

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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Virginia Chess Federation

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VIRGINIA CHESS

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2024 - Issue #2

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non-profit organization for the use of its members.

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Coastal Virginia Open

by *Christina Schweiss*

The 3rd Coastal Virginia Open, a VCF Cup event hosted by Hampton Roads Chess Association (HRCA), was held at a new venue, the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront, on January 26-28. Friday night featured a Blitz tournament with four double rounds. 19 players participated. Tyson Brady took clear first place with 7½ points, Maddox Jackson was clear second with 7, and Timothy McCall finished in clear 3rd with 6. Sorel Utsey took the Top U1500 prize.

The main event took place on Saturday and Sunday. A total of 137 players participated across five sections. The top three sections were played at G/90+10 across two days. In the Open section, a four-way tie for 1st place with 4 out of 5 points contained Larry Larkins, Francisco Alonso Colorado, Timothy McCall & Andrews Castaneda. With 32 players in this section, a new minimum rating requirement helped ensure good competition for all. Jackson Twilley won both Upset prizes in the Open section with 247 and 479 rating point take downs!

There were 23 players in the U1600 section. John Hill proved himself the best of them with a perfect score. Lucas Ward captured clear 2nd 4 points. There was a three-way tie for the remaining prize money between Zach Traynor, Eeshan Desai & Alan Plaskey. Winner Hill also claimed the Upset in round 1 with 170 point rating differential. In a first for one of our events, two players — John Hill (again!) & Vanya Voloshin — tied for round 2 Upset at precisely 264 rating points each.

The U1200 section featured 17 players. Gabriel Esmalla won with 4½ points, followed by Pranav Kolluru in clear 2nd. Riley Taguba & Philip Pound tied for 3rd. A majority of the players in this section were rated under 1000, as we encouraged local kids to start ‘playing up’ for more challenging competition.

The “CVO” featured two scholastic side events as well. These sections serve two purposes: they expose local scholastic players to more serious events that will be in their future by playing alongside them; and, with lower prize

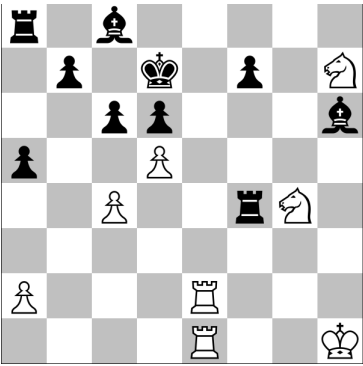


funds, they help cover the cost of the venue and other tournament expenses. The U800 section was played at G/40; d5 on Saturday and drew 31 players. Stephen Zhou took 1st on tiebreaks over Alison Flechtner. They each scored 4½-½. Maneesh Marikkannan took 3rd on tiebreaks over Ben Guzman (4th) & Nithish Arunvijay (5th). Aiden Gabriel also finished with 4 points and a medal on tiebreaks. Max Xiao took home the Unrated trophy, while Adithi Deepu was top U500 and Eros Interiano top U300. Sunday featured a non-rated Rookie section with 34 players. The top five trophies went to Jayden Yang (1st - perfect score of 5-0), Diego Roy, Foster Harkins, Briana Hyman & Charles Cline (4 points apiece, in tiebreak order). Additional class trophies went to Julian Bagares (Top K-5), Arseniy Vinichenko (Top K-3), Harish Sathishkumar (2nd K-3), Michaela Hyman (2nd), Joseph "JJ" Berry (3rd K-5) & Wyatt Becker (Top K-1). Most of the top Rookie players have now joined US Chess to become rated players, which is the goal of our Rookie programs – to help young players experience some success and build confidence before tackling bigger challenges.

The Wyndham's location directly on the beach, including all oceanfront guest rooms, proved popular. HRCA has secured the same venue for the 2024 Zofchak Memorial in September, and the 2025 CVO to be held next January/February. We hope you will join us at a future event!

John Hill – Paul Debbas

King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 O-O 6 Be2 e5 7 d5
 Nbd7 8 h3 Nc5 9 Qc2 a5 10 O-O Nh5 11 Nh2 Nf4 12 Bxf4 exf4
 13 Bf3 Qg5 14 Kh1 h5 15 Ne2 Qh6 16  16
 h4 g5 17 hxg5 Qxg5 18 Qd2 h4 19 g3
 hxg3 20 fxg3 Qe5 21 gxf4 Qxb2 22
 Qxb2 Bxb2 23 Rad1 Re8 24 Rd2 Bg7
 25 Ng3 Kf8 26 Rg1 Bh6 27 Nh5 Nxe4
 28 Bxe4 Rxe4 29 Nf6 Rxf4 [29...Bf5]
 30 Nh7+ Ke7 31 Re2+ Kd7 32 Rge1
 [32 Rg8] 32 c6 33 Ng4 {diagram}
 33...Bg7 [33...Rxc4 34 Nf6+ Kc7 35
 Re7+ Kb8 36 Nxc4 Bxc4 37 Rb1 Ra7]



34 Re7+ Kd8 35 dxc6 bxc6 36 Ng5 Be6 [36...Be5] 37 Nxe6+ Kxe7 38 Nxf4+ Kd7 39 Rb1 Kc7 40 Kg2 Re8 41 Kf3 Bd4 42 Nh5 Re6 43 Rd1 Bc5 44 Ng7 Rg6 45 Ne8+ Kc8 46 Ngf6 Kb8 47 Rb1+ Kc8 48 Rd1 Kb8 49 Ne4 Re6 50 N8xd6 Bb6 51 Rb1 Kc7 52 Nxf7 Bd4 53 Neg5 Re3+ 54 Kf4 Rc3 55 Ne6+ Kc8 56 Nxd4 Kc7 57 Ne5 Ra3 58 Rb2 Rc3 59 Nexc6 Rxc4 60 Ke4 a4 61 Kd5 1-0

Tripp Southerland – Maddox Jackson

Italian

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 b4 Bxb4 5 c3 Ba5 6 d4 exd4 7 O-O Nf6 8 Ba3 d6 9 e5 Nxe5 10 Nxe5 dxe5 11 Qb3 Qd7 12 cxd4 exd4 13 Qg3 Ng4 14 h3 b5 15 Bb3 b4 16 Re1+ Kf8 17 Bb2 Qd6 [why not 17...Nf6 ?] 18 Qxd6+ cxd6 19 hxg4 Bb6 20 Bd5 Rb8 21 Re4 d3 22 Bc4 Bb7 23 Rf4 d5 24 Bxd3 d4 25 Bc4 f6 26 g5 Rc8 27 Nd2 Bc7 28 Rxd4 Be5 29 Rd7 Bxb2 30 Rf7+ Ke8 31 Re1+ Be5 32 Rxb7 Kd8 33 gxf6 gxf6 34 Rd1 Ke8 35 Bb5+ Kf8 36 Nf3 1-0



11th Cherry Blossom Classic (\$\$26,000 GTD)

May 22-27, 2024

Washington Dulles Airport Marriott, 45020 Aviation Dr., Dulles, Va 20166

Open, U2300 & U2100 (USCF/FIDE Rated): Open (FIDE; 6-day only) \$4000-\$2800-\$1600-\$1100-\$800-\$500-\$300-\$200; U2400: \$400-\$200-\$100; U2300 (FIDE; 5-/4-day) \$1600-\$900-\$500-\$300-\$200-\$100; U2200: \$300-\$200-\$100 (Unr limit \$200); U2100 (FIDE; 5-/4-day) \$1300-\$800-\$500-\$300-\$200; U1900: \$300-\$200-\$100 (Unr limit \$200); U1800 (4-/3-day) \$900-\$600-\$400-\$200; U1600: \$200-\$100 (Unr limit \$150); U1500 (4-/3-day) \$600-\$400-\$300-\$200; U1300: \$200-\$100 (Unr limit \$100); U1200 (4-/3-day) \$500-\$300-\$200-\$100; U1000: \$100 (Unr limit \$100); U900/Unr (4-/3-day) \$400-\$200-\$100. Min Rating in Open/U2300 Sections: USCF/FIDE 2000 except Foreign FIDE, else pay \$300 more (USCF/FIDE 1900-1999); USCF/FIDE Under 1900 not allowed to play except Foreign FIDE Rated. Min Rating in U2300 Section USCF/FIDE 1800 else pay \$200 more. No Min Rating in U2100. *EF* Open (FIDE): \$240 by 4/21, \$265 by 5/12, \$290 by 5/21, \$325 later and onsite. GMs/Foreign IMs/WGMs/WIMs Free (\$50 refundable deposit EF), \$120 deducted from prize. US IMs/WGMs/Foreign FIDE Players \$100 less, \$80 deducted from prize. U2300/U2100 (FIDE): \$225 by 4/21, \$250 by 5/12, \$275 by 5/21, \$310 later/onsite. U1800/U1500/U1200: \$175 by 4/21, \$195 by 5/12, \$215 by 5/21, \$240 later/onsite. U900: \$100 by 4/21, \$120 by 5/12, \$140 by 5/21, \$165 later/onsite. Reentry \$80 in U1800/U1500/U1200/U900, no reentry in Open/U2300/U2100. Onsite Entry closes 1 hr before Rd 1 else enter with 1/2 pt byes. Refunds/Withdrawals incur a 10% service charge until May 19, 50% until May 22. NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 22. *Schedule & Time controls*: Open 6-day G/90;+30 (Reg ends Wed 6pm; Rounds Wed/Thu 7pm; Fri/Sat/Sun 11am - 5pm; Mon 10am). U2300/U2100 5-day G/90;+30: (Reg ends Thu 6pm; Rounds Thu 7pm; Fri/Sat/Sun 11am - 5pm; Mon 10am - 3:30pm). U2300/U2100 4-day Rounds 1-2 G/60;d5, Rds 3-9 G/90;+30: (Reg ends Fri 10am; Rounds Fri 11am - 2pm (Rd3 5pm merges with 5-day); Sat/Sun 11am - 5pm; Mon 10am - 3:30pm). U1800-U900 4-day Rds 1-7 G/90;+30: (Reg ends Fri 4pm; Rd1 Fri 5pm; Sat/Sun 11am - 5pm; Mon 10am - 3:30pm). U1800-U900 3-day Rds 1-2 G/60;d5, Rds 3-7 G/90;+30: (Reg ends Sat 10am; Rounds Sat 11am - 2pm (Rd3 5pm merges with 4-day); Sun 11am - 5pm; Mon 10am - 3:30pm). *Byes*: All rounds allowed, limit 3 in all Sections, must commit 1 hour before rd 3, norm not possible in Open if taking bye. *Email Infx*: cbc2024@capitalareachess.com. *Enter*: Entry Online or Mail to "Capital Area Chess Inc, 5116 Bebe Ct., Centreville, VA 20120"



Virginia Scholastic Championship

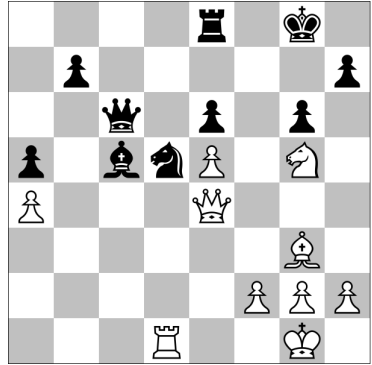
The 2024 Virginia Scholastic Championship was held March 9-10 at William Fleming High School in Roanoke. 336 players participated across in 11 sections. Winners of the main age group sections are given below along with a few games. We'd welcome any participants who want to send in the stories of their own adventures from this mammoth event.

In the K-12 championship, Aarush Vinod scored 4½-½ to claim clear first. Vaibhav Kalpaka, Arnav Gupta & James Wright all finished half a point behind.

Aarush Vinod - Vaibhav Kalpaka

Bishop's Opening

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d3 c6 4 Nf3 d5 5 Bb3 a5 6 a4 Bd6 7 exd5
 cxd5 8 Nc3 Be6 9 O-O Nc6 10 Bg5 d4 11 Bxe6 fxe6 12 Nb5 O-O
 13 Re1 Rc8 14 c3 dxc3 15 bxc3 Bb8
 16 Bh4 Qb6 17 Qb3 Rce8 18 d4 Nd5
 19 c4 Nf4 20 c5 Qa6 21 dxe5 Nb4 22
 Nd6 Nbd3 23 Nxe8 Nxe1 24 Rxe1
 Rxe8 25 Rd1 Nd5 26 Bg3 Ba7 27
 Qc2 Nb4 28 Qe4 Qc6 29 Qg4 Bxc5
 30 Ng5 Nd5 31 Qe4 g6 {diagram}
 32 Nxe6 Nc3 33 Qxc6 bxc6 34 Rd8
 Rxd8 35 Nxd8 Nxa4 36 Nxc6 Bb6 37
 e6 Nc5 38 Ne7+ Kg7 39 Be5+ Kf8
 40 Nd5 Nxe6 41 Nxb6 Kf7 42 Bc3
 Nf4 43 Bxa5 and White won in 64 moves 1-0



James Wright - Adithya Pillai

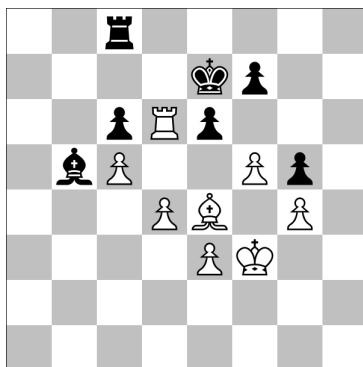
King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 O-O 5 O-O
 d6 6 b3 a5 7 Bb2 a4 8 c4 axb3 9 axb3 Rxa1
 10 Bxa1 c6 11 Nbd2 Na6 12 Bc3 d5 13 Qa1
 Bf5 14 Ne5 Nd7 15 Nxc6 bxc6 16 Qxa6
 dxc4 17 Qxc4 Nb8 18 Ra1 Qb6 19 e3
 Be6 20 Qb4 Qc7 21 Qa5 Qc8 22 Bb4





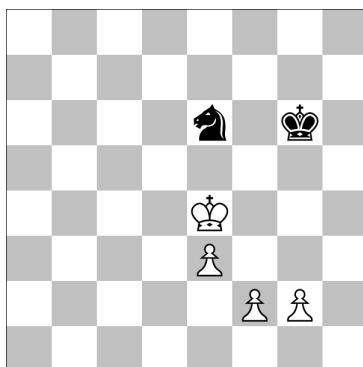
Re8 23 Rc1 Bh3 24 Bh1 Qd7 25 Nc4
 h5 26 Bc3 h4 27 Ne5 Bxe5 28 Qxe5
 Qe6 29 Qxe6 Bxe6 30 Rb1 hxg3 31
 hxg3 Rc8 32 Bb4 Kf8 33 Bc5 Nd7 34
 b4 Bc4 35 Ra1 Nxc5 36 bxc5 Kg7 37
 Ra7 e6 38 Rd7 Kf6 39 Rd6 Bb5 40
 Bf3 Ke7 41 Kg2 Rc7 42 g4 g5 43 Be4
 Rc8 44 Kg3 Rc7 45 f4 Kf6 46 f5 Ke7
 47 Kf3 Rc8 {diagram} 48 fxe6 fxe6 49
 Rxe6+ Kxe6 50 Bf5+ Kd5 51 Bxc8
 Bd3 52 Bf5 Bc4 53 Be4+ 1-0



Kyle Zhuang also scored 4½ to win the K-8th grade championship. Matthew Diao, Jagadeeshwar Sridhar, Owen Levine, Will Moorhouse & Saharsh Shetty followed with 4 points apiece.

Matthew Diao - Kyle Zhuang King's Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 Nf3 O-O 5 Bg5 d6 6 e3 c5 7 Be2
 h6 8 Bh4 Qb6 9 Bxf6 Bxf6 10 Nd5 Qa5+ 11 Qd2 Qxd2+ 12 Nxd2
 Nd7 13 Ne4 Kg7 14 Nxf6 Nxf6 15 Nxe7 Be6 16 dxc5 dxc5 17
 O-O-O Rfd8 18 Bf3 Bxc4 19 b3 Ba6 20 Rxd8 Rxd8 21 Rd1 Rxd1+
 22 Kxd1 g5 23 h3 h5 24 Nc8 g4 25
 hxg4 hxg4 26 Be2 Bxe2+ 27 Kxe2 a6
 28 Kd3 b5 29 Nd6 Nd5 30 a4 Nc7 31
 axb5 axb5 32 Ne4 Ne6 33 Nc3 c4+
 34 bxc4 bxc4+ 35 Kxc4 Kf6 36 Kd5
 Kf5 37 Nb5 Ng5 38 Nd6+ Kg6 39
 Ne4 Nh7 40 Ke5 Nf8 41 Kf4 Ne6+
 42 Kxg4 f5+ 43 Kf3 fxe4+ 44 Kxe4
 {diagram} 44...Kf6 45 f4 Nc5+ 46 Kf3
 Ne6 47 g4 Nc5 48 e4 Nd3 49 Ke3
 Nc5 50 g5+ Kg6 51 Kd4 Ne6+ 52
 Ke5 Nc5 53 Kd5 Nd3 54 f5+ Kxg5 55 Kd6 Kf6 56 Kd5 Ne5 ½-½



The K-5 group also saw a clear winner with 4½ points, Emin Baim. Half a point behind followed Alexander Zhou, Daniela Fitzsimmons & Max Yu.



Emin Baim - Yug Naik

King's Indian

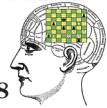
1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 Bf4 d6 4 e3 Bg7 5 Bc4 O-O 6 O-O Nbd7 7 Nbd2 Nb6
 8 Bd3 Re8 9 h3 Nfd7 10 Bg3 e5 11 dxe5 Nxe5 12 Nxe5 dxe5 13 e4 Bd7 14
 Qe2 c5 15 Rad1 a6 16 a3 Bc6 17 Nc4 Nxc4 18 Bxc4 Qb6 19 Qf3 Re7 20
 Bh4 Rc7 21 Rd8+ Rxd8 22 Bxd8 Be8 23 Bxc7 Qxc7 24 Rd1 b5 25 Bd5 h5
 26 Qg3 Kh7 27 c4 Kh8 28 Rc1 Bh6 29 Rc2 Qd6 30 cxb5 Bxb5 31 Qc3 c4
 32 Qf3 f6 33 Bxc4 Bxc4 34 Rxc4 Qd8 35 Qb3 Bg7 36 Qb7 Qd1+ 37 Kh2
 Qd2 38 Rc8+ Kh7 39 Rc7 Qf4+ 40 Kg1 Qh6 41 Qxa6 g5 42 Qb7 g4 43
 Rxc7+ Qxc7 44 Qxc7+ Kxc7 45 a4 White delivered mate on move 61. 1-0

The K-3 section saw a tie for 1st between Charles Wang & Pinhang Gao. Aarav Hemanth got 3rd place.

In the Team competition, Thomas Jefferson High School, in Alexandria, came out on top, followed by Loudouin Academies (Leesburg) and then Eagle Ridge Middle School (Ashburn).

Chief Tournament Director Cheryl Havens oversaw the 11 ring circus with assistance from Robert Jackson, Anand Dommalapati & Mike Hoffpauir.

2024 Virginia Senior Open
Country Inn & Suites by Radisson
10358 Patriot Highway, Fredericksburg, Va 22408
June 7-9, 2024



Open to all players at least 50 years old as of June 7, 2024. No Virginia residency restriction.

Winner will represent Virginia at the 2024 John T Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions at the end of July during the US Open in Norfolk. In addition, as the host state for the US Open, Virginia may also send an alternate to participate in the Irwin event. Virginia's alternate is eligible for the same prizes as the primary representative. Virginia's Primary representative to The Irwin Tournament will receive a stipend of at least \$500 to attend.

5-SS, single section. Game/90 +30 sec inc. Rds Friday 6:30pm, Saturday 11am & 5pm, Sunday 10am & 4pm. \$\$2,000 : \$650-450-300, U2200 \$200, U1800 \$165, U1400/unr \$135, Upset \$100. EF \$70 through June 1, \$90 thereafter. \$5 retained from players who withdraw before rd 1. USCF memb reqd, VCF memb reqd for Virginia residents. Hotel \$99 per night plus taxes, if reserved by June 2, 703-471-9500 and identify yourself as part of the "Virginia Chess Senior Open" group. One ½ pt bye allowed for any round, rd 1 byes must be declared by speaking directly with the TD before on-site registration closes at 6:15 pm on June 2. Byes for rds 2 through 5 must be declared at least 30 min before the start of rd 2. Changes after this deadline will be listed as zero-point byes. Register at www.vachess.org. Info: Mike Hoffpauir, Va Chess Federation, mhoffpauir@aol.com, text 757-846-4805



A Tale of Two Opening Repertoires – Part 3

by Rusty Potter

IN THIS CONCLUDING INSTALLMENT I finish sketching out a complete opening repertoire for White beginning 1 e4. The Sicilian Defense, 1 e4 c5 is long established as one of Black's most important and popular options. As in previous installments, my intention is to list Black's options in order to give you a framework for building your repertoire.

The Dragon systems—the Accelerated together with the Classical—are in some ways the most efficient manner for Black to mobilize his forces. They both feature a rapid ...g6 and ...Bg7 followed by castling kingside.

After 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 g6 Black can count on a smooth development. The drawback of this move order is that it gives White the chance to play for a Maroczy Bind setup with c4 played before Nc3. I recommend that you use it! After 5 c4 Bg7 6 Be3 the pawn formation will make it difficult for Black to get in a central advance anytime soon. A reasonable example continuation is 6...Nf6 7 Nc3 O-O 8 Be2 d6 9 O-O Bd7 10 Qd2 Nxd4 11 Bxd4 Bc6 12 f3 a5 13 b3 Nd7 14 Be3 Nc5 15 Rab1 Qb6 16 Rfe1 Rfc8 17 Bd1 Qd8.

However, if Black's second move is 2...d6 he intends to answer 3 d4 with 3...cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6! forcing White to block his c-pawn with 5 Nc3. To



RUSSELL POTTER:

◆ National Chess Master ◆

◆ Three-Time Virginia State Chess Champion ◆

◆ Over 40 Years of Chess Teaching Experience ◆

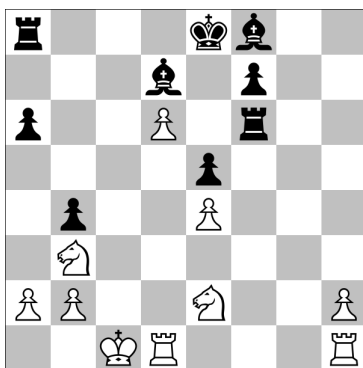
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be sure, this is a matter of taste. Each defensive setup has its drawbacks. Avoiding the Maroczy Bind has in turn exposed Black to the dangerous Yugoslav Attack. In this aggressive system White castles on the queenside followed by an assault on the castled Black king. **5...g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 O-O 8 Qd2 Nc6 9 Bc4 Bd7 10 O-O-O Rc8 11 Bb3 Ne5 12 h4 h5 13 Bg5 Rc5.**

The ever popular Najdorf system, **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6** was championed by Bobby Fischer for years. I recommend **6 Bg5** where many of the lines have been analyzed to endgame exhaustion. To give just one example, in the sharp Perenyi Variation: **6...e6 7 f4 Be7 8 Qf3 Qc7 9 O-O-O Nbd7 10 g4 b5 11 Bxf6 Nxf6 12 g5 Nd7 13 f5 Nc5 14 f6 gxf6 15 gxf6 Bf8 16 Qh5 Rg8 17 e5 Bd7 18 Qxh7 Rg6 19 exd6 Qb7 20 Bd3 Nxd3+ 21 cxd3 b4 22 Nce2 e5 23 Nb3 Rh6 24 Qe4 Qxe4 25 dxex4 Rxf6**



Opening Analysis, Najdorf Style

Many a player has complained about the depth to which these variations can go. Can it be possible that to get a good, playable middlegame you must study the right way to play a number of endings as well? Well, yes! (This ain't checks, my friend...)

The solid variations where Black sets up a "small center" with ...e6 and ...d6 include the Scheveningen and Classical lines. These are less risky than the Najdorf, with a slower game at hand. They do, however, suffer some cramp that the Najdorf and Dragon do not entail. My recommendation is that as White you lean on your opponent in some manner such as **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Bg5 e6 7 Qd2 Be7 8 O-O-O O-O 9 Nb3 Qb6 10 f3 Rd8 11 Be3 Qc7 12 Qf2 Nd7 13 Nb5 Qb8 14 Qg3 Nf6 15 Nc3 Bd7 16 h4 Kh8 17 h5 h6**

The Kan-Taimanov presents special problems. This system has never caught on quite like some of the other Sicilian setups, but at times and with certain players it does show signs of life. Here again Black generally puts his pawns on ...e6 and ...d6, but he delays committing to that in favor of first putting his queen on c7 and advancing his a-pawn one square. Later he can assess what White has done and choose whether to expand with ...b5 or stop with the pawn



on b6, or maybe not advance it at all (which amounts to transposition back into a Scheveningen. **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 a6 5 Nc3 Qc7** Be aware that while Black's queen knight almost always goes to c6, his king knight sometimes favors e7 to support his queen knight and/or proceed to g6!

The eccentric **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nf6** is tottering on the brink of being branded as just too risky for grown adults. But White must be ready to get his hands dirty.



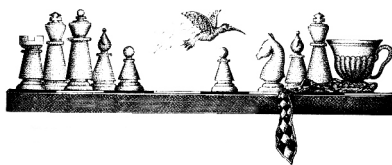
3 e5 Nd5 4 Nc3 e6 5 Nxd5 exd5 6 d4 Nc6 7 dxc5 Bxc5 8 Qxd5 Qb6 {diagram}

Here's the rub: the attack on f2 is not as scary as White's counter against f7! **9 Bc4! Bxf2+ 10 Ke2 O-O 11 Rd1 Bc5 12 Ng5 Nd4+ 13 Kf1 Ne6 14 Ne4** and behold how White's side-stepping of Black's 'attack' has resulted in more space and smooth development.



The sharp Sicilian Four Knights game **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Nc6** entails Black surrendering his bishop for knight in an open position, as well as isolating his own d-pawn if White replies **6 Ndb5 Bb4 7 a3 Bxc3+ 8 Nxc3 d5 9 exd5 exd5** It's a simple system that some kids like to play due to its easy development at the beginning. But after something like **10 Bd3 O-O 11 O-O d4 12 Ne4 Bf5 13 Bg5 Bxe4 14 Bxe4 h6** Black faces an uphill battle against White's bishop pair as well as worrying about his extended queen pawn.

In the Sveshnikov variation **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5** Black seeks counterplay at the cost of taking big hits against his pawn structure. It can happen that Black comes out of the opening with only two pawns left on their starting points (f7 and h7), with all others pushed ahead (and they can't move back!) If White plays passively Black can gain a dangerous attack. However, if you go **6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Bxf6 gxf6 9 Na3 b5 10 Nd5 f5 11 exf5 Bxf5 12 c3 Bg7 13 Ne3 Be6 14 Nac2** Black will be vulnerable on the d-file, and after you further play the queenside lever move a4 he will have much looseness in his structure throughout the board.





Personal & General



From the Editor

You'd hardly know it from the lack of buzz at recent tournaments I've attended, but **the US Open** is returning to Norfolk this summer July 27-August 4 to be exact. Besides the main Open championship there will be a host of side events, plus the Denker, Barber, Haring, Rockefeller, Irwin & Weeramantry invitationals. The Sheraton Norfolk Waterside venue previously hosted the 2017 US Open. Complete details can be found at <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2024/usopen>, the main points being 9 rounds with 3 schedule options ("Traditional" one rd daily; 6-day; and 4-day), time control 40/100, SD/30, +30 (accelerated time control for early rounds in the 4-day schedule), entry fee \$155-\$200 depending on when and how you enter, and a \$60,000 prize fund.

That's the General; now the Personal. I'm exploring the possibility of **finding 3 or 4 sane chess players to share an AirBnB**. My sense is that a suitable place can be had for a roughly \$50 per person per night. Check in the day of the tournament (July 27 - the first round is not until 7 pm) and I'm open to considering checking out either on the day of the last round or staying over one additional night (Aug 4 or 5). I'd prioritize staying with people I already know, but no one is disqualified just because we've never yet met!

For now I'm just gauging interest. If you might want in on this Chess House, contact me at editorvcf@gmail.com (As an across-the-board alternative to the above, I'd be very interested and grateful of course if some Norfolk area resident would be willing to simply *host me* for the tournament! I think I'm a pretty good houseguest, and I'll offer in-tournament coaching and chess lessons if that clinches the deal.)

2nd annual



DMV Open

Executive Conference and Training Center
22685 Holiday Park Drive, Dulles, VA 20166
July 12-14, 2024

5-SS, Game/100 +30 second incr (Game/45+10 for round one of the two-day schedule). \$5,500 Five sections: Premier (FIDE-rated), Under 1900, Under 1600, Under 1300, and Under 1000. Three-day schedule: Fri 7 pm, Sat 12:00-5:30, Sun 11-4:30. Two-day schedule: rd 1 Sat 9:30 am, merge with 3-day schedule for round 2. EF \$97 by 6/9, \$110 by 6/30, \$120 by 7/11, \$130 on/after 7/12. On-site registration closes 30 minutes before the start of round one; after that players may enter with a ½ pt bye. Full details including section prize breakouts <https://caissachess.net/online-registration/index/3815> Info/questions josh@dmvchess.com or 703-609-0499.



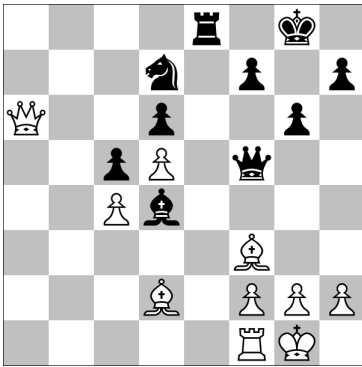
Noah Thomforde-Toates - Andrew Samuelson
2024 US Amateur Team East
Benoni

Notes by Andrew Samuelson



This game was played in round 1 of the 2024 US Amateur East. I was the top board for my team and we were paired up against a team rated in the 2180s. **1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 c5** [I'd looked up my opponent and noticed he had been fairly inactive over the board and also that he played d4, Nc3, Bf4 regularly. I wanted to get him out of his comfort zone, and this seemed like a decent way to do that.] **3 d5 g6 4 e4 d6 5 Be2 Bg7 6 Nf3 O-O 7 O-O e6**

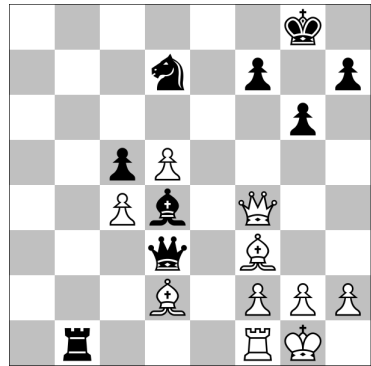
[This was my attempt to improve on 7...Na6 or 7...Bg4 as in some of my previous games.] **8 Nd2** [I had mostly looked at 8 Bc4 in the limited time before the game 8...exd5 9 Nxd5 h6 10 Bf4 Nh5 11 Qd2 Nxf4 12 Nxf4 Kh7 is probably a little better for White, but it seems manageable. However, the text move is actually more popular.] **8...exd5** [Now White will be forced to put a pawn on d5 rather than use that square for his pieces.] **9 exd5 Nbd7 10 Nc4 Nb6 11 Ne3 Re8** [11...Ne8 is more popular, and probably more or less okay for Black as well.] **12 a4 Ne4 13 Nxe4 Rxe4 14 c3 Bd7** [I considered 14...a5 during the game, and it seems like a viable alternative: 15 Bd3 Re8 16 Qb3 seems decent for Black in practice, if not actually equalizing.] **15 a5 Nc8** [15...Ra4 is a computer suggestion that I didn't consider. It looks risky to leave a piece on a4 like this. 16 Rxa4 Nxa4 17 Nc4 Qc7] **16 Bf3** [16 Bd3 is probably a better square for the bishop, as the long diagonal is unlikely to open. 16...Re8 17 h3 Ne7 18 Nc4 Bb5 19 Nxd6 Bxd3 20 Nxe8 Bxf1 21 Nxc7 Kxc7 22 Qxf1 Qxd5 may be a little better for White, but it doesn't seem that dangerous.] **16...Re8 17 Qb3** [According to my database, this is the first new move of the game. It seems like a step in the wrong direction since Black wants to play ...b5 anyway. Instead 17 Nc4 Bb5 18 Qb3 a6 19 g3 h5 20 h4 Bxc4 21 Qxc4 b6 Black seems to be close to equal as the queenside will open up.] **17...b5 18 axb6 Nxb6 19 Bd2** [19 Ra6 would stop ...a5 for now and may keep any Black advantage to a minimum.] **19...a5 20 c4** [20 Qc2 a4 21 h3 Bb5 22 Rfe1 is also a bit better for Black, but less so than the game.] **20...a4 21 Qc2** [Black has gained some queenside space and the a-pawn is secure now. I started looking for ways to improve my position.] **21...Bd4 22 Ra2 Qf6 23 b3 axb3** [It was probably better just to let the a-pawn sit. I can always open the queenside later when it's more advantageous.] **24 Qxb3 Rxa2 25 Qxa2 Bf5** [A nice move to clear the d7 square for the knight, though the follow-up required a lot of calculation.] **26 Qa6 Nd7 27 Nxf5 Qxf5** [This is better than 27...gxf5 which would allow White to equalize: 28 Qb5 Qe7 29 Qb1 Qf6 30 Qb5] {diagram next page}



28 Qc6 [28 Qxd6 was the main move I calculated. 28...Ne5 29 Bd1 Nxc4 30 Qc6 Rc8 31 g4 Rxc6 32 gxf5 Rf6 33 Bc1 Rxf5 34 Bc2 Re5 35 Bb3 Nb6 36 d6 c4 37 Ba2 Rd5 38 Bf4 g5 39 Bc1 Rxd6 40 Kh1 g4 leaves Black with two extra pawns and White fighting to survive.] **28...Rb8** [Ambitious, but maybe not best. 28...h5 29 h3 Kg7 30 Be3 Be5 may have been better, just keeping the position stable.] **29 Qxd6 Rb1 30 Qf4 Qd3?** [A mistake that went unpunished. 30...Rxf1+ 31 Kxf1 Qd3+ 32 Ke1 Qxc4 recovers the

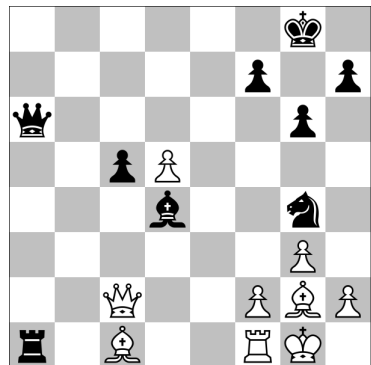
pawn and would keep some advantage for Black. White's king is vulnerable and the d-pawn is blockaded.] {diagram}

31 Bc1? [31 Be2! would have turned the tables. 31...Qb3 32 Qc7 Rxf1+ 33 Bxf1 Qc2 34 Qf4 Nf6 35 Be3!—a key move to force a favorable endgame—35...Qe4 36 Qxe4 Nxe4 37 Bxd4 cxd4 38 g4 Nc5 39 f4 f6 40 g5 Kf7 41 Kf2 Ke7 42 h4 f5 White keeps an extra pawn. Black must try to setup a blockade and hope to draw.] **31...Qxc4** [Now I have my pawn back, along with some initiative. Also, d5 is more vulnerable now that its supporting pawn on c4 has disappeared.] **32 Be4 Ra1**



33 g3 Ne5 34 Bg2 [The computer recommends 34 d6, but I doubt many humans would simply give away the d-pawn like this. Black is better in any event. 34...Qe6 35 Be3 Rxf1+ 36 Kxf1 Qxd6 37 Kg1 c4 38 Bc1 f5 39 Bc2] **34...Qe2 35 Qd2** [If 35 Be3? The tactic 35...Nf3+! 36 Qxf3 Rxf1+ 37 Bxf1 Qxf3 wins for Black.] **35...Qa6**

36 Qc2 [This move came in for criticism after the game, but White has a tough task to hold on. Especially as my opponent was getting into time trouble with the control approaching at move 40.] **36...Ng4!** [The start of a decisive tactical sequence to convert the positional advantage.] {diagram}



37 h3 [The more mundane 37 Qe4 h5 38 d6 Qxd6 39 Qf4 Qxf4 40 Bxf4 Ra2 41 Bd5 Rc2 42 Be3 Nxb2 43 Re1 Ng4 44 Bxd4 cxd4 45 Rd1 Kg7 46 Rxd4 Nxf2 should win for



Black too.] **37...Nxf2 38 Kh2** [38 Rxf2 Qf6 39 h4 Qxf2+ 40 Qxf2 Rxc1+ 41 Bf1 Rd1 42 h5 Rd2 43 Qxd4 Rxd4 is easily winning for Black.] **38...Ra2 39 Qb3** [This allows a nice finish. 39 Rxf2 Bxf2 40 Qe4 Re2 41 Qf4 Qd3 was also hopeless.] **39...Ng4+ 40 Kh1** Making the time control with seconds to spare, but there's nothing left to play for at this point. If 40 hxg4 the finish would have been 40...Rxc2+! 41 Kxg2 Qe2+ 42 Rf2 Qxf2+ 43 Kh3 Qf1+ 44 Kh4 Qh1+ 45 Kg5 Qxc1+ 46 Qe3 Qxe3+ 47 Kh4 Qh6mate] **40...Qxf1+! 41 Bxf1 Rh2mate 0-1** This was a nice start to the tournament, as I won and the team tied a much higher rated team.

Macon Shibut - Micah Dubnoff World Amateur Team East 2024 Nimzowitsch Larsen

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 b3 d5 2 Bb2 Nf6 3 Nf3 Bf5 4 d3 e6 5 Nbd2 Be7 6 g3 O-O 7 Bg2 c5 8 Nh4 Bg6 9 Nxg6 hxg6 10 c4 Nc6 11 cxd5 exd5?! [11...Nxd5 =] 12 O-O Qd7 13 e3 Rac8 14 Nf3 Rfd8 15 Rc1 [Black has no problems of course, but he has to be careful because my light square bishop has no opposite number and by playing ...c5 early he has weakened his foundation on the long diagonal] **15...d4 16 e4 b5 17 Ng5** [the threat Bh3 gains a tempo for advancing the f-pawn] **17...Qc7 18 f4 Qa5?! [I said he had to be careful about the light squares! Now I could just play 19 a3 but his queen straying so far from the kingside led me to seek a 'refutation'. To be honest I did not expect it to come to anything originally, but as I was calculating the variations seemed to work! Eventually I talked myself into abandoning my queenside to its fate...]** **19 e5 19...Nd5 20 Bxd5 Rxd5 21 Qg4** [The key point is Rc8 is undefended, so this comes with tempo. The other rook is hanging too, a tactical vulnerability in some lines. Ideas White can work with include Nxf7!? and also e6. My opponent thought for a long time.] **21...Qd8** [Napoleon withdraws from Moscow. My main calculation focused on 21...Rdd8 I would have replied 22 Nxf7! Kxf7 23 f5 with a venomous attack. If instead 21...Rcd8 I wasn't sure about 22 Nxf7 here (22...Kxf7 23 f5 Nxe5 24 fxg6+ Ke8) so I would have played 22 e6 f5 23 Qh4 Bxg5 24 Qxg5 Qxa2 25 Qxg6 Qxb2 26 Rce1 with dangerous threats. After the text my attack can't bash through directly. But my position looked nice and I can build up on the kingside starting, eg Rc2 and Bc1 and eventually break with e6, f5 or h5.] **22 h4 Bxg5 23 hxg5** [Now the plan is to put a bunch of major pieces on the h-file. His king will have to run towards the center but then there will again be e6 or f5 breaks. Black might still defend, but as often happens under pressure he broke down totally.] **23...Qd7? 24 Qxd7 Rxd7 25 Rxc5 -+ 25...Ne7 26 Rfc1 Rxc5 27 Rxc5 a6 28 Kf2 Nd5 [28...Nf5 29 Kf3] 29 Ke2 Kf8 30 Bxd4 Nxf4+ 31 gxf4 Rxd4 32 Ke3 Rd8 33 d4 Rb8 34 d5 a5 35 Kd4 a4 36 bxa4 bxa4 37 Rc4 Ra8 [37...a3 38 Ra4] 38 a3 Ke8 39 Rc7 Ra5 [39...Rb8 40 Ra7] 40 Rb7 Kf8 41 Rb8+ Ke7 42 d6+ Kd7 43 Rf8 Ke6 44 Re8+ 1-0 either 44... Kd7 45 Re7+ Kc6 46 Rc7+ Kb6 47 Rxf7; or 44...Kf5 45 d7 finishes him.**

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