

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2013 - #4



Alexander Alekhine

(see page 13)

Send in your
**World Open
Games**
and win
Book Prizes
(see page 5)

**Virginia State
Championship**
coming up
Labor Day weekend
(see page 8)

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2013 - Issue #4

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Virginia Chess is published six times per year by the Virginia Chess Federation. Membership benefits (dues: \$10/yr adult; \$5/yr junior under 18) include a subscription to *Virginia Chess*. Send material for publication to the editor. Send dues, address changes, etc to Circulation.

The **Virginia Chess Federation (VCF)** is



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2013 Charlottesville Open

by Ernie Schlich

THE CHARLOTTESVILLE OPEN was played July 13-14. Quentin Moore swept through a strong Open Section with a 5-0 score. Jay Shapiro won the Under 1700 section 4½ points.

Round one kicked off with two upset draws in the Open. VCF President Andy Rea surrendered half a point to Nathan Lohr, and Duy Minh Nguyen drew with Stephen Malott. Duy Minh is part of a family of three young brothers and a sister who visited from Texas. Keith Carson had a very nice tournament, drawing #2-seeded Ruifeng Li (2326 - also from TX) and beating #5-seeded Franco Jose (2155) in round 4. Unfortunately for Kieth, he was also on the other end of an upset that put #28 Nathan Lohr (1757) into the prize pool.

In the final round, the last remaining undefeated players met on board 1. Moore won a hard fought game against Adithya Balasubramanian. The loss dropped Adithya into a tie for 2nd-4th with Advait Patel and Justin Lohr. Patel beat Alex Draifinger in the final round while Lohr topped Larry Larkins in a time forfeit where Larry may have had a won game. Other Open prizewinners included Duy Minh Nguyen & Alex Draifinger (=5th-6th); Sean Senft (top class A); and Jonathan Yu, Nathan Lohr & Gerardo Alcantara (= top B).

There were even more upsets in the first round of the Under 1700 Section. #3-seeded Tim Harlow could only draw #22 Christie Nolan, while #4 Charles Huffman, #10 Raponyer McClaine and #14 Anh Nhu Nguyen (the sister from the Texas crew) lost to #23 Avijith Rajan, #29 Wesley Kandare and #33 Franklin He, respectively. Both the He boys cashed in this event, and I would not be surprised if they both find themselves in the Open group next year.

Shapiro drew Andrew Mao in the final round on the top board to wrap up the tourney. Mao tied for 2nd-3rd with Avijith Rajan. Stephen Tucker, Chris Giofreda, Charles Huffman, William Moore Jr & Gavin Moore shared the 4th place prize, while Eathan Zhou & Douglas Extrada split top Under 1500. Other prizewinners in the section included Alexander He, Franklin He, Triya Venkataraja & Dana Fraley.

Ernie Schlich directed the event with assistance from Mike Cornell. The Charlottesville Open drew 80+ players for the third year in a row. The VCF was pleased to be able to increase the advertised prize fund from \$2000 to \$3000. (The previous year's event paid \$2700.) Several players commented that they had fun and enjoyed the chess.



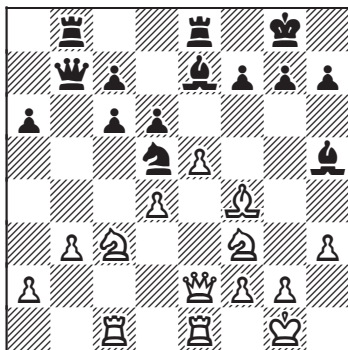


The annotations for the following Charlottesville Open games came without attribution. Presumably they are by Jay Shapiro, who won both games. —ed

Jay Shapiro - William Moore Jr

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 d6 4 c3 Bd7 5 O-O Nf6 6 Re1 Be7 7 d4 exd4 [Giving White the center he strives for; 7...O-O is the strongest and most natural move here.] **8 cxd4 O-O 9 Nc3 a6 10 Ba4** [This move is an inaccuracy. 10 Be2 gives White a pleasant edge and avoids the irritating pin arising from Bg4] **10...Bg4 11 Be3 Qc8** [This move doesn't seem to do anything at all. 11...d5, to contest White's strong central pawns, seems more prudent.] **12 Bxc6?!** [Intending to create targets on the c-file for White's rook and queen, but perhaps Rc1 first was stronger.] **12...bxc6 13 Rc1 Rd8 14 Qe2** [Getting the queen off the d-file prevents tricks and prepares e5] **14...Qb7 15 b3 Rab8?!** [The rook does nothing here. Perhaps best is to admit that fact and spend two moves (Re8 and Rad8) to centralize the rooks.] **16 h3 Bh5 17 Bf4** [strengthening control over e5] **17...Re8 18 e5** [Trying to force 18...dxe5, which would stick Black with doubled, isolated c-pawns.] **18...Nd5?** [Black tries moving the knight instead, but this runs into some tactics.] (diagram)



19 Nxd5 cxd5 20 exd6 [20 g4 Bg6 and only then 21 exd6 is stronger, but the text is sufficient.] **20...Bxd6?** [20...cxd6 21 Bxd6 Bxf3 is a better try here, but White still gets White a winning position after 22 Qxe7! Rxe7 23 Rxe7 Qxe7 24 Bxe7] **21 Qxe8+** [Now Black is hopelessly lost.] **21...Rxe8 22 Rxe8+ Bf8 23 Rxc7 Qb4 24 Rcc8 h6 25 Rxf8+ Kh7** [By declining to trade his queen for the two rooks, Black presumably hoped to harass White's king and go for perpetual, but he never gets the chance.] **26 Rh8+ Kg6 27 Nh4+ Kf6 28 Rc6+ Ke7 29 Bd6+** [29 Nf5+ Kd7 30 Rc7+ Ke6 31 Nxg7+ Kf6 32 Nxe5+ leads to mate, eg 32...Kg6 33 Rxh6+ Kf5 34 Ng3+ Kxf4 35 Rxf7+ Kg5 36 Rg7+ Kxh6 37 Nf5+ Kh5 38 g4mate. However, the simple move played seals the deal anyway.] **29...Qxd6 30 Nf5+ 1-0**

Stephen Tucker - Jay Shapiro

English

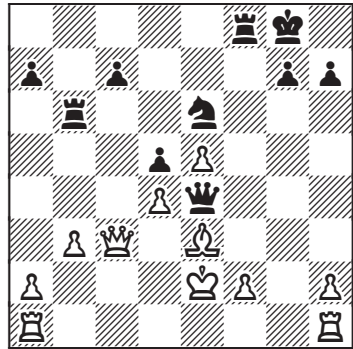
1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e6 3 e4 Nc6 [3...d5 right away is more normal and probably more accurate.] **4 Nf3 Be7 5 d4 d5 6 cxd5 exd5 7 e5 Ne4 8 Bd3 Bg4?** [This is a blunder that could have been punished by simply 9 Nxe4; fortunately for Black, White overlooks this.] **9 Be3 Bb4 10 Qb3 Bxf3? 11 gxf3 Ng5?** [Black has managed to get himself into hot water. After White castles his king to safety, Black will have to



defend accurately against White's threats and cannot castle safely on either side.] **12 Ke2?** [White inexplicably leaves his king in the center of the board, despite 12 O-O-O being available and very strong.] **12...Ne6 13 Bb5 O-O** [13...Bxc3 14 Qxc3 Qd7 was the safest way for Black to proceed. The text sacrifices a pawn for piece activity but the soundness of the sacrifice is uncertain.] **14 Bxc6 Bxc3 15 Qxc3 bxc6 16 Qxc6 Rb8 17 b3 Rb6 18 Qc2** [White has an extra pawn but Black has the superior minor piece, better pawn structure, and White's king is stuck in the center of the board.] **18...f6** [Black plays to open files for his rook and queen to get at White's king.] **19 f4?** [White understandably wants to get rid of his doubled f-pawns and keep his center intact, but he allows Black to take the initiative and mount an attack.] **19...fxe5 20 fxe5 Qh4** [Incredibly, White is already losing! The extra pawn does him no good if his king is executed in the center.] **21 Qc3?** [Trying to defend d4, but allowing a crushing response.] **21...Qe4!**

Black misses 21...c5! to break up the central pawn stronghold and open even more files, but the move played also poses many strong threats which Black does not find an answer for.

Now most tries by White (22 Qd2, 22 Kd2, 22 Rad1, etc) lose immediately to ...Nf4+, ...c5, and/or ...Rc6. The only move that isn't immediately losing is 22 Rhd1! but after 22...Rf3 Black would have a formidable attack. He can yet play ...c5 and get the other rook into the attack.



22 Rhg1?? [White doesn't recognize the danger and tries to start his own attack.] **22...Rc6!** The rook is immune to capture due to 23 Qxc6 Nxd4+ winning the queen. White sees that he must lose either king or queen, eg 23 Qe1 Nf4+ leads to mate; or 23 Qa4/Qb5 Rc2+ 24 Ke1 (or 24 Kf1 Rxf2+ 25 Bxf2 Qe2+; or 24 Kd1 Qd3+ 25 Bd2 Nxd4) Rxf2 leads to mate; or finally 23 Qd2/Qb2 Rc2 wins the queen. Therefore... **0-1**

Ajitha Balasubramanian - Andrew Mao

French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 c3 Nc6 5 Nf3 Qb6 6 Qc2 cxd4 7 cxd4 Nxd4 8 Nxd4 Qxd4 9 Bb5+ Bd7 10 Bxd7+ Kxd7 11 Qe2 Bb4+ 12 Bd2 Bxd2+ 13 Nxd2 Qb6 14 O-O Ne7 15 a4 Rhc8 16 a5 Qc7 17 Rfc1 Nc6 18 f4 Ke8 19 Qh5 h6 20 Nf3 Qd8 21 f5 exf5 22 Qxf5 Ne7 23 Qh7 Kf8 24 Rf1 Ng8 25 e6 Rc7 26 Ne5 Nf6 27 exf7 Rxf7 28 Qh8+ Ke7 29 Nxf7 Kxf7 30 Qxd8 Rxd8 31 Rac1 Rd7 32 Rc2 Ke7 33 Rfc1 Kd6 34 b4 a6 35 Rc5 Ne4 36 R5c2 Rf7 37 Rf1 Re7 38 Rf8 Nf6 39 Rd8+ Nd7 40 Rdc8 Re4 41 Rb2 Ne5 42 b5 Nd3 43 Rb1 axb5 44 Rc3 Nb4 45 Rcb3 Kc5 46 Rc1+ Rc4 47 Rcc3 Nc6 48 Rxc4+ dxc4 49 Rg3 Nxa5 50 Rxg7 c3 51 Rf7 c2 52 Rf1 Nb3 53 Rf5+ Kb6 54 Rf1 c1Q 55 Rxc1 Nxc1 56 Kf2 Kc5 57 h4 Kc4 58 g4 b4 59 g5 hxg5 60 hxg5 Nd3+ 61 Ke3 Ne5 62 Kf4 Ng6+ 63 Kf5 b3 64 Kxg6 b2 **0-1**



Virginia Senior Open

by Adam Chrisney

THIRTY-FOUR PLAYERS entered the 2013 Virginia Senior Open, held in Alexandria June 8-9. The field was very strong as nearly two thirds (19) of the players had ratings over 1800. All were over age 50. When the dust settled, Larry Gilden, William Marcelino & Harry Cohen tied for 1st place with scores of 3½-½. Marcelino also won the Top Virginian award. Gilden also won the top Age 70+ trophy. Leif Karell's 3-1 score won the top Age 60-69 trophy. Goran Zalar & Raymond Duschene tied for the Under 2000 award. Joe Faries & Glenn Shelton split top Under 1700 award (and increased their ratings by 65-70 points!). Lloyd McLaughlin won the Under 1400 prize.

The following miniature from round 3 illustrates the perils of sacrificing a piece for two pawns without having the rest of an attack set in place. White abruptly faced a counter-sacrifice that paved the way for a counterattacking onslaught.

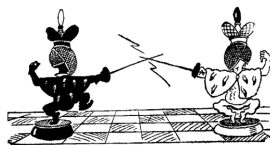
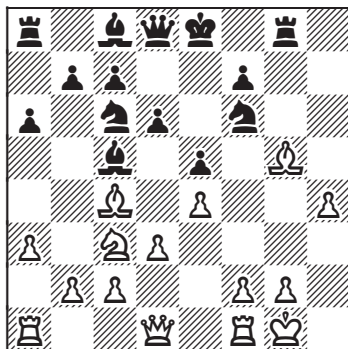
Saad Al-Hariri - Symour Samet

Vienna Game

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 Nc3 Bc5 4 d3 Nc6
5 a3 a6 6 Nf3 h6 7 O-O d6 8 h3 g5 9
Nxg5? hxg5 10 Bxg5 Rg8 11 h4

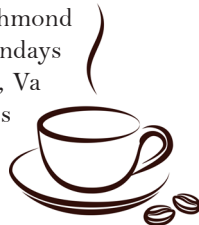
(diagram)

11...Qd7! 12 Bxf6 Rxg2+! 13 Kxg2
Qh3+ 14 Kg1 Bg4 15 Nd5 Bxd1 16
Raxd1 Nd4 0-1



Richmond Chess

Christopher Yarger has started a chess gathering at a Richmond area Starbucks. It runs on Wednesdays from 5-8pm and Sundays from 5-7pm at the Starbucks at 5802 Grove Ave, Richmond, Va 23226. Christopher is an employee at the Starbucks and chess enthusiast. For more information or to contact Christopher, you can go to www.facebook.com/RichmondChess.





The World Open

AFTER SOME 40 YEARS in and about Philadelphia (with occasional forays to New York and a couple other places), the largest annual chess gathering in the universe relocated to Virginia this summer. Bill Goichberg's Continental Chess Association (CCA) brought the World Open to the Crystal City Hyatt hotel in Arlington during of 4th of July week. The same venue has also become home for another large CCA event, the Continental Class Championships, which has been held there each October for the past three years.

1204 players from, indeed, all over the world, entered a dizzying array of section and schedule options. They included thirty grandmasters, no less than ten of whom tied for first place in the Open section: Lazaro Bruzon (of Cuba), Viktor Laznicka (Czech Republic), Tamaz Gelashvili (Georgia—the country, not the state!), Quesada Yunieski (Cuba), Parimarjan Negi (India) and Americans Varuzhan Akobian, Conrad Holt, Sergey Erenburg, Alejandro Ramirez & Yury Shulman.

It's nice having it played here, but of course the World Open is not really a "Virginia tournament". *Chess Life* and other leading periodicals cover it extensively, to say nothing of the many reports that appeared online. What more could little *Virginia Chess* add?

Still, it would seem odd having The World's Biggest Chess Tournament in our own backyard and not make any note of it in our state newsletter. So, in keeping with our provincial editorial policy, we invite our readers to contribute to a feature article for next issue: "Games by Virginia Players at the World Open". If you participated in the World Open (either the main tournament of any of the numerous side events) and played a game you'd care to share, **submit it to vcfeditor@cox.net no later than September 20.**

We'll take bare game scores but of course annotated games would be better yet! To sweeten the offer, **we will award book prizes for any and all contributions that seem particularly worthy.** The standard for "particularly worthy" is the sole discretion of the Editor—but really, he tends to be a generous judge. And to get the ball rolling, here is one of his own World Open games.

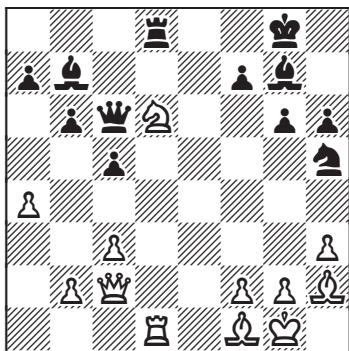
Macon Shibut – Matthew Marsh
2013 World Open, Arlington Va
Sicilian

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Be2 g6 [4... Nxe4? 5 Qa4+ happens in blitz from time to time but alas, never in tournaments.] **5 O-O Bg7 6 Re1 O-O 7 Bf1 b6** [7... Nc6] **8 d4 Bb7 9 d5 Qd7 10 a4 e6 11 dxe6 Qxe6 12 Nbd2 Nc6 13 Nc4 Rad8 14 Qc2 h6 15 h3 Rfe8 16 Bf4 Nh5** [if 16... Nxe4 17 Nxd6 works



out for White] **17 Bh2 Ne5 18 Nfd2! d5** [otherwise Ne3 applies a clamp] **19 exd5 Qxd5 20 Rad1** [Black's position is unpleasant. A weakness at d6 is emerging.] **20... Nxc4 21 Rxe8+ Rxe8 22 Nxc4 Qc6** [If 22...Qe4 23 Qxe4 Bxe4 (or 23...Rxe4 24 Rd8+ Kh7 25 Rd7) 24 Rd7 seems good enough.] **23 Nd6** [Gary Kasparov calls such a knight "an octopus"!] **23...Rd8**



24 Nxb7

I also considered 24 Nf5!? threatening Ne7+ as well as the undefended rook. However, after 24...Qe8 White would have to play 25 Nxc7, so the question boiled down to: which bishop did I want—the dark square one that I could take directly, or the light square one via this little combination? My decision seemed obvious since the b7 bishop is more menacing.

However, that Octopus is pretty menacing too! At home, a week later, the simple 24 f3! occurred to me. Bc4 is next on the program and Black would be hard pressed to withstand the pressure.

24...Rxd1 25 Qxd1 Qxb7 26 Qd8+ Kh7 27 Qc7 [Even so, White is close to winning as a7 and f7 are both weak.] **27...Qxc7 28 Bxc7 Bf6 29 Bb8 Bd8 30 Bxa7 Nf6 31 a5!** [extracting my bishop and consolidating the pawn plus] **31...bxa5 32 Bxc5 Ne4 33 Be3 f5 34 Bd3 Nf6** [I would trade my light square bishop for his knight, but not the dark square one (unless, of course, the resulting opposite-color bishop position happened to contain a direct forced win). With a material advantage and a passed pawn already in hand, two bishops on an open board, and no structural weaknesses, White has every reason to anticipate victory. I worked the domination theme in the next phase as I brought my king up.] **35 c4 Bc7 36 Bd4 Kg7 37 Kf1 Kf7 38 Ke2 f4 39 c5 g5 40 Bc4+ Kg6 41 Be6 Nh5 42 Bd7 Kf7 43 Kd3 Ke7 44 Bf5 Nf6 45 Kc4 h5 46 Kb5 g4 47 hxg4 Nxc4** [if 47...hxg4 48 Kc6!] **48 Bxc4 hxg4 49 f3 gxf3 50 gxf3 Ke6 51 Bc3** [51 Kc6 is more accurate as the text 'only' wins by a single tempo, but the line is clear and I'd worked it out all the way.] **51...Kd5 52 Bxa5 Bxa5 53 Kxa5 Kxc5 54 b4+ Kd4 55 b5 Ke3 56 b6 Kxf3 57 b7 Kg2 58 b8Q f3** [A bishop's pawn may draw on the 7th rank, but not the 6th] **59 Qb7 Kf2** [if 59... Kg3 60 Qg7+ Kh2 61 Qd4 etc] **60 Qd5 Ke2 61 Qe4+ Kf2 62 Kb4 Kg3 63 Kc3 Kg2** [63... f2 64 Qh1!] **64 Qg4+ Kf2 65 Kd2 1-0**



B. Kelley



USCF Delegates Report

Prepared by Ernie Schlich with the assistance of Andy Rea and Mike Hoffpauir

VCF President Andrew Rea, Scholastic Coordinator Mike Hoffpauir, and Treasurer Ernie Schlich represented Virginia at the 2013 USCF Annual Meeting. Our other two delegate positions for the meeting were vacant.

This year's annual meeting was peaceful and ended in one day, not a typical occurrence. USCF membership increased and the federation showed a net profit despite expenditures on three FIDE events in this fiscal year. Details of these reports can be found in the 2013 Delegates' Call, available online in the governance area of the USCF website.

One of the most extensively debated advance delegate motions was to establish a minimum age for delegates. There is no current limit, and the motion was defeated after passionate discussion. A motion did pass setting an age 18 requirement to serve on the Executive Board.

The Rules Committee sponsored a motion to address cheating by means of electronic communications devices. Designed mostly for important or high prize events, the motion mandates that a player may not use a device with communications capability while a game is in progress. If there is a reasonable need to use a phone or pager (for a example, a doctor on call), the player may check with the TD to try to arrange *this before the event*. It is worth noting that while the aim of this measure is to control cheating, it also may contribute to maintaining relative silence in the tournament hall.

Several technical changes to the Bylaws were passed. Development of a new version of the rulebook was approved and the new book may be ready by 2014. It is hoped that it will be available in e-book format, subject to negotiations with the publisher.

Andy Rea, Joan & Ernie Schlich, Jerry Wasserbauer, and five of the Gallagher family played in the US Open, with Andy finishing among the prizewinners. We also had Virginia representatives in the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, and the National Girls Invitational Tournament. Congratulations to Akshita Gorti (gaining 49 rating points to reach 2029), who tied for 1st in the NGIT and won the event on tie break! Congratulations also to Justin Lohr, who tied for 20th in the Barber, and Kevin Zhou gain 50 rating points, to 2129, en route to tying for 4th in the Denker. The Denker field was particularly strong, with 12 masters (10 rated over 2300) and one senior master. The Barber had 8 masters and 11 experts, so it was also a very strong event. Next year's US Open will be held in St. Louis.

Please attend our VCF annual meeting in Glen Allen. It will convene at 10 am on Saturday, August 31 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Our Federation can only promote chess in Virginia with our members' help and support.

77th Virginia Closed State Championship

-- and --

Friday Night Blitz Tournament

At the Hilton Garden Inn Richmond-Innsbrook, Glen Allen, VA

- 4050 Cox Rd, (804) 521-2900. Located just off I-295. Call them and ask for the “Chess Rate” and mention the tournament. RESERVE BY AUG 9 to get the chess rate!!
- Call the hotel to reserve your room at the **\$89 chess rate**; or go to <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com>

Main Tournament: Saturday - Monday, Aug 31 – Sept 2, 2013

Format: 6-SS, 30/90, SD/1, with time delay of 5 seconds. Two sections, Open and Amateur (U1800).

Rounds: Sat 1 & 7; Sun 11 & 5; Mon 10 & 3:30. *Two ½-point byes available*, declare before start of Rd 2.

Prizes: *\$2,850 based on 75 paid entries*. More if we have over 75 players!

- **Open \$625-350-250**, Top Expert & A \$125 ea. Trophy to 1st, Top Exp & A. FIDE-Rated, FIDE Rules
- **Amateur \$500-300-175**. Top C, D, U1200, Unr \$100 each. Trophy to 1st, Top C, D, U1200.
- Trophies to top Senior (60+), Junior (U18) and Woman with 1pt added to their Open section scores.

Registration: **Fri Aug 30, 3-6:00PM** and **Sat Aug 31, 8:00AM to 12-noon**. Current USCF and VCF

memberships required. Renew your USCF online at www.uschess.org, or update both memberships on site.

Who can Play in the Main Event: Virginia residents, military stationed in VA, and students attending any VA school, College or University (must show valid ID or other proof of Fall 2012 VA school enrollment).

Entry:

- **\$62 if received by Thursday, Aug 29**, \$80 thereafter and on site.
- Re-entry allowed for Rd.2 only at \$30 with 1/2 pt bye.
- **Mail payment to Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: VA Closed, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693.**

- Checks payable to "VCF"

Blitz Tournament: Friday Night, August 30th, 2013

Who can Play: ANY USCF Member. You do NOT have to be a Virginia Resident to play Blitz.

Format: 4 or 5 Rounds, Double-Swiss, G/5. Two sections, Open and Amateur (U1800). Open FIDE Rated.

Rounds: Blitz **Round 1 at 6:30PM** Friday evening, later rounds will start as soon as possible.

Prizes: **\$400 based on 30 paid entries**, more if we have additional players. Cash prizes only, no trophies.

Registration: By mail by Aug 29, on-site Fri Aug 30, 3-6:00PM. **Registration closes at 6:00 PM!!**

On-site entries received after 6PM may not be paired for Round 1.

Entry: **\$25 if received by Thursday, Aug 29**, \$35 thereafter and on site.

- See Main Event Entry information above for where to send your payment
- Current USCF membership required, VCF membership IS NOT REQUIRED for Blitz.

Tournament Entry Form *(use this form to enter either or both events)*

Last Name: _____		First Name: _____		MI: _____	
USCF Member: YES NO		If Yes , write your USCF ID Here: _____			
Street Address: _____		Email: _____		Phone: _____	
City: _____, VA		Zip: _____		Birth Date: _____	
Main Tournament (Saturday-Monday, Aug 31-Sept 2, 2013). Entry Fee \$62 by mail, \$80 at the door.					
Section you are entering (circle one): OPEN		AMATEUR (U1800);		Byes (up to 2): Rd _____, Rd _____	
Blitz Tournament (Friday night, Aug 30, 2013). Entry Fee \$25 by mail, \$35 at the door.					
Section you are entering (circle one): OPEN		AMATEUR (U1800);		No Byes in Blitz	



Chess at Thompson Middle School

by Mike Callaham

Chess is alive and well at Fred D Thompson Middle School in Richmond. Through the Renaissance Program, students like William Baker, Daniel Jones, Kwintel Evans & Collette Charles are making moves for their college futures.

William, Daniel & Kwintel represented Thompson at the state-wide scholastic championships held in March. After just three months of preparation, Daniel earned a trophy as the best performance in k-8 for a first tournament! Collette is a newcomer to the team but shares the team's passion for excellence in competition. The four are pictured here with their 2nd place team trophy earned at the Thompson Middle School Chess Celebration, hosted at the school on June 8, where Collette took individual honors by finishing in 1st place with an undefeated score of 3½-½ in her section!

The Richmond Chess Initiative and The Virginia Scholastic Chess Association (VSCA) joined Thompson Middle School in sponsoring the event. Fifty-six players ranging from beginner to expert came from as far away as Virginia Beach and Charlottesville to participate.



Left to right: Coach Mike Callaham, William Baker, Daniel Jones, Kwintel Evans, Collette Charles and Principal Hopkins.



Chess is what this writer calls the nation's biggest hidden scholarship opportunity! All across the country, chess scholars are being actively pursued by colleges. The University of Maryland has advertised scholarships for chess players in *Chess Life* magazine, the official publication of the United States Chess Federation, for nearly 20 years.

A special note of thanks is due to the US Chess Trust for providing free sets to the Thompson team, allowing them to play and train at home. Thanks also to the Richmond Chess Initiative for providing weekly coaching, literature and study material; and the VSCA for providing free USCF memberships, sponsoring entry fees, and providing the weekly training equipment.

To get more information on creating a chess team at your school, contact Mike Callaham at www.chessnearthebusline.wordpress.com or www.vschess.org. To find out what's going on state-wide, contact www.vachess.org. To reach the national organization and find out what universities are offering scholarships to chess players, go to www.uschess.org.

TJ at the Supernationals

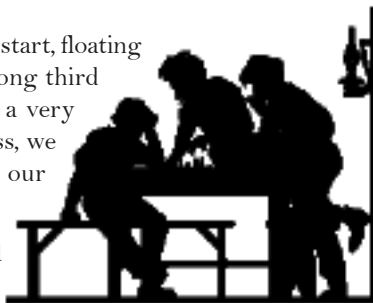
A team from Thomas Jefferson High School, in Alexandria, played in the USCF's scholastic chess championship. Jeevan Karamsetty reports:

The TJ team journey started off on Thursday, April 4, when we flew into Nashville, Tennessee in time for the blitz championship. It started off well, with some of our lower-rated players beating out opponents with significantly higher ratings. After a long and tough night, our team pulled together a 7th place blitz performance.

After a good night's rest, the main tournament kicked off the next day. TJ had players in both the K-12 Under 1600 and K-12 Championship sections. The championship section used accelerated pairings in the first round, which meant that games were tough from the start. With most of our players facing someone within 200 points of their own rating, all of the games were long and close. Everyone rightfully earned their victories.

The team in both sections got off to an average start, floating around the top-ten team list. After a very strong third round, our championship section team faced a very tough round four and five schedule. Regardless, we pulled through extremely well, maintaining our rank entering the final day.

The final day once again brought some delightful victories, as most of our players finished the

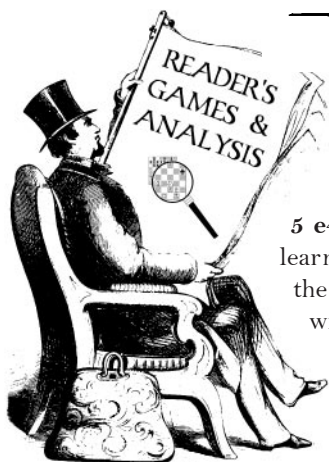




tournament with either a win and draw or two more wins. In the end, the TJ team captured 9th place in the championship section, just ½ a point from a fifth place tie. Our U1600 players also had some exceptional results, finishing in 11th place as a team.

On behalf of the TJ team, I would like to thank VCF for its generous donation that made it possible to attend this event.

Our players in this event included Jeevan Karamsetty, Andrew Freix, Kartik Gupta, Brian Li, Perry Feng, Shicheng Zhao, Arvind Chava, Arun Kannan, Kalyan Madanapalli, Nandan Srinivasa, Nihar Gudiseva, Meredith Lee. A special thanks to Wei Feng and Yuyan Zhou, our parent sponsors who helped coordinate this entire trip. Finally, Dr Gabor, our school coach and sponsor, facilitated everything and made sure it all ran smoothly.



Anjali Pattanaik - Rishabh Anand

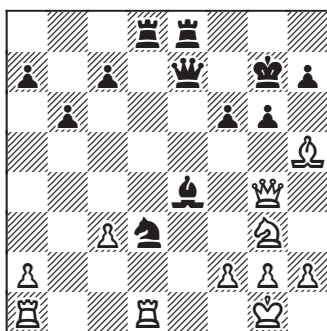
McNair Scholastic 2013

Grünfeld

Notes by Rishabh Anand

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5
5 e4 Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 7 Bc4 O-O 8 Ne2 Nc6 [I
learned later that the book move is 8...c5 to attack
the center from the wings but I saw nothing wrong
with 8...Nc6] 9 O-O b6 10 Be3 Bb7 11 Qd2 Qd7
12 Bh6 [This isn't the best move because my
opponent's dark squared bishop is currently
better than mine. 12 Rad1 might have been
better. As one of my former opponents once
said, if you don't have anything else, putting

your rook on the same file as the opponent's queen is
never a bad idea.] 12...Rfe8 [This breaks the pin and adds support to an e-pawn
push.] 13 Bxg7 Kxg7 14 Qf4 f6 [14...e5 is stronger. At the time, I didn't see
how it prevented 15 Qxf7+ but I realize now that White would lose a piece for
two pawns.] 15 Ng3 e5 16 dxe5 Nxe5 [I correctly took back with the knight.
This opens up my light-squared bishop and creates a monster knight that will
become even stronger as the game progresses.] 17 Rfd1 Qe7 18 Be2 Rad8 19
Bh5 [White tried to trap me by offering up a piece which looks almost free. But
19...gxh5 would have allowed White to play 20 Nf5+, forking the king and queen.
I saw the threat and instead played 19...Nd3, which allowed my knight to realize
it's full potential. Once it's there, it will take dynamite to remove it.] 19...Nd3 20
Qg4 [20 Nf5+ gxf5 21. Qg3+ would have been better, and black has to be careful.
I still think I would have won but this would give White some play.] 20...Bxe4



21 f3?? [This move is a blunder that loses the game outright.] **21...Qc5+** [Even if f3 had *not* been played, this still would have been a great move, threatening mate in two by 22...Qxf2+ 23. Kh1 Qxg2mate. There really would be no good way to defend against this. If 22 Rf1, I win the c-pawn outright; or if 22 Nh1 I win the bishop; or if 22 Nxe4 (the best try) I play 22...Qxh5 with an extra pawn, safer king, and more active pieces. Plus I would be threatening to win more material if White doesn't trade queens.] **22 Kh1 Nf2+ 23 Kg1 Nh3+ 24 Kh1 Qg1+ 25 Rxg1 Nf2mate 0-1**

Monday Morning Chess Talks in Arlington

For those who can make it to weekday morning sessions, 3-time state champion Macon Shibut is still giving weekly chess lectures at 9:30am every Monday (except government Monday holidays) at the Madison Center, 3829 N Stafford St, Arlington, VA 22207. Find them in the left front-corner room as you face the building. Go in the left-side front doors, up the half-flight of stairs, and turn left. Walk just a few feet to the end of the hall and turn left into the chess room.

Most of the lectures feature a model game, either from contemporary events or by great players of the past. The chess of Alexander Alekhine has been a recurring focus topic for some time. The game below was the topic of a recent lecture and the annotations cover some of the same ground as in the talk.

Alexander Alekhine - Karel Hromadka

Prague 1942

Ruy Lopez

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 O-O d6 6 c3 Be7 7 d4 Nd7 8 Re1 O-O 9 Nbd2 Bf6 10 Nf1 Re8 11 h3 b5 12 Bb3 Na5 13 Bc2 Bb7 14 a4 Nc4 15 b3 Ncb6 16 a5 Nc8 17 Bb2 Ne7 18 Ne3 Ng6 19 Nd5 c6 [White has not achieved much from the opening. Black could have gotten a comfortable enough game by 19...Bxd5 20 exd5 exd4 when the burden would have been on White to play accurately to hold the balance. The simple 21 Nxd4 is not good enough due to 21...Rxe1+ 22 Qxe1 Bxd4 23 cxd4 Nf4; but trading rooks first, 21 Rxe8+ Qxe8 22 Nxd4, is also not anything great for White after 22...Nf4. The best solution would be to accept the doubled pawns straightaway by 21 cxd4 and then if Black goes 21...Nf4 there is the temporary sacrifice 22 Qd2! Nxd5 23 Be4 c6 24 Qc2 attacking both c6 and h7 to recover the pawn. Play might continue 24...Nb4 25

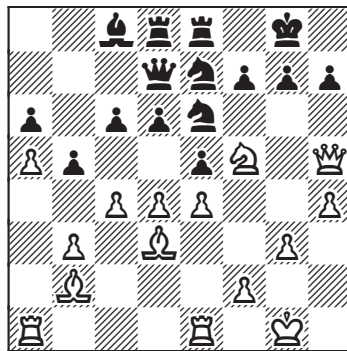


Bxh7+ Kh8 26 Qd2 etc.] 20 Nxf6+ Qxf6 21 g3 Rad8 22 h4 Bc8 23 Nh2 Ndf8 24 Ng4 Qe6 25 Ne3 Qh3 26 Bd3 Ne7 27 c4 Qd7 28 Qh5 [28 cxb5 or 28 d5 are better, but I am certain Alekhine already saw the idea in the following notes and went straight for it.] 28...Ne6 29 Nf5?

Compared with the previous turn, Black has more activity now in the event of 29 d5 Nc5 30 Bc2 etc, but that is still what was called for. However, as noted before, Alekhine knew exactly where he wanted to take the game. His plan had nothing to do with consolidating a bishop pair, central space advantage, etc.

Of all the great champions of the past, Alekhine suffers most under the scrutiny of modern computer engines. The reason is that his style plays right into the teeth of the computers' strength. His forte was an ability to foresee hidden tactics way farther out than anyone else could. Thus Alekhine developed his method for stirring up rich complications in which opponents would often walk straight into a knockout blow. So long as the situation overwhelmed normal human over-the-board analysis, Alekhine stood a good chance of being the one who emerged from the maelstrom on top.

In his notes, Alekhine would delight in demonstrating clever resources he discovered from far off. As a practical weapon, this made him invincible at his peak. However, the computer is unimpressed; it "sees" six or seven moves ahead just as clearly as one or two. In the thicket of possibilities that Alekhine invoked, it often "notices" moves that even he did not appreciate properly.



So it is here. What is the first move for Black that comes to mind? If 29...g6 is not first for you, I hope at least it's not far behind! Of course Alekhine took this "obvious" fork into consideration too, so let's see if we can figure out what he planned to do about it.

The fact that White's queen is one of the attacked pieces really limits the search. It should not take long for you to convince yourself that it must be either 30 Nxe7+ or 30 Nh6+. A bit more thought is sufficient to rule out 30 Ne7+: after 30...Qxe7 the queen has to move somewhere, say 31 Qe2, and then 31...Nxd4 White simply has less than nothing for the lost pawn.

So, 30 Nh6+ Kg7, and now what? If you have seen much of Alekhine's chess at all, you will probably recognize the very Alekhinesque nature of 31 Qf3 Kxh6 32 Qf6! cutting off the king's retreat and readying the death blow Bc1+. I am absolutely



certain this is what Alekhine intended. I am equally certain that Hromadka figured out what was up, got as far as this position, and wanted nothing more to do with it.

But it was precisely here that he was too trusting of the great attacker! The skeptical computer continues the variation with the cold-blooded 32...Ng8!! 33 Bc1+ Nf4 and Black is winning. For instance, 34 Qg5+ Kg7 35 gxf4 exd4 with an extra pawn and no danger; the g8 knight is a terrific defender (no need to worry about Qh6+) and indeed White's king is the one that will feel exposed during the next phase. Or again, 34 Qh8!? f6! 35 gxf4 Qg4+ 36 Kf1 exf4. Again White is a pawn down, his king is vulnerable, and his exotic queen penetration looks ridiculous now.

So, Black probably could have won by playing the most obvious move on the board, the move that many beginners would be too weak *not* to play. Hromadka was strong enough to see a little into the dark forest—just far enough to spy the danger, but not far enough to see safety on the other side. And so he played...

29...exd4? [So a missed opportunity, but Black's position is still quite tenable. The Qh5 adventure really compromised Alekhine's game, and it will take more than one omission by Black to undo the damage.] **30 cxb5 axb5 31 Nxd4 Nxd4 32 Bxd4 c5 33 Bb2 Ba6 34 e5 Ng6** [Forced; not 34...g6? 35 Qh6 and Black will hardly avert mate on g7] **35 Bf5 Qc7 36 exd6** [If 36 e6 Bc8 37 exf7+ Qxf7 defends well enough] **36...Qxd6 37 Rxe8+ Rxe8 38 Rd1 Qc7**

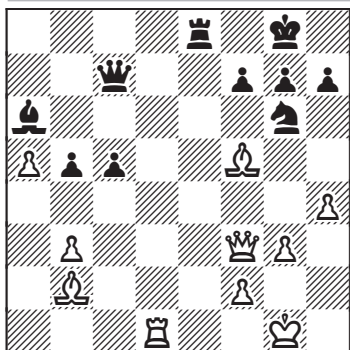
We are approaching another crisis similar to what happened at move 29. White piece activity inspires the the great attacker, but the details are not cooperating. Thus, if now 39 Qg5 (target: g7) Qxa5 40 h5 there would follow 40...Re1+ 41 Rxe1 Qxe1+ 42 Kg2 Bb7+ and Black's attack lands first.

The fact is White could have played a little better at a couple points earlier, so now he enters this second crises with a slightly dodgy position. Black's counterattack on the a8-h1 diagonal is a real problem for him and the a5 pawn is hanging. But Alekhine kept his wits about him and played the best move.

39 Qf3!

Occupying the long diagonal and defending a5 tactically: if 39...Qxa5 he could go, eg, 40 Qc6 attacking the rook and the c5 pawn, plus threatening Ra1 to win the bishop. Black still has resources of his own, but White gets sufficient play. White also has another, more complicated, possibility in 40 h5 and if then 40...Nf8 (40...Re1+ is safer) one line is 41 Qg4 g6 42 hxg6 fxg6 43 Be4 Rd8 44 b4! (clearing the b3 square) cxb4 45 Bc2 Δ Bb3+

However, Alekhine got carried away with this and what follows. He claimed his 39 Qf3 was actually a winning move. He supported this with some beautiful variation—nearly every one of which contains a flaw. White can count on a draw but no more.



So what should Black play here? Just as at move 29, the answer is the move that many a weak player would choose without much reflection, whereas the strong master Hromadka somehow talked himself out of 39...Bb7! White would reply 40 Qc3 of course, threatening mate on g7.

The first mistake in Alekhine's analysis ("mistake" in the sense that he was claiming Black had no defense) is that here he considers only 40...Ne5. He doesn't mention 40...f6, which looks sturdier on the face of it and in

fact leaves the burden on White to show he can hold the balance. Which he can, by 41 Bd7! (but not 41 Rd7 hoping for Rxd7+ followed by Qxf6+ etc, because 41...Qc6 defends f6 while setting up the diagonal counterattack) 41...Rd8 (if 41...Re7 42 Bxb5) 42 Be6+ Kh8 43 Bg4.

But coming back to 40...Ne5—which, in fairness, is more ambitious (Black adds the idea ...Nf3+ to his counterattack recipe) and so probably is what Alekhine would play himself as Black—there follows 41 a6! and here Alekhine considers two possibilities:

i) 41...Qc6 pressing ahead with the counterattack 42 axb7 Nf3+ and now we get a typical bit of Alekhine tactical wizardry: 43 Kg2 Nxd4+ 44 Kh3 Nxf5 (to cover g7) 45 Qe5! The queen puts herself *en pris* and presto!—Black is overloaded by the combined weakness of his hanging knight, his back rank, and the queening square b8. If 45...Rxe5 just 46 Bxe5 and White wins, but in any case something has to give. Queue the shower of gold coins.

ii) 41...Ba8 Black retains his bishop. Alekhine had prepared a queen sacrifice 42 Qxe5, which is in fact the only possible move. 42...Rxe5 43 Bxe5 The queen cannot take the bishop because it must guard the back rank square d8. That means she can only move to a5 or b6. 43...Qa5 loses to 44 b4! cxb4 45 Rc1 with decisive penetration; therefore, 43...Qb6 and now 44 Rd7.

Black is nearly paralyzed but it's hard for White to organize the knockout blow. One slip and Black's queen could acquire freedom to rekindle her own mating counterattack. For the moment White's threat is Bc7 followed by Rd8. Alekhine proved his win with the following remarkable continuation: 44...f6 45 Bd6 (threatening Be6+ and then again Bc7 and Rd8) 45...g6 46 Be6+ Kh8 47 g4! Qa5 48 Kh2! with the idea finally prying open Black's king by g5!

An amazing overall conception capped by a striking quiet move—again, vintage Alekhine. And I suspect it was all thought up during the actual game. Not because of my respect for Alekhine's ability, great though it is, but because of the mistakes



it contains—had he carefully re-checked his over-the-board analysis before publishing it, he would probably have noticed, eg, that 47...h5 is better than 47...Qa5. And almost surely he would have noticed earlier in the variation that 44...Kf8! (instead of 44...f6) is a direct and more or less forced road to safety. The back rank threat is slipping away, Black already threatens Qc6, so there would follow necessarily 45 Bd6+ Ke8 46 Re7+ Kd8 47 Rd7+ Ke8 and a draw.

And finally, he also would have noticed another big mistake. Back in the diagram position there was a huge third possibility that Alekhine did not mention...

iii) 41...Nf3+! Elementary!—White must allow an immediate draw by 42 Kf1 Nh2+ 43 Kg1 Nf3+ etc, since in this situation 44 Kg2? Nxh4+ 45 Kh3 Nxf5 46 axb7 Qxb7 there is no magic queen sacrifice to overload the defense. Black is simply two pawns ahead.

For the second time in the game, Hromadka talked himself out of the correct and most obvious move.

39...b4? [It's impossible to say what he missed in the maze of variations after 39...Bb7 but the move he chose did have two reasonable points. First, it takes the square c3 away from White's queen, which obviously threatens ...Bb7 next. Second, it opens the a6-f1 diagonal for his bishop, which has meaning in at least one plausible variation below. Unfortunately for Hromadka, it was not the main variation! Now White does have a forced win, and Alekhine was not one to let such opportunities slip by.] **40 Rd7! Re1+ 41 Kh2** [Perhaps Black was counting on 41 Kg2? when there would follow 41...Nxh4+! 42 gxh4 Bf1+ 43 Kg1 Bh3mate! In this line 42 Kh3 also fails to 42...Qxd7 43 gxh4 Bf1+ 44 Kh2 Qc7+ etc] **41...Nxh4 42 Qa8+ 1-0**



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