5 57.Kf5 Kb4 58.Kg6 a5 59.Kxh6 a4 60.Kg7 a3 61.h6 a2 62.h7 a1Q+ 63.Kg8.**

49...fxe4 50.dxe4

White cannot break through after 50.Kxe4 a6! 51.d4 cxd4 52.Kxd4 Kd6 53.Ke4 Ke6=.

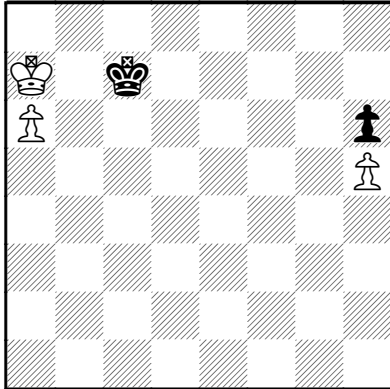
50...c4 51.Ke3 Ke5 52.a6

Alternatives lose!

52...c3 53.Kd3 c2 54.Kxc2 Kxe4

Leading to the familiar draw where White's King blocks the a-pawn:

55.Kc3 Ke3 56.Kc4 Ke4 57.Kc5 Ke5 58.Kc6 Ke6 59.Kb7 Kd7 60.Kxa7 Kc7=



I have not found a promising winning attempt for White after 46...Kf6, which indicates that the initial position was drawn. But these "simplified" positions conceal many secrets, and it would not shock me if White had a hidden resource that overturns the evaluation. If you find it, let me know! ♖

**23rd Metro**, continued from page 31.

d-pawn, White has an advantage in space and easier development, but his position can deteriorate quickly if Black takes command of d5.

10.Qe2 Bb7 11.Bg5

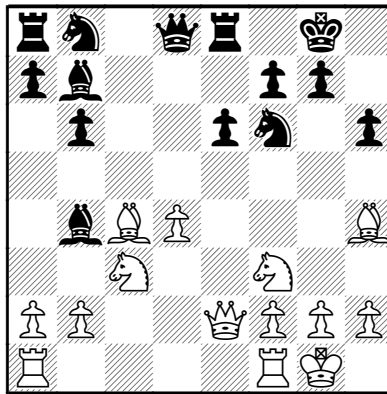
Against 11.Rd1, Black may choose the sharp 11...Nbd7 12.d5 Bxc3 13.dxe6 Bxf3 or the cautious 11...Bxc3 12.bxc3 Qc7.

11...h6

Karpov originally tried 11...Nbd7 12.Rac1 Rc8, but he introduced the more reliable 11...Bxc3 12.bxc3 Nbd7 13.Bd3 Qc7= in 1975.

12.Bh4 Re8?!

Correct is 12...Nbd7.



13.Rfd1±

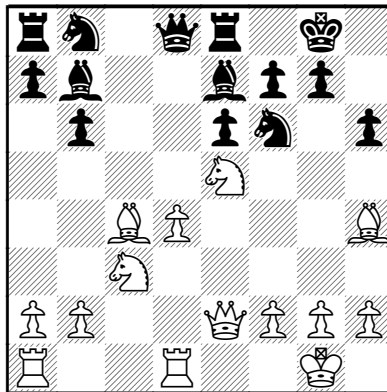
Not bad, but 13.Bxf6! is even stronger, as 13...Qxf6?? would lose material to 14.Nd5! Bxd5 15.Bxd5+-.

13...Be7?

Black stops the danger from the pin, but a new problem arises.

He should defend with 13...Nbd7 14.Ne5 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Qc7±.

14.Ne5±



White is threatening 15.Nxf7 and 16.Qxe6+. Black's reply is forced.

14...Nd5

The other attempt to trade minor pieces, 14...Ne4?, fails spectacularly to 15.Nxf7! Kxf7 16.d5! Nd6 17.dxe6+ Kg8 18.Nb5+-.

15.Qf3

Also tempting is 15.Qh5 Rf8 16.Bxd5 exd5 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Re1±.

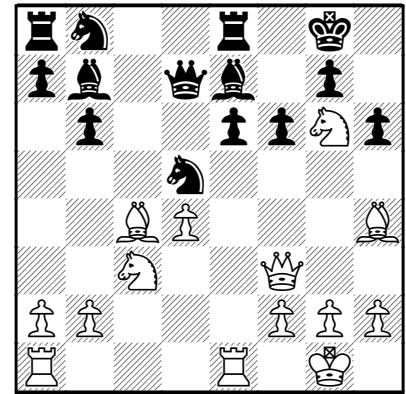
15...f6

Making e6 a target, but 15...Bxh4?? 16.Qxf7+ Kh8 17.Qxb7+- and 15...Bf6? 16.Ne4 Nd7 17.Nd6+- are worse.

16.Ng6 Qd7?

Only 16...Bb4 keeps Black alive.

17.Re1+-



Simple and very effective. Black is lost.

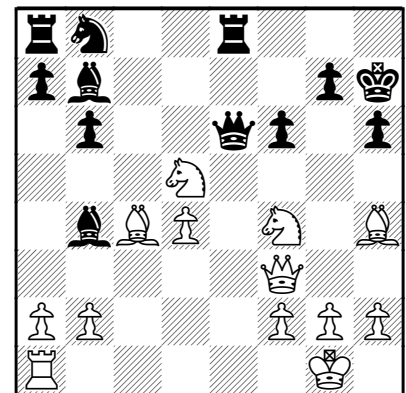
17...Bb4

The plausible 17...Nxc3 18.Qxc3 Bd5 won't help. After 19.Bxd5 exd5 (the tougher 19...Qxd5 20.Nf4+- costs Black "only" a pawn) 20.Rxe7 Rxe7 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.Qc8+, Black suffers because of his undeveloped Queenside, and he will soon have to lose his Knight after 22...Kf7 (or 22...Kh7 23.Qf5+ Kh8 24.Qxd5+-) 23.Rc1 Qe8 24.Rc7+ Kf8 25.f3+-.

18.Rxe6! Qxe6

More material falls after 18...Rxe6 19.Nxd5+-.

19.Nxd5 Kh7 20.Ng4



20...Qe1+

The chessic equivalent of a Hail Mary pass, although with a lower chance of success.

White refutes 20...Qd7 most forcefully by 21.Qh5! followed by a sacrifice at f6, while 20...Qd6 allows 21.Qd3+ Kh8 22.Ng6+ Kh7 23.Nf8+ Kg8 24.Nxf6+ Kxf8 25.Nh7 mate.

21.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 22.Bf1 Ba6 23.Nd3 1-0 ♚

# What Was He Thinking?

by Phil Chase

Perhaps you have seen the illustration of the eccentric math professor who announces that the incomprehensible equation he has just written on six blackboards is “obvious.” Then he ruminates for twenty minutes, looking closely at each Greek letter while a roomful of students remains befuddled, and finally reiterates “As I said, it’s obvious!” I think some of us feel that way when we look at analysis by really strong players, e.g., “White rejected 24.Nd3 because obviously (14 moves of analysis) it will lead to a weak pawn!”

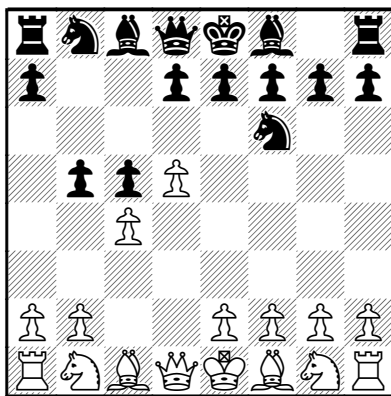
Most of us play at a different level, and our games can be really fascinating as well, but much of the time our attempts to master the ideas we need to succeed follow more on the path “through a glass darkly” than “it’s obvious!”

Here is an example. It was the last round of the US Open in Vancouver, Washington. By the 9th round, everyone was exhausted, except for the teenagers and little kids -- that I played every round!

Ethan Bashkansky was a 14-year old, accompanied by his 9-year old sister who often visited the board to glare at me and sap my energy during lulls in her own game. I thought about devouring some intoxicating yogurt to throw off my opponent’s concentration, but I figured it wouldn’t work because he was born twenty years after the Korchnoi-Karpov match in Baguio City!

Another problem was that in the tournament so far, I had gone 4–0 with White and 0–3 with Black (one bye).

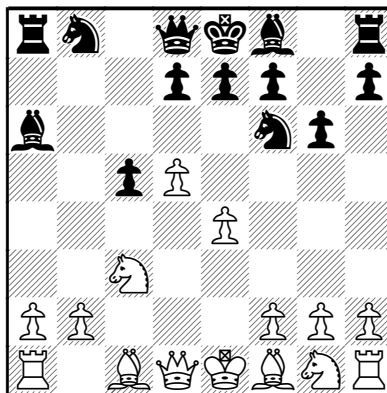
**Bashkansky, Ethan (1827) - Chase, Phil (1942)**  
**[A59] Benko Gambit**  
**113th US Open (9)**  
**Vancouver, 12.08.2012**  
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5**



Since I became very experienced at playing a pawn behind in my first hundred tournament games, due to myopia and nerves, what could be

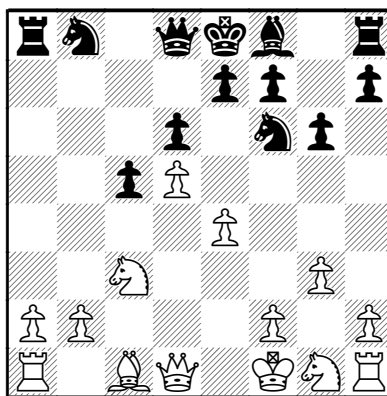
more logical than getting a pawn behind on purpose!

**4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 Bxa6 6.Nc3 g6 7.e4**



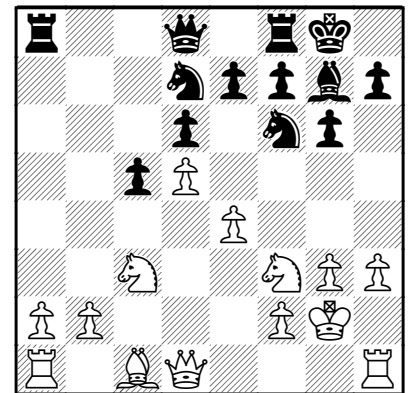
There are more subtle ways to respond to 6...g6, but as far as I know they transpose into what happened. Some enlightened theorist is welcome to explain otherwise!

**7...Bxf1 8.Kxf1 d6 9.g3**



One of several ways to castle by hand. If you are a player who gets in time trouble, the Benko Gambit can be good because once you make a choice of how to set up your pieces, the first 10 or 12 moves can be made without taking much time.

**9...Bg7 10.Kg2 0-0 11.Nf3 Nbd7 12.h3**



What is more powerful—time or fear? White is worried about ...Ng4 at some point, uncovering the g7 Bishop which will destroy the world! But 12.h3 delays developing pieces, and might even lead to a vulnerable King later.

**12...Qc7**

The Queen has to go somewhere, so the Rooks can connect and look frightening.

Qc7 discourages e5 by White, always important, Qb6 presses on b2 and stands on a good diagonal (a7-g1), although it can be chased away if a Knight gets to c4, and Qa5 looks at c3, cramping White’s development.

This all sounds good, but Black is down a pawn, which just happens to be the a-pawn that, as each piece is traded, becomes faster than Usain Bolt.

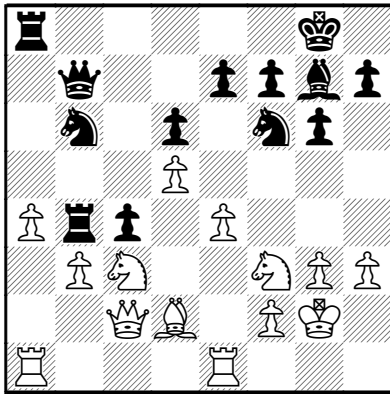
**13.Re1 Rfb8 14.Qc2 Rb4**

This always gets an exclamation point when played by good players. It feels good to have this threatening messenger roaming in an alien playground, but I think he just might end up in a quicksand box from which there is no escape.

**15.a4**

Seems too loosening—but the a-pawn is 2 squares closer to queening.  
**15...Nb6**

Looking at a4 and c4—but also closing the fence for his own Rook  
**16.Bd2 Qb7 17.b3 c4**



Entering complications. That's what you do when you sense something bad is about to happen.

**18.Nb5 cxb3**

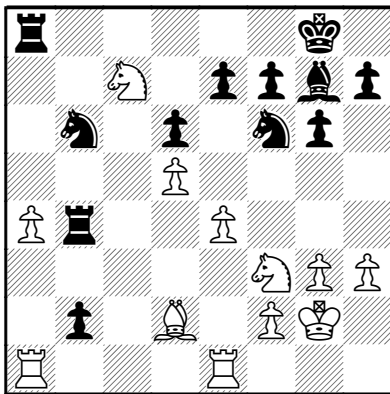
An in-between move—those are either:

- a) brilliant a la Fischer or
- b) postponing the inevitable.

**19.Qc7**

Qc6 seems to lead to similar results.

**19...Qxc7 20.Nxc7 b2**



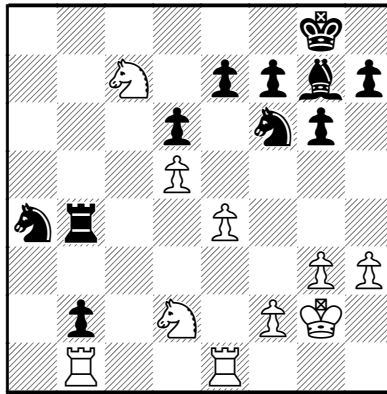
So there are three hanging rooks!

White should probably take one, but that seems to lead to an even ending, with White probably having a tiny advantage in space, e.g., 21.Bxb4 bxa1Q 22.Rxa1 Rxa4 23.Rxa4 Nxa4, or 21.Nxa8 bxa1Q 22.Rxa1 Rxa4 23.Rxa4 Nxa4.

He chooses to keep his material, much more double-edged. In practice, Bg7 and pawn on b2 are worth a bit

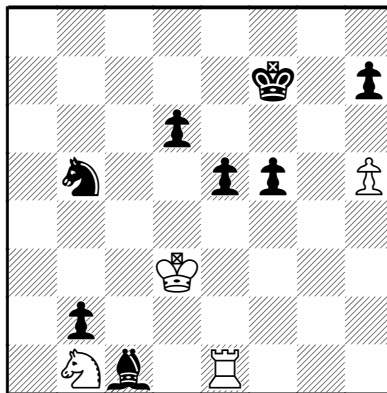
more than a Rook, but neither one of us saw that far when I played 17...c4, after which the path became circumscribed for both players.

**21.Rab1 Raxa4 22.Bxb4 Rxb4 23.Nd2 Na4**



The next section of the game involves maneuvering to cramp White, using the b-pawn as a black hole luring the White pieces to passivity, but is not fascinating until a bit later when White finds an unexpected resource!

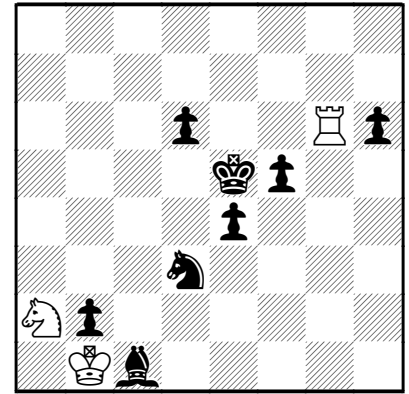
**24.Re3 Nd7 25.Rb3 Rd4 26.Ra3 Ndc5 27.Nf3 Rxe4 28.Re3 Rxe3 29.fxe3 Nd3 30.Nb5 Bh6 31.e4 Nac5 32.Ne1 Nxe1+ 33.Rxe1 Nxe4 34.h4 Bc1 35.Na3 f5 36.Kf3 Kf7 37.g4 Nc3 38.gxf5 gxf5 39.h5 Nxd5 40.Ke2 Nc3+ 41.Kd3 Nb5 42.Nb1 e5**



**43.h6 Bxh6**

White fell for the backward moving diagonal piece being easy to forget.

**44.Kc2 Bc1 45.Kb3 Nc7 46.Rh1 h6 47.Kc2 e4 48.Nc3 Na6 49.Kb1 Nc5 50.Na2 Nd3 51.Rf1 Ke6 52.Rg1 Ke5 53.Rg6**

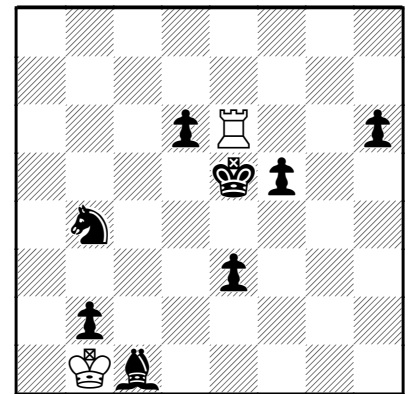


He came up with a good idea. I am obviously enjoying the thought of the new chess board given to all the last round winners in the US Open.

**53...e3 54.Nb4 Nxb4**

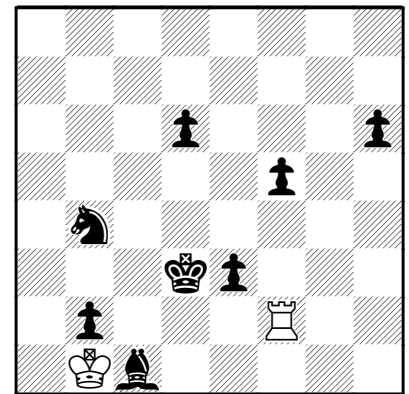
If you are just giving it away...

**55.Re6+**



Oops—can I get away, or will Ja-vert actually pursue Jean Valjean until doom?

**55...Kf4 56.Re4+ Kf3 57.Rf4+ Ke2 58.Rf2+ Kd3**



And it's lucky that the Bishop can take the checking Rook and relieve the stalemate at the same time.

**59.Rxf5 Bd2 60.Rc5 dxc5 0-1 ♚**

# Here and There

## Local News and Events Around the Southland

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

### La Palma

Scoring 5½-1½, Craig Faber, George Shahin and Shyam Gandhi tied for first place in La Palma Chess Club's 7-round **An Indian Defense to the Mayan Calendar**. The 36-player event held at La Palma's Central Park ended December 7th.

Other prizewinners were Alan Chu, best under 1800; Shrini Jayakumar, best under 1600, and newcomer Jaya Janakiraman, best under 1400.

Jayakumar also won the biggest upset prize, and Siddharth Somasundaram won the best Indian Defense game prize as judged by IM Jack Peters. See page 37 for two games from this tournament.

With a perfect score of 3-0, national master Craig Faber won La Palma Chess Club's **Holiday Chess Nut Roast**. The 32-player event held at La Palma's Central Park ended December 28th.

In the second section, Eren Karadayi, Mark Jackson & Alan Chu tied for first place with 2-1. Eric Lu bested all the others in the third section with a perfect score of 3-0.

For wall charts, games, pictures, and a schedule of events, see the club's website at [lapalmachess.com](http://lapalmachess.com).

### Glendale

Some further signs of the scholastic chess resurgence in Southern California...the American Chess Academy (ACA) had a very nice turnout of 133 kids on Sunday, December 16th in Glendale at the 2012 ACA Holiday Scholastic Chess Championships! ACA Coaches Armen Ambartsoumian, Tatevi Abrahamyan and Jerry Yee were very pleased with the turnout considering the wet weather and the time of the year. So much so that ACA plans on having this holiday event every year!

Highlights included outstanding performances for three of Jerry Yee's very own ACA Calabasas students: 2 first place finishes (Mateo Dordi had a perfect score of 5-0 in the unrated section and Adi Sunkara had a score of 4.5/5 in the K-8 Under 1100 section!) and one 2nd place finish (Charlie Kindelt scored 4/5 in the K-5 Under 600). Another highlight was 10 year old Julia Sevilla of ACA Glendale taking 2nd place in the K-12 Open section! In addition to the great performances of the ACA kids....Jay Stallings' CYCL kids also took home several trophies. Beyond Chess's 9 year old phenom, Anthony Ge took first in the K-12 Open (his second straight ACA 1st place finish in the very tough high school section!). In the K-5 U600 section, Beverly Hills Chess Club's Benjamin Bankhead took first place with a perfect 5-0 score!

Pizza and sandwiches were served at the all day event held at the spacious, newly remodeled Maple Park Community Center in Glendale. The beautiful basketball gymnasium provided plenty of room for the players. The parents had the rest of the facility to find a spot to camp out in what ended up being a very festive day of scholastic chess!

ACA's next event will be a big one...The 2013 L.A. All City Scholastic Chess Championships on February 17th and it will also be at Maple Park. (TLA details TBA soon) An all city chess championship in Los Angeles? What took so long? The All City event should be the biggest scholastic event in Los Angeles before Jay Stallings' 2013 Super States in March, which will be held in Valencia. Hope to see all Southern California kids playing in both events!

*Happy Holidays & Happy New Year, ACA Coach Jerry Yee*

### Beverly Hills

#### Beverly Hills Chess Club

**Apr. 14, The Beverly Hills Scholastic Chess Championship:** Rated: Open, U900, & U500 5-SS, G/30 EF: \$15 BEFORE 3/24, \$25 after. Bring Clocks! Non-Rated: Round Robin EF: \$10 before 3/24, \$15 after 3/14. Online Reg: [www.bhchessclub.com](http://www.bhchessclub.com). Onsite Reg: 8-9 am. Rated Rds: 9,10,11, 1, 2pm Prizes: Trophies to top3 in each section. Info: 310-274-7873, email: [tmtreg@bhchessclub.com](mailto:tmtreg@bhchessclub.com). Site: Horace Mann School, 8701 Charleville Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90211.

### Morro Bay

The annual **San Luis Obispo County Championship** tournament was held on Saturday, November 17, in scenic Morro Bay. The Morro Bay Recreation and Parks Department co-hosted and provided the entire Morro Bay Community Center as a site for the 4-round Open tournament and a 5-round Scholastic tournament.

Ray Kaufman and Victor Hendriks topped the 24-player **Open Section** scoring 3½-½, and tied their game in the final round. Victor Hendriks was awarded the trophy as San Luis Obispo County Champion for 2012, but Kaufman and Hendriks shared first and second place prize monies.

Eduardo Ortiz and Solomon Rudell tied for third place, 3-1. Taylor McCreary and George Miller shared the A prize, each scoring 2½-1½; Paul Bishop was Top B, 2½-1½; and Isaac Ruddell was Top Under 1600, scoring 2-2.

Michael D'Acri swept the 12-player **Reserve Section** with a score of 4-0; Ashmeet Goraya and Morgan Sherman shared 2nd and 3rd place monies, 3-1; Jonathan Tribble was Top Under 1200, 2-2; and Taylor Nelson was Top Unrated, 2-2.

Michael McCreary, SLO Chess Club Vice President, directed the tournament and design of the **slochess.com** web site; Secretary Fred Brown arranged for the co-sponsorship with the Morro Bay Recreation and Parks Department as well as discounts from local hotels; and treasurer Barbara McCaleb handled the finances. The club hopes to hold the annual county championship at this great site again.

## Hemet

**Hemet Chess Club** had a very pleasant visit on Saturday, January 12th, from **IM Cyrus Lakdawala**. Cy held a **12-board simul** to open our event. He scored 10 wins, 1 draw, and 1 loss. After the simul, Cyrus gave an awesome presentation of a beautiful win he had against a strong player from years back. Cyrus also was kind enough to autograph books.

It was an honor to see Cyrus show his skills in chess to our club. Our Hemet Chess Club's website is **hemetchessclub.blogspot.com**  
Contact: **hemetchessclub2009@gmail.com**, Marcos 951-252-5926.

-Jeff Arnold

## Thousand Oaks

**Thousand Oaks Chess Club** meets every Monday evening from 6:00-8:45pm for Casual Play. All ages and levels welcome. Currently no dues. Tournaments being planned in the near future. Please join us at The Goebel Senior Adult Center 1385 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. Contact: Cindy Garcia: **ThousandOaksChess@att.net** (805) 990-0136.

## San Diego

In September and October at the **San Diego Chess Club**, the **Mario Amodeo Team Tournament** attracted 12 teams of 4 players each for a six round event. First Place was won by the team of Leonard Sussman, Bud Stamper, Hector Gonzalez and Elias Uskokovic with 4-2. Tied for second with 3½ were the teams lead by Peter Hodges (with Buddy Morris, Greg Ingolia and Ron Stanard) and

Alejandrino Baluran (with Jerry Qu, Tom Kuhn and Karen Kaufman).

Bruce Baker won the prize for Best Board 1 scoring 5½-½, David Saponara was Best Board 2 with 4½ and Hector Gonzalez was Best Board 3, also with 4½. The 4th board prize was split between Rob Soul and Aaron Cook, both with 4.

In November and December, 70 players competed for trophies and bragging rights in the **Bruce Baker Class Championships** in 5 sections. Kyron Griffith won the Master trophy with 5½ out of 6 and Aaron Wooten won the Expert trophy on tie-breaks over Jim Humphrey.

The Class A Section winner was David Saponara with 5-1, a full point ahead of Allan Virtue, Guru Gopalakrishnan, Bruce Charnov and Pejman Sagart. In the Class B, William Wijaya won by just ½ a tiebreak point over Tom Kuhn, both with 5 wins and a draw with each other. In Class C, Tom Webb Jr. also scored 5½ to edge out Glenn Rich with 5.

In the Class D/E section, Kerik Rivas scored 5 to win the BU1400 trophy by defeating Karen Kaufman in round six, who had led up until that last game. Maria Murra captured the Best Under 1200 trophy with 4 points.

The event was delayed by one week when a rare blackout just before the round started forced cancellation of play that night. We had to eliminate one of the two year-end blitz events to squeeze in the full 6 rounds.

In January, it's the **Alina Markowski Open**, a 7 round event to pick the qualifiers for the Club and Reserve (U1800) Championships. This event often draws over 90 players. The **SDCC** is one of the largest clubs in the country and plays on Wednesday nights at 7 PM at 2225 Sixth Avenue in Balboa Park, about a mile from downtown San Diego.

The **November Super Gambito Open** was won by IM Cyrus Lakdawala with 3½-½, over a strong field of 32 players that included 11 Experts. Bruce Baker, Raoul Crisologo and Leonard Sussman tied for 2nd/Best Under 2400/Best Under 2200

with 3 points each. Sridhar Ramanujam won the Best Under 2000 prize.

Marco Gonzalez swept the Reserve Section (U1800) with 4-0, followed by Jerry Cupat with 3-1. David Narevsky and Alex Costello tied for Best Under 1600, while Ganesh Dekate took Best Under 1400.

In the **December** version Cyrus Lakdawala had to share 1st and 2nd Place with young Expert Venkat Iyer. Bruce Baker was Best Under 2400 and Leonard Sussman Best Under 2200 with 2½ points each. Prisciliano Padilla won Best Under 2000. In the Reserves, there was a tie between two young players, Jay Choi and Jerry Qu. Ganesh Dekate was Best Under 1600.

The **January Super Gambito** had 34 players with 4 Masters and 8 Experts. Cyrus Lakdawala won clear first with 3½-½, followed by Ron Bruno, Kyron Griffith, Alfredo Hernandez and Santi Pinon, all with 3. Santi won the Under 2000 and pushed his rating over that mark for the first time. Ron and Kyron were 2nd Best Under 2400 and Alfredo was Best Under 2200.

In the Reserve Section Jason Arbetter went 4-0, followed by Carlos (Alfredo's son) Hernandez with 3½. Gurveer Singh was 3rd with 3 points. Libano Rodriguez, David Narevsky and Thomas Diem tied for Best Under 1600.

**The Gambito Opens** paid over \$24,000 in prizes in 2012 to over 100 different players. The 4 round format of G/40, d/5 is popular as it allows for a full day of chess starting at 10:30 AM, but it's all over by 6 PM. Occasionally, we throw in a five round event with extra prizes, and once a year we have a two day 8 round event.

**The Gambito** has been running for over 12 years now, playing on almost every single Saturday since late 2000, other than weekends where we have other events like the County Championship and the Junior/Senior Open.

The **Southern California Open** in September (Labor Day weekend) and **The Recession Buster** in February (Presidents' Day weekend) are the two even bigger events that have now become fixtures of the San Diego scene. The SCO has been going for well over 30 years and only recently

has landed in San Diego while the RBO is just a baby with the 2nd annual coming up on Feb 16-18th. See TLAs in Chess Life or on the SCCF and/or SDCC websites.

*We hope that the Recession Buster Open, someday, some year, will change its name due to vigorous economic growth in our state and nation. - Ed.*

On December 16, there was a **16 board match** between the **Inland Empire Chess Club** and the **San Diego Chess Club**. We matched players as close as possible in rating, and it worked out well, except for a few last minute additions on the lowest boards. San Diego won the very close match 8½ to 7½. The top 6 boards (Masters and Experts) were tied with 2 wins, 2 losses and 2 draws each. The Inland Empire won the six middle boards (Class A and Class B players), 4 wins to 2, but SDCC rallied on the lower 4 (generally Class C and below) with 3 wins and 1 draw.

Inland Empire travelled all the way to San Diego, and the SDCC supplied some munchies for all the players. We hope to do it again, with the SDCC on the road next time.

There is talk of forming a league for these club matches. There is no

money involved, other than the minimal rating fee; it is just for fun and glory. The players really enjoyed it.

### **Antelope Valley School Chess Matches**

Several **Scholastic Chess Matches** have been held in the Antelope Valley this school year. Among them, Gregg Anderson Academy of Quartz Hill hosted iLEAD Charter School of Lancaster December 12th. The hard fought match was very close with GAA winning by 2 games in the 42 game Match.

Another Chess Match was hosted by Desert Montessori Academy of Lancaster on November 13th against Antelope Valley Learning Academy of Lancaster. DMA won that Match, again in a very close contest.

All four of these schools, as well as Palmdale Learning Plaza, are looking to arrange further Chess Matches against other Antelope Valley Scholastic Chess Clubs. If your school or organization is interested in arranging such a match, contact [daa@mahowald.org](mailto:daa@mahowald.org).

Ruben Ondangan Jr. and Craig Anderson tied for first in the **China-Gozi Wogu Cup Quad** on November

18th in Palmdale, and Ped Bashi won the **AV Checkmate Chess Tourney** with a score of 3½-½ on December 2nd in Lancaster, with Craig Anderson scoring 3-1 and placing second in the 12-player event.

Two events are to be held at the **Palmdale Learning Plaza**, 38043 Division, Palmdale CA 93551. On February 2nd, it's an all-day **Chess Mini-Game Tournament** for children grades K-8. Snack and a pizza lunch provided! On May 18th, it's the **Chess Spectacular**, an all-day non-rated tournament, also for children K-8, with snack and lunch. Contact Daa Mahowald at 661-466-6907 or [daa@mahowald.org](mailto:daa@mahowald.org).

The **2012 AV Chess Player of the Year** is Ruben Ondangan Jr.! He earned 11¾ points, the highest score in the 1st Annual Chess POY competition. Ondangan, 39, won the 2004 Hawaii State Championship. He became a USCF National Master by winning the 2011 LACC January FIDE Tournament in Santa Monica. He also won the 2012 20th Metropolitan Qualifier in Los Angeles. He won the 2012 AV G/45 Master's Open at which he beat John Daniel Bryant.

Ondangan, a University of Manila graduate in Political Science, is a native of the Philippines and a pastor of Lancaster Christian Ministries Church in Lancaster. He learned to play chess at age 14 and is now rated 99th of nearly 3000 active players in California.

Jerry Stone earned second place with a score of 9. Stone lives in Palmdale and is a USCF-rated D Player. Third Place was Craig Anderson with a score of 8¼. Anderson, who lives in Palmdale, is a Candidate Master.

**AV Chess House** sponsored the competition. Points were earned in USCF rated games, with 1 point for each win, ½ point for draws, and ¼ point for a loss. Only games played in the Antelope Valley by AV residents count.

Ruben, as POY, earns the right to take possession of the Traveling Trophy until unseated by the next year's Champion. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place winners each receive a certificate declaring their 2012 POY status.



*Annie Wang played for the Inland Empire Chess Club Team*

bb

To learn about earning a Boy Scout chess merit badge with Ms. Daa, or for help starting a chess club at your child's school (*students who participate in a once-a-week chess club reap numerous benefits, especially improvement in math and reading skills*), or for free chess workshops for tots (by appointment) at the AV Chess House, contact: [daa@mahowald.org](mailto:daa@mahowald.org).

Several one-week **2013 Summer Chess Camps** are being offered in the Antelope Valley. To tailor a camp specific to your group or to sign-up an individual in an already scheduled camp, Contact: [daa@mahowald.org](mailto:daa@mahowald.org).

## Temecula

GM Melik Khachiyan visits Temecula Chess Club on February 19th with our K-8 Academy at 3:30pm and following will host a lecture on Chess at 6:30pm. He will also play in a simultaneous exhibition. Come test your skills against a Grand Master!

The **Temecula Chess Club** meets Tuesdays at Hillcrest Academy, 29275 Santiago Rd. Kids program (for grades 1-8) from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., adult chess club after 6:30 p.m. Rated tournaments, casual play, instruction, lectures, exhibitions. Free. Call (951) 327-1000 or write to [info@temeculachess.com](mailto:info@temeculachess.com). Website: [www.temeculachess.com](http://www.temeculachess.com).

## West Hills

The **West Valley Chess Club** has found a nice new home in 2012. Since moving in June from the Jewish Community Center to Shomrei Torah Synagogue in West Hills, the oldest club in

the San Fernando Valley has continued its trend of good turnouts with an average of over 50+ players per event.

On December 7th, club concluded its 6-week **2012 Turkey Swiss Championship**. Thirteen-year-old expert Daniel Mousseri took clear first in the 31 player Open section with a 5½-½ score. Experts Maxim Sorokin took 2nd place with 5-1 and Max Landaw was 3rd, scoring 4½-1½.

In the Under 1700 section, C player Greg Engel won first place on tiebreaks at 5-1, over another C player Chantelle Field, who placed second. Michael Moody placed 3rd with 4½-1½.

The club's annual six round **Club Championship** begins on January 24th. For info contact Jerry Yee at 818-915-5572 or email him at: [jyee6@socal.rr.com](mailto:jyee6@socal.rr.com).

## Lawndale

Twenty-six players competed in the **Alondra Park 2012 Club Championship** which concluded December 11.

Alireza Fallahi is the 2012 Club Champ, finishing with a 5-1 tally. Ali's one loss was to Howard Lefevre who shared second through fourth (4½-1½) with Cengiz Ant Vance and Richard Meller. Ant Vance zipped out to a 4-0 lead, drew with Lefevre in round 5 and decided his already-planned vacation was more important than playing the last round, and Meller defeated Lefevre.

Although rated under 1600, Dr. Harold Valery's four points were good enough for best under 1800, pushing Ed Engelhaupt to second under 1800

with 3½ points and yielding the under 1600 prize to Ricardo Villaruell who also finished with 3½-2½.

The **Alondra Park Chess Club** meets Tuesday evenings in the clubhouse at 3850 W. Manhattan Beach Blvd., Lawndale. For more information visit the club's Website, [www.alondraparkchessclub.com](http://www.alondraparkchessclub.com) or contact Richard Meller at 310.227.2873 or [RichardMeller@yahoo.com](mailto:RichardMeller@yahoo.com).

## Santa Monica

The **Santa Monica Bay Chess Club November Swiss** resulted in a tie for 1st-3rd Place between Dmitry Cherkasky (2066), Simon Kogan (1900), and Dr. Harold Valery MD (1508) with 3-1 each. George Witcomb (1532) took the Under 1700 prize with 2-2. The event attracted 13 players. The first Swiss of 2013 is currently underway with 14 players.

February 11th the Club will hold a one night **G/5 Blitz Tournament** (unrated). Entry fee is only \$5, and membership is not required. Registration is at 7 p.m. and the event will go no later than 11 p.m. Cash prizes based on entries.

On February 25th, **IM Jack Peters** will hold a **Simultaneous Exhibition** for \$15 a board. At 7:00 p.m. IM Peters, a Southern California chess icon who has taken on numerous US and World Champions and was a long-time LA Times Chess Columnist, will begin with a talk and entertain questions, then play all entries.

The **2013 Santa Monica Bay Chess Club Championship** will take place on four Monday evenings from March 4th to the 25th with a guaranteed 1st Place Prize of \$100. Other cash prizes, including class based prizes will be based on entries. Further prizes will include free entry to a future rated tournament.

Entry Fee for the Championship is \$20 with annual Club membership of \$60. The event will be USCF rated, USCF membership required (you can join at the site). Time Control is Game in 1:55 (5 second delay). Registration is at 7:00 p.m. Rounds begin at 7:10 p.m.

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



*B-players Ped Bashi and 10-year-old Hovanes Salvaryan at West Hills* <sup>19</sup>



tional Blvd. West Los Angeles at corner of Federal/Barry Ave. at National Blvd. (Ample parking in the church lot) Contact: TD Pete Savino (310) 827-2789 [smbchess@yahoo.com](mailto:smbchess@yahoo.com).

## Pasadena

The *Crown City Open* attracted 62 players in one section. IM Tim Taylor dominated with 5½ of 6, taking a half point bye. Class prizewinners included Alexander Xie (under 2100); Justin Tay (under 1900); Roberto Queiro (under 1700); Tim Deng, Cory Chen, and Felix Gao (under 1600); Felix Yen (under 1500); Edward Chou (under 1400); Kyle Li (under 1200); and Benjamin Gabriel (unrated).

*A Rose for Your Queen*, evoking Pasadena's Rose Parade, had 60 players in three sections. Winners were Yusheng Xia, Axel Muller, and Gregg Fritchle (tied); Joey Perez; and Felix Yen.

The club celebrates 85 years of activity with its annual championship, with a guaranteed prize fund of \$1,000, beginning February 22. See full details, including a flyer, at [tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html](http://tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html). The website also includes a catalogue of the extensive lending library.

The club meets Friday evenings at 7:00 at the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East Del Mar. Please direct inquiries to Randy Hough, (626) 282-7412, [randallhough@yahoo.com](mailto:randallhough@yahoo.com).

## Simi Valley

The *American Chess Academy (ACA)* has opened their 5th location and it is in Simi Valley. The address is 1925 Royal Avenue.

ACA was founded in 2008 by IM Armen Ambartsoumian, a FIDE Senior Trainer. The other locations are in Glendale, Reseda, Hollywood and Calabasas. A non-profit educational organization, the American Chess Academy teaches kids ages 6 to 18 and has developed some of the most talented players in Southern California.

For more information on class schedules and tuition costs, contact Armen at 818-640-5974 or email him at [artmik@charter.net](mailto:artmik@charter.net). ♔

## Solutions to Final Points

From page 51.

1. The Black King goes down after **26.Bg3 0-1**, for if 26...Qf5, 27.Qb8+ Kd7 28.Qc7 mates. Yankovsky - Faber, Los Angeles Open, 2012.

2. Black takes advantage of the forced Knight move with **30...Qg3! 31.Nd4 Rf2 0-1**. White would have to give up the Queen to stop mate. Correa - Bykovtsev, World Youth U14 Girls, Maribor 2012.

3. White wins a pawn and much more with **11.Nfxd5! Qd8** (or 11...exd5 12.Qxc8+ Qd8 13.Qxb7 Nbd7 14.Bb5+-) **12.Nf6+ gxf6 13.Qxg8**. Perkins - Panfilii, World Youth U8 Maribor, 2012.

4. White wins material with **14.Nd5! Bxd5 15.Bxd5+-**. A variation from Yang - Kiewra, 23rd Metro GM, Los Angeles 2012, page 31.

5. The familiar thematic shot works: **25.Bxh7+! Kxh7**. If 25...Kh8 then 26.Bd3 and the threat of 27.Qh5 Bh6 28.Be3 is decisive. For example 26...Rb8 (of no help are 26...Ba6 27.Nc3, 26...Rd5 27.Qh5+ Bh6 28.Bc4 Bb7 29.Be3, or 26...Rb4 27.Qh5+ Bh6 28.Be3) 27.Qh5+ Bh6 28.Be3+-. The game continued **26.Qd3+ f5 27.Qxb5** and White won. Yankovsky - Chibukhchian, 23rd Metro GM, Los Angeles 2012.

6. White wins the Exchange with **30.Ng6+!** because after **30...hxxg6** it was checkmate with **31.hxxg6+ Kg7** (or 31...Kg8 32.Rh8+!! Kg7 33.Rd7+ Rf7 34.gxf7 with a quick mate to follow) **32.Rd7+ Kxg6 33.Rh6+! Kf5 34.Nd4+ Ke4 35.Qe3**. Hall - Cherkasky, Century West Open, Los Angeles 2013.

7. Black exploits the position of White's Queen and Rook, winning material with **25...Rf5! 26.Nxf5** Worse is 26.Nxe6 Rxe5 27.Nxd8 Rxe3-+. **26...Rxf5 27.Qxf5** White can't escape by either 27.Qd4 Nb3

28.Qc3 d4 or 27.Qc3 d4. **27...exf5+-** and Black won in 40 moves. Peters - Abrahamyan, Century West Open, Los Angeles 2013.

8. White played just one move and Black resigned: **25.e5 0-1**, Amanov - Yankovsky, 23rd Metro GM, Los Angeles 2012. The threat is 26.Bd5+ Kh8 27.Qxf8 mate. Even interposing with 26...Bf7, it's also a mate after 27.fxxg6 hxxg6 28.Qxxg6+ Kh8 29.Qh6+ Kg8 30.Be4 Nxe4 31.Nf5+-. So if Black plays 25...dxe5 then White answers with 26.Bd5+ and carries out the threat.

If Black tries to stop the threat with 25...Bf7, then 26.Bd5! Anyway! This threatens 27.fxxg6, and forces a breakthrough after 26...g5 27.e6 Be8 28.Rcd1 Qc7 29.h4 gxh4 30.g5+-.

9. Houdini finds a decisive breakthrough with **34.g4!** threatening Ne7, winning material or mating.

For example 34...Rd1 35.Ne7+, and now 35...Rxe7 36.fxe7 Rxf1+ 37.Kg2 Qd7 38.Kxf1 and White consolidates after 38...c5 39.Ke1 Qe6 (if 39...Bc6 then 40.Qxe5; if 39...Bxe4 then 40.Qxe5 Bc6 41.Rf3! ready for 42.gxxh5 41...h4 42.Rf6+-) 40.Rd3. And in this line, if 35...Kf8 then 36.Qh6+ Ke8 37.Qh8+ Kd7 38.Rxd1+ wins.

If 34...Rxf6 then 35.Nh6+ Kg7 36.Rxf6 Qxf6 (Checking doesn't spell relief: 36...Rd1+ 37.Kg2 Rd2+ (or 37...Qd2+ 38.Qxd2 Rxd2+ 39.Rf2) 38.Kg3 Rd3+ 39.Kh4 and the King is safe.) 37.Nf5+ wins.

Less good, but still winning, is 34.Ne3 (with the idea of 35.Rxh5) 34...Rdd6 35.Rxh5 Rxf6 36.Nf5 Rxf5 37.exf5 Qxxg5 38.Rxxg5, and White is up the Exchange with active Rooks.

Also strong but wrong is 34.Ne7+ which forces 34...Rdxe7 (not 34...Rexe7 35.Rxh5) 35.fxe7 and White is also up a Rook for a Bishop.

Instead, the game continued **34.Nh6+ Kf8 35.Ng4** and was later drawn. Shen - Chibukhchian, 23rd Metro GM, Los Angeles 2012.

# UPCOMING EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**\*\*Please see [uschess.org](http://uschess.org) for the complete TLA for each event.**

## February 23-24

### Deus Ex Machina

**Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 6**

(Co sponsor: Harold C. Valery, MD, INC.) Open (6SS, G/60, No time delay), **11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025**, 2nd fl. 2 sections: **OPEN / U1800 EF:** \$70 at the door (\$65 if received by 2/22); \$60 LACC members (\$55 if received by 2/22); Siblings 1/2, \$40 new LACC members, Free new LACC Life members! 20% off EF for each friend you bring in. **Reg.: Sat 10-11:30 am. Rds.:** 12, 2, 4 pm each day. Byes: Up to three ½-point byes available. 1-Day option I: Play 1 day- no 1/2 pt byes- 1/2 EF. 1-Day option II: Play 1 day & receive three 1/2 pt byes- full EF. Prizes: \$\$ 1,500 Cash & Gift cards (b/45, 50% Guaranteed). 1st-3rd \$400-200-75 U2200: \$125. U1800: \$200-100; U1600: \$100-50-\$25; U1400: \$100-50; U1200/unrated: \$75. **Ent:** LACC, Box 251774, LA, CA 90025. **Info:** Mick Bighamian: Cell (310) 795-5710; Mick@LACchessClub.com or www.LACchessClub.com. Parking: Free street Parking; or building basement.

## March 2-3

### Southern California Super States Scholastics 2013 Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

**A State Championship Event!**

**Hyatt Regency, 24500 Town Center Dr., Valencia, CA 91355.** Free parking! Main Event: Trophies to top 10 players in all sections and to top 5 school and club teams in all K-1, K-3, K-6 sections. Top 3 teams in K-8 and K-12 sections. Medals to others. Sat., 3/2 Only: K-6 U500 (5SS, G/30, 10-11:30-1-2:15- 3:30). Sun., 3/3 Only: K-1 U200 & K-3 U300: 5SS,

G/30, 10-11:30-1-2:15-3:30 Sat. & Sun. 3/02-03: All other sections. K-1 Champ: 6SS, G/60, Rds: 9:30-12:30-3:30 Sat; 9:30-12-3 Sun. K-3 U600, K-6 U800, K-8 U800, K-12 U1200: 6x2SS – Six double-rounds – G/30, Rds. Sat 9:30-12:30-30, Sun 9-12-3. K-3 Champ, K-6 Champ, K-8 Champ, K-12 Champ: 6SS, G/80, Rds: 9-12:10-3:20 each day. **EF:** 1-day Sections: \$37 by 2/15, \$47 by 2/22, \$57 by 3/01, \$67 day of event by 8:30am. 2-day Sections: \$47 by 2/15, \$57 by 2/22, \$67 by 3/1, \$77 day of event by 8:30am. **Ent:** Calif Youth Chess League, 25405 Via Nautica, Valencia, CA 91355, or online **superstates.cycl.org**. **HR:** \$109, (888)421-1442, mention Super States. Request 4-page flyer: coachjay@cycl.org. NS, NC, W.

## March 8-10 or 9-10

### 20th annual

### Western Class

### Championships

**Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points:  
100 (Enhanced)**

**Chess Magnet School Junior  
Grand Prix!**

**Note new time control and round 4 time.** 5SS, 40/110, SD/1, d5 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/75, d5), **Sheraton Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Rd., Agoura Hills, CA 91301.** Free parking. \$\$20,000 based on 230 paid entries (re-entries, Class E count as half entries), minimum \$16,000 (80% each prize) guaranteed. In 7 sections. **Master (over 2199):** \$2000-1000-500-300, clear or tiebreak winner \$100 bonus, top U2300 \$800-400. FIDE. **Expert (2000-2199):** \$1500-800-400-200. **Class A (1800-1999):** \$1500-800-400-200. **Class B (1600-1799):** \$1500-800-400-200. **Class C (1400-1599):** \$1400-700-400-200. **Class D (1200-1399):** \$1200-600-300-200. **Class E (1000-1199):** \$600-300-200-100, trophies to top U1000, U800, U600, Unr. **Rated players may play up one section.**

Top 6 sections **EF:** \$115 online at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) by 3/6, \$120 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 3/6, 3-day \$118, 2-day \$117 mailed by 2/27, \$130 online until 2 hours before game or at site. Class E EF: all \$50 less than above. GMs free, \$100 deducted from prize. Unofficial ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. No checks at site; credit cards OK. **SCCF memb. (\$18, jr \$10) required for rated Southern CA residents.** **HR:** \$95-95, 818-707-1220, reserve by 2/22 or rate may increase. Questions: [chesstour.com](http://chesstour.com), 845-496-9658, Director@Chess.US. **Ent:** [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) or Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577.

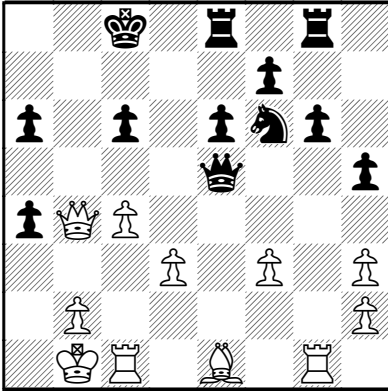
## April 26-28 or 27-28

### SCCF Western Pacific Open Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 60 Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

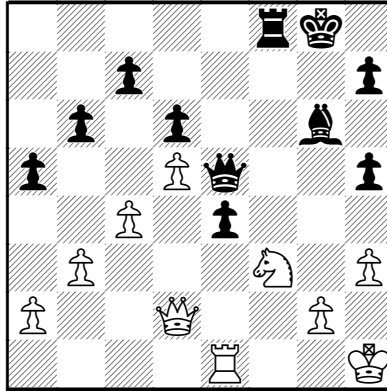
5SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75, d/5). **Radisson LAX, 6225 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.** Prizes: \$10,000 b/165, 80% of each prize guaranteed! 5 sections. **Open:** \$1700-750-400-300-200, U2400 400, U2200 700-300-200. FIDE. **Premier (under 2000):** \$750-300-200-100. **Amateur (Under 1800):** \$750-300-200-100. Reserve (Under 1600): \$750-300-200-100. **Booster (Under 1400/unrated):** \$400-200-100, U1200 150, Unr 150. (Unrated may win Unrated prizes only.) **EF:** \$99 by 03/10, \$105 by 04/01 \$109 at door. GM/IM free, \$99 from prize. **Booster (U1400) section EF:** \$80 by 03/10, \$87 by 04/01, \$95 door. Re-entry \$60 in all sections. **3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 6 pm**, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. **2-day schedule: Reg ends Sat 10 am**, rds. Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. All: Half point byes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd 3. **SCCF membership (\$18, \$13 jrs [or \$3 no magazine jr version] required for rated Southern Californians.)** **HR:** \$99-99, 1-(800) 333-3333, code Metropolitan, reserve by **March 10th.** Parking \$11/day. **Info:** [info@metrochessla.com](mailto:info@metrochessla.com). Web site, Online entry: **metrochessla.com**. **Ent:** Metropolitan Chess, PO Box 25112, Los Angeles, CA 90025-0112. \$15 service charge for refunds. ♚

# FINAL POINTS

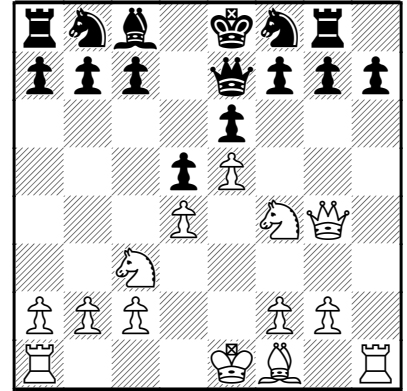
We hope you have enjoyed this issue. Since there are three months until the next one, here is another quiz page. **Watch out for those last two**, they just might be a lot of work. These positions are all from recent games by Southern California players. Many thanks to our organizers, directors and players! And keep submitting those scoresheets! See page 49 for solutions. - Ed.



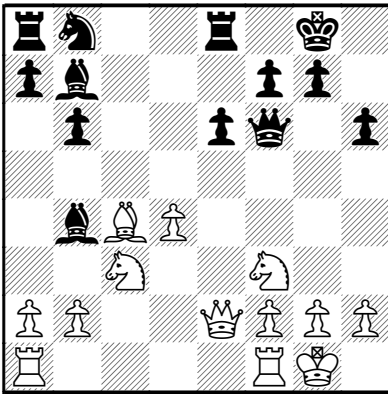
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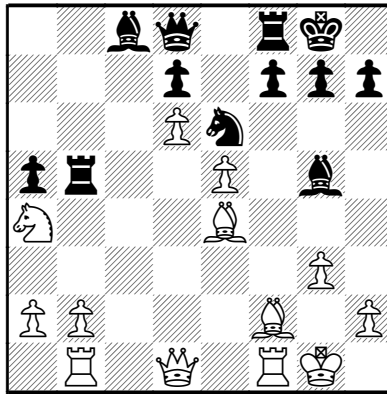
2. Black to Play



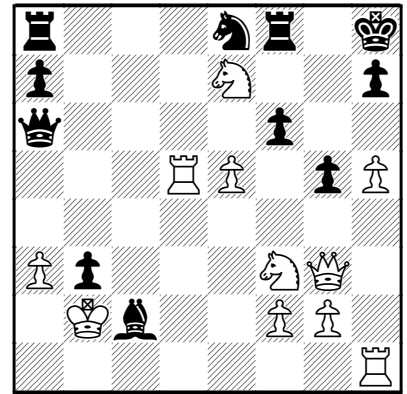
3. White to Play



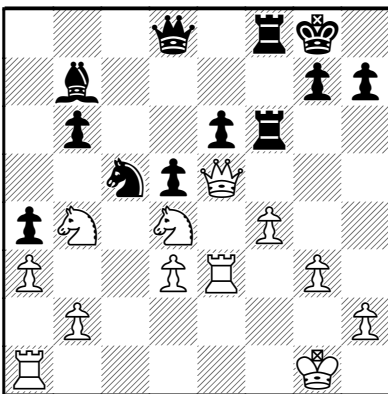
4. White to Play



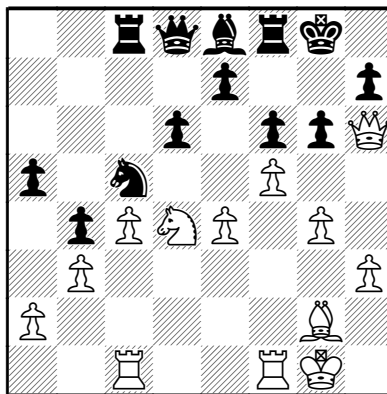
5. White to Play



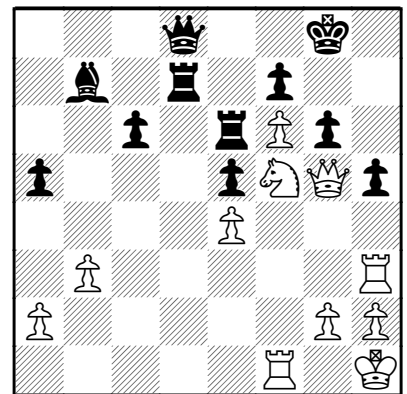
6. White to Play



7. Black to Play

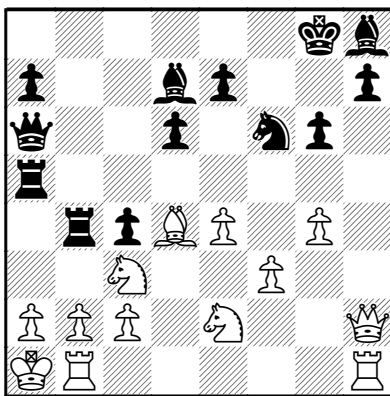


8. White to Play

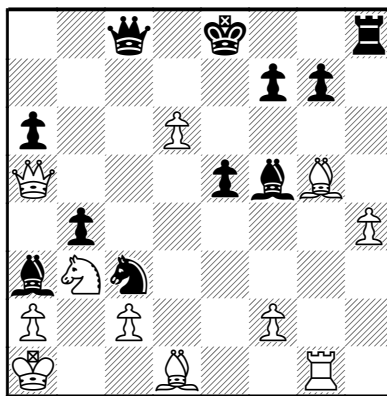


9. White to Play

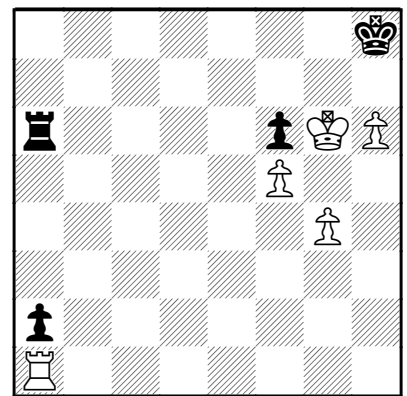
# OUTSIDE SHOTS!



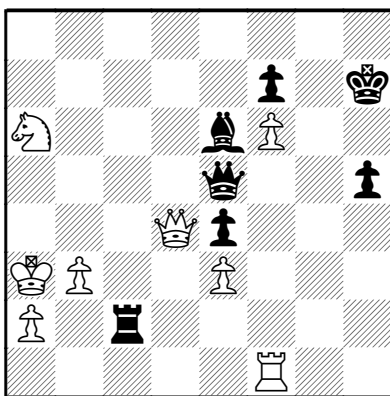
1. Black to Play



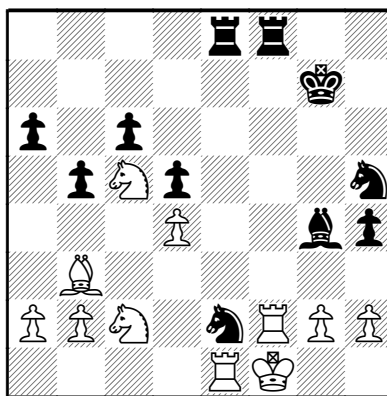
2. Black to Play



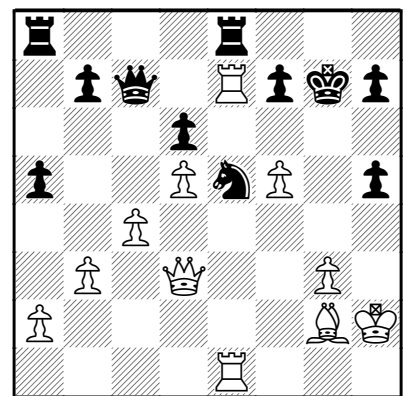
3. White to Play



4. Black to Play



5. Black to Play



6. White to Play