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Contents

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| | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Page 3: | Editor's Desk | Ralph Dubisch |
| Page 4: | Yaz Goes to China | Yasser Seirawan |
| Page 12: | Oregon Senior Championship | Frank Niro |
| Page 13: | Oregon Senior Games | Steven Deeth |
| Page 20: | NWGP 2011 | Murlin Varner |
| Page 23: | Seattle Chess Club Events | |
| Page 24: | Future Events | |

Our cover subject, David Golub, was photographed in February 2011 at the Washington State Championship, Premier section. In January 2009, his first rating was 1342. His first expert rating, 2038, came at the World Open in July 2010. At the Seattle Seafair, July 2011, he crossed into master territory with a post-event rating of 2210. Congratulations, David!

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It was with the most profound sadness that I learned of Darby Monahan's recent death.

What is to be remembered about Darby? I believe he would want people to know some things about Darby the chess player, and Darby the man.

The guy had a remarkable ability to slither, Houdini-like, out of the most unpromising and seemingly hopeless positions. I would often come up to him after his games, fully expecting him to say some child had wiped him off the board. Instead, he would chortle (using his own peculiar past tense for the verb "to draw"), "I drew that game."

Darby could generate—seemingly out of thin air—a vicious attack. I vividly remember one important tournament game in which he uncorked the classic piece sacrifice against my Najdorf b5 pawn, and then threatened to push his three outside connected passers down my throat. Harrowing. I finally squeaked through to a win, but there was a little puddle of sweat in my chair.

Many times we would tease Darby by questioning his devotion to Caissa. You see, he would often skip Saturday night tournament games... so he could go dancing!

But perhaps he would most want people to remember him for being a gentleman. Many players (me, for example) are absolutely insufferable when they lose. But in all the years I knew Darby, I never once saw him behave in any way other than graciously when he lost.

Rest well, dear friend, rest well.

– August Piper

Editor's Desk

Ralph Dubisch

There's news from the Chess Journalists of America. *Northwest Chess* submitted in only three categories: state magazine, historical article, and chess art.

We tied for runner-up as state magazine, where the excellent (and colorful!) *Georgia Chess* clobbered the field. We tied with *Chess Horizons*. Since there were only three entries, you could say we tied for last, but let's not dwell on that aspect.

NWC did much better in the other two categories. Yasser Seirawan's engaging historical fiction, "Hapley's Project: A Forgotten Chess Tale," cleanly won in the history category. If you haven't yet read it, get yourself a copy of *NWC November 2010*, or check out www.nwchess.com, where our Business Manager, Eric Holcomb, has probably posted a copy.

Finishing with a well-deserved perfect score in the chess art competition was Philip Peterson's "Alekhine's Gun," dominating the cover of *NWC March 2011*, also to be found on nwchess.com.

Congratulations to Yaz and Philip for their CJA awards!

Correction: Bill McGeary, on page 19 of the August issue of *NWC*, makes reference to the game Kritz - Sethuraman, Biel 2006, and gives part of the score as: 10. Qxa6 Qd8 11. a4 Be7 12. a5.

But www.chessbase.com, www.chesslab.com, and www.newinchess.com all give that portion of the score as: 10. Qxa6 Qd8 11. d5 e5 12. a4 Be7 13. a5

– Floyd R. Kirk

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Yaz Goes to China

by Yasser Seirawan

Yasser Seirawan – Judit Polgar
8th World Teams, Round 6
Ningbo, China, July 23, 2011

USA vs. Hungary

It is a great pleasure and a honor to play Judith Polgar, the greatest female player in the history of the game! Before the game began it was announced that Judith was celebrating her birthday. I must say that in the thousands of tournament games I've played, I simply can't recall playing an opponent on their birthday. It must have happened — but this was the first time I was aware of it. After the generous applause had died down, Judith, smiling at me, gestured towards my pieces and "invited" me to offer "any one of them" as a "present."

Hmm. I thought about that one for a moment and hesitated. After all, hadn't the great Bobby Fischer offered "Knight odds" to any female player? (An offer he withdrew when challenged.) Certainly, Bobby wasn't thinking about such a great player as Judith when making his challenge!

Anyway, after reflection, I of course reached across the board and removed her g8-Knight!

Judith burst into laughter, "Oh my! You are not a gentleman!" She exclaimed.

Choiceless, I had to solemnly agree.

I would also like to take this moment to sincerely thank GM Benjamin Finegold for having assisted me in my preparations for the games in Ningbo. Ben was simply terrific. In a cruel irony, our preparations seemed to be wasted as my opponents ducked, dodged and weaved their way past our well-prepared plans. No matter! For each game I went to the board in a highly motivated mood. Thank you Ben!

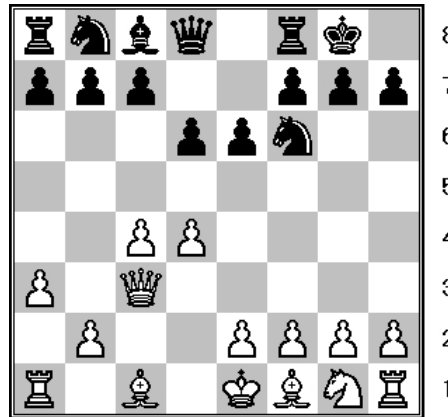
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 0-0 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. Qxc3

So far, so good. Our expectation was for 6. ...b6, with lengthy variations dead ahead.

6. ...d6!?

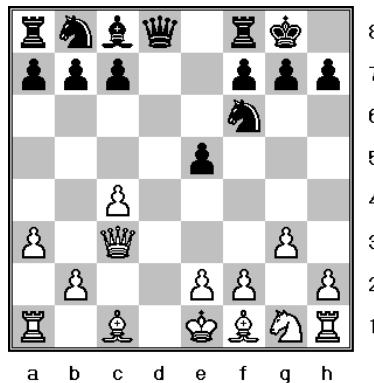
Definitely throwing a wrench into what I had in mind. The text introduces an entirely different plan of development for Black. Black can now aim for a possible ...e6-e5 central break, even at the cost of a pawn, in order to develop the bishop along the ...c8-

h3 diagonal. The drawback to this otherwise flexible system is that if Black reverts back to a queenside bishop fianchetto, she may want to challenge White in the center with ...d6-d5, in which case a tempo will be lost.



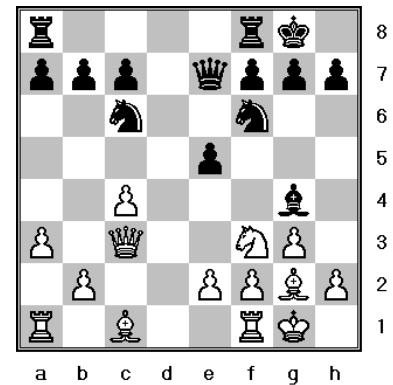
7. Bg5

There was a great temptation to play 7. g3, fianchettoing my own bishop and thereby ruling out Black's own fianchetto. Nice plan showing real understanding (smile), but I couldn't reconcile whether I wanted to face Black's activity: 7. g3 e5! 8. dxe5 dxe5



9. Bg2 (9. Qxe5: This brazen grab made me recall the wise words of my trainer, IM Nikolay Minev, "White will die with a full stomach." 9. ...Nc6 10. Qc3 Ne4 11. Qd3 Bf5 12. Bh3 Qf6 13. Bxf5 Qxf5 14. Nf3 Rad8 15. Qb1 Nd4 and I had "seen" enough.) 9. ...Qe7 10. Nf3 Nc6 11. 0-0 Bg4, when in this particular position I wasn't satisfied with my development.

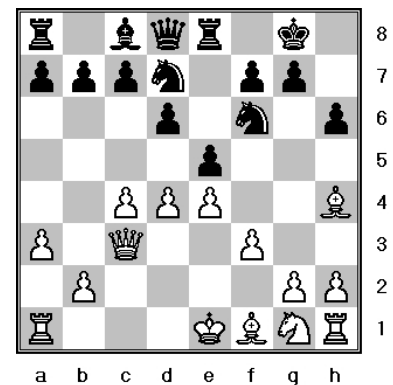
"White will die with a full stomach." – Nikolay Minev



In particular, I couldn't decide how great an asset my two bishops are as the role of the c1-Bishop has to be solved.

7. ...Nbd7 8. e3

My preparations (against an immediate fianchetto by Black 6. ...b6) had focused on lines with f2-f3 in order to build a big center. Against Black's current set up, it simply makes no sense. For example: 8. f3?! h6 9. Bh4 e5 10. e4 Re8, preparing the capture of the e4-pawn.

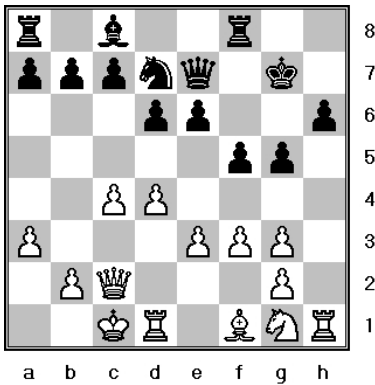


I saw a line that went: 11. Bf2 d5!?! 12. cxd5 Nxd5 13. Qd2 exd4 14. Qxd4 N5b6!?! (14. ...N5f6 15. 0-0-0 Qe7 16. Qc3 c5!?) 15. 0-0-0 Qe7, when I had a sinking feeling in my stomach that I was seriously lagging in development. This feeling, unfortunately, was made worse as in my 'mind's eye' I hadn't realized that while playing Bh4-f2 I had stopped the perceived threat of ...Nd7-c5, which simply puts a piece en prise.

8. ...b6

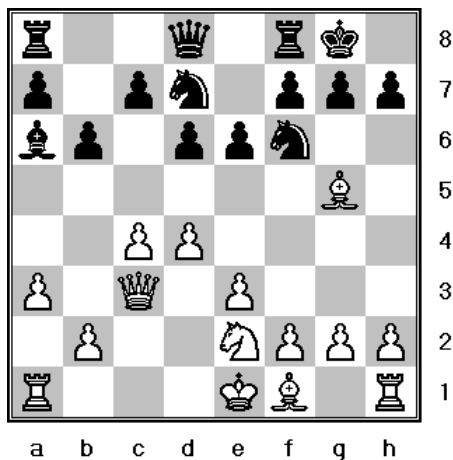
A key alternative for Black was to decisively deal with the pin by expanding on the kingside. 8. ...h6!?! 9. Bh4 g5 10. Bg3 Ne4 11. Qc2 f5 12. 0-0-0 Qe7 13. f3 Nxc3 14. hxg3 Kg7. Black might not be thrilled

about the safety of her king, but on the other hand Black's play is relatively simple, to play ...Nd7-f6 and to just bring out the queenside pieces.



The kingside "weaknesses" are not so easy to exploit. As Viktor Kortchnoi would say, "A weakness is only a weakness if it can be attacked." For the moment, Black's h6-pawn certainly appears safe enough.

9. Ne2 Ba6



Going for what I've dubbed the "extended fianchetto." Since the diagonal ...b7-h1 will become blocked, Black aims for immediate play against the c4-pawn with ...c7-c5 and opening the c-file.

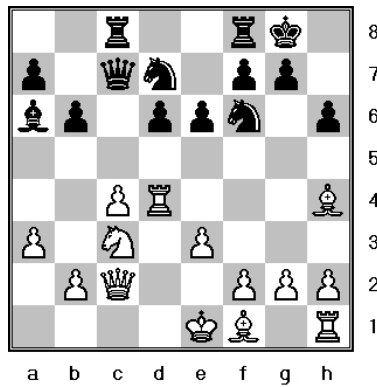
10. Qc2 c5 11. dxc5

Fixing the structure—but not necessarily for my own advantage. Here I was tempted to play 11. Rd1, keeping the center flexible and by implication suggesting I'll castle short, which is still several tempi away.

I couldn't reconcile whether my rook would be good or merely a target on the d4-square: 11. Rd1 cxd4 12. Rxd4 h6 13. Bh4

**"A weakness is only a weakness if it can be attacked."
– Viktor Korchnoi**

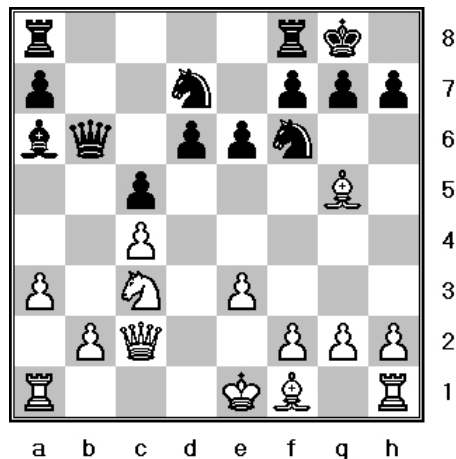
Qc7 14. Nc3 Rac8,



when Black is harmoniously developed and prepared to break in the center with either ...d6-d5 or ...e6-e5, with nice play.

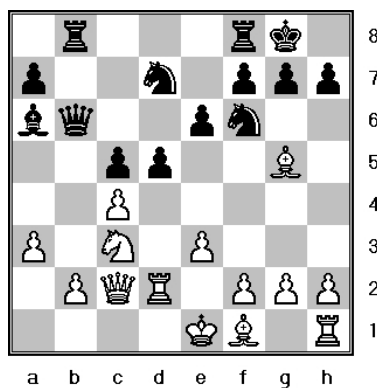
11. ...bxc5 12. Nc3 Qb6

As a consequence of blocking the c-file I've had to allow the opening of the b-file. Now it is my turn to face a very consequent decision: where to put my king? Castling long? That would be like waving a red flag at Judith to come and get me. On the other hand, the king is a strong piece and can help protect the b2-pawn. It was sure to lead to an interesting, double-edged position!



13. 0-0-0

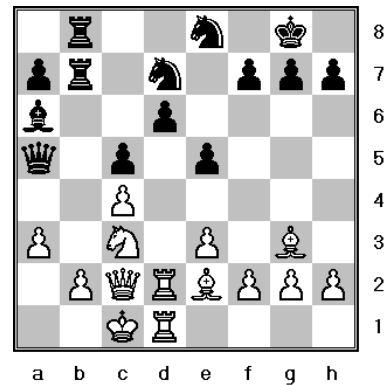
The alternative: 13. Rd1 Rab8 14. Rd2 d5!?



This is the tempo loser mentioned earlier, but it certainly seems well timed to me: 15. cxd5 Bxf1 16. Kxf1 exd5 17. Nxd5 Nxd5 18. Rxd5 Qxb2 19. Qxb2 Rxb2 20. g4 f6! 21. Bf4 Ne5 had that depressing air of a variation that hoovers all the pieces off the board leading to a forcing draw.

13. ...Bb7

For the next few moves both players will face some awkward decisions. On the one hand the text costs Black a tempo, but by making this supportive move Judith keeps some central flexibility. Black could easily conjure up a promising initiative if she can manage ...d6-d5-d4, chasing away the c3-Knight. My main alternative was for Black to double or treble on the b-file while I'd do the same on the d-file: 13. ...Rab8 14. Rd2 Rb7 15. Be2 Rfb8 16. Rhd1 Ne8 17. Bf4 e5 18. Bg3 Qa5, which leads to a fascinating strategic position.



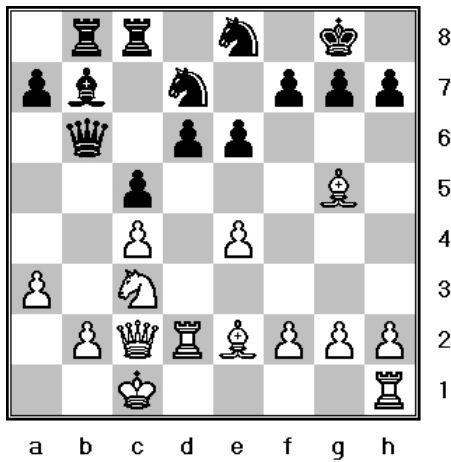
Both players have trumps; for the moment the g3-Bishop looks "offside," but Black's rigid center should mean some kind of White advantage. Also, the role of the a6-Bishop feels stranded as well.

14. e4!?

Another key decision. White puts an immediate stop to any plans of advancing the d6-pawn, but as Viktor Kortchnoi oftentimes reminds me, "pawns don't move backwards." The text offers Black a magnificent d4-outpost which will act as a magnet attracting a Black Knight. A new strategic battle flares up: Judith will maneuver to get to the d4-square; I'll try to stop her while trying to tie up her forces to the defense of the d6-pawn.

14. ...Rab8 15. Rd2 Rfc8 16. Be2 Ne8

**"Pawns don't move backwards."
– Viktor Korchnoi**



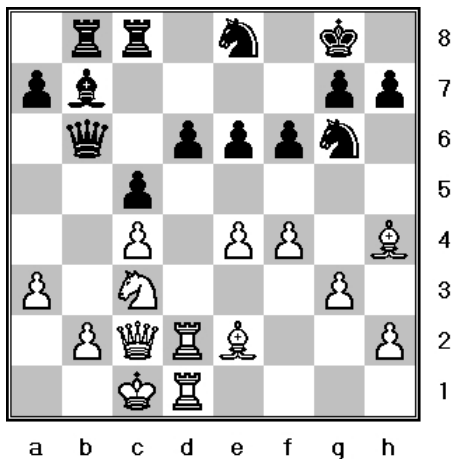
17. f4 Nf8

Both players are going through a maneuvering phase trying to maximize their pieces. On the surface it may appear as if Black's pieces are going backwards, but appearances can be deceiving. Black is doing her best to maneuver a knight to the c6-square, the gateway to the central outpost. The text envisions a ...Nf8-g6-e7 (e5)-c6-d4 journey. Should a black knight appear on the d4-square, all the strategic defects of Black's position would magically disappear.

18. Rhd1 f6 19. Bh4 Ng6

Here comes the Knight!

20. g3?!

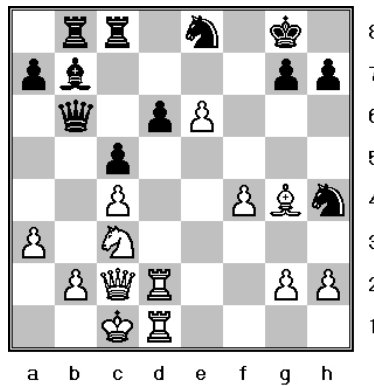


Sometimes we can be too clever for our own good.

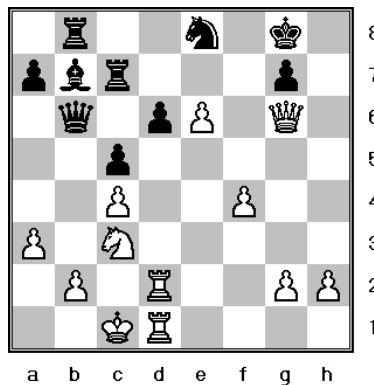
The text caught my attention for two reasons. Firstly, I reasoned that if my Bishop was captured, that would put an end to any ambitions of bringing a Knight to the d4-square and simply open the g-file. Secondly, by refusing to make the "natural" retreat 20.Bg3, I wouldn't step in front of my g2-pawn—I felt its burning ambition to advance.

Actually, my "main" move leading up

to this position had been a "promising" piece sacrifice: 20.Bg4!? f5. (Black has no choice. Capturing the h4-bishop will leave the knight high and dry: 20. ...Nxh4?! 21. Bxe6+ Kh8 22. Bxc8 Bxc8 23. f5!, when the h4-Knight will be trapped.) 21. exf5 Nxh4 22. fxe6.



White has two pawns for a knight as well as excellent coordination. I couldn't come to a firm conclusion about the position and so I ducked the line. Playing "solid" for the team... Nonetheless, the line lingered and I continued my calculations: 22. ...Ng6!? 23. Bf5 Rc7 24. Bxg6 hxg6 25. Qxg6.



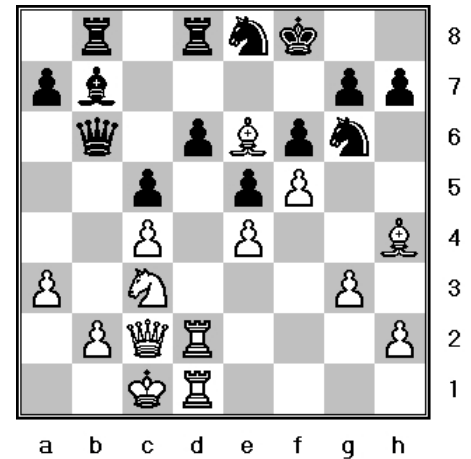
This position struck me as promising. Now three pawns for the knight, but I began to have some doubts. After 25. ...Bc6, Black's counter-play down the b-file freezes my rooks and Black may be able to quickly reset with ...Ne8-f6 and ...Bc6-e8, with unclear consequences.

The final "nail" for this variation for me is that I saw ...Qb6-a6, in the not too distant future, when White wouldn't have a

I had my doubts that it had been so clever to allow the doubling of the h-pawns. In any case, as expected, Judith played the most principled variation.

convenient way to defend the c4-pawn.

20. ...Rd8! 21. Bg4 e5 22. Be6+ Kf8 23. f5



23. ...Ne7!

At the time, I thought this move best. It perfectly fits with Black's plan to occupy the magnetic d4-square with a knight.

On the other hand, while Judith was thinking, I began to wonder whether the dangers on the g-file were really that severe? For instance: 23. ...Nxh4!? 24. gxh4 Bc6 25. h5 h6!, when I had my doubts that it had been so clever to allow the doubling of the h-pawns after all.

In any case, as expected, Judith played the most principled variation.

24. g4 h6!

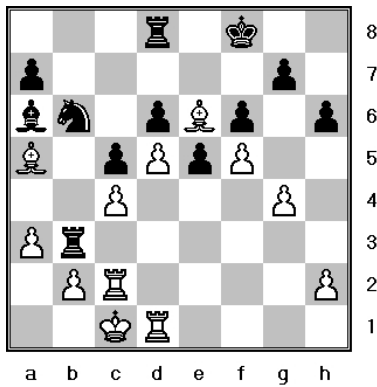
Judith understood that timing was far more important than the position being blasted open. There is no going back...

An important move as it will cost White a number of tempi to get in the g4-g5 break. A false read of the position is that, "yes but after White plays g4-g5, won't the move ...h7-h6 allow more lines be opened?" Such an objection requires precise calculation as well as an intuitive feeling that Black can withstand such an assault. Judith understood that timing was far more important than the position being blasted open.

25. Bf2

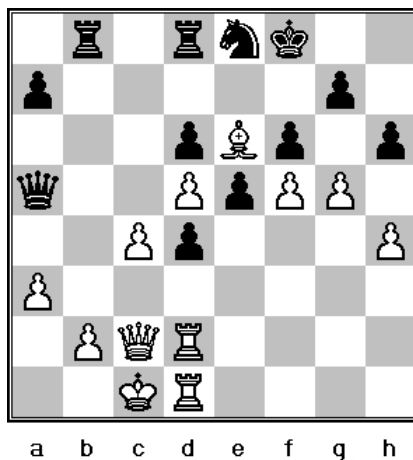
There is no going back now and I must allow a knight to appear on the d4-outpost. 25. Nd5!? Nxd5 26. exd5 Ba6 27. Qa4 Nc7 28. Rc2 Qb3 29. Qxb3 Rxb3 30. Be1 Na8!

31. Ba5 Nb6!, with a pull for Black.



In this position it is interesting to note that the “powerful” e6-Bishop may end up playing no role whatsoever. Trying to stop the d4-occupation in another way wasn’t attractive either: 25. Bd5!? Nxd5 26. Nxd5 Bxd5 27. Rxd5 Rd7, when Black’s position looked perfectly okay to me.

25. ...Nc6 26. Nd5 Qa5 27. h4! Nd4 28. Bxd4 cxd4 29. g5! Bxd5! 30. exd5



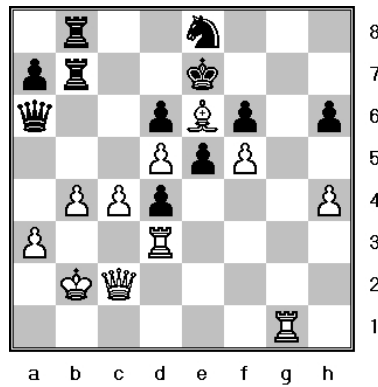
Up till now I thought that we had both played a good game but now Judith committed a grievous error:

30. ...hxg5??

**...now Judith committed a grievous error:
Unnecessarily opening up the kingside.**

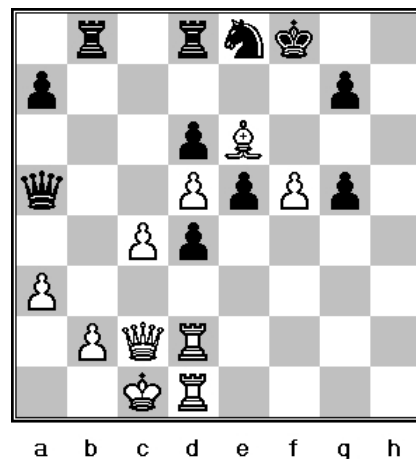
Unnecessarily opening up the kingside. Put another way, Black is facing the problem of the g-file being opened (only) and therefore should make plans to evacuate her king. That means moving the d8-Rook out of the way. 30. ...Rb7! 31. Rd3 Rdb8 32. gxh6 gxh6 (32. ...Rxb2?? 33. Qxb2 Rxb2 34. h7! winning.) 33. b4 Qa6 34. Rg1 Ke7!

35. Kb2!?

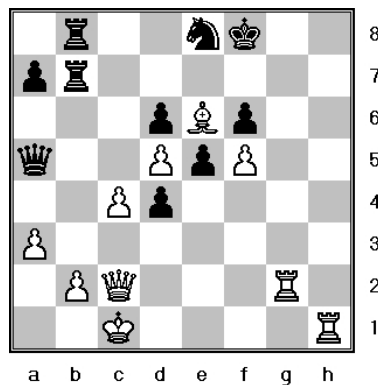


I’d evaluate this highly unusual position as only slightly better for White with all three results possible.

31. hxg5 fxg5?



Same mistake as before, unnecessarily opening up the kingside. Once more, 31. ...Rb7 and hanging tough was necessary, but in this case the damage of an open h-file has been committed. 31. ...Rb7 32. gxf6 gxf6 33. Rh1 Rdb8 34. Rg2.



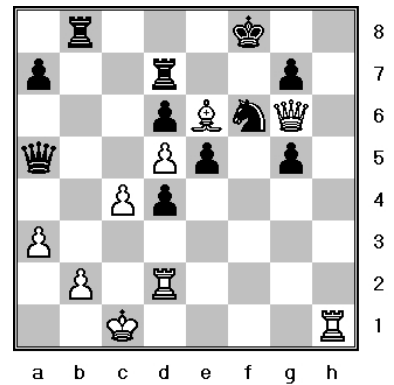
Now the difference of two open files on the kingside is made manifestly clear. White’s rooks are ready to flood into Black’s position. By the way, in this line it is important to note that the b2-pawn is taboo: 34. ...Rxb2?? 35. Rg8+ Ke7 36. Rh7+ Kd8 37. Rd7+ Kc8 38. Rxe8+ Qd8 39. Rxd8#

32. f6!

A sweet clearance sacrifice. I knew there was a reason why I liked the queen on c2 in the Nimzo-Indian!

32. ...Rxb2

Spoiling my fun. Judith wasn’t interested in helping me celebrate her birthday. Clearly the normal alternative is a total disaster: 32. ...Nxf6 33. Qg6 Rd7 34. Rh1



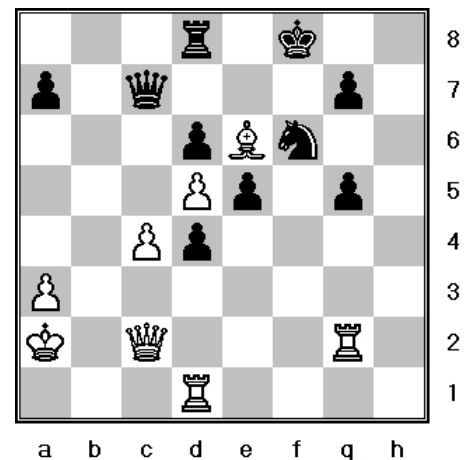
34. ...Ke7 35. Qxg7+ Kd8 36. Qxf6+ Kc7 37. Bxd7, with a bounty of presents that I’d keep.

33. Kxb2?!

I was too intent on a g6-invasion; in fact a b7-invasion is simply stronger. 33. Qxb2! Nxf6 34. Qb7! Qxa3+ 35. Kb1, winning. It is interesting to note that once you get intent on a certain route for your pieces it is easy to miss another path.

33. ...Nxf6 34. Ka2 Qc7 35. Rg2

My engines enjoy pointing out my human weaknesses, in that I missed “stronger” continuations at this moment. Perhaps so, but to my mind capturing the g5-pawn and doubling on the g-file seemed the most natural and straight-forward way to win.



35. ...Rc8 36. Bxc8 Qxc8 37. Rxc8 Nxd5 38. Qf5+ Qxf5 39. Rxf5+ Nf6 40. c5

Ke7 41. c6 Nd5 42. Rg1 d3 43. Kb3 Ke6
44. Rfg5

1-0

**“Oh my!
You are not a gentleman!”
– Judith Polgar**

After the game Alexander Grishuk came up to me to say, “I was watching the last stages and noted your remarkable composure at the board. An exchange ahead and you looked so sure. Then I looked again and saw that you had two Rooks for the Knight!”

“Yes,” I answered, “the extra Rook certainly helped my composure!”

**Yasser Seirawan –
Shakhriyar Mamedyarov
8th World Teams, Round 7
Ningbo, China, July 24, 2011**

USA vs. Azerbaijan.

For many years I’ve admired the extraordinary tactical abilities of Shakhriyar “Shaq” Mamedyarov. Playing the highest rated Azerbaijan player on Board 4 of the match between the USA and Azerbaijan was a surprise—to say the least. Azerbaijan decided that by “stacking” its team in this fashion, Shaq would score heavily. Certainly he felt the pressure to respond and play his prescribed role. At the time the game was played he was doing very well.

Before the game, GM Ben Finegold and I worked mighty hard to bring my Gruinfeld knowledge up to date. While I knew Shaq enjoyed experimenting with off-beat defenses, relying on his tactical abilities to rescue him from any strategic defects, I was brimming with confidence ready for an ultra-sharp Gruinfeld variation...

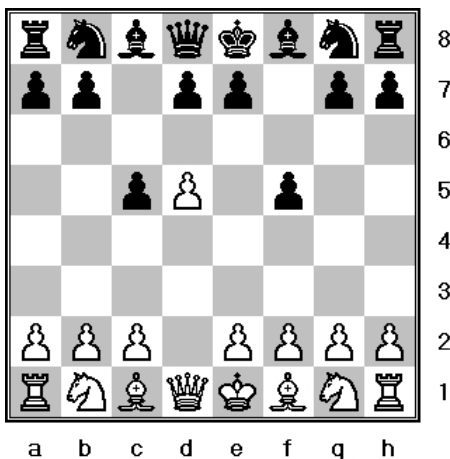
1. d4 c5

A Benoni? As he played in game four of his Candidate’s match versus Boris Gelfand, a game Shaq had to win with the Black pieces?

2. d5 f5?

With this one, the finest efforts of the Finegold-Seirawan team were instantly nullified. Out-prepared with the White pieces after only two moves.

That’s got to be some kind of a record, right?



I’ll try to remember my exact thoughts after my opponent’s second move. I settled in for a long think and began musing about “schools of chess thought.”

There is a school of chess that explains that the Benoni is unplayable for Black as he cedes too much space in the center — a contention with which Vugar Gishimov and Veselin Topalov, amongst others, will disagree.

There is another school of thought that explains that the Dutch Defense is unplayable as well, as it weakens too many central squares—a contention that Hikaru Nakamura and Nigel Short, amongst others, will gladly challenge. The irony of facing two “losing” defenses simultaneously wasn’t lost on me. The marvelous part about such a defense for Black is that a loss can be prescribed to one or the other defense, whereas a victory is a victory for both!

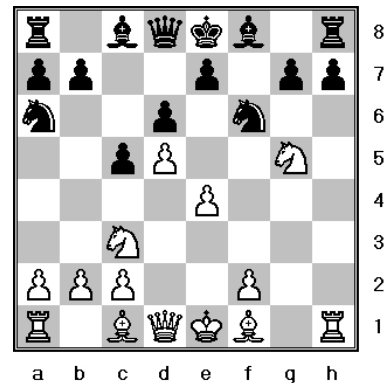
Back to concrete calculation for a moment, I was seized by the desire to “absolutely refute” Black’s set-up. This was no doubt a desire that Shaq’s provocative defense had hoped to inspire.

To properly understand my frame of mind, imagine beneath the diagram after Black’s second move the text reads, “White to move and to win.” Such was my belief that Black’s defense was unplayable. So my first thought was to play in gambit style with 3. g4, intending to blow Black off the board.

3. e4!

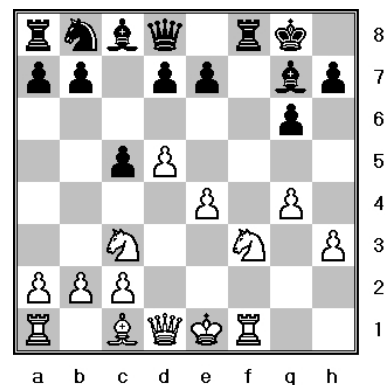
3. g4!? f4 4. Nc3!

Or 4. h3 when immediately Black is facing a critical decision. 4. ...gxh3? This mistake I’d dub the “Suicide Variation.” By capturing the pawn, Black is doing White a massive favor as White’s pieces will develop with killing impact: 5. e4 d6 6. Nc3 Nf6 7. Nxh3 Na6 8. Ng5,



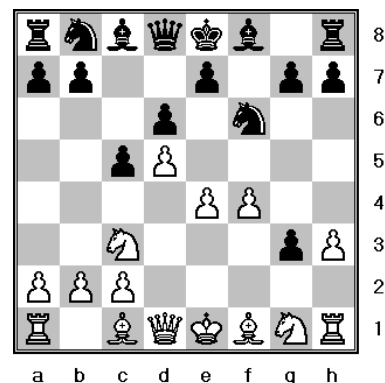
when after subsequent ideas like f2-f4 and e4-e5, or Bf1-b5+ or Bf1-h3, Black’s position is too terrible to contemplate.

The drawback of this flank sacrifice is that Black should decline the pawn gift: 4. ...g3 5. fxg3 Nf6 6. Nc3 g6 7. Nf3 Bg7 8. e4 Nh5 9. g4 Ng3 10. Rg1 Nxf1 11. Rxf1 0-0,



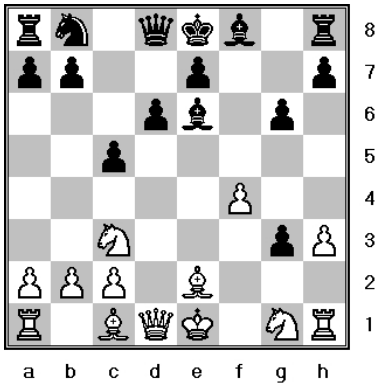
and by no means has White achieved the absolute refutation that he had hoped for. In fact, not even close. White has to be a bit more clever with his flank sacrifice.

4. ...Nf6 5. e4 d6 By including the development of a pair of Knights an additional possibility is opened for White. 6. h3, offering Black an opportunity to enter the suicide variation. Again, an opportunity that must be refused. 6. ...g3! Thanks to the inclusion of the development of the pair of knights White can now consider 7. f4

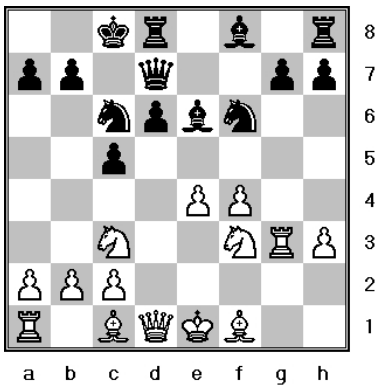


when once again White is in full battle

throttle mode to blow Black backwards. I considered two variations: 7. ...g6 8. e5 Nh5 9. Bb5+ Bd7 10. Be2 Ng7 11. e6 Nxe6 12. dxe6 Bxe6—a piece sacrifice that I thought “should be good for me,” which nonetheless struck me as “messy.”

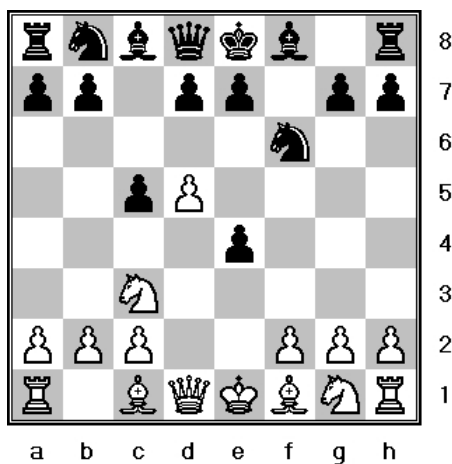


On the other hand the alternative line was even less clear: 7. ...e6! 8. dxe6 Bxe6 9. Nf3 Nc6 10. Rg1 Qd7 11. Rxg3 0-0-0,



when I was unsatisfied with the whole line.

3. ...fxe4 4. Nc3 Nf6



5. g4!

It was this combination of moves that I found to be the most attractive. The threat of g4-g5 struck me as so powerful that Black has to react as he did in the game, weakening

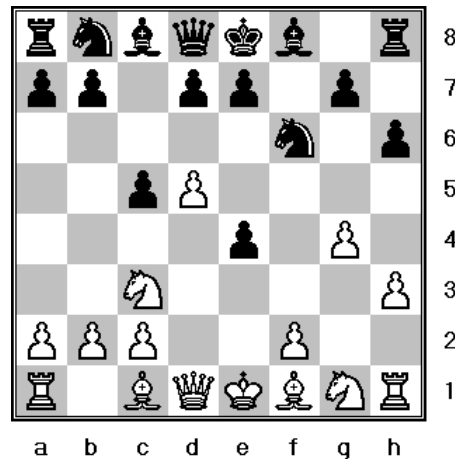
his Kingside light squares.

5. ...h6 6. h3!

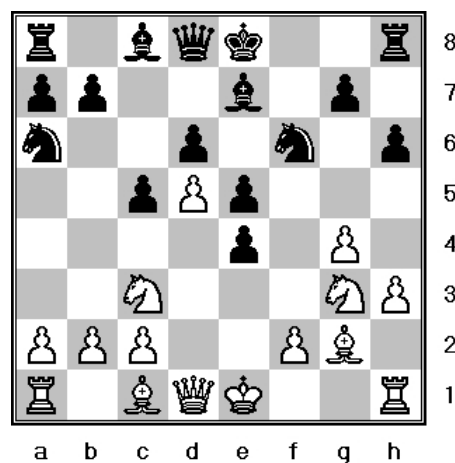
“After this move, Black regrets his opening choice.”
– Peter Leko

And this very nasty little move most certainly came as a disappointment for my opponent. White suddenly “lurches” from full attack throttle mode to quiet strategic play.

White’s play is annoyingly clear. He is planning to win back the e4-pawn which would just leave Black with a bevy of weak light squares to nurse. As GM Peter Leko remarked to me after the game, “After this move, Black regrets his opening choice.”



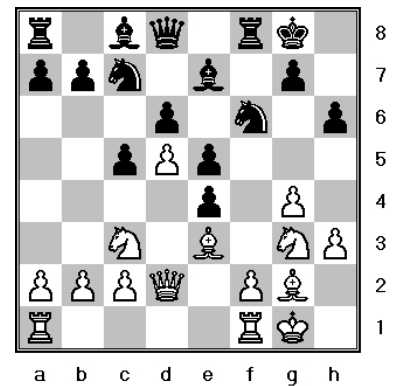
6. ...d6 7. Nge2 e5 8. Ng3 Be7 9. Bg2 Na6



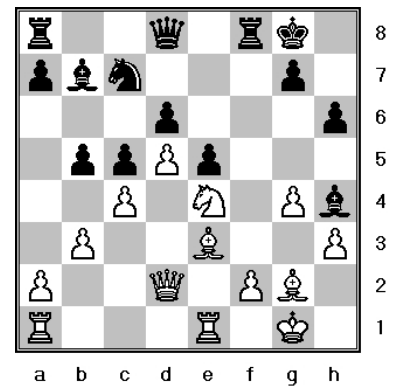
10. Nxe4

Recapturing the pawn was certainly good for team morale but there was a very good case to be made for delaying this capture for as long as possible, hoping to squeeze an additional concession or two

from Black. For example: 10. 0-0 0-0 11. Be3 Nc7 12. Qd2.

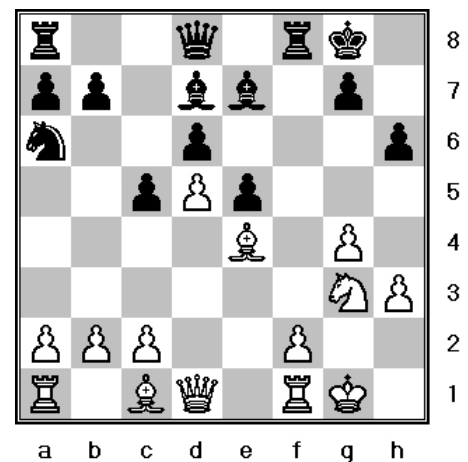


White’s play is straight-forward. By first connecting his rooks, White is hoping that following a recapture on e4 and a future f2-f4 break, not to mention a Be3xh6 possibility, Black will be overwhelmed on the kingside. Play might proceed 12. ...b6!? 13. Ngxe4 Ba6 14. Rfe1 Bb7, and Black is drifting without a plan: 15. Nxf6+ Bxf6 16. Ne4 Bh4 17. c4 b5 18. b3.



White will prove that Black’s queenside development is poor and that White in fact has advantages across the whole board.

10. ...Bd7 11. 0-0 Nxe4 12. Bxe4 0-0



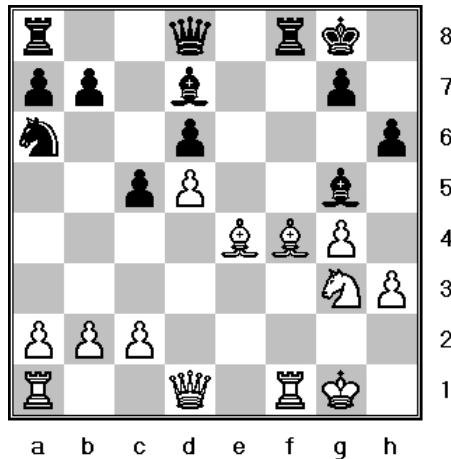
Since the opening everything has been flowing smoothly. With the more effective development, now seemed the right time to

pry things open in the center and kingside.

13.f4! exf4!?

For some reason this move came as a surprise. I thought that before capturing Black had to necessarily insert 13. ...Bb5 to keep the d6-pawn protected: 13. ...Bb5 14. Rf3 exf4 15. Bxf4 Bg5 16. Bxg5 (16. Bf5 Nc7!) 16. ...Qxg5 17. a4 Bd7 18. Qe2, when I liked my position.

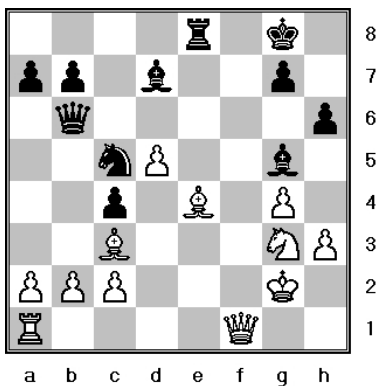
14. Bxf4 Bg5



The speed with which Shaq played the text was impressive. Brilliance or bluff? Isn't that d6-pawn just hanging?

15. Qd2?!

Bluff or not, I decided to back down from the real challenge. 15. Bxd6! Rxf1+ 16. Qxf1 Qb6 17. Be5 Re8 18. Bc3 c4+ 19. Kg2 Nc5

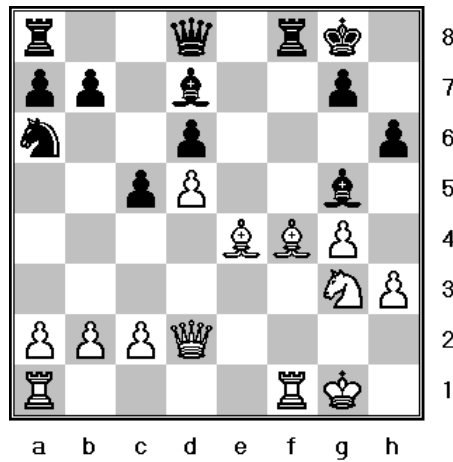


20. Qxc4 Nxe4 21. Nxe4 Bb5 is a variation I had analyzed where something has gone terribly wrong for White.

I got scared!

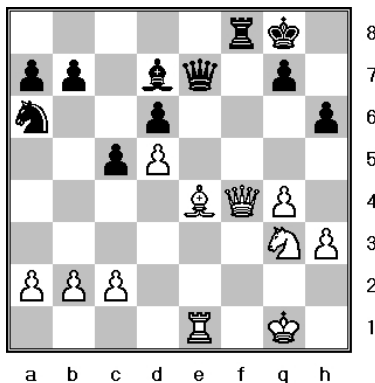
Of course, I shouldn't fall for my weakness of grabbing pawns, particularly the c4-pawn. Instead, the calm 20. Re1 would have secured White a nice plus.

Let's call Black's 14th move for what it is: a brilliant bluff.



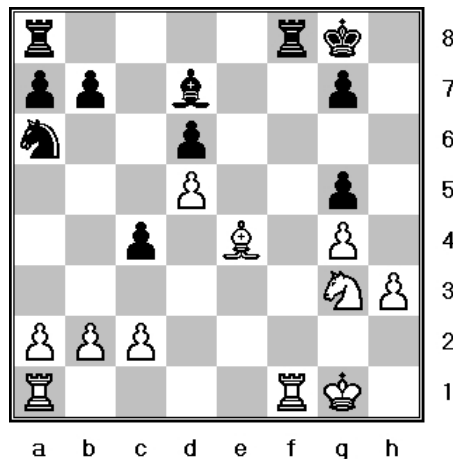
15. ...c4!

A plain old "ornery" type of move. Black refuses to be cooperative and go into defensive mode, instead playing to activate his a6-Knight. I had expected/hoped for: 15. ...Rxf4?! 16. Rxf4 Qe7 17. Re1 Bxf4 18. Qxf4 Rf8



19. Bh7+ Kxh7 20. Rxe7 Rxf4 21. Nh5! +/- Or alternatively, 15. ...Nc7?! 16. Bxg5 Qxg5 17. Qxg5 hxg5 18. c4 b5 19. b3, when I had hopes of using the f5-square for a full body massage.

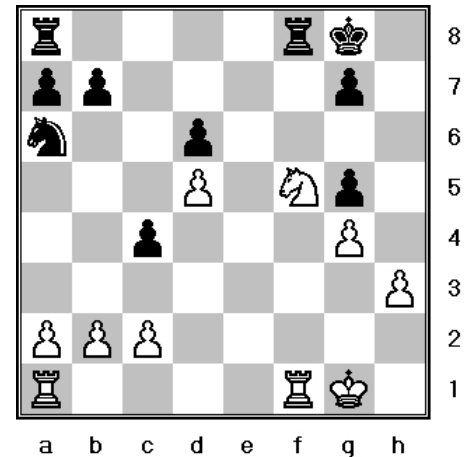
16. Bxg5 Qxg5 17. Qxg5 hxg5



Thanks to Black's inclusion of ...c5-c4 on his fifteenth move, this isn't the same

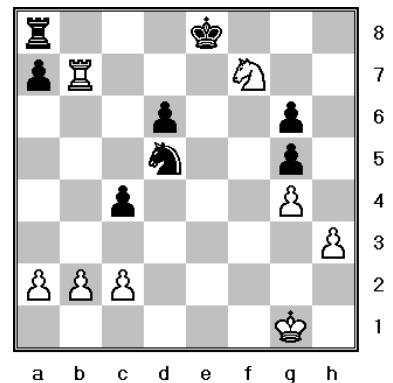
ending that I hoped for. Black's knight is now more active than in the previous line.

18. Bf5 Bxf5 19. Nxf5



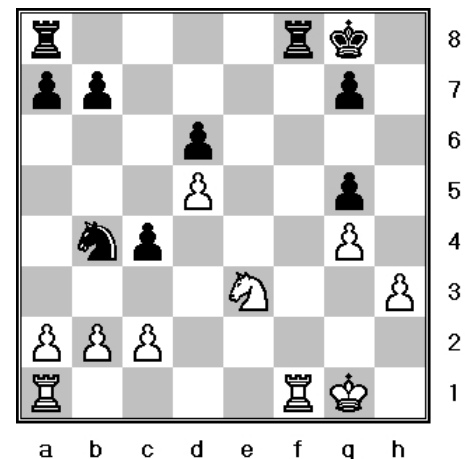
19. ...Nb4!

More annoyance. Don't you just hate it when your opponent refuses to be cooperative? Here I was hoping that Black would get bogged down with the defense of his d6-pawn: 19. ...Rf6? 20. Rae1 Nb4 21. Re7 g6 22. Nh6+ Kf8 23. Rf7+ Rxf7 24. Rxf7+ Ke8 25. Rxb7 Nxd5 26. Nf7 +-,



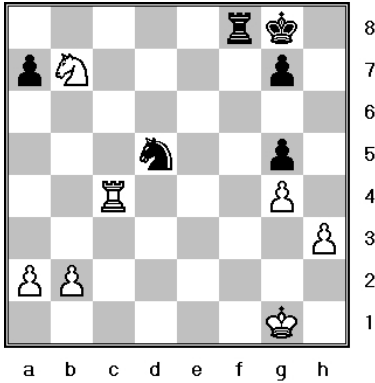
when Black finds himself in a losing ending.

20. Ne3



A very reluctant retreat as with it I recognize that the lion's share of my proud advantage has slipped away.

The problem is that captures do not win it back. 20. Nxd6 Nxc2! 21. Rxf8+ Rxf8 22. Rc1 Ne3 23. Nxb7 Nxd5 24. Rxc4

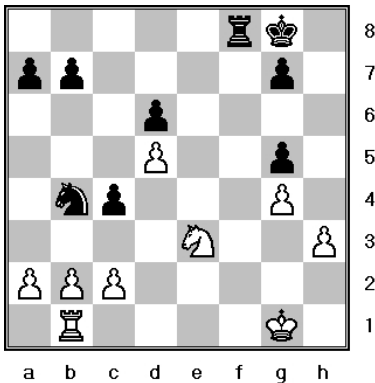


24. ...Rb8! 25. Rd4 Rxb7 26. Rxd5 Rxb2 27. Ra5 Kh7 28. Rxa7 Kh6, when I was fearful the rook and pawn ending would be an easy draw.

20. ...Rxf1+!

The best.

Once more, I thought that the alternative offered me chances for a plus. 20. ...Rae8?! 21. Rxf8+ Rxf8 22. Rb1!

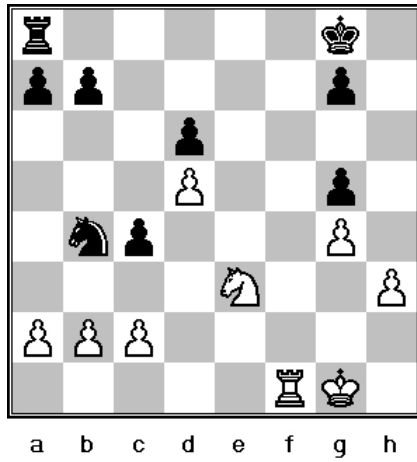


A very subtle move on which I had banked regaining an advantage. The basic idea is simply to drive Black's knight away and start grabbing any low hanging pawns.

Instead, 22. a3 Re8 23. axb4 Rxe3 24. Rxa7 b5 25. Rb7 Re2 26. c3 Rxb2 27. Rxb5 Rc2 28. Rb6 Rxc3 29. Rxd6 Rxh3 30. Rc6 c3 31. b5 Rg3+ 32. Kf2 Rxc4 33. b6 Rb4 is an amusing "wipeout" variation that typically ends in a draw.

After 22. Rb1, 22. ...b5 23. a3 Na6 24. b3 (24. a4; 24. Nf5) 24. ...Rf3 25. Nf5 Nc7 26. bxc4 bxc4 27. Rb8+ Kh7 28. Rb7 Nxd5 29. Rxc7+ Kh8 30. Rxa7 leaves White with the sunny side of a likely draw.

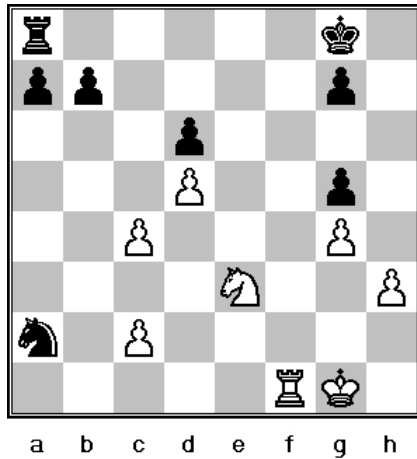
21. Rxf1



21. ...c3!

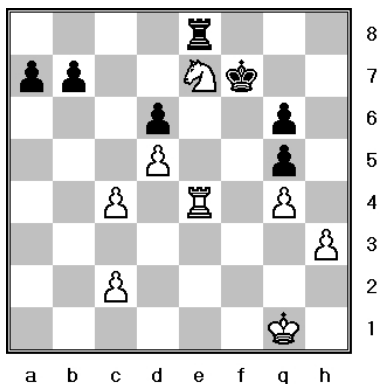
Brilliant play by Shaq as he secures a draw. The last chance for him to be cooperative was to play: 21. ...b5? 22. a3 Re8 23. Kf2 Na6 24. Nf5, with a sizable advantage.

22. bxc3 Nxa2 23. c4

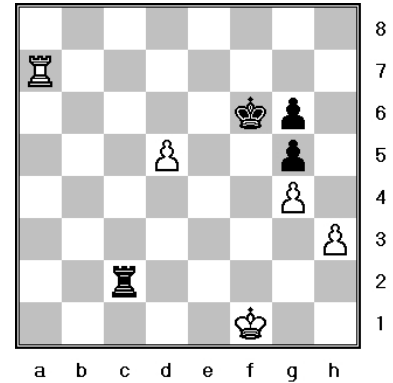


23. ...a5?

After fighting his way back to equality from a difficult opening, Shaq suddenly misjudges the position and gets excessively optimistic due to my time trouble. He had only to bring his knight back into play to draw: 23. ...Nc3! 24. Nf5 Ne4! 25. Re1 g6! 26. Ne7+ Kf7 27. Rxe4 Re8.



After this very fine sequence of moves the draw is inevitable: 28. Re6 Rxe7 29. Rxd6 Rc7 30. Kf1 Rxc4 31. Rd7+ Kf6 32. Rxb7 Rxc2 33. Rxa7



33. ...Rd2=.

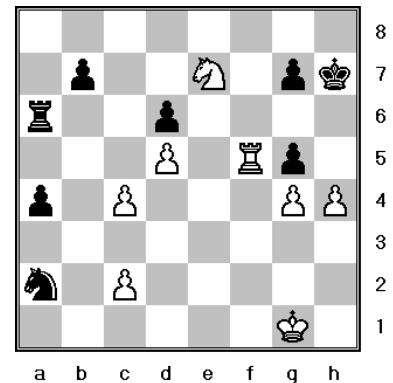
24. Nf5!

Reliving the dream of getting an active knight that may capture a few pawns. A favorite treat for my knights.

24. ...a4?

Shaq suddenly misjudges the position and gets excessively optimistic...

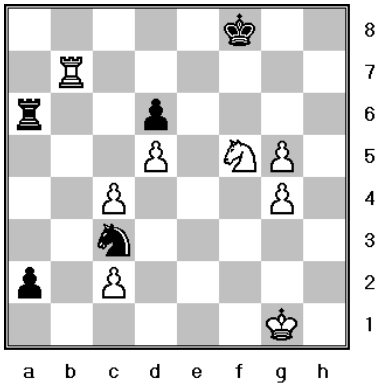
A really stunning surprise and the second mistake on the trot. Now in time trouble my mind was racing at a hundred miles an hour as I was calculating a long surprising variation that seemed to have a certain flow and to make sense... I concentrated on 24. ...Ra6, as I thought that it was vital that Black try to defend the d6-pawn. 25. Ne7+ Kh7 26. Rf5! (26. Kf2!?) 26. ...a4 27. h4!!



Surprise, surprise! Out of nowhere White is trying to weave a mating net.

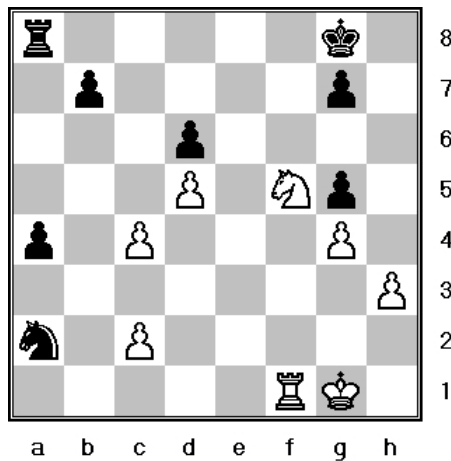
The text is a prelude to h4xg5, g5-g6+, and mate next. 27. ...Nc3 28. hxg5 g6 (forced) 29. Rf7+ Kh8 30. Nxc3+ Kg8 31. Rxb7 a3 32. Ne7+ Kf8 33. Nf5 a2

(analysis diagram top of next page)



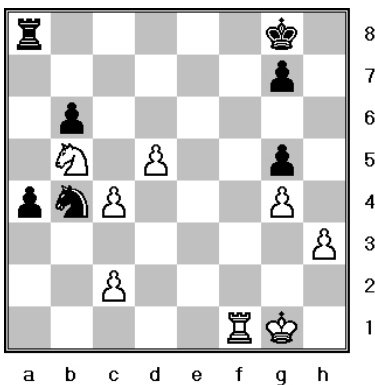
34. g6 a1Q+ 35. Kg2 Ke8 36. g7 +- is one of those lines you hope and pray that you haven't missed a critical defensive resource.

On the other hand, 24. ...Rd8?! dropping the a-pawn made no sense: 25. Ra1 Nc3 26. Rxa5.



25. Nxd6 a3?

Oh my, a total collapse. Black has landed himself in trouble but he simply had to play 25. ...b6 26. Nb5 Nb4



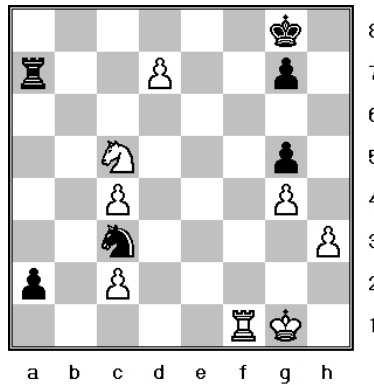
27. Na3!±

26. Nxb7

Munching is good. Quite unexpectedly my knight is perfectly positioned to escort my pawns to coronation.

26. ...Nb4

I had seen, much to my relief, that if my knight is chased it too can come back to help stop the a-pawn: 26. ...Ra7 27. Nc5 Nc3 28. d6 a2 29. d7!



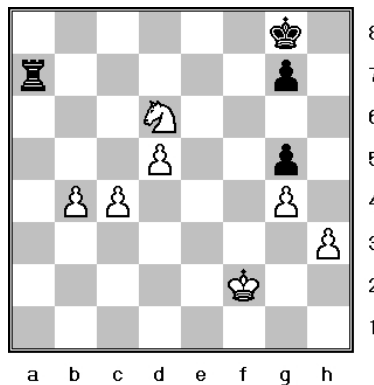
(Stronger than 29. Nb3.) 29. ...Rxd7 30. Nxd7 Nb1 31. Rf8+ Kh7 32. Ra8! Definitely halting Black's a-pawn.

27. c3!

Simply winning.

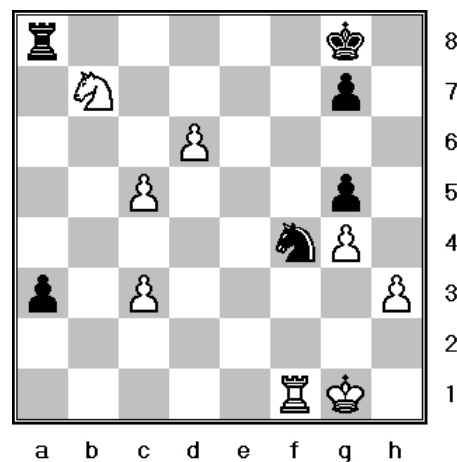
27. ...Nd3

A pity. The variation of three connected pawns and knight versus a rook, 27. ...a2 28. cxb4 a1=Q 29. Rxa1 Rxa1+ 30. Kf2 Ra7 31. Nd6,



would play itself as the pawns march forwards unimpeded.

28. c5 Nf4 29. d6



Thanks to the thirty-second bonus time control, time trouble isn't an issue. My opponent now resigned.

1-0

2011 Oregon Senior Chess Championship by Frank Niro

Mike Janniro and Steven Deeth tied for first place in the 17-player Oregon Senior Chess Championship held in Oregon City on the weekend of July 9-10, 2011. The co-champions played to a draw in the final round. Both players had three wins and two draws in the five round event for a total of four points. Five players finished within a half point of each other in the hotly contested tournament. Carl Koontz, champion of the host Oregon City/West Linn Chess Club, earned a tie for third place at 3 1/2 points with Bill Heywood and Roland Eagles.

Eagles also took the title of over-60 champion while Gerry Reiner had 3 points to earn the over-70 title as well as the under-1800 prize. Greg Markowski and Stephan Pettengill shared under-1600 honors. Dave Prideaux, playing in his first rated tournament, was the under-1400 winner.

A permanent trophy was purchased by the host club in honor of the club's founder who recently passed away. Known as the Dr. Ralph Hall Memorial Award, the trophy will be engraved each year with the names of the Oregon Senior Chess Champions.

This year's co-champions also received individual engraved trophies commemorating their victory. The awards were presented at a ceremony in honor of Dr. Hall during the Portland Chess Club Centennial Open in August.

The tournament was organized by the Oregon Chess Federation, directed by Frank Niro, and sponsored by the Geezer Gallery:

(www.geezergallery.com).

Oregon Senior Games

by Steven Deeth

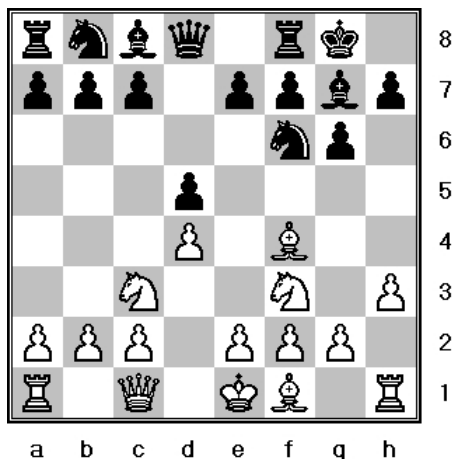
| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1 | Janniro, Mike | 2071 | 2086 | W-11 | W-5 | W-6 | D-3 | D-2 | 4.0 |
| 2 | Deeth, Steven | 2062 | 2074 | W-14 | W-10 | D-3 | W-6 | D-1 | 4.0 |
| 3 | Koontz, Carl | 2027 | 2033 | W-16 | W-15 | D-2 | D-1 | D-5 | 3.5 |
| 4 | Heywood, Bill | 2000 | 2000 | W-8 | L-6 | HPB | W-14 | W-17 | 3.5 |
| 5 | Eagles, Roland | 1983 | 1989 | W-9 | L-1 | W-15 | W-10 | D-3 | 3.5 |
| 6 | Gutman, Richard | 2068 | 2062 | W-7 | W-4 | L-1 | L-2 | W-10 | 3.0 |
| 7 | Reiner, Gerald | 1603 | 1608 | L-6 | L-8 | HPB | W-11 | W-14 | 2.5 |
| 8 | Markowski, Greg | 1377 | 1419 | L-4 | W-7 | D-14 | W-13 | L-9 | 2.5 |
| 9 | Pettengill, Stephan | 1269 | 1353 | L-5 | L-11 | D-13 | W-16 | W-8 | 2.5 |
| 10 | Burris, Chris | 1788 | 1783 | W-12 | L-2 | W-11 | L-5 | L-6 | 2.0 |
| 11 | Greger, Tom | 1656 | 1640 | L-1 | W-9 | L-10 | L-7 | W-16 | 2.0 |
| 12 | Prideaux, Dave | UNR | 1281 | L-10 | L-14 | L-16 | BYE | W-13 | 2.0 |
| 13 | Richards, Jerrold | 1244 | 1252 | L-15 | W-16 | D-9 | L-8 | L-12 | 1.5 |
| 14 | Berger, Brian | 1569 | 1551 | L-2 | W-12 | D-8 | L-4 | L-7 | 1.5 |
| 15 | Banner, Richard | 1800 | 1800 | W-13 | L-3 | L-5 | HPB | X | 1.5 |
| 16 | Dietz, Arliss | 1500 | 1500 | L-3 | L-13 | W-12 | L-9 | L-11 | 1.0 |
| 17 | Niro, Frank | 1703 | 1700 | HPB | X | X | X | L-4 | 0.5 |

Games from the 2011 Oregon Senior Chess Championship:

Brian Berger – Steven Deeth

**Oregon Senior Championship, Round 1
Oregon City, July 9, 2011**

**1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. Bf4
Bg7 5. h3 0-0 6. Qc1**

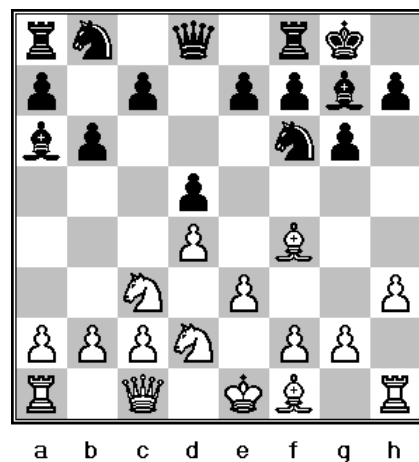


This seems strange. If White wants to play Bh6 to exchange bishops, then why play h3, which presumably was to give the bishop a retreat square? 6. e3 is the obvious move.

6. ...b6

To exchange light-squared bishops, and to provoke e3 so that White can no longer play Bh6. However Black does better with the more straightforward 6. ...c5 7. e3 (7. dxc5 d4 8. Nb1 Nc6) 7. ...Ne4 8. Be2 Nc6. In these lines the pawn on d4 is missing the protection of the White queen.

7. e3 Ba6 8. Nd2?



This takes too much time. White should just play 8. Bxa6 Nxa6 9. 0-0 c5, when Black's knight is misplaced on a6.

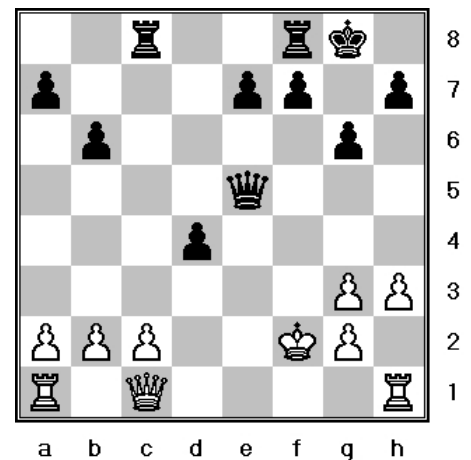
8. ...Bxf1 9. Nxf1 c5 10. Nd2 Nc6 11. Nf3 Nh5 12. Be5 Nxe5

It may be better to take with the bishop, leaving the knight on h5 with an escape: 12. ...Bxe5 13. dxe5 d4 14. exd4 Nxd4.

13. dxe5 d4 14. exd4 cxd4 15. Ne4?

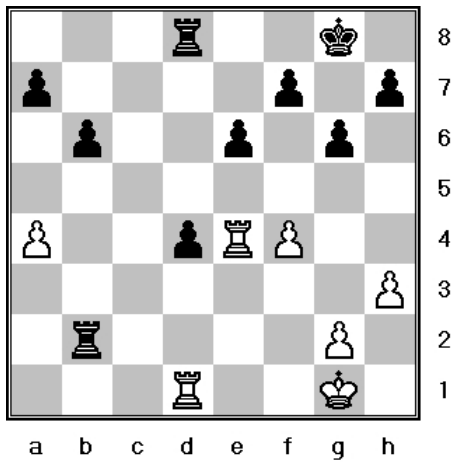
Better 15. Ne2, when Black plays 15. ...Qd5 preventing 16. g4.

**15. ...Qd5 16. Ng3 Nxg3 17. fxg3 Bxe5
18. Nxe5 Qxe5+ 19. Kf2 Rac8**



White is losing another pawn.

**20. Re1 Qf5+ 21. Kg1 Rxc2 22. Qf4
Qxf4 23. gxf4 e6 24. Re4 Rd8 25. Rd1
Rxb2 26. a4**



26. ...Ra2

26. ...a5 is clearer: 27. Rxd4 Rxd4 28. Rxd4 Rb4 29. Rd6 Kf8.

27. Rxd4 Rxd4 28. Rxd4 h5 29. g4 hxg4 30. hxg4 Kf8 31. Kf1 Ke7 32. g5 Rc2

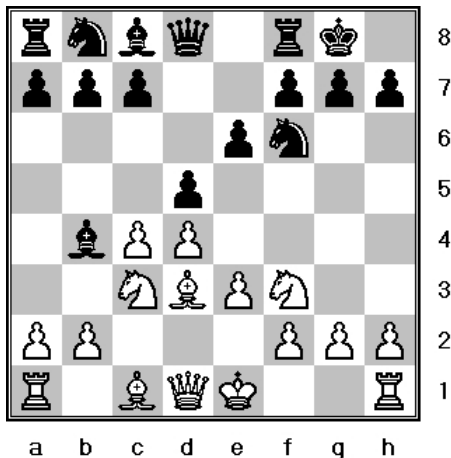
32. ...a5, with the same idea as before.

33. Kg1 Rc5 34. Kf2 e5 35. Re4 Ke6 36. fxe5 Rxe5 37. Rg4 Kf5 38. Rg3 Re4 39. Rd3 Kxg5 40. Rd7 Rxa4 41. Ke3 f5 42. Rd5 Kg4 43. Rd1 f4+ 44. Kd3 g5 45. Rg1+ Kf5 46. Rh1 Ra3+ 47. Kd4 f3 48. Rh8 Kf4 49. Rf8+ Kg3 50. Ke4 g4

0-1

Steven Deeth – Chris Burris
Oregon Senior Championship, Round 2
Oregon City, July 9, 2011

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 0-0 5. Bd3 d5 6. Nf3



6. ...Ne4

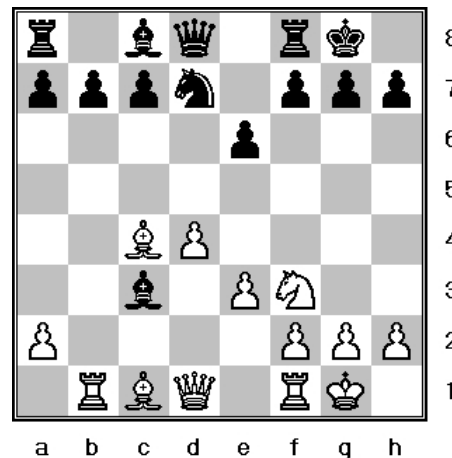
This seems very time-consuming. 6. ...c5 is normal.

7. 0-0

Sacrificing a pawn for development and central control. White plays this in a similar line in the 4. ...b6 variation of the Nimzo-

Indian, so I thought it might work here. 7. Qc2 is normal.

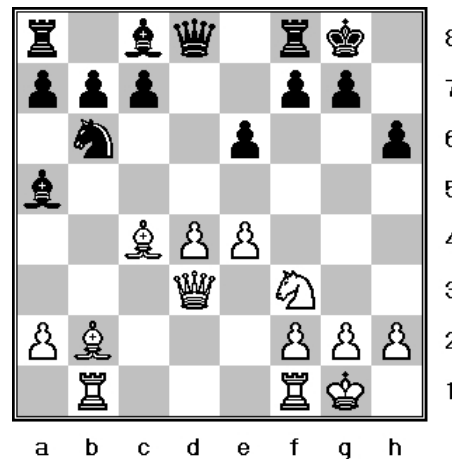
7. ...Nxc3 8. bxc3 Bxc3 9. Rb1 dxc4 10. Bxc4 Nd7



11. Qd3

11. Qc2 Ba5 12. Ba3 Re8 13. Rfd1 is another way to play this. White has quite a lot of compensation for the pawn.

11. ...Ba5 12. e4 h6 13. Bb2 Nb6



White has enough compensation for the pawn. White will eventually play e5 or d5, place a bishop on c2 and try to build a kingside attack. Because of this, Black's last move does not seem right. The knight might be needed on the kingside, and it takes away a square from the bishop on a5 as well as cutting a possible defence of the bishop by the queen with ...c6. Also the white bishop will now be one square nearer to c2.

14. Bb3 c5?

Dropping a pawn.

15. Qb5 Nd7 16. dxc5 Bc7 17. Rbc1

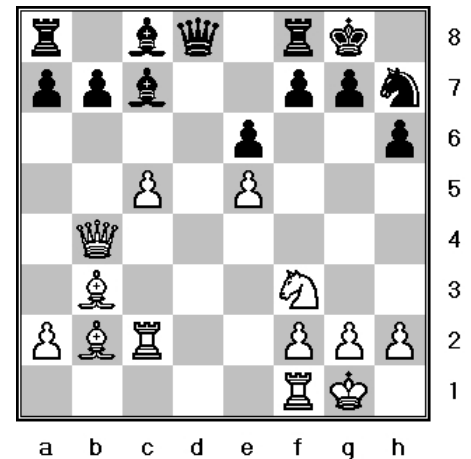
I wanted to protect the c-pawn so that if Black plays ...Qe7 he does not gain a tempo for ...e5, blocking the center. However this allows Black's next. Better is 17. c6 or 17.

Rfd1.

17. ...Bf4 18. Rc2 Nf6 19. Qb4

Threatening e5. However it seems better to play this move immediately: 19. e5 Nd5 20. Rd1.

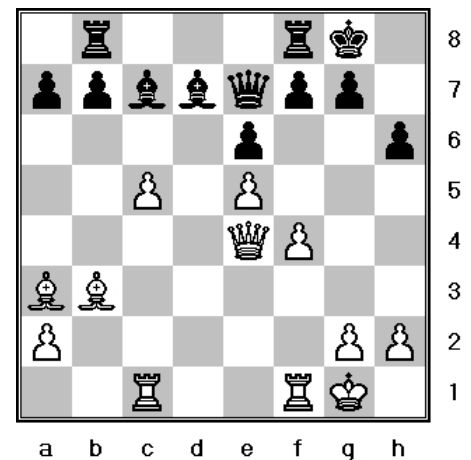
19. ...Bc7 20. e5 Nh7?



21. Rcc1?

Allowing Black to exchange the knight. 21. h4! blocks in the knight.

21. ...Ng5 22. Nxg5 Qxg5 23. f4 Qe7 24. Qe4 Rb8 25. Ba3 Bd7



26. c6!

This works out well, although I can't say I saw all of it.

26. ...Qxa3

Not 26. ...Bxc6? 27. Rxc6 Bb6+ 28. Rxb6 Qxa3, but 26. ...Bb6+ 27. Kh1 Bxc6 (27. ...Qxa3 28. cxd7 Qe7 29. Rfd1 is a position that could have been reached at the end of the game, when White has a significant advantage. Instead White can just win the exchange with 28. Bxe7). Now it turns out that White can play for an attack with 28. Rxc6 Qxa3 29. Bc2 Rfd8 (29. ...g6? 30. Rxe6) 30. Qh7+ Kf8 31. Rxe6 fxe6 32. f5 with a winning attack.) 28. ...Bxe4 29.

Bxf8 Kxf8. I probably would have done this, but I am not sure this is enough to win.

27. cxd7 Qe7??

Dropping a piece, but Black's position was not good.

27. ...Bb6+ 28. Kh1 Qe7, when White has a choice: 29. Rfd1 transposes to an earlier line, when White has a significant advantage, or 29. f5!? Qxd7 30. fxe6 fxe6 31. Qg6 Qe8 (31. ...Rfe8 32. Bc2; 31. ...Rbe8 32. Rxf8+ Kxf8 33. Rf1+ Kg8 34. Bc2) 32. Bxe6+ Kh8 33. Rxf8+ Qxf8 34. Bf5 Qg8 35. e6 Bd8.

28. Rxc7

1-0

**Carl Koontz – Steven Deeth
Oregon Senior Championship, Round 3
Oregon City, July 9, 2011**

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 e6

A simple line against the Trompovsky. A "normal" line can go something like 2. ...Ne4 3. Bf4 c5 4. f3 Qa5+ 5. c3 Nf6.

3. Nc3

If White plays 3. e4 then 3. ...h6 4. Bxf6 Qxf6 and Black has the two bishops.

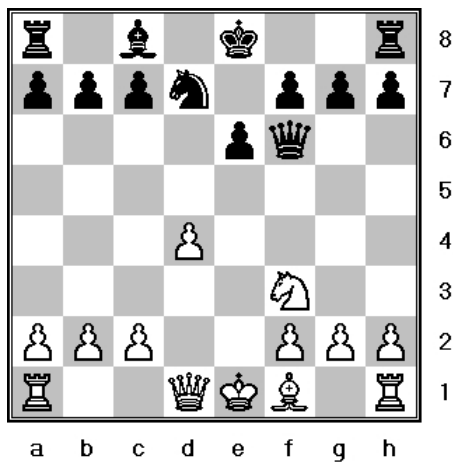
3. ...d5

Offering a transposition to a French. More consistent is 3. ...h6 4. Bxf6 Qxf6.

4. e4 dxe4 5. Nxe4 Be7 6. Nxf6+

It is probably better to retain an extra pair of pieces with 6. Bxf6 Bxf6 (or 6. ...gxf6).

6. ...Bxf6 7. Bxf6 Qxf6 8. Nf3 Nd7



A little passive. Better is 8. ...0-0-9. Bd3 c5 10. 0-0 cxd4 11. Nxd4 Rd8 12. Nf3 Nc6.

9. g3?!

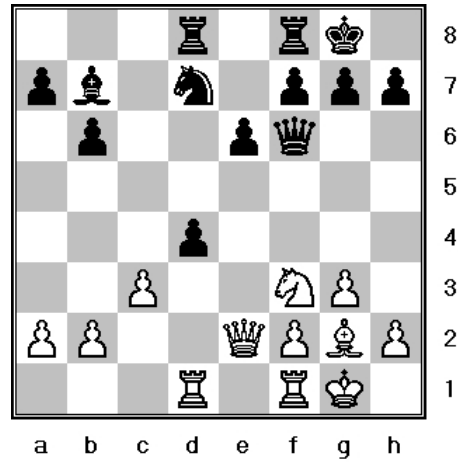
It seems more natural to play 9. Bd3 and castle kingside, or 9. Qd2 and castle

queenside.

9. ...b6 10. Bg2 Bb7 11. 0-0 Rd8

Black must be careful. 11. ...0-0 12. Ne5 Bxg2 13. Nxd7 Qf5 14. Nxf8 Bxf1 15. Nxe6 fxe6 16. Kxf1 and White has won a pawn.

12. c3 0-0 13. Qe2 c5 14. Rad1 cxd4



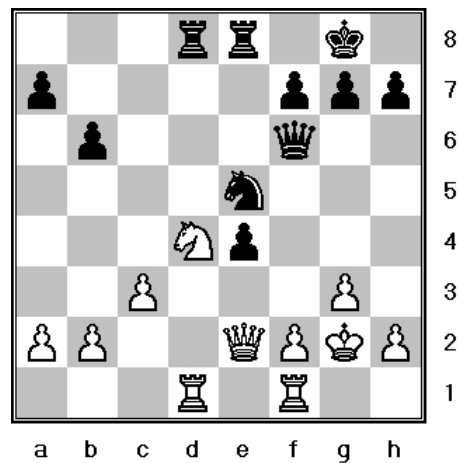
15. Nxd4

15. Rxd4 Nc5 16. Rfd1, and White is a bit better.

15. ...Bxg2 16. Kxg2 e5

Otherwise the white knight will land on c6.

17. Nf3 Rfe8 18. Qb5 e4 19. Nd4 Ne5 20. Qe2



20. ...Nc6?!

Too pessimistic. Black should play 20. ...Qg6 intending ...f5 with some advantage.

21. Nxc6 Qxc6 22. Kg1 Rc8

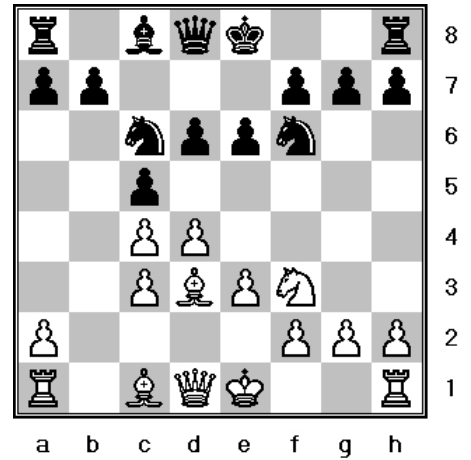
Trying to avoid an exchange of rooks.

23. Rd4 Rc7 24. Rfd1 Rce7 25. Qe3 h6 26. Rd5 Qa4 27. a3 Qb3 28. R1d2 Qa2 29. Kg2 Qb1 30. h3 Qa1

1/2-1/2

**Steven Deeth – Richard Gutman
Oregon Senior Championship, Round 4
Oregon City, July 10, 2011**

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 c5 5. Bd3 Nc6 6. Nf3 Bxc3+ 7. bxc3 d6



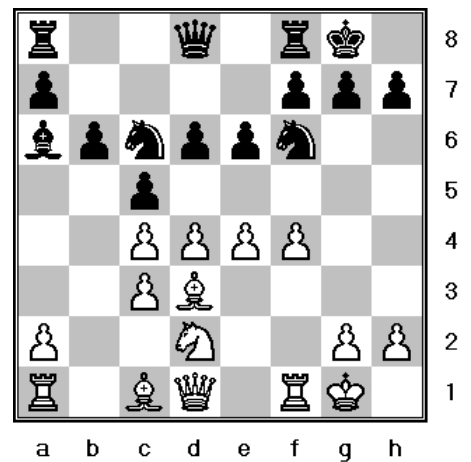
The Hubner variation. Black usually aims to block the center with ...e5, when White often plays d5 and e4. White then has a space advantage, but his bishops are shut in and he has a weak pawn on c4.

8. 0-0 0-0 9. Nd2

White aims for a more fluid center, which should suit his bishops better.

9. ...b6 10. f4!? Ba6 11. e4!?

Sacrificing the d-pawn for open lines for the bishops. This is a standard idea in some similar positions, but I am not sure that it works here.



11. ...e5

Declining the pawn, but Black probably should have taken it. 11. ...cxd4 12. cxd4 Nxd4 13. Bb2 e5 14. Nf3 Nxf3+ 15. Qxf3 Nd7 and White does not have enough for the pawn.

12. Nf3

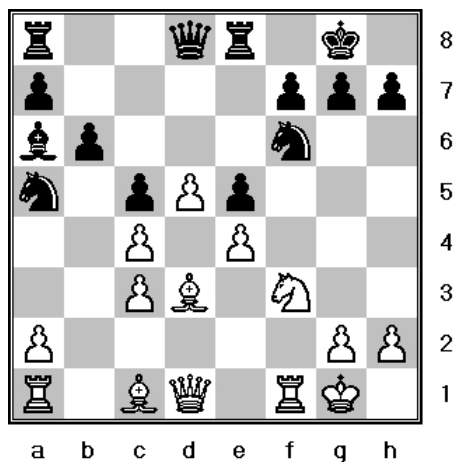
Still offering the pawn. 12. d5 may be

better. It reaches a similar position to the game without still offering the pawn sacrifice.

12. ...Re8

12. ...cxd4 13. cxd4 Nxd4 14. Nxd4 exd4 15. Bb2 Re8 16. Re1 Rc8 17. Rc1 Bb7.

13. fxe5 dxe5 14. d5 Na5



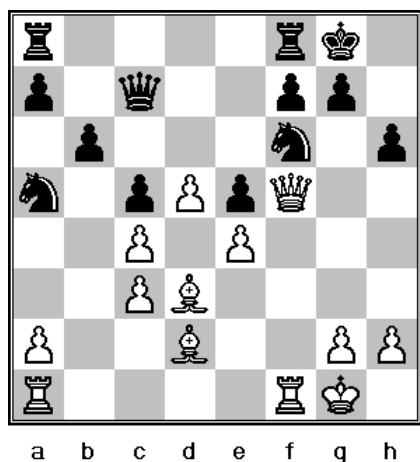
15. Qe2

Probably White should play 15. Bg5 while he has the chance. 15. ...h6 (15. ...Bxc4? 16. Nh4 Bxd3 17. Qxd3 c4 18. Qf3 and Black is in trouble.) 16. Bh4 Qd6 17. Nd2 and White is better.

15. ...h6 16. Bd2

16. Be3.

16. ...Bc8 17. Qf2 Qc7 18. Nh4 Rf8 19. Nf5 Bxf5 20. Qxf5



20. ...Ne8 21. Qg4 Kh7 22. Rf3 f6 23. Rg3

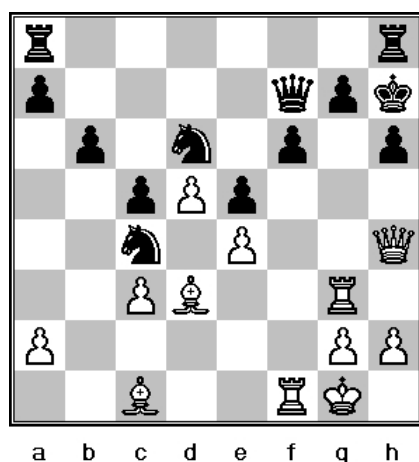
23. Raf1.

23... Qf7 24. Rf1 Nd6 25. Qh4

Sacrificing the c-pawn rather than

retreating to e2.

25. ...Naxc4 26. Bc1 Rh8



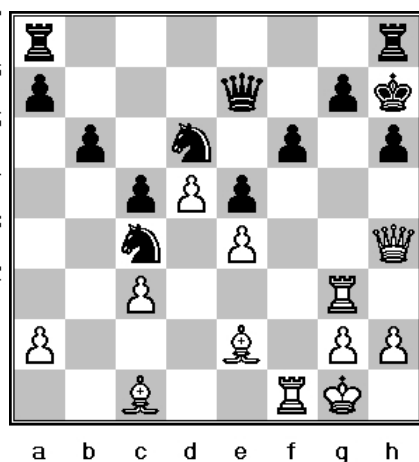
Here I decided that I needed to bring the light-squared bishop around to exploit Black's weak light squares. If it could get to e6 or h5 it could make a difference. But is this the best continuation?

What would you play here?

27. Be2?!

Sometimes you can overthink these things. 27. Bxh6! Kg8 (27. ...gxh6 28. Rxf6 and Black must give up his queen to avoid mate.) 28. Rxf6 Qe7 29. Qg4 Qxf6 (29. ...Rh7 30. Rg6) 30. Bxg7 Rh4 31. Qd7 Qf7 32. Bxe5+ Kf8 33. Bxd6+ Nxd6 34. Qxd6+ Qe7 35. Rf3+ and Black loses his queen. In fact White can play the same idea on move 26, first taking the knight on c4, then taking on h6, and after Black recaptures, Rf1-f5-h5.

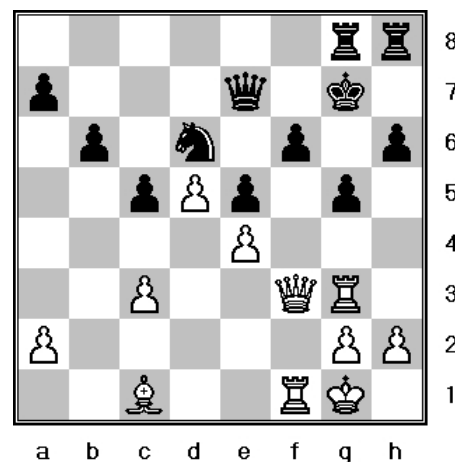
27. ...Qe7



28. Bg4?

28. Bxh6! gxh6 29. Rxf6 still wins, even though this time Black's queen is not attacked. 29. ...Nf7 30. Rxh6+ Nxh6 31. Qxe7+.

28. ...g5 29. Qh3 Kg7 30. Bf5 Rag8 31. Qg4 Nxf5 32. Qxf5 Nd6 33. Qf3



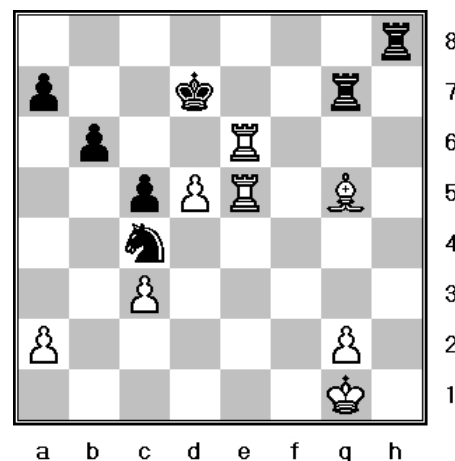
33. ...Kf7

33. ...Rf8 looks better.

34. h4 Ke8 35. Qxf6 Qxf6 36. Rxf6 Nxe4 37. Re6+ Kd7 38. Re3 Nd6 39. R3xe5 Rg7 40. hxg5 hxg5 41. Bxg5

White is better in this endgame, but we were entering a time scramble.

41. ...Nc4?



42. Re7+?

42. Bf6! wins at least the exchange. Rhh7 (42. ...Nxe5 43. Bxg7 Nf7 44. Bxh8 Nxh8) 43. Bxg7 Rxc7 44. Rf5.

42. ...Rxe7 43. Rxe7+ Kd6 44. Rxa7 Kxd5 45. Kf2 Rh1 46. g4 Rh3 47. Bf6 Ne5 48. g5 Rxc3 49. Bxe5 Kxe5 50. g6 Rc2+ 51. Kf3 Rc3+ 52. Kg4 Rc1 53. Kh5

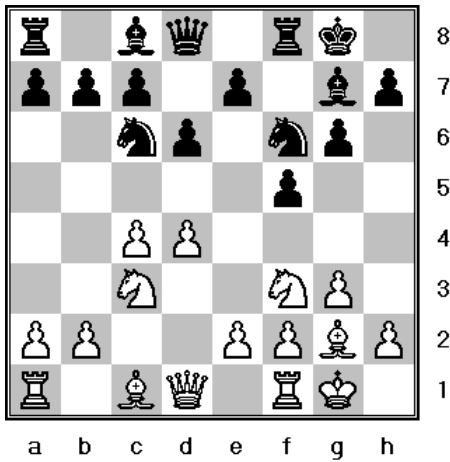
White won on time a few moves later.

1-0

Steven Deeth – Mike Janniro
Oregon Senior Championship, Round 5
Oregon City, July 10, 2011

1. d4 f5 2. Nf3 g6 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 Bg7

5. 0-0 0-0 6. c4 d6 7. Nc3 Nc6



The Leningrad Dutch.

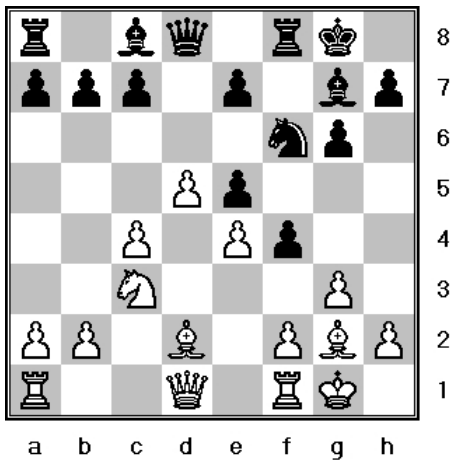
If Black can play ...e5 without any problems then he has an improved King's Indian, so White plays d5 so that a later ...e5 can be met by taking the pawn en passant.

8. d5 Ne5

Allowing his pawn formation to be compromised in hopes of a kingside attack.

8. ...Na5 is the alternative.

9. Nxe5 dxe5 10. e4 f4 11. Bd2



Taking the pawn looked too risky, so I just continued developing.

White is aiming to expand on the queenside and exploit Black's weaknesses (e5, e6, c5), while Black is aiming for a kingside attack.

11. ...g5 12. f3 a6 13. Na4

13. c5 may be better.

13. ...Nd7

This keeps White's knight out, but it seems that the knight will be needed for Black's kingside attack.

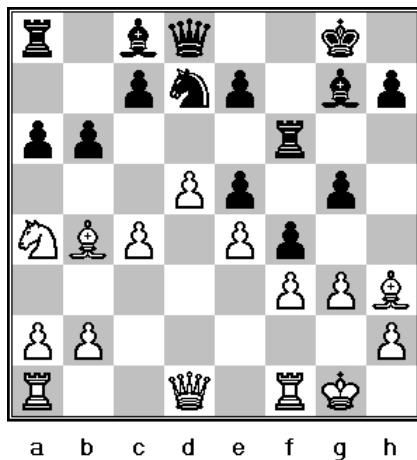
14. Bb4 Rf6



15. Bh3

White plans to exchange the light-squared bishops, leaving Black with weak light squares, particularly e6. Black's light-squared bishop is often useful for developing a kingside attack in King's Indian-type formations.

15. ...b6



This keep White's knight away from e6. How should White continue?

16. Bf5

16. d6! wins a pawn. 16. ...e6 (16. ...exd6? 17. Qd5+) 17. Bxe6+ Rxe6 18. Qd5 Nc5 19. Bxc5 Rb8 20. dxc7 Qxc7 21. Bf2.

16. ...Kh8 17. b3

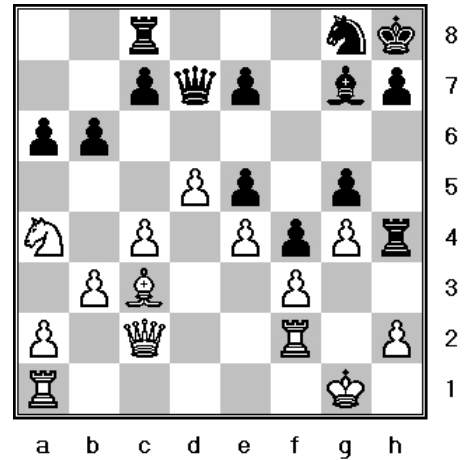
To reposition the knight with Na4-b2-d3. I was also thinking about 17. c5, which is not possible at the moment because of 17. ...b5 18. Nc3 a5. Now ...b5 can be answered by Nb2.

17. ...Rh6 18. Qc2 Nf6 19. Bxc8 Rxc8 20. g4 Qd7 21. Rf2?!

Unnecessary. White should be consistent with 21. Nb2 Rh3 22. Qg2 Rh4 23. Be1 Rh6 24. Nd3 and White is doing well.

21. ...Rh4 22. Bc3 Ng8?!

Black should probably try 22. ...h5 23. gxh5 (23. Bxe5 hxg4) 23. ...g4.



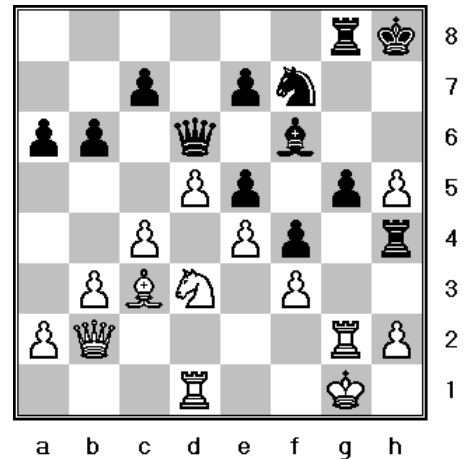
23. Nb2

Aiming for d3 and e5, but probably not best. White should take the opportunity to play 23. c5 b5 (23. ...bxc5 24. Nxc5) 24. Nb2.

23. ...h5 24. gxh5 Nh6 25. Nd3 Nf7 26. Qb2 Qd6 27. Rd1

This looks awkward. I wanted to protect the knight in case of ...c5. However White should probably continue on the queenside with 27. b4 Rxb5 (27. ...c5 28. bxc5 bxc5 29. Rb1) 28. c5 Qf6.

27. ...Rg8 28. Rg2 Bf6



29. Nf2

Not really necessary. The knight is already on its best square. Again White should continue on the queenside with something like 29. b4 g4 30. c5 bxc5 31. bxc5 Qd8 32. Rxg4 Rgxg4+ 33. fxg4 Qg8 34. Qe2 Rxb4+ 35. Kh1 +/-.

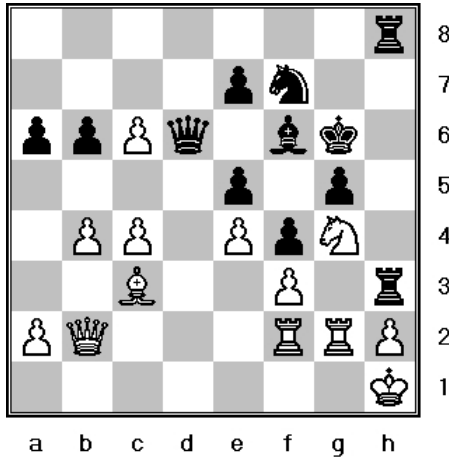
29. ...Rxb4 30. Ng4 Kg7 31. Rdd2

Too cautious. White should play b4 here or on the next move.

31. ...Kg6 32. Kh1 Rh3 33. Rdf2

33. Rd3 may be better, keeping a rook on the d-file.

33. ...Rgh8 34. b4 c5 35. dxc6



Now Black has to decide whether to abandon the e-pawn with ...Qxc6, or stay protecting it but possibly allow b5 with a protected passed pawn. How should he continue?

35. ...Qxc6

35. ...Rxf3! 36. Rxf3 Qd1+ 37. Be1 Qxf3 and White's position is coming apart.

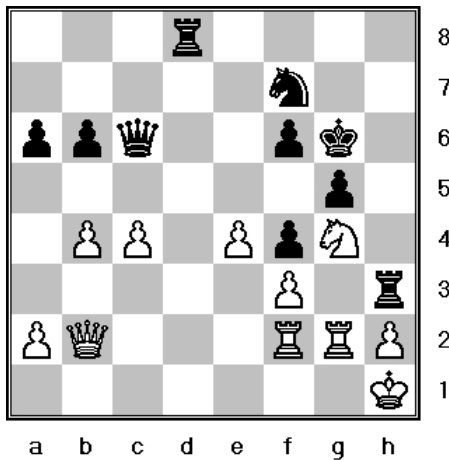
36. Bxe5 Rd8

White has finally won the pawn on e5, but Black's position is still resilient. 36. ...Nxe5 37. Nxe5+ Bxe5 38. Qxe5, but not 36. ...Qxc4? 37. Bxf6 exf6 38. Qxf6+ and wins.

37. Bxf6?!

This improves Black's pawn formation. 37. c5 may be better.

37. ...exf6



38. Qe2?!

Not the best. I was beginning to run short of time.

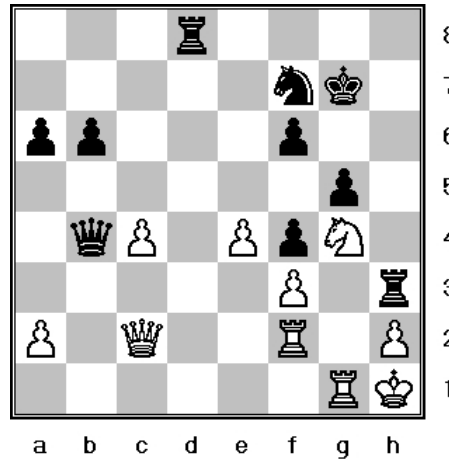
38. Qc3 keeps things under control, but

White may not be able to make much of his extra pawn.

38. ...Qa4 39. Rg1

White should play 39. b5 axb5 40. cxb5.

39... Qxb4 40. Qc2 Kg7



How should White continue? Black should play 40... Ne5 41. Nxe5+ fxe5 which is fairly equal.

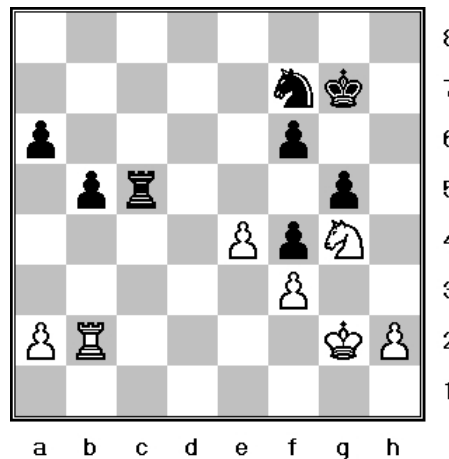
41. Rb1

41. e5! fxe5 42. Nxe5 Nxe5 43. Rxe5+ Kh8 44. Qf5 (44. Rxe5 is less good.) 44. ...Qe1+ 45. Rg1 Qxf2 46. Qxh3+ and mates.

41. ...Qc5 42. Qb2 Rd6 43. Kg2 Rh8 44. Re2 Re8 45. Rbe1?

45. Rd2 Rxd2+ 46. Qxd2 is still equal.

45. ...Qd4 46. Qxd4 Rxd4 47. Rc2 Rc8 48. Rec1 Rc5 49. Rb2 b5 50. Rcb1 Rdx4 51. Rd1 Rc2+ 52. Rd2 Rxb2 53. Rxb2



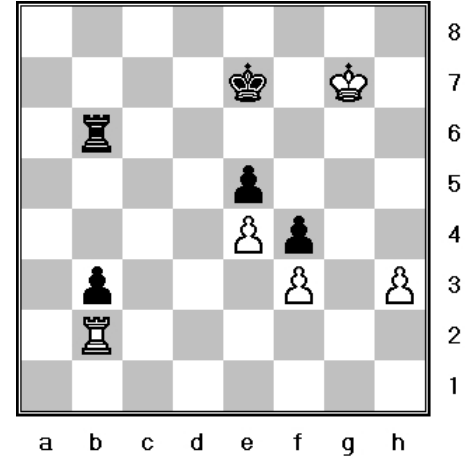
53. ...Ne5?

Not the best. This lets White's king into the game.

54. Nxe5 fxe5 55. Rd2 a5

Probably Black should try 55. ...Rc3. Black can't keep White's king out with 55. ...Kg6 because of 56. Rd6+ Kh5 57. Rxa6.

56. Kh3 b4 57. Kg4 Rb5 58. Kxg5 a4 59. Kf5 b3 60. axb3 axb3 61. Rb2 Kf7 62. h3 Ke7 63. Kg6 Rb6+ 64. Kg7



My opponent thought for a long time here. He had half an hour left, while I only had five minutes. If Black wants to make progress he has to continue with ...Kd6 when White has a choice between trying to win the e-pawn and playing with three pawns against a rook, or (my preference) pushing the h-pawn. Both seem to draw.

64. ...Ke6

My opponent offered a draw here, which I accepted. He explained to a spectator that there was no win because if ...Kd6 then Kf6.

Certainly the actual move played prevents Kf6, but it does not stop White from pushing the h-pawn, and in fact makes that line stronger for White. However, the result still seems to be a draw. Black can follow the line given after ...Kd6, when he is one move behind and queens just after White instead of just before, or he can move the king to c5 or c4 and then keep checking the White king until it moves back to g5, when the rook can block the advance of the h-pawn.

64. ...Kd6 65. h4 (65. Kf6 Kc5+ 66. Kxe5 Kc4 67. Kxf4 Kc3 is hard to assess, but it seems to be a draw. White has to give up his rook for the black pawn when it queens, but then Black seems only to be able to win two of the white pawns, and has to give up his rook for the third.) 65. ...Kc5 66. h5 Kc4 67. h6 Kc3 68. Rb1 Kc2 69. Rh1 b2 70. h7 Rb7+! 71. Kg6 Rb8 72. Kg7 b1=Q 73. Rxb1 Kxb1 74. h8=Q Rxh8 75. Kxh8 Kc2 76. Kg7 Kd3 77. Kf6 Ke3 78. Kxe5 Kxf3 79. Kd5 Kg3 80. e5 f3 81. e6 f2 82. e7 f1=Q 83. e8=Q with a draw.

1/2-1/2

Oyster Bay Inn Classic October 1-2, 2011



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Reserve U1400/unr. \$100, \$70, \$55 plus top Unrated score \$75.

Entry fee: \$40 if received by 9/24, \$50 after and on-site; USCF/NWC req.

Half-point bye: must be requested at registration, max. of one. Mail the below, cash/checks at site, or register online at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>.

Info: Kris (360) 479-0847, mrkrisyawho@yahoo.com, Joe Eversole joeeversole@q.com.

Hotel: Reduced rate from prior years: players \$60 single/dbl. in advance (early for one of many view rooms), mention Kitsap County Chess Club: (360) 377-5510, 1-800-393-3862. Entrants receive two \$5 restaurant/lounge coupons; site photo gallery and info.: www.oysterbayinnbremerton.com. See the Nov. 2010 NWC issue for an article on last year's Classic, and Dec. 2009 for the first, nwchess.com.

Entries, checks payable to: (please use all four address lines, a separate line for Apt C-102)

Kris Dietsch / Apt. C-102 / 2251 High View Ln. NW / Bremerton, WA 98312-5345

Enclose check: EF \$40 if received by 9/24, \$50 if received after.

Half-point bye request (one max.): Rd. _____

Name as on your USCF card:

Address:

City:

USCF number:

USCF expiration:

NWC expiration:

The 2011 Robert Karch Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner

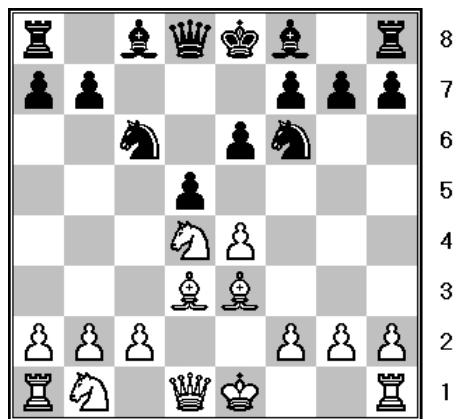
Northwest chess players lost a good friend and constant competitor in mid-July when Darby Monahan passed away. Darby was a constant figure at chess tournaments throughout the Puget Sound area, and managed to travel to events in Bellingham, Yakima, Spokane and Newport, OR. He was a regular visitor to Portland, often playing in the Oregon Open, and traveled to Nevada eight times for various tournaments. Darby also visited the east coast six times in the 1990s to attend the New York and World Opens. He played 1449 rated games in 397 events since 1991 and 90 rated games in the last 12 months. (Darby's record in chess goes back beyond 1991, but the USCF's website doesn't.)

Since I started keeping the Grand Prix records back in 2003, Darby was always among the most active and highest point earners, winning the overall championship for Washington in 2009, and winning first or second place class prizes in 2003, 2008, 2009, and 2010. Darby averaged over 120 Grand Prix points per year over the last seven years. At the time of his death, Darby was leading the Washington Class C standings and was in third place overall.

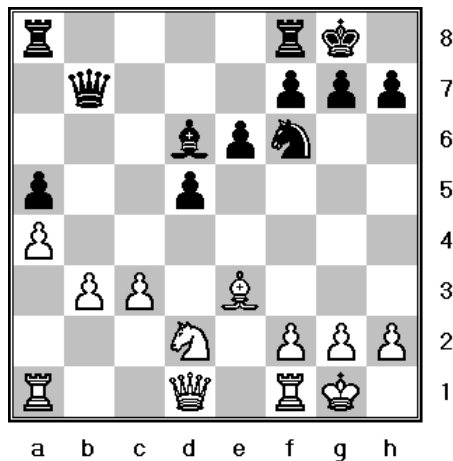
Darby and I had similar ratings, so we were often at nearby boards in tournaments we both attended, but only played once, at the 2007 Washington Open, where I made mistakes and Darby took advantage of those mistakes:

Darby Monahan – Murlin Varner
Washington Open, U 1700, Round 2
Seattle, Washington, May 26, 2007

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 e6 5. Be3 Nf6 6. Bd3 d5



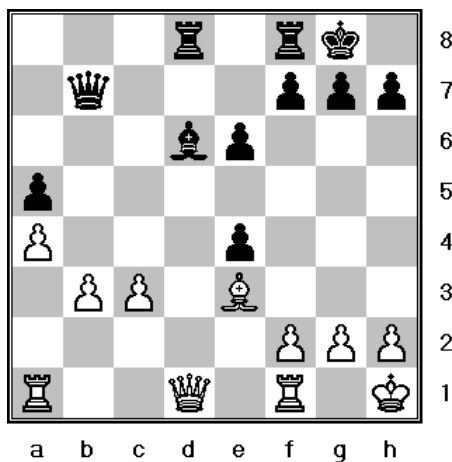
7. Nxc6 bxc6 8. exd5 cxd5 9. Bb5+ Bd7 10. Bxd7+ Qxd7 11. c3 Bd6 12. Nd2 0-0 13. 0-0 a5 14. a4 Qb7 15. b3



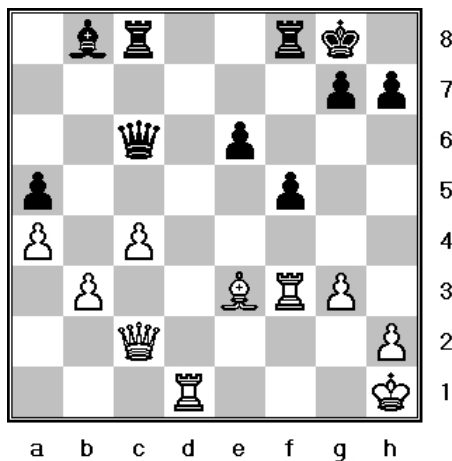
15. ...Rad8?

15. ...Qc7 16. h3 Qxc3.

16. Kh1 Ne4 17. Nxe4 dxe4



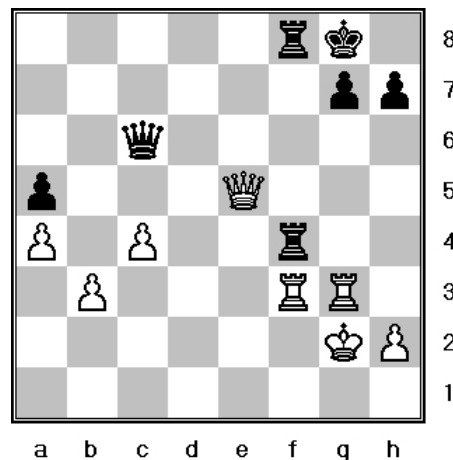
18. Qc2 Rc8 19. c4 f5 20. Rad1 Bb8 21. f4 exf3 22. Rxf3 Qc7 23. g3 Qc6



24. Qe2?!

24. Qg2!

24. ...f4 25. gxf4 Bxf4 26. Bxf4 Rxf4 27. Kg2 Rcf8 28. Rdd3 e5 29. Rde3 Qg6+ 30. Rg3 Qf6 31. Ref3! Qc6 32. Qxe5



32. ...Rxf3??

32. ...Qxf3+ 33. Rxf3 Rxf3 34. Qd5+ R3f7 35. c5 Kh8.

33. Qxg7#

1-0

You will note that Darby is still listed on the table below. His scores will remain until surpassed, most likely to happen after the Portland Chess Club Centennial the weekend after my article is due. With a 6x multiplier, that event is going to have a major effect on the standings throughout the table, so if you are there now, I hope you came to Portland on August 12-14, or you likely will not be there next month.

I'm going to miss Darby very much, and I don't think I am alone in that.

Oregon

Masters

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|------|
| 1 | Breckenridge, Steven ... | 78.5 |
| 2 | Raptis, Nick | 71.5 |
| 3 | Haessler, Carl A | 37.5 |
| 4 | Russell, Corey J | 15 |
| 5 | Roua, Radu | 14 |
| | | |

Experts

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|------|
| 1 | Botez, V Alexandra | 84 |
| 2 | Esler, Brian J | 63 |
| 3 | Brooks, Curtis | 49.5 |
| 4 | Hammer, Dale M | 45 |
| 5 | Gay, Daniel Z | 39.5 |
| 6 | Gutman, Richard G | 33.5 |

Class A

| | | |
|---|------------------------|------|
| 1 | Wen, David | 65.5 |
| 2 | Sherrard, Jerry | 59 |
| 3 | Cigan, Jason | 50 |
| 4 | Parnon, Calvin J | 44.5 |
| 5 | Chu-Kung, Ben | 38 |
| 6 | Ellis, Jason | 37 |

Class B

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|------|
| 1 | Shimada, Masakazu | 52.5 |
| 2 | Sun, Maxwell S | 29 |
| 3 | Witt, Steven A | 23.5 |
| 4 | Terrill, Michael | 22 |
| 5 | Hultman, Jan M | 20 |
| 6 | Malone, Robert | 16.5 |

Washington

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|------|
| 1 | Bragg, David R | 93.5 |
| 2 | Pupols, Viktors | 62.5 |
| 3 | Golub, David | 60.5 |
| 4 | Sinanan, Joshua C | 44.5 |
| 5 | Orlov, Georgi | 37.5 |
| 6 | Mikhailuk, Slava | 32.5 |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|------|
| 1 | Bartron, Paul R | 69 |
| 2 | Ummel, Igor | 67 |
| 3 | Feng, Roland | 59 |
| 4 | Lee, Nathan Y | 40.5 |
| 5 | Sen, Samir | 39.5 |
| 6 | Wang, Michael | 34.5 |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Buck, Stephen J | 105.5 |
| 2 | Fields, Noah | 90 |
| 3 | O'Gorman, Peter J | 87 |
| 4 | He, Daniel M | 85 |
| 5 | Haining, Kyle | 77 |
| 6 | Szabo, Marcell | 75 |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Kramlich, Dan | 100.5 |
| 2 | Walk, Alan | 79.5 |
| 3 | Soetedjo, James C | 70.5 |
| 4 | Palmer, Aaron | 67.5 |
| 5 | Lampman, Becca | 65 |
| 5 | Ambler, Dennis L | 65 |

Class C

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|------|---|------------------------|------|
| 1 | Murray, Dillon T | 44.5 | 1 | Monahan, Darby P | 89.5 |
| 2 | Midson, Tony | 21.5 | 2 | Piper, August | 76 |
| 3 | Maynard, Maurice | 20 | 3 | Zhang, Brendan | 59 |
| 4 | Stevens, Matthew | 16 | 4 | Baker, Ted | 52.5 |
| 5 | Brusselback, Lon | 14 | 5 | Ramesh, Jothi N | 52 |
| 6 | Falbo, Clement E | 13.5 | 6 | Varner, Murlin E | 49.5 |

Class D and Below

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------|---|-------------------------|------|
| 1 | Sharan, Pranav | 39 | 1 | Richards, Jerrold | 73 |
| 2 | Sharan, Praveer | 38.5 | 2 | Haining, Breck | 56.5 |
| 3 | Cohen, David S | 34 | 3 | Thomas, Arjun | 53 |
| 4 | Jewel, Nathan | 22.5 | 4 | Jones, Davey V | 52.5 |
| 5 | Goodlett, Joshua M | 21.5 | 5 | Padhi, Pratik | 41 |
| 6 | Petrachioiu, Ilie | 14 | 6 | Buzek, Jan | 40.5 |

Overall Leaders, by State

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|------|----|-------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Botez, V Alexandra | 84 | 1 | Buck, Stephen J | 105.5 |
| 2 | Breckenridge, Steven ... | 78.5 | 2 | Kramlich, Dan | 100.5 |
| 3 | Raptis, Nick | 71.5 | 3 | Bragg, David R | 93.5 |
| 4 | Wen, David | 65.5 | 4 | Fields, Noah | 90 |
| 5 | Esler, Brian J | 63 | 5 | Monahan, Darby P | 89.5 |
| 6 | Sherrard, Jerry | 59 | 6 | O'Gorman, Peter J | 87 |
| 7 | Shimada, Masakazu | 52.5 | 7 | He, Daniel M | 85 |
| 8 | Cigan, Jason | 50 | 8 | Walk, Alan | 79.5 |
| 9 | Brooks, Curtis | 49.5 | 9 | Haining, Kyle | 77 |
| 10 | Hammer, Dale M | 45 | 10 | Piper, August | 76 |
| 11 | Parnon, Calvin J | 44.5 | 11 | Szabo, Marcell | 75 |
| 11 | Murray, Dillon T | 44.5 | 12 | Richards, Jerrold | 73 |
| 13 | Gay, Daniel Z | 39.5 | 13 | He, Samuel F | 72 |
| 14 | Sharan, Pranav | 39 | 14 | Gelb, Nicolo R | 71.5 |
| 15 | Sharan, Praveer | 38.5 | 15 | Soetedjo, James C | 70.5 |

Nov 25-27 or 26-27 **Washington Class Championships**. GPP: 20. 6SS, 30/90, SD/1 (2-Day Option, Rds. 1-3, G/60), **\$6,000 Guaranteed**. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs. **Seattle Airport Marriott**, 3201 South 176th Street, Seattle, WA 98188. www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/seawa-seattle-airport-marriott. HR: \$95-95. 206-241-2000. 7 Sections, MASTER (2200/up), FIDE Rated, \$500-350-200 (U2300: \$150), EXPERT (2000-2199), FIDE Rated, \$400-300-175 (U2100: \$125), CLASS A (1800-1999), \$300-250-150 (U1900: \$100), CLASS B (1600-1799), \$300-250-150 (U1700: \$100), CLASS C (1400-1599), \$300-250-150 (U1500: \$100), CLASS D (1200-1399), \$300-250-150 (U1300: \$100), CLASS E (U1200 & Unr), \$150-125-100, (U1000: \$75, U800: \$75, Unrated: \$75). Unrated players may only win 1st-3rd in MASTER or Unrated prize in CLASS E. Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating. EF: MASTER \$90, EXPERT \$85, CLASS A to D \$80, CLASS E \$75. Deduct \$10 if postmarked or online by 11/18. **Deduct \$20 if postmarked or online by 10/28**. Rated players may play up one class only, add \$25 to EF. Special Medal Only EF: \$30 Juniors U21. 3-Day Schedule: Registration Fri (11/25) 8-9am. Rds.: Fri 10am & 5pm, Sat 10am & 5:30pm, Sun 9:00am & 3pm. 2-Day Schedule: Registration Sat (11/26) 8-9am. Rds.: Sat 9:30am, 12pm, 2:30pm then merges with 3-Day Schedule. Bye: limit 2, request before end of Rd. 2. Memb. Req'd: \$25 (\$17 juniors). OSA. ENT: Checks payable to **Washington Chess Federation**. Mail to: Eddie Chang, 2523 Lynnwood Ave NE, Renton, WA 98056-2448. Enter online: www.nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Info: wcf.tournaments@gmail.com, 425-922-7136. NS. NC. W. Chess Magnet School JGP.

29th Annual Sands Regency Reno - Western States Open

An American Classic & Heritage Event!!!

A Weikel Tournament

200 Grand Prix Pts. (Enhanced) • October 21-23, 2011 • F.I.D.E. Rated

\$33,200 (b/350) \$21,750 Guaranteed

40/2 - 20/1 - G 1/2 - 6 Sections

Entry: \$147 or Less • Rooms: \$29/\$59 While they last!

Wednesday 10/19 - Clock Simul (with Analysis!) - GM Sergey Kudrin - ONLY \$30!!

Thursday 10/20 - "A Celebration of Life, GM Larry Evans" and Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)
- Simul GM Lubosh Kavalek (\$15) - Blitz - 5 min. tourney - (\$20-80% to prize fund)

Saturday 10/22 - IM John Donaldson Clinic Game/Position Analysis (FREE)

Sunday 10/23 - Quick Tourney G/25 - 5 round Swiss (\$20 - 80% to prize fund)

Main Tournament

Registration: Thursday (5-8 pm) - Friday (9:00-10 am)

Round Times: 10/21 (Fri.) - Noon - 7 pm • 10/22 (Sat.) - 10 am - 6 pm • 10/23 (Sun.) - 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

For a flyer, call or e-mail: Chief TD N.T.D. Jerome V. (Jerry) Weikel, (775) 747-1405 / wackykl@aol.com

Room Reservations: Terrible's Sands Regency Casino Hotel, 1-866-FUN-STAY - Ask for code: **CHESSOCT**

For complete details, visit: www.renochess.org/wso



For more information: Call, write, or e-mail:

Organizer and Chief TD

**N.T.D. Jerome V. (Jerry) Weikel, (775)747-1405
6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno NV 89523,
wackykl@aol.com**

**Room Reservations: Call the Sands Regency,
1-866-FUN STAY. Ask for code CHESSOCT**

**To confirm receipt of entry:
See player list at
www.renochess.org/wso**

To download an application and for more info, visit www.sandsregency.com (Events Calendar Page)

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

↓ Address ↙
 2150 N 107 St
 Seattle WA 98133
 ↗ Infoline ↘
 206-417-5405
 www.seattlechess.org
 kleistcf@aol.com
 Address for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

Attendance at 2011's events

Novice (1/8)--2, (4/16)--3, (7/30)--5; *Quads* (1/22)--17, (2/5)--19, (3/19)--32, (4/16)--22, (5/14)--24, (6/11)--26, (7/9)--29; *Tornados* (1/2)--16, (1/30)--19, (2/27)--26, (3/27)--24, (4/17)--22, (5/8)--10, (6/5)--9, (7/17)--24, (8/7)--20; *City Championship* (1/14-16)--33; *Spring Open* (4/1-3)--56, *Yaz Lecture/Book-signing* (4/10)--60, *Adult Swiss* (4/30-5/1)--10, *Emerald City Open* (6/24-26)--50, *Seattle Seafair* (7/22-24)--64.

SCC Championship

Sept. 9, 16, 30, Oct. 7, 14, 28, Nov. 4

Format: 7-rd Swiss held on Friday evenings.
TC: 35/100 and 25/60. **EF:** \$30 if rec'd by 9/7, \$37 thereafter. SCC memb. req'd — special \$25 tnmt memb. **Prize fund:** 75% of EFs. **Prizes:** 23%-16%, U2000 9%, U1800 8%, U1600 7%, U1400 6%, Unrated 3%, Endurance 3%. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. **Rds:** Fridays 8 p.m. **Make-up Games for Rds 1-4:** 8 p.m. Wed. Sept. 21—1 make-up (G/75) game; 8 p.m. Wed. Oct. 5—1 make-up (G/75) game. **Byes:** 4 (1 in rds 5-7, commit by 10/7). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS. NC.

♣Sept 11, Oct 9

Sunday Tornado♣

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/64. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prize Fund:** \$10 from each EF. **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16%. **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

♣Sept 17, Oct 15

Saturday Quads♣

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quad. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-ASAP. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

October 21-23

SCC Team in Reno!!

Join the SCC Team(s) in Reno at the **Western States Open**. We will be competing against four or five teams from San Francisco's Mechanics' Institute CC as well as teams from Reno, Sacramento, and elsewhere.

October 30

SCC Novice

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 1/27, \$16 at site. (-\$2 for SCC mem., -\$1 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** Memb (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

How to Find the SCC

Look for the Northway Square East Building, just across I-5 from Northgate Mall, with large signs proclaiming "Northwest Kidney Centers" and "City University." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th Street from Meridian Ave. N. The club is on the lower level.

Seattle Fall Open

September 23-25 or September 24-25

A 2-section, 5-round Swiss chess tournament with a time control of 40/2 & SD/1 (except Rd 1 of the 2-day option — G/64) with a prize fund of \$1000 based on 58 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

A Karch Memorial Grand Prix event

Open: \$180 gtd-\$120 gtd, U2200 \$100, U2000 \$95, U1800 \$90

Reserve (U1700): \$110-\$80, U1550 \$70, U1450 \$65, U1350 \$60, UNR \$30

Entry Fees: \$33 by 9/21, \$42 at site. SCC members — subtract \$9. Members of other dues-req'd CCs in BC, OR, & WA — subtract \$4. Unrated players FREE with purchase of 1-yr USCF & WCF. **Add \$1 for 2-day option.** Make checks payable to SCC.

Registration: Fri. 7-7:45 pm or Sat. 9-9:45 am. **Rounds:** Fri. 8 pm, Sat. (10@G/64)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

Byes: 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc.:** USCF & WCF required. NS. NC.

Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

♣ September 3

Mt Hood Community College, Gresham, OR. See display advertisement in the August issue of NWC for more details.

Oregon Open ♣

♣ September 10

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave., Room 11, across the street from Alfred's Café & 2 blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Information: Gary Dorfner, Tournament Director (253-535-2536), e-mail ggarychess@aol.com. Note: All players (unrateds included) must have both USCF and WCF (or other state) memberships to play. Both memberships available on site. NS/NC/NW.

G/60 Championship ♣

♣ September 24

4SS, G/60. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9-9:30. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30 U1800, U1500 \$35 each. Info: portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.com.

Portland Chess Club G/60 ♣

♣ October 1-2

Site: Portland Chess Club. This USCF-rated, two-day tournament is played in two sections, has five rounds, and offers long time controls and lots of cash prizes: Time Control: Rounds 1-3 played on Saturday (time control 40/90 SD/30) and Rounds 4-5 on Sunday (time control 40/120 SD/60). Entry Fee: \$35; members of the Club get \$10 discount. Memberships: USCF and OCF/WCF required and can be purchased/renewed at registration. Registration: opens at 9:00am on Saturday. Prizes: based on 40 entries and adjusted proportionally if different number of players, total prize fund is \$650 (each section's prize fund \$325). Open section: 1st place - \$150, 2nd place - \$100, best result for rated under 2000 - \$75. Reserve section: 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$75, best results for rated under 1600, under 1400, and under 1200 or unrated - \$50 each. No tiebreakers used, prizes split between players with the same results.

Portland Fall Open ♣

♣ October 1-2

Site: Schoenberg Center, Room 201, Gonzaga University, N. 900 Pearl St., Spokane (southwest corner of GU campus - one block east of Division/Ruby couplet off DeSmet Ave.). Format: 5 round Swiss System. Registration: 8:30-9:30, October 1. Rounds: 10-2:30-7; 9-1:30 or ASAP. Time control: Game/120. Entry fee: \$21 if received by 9/30, \$26 at the door; under 18 \$5 less. \$600 prize fund GUARANTEED. Additional classes and class prizes may be created if entries exceed 30 players. Class prizes based on at least 5 per class; classes (and class prizes) may be reconfigured if less than five class entries. Only one prize per player (except biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One 1/2 point bye available if requested by end of preceding round; Sunday bye must be requested by end of round 3. Director reserves right to use class pairings in final round. PRIZES: First \$150, Second \$100. Class Prizes: \$65 first, \$35 second: B; C; D/E/unrated. Biggest Upset (non-provisional) - \$50. Entries: Kevin Korsmo, 9923 N. Moore, Spokane, WA 99208. For information please call (509) 270-1772 (cell). Club website: www.spokanechessclub.org.

Eastern Washington Open ♣

♣ October 1-2

Also see display advertisement on page 19.

Site: Oyster Bay Inn, 4412 Kitsap Way, Bremerton, WA 98312. Format: 4SS, 3 sections. Time control: G/90 + 30 seconds/move increment. Registration: 10:00-11:30 AM. Rounds: Sat. 12:30 PM, 6:00 PM; Sun. 9:45 AM, 3:00 PM. Prize fund: \$1000 b/50: Open section >= 1900 USCF \$200, \$100, \$100; Premiere section: U1900 \$100, \$70, \$55 plus top score U1700 \$75; Reserve U1400/unr. \$100, \$70, \$55 plus top Unrated score \$75. Entry fee: \$40 if received by 9/24, \$50 after and on-site; USCF/NWC req. Half-point bye: must be requested at registration, max. of one. Entries, checks payable to: Kris Dietsch, Apt. C-102, 2251 High View Ln. NW, Bremerton, WA 98312-5345 (please use a separate line for Apt C-102); cash/checks at site. You may also register online at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>. Info: Kris (360) 479-0847, mrkrisyawho@yahoo.com, Joe Eversole, joeeversole@gmail.com. Hotel: view tournament(!), skittles and guest rooms; restaurant; players \$60 single/dbl. in advance, mention Kitsap County Chess Club: (360) 377-5510, 1-800-393-3862, site photo gallery and info.: www.oysterbayinnbremerton.com. See Nov. 2010 NWC issue for article on last year's Classic.

Oyster Bay Inn Classic ♣

October 8

Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107th St., Seattle, WA 98133. Format: 4 Rd Swiss, 4 player teams, 1 day event. TC: G/60. Reg: 9:00-9:45 AM. Rds: 10, 12:30, 3, 5:30 or ASAP. EF: \$20 per player. Prizes: Trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd and plaques for top boards 1, 2, 3, and 4. Upset prize medal each round. USCF/WCF memberships required. Team average rating not to exceed 1800. Team champion will play and exhibition match with the Seattle Sluggers. TDs Fred Kleist and Gary Dorfner. Enter through the automated on-line system at www.nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Info: Gary Dorfner, 8423 E. B ST., Tacoma, WA 98445, (253) 535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com. Entries must be received by Oct. 6; teams must play in rating order.

Washington State Team Championship 2011

October 21-23

Sands Regency Hotel, Reno, NV - See renochess.org - See display advertisement on page 22.

Western States Open

♣ October 29-30

Seattle Chess Club, 2150 North 107th Street, Seattle, WA 98133. 206-417-5405. 2 Sections. Open: 4SS, 40/2, SD/1. Reserve (U1800): 5SS, Sat. 40/90, SD/30, Sun. 40/2, SD/1. \$5800/b40: Open, FIDE Rated, \$150-100 (U2100: \$75, U1900: \$75). Reserve (U1800), \$120-100 (U1600: \$60, U1400: \$60, U1200: \$60). Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating. EF: \$35 if postmarked or online by 10/24, \$45 after 10/24 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs. Registration: Sat. 8-9am. Rds.: Open: Sat 10am & 5pm, Sun 9am & 3:30pm. Reserve: Sat. 10am, 2:30pm, 7pm, Sun. 9am & 3:30pm. Bye: limit 1, request before end of Rd. 2. Memb. Req'd: \$25 (\$17 juniors). OSA. ENT: Checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail to: Eddie Chang, 2523 Lynnwood Ave NE, Renton, WA 98056-2448. Enter online: www.nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Info: wcf.tournaments@gmail.com, 425-922-7136. NS. NC. W. Chess Magnet School JGP. The highest finishing WA resident will be seeded into the 2012 State Championship (subject to activity requirements).


Washington Challenger's Cup ♣

♣ November 25-27

Seattle Airport Marriott, Seattle, WA. See display advertisement on page 21.

Washington Class Championships ♣


From the Business Manager: To take advantage of bulk mailing rates, subscription/membership renewal notices were recently mailed to over 200 people. If your membership expires this year, you are encouraged to renew now instead of waiting and possibly forgetting. The discounted three-year membership options will likely remain available until the end of 2011, at which time a rate increase is possible. See the website (nwchess.com) magazine section for more information.



"Train Your Brain!"

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ssmith6154@aol.com