

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2014 - #6



Albert Hill Middle School Team, winner of the K-8 team title at the 2014 Peter Hopkins Memorial scholastic tournament. Players (front row, left to right) are Marlon Kuentler, Elijah Grant, Mathew Langford, Jacob Langford and Andrew Allums. *See p 4.*

.....
Coming Soon!... 47th annual **Virginia Open, March 20-22, 2015**.....

Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Hotel, 45020 Aviation Dr., Dulles, Va

— *see full details and enter online at vachess.org*

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2014 - Issue #6

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Northern Virginia Open

by Andrew Rea

MARYLAND IM Tegshsuren Enkhbat posted a clean 5-0 score to sweep the 19th annual edition of the Northern Virginia Open, held November 8-9 in Sterling, Va. In sweeping the field, Enkbat that he had recovered his 2012 form, indicating the 2013 version at 'only' 4-1 was a blip!

A massive 11-way tie one point behind the winner consumed the remaining place, expert & class A prizes. Bruci Lopez, Srdjan Darmanovic, Jennifer Yu, Praveen Sanjay, Trung Nguyen, Ryan Xu, Sean Senft, John Gaspar, Steven Armentrout, Elan Rodan & Joseph Tan comprised the 4-1 score group.

Other prize winners included Vivian Cao-dao (top class B); Nicholas Xie, Raponye McClaine, Ted Covey, Rachel Naidich, Nathan Wu & Harvey He (six-way tie for top C); Siddhaarth Balamuthaiya (D); and Aleks Bashtavenko & Nathan Courtney (= top under 1200). Zoe Bredesen won the upset prize for the first three rounds. Robert Kingman had the top upset over the last two rounds.



photo by Bill Simmons

We had 96 players, a few more than 2013, very well appreciated! A new venue at the Executive Training and Conference Center, walking distance from the former site at the Holiday Inn Express/Dulles, was very well received by our participants. There was plenty of space for all, both in and out of the tournament room!

Finally, and assuredly not least, another stellar and exemplary TD performance from Mike Hoffpauir, with assistance from Mike Hoffpauir directed with assistance from Anand Dommalapati & this author. Mike sets the bar high at all of his tournaments, a great example for other Tournament Directors!



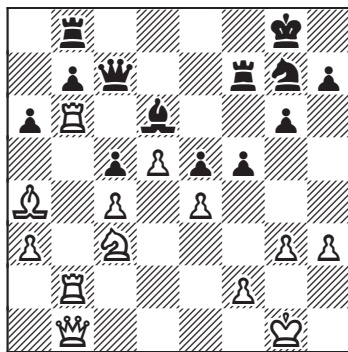
As a closing note, I will observe that our current VCF Cup competition is closer than in recent years. Given the lack of a Fairfax Open in December this year, our next Cup event is likely to be the Virginia Open in March.

Stephen Miller - Tegshsuren Enkhbat Caro Kann

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 Nf3 Nd7 7 Bd3 e6 8 O-O Ngf6 9 c4 Bd6 10 Re1 O-O 11 b3 a5 12 Bg5 Qc7 13 Bxg6 hxg6 14 Ne4 Bf4 15 Ne5 Bxg5 16 Nxg5 Nxe5 17 dxe5 Rfd8 18 Qf3 Nh7 19 Nxh7 Kxh7 = 20 Re4 [20 Rad1 =] 20...Kg8 21 Rae1 Qe7 22 h4 Rd7 23 h5 gxh5 24 Qxh5 g6 25 Qh6 Qf8 26 Qg5 Rad8 27 R1e3 Rd1+ 28 Kh2 R8d4 29 Rh4 Rxh4+ [29...Qd8?? 30 Rh8+! Kxh8 31 Qh6+ Kg8 32 Rh3 White wins] 30 Qxh4 Qd8 31 Qf4 [31 Qxd8+ Rxd8 32 Re2 =] 31...Rd4 32 Re4 Rxe4 33 Qxe4 = Qd2 34 f4 Kg7 [34...Qxa2 35 Qd4 Qe2 = (35...Qxb3 36 Qd8+ Kg7 37 Qf6+ =)] 35 Kg3? [35 a4 =] 35...Qxa2 = 36 Qd3 Qa3 37 Kg4 a4 -+ 38 Qd6 Qxb3 39 Qe7 Qd1+ 40 Kg3 Qd3+ 0-1

Tegshsuren Enkhbat - Joseph Calapati King's Indian

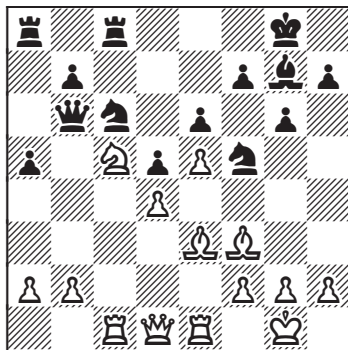
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 O-O 5 Nc3 d6 6 Nf3 c6 7 O-O Qa5 8 e4 Bg4 9 h3 Bxf3 10 Bxf3 e5 11 Be3 Nbd7 12 a3 a6 13 b4 Qc7 14 Rc1 Rfe8 15 Bg2 Nh5 16 Re1 Qd8 17 d5 c5 18 bxc5 Nxc5 19 Bxc5 dxc5 20 Na4 Bf8 21 Rb1 = Rb8 22 Rb6 Bd6 23 Qb1 Qd7 24 Nc3 Ng7 25 Re2 Re7 26 Reb2 Qc7 27 Bf3 f5 28 Bd1 Rf7 29 Ba4



29...Rbf8 [29...h5 30 Bc6 +-] 30 Rxb7 +/- Qa5 31 Rxf7 Rxf7 32 Rb3 fxe4 33 Nxe4 Nf5 34 Bd7! Be7 [34... Rxd7 35 Nf6+ wins] 35 Be6 Nd4 36 Bxf7+ Kxf7 37 Rb7 1-0

Peter Snow - Dennis Franco Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 g6 3 c3 Bg7 4 d4 cxd4 5 cxd4 d5 6 e5 Bg4 7 Be2 Nc6 8 O-O e6 9 Nc3 Nge7 10 Bg5 O-O 11 Re1 Qb6 12 Na4 Qc7 13 Rc1 Rfc8 14 Nc5 Bxf3 15 Bxf3 Nf5 16 Nb3 Qb6 17 Be3 a5 18 Nc5



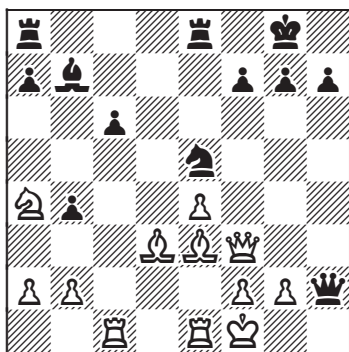


18...Nxe3 19 fxe3 Nxe5 20 Na4 Nxf3+
21 gxf3 Qd8 22 Qb3 Rxc1 23 Rxc1 Bxd4
24 Rc2 Qg5+ 25 Kf2 Ba7 26 Nb6 Qh4+
27 Kg1 Rd8 28 Nc8 Bb8 29 f4 e5 30
Qxb7 Qg4+ 31 Kf2 d4! 32 Qxb8 dxe3+
33 Kxe3 Qxf4+ 34 Ke2 Qxh2+ 35 Ke1
Qg1+ 36 Ke2 Qd1+ 37 Ke3 Qd3+ 0-1

Ian Barruel - William Carroll Queen's Gambit Declined

Notes by Mike Hoffpauir {H}
and Bill Carroll {C}

1 Nf3 d5 2 d4 Nf6 3 c4 e6 4 Nc3 c6 5
e3 Nbd7 6 Bd3 dxc4 7 Bxc4 b5 8 Bd3
Bd6 9 O-O Bb7 10 Bd2 O-O 11 Rc1 Re8
12 Re1 e5 [White's unusual development
(Bd2,Rc1) against the Meran allows Black
to make the first pawn break. {C}] 13 e4
exd4 14 Nxd4 Bxh2+ [Black hopes that
the weakness of White's three minor pieces
on the d-file will allow him to recover the
sacrificed material. {C}] 15 Kxh2 Ne5 16
Be3 b4 17 Na4 Nfg4+ 18 Kg1 Qh4 19
Nf3 Nxf3+ 20 Qxf3 Qh2+ 21 Kf1 Ne5



22 Qd1? [This is a blunder; let's see if
Black can seize the advantage handed to
him...{H} 22 Bf4! = —ed] 22...Rad8
23 Nc5 Nxd3 24 Nxb7 [This is the
crucial moment. If Black now plays
24...Rxe4, delaying the temptation to
consume one of the Rooks, he can bring
more strength into the center and seal
White's fate, eg 25 Qf3 Qh1+ 26 Ke2
Nxc1+ 27 Rxc1 Qxc1 28 Nxd8 Qxb2+
29 Ke1 Qc3+ etc {H}] 24...Nxc1 [But
he can't resist taking one of the Rooks.
He is still winning, but this approach
takes more time and sets his queen on a
tour of the board. {H}] 25 Qxc1 Qh1+
26 Ke2 Qh5+ 27 Kf1 Qh1+ 28 Ke2
Qh5+ 29 Kf1 Qb5+ 30 Kg1 Qxb7
[The sequence initiated by the Bxh2
sacrifice has ended with Black ahead
material, but he shows poor endgame
technique. {C}] 31 f3 Qd7 32 Qc5 Rb8
33 Rc1 Red8 34 Kf2 Rb5 [Black is
starting to lose his way. Now White
could have removed some of the danger
by taking the c-pawn and swapping out
Black's queen.] 35 Qc2 Rc8 36 Bc5 a5
37 Ke2 Qe6 38 b3 f5 39 Qc4 Qxc4+
40 Rxc4 Re8 41 Ke3 fxe4 42 fxe4 Re5
43 Bd6 Rg5 44 g3 c5 45 Kf3 Rg6 46
e5 h5 47 Rf4 Rxd6? [throwing away
the win and letting the waters calm to a
draw {H}] 48 exd6 Rb6 49 Rf5 Rxd6
50 Rxc5 Ra6 ½-½

Panera Bread Chess

Panera Bread at Ridge Shopping Center, 1517 N Parham Rd, Richmond, Va

Casual games, blitz, rapid or no clock.

Lots of tables and room to play - heated outdoor patio

Every Thursday, 6-9pm





Peter Hopkins Memorial

by Mike Callahan

THE Richmond Middle School Chess League walked away with 3 trophies and 2 medals at the Peter Hopkins Memorial Tournament, held at Hopewell High School on December 13. This Virginia Scholastic Chess Association (VSCA) event drew 51 players from the central, eastern and northern parts of the commonwealth. Trophies are awarded to the top 5 individuals and the top 3 teams in each category!

The Richmond Middle School Chess League started just 6 weeks ago. This was the second tournament the league has participated in, with 5 of their 9 players experiencing their very first official tournament. Richmond Chess Initiative (RCI)'s exponential tournament training techniques, the efforts of the children, the coaches, the parents, and staff combined for surprising early success!

RCI secured funding to cover USCF memberships for the 5 new members and the entry fees for all 9 competitors into the tournament. VSCA has sponsored 14 memberships and 18 entry fees thus far. These students are now rated tournament chess players! Chess will go in the "Accomplishments" section of their high school applications, college applications and resumes.

Albert Hill Middle School earned a 1st place school trophy! Elijah Grant earned a medal for his 7th place finish, and Andrew Allums earned a 3rd place trophy for his 3-1 score! This showing by Andrew indicates significant progress, as his career result prior to coming to the league was 1-14. His trophy was well deserved. Andrew also had the highest rating jump of all 50 participants at the tournament, up 238 points!



Richmond Middle School Chess League Players, Parents, and Trophies



Lucille Brown earned a 2nd place school trophy! Zahn Shepperson earned a medal for his 9th place finish. Hats off to coach Seaton, whose dedication and patience has nurtured an outstanding team! Three of his four team members were playing their first tournament.

You can contact Mike Callaham, Richmond Middle School Chess League Coordinator, at 804-398-2310 with any questions about the RCI's efforts to bring rated tournament chess accomplishments to as many of Richmond Public School kids as possible, as fast as possible. The feedback so far has been tremendous!



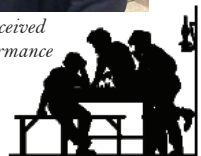
Mathew Langford vs Marquez Taylor



Elijah Grant receives medal for his performance



Zhan Shepperson received a medal for his performance





Adam Chrisney - Robert Fischer
2014 Virginia Closed
Petroff

Notes by Adam Chrisney

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 Bc4 d5 6 Bb3 Be7 7 O-O Nc5 8 c3 [Other options were 8 d4 or 8 Re1, but since he'd already used tempo on his knight, let him use another to develop my queen with pressure on both b7 and d5] 8...Nxb3 9 Qxb3 O-O 10 d4 b6 11 Bf4 [Waiting on Ne5 until it wins a tempo] 11...Be6 12 Nbd2 Nc6 [I thought he'd play ...c5 before this move, hoping he'd crowd his center with pieces as I continue to develop. I want to take control

over the e-file (aiming at e6 and e7). If he 'wins a tempo' with ...Na5 he'll just take his knight offside and move my queen to c2 for me.] 13 Rfe1 Re8 14 Re2 Qd7 15 Rae1 Na5 16 Qc2 c5 17 Ne5 Qb5? [Puts his queen offside and drops a pawn; I expected ...Qd8, ...Qb7 or even ...Qc8] 18 a4 Qa6 (diagram, next page)

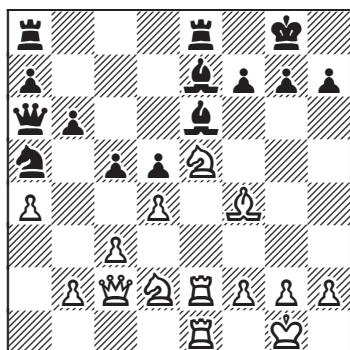
Important Notice: VCF Seeking Treasurer

The Virginia Chess Federation (VCF) needs your help! We are seeking a dedicated volunteer to fill the role of Treasurer. Interested individuals should contact Mike Hoffpauir at mhoffpauir@aol.com

The office of Treasurer is a vital position responsible for managing the VCF's budget, banking and other financial activities, as well as compliance with applicable state and federal banking/financial laws. As with other VCF officers, the Treasurer will also be a VCF board member.

VCF needs an individual who understands financial accounting practices for nonprofit organizations and has a demonstrated capability to analyze, maintain and manage financial/banking activities. Candidates must be committed to devoting the time necessary to perform their duties and interact with VCF board members and tournament directors on a timely basis.





19 Nxf7! Bxf7 20 Rxe7 Rxe7 21 Rxe7 Nc6 22 Rc7 [I was so focused on previous calculations that I missed the strong 22 Rxf7!] 22...Re8 23 Nf3 Bg6 24 Qd1 b5 25 Ne5 Nxe5 26 Bxe5 Bf7 27 axb5 Qxb5 28 Qg4 g6 29 Qf4 1-0

Adam Chrisney - Larry Larkins
2014 Virginia Closed
French

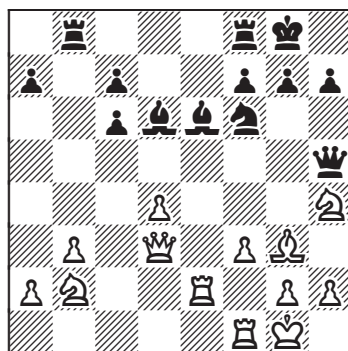
Notes by Adam Chrisney



VCF President
Adam Chrisney

1 e4 e6 2 c4 d5 3 exd5 exd5 4 cxd5 Nf6 5 Nc3 Nxd5 6 d4 Be7 7 Bd3 Nc6 8 Nf3 O-O 9 O-O Bg4 10 Be4 [Protecting f3, but the real focus is on doubling pawns on c6. My goal will be to eventually exploit this weakness] 10...Nf6 11 Bxc6 bxc6 12 Be3 Rb8 13 b3 Bb4 [This starts a series of moves with Black trying to use pins and move order to win an exchange. Meanwhile, I'm figuring how to take over c- or e- files while avoiding his tactics. I can safely get my queen's rook to e2 as part of doubling on that file.] 14 Rc1 Ba3 15 Rc2 Bf5 16 Re2 Bg4 17 Rc2 Bf5 18 Re2 Bb4 19 Na4 [maneuvering to d3 or c4] 19...Qd5 20 Nb2 Be4 21 Nh4 Qh5 22 f3?! [Will this work? I was worried that ...g5 might trap my knight so I made sure I can get in g4 to give it the f5 and g2 escape squares.] 22...Bd5 23 Bf2 Bd6 24 Bg3 Be6 25 Qd3 (diagram)

25...Qb5 [Black's in severe time trouble and decides to trade down. I'm still focused on securing my knight and taking over c- and e-files.] 26 Be5 Qxd3 27 Nxd3 Nd5 28 g4 Rb6 [Black later thought he should have moved ...Rb5 now or even earlier.] 29 Ng2 Ra6 30 Rc1 Bc8 [finally out of time trouble] 31 Ngf4 Nxf4 32 Nxf4 Ra5? [I believe Black mistakenly thought he could get the f3 pawn in return for c6] 33 Bxd6 cxd6 34 Rxc6 Bb7 35 Rc3 Rb5 36 Kf2 a5 37 Rc7 [Taking over his



7th rank; I was considering whether or not to trade pawns as well as a pair of rooks] 37...a4 38 Ree7 Bc8 39 Re3 axb3 40 axb3 h5? [Hoping to trade the h-pawn for my passer...] 41 Nxb5 Be6 42 Nxb5! [but he missed this!] 42...Bxb3 43 Nf5 1-0



Reflections

REFLECTIONS

LOOKING BACK ON AN AMATEUR CHESS “CAREER”

by Mark Warriner

Undefeated (With a Twist)

My previous two columns presented either only draws or only losses. Well there, I got those out of my system. And you know what? Still don't feel any better about 'em. But maybe that's as it ought to be, if I ever want to learn to play better. Andy Soltis has a chapter in his book *What It Takes To Become A Chess Master* (Batsford, 2012, ISBN 978-1-84994-026-9) called “More”. A master is always looking for how to get more out of a position. You gotta stay hungry.

Most players, and I'm no exception, want to win at least one tournament with a clean sweep—undefeated, no draws, no losses. Well, I got to do that, just once. But as always seems to be the case with me, there had to be a twist. A really weird one at that.

I rarely ever played in Amateur sections. I was aiming higher and figured that facing weaker opponents was no way to improve. But this time I felt I just needed to pound some people to boost my confidence. Psychologically, I was tired of grinding out gains by scoring just 1½ to 2 points per tournament against players rated 200-300+ points higher than me. So I went for the “sandbag” and took a road trip to Roanoke for the 1990 Southwest Virginia Open.

One irritating thing that tends to happen to all players is that when you 'play down', ie, against weaker opponents, there is a tendency to relax and not work as hard. We subconsciously try to conserve energy for when it's needed more. We play better when 'playing up' against strong opposition. This happens all the time in sports, and you'll see more than one crosstable in top-level chess where the winner loses just one game, often versus the bottom finisher.

Natural enough, but something one must overcome to achieve or maintain consistently 'peak performance'. I noticed that my level of play sank quite a bit through this experience, and so I never again repeated the 'playing down' experiment.

Mechanicsville Chess Club

Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department, Station #3

4428 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Mechanicsville, Va 23111

2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month, 6:00 - 9:00pm

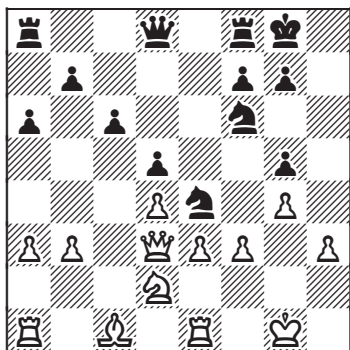
www.MechanicsvilleChessClub.org





Ford - Mark Warriner Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Nf3 Be7 5 cxd5 exd5 6 e3 [Probably not the best idea for White to box in the dark-squared bishop.] 6...O-O 7 Bd3 c6 8 O-O Bg4 9 h3 Bh5 10 g4 Bg6 11 Bxg6 hxg6 12 Qc2 [We're a long way down an obscure line to say the least, but there were other options here like 12 Re1 or 12 Bd2] 12...Nbd7 13 b3 a6 [A wasted move, no threat on b5. These days I wouldn't have hesitated to play 13 Re8] 14 Re1 Bb4 15 a3 [A blunder. 15 Bb2 or 15 Bd2 was necessary.] 15...Bxc3 16 Qxc3 Ne4 17 Qd3 g5 [But I blunder back. Totally missed the idea with 17...f5 etc.] 18 Nd2 Ndf6 [again missing ...f5] 19 f3 (diagram)



19...Qd6 [Flashy but unnecessary; simply 19...Nxd2 was sound. The text did induce another blunder, however...] 20 fxe4 [20 Nf1 was paramount.] 20...Qg3+ 21 Kf1 Qxh3+ 22 Ke2 Qxg4+ 23 Kf1 Qh3+ 24 Ke2 Qg4+ [Here I floundered and missed 24...Qh5+ 25 Kf1 Ng4] 25 Kf1 Nh5 26 e5 f6 [again ...f5 was superior] 27 e6 f5 [See? Wasted tempo!] 28 Kf2 Qg3+ [I have no idea what I was thinking here, eschewing ...Rae8, ...Ng3 or ...f4, all of which were better.] 29 Ke2 Rae8 30 Kd1 Rxe6 [missing the nice tactical shot 30...Nf4] 31 Nf1 Qh4 32 Ra2 Qg4+ [Tossing

away winning chances. Again the shot...Nf4 was best.] 33 Qe2 Qh4 34 Qh2 Qg4+ 35 Qe2 Qh4 36 Kc2 [After escaping, the king wanders back into trouble.] 36...f4 37 Qh2?? Qxe1 38 Qxh5 Qxf1 [38...fxe3 was even better, inviting the rook to the fray.] 39 Qxg5 fxe3 40 Bxe3 Rxe3? [Don't ask, I have no idea why I did this unless it was time pressure.] 41 Qxe3 Qf2+ [ditto] 42 Qxf2 Rxf2+ 43 Kb1 Rxa2 44 Kxa2 Kf7 45 Kb2 Kf6 46 Kc3 Kf5 47 Kd3 Kf4 48 Ke2 g5 49 Kf2 g4 50 Kg2 g3 51 b4 b5 52 Kf1 Ke3 53 Kg2 Kxd4 54 Kxg3 Kc4 55 Kf3 Kb3 56 Ke3 Kxa3 57 Kd4 Kxb4 0-1

OK, so a shaky start, but it knocked the rust off. Little did I know what would transpire later in the tournament...But for the moment, it was time for round 2.

Mark Warriner - David Tukey Slav

1 d4 e6 2 Nf3 d5 3 c4 c6 4 e3 Bd6 5 Nc3 Nd7 6 e4 [While Black's move order is playable, it allows White to play this pawn push to which Black must respond accurately. Moves other than either 6...Ne7, which looks funny, and 6...de4 meet with some difficulties.] 6 dxc4 7 e5 Bb4 [Unless Black intends to trade the dark-squared bishop for the c3 knight, it belongs on c7] 8 Bxc4 Nb6 9 Bb3 Nd5 10 Bd2 [10 Qd3 is probably better, but I had something else in mind.] 10...Nge7 11 O-O Nxc3 [This move is a stinker. Black gives up his best-placed piece and allows White



to gain tempi at the same time—almost never a good plan.] **12 bxc3 Ba5 13 Ng5** [White's firmly in the driver seat now. All of Black's best alternatives just lead to further weaknesses.] **13...Ng6** [And that move wasn't even one of them, although I failed to find the response **14 f5!** What I played was good enough, however.] **14 Qh5 Kf8** [Black's in serious trouble, but this hastens the end. It not only gives White another chance to insert **f4**, but the king is even more poorly placed.] **15 f4 h6 16 Nxf7 Qe8 17 Nd6 Qe7 18 Qxg6 Bc7 19 f5 exf5 20 Nxf5 Qd7** [Here I missed the mate in three (**21 Nd6+ Ke7 22 Bg5+ hg 23 Qg5mate**) but found a mate in four.] **21 Nxg7+ Qf5 22 Rxf5+ Ke7 23 Rf7+ Kd8 24 Qf6mate 1-0**

Okay, so a nice, pretty win where I got to have some fun. But what happened next was outside my experience and more than just a little unsettling. Checking the pairings chart for round 3, much to my surprise I saw that I was paired against... Ford again! How can that be? I already played him. Well, it can happen and it did. Here's how: the Tournament Director explained that after losing our round one game, Ford withdrew and re-entered. This was a relatively new gimmick in those days, introduced to generate extra extra revenue by giving players a chance to shake off a bad start by paying extra for a bye instead of a loss. Of no concern to me, I told the TD. Except, TD explained, the second incarnation of Ford is considered a "different player" and thus I could be paired against him again.

Well, he wasn't new or different to me, I protested. No matter, replied the TD, play or forfeit. I still don't know who was technically correct, but I feel I was in the right. Ridiculous. I even had to play him with Black again. Well, neither game was pretty, but I got the job done despite the emotional turmoil. That was good show on my part, as I used to let that kind of stuff rattle me too much. Just set 'em up and play!

Ford (Again!) – Mark Warriner Gruenfeld

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 e4 Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 7 Be2 [an unusual move order, though not bad] **7...c5 8 Be3 Nc6 9 Nf3 Bg4 10 e5 O-O 11 O-O Qc7 12 h3** [Via some "transpo tricks" (a tip of the cap once again to GM Soltis; he wrote an excellent book, *Transpo Tricks in Chess* (Batsford, 2007, ISBN 978-0-7134-9051-0, well worth picking up a copy), we've arrived at a line that's rare but interesting. My response wasn't very good; there were several better alternatives.] **12...Bxf3 13 Bxf3 Rad8** [probably the wrong rook] **14 Bxc6** [This unnecessary trade just helps Black. Why toss the bishop pair?] **14...Qxc6 15 Rc1? Bxe5 16 Qg4 Bg7** [The bishop ought to stay on the b8-h2 diagonal—there's a king at the end of that one!] **17 dxc5 Rd7 18 Rfd1 Rfd8 19 Rxd7 Qxd7 20 Qc4 Qd5?? 21 Qe2?** [I would have felt foolish in the event of **21 Qxd5 Rxd5 22 Rb1**] **21...a6 22 Qb2 Be5 23 Qe2 Bg7?** [Double dumb! After getting the bishop back on track, I moved it wrong again.] **24 Qc2 h5 25 Qb3?** [Forgives Black for his bad play. White needed to pressure the b7 pawn with



25 Rb1] 25...Qxb3 26 axb3 Rd3 27 Bd4 Bxd4 28 cxd4 Rxd4 29 Rb1 [I think 29 Kf1 was better; the text seems to make Black's job easier.] 29...Rb4 30 Rd1? [White could have tried to make a game of it, but the rest is just (grrrrr, it grinds my teeth to say it, but...) *a matter of technique.*] 30...Rxb3 31 Rd8+ Kg7 32 Ra8 Rc3 33 Ra7 Rxc5 34 Rxb7 e6 35 Ra7 a5 36 Kf1 Re5 37 f4 Rf5 38 g3 g5 39 Ke2 gxf4 40 gxf4 Rxf4 41 Rxa5 Kg6 42 Re5 Rf5 43 Re3 Ra5 44 Rg3+ Rg5 45 Rf3 f5 46 Re3 Kf6 47 Kf3 h4 48 Kf4 Rg3 49 Rxg3 hxg3 50 Kxg3 Kg5 51 h4+ Kh5 52 Kf3 Kxh4 53 Kf4 Kh5 54 Kg3 e5 55 Kf3 Kh4 56 Ke3 e4 57 Kf4 Kh3 58 Ke3 Kg3 59 Ke2 f4 60 Kf1 Kf3 61 Kg1 Ke2 62 Kg2 f3+ 63 Kg1 f2+ 64 Kh1 f1Q+ 65 Kh2 Qf3 66 Kg1 Qg4+ 67 Kh2 Kf3 68 Kh1 Qg2 *mate* 0-1

The next game was fairly easy, but featured a "chili-dip" in the opening. Fortunately it worked in my favor instead of my opponent's. It's been said many times, and it's true, that you need a little luck to win a tournament. I've seen this opening alternately called "The American Defense", but we'll go with the more typical "Marshall Defense"—neither a name you need remember unless you really enjoy suffering.

Mark Warriner – Philip Lester Marshall

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d5 3 cxd5 Nxd5 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 Bg5 Nbd7 6 Nc3 g6 7 g3 [7 e4 is a much better idea, gaining control of the center.] 7...Bg7 8 Bg2 h6 9 Bf4 Nh5 10 Be3 Nb6 11 O-O Bf5 [Black had several better alternatives, but I didn't find a great move to respond.] 12 Nh4 [12 Ne5 is better] 12...Bc8 13 Qc2 c6? [Allows the obvious...] 14 Nxg6 Nxg3? 15 hxg3? [How on earth I failed to play 15 fxg3 I just don't know.] 15...Rg8 [Luckily and inexplicably, he gifts it back.] 16 Ne5 Bxe5 17 dxe5 Rh8 18 Qe4 [18 Rfd1 was better] 18...Be6 19 f4 Qc7 20 f5 Bd5 21 Nxd5 cxd5 22 Qd4 Qd7? 23 e6 fxe6 24 Qxh8+ Kf7 25 Qh7+ Kf6 26 fxe6+ [overlooking the mate in two 26 Bd4+ e5 27 Qg6 *mate*] 1-0

And so we reach the final round with me still undefeated and no draws, which was new in my experience. I was the highest rated or second highest rated in the section, if memory serves me, so you could say I was where I should have been. But I was feeling good about it nonetheless.

Last round games always have their own strange tension and emotion. You're playing for all the marbles and the psychological strain is tough. I'd been in that spot before, in the only other Amateur section I'd completed—a state championship where I'd choked badly. I was determined that it wouldn't happen again. And indeed, this time it was my opponent who blinked.

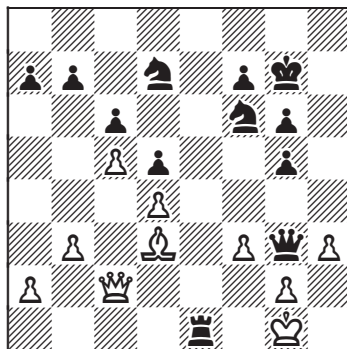
McBride - Mark Warriner Queen's Pawn Game

1 d4 d5 2 e3 Bf5 3 c4 e6 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Nf3 Be7 6 Be2 O-O 7 Nh4 Bg6 [Black could have played more actively, but nerves made me get "conservative." It's not



usually a good idea to let emotions play the moves.] **8 Nxg6 hxg6 9 O-O c6 10 b3 Nbd7 11 Bd3 e5 12 f3 Bd6 13 c5** [unnecessarily releasing tension in the position instead of just developing a piece] **13...Bc7 14 Bb2** [wrong diagonal for the bishop, and almost pointing Black to the proper response] **14...exd4 15 exd4 Bf4** [Our “metal friend”, to borrow a phrase from Vladimir Tukmakov in his book *Modern Chess Preparation* (New in Chess, 2012, ISBN 978-90-5691-377-9) points out 15...Qb8 and maybe I should have seen that, but such a move would have seemed “backwards” to me at the time.] **16 Ne2 Be3+ 17 Kh1 g5** [not horrible, but setting off on a wrong train of thought] **18 Bc1 Qe7 19 Re1** [19 Ng3 would have made Black even more uncomfortable.] **19...Bf2 20 Rf1 Be3 21 Bxe3** [tossing the advantage] **21...Qxe3 22 Ng3** [not a happy square for the knight, and inviting later issues] **22...g6 23 Qc2 Kg7 24 Qc3?** [That’s gonna hurt. 24 Rad1 was called for.] **24... Rh8 25 Rae1? Qf4?** [completely missing the pretty and crushing 25...Rh2+] **26 Rf2? Qxg3 27 h3** [actually the best move in the position, though it’s clearly all over] **27...Qxf2 28 Re2 Qg3** [There is a forced mate after 28...Rh3+] **29 Qc2 Rae8 30 Rxe8 Rxe8 31 Kg1 Re1+**

I was so excited about potentially going undefeated, I amateurishly (appropriately enough) announced mate, overlooking the bishop retreat. Very embarrassing, and my opponent even summoned the TD to claim I should be penalized and not allowed to win the game. Nerves were a little rattled, to say the least.



Not mate

Keeping cool in a tense competitive situation is more difficult than you would think. The rest of the game is hardly without inaccuracy, but I got the job done.

32 Bf1 Qf4 33 Qd3 Qe3+ 34 Qxe3 Rxe3 35 Kf2 Rc3 36 Ke1 Rc1+ 37 Kf2 Rxf1+ 38 Kxf1 Nh5 39 Kf2 Nf4 40 g3 Nd3+ 41 Ke3 Nc1 42 Kd2 Nxa2 43 Kc2 Nb4+ 44 Kc3 a5 45 Kd2 Nf6 46 g4 Ne8 47 Kc3 Nc7 48 Kd2 Nb5 49 Ke3 Nc2+ 0-1






Winning a tournament with a clean score feels pretty darn good. It doesn’t make up for many painful losses, but it sure helps. And it does boost one’s confidence, if only for a while.

From the Editor...

Yes it is true, this is issue #2014/6 but we have in fact reached year 2015 already. For a variety of reasons that I will not rehash here, our newsletter got a few tempi behind over the summer and never quite equalized. I apologize and suggest anyone whose membership dates happened to fall such they only recieved five issues instead of the promised six contact me or the circulation editor.



Four Chess Events Planned for Albemarle/Charlottesville K-12 Community Jan – May 2014

 <p>1st Annual K-12 Team Chess Challenge Series</p> <p>Where: The Charlottesville Campus of American National University will play host to a K-12 Team Chess Challenge event.</p> <p>Venue Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max - 16 ES + 8 MS + 8 HS = 32 teams (128 ind) • Min - 8 ES + 4 MS + 4 HS = 16 teams (64 ind) <p>Who: Open to all K-12 students that attend public, private, alternative or home school venues <u>within</u> Charlottesville City / Albemarle County.</p> <p>When: 17 Jan 2015 10:00 – 11:00 am Information Meeting ONE Representative per school</p>	 <p>2nd Annual K-12 Keswick Individual Open Chess Tournament</p> <p>Where: Historic Keswick Hall will again play host to the 2nd Annual K-12 Keswick Open Chess Tournament.</p> <p>Venue Limit: 140 participants.</p> <p>Who: Open to all K-12 area students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary School (K-4/5) Section • Middle School (5/6-8) Section • High School (9-12) Section <p>When: Saturday, 31 January 2015</p> <p>Format: 5 rounds, G30, R/RSS Individual Rated & Unrated Sections</p> <p>Registration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Come 1st Serve • Deadline - 2300 (11:00 pm) on 26 January 2014 <p>http://www.playingaceschess.org/journey/event/2ndkeswickchess2015/</p> <p>Cost: \$10 / participant</p>	 <p>1st Annual All Scouts Chess Challenge Tournament</p> <p>Where: Charlottesville Catholic School will play host to this 1st ever All Scouts Chess Challenge Event</p> <p>Venue Limit: 240 participants.</p> <p>Who: Any Boy or Girl Scout registered in the Stonewall Jackson Area Council (BSA) or Skyline Council (GSA)</p>  <p>Non-scouts may participate when co-registered with a registered scout who will be participating. This will be a Class A uniform event!</p> <p>When: Saturday, 07 February 2015</p> <p>Format: 5 rounds, G30, R/RSS Individual, Rated & Unrated Playing Groups are by scouting unit types (e.g. with TWO Open Sections – Cub Scout/Young Girls Scouts and Boys Scouts/Venues – Older Girl Scouts)</p> <p>Registration: 1st Come 1st Serve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline – 2300 (11:00 pm) on 01 February 2015 • Online via the Stonewall Jackson Area Council website – <p>Registration Link: http://sjac.kintera.org/aces</p> <p>Leader's Guide: http://www.bsa-sjac.org/diversandforms</p> <p>Cost: \$10 / participant</p>	 <p>Virginia Scholastic Chess Association's Annual K-12 Scholastic & Collegiate Chess Championships</p> <p>Where: Albemarle County Schools (Monticello High School) will again play host as they did in 2009 to this statewide rated event.</p> <p>Venue Limit: 700++ participants.</p> <p>Who: Open to all K-12 and College Students throughout Virginia.</p> <p>When: 13-15 March 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 13 March - Blitz (aka Speed Chess) event • Saturday, 14 March – 4 rounds • Sunday, 15 March – 2 rounds <p>Format: 6 round Swiss by Section with time controls. For sections see link below link for more details.</p> <p>Registration: [Deadline – 11 March 2015] ONLINE http://www.vschs.org/aces-resources/tournaments/</p> <p>Special Note: Lots of volunteers will be needed all weekend to support this event. Also, ideal for UVA students who need volunteer service hours. If you are interested in supporting this event please:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete this online survey by 01 March 2015 https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G7878L • Come to the Thursday, 12 March 2015 meeting at Monticello HS @ 6:00 pm for orientation.
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Area business owners / individuals interested in sponsoring school or community-based K-12 chess programs / events can contact playingaceschess@gmail.com to learn more.

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