

The Chicago Chess Player

The Official Bulletin of the Chicago Industrial Chess League



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Mark Your Calendars with These Key League Dates:

Fall Business Meeting	Last Wednesday of August (Aug 30 2006)
Spring Business Meeting	3.5 Weeks Before Playoffs (April 18, 2007)
Season Playoffs	Second Saturday of May (May 12, 2007)
CICL Open	Second Saturday of May (May 12, 2007)
League Awards Banquet	First Friday of June (June 1, 2007)

Officer Contact List	2
Contents of Issue	3
News dues, Czernicki, about issue, Ren Knights, Burt simul	4
Dues Due	6

LEAGUE UPDATE

Standings	7
Performance Ratings as of December 3rd	8
Top Ten by Division	9
Most Improved Players	9
Match Results (first half of season)	10
Pressing Christmas Questions	19
Current Ratings	20
Upper Board Forfeits	22
Christmas Facts	22

FEATURES

Christmas Word Search	23
Games as review by Tom Friske	24
All About Christmas Carols	32
Games as reviewed by The Players	33
All About Christmas	42
Christmas Around the World	50
Reindeer Word Search	59
Had Too Much Christmas Cheer ?	60

With contributions from : Art Olsen, Tony Jasaitis, Rob Eaman, Gustavo Garzon, Paul Freidel,
Wayne Ellice, Lenny Spiegel, Elly Sollano, Dave Baurac

PEDIGREE OF AN ISSUE

Always astounded by the way an issue that's coming together takes so long to actually get released. Usually, it's hard getting started, but once that first issue of the season is done, we're back in the swing. Sure enough, this time enough time was spent in November to get the original pieces together, but waiting for the ratings info kinda stopped the flow. "It's coming real soon now" right ?

Not that I'm attempting to make excuses. Art got his stuff done December 3rd and so by that time the editor was thinking about what to do to make a fat December issue (as has become my habit). It was too convenient to just make a November-December double issue and put the new work into some more original articles. Well, one thing after another and next decide to finish that up the start of my long vacation between the weekend before Christmas through New Year's. And now I guess you're seeing how well that was accomplished.

Which is all to say that when you see the cover announce a double-issue and the page footers announcing either November or December, you can get a feel for what's current and what's not !

So have a Happy New Year ! Hope your holiday celebrations have renewed your joy for life and you're ready to dive into 2007 !

Another phase of Life completed....

It's always hard to announce the death of a long-term CICL member. The following email was received:

Long-time Alumni Aces member Tony Czerniecki passed away November 19, 2006 at the age of 85. At his peak, Tony had a league rating 2300 and won the expert's prize at the US Open. He and I had many a great battle over the board.

Our condolences to his friends and family.

Please visit the Guest Book for Kajetan Anthony Czerniecki at <http://obits.suntimes.com/Link.asp?ID=GB20010531>
Cut and paste the url into your browser's address bar.

Tony Jasaitis, President
President



A VIEW FROM SOUTH SUBURBAN CHESS CLUB

Bert Gazmen, our newest member to the South Suburban Chess Club (Pawns team), gave a simul at the club last Friday, December 15. It has been years since this was done, so enthusiasm was high.

He played 10 boards, alternating White and Black. Bert lost 2 and drew 1 (possibly 2 but not sure), so I'll call it 7,2,1.

He was easy on them in that he allowed up to 3 passes and played half the boards as Black. And of course, "everyone enjoyed the experience".

-- Wayne Ellice

Who knew you could cheat at chess?

NEW DELHI, Dec 27 (Reuters Life!) - An Indian chess player has been banned for 10 years for cheating after he was caught using his mobile phone's wireless device to win games, chess officials said on Wednesday.

The player, Umakant Sharma, had logged rating points at a rapid pace in the last 18 months and also qualified for the national championship, arousing the suspicion of officials and bemusing rivals.

Sharma was finally caught at a recent tournament when officials discovered that he had stitched a Bluetooth device in a cloth cap which he always pulled over his ears.

He communicated to his accomplices outside the hall, who then used a computer to relay moves to him, Indian chess federation secretary D.V. Sundar said on Wednesday.

"We have banned him for 10 years," he told Reuters. "We wanted to send a clear message to such people." Chess officials were also probing whether another player had similar advantages through such illegal means, he added.

(Thanks to Dave Baurac)

50th ANNIVERSARY PICNIC update:

I am pleased to announce that we have secured our permit for our **Saturday June 2** family picnic in St. Charles. More details as we develop plans.

--Tony Jasaitis

2007 Knight Quest Monthly Series: 3 Sections - Scholastic U800, Scholastic U1200, & Open.

Scholastic Sections are limited to children & Open Section is for adults & children. Once again, we will be giving points for games played & in December we will award the 'Champion of the Quest' of each section in addition the 2nd to 4th Place will receive stunning metal Golden Cup Trophy's! PLUS...Rewards will be given for every '12 points': A 'free entry' to an "Invitational Chess Workshop" by IM Stan Smetankin!

January 14 - Knight Quest at the Renaissance Hotel

Limited to first 60 players. 4 round Swiss, Game 30 in 3 Sections:

Open (Juniors & Adults), **U1200** (Juniors Only), **U800** (Juniors Only)

Trophies to top 5; medals to rest

EF: \$20 by Jan. 04, \$25 after. Rd 1 at 1:00 PM, rest ASAP

\$5 discount to Renaissance Knights & Junior Knights Students

If you have any other questions, feel free to email or call: Tel: (847) 526-9025: Sheila's Cell # 847-867-5346 or David's Cell # 847-867-3712

RENAISSANCE KNIGHTS FOUNDATION

A 501 (C) (3) nonprofit org formed to improve, academic, intellectual & social skills through chess.

www.RenaissanceKnights.org

www.IllinoisScholasticChess.org

DUES ARE PAST DUE !!!

Cutoff for no penalty was end of November. After that add to normal fees. Another copy of the Dues Form follows for those that have lost it.

To: Chicago Industrial Chess League Team Captains
From: Paul Freidel, CICL Treasurer
Date: August 30, 2006
Re: Dues Charges for the 2006-07 Season

Below are the assessments to each CICL team for the 2006-07 season. Please complete the form below and return it with a check made payable to the Chicago Industrial Chess League.

Team Name: _____ Captain: _____

Annual Basic Dues per 6-player Team	\$55.00	_____
Penalty if postmarked after 11/30/06	\$5.00	_____
Penalty if postmarked after 12/31/06	\$10.00	_____

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Awards Banquet Ticket (<u>1 required per team</u>)	\$25.00	_____
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Total **\$** _____

The CICL encourages you to pay team dues before 11/30/06. If you are not able to pay team dues before 11/30/06, please inform the treasurer. Any funds included with late payments in excess of the required amount will be considered a donation to the treasury.

Send payment with form to the following address:

Paul Freidel
3N861 Babson Ln.
St. Charles, IL 60175

EAST DIVISION 12-19-2006

TEAM NAME				GAME	MATCH	PCT
	W	L	D	POINTS	POINTS	
HEDGEHOGS	3	1	0	16.5	3.0	0.750
NORTHWESTERN CHESS CLUB	2	1	1	14.5	2.5	0.625
ALUMNI ACES	2	1	1	13.0	2.5	0.625
CITADEL GROUP	1	1	2	14.0	2.0	0.500
AMA TORNADO SNAKES	0	4	0	2.0	0.0	0.000

NORTH DIVISION 12-19-2006

TEAM NAME				GAME	MATCH	PCT
	W	L	D	POINTS	POINTS	
MOTOROLA KNIGHTS	3	0	0	15.5	3.0	1.000
MOTOROLA KINGS	3	1	0	11.0	3.0	0.750
WALGREENS	2	1	0	12.0	2.0	0.667
UOP	2	1	0	10.5	2.0	0.667
EXCALIBURS	0	3	0	7.0	0.0	0.000
NORTHROP	0	4	0	4.0	0.0	0.000

WEST DIVISION 12-19-2006

TEAM NAME				GAME	MATCH	PCT
	W	L	D	POINTS	POINTS	
ST CHARLES BAKER	5	0	0	21.5	5.0	1.000
ST CHARLES CHESS CLUB	4	1	0	22.0	4.0	0.800
LUCENT TECH. TYROS	3	0	1	15.0	3.5	0.875
FERMILAB	3	1	0	15.5	3.0	0.750
PAWNS	2	2	1	17.0	2.5	0.500
ARGONNE ROOKS	2	2	1	16.5	2.5	0.500
LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS	2	3	0	14.5	2.0	0.400
CA	1	2	1	9.5	1.5	0.375
MOLEX	0	3	1	5.5	0.5	0.125
CASE	0	4	1	6.5	0.5	0.100
BP CHICAGOLAND	0	4	0	4.5	0.0	0.000

**CICL Performance Ratings
12/03/2006**

Team	Division	Games Ave	Board PR	Match PR	PR (B+M) / 2
MOTOROLA KNIGHTS	North	1.0	2113.0	2009.8	2061
ST CHARLES BAKER	West	3.3	1822.2	2000.8	1912
WALGREENS	North	2.0	1841.4	1822.7	1832
ST CHARLES CHESS CLUB	West	3.7	1809.4	1791.1	1800
MOTOROLA KINGS	North	2.8	1690.6	1853.4	1772
LUCENT TECH. TYROS	West	3.3	1716.7	1823.1	1770
ALUMNI ACES	East	2.0	1841.0	1678.7	1760
PAWNS	West	4.2	1718.5	1719.0	1719
LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS	West	3.0	1716.1	1694.9	1706
UOP	North	2.2	1688.9	1698.5	1694
HEDGEHOGS	East	2.0	1541.4	1783.5	1662
NORTHWESTERN CHESS CLUB	East	1.3	1478.9	1825.0	1652
EXCALIBURS	North	2.0	1710.4	1564.8	1638
FERMILAB	West	2.3	1665.2	1604.9	1635
CITADEL GROUP	East	2.2	1635.7	1613.6	1625
ARGONNE ROOKS	West	3.7	1600.5	1612.3	1606
NORTHROP	North	1.8	1498.4	1564.5	1531
MOLEX	West	3.3	1486.7	1567.3	1527
CA	West	2.5	1374.0	1520.5	1447
CASE	West	3.0	1431.5	1354.5	1393
BP CHICAGOLAND	West	2.2	1260.3	1139.8	1200
AMA TORNADO SNAKES	East	0.7	813.7	1315.3	1065

EAST DIVISION TOP TEN

FRANKLIN, D	HEDGE	2144
RAUCHMAN, M	HEDGE	2109
BROCK, B	ALUMN	2061
BENESA, A	ALUMN	2045C
BAKSHI, A	NWEST	2011
SOLLANO, E	ALUMN	2006C
JASAITIS, A	HEDGE	2005D
ALLEN, H	ALUMN	1940
GORODETSKIY, S	NWEST	1938
SMITH, M	HEDGE	1937

NORTH DIVISION TOP TEN

MORRIS, R	MKNGT	2224
FRIDMAN, Y	MKNGT	2206
WONG, P	EXCLB	2166C
FRISKE, T	WALGR	2070C
MELNIKOV, I	MKING	2025C
WALLACH, C	MKING	1990C
SIWEK, M	UOP	1980D
THOMSON, J	MKNGT	1978C
LEE, D	EXCLB	1961
LEONG, G	UOP	1934C

WEST DIVISION TOP TEN

GARZON, G	FERMI	2260
ALLSBROOK, F	CA	2213
JAKSTAS, K	PAWNS	2196D
MARSHALL, J	STCCC	2168
NGUYEN, T	BAKER	2152
BENEDEK, R	ROOKS	2151T
DORIGO, T	FERMI	2126
GAZMEN, E	PAWNS	2095C
DIAZ, P	TYROS	2058C
TEGEL, F	DRGNS	2036QQ

MOST IMPROVED PLAYERS

MUHS, A	CITGR	78
MCGOWAN, D	MOLEX	59
MARSHALL, J	STCCC	57
JOSHI, B	MKING	51
STOSKUS, A	STCCC	42
DENMARK, T	CA	41
FABIJONAS, R	PAWNS	40
FRANKLIN, D	HEDGE	39
ELLICE, W	PAWNS	38
BYRNE, M	CA	38

21-SEP-06 CITADEL GROUP 2 HEDGEHOGS 4

ROUND 1

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 HAYHURST, W	1936-12	0	FRANKLIN, D	2105 12	1
2 LE, DUC	1720-10	0	SMITH, M	1934 10	1
3 SENSAT, J	1558 -3	0	JASAITIS, A	1999 2	1
4 MUHS, A	1404 38	1	KRATKA, M	1703-38	0
5 KUNHIRAMAN, P	0 0	1	TAN, A	1662 0	0
6 FUNG, J	0 0	0	SHEPARDSON, T	1558 0	1

05-OCT-06 AMA TORNADO SNAKES 2 ALUMNI ACES 4

ROUND 1

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 PETERSON, T	1463 -2	0	SOLLANO, E	1978 1	1
2 FURTNER, F	1457 -4	0	EAMAN, R	1879 4	1
3 GOODFRIEND, B	1240 -1	0	ALLEN, H	1907 1	1
4 MASITI, J	0 0	0	FRANK, M	1733 0	1
5	0 0	1F		0 0	0F
6	0 0	1F		0 0	0F

19-OCT-06 ALUMNI ACES 3 CITADEL GROUP 3

ROUND 2

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 EAMAN, R	1883 3	.5	HAYHURST, W	1924 -3	.5
2 ALLEN, H	1908 11	1	LE, DUC	1710-11	0
3 DUFFY, J	1804-40	0	MUHS, A	1442 40	1
4 MILLER, A	1413 0	.5	KUNHIRAMAN, P	0 0	.5
5 FULKERSON, R	1435 0	1	PARRA, J	0 0	0
6	0 0	0F		0 0	1F

12-OCT-06 HEDGEHOGS 4 NORTHWESTERN CHESS CLUB 2

ROUND 2

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 RAUCHMAN, M	2145-36	0	GORODETSKIY, S	1909 36	1
2 FRANKLIN, D	2117 9	1	SMALLWOOD, J	1874 -9	0
3 JASAITIS, A	2001 0	1	SOLOMON, A	0 0	0
4 SMITH, M	1944 10	1	RODNYANSKY, S	1734-10	0
5 KRATKA, M	1665 9	1	LU, D	1416 -9	0
6 MARES, C	0 0	0	CHUN, A	0 0	1

02-NOV-06 NORTHWESTERN CHESS CLUB 3.5 ALUMNI ACES 2.5

ROUND 3

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 BAKSHI, A	1988 29	1	BROCK, B	2095-29	0
2 GORODETSKIY, S	1945-20	0	SOLLANO, E	1979 14	1
3 SMALLWOOD, J	1865 2	.5	EAMAN, R	1886 -2	.5
4 SOLOMON, A	0 0	1	FRANK, M	1733 0	0
5 LU, D	1407-21	0	FULKERSON, R	1435 21	1
6 KRAVIK, S	1380 0	1F		0 0	0F

13-NOV-06 CITADEL GROUP 6 AMA TORNADO SNAKES 0

ROUND 3

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 HAYHURST, W	1921 3	1	PETERSON, T	1461 -3	0
2 LE, DUC	1699 9	1	FURTNER, F	1453 -9	0
3 MUHS, A	1482 0	1	MASITI, J	0 0	0
4 KUNHIRAMAN, P	1559 0	1	MEYER, C	0 0	0
5 PROKOPOWICZ, P	0 0	1	IRBY, L	0 0	0
6	0 0	1F		0 0	0F

16-NOV-06 AMA TORNADO SNAKES 0 NORTHWESTERN CHESS CLUB 6

ROUND 4

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 PETERSON, T	1458 -3	0	GORODETSKIY, S	1925 3	1
2 FURTNER, F	1444 0	0	SOLOMON, A	0 0	1
3 GOODFRIEND, B	1239 -3	0	RODNYANSKY, S	1724 3	1
4 MASITI, J	0 0	0	KRAVIK, S	1380 0	1
5 IRBY, L	0 0	0	ARUTCHEV, E	0 0	1
6	0 0	0F	MARTELL, J	0 0	1F

27-NOV-06 ALUMNI ACES 3.5 HEDGEHOGS 2.5

ROUND 4

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 BENESA, A	2057-12	0	FRANKLIN, D	2126 18	1
2 BROCK, B	2066 -5	.5	JASAITIS, A	2001 3	.5
3 SOLLANO, E	1993 13	1	SMITH, M	1954-20	0
4 ALLEN, H	1919 21	1	SEET, P	1890-21	0
5 EAMAN, R	1884 10	1	KRATKA, M	1674-10	0
6 MILLER, A	1413 0	0F	SHEPARDSON, T	1558 0	1F

25-SEP-06 EXCALIBURS 2.5 MOTOROLA KINGS 3.5

ROUND 1

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 LEE, D	1930 7	.5	MELNIKOV, I	2039 -5	.5
2 BRONFELD, A	1845 10	.5	WALLACH, C	1999 -6	.5
3 KOGAN, G	1692 -8	0	PIPARIA, J	1866 12	1
4 WEITZ, R	1589 -8	0	CYGAN, J	1755 12	1
5 BROTSOS, J	1542 5	.5	GONCHAROFF, N	1656 -3	.5
6 SUERTH, F	1485 12	1	GRYPARIS, J	1407-12	0

05-OCT-06 MOTOROLA KNIGHTS 3.5 WALGREENS 2.5

ROUND 1

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 MORRIS, R	2198 16	1	FRISKE, T	2093-11	0
2 FRIDMAN, Y	2186 7	1	LEVENSON, S	1887 -7	0
3 THOMSON, J	1978 0	.5	GRANATA, M	0 0	.5
4 CHERKASSKY, G	1664 -9	0	SANTIAGO, T	1908 9	1
5 KARANDIKAR, S	1639 23	1	HUGHES, N	1651-16	0
6 THOMASON, A	0 0	0	HAMELINK, N	0 0	1
7 DUONG, R	0 0	1	BOSIBHATLA, D	0 0	0
8 GONZALEZ, O	0 0	0	ANSARI, N	1571 0	1
9 GONZALEZ, O	0 0	.5	PRASANTHI, D	0 0	.5

05-OCT-06 UOP				4 NORTHROP				2			
ROUND 1											
BD		RATINGS		SCORE		RATINGS		SCORE			
1	LEONG, G	1985-22	0		WALKER, A	1815	33	1			
2	SIWEK, M	1977	3	1	AUBRY, B	1615	-5	0			
3	BOLDINGH, E	1876-10	.5		VIGANTS, A	1596	10	.5			
4	LECHNICK, J	1699-12	.5		BURIAN, D	1508	8	.5			
5	MICKLICH, F	1565	8	1	ELLIOTT, T	1392-12		0			
6	OLSEN, A	1485	0	1F		0	0	0F			
7	OLSEN, A	1485	18	1	NALLATHAMBI, R	1559-27		0	(UOP)	

17-OCT-06 UOP			4		EXCALIBURS		2		
ROUND 2									
BD		RATINGS		SCORE		RATINGS		SCORE	
1	LEONG, G	1963-16	0	LEE, D	1937 24	1			
2	BOLDINGH, E	1866 11	1	SULLIVAN, J	1782-11	0			
3	EASTON, R	1891 10	1	KOGAN, G	1684 -7	0			
4	WALKER, C	1834 7	1	BROTSOS, J	1547 -5	0			
5	NALLATHAMBI, R	1532 20	1	SUERTH, F	1497-13	0			
6	OLSEN, A	1503-12	0	WEITZ, R	1581 12	1			

24-OCT-06 WALGREENS				6		NORTHROP		0	
ROUND 2									
BD		RATINGS		SCORE		RATINGS		SCORE	
1	LEVENSON, S	1880	20	1	WALKER, A	1848-20	0		
2	GRANATA, M	0	0	1	AUBRY, B	1610	0	0	
3	SANTIAGO, T	1917	7	1	ENGELN, M	1622	-7	0	
4	BIALON, D	0	0	1	VIGANTS, A	1606	0	0	
5	HUGHES, N	1635	0	1F	BURIAN, D	1516	0	0F	
6	ANSARI, N	1571	11	1	ELLIOTT, T	1380-11	0		

25-OCT-06 MOTOROLA KINGS				0	MOTOROLA KNIGHTS				6
ROUND 2									
BD		RATINGS		SCORE			RATINGS		SCORE
1	WALLACH, C	1993	-7	0	MORRIS, R	2214	10	1	
2	MELNIKOV, I	2034	-9	0	FRIDMAN, Y	2193	13	1	
3	PIPARIA, J	1878	-21	0	BALICKI, J	1900	21	1	
4	CYGAN, J	1767	0	0F	THOMSON, J	1978	0	1F	
5	GONCHAROFF, N	1653	-10	0	CHERKASSKY, G	1655	22	1	
6	RABINOVICH, E	1512	-13	0	KARANDIKAR, S	1662	13	1	

16-NOV-06 NORTHROP				0 MOTOROLA KNIGHTS				6			
ROUND 3											
BD		RATINGS				SCORE		RATINGS		SCORE	
1	WALKER, A	1828	0	0F	MORRIS, R	2224	0	1F			
2	ENGELN, M	1615	0	0F	FRIDMAN, Y	2206	0	1F			
3	AUBRY, B	1610	0	0F	THOMSON, J	1978	0	1F			
4	VIGANTS, A	1606	0	0F	BALICKI, J	1921	0	1F			
5	BURIAN, D	1516	0	0F	CHERKASSKY, G	1677	0	1F			
6	ELLIOTT, T	1369	0	0F	KARANDIKAR, S	1675	0	1F			

16-NOV-06 MOTOROLA KINGS 3.5 UOP 2.5

ROUND 3

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 WALLACH, C	1986 13	1	LEONG, G	1947-13	0
2 PIPARIA, J	1857-21	0	BOLDINGH, E	1877 14	1
3 CYGAN, J	1767 27	1	WALKER, C	1841-27	0
4 GONCHAROFF, N	1643 -9	0	LECHNICK, J	1687 20	1
5 JOSHI, B	1531 25	1	MICKLICH, F	1573-17	0
6 RABINOVICH, E	1499 4	.5	NALLATHAMBI, R	1552 -4	.5
(MKNGT) 7 DUONG, R	0 0	0	BALICKI, J	1921 0	1 (MKNGT)

29-NOV-06 EXCALIBURS 2.5 WALGREENS 3.5

ROUND 3

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 WONG, P	2154 12	1	FRISKE, T	2082-12	0
2 BRONFELD, A	1855-20	0	LEVENSON, S	1900 20	1
3 LEE, D	1961 0	0	GRANATA, M	0 0	1
4 KOGAN, G	1677 -6	0	SANTIAGO, T	1924 9	1
5 WEITZ, R	1593 0	.5	ANSARI, N	1582 1	.5
6 SUERTH, F	1484 21	1	HUGHES, N	1635-21	0

18-SEP-06 LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS 2.5 LUCENT TECH. TYROS 3.5

ROUND 1

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 TEGEL, F	2035 -8	0	DIAZ, P	2110 12	1
2 MARCOWKA, R	1961 13	1	STOLTZ, B	1925-13	0
3 LUDWIG, T	1949 10	1	DOBROVOLNY, C	1829-10	0
4 PEHAS, A	1862 -6	.5	BUCHNER, R	1714 6	.5
5 EUSTACE, D	1462 -7	0	HAHNE, D	1662 7	1
6 DOBR, K	1343 -4	0	SMITH, BR	1581 6	1
7 BREYER, A	1319 29	1	LAForge, W	1415-29	0

18-SEP-06 MOLEX 1.5 ST CHARLES CHESS CLUB 4.5

ROUND 1

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 REICH, T	1882-10	0	MARSHALL, J	2111 10	1
2 ZADEREJ, V	1630 -5	0	WIEWEL, J	2007 5	1
3 HENDRICKSON, B	1505 8	.5	ALBERTS, W	1622 -8	.5
4 DEICHMANN, E	1294 -7	0	SUITS, J	1598 7	1
5 MCGOWAN, D	1275 34	1	MCGEE, M	1472-34	0
6 RUFUS, B	1259-17	0	STOSKUS, A	1343 17	1
7 JONNALA, B	0 0	1	GHAIBEH, A	0 0	0 (MOLEX)

20-SEP-06 ST CHARLES BAKER 4.5 PAWNS 1.5

ROUND 1

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 NGUYEN, T	2173 3	.5	JAKSTAS, K	2217 -2	.5
2 FREIDEL, JESSE	1964-10	.5	ELLICE, W	1800 7	.5
3 FREIDEL, P	1903 12	1	FRANEK, M	1724 -8	0
4 WANG, ANDREW	1743 11	1	FABIJONAS, R	1546 -7	0
5 FREIDEL, JER	1769 6	1	MIKULECKY, B	1431 -4	0
6 JANSSEN, G	1441 1	.5	SPITZIG, M	1448 -1	.5

20-SEP-06 CASE**2.5 CA****2.5**

ROUND 1

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 NURSE, G	1809-27	0	DENMARK, T	1745 27	1
2 DOWELL, E	1776 10	1	VAIL, M	1565-10	0
3 REID, C	1455 13	1	BYRNE, M	1410-20	0
4 DYCZKOWSKI, R	1355 -4	.5	MCCLENDON, L	1298 4	.5
5 ZOELLNER, J	1326 0	0	GRABSKY, J	0 0	1
6	0 0	0F		0 0	0F

20-SEP-06 ARGONNE ROOKS**4.5 BP CHICAGOLAND****.5**

ROUND 1

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 HILL, R	1990 13	1	COULTER, D	1938-19	0
2 GREEN, D	1943 2	1	DENEEN, D	1447 -2	0
3 DECMAN, S	1573-11	.5	CASTANEDA, R	1259 17	.5
4 DERIY, B	1485 2	1	HERNANDEZ, F	963 -2	0
5 HLOHOWSKYJ, I	0 0	1F		0 0	0F
6	0 0	0F		0 0	0F

13-OCT-06 PAWNS**.5 ST CHARLES CHESS CLUB****5.5**

ROUND 2

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 JAKSTAS, K	2215-19	0	MARSHALL, J	2121 28	1
2 ELLICE, W	1807 -7	0	WIEWEL, J	2012 11	1
3 FRANEK, M	1716 -4	0	SPLINTER, J	2033 6	1
4 FABIJONAS, R	1539 3	.5	SUITS, J	1605 -5	.5
5 O'DELL, DW	1383 -6	0	ALBERTS, W	1614 9	1
6 MIKULECKY, B	1427 -7	0	PRADT, D	1624 11	1

09-OCT-06 FERMILAB**1.5 ARGONNE ROOKS****4.5**

ROUND 2

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 GARZON, G	2284-38	0	HILL, R	2003 25	1
2 SPIEGEL, L	1967 14	1	GREEN, D	1945-14	0
3 GAINES, I	1780-12	0	BAURAC, D	1846 12	1
4 DEGRAF, B	1488 -1	.5	DERIY, B	1487 1	.5
5 MOEHS, D	1423-26	0	KUHLMANN, S	1364 26	1
6 GOLOSSANOV, A	0 0	0	HLOHOWSKYJ, I	0 0	1

12-OCT-06 LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS**2.5 ST CHARLES BAKER****3.5**

ROUND 2

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 TEGEL, F	2027 4	.5	NGUYEN, T	2176-10	.5
2 LUDWIG, T	1959 15	1	FREIDEL, JESSE	1954-22	0
3 PEHAS, A	1856 3	.5	FREIDEL, P	1915 -4	.5
4 EUSTACE, D	1455 -5	0	WANG, ANDREW	1754 7	1
5 DOBR, K	1339 -2	0	FREIDEL, JER	1775 3	1
6 KOMORAVOLU, K	1268 11	.5	JANSSEN, G	1442-11	.5

11-OCT-06 LUCENT TECH. TYROS 3.5 CASE 2.5

ROUND 2

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 DIAZ, P	2122-26	0	NURSE, G	1782 39	1
2 BUCHNER, R	1720 3	.5	DOWELL, E	1786 -5	.5
3 HAHNE, D	1669 13	1	PARAOAN, E	1617-13	0
4 SMITH, BR	1587 -5	.5	REID, C	1468 5	.5
5 LAFORGE, W	1386 20	1	DYCKOWSKI, R	1351-20	0
6 KARPIERZ, J	1298 2	.5	ZOELLNER, J	1326 -1	.5

07-NOV-06 CA 4 BP CHICAGOLAND 2

ROUND 2

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 DENMARK, T	1772 31	1	COULTER, D	1919-31	0
2 VAIL, M	1555 16	1	DENEEN, D	1445-16	0
3 BYRNE, M	1390 25	1	RINGENBERG, T	1421-25	0
4 HANSON, M	0 0	0	CASTANEDA, R	1276 0	1
5 GRABSKY, J	1092 30	1	SUARNAKANTI, R	1209-30	0
6	0 0	0F		0 0	1F

17-OCT-06 PAWNS 6 MOLEX 0

ROUND 3

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 LATIMER, E	2008 9	1	REICH, T	1872-14	0
2 ELLICE, W	1800 6	1	FOX, R	1562 -9	0
3 FRANEK, M	1712 7	1	HENDRICKSON, B	1513-11	0
4 FABIJONAS, R	1542 6	1	DEICHMANN, E	1287 -8	0
5 MISHLOVE, D	1538 10	1	MCGOWAN, D	1309-10	0
6 SPITZIG, M	1447 0	1	GHAIBEN, A	0 0	0

23-OCT-06 CASE 1 FERMILAB 5

ROUND 3

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 NURSE, G	1821 -4	0	GARZON, G	2246 4	1
2 DOWELL, E	1781-11	0	SPIEGEL, L	1981 7	1
3 PARAOAN, E	1604 -8	0	GAINES, I	1768 8	1
4 DYCKOWSKI, R	1331 -8	0	STAPLES, C	1594 8	1
5 ZOELLNER, J	1325-12	0	MOEHS, D	1397 18	1
6 REID, C	1473 0	1F		0 0	0F

01-NOV-06 ARGONNE ROOKS 2.5 LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS 3.5

ROUND 3

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 HILL, R	2028 0	.5	TEGEL, F	2031 0	.5
2 GREEN, D	1931 17	1	LUDWIG, T	1974-17	0
3 YACOUT, A	1592 -8	0	PEHAS, A	1859 5	1
4 DECMAN, S	1562 14	1	THOMAS, J	1532-14	0
5 DERIY, B	1488-25	0	EUSTACE, D	1450 17	1
6	0 0	0F	DOBR, K	1337 0	1F

02-NOV-06 ST CHARLES CHESS CLUB 2.5 ST CHARLES BAKER 3.5

ROUND 3

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 MARSHALL, J	2149 24	1	NGUYEN, T	2166-24 0
2 WIEWEL, J	2023-30	0	FREIDEL, P	1911 30 1
3 SPLINTER, J	2039 -7	.5	FREIDEL, JESSE	1932 7 .5
4 SUITS, J	1600 33	1	FREIDEL, JER	1778-33 0
5 ALBERTS, W	1623-14	0	WANG, ANDREW	1761 14 1
6 BUCKLEY, J	1371-19	0	JANSSEN, G	1431 19 1
7 DJORDJEVIC, V	1581-11	.5	GREER, J	1415 11 .5
8 STOSKUS, A	1360 25	1	BALES, R	1394-25 0

10-NOV-06 ST CHARLES CHESS CLUB 4 ARGONNE ROOKS 2

ROUND 4

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 MARSHALL, J	2173 -9	.5	HILL, R	2028 6 .5
2 WIEWEL, J	1993 20	1	GREEN, D	1948-13 0
3 MEISSEN, B	1791 5	.5	BAURAC, D	1858 -3 .5
4 SUITS, J	1633-33	0	DERIY, B	1463 33 1
5 ALBERTS, W	1609 10	1	KUHLMANN, S	1390-10 0
6 STOSKUS, A	1385 0	1	HLOHowskyJ, I	0 0 0

01-NOV-06 BP CHICAGOLAND 1 LUCENT TECH. TYROS 5

ROUND 3

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 COULTER, D	1888 35	1	DIAZ, P	2096-23 0
2 DENEEN, D	1429 -3	0	STOLTZ, B	1912 2 1
3 CASTANEDA, R	1276 -3	0	BUCHNER, R	1723 2 1
4 SUVARNAKANTI, R	1179 -2	0	HAHNE, D	1682 2 1
5 HERNANDEZ, F	961 -1	0	SMITH, BR	1582 1 1
6 MICAH, L	0 0	0	LAForge, W	1406 0 1

16-NOV-06 FERMILAB 4 CA 2

ROUND 4

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 GARZON, G	2250 3	1	DENMARK, T	1803 -3 0
2 SPIEGEL, L	1988 2	1	VAIL, M	1571 -4 0
3 GAINES, I	1776-27	0	BYRNE, M	1415 40 1
4 DEGRAF, B	1487-11	.5	MCCLENDON, L	1302 11 .5
5 CEASE, H	1440 0	.5	HANSON, M	0 0 .5
6 ANNIS, J	0 0	1	GRABSKY, J	1122 0 0

17-NOV-06 ST CHARLES BAKER 5 BP CHICAGOLAND 1

ROUND 4

BD	RATINGS	SCORE	RATINGS	SCORE
1 NGUYEN, T	2142 10	1	COULTER, D	1923-10 0
2 FREIDEL, P	1941-21	.5	RINGENBERG, T	1396 21 .5
3 FREIDEL, JER	1745 6	1	DENEEN, D	1426 -6 0
4 WANG, ANDREW	1775 2	1	CASTANEDA, R	1273 -2 0
5 JANSSEN, G	1450 0	1	HERMAN, J	0 0 0
6 FREIDEL, D	1328-18	.5	HERNANDEZ, F	960 18 .5

21-NOV-06 PAWNS 6 CASE 0

ROUND 4

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 LATIMER, E	2017 0	1F	WILLIAMS, K	2153 0	0F
2 ELLICE, W	1806 13	1	DOWELL, E	1770-20	0
3 FRANEK, M	1719-11	0	NURSE, G	1817 16	1
4 FABIJONAS, R	1548 17	1	PARAOAN, E	1596-17	0
5 SPITZIG, M	1447 15	1	DYCKOWSKI, R	1323-15	0
6 MIKULECKY, B	1420 11	1	ZOELLNER, J	1313-11	0

* The above match was adjusted by the President to 6-0,
 * reflecting a loss of all game points earned beneath the
 * top board. Kent Williams was written on the lineup without
 * confirming his participation and without his knowledge.
 * Case uses up both free upper board forfeits with
 * this match. Mail has been sent to all West captains
 * with a reminder on league expectations for when
 * upper board forfeits are considered acceptable.
 * Board three was converted to a forfeit for purpose
 * of match scoring, and was rated as an extra board.

21-NOV-06 LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS 5 MOLEX 1

ROUND 4

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 TEGEL, F	2031 5	1	REICH, T	1858-12	0
2 LUDWIG, T	1957 4	1	ZADEREJ, V	1625 -6	0
3 PEHAS, A	1864 0	1	JONNALA, B	0 0	0
4 THOMAS, J	1518-23	0	MCGOWAN, D	1299 35	1
5 EUSTACE, D	1467 6	1	RUFUS, B	1242-10	0
6 KOMORAVOLU, K	1279 0	1	GHAIBEN, A	0 0	0

01-DEC-06 LUCENT TECH. TYROS 3 PAWNS 3

ROUND 5

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 DIAZ, P	2073-15	0	GAZMEN, E	2080 15	1
2 STOLTZ, B	1914-19	0	ELLICE, W	1819 19	1
3 DOBROVOLNY, C	1819 10	1	FRANEK, M	1708-10	0
4 BUCHNER, R	1725-21	0	FABIJONAS, R	1565 21	1
5 HAHNE, D	1684 7	1	SPITZIG, M	1462-10	0
6 LAFORGE, W	1406 24	1	MIKULECKY, B	1431-16	0

29-NOV-06 MOLEX 3 ARGONNE ROOKS 3

ROUND 5

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 REICH, T	1846 -7	0	BENEDEK, R	2148 3	1
2 ZADEREJ, V	1619 41	1	HILL, R	2034-27	0
3 JONNALA, B	0 0	0	GREEN, D	1935 0	1
4 HENDRICKSON, B	1502 18	.5	BAURAC, D	1855-12	.5
5 RUFUS, B	1232 37	1	DERIY, B	1496-37	0
6 GHAIBEN, A	0 0	.5	GRUDZINSKI, J	1431 0	.5

29-NOV-06 NORTHWESTERN CHESS CLUB 3 CITADEL GROUP 3

ROUND 5

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 BAKSHI, A	2017 -6	.5	HAYHURST, W	1924 6	.5
2 GORODETSKIY, S	1928 10	1	LE, DUC	1708-10	0
3 SOLOMON, A	0 0	.5	MUHS, A	1482 0	.5
4 RODNYANSKY, S	1727 32	1	ONG, K	1886-32	0
5 ARUTCHEV, E	0 0	0	KUNHIRAMAN, P	1559 0	1
6 CHUN, A	0 0	0	PROKOPOWICZ, P	0 0	1

14-DEC-06 HEDGEHOGS 6 AMA TORNADO SNAKES 0

ROUND 5

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 SMITH, M	1934 3	1	PETERSON, T	1455 -3	0
2 JASAITIS, A	2004 1	1	FURTNER, F	1444 -2	0
3 SEET, P	1869 0	1	MASITI, J	0 0	0
4 KRATKA, M	1664 0	1	PIWOWAR, T	0 0	0
5 TAN, A	1662 0	1	IRBY, L	0 0	0
6 SHEPARDSON, T	1558 0	1F		0 0	0F

08-DEC-06 NORTHROP 2 MOTOROLA KINGS 4

ROUND 4

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 AROND, D	1746 14	.5	WALLACH, C	1999 -9	.5
2 WALKER, A	1828-22	0	PIPARIA, J	1836 22	1
3 ENGELN, M	1615 33	1	CYGAN, J	1794-33	0
4 VIGANTS, A	1606 1	.5	GONCHAROFF, N	1634 -1	.5
5 AUBRY, B	1610-26	0	JOSHI, B	1556 26	1
6 ELLIOTT, T	1369-14	0	RABINOVICH, E	1503 14	1
7 BURIAN, D	1516 0	0F	DOUNG, R	0 0	1F

05-DEC-06 LUCENT TECH. DRAGONS 1 FERMILAB 5

ROUND 5

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 LUDWIG, T	1961 -5	0	GARZON, G	2253 7	1
2 PEHAS, A	1864 -6	0	DORIGO, T	2118 8	1
3 THOMAS, J	1495 -6	0	GAINES, I	1749 6	1
4 STAMM, V	1508-11	0	DEGRAF, B	1476 25	1
5 EUSTACE, D	1473-16	0	CEASE, H	1440 25	1
6 BREYER, A	1348 0	1	GOLOSSANOV, A	0 0	0
7 DOBR, K	1337 0	1	DRENDEL, B	0 0	0

11-DEC-06 CASE .5 ST CHARLES CHESS CLUB 5.5

ROUND 5

BD	RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS	SCORE
1 DOWELL, E	1750 -4	0	MARSHALL, J	2164 4	1
2 NURSE, G	1833-12	0	WIEWEL, J	2013 12	1
3 REID, C	1473-10	0	SUITS, J	1600 15	1
4 DYCZKOWSKI, R	1308 17	.5	ALBERTS, W	1619-17	.5
5 ZOELLNER, J	1302 -5	0	DJORDJEVIC, V	1570 8	1
6	0 0	0F	POWERS, E	1585 0	1F
7 PARAOAN, E	1579 15	1	POWERS, E	1585-23	0

14-DEC-06 ST CHARLES BAKER			5	CA	1
ROUND 5					
BD		RATINGS	SCORE		RATINGS SCORE
1 RASO, P	2039-13	0	ALLSBROOK, F	2200	13 1
2 FREIDEL, JESSE	1939 14	1	DENMARK, T	1800-14	0
3 FREIDEL, P	1920 5	1	VAIL, M	1567 -5	0
4 FREIDEL, JER	1751 7	1	BYRNE, M	1455 -7	0
5 JANSSEN, G	1450 14	1	MCCLENDON, L	1313-14	0
6 PALACIOS, M	1547 4	1	GRABSKY, J	1122 -4	0

PRESSING CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS – ANSWERED !!

Question: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Answer: Snowflakes.

Question: What's red and white and gives presents to good little fish on Christmas?

Answer: Sandy Claws.

Question: What do you get when you cross an archer with a gift-wrapper?

Answer: Ribbon hood.

Question: Why does Santa have 3 gardens?

Answer: So he can ho-ho-ho.

Question: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Answer: Frostbite

Question: Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

Answer: Because he had low elf esteem.

Question: What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

Answer: Claustrophobic.

Question: What was so good about the neurotic doll a girl was given for Christmas?

Answer: It was wound up already.

Question: What was wrong with the boy's brand new toy electric train set he received for Christmas?

Answer: Forty feet of track - all straight!

Question: Why did the little girl change her mind about buying her grandmother a packet of handkerchiefs for Christmas?

Answer: She said "I could not work out what size her nose was!"

NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING	NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING
ALBERTS, W	STCCC	2	1	2	1602	ELLICE, W	PAWNS	3	1	1	1838C
ALLEN, H	ALUMN	3	0	0	1940	ELLIOTT, T	NORTH	0	3	0	1355
ALLSBROOK, F	CA	1	0	0	2213	ENGELN, M	NORTH	1	1	0	1648
ANNIS, J	FERMI	1	0	0	1300/4	EUSTACE, D	DRGNS	2	3	0	1457C
ANSARI, N	WALGR	2	0	1	1583	FABIJONAS, R	PAWNS	3	1	1	1586T
AROND, D	NORTH	0	0	1	1760	FOX, R	MOLEX	0	1	0	1553
ARUTCHEV, E	NWEST	1	1	0	1300/3	FRANEK, M	PAWNS	1	4	0	1698D
AUBRY, B	NORTH	0	3	0	1584#	FRANK, M	ALUMN	1	1	0	1733C
BAKSHI, A	NWEST	1	0	1	2011	FRANKLIN, D	HEDGE	3	0	0	2144
BALES, R	BAKER	0	1	0	1369	FREIDEL, D	BAKER	0	0	1	1310
BALICKI, J	MKNGT	2	0	0	1921C	FREIDEL, JER	BAKER	4	1	0	1758
BAURAC, D	ROOKS	1	0	2	1843T	FREIDEL, JESSE	BAKER	1	1	2	1953
BENEDEK, R	ROOKS	1	0	0	2151T	FREIDEL, P	BAKER	3	0	2	1925
BENESA, A	ALUMN	0	1	0	2045C	FRIDMAN, Y	MKNGT	2	0	0	2206
BIALON, D	WALGR	1	0	0	1700/1	FRISKE, T	WALGR	0	2	0	2070C
BOLDINGH, E	UOP	2	0	1	1891C	FULKERSON, R	ALUMN	2	0	0	1456
BOSIBHATLA, D	WALGR	0	1	0	0000/0	FUNG, J	CITGR	0	1	0	1200/3
BREYER, A	DRGNS	2	0	0	1348	FURTNER, F	AMATS	0	4	0	1442
BROCK, B	ALUMN	0	1	1	2061	GAINES, I	FERMI	2	2	0	1755D
BRONFELD, A	EXCLB	0	1	1	1835	GARZON, G	FERMI	3	1	0	2260
BROTSOS, J	EXCLB	0	1	1	1542T	GAZMEN, E	PAWNS	1	0	0	2095C
BUCHNER, R	TYROS	1	1	2	1704C	GHAIBEH, A	MOLEX	0	1	0	0000/0
BUCKLEY, J	STCCC	0	1	0	1352	GHAIBEN, A	MOLEX	0	2	1	0000/3
BURIAN, D	NORTH	0	0	1	1516D	GOLOSSANOV, A	FERMI	0	2	0	1400/1
BYRNE, M	CA	2	2	0	1448*	GONCHAROFF, N	MKING	0	2	2	1633V
CASTANEDA, R	BPCHI	1	2	1	1271	GONZALEZ, O	MKNGT	0	1	1	1400/1
CEASE, H	FERMI	1	0	1	1465	GOODFRIEND, B	AMATS	0	2	0	1236
CHERKASSKY, G	MKNGT	1	1	0	1677#	GORODETSKIY, S	NWEST	3	1	0	1938
CHUN, A	NWEST	1	1	0	800/0	GRABSKY, J	CA	2	2	0	1118*
COULTER, D	BPCHI	1	3	0	1913	GRANATA, M	WALGR	2	0	1	1850/3
CYGAN, J	MKING	2	1	0	1761	GREEN, D	ROOKS	3	2	0	1935D
DECMAN, S	ROOKS	1	0	1	1576D	GREER, J	BAKER	0	0	1	1426
DEGRAF, B	FERMI	1	0	2	1501	GRUDZINSKI, J	ROOKS	0	0	1	1431
DEICHMANN, E	MOLEX	0	2	0	1279	GRYPARIS, J	MKING	0	1	0	1395C
DENEEN, D	BPCHI	0	4	0	1420	HAHNE, D	TYROS	4	0	0	1691C
DENMARK, T	CA	2	2	0	1786	HAMELINK, N	WALGR	1	0	0	0000/0
DERIY, B	ROOKS	2	2	1	1459*	HANSON, M	CA	0	1	1	1408#
DIAZ, P	TYROS	1	3	0	2058C	HAYHURST, W	CITGR	1	1	2	1930
DJORDJEVIC, V	STCCC	1	0	1	1578	HENDRICKSON, B	MOLEX	0	1	2	1520
DOBR, K	DRGNS	1	2	0	1337Q	HERMAN, J	BPCHI	0	1	0	0000/2
DOBROVOLNY, C	TYROS	1	1	0	1829D	HERNANDEZ, F	BPCHI	0	2	1	978*
DORIGO, T	FERMI	1	0	0	2126	HILL, R	ROOKS	2	1	2	2007D
DOUNG, R	MKING	0	0	0	0000/0	HLOHOWSKYJ, I	ROOKS	1	1	0	0000/0
DOWELL, E	CASE	1	3	1	1746*	HUGHES, N	WALGR	0	2	0	1614C
DRENDEL, B	FERMI	0	1	0	0000/1	IRBY, L	AMATS	0	3	0	0000/2
DUFFY, J	ALUMN	0	1	0	1764	JAKSTAS, K	PAWNS	0	1	1	2196D
DUONG, R	MKNGT	1	1	0	1400/3	JANSSEN, G	BAKER	3	0	2	1464
DYCZKOWSKI, R	CASE	0	3	2	1325	JASAITIS, A	HEDGE	3	0	1	2005D
EAMAN, R	ALUMN	2	0	2	1894	JONNALA, B	MOLEX	1	2	0	0000/2
EASTON, R	UOP	1	0	0	1901	JOSHI, B	MKING	2	0	0	1582*

/x - UNRATED; x = # OF 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

12-19-2006

NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING	NAME	TEAM	W	L	D	RATING
KARANDIKAR, S	MKNGT	2	0	0	1675	PRADT, D	STCCC	1	0	0	1635
KARPIERZ, J	TYROS	0	0	1	1300	PRASANTHI, D	WALGR	0	0	1	0000/0
KOGAN, G	EXCLB	0	3	0	1671C	PROKOPOWICZ, P	CITGR	2	0	0	0000/0
KOMORAVOLU, K	DRGNS	1	0	1	1279	RABINOVICH, E	MKING	1	1	1	1517
KRATKA, M	HEDGE	2	2	0	1664	RASO, P	BAKER	0	1	0	2026
KRAVIK, S	NWEST	1	0	0	1380	RAUCHMAN, M	HEDGE	0	1	0	2109
KUHLMANN, S	ROOKS	1	1	0	1380*	REICH, T	MOLEX	0	4	0	1839
KUNHIRAMAN, P	CITGR	3	0	1	1559#	REID, C	CASE	1	1	1	1463D
LAFORGE, W	TYROS	3	1	0	1430	RINGENBERG, T	BPCHI	0	1	1	1417
LATIMER, E	PAWNS	1	0	0	2017T	RODNYANSKY, S	NWEST	2	1	0	1759
LE, DUC	CITGR	1	3	0	1698	RUFUS, B	MOLEX	1	2	0	1269*
LECHNICK, J	UOP	1	0	1	1707C	SANTIAGO, T	WALGR	3	0	0	1933D
LEE, D	EXCLB	1	1	1	1961	SEET, P	HEDGE	1	1	0	1869
LEONG, G	UOP	0	3	0	1934C	SENSAT, J	CITGR	0	1	0	1555
LEVENSON, S	WALGR	2	1	0	1920	SHEPARDSON, T	HEDGE	1	0	0	1558
LU, D	NWEST	0	2	0	1386*	SIWEK, M	UOP	1	0	0	1980D
LUDWIG, T	DRGNS	3	2	0	1956C	SMALLWOOD, J	NWEST	0	1	1	1867
MARCOWKA, R	DRGNS	1	0	0	1974T	SMITH, BR	TYROS	2	0	1	1583C
MARES, C	HEDGE	0	1	0	0000/2	SMITH, M	HEDGE	3	1	0	1937
MARSHALL, J	STCCC	4	0	1	2168	SOLLANO, E	ALUMN	3	0	0	2006C
MASITI, J	AMATS	0	4	0	1342#	SOLOMON, A	NWEST	2	1	1	0000/4
MCCLENDON, L	CA	0	1	2	1299	SPIEGEL, L	FERMI	3	0	0	1990D
MCGEE, M	STCCC	0	1	0	1438	SPITZIG, M	PAWNS	2	1	1	1452
MCGOWAN, D	MOLEX	2	1	0	1334	SPLINTER, J	STCCC	1	0	1	2032
MEISSEN, B	STCCC	0	0	1	1796	STAMM, V	DRGNS	0	1	0	1497T
MELNIKOV, I	MKING	0	1	1	2025C	STAPLES, C	FERMI	1	0	0	1602
MEYER, C	AMATS	0	1	0	1100/3	STOLTZ, B	TYROS	1	2	0	1895C
MICAH, L	BPCHI	0	1	0	0000/1	STOSKUS, A	STCCC	3	0	0	1385
MICKLICH, F	UOP	1	1	0	1556D	SUERTH, F	EXCLB	2	1	0	1505D
MIKULECKY, B	PAWNS	1	3	0	1415D	SUITS, J	STCCC	3	1	1	1615
MILLER, A	ALUMN	0	0	1	1413	SULLIVAN, J	EXCLB	0	1	0	1771D
MISHLOVE, D	PAWNS	1	0	0	1548	SUARNAKANTI, R	BPCHI	0	2	0	1177*
MOEHS, D	FERMI	1	1	0	1415*	TAN, A	HEDGE	1	1	0	1662*
MORRIS, R	MKNGT	2	0	0	2224	TEGEL, F	DRGNS	1	1	2	2036Q
MUHS, A	CITGR	3	0	1	1482	THOMAS, J	DRGNS	0	3	0	1489D
NALLATHAMBI, R	UOP	1	1	1	1548	THOMASON, A	MKNGT	0	1	0	1600/0
NGUYEN, T	BAKER	1	1	2	2152	THOMSON, J	MKNGT	0	0	1	1978C
NURSE, G	CASE	2	3	0	1821	VAIL, M	CA	1	3	0	1562
O'DELL, DW	PAWNS	0	1	0	1377D	VIGANTS, A	NORTH	0	1	2	1607C
OLSEN, A	UOP	1	1	0	1491C	WALKER, A	NORTH	1	2	0	1806
ONG, K	CITGR	0	1	0	1854	WALKER, C	UOP	1	1	0	1814
PALACIOS, M	BAKER	1	0	0	1551#	WALLACH, C	MKING	1	1	2	1990C
PARAON, E	CASE	1	3	0	1594D	WANG, ANDREW	BAKER	4	0	0	1777
PARRA, J	CITGR	0	1	0	1200/2	WEITZ, R	EXCLB	1	1	1	1593D
PEHAS, A	DRGNS	2	1	2	1858C	WIEWEL, J	STCCC	4	1	0	2025
PETERSON, T	AMATS	0	4	0	1452*	WONG, P	EXCLB	1	0	0	2166C
PIPARIA, J	MKING	2	2	0	1858	YACOUT, A	ROOKS	0	1	0	1584
PIOWAR, T	AMATS	0	1	0	1050/2	ZADEREJ, V	MOLEX	1	2	0	1660
POWERS, E	STCCC	0	1	0	1562	ZOELLNER, J	CASE	0	4	1	1297D

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12-19-2006

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
NORTHROP
MOTOROLA KINGS

CHRISTMAS FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Christmas: When you exchange hellos with strangers and good buys with friends.

Christmas is the time when people put so many bulbs on the outside of their houses, you don't know if they're celebrating the birth of Jesus or General Electric.

Do you know what it is like to put up fifteen hundred Christmas lights on the roof of a house? The kids are giving two to one I'm gonna come down the chimney before Santa Claus does.

Every Christmas pageant throughout the world has a scene showing Joseph leading Mary into Bethlehem on a donkey. Do you realize what would happen if the Republicans asked for equal time?

Sometimes I get the feeling that if Christmas, Father's Day and birthdays did not exist, then aftershave too, would not exist.

Christmas: The time when everyone gets Santamental.

I know. I know. People say "It's the thought that counts, not the gift", but couldn't people think a little bigger?

Santa Claus sure is a jolly fellow! Imagine all that driving and still being able to say "Ho! Ho! Ho!"

Father to three-year old: "No a reindeer is not a horse with TV antenna."

Every year, Christmas becomes less a birthday and more a clearance sale.

Christmas is in my heart twelve months a year and thanks to credit cards, it's on my Visa card statement twelve months a year also.

Some of these new toys are so creative and inventive. This year they have a Neurotic Doll. It's wound up already.

V	S	A	D	W	X	G	O	S	P	E	L	O	F	L	U	K	E	I	V	W	W
Z	B	D	C	L	T	M	K	P	V	R	U	W	B	B	T	A	Q	G	I	E	U
B	I	B	R	Q	O	H	T	E	B	A	Z	I	L	E	S	C	X	P	S	H	P
D	D	I	W	E	X	G	F	M	L	G	H	U	V	M	A	N	G	E	R	T	Q
B	A	B	L	J	H	H	H	X	E	A	P	K	K	J	S	L	X	L	E	T	E
I	K	L	N	K	P	P	B	M	T	B	E	Y	G	R	L	J	L	U	S	A	H
M	N	E	N	I	W	F	E	C	Z	R	S	A	S	D	L	D	T	M	N	M	U
G	S	S	H	X	R	D	I	H	G	I	O	M	J	E	D	R	X	E	E	F	N
Q	N	A	E	D	U	J	K	R	S	E	J	T	M	S	G	S	Q	S	C	O	W
G	J	Z	H	G	Z	I	O	N	A	L	S	M	Y	I	M	H	A	S	N	L	S
A	S	W	W	B	G	I	N	K	P	N	A	K	S	B	O	Y	R	I	I	E	M
K	C	S	W	A	V	H	I	V	O	N	N	N	N	L	E	B	O	A	K	P	P
T	Z	C	M	A	O	N	K	L	U	H	M	U	Y	A	U	B	N	H	N	S	N
Q	S	K	S	J	G	R	E	E	E	L	R	S	N	G	T	I	W	Q	A	O	D
J	Y	Z	K	H	U	I	L	F	W	H	P	R	Y	C	N	I	Y	X	R	G	Q
D	K	F	E	Z	R	P	W	O	Z	I	O	G	Y	L	I	A	V	M	F	G	W
K	F	R	L	B	D	J	N	I	R	H	P	V	A	M	E	A	M	I	A	S	X
K	O	N	A	Q	K	M	Y	I	N	M	I	K	P	L	G	G	T	I	T	R	X
D	T	G	V	N	R	P	T	H	J	U	T	P	L	O	I	K	N	I	X	Y	Y
A	U	G	Z	D	L	L	D	P	N	B	C	U	F	M	H	L	V	A	O	J	M
L	F	X	B	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	H	H	A	W	E	P	K	N	B
D	I	V	A	D	F	O	E	S	U	O	H	W	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	J



angel
annunciation
Bethlehem
Bible
Elizabeth
Emmanuel
Frankincense
Gabriel
King Herod

gold
Gospel of Luke
Gospel of Matthew
Holy Spirit
House of David
John
Joseph
Judea
Galilee

manger
Mary
Messiah
Myrrh
Nativity
Nazareth
Savior
Shepherds
Magi

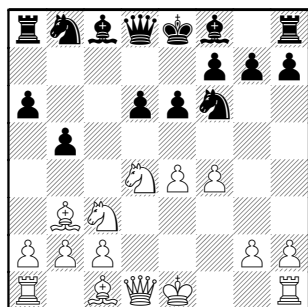
Fridman,Y (2186) -

Levenson,S (1887)

[B87]

Knights-Walgreens, 10-5-2006

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.f4



8...b4!?

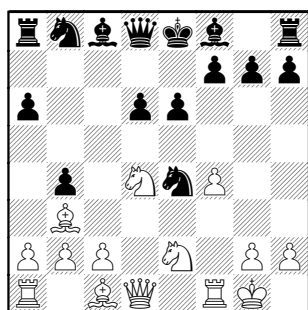
Black sees a Pawn and goes for it. I wish I could find the GM analysis for this I saw a long time ago. White is supposed to be OK.

In NCO page 238, the favorites are 8...Bb7 or 8...Be7

9.Nce2

A partial TWIC database finds three games, all of which choose instead 9.Na4

9...Nxe4 10.0-0



10...Bb7

Now we're in new territory. The two remaining choices in my TWIC DB give either

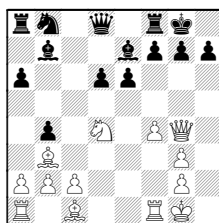
A) 10...g6 11.f5; or

B) 10...Nc5 11.f5 Nxb3 and Black survived, eventually winning.

11.Ng3 [11.f5] 11...Nc5

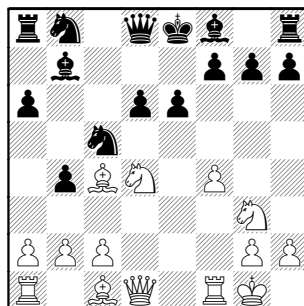
The Chicago Chess Player

Maybe Black should eliminate an attacker: 11...Nxg3 12.hxg3 Be7 13.Qg4 0-0



14.f5 (14.Bxe6 Kh8)

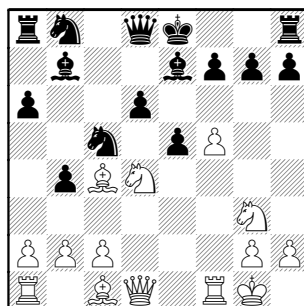
12.Bc4



12...Be7

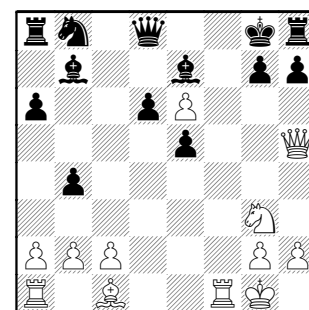
Crafty likes 12...d5 either here or next move, giving Black a half-Pawn advantage. This is interesting as materially Black is up a full Pawn.

13.f5 e5



14.Bxf7+! Kxf7 Crafty says this is a win for Black in all variations.

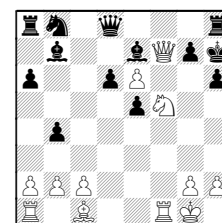
15.Qh5+ Kg8 16.Ne6 Nxe6 17.fxe6



Now there's a mate threat at f7

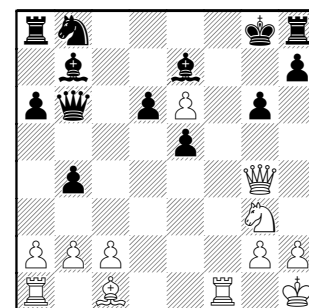
17...g6

17...h6 18.Qf7+ Kh7 19.Nf5



19...Rg8 (19...Bf6 20.Qxb7) 20.Nxh6

18.Qg4 Qb6+ 19.Kh1



19...Qd4?? The only move that Crafty hates. Apparently it's the fork that kills Black's defense.

20.Nf5!

BLACK RESIGNED

With only one move, how does he save his Queen and stop mate ? 20...Qxg4 21.Nh6+ Kg7 22.Rf7#

1-0

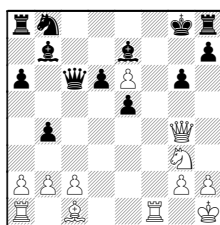
Better 19th moves are now examined:

November 2006

From the last game diagram, let's consider a couple alternative ideas.

A) One line Crafty keeps cranking on is 19...Nc6 20.Nf5 Rf8 stopping checks on f7 21.Bh6 . But even though evaluated as even move 19, now Crafty says White wins !

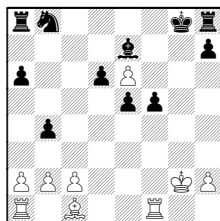
B) Much better for Black is the counterattack with 19...Qc6!



Black generates some tactics of his own 20.Rf2

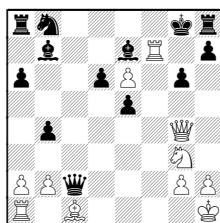
Note that White truly is hindered in his attack:

20.Nf5? Qxg2+! 21.Qxg2 Bxg2+ 22.Kxg2 gxf5



Black retains the sacrificed piece

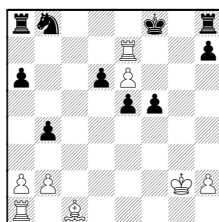
20...Qc5 21.Rf7 Qxc2 maintaining the threat of mate on g2, so White again must first defend.



Trying to attack while defending results in something like:

22.Nf5 Qxg2+ 23.Qxg2 Bxg2+

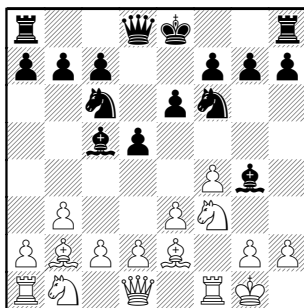
24.Kxg2 gxf5 25.Rxe7 Kf8



and an interesting ending to follow

**Fabijonas,R (1546) –
Deichmann,E (1294) [A03]
Pawns-Molex, 10-17-2006**

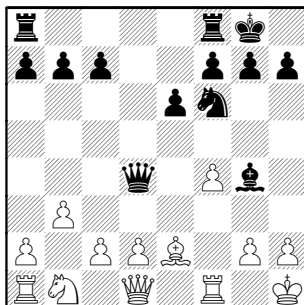
**1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 Bg4 4.Be2
Nc6 5.0-0 e6 6.b3 Bc5 7.Bb2**



7...d4 8.exd4 Nxd4 9.Kh1

9.Nxd4? Bxd4+ hoping for Bxb2
10.Bxd4 Qxd4+ wins the a1-Rook

9...0-0 10.Bxd4 Bxd4 11.Nxd4 Qxd4



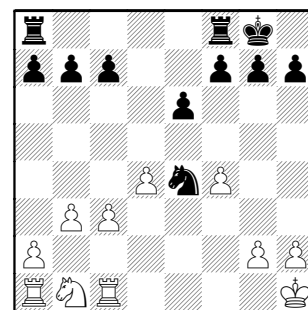
12.c3

12.Nc3 Rfd8 drops the d-Pawn

12...Bxe2 Trading away your better

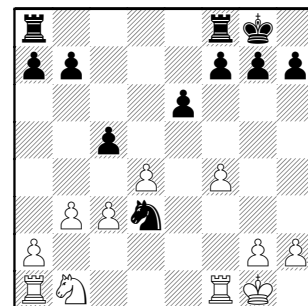
pieces isn't usually the best way to increase pressure. Black could be happy with the open d-file and White's struggle getting his Knight started, but the reduced position holds possibilities.

**13.Qxe2 Qe4 14.Qxe4 Nxe4 15.d3
Nc5 16.d4 Ne4 17.Rc1**



[17.Rf3]

17...Nf2+ 18.Kg1 Nd3 19.Rf1 c5

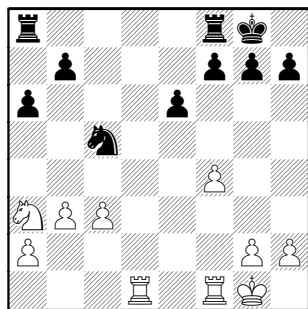


With this move Black opens lines for White and helps his opponent form a passer. I would just double on the d-file and look for tactics based on my more-active pieces

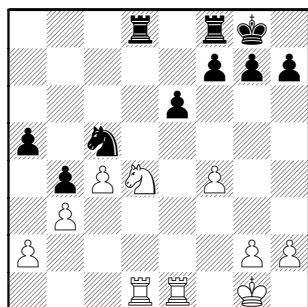
20.dxc5

20.Rf3 Ne1 21.Rf2 (21.Re3? Nc2)
21...cxd4 22.Na3 Nd3

20...Nxc5 21.Na3 a6 22.Rad1

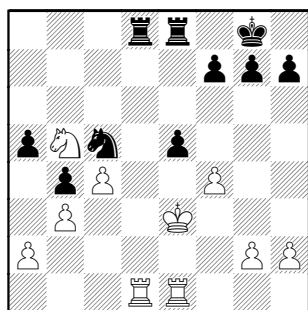


22...b5 23.Rfe1 Rad8 24.c4 b4
25.Nc2 a5 26.Nd4



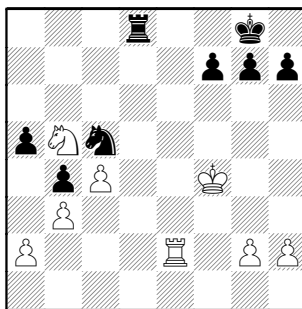
White has turned the table. His main idea could be Nc6-e5-d7 to break his passer's blockade.

26...Rc8 27.Kf2 Rfe8 28.Nb5 Rcd8
29.Ke3 e5



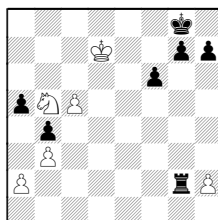
This gives White the d5 square, a good place for a Rook or Knight.

30.Rxd8 exf4+ 31.Kxf4 Rxd8 32.Re2



32...Ne6+ 33.Ke5 f6+ 34.Kf5

Black doesn't win quite as easily as you'd think after 34.Kxe6 Re8+
35.Kd7 Rxe2 36.c5 Rxg2



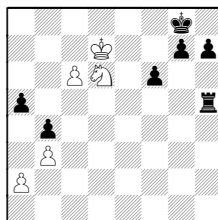
37.Nd6

37.c6?! Rc2

(37...Rxh2? 38.Nd6!
(38.c7? Rc2 39.c8Q+ Rxc8
40.Kxc8 and Black's passers
should win)
38...Rxa2 39.c7 Rc2 40.Nc4)

38.c7 I'd place my faith in the extra piece here

37...Rxh2 38.c6 Rh5!



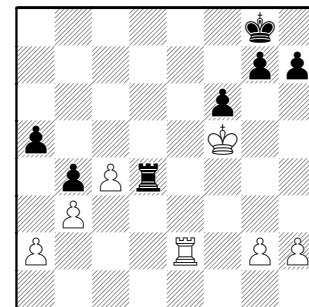
idea Rc5, finally getting the passer!

39.Nb7 Rd5+ 40.Kc8
(40.Ke6 Re5+ 41.Kd6 Re8)
40...Rd2

Anyways, White saw the skewer and

played the safer 34. Kf5, then:

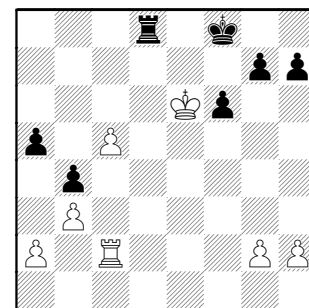
34...Nd4+ 35.Nxd4 Rxd4



36.Ke6

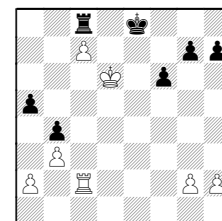
36.Rc2?? Kf7 idea g6#

36...Kf8 37.c5 Rd8 the earlier skewer idea (Re8+-xe2) is back **38.Rc2**



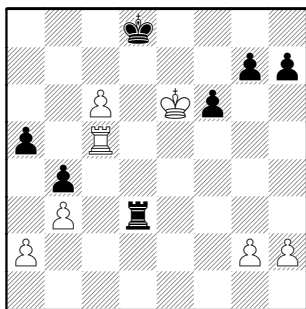
Game over ! **38...Rd3 39.Rc4**

The simplest is 39.c6 Re3+ 40.Kf5
Re8 41.c7 Rc8 42.Ke6 Ke8 43.Kd6

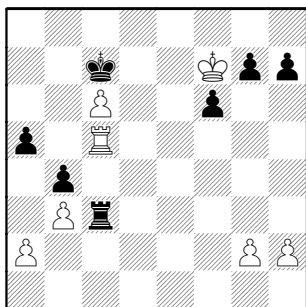


Black can't stop Re2+ followed by Kd7.

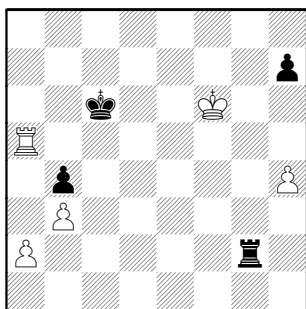
39...Ke8 40.c6 Kd8 41.Rc5

**41...Kc7**

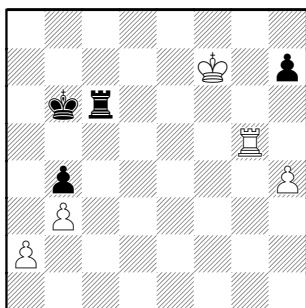
Black could cause some grief with
41...Rd2 42.c7+ Kc8

42.Kf7 Rc3

**43.Rxa5 Kxc6 44.Kxg7 Rc2 45.Kxf6
Rg2 46.h4**



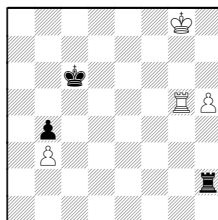
46...Rg6+ 47.Kf7 Kb6 48.Rg5 Rc6

**49.Kg7**

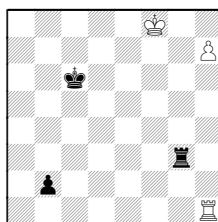
A similar idea is 49.Kg8 h6

(49...Rc7? 50.Rg7)

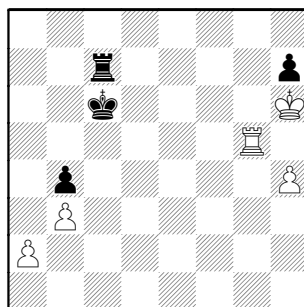
50.Rh5 idea Kg7 50...Rc2 51.Rxh6+
Kb5 52.Rg6 Rxa2 53.h5 Rb2 54.Rg3
Rh2 55.Rg5+ Kc6



56.Kg7 Rh3 57.h6 Rxb3 58.Rh5
Rg3+ 59.Kf8 b3 60.h7 b2 61.Rh1

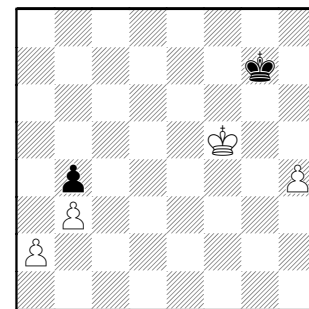


49...Rc7+ 50.Kh6 Kc6

**51.Rg7 Rxg7**

On principle, Black should avoid
trades 51...Rc8 but doesn't change
the result, however

**52.Kxg7 h5 53.Kg6 Kd7 54.Kxh5
Ke7 55.Kg6 Kf8 56.Kf5 Kg7**



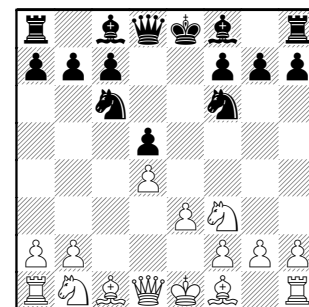
Classic outside passer, White just
uses it as a decoy.

**57.Ke5 Kg6 58.Kd4 Kh5 59.Kc4
Kxh4 60.Kxb4 Kg4**

1-0**McGowan,D (1275) –****Mishlove,D****[D04]**

Molex-Pawns, 10-17-2006

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 The c1-
Bishop isn't pleased with this move !
[3.Bg5; 3.c4] **3...Nc6 4.c4 e6 5.cxd5
exd5**

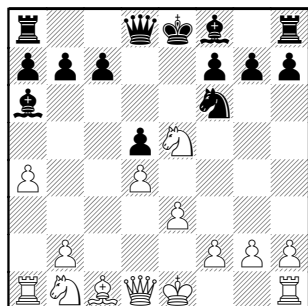
**6.Bb5**

6.Nc3 idea Bd3, and if Black plays
Nb4, the Bishop has the (temporary)
retreat square at b1.

6...Bd7 7.Bxc6

Based on his next move, White wants
to establish a Knight on e5. A worthy
goal, but the cost in moving the same
pieces and trading away the best
Bishop is too high. Additionally, a
Knight trade on e5 can often be
beneficial to White.

7...Bxc6 8.Ne5 Bb5 9.a4 Ba6

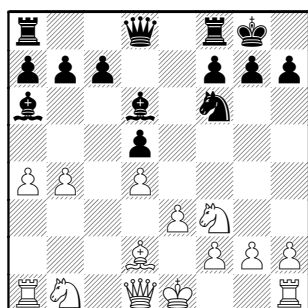


Nicely done. Black makes the unopposed Bishop as active as possible, stopping White from castling.

10.Bd2 Bb6 11.Nf3 and loses a precious tempo early on.

11.f4 is a common move, but adds e4 to the list of weak white squares.

11...0-0 12.b4



White's desire since playing Bd2

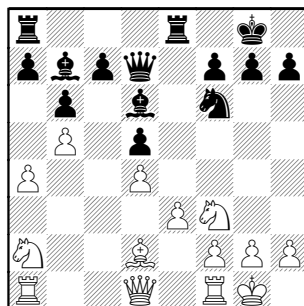
12...b6

12...c6 attempting to maintain the b5 square **13.Na3** (13.Nc3? Bxb4) **13...Qd7 14.Rb1** and b4-b5 can be played despite the hanging Knight **14...b6**

13.b5 allows White to castle, but creates a Pawn target **13...Bb7 14.0-0 Re8**

Maybe 14...a6 15.Nc3 c6; or 14...c5

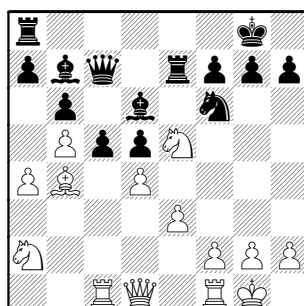
15.Nc3 Qd7 16.Na2



16...Re7

16...Ne4 idea Re6-h6 is a common attacking motif (usually played by White in similar positions)

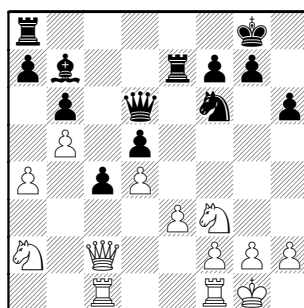
17.Bb4 [17.Rc1 idea Nb4-c6] **17...c6** [17...c5 cuts down White's options] **18.Ne5 Qc7 19.Rc1 c5**



20.Nf3 c4

As the d6-Bishop has attacking possibilities, Black should not offer its trade. [20...Ne4]

21.Bxd6 Qxd6 22.Qc2 h6

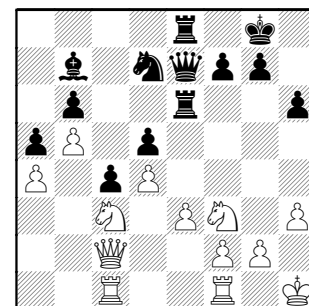


23.h3 a5 24.Nc3

White needs open targets on the

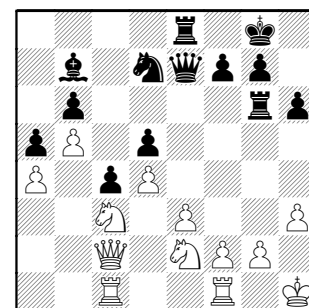
Queenside for any hope of counterplay. **24.bxa6 Rxa6 25.Nc3** (25.Ne5 idea of Nc3-b5)

24...Rae8 25.Ne5 Another visit to the square ? **25...Nd7 26.Nf3** Another retreat **26...Re6 27.Kh1 Qe7**



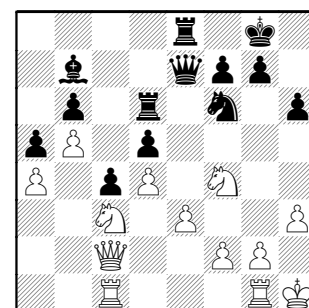
There's no threat, but stopping e4 or f2-f3 assures Black that White has nothing to do.

28.Ng1 Rg6 29.Nge2

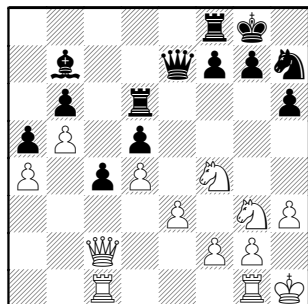


With the Knight off the path of Nf3-e5, Black no longer needs his Knight to cover e5.

29...Rd6 30.Nf4 Nf6 31.Rg1

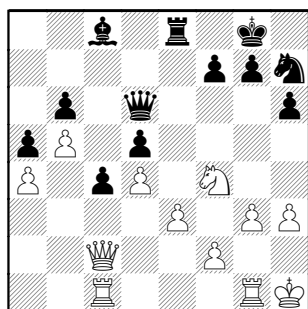


31...Nh7 [31...Bc8 idea of g6, Bf5, g5]

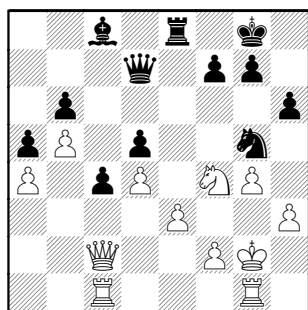


33...Re8 missing the threat, or realizing the extra minor piece is better than a Rook in this position ?

34.Nf5 Qd7 35.Nxd6 Qxd6 36.g3 Bc8

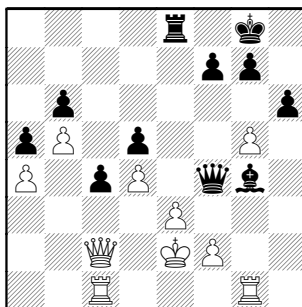


37.g4 Ng5 38.Kg2 Qd7



38...f5! 39.gxf5 Qf6 winning the f5 square for his Bishop

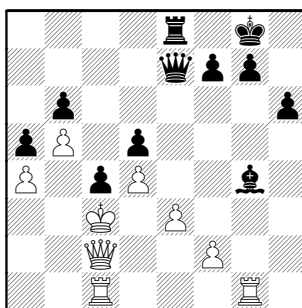
39.Kf1 Qd6 40.Ke2? Qf6? [40...Qxf4] 41.h4 Qxf4 Now he sees it ! 42.hxg5 Bxg4+



43.Ke1 Qxg5 44.Kd2 [No better is 44.f3 Qh4+] 44...Qf6! 45.Kc3

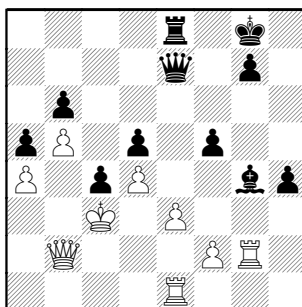
45.Rxg4? Qxf2+ 46.Kd1 (46.Kc3 Rxe3+ 47.Kb2 Re2) 46...Qxe3 idea Qe1# (46...Qf3+ 47.Qe2) 47.Qd2 Qf3+ 48.Kc2 Qxg4

45...Qe7



46.Qb2 [46.Rxg4?? Qb4#] 46...Qe4 47.Qd2 Qe7 48.Qb2 Qe4 49.Qd2 Qe7? [49...h5] 50.Qb2 Either side could claim a draw, of course, but apparently both sides thought they were better !

50...f5 51.Rg3 h5 52.Re1 h4 53.Rg2?



53...Qe4!

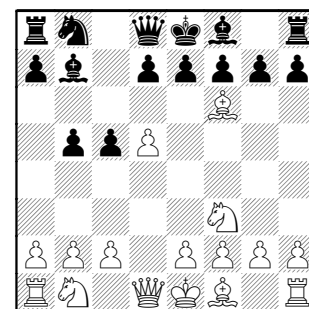
Now there's a subtle difference from the drawing play a few moves back.

54.Kd2 Qxg2 55.Kc1 Qe4 56.Qd2 f4 57.exf4 Qxe1+ 58.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 59.Kd2 Re2+

0-1

Hill,R (1990) – Garzon,G (2284) [A43] Rooks-Fermilab, 10-9-2006

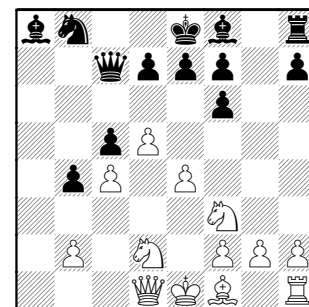
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Bg5 Bb7 5.Bxf6



5...gxf6

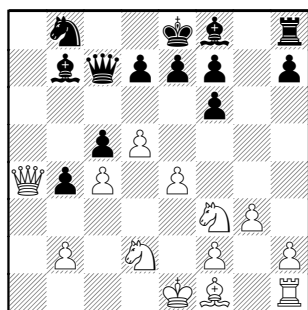
5...exf6 seems more natural, but maybe Black was counting on attacking down the g-file

6.e4 Pawn weakness at b5 6...a6 7.c4 b4 8.Nbd2 Qc7 9.a3 a5 10.axb4 axb4 11.Rxa8 Bxa8

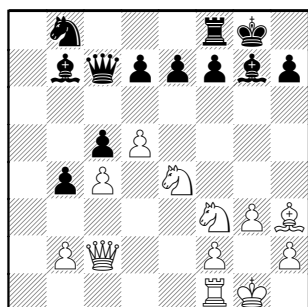


Black's Queenside pieces are hard to get into the game, while White's Knights have natural posts at f5 and b3. Can White get anything from it ?

12.Qa4 Bb7 13.g3

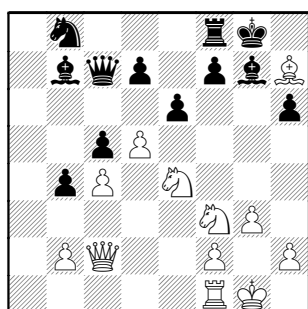


A powerful move ! White makes the target on the open file protected, takes f4 away from the Queen and lets out his Bishop to its best diagonal (h3). f2-f4 is also in the cards. Black can make some space with Bg7,e6,f5 although it will probably cost a Pawn to get that activity.

13...Bg7 14.Bh3 0-0 15.0-0 f5
16.Qc2 fxe4 17.Nxe4

The past moves were natural results from the position out of the opening. Black is still struggling to get the Queenside coordinated.

17...h6 18.Bf5 e6 19.Bh7+

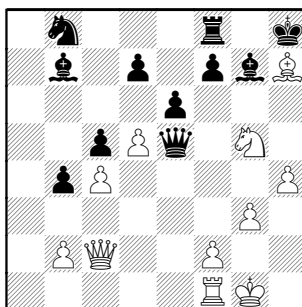


19...Kh8

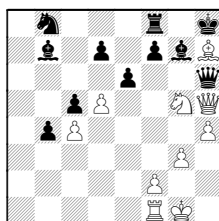
The Chicago Chess Player

19...Kxh7?? 20.Nf6+ Kh8 21.Qh7#

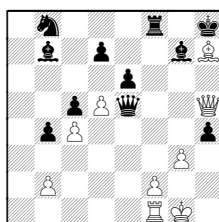
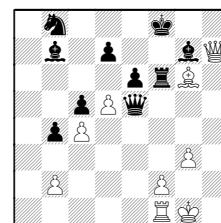
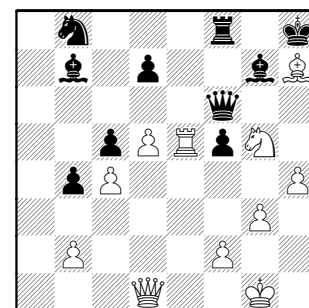
20.Neg5 hxg5 21.Nxg5 Qe5 22.h4



22...f5

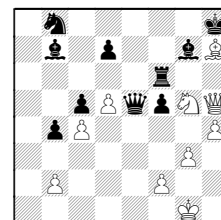
A) 22...Qxb2 23.Qd1 Qf6 24.Qh5
Qh6

25.Nxf7+ Rxf7 26.Qxf7 Kxh7 27.Qe8;

B) Similar is 22...exd5 23.Qd1 Qf6
(23...f6? 24.Qh5! fxg5 25.Bg6+ Kg8
26.Qh7#)
24.Qh5 Qh6 25.Nxf7+;C) Black seems to expel the attackers
with 22...f6 23.Qg6 fxg5 24.Qh5 gxh425.Qxh4 (25.Bg6+ Qxh5) 25...Rf6
26.Bg6+ Kg8 27.Qh7+ Kf823.Qd1 idea Qh5,Bg6+,Qh7#
23...Qf6 24.Re1 e5 25.Rxe5

25...f4

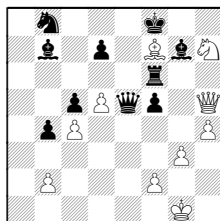
Is the score correct ? I'm not seeing why Black doesn't accept the Rook.
25...Qxe5 26.Qh5 idea Bg6+,Qh7# or
Nf7+-xe5 26...Rf6



The keymove; Black makes an escape square for the King and the always-useful Bishop covers the Queen entry to the backrank at h8.

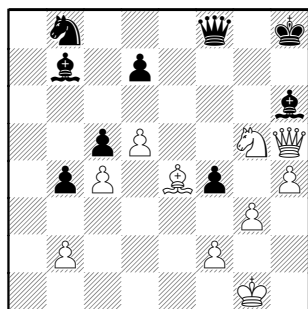
(Note that instead, 26...Qf6 27.Bg6+
Kg8 28.Qh7#)27.Bg6+
(27.Nf7+? Rxf7 28.Bg6+ Kg8
29.Bxf7+ Kf8)27...Kg8 28.Bf7+ (28.Qh7+ Kf8)
28...Kf8 29.Nh7+

(Diagram follows)



29...Ke7 30.Nxf6 Qxf6 Black can block the h-passer on h6 while winding his other minors into the game with something like d6,Bc8,Nd7-e5

26.Rf5 Qd6 27.Rxf8+ Qxf8 28.Qh5 Bh6 29.Be4



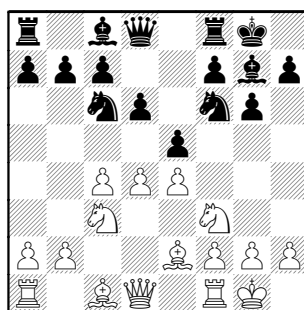
29...fxg3 missing the threat 30.Nf7+ **BLACK RESIGNED** as all moves yield a forced mate !! (Well, OK, Black has Qxf7, but that probably doesn't save the game)

1-0

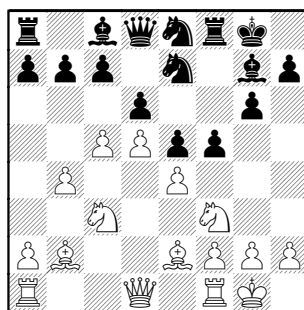
The finish would be 30...Kg8 [30...Kg7 31.Qg6#] 31.Nxh6+ Kh8 [31...Kg7 32.Qg6+ Kh8 33.Qh7#] 32.Nf7+ Kg8 [32...Kg7 33.Qg6#] 33.Qh7#

Brock,B (2095) – Bakshi,A [E97]
Aces-Northwestern, 11-2-2006

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6



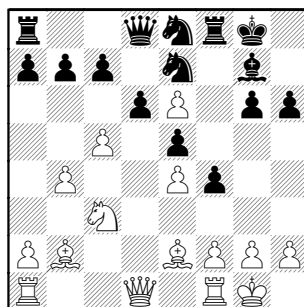
8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 Ne8 10.c5 f5 11.Bb2



Unusual, White is apparently assuming fxe4 will occur and wants to support the long diagonal.

[11.Bd2 idea Rc1; 11.Ng5; 11.Nd2]

11...f4 12.Ng5 h6 13.Ne6 Bxe6 14.dxe6



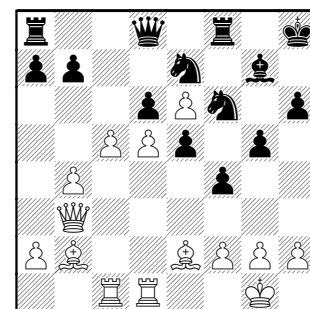
Although the exact position is different, the theme is common: Can Black win the invading Pawn or does it remain a permanent thorn ?

14...g5 15.Rc1 Kh8 16.Nd5 c6 17.Qb3!?



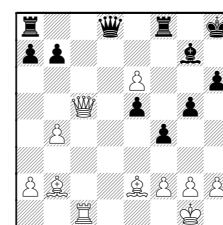
An interesting offer to protect the advanced Pawn.

17...cxd5 18.exd5 Nf6 19.Rfd1

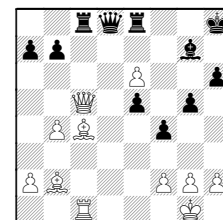


19...g4

Black is probably OK giving up the Knights for a Rook as in 19...Nexd5 20.Rxd5 Nxd5 21.Qxd5 dxc5 22.Qxc5

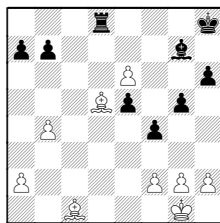


idea e7, forking 22...Re8 23.Bc4 Rc8



White's Bishops are impressive but this move proves his Queen is running low of moves

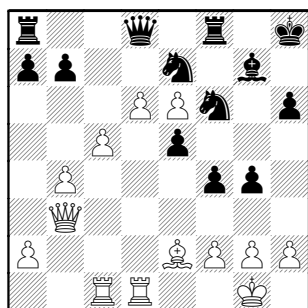
24.Qd5

(24.Qxa7? Rxc4 25.Rxc4?? Qd1#;
24.Qb5 Qd2)24...Qxd5 25.Bxd5 Rxc1+ 26.Bxc1
Rd8

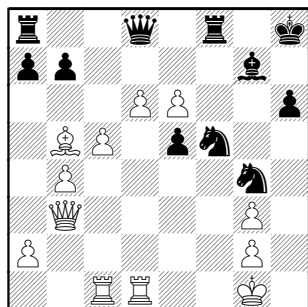
idea Rd1+-xc1 27.Bf3

(27.e7 Re8 28.Bxb7 Rxe7)

20.Bxe5 dxe5 21.d6



What White has been playing for, but
can Black get two Pawns for a Knight
and run away a full piece up ?

21...Nf5 22.Bb5 g3 23.hxg3 fxg3
24.fxg3 Ng4

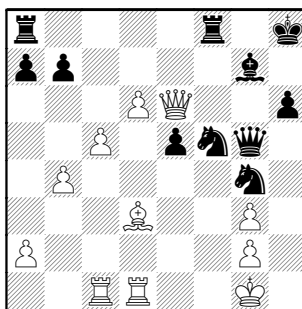
25.e7? Giving away the key passer
can't be good

25.Bd3 idea of Bxf5 and then e7
forking 25...Qg5 (25...Nfe3? 26.e7)
26.Be4 with b5,c6 coming as later in
the game 26...Qh5 and Black will

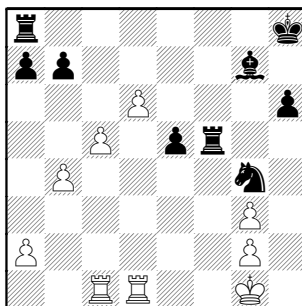
The Chicago Chess Player

mate

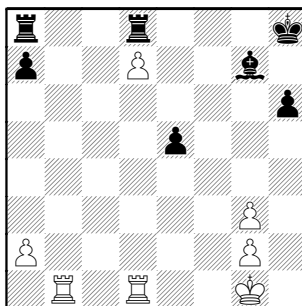
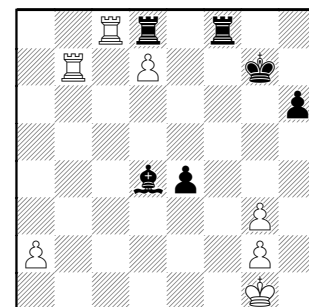
25...Nxe7 26.Qe6 Nf5 27.Bd3 Qg5



28.Bxf5 Qxf5 29.Qxf5 Rxf5



That's pretty much it, the d-passer
can't be forced home and Black has
extra material.

30.b5 Rff8 31.c6 bxc6 32.bxc6 Nf6
33.Rb1 Rfc8 34.d7 Nxd7 35.cxd7
Rd836.Rb7 Bf6 37.Rc1 Rf8 38.Rbc7
Rad8 39.Rxa7 Kg7 40.Rb7 e4
41.Rc8 Bd4+

42.Kh2 e3 43.Rbb8 Bf6 44.Rb3 Bg5

0-1

The word "carol" is derived from the old French
word caroller, which means dancing around in a
circle. It was derived from the Latin choraula,
which in turn was derived from the Greek
choraules.

Silent Night, Holy Night was written in 1818 by
Austrian priest Joseph Mohr.

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" was written in
1849 by Edmund Hamilton Sears. The score was
provided the next year by Richard Storrs Willis, a
New York organist.

In 1865, after a trip to the Holy Land, Rector
Phillips Brooks wrote the words to "O Little Town
of Bethlehem." Three years later, Lewis Redner
wrote the score.

The most popular Christian carols:

Silent Night, Holy Night
O Come All Ye Faithful
O Holy Night
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Little Town of Bethlehem
Angels From the Realms of Glory
The twelfth day of Christmas
Santa Claus is coming to town
Go Tell It On the Mountain
Away in a manger
Joy To the World
What Child Is This

Most popular secular carols:

White Christmas
The Twelve Days of Christmas
Jingle Bells
The First Noel
Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas
We Wish You A Merry Christmas
Blue Christmas by Elvis Presley
I'll Be Home for Christmas (made famous during
WWII)
Nat King Cole's classic version of Mel Torme's
The Christmas Song ("Chestnuts Roasting on an
Open Fire")

Dowel,G (1776) –

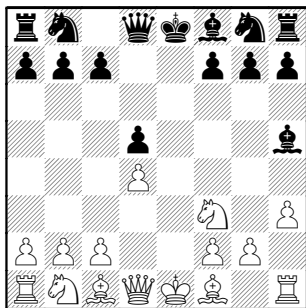
Spiegel,L (1976)

[C01]

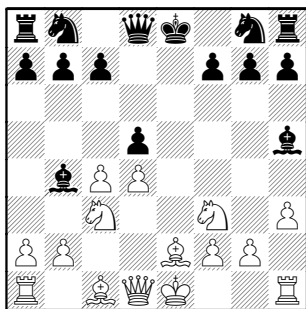
Case-Fermilab, 10-23-2006

[Notes by Lenny Spiegel]

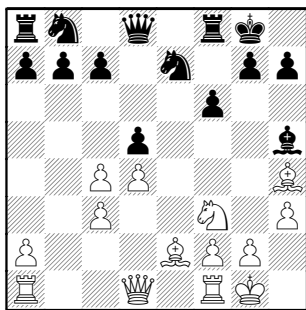
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3
Bg4 5.h3 Bh5



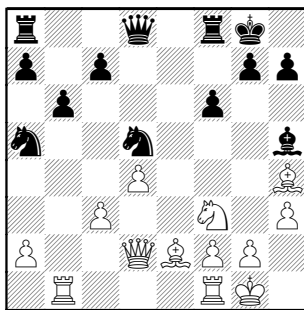
6.Be2 Bd6 7.c4 Bb4+ 8.Nc3



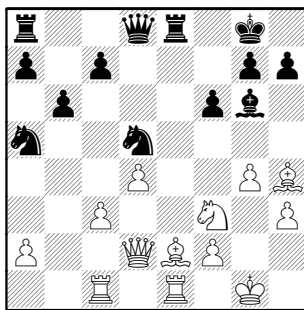
8...Ne7 9.0–0 Bxc3 10.bxc3 0–0
11.Bg5 f6 12.Bh4



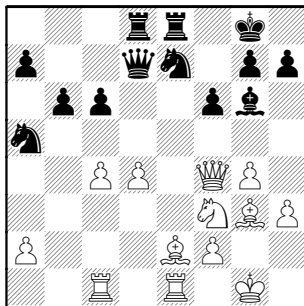
12...Nbc6 13.Rb1 b6 14.cxd5 Nxd5
15.Qd2 Na5



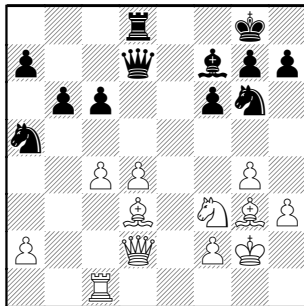
16.g4 Bg6 17.Rbc1 Re8 18.Rfe1



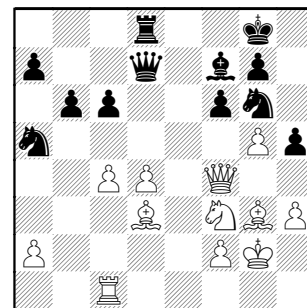
18...Qd7 [18...Rxe2!?] 19.c4 Ne7
20.Bg3 Rad8 21.Qf4 c6



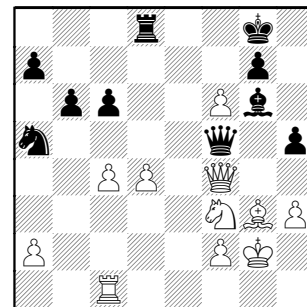
22.Kg2 Bf7 23.Bf1 Ng6 24.Rxe8+
Rxe8 25.Qd2 Rd8 26.Bd3?



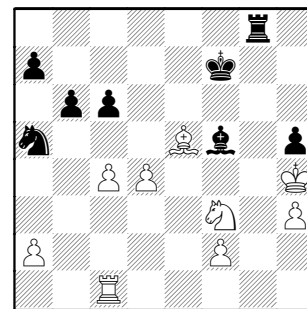
26...Ne7 [26...Ne5!] 27.Qf4 h5?
28.g5 Ng6?



29.Bxg6 Bxg6 30.gxf6 Qf5

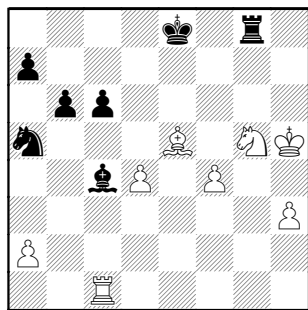
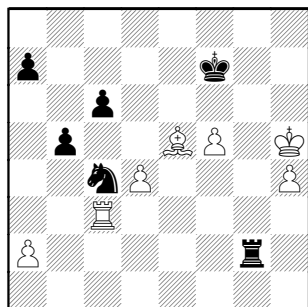


31.Qxf5? [31.Qc7!] 31...Bxf5 32.fxg7
Kxg7 33.Be5+ Kf7 34.Kg3 Rg8+
35.Kh4

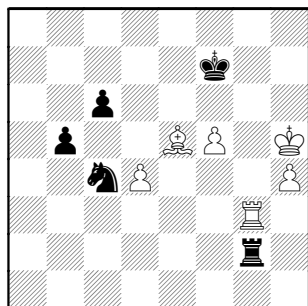
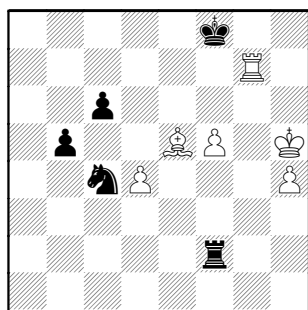


35...Bd3 36.Kxh5 Bxc4 37.Ng5+
Ke8 38.f4

Kf7 49.Bh8 b3

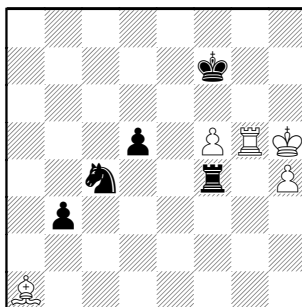
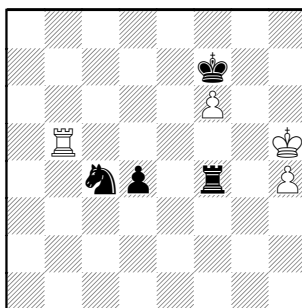
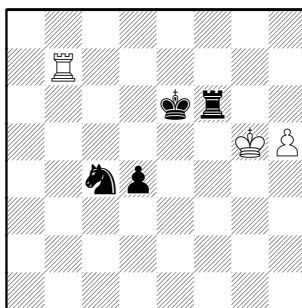
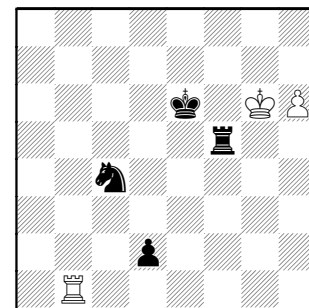
38...Bf7+? [38...Bxa2] 39.Nxf7 Kxf7
40.h4 b5 41.Rc3 Nc4 42.f5 Rg2

43.a4 a6 44.axb5 axb5 45.Rg3

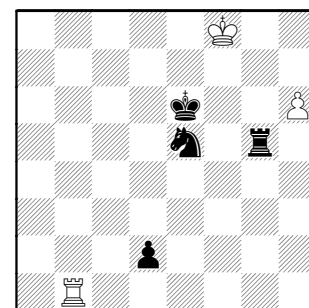
45...Rf2? [45...Rxg3! 46.Bxg3 b4--+]
46.Rg7+ Kf8

47.Rg5? [47.f6+-] 47...b4 48.Bg7+

50.d5 cxd5 51.Bd4 Rf4 52.Ba1?

52...b2 53.Bxb2 Nxb2 54.f6 d4
55.Rb5 Nc4[idea Kxf6] 56.Kg5 Rxf6 57.Rb7+
Ke6 58.h558...d3 59.Rb1 d2 60.h6 Rf5+
61.Kg6

61...Ne5+ 62.Kg7 Rg5+ 63.Kf8



63...Nd7+ idea Rg8# 0-1

Guio,J (1846) –
Sollano,E (1978) [B33]
Tyros-Aces (Playoffs Round 3)
5-3-2006

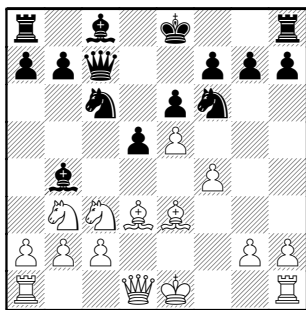
[Notes by Ely Sollano]

Back in the good old days before digital clocks and sudden-death time control, a grandmaster earned the moniker "bitter-ender" because he had a penchant for playing lost positions to the bitter end. He acquitted himself with the words "I never won a game by resigning."

And so it is also for most of us in our own peculiar way. In the first two rounds, I won against 1 d4 and in this round hoped to face the same first move again and get lucky for the third and final time. When White opened with King Pawn I thought it was a bad omen for me.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4

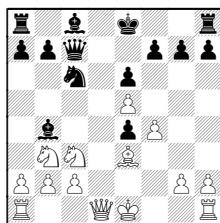
4.Nxd4 Qb6 5.Nb3 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6
7.Be3 Qc7 8.f4 Bb4 9.Bd3 d5 10.e5



10...Nd7?!

This variation is listed in Nunn's Chess Openings as an alternative to the myriad lines of the Open Sicilian.

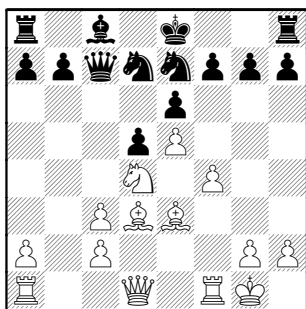
Here, the popular opening manual gives 10...Ne4 11.Bxe4 dxe4



as slightly better for Black.

I did not go with NCO because I was worried that the e4-Pawn could become a tactical liability, for example after 12.Bd2

11.0-0 Bxc3?! 12.bxc3 Ne7?
13.Nd4!



13...a6

This is where all my troubles began. When White castled, I accepted his

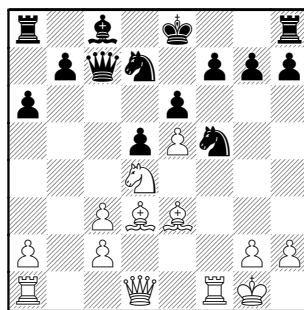
tactic date to give up my Bishop pair in exchange for his doubled Pawns, which was not a profitable transaction for me. Then, I rushed to reinforce my bare Kingside thinking that the discovery on the c3-Pawn would gain me a tempo.

White's sharp rejoinder caught me totally by surprise, after which my game went South rapidly. Since parting company with Mr. Nunn, I managed to give up the Bishop pair, decentralize the Knights, and get way behind in development. Some day I will write a book called "How to Lose in Chess Without Really Trying."

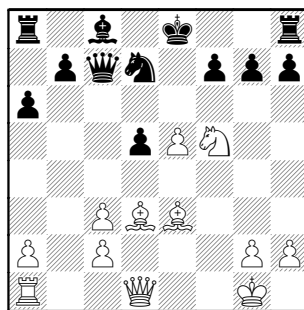
Note the Pawn is immune from capture since on 13...Qxc3 14.Nb5 and lands on d6 with check.

Now White wasted no time in hunting the Black King.

14.f5 Nxf5



15.Rxf5! exf5 16.Nxf5



This strands the King in the center. The Knight is now poised to wreak havoc with two nasty checks at its disposal. I sensed the looming danger at g7, but there was nothing I could do to forestall it.

16...Nxe5!

Inherent in a check delivered by a Knight is the non-negotiable condition that if the beast cannot be neutralized, then the King must take a walk as no interposition is possible, and mine is no exception. I spent a considerable amount of time searching for a safe escape route for the soon-to-be fleeing monarch, but there was none.

The incessant pressure was sapping my energy, mentally more than physically, and it became clear to me that the end was near when self-doubt set in. The prospect of falling first and early amongst chess gladiators that have barely begun to fight gave me a homesick feeling. I decided to relax and enjoy my few remaining moments of the playoffs before calling it quits; cruel defeat can wait.

I took my mind off the game and let my thoughts wander. What came to mind were the blitz sessions with teammates Teddy Santiago and Bert Gazmen in Teddy's nicely furnished basement. Our weekend chess battles were always fun and exciting because these two guys have very tactical and competitive styles and both of them hate to lose.

Sometimes our seven-minutes games would quickly change from serene to chaotic as soon as someone smelled blood in the water and the "bleeding" player went down in defeat, but not always. On rare occasions the bleeder was able to turn imminent defeat into miraculous victory by uncorking a move like lightning out of the blue. And when this phenomenon occurred, merry laughter (preceded by a burst of mild expletives) invariably filled the room, drowning our Roy Orbison's CD in the background.

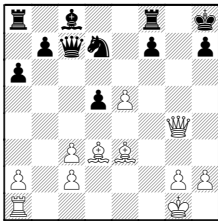
This happy recollection of chess in the company of close friends and allies gave me inspiration and energy to continue playing. I went over my analysis again, from move to move, ad, rather than look for defensive

measures, I concentrated on counter-attack.

A resource that wasn't there before suddenly flashed in my mind's eye and presented me with a powerful counter stroke against White. It was one of those rare moments, a "Eureka!" moment. I reached for my Knight and took the Pawn.

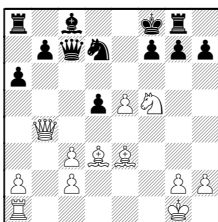
This move opened an escape route for the King, unmasked an attack on the f5-Knight, and threatened to exchange his d3-Bishop, all in one fell swoop! But, putting modesty aside, the accolade for the move is for none of the above. Ironically, it is for steering White to continue his attack via g7 for which I have prepared a game-ending shot.

A) Definitely not 16...0-0 when the issue is settled pronto after 17.Nxg7! Kxg7 18.Qg4+ Kh8



19.e6
(19.Qf5 is a real kill [TGF])

B) The insipid 16...Kf8 loses to 17.Qg4 Rg8 18.Qb4+



18...Nc5 (18...Ke8?? 19.Qe7#)
19.Bxc5+

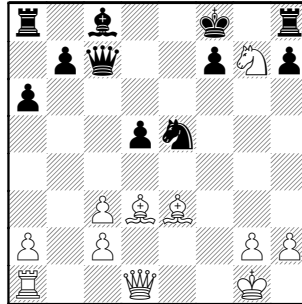
C) 16...Rg8 17.Nd6+

D) 16...g6 17.Nd6+

My opponent had left his seat to observe other games in progress (as I would have done if circumstances

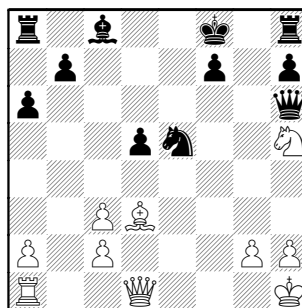
were reversed), returning to the table, he glanced at the new position and played the obvious **17.Nxg7+**

But instead of heading for the Queenside, I played my King straight into the lion's den and boldly attacked the Knight **17...Kf8**



Suspecting nothing, White played the irresistible **18.Bh6** with much hesitation. The critical position where I saw lightning strike has materialized on the board.

Pausing to steady my hand, I played the singular move of my game **18...Qb6+** Spurred on by momentum, White made a couple more moves **19.Kh1 Qxh6 20.Nh5**



but **WHITE RESIGNED** without waiting for my reply

20...Bg4 21.Be2 Qxh5 22.Bxg4 Nxg4
Black threatens mate on h2 and a fork at f2, which is too much to handle.

I must honestly admit that I should have never won this game if not for the fact that I was too embarrassed to surrender so early in the contest.

Maybe next time you are caught between a rock and a hard place, you should take a pause, relax, and recall the good times spent with your chess buddies; it just might save your game. On the other hand, I wonder if there is more to the laconic apology of the "bitter-ender" than just wry humor.

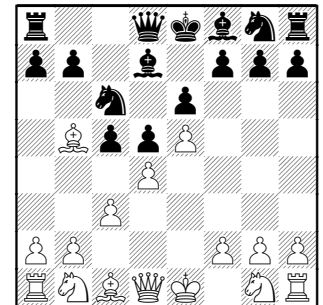
0-1

Kratka,M (1703) –
Eaman,R (1879)
11-20-2006

[C02]

[Notes by Robert Eaman]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6
5.Bb5 Bd7

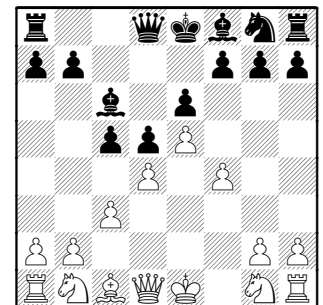


Obliging an exchange of pieces, to avoid the classic Nxe5.

6.Bxc6 Bxc6

6...bxc6 Takes longer for black to develop with little or no long term positional gain.

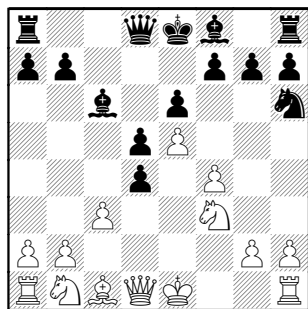
7.f4?!



Protects e5, but weakens f2, and allows black to stop white from castling kingside. Also allows black to

play Nh6 comfortably.

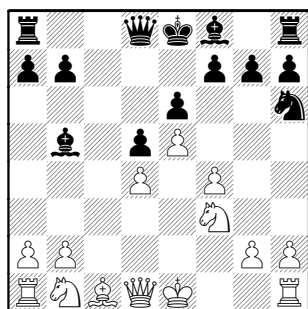
7...Nh6 8.Nf3 cxd4



9.cxd4

9.Nxd4 protects white's kingside castling chances.

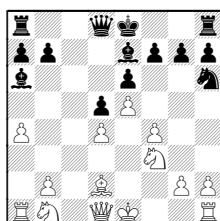
9...Bb5



Knowing full well that moving this bishop here means black also might lose his ability to castle.

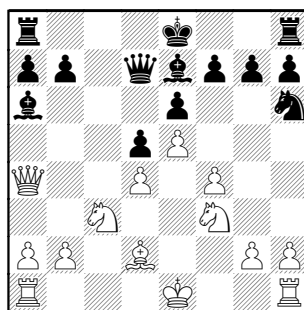
10.Bd2

10.a4 Ba6 11.Bd2 Be7



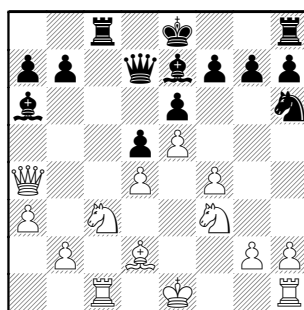
12.b4 Bc4

10...Qd7 Done to protect black's castling chances, anticipating Nc3 followed by Qa4. 11.Nc3 Ba6 12.Qa4 Be7!?



Believing in this position that the king will be an asset at d7 if the queens are off the board.

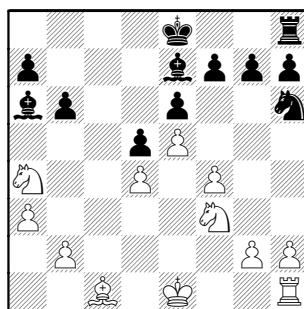
13.Rc1 Rc8 14.a3



14...Qxa4

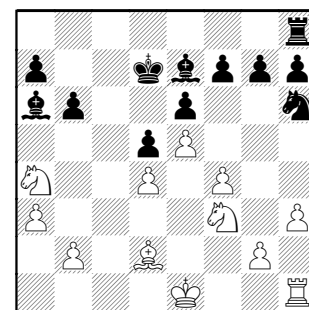
14...Rc4 15.b4!

15.Nxa4 Rxc1+ 16.Bxc1 b6



To protect c5 from invasion.

17.Bd2 Kd7 18.h3?!

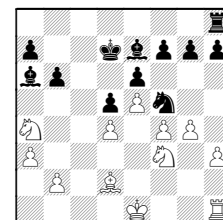


Moving pawns tends to give knights squares to land. This one gives black a neat 3-move sequence to create positional advantage.

18...Nf5 Putting attacker #1 on the weak d4 square, and helping prevent white's king from getting to the center of the board.

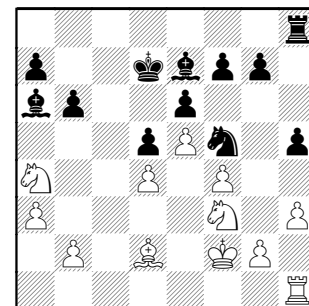
19.Kf2

19.g4



19...Ng3 20.Rg1 Ne4

19...h5!

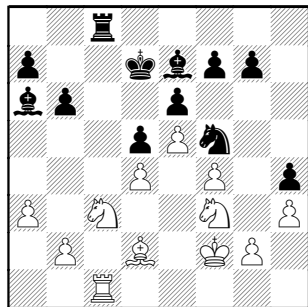


20.Rc1?!

Premature, as control of the c-file is not yet important.

20.h4 is better positionally.

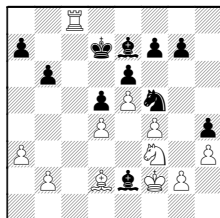
20...h4! Creating a nice post, and offering the future potential for a zugzwang. 21.Nc3 Rc8



In this position, both sides look vaguely equal, but black's pieces have better control of the board, and white's d4 liability outweighs black's double-protected h4 pawn.

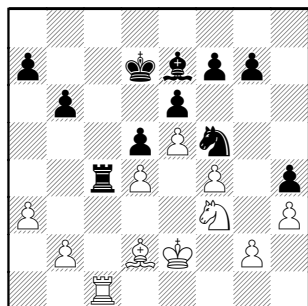
22.Ne2 Bxe2! [22...Rxc1 23.Nxc1=] 23.Kxe2

23.Rxc8?!

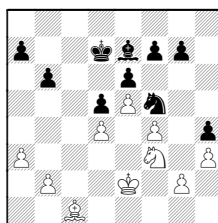


23...Bxf3 24.Ra8 Bh5 25.Rxa7+ Kc6

23...Rc4!



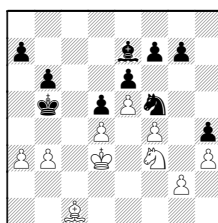
23...Rxc1 24.Bxc1



24...Kc6

24...Ng3+ 25.Kd3 Ne4 Leaves black's knight--oddly enough--in a worse post, as there's nothing to attack.

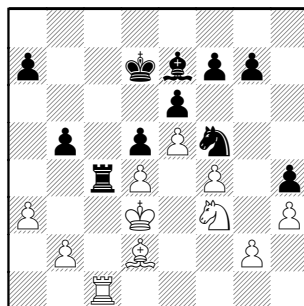
25.Kd3 Kb5 26.b3=



24.Kd3

After 24.Rxc4 dxc4 White's king is still unable to reach the middle of the board, while black's king has a clear path.

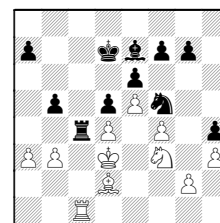
24...b5



25.b4?!

The first notable mistake in this game is a positionally subtle one. Black can now put a great deal of pressure on the d4 pawn, and the exchange of rooks gains black a passed pawn on c4.

Better, instead, is 25.b3

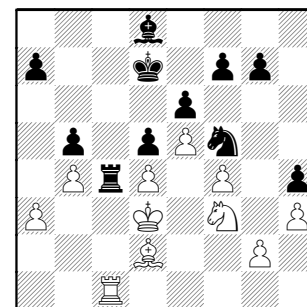


likely holds the draw. 25...Rxc1

25...Bxa3?! 26.bxc4 bxc4+ 27.Rxc4 dxc4+ 28.Kxc4±

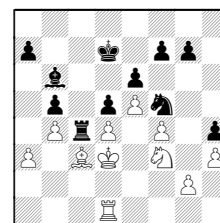
26.Bxc1=

25...Bd8



26.Rxc4?? The largest blunder of the game for white. Black's passed pawn now creates difficulties.

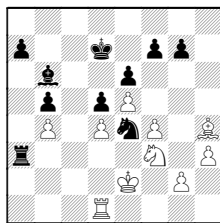
26.Rd1! Paradoxically, white's best defense is to give up the c-file. 26...Bb6 27.Bc3



27...Ng3 White's pieces are tied up defending each other, but this might hold.

27...Ne3!? 28.Rd2

28.Be1 Ne4 29.Bxh4 Rc3+ 30.Ke2 Rxa3

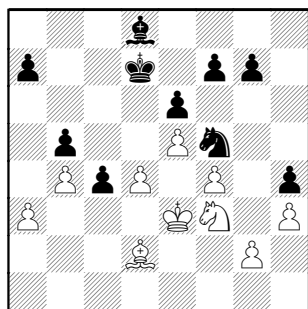


31.Rd3 Ra2+ 32.Nd2 a5

26...dxc4+!!

26...bxc4+?! 27.Kc2 Black's advantage is going to be tougher to grind out.

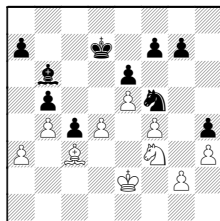
27.Ke4 Ng3+ 28.Ke3 Nf5+?!



Black repeats the position to get closer to the 45-move time control, but white has interesting possibilities with Ke2.

29.Ke4

29.Ke2!? Bb6 30.Bc3

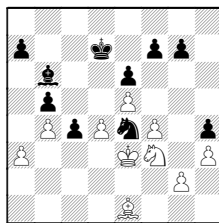


30...f6

A) 30...Kc6? 31.Ng5!

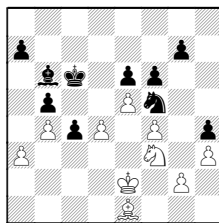
B) 30...Ng3+?! 31.Ke3 Ne4 32.Be1!

(Diagram follows)



End sub-analysis]

So from main analysis after ...f6 :
31.Be1 Kc6

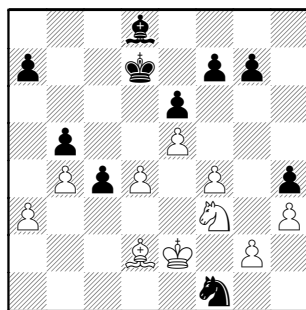


32.Bxh4

32.Nxh4 Nxd4+
(32...Nxh4 33.Bxh4 Bxd4
33.Kd2

32...Nxh4 33.Nxh4 Bxd4

29...Ng3+ 30.Ke3 Nf1+! 31.Ke2

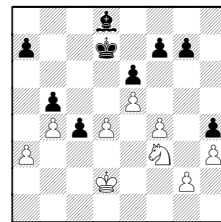


31...Nxd2!!

It's difficult to see how trading black's good knight for white's bad bishop could be a winner, but the key rests with black's simultaneous control of both d8 - h4 and d8 - a5 diagonals, and white's inability to move any pawns without adverse effects.

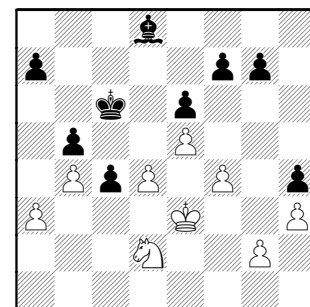
32.Nxd2?! Removes white's threats of Nxh4 and Ng5.

32.Kxd2!?



Might yield better chances for white.
32...Kc6 33.Ke3 f6 34.Ke4 f5+
35.Ke3 Kd5

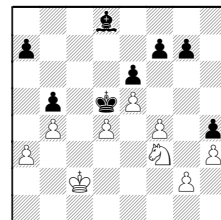
32...Kc6 33.Ke3



33...a5!

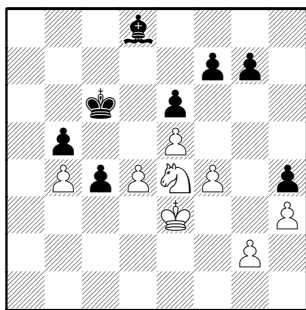
A) 33...Kd5? Too soon, due to the upcoming Nc3+. 34.Ne4 Kc6 Mostly forced.

B) 33...c3!? 34.Nf3 Kd5 35.Kd3 c2
36.Kxc2



36...Ke4 37.Kc3 Kxf4

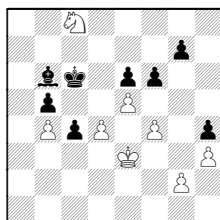
34.Ne4 axb4 35.axb4



35...Be7

White's now in serious trouble, with a forced zugzwang on the way.

35...Bb6?! 36.Nd6 f6 37.Nc8

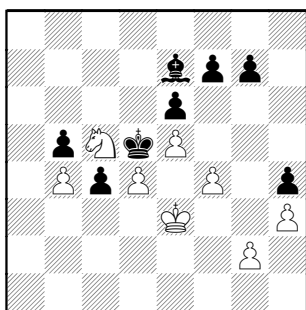


And white's got fight left.

36.Nc5

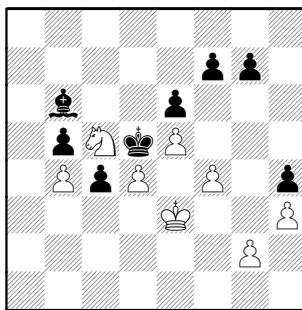
The only way to defend the b4 pawn.

36...Kd5



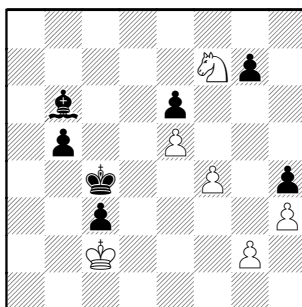
NOW the timing's right for black's king to arrive at d5.

37.Na6 Bd8 38.Nc5 Bb6



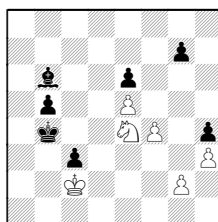
White's finally in zugzwang. Any move will lose something.

39.Kd2 Kxd4 40.Nb7 c3+ 41.Kc2 Kc4!?
42.Nd6+ Kxb4 43.Nxf7 Kc4



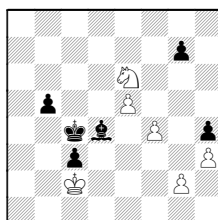
44.Ng5?!?

44.Nd6+!? Better. This will retard black's progress much more. 44...Kb4 45.Ne4



45...Be3

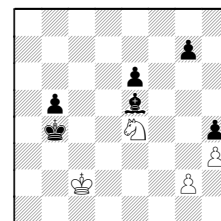
45...Bd4? 46.Ng5 Kc4 47.Nxe6



47...b4 48.Nxd4 Kxd4+-

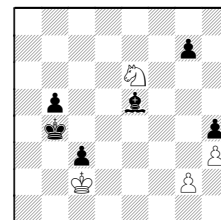
46.Ng5

46.Nxc3 Bxf4 47.Ne4 Bxe5

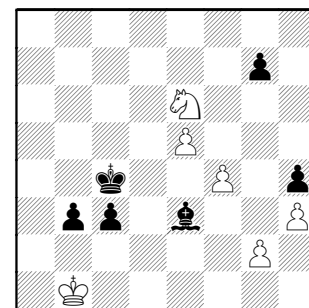


48.Ng5 Bf6 49.Nxe6

46...Bxf4 47.Nxe6 Bxe5--+



44...b4 45.Nxe6 b3+ 46.Kb1 Be3



White is forced to sacrifice the knight to avoid mate in 2. White will also not have time to advance the e-pawn.
0-1

Denmark,T (1750) –
Otero y Garzon,G (2284) [A45]
11-16-2006

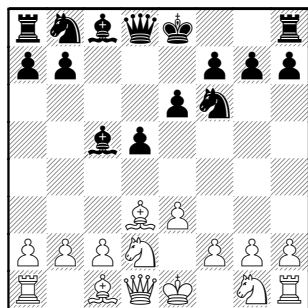
[Notes by Gustavo Garzon]

1.d4 Nf6 [Time: White = 0, Black = 0]
2.e3 d5 [1,2] **3.Bd3 e6** [2,3] **4.Nd2 c5**

[2,4] **5.dxc5?!** There was no need to give up the centre.

5.c3 was much better although black is ok.

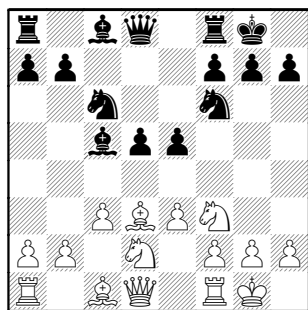
5...Bxc5



[3,4] **6.c3?!** this involves the loss of a tempo since white will have to contest the centre at some point, either with c4 or e4.

6.Ngf3 trying to castle and play e4 is becoming necessary.

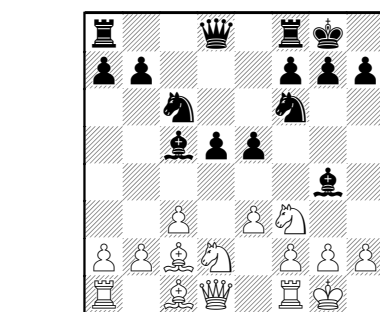
6...Nc6 [4,4] **7.Ngf3 0-0** [6,5] **8.0-0 e5**



[6,6] **9.Bc2?!** this is a very passive move.

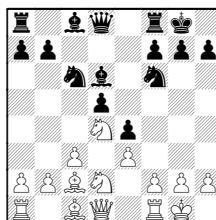
9.e4 was needed, with a balanced position where black has gained some tempi. After the game Denmark mentioned that it never occurred to him the e3-e4 move during the game.

9...Bg4?!



[7,8] Probably not the strongest since it gives white the chance to play e4.

Much stronger would have been:
9...e4 10.Nd4 Bd6

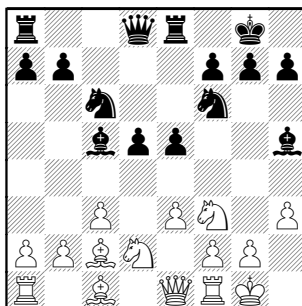


and black has a good attack against the not so easy to defend white kingside.

10.Qe1?! white misses the chance for the second time.

Again, it was better to play: 10.e4

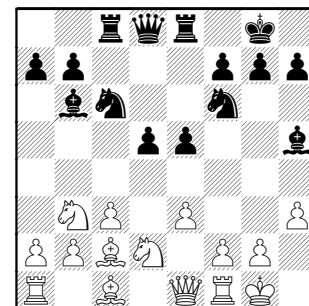
10...Re8 [8,9] **11.h3** A weakening move that was completely unnecessary. **11...Bh5**



[8,10] **12.Nb3**

Again, it was better to play: 12.e4 although black has now a certain advantage following with 12...d4

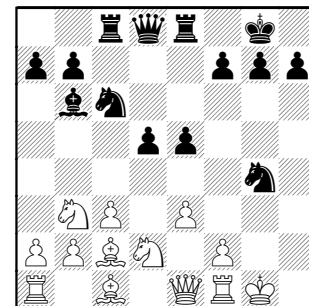
12...Bb6 [11,10] **13.Nfd2** **Rc8**



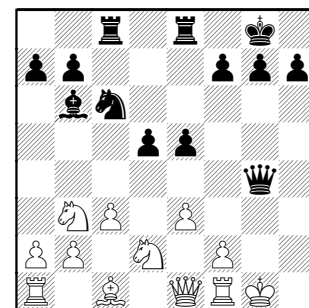
[11,13] A very bad play from Denmark left white's pieces far from well-placed whilst black's are all on their optimal squares.

14.g4? This makes the game very short, although black already had a strong advantage.

14...Bxg4 [12,15] **15.hxg4** **Nxg4**



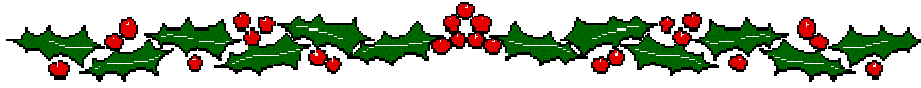
[13,15] **16.Bf5?!** **Qg5** [13,17] **17.Bxg4** **Qxg4+**



[15,17] it is mate in four more moves.

0-1

All about Christmas



Christ's birth in Bethlehem about 2000 years ago is celebrated on 25th of December. But the early Christians appear not to have celebrated Christ's birthday. In fact, unlike with Easter, there is no New Testament record of Christmas celebrations, and no date is given for the Nativity. The 25th December was introduced as Christ's birthday only in 320AD.

The modern-day figure of Father Christmas (Santa Claus) was introduced by artist Haddon Sundblom in advertisements for the Coca-Cola Company.

Saint Nicholas became Sinterklaas for the Dutch. The American pronounced it Santa Claus. In Britain and the commonwealth, he is Father Christmas, in France he is Père Noël. The gift giver actually has various names.



The history of Christmas

In ancient pagan times, the last day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere was celebrated as the night that the Great Mother Goddess gives birth to the baby Sun God. It is also called Yule, the day a huge log is added to a bonfire, around which everyone would dance and sing to awaken the sun from its long winter sleep.

In Roman times, it became the celebrations honouring Saturnus (the harvest god) and Mithras (the ancient god of light), a form of sun worship that had come to Rome from Syria a century before with the cult of Sol Invictus. It announced that winter is not forever, that life continues, and **an invitation to stay in good spirit.**

The last day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere occurs between the 20th and 22 December. The Roman celebrated Saturnalia between 17 and 24 December.

The early Christians

To avoid persecution during the Roman pagan festival, early Christians decked their homes with Saturnalia holly. As Christian numbers increased and their customs prevailed, the celebrations took on a Christian observance. But the early church actually did not celebrate the birth of Christ in December until Telesphorus, who was the second Bishop of Rome from 125 to 136AD, declared that Church services should be held during this time to celebrate "The Nativity of our Lord and Saviour." However, since no-one was quite sure in which month Christ was born, Nativity was often held in September, which was during the Jewish Feast of Trumpets (modern-day Rosh Hashanah). In fact, for more than 300 years, people observed the birth of Jesus on various dates.

In the year 274AD, solstice fell on 25th December. Roman Emperor Aurelian proclaimed the date as "Natalis Solis Invicti," the festival of the birth of the invincible sun. In 320 AD, Pope Julius I specified the 25th of December as the official date of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas official, but not generally observed

In 325AD, Constantine the Great, the first Christian Roman emperor, introduced Christmas as an immovable feast on 25

December. He also introduced Sunday as a holy day in a new 7-day week, and introduced movable feasts (Easter). In 354AD, Bishop Liberius of Rome officially ordered his members to celebrate the birth of Jesus on 25 December.

However, even though Constantine officiated 25 December as the birthday of Christ, Christians, recognising the date as a pagan festival, did not share in the emperor's good meaning. **Christmas failed to gain universal recognition among Christians until quite recently.** In England, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas festivities between 1649 and 1660 through the so-called Blue Laws, believing that Christmas should be a solemn day.

When many Protestants escaped persecution by fleeing to the colonies all over the world, interest in joyous Christmas celebrations was rekindled there. Still, Christmas was not even a legal holiday until the 1800s. And, keep in mind, there was no Father Christmas (Santa Claus) figure at that time.

Christmas becomes popular

The popularity of Christmas was spurred on in 1820 by Washington Irving's book *The Keeping of Christmas at Bracebridge Hall*. In 1834, Britain's Queen Victoria brought her German husband, Prince Albert, into Windsor Castle, introducing the tradition of the Christmas tree and carols that were held in Europe to the British Empire. A week before Christmas in 1834, Charles Dickens published *A Christmas Carol* (in which he wrote that Scrooge required Cratchit to work, and that the US Congress met on Christmas Day). It was so popular that neither the churches nor the governments could not ignore the importance of Christmas celebrations. In 1836, Alabama became the first state in the US to declare Christmas a legal holiday. In 1837, T.H. Hervey's *The Book of Christmas* also became a best seller. In 1860, American illustrator Thomas Nast borrowed from the European stories about Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children, to create **Father Christmas (Santa Claus)**. In 1907, Oklahoma became the last US state to declare Christmas a legal holiday. Year by year, countries all over the world started to recognise Christmas as the day for celebrating the birth of Jesus.

On what date was Jesus born?

There are three basic references to the year and the month of the birth of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament, the apostles tell of the **Magi** following the star from the east, and the **shepherds** with their flock out in the fields. The third reference comes from the dating of the founding of **Rome**.

The Magi

The Magi were astrologers and probably came from Persia or southern Arabia. They are believed to be linked with the priesthood of Zoroastrianism, who practised astrology. The 5th Century BC historian Herodotus attested to the astrological prowess of the priests of Persia. (The Bible does not give the number of magi that visited Jesus. The number of three was derived from the three (types of) gifts they presented.) Which star did the Magi follow?

In ancient astrology, the giant planet Jupiter was styled as the King's Planet, representing the highest god and ruler of the universe: Marduk to the Babylonians; Zeus to the Greeks; Jupiter to the Romans. The ringed planet Saturn was deemed the shield of Palestine, while the constellation of Pisces, which was also associated with Syria and Palestine, represented epochal events. Jupiter encountering Saturn in Pisces would have meant that a divine and cosmic ruler was to appear in Palestine.

The astronomer Kepler noted in the early 17th century that every 805 years, Jupiter and Saturn come into conjunction, with Mars joining the configuration a year later. Since Kepler, astronomers have computed that for ten months in 7BC, Jupiter and Saturn travelled very close to each other in the night sky, and in May, September, and December of that year, they were conjoined. Mars joined the configuration in February of **6BC**.

The Chinese had more exact and more complete astronomical records than the astrologers of the Middle East, particularly in their tabulations of comets and novae. In 1871, astronomer John Williams published an authoritative list of comets derived from Chinese annuals. Over March and April 5BC, Comet No. 52 on the Williams list appeared for some 70 days near the constellation Capricorn, and would have been visible in both the Far and Middle East. As each night wore on, the comet would seem to have moved westward across the southern sky. This could have been the Magi's astral marker. Comet No. 53 on the Williams list is a tailless comet - which could have been a nova - that appeared over March and April in 4BC in constellation Aquila, which was also visible all over the East.

The star that the Magi followed - the **Star of Bethlehem** - could be any of the astral markers that appeared in 6, 5 and 4BC.

The shepherds

Luke 2: 8: *"And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night."*

In Palestine - as in the rest of the Middle East at the time - shepherds stayed with their flocks in the fields only from Spring to Autumn. They brought their sheep in during the winter to protect them from the cold and rain. It is thus unlikely that the shepherds went to Bethlehem in December.

The Bible does not mention the celebration of Christ's birthday, and the early Christians seem not to have celebrated His birthday. However, to avoid persecution, they would hang holly on their doors during December just as the Roman pagans did for Saturnalia, their feasts honouring their god of harvest. Likewise, in September, during the Jewish Feast of Trumpets (modern-day Rosh Hashanah), they would borrow some of the custom to protect themselves, carrying on with their own customs behind closed doors. This added to the speculation that early Christians celebrated the birth of Christ in September. It is noted that Jerusalem swelled from about 100,000 people to over 1 million during the Feast of the Trumpets, which meant that there would have been little room at the inns of Jerusalem and the surrounding towns.

The dating of the founding of Rome

In the 6th Century, the Roman monk-mathematician-astronomer named Dionysius Exiguus (Dionysius the Little) reformed the calendar to pivot around the birth of Christ. He dated the Nativity 753 years from the founding of Rome, calculated to the date King Herod died. But Dionysius miscalculated, because Herod died only 749 years after the founding of Rome, thus 4BC.

Herod, who ordered all the babies in Bethlehem younger than 2 years killed, was, of course, alive when the Magi visited the baby Jesus. So we know that Jesus was born in or before 4BC, as astronomers point out when referring to the Star of Bethlehem.

Christmas today

The reference to the birth of Jesus "two thousand years ago" is wrong in two ways: a. there was no year 0, thus we have had only 1998 years since Dionysius (incorrectly) calculated the year of the Nativity. b. Dionysius's calculation was off by *at least* 5 years, as mentioned above.

In the year 274AD, solstice fell on 25th December, and Roman Emperor Aurelian proclaimed the date as "Natalis Solis Invicti," the festival of the birth of the invincible sun. In 320 AD, Pope Julius I specified the 25th of December as the official date of the birth of Jesus Christ. In 325AD, Constantine the Great, the first Christian Roman emperor, introduced Christmas as an immovable feast on 25 December. In 354AD, Bishop Liberius of Rome officially ordered his members to celebrate the birth of Jesus on 25 December.

In some parts of the Roman Empire (mostly the Eastern parts), solstice was celebrated on 6 January, the last festival day for those who started solstice on 25 December. (Saturnalia was held over 12 days.) The Orthodox Churches of Eastern Europe celebrate Christmas on 6 January.

Merry Christmas!

The most likely year that Jesus was born, is 6BC, probably in the month of March. There was no year 0 (zero) recorded, so the 2nd millennium celebration of the birth of Jesus should have been held in March 1995. But considering that Nativity was not celebrated at all for the first 300-or-so years, and that Christmas became widely popular only in the 19th Century, it remains remarkable that the birthday of Jesus Christ today is one of the biggest industries in the world. A rather apt acknowledgement.



Early Christians appear not to have celebrated the birth of Christ. In fact, Christmas became widely popular only in the 19th Century.

Christmas Carols

The Apostles sang songs of praise, many based on the Psalms. As founders of the churches, their enthusiasm inspired their new congregations into song. But unfortunately they did not leave us any copies of the musical scores.

One of the earliest known Christmas songs is from the 4th Century, *Jesus refulsit omnium*, composed by St. Hilary of Poitiers. During the 12th Century, St Francis of Assisi formally introduced Christmas carols to church services. As patron of the arts, he inspired the composers and poets of the day to deliver Christmas music. The lighter joyous Christmas songs were introduced many years later in Renaissance Italy - the 1400s, the time of Leonardo da Vinci and Michaelangelo. The earliest known copy of

an English carol was written by Ritson about 1410. Throughout the years, monks also contributed significantly in composing music themes from the Bible.

When Johannes Gutenberg started his printing press rolling in 1454 copies of carols could be distributed fairly freely. However, keep in mind that Christmas celebrations were suppressed by puritans at that time; Christmas did not become widely popular until late last century. Thus, many of the Christmas carols that we know today are not quoted directly from the Bible and were composed fairly recently.

Carols are banned but bounce back

Christmas carols were banned between 1649 and 1660 in England by Oliver Cromwell who thought that Christmas should be a solemn day. (Cromwell also abolished the monarchy.) When Protestants, inspired by Martin Luther, took to the joy of Christmas carols, many had to flee Europe under pressure from the Catholic Church. They took the Christmas carols with them to their new homes across the world. In 1649, John de Brebeur wrote the first American Christmas carol, called Jesus is Born.

Fortunately, in Europe, when carols couldn't be sung in Churches, they found a stage elsewhere. The world's most famous religious play, the Passion Play, was staged in Oberammergau, Germany in 1634 (and has been performed every 10 years since). In the 1700s, the music by Mendelssohn and Händel was adapted and used as Christmas carols.

Händel's Messiah

Georg Friederich Händel was born in Germany in 1685. The Royal Houses of Britain and Europe had always been closely interrelated, and the Act of Settlement of 1701 secured the Protestant succession of Anne to the Crown. Händel, who had studied and performed in Europe, left Italy early in 1710 for Hanover, where he was appointed Kapellmeister to the Elector, George Louis. In August 1714, at the death of Queen Anne, George became George I, king of Britain. Händel followed George and adopted British nationality. By invitation of the Duke of Devonshire, who was anxious to further music in Dublin, Händel moved to Ireland. In 1742, he gave the first performance of the *Messiah* in the Music Hall, Fishamble Street, Dublin in aid of several charities. By 1170, the famous *Messiah* was performed in Colonial America, 2 years before its first performance in his native Germany.

Händel died in 1759 and was buried in Westminster Abbey, recognised in England as the greatest composer of his day. His *Messiah* was as popular then as Bing Crosby's White Christmas is today.

Silent Night, Holy Night

Perhaps the best known Christmas carol is Silent Night, written in 1818 by an Austrian assistant priest Joseph Mohr. He was told the day before Christmas that the church organ was broken and would not be repaired in time for Christmas Day. Saddened, he sat down to write three stanzas that could be sung by choir to guitar music. "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" was heard for the first time at that Midnight Mass in St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. The congregation listened as the voices of the Fr. Joseph Mohr and the choir director, Franz Xaver Gruber, rang through the church to the accompaniment of Fr. Mohr's guitar. Today, Silent Night, Holy Night is sung in **more than 180 languages** by millions of people.

The popularity of Christmas was further spurred on in 1820 by Washington Irving's book The Keeping of Christmas at Bracebridge Hall. In 1834, Britain's Queen Victoria brought her German husband, Prince Albert, into Windsor Castle, reintroducing the Christmas tree and carols to the British Empire. In 1837, T.H. Hervey's The Book of Christmas became a best seller. Printed books were more popular than ever. The Bible was selling marvellously well. Christmas was here to stay. But it was another title that took Christmas right into people's homes.

"A Christmas Carol"

Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol in 1834. Dickens was one of the first to show his readers a new way of celebrating the old Yule holiday in modern ways. He adapted the 12-day Yule feast to a one-day party any family could hold *in their own home* instead of gathering together an entire village, as was the tradition. Dickens introduced the "nuclear family" of Fred, the Cratchits, and Scrooge into a rewarding Christmas environment. A Christmas Carol is filled with magic, mystery, and song. The joyous carol had come home.



Christmas carols: big business

Oliver Cromwell might be turning in his grave. The biggest selling Christmas single of all time is Bing Crosby's White Christmas, soundtrack of the holiday movie classic Holiday Inn. More than 30 million copies have been sold. (In fact, only Elton John's Candle in the Wind '97 has sold more copies, at 33 million.) Every Christmas season, record companies rush to release Christian and secular Christmas songs by artists young and old.

Mistletoe and holly

When Balder, the son of the Norse goddess Frigga, was killed by an arrow made of mistletoe by Loki, and evil spirit, she wept tears of white berries which brought him back to life. Overjoyed, Frigga blessed the plant and bestowed to kiss all who passed beneath it.

Mistletoe was held sacred by the Norse, the Celtic Druids and the North American Indians. The Druid priests would cut mistletoe from an oak tree with a golden sickle. The branches had to be caught before they touched the ground. They then divided the branches into many sprigs and distributed them to the people, who hung them over doorways as protection against thunder, lightning and other evils. The folklore continued over the centuries. It was believed that a sprig placed in a baby's cradle would protect the child from goblins. Giving a sprig to the first cow calving after New Year would protect the entire herd.

Holly was the sacred plant of Saturn and was used at the Roman Saturnalia festival to honour him. Romans gave one another holly wreaths and carried them about decorating images of Saturn with it. It was used as folk medicine for toothache, measles and dog bites.

Mistletoe and holly at Christmas

To avoid persecution during the Roman pagan festival of Saturnalis, the early Christians decked their homes with Saturnalia holly. As Christian numbers increased and their customs prevailed, holly and mistletoe lost their pagan associations and became symbols of Christmas.

Peace and joy... and kisses

Mistletoe is a symbol for peace and joy. The idea originated in the ancient times of the Druids: whenever enemies met under the mistletoe in the forest, they had to lay down their arms and observe a truce until the next day. From this comes the custom of hanging a ball of mistletoe from the ceiling and exchanging kisses under it as a sign of friendship and goodwill.

In the 18th Century, the exchanging of kisses between a man and a woman was adopted as a promise to marry. At Christmas a young lady standing under a ball of mistletoe cannot refuse to be kissed. The kiss could mean deep romance, lasting friendship and goodwill. It was believed that if the girl remained unknissed, she cannot expect to marry the following year.

About the mistletoe plant

Mistletoe is a partial parasite, a "hemiparasite." As a parasitic plant, it grows on the branches or trunk of a tree and actually sends out roots that penetrate into the tree and take up nutrients. It is also capable for growing on its own, producing its own food by photosynthesis.

There are two types of mistletoe. The European mistletoe (*Viscum album*) is a green shrub with small, yellow flowers and white, sticky berries which are considered poisonous. It commonly seen on apple trees, and sometimes on oak trees. The rarer oak mistletoe was greatly venerated by the ancient Celts and Germans and used as a ceremonial plant by early Europeans. The mistletoe found in North America (*Phoradendron flavescens*) grows as a parasite on trees from New Jersey to Florida.



Mistletoe before it becomes a wreath.



Gifts were exchanged in the Roman ceremonies of Saturnalia, the festivities of solstice, the origin of our Christmas celebrations. We know the exchanging of gifts best from the three magi mentioned in the Bible. But as mentioned in the History of Christmas, during the previous centuries Christmas was a solemn affair. Religious puritans reminded Christians that **the Magi** gave gifts only to Jesus, not to His family or to each other. But since the celebration of Christ's birth was incorporated with the solstice festivities outside the official church, and since Christmas really became widely popular during the last century, it has become a commercial phenomenon.

The figure of Father Christmas (Santa Claus or Sinterklaas) is based on **Saint Nicholas** (270 - 310), the bishop of Myra who, clad in red and white bishop's robes and riding on a donkey, bestowed gifts on children. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of children. During the Middle Ages, many churches were built in his honour throughout Europe. The anniversary of his death, 6 December, became the day to give gifts, especially to children.

The first mention **Christmas stockings** being hung from or near a chimney were made only earlier this century by the illustrator, Thomas Nast, through his pictures and the writer, George Webster, in a story about a visit from Santa Claus. The story quickly caught on.

During World War II it was necessary to mail Christmas gifts early for the troops far away. Merchants joined in the effort to remind the public to shop early and the protracted shopping season was born.

Today, Christmas shopping is a rush. 86% of consumers do their Christmas shopping during December, 70% do not save for the Christmas period, and up to 87% decide at the point of purchase what they will buy. About 30% use their credit card as their main means of buying Christmas goodies, often leading to the Christmas blues by January and February. The use of credit is cited as a major cause of non-business bankruptcy, second only to unemployment. Statistics show that people with high, medium and low income groups spend about the same amount on Christmas gifts.

The Christmas Tree

It is told that Saint Boniface, a monk from Crediton, Devonshire, England who established Christian churches in France and Germany in the 7th Century, one day came upon a group of pagans gathered around a big oak tree about to sacrifice a child to the god Thor. To stop the sacrifice and save the child's life Boniface felled the tree with one mighty blow of his fist. In its place grew a small fir tree. The saint told the pagan worshipers that the tiny fir was the Tree of Life and stood for the eternal life of Christ.

It is also told that Saint Boniface used the triangular shape of the fir tree to describe the Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. By the 12th Century, Christmas trees were hung from ceilings as a symbol of Christianity. However, in that time, for a reason no one could yet explain, the trees were hung upside down.

Trees as symbols

Trees were a symbol of life long before Christianity. Ancient Egyptians brought green palm branches into their homes on the shortest day of the year in December as a symbol of life's triumph over death. Ancient Finns used sacred groves instead of temples. Romans adorned their homes with evergreens during Saturnalia, a winter festival in honour of Saturnus, their god of agriculture. Druid priests decorated oak trees with golden apples for their winter solstice festivities. During December in the Middle Ages, trees were hung with red apples as a symbol of the feast of Adam and Eve, and called the Paradise Tree.

The first Christmas trees

The first reference of a fir tree decorated for Christmas is at Riga in Latvia in 1510. In 1521, the Princess Hélène de Mecklembourg introduced the Christmas tree to Paris after marrying the Duke of Orleans. There also is a printed reference to Christmas trees in Germany, dated 1531. Another famous reference, to 1601, is about a visitor to Strasbourg, Germany (now part of France) who noticed a family decorating a tree with "wafers and golden sugar-twists (barley sugar) and paper flowers of all colours."

The Christmas tree was introduced to the United States by German settlers and by Hessian mercenaries paid to fight in the Revolutionary War. In 1804, US soldiers stationed at Fort Dearborn (Chicago) hauled trees from surrounding woods to their barracks. Britain was introduced to the Christmas tree in 1841, when Queen Victoria's German husband, Prince Albert brought a Christmas tree to Windsor Castle for the Royal family. The custom of the Christmas tree spread quickly to the middle class, to working people, and throughout the colonies (where the Empire's flag would sometimes top the tree).



Christmas tree angels were introduced in the 1850s.

Christmas tree decorations

Trees were decorated with apples, cakes and candies for many centuries. Martin Luther was the first to use candles on trees in the late 16th Century. In 1842, Charles Minnegrode introduced the custom of decorating trees to the US in Williamsburg, Virginia.

In 1850s, German company Lauscha, based in Thuringia, began to produce shaped glass bead garlands for Christmas trees. They also introduced the Rauschgoldengel, the 'Tingled-angel', dressed in pure gilded tin. The glass ornaments reached Britain in the 1870s, and North America around 1880. In 1882, ornaments were complimented by electric Christmas lights. Edward Johnson, a colleague of Thomas Edison, lit a Christmas tree with a string of 80 small electric light bulbs which he had made himself. By 1890, the Christmas light strings were mass-produced. By 1900, stores put up large illuminated trees to lure the customers.



Martin Luther (1483 - 1546) is said to be the first to have decorated a Christmas tree with candles to show children how the stars twinkled through the dark night.



In 1851, Mark Carr hauled two sleds loaded with trees from the Catskills to the streets of New York and opened the first retail tree lot in the US.

The popular Goose Feather Tree was invented in the 1880s in Germany to combat the damage being done to fir trees at Christmas time. The first brush trees were created in the US by the Addis Brush Company.

The Tom Smith Cracker Company - named after the inventor of Christmas crackers - also produced artificial Christmas trees for a while.

Every year since 1947 the people in Oslo have given a Christmas tree to the city of Westminster. The gift is an expression of goodwill and gratitude for Britain's help to Norway during WWII.

The US tradition of National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House lawn was started in 1923 by President Calvin Coolidge.

The legend of the tinsel on the Christmas tree tells about a woman who had to care for a large family of children after her husband died. One Christmas, she prepared a tree to surprise the children. But because she worked alone to bring food to the table, she often had to work late into the night. When she wanted to bring the Christmas tree out, she saw that spiders had made webs all over it, from branch to branch. The Christ Child saw it and to spare her from sorrow, He changed the spiders' webs into shining silver.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Three decades ago, Father Harold Stockert's passion for history sent him digging through stacks of correspondence between French Jesuits and their embattled brethren across the English Channel.

It wasn't easy being a Roman Catholic in Elizabethan England. It was, in fact, illegal and often downright dangerous. This Jesuit correspondence was particularly intense after the 1611 publication of the King James Version, when Catholics in England needed the help of the French in publishing a Catholic Bible.

"You bump into all kinds of interesting things when you read original documents," said Stockert, who now serves at Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Granville, N.Y. "This correspondence included a lot of details about what life was like for Catholics in England. I mean, you did have Jesuits being hanged, drawn and quartered. People can look it up."

(continued...)

One detail fascinated the priest, a reference to English Catholics using many symbolic songs and poems -- some serious, some light-hearted - to help them cling to their faith. One children's song may have been part of a dance or a game and focused on the season between Dec. 25 and Jan. 6, the Feast of the Epiphany.

It began: "On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree."

In the midst of his other research, Father Stockert took a few notes about "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and later wrote an article about the song for friends and parishioners. He posted this article - complete with documentary references - on an ecumenical computer site in 1982, back in the early days of online networks.

"The 'true love' mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself," he wrote. "The 'me' who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings."

The turtle doves represented the Old and New Testaments, while the three French hens symbolized the virtues of faith, hope and charity. Four calling birds? The four evangelists and their Gospels. The five golden rings correspond to the "Pentateuch" that opens the Hebrew Bible. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation. The seven swans a-swimming represented the seven sacraments. Eight maids a milking? Eight beatitudes. Nine ladies dancing? Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. Ten lords a-leaping? Ten Commandments. Finally, the 11 pipers represented the 11 faithful apostles and the 12 drummers the doctrines in the Apostle's Creed.

Today, versions of this article dot the Internet, usually with no mention of the author, including Protestant versions linking the song to "persecuted Christians," in general. And every year, this Christmas lesson circulates via e-mail. Some of these texts are much shorter than his original article and others include material that he did not write. Most importantly, none of these articles include his bibliographical references.

"I've got all kinds of people writing me demanding references for my work," he said. "I wish I could give them what they want, but all of my notes were ruined when our church had a plumbing leak and the basement flooded." Meanwhile, he said, his copy of the original article is on "a computer floppy disk that is so old that nobody has a machine that can read it, anymore."

Meanwhile, the San Fernando Valley Folklore Society's giant site (<http://www.snopes.com>) dedicated to dissecting "urban legends" has declared that this account of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is clearly false. This site claims it is a secular song, probably with French roots. This "Twelve Days of Christmas" may also have become confused with a Christian song, which dates back to 1625, that is often called "In Those Twelve Days."

It is also possible, said Father Stockert, that a French song was claimed by English Catholics or that the two songs were blended.

"I'm sure there are elements of legend in this," he said. "But if it is a legend, it's a legend that dates back to the days of Queen Elizabeth. Maybe somebody will go dig this all up again."

Christmas in Africa

Preparation for Christmas in the Congo begins when some group is designated to prepare the annual Christmas pageant.

Christmas day begins with groups of carolers walking to and fro through the village, along the roadway, by the houses of the missionaries, singing the lovely carols known the world around. Often people may be awakened by a group of carolers beginning to converge on the house of worship. They return home to make final preparation as to the clothes one must wear and also as to his offering for the Christmas service.

The most important part of their Christmas worship service is the love offering, this is the gift in honor of Jesus. Then at about 8 or 9 o'clock everyone makes their way to the celebration of the birthday of Jesus.

Everyone who attends the service goes forward to lay down their gift upon the raised platform near the Communion table. Not one person will attend the service without giving a gift.

Now people have Christmas dinners after the service, preparing tables out in front of their home and inviting many of their intimate friends to share.

Christmas in South Africa is a summer holiday. In December, the southern summer brings glorious days of sunshine that carry an irresistible invitation to the beaches, the rivers, and the shaded mountain slopes. Then the South African holiday season reaches its height. Schools are closed, and camping is the order of the day. In South Africa there is no snow, but it has many flowers, many beautiful varieties of cultivated and wild flowers being in their full pride.

In the cities and towns carolers make their rounds on Christmas Eve. Church services are held on Christmas morning. Christmas Eve celebrations in larger centers include "Carols by Candlelight" and special screen and floor shows.

Homes are decorated with pine branches, and all have the decorated Christmas fir in a corner, with presents for the children around. At bedtime on Christmas Eve, children may also hang up their stockings for presents from Father Christmas.

Many South Africans have a Christmas dinner in the open-air lunch. For many more, it is the traditional dinner of either turkey, roast beef, mince pies, or suckling pig, yellow rice with raisins, vegetables, and plum pudding, crackers, paper hats, and all. In the afternoon, families go out into the country and usually there are games or bathing in the warm sunshine, and then home in the cool of the evening. Boxing Day is also a proclaimed public holiday usually spent in the open air. It falls on December 26 and is a day of real relaxation.

In Ghana, on Africa's west coast, most churches herald the coming of Christmas by decorating the church and homes beginning with the first week in Advent, four weeks before Christmas. This season happens to coincide with the cocoa harvest, so it is a time of wealth. Everyone returns home from wherever they might be such as farms or mines.

On the eve of Christmas, children march up and down the streets singing Christmas Carols and shouting "Christ is coming, Christ is coming! He is near!" in their language. In the evening, people flock to churches which have been decorated with Christmas evergreens or palm trees massed with candles. Hymns are sung and Nativity plays are presented.

On Christmas Day, children and older people, representing the angels in the fields outside Bethlehem, go from house to house singing. Another church service is held where they dress in their native attire or Western costumes. Later on there is a feast of rice and yam paste called **fufu** with stew or okra soup, porridge and meats. Families eat together or with close neighbors, and presents are given.

On the west coast of Africa, in Liberia, most homes have an oil palm for a Christmas tree, which is decorated with bells. On Christmas morning, people are woken up by carols. Presents such as cotton cloth, soap, sweets, pencils, and books are exchanged. Also in the morning a church service is held in which the Christmas scene is enacted and hymns and carols are sung. Dinner is eaten outdoors with everyone sitting in a circle to share the meal of rice, beef and biscuits. Games are played in the afternoon, and at night fireworks light up the sky.



Christmas in Australia

Christmas in Australia is often very hot. Whereas the northern hemisphere is in the middle of winter, Australians are baking in summer heat. It is not unusual to have Christmas Day well into the mid 30 degrees Celsius, or near 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

A traditional meal includes a turkey dinner, with ham, and pork. A flaming Christmas plum pudding is added for dessert. In the Australian gold rushes, Christmas puddings often contained a gold nugget. Today a small favor is baked inside. Whoever finds this knows s/he will enjoy good luck. Another treat is Mince Pies.

Some Australians and particularly tourists often have their Christmas dinner at midday on a local beach, [Bondi Beach](#) in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs attracts thousands of people on Christmas Day. Other families enjoy their day by having a picnic. If they are at home, the day is punctuated by swimming in a pool, playing Cricket out the backyard, and other outdoor activities.

The warm weather allows Australians to enjoy a tradition which commenced in 1937. **Carols by Candlelight** is held every year on Christmas Eve, where tens of thousands of people gather in the city of Melbourne to sing their favorite Christmas songs. The evening is lit by as many candles singing under a clean cut night sky. The sky with its Southern Cross stars is like a mirror. Sydney and the other capital cities also enjoy Carols in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Australians surround themselves with **Christmas Bush**, a native plant which has little red flowered leaves.

Christmas shopping is often done in shorts and t-shirts. At many beaches Santa Claus arrives on a surfboard, or even on a surf lifesaving boat.

Australia's worst Christmas was in 1974, when [Cyclone Tracy](#) devastated Darwin in the Northern Territory. More than 60 people were killed.



Christmas in Belgium

In Belgium there are two Santa Claus figures. There is **St. Nicholas** and **Pere Noel**.

St Nicholas visits those who speak the Walloon language, in fact he visits them twice. The first time is on the December 4th he does this so he can find out which children have been good and which children have been bad. If a child is good he returns on December 6th with the presents the good children deserve if they were bad they are left twigs. The good children usually received candy and toys. With the bad children he leaves the twigs inside their shoes or in small baskets that are left just inside the doorway.

Pere Noel visits those who speak French. He visits with his companion Pere Fouettard and asks about whether the children have been good or bad. If they have been good they receive chocolates and candies if they have been bad they are more likely to receive a handful of sticks.

Christmas for both gift-givers is on December 6th, the feast of St Nicholas, it is a religious occasion and is observed with services in churches and quiet family gatherings. Special cakes are baked and served during the holiday season and are a treat for children and adults.

The other part is called "Flanders" where they speak Dutch.

St-Nicholas doesn't have anything to do with Christmas. It's His Birthday on December 6th, and then he visits all children to bring them presents.

And then there is Christmas, December 25. The day Jesus Christ was born. The last years the American tradition around Christmas is coming over here. By movies and storybooks.

Now Children get gifts under the Christmas tree also. But this isn't the same everywhere. But it mostly depends on the parents. At some family, they buy gifts for each other and put them under the tree. There's no Santa to bring them. In others, mostly when there are still li'l children it's Santa who brings the gifts and puts them under the tree.

That can be on Christmas Eve, but sometimes in the weeks before Christmas. Gifts are opened on the evening before Christmas, after a Christmas dinner, or the midnight mass, or on Christmas morning.



Christmas in China

The Christian children of China decorate trees with colorful ornaments. These ornaments are made from paper in the shapes of flowers, chains and lanterns. They also hang muslin stockings hoping that **Christmas Old Man** will fill them with gifts and treats.

The Chinese Christmas trees are called "**Trees of Light**." Santa Claus is called **Dun Che Lao Ren** which means "Christmas Old Man."

The non-Christian Chinese call this season the **Spring Festival** and celebrate with many festivities that include delicious meals and pay respects to their ancestors. The children are the main focus of these celebrations, they receive new clothes and toys, eat delectable food and watch firecrackers displays.



Christmas in Czech Republic

Celebrations for Christmas begin with the visit of St. Nicholas on December 6th and end with the visit of the Three Kings.

In Czech Republic, St. Nicholas is called **Svaty Mikalas** and is believed to climb to earth down from heaven on a golden rope along with his companions: an angel and a whip-carrying devil.

In Czech Republic, a girl can tell her future, it is said that according to tradition, by putting a cherry twig in water on December 4th. If the twig blossoms before Christmas Eve, the girl will marry sometime during the year.

The famous King Wenceslas of the Christmas Carol was a real King in this country. His goodness and his beliefs in Christianity infuriated his mother, and his brother murdered him on the Church steps. Before he died he asked for God's mercy for his brother's evil act. He became the patron saint of Czech Republic.

Christmas is a quiet and peaceful religious time here. They fast for one day, and have baked carp for Christmas dinner. St Nicholas visits, and brings good children gifts, and for those children who are bad, the devil is said to come with switches.

At midnight, most families go to Holy Mass or **Pasterka** as it is known. On Christmas Day, the churches are filled with evergreens and Christmas Trees. Celebrations go on for three days.

Czechs eat a soup made of cod roe and tempt each other with tales of a mythical golden pig.



Christmas in Denmark

Christmas in Denmark is supposed to be when a mischievous elf called **Nisse** can have his fun. He is said to live in the lofts of old farmhouses and enjoys playing jokes. He wears gray woolen clothes, a red bonnet, red stockings and white

clogs. Families leave him a bowl of rice pudding or porridge on Christmas Eve to keep his jokes within limits. Usually though he is kind and helpful helping out on the farms and being especially good to the children.

Christmas Eve dinner begins with rice pudding that holds a magic almond inside. Whoever finds the almond receives a prize. They then have goose, red cabbage and browned potatoes. After that lots of pastries and cakes.

The Danish tradition is the **Christmas plate**. This was a tradition in the early days where rich Danes gave plates biscuits and fruit as presents to their servants. These plates were the nicest and best kind and were not used for everyday use, this is the reason why they became so collectable.

They take much pride making their own decorations with bright paper, bits of wood and straw. The parents secretly decorate the tree, and children are not permitted to see the tree until dinner on Christmas Eve. The tree is then lit up and families gather around to sing carols and hymns.

Each Sunday in **Advent**, guests are invited to join in the lighting of the candles on the **Advent crown**. Adults drink a warming mixture of red wine, spices and raisins, and children drink a sweet fruit juice, like strawberry. Everybody eats small cakes of batter which have been cooked over the fire in a special pan, and dusted with icing sugar.

In Denmark Christmas Eve is a special time. It is at this time parents secretly decorate the Christmas tree with home made wood and straw baubles. The children are only able to see the tree before dinner when it is lit up and the family gathers to sing carols and hymns.

In Denmark Christmas Eve is called **Juleaften** and is the biggest occasion of the year. Parties go on all night, with traditional prune-stuffed roast goose, red cabbage, fried pastries, and cinnamon-laced rice pudding called **Grod**.

The Christmas elves called **Julenisse** are appeased with rice pudding, and dishes of seeds are placed outdoors for wild birds.



Christmas in England

The English enjoy beautiful Christmas music. They love to decorate Christmas Trees and hang up evergreen branches.

One England's customs is **munmering**. In the Middle Ages, people called mummers put on masks and acted out Christmas plays. These plays are still performed in towns and villages.

The English gift giver is called **Father Christmas**. He wears a long red or green robe, and leaves presents in stockings on Christmas Eve. However, the gifts are not usually opened until the following afternoon.

Christmas in England began in AD 596, when St Augustine landed on her shores with monks who wanted to bring Christianity to the Anglo Saxons.

Father Christmas delivers them during the night before Christmas. The Children leave an empty stocking or pillowcase hanging at the end of the bed. In the morning they hope it will be full of presents.

In England the day after Christmas is called **Boxing Day** because boys used to go round collecting money in clay boxes. When the boxes were full, they broke them open.

In England Christmas dinner was usually eaten at Midday on December 25, during daylight.

In England, the only thing that people ate on the day before the feast was **Frumenty**, which is, was a kind of porridge made from corn. Over the years the recipe changed. Eggs, fruit, spice, lumps of meat and dried plums were added. The whole mixture was wrapped in a cloth and boiled. This is how plum pudding began.

In England the traditional Christmas dinner is roast turkey with vegetables and sauces. For dessert it is rich, fruity Christmas pudding with brandy sauce. Mince pies, pastry cases filled with a mixture of chopped dried fruit.

In England also they elect **Boy Bishops** in commemoration of St. Nicholas compassion for children. These mock bishops were allowed to do the duties of the ecclesiastic except deliver the Mass.



Christmas in Greece

St. Nicholas is important in Greece as the patron saint of sailors. According to Greek tradition, his clothes are drenched with brine, his beard drips with seawater, and his face is covered with perspiration because he has been working hard against the waves to reach sinking ships and rescue them from the angry sea. Greek ships never leave port without some sort of St. Nicholas icon on board.

On Christmas Eve small boys to the beating of drums and the tinkling of triangles usually sing carols. They go from house to house and are given dried figs, almonds, walnuts and lots of sweets or sometimes small gifts.

After 40 days of fasting, the Christmas feast is looked forward to with great anticipation by adults and children alike. Pigs are slaughtered and on almost every table are loaves of **christopsomo** or "**Christ Bread**". This bread is made in large sweet loaves of various shapes and the crusts are engraved and decorated in some way that reflects the family's profession.

Christmas trees are not commonly used in Greece. In almost every home the main symbol of the season is a shallow wooden bowl with a piece of wire is suspended across the rim; from that hangs a sprig of basil wrapped around a wooden cross. A small amount of water is kept in the bowl to keep the basil alive and fresh. Once a day, a family member, usually the mother, dips the cross and basil into some holy water and uses it to sprinkle water in each room of the house. This ritual is believed to keep the **Killantzaro** away from the house.

There is a tradition **kallikantzeri**, where the mischievous goblins appear from the earth during the 12 days of Christmas.

At Christmas very few presents are given to each other. Instead, small gifts are given to hospitals and orphanages.

Priests sometimes go from house to house sprinkling holy water around to get rid of the bad spirits who may be hiding in people's houses.

In most Greek homes an evergreen tree is decorated with tinsel and a star placed on top. Gifts are exchanged on January 1st, **St Basil's Day**.

On Christmas Eve, groups of people gather around the holiday table. Figs, dried on rooftops are served with the spicy golden **Chrisopsomo** bread.

As people are they greet one another by saying **Hronia polla** or many happy years. The table filled with food may include such dishes as **kourambiethes**, a Greek nut cookie.



Christmas in Greenland

In Greenland there is a lot of visiting of families, drinking coffee and eating cakes, as well as giving of brightly wrapped presents which might consist of a model sledge, a pair of tusks, or even a sealskin mitt.

Everyone in the village gets a gift and children go from hut to hut, singing songs.

Christmas trees are imported and decorated with candles as well as bright ornaments. There is dancing most of the night. After the coffee, cakes and carols everyone is given **Mattak** which is whale skin with a strip of blubber inside is given to everyone. The taste of it is much like coconut, but is tough to chew and is usually just swallowed.

Another food that is eaten is **Kiviak** which consists of raw flesh of an auk which has been buried whole in sealskin for several months until they have reached an advanced stage of decomposition.

This is the one night of which the women are waited on by the men.

There are games played including one in which an object is passed from hand to hand round a long table under the cloth.



Christmas in Iraq

In the Christian homes an unusual ceremony is held in the courtyard of the home on Christmas Eve. One of the children in the family reads the story of the Nativity from an Arabic Bible. The other members of the family hold lighted candles, and as soon as the story has been read a bonfire is lit in one corner of the courtyard. The fire is made of dried thorns and the future of the house for the coming year depends upon the way the fire burns. If the thorns burn to ashes, the family will have good fortune. While the fire is burning, a psalm is sung. When the fire is reduced to ashes, everyone jumps over the ashes three times and makes a wish.

On Christmas day a similar bonfire is built in the church. While the fire burns the men of the congregation chant a hymn. There is a procession in which the officials of the church march behind the bishop, who carries an image of the infant Jesus upon a scarlet cushion. The long Christmas service always ends with the blessing of the people. The bishop reaches forth and touches a member of the congregation with his hand, putting his blessing upon him. That person touches the one next him, and so on, until all have received "the Touch of Peace."



Christmas in Ireland

Christmas in Ireland lasts from Christmas Eve to the feast of the Epiphany on January 6, which is referred to **Little Christmas**. Ireland's Christmas is more religious than a time of fun.

Lighted candles are placed in windows on Christmas Eve, as a guide that Joseph and Mary might be looking for shelter. The candles are usually red in color, and decorated with sprigs of holly.

Irish women bake a **seed cake** for each person in the house. They also make three puddings, one for each day of the **Epiphany** such as **Christmas**, **New Year's Day** and the **Twelfth Night**.

After the Christmas evening meal, bread and milk are left out and the door unlatched as a symbol of hospitality.

St Stephen's Day, the day after Christmas, is almost as important, with football matches and meetings going on. For children, the **Wren Boys Procession** is their big event. Boys go from door to door with a fake wren on a stick, singing, with violins, accordions, harmonicas and horns to accompany them. The reason for the ceremony is to ask for money 'for the starving wren', that is, for their own pockets.

Children often put out Christmas sacks instead of stockings.

It is tradition to leave mince pies and a bottle of Guinness out as a snack for Santa.



Christmas in Italy

The Christmas season in Italy goes for three weeks, starting 8 days before Christmas known as the **Novena**. During this period, children go from house to house reciting Christmas poems and singing.

In some parts shepherds bring musical instruments into the villages, play and sing Christmas songs.

In the week before Christmas children go from house to house dressed as shepherds, playing pipes, singing and reciting Christmas poems. They are given money to buy presents.

A strict fast is observed for 24 hours before Christmas Eve, and is followed by a celebration meal, in which a light Milanese cake called **panettone** features as well as chocolate.

Presents and empty boxes, are drawn from the **Urn of Fate** - lucky dip, which always contains one gift per person. By twilight, candles are lighted around the family crib known as the **Presepio**, prayers are said, and children recite poems.

At noon on Christmas Day the pope gives his blessing to crowds gathered in the huge Vatican square.

In Italy the children wait until Epiphany, January 6, for their presents. According to tradition, the presents are delivered by a kind ugly witch called **Befana** on a broomstick. It was said that she was told by the three kings that the baby Jesus was born, she was busy and delayed visiting the baby.

She missed the Star lost her way and has been flying around ever since, leaving presents at every house with children in case he is there. She slides down chimneys, and fills stockings and shoes with good things for good children and it is said leaves coal for children who are not so good.

On Christmas Eve the dinner is called **cenone** which is a traditional dish of eel.

Christmas lunch is **Tortellini in Brodo** which is filled pasta parcels in broth, also served is **cappone** which is boiled capon, or roasts are served in central Italy.

Another famous cake is **pandoro** which originated from Verona.



Christmas in Philippines

The only Asian nation in which Christianity is the religion chosen by the people. Christmas celebrations start nine days before Christmas with a mass known as **Misa de Gallo**. At this mass the story behind the birth of Christ is read from the Bible.

The **Panunuluyan** pageant is held each Eve. A couple is chosen to re-enact Joseph and Mary's search for shelter.

Mass is held hourly on Christmas Day so that everyone can attend. Religious services include **pastore**, or play, based on myth of the birth of the Christ Child. The pastore closes with a star from the upper part of the church sliding down a wire and coming to rest over the church's Nativity scene.

Christmas celebrations may have evolved from old tribal customs mixed with other influences. Serenading **cumbancheros**, or strolling minstrels, end their performances by singing **Maligayang Pasko** to the tune of "Happy Birthday".



Christmas in Russia

In Russia the religious festival of Christmas is being replaced by the **Festival of Winter** but there are some traditions that are still kept up in some parts of the country.

In the traditional Russian Christmas, special prayers are said and people fast, sometimes for 39 days, until January 6th Christmas Eve, when the first evening star appears in the sky. Then begins a twelve course supper in honor of each of the twelve apostles - fish, beet soup or **Borsch**, cabbage stuffed with millet, cooked dried fruit and much more.

Hay is spread on the floors and tables to encourage horse feed to grow in the coming year and people make clucking noises to encourage their hens to lay eggs.

On Christmas Day, hymns and carols are sung. People gather in churches which have been decorated with the usual Christmas trees or **Yelka**, flowers and colored lights.

Christmas dinner includes a variety of different meats - goose and suckling pig are favorites.

Babushka is a traditional Christmas figure who distributes presents to children. Her name means grandmother and the legend is told that she declined to go with the wise men to see Jesus because of the cold weather. However, she regretted not going and set off to try and catch up, filling her basket with presents. She never found Jesus, and that is why she visits each house, leaving toys for good children.

The role of Father Christmas was played by **Dedushka Moroz** or **Grandfather Christmas**.



Christmas in Ukraine

Sviata Vechera OR "**Holy Supper**" is the central tradition of the beautiful Christmas Eve celebrations in Ukrainian homes. The dinner table sometimes has a few wisps of hay on the embroidered table cloth as a reminder of the manger in Bethlehem.

When the children see the first Star in the eastern evening sky, which symbolizes the trek of the Three Wise Men, the **Sviata Vechera** may begin. In farming communities the head of the household now brings in a sheaf of wheat called the **didukh** which represents the importance of the ancient and rich wheat crops of Ukraine, the staff of life through the centuries. **Didukh** means literally "**grandfather spirit**" so it symbolizes the family's ancestors. In city homes a few stalks of golden wheat in a vase are often used to decorate the table.

A prayer is said and the father says the traditional Christmas greeting, "**Khrystos rodyvsya!**" which translated is **Christ is born!**, which is answered by the family with "**Slavite Yoho!**" which translated is **Let Us Glorify Him!**. In some families the Old Slavic form **Khrystos razhdayetsya** is used.

At the end of the **Sviata Vechera** the family often sings **Kolyadky** which is a Ukrainian Christmas Carols. In many communities the old Ukrainian tradition of caroling is carried on by groups of young people and members of organizations and churches calling at homes and collecting donations.

The favorite Ukrainian carol is **Boh predvichny** meaning **God Eternal** which has a very beautiful melody and lyrics. Some Ukrainian carols are unusual because they mention Ukraine while others are ancient pagan songs of a thousand years ago which have been converted into Christian carols.

Christmas is a joyous day which opens for Ukrainian families with attendance at Church. Ukrainian Churches offer services starting before midnight on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning. Christmas supper, without **Lenten** restrictions, does not have as many traditions connected with it as **Sviata Vechera**. The old tradition in Ukraine of giving gifts to children on St. Nicholas Day, December 19th, has generally been replaced by the Christmas date.

The traditional Christmas customs of Ukraine add color and significance to the winter festival of Christmas, and Ukrainian Christmas on January 7th is usually a peaceful and quiet event. This celebration reminds us of the baby in a Bethlehem manger whose birthday we celebrate. But whether Christmas is celebrated on December 25th or on January 7th the message is the same: "*Peace on Earth! Good will towards men!*"

In the Ukraine, Father Frost visits all the children in a sleigh pulled by only three reindeer.

He brings along a little girl named Snowflake Girl. She wears a silver blue costume trimmed with white fur and a crown shaped like a snowflake.



Christmas in Venezuela

In Venezuela on December 16th families bring out their **pesebres** which is a specially designed and thought out depiction of the nativity scene.

It is a custom to attend at one of nine carol services is observed by most Venezuelans. Firecrackers explode and bells ring to call worshippers from bed in the predawn hours. The last of the masses takes place on **Nochebuena de Navidad** Christmas Eve. Families attend a mass on this night and then return home to a huge and fancy dinner.

On January 6th when the children awaken they will discover that the straw that they had left beside their bed the night before has gone and in its place are gifts the children know that the Magi and their camels have been and when they go to look in the mirror if they have a black smudge on their cheek they know that Balthazar, King of the Ethiopians has kissed them whilst they slept.



Christmas in Wales

The Welsh are great lovers of music and so every year at Christmas, carol singing is the most enjoyed activity. In the churches, they are sung to the harp. They are sung in people's homes around the Christmas tree and at the doors and windows of the houses.

Caroling is called **eisteddfodde** and is often accompanied by a harp. In some rural areas a villager is chosen to be the **Mari Ilwyd**. This person travels around the town draped in white and carrying a horse's skull on a long pole. Anyone given the "bite" by the horse's jaws must pay a fine.

Christmas is spent with lots of people gathering in the public square for the announcement of who, during the year, has won the prize for submitting the best music for a new carol, and the formal pronouncement of it as the carol of the year. This carol is now added to those already known and sung in Wales.

Taffy making is one of the most important of the Welsh Christmas. This involves the making of the special kind of chewy toffee from brown sugar and butter. It is boiled and then pulled so that it becomes lovely and glossy. The Christmas goose is also essential.

The Welsh people maintain most of the traditional customs associated with England such as holly, mistletoe, pudding, carols, Christmas stockings, oranges, crackers and lots of snow.

The carolers make their rounds at dawn on Christmas morning, and families wake from sleep and ask them in for refreshments.



Christmas in Yugoslavia

In Yugoslavia, children celebrate the second Sunday before Christmas as Mother's Day. The children creep in and tie her feet to a chair and shout, "Mother's Day, Mother's Day, what will you pay to get away?" She then gives them presents. Children play the same trick on their father the week after.

Those Yugoslavs who live in the country fear bad luck if their Christmas log burns out and so someone has to stand over the log all Christmas night to ensure it stays lit up.

A Christmas cake called **chestnitsa**, contains a gold or silver coin and is said that whomever gets it can expect lots of good luck. The Yugoslavs eat roast pig as their Christmas dish and it must be carved a particular way, according to old customs.

Every household has a Christmas crib. According to old customs they go on an expedition to the forests to gather moss with which to line the crib. Also families would have an old-fashioned music box that plays Christmas carols.

Can You Find All Nine Reindeers' Names????



You Know You've Had Too Much Christmas Cheer When...

1. You notice your tie sticking out of your fly.
2. Someone uses your tongue for a coaster.
3. You start kissing the portraits on the wall.
4. You see your underwear hanging from the chandelier.
5. You have to hold on to the floor to keep from sliding off.
6. You strike a match and light your nose.
7. You take off your shoes and wade in the potato salad.
8. You hear someone say, "Call a priest!"
9. You hear a duck quacking and it's you.
10. You complain about the small bathroom after emerging from the closet.
11. You refill your glass from the fish bowl.
12. You tell everyone you have to go home... and the party's at your place.
13. You ask for another ice cube and put it in your pocket.
14. You yawn at the biggest bore in the room... and realize you're in front of the hall mirror.
15. You pick up a roll, and butter your watch.
16. You suggest everyone stand and sing the national budget.
17. You're at the dinner table and you ask the hostess to pass a bedpan.
18. You take out your handkerchief and blow your ear.
19. You tell your best joke to the rubber plant.
20. You realize you're the only one under the coffee table.

Office Holiday Memo

To: All Employees
From: Management
Subject: Office conduct during the Christmas season

Effective immediately, employees should keep in mind the following guidelines in compliance with FROLIC (the Federal Revelry Office and Leisure Industry Council).

1. Running aluminum foil through the paper shredder to make tinsel is discouraged.
2. Playing Jingle Bells on the push-button phone is forbidden (it runs up an incredibly long-distance bill)
3. Work requests are not to be filed under "Bah humbug."
4. Company cars are not to be used to go over the river and through the woods to Grandma's house.
5. All fruitcake is to be eaten BEFORE July 25.
6. Egg nog will NOT be dispensed in vending machines.

In spite of all this, the staff is encouraged to have a Happy Holiday