

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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Road Trip

by Eric Most & Andrew Samuelson

MAPQUEST WILL TELL YOU that it takes $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours to drive from Richmond to Parsippany, New Jersey. This is a lie. I hadn't planned on playing the Amateur Team East, but I couldn't refuse when Rodney Flores contacted me with a lineup competitive for top honors. The Virginia Assassins, as we named ourselves, consisted of Daniel Miller, Andrew Samuelson, me, and Rodney Flores: average rating 2177. We set our sights on the tournament with the intention of winning, but first we had to get there.

Friday started early for Daniel and Rodney, who had to drive from Chesapeake to Richmond to Annandale to collect Andy and me. Once our team was assembled, we drove into DC and Baltimore, only to get slammed by unending stop-and-go traffic. So we did what any group of dedicated chess players would do: solved mate-in-three exercises and discussed our favorite sections of *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual* (of which Daniel claimed to have memorized every position).

We finally arrived Friday evening and Rodney met up with some friends from New York. Later that night he reported back that Andy and I had reverted to class A, since "chess players from Virginia are all 250 points overrated." Needless to say, Andrew and I were disappointed to lose our master and expert titles, but on the whole we remained optimistic about our team's chances.

IN THE FIRST ROUND we faced a team from the Kenilworth Chess Club in nearby Parsippany and won 3-1. Daniel's game was the only one of note; he played the White side of the Cochrane Gambit (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nxf7!) and obtained a tremendous pawn wedge. Unfortunately, he pushed too hard for the win and stumbled in time pressure.

In round two we moved down a board(?) and played "White Boy Lost in the Hood", led by Alex Barnett. This time Daniel was on the Black side of the Cochrane and easily obtained an advantage after Barnett made a theoretical error. He soon won and we swept the match 4-0.

Sunday was critical because it would position us to fight for first place on Monday and we knew we would have to play strong teams. In round three we played a team led by senior master Thomas Bartell and won, $2\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Daniel obtained a nice edge on the White side of the c3 Sicilian and agreed to a draw, Andy stubbornly (and successfully) defended an inferior position to eventually reach even a slightly



better ending before the game petered out to a draw, and I racked up my second miniature win of the tournament. With the team in the lead 2-1, Rodney displayed great team spirit by granting a draw from a superior position to clinch the match.

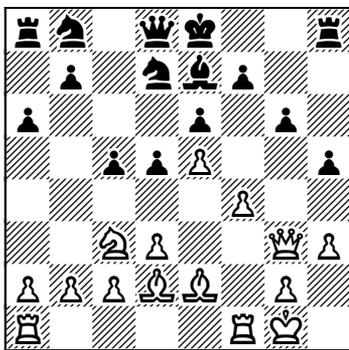
Speaking of teamwork, my game followed a line Daniel had helped me prepare the night before.

Eric Most - Brian Meinders

Caro Kann

1 e4 c6 [I'm not sure how I knew I'd be facing it, but the night before this game I asked Daniel if he had an antidote to the Caro-Kann. He showed me the basic ideas in the Two Knights variation.] **2 Nc3 d5 3 Nf3 Bg4 4 h3 Bxf3 5 Qxf3 e6 6 d3 Nf6 7 Be2 Be7** [This was not among the possibilities that Daniel showed me: 7...Nbd7 8 Qg3 g6 9 O-O Bg7 10 Bf4 Qb6 In my view this position is unclear, but Black has scored well in the database; and 7...Bd6 8 O-O Nbd7 9 g3 O-O 10 Qg2 Here White will expand on the kingside and attack with moves like f4 and perhaps e5. At the board I figured that 7...Be7 must be inferior because unlike Nbd7 and Bd6, it does not cover e5. Therefore, I can play 8 e5 and gain pressure for free.] **8 e5 Nfd7 9 Qg3** [The point; 9...0-0 is not possible due to 10 Bh6, so Black is forced to weaken the kingside.] **9...g6 10 O-O a6?** [superfluous] **11 f4** [the beginning of a plan to break through on the light squares] **11...h5?** [weakening g6] **12 Bd2 c5?!** [I was unsure of how to punish Black for the greedy 12...Qb6+, but the computer refutes this with the technical line 13 Kh1 Qxb2 14 Rab1 Qxc2 (14...Qa3 15 Rxb7) 15 Be1! Nc5 16 Rf2 d4 17 Bf1! h4 18 Qf3 trapping the queen.] **13 Nxd5!**

13...Bh4? [There are two main possibilities for Black: 13...exd5 14 e6 Nf6 15 exf7+ Kxf7 16 f5 gxf5 17 Rxf5 Nc6 18 Qg5! The computer overvalues material and fails to appreciate the strength of the coming attack on Black's exposed King, but I believe



White must be better here; and 13...h4 14 Qf3 exd5 15 c4! (15 Qxd5 Nc6 16 Qe4 also looks good) 15...Nb6 (15...Nc6 16 cxd5 Nd4 17 Qf2 with a large attack) 16 f5 dxc4 17 fxg6 fxg6 and again Black's position appears suspect.] **14 Nc7+ Kf8** [if 14...Qxc7 15 Qxh4 Nc6 16 c3 White holds the bishop pair and a clear extra pawn.] **15 Nxe6+ fxe6 16 Qxg6 Qe8 17 Qe4 1-0** Black is helpless against the threat of f5.

Sunday evening we faced the tough task of capturing 2½ points from "Team Firejel", who had IM Dave Vigorito and 2450-rated FM Sandy Joshi on boards 1 and 2, respectively. Daniel played the Black side of the popular and extremely complex Botvinnik variation (1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 e6 5 Bg5 dxc4 6 e4 b5 7 e5 h6



8 Bh4 g5 9 Nxg5 hxg5 10 Bxg5 Nbd7 11 g3 Bb7 12 Bg2 Qb6 13 exf6 O-O-O 14 O-O). The evaluation of this opening seems to change day by day. Unfortunately, Daniel played into a variation that IM Vigorito literally wrote the book on (14...c5 15 d5 b4 16 Na4 Qb5 17 a3 exd5 18 axb4 cxb4 19 Bf4), and only a move or two later his position was lost. Apparently it is crucial for Black to continue 19...Bh6! (Check out Giri-Smeets and Nakamura-Smeets for two recent examples of this system.)

Things looked better on board 2. Andy pulled through and scored a draw, putting us on track for winning the match if Rodney and I could beat our lower-rated opponents. While Rodney seemed to be collecting extra pawns with ease, my game was not going as well. I horribly mishandled an isolated queen's pawn position and ended up much worse in the middlegame. Luckily, I was able to trade down into a rook and bishop endgame where I outplayed my opponent. Rodney promoted one of his extra pawns, and two days into the tournament we enjoyed a perfect 4-0 score.

In round 5 we faced another undefeated team led by IM Marc Arnold. The highlight of this match was Andy consistently outplaying his master opponent on board 2, setting us up with a great winning chance of the match.

Josef Friedman – Andy Samuelson Sicilian

Notes by Andrew Samuelson

Our team was stronger on the bottom two boards, but they had 2500+ IM Marc Arnold on board 1, so it seemed that the match might well be decided by my game. **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+** [I had worried about meeting this line, as it can be difficult for Black to get any winning chances in many of the main variations. I also felt I was underprepared for it, as I spent most of my prep time on 3 d4] **3...Bd7 4 Bxd7+ Qxd7 5 O-O Nf6 6 Re1 Nc6 7 c3 e6 8 d3** [Compared to 8 d4—eg, 8...cxd4 9 cxd4 d5 10 e5 Ne4 11 Nbd2 Nxd2 12 Bxd2 Be7—this is a less popular option, but not bad. White delays advancing in the center for a little while.] **8...Be7 9 Nbd2 O-O 10 Nf1 b5** [If he's going to delay d4, then I felt I should expand on the queenside.] **11 Ng3 b4 12 d4** [Finally; White will have the classical e4/d4 pawn center, but Black's smaller e6/d6 duo is typical for the Sicilian and controls a number of key squares.] **12...bxc3 13 bxc3 cxd4 14 cxd4 Rac8 15 Bd2 Qc7** [I wanted to clear d7 for my knight and possibly use the c-file.] **16 Qa4!**? [The queen seems a bit oddly placed here. Usually she belongs on the kingside after White plays e4-e5] **16...d5 17 Rac1** [threatening Ne5 and forcing my queen off the c-file] **17...Qd7** [Now White can't play e5 (18 e5? Nxe5!) so either I get to take on e4 or he must capture on d5. Either way, White is left with an isolated d-pawn.] **18 exd5** [18 Bg5 dxe4 19 Bxf6 Bxf6 20 Nxe4 Be7] **18... Qxd5** [18...Nxd5 19 Ne4 Nb6 20 Qa6 Nxd4 21 Nxd4 Rxc1 22 Rxc1 Qxd4 23 Qxa7 Qxe4 24 Qxe7 Nd5] **19 Rc4!** [This just encourages Nf6-d7-b6, which



helps me get play on the queenside. 19 Bg5 was better, eg 19...Qa5 20 Qxa5 Nxa5 21 Nf5 Bb4 22 Bd2 Ba3 23 Rxc8 Rxc8 24 Bxa5 exf5∞] **19...Nd7 20 Qa6 Nb6 21 Rcc1** [I calculated for a long time here, trying to find a way to take d4 for free. Eventually I decided I would have to give up a7 for it, and try to prove that his passed pawn on a2 is actually a weakness rather than a strength. By now, it had already become apparent from our positions in the other games that I would probably need to win.] **21...Nxd4 22 Nxd4 Qxd4 23 Be3 Qa4** [This forces the exchange of queens, after which a2 is weak and I have chances to win it.] **24 Qxa4 Nxa4 25 Bxa7 Nc3 26 Rc2 Nb5** [forcing the exchange of rooks so that I can take the c-file] **27 Rxc8 Rxc8 28 Be3 Ra8** [28...Ba3, blocking the a-pawn, was possibly a bit more precise, eg 29 Rd1 Nc3 30 Rd2 Nd5∓] **29 Rb1 Nc3 30 Rb3** [Here I can already take the a-pawn: 30...Nxa2 31 Ne4 Nb4 32 g3 Nd5 ∓ However, I was worried about getting my knight stuck and I figured the pawn wouldn't run away.] **30...Nd5 31 Nf1 f5** [avoiding back-rank tricks and starting to activate my kingside pawn majority] **32 Rb2 Bf6 33 Rc2 Nc3 34 Bd2** [Now I should probably have taken the pawn: 34...Rxa2 35 Rxc3 Rxd2 36 Rc8+ Rd8 37 Rc6 Kf7 etc. However, I was uncertain I could win the resulting 4 vs 3 endgame, so I tried to get more out of the position.] **34...Ne2+ 35 Kh1 Rb8?!** [Now he starts digging out of the bind. 35...Nd4 36 Rb2 h5 was more promising.] **36 g3 Nd4 37 Rc4 e5** [continuing to mobilize the kingside pawns and preparing to bring my king to the center] **38 Kg2 Kf7 39 a4 Rb3 40 Be3** [White should be okay after 40 a5 Ra3 41 Ne3] **40...Ke6 41 Rc5 Ra3 42 Rc4?!** [42 Ra5 was necessary and, at the very least, it would be hard for me to make progress.] **42...Kd5 43 Rb4 Ra2 44 Nd2 Nc2 45 Rb5+ Ke6 46 Rb6+ Kd7** [I win the a-pawn, but it's still difficult

Virginia Cup



THE VIRGINIA CUP IS AN ONGOING COMPETITION in which players accumulate points based on their performance at various designated tournaments throughout the year. Thus the Cup encourages participation, since the more tournaments you enter, the more opportunities you'll have to garner points.

After three events (the Hampton Sports Festival, the 2011 Virginia Open, and the Kingstown Festival), Andrew Rea is leading the Cup standings with 243.4472 points. Larry Larkins is close behind with 241.2356. Richard Skinnell stands third with 180.4128.

The complete list of point holders, as well as rules, prizes, upcoming designated tournaments, and other details about the Cup are either available or forthcoming on the VCF web page, www.vachess.org



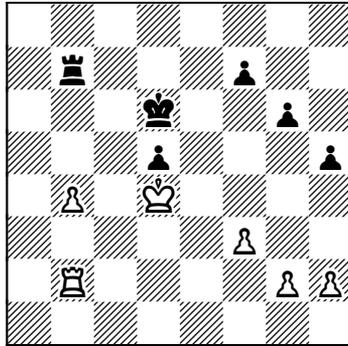
with all the remaining pawns on the same side.] **47 Nf1** [or 47 Nc4 Rxa4 48 Rd6+ Ke7 49 Rc6 e4 ♣] **47...Rxa4** [47...Ne1+ 48 Kh3 Nd3 49 f3 Rxa4 was stronger as his king would be out of play on h3] **48 Rb1 Ra2 49 h4** [Aiming to exchange bishops, although it's not clear whether that really helps White.] **49...h5** [With all the play on one side of the board, 49...Nxe3 didn't seem worthwhile. Typically, the knight is actually quite a good piece in a situation where its inability to cross the board quickly is not so important.] **50 Bg5 Ke6** [or 50...Bxg5 51 hxg5 Ke6 52 Rb6+ Kd5 53 g6 e4 54 Rb7 Ne1+ 55 Kg1 Nf3+ 56 Kg2 Ke6 ♣] **51 Rb6+ Kf7 52 Bxf6 gxf6** [I wasn't too concerned about the doubled pawns as they give my king the g6 square to hide from checks. They can be undoubled later by playing ...f4 under the right circumstances.] **53 Rb1 Kg6 54 Rd1 Ra4 55 Ne3 Nd4** [55...Rd4 56 Rc1 Nxe3+ 57 fxe3 Rd3 58 Kf2 Rd2+ should probably end in a draw. My pawn structure is not so good, and I only have chances because he will be forced to put his king on the first rank.] **56 Nd5** [trying to get counterplay against the f6 pawn] **56...Ra5 57 Nf4+** [I missed this idea completely, but I'm not forced to capture and the position remains advantageous for me.] **57...Kh6 58 Rd2 Rc5 59 Ne2?! Rc2!** [The pure knight endgame should be a win. ^a+3 vs ^a+2 is usually enough even when all the pawns are on the same side of the board. Eventually this ending will result after I play f4 under the right circumstances. He needed to keep the rooks on, although the defense is still difficult.] **60 Rxc2 Nxc2 61 Nc3 Nb4** [played to keep his knight off d5 where it would target f6 and tie down my king.] **62 Kf3 Kg6** [time to reactivate the king] **63 Ke2 Kf7 64 Nd1 Ke6 65 Kf3 Nd5!** [With e4 and f4 coming next, I should be winning. White's pawns will be split or my king will come in.] **66 Nb2** [66 Ne3 e4+ 67 Ke2 Nxe3 68 Kxe3 Ke5 69 f3 Kd5 winning] **66...e4+ 67 Ke2** [67 Kg2 Nb6 68 Nd1 Ke5 69 Nc3 Nd5 ♣] **67...f4 68 Nc4** [68 gxf4 Kf5 69 Kd2 Nxf4 ♣] **68...Nc3+ 69 Ke1 Nb5** [69...Kd5 70 Nb6+ Kc6 ♣] **70 Kd2** [70 gxf4 Kf5 71 Ne3+ Kxf4 ♣] **70...Kf5 71 gxf4 Kxf4 72 Ne3 Nd4 73 Nd5+ Ke5 74 Ne7 Nf3+ 75 Ke3 Nxh4 0-1** My opponent ended up winning his last game to finish the tournament 5-1.

After this game the score was tied at 1-1. That's when things got a little crazy. On board 4 the players entered a time scramble as the control approached. Rodney misread the delay countdown as his opponent's actual time (which was at about 8 seconds) and attempted to claim a win on time. This was entirely not his fault, as the clock display offered virtually no distinction between the delay and the time. The matter sorted itself out and Rodney's opponent was ready to continue playing to the time control when his teammates, in a blatantly improper and illegal manner, interfered with the game by summoning the TD on his behalf. They argued that their man should get an extra two minutes added to his time as a consequence of Rodney's incorrect claim. While this argument would be valid if Rodney's opponent had called the TD himself, every young chess player is taught that



the game is above all between two players. However, the TD failed to uphold this principle; a long, distracting, and sometimes heated debate, Rodney's opponent was awarded the two minutes. Both players were evidently shaken and distracted by the incident. When play resumed, Rodney lost control of the position. About thirty moves later, he lost.

But the player most affected by the whole affair may have been *my* opponent. Not five minutes after the dispute was settled, he failed to play any of three moves that would have clinched a draw—and the match for his team.



Eric Most – Daniel Rohde

Black to Move

54...f6? 55 b5 1-0 Of course, 54...Ra7 and Rc7 both draw because then 55 b5 could be met with a check along the 5th rank followed by 56...Kc7. But 54...Rb5 is even easier, simply blockading the pawn and preventing White from making any progress.

So the Virginia Assassins entered round 6 with 4½ **out of 5**, half a point behind the leading team. The leaders played our round 5 opponents, while we played a talented group from Hunter High School in New York.

[From this point Andy takes over our narrative...]

IN THE LAST ROUND, Eric and Rodney won their games fairly easily against lower rated opponents. However, I horribly misplayed the opening against FM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy. After quickly obtaining a hopeless position, I managed to hold out for quite a while, but eventually suffered my only loss of the tournament. With the score thus 2-1 in our favor, we watched as Daniel eventually reached the following endgame as White against Alec Getz

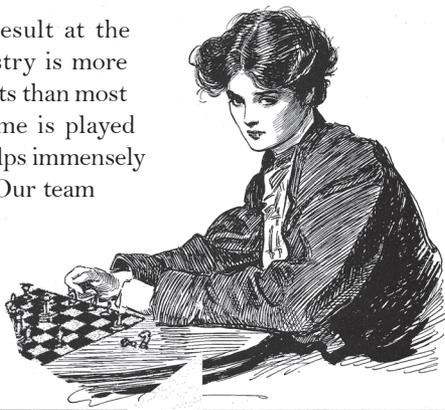




We tied in the group half a point behind, and wound up third on tiebreaks. Of course we also collected the prize for the top Virginia team, as well as a clock for Eric's 6-0 score on board 3. Due to having had so many close matches, we probably wouldn't have won the title on tiebreaks even if the top board match had ended differently, though tying for first would of course have been great.

THE DRIVE HOME WAS AWFUL. It was snowing for much of the trip as we slowly made our way back to Virginia. We managed to return safely, but it was quite late by the time we got home.

We all had a good time and a fine result at the tournament. I think that team chemistry is more important to success in team chess events than most people realize. Even though each game is played individually, having good teammates helps immensely with preparation and staying focused. Our team got along very well and helped one another other a lot, and I think this was a major factor in our success.



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Kingstowne Chess Festival IX:

by Don Millican

Kingstowne Chess Club conducted the 9th edition of its flagship Chess Festival over the weekend of April 16-17 in Alexandria. Eighteen players clashed in the Open section for \$1,000 in guaranteed prizes and fifteen Grand Prix points. International Master Oladapo Adu, of Indian Head, Maryland, finished at the top scoring 3½-½ to take 1st place. Adu has replaced the late GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz. Adu as the man to beat at this tournament. Just behind with 3 points was a 2nd-through-6th-place group comprised of Jared Defibaugh, Frank Gomez, Patrick Ramsey, Andrew Rea & Lawrence Books. (Books & Ramsey also shared the Under 2000 prize.) Joe Faries & Crescencio Burke rounded out the Open prizewinners, sharing top Under 1800.

Seventeen battled in the Amateur (U1800-unr.) section. Bendeguz Offertaler, of Rockville, Maryland, & William Sun, from Centreville, tied for 1st/2nd with 4-1. Heiang Chi Cheung & Sahil Sinha finished half a point behind, with Sinha also picking up U1600. Alex Li won top U1400.

A disappointing Booster (U1600-unr.) section attracted only seven entrees. Parth Chopra scored 4-1 to take 1st place. Kevin Zhang & Aditya Srikanth tied for 2nd/3rd with 3. Robert Teachey took Under 1400.

The Novice (1400-unr.) group, on the other hand, had the largest field with 30 players. Caijun Luo & Jack Jiang, both of Centreville, tied for 1st with 5 points apiece. Kaleb Rice & David Becker trailed by a full point, with Becker also winning Under 1200. Ajit Kadaveru took Under 1000 and Curt Overman was top Unrated.

A near-crisis was averted on day two when a scheduling mix-up had Kingstowne's Tennis Club set to use the Festival's location. Changes in plans by the tennis people and some accommodations by the chess people enabled both events to conclude successfully.

16th annual

Northern Virginia Open

Nov 5-6, 2011

DoubleTree Hotel Dulles Airport – Sterling

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5-SS, Rds 1-3 Game/2, rds 4-5 30/90 SD/1. \$\$2,500 b/90 (top 3 guaranteed): \$570-350-240, top X/A-Unr/B/C/D/U1200 each \$200, top Upset for rd1 \$25, rd2 \$30, rd3 \$35, rd4 \$50. EF \$50, \$60 at site or if recv'd after 10/31, VCF membership req'd for Va residents (\$10 adults, \$5 U19). Reg 8:30-9:45am, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-3:30. One irrevokable ½pt bye allowed, must commit before rd 1. Hotel \$69(!!) until 10/24, 703-230-0077. Direct link for hotel registration as well as directions at www.vachess.org/nova.htm. W, NS, FIDE, JGP. Enter: Michael Atkins, PO Box 6138, Alexandria Va 22306. Make checks to "Virginia Chess".

20 Grand Prix points



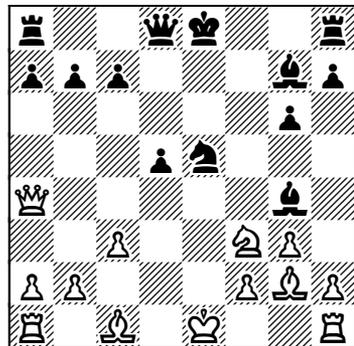
Phil Collier – Dov Gorman
DC Chess League 2011
Dutch

Notes by Dov Gorman

1 d4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 g6 4 Nd2 Bg7 5 e4 fxe4
6 Nxe4 Nxe4 7 Bxe4 d5! [Dynamic play. 7...O-O
was an alternative, eg 8 Ne2 d5 9 Bg2 c6 10 O-O
Bg4 11 h3 Bxe2 12 Qxe2 Bxd4 13 c4 Qd6 14

Bh6 Rf7 15 Qg4 Bg7 16 Qc8+ Rf8 17 Qxb7
Nd7 Tischbierek-Gabriel, 1998] 8 Bg2
Nc6 9 Nf3?! [Ne2 or c3 seem safer. For
example, 9 c3 e5 10 dxe5 Nxe5 11 f4 Bg4
12 Ne2 Nc6 13 Qxd5 Qxd5 14 Bxd5 O-O-O
15 h3 Bxe2 16 Bxc6 Bh5 17 g4 bxc6 18 gxh5
Rhe8+ 19 Kf2 Agdestein-Santo Roman, Lyon 1988; or
9 Ne2 Bf5 10 O-O Qd7 11 c3 e5 12 dxe5 Nxe5 13 Nd4 O-O-O 14 Bg5 Rde8 15
Nxf5 Qxf5 16 Qxd5 c6 17 Qd2 h6 18 Bf4 Nc4 19 Qd1 g5 20 Qh5 1-0 Markos
-Schroll, Austria 2007] 9...Bg4 10 c3 e5 [10...Qd7 is safer and the position may
be roughly even.] 11 dxe5 Nxe5 12 Qa4+? [White overlooked the strong reply.
Black is better developed and the White king is still in the center; he needed to
take extra measures to reduce Black's dynamic opportunities. White could still
hope to consolidate after 12 h3, eg 12...Bxf3 13 Bxf3 c6 14 Bg2 O-O 15 O-O Qb6
16 b3 Qc5 17 Bb2 Summermatter-Vyzmanavin, Bern 1993]

12...b5! 13 Qxb5+ c6 14 Qe2 [White had
to try 14 Qb7 although Black should still
win, eg 14 Qb7 Nd3+ 15 Kd2 O-O 16 Kxd3
Bxf3 17 Bxf3 Rxf3+ 18 Ke2 Qe8+ 19 Be3
or 19 Kf1 Rb8 20 Qxa7 d4 21 cxd4 Rb4.
After the text he loses material.] 14...O-
O 15 Bf4 Nxf3+ 16 Bxf3 Bxf3 17 Qxf3
g5 18 Qg4 gxf4 19 Qe6+ Kh8 20 Qxc6
Qe7+ 21 Kd2 fxg3 22 fxg3 Rf2+ 0-1
White gets mated





James Pinkerton – Macon Shibut

2011 Virginia Open

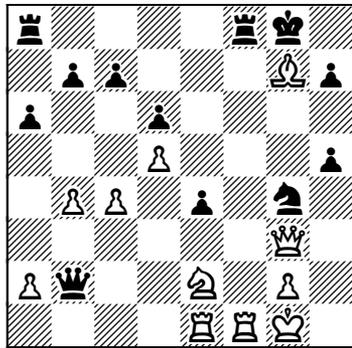
King's Indian

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d6 3 Nc3 g6 4 e4 Bg7 5 Nf3 Bg4 6 Be2 O-O 7 Be3 Nfd7 8 O-O Nc6 9 Rc1 e5 10 d5 Bxf3 11 Bxf3 Nd4 12 Nb5 Nxf3+ 13 Qxf3 f5 14 b4 [White could try 14 c5!? immediatly; 14 Qh3 a6 15 Nc3 Qe7 16 f3 was played in Slipak-Roca, Buenos Aires 1992] 14...a6 15 Nc3 Qh4 [The traditional sort of Kings Indian pawn avalanche, eg 15...f4 16 Bd2 g5, is less without the light square bishops. White's attack would have the greater bite after 17 c5 etc] 16 Qg3 [again maybe 16 c5!?] 16...Qe7 [I was pretty sure I could get an edge by the simple 16...Qxg3 thanks to the tactic 17 fxg3 (17 hxg3 a5 18 a3 f4 ♣) Nf6! 18 exf5 Ng4! 19 Bd2 gxf5 etc., but I wanted to pose White a tough decision by the text move. If he had replied 17 Qf3 I probably would have returned my queen to h4 and gone for the queen trade if it was offered again.] 17 f4? [Better options included 17 Bg5; 17 Qh3; and the aforementioned 17...Qf3. The text loses a pawn.] 17...exf4 18 Bxf4 [There is no choice; 18 Rxf4 Be5 or 18 Qxf4 fxe4 19 Qxe4 Qxe4 20 Nxe4 Rae8 are both even worse.] 18...fxe4 19 Rce1 Qf6 [White cannot recover his pawn because if 20 Nxe4 Qd4+ 21 Kh1 Qxc4 etc. 19...e3!? was also good, putting White's knight is *en pris* and of course 20 Rxe3 would lose the exchange to 20...Bd4] 20 Ne2 Qb2 [targeting the entire queenside] 21 h4 [If 21 Qg4 Black defends comfortably after 21...Ne5 eg 22 Bxe5 Bxe5 23 Qxe4 Qxb4] 21...Ne5 22 h5 gxh5!? [If 22...Nd3 I was worried about 23 hxg6 Nxe1 24 Qh3 but on closer examination it does not appear to be anything for White: 24...hxg6 25 Qe6+ Rf7 26 Rxe1 Rf8—Black's hammerlock on the long diagonal makes it practically impossible for White to carry through his attack.] 23 Bh6 Ng4 24 Bxg7

24...Rxf1+!

Part bluff, part inspiration. I hoped that he would reject 25 Rxf1 out of fear of 25...Qxe2. But that's the bluff part—in fact, I thought White might then manage to kindle up an attack after 26 Bh6, so I actually would have played 25...Qxg7. It would seem that it could only benefit White for me to have traded off the better of my rooks, but Black maintains the upper hand nonetheless. For example, 26 Nf4 Qd4+ 27 Kh1 Rf8 28 Qh4 Qg7 29 Qxh5? Rxf4 wins (30 Rxf4 Qa1+)





25 Kxf1! [But he fell for it, and this is where the inspiration part comes in. I had foreseen a very attractive possibility coming up. My thought in the moment was “Sweet!—but of course it’s just a fantasy which will never actually happen.” The combination relies on White playing the next two moves. But in hindsight, what else can he do? If he doesn’t try to capture e4, he remains two pawns down with a weakened queenside. And so, the “fantasy” variation actually appeared on the board.] **25...Qxg7 26 Nf4 Rf8 27 Rxe4** [Now Black wins by force.] **27...Qa1+ 28 Qe1** [If 28 Re1 Qd4 wins White’s knight; and if 28 Ke2 Qxa2+ (strictly speaking there is no need to capture this superfluous pawn, but it can be done with repeated tempo gain and this is how I would have played, ‘just in case’) 29 Kf1 Qa1+ 30 Ke2 Qb2+ 31 Kf1 Qc1+ 32 Ke2 Qc2+ White loses his rook: 33 Kf3 Qd3+; or 33 Ke1 Qxe4+] **28...Rxf4+! 29 Rxf4 Ne3+ 0-1** in view of 30 Kf2 Qxe1+ 31 Kxe1 Nxe2+ and Nxf4

CALLAGHAN GAMES

Our brief obituary of former state champion Richard Callaghan (VIRGINIA CHESS 2011/#2, p 8) prompted Rusty Potter to dig into his archives where he found several old games between the two of them. -ed

Richard Callaghan - Rusty Potter 1963 Virginia Closed Nimzoindian

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e6 3 d4 Bb4 4 e3 c5 5 a3 Bxc3+ 6 bxc3 d5 7 Nf3 Nc6 8 Bd3 O-O 9 O-O cxd4 10 cxd4 b6 11 Bb2 Bb7 12 Qe2 dxc4 13 Bxc4 Na5 14 Ba2 Bd5 15 Bc3 Nb7 16 Ne5 Bxa2 17 Rxa2 Qd5 18 Rc2 Nd6 19 Bb4 Rfc8 20 Rfc1 h6 21 Bxd6 Rxc2 22 Qxc2 Qxd6 23 Qc6 Qxc6 24 Rxc6 Nd5 25 e4 Ne7 26 Rc7 Kf8 27 g3 f6 28 Nc6 Nxc6 29 Rxc6 Rd8 30 Rc7 Rxd4 31 Rxa7 Rxe4 32 Rb7 Re1+ 33 Kg2 Rb1 34 a4 e5 35 a5 Ra1 36 axb6 g5 37 Ra7 Rb1 38 b7 Ke8 39 Ra8+ Kf7 40 b8Q Rxb8 41 Rxb8 Kg6 42 Kf1 Kg7 43 Ke2 Kg6 44 Rb4 Kg7 45 g4 Kg6 46 Rb6 Kg7 47 Ke3 Kg6 48 Ke4 h5 49 h3 h4 50 Ra6 Kg7 51 Kf5 Kf7 52 Ra7+ Ke8 53 Kxf6 Kf8 54 Ra8mate 1-0

Richard Callaghan - Rusty Potter Virginia vs North Carolina team match 1967 Tarrasch

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 c5 3 g3 e6 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Bg2 Be7 6 O-O O-O 7 d4 cxd4 8 Nxd4 d5 9 cxd5 exd5 10 b3 Be6 11 Bb2 Rc8 12 Rc1 a6 13 e3 Qd7 14 Na4 Nxd4 15 Qxd4 Rxc1 16 Rxc1 b5 17 Nc5 Bxc5 18 Qxc5 Ne4 19 Qd4 Nf6 20 Qf4 Rc8 21 Rxc8+ Qxc8 22 Qg5 h6 23 Qf4 Qc2 24 Qb8+ Kh7 25 Bxf6 Qd1+ 26 Bf1 Bh3 0-1

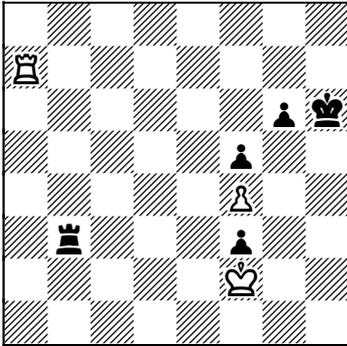


Rusty Potter - Richard Callaghan

1968 UVa Open

Petroff

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d3 Nc6 4 g3 g6 5 Bg2 Bg7 6 O-O O-O 7 c3 a5 8 d4 d6 9 dxe5 dxe5 10 Qe2 b6 11 Nbd2 Ba6 12 Nc4 Qe7 13 b3 a4 14 Bg5 Na5 15 Nfd2 h6 16 Be3 Rad8 17 f4 h5 18 fxe5 Ng4 19 Bf4 Qc5+ 20 Kh1 axb3 21 axb3 Bxe5 22 h3 Bxf4 23 gxf4 Rxd2 24 Qxd2 Nxb3 25 Qd5 Qxd5 26 exd5 Bxc4 27 hxg4 Bxf1 28 Rxf1 hxg4 29 Rb1 Nd2 30 Rb4 Re8 31 d6 cxd6 32 Rxb6 Nf3 33 Bxf3 gxf3 34 Rxd6 Re3 35 Kg1 Rxc3 36 Kf2 Kg7 37 Rd5 Kf6 38 Ra5



Kg7 39 Rb5 Ra3 40 Rd5 Rb3 41 Rc5 Kf6 42 Ra5 Ke6 43 Ra6+ Around here the scoresheet is messed up scoresheet. The continuation was *something like* 43...Ke7 44 Ra8 f5 45 Ra7+ Kf6 46 Ra6+ Kg7 47 Ra7+ Kh6 48 Ra8 Rc3 49 Ra7 Rb3 50 Ra8 Rc3 51 Ra7

In any case, this was indeed the position after White's 51st move. 51...Kh5 52 Ra6 Rd3 53 Rb6 Ra3 54 Rc6 Kg4 55 Rxg6+ Kxf4 56 Rg8 Ra2+ 57 Kf1 Rg2 58 Rb8

Ra2 59 Rc8 Re2 60 Rb8 Ra2 61 Rc8 Rd2 62 Rb8 Re2 63 Ra8 Re4 64 Kf2 Rb4 65 Ra7 Rb2+ 66 Kf1 f2 67 Ra3 Kg4 68 Rc3 f4 69 Ra3 Rc2 70 Rb3 Ra2 71 Rc3 Kf5 72 Rb3 Ke4 73 Rc3 Rd2 74 Rb3 Kd4 75 Rf3 Rd1+ 76 Kxf2 Ke4 77 Ra3 Rh1 78 Rb3 Rh2+ 79 Kf1 Rd2 80 Ra3 Kf5 81 Rb3 Kg4 82 Ra3 f3 83 Ra8 ½-½

Richard Callaghan - Rusty Potter

1968 Virginia Team Championship

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 d6 5 Bb5 Bd7 6 Bxc6 Bxc6 7 d3 Bg7 8 O-O e6 9 Qe1 b5 10 f5 Nf6 11 Qh4 b4 12 Ne2 exf5 13 exf5 O-O 14 Bg5 d5 15 Ne5 Qd6 16 Bf4 Nh5 17 Nxc6 Nxf4 18 Ne7+ Qxe7 19 Qxe7 Rfe8 20 Qxe8+ Rxe8 21 Nxf4 Bxb2 22 Rae1 Bd4+ 23 Kh1 Re3 24 Nh5 Kf8 25 Rxe3 Bxe3 26 Nf6 d4 27 Ne4 c4 28 f6 Bd5 29 Rf5 Be6 30 Rb5 Ke8 31 Rxb4 cxd3 32 cxd3 Bxa2 33 Ra4 Bb1 34 Nc5 Bg5 35 Rb4 Bxd3 36 Rb8mate 1-0





Book Reviews

by Dov Gorman

MASTERING CHESS STRATEGY, by GM Johan Hellsten
Paperback, 496 pages, Everyman Chess 2010. List price \$29.95

Let's start with the bottom line: This book is highly recommended for any improving 1600-2400 player. It contains almost 500 pages of well-thought narrative and approximately 350 examples to help develop the reader's positional and strategic understanding.

The famous Polish grandmaster Savielly Tartakover described the difference between strategy and tactics as: "Tactics is knowing what to do when there is something to do. Strategy is knowing what to do when there is nothing to do." Strategic thinking in the context of chess is associated with a playing according to a long-term plan or plans. This aspect of the game is a major differentiator between playing levels. Typically, a player's level of play evolves from learning the basic rules of the game to finding tactical opportunities. There are numerous books about tactics and combinational play. However, there are only a few books dealing with middle game strategy, and *Mastering Chess Strategy* attempts to close the gap.

Mastering Chess Strategy addresses several key questions, including: What are the elements of strategy? How does a player select one plan over another? What is the relationship between the position of the pieces to an effective strategy? What is the impact of the pawn structure on planning? What are effective techniques to defend a position? Which exchanges will improve our position?

The book is organized logically and is easy to follow. The author introduces each main topic and then uses a combination of narrative and examples to demonstrate the finer points. The book includes training exercises for the reader to test his acquired knowledge.

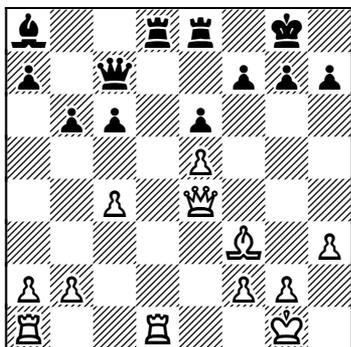
Here's an example from the book that I particularly enjoyed:

Anatoly Karpov - Joel Lautier

Biel 1992

Slav

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e3 e6 5 Nf3 Nbd7 6 Qc2 Bd6 7 Be2 O-O 8 O-O
Re8 9 Rd1 Qe7 10 h3 b6 11 e4 Nxe4 12 Nxe4 dxe4 13 Qxe4 Bb7 14 Bf4 Rad8
15 Bxd6 Qxd6 16 Ne5 Nxe5 17 dxe5 Qc7 18 Bf3 Ba8**



White is playing for an advantage. How does he improve his position? Which exchanges are favorable for him? Karpov's answer to these questions focuses on Black's passive bishop.

19 Rxd8! Rxd8 20 Rd1 Rxd1+ 21 Bxd1 Qd8
22 Bf3 Qd2 23 b3 Qxa2 24 b4 Qa1+ 25 Kh2
Qa6 26 Qd4 Qc8 27 c5! bxc5 28 Qxc5 a6 29
Qe7 g6 30 h4! h5 31 Kg3! Qb7 32 Qxb7 Bxb7
 Although a pawn down, White has the more active king and better bishop (Black's pawns are all on light squares!), which eventually enabled

him to obtain a winning outside passed pawn. **33 Kf4 Kf8 34 Kg5 Ke7 35 Be4 Ba8**
36 f3 Bb7 37 g4 Ba8 38 gxh5 gxh5 39 f4 Bb7 40 Bf3 Ba8 41 Kxh5 1-0

Swedish Grandmaster Johan Helsten has produced a work that will benefit players who want to take their game to the next level. While many students of chess focus on studying tactics and openings as a formula for improvement, strategy and positional play are the foundation for understanding chess in a deeper level.

THE SCOTCH GAME, by Yelena Dembo & Richard Palliser
 Paperback, 381pps, Everyman Chess 2011. List price \$28.95.

The Scotch game has enjoyed a revival ever since Gary Kasparov endorsed it in the 1990's. While the Ruy Lopez remains the most popular response to 1...e5 at the highest levels, the Scotch is an excellent alternative, adopted on a regular basis by young elite GMs like Carlsen, Radjabov and Nepomniachtchi. As such, new ideas have been discovered, making this opening a topical weapon.

The Scotch Game is a very ambitious work. While many opening books tend to be in the neighborhood of 200 pages, *The Scotch Game* is almost twice that size. Although the authors introduce many good ideas, I find fault with the book in a couple of areas. Some of the concepts are presented repetitively, and a few of the included example games are by weaker players. And while this book might serve well for experienced Scotch practitioners who want an up-to-date source on the development and direction of theory, this is probably not the book for you if you are looking to learn the opening, or want a comprehensive reference resource on the Scotch.

As an instance, in focusing on the modern approach to playing this opening, Dembo and Palliser ignore the variation 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Bb4 altogether. Considering that this was the main line for decades, and remains a rich variation, I consider this a significant and disappointing omission.



The modern (ie, Kasparov's) approach encompasses the Mieses variation (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nxc6 bxc6 6 e5 Qe7 7 Qe2 Nd5 8 c4) and the Classical variation (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Bc5). I find the coverage uneven. In some places, the authors introduce very long (and tiring) variations. In others, the discussion is too light. For example, White gets a slightly better endgame after 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Bc5 5 Nxc6 Qf6 6 Qf3 Qxf3 7 gxf3 dxc6 8 Be3 Bxe3 9 fxe3, but the discussion of the position in *The Scotch Game* is very casual. By the same token, the position after 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Qf6 arises in some 1400 games in ChessBase, including 143 games by players rated over 2500 players. As such, it deserves more than just a short paragraph.



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