

# VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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Virginia Chess Federation

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**6-0!!**

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

2017 - Issue #5

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## The Virginia Chess Federation (VCF)



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## 2017 Virginia State Championship

International Master Praveen Balakrishnan turned in a dominating performance at the Virginia “Closed” over Labor Day weekend. He became the first player since Joseph Feygelson in 1994 to claim the state title with a clean sweep 6-0 score.

Former state champion Macon Shibut finished clear 2<sup>nd</sup>. Defending 2016 champion Qindong Yang headed a quintet of masters who shared 3<sup>rd</sup> place, the others being Justin Paul, Akshay Indusekar, Jason Morefield & Steve Greanias. Justin Lohr & James Richardson split the Expert prize. Lucas Revellon, Andrew Miller & Nick Failon shared top class A.

The Amateur (under 1800) section saw a 4-way tie for 1<sup>st</sup> between Nalin Jha, Rahul Palani, Thomas Belke & Dan Calhoun, with 5 points apiece. Jha was awarded the title Virginia Amateur Champion on tiebreaks. Varun Natarajan won the class C prize.

Joshua Havens won the Under 1200 section with a score of 5½-½. Ayyappan Murugan & Jeffrey Bai tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>.

At the annual Virginia Chess Federation (VCF) Business Meeting on Saturday morning, Sept 2, prior to the first round, Adam Chrisney was re-elected VCF President. Andrew Rea and Akshay Indusekar were elected to the Board of Directors. Among new business, revised VCF By-Laws were adopted. The previous By-Laws were many years old in need of numerous updates. The new By-Laws can be read on the VCF web page ([www.vachess.org](http://www.vachess.org)) via the link on the left under “Governance”.

Qindong Yang won the Blitz Championship, played Friday night prior to the main event. His 6½-1½ **score led** 2<sup>nd</sup> place Andy Samuelson by a point. The Under 1800 Blitz went to Jason Liang, also with 6½ points. Gideon Lohr, Anthony Horne & Sudarshan Sriniaiyer all tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### MY FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP *by Praveen Balakrishnan*

**S**INCE I MOVED TO VIRGINIA only recently, I thought I would introduce myself to the readers of VIRGINIA CHESS. I was born in Irvine, California and moved to Edison, New Jersey when I was 5 years old. I also started playing chess when I was 5 and right away fell in love with the game. I have been enjoying it since then despite some heartbreaking losses. Growing up in New Jersey provided me with plenty of opportunities to play tournament games in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. I moved to Virginia last year and am currently a sophomore at Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology in Alexandria.

Since moving to Virginia, I have been having quite a few successes in chess! I won the 2016 US Cadet Championship; I got my final IM norm at Washington



Chess Congress last year; and I won the Denker Tournament of High School Champions this summer, held in Norfolk in conjunction with the US Open. And now have won the Virginia state championship, my first state title. I am thrilled to find an active chess community in Virginia. I don't know how much I will be able to play given the academic rigor at TJ, but I am hoping to obtain the GM title by the time I finish high school.

In this tournament, I played all my six games very well. I got into comfortable positions in all the games and felt like I had control of the board all the time. Here I will present my two games from the final day of the championship.

In Round 5, I played my TJ schoolmate, Justin Paul. I have played with him twice before: the first round of the 2014 World Youth Championships in Durban, South Africa, and again last year at the 2016 Chery Blossom Classic.

### Justin Paul - Praveen Balakrishnan Catalan

*Notes by Praveen Balakrishnan*

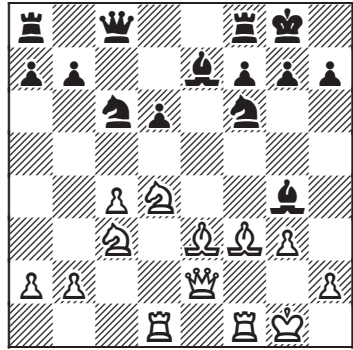
**1 d4** [My opponent had primarily played 1 Nf3, so I was a little surprised when he played this move.] **1...Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 c5** [Opting for a Benoni type of structure. I've played 3...d5 many times before, leading to a Catalan: 4 Nf3 Be7 5 Bg2 O-O 6 O-O dxc4 etc] **4 Bg2?!** [The main theoretical continuation is 4 d5 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 Nc3 g6 7 Bg2 Bg7 8 Nf3 O-O 9 O-O, the Fianchetto Variation of the Modern Benoni. White runs into some problems after the text when he does not manage to regain the d4 pawn. 4 Nf3 would have been a better means to what he tried to achieve, eg 4... cxd4 5 Nxd4 d5 6 Bg2] **4...cxd4 5 Nf3** [If 5 Qxd4 I could win a tempo against the queen with 5...Nc6 6 Qd1 d5 7 cxd5 exd5 ♣—White wasted two queen moves.] **5... e5!?** [Holding onto the d4-pawn, but 5...Qa5+! might have been even more precise. 6 Nbd2 (6 Bd2 Qb6 attacks b2 and supports d4) Nc6 7 O-O e5 with a more active position for me than what happened in the game.] **6 O-O** [6 Nxe5? runs into the unfortunate 6...Qa5+ picking off the knight.] **6...Nc6** [Simply supporting e5. Now I am up a pawn, although White has some compensation for it.] **7 e3 dxe3 8 Bxe3** [After this trade, White's pieces can come into the game very quickly and my backward d-pawn is a potential weakness in the future. However, my extra central pawn should tip the advantage in my favor.] **8...Be7 9 Nc3 d6 10 Qe2** [If 10 Nd5 I can simply play 10...O-O 11 Qb3 Nxd5 12 cxd5 Nb8 and the knight will go to a better square via d7] **10...O-O 11 Rad1 e4?!** [Rushing in with this move may not have been the most accurate since my central e-pawn will be traded for the White f-pawn. A simple move such as 11...h6 would prevent both Ng5 ΔNe4 and Bg5 ΔBxf6. After 12 b4 Bd7 13 b5 Na5 it seems that I could hold onto my extra pawn comfortably.] **12 Nd4 Bg4 13 f3 exf3 14 Bxf3** [Now d6 is isolated and weak, and White's pieces have become more active with the trade. The position is probably equal.] **14...Qc8** [14...Bxf3 15



Qxf3 Ne5 16 Qxb7 was not something I want to allow; and if 14...Bh3 15 Bg2 Bxg2 16 Kxg2 Re8 17 Nf5 Bf8 18 Qc2 Ng4 19 Bf4 with pressure on d6 and possibilities of the knight coming to d5]

(diagram)

15 Nd5 [15 Bxg4 Qxg4 16 Qg2 Nxd4 17 Bxd4 Qd7 might have been a better try for White but should nonetheless be equal as he has enough compensation for the extra pawn.] 15...Bxf3 [15...Nxd5? would be met by 16 Bxg4 winning a tempo against the queen.] 16 Nxe7+?! [Trading the strong knight for my passive dark-squared bishop should benefit me. 16 Qxf3 Nxd5 17 Qxd5 Bf6 18 Nf5 =] 16...Nxe7 17 Rxf3 Re8 [17...



Ng4 is an equally good option preventing any sacrifices on f6. After 18 Nb5 Nf5 ♣ the fearsome Black knights would be very strong.] 18 Qf1?! [18 Rxf6!? gxf6 19 Rf1 is an interesting exchange sacrifice ripping open the Black kingside. After 19...f5! keeping this pawn is crucial) White cannot do anything immediately, but he can aim to bring the bishop to the a1-h8 diagonal and create threats there. 20 Nb5 Qc6 21 Bd4 Ng6 22 Qd3 Re4 ♣] 18...Ng4! [The f7-pawn cannot be touched as the knight is hitting the dark-squared bishop.] 19 Bf4 Ng6! [19...Qc5! would also have been good, bringing the queen into play.] 20 Bxd6? [Now I win the exchange with a knight fork. 20 h3 is best although after 20...N4e5 21 Rc3 a6 I would be up a pawn with my knights positioned on strong central squares.] 20...Ne3 21 Rxe3 Rxe3 [White doesn't seem to have much compensation for the exchange. I have no significant weak points to attack.] 22 Nf5 Re6 [Attacking the c4-pawn by 22...Re4! would have been stronger, eg 23 b3 Qe6 and bring the other rook to e8] 23 h4 h5 [preventing White from playing h5 himself] 24 Rd5 [This looks aggressive but has no significant threats. The attempt to force through h5 in any case by 24 g4? doesn't work due to 24...Nxh4! (although even allowing White's idea 24...hxg4 25 h5 Nh4 Black is still winning) 25 Nxh4 (or 25 Ne7+ Rxe7 26 Bxe7 Qxg4+) Rxd6! 26 Rxd6 Qc5+ 27 Kg2 Qxd6 Black would be an exchange up and could easily attack White's open king.] 24...Re4 25 Bc5 [The surprising 25 Be5! offers some resistance with the idea of transferring the bishop to the long diagonal. 25...Rxe5? cannot be played due to 26 Rxe5 Nxe5? 27 Ne7+; so 25...Qxc4 26 Qxc4 Rxc4 27 Bxg7 Ne7 28 Nxe7+ Kxg7 29 Rg5+ Kf6 30 Nd5+ Ke6 31 Rxh5 Rc2 Black should be able to win this with some accuracy.] 25...Qe6 [Now the threat ...Re1 simply overwhelms White.] 26 Nd4 Qe8 [Keeping the queen on the e-file and renewing the threat. 26...Qg4 27 Rg5 would force my queen back to either d7 or c8.] 27 Qf3 Re3 [27...Re1+ 28 Kf2 Ne5 also wins.] 28 Qg2 Rds [I decided simply to trade off White's active rook under some minor time



pressure. 28...Re1+ 29 Kh2 Ne5 would once again have been winning, with the idea of bringing the knight to g4 with check.] **29 Nc2 Rxd5 30 Bxe3 Rd1+ 31 Kh2 Ne5 32 Qxb7 Ng4+ 33 Kg2 Rd2+!** [a nice finishing touch forcing mate] **34 Bxd2 Qe2+ 35 Kg1 Qf2+ 36 Kh1 Qf1# 0-1**

Going into the final round, I had a one point lead and a draw would suffice for clear first. However, I had the White pieces so I wanted to play for a win. I had faced Qindong before, in March this year (*at the Virginia Open —ed*), where he had an edge but the game ultimately ended in a draw.

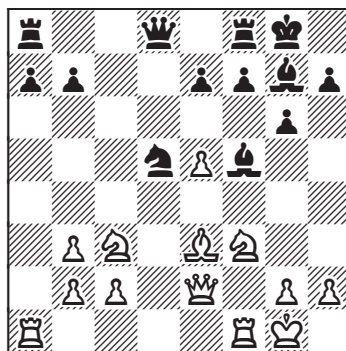
### Praveen Balakrishnan - Qindong Yang

#### Pirc

*Notes by Praveen Balakrishnan*

**1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6** [In the Pirc Defense, White occupies the center early but Black will challenge it with moves like ...e5, ...c5, or even ...d5] **4 f4 Bg7 5 Nf3 O-O 6 e5!?** [Trying to clarify the situation in the center right away. 6 Bd3 is the main move.] **6...Nfd7 7 Bc4** [7 h4!? with the idea of getting an attack on the kingside can lead to many complex variations. One of them goes 7...c5 Black strikes back in the center 8 h5 cxd4 9 hxg6 dxc3 10 gxf7+ Rxf7 11 Bc4 e6 12 Ng5 Nxe5 13 Qh5 h6 14 fxe5 hxg5 15 Qh7+ Kf8 16 Qh8+ Bxh8 17 Rxh8+ Kg7 18 Rxd8 and after all the complications we end up with the position roughly equal.] **7...Nb6 8 Bb3 Na6 9 O-O** [I tried to attack and misplace the knight on b6 with 9 a4 in my previous game with Qindong, but after 9...c5 10 a5 cxd4 11 Ne2 Nd7 12 exd6 Ndc5 13 dxe7 Qxe7 I got into some trouble with my uncastled king and poor development. I decided to develop my pieces first this time.] **9...c5** [My opponent mentioned the idea 9...dxe5 after the game. However, 10 dxe5 Nc5 11 Be3 Nxb3 12 axb3 Qxd1 13 Rfxd1 Bf5 14 Nd4 leaves White's pieces better placed. Also, Black's dark-squared bishop is shut out on the diagonal by the e5 pawn.] **10 dxc5 Nxc5 11 Be3** [I didn't mind giving up the bishop pair since I get an open a-file and I have quick and easy piece development.] **11...Nxb3 12 axb3 Bf5 13 Qe2 dxe5 14 fxe5** [14 Nxe5 would allow 14...Nd5 15 Nxd5 Qxd5 and if I try to grab the pawn like I did in the game with 16 Bxa7 then 16...g5 is unpleasant.] **14...Nd5** (*diagram*)

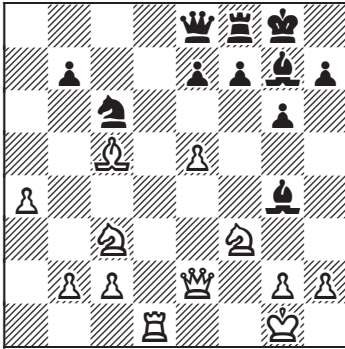
**15 Bxa7!** [Were it not for this move, Black would be completely fine. For instance, if 15 Nxd5 (if 15 Rfd1 he could break the pin with 15...Nxc3 attacking my queen and then 16 bxc3 Qc7 17 Bd4 a5 =) Qxd5 16 Bxa7 Qe4 Black's bishop pair and my weak pawns give enough compensation for the material.] **15...Nb4** [15...Rxa7 16 Rxa7 Qb6+ is not a winning fork due to 17 Qf2; however, after 15...Nxc3 16 bxc3 Qd5 17 Rfe1 b5! 18 Nd4 Bd7







it's not so clear how White can expand upon his extra pawn.] **16 Ra4** [Simply 16 Qf2! overprotecting the a7-bishop and creating ideas such as Bb6—in reply, 16...Nxc2 would not work due to 17 Rad1 Qa5 18 Bb6 Qb4 19 Nd5 Qxb3 20 Nxe7+ Kh8 21 Nxf5 gxf5 22 Rd6 and Black's kingside pawns are in ruins.] **16...Nc6** [16...Nxc2?! is risky in light of 17 Rd1! Qe8 18 Bc5 and it doesn't seem the knight will be able to come out.] **17 Rd1 Qe8** [On 17...Qc8 my intended 18 Nd5 leads to 18...Rxa7! 19 Rxa7 e6! and if my knight retreats my rook is hanging. Play may follow 20 Nb6 Qc7 21 Na8! (the only way to keep my material) Qb8 22 Raa1 b5! (preventing the knight from escaping through b6) 23 Qe3 Nxe5 24 Nxe5 Bxe5 25 Nb6 Bxh2+ 26 Kh1 Bf4 Black should have enough compensation for the exchange but he is not out of the woods yet, eg. 27 Qc5 Qc7 28



Qxc7 Bxc7 29 Nd7] **18 Bc5!** [I was calculating 18 Nb5 but after 18...Qc8 I couldn't find anything better than retreating 19 Bf2 Rxa4 20 bxa4 Bg4] **18...Rxa4 19 bxa4 Bg4** (diagram)

**20 h3**

20 Nd5 is another important possibility to look at. After 20...Qb8 21 Nxe7+? (better 21 h3 Bxf3 22 Qxf3 Bxe5 transposing into what happened in the game) Nxe7 22 Bxe7 Re8 23 Bd6 Qa7+ Black picks up the a4-pawn and on 24 Qf2 Qxa4 it's likely e5 will fall too. .

**20...Bxf3 21 Qxf3 Bxe5 22 Nd5 Qb8** [22...Qa8, attacking a4, may have been a better square for the queen, but White is up a healthy pawn with 23 Bxe7! Nxe7 24 Nxe7+ Kg7 25 b3] **23 b4!** [attempting to kick the c6-knight to a worse square] **23...Re8?** [After 23...Rd8 24 b5 could be met by the clever 24...e6 25 bxc6 exd5. White is still better thanks to the important 26 Rb1! Qc8 27 Rxb7 f6 28 Rb6 but converting this would require immense accuracy.] **24 b5 Nd8** [24...e6 doesn't work now since I have 25 Nf6+! Bxf6 26 bxc6! and capture on b7 next.] **25 Bxe7?!** [25 Nxe7+! would have been much easier: 25...Kg7 26 Rd7! Ne6 27 Rxb7 White's pieces overwhelm Black's, not to mention three connected passed pawns.] **25...Qa7+** [25...f5 was a chance to complicate White's task but after 26 Nf6+ Bxf6 27 Bxf6 Qc7 28 Qd5+ Ne6 29 Qd7 the extra pawn should be good enough.] **26 Kh1!** [Removing the king off the a7-g1 diagonal is safest. 26 b6 Qxa4 27 Bxd8, on the other hand, would give the extra option 27...Bd4+! 28 Kh1 Rxd8. White doesn't win the exchange in that case, although 29 Qe4 should still be winning.] **26...Qxa4 27 Bxd8** [27 Bf6! also wins] **27...Rxd8 28 Ne7+ Kf8 29 Nxb6+ hxb6 30 Rxd8+ Kg7** [An exchange and a pawn up, it only takes a small amount of technique to convert this.] **31 Rd7 Qa1+ 32 Rd1 Qa4 33 Re1 Qxb5 34 Qe2!** [forcing a queen trade for an easy win] **34...Qxe2 35 Rxe2 Bd4 36 c4 b6 37 g4 f5 38 gxf5 gxf5 39 Kg2 Kf6 40 Kf3 Kg5 41 Rg2+** and with the king soon to be cut off by the rook, 1-0





Virginia State Championship, *continued*

Praveen Balakrishnan - Robert Fischer

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nf6 4 O-O Nxe4 5 d4 Be7 6 Qe2 Nd6 7 Bxc6 bxc6 8 dxe5 Nb7 9 Nd4 O-O 10 Nc3 Nc5 11 Rd1 Qe8 12 Nf5 d5 13 exd6 Bxd6 14 Nxd6 cxd6 15 Rxd6 Ne6 16 b3 Qe7 17 Ba3 Qg5 18 Ne4 Qe5 19 Re1 Re8 20 Qd2 Bb7 21 Nc5 Qxe1+ 22 Qxe1 Nxc5 23 Qa5 Ne6 24 h3 c5 25 Qd2 Rac8 26 Bb2 Rcd8 27 Kh2 Nd4 28 Rxd8 Rxd8 29 Qa5 Ne6 30 Qxa7 Be4 31 a4 h5 32 a5 Bxc2 33 Qb7 Rd3 34 a6 Rxb3 35 a7 Rxb7 36 a8Q+ Nd8 37 Qxd8+ Kh7 38 Bc3 Bg6 39 Qd5 Re7 40 Qxc5 Rd7 41 f4 f5 42 Qe5 Rf7 43 Kg3 Rb7 44 Kh4 Kh6 45 Qd6 Rf7 46 Bd4 Rb7 47 Qd8 Rf7 48 Bb6 Rf6 49 Qh8+ Bh7 50 Bd8 Rf7 51 Bg5+ Kg6 52 Qe8 0-1

Andrew Samuelson - Praveen Balakrishnan

Caro Kann

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 f3 dxe4 4 fxe4 e5 5 Nf3 Bg4 6 Bc4 Nd7 7 O-O Ngf6 8 c3 Bd6 9 Bg5 O-O 10 Nbd2 h6 11 Bh4 Qc7 12 h3 Bh5 13 Qc2 b5 14 Bd3 Bg6 15 a4 a6 16 Rae1 Nh5 17 Rf2 Bh7 18 g4 Nf4 19 Bf1 g5 20 dxe5 Nxe5 21 Nd4 Neg6 22 Rxf4 Bxf4 23 Bf2 Ne5 24 Bg2 c5 25 Nf5 Rad8 26 Be3 Bxe3+ 27 Rxe3 Bxf5 28 exf5 Rxd2 29 Qxd2 Nc4 30 Qe2 Nxe3 31 Qxe3 bxa4 32 Bd5 Qf4 33 Qxc5 Re8 34 Be6 fxe6 35 Qc6 Qg3+ 36 Kf1 Qd3+ 37 Kf2 Qb5 38 Qd6 Qd5 39 Qxa6 Rb8 40 Qxa4 Rxb2+ 41 Ke3 Qd2+ 42 Ke4 exf5+ 43 Kxf5 Qd5+ 44 Kg6 Rb6+ 0-1

Praveen Balakrishnan - Macon Shibut

Caro Kann

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nf6 5 Nxf6+ exf6 6 c3 Bd6 7 Bd3 O-O 8 Ne2 Re8 9 Qc2 Kh8 10 h4 h5?! [10 ... Bg4!] 11 Be3 Nd7 12 O-O-O Qc7 13 Qd2 Nf8 14 c4 c5 15 Kb1 Bg4 16 f3 Bd7 17 dxc5 Bxc5 18 Bf4 Qb6 19 Ng3 Rad8 20 Bh6 g6? [20 ... f5!] 21 Qc2 Bc8 [21 ... f5] 22 Ne4 Bd4? [22 ... Ne6] 23 c5! Qc6 24 Nd6 Re7 [24 ... Rxd6 25 cxd6 Qxd6 is a better practical try] 25 Be4 Qxc5 26 Qxc5 Bxc5 27 Nxf7+ Rxf7 28 Rxd8 Be6 29 Bxg6 1-0

### 33<sup>rd</sup> Emporia Open

October 21-22

Holiday Inn Express, 1350 West Atlantic, Emporia, Virginia



5SS, rd 1 G/90 d5, rds 2-5 G/120 d5. \$\$825 b/30, 1<sup>st</sup> place guaranteed: \$300-200-100, top U1700/Unrated \$80, top U1200 \$75, top Upset \$70. EF \$45 if rec'd by 10/14, \$55 starting 10/15 and on site, re-entry \$20 after rd 1 with 1/2pt bye. Rds 10-2-7, 9:30-2:30pm. One 1/2pt bye allowed, must request by 1:30pm 10/14. Hotel and other info [www.vachess.org](http://www.vachess.org) or email [mhoffpaur@aol.com](mailto:mhoffpaur@aol.com). VCF membership req'd, other states honored. *Enter:* [www.vachess.org](http://www.vachess.org) or on-site Fri 7-10pm, Sat 7:30-9:15am, or by mail to Mike Hoffpaur, ATTN: Emporia Open, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693.

6 US Chess Grand Prix points—a VCF Cup event

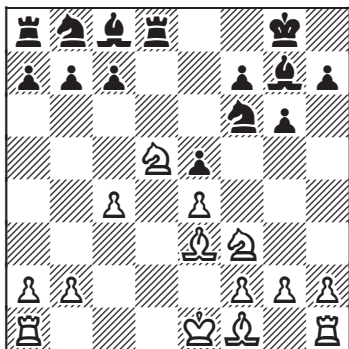




## Macon Shibut – Qindong Yang King's Indian

Notes by Macon Shibut

**1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 d4 O-O 5 e4 d6 6 Be3** [I learned this variation after the late Jack Mayer played against me, twice, some thirty years ago. Despite its normal appearance, 6 Be3 sort of falls between the cracks of opening theory, resembling but subtly different from the more topical 6 Be2 e5 7 Be3 and the innocuous 6 Be2 e5 7 dxe5?! or 7 O-O Nc6 8 Be3?!] **6...e5 7 dxe5 dxe5 8 Qxd8 Rxd8 9 Nd5** (diagram)



Compared to the standard exchange variation, White is ready to castle long, eg. if 9...Ne8 10 O-O-O already threatening Ne7+ The main move is 9...Nxd5 but for some reason I rather expected to see 9...Na6!?

As Qindong sank into thought, I used the time to warm up my tactical faculties by examining the forcing sequence 9...Rd7 10 O-O-O!? (of course sacrificing the e-pawn is completely optional) Nxe4 11 Nxc7 Rxc7 12 Rd8+ Bf8 13 Bh6 Nd7 14 Nxe5 Nec5 Easy to calculate thus

far. Now the question was whether White has simply thrown away a piece or if he can keep Black bottled up after 15 Nxd7 Nxd7 16 Be2 threatening Rh-d1xd7. Black probably must make an escape for his king, so say 16... f6. Then 17 Bf3 readies to seize the diagonal Bd5+... This little mental adventure ended for me here as Qindong played his move. In case anyone wants to complete the story, I can suggest a couple plot lines you might pursue. First, 17...Rxc4+ 18 Kb1 Rc5 19 b4! Rb5 20 Rc1 Rxb4+ 21 Ka1 Kf7 22 Bd2 Rb6 23 Bd5+; or, 17...Kf7 18 Bd5+ Ke7 19 Rxd7+ Bxd7 20 Re1+ Kd8 21 Bxf8 Bc6 22 Bd6 Rd7 23 Bxc6 bxc6 24 Re6. Knock yourselves out.

**9...Nxd5 10 cxd5 c6 11 Bc4 cxd5** [My 'preparation' included recalling that some Larsen game went 11...b5 12 Bb3 Bb7 once upon a time.] **12 Bxd5 Na6** [if 12...Nc6 13 O-O-O Black still has problems developing] **13 O-O-O** [threatening Bxf7+ or Ng5] **13...Bf6 14 Ng5** [14 Nxe5? may not be quite losing but it would be ridiculous to give Black 14...Bxe5 15 Bxf7+ Kxf7 16 Rxd8 Bf6 17 Rd2 Be6] **14...Rf8** [This 'undeveloping' move surprised me. I expected the simple 14...Bxg5 15 Bxg5 Re8 and then we would see what the bishop pair is worth. Meanwhile, 14...Kg7! would also have been a surprise, and not a good one. White cannot take f7 with either piece. I'm pretty sure Qindong likewise overlooked this move because it's the sort of thing that you go for if only you manage to notice it in the first place.] **15 Rd2 h6 16 Nf3 Kg7 17 Rhd1** [The evaluation will be the same from here to the very end of the game: all of White's pieces are better than the



corresponding Black ones, but converting the advantage is not easy owing to the symmetrical pawn structure and absence of chronic weaknesses.] **17...Nc7 18 Bb3** [I was kicking myself during the game thinking I had made a mistake here. The point is, I had seen the resource Bc5, threatening his rook with check, to be followed in some circumstances by Bd6 hitting the undefended Nc7 and also his e-pawn. For the moment, his bishop sat on c8. But only after his next move did I notice 18...Be6 19 Bc5 is no longer any good at all in view of 19...Rfc8. So I thought I'd missed an opportunity not playing 18 Bc5 first, and only after 18...Rd8 19 Bb3 Rxd2 20 Rxd2 Be6 21 Bd6 "etc..." However, continuing the variation at home later, I discovered 21...Bxb3 22 axb3 Ne6 23 Bxe5 Bxe5 24 Nxe5 Nc5 is fine for Black after all. So, I played the best move even though I believed otherwise at the time.] **18...Be6 19 Bxe6 Nxe6 20 Rd7 Rfd8 21 Rxd8** [21 Rxb7?? Rac8+] **21...Nxd8 22 Rd7 g5!?** [He conceives the idea ...K-f8-e8 to evict the intruder, but the price is high: more pawns on the same color squares as his bishop and new opportunities for my knight.] **23 Nd2!** [to wit, the knight immediately heads for f5] **23...Kf8 24 Nf1 Rc8+ 25 Kd2 Ke8 26 Rd6** [Compared to 26 Rd5, my thinking was if he now went 26...Ke7 I would go 27 Rd5 and later when my knight reaches f5 it will be with check.] **26...Rc6 27 Rxc6 Nxc6 28 Ng3 b6 29 Kc3** [A completely different and by no means unpromising idea was to steer my king in the opposite direction, 29 Ke2!?, eg 29...Kd7 30 Kf3 Ke6 31 Kg4 Nb4 32 Nf5 Nxa2 33 Nxb6. I don't recall even considering this during the game, which might have been fortunate since choosing between the two plans would have been hard.] **29...Kd7 30 Kc4 Bd8** [Black's task is unpleasant because even though his line of defense seems firm, there is no active counterplay and real trouble is always just a careless turn away, eg 30...Ke6 31 Kb5 Kd7 32 Nf5 h5 33 Nh6] **31 b4 Be7 32 b5 Nd8** [32...Nb4 33 a4 Nc2 is another possibility, but after 34 Nf5 one thing is certain, I would enjoy playing the knight versus bishop endgame in case

*22<sup>nd</sup> annual*

## Northern Virginia Open

November 18-19

Washington Dulles Airport Marriott  
45020 Aviation Dr, Dulles, VA 20166

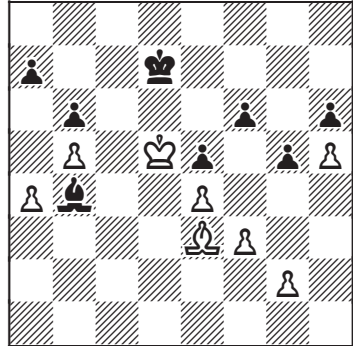
5-SS, Rds 1-3 Game/90, inc/30; rds 4-5 40/90, SD/30, inc/30. \$\$3500G: \$800-550-375-250, top X, A, B, C, D each \$225, top U1200-UNR \$200, top Upset Sat & Sun each \$100. Reg 11/17 7-10pm, 11/18 7:30-8:45am, rds 9:30-2:30-7, 10-4:30. USCF and FIDE-rated, FIDE rules. Hotel \$89 plus 6% tax, reserve by Fri Oct 20, 703-471-9500. EF \$80 thru 11/11, \$95 starting 11/12 and on site. VCF membership required for Virginia residents. *Enter:* www.vachess.org or by mail to Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: NoVA Open, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693-3356. Info www.vachess.org or mhoffpauir@aol.com, 757-846-4805. No email entries.

*30 US Chess Grand Prix points—a VCF Cup event*



of 34...Nxe3+ 35 Nxe3] **33 Nf5 Bf8 34 a4 Nb7 35 Kd5 f6 36 Ng3?!** [This is inaccurate, allowing Black a resource that would not have been there after 36 h4 or 36 f3] **36...Nd6?** [Missing the chance, after which nature resumes its course. 36...Bc5! In general my bishop is obviously much better than his, so a trade would ease the defense, but I was counting on the continuation 37 Bxc5 Nxc5 38 a5, and for instance if 38...Nd3 39 axb6 axb6 40 Nh5 Ke7 41 Kc6... Leaving aside the question of whether this is indeed good enough to win, I later found Black has something far better than the automatic recapture 39...axb6, namely 39...Nf4+! the point being that after the seemingly strong 40 Kc5 there is 40...Ne6+! 41 Kc4 axb6 with full equality.] **37 f3 Nb7 38 Nf5 Nd6 39 Nxd6 Bxd6 40 h4! Bb4 41 h5** [I considered 41 hxg5!? hxg5 42 Bxg5 fxg5 43 Kxe5, which looks like some Capablanca endings, but first of all I had my suspicions about whether it works, second I figured I could get similar opportunities later if necessary, and third my opponent was approaching 'sudden death' time trouble so it would do him a favor to clarify the position straightaway.] (*diagram*)

Now the cat-and-mouse begins. **41...Bc3 42 Bc1 Bb4** [First constraint: he cannot allow White onto the a3-f8 diagonal, as then h6 would be doomed.] **43 Bb2 Bc5** [He could move elsewhere on the diagonal, which would deprive me of the progress I achieve with my next turn, but I don't think it makes a difference in the long run because I will play Bc3 and a5 and I think he has to just leave it and let me continue a6 anyhow, since if instead ...bxa5 I'll recapture Bxa5 and later use the new square c5 for my bishop.] **44 a5! Bb4 45 a6 Bd6 46 Bc1 Bc5 47 Bd2 Bd6**



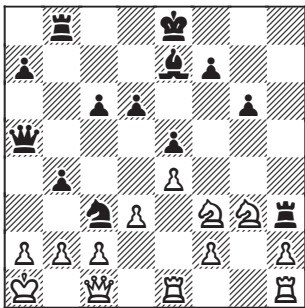
**48 Bc3** [Second constraint: he must prevent the sacrifice Bxb6. For this, his bishop needs to be at either b8 or c7 whenever mine occupies the g1-a7 diagonal.] **48...Bb8 49 g3 Bc7 50 Bf2 Bb8 51 Be1** [threat Bb4] **Bd6 52 Bd2 Bc5** [Only move! Because if the bishop goes to c7 or b8 now, I get Bb4; but if he goes anywhere else on the a3-f8 diagonal, I reply Be3 and he can't get back to prevent Bxb6] **53 Bc1 Bd6** [again, only move] **54 Bb2 Bc5 55 Bc3 Bd6 56 Bd2 Bc5 57 f4!** [Having satisfied myself that he can defend the pure maneuvering game—and incidentally running most of the remaining minutes off his clock—it's time to resort to the pawn break.] **57...exf4** [Black has little choice lest White manage the exchanges so as to create either an untenable weakness on e5 an unstoppable passed pawn on the h-file.] **58 gxf4 g4 59 Be1 Bc3 60 Bg3 Bg1 61 e5 fxe5 62 fxe5** [This pawn cannot promote but it forces Black's king to give ground one direction or another.] **62...Bc5 63 Bh4 Bg1** [It's hopeless. For example, 63...Be7 64 e6+ Kd8 65 Bg3 Kc8 66 Kc6 Bf6 67 Bc7 Bh4 68 Bxb6] **64 e6+ Ke8 65 Kc6 Bh2 66 Kb7 g3 67 Bxg3 Bxg3 68 Kxa7 1-0**



Tom Belke - Bill Keogh

Grob

1 g4 c6 2 g5?! e5 3 d3 Be7 4 Nf3 h6  
 5 gxh6 Nxh6 6 Rg1 g6 7 Nc3 d6 8  
 Bxh6 Rxh6 9 Qd2 Rh8 10 e4 Bh3 11  
 O-O-O b5 12 Bxh3 Rxh3 13 Rg3 Rh5  
 14 Rh1 Nd7 15 Kb1 Rb8 16 Ne2 Nc5  
 17 Rgg1 b4 18 Ng3 Rh3 19 Re1 Na4  
 20 Ka1 Qa5 21 Qc1? Nc3!

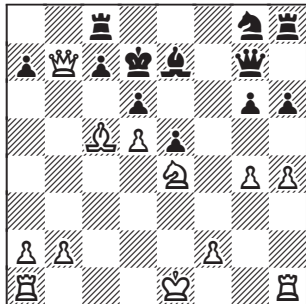


22 bxc3 [22 a3 bxa3 23 b3] 22... bxc3  
 23 Qb1 Rb2 24 Qxb2 cxb2+ 25 Kb1  
 Qc3 26 Re3 d5 27 d4 Qa5 28 Nxe5  
 Bg5 29 Re2 Kf8 30 Nd3 dxe4 [played  
 with 1 second left to complete the time  
 control!] 31 Nxe4 Be7 32 Nd2 Qb5  
 33 f3 Bg5? [It often happens that  
 blunders occur shortly after the time  
 trouble ends.] 34 Re5 Qb8? [34...  
 Bxd2 35 Rxb5 cxb5 36 Kxb2 Rxf3 =]  
 35 Rxg5 Rxh2 36 Rxh2 Qxh2 37 Ne4  
 Qh1+ 38 Kxb2 Qxf3 39 Re5 Qe3 40  
 Kc3 f5 41 Nc5 Qg1 42 a4 Qa1+ 43  
 Nb2 Qa3+ 44 Nb3 Kf7 45 Nc4 Qf8  
 [45... Qxa4 46 Ra5] 46 Ra5 Qe7 47  
 Ne5+ Kf6 48 Ra6 f4 49 Rxc6+ Kf5  
 50 Rc5 Kf6 51 Nd2 g5 52 Rc6+ Kf5  
 53 Rc5 Kf6 54 Ne4+ Kg7 55 Kd3 Kh6  
 56 Ng4+ Kh5 57 Rxg5+ Kh4 58 Ne5  
 Qa3+ 59 c3 Qa1 60 Rg4+ Kh3 61  
 Nf2+ Kh2 62 Nf3 mate 1-0

Nick Failon - Nathan Lohr

Modern

1 d4 g6 2 c4 Bg7 3 Nc3 d6 4 e4 Nc6 5  
 Be3 e5 6 d5 Nd4 7 Nge2 Nxe2 8 Bxe2 f5  
 9 exf5 Bxf5 10 g4 Bd7 11 h4 Qe7 12 Bg5  
 Bf6 13 Ne4 h6 14 Be3 Qg7 15 c5 Be7 16  
 Qb3 b6 17 Bb5!? [17 cxd6] 17... bxc5  
 18 Bxd7+ Kxd7 19 Qb7 Rc8 20 Bxc5!

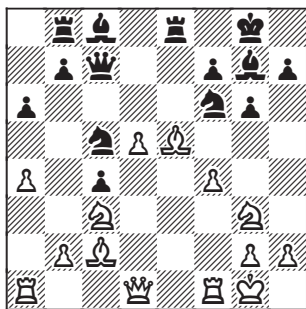


20...dxc5? [20... Nf6] 21 d6! Nf6 22  
 Nxc5+ Kxd6 23 Rd1+! Kxc5 24 b4+  
 Kc4 25 Qc6+ Kxb4 26 Rb1+ Ka5 27  
 Qb5 mate 1-0

Justin Lohr - Andrew Samuelson

Benoni

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 exd5  
 5 cxd5 d6 6 e4 g6 7 Bd3 Bg7 8 Nge2  
 O-O 9 O-O a6 10 a4 Nbd7 11 f4 Re8  
 12 Ng3 Qc7 13 Be3 c4 14 Bc2 Nc5  
 15 Bd4 Rb8 16 e5 dxe5 17 Bxe5





17...Rxe5 18 d6 Qb6 19 a5 Qxb2 20 fxe5  
Qxc3 21 exf6 Bxf6 22 Qe1 Be6 23 Ne4  
Bd4+ 24 Kh1 Qxc2 25 Nxc5 Bd5 26 Qg3  
Bxc5 27 d7 Rd8 28 Rad1 Rxd7 29 Qg5  
Bxg2+ 30 Qxg2 Qxd1 31 Qh3 Qd5+ 0-1

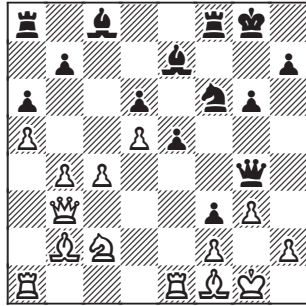
**Jason Morefield - Andrew Samuelson  
Benoni**

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 exd5  
5 cxd5 d6 6 e4 g6 7 Nge2 Bg7 8 Ng3  
h5 9 Be2 a6 10 a4 Nbd7 11 O-O h4 12  
Nh1 h3 13 g3 Ne5 14 f3 Qa5 15 Nf2  
b5 16 f4 Ned7 17 Be3 b4 18 Nb1 O-O  
19 Nd2 Re8 20 Bf3 Bb7 21 Nc4 Qc7 22  
a5 Rad8 23 Qd3 Bc8 24 Nxb3 Nf8 25  
Nf2 Qb8 26 Rae1 Qb5 27 b3 N6h7 28  
Kg2 f5 29 e5 dxe5 30 fxe5 Nd7 31 Nd6  
Nxe5 32 Nxb5 Nxd3 33 Nxd3 axb5 34  
Bxc5 Rxe1 35 Rxe1 Bc3 36 Re7 Ng5  
37 Nxb4 Nxf3 38 Kxf3 g5 39 d6 Bd7  
40 a6 Bf6 41 Rxd7 Rxd7 42 Nc6 Kf7  
43 a7 Rxa7 44 Nxa7 Ke6 45 Nxb5 g4+  
46 Ke3 Bg5+ 47 Kd4 f4 48 Ke4 fxg3  
49 hxg3 Bd2 50 Nd4+ Kd7 51 Kf5 1-0



**Andrew Samuelson- Akshay Indusekar  
Sicilian**

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 a6  
5 Nc3 Qc7 6 Bd3 Nf6 7 O-O e5 8 Nf5  
d6 9 Ne3 Be6 10 a4 Be7 11 Ncd5 Nxd5  
12 exd5 Bc8 13 a5 Nd7 14 c4 O-O 15  
b4 g6 16 Bb2 f5 17 Qb3 f4 18 Nc2 f3  
19 g3 Nf6 20 Rfe1 Qd7 21 Bf1 Qg4



22 Nd4 Qh5 23 Ne6 Rf7 24 c5 Bd7 25  
cxd6 Bxd6 26 h4 h6 27 b5 g5 28 Ra4  
e4 29 Bxf6 Rxf6 30 Rxe4 Rc8 31 Qb2  
Rg6 32 Rg4 Bf4 33 Nxf4 gxf4 34 Rxg6+  
Qxg6 35 Rxf4 Rc2 36 Qa3 Qg7 37 Qxf3  
Rc1 38 Kg2 axb5 39 Bxb5 Bxb5 40 Rg4  
Bf1+ 41 Kh2 Rc7 42 Rxg7+ Rxg7 43 d6  
Ba6 44 Qd5+ Kf8 45 d7 1-0

**Blindfold Simultaneous Exhibition by Grandmaster Timur Gareyev**

**November 11, 2017**

Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

4701 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203

GM Gareyev holds the world record for largest number of opponents—48!—in simultaneous play without sight of the board. He will remain in a chair or on a stationary bike, receiving opponents' moves and calling out his responses verbally. GM Gareyev often allows opponents to choose color but also may ask that players alternate color from board to board. Note that the event can be expected to last up to 7-8 hours depending on the number of players. GM Gareyev will take occasional short breaks. Registration 9:30-9:55am, Intro/Question & Answer session with GM Gareyev 10am, Simul begins 11am. EF \$50, ACC Members \$45. Enter online at [www.arlingtonchessclub.com/PayPal2.html](http://www.arlingtonchessclub.com/PayPal2.html) or by mail (must be post-marked by July 17) check payable to "Arlington Chess Club", PO Box 151122, Alexandria, Virginia 22315, or at the site (cash or check only—no credit cards). USCF membership not required for this event. Please bring board/set.



# Reflections

## REFLECTIONS



### Looking Back on an Amateur Chess “Career”

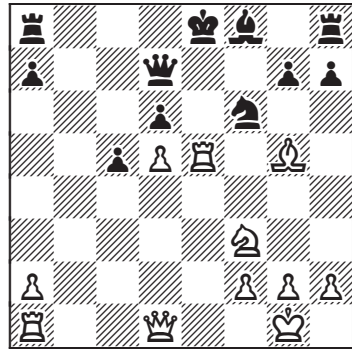
VICTORY 2.0 “RELOADED” – 1

1990-94 VIRGINIA CORRESPONDENCE CO-CHAMPION REVISITED, PART II

The games in this installment were all presented in *Virginia Chess* 1995/#2. Back then, databases were in their infancy, as were engines. And neither was available to me. I thought it would be very interesting to revisit them in this “Part II” and determine whether my play demonstrated any ability or whether I was singularly fortunate in tying for 1<sup>st</sup> in the 1990 Virginia Correspondence Championship. As I pretty much expected, and as most top players indicate in interviews today, it takes a mixture of both.

#### Mark Warriner - Robert Cale Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Bd7 4 Bxd7+ Qxd7 5 O-O Nc6 6 c3 Nf6 7 d4 Nxe4 8 d5 Nb8 [See the next game for the more common and better scoring 8...Ne5] 9 Re1 Nf6 10 Bg5 Na6 11 c4 Nc7 [11...e5 12 dxe6 fxe6 13 Nc3 Be7 isn't played much, just three games in my databases, but may be an improvement.] 12 Nc3 e6 [12...h6 13 Bxf6 gxf6 is possible] 13 dxe6 fxe6 14 Nd5 [14 b4 cxb4 15 Nd5 Ncx5 16 cxd5 e5 17 Bxf6 gxf6 18 Nd4 puts White in the driver's seat.] 14...Ncx5 15 cxd5 e5 16 b4 b6? [A known blunder at the time—see the book referenced in the following game's notes. 16...Rc8 was correct, eg 17 Rc1 Be7 18 bxc5 O-O 19 Qb3 Kh8 20 cxd6 Bxd6 21 Rxc8 Rxc8 and while White's for choice, Black's still fighting.] 17 bxc5 bxc5 18 Rxe5+ (diagram)



Not to cop out of proof, but I'll leave it to the reader to work it out completely with an engine, because frankly there's no practical way to provide complete analysis here. If you want to play correspondence chess, be prepared for a lot of this type of situation! I will provide some lines. 18...dxe5 19 Nxe5 Qc7 20 Qa4+ Kd8 (20...Nd7 21 Re1) 21 Qf4! and now:

A fun move to get to play! At the time, I tried to summarize, fairly accurately, the situation without providing exact analysis. With the advent of engines, I can get just a little bit more specific, but doing so is problematic.

18...Kf7

Taking the rook leads to a labyrinth maze, out of which Black cannot hope to escape.

21...Rb8 22 Bxf6+ gxf6 23 Qxf6+ Kc8 24 Rd1 (or 24...Rg8 25 Qa6+) Rb4 25 g3 Rb6 26 Qxh8;





21...Kc8 22 Bxf6 another branch:

22...gxf6 23 Qf5+Kd8 24 Nc6+Ke8 25 Qxf6;

22...Rb8 23 Qg4+ Kb7 24 Nd7 Bd6 25 Nxb8 Rxb8 26 Bxg7 Rg8 27 Rb1+ Ka8 28 Qa4! (28...Bxh2+ 29 Kh1) Rxc7 29 Qe8+ Qb8 30 Rxb8+ Bxb8 31 d6;

**19 Qe2?** [At the time, I thought I should have played 19 Qd3. In fact, it was either 19 Re6 Ne8 20 Qd3 h6 21 Bh4 Kg8 22 Rae1; or 19 Bxf6 gxf6 20 Re6 Rg8 21 Nd2 Rg6 22 Ne4 Kg7 23 Qf3 that would have put Black in a tight bind.] **19...Qb7?** [19...Kg8 20 Bxf6 dxe5 21 Bxe5 Bd6 22 Bxd6 Qxd6 23 Ng5 and White's better due to Black's entombed rook, but not by nearly as much.] **20 Rf5?** [Not best, but I'll shake the hand of the person who can spot the engine fantasy line of 20 Re3 h5 21 Nh4 Rh7 22 Rb3 Qxd5 23 Bxf6 Re8 24 Be7 Bxe7 25 Re1] **20...Res 21 Qd3 h6** [21...Be7 was not much better, eg 22 Rb1 Qd7 23 Bxf6 Bxf6 24 Ng5+ Kg8 25 Ne6 Qf7 26 g4 with a winning position] **22 Rb1** [Also 22 Bxf6 gxf6 23 Rb1 Qe7 24 Rf4 Kg8 25 Qg6+ Bg7±] **22...Qe7** [if 22...Qd7 23 Bxf6 gxf6 24 Rf4 Rg8 25 h3 Rg7 26 Nh4 Black's position is shot full of light-square holes.] **23 Bxf6 gxf6 24 g3 Rg8 25 Re1** [Or 25 Rf4, but what I played was good and I could see a clear winning plan. As I noted back in 1995, Robert was then the highest rated correspondence

player in the US. With all due respect, I'm assuming this was due to some sort of provisional rating situation as his rating is much different now. At any rate, I wanted very badly to win this game, and somewhere about here I spent the most time I've ever devoted to a single move—something like 56 hours of analysis. Overkill, but you need drive and determination to succeed at postal play!] **25...Qd7** [25...Qxe1+ 26 Nxe1 Rxe1+ 27 Kg2 is no improvement.] **26 Rxe8 Qxe8 27 Rf4 Kg7** [if 27...Rg7 28 Nh4 Qe5 29 Qf3 Rg5 30 Nf5 h5 31 h4 Rg4 32 Rxc4 hxc4 33 Qxc4 Qxd5 34 h5 and Black will have to part with the bishop to stop the h-pawn; or if 27...Qd7 28 Nh4 Rg5 29 Nf5 h5 30 Qf3 Rg4 31 Rxc4 hxc4 32 Qxc4 Ke8 33 h4 Qf7 34 h5 Qxd5 35 h6 the same story.] **28 Qf5** [28 Nh4 was more accurate, but no matter] **28...Qe7 29 Nh4 Qf7 30 Rg4+ Kh8 31 Ng6+ Rxc6** [31...Kh7 leads to a forced mate: 32 Ne5+ (32...Kh8 33 Nxf7mate) Qg6 33 Nxc6 Rg7 34 Ne7+ Kh8 35 Rxc6 Bxc6 (or 35...Kxc6 36 Qg6+) 36 Qe6] **32 Rxc6 Bg7 33 Rg4** [At the time I thought White's best plan was to place the rook on e6, but with engines, much better plans can be found. Black simply lacks enough forces to resist.] **33...h5** [or 33...Kg8 34 Qc8+ Kh7 35 Qe6 Qb7 36 Qe4+ Kg8 37 Qe8+ Kh7 38 Qg6+ Kh8 39 Re4 Bf8 40 Qxf6+ Qg7 41 Qf5] **34 Rh4 Kg8 35 Rxb5 1-0**

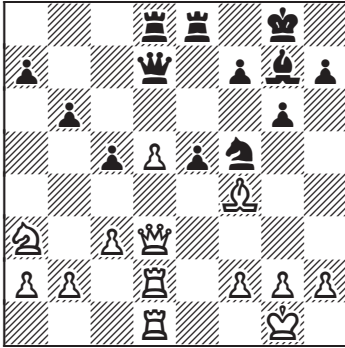
### Mark Warriner - BB Jessie III Sicilian

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Bd7 4 Bxd7+ Qxd7 5 O-O Nc6 6 c3 Nf6 7 d4 Nxe4 8 d5 Ne5 9 Nxe5** [9 Re1 is played more often but scores just about the same.] **9...dxe5 10 Re1 Nd6** [10...Nf6 11 Rxe5 is also played, but scores significantly better for White.] **11 Rxe5 g6 12 Re2** [12 Na3; 12 Bf4; and 12 Re1 are also possible, the latter being the most popular and best scoring.] **12...Bg7 13 Be3** [Back in 1995, I felt that this whole line was discredited by my opponents play as I had to struggle to

get the point. If there is an improvement for White, it's probably 13 Bg5, eg 13...Nf5 and now something like 14 Qd3 or 14 Na3] **13...b6 14 Na3 O-O 15 Qd3 Nf5 16 Bf4 Rad8 17 Rd1 Rfe8 18 Red2** [Thanks to databases, and to my consternation I now know that we have been following Bisguier-Reshevsky, Palma de Majorca 1971, which continued 18...Bf6 19 Qc4 g5 20 Bg3 h5 21 Qe2 g4 ½-½. When I annotated this game for *Virginia Chess* 1995/#2, I felt that my opponent's next move refuted



the analysis by Yuri Razuvaev & Alexander Matsukevitch in their book *THE ANTI-SICILIAN*: 3. Bb5(+) (ISBN 0-7134-4113-5, Batsford), which assesses it as slightly better for White. Engines now say we were both mistaken—it's just equal. Funny how often nowadays engines do say "just equal" when we're at least optically convinced otherwise.] 18...e5



19 Be3 [This is the real culprit which led to my troubles. I should have played 19 dxe6 Qxe6 20 Qxd8 Rxd8 21 Rxd8+ Bf8 22 b3] 19...e4 20 Qe2 Nxe3 21 Qxe3? [21 fxe3 Bh6 22 Re1 f5 23 Qb5 Re5 24 Qxd7 Rxd7 25 c4 is unpleasant for White but better than what I played.] 21...f5 22 b3? Qf7? [He missed 22...f4 23 Qxf4 Bxc3 24 Re2 Bd4 25 d6 (not 25 Rxe4? Rf8 and the best White can do is the losing 26 Rxd4 Rxf4 27 Rxf4 Qb7) 25...Re6 26 Nc4 b5 27 Ne3 Qxd6 =] 23 f4? [And I missed 23 g3 f4 24 Qxf4 Qxf4 25 gxf4 Bxc3 26 Re2 which, while ugly looking, is better for me than what could have happened.] 23...exf3 24 Qxf3 Re4 25 c4 Bd4+ [Engines actually indicate the following as an improvement for Black: 25...Rde8 26 Nc2

Bh6 27 Rf2 Re3 28 Nxe3 Rxe3 29 d6 Rxf3 30 d7 Re3 31 d8Q+ Re8] 26 Rxd4? [At the time I thought this was the only practical way to continue, but our Metal Friends say "nay, this just loses." It was time to set one's teeth, dig in with 26 Kh1, and suffer 26...Qe7 27 Rf1 Re3 28 Qf4.] 26...Rxd4? [Black is for choice after 26...cxd4 27 Nc2 Qf6 28 Qf2 b5 29 Nxd4 bxc4 30 bxc4 Rc8, eg. 31 Nc6 Rxc4; or 31 h3 Rxc4] 27 Rxd4 cxd4 28 Nc2 Qe7? [28...Qf6 or 28...Qg7 keep up the pressure] 29 Nxd4 Qe1+ 30 Qf1 Qe3+ 31 Qf2 Qxf2+? [Now White can hold. Either 31...Qc1+ 32 Qf1 Qxf1+ 33 Kxf1 Re8 34 Ne6 Kf7 35 Ke2 Kf6; or 31...Re8 32 Ne6 Qc1+ 33 Qf1 Qxf1+ 34 Kxf1 Kf7 35 Ke2 Kf6 might still offer Black a little something.] 32 Kxf2 Rd7? [Why help White? 32...Re8] 33 Ke3 [33 Nc6] 33...Kf7 34 Nc6 Kf6 35 Kd4 g5 36 b4 h5? [Ouch! After this not-so-obvious (at least to amateurs) howler, Black's just lost. He needed to play 36...g4 and then the long line 37 c5 f4 38 d6 Rg7 39 Ne5 bxc5+ 40 bxc5 Ke6 41 d7 Rxd7+ 42 Nxd7 Kxd7 43 Ke4 f3 44 gxf3 gxf3 45 Kxf3 Kc6 demonstrates one way to keep the peace.] 37 c5 h4? [Even worse than 37...Rh7 although that wouldn't have saved the point either.] 38 d6 Ke6 39 Ne5?? [A horrible oversight which should have cost me half a point. On the correct 39 Kc4 g4 40 Nd4+ Ke5 41 c6 the c-pawn can't be stopped.] 39...Rd8?? [Returning the favor. Either 39...h3 40 g3 Rg7; or 39...bxc5+ 40 bxc5 h3 would salvage the draw.] 40 h3 [White was very lucky!] 40...g4 41 Nd3 gxh3 [41...bxc5+ 42 bxc5 Rb8 43 Nf4+ Kd7 44 Kd5 Rb5 45 Nd3 etc.] 42 gxh3 bxc5+ 43 bxc5 Rb8 44 Nf4+ Kd7 45 Kd5 Rb5 46 Ng6 [not as accurate as 46 Nd3 but sufficient] 1-0

### Ed Kitces – MarkWarriner Evans Gambit

Dr Edward Kitces was the reigning Virginia Correspondence Champion at the time. To my knowledge, only two Virginia Correspondence Championships have been played, but my only resource for information prior to 1990 is Walter Muir's biography *MY 75 YEAR CHESS CAREER* (ISBN 0-9659427-0-8, HopScotch Ink, 1997). If anyone has any other info, please send it to me via our *Virginia Chess* editor. At any rate, I was determined to win this game.

# 25th David Zofchak Memorial Open Nov. 4-5, 2017

**Norfolk, VA** A Virginia Chess Federation & VCF Cup Event  
**\$2000 in prizes** b/o 45 2 Sections 5 Round Swiss System Game/120 d5

**Prizes:** **Open Section 1st \$350 \$\$\$ 2nd \$225 \$\$\$ 3rd \$160 \$\$\$**  
**The 3 place prizes are guaranteed.** Top Expert \$150 Top A \$125

**Under 1800 Section** All prizes based on 45 entries **1st \$270 2nd \$170 3rd \$130**  
Top C/unr \$120 Top D \$110 Top E \$100 U1000 \$90

**Site/Hotel:** Sleep Inn Lake Wright 1521 Premium Outlets Blvd Norfolk, VA (757) 461-6251  
Rooms \$59 + tax w/free breakfast. Please reserve by 10/13. The hotel is one block from the I-64 Northampton Blvd. exit 282. Allow extra time as there may be construction on Northampton Blvd. Call the hotel and ask for the chess rate.

**Entry Fee:** \$55 if received by 11/1, \$65 thereafter. **No credit cards: Cash or check only on site.**

**Memberships:** USCF [all] and VCF for VA residents is required and can be purchased on site. (\$10 Jr. \$5 U 18@ exp.)

**Registration:** Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Please be on time. Registration will close promptly at 9:15 and if late arrivals cannot be properly paired without delaying the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> round, they will have to take a 1<sup>st</sup> round 1/2 pt. bye. **On-line registration**, Advance entries, links to maps and additional information can be found at [www.vachess.org](http://www.vachess.org) **Register and pay on-line at the VCF website**

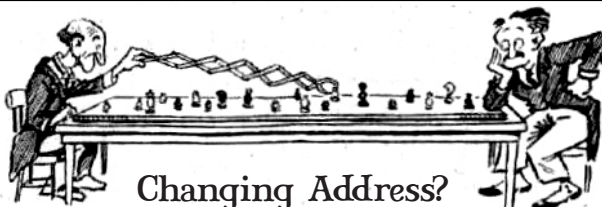
**Rounds:** Saturday: Rd. 1 9:30 Rd. 2 2:00 Rd. 3 7:00  
Sunday: Rd. 4 9:30 Rd. 5 2:00

**Byes:** A single half pt. bye is available & must be requested before the start of Rd.3. Byes for rounds 4 & 5 may not be withdrawn after the start of Rd. 3.

**No Phone Entries Accepted. Info only.** Call Ernie at (757) 362-6542 or e-mail [ernest.schlich@gmail.com](mailto:ernest.schlich@gmail.com)

25rd David Zofchak Memorial Nov. 4-5, 2017 EF \$55 if received by 11/1 Request Bye for Rd.: \_\_\_\_\_

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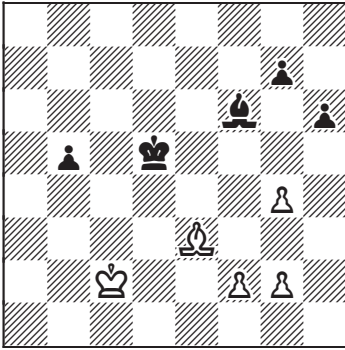


1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 b4 Bxb4 5 c3 Bc5 6 d4 exd4 7 O-O d6 8 cxd4 Bb6 9 h3 Nf6 10 Re1 h6 11 Nc3 [I'd been following analysis in the book OPEN GAMBITS by George Botterill (ISBN 0-02-028270-2, Collier Books, 1986). 11 Ba3 O-O 12 Nc3 Re8 13 Rc1 Nh7 14 Re3 Na5 15 Bd3 Be6 16 Qe2 Nf8 17 Na4 Ng6 18 Nxb6 axb6 19 d5 Bd7 20 Bb2 Nf4 21 Qc2 c6 22 Qc3 f6 23 dxc6 bxc6 24 Bf1 c5 25 Nh4 d5 26 exd5 Nxd5 27 Rxe8+ Qxe8 28 Qg3 Qe4 29 Rd1 Re8 30 Bd3 Qa4 31 Bh7+ Kxh7 32 Rxd5 Re7 33 Bxf6 Qe4 34 Ng6 Qxg6 35 Bxe7 Be6 36 Rd6 Qf7 37 Rxb6 Nc4 38 Rb7 Bf5 39 Rc7 Bg6 40 Bxc5 Qf6 41 Bb4 1-0 Mariotti-Gligoric, Venice 1971] 11...O-O 12 Bb2 Re8 13 Qd3 [Inciting me, and setting off quite the storm—just as I'd hoped for against Dr Kitces! Engines aren't a big fan of White's move, preferring either 13 a3 or 13 Rc1. And a game Hernando-Fernandez, Mondragon 2009 saw 13 d5 Ne5 14 Bf1 Nfd7 15 Nd4 Nf6 16 Na4 Bxd4 17 Qxd4 Bxh3 18 f4 c5 19 Qd2 Nxe4 20 Rxe4 Bf5 21 Ree1 Ng4 22 Rxe8+ Qxe8 23 Nc3 Qd7 24 Be2 Re8 25 Bxg4 Bxg4 26 a4 a6 27 Qf2 h5 28 Kf1 Bf5 29 Kg1 Bg4 30 f5 f6 31 Kf1 Qe7 32 Re1 Qxe1+ 33 Qxe1 Rxe1+ 34 Kxe1 Bxf5 35 a5 Kf7 36 Ke2 g5 37 Bc1 Bc2 38 Kf3 Kg6 39 Ne4 Bxe4+ 40 Kxe4 f5+ 41 Kf3 Kf6 42 Bb2+ Kg6 43 Ke3 Kf7 44 Kf3 Kg6 45 Bc3 Kf7 46 Bh8 Kg6 47 Bc3 Kf7? ½-½] 13...Nb4 [Engines actually prefer 13...Na5 14 Bb5 c6 15 Ba4 d5 16 e5 Nc4 but I never even considered this. I was trying to provoke an unsound attack.] 14 Bxf7+ [Gulp! And it worked, I think. This isn't worse than retreating the queen, but it does give Black a good toe-hold in the center, ensuring at least even play.] 14...Kxf7 15 Qc4+ [This position is very difficult to evaluate even with computer assistance. There are tons of lines and the engine eval flips back and forth. In the end, I'm happy with the move I chose, though our Metal Friends feel I missed an opportunity, namely 15...Nbd5 16 Nd2 (16 Nxd5 Be6) Kf8 17 exd5 Rxe1+ (17...Bf5 18 Ne2 Qe7 19 a4) 18 Rxe1

Bf5] 15...d5 16 Qxb4 dxe4 17 Ne5+ Kg8 18 Nxe4 Nxe4 19 Rxe4 Qd5 [Engines evaluate this as just plain "=", but I like the centralization of Black's queen, and think that it's worth more than what the algorithms say.] 20 Re3 Be6 21 Rg3? [perhaps the first small hiccup—21 Ng6 or 21 Qc3] 21...Rad8 22 Nf3 [And perhaps a second small hiccup. But they begin to add up. 22 Rc1] 22...Bf7 [also 22...c6 23 a4 Bf5; or 22...Bf5 23 Re1 Rxe1+ 24 Qxe1 Qe4] 23 a4 [I had a plan to put a rook on e4, but 23 Ne5 would have stopped that and vexed me.] 23...c6 24 Rc1? The first out and out mistake, giving Black some serious play. Instead 24 Ne5 sets Black more problems.] 24...Re4 [Not bad, but 24...Re2 was even better.] 25 a5? [25 Bc3 is a tough move to find, but the game continuation drove my dark square bishop where it wanted to go.] 25...Bc7 26 Rg4 Rxg4 27 hxg4 Bd6? [This hasty move could have cost me half a point. I didn't take the time to calculate 27...Bxa5 28 Qxb7 Qb5 29 Qxb5 cxb5 (yeah, I know, it's postal—no excuse!) as I had already made up my mind. Inflexibility is very bad in chess!] 28 Qe1 Re8? [I thought this automatic, but apparently both 28...Bf4 and 28...h5 are preferable.] 29 Ne5 [So White gets the knight to e5 and another shot at life after all, a sign that Black failed to convert an advantage somewhere.] 29...c5 30 Qd1 cxd4 [As I noted in my original annotations, I analyzed out the game continuation to move 38. Apparently while I guessed the resulting position correctly, I was fortunate it went that way as White has equality after this move and failed to spot better possibilities a bit later. Either 30...c4 31 Nxc4 Bf4; or 30...Be6 31 Qa4 Rd8 were to be considered.] 31 Nxf7 Kxf7 [31...Bf4 is possible here, but you'd be a better player than me if you even looked for it! Not that that's saying much... *ahem*.] 32 Qxd4 Qxd4 33 Bxd4 Bb4 34 Rc7+ [I felt sure at the time that I had the advantage, but engines are much better at calculation and it would seem now that I was mistaken. Unfortunately, White has enough



resources to hold. 34 Bxa7 would have also sufficed, eg 34...Bxa5 35 Rc5 Re1+ 36 Kh2 b6 37 Rb5 Re6] **34...Re7 35 Rxe7+ Bxe7 36 Bxa7 Bds** [My point was that now Black gets an outside passed pawn.] **37 Bd4 Bxa5 38 Kf1 Bds 39 Ke2 Bf6 40 Be3?** [This makes things harder for White, although it's still not clear whether Black can win. At any rate, 40 Kd3 defends successfully, eg 40...Bxd4 41 Kxd4 Kf6 42 f4 g6 43 Kd5 h5 44 gxh5 gxh5 45 g3 Kf5 46 Kc5 Kg4 47 Kd6 b5 48 Kc5 Kxg3 49 f5 h4 50 f6 h3 51 f7 h2 52 f8Q h1Q =] **40...Ke6 41 Kd3 Kd5 42 Bb6 Kc6 43 Be3 b5 44 Kc2 Kd5**



#### 45 Kb3?

This finally puts White's king one tempo too far out of play. The correct defense was 45 f4. Black's problem becomes clear after 45...Kc4

So, there you have it. I'm happy with the effort and it was good enough for a great result, but my oh my, what was missed. None of us calculate with the ferocious accuracy of a machine. Humans just can't do that. I'm disappointed that I overlooked as much as I did. But you can always determine your weaknesses and study and practice to improve. That drive is what's important to achievement. As former World Champion Garry Kasparov notes, the ability to work hard is a talent in and of itself!



#### *From the Editor...*

Apologies to Andy Rea who provided an article on the VCF Cup that there was no room for this time—next issue! Speaking of which, response to my appeal for material from the US Open has been lukewarm. I've received a couple games, and promises of a couple more. One way or another, I will publish whatever I've got next time. Games (annotated or not), photos, anecdotes, impressions—all submissions are welcome!

46 g5 hxg5 47 fxg5 Bd4 48 Bd2 b4 49 g6 b3+ 50 Kb1 Bf6 51 Be3 Kb5 52 Kc1 Be5 53 Kb1 Kc4 54 Bc1 Bc3 55 Be3 Kd3 56 Bc1 Ke4 57 Ba3—he can't go grab the g-pawns because White has time to grab the b-pawn and still get over to the kingside in time to stop Black's g-pawn from queening. Frustrating! It would go something like 57...Kf5 58 Bb2 Bxb2 59 Kxb2 Kxg6 60 Kxb3 Kf5 61 Kc3 g5 62 Kd3 Kg4 63 Ke3 Kg3 64 Ke4 Kxg2 65 Kf5

**45...Bd4 0-1** Here are some sample lines to demonstrate ways to convert:

46 Bxd4 Kxd4 47 f4 Ke3 48 g5 hxg5 49 fxg5 g6 50 Kb4 Kf4 51 Kxb5 Kg3 (but not 51...Kxg5? and the win slips! 52 Kc5 Kf4 53 Kd4 Kg3 54 Ke4 Kg4 55 Kd4 Kg3 56 Ke4 g5 57 Kf5) 52 Kc5 Kxg2 53 Kd6 Kf3 54 Ke5 Kg4 55 Ke4 Kxg5 56 Kf3 Kh4 and wins by getting the opposition by just the right tempo;

46 Bf4 Bxf2 and now:

47 Bh2 Bc5 48 Kc3 Bd6 49 Bg1 Ke4 50 Kd2 Bf4+ 51 Kd1 Kd3 52 Bc5 Bd2 53 Bb6 b4; 47 Kb4 Kc6 48 Be5 Be1+ 49 Kb3 g6 50 Kc2 Kd5 51 Bf6 Kc4 52 Bg7 h5 53 g5 (or 53 gxh5 gxh5 54 Be5 b4 55 Kd1 Bc3 56 Bh2 b3 57 Kc1 Kd3 58 Bg3 Ke2 59 Bh4 Be5 60 Kb1 Kf1 61 g3 Kg2) 53...Kd5 54 Kd3 Bb4 55 Bd4 Be7 56 Be3 Ke5

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## In This Issue:

2017 Virginia Closed.....	1
Warriner Reflections.....	12
From the Editor .....	17
Upcoming Events .....	6, 8, 11, 15
VCF Info .....	<i>inside front cover</i>

