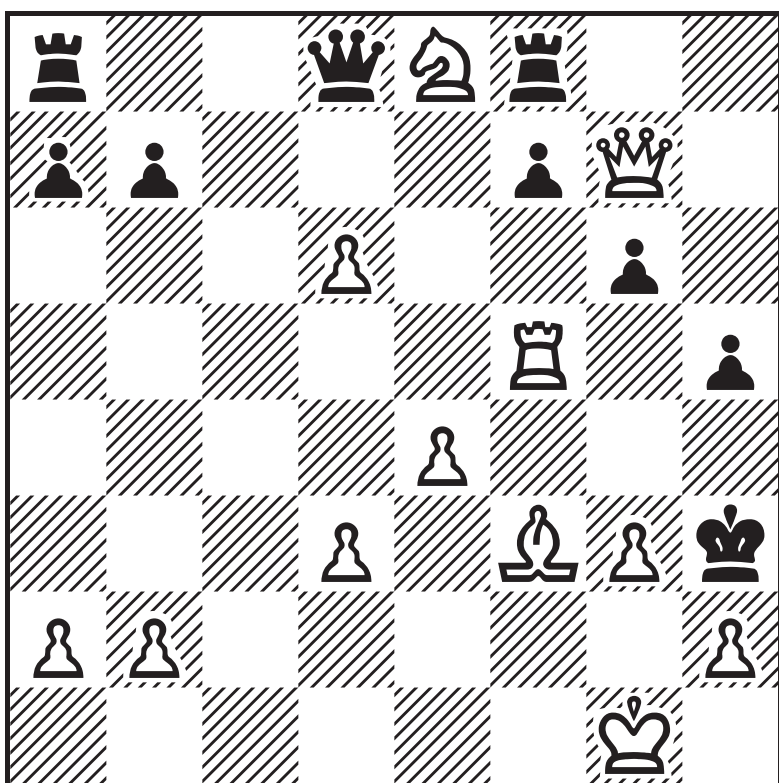


# VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

2014 - #2



*White to Play—Mate in 3*

(see page 10)

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

2014 - Issue #2

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# 2014 Virginia Open

by *Andrew Rea*

IM Tegshuren Enkhbat and expert Michael Spencer tied for first in the Open section of the 46<sup>th</sup> Virginia Open, played March 21-23 at the Dulles Marriott. They each scored  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ . Scott Webster and Sabina Foisor scored 4 apiece to tie for 3<sup>rd</sup>. Robert Fischer, Franco Jose, Gabriel Ewing & Andrew Rea comprised a 4-way tie for top Expert. Sean Senft, John Tesorero & Vishal Kobla split the class A prize.

The Amateur (under 1900) section also resulted in a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> between players with  $4\frac{1}{2}$  points. Ian Barruel & Glenn Shelton topped the field, followed by Aaryan Balu, Josh Hiban & Todd Hammer each half a point behind and splitting the class B, C and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes. Other prizewinners included Nicholas Xie (top D); Siddhaarth Balamuthaiya, Aditya Gude & Siddhant Nair (= top U1200); Patrick Davenport (top unrated).

A total of 92 players participated: 42 in the Open, 50 in the Amateur. Predictably the question of who would win what prize was not settled until the very last round—and in the case of the Open, the very last game!

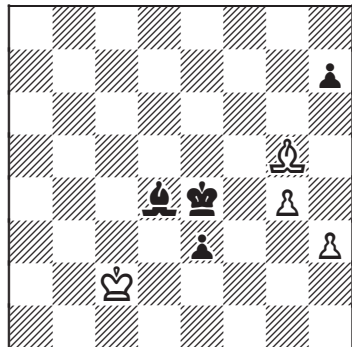
Enkhbat, going for his third consecutive Virginia Open championship, won his first 4 games, most notably a round 3 victory over Andy Samuelson. However, there was still much to be done. His last round opponent, WGM Sabina Foisor, was not inclined towards a quick draw with White. Then there was the battle on board 2, where Michael Spencer, a Maryland expert in good form with  $3\frac{1}{2}$  out of 4, faced Trung Nguyen, who of course has been dangerous to all comers the past few years despite his youth! Indeed, he has moved into first place on the current VCF Cup standings

Nevertheless he was outplayed in his final round by Spencer. Meanwhile Enkhbat was not able to generate much offense in his game and ultimately settled for a draw, which produced the final tie for first—well-earned scores by our co-winners!

The matter of other place and class prizes ultimately hinged on the game Senft-Webster.

**Sean Senft - Scott Webster**

*White to Play*





White was having a tough day. His reward for winning his first three games had been getting outplayed in the morning by Enkhbat (a misery Webster could relate to, having experienced it himself in round 2!) Now he faced a grim situation in the diagram position. He had the good sense to use nearly 18 of his remaining 30 minutes to analyze, but ultimately settled on the hopeless **1 Bh4**, which met with **1...e2 2 Kd2 Kf3** and try as White might, his goal line defense will be breached. He resigned a few moves later.

The idea of just capturing the e-pawn and trying to get his king to h1 may or may not have drawn, but some form of it was the best chance. For instance, **1 Kd1 Kf3 2 Bxe3 Bxe3 3 h4 Kxg4 4 h5**. How will Black's h-pawn promote with White's pawn in the way? Yet how can Black capture h5 while also keeping White king away from g2/h1 drawing glory? In fact, he can use zugzwang to make real progress! For example, **4...Kf3 5 Ke1 Bc5 6 Kd2 Bf2 7 Kd3 Be3 8 Kc2 Ke2 9 Kc3 Bb6** and we see White is getting farther and farther away from g2. If Black can push all the way to where the king and bishop stalemate White's king, White will be compelled to move h5-h6, whereupon the bishop can clip it while the Black king holds White's at bay.

So the drawn was by no means certain in any case. All the same, this would have been a better practical chance—but then, perhaps Sean has not yet played quite as many B+P endings your old fogey author! A good win at the end for Webster, joining me (Rea), Foisor, Ewing, Fischer, Jose, Tesorero & Kobla among the prizewinners. And, yes, Sean Senft also received the consolation of one of the class prizes as well!

While the Open section drew more spectator attention, it was not as though the Reserve lacked for interesting fights! Co-winners Shelton and Barruel both had to win their last round games to reach the finish line, always easier said than done!

### Aaryan Balu - Ian Barruel

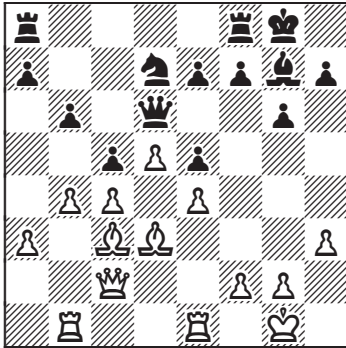
#### English

*Notes by Andrew Rea*

**1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 b3** [An interesting choice, as the Queen's Indian is not very popular at club level events for Black or White at present. Nevertheless White will have a solid position early.] **3...Bg7 4 Bb2 O-O 5 d4 d6 6 e3** [Reasonable, likely per plan, but not the only consideration. Thus **6 g3 Δ Bg2** and White will try to gain more space in less time via an eventual e2-e4 in one move. Surely Black will not stand still, and it may well be that White is much less familiar with this idea in contrast to the chosen text.] **6...c5 7 Nbd2 Nc6 8 a3** [Safe but passive, as ...Nb4 was not a threat. At least the text prepares b2-b4, so it is not quite a dreaded do-nothing move. But a fair argument can be made that **8 d5** is more consistent, eg **8...Nb4 9 a3 Na6 10 Bd3** sets White's center in motion against the



Black kingside with a decent gain of space.] **8...Bg4** [Black makes a significant choice, striving for the knight pair in a closed position—except that the position is not yet closed. His decision was well based in view of the tournament standing. Trailing by a half point, it was not in his interest to stand still for blah equality. At some stage Black has to stir the waters!] **9 h3 Bxf3 10 Nxf3 Qb6** [Perhaps White should have now captured on c5, to add life to Bb2, but he probably did not like the view of Black rooks on the d-file.] **11 Rb1 Rfe8 12 d5** [Rationally not allowing Black play on said d-file with the added bonus of more space—not enough to push Black off the board, but at least now Black must consider that ... e6 or ... e5 might allow White shots against d6. In other news, White is behind in development but Black does not seem to have resources to exploit this.] **12... Nb8 13 Bd3 Nbd7 14 O-O Rf8!?** [Is Black nervously overprotecting f7 or overly ambitiously striving for ... f7-f5-f4!?] **15 e4 Qc7** [Black maintains the struggle for dark squares while putting ... b7-b5 on the radar.] **16 Re1 Ne5 17 Nxe5** [17



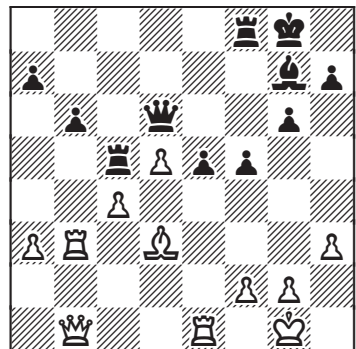
**Bc2** is well intended, but Black does not wait for **Nf3-d2** and a subsequent **f2-f5**, instead replying **17...Nxf3+ 18 Qxf3 a6** White will not get a knight to c4 while Black will have queenside counterplay.] **17...dxe5 18 b4 Nd7 19 Qc2 Qd6 20 Bc3 b6** (*diagram*)

[It seems we have plenty of maneuvering in store, and the result seems unclear. Alas, for White, all is not well, as **Bd3** is feeble, not soon to be unleashed, and the prospects for a later ripping on light squares is bleak. **Bd3** at least covers c4,

but Black can still make use of the c-file, unlike the wall White is hitting on the b-file. Matters are not helped by **f2-f4**, hitting **e5** but not doing any further damage. Black might not have planned this all along, but then all credit to his good intuition that he would have better prospects here!] **21 Rb3 Rac8 22 bxc5 Nxc5 23 Bb4 e6! 24 Bxc5 Rxc5 25 Qb1 exd5 26 exd5 f5**

(*diagram*)

[Much has changed in only six moves. White has a protected passed pawn now, but not much else. Preventing Black from coasting in on the c-file has had ramifications on the kingside, so now Black is building for **e5-e4**. This will be a difficult defense; mitigating ...e4 with **f2-f3** leaves a draft on White's dark squares, the Black king is safe, and White's bishop is passive.] **27 f3 Ra5 28 Qa2 Re8 29 a4 e4!** [No need to wait, as the White problems are





not merely material.] **30 fxe4 Qg3 31 Qe2** [White could hardly be pleased with 31 Qf2 Bd4 32 Qxd4 Qxe1+ 33 Kh2 fxe4.] **31...Bd4+ 32 Kh1 Be5 33 Kg1 Qh2+ 34 Kf1 Bd4 35 Qc2** [Of course it is not so simple to dodge both Black rooks, a queen in his kitchen, and a monster bishop.] **35...fxe4 36 Rxe4 Rf8+ 37 Ke1 Qg1+ 38 Kd2 Rxa4 39 Be2 Ra1** [Closing in for ...Qe1+/Ra1-c1 and ...Rc3+ among other threats.] **40 Bf3 Bg7** [White still has bad news on several fronts, but finally there is a small window to try for some offense via 41 d6 or 41 c5. Problems can be seen with either continuation, but at least these two ideas give White some swindling shots. As played, White protects the second rank, but it is not a surprise that he is still unable to neutralize Black's attack. Per Botvinnik, in middlegame positions with opposite color bishops, time favors the aggressor!]  
**41 Re2 Qd4+ 42 Qd3 Bh6+ 43 Re3** [White cannot allow mate on c1, but there is no compensation for the rook.] **43...Bxe3+ 0-1**

Surely Aaryan was disappointed, having won his first four rounds only to see age and treachery triumph over youth and energy in the finale! Congratulations to Msrs Barruel and Shelton for sharing first place in the Amateur, well deserved!

I would be remiss if I did not also thank all of our players for their support of chess and their exemplary sportsmanship. Per usual, we also had the benefit of excellent tournament directors, with Mike Hoffpauir leading the way, well assisted by Anand Dommalapati. For those thinking "wait til next year!"—why wait so long? Same location, Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26, the Cherry Blossom Classic! I look forward to seeing you there!

Sabina Foisor - Tegshsuren Enkhbat  
Semi-Slav

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e3 e6 5 Nf3 a6 6 a4 c5 7 Be2 Nc6 8 O-O Be7 9 b3 O-O 10 Bb2 cxd4 11 exd4 b6 12 cxd5 exd5 13 Ne5 Nb4 14 Na2 Bb7 15 Nxb4 Bxb4 16 Bd3 Ne4 17 f3 Nf6 18 Rc1 Qd6 19 Rf2 g6 20 Rfc2 Rfc8 21 Rxc8+ Rxc8 22 Rxc8+ Bxc8 23 Qc2 Bb7 24 Bc1 Nd7 25 Bf4 Nxe5 26 Bxe5 Qe6 27 Qc7 f6 28 Qxb7 fxe5 29 Qb8+ Kf7 30 Qc7+ Be7 31 Qxe5 Qc6 32 Qf4+ Bf6 33 g4 Qc3 34 g5 Qxd4+ 35 Qxd4 Bxd4+ 36 Kg2 a5 ½-½

Tegshsuren Enkhbat - Sean Senft  
Catalan

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Qc2 e6 5 g3 Bd6 6 Bg2 Nbd7 7 O-O O-O 8 Nc3 b6 9 e4 dxe4 10 Ng5 Bb7 11 Rd1 Qe7 12 Ngxe4 Nxe4 13 Nxe4 Bc7 14 c5 Rab8 15 b3 f5 16 Ng5 bxc5 17 dxc5 h6 18 Nf3 Rfd8 19 b4 Nf6 20 Bb2 Nd5 21 a3 a5 22 bxa5 Bxa5 23 Be5 Bc7 24 Re1 Re8 25 Nd4 Bxe5 26 Rxe5 Qd7 27 Rae1 Nc7 28 Qc4 Ba6 29 Qc3 Nb5 30 Nxb5 Bxb5 31 Qc2 Rbd8 32 a4 Ba6 33 h4 Rb8 34 Qa2 Bc8 35 Rxf5 Kh8 36 Rfe5 Ra8 37 Qc2 Qb7 38 Qg6 Bd7 39 Be4 Kg8 40 Qh7+ Kf8 41 Bg6 Reb8 42 Rxe6 1-0



Andrew Samuelson - TegshsurenEnkhbat

Caro-Kann

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 Bf5 4 Be3 e6 5 Nd2 Nd7 6 Ngf3 h6 7 Be2 Ne7 8 Nb3 Bh7  
 9 g4 Nc8 10 c3 Be7 11 h4 a5 12 g5 Bf5 13 gxh6 gxh6 14 Qd2 Bf8 15 Rg1 Ncb6  
 16 Nc1 a4 17 Bf4 Nc4 18 Bxc4 dxc4 19 a3 Qb6 20 Ne2 O-O-O 21 Ng3 Bg6 22  
 Kf1 Qb5 23 Re1 Nc5 24 Kg2 Nd3 25 Re2 Qd5 26 Qe3 Be7 27 h5 Nxf4+ 28 Qxf4  
 Bg5 29 Qg4 Bd3 30 Re4 Rhg8 31 Rf4 Bxf4 32 Qxf4 Be4 33 Re1 Bxf3+ 34 Qxf3  
 Rg4 35 Qxd5 cxd5 36 Re3 Rf4 37 Re1 Rg8 38 Rh1 f6 39 exf6 Rxf6 40 Re1 Rg5  
 41 Re2 Kd7 42 Re3 Kd6 43 Re2 Rf4 44 Re1 Rh4 45 Kf3 Rh2 46 Re2 Rg8 47 Ke3  
 Rf8 48 f4 Rxe2+ 49 Nxe2 Rg8 50 Kf3 Ke7 51 Ng3 Kf6 52 Ne2 Rd8 53 Ng3 Rd6  
 54 f5 Rb6 55 fxe6 Kxe6 56 Ne2 Rxb2 57 Nf4+ Kd6 58 Kg4 Rc2 59 Kf5 Rxc3 0-1

**2<sup>nd</sup> Cherry Blossom Classic****May 24-26, 2014****Marriot Dulles Airport Hotel, Dulles, Virginia****45020 Aviation Dr., Sterling VA 20166**

6-SS in 3 sections: Open (FIDE rated), Reserve (U2000), Amateur (U1600).  
 Open time control Game/160, d5; Reserve & Amateur sections 30/100, SD/60,  
 d5. \$\$6200, Open unconditionally guaranteed, Reserve & Amateur prizes  
 based on 132 paid entries (re-entries count as half-entry) with 70% minimum  
 guaranteed payout. *Open* (100%G) \$1000-500-300-150, U2250 \$230-120, U2100  
 \$200. *Reserve* (U2000/unrated) \$850-400-250-120, U1800 \$200-100. *Amateur*  
 (U1600) \$700-350-220-110, U1400 \$200-100, U1100 \$100. *All sections:* 3-day  
 schedule rds Saturday 12-7pm; Sunday 11-6; Monday 10-4:30. Alternate 3-day  
 evening start schedule, Sat 5:30-8:30 with a time control of Game/70, d5, then  
 merge with main schedule at round 3 Sunday morning. (Note: This accelerated  
 time control is not FIDE ratable; therefore, Open section players choosing this  
 schedule will have only rounds 3-6 FIDE rated.) Up to two ½pt byes available,  
 must commit 30 minutes before start of rd 3. EF \$84 if rec'd by May 18, \$89  
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 United States Men's & Women's (Closed) Champions play for free. Re-entry  
 \$45 for all players. Boards and sets provided in ALL sections. Bring clocks--  
 none supplied. Hotel \$79/night if reserved by May 10th. Reservations 703-  
 471-9500, mention chess tournament. Free Parking/Indoor & outdoor pools,  
 5-10 minute drive to over a dozen restaurants and to the Air & Space Museum  
 Udvar-Hazy Center (an excellent educational museum, home to the space  
 shuttle Discovery—<http://airandspace.si.edu/museum/udvarhazy>). *Enter:* Use  
 Paypal through tournament website [www.cherryblossomchess.com](http://www.cherryblossomchess.com), or mail to  
 Cherry Blossom Chess, c/o Jonathan Kenny, 7405 Lanham Rd., Falls Church  
 Va 22043, make checks payable to Jonathan Kenny (memo 'chess tournament').

40 Grand Prix points—A VCF Cup Event

Virginia Open, *continued*

Andrew Samuelson - David Slack  
Scandinavian

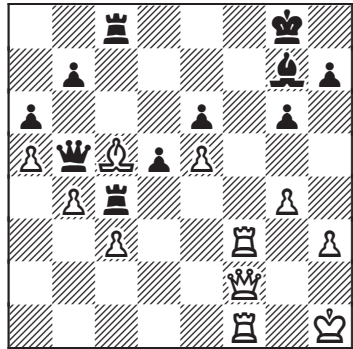
1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qd6 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3 a6 6 Ne5 Nc6 7 Bf4 Qxd4 8 Nxc6 Qxd1+ 9 Rxd1 bxc6 10 Bxc7 Bf5 11 Bxa6 Nd5 12 Bb7 1-0

Deodato Obregon - Andrew Samuelson  
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 g6 3 f4 Bg7 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Bb5 Nd4 6 Bc4 d6 7 O-O e6 8 e5 Nxf3+ 9 Qxf3 d5 10 Bb5+ Bd7 11 Bxd7+ Qxd7 12 a4 Ne7 13 d4 cxd4 14 Nb5 O-O 15 Nxd4 Rfc8 16 c3 Nc6 17 Nxc6 Rxc6 18 Be3 Rac8 19 Bd4 Ra6 20 a5 Qb5 21 b4 Bf8 22 Qe3 Rac6 23 Rab1 a6 24 Kh1 Qa4 25 Qd2 Rc4 26 h3 Qc6 27 Rf3 Be7 28 g4 Bf8 29 f5 Qe8 30 Rbf1 Bg7 31 fxe6 fxe6 32 Qf2 Qb5 33 Bc5

(diagram)

33...R4xc5 34 bxc5 Qxc5 35 Qxc5 Rxc5 36 Rb1 Rc7 37 Re3 Kf7 38 Kg2 Ke8 39 h4 Kd8 40 Rb6 Ke7 41 h5 Bh6 42 Rf3 Bg7 43 hxg6 hxg6 44 Re3 Kf7 45 Kf3 Bf8 46 Ke2 Bc5 47 Rf3+ Ke7 48 Rb1 Kd7 49 Kd3 g5 50 Rf6 Be7 51 Rg6 b5 52 axb6 Rb7 53 Rg8 Bd8 54 Kc2 a5 55 Rb5 Bxb6 56 Rxg5 Kc6 57 Rb1 Rf7 58 Rg6 Rf2+ 59 Kb3 Bc5 60 Ra1 Kb5 61 Ra4 Rf3 62 Rf6 Re3 63 Ra1 Rxe5 64 Rf4 Re3 65 Rfa4 Bb4 66 Kc2 Rxc3+ 67 Kd1 Rg3 68 Ke2 Rxg4 69 Kf3 Rc4 70 R4a2 e5 71 Rd1 Rc3+ 72 Ke2 d4 73 Rh1 Re3+ 74 Kd1 d3 75 Rg2 Kc4 76 Ra2 Kb3 77 Ra3+ Kxa3 78 Rf1 d2 79 Rf3 Rxf3 80 Ke2 Rh3 0-1



## Blacksburg Senior Open

July 11-13, 2014

Hilton Garden Inn-Blacksburg

900 Plantation Rd, Blacksburg, Va 24060

5-SS, G/100 d5. All participants must be USCF members and must be 50 years old by December 31, 2014. \$\$ (b/30) in two sections: *Open* \$200-100-50; *Under 1600* \$150-75-25. Reg 6-7pm Friday, rds 7:30, 10-4, 9-2 PM. Players electing to start on Saturday morning with a ½-pt bye for rd 1 may register between 8:30-9:30am. Up to two irrevocable ½-pt byes allowed, must be requested at registration. EF \$45 if postmarked by July 7, \$50 thereafter. Hotel \$95/night chess rate if booked by 06/10/2014. Phone 540-552-5005 and request "Blacksburg Senior Open" rate, or book online at [www.blacksburg.hgi.com](http://www.blacksburg.hgi.com) and enter the group code CHESS. Enter Mail checks to Bob Mahan, 610 N Main St, Suite 215, Blacksburg, Va 24060. More info [www.chessforseniors.org](http://www.chessforseniors.org)





National master and former Virginia state champion Bill Mason died March 16, two days shy of his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Although he played only sparingly in recent years (mostly in DC League matches), Bill was a regular presence at all regional tournaments from the late 1980s straight through the '90s. He was a member of a team (“Walk Your Dog”) that won the US Amateur Team Championship in 1987.

Bill won his state championship in 1991. He also contributed regularly to the pages of VIRGINIA CHESS in those days. His articles were refreshingly personal and honest, evincing an unabashed enthusiasm for chess and life in general. The following typical example appeared originally in our March/April 1992 issue.

### BEATING MY FIRST GRANDMASTER—by Bill Mason

**P**LAYING A GRANDMASTER is a great honor but it is usually not much fun; particularly if you're accustomed to winning most of your games. Going into the following game, I'd played GMs five times. Dmitry Gurevich beat me 7 or 8 years ago in a game where I was so nervous I self-destructed in about 12 moves as White (although the game actually lasted 40 moves or so). Then I played Sergey Kudrin 5 years ago. Somehow I managed to lose a completely drawn opposite color bishop ending in 80 moves. This was frustrating, but it also reassured me; it's not written in stone that these guys are going to blow you away. Three years ago I sat down opposite Boris Gulko in the Maryland Open. I felt calm the first 8 moves,



but then he played a move that left a gaping hole in the middle of his position. My head began to buzz as I let myself imagine the ecstasy of beating the great Boris. Two moves later I realized that, unfortunately, he had actually played a stellar move; I would never manage to occupy the d5 hole even though it was sitting there in the middle of the board. He crushed me some 20 moves later, his pieces dancing on both sides of the board. My next GM game was also against Gulko in the winter of 1991. This time I was very calm, as I knew I was in poor form anyway. I got a passive position early, so I didn't have to worry about disorienting adrenaline rushes, but I dug deep for some 60 moves before going down.

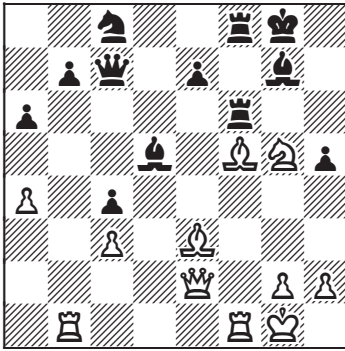
Before the following game, I knew this GM would be different! For one thing, I had a plan. I was going to either (a) sacrifice a pawn or two for an attack (or at least a good, murky position); or (b) I was going to accept a pawn and defend so long as the queens stayed on. At all costs I was going to avoid simplified positions unless I got to be 2 pawns up, as I have so much respect for the GM's technique. Another reason this GM game was going to be different was that my opponent was once again Kudrin, who had not only just lost to Ed Formanek but also had received the opposite color bishop game 5 years previously. THE GAME:

### Bill Mason - Sergey Kudrin Grünfeld

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5** [I don't know whether Kudrin plays the Gruenfeld regularly or if he was inspired to play it after seeing Victor Sherman positionally dismantle me after 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bg5 Ne4 6 cxd5 Nxc5 7 Nxc5 e6 8 Qd2 exd5 9 Qe3+ Kf8 10 Qf4 Bf6! 11 h4 Kg7! 12 O-O-O h6 13 Nf3 Be6 14 g4 Nd7 15 Bg2 Be7!! ♣ ] **4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 e4 Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 7 Be3!? c5 8 Bc4 O-O 9 Ne2 Nd7?!** [This position occurred in the Bronstein-Botvinnik world championship match except White had castled instead of Be3. Thus Bronstein was able to continue 10 Bg5 and Black held the draw only after some hard slogging. ...Nd7 has the drawback of not putting much pressure on White's center, but Black's idea is to wait until White plays f4, block with...f5, and get his knight to d5 via b6.] **10 O-O a6 11 a4 Qc7 12 Rc1 Nb6 13 Bb3 c4 14 Bc2 Bd7 15 f4 f5! 16 Ng3 fxe4?!** [16...e6 was better. White answers 17 d5 with unclear play. My next move prevents him from achieving his intended Nd5.] **17 d5! Rad8?!** [Playing to assail the d5 pawn, but now I get time to crack his fragile kingside shell. The greedy 17...Bxc3 looks risky but White has no forced win, merely a healthy attack.] **18 Rb1!** [It's crucial to drive the knight out of the game.] **18...Nc8 19 Nxe4 Bc6 20 Qg4!** [20 Ng5 Bxd5 21 Qg4 may reach the same position, but the text move order eliminates Black's options.] **20...Bxd5 21 Ng5 h5!?** [Radically dealing with the threats Nh7, f5 and Qh3. But his position is critical, if not lost.] **22 Qe2!** [Prevents counterattacks by Q-d7-g4. ...Qd7 would also be a useful



defensive move for him if, say, White had retreated the queen to h3.] **22...Rd6** **23 f5! gxf5 24 Bxf5!** [So much for staying calm! Apparently I was beginning to thump the pieces a bit. I'd already envisioned the actual final position as it arose, and I couldn't wait to get there. With each move I felt the GM jinx lifting off my shoulders. I began to disregard alternatives for him, so it's fortunate he stuck to my main line all the way through.] **24...Rdf6?** [Black wants me to take his



h-pawn with my queen, as then ...Rh6 looks like a winning reply, with h2 falling if the queen retreats. But this idea is decisively refuted by an explosion at h7! Therefore 24...Rh6 was much better, though then 25 Bh7+ Kh8 (not 25...Rxh7 26 Nxh7 Kxh7 27 Qxh5+xd5) 26 Rxf8+ Bxf8 27 Qd2! e6 (if 27...Rd6 28 Bf4 if nothing else) 28 Rf1 with at least Nf7 to follow.] (*diagram*)

**25 Qxh5! Rh6 26 Bh7+! Kh8 27 Rxf8+! Bxf8** **28 Bd4+! e5** [not 28...Bg7 29 Qe8+] **29 Bxe5+ Qxe5 30 Nf7+ Bxf7 31 Qxe5+ Kxh7 32 Qf5+** 1-0 He said OK, that's enough. If 32...Bg6 33

Rxb7+ and then either 33...Ne7 34 Qxf8; or 33...Bg7 34 Qd7!; or 33...Kg8 34 Qxc8. I managed to remain calm in the tournament hall but as soon as I walked into the corridor I couldn't contain myself any longer. I began to leap in the air, high-five myself, and search for all my friends.



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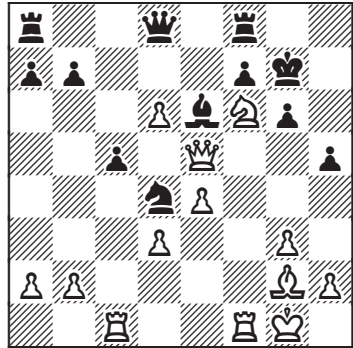
## Bill Wirth, 1924-2014

William “Bill” Wirth, a long-time member of the Richmond Chess Club in the 1960s-70s, died February 11 at age 90. I had not seen him in many years but I recall him as a very nice guy who occasionally gave me rides to chess club when I was a kid. His fine sportsmanship is evinced in the pages of an old Virginia Chess Newsletter when Bill chose to publicize a “brilliancy” he lost to Bob Vassar in the final round of the 1975 state championship. —*ed*

### Bob Vassar - Bill Wirth 1975 Virginia Closed Sicilian

The “Vassar Brilliancy” was played in Monday’s 7<sup>th</sup> round and then replayed, to the enjoyment of many, in the skittles room. I have not tried to analyze the game, although a quick look at it would appear to indicate a few places where I failed to make the best move, and perhaps even a questionable move or two for Bob. This, however, is a game to be enjoyed, not analyzed. The thing to do is to play through the first 19 moves quickly and then watch as White chases the Black king from g7 to a mate nine moves later on h3, sacrificing in the process both rooks and finally his queen. —Bill Wirth 1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 Nge2 d6 6 O-O e6 7 d3 Nge7 8 Be3 Nd4 9 Qd2 e5 10 f4 Bh6 11 fxe5 Bxe3+ 12 Qxe3 Nxc2 13 Qf4 O-O 14 exd6 Nc6 15 Nd5 Be6 16 Nf6+ Kg7 17 Rac1 N6d4 18 Nxd4 Nxd4 19 Qe5 h5 *(diagram)*

20 Ne8+ Kh6 21 Qg7+ Kg5 22 Rxc5+ Bf5 23 Rcx5+ Nxf5 24 Rxf5+ Kg4 25 Bf3+ Kh3 26 Rxh5+ gxh5 27 Qg4+ hxg4 28 Bg2 *mate* 1-0



### Virginia Senior Open

June 7-8, 2014

Lincolnia Senior Center

4710 N Chambliss St, Alexandria, Va 22312

5-SS, Game/120, d5. Single section, \$\$1000: \$300-200-150; U2000 125, U1800 125, U1600 100. Trophies to top age 60-69 and top age 70+. Reg 9:00-9:50am, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-2:30. EF \$40 advance entry at Arlington Chess Club, by mail (must be post-marked by Jun 2) or on-line (PayPal), \$50 at site. Virginia residents must have current VCF membership (\$5-10). W. NS. Hotel: Comfort Inn Landmark, 6253 Duke St, Alexandria, Va 22312, 703-642-3422. *Enter*: Send checks payable to “VA Chess Federation” to VA Senior Open, PO Box 151122, Alexandria, VA 22315. On-line entry at <http://www.vachess.org>. Info only: [chrisney2@gmail.com](mailto:chrisney2@gmail.com)

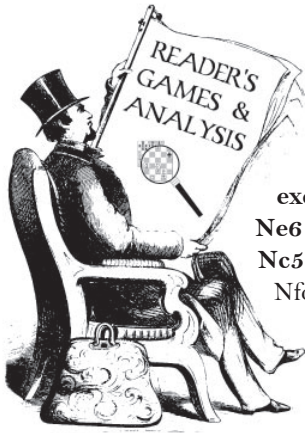


Geoff McKenna - Oliver Kayende

DC Chess League 2014

English

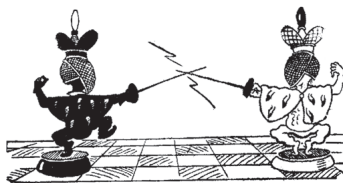
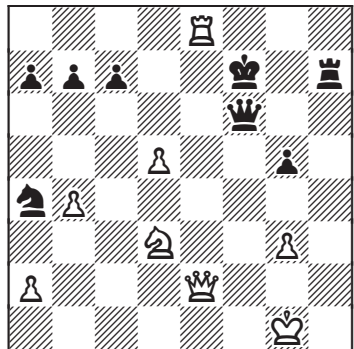
Notes by Geoff McKenna



1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 O-O 5 Nf3 d6  
6 O-O e5 7 d3 Re8 8 Rb1 Nbd7 9 e4 Nf8 10 d4  
exd4 [I wondered about 10...Bg4 or 10...Ne6] 11 Nxd4  
Ne6 12 Nc2 [Now I think White is a little better.] 12...  
Nc5 13 f3 Be6?! [This seems pretty toothless. Maybe...  
Nfd7 is better.] 14 b3 h5 15 Be3 Qc8 16 Nd5 Bd7  
17 Qd2 Nxd5 18 cxd5 Bb5 19 Rfd1 Bd7 20 Ne1  
f5 21 b4 Na4 [Now Black has an unattractive  
configuration on the queenside.] 22 Rdc1 Re7 23  
Nd3 fxe4 24 fxe4 Bh3 [I would like to retain my  
light square bishop, but after 25 Bh1 h4 the White

king position looks fragile. So, I try to exchange both pairs of bishops to exploit the remote position of Black's knight.] 25 Bxh3 Qxh3 26 Nf2 Qd7 27 Bd4 Rf8 28 Bxg7 Rxg7 29 Nd3 g5 30 Rf1 Qe7 31 Rxf8+ Qxf8 32 e5!? dxe5?! [Played instantaneously. I thought it was better to play ...Nb6 first.] 33 Re1 h4 34 Rxe5 hxg3 35 hxg3 Qf6 36 Re8+ [To try to force the king onto a vulnerable square.] 36...Kf7 37 Qe2 Rh7 (diagram)

38 Re3! [My favorite move of the game. Now 38 ...Qd4 loses to 39 Qf2+ and a discovered attack.] 38...Nc3? 39 Ne5+ [Now if Black takes the knight then 40 Qf2+ wins—and 40 Rf3+more so.] 39...Kg8 40 Rxc3 Qh6 41 Nf3? [It would be better to play 41 Ng4 but I missed, 41...Qh1+ 42 Kf2 Rf7+ 43 Rf3! pointed out by Darmanovic.] 41...Qh1+ 42 Kf2 Rf7 43 Qe8+ Kg7 44 Qe5+ Kf8 45 Qxg5 Qh2+ 46 Ke3 Qxa2 47 d6 Qe6+ 48 Kf2 Qxd6 49 Qc5 Qxc5+ 50 Rxc5 b6 51 Rc1 [The score now becomes corrupt; following is roughly what happened.] 51...Ke8 52 Ra1 c6 53 g4?! Rf4 54 Kg3 Rxb4 55 Rxa7 c5 56 Ne5 c4 57 Kf4 c3+ 58 Kf5 Rb5 59 Ke6 Kd8 60 Nd3 c2?! 61 Kd6 Rc5 62 Nxc5 1-0



Readers' Games, *continued*

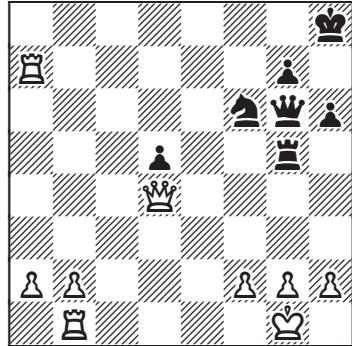
**Ted Covey - John Galvin**  
**2014 US Amateur Team East**  
**Queen Pawn**

*Notes by Ted Covey*

This was my game in the final round of the USATE. My team ("Center Squares"—I was 4<sup>th</sup> board) was playing a team ("Witch Doctors") from the intermediate school whose chess program was the subject of the movie *Brooklyn Castle*. My opponent, an assistant principal and coach of the chess team, was featured in the documentary. We had an exciting double-edged game and I thought it was worth consideration for publication in VIRGINIA CHESS. **1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 c5 4 c4 cxd4 5 exd4 e6 6 Nc3 Nc6 7 Bf4 Bd6 8 Bxd6 Qxd6 9 c5 Qd8 10 Bb5 O-O 11 O-O Bd7 12 Bd3** [12 Re1] **12...b6 13 cxb6 Qxb6 14 Rb1 Rfc8 15 Na4 Qb8 16 Nc5 Kh8** [16...Nb4] **17 Ba6** [17 b4] **17...Re8 18 Bb7 e5** [18...Qd6] **19 Bxa8 Qxa8 20 Nxd7 Nxd7 21 dxe5 Ncxe5 22 Nxe5 Rxe5** [22...Nxe5] **23 Re1 Rg5** [23...Rxe1+] **24 Qd4 Nf6 25 Re7 h6 26 Rxf7 Qe8 27 Rxa7** [27 Rxf6 was better] **27...Qg6** (*diagram*)

*Wow!* I suddenly notice my comfortable attack has turned on me. Black has a double attack on g2 and my rook at b1.

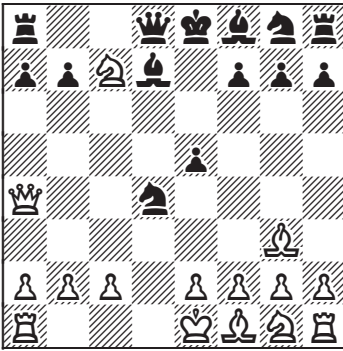
**28 Ra8+ Kh7 29 Rf1 Rxcg2+ 30 Kh1 Ne4 31 Rf8 Nf6** [31...Rxc2+ would force a draw: 32 Kxh2 Qh5+ 33 Kg2 Qg4+] **32 Rxf6** [I could play 32 a4 since the h2 sacrifice no longer works, eg 32...Rxc2+ 33 Kxh2 Qh5+ (33...Ng4+ 34 Kh3 Qh5+ 35 Kg3 ) 34 Kg2 Qg5+ 35 Kf3] **32...gxf6 33 Qxd5 Rg5 34 Qd7+** [34 Qb7+ was safer to guard against checks on the diagonal.] **34...Kh8 35 Re1?** [I feared ...Qe4 but was convinced that preventing it gave me a won game. But the right way was to cover e4 with my queen, 35 Qd8+ Kh7 36 Qe7+ Kh8, and then deploy the rook, 37 Rc1] **35...Rg1+! 36 Rxcg1 Qe4+** ½-½



**Tim Hamilton - Scott Webster**  
**DC Chess League 2014**  
**Dunst**

*Notes by Tim Hamilton*

**1 Nc3 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 Qxd4 Nc6 4 Qa4 d5 5 Bf4** [This line is not quite sound, perhaps, but can lead to complicated struggles, especially when Black is caught unprepared. He asked me after the game if I had played this before. (answer: yes!)] **5...Bd7 6 Nxd5 e5 7 Bg3 Nd4 8 Nc7+** (*diagram, next page*)



8...Qxc7 9 Qxd4 f6 10 Qd2 Bf5 11 c3 Rd8  
 12 Qc1 Bc5 13 e3 g5 14 Bb5+ Kf7 15 Nf3 h5  
 16 h4 g4 17 Nd4 Bc8 18 Bc4+ Ke7 19 Bb3  
 Qb6 20 Nc2 Qc6 21 O-O a5 22 Rd1 Nh6 23  
 Rxd8 Rxd8 24 e4 Nf7 25 Bd5 Qb6 26 b4 Bd6  
 27 Bxf7 Kxf7 28 Qh6 Rg8 29 Qxh5+ Rg6 30  
 Ne3 Bf8 31 Nf5 Bg7 32 Ne7 1-0

Brett Blackstock - Zameese Peters  
 VHSL Regional Playoff (Norfolk) 2014  
 Ponziani

Notes by Ernie Schlich

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 c3 d6 4 d4 Bg4 5 h3 Bxf3 6 gxf3 exd4 7 cxd4 Qe7 8  
 Nc3 O-O-O 9 Nd5 Qe8 10 Bg5 f6 11 Bf4 g5 12 Nxf6? [Not a sound sacrifice;  
 Black missed a good tactical idea on move 13.] 12...Nxf6 13 Bxg5 Bg7 [13...  
 Nxe4! 14 fxe4 Qxe4+ and take the rook on h1] 14 Qa4 h6 15 Bh4 h5 16 Rg1  
 Qe7 17 d5 Ne5 18 Be2 Kb8 19 f4 Qd7 20 Qd4 c5 21 dxc6 Nxc6 22 Qa4 Rhe8  
 23 Rg3 Rxe4 24 Qb3 Qe8 25 O-O-O [White misses the equalizing move 25  
 Rxc6 eg 25...Rxe2+ 26 Kf1 Rd7 27 Bxf6] 25...Rxe2 26 Rxc6 b6 [Now Black  
 misses a won game by 26...Na5! defending the mate at b7 and clearing the way  
 for his own counterattack, eg 27 Qd3 Rc8+ 28 Kb1 Qe4 Black will either keep the  
 extra piece or win by direct attack.] 27 Bxf6 Rc8 28 Rxd6? [28 Bc3 provides  
 protection for the king and keeps the game even. 28 Kb1 was also good enough.  
 What White cannot afford is to let Black's pieces invade.] 28...Re1+ 29 Kd2  
 Qe2+ 30 Kc3 Rc1+ 0-1

24rd annual

## Charlottesville Open

July 19-20, 2014

Comfort Inn Monticello

2097 Inn Dr, Charlottesville, Va 22911



5-SS, Game/90; d5. \$\$2000 b/60. In two sections: *Open*: (place prizes guaranteed)  
 \$400-250-150, U2100 \$150, U1900 \$130. *Under 1700*: \$300-200-150, U1500 \$140,  
 U1200 \$130. *Both* EF \$55 by 7/17, then \$65. No credit card payments on site.  
 Single ½pt bye available. VCF membership reqd for Va residents (\$10, \$5 under age  
 17). Reg 11-11:40am, rds 12-3:15-7:15, 9:30-1:15. Hotel \$99.95+tax if reserved  
 by 6/27, 434-977-3300. *Enter*: (checks payable to VCF) Ernest Schlich, 1370 S  
 Braden Crescent, Norfolk, Va 23502. Info [eschlich@gmail.com](mailto:eschlich@gmail.com), [www.vachess.org](http://www.vachess.org).

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