

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2019 - #4



VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2019 - Issue #4

Editor:

Macon Shibut
8234 Citadel Place
Vienna VA 22180
vcfeditor@cox.net

Circulation:

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



Virginia Chess is published six times per year by the Virginia Chess Federation. Membership benefits include a subscription to *Virginia Chess*. Send material for publication to the editor. Send dues, address changes, etc to Circulation.

The **Virginia Chess Federation (VCF)** is a



non-profit organization for the use of its members.

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

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

Scholastics Coordinator: Mike Hoffpauir, mhoffpauir@aol.com

Women's Chess Coordinator Tina Schweiss, cschweiss2@cox.com

VCF Inc Directors: Andrew Rea, Akshay Indusekar,

Anand Dommalapati, Mike Hoffpauir, Adam Chrisney.





2019 Charlottesville Open

by Mark Warriner

THE 2019 Charlottesville Open was dominated by national master Nemanja Milanovic who scored a healthy $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ in the Open section, a full point over the rest of the field. Nemanja has been playing very well of late, winning several recent events. He surrendered only a quick draw in the last round versus expert Sam Schenk, who tied for 2nd place in Charlottesville for the second year in a row. Dennis Norman, Sudarshan Sriniaiyer & Peter Abramenko tied with Sam for 2nd-5th and U2100. There was also a tie for top U1900 between Mark Warriner, Gideon Lohr, Prachet Godlaveti & Adrian Rhodes.

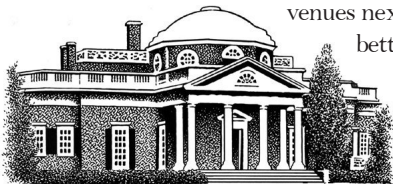
Going into the last round, Schenk and Warriner were tied for 2nd with 3 points apiece. Having already played Nemanja earlier, Warriner was paired with Sriniaiyer on board 2, leaving Schenk to face the leader Nemanja. The top board game was agreed a draw within a matter of minutes, removing any chances of there being a tie for first. Warriner, a former Virginia Correspondence State Champion who returned to OTB tournament play after many years, could thus have captured sole 2nd place with a win. However, he ultimately blundered in the endgame after struggling to hold a worse position, settling for his share of the U1900 prize. Rhodes' comeback was impressive, running the table after losing his first two rounds, and so achieving a substantial rating gain.

In the U1700 section, Ishaan Bhardvaj won going away with a perfect 5-0 score. Rahul Palani finished half a point less. There was a tie for 3rd thru 6th and top U1500 involving Samuel He, Pranav Chinthakuntla, Alexander Morton & Andrew Lott. Mike Anliker won top U1200.

54 players participated at the Comfort Inn during the sweltering July 13-14 weekend. The tournament was ably directed by Mike Hoffpauir, assisted by Robert Jackson. Attendance was in line with recent years.

Hoffpauir wittily noted at the start of the final round that the Comfort Inn charged a rather high fee for rooms and hall rental, especially considering the quality of the amenities. The tournament hall itself was very good, though late-finishing games in the 3rd round had to endure noise from families at the swimming pool. But the real issue was the complete lack of air conditioning in the cafeteria, which was the only skittles area available. Mike mentioned he would cast about for better

venues next year, or at the very least attempt to negotiate better conditions. The VCF is quite fortunate to have enjoyed Mike's dedication and support for many years now. You will not find a more capable tournament director and organizer anywhere. Great job Mike, and thank you so much!



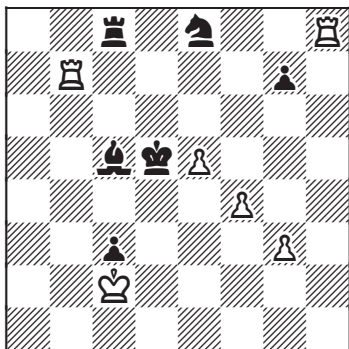


Mahbub Shahalam - Geoff McKenna DC Chess League 2019 Queen's Indian

Notes by Geoff McKenna

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 b6 4 a3 [Uh oh. I sort of knew this decades ago but hadn't kept up.] 4... Bb7 5 Nc3 d5 6 cxd5 [Trying to play in the style of Korchnoi from his famous win against Kasparov. My opponent responded with depressing immediacy.] 6...Nxd5 7 Bd2 Be7 8 Qc2 c5 9 e4 cxd4? 10 Nb5 [Well that was fast. Our chairs aren't even warm and I'm busted.] 10...Nf6 11 Nc7+ Kf8 12 Bd3 Nbd7 13 Nxa8 Qxa8 14 Nxd4 Nc5 [Black lays a snare, indifferent to the objective validity of the move. White immediately falls in.] 15 f3? Qd8 16 Nxe6+ Nxe6 17 O-O-O Qc8 18 Bc3 Nc5 19 Rhe1 Qb8 20 g3 Bc6 21 Bc4 Ba4 22 b3 b5 23 Bxf7 Kxf7 24 bxa4 Nxa4? [Apparently ...Rc8 is better] 25 Qb3+ Kg6 26 Ba1 Qc8+ 27 Kb1 Qc4 28 Qxc4 bxc4 29 e5 Rb8+ 30 Kc2 Ne8 31 Re4 Nb6 32 Bb2 Rd8 33 Bd4 Rc8 34 h4 Rc7 35 h5+ Kxh5 36 Rh1+ Kg6 37 Rg4+ Kf7 38 Rxh7 Bxa3 39 Rh8 Rc8 40 f4 Ke6 41 Bxb6 axb6 42 Rg6+ Kd5 43 Rxb6 Bc5 44 Rb7 c3

My plan was to use the threat of ...Kc4 and a rook invasion to provoke simplification.



Here I wondered if 45 Rg7 wins for White. Stockfish says it's a draw but the variations defy mortal comprehension, eg 45...Nxg7 46 Rxc8 Ne6 47 Kxc3 Bf2 48 Rg8 Bxg3 49 Rxc3 Nxf4 and somewhere many ply beyond 50 Re3 Ne6 White comes up empty against a perfect defense.

45 Kxc3 Bf2+ 46 Kd3 Bxg3 47 Ke3 g5 48 fxg5 Bxe5 49 Rb5+ Ke6 50 Rf8 Nd6 51 Rxc8 Nxc8 52 Rxe5+ Kxe5 1/2-1/2



continued p 4



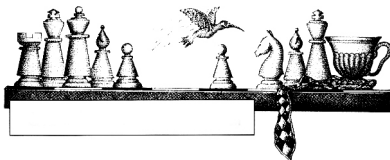


Location: Marriott Residence Inn - Ballston; 650 N Quincy St, Arlington, VA 22203; (703) 310-1999

Trophies to: 1st place & Top Age 60-69 & Top Age 70+; Standard tie breaks

More Info: chrisney2@gmail.com

P.O. Box 151122 Alexandria, VA 22315





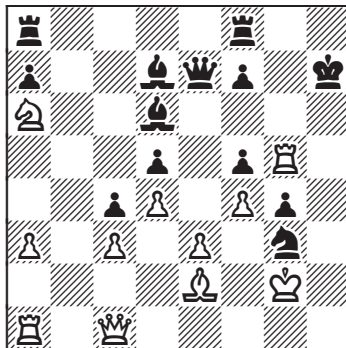
Readers' Games & Analysis, *continued from p 2*

Konstantin Molodtsov - Andrew Samuelson 2019 Virginia Open Veresov

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Bg5 c5 4 Bxf6 exf6 5 e3 Be6 6 Nf3 c4 7 Be2 Bb4 8 O-O O-O
9 a3 Ba5 10 Na4 Bc7 11 b3 b5 12 Nc5 Nd7 13 bxc4 bxc4 14 Na6 Bd6 15 c3 f5 16
Qb1 Nf6 17 Nd2 Qa5 18 Nb4 Qc7 19 Na6 Bxh2+ 20 Kh1 Qc8 21 Qb5 Bd6 22
Rfb1 Qd8 23 g3 h5 24 Kg2 h4 25 f4 hxg3 26
Rh1 Bd7 27 Qb2 Qe7 28 Nf1 Ne4 29 Rh3 g5
30 Nxg3 g4 31 Rh5 Nxg3 32 Rg5+ Kh7 33 Qc1

(diagram)

33...Qxg5! 34 fxg5 Kg7 35 Qd1 Rh8 36 Nc5
Nxe2 37 Nxd7 Rh2+ 38 Kf1 Nxc3 39 Qc1
Rh1+ 0-1



2019 Fredericksburg Open October 19-20, 2019 Country Inn & Suites South

5327 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Fredericksburg, Va 22408

5SS. Rd 1 Game/75 d10; Rds 2-5 G/90 d10. \$\$ Prizes: \$2,800 b/70, place prizes in each sdection guaranteed. In two sections: *Open*: \$600-400-250, X \$200, A \$180. *Under 1800*: \$400-260-150, C \$135, U1400 \$125, Unrated \$100. Unrated limited to \$250 when winning place prize, must play in the U1800 section. *Both*: Rds Sat 10-2-7, Sun 9:30-2:30. EF \$65 if rec'd by Sat 10/12, \$80 thereafter and at the tournament. One ½pt bye allowed if req by 1:30pm 10/19. Re-entry \$30 after rd 1 with ½pt bye. USCF memb req'd, VCF memb req'd for Va residents, both available at site, other state memberships honored. Hotel chess rate \$79+tax, call 540-898-1800 by Fri 10/4. *Enter*: Online www.vachess.org or on-site Fri 6-9pm, Sa 7:30-9:15am. Send mail-in entries to Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: Fredericksburg Open, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693.

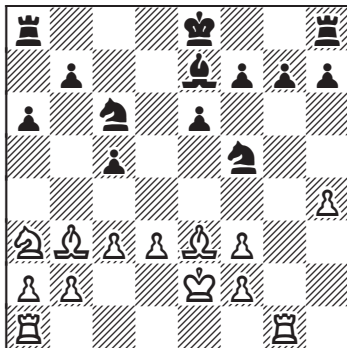
VCF Cup Tour — US Chess Junior Grand Prix — 20 US Chess Grand Prix Points



Moral Victory

by James Richardson

As I strongly believe in the importance of active learning for improvement in chess, I thought I would begin with an exercise. The diagram gives a situation from later in the game I am about to show. The position may not be the type of puzzle you are accustomed to solving, but get to work finding the best move. Then read on.



Black to Play

Prior to this game, I correctly anticipated the pairing. Research showed that my opponent favored the c3 Sicilian. Although I could not find a game of his where he faced the exact variation I like to play, I did notice a recurring tendency to delay d4 in favor of an early Na3. I checked the database of this approach against “my” move order (1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 Qxd5 4 Nf3 Nc6) and found the lines that had the highest score. I didn’t really expect him to play this way since White scored very poorly.

Kyle Webster - James Richardson, 2017 World Open Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 Qxd5 4 Nf3 Nc6 [But sure enough, he now chose...] 5 Na3 Bg4 [I played what seemed to be the most direct and natural response. Since this was such a minor line and the statistics were so good for Black (59%), I had made the practical decision to improvise over the board should an occasion arise. This was his pet line, so I curiously awaited his response. After 16 minutes, he played...] 6 Bc4 Qe4+ 7 Qe2 Bxf3 8 gxf3 Qxe2+ 9 Kxe2 [We reached a queenless middlegame where I felt that I had at least equalized. I considered this an opening success having neutralized the surprise value of his pet line.] 9...a6 10 d3 e6 11 Rg1 Nge7 12 Be3 Nf5 13 Bb3 Be7 14 h4





And here we are at our Quiz Position. This was an interesting psychological moment. The highly suspicious h2-h4 hangs his pawn in mid-air for the taking. *What is this guy up to? I just don't believe this at all.*

What did you decide? I played...

14...Nxh4 15 Rxf7 [without hesitation] **15...Nf5**

Did you intend the tempting 15...Ng6? (The question mark has a double meaning here.) I tried very hard to make that work, but it just doesn't. Never trust your opponent, but when an expert plays this way, you should sense the danger and be sure to calculate carefully to a clear conclusion. Gut decisions without prudence at critical moments can have terrible consequences. 16 Rh1 h5 17 Bxe6! I'm glad I found this move in my calculations, because had I played this way I would have been in serious trouble. There's no good defense and White is already clearly better.

When I captured the pawn on the previous move, I saw that I at least had an 'out' should I fail to find a way to ensnare the rook. But had I clearly anticipated the failure of 15...Ng6, I would have had a stronger continuation on move 14. Sometimes a quiet move is stronger than a louder one. 14 h4 was indeed a bit of a bluff, and the restrained 14...g6! calmly avoids the complications, fixes the weakness, and asks White how he will defend the h-pawn. Maybe White's h-pawn should consider *seppuku* with 15 h5 but after 15...gxh5 Black has an extra

pawn with the better position. Sure, it's a doubled h-pawn, but this is a definite improvement on the game.

16 Rg2 O-O-O

This led to a complex game where White found interesting counterplay in what was likely a dynamically balanced game. 16...b5!? was a possible improvement. Black appears to have a slight advantage; with queens gone, ...Kd7 might be a better way to connect the rooks.

17 Nc4 b5 18 Nd2 Ne5 19 Bc2 h5 20 a4 b4 21 f4 Ng4 22 Ne4 Nfxe3 23 fxe3 f5 24 Nf2 Bf6 25 Bb3 Kd7 26 d4 bxc3 27 bxc3 Rb8 28 Nd3 cxd4 29 cxd4 Rhc8 30 Rb1 Ke7 31 Nc5 Rc6 32 Kf3 h4 33 Re2 h3 34 Rh1

I felt I was gaining the upper hand, but unfortunately I had less than two and a half minutes to make seven moves in a tactical position.

34...Rxc5 35 Bxe6 Kxe6 36 dxc5 Rb3 37 Rxh3 Bd4 38 c6 Kd6?

38...Rc3 was correct. I blundered with seconds to reach the time control. This is the price of poor time management.

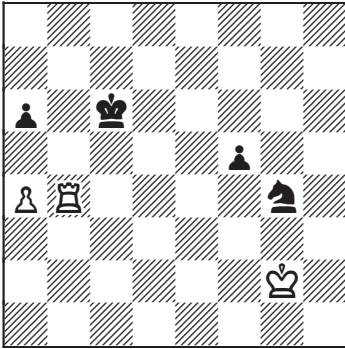
39 Rd2 Rxe3+ 40 Kg2 Re4 41 Rhd3

It became clear to me that I would lose a piece and I would have to fight hard to salvage a draw. In moments like these, it's important to not think about the past. Just do your best to defend in the present. Revisiting painful decisions earlier in the game will only cloud your judgment. Clear your head and try to think about the current situation as a different game entirely. It may help to



walk away from the board and take a bathroom break.

41...Rxf4 42 Rxd4+ Rxd4 43 Rxd4+ Kxc6 44 Rb4



If I can win the a-pawn safely, then the draw will become trivial. But this is no easy task, even though my king is much closer to the pawn. My opponent did a good job of complicating my objective.

44...Ne3+ 45 Kf3 Kc5 46 Rf4 Nc4 47 Ke2 Nd6 48 Kd3 Kd5 49 Rb4 Ne4 50 Kc2 Kc5 51 Rb8 Nd6 52 Kb3 a5 53 Ra8 Kb6 54 Kc2 Nb7 55 Kb3 Nc5+ 56 Ka3 Nb7 57 Rf8 Nd6 58 Kb3 Kc5 59 Rb8 Kc6 60 Kc3 Kd5 61 Ra8 Nb7 62 Ra7 Kc6 63 Ra6+ Kc5 64 Rf6 Nd6 65 Rf8 Ne4+ 66 Kb3 Nd6 67 Rb8 Kc6 68 Kc3 Kc5 69 Kd3 Kd5 70 Ra8 Nb7

If you have played through all this, you will note the pattern of grand repetition over large numbers of moves. Eventually this must produce the threefold repletion of some specific position that I would need to claim a draw, but it's hard to zero in on a claim with the clock ticking and the repeats sprinkled over long and diverse sequences. Besides which, my notation at this point was an absolute mess. In fact, I found it impossible to later reconstruct

exactly what happened from here. But my opponent broke the pattern in order to keep the game going and eventually I somehow did manage to capture the pawn and achieve the desired K+R *vs* K+N endgame.

Generally, this is a simple draw if the knight can stay close to the king and not get caught in the corner with a zugzwang position. But then a very funny thing happened. We both had less than 30 seconds on our clocks, although a delay of 10 seconds was in effect. My opponent pauses the clock and tells me he would like to ask a question of the tournament director. He calls a TD over and explains that he is not sure whether this is a draw or not. To paraphrase the preface of his request to the best of my memory: *"I don't want to waste our time if it's a draw, but I'd like to play on if there is a win."* Essentially, he is asking if the TD can inform him about the status of the position. This is a rather odd request (especially for an expert to be making), but I am more amused than offended.

I smile and recall a situation in my previous tournament, the Continental Class. The exact same K+R *vs* K+N endgame occurred in a game from Under 2000 section. The position attracted a crowd of spectators and the player with the knight was making every effort to show them his displeasure with his opponent's continuing the game. He made multiple draw offers. When that didn't work, he looked around as though to elicit sympathy.

One thing he was *not* doing was record the moves, even though he had enough time on the clock. Doing so would have allowed him to make a 50-move rule claim



eventually. But for some reason he didn't, so the game dragged on with faint but fleeting signs of progress for the rook. At one point the opponent missed the fact that he was in check and played an illegal move. The clock had to be readjusted for a time penalty. Eventually, the game ended with a knight fork winning the rook and sealing the draw. I'm pretty sure at least 50 moves had been played.

This was a case study of how *not* to handle the defense from a psychological standpoint, even though the defender eventually did succeed. By openly showing discomfort with the position, he was unintentionally encouraging his opponent to continue playing.

Getting back to my game, the TDs explained that they cannot give any additional information about the position. In a friendly manner, I tell my opponent, "It's within your right to play on. If you'd like, we can talk about this afterward."

But my opponent has one more question. "Okay, but this is your last, the TD tells him. So he asks if it is possible for him to lose if he runs out of time. The TD explains that a time forfeit is indeed possible, since checkmate would be possible with the rook still on the board, but the time delay is a measure to prevent that from happening. My opponent remarks, "Well, that's good to know!"

He decides to continue playing and I express my understanding of his decision. At no point do I admit any reluctance to defend the position. In this case the TD has offered to keep a count of the moves, so I am relieved that I do not have to write the notation to a make a 50-move claim.

The situation truly did not bother me. The hardest part of the defense was over and I knew I could hold this. I quickly and confidently bash out the moves, intermittently checking calculations on the delay. "*Oh... Ah... Okay*" My moves are making a strong impression. My king is not budging from the center. My opponent concedes that he is unable to make progress and agrees to a draw. After we shook hands, I looked at the TD's count and I don't think we played more than 12 moves. Note that in the entirety of this situation, I never once offered him a draw. Instead, I expressed confidence and a willingness to defend.

Overall, I was happy with the result. It was a disappointment to blunder in a winning position, but I kept fighting resolutely through a difficult endgame. Despite the half-point loss, overcoming a stressful situation was something of a moral victory. ... $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$!



Changing Address?

Please notify the membership secretary if your address is changing! You can email changes/correction to Georgina Chin at membership@vachess.org



Reflections Reflections



by Mark Warriner

Looking Back on an Amateur Chess "Career"

FURTHER TRAINING — WAKE UP CALLS (PART III)

We left off last time with my coach/trainer James Richardson drubbing me and a discussion of the lessons learned. I realized that I was wrong in asserting that I don't normally have trouble with being intimidated and fighting until the end. A closer examination of my games, including the times recorded for each move (a very important part of keeping notation, in my humble opinion) reveals quite the opposite. I've been deluding myself. All too often I'm indeed panicking when presented with something unknown.

If I'm confident that I have a reasonable position up to the point of receiving an unfamiliar reply, there's no reason for this! For my second training match against Adrian Rhodes, I set myself three goals: 1) I would stop panicking when he played unexpected moves, 2) I would use an appropriate amount of time for each move, and 3) I wanted to win this new match! I was really ticked off with myself and winning became the only result that would do.

James and I worked diligently on preparing for Adrian's repertoire. I thought for years that I understood how to do this, but working with a professional has been a revelation. Opening preparation is quite involved and laborious, of course, but it's also essential to securing a playable position that you appreciate once you reach the middlegame. My sense right now is that this is essential to reach the level of Master. This is basically a variation of a famous quote by Lajos Portisch.



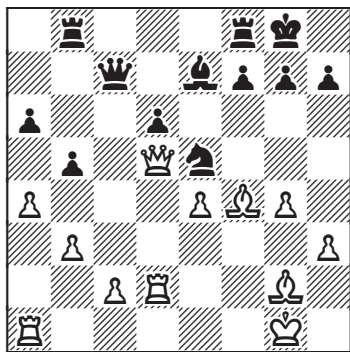
Your only task in the opening is to
reach a playable middlegame.

— Lajos Portisch —



Adrian Rhodes - Mark Warriner
2019 Training Match G1
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 h3 [Adrian sticks to his main weapon from our first match, which is in no way a bad choice. I, on the other hand, was prepared with new knowledge (and confidence!). That already was a better situation than the first time around.] **6...e6 7 g4 Be7 8 Bg2 Nfd7 9 O-O O-O 10 Be3 Nc6 11 f4 Nxd4 12 Qxd4 e5 13 Qd2 exf4 14 Bxf4 Ne5 15 Nd5 Be6** [I can't speak for Adrian, but for me this was all anticipated! I can't stress enough how valuable it is to work with a good coach/trainer. If you seriously desire to improve and you have adequate funds, hire one!] **16 b3** [16 Nxe7+ is more commonly played, but it has favored Black. I was aware that the text might be a better try, but I couldn't then and cannot now recall James' assessment of it. At any rate, the important thing was that I was confident that I had a playable position and I had not used too much time getting it. Big positives that really help boost one's morale.] **16...b5 17 a4 Rb8** [Not a great idea. Why give up on the a-file? Also, what is the rook doing on the b-file? Black would be at least equal after 17...Bxd5 18 exd5 (18 Qxd5 give Black at least a small pull after 18...Qb6+)



Ng6 18 Rfd1 [Really letting Black off the hook, this may even be an outright mistake. Either 18 Nxe7+ Qxe7 19 axb5 axb5 20 Ra6; or 18 axb5 Bxd5 19 exd5 axb5 20 Ra6 seem reasonable.] **18...Bxd5 19 Qxd5** [19 exd5 is to be considered also.] **19...Qc7 20 Rd2** My 'Spidey-sense' tingled after this move, and correctly so. But I never considered the engine's idea. 20 axb5 Rxb5 21 Qd2 Rc5 and we still have a fight.

(diagram)

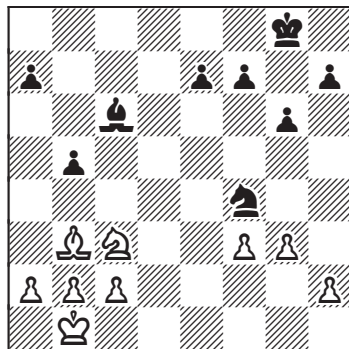
20...Qc3 [Overly ambitious, but I thought I saw something and I wanted to keep the game rolling along on time. 20...h6 21 axb5 Rxb5 22 Qd4 Rb6 and don't ask me, I don't get it.] **21 Qd4 Nf3+** [Flashy, but really shouldn't have yielded more than equality.] **22 Bxf3 Qxf3 23 Rf1** [White's first real mistake. 23 Qe3 Qxe3+ 24 Bxe3 would take the venom out of Black's machinations.] **23...Qxh3 24 Rh2 Bf6 25 Qxd6** [25 Qxf6 Qxg4+ 26 Rg2 Qxg2+ 27 Kxg2 gxf6 28 Bxd6 bxa4 and White takes one of Black's rooks and should be able to hold a draw.] **25...Qxg4+ 26 Rg2 Qh4** [An unfortunate blunder that should have cost the win. 26...Qe6 was correct, eg 27 Qxe6 fxe6 28 Bxb8 (28 Rd1) Bd4+ 29 Rgf2 Bxf2+ 30 Rxf2 Rxb8 etc] **27 e5** [Returning the favor. White's for choice after 27 Bg3 Be7 28 Qe5 Qg5 29 Qxg5 Bxg5 30 Bxb8 Be3+ 31 Kh1 Rxb8. After this I managed to keep a grip on things and bring home



the point.] **27...Be7 28 Qd5** [28 Qd4 bxa4 29 e6 f6 30 Qa7 Rbe8 31 bxa4 g6 looks very odd to me, but the engine says it's best.] **28...Rfd8** [Okay, but after 28...bxa4 29 Bg3 Qh3 30 bxa4 Rb4 and Black begins to appreciate his mobility, space and extra pawn.] **29 Qf3 Bc5+ 30 Be3 Bxe3+ 31 Qxe3 Qd4** [Maybe not the best technique, but it seemed a clear win to me.] **32 Qxd4 Rxd4 33 axb5 axb5 34 Ra1** [White could have put up more fight with either 34 Rgf2 or 34 Re2] **34...Re4 35 Ra5 Rxe5 36 c4 Re3 37 cxb5 Rxb3 38 Rga2** [Here my stomach jumped up in my throat as I almost played the disastrous 38...R3xb5. Fortunately I regained my composure and calmly made luft. Check that negative thinking!] **38...g6 0-1**

Mark Warriner - Adrian Rhodes 2019 Training Match G2 Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 [No flinching this time around. Play my prep and head straight into Adrian's prep. *En garde!*] **3...cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 O-O 8 Qd2 Nc6 9 Bc4 Bd7 10 O-O-O Rc8 11 Bb3 Nxd4** [Uh oh. Departing from the main line 11...Ne5. Plenty of top players have employed the text, but I'd only briefly reviewed it and couldn't remember anything. One of the more common complaints of amateur and professional players alike is the amount of theory one must memorize. My advice? Get over it and grind! It's the only way.] **12 Bxd4 b5 13 e5** [I correctly deduced that taking a7 was not best, but instead of the preferred moves (13 Nd5; 13 h4) I strolled into an even worse line.] **13...dxe5 14 Bxe5 Bc6** [Here I inexcusably squandered a large amount of time trying to determine whether to trade queens. It's not a trivial question, but one will face several important decisions during the course of a game, and from a sporting standpoint one shouldn't waste lots of time on questions where a decisive advantage is not in the balance. Do your best using a reasonable amount of time and carry on. I pretty much felt right off that I was going to trade anyway.] **15 Qxd8 Rfxd8 16 Rxd8+ Rxd8 17 Rd1 Bh6+ 18 Kb1 Rxd1+ 19 Nxd1** [If White's going to play 13 e5, then everything up to this move is 'space-bar' —that's ChessBase lingo for executing the main line moves. Black position is pleasant, but it's by no means a given that he will be winning. Interestingly in games between weaker players, Black has tended to win from this point, but amongst stronger players the outcomes have been fairly even.] **19...Nh5** [Not as common as 19...Nd7 or 19...Nd5 but the three examples of the text in the ChessBase were all by fairly strong players.] **20 Nc3 Bf4 21 Bxf4** [White has played 21 Bd4 twice and the engine agrees. I tried the alternative, not on calculation but on instinct. I had a feeling that Adrian was going to go wrong and he did!] **21...Nxf4 22 g3** (diagram)





22...Ng2 [Yep, oops! I was prepared for the mess that could have ensued after 22... b4 23 Ba4, eg 23... Bxa4 24 Nxa4; or 23... Bxf3 24 Nb5 (but not 24 gxf4 bxc3 25 bxc3 ♣) 24... Ne2 (or 24... Nd5) 25 Nxa7] **23 Bd5** [if 23 Kc1 Ne1 24 f4 Nf3 White's just equal] **23...Bd7** [I felt White would come out on top if 23... Bxd5 24 Nxd5 e6 25 Nc7 b4 26 Nb5 Ne1 27 f4 Nf3 28 Nxa7 Nxb2 29 c3 bxc3 30 b4] **24 Nd1** [Exactly how does Black propose to extract his knight?] **24...e6 25 Bb7 b4** [White has work to do after 25...e5 26 Kc1 Kg7 27 Kd2 h5 28 Nf2 Kf6 29 Nd3 h4 30 f4 exf4 31 Bxg2 hxg3 32 hxg3 fxg3 but it's a win.] **26 Kc1** [I can't believe I missed the simple 26 f4 but I had a plan and I stopped thinking. Tsk, tsk.] **26...Bb5 27 Kd2 f5 28 f4 Bf1 29 Ne3** [Really sloppy technique—29 Bf3 just puts an end to things.] **29...Nxe3 30 Kxe3** [This is enough, but why in the world put the situation at risk by creating more opportunity to go wrong? Mark Dvoretzky says as much in one of his works, something to the effect that accuracy is paramount so as to limit the potential for error.] **30...e5** [30... Kf7 offers sterner resistance] **31 fxe5 g5 32 Bc8 Bh3 33 Kd4 h5 34 Kd5 Bg2+ 35 Kd6 f4 36 gxf4 gxf4 37 e6 Be4 38 e7 Bg6 39 Bd7 1-0** White is just in time to stop the running f-pawn: 39...f3 40. e8Q+ Be8 41 Be8 f2 42 Bb5

Adrian Rhodes - Mark Warriner 2019 Training Match G3 Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 h3 e6 [Adrian remains true to this opening line. However...] **7 g4 Be7 8 g5** [In each and every game, Adrian tried something just a little different. It did a good job of keeping me off balance. With a bit more accuracy on his part when I made mistakes, the match could have turned out differently. This particular line is very popular and James had prepared me well. If only I could remember all the details...] **8...Nfd7 9 h4 b5 10 Be3** [10 a3 right away is the most played] **10...Bb7 11 a3 Nc5** [*Clank!* My memory failed me. 11...Nc6 12 Qd2 (12 Nxc6 Bxc6 13 Qd4 O-O 14 O-O-O Rb8 15 h5) 12...O-O or 12...Rc8] **12 Bg2** [Adrian is right on point.] **12...Nc6** [Not inspiring. Probably 12...Nbd7 is better.] **13 f4 O-O 14 Qe2 Qc7** [I was very concerned that I'd be facing queenside castling and a pawn avalanche on the kingside. How does Black defend that?] **15 O-O** [Well no need to worry about what your opponent fails to find. Whew! Maybe things aren't so clear after 15 O-O-O b4 16 axb4 Nxb4 17 f5 Qa5 18 Kb1] **15...Rab8** [What in the world was I thinking with this howler? 15...Nxd4 16 Bxd4 Rae8 defanged White's attack] **16 Na2** [16 Nxc6 Bxc6 17 f5 b4 18 axb4 Rxb4 19 f6 looks pretty scary to me. Even just 16 f5 right is strong.] **16...Rfc8** [Trading bad move for bad move. 16... Nxd4 17 Bxd4 e5 18 fxe5 dxe5 19 Bxc5 Qxc5+ 20 Kh1 and Black's for choice.] **17 Rac1** [17 f5!] **17...Ba8** [17...Nxd4 18 Bxd4 e5 etc. It's hard to believe how many bad moves in a row we traded back and forth.] **18 b4** [18 f5; 18 c3] **18... Nd7** [yet again 18...Nxd4 19 Bxd4 e5] **19 Rfd1** [19 Nxc6 Qxc6 is better than the



game continuation at least.] **19...Nb6** [Finally bringing an end to the comedy.] **20 Nxc6 Qxc6 21 Bxb6** [21 Bd4] **21...Qxb6+ 22 Qf2 Rc4** [I finally get a bead on the correct way.] **23 Qxb6 Rxb6 24 Re1 Rbc6** {Once more my technique leaves a bit to be desired, but is good enough to get the job done.] **25 Re2 Kf8 26 Kf2 Rc8 27 Ke3 Bd8 28 c3 Bb6+ 29 Kd2 Rd8 30 Rc2** [White just collapses as time drew short.] **30...d5 31 e5 Rxf4 32 Nc1 Rxh4 33 Bf3 Rc4 34 Re1 d4 35 cxd4 Rxc2+ 36 Kxc2 Bxf3 0-1**

Mark Warriner - Adrian Rhodes 2019 Training Match G4 Sicilian

With overall match victory in the bag, I had one thing left to prove to myself. Could I continue fighting to the finish? In my match versus Joe Faries (see previous issues of VIRGINIA CHESS) I just ran out of gas. Not this time! **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 O-O 8 Qd2 Nc6 9 Bc4 Bd7 10 O-O-O** [No flinching!] **10...Qa5** [Adrian sticks to his strategy of varying within the same openings, and again he caught me out not being able to remember specifics. But steady as she goes, no more panicking for me!] **11 Bb3 Rfc8 12 g4** [12 Kb1 and 12 h4 are the main continuations] **12...Ne5 13 Kb1** [13 h4] **13...Nc4 14 Bxc4 Rxc4 15 Nd5** [This has not typically succeeded. 15 Nb3] **15...Nxd5** [15...Qxd2 and 15...Qd8 have both scored well for Black, whereas the move chosen is a mistake from which Black never recovers. This time I successfully kept the pressure on all the way.] **16 Qxa5 Nxe3 17 Rd3 Rac8** [Speeding his demise. White has sufficient advantage to win after 17...Bxd4 18 Rxd4 Rxd4 19 Qc3 Nxc2 20 Qxc2 Rc8 but with much work ahead.] **18 Rxe3 Bxd4 19 Re2 a6 20 Qg5 Bf6 21 Qc1 Rb4 22 b3 a5 23 a3 Rb5 24 h4 a4 25 b4 Rc3** [if 25...h5 26 gxh5 Rxh5 27 c4] **26 Re3 Rc4 27 Qf1 Be6 28 Rd3 Rb6 29 g5 Bc3 30 Qf2 Rb5 31 Rxc3 Rxc3 32 Kb2 Rc7 33 Qa7 Kg7 34 f4 Bd7 35 h5** [completely missing 35 Qd4+ Kg8 36 c4] **35...gxh5 36 Rxh5** [again 36 Qd4+ etc] **36...Bg4 37 Rh2 Rc4 38 Qe3** [38 Qg1] **38...d5 39 Qg3 Bd1 40 Qh4 Kf8 41 Qxh7 Ke8 42 Rd2** [42 Qf5 is apparently more accurate. An engine I am not.] **42...Bf3 43 Qh8+ Kd7 44 Qh3+ Ke8 45 Qxf3 d4 46 Qd3 1-0**

So, a complete success insofar as achieving my sporting objectives, but still a lot to be desired in terms of quality of play. In fact, Adrian stood better in three out of the four games and the result of the match did not fully reflect the quality of play. I did manage to improve my confidence in decision making and time management. However, as the reader will note elsewhere in this issue, my comeback (at long last!) to tournament play at the 2019 Charlottesville Open revealed that I've still got a long way to go. Also interestingly, Adrian benefitted equally from this training—he tied my score in Charlottesville! Stay tuned.



Virginia Chess
 2851 Cherry Branch Lane
 Oak Hill, VA 20171-3843

Non-profit Org.
 US Postage PAID
 Orange VA
 Permit No. 97

In This Issue:

Charlottesville Open.....	1
Readers' Games (McKenna, Samuelson).....	2
Moral Victory (Ruchardson).....	5
Relections (Warriner)	9

Odds & Ends

Upcoming Events	3, 4
VCF Info	<i>inside front cover</i>

