

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2016 - #3



Martin Teišek <http://deludoscachorum.blogspot.com/2016/03/martin-teisek.html>

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2016 - Issue #3

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From the Editor...

I'm afraid this is a rather somber issue of Virginia Chess. Purely by chance, most of the material that I have available for publication this time concerns the passing away of local chess players. It makes me think about how precious are the friendships we have through chess. Too soon comes the checkmate. It would not hurt to remember that when we consider whoever sits across the board from us at our next tournaments. —ed



Cherry Blossom Classic

The 4th annual Cherry Blossom Classic was held May 27-30 at the Dulles Marriott outside Washington DC. 203 players competed across several sections. In the Open group, IMs Priyadharshan Kannappan & Akshat Chandra each scored 5½-1½ to share first place. Half a point behind came Praveen Balakrishnan, Lokesh Palani & IM Tegshsure Enkhbat. Ralph Zimmer was next with 4½, followed half a point further back by former state champion Andrew Samuelson along with Christopher Yang, Justin Paul, Sahil Sinha, Maximillian Lu, Justin Lohr & Jack Barrow.

Open section co-winner Chandra & runner-up Balakrishnan also tied for 1st in the blitz tournament.

In the Under 2200 section, Trung Nguyen & Tan Nguyen tied for 1st also with 5½ points. Franco Jose, Timothy Rogalski & Richard Tan were each 5-2 to take the remaining place prizes. Stephen Jablon also scored 5 and claimed top U2000. Jason Rosenhouse & David Siamon were 2nd U2000.

The Under 1900 saw a clear winner, Andrew Miller at 6-1. Carla Naylor was clear 2nd with 5½. Diego Gutierrez, Siddhant Nair & Eduardo Rodriguez finished with 5 apiece, followed a half point further back by Joshua Taylor, Peter Snow, Andrew Miles, Sathya Gnanakumar, Nicholas Xie & Yoseph Mak.

Carl Ramos Torres, Mark Eliot Davis & Suraj Oruganti finished jointly atop the Under 1600 section with 5½ points apiece. Johnathan Tong, Parth Jaiswal & Shawn Rob Kingman split top U1400.

The Under 1300 was a 2-day event of six rounds. Arnav Gupta won in five of them and drew the other to win clear first^t. Kevin Zimmer was second with 5-1. Zoe Bredesen & Carissa Zheng followed at 4½. Michael Joshua also scored 4½ to claim the U1100 prize.



Denis Strenzwilk 1940 – 2016

DENIS STRENCZWILK was a fixture at all the big local tournaments from the time I first began playing organized chess in the early 1970s. He was a strong player, a Maryland state champion with a master rating in an era before such ratings were as common as today. The thing that I will remember most about Denis is his determination at the board. No one exceeded him in capacity to grind away in difficult endgames. Back before delay clocks and sudden death time controls were commonplace, it could happen that a long-running game could defer the start of the next round for everyone else. While no official statistics exist, I would offer that Denis may have held the record for causing such episodes. The last round pairings of seemingly every Maryland Open in the 1980s went up late because the directors had to wait until Denis Strenzwilk finished struggling in a 100+ move rook-and-knight ending from the penultimate round.

In our personal rivalry Denis won the first game he and I ever played. For a long time after that I could not beat him despite regularly getting good positions, so our score remained for years at +1 in his favor. Only much later, literally decades after our first encounters, did age begin to work in my favor so that I managed to win a couple.



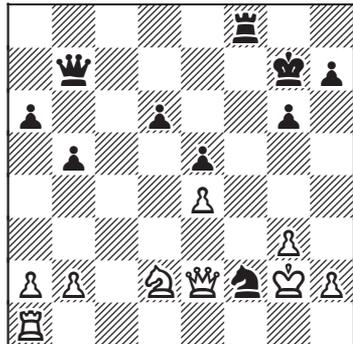


Barry Quillon 1955-2015

Barry Quillon, passed away December 22, 2015. Barry was active in Charlottesville area chess for many years. He moved to Seattle for a time but the Editor continued to receive occasional appreciative notes from him as he maintained his connection through VIRGINIA CHESS. Barry returned to Virginia in 2011 but played no tournament chess after the Charlottesville Open of that year.

Preston Hippeard - Barry Quillon 1997 Virginia Closed Réti

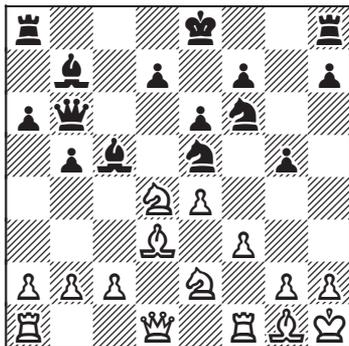
1 Nf3 c5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 Nc6 4 d3 g6 5 Nbd2 Bg7 6 O-O O-O 7 e4 d6 8 Re1
Nh5 9 c3 e5 10 Nf1 b5 11 Be3 Rb8 12 Qd2 f5 13 Bh6 f4 14 Bxg7 Kxg7 15 d4
Bg4 16 Qd1 cxd4 17 cxd4 fxg3 18 fxg3 Qf6 19 N1d2 Nxd4 20 Rf1 Qe7 21
Nb3 Nxf3+ 22 Bxf3 Bxf3 23 Rxf3 Nf6 24 Qd3 a6 25 Qe3 Ng4 26 Qe2 Qa7+
27 Kh1 Nf2+ 28 Kg2 Rxf3 29 Qxf3 Rf8
30 Qe2 Qb7 31 Nd2 (diagram)
31...d5 32 Rf1 dxe4 33 Qe3 Ng4 34
Qxe4 Qxe4+ 35 Nxe4 Ne3+ 0-1





Steve Jablon - Barry Quillon
1999 Fredericksburg Open
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 a6 5 Bd3 Nc6 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Nc3 b5 8 O-O
Ne5 9 f3 Bc5 10 Kh1 Qb6 11 Nce2 Bb7 12 Bg1 g5



13 Nb3 Bxg1 14 Nxc1 Ke7 15 f4 gxf4 16 Rxf4 Rag8 17 Qe1 Rg4 18 Rxc4
Nxc4 19 Nh3 Qd6 20 g3 h5 21 Rd1 Nxe4 22 Bxe4 Bxe4+ 23 Kg1 Qb6+ 24
Rd4 Bxc2 25 Qb4+ d6 26 Nf4 Rc8 27 Kg2 Rc4 28 Qa5 Qc6+ 29 Nd5+ exd5
30 Qe1+ Be4+ 31 Kh3 Rxd4 32 Nxd4 Qd7 33 Kh4 Nxh2 34 Nc6+ Qxc6 35
Qe3 Nf3+ 36 Kxh5 Qd7 37 g4 Qe6 38 Qa7+ Kf8 39 Qb8+ Kg7 0-1

Upcoming Tournaments

26th Charlottesville Open

July 16-17, Comfort Inn Monticello near Charlottesville, Va.

Open & Under 1700 sections with 1st-3rd place \$\$ guaranteed in the Open Section.

All rounds are Game/90 with 5-sec time delay.

2016 Virginia Commonwealth Games Chess Tournament

July 23, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

Two Scholastic Sections (K-6 and K-12) and one Open Section.

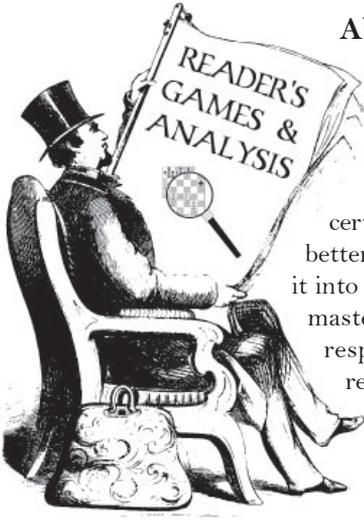
Play for 2 x Gold, 2 x Silver and 2 x Bronze medals in each section.

80th Virginia Closed State Championship

September 3-5, Hilton Garden Inn, Glen Allen, Va.

Open and Under 1800 Sections, three-day and two-day schedules.

Get more information on all of these tournaments at www.vachess.org



Abhimanyu Banerjee - Robert Fischer 2016 George Washington Open Giuoco Piano

Notes by Robert Fischer

Ambitious chess players are often told to study their losses if they want to improve. I certainly did learn a lot from this one. I got a much better game and then almost imperceptibly turned it into a worse game. **1 e4 e5** [I think at the expert master level this might just be the most reliable response to **1 e4** for practical and theoretical reasons. Practically, while the Sicilian, French and Caro Kann are more common, that fact means people study them a lot, and often players who use **1 e4** as White are less well prepared to meet **1...e5** simply because it is less common. Also, Black opens lines for development

and makes an immediate claim of central equality; neither the Sicilian, French nor Caro Kann accomplish both of these objective with the first move.] **2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 c3 Nf6 5 d3** [After Korchnoi surprised him in the open Ruy Lopez, Karpov opted for this move four times in their 1981 match to give his seconds time to work out an effective response to Korchnoi's novelty.] **5...d6 6**



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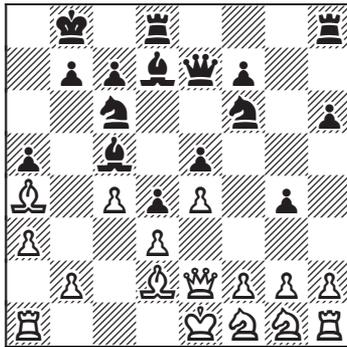
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Bb3 [The 8th game of that match was drawn after 80 moves after Karpov got a slight pull in the opening: 6 Nbd2 a6 7 O-O O-O 8 Bb3 Ba7 9 h3 Be6 10 Bc2 d5 11 Re1 dxe4 12 dxe4 Nh5 13 Nf1 Qxd1 14 Rxd1...] **6...h6 7 Nbd2 Bd7** [7...Be6 is better. Black should not fear the doubled pawn as he gets control of important squares and the half open f-file.] **8 Nf1 Qe7 9 Qe2 O-O-O 10 Bc2 d5 11 Bd2 d4 12 c4** [While Black has played very purposefully, White has dallied with his N-d2-f1 maneuver with the result that Black has a lead in development and White's king is still in the center. It is not too significant if the position remains closed, but Black might gain the advantage if he can open the position.] **12...g5** [12...Nh5 is a better try. If White responds 13 a3 preparing play on the queenside (not 13 Nxe5? Nxe5 14 Qxh5 Bg4 wins the queen) 13...Nf4 14 Bxf4 exf4 15 b4 Bd6 16 c5 Be5 Black has ...f5 coming, opening the position.] **13 a3 g4 14 Ng1 a5?** [This is anti-positional. White wants to open lines on the queenside; to do so his pawns must make contact with the black pawns, and then by making an exchange White can open a file. When Black advances his pawns, White has a shorter road to travel to make contact. This is why, when making the luft for the bishop, it would have been better to advance the a-pawn only one square. White's b-pawn would need an additional tempo to achieve the desired exchange: 14...a6 15 b4 Ba7 16 b5 Nb8 17 bxa6 Nxa6 White's attack cannot be successful with his two knights stuck on the first rank and his king's rook out of play. Black should once again focus on opening the center and getting after the White king, even if he has to sacrifice material to do so. A sample variation could go. 18 Qd1 (preparing to develop the king's knight) 18...Nxe4 19 dxe4 d3 20 Bb3 Nc5 and Fritz thinks Black has a winning attack.] **15 Ba4 Kb8**



After I played this I became concerned White could just win a pawn by taking on c6 and a5. But this actually plays into black's hands. For example, 16 Bxc6 Bxc6 17 Bxa5 Bxe4 18 dxe4 d3 19 Qd1 Nxe4 20 Ne3 d2+ 21 Kf1 Bxe3 22 fxe3 Qf6+

16 Bb5 Bb6 [16...b6] **17 Qd1 Na7?** [Here I decided to defend passively when I still should be trying to open the center and seize the initiative. I was clearly too



worried about my a pawn instead of concentrating on the White king. 17...Nh5 was indicated, offering a pawn to get the position open and play my thematic ...f5 break. 18 Bxc6 (if 18 Rb1 f5 19 b4 axb4 20 axb4 Nf4 Black is winning) 18...Bxc6 19 Qxg4 Nf4 20 Bxf4 Rhg8 21 Qh3 exf4 with approximate equality.] **18 Bxd7 Qxd7 19 b4 axb4 20 axb4 c5 21 Qb3 cxb4 22 Bxb4 Nc6 23 c5 Ba7 24 Ng3 Nxb4 25 Qxb4 Qc7** [25...Qc6 was much better than the game as it leaves the c7 square as a flight square for the king.] **26 N1e2 Qxc5 27 Qa4 Rd6 28 O-O Ra6 29 Qb3 Rxa1?** [Exchanging the active rook for a passive one on f1 (after White recaptures). Black tries to hang on to his pawn at all costs to have something for the suffering that his exposed king will endure. It would be far better to give up the extra pawn to free his position, eg 29...Qb6 30 Qxf7 Qc7 31 Qb3 Qb6 32 Qd1 Rxa1—by exchanging now we are not activating the rook on f1—33 Qxa1 Nd7 34 Rb1 Qe6 35 Nf5 with a slight plus for White.] **30 Rxa1 Qc7 31 Qa2 b6** [31...Qb6 32 Qxf7 Rd8 33 Nf5 Nd7 might have been a slightly better option.] **32 Rc1 Qd7 33 Nf5** [All these problems are caused by the foolish exchange.] **33... Qe6 34 Qa3 Rc8 35 Ra1 Rc7 36 Qf8+ Rc8 37 Qxh6 Nxe4** [A desperate move in time trouble; 37...Kb7 38 Qd2 Rc5 still offered reasonable chances to save the game.] **38 dxe4 d3 39 Neg3 Qxh6 40 Nxh6 d2 41 Ne2 b5 42 Nxc4 Bd4** [42... b4 43 Nxe5 (43 Rb1 Ka8 44 Ne3 Bxe3 45 fxe3 b3) 43...b3 44 Nd3] **43 Rd1 Rc2 44 Kf1 b4 45 Nxd4 exd4 46 Ke2 b3 47 Kd3 Ra2 48 Rb1 Rb2 49 Rd1 Ra2 50 Kxd4 b2 51 Kc3 Kc8?** [51...Ra1 is better but still can't save the game: 52 Rxd2 b1Q 53 Rb2+ Qxb2+ 54 Kxb2] **52 Ne3 1-0**

Andy Huang - Robert Fischer

2016 Chesapeake Open

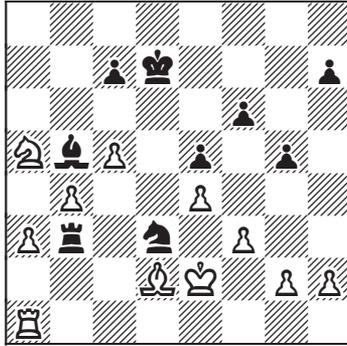
Ruy Lopez

Notes by Robert Fischer

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nf6 4 Qe2 Bc5 5 c3 O-O 6 Bxc6 bxc6 7 Nxe5 [In this variation Black often gambits a pawn to get the bishop pair and open lines. His light squared bishop can become especially dangerous.] **7...Re8 8 d4 d6** [I should be more patient here and retreat my dark squared bishop, eg 8...Bb6 9 Bg5 c5 10 Ng4 d5 with complicated play.] **9 Nxc6 Qd7 10 Ne5 dxe5 11 dxc5 Qc6** [Black should have enough compensation for the pawn after 11...a5 12 O-O Ba6 13 c4 Qd4 14 Nd2 Qxc5] **12 O-O a5?** [But now this move is too slow. 12...Ba6 recovers the pawn with an equal game, eg 13 c4 Qxe4 14 Qxe4 Nxe4] **13 Re1 Ba6 14 c4 Qxc5 15 b3 a4 16 Bb2 Bb7 17 Nd2 Rad8 18 Bc3 a3 19 b4 Qa7 20 Qe3 Qa4 21 f3 Bc8 22 Nb3 Nd7** [Black is busted and Andy plays the next part of the game precisely.] **23 Rad1 f6 24 Qe2 Qa7+ 25 Kh1 Kf7?** [It's not a good idea to bring the king to the center with queens and rooks still on the board, but Black is really struggling to find something good to do.] **26 c5 Nf8 27 Na5 Rxd1 28 Rxd1 Ne6 29 Qc4 Kf8 30 Qb3?** [Definitely the wrong direction; Andy is



trying to pick up the pawn on a3, but he allows me to establish a bind on the light squares. It was better to play 30 b5 and Black is just smothered. Of course it is understandable that White wanted to be two pawns up, but in fact this made his task much harder.] 30...Nf4 31 Qxa3 Qa6 32 Qb2 Qb5 33 Qc2 Bd7 34 a3 g5 35 Qf2 Qa4 36 Qe1 Bb5 [Compare this position to the one White could have had by playing 30 b4 and you can see that he has considerably complicated his task.] 37 Qd2 Nd3 38 Ra1 Ke7 39 Kg1 Rd8 40 Qd1 [Now I miss my chance.] 40...Nf4? [Black's active pieces and light square bind compensate for his pawn minus after 40...Nxc5 41 Qxa4 Nxa4] 41 Qxa4 Bxa4 42 Kf2 Rd3 43 Be1 Kd7 44 Nc4 Rb3 45 Bd2 Nd3+ 46 Ke2 Bb5 47 Na5



47...Rb2 [Black achieves a bind that should be enough to draw after 47...Nb2+ 48 Ke1 Rd3 49 Rb1 Na4 50 Rb3 Rxb3 51 Nxb3] 48 a4 Nf4+ 49 Kd1 Be2+ 50 Ke1 Bd3 51 g3 Ne6 52 Ra3 Rb1+ 53 Kf2 Bf1 54 Be1 Bh3 55 Nc4 Nd4 56 Rd3 Be6 57 Ne3 Kc8 58 Bc3 Bh3 59 g4 Ne6 60 Nd5 Nf4 61 Nxf4 gxf4 62 Be1 Rb2+ 63 Rd2 Rb1 64 Ra2 Kb7 65 a5 c6 66 Rd2 Rxb4 67 Rd7+ Kc8 68 Bxb4 Kxd7 69 a6 Kc7 70 Ba5+ Kb8 71 Bb6 Ka8 72 Ke2 Kb8 73 Bd8 Ka7 74 Bxf6 Kxa6 75 Bxe5 Kb5 76 Bd4 h5 77 gxh5 Be6 78 h6 Bg8 79 Kf1 Bh7 80 Kg2 1-0





Reflections Reflections

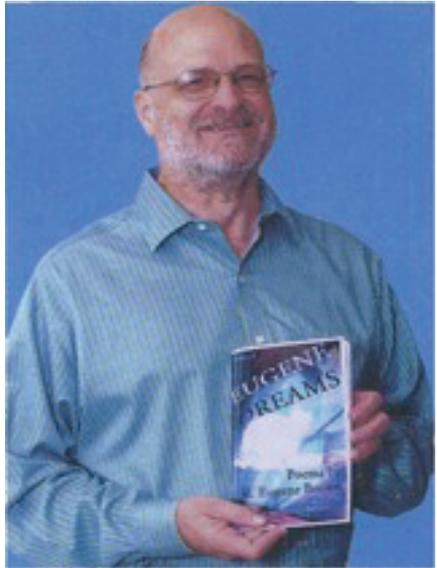


Looking Back on an Amateur Chess “Career”

EUGENE BROWN, 1951-2016

This is an article that I’d hoped I wouldn’t have written for many years to come. My friend Ronald Eugene Brown passed away suddenly this May. He was sixty-four years old. A few of you might remember him from the Virginia Commonwealth University Chess Club back in the 1980’s. He directed my very first rated tournament, the 1984 Richmond City Junior Chess Championship, and for several years he was President of the VCU Chess Club. He also produced one of the first local cable television shows on chess called, I believe, “Chess Line.” GM Edmar Mednis, who played in several US Championships and wrote many popular books, was a guest during one episode while in Richmond to conduct a simul at VCU. Eugene was subsequently instrumental in bringing US champions Samuel Reshevsky and Lev Alburt for simul also. (See “Reflections” in VIRGINIA CHESS #2015-5).

Eugene (he changed the name he went by several years ago from his first name “Ron” to his middle name) wrestled with Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) his entire adult life. If you are not familiar with it, it can be a terrible, progressive neurological disorder. It can have a profound impact on the sufferer’s life and Eugene’s experience was worse than most. He traveled the country in vain seeking treatment; there is currently no cure. In later years he sought relief in the form of diversion and distraction, nurturing a prodigious talent at insightful poetry and dabbling in photography.



*Eugene Brown with his book
EUGENE DREAMS: POEMS BY R EUGENE BROWN*

The same unpleasant sensations caused by the ravages of RLS that brought such suffering were in part what led him, or perhaps impelled is a better word,



to pursue promoting chess with incredible vigor for the brief few years he was involved. Unable to sleep due to the pain, he was often up all hours of the night, and when I was much younger it was great to have a friend who stayed up long after my late night job hours ended. We spent many early morning hours playing blitz and going over games. Even the night of his passing, we talked for a couple of hours on the phone. Often our conversations delved into the top players of the day or opening lines or fantastic games recently played. He encouraged me to write this column and gave me many ideas. I'd always wished he'd return to chess, as I thoroughly enjoyed the events he organized back in the 80's. That and the fact that I never managed to defeat him in a tournament game.

Sadly, he never did play again. As the RLS progressed, the increasingly chronic inability to sleep began affecting his memory, organization of thought, etc. Eugene began having serious problems personally and professionally as a result. Never able to obtain satisfactory medical treatment, he no longer wished to engage in competitive endeavors, preferring the "quieter" pursuits of poetry and photography. But without his efforts, I would never have developed chess as my one preferred hobby and leisure pursuit. It has brought me many a happy hour, introduced me to many fascinating people, and I'm grateful to Eugene for providing a club when there was none other available in Richmond.

But more than that, I shall very much miss our conversations and friendship. His battle with RLS was courageous. I've never known anyone who could experience such lows and rebound again and again and again with such incredible enthusiasm. He was exceptionally inspiring. I shall miss my friend.

Presented here are the games that I played against Eugene, in chronological order, along with a draw he played in a simul against three-time US Champion Lev Alburt, all taking place in a brief two year period before he quit playing to wrestle the interminable disease that slowly consumed him over the subsequent decades.

Eugene Brown - Mark Warriner VCU Quad 1984 Queen's Gambit Accepted

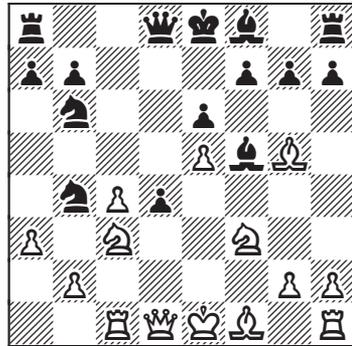
1 Nf3 d5 2 d4 e6 3 c4 dxc4 4 Qa4+ [Later to be championed by Kramnik and Krasenkov, this move wasn't as well known then.] **4...Bd7** [Not played very often. Korchnoi is the only top player to attempt this. He wound up with the same result, after playing much better than me...] **5 Qxc4 b6** [Don't ask what I was thinking, it makes me shudder now. 5...Nf6 looks a lot better. Curiously though, there is one subsequent game played with this variation and Black won.] **6 Bg5** [6 Nc3 was to be preferred.] **6...Be7** [Biskopics-Juhasz, Paks 1997 was the above-mentioned game: 6...f6 7 Bd2 c5 8 e3 Bd6 9 Be2 Ne7 10 Nc3 Qc7 11 O-O Nbc6 12 dxc5 Bxc5 13 Ne4 Bd6 14 Nxd6+ Qxd6 15 Rfd1 Qc7 16 b4 Rc8 17 Rac1



Qb7 18 Qh4 Ng6 19 Qg3 e5 20 Bc4 Nce7 21 h3 Nf5 22 Qh2 Ke7 23 b5 Rc5 24 Bb4 Rc8 25 Bxc5+ Rxc5 26 a4 Qc7 27 Nd2 Be6 28 e4 Nd4 29 Qh1 Bxc4 30 Nxc4 Ne2+ 31 Kf1 Nxc1 32 Rxc1 Rxc4 0-1] **7 Bxe7 Nxe7 8 Na3 O-O 9 Rc1 c6** [Black is back in the thick of things after 9...c5] **10 e3 Bc8 11 Qc2 Bb7 12 Bd3 g6 13 Nc4 Nd7 14 Nd6 Qc7 15 Nxb7 Qxb7 16 h4 Kg7?** [Begging for trouble. In fairness, this was just my sixth rated game.] **17 h5 Rac8?** [had to try 17...Nf6] **18 hxg6?** [better to have gotten the White queen off of the c-file prior to commencing operations] **18...hxg6 19 Qa4 Rh8 20 Ke2 a5 21 Be4 Nf6 22 Rxh8 Kxh8 23 Qc2 Nxe4?** [Oops. Again, 6th rated game.] **24 Qxe4 Qa6+?** [Just making it worse, getting the my queen all out of position.] **25 Kd2 Qb5?** [Dropping the knight after 26 Qh4+] **26 b3?** [yet another curious case of mutual blindness] **26...Kg7 27 Qe5+ Qxe5 28 Nxe5 c5** [28...Rc7 avoided creating the ensuing weakened pawns] **29 dxc5 bxc5 30 Nd3 Kf6 31 Nxc5 Nc6 32 Nd7+ Ke7 33 Nb6 Rd8+ 34 Ke2 Nb4 35 a3 Nd5 36 Nxd5+ Rxd5 37 e4?** [It was mostly a mop-up operation until this. Now Black can try to stick around a bit longer.] **37...Rb5 38 Rc3 Rb7 39 Rd3 Rd7?** [You've read it before, you'll read it now, and you'll read it again in the future: *don't trade material when you're down.*] **40 Rxd7+ Kxd7 41 Kd3 Kc6 42 b4 a4 43 Kc4 Kb6 44 e5 g5 45 g4 Kc6 46 b5+ Kb6 47 Kb4 Kb7 48 Kxa4 Kb6 49 Kb4 Ka7 50 Kc5 Kb7 51 a4 Kc7 52 a5 Kb8 53 Kc6 Ka7 54 Kc7 Ka8 55 b6 f6 56 b7+ Ka7 57 b8Q+ 1-0**

Mark Warriner – Eugene Brown VCU 1985 Alekhine

1 e4 Nf6 [One of Eugene's two favorite openings, the other being the Sokolsky or "Orangutan", 1 b4] **2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 c4 Nb6 5 f4 dxe5 6 fxe5 Bf5 7 Nc3 Nc6 8 Be3 e6 9 Nf3 Nb4 10 Rc1 c5 11 a3 cxd4 12 Bg5**



I'd like to tell you we were following home prep and copying the brilliant Znosko Borovsky - Alekhine, Paris 1925, which continued 12...dxc3! 13 Bxd8 Rxd8 14 Qb3 cxb2 15 Qxb2 Na4 16 Qa1 Nc2+ 17 Rxc2 Bxc2 18 Nd4 Bg6 19 c5 Nxc5 20 Bb5+ Nd7 21 Qc3 a6 22 Bxd7+ Rxd7 23 Qc8+ Rd8 24 Qxb7 Rxd4 25 Qc6+ Rd7 26 O-O Bd3 27 Rxf7 Bc5+ 28 Kh1 Bb5 29 Qxe6+ Re7 30 Rxe7+ Bxe7 31 Qc8+ Bd8 32 Qe6+ Be7 33 Qc8+ Bd8 34 Qe6+ ½-½. Yes, that's what I'd like to tell you that...

There is even another way to continue after 12...dxc3! 13 Bxd8. Janosevic-Cafferty, Birmingham 1975 demonstrated 13...cxb2 14 Bg5 bxc1Q 15 Qxc1 Nc2+ 16 Kf2 Bc5+ 17 Kg3 h6 18 Bd2 Bxa3 19 Qb1 O-O 20 Qb3 Nd7 21 Be3 Bc5 22 Bf2 Bxf2+ 23 Kxf2 Nc5



24 Qb2 Rfd8 25 Be2 Ne4+ 26 Kg1 Ne3
27 Qb3 Ng4 28 h3 Ngf2 29 Rh2 Nc5
30 Qe3 Nfe4 31 g4 Bh7 32 g5 hxg5 33
Rg2 Bg6 34 Nxg5 Nxg5 35 Qxg5 a5 36
h4 a4 37 h5 a3 38 hxg6 fxg6 39 Qxg6
Rd7 40 Rh2 1-0

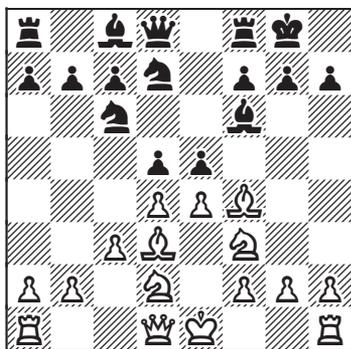
However, if one doesn't find 12...dxc3!
the other option is not much worse.

12...f6 13 exf6 gxf6 14 axb4? [14
Nxd4] 14...fxg5? [14...dxc3] 15
Nxd4 Bxb4 [16 Nf5 Qd1+ 17 Kd1
O-O-O+ 18 Kc2 exf5 was better] 16

The next three games were all drawn in a ladder match. The funny thing is that they all ended with bishops of opposite colors. We weren't aiming for that, but it was an amusing coincidence that we often laughed about for decades after.

Eugene Brown - Mark Warriner VCU Ladder Match 1985 Queen's Pawn/Torre

1 Nf3 d5 2 d4 Nf6 3 Bg5 e6 4 Nbd2
Be7 5 e3 O-O 6 Bd3 [So far, an
old and familiar position.] 6...Nc6
[Suddenly, not so much. Not really a
great alternative to the more tried and
true options, but not awful.] 7 c3 Nd7
8 Bf4 Bf6 9 e4 e5



My 'TN' and actually the best
continuation. 9...dxe4 was better for
White after 10 Nxe4 b6 11 O-O Bb7

Be2? O-O 17 O-O? [Again, had to try
Nf5, because of...] 17...Bc5 18 Nb5 a6?
[works, but 18...e5 was better still] 19
b4 Bxb4 20 Nxf5 Bc5+ [better 20...
axb5] 21 Kh1 exf5 22 Nd6?? [I
must have hallucinated 22...Bd6 23
c5, thinking I was somehow getting a
piece back. Doesn't work for all kinds
of reasons that I'll let you work out, if
it isn't already obvious.] 22...Qxd6 23
Qxd6 Bxd6 24 c5 Bf4 25 Bc4+ Nxc4
26 Rxc4 Rac8 27 g3 Be3 28 Re1 Rxc5
29 Rb4? Bd2 0-1

12 Re1 in Filippov-Dokutchae, Orsk
2002 although it ended in a poorly
played draw: 12...h6 13 Bc2 Ne7 14
Qd3 Ng6 15 Nxf6+ Nxf6 16 Bg3 Rc8
17 Ne5 Nxe5 18 Bxe5 g6 19 Qh3 Kh7
20 Re3 c5 21 f4 cxd4 22 Rg3? (22 Bxd4)
22...dxc3 23 f5? (now Black should
win) exf5 24 Bxf5 cxb2 25 Bxb2 Rc5
26 Rf1 Ba6? (26...gxf5; the text puts
White back on top) 27 Bxf6 Rxf5 28
Qxf5 gxf5 29 Bxd8 Bxf1 30 Bf6 Bb5
31 Rg7+ Kh8 32 Rxf7+ Kg8 ½-½ but
White could have played on with 33
Rg7+ Kh8 34 Bc3.

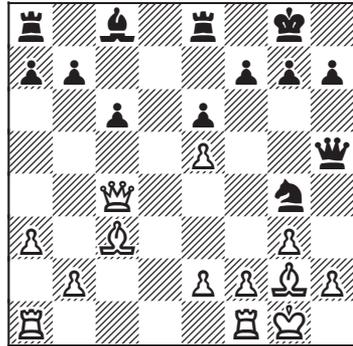
10 dxe5 [Probably 10 Be3 or 10 exd5
were better.] 10...Ndx5 11 Nxe5
Nxe5 12 Bxe5 Bxe5 13 Nf3 dxe4 14
Bxe4 Qf6 [14...Qe7 was better, though
the text isn't bad.] 15 Qc2 g6 16
O-O c6 17 Rfe1 [Missing the chance
to prevent the opposite color bishop
situation with 17 Nxe5] 17...Bc7 18
Rad1 Bg4 19 h3?! [A gentle rebuke,



as this gave Black a chance to exploit a small inaccuracy, but probably not too serious.] **19...Bxf3 20 Bxf3 Rad8?** [But Black fails to try and capitalize with **20...Qf4**] **21 Qe4 Rxd1 22 Rxd1** $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

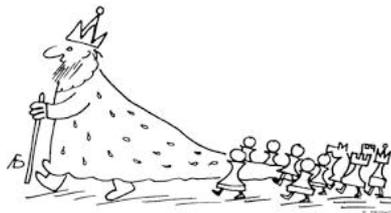
Mark Warriner – Eugene Brown VCU Ladder Match 1985 Semi-Slav

I remember this particular game as being fun because it was played at Eugene's home on Halloween. Lots of trick and treating going on, both on and off the board! **1 c4** [My first trick, as I didn't normally play this too much until that year.] **1...Nf6 2 d4 e6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Nf3 dxc4 5 Qa4+** [And now the treat, as this was similar to an earlier game we'd played with colors reversed.] **5...c6 6 Qxc4 Nbd7** [Karpov, Korchnoi, Kasparov and Timman would all vary from my continuation in later years with **6...b5**. No doubt they learned a lot from study our game. *Ahem...*] **7 g3 Qa5** [The first new move and not an altogether bad one.] **8 Bg2 Bb4 9 Bd2 O-O 10 O-O Re8 11 a3 Bxc3 12 Bxc3 Qh5** [This is taking some chances. The queen probably belongs still on the queenside, on c7 for now.] **13 Ne5?** [But this smells. Getting the rooks out was better, either **13 Rfd1** or **13 Rac1**. No need to go mangling my pawn structure.] **13...Nxe5 14 dxe5 Ng4**



This is where our metal friend gets weird. Engines indicate **15 Rfd1 Qh2+** **16 Kf1** as the best continuation for White. I really don't think too many humans of any strength level would go for this. But maybe I'm overlooking something more apparent to stronger players.

15 h3 Nxe5 16 Qd4 f6 17 Rfe1 [At this point I can't even understand what I was doing, much less remember. Seems like White has gone down the rabbit hole.] **17...Qf7 18 Rad1 Ng6 19 Rd2 e5 20 Qd6 Be6 21 Red1 Bb3 22 Rc1 Qe7 23 Bb4 Qxd6 24 Rxd6 Rad8 25 Rc3** [Though clearly worse, White is somehow holding on by the hair of his chin. This is one of those positions I'm not sure engines evaluate properly. At least I know I don't know how to evaluate this properly.] **25...Bd1 26 Rxd8 Rxd8 27 Rd3 Rxd3 28 exd3 f5 29 Bc5** [White's survives by virtue of





the strength of the bishop pair.] **29...b6?** [Conceding equality, whereas 29...Be2 or 29...a6 kept up the pressure.] **30 Bd6 Be2 31 Bxc6 Bxd3?** [Now White is even the one pressing. Just 31...Kf7 was indicated.] **32 Bd5+ Kh8 33 Bf7?** [missing 33 h4] **33...b5?** [This should have lost to again 34 h4, but I was set on a plan and stopped thinking. Intent on bailing to another opposite color bishop refuge, I wasn't adjusting to each change in situation. Shame, shame!] **34 Bxg6?? hxg6 35 Bxe5 a5 36 h4 a4 37 Kg2 Kg8 38 Kf3 Kf7 39 Ke3 Bc2 40 Kf4 Bb1 41 f3 Bc2 42 g4 fxg4 43 fxg4 Bb1 1/2-1/2**

Eugene Brown - Mark Warriner VCU Ladder Match 1985 Sokolsky

1 b4 [of course] **1...e6 2 Bb2 Nf6 3 c4** [But this was a surprise. Not 3 b5 as recommended by our friend Lev, and not in the books (this was the '80s, no databases—not that this move is in one of those now either.) What to do...?] **3...b6?!** [Well obviously the thing to have done was 3...Bb4. But *noooo*... I was having none of that, eschewing the maxim that the best way to refute a gambit is to accept it.] **4 Nf3 Bb7** [and again!] **5 e3 Bxb4** [okay, finally] **6 Nc3 O-O 7 Be2 c5 8 Qc2 d6** [After 8...d5 Black would have been looking pretty good. Now, not so much.] **9 Rd1** [9 O-O was marginally better] **9...e5** [Either 9...Nbd7 or 9...d5 would have been a bit superior, probably.] **10 d4** [Attempting active counter-measures, but castling was necessary.] **10...exd4 11 exd4 Nbd7** [no clue why I didn't

try 11...Ne4] **12 O-O Re8 13 d5 Bc8?** [Choking the bit, instead of 13...Bxc3 14 Bxc3 b5 15 cxb5] **14 Nb5 Ne4 15 Ne1?** [*Whoa* (no pun intended)! But this is a blunder. Black's pieces suddenly spring to life.] **15...a6 16 Na3 Nef6** [not terrible, but 16...b5 was better] **17 f4?** [compounding White's problems and creating another weakness] **17...Qe7?** [which Black fails to exploit, again by ...b5] **18 Bd3?** [sinking further in the mire] **18...Nf8?** [18...Qe3+ 19 Qf2 (19 Kh1 Bxe1 and the bishop is immune due to back-rank mate threats) 19...Qxf2+ 20 Kxf2 Ng4+ 21 Kg1 Bxa3 22 Bxa3 Ne3] **19 h3 Qe3+ 20 Kh2 Qe7?** [20...Bg4! 21 Rb1 (21 hxg4 Nxg4+ 22 Kh1 and again 22...Bxe1) 21...Be2 22 Qxe2 Qxe2 23 Bxe2 Rxe2 24 Bxf6 gxf6 25 Nec2 Bxa3 26 Nxa3 Rxa2] **21 f5?** [giving back the advantage in view of tactics] **21...Ra7?** [and missing said tactics: 21...Ng4+! 22 hxg4 Qh4+ 23 Kg1 Bxe1] **22 Nb1?** [The pendulum continues swinging. 22 Nf3] **22...Ng4+!** [finally spotting some tactics] **23 hxg4 Qh4+ 24 Kg1 Bxe1 25 Nd2 Bxd2?** [Inexplicably missing the obvious 25...Bg3!—all I can say is, “amateur chess.”] **26 Qxd2 Rae7?** [sloppily allowing another opportunity] **27 f6 Re3 28 fxg7 Ng6 29 Qf2?** [29 Bf6 Wow, how many missed chances were there in this game? Too many!] **29...Qxf2+ 30 Rxf2 Re1+?** [Ugh! Not again—30...Bxg4] **31 Rf1?** [31 Rxe1 Rxe1+ 32 Kh2] **31...Rxd1 32 Rxd1 Bxg4** [Black is up a pawn but against the bishop pair.] **33 Rf1 Be2?** [I can only apologize for the hash. 33...Ne5 34 Bxe5 dxe5 and Black can try pressing.] **34 Re1 Nf4 35**



Bc2? [35 Bb1] **35...f6?** [35...Rb8 kept pressing Black's advantage. Now White can try for the win.] **36 Bxf6?** [But not this way; 36 Bc1 Ng6 37 Kf2 and Black drops a piece.] **36...Bh5?** [Black's back to okay after 36...Nh5] **37 Rxe8+ Bxe8 38 Kf2** [38 Be7] **38...Ng6?** [The 'hits' just keep coming. My last move walked into 39 Bf5 b5 40 cxb5 axb5 41 Be7, etc] **39 Ke3? Kf7?** [39...Bd7 was the only hope to try] **40 g8Q+?** [The end of a cavalcade of errors. I'm guessing time pressure had to have been in effect, as many errors as were committed. The winning line was 40 Bf5 Nf8 (40...Kg8 41 Be6+ Bf7 42 a4 h6 43 Ke4 and the engines start seeing forced mates) 41 gxf8Q+ Kxf8 42 Bxh7] **40...Kxg8 41 Bxg6 Bxg6 42 Be7** $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Lev Alburt - Eugene Brown Simultaneous Exhibition, Richmond 1986 Sokolsky

1 b4 [In part a gift from the Grandmaster to his host: Eugene had told Lev this was his favorite way to open a game. I refer you again to

VIRGINIA CHESS #2015-5 for more back story on how Lev essayed this on several boards.] **1...Nf6 2 Bb2 e6 3 b5 d5 4 e3 c5 5 c4 Be7 6 Nf3 O-O 7 Be2 Nbd7 8 O-O** [This line scores rather favorably for Black, though White is applying the toughest treatment available. I don't know whether either player was aware of the theory, though I wouldn't bet against that in Lev's case!] **8...b6 9 a4 Bb7 10 a5** [Leaving behind known play. But our metal friend is not persuaded and Eugene answers correctly.] **10...a6 11 cxd5 exd5** [11...Nd5 may have been better.] **12 axb6 Qxb6 13 Na3 Rfe8** [Either 13...axb5 or 13...Ne4 were probably preferable] **14 Ne5 Bf8 15 Nxd7 Nxd7 16 Rb1 a5** [Here again 16...axb5 might have complicated White's task.] **17 Bf3 Ne5 18 Bxe5 Rxe5 19 d4 cxd4 20 Qxd4 Qxd4 21 exd4 Re6** [Neither side has committed any big mistakes, but engines suggest that White may have played a few "second best" moves while Eugene regularly made the optimal choice. Nicely done versus a GM in a simul!] **22 Nc2 Rb6 23 Ne3 Bb4**



Eugene Brown, seated, shaking hands with then then US Champion GM Lev Alburt after their draw in March 1986

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