

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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Virginia Chess Federation

2014 - #1



VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2014 - Issue #1

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2013 World Youth Championships

There were four Virginians included in the 92-player United States delegation to the 2013 World Youth Championships in Al Ain, United Arab Emirate, December 18–28. Jennifer Yu (who also distinguished herself at the last state championship, VIRGINIA CHESS readers may recall) tied for 3rd place in the girls' 12-years-old-and-under section (winding up 4th after tiebreakers) with a score of 8½–2½. She also went 6–1 to tie for 1st (bronze medal on tiebreaker) in the blitz tournament.

Vivian Cao-Dao, Justin Paul & Aasa Dommalapati all scored 5½–5½ in their respective sections.

Qualification is a great achievement in itself, and all our players can look back on the tournament with satisfaction considering the strong competition against players from various countries and the challenges playing a long event far from home. Complete results found on the tournament website <http://worldyouth2013.com>. Virginia Chess is pleased to be able to present Jennifer Yu's own account of her key final-round game, including a review of the tournament as a whole.

Jennifer Yu,– Khamim Balajayeva, 2013 World Youth Chess Championships Queen's Gambit Declined

Notes by Jennifer Yu

At the 2013 World Youth Chess Championships (girls 12 and under section), I had many triumphs and disappointments. My high expectation for a great result may have affected the beginning of the tournament, making me play poorly. I thought that the first few rounds should be easy since I had won the under 2200 section at the 2013 National Chess Congress in Philadelphia just a few weeks before. But there is a difference between playing adults, who are strong players but don't play very often, and playing kids who may not be too strong but had trained daily for the past few months specifically for this tournament.

In the first three rounds, I scored 1½ points, having won the first round, lost in the second, and drawn the third. My opponents were not the strongest and it was





clear that I was not playing my best. I was playing too seriously, looking at the small details in my games when I could have played simple, strong moves in the position. So after the third game and for the rest of the tournament I relaxed and just played moves like I was in another tournament somewhere in the US, and my games gradually became better. I only lost one more round, against Vantika Agrawal from India, winning the rest.

The tournament passed in a blur and it was time for the last round already. I was playing a strong player, Khanim Balajayeva from Azerbaijan. She was in the lead one round earlier but then she had lost to Gabriela Antova from Bulgaria, giving her 8 points out of 10 rounds—half a point more than me. A win would let me tie for 3rd, so there was nothing to lose.

Most people will probably start getting very serious about the game if they were in my shoes, since they wouldn't want to risk a loss. But I already figured out that that didn't work for me. So I just played like I usually played and with a few minor mistakes by me and some bigger mistakes by her, I got a better position, changed it to an endgame advantage and won. In the end, I tied for third but lost on tiebreaks and got fourth. I had a poor start for the tournament but finished strong. The 2013 WYCC was a great experience and led on to a great result for me.

1 c4 e6 2 Nc3 d5 3 d4 Nf6 4 cxd5 exd5 5 Bg5 Nbd7 6 e3 [6...Nxd5?? falls for the famous elephant trap: 6...Nxd5 7 Bxd8 Bb4+ 8 Qd2 Bxd2+ 9 Kxd2 Kxd8 Black is up by a piece for a pawn.] **6...c6 7 Bd3 Be7 8 Qc2 O-O 9 Nf3 Re8 10 O-O Nf8**

11 h3 Ne4 12 Bf4 Ng5 13 Nxd5 Bxd5 14 Bh2 [There isn't any big difference between 14 Bh2 and 14 Bg3 but in the game I was worried that 14 Bg3 Bh4 will make me have to go back to h2. So I thought: why should I give her an extra tempo when I could go to h2 right away?] **14...Bh4 15 b4** [putting the minority attack in





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A Heritage Event! - A VCF Cup Event!



2013 Virginia Open winner
 IM Tegeshsuren Enkhbat

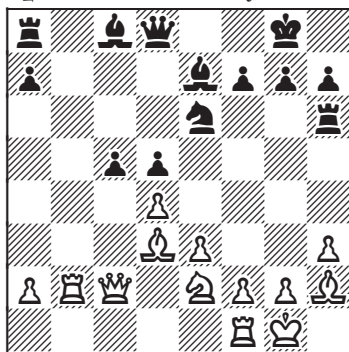




action] **15...Re6** [Although this rook lift looks very aggressive, it doesn't really give any good squares for the rook to swing over to the kingside to attack my king. In my opinion, developing the bishop by 15...Bd7 is better although I still have an advantage after 16 b5 creating a weakness on her queenside with the minority attack. Then 16...g6 is the best move since it frees my opponent's knight from guarding h7, but after 17 bxc6 Bxc6 the d5 pawn is weak; or 17...bxc6 and the c5 square is a hole while the c6 pawn is backward.] **16 b5 Rh6 17 bxc6 bxc6 18 Rab1 Ne6 19 Rb2 Be7** [19...c5 doesn't work because after 20 Nxd5! cxd4 (20... Qxd5 21 Be4 Qd7 22 Bxa8) 21 Nc7 Nxc7 22 Bxc7 Qe8 23 exd4 (23 Be4 is also good—Black only has one move, 23...d3, and after 24 Qxd3 Ba6 25 Qd5 Rc8 26 Rc1 I am up by a pawn and all of my pieces have superior positions) 23...Rc6 24 Bxh7+ Kh8 25 Qe4 is simply winning.] **20 Ne2?!!** [This is a bad move by me since

it gave her the chance to move her pawn to c5 and get rid of a weakness. 20 Na4 stopping any ...c5 counterplay is the best with total control over the queenside.] **20...c5** [taking the chance to get rid of her weakness right away] (diagram)

21 dxc5?!! [Throwing away more of my advantage; 21 Rfb1 immediately is the best. In the game, I was worried about 21...c4 but a long tactical sequence works: 22 Bxc4! dxc4 23 Qe4 Bd7 24 Rb8 (24 Bb8 is also good but it gives Black strong counterplay chances with 24...Ng5

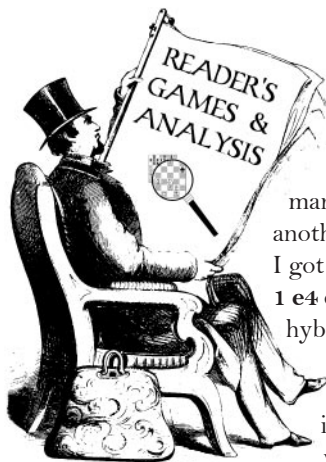


25 Qxa8 Bc6 26 Qxa7 Qd5 27 f3 Nxf3+ 28 gxf3 Qxf3) 24...Rxb8 25 Rxb8 Bc8 26 Qc6 Nxd4 27 Qxc8 Nxe2+ 28 Kf1 Qxc8 29 Rxc8+ Bf8 30 Kxe2±] **21...Nxc5 22 Rfb1 Bd6** [This logical looking move (stopping Rb8) is a mistake whereas 22...Nxd3 equalizes easily: 23 Qxd3 Ba6 24 Qd2 Rb6] **23 Bxd6 Qxd6 24 Nf4 g5** [the best move in the position] **25 Rb5 Nxd3 26 Rxd5 Nb4 27 Rxd6 Nxc2 28 Rxh6 gxf4 29 Rc6 Bf5 30 Rc5 Bg6 31 exf4 Nd4 32 Rb4 Ne6** [This is a mistake, letting me put pressure on the a7 pawn and leaving her to worry about tactics of trapping her bishop. Although I have an advantage in any case, I think my opponent should go for 32...Rd8 33 Kh2 Rd7 34 g4 f5 since an active rook gives her the most practical chance.] **33 Ra5 Nd8 34 Rba4 Nc6 35 Rc5 Ne7 36 g4 f5 37 Rc7 Nc8** [Around here my opponent started to play rapidly although she still had lots of time left.] **38 Ra5** [38 Rd4 is probably the fastest way to win: 38...Nb6 39 a4 Δ a5] **38...fxg4 39 hxg4 Rb8 40 Rac5 Nd6 41 Rxa7 Rb4 42 Rd5 Ne8 43 Kh2** [This was a mistake and I noticed Black's combination right after I moved. But I still have an advantage here.] **43...Rxf4 44 Kg3 Rxf4+ 45 Kxg4 Nf6+ 46 Kg5 Nxd5 47 a4 Nc3 48 f4 Ne4+ 49 Kh6** [Also a small mistake since 49... Nd6 would threaten Nf7+. But in that case I could play 50 Kg5 and after 50...Ne4+ repeating positions then 51 Kh4 is okay.] **9...Nc5 50 a5 Ne6 51 a6 Bf7 52 Rb7 Nc5 53 a7 1-0**



**Macon Shibut – Eric Most,
2014 Liberty Bell Open, Philadelphia Pa
Sicilian**

Notes by Macon Shibut

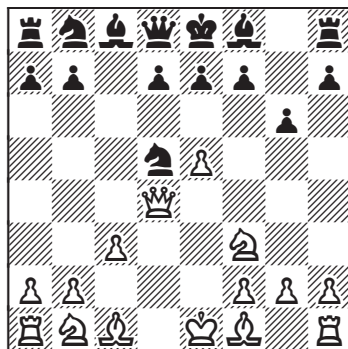


My opponent will be familiar to VIRGINIA CHESS readers. Eric grew up in Virginia and played in many tournaments here, but he and I never faced one another. So now he is off in Pennsylvania and naturally I got paired against him when I went up there.

1 e4 c5 2 c3 g6 3 Nf3 Nf6 [This introduces an unusual hybrid transposition. On the one hand, it is like the main line **1 e4 c5 2 c3 Nf6 3 e5 Nd5 4 d4 cxd4** except that the moves **Nf3** and **...g6** have been inserted. There **5 cxd4** is the most important move while **5 Qxd4** is a sideline (although a significant one). On the other hand, it is like the Keres defense to the English opening, **1 c4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 g3 c6 4 Nf3 e4 5 Nd4 d5 6 cxd5**, with colors reversed and White—that is, Black in the present game—a tempo behind. The missing tempo is the move **Nc3**, which means that after...] **4 e5 Nd5 5 d4 cxd4** [... White here can—and in my opinion should—play...]

6 Qxd4 (diagram)

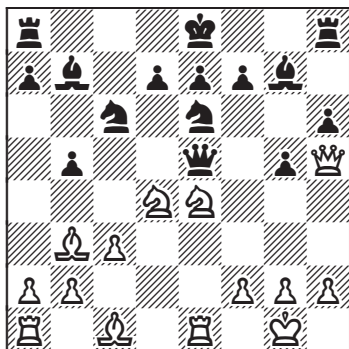
The point is that in the normal “sideline” (ie, the position without **Nf3** and **g6** included) Black’s indicated reply to **Qxd4** is **...e6**, defending his knight Δ **...Nc6** (and usually **...d6**) to follow. But here, the combination of **6...e6** with **...g6** would look very ugly. Which is not to say that “ugly” necessarily equates to “terrible”, but I do believe that White maintains some advantage.



6...Nc7 7 Bc4 Bg7 8 Qh4 [I was pleased with this move. The queen cannot stay in the center forever anyway, and moving before she is ‘asked’ sets up **8...Nc6 9 Bh6! Bxe5** (even worse **9...O-O? 10 Ng5!**) **10 Nxe5 Nxe5 11 Bg7** with advantage for White.] **8...h6** [Played after long thought. Now Black cannot readily castle kingside and White gets time to conveniently defend **e5**] **9 O-O b5 10 Bb3 Nc6 11 Re1 Bb7 12 Nbd2 Ne6 13 Ne4** [I gambited the e-pawn in a carefree spirit, confident that my move “felt right” and something would turn up after **13...Nxe5 14 Nxe5 Bxe5**. (Now maybe **15 a4—?**) This all resembles White’s pawn sacrifices in the old Najdorf Sozin lines, **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bc4 e6 7 Bb3 b5 8 O-O b4 9 Na4**, eg, Kudrin-Fedorowicz, 1999 US Ch: **9...Bd7 10 c3 Nxe4 11 Qf3 d5 12 c4 Nc6 13 Nxe6 Bxe6**



14 cxd5 Nd4 15 Qxe4 Nxb3 16 dxe6 Nxa1 17 Qc6+ Ke7 18 Qb7+ 1-0] **13... Qc7 14 Nd4 g5** [Not 14...Ncxd4 15 cxd4 Nxd4 16 Nd6+! winning; also now if 14...Nxe5 I have 15 Nxb5. But I'm not impressed with the move he chose either. White's queen is effective on the h5-e8 diagonal.] **15 Qh5 Qxe5**



16 Bd2 [The intended move, and played almost instantly, but I overlooked a remarkable possibility here: 16 Bxe6! dxe6 17 Nf6+! Qxf6 18 Rxe6 and Black's queen is unexpectedly mated.

True, he can get reasonable material for it by 18...Nxd4 19 Rxf6 Bxf6 20 cxd4 Bxd4 but after 21 Be3 Bxb2 22 Rb1 Bf6 23 Rxb5 White is much better. Black hasn't solved the problems of securing his king and connecting his rooks.] **16...Ncxd4 17 cxd4 Qf5 18 d5** [Another pawn offer that just "felt right" and so proceeded with only sketchy calculation.] **18...O-O?** [He 'trusted' me and found a Lasker-like solution, giving up material but solving all the positional problems as now Black will castle, obtaining a central pawn mass plus open f-file for possible counterplay—or so it seemed to me during the game! In fact, the text move is a mistake. Black should go ahead and 'lose the piece' by 18... Bxd5! 19 g4 (not 19 Ng3 Qd3) because then 19...Qxe4! 20 Rxe4 Bxe4 21 Re1 Bg6 22 Qh3 Rc8 obtains excellent compensation.] **19 Ng3 Qf6 20 dxe6** [I also looked at 20 Bc3, rejecting it on account of some miscalculated lines

Blacksburg Senior Open

July 11-13, 2014

Hilton Garden Inn-Blacksburg

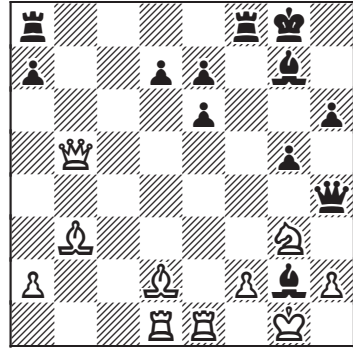
900 Plantation Rd, Blacksburg, Va 24060

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after 20...Nf4 (White can in fact get the advantage here) but overlooking altogether that after the correct 20...Nd4 21 Rad1 there is the move 21...Qb6! 20...fxe6 21 Qe2 Qxb2 22 Rab1 Qd4 23 Rbd1 Qh4 [Black has enough for the piece material-wise but his position is worse—lost, in fact, in my opinion. His king is still not safe, as will become clear should White succeed in setting up a battery on the b1-h7 diagonal. My next move is not a mistake, but I made it with all sorts of holes in the supporting analysis. Also, time trouble was beginning to feel like a factor. I had about ten minutes left to make it to move 40. With that in mind, 24 Qh5!? might have been called for on practical grounds, even though trading queens surrenders White's attacking potential and with it a portion of my advantage.] 24 Qxb5 Bxg2!?

[This was not a surprise but a virtual necessity. 24...Bc6 25 Qe2 would be accommodating and there was also 25 Bxe6+!? to consider.]



25 Kxg2?

25 Qxd7! would have won. The point is that the apparent weakness of the light squares around my king is really not an issue because the resource Bxe6+ makes it impossible for his



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queen to ever go to h3. The reply 25... Rxf2 worried me more—possibilities like 26 Kxf2 Qxh2 27 Bxe6+ Kh8 are intimidating in time trouble. In fact, 26 Be3! would neutralize Black's attack: 26...Rb2 (the only place to stay on the 7th rank) 27 Qxe6+ Kh8 28 Qxe7 and although I sort of saw this variation, I didn't appreciate White's clarifying threat Rd8+. Meanwhile, I thought I could escape after the text move...

25...Rxf2+! **26 Kxf2 Qxh2+** [When I took the bishop I believed I could stay on the f-file, relying on the resource 27 Kf3 Rf8+ 28 Nf5 when moving his king out of the pin by 28...Kh8 can be met by 29 Rh1! winning. But now that it was time actually to play the move, I realized this was doubly wrong. First, Black has another obvious check that

had remained somehow invisible to me until that moment: 28...Qh3+ Second, I noticed an even more worrisome shot that I had not considered previously, 28...d5!? breaking the pin and also cutting off my queen along the rank. My instant reaction was that this must win for Black. Later I determined that here too 29 Bc2! draws, eg 29...g4+! 30 Kxg4 Qg2+ 31 Kf4 Qf2+ 32 Kg4 Qg2+ etc. In any case, I opted for...] **27 Ke3** [...even though I saw (or *because* I saw, if you wish) that it led to a perpetual check.] **Qxg3+** **28 Ke2** [or 28 Ke4 Qg4+ 29 Kd3 Qd4+ etc] **28...Qg4+** **29 Kd3 Qd4+** **30 Ke2** [I cannot escape the checks (30 Kc2? Rc8+ Black wins) and he cannot stop giving them with a rook and bishop less.] **30...Qg4+** **31 Kd3 Qd4+** ½-½



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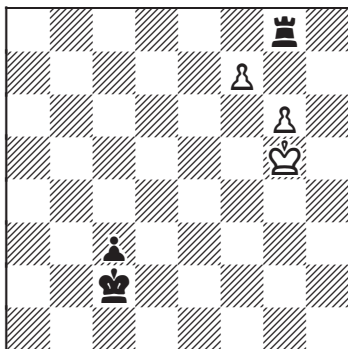
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A Tactical Ending

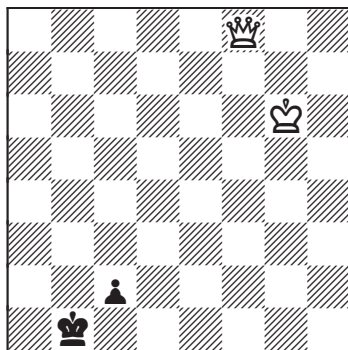
by Macon Shibut

Petrosian-Fischer, Portoroz 1958 is well known if only for its inclusion (#3) in Fischer's *My 60 Memorable Games*. The finish illustrates a most important tidbit of endgame theory.



Black to Play

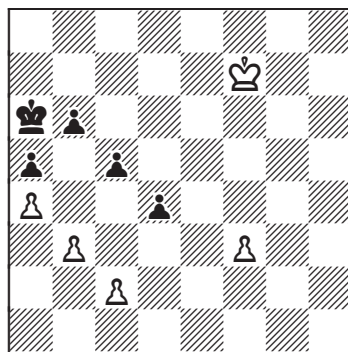
Fischer wrote: "I offered a draw, not realizing it was bad etiquette. It was Petrosian's place to extend the offer after 67...Rxc6+ 68 Kxc6 Kb1 69 f8Q c2 with a book draw."



Indeed, drawing with a rook's or bishop's pawn on the 7th rank against a queen is one of the first ending "tricks"

that players learn. The point is that after 70 Qb4+ Ka1 71 Qc3+ Kb1 72 Qb3+ Ka1! White can only stalemate by 73 Qxc2. Otherwise threat of promotion denies White's king any chance to approach.

But the trick doesn't *always* work. If the king is already close enough to give support, the queen can sometimes prevail—and precisely what constitutes "close enough" involves a variety of tactical possibilities. Further complications can arise from the fact that the theoretical ending doesn't just appear on the board in isolation, but arises out of preceding positions with additional material and resources. Consider the following example, which I gleaned from John Nunn's *Tactical Chess Endings*:



Black to Play

Even the first question is—which side is trying to win?—requires some thought. They eye is drawn to White's outside passed pawn and advanced king. On the



queenside, Black's majority is somewhat crippled; White's three pawns are at least complicating the process of obtaining a passed pawn from Black's four.

So White will promote the f-pawn and we shall see whether Black stir up enough in the queenside to maybe draw, right? Wrong. Black has the advantage, principally because his pawn mass as a whole is more advanced than White's f-pawn. Not only is White's pawn still on the third rank, he will have to spend a tempo somewhere getting his king out of its way.

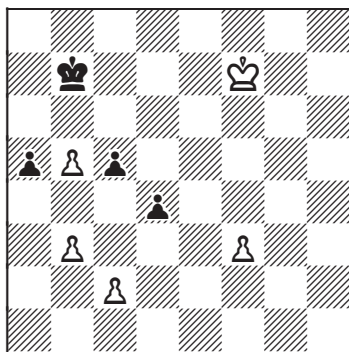
Just count: White needs six moves to make a queen—king somewhere, plus f4-5-6-7-8. Black needs only five moves for ...b5, ...c4, ...d3-2-1 and on top of that it is his turn to move. To the extent that it comes down to a race, Black enjoys a significant head start. But there's going to be a fog of captures and checks on the queenside, which precludes any neat, arithmetic demonstration of Black's advantage.

At least we've distilled the issue to where Black's first move has become pretty clear. **1...b5 2 axb5+** But what now? It's a microcosm of all chess: Black has a chance to go very wrong, or to be very clever, or to find something in-between.

Very Wrong: 2...Kxb5? the move of choice for most beginners, who of course cannot pass up a chance to take something. But after 3 Ke6! Black is already embarrassed. If 3...a4 4 bxa4+ Kxa4 5 Kd5 stops his pawns cold. So instead 3...c4, but then 4 bxc4+ Kxc4 5 f4 a4 6 f5 a3 7 f6 a2 8 f7 a1 Q 9 f8Q

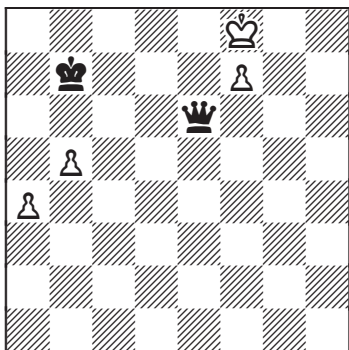
draws directly, provided White answer 9...Qe1+ with 10 Kd7! Note that circumstances forced Black to diverge from the direct plan suggested by our introductory comments—instead of promoting the advanced d-pawn, he wound up having to queen his a-pawn, which did not have such a head start over White's pawn.

Very Clever: 2...Kb7!



Only a pretty strong player will so much as consider this, but it's excellent. Now 3 Ke6 doesn't work for White as before because 3...a4! 4 bxa4 is not check. Black continues 4...c4 and his pawns simply outrun the king.

White can put up a better defense by 3 Ke7! He cannot catch the pawns anyhow, and the king is better off on the seventh rank for a reason that becomes clear shortly. 3...a4 4 bxa4 c4 5 f4 d3 6 cxd3 cxd3 7 f5 d2 8 f6 d1 Q 9 f7. If White's king were at e6 now, 9...Qd8 would win directly. As it is, Black must work a bit more. 9...Qe2+ 10 Kd7 Qf3 11 Ke7 Qe4+ 12 Kd7 Qf5+ 13 Ke7 Qe5+ 14 Kd7 Qf6 15 Ke8 Qe6+ 16 Kf8



Just for fun, let's take a 'time out' and pretend White's queenside pawns are gone. Just remove them from the diagram and hearken back to my "close enough" comment from earlier. Could Black win in that case? Not by 16...Kc7? for then the trick would work: 17 Kg7 Qe7 18 Kg8 Qg5+ 19 Kh7 Qf6 20 Kg8 Qg6+ 21 Kh8! and there is nothing better than 21...Qxf7 stalemate. However, Black's king is indeed *close enough* if he finds the finesse 16...Qg6! 17 Ke7 Qg7 18 Ke8 and only now 18...Kc7! 19 Ke7 (19 f8Q Qd7mate) 19...Qe5+ 20 Kf8 Qg5! 21 Ke8 Qd8mate.

All right, back to reality, ie the diagram position with White's a- and b- pawns on the board. Here Black wins most simply by 16...Kc7 17 b6+ (if 17 Kg7 Qg4+ 18 Kf6 Qf4+ 19 Kg7 (19 Kg6 Kd7) Qg5+ 20 Kh7 Qf6 21 Kg8 Qg6+ 22 Kf8 Kd7 followed by Ke6 and Qxf7) 17...Kxb6 18 a5+ Kc6 (of course not 18...Kxa5? 19 Kg7=) 19 a6 Kd7 20 a7 Qd5 21 Kg7 Qg2+ 22 Kf8 (or 22 Kh7 Ke7) 22...Qa8+ 23 Kg7 Ke7. Like Fischer said, the Queen is boss!

What Grigoriev actually played in the game was neither very wrong nor very

clever, but *In-between*, both qualitatively and geometrically...

2...Kb6

Unfortunately, Zubarev stumbled immediately with 3 Ke6? and the finish was not so interesting: 3...a4 4 bxa4 c4 5 f4 d3 6 cxd3 cxd3 7 f5 d2 8 f6 d1Q 9 f7 (If 9 Ke7, trying to correct the mistake, 9...Qe2+ 10 Kd7 Qf3 11 Ke7 Qe4+ 12 Kd7 Qf5+ 13 Ke7 Qe5+ wins) 9...Qd8 10 Kf5 Qd6! 0-1

From the preceding analysis you will recognize that White should have tried...

3 Ke7! and we continue **3...a4 4 bxa4 c4 5 f4 d3 6 cxd3 cxd3**

Now 7 f5 loses as we've seen before: 7...d2 8 f6 d1Q 9 f7 Qe2+ 10 Kd7 Qf3 11 Ke7 Qe4+ 12 Kd7 Qf5+ 13 Ke7 Qe5+ 14 Kd7 Qf6 15 a5+ (or 15 Ke8 Qe6+ 16 Kf8 Kc7) 15...Kxb5 16 Ke8 Qe6+ 17 Kf8 Kc6 18 a6 Kd7 19 a7 Qd5 20 Kg7 Qg2+ 21 Kf8 Qa8+ 22 Kg7 Ke7.

But White has a better defense.

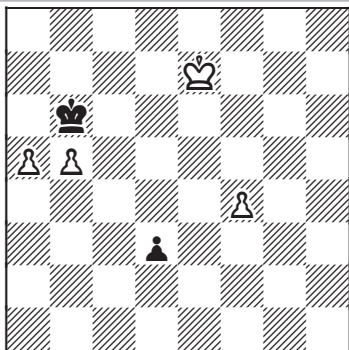
7 a5+!

Playing this immediately makes a big difference. The point is White may get rid of his queenside pawns under favorable circumstances. Saving a tempo by not pushing the f-pawn means the a-pawn can race Black's d-pawn on more even terms.

(see diagram top of next page)

Nearly every legal move by Black demands consideration! So let's consider...

i) 7...Kxb5 8 a6 Kxa6 (no choice) 9 f5 d2 10 f6 d1Q 11 f7 draws—the Black king is not close enough.



ii) 7...Kxa5 8 f5! d2 9 f6 d1Q 10 f7 Qe2+ 11 Kd7 Qf3 12 Ke7 Qe4+ 13 Kd7 Qf5+ 14 Ke7 Qe5+ 15 Kd7 Qf6 16 Ke8 Qe6+ 17 Kf8. Now the only useful moves are 17...Kxb5 and 17...Kb6 (17...Kb4 18 b6 Kc5 19 b7 is not useful) but either one allows White to reach the stalemate harbor by 18 Kg7 Qe7 19 Kg8 Qg5+ 20 Kh7 Qf6 21 Kg8 Qg6+ 22 Kh8! etc.

iii) 7...Kc5 8 b6 Kc6 9 a6! d2 (9...Kxb6 10 a7! draw) 10 a7 Kb7 11 f5 d1Q 12 f6 Qe1+! (if 12...Qe2+ 13 Kf8!—no more checks! White will play f7 next and soon mark ½-½ on the pairing sheet) 13 Kf8 Qb4+ 14 Ke8 Qb5+ 15 Kf8 Qc5+ 16 Ke8 Qe5+ 17 Kf7 Black can make no more progress. The b-pawn is forever immune.

iv) 7...Kc7 8 b6+ Kb8 9 a6 d2 10 a7+ Δ f5-6, similar to the previous variation.

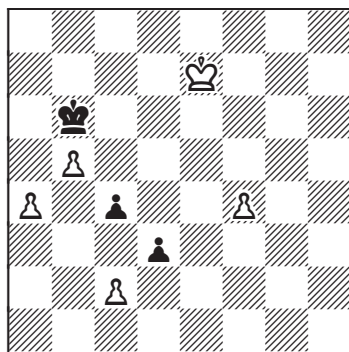
v) 7...Ka7! looks ridiculous but in fact it demands of White the most accurate defense! 8 b6+ Ka6 9 b7! Ka7 (9...Kxb7 10 a6+ Ka8!? 11 f5 d2 12 f6 d1Q 13 f7 would only clarify the draw more quickly) 10 f5 (but not 10 b8Q+? which you will find loses if you check the variations) 10...d2 11 f6 d1Q 12 f7 Qe2+ 13 Kd7 Qf3 14 Ke7 Qe4+ 15 Kd7

Qf5+ 16 Ke7 Qe5+ 17 Kd7 Qf6 18 Ke8 Qe6+ 19 Kf8 Kxb7 20 a6+ Kc7 21 a7 Black can't quite win.

On reflection, the designation “in-between” for 2...Kb6 seems unacceptable. Either the move is sufficient to win (albeit maybe not the simplest way) or it muffs the win that we saw could have been had by 2...Kb7. Which is it?

If the above convinces you that 2...Kb6 deserves a “?”—check the variations one more time! I passed over one additional resource that puts everything in a different light. Can you spot where?

Return to the position after 5...d3



We let 6 cxd3 cxd3 go by without comment, but now the reader can understand why **6...c3!** frustrates all White's plans. The additional pawn eliminates many stalemate possibilities. The win for Black is secure: **7 f5 c2 8 f6 c1Q 9 f7 Qc5+ 10 Ke8 Qe5+ 11 Kd7 Qf6 12 Ke8 Qe6+ 13 Kf8 Kc7 14 b6+ Kxb6 15 a5+ Kc7 16 a6 Kd7 17 a7 Qd5 18 Kg7 Qg2+ 19 Kf8 Qa8+ 20 Kg7 Ke7 21 d4 Qf8+ 22 Kg6 Qxf7+ 23 Kg5 Qd5+ etc.**

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