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Visit our website
www.calchess.org
for information about all
of the chess events in Northern
California!

The People will not be denied East Bay Chess Club rescues traditional event

Just when it seemed that our traditional tournament in Berkeley was going the way of the dodo bird, the East Bay Chess Club stepped in and rescued the event. The People's chess festival had to be held over two weekends in order to accommodate the large number of players who wished to participate, given the more limited size of the playing area. The quiet playing conditions of the East Bay club were quite a contrast to the normal drumming that accompanies chess on Berkeley's campus, and at least some players, including me, were greatly distracted by the lack of noise. Although it didn't feel much like the true People's Open, especially since our strongest players stayed away in droves, it was great to see the tradition continued, albeit in different form. I'm sure I'm among the many players who hope that the event returns to the University of California campus next year, but are equally grateful that the East Bay club saved the event this year.

CALCHES STATE SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS



See update on page 16!



Alex Grossman surfs through the field in Australia. See games on page 37.

CalChess Calendar

by Michael Aigner

Check www.calchess.org for all the details and additional listings!

Apr 1	Sat	St. Albans G/30 Championship	Roseville
Apr 1	Sat	<i>St. Albans Scholastic</i>	Roseville
Apr 2	Sun	<i>East Bay Chess Club Scholastic Quads</i>	
Apr 1-2	Sat-Sun	Walter Lovegrove Senior (50+) Open (MIC)	San Francisco
Apr 7-9	Fri-Sun	Far West Open	Reno NV
Apr 8	Sat	<i>Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads (MIC)</i>	San Francisco
Apr 9	Sun	East Bay Chess Club Open Quads (EBC)	Berkeley
Apr 15	Sat	Imre Konig Memorial G/45 (MIC)	San Francisco
Apr 22-23	Sat-Sun	<i>East Bay Chess Club April Scholastic (EBC)</i>	Berkeley
Apr 22-23	Sat-Sun	Frank Doyle Open	Santa Rosa
Apr 29	Sat	<i>Chess Rules! Kids Chess Club Quads</i>	San Jose
Apr 29	Sat	<i>Fremont vs South Bay K-6 Match</i>	San Jose
May 6	Sat	6th Charles Powell Memorial G/45 (MIC)	San Francisco
May 7	Sun	<i>East Bay Chess Club Scholastic Quads (EBC)</i>	Berkeley
May 13	Sat	<i>Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads (MIC)</i>	San Francisco
May 13-14	Sat-Sun	East Bay Chess Club May Swiss (EBC)	Berkeley
May 20-21	Sat-Sun	<i>31st CALCHESS STATE SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS</i>	San Jose
May 27-28	Sat-Sun	California Memorial Day Chess Classic	Cupertino (see p.40)
Jun 3-4	Sat-Sun	43rd Arthur Stamer Memorial (MIC)	San Francisco
Jun 6-Aug 4	Tuesdays	Summer Tuesday Night Marathon (MIC)	San Francisco
Jun 10	Sat	<i>Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads (MIC)</i>	San Francisco
Jun 10	Sat	Eric Schiller Simul at Barnes & Noble (free)	San Bruno
Jun 16-119	Fri-Sun	Las Vegas International Chess Festival	Las Vegas
Jun 17	Sat	6th William Addison Open G/45 (MIC)	San Francisco
Summer	Various	Berkeley Chess School Summer Camps	(See page 39)

BCC	Burlingame Chess Club	www.burlingamechessclub.com
BCS	Berkeley Chess School	www.berkeleychessschool.org
CCC	Coastside Chess Club	www.coastsidechess.us
EBC	East Bay Chess Club	www.eastbaychess.com
KCC	Kolty Chess Club	www.angelfire.com/ca2/kolty/
MIC	Mechanics' Institute CC	www.chessclub.org
SCC	Sacramento Chess Club	www.sacramentochessclub.org
SAK	Success Chess,/Alan Kirshner	www.calnorthyouthchess.org
VAC	Vallejo Chess	firrstbjb@juno.com
VIC	Visalia Chess Club	ffiel@aol.com

People's Open

by Michael Aigner

Is there life after the incessant banging of the bongo drums has been silenced? Chess enthusiasts will be pleased to know that the answer is an emphatic "yes!"

Thanks to 11th hour efforts by the directors of the East Bay Chess Club, the annual People's Chess Tournament was held for the 33rd consecutive year. Traditionalists will complain that the junior high school atmosphere at the EBCC was simply not the same as the grand Pauley ballroom overlooking Sproul Plaza at UC Berkeley. However, this did not matter to the 111 players who showed up over two consecutive weekends in Berkeley. The respectable turnout surprised even the organizers, who increased the prize fund above the advertised amount.

Unfortunately, this tradition almost did not continue when it became clear that the tournament would not be held at the University of California as in past years. The event organizer over many years has been the student activities board (SUPERB) of the Associated Students of the University of California. They were able to secure the spectacular venue at the Martin Luther King student union for a cheaper rental fee than an outside group such as CalChess could obtain. Unfortunately, this year SUPERB declined to participate, citing tighter spending brought on by recent state budget cuts in higher education.

Up to mid January, it was unclear whether there would even be a People's Tournament in 2006.

Various local chess leaders worked behind the scenes in an unsuccessful effort to convince SUPERB to change its decision. The breakthrough came when David Pruess, Andy Lee and Vinay Bhat of the EBCC offered their site as a venue for the tournament. These three young adult masters grew up playing in the annual events at Sproul Plaza and were unwilling to let tradition die so easily--even without the bongo drums.

The only catch was that the tournament would have to be split over three weekends: Class B and Reserve on February 11-12; Open and Class A on February 18-20; and the Young People's scholastic event on February 25-26. Even with an additional upstairs room, the capacity of the EBCC was limited to about 70 players each weekend--a far cry from the 200+ that easily fitted into Pauley ballroom each year. One benefit of the multiple weekend schedule was that some players could enter more than once, a feature that a few serious chess nerds took advantage of!

Play began on February 11 with the under 1800 rated divisions. A total of 51 players attended, about half of whom were juniors. Veteran Ian Jones cruised through the competition in the B section, yielding only a half point in round 3 to the infamous Mr. Bye. The critical last round game pitted Jones at 3.5/4 against the perfect score of teenager Ted Belanoff. Belanoff ended up sharing second place with Brendan MacIntyre.

Four individuals shared top honors at 4.0/5 in the Reserve (under 1600) section: Rahul Desirazu, Tejas Mulye, Vishal Dasari and Michael Shaw. The first three were undefeated, picking up either two draws or one draw and a half point bye. The top board in the final round pitted teenagers Mulye against Dasari in a hard fought draw. Austin Lloyd scored 3.5/5 to take the under 1400 prize.

The competition became more intense on February 18 as 60 players showed up for the start of the over 1800 rated divisions. Youth was served in the A section as it came down to a battle between two of the state's top 10th graders: Daichi Siegrist and Marvin Shu. Siegrist drew in the first round against 1342 rated Ryan Tang, a teammate of Shu at Saratoga High School. However, Shu stumbled in round 2, barely managing to draw a pawn down against Ewelina Krubnik. That set up a showdown in round 5, which Siegrist won convincingly. Consequently Siegrist took clear first with

5.5/6 while Shu earned clear second place with 4.5/6.

Last but not least, the Open section featured five masters: state K-12 champion Nicolas Yap, chess author Eric Schiller, Mike Pearson, Ben Dean-Kawamura and this author. Surprisingly there were only three games between these five heavy hitters: Aigner defeated Dean-Kawamura in round 3 but lost a miniature to Pearson in round 5; then Yap defeated Pearson in the money round. The difference in the standings came in games against the top experts as Yap lost to Daniel Malkiel and Pearson lost to Kimani Stancil. This author, living by the motto "it is better to be lucky than to be good," survived tactical blunders against both Stancil and Malkiel to sweep the experts.

Aigner took clear first with 5.0/6 while Yap shared second place at 4.5/6 with expert Uri Andrews, who defeated Dean-Kawamura in the final round.

Although many juniors had successful results in Berkeley, two noteworthy side stories came with the milestones achieved by a pair of nationally #1 ranked juniors. Playing in the Open section, 10 year old Daniel Naroditsky broke 2000 USCF with an impressive 3.5/5 result. He showed no fear of talented teenagers as he drew master Yap and defeated expert Sam Shankland. Not to be outdone, second grader Nicholas Nip scored 4.0/6 in the A section, losing just once despite playing up 200 rating points almost every round. His rating shot up over 120 points, from 1542 to 1668!

Thanks to the East Bay Chess Club for hosting the People's Tournament and continuing the tradition for a 33rd year! Jamie Sawhill and CalChess President Richard Koepcke shared the TD responsibilities for the 1800+ sections over the 3-day President's Day weekend. One more weekend remains for this event: the Young People's scholastic tournament was held on February 25-26 (K-3 on February 25 only).

See Annotated games starting on page 18!

Top Places in the People's Open

Michael Aigner (5)

Nicholas Yap (4)

Uri Andrews (4)

Michael Pearson (4)

Michael Zhong (4)

Tournament Crosstable:

www.eastbaychess.com/tourney/results06/peoples.html

EBCC Record 88 attend Young People's Tournament

by Andy Lee

The East Bay Chess Club hosted a record 88 players for this year's version of the Young People's Tournament. Without use of the gym for the weekend, the tournament was supposed to be limited to the first 70 entrants, but directors Bhat and Lee noticed the night before the event that they already had 88 pre-registered. Fortunately, more chairs, tables, and space were found, perhaps at the expense of room for parents, and only a few late arrivals had to be turned away the next day. For a tournament notorious for its late starts, directors Bhat and Sawhill did a magnificent job, starting the first round only 30 minutes late and catching up with the round times throughout the day.

The greatest success of the weekend, of course, was the ever improving skill of the many scholastic players, whose ages ranged from four (!) to seventeen. The 26 youngest, in the K-3 section played five games all on Saturday, and top seed Neel Apte managed to avoid upset, winning first place on tiebreaks with 4.5/5. He gave up a draw only to Kyle Shin, who got second place; both won a free lesson with EBCC instructors. 3rd-4th was shared between Sophia Luo and Skye Lewis, with 4/5, both losing to the dangerous Joshua Chan! Alex Zinoman and Chan shared 5th-6th with 3.5/5, as Chan had the tough assignment of playing Apte in the last round.

The 4-12 division drew 62 players, but not one of them finished with a perfect score; a clear testament to the fighting spirit of those at the top. Class C-player Saveen Sahni placed clear first with 5.5/6; he was nicked for draw in the last round by third place finisher Steven Liu. Top seed Rahul Desirazu came in second, tied with Liu and fourth place finisher Aamir Azhar with 5/6. Azhar's performance was especially impressive, as his 1157 rating going into the tournament projected a finish in the mid-teens; instead he found himself among the 1500s on the last day. 4.5/6 was good for 5th-9th and the trophies ran out in the 4/6 point grouping. As a director and observer, it was perhaps the hardest fought tournament I have witnessed to date at the EBCC.

Congratulations again to all the participants and to all their parents who sacrificed their weekends in order to let them compete. With any luck the People's will return next year to the larger and more traditional venue at UC Berkeley, but in any event, this year's edition must be considered a success.



Photos from the People's Tournaments

by Michael Aigner, Mark Shelton and Richard Shorman





Gibraltar Chess Festival

by Eric Schiller



There is a new contender for the title of world's greatest tournament. The chess festival in the tiny nation of Gibraltar each January has become a top destination for international chess players of all ratings and experience. The annual event will more than double the prize fund next year, which should ensure that it will continue to draw some of the world's greatest players to participate. This year, the distinguished field included Victor Korchnoi, Nigel Short, Alexei Shirov, Viktor Bologan, and a large contingent of women including many of the top players. The tournament draws special interest from female players because of the special prizes, which will increase to over \$15,000 next year.

This year I was brought in to be one of the arbiters, but an unfortunate medical incident involving organizer Stewart Reuben at the start of the event forced me to wear a variety of hats. I wound up directing the FIDE arbiters course as well as visiting local schools but I was also lucky enough to play a couple of games. In Gibraltar, they offer a person do for a buy the opportunity to play against a FIDE rated opponent drawn from the orbiting staff. The arbiters are no pushovers, in fact this year the arbiters won all of the six games in which they participated!

It isn't just the prizes that draw the players to Gibraltar. The tiny nation has many attractions and the playing facilities are among the best I've ever seen. The players engage in combat in a comfortable room with spectacular views of the Mediterranean at the host Caleta Hotel. The professionals play in the afternoons, starting at three o'clock, while the amateur events take place in the morning. This means that the amateur players can watch the professional players compete, but allegedly schedule also allows for a lot of socializing in the hotel's comfortable lounge. The amateurs don't just get to meet the stars and get an autograph or two, but can sit down and have long conversations with them. Some of the top grandmasters even offer to analyze games from the amateur event, and it seems that whenever there is a chessboard set up there are some good players hanging around.

The Masters event uses a modified version of a traditional time control, with the first 40 moves played in 80 minutes plus a one minute increment for each move. After that the players receive another 40 minutes, also with the one minute increment. Personally, I don't like increments in the first time control, I consider them an abomination against the sporting aspect of the game, but it is certainly much easier to be an arbiter when there is no serious time scramble. Even with accelerated pairings, there is a good chance to play a top player and upsets are not uncommon. The biggest shock of this year was English grandmaster Peter Wells upset of Alexei Shirov of in just 13 moves, following a line that Wells had published in his book on the Trompowsky attack. Shirov was also unable to dispatch an Italian juke of the, who earned a draw in what must have been one of the most unpleasant tournament experiences of the year for the Spanish star.

1st Kiril Georgiev	Bulgaria	8.5	£6000
2= Nigel Short	England	7.5	£3500
Emil Sutovsky	Israel	7.5	£3500
4= Vl. Akopian	Armenia	7	£715
Alex Areshchenko	Ukraine	7	£715
Zahar Efimenko	Ukraine	7	£715
Mikhail Gurevich	Turkey	7	£715
Zoltan Gyiesi	Hungary	7	£715
Alexi Shirov	Spain	7	£715
Sergey Volkov	Russia	7	£715

Women's

1= Ant. Stefanova	Bulgaria	6.5	£1000
Chen Zhu	China	6.5	£1000
Natalia Zhukova	Ukraine	6.5	£1000
U18 Mary Gomes	India	5.5	£375
Kruttika Nadig	India	5.5	£375



The spectacular Caleta Hotel on the rock of Gibraltar

Games from Gibraltar

Annotated by Eric Schiller

1 French Defense C11

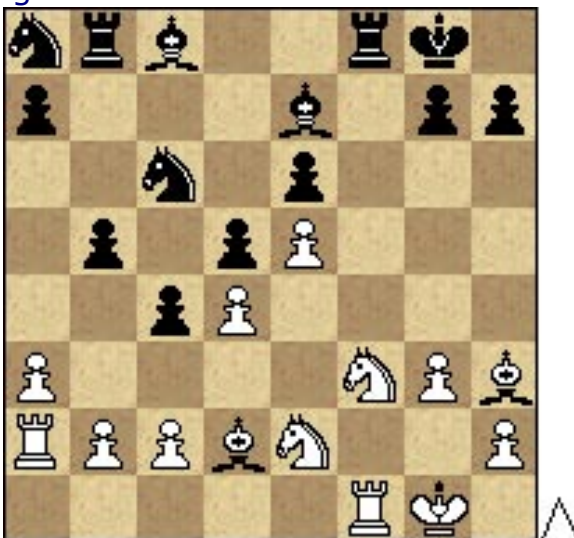
Viktor Bologan vs. Viktor Korchnoi

1:0 (Gibtelecom Masters) 1/29/2006

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. f4 c5 6. Nf3 Nc6 7. Be3 Rb8 8. Qd2 Qa5 9. a3 A new move, intended to discourage use of b4 by Black and make a2 available for the rook.



9... b5 10. Ra2 to break the pin 10... c4 11. f5 Be7 12. fxe6 fxe6 13. g3 O-O 14. Bg2 Nb6 15. O-O Na4 16. Ne2 Qxd2 17. Bxd2 Nb6 18. Bh3 Na8 A strange move, the idea is to get to c7.

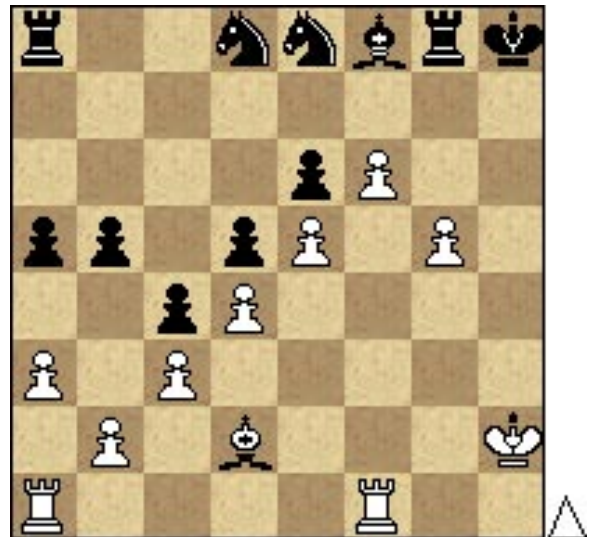


19. Bg4 Nc7 20. h4 a5 21. c3 Bd7 22. Nf4 Nd8 This retreat is to get the knight to f7. 23. Raa1 Nf7 24. Bh3 Ra8 25. g4 Nd8

Black is playing with drunken knights! 26. g5 Nc6 27. Nh5 Kh8



28. Nf6!! Bologan sacrifices a piece! 28... gxf6 29. gxf6 Rg8+ 30. Kh2 Bf8 31. Ng5 Threatening Nf7 mate! 31... Nd8 32. Bg4 h6 33. Bh5 hxg5 34. hxg5 Be8 35. Bxe8 Nxe8 All of Black's pieces are stuck on the back rank!

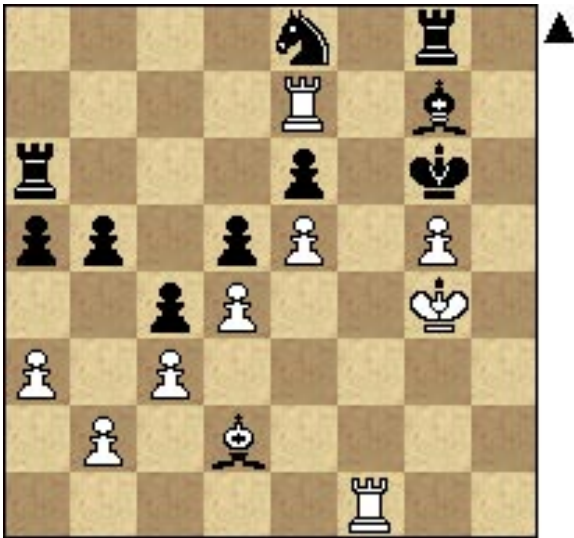


36. f7 Nxf7? Nigel Short felt that this was a major error and that Korchnoi's sense of danger had let him down.

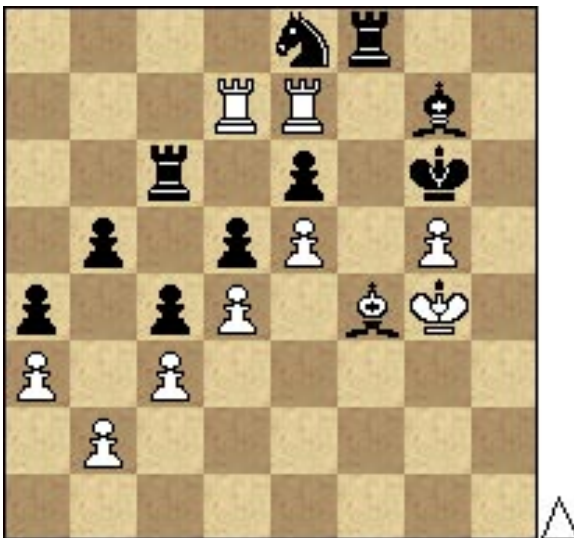
36... Nc6 37. fxf6=Q+ Kxg8 38. g6 Ne7 39. Rg1 Nf5 was a more solid alternative.

37. Rxf7 Bg7 38. Raf1 The rook will soon

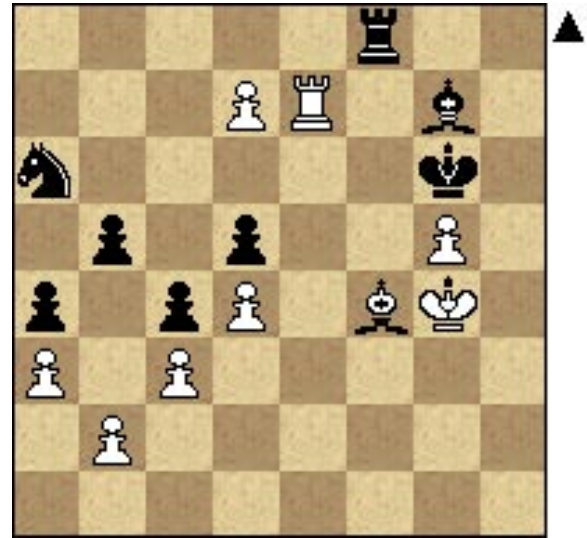
join his colleague on the 7th rank. **38... Kh7 39. Re7 Ra6** To protect the pawn at e6. **40. Kg3 Kg6 41. Kg4!** The king will help with the attack.



41... Rc6 42. Rff7 Rc8 43. Rb7 Rh8 Black hopes to activate the rook. **44. Rfe7 Rc6 45. Bf4 a4** Black is running out of moves. **45... Rf8!? 46. Rbd7 Rf8**



47. Rd8! Now the knight is under attack from both rooks! **47... Nc7 48. Rd6! Rxd6** Forced. **49. exd6 Na6 50. Rxe6+ Kf7 51. Re7+ Kg6 52. d7** Black resigned.



...

52... Rd8 53. Re6+ Kf7 54. Rxa6 Rxd7 55. g6+ Ke8 56. Be5 Bxe5 57. Ra8+ Ke7 58. dxe5 Ke6 59. Re8+ Re7 60. Rxe7+ Kxe7 61. Kf5 Kf8 62. e6 Ke7 63. g7 White wins.

2 Trompowsky Attack A45 Peter Wells vs. Alexei Shirov 1:0 (Gibtelecom Masters) 1/29/2006

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 c5 3. Bxf6 gxf6 4. d5 4. dxc5 Qa5+ 5. Nc3 Qxc5=
- 4... Qb6 5. Qc1 f5 The most popular move.
6. c4 6. e3 is more common.
- 6... Bh6?! 6... Bg7 7. Nc3 d6 8. e3 Nd7 9. Nf3 Nf6 is much more solid.
7. e3 f4 7... d6 8. Nc3 Nd7 is a good alternative.
8. exf4 Bxf4 A temporary sacrifice, because Black will win the rook at a1.



9. Qxf4 Qxb2 10. Ne2 Qxa1 11. Nec3
 Black is going to have some trouble getting his queen back into the game.



11... Qb2?!
 11... d6 is better, to keep White from getting there first. 12. Bd3 Qb2 13. O-O Nd7 14. Nb5 (14. Qg5 Ne5 15. Qg7 Rf8 16. Qxh7 Bd7 and Black will be able to castle on the queenside.) 14... Ne5 15. Qe3 O-O 16. Qg5+ Ng6 17. N1c3 Qb4 18. Bxg6 (18. Ne4 f5 19. Ng3 Qb2 20. Nh5 (20. Nc7 Rb8 21. Bxf5 Qf6! 22. Qxf6 Rxf6 23. Bxc8 Rxc8 24. Ne6 Nf4! Black is better.) 20... Bd7 21. Nc7 Rac8 22. Ne6 Bxe6 23. dxe6 Qe5 Black went on

to win, Hennig vs. G. Wall, Richmond (England) 1994) 18... hxc6 19. Qxe7 Bf5 20. Ne4 Bxe4 21. Qxe4 Rfd8 22. Qf4 Rd7 23. Nxd6 Qb6 24. Ne4 f5 25. Ng5 with good prospects for White.

12. d6 Qc2 13. Qe3! Here Shirov resigned. The position really is hopeless. It was analyzed already in Peter Wells own book on the Trompovsky Opening, which Shirov obviously hadn't studied!



...

13... Nc6 14. Bd3 Qb2 15. O-O b6 (15... e6 16. Re1 Nd4 17. Nd5 Kd8 18. Qg5+ f6 19. Qxf6+ Ke8 20. Qe7#) 16. Re1 e6 17. Re2 Qa1 18. a3 eventually followed by Ra2.

1:0

3 English Opening A28
Zahar Efimenko vs. Julen L. Arizmendi Martinez

0:1 (Gibtelecom Masters) 1/27/2006

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. d4 e4 5. Ng5 h6

5... Bb4 6. d5 Bxc3+ 7. bxc3 Nb8 8. g3 d6 9. Bg2 Qe7 10. c5 Bf5 11. cxd6 cxd6 12. O-O h6 13. Nh3 O-O= 0-1, Van Den Donk vs. Lemmers, Enschede (Netherlands) 1994.

6. d5 hxg5

6... Na5 7. Ngxe4 Nxc4 8. Qd4 Nb6 9.

Qe5+ Qe7 10. Nxf6+ gxf6 11. Qxc7 with a clear advantage for White. Koval vs. Mihalik Marek, Topolcianky (Slovakia) 1993.

7. dxc6 g4

7... Bc5!?

8. cxb7 Bxb7 9. Bf4 e3 10. Bxe3 g3!

11. fxg3 Ng4



12. Qd4

12. Bg1 Bd6 13. Qd3 to protect g3 13... Qg5 with good play on the dark squares.

12... Nxe3 13. Qxe3+ Be7 14. Qd3 Rb8

15. e4 Bc6 attacking b2 16. Be2

16. Rb1!?

16... Rxb2 17. O-O Bc5+ 18. Kh1 Qg5

19. Rf4 Bd6 20. Rg4



20... Rxh2+!! The 1000 pound move! 21. Kg1 Qc5+ 22. Black resigned.

The game might have concluded 22. Kxh2 Qh5+ 23. Rh4 Qxh4+ 24. Kg1 Bc5+ 25. Kf1 Qh1#

4 Nimzo-Indian Defense E30 Toby Stock, vs. Ajoy Solomon

1:0 (Gibtelecom Masters) 1/27/2006

1. d4 e6 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Bg5 h6

5. Bh4 O-O 6. e3 d5 7. cxd5



7... g5?

7... exd5 should be played right away.

8. Bg3 exd5 9. Bd3 c6 10. Qc2 Be6 11. Nf3 Nbd7 12. O-O Nh5 13. Be5

13... Bg4??



13... Nxe5 14. Nxe5 Bd6=

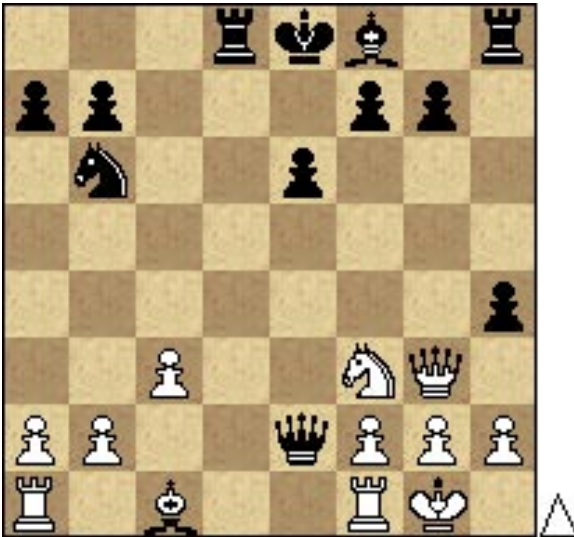
14. Bh7# 1:0

5 Alapin Sicilian B22

Inna Agrest vs. Mary Gomes

0:1 (Gibtelecom Masters) 1/26/2006

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. d4 cxd4
5. Nf3 Nc6 6. Bc4 Nb6 7. Bb3 d5 8.
exd6 Qxd6 9. O-O Be6 10. Bxe6 Qxe6
11. Nxd4 Nxd4 12. Qxd4 Rd8 13. Qh4
Qe2 14. Nd2 e6 15. Qg3 h5 16. Nf3
h4



17. Nxh4??

17. Qc7 Qa6 18. Bg5 f6 19. Bxh4 Nd5
kick! 20. Qg3 g5 21. Bxg5 fxg5 22.
Qxg5 Be7 23. Qg6+ Kd7 24. Rfd1
Kc8 Black is clearly better, Morvay
vs. Hardicsay, Budapest 1982.

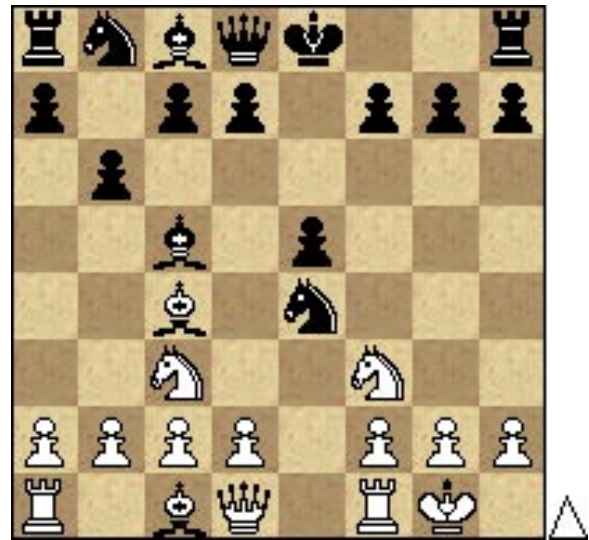
17... Rxh4 18. Qxh4 Rd1 0:1

6 Vienna Game C26

Manuel Matto vs. Diana Mihajlova

1:0 (Gibtelecom Masters) 1/25/2006

1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Bc4 b6? 4. Nf3
Bc5 5. O-O Nxe4?



6. Bxf7+!?

6. Nxe4! d5 7. Nxc5! dxc4 8. Nxe5!
bxc5 9. Qf3! O-O 10. Qxa8 White
wins.

6... Kxf7 7. Nxe4 Re8 8. Nfg5+ Kg8 9.
Qh5 d5 10. Qxh7+ Kf8 11. Qh8+ Black
resigned. ...

11... Ke7 12. Qxg7#

7 Two Knights Defense C56

Klaus Kuenitz vs. Willem Pannekoek

0:1 (Gibtelecom Masters) 2/ 2/2006

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d4
exd4 5. O-O Nxe4 6. Nxd4 d5 7. Bb5
Bd7 8. Nxc6 bxc6 9. Bd3 Bd6 10. f3
Qh4 11. f4 Resigned.



11... Bc5+ 12. Kh1 Ng3#

8 Bird Opening A03

Jorge F. Chico vs. Eric Schiller

0:1 (Gibtelecom Masters) 1/24/2006

1. e3 d5 2. f4 g6 3. Nf3 Bg7 4. Be2 Nc6
5. d4 Nf6 6. O-O O-O 7. c3 Ne4 8. Nbd2
Nxd2 9. Bxd2 Bf5 10. Qe1 f6 11. Qh4
Be4 12. g4 Bh8 13. c4 e6 14. Rac1 Rf7
15. cxd5 Bxd5 16. b3 a5 17. Bd3



17... a4 A deliberate, but unsound sacrifice.

17... Nb4 18. Bb1 Qf8=

18. e4 Bxe4

18... Bxb3 19. Rxc6! bxc6 20. axb3
axb3 21. Bc4 b2 22. Bc3 Rb8 23. Rb1
with a clear advantage for White.

19. Bxe4 Nxd4 20. Rcd1!

20. Nxd4?? Qxd4+ 21. Qf2 Qxe4
with a clear advantage for Black.

20. Bxb7!? Ne2+ 21. Kg2 Nxc1
(21... Rb8 22. Rce1 Rxb7 23. Rxe2
axb3 24. axb3 Rxb3 with a clear
advantage for White.) 22. Bxa8 Nxa2
(22... Nxb3 23. axb3 Qxa8 24. Ra1!
a3 25. Bc1 a2 26. Qf2) 23. Bc6 axb3
24. Qe1 with a clear advantage for
White.

20... axb3 21. Be3

21. axb3 f5 22. Qxd8+ Rxd8 23.
gxf5 Rfd7! (23... exf5 24. Bd3 b5

25. Nxd4 Bxd4+ 26. Kg2 with a
clear advantage for White.) 24. fxe6
Nxf3+ 25. Bxf3 Rxd2 26. Rxd2 Rxd2
27. Bxb7 Kf8 28. f5 Bd4+ 29. Kh1
Ke7 30. fxc6 hxc6 31. Bd5 Bf6 32.
Bc4=

21... c5 22. Nxd4 cxd4 23. axb3 Rd7
24. Bf2 Qb6 25. Rd3 Ra2 26. Qh3 f5
27. gxf5 exf5 28. Bg2

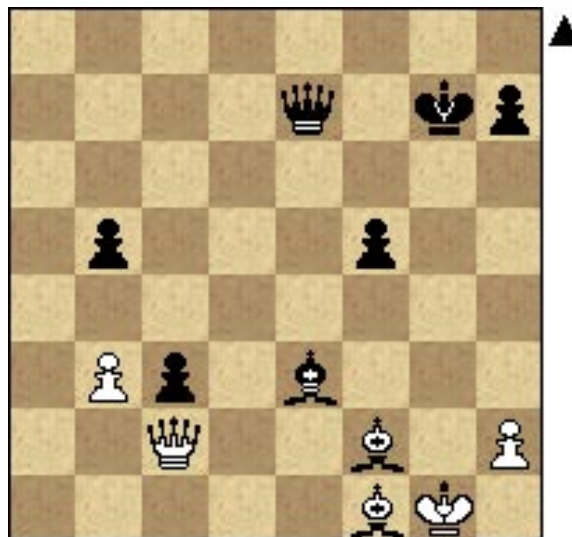
28. Bf3

28... Qc7 29. Qf3 Rc2 30. Re1 Bf6 31.
Qd1 Rc3 32. Bg3 Re7 33. Bd5+ Kg7 34.
Rxe7+ Qxe7 35. Bc4 g5 36. fxc6 Bxc6
37. Rxc3 dxc3 38. Qc2 b5! 39. Bf1

39. Bd3 f4 40. Bf2 b4 41. Bxh7

39. Bxb5?? Qc5+ 40. Bf2 Qxb5 41.
Qxc3+ Kg6=

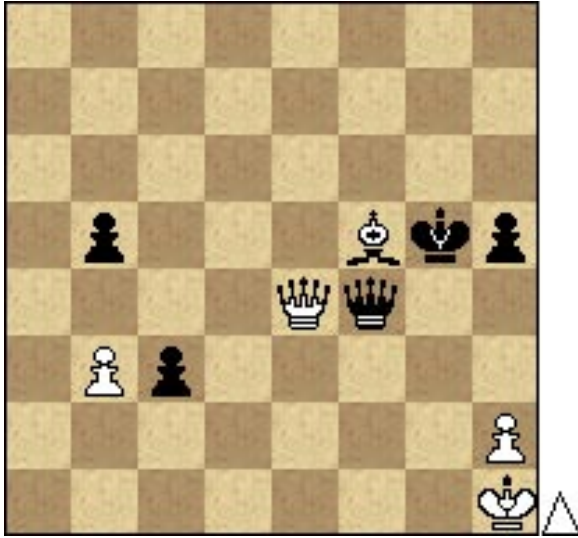
39... Be3+ 40. Bf2



40... Qg5+! 41. Kh1 Bxf2 42. Qxf2 Qc1
43. Qg1+ Kh6 44. Bd3 Qd2 45. Qb1
45. Qd4

45... Kg5 46. Bxf5? h5 47. Qe4
47. Bh7!?

47... Qf4!! The offer to exchange queens
must have come as a surprise.



48. Qxf4+??

48. h4+ Qxh4+ 49. Qxh4+ Kxh4 50. Kg2 Kg5 51. Bd3 Kf4 52. Kf2 b4 =

48... Kxf4 49. Bg6 Ke3 50. Kg2 Kd2

51. Kf3 c2 52. Bxc2 Lost on Time ...

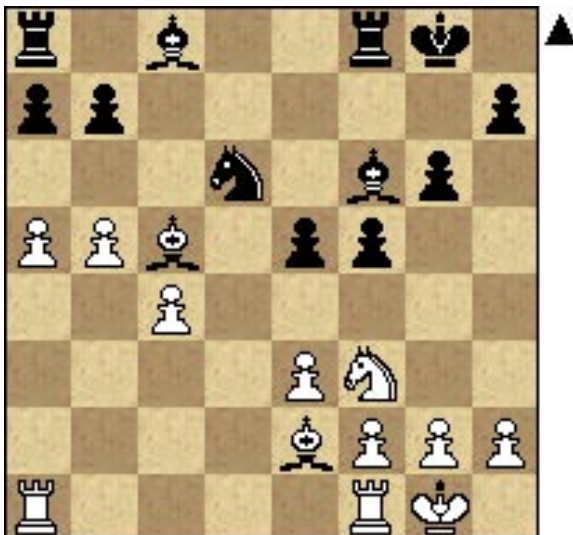
52... Kxc2 53. Kf4 Kxb3 Black wins.

9 King's Indian Defense E61

Eric Schiller vs. Laila Elamri

1:0 (Gibtelecom Masters) 1/25/2006

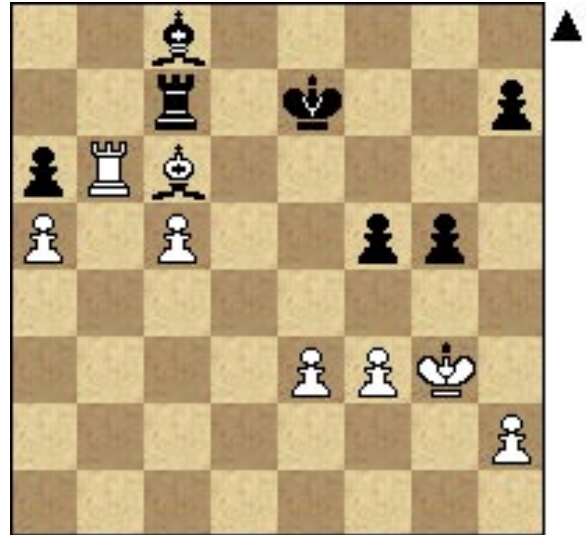
1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 O-O 5. e3 d6 6. Be2 Nbd7 7. O-O e5 8. b4 Qe7 9. a4 c6!? 10. a5! Ne8 11. Bb2 f5 12. b5 Ndf6 13. dxe5 dxe5 14. Ba3 c5 15. Nd5 Qd6 16. Nxf6+ Bxf6 17. Qxd6 Nxd6 18. Bxc5 with a clear advantage for White.



18... Rd8 19. Bxd6 Rxd6 20. c5! Rd8 21. Bc4+ Kg7 22. Rad1 e4 23. Nd4 a6 24. bxa6 bxa6 25. Nc6 Re8 26. Rd6 Be7 27. Nxe7 Rxe7 28. Rb1! Rc7 29. Bd5 Raa7 30. Rc6

30. c6 Kf8 31. Rd8+ Ke7 32. Rh8 Kd6 33. Rd1 Kc5 34. Rd8 with a clear advantage for White.

30... Rxc6 31. Bxc6 Kf6 32. f3 exf3 33. gxf3 Ke7 34. Rb6 Rc7 35. Kf2 g5 36. Kg3



36... Bd7

36... h5 37. h4 g4 38. e4! fxe4 39. fxe4 Kd8 40. e5 Re7 41. Kf4 Rf7+ 42. Ke3 Rf5 43. Bd5 Rxe5+ 44. Kd4 Re2 45. Rh6 g3 46. Rxh5 Bh3 47. Rg5 g2 48. h5 Rd2+ 49. Ke5 Re2+ 50. Kd6 Re8 51. Bxg2 Bxg2 52. Rxg2 Rh8 53. Rg6 Rxh5?? 54. Rg8#

37. Bxd7 Kxd7 38. Rxa6 Rxc5 39. Ra7+ Kc6 40. a6! Kb6 41. Rxh7 Kxa6 42. Rg7 Rc3 43. Rxg5 Rxe3 44. Rxf5 Kb6 45. Rd5 White wins. Kc6 46. Rd2 Re7 47. f4 Rg7+ 48. Kf3 Rh7 49. f5 Rf7 50. Kg4 resigns. 1:0

CalChess Scholastic Update

by Alan Kirshner



I presented the following report to the CalChess Board of Directors on January 14, 2006. I have done a bit of editing for the benefit of the general public:

Richard Koepcke, as CalChess President, has signed the San Jose Convention Center Contract for 2006. He has also signed the San Jose Hilton agreement that includes a commitment for 65 room nights at a rental cost of \$99—up to two adults and two children. Last year I had 98 room nights used & had committed to 97. The Hilton contract also includes 3 Team Rooms to add to the 3 at the Convention Center + a room for bughouse on Friday night (6-11PM, San Carlos) and one for the Coaches Meeting on Sunday Morning (10-Noon, Plaza Room). All the Team Rooms are now taken: CC F1 & F2 (Heather); CC H (Marin County Chess); SJH Pacific (Fox); SJH San Carlos (Weibel); SJH University (Mission San Jose ES).

There is an outside possibility I might be able to get one or two more rooms at the San Jose Hilton if they are still available. However, I would likely have to charge a bit more for these rooms as the cost for these rooms would likely be higher than the ones I have booked as they would not be tied to a room night guarantee.

I have submitted the tournament announcement to Chess Life and it will appear in two issues-April May. I have received the mailing labels from the USCF for Clubs and individual players. I will do a full printing sometime this week. I usually send out the applications around January 1, but since the Tournament is 6 weeks later I think February 1 - 15 or there about is what I will shoot for. My envelope stuffing licking staff is in place. I have distributed 1000 applications from the first printing that lack full info--they have gone to people attending tournaments in December and to coaches at the Stockton CalNorth Grade Level. What is missing that will be on the big printing (4000 forms) is the hotel information, Bughouse, the change in the Coaches meeting to Sunday, a short lecture and simul by NM Eric Schiller (Saturday night from 8 to 11) and that Jay Blem from National Chess will have the main concession.

Think Like a King software will likely be there to sell, but did not want to provide sponsorship with software for the winners as they felt it would cut into sales. They will provide the 10% of sales. Salman feels fairly certain that we will have towels and baseball caps for our winners & a BMX bike to give away as I did last year. Vladimir Naroditsky is working on sponsorships to cover trophy costs or to add to Boards. I will include paid ads on the T-shirts and in the program. The cost will soon be published from the <http://www.CalChessScholastics.org> page. Meanwhile, anyone interest can contact me at alan.kirshner@comcast.net.

Those that want a non-profit donation will have to contribute to the CalNorth Scholarship fund & the fund will write the check to CalChess. CalChess does not have 501 3c status. CalNorth Scholarship Fund will also provide financial aid to any student on the school lunch programs until the funds are exhausted. Of course, discounts to players who are not on school lunch programs but can verify financial need or teams from inner city schools will receive discounted entries.

Bob Blatt and I worked on the trophy, pin and medal order before I left for Tahoe. We are working with Doris Bros. Bob has worked with them before and they are much cheaper than either Crown Trophies or Alpine

Awards. The only problem could be breakage during mailing on the very large trophies. Our first place in the Championship divisions will be 42 inches. I have two possibilities here. I will get them early and repair, but that does create a problem of where to work on them and where to store 560 trophies. The second option is the one I hope I can get. The company does a lot of Karate tournaments. They deliver the awards to the tournaments for no extra cost and they will even set up an engraving machine to place the winners names on the trophy plates for \$3 a plate. I will know more after I finish the spread sheet with all the engraving and colors and send it to our company representative. I have done all the sizes and numbers. While I was in Tahoe, Bob mailed the company representative a copy of the pins and medals I made up last year. I must also send them the artwork for the pins and the medals. I plan on doing all this tomorrow. When this is submitted I will get a contract and I will see if it is within the awards budget of \$8000.

The application has been up online for over a month.

(<http://www.CalChessScholastics.org>) I did do one revision online with the hotel information. I will update the online site and the paper application shortly. The online site will contain links to various pieces of information and updates about the tournament.

By the way, you can see the entry way from the Hilton into the Convention Center at: <http://www.emarketing360.com/Hilton/CA/HTSJf/java/hs21.html>

You can see the hotel & convention center floor plan at: <http://www.emarketing360.com/Hilton/CA/HTSJf/hs-floorplan.html>

While I have not seen the agenda for today's meeting, I do have two requests from the Board that I hope can be discussed and acted on:

1) I think it would be prudent, financially wise and ease my work, if I were to volunteer to do this task next year, to book the San Jose Convention Center for 2007 when the treasurer is secure that we have enough funds to cover the 25% deposit on the \$11,000 cost—I think that was the requested deposit. The cost is accurate.

2) Since it does look like the Coaches meeting will have a fair number of topics to discuss and vote on in the 2 hour allotted time, I believe, that Eric Hicks, one of the three members on the Board's Scholastic Committee who spent a load of time recently studying Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, would be the best person to run the meeting efficiently and effectively. I know that Eric and I have had some strong public clashes on the forum a while back, and I might note even more recently in private e-mail, but I think that aids his credentials to chair the meeting fairly and as a scholastic coach.

Chess is Forever,
Alan

Alan M. Kirshner,
Organizer of the 2006 CalChess State Scholastic Championships

Michael Aigner annotates ...

by Michael Aigner

Michael Aigner vs, S. Jahedi French Defense [C11]

This is hardly the first time that Jahedi and I have met. In fact, our first game was in Dallas at the 1998 Pan American Intercollegiate Championship. I played board 4 for Stanford University while Jahedi represented the University of Chicago. 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 dxe4 5. Nxe4 Be7 6. Bxf6 Bxf6 7. Nf3 Nd7 8. Bd3 O-O 9. Qe2 c5 10. O-O-O Qc7 11. Kb1 b6 12. Nxf6+ Nxf6 13. Qe5 Qb8 14. dxc5 Qxe5 15. Nxe5 bxc5 16. f3 Bb7 17. Rd2 Rad8 18. Rhd1 Rd5 19. f4 g6 20. g3 Rfd8 21. Kc1 Kf8 22. c3 Ne8 23. Be2 Rxd2 24. Rxd2 Rxd2 25. Kxd2 Nf6 While the first 25 moves of the game were interesting, I would like to focus on the minor piece endgame. White has a substantial advantage here because of his superior knight. He uses this knight to steer towards an ending of good bishop against bad bishop.



26. g4! Ke7? This is the first positional error. In order to avoid an unfavorable bishop endgame, Black needs to place as many of his pawns as possible on dark squares. Subsequently, Black's king can more easily defend a single weakness on f7 than an additional one on h7. In other words, Black must advance h7-h6 before White plays g4-g5.

26... h6! 27. h4 Ke7 28. g5 hxg5 29. fxe5

27. g5 Now White is extremely happy. In case of a bishop endgame, Black now has four weaknesses: isolated pawns on a7 and c5 plus pawns stuck on White squares at f7 and h7. Even the endgame of White knight against Black's bishop is pleasant since the knight can hop to f7 at the right moment. **27... Nd7?** The text is utter suicide. Black must keep his knight with Ne4+ and start praying.

27... Nd5? This is just as bad as the game. 28. Bf3 Ba6 (28... Ba8 29. c4 Nb6 30. Bxa8 Nxa8 31. Nc6+) 29. Bxd5 exd5 30. b4! cxb4 31. cxb4 Bb5 32. Kc3 f6 33. Nf3 fxe5 34. fxe5 Kd6 35. Kd4 Black's bishop watches helplessly as White's king and knight will dominate the board.;

27... Ne8?! 28. Nd3 Kd6 29. a3 Black's position is extremely passive and his pawn weaknesses aren't going to disappear anytime soon.;

27... Ne4+ 28. Ke3 Nd6 29. Bd3 Bd5 30. a3 No doubt that White is better, but finding a clear win is not simple.

28. Nxd7 Kxd7 29. b4! White gains space and puts his pawns on dark squares in order to maximize his bishop's mobility. 29... Kd6 30. Ke3 Bc6 31. b5 While it is usually undesirable to put a pawn on the color of the bishops, in this case the b-pawn is not stuck on b5. In fact, it aspires to becoming a queen some day. 31... Bd5 32. c4? This careless move doesn't throw away the win, but makes White's task a little more difficult. White just committed the very same positional error that Black had been guilty of in this game: fixing his pawns on the color of the bishops. Much better was a2-a4-a5.

32. a4 Kc7 33. a5 Kd6 34. h4 Kc7 35. h5 Kd6 36. h6 This sequence is similar to the game. 36... Kc7 37. Bd3 Kd6 38. Be4! Bc4 (38... Kc7 39. Kd3 Kd6 40. c4 Bxe4+ 41. Kxe4 White wins. All bishop trades lead to a simple pawn endgame win. White threatens to walk in with the king on the juicy dark squares.) 39. b6! axb6 40. axb6 Bd5 41. Kd3! Ba2



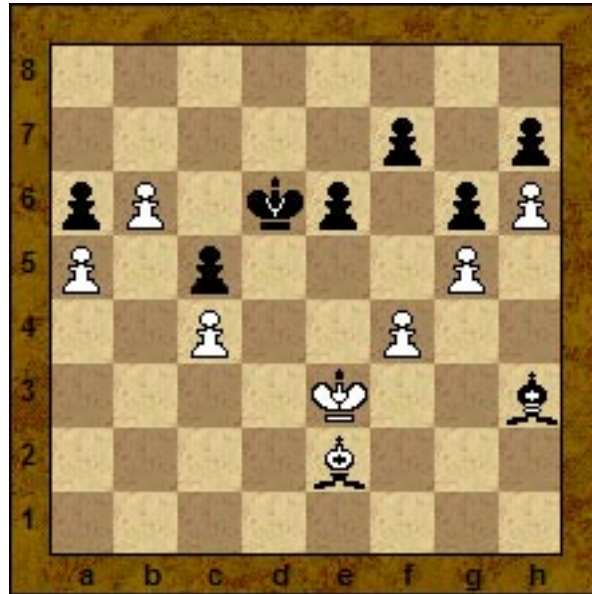
WHITE TO MOVE AND WIN!

42. Ba8! Bd5 43. b7 Kc7 44. c4! Bg2 45. b8=Q+ Kxb8 46. Bxg2 White wins.

32... Bg2! This is the most stubborn reply. Black seeks to attack the c4 weakness via Bf1. 33. a4 Kc7 34. a5 Kd6? Black's king needs to stay near b7 to avoid the tactic on move 36. 35. Bf3 Bf1 36. b6! a6

36... axb6 37. a6 The a-pawn can't be stopped!

37. Be2 Now we see why the careless c3-c4 move creates a headache for White. However, he is still winning. 37... Bg2 38. h4 Kd7 39. h5! Kd6 40. h6 By pushing the h-pawn, White exploits the failure to play h7-h6 on move 25. This prepares one additional tactic that will be handy later on. 40... Bh3



WHITE TO MOVE AND WIN!

Hint: If your opponent's position just *looks* bad but you can't find a way to break in, then try to change the pawn structure. ANSWER: Sacrifice the f-pawn in order to either deflect Black's bishop or expose the f7 weakness.

41. Bd1?

41. f5!! Bxf5 (41... exf5 42. Bf3 Bf1 43. Bd5 The bishop conveniently defends and attacks simultaneously. 43... Kd7 44. Bxf7 Bg2 45. Bxg6; 41... gxf5 42. Bh5 Bg2 43. Bxf7 Ke7 44. g6 Flashy tactics! 44... hxg6 45. h7; 41... Bg2 42. fxg6 fxg6 43. Bd3 Now we see the importance of the mini maneuver h2-h4-h5-h6. 43... Ke7 44. Bxg6 hxg6 45. h7) 42. Bf3 Now Black's bishop can't attack c4 and White has time to grab a6. 42... Bh3 43. Bb7 Bf1 44. Bxa6

41... Bg2 42. Ba4 Sadly, I was still under the illusion that this game would win itself. Bad Michael, very bad! Of course, White can always return to the same position and play f4-f5 later, but first I needed to actually find that idea.

42... Bb7 43. Bd1 Bg2 44. Bf3 Bf1 45. Be2? Again f4-f5 wins. I still wasn't looking for tactics. 45... Bg2 46. Bd3! Black is nearly in zugzwang as every bishop move allows Be4 (trading bishops or winning a6) or the game continuation. However, if Black had found the most critical defensive attempt of Kd7, then I *still* would have been forced to find f4-f5. Would I have found it? We will never know.

46... Bh3?

46... Kd7 Forced! 47. Kf2 Bc6 48. Be2 Kc8 (48... Be4 49. Bf3 Bd3 50. f5! Ta da!) 49. Ke3 Kb8 (49... Bg2 50. Bf3 Bf1 51. f5! Again!) 50. Bf3 Bd7 51. f5! Once more! 51... exf5 52. Kf4 Be6 53. Ke5 Bxc4 54. Kf6 Bd3 55. Kg7 c4 56. Kxh7 c3 57. Kg7 c2 58. h7 c1=Q 59. h8=Q+ Qc8 60. Qh2+ f4 61. Qxf4+ Qc7 62. Qxc7#

47. Kf3! Black's defense finally collapses. 47... Bf5 48. Be4 Kd7

48... Bxe4+ 49. Kxe4 The White king marches in triumphantly.

49. Bb7 Bd3 50. Bxa6 Kc6 51. Ke3 **Black Resigns.** The two connected passers will prove decisive in short order.

Pirc Defense B09

Michael Aigner vs. Kimani Stancil

The round 4 pairings matched the only two perfect scorers in the Open section. Stancil had already defeated NM Mike Pearson while I won against NM Ben Dean-Kawamura. The reader will enjoy this game not because it is brilliant but rather due to the tactics that the protagonists missed. Sometimes the more aggressive player also becomes more lucky! **1. f4!** Viva la f-pawn. I still play this opening on occasion, despite having made 1.e4 as my main weapon. **1... d6 2. Nf3 g6 3. e4 Bg7 4. d4 Nf6 5. Nc3** The game returns to well-trodden theory by transposing into the Austrian attack of the Pirc defense. **5... O-O**

5... c5!? **6. Bb5+ Bd7 7. e5 Ng4** This is a fun line to play! White can continue aggressively with e5-e6 or more solidly with Bxd7+.

6. Bd3 Nc6!? While Nc6 is a major theoretical move in this position, it violates the positional maxim: never block your c-pawn. The main alternative of Na6 supports c7-c5. On the other hand, the immediate c-pawn advance fails to impress.

6... Na6 7. O-O c5 8. d5;

6... c5? This natural advance is fine on moves 5 and 7, but poor on move 6! **7. dxc5 dxc5 8. e5 Nd5 9. Nxd5 Qxd5 10. Qe2! Nc6 11. Be4 Qd7 12. c3** White is clearly better.

7. O-O The main point of Nc6 is that Black tries to challenge the center with e7-e5. Since the position may open up quickly, White's king scurries to safety. The immediate e4-e5 is possible as well. **7... Bg4**

7... e5!? **8. fxe5 dxe5 9. d5 Nd4 10. Nxe5 Nxe4 11. Nxe4! Bxe5** This kind of liquidation in the center is common in the Austrian attack. Black is currently behind in development but the position is double edged enough to allow both players to try to win. **12. c3 Nf5 13. Qf3!**

8. e5 Now or never as Black's next move will be e7-e5.



8... Bxf3? In light of what follows, this capture cannot be recommended. After I made a similar mistake against GM Varuzhan Akobian in Las Vegas a year ago, the Israeli GM Vitali Golod came up to me and in broken English told me: "no trade good bishop for knight if no need."

8... dxe5 9. dxe5 Nd5 10. Qe1 with advantage to White.

9. Rxf3!

9. Qxf3? Nxd4 10. Qxb7 dxe5 11. fxe5 Ng4 White stands worse. He has traded a center pawn for a flank pawn and now his center has collapsed. This can't be good news.

9... Nxd4 10. exf6! The point of move 9 is to win two minor pieces for a rook and two center pawns. 10... Nxf3+ 11. Qxf3 Bxf6 12. Qxb7 Greedy but necessary! I didn't want to take this pawn because Black gets counterplay on the b-file. However, Black's center becomes mobile if he achieves c7-c6 and d6-d5.

12. f5?! c6 13. Be3 d5 14. Rd1 d4 15. Be4 Qb6 provides counterplay.

12... Bd4+? This check actually loses tempo after White's 14th move. Black needed to push e7-e6 on either this move or the next. 13. Kh1 Rb8? Again e7-e6 was required. 14. Qe4 c5 15. f5! After this essential move, White's bishop pair begins to act like one. Both bishops now have long diagonals pointed at Black's monarch. When both bishops are active like this, I tell my students they are worth 7 points, not the traditional 6! Consequently, Fritz likes White's position by a little more than one pawn although the material is roughly even.

15... Be5 16. Bh6? This obvious move is merely second best! White should instead pin and win the e7 pawn.

16. Bg5! Rxb2 There's nothing better. (16... Rb4 17. Qf3 f6 18. a3! The zwischenzug prevents Black's counterplay with Rh4. 18... Rxb2 19. Bh6 Bxc3 20. fxc6 hxc6 21. Bxc6 White wins. ; 16... Bxc3? 17. bxc3 White wins.) 17. Nd5! The diagonal leading to a1 looks scary to the human eye, but calm calculation demonstrates that Black is already busted. 17... Bf6 18. fxc6 fxc6 19. Bh6 Re8 20. Qe6+ Kh8 21. Nxf6 exf6 22. Qf7 Rg8 23. Re1 d5 24. h4 White wins. And now there's no defense to Re7.

16... Re8? Black's best chance is to sacrifice an exchange for initiative.

16... Rxb2! 17. Bxf8 Qxf8 18. Nd5 gxf5 19. Qxf5 Qh6 20. Nxe7+ Kf8 21. h3 is unclear.

17. Rf1 Rb4 18. Qf3 Rh4 This key move would have been impossible after 16.Bg5. Instead Black now has substantial threats and White becomes distracted from the path to victory. 19. fxc6 fxc6



20. Qf7+? White misses another clear win. The text doesn't yet throw away the point, but the mistakes will eventually add up.

20. Bb5! Black has no defense on the light squares so it makes sense for White to attack them. 20... Rxb2+ 21. Kg1 Rxb2 22. Qf7+ Kh8 23. Bxe8 Bg7 Forced! 24. Nd5 White wins.

20... Kh8 21. Qxe8+? Three strikes and y'er out at the ole ball game! This final blunder should cost White the game. But alas, luck intervenes. 21... Qxe8 22. Rf8+ Qxf8 23. Bxf8 White seems fairly content in an endgame with a bishop pair against the rook. However, tactics dictate otherwise. Both players missed a crushing shot.

23... Bxc3?

23... c4! 24. g3 (24. Be2? Bxc3 25. bxc3 Re4 26. Bf1 Rf4) 24... cxd3 25. gxh4 Bxc3 26. cxd3 Bf6 27. b3 Bxh4µ Black has excellent winning chances after this forced variation that leads to an endgame up a pawn.

24. g3! Forced!

24... Rh5? Although no longer quite as winning, c5-c4 is still Black's best move.

24... c4! 25. Bf1 Rh5 26. g4! Again forced! (26. Bxe7? Bxb2) 26... Re5 27. bxc3 d5 28. Bh6 Re1 29. Kg1 e5
Although the endgame of two bishops against rook and an extra pawn usually favors the bishops, Black has substantial initiative with his active rook and mobile pawn center.

25. bxc3 Re5 26. Bh6 Kg8

26... Re1+ By activating his rook, Black trades a pair of pawns and retains some hope of drawing. 27. Kg2 d5 28. c4 e6 29. Bf8 Ra1 30. Bxc5 Rxa2 31. cxd5 exd5 32. Kf3 White is clearly better.

27. Bd2! Now White is winning. Two bishops (worth 7 points when unopposed on an open board) are superior to a rook and pawn (worth 5.5 or 6 points, depending on who is counting).



27... d5 28. c4 e6 29. Kg2 dxc4 30. Bxc4 Re4 31. Bb5 Rd4

31... a6 Even trading a-pawns isn't enough to save Black because White's king and two bishops are simply too active. 32. Kf3! Rd4 33. Be3 Rb4 34. Bxa6 Ra4 35. Be2 Rxa2 36. c4 Ra5 37. Ke4 Kf7 38. h4 h5 39. Bd3 Kg7 40. Bf4 Kf7 41. Bc7 Ra1 42. Bb6 Rg1 43. Kf3 Rd1 44. Be2 White wins.

32. Bc3 Rd1 33. Kf3 Rc1 34. Bd3 Kf7 35. h4 c4 36. Be4 a5? Black plays his final mistake due to time pressure. However, the position was already desperate at this point. 37. a4! h6 38. Ke3 Rd1 39. Bxa5 Rg1 40. Bc7 Ra1 41. a5 Ra3+ 42. Kd4 e5+ 43. Kxc4 Rxc3 44. a6 Black resigned. Sometimes it is just better to be lucky than to be good.

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Michael Pearson Annotates...

by Michael Pearson

Dutch Defense [A80]

Michael Pearson vs. Michael Aigner

1. d4 f5 2. Nc3 d5!? aimed at creating a stonewall, where White will want his pawn on c4, and he will have to waste time moving his knight. however, playing d5 and f5 so early creates some real weaknesses, and allows the possibility of 3.e4!? 3. e4!? Kingfisher Gambit. 3... dxe4 4. Bc4

4. Bf4 preventing Nc6, is probably more accurate. (4.f3 is the usual plan—ed.)

4... Nf6

4... Nc6 is probably best, putting immediate pressure on d4, and not giving White time to develop

5. Nh3

5. f3 Nc6 and Black is getting good play, and the extra pawn will be a big advantage. White needs to play energetically, and develop quickly, before Black can make anything of his extra pawn.

5... e6 6. O-O

6. Nf4 Qd6 does not seem to accomplish anything for White

6... Nc6 7. d5

7. Be3 Ng4 and Black will be able to relieve the pressure by exchanging pieces. White must play more actively and open lines

7... exd5 8. Nxd5 Ne5

8... Be6! 9. Nxc7+ (9. Nhf4 Bxd5 10. Nxd5 Na5 11. Bg5 Be7 12. Nxe7 Qxe7 and White does not seem to have enough compensation for the pawn) 9... Qxc7 10. Bxe6 Rd8 11. Qe2 Nd4 12. Qc4 Qxc4 13. Bxc4 Nxc2 with a clear advantage for Black.

9. Bf4 Bd6 10. Bb3 Nxd5?

10... Nf7 11. f3 Bxf4 12. Nxf4 O-O 13. Nxf6+ Qxf6 14. fxe4 with a slight advantage for White.

10... c6 11. Nxf6+ Qxf6 12. f3 with the idea of opening the e file. White has slightly better chances.

11. Qxd5 c6 12. Qd4 Qf6

12... c5 13. Qc3 Qe7 14. Rad1 and White wins.

13. Rad1 Black resigned.



If 13... Bc7, then 14. Bg5! Qg6 15. Qd8+!! Bxd8 16. Rxd8#

Sicilian Defense: Rossolimo Variation [B31] Michael Pearson vs. David Chock

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 g6 4. O-O Bg7 5. c3 Nf6 6. Re1 O-O 7. d4 d5

7... cxd4 8. cxd4 (8. e5 Nd5 9. cxd4 d6 10. Nc3 Nxc3 11. bxc3 Bg4 12. exd6 Qxd6 13. h3 Bxf3 and White has hanging pawns, but the advantage of the two bishops) 8... d5 9. e5 Ne4 10. Nc3 Nxc3 11. bxc3

8. e5 Ne4 9. Bd3

9. Bxc6 bxc6 10. Nbd2 cxd4 11. cxd4 c5 12. dxc5 (12. Nf1 Rb8 13. dxc5 Nxc5 14. Qd4) 12... Nxc5 13. Nb3 9. Nbd2 cxd4 10. cxd4 Nxd2 11. Bxd2 Qb6 Black does very well in this line

9... Bf5 10. dxc5 Nxc5

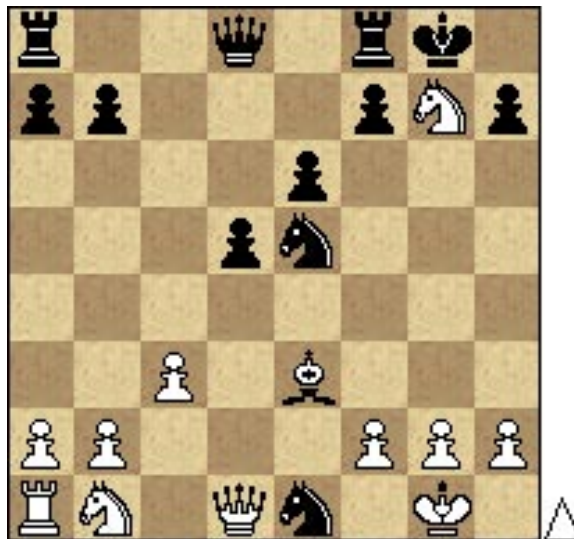
10... Nxe5 11. Nxe5 Bxe5 12. Bxe4 dxe4 13. Qe2 Qc7 14. h3 with a slight advantage for Black.

11. Bxf5 gxf5 12. Nd4

12. Be3 Ne4 13. Nd4 Bxe5 (13... e6? 14. f3 White is clearly better.) 14. Nxf5 with a slight advantage for White.

12... e6 13. Be3 Nxe5!? this leads to a tactical mess, and in the game White ends up on top. I was expecting 13... Nd7 14. f4 and Black could play to get his knight to e4

14. Nxf5 practically forced... else Black is up a solid pawn 14... Ncd3 15. Nxc3 Nxe1 here White has a lot of possible continuations, but in the game none of them seemed to work out... so I decided to complicate



16. f4!! the knight on e5 seems to be White's biggest problem in most variations, so instead of taking the knight on e1 I attack the knight on e5. notice that if it moves away Black's knight on e1 would have no safe squares. with best play Black can keep his material advantage, but White gets good compensation

16. Qxe1 Kxg7 17. Bd4 f6 18. Bxe5 (18. f4 Nc6! 19. Qxe6 Nxd4 20. cxd4 and Black has eliminated White's bishop, and with it his chances for middlegame counterplay) 18... fxe5 19. Qxe5+ Qf6 20. Qe2 and White may have decent chances to draw, but it will certainly be unpleasant

16. Bd4?? attractive, but a blunder. 16... Qg5! and Black wins.

16. Nxe6 N1f3+ 17. gxf3 fxe6 with a clear advantage for Black.

16. Nh5 Qh4 threatening N1f3+. I could not find a good move here

16... Nxc3

16... N5d3 is probably best. Black holds on to the exchange, but White can get counterplay after 17. Nh5 Qh4 18. Qe2 e5 19. g3 Qh3 20. Nf6+ Kh8 21. fxe5 Nxe5 22. Nd2

16... Nc4 17. Bd4 Black no longer has the Qg5 resource 17... Qh4 (17... e5 18. Nh5 f5 (18... exd4?? 19. Qg4+

Kh8 20. Qg7#) 19. Qxe1 exd4 20. Qg3+ White is clearly better.) 18. g3 Qh3 19. Qxe1 e5 20. fxe5 Kxg7 21. b3 Nb6 22. e6+ f6 White is clearly better.

16... N1f3+ 17. gxf3 Ng6 18. Nh5 and Black has messed up White's kingside pawns, but White has 2 pieces for a rook

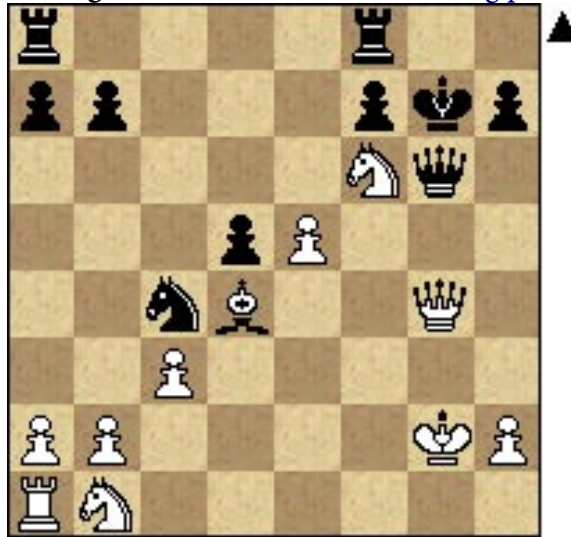
17. Kxg2 Nc4

17... Qf6 18. Nh5 Qg6+ 19. Ng3 Nc4 with a slight advantage for White.

18. Bd4 e5?

18... Qh4 19. Nh5 White is clearly better.

19. Nh5 Qd6 20. Qg4+ Qg6 21. Nf6+ Kg7 22. fxe5 White has a winning position.



22... Qxg4+ 23. Nxg4 Rae8 24. b3 Nb6 25. Nd2 f5 26. Nf6 Rd8 27. Nf3 Kg6 28. Nh4+ Kg5 29. Rf1?! cute but not best. kh3 is simpler and better 29... Kxh4 30. Rxf5 Rg8+?

30... Rxf6 31. Rxf6 and Black would not be immediately mated, but the ending is hopeless.

31. Kf3 Rg5 32. Bf2+ 1:0

Scandinavian Defense [B01]

Kimani Stancil vs. Michael Pearson

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. Be2?! I don't think I've seen this before. White aims to put his bishop on the long diagonal. (It's been seen in about 60 games — ed.) 3... Qxd5 this seems strange after nf6, but it helps Black develop more quickly. 4. Bf3 Qa5 5. Nc3 c6 6. d3

6. d4 Bf5 7. Nge2 e6 8. O-O with a slight pull to White

6... e5 now Black decides to play White. 7. Bd2 Be6 8. Nge2 Nbd7 9. Nc1 Qc7 Black wants to develop his king bishop, but now discovered attacks on Black's queen could be annoying 10. Nb3 Bd6? with the idea that the bishop might be well placed targeting h2 after the e pawn moves, but this is far too optimistic

10... Be7 is much better. the bishop will be more active and less vulnerable. 10...Bd6 later costs Black a tempo

11. Qe2 O-O 12. Ne4 castling in either direction could be met by ...a5 and ...a4, driving away the knight on b3 and gaining space. 12... Nxe4 13. dxe4 b5!?! preventing kingside castling, and gaining space on the queenside. the drawback however, is that Black gives White the a5 square.

13... a5 14. O-O a4 15. Nc1 is still logical for Black, but now White has the d3 square for his knight



14. Ba5 Qb7

14... Nb6 15. O-O-O Rfd8 16. Bg4 Qc8 17. Bxe6 Qxe6 is another good alternative, with a roughly equal position

15. O-O-O Be7 16. Bg4 Bc4 17. Qe3

17. Rxd7 Qxd7 18. Bxd7 Bxe2 19. Bxc6 Rab8 and White only has a pawn for the exchange

17... Nf6 the knight is not particularly useful on the kingside, but this gains a tempo, which prevents White from playing something like nc5 18. Be2 c5

18... Qa6! 19. Bc3 Qxa2 20. Bxe5 a5 and Black will have a dangerous attack... although it seemed uncomfortable for Black to get his queen stuck at a2

19. Bc3

19. Bxc4 bxc4 20. Nd2 Qa6 21. Qc3 and White has an advantage due to Black's doubled isolated c pawns

19... Bxe2 20. Qxe2 c4 21. Nd2 Nd7?!

21... b4 22. Bxe5 c3 23. Nf3 Nxe4 24. Rhe1 f5 and Black has decent attacking chances

22. Nf3 b4 23. Bxe5 Rfc8 24. Bd6 seeking exchanges to reduce the pressure 24... b3

24... Bxd6 25. Rxd6 Nc5 26. e5 b3 is more effective

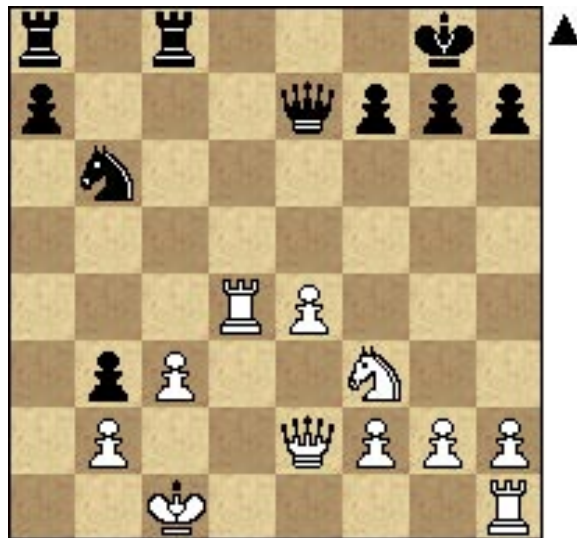
25. axb3

25. Bxe7 bxa2 26. Kd2 c3+ 27. bxc3 Nb6 28. Ra1 Nc4+ 29. Ke1 Qxe7 30. Rxa2 and despite being up two pawns, White is probably at a disadvantage. his pawns are doubled and his h rook is out of play

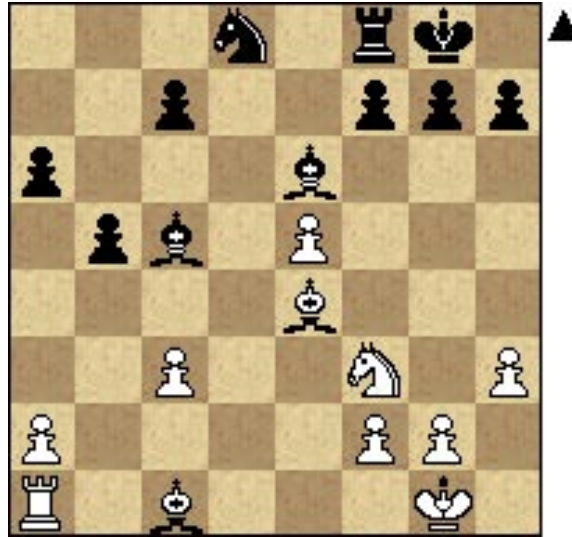
25... cxb3 26. c3 Nb6

26... Nc5 looks better

27. Bxe7 Qxe7 28. Rd4



18. bxc3



18... Re8 19. Bg5 Bc4 20. Rd1 Ne6 21. Bc6 Rb8 22. Be3 Bxa2 23. Ra1 Bc4 24. Rxa6 b4 25. Ra4 Bb3 26. Ra1 bxc3
27. Bxc5 Nxc5 28. Rc1 c2 29. Ne1 Rb6
29... Ba4 30. Bxa4 Rb1
30. Bf3 Kf8 31. Be2 Ne6 32. Bd3 Nf4 33. Kh2 Nxd3 34. Nxd3 Ba4 35. Ra1 Bd7 36. Rc1 Bf5 37. Rxc2 Bxd3 38.
Rxc7 Rb5 39. f4 Rb2 40. Kg3 Be4 41. f5 Bxf5 42. Kf4 Be6 43. g4 h6 44. Rc3 Rb4+ 45. Kg3 Rb3 White resigned.

Kalashnikov Sicilian [B32] Nicholas Yap vs. Micahel Pearson

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 e5 5. Nb5 d6 6. c4

6. N1c3 is the major alternative. White will not control d5 as strongly as with 6.c4, but will not give Black the d4 square.

6... Be6 7. N1c3 a6 8. Na3 Be7 9. Be2 Bg5

9... Nd4 10. Nc2 Nxe2 11. Qxe2 makes a lot of sense here for Black. this is why White usually plays 9. Nc2

10. O-O Bxc1

10... Nd4 11. Nc2 Nxe2+ 12. Qxe2 Rc8 13. Bxg5 Qxg5 is also possible, the disadvantage being that after an eventual Ne3, White will own d5.

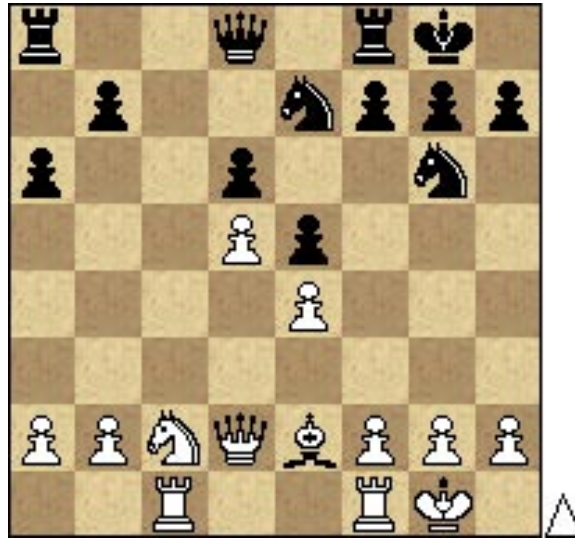
11. Rxc1 Nge7

11... Nf6 is also possible, but I thought the knight would be better placed on e7, where it can go to c6 or g6, aiming for d4 or f4

12. Nc2 Ng6 Castling is normal —ed. 13. Nd5 O-O 14. Qd2 else Black will play Qg5

14. b3 Qg5 15. Nce3 Nf4 16. Kh1 Rac8 17. Bg4 h5 18. Bf5 Nd4 19. Nxf4 Qxf4 20. Qxh5 g6 21. Qg4 Nxf5 22. Qxf4 exf4 23. exf5 gxf5 24. Nd5 Bxd5 25. cxd5 Rxc1 26. Rxc1 Re8 Black had no problems holding, despite the weak pawns, in Kaza vs. Gogolis, Ikarria 2002—ed.

14... Bxd5 15. cxd5 Nce7 with a slight advantage for Black. Fritz still likes White's position, but I think that Black is already slightly better. White's pawn structure looks nice, and he has his rook on the newly opened c file, but it is not clear how he should proceed from here, while Black has the obvious idea of playingf5 and attacking on the kingside



16. Qb4

16. Ne3 is probably better, with the idea of trying to take the sting out of ...f5. e.g. 16... f5 (16... Nf4!? —ed.) 17. exf5 Nxf5 18. Nxf5 Rxf5 19. Bd3 Nf4! 20. Kh1 with a slight advantage for Black.(20. Bxf5? Qg5 21. Bxh7+ Kh8 22. Qxf4 exf4 with a clear advantage for Black.)

16... f5!? alternatives are

16... Nf4 17. Rfe1

and the practical looking 16... b5 this may be Black's best. ...f5 is a little hurried. 17. a4 Nf4 18. Rfe1 f5 19. axb5 axb5 20. Bxb5 Rb8

17. exf5

17. Qxb7 is not a concern for Black. 17... Nf4 or (17... Rb8 18. Qxa6 Rxb2) 18. Bc4 fxe4 seem like pretty good responses 17... Nf4 the point of ...f5 18. Qe4 Kh8

18... Rc8 19. Nd4!? Rxc1 20. Rxc1 Qb6 21. Ne6 Qxb2 with a clear advantage for Black.

18... b5 looks good, preventing bc4, but 19. Nb4 is strong for White

18... Qa5!? —ed.

19. Bd3 with the threat of f6. now we have an interesting situation. Black has 5 possible captures, which all seem reasonable. 19... Nxd5 probably best. 20. Rfd1



20... Qg5

20... Rc8 is an idea, preventing ne3, but White could free himself a bit with g3.

20... Nxd3 21. Rxd3 Nf4 22. Rd2 d5 23. Qxe5 Qg5 24. Ne3 Nxe2 25. Qg3 Qxg3 26. hxg3 Nxe3 27. fxe3 Rxf5 and Black has won a pawn, but will have a hard time winning the double rook ending

21. Ne3 best. otherwise Black will have time to play ...b5, and save his b pawn 21... Nf6 22. Qxb7 d5 now Black has sacrificed his pawn, but he has two very strong center pawns, and White's f5 pawn is weak. 23. Rc2! this move is actually very important. the rook is a tactical weakness on c1 (...d4 and nxd3 was threatened), and the rook can be used to defend along the second rank. 23... Rad8?! logical, but misses an opportunity.

23... Rab8! 24. Qc6 d4 25. Nc4 N6d5 26. Be4 Nb4 and Black wins the exchange

24. g3 e4?!

24... d4 25. Ng2 Nxd3 26. Rxd3 Qxf5 and Black has strong pressure. 27. Qf3? Qh3 and Black wins. threatening ng4

25. Bf1 d4 26. Qc7 N4d5 27. Nxd5 Rxd5

27... Nxd5 28. Qc4 d3 29. Rcd2 Qxf5 is probably stronger. White can take on a6, but it's not clear how he will free himself, and Black has a lot of kingside pressure

28. Bc4 Qh5

28... Rxf5 29. Rxd4 Ng4 30. Rxe4 Nxf2 and believe it or not White is actually not only surviving, but up a pawn.

29. Rcd2

29. Be2? Qxf5 with a clear advantage for Black.



29... Rxf5

29... Ng4! this move looked stupid to me during the game... why attack with only 2 pieces when playing ...Rxf5 would activate both rooks. however, White has a nice reply. 30. f3 (30. Bxd5? Qxh2+ 31. Kf1 Qh1+ 32. Ke2 Qf3+ 33. Ke1 (33. Kf1 Ne3+ 34. Ke1 Nxd5 35. Qd6 Re8 36. Qxd5 d3 and Black wins.) 33... d3 and Black wins.) 30... exf3 31. Bxd5 f2+ 32. Rxf2 Nxf2 with an unbalanced position.

30. Be2! Qh6?

I rejected 30... Ng4 seeing it would allow White to exchange, with a roughly equal game

30... Qg5 31. Rxd4 Rxf2 32. Qe7 and White again secures a big advantage by pinning the knight

31. Qd6! White is clearly better. 31...Re8 32. Qxd4 e3

32... Rxf2 is better 33. Qxf2 e3 34. Qe1 exd2 35. Qxd2

33. fxe3 Rxe3 34. Bc4 Rfe5 35. Rf2 35... Qh3?? one last cheapo.
35... Re8 36. Bxa6 Ng4 37. Qxg4 Qxa6 with two extra pawns for White—ed.
36. Qxe3
36. Rxf6?? Rxc3+=
Black resigned.

Home boy favored at MTEL Masters

According to www.betsson.com, Bulgarian native Veselin Topalov is favored slightly over Vishy Anand to win the upcoming supertournament in May. Topalov is presently 2.32 to 1, while Anand is 2.52 to 1. Ponomarev, seeded 5th, is weighing in at 8.4 and Svidler at 9.4. Frenchman Etienne Bacrot is not getting much support at 23, while Gata Kamsky is the long shot at 26.

United States Championship

Alexander Onischuk defeated Yuri Shulman in their playoff match at the United States Championship. The United States championship has a unique format with two preliminary groups of 32 players using a nine round Swiss system to determine the two finalists, who then play a match. The title of United States Women's Champion is determined by a match between the highest scoring woman in each section. Anna Zatonskih defeated Rusudan Goletiani 1.5-0.5 to earn that title. The defending U.S. Champion, Hikaru Nakamura, got off to a terrible start, but then reeled off a series of wins and came close to winning in section. In the last round he was paired with Onischuk and that game ended in a draw.



The winners enjoy a victory celebration

Yuhua Xu is new Women's World Champion!

by Eric Schiller

The Chinese star Xu Yuhua is a new Women's World Chess Champion. In the final fight for the Champion's Crown she managed to win Russian Alisa Galliamova with 2,5:0,5.

It was enough to win two games and end one in a draw to become the Champion. In the final game the Russian had all the chances to draw. She managed to pass the opening with one pawn up and had good perspectives of winning. But being probably tired she failed to display her best abilities. Galliamova lost the sense of the game and as a consequence the initiative. The Chinese brilliantly took the benefit from this possibility and at move 59 defeated Galliamova stopped the clock. At this very moment the Chief Arbiter Andrzej Filipowicz claimed Xu Yuhua to be the Champion.

At the concluding press conference Xu Yuhua showed gratitude to the organizers of the Championship, journalists, her coaches and all the people who supported her and wished her to win. In the end of the conversation Yuhua surprised the audience. She announced that she was on her 4th month of pregnancy and going to deliver a baby in September. Her answer to the question what helped her to become a Champion was very touching: "I think my baby was the one to help me"

—womenchess.com



Xu seems particularly at home when attacking the enemy's back rank, as the positions below and the next page show. She often finds a way to infiltrate and this seems to be part of her overall approach to the game. Particularly impressive are the finishes against former World Champion Maya Chiburdanidze.

Chiburdanidze vs. Xu, Batumi 2001
40.Nxg5?? Rf1#



Chiburdanidze vs. Xu, Shanghai 2001
32...exf3!! 32.Kg1 Re1+ 33. Resigns
If 33.Bxd6, then Re1+ 34.Qg1 f2 wins.

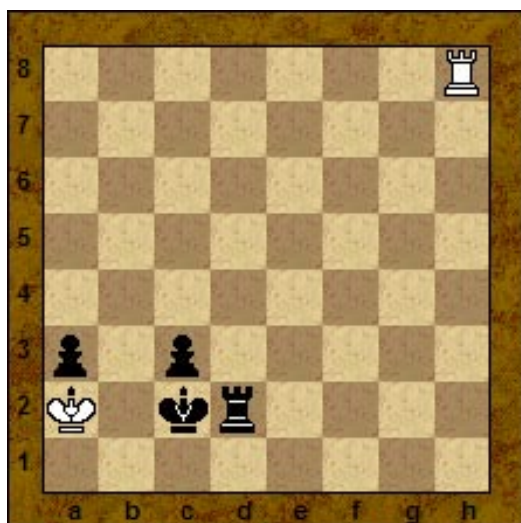




Baginskaite vs. Xu, Women's World Championship 2001
 31...Bd4! 32.Qd8+ Kg7 33.Ke1 Qg1+ 34.Bf1 Qf2+ 35. Resigns



Baginskaite vs. Xu, Women's World Championship 2001
 38...Bf1+! 39. Resigns



Gokhale vs. Xu, Jodhpur 2003
 82...Kc1+! 83.Kxa3 c2 84.Rh1+ Rd2 and Black won in a few moves.



Gorshkova vs. Xu, Genting Highlands 2003
 48...Qa1! 49.Qd8+?? (49.Qd6+ and Qg3+ saves it) 49...Kg7 50. Resigns



Kosteniuk vs. Xu, North Urals Cup 2005
 33...Rh2!! 34.Bxd8 Bf3! 35. Resigns



Ioseliani vs. Xu, Shanghai 2001
 49.Bxa5?? (49.Rd2!) 49...Bc2+ 50.Kc1 Bg5+ 51.Kb2 Ba4+ 52. Resigns (mate in 5)

The top chess countries

The Top Twenty-Five

		Average rating of top 10	GMs	IMs	Total Titled
1	Russia	2718	156	417	1562
2	Ukraine	2665	53	169	325
3	United States of America	2625	60	99	455
4	France	2620	29	67	235
5	Armenia	2618	17	22	58
6	Hungary	2612	36	99	336
7	China	2611	19	12	81
8	Israel	2611	33	41	133
9	Netherlands	2607	19	55	207
10	Germany	2604	61	186	945
11	England	2601	33	51	202
12	Georgia	2599	19	29	88
13	Azerbaijan	2591	14	15	48
14	Poland	2588	20	81	239
15	Bulgaria	2587	23	47	88
16	India	2583	11	45	96
17	Serbia and Montenegro	2567	50	105	516
18	Spain	2562	24	70	285
19	Romania	2557	14	71	235
20	Czech Republic	2555	19	61	177
21	Belarus	2542	8	27	67
22	Cuba	2541	12	37	192
23	Kazakhstan	2541	11	22	67
24	Denmark	2540	9	32	78
25	Greece	2540	10	20	73

With the Olympiad coming in Torino in May, here is the standing of national federations based on the average rating of the top ten players in each federation based on the January 2006 FIDE list. According to this list, the USA should be able to take a Bronze Medal at the Olympiad.

A country to watch is Bulgaria, home of Topalov, Stefanova and Kril Georgiev, among others. India should also prove competitive in both Men's and Women's competitions (FIDE only gives statistics for top players overall, regardless of gender.)

The other end of the spectrum shows that there are some teams where a rating of 2000 or less could put you in the top ten. If you want to play in an Olympiad, you could consider moving, in which case you have a choice between an island paradise or a country like Afghanistan!

The Bottom Ten

		Average rating of top 10
130	Afghanistan	2023
131	Kenya	1997
132	Guernsey	1996
133	British Virgin Islands	1986
134	Fiji	1972
135	Bermuda	1966
136	Bahrain	1900
137	Rwanda	1885
138	US Virgin Islands	1871
139	Seychelles	1871



Book Reviews

by Eric Schiller

Another magnificent set of interviews

The Day Kasparov
Quit and other chess
interviews
by Dirk Jan ten
Geuzendam
New In Chess, 2006
ISBN: 9056911635
\$24.95
Paperback, 344 pages

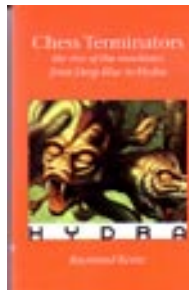


When the world's best chess interviewer puts out in other volume of collected interviews, there is little a reviewer needs to do other than point out a few highlights, because this is clearly a volume that belongs on the shelf of anyone who enjoys the game of chess. The author applies his incisive interviewing style to pry out many of the secrets of top players and chess personalities. Each interview is a joy to read and each contains information that has not been previously available to the public, thanks to the interviewers exceptional skills .

The personalities on display in this volume include Gary Kasparov, Iljumzhinov, Vichy Anand, Vasily Ivanchuk, David Norwood, Robert Huebner, Yuri Averbakh, Vladimir Kramnik, Mark Taimanov, Alex Yermolinsky, Peter Leko, Henrique Mecking, and Miguel Najdorf. Each interview contains insights even involving the best known players. I know most of these people quite well, and yet in each interview I learned something I didn't know before.

All that you really need to know about this book is that it is available. Go out and buy a copy, and read every page. Although it's early in the year, this is clearly a contender for book of the year honors for 2006.

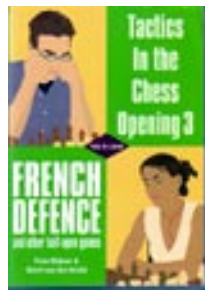
Chess Terminators: the
rise of the machines
from Deep Blue to Hydra
Raymond Keene
Hardinge Simpole, 2006
ISBN: 184321710
\$19.95
Paperback, 136 pages



This books covers the recent part of Man vs. Machine history, with chapters on Kasparov vs. Deep Blue (1997), Cadaques Qualifier (2001), Kramnik vs. Deep Fritz (2002), Kramnik vs. Deep Junior (2003), Kramnik vs. Deep Fritz (2003) and Adams vs. Hydra (2005). There is very little discussion of technical matters, other than a brief listing of rules that the author insists are necessary to create a level playing field. More detailed background, on the 2002 match, is available at www.ericsschiller.com/resources.htm

If you are interested in the games of the matches, they are available here with explanatory comments and analysis by Ray Keene. The notes are light but point out the highlights of each game. A listing of important events in Man vs. Machine history concludes the book.

Tactics in the Chess
Opening 3: French
Defense and other half-
open games
Friso Nijboer & Geert
van der Stricht
New In Chess, 2006
ISBN: 9056911627
\$21.95



Another excellent collection of tactical tricks, this time covering the French, Caro-Kann, Scandinavian, Pirc, Modern and Alekhine Defense. If you play any of these openings you will no doubt benefit from exposure to these tactics. As usual, both classic examples are lesser-known games are presented in full. Please don't limit yourself to studying the gamse only in lines you already play, because many of the tactical patterns turn up in other variations as well. The authors have done an excellent job of finding and presenting instructive games, with more than 230 examples.

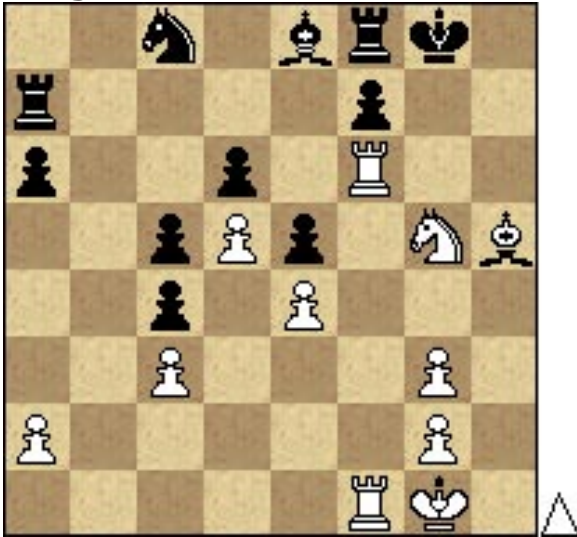
Alex Grossman Games

1 King's Indian Defense E90

Alex Grossman vs. Vincent Horton

1:0 (Australian Under 12s) 2006

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6
5. Nf3 O-O 6. Bg5 h6 7. Bh4 g5 8. Bg3
c5 9. d5 Nbd7 10. Bd3 Nh5 11. O-O
Nxc3 12. fxg3 Qa5 13. Qc2 Bxc3 14.
bxc3 Qd8 15. Rae1 e5 16. Qd2 Nb6 17.
h4 Bg4 18. Nh2 Bd7 19. hxg5 Qxg5 20.
Qxg5+ hxg5 21. Rf6 Nc8 22. Ref1 a6
23. Be2 b5 24. Bh5 Be8 25. Nf3 bxc4
26. Nxc5 Ra7



27. Ne6! Rb7 28. Nxf8 Kxf8 29. R1f2
Rb1+ 30. Kh2 Rc1 31. Bxf7 Bxf7 32.
Rxf7+ Ke8 33. Rf8+ Kd7 34. R2f7+
Ne7 35. Rh8 Rxc3 36. Rhh7 Re3 37.
Rxe7+ Kd8 38. Reg7 Rxe4 39. Rh8#
[1:0]

2 Sicilian Defense B53

Kinto Wan vs. Alex Grossman

0:1 (Australian Under 12s) 2006

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. Nf3 d6 4. Qxd4
Nc6 5. Bb5 Bd7 6. Bxc6 Bxc6 7. O-O
Nf6 8. Re1 g6 9. Nc3 Bg7 10. Qd3 O-
O 11. Bg5 h6 12. Bf4 e5 13. Bg3 Nd7
14. b4 a6 15. a4 Nf6 16. Rad1 Ne8 17.
Nh4 Bf6 18. Re3 Bxh4 19. Bxh4 Qxh4
20. Rh3 Qg5 21. Rg3 Qf6 22. Qe3 Qg7
23. f4 Rd8 24. Rh3 Kh7 25. Rd3 Nf6
26. Qe1 exf4 27. g3 fxg3 28. Rdxg3

Rfe8 29. Qe3 h5 30. b5 Bxe4 31. Nxe4
Rxe4 32. Qd3 Rg4 33. Rxh5+ Nxh5 34.
Rxc4 Qa1+ 35. Kf2 Qe5!° 36. Rh4 Qf6+
37. Kg1 Qxh4 38. Qf1 Qg4+ 39. Kh1 f5
40. bxa6 bxa6 41. Qxa6 Re8 42. Qa7+
Kh6 43. Qf2 Qd1+ 44. Qg1 Re1 45. Qxe1
Qxe1+ 46. Kg2 Nf4+ 47. Kf3 g5 48. a5
Qe2+ 49. Kg3 Qg2# [0:1]

3 Queen's Gambit Declined D53

Alex Grossman vs. Keith Chan

1:0 (Australian Under 12s) 2006

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 c6 5.
Bg5 Be7 6. e3 Nbd7 7. Be2 h6 8. Bh4 Nh5
9. Bxe7 Qxe7 10. a3 Nhf6 11. O-O O-O
12. Qc2 a6 13. Rfe1 Re8 14. b4 a5 15.
c5 b6 16. Na4 bxc5 17. Nxc5 Nxc5 18.
bxc5 Qc7 19. h3 Ba6 20. Bxa6 Rxa6 21.
Rab1 Nd7 22. Rb2 e5 23. Re2 exd4 24.
exd4 Rxe2 25. Qxe2 Ra8 26. g3 Nf6 27.
Qe5 Qxe5 28. Nxe5 Re8 29. Nxc6 Re1+
30. Kg2 Ra1 31. Nxa5 Rxa3 32. Nb3 Ra4
33. Rc2 Rc4 34. Rxc4 dxc4 35. Na1 Kf8
36. Kf3 Ke7 37. Nc2 Ke6 38. Nb4 g5 39.
g4 Ne8 40. Ke3 Nc7 41. Ke4 Nb5 42. d5+
Kd7 43. Ke5 c3 44. d6 c2 45. Nxc2 Kc6
46. Nd4+ Kxc5 47. Nxb5 Kxb5 48. Kd5
Kb6 49. f3 Kb7 50. Kc5 Kc8 51. Kc6 Kd8
52. d7 f6 53. Kd6 [1:0]

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BCS Summer Camps in the Bay Area

by Elizabeth Shaughnessy

The Berkeley Chess School Summer Camps are open to all students Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Berkeley offers five sections. All other camps offer the number of sections dictated by enrollment and chess level.

In Berkeley the camp begins its sixteenth summer and for the first time offers an optional all day program. In conjunction with Sports 4 Kids, (a Bay area non profit dedicated to non competitive athletic activity) the camp will offer sports and art programs in the morning and chess in the afternoon. The camp offers four one week sessions, June 19 - 23, June 26 - 30, July 10 - 14 and July 17 - 21. Morning drop off is from 8:00am to 9:00 am, evening pickup is from 5:00 to 5:45pm. The chess only camp is from 1pm to 5pm. There will be a bughouse tournament on June 23 and a Quad on June 24, open to all students. For more detailed information please go to our website, www.berkeleychessschool.org.

Don't want to travel to Berkeley? Dates or times don't suit?

Berkeley Chess School offers summer camps in the following locations at the following times and dates:

Walnut Creek: 9am - 12pm, June 19 - June 23 and June 26 - June 30

Pleasanton: 9am - 12pm, July 10 - 14 and July 17 - July 21

Roundhill Country Club: 1pm - 4pm, July 17 - July 20 and August 7 - 10

Lafayette: 1pm - 4pm, June 26 - 30, July 10 - 14 and August 14 - 18.

San Ramon: 9am - 12pm and 1pm - 4pm, July 31 - August 4 and 1pm - 4pm August 7 - 11.

Burlingame: 3pm - 4pm, Wednesdays, June 20, 27, July 11, 18 and 25 and August 11 and 18.

University of California's ATDP: Wednesdays, 8:30am - 12pm, July 12, 19 and 26.

Concord: 1pm - 4pm, August 21 - August 25.

Additional camps are in the planning stages. Please go to our website berkeleychessschool.org for up to date information.



California Classic Memorial Day

PLACE: University of San Francisco, 20085 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, CA (on Stevens Creek between De Anza Blvd & Wolfe Rd) **DIRECTIONS:** From I-280 N/S take De Anza exit & go South; Take left on Stevens Creek; U-turn @ Blaney & arrive 20085 Stevens Creek

<u>SCHOLASTIC EVENT</u>	<u>ADULT EVENT</u>
<p>K – 3rd Grade, K – 6th Grade, & K – 12th Grade sections. A team event will be held in each section (a team is a minimum of three students from a school or club in a section). All players must be current members of the USCF. Non-members may join when they enter. The event will be run according to the USCF rule book and any modifications made for scholastic competition.</p> <p>SCHEDULE: Check in & on-site registration: 5/27 8:30 - 9:30 AM. Round @ 10:00 AM, 11:15 AM, 12:30 PM, 2:15 PM, 4:00 PM. Awards: Following the completion of Round 5. Time control: Rounds 1 and 2 G/30, Rounds 3, 4, 5: Game/45.</p> <p>ENTRY FEE: \$29.00 must be postmarked by 5/23/2006. Entries postmarked after 5/23/2006 \$10.00 & on-site add \$15.</p> <p>GROUP DISCOUNTS: 2 entries for \$50 (\$8 discount), 4 entries for \$99 (\$17 discount), 6 entries for \$139 (\$35 discount), 8 entries for \$179 (\$53 discount), 10 entries for \$199 (\$91 discount!!!). To qualify all entries must be in one package.</p> <p>PRIZES: Individual BIG trophies awarded to at least the top half in each section, based on advance entries. Medals to all participants in K-3 and K-6. Top 3 teams or clubs will be awarded trophies in each section. The best 3 scores from each team/club will be used. The number on a team may be adjusted based on entries. Standard USCF tie-breaks will be used to break all ties. Advance entries will be used to determine total number of trophies to be awarded. Players may win only one individual trophy. 1st place Trophy tie-break (Playoff, White 5 minutes, Black with 5 minutes and draw odds.)</p>	<p>Three sections: Expert (above 2000), Reserve (1600-2000) and Amateur (U1600) in a one or two-day schedule. USCF rated four-round Swiss. Ratings will be based on the April 2006 USCF list</p> <p>SCHEDULE: Check-in & onsite registration- 5/27 – 9:30 – 11:30 AM. 5/28 – 7:30 - 8:30 AM.</p> <p>Rounds: 1-day: 5/28- 9, 10:45 AM, 12:15, 4:45 PM; 2-day: 5/27- 10 AM, 2:30 PM + 5/28- 12:15 & 4:45 (events merge in 3rd round)</p> <p>Time controls: 2-day, 30/90 G/45 all rounds. 1-day, Rounds 1-2: G/45; Rounds 3-4: 30/90, G/45</p> <p>ENTRY FEE: \$49 postmarked by 5/23/2006. Entries postmarked after 5/23/2006 \$10.00 & on-site add \$15. IMs/GMs free. Entrants may play up one section for \$10. Reentry after round 2 of the 2-day schedule into the 1-day schedule: \$20.</p> <p>GROUP DISCOUNT \$20 for 4 entries. Must be in 1 package!!!</p> <p>Team: Any four individuals may compete for a team, or school. Multiple club teams allowed. Teams may form at event, but won't receive group discount.</p> <p>PRIZES: Expert (2000+): 1st - \$400 + trophy, 2nd - \$150, 3rd - \$100 Reserve (U2000): 1st - \$400 & trophy, 2nd - \$150; 1st U1900* \$50, 1st U1800* \$50; 1st U 1700* \$50 Amateur (U1600): 1st - \$400 & trophy, 2nd - \$150; 1st U1500* \$50, 1st U1400* \$50; 1st U 1300* \$50 Club or Team: 1st- 3rd receive Club Trophy</p> <p>* Unrated players are ineligible for these prizes.</p> <p>Overall prize fund based on 65 paid adult entries. Prize fund and/or number of prizes will be increased or decreased based on total entries in each section. 1st place Trophy tie-break (Playoff, White 6 minutes, Black with 5 minutes and draw odds.)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SPEED CHESS TOURNAMENT</u></p> <p>_____ Entry Fee \$15 (\$20 on-site) 5 rounds starting at 6:30 PM Trophies to the Top 3!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SIMULTANEOUS w/ Shivkumar Shivaji</u></p> <p>_____ Fee \$8 (\$10 on-site) game starts at 7:15 PM</p>

BYES: ½ point byes available in any round and must be requested before the start of round 1. Maximum one ½ point bye per entry.
OTHER: Bring chess clocks; very few provided! T Ratings used will be from the April 2006 USCF rating supplement for all rated players. Current rating, if available, will be used for players not rated in the supplement.
 E-mail: sfchessclassic@yahoo.com

See all details at the CalChess website!