



Features

Club Champions #1 - Mississauga
Kasparov in Canada

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Stephen Wright

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Canadian Forces Championship
McGill Open
Arnprior Open
Keres Memorial
Ontario Girls Championship
Ontario Open
Canadian Chess Challenge
Nova Scotia Open

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Maj. Regis Bellemare
Felix Dumont
John Upper
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John Upper
John Upper
Chris Felix

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The New CCN

The PGN

I think of the attached PGN as more than a bonus extra that comes with the CCN. For me (until now) it was the *best* part. I've tried to make it better:

- all the names & dates have been standardized,
- each annotator is identified,
- every game in the CCN is in the PGN,
- *almost* every note in the CCN is in the PGN.*

*The annotations are sometimes slightly different, as formatting and layout constraints are different in PGN and PDF, but they are more than 95% identical.



Letter from the Editor



Chess Canada

Hello,

Earlier this year, the CFC put out a Request for Proposals to find a new editor for their monthly newsletter. In March they picked me, and this is my first issue.

This "Letter from the Editor" is not the short intro-to-the-contents that will customarily precede each issue. Instead, it also addresses the major changes in the design and contents of the Newsletter. If you're interested, there is a much longer discussion in the Appendix, which explains the reasons for the changes, sketches some plans for further changes, and identifies points on which I know I want some feedback.

As you may have already noticed, there have been a few changes to the Newsletter. First, the name: "Chess Canada". This was the name of an earlier incarnation of the CFC monthly magazine, and is being reinstated on a suggestion from the CFC Governors. When I refer to it in abbreviated form it will be "CCN", for "Chess Canada Newsletter".

Second, the design. There's much more about this in the Appendix, but the executive summary is:

The CCN is an online journal and should be designed as such:

- screen-shaped format
- sans serif fonts
- more colour and graphics
- clickable links

Third, the contents. The contents of the CCN are determined by its purpose and its environment. *The purpose of the CCN is to*

document and promote chess playing of all levels across Canada. Its environment is the internet, which poses the question: what can the CCN offer Canadian chess fans that they can't get as easily or in better quality elsewhere on the internet? The short answer is: *quality reports on Canadian chess.* (There's a longer answer in the Appendix.)

Chess Canada

- ***exists to document and promote chess playing of all levels across Canada.***
- ***offers quality reports on Canadian chess.***
- ***is an online journal and is designed as such.***

To that end, this issue introduces a new feature, "Club Champions", and radically expands coverage of Canadian chess events: those played *in* Canada and those played outside Canada *by* Canadians. In fact, there would have been one of those latter stories featured in this issue, but the contributor missed his/her deadline. Even without that story, this issue contains 32 annotated games, and reports on *nine* Canadian Chess events *from May*.

The downside, for some people, of expanded Canadian coverage will be the hit to International chess news: there is no coverage of non-Canadian chess events in this issue at all. That won't be true about every CCN issue, but it is closer to the new norm. (Again: see the Appendix.)

You might notice that several of the reports in this issue are actually written *by me*. That is, I hope, mostly a coincidence: three chess events in May were in the Ottawa area where



I live, and I played in one as defending champion, kept a chair warm at the second as a "floater", and attended the third as a spectator. Apart from the new design and focus on Canadian content, my only contribution to most reports is (and will be) in the captions to the photos: please do not blame anyone but me if you find the captions too.... [insert family-friendly insult here].

Finally, there's no way anyone could have pulled all this together without the generous help of the good chess people from coast to coast who contributed to this issue:

Major Regis Bellemare
Erwin Casareno
Monica Chung
John Coleman
Felix Dumont
Chris Felix
Bob Gillanders
FM Robert Hamilton
GM Eric Hansen
Keith MacKinnon
Brendan Martin
Fred McKim
Yelizeveta Orlova
Kevin Pacey
FM Roger Patterson
FM Roman Pelts
Konstantin Pyryaev
Stephen Wright

I like the way the new CCN looks, and (apart from the new CFC Newsfeed, which shares an editor and contributors) I think it *does* offer something you can't find anywhere else; and putting it together didn't make me much crazier than I'd expected. I hope I can say that again next month.

John Upper
editor, *Chess Canada*

News in Brief & CFC Corner



Chess Canada

Eric Hansen is now the #1 FIDE-rated Canadian. The 20-year-old GM passed the long-time top dog Kevin Spraggett on the May list; and stays there this month. The June FIDE list of the top 50 active Canadians can be found in the rating section at the end of this Newsletter.

GM Wesley So won the **Calgary International Chess Classic** (May 14-20).

He finished two points ahead of GMs Robin Van Kampen, Eric Hansen, and Victor Mikhalevski. A full report with games annotated by GM Hansen and IM Porper will appear in the July CCN.

<http://calgaryinternationalchessclassic.com/>

CFC Corner

In March, 2013 the CFC made three changes members should be aware of:

- **Michael von Keitz** is the new Executive Director. info@cfc.ca
- **Chess 'N Math/Strategy Games** is the Official Equipment Supplier. (see their ad)
- **John Upper** is the new editor of the CCN.

CFC Newsfeed

On May 1, the CFC launched its new Newsfeed. Its goal is to produce five new items of Canadian chess content per week, but in its first month we managed 8 tournament adverts and 22 stories! Weekly posts include: Canadian Game of the Week, Tactics, Best of the Web, Tournament summaries and announcements, and a CCN Preview.

As you can tell from that last item, I'm a contributor to the Newsfeed. I'm also

IM Edward Porper earned a GM norm at the 22nd annual Chicago Open (May 23-27). Edward scored 6½/9, including draws with GM Victor Mikhalevski (ISR), GM Zviad Izoia (US), and 2700+ GM Wesley So (PHI), and wins over GM Yaroslav Zherebuh (Ukraine) and US GMs Ben Finegold and Conrad Holt. This is either Edward's third GM norm or his second, depending on a technicality.

<http://chesstournamentservices.com/ccs/tag/chicago-open-2013-standings/>

Coming Next Month: Alberta!

- **Full report on the Calgary International by IM Edward Porper**
- **Full report on the Edmonton International by GM Eric Hansen**

officially the editor of the Newsfeed, but I've sub-contracted most of the work to the McGill Chess Team, led by Félix Dumont and with a website built by Shao Hang He.

chess.ca/newsfeed/

Chess Canada

CCN is the monthly newsletter of the Chess Federation of Canada. Opinions expressed in it are those of the credited authors and/or editor, and do not necessarily reflect those of the CFC, its Governors, agents or employees.

Submissions?

The CCN is, of course, looking for contributions: tournament reports, photos, annotat-

Also at the Chicago Open, **Michael Kleinman** earned an IM norm. Michael is a regular contributor to the CFC Newsfeed, and you can find his instructive analysis of one of his Rook endgames from Chicago here:

<http://chess.ca/newsfeed/node/48>

IM Aman Hambleton won the Sunningdale Chess Congress in England (May 24-27). He scored 6½/7, including wins over GM Simon Williams and GM Mark Hebden, to take first place by a full point and finish with a career high 2783 TPR!

<http://e2e4.org.uk/sunningdale/May2013/open.htm>

ed games. For examples, see this issue and read the Appendix for other story ideas.

Deadlines: currently on a case-by-case arrangement with each contributor. Submissions received after the 20th are unlikely to be included (unless they're *awesome*).

Submission Formats:

Chess: first choice: ChessBase .CBV file; second choice: PGN

Text: I can cope with most word-processing formats, though I prefer RTF. Please avoid fancy formatting: I just have to undo your work to get it into my PDF layout program.

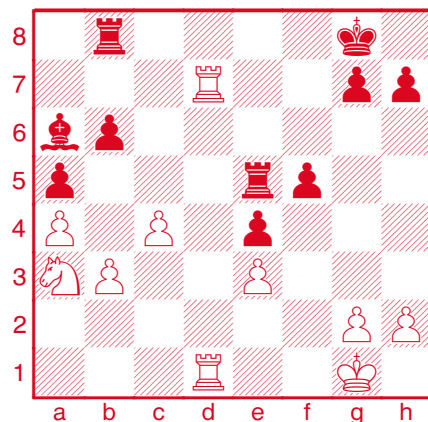
Photos: unedited; maximum resolution

If you have an idea for a story **you** would like to write and submit, email me:

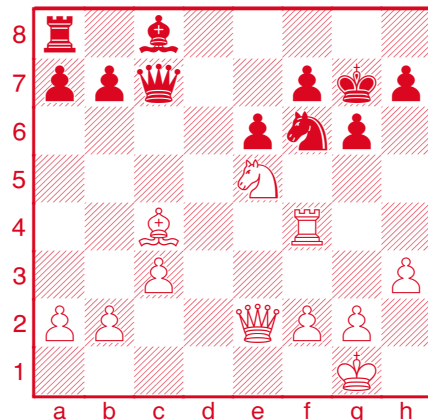
cfc_newsletter_editor@chess.ca



Critical Positions



White's Rooks are more active, what should Black do about it?

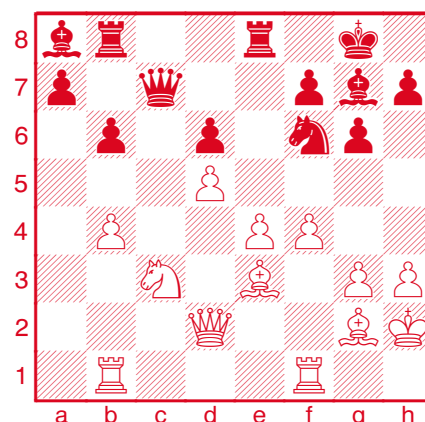


If it were White to play, 1.g2-g4, threatening g4-g5 to win f7 would be a big threat.

True or False?

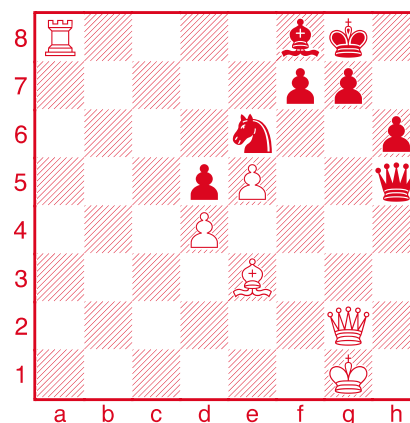
But it is Black to move, and Black can prepare to defend f7 with 1...c8-d7.

True or False?



White has a mobile pawn center and Black's Queenside pieces are awkwardly placed. What should White play:

- e4-e5
- b5xd6 and then e4-e5
- something else?



Calculate 46...dxd4

Critical Positions

The following diagrams are critical positions from this month's CCN.

These "critical positions" can be:

- winning combinations
- surprising tactical tricks
- endgames requiring precise play
- simple calculation exercises
- variation-rich middlegames
- defensive chores
- moments when one player went badly wrong.

The black and white squares next to each diagram indicate the player to move.

Some of the positions have guiding questions, most of them (like real games) don't.

Diagrams deliberately do not have player's names, as this might give a clue as to who is about to be brilliant or bogus.

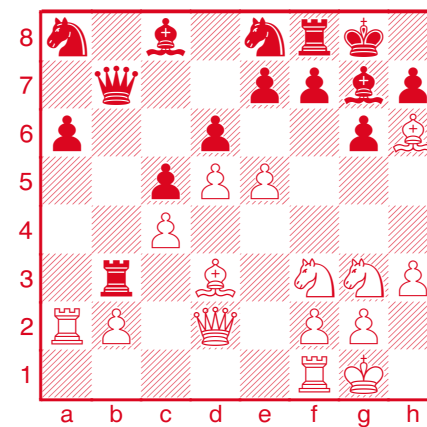
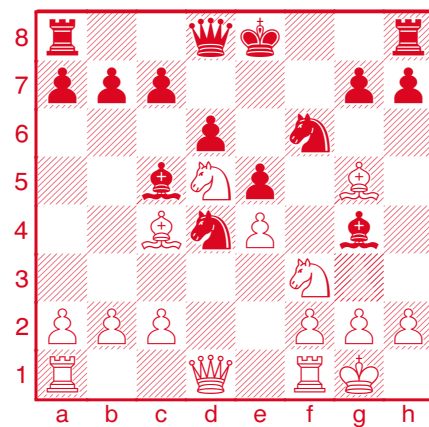
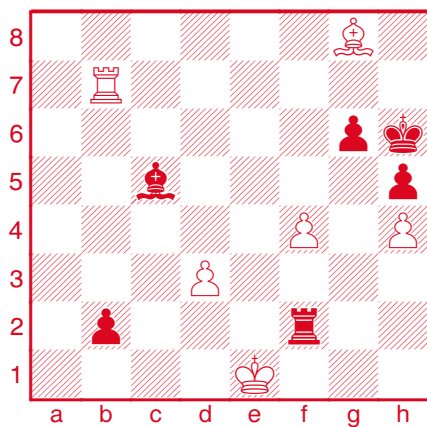
Solutions appear in the game analysis in this month's CCN, helpfully identified by the **red diagrams**.

The **blue diagrams** are "Attacking Practice": positions where one or both Kings are in danger. The solutions to the blue positions have more-than-normally detailed variations.

Critical Positions

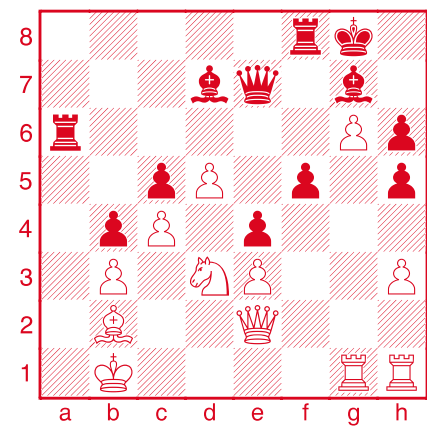
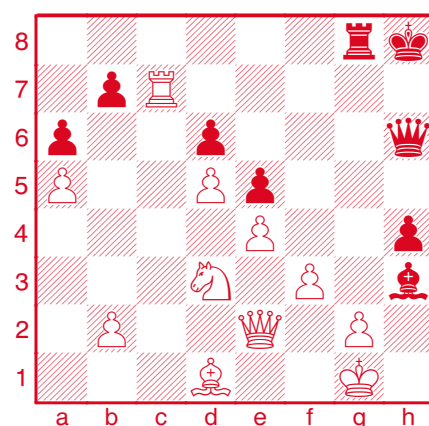
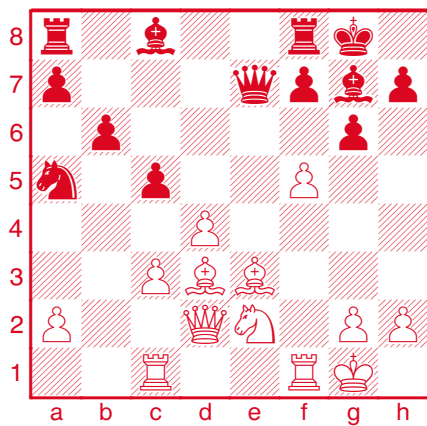
June, 2013

Chess Canada



What should Black do in this almost-symmetrical position:

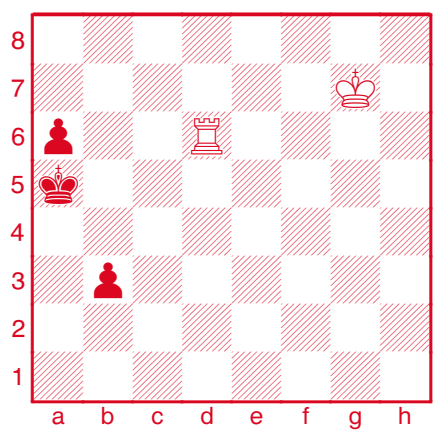
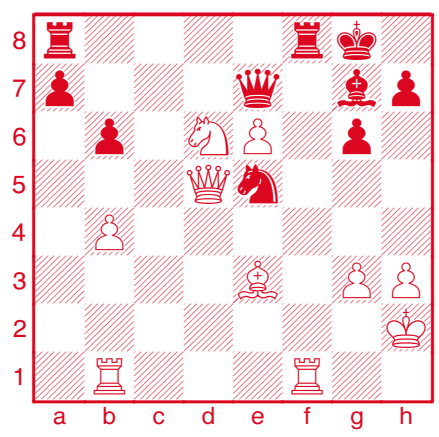
- a) Castle kingside to prepare an attack down the f-file.
- b) Capture the ♖f3 to damage White's Kingside.
- c) Something else.



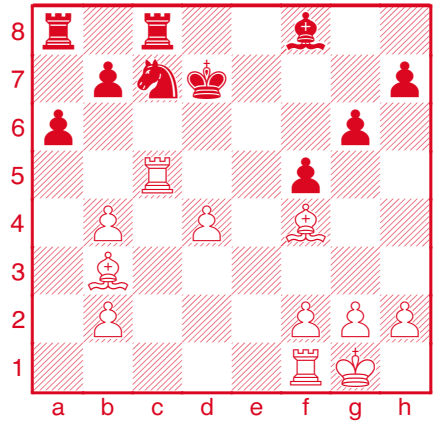
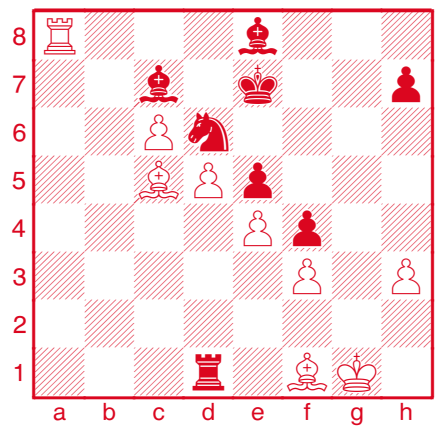
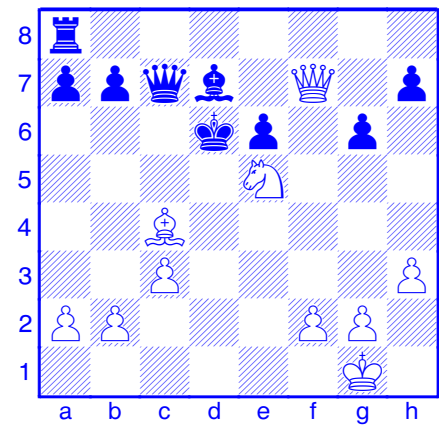
Critical Positions

June, 2013

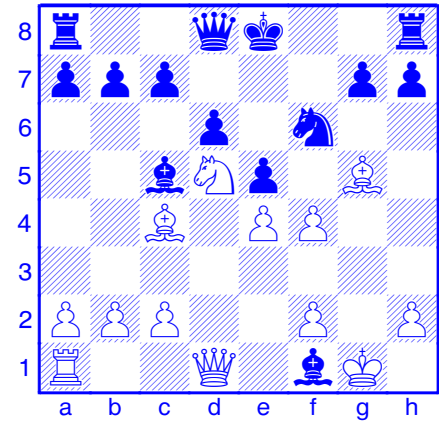
Chess Canada



Attacking Practice



Attacking Practice





I am delighted that our new CNN editor has decided to shine the spotlight on our local chess heroes, the Chess Club Champions. When I first visited the Mississauga Club back in the 1980's, John Upper was arguably "king of the hill". He had a rare digital clock and a passion for speed chess. One day I found myself bravely declining his draw offer, after all how could he possibly win with only 12 seconds on his clock. Well, I was mated in about 20 moves and John still had 5 seconds left. Lesson learned.

The **Mississauga Chess Club** sports an impressive looking championship trophy, inscribed with the winners' names going all the way back to 1972. The winners get to keep the trophy during their reign as Champion, but must return it at the end of the year. They do get a smaller trophy to keep. The old trophy was retired years' ago as the base could no longer hold additional inscriptions.

The Club Championship itself has undergone changes over the decades. When I joined the Club, the Club Championship was an 8 person round robin tournament. You earned a berth into the Club Championship based on a grand prix system. Grand prix points being earned based on performance in Club events during the preceding year. The grand prix system was developed to avoid the scenario where an outsider could come for just one tournament a year and be

come Club Champion. The grand prix system would thus reward Club regulars and help motivate others to attend year round.

The round robin system worked well for many years. Fierce rivalries for Club supremacy developed. Some former members do refer to those as the "good old days". As always, things change. Attendance dropped off, and it became increasingly problematic to keep the Club Championship as a round robin. Numerous defaulted games prompted an evolution to a Swiss pairings style championship.



2012 Mississauga Chess Club Champion Erwin Casareno (L)
receives Championship trophy from 2011 winner Carlos Ferrer.

This years' Championship will be a 6 round Swiss starting Sept. 5, with TC of 90 minutes. Our reigning Champion from 2012 is **Erwin Casareno**, whom I suspect is looking forward to defending his title. We are always delighted when Erwin visits. Travelling from the other side of the GTA, Erwin is not a Club regular, but a frequent visitor.

To get to know our Club Champion a little better, I asked Erwin to "sit down" with me for an interview by email.

An interview with Erwin Casareno

Robert: You are always so upbeat whenever you visit the Club. You clearly enjoy the game, focused when necessary, but not IMHO, obsessed with winning. Can you tell us your life's philosophy to avoid becoming obsessed like some others with winning?

Erwin: Chess should be a tool to make friends, not enemies. I use chess to connect with other people. Sometimes I play chess for fun and entertainment. Chess is not everything. There is a more important purpose in life. And that has something to do with religion.

Robert: How would you describe your chess style, aggressive, patient, tactical vs. positional?

Erwin: I play chess according to the situation, i.e. play riskily when I need a win, play solid when I need a draw or when my opponent is stronger than

Club Champ

June, 2013

Chess Canada

me. I play positional chess if my opponent is a thinker. I play simple lines when my opponent has the capability to solve deep puzzles. Sometimes, I play like an amateur to make my friends happy. If I am allowed to name my style, I would refer to it as "Bruce Lee system", named after the famous martial arts artist of the 70s. The "Bruce Lee system" is characterized by flexibility and adaptability.

Robert: Could you tell us a little about yourself please. For instance, where did you grow up? Do you have a wife, any children?

Erwin: I was born and grew up in a country where GM Wesley So comes from.

Robert: Did you play chess as a child? Who introduced you to the game of chess, perhaps it was a family member?

Erwin: Chess was introduced to me by my cousins at the age of 7. Unfortunately, there were no chess clubs to play, no tournaments, just casual play with my cousins.

Robert: I understand you do some chess teaching. Can you tell us about that, and does it help keep your own game sharp?

Erwin: Yes I teach chess to young kids in a school. This is one of my ways of sharing what I know. The benefit of teaching chess is that the ability to spot the correct moves increases significantly and is a crucial factor during time pressures. But what is really interesting for me was the bond that eventually forms with the students. My role is to guide them to reach greater heights, inspire them and help them realize what life is all about.

Robert: In recent years we have seen the introduction of increments and generally

faster time controls. In your opinion, is that good or bad?

Erwin: The current norm of tournament play is the use of increment. It has its advantage and disadvantages. With increments, the quality of play is better and good games are produced. In sudden death, the game finishes at the allocated times. I am used to SD game controls but could switch to the increment controls.

Robert: Can you describe your opening repertoire? Don't worry, we promise not to book up against you!

Erwin: My opening preparation is rather limited to few openings but I sometimes switch

"If I am allowed to name my style, I would refer to it as "Bruce Lee system"... characterized by flexibility and adaptability"

to other openings depending on my opponent. It is difficult to follow the theory in many openings and at this age, time is not a luxury. I'd rather use the time to watch a movie in

a theater with my wife, eat lunch in a Japanese restaurant, or go sightseeing. Bowling is also a nice option as it is also an exercise.

Robert: Do you have any words of wisdom for the chess beginner?

Erwin: Practice and theory are essential to success. Speed up the learning process by getting a dedicated coach. But more importantly, enjoy the game.

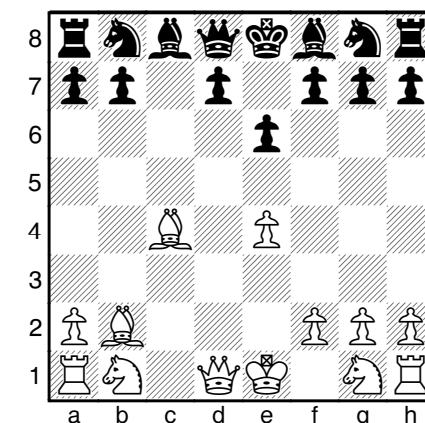
Robert: Thank you Erwin. Best wishes in the upcoming 2013 Club Championship.

Balakrishnan, Shankar (1902) - **Casareno, Erwin** (2203)

MCC Championship (5), 11.10.2012 [B21]
note by Erwin Casareno

This penultimate game is a must win situation for me in order to get a chance for a shot at the title. Two draws in earlier rounds has pushed me out of the leading players. So I was mentally prepared to go all out for the win.

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.♘c4 cxb2 5.♙xb2 e6

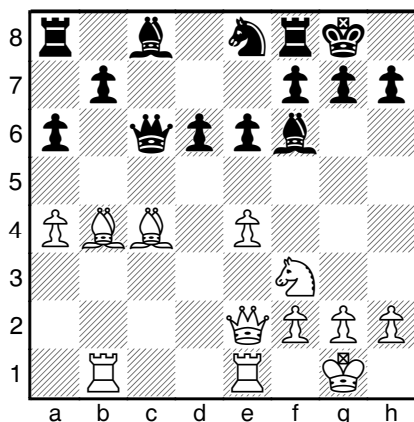


I was pleasantly surprised to play against the Danish gambit as White has to prove the soundness of the 2 pawn sacrifice.

6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.0-0 ♘f6 8.♘c3 d6 9.♖e1 ♙e7 10.♙e2 0-0 11.♖ad1 ♙a5 12.♘b5 ♘e8

There should be something better than this defensive knight retreat. Exchanging center pawns with 12...♘xe4 could be the best move. 13.♙xe4 d5 14.♙xd5 ♙xb5

13.♙c3 ♖b6 14.♖b1 ♙c5 15.♘bd4 a6
16.a4 ♙f6 17.♘xc6 ♖xc6 18.♙b4

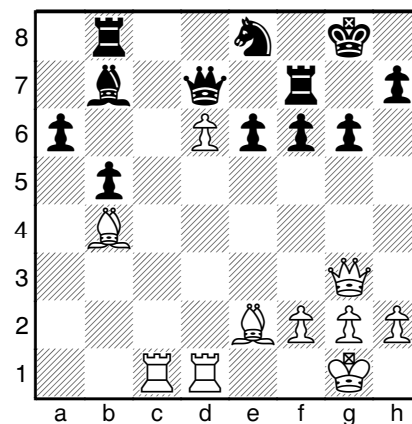


18...♙xa4

It took me some time to decide between 18...♙xa4 and 18...e5. The thoughts of creating 2 connected passed pawns on the queenside has blinded me to the idea that White can create his own passed d-pawn after which chances will be equal.

19.e5 ♙e7 20.♖ed1
♙d7 21.exd6 ♙f6
22.♖e4 ♖b8 23.♙d3
g6 24.♘e5 ♙xe5
25.♖xe5 b5 26.♖bc1
f6 27.♖g3 ♖f7 28.♙e2
♙b7

(diagram)



Despite the 2 pawns deficit, White has equal chances due to his passed d pawn. What is critical in this position is the invisible time pressure: White has only less than 5 minutes left on his clock in a sudden death game and is starting to feel the pressure. Black has 23 minutes left and is relying on his passed queenside pawns to score the point.

29.♖c7?

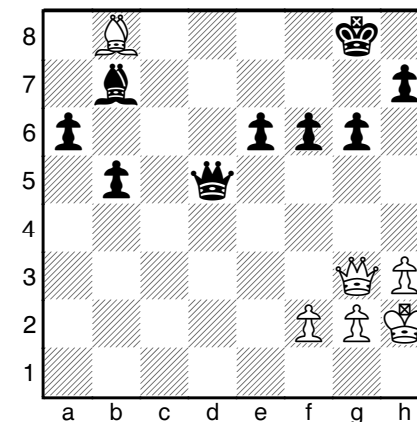
I was worried about
29.h4 ♙d5 30.h5 ♖g7
31.h6 ♖f7∞

29...♘xc7 30.dxc7
♖xc7 31.♙d6

(Black returns the rook and with the passed pawns, should be winning.)

31...♖c2 32.♙xb8

♙xe2 33.♖c1 ♖d7 34.h3 ♖d1+
35.♖xd1 ♙xd1+ 36.♙h2 ♖d5

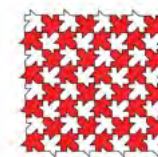


Black has simplified into a won endgame but should be careful in avoiding perpetual checks.

37.♙f4 e5 38.♙h6 b4 39.f3 b3 40.♖h4
♙f7 41.♖b4 a5 42.♖f8+ ♙e6 43.♙g7
b2 44.♖xf6+ ♙d7 45.♖b6 e4 46.♖xb2
exf3 47.gxf3 ♖xf3 48.♖d2+ ♙d5
49.♙h6 a4 50.♙f8 h5 51.♙b4 h4

0-1

report: Robert Gillanders
annotations: Erwin Casareno
photo: MCC Website



Mississauga Chess Club

History

The MCC started in 1965 when a Mr. Matthews placed an ad in the local Glen Erin newspaper for chess players. A group of 7 began playing in their homes, and later moved to Springbank Community Centre, then to the basement of a bar, then in the 1970's were invited by Professor Henry Halls to move to the then Erindale College (later renamed University of Toronto at Mississauga) where we have been ever since.

Where

University of Toronto, Mississauga Campus
3359 Mississauga Road N., Mississauga, ON.

What

tournaments of various time controls, not CFC rated. See schedule on website.

When

Thursdays, year round except for Christmas.
Junior Club: 6:45 – 8 p.m.
Adult Club: 7 – 11 p.m.
Sundays, coming soon!

Who

Club Directors: Paul Roschman, Vincent Chow, Bob Gillanders
Volunteers: Shankar Balakrishnan, Lynda Lei, Robert Beaubien, and students.

Adult Club Fees

Adult \$35
Junior/Student: \$30
Master/ Senior \$25

Junior Club Fees

Regular \$35; Siblings \$10 each

Membership (as of Dec. 31, 2012)

Adult Club: 56
Junior Club: 205

You're kidding: 200+ Juniors!?

In our 5th year of running a summer chess class for kids, the program caught fire. By popular demand, the Club decided on a pilot project and the Junior Club was born in September 2007. The story of the success of the first 2 years can be found in an article in the November 2009 issue of Canadian Chess News. The Junior Club continues to grow and now averages over 100 kids per week, making it the largest weekly junior club in Canada. Graduates now swell the ranks of the Adult Club, giving it renewed vitality.

Website

<http://www.mississaugachessclub.ca/>



Open Invitaion from the Editor

Do you play in a chess club? Does your Club have an annual Championship? Would your Club like some national attention?

If so, then why not **write an article for Chess Canada on your current Club Champion?**

A "Club Champion" article should include, minimally:

- one annotated game played by the winner of the Club's most recent championship.
- a photo of the Club Champion.
- basic info about your Club Champ.
- brief tournament story.
- general information about the Club.

If you want to add more, fine! A nice addition would be the (annotated) game your Club Champion is most proud of, whether or not it was played in your Club.

Deadline: none, but ASAP.

Submission Formats

Text

I can cope with MS Word and (I hope) most other formats, but I prefer RTF: it keeps your basic formatting, and every word processor can handle it without going screwy.

Chess

first choice: ChessBase .CBV file
second choice: PGN

Photos

- don't edit them
- maximum resolution please
- straight from the device (camera/cell phone/tablet), with EXIF information.
- accompanied by either a text file or EXIF information identifying the photographer and subjects.

You can send each component as a separate attachment to your email, or bundle them up in a zip file. I use the freeware 7z but I can probably handle anything.

<http://www.7-zip.org/>

Send articles (and questions) to:

cfc_newsletter_editor@chess.ca

The World Champions in Canada: Kasparov

article by **Stephen Wright**



Chess Canada

Garry Kimovich Kasparov (born April 13, 1963), the thirteenth World Champion, has visited this country on at least three occasions. His first and most public appearance was at the World Blitz Championship in Saint John, New Brunswick, in 1988, three years after defeating Anatoly Karpov for the world title. Kasparov's other visits to Canada have been more of a private/invitational nature: he came to Toronto in 1998 at a time when FIDE at least no longer regarded him as World Champion, and he also visited Toronto in 2007, two years after officially retiring from chess.

1988 - First Visit

The **World Blitz Championship** was the last event of the **World Chess Festival**, held on February 19-20 of 1988. Thirty-two players participated in the knockout format; competing were players rated over 2575 (using the July 1, 1987 FIDE ratings list), along with winners of the four Festival Blitz Qualifiers, winners of additional qualifiers in Biel, Philadelphia, New York, and at the U.S. Championship, a host Canadian representative, and eligible Candidates (the festival was built around the first round of Candidates' Matches for that cycle). In mid-1987 a rating of 2575 was sufficient to place a player in the top thirty in the world; by comparison, the equivalent rating on the latest FIDE list is 2710.

the first two rounds and \$50,000 to the eventual winner. These days we are spoilt by live internet broadcasts of games and streaming of tournament video. Such methods of propagating chess games weren't available in 1988, but the Festival did the next best thing: broadcasting each blitz contest for on-site spectators:

"The moves were relayed on giant cinema-sized screens which also showed the faces of the players – every grimace was visible to one of the largest crowds I have ever seen at a chess event."

- Gallagher

The favourites were World Champion Garry Kasparov, who had won the inaugural World Blitz the previous year in Brussels, and his



Kasparov turns on the charm with St. John Mayor Elsie Wayne

Media interview, St. John New Brunswick, Feb. 1988.

A generous \$100,000 prize fund was offered, with \$1,000 to those who were eliminated in

predecessor and (at that time) perennial challenger Anatoly Karpov. But neither player

even made it to the finals. Karpov overcame Kamran Shirazi easily enough in round one, but nerves got the better of him in round two as he lost to Alexander Chernin.

Kasparov's first round opponent was Icelandic IM Karl Thorsteins, who was substantially overmatched in this company, but he made the cut by placing in the third of the blitz qualifiers in Saint John. Kasparov won the four-game match by the minimum required, 2½-½. It might seem strange for the World Champion to give up a draw to a mere IM, but it appears in the blitz games Kasparov largely avoided using his primary repertoire, presumably saving novelties and new ideas for more important competitions. In the blitz championship, he twice met 1.d4 with 1...d6, and against Thorsteins the opening transposed into a Classical Pirc, an opening Kasparov rarely played. Perhaps this unfamiliarity was part of the reason for the game ending in a draw.

We are mindful of Rashid Nezhmetdinov's admonition, "He who analyzes blitz is stupid," but will present a number of Kasparov's games with light notes. Time is an important element in such contests of course, but this information is lacking from the game scores (readily available in the standard databases) and therefore cannot be commented upon.

Kasparov, Garry - Thorsteins, Karl

World Blitz Championship St. John (1); D35
19.02.1988

notes by Stephen Wright

1.c4 e6 2.♘c3 d5 3.d4 ♘e7 4.cxd5
exd5 5.♘f4 ♘f6 6.e3 ♘f5 7.♘ge2 0-0
8.♘g3 ♘e6

Black would prefer to keep his bishop on the b1-h7 diagonal, but 8...♘g6 would be

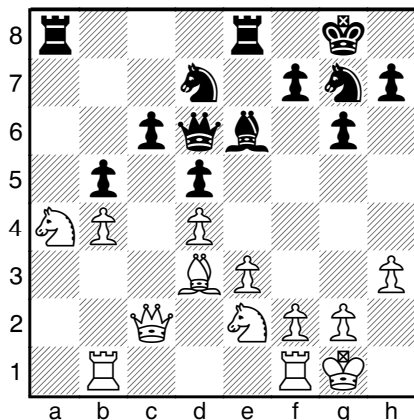
Kasparov in Canada



Chess Canada

met by the rapid advance of White's h-pawn.

9.♔d3 c6 10.♖c2 ♔d6 11.♘ge2 ♖e8
12.h3 g6 13.0-0 ♘h5 14.♔xd6 ♗xd6
15.♖ab1 a5 16.a3 ♘d7 17.♘a4 ♘g7
18.b4 axb4 19.axb4 b5

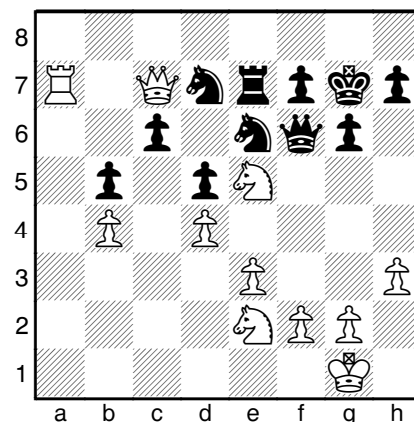


Both sides have displayed some of the typical ideas in this Carlsbad structure. Here Black physically blocks White's minority attack; this is usually only playable if Black has some way of blocking the c-file, either by getting a piece to c4 or forcing White to recapture with a pawn on c5, but for some reason Black rejects this latter option over the next two moves.

20.♘c5 ♔f5 21.♖fc1 ♘f6?! 22.♖a1
♔xd3 23.♘xd3 ♖xa1 24.♖xa1 ♘d7
25.♖a7 ♘e6

Now a White knight on e5 will put too much pressure on c6 and f7 for Black to contemplate 25...♘b6

26.♗a2 ♘g5?! (26...♖c8) 27.♗a6 ♖e7?
(27...♖b8) 28.♗c8+ ♔g7 29.♗c7 ♗f6
30.♘e5 ♘e6



31.♗xd7?

31.♗d6 ♘ef8 32.♗xf6+ ♔xf6 33.♘xc6

31...♖xd7 32.♖xd7 ♘d8 33.♘f4 ♔h6
34.♖xd8?

One wonders how accurate the score is, given that White has a queen-winning knight fork on this and the next move.

34...g5 35.♘fd3 ♔g7 36.♖d7 ♗e6
37.♖xf7+ ♔g8 38.♘c5 ♗c8 39.♘cd7

1-0

In **round two** Kasparov faced much tougher competition in the form of Maxim Dlugy, at one point the #1 ranked player in Walter Browne's World Blitz Chess Association. They split the scheduled four games 2-2, and it

was only after two extra games that Kasparov emerged the winner with a final score of 3½-2½.

Advice: Never Under Promote!

Kasparov signs merchandise at the Saint John Birks Jewellers, which donated thousands of WCF pins.

BIRKS JEWELLERS
is pleased to present
"World Chess Champion"
Garry Kasparov
&
International Chess Celebrities
in our Saint John store
Wednesday, Feb. 17th, 1988
7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

You will have the opportunity to have your newly purchased BIRKS Chess Set autographed by the "World Chess Champion" Garry Kasparov.

Chess has been around for a long time. Even the game as we know it today dates back to the 16th century. Our fine chess sets at Birks are worthy of the game's historic background.

Admittance is by invitation only!
Please pick up your invitation in advance at the BIRKS, 87 King St. location or telephone 634-1720

Only at BIRKS

The image also shows a photograph of Garry Kasparov signing a chess set for a young boy.

Dlugy, Maxim - Kasparov, Garry
World Blitz Championship St. John (2), B07
19.02.1988
notes by Stephen Wright

1.d4 d6 2.e4 ♘f6 3.f3 ♘bd7 4.c4 e5
5.d5 ♔e7 6.♔e3

Kasparov in Canada



Chess Canada

After various transpositions a position similar to a Sämisch King's Indian is reached, but with Black's dark-squared bishop on e7 rather than g7. Kasparov continues in King's Indian fashion, whereas the plan from the Czech Benoni of playing for Bg5 would also be appropriate.

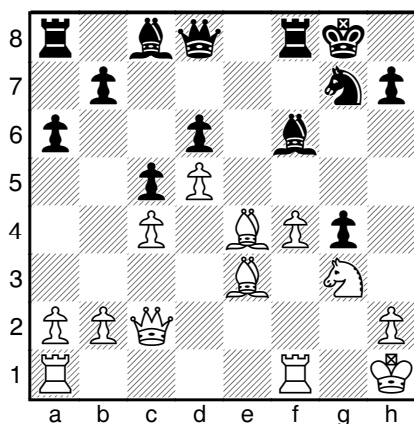
**6...c6 7.♘c3 a6 8.♙d3 0-0 9.♘ge2
♘h5 10.♙d2 g6 11.0-0 ♘g7 12.♖h1
f5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.f4**

Another plan known from the Sämisch, limiting Black's kingside expansion and preparing to undermine the pawn-chain with g2-g4.

**14...e4 15.♙c2 c5 16.g4 fxg4 17.♘xe4
♘f6 (17...b5) 18.♘2g3 ♘xe4 19.♙xe4
♙f6**

(19...h5 or 19...b5 are perhaps more incisive.)

20.♙c2



20...h5?

Best according to Houdini is 20...h6 21.♙h7+ ♖h8 22.♙g6 ♘e8 23.♘h5 ♙e7 when Black can defend.

21.♙g6?

21.♙h7+ ♖f7 (21...♖h8 22.♙g6) 22.♙ae1 and Black's king is in major trouble.

**21...h4 22.♘h5 b5 23.f5 bxc4
24.♙xc4 ♙b7?**

24...♘xh5 25.♙xh5 g3 is the computer's recommendation, leaving open the option of defending laterally with ♙a7 at some point.

25.♙ad1

In the next couple of moves Black should preserve his dark-squared bishop by playing Nxh5 at some point, White should eliminate it with Nxf6+.

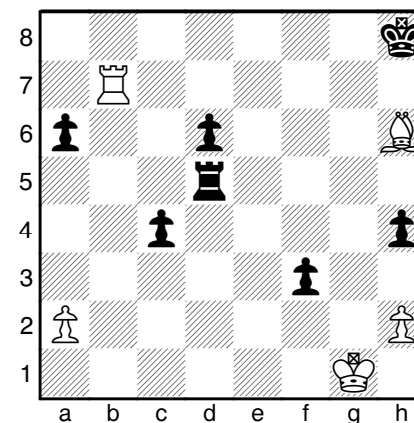
25...♙e7 26.♙h6 ♙e5

26...♘xh5 was still Black's best chance, now he loses too much time with his queen.

**27.♙fe1 ♙xb2 28.♙b1 ♙a3 29.♘xf6+
♙xf6 30.♙xb7 ♙f3+ 31.♖g1 ♘xf5
32.♙h7+ ♖h8 33.♙xf5?**

White has an overwhelming position but this is not the most accurate. 33.♙f1 is crushing.

**33...♙xf5 34.♙e2 c4 (34...♙xe2)
35.♙xf3 gxf3 36.♖f2 (36.♙ee7)
36...♙g8 37.♙g1? (37.♙ee7) 37...♙xg1
38.♖xg1 ♙xd5**



Now White has to win the game over again.

**39.♖f2 ♙d3 40.♙b6 d5? (40...a5)
41.♙xa6 c3 42.♙c6?**

42.♙f4 is necessary to protect the h-pawn.

**42...d4? (42...♙d2+ 43.♖xf3 ♙xh2 44.a3
d4) 43.a4? (43.♙f4) 43...♖h7? 44.♙f4
♙d1 45.♖xf3 ♙a1 46.♙c4 ♙d1 47.♖e4
d3 48.♙xc3 d2 49.♖d3 ♙a1 50.♙xd2
♙xa4 51.♙c4 ♙a3+ 52.♙c3 ♖g6
53.♙xh4 ♖f5**

1-0

Kasparov in Canada



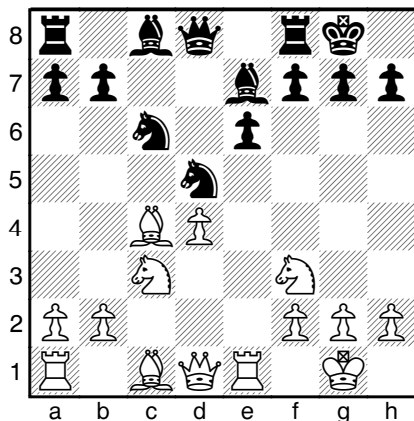
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Kasparov, Garry - Dlugy, Maxim

World Blitz Championship St. John (2); D26
19.02.1988

notes by Stephen Wright

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e6 4.e3 ♘c6
5.d4 d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.♙c4 cxd4
8.exd4 ♙e7 9.0-0 0-0 10.♖e1



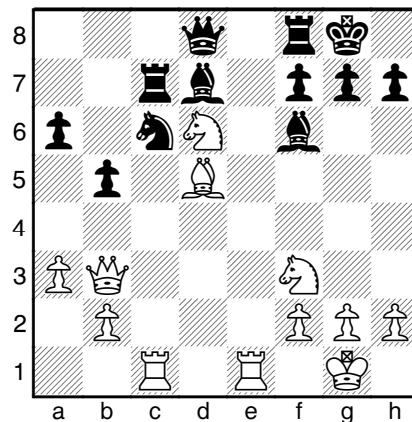
10...♘f6

10...♙f6 is theoretically a better way of defending this IQP position; the plan chosen by Dlugy does nothing to stem White's d5 break.

11.a3 a6 12.♙a2 ♖d6 13.♙g5 b5
14.♙xf6 (14.d5!) 14...♙xf6 15.♘e4 ♖d8
16.d5 exd5 17.♙xd5 ♙d7 18.♖c1 ♖c8
19.♘d6

19.♖c2 intending Rd2 is stronger.

19...♖c7 20.♖b3



20...♘e5?

Black can still defend with 20...♙e6±, but after the text his position collapses.

21.♘xe5 ♙xe5 22.♘xf7 ♙xh2+
23.♙xh2 ♖h4+ 24.♙g1 ♖xc1 25.♖xc1
♙e8 26.♘e5+ ♙h8 27.♖e3
1-0

"Evening with Kasparov"

The first two rounds of the blitz championship were held on February 19. After the competition for the day had ended, one of the festival show case events took place: an "Evening with Kasparov". This black-tie affair included hors d'oeuvres and a dance band, and featured a twenty-board celebrity simultaneous by Kasparov against various VIPs from the business and financial community.

The Blitz Championship resumed the following day, with the initial thirty-two player field reduced to eight. Kasparov met Bulgarian GM Kiril Georgiev in the quarterfinals. The match did not go well for Kasparov, as Geor-

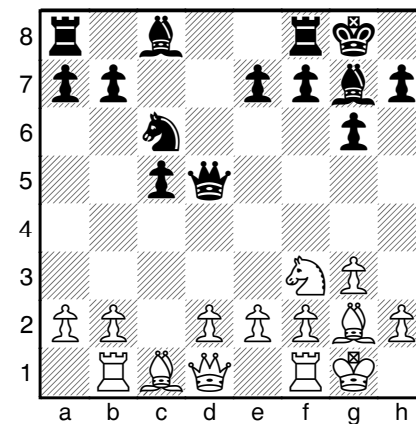
giev won with white and drew with black to eliminate the World Champion, 3-1. Georgiev subsequently lost to Rafael Vaganian in a grueling semifinal match which went to eight games, while Vaganian fell in the final to former World Champion Mikhail Tal – for details, see the February 2012 of *Canadian Chess News*.

Georgiev, Kiril - Kasparov, Garry

World Blitz Championship St. John (3), D26
20.02.1988

notes by Stephen Wright

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 ♙g7
5.0-0 0-0 6.♘c3 ♘c6 7.♖b1 d5 8.cxd5
♘xd5 9.♘xd5 ♖xd5



A variation that can be played by either side, depending upon who gets their central break in first – compare the Kasparov-Hamilton game below.

10.b3 ♖d6 11.d3 e5 12.a3 ♙d7 13.b4
cxb4 14.axb4 ♘xb4 15.♙a3

Piece play with Nd2 seems a better op-

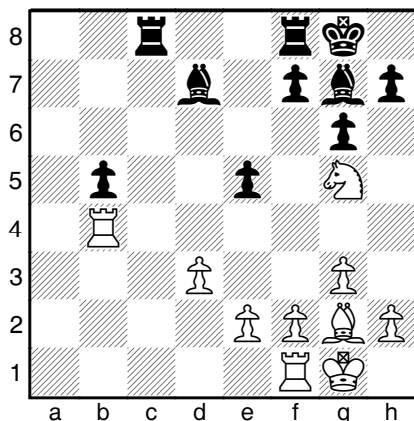
Kasparov in Canada



Chess Canada

tion on this or the next move, rather than allowing Black's queenside pawns to advance.

15...a5 16.♖b3 b5 17.♘g5 ♜ac8
18.♙xb4 axb4 19.♖xb4 ♖xb4
20.♞xb4



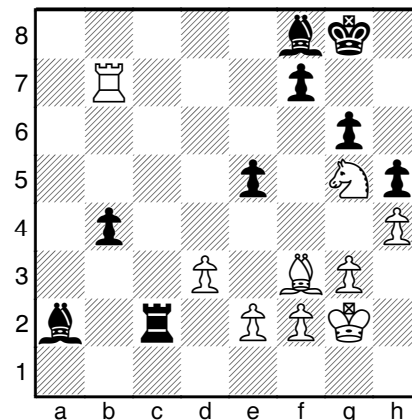
20...♞c2 21.♞e1 h6 22.♘e4 ♜fc8

22...♞b8 to support the passed pawn.

23.♘d6? (23.♞bb1) 23...♞8c5?

23...♙f8 24.♘xc8 ♙xb4 25.♞b1 ♞xc8 wins a piece for Black, White's back rank is too weak.

24.♞bb1 ♞a2 25.♙f3 h5 26.♞ec1
♞xc1+ 27.♞xc1 ♞a6 28.♘e4 ♙f8 29.h4
b4 30.♞c7 ♙e6 31.♞b7 ♞a1+ 32.♙g2
♞c1 33.♘g5 ♙a2 34.♞a7 ♞c2 35.♞b7
♙c5 36.♘e4 ♙f8 37.♘g5

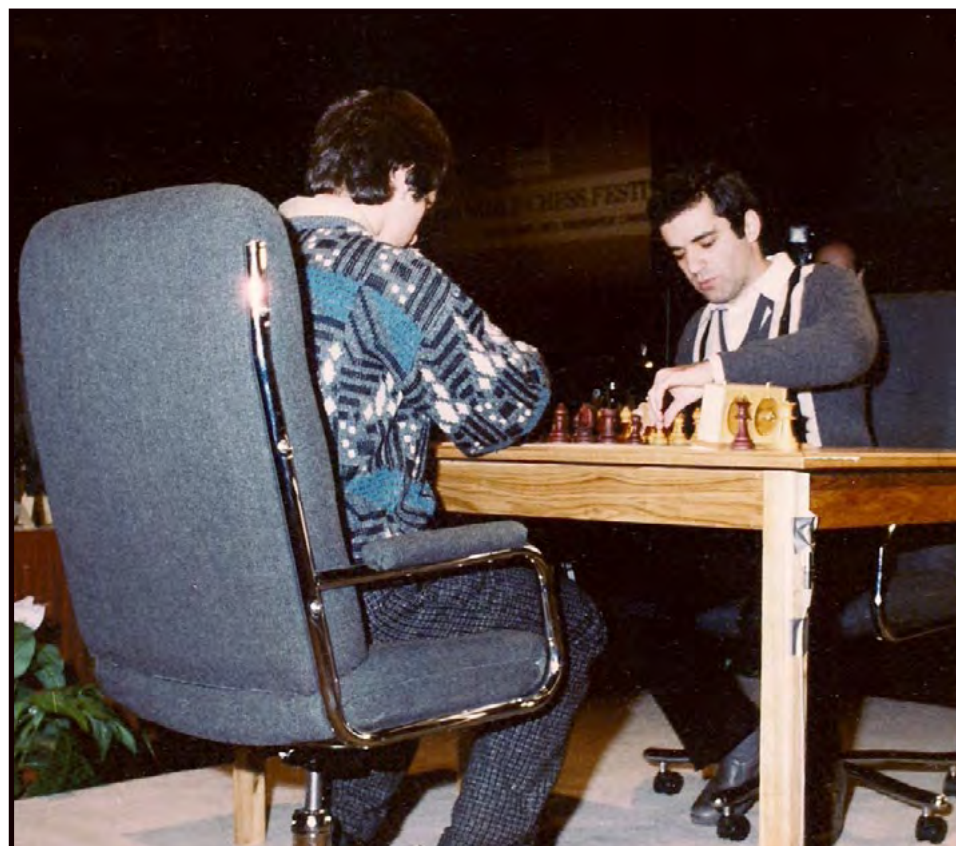


37...♙g7?

Walking into what should be trouble along the rank ...

38.♞a7?

... but White does not play 38.♘xf7 ♙xf7 39.♙d5?!± immediately, instead choosing a less favourable moment when Black's dark-squared bishop is more actively placed. One suspects the players were in severe time trouble by now.



Kasparov - Georgiev, game 2

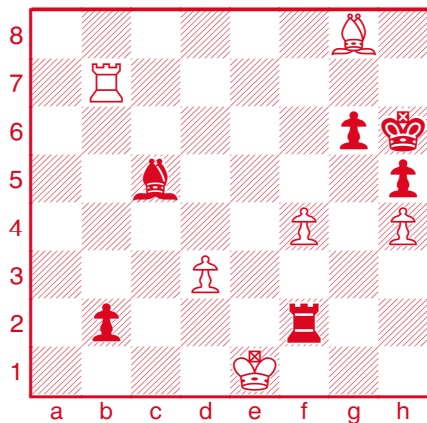
Note the duct tape on the nearest table leg. The World Chess Festival used a predecessor of the now-ubiquitous DGT systems for transmitting moves from the boards to large screens and television. The boards and pieces had magnets and coils, so each move generated a signal.

38...♙c5
39.♞b7 ♙f8
40.♞a7 ♙b3
41.♘xf7 ♙c5
42.♞b7 ♙xf7
43.♙d5 ♞xe2
44.♞xf7+
♙h6 45.♙f1
♞d2 46.♙c4
♞b2 47.f4
exf4 48.gxf4
(48.♞xf4) 48...
b3 49.♞b7
♞f2+ 50.♙e1
b2 (50...♞xf4)
51.♙g8

Kasparov in Canada



Chess Canada



51...g5??

Kasparov deals with the immediate mate, only to blunder into a second one. 51... b1♖+ 52.♖xb1 ♖xf4# would maintain Black's advantage.

52.hxg5+ ♔g6 53.♕h7#

1-0

1988 - eVisit

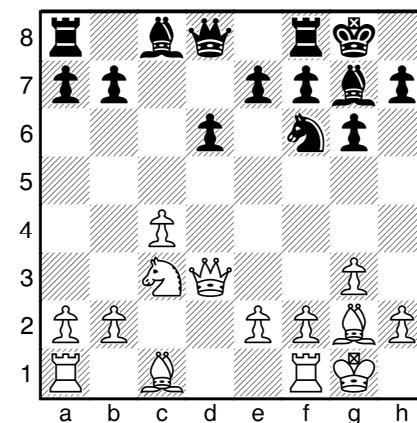
Given that Kasparov has not visited this country very often, we will take the liberty of including an event which involved a Canadian, although Kasparov himself was not in Canada at the time. This was the First World Simultaneous, an exhibition involving players from ten different countries conducted via a global modem network, with the World Champion playing from Cannes, France. Held on February 14, 1988, the Canadian representative was one of the organizers of the World Chess Festival, Robert Hamilton. He eventually lost a long struggle as Kasparov won eight of the games, drew one (Mikhail

Ulubin, USSR) and lost one (Michael Adams, England).

Kasparov, Garry - Hamilton, Robert

Cannes sim Cannes (10), 14.02.1988; A39
notes by Stephen Wright

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.c4 c5 4.g3 ♕g7
5.♕g2 0-0 6.0-0 cxd4 7.♘xd4 ♘c6
8.♘c3 ♘xd4 9.♖xd4 d6 10.♖d3

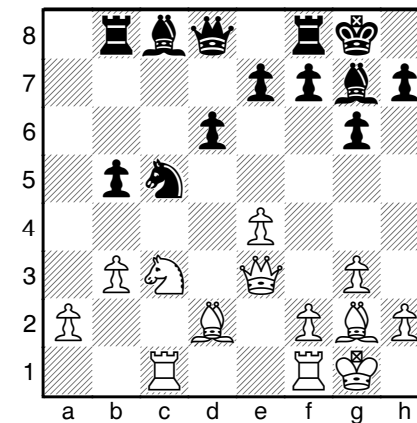


A variation in which White establishes a space advantage, but the time used gives Black the opportunity to generate active counterplay.

10...a6 11.♕d2 ♖b8 12.♖ac1 ♘d7
13.e4 b5 14.cxb5 axb5 15.b3

15.♘xb5? ♘c5 16.♖e2 ♕a6 and Black will regain his pawn with interest.

15...♘c5 16.♖e3



16...e6

Apparently a novelty; this weakens d6 but covers the d5 square in preparation for driving White's knight back.

17.♖fd1

White might consider 17.b4 to counter Black's plan.

17...b4 18.♘e2 ♕a6 19.♕e1

19.e5! ♘d3 20.♖c6 would expose the drawbacks of Black's sixteenth move.

19...♖b6 20.♖c2 f5

Black is comfortably placed, but this further quest for activity is perhaps too weakening. Placing a rook on the c-file is a sensible alternative.

21.exf5 exf5

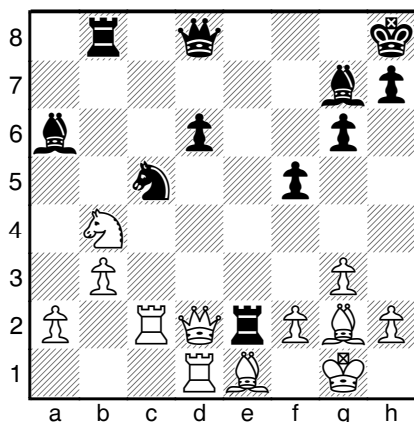
Kasparov in Canada



Chess Canada

21...♖xf5 is stronger; after the text move White get the d5 square back.

22.♘f4 ♖fe8 23.♙d2 ♘h8 24.♘d5
♙d8 25.♘xb4 ♖e2



26.♙xe2

Houdini prefers to avoid the material imbalance with 26.♙d5

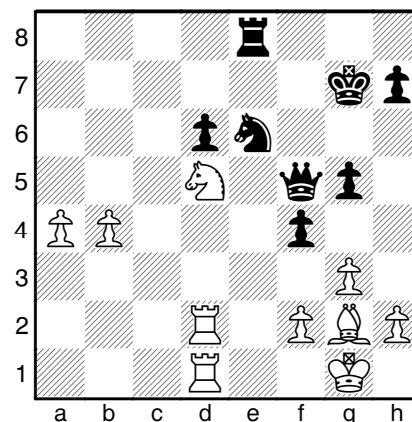
26...♙xe2 27.♖xe2

White has rook, bishop and pawn for his queen, the two bishops, some weak squares on d5 and d6 to aim at, and two connected passed pawns on the queen-side; Black puts up stiff resistance but ultimately cannot cope.

27...♙f8 28.♘d5 ♖e8 29.♖c2 g5

Producing more weaknesses, but the Black queen needs targets and this is the only way to create any.

30.b4 ♘e6 31.♙c3 f4 32.a4 ♙f5
33.♙xg7+ ♘xg7 34.♖cd2



34...f3?

Black has no immediate way to take advantage of this wedge, whereas the move closes lines, gives White use of the e3 square, and expends a vital tempo. h7-h5-h4 is more to the point.

35.♙f1 h5 36.a5 h4
37.♘e3 ♙e4 38.♖xd6
hxg3 39.hxg3 ♙xb4
40.a6 ♖f8 41.a7
♙a5 42.♖a6 ♙xa6
43.♙xa6

1-0

1998 - Second Visit

Kasparov's second visit to Canada came ten years later, in 1998. Five years earlier Kasparov and his challenger Nigel Short broke away from FIDE to hold their World Championship match; in retaliation FIDE stripped

Kasparov of his title, although he was still widely regarded as World Champion by the rest of the chess community, particularly since he remained at the top of the ratings list.

Details of Kasparov's visit to Toronto are not readily available, but he gave a simultaneous exhibition to the chess students of FM Roman Pelts at Upper Canada College and played a three-game blitz match with Pelts at a private dinner (presumably on the same visit), losing the first game but winning the other two. A leading chess trainer, Pelts had emigrated from the Ukraine to Canada in 1978 where he founded the Chess Academy of Canada. On the

Academy's website is a photo gallery which includes shots taken at the Upper Canada College simul and the blitz match with Pelts; a comparison with other photos on the page indicate other guests at the private function included Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman and philanthropist Leslie Dan.



2005 - Third Visit

A further decade later Kasparov was no longer World Champion, having relinquished the title to Vladimir Kramnik seven years earlier, and in fact was officially retired from chess as of March,

photo: Kasparov Simul at Upper Canada College, 1998

Kasparov in Canada



Chess Canada

2005. He chose instead to fight in the Russian political arena, as chairman of the United Civil Front and as a strategist for the Other Russia coalition. It was in this capacity that Kasparov gave a speech in June 2007 to the Empire Club of Canada; at this event the head table was sponsored by Belzberg Technologies, a company with strong ties to Canadian chess, and Roman Pelts was again an invited guest. Kasparov also gave a twenty-board simultaneous, but it was his role as a political activist that received all the attention in a Globe and Mail article at the time.

Most Recent Champion

To date Kasparov is the most recent World Champion to have visited Canada – his successors, Kramnik and Anand, have not had occasion to come to this country. In this series we have dealt with the fifteen “classical” champions, although it should be noted that, with the exception of Anatoly Karpov, none of the FIDE World Champions (1993-2006) have visited Canada either.

Future Champions?

And what of the future? The circumstances and reasons for the visits by Champions have changed dramatically since Steinitz and Lasker first sought sponsorship for the Montreal leg of their World Championship match. In those days, extensive exhibition tours were a major source of income for the champions, there being relatively few tournaments, whereas the top players of today are well compensated through tournament play and do not have the time in their sched-



Pelts - Kasparov (1-0, 1998)

Kasparov lost on time, and immediately inspected the clock for irregularities. How many other times has a Canadian defeated a reigning World Champion in one-on-one OTB play?

ules for the sort of tours undertaken by Lasker or Alekhine.

Canada has previously hosted events which attracted World Champions – Montreal 1979 or the World Chess Festival in 1988 – but those days seem to have passed for the time being: the Canadian Open might draw an Ivanchuk or Shirov, but a World Champion is another matter. Still, all it would take is the right circumstances and (presumably) a generous sponsor – it is not a matter of if this will happen, but when.

article by **Stephen Wright**

Editor's Appendix

It turns out that Kasparov made a *fourth* visit to Canada, even less well-documented than his two to Toronto. While looking for images for this article, I got to talking about Kasparov with WCF organizer Robert Hamilton, who told me that he hosted Kasparov in Ottawa and Hamilton for a week in 1992!

That was just prior to Kasparov's and Short's decision to hold their World Championship match outside FIDE, so the full details of the visit would be fascinating.

The one anecdote Robert told me was more funny than revelatory, but it was off-the-record.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who looks forward to the day when Robert decides it's time to write about it.... whether in these pages or elsewhere.

Thank You:

FM Roman Pelts, for permission to use the two photos from Kasparov's 1998 visit. You can see them, and much more, by visiting the Roman Pelts Chess Academy

<http://www.chessacademycanada.com>

FM Robert Hamilton, for lending me a collection of photos and clippings to scan for this article.... and for the turkey dinner. Robert has annotated his game vs Kasparov here:

<http://canadianchess.com/>



Charlottetown Open

(May 4-5, 2013)

report by **Fred McKim**



Chess Canada

The Charlottetown Open attracted a small turnout of 10, but that is not far from the normal turnout recently. However, with four players over 1800 and another five over 1600, the games were expected to be competitive.

Top rated **Richard Bowes** (Saint John) hardly broke a sweat with four wins and a relaxing Saturday night ½ point bye. This may be the last time we see him in action for a year, as he is starting a twelve month contract in NL next week.

There was a big tie for second, way back at 3 points: Chris Felix (Halifax), Anthony Banks (Amherst, NS), Peter Turner (Moncton) and Andrew Frazer (Sackville, NB). Andrew took the Most Improved Player cash, while Peter won the U1800 prize. The other prize winner was Most Improved runner-up, Nicolas Robichaud (Moncton), who scored 2½.

Chess in Charlottetown takes place at **UPEI**, who have hosted (at no charge) the joint University/Charlottetown Club for 10 or so years now.

Next Up: The next tournament in Charlottetown will take place July 26-28, when the **Maritime Open** comes to PEI. Already confirmed is IM Tom O'Donnell from the Ottawa area.

Fred McKim TD

Link:

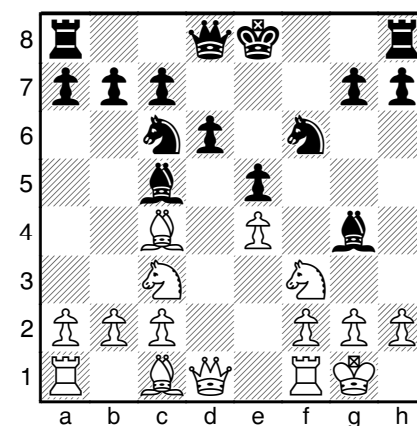
For more information on chess in the Maritimes:

<http://reallyhightech.ca/chess/maritime.html>

Felix,Chris (1933) - Banks,Anthony (1984)

2013 Charlottetown Open (4), 05.05.2013; C63; notes by Chris Felix

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 f5 4.d3 fxe4 5.dxe4 ♘f6 6.0-0 ♙c5 7.♙c4 d6 8.♘c3 ♙g4



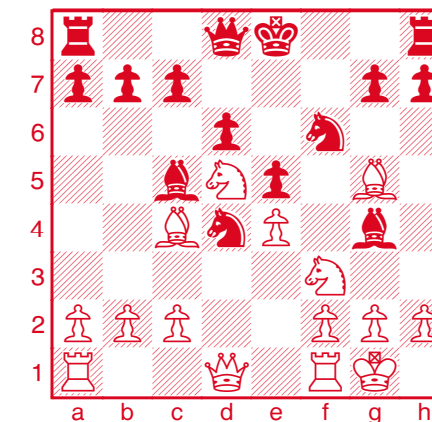
9.♙g5

editor – I'm always surprised when the 19th century breaks out in a modern game. Think of this note as foreshadowing: 9.h3 ♙h5 10.♙g5 ♘d4 11.♘xd4 ♙xd1 12.♘e6 ♗d7 (12...♙e2!) 13.♙xf6 (13.♘xc5! dxc5 14.♗axd1→) 13...gxf6 14.♘d5∞ ♙e2? 15.♙xe2 ♖f7? 16.♙h5+! 1-0 (16) Dvirnyy,D (2507)–Zelic,M (2270) Zagreb 2012.

9...♘d4 10.♘d5 10.♘xd4 ♙xd1 11.♘e6 ♗d7 12.♙xf6 gxf6 13.♘d5
An interesting try that I missed over the

board. I looked at the queen sacrifice but didn't believe it was enough. Engine evaluation shows this position as roughly equal.

editor: **Critical Position**



Should Black:

- A) castle kingside to prepare an attack down the f-file?
- B) Capture the ♘f3 to damage White's Kingside?
- C) Play ...c6 to force the ♘d5 away?

10...♘xf3+

White's play in the game shows why this isn't the best.

- A) 10...0-0??? (loses a piece) 11.♘xf6+ ♖h8 12.♘xg4 ♘xf3+ 13.♗xf3! ♗xg5 14.♗e2+;-
- B) 10...♙xf3 (not bad, though White seems to keep a plus.) 11.gxf3 c6 12.c3 cxd5 13.cxd4 dxc4 14.dxc5 0-0 15.cxd6±;
- C) 10...c6! 11.♘xf6+ (≤11.♘e3 ♘xf3+! 12.gxf3 ♙h3!≠ unlike the game, this line

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does not allow White a quick counterattack, so Black's better structure dominates.) 11...gxf6

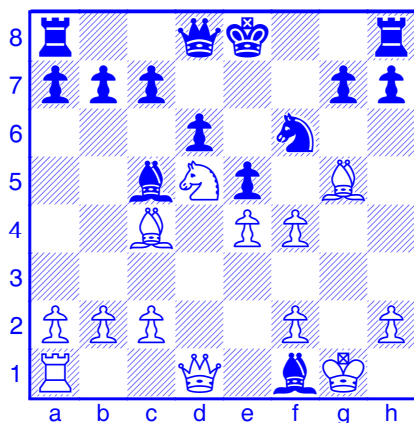
C1) ≤12.♙e3 ♘xf3+ 13.gxf3 ♙h3 14.♖e1 d5! 15.♙f1 (15.exd5?? ♖g8+-) 15...♖g8+ 16.♙h1 ♙xf1 17.♖xf1 d4±;

C2) 12.♙h4 (helps block the g-file) 12...♘xf3+ (12...♖d7! Δ13.♙xf6? ♙xf3 14.gxf3 ♖h3+) 13.gxf3 ♙h5 Black will castle Queenside and have the initiative after a well-timed ...f5. (13...♙h3? 14.f4!± as in the game.)

11.gxf3 ♙h3 12.f4

editor – !! The move of the game: the threat of ♙xf6 and ♖h5+ is so strong that Black has to give back an exchange to survive.

12...♙xf1



editor: **Attacking Practice**

By material count, White is down the exchange, but since neither of Black's ♖s is doing anything useful, it's best to think of this position as White being (temporarily) up one minor piece with the Black ♙ caught in the center. So, 13.♙xf1! →

A) 13...h5 14.fxe5 dxe5 15.♖f3!+- e.g. 15...♖d6 16.♙xf6 gxf6 17.♘xc7+!! ♖xc7 18.♖xf6+- (X♖h8 and ♙b5+);

B) 13...exf4 14.♙xf6 gxf6 15.♖h5+ ♙d7 (15...♙f8 16.♖h6+ ♙f7 17.♘xc7+-) 16.♖f5+ ♙c6 17.b4 ♙d4 18.♘e7+ ♖xe7 19.♖b5#;

C) 13...♖f8 14.♙xf6 (14.b4!) 14...gxf6 15.♖h5+ ♙d7 (15...♖f7 16.♘b6+- White wins a whole ♖) 16.♖f5+ ♙c6 (16...♙e8 17.♖e6+ ♖e7 18.♖xe7#) 17.a4 (threatening ♙b5#) 17...a6 18.♙b5+! (anyway!) 18...axb5 19.axb5+ ♙xb5 20.♖xa8 ♖xa8 21.♘xc7+-

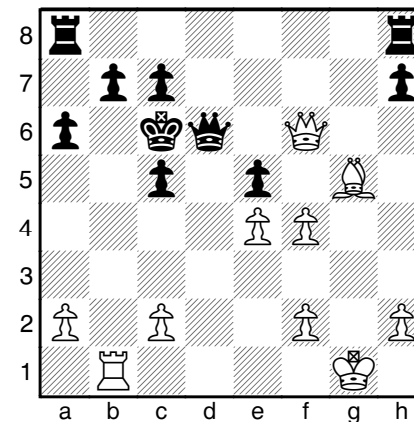
13.♘xf6+ gxf6 14.♖h5+ ♙d7 15.♖f7+ ♙c6

15...♙c8 16.♙e6+ ♙b8 17.♙xf6 And after Qe8, Qf8 or Rf8 white will have the better endgame.

16.♖d5+

16.♙xf1 This was a better move, keeping the pressure on the black king. Qd5+ was inaccurate, giving black an advantage.

16...♙b6 17.b4 ♙xc4 18.bxc5+ dxc5 19.♖xc4 a6 20.♖e6+ ♖d6 21.♖b1+ ♙c6 22.♖xf6



The attack is over, I'll end up in the endgame an exchange down, but with a two passed pawns.

22...♖hg8 23.♙f1 ♖g6 24.♖f7 exf4



Above: **Chris Felix** does some last minute prep work.

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25.♔xf4 ♖f6

A mistake, ♖f8 was much better. The position is equal now.

26.♖b3 ♖xf4

26...♖xf4 27.♖xb7+ ♔d7 28.♖xa8 ♖d4 29.♖d5+ ♖xd5 30.exd5 This would have been a good endgame.

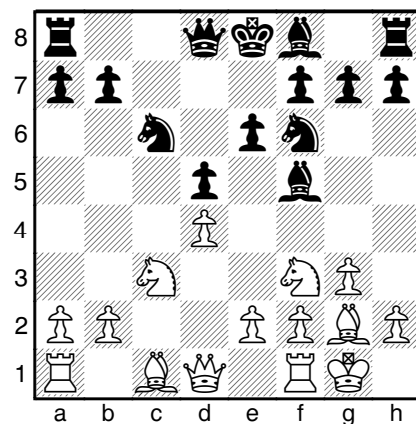
27.♖d5# 1-0

Turner, Peter (1712) – Bowes, Richard (2085)

2013 Charlottetown Open (1), 04.05.2013
D13 Fred McKim

White plays well against the tournament winner, with the exception of 24.♖d2 dropping a pawn

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.♘f3
♘f6 5.g3 ♘c6 6.♙g2 ♙f5 7.0-0 e6
8.♘c3



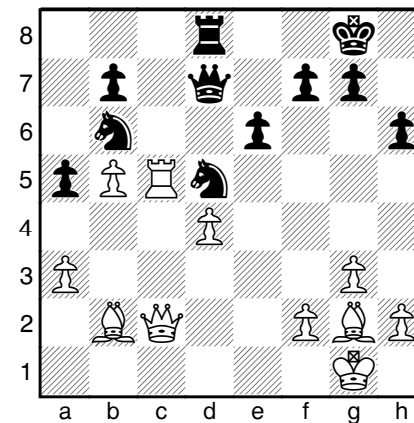
8...♙d6

8...h6 9.♖a4 ♙e7 10.♘e5 ♖b6 11.♘xc6
bxc6 12.b3 0-0 13.♖d1 a5 14.♙a3 ♙b4! ♣
White had to give up an exchange to
save the trapped ♖a4 in Eggleston, D
(2368)–Gordon, S (2521) Hastings 2009
(0-1, 33)

♙d6 9.a3 h6 10.b4 0-0 11.♙b2 ♖c8
12.♖c1 a5 13.b5 ♘b8 14.♖b3 ♘bd7
15.♘d2 ♘b6 16.e4 dxe4 17.♘cxe4
♙xe4 18.♘xe4 ♘fd5 19.♖xc8 ♘xc8
20.♘xd6 ♖xd6 21.♖c1 ♘cb6 22.♖c5
♖d8 23.♖c2 ♖d7

Rd. 4:

Andrew Frazer (L) vs Richard Bowes (R)



24.♖d2?

24.♙f1±; 24.♙f3±

24...♘a4! 25.♖c2 ♖xb5 26.♙f1 ♖b6
27.♙c1 ♖a7 28.♙b5 ♘ab6 29.a4 ♘c8

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30.♔a3 ♖ce7 31.♙c5 b6 32.♙a3 ♜f5
33.♚c1 ♚b8 34.♙b2 ♜fe7 35.♙a3
♜b4 36.♙c7 ♜ed5 37.♙c4

The first round was played at a rate of G/90.... the rest of the game was a flurry of moves, eventually reaching a winning rook ending

1-0

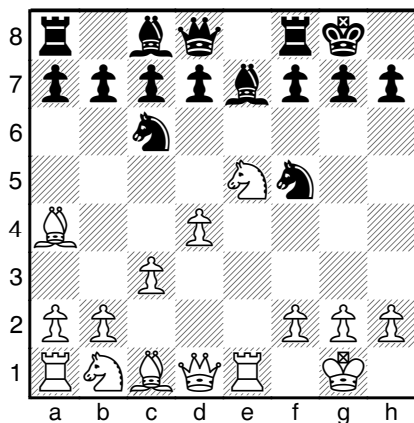
McKim, Fred (1918) –
Creamer, Kyle (1827)

2013 Charlottetown Open (4), 05.05.2013
C67 Fred McKim

1.e4 e5 2.♜f3 ♜c6 3.♙b5 ♜f6 4.0-0
♜xe4 5.♙e1 ♜d6 6.♙a4

6.♜xe5 is much more common

6...♙e7 7.♜xe5 0-0 8.d4 ♜f5 9.c3



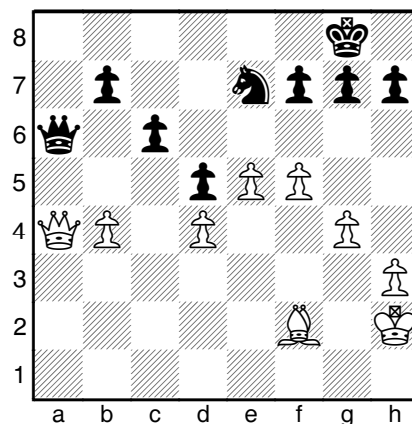
9...♜xe5 10.dxe5

10.♜xe5 d6 11.♙e1 d5 12.♜d2 c6 13.♜f3
♙d6 14.♜e5 f6 15.♜f3 ♚c7 16.♙c2 ♙d7
17.♚d3 g6 18.♙d2 ♜g7= 19.b4?? ♙f5 0-1
Rostek, J (1577)–Van Wely, L (2651) Kup-
penheim (blitz) 2004

10... d5 11.♜d2 c6 12.♜f3 ♙c5 13.b4
♙b6 14.♙g5 ♚c7 15.♙c2 ♜e7 16.h3
♙f5 17.♜d4 ♙xd4 (17...♙xc2 18.♚xc2
♜g6=) 18.cxd4 ♙xc2 19.♚xc2± ♜g6
20.♙e3 ♚d7 21.♙ac1 ♜e7 22.f4= ♜f5
23.♙f2 a5 24.a3? axb4 25.axb4 ♙a3
26.♙a1 ♙fa8 27.♚b2
27.♙xa3 ♙xa3 28.♚b2 ♙a8 29.g4±

27...♙xa1 28.♙xa1 ♙xa1+ 29.♚xa1=
♚c8? ♜29...h5=

30.g4± ♜e7 31.♚c1 ♙a8 32.f5 ♙a2
33.♚c5 ♚b1+ 34.♜h2 ♚f1 35.♚c2
♚c4 36.♙a4 ♙a6±



Two class A players competing - fairly rep-
resentative game so far. Any mistakes have
been small positional ones. Without the aid
of a computing device, I conclude that the

ending without the queens is better for me.
Not winning, but some chances. What I find
interesting is how many of those 0.6 GM
games turn out to be winning. My interpre-
tation of that is that best moves are easier
to find when you have the edge, than when
you are defending.

37.♚a5

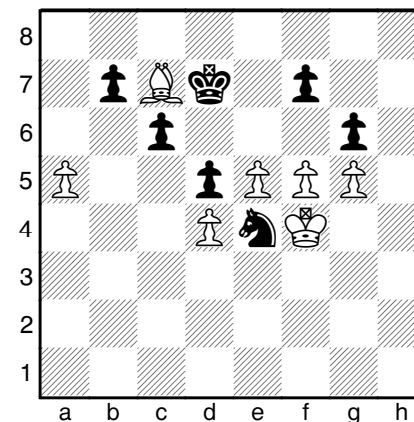
I'm thinking that with my pawn on a5 in-
stead of b4, I can get my bishop into play

37...♚xa5 38.bxa5 ♜c8
38...c5!

39.♙e1 ♜a7 40.♙b4 ♜b5 41.♙c5±
♜c3 42.♜g2 ♜e4 43.♙b6=

Falling asleep at the switch – who let the
king out ? ♜43.♙b4±

43...♜f8 44.♜f3 ♜g5+ 45.♜g3 ♜e4+
46.♜f4 h6 47.h4 ♜e7 48.g5? hxg5+
49.hxg5 g6 50.♙c7 ♜d7



51.e6+! ♜e7!

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51...fxe6? 52.fxc6+-

52.exf7 ♖xf7 53.f6 ♖e6 54.♗g4 ♖f7
55.♙f4 ♖e6 56.♗f3 ♖f7 57.♙e3 ♖e6
58.♗f4 ♖d6 59.♙f2 ♖c4 60.♙e1 ♖d6
61.♙b4 ♖f5 62.♙c5 ♖h4 63.♖e3
♖g2+ 64.♖d2 ♖h4 65.♖e2 ♖f5
66.♖d3 ♖h4 67.♙f8 ♖f3 68.♙h6 ♖h4
69.♖d2?? ♖f5+- 70.♙f8 ♖xd4

The fact that I went on to win this lost game on time after more blunders by both players is slightly embarrassing.

1-0

Chess in Canada: Coats Optional

below: Faisal Zahid is bundled up, while Peter Turner and Mark Fowlie brave the elements.



No matter how big or where it's played, every chess tournament has two things in common: players think they haven't prepared quite enough, and parents have to creatively cope with a long uncomfortable sit.

Above: Chess parent Xavier Robichaud settles in for a weekend away from home.

Canadian Forces Championship

(May 3-5, 2013)



Chess Canada

report by **Major Regis Bellemare**



The **5th Canadian Forces Chess Championship** was organized for a second year in the beautiful Citadelle of Québec, home of the Second Battalion du 22eme Regiment du Canada, more commonly known as the Van Doos in English Canada. Located downtown Québec City, the Citadelle is an ideal military historic site to hold a military chess tournament. With a classy tournament hall, accommodations and dinning facilities all in the same place, it is a perfect setting for the players. The downtown location also allows for players and their guests to go walk the city scape between games.

Once again this year, we conducted a six round team/individual swiss system. However, we compressed two rounds on the Friday afternoon to 41min + 20sec increment, while the remaining games were at 90min+30sec in order to have a more relaxed start in the

morning. That proved to be an excellent choice both for the players and for the organizer.

The Championship started with a reception and opening lunch at the fabulous Officer's mess of the Citadelle, the last of its kind in Canada. All the players and their guests had the chance to eat an excellent dinner in a castle-like atmosphere. After speeches from our host and the organizer, we made a toast to the future of Canadian Forces Military Chess (may it be good!), took off our uniforms and started the chess battles!

Twenty-six competitors were playing in one section. In its present format, the event is open to active and retired Canadian Forces (CF) members or civilians working for the CF or with the Department of National Defence (DND). The active members (military

or civilians) compete for the title of Canadian Forces Chess Champion. The top six active players are also offered a place on the team for the incoming NATO Championship that will be hosted by Poland in August. Retired members (also military or civilians) compete for the top retired player. The Championship also includes a team competition in which bases/areas are invited to present teams of 3 players.

This year, we tried to add **online games** to the tournament to enable London (Ontario) players who could not make it to Québec city to participate. The intent was to give them the opportunity to compete in the Championship individually and as a team but also to try to qualify for the incoming NATO Chess Championship. As per regulation, a non-playing tournament director was supervising the players in both locations. To make it feel like a real game and to avoid having players who came all the way to Quebec to play on a computer screen, moves were relayed on a



Canadian Forces

May 3-5, 2013

Chess Canada

real board by a non-player/TD. There was a clock on each side to monitor the time and players had to write their moves as if they were playing on a board. While the system was working well, the technology used did not make the relay of the moves efficient and the game became too long compared to the other over-the-board games. So, unless we can have more computers, better internet connections and more people to relay the games, this format will not be used in incoming Championships. However, we may consider in the future playing in a fully online tournament as it may be the way to make sure our Championship remains a national event, one where *all* Canadian Forces players have a chance to participate. Overall, the 3 days/6 rounds format seems just fine.

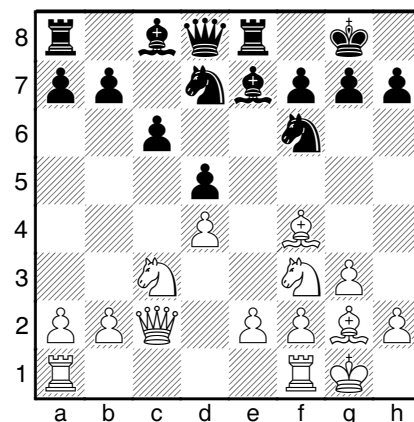
Congratulations to the new Canadian Forces Chess Champion **Master-Corporal Philippe Léveillé** from **Canadian Forces Station Leitrim** in the Ottawa area. Philippe came well prepared to the Championship with one idea in mind... winning! He finished with 5/6, giving only two draws, to two previous champions, Retired Commander Paul Leblanc from Victoria and Retired Corporal Roger Lebrun from Pembroke.

Leblanc, Paul (Crd. ret.) (1942) - Léveillé, Philippe (MCpl) (1812)
Canadian Forces Championship (5),
05.05.2013 [E07]
notes by Philippe Léveillé, MCpl.

Game 5 of the CF Chess Championship was the most important for Léveillé. He was playing against the defending champion, Paul Leblanc, who beat him the year before in a seemingly drawn game. This was his chance of getting the revenge he had been waiting for. He was having a very good

tournament: he had just drawn against the 3-time champion Roger Lebrun and his unit (CFS Leitrim) was in the top 3. However, he knew things would only get tougher as the tournament progressed.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.g3 ♕e7
5.♗g2 0-0 6.0-0 ♘bd7 7.cxd5 exd5
8.♘c3 c6 9.♖c2 ♖e8 10.♗f4



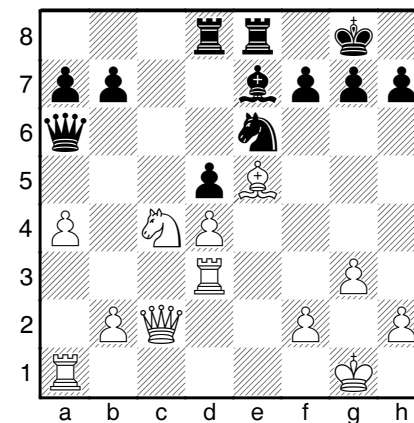
10...♘b6 11.♗e5 ♗e6 12.♖fd1 ♘bd7
13.e4 dxe4 14.♗xe4 ♖b6?!

A doubtful move. Rybka 4 prefers 14...♗xe4 15.♗xe4 (15.♖xe4 ♘b6 16.♗e3 ♘d5) 15...♗f6 16.♗f3 ♘d5 In either case, the knight would have had a nice outpost on d5.

15.♗g5 ♗f8

The only logical move. This is a Queens Gambit Declined theme: the knight supports the bishop on e6, avoiding the creation of a problematic pawn on e6.

16.♗xe6 ♗xe6 17.♗c4 ♖b5 18.♗e5 ♖ad8
19.♖d3 ♗d5 20.a4 ♖a6 21.♗xd5 cxd5



22.♗e3??

By occupying e3, White traps his own bishop. The knight should have gone to a3.

22...f6 23.♗f4 g5 24.♗xd5 ♖xd5
25.♗e3 ♖ed8 26.♖ad1 b6 27.♖b3 ♖g7
28.♖c2 ♖b7 29.♖e2 ♖d7 30.♖g4
♗c5!

This move ends all hope for White. The hanging queen is attacked as well as his rook on e3; furthermore the knight on c5 cannot be taken. The queen exchange is forced.

31.♖xd7 ♖8xd7

Behind a piece and without any counter play, Leblanc resigned, knowing that the d4 pawn will fall soon.

1-0

Canadian Forces

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After this victory, Léveillé faced Maj Régis Bellemare in the 6th round and won the tournament in his home town with 5/6. His unit, CFS Leitrim won the team championship with 10 points.

Philippe was followed in second place by Peter Baxted from London and in third place by Mario Tremblay from Montréal. Mario was the underdog of the tournament, making his way to the third place with wins against players with higher ratings.

The Valcartier team, winners of the 2012 Championship, came in with a completely new team. With five other teams playing (Kingston, Ottawa, Leitrim, Gagetown and

Valcartier 2), we were expecting a good competition and that is what we saw! At the finish line, **CFS Leitrim topped the team standing** with 10 points, only ½ ahead of Valcartier. CFS Leitrim took the preparation for the Championship seriously and that paid off! In third place came London with 8 points, winning the tie break against Ottawa who was also at 8 points.

Finally, congratulation to **Retired Lieutenant-Colonel Jean Bigras** who is now the new Champion for the Retired members. He had an excellent performance of 5/6. He was followed by Retired Corporal Roger Lebrun and Retired Commander Paul Leblanc.

report by **Major Regis Bellemare**



The Champion Major Regis Bellemare presents the winner's trophy to 2013 Canadian Forces Chess Champion Master-Corporal Philippe Léveillé, CFS Leitrim.



The new definition of "Class" Tournament: A beautiful dining room, silverware, flowers, cloth napkins, and nametags at every place. Have you seen this *anywhere* except at a world elite round-robin? If you're interesting in competing in these conditions, it's *simple*. Start by clicking here: <http://www.forces.ca/>



Links:

For information on military chess events and more pictures, see the Military Chess facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MilitaryChess>

Official NATO-Chess website:

<http://www.natochess.com/>

Simple, but not easy.



McGill Open

(May 3-5, 2013)

report by **Felix Dumont**



84 chess players showed up for the 2013 **McGill Open**. For the first time, the tournament is part of the **Oasis Quebec Tour** (with \$3500 in prizes at the end of the year), and it apparently attracted many players. The first section, for players rated over 2000, was definitely a good idea, considering how strong the section actually was: 1 grandmaster, 1 international master, 1 FIDE master, and 7 national masters (FQE) showed up. **GM Bator Sambuev** won the tournament without too much trouble, finishing with a perfect score of 5/5, 1½ points ahead of second place.

Overall, the tournament went pretty well. Marguerite Yang, our VP Marketing, did an excellent job by finding many **sponsors**. *Van Houtte* gave 10 gift certificates of \$5 each, while *Paragraphe bookstore* offered a gift certificate of \$25 for the best junior of section C and \$50 for the best player from McGill. *Sac-Wich*, a nearby restaurant, also offered a 25% discount for all players or visitors, which seemed to be pretty popular, as nearly half of the players went there for lunch. However, the most appreciated sponsor was definitely *Starbucks*. Not only did they offer 4 gift certificates of \$10, but they also gave free coffee for the weekend. It was definitely much appreciated by the players, judging by how much coffee was consumed.

However, everything can't be perfect. The air conditioning starts in May in all buildings (and cannot be controlled), so the tournament hall was definitely too cold,

which was pretty annoying. In order to solve this, we already started to look for other rooms that could accommodate us next year and thus offer the players optimal playing conditions. The 2014 McGill Open will definitely be an event that no one should miss!

The following upset earned the "Best Game" prize.

Hebert, Jean (2400) - **Laptos, Kris** (2237)
McGill Open 2013 (2), 04.05.2013 A21
notes by Keith MacKinnon

1.c4 d6 2.d4 e5 3.♘f3 e4!? An ambitious opening that scores well for black. I confess not having much knowledge of the thematic ideas in the position, but black's subsequent play demonstrates his main plan.

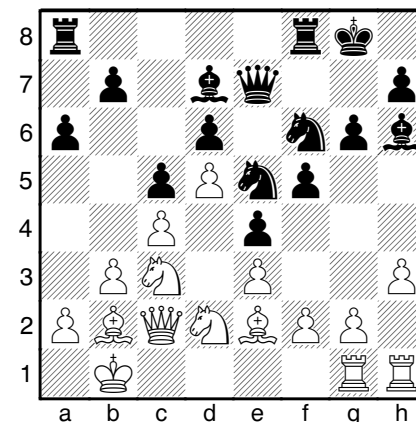
4.♗fd2 f5 5.e3 ♗f6 6.♗c3 c5 6...g6 followed by ...Bg7 and is the most common idea in this position. **7.d5** and White shows his hand; **7.♗b3** does not commit to locking up the centre so quickly

7...g6 8.b3 ♕h6!? Unconventional. It seemed as if black wanted to fianchetto his bishop to counter the long diagonal, but he has different ideas.

9.♖c2 ♗bd7 10.♕e2 ♗e5 11.♕b2 0-0 12.h3 ♖e7 Black appears to be quite comfortable here. **13.0-0-0** I would be hesitant to play such a move. It's not that

it's a mistake, it just invites Black's forthcoming queenside attack. What we will see is attacking chances on both sides of the board. **13.0-0** was most likely objectively better but also much more drawish

13...♕d7 14.♖b1 a6 15.♗dg1



15...b5

editor – As our annotator notes, both Black and White have played unusually *and* provocatively, so I was surprised to find this position is already in my database: **15...♖h8 16.g4 ♕g7 17.gxf5? (♠17.g5) 17...♕xf5! 18.a4 ♗d3! 19.♕xd3 exd3 20.♖c1 b5! 21.♖a2 bxa4 22.bxa4? ♖ab8!+ 23.♖e1 ♗e4 24.♗dxe4 ♕xe4 25.♖h2 ♖e5 26.f4 ♖e7 (26...♖xb2+!) 27.♕a1 ♖b4+ 0-1 (38) Mahia, G (2377)–Slupik, C Dos Hermanas (Internet Section, 8m+2s) 2004.**

16.g4 (and now we see real conflict on the queenside and the kingside!) **16...b4 17.♗d1 ♕g7** (Necessary to prevent g5

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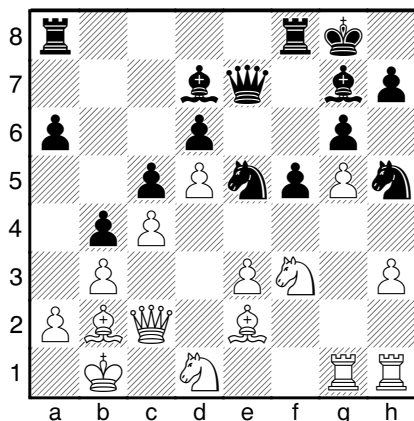
Chess Canada

and to be able to recapture on f5 with his g-pawn in the case of 18. gxf5)

18.g5 ♖h5!? Bold. I remember looking over at the game at this point and thinking that ...♖h5 was a mistake, but it appears this move causes white the most headaches in continuing his attack

19.f4?! 19.♙xh5 gxh5 20.f4 exf3 21.♖f1 black is in the driver's seat but this may have been a better continuation for white

19...exf3 20.♖xf3



20...a5?!

Black gives away part of his advantage and offers white chances. It's interesting to note that the computer takes quite some time to realize how good black's position is here.

♙20...♖xf3 21.♙xf3 f4! ♜ activating Black's d7 bishop with threats on the f5-b1 diagonal 22.♙xg7 (22.♙xh5?? ♙f5-+) 22...♖xg7 And white is in very serious trouble. His pieces are uncoordinated and his position is falling apart after 23.♙g4 ♙f5 24.♙xf5

♖xf5 25.exf4 ♖d4 26.♗g2 ♖xf4-+ The powerful knight in combination with the open files should give black a nearly winning position.

21.♖xe5 dxe5?!

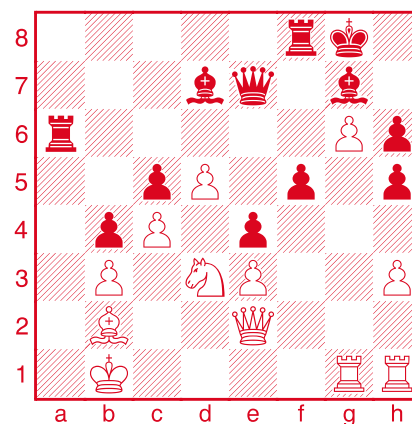
Giving white the protected passed d-pawn looks very risky, but it will be a long-term weakness for black, and white never gets around to taking advantage of it.

22.♙xh5 What could be more natural than giving black doubled h-pawns? **22...gxh5**

23.g6 h6 24.♖f2 To the casual observer, this position might look very strong for white. The truth, though, is that he has few avenues of attack and black's plan is far more straightforward.

24...a4 25.♖d3 axb3 26.axb3 ♖a6 27.♗e2 e4

Critical Position



28.♖f4??

I do not recall if time trouble was a factor in this mistake, but the position went from bad to lost immediately. 28.d6! a tough move to find, but possibly white's best hope.

editor – the point is to protect the ♖b1 by deflecting either the ♖a6 (slowing Black's attack on the a-file) or the ♗e7 (so that after ♙xg7 Black doesn't have ...♗xg7).

28...♖fa8-+ 29.d6 desperation

editor – here's why the ♗ defelection with 28.d6 was necessary: 29.♙xg7 ♗xg7 30.♗b2 ♖a1+ 31.♙c2 ♗xb2+ 32.♙xb2 ♖8a2#

29...♖a1+ 30.♙xa1 ♖xa1+ 31.♙c2 ♗e5! 32.♖xa1 ♗c3+ 33.♙d1 ♗xa1+ 34.♙c2 ♗xh1?!

34...♗b2+ 35.♙d1 ♗b1+ 36.♙d2 ♙c3# The mate in 3 is quite obvious. Sometimes, it is worth taking a couple extra seconds to check if there is an even better move than the one you have planned although his move wins easily as well.

35.♗d2 ♗a1 36.♗d5+ ♙h8 37.♗f7 ♗c3+ 38.♙d1 ♗xb3+ 39.♙e2 ♗c2+ 40.♙f1 ♗d1+ 41.♙g2 ♗f3+ 42.♙h2 ♗xe3

White resigned, as there is no way to prevent mate in the near future. A very exciting game characterised by original play by black in the opening!

0-1

Laptos, Krzysztof (2255) - **Sambuev, Bator** (2676)

McGill Open 2013 (4), 05.05.2013 C02 notes by John Upper

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 ♖c6 5.♖f3 ♗b6 6.a3 ♖h6 7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 ♖f5

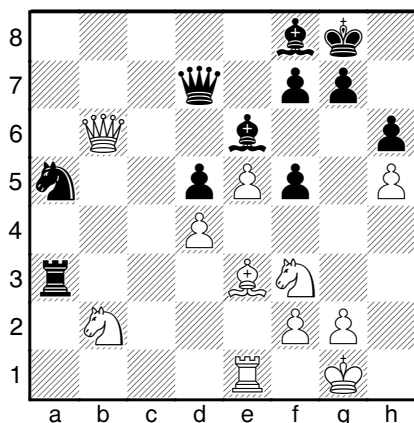
McGill Open

May 3-5, 2013

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9.♘b2 The game score has 9.♘d2?, but if so, I doubt Bator would have refrained from taking on d4.

9...♙e7 10.♘d3 ♘d7 11.♙xf5 exf5 12.♘c3 ♙e6 13.0-0 0-0 14.♘a4 ♗d8 15.♘c5 b6 16.♘d3 ♗d7 17.h4 ♙fc8 18.♙e1 ♘d8 19.♘c1 ♙c4 20.♙g5 ♙f8 21.h5 h6 22.♙e3 a5 23.bxa5 ♙xa5 24.♘d2 ♙a7 25.♗b3 ♘c6 26.♙e3 ♙ca4 27.♘b2 ♙xa3 28.♙xa3 ♙xa3 29.♗xb6 ♘a5 (diagram)



30.♙d1?!

I suppose this was played to discourage ...♘c4, but it gives Black a surprising way to take the initiative.

♘30.♘d3 ♘c4 31.♗b1 ♗a4 when neither of the ♙s on the e-file is doing much, but all of Black's other pieces are more active than White's.

30...f4!!

30...♘c4 31.♘xc4 dxc4 32.d5 ♙xd5 33.♗d4 ♙a5 34.♗xc4 ♗e6

31.♙xf4 ♙g4→ 32.♘d3

Trying to preserve his pawn structure

fails: 32.♙d3 ♘c4 33.♗b8 ♙a5! (threatens ...♙b5) 34.♘xc4 ♙a1+ 35.♙h2 dxc4+.

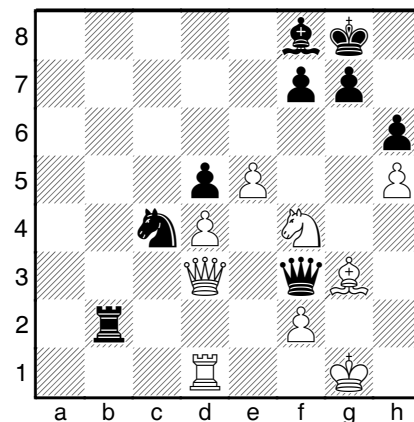
32...♗f5 33.♙g3 ♘c4

White's ♗ has to retreat to b1 anyway, and Black's ♘ turns out to be less useful here. ♘33...♙xf3 34.gxf3 ♗xf3 35.♗b1 ♘ (35.♘b2? ♘c4+) 35...♘b3!? (35...♗xh5+; 35...♗g4 36.♘f4 ♙f3!→) 36.♘e1 ♘ (36.♙f1 ♘d2+; 36.♘f4 ♙a1+) 36...♗xh5

34.♗b1 ♘xf3 35.gxf3 ♗xf3 36.♘f4 ♘

Threatens to equalize with ♙d3.

36...♙b3! 37.♗c2 ♙b2 38.♗d3 (diagram)



38...♙xf2!?

Computers rate this as giving away Black's advantage, but it's a good practical choice: White's exposed ♙ leaves him having to calculate forcing lines on every move, and Black's extra pawns mean White has no realistic winning chances.

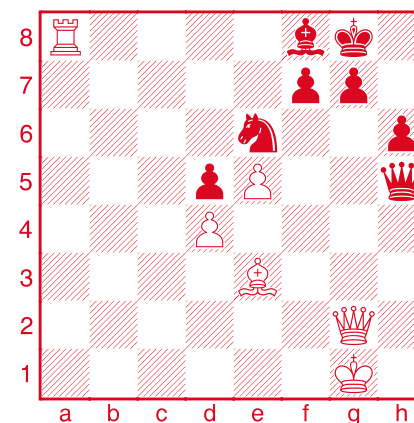
This is very similar to Hartman – Sambuev (RA Fall Open, 2010), where Bator sac'ed an exchange to get a ♗ + dark-squared ♙ + safe ♙ vs ♗ + ♙ + exposed ♙, and tor-

tured IM Hartman for 45 moves, eventually inducing a blunder to win.

39.♙xf2 ♗xf4 40.♗g3 ♗f5 41.♙a1 ♘d2 42.♙e3 ♘e4 43.♗f4 ♗xh5 44.♙a8 ♘g5 45.♗g3 ♘e6 46.♗g2

Critical Position

Calculate 46...♘xd4



46...♘xd4! 47.♗xd5??

47.♙xd4 ♗d1+ 48.♙h2 ♗xd4 49.♗e2 Black is better, but White threatens to equalize immediately with e6.

47...♗d1+ 48.♙g2 ♗g4+ ♘ 49.♙f2 ♗e2+ ♘

0-1

Sambuev, Bator (2676) - **Kleinman, Michael** (2382)

McGill Open 2013 (5), 05.05.2013 A48 notes by John Upper

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.♙g5 ♙g7 4.♘bd2 0-0 5.e4 d5 6.exd5 ♘xd5 7.c3 c5 8.dxc5

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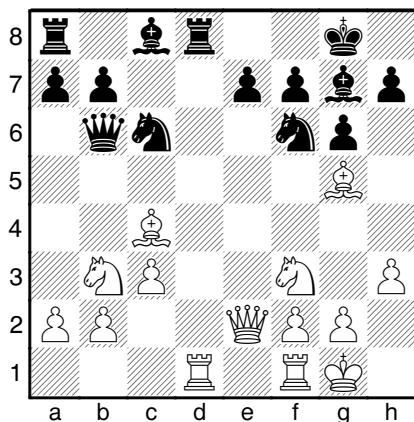
Chess Canada

♖c7 9.♙c4 ♜d8

△9...♙e6 △10.♘d4? ♞xc3!

10.0-0 ♜xc5 11.♞e2 ♞c6 12.♞b3 ♞b6

13.♞ad1 ♞f6 14.h3± Diagram



White hasn't done much, but has a clear development advantage: more active minors, and Black has serious trouble activating the ♙c8.

14...♞xd1

△14...♙d7 15.♙e3!? (15.♘e5 ♞xe5

16.♞xe5; 15.♘fd4 ♞xd4) 15...♞c7 16.♞c5 ♙e8±

15.♞xd1 ♞c7

15...♙f5 16.g4! △♙e4 17.♞h2+- Black's ♙e4 is in trouble.

16.♞bd4 ♞xd4 17.♞xd4 ♞h5 18.♞d1

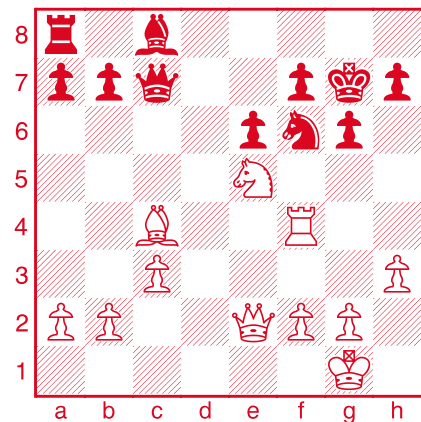
18.♞d3!? △♙f5 19.♞e3!+-

18...♙f6 18...e6?? 19.♞d8+-

19.♙xf6 ♞xf6 20.♞d4 ♙g7 21.♞e5 e6

22.♞f4→ (diagram)

Critical Position



White targets f7, and plans g2-g4-g5.

Question:

Does Black have time for ...♙d7-e8?

22...♞b8

Answer: No, Black does not have time for ...♙d7-e8:

22...♙d7? 23.♞xf6!! ♞xf6 24.♞f3+

(...♙d7 blocks the ♞c7's defence of f7, so

Black can't safely retreat to g7.) 24...♙e7

(24...♙xe5 25.♞g3+- skewers the ♞c7)

25.♞xf7+ ♙d6 (25...♙d8 26.♞f6+! ♙e8

(26...♙c8 27.♙xe6+- wins the ♙d7 or

the ♞a8) 27.♞h8+ is simplest (27.♙d3!→

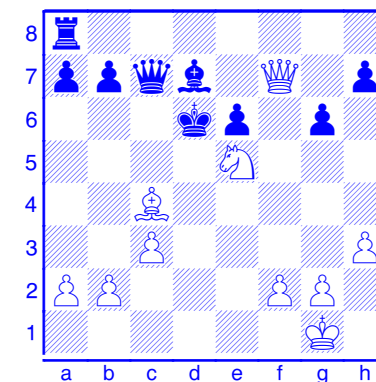
△♙xg6 keeps up a crushing attack)

27...♙e7 28.♞xh7+ ♙d6 29.♞f7+-)

(analysis diagram below)

Attacking Practice

How can White continue the attack?



26.♞f4□

The key to the attack: the unstoppable discovered check wins White big material.

a) 26...h6 (illustrates a mating net)

27.♙d3+ ♙c6 28.♞e4+ ♙b6 29.♞e3+

♙a5 (29...♙c6 30.♞c5#) 30.b4+- #4

b) 26...♞c8 (defends the ♞ to give the

♙ more freedom to run) 27.♙xg6+ ♙c6

28.♙e5+ ♙d6 29.♞d2+ ♙e7 (29...♙xe5

30.♞d4+ ♙f5 31.♙d3+ ♙g5 32.♞g7+-

#2) 30.♞g5+-

c) 26...♙c6 27.♙f7+ ♙d7 28.♙xe6+- wins

the ♞c7.

d) 26...g5 (tries to deflect the ♞; but White

can win the ♙g5 with check and carry on

with the attack) 27.♞d2+! ♙e7 (27...♙xe5

28.♞d4+ ♙f5 29.♙d3#) 28.♞xg5+-

23.g4 g5□

23...h6 24.h4! g5 25.hxg5 hxg5 26.♞f3+-

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Δ♖e3 – transposes to something similar to the game.

24.♟f3 b5!

A pawn sac to slow the attack: White's ♖ is temporarily tied to defending the ♗b5 and ♖e5. Weaker is: 24...♗d7 25.♖e3 h6 26.♗xd7 (26.h4→) 26...♗xd7 27.♟xf7+□+–

25.♗xb5 a6?!

25...♗b7 26.♟xf6□ ♖xf6 27.♗d7+ ♖e7 28.♗xb8 ♟xb8 29.♖d2±

26.♗c6! ♟b6? 27.♖e3!+– h6 28.h4! ♟xc6

28...gxh4 29.g5+–;
28...♗d5 29.♗xd5 f6
30.♗c4+–

29.hxg5! ♗g8 30.♟xf7+

1-0

McGill Open Tournament Hall

*At least the Starbucks coffee
was warm.*

Links:

McGill Chess Club:

<http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/chess/>

Five of the people in this article are weekly contributors to the CFC Newfeed. Read more about the McGill Open, and more:

<http://chess.ca/newsfeed/>



Icy Canadian Chess

Yes those are coats.

*While it was 25C outside,
it was arthritis-tweakingly
chilly inside.*

*Serge Lacroix and David
Zhou, bravely fighting in
the cold cold North.*





32nd Arnprior Open

(May 4-5, 2013)

report by **John Upper**



45 km West of the Scotia Bank Centre, and two hours before the Senators met the Canadiens in game 3 of the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs, a different kind of competition was being held in the ice-free arena at the Nick Smith Centre: the thirty-second annual **Arnprior Open**, "Canada's longest running, annual, small-town tournament."

Kevin Pacey won with 4½/5. **Herb Langer**, who ran the Arnprior tournament for its first 30 years, celebrated his freedom from directing duties by drawing the winner in round 1 and defeating the top seed in round 2, a nearly 500 point rating upset (*game below*). TD Halldor Palsson, who played only to prevent forced byes when there were an odd number of players, was spared the embarrassment of potentially winning the tournament he was directing when the last round had an even number of players and he was forced to take a bye, finishing second. Francesco Dunne and John Upper tied for third.

Jacob Krolczyk lost to the top two seeds, but won his other three games to take the U1900 section. John Lukezich, Terry Ju, and Scott Carss each scored 2/5 to split the U1600 prizes.

Our report includes two annotated games: one featuring the tournament winner defeating the U1900 winner; the second features what may be the ratings upset of the year: 494 points!

Krolczyk, Jacob (1893) - **Pacey, Kevin** (2225)
Arnprior Open (3), 04.05.2013 C44
notes: Kevin Pacey

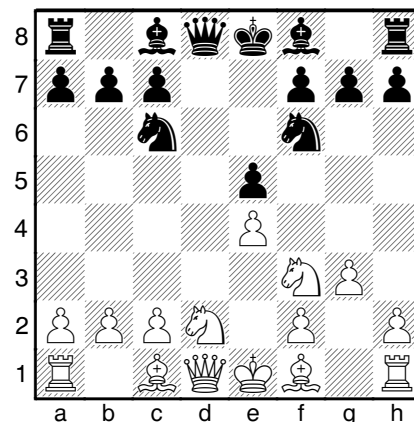
The following was one of my more inter-

esting games at Arnprior. After an unambitious opening by White, a fairly equal middlegame arose in which I invited my opponent to create an imbalance by trading a knight for a bishop, with a basically symmetrical pawn structure. Eventually a fairly complicated endgame occurred in which I had pair of knights against bishop and knight. We each made a number of mistakes, and at one point I missed a win in mild time trouble, relative to my opponent's. The final significant mistake allowed me to win a piece, and the game.

1.♘f3 d5 2.d3 ♘c6 3.♘bd2 e5 4.e4 ♘f6 5.g3

After this, Black can immediately demonstrate at least equality, in dry fashion. Instead, playing a Reversed Philidor's Defence by 5...♙e2 (or 5.c3 first), in spite of its modest appearance, may offer somewhat better hope for more than equality, as for one thing if Black trades on e4 then the ♙e2 is released and is not needed on g2.

5...dxe4 6.dxe4



6...♙c5

Even ...♙e7 gives Black at least equality. After 7.♙g2 0-0 8.0-0 transposition to a position in ECO A occurs, when its relevant footnote continues 8...♙e6 9.c3 ♘d7 10.b4 a5 11.b5 ♘a7 12.♙e2 c6 13.a4 ♙c7 14.♙b2 ♘c8 15.c4 ♘cb6 (Tischbierek-Hubner, Germany 1998/99). I would evaluate the position as level, after 16.♙fc1.

7.♙g2

White is playing a quite harmless version of a Reversed Pirc Defence since he committed to playing ♘db2 plus e2-e4 early on. Black's task as the higher rated player is to acquire sufficient winning chances now that he has released the tension in the centre.

7...0-0 8.0-0 h6

Instead ...♙e7 at once is fine, but Black can afford this luxury.

9.♙e2 ♙e7 10.a4 (♘b3 at once is at least as good) **10...a5** Black has so little to fear that ...♙d8 is also possible here.

11.♘b3 ♙b6 12.♙e3

Jacob trades my active ♙ for his otherwise 'good' one. His remaining bishop is now a slightly 'bad' one. Still, it's very microscopic stuff.

12...♙xe3 13.♙xe3 ♙e6

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After 13...♖d8 it's possible Black might claim a tiny edge. Instead I offer my ♗ for a White knight, hoping one of my knights might outshine the White ♗ better than my good ♗ might ever get the chance to. It's often better to have a knight vs. a bad ♗, given such a choice, as for one thing the knight can operate on both coloured squares, and for another it thus may be harder to swap the bad ♗ off.

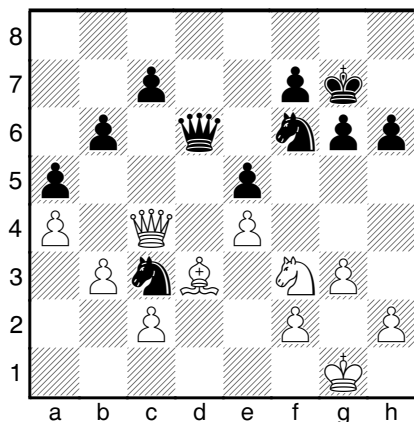
14.♖c5 b6 15.♖xe6 ♗xe6 16.b3

In spite of White's slightly 'bad' ♗ the position is still about equal, since he can hope to activate that piece, and other pieces still are on the board.

16...♗ad8 17.♗ad1 ♖b4

Here 17...♖d7 was a normal enough choice. I preferred to start to probe with my knight on the the queenside.

18.♗e2 ♖a2 19.♗xd8 ♗xd8 20.♖d1 ♗d6 21.♗xd6 ♗xd6 22.♗f1 (♖22.♗d3) 22...♖c3± 23.♗a6 g6 (23...♖fxe4 24.♗d3±) 24.♗d3 ♖g7 (♖24...♗c5) 25.♗c4



Could this be more Canadian?

Yes, if there was a Tim Horton's cup on the table. TD Halldor Palsson (L) watches Krolczyk - Pacey.



White restores equality with this move. Jacob offered a draw, but I had no reason to accept.

25...♖a2 26.♗b5 ♖d7 27.♖g2 (♖27.♗f1=) 27...♖b4± 28.♖e1 c6

Here or next move ...♖c5 was interesting.

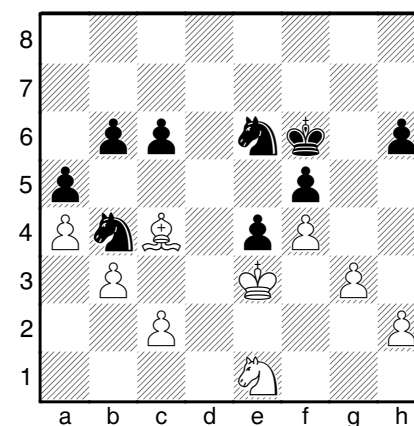
29.♗c4 ♗c5 30.♖f3 ♗xc4

It was better to creep into the centre with 30...♗d4.

31.♗xc4 = ♖c5 32.♖e3 f5

Allowing White to make his active ♗ less 'bad', after the ensuing exchange that alters the basic symmetry of the pawn structure, in the hope of increased chances for an eventual breakthrough.

33.exf5 gxf5 34.f4 e4 35.♖d4 (♖35.h3=) 35...♖f6± 36.♖e3 ♖e6



Now that the pawn structure has changed fairly significantly, Black is more content to allow White to trade off his ♗. Instead ...♖d5+ here or next turn is also interesting.

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37.h3 ♖c7

Jacob, who was in time trouble by now, looked very unhappy upon seeing this move, which prepares a queenside break. Again White's ♗ is made less 'bad' (and soon, completely no longer so), but Black wants to create an outside passed pawn or else create a potentially tender isolated White pawn on a4.

38.♔d2?! (♞38.♗f1) 38...b5 39.axb5 cxb5 40.♗e2 a4 41.bxa4 bxa4 42.c3 ♖c6?

♞42...♗ba6

43.♗c4?

Again Jacob offered a draw. Instead 43.♗d1! a3 44.♗b3 wins the a-pawn soon, giving White at least a slight advantage.

43...♗a5 44.♗a2 ♗a6 45.♖c2 ♖c5

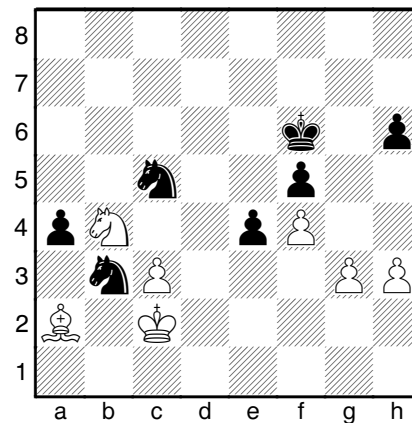
Instead ...♗b3+ (here, or last move) leads to nothing more than equality if the ♗ takes.

46.♗b4

Here g4!? or ♗e3!? are possible, naturally.

46...♗ab3+ (♞46...h5) 47.♗c2

(diagram)

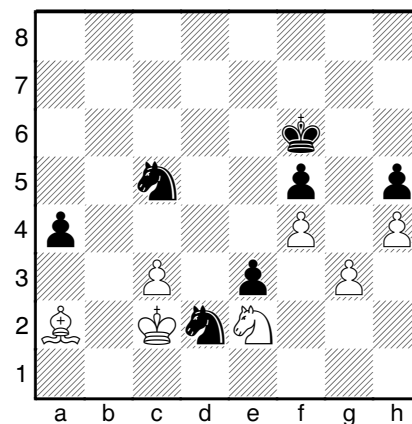


♗e6 (47...h5 48.♗d5+ ♗e6 49.♗b6=)

48.♗c6?? (This should lose. Just 48.g4 equalizes.) 48...e3 49.♗d4+ (49.♗d1 ♗e4+) 49...♗f6??

A hasty move that temporarily throws away the win. 49...♗d5! 50.♗d1 (50.♗xf5 e2+) 50...♗e4+

50.♗e2 51.h4?! (♞51.c4) 51...♗d2!? (diagram) 51...♗e6+



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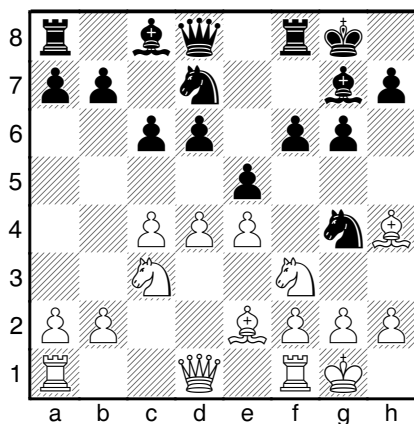
Upper, John (2251)-**Langer, Herb** (1757)
Arnprior (2), 04.05.2013 E94
notes by John Upper

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4

When I first started to play, I chose the g3 lines against the King's Indian. Back then it seemed to me that the mainline "Mar del Plata" lines, even if objectively favourable for White, were too easy for Black to play. Strategically it seemed like a no-brainer: prep your pawn storm and sac a piece on the White pawn chain. Tactically it also seemed too easy: Black has so little space that there are really very few choices about where to put the pieces, and so even a little familiarity with it goes a long way for Black.

I still think that's more-or-less right (perhaps less right for those facing professional-quality opening preparation), but last year I decided to change my White repertoire, and that meant no g3 here.

**4...d6 5.♙e2 0-0 6.♘f3 ♘bd7 7.0-0 e5
8.♙e3 ♘g4 9.♙g5 f6 10.♙h4 c6**



Arnprior Open, Rd. 3 Yes those are coats: while it was 26C outside it was arthritis-tweakingly chilly inside. Luckily, Herb warned us; but let this be a warning: insulation is not your friend.



11.h3

White has fundamentally different ways to continue: exchange on e5 and play for the d-file (especially d6), or d5 followed by Queenside expansion. I hadn't played this position before, and spent some time trying to figure out which was best, only to discover at home that they're equally playable. Here are three examples:

**A) 11.♙c2 ♘h6 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.b4 ♘f7
14.♖fd1 ♙e7 15.c5 ♗e8 16.♘d2 ♘f8 1/2-1/2
(60) Shishkin, V (2507)-Onischuk, V (2349)
Kiev 2005;**

**B) 11.b4 ♙e7 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.c5 ♗e8
14.♘d2 ♘h6 15.♘c4± 1-0 (26)
Shirov, A (2705)-Pragua, C (2126)**

Hamburg simul 2005;

**C) 11.d5 ♙e7 12.♘e1 ♘h6 13.f3 c5
14.♘b5 g5 15.♙f2 f5 16.♘c7 ♖b8 17.♘e6
♗f7 1/2-1/2 (17) Roiz, M (2200)-Petrosian, D
Tallinn 1997**

In the game, I decided to try d4-d5, and played h3 because with a closed center Black might want to play ...h5 to support the Kingside pawnstorm, and immediately forcing ...♘h6 stops that.

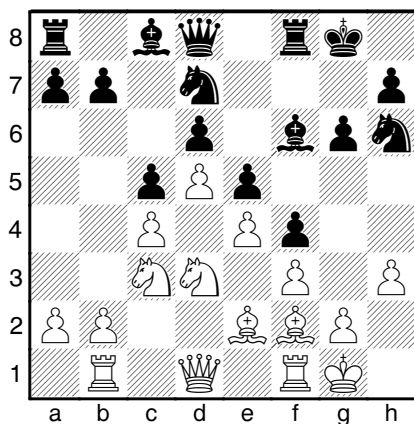
**11... ♘h6 12.d5 c5 13.♘e1 ♙b6
14.♘d3 f5 15.f3 f4 16.♖b1 ♙f6 17.♙f2
♙d8**

(diagram)

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I think White has a much better version than the regular KID: White has made all the usual prep moves on *both* sides of the board, and Black is nowhere near to a Kingside attack: the ♖h6 prevents ...h5 helping the pawn storm, the ♕f6 gets in the way of the ♗s. If that's right, then it's no longer the usual KID opposite side race, and White should probably go for a slower Queenside build up – including the a-pawn or doubling on the b-file – so that when the break comes, it's a knockout.

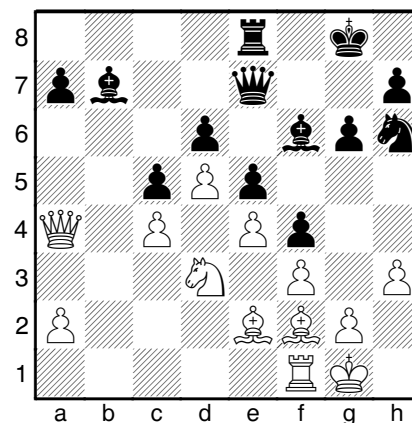
18.b4 b6 19.♗b5 ♖e7 20.♗c7 ♖b8 21.♗e6

(♖21.♖a4 cxb4 22.♗e6! (22.♖xa7?? ♖b7+) 22...♗c5 23.♗dxc5 dxc5 24.♗xf8 ♗xf8±

21...♖e8 22.♖a4 ♖b7 23.bxc5± ♗xc5 24.♗exc5 bxc5

Here I noticed that I'd miscalculated; I thought I might have this line: 24...dxc5 25.♗xc5 bxc5 26.♗xc5 overlooking that 26...♖xc5+! is check.

25.♖xb7 ♗xb7



26.♖xa7?

Ironically, now *Black* gets the active major piece invasion on the Queenside. ♖26.♖b1 ♗c8 I didn't see a way to make progress here, but Houdini rates White as better after 27.♖b8! when White still has a Queenside initiative.

26...♖a8 27.♖b6 ♖xa2= (Black had spend a total of 8 minutes up to here.)
28.♗c1

28.♗xc5! dxc5 29.♗xc5±;
28.♖b1 ♖xe2 29.♖xb7 ♖xb7 30.♖xb7 ♖c2=

28...♖a6 29.♖b5 ♗c8 30.♗b3 ♖d7 31.♖b1

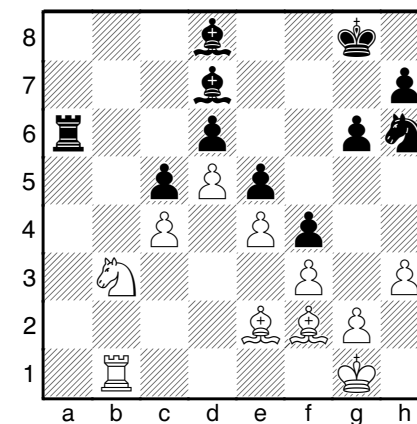
31.♖xd7 ♗xd7 32.♗xc5 dxc5 33.♗xc5 ♖a7
34.♖b1 ♗f7±

31...♗d8

After this I had 16 minutes (plus incre-

ment) for the rest of the game; Black had an hour and 16 minutes.

32.♖xd7 ♗xd7



33.♗xc5!?

33.♗xc5!? dxc5 34.♗xc5 ♖b6!
(≤34...♖d6 35.♖b8 ♗f7 36.♖a8!↑;
34...♗b6?! 35.♖xb6 ♖xb6 36.♗xd7±)
I didn't see a good continuation here, which is why I played 33.♗xc5. Houdini rates it equal after several precise moves from Black: 35.♖a1 ♗e8 36.♖a8 ♗f7∞
37.♗e6 ♖xe6 38.dxe6 ♗b6+ 39.♗f1
♗d6±= White might try c5 and ♗b5/c4, but it's probably unwinnable.

33...dxc5 34.♖b8 ♗f7 35.♗xc5?!

♖35.♗h4 ♖a1+ (35...g5? 36.♗xg5±)
36.♗h2 ♖b1 37.♖a8 ♖a1!± Is an amusing deflection, which (of course) I didn't see.

35...♗g7 36.♗f2 ♖a2 37.♗f1 ♗f6

Arnprior Open

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38.c5 ♖c2 39.♖b7

39.c6 is fine, but gives no winning chances after: 39...♙xc6 40.dxc6 ♖xc6=

39...♙a4 40.♖a7 ♙e8 41.♖a6+ ♔e7
42.♖e6+ ⊕ ♔f8 □ 43.♖a6 ♖c1 44.c6 □

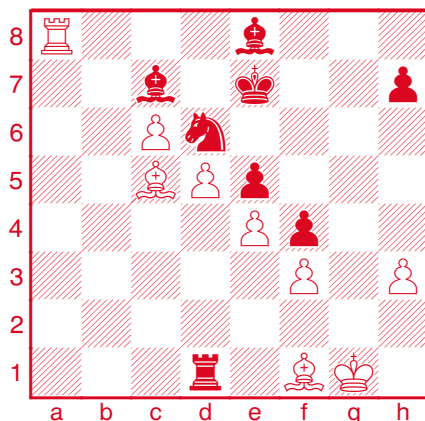
Preventing ...♙b5. now Black's ♖ keeps White's ♔ and one of the ♙s out of the game, while White's ♖ and pawns neutralize Black's minors. During the game I didn't see a way for either side to play for a win, though that didn't stop me from trying.

44...♙c7 45.g3 g5 46.♔g2?! ♖c2!
47.♙d3 ♖d2 48.♙f1 ♔e7 49.♔g1
♖d1?!

Pins the wrong ♙; ♞49...♔d6 ♞

50.♙c5+ ♔d6 51.♖a7 ♔d8 □ 52.gxf4
gxf4 53.♖a8+ ♔e7

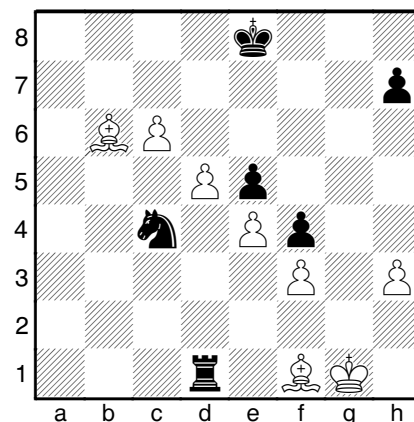
Critical Position



54.♖c8?!

More practical, given the time situation, and objectively no worse, is: 54.♖a7 ♔d8
55.♖a8+ ♔c8 56.♙f2 threatens ♙h4#
56...♙d6 □ 57.♙b6+ ♙c7 58.♙f2=

54...♙b6! 55.♖xe8+ ♔xe8 56.♙xb6
♔c4!



Playing on increment, and surprised at how uncoordinated my pieces are, I couldn't find the only saving line.

57.♙f2??

57.♙c7 □ ∞ ♔e3 58.d6, and Black has to force a perpetual. The mainline (below) assumes both sides play the most unpromising moves, which leads to some amusing finishes:

58...♔xf1!? (the simplest way for Black to force the draw is: 58...♖xf1+ 59.♔h2 ♖f2+=) 59.d7+ ♔e7 60.♙xe5!? (the simplest way for White to force the draw is: 60.d8 ♞+ 60...♖xd8 61.♙xd8+ ♔xd8=)

60...♔e3+ 61.♔h2 (61.♔f2 ♖d2+ 62.♔e1 ♖d1+ 63.♔e2 ♖d2+ □ 64.♔e1 □=) 61...♖d2+ 62.♔h1 ♖c2 63.♙f6+ ♔f7
64.d8 ♞ ♖c1+ 65.♔h2 ♖c2+ 66.♔g1 ♖c1+ 67.♔f2 ♖c2+ 68.♔e1 ♔g2+ 69.♔d1 ♔e3+=

57...♔d2

57...♔e3 sets up a promotion net similar to Kramnik–Anand (WCh): 58.♙xe3 fxe3 59.♔g2 ♖d2+-+

58.d6 ♖xf1+ 59.♔g2 ♖xf2+ □ -+
60.♔xf2 ♔c4 61.d7+ ♔d8 62.♔e2
♔a5 63.♔d3 ♔xc6 64.♔c4 ♔xd7
65.♔d5 h6

65...h6 66.h4 h5 ⊙

0-1

Argh.

I'm sure there's at least one valuable lesson to be learned from this loss. And if I'd learned one I would say what it is here:....

report by John Upper

38th Keres Memorial

(May 18-20, 2013)

report by **Stephen Wright**



Chess Canada

Now in its thirty-eighth year, the annual **Paul Keres Memorial** on the Victoria Day weekend attracted ninety-eight players, the highest number of entrants in nine years. This also matched the general upswing in tournament participation in B.C. in the last year, due in no small part to the hard work of organizers Roger Patterson and Paul Leblanc, who were also responsible for the B.C. Open and (with Brian Raymer) the Grand Pacific Open.

The field included **four IMs**:

Georgi Orlov of Seattle, who had previously won the Keres ten times;

Stanislav Kriventsov, a resident of Burnaby, inactive in chess for the past seven years in favour of poker but a participant in the 2002-2004 and 2006 U.S. Championships;

Dietmar Kolbus from Germany, visiting us for the second year in a row;

Raymond Kaufman of Alameda, California, the son of 2008 World Senior Champion and author GM Larry Kaufman.

Along with FM Jack Yoos, a multiple Keres and B.C. championship winner, these were the players to beat.

The last year has been difficult for Orlov, with the illness and passing last November of his wife WGM Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaya. Ironically, it was IM John Donaldson, Elena's previous husband, who dominated the Keres in the first half of its history, but IM Orlov showed class and determination in winning the Keres for *a record eleventh time* with 5½-½.

Kaufman lost in the second round to junior Ryan Lo (who had quite the event, also de-

feating Kolbus and drawing with Yoos) but came through with a win against Yoos in the last round to take clear second. B.C. junior co-champion Jack Cheng placed third, helped by receiving a free point in round five when Kriventsov confused the round times and arrived too late.



Keres Memorial Co-organizer Paul Leblanc, winner IM Georgi Orlov, and TD FA Stephen Wright. Photo: Lara Lo

The U2200 prize was split three ways between juniors WCM Alexandra Botez, Ryan Lo, and Matthew Herdin; Lo also won the qualification spot for the next B.C. Closed.

Modern open tournaments often feature generational battles between established players and ever-younger, ambitious juniors; there were plenty of the latter in the Keres, but in the U2000 Section at least the adults managed to come out on top this time. Joe Soliven was the winner with 5.5 points, Hiva Menbari finished second a half point behind

him, and Marionito Jose won the U1800 prize. Still, one older player ruefully asked during one of the evening rounds whether it was not past his young opponent's bedtime ... Anderson Yee headed the crosstable in the U1600 Section, closely followed by Clement Cheng, Lahiru Jayaweera, and Paula Brewster; Brewster took the U1400 prize, while Navid Samiei won the prize for highest-scoring unrated player in any section.

Many thanks to the organizers, players, and all those who helped in ways both large and small to make the tournament a success – see you next year!

Stephen Wright, TD

Links:

Organizer's report, X-tables, PGN

<http://keresmemorial.pbworks.com/w/page/66389022/Event%20Report%20Keres%20Memorial%202013>

Photos: Konstantin Pyryaev

<https://picasaweb.google.com/104567606182229168710/2013Keres>

Tribute: Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaya

http://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/pdf/NWC_201301_opt_color.pdf

Keres Memorial

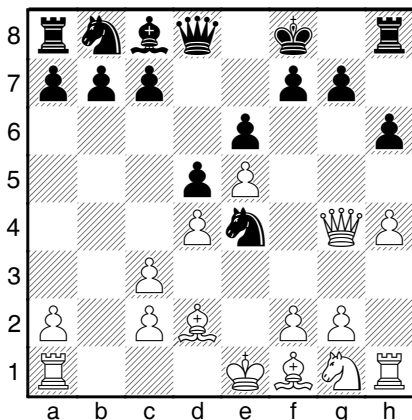
May 18-20, 2013

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Kriventsov,Stanislav – Botez, Alexandra

Keres Memorial 38th Richmond (1.2), C12 18.05.2013 notes by John Upper

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♙g5
♙b4 5.e5 h6 6.♙d2 ♙xc3 7.bxc3 ♘e4
8.♙g4 ♘f8 9.h4



9...♘xd2?!

Black usually keeps the ♘ on e4 until White chases it away with ♙d3. This allows Black's eventual ...c4 to gain a tempo on the ♙d3. In the game line, White's attack is two tempi up on these normal lines, and that's enough for a significant advantage.

9...c5 10.♙d3 ♘xd2 11.♙xd2 c4 (11...♘c6 12.a3 c4 13.♙e2 b5 14.♙h3 ♙d7 15.♙f4 a5 16.♙h5 ♙e8 0-1 (30) Munguntuul,B (2459)–Batchuluun,C (2446) Ulaan-baatar 2011) 12.♙e2 ♘c6 13.♙h3 ♙g8 (13...♙g8 14.♙g3 ♙f8 15.h5 ♙h7 16.♘f3 ♙g8 14.♙f3 ♙e7 15.♘h3 ♙a5 16.♙f4 ♙f8 17.♙g3 ♙g8 18.♙h5 ♘d8 19.♙e1 b5 20.a3 ♙xa3 21.♙xg7 ♙xg7 22.♙f6+ ♙d7

23.♙xg7 b4 24.♙e3? b3! 25.♙e1 ♙b8 26.♘f4 ♙a2 27.♙xf7?? ♙xc2+ 28.♙e3 ♙e4+ 0-1 Jenni,F (2471)–Kortschnoj,V (2643) Zuerich 2001

10.♙xd2 c5 11.♙h3 c4

11...♘c6 12.♙g3 ♙g8 13.♙d3 g6 14.♙f4 g5 15.hxg5 hxg5 16.♙g4 c4 17.♙h7 ♙g7 18.♙h5 ♙e7 19.♙h6 b5 20.♘f3 1-0 Euwe,M–Boedyn Amsterdam 1920

12.♙g3 ♙g8 13.♙f3 ♘c6 14.♘h3 b5 15.♘f4 ♙e8 16.♘h5 ♘f8 17.♙f4 ♙e7 18.a3 g5? 19.♙e3!± a5 20.♘f6 ♙h8

20...♙g6 21.hxg5 hxg5 22.♙h3+ ♘g7 23.♙h7+ ♘f8 24.♙h8+ ♘g7 25.♙g8+ ♘h6 26.♙h3#

21.hxg5 ♙b8 22.g6 b4 23.g7+ ♘xg7 24.♙g3+

24.♙g3+ ♘f8 25.♙xh6+ ♙xh6 26.♙g8#

1-0

Kaufman,Raymond – Lo,Ryan D97

Keres Memorial 38th Richmond (2.5), 18.05.2013 John Upper

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♙g7 5.♙b3 dxc4 6.♙xc4 0-0 7.e4 a6 8.e5 b5 9.♙b3 ♘fd7 10.e6 fxe6 11.♙e2

11.♙e3 ♘f6 12.a4 bxa4 13.♙xa4 ♘c6 14.♙c4 ♙b8 15.♙xe6+ ♘h8 16.♙c4 ♙xe6 17.♙xe6 ♙d6 18.♘g5 ♘d8 19.♙c4 ♙xb2 20.♙xa6 c6 21.0-0 ♘g4 22.g3 ½-½ (22) Morozovich,A (2715)–Kurnosov,I (2662)

Pamplona 2010;

11.♙xe6+ ♘h8 12.♙e4 (12.♘g5 ♘b6 (12...♘e5!? 13.♙d5 ♙xd5 14.♘xd5 ♘ec6 15.♙e3) 13.♘f7+ ♙xf7 14.♙xf7 ♘c6 12...♘b6 13.♙h4 ♘c6 14.♙d3 ♙xf3! 15.gxf3 ♘xd4 16.♙e4 ♙f5 16...♙f8! Δ17.♙xa8? ♘xa8+) 17.♙e3 c5 18.♙xd4 cxd4 19.♙d1 ♙c8 20.♙g1 ♙f6 21.♙h6 ♙g7 22.♙h4 ♙f6 23.♙h6 ♙g7 ½-½ Karpov,A (2770)–Kamsky,G (2735) Elista 1996

11...♘b6 12.♙e3 ♘d5 13.h4 ♘xe3 14.fxe3 ♙d6 15.0-0 c5 16.h5 c4 17.♙c2 ♙b7 18.hxg6 h6 19.♙h5 ♘d7 20.♙dh1 ♘f6 21.♙5h4 ♙xf3 22.♙xf3 ♙ac8 23.♘e4 ♘xe4 24.♙xe4 c3! 25.♙g4 cxb2+ 26.♙b1 ♙f6 27.♙d3? ♙f2! 28.♙b3? ♙c4! 29.♙f3 ♙c7

0-1

Orlov,Georgi – Kriventsov,Stanislav

Keres Memorial 38th Richmond (4.1), C47 19.05.2013 notes by Stephen Wright

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 The Glek variation; more common are 4.♙b5 or 4.d4 4.g3 g6 A rare response; usual is 4...d5 5.exd5 ♘xd5 6.♙g2 ♘xc3 7.bxc3 ♙d6 8.0-0 0-0 with a transposition to the Vienna Game.

5.d4 exd4 6.♘xd4 ♙g7 7.♘de2

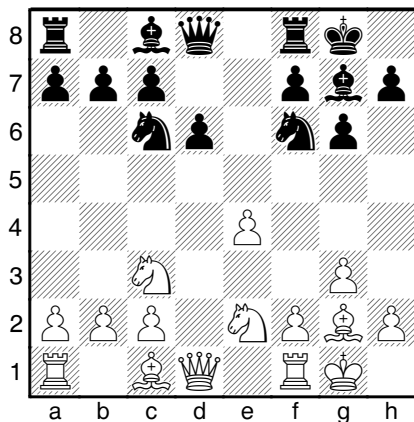
Avoiding an exchange which would alleviate some of Black's space difficulties. Compare with 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.g3 ♘c6 7.♘de2.

7...d6 8.♙g2 0-0 9.0-0

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9...♙d7

The game has now transposed to a g3 Pirc; one plan for Black in that line is to exchange knights in the centre followed by ♗c6, but given that White has already avoided that possibility placing the bishop on d7 is a bit passive. 9...♙g4 to provoke a pawn move is possible, or 9...♙e6 intending ♗c4 at some point.

10.h3 ♖e7?!

Perhaps this is playable, but the plan of placing the queen in the centre of the board looks artificial. 10...♖e8 is more natural.

11.♙g5 ♖e5 12.♖d2 ♖ae8 13.f4

Somewhat loosening, but the queen is short of squares.

13...♖c5+ 14.♔h2 h6?!

14...♙e6 removes the bishop from potential problems down the d-file involving White playing e4-e5 and makes ♗c4 possible.

15.♙xf6 ♙xf6 16.♘d5 ♙d8

16...♙xb2? 17.c3! ♖xa1 18.♘f6+ ♔h8 19.♘xd7+-

17.b4 ♖c4 18.♖fb1 ♘b8?!

It's not clear what the point of the text move is. 18...a5 is one way to fight for Queenside squares.

19.♘ec3 b6?

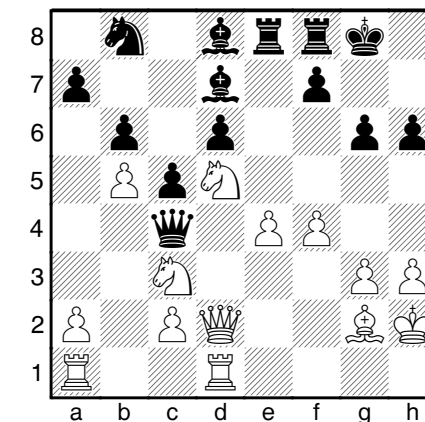
Provides an escape hole which the Black queen never gets to use. 19...♘c6, giving Black the option of ...♖d4, appears best.

20.b5!

Prevents a ...♖c6 escape and opens b4;

White threatens ♖b4 trapping the ♖.

20...c5 21.♖d1!



21...♙g7??

Looks harmless, but it lets White trap the ♖c4. After 21...♙e6 22.♙f1 ♖d4 23.♖xd4 (23.♖e1 ♖g7 shows why ...♙g7 costs the game.) 23...cxd4 24.♖xd4 White has



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the advantage but Black can still put up resistance.
editor: 21...♖h7 22.♞e3+- now the ♞ covers d4 and ♕f1 traps the ♞c4;
editor: 21...♞d4 saves the ♞, but is hopeless: 22.♞xd4 cxd4 23.♞xd4 f5 24.♞a4+-

22.♕f1 ♞d4 23.♞e1

Black's ♖g7 is blocking his ♞'s escape diagonal.

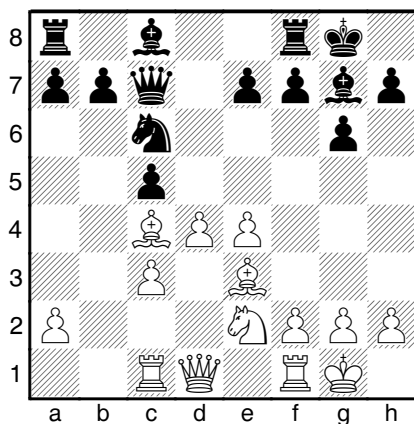
1-0

Lo,Ryan – Kolbus,Dietmar

Keres Memorial 38th Richmond (4.3), D87 19.05.2013

notes: Stephen Wright and John Upper

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♖c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♖xd5 5.e4 ♖xc3 6.bxc3 ♕g7 7.♕c4 0-0 8.♖e2 c5 9.0-0 ♖c6 10.♕e3 ♞c7 11.♞c1



11...♖a5

An offbeat response to the Classical Exchange Grünfeld – 11...♞d8 is the over-

whelming choice of most players in this position.

12.♕d3 b6 13.f4

13.♞d2 is more common, e.g., 13...♕b7 14.♕h6 ♞ad8 15.♕xg7 ♖xg7 16.f4 as in Jakovenko–Areshchenko, Khanty–Mansysk 2009 (1-0, 29)

13...e6

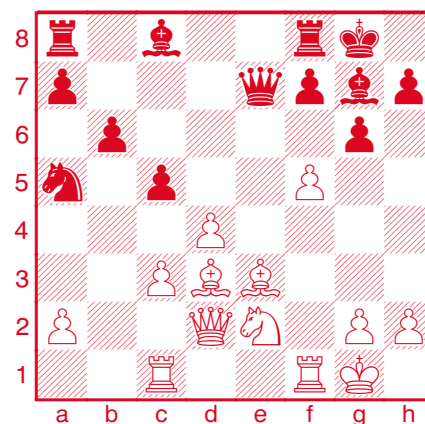
Paradoxically 13...f5 has been played more often but scores substantially worse than the text.

14.f5

If Black is allowed to play 14...f5 White's king-side play will come to a halt.

14...exf5 15.exf5 ♞e7 16.♞d2N

Critical Position



16.♞f3 has previously been played:
 16...♕b7 17.♞g3 ♕e4 (17...♞fe8 18.♕g5 ♞d6 19.♞f1 ♕e4 20.♞d1 1/2-1/2 Erdos–

Szeberenyi, Budapest 2004) 18.♖f4 ♞fe8 19.♖h5 ♕h8 20.♕g5 ♞d6 21.♕xe4 ♞xe4 22.♞f3 ♞ae8 23.fxg6 hxg6? 24.♞f1+- ♞e6 25.♖f6+ ♕xf6 26.♕xf6 ♞e3 27.♞h5□ ♞xf6 28.♞xf6 ♞xg3 29.♞d5! 1-0 Radev–Merdinjan, Bulgaria 1973

16...♕xf5?!

16...♞e8 17.♕g5 (17.♞f3 ♕xf5!) 17...f6 18.♞ce1 (18.♕h4?? c4+-) 18...fxg5 19.♖g3 ♞d7 20.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 21.f6 ♕xf6 22.♞xf6 leads to equality, according to Houdini.

17.♞xf5!

This appears to be a thematic way of continuing the attack, but in fact the exchange sacrifice is almost forced if White is to avoid being significantly worse, e.g., 17.♕xf5? ♖c4! 18.♕g5 (18.♞d3 ♖xe3+-) 18...♖xd2 19.♕xe7 ♞fe8 20.♞fd1 ♞xe7 21.♞xd2 ♕h6+-

17...gxf5

17...cxd4 18.♖xd4□+- (18.♕xd4? ♕xd4+ 19.♖xd4 gxf5 20.♖xf5 ♞c5+ 21.♖h1 ♖h8∞) 18...gxf5 19.♖xf5 ♞e6 20.♖xg7 ♖xg7 21.♕d4+ f6 22.♞g5+ ♖h8 23.♞f1+-

18.♖g3 cxd4?

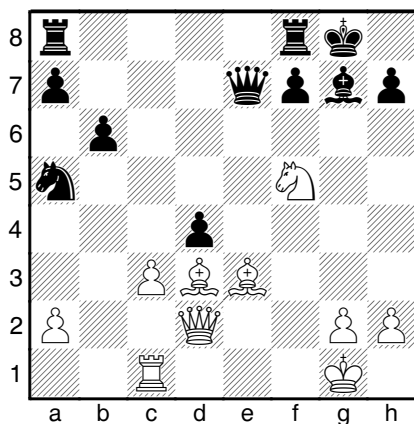
18...♞e6! , allowing Black's offside knight to exchange itself for the attacking ♖f5, leaves the position approximately equal.
 19.♖xf5 (19.♕xf5 ♖c4∞) 19...♖c4! 20.♕xc4 ♞xf5□ (20...♞xc4? 21.♕h6+-)

19.♖xf5!→

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19...♖e6

Black must defend against piece invasions on h6:

19...♖b7 20.♙h6! ♘xh6 21.♚xh6 f6
22.♙e4! ♚d7 23.♙d5+! ♙h8 24.♙xa8+-
♙xa8 (24...♖f7 25.♙e1 dxc3 26.♙d5+-)
25.♚xf6+ ♙g8 26.♘h6#;
19...♚d7 20.♘g7 ♙xg7 (20...dxe3
21.♙xh7+ ♙xh7 22.♚xd7+-) 21.♙h6+
♙h8 22.♙xf8 ♙xf8 23.♚h6+- with two
mate threats.

20.cxd4!

The exchange on d4 has left White in control of the c4 square and Black's knight remains out of play. ≤20.♙xd4 ♙xd4+ 21.cxd4 ♙h8=

20...♞ac8?

Still fighting for c4, but missing or underestimating White's next. 20...♞ad8 was called for.



Ryan Lo

Gets his picture above an excellent move.

21.d5!!+-

Deflecting the ♖ from the sixth rank.

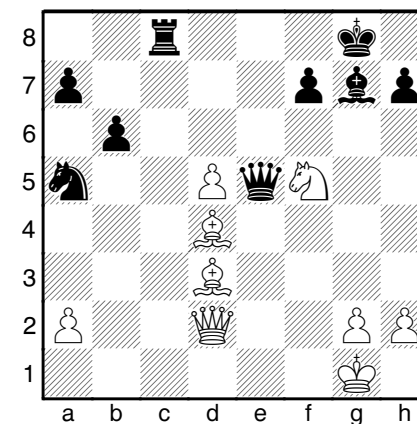
21...♚e5

Of course not 21...♚xd5?? 22.♘e7+-; Her Majesty is embarrassed for squares: if 21...♚d7 22.♘g7 and recapturing allows mate threats 22...♙xg7 23.♙h6+ ♙h8 24.♙xf8+- ♙xf8 25.♚h6 again, with two mate threats.

22.♞xc8?!

An immediate 22.♙d4 is more precise, after the text move Black has c7 available for the queen.

22...♞xc8 23.♙d4



23...♚xd4+?!

23...♚c7 24.♙xg7 ♖c1+ 25.♚xc1 ♙xc1+ 26.♙f2 is somewhat better, although still losing; perhaps Black felt there were increased chances of constructing a fortress with the game continuation.

24.♘xd4 ♙xd4+ 25.♙f1 ♙g7 26.♚g5 h6 27.♚e7 ♙c3 28.♚e8+ ♙f8 29.♙h7+?!

29.♚e4 is objectively stronger, but White prefers to simplify and clarify the position. There may be a few inaccuracies in the ensuing technical portion of the game, but the final result is never in doubt.

29...♙xh7 30.♚xf8 ♙c1+ 31.♙f2 ♙c2+ 32.♙g3 ♙g6 33.♚b4?! 33.d6 33...♙c5 34.d6 ♙c6 35.♚e4+ ♙f6 36.d7 ♙g7 37.♚xc6!? ♙xc6 38.d8 ♙c5 39.♚d4+ ♙g6 40.♙f3 h5 41.♙e3 ♙a5 42.a4 ♙h7 43.♙d3 ♙g6 44.♙c3 ♙h7 45.♚d7 ♙g6 46.♙b4 ♙f6 47.♚c6+

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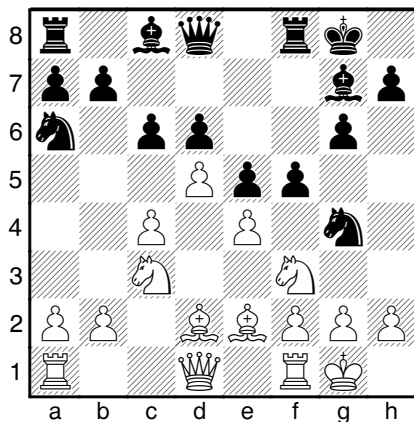
♔e7 48.g4 hxg4 49.♚e4+ ♕f6
50.♚xg4 ♖g5 51.♚f4+ ♔g6 52.h4 ♖a5
53.♔b3 ♔g7 54.♚g4+ ♔h7 55.♔b4
♔h8? 56.h5 ♔h7 57.♚f4 ♔g7 58.h6+
♔g6 59.♚h4

1-0

Kaufman, Raymond – Yoos, Jack

Keres Memorial 38th Richmond (6.2), E94
20.05.2013 notes by John Upper

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6
5.♘f3 0-0 6.♙e2 e5 7.♙e3 c6 8.d5
♘a6 9.0-0 ♘g4 10.♙d2 f5



11.♖b1N

Most games from this position have seen White exchange on f5 and play f2-f4, to block the ♙c8.

11.♘e1 ♘f6 12.exf5 gxf5 13.♔h1
♔h8 14.f4 e4 15.♘c2 c5 16.♘e3 ♙d7
17.h3 ♘c7 18.a4 ♖g8 1-0 (37) Sarkar, J
(2405)–Felgaer, R (2556) Gibraltar 2007;

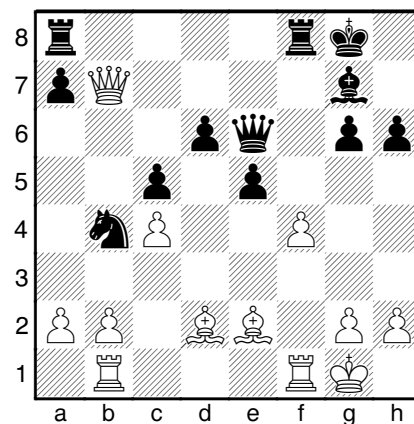
11.♘g5 ♘f6 12.exf5 gxf5 13.f4
e4 14.♙e3 c5 15.♘h3 (15.a3 ♙d7 16.♖c1
♔h8 17.♘b5 ♚e7 18.a4 h6 19.♘h3 ♘b4
20.♘f2 a6 21.♘c3 ♚f7 22.♔h1 ♚g6 23.g3
h5 24.♚d2 ♘g4 25.♘h3 ♙f6 26.♘g5 ♖g8
27.h4 ♚g7 28.♖cd1 ♖ge8 29.♙g1 ♔g8 0-1
(80) Kortschnoj, V (2635)–Milov, V (2610)
Switzerland 1997) 15...♘g4 16.♙xg4 fxf4
17.♘f2 ♙xc3 18.bxc3 h5 19.♚e2 ♙f5 ½-½
(59) Gelfand, B (2665)–Topalov, V (2750)
Novgorod 1996

11...c5 12.♘g5 ♘f6 13.f4!? h6

Houdini suggests: 13...♘xe4 14.♘cxe4
fxe4 15.♙g4 exf4 16.♙e6+ ♙xe6 17.♘xe6
♙d4+ 18.♔h1 ♚e7±

14.♘e6 ♙xe6 15.dxe6 ♘xe4 16.♘xe4
fxe4 17.♚c2 ♚e7 18.♚xe4 ♚xe6
18...♔h7? 19.f5!→ gxf5 20.♖xf5 ♖xf5
21.♚xf5+ ♔h8 22.♙d3+-

19.♚xb7 ♘b4



20.a3! exf4

Black should probably recycle the ♘ with 20...♘c2 21.♙d3 ♘d4 22.fxe5 dxe5 23.♙e3 But even so, Black's ♘d4 isn't enough compensation for his broken pawns, loose Kingside, stunted ♙g7, and White's Bishop pair.

21.♙f3♠+- ♚xc4

If 21...♖ab8 22.♚xa7, the ♘b4 is trapped and there's no way to harass the ♚a7.

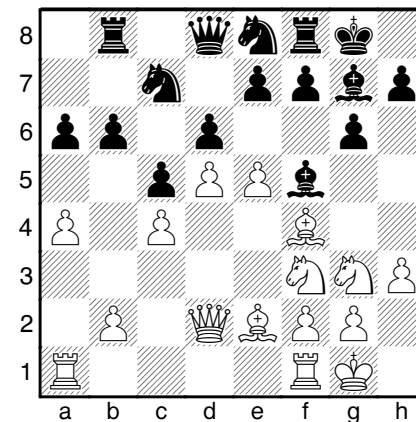
22.axb4

1-0

Orlov, Georgi – Pechisker, Alfred

Keres Memorial 38th Richmond (6.1); E91
20.05.2013 notes by John Upper

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.c4 ♙g7 4.♘c3
0-0 5.e4 d6 6.♙e2 c5 7.0-0 ♘a6 8.d5
♘c7 9.♙f4 a6 10.a4 b6 11.h3 ♙d7
12.♚d2 ♖b8 13.e5 ♘fe8 14.♘e4 ♙f5
15.♘g3



Keres Memorial

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Chess Canada



Orlov - Pechisker (round 6)

15...♙d7

15...♙c8 16.b4?! cxb4 17.♖xb4 b5
18.♖ab1 ♙b7 19.♗e4 bxc4 20.♙xc4 dxe5
21.♗xe5 ♗xd5 22.♙xd5 ♖xd5 23.♖fd1
(23.♗xg6! hxg6 24.♙xb8 ♙a8 (24...♖xe4
25.♖xb7) 25.f3±) 23...a5?? 24.♖e1 ♖xe4
25.♖xe4 ♙xe4 26.♖xb8+- 1-0 (57) Farago,
(2440)-Maciejewski,A (2470) Bucharest
1974

16.♙h6 b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.♙xg7
♗xg7 19.b3± ♖b6 20.♖c3 ♗g8
21.♖e3 ♗g7

Black must prevent ♖h6. 21...bxc4
22.bxc4 ♖b2 23.♖h6 f6 24.e6 ♙c8 25.h4+-
(or 25.♙d3+-)

22.♙d3 bxc4 23.bxc4 ♖b3
24.♗h5+!!+- ♗g8

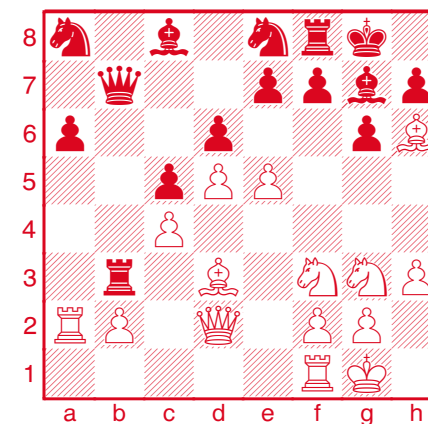
24...gxh5 25.♖g5+ ♗h8 26.♖h6+-,
threatening two mates.

25.♖h6 f6 26.♙xg6 hxg6 27.♖xg6+
♗h8 28.♗h4 fxe5 29.♖h6+ ♗g8
30.♗g6

1-0

While annotating the above game, I found
that White's winning combination is very
similar to one from 50 years ago:

Petersons,A. – Filipowicz,A.
POL-LAT m Soviet Union, 1963; E91
notes by John Upper



21.♙xg7 ♗xg7?!

Black is probably lost no matter what, but
White has to work harder on: 21...♗xg7
22.♗e4→♙♙f5? 23.♖h6+- escaping the
attack on h7 costs Black several pieces.

22.♗h5+!!+- ♗g8

22...gxh5? 23.♖g5+ ♗h8 24.♖h6+-
threatening mate on h7 and f8.

23.♖h6 f6 24.♙xg6! hxg6 25.♖xg6+
♗h8 26.e6

26.♗h4! as in Orlov – Pechisker is quicker.
26...fxe5 (26...e6 trying to bring over the
♖b7 doesn't help: 27.♖h6+ ♗g8 28.♗g6
♖h7 29.♖xf8#) 27.♖h6+ ♗g8 28.♗g6+-

26...♗ac7 27.♗h4+- ♙xe6
27...♖g8? 28.♖h6#

28.♖h6+ ♗g8 29.♗g6 ♙xd5 30.♖h8+
♗f7 31.♖h7+ ♗e6 32.♗xf8+ ♗e5
33.♖d1! (Closing the exit.) 33...♙xc4
34.f4#
1-0



Ontario Girls Championship

(May 12, 2013)

report by **Bob Gillanders**
photos by **Monica Chung**



Chess Canada

This year was the 11th annual running of the OGCC and the first order of business is to acknowledge the heroic efforts of **Corinna Wan**, founder of the event and organizer for the first 10 years. She built up the event to an astounding level of 146 girls last year. Yes, that's right, 146 girls! Simply amazing!

This year, with a change of organizers and venue (to the Mississauga Chess Club), and a short lead-time, and a collision with Mothers' Day, we had a lower turnout. A switch from Saturday to Sunday disrupted travel plans and dampened participation from out-of-towners. Nevertheless, we achieved a respectable turnout of 48 girls in the main event and another 13 in the "sibling & parents" side event.



In addition to trophies for the top 3 finishers, first place gets a one-year CFC membership courtesy of Corinna Wan.

Chess puzzle contest: There were 16 correct entries to the mate in 3 puzzle raffle. The winning ticket goes to Allyson Xu. She also received one of those rare CFC 2010 Yearbooks.

Liza Orlova was on hand to give a mini simul, provide encouragement and tips for our future stars, and present trophies to the winners. Thanks Liza. Thanks also to Liza's friend and some parents who have provided a plentiful supply of event photos.

A big thank you to my crew of volunteers who made it all possible: Paul Roschman, Garvin Nunes, and Lynda Lei.

Bob Gillanders
Tournament Director



Yes: Scoresheets

Even with an Active TC, many players did their best to keep score, some for the first time ever!

Ontario Girls

May 12, 2013

Chess Canada



Hallway Mini-Simul

Liza Orlova took on all comers in a simul outside the tournament room in the UTM Faculty Club.



Imposter Alert!

I would have gotten away with it too, it weren't for those meddling kids! Did this clever disguise fail when his Hello Kitty! barrettes clattered to the board, drawing the attention of vigilant parents? No. He's playing in a side event.



In the "siblings & parents" side event: Andrew Giblon won on tiebreak. Andrew is awarded one of those rare CFC 2010 Yearbooks.

-BG

May 12, 2013

TOP GIRLS

1st
2nd
3rd

U8
Rada Atanasova
Haotong Hazel Guo
Isamel Shen

U10
Kylie Tan
Janani Kathirkamar
Cindy Qiao

U12
Lily Zhou
Catherine Li
Allyson Xu

U18
Agniya Pobereshnikova
Rebecca Giblon
Sarah Joanne F. Padillo



A Big Crowd for the Last Game

Mothers' Day Cake

In honour of Mothers' Day, we had cake for everyone. Well, 96 slices. The girls were invited to enter their mother, with the stipulation that their mother attended the tournament, in a raffle. The winning ticket was from Catherine Li, whose mother received a gift basket from The Body Shop. - BG



U12 Champion Lily Zhou gets her trophy from WNM Yelizaveta Orlova

(photo courtesy: John Coleman)

Link:

photos are by **Monica Chung**. A full set can be found on **Yelizaveta Orlova's website**:

<http://yelizavetaorlova.com/>



Ontario Open

(May 18-20, 2013)

report by **John Upper**



The extended intersection of Bronson and Riverside in Ottawa's south end was a great place to be for chess lovers on the Victoria Day weekend. On the North-West corner is Carleton University, which hosted the 25th Canadian Chess Challenge, featuring the best grade-school players in provincial team competition (see next report). On the South-East corner is the RA Centre, where the **Ontario Open** was underway.

The Ontario Open drew 72 players. After we'd packed up on Monday, TD Aris Marghettis remarked that this was only slightly more than the last time he'd run the event in Ottawa, despite this year's entry fee being much lower. This prompted some puzzled speculation over the strange lack of price elasticity, among chess players, though perhaps a simpler explanation is that for out-of-towners -- whose main tournament expenses are lodging and travel -- a 30% reduction in the entry fee is relatively insignificant. Maybe a dismal scientist can explain?

Canadian Champion **GM Bator Sambuev** took a bye in the first round, then won five straight to take the win by a full two (!) points. Had anyone else in Canada scored 5/5 against opponents with an average rating of 2329 they would have walked away with more than the piddly nine CFC rating points Bator gained. One can only hope the \$600 first-prize was some consolation.

The biggest rating gains of the long weekend were in the U1600 section:

Richard Guo, won the U1600 with a perfect 6/6, gaining 164 points to 1731; and Larry Ju, +102 to reach 1413. Both are personal bests.

Blocked Shots

You might notice that there aren't as many photos here as in other reports. That's mainly because, after he caught me taking the first few, TD IA Aris Marghettis strictly enforced a "no electronics in the hall" rule. A perfectly legitimate decision on his part, of course, but it does limit the visuals.

There was *one* photo opportunity I'm kicking myself for missing: after the last round, Bator was in the skittles room waiting for his lift to the bus terminal to go home to Montreal. He was clicking away at a chess program on his laptop. I assumed he was inputting his games for later analysis, until I heard his laptop say "check"! After playing five rounds over 2½ days, while other players were staggering home from an exhausting tournament, Bator *wasn't* doing some mindless database chores: he was online playing *more* blitz chess!

Cross-Tables

Instead of photos, at the end of this report I've included the boring, space-filling, easy-to-format, and boring cross-tables. Remember: this issue has some experiments in it, and (for all I know) some people *like* reading boring cross-tables.

Game Scores

We do have games from prize winners in the top three sections. There are no games from the U1600 section: although I put carbon scoresheets on the top two boards of each section in rounds 5 and 6, only one of them was returned from the U2000 sections (Danilov – Erickson, below).

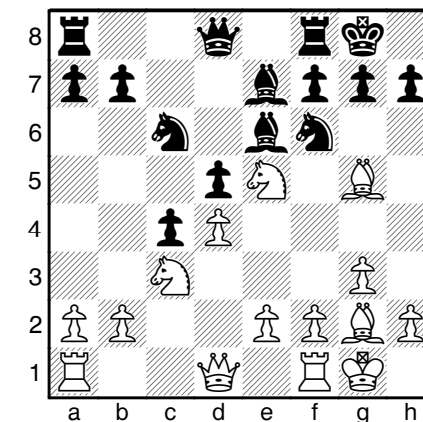
Kleinman, Michael (2385) – Sambuev, Bator (2682)

Ontario Open Ottawa (2), 18.05.2013 D34
notes by John Upper

1.♘f3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.♙g2 ♘c6 4.d4
e6 5.0-0 ♗f6 6.c4 ♙e7 7.cxd5 exd5
8.♗c3 0-0 9.♙g5 c4

9...cxd4 is more than twice as common, and scores slightly better, but ...c4 is recommended in Aagaard & Ntirlis's *The Tarrasch Defence* (Quality Chess, 2011).

10.♗e5 ♙e6



11.♗xc4

"This trick brings White no joy against correct play." – Aagaard & Ntirlis

11...dxc4 12.♙xf6 ♙xf6 13.d5 ♔b6!

Here's the kind of major piece ending

Ontario Open

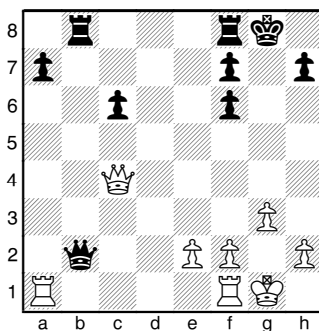
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Chess Canada

White wants, played by one of the best players of the 1930s:

13...♙d7 14.dxc6 ♙xc6 15.♙xc6 bxc6
16.♖c2 (16.♖a4!) 16...♖b8 17.♖ab1 ♖a5
18.♘e4 ♖xa2 19.♘xf6+ gxf6 20.♖a1!
♖xb2 21.♖xc4±

diagram: Flohr – Maroczy



Black has five isolated pawns and an exposed ♔. It's interesting how White refuses to take pawns when that would allow Black to exchange a pair of rooks.

21...♖b4 (21...♖b6 22.♖g4+ ♔h8
23.♖a4→) 22.♖xc6 ♖xe2 23.♖xf6 ♖b6
24.♖d4 ♖fb8 25.♖fe1 ♖b2 26.♖d7 ♖b7
27.♖d5 ♖e6 (27...♖f6 28.♖a2±) 28.♖ed1
a6 29.♖ac1 ♖b8 30.h4 ♖e5 31.♖d7
h6 32.♖c4 ♖f6 33.♖g4+ ♖g6 34.♖f3
♖e8 35.♖f4 ♖e7 36.♖f5 ♖g7? 37.h5±
(♔37.♖d8+! ♔h7 38.h5 ♖ge6 39.♖f4+-
Δ♖d3+) 37...♖ge6 38.♔g2 ♖b2 39.♖d8+
♖e8 40.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 41.♖xf7 1-0

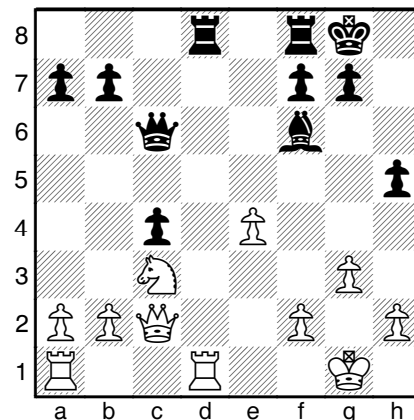
Flohr,S-Maroczy,G London 1932

14.♖c1 ♙d7 15.dxc6 ♙xc6 16.♖d1

Aagaard & Ntirlis continue: 16.♙xc6 ♖xc6
17.♖d1 ♖fd8 18.♖c2 b5!N 19.e4 ♙xc3

20.bxc3 a5

16...♖ad8 17.♖c2 h5 18.♙xc6 ♖xc6
19.e4?!



19...♙xc3 ♖f7 20.bxc3 ♖fe8 21.♖xd8
♖xd8 22.h4 ♖d3! 23.♖e1 g6 24.♖c1
♖c5 25.e5??

Even 2300+ players make beginner-like blunders... just not nearly as often.

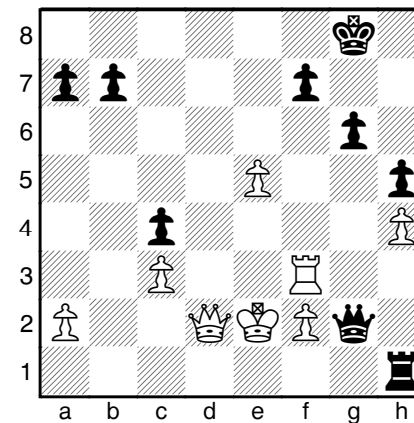
25...♖xg3+-

White has three isolated pawns and an exposed ♔.

26.♔f1 ♖h3 27.♖d2 ♖c6 28.♖e3 ♖h1+

28...♖xe3 29.♖xe3 ♖h1+ 30.♔e2 ♖xh4+-

29.♔e2 ♖g2 30.♖f3!



30...♖f1+!

30...b5?? 31.♖d8+ ♔g7 32.♖f6+- #3

31.♔e3 ♖d1!

Black kills any hope for counterplay against his ♔, and White won't be able to defend his isolated pawns on a2, c3, and h4.

32.♖xd1 ♖xd1 33.♔e4

33.♔e2 ♖d5 34.♖e3 ♖a5+-

33...♔f8 34.a3

Here, and in other lines, White can't break up Black's pawns with 34.e6 because of 34...♖e1+!

34...♔e7 35.♖e3 ♔e6 36.f4 ♖h1
37.♖e2 ♖xh4 38.♖g2

38.♖d2 g5+-

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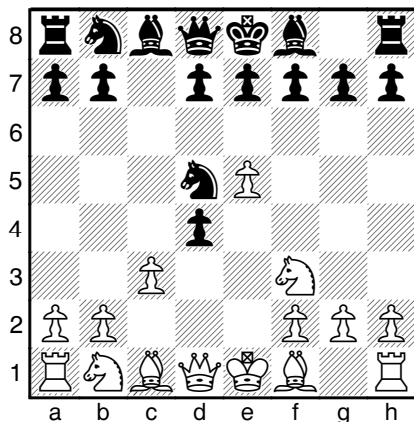
38...♖h3 39.♔d4 ♜f3 40.♔e4 ♜xc3

0-1

Plotkin, Victor (2395) – Gordon, David (2288)

Ontario Open Ottawa (3), 19.05.2013 B22
notes by John Upper

1.e4 c5 2.c3 ♞f6 3.e5 ♞d5 4.d4 cxd4
5.♞f3



This seems to be Victor's main line against the Sicilian. In Hugh Brodie's CanBase, he's scored +6=3-3 from this position. That might not sound so impressive for a player who is around 2400, but those three losses are against Hikaru Nakamura, Wesley So, and the final round game at the 2011 Canadian Zonal that clinched Arthur Calugar his IM title.

5...d6 5...♞c6 6.♞c4 ♞b6 7.♞b3 d5 8.exd6 ♜xd6 9.♞xd4 ♞xd4 10.cxd4 g6!? 11.♜f3 ♞e6 12.♜xb7 ♞g7 13.0-0 ♞xd4 14.♞c3± but got out-played after the ♜s came off; Plotkin, V (2215)–Nakamura, H (2701)/Toronto 2009/(0-1, 59)

6.cxd4 ♞c6

My database has Black scoring 54%, but Elo–20 from here; which (I think) means that it usually occurs when White is the lower rated player.

6...e6 7.♞c4

A) 7...♞c7?! 8.♞c3 ♞e7 9.♞b3 ♞c6 10.♜e2 d5 11.0-0 f5?! 12.exf6 ♞xf6 13.♞f4 0-0 (13...♞xd4? 14.♞xd4 ♞xd4 15.♞xc7 ♜xc7 16.♞xd5+-) 14.♜ad1 ♞e8 15.♜fe1 It's turned into a Tarrasch French, where White has a lead in development and a bind on e5, in Plotkin, V (2192)–Patterson, R (2179) Guelph CAN 2005 (1-0, 51);

B) 7...♞b6 8.♞b3 dxe5 9.♞xe5 ♞c6 10.♞xc6 bxc6= 0-1 (84) Plotkin, V (2422)–Calugar, A (2401) Guelph CAN 2011;

C) 7...♞c6 8.0-0 ♞e7 9.exd6 ♜xd6 10.♞c3 ♞xc3!?± 11.bxc3 b6 12.♞g5! ♞b7 13.♜g4 (13.♜e1!±; 13.d5!?↑) 13...h5! 14.♜f3 ♞xg5 15.♞xg5 ♞a5 16.♞b5+ ♔f8 17.♞f4! (17.♜e2? ♞xg2!♞) 17...♜d5 18.♜xd5 ♞xd5 19.♜fc1 ♞c4= 0-1 (35) Plotkin, V (2409)–So, W (2667) Hamilton CAN 2011

7.♞c4 dxe5 8.dxe5 ♞b6 9.♜xd8+



Crime Scene: Ontario Open (rd. 2) The police tape is there for a reason: a crime against chess will be committed from a winning position on one of the top 3 boards. L-R: floater vs Victor Plotkin, Michael Kleinman v Bator Sambuev, Matthew Nicholson v Robert Hamilton. Far right is board 4: Michael Humphreys v David Gordon. Near center is Jackie Peng (blue hoodie) v Alex Ferreira.

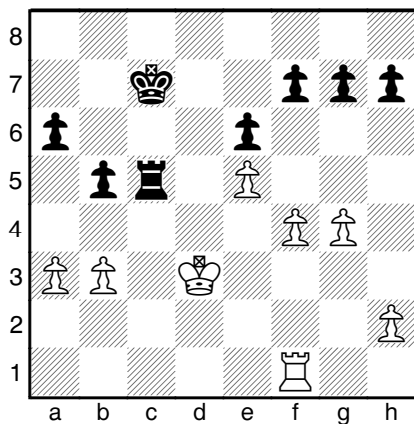
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12.0-0 ♖b4 13.♙xd7+ ♘xd7 14.♘e4 ♘c6
15.♙f4 (15.♘d6+ ♗e7 16.♘xb7 ♖hb8
17.♘d6 ♘dxe5) 15...♘b6 16.♖fd1 ♘d5
17.♙g3 h6 18.h4 0-0= 1/2-1/2 (72) Vallejo
Pons,F (2698)–Andreikin,D (2689) Mos-
cow 2011

12...♖b4 13.♙xd7+ ♘xd7 14.♙d2 ♘c6
15.a3 ♙xc3 16.♙xc3 b5 17.♘d4 ♘xd4
18.♙xd4 ♗e7 19.♖c1 ♖hc8 20.♗d2 a6
21.f4 ♗d8 22.g4 ♖xc1 23.♖xc1 ♖c8
24.♖a1 ♖c4 25.♗d3 ♗c7 26.b3 ♘c5+!
27.♙xc5 ♖xc5= 28.♖f1



28...h6 29.f5?

White over-presses. This is done at your own peril in a ♖ ending against David Gordon.

29...♖xe5 30.fxe6 ♖d5+

30...f6! Δ31.h4 ♗d6

31.♗e4 fxe6 32.♖f7+ ♖d7 33.♖f8 ♖d2
34.♖f7+ ♗c6 35.h4 g5 36.♖f6 gxh4
37.♖xh6

37.♖xe6+ ♖d6 38.♖e5=

37...♗d6 38.♖xh4 ♖a2 39.♖h7 ♖xa3
40.♖a7 ♗c5 41.g5 ♗b6 42.♖e7

42.g6!? ♖xb3 43.♖e7= ♖g3 44.♖xe6+ ♗a5

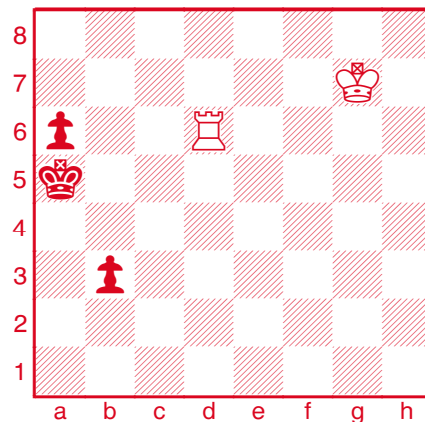
42...♖xb3 43.♖xe6+ ♗a5 44.g6 ♖g3
45.♗f4 ♖g1 46.♖d6 ♖g2 47.♖e6 ♖g1
48.♖d6 ♖f1+ 49.♗e5 b4 50.g7 ♖g1
51.♗f6 ♖xg7

51...b3 52.♖d5+ ♗a4 53.♖g5! ♖xg5
54.♗xg5 b2 55.g8 ♖ b1 ♖= Black has the
better half of a draw.

52.♗xg7 b3

Critical Position

Can White save this game?



Answer: Yes, but only by playing like a tablebase, which is what I've used to annotate this.

53.♗f6?

Hard to believe, but this natural move loses. White draws only with ♖ moves on the d-file, *except* 53.♖d4, which loses to 53...b2, since the ♖ would have to go to d1 to stop the pawn, and Black will win a tempo off it when his ♗ gets to c2.

53.♖d3 ♗b4 54.♖d8! (or 54.♖d7!) 54...a5
55.♖b8+ ♗a3 (55...♗c3 56.♖c8+ ♗d2
57.♖d8+ ♗c1 58.♖c8+ ♗b1 59.♖a8=)
56.♗f6 ♖b2 57.♗e5

A) 57...♗a2 58.♖a8= (58.♗d4=)

B) 57...a4 58.♗d4 ♗a2 59.♗c3 ♖a3
60.♗c2 ♗a1 61.♖b3 ♗a2 (61...a2
62.♖xb2=) 62.♖xa3+=

53...b2 ♖-+ 54.♖d1 ♗b4?

54...♗a4 55.♗e5 a5 56.♗d4 ♗b3
#31

55.♖d6?

As in the note to move 53, only ♖d7 and ♖d8 draw.

55...♗c5! 56.♖xa6

56.♖d1 ♗c4 ♖-+ Black's ♗ can now keep the White ♗ away ("shouldering") while

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advancing the a-pawn.

56...b1 57. a5+ d4 58. a4+ e3
59. g4 f3 60. c4 b5 61. c8?

It's hard to believe both players would miss ...a6+ fork, but I checked with David, and this is what the scoresheet says.

61...e4? 62. d8 b6+ 63. e7 e5
64. d7 c6 65. d1 e6+ 66. d8
b6+ 67. e7 b4+ 68. d8 e6
69. c7 c4+ 70. d8 h4+

70...b3! faster, threatening # and the .

71. c7 h7+ 72. b6 c2 73. d8
a4 74. b7 b5+ 75. c7 e7
76. c8 a6 77. b8 d6+ 78. b7
d7 79. a7 a3+ 80. b7 a5

It's a good calculating exercise to work out all the ways to fork the if it moves away from the .

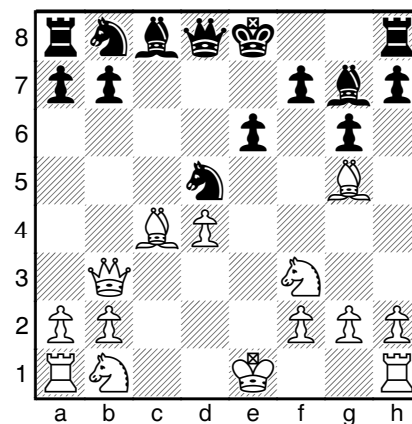
81. a8 b5+ 82. a7 c7

0-1

**Sambuev, Bator (2682) –
Hamilton, Robert (2356)**

Ontario Open Ottawa (3), 19.05.2013; B27
notes by John Upper

1. d4 g6 2. e4 g7 3. f3 c6 4. c4 d5
5. cxd5 cxd5 6. exd5 f6 7. c4 xd5
8. b3 e6 9. g5



9...b6

9...f6 10. d2 c6 11. 0-0 0-0 12. h3
d7 13. e1 f7 14. a3 d8± ½-½ (36)
Kurajica, B (2539)–Graf, A (2605) Skopje
2002

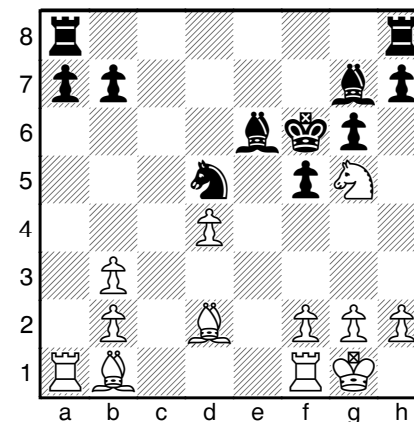
10. c3

≤10. xd5 exd5 11. c3 (11. xb6 axb6
12. c3 e6=) 11...e6 12. xb6 axb6
13. b5 a6 (13...d7 14. e5+ xe5!
15. dxe5 c8 Black threatens ...c2
and ...c4-b4/g4) 14. c1 f6 15. f4 d7
16. a3 g5 17. g3 h5 1-0 (34) Kornev, A
(2575)–Voitsekhovsky, S (2490) Voronezh
2006

10...xb3 11. axb3 c6 12. xd5
exd5 13. xd5 b4

13...xd4? 14. xd4 xd4 15. 0-0-0± White
is too well developed.

14. e4 f5 15. b1 e6 16. 0-0 f7
17. d2 d5? 18. g5+ f6



19. dxe6

The -pair and open center give White a clear plus. Computers prefer 19. h4, possibly because White can postpone x while developing against Black's loose minors and a7.

It's funny how Black can't ever take the d4: the tactics always favour White.

19...xe6 20. b4 d6 21. a2 hc8

21...xd4?? 22. ad1+- Black will lose one of the pieces on the d-file.

22. b3 a6 23. a5 c7 24. c5 d7

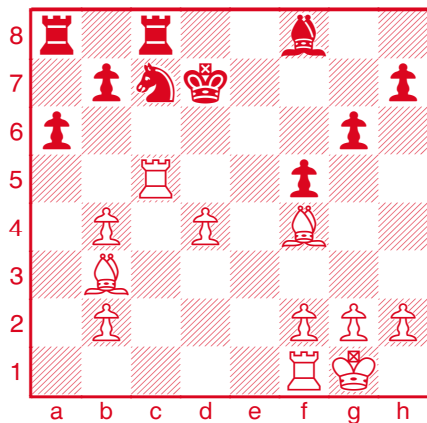
24...xd4 25. f4+ d7 26. d1+-

25. f4 f8 (diagram)

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26.Rc2

The computer finds a wonderful exchange sac here: 26.Rd1!! Qxc5 27.dxc5+ Qe8 (27...Qc6? 28.Rd6+ Qb5 29.Rb6#; 27...Qe7 28.Qg5+ Qf8 29.Rd7+-) 28.g3!+- A cruel quiet move. Materially, Black is fine, but his Ra8 and Qe8 are so inactive and exposed that any move he makes loses material:

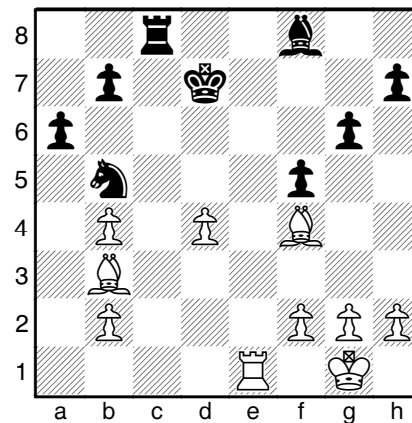
a) 28...a5 (to activate the Ra8) gives up control of b5, and so allows White an unblockable Q check from a4, and so 29.Qe1+ wins.

b) 28...Qb5 29.Qd5! and Black has no good way to defend the pawns.

26...Qb5

26...Qxb4? 27.Rfc1± Qd6 (Δ27...Qb5 28.Qe6+-) 28.Qe5 It's nearly zugzwang.

27.Rxc8 Rxc8 28.Qe1



28...Qc7

28...Re8 is a reasonable try; but Black still can't take on d4, since after 28...Qxd4? 29.Rd1 Qg7 30.Qe3 Qe7 31.Qxd4 Qxd4 32.Rxd4 Rc1+ 33.Rd1+- there is no back-rank mate.

29.Qd2 Qg7 30.Qf1 Re8

30...Qxd4!? is playable now, though White is still better: 31.Qg5 Qxb2 32.Re7+ Qd6 33.Rxh7 Qe6±

31.Rd1 Re4 32.Qe3 Qf8

32...f4? 33.Qc2±



No Police Tape at a Post-Mortem

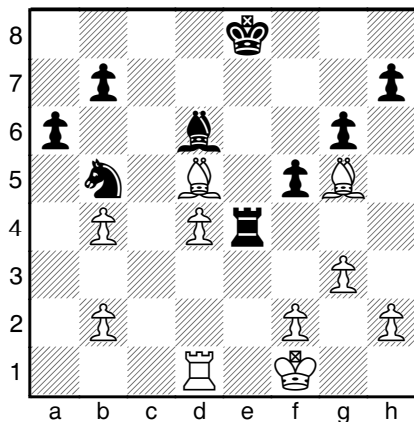
Agastya Kalra (L) and Danail Donev analyze Danail's round 5 win. Robert Hamilton and Roman Sapozhnikov kibbitz.

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33.♙g8 ♖e8 34.♜c1 ♙d6 35.g3 ♗f8
36.♙b3 ♞e7 37.♙h6+ ♖e8 38.♙g5 ♞e4
39.♞d1 ♜b5 40.♙f6 ♜c7 41.♙g5 ♜b5
42.♙d5



Bishop Power

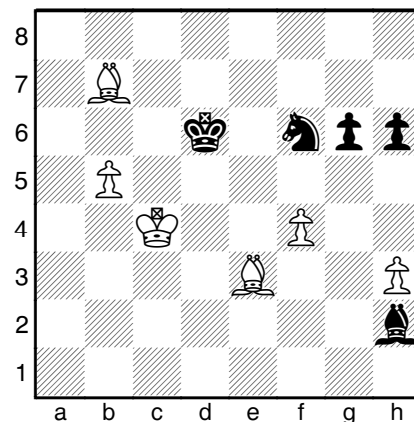
The remainder of the game gives a good example of why strong players prefer playing with the ♙-pair. It wouldn't surprise me if a world-class player like Kramnik or Carlsen considered this position a technical win for White.

42...♞xd4 43.♞xd4 ♜xd4 44.♙xb7
♙xb4 45.♙f6 ♙c5 46.♙xa6 ♜f3
47.♙e2 ♜g1+

47...♜xh2 48.f3 White doesn't have to win the ♜, keeping it boxed out makes the passed b♙ more threatening.

48.♙d3 ♙xf2 49.♙b7 f4 50.gxf4 ♜h3
51.♙e5 ♙g1 52.♙c8 ♜f2+ 53.♙e2
♜e4 54.h3 ♜c5 55.b4 ♜d7 56.♙c3
♙e7 57.♙d3 ♙h2 58.♙d2 ♜b8 59.♙e3

h6 60.b5 ♙d6 61.♙b7 ♜d7 62.♙c4
♜f6



63.♙f3 ♜d7 64.♙e4

64.b6? ♜xb6+ 65.♙xb6 ♙xf4 66.♙e4 g5
67.♙d4 h5 68.♙f2 g4 69.h4 ♜g3 70.♙e1
♙e6 Computers rate White as clearly win-
ning, but it looks like a fortress to me.

64...♜f6 65.♙xg6 ♜d7 66.♙e4 ♙g3
67.♙c6 ♜f6 68.♙d2 ♜h5 69.f5 ♙h4
70.♙f3 ♜g3 71.b6 ♙d8 72.b7 ♙c7
73.f6

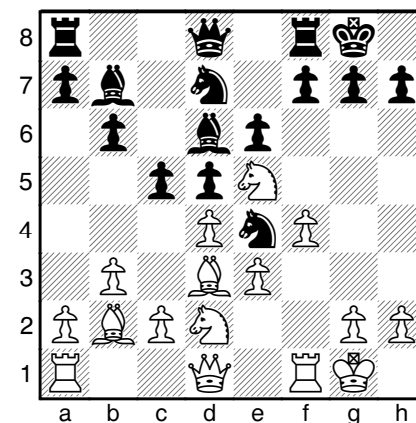
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**Sambuev,Bator (2682) –
Nicholson,Matthew (2221)**

Ontario Open Ottawa (5), 20.05.2013; D05
notes by John Upper

1.d4 ♜f6 2.♜f3 d5 3.e3 e6 4.♙d3
♙d6 5.b3 0-0 6.0-0 ♜bd7 7.♙b2 b6

8.♜bd2 ♙b7 9.♜e5 c5 10.f4 ♜e4



11.♙xe4!

After this, White has the mobile Queenside majority against Black's crippled Kingside majority, and the better minor piece. It may not seem like much, but Capablanca always made this seem like a forced win.

11...dxe4 12.♜dc4 ♙e7 13.♜xd7
♞xd7 14.dxc5 ♞xd1 15.♞fxd1 ♙xc5
16.♙a3!

Eliminating the Bishop pair and trading
Black's better minor piece.

16...♞fc8

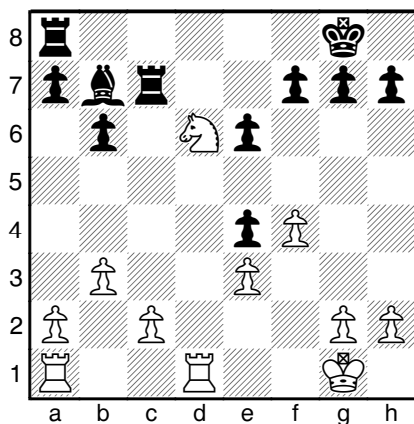
♞16...♙xa3 17.♜xa3 ♞fd8 18.♙f2± 1-0
(46) Fuentes,M (2305)–Arencibia,J (2400)
Holguin 1991

17.♙xc5 ♞xc5 18.♜d6 ♞c7

Ontario Open

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19.♖d4N

Bator's been here before:

19.c4 ♖c6 20.♖d4 f5 21.♖ad1 ♔f8 22.a4 ♔e7 23.♘b5 ♖d7?! (23...♖xb5! 24.axb5 a6! 25.♖a1 ♖ca7±) 24.♘c3 ♖c7 25.♔f2± ♖f8 26.♖a1 ♔f6 27.a5 ♖b8 28.b4 bxa5 29.b5!± ♖e8 30.♖xa5 ♖bc8 31.♖a4 a6? 32.♖xa6 ♖xc4 33.♘d5!+- ♔f7 34.♖a7+! ♔f8 35.♖xc4! ♖xc4 36.♘c7! ♔e7 37.b6!+- ♖c2+ 38.♔g3 ♖b2 39.♘a6+ 1-0, Sambuev,B (2513)–Hansen,E (2425) Canadian Zonal 2011 (rapid playoff)

19...f5 20.a4 a5 21.♘c4 ♖b8 22.♘a3!

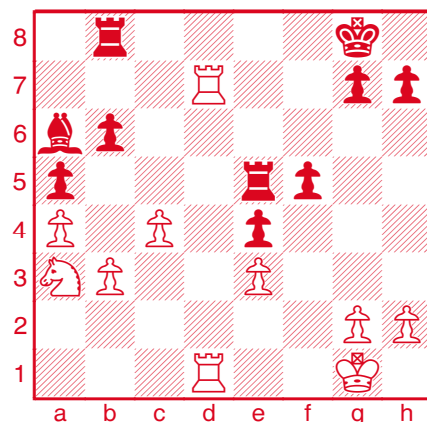
22.♘xb6? ♖xc2=

22...♖a6 23.c4 ♖e7 24.♖ad1 e5 25.fxe5 ♖xe5 26.♖d7

Critical Position

White has a clear plus: better minor piece, control of the only open file, opponent's

king cut off. What is White's threat and what should Black do about it?



Answer: White was threatening 27.♖a7, when 27...♖c8 gets mated, and 27... ♖b7 lets White double on the 7th. This is not a trick question, but there is no amazing saving resource here: White's position is a lot better and Black has to defend well just to prolong the game, even if it can't be saved.

26...♖b7??

△26...♖f8 27.♖1d6 (Δ27.♖7d6 ♖b8!±) 27...f4?! (27...♖c8! 28.♖d8±) 28.exf4! (28.♖xb6? fxe3=) 28...♖xf4? (△28...♖ee8 29.♖xb6 ♖c8 30.♖d4±) 29.♖xb6 e3 30.♘c2 e2 31.♖b8+□ ♖f8 32.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 33.♔f2+-

27.♖d8+ ♔f7 28.♖a8

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Bill Doubleday, the Canadian Senior Cham-

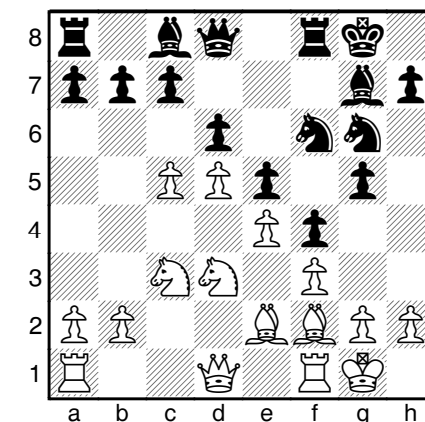
pion, had an excellent result, winning the U2200 section, though not without a scary moment in the following game:

Doubleday,William (2165) –

Zhang,Joey (2074)

Ontario Open Ottawa (5), 20.05.2013; E99 notes by William Doubleday

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♖g7 4.e4 d6 5.♖e2 0-0 6.♘f3 e5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.d5 ♘e7 9.♘e1 ♘d7 10.♖e3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.♖f2 g5 13.♘d3 ♘g6 14.c5 ♘f6



editor: Houdini, Stockfish and Fritz all rate White as virtually winning here, but in practice Black outscores White 60:40.

15.cxd6

15.♖c1 ♖f7 16.a4 ♖f8 17.a5 h5 18.cxd6 cxd6 19.♘b5 g4 20.♘xa7 ♖d7 21.♖b3 g3 22.♖b6 ♖e7 23.♖c7 ♘e8 24.♖xd7 gxh2+!∞ ½-½ (150) Meier,G (2656)–Nakamura,H (2770) Dortmund 2011

Ontario Open

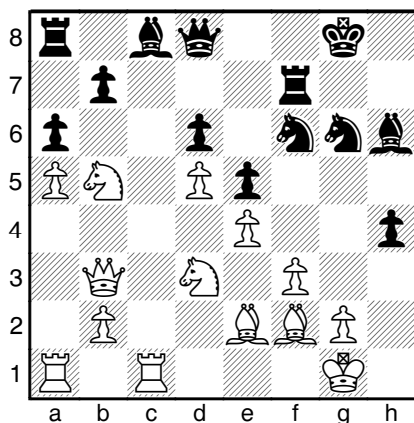
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15...cxd6 16.a4 ♖f7

16...h5 17.a5 g4 18.♘b5 g3 19.♙xa7
♘e8 20.h3 ♖h4 21.♗d2 ♙d7 (21...♙xh3
22.gxh3 ♖xh3 23.♙d1 ♘h4) 22.♙b6
♙xb5 23.♘xe5 ♘xe5 24.♙xb5 ♘f6
25.♖b4 0-1 (43) Doubleday,W
(2064)–Davies,L (2174) Victoria 2012

17.a5 h5 18.♖b3 g4 19.♖fc1 g3
20.hxg3 fxg3 21.♙xg3 h4 22.♙f2 ♙h6
23.♘b5 23.♖c2



24.♙b6± ♖f8 25.♘c7 ♙xc1 26.♖xc1
♖xc7

26...♖b8 27.♙a7±

27.♖xc7 ♘h5 28.♙f2 ♘g3 29.♖c2

29.♙d1!?+-

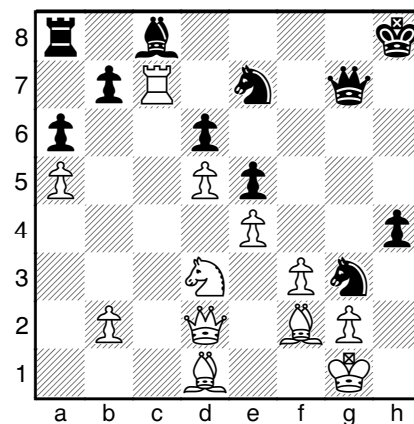
29...♘e7

29...♖d8 30.♙b6 ♖f8 31.♙d1+-

30.♖d2

30.♙d1 ♖f6 31.♖d2 ♘h8 32.♘xe5!+-

30...♖g7 31.♙d1 ♘h8



32.♙e3

32.♘xe5! dxe5 33.d6+-

32...♙h3 33.♙h6

33.♙g5! ♖g6 34.♖xe7 ♖g8 35.♙xh4 ♘e2+
36.♖xe2 ♖h6 37.g4 ♖xh4 38.♖e6 ♖g3+
39.♘h1 ♘g7 40.♖f2+-

editor: 33.gxh3 is a playable way to kill
Black's attack, and although it gives back
most of White's advantage, that might
be a good trade: 33.gxh3 ♘xe4+ 34.♖g2
♖xg2+ 35.♘xg2 ♘xd5 36.fxe4 ♘xc7±

33...♖g6 34.♖xe7

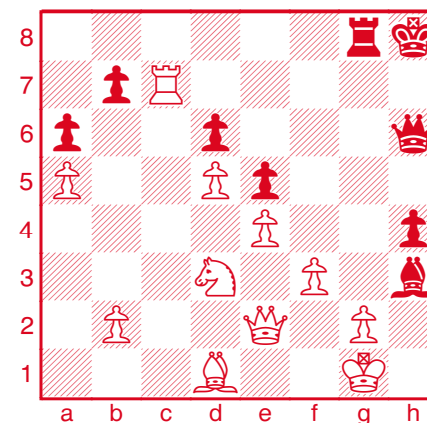
34.♖g5! ♖xg5 35.♙xg5 ♘xd5 36.exd5 ♖c8
37.♖xb7 ♙f5 38.♘f2+-

34...♘e2+ 35.♖xe2 ♖xh6 36.♖c7?

36.♙a4! ♖f6 37.♖e8+ ♖xe8 38.♙xe8;
36.f4! ♖g8 37.♘e1 ♙g4 38.♖d2 h3
39.♙xg4 ♖xg4 40.♖c3 h2+ 41.♘h1 ♖xf4
42.♖e8+ ♖f8 43.♖h3 ♖xh3 44.♖xf8+ ♘g7
45.gxh3+-

36...♖g8

Critical Position



37.g4

editor: 37.♘e1? ♙xg2 38.♘g2 h3
39.♖c8! ♖xc8 40.♘e3 ♖f4

editor: 37.♖c2 ♖xg2+ (37...♙xg2?
38.♘h2!) 38.♖xg2 ♙xg2 39.♘xg2 ♖g5±
White ought to be better, but it's difficult to
untangle.

37...hxg3 38.♘e1??

38.♖c2 ♙d7 (38...♖g7 39.♖d2 ♖h4
40.♘e1 ♖h7 41.f4 ♙d7 42.♙f3!+-)

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39.♔d2 ♖h4 40.♖g2 ♜g6 41.f4 exf4
42.♖h1 ♖xh1+ 43.♙xh1 ♙b5 44.♘xf4 ♜f6
45.♘h5 ♜f1+ 46.♙g2 ♜xd1 47.♜c7 ♜d2+
48.♙xg3 ♙g8 49.♙f4 ♜f2+ 50.♙g5+-

38...♙f1!!-+ 39.♖c2 ♖e3+??

39...g2! wins, and so does

39...♖h3! 40.♘g2 ♙e2!-+

40.♙xf1 ♖h6 41.♖g2 ♜g5 42.f4 exf4
43.♘f3 ♜h5 44.♙e2 ♖g6

44...♜h2 45.♘xh2 gxh2 46.♜c8+- #5

45.♙d3 ♜xd5+ 46.♘d4 ♜e5 47.♖h3+
♙g8 48.♙b3+ ♙f8 49.♖h8+

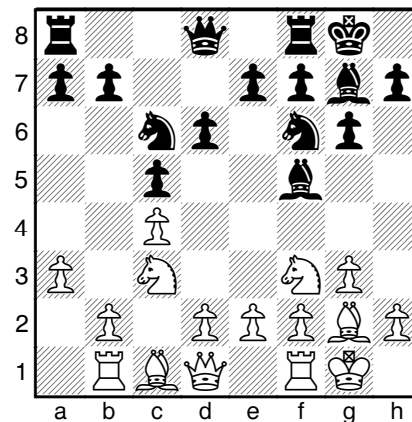
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John Erickson was tied for 1st in the U1900 section heading into the last round, but in a very complicated, see-saw game, he lost to **Alex Danilov**, who caught him to tie for second.

Danilov,Alex (1755) – Erickson,John (1724)

Ontario Open Ottawa (6), 20.05.2013; A38 notes by John Upper

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 ♘f6
5.♘c3 d6 6.0-0 ♙g7 7.♜b1 0-0 8.a3
♙f5!?



This seems strange, but it's Black's follow up that makes it so. If Black is going to encourage e2-e4 by offering White a free tempo, maybe he should be able to trade light-squared ♙'s by playing an immediate ...♖d7/c8 supporting ...♙h3, as in the excerpts below.

9.d3 ♘g4

9...♖c8 10.b4 ½-½ (10) Czerwonski,A (2407)–Danielsen,H (2510) Barlinek 2008; (not exactly fighting chess)

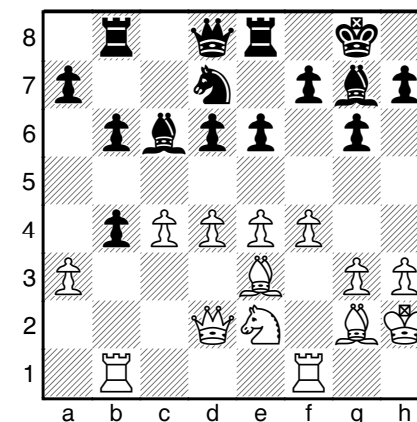
9...♖d7 10.b4 ♜ac8 11.♙d2 b6 12.b5
♘d4 13.a4 ♙h3= ½-½ (42) Ricardi,P (2465)–Larsen,B (2535) Buenos Aires 1992

10.h3 ♘ge5 11.♘xe5

11.♘h4!? keeping the ♘s on with a space advantage.

11...♘xe5 12.e4 ♙d7 13.♙e3 ♖c8

14.♙h2 ♜b8 15.♘d5 ♜e8 16.b4 e6
17.♘f4 b6 18.♖d2 ♖d8 19.♘e2 ♙c6
20.f4 ♘d7 21.d4 cxb4?!



Black gives up his toe hold on the center, probably hoping for play against ♙c4. That turns out to be a bit too slow, and now White will have choices between b4-b5 (fixing the backward ♙a7), and breaking in the center with c4-c5 or d4-d5.

Probably better was continuing in hedgehog style with ...♖c7 and ...a6, when White would have to be constantly ready to defend the ♙c4.

22.axb4 ♘f6 23.♘c3 ♖c7

23...d5 24.e5 ♘e4 25.♘xe4 dxe4 26.b5± White has more space, a choice of pawn breaks, and his "weak" pawns (c4, d4) are harder to attack than Black's weak pawns on a7 and e4.

24.d5

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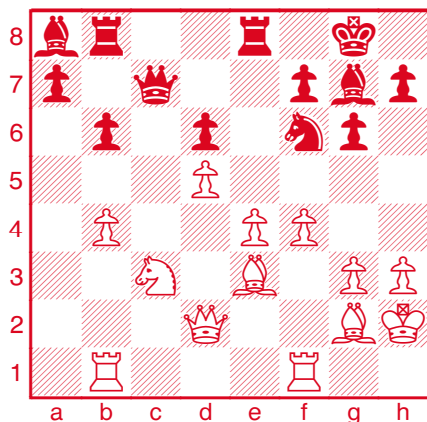
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24.b5! ♖b7 25.e5 (or 25.♗d3) 25...♙xg2
26.♗xg2 ♖xc4 27.exf6 ♖xc3 28.♙d2±

24...exd5 25.cxd5 ♙a8

Critical Position



White has a mobile pawn center and Black's Queenside pieces are awkwardly placed. What should White play:

- a) e4-e5
- b) ♗b5xd6 and then e4-e5
- c) something else?

Answer: Houdini's top choices are: ♙d4, ♖ac1, ♖fc1, and f4-f5, all with advantage to White.

There are a lot of ?s in the analysis below, but that's because this is the tactically most complex position in the June CCN, so it's hardly surprising that neither side found their way through it.

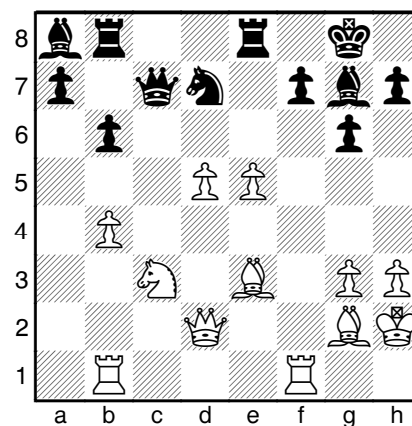
26.e5?!

Objectively, this is probably "?", because with accurate play Black gets an advantage and there are alternatives where White is better; but the variations are so complex that only very strong players would find their way through.

26.♗b5?! ♖d7 27.♗xd6 ♖xd6 28.e5 ♖d8= White has "succeeded" in trading the mobile center for Black's weak ♗d6.

26...dxe5 27.fxe5

27.d6?! ♖d7 and White has lost a pawn.



27...♗d7?

Black misses his only chance, and the rest of the game is one-way traffic.

a) 27...♖xe5? 28.♙f4 ♖xc3 29.♖xc3 ♗g4+ 30.hxg4 ♙xc3 31.♙xb8 ♖xb8±;

b) Here's the Kasparov-like line that shows is why 26.e5 was bad:
27...♖xe5! Δ28.♙f4 ♗h5! with powerful

Benoni-KID dark-square play:
29.d6! (≤29.♙xe5 ♙xe5 30.♗e2 ♗xg3 31.♗xg3 ♙xg3+ 32.♗h1♣) 29...♖xc3!!
30.♖xc3 ♖e2 31.♖d2 ♗xf4□ 32.♖xe2□
♗xe2 33.d7 ♙xg2 34.♗xg2 ♗d4♣
Δ...♗e6 – it's difficult, but I'd rather have the minor pieces.

28.♗b5!?

Even better is: 28.e6! fxe6 29.♗b5! ♖d8 30.♗xa7 exd5 31.♙xd5+ ♗h8 32.♗c6 ♙xc6 33.♙xc6+- White wins an exchange.

28...♖d8?

28...♖xe5! 29.♙f4 ♖e2 30.♖xe2 ♖xe2 31.♙xb8 ♙xd5□ 32.♖g1 ♗xb8±

29.♗d6?!

29.♙g5! f6 30.exf6 ♙xf6 31.♙f4 ♗e5 (31...♙e5 32.♗xa7+-) 32.♖bc1 g5 33.♙e3 ♖e7 (33...♗d7 34.♗c7 the ♖e8 has no good squares.)

29...♖f8 30.e6!

30.♗xf7!!

30...fxe6□ 31.dxe6 ♗e5?!

Hard to imagine, but the ♗e5 is trapped! The only chance was 31...♗f6.

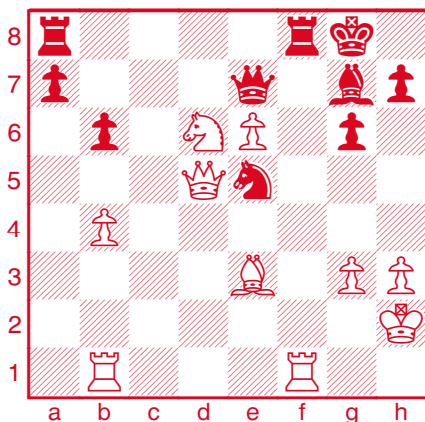
32.♙xa8! ♖xa8 33.♖d5 ♖e7

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Critical Position



White to play and win.

34.♔d4?

♔34.♔f4! ♖fd8 35.♖bd1+- It costs Black an exchange to save the ♗e5.

34.♔g5! also wins: 34...♗xg5 35.e7+ ♔h8 36.exf8♗+ ♖xf8 37.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 38.♗xe5+ ♗xe5 39.♗f7++-

34...♖fd8 35.♔xe5 ♔xe5 36.♗xe5 ♖xd6??

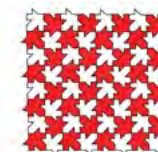
36...♗xd6 37.♖f8+?? ♗xf8 38.♗xf7+ ♔xf7 40.♗f4+

37.♖f7+ ♔d2+ 38.♔g1 ♗xf7 39.exf7+ ♔xf7 40.♗f4+

1-0

Yes, those are crosstables alright.

| OPEN | PLAYER | OLD | PERF | NEW | HIGH | RESULTS | TOTAL |
|-------|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------------------------|-------|
| 1 | SAMBUEV, BATOR | 2682 | 2729 | 2691 | 2753 | =0 +9 +12 +2 +8 +4 | 5.5 |
| 2 | GORDON, DAVID | 2288 | 2429 | 2304 | 2329 | =11 +7 +4 -1 -5 +9 | 3.5 |
| 3 | PENG, JACKIE | 2202 | 2395 | 2227 | 2273 | =12 =11 =5 +6 =4 -0 | 3.0 |
| 4 | PLOTKIN, VICTOR | 2395 | 2331 | 2386 | 2436 | =8 +13 -2 +12 =3 -1 | 3.0 |
| 5 | PACEY, KEVIN | 2226 | 2318 | 2234 | 2406 | =0 =0 =3 =9 +2 -6 | 3.0 |
| 6 | SAPOZHNIKOV, R | 2397 | 2312 | 2388 | 2535 | -0 =10 =7 -3 +13 +5 | 3.0 |
| 7 | HUMPHREYS, MICHAEL | 2286 | 2286 | 2286 | 2345 | =13 -2 =6 =10 =9 +11 | 3.0 |
| 8 | NICHOLSON, MATTHEW | 2221 | 2368 | 2244 | 2244 | =4 -12 +10 +11 -1 -0 | 2.5 |
| 9 | KLEINMAN, MICHAEL | 2385 | 2249 | 2367 | 2415 | +10 -1 =11 =5 =7 -2 | 2.5 |
| 10 | ZEROMSKIS, EGIDJUS | 2208 | 2155 | 2202 | 2248 | -9 =6 -8 =7 =11 =13 | 2.0 |
| 11 | FERREIRA, ALEX T. | 2201 | 2132 | 2186 | 2208 | =2 =3 =9 -8 =10 -7 | 2.0 |
| 12 | HAMILTON, ROBERT | 2356 | 2275 | 2348 | 2443 | =3 +8 -1 -4 -0 -0 | 1.5 |
| 13 | UPPER, JOHN | 2239 | 2122 | 2230 | 2347 | =7 -4 =0 -0 -6 =10 | 1.5 |
| U2200 | | | | | | | |
| 1 | DOUBLEDAY, WILLIAM | 2158 | 2287 | 2187 | 2250 | +2 +14 =3 +7 +8 =4 | 5.0 |
| 2 | DONEV, DANAIL | 1996 | 2190 | 2070 | 2102 | -1 +16 +10 -8 +7 +9 | 4.0 |
| 3 | DUNNE, FRANCESCO | 1981 | 2171 | 2072 | 2072 | +12 +9 =1 -4 =6 +8 | 4.0 |
| 4 | YU, WENLU | 1976 | 2132 | 2045 | 2045 | -14 +12 +15 +3 =9 =1 | 4.0 |
| 5 | COVA, RAMON J. | 2042 | 2129 | 2056 | 2089 | -7 =0 =0 +12 +10 =6 | 3.5 |
| 6 | SUN, MIKE | 2084 | 2089 | 2084 | 2121 | =15 =13 =7 +11 =3 =5 | 3.5 |
| 7 | KALRA, AGASTYA | 2178 | 2051 | 2145 | 2219 | +5 =8 =6 -1 -2 +11 | 3.0 |
| 8 | ZHONG, JOEY | 2036 | 2044 | 2038 | 2072 | +10 =7 =13 +2 -1 -3 | 3.0 |
| 9 | PALSSON, HALLDOR | 2053 | 1979 | 2033 | 2244 | +16 -3 =11 +14 =4 -2 | 3.0 |
| 10 | OLIVEIRA, RODRIGO | 1937 | 1935 | 1937 | 24 | -8 +18 -2 +15 -5 +13 | 3.0 |
| 11 | SMILOVICI, EMIL | 1989 | 1969 | 1985 | 2079 | =13 =15 =9 -6 +14 -7 | 2.5 |
| 12 | ADRIAANSE, ADAM | 1916 | 1910 | 1916 | 1933 | -3 -4 +16 -5 +15 =14 | 2.5 |
| 13 | SADEGHI, SAIED | 2016 | 1925 | 1997 | 2179 | =11 =6 =8 -0 =16 -10 | 2.0 |
| 14 | FINLAY, IAN | 1954 | 1858 | 1936 | 2005 | +4 -1 =0 -9 -11 =12 | 2.0 |
| 15 | KROLCHYK, JACOB | 1928 | 1847 | 1909 | 1928 | =6 =11 -4 -10 -12 +16 | 2.0 |
| 16 | SIBBALD, PETER R. | 1977 | 1723 | 1917 | 2081 | -9 -2 -12 +17 =13 -15 | 1.5 |
| 17 | SOBREPERE, JOSEF | 1631 | 1577 | 1627 | 1670 | -0 -0 -0 -16 -0 -0 | 0.0 |
| 18 | GILLIS, DOUG | 1594 | 1537 | 1590 | 1849 | -0 -10 -0 -0 -0 -0 | 0.0 |
| U1900 | | | | | | | |
| 1 | YANG, RYAN | 1884 | 1923 | 1892 | 1918 | +11 +7 =4 +5 =2 =3 | 4.5 |
| 2 | DANILOV, ALEX | 1755 | 1796 | 1796 | 2100 | -5 +10 +9 =6 =1 +4 | 4.0 |
| 3 | MOLEV, DANIEL | 1659 | 1887 | 1777 | 1777 | -7 +16 =10 +13 +6 =1 | 4.0 |
| 4 | ERICKSON, JOHN | 1724 | 1887 | 1776 | 1976 | +13 +6 =1 +7 =5 -2 | 4.0 |
| 5 | BARLOW WILKES, C. | 1688 | 1823 | 1743 | 1743 | +2 +12 +8 -1 =4 -6 | 3.5 |
| 6 | AB-BARIN, HOOSHANG | 1779 | 1758 | 1772 | 1779 | +16 -4 +19 =2 -3 +5 | 3.5 |
| 7 | SCANTLAND, PATRICK | 1805 | 1744 | 1789 | 1837 | +3 -1 +11 -4 =8 =9 | 3.0 |
| 8 | LASZLO, ROBERT | 1746 | 1733 | 1743 | 2051 | +17 =0 -5 =15 =7 =10 | 3.0 |
| 9 | ROTH, GERHARD | 1743 | 1709 | 1737 | 1800 | =0 =0 -2 =17 +12 =7 | 3.0 |
| 10 | BIGRAS, JEAN | 1785 | 1697 | 1762 | 1798 | =12 -2 =3 +19 =11 =8 | 3.0 |
| 11 | PAADIMEISTER, DAVID | 1709 | 1668 | 1699 | 1709 | -1 +17 -7 +16 =10 -12 | 2.5 |
| 12 | SOBREPERE, JOSEF | 1647 | 1557 | 1631 | 1670 | =10 -5 -16 +0 -9 +11 | 2.5 |
| 13 | GILLIS, DOUG | 1609 | 1526 | 1594 | 1849 | -4 +0 =15 -3 -16 +17 | 2.5 |
| 14 | MARGHETIS, ARIS | 1843 | 1937 | 1854 | 2048 | -0 -0 +20 -0 -0 +16 | 2.0 |
| 15 | TOMALTY, ALAN | 1762 | 1678 | 1755 | 2000 | =0 =0 =13 =8 -0 -0 | 2.0 |
| 16 | COTE, RICHARD | 1660 | 1574 | 1640 | 1868 | -6 -3 +12 -11 +13 -14 | 2.0 |
| 17 | FLITTON, DAVID | 1627 | 1497 | 1597 | 2004 | -8 -11 -18 =9 +19 -13 | 1.5 |
| 18 | FELDERHOF, GERARD | 1711 | 2027 | 1723 | 1805 | -0 -0 +17 -0 -0 -0 | 1.0 |
| 19 | LAURIN, MARCEL | 1664 | 1330 | 1625 | 1978 | =0 =0 -6 -10 -17 -0 | 1.0 |
| U1600 | | | | | | | |
| 1 | GUO, RICHARD | 1567 | 1905 | 1731 | 1731 | +14 +10 +6 +9 +5 +4 | 6.0 |
| 2 | FARRANT-DIAZ, NATHAN | 1593 | 1679 | 1613 | 1719 | +15 +5 =9 =4 +8 =6 | 4.5 |
| 3 | BROWN, JOHN R. | 1454 | 1640 | 1525 | 1970 | +13 -6 +16 -5 +11 +8 | 4.0 |
| 4 | RAPAKA, SRIKANTH | 1460 | 1637 | 1528 | 1528 | =0 +8 +7 =2 +12 -1 | 4.0 |
| 5 | MOULTON, RICHARD | 1515 | 1553 | 1532 | 1566 | +20 -2 +14 +3 -1 +9 | 4.0 |
| 6 | KURKOWSKI, KEN | 1631 | 1510 | 1607 | 1900 | +17 +3 -1 =12 =9 =2 | 3.5 |
| 7 | ZHANG, JEFF | 1528 | 1421 | 1506 | 1617 | -12 +18 -4 +17 =13 +14 | 3.5 |
| 8 | JU, LAWRENCE (LARRY) | 1311 | 1515 | 1413 | 1413 | +16 -4 +10 +13 -2 -3 | 3.0 |
| 9 | MARSHALL, ERIC | 1551 | 1478 | 1535 | 1535 | +18 +12 =2 -1 =6 -5 | 3.0 |
| 10 | ABBARIN, SHABNAM | 1454 | 1346 | 1439 | 1454 | +21 -1 -8 -0 +18 +12 | 3.0 |
| 11 | EYRE, KEVEN | 1453 | 1268 | 1431 | 1668 | =0 =0 -13 +20 -3 +17 | 3.0 |
| 12 | RODRIGUE-LEMIEUX, S. | 1301 | 1439 | 1384 | 10 | +7 -9 +15 =6 -4 -10 | 2.5 |
| 13 | PENG, JANET | 1570 | 1398 | 1536 | 1636 | -3 +19 +11 -8 =7 -0 | 2.5 |
| 14 | LUKEZICH, JOHN I.F. | 1421 | 1292 | 1397 | 1512 | -1 +21 -5 =15 +19 -7 | 2.5 |
| 15 | JU, TERENCE (TERRY) | 1408 | 1289 | 1384 | 1408 | -2 +20 -12 =14 -16 +19 | 2.5 |
| 16 | YOUNG, JOHN | 1561 | 1322 | 1526 | 1800 | -8 +17 -3 -0 +15 -0 | 2.0 |
| 17 | WU, DEE | 1113 | 1200 | 1139 | 1139 | -6 -16 +21 -7 +20 -11 | 2.0 |
| 18 | WOOD, MONIKA | 1175 | 1133 | 1162 | 1206 | -9 -7 -19 +21 -10 +20 | 2.0 |
| 19 | CARROLL, BILLY | 1242 | 1194 | 1233 | 1429 | =0 -13 +18 -0 -14 -15 | 1.5 |
| 20 | XU, YAORUI | 0 | 933 | 933 | 5 | -5 -15 +0 -11 -17 -18 | 1.0 |
| 21 | KARSON, TREVOR | 0 | 891 | 891 | 4 | -10 -14 -17 -18 -0 -0 | 0.0 |



25th Canadian Chess Challenge

Ottawa, May 18-20

photo report by **John Upper**



Crosstables, and a PDF version of of the tournament booklet can be found at the CnM [CCC website](#).

The Chess 'N Math Association held its **25th annual Canadian Chess Challenge** on May 18-20, at Carleton University in Ottawa.

The event pits teams of grades 1 to 12 students from each province against each other in a nine-match round robin. Ontario won with a perfect 9/9, followed by Quebec and B.C.

Remarkably for a tournament with a constantly changing set of participants, the organizers managed to have four things return from the first CCC in 1989:

- it was held in Ottawa;
- it was organized by Larry Bevand;
- the TD was IA Jonathan Berry; and
- the 2013 coach of Team Quebec, FM Le-fong Hua, was the *first ever* winner of the grade 1 section of the CCC.

Games were played at rapid time control (G25 + 5s Bronstein), so scorekeeping was not required. And since most of the players are quite young, and there wasn't much time between rounds to consult with coaches, games from the event are hard to come by. Instead, these photos will give you some idea of what the event *looked* like off the board, if not on it.



The man behind the gold
Organizer and driving force behind the Canadian Chess Challenge, **Larry Bevand**.

25th CCC Round 7



Alberta - Ontario



Quebec - New Brunswick



British Columbia - Newfoundland



Manitoba - P.E.I.



Nova Scotia - Saskatchewan

Chess Canada

Round 7:

**Monday,
May 20**

(9:00-10:00 a.m.)

- The playing area was roped off, and only players, team captains, and organizers are allowed near the games.
- Old-school style trophies: metal body on marble base.
- Digital clocks and sets provided for every board.
- Note the curling-style scoreboards, with a separate box for each game of each match. If you zoom in you'll see that two of the games are already over and the results posted.
- Each province wore its own, custom-designed chess-themed team T-shirts.
- The results of every round and every board-prize race were posted on the website and on printouts in the halls.



Everything is a spectator sport when your children are playing. *above: the view from the spectators' area.*

25th CCC

Individual
Winners

Chess Canada



Individual Grade Winners
(sorted by size!)

| Grade | Winner | Prov. | score |
|-------|--------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. | Lucian Wu (BC) | | 9/9 |
| 2. | Qiuyu Huang (QC) | | 9/9 |
| 3. | Nicholas Vettese (ON) | | 7/9 |
| 4. | Kaixin Wang (AB) | | 8½/9 |
| 5. | Maili-Jade Ouellet (QC) | | 9/9 |
| 6. | Kevin Wan (ON) | | 9/9 |
| 7. | Qiyu Zhou (ON) | | 8½/9 |
| 8. | Razvan Preotu (ON) | | 9/9 |
| 9. | Adam Dorrance (NS) | | 8/9 |
| 11. | Tanraj Sohal (BC) | | 8/9 |
| 12. | Nikita Kraiouchkine (QC) | | 8½/9 |
| 10. | James Fu (ON) | | 9/9 |



After the chess...
more chess!!

too many pieces for
one board in Monday's
bughouse event.

Eight-Time Champion
Dr. Parmjits Sohal and his son, eight-time
CCC winner, Tanraj Sohal from B.C.

25th CCC

Top 3 Teams

Chess Canada



1st - Ontario (9/9)
Secured its win with a final round 8-4 victory over Team Quebec.

Ontario's trophy winners:
front row: Kevin Wan, Joey Qin, Wenyang Ming, Nicholas Vettese, Yue Tong Zhao, Nameer Issani
back row: James Fu, Micheal Ivanov, Razvan Preotu, Qiyu Zhou.

Apologies to team members not included in photos on this page: with all the bustle after the last round, not everyone was available for all team photos. - editor

2nd - Quebec

Team Captain Lefong Hua is holding the plaque he earned for his contributions to Youth chess.



3rd - British Columbia

How do they get eight smiles from seven faces?



Nova Scotia Open

(May 18-20, 2013)

report by **Chris Felix**



Chess Canada

Despite not having played an open tournament in Nova Scotia in a year and a half, at the **Nova Scotia Open** 2013 at MSVU May 18-20th, New Brunswick's **Jean Desforges** (2184) and **Brendan Martin** (2048) of New Glasgow showed they haven't forgotten how to win here. Both posting a score of 4.5/6, they bested the field of 25 and split the combined 1st-2nd \$540 prize.

After winning their individual encounter in the fourth round, Desforges was ahead by a full point. However, Martin had the better final day, scoring two full points on Monday, while Desforges settled for a pair of draws.

Junior player and provisionally-rated Lee Wang (1874) continued to impress with a four point finish, along the way drawing with higher rated Brendan Martin and Chris Felix.

Brian Oliver (1475) drove all the way from Newfoundland to play, and showed he was hungry for stronger competition by drawing with Eric Newman (1765) and winning against Brian McKay: a 453 point upset!

New and unrated player Ella Dubinsky scored three points and upset tournament veteran Eric Newman in the last round, a considerable accomplishment, given Newman's fearsome reputation.

Class Prizes

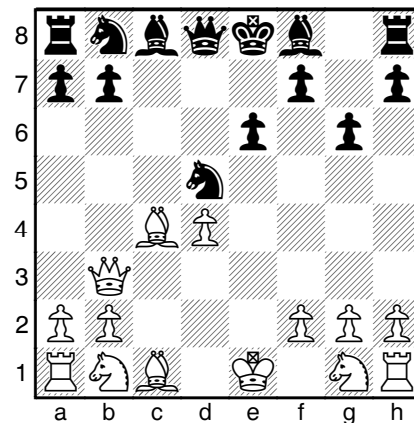
U1800: 1st-3rd: Ken Cashin, Bruce Fleury, Donald MacLean: 3/6; \$33.33 each.

U1600: 1st-3rd: Conrad MacNeil, Harry Mah, Ella Dubinsky: 3/6; \$16.66 each.

Martin, Brendan (2048) – Nuschke, Alex (1887)

Nova Scotia Open 2013 (6), 20.05.2013; B22
notes by Brendan Martin

1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5
5.exd5 ♘f6 6.♙c4 ♘xd5 7.♚b3 e6



8.♘f3

The main alternative is ♘c3. It attacks d5 but runs into ...♙b4!. Black develops as

he fights for the centre, daring White to play ♙h6? after which his game unravels:

8.♘c3 ♙b4! 9.a3 (9.♙h6? ♘c6 10.♙xd5 ♚xd5) 9...♙xc3+ 10.bxc3 ♘c6 11.♙d3

8...♘b6?

The threat to trade Knight for Bishop is toothless, even if Black had time to execute it. The Knight is a crucial defender. ...♘c6, threatening ♘a5, was better. e.g. 8...♘c6 9.♘c3 ♙b4 10.♙d3

9.♙g5 ♚c7?

9...f6 is obviously unpleasant but Black had a subtle resource in 9...♙e7. White can again try the tempting ♙h6, but it wastes time, allowing Black the opportunity to free himself. After 10. ♙xe7 Black stands better than in the game.

On 9...♙e7 10.♙h6 ♘c6, Black threatens ♘xd4 and ♘xc4 followed by ♚d5 and ♚h5 11.♙b5 ♚d5

Nova Scotia Open Round 1



Nova Scotia Open

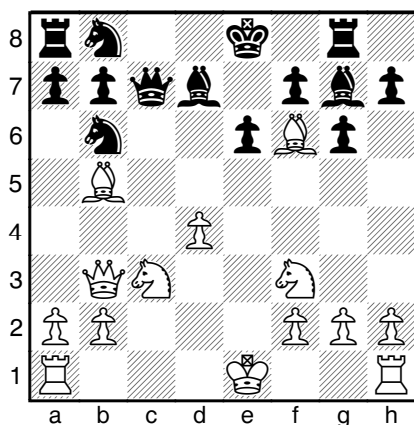
May 18-20, 2013

Chess Canada

10. ♖f6 ♜g8

Consideration must be given to the exchange sacrifice ... ♜xc4. The position that results offers Black compensation in the form of the Bishop pair but his King is weak and White should be able to engineer advantageous exchanges: 10... ♜xc4?! 11. ♜xc4 ♜xc4 12. ♖xh8 ♜xb2

11. ♖b5+ ♖d7 12. ♜c3 ♖g7



13. ♖xg7!?

This move maintains the tempo of the game, allowing White to castle immediately and press on with the attack. However ♖h4 may have been wiser. The ♖g7 will be of less use in the defence than its opposite number will be in the attack following d5.

13... ♜xg7 14. 0-0 a6?

Encourages the rerouting of the White Bishop to a more useful square from which it can abet the d5 thrust.

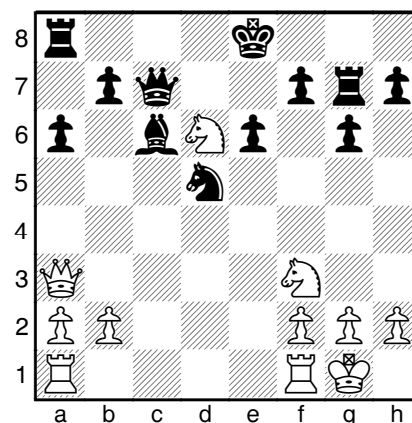
15. ♖d3 ♖c6 16. ♖e4

Premature. 16... ♖xe4 17. ♜xe4 offers less pressure than could be achieved by further building moves.

16... ♜8d7 17. d5

This resolves much of the tension, taking advantage of the exposed king and misplaced Rook.

17... ♜c5 18. ♜a3 ♜xe4 19. ♜xe4 ♜xd5 20. ♜d6+



20... ♖d8

20... ♖f8 21. ♜f5+ ♖g8 22. ♜xg7 ♖xg7 23. ♜ac1 Progress for White seems difficult from here. Though a win seems likely, the absence of greater advantage demonstrates the insufficient preparation underlying White's attack.;

20... ♖d7? 21. ♜e5+ ♖d8 22. ♜xb7+ ♜xb7 23. ♜f8+-

21. ♜xb7+ ♖d7?

One of several successive moves made in great haste. Up to the point I had played quickly and aggressively with an eye towards making dinner plans for which I was already late. This haste produced this inaccuracy and the blunder that follows it. 22. ♜c5+ was clearly better.

21... ♜xb7? 22. ♜f8+ ♖c7 23. ♜xg7+-

22. ♜a5? ♖b5 23. ♜fe1 f6?

The fatal error; other moves produce positions of Spartan comfort but some defensibility: 23... ♜d6 24. ♜e5+ ♖e7 25. ♜ac6+ ♖xc6 26. ♜xc6+ ♖d7 27. ♜e5+ ♖e7 28. ♜a4±

24. ♜b3 ♜d6? 25. ♜c5+ ♖c8 26. ♜xe6 ♜f4 (diagram)



Round 4: A tense battle between the co-winners Jean Desforges (L) and Brendan Martin (R).



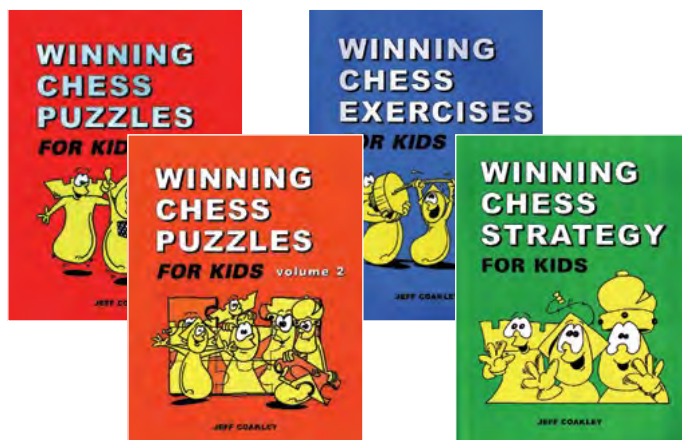
Chess Canada

WWW.STRATEGYGAMES.CA

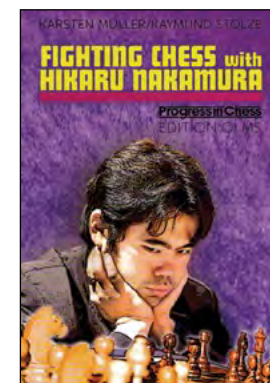
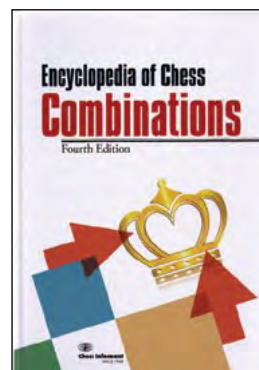
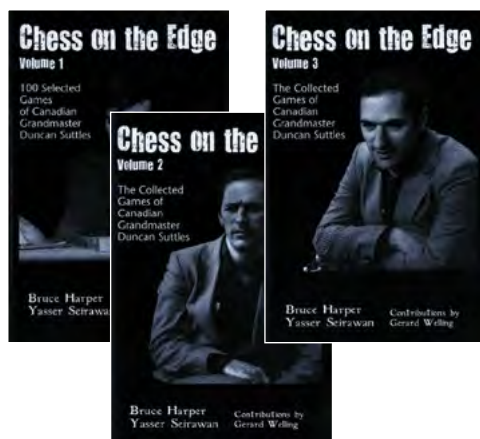


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UPCOMING EVENTS



Chess Canada

June 7-9, 2013

Tournoi Ouvert Regional de l'Outaouais
Gatineau, Quebec

\$5,000 prize fund guaranteed
pré-inscrits: GM Sambuev et MI Hébert

Plus de détails sur le site (en français):
<http://www.matoutaouais.org/?p=1484>

June 21-23, 2013

Eastern Ontario Open
Ottawa, Ontario
RA Centre; 5 round Swiss.

More details on the event PDF:
<http://www.eoca.org/resources/2013-Eastern-Ontario-Open.pdf>

June 22-July 1, 2013

8th Edmonton International Chess Festival

The International-Main Event is a ten player Round Robin, featuring GMs:
Lazaro Bruzon, Nigel Short,
Eric Hansen and Victor Mikhalevski.

Side events include lectures, a simul, and speed tournament.

For details, and tournament updates, visit the website:
<http://www.edmonton-international.com/International.html>

June 28-30, 2013

George Beals Open
Halifax, NS.

details on website:
<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NSChess/upcoming.html>

also:

June 28-30, 2013

New Brunswick Open
Campbellton, NB.

details on website:
<http://reallyhightech.com/chess/nbop13.html>

July 6-7, 2013

Aurora Summer Open
Aurora, ON.

5 round Swiss; Open, U2000, U1600
preregistered:
IM Nikolay Noritsyn
IM Bindi Cheng

details on website:
http://www.aurorachessclub.ca/?page_id=2395



Canadian Youth Chess Championship - CYCC

July 10-13, 2013
Ottawa, ON

Months of regional qualifying events lead up to this: Canada's National Championship for players from Under 8 to Under 18.

Winners to represent Canada at the 2013 World Youth Chess Championship in Al-Ain, UAE.

Full details on event website:
<https://sites.google.com/site/ottawachess2013/home/cycc2013>

Note: entry fee goes up \$25 on June 16.

Upcoming Events



Chess Canada

50th Canadian Open Chess Championship

The premier Open of the CFC calendar returns to Ottawa, and celebrates a double 50th anniversary:

- the 50th Canadian Open
- held in Ottawa 50 years ago.

Dates:

July 13-20, 2013

Location:

National Hotel and Suites,
Ottawa, ON

<http://www.nationalhotelloottawa.com/>

Prize Fund:

\$25,000 (expected)

Class prizes:

U2400, U2200, U2000, U1800,
U1600, Unrated; Top Women; Top
Juniors; Top Senior (+60)

11 Confirmed GrandMasters:

GM Nigel Short (England)
GM Lazaro Bruzon (Cuba)
GM Ivan Sokolov (Netherlands)
GM Walter Arencibia (Cuba)
GM Eduardas Rozentalis (Lithuania)
GM Eugene Perelshteyn (USA)
GM Cristian Chirila (Romania)
GM Reinaldo Vera (Cuba)
GM Luis Manuel Perez (Cuba)

vs

The Hometeam:

GM Eric Hansen

defending Champion, Canada's #1 FIDE-rated

GM Bator Sambuev

current Canadian Closed Champion

Format:

- 9 Round Open Swiss
- No accelerated pairing
- All games CFC-rated.
- Games between FIDE-rated players will be FIDE-rated.

TC:

40/90 + G/30 + 30s from move 1

Entry Fee:

\$225 before June 15, 2013
\$250 June 15 - July 1
\$275 on site

Alert: entry fee goes up \$25 on June 15.

Full details on event website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/ottawachess2013/home/canadian-open-2013>



The Chess 'N' Math Association Presents



10th Annual North American Youth Chess Championship

The 10th NAYCC comes to Toronto, Aug 15-18, 2013.

Open to players ranging in age from U8 to U18, and from Bermuda, Cuba, Haiti,

The 2013 North American Youth Chess Championship



Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Winners qualify for the 2014 Pan-American Youth Festival, and earn a FIDE "Candidate Master" title. Games will be CFC, CMA, and FIDE-rated.

Format: 7 round Swiss
TC: G/90m + 30s

For details, visit the Official Website:

<http://chess-math.org/toronto/naycc/>

FIDE Rating List: Top Active Canadians



CFC Rating List?



Chess Canada

| Men | Name | Title | Rating | G |
|-----|------------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 | Hansen, Eric | g | 2577 | 0 |
| 2 | Spraggett, Kevin | g | 2568 | 0 |
| 3 | Sambuev, Bator | g | 2519 | 10 |
| 4 | Charbonneau, Pascal | g | 2505 | 0 |
| 5 | Tyomkin, Dimitri | g | 2473 | 4 |
| 6 | Gerzhoy, Leonid | m | 2469 | 0 |
| 7 | Noritsyn, Nikolay | m | 2466 | 5 |
| 8 | Hambleton, Aman | m | 2461 | 30 |
| 9 | Porper, Edward | m | 2424 | 6 |
| 10 | Krnan, Tomas | m | 2411 | 5 |
| 11 | Panjwani, Raja | m | 2409 | 8 |
| 12 | Samsonkin, Artiom | m | 2407 | 0 |
| 13 | Cheng, Bindi | m | 2406 | 5 |
| 14 | Wang, Richard | m | 2371 | 7 |
| 15 | Hebert, Jean | m | 2363 | 4 |
| 16 | O'Donnell, Tom | m | 2354 | 0 |
| 17 | Thavandiran, Shiyam | f | 2338 | 0 |
| 18 | Pechenkin, Vladimir | f | 2335 | 6 |
| 19 | Cummings, David | m | 2326 | 0 |
| 20 | Yoos, John C. | f | 2325 | 0 |
| 21 | Jiang, Louie | f | 2324 | 0 |
| 22 | Kleinman, Michael | f | 2306 | 4 |
| 23 | Laceste, Loren B. | f | 2290 | 0 |
| 24 | Milicevic, Goran | f | 2287 | 0 |
| 25 | Qin, Zi Yi Joey | | 2284 | 0 |
| 26 | Yam, Alex | | 2283 | 0 |
| 27 | Calugar, Arthur | m | 2282 | 4 |
| 27 | Piasetski, Leon | m | 2282 | 0 |
| 29 | Baragar, Fletcher | f | 2280 | 0 |
| 30 | Leveille, Francois | f | 2279 | 0 |
| 30 | Peredun, Andrew | f | 2279 | 0 |
| 32 | Sapozhnikov, R. | f | 2277 | 0 |
| 33 | Miller, Evgeny | | 2272 | 5 |
| 34 | Gentes, Kevin | f | 2267 | 0 |
| 35 | Hamilton, Robert | f | 2262 | 3 |
| 36 | Stevens, Christian | f | 2259 | 0 |
| 37 | Khassanov, Marat | f | 2256 | 0 |
| 38 | Preotu, Razvan | | 2248 | 5 |
| 39 | Reeve, Jeff | | 2245 | 0 |
| 40 | Voskanyan, Vahagn | f | 2241 | 0 |
| 41 | Kraiouchkine, Nikita | | 2240 | 4 |
| 42 | Martchenko, Alexander | | 2236 | 0 |
| 43 | Gordon, David | c | 2229 | 0 |
| 44 | Day, Lawrence A. | m | 2228 | 0 |
| 45 | Voloaca, Mihnea | | 2227 | 4 |
| 45 | Moore, Harry | | 2227 | 0 |
| 45 | Ochkoos, Jura | f | 2227 | 0 |
| 48 | Plotkin, Victor | f | 2219 | 4 |
| 49 | Song, Michael | | 2215 | 0 |
| 50 | Chabot, Roland | | 2214 | 4 |

| Women | Name | Title | Rating | G |
|-------|------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| 1 | Khoudgarian, Natalia | w | 2136 | 0 |
| 2 | Botez, Alexandra | w | 2024 | 0 |
| 3 | Kazakevich, Anastasia | | 2019 | 2 |
| 4 | Peng, Jackie | w | 2011 | 3 |
| 5 | Lacau-Rodean, Iulia | | 1989 | 0 |
| 6 | Roy, Myriam | | 1985 | 0 |
| 7 | Kalaydina, Regina | Veronica | 1958 | 0 |
| 8 | Agbabishvili, Lali | | 1943 | 3 |
| 9 | Orlova, Yelizaveta | w | 1942 | 0 |
| 10 | Yun, Chang | | 1897 | 0 |
| 11 | Zhou, Qiyu | | 1895 | 4 |
| 12 | Xiao, Alice Huanyi | | 1866 | 0 |
| 13 | Serbanescu, Natasa | | 1799 | 0 |
| 14 | Ma, Indy | | 1761 | 0 |
| 15 | Foote, Joanne | | 1723 | 0 |
| 16 | Giblon, Rebecca | | 1712 | 0 |
| 17 | Ding, Jill | | 1641 | 0 |
| 18 | Liu, Jiaxin | w | 1639 | 1 |
| 19 | Giblon, Melissa | | 1555 | 0 |
| 20 | Lee, Melissa | | 1552 | 0 |
| 21 | Pobereshnikova, Agniya | | 1547 | 0 |
| 22 | Nguyen, Duy Thien An | w | 1537 | 0 |
| 23 | Tapp, Ashley | | 1503 | 0 |
| 24 | Moayyed, Dorsa | | 1479 | 0 |
| 25 | Zhou, Lily | | 1414 | 0 |

source: ratings.FIDE.com, June 1, 2013.

Notes:

Eric Hansen remains Canada's #1 FIDE-rated player, a position he took last month by passing perennial #1 Kevin Spraggett.

Aman Hambleton continues his hectic pace: his 30 rated games account for nearly a quarter of Canadian mens' activity.

The **25 women** are not only the "Top" 25, they are the *only* 25 currently active FIDE-rated Canadian women.

13-year-old **Qiyu Zhou** was the most active female, with 4 FIDE-rated games.

Top 10 Canadian **men** rank 44th; 100 points behind Cuba, 100 points ahead of Turkmenistan.

Totals:

127 FIDE-rated games played by the Top 50 men.

13 FIDE-rated games played by Canadian women.

In later issues, once I've had access to the CFC's rating database for a few months, I should be able to generate special lists, such as a "Most Improved", or various "Top 10" type lists, which I think are both interesting and worth including. The question here is: **should the CCN include the full CFC rating list every month?** I'm undecided.

Yes: it's a more permanent place to look up old ratings.

No: by the time you get it, the ratings are already out-of-date.

The CFC ratings dB can be searched and filtered reasonably easily on the CFC website, which is *impossible* in any print-style newsletter. Even better, for the past few years the CFC has kept to its weekly Wednesday-night rating update schedule fairly reliably – though *not*, as it happens, at the end of May 2013, which is why you won't find the CFC rating list in this CCN. These are both good reasons to leave the rating list out of the CCN and just add a link to the online version.

OTOH, as Hugh Brodie pointed out in a letter to a previous editor, without the full list in a Newsletter, it might not be possible to look up old ratings, which means you can't do some things you might want, such as compare the rating changes of different players. While I doubt this is of much interest to most CFC members, it does help Hugh with his [Canadian chess game database, Can-Base](#), which is such a useful Canadian chess resource that the CFC and/or CCN should do *something* to help. I doubt that continuing to print the full list every month is the most efficient way to help, but we'll see.

So, here's the experiment: try doing without the CCN's CFC rating list for the next issue or two. If this proves to be an unbearable hardship for enough CFC members, then we'll bring it back.



Appendix: the New CCN

by John Upper



Chess Canada

This Appendix explains the reasons for the changes to the design and contents of the Newsletter, and sketches some plans for further changes, as well as identifying topics on which I already know I want some feedback.

Purpose of the CCN

The purpose of the CCN is to record and promote chess playing of all levels across Canada.

To this end, it should feature:

Tournament games from all sources:

- events rated by the CFC and/or FQE
- tournaments from clubs or schools, whether or not they are CFC/FQE rated

Non-tournament chess events:

- simuls and lectures by interesting players
- reviews of Canadian-made chess products (books, software, equipment)

Player profiles and/or interviews:

- the familiar "New Kid on the Block"/Upcoming Youngster story
- interviews with established players
- retrospectives by/about inactive players of interest.
- unfortunately, and hopefully only rarely for those we care about, obituaries.

Obviously, no organization – CFC, FQE, C'nM, FIDE – has a monopoly on chess, or even on Canadian *tournament* chess. *I believe the home of chess in Canada is the weekly chess club meeting.* Only a few of the approximately 150 chess clubs listed on the CFC website exclusively run CFC rated events; which means that most organized tournament

chess in Canada is played outside the CFC. The new series of articles on Club Championships is intended to tap into that.

New CCN: Executive Summary

purpose

to document and promote chess playing of all levels across Canada

format

the CCN is an online journal and should be designed as such:

- screen-shaped format
- sans serif fonts
- more colour and graphics
- clickable links

content

quality reports on *Canadian* chess events

Wider Net, Different Waters

Casting a wider net for Canadian chess stories will have two possibly controversial consequences:

- many more games by non-masters
- many fewer games by non-Canadians.

I think the CCN should include games from all levels of Canadian chess, which means more games than previously by non-titled-players and non-masters. **There's no point in sugar-coating this: it means a reduction in the average quality of the chess games featured in the CCN.** But I've decided to do that anyway. I don't see this broadening as

a concession to populism, or "dumbing down", I see it as both a service to Canadian chess and as having essential instructive value. Here are three reasons why:

When a major event like the CYCC or Canadian Open or CoQ is played, the CCN should *aim to include games by all the section winners, not just games by titled players.* First, those are significant Canadian chess events, and not simply because of the presence of titled players in the top section: they are significant because so many Canadian chess players either attend or compete in them or know someone who does. *It is not the quality of those games that makes them newsworthy, it is the interest shown in them that makes them so.*

Thought experiment: if Michel Buble played Avril Lavigne a game of "live" (costumed) chess in front of the Peace Tower on Canada Day, should the CCN cover the event based on how many exclams their moves deserved?

Second, there is the crass point that the CCN is paid for by CFC membership dues. The vast majority of CFC members are not, and never will be, FIDE-titled hot-shots (sorry). But they and their regular opponents are what keep Canadian chess going, and it is perfectly reasonable for them to expect to see their chess triumphs occasionally appear in the CCN.

Third, there is the possible objection that these lower-quality games make the CCN worse. That might be true if showing games with bad moves makes readers play worse, or if games with more and bigger mistakes have less instructive value. I used to think so too, but now I have my doubts. This is complex issue, and I'm under no illusions that I can make a conclusive case for what follows;

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but at the very least I can offer two reasons for not treating this objection as a slam-dunk against including non-master games.

One question to ask about the objection that "lower-quality games are less instructive" is to ask **instructive for who?**

What you can learn depends on what you already know, so what will be instructive for some players will be obvious to others, and unintelligible to others. Novices are often shown Morphy's games, and more advanced players might study Capablanca; but *what can novices or class players learn from the Karpov v Kasparov matches?* Not much, apart from now-old opening theory. That's not because the quality of the games in the KK matches was lower and therefore less instructive. They're plenty instructive for strong masters. *They're less instructive for weaker players precisely because the quality of the games is much higher: the two Ks didn't make the kind of mistakes that weaker players can learn to spot and exploit.*

Morphy's games are so instructive because his opponents made the kind of bad moves weak players often make, and Morphy was brilliant at showing the world precisely why they were bad moves. The same is true of Capablanca: his most anthologized games are the ones where his opponents make the kind of positional errors which modern masters automatically recognize and avoid, at least in part because we remember how Capablanca beat those mistakes.

If this is right, then *what's most instructive for each player will be to see how the mistakes made by players in their own class get exploited.* If you're an IM, that means studying how GMs beat you and those who play a little better than you; if you're a 1600 player, it means seeing how 1900 players keep beating you and other 1600-1800s.

Here's a second reason I reject the claim

that "lower quality games shouldn't be printed". It's a *reductio ad absurdum* argument:

If the criterion by which games should be selected for the CCN is their ratio of high-quality to low-quality moves, then why include any Canadian games at all?

There are no Canadians in the world's top 100, and there are hundreds of games per month played between opponents who are better than the highest-rated Canadian. If quality is the only thing that counts, then almost no Canadian games will make the cut.

If every country in the world followed the "quality trumps all" logic, only Russia would have a monthly national chess magazine longer than a McDonald's menu.

If showing the highest-quality games is the only thing that counts, then... chess magazines wouldn't show any games played by humans at all.

There probably wouldn't be any games played by humans *at all*: Houdini plays thousands of games per month on-line and it plays much better than any human who has ever lived. If what you want is super-human high-quality chess, there's a lifetime's worth right here:

<http://www.computerchess.org.uk/ccrl/4040/games.html>

It should be obvious that no editor of the CCN has ever used quality as the sole criterion for game inclusion. If I'm different here, it's because I look both above *and below* my rating for games to include.

BTW, the reason there are no games anno-

tated by titled players in this issue is because of a missed deadline, not because I have no interest or respect for titled players. On the contrary, I've contracted GM Eric Hansen and IM Edward Porper to annotate games from the Calgary and Edmonton Internationals – their games will appear in the July CCN – and I'm looking forward to reading and learning from their notes. [After writing this, Eric sent me one of his games, and the notes are terrific. Look for a "teaser" from it in a couple of weeks on the CFC Newsfeed.]

An Online Journal

If there is one fact which guides the decisions I've made about the CCN, it's this:

the CCN is an online journal

This fact has two major consequences: concerning the format and the content. The first is obvious: it should be formatted for onscreen reading. The second is more important because it indirectly determines our most logical content: what the CFC Newsletter can offer that isn't already freely available online. The format issue is easier, so I'll address it first.

Function and Format

The old CCN layout was a holdover from its incarnation as a print magazine: title-page with photo(s), contents page with references to page numbers (rather than clickable links), headers and footers, with chess diagrams and colour used sparingly (as though the "paper" and ink for the digital version was expensive).

That old layout still makes sense if its audience prints the CCN and reads it on paper. If not, then the layout should be changed to fit the CCN readers' actual use. I suspect

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most CFC members do not read it like a print magazine, but read it on screen. After a few months of tinkering with the new design, we'll do a survey to find out which format the readers prefer.

Designed for Screens

Shape: Assuming the CCN is read on screen, a screen-shaped format makes more sense than the 8½x11 "letter" size. The "A4" page size of the June CCN is a cross between standard laptop screen and an iPad. This more efficiently uses screen space and reduces the need to scroll up and down when reading a story.

Font: Most printed magazines and newspapers use sans serif for headlines and serif for text body because on paper it's easier to read. But reading text on computer screens is different: computer screens have a much lower resolution than paper, so serif fonts "shimmer" when on screen, making them harder to read. Assuming the CCN is normally read on screen in PDF format, it should have fonts that maximize legibility: almost entirely sans serif.

Colour and Graphics are expensive in print but free online. Both should be used more, to make the reading experience both easier and more fun. Almost all the photos in this issue are 144dpi, which is twice the minimum-standard for web images, so you can zoom in to 200% before noticeable pixelation.

Games must be screen-friendly: more diagrams, and the moves should be in bold with variations in the default font, complex variations should be formatted for clarity. [this last one still needs work – ed.]

Content Issues

The CCN is distributed by the internet, so the only people who can get it already have an internet connection. The internet has instant,

live, well-annotated, video-enhanced coverage of all the major international events. There is free video of the world's best players doing their postmortems, which many sites transcribe and show with computer-checked improvements. There is no way a (very) limited-budget newsletter can compete with that, and it is a waste of resources to try.

Given that it exists on the internet, we must ask: what can the CCN offer Canadian chess fans that they can't get as easily or in better quality elsewhere on the internet? My answer is: quality reports on Canadian chess events. Rather than try to define what I mean by "quality", I'll just refer the reader to the event reports in the June CCN: each one could be better, but every one is good.

New Canadian Content Ideas

Below are four ideas for new content for the future CCN. The first two stem from my belief that the home of chess in Canada is the weekly club meeting. There are approximately 150 chess clubs listed on the CFC website. That's a huge resource for games, stories, and chess experiments. It's foolish not to use it.

"Club Champions" (see article)

- games from Clubs across the country played in that year's Club championship.
- a combination of current Canadian events and a chance to highlight regional clubs and players,
- a game with analysis of (usually) non-titled-player strength.
- Includes: photo(s), tournament story, general information about the club.

"Not another Swiss..."

Depending on interest, this could be incorporated into the "Club Champs" articles, as a sidebar about that Club.

- how do different Canadian chess clubs vary their evenings? Theme tournaments? Fischer Random? Handicap events? Simuls? Lectures? Videos?
- examples of tournaments that are NOT the usual long format Swiss.
- a collection of club experiments at adding variety to chess club nights.

"My Teacher"

- someone who taught me something important/memorable about chess.
- e.g. a parent, a friend, a club mate, a coach, someone you saw analyzing, a really well explained idea in a book...
- an example of how that lesson affected you (in a game, or some other way)

This one totally depends on reader-generated submissions: there is no way I can commission someone to write about something so personal.

"Best Canadian Games"

- monthly article by different authors, each choosing one or two games which the author thinks deserves to be considered as kind of "Canadian Chess Hall of Fame Game".
- Each article would have a photo, an annotated game (or two or three), and a brief introduction explaining what the author thinks is particularly nice about that game. The notes don't have to be exhaustive or even very detailed: just enough to help people understand what's going on and why you like that game.
- Eventually, once enough games have been presented, it would be possible to run something like the *Informant's* experts voting panel to rank the best of the best (so far).
- The ultimate purpose of this feature is *not*

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to identify "The Greatest Canadian Chess Game", but to identify and collect a set of annotated games which could reasonably be included in a Canadian games collection.

- If there's enough interest, we could add columns on "Best Attacks", "Best Combinations", "Best Endgames", though each of these would probably take much more work and require more detailed analysis.

Some Canadians will buckle at the word "Best", modestly declining to nominate any game as a potential "Best". Others will be so keen to argue about the meaning of "best" or "who is to say...?", that they won't get around to nominating any games at all. I expect those people will not get around to contributing to this column, and I can live with that. :-)

I want to start this feature with some well-known titled players suggesting either a few of their own games or games of players they know well and admire. I've contacted several, but am not ready to run the results yet.

What Gets Left Out

Focusing on quality reports on Canadian chess events means leaving some things out. One objection to leaving things out from an electronic Newsletter is that there's no space constraint. I'll address that here.

Bandwith is Cheap: Include Everything!

To most of the questions about what to include or exclude it's possible to say, "of course

Sorry about this,

I hadn't meant to write a "maifesto". Please feel free to ignore it; in fact, if you like the new CCN there's no reason to read the Appendix.

I think it's so long because I've been around chess players enough, and seen so much complaining on ChessTalk and at tournaments over every-little-thing, that I imagine that every change I've made and every sentence below will find at least one CFC reader who "vehemently disagrees" with it.

Expecting this, the sensible thing would have been to **write fewer sentences**. But I didn't think of that until I was finished. :-)

you should include it: it's only bandwidth". That is, unlike a printed magazine, with paper and ink costs, a digital newsletter doesn't get significantly more expensive by making it bigger.

But adding something a person thinks is of "little value" to a package of "more valuable" things, actually seems to dilute the value of the entire package. This is not what arithmetic would lead you expect – since adding anything with even a tiny positive value should cause the total value of the package to go up – but it's well documented. [The usual explanation is that most people estimate the value of a commodity not by summing the value of its components, but by averaging their value.]

As boggled readers of Kasparov's heavily annotated *My Great Predecessors* series have found – and as an ex-girlfriend used to tell me – sometimes *less is more*.

The remainder of the Appendix is about what I think there will be less of, and my reasons for cutting it. As a reminder, much of this can change – the current CCN is an experiment – and if readers produce cogent reasons for including the things I've chosen to cut, then we can put them back. Discuss amongst yourselves on the discussion boards and at your chess clubs...

Annotation Symbol Palette

Is it really necessary to have a table explaining the meaning of chess annotation symbols? Maybe once or twice a year, but every issue? Wouldn't a link or two suffice?

<http://www.chessinformant.rs/system-of-signs/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess_annotation_symbols

Generic CFC Info

Everyone who gets the CCN is already a member of the CFC (or FQE), so why bother reproducing information like membership rates and mailing addresses which they already know or can find easily on the CFC site?

<http://chess.ca/>

Club List

I'm tempted to produce a list of Club links chosen by the contributors – as a "thank you" and incentive for contributions. But why bother reproducing the full list of links when it's available on the CFC site?

<http://chess.ca/clubs>

Tactics

A staple of chess magazines and websites. But with excellent free tactics sites like chess-tempo.com, and the weekly section of [Canadian Tactics available on the CFC Newsfeed](http://chess.ca) I don't think there is any need for a separate tactics or combos section.

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Instead, I'm experimenting with a selection of critical positions from that month's games at the start of each issue, with the solutions included in the game analysis. Studious readers can use them as calculation exercises; others might just take a quick glance at them, and if one catches their attention, simply scroll through the issue looking for the **red diagrams** and answers.

"General Instruction" Articles

The diversity of both skill level and interest among CFC members makes general instructive articles too hit-or-miss to be a regular feature. There is a super-abundance of chess books teaching you "How to..." or helping you "Play the..." or divulging the "Secrets of...". Players who want instruction on a particular skill are better off finding it in a specialized book than relying on it being coincidentally covered in a monthly magazine.

One exception *might* be detailed analysis of recent endgames: maybe once every three or four issues there might be a feature which collects, analyzes, and explains recent endings which share a common theme.

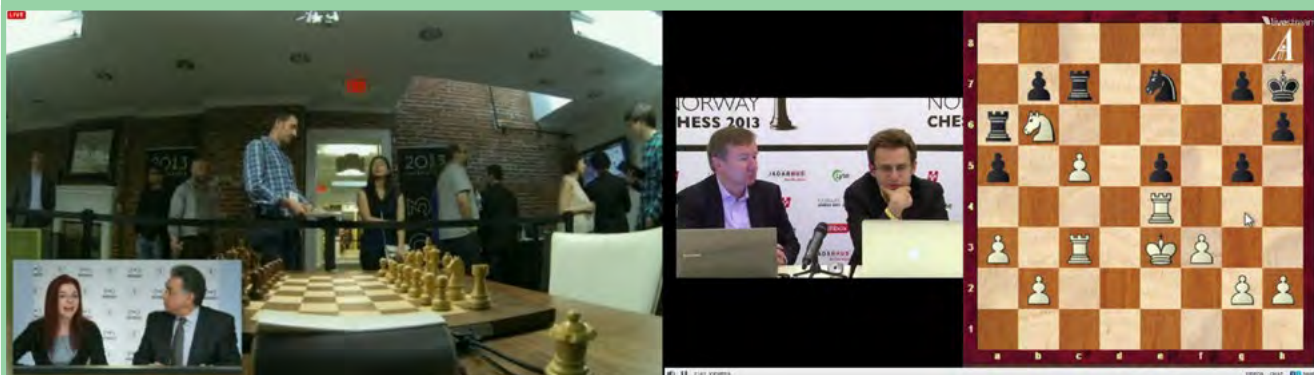
International News

Unless Canadians are playing, I don't see the point of covering international chess events.

Today's chess fans live in the best time ever to follow international chess events. We have instant, live, well-annotated, video-enhanced coverage of all the major international events. There is no way a limited-budget newsletter can compete with that, and it is a waste of resources to try.

A truly outstanding game - e.g. Aronian-Anand, TATA 2013 - ought to be included just to make sure even the least internet-savvy

International Chess News - Internet Style A screenshot of my dual-monitor setup taken May 13, 2013, at 3:15p.m. On the *right* is a replay of Lev Aronian explaining a game he'd just played at the Norway Grand Prix. I watched it while waiting (*left*) for the start of the rapid play-off games between Gata Kamsky and Alejandro Ramirez for the US Championship title (*and* an extra \$10,000 share of the 1st prize). WGM Jennifer Shahade and GM Yasser Seirawan gave live commentary on *all* the games from the St. Louis Chess Club. All *free*.



CFC members will see it. There might even be some rationale for reproducing the game-scores from World Championship matches, if only in the accompanying PGN file. But there is just no point reproducing cross-tables or game scores from major events when anyone with an internet connection and the slightest interest can go to the tournament site, or [Chessdom](#), or [ChessBase](#), or the [Chessvibes news aggregator](#), and find high-quality analysis with photos, videos, clickable games, downloadable scores, etc.... When I want international chess news, I go there.

Cover Page

There is no such thing as a "cover page" on an internet document. Physical objects have covers to protect the delicate stuff inside. Digital things protect the information inside by using passwords, not covers.

I meant "Front Page", you pedantic jerk

I know. I'm still thinking about this one.

A traditional magazine-style cover is both nice and expected. But cover pages are actually a *lot* of work for what is really nothing more than a *graphically turbo-charged table-*

of-contents. Worse, if the cover is not done well the whole production looks second-rate, no matter how good it is on the inside. Physical magazines put huge efforts into their covers only because that's how they sell themselves on news-stands.

OTOH, if you send some great photos, or I come up with a logo I love, then maybe we'll have a standard cover-style front page. [FWIW, the corners of some pages have a few of the graphics I've been toying with.]

Page Numbers

Did you notice there are no page numbers? PDF readers automatically count and display the number of pages in a document and the current page you are on, so hard-coding the numbers is unnecessary. Furthermore, with PDF bookmarks there is no need to scroll through the document looking at page numbers to find the one with story you want. Even better, if you want to find a game or reference or photo caption of someone, just search the PDF for it: Ctrl+F

John Upper
editor, CCN