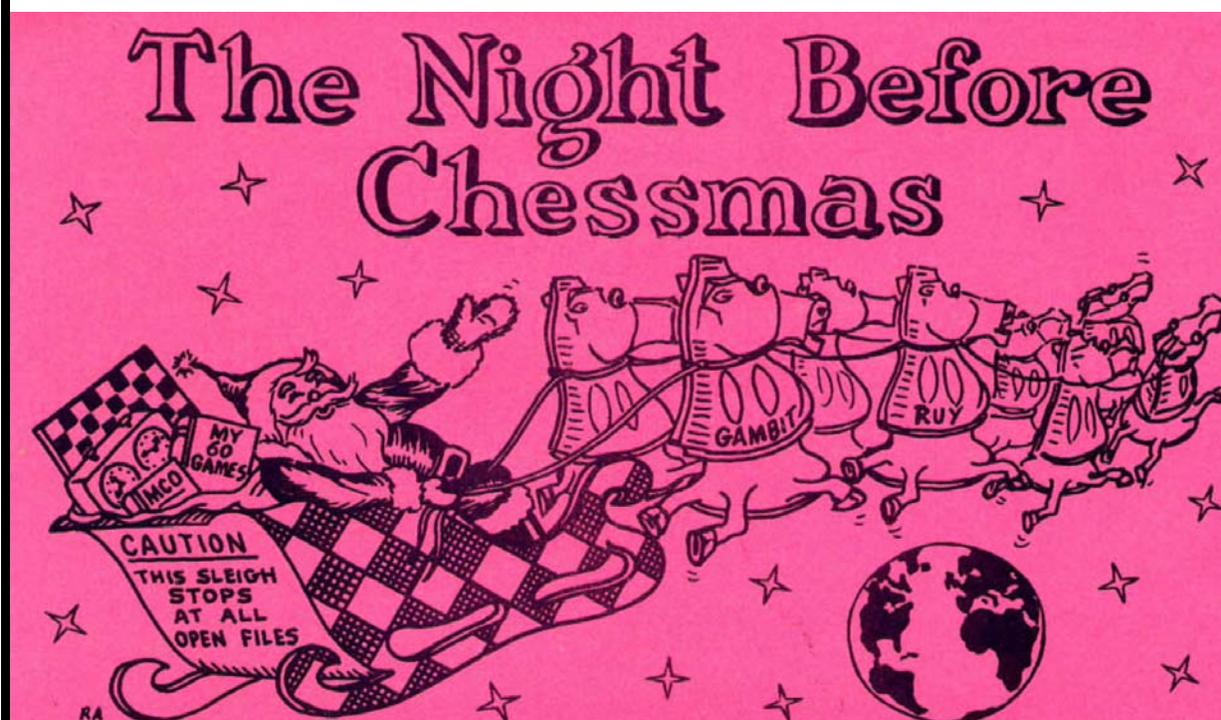


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A Holiday Story
by Ron Atkinson

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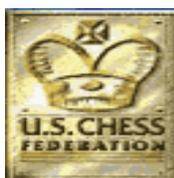
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Words from the Editor

Allow me to speak for your fellow-members and wish you a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year" !! I've purposely provided some reading material for those few times you can get away from the holiday festivities...Especially the clever adaptation of "A Night Before Christmas" as displayed on the cover (which you'll find at end-of-issue).

The whole idea came about last Spring (of all times) when teammate Jim Brotsos stumbled onto some of his historical CICL working papers he'd found at home. They turned out to be the oldest records we'd found to that time. Tucked away with them was this half-sheet, stapled booklet that looked like its author had sent out as a Christmas card many, many years ago. So a quick scan and it was saved for this month. I immensely enjoyed it !!

And while we're on the subject, I guess I can announce that the final phase of the Archive Project is underway! Marty Franek, Art Olsen, and I have been scouring the "old-timers" since we distributed CD#1 at the 2001 banquet, but somehow things just didn't come together. Joe Brozovitch checked in from Missouri (?) with some bulletins from the 70's which helped. Then we finally got the official CICL archive box at last season's banquet which was quite a bit to go through and organize. The kicker was provided by Charlie Ward who had a neatly-kept complete set of the Bulletins since 1969. Well, those are all scanned and PDF'd ! Marty gives the happy news that the CICL box covers the remaining years, so we appear to have the entire set and should soon have everything electronic !

Even before all this happened, Jim Brotsos had decided that it was time to provide some CICL news to the Illinois Chess Association for inclusion in their Bulletin, and so began to write up a short history of the League. (Interestingly, I encountered his two-page start of this in the **May 1978** bulletin!) Upon inquiring of their editor, he was told "Make it as long as you like. We need pages!", and began some serious research. It was completed at the tidy length of 12 pages! Brotsos is our connection with the past, as Co-Founder of the league, serving in multiple positions, and an avid player to boot! The perfect guy for the job. His history, included in this month's Features, is required reading for all those contemplating what should become of the League. I still say **all** the answers are there for the choosing.

Well there were games played this passed month...Or at least I assume so, 'cause it's not like I've seen a whole lot of Result Sheets or game scores. **Please remember to send these to me!** In an article (literally) stolen from ChessCafe.com, coach Dan Heisman gives some advice on key chessplayer traits; one of which is learning from mistakes. I sometimes wonder if those game scores are purposely held because players don't want them published! Whatever, but I've always thought the standard of the chessworld was to share and share alike. Besides, I'd rather my opponents be prepared for my favorite stuff-- makes the victories that much more sweet!

Anyway, that was really supposed to be a segue into pointing out a couple of nice upsets from a key match in the East Division: the overstocked Alumni Aces versus the League Champion GETCO team. The games reviewed there both turn on a single, yet nice combination. The Aces had enough ammo, however, and gunned-down the champs.

So have a safe Holiday Season and steal some time to read the issue!

*Happy Browsing,
Tom Friske, Bulletin Editor*

Contents of the Issue

Officer Contacts	2
Words from the Editor	3
Table of Contents	4
News - You Can Make \$500 for the CICL !!	5
Season Updates	
Current Standings	8
Current Team Performance Ratings	9
Top Ten by Division	10
Most Improved Players	10
Match Results	11
Upper Board Forfeits	14
Current Ratings	15
FEATURES	
The CICL Keeps Rolling, by CICL Co-Founder Jim Brotsos <i>The CICL History</i>	18
GAMES as reviewed by Tom Friske	32
GAMES by The Players Jasaitis-Eamon / Marcowka-Williams	43
An Open Letter to the Chess World	49
Chess Traits <i>Instruction by Trainer Dan Heisman</i>	52
"The Night Before Chessmas" A Christmas Poem - MERRY CHRISTMAS !!	60

On the cover: from the Brotsos CICL Archives, the cover of our Christmas Poem.

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Kaspy and X3D draw

Commentary by Mig Greengard on ChessBase.com

The game begins on another channel, one of the giant major networks that spend billions on Sunday afternoon football with its 25% rating share. Cable just provides pre-game shows. So before you can make it back to the remote, ESPN has moved on to its alternative programming, the stuff they know just about no one is watching because they've all switched over to the football game.

This usually means something like "the world's strongest man" competitions, in which men taking even more drugs than the football players do things like carry rocks and lift trucks. Or it could be bass fishing. Televised fishing is really taking off these days (honest). But today as you look for the remote you get chess on ESPN. Televised chess. Professionally produced, made-for-TV chess. Commentators in suits discussing bishops, pawns, the Slav Defense.

Several million people watched Garry Kasparov play against X3D Fritz on television. The final ESPN2 ratings haven't been released yet, but the first game had 1.4 million viewers. To put that in perspective, that's twice as many people who usually watch ESPN during that timeslot. That's also more than the number of people who play chess online in a year and probably more than the combined circulation of every chess magazine in the world. And that was just game one on a Tuesday.

The siren song of television is a powerful one because of these numbers. Chess is not a very telegenic sport, to put it mildly. You never know when a player will move. You have to know how to play to have any idea about what's happening. There is no slam-dunk, no penalty kick, no hole-in-one, no obvious visual element that anyone can appreciate. What chess does have is tension and competition paired with an intellectual mystique. It looks hard, it sounds hard, and, well, chess IS hard.

All of this made the Kasparov vs X3D Fritz match pretty good television. ESPN was reportedly happy. Chess fans were ecstatic, except about the way the broadcast was cut off in the middle of the game on Sunday. Chess had finally reached the big time of pro sports, the holy grail of television with its mass audience and untold millions of sponsorship money.

Yet for some reason at lunch on the day after the match Garry Kasparov wasn't as happy as you might have thought. He had come back to draw the match. He had played well for the most part and showed humans could still compete with, even dominate, the machines on the chessboard. X3D Technologies was happy, the Fritz people were happy, Kasparov had a big payday, so why the bittersweet smile just a day after game four?

NEWS

“Now we have television and an audience,” Kasparov started, “but what can we give them? If ESPN comes to us today and says they loved it and they want to show more chess as soon as possible, what do we have? Nothing. We have no events and we have players who won’t play.”

Well, that was a bit of a downer. Was Kasparov just being a “glass is half-empty” guy just when we should be celebrating? Unfortunately not. The irony won’t be lost on anyone, I’m sure. Chess finally gets to the table but when the big bowl of soup comes we find ourselves with only a knife and fork. FIDE is off using the spoon to dig its own grave.

My grandmother would call this doing things bassackwards. We have the TV interest and a curious audience but nothing to give them but excuses, a corrupt federation, canceled events, and more world champions than an insane asylum has Napoleons. The last classical champion says he has forgotten about the title. The last FIDE champion doesn’t read his own press releases. The world’s top player could only get a match against X3D Fritz because its server was bolted to the floor so it couldn’t run away.

Let’s say a big-shot TV executive comes to you and says his network wants to show some chess. Where do you send him? FIDE? Stop laughing and start crying. The entire economy of one of the world’s largest sports federations has depended for years on the whims and wiles of a Kalmykian autocrat who giveth and taketh away. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov has been both a blessing and a curse to chess since he took over FIDE in 1995 and the blessings have run dry.

I don’t doubt Ilyumzhinov loves chess. He has put tens of millions of his impoverished citizens’ money into the game so he must love it, right? Okay, that was a cheap shot, I really do think he wants the best for chess and I think he likes chessplayers. The first problem is that what he thinks is best hasn’t worked out very well. His main initiatives have all completely failed to achieve their aims. (KOs, fast time controls, drug testing, money laundering.) The second problem is that chess must always take third place to his personal and political interests since it is actually dependent upon them. If Kirsan’s political standing in Moscow suffers, so does chess. If Kirsan can’t get an energy deal together with a big Russian company, chess is penalized.

True, when his political standing is good and the money is coming in, some of that money has gone to chessplayers. But this is not a business model; this is a suicide pact with an undetermined date of consummation. Every day we follow this path we move further away from the professionalism and corporate sponsorship that could provide a sustainable model for the sport and its professionals. It is worse than doing nothing, it is actively harmful.

Now that Ilyumzhinov’s fortunes have waned, literally, he seems to be more open to change. But the first chance he had to jump back into the political/business underground for the Kasparov-Ponomarev match he leapt in with both feet. This sort of thing terrifies potential sponsors, it annoys and drives off legitimate sponsors, and it alienates media organizations, as presented in horrifying detail by former Associated Press chess correspondent Rob Huntington.

So where do we go from here? There were quite a few intriguing ideas tossed around at that post-match lunch last week at the New York Athletic Club. It was a rather high-IQ crowd of chess movers and shakers, and in general they were all more interested in how to create an exciting future than in complaining about the dismal past and uncertain present. Kasparov summed up this fatalistic optimism when he said, “Maybe we’ve seen the worst. Now that we’ve hit bottom we can only go up.”

If no one will play for the world championship, start working on other things such as tournaments and an

NEWS

infrastructure that can support sponsors and the media. The creatively named Association of Chess Professionals (ACP, and nothing at all like the PCA from the 90's or the soon-to-come Chess Professionals Association and the Professionals of Chess Association) might at least make a few of the players aware that there is a such thing as the common good.

That common good isn't in very good shape right now. When Ponomarev bails out of the FIDE match with Kasparov and the Associated Press then decides to stop chess coverage, that is harm. When Kramnik says he doesn't really care about the world championship and Hungarian sources say he didn't play Leko this year because he wanted more money, that is harm. Every single professional chessplayer would benefit from a unified world title.

The ACP's main issue so far seems to be about hotel costs at FIDE events. Not exactly the earthshaking stuff that sends the proletariat into the streets, but you have to start somewhere. In fact, starting small is usually best. If they start out talking about health care, pensions and prize funds they are only slicing up a completely imaginary pie. Dreaming and having goals is great, but getting the players even remotely on the same page is required first.

The revealing and flabbergasting interview of Kramnik showed him at his usual direct and plainspoken self. That makes several of his comments even more worrying. It's no crime not to be influential. Petrosian spent six years as world champion without creating a legion of prophylaxis-obsessed players.

So I can't imagine why Kramnik made claims about how players are imitating his style when there isn't a shred of evidence to support this. ("The others are playing the openings that I developed. I'm being copied these days, and so is my defensive playing style. Today, very few players play like Kasparov in the '90s.") Radjabov? Grischuk? Karjakin? Ponomarev? Volokitin? All of them have sacrificed more pieces in the last month than Kramnik has in the past three years.

I can't think of a single example of a young player following Kramnik's low-risk methodology. Sure, the Berlin Defense revived thanks to his success with it against Kasparov, but if Kramnik has a school it's more exclusive than Hogwarts.

Kramnik's defense of the solid, high-level draw has some truth, but there are draws and then there are draws. To continue his soccer analogy, 0-0 with a dozen shots on goal is much different than 0-0 with no shots on goal. When the interviewer said that Kramnik and Leko had "mostly just bored the public" in Dortmund he wasn't talking about the results of the games but the games themselves. Top-level draws don't have to be solid or boring. To be honest I don't think Kramnik needs to defend his style. It is what it is and if it works for him then it doesn't matter if anyone else likes it. We can still complain about it, however.

***Mig Greengard** runs ChessNinja.com, writes a column on ChessBase software, lives in New York City, and doesn't want to talk about football again until the Raiders start doing better. E-mail Mig from ChessBase.com*

Current Standings**NEAR WEST DIVISION 12-14-2003**

TEAM NAME	W	L	D	GAME	MATCH	PCT
				POINTS	POINTS	
PAWNS	3	0	1	16.5	3.5	0.875
COOK CO. DEPT. OF CORR	3	1	1	16.0	3.5	0.700
LUCENT TECH. CHARGERS	1	2	1	10.0	1.5	0.375
CASE	0	4	1	11.5	0.5	0.100

FAR WEST DIVISION 12-14-2003

TEAM NAME	W	L	D	GAME	MATCH	PCT
				POINTS	POINTS	
FERMILAB	5	0	0	24.5	5.0	1.000
ARGONNE ROOKS	3	1	1	15.5	3.5	0.700
LUCENT TECH. TYROS	3	2	0	18.0	3.0	0.600
LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS	2	2	1	15.0	2.5	0.500
MOLEX	1	4	0	12.0	1.0	0.200
BP CHEMICALS	0	5	0	4.0	0.0	0.000

NORTH DIVISION 12-14-2003

TEAM NAME	W	L	D	GAME	MATCH	PCT
				POINTS	POINTS	
MOTOROLA KNIGHTS	4	0	0	16.5	4.0	1.000
MOTOROLA KINGS	3	2	0	17.0	3.0	0.600
EXCALIBURS	3	2	0	14.5	3.0	0.600
UOP	3	1	0	14.0	3.0	0.750
KEMPER INSURANCE	1	4	0	13.5	1.0	0.200
NORTHROP	0	5	0	5.5	0.0	0.000

EAST DIVISION 12-14-2003

TEAM NAME	W	L	D	GAME	MATCH	PCT
				POINTS	POINTS	
ALUMNI ACES	4	0	0	17.5	4.0	1.000
GETCO	3	1	0	14.5	3.0	0.750
CITADEL GROUP	0	3	1	8.0	0.5	0.125
LEO BURNETT	0	3	1	8.0	0.5	0.125

Current Performance Ratings

<u>Team</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Games Ave</u>
FERMILAB	Far West	1951	3.0
MOTOROLA KNIGHTS	North	1896	3.0
UOP	North	1875	3.3
MOTOROLA KINGS	North	1870	4.5
ALUMNI ACES	East	1815	2.2
PAWNS	Near West	1758	3.8
GETCO	East	1734	2.8
LUCENT TECH. TYROS	Far West	1725	3.3
EXCALIBURS	North	1713	4.5
COOK CO DEPT OF CORR	Near West	1710	4.8
KEMPER INSURANCE	North	1671	4.0
CITADEL GROUP	East	1646	3.7
ARGONNE ROOKS	Far West	1643	3.3
CASE	Near West	1627	4.5
LUCENT TECH. CHARGERS	Near West	1613	3.8
LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS	Far West	1586	3.7
MOLEX	Far West	1577	4.2
LEO BURNETT	East	1546	3.2
NORTHROP	North	1443	2.8
BP CHEMICALS	Far West	1275	2.7

Top Ten by Division / Most Improved Players**NEAR WEST DIVISION TOP TEN**

WILLIAMS, K	CCDOC	2187
JAKSTAS, K	PAWNS	2117C
LATIMER, E	PAWNS	2075D
MARCOWKA, R	CHRGR	1978D
ELLICE, W	PAWNS	1871C
FRAATS, D	CASE	1867C
DOBROVOLNY, C	CHRGR	1857C
MCCARTHY, D	CHRGR	1834
ALEXANDER, W	CCDOC	1744
ROSLEY, D	CHRGR	1742

FAR WEST DIVISION TOP TEN

BEZZUBOV, V	FERMI	2229
GARZON, G	FERMI	2190
DORIGO, T	FERMI	2158
BENEDEK, R	ROOKS	2151T
TEGEL, F	DRGNS	2070Q
HILL, R	ROOKS	2060C
DIAZ, P	TYROS	2029C
COULTER, D	BPCHM	1997
LUDWIG, T	DRGNS	1951C
SPIEGEL, L	FERMI	1946D

NORTH DIVISION TOP TEN

WOLF, D	MKING	2377
STEVANOVIC, M	UOP	2221D
FRIDMAN, Y	MKNGT	2190
MORRIS, R	MKNGT	2183
WONG, P	EXCLB	2180C
FRISKE, T	EXCLB	2062C
LANG, R	EXCLB	2053
THOMSON, J	MKNGT	2027
BUERGER, E	UOP	2020T
MELNIKOV, I	MKING	2017

EAST DIVISION TOP TEN

INUMERABLE, F	ALUMN	2265C
STEIN, P	CITGR	2192
BENESA, A	ALUMN	2191
JASAITIS, A	GETCO	2097D
RAUCHMAN, M	GETCO	2069*
GAZMEN, E	ALUMN	2050C
SANTIAGO, T	ALUMN	2037
SOLLANO, E	ALUMN	1980C
ALLEN, H	ALUMN	1975
CZERNIECKI, A	ALUMN	1924D

MOST IMPROVED PLAYERS

FULKERSON, R	LBURN	69
RAUCHMAN, M	GETCO	67
PARAOAN, E	CASE	66
ZADEREJ, V	MOLEX	56
STAPLES, C	FERMI	47
GARDNER, M	NORTH	46
SACKS, D	UOP	42
MCGOWAN, D	MOLEX	39
HALL, A	CCDOC	38
KRATKA, M	GETCO	36

Match Results

11-DEC-03 KEMPER INSURANCE 4 NORTHROP 2

ROUND 5

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 EASTON,R	1880	16 1	WALKER,A	1779-16	0
(* Forfeit agreed to by both teams in advance of match *)					
2 MOSSBRIDGE,A	1703	0 1F	VIGANTS,A	1643	0 0F
3 OLSEN,A	1521-24	0	GARDNER,M	1277	36 1
4 LAMBIRIS,J	1453	0 1	FETTERMAN,M	0	0 0
5 VAIL,M	1261	14 1	ELEK,G	1115-14	0
6 ROSZKOWSKI,D	0	0 0	WILKOSZ,A	0	0 1

10-NOV-03 CASE 2.5 LUCENT TECH. CHARGERS 3.5

ROUND 3

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
(* Adjourned game from Nov 10 *)					
1 FRAATS,D	1856	21 1	MARCOWKA,R	1999-21	0

24-NOV-03 CASE 3 PAWNS 3

ROUND 4

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 FRAATS,D	1877	-6 0	JAKSTAS,K	2111	6 1
2 WHITE,H	1687	-3 0	LATIMER,E	2072	3 1
3 PARAOAN,E	1651	24 1	ELLICE,W	1895-24	0
4 KLINEFELTER,H	1550	21 1	FABIJONAS,R	1694-21	0
5 REID,C	1494	15 1	ABDALLAH,D	1505-23	0
6 DYCZKOWSKI,R	1432-22	0	O'DELL,DW	1444	14 1
7 ZOELLNER,J	1308	10 1	KANAS,W	1197-10	0 (CASE)

01-DEC-03 LUCENT TECH. CHARGERS 3 COOK CO. DEPT. OF CORR 3

ROUND 4

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 DOBROVOLNY,C	1861	-4 0	WILLIAMS,K	2174	6 1
2 MCCARTHY,D	1867-33	0	ALEXANDER,W	1691	33 1
3 ROSLEY,D	1776-34	0	SEATON,E	1583	34 1
4 RADAVICIUS,E	1592	12 1	HALL,A	1533-19	0
5 THOMAS,J	1561	15 1	JACKSON,S	1566-23	0
6 STAMM,V	1500	8 1	APPLEBERRY,T	1426-18	0
7 DOBR,K	1399	3 1	MCGEE,L	1117	-7 0

Match Results

08-DEC-03 CASE 2.5 COOK CO. DEPT. OF CORR 3.5

ROUND 5

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 FRAATS, D	1871 -4	0	WILLIAMS, K	2180 7 1
2 WHITE, H	1684-13	0	ALEXANDER, W	1724 20 1
3 PAROAN, E	1675 13	1	SEATON, E	1617-19 0
4 KLINEFELTER, H	1571 14	1	JACKSON, S	1543-21 0
5 REID, C	1509-15	0	HALL, A	1514 22 1
6 ZOELLNER, J	1318 7	.5	ROJO, V	1487-11 .5
7 DYCZKOWSKI, R	1410-23	0	APPLEBERRY, T	1408 23 1
8 KANAS, W	1187-18	0	MCGEE, L	1110 27 1

18-NOV-03 LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS 4 MOLEX 2

ROUND 4

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 TEGEL, F	2077 0	0	REICH, T	0 0 1
2 LUDWIG, T	1932 3	1	FOX, R	1523 -4 0
3 PEHAS, A	1897 2	1	HENDRICKSON, B	1452 -3 0
4 EUSTACE, D	1541 2	1	MCGOWAN, D	1089 -3 0
5 KOMORAVOLU, K	1406-36	0	ZADEREJ, V	1166 36 1
6 BREYER, A	1279 0	1	RUFUS, B	0 0 0
7 WU, M	0 0	1	MUELLER, R	0 0 0

17-NOV-03 LUCENT TECH. TYROS 1.5 FERMILAB 4.5

ROUND 4

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 DIAZ, P	2048 -8	0	BEZZUBOV, V	2217 12 1
2 GUIO, J	1877 -5	0	GARZON, G	2167 7 1
3 STOLTZ, B	1933 1	.5	SPIEGEL, L	1963 -1 .5
4 BUCHNER, R	1730 1	.5	GAINES, I	1754 -1 .5
5 SMITH, BR	1711 2	.5	GOMEZ, G	1727 -2 .5
6 HAHNE, D	1621-15	0	STAPLES, C	1619 23 1

08-DEC-03 MOLEX 5 BP CHEMICALS 1

ROUND 5

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 REICH, T	0 0	1	COULTER, D	1997 0 0
2 FOX, R	1519 -4	0	SAJKOWSKI, D	1939 4 1
3 HENDRICKSON, B	1449 11	1	POMA, D	1248-11 0
4 ZADEREJ, V	1202 0	1	ZUBIK, J	0 0 0
5 MCGOWAN, D	1086 0	1	CASTANEDA, R	0 0 0
6 DEICHMANN, E	0 0	1	GORDON, R	1143 0 0
7 MUELLER, R	0 0	.5	RINGENBERG, T	1392 0 .5

Match Results**08-DEC-03 ARGONNE ROOKS 4 LUCENT TECH. TYROS 2**

ROUND 5

BD		RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1	BENEDEK, R	2144	7 1	DIAZ, P	2040-11	0
2	HILL, R	2052	8 1	GUIO, J	1872 -8	0
3	SUAREZ, E	1799	31 1	STOLTZ, B	1934-21	0
4	BAURAC, D	1676	2 .5	BUCHNER, R	1731 -2	.5
5	DECMAN, S	1577	1 .5	HAHNE, D	1606 -1	.5
6	YACOUT, A	1515-11	0	SMITH, BR	1713 11	1

09-DEC-03 FERMILAB 5 LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS 1

ROUND 5

BD		RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1	GARZON, G	2174	16 1	TEGEL, F	2077 -7	0
2	SPIEGEL, L	1962-16	0	LUDWIG, T	1935 16	1
3	GAINES, I	1753	13 1	BLACKMON, E	1696-13	0
4	GOMEZ, G	1725	12 1	EUSTACE, D	1543 -8	0
5	AILES, T	1700	6 1	KOMORAVOLU, K	1370 -6	0
6	STAPLES, C	1642	5 1	BREYER, A	1279 -5	0

UPPER BOARD FORFEITS

Each team is allowed 2 upper board forfeits per season.
After the 2nd upper board forfeit, the team is penalized
one extra game point for each such forfeit in the match.

TEAMS WITH 2 OR MORE UPPER BOARD FORFEITS

NONE

TEAMS WITH 1 UPPER BOARD FORFEIT

CASE
CCDOC
KEMPER
LEO BURNETT

Current Ratings

NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING	NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING
ABDALLAH, D	PAWNS	2	1	0	1482*	EAMAN, R	LBURN	1	2	0	1885
AILES, T	FERMI	1	0	0	1706	EASTON, R	KEMPR	1	2	1	1896
ALEXANDER, W	CCDOC	2	2	1	1744	ELEK, G	NORTH	0	3	1	1101
ALFONSO, E	MKNGT	0	0	1	1584	ELLICE, W	PAWNS	3	1	0	1871C
ALLEN, H	ALUMN	0	1	0	1975	EUSTACE, D	DRGNS	2	2	1	1535C
ALTSHULLER, D	DRGNS	0	0	0	1744	FABIJONAS, R	PAWNS	2	2	0	1673D
APPLEBERRY, T	CCDOC	2	2	0	1431	FETTERMAN, M	NORTH	1	3	0	0000/4
AROND, D	EXCLB	1	1	1	1718	FOLEY, M	CITGR	0	0	0	1299*
AUGSBURGER, L	MKNGT	2	0	1	1795C	FOX, R	MOLEX	1	4	0	1515
BALICKI, J	MKNGT	2	1	2	1753	FRAATS, D	CASE	1	3	0	1867C
BANNON, B	LBURN	1	2	1	1280	FRANEK, M	ALUMN	1	1	0	1707D
BAREITHER, M	CITGR	1	1	0	0000/2	FRANK, M	ALUMN	3	0	0	1739C
BAURAC, D	ROOKS	3	1	1	1678D	FRIDMAN, Y	MKNGT	2	0	0	2190
BENEDEK, R	ROOKS	2	2	1	2151T	FRISKE, T	EXCLB	2	0	2	2062C
BENESA, A	ALUMN	2	2	0	2191	FULKERSON, R	LBURN	2	1	1	1482
BENFORADO, E	MKNGT	3	0	0	1544	GAINES, I	FERMI	4	0	1	1766D
BEZZUBOV, V	FERMI	1	0	0	2229	GARDNER, M	NORTH	1	3	1	1313*
BLACKMON, E	DRGNS	1	3	0	1683C	GARZON, G	FERMI	4	1	0	2190
BOLDINGH, E	UOP	1	1	0	1863C	GAZMEN, E	ALUMN	3	0	1	2050C
BOLSHOV, A	FERMI	1	0	0	1303	GOMEZ, G	FERMI	1	0	2	1737
BRASWELL, I	READR	0	0	0	1821	GONCHAROFF, N	MKING	3	1	1	1685V
BREYER, A	DRGNS	1	2	1	1274*	GORDON, R	BPCHM	0	4	0	1143
BROCK, B	READR	0	0	0	2041	GOTHIER, N	NORTH	0	0	0	0000/6
BROIHIER, M	READR	0	0	0	1156	GOTHIER, S	NORTH	0	0	0	1334
BROTSOS, J	EXCLB	2	1	2	1522D	GOULET, W	MKNGT	0	0	0	0000/2
BUCHNER, R	TYROS	1	0	2	1729C	GRUDZINSKI, J	ROOKS	1	2	1	1450
BUERGER, E	UOP	0	1	0	2020T	GYPARIS, J	MKING	0	0	2	1476C
BURIAN, D	NORTH	0	3	1	1552D	GUIO, J	TYROS	0	3	1	1864C
BUTLER, E	ROOKS	0	0	0	1270*	HAHNE, D	TYROS	3	1	1	1605C
CAPUTO, J	READR	0	0	0	1616	HALL, A	CCDOC	2	1	0	1536
CAROSI, R	FERMI	0	1	0	0000/0	HAYHURST, W	CITGR	0	2	2	1866
CASHER, P	MOLEX	3	0	0	0000/0	HENDRICKSON, B	MOLEX	1	3	1	1460
CASTANEDA, R	BPCHM	1	3	0	0000/4	HILL, R	ROOKS	4	1	0	2060C
CEASE, H	FERMI	2	0	0	1324	HTOO, M	CITGR	0	1	0	1735*
CHRISTOTEK, L	FERMI	0	0	0	0000/3	HUGHES, N	KEMPR	0	1	0	1683C
COOMBES, N	GETCO	1	2	0	0000/2	HUNTER, M	CCDOC	0	0	0	1882#
COULTER, D	BPCHM	1	2	2	1997	INUMERABLE, F	ALUMN	1	0	0	2265C
CYGAN, J	MKING	1	0	0	1878	JACKSON, S	CCDOC	2	3	0	1522
CZERNIECKI, A	ALUMN	1	0	0	1924D	JAKSTAS, K	PAWNS	3	1	0	2117C
DAS, B	DRGNS	0	0	0	0000/2	JANKE, A	CITGR	0	2	0	0000/2
DAVIDSON, M	ALUMN	0	1	0	1626	JASAITIS, A	GETCO	2	2	0	2097D
DECMAN, S	ROOKS	0	0	1	1578D	KALE, S	CASE	0	0	0	1854C
DEICHMANN, E	MOLEX	2	2	0	0000/4	KANAS, W	CASE	1	3	0	1169C
DIAZ, P	TYROS	2	2	1	2029C	KARANDIKAR, S	MKNGT	1	0	0	1601*
DOBR, K	CHRGR	2	2	0	1402Q	KARPIERZ, J	TYROS	1	0	1	1276
DOBROVOLNY, C	CHRGR	2	1	1	1857C	KASPER, R	BPCHM	0	1	0	0000/1
DOMINGUEZ, R	LBURN	0	0	0	1307*	KLINEFELTER, H	CASE	2	3	0	1585D
DORIGO, T	FERMI	1	0	0	2158	KOGAN, G	EXCLB	3	2	0	1817C
DUFFY, J	LBURN	0	3	1	1789	KOGAN, M	CITGR	0	0	0	0000/3
DYCKOWSKI, R	CASE	0	4	0	1387	KOMORAVOLU, K	DRGNS	0	3	1	1364*

Current Ratings

NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING	NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING
KOSMICKE, J	GETCO	0	0	1	0000/2	REID, C	CASE	3	2	0	1494D
KRATKA, M	GETCO	2	1	1	1680	REVELLON, L	UOP	2	1	1	1984
KUHLMANN, S	ROOKS	1	0	0	0000/0	RINGENBERG, T	BPCHM	0	1	1	1392
LAFORGE, W	DRGNS	2	0	0	1418	ROJO, B	CCDOC	0	0	0	882#
LAMBIRIS, J	KEMPR	1	0	0	1453	ROJO, V	CCDOC	2	1	1	1476
LANG, R	EXCLB	1	2	0	2053	ROSLEY, D	CHRGR	0	2	0	1742
LANSING, J	GETCO	0	0	0	1484	ROSZKOWSKI, D	KEMPR	0	3	0	0000/5
LATIMER, E	PAWNS	3	0	1	2075D	RUFUS, B	MOLEX	1	3	0	0000/3
LE, DUC	CITGR	1	3	0	0000/3	RZESZUTKO, R	ALUMN	0	0	0	1919C
LECHNICK, J	UOP	3	1	0	1750	SACKS, D	UOP	3	0	0	1870
LEONG, G	KEMPR	0	1	1	1994C	SAGALOVSKY, L	GETCO	0	0	0	1974
LERNER, T	CITGR	0	0	0	897	SAJBEL, P	UOP	0	0	1	1806C
LITVINAS, A	PAWNS	2	0	0	1655D	SAJKOWSKI, D	BPCHM	1	1	0	1943
LUDWIG, T	DRGNS	2	0	0	1951C	SALERNO, S	DRGNS	0	0	0	1462*
MANILA, M	BPCHM	0	1	0	1238*	SAMELSON, C	MKING	3	2	0	1913D
MARCOWKA, R	CHRGR	1	2	0	1978D	SANTIAGO, T	ALUMN	3	0	0	2037
MARSH, M	READR	0	0	0	1207	SAVCIC, V	TYROS	0	0	0	1116*
MARSHALL, K	MKNGT	0	1	0	1307	SAWIN, B	LBURN	2	1	0	1175*
MASHKEVICH, I	KEMPR	0	2	0	1134*	SCHULTZ, R	FERMI	0	0	0	1294*
MAZO, S	GETCO	0	0	0	0000/0	SEATON, E	CCDOC	2	3	0	1598
MCCARTHY, D	CHRGR	2	1	0	1834	SEET, P	GETCO	1	1	1	1810*
MCGEE, L	CCDOC	1	4	0	1137	SEGALIS, G	NORTH	0	0	0	0000/3
MCGOWAN, D	MOLEX	2	2	0	1086	SEIDEN, J	LBURN	0	0	0	0000/1
MELNIKOV, I	MKING	0	1	4	2017	SENSAT, J	CITGR	0	3	0	1616*
MICKLICH, F	UOP	1	1	0	1640D	SITAR, K	LBURN	0	3	1	1552
MIKULECKY, B	PAWNS	2	0	0	1496C	SIWEK, M	KEMPR	2	1	1	2013C
MOEHS, D	FERMI	1	0	0	1412#	SMITH, BR	TYROS	4	0	1	1724C
MOONEY, M	MKING	0	0	0	0000/0	SOLLANO, E	ALUMN	3	1	0	1980C
MORAN, B	GETCO	1	0	0	1512	SPIEGEL, L	FERMI	2	1	2	1946D
MORRIS, R	MKNGT	1	0	3	2183	STAMM, V	CHRGR	1	2	1	1508T
MOSSBRIDGE, A	KEMPR	0	2	0	1703	STAPLES, C	FERMI	4	0	0	1647
MUELLER, R	MOLEX	0	4	1	0000/1	STEELE, B	CCDOC	0	1	0	925#
O'DELL, DW	PAWNS	2	3	0	1458C	STEIN, P	CITGR	1	2	0	2192
OELHAFEN, A	EXCLB	0	0	0	1238	STEVANOVIC, M	UOP	3	1	0	2221D
OGANESSYAN, G	MOLEX	0	1	0	0000/0	STOLTZ, B	TYROS	3	1	1	1913C
OLSEN, A	KEMPR	2	2	2	1497C	SUAREZ, E	ROOKS	1	0	0	1830
ONG, K	CITGR	1	0	1	1891	SUBECK, J	KEMPR	0	0	0	1366*
PARA, A	FERMI	0	0	0	1497	SUERTH, F	EXCLB	2	1	1	1525D
PARAOAN, E	CASE	4	1	0	1688D	SULLIVAN, C	READR	0	0	0	1524C
PATEL, SU	CITGR	0	0	0	0000/2	SULLIVAN, J	EXCLB	1	2	0	1782D
PEHAS, A	DRGNS	2	1	1	1899C	TEGEL, F	DRGNS	1	2	2	2070Q
PHELPS, D	MKNGT	0	0	0	1208*	THOMAS, J	CHRGR	2	2	0	1576D
PIPARIA, J	MKING	1	1	2	1865	THOMSON, J	MKNGT	3	0	1	2027
PLEASANCE, M	CCDOC	0	0	0	0000/3	TRINIDAD, P	CCDOC	0	0	0	1016*
POMA, D	BPCHM	0	4	0	1237	TRUFANOV, D	UOP	0	2	0	1553#
RABINOVICH, E	MKING	1	1	1	1311	VAIL, M	KEMPR	2	2	0	1275#
RADAVICIUS, E	CHRGR	1	1	0	1604D	VAN ZILE, C	UOP	0	1	0	1328
RADUCAN, S	MKNGT	0	0	0	0000/0	VIGANTS, A	NORTH	0	3	1	1643C
RAUCHMAN, M	GETCO	4	0	0	2069*	VOLYNSKIY, G	GETCO	0	0	0	2572*
REICH, T	MOLEX	3	2	0	0000/4	VOSS, M	CITGR	0	0	0	0000/2

Current Ratings

NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING	NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING
WALKER, A	NORTH	0	4	1	1763	WILLIAMS, K	CCDOC	3	0	0	2187
WALKER, C	KEMPR	2	1	0	1714	WILLIAMS, S	GETCO	1	2	0	1220#
WALLACH, C	MKING	3	2	0	1984C	WIRTZ, R	KEMPR	1	0	0	1314*
WALSH, W	ROOKS	0	1	0	1494C	WOLF, D	MKING	1	0	0	2377
WANG, A	CITGR	1	0	1	1461#	WONG, P	EXCLB	0	1	0	2180C
WANG, G	KEMPR	0	0	0	1631*	WOODS, C	BPCHM	0	4	0	0000/3
WARD, CH	GETCO	0	0	0	1320	WU, M	DRGNS	1	0	0	0000/0
WARREN, J	CHRGR	0	0	0	2045Q	YACOUT, A	ROOKS	1	3	1	1504
WEISNER, T	PAWNS	0	0	0	1120	YOUNG, A	CITGR	0	0	0	0000/2
WEITZ, R	EXCLB	2	3	0	1593C	ZADEREJ, V	MOLEX	2	1	1	1202
WHITE, H	CASE	0	4	1	1671C	ZOELLNER, J	CASE	2	1	2	1325D
WILKOSZ, A	NORTH	1	0	0	0000/0	ZUBIK, J	BPCHM	0	3	0	0000/3

RATINGS LEGEND

/x - UNRATED; x RATED GAMES
 # - 5 TO 9 RATED GAMES
 * - 10 TO 24 RATED GAMES

C - CENTURY CLUB MEMBER
 D - DOUBLE CENTURION
 T - TRIPLE CENTURION
 Q - QUAD CENTURION
 V - QUINTUPLE CENTURION

(Ratings as of 12-14-2003)

The Chicago Industrial Chess League Keeps Rolling

By Jim Brotsos, Co-founder of the C.I.C.L.

THE EARLY YEARS

In the mid 1950's a few commercial chess clubs in Chicago began to hear about each other and arranged to hold large team matches and simultaneous exhibitions against Experts & Masters including (Chicago attorney) Sol Friedman, ("Champion of the Western Hemisphere") Sammy Reshevsky, and IM Al Horowitz (former U.S. Champ & founder of CHESS REVIEW). **Miroslav "Mirko" Mejzr**, a Czech immigrant, headed the strong chess club at the First National Bank. He knew Salo Flohr, the great Soviet Grandmaster of the '30s, back in Prague. Now Mirko worked in the Silver Dept. of the First which was a leading bank of Chicago. The bank building stood where the Bank One Plaza and the Chagall Wall are now at Dearborn & Monroe. He got the idea of forming a chess league similar to industrial bowling or softball leagues. He called around inviting other chess club leaders to come to the bank to discuss the proposition.

The meeting was held on May 29, 1957. I cannot remember all of the representatives, but following is a list of most of those who attended:

The Lakeside Press Chess Club (R.R.Donnelley & Sons Co.) -

James A. Brotsos, Charles Bradley, & William P. Stevenson

Illinois Bell Telephone - unknown

Stewart Warner (a large manufacturer with two industrial sites, one on Diversey Blvd., just East of Damen [now Yuppi housing], the other at Kostner & Division St.)-

Hugh Williamson & Claude Luth

Chicago Title & Trust-

Richard Jones, John Dunworth, & Walter Fischer

Western Electric (a giant complex just south east of Cicero & Cermak)-

Ed Yaros & Joseph Traeger

First National Bank of Chicago-

Miroslav Mejzr, Don McCluskey & (probably) Bill Mann.

(Bill was the Manager of the Bank Cafeteria which furnished employees with free, hot lunches. We always ate well when we went to the bank for matches or meetings.)

None of us were aware of the existence of the Commercial Chess League of New York, so we had no source of guidance. But we were enthusiastic, positive, and creative enough to generate some basic rules and a schedule to get us started. The competition began in the fall of 1957 with each team playing the other 5 twice, once at home and once away. The team size was 8 players, but if teams showed up with more players, the larger team result was also counted as the "Club Match" score. At the end of the season, FNB won in Team Competition, 7 1/2- 2 1/2 ; Western Electric won the Club Match competition, 9- 1.

The only officer was the Secretary-Treasurer (M. Mejzr) who would receive, record, and relay results by phone and collect and manage League funds. He held this position for several years.

The first awards banquet was held in spring of 1958 at the Old Prague restaurant in Cicero. After the two team trophies were awarded, the group watched a couple of chess films ("Chess Fever" [1925] & "Passionate Pastime" [1958]). Then the event turned into a couple of impromptu poker games. The following year we managed to stage an after-dinner speed chess tournament. We didn't have enough chess clocks for the usual Blitz style tournament so we played Rapid-Transit Chess. I brought a Buzzer clock from the Lakeside Press C.C. equipment locker. It was placed in the center of the restaurant and set to buzz every 10 seconds. Players were expected to make their respective moves between the sounds. Cash prizes went to the winner of each Class Round Robin. This was better than playing cards at a chess banquet, but it left a lot to be desired. I believe this misfire stimulated the acquisition of chess clocks within the League. In succeeding years this annual tourney was conducted with competitors getting 7-minutes per clock. In 1963, I showed my 8 mm films of the 1962 U.S. Open Chess Tournament before the speed chess. The banquets also included talks by chess dignitaries including Frank Skoff, (later Pres. of the U.S.C.F), Helen Warren (founder of American Postal Chess Tournaments), Pearle Mann, F.I.D.E. Arbiter; GM Dimitri Gurevich, GM John Fedorowicz, and Senior Master Albert Chow. Sometimes special entertainments were provided for the members' wives and girl friends- magicians, pantomimists, simple craft projects, and board games.

In 1958-59 two important events took place: **Nikolai Goncharoff** brought the Motorola team into the League and **Jim Warren** joined the Western Electric team. Nik was always a strong leader for Motorola and also headed the League for 2 years. He developed large, strong teams and played more League games than anyone else. He also has the distinction of having beaten Bobby Fischer in May 1964 and drawing with Povilas Tautvaisas (one of the best in the Midwest) in 1959 in simultaneous exhibitions.

Jim Warren was our first Expert player at a time when most teams were happy to have one Class A player on their team. In competition, he dominated for several years and always remained in the Top Ten of his Division. More importantly, he consulted with Professor Arpad Elo of Marquette U. and created our numerical rating system. He wrote a computer program for calculating self-consistent ratings. This work also formed the basis of the Elo/FIDE international rating system. Our ratings made it possible to create additional forms of competition and player recognition. Jim began the rating program in 1968 and served as Rating Statistician for several years. Jim introduced a popular Problem- Solving contest printed in the League Bulletin. He also served the League in many ways including heading it from 1964 to 1966. He was a great help in co-directing three Open Swiss-style tournaments held in the 1970's at the O'Hare Inn (now Ramada Inn) in Rosemont, the Western Electric Albright Gym in Cicero (razed several years ago), and the penthouse of the Leaning Tower YMCA in Niles. He also spearheaded the League sending a team of players into the Indiana State Penitentiary to play a team of prisoners.

The second year also saw the introduction of the office of League Chairman held by Hugh Williamson, an accounting executive at Stewart Warner.

The third year saw the introduction of the largest team of our league. Lolita Woodard, Jasper Wolkoff, and Edgars Rudzitis brought Argonne National Laboratories into the League. This club eventually split into 4 teams. It also challenged the Rest of the League to giant team matches as special events. The only other entity that did this was AT&T which, before its historic break-up, had League teams within Illinois Bell Telephone, Western Electric, Bell Laboratories, and Teletype. Argonne & Western Electric won most of the trophies for the next 13 years.

During 1959 I inaugurated our League Bulletin.

In the 1960-61 season we formed an All Star team and entered into competition in the powerful Greater Chicago Chess League headed by the late Edward Buerger. The other teams in that league and some of their stars were:

The Latvian C.C. - Master John Tums, Valdis Tums, & Erik Karklins (The winning team)

The University of Chicago - Masters Robion Kirby & Mitchell Zweig; Mike Robinson

The Polish Eagles - K.A. Czerniecki & Roman Golla

The Ukrainian Lions - Master Miroslav Turiansky & Petro Skalczuk

The Evanston YMCA C.C. - K.O. Mott-Smith, Ed Godbold

The Austin Chess & Checker Club - Ed Buerger, John Nowak, & Martin Klein

The Knight Klub (which met in a tavern on So. Pulaski Av.)

By now the League began organizing occasional Simultaneous Exhibitions featuring such stars as Masters Rob Kirby and Charles Henin from the U. of C., frequent Illinois & Chicago Champ Povilas Tautvaisas, GM Sammy Reshevsky (again), GM Robert Byrne, GM Arthur Bisguier, GM Larry Christiansen, Senior Master Greg Defotis, and (future world champion) Bobby Fischer.

For companies with bigger chess clubs, the idea of multiple teams made sense ; rules were changed to allow this popular program. On the other hand, a few teams in the League didn't have the staying power to last, so we created a rule allowing combined teams to compete. Stewart Warner & Sunbeam were the first two teams to merge. Although retired employees were always welcomed on a team, players who moved to other companies were disqualified. To help sustain the teams of such players, we instituted a "residual eligibility" rule allowing the departing players to finish the season with either the team they began the season with or a team sponsored by their new employer (but not both). Later this was expanded to allow old employees to play with their original team forever, just like a retiree. The emphasis was on a guideline adopted in our maiden meeting: Maximum Participation.

THE EXPANSION OF THE LEAGUE

By 1969 the League had grown to 12 8-Man Teams:

Western Electric Chargers

Western Electric Gambiteers

1st National Bank

Illinois Bell Telephone

The CICL History

Motorola
Argonne National Labs Knights
Argonne National Labs Bishops
Argonne National Labs Pawns
Bell Laboratories
Goss Co.
Teletype
Amoco

I was not part of the League at this time. I began exploring the idea of 4-man industrial chess teams. I contacted my old club at the Lakeside Press and found that their President, Ron Dargis, was of a like mind. Working together we rounded up 12 companies interested in fielding 4-man chess teams in the CICL. I organized a team at my workplace, Sherwin-Williams. I called the League Chairman, Nik Goncharoff, and proposed the addition of these teams as an added division of the League. Nik said "I can't turn you down, Jim, because I know you'll start a new 4-man team League of your own if I do".

At the August 1969 meeting at the Hawthorne Savings & Loan Association office in Cicero, this "Junior" Division was accepted in the C.I.C.L. At this same meeting another large club was voted into the "Senior" Division: Bell Telephone Laboratories brought in by Gary Benson and Ray Alexis. The new 4-man teams came from:

The Lakeside Press	Perma Power
Chicago Title & Trust	Continental Can Co.
Sears & Roebuck	DeSoto
Sherwin-Williams	Bell & Howell
Rauland	International Minerals & Chemicals
Signode	Johnson & Johnson

Within 3 years the 4-man team Division had grown to 28 teams and the League had a total of 40 teams. This was at the height of the "Fischer Boom".

The formation of a second division set the stage for an obvious annual All Star game where the best of each division would play each other in large team matches. The 8-Man Team Division usually won these battles.

In 1970 the League introduced the offices of President, Treasurer, and Division Chairmen. I was the first President. Steve Schwartz of Sears was the first 4-Man Team Division Chairman; Frank Tegel of Teletype was the first 8-Man Team Division . Chairman. Ron Dargis was the Secretary, and Stan Ockers of ANL was the Treasurer. An appointed office of Problem Contest Chairman went to Newman Guttman of Bell Laboratories.

Around 1973 I installed a new program that added strength and numbers to the League. Valuable members of the League lost their eligibility whenever they quit their member company, were laid off by that company, or their team disbanded, often after the loss of the Team Captain.

Why not create Alumni teams allowing these players to band together and continue participating? With these teams, any player who had played a match game in League competition could join an Alumni team. At that time, a major reduction-in-force at Argonne National Labs produced the first Alumni team; it was an all- Argonne team called ArgonneX and organized by Past President Ray Fabijonas. This was followed shortly by Alumni North which later changed its name to The EXcaliburs. This program has conserved many of our more talented players and leaders. The idea was adopted by our counterpart in New York. At one time we had up to 4 Alumni Teams in the League.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

In the early years of the League the competitive awards were all team-oriented. League officers were given plaques, gavels, etc., but these were for service. In the 1960s a couple of opportunities were created for individual competition recognition. One was competition in Chess Problem Solving as published by Jim Warren in the Bulletin. At times awards were also offered for Best-Played Game.

With the coming of Ratings, it was possible to identify The Most Improved Player and the Highest Rated player in each division each year. It was an obvious step to inaugurate awards in these categories and to give the originator of our all-important rating system recognition. Accordingly, I named these the James E. Warren Awards. For some reason, later administrations have forgotten to call these the James E. Warren awards.

It also seemed fair to give recognition to those players who made most of the matches. Loyalty and enthusiasm are as important as talent. So in 1972 we instituted the Century Club recognizing any player who chalked up 100 League-sponsored games played. So far only Nik Goncharoff has exceeded 500 qualified games. Karel Dobr and Jim Warren of Western Electric/ Lucent Technology and Frank Tegel of Teletype/ Lucent Tech. have gone beyond 400 games. Those with over 300 games are the late Edward Buerger of Procon/UOP, Vern Stamm and the late Dan Kumro of Western Electric/ Lucent, and Roy Benedek and Greg Berry of Argonne National Labs.

In 1990 I wrote an obituary in our Bulletin on Ron Dargis who was a major leader in the 1969-72 period. This led to the incumbent officers creating a new individual award: The Ron Dargis award for lifetime Distinguished Service within the CICL. In 1991 I was the first recipient. Later Jim Warren & Dan Kumro also received this accolade.

TOP PLAYERS

In surveying the history of the League, one has to be impressed by the number of fine players

The CICL History

who participated. Some gained or lost over 200 rating points in their careers; some were very consistent. I tried to identify the better players for this article by sampling rating lists in our Bulletin. Unfortunately, these rating swings, or limited play, or my missing certain Rating Lists, will probably leave some deserving players off this list. (My sincere apologies to them).

The team with the strongest players in CICL history was the Chicago Board of Options Exchange which had a brief life of about a year in the 1988 season. This team included I.M. James Rizzitano rated 2585 and I.M. Calvin Blocker at 2555. Robert Gruchacz (2491) and Mark Lonoff at over 2300 were also on the team.

The highest rated players with significant experience in League play have been

David Levine of Argonne,
Morris Giles and **Ruben Reyes** of Sears,
R.Cusi of Franklin-Watts
Peter Stein, Tellabs/ Lucent Technology
Lawrence Chachere of Bell Laboratories, and
Victor Bezzubov, Fermilab

All of these stars had ratings hovering around 2350. This past season brought a new super-Master into the CICL on the Getco team: **Gregory Volynskiy** who finished his first season with a provisional rating of 2572.

Based on CICL Ratings, I've compiled the following list of top-rated (very high A to Master) players (excluding the stars mentioned above) in 45 years of our competition:

C .Alfaro	C. Horowitz	Murrel Rhodes
H. Allen	C.Huttar	J. Rose
Roy Benedek	Stan Ilic	K. Rose
Arnulfo Benesa	Florentino Inumerable	E. Roytburg
Greg Berry	Jim Jackson	Russ Rzeszutko
C.Bhojwani	Norman Jacobs	Leonid Sagalovsky
Bob Bloom	Kazimieras Jakstas	A. Salkauskas
Edwin Boldingh	Tony Jasaitis	Chris Samelson
J. Borum	Barry Jones	Angelo Sandrin
Darren Bolden	M. Kantar	Ted Santiago
Bill Brock	J. Keisler	K. Schmuggerow
Robert Buchner	Bill Kenny	Ron Schulman
Edward Buerger	Martin Klein	Sam Sheynin
L. Chachere	J. Koh	Mark Siwek
D.Cieslek	M. Kozlovsky	Richard Smiley
B. Clare	Herb Krakau	Elly Sollano
Jim Condron	Tim Kras	Lenny Spiegel
P. Connor	Dwight Kucera	Miomir Stevanovic
Marvin Cox	S. Kukes	Marcus Stinson
Lynn Crewse	Rick Lang	Bob Stoltz
Paul Cripe	Ed Latimer	David Streets

The CICL History

Kajetan A. Czerniecki	Chester Lee	Adam Stys
Joe DeMauro	Dennis Leong	Jim Sullivan
Pablo Diaz	Gee Leong	Wes Suzuki
Chuck Dobrovolny	S.. Loring	I. Tamez
John Dunworth	Alan Losoff	Mark Tang
Tommaso Dorigo	T. Ludwig	Frank Tegel
R. Easter	Vilo Machuca	Jim Thomson
Rick Edahl	R.Manaster	Wes Underwood
Jim Egerton	Bob Marcowka	John Van Meer
Abe Ellenberg	D. Marema	Dan Vasto
Wesley Franz	Kelvin McAlister	P. Walhout
Yuri Fridman	Bruce McNeil	Cliff Wallach
Bill Friesema	Igor Melnikov	Arthur Wang
Tom Friske	Ainis Mengelis	Jim Warren
Gustavo Garzon	Slavko Mihailovich	Len Weber
Bert Gazmen	S. Minin	W. Weihmiller
Sheldon Gelbart	Robert Morris	Kent Williams
Jim Gibbs	K. Moynihan	Tim Williams
P. Golumbovski	J. Murphy	D. Wilson
J. Gregory	?. Neidhardt	Harold Winston
Julian Guio	H. Nelson	David Wirtschafter
Morton Hamermesh	Russ Osterlund	Dan Wolf
Y. Hasan	Lou Parker	Phil Wong
Bob Hill	Alex Pehas	Charles Young
Jim Hodina	S. Peijffers	S. Youssef
	M. Rauchman	J. Zeidel

TOP LEADERS

Although strong players add prestige to the League, it is the organizational leaders that make it work. The top leaders often held office for multiple years. They also served in numerous roles beyond heading the League. Below is a list of the gentlemen who were elected to the top executive position of the CICL in (generally) chronological order.

Miroslav Mejzr	1 st National Bank
Hugh Williamson	Stewart Warner
Jim Brotsos	R.R. Donnelley & Sons/ Sherwin Williams/NationalCan
Don McCluskey	1 st National Bank
Walter Elliott	Western Electric
Jim Warren	Western Electric
Dan Kumro	Western Electric
Romas (Ray) Fabijonas	Argonne National Labs
Nikolai Goncharoff	Motorola
Ron Dargis	R.R. Donnelley & Sons

The CICL History

Ron Tobias	R.R. Donnelley & Sons
John Greczek	Amoco
Irving Rosenfeld	Chicago Title Insurance
Jim Sobun	Western Electric
Greg Berry	Argonne National Lab
Gee Leong	Kemper Insurance
Paul Weston	Western Electric
Martin Franek	Veterans Administration
Russ Rzeszutko	AVJ Software
Bruce McNeil	Motorola
Ross Siegel	Continental Bank
Anthony Jasaitis	Chicago Research & Trading
Jim Hodina	Amoco
Pat Sajbel	UOP
Irwin Gaines	Fermilabs
Jim Thomson	Motorola

As mentioned above, Nik Goncharoff and Jim Warren have made major contributions to the League's success. I feel that **Dan Kumro** also deserves special recognition among the Past Presidents. From his entry into the League in the late 1950s until his death in 1993 he served the League in special roles every year. This included Rating Chairman and Division Chairman. He became the self-appointed League Historian long ago. In his many years as Team Captain, he was always a fierce competitor and a good player.

Many other League members never became President but served in major Chairmanships. The star of this group is **Charlie Ward** of Argonne National Labs and later Bell Laboratories. He served in several roles, but never was interested in moving up to President. When the ratings program was initiated, Jim Warren and Dan Kumro maintained ratings by using equipment at their workplace. In 1983 Charlie researched the market, found a computer the CICL could afford and that was suitable for our Ratings computations. For less than \$2000 we purchased a Radio Shack TRS 80 Model III computer and an Epson MX 80 printer. Using these, Charlie maintained the Ratings program for a number of years. Charlie also took on other committee work including updating our Policies & Procedures. Charlie retired to the St. Louis, Mo. area several years ago. In my opinion, he is a natural candidate for the Ron Dargis Award for Distinguished Service.

Other workers who served as Division Chairmen, Rating Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, or Bulletin Editor included:

Doug Anderson	Ken Lisec
Ned Anderson	Kelvin McAlister
Terry Andresen	Leon McClendon
Leonard Augsburger	George Mergili
Dave Baurac	Bob Micek
Gary Benson	Jeff Moles
Wayne Brandt	Stan Ockers

The CICL History

Joe Brozovich	Art Oelhafen
Bob Buchner	Lance Ogasawara
Fred Ciba	Art Olsen
William Cooper	Beryl Price
Mike Dee	Carl Reid
Jim Duffy	Ruben Reyes
Wayne Ellice	Rick Shaff
Tom Friske	Lee Sheridan
Tom Gaffigan	Leonard Spiegel
Don Graft	Lee Stensaker
Norman Hughes	Frank Tegel
Satish Kale	Elaine Long Tuber
Howard Klinefelter	Wesley Underwood
Tim Kras	Len Weber
Dave Lawrenz	Gary Wolcott

The word in the Navy is “the Chief Petty Officers run the Navy”. In our League the Team Captains/ Club Presidents are the basic structure and lubricant of the CICL. These hard-working, dedicated leaders deserve the highest praise. Unfortunately, they are too numerous to be identified in this article.

THE LEAGUE BULLETIN

When I wrote the first League Bulletin it was a simple sheet summarizing team results and standings and CICL business announcements. The introduction of ratings and the addition of teams certainly added to the length of the Bulletin. The inclusion of chess problems, members’ results in open tournaments, other chess news, and lists of top ten rated or most improved players improved the quality of the Bulletin. Some issues included instructional articles. Marvin Cox (Motorola/ Alumni) furnished the best of these. For several years he wrote a fine series called “The 2 Squares Column”. A number of excellent articles were furnished by award-winning chess journalist, Helen Warren (Jim’s wife).

After the first few years some players’ games began to be published, some with light annotations. Later, as publishing technology improved, more games and more analysis were printed. As Editor, Jim Hodina stepped up the inclusion of members’ games. Members became more willing to submit game scores when prizes were offered for the better games. The quality reached new heights with the work of Editor Ruben Reyes (Sears) beginning in 1994. In the last few years **Tom Friske** has outdone all prior Editors. He not only created a website placing the Bulletin on the Internet, but he greatly added to annotated game coverage and total volume. Recent issues have exceeded 34 pages, some 70 to 80 pages long. The current Bulletin is better than most state bulletins.

CHESS CELEBRITIES

Many of our members have accomplished much in their professions or private lives. A few could be identified as "chess celebrities". The most notable of these would be **Victor Palciauskas**. When I came back to Chicago (from Navy service) in 1956, there were 3 boy chess players competing in the local U.S.C.F. tournaments with good results: Richard Verber, Edward Formanek, and Victor. In 1962 Palciauskas was in the CICL long enough (with ANL) to finish first in the top flight of the Speed Chess tournament at the League banquet. Years later Dr. Victor Palciauskas won the World Correspondence Chess Championship. In 1993 he was inducted into the U.S.C.F. Hall of Fame. It is interesting to note that our Past President, Tony Jasaitis, beat Victor in the 1994 North American Lithuanian Chess Championship tournament. Tony also tied for first place.

Harold Winston (VA/Alumni) was active in organizing college chess programs in the 1960s. He moved up into chess politics and was elected President of the ICA . Later he became a Policy Board member in the USCF and served as President between 1987 & 1990. Currently, he is the Chairman of the U. S. Chess Trust and Co-Chairman of the USCF Bylaws Committee.

Angelo Sandrin also played for Argonne. Although he was generally overshadowed by his bother Albert (U.S.C.F. Open Champion & Blind Chess Champion), Angelo was one of the mainstays of Chicago chess for decades. His rating hovered in the high Expert range although he did eventually reach the Master level. Several years ago he was one of the first recipients of the Natalie Broughton Life Achievement Award for long-time achievement in Chicago area chess at a high level. Angelo died on Christmas Eve, 2001.

Jim Warren has already received mention as one of the pillars of the League. In addition, he has had leadership roles in the Illinois Chess Association and the APCT. In 1997 he received the U.S.C.F. Meritorius Sevice Award for helping to establish the FIDE rating system. He and his wife have sponsored major regional tournaments and the U. S. Masters, often acting as financial patrons. They have contributed to top notch journalism (Helen edited the bulletin for the Chess Journalists of America). Some years ago the Warrens established programs for fostering chess among talented youngsters. They are, no doubt, the most influential couple in the history of Midwestern American chess. Jim has a significant collection of chessmen and one of the largest collections of chess books/magazines in the Midwest.

Morris Giles was a mainstay at Sears. For several years he was also an active, perennially successful player in local open tournaments. Morris is probably the strongest Midwestern African American chess player in history.

Roy Benedek (ANL) has been a major player in the League and sometimes plays in open tournaments. About 30 years ago he won the Illinois Open.

0

Alan Losoff (Chicago Research & Trading) also accomplished a great deal in the local/

regional chess world. He served as ICA President and has helped organize major tournaments here and in Las Vegas. In 1995 the USCF named Alan the Organizer of the Year.

Ervin Sedlock (Ill. Bell Tel.) has been a long time chess leader/organizer/TD in the western suburbs. He took on leadership roles in the ICA. He also has served the youth/scholastic segment with major contributions. In 1999 Erv was given the USCF's Meritorious Service Award.

Newman Guttman (Bell Tel. Labs) was the first specialist to take on the chess problem contest. Newman was a celebrity in his field. He had already composed and published more than 130 chess problems, mostly "Mate in Two" problems. Several of his compositions had won awards in problem composing tournaments. He was an International F.I.D.E. Judge and a U.S. Delegate to the Committee of Composition for F.I.D.E. He also judged 2-move problem solving in the CHESS LIFE & REVIEW contest.

Bill Brock (The Reader) has been an important part of the ICA in recent years. He has been Editor and Treasurer for the organization.

Ray Alexis (Bell Tel. Labs) created a fine magazine: CHESS 'N' STUFF. He is an important member of Chess Collectors International and edited that organization's U.S. newsletter, THE CCI- USA NEWS for several years. Ray has a large collection of chess material including the largest collection of chess stamps in the country.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The most significant non-awards party the League held was the Bobby Fischer Victory Celebration in 1972. We took the position that Bobby would beat Spassky for the World Chess Championship (which he did a few months later) and planned using a Forest Preserve shelter for our celebration. Irv Rosenfeld, an attorney working in the Loop, went to the County building early on the first business day of 1972 and beat out others to get a permit for use of the LaBagh Woods shelter on the Northwest Side. On Sept. 16th over 100 members and their families came for the picnic celebration. The League furnished decorations, beverages, and games. Besides many skittles games, we played tree golf and Kriegspiel.

Through the years simultaneous chess exhibitions were popular events. Those in which we played against Masters are mentioned in prior paragraphs. The biggest such events were our players (and others) vs Bobby Fischer. Besides Nik Goncharoff, another CICL player beat Bobby. In 1964 Erwin Puto of Western Electric beat Bobby in one of the exhibitions. Erwin was the steadiest 4th board player in the CICL in the first decade of our history. He made all the matches and won something like 8 out of 9 games he played. The final position of this game (with an imminent Mate in 2) was commemorated by being diagrammed on the League's Official Match Results form- smack in the center of it. Sadly, Erwin passed away before

The CICL History

reaching middle age.

Another type of simultaneous exhibition occurred in Oct. 1980. A group of League players took on all comers at a "Leisure Show" at the Fox Valley Shopping Mall. The exhibitors included Ruben Reyes, Jim Jackson, Jim "Pawn Down" Gibbs, Terry Andresen, Abe Ellenberg, Irwin Gaines, and Lou Parker. In Oct., 1982 another mass "simul" was conducted by Joe DeMauro, Marcus Stinson, Bill Holm, Joe Brozovich, and Jim Bingle. David Streets once played a simultaneous exhibition against a group of inmates of the State Pen.

Still another interesting simultaneous exhibition involved the CICL. In 1960 the Chicago SUN TIMES wanted to launch George Koltanowski's chess column with a publicity stunt. They asked me (because I was Chairman of the League) to furnish 6 strong players in a hurry for George to play in a "simul". I gathered together 3 of us from the League (myself and Ed Smith from the Lakeside Press and Jim Warren) and 3 of Chicago's better players: Master Robion Kirby, Expert Harold Stanbridge, and Eva Aronson, Illinois and U.S. Women's Champion. We played at the newspaper's office; George drew with Rob and beat the rest of us in quick time.

There were a number of large All Star team matches played through the years. Most of these were the Bell System or Argonne National Labs vs the rest of the League or the 8-Man Team vs the 4-Man Team Division.

In 1974, however, we had the first of two telephone matches with the Commercial Chess League of New York. The Research Center of Amoco in Naperville had a new telephone service which allowed long distance calls at a reasonable rate. On a Saturday we converged on Amoco's cafeteria and, with the aid of Telephone Talkers in a side room and Tellers running between the tables of Players and the T. Talkers, we managed to conduct a 20 Board match. The match went from 1:00 to 5:30 P.M. and several games had to be adjudicated (by GM Andrew Soltis). We lost, 11 ½ to 8 ½, but it was still fun.

In recent years we have also played large matches against the Oak Park C.C., Elmhurst C.C., and Concordia Community C.C.

THE CICL TODAY

After 46 years the CICL is still going strong for a number of reasons. Despite the loss of many manufacturing operations, Chicago is still an industrious city with many companies from which to draw teams. Luckily, we have many sophisticated and high tech. firms with a good population of existing or potential chess players. When the League began, labor unions were very strong and some of the early teams came from companies trying hard to keep unions out. They practiced a paternalism that encouraged clubs, teams, and employee esprit de corps. These companies were cooperative in buying chess equipment, paying expenses, offering meeting spaces, and publicizing positive results. Some of this paternalism has vanished since unionism has declined.

The CICL History

An advantage the League has over open chess organizations is that industry does a pre-screening job that restricts the population to well-adjusted, well educated, cooperative types of adults. Also, I feel there are fewer megalomaniacs and more "team players" in the League's population. These make for good leadership material: people who are responsible, self-motivated, creative, and willing to help others.

The League rules are flexible enough that there are many opportunities for chess playing or socializing. By expecting Team Captains to rank their boards by current playing strength, team members generally play someone close to their own level. One rule that helps attain "Maximum Participation" is the inclusion of extra board players at matches. Players ranked below the first 6 boards can play rated games (if their opponent agrees). These players can be from the same team.

I recently contacted officers from our counterparts in New York to get ideas for stimulating growth in our League. It turns out we're more substantial than they are. The Commercial Chess League of N. Y. is down to 7 4 man teams. The Long Island Industrial Chess League runs between 9 and 10 teams. This year the CICL has 20 teams divided into geographical sections:

EAST DIV.

Getco
Alumni Aces
Citadel Group
Leo Burnett

NEAR WEST DIV.

Pawns
Cook County Dept. of Correction
Case
Lucent Tech. Chargers

FAR WEST DIV.

Lucent Tech. Tyros
Fermilab
Argonne Rooks
Lucent Tech. Dragons
Molex
BP Chemicals

NORTH DIV.

Motorola Knights
EXcaliburs
UOP
Kemper Insurance
Motorola Kings
Northrop Grumman

Some of the companies that have sponsored teams in the CICL in the past are A.B.Dick, A.& B. Radio, Allied Van Lines, Apex Tool Works, Avon, CNA Insurance, the CTA, Harris Bank, Kraft Foods, Encyclopedia Britannica, GATX, Honeywell, International Harvester, Continental Can, College of DuPage, Wheaton College, Columbia College, Interlake, Rockwell International, the Sun Times, Marshall Field's, Montgomery Ward, U.S. Postal Service, Wolverine Trading, and Zenith.

JOINING THE CHICAGO INDUSTRIAL CHESS LEAGUE

You should consider forming a team and joining the League. There is a place for the Unrated or

The CICL History

Master player. There is room for the zealot or occasional player. There is a good chance that your company will pay the fees and expenses of your team. The requirements are as follows: Since the current official team size is 6 players, you need to have 7 dedicated players or 6 dedicated players and at least 2 or 3 players that are fairly interested in playing match games. All team members must be employees or retirees (not contract workers) of a given industrial, government, or school employer.

You must play all scheduled matches. From 9 to 12 matches are played after work between late Sept. and April. Playoff matches are held in May.

At least one member should attend the annual (and any special) meeting(s) to review finances and conduct the business of the League.

At least one member at each match should be familiar enough with League rules to ensure that his team abides by the rules. Someone should be able to act as Team Captain determining details of match dates, designating the lineup, submitting results, and acting as an arbiter, if necessary. The Team Captain must be available at a phone or through E-Mail in order to schedule matches and conduct occasional League business.

Your team should be able to furnish at least three Staunton style chess sets and two chess clocks at each match.

You must be able to furnish a suitable playing space for half of the matches or be willing to play all your matches "away".

You must pay annual team dues and fees(currently \$70 plus \$15 for a mailed copy of the Bulletin) by the beginning of match play each year.

At least one member should attend the annual awards banquet held on a Friday night in early June. This is subsidized by the League treasury.

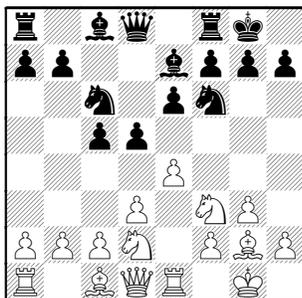
(...closes with a list of the CICL contacts. Jim is submitting the article to the Illinois Chess Association for printing in the ICA Bulletin. THANKS, JIM! for a tough job well done.)

GAMES as reviewed by Tom Friske

Hendrickson, B –
Speigel, L (1972)
Molex-Fermi, 09.2.2003

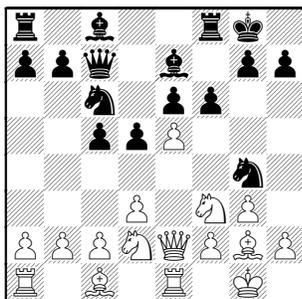
[A08]

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ngf3 c5
5.g3 Be7 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1



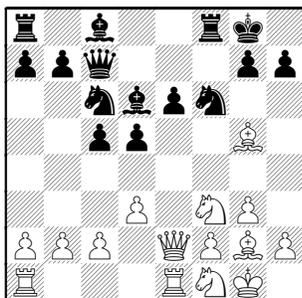
A Typical King's Indian Attack.

8...Qc7 9.e5 Ng4 10.Qe2 f6



Getting rid of the blocker, Black hopes to soon play e6-e5.

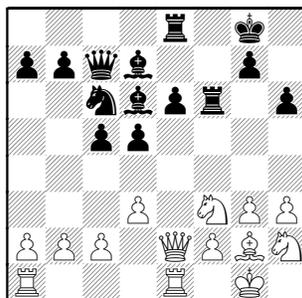
11.exf6 Nxf6 12.Nf1 Bd6 13.Bg5



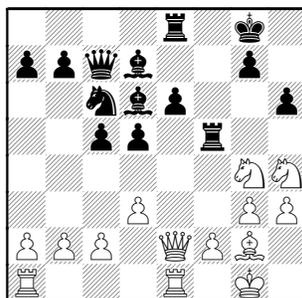
13...Bd7

Interesting is 13...e5 idea of Be6
14.Bxf6 gxf6!
(But not 14...Rxf6 15.Ng5 since d5
becomes a sore point)

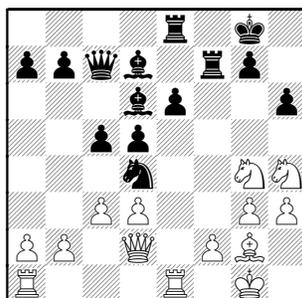
14.h3 Rae8 15.N1h2 h6 [15...e5]
16.Bxf6 Rxf6



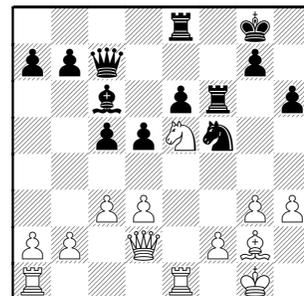
17.Ng4 Rf5 18.Nh4



18...Nd4 19.Qd2 Rf7 20.c3

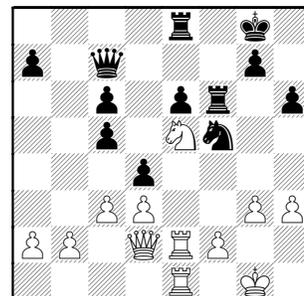


20...Nf5 21.Ng6 Bc6 22.N6e5 Bxe5
23.Nxe5 Rf6



An interesting balance. Each side as a half-open file, but Black has the problem Pawn on it. Yet, it's easily defended and keeps Black with a strong center.

24.Re2 d4!? 25.Bxc6 bxc6 26.Rae1



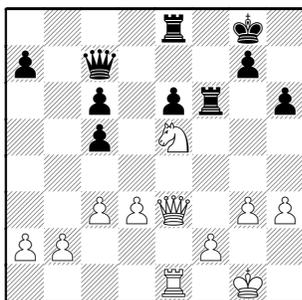
26...Ne3!? 27.Rxe3!?

27.Nxc6 Qxc6 28.fx3 Qf3 29.Kh2 Rg6
30.Rg2

27...dxe3 28.Qxe3

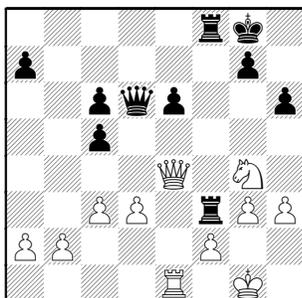
GAMES as reviewed by Tom Friske

32.Qh4 Qxd3 33.Nf5+ Kg8 34.Ne7+ Kf7



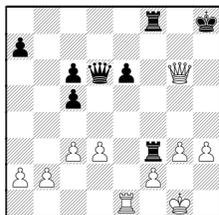
The Black Pawns aren't easily rounded up, yet keep White from advancing.

28...Qd6 29.Qe4 Ref8 30.Ng4 Rf3

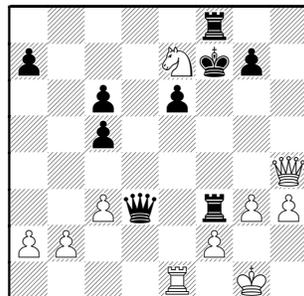


31.Nxh6+! Kh8

31...gxh6?? 32.Qg6+ Kh8 33.Qxh6+ Kg8 34.Qg6+ Kh8



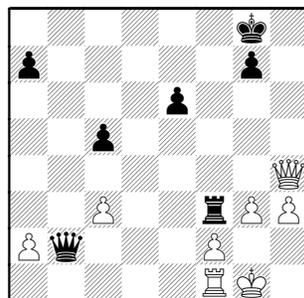
35.Re4 mating with Rh4#



35.Nxc6

With a monster fork on e5 coming

35...Qd2 36.Ne5+ Kg8 37.Nxf3 Rxf3 38.Rf1 Qxb2



39.Qd8+ Kh7 40.Qh4+ Kg8

41.Qd8+ Kh7 42.Qh4+ 1/2-1/2

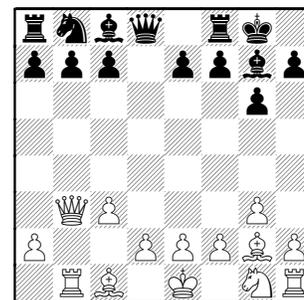
Latimer, E -

Dobrovolny, C (1833) [A16]

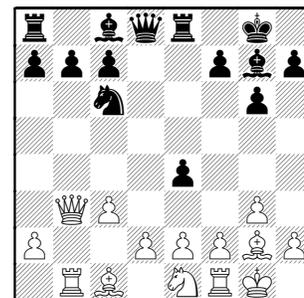
Pawns-Chargers, 09.30.2003

Welcome back, Ed! Ed was a top player for Sears many moves ago.

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Rb1 0-0 8.Qb3

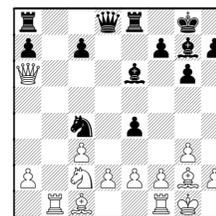


8...Nc6 [8...c6 is another way] 9.Nf3 e5 10.0-0 e4 11.Ne1 Re8



12.Nc2 Be6 13.Qa4

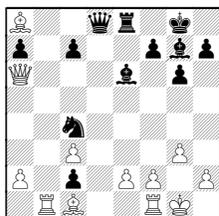
13.Qxb7 Na5 14.Qa6 Nc4



with pressure on d2, but...

15.d3?! exd3! 16.Bxa8 dxc2

GAMES as reviewed by Tom Friske

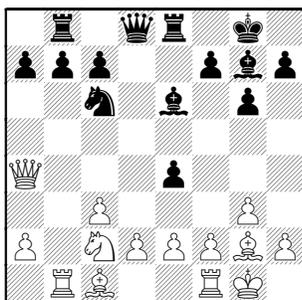


17.Rb4
(17.Bc6? cxb1Q)

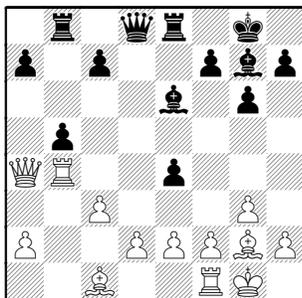
17...Qxa8
(17...Qd1!?)

18.Rxc4 Bh3 19.Qc6
(19.f3 Rxe2)

13...Rb8



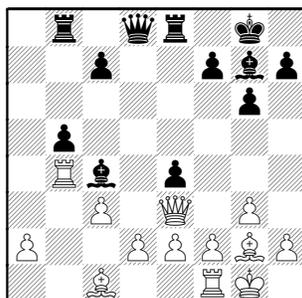
14.Nb4 [14.Bxe4 Bh3] 14...Nxb4
15.Rxb4 b5!?



16.Qxa7

16.Rxb5 Bd7
(16...Rxb5 17.Qxb5 Bxa2 18.Qa5)
17.Rxb8

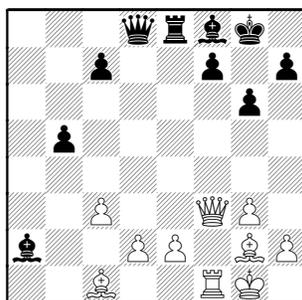
16...Bc4 17.Qe3



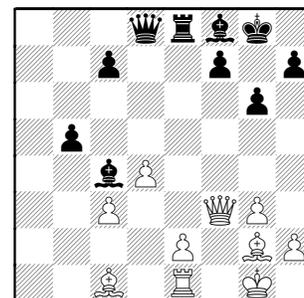
17...Bf8

17...Bxa2 18.Rxe4

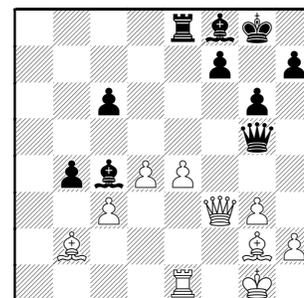
18.Rb2 Ra8 19.f3 exf3 20.Qxf3
Rxa2 21.Rxa2 Bxa2



22.d4 Bc4 23.Re1



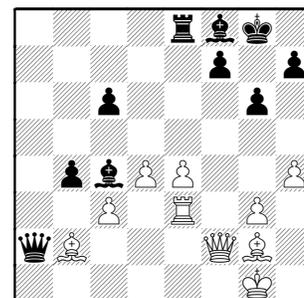
23...b4 24.e4 c6 25.Bb2 Qg5



26.Re3

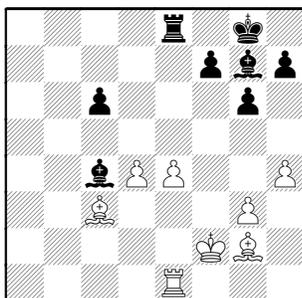
26.e5 Bd5

26...Qa5 27.h4 Qa2 28.Qf2



28...Bh6 29.Re1 bxc3 30.Bxc3 Qxf2+
31.Kxf2 Bg7

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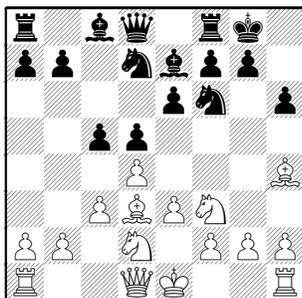


threat is c5

32.e5 Bd5 33.Bxd5 cxd5
1/2-1/2

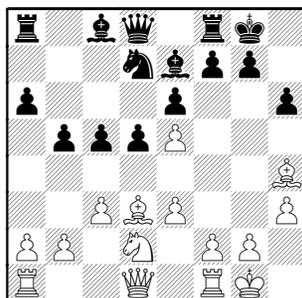
Easton,R (1930) – Kogan,G (1796) [D03]
Kemper-Excaliburs, 10.7.2003

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.e3 Be7
5.Bd3 0-0 6.Nbd2 h6 7.Bh4 Nbd7
8.c3 c5



A good approach, making sure there's counterplay before White can complete his attacking formation.

9.h3 a6 10.0-0 b5 11.Ne5 Nxe5
12.dxe5 Nd7



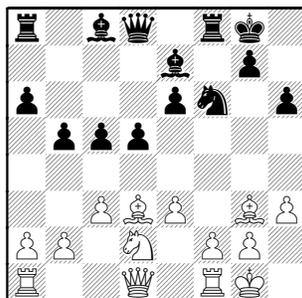
13.Bg3 f6!?

Another standard move, but this weakens the light squares.

14.exf6

14.Qg4!?! hits e6 and prepares to camp-out on g6. If Black tries to close with f6-f5, White can play Bh2 and then g4 to really bust things open.

14...Nxf6

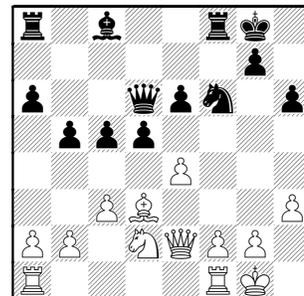


Now the entry points (g4,h5,h7) are covered, so the Knight should be marked as enemy #1

15.Qe2

15.e4 idea of e5 15...dxe4 16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Ra7 at least leaves Black with a problem Pawn

15...Bd6 [15...Bb7] 16.Bxd6 Qxd6
17.e4

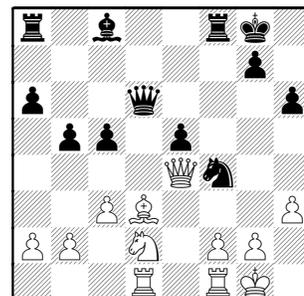


17...e5!

The problem Pawn becomes part of the game, freeing the c8-Bishop, yet the long diagonal may be its prime post.

18.exd5 Nxd5 19.Rad1?
allows the key Bishop to be won. Did White expect a pin to win the piece back?

19...Nf4 20.Qe4

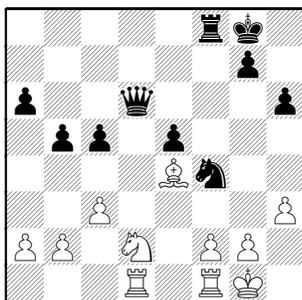


20...Bf5!

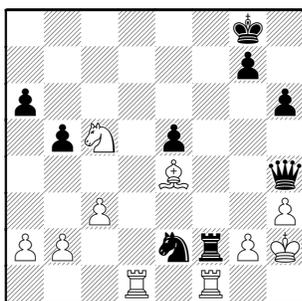
20...Nxd3? 21.Qxa8

21.Qxf5 An interesting try 21...Rxf5
22.Bxf5 Rf8 23.Be4

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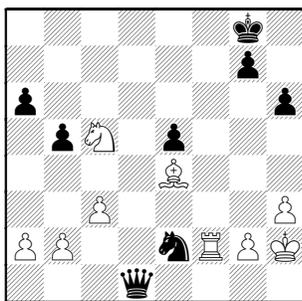
23...Qf6 24.Nb3 Qh4
idea of Nxh3+ then Qxe4, of course
25.Nxc5 Ne2+ 26.Kh2 Rxf2



27.Rd8+?

Definitely, on general principles, better to keep the Rooks for defense against the Queen. Now she'll have complete domination of the remaining pieces. White probably missed Black's 28th move.

27...Qxd8 28.Rxf2 Qd1

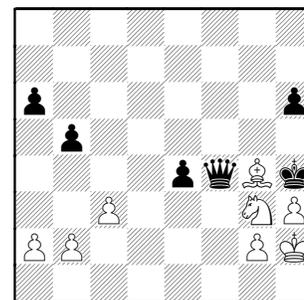


Idea Qg1# or at least Qg1+ and Qxf2, so White's reply is forced.

29.Rxe2

29.h4 Qg1+ 30.Kh3 Qxf2

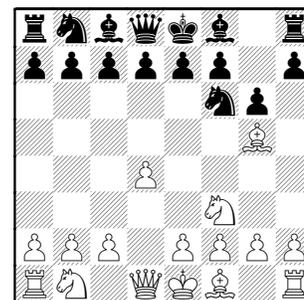
29...Qxe2 30.Bd5+ Kf8 31.Ne6+ Ke7 32.Nxg7



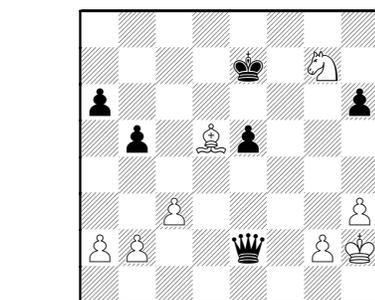
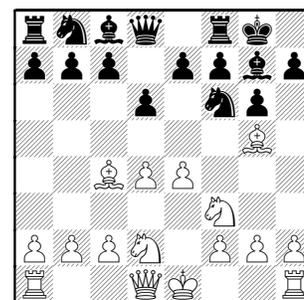
Black wins the pinned piece. 0-1

Coulter (1980) –
Otero y Garzon,G (2144) [A48]
BP-Fermlab, 10.1.2003

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5



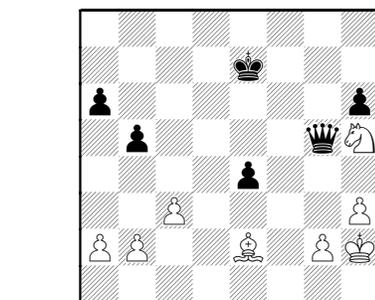
Unusual, but why not ??
3...Bg7 4.Nbd2 d6 5.e4 0-0 6.Bc4



32...Qd3

32...e4 If Black can get the passer to safely cross e2, the Queen can be sac'ed away.

33.Bf3 Qg6 34.Nh5 e4 35.Be2 Qg5

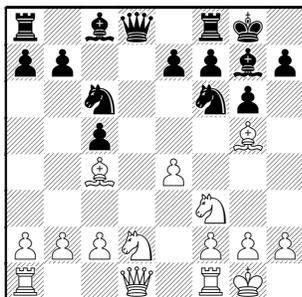


36.Ng3? Qf4
freezing the Knight and King !

37.Bg4 Kf6 38.Bh5 Kg5 39.Bg4 Kh4

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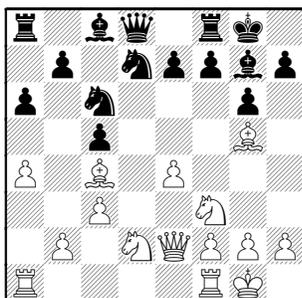
6...c5 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.0-0 Nc6



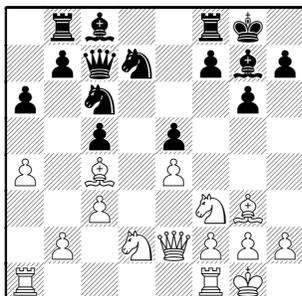
9.c3

9.Re1 idea of e5-6 could get things boiling

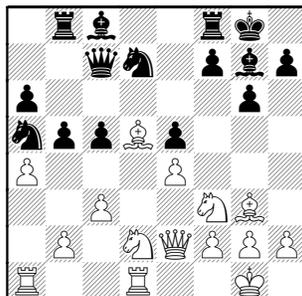
9...Nd7 10.Qe2 a6 11.a4



11...Qc7 12.Bh4 Rb8 13.Bg3 e5



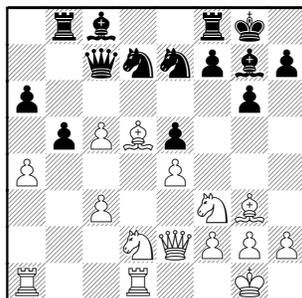
14.Rfd1 Na5 15.Bd5 b5



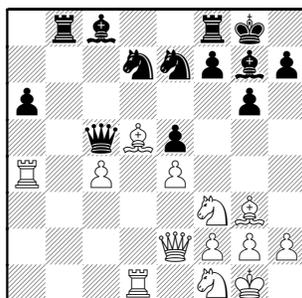
16.b4!

Stops the Queenside in its tracks, presenting targets at b5,c5 and the a-file.

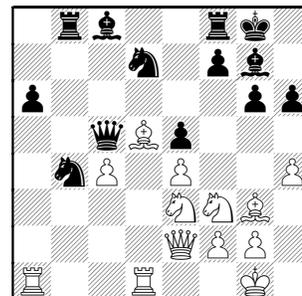
16...Nc6 17.bxc5 Ne7



18.c4 bxa4 19.Rxa4 Qxc5 20.Nf1

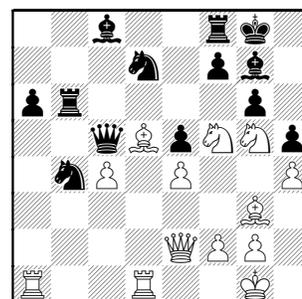


20...Nc6 21.Raa1 h6 22.Ne3 Nb4 23.h4



Opening a second front.

23...h5 24.Ng5 Rb6 25.Nf5?



25...Nxd5

I'm not seeing what's wrong with taking the Knight.

25...gxf5 26.Qxh5

(The same position happens after 26.Bxf7+ Kh8

(26...Rxf7 27.Nxf7 (27.Qxh5? Re7)

27...Kxf7 28.Qxh5+)

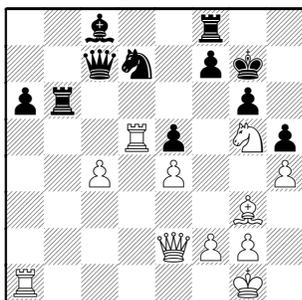
27.Qxh5+ Rh6)

26...Rh6 27.Bxf7+ Kh8

26.Rxd5 Of course, now, White has the initiative.

26...Qc7 27.Nxg7 Kxg7

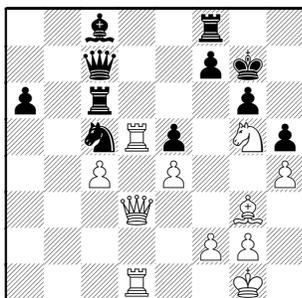
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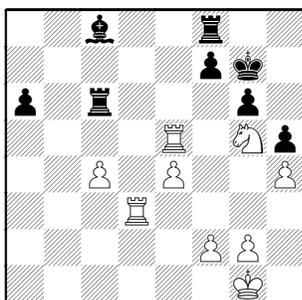
28.Rad1

28.c5 Rc6 (28...Nxc5? 29.Bxe5+)
29.Rc1

28...Rc6 29.Qd3 Nc5



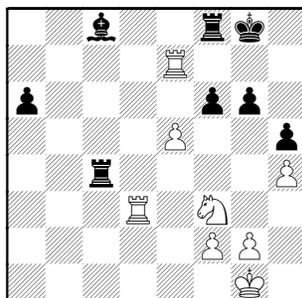
30.Bxe5+! Qxe5 31.Rxe5 Nxd3
32.Rxd3



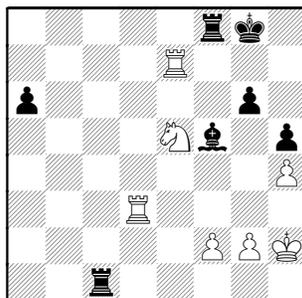
32...f6
[32...Rxc4]

33.Re7+ Kg8
[33...Kh6?? 34.Rh7#]

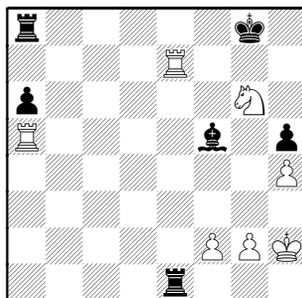
34.Nf3 Rxc4 35.e5



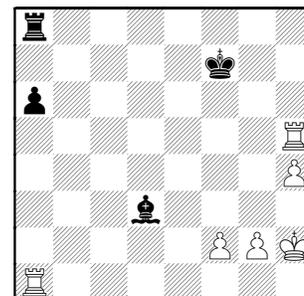
35...fxe5 36.Nxe5 Rc1+ 37.Kh2 Bf5



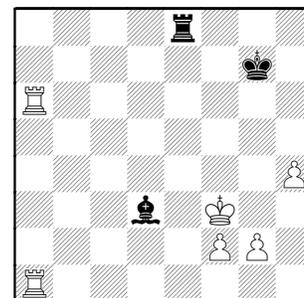
38.Ra3 [38.Rb3 idea of Rbb7, mating
or even Rb6] 38...Ra8 39.Ra5 Re1?
40.Nxg6



40...Bxg6 41.Rxe1 Kf7 42.Rea1 Bd3
43.Rxh5



43...Kf6 44.Kg3 Rg8+ 45.Kf3 Re8
46.Rh6+ Kg7 47.Rxa6



1-0

Rauchman (2002) –
Benesa,A (2214) [D00]
GETCO-Aces, 11.13.2003

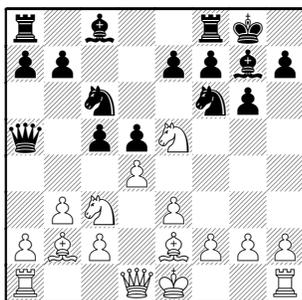
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3 Bg7
5.b3

White has apparently decided to play
defense.

5...0-0 6.Bb2 c5 7.Be2

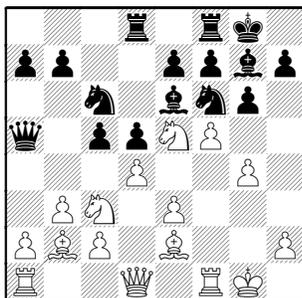
The position is a Queen's Indian, colors
reversed.
7...Nc6 8.Ne5 Qa5

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The Queen hangs out at c2 or e2 in QIDs, so here that means at c7 or e7 (after e6). Yet it's tough to place the usually good light-squared Bishop!

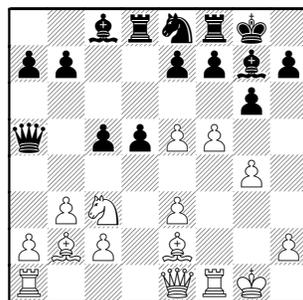
9.0-0 Bf5 10.g4 Be6 11.f4 Rad8 12.f5



The attack was free as Black has fumbled around with his problem Bishop.

12...Bc8 13.Qe1 Nxe5?
missing the tactic coming move 15

14.dxe5 Ne8

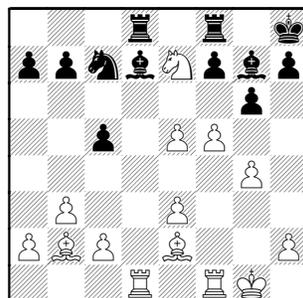


15.Nxd5!
discovering on the Queen and threatening Nxe7+

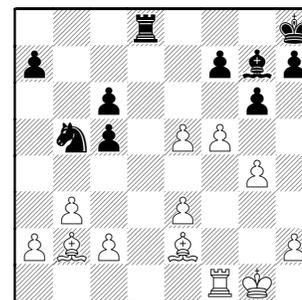
15...Qxe1 16.Nxe7+ Kh8 17.Raxe1 Nc7 18.Rd1

Be careful! You know White has a win!

18...Bd7

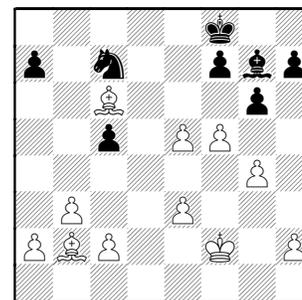


19.Rd6 Nb5 20.Rd5 Bc6 21.Rxd8 Rxd8 22.Nxc6 bxc6

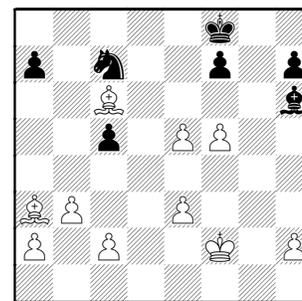


Not much hope for Black here

.23.Rd1 Rxd1+ 24.Bxd1 Kg8 25.Bf3 Kf8 26.Bxc6 Nc7 27.Kf2

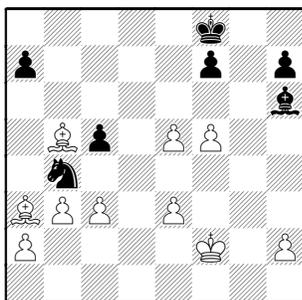


27...gxf5 28.gxf5 Bh6 29.Ba3



29...Na6 30.Bb5 Nb4 31.c3

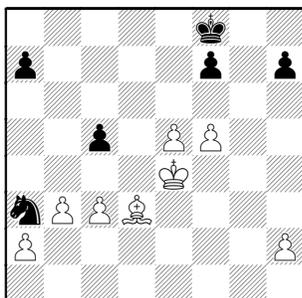
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31...Bxe3+

wins back a Pawn, but trades make the ending easier yet

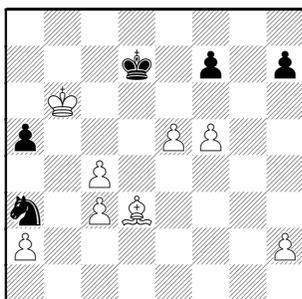
32.Kxe3 Nc2+ 33.Ke4 Nxa3 34.Bd3



Standard procedure with B v N: The Bishop covers the Knights' movement.

34...Ke7 35.Kd5 c4 36.bxc4 Kd7

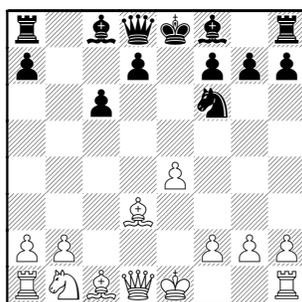
37.Kc5 a5 38.Kb6



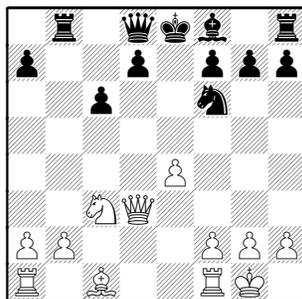
Nice that one move made the upset !
1-0

Kratka,M (1644) – Sollano,E (1997) [B22]
GETCO-Aces, 11.13.2003

**1.e4 c5 2.c3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4
5.cxd4 exd4 6.Nxd4 Nf6 7.Nxc6
bxc6 8.Bd3**



8...Ba6 since Bishop is recovered with Qa5+ **9.0-0 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Rb8 11.Nc3**



Just because there has been trades doesn't mean Black can ignore standard themes. In Sicilians e5 is a key square, Black should stop White playing his Pawn to there.

11...Be7 12.Rd1

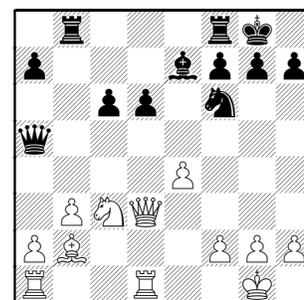
12.e5! Not only chases Knight out of

center, but begins a clamp on d6.

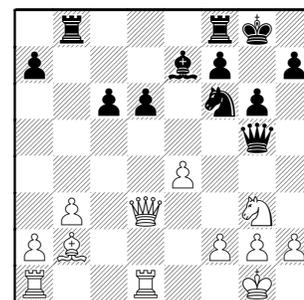
12...d6

Black takes advantage of the lull, but d6 remains an obvious target.

13.b3 Qa5 14.Bb2 0-0



15.Ne2 Qg5 16.Ng3 g6



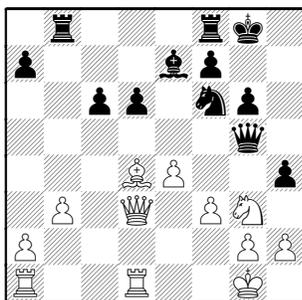
Concerned with Nf5, of course, but now f6 is also weakened. Combinations may flow from Qf3 followed by Rxd6.

17.f3

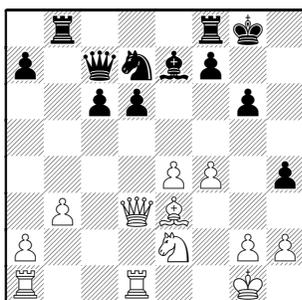
probably to cover g4 (from Ng4), but now White has no path to f6.

17...h5 18.Bd4 h4

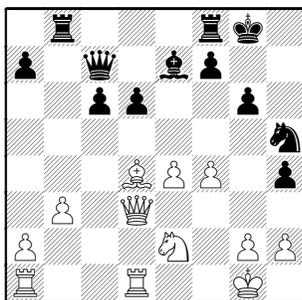
GAMES as reviewed by Tom Friske



19.Be3 Qa5 20.Ne2 Nd7 21.Bd2
Qb6+ 22.Be3 Qc7 23.f4



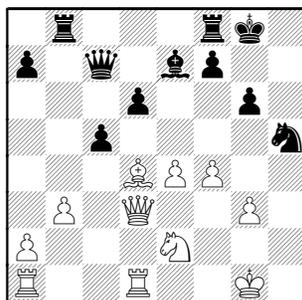
23...Nf6 24.Bd4 Nh5



25.g4!?

A familiar Sicilian theme, usually early in the middlegame!

25...hxg3 26.hxg3 c5

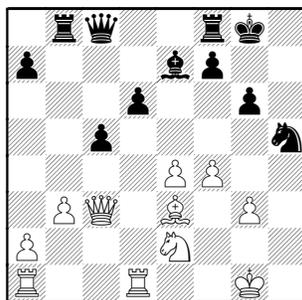


27.Qc3?!

Cute, but ineffective. White is dreaming about g4 to win the Knight, but the attack on his Bishop breaks the initiative.

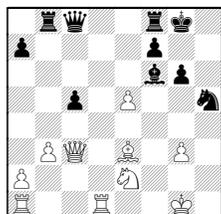
27.Bf2 idea of g4, e5-6, Qxg6+

27...Qc8 28.Be3



28...Qg4

28...Bf6 29.e5 dxe5 30.fxe5



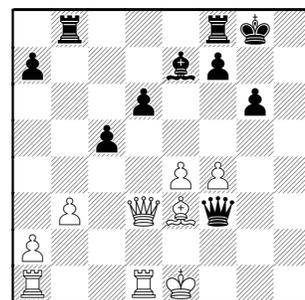
30...Be7

(30...Bg7 31.Bxc5 Qg4 idea of Qxe2 or Rbc8)

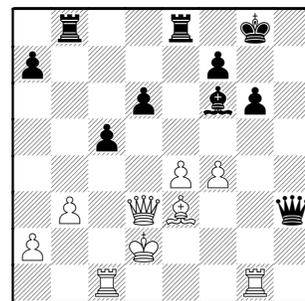
29.Qd3

29.Kf2 Qh3? 30.Rh1 Bf6? 31.e5

29...Nxc3 30.Nxc3 Qxc3+ 31.Kf1
Qf3+ 32.Ke1



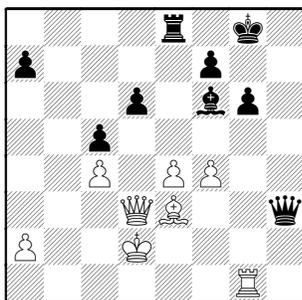
32...Bh4+ 33.Kd2 Bf6 34.Rf1 Qh3
35.Rac1 Rfe8 36.Rg1



For his Pawn, White has open lines against his opponent. Any endgame will be slightly better for Black after d6-d5.

36...Rb4 37.Rc4 Rxc4 38.bxc4

GAMES as reviewed by Tom Friske

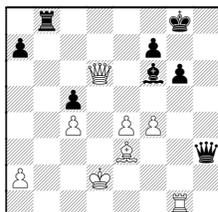


Despite scattering his Pawns, White locks d5 and increases his drawing chances in an endgame.

38...Qf3

Natural seems 38...Rb8

a) Definitely not 39.Qxd6?



39...Rb2+ 40.Kd3??

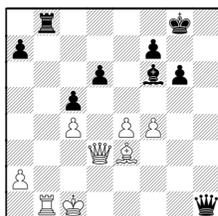
(40.Kc1 Qxe3+;

40.Kd1 Qxe3)

40...Bd4 41.Re1 Qh2 42.Bxd4 Qd2#;

b) Apparently White must simply trade

39.Rb1 Qg2+ 40.Kc1 Qh1+

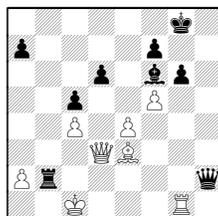


and I don't see how Black finishes off.

41.Kd2

(41.Kc2? Qxb1+);

So, instead of game, after 38...Rb8,
39 f5 Rb2+ 40.Kc1 Qh2



idea of R(x)a2-a1#

41.fxg6 Rxa2 42.gxf7+



42...Kf8

42...Kxf7? 43.Qd5+ Ke7 44.Qb7+ etc

43.Rg8+

What else ? 43.Qxd6+?? Qxd6.

43...Ke7

43...Kxf7 44.Qd5+ Ke7 45.Qb7+ Ke6

46.Qd5+ draws

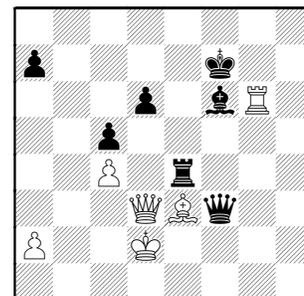
44.Re8+ Kxf7 and Black wins.

Returning to game, top last column...

39.f5 Rxe4

If 39...Kg7 40.fxg6 fxg6 41.e5!

40.fxg6 fxg6 41.Rxg6+ Kf7



All appears well, but...

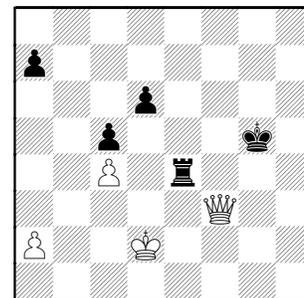
42.Rxf6+!! Kxf6

Since 42...Qxf6 allows 43.Qxe4

43.Bg5+

The point: White has set up a discovery with check.

43...Kxg5 44.Qxf3



44...Rxc4? 45.Qd5+

1-0

GAMES as reviewed by THE PLAYERS

Jasaitis, T (2122) –
Eaman, R (1848)

[A02]

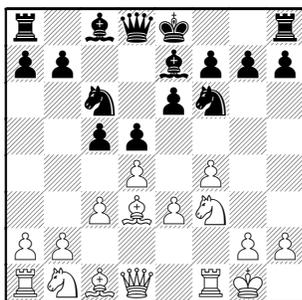
Getco v. Leo Burnett
02.12.2003

[Notes by Robert Eaman]

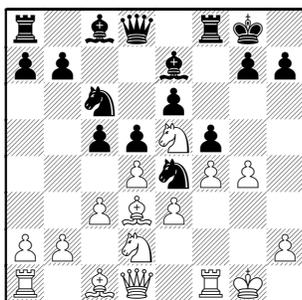
1.f4

Tony admitted to me after the game that this was his first Stonewall game in tournament play, and he wasn't as comfortable with it as he thought he'd be.

1...e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 c5 4.d4 Nf6 5.c3
Nc6 6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0



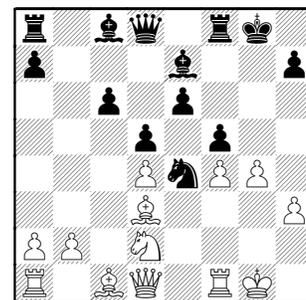
7...Ne4 8.Ne5 0-0 9.Nd2 f5 10.g4?!



Tony's a sharp positional player who knows how to attack, and this move struck me as a bit early, but not unusual for him.

10...g5!

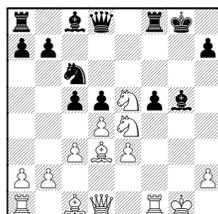
This move really surprised Tony, and it created a game we both agreed afterward was a great deal of fun. It's difficult to say if black or white is better here, but when I was thinking about this move, I realized that black is better developed, and better able to take advantage of the potential opening of the board.



11.h3?

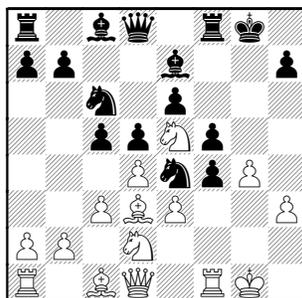
A mistake. Black can now force white to have a singular center pawn through the following exchange. Better might have been gxf5, or Kh1.

For example: 11.gxf5 exf5 12.fxg5
Bxg5 13.Nxe4



Looks better for white than the text.

11...gxf4!



12.exf4 cxd4 13.Nxc6 bxc6
14.cxd4

Black is clearly better here, with development and nice squares for his bishops, and a targetable pawn on d4.

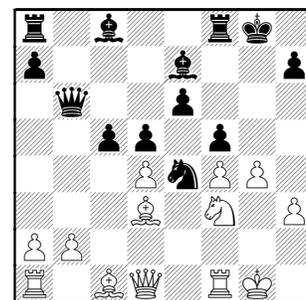
14...Qb6!

Threatens d4 & b2. Also threatens Ba6, forcing a white-squared bishop swap.

15.Nf3

15.Nb3 Protects b2 and allows development of the dark-squared bishop.

15...c5?



Is it better to attack the d4 pawn and hope it falls, or open the position by advancing the pawn? I thought it was better to open the position, but an alternative strategy to pile attackers on d4 instead might have been a good idea.

GAMES as reviewed by THE PLAYERS

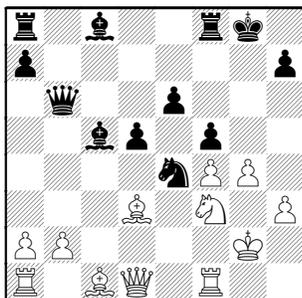
But hitting d4 with 15...Bf6 meets the simple 16.Bc2

16.dxc5??

This was a move I thought Tony should not have made. It gives up recapture with check (gain of tempo), and creates a nice landing spot on f2 for the knight.

16.b3 cxd4 17.Bb2 creates better counterplay for white.

16...Bxc5+ 17.Kg2



17...Nf2!

Threatens to take the bishop on d3, and the queen must recapture, creating the opportunity for a pin with Ba6 which will win the exchange on f1.

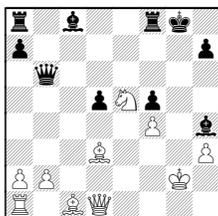
18.Rxf2

18.Qe2 Nxd3 19.Qxd3 Ba6! Wins the exchange anyway.

18...Bxf2 19.g5

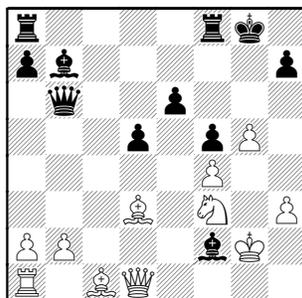
19. gxf5 would open the file against both kings, but would also allow a nice knight post on g5.

So after 19.gxf5: exf5 20.Ne5 Bh4



Black has the better game.

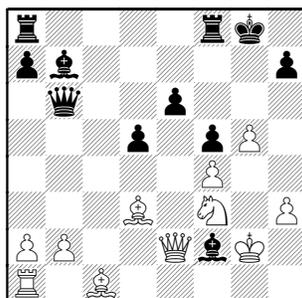
19...Bb7



I struggled with this move because it gives up protection on the critical e6 pawn, but it also obliges white's knight to stay home to prevent discovered check with d4.

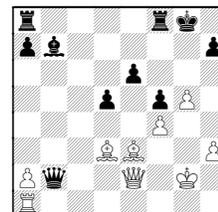
Seemed 19...Be3 20.Bxe3 Qxe3 21.Qd2 opens up the position too much for white.

20.Qe2



20...Bc5

20...Bd4 21.Nxd4 Qxd4 22.Be3 Qxb2



23.Rb1 Qg7

21.b4!

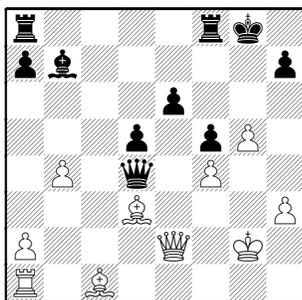
Another good Tony move. If black takes the pawn, he then shifts his focus from winning the center to getting out of pin trouble. White then mobilizes his rook and dark-squared bishop. Not worth it for black.

21...Bd4!

This move actively offers to give up the e6 pawn with check. I calculated enough in advance to realize that this was going to involve a tricky defense, but it would open up lines on white's king too. After an exchange and check is dealt with, white has too many pieces hanging. If white does not exchange, black's bishop moves to g7 with a powerful diagonal.

22.Nxd4 Qxd4

GAMES as reviewed by THE PLAYERS



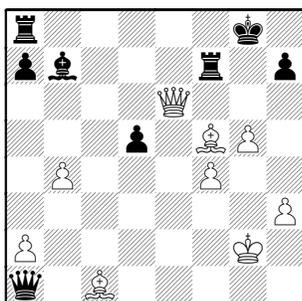
23.Qxe6+??

23.Rb1 Qb6 24.Bb2 d4+ Creates opportunities for white counterplay, including eventual attack on the e6 pawn.

23...Rf7!

And the game is effectively over. White is hanging two pieces, and doesn't have quite enough attack to finish the job.

24.Bxf5 Qxa1



25.Bxh7+ Kxh7?

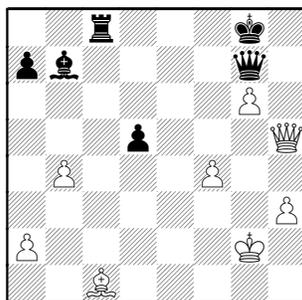
25...Kf8 26.Qh6+ Ke7 is better for Black.

26.Qxf7+?

After 26.g6+ Kh8 27.Qxf7 Qg7 Black

gets back in time. Bb2 allows black to recapture with check, and it would be the end for black if this were not so.

26...Qg7 27.Qh5+ Kg8 28.g6 Rc8



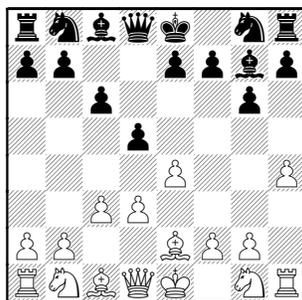
White has some play left, but black will play d4+ shortly and follow with rook checks, and white is down 2 pawns at this point as it is.

0-1

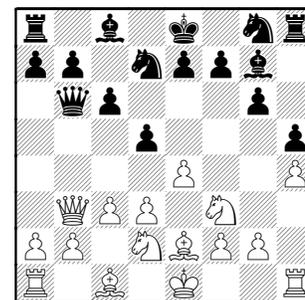
Marcowka,B (2008) – Williams,K (2161) [B10]
Chargers-CCDOC, 11.2003

Notes by Kent Williams

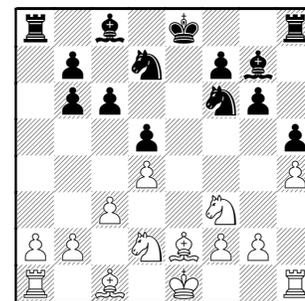
1.e4 c6 2.d3 g6 3.Be2 Bg7 4.c3 d5 5.h4



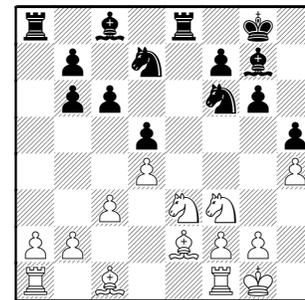
5...h5 6.Nd2 Nd7 7.Ngf3 Qb6 8.Qb3



8...e6 9.Qxb6 axb6 10.exd5 exd5 11.d4 Ngf6

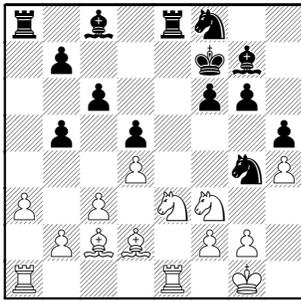


12.Nf1 0-0 13.Ne3 Re8 14.0-0

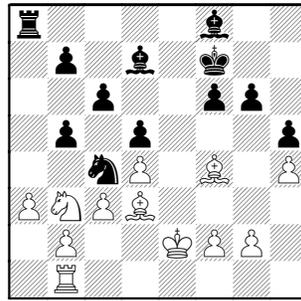


14...Nf8 15.Bd3 Ng4 16.Bd2 b5 17.Rfe1 f6 18.a3 Kf7 19.Bc2

GAMES as reviewed by THE PLAYERS



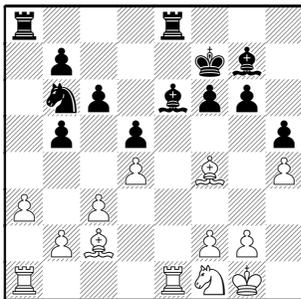
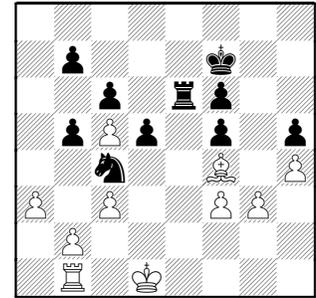
19...Nxe3 20.Bxe3 Bg4 21.Nh2 Be6
22.Bf4 Nd7 23.Nf1 Nb6



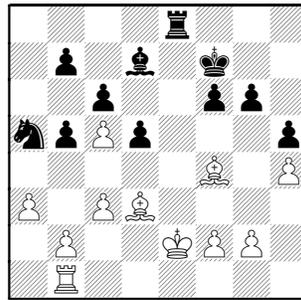
30...Na5 31.Nc5 Bxc5 32.dxc5 Re8+

structure.

36.Bxf5 gxf5 37.g3 Re6

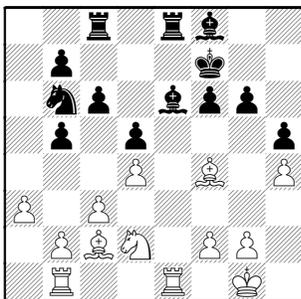
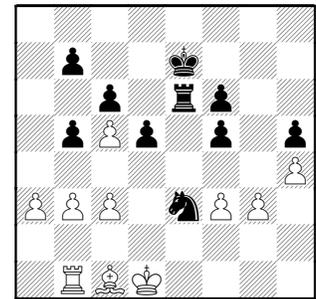


24.Rab1 Bf8 25.Nd2 Rac8



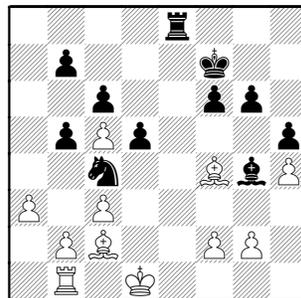
33.Kd1 Nc4 34.Bc2 Bg4+

38.Bc1 Ke7 39.b3 Ne3+



A waiting move

26.Nb3 Ra8 27.Bd3 Bd7 28.Kf1 Nc4
29.Re2 Rxe2 30.Kxe2

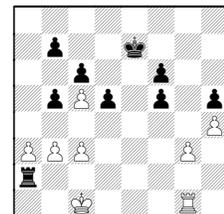


35.f3 Bf5

Black accesses the endgame as favorable, despite the resulting Pawn

40.Ke2

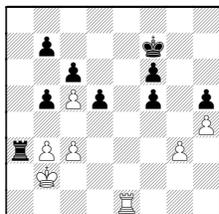
Trying to eliminate the good Knight after 40.Bxe3 Rxe3 forces the loss of a Pawn 41.Kd2 Rxf3 42.Rg1 Rf2+ 43.Kc1 Ra2



with dual threats of Rxa3 and Ra1+ winning the Rook.

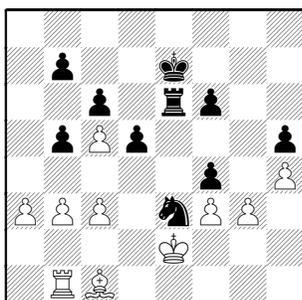
GAMES as reviewed by THE PLAYERS

44.Re1+ Kf7 45.Kb1 Rxa3 46.Kb2

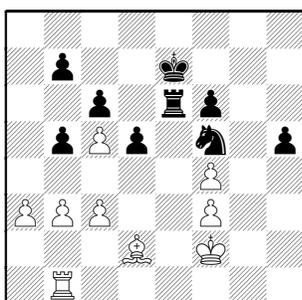


White can defend for a while, but Black has the extra Pawns and can pursue a Rook exchange.

40...f4!



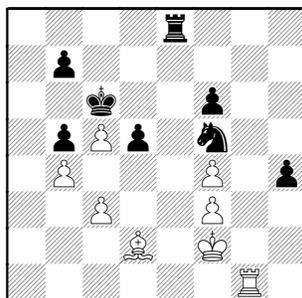
41.gxf4 Nf5+ 42.Kf2 Nxh4 43.Bd2 Nf5



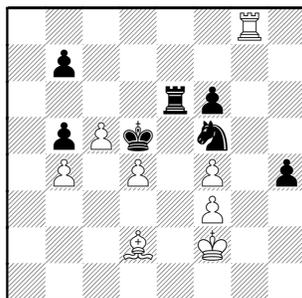
44.a4 Kd7 45.Rh1 h4 46.axb5 cxb5

White's King is tied down defending Rook excursions on the pivot-square e2.

47.Ra1 Re8 48.b4 Kc6 49.Rg1



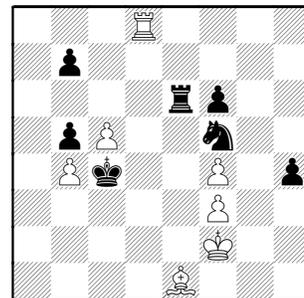
49...d4! 50.Rg6 Re6 51.cxd4 Kd5 52.Rg8



52...Kxd4 53.Rd8+ Kc4 54.Be1

White would like to play Rd7-f7 and win a Pawn.

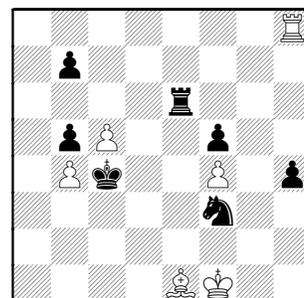
54...Nd4 55.Rh8



55...f5!! 56.Kf1

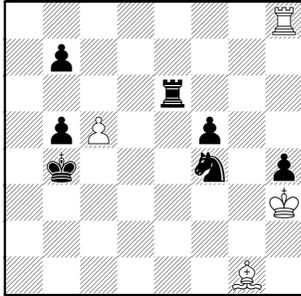
56.Rxh4? Rxe1! 57.Kxe1 Nxf3+ winning Rook and game

56...Nxf3



GAMES as reviewed by THE PLAYERS

57.Bf2 Kxb4 58.Kg2 Ne1+ 59.Kh3
Nd3 60.Bg1 Nxf4+



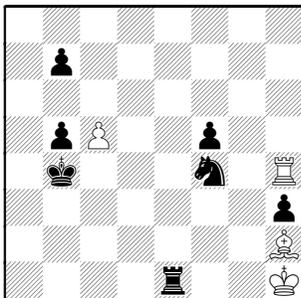
61.Kh2

61.Kxh4 Ng6+

61...Re2+ 62.Kh1 h3 63.Rh4

63.Bh2 Re1+

63...Re4 64.Bh2 Re1+



WHITE RESIGNED

Since 65.Bg1 Rf1 66.Rh5? Ne2

0-1

(Ed: In my roamings on the Internet, I tripped into the site ChessNews.org and was interested by the following opinion there written by an AP reporter apparently assigned to the chess beat. But in addition, I have wanted to update the readers about the world chess scene mentioned a few issues back. There was no FIDE unification match. Despite desires and stated goals to the contrary, it appears FIDE is making a fool of itself.

The following statement is that of its author. All rights reserved to ChessNews.org and the Author)

OPEN LETTER TO THE CHESS WORLD

by Robert Huntington

To the chess world:

For the past few years, I have covered chess for the Associated Press. I (and the chess world) have been fortunate in that the AP has seen fit to give chess extensive coverage, sending me not only to both world championships (i.e., the Kasparov-Kramnik match and the FIDE version), but to the top tournaments like Linares and Wijk aan Zee, the FIDE Grand Prix, the Olympiad, among others.

Unfortunately, in late September, immediately after the cancellation of the Kasparov-Ponomarev match, AP informed me that they would no longer be covering most chess events. While they cited economic reasons, the timing of the decision leaves little doubt that FIDE's chronic inability to hold an event as scheduled was the catalyst. They had, after all, twice had to change or cancel plane tickets for me and been put through considerable inconvenience as the Buenos Aires match was moved to Yalta and then cancelled. Regrettable as AP's decision is, one can hardly blame them.

Coal miners used to carry a caged canary into the mine to warn them of invisible gas. If the canary suddenly died, they knew they had to get out quickly or they would perish themselves. Like the dead canary, the decision of the world's largest news organization to stop covering chess regularly should be taken as a warning to act and act now. My friend and colleague Mig Greengard thinks my analogy to the canary in the coal mine is misplaced. For him, the canary has been dead for years and the miners are already dying. He's probably right, but I'm writing this letter in the hope that he's wrong and that there is still time.

This letter should not be necessary. In many ways and in many areas, chess is doing very well indeed and is as popular as ever, especially among the youth. More people play chess on the Internet than any other game. The current chess boom in India and China, the world's two most populous countries, is remarkable. A year and a half ago, things were looking even better. The Prague Agreement promised to heal the rift that had so damaged chess's reputation among the wider public (people who don't know how a knight moves can recognize petty politics and turf wars). A new, rational world championship format was promised and meaningful reform seemed possible.

That, of course, was an illusion. President Ilyumzhinov has returned to his former ways with a vengeance. Once the Olympiad and the threat of reform had passed, the Kasparov-Deep Junior match was tossed around from December to January and from Jerusalem to New York; the Kasparov-Ponomarev match

To the Chess World

was announced for Buenos Aires in June, then for Yalta in September, then cancelled at the last minute. At that time, we were told there would be a world championship tournament in December. Now we are promised two events next spring. Meanwhile, organizers in Prague, who had planned an event in September, canceled it in order to avoid a conflict with the Yalta match. And so it goes on and on. Just when you think FIDE has accomplished all it possibly can to make itself and chess look ridiculous, it surpasses itself. Ilyumzhinov is said to have spent some \$30 million promoting chess. If he had given the money to the Fédération avec l'Intention de Detruire les Échecs (Federation Intent on Destroying Chess), the result would not be worse.

I am not placing the entire blame on FIDE or on Ilyumzhinov. No doubt, Ponomarev was extravagant in his demands and contributed to the cancellation of the Yalta match. The inability of Kramnik and Leko to schedule their match is a grave disappointment. At least, they have not announced phantom matches. Kasparov's original breakaway and the formation of the PCA, which drove FIDE into Ilyumzhinov's arms, was a failed revolution. Had he either succeeded or not tried, things would surely not be this bad today. In real life, revolutionaries who fail are properly changed. In chess, Kasparov shook Ilyumzhinov's hand in Prague only to become just another one of his victims.

These, however, are petty failings compared with FIDE's and Ilyumzhinov's. At a press conference in Bled, I asked President Ilyumzhinov about the sudden transfer of the Grand Prix from Abu Dhabi to Dubai, the postponement of the Moscow Grand Prix, the cancellation of the remaining Grand Prix events and the postponement of the Kasparov-Deep Junior match in Jerusalem (originally scheduled to conflict with Kramnik's computer match in Bahrain). His response was to blame the local organizers and sundry others for these snafus. President Truman of the United States used to have a sign on his desk which read, "The buck stops here." If President Ilyumzhinov is unwilling to take responsibility for what happens on his watch, he should step aside for someone who is so willing.

The biggest harm that Ilyumzhinov does is to scare off the legitimate commercial sponsors upon whom all sports depend today. Chess should do well here. While the numbers are small, the demographics are good (well-educated and concentrated in the high tech field). And chess has a cost advantage over other sports. Corus Steel sponsors a huge event at Wijk aan Zee each year, including a tournament with virtually all the top players, strong grandmaster B and C tournaments, along with amateur events. All this cost about \$1 million, barely enough for the appearance fee of one major player in a major sport. But when would-be corporate sponsors look at Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, they don't see his incompetent scheduling and rescheduling of major events, his misguided attempts to get chess into the Olympics, or any of the purely chess sins I have been accusing him of. Instead, they see the stories of corruption coming out of Kalmykia, the endless investigations by the authorities in Moscow concerning vanished millions, his ties to Saddam Hussein, the murder of Larisa Yudina, and they look for something more reputable to sponsor. All sports, including boxing, are now more reputable than chess.

It is obvious what must be done in the first place: get rid of Ilyumzhinov even if it means bankrupting FIDE. It is also obvious that, while necessary, this is insufficient. What remains to be done in addition may well be debated, and should be. I can do little beyond advising all in the chess world to regard FIDE as anathema until Ilyumzhinov is gone and reforms are instituted.

While I have few suggestions beyond the obvious one, my diagnosis of the problems is the product of the unique position I have had in trying to explain chess to non-chessplayers, not merely the wide audience that AP reaches through its member newspapers and other outlets around the world but to the editors and managers of AP. I do hope, without the slightest expectation, that with major reform chess can improve its position among the wider public so that AP will once again consider chess events worthy of

To the Chess World

coverage.* Without such reform, I have no doubt that chess's reputation will slip yet further and it will have ever more difficulty in reaching a wider public.

I would like to end this letter on a positive note by expressing my sincere thanks to those with whom it has been a pleasure for me to work with over the past few years, not only the various editors and bureau chiefs at AP, but especially those organizers who, even though they are the most professional and upstanding imaginable, stand to lose valuable coverage from AP's decision. I refer in particular to the wonderful people behind the Linares and the Corus tournaments. I also want to thank the players I have had the privilege of covering and watching up close. They are almost all class acts, especially Vishy Anand, and they deserve neither the reputation they sometimes receive from the more notorious players nor the fate to which the politicians who run the game have condemned them. Finally, I want to thank my fellow members of the fourth estate, especially Arvind Aaron, Aviv Friedman, Leontxo Garcia, Mig Greengard, John Henderson and Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam. They have made every press room I have ever been in, even those run by the most incompetent and difficult organizers, an enjoyable place to be.

Sincerely,
Robert Huntington

* In the meantime, we should expect not only the quantity but the quality of AP coverage to decline since, on those few occasions where AP might still find covering chess worthwhile (e.g., the recent Kasparov-X3D Fritz match), they are likely to send a non-chessplaying staff reporter and we can look forward to, not only such factual errors as the consistent mischaracterization of Kasparov as "world champion," but such verbiage as this (from the AP report of the first match game):

"The two opponents played conservatively at first with Kasparov using his white pieces to keep X3D Fritz's black knights and bishops, which are moderately powerful, at bay.

But during the middle of the game, both players aggressively attempted to position their queens, the most powerful pieces on the board, to check each other's king, which would force an immediate defense of that piece to avoid losing.

Neither Kasparov nor X3D Fritz could maneuver their pieces to checkmate the other's king, and split the match for half a point each."



ChessCafe.com



COLUMNISTS

Novice Nook

Dan Heisman

Traits of a Good Chessplayer

Quote of the Month: *Not all highly intelligent people play chess well, and not everyone who plays chess well is highly intelligent (although if you ask them...!)*

A beginner often wonders if he has what it takes to become proficient at the Royal Game. The answer is that there are many aspects of intelligence and personality that correlate with the potential to become a good chess player. Almost everyone realizes that a lot of hard work will be necessary to climb the ladder of chess success, and few want to put in many hours of work with little prospects for reward. Knowing that you have some of the requisite talents is always helpful in keeping up your spirits.

Several lists of applicable chess traits have been published, so I thought it would be fun to give it a Novice Nook spin. I have separated the traits into four groups:

- . **“IQ” Aspects**
- . **Physical Traits**
- . **Personality Traits**
- . **Emotional Traits**

...but there is quite a bit of overlap, so these are really just rough groupings.

“IQ” Aspects

Memory – The ability to remember things is certainly a “no-brainer”, insofar as being helpful for chess. First there is the obvious ability to retain more chess patterns and what you know about them, including opening and endgame knowledge, tactical positions and ideas, positional maneuvers. In addition,

Improving Your Game

there is also everything else you “know” about chess – including guidelines, how to handle a six-hour World Open game, and the information in *Novice Nook*. The better the memory, the better you can store the information and retrieve it quickly and accurately. It is also well documented that memory is not as sharp when you get older, so age does degrade this ability.

Note: “Knowledge” is not an ability, but it is the information you retain better with a good memory. It is also worth noting that knowledge is not correlated one-to-one with your playing strength; for example, a player who reads more books and retains more knowledge is not always better than one who has read much less. As one of my chess friends once said, “Never confuse ignorance with stupidity” – the corollary being “Never confuse knowledge with intelligence.”

Spatial Relationships – I call the special vision which enables one to understand what is happening on a chessboard “Board Vision”. But the *general* ability to process spatial relationships is more than just that chess-specific skill; it is the capability to see and/or imagine what is happening in two or three dimensions. An example of how this is tested would be the type of IQ test question where they show you an unfolded cube and you are asked to fold it in your head and select which of four folded cubes could be created from the fold. The ability to visualize geometric patterns is valuable in chess when you are trying to look ahead and imagine a possibly occurring position. An example of an error using this ability would be a “retained image” – when you fail to see that a piece has moved off its square and you visualize it doing something on a later move when, in fact, if that line were actually played that piece would no longer be there!

Deductive Logic – This is the “If A implies B and B implies C, then A implies C” type of logic. In chess you need deductive logic to figure out what is forced and what is not. For example, during analysis of a position you need to be able to look at a move and deduce something like “Because of so-and-so, if my opponent does not stop my killer move (or whatever), then I can do this, so he must make move A or move B to prevent it or else I win.” A common deductive error would be assuming your opponent will make a move that you think is forced when in fact another move is better. Of all the skills in chess, I believe that this one is perhaps the most popularly recognized by the general public. Your deductive logic is another part of the thinking process that slows as you get older.

Physical Traits

Concentration – Playing chess correctly requires a lot of thought(!) The better able you are to concentrate and focus your thoughts on the task at hand, the better. If your mind is wandering – even thinking about a mistake you made earlier in the game - that can only hurt you. Lack of concentration detracts

Improving Your Game

from your ability to perform from the task at hand, which is usually *finding the best move in the current position within the given time available*.

Stamina – This is the physical ability to sit and play without excessive tiredness or fatigue throughout not just a long game, but possibly even a long series of games in a tournament or match. One of the problems older players have is lack of stamina; they get tired more easily. You can increase your stamina by eating and drinking correctly before and during a long game, getting proper rest, and entering the event in good shape. That is why it is helpful to have an aerobic sport, like tennis, jogging, or swimming, to augment your chess lifestyle – these are beneficial for your non-chess welfare, too!

Nerves – In the course of chess history, it has been stated about several top-level grandmasters that were not serious World Champion candidates because they did not have the nerves for top-level play. Playing chess for fun is one thing, but playing for your livelihood – or your place in history – is quite another. It requires strong nerves to play chess at the highest level, but having “bad nerves” affects your play negatively at any level.

Personality Traits

Carefulness – Of all the traits that make for a good chess player, one of the most important is the ability to take your time on each move and try to find the best one. And of the personality traits that support this ability, being careful is the key trait. Interestingly, one can be too careful and, in that case, you may even be afraid to move for fear of making a mistake. This fear inevitably leads to time trouble, requiring fast moves and resulting in even bigger mistakes than the ones you had been avoiding by taking 12 minutes instead of 6. Therefore, the best chess players are the ones that are careful, but not pathologically so. It should be noted that players who are not naturally careful in life can learn to be careful in chess! I have seen several players who were able to overcome their natural tendencies, but of course to do so one has to feel strongly that it is worth the special effort!

Caring – This trait is different than carefulness, and is actually more closely related to some of the emotional traits below. You want to care about your move, your result, your rating, and your reputation, but not *too* much. If you don't care at all, you won't work to improve it/them, and if you take these too personally then chess becomes too involved with your personal image and you will find it hard to take the necessary risks to play and improve.

Determination – This is one area in which I score well. I will not stop at something until I get it right. My wife thinks I am a little nutty because I once took almost a year on the same tough cryptogram – I would not skip it or take a hint or look up the answer. She is right, of course, but that same determination paid me good dividends when I wanted to become an expert, a

Improving Your Game

master, and get my FIDE rating (back in the days when you had to have a FIDE rating of at least 2205 to get one). One should differentiate *game-time* determination to obtain the maximal outcome (“will to win” or “fighting spirit”) with the longer-term *career goal* determination to do whatever it takes to become the best player you can. During a simultaneous exhibition at a local high school, I once met a student who, when he found out I was a chess master, said “Really? Wow! That’s cool. **I live for chess.**” I was a little amazed by this pronouncement, so I said, “If you live for chess, then why don’t you play in tournaments? For example, come a few miles down the road and play in some of the big events at the Adam’s Mark Hotel.” His disappointing reply, “Oh no! I couldn’t possibly do that!” I guess that makes him like a kid who lives for baseball but cannot possibly think of playing in Little League! His answer was *not* a mark of determination!

Note: “Killer-instinct” is not the same as “fighting spirit”. Killer-instinct is an intense desire to either beat down the opponent, or at least finish off a won game. Good chess players seem to have either one of two special traits: killer instinct or expert problem solvers. Without one of those two traits it is hard to have the determination and perseverance to play hard each move, game after game. I am more the problem solver type – I want to find the best move each and every time and I am not trying to wound my opponent’s ego.

Perseverance – This trait is similar to determination, but it represents not the will to do well, but the ability to carry on that will despite whatever roadblocks are presented: lack of time to play and study, unexpected and unnerving losses, the skepticism of others, etc. Again, there is short-term game-time perseverance and the more common long-term career goal perseverance. Surprisingly, I find a lot of students who have the determination (otherwise they would not hire me as their chess coach), but lack the perseverance – they want quicker results than is possible, get discouraged at the inevitable setbacks, and cannot maintain their chess determination for the years that are required to reach their lofty goals. Since extensive chess progress can only be measured in years, it is not surprising that many players cannot persevere in what it takes to maintain improvement over that time period.

Note: I did not forget “Willpower”, but it is mostly contained within *determination* and *perseverance*.

Capability to overcome natural shortcomings for the good of your chess play – This is a special type of trait which enables you to not dwell or be held back by any shortcomings you have, but to be able to rise above them due to your strong desire to play well and improve. Almost every player thinks, “I am not this or I am not that.” Everyone has shortcomings in one area or another. No one has a great memory *and* great deductive logic *and* great nerves and everything else – even the Fischers and Kasparovs are not perfect (but they are a lot closer than the rest of us!) However, some players let their concern

Improving Your Game

about these shortcomings hold them back. Further, in some cases, these shortcomings can mostly be overcome by will. For example, suppose you are naturally impatient or not very careful. It still may be possible, when sitting down at the chessboard, to say to yourself, "OK, I am naturally impatient (or not careful), but if I am going to play good chess I have to take my time on every move and be very careful on every move or else I can let the game slip away just by that one bad move." If you are able to say this to yourself, you may be able to overcome your natural impatience for the good of your game. Once you get in the habit of consistently practicing correctly, then it becomes easier and easier, despite any natural tendencies otherwise.

Confidence – Like many of these other traits, either extreme is bad: too much confidence is overconfidence, which often leads to carelessness, or lack of respect for the opponent. On the other hand, if you play with lack of confidence your results will surely suffer. *Chess is a mental sport, and one's lack of confidence often becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.* Let me augment this observation with a brief story: As a teenager I had a friend who played regularly and studied chess diligently. For example, in the openings he learned the English and the Caro-Kann. But in tournaments his low rated opponents did not play into his study lines and he suffered from very poor results, getting an 1100 rating based on several events. He then quit playing. Ten years later he had not played nor picked up a chess book, but asked to play in one of my invitational round robin tournaments, filled with players rated 1300-1500. Despite not having played in a decade and being the lowest rated player, he finished in second place with a performance rating of almost 1700. I asked him how this was possible. He said that maturity made the difference – he no longer worried about what his opponents were doing and just enjoyed playing. Whereas before he doubted his ability and was affected by his opponent's weird play, now he was confident that he could just play well and do the best he can. So the extra 500 points or so of playing strength was almost all due to his new-found confidence and lack of worry.

Awareness – A player who can keep his awareness and be cognizant of what is important has a big advantage. For example, when an experienced player starts to realize that the time is running short and time management is becoming a bigger and bigger part of the play, he has an advantage over an opponent who either is not as aware of the importance of this change, or is so but does not change his priorities. Similarly, being aware of possibilities, such as unexpected opponent blunders, or sudden changes in the phase of the game, is a distinct asset.

Flexibility – In a similar manner to awareness, flexibility of plan and action is a big asset. If you are not flexible enough to adapt to the change in state, then being aware of that state is not much use. It is also very important to be flexible in your learning. This flexibility is related to the next trait, open-mindedness.

Improving Your Game

Open-Mindedness – The ability to listen and to consider new ideas (or realize that the old ones you have are at least somewhat misbegotten), is very important. It is very difficult to learn if you “know” you are right or not open to new ideas, or possibilities of what you are doing wrong. A brilliant, stubborn beginner probably will never get past the beginner stage since it will be very difficult to learn from his mistakes, even (or especially!) if they are pointed out to him. The good news is that in chess if you are not very open-minded you tend to retard your own progress. Therefore, if you can recognize the cause of this lack of progress, it may jar you out of your complacency.

Emotional Traits

Ability to deal with losses as a learning tool – This is a very important indicator of how good a chess player someone is going to become. Suppose a player take losses so hard and personally that you can't speak to them and they don't want to review or think about the game. Then not only will they not be able to optimally learn from those losses, but eventually the realization that they are going to lose thousands of games in order to become a good player will wear them down. At the other extreme we have someone who doesn't care at all if they lose – they, like the tough loser, will also not review their games, because “it is just a game” and why should they spend effort to avoid repetition of their cause of defeat if it does not matter? These players are doomed to repeat their mistakes over and over and never get much better. The best outlook is somewhat in between: you cannot take your losses too personally but you have to be the type who vows never to lose the same way twice. A player who takes great interest in their shortcomings and studies them in such a way as to minimize the chance of recurrence will usually be much better than the players who are at each extreme.

Pride in your moves and your reputation – I think this trait is a little underrated. Players who take pride in each move have an advantage over players who are don't care that much about each move. These latter players are often surprised when I ask them about what considerations went into a particular move, as if to say “Why should you care? It is not that important to me” or “This is just a medium speed internet game – why should I try my best?” But almost all strong players share the concern that they put in the proper effort on each move (time permitting) and try to reach the correct decision, or at least do the best they can. Can you imagine Garry Kasparov annotating one of his games and writing, “I made this move without much thought – I really didn't care if it was a good one or not”?!

Ability to deal with setbacks, bad moves – This is different than perseverance, which enables you to maintain your will after setbacks of any type. Perseverance is therefore part of this trait, but not the only part. For example, the ability to maintain equanimity – not lose your cool – when things have gone wrong, is important. Players who get upset and let previous moves

Improving Your Game

affect their judgment of the current move, or even think about the previous move instead the current move, are almost making a big mistake.

Playing chess is fun – This is the most common trait shared by chess players. Humans who lack this trait may become good scientists, doctors, lawyers, engineers, golfers, bridge players, video game champions, businessmen, or whatever, but they won't become good chess players.

Studying chess is fun – This is the flip side of the previous trait: take random chess players at a chess club and hand them *Capablanca's Best Games* and ask them to read it, a certain percentage will decline and the rest will gladly accept. The ones that accept almost always find that *doing chess work is fun*. Assuming they have not already read this book and that no extraneous factors are at work, the ones that decline usually like to *play* chess, but find the studying side tedious. When I work with beginning chess players of all ages, this is one of the first things I notice: everyone wants to get better, but only the ones who find doing the "work" side fun will ever have a chance of getting anywhere. No matter how much the others are determined to get better, they can never overcome the fact that doing the "unfun" work on a hobby like chess cannot last very long.

Coachability – Despite some fiction to the contrary, no one becomes really good at chess in isolation. Many factors, including some of the above, can contribute to this trait. A player might have many reasons they are less coachable: bad listening skills, stubbornness, know-it-all, doesn't care enough, lack of maturity, or just believes that books alone can make him a great player. In any case, coachable players obviously have an advantage in the long run.

Conclusion

Next time you run into someone who says, "So-and-so is really smart – he would make a good chess player", consider how well that person fits some of the above, "non-IQ" criteria. And how well did you score? If you were above average on most of the critical requirements, that may mean that you have a promising career ahead – assuming you are not damagingly low on a couple of others! A player is usually only as good as his weakest link will allow him to be.

Reader Question:

Is it correct that as I try to apply the things I'm learning I might actually play worse than before for a while? I have found myself sure that a tactic or combination will work but my opponent proves me wrong. Then I go the other way and play too passively (trying to avoid tactical mistakes) and I get killed that way too. That type of play may be a symptom of Hope Chess? I did win one and lose one last night, so it's not all bad!

Answer

There are several issues here:

Improving Your Game

All improvement usually involves two steps up and one back - just human nature. No one goes straight up forever.

Yes, it is possible to begin thinking correctly and in the short run get worse, since the thinking is now conscious and you need to practice it until it is more subconscious.

Real Chess has nothing to do with playing passively or actively. It just means that you include as part of your thought process a check to see that any move you might make cannot be met with a reply containing a threat you cannot meet, and that you do that on every move. You can play all sorts of aggressive sacrifices and attacks with Real Chess since these concepts have very little to do with one another. I assure you all great players play what I call Real Chess and have played most of the best attacking games in history, too!

So you want to play your normal "style" and consider candidate moves that you think are required by the position. You should always "avoid tactical mistakes" but that does not mean the same as backing away from complicated or tactical play where such mistakes are more frequent. If you get the type of position where you (and your opponent!) are more likely to make a mistake, that may be good, especially if you are more careful than he is. Therefore playing aggressively while still playing Real Chess is more likely to attain good results than playing passive chess, at least theoretically.

Dan welcomes readers' questions; he is a full-time instructor on the ICC as Phillytutor.

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THE NIGHT BEFORE CHESSMAS by Ron Atkinson

(with apologies to Clement C. Moore's classic THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS)

'Twas the night before Chessmas, and all through the hall,
Not a player was stirring, not even friend Tal;
The pairings were made, and the chess clocks were wound,
In hopes that exciting games there soon would abound.



Spassky, Larsen, Keres, Gligoric, Jim Brotsos..., and Evans,
These were but a few here to bring brilliancies down from the heavens.
Even the great Fischer was asleep in his nook,
Having just analyzed twelve thousand variations from Bilguier's Handbook.

The patzers were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of checkmates danced through their heads;
Chess goddess Cassia granted them this dream snooze,
For on the morrow, playing poorly, many would lose.



Having just lost at skittles, thanks to a hoary old trap,
And now settling down for a long winters nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter
It sounded like Najdorf with tea and some chatter.

I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like Tarrasch,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon shone as bright as a Paul Morphy mate,
Lighting the snow scene below like a white frosted cake.



When what to my wondering eyes should I sight,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny chess knights,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.





Faster than rapid-transit his coursers they came,
And he whistled and shouted, and called them by name:
"Now, Zugzwang! now, Gambit! now, En prise! now, Giuoco!
On, Ruy! En passant! on, J'adoube and Fianchetto!"
To the top of the tournament hall, to each one he gave a call!
"Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!"



So up to the roof-top the coursers they flew,
With a sleigh full of chess presents, and St. Nicholas, too.
Faster than NxQ check, I heard overhead
The skidding of hoofs, and the thump of the sled.

As I drew in my head, and pulled down the sash,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a crash!
He bounced up in a wink, and before I could fret,
Pulled out of his pack a chess board and set.

Setting up the pieces, he motioned to a table at hand;
A match with St. Nick? Quick! call director Kashdan!
Choosing, my jolly friend picked the pawn that was white,
And so I prepared for this most amazing chess fight!

A jolly elf, with outfit of red a wondrous sight to see,
Eyeing the board, he merrily played Pawn to King Knight three!
Taken aback, I looked with surprise at this happy old soul,
Behind the white beard, in disguise, could this be Pal Benko?

Through the opening, my games good points were few,
And as for the middle game, St. Nick won this part, too.
No doubt about it, his game was proving very pesky,
So I longed to play a great ending, like Sammy Reshevsky.

But even Lasker could not help now, for alas! it was too late,
St. Nick gave a Queen sacrifice, and then it was checkmate!
During the game, he made no moves that were extraneous,
In fact, St. Nick won as easily as Koltanowski giving a simultaneous.



It was clear, his chess ideas were like money in the bank-a;
As for me, I thought I was playing José Raoul Capablanca!
Now with a handshake and jolly grin, too soon the time had gone slipping by;
Lifting his pack, St. Nick readied to continue his journey through the
Chessmas evening sky.

Filling my mantel stocking with chess gifts overflowing,
St. Nick turned and called to me "it's time that I was going!"
Faster than Alexander Alekhine winning a won game,
Up the chimney he rose from whence he came.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his Knights gave a sign,
And away they all flew, like a winning chess line.
But as he drove out of sight, I heard him exclaim,
"Merry Chessmas to all, and to all a good game!"

