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The Chicago Chess Player

The Official Bulletin of the Chicago Industrial Chess League

Elmhurst College CC vs CICL Match

This Sunday ! February 22, 2004 6:30PM



Bulletin Editor/Webmaster *TOM FRISKE*
TOM@TOMHQ.COM

1035 E ALGONQUIN ROAD
DES PLAINES, IL 60016

H:(847) 299-1033
W:{847} 914-8448

Ratings Chairman *ART OLSEN*
AOLSEN14@HOME.COM

714 E ALGONQUIN ROAD #J102
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60006

H:(847) 437-9819
W:(847) 320-2420

FAX : TO EPS OTS, G-5 AT (847) 320-4464

League President *JIM THOMSON*
THOMSON@IDEN.COMM.MOT.COM

141 ROSEWOOD DRIVE
STREAMWOOD, IL 60107

H:(630) 497-8141
W:(847) 538-5408

League Secretary *WAYNE ELLICE*
WAYNE.ELLICE@GRACE.COM

4099 W 71ST STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60629

FAX: (773) 838-3243
W: (773) 838-3215

League Treasurer *LENNY SPIEGEL*
LENNY@FNAL.GOV

FERMILAB MS 220
BATAVIA, IL 60510

H: (630) 208-4738
W: (630) 840-2809

Trophy Chairman *MARTY FRANEK*
MJFRANEK@MEGSINET.NET

9044 S 51ST AVENUE
OAK LAWN, IL 60453-1730

H: (708) 636-3714
W: (312) 353-0397

Publicity Chairman *TONY JASAITIS*

Banquet Chairman *BURT GAZMEN*

DIVISIONAL CHAIRMEN

East Division *JIM DUFFY*
JIM_DUFFY@CHI.LEOBURNETT.COM

152 GREENWAY
ROSELLE, IL 60172

H: (630) 307-2414
W: (312) 220-3252

Far West Division *BOB BUCHNER*
BUCHNER@LUCENT.COM

1316 KALLIEN COURT
NAPERVILLE, IL 60540

H: (630) 428-7707
W: (630) 979-7707

Near West Division *CARL REID*
HYDE65@JUNO.COM

2289 GRAND DRIVE
NORTHBROOK, IL 60062

W: (224) 232-2174

North Division *ART OLSEN*

(SEE INFORMATION FOR RATINGS CHAIRMAN ABOVE)

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On the Cover:

It's ECC-CICL Match Time ! Our picture is a reproduction of a poster announcing the Chigorin-Steinitz Match of 1892.

Joliet Jr. College Chess Club meets Thursdays at 6:30 in the cafeteria.

Thursday Feb. 19 is FREE PIZZA & SODA night
Thursday February 26th is a 10-minute speed tournament.

Contact Steve Decman at Argonne Rooks

MAKE or DONATE \$500 !!

Are you thinking about moving? Considering buying rental property?

Bert Gazmen (Alumni Aces) will donate \$500 to the CICL or your favorite charity or "to anybody" for any reference (you, a relative, or friend) you give him leading to the sale of a house or apartment building.

CONTACT BERT GAZMEN at his **Century 21** office:

Business (773) 465-0300 Ext 502 Cell (847) 977-7685 Email: ethelbert.gazmen@century21.com

Osmand Palos 1949-2004

International Master Osmand Palos died last Saturday, February 7, at the age of 54 in Chicago. The cause was lung cancer. Palos, who suffered from diabetes for many years, had been in poor health for some time. He leaves behind his sons Robert and Davor.

Osman Palos was born October 29, 1949, in Gracanica, Yugoslavia. He legally changed his name to Osmand after becoming a U.S. citizen in 2002.

Osmand was the strongest player in Tuzla, the second largest city in Bosnia, for many years until he left in the late 1980s. His best years as a chess player were in the mid-1980s. During this time he received the IM title in 1985 and achieved his peak FIDE rating of 2440 in 1987. His best ever result was winning the Pula Open in 1986 with a GM norm performance score of 10 from 11. Two other good results were 8.5 from 13 in a Category 4 (2328) round robin in Tuzla in 1991 and =2nd with GM Ikonnikov behind GM Klinger at the 138 player Werfen Open in 1992. Palos was a regular participant in Yugoslav Team Championships in the 1980s, winning the gold medal on board 5 in 1982 with a score of 6 from 9.

Osmand played often in Germany, Austria and Switzerland in the late 1980s and early 1990s, collecting many GM scalps including those of Ikonnikov, Kudrin, Vukic, Kupreichik and Khenkin among others. Palos was a big fighter when healthy and not one to respect reputations. To get an idea of his persistence play over his 107 move draw with GM Eingorn from Graz 1987.

Palos loved to play blitz and could often be found between



rounds indulging in his favorite pastime. He was an inconsistent but dangerous opponent who could pose a danger to anyone. One example: his 2-0 score versus GM Krasenkov in the 1997 New York City Blitz Championship.

Much of his life Osman worked as a businessman, only becoming a full-time chess professional when things started to deteriorate in Yugoslavia. One of his last important duties in his old town was directing the Women's

Interzonal in Tuzla in 1987. Fleeing the Balkans he spent several years playing in Western Europe before talking a position as a chess trainer in the United Arab Emirates in 1993.

Palos first arrived in Chicago in late 1996, quickly establishing himself not only as one of the top players in the city but also one of the best chess coaches. Neil Gleason of Madison, Wisconsin, remembers: "In early 1999, I spent an evening arguing politics with him. The next morning, he gave me a 10 minute lesson in the exchange Caro Kann ("play simple chess") over breakfast, whereupon I proceeded to use it with white to notch 2 convincing victories that same day in a quick tournament. He was a skillful instructor who would readily demonstrate that chess is a very simple game."

Palos was already in poor health by the time he arrived in the United States but he still managed to hold a USCF rating over 2400 until the last few years of his life, peaking at 2477. He was especially proud of his two wins over GM Goldin, one of the best players in the US. His last major event was the Lindsborg Rotary Open in December of

2002 where he scored a respectable fifty percent against a field averaging 2442 FIDE.

Osman Palos will be remembered as a warm, modest and intelligent man who gave his life to chess.

Unfortunately only 329 of Osmand's games are available in Mega 2004, representing probably less than 10 percent of those he played during his career. Here is a small selection covering three decades.

Palos,O (2350) - Hazai,L (2475) [E73]

Tuzla (9), 1983

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.g4 c5
7.d5 e6 8.g5 Ne8 9.h4 exd5 10.exd5 Nc7 11.h5 b5 12.Qd3
Re8 13.Qg3 Nd7 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.Bf4 Ne5 16.0-0-0 Bf5
17.Nf3 bxc4 18.Nxe5 Rxe5 19.Bxe5 Bxe5 20.f4 Bg7
21.Bxc4 Rb8 22.Rh4 Rb4 23.b3 Qb8 24.Bd3 Rxb3
25.axb3 Qxb3 26.Bxf5 Nb5 27.Qe3 Kf8 28.Bd7 Qa3+
29.Kc2 1-0

Kupreichik,V (2535) - Palos,O (2390) [C02]

Cattolica op (5), 1993

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Ne7 5.Bd3 Nec6 6.Be3 Nd7
7.a3 a5 8.Nf3 Be7 9.h4cxd4 10.cxd4 Nb6 11.Nbd2 Bd7
12.Ng5 Bxg5 13.Bxg5 Ne7 14.h5 Bc6 15.Qg4 Kd7 16.Rh3
Qf8 17.Ke2 f6 18.exf6 gxf6 19.Bh4 Qh6 20.Re3 f5 21.Qf3
Nc4 22.g4 f4 23.Re5 Nxe5 24.dxe5 Rhf8 25.Kf1 Ng6
26.hxg6 Qxh4 27.gxh7 Rf7 28.Nb3 Rxh7 29.Bxh7 Qxh7
30.Rd1 Rh8 31.Nd4 Qh2 32.Ke2 Rh3 33.g5 Rxf3 34.Nxf3
Qh5 35.Rg1 d4 0-1

Palos,O (2363) - Kaufman,L (2422) [A13]

World op 29th Philadelphia (9), 08.07.2001

1.c4 e6 2.Qa4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.e3 d6 6.d4 Bd7
7.Qd1 cxd4 8.exd4 Rc8 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Be3 e5
12.d5 Na5 13.Nd2 Ng4 14.Bxa7 b6 15.Na4 Bxa4 16.Qxa4
Qc7 17.b4 e4 18.Bxe4 Nxc4 19.Nxc4 Qxc4 20.Bf5 Ra8
21.Qd7 Nh6 22.Bxb6 Bf6 23.Rab1 Qxd5 24.Bh3 Rxa2
25.b5 Rb2 26.Rxb2 Bxb2 27.Qc6 Qe5 28.Bc7 Ba3 29.b6
Bc5 30.b7 Ba7 31.Bxd6 Qf6 32.Qc7 Re8 33.g3 Nf5
34.Bxf5 Qxf5 35.Qc6 Qe6 36.Rc1 h5 37.Qxe8+ Qxe8
38.Rc8 1-0

The Chicago Industrial Chess League will play
a match versus Elmhurst on **Sunday, February 22.**

I think this is either the sixth or seventh annual match. The CICL tied Elmhurst two years ago; Elmhurst has won the rest of the matches. Thus, we need to field a strong team in order to have a chance to finally beat them!

The games will not be rated but will count towards centurion status.

Pairings will be finalized at 6:45 PM and the matches will begin at 7:00.

*Each board will play **two** games at **Game/45** or **Game/30**.*

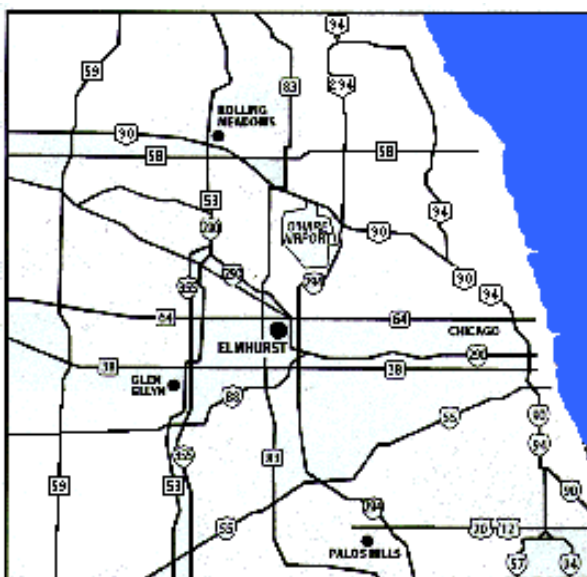
Please respond to **Richard_Easton@aon.com** if you will either

A) Definitely play

B) Probably play

The Elmhurst Chess Club meets in Room 18, Hammerschmidt Chapel, Elmhurst College, 190 Prospect, Elmhurst. This is in the rear of the chapel to the right.

Driving Directions and ECC Campus map follow:



Elmhurst College is located in Elmhurst, 16 miles west of downtown Chicago and six miles southwest of O'Hare International Airport. The Union Pacific - Metra Railroad terminal is two blocks from the campus, and a number of major highways pass from all directions within a few miles of the College.

From the North: Take the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) south to the exit marked "I-290 West/U.S. 20-Lake/III. 64-North Avenue." Due to construction on North Avenue, you will need to take I-290 West to the first exit, which is York Road. Proceed south on York Road to Third Street. Turn right (west) on Third Street to Maple Avenue. Turn left (south) on Maple and proceed across the railroad tracks to campus. (Maple Avenue becomes Prospect Avenue south of the tracks.)

From the East: Go west on the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290), following the signs marked "I-290 West/Rockford." Exit I-290 at St. Charles Road West. Proceed 1.5 miles to Prospect Avenue, then north to campus.

From the South: Traveling north on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294), go past the Cermak Road plaza to the exit marked "I-290 West/U.S. 20-Lake/III. 64-North Avenue." Proceed north on I-290 to St. Charles Road, west 1.5 miles to Prospect Avenue, then north to campus.

From the West: Travel east on the East-West Tollway (I-88) past the Oak Brook plaza to the York Road exit off the Tri-State Tollway South (I-294) merge lanes. Proceed north on York to St. Charles Road. Turn west to Prospect Avenue, then north to campus.

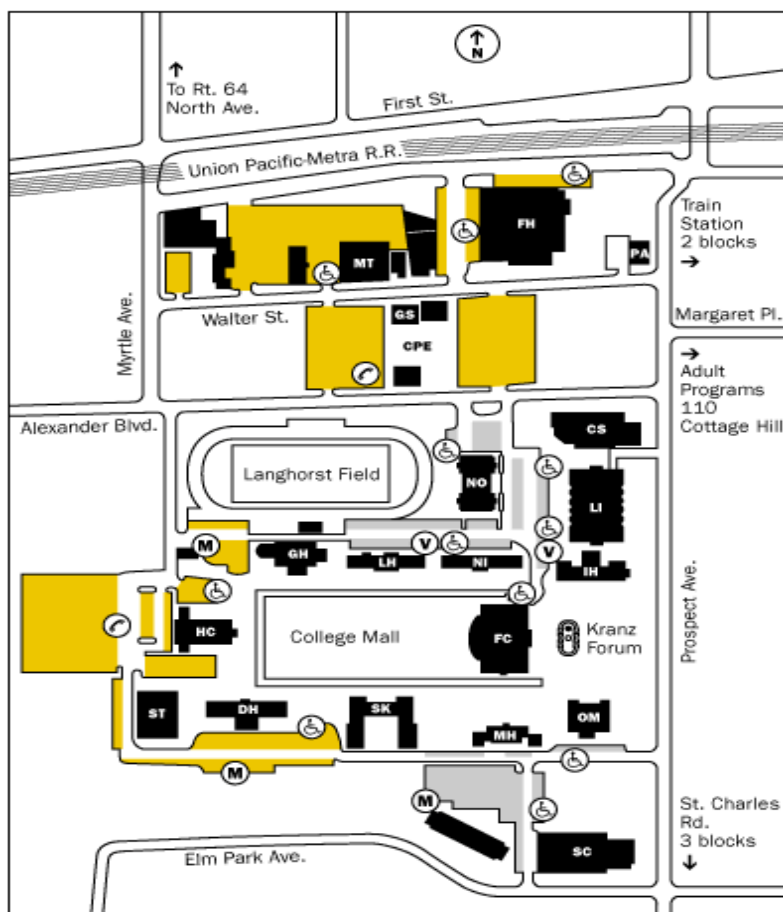
From the Northwest: If you are traveling east on I-290, take the Ill. 83 South exit. Turn east at North Avenue (first stoplight), and proceed one block to West Avenue. OR Take I-355 south to North Avenue (Ill. 64) and proceed east approximately five miles to West Avenue. Turn right (south) on West Avenue and proceed to Third Street. Turn left (east) onto Third Street and proceed to Maple Avenue. Turn right (south) on Maple Avenue and proceed over the railroad tracks to campus. (Maple Avenue becomes Prospect Avenue south of the tracks.)

From the Southwest: Take Ill. 83 north to St. Charles Road.

Then travel east on St. Charles to Prospect Avenue, then north to campus.

The ECC-CICL match is in
Hammerschmidt Chapel (HC) --

see lower left section of map.



- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Handicapped Parking | General/No Overnight Parking |
| Visitor Parking | General/Overnight Parking |
| Motorcycle Parking | Emergency Telephone |

NEAR WEST DIVISION 02-13-2004

TEAM NAME	W	L	D	GAME	MATCH	PCT	PR
				POINTS	POINTS		
PAWNS	5	0	3	33.0	6.5	0.813	1791
LUCENT TECH. CHARGERS	3	2	3	24.5	4.5	0.563	1703
COOK CO. DEPT. OF CORR	3	2	2	20.0	4.0	0.571	1668
CASE	0	7	2	18.5	1.0	0.111	1562

FAR WEST DIVISION 02-13-2004

TEAM NAME	W	L	D	GAME	MATCH	PCT	PR
				POINTS	POINTS		
FERMILAB	7	0	0	35.0	7.0	1.000	1936
LUCENT TECH. TYROS	5	2	0	29.0	5.0	0.714	1759
ARGONNE ROOKS	4	1	2	22.0	5.0	0.714	1633
LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS	2	4	1	18.0	2.5	0.357	1589
MOLEX	1	5	1	16.5	1.5	0.214	1604
BP CHEMICALS	0	7	0	4.5	0.0	0.000	1255

NORTH DIVISION 02-13-2004

TEAM NAME	W	L	D	GAME	MATCH	PCT	PR
				POINTS	POINTS		
MOTOROLA KNIGHTS	7	0	0	30.0	7.0	1.000	1919
UOP	4	2	1	22.5	4.5	0.643	1821
EXCALIBURS	4	3	0	22.5	4.0	0.571	1727
MOTOROLA KINGS	3	3	1	22.5	3.5	0.500	1854
KEMPER INSURANCE	2	5	0	19.5	2.0	0.286	1740
NORTHROP	0	7	0	6.0	0.0	0.000	1403

EAST DIVISION 02-13-2004

TEAM NAME	W	L	D	GAME	MATCH	PCT	PR
				POINTS	POINTS		
ALUMNI ACES	5	0	1	25.5	5.5	0.917	1976
GETCO	4	1	1	23.5	4.5	0.750	1790
LEO BURNETT	0	4	1	9.0	0.5	0.100	1536
CITADEL GROUP	0	4	1	8.0	0.5	0.100	1605

Current Performance Ratings

Team	Division	Rating	Games Ave
ALUMNI ACES	East	1976	3.0
FERMILAB	Far West	1936	3.8
MOTOROLA KNIGHTS	North	1919	5.5
MOTOROLA KINGS	North	1854	6.3
UOP	North	1821	5.8
PAWNS	Near West	1791	7.7
GETCO	East	1790	3.8
LUCENT TECH. TYROS	Far West	1759	4.5
KEMPER INSURANCE	North	1740	5.7
EXCALIBURS	North	1727	6.2
LUCENT TECH. CHARGERS	Near West	1703	7.8
COOK CO. DEPT. OF CORR	Near West	1668	6.8
ARGONNE ROOKS	Far West	1633	5.0
CITADEL GROUP	East	1605	4.0
MOLEX	Far West	1604	5.7
LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS	Far West	1589	5.3
CASE	Near West	1562	8.5
LEO BURNETT	East	1536	3.8
NORTHROP	North	1403	4.0
BP CHEMICALS	Far West	1255	3.7

NEAR WEST DIVISION TOP TEN

WILLIAMS, K	CCDOC	2181
JAKSTAS, K	PAWNS	2120C
LATIMER, E	PAWNS	2065D
MARCOWKA, R	CHRGR	1979D
STINSON, M	CHRGR	1972C
ELLICE, W	PAWNS	1892C
FRAATS, D	CASE	1880C
DOBROVOLNY, C	CHRGR	1846C
MCCARTHY, D	CHRGR	1838
ROSLEY, D	CHRGR	1740

FAR WEST DIVISION TOP TEN

BEZZUBOV, V	FERMI	2229
GARZON, G	FERMI	2201
BENEDEK, R	ROOKS	2165T
DORIGO, T	FERMI	2158
DIAZ, P	TYROS	2056C
TEGEL, F	DRGNS	2051Q
HILL, R	ROOKS	2040C
COULTER, D	BPCHM	1986
SPIEGEL, L	FERMI	1962D
LUDWIG, T	DRGNS	1951C

NORTH DIVISION TOP TEN

WOLF, D	MKING	2377
STEVANOVIC, M	UOP	2233D
FRIDMAN, Y	MKNGT	2214
WONG, P	EXCLB	2180C
MORRIS, R	MKNGT	2175
LANG, R	EXCLB	2055
FRISKE, T	EXCLB	2047C
SIWEK, M	KEMPR	2023C
BUERGER, E	UOP	2020T
MELNIKOV, I	MKING	2017

EAST DIVISION TOP TEN

VOLYNSKIY, G	GETCO	2579*
INUMERABLE, F	ALUMN	2261C
STEIN, P	CITGR	2192
BENESA, A	ALUMN	2165
RAUCHMAN, M	GETCO	2111*
JASAITIS, A	GETCO	2086D
GAZMEN, E	ALUMN	2067C
SANTIAGO, T	ALUMN	2002
SAGALOVSKY, L	GETCO	1977
SOLLANO, E	ALUMN	1975C

MOST IMPROVED PLAYERS

ZADEREJ, V	MOLEX	140
RAUCHMAN, M	GETCO	109
VAIL, M	KEMPR	73
FULKERSON, R	LBURN	69
HENDRICKSON, B	MOLEX	66
EAMAN, R	LBURN	54
WALKER, C	KEMPR	53
ABDALLAH, D	PAWNS	53
FRIDMAN, Y	MKNGT	52
SUAREZ, E	ROOKS	44

29-JAN-04 ALUMNI ACES**3****GETCO****3**

ROUND 6

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 INUMERABLE, F	2265 -4	0	VOLYNSKIY, G	2572 7 1
2 BENESA, A	2195-30	0	RAUCHMAN, M	2081 30 1
3 GAZMEN, E	2050 17	1	JASAITIS, A	2103-17 0
4 SANTIAGO, T	2005 -3	.5	SAGALOVSKY, L	1974 3 .5
5 SOLLANO, E	1982 -7	.5	SEET, P	1810 11 .5
6 FRANK, M	1742 20	1	KRATKA, M	1698-20 0
7 FRANEK, M	1707 0	1	COOMBES, N	0 0 0

29-JAN-04 NORTHROP**0****EXCALIBURS****6**

ROUND 6

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 WALKER, A	1763 -7	0	LANG, R	2053 7 1
2 VIGANTS, A	1643 -2	0	FRISKE, T	2062 2 1
3 BURIAN, D	1552 -5	0	KOGAN, G	1817 5 1
4 GARDNER, M	1313 -3	0	SULLIVAN, J	1782 2 1
5 FETTERMAN, M	0 0	0	AROND, D	1718 0 1
6 ELEK, G	1101 -4	0	BROTSOS, J	1522 2 1
7 LANE, M	0 0	0	WEITZ, R	1593 0 1

05-FEB-04 UOP**3****MOTOROLA KINGS****3**

ROUND 7

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 STEVANOVIC, M	2226 7	1	MELNIKOV, I	2024 -7 0
2 REVELLON, L	1991-23	0	WALLACH, C	1977 16 1
3 BOLDINGH, E	1834-15	0	PIPARIA, J	1837 22 1
4 LECHNICK, J	1732 0	1F	SAMELSON, C	1933 0 0F
5 RENDE, D	1631-19	0	GONCHAROFF, N	1683 9 1
6 MICKLICH, F	1597 10	1	GRYPARIS, J	1476-10 0
(* Board 7 is an exhibition match. *)				
7 SAHLI, E	1710 0	.5	MELNIKOV, N	0 0 .5

05-FEB-04 MOTOROLA KNIGHTS**5.5****NORTHROP****.5**

ROUND 7

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 FRIDMAN, Y	2211 3	1	WALKER, A	1756 -3 0
2 AUGSBURGER, L	1784 9	1	VIGANTS, A	1641 -9 0
3 BALICKI, J	1803 8	1	BURIAN, D	1547 -6 0
4 KARANDIKAR, S	1630 7	1	FETTERMAN, M	1345 -7 0
5 MARSHALL, K	1307-13	.5	ELEK, G	1097 13 .5
6 PHELPS, D	1208 0	1	LANE, M	0 0 0

12-FEB-04 EXCALIBURS**2****KEMPER INSURANCE****4**

ROUND 7

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 FRISKE, T	2064-17	0	SIWEK, M	2006 17 1
2 LANG, R	2060 -5	.5	LEONG, G	1994 3 .5
3 KOGAN, G	1822-13	0	EASTON, R	1878 19 1
4 SULLIVAN, J	1784 12	1	MOSSBRIDGE, A	1703-17 0
5 AROND, D	1718 2	.5	WALKER, C	1745 -2 .5
6 BROTSOS, J	1524-16	0	OLSEN, A	1493 16 1
7 SUERTH, F	1525 7	1	VAIL, M	1315-10 0

10-FEB-04 LUCENT TECH. CHARGERS 3 PAWNS 3

ROUND 7

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 MARCOWKA, R	1989-10	0	JAKSTAS, K	2110 10 1
2 STINSON, M	1952 20	1	LATIMER, E	2085-20 0
3 DOBROVOLNY, C	1844 2	.5	ELLICE, W	1894 -2 .5
4 ROSLEY, D	1744 -4	.5	FABIJONAS, R	1693 2 .5
5 THOMAS, J	1603-19	0	ABDALLAH, D	1503 29 1
6 STAMM, V	1529 7	1	O'DELL, DW	1439-11 0
7 DOBR, K	1419 1	.5	MIKULECKY, B	1461 -2 .5

28-JAN-04 ARGONNE ROOKS 3.5 LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS 2.5

ROUND 6

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 BENEDEK, R	2151 8	1	TEGEL, F	2070 -8 0
2 HILL, R	2060 9	1	PEHAS, A	1899 -9 0
3 SUAREZ, E	1830 7	1	EUSTACE, D	1535 -5 0
4 DECMAN, S	1578-11	0	BLACKMON, E	1683 11 1
5 KUHLMANN, S	0 0	.5	KOMORAVOLU, K	1364 0 .5
6 YACOUT, A	1504-36	0	BREYER, A	1274 36 1

02-FEB-04 BP CHEMICALS 0 FERMILAB 6

ROUND 7

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 COULTER, D	1997-11	0	GARZON, G	2190 11 1
2 SAJKOWSKI, D	1926-21	0	SPIEGEL, L	1948 14 1
3 HAYES, D	0 0	0	GAINES, I	1772 0 1
4 ZUBIK, J	0 0	0	GOMEZ, G	1738 0 1
5 RINGENBERG, T	1389-28	0	BOLSHOV, A	1303 28 1
6 CASTANEDA, R	1248-13	0	MOEHS, D	1412 13 1

12-FEB-04 MOLEX 3 ARGONNE ROOKS 3

ROUND 7

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 REICH, T	1998-13	0	BENEDEK, R	2159 6 1
2 HENDRICKSON, B	1457 44	1	HILL, R	2069-29 0
3 FOX, R	1506 -6	0	SUAREZ, E	1837 6 1
4 ZADEREJ, V	1244 42	1	BAURAC, D	1678-28 0
5 DEICHMANN, E	1302 0	1	KUHLMANN, S	0 0 0
6 MCGOWAN, D	1085 -4	0	YACOUT, A	1468 4 1

12-FEB-04 LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS .5 LUCENT TECH. TYROS 5.5

ROUND 7

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 TEGEL, F	2062-11	0	DIAZ, P	2040 16 1
2 EUSTACE, D	1530 -4	0	GUIO, J	1866 4 1
3 SALERNO, S	1462 15	.5	BUCHNER, R	1731-10 .5
4 LAFORGE, W	1418 -7	0	SMITH, BR	1727 7 1
5 KOMORAVOLU, K	1364 -9	0	HAHNE, D	1605 6 1
6 BREYER, A	1310-25	0	KARPIERZ, J	1276 25 1

NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING	NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING
ABDALLAH, D	PAWNS	4	1	1	1532*	EAMAN, R	LBURN	2	2	0	1917
AILES, T	FERMI	1	0	0	1706	EASTON, R	KEMPR	2	3	1	1897
ALEXANDER, W	CCDOC	2	4	1	1725	ELEK, G	NORTH	0	4	2	1110
ALFONSO, E	MKNGT	0	0	1	1584	ELLICE, W	PAWNS	6	1	1	1892C
ALLEN, H	ALUMN	0	1	0	1975	EUSTACE, D	DRGNS	2	4	1	1526C
ALTSHULLER, D	DRGNS	0	0	0	1744	FABIJONAS, R	PAWNS	4	2	2	1695D
APPLEBERRY, T	CCDOC	3	2	1	1449	FETTERMAN, M	NORTH	1	5	0	1338#
AROND, D	EXCLB	2	1	2	1720	FOLEY, M	CITGR	0	0	0	1299*
AUGSBURGER, L	MKNGT	3	1	2	1793C	FOX, R	MOLEX	1	6	0	1500
BALICKI, J	MKNGT	5	1	2	1811	FRAATS, D	CASE	3	4	0	1880C
BANNON, B	LBURN	1	3	1	1277	FRANEK, M	ALUMN	2	1	0	1707D
BAREITHER, M	CITGR	1	1	0	0000/2	FRANK, M	ALUMN	5	0	0	1762C
BAURAC, D	ROOKS	3	2	1	1650D	FRIDMAN, Y	MKNGT	5	0	0	2214
BENEDEK, R	ROOKS	4	2	1	2165T	FRISKE, T	EXCLB	3	1	2	2047C
BENESA, A	ALUMN	3	3	0	2165	FULKERSON, R	LBURN	2	1	1	1482
BENFORADO, E	MKNGT	3	0	0	1544	GAINES, I	FERMI	6	0	1	1772D
BEZZUBOV, V	FERMI	1	0	0	2229	GARDNER, M	NORTH	1	4	1	1310*
BLACKMON, E	DRGNS	2	3	0	1694C	GARZON, G	FERMI	5	1	1	2201
BOLDINGH, E	UOP	1	4	0	1819C	GAZMEN, E	ALUMN	4	0	1	2067C
BOLSHOV, A	FERMI	3	0	0	1331	GOMEZ, G	FERMI	3	0	2	1738
BRASWELL, I	READR	0	0	0	1821	GONCHAROFF, N	MKING	4	1	2	1692V
BREYER, A	DRGNS	2	3	1	1285*	GORDON, R	BPCHM	0	4	0	1143
BROCK, B	READR	0	0	0	2041	GOTHIER, N	NORTH	0	0	0	0000/6
BROIHER, M	READR	0	0	0	1156	GOTHIER, S	NORTH	0	0	0	1334
BROTSOS, J	EXCLB	3	2	2	1508D	GOULET, W	MKNGT	0	0	0	0000/2
BUCHNER, R	TYROS	2	0	3	1721C	GRUDZINSKI, J	ROOKS	1	2	1	1450
BUERGER, E	UOP	0	1	0	2020T	GRYPARIS, J	MKING	0	1	2	1466C
BURIAN, D	NORTH	0	5	1	1541D	GUIO, J	TYROS	2	3	1	1870C
BUTLER, E	ROOKS	0	0	0	1270*	HAHNE, D	TYROS	4	1	2	1611C
CAPUTO, J	READR	0	0	0	1616	HALL, A	CCDOC	2	2	0	1511
CAROSI, R	FERMI	0	1	0	0000/0	HAYES, D	BPCHM	0	1	0	0000/1
CASHER, P	MOLEX	3	0	0	0000/0	HAYHURST, W	CITGR	0	3	2	1857
CASTANEDA, R	BPCHM	1	4	1	1235#	HENDRICKSON, B	MOLEX	2	4	1	1501
CEASE, H	FERMI	2	0	0	1324	HILL, R	ROOKS	5	2	0	2040C
CHRISTOTEK, L	FERMI	1	0	0	0000/3	HTOO, M	CITGR	0	1	0	1735*
COOMBES, N	GETCO	2	3	0	0000/3	HUGHES, N	KEMPR	0	1	0	1683C
COULTER, D	BPCHM	1	3	2	1986	HUNTER, M	CCDOC	0	0	0	1882#
CYGAN, J	MKING	1	0	1	1871	INUMERABLE, F	ALUMN	1	1	0	2261C
CZERNIECKI, A	ALUMN	1	0	0	1924D	JACKSON, S	CCDOC	3	4	0	1538
DAS, B	DRGNS	0	0	0	0000/2	JAKSTAS, K	PAWNS	4	1	2	2120C
DAVIDSON, M	ALUMN	0	1	0	1626	JANKE, A	CITGR	0	3	0	0000/3
DECMAN, S	ROOKS	0	1	1	1567D	JASAITIS, A	GETCO	3	3	0	2086D
DEICHMANN, E	MOLEX	3	3	0	1302#	KALE, S	CASE	0	0	0	1854C
DIAZ, P	TYROS	4	2	1	2056C	KANAS, W	CASE	2	3	0	1183C
DOBR, K	CHRGR	4	2	2	1420Q	KARANDIKAR, S	MKNGT	3	0	1	1637
DOBROVOLNY, C	CHRGR	2	2	4	1846C	KARPIERZ, J	TYROS	2	0	1	1301
DOMINGUEZ, R	LBURN	0	0	0	1307*	KASPER, R	BPCHM	0	1	0	0000/1
DORIGO, T	FERMI	1	0	0	2158	KLINEFELTER, H	CASE	3	5	1	1569D
DUFFY, J	LBURN	0	4	1	1785	KOGAN, G	EXCLB	4	3	0	1809C
DYCKOWSKI, R	CASE	0	7	1	1342	KOGAN, M	CITGR	0	0	0	0000/3

/x - UNRATED; x RATED GAMES

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02-13-2004

NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING	NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING
KOMORAVOLU, K	DRGNS	0	4	2	1355*	RADAVICIUS, E	CHRGR	2	1	2	1621D
KOSMICKE, J	GETCO	1	0	1	0000/2	RADUCAN, S	MKNGT	0	0	0	0000/0
KRATKA, M	GETCO	3	2	1	1678	RAUCHMAN, M	GETCO	6	0	0	2111*
KUHLMANN, S	ROOKS	1	1	1	0000/2	REICH, T	MOLEX	3	3	1	1985#
LAFORGE, W	DRGNS	2	1	0	1411	REID, C	CASE	4	4	1	1486D
LAMBIRIS, J	KEMPR	1	0	0	1453	RENDE, D	UOP	0	1	0	1612*
LANE, M	NORTH	0	2	0	0000/2	REVELLON, L	UOP	3	3	1	1968
LANG, R	EXCLB	2	2	1	2055	RINGENBERG, T	BPCHM	0	3	1	1361
LANSING, J	GETCO	0	0	0	1484	ROJO, B	CCDOC	0	0	0	882#
LATIMER, E	PAWNS	5	1	1	2065D	ROJO, V	CCDOC	2	3	1	1448
LE, DUC	CITGR	1	4	0	0000/3	ROSLEY, D	CHRGR	1	3	1	1740
LECHNICK, J	UOP	4	2	0	1732	ROSZKOWSKI, D	KEMPR	0	3	0	0000/5
LEONG, G	KEMPR	0	1	2	1997C	RUFUS, B	MOLEX	1	3	0	0000/3
LERNER, T	CITGR	0	0	0	897	RZESZUTKO, R	ALUMN	0	0	0	1919C
LITVINAS, A	PAWNS	4	1	0	1657D	SACKS, D	UOP	3	0	0	1870
LUDWIG, T	DRGNS	2	0	0	1951C	SAGALOVSKY, L	GETCO	0	0	1	1977
MAHMOOD, S	CCDOC	0	0	1	0000/1	SAJBEL, P	UOP	2	0	1	1825C
MANILA, M	BPCHM	0	2	0	1235*	SAJKOWSKI, D	BPCHM	1	3	0	1905
MARCOWKA, R	CHRGR	2	3	0	1979D	SALERNO, S	DRGNS	0	0	1	1477*
MARES, C	GETCO	0	1	0	0000/0	SAMELSON, C	MKING	4	2	0	1933D
MARSH, M	READR	0	0	0	1207	SANTIAGO, T	ALUMN	3	1	1	2002
MARSHALL, K	MKNGT	0	1	1	1294	SAVCIC, V	TYROS	0	0	0	1116*
MASHKEVICH, I	KEMPR	0	2	0	1134*	SAWIN, B	LBURN	2	1	0	1175*
MAZO, S	GETCO	0	0	0	0000/0	SCHULTZ, R	FERMI	0	0	0	1294*
MCCARTHY, D	CHRGR	3	2	0	1838	SEATON, E	CCDOC	3	4	0	1618
MC GEE, L	CCDOC	2	5	0	1157	SEET, P	GETCO	1	1	2	1821*
MCGOWAN, D	MOLEX	2	4	0	1081	SEGALIS, G	NORTH	0	0	0	0000/3
MELNIKOV, I	MKING	0	2	5	2017	SEIDEN, J	LBURN	0	0	0	0000/1
MICKLICH, F	UOP	2	3	0	1607D	SENSAT, J	CITGR	0	4	0	1598*
MIKULECKY, B	PAWNS	3	2	1	1459C	SITAR, K	LBURN	0	4	1	1548
MOEHS, D	FERMI	2	0	0	1425#	SIWEK, M	KEMPR	3	2	1	2023C
MOONEY, M	MKING	0	0	0	0000/0	SMITH, BR	TYROS	6	0	1	1734C
MORAN, B	GETCO	2	0	0	1512	SOLLANO, E	ALUMN	4	1	1	1975C
MORRIS, R	MKNGT	1	0	5	2175	SPIEGEL, L	FERMI	4	1	2	1962D
MOSSBRIDGE, A	KEMPR	0	3	0	1686	STAMM, V	CHRGR	5	2	1	1536T
MUELLER, R	MOLEX	0	5	1	0000/1	STAPLES, C	FERMI	4	1	0	1605
O' DELL, DW	PAWNS	2	5	1	1428C	STEELE, B	CCDOC	0	1	0	925#
OELHAFEN, A	EXCLB	0	0	0	1238	STEIN, P	CITGR	1	2	0	2192
OGANESSYAN, G	MOLEX	0	1	0	0000/0	STEVANOVIC, M	UOP	5	1	1	2233D
OLSEN, A	KEMPR	3	3	2	1509C	STINSON, M	CHRGR	1	0	0	1972C
ONG, K	CITGR	1	1	1	1879	STOLTZ, B	TYROS	3	1	1	1913C
PARA, A	FERMI	0	0	0	1497	SUAREZ, E	ROOKS	3	0	0	1843
PARAOAN, E	CASE	4	4	1	1662D	SUBECK, J	KEMPR	0	0	0	1366*
PATEL, SU	CITGR	0	0	0	0000/2	SUERTH, F	EXCLB	3	1	1	1532D
PEHAS, A	DRGNS	2	2	1	1890C	SULLIVAN, C	READR	0	0	0	1524C
PHELPS, D	MKNGT	1	0	0	1208*	SULLIVAN, J	EXCLB	3	2	0	1796D
PIPARIA, J	MKING	2	2	2	1859	TEGEL, F	DRGNS	1	4	2	2051Q
PLEASANCE, M	CCDOC	0	0	0	0000/3	THOMAS, J	CHRGR	4	3	1	1584D
POMA, D	BPCHM	0	5	0	1234	THOMSON, J	MKNGT	4	1	1	2010
RABINOVICH, E	MKING	1	1	1	1311	TRINIDAD, P	CCDOC	0	0	0	1016*

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02-13-2004

NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING	NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING
TRUFANOV, D	UOP	0	2	0	1553#	WEITZ, R	EXCLB	3	3	0	1593C
VAIL, M	KEMPR	3	3	0	1305*	WHITE, H	CASE	0	7	1	1625C
VALDEZ, C	TYROS	1	0	0	1418*	WILKOSZ, A	NORTH	1	0	0	0000/0
VAN ZILE, C	UOP	0	1	0	1328	WILLIAMS, K	CCDOC	3	0	1	2181
VIGANTS, A	NORTH	0	5	1	1632C	WILLIAMS, S	GETCO	1	2	0	1220#
VOLYNSKIY, G	GETCO	1	0	0	2579*	WIRTZ, R	KEMPR	1	1	0	1310*
VOSS, M	CITGR	0	0	0	0000/2	WOLF, D	MKING	1	0	0	2377
WALKER, A	NORTH	0	6	1	1753	WONG, P	EXCLB	0	1	0	2180C
WALKER, C	KEMPR	3	1	1	1743	WOODS, C	BPCHM	0	5	0	0000/4
WALLACH, C	MKING	4	3	0	1993C	WU, M	DRGNS	1	0	0	0000/0
WALSH, W	ROOKS	0	1	0	1494C	YACOUT, A	ROOKS	2	4	1	1472
WANG, A	CITGR	1	0	1	1461#	YOUNG, A	CITGR	0	0	0	0000/2
WANG, G	KEMPR	0	0	0	1631*	ZADEREJ, V	MOLEX	4	1	1	1286
WARD, CH	GETCO	0	0	0	1320	ZOELLNER, J	CASE	2	3	4	1314D
WARREN, J	CHRGR	0	0	0	2045Q	ZUBIK, J	BPCHM	0	4	0	0000/4
WEISNER, T	PAWNS	0	0	0	1120						

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02-13-2004

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

CASE

TEAMS WITH 1 UPPER BOARD FORFEIT

CCDOC
 KEMPER
 LEO BURNETT
 LUCENT CHARGERS
 MOTOROLA KINGS

Litvinas,A (1655) –

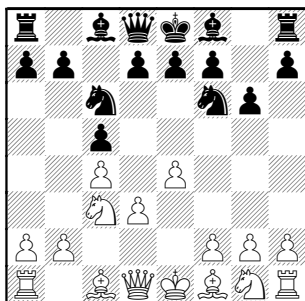
Thomas,J (1576)

Pawns–Chargers, 06.01.2004

[B20]

9...e5 10.Ne2 Nd7 11.g4 exf4

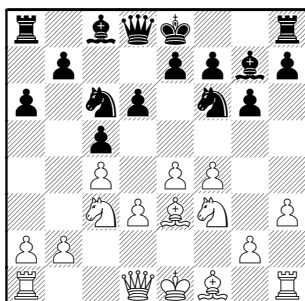
1.e4 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.d3 g6 4.Nc3 Nf6



5.f4

5.g3 is the common development in an English Botvinnik, but White has more aggressive intentions tonite !

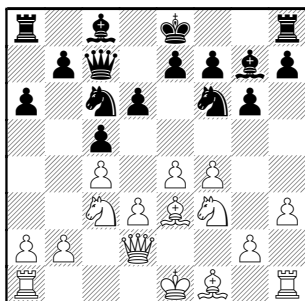
5...d6 6.h3 a6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Be3



8...Qc7

If Black plans to play 8...e5 The Queen may be better placed at her home square as White's Kingside dark squares are open. He can follow with Nh5, hitting g3 and f4.

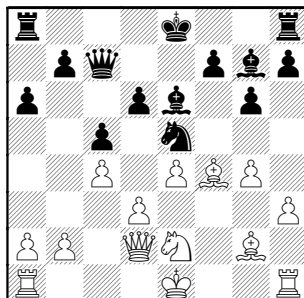
9.Qd2



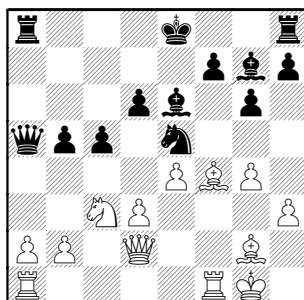
12.Bxf4

12.Nxf4 sends the Knight on to d5. If 12...Nf6 13.g5 avoids trade.

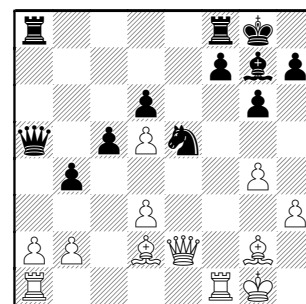
12...Nde5 13.Bg2 Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 Ne5 15.Bg2 Be6



16.Nc3 Qa5 17.0-0 b5 18.cxb5 axb5



19.Qe2 0-0 20.Bd2 b4 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.exd5

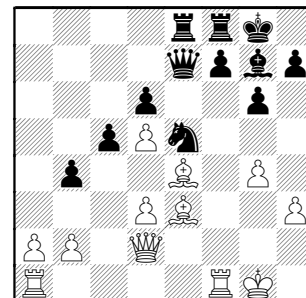


One would expect White's Pawns at d5,d3, and b2 to cause him some discomfort for the rest of the game.

22...Qb5 23.Be4 Rae8

23...Ra7 gives options of Rfa8 or Rfe8 followed by Rae7, all the while covering f7 "just in case".

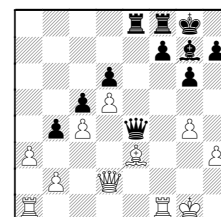
24.Be3 Qb7 25.Qd2 Qe7



Generating threats to the Bishops.
26.Bg5

For example, if White allows with, say, 26.a3 Nxd3

Also interesting is 26...Nc4 27.dxc4 Qxe4



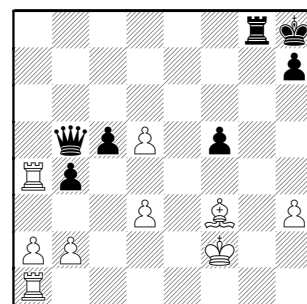
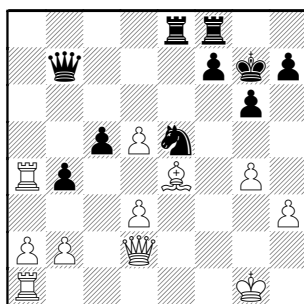
winning the c–Pawn.

27.Qxd3

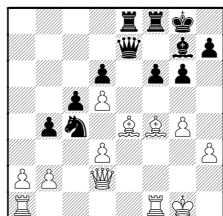
27.Bxd3 Qxe3+ 28.Qxe3 Rxe3 wins a second Pawn.

Ditching the desperado fails badly:
27.Bxg6? hxg6 28.Qxd3 Qxe3+

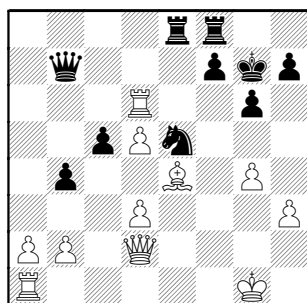
27...Qxe4 With gain of Pawn and elimination of Bishop pair.

26...Qb7

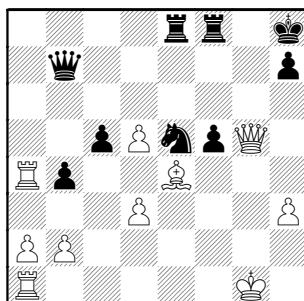
26...f6 Blocks the g7-Bishop 27.Bf4 and in this line, White's Bishop placement makes 27...Nc4



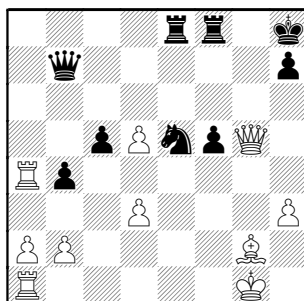
fail, since the Queen is required to hold d6: 28.dxc4 Qxe4 29.Bxd6

27.Bf6 Bxf6 28.Rxf6 Kg7 29.Rxd6

Black probably thought he traps or misplaces the Rook

29...Qc7 30.Ra6 Qb7 31.Ra431...f5 32.gxf5 gxf5 33.Qg5+ Kh8

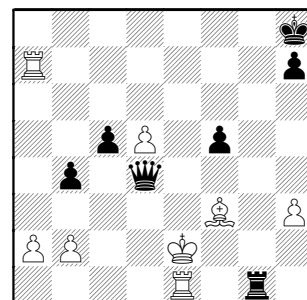
Threatening to capture g-file and Queen with it!

34.Bg2?34...Nf3+!

A nice find!! Black exposes the King with his fork.

35.Bxf3 Rg8 36.Qxg8+ Rxg8+ 37.Kf2 Qb5

and the power of the Queen provides a quick clean-up:

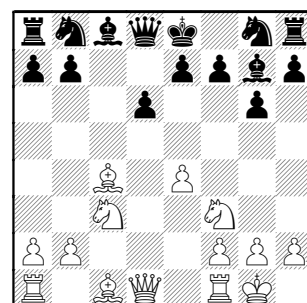
38.Ra7 Qxd3 39.Re1 Qd4+ 40.Kf1 Rg1+ 41.Ke241...Qxb2+

41...Qe5+ wins the e1-Rook

42.Kd1 Qb1+ the e1-Rook still dies... 0-1

Augsburger, L (1794) – Burian, D (1544) [B21]
Knights–Northrop, 02.10.2004

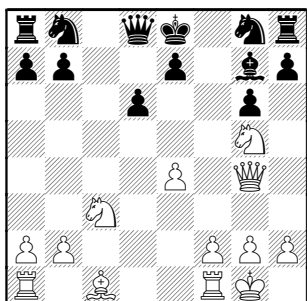
1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 d6 5.Nf3 g6 6.Bc4 Bg7 7.0-0



7...Bg4

Sometimes a pin is no pin at all...

8.Bxf7+! Kxf7 9.Ng5+ Ke8 10.Qxg4

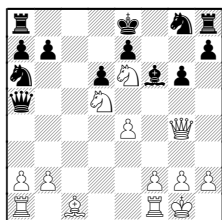
**10...Bxc3**

I would judge the Bishop infinitely more important than the loose Pawn. But Black has a fork on e6 and the succeeding threat of Nb5-c7+ with which to deal.

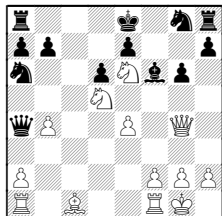
No better is 10...Qb6 to cover b5
11.Ne6 Bf6 12.Nd5.

However, I believe Black barely survives with 10...Qa5 dodging White replies of Nb5 or Nd5, but the Queen has no other squares from which to cover c7.

So continuing the thought with: 11.Ne6 Bf6 12.Nd5 Na6



13.b4!? forces 13...Qa4



No improvement is found in 13...Nxb4

14.Bd2 Bxa1 15.Bxb4
(or even *15.Rxa1*)

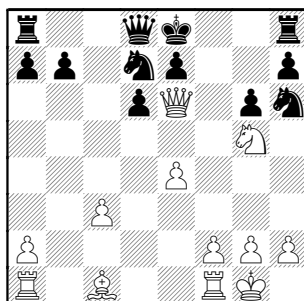
14.Rb1 Rc8 15.Ng7+ idea Qxc8+ 15...Kd8

Whatever, White is obviously better regardless the chosen line.

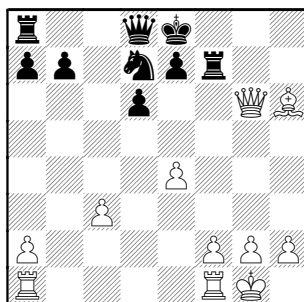
11.bxc3 Nd7 12.Qe6

Qf7# is the threat

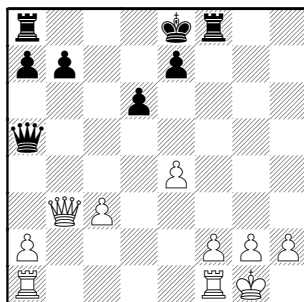
12...Nh6



13.Nxh7! Rxh7 14.Qxg6+ Rf7 15.Bxh6



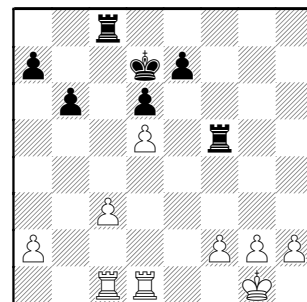
15...Qa5 16.Qg8+ Nf8 17.Bxf8 Rxf8 18.Qb3



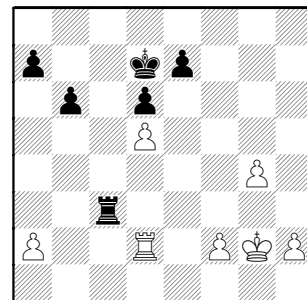
18...b6 19.Qd5! Forcing a fairly

straightforward ending.

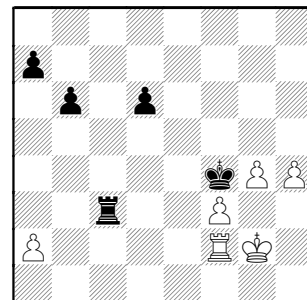
19...Qxd5 20.exd5 Rc8 21.Rac1 Rf5 22.Rfd1 Kd7



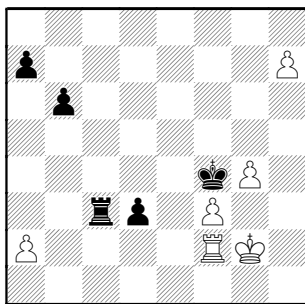
23.g4 Rf3 24.Kg2 Rxc3 25.Rxc3 Rxc3 26.Rd2



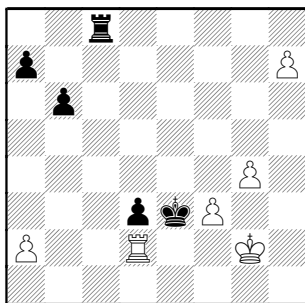
26...e5 27.dxe6+ Kxe6 28.h4 Ke5 29.f3 Kf4 30.Rf2



30...d5 31.h5 d4 32.h6 d3 33.h7



33...Rc8 34.Rd2 Ke3



35.Rxd3+! Kxd3

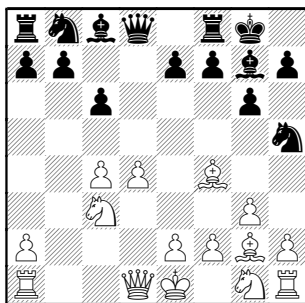
The King is one square too distant...

36.g5 Ke3 37.g6 Rc6 38.h8Q Rxc6+
39.Kf1 1-0

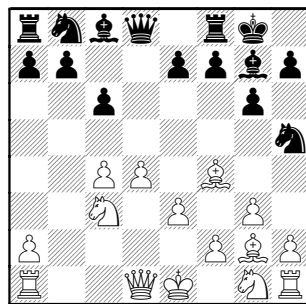
Gardner, M (1279) –
Mossbridge, A (1721)
Northrop-Kemper, 2003

[A16]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0
5.d4 c6 6.Bf4 d5 7.b3 dxc4 8.bxc4
Nh5



9.e3

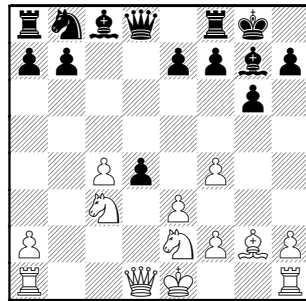


The idea was to stop –e5, I guess.

9...Nxf4 10.gxf4 c5

Immediately threatening to disperse the
White Pawns.

11.Nge2 cxd4



12.exd4

12.Nxd4

might slightly help the Pawn structure:

12...Nc6

12...Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Nc6

(13...Qxd4 14.exd4 Black has traded
the main dark-square attackers.)

13.Bxc6

13.Nxc6? Bxc3+

13...bxc6 14.Qd2

If 14.Qd3 the Queen is unprotected
here, so.. 14...c5

14...c5 15.Nb3

White would like to eventually get in Na4
and win the c-Pawn. An interesting battle
between Knights and Bishops.

15...Bb7

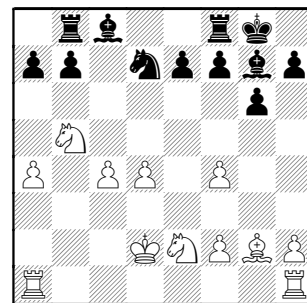
12...Nd7 13.a4?!

Probably to chase Knight, but Black
can simply reply a5 and target the a-
Pawn.

13...Rb8

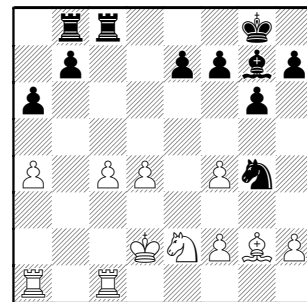
13...Nb6 hits c4 14.c5 Nc4 15.Qb3 Na5

14.Nb5 Qa5+ 15.Qd2 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2



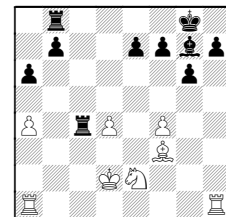
As in move 12 analysis, Black's trades
make it harder to assign pieces to
attack the weaknesses.

16...a6 17.Na7 Nf6 18.Nxc8 Rfxc8
19.Rhc1 Ng4



20.f3 Nf6

20...Nxh2 21.Rh1 traps the Knight, yet
21...Nxf3+ 22.Bxf3 Rxc4



Black has three Pawn for piece, but are

they enough ? An obvious try is

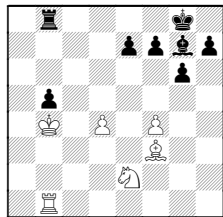
23.Kd3 Rb4

(White still better after 23...Rc7

24.Rhc1)

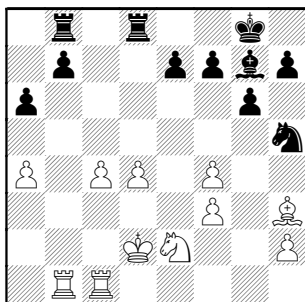
24.Kc3 Rb6 25.Rhb1 Rxb1 26.Rxb1 b5

27.axb5 axb5 28.Kb4

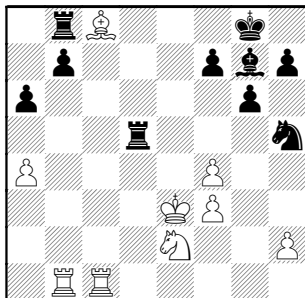


White is better.

21.Rab1 Rd8 22.Bh3 Nh5



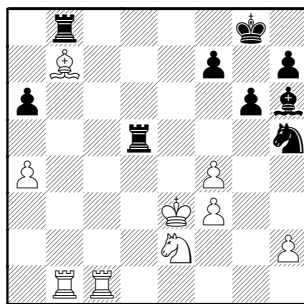
**23.d5 e6 24.Ke3 exd5 25.cxd5 Rxd5
26.Bc8**



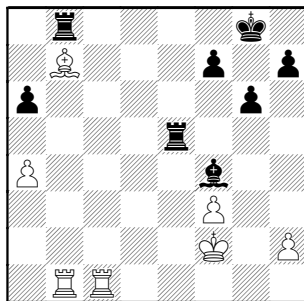
26...Bh6

26...b5 27.Bxa6 b4

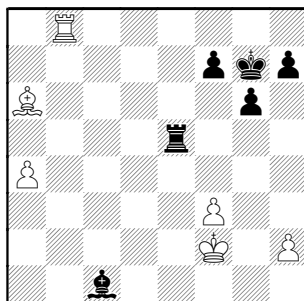
27.Bxb7



27...Re5+! 28.Kf2 Nxf4 29.Nxf4 Bxf4



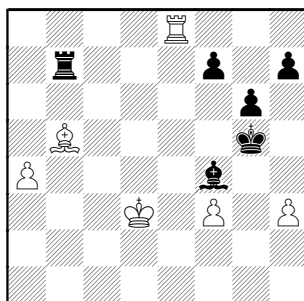
30.Bxa6! Bxc1 31.Rxb8+ Kg7



Not much left to try.

32.Bb5 Re7 33.Re8 Rb7 34.Ke2 Bf4

35.h3 Kf6 36.Kd3 Kg5



37.Re4 Bh2 38.Kc4 f5 39.Rd4 Rc7+

39...Bg1 40.Rd1 Bb6 41.Rd7 most likely draws

40.Kb4 Bg1 41.Rc4 [41.Rd7]

41...Rxc4+ 42.Bxc4 Kh4 43.Bg8

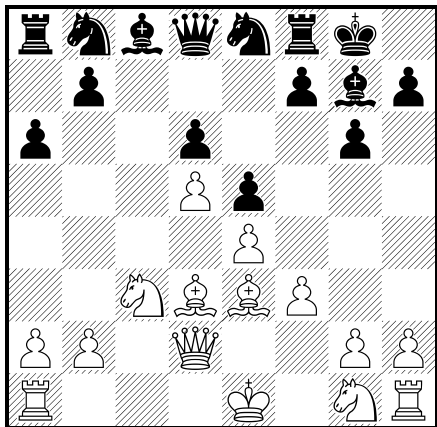
1/2-1/2

One of the most frustrating occurrences in monthly publishing is finding the inevitable error in analysis or other omission. There's at least three things that are bugging me from this season's work and it's about time to clear the air between my ears!

1. A Trite Error with a Lesson

I remember trying to learn some lines from the King's Indian Defense, many years ago, where a position had developed similar to the following:

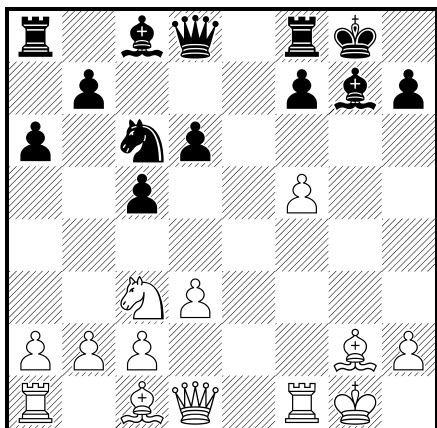
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.Be3 e5
7.d5 c6 8.Bd3 cxd5 9.cxd5 Ne8 10.Qd2 a6



The author suggested that, in such positions, Bh6 is a horrible error due to Black's immediate reply of Qh4+ . Replies of g3 or Qf2 seemed obvious and the author didn't bother to explain what was so dreadful about them!

The answer, of course, is that Qh4+ is forking the h6-Bishop.

So, this season, we visited Jasaitis-Stein and reached another situation involving White's Bh6:



Black played 13..Qh4 ?! Tony, in his notes explains that it prevents White's Qh5 and threatens Be5. But then he suggests that **13...Be5** immediately would have been more solid. Black can then consider ...f6 if necessary, with the Bishop outside the pawns.

The all-knowing Games Editor has to stick his 1-cent in with a glorious attacking line beginning with "the natural move" **14.Bh6**. Fortunately, an alert reader questioned the line with "What's wrong with **14... Qh4 ?**"

Indeed, I was so wrapped-up in mating the Black King I missed the known, common KID fork! Here, of course, Black threatens 15... Bxh2+ and after 16. Kh1, Bg3+ will mate with Qh2#

So Bh6 is once again a blunder to the reply Qh4 !

The moral to this little tale is that as we collect "known positions" we also need to examine the differences in the current game ! In this particular example: Whenever White considers playing Bh6, can Black win it with a threat based on Qh4 ? Only an examination in each unique game can we know the answer for that game!

2. Another Benefit to the "Five Levels"

That moral is a nice segue into remembering an omission in last month's "Five Levels of Planning" article. I'd considered a fifth application of the principles, but, despite having the space, forgot it when the time came to make the point!

The 5 Levels help evaluating an Opening Book.

Want to learn a new line ? Bold enough to try switching to a totally different system ? Great! But do you go for a 250-page tome? If so, how to choose among so many titles? Let's see if we can use our planning levels as evaluators.

1. The basics.

Does the book introduce the opening in the common terms of understanding? The good ones discuss the center, Pawn structure, tactical themes, etc right up front before even listing the variations. The best ones do that and then do it again for each chapter, meaning for each variation or sub-variation.

The most amazing introduction I've ever seen in a chessbook was David Bronstein's **Bronstein on the King's Indian**. Although he did begin with a few games for a historical viewpoint, the second chapter is entitled: The basic functions of the two armies" where he goes through *every single piece* and describes its main uses in a KID game ! The third chapter lists 36 standard moves for each sides' pieces and 24 standard moves for each sides' pawns! That's 120 standard moves explained right up front! Then he gives you test positions where you are to

find the best move. So a third of the book is basics before any specific variation is even mentioned !

2. Basics in specific positions.

Many books seem to do a fairly good job here. As the chapters progress, the nuances or at least differences with the other chapters are explained. But, even so, I've seen a few where the author takes time to discuss key positions; some even diagramming key maneuvers with arrows showing the pieces' paths. Very helpful!

3. Accumulation of known positions.

Generally, as you progress through the book, you begin recognizing reoccurring positions. But I've found this overwhelming!

The shortcut: I prefer books based off complete games, organized by sub-variation, of course. That way you don't have to immediately go through all the author's analysis. I usually just play the moves of the actual games and read the text, maybe glancing at analysis for answers to questions that pop in mind. Once all games are entered, I usually have found a variation that I'd like to play and can go deeper in that line. But, up front, I have the overall perspective.

The best way to accumulate positions is playing over-the-board, reviewing your thoughts, comparing them to the book lines.

4. Transpositions between positions.

This is the killer ! In evaluating the book for this level of detail, you really need a copy in hand and study the author's prose. If there's no prose, and just variations, you probably have a database-dump. There may be value in the games chosen, hopefully unique play, but you're on your own finding the positions common to variations in other chapters! Although, actually, I sometimes find transpositions by simply examining the diagrams in each chapter, looking for similar positions. ChessBase searches also are a great help in this area, especially the "Find position in reference database" function.

The thorough authors make a point of stopping and saying "this can also be reached via...". The best go the extra mile and actually order the sub-variations by strength, or discuss the move order differences.

5. The initiative.

Again, the difference is in the author's writing. Does he explain why a move is best or the current favorite? Do you obtain a feel for how the line creates the initiative and how to continue it? Some books stop in the middlegame with a simple evaluation and leave the rest to the reader. The best show the win right through the endgame or conclusion of attack.

A specific example.

I am a fan of both the French Defense and John Watson as author. So when the two cross paths, you gotta believe I'm interested! Watson just this month has released the 3rd edition of his top-quality book **Play the French**. Interestingly, he not only has the job of dividing the opening, and into sub-variations as normal, he took on the additional work of explaining his choice of material in comparison with the other editions! Now that's thorough!

Here's some interesting points made in the Introduction:

- the French is played more than all the most popular Sicilian lines *combined* !
- the French, in his database, accounts for 6.75% of all games !
- he explains why this is
- he lists the French specialists. Great for your own database searches ! Learn from those dedicated to it!
- he states every variation is presented with two distinct, playable variations!
- he lists the current hot lines. You know right up front for which you better be prepared !

Although he immediately begins walking through the specific variations, I note that he does introduce each major variation with a page of prose of "the basics".

He doesn't base his variations on full games (nuts!), but always orders his lines by strength. I see plenty of prose describing the reasons/goals for the sub-variations.

Finally, a glance at my favorite variations (happily, all recommended as the most promising!) reveals that he has plenty of discussion on move orders and transpositions!

Too bad I now play some other reply to 1. e4 !

3. Watson Scores Again!

While we're on the subject of awesome books by John Watson, I have one final brain-cramp confession. In the November 2003 issue's review of his **Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy** [SMCS], I did not provide any examples from the book. Worse, there is a topic there every chess student is recommended to master!

Before we get that, though, I'm proud to announce that the other book reviewed there, **Chess Strategy in Action**, was nominated for Chesscafe.com's "Book of the Year" award! So many have benefited as I have !

Back to SMCS. When the review was written, I was half through the book, so leafed through the rest. And space considerations made me satisfied with the result. But there is there a discussion of Bishop pair vs Knight pair that, at first, seemed trivial. But it's a radical thought and has been

very helpful to me in practice games.

Bishop pair vs Knight pair.

Although he does give a few examples of the traditional, known Knight-Bishop battles, the radical fact that needs to be emphasized is that it's not as simple as "close the position with Knights, open it with Bishops". In fact, his discussion proves the *opposite* to be the correct strategy! Yes, *open the position with Knights!!* He discusses this surprising concept in two contexts: 1) Space/Center play and 2) "Increasing the Speed" of Knights.

1) Space/Center Play.

"In this situation, the side with the knights achieves no solid outposts, nor does his opponent have weak pawns. However, there are number of positions in modern chess in which a player may take on the knights for other reasons, most notably an advantage in space and/or central control. If one's goal is to tie down a bishop-pair, it turns out that in practice, one will normally *not* attempt to lock up the whole pawn structure...Rather a good way is to control so much space that pawn-breaks which might otherwise favour the bishops are suppressed. With enough space, additionally, one's own pawn advances tend to force the creation of favourable outposts."

So the Bishop-pair vs Knight-pair battle is that of control of space versus the ability to make a strong Knight outpost, not that of opening or closing the position. Watson mentions that there are plenty of grandmaster examples of a side sacrificing a Pawn to win just such a battle !

2) "Increasing the Speed" of Knights.

This was a new concept to me. Watson borrowed the phrase from Steve Mayer's book ***Bishop vs Knight: The Verdict***. The discussion begins as:

"The most typical and frequently-arising two-knights strategy is completely ignored by middlegame books. It is when the side with the knights is able to exploit a temporary advantage (normally in development, which arises for reasons described below) in order to blast open the position and dynamically achieve concessions from the side with the two Bishops."

As the concepts are examined, Watson examines openings which commonly result in Bishop-pair/Knight pair battles. Specially detailed are the Chigorin QGD (1 d4 d5 2 c4 Nc6 3 Nf3 Bg4 4 cxd Bxf3), Nimzo-Indian, and Exchange Ruy. In the Chigorin line, even the respected writer Andy Soltis suggests Black to seek a closed position to restrict White's Bishop pair. In fact, the modern games include Black's 6...e5 which opens the position! Watson's analysis of the classic Bishop v Knight trade-off is so perfect, it needs to be quoted exactly:

"...a careful look at modern chess reveals that, in practice, the acquisition of the bishop-pair is usually followed by a slowing down of the play, while he who takes on the knights will strive to open things up and 'mix it'. This is for good reason. Acquisition of the two bishops in the early part of the game often comes at the cost of tempi and/or balance in one's position. It the two-bishop

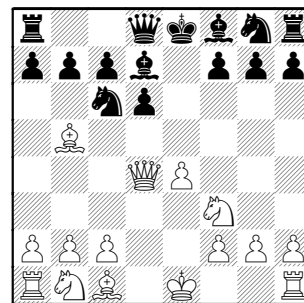
owner can lock things up a bit, he can reorganize and carefully engineer an opening of the position which will emphasize the bishops' natural superiority. This is precisely what the possessor of the knights wishes to avoid. Time favors the bishops, but early in the game, they are often passively placed, needing some tempi to find their best posts. Knights, on the other hand, have a certain native flexibility and tactical 'reach' which allows them to create threats and force concessions before the bishops are ready. For this, open lines are needed to allow the cooperation of the other pieces. Often by, e.g., breaking in the center, the knights' owner will be able to force enemy pawns to advance, creating permanent outposts for the knights, at which point they are no longer inferior pieces to the bishops, even in the long run."

Of special note is that the discussion centers around early-game timing. If "time favors the Bishops", I'd expect the traditional balance to apply as the endgame approaches.

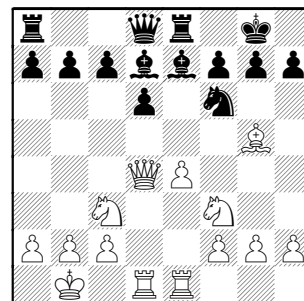
Here's a couple of games from the book that illustrated the quoted material:

Andersson – Paulsen [C62] Vienna, 1873 [SMCS/183]

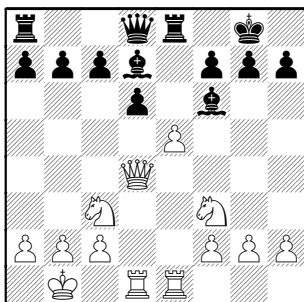
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7



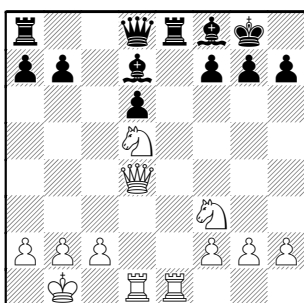
6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Bg5 Nf6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Rhe1 Re8 11.Kb1 Bd7



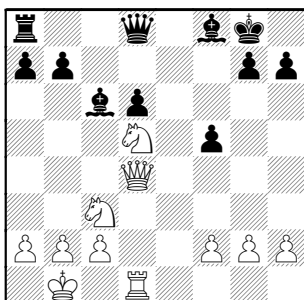
12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.e5!



Tactically sound, of course, but White plays actively to create permanent weaknesses.
13...Be7 14.Nd5 Elimination of the Bishop will win the d6-Pawn. **14...Bf8 15.exd6 cxd6**

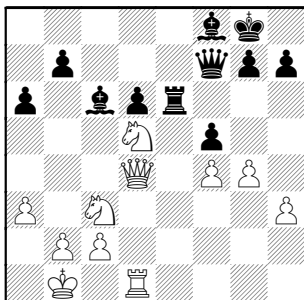


16.Rxe8! Bxe8 17.Nd2! Bc6 18.Ne4 f5 19.Nec3

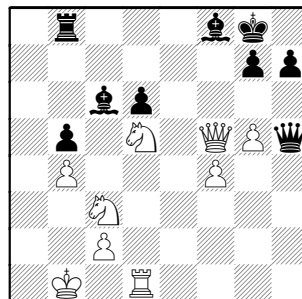


With a permanent outpost on d5, blocking the isolate in the process.

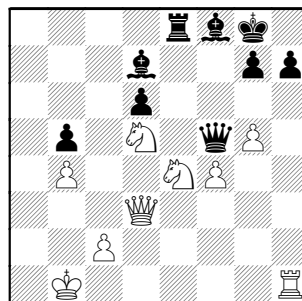
19...Qd7 20.a3 Qf7 21.h3 a6 22.g4 Re8 23.f4 Re6



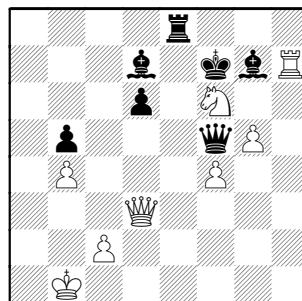
24.g5! b5 25.h4 Re8 26.Qd3 Rb8 27.h5 a5 28.b4! axb4 29.axb4 Qxh5 30.Qxf5



30...Qf7 31.Qd3 Bd7 32.Ne4 Qf5 33.Rh1 Re8



34.Nef6+! gxf6 35.Nxf6+ Kf7 36.Rxh7+ Bg7



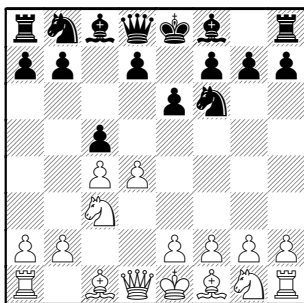
37.Rxg7+! Kxg7 38.Nxe8+

As the Bishop is required to protect the Queen, White gets a winning ending.

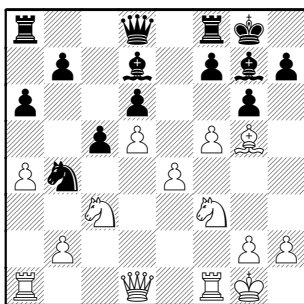
38...Kf8 39.Qxf5+ Bxf5 40.Nxd6+- White wins.

Kasparov – Nunn [A67] Lucerne ol, 1982 [SMCS/185]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5

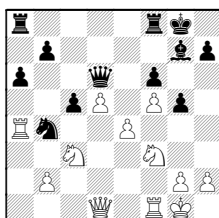


4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nfd7 9.a4 Na6 10.Nf3 Nb4 11.0-0 a6 12.Bxd7+! Bxd7 13.f5! 0-0 14.Bg5

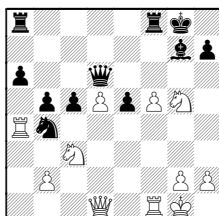


14...f6 [14...Bf6 15.Qd2!] 15.Bf4 gxf5

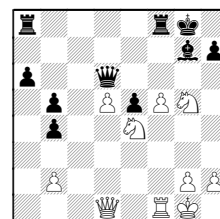
Interesting, is 15...g5 16.Bxd6! Bxa4 17.Rxa4 Qxd6



18.e5! 18...fxe5 19.Nxg5 b5

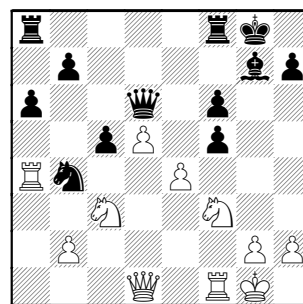


20.Rxb4! cxb4 21.Nce4 with an attack.

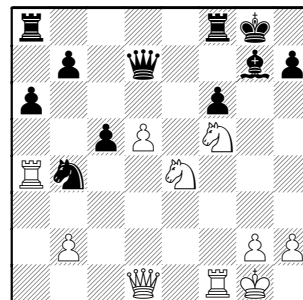


Planning Qh5, Ne6, f6 or d6, Qd5+
Gheorghiu-Kertesz, Kowanija 1984

16.Bxd6 Bxa4 17.Rxa4 Qxd6



18.Nh4! x f5 [18.exf5?? Rad8] 18...fxe4 19.Nf5 Qd7 20.Nxe4



20...Kh8 [20...Rae8 21.Qg4; 20...Nxd5 21.Qxd5+!]
21.Nxc5 BLACK RESIGNED 21...Qxd5 22.Qxd5 Nxd5
23.Ne6! 1-0

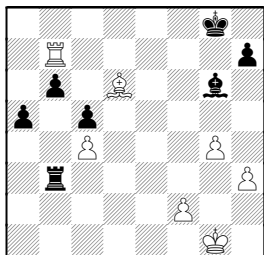
I trust this discussion has whet your appetite for some further study of Watson's fantastic works which appear destined to rank with the classic chess favorites! At least, each has been "Book of the Year" for the year it was published.

For detailed bibliography of *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy* and *Chess Strategy in Action*, find the original review in the November 2003 Bulletin.

Here's twelve positions from last season's playoffs ! A hint is in small print under the diagram, if you need it.

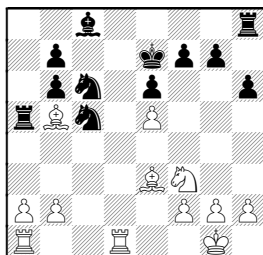
(Answers follow on next page)

1. White played Bxc5.
Can Black, to move, show this to be a mistake?



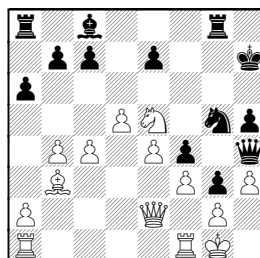
Hint: Can Black break the pin and capture the Bishop?

2. White to move.



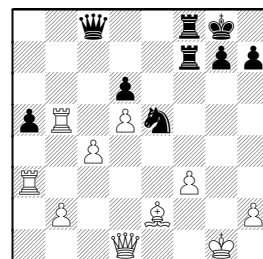
Hint: Black has just played Ra5.

3. Black to move



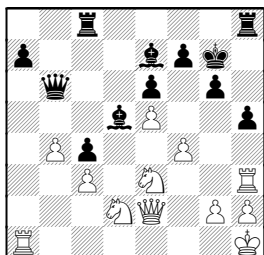
Hint: The White King has few moves.

4. Black played Nxc4.
Can White reply and prove it greedy?



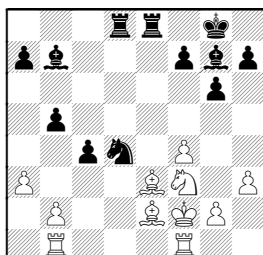
Hint: White doesn't have to capture the Knight.

5. White played Nxc4
Can Black reply and prove it greedy ?



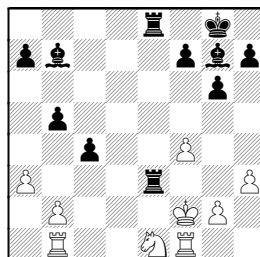
Hint: Can Black use the undefended White Queen?

6. Black to move



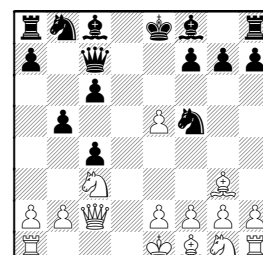
Hint: Pin and win!

7. After #6 success, Black now can finish up!



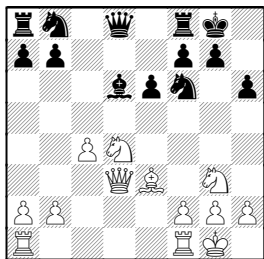
Hint: Try to mate the King and good things may happen!

8. Can White, to move, win a piece?



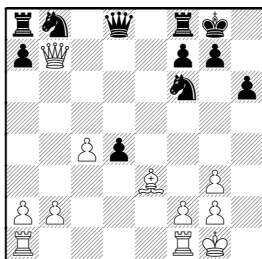
Hint: The c8-Bishop is the only piece defending the Knight.

9.
Black to move.



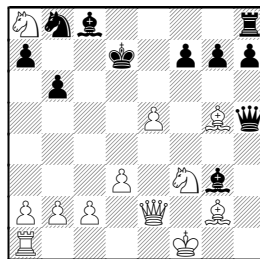
Hint: Black can take advantage of White's loose Queen.

10.
Black to move.



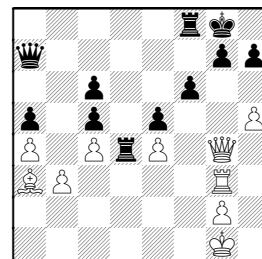
Hint: Can Black ignore White's threat ?

11.
White to move.



Hint: Black's Queen is unprotected.

12.
White to move.



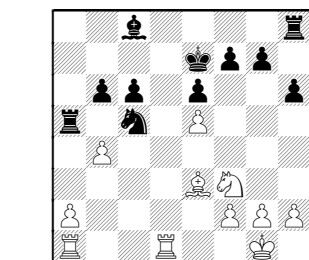
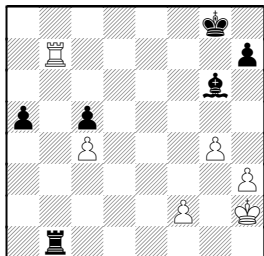
Hint: Black's Queen is overloaded.

SOLUTIONS

(1)
? – McCarthy,D

Black won a piece by placing Rook on a protected square:

36.Bxc5 Rb1+ 37.Kh2 bxc5



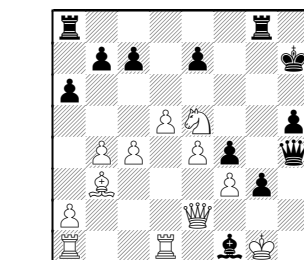
White wins a piece

(3)
? – Jasaitis,T

Tony actually played
28...Bxh3 and lost.

But he noted at game:

**28...Nxh3+!! 29.gxh3 Bxh3
30.Rfd1 Bf1!!**



31.Rxf1

(31.Qxf1 Qh2#;
31.Kxf1 Qh1#)

31...g2 32.Rfd1
(32.Rf2 Qh1#)

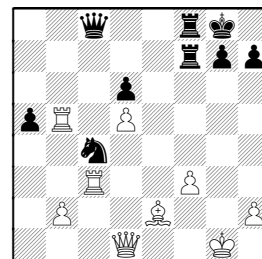
**32...Qh1+ 33.Kf2 g1Q+!
34.Rxg1 Qh2+ 35.Ke1**
(35.Kf1 Rxg1#;
35.Rg2 Rxg2+ 36.Ke1
Rxe2+)

35...Rxg1+ 36.Kd2 Rg2

(4) Guio,J – Rauchman

After 29...Nxc4? White actually played 30.Bxc4? And the game was soon drawn.

But White can pin and win the Knight with
30.Rc3!



30...Rf4 31. b3

If 30...Nxb2 31.Qc2
(31.Rxc8 Nxd1 32.Rxf8+
Rxf8 33.Bxd1;
31.Rxb2 Qxc3)

(2)
Balicki,J – ?

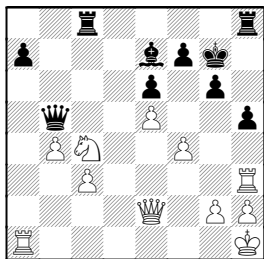
White can eliminate his hanging Bishop, and remove the defender of b4:

18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.b4

(5) ? – Cygan,J

Again, a pinning
zwischenzug seals the deal:

25.Nxc4 Bxc4 26.Nxc4
Qb5



0-1

(6) ? – Augsburg, L

Another pin setup:

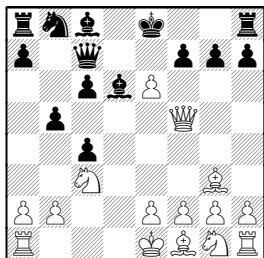
23...Nxe2 24.Kxe2 Rd3
25.Ne1 Rdx3+

(7) The game from Problem
6 immediately concluded:

26...Bd4!
White will at least lose
another piece.
27.Nf3 Rxf3#

(8) Marcowka,B – ?

9.e6 Bd6 10.Qxf5



White kept the extra piece into
the ending and won.

But why doesn't Black solve the
discovery with **9.. Nxg3** ?

(9) ? – Augsburg, L

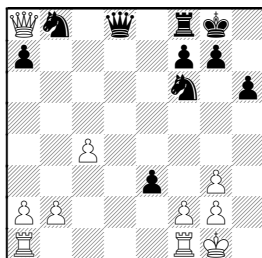
Black realized the Knight pin
due to White's unprotected
Queen:

14...Bxg3 15.hxg3 e5
16.Qb3 exd4 17.Qxb7

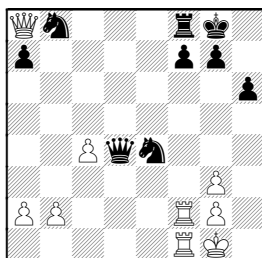
and reached the position for
Problem 10...

(10) ? – Augsburg, L

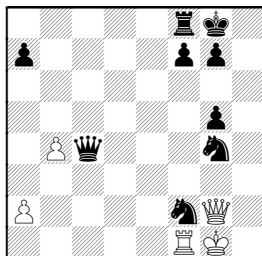
17...dxe3 [17...Nbd7]
18.Qxa8



18...exf2+ 19.Rxf2 Qd4
20.Raf1 Ne4



21.g4 Nd7 22.Qb7 Ndf6
23.g5 hxg5 24.g4 Nxf2
25.Qg2 N6xg4 26.b4 Qxc4



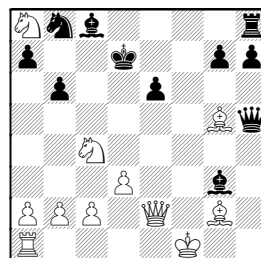
27.Rxf2 Qd4 28.Kh1 Nxf2+
29.Qxf2 Qxf2
0-1

(11) Diaz,P – ?

White found the hanging
Black Queen and provided a
way for the Knight to
discover with check:

16.e6+ fxe6
Even moving the King
appears to keep Black in
trouble.

17.Ne5+ Kd6 18.Nc4+ Kd7



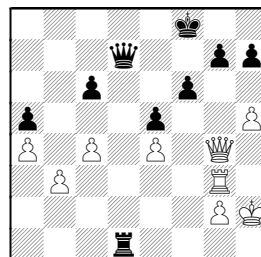
19.Qxh5 1-0

(12) Benforado – ?

White had been struggling, but,
after Black's trade on g4, found
a nice theme:

30.Bxc5
The Black Queen is required
to stop mate on g7.

Rd1+ 31.Kh2 Qd7 32.Bxf8
Kxf8



With an interesting ending

It's commonly known that chess is the second-most subject for books and "the hits just keep on coming"! In the past, I've reviewed some of my recent favorite study guides, but lately have found myself enjoying the lighter side of chess. So this month, we enjoy a fictional short story and a few life-in-chess anecdotes.

THE BISHOP'S CHECKMATE

by M.W.W. and A.C.W.

Bishop Checkmate found himself in need of the sea air after a hard winter of confirming and marrying off his flocks. He had not lost the bland, rosy cheeks and rounded form, due to a genial nature and good cheer, that proclaimed him Bishop a block off. Still he felt he required a month's rest to nerves and brain— all the more because he had been much worried recently about getting his nephew, Tom Squares, decently through his preliminary examinations for college, whose studies, owing to a great fondness for pretty faces and very slight fondness for textbooks, were sadly snarled up. Tom was to work hard during the whole trip, this was the condition on which the Bishop had paid his little bills at the florist and at Huyler's and taken him along. The Bishop, with Ramsay's Saint Paul and a volume of Milman to read, together with the first proofs of his own *Sermons for Sad Hearts* to revise, promised himself many quiet, profitable moments on board the "Minnehaha".

After two days of much suffering, Bishop Checkmate made his way to the promenade deck and let himself down gently into the nest of rugs which had been cosily laid out for him on his steamer chair by the faithful steward. Our poor friend looked pale and wan, and with one feeble hand fingered the pages of the manuscript he had brought with him for a preliminary inspection, while his glassy eyes looked sadly out to sea.

Something between a little laugh and a cough drew his eyes to the chair beside him, on which lay another bundle of rugs. The sprightly face of Mrs. Ronalds and the red cover of Dwight Jilton's *"Miss Petticoats"* peeped from the wrappings of fur and tweed.

"Good morning, Bishop," said a pretty voice, "I fear you have been working too hard these last few days, for we have not seen you at all."

"Oh, Madam," sighed the ever gallant old gentleman. "I have been working rather hard and in this rough weather I was afraid to trust my inkstand on deck, but this afternoon I found the seclusion of my cabin too confining, and have brought my papers to revise up here in pencil."

Saying this he turned towards his neighbor, whom he had hardly more than bowed to the first day out. She was a sight any man's eyes might be pleased to dwell on. Plump, dark haired, bright eyed, with alert and graceful movements, she sparkled over with good health, and a chat with her was a tonic for any one. The Bishop soon

began to feel its beneficial effects, which together with the sea breezes brought the color back to his genial face, and he was nothing loath to accept a cavier sandwich and join her in a cup of broth when eight bells sounded. Mrs. Ronalds was that ideal woman companion, a good talker and a better listener; and the Bishop was soon galloping off on his pet hobbies, with her ambling at his side.

A chance remark about his nephew brought him back to *terra ferma*, if this expression is permissible of ship life.

"What a nice fellow your nephew is," the widow said, smiling sweetly, "so polite and kind; he was most attentive to us last evening during the storm, and we are both quite in love with him already."

At the word both the Bishop started, remembering the glimpse he had caught on first coming aboard of Miss Lucy Sweet, Mrs. Ronald's niece, a dangerously pretty girl, all fluffy hair and pinkness. He had wanted Tom, too, during the storm, and had sent the steward for him. But first Tom was not to be found, and later he sent back word that he would come as soon as he had finished his chapter of the anabans. Then had come a terrible lurch of the vessel, and the Bishop had remembered nothing more.

"Tom, the rascal, where is he now?" darted through his mind, and jumping up with a courteous, not short, bow he ran off in search of him.

He did not have to go far. For after one or two stumbles, and a tussle with his cap on rounding a windy corner, he came upon his nephew in the act of teaching little Miss Sweet the mysteries of shuffleboard. Now, the day was still rough, and Lucy not very sure footed, so Tom's hands were busy helping her to stand and play all at once.

"My word, what a good shot, splendid! Whew, here comes a whopper! Take care, lean on me," as a great wave dashed its spray on Lucy's rosy face; such was the scene that greeted the poor Bishop, as he approached staggering and struggling.

"Tom!" he cried. And in a few moments the little group was broken up. Miss Sweet declared she was tired and very ready to sit down and read; and Tom, muttering beneath his breath, reluctantly took to his chair on the further side of the Bishop, who rather stiffly returned to his own seat by Mrs. Ronalds.

The worthy gentleman looked flustered and worried, and responded very frigidly to a few playful remarks of Mrs. Ronald, about hoping people finding amusement in anything and everything. Her quick eye glanced first at her niece, whose dainty brows just puckered above the gilt top of Herbert Spencer's *First Principles*; then at Tom, moodily fingering his pencil; then at the Bishop, who was somewhat savagely beginning to arrange his notes. A

ripple of amusement passed over her face as the whole situation flashed upon her. She gave a little sigh, and then drew forth from a bag which lay on her knees a small leather booklet, something like a large cardcase. Settling herself comfortably in her chair, so as to rest her elbow on the arm nearest the Bishop, she opened the book, and with her free hand began moving some little objects about on its inner surface.

A look of deep and earnest absorption settled on her face, when she had arranged the board, for it was nothing less than a pocket chessboard— to her satisfaction; and soon the whole group was in deep quietude. The only sound was the rustling of the Bishop's notes, for neither Miss Sweet nor Tom seemed to progress in their reading beyond their first pages.

Bishop Checkmate glanced out to sea. It was calmer now, blue and serene, just one seagull showing like a puff of foam in the sky. He glanced at Miss Sweet, who caught his eye and immediately withdrew hers; then at Tom— all was well there; then his eye rested on his other neighbor. He started, for the sight of a chessboard was to him like the sound of a firebell to an Engine Horse.

But no; he would, he *must* finish his work. "Work before play," that was always his motto.

He made some notes; he drew his pencil through some words; he underlined a word twice, then looked back and wondered why he had done so. Then he took a peep over his neighbor's shoulder. He looked again longer.

"Madam, excuse me, but would you make that move?"

"Oh, Bishop, do you play chess?" answered she, "let's have a game. I love it."

Poor Bishop Checkmate— all his good resolutions flown to the winds! The widow turned the board, and with heads close together, he and she were soon in deep contemplation.

The moments passed. Once in a while the Bishop's firm broad hand, on which rested a big seal ring, would meditatively worry a piece out of its crack and make a move. Quickly the widow's now white hand, sparkling with jewels, would as it were answer him back with another. Now and again the Bishop looked up at his nephew whom he knew he must watch; but less frequently as the game enthralled him more and more.

What was that fluttered across the deck? Miss Lucy Sweet's handkerchief, carried off by the naughty wind. Tom saw and ran, common politeness called him. He returned it, said a few words, and looked towards his uncle. Lucy looked too. Their eyes met and both laughed.

"What a dear old gentleman," said Lucy, "and how fond he seems of chess."

"May I?" said Tom, and without more ado sank into the empty chair at her side.

The long day waned. The soft and beautiful light of late afternoon slanting across the deck caught in Lucy's hair and made a halo of gold, as the Bishop and his opponent began their third and deciding game. The Bishop had missed Tom, had even seen him sitting further down the deck but as one in a trance who seeing understands not, he was so absorbed with his own moves that he could not comprehend his nephew's.

Half an hour more and the widow with a little cry of triumph flashed a move:

"I have you now, Bishop, I think," she exclaimed, laughing.

The Bishop hesitated, then flushed with pride and joy for he thought he saw not only a safe escape but a winning combination.

Would it work? He looked up and saw Tom's hand enveloping in its broad depths both the tiny ones of Miss Lucy. He could not stop: would his strategy work? Perhaps the widow had seen that other game being played five chairs off, perhaps she had read into Lucy's heart; but now here eyes were fixed in apparently deep study on the board.

Yes; it would work. The Bishop saw the whole beautiful combination. His face glowed with ecstatic delight, and his hand trembled slightly as he played his moves in rapid succession. At last there were only two moves more and he would give mate. He checked her king with one bishop. She hastily retreated from the zone of danger, and he lifted the other Bishop to give the *coup de grace*.

"I win, Madam," he cried, exultant, "you cannot escape the mate!"

"One moment, Bishop; it is you who are beaten." So saying, she pointed down the now darkened deck, and the Bishop's horrified glance beheld Tom, his own nephew Tom, to whom he had forbidden the even so much as speaking to a girl during this voyage, in his very presence pressing a kiss on the blushing cheek of Miss Lucy Sweet.

"Oh, Bishop! Love will always find a way."

It was too true: the last moves which had so engrossed him had covered his nephew's strategy; and so was, by the moves of his own Bishop, Bishop Checkmate checkmated.

From Lasker's Chess Magazine, April 1905

FROM UKRAINE WITH LOVE

One great philosopher said: "Life is a game, and the only game is real life."

For me, chess is life and every game is like a new life. Every chess player gets to live many lives in one lifetime. Chess players are similar to actors— one day they play Hamlet, the next day Romeo, and so on. But unlike actors who have to follow their script, written by the producer, chess players are the actors, producers, and directors, and they decide their destiny in every game! And so it is in life where chess metaphor and images are used to guide oneself and vice versa. Consider, for example, when chess metaphors are used in love. There is a story about a man who was wooing a beautiful girl. He tried nearly everything to win her heart and hand in marriage— flowers, nice love letters— but nothing worked. Then one day he found out that she played chess. And so in his next letter to her he used a few metaphors to describe his love. One was: "You are for me the Queen on d8. And I'm the pawn on d7!!" Yes, and his chess metaphors won her heart and they got married and lived happily ever after.

Now I will tell you a story from my life where I was not so lucky and I did not have such words. This story happened a long time ago and I have my own system of counting time. It happened 40 kilograms ago while I was playing for the Ukrainian team in the Soviet Junior Team Championships. I was also... in love. Her name was Bella, or, in the affectionate Russian diminutive, Bellochka. She was beautiful, had blond hair, big blue eyes and she played chess— which made me love her all the more. Of course I had my rivals who offered her opening advice and adjournment analysis. I tried, too. Incomprehensibly she ignored me and refused all my offers to help her in chess. But I still remember those five wonderful hours that I spent daily with her in the same hall. I would share that time between playing my game and watching her beautiful eyes. Those were the best hours of my life. Then came the disastrous day when my team played against Uzbekistan. The game went as follows:

(Khasidovsky-Gufeld, Soviet Junior Team ch 1953)

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6

If only Bellochka had understood my faithful nature. For after all this time, I am still true to my first love— the King's Indian Defense! And now, every time I play this defense, I remember the sweetness of my love for Bellochka.

5. Nf3 0-0 6. Be2 e5 7. 0-0 Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9. Ne1 Nd7 10. Be3 f5 11. f3 f4 12. Bf2 g5 13. Nd3 Rf6 14. c5 Rg6 15. h3 h5 16. Ne1 g4 17. hxcg hxcg 18. fxcg Nf6 19. g5 Rxcg5 20. cxd cxd 21. Nf3 Rh5 22. Nd2 Rh7 23. Rc1 Ng6 24. Qb3 Bf8 25. Nb5 Bg4 26. Qd3 f3 27. Bxf3 Nf4 28. Qb3 Qe8 29. Rc7 Rh1+!! 30. Kxh1 Qh5+

I had sacrificed a Rook to win a tempo and get this winning position. It was really fantastic and I felt inspired by my love for Bellochka. I was filled with emotion. By now, many of the tournament participants had rushed to my table to see the combination. I was hoping to see Bellochka but she did not come. She remained in her seat playing for the Russian team. I ran over to her table and with my eyes and heart I said to her, "See my combination. This sacrifice that I have made— it's for you." Suddenly she looked up and pierced me with her beautiful big blue eyes. Surely she knew that I was not interested in her game. And I even thought that she had heard what my heart had said to her and maybe, just maybe, she understood my feelings. It was as if time stood still in that moment when we gazed into each other's eyes. Her eyes then turned away from me as she looked back at her game. She then quickly made her move and . . . blundered her Queen !! It was a tragedy and immediately she resigned her game. A steady stream of tears began to flow from those beautiful blue eyes. I was stunned by her grief and blamed myself for what had befallen her. But being a great fan of Indian movies, I knew what had to be done— I had to share in her tragedy, just like the hero !

But I couldn't resign my game, as I was playing for my team. So I offered my opponent a draw, which he quickly accepted. The spectators were shocked by the draw, but they didn't understand the love I had for Bellochka.

And what about Bellochka ? She ran to her team trainer to complain that I was to blame for the loss of her game ! She didn't accept my sacrifice and only blamed me for her loss. The tournament officials reprimanded me for causing Bellochka to blunder away her Queen and also forbade me from approaching the Russian Ladies Team while they were playing games. This was like going to the guillotine! Before the game, she didn't want to see me. After the game she didn't want to see me. And now during the game I was not allowed to see her!

But God gave me a chance to see her again— the best chance of my life. For on the day that the match between Russia and the Ukraine came, the edict was not if effect. The games started on time and my chair was facing my Bellochka and not my opponent. Of course, I can't remember what she played, only how she moved the pieces with her hand! By the end of the playing session, both her game and mine were to be adjourned and played off the following day, thereby permitting me extra hours in her presence. It seemed that our games would last forever. Only those who have been in love at the age of 17 will understand how I felt. When play resumed, I continued where I stopped the previous day watching her every movement. But on move 150 my opponent announced that on playing ..Qb7 he would claim a draw based on a threefold repetition of the position.

I was in trouble, for if this resulted in a draw, then I would

have to leave the room and Bellochka. But this must not happen! I begged my opponent to play on as long as possible, but he didn't agree. So I tried to complicate the situation. I argued that on move 120 the Rook that is now on d4 was then on d5, and the Rook that was then on d4 was now on d5. And with that I claimed that there were no grounds for a draw.

So I suggested that they play through the game and mark the base of the Rooks at move 120 with either Q (for queenside) or K (for kingside). In doing this they could ascertain whether the same Rooks were on the same squares on moves 135 and 150. Absolutely confusing! The officials were at a loss for words and decided to retire to the other room to decide the issue. I had another 20 minutes to be with my Bellochka. Before I knew it, the officials were back. They declared the game a draw and reprimanded me for trying to confuse them.

Since that time many years and countless tournaments have come and gone but I have not seen Bellochka again at chess events.

But there is a final twist to this story. When this account was published in the Georgian newspaper *LeLo*, the editors received an angry letter from a lady who wanted to know about Bellochka's destiny. She wrote: "I can't imagine how Bella could have turned down such a nice and charming man (and future grandmaster!) as Eduard Gufeld."

*As told in **My Life in Chess**, by Eduard Gufeld. International Chess Enterprises, 1994.*

Our final selections clash with the sappy love-story theme, but are too good to omit!

STANDING TAL

To several current generations of chess players, Mikhail Nekhemyevich Tal was muse. At the close of the 1950s chess was entrenched in a sort of "scientific determinism" of positional play. Modern defensive technique and strategy had seemed to long ago put an end to the 19th-Century fireworks of Adolf Anderssen and Paul Morphy. Chess on a high level was seen as simply too "correct" to allow such nonsense.

World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik, hero of the Soviet Republic and leader of the Russian chess hegemony, claimed only to be "first among equals," such as compatriots Smyslov and Bronstein. We can almost see a circle of Soviet GMs with white lab coats and clipboards somewhere in an antiseptic chamber in Moscow, squinting with scientific detachment through microscopes at chess positions and scratching out lines of algebra on a chalkboard. Into this exalted Kremlin chess "Laboratory" burst young Misha Tal, the irreverent "gangster of the chessboard" (to take a line from Smyslov), shaking up the formulae and stirring in a large beaker full of fun.

Tal brought the Heisenberg Principle to chess in the form of the imaginative sacrifice— what he called "fantasy"—, saving us from the dull pomposity of chess as pseudo-science and showing that there was still room for beauty and poetry. Where his contemporaries shuffled, Tal sacrificed. As Ragozin said, "Tal doesn't move his pieces by hand; he uses a magic wand!" Or, as Bronstein put it, "Tal develops all his pieces in the center and then sacrifices them somewhere."

Hoisting the Hippopotamus

Tal suffered from a cold in addition to his "normal" background of serious ill health. Yet he played to win and finished in a respectable third place. His game against Vasiukov was key. It began:

(Tal-Vasiukov, Kiev 1965)

1. e3 c6 2. Nc3 d5 3. d4 dxe 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Nf3 Ngf6 6. Ng3 e6 7. Bd3 c5 8. 0-0 cxd 9. Nxd4 Bc5 10. Nf3 0-0 11. Qe2 b6 12. Bf4 Bb7 13. Rad1 Nd5 14. Bg5 Qc7 15. Nh5! Kh8! 16. Be4 f6! 17. Bh4 Bd6 18. c4 Ba6!

Black has made some very strong choices, and here Tal knew he was faced with difficult decisions of his own. "The position demands strong measures," Tal writes. [And after analysis] began to calculate the Knight sacrifice on g7.

"The sacrifice was not altogether obvious, and there was a large number of possible variations, but when I conscientiously began to work through them, I found, to my horror, that nothing would come of it. Ideas piled up one after another. I would transport a subtle reply, which worked in one case, to another situation where it would prove to be quite useless. As a result my head became filled with a completely chaotic pile of all sorts of moves, and the famous 'tree of the variations', from which the trainers recommend that you cut off the small branches, in this case spread with unbelievable rapidity.

"And then suddenly, for some reason, I remembered the classic couplet by Korney Ivanovich Chukovskiy:

Oh, what a difficult job it was

To drag out of the marsh the hippopotamus.

"I don't know from what associations the hippopotamus got onto the chessboard, but although the spectators were convinced that I was continuing to study the position, I, despite my humanitarian education, was trying at this time to work out: just how would you drag a hippo out of the marsh? I remember how jacks figured in my thoughts, as well as levers, helicopters, and even a rope ladder. After a lengthy consideration I admitted defeat as an engineer, and thought spitefully: 'Well, let it drown!!' And suddenly the hippo disappeared, going off the chessboard just as he had come on— of his own accord! And straightaway the position did not appear to be so complicated.

"Now I somehow realized that it was not possible to

calculate all the variations, and that the Knight sacrifice was, by its very nature, purely intuitive. And since it promised an interesting game, I could not refrain from making it!

“And the following day, it was with pleasure that I read in the paper how Mikhail Tal, after carefully thinking over the position for 40 minutes, made an accurately calculated piece sacrifice...”

In The Black

In 1988 Tal won the enormous World Blitz championship in St. John, Canada....But Tal did accept another benefit of winning at St. John— the \$50,000 first prize. Shortly after the event, he visited Steve Doyle at his Tom's River, New Jersey, chess club to give a simul. Afterwards, Tal wanted to see Atlantic City. Steve was accommodating, driving Tal to Resorts International, but only after insisting that Tal safely lock up the bundles of cash and checks he was carrying in a safety deposit box in the Tom's River Holiday Inn. He cajoled Tal into limiting his traveling stash to \$500.

Once at the casino, Tal plopped himself down at the roulette wheel. To Doyle's dismay, Misha put the entire \$500 on black. But he won. Steve grinned and suggested dinner. Tal left the \$1,000 on black. He won again. Steve tried to convince the champ to set back most of his winnings. After all, Steve, now CFO of a multi-billion-dollar enterprise, had respect for financial security. But the Wizard let it ride. After winning four in a row on black, he switched to red, but kept betting the house. Two more spins and Tal had amassed \$32,000— truly a fortune in the old Soviet Union, and winnings he would not have to rebate to the authorities, as he would much of his tournament prize. Steve kept pleading, but Tal went for the jackpot one more time— and he lost. Without changing his demeanor, Tal stood up. “Let's go to dinner,” he said quietly. It turned into a long evening of nightlife.

Afterwards Doyle had to drive them back to Tom's River, of course. Heading north on the New Jersey Parkway, Steve was overwhelmed with exhaustion at the first rays of sunshine. Pulling over quickly to the shoulder of the highway, he mumbled a quick apology-explanation and immediately fell asleep. On waking up from a 45-minute nap, he looked across at the much older Tal to see him sitting wide-awake in the passenger seat, imperturbably chain-smoking, as always.

His Last World Championship Move?

Co-author Al Lawrence was fortunate enough to sit next to Tal at a small table during the final world championship of his lifetime, Kasparov-Karpov, New York 1990...

Lawrence was shocked by Tal's appearance. His illness and his passion had demanded from him a great price. Although only 53, he seemed physically an old and frail man. What hair he had left was white, swirled around his head to cover the most territory and making him look more

Merlin-like than ever. He had just traveled halfway around the world by jet, a challenge to even the young and healthy. On top of that, this 30th anniversary of his own unforgettable victory had brought him together with old chess adversaries and old friends. It was clear that his day had already included frequent toasts to past battles. Tal's prematurely wizened face was heavy-lidded as he hunched over in his gray, double-breasted suit, his elbows on the table, his chin resting in his hands. The old stare was frankly a bit glazed

The position after 37 moves showed Kasparov with the initiative, letting a pawn go to build up an attack against Karpov's castled king...it became clear the battling K's were reaching a critical point.

Al's eyes darted between the position and Tal, covertly checking the ex-champ's face for signs of reaction. Surely, such an attacking game between the current titans stirred the old juices in the Wizard somewhere down deep. Kasparov was now the young attacking genius whose games regularly amazed rooms full of grandmasters. How much of this new genius could the “old” one follow?

The next Kasparov move was announced and repeated on the big board.

At the exact moment the piece found its new square, Misha's exhausted stare suddenly twisted into an exaggerated, cartoon-like grimace of pure revulsion. Lawrence thought for a moment that the famous icon might hold his nose and cry “Phew!” Obviously Tal had found the move to be a game-spoiler.

Everyone else for the moment accepted Emperor Gary's new clothes in the form of this “obvious” move, and Tal's face quickly regrouped itself to a guarded stare. But from that point on in the game, Karpov's defense began to take control. Only four moves later, Kasparov sealed his move in a drawn position.

Later, when the game had been analyzed worldwide, Kasparov's culprit-move was found to be the same one that instantly contorted Tal's face for that revealing moment at the table. The right plan was unearthed: 38 g4!! Is this what Tal saw immediately, jet-lagged and suffering from celebrations? Al bets it is.

Right up until life's last checkmate, Mikhail Tal, eighth chess champion of the world, still had the sorcery in his wand and in his eyes. His games will continue to inspire new generations of players to find the swashbuckling and the beautiful in chess.

*As told by Al Lawrence in **Three Days with Bobby Fischer and other chess essays**, by Lev Alburt & Al Lawrence. Chess Information and Research Center, 2003.*