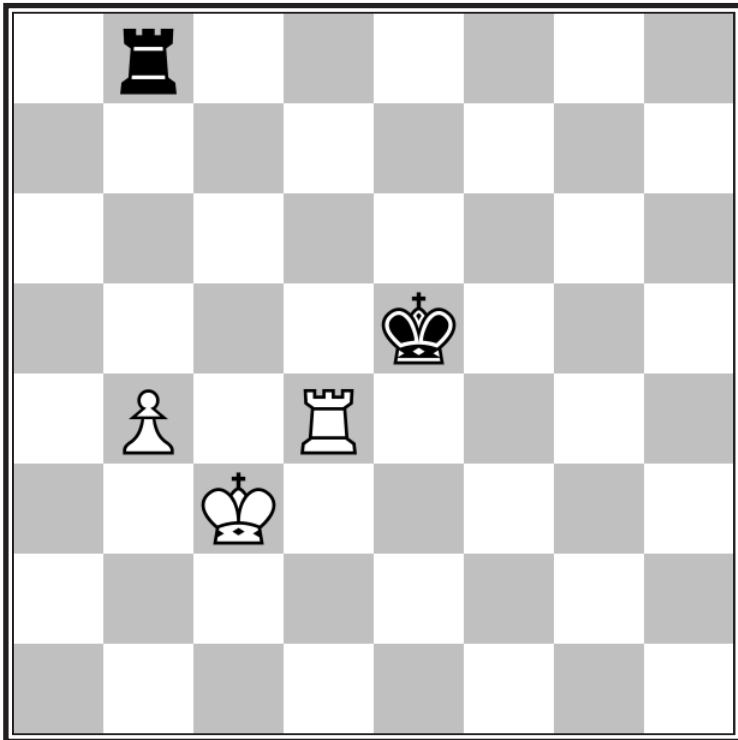


VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2024 - #6



Tricky!

See page 10

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2024 - Issue #6

Editor:

Macon Shibut
1572 Lee Hwy
Fort Defiance VA 24437
editorvcf@gmail.com

Circulation:

Georgina Chin
2851 Cherry Branch Lane
Herndon VA 20171
membership@vachess.org



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Dues for regular adult membership are \$15/yr.

Junior memberships (under age 18 at expiration)

are \$8/yr. President: Adam Chrisney,

PO Box 151122, Alexandria, VA 22315

chrisney2@gmail.com Vice President: Michael Callaham, 607 Wickham

Street #2, Richmond, VA 23222 waterman2010kir@aol.com Membership

Secretary: Georgina Chin, 2851 Cherry Branch Lane, Herndon VA 20171,

membership@vachess.org Treasurer Mike Hoffpauir, 405 Hounds Chase,

Yorktown VA 23693, mhoffpauir@aol.com

VCF Inc Directors: Adam Chrisney, Michael Callaham,

Mike Hoffpauir, Robby Jackson, Todd Hammer





2024 United States Open

THERE HAVE BEEN 124 US OPENS, and four of them have been played in Virginia. Fairfax hosted the 1976 Open. Twenty years later, the 1996 Open was held in Alexandria. The 2017 event came to Norfolk, and this year, a mere seven years later, the 2024 Open returned to the Norfolk Sheraton Waterside Hotel.

Check out the latest issue of *CHESS LIFE* for a more complete report than we could offer about how GMs Semen Khanin & Jianchao Zhou each scored 8 out of 9 to tie for first. Here in VIRGINIA CHESS we will pursue more provincial aims. Headline: Tyson Brady scored an excellent 7-2 to stand alone as the top Virginia player in the tournament. Pranav Prem, Brian Tay & Will Moorhouse upheld the Old Dominion to the tune of 6½ apiece. Matthew Diao, Macon Shibut, Aneesh Desai, Kyle Zhuang & Saharsh Shetty were Virginians among the group scoring 6-3.

Aside from the main event, the US Open includes several special category Tournaments of State Champions. Here is a recap of how Virginia's representatives fared in these events. In the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Aarush Vinod scored 4-2 to finish in a tie for 5th thru 15th place. In the Barber Tournament of Middle School Champions, Kyle Zhuang likewise scored 4-2, good for 8th thru 13th place. Chance Nguyen represented Virginia in the Haring Tournament of Girls Champions and also scored 4, good for 7th thru 13th place. Dan Miller's 3-3 score slotted him into 22nd to 33rd place in the Irwin tournament of Senior champions. Emin Baim was Virginia's representative in the Rockefeller Tournament of Elementary School Champions and he scored 3 points. As the host state, Virginia was allowed to enter a second player to bring the field to an even number. Alexander Zheng Zhou got the nod and more than justified his inclusion by tallying 3½.

A tournament report needs at least one game. For sheer visual effect, the round 8 encounter between GM John Fedorowicz and Missouri master Caleb Denby is hard to resist.



John Fedorowicz - Caleb Denby

Catalan

1 Nf3 d5 2 c4 e6 3 g3 Nf6 4 Bg2 Be7 5 O-O O-O 6 d4 dxc4 7 Ne5
Nc6 8 Nxc6 bxc6 9 Na3 Bxa3 10 bxa3 Ba6 11 Qa4 Qc8 12 Qa5
Rb8 13 a4 Rd8 14 Ba3 Rxd4 15 Bc5

{diagram}

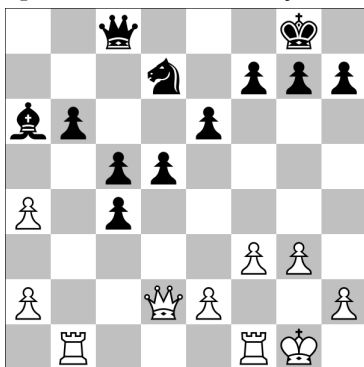
Denby followed his inner Tigran Petrosian and played **15...Rd5** In his CHESS LIFE annotations he indicates that this is still a 'book' position, or at least close to it. Fedorowicz took the rook.. **16 Bxd5** ...notwithstanding the improvement to Black's pawn structure. Rooks are better than bishops, right?



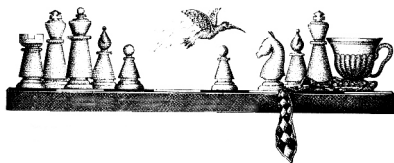
16...cxd5 17 Rab1 Rb6! Not so, at least not in this position, in Demby's view. And he points a finger at White's next move as a critical mistake. **18 f3(?) Nd7 19 Bxb6 axb6 20 Qd2 c5** {diagram}

Black's center pawn mass is great compensation for 'merely' two exchanges. He won in due course: **21**

e3 Qc6 22 a5 b5 23 a3 Qd6 24 Rfd1 Ne5 25 Kg2 Nc6 26 h4 Qc7 27 Rb2 Qxa5 28 Qxa5 Nxa5 29 Rdb1 Kf8 30 Kf2 c3 31 Rc2 d4 32 exd4 cxd4 33 a4 bxa4 34 Rb8+ Ke7 35 Ra8 Bd3 36 Ra2 Bc4 37 Ra1 Nb3 38 R1xa4 Bb5 39 R4a7+ Kd6 40 Rd8+ Kc5 41 Rc7+ Kb4 42 Rb8 Na5 43 f4 Nc4 44 Ke2 c2 45 Rxc4+ Kxc4 46 Kd2 d3 47



Rb6 Kc5 48 Rb8 f6 49 Rc8+ Bc6 50 Rd8 Bd5 51 Rc8+ Kd4 52 Rc3 Bc4 53 Ra3 e5 54 fxe5 fxe5 55 Ra7 e4 56 Rd7+ Bd5 57 Rd8 e3+ 58 Kc1 Kc3 0-1



57th annual

Virginia Open

January 3-5, 2025



Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Hotel, 45020 Aviation Dr., Dulles, VA 20166
 5-SS in three sections, \$8,000 prize fund based on 140 paid players.
 Championship: (FIDE rated - minimum rating of 1500 required from any post-tournament rating in the US Chess Member Support Area in the past 2 years; no unrated players) \$\$ (top 3 guaranteed) 1000-700-550, top Expert \$250, top U2000 \$240, top U1800 \$225, top Upset \$180. Plaque to 1st Place. Rd 1 Friday 7:30 pm, time control Game/90 with 30-sec increment from move one. Rds 2-5 10am and 4:30 pm on Saturday & Sunday, time control 40/90, SD/30 with 30-sec time increment from move one. *Amateur*: (under 1800 - FIDE rated) \$\$ 750-550-400 (top 3 guaranteed), top U1600 \$230-115, top U1400 \$220-110, top U1200 \$75, top Upset \$165. Plaque to 1st Place. Round schedule and time controls the same as Championship. *Novice*: (under 1200 - USCF rated). No games on Friday. Rds Saturday 10-2-6 time control Game/60 with 10-sec time increment from move one. Rds 4-5 Sunday 10-2:30 time control Game/90 with 10-sec time increment from move one. *All sections*: 60-minute forfeit/no-show rule in effect. Unrated players in Amateur or Novice limited to \$250 place prize. USCF membership req'd except foreign GM/WGM, IM/WIM. VCF membership req'd for Virginia players. Hotel - www.marriott.com, 703-471-9500, chess rate \$136 plus taxes, reserve by Monday, 12/16 and mention the "Virginia Chess Federation" or "Virginia Open Chess". *Enter*: Online registration \$130 through Sat, 12/28, \$160 through Wed 1/1, \$180 thereafter. VCF will retain \$10 from any player who withdraws before rd 1. On-Site Registration Friday, Jan 3, 4 pm - 6:45 pm, Championship and Amateur entries received after 6:45 pm will be paired for rd 2 with a ½ pt bye for rd 1; Saturday, Jan 4, 7:30 - 9:15 am. Novice entries received after 9:15 am will be paired for rd 2 with a ½ pt bye for rd 1. One ½ pt bye allowed per player in any round, declare during registration or 30 min before the start of rd 1 or 2. Players who lose in rd 1 can Re-enter for \$45 with a ½ pt bye for their rd 1 score. (Lost game still counts for rating purposes.) FREE ENTRY for GM, WGM, IM, and WIM titled players, EF deducted from any prize winnings. Questions/info Mike Hoffpauir, mhoffpauir@aol.com or phone 757-846-4805 or web www.vachess.org.

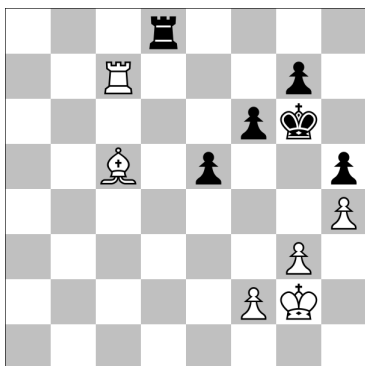
40 US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS

A Heritage Event - US Chess Junior Grand Prix - VCF Cup



retain pawns on the queenside I could have tried 28 Rb1. But my rook can't sit on b1 forever, not to mention that the b-pawn only matters if I somehow eliminate both of his queenside pawns, which is a big ask. Realistically, I can't avoid liquidation on the queenside if Black is willing to trade both of his pawns for my one.] 28...

Rb2 29 Bc5 b6 30 Bd6 f6 31 Ra1 a5 32 bxa5 bxa5 33 Rxa5 Rb7 34 Kg2 Rd7 35 Ra6 Kh7 36 Bc5 Kg6 37 Ra7 Rd8 38 h4 [The question of either side playing pawn to h4 had hung over the position for a couple moves. I reasoned that allowing him to eliminate a pair of pawns by ...h5-h4xg3 was undesirable in principle; but if I planned to answer ...h4 by g4, the need to then watch my h-pawn might inhibit the activation of my king. Playing h4 myself at least eliminates uncertainty. My bishop can perform offensive operations (Black's rook will be limited to the back rank to prevent Bf8) as well as defend the base of my pawn chain, while my king will march ahead on the light squares. I could hardly have expected more at this point.] 38...Rc8 39 Ba3 Kh7 40 Bd6 Kg6 41 Rc7 Rd8 42 Bc5

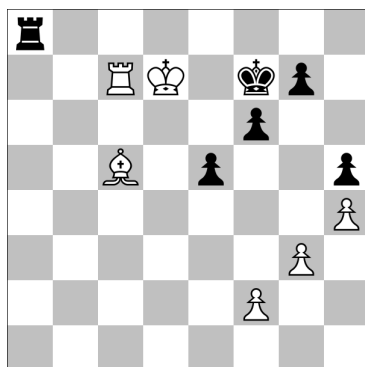


If this were Risk, g7 would be Australia. You can control the entire rest of the

world and still have trouble overcoming an opponent hunkered down there. My sense was that any attempt by Black to 'force' a draw by advancing pawns would be a mistake. (It's worth noting I have the "right color" bishop+RP combination if things ever comes down to that.) Passive defense is tougher.

By move count the game is only half finished, but at the risk of spoiling the suspense I will summarize the second half: Black just stayed put. I never found a way to break the fortress.

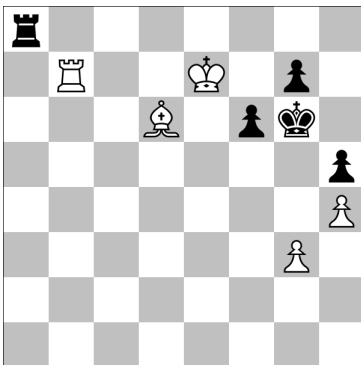
42...Ra8 43 Kf3 Kh6 44 Ke4 Kg6 45 Kd5 Kh7 46 Ke6 Kg6 47 Ba7 Re8+ 48 Kd7 Kf7 49 Bc5 Rb8 50 Kd6+ Kg6 51 Ke7 Ra8 52 Ba7 Rg8 [This seemed a hopeful development. Even his rook had to hole up in Australia. If only my king or rook were at d7, I could force the exchange of rooks by Rc8/Rd8 and I think the win becomes pretty easy. But I could not find a way to achieve that.] 53 Kd7 Ra8 54 Bc5 Kf7



55 Kc6+ [I considered 55 Rc8. To be honest, part of why I rejected it was concern Black might be able to liquidate to a draw after 55...Rxc8 56 Kxc8 Ke6 57 Kc7 Kd5 58 Be3 Ke4. In fact he cannot because



of a trick: 59 Kd6 f5 60 f4! and White wins. Nonetheless, I also could not see how to make progress against the defense 55...Ra2, eg 56 Be3 (or 56 Rf8+ Kg6 57 Rg8 Kf7 or 57 Ke7 Ra6) Ra6] 55...Kg6 56 Kb7 Rd8 57 Kc6 Ra8 58 Kd7 Kf7 59 Ra7 Rb8 60 Be3 Re8 61 Kd6+ Kg6 62 Kd5 [Forward with the king didn't lead anywhere, so regroup...] 62...Rb8 63 Bc5 Rd8+ 64 Ke4 Rc8 65 Ra5 Rb8 66 Ra6 Rc8 67 Bd6 [A threat! Bxe5 Well, maybe.] 67...Kh7!?! [Ignoring the threat by 67...Rd8 Δ 68 Bxe5 Re8 would allow 69 f4 with an extra e-pawn in a rook ending. But I expected 67...Re8. Getting my king to f5 had long been a goal, so I was excited to see him let me have it. My excitement was short lived as I figured out his intention. I could have backed off and circled around some more, but my patience was running low (to say nothing of my clock) and I didn't really believe I'd suddenly find anything new.] 68 Kf5 Rc2 69 f4 [if 69 f3 Rg2 70 g4 hxg4 71 fxg4 Rf2+ 72 Ke6 Rf4.] 69...exf4 70 Bxf4 Rc5+ 71 Ke6 Kg6 72 Bd6 Rc8 [Argh! Now we go around some more in what I took to be in even less promising circumstances (fewer pawns).] 73 Rb6 Re8+ 74 Be7 Ra8 75 Rb7 Rc8 76 Kd7 Ra8 77 Bd6 Kf5 78 Ke7 Kg6



I had come to regard the trade of my f2 for Black's e5 pawn as a setback, and probably the end of serious winning chances. This is basically true, but flowers sometimes bloom in the desert. Shifting the base of my little pawn chain to g3 created a practical chance that did not exist before and, as my friend David Long alerted me, Black's last two inaccurate moves brought it to pass! Here 79 Bb8! (Δ Kf8!) looks to be winning.

I'd rejected using the bishop to screen the 8th rank for my king back around move 53 since Black could effectively counterattack against f2 by ...Ra2. But now... well, 79 Bb8! and 79...Ra3 is obviously pointless, so 79...Kf5 (Black must abandon the hunker-down method and go for it, since if 79...Kh7 80 Kf7! Kh6 81 Kf8 etc) 80 Kf7 g5 81 Rb5+ Kg4 82 Kxf6 (White also wins after 82 Rb4+ Kf5 83 g4+ hxg4 84 Rb5+ Ke4 85 h5 but that's a computer solution, not a human one) 82...Ra6+ 83 Kf7 gxh4 84 Rb4+ Kf3 85 gxh4 Ra3 86 Be5 Ra7+ 87 Kg6 Ra6+ 88 Kxh5 Ra5 89 Rf4+ Kg2 90 Rf5...

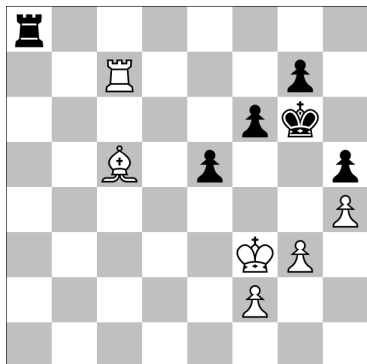
I've pushed wood this way and that, and I don't see a defense after 79 Bb8! At the board however, discouraged and inwardly conceding the draw already, I did not notice the opportunity.

79 Ke6 Re8+ 80 Kd5 Ra8 81 Rb8 [abandoning the quest] 81...Rxb8! [accurately calculated] 82 Bxb8 Kf5 83 Ba7 Kg4 84 Bf2 Kf3 85 Be1 Ke2! ½-½

After my game I remarked to a friend, "Carlsen said he 'doesn't believe in fortresses'. I wonder how he would have broken this one..." It was just an offhand comment, but once I got home, a bit



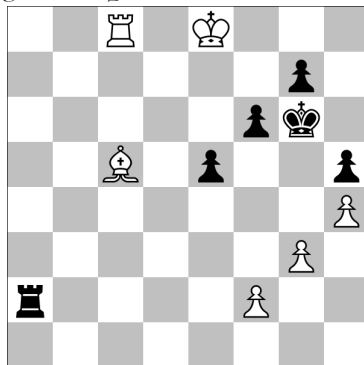
of purposeful database filtering led me to the surprising discovery of not just one or two, but dozens of examples of essentially the same endgame! How "essentially the same"? Well...



Carlsen – Hjelm, Helsinki 2002
after 48 h4

Can you believe it? Magnus Carlsen played *the exact same position as my game after my 43rd turn*. Like me, he advanced his king while his opponent shifted the rook along the first rank... **48...Rb8 49 Ke4**

Re8 50 Kd5 Rd8+ 51 Ke6 Re8+ 52 Kd7 Ra8 53 Rc8 Ra2 [Just to instantiate my earlier comment about White winning easily if the rooks disappear, consider the sample variation **53...Rxc8 54 Kxc8 Kf5 55 Kd7 Kg4 56 Ke6 g5 57 Kxf6 gxh4 58 gxh4 e4 59 Ke5 Kxh4 60 Kxe4 Kg4 61 f3+ Kg3 62 Bd6+ Kh4 63 f4 Kg4 64 f5 Kg5 65 Ke5**] **54 Ke8**



This I discussed back in the note to my 55th move. White flushed Black's rook off the first rank but disrupted



Capital Area Chess invites Youth (Under 18) players born on or after Jan 1st 2006 and from the North American Federations (USA, Canada and Mexico) to the **2024 North American Youth Chess Championships** Dec 18–Dec 23 2024 Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Dulles, Virginia

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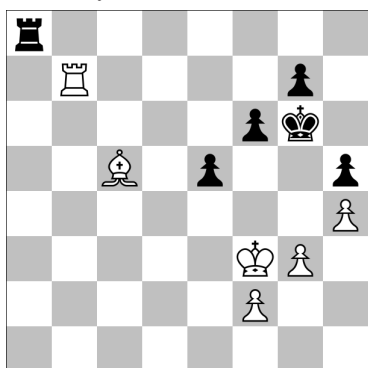


the coordination of his own pieces. He can no longer gang up on g7.

54...Kf5? [But unlike my opponent, Carlsen's foe panicked! I don't see what ill would befall him after **54...Rc2** eg **55 Rc7 Rb2 56 Ke7** (or **56 Bf8 Rb8+ 57 Ke7 Rb6** White is stuck) **Rb8** and we're back here again. Black could also defend by **54...Ra6 55 Bf8 Ra7**] **55 Kf7 g5 56 Rc6 gxh4 57 gxh4 Kg4 58 Kxf6 Kxh4 59 Kxe5 Kg4 60 Rg6+ Kh3 61 f4 1-0**

So I got my wish to see how Carlsen tackled this fortress. But it was basically unenlightening. He played an idea I'd considered, and it only worked because the defense was poor.

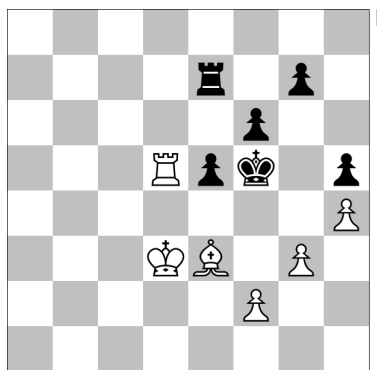
As I said, I found no shortage of other examples. In the majority of cases the defenders succumbed to the psychological pressure of trying to 'prove' the draw instead of just standing still. Usually this costs them.



Uuro - Nesterovsky
EU ch Internet qual 2003
after 46...Ra8

Is this one "essentially the same" enough for you? Here the game continued **47 Bd6 Rd8 48 Be7 Re8 49 Ke4 Rc8**

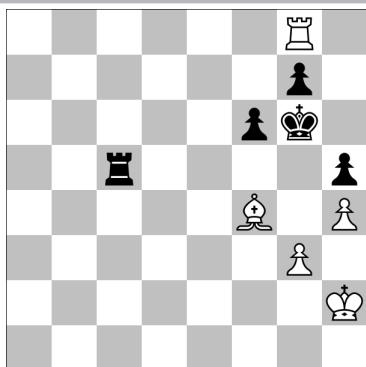
50 Kd5 Kf5 51 Bc5 and now **51...g6?** [instead of holding firm, **51...Kg6**] **52 Rf7 Rd8+ 53 Kc4 Ke6 54 Re7+ Kf5 55 Ra7 Rd2 56 Ra6 Rc2+ 57 Kd5 Rd2+ 58 Kc4 Rc2+ 59 Kb5 Rb2+ 60 Bb4!?** [Cleverly offering a pawn to initiate some complications that worked out for him.] **60...Rxf2?** [Here with the bishop pinned and f2 *en pris* Black might have actually succeeded in trading all the pawn after **60...g5** eg **61 hxg5 Kxg5 62 f3 Rb3** etc.] **61 Be7 Kg4 62 Bxf6** I haven't investigated the accuracy of the ensuing play, but White has gotten chances better than anything I ever achieved in my game. He went on to win after **62... Kxg3 63 Kc4 e4 64 Kd4 Kf3 65 Bg5...**



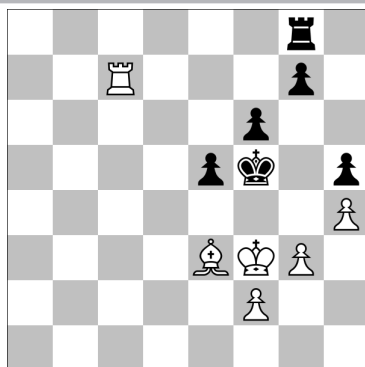
Rother - Muse, Bundesliga 1987
after 48 Kd3

Another example. From this diagram position Black ventured **48...g5?** instead of just holding the line. He lost after **49 hxg5 fxg5 50 Rd8 e4+ 51 Kd4 Rg7 52 Rd5+ Kg4 53 Rxg5+ Rxg5 54 Bxg5 Kxg5 55 Kxe4**

On the other hand, I didn't find a single case where someone lost it by just defending the structure passively...



Celaya Tapiz – Garcia, 1991 Spanish Ch
after 56...Kg6



Schatz – Heimrath, 1991
after 45 Rc7

I might have gotten something like this in my game had I played 72 Ra8. By sacrificing his bishop, Celaya Tapiz achieved a pawn-up rook ending, but in the game at least it was not enough: **57 Kh3 Rc4 58 Rh8 Ra4 59 Bd6 Rd4 60 Bf8 Ra4 61 Bxg7 Kxg7 62 Rxh5 Rb4 63 Rf5 Kg6**. Black held the draw (96 moves), but I'd certainly have taken this chance had I found a way to it.

Some defenders managed to hold the draw even after departing from the reliable path, Take, for example, the next position...

{diagram opposite column}

Again, I cannot overstate how blown away I am at the frequency of this same ending! There are a lot of things I don't like about

how computers have changed chess in my lifetime, but the possibility of finding stuff such as this redeems them somewhat. Here instead of 45...Kg6 (= !?) Black played 45...g6?! Nonetheless, after **46 Rc6 Rf8 47 Bc5 Rf7 48 Rc8 Rb7 49 Rf8 Rb3+ 50 Kg2 Ke6 51 Re8+ Kf5 52 Bf8 Rb7 53 Re7 Rb6 54 Bg7 Ra6 55 Rf7 Rb6 56 Kh3 Ra6 57 Bh6 Ke6 58 Rf8 Ra7 59 Rg8 Kf5 60 Be3 Rb7 61 Kg2 Rc7 62 Kf3 Rb7** he got his draw on move 96.

I conclude that the endgame is properly a draw. My mistake on move 21 was decisive, in the sense that it passed by a quick and certain win and led to positions where White's extra piece offers merely practical chances.



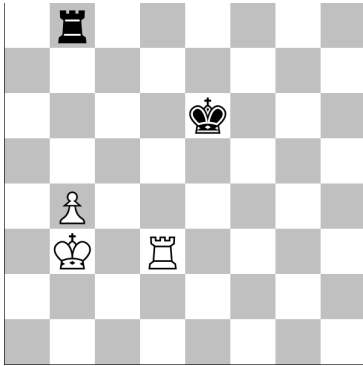


Personal & General

From the Editor



J'ADOUBE



Silvedario – Shibut
2024 World Open
Position after 60...Rb8

In our issue 2024/#4 I confidently declared the diagram position a draw, citing BASIC CHESS ENDINGS #310. Strictly speaking that was correct, and I indeed achieved a draw using the defensive method I learned years ago. However, the situation is more complicated than I realized. David Long pointed out that I stumbled into a lost position after the further moves **61 Rd1 Ke5 62 Rd2 Ke6 63 Rd3 Ke5 64 Kc3 Rc8+ 65 Kb2 Rb8 66 Kb3 Ke6 67 Rd4 Ke5 68 Kc3** {see diagram on front cover} **Ke6?**

DVORETSKY ENDGAME MANUAL #9-32 addresses this ‘tragicomedy’ directly. The right way is 68...Rc8+ (68...Rh8 also draws but

more obscurely) 69 Rc4 Rb8 and now if 70 Rc6 Kd5 71 Ra6 (“a similar position with the king on b3 would have been winning” -Dvortsky) 71...Rc8+ 72 Kb3 Rc6! 73 Ra7 Rb6 Δ Kc6.

69 Kd3?

My opponent returned the favor. 69 Kc4! wins. I would have continued 69...Rc8+ (69...Ke5 is also insufficient: 70 Rd5+ Ke6 71 b5 etc) and somewhere during the sequence 70 Kb5 Rb8+ (or 70...Ke5 71 Rh4 Kd5 72 Kb6 Rb8+ 73 Ka6) 71 Kc5 Rc8+ 72 Kb6 Rb8+ 73 Kc7 confusion would have overtaken me wondering how I’d gone wrong.

In the game I got right back into the drawing zone with **69...Ke5** and never strayed again.

THE EDITOR’S CHAIR

My first issue as Editor of VIRGINIA CHESS appeared in November, 1991 — almost exactly 33 years ago. Altogether I’ve put out 197 issues, so, God willing, we will break 200 in the coming year. I’m not looking to quit any time soon. On the other hand, it’s prudent to recognize certain realities. I am 67 years old (*I never thought of it this way before, but wow, I’ve been editing this rag for almost half my life!*) and I will not be doing this forever. It’s also a fact that some life changes have moved my home farther away from Virginia’s centers of chess activity. That makes it harder for me to keep up with what’s going on, which in turn impacts the quality of the newsletter.



I'm thinking that it would be good if we could identify some (three) individuals who would be willing to serve as 'regional editors' -- in Northern Virginia, in the Richmond area, and in Tidewater. The idea is you'd commit to sending me some kind of report on chess goings-on in your respective area for each bi-monthly issue. As a side benefit, maybe we'd find a candidate for replacing me as Editor someday.

Fresh blood, new ideas, can only make VIRGINIA CHESS stronger. If you've ever thought of something you'd like to see us do, here's your chance to put yourself in position to make it happen. There is no age or rating requirement, you just have to be plugged into organized chess. (Attention high school students: I suspect working on the official newsletter of a non-profit cultural/educational organization would qualify for service hours credit. It will look sweet on college applications too.)

Anyone who might be interested, drop me a line — editorvcf@gmail.com



Larry Kaufman - Andrew Samuelson
DC Chess League 2024
Sicilian

Notes by Andrew Samuelson



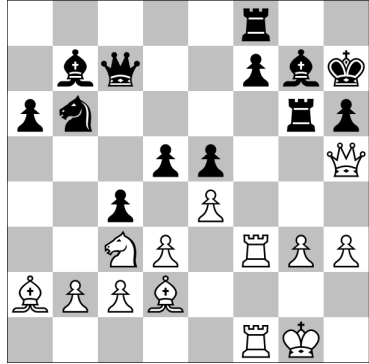
This game was played in round 2 of the 2024-2025 season of the DC Chess League. My team, the Arlington Argyles, are the current Open section champions, while our opponents, the Coral Kings, won the title the previous season. Both teams featured 2100+ players on every board. **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Nd7** [Larry and I have had this position several times.] **4 a4** [But he hadn't tried this move against me before. White has many options in this position.] **4...Nf6 5 Nc3 g6** [I think my old preparation actually included the insertion of **5...a6** first: **6 Be2 g6 7 a5 Bg7** looks okay for both sides] **6 O-O Bg7 7 a5 O-O 8 d3 a6 9 Bc4 b5 10 axb6 Nxb6 11 Ba2** [White could also try leaving the bishop on c4, since capturing will allow him more control over the d5 square.] **11...Bb7** [I chose this over going the other direction with this bishop and I think I made the correct decision. However, **11...Bg4** does have its points. **12 h3 Bxf3 13 Qxf3 a5** looks decent for Black too.] **12 Re1 Qc7 13 Bf4 Nh5 14 Be3 e5?!** [Committal and probably not entirely correct. It stops White from playing e5 or d4 and gives the Nh5 a home on f4, but at the cost of weakening d5. The alternative was **14...h6 eg 15 Qd2 Kh7 16 g4 Qd7 17 h3 Nf6** is probably about equal, but pieces remain on the board and anything could happen.] **15 h3!?** [I didn't really understand this move. Nh2-g4 will play into Black's hands if I can play f5, but otherwise going h3 doesn't seem to do much.] **15...h6?!** [I wanted to play for the f5 pawn break, but I don't really



have to do this. 15...Kh8!?] **16 Nh4** [threatening Nxc6 due to the pin] **16...Kh7**
17 Nf5 gxf5 **18 Qxh5 f4** **19 Bd2 c4** [White should be better now, but I came
 up with a plan to get some counterplay on the g-file. The text shuts the Ba2 out
 of the game, if only temporarily.] **20 g3 fxc3** **21 fxc3 Rae8** [21...d5 may be a
 bit better than the game, eg 22 Rf1 dxe4 23 dxe4 Rad8 24 Be3 Nc8 but it's still
 better for White with my kingside somewhat weak and White's king seemingly
 safer.] **22 Rf1 Re6** **23 Rf3 Rg6** **24 Raf1 d5** [Opening the center seemed like the
 best chance for counterplay.] {diagram}

25 exd5?

25 Kh2 was much stronger, guarding g3
 and getting off the g-file. After one possible
 continuation with a lot of fireworks—25...
 dxe4 26 Nxe4 Bxe4 27 dxe4 Qc6 28 Bb4 Rg5
 29 Qh4 Rd8 30 Rxf7 Qa4 31 Be7 Rd2+ 32 R1f2
 Qxc2 33 g4 Rg6 34 Bb4 Re2 35 Rxe2 Qxe2+
 36 Qf2 Qxf2+ 37 Rxf2—White emerges with
 the bishop pair in an open position, plus Bg7 is
 not a very good piece due to the pawn on e5.

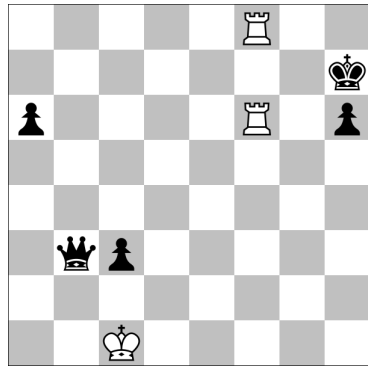




pieces in the attack. After 36 Kd1 Qxa2, incredibly, White can't do much to my exposed king nor take the rook safely. The back rank threats seal his fate. After 37 R1f7+ Bg7 38 Rh8+ Kxh8 39 Qd8+ Kh7 40 Rxg7+ Rxg7 41 Qxd3+ Kh8 42 Qd8+ Qg8 White would be down far too much material and there is no perpetual.

36 Kd1 Rxd3+ 37 Kc1 Bxb2+ 38 Kb1 Rd1+! [forced to keep the attack going] **39 Rxd1 Be4+ 40 Qxe4+ Qxe4+ 41 Kxb2 Qe2+** [41...c3+! wins a rook rather than the bishop, eg 42 Kb3 Qe6+ 43 Kxc3 Qe5+ 44 Rd4 Qc5+ 45 Rc4 Qxf8 46 h4 Qf6+ 47 Kc2. Still, White may be able to hold. It's hard to break through.] **42 Kc1 Qxa2 43 Rdf1 Qa3+ 44 Kc2 Qb3+ 45 Kc1 Qc3+ 46 Kb1 Qxh3!?** [Now White must be very accurate.] **47 R1f6?** [Attempting to set up perpetual check backfires. The right way was 47 R8f3 Qh4 48 Rc3 Qe4+ 49 Ka1 Qe5 50 Rc1 Kg7 51 Ka2 White's rooks are coordinated and my disconnected pawns will start to drop. I'd probably have to admit there is no win anymore.] **47...Qb3+ 48 Kc1 c3!**

{diagram}



My queen covers f7 to prevent a perpetual and White's king is in trouble. Now if 49 R8f7+ Kg8 50 Rf8+ Kg7 with no safe check on f7, the game would be essentially over. 49 Rf2 would not suffice either: 49...c2 50 Rxc2 Qa3+ 51 Kd2 Qxf8. Larry found one last try...

49 Rxh6+!? [playing for stalemate tricks with the desperado rook!] **49...Kxh6 50 Rh8+ Kg7 51 Rh7+ Kf6 52 Rh6+ Ke5 53 Rh5+ Kd4 54 Rh4+ Kc5 55 Rh5+ Qd5 0-1** This releases the stalemate, so there's nothing left in this wild game with many ups and downs. The other three boards were eventually drawn, though not without some anxious moments, so we won the match 2½-1½.

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In This Issue:

2024 US Open.....	1
In Magnus' Footsteps	4
Personal & General	10
Readers' Games (Samuelson)	11

Odds & Ends

Upcoming Events	3, 7, 13
VCF Info	<i>inside front cover</i>

