

Scarborough Community of Toronto Chess News & Views

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“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 9 - 13 – March 1, 2008

Anand Leads Morelia/Linares



This 8-player double round-robin is played in Morelia, Mexico for the first half (Feb. 15 – 23), and the second half in Linares, Spain (Feb. 28 – March 7). It is the strongest tournament this year, having an average rating of 2756 (the January Corus Wijk aan Zee tournament had an average rating of 2742). The players (with birth dates) are:

GM Viswanathan Anand	1969 2799 – 15 th and current World Champion
GM Veselin Topalov	1975 2780 – 2008 Challengers’ Match participant
GM Alexei Shirov	1972 2755 – 2007 FIDE World Cup Runner-Up
GM Peter Leko	1979 2753 – 2004 World Championship Challenger
GM Vassily Ivanchuk	1969 2751
GM Levon Aronian	1982 2739 – Co-Winner of 2008 Corus GM A
GM Teymour Radjabov	1987 2735
GM Magnus Carlsen	1990 2733 – Co-Winner of 2008 Corus GM A

The standings after 9 rounds are :

1. Anand – 6 pts.

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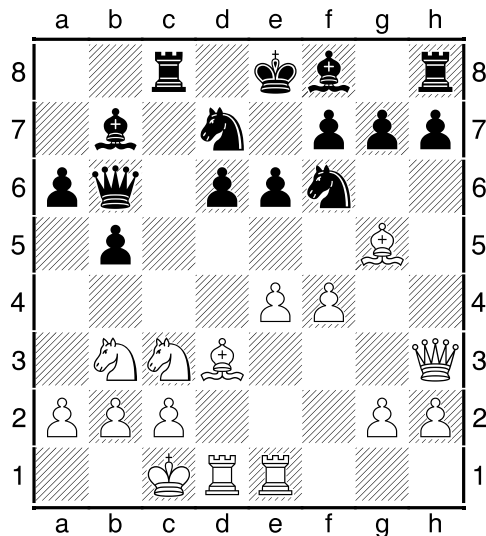
2. Carlsen – 5.5 pts.
3. Aronian – 5 pts.
4. Topalov – 4.5 pts.
- 5/6/7. Shirov; Ivanchuk; Radjabov – 4 pts.
8. Leko – 3 pts.

In Rd. 1, Anand jumped into an early 3-way lead with Topalov and Leko by defeating Shirov. He made an early enterprising thematic exchange sac in the Open Sicilian on f3. Shortly thereafter he took the advantage. Then he got 2 P's compensation for being down the exchange, and had a "winning" advantage. Shirov then blundered at the end into mate. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Shirov, A (2755) – Anand, V (2799) [B96]

XXV SuperGM Morelia/Linares MEX/ESP (1), 15.02.2008

1.e4 c5± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 [5...e6±; 5...g6±] 6.Bg5 [6.Be2 g6 7.f4 Bg7±] 6...e6 7.f4 Nbd7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0?!= [9.Be2 Be7 10.f5 e5±] 9...b5 10.Bd3 Bb7 11.Rhe1 Qb6 12.Nb3 Rc8 13.Qh3



Rxc3?!± Anand tries an enterprising thematic exchange sac on c3; Shirov gets a " slight " advantage [13...b4 14.Nb1 Qc7 15.N1d2 Be7=] **14.bxc3** Shirov goes up the exchange **14...Qc7 15.Kb1 Be7 16.e5?!=** [16.Qg3?! e5 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.Bxf6 Bxf6=; 16.g4 Nb6 17.f5 e5 18.Be3 Nc4±] **16...dxe5** Anand now has a P compensation for being down the exchange **17.f5?!±** for the first time in the game, Anand gets the advantage [17.fxe5 Nd5 18.Bxe7 Nxc3+ 19.Ka1 Nxd1 20.Bb4 Nc3=] **17...Nd5 18.Bxe7 Kxe7** [18...Nxc3+? 19.Ka1 Nxd1 20.Bb4 e4 21.Be2 Qe5+ 22.c3 Qxf5 23.Qg3 Qe5 24.Qxe5 Nxe5 25.Rxd1 e3±] **19.fxe6?!±** Anand gets a " clear " advantage [19.Rd2 e4 20.Bf1 exf5 21.Qxf5 Nxc3+ 22.Ka1 Nf6±; 19.Kc1 Nxc3 20.fxe6 fxe6 21.Rd2 Nxa2+ 22.Kb2 Nc3±] **19...fxe6?±** Anand loses his advantage [19...Nxc3+ 20.Kc1 fxe6 21.Rd2 e4 22.Bf1 Nf6±] **20.Qg3 g6 21.Rd2 Rc8** [21...Kf7 22.Qh4 e4 23.Rf2+ Kg7 24.Bxe4 Nxc3+ 25.Kc1 Nxe4 26.Rxe4 Bxe4 27.Qe7+ Kh6 28.Qh4+=] **22.Qg5+** [22.Rf2 Qxc3 23.Re4 Nc5 24.Qg5+ Ke8 25.Rxe5 Nxd3 26.cxd3 Qxd3+ 27.Kb2 Qc3+ 28.Kb1 Qd3+=; 22.Qh4+ N7f6 23.Rf2 Qxc3 24.Re4 Nf4=] **22...Ke8 23.Qg4?±** Anand gets back a " clear " advantage [23.Bxg6+ hxg6 24.Qxg6+ Kd8 25.Qg5+ Ke8 26.Qg6+=] **23...Nxc3+** Anand now has 2 P's compensation for being down the exchange **24.Ka1 Bd5 25.Re3?!+±** Anand gets a " winning " advantage [25.Qh3 Nb6 26.Rf2 e4

27.Bxe4 Nxe4 28.Rxe4 Bxe4 29.Qxe6+ Qe7 30.Qxb6 Bxc2+ 25...Nf6?! [25...e4 26.Bxe4 Nf6 27.Bxg6+ hxg6 28.Qxg6+ Qf7-+] 26.Qh4 Qe7 27.Bf1?!+- Anand gets a " winning " advantage again [27.Qg3] 27...Bxb3 28.cxb3 Nce4 29.Rb2??+- Shirov blunders in a losing position – mate in 12 moves [29.Qe1 Nxd2 30.Qxd2 e4-+ – 2.46] 29...Rc1+ 30.Rb1 Qc5+- Shirov resigns. It is mate 31.Qh3 Qd4+ 32.Rc3 Rxc3 33.Bxb5+ Kd8 34.Kb2 Rd3+ 35.Ka3 Qc5+ 36.Kb2 Rd2+ 37.Ka1 Qd4+ 38.Qc3 Qxc3+ 39.Rb2 Qxb2# 0-1

In Rd. 3, Topalov won his second game, defeating his co-leader, Ivanchuk, to take sole possession of first place. Topalov went up a P, and then later was able to push his connected, passed c & d P's toward queening, and Ivanchuk resigned. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, V (2780) – Ivanchuk, V (2751) [B90]

XXV SuperGM Morelia/Linares MEX/ESP (3), 17.02.2008

1.e4 c5± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 [6.Be2 g6 7.f4 Bg7±] 6...e5 [6...Ng4 7.Bg5 Nc6 8.Nxc6 bxc6±] 7.Nb3 [7.Nf3 Be7 8.Bc4 0-0 9.0-0 Be6 10.Qe2 Qc7±] 7...Be6 8.f3 Nbd7 [8...d5 9.exd5 Bxd5 10.Nxd5 Nxd5 11.Bf2 Nc6±] 9.g4?!= [9.Nd5 Bxd5 10.exd5 Be7±] 9...b5 10.g5 b4 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Bf5 13.Bd3 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Be7 15.h4 a5 16.a3 a4 17.Nd2 Rb8 18.axb4 Rxb4 19.Qa3 Qb8 20.c3 Rxb2 21.Qxa4 Rb7?!± Topalov has the advantage [21...Qd8 22.f4 exf4 23.Qxf4 0-0=] 22.Ke2 [22.Qa8 0-0 23.Qxb8 Rfxb8 24.Ke2 f5 25.f4 exf4 26.Bxf4 Re8±] 22...Rc7 23.Rhb1 Qc8 24.Bb6?!= Topalov should not drop the cP [24.Qa8 0-0 25.Qxc8 Rfxc8 26.c4 f5 27.gxf6 Nxf6±] 24...Rb7?!± taking the free pawn is best. Topalov gets a " clear " advantage [24...Rxc3 25.Qa8 Nxb6 26.Rxb6 0-0 27.Qxc8 Rfxc8=] 25.Ba7 e4?!+- there is no compensation for sacking this P. Topalov gets a " winning " advantage [25...Rxb1 26.Rxb1 0-0±] 26.fxe4 Topalov goes up a P 26...Rxb1 27.Rxb1 0-0 28.Qc6 Ne5 29.Qxc8 Rxc8 30.Rb8 Rxb8 31.Bxb8 Kf8 32.Nf3 Ng6 33.c4 Ke8 34.e5 Kd7 35.Kd3 h6 3.29 [35...Nxe5+ 36.Nxe5+ dxe5 37.Bxe5 f6 38.gxf6 gxf6 39.Bf4 f5+- 3.32] 36.exd6 Bxd6 37.Bxd6 Kxd6 38.gxh6 gxh6 39.Kd4 f6 40.c5+ Kd7 41.Ke4 h5 42.d6 Ke6 43.Nd4+ Kd7 44.Nf5 Ne5 45.Kd5 Nc6 46.Nd4+- 5.36 Ivanchuk resigned. Coming is 46...Nb4+ 47.Kc4 Na6 48.Kb5 Nb8 49.Kb6 Kc8 50.c6 Nd7+ 51.Ka6 Nf8 52.Kb5 Kb8 53.Kc5 Kc8 54.Kd5 Nd7 55.Nb5 Nb6+ 56.Ke6 f5 57.d7+ Nxd7 58.cxd7+ Kb8 59.d8Q+ Kb7 60.Kd7 Ka6 61.Kc6 f4 62.Qb6# 1-0

In Rd. 4 Aronian moved up into a first place tie with Topalov and Anand, with a win over Ivanchuk. Ivanchuk had a won game, up 2 pawns, when he made a beginner's blunder and lost his B, bringing the game to equality. Then the very next move, he gave Aronian a “ winning “ advantage. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

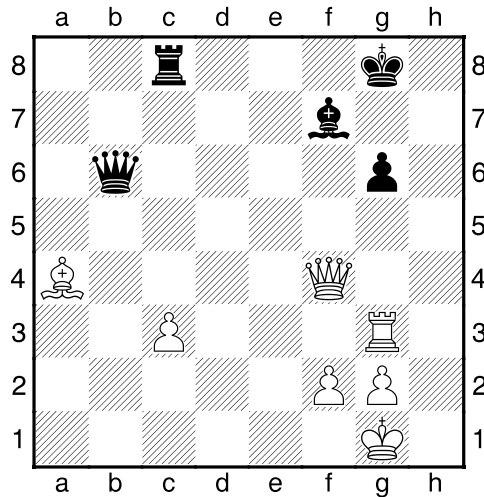
Ivanchuk, V (2751) – Aronian, L (2739) [C88]

XXV SuperGM Morelia/Linares MEX/ESP (4), 19.02.2008

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.d4 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.e5 Ne8 11.Qxd4?!= [11.Qf3?! c6 12.c3 dxc3 13.Nxc3 d5 14.exd6 Bxd6 15.Qxc6 Rb8=; 11.c3 dxc3 12.Nxc3 d6 13.Qf3 Rb8±] 11...Bb7 12.c4 [12.Bd5 c5 13.Qe4 Bxd5 14.Qxd5 Nc7 15.Qb7 f6=] 12...bxc4 13.Qxc4 d5?!± [13...d6 14.Nc3 dxe5 15.Rxe5 Bf6 16.Re2 Nd6 17.Qg4 Qc8=] 14.exd6?!= [14.Qd3 c5 15.Bc2 f5 16.Qh3 Bc8±] 14...Nxd6 15.Qg4 Nb5?!± [15...Bf6 16.Nc3 Qc8 17.Qf4 Re8=] 16.Nc3 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Bd6 18.Bf4 Qf6 19.Bxd6 cxd6 20.Rad1 Rad8 [20...Rab8 21.Re3 Rfe8 22.Qd4 Rxe3 23.Qxf6 Re1+ 24.Rxe1 gxf6±] 21.Qb4 Ba8 22.Re3 g6?!± Ivanchuk gets a " clear " advantage [22...d5 23.Rde1 h6 24.Re5 Rd6±] 23.Qb6 Qg5 24.Rg3 Qb5 25.Rxd6 Ivanchuk goes up a P 25...Rxd6 26.Qxd6 a5 27.Qf4 Bd5 28.Rg5 f5?!+- Ivanchuk gets a " winning " advantage [28...Qe8 29.Qd2 Bxb3 30.axb3 Qe4±] 29.Qe5 Rd8 30.h4 a4 31.Bc2 Qb8?!+- [31...Qc6 32.h5 Re8 33.Qd4 Bxa2±

material equality] **32.Qxf5 Bxa2 33.Bxa4** Ivanchuk goes up 2 P's **33...Bf7 34.h5 Qb6 35.hxg6 hxg6 36.Qf4 Rc8**

Position after 36...Rc8



37.Rg3?± a very basic blunder loses the B and Ivanchuk's winning game [37.Qb4 Qe6 38.Rc5 Rd8 39.Qh4 Rb8+-] **37...Rc4 38.Qh6?+ a** second error in a row gives Aronian a " winning " advantage [38.Qe5 Rxa4±] **38...Rxa4** Aronian is up B vs 2 P's **39.Rh3 Ra1+ [39...Qb1+ 40.Kh2 Qb8+ 41.g3 Qe5 42.Qh7+ Kf8 43.Qh6+ Ke8+] 40.Kh2 Qd6+ 41.f4 Qf6 42.Qh7+ Kf8 43.Qh6+ Ke7 44.Re3+ Kd7 45.Kg3 [45.Rh3 Ra4 46.Rf3 Kc7-+] 45...Ra4?!± [45...Ra5 46.Qf8 g5 47.Rd3+ Kc7 48.Qb4 Kc6 (48...Ra2??? 49.Qc5+ Qc6 50.Qe7+ Kb6 51.Rd6 Rxc2+ 52.Kh3 g4+ 53.Kh4 Bd5 54.f5 Kb5 55.Rxc6 Kxc6+- 5.80) 49.Rf3 (49.Qxa5?? Qxf4+ 50.Kh3 Qh4#) 49...gxf4+ 50.Qxf4 Qg6+ 51.Kh2 Be6±] 46.Rd3+ Kc6 47.Rd4 Ra3 48.Rd3 Bd5 49.Qh3 Qf5 50.Qxf5 gxf5 51.Kh3 Ra1 52.Rd2 Rh1+ 53.Kg3 Rh6 54.Re2 Re6 55.Rd2 Rg6+ 56.Kh3 Kc5 57.Re2 Kc4 58.Rd2 Be4 59.g4 - 4.32 [59.Kh2 Kxc3 60.Ra2 Kd4+- - 4.07] **59...Kxc3** Aronian is up B vs P **60.gxf5?+ leads to mate [60.Rd1 Rxc4-+] 60...Bxf5+ Ivanchuk resigned. He has lost his R and mate is coming 61.Kh4 Kxd2 62.Kh5 Ke3 63.Kh4 Kxf4 64.Kh5 Rg7 65.Kh4 Rh7# 0-1****

In Rd. 5 , Anand pulled into sole possession of first place with a win over Leko. Both players had connected, passed pawns, but Anand got there first. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Leko, P (2753) – Anand, V (2799) [B90]

XXV SuperGM Morelia/Linares MEX/ESP (5), 20.02.2008

1.e4 c5± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted **2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 [5...e6±; 5...g6±] 6.Be3 [6.Be2 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 Nc6±] 6...e5 [6...Ng4 7.Bg5 Nc6±] 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Qd2 [8.Nd5 Nbd7 9.Qd3 Nc5 10.Nxc5 dxc5±; 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.0-0 Nb4±; 8.Be2 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5±] 8...Nbd7 9.f3 b5 10.0-0-0?!= [10.a4 b4 11.Nd5 Bxd5 12.exd5 Nb6 13.Bxb6 Qxb6±] 10...Be7 11.Nd5?!± Anand gets the advantage [11.g4 b4 12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.exd5 Nb6=] **11...Bxd5 12.exd5 Nb6 13.Bxb6 Qxb6 14.Na5 Rc8 15.Nc6 Nxd5?!= [15...Rc7 16.g3 h6 17.Kb1 0-0=] 16.Nxe7 Nxe7 17.Qxd6 Qxd6 18.Rxd6 Nc6 19.c3 Ke7 20.Rd1 f5 21.Bd3 g6 22.Rhe1?!± [22.a4 bxa4 23.Rhe1 Rb8=] 22...Rhd8 23.Bf1 [23.a4 Rd5 24.Bf1 Rc5 25.axb5 axb5±; 23.Re2 Rd6±] 23...Rxd1+ [23...Kf6?! 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Rd1 Rxd1+ 26.Kxd1 Ke6=] 24.Rxd1 Na5 25.a4****

Nc4?!= [25...Nb3+ 26.Kc2 bxa4 27.Bxa6 Rc7=] **26.axb5 axb5 27.Rd5 Kf6 28.Rxb5** Leko goes up a P **28...Ne3 29.Rb6+ Kg5 30.Ba6 Rd8 31.b4 Kf4** [31...Rd1+?! 32.Kb2 Nxb2=; 31...Nxb2 32.Re6 Kf4 33.Be2 e4 34.fxe4 fxe4=] **32.Rc6 Nxb2** material equality **33.b5 Ra8 34.Bb7** [34.Rc8 Ra7 35.c4 Ne1 36.c5 Nd3+ 37.Kd2 Nb4 38.b6 Rd7+ 39.Kc1 Nxa6 40.c6 Rd4 41.b7 Ke3 42.c7 Rc4+ 43.Kd1 Rd4+ 44.Ke1 Rc4=] **34...Rb8?!±** Leko gets the advantage [34...Ra1+ 35.Kb2 Ra5 36.Rc4+ Ke3 37.Bc6 Ne1 38.b6 Nd3+ 39.Kb1 Ra6 40.b7 Rb6+ 41.Ka1 e4 42.Rd4 Ne5 43.Bxe4 fxe4 44.Rxe4+ Kxf3 45.Rxe5 Rxb7=] **35.Rc7?!±** Anand gets back the advantage [35.Ba6 Ne1 36.b6 Nxf3 37.h3 e4 38.b7 Ng5 39.c4 e3 40.Rc8 e2 (40...Rxb7? 41.Bxb7 Nxb3+-) 41.Kd2 Kf3 42.Rxb8 Kf2 43.Rd8 e1Q+ 44.Kc2 Ne4 45.b8Q Qc3+ 46.Kb1 Qe1+ 47.Ka2 Qa5+ 48.Kb3 Qxa6±] **35...Ne1 36.Rxb7?!-+** Anand gets a " winning " advantage [36.Re7 Rd8 37.c4 h6 38.h3 Rd6=] **36...Nxf3 37.c4 e4?±** Anand loses his advantage [37...g5 38.Bxf3 Kxf3 39.Rh5 e4 40.Rxb5 f4-+] **38.Kc2?+-** Anand gets back a " winning " advantage [38.c5 e3 (38...Re8 39.b6 e3 40.Ba6 Nd4 41.Kb1 Rb8 42.b7 Ke5 43.Re7+ Kd5 44.Rxe3 Kxc5=) 39.Re7 Nd4 40.c6 Nxb5 41.c7 Rxb7 42.c8Q Rxe7=] **38...e3 39.Kd3 g5 40.Ke2 Nd4+ 41.Ke1 Rd8 42.Re7 Nc2+ 43.Kf1 Rd1+ 44.Ke2 Rd2+ 45.Kf1 Nd4+-** - 4.96 0-1

In Rd. 7, Carlsen won a nice game against Aronian, then in clear second place. Carlsen sacked a pawn for tactical benefits, and then Aronian went up 2 P's. But Aronian's knight got trapped and he ended up with 3 P's vs N. After a few more moves, Aronian resigned. The win knocked Aronian out of second and lifted Carlsen to 50%. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Carlsen, M (2733) – Aronian, L (2739) [A00]

Morelia/Linares Morelia, Mexico (7), 23.02.2008

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6± 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 [5...Bc5 6.c3 0-0 7.d4 Ba7±] **6.Re1** [6.Nc3 0-0 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.Nxe5 Qd4 9.Nf3 Qb6±] **6...b5** [6...0-0 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.Nxe5 Re8±] **7.Bb3 0-0 8.a3?!=** [8.Nc3?! d6 9.Nd5 Na5 10.d4 c6 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7=; 8.d4 d6 9.c3 Bb7±] **8...Bc5?!±** [8...d6 9.d3 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nd4 12.Qg3 a5=] **9.c3 d6** [9...Ng4 10.Rf1 Qf6 11.Bd5 Rb8±] **10.d4 Bb6 11.h3?!=** [11.Bg5 Rb8±] **11...Re8 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 exd4 14.cxd4 g5 15.Bg3 g4 16.hxg4?!±** for the first time in the game, Aronian gets the advantage [16.Qc2 gxf3 17.Qxc6 Be6 18.Nd2 Bxd4 19.Nxf3 Bxb2 20.Ra2 Be5=] **16...Bxg4 17.Bh4!** Carlsen sacs the dP for the tactical benefit of the pin on the f6N [17.d5?! Nd4 18.Bh4 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Kh7=] **17...Nxd4** Aronian goes up a P **18.Nc3 Bxf3?!=** Aronian loses his advantage [18...c6 19.Ba2 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Kh7=] **19.gxf3 Kh8** [19...Nxb3 20.Qxb3 c6 21.e5 dxe5 22.Ne4 Re6=] **20.Nd5?!±** Carlsen gets a " clear " advantage [20.Bxf7 Rf8 21.Nd5 Rxf7 22.Nxb6 Nxf3+ 23.Qxf3 cxb6=] **20...Rg8+ 21.Kf1 Ng4 22.Qxd4+ Bxd4 23.Bxd8 Nh2+** this N is trapped **24.Ke2 Raxd8 25.Rad1 Bxb2** Aronian goes up 2 P **26.Rh1 c6 27.Nf4 Be5?!+-** Carlsen gets a " winning " advantage [27...Nxf3 28.Kxf3 Kg7 29.a4 c5±] **28.Nd3 Nxf3 29.Kxf3** Carlsen is up N vs 3 P **29...Bg7 30.Rh5 d5 31.exd5 Rd6 32.Rf5 cxd5 33.Rc1 Rf6 34.Rxf6 Bxf6 35.Rc6 Kg7 36.Nf4 Bg5+-** 2.66 1-0

In Rd. 8, Anand kept his grip on first place, defeating Shirov again, this time with the white pieces. He initially went up 2 P's, but Shirov got one of them back. But Anand pressed toward home one of his 2 passed P's, and eventually Shirov resigned. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Anand, V (2799) – Shirov, A (2755) [A00]

Morelia/Linares Morelia, Mexico (8), 28.02.2008

1.e4 c5± Fritz evaluation not generally accepted **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5?!±** Fritz does not favour this line. Anand gets a " clear " advantage [5...e6 6.Nxc6 (6.Bf4?! Bb4 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 d6 9.0-0 e5 10.Bg5 h6=) 6...bxc6 7.Bd3 Qc7±] **6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5?!±** [7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7 9.c4 Ng6±] **7...a6 8.Na3 b5** [8...Be7 9.Nc4 0-0 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Qxd6 Be6±]

9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6?!= [10.Nxe7 Qxe7 11.Bd3 0-0±] **10...Bxf6 11.c3** [11.Nb1 Rb8 12.Bd3 0-0=] **11...Bg5** [11...0-0?! 12.Nc2 Bh4 13.Bd3 Ne7±] **12.Nc2 0-0?!±** [12...Ne7 13.Nce3 Be6=] **13.a4** [13.Bd3?! Ne7 14.Nce3 Be6=] **13...bxa4 14.Rxa4 a5 15.Bc4 Rb8 16.b3 Kh8** [16...Ne7 17.Nce3 Kh8 18.Nxe7 Qxe7 19.Nd5 Qd8±] **17.Nce3** [17.h4 Bh6 18.g4 Bf4 19.Nce3 Ne7±] **17...g6?!±** [17...Bd7 18.0-0 Ne7±] **18.Qe2?!±** [18.h4 Bxh4±] **18...f5 19.h4 Bxe3** [19...Bxh4?! 20.g3 Bg5±] **20.Qxe3** [20.Nxe3?! fxe4 21.h5 g5=] **20...fxe4 21.h5 g5 22.Qxe4 22...Bb7 23.Qe3 e4?!±** Anand gets back the " clear " advantage [23...Ne7±] **24.0-0 Ne5 25.Rfa1 Qe8 26.Rxa5?!±** Anand goes up a P [26.Qxe4 Qxh5 27.Rxa5 Rbe8 28.Be2 g4±] **26...Qxh5 27.Qxe4 Rbe8 28.Be2 Qh4?+-** Anand gets a " winning " advantage [28...g4 29.Qd4 Qg5 30.Rf1 Re6 31.Ra7 Bc6±] **29.Qxh4 gxh4 30.Ne3?!±** [30.R1a2?! Re6 31.b4 Rh6±; 30.Ba6 Bc6 31.Bb5 Bxb5 32.Rxb5 h3 33.Rb7 Rg8 34.g3 Rg7 35.Rxg7 Nf3+ 36.Kh1 Kxg7+-] **30...h3 31.gxh3** Anand goes up 2 P **31...Nf3+ 32.Bxf3 Rxf3 33.Rh5 Rg8+ 34.Kf1 Rgf8 35.Nd1 Rd3 36.Rh4 Bf3 37.Rd4 Rxd4 38.cxd4 Rf4 39.Ne3 Rxd4** Anand is up only a P now **40.Ra4 Rd3 41.Rf4 Bh5?!+-** [41...Bc6 42.b4 Kg7 43.h4 Kg6±] **42.b4 d5** [42...Kg8 43.h4 Rb3 44.Kg2 Bg6 45.Nd5 Kg7+-] **43.Kg2?!±** [43.Rf5 d4 44.Rd5 Kg8+-] **43...Bg6 44.Nf5 Kg8?!+-** [44...Bxf5 45.Rxf5 Rb3 46.Rxd5 Rxb4±] **45.Ne7+ Kg7 46.Nxg6 Kxg6 47.Rf3 Rd1 48.Rb3 d4 49.Kf3 d3 50.Ke3 Rh1 51.b5 Rxh3+ 52.f3 Rh1 53.b6 Re1+ 54.Kxd3 Re8 55.b7 Rb8 56.Ke4 h5 5.38** [56...Kg5? 57.Rb1 Re8+ 58.Kd5 Rb8 59.Kc6 Kf4 60.Kc7 Re8 61.b8Q Rxb8 62.Rxb8+- 6.25] **57.Kf4+- 5.64 1-0**

In Rd. 9, Carlsen went up a pawn against Shirov twice, and twice Shirov equalized. Carlsen then got a passed pawn to the 7th rank, and it ended up being the last pawn, as Carlsen went up a pawn again. He finally promoted it, and mate was following. The win left Carlsen alone in second place a ½ pt. back of Anand in the lead. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Carlsen, M (2733) – Shirov, A (2755) [A00]

Morelia/Linares Morelia, Mexico (9), 29.02.2008

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6± 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 6...Bc5?!± Carlsen gets an early " clear " advantage [6...Bd6 7.d3 0-0 8.Nc3 Bb7±] **7.a4?=-** [7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.d4 Bb7 9.dxc5 Qe7±] **7...Rb8?±** [7...Bb7 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.d4 Bd6=] **8.c3 d6** [8...Nxe4 9.Qe2 Bxf2+ 10.Kh1 d5±] **9.d4 Bb6 10.Na3?!±** [10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8±] **10...0-0 11.axb5 axb5 12.Nxb5** Carlsen goes up a P **12...Bg4** [12...exd4 13.cxd4 Bg4 14.Bg5 Nxd4 15.Nbxd4 Bxd4±] **13.Bc2** [13.Bg5?! exd4 14.Bd5 Ne5 15.cxd4 Nxf3+ 16.gxf3 Bd7=] **13...Bxf3?!±** [13...d5 14.exd5 Qxd5 15.dxe5 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Qxf3 17.gxf3 Nxe5±] **14.gxf3 Nh5** [14...d5 15.f4 exd4 16.e5 Ne4 17.Nxd4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 c5±] **15.f4 Nxf4** material equality **16.Bxf4 exf4 17.Qg4 Qf6 18.Ra6?!±** [18.Kh1 Rfc8 19.Bd3 Ne7±] **18...Ne7 19.Na3** [19.Rfa1?! c5 20.Na3 cxd4 21.Nc4 d5=] **19...c6?!±** [19...Ra8 20.Rxa8 Rxa8 21.Nc4 Ng6±] **20.Nc4 Bc7 21.Ra7 Rbc8 22.e5 dxe5 23.dxe5 Qh6 24.Rd1** [24.Re1 Rfe8 25.Bd3 Nd5±] **24...Nd5 25.Be4 Rfd8** [25...Rce8 26.Re1 Re6 27.Rb7 Rfe8±] **26.Rd3 g6 27.Bxd5 cxd5 28.Rxd5** Carlsen goes up a P again **28...Rxd5 29.Qxc8+ Kg7 30.Qg4** [30.Rxc7? Qg5+ 31.Kf1 Rd1+ 32.Ke2 Qg1 33.Kf3 Qxh2=] **30...Bxe5** material equality **31.h4 Bb8 32.Rb7 Rd8 33.Kg2 Kg8 34.Qg5 Qf8 35.Qf6 Re8 36.b4?=-** [36.Rd7 Re6 37.Qg5 Bc7 38.Qd5 Re7±] **36...Re6 37.Qd4 Qc8?+-** Carlsen gets a " winning " advantage [37...Bc7 38.Qc5 (38.Rxc7? Qa8+ 39.Kh2 Re1 40.Rc8+ Qxc8 41.Qd2 Rf1-+) 38...f3+ 39.Kh3 Qxc5 40.bxc5 Rc6=] **38.Rd7 Qc6+ 39.Qd5 Qxd5+ 40.Rxd5 Rc6** [40...Kg7 41.b5 Kf6 42.Rc5 Re7 43.b6 h6+-; 40...Kf8 41.Rc5 Ba7 42.Rc8+ Re8 43.Nd6 Rxc8 44.Nxc8 Bb8+-] **41.Nd2 f3+ 42.Nxf3** Carlsen goes up a P **42...Kg7 43.Rd8?!±** [43.Ng5 Rxc3 44.Rd7 Rc4 45.Rxf7+ Kg8 46.Rb7 Bd6+-] **43...Bc7 44.Rd7 Rxc3?!+-** material equality [44...Kf8 45.Nd4 Rc4 46.Ne2 Be5 47.b5 Bxc3 48.b6 (48.Nxc3?! Rxc3 49.b6 Rb3 50.b7 Kg7±) 48...Bf6±] **45.Ng5 Kg8 46.Ne4?!±** [46.Nxf7 Bb6 47.Nh6+ Kh8 48.Ng4 Rc2 49.Kg3 Rc3+ 50.f3 Bc7+ 51.Kf2 Bb6+ 52.Ke2 Rc6+-] **46...Rc4?!+-** [46...Rc2 47.Nf6+ Kf8 48.Nxh7+ Ke8 49.Nf6+ Ke8 50.Nd5 Be5±] **47.Nf6+ Kf8 48.Nxh7+** Carlsen goes up a P **48...Ke8 49.Nf6+ Kf8 50.Nd5 Be5 51.b5 Rxh4** material equality **52.b6 Rd4 53.Kf3 Kg7 54.Ke3 Ra4 55.b7 Ra3+ 56.Ke4 Bh2 57.Nc7 Rb3 58.Ne6+ Kf6 59.Nd8 g5 60.Rxf7+** Carlsen goes up a P again **60...Kg6 61.Rd7 g4 62.Ne6 g3?+- 2.41** [62...Rb2 63.Ke3 Kf6 64.Nd4

Rb4 65.Nc2 Rb1+- 1.47] 63.fxg3 Bxg3 64.Kd5 Rb1 65.Kc6 Rc1+ 66.Nc5 Bb8 67.Rd5 Ba7 68.Kd7 Bb8 69.Ne6 Kf6 70.Rc5 Rb1 71.Nd8 Bh2 72.Rc6+ Ke5 73.Rc1 Rb3 74.Rc2 Bf4 75.Kc6 Kf5 76.Rc5+ Kf6 77.Kd7 Rb1 78.Kc8 Bh2 79.Rc6+ Ke5 80.b8Q+ Kd5+- Shirov resigned. It is mate 81.Qxb1 Kd4 82.Qb4+ Ke5 83.Nf7+ Kf5 84.Nh6+ Ke5 85.Qc4 Bf4 86.Re6# 1-0

Morozevich Drops Out of the FIDE Grand Prix

(partially from the Susan Polgar Blog)

The recently confirmed FIDE Grand Prix is a set of 6 tournaments with 14 of the top players in the world. They cumulate points based on their final standings in each tournament. The winner gets to play the 2009 FIDE World Cup winner in 2010 in a Challengers' Match. The winner of that match plays the World Champion in 2011.



World number four, Alexander Morozov (Russia) in a new interview with Sport-Express, told chess observer Yury Vasilyev that he refuses to participate in the FIDE Grand Prix. Alexander, in particular, said: "The cycle would last almost four years. In 2008 we begin to qualify for the 2011 world championship match. Even at the time of the Botvinnik versus Smyslov rivalryship it was not like that".

Morozov felt that it would have been wrong to agree to participate in four tournaments without knowing clearly all the specifics such as dates and venues. He also said that he

preserves the possibility to fight for the title through the FIDE world cup. Morozevich said that, as far as he knows, Anand, Kramnik and Topalov have also refused to play in the Grand Prix. But anyway his decision was not influenced by the opinions of anyone else.

Aeroflot Open, Moscow

This 4 tournament swiss ran from Feb. 13 – 22. The top GM tournament A1 had 59 GM's, 1 WGM (13 year old Chinese junior girl Yifan Hou) and 3 IM's (one being French woman player Marie Sebag). It saw the following winners:

Final top standings (after nine rounds)

#	Player	FED	Rtng	Pts.	Perf.
1	GM Nepomniachtchi, Ian	RUS	2600	7.0	2822
2	GM Motylev, Alexander	RUS	2644	6.5	2761
3	GM Dreev, Alexey	RUS	2633	6.5	2767

Ian Nepomniachtchi – 17 years old – as winner he gets to play in the major GM tournament in Dortmund, Germany next year



The results of Canadians in the other tournaments were (posted by Hugh Brodie on ChessTalk):

Section B: Liam Henry (former SCC junior) : 4.5/9 78th out of 135 players.

Section C: Victor Plotkin: 6/9 15th/138

Nikita Kraiouchkine: 5/9 55th/138

WGM Yifan Hou of China,

Yifan Hou



a 13 year old junior girl, whom we've been warning you to watch in our FIDE rating list updates, in spite of losing her last round game, earned a GM norm with an even score at the Aeroflot top section. Her performance was 2605 in 9 games. Here are her round by round results:

- 1 GM Caruana, Fabiano ITA 2598 ½
- 2 GM Laznicka, Viktor CZE 2595 1
- 3 GM Grachev, Boris RUS 2601 0
- 4 GM Riazantsev, Alexander RUS 2628 ½
- 5 GM Azarov, Sergei BLR 2594 ½
- 6 GM Iordachescu, Viorel MDA 2586 1
- 7 GM Grigoriants, Sergey RUS 2583 ½
- 8 GM Najer, Evgeniy RUS 2634 ½
- 9 GM Volkov, Sergey RUS 2623 0

Cappelle la Grande International Open, France

With 612 participants this festival from Feb 16-23 is a huge one-section swiss, including. 106 GM's (including Canadian GM Kevin Spraggett (2588), 5 times Canadian Champion) and 70 IM's. There is also a relatively high percentage of female participants (15%).

The strength of this Swiss tournament becomes clear when you see that GM's were paired to IM's already in the first round. Not surprisingly, this led to some early upsets: Vassilios Kotronias (2628) lost to Jon Ludvig Hammer (2441), Chanda Sandipan (2593) to Michal Olszewski (2430), Erwin l'Ami (2581) to Yelena Dembo (2427) and Kevin Spraggett (2588) to Mohamed Tissir (2428).

The co-winners were:

PLACE	NOM	PRENOM		PTS	
1	GMI GASHIMOV	VUGAR	AZE	2665	7
2	GMI ARUTINIAN	DAVID	GEO	2576	7
3	GMI FEDORCHUK	SERGEY	UKR	2652	7
4	GMI KRYVORUCHKO	YURIY	UKR	2597	7
5	GMI CHERNYSHOV	KONSTANTIN	RUS	2543	7
6	MI DEVIATKIN	ANDREI	RUS	2543	7
7	GMI KOTRONIAS	VASILIOS	GRE	2628	7
8	GMI L'AMI	ERWIN	NED	2581	7

Spraggett, ranked # 15 at the start of the tournament , finished # 48 on tie-break, with 6/9 pts., only 1 pt. out of first

Kitchener-Waterloo Winter Open

This 4 section swiss on Feb. 15-17 attracted 79 players, including a GM, the 2007 Canadian Champion (IM), another IM, some FM's, and a WFM. The results were:

Open Section :

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Artem Samsonkin IM	2464	W26	W5	D3	W4	W6	4.5
2	Nikolay Noritsyn IM	2463	W19	H---	W11	D3	W8	4.0
3	Zhe Quan FM	2460	W15	W16	D1	D2	W11	4.0
4	Yuanling Yuan	2194	H---	W21	W20	L1	W16	3.5
5	Kyle Morrison	2122	W6	L1	W12	D11	W13	3.5

Yuanling is an SCC junior

U 2000:

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Tom McClelland	1883	D22	D8	W17	W9	W6	4.0
2	Tim Knechtel	1760	W13	L3	W16	W8	W7	4.0
3	Carl R Boor	1912	H---	W2	W10	L6	W11	3.5
4	Jesse B.J. Wang	1870	W14	D18	L6	W20	W10	3.5

5	Richard Douglas	1766	D20	L6	W19	W12	W14	3.5
6	Kevin Wu	1674	H---	W5	W4	W3	L1	3.5

Richard and Kevin are both SCC juniors

U 1700:

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Eric Miettinen	1400	W8	B---	W12	D7	D5	4.0
2	Mei Chen Lee	1667	L14	D10	W9	W12	W7	3.5
3	Steven Douglas	1599	H---	L4	W10	X11	W9	3.5
4	David B Farrant	1487	H---	W3	H---	H---	W16	3.5
5	Scott Rostrup	1482	W10	W14	D7	D6	D1	3.5
6	Maseer Rohaili	1455	W17	L7	W8	D5	W13	3.5

Steve and David are SCC members

U 1400 :

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Andy Maaser	1399	W2	D4	W6	W3	W7	4.5
2	Kees Van Aalst	1300	L1	W10	W7	W5	W4	4.0
3	Stephen Passador	1264	H---	W11	W4	L1	W6	3.5

Congratulations to all our SCC top finishers (SCC rocks)!

Hamilton Winter Open

This one-section swiss , played Feb. 22-24, attracted 36 players. The winners were:

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Mike Egorov	110299	2217	W23	D21	W17	W6	W3	4.5
2	Andre Moffat	108272	2213	W24	W12	W4	L3	W10	4.0
3	John Chidley-Hill		1950	W13	W18	W27	W2	L1	4.0

4	Gy Mehta	121270	1898	W35	W25	L2	W23	W8	4.0
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Andre is a SCC'er from some years ago

SCC'ers Go to Guelph Winter Pro-Am

(Part 2 of a 2-part series)

A strong contingent of 14 SCC members showed up at the Guelph sectional swisses Feb. 2 - 3. The players and their results were:

Open Section – Yuanling Yuan – 2.5

U 2100 – Alex Ferreira 4.5 – 1st place !

Alex is right front



Richard Douglas – 2.5

Josh Sherman – 2

Bob Armstrong – 2

U 1800 – Joe Bellomo – 4.5 – 1st place

Joe Bellomo



Kevin Wu – 3.5
Mario Moran-Venegas – 3
Nathan Farrant – Diaz – 3
Doug Gillis – 2.5
David Farrant – 2.5
Tom Muir – 2 (only played 2 rounds !)
Dinesh Dattani - .5

U 1500 – Marc Ben-Avraham – 2.5

As usual, on bended knee and in a pleasant voice, I begged them to give me for the newsletter their “ most interesting “ game from the tournament. Obviously a big upset would qualify generally. But it could also be a game that was lost, but was well-played and had complicated tactics. Some of the games submitted were published last Issue. This is the second of the series.

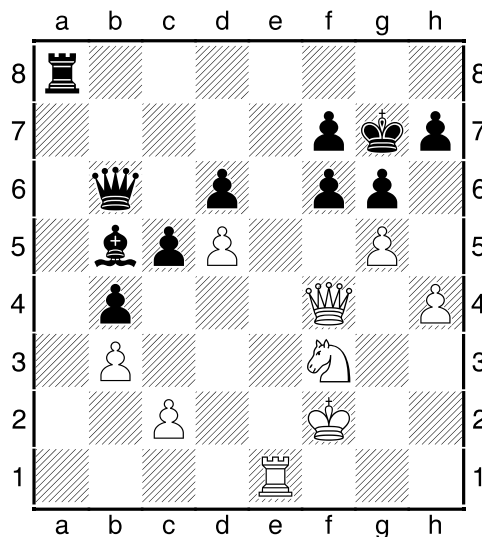
Joe Bellomo defeated Guelph organizer Mei Chen Lee, who was leading going into the final round. The winning advantage went back and forth like a yo-yo, and at the end Mei Chen had the winning advantage. But she blundered into mate. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Bellomo, J (1723) – Lee, M (1613) [A43]

Guelph Winter Pro-Am (U 1800) Guelph (5), 03.02.2008

1.e4 d6± 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.d5 [7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Be3 Qa5 9.Nd2 Nc6±] **7...Bd7?!±** Joe gets an early " clear " advantage [7...Nbd7 8.Re1 h6 9.h3 a6±] **8.Re1 Be8** [8...Re8 9.Rb1 Na6 10.e5 dxe5 11.Nxe5 Bf5±; 8...Ng4 9.Bf4 Na6 10.Qd2 Qb6±] **9.h3 Nbd7 10.Be3?!±** [10.Bf4 a6 11.Qd2 b5 12.a3 Qc7±] **10...a6 11.Qc1** [11.Qd2 b5 12.a3 Nb6 13.Bh6 Bd7 14.Qg5 Qc7±; 11.a4 h6 12.Qd2 Kh7 13.Qd3 Ng8±; 11.a3 h6 12.Qd2 Kh7±] **11...b5 12.Bh6?!=** Joe has lost his advantage [12.a3 b4 13.axb4 cxb4 14.Na2 a5±] **12...b4 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Nd1 Nxe4 15.Bxa6?!±** Mei Chen gets the advantage [15.a3?! a5 16.Bb5 Nef6 17.Bc6

Rc8 $\bar{7}$; 15.c4 bxc3 16.Nxc3 Nxc3 17.Qxc3+ Kg8=] **15...Nxf2!** Mei Chen goes up a P [15...Nef6 16.Bd3 Nxd5 17.Ne3 Nxe3 18.Qxe3 Nf6 19.Qxe7 Qxe7 20.Rxe7 $\bar{7}$] **16.Nxf2** [16.Bb7 Ra7 17.Nxf2 Rxb7 18.Ng4 f6 19.Qh6+ Kg8 $\bar{7}$] **16...Rxa6 17.Ng4 Rh8?+-** an awkward and unnecessary defensive move. Joe gets a "winning" advantage [17...f6 18.Qh6+ Kh8 19.a3 Bf7 20.axb4 Rxa1 21.Rxa1 Bxd5 22.bxc5 Nxc5 $\bar{7}$] **18.Qh6+ Kg8 19.h4? $\bar{7}$** Mei Chen gets back the advantage [19.Ng5 c4 20.Re2 Ra7 21.Rf2 Nc5 22.Nxf7 Bxf7 23.Raf1 Qf8 24.Qe3 h5 25.Ne5 dxe5 26.Qxc5 Ra8 27.Rxf7 Qxf7 28.Rxf7 Kxf7 29.Qxb4 Rxa2 30.Qxc4 Rxb2 31.d6+ Kf6 32.d7 Rb1+ 33.Kh2 e6+-] **19...Nf6?!=** [19...Nb6 20.Ne3 f6 21.a3 Qa8 22.Rad1 bxa3 23.bxa3 Bf7 24.c4 Rxa3 $\bar{7}$ Mei Chen would be up 2 P's] **20.Nxf6+ exf6 21.Re4? $\bar{7}$** [21.a3 bxa3 22.Rxa3 Rxa3 23.bxa3 Bb5=] **21...Bd7? $\bar{7}$** [21...Bb5?! 22.a3 Ra4 23.Ree1 bxa3 24.Rxa3 Rxa3 25.bxa3 Bc4=; 21...f5 22.Re3 Bb5 23.a3 Qf8 24.Qf4 Ra4 25.Qh2 h6 $\bar{7}$] **22.Rae1?!=** [22.a3 Bb5 23.Rae1 bxa3 24.bxa3 Rxa3 $\bar{7}$ Mei Chen would be up 2 P's] **22...Qf8** [22...Rxa2 23.Re7 Ra1 24.Rxa1 Qxe7 25.Ra8+ Be8 26.Nd2 Qe1+ 27.Kh2 Qe5+ 28.Kh3 g5=] **23.Qe3** [23.Qf4 f5 24.R4e3 h6 25.a3 bxa3 26.bxa3 f6=] **23...Kg7** [23...Rxa2?! 24.Qf4 Kg7 (24...Rxb2? 25.Qxf6 h6 26.Qxb2 Qg7+-) 25.Re7 Bc8 26.Qxd6 Qd8 27.Qxc5 Ra5 28.Qxb4 Rxd5 $\bar{7}$ material equality] **24.Re7 Qd8?+-** an error; Joe gets a "winning" advantage [24...Bg4 25.Nd2 h5 26.Nc4 Qa8 27.Qd2 Rb8 28.Rxf7+ Kxf7 29.Qh6 Re8 30.Qh7+ Kf8 31.Qh8+ Kf7=] **25.Qf4? $\bar{7}$** now Joe loses his win; Mei Chen gets back a "clear" advantage [25.h5 Re8 **a)** 25...Rxa2 26.Qf4 gxf5 27.Ng5! Rf8 28.Ne6+ Bxe6 29.R1xe6 b3 30.Qxf6+ Kg8 31.Rxd6 Qxe7 32.Qxe7 bxc2 33.Qg5+ Kh8 34.Qe5+ Kg8 35.Qg3+ Kh8 36.Qc3+ Kg8 37.Qxc2 Ra7+-; **b)** 25...Rf8 26.hxg6 hxg6 27.Nh4 Rh8 28.Nxg6 Rh5+- (**b)** 28...Kxg6?? 29.Qg3+ Kh7 30.R1e4 Bg4 31.Rxg4 Qg8 32.Qh3#) ; 26.Rxe8 Qxe8 27.Qxe8 Bxe8 28.Rxe8 Rxa2 29.Rd8 Rxb2 30.Ne1 Rb1 31.Kf2 Rb2 32.Rxd6 b3 33.Ke3 bxc2 34.Kd2 c1Q+ 35.Kxc1 Re2+-] **25...Re8 26.Rxe8 Bxe8 27.Qe4?!+-** Mei Chen gets a "winning" advantage [27.Qc4 Ra4 28.h5 Bd7 29.h6+ Kg8 $\bar{7}$] **27...Bb5 28.g4?+-** - 2.75 [28.h5 Ra4 29.Qe3 Rxa2+- - 1.54] **28...Rxa2** Mei Chen goes up 2 P's **29.b3 Ra8+-** - 2.15 [29...Bd7 30.Qf4 Bc8 31.Nd2 f5 32.gxf5 Qf6 33.Nc4 Qxf5 34.Rf1 Qxf4 35.Rxf4 Ra6+- - 3.25] **30.g5 Ra7 31.Kf2?+-** - 3.04 [31.Qe3 fxf5 32.hxg5 Ra2 33.Nd2 Qd7+- - 2.07] **31...Ra8** [31...Ra2 32.Rc1 f5 33.Qe3 Kg8+- - 2.84] **32.Qf4** - 3.19 [32.Kg1 Ra2 33.Rc1 f5 34.Qf4 Kg8+- - 2.85] **32...Ra7 33.Qe3** [33.Qe4+] **33...Ra8 34.Qf4 Qb6??+-** a blunder allowing Joe to mate [34...Ra2 35.Qd2 fxf5 36.hxg5 Qd7+- - 3.01]



35.gxf6+ Mei Chen is up 1 P **35...Kh8 36.Qh6 c4+ 37.Kg3+-** Mei Chen resigned. Mate is coming **37...Qg1+ 38.Rxg1 Rg8 39.Ng5 cxb3 40.Nxf7# 1-0**

Dinesh Dattani (on left)



provided us with his most interesting game, which happens to be a loss, where he was winning. He went up a passed cP, but then at the end in time trouble, he erred in a complicated tactical position, and was poised to go down, pawn vs B. But his flag then fell. Here is his game (Annotations by Dinesh Dattani, using Fritz):

Chan, Philip (1493) – Dattani, Dinesh (1429) [C58]

Guelph Winter Pro-Am (U 1500) Guelph (2), 02.02.2008

C58: Two Knights: 4 Ng5 d5 5 exd5 Na5 sidelines **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Nd7** [6...c6 7.Ba4 b5 8.Bb3 Nxb3 9.axb3 Nxd5 10.d4 exd4 11.Qxd4 Qe7+ 12.Be3 Nxe3 13.Qxe3 Qxe3+ 14.fxe3 Be7 15.Nf3 Bc5 16.e4 0-0 17.Nc3 Re8 18.0-0-0 Bg4 19.h3 Bh5 20.Rhf1 Bb6 21.Rd7 Van Dijk,M (1356)–Boone,I (1087)/Hengelo 2005/CBM 107 ext/1-0 (35)] **7.d4N** [7.d3 a6 8.Qf3 f6 9.Ne6 Qe7 10.Bxd7+ Qxd7 11.Bd2 b6 12.Nxf8 Rxf8 13.Bxa5 bxa5 14.d6 Ra7 15.dxc7 Rxc7 16.Nc3 Bb7 17.Qg3 Rf7 18.0-0 g5 19.Rfe1 h5 20.Qe3 Qc6 21.Qe4 Qxc3 Rashidian,S (1439)–Massenkeil,M (859)/Bad Zwosten 2003/CBM 092 ext/1-0 (45); 7.Bxd7+ Bxd7 8.d3 h6 9.Nf3 Bd6 10.Bd2 c6 11.b4 cxd5 12.bxa5 0-0 13.h3 Re8 14.0-0 Rc8 15.a3 Qf6 16.Bb4 e4 17.Bc3 Qe7 18.dxe4 dxe4 19.Qd4 f6 20.Re1 Bc6 21.Nh4 Bb8 Hassan,M–Courtney,H/Manila 1992/TD/1-0 (48)] **7...Bb4+** [7...c6 8.Qh5 g6 9.Qf3±] **8.c3 Be7 9.Qh5** [9.Nf3 a6 10.Be2 e4±] **9...g6 10.Qh6 Bf8 11.Qh3 a6 12.Qf3 Qe7** Black's pieces can't move: a5+c8 **13.Ba4** [△13.Bxd7+ Bxd7 14.0-0±] **13...exd4+??** Black lets it slip away. [13...Bh6 14.h4 exd4+ 15.Kf1±] **14.Qe4** [△14.Kd1 finishes off the opponent 14...b5 15.d6+–] **14...b5** Black threatens to win material: b5xa4 **15.Bc2 Nc4** [15...Nf6 16.Qxe7+ Bxe7 17.cxd4 Nxd5 18.Nc3±] **16.0-0= Qxe4 17.Nxe4 Bg7 18.Re1** White has a mate threat [18.Nbd2!?= should not be overlooked] **18...0-0± 19.cxd4** [19.Ned2 Ncb6±] **19...Bxd4** [19...Re8 20.Rd1±] **20.Nbc3** [20.Nbd2 Nxd2 21.Bxd2 Bb7=] **20...Re8** [20...Bb7 21.Bb3±] **21.Rd1** White threatens to win material: Rd1xd4 [21.Bf4 Nxb2 22.Bxc7 Nc4±] **21...Bg7± 22.Rb1** [22.a3 Bb7±] **22...Bb7± 23.b3** [23.d6 b4 24.dxc7 bxc3 25.bxc3 Bxe4 (25...Rxe4?? 26.Bxe4 (26.Rxb7?! is the less attractive alternative 26...Ree8±) 26...Bxe4 27.Rxd7+–) 26.Bxe4 Rxe4+–] **23...Ncb6 24.Be3?** [24.b4 f5 25.Nc5 Nxc5 (25...Bxc3?! 26.Nxb7 Rab8 27.Nc5±) 26.bxc5 Nxd5 (26...Bxc3?! 27.cxb6 Bxd5 28.bxc7±) 27.Nxd5 Bxd5+–] **24...b4** [△24...f5!? makes it even easier for Black 25.Bxb6 cxb6 26.Nd6 Bxc3 27.g4+–] **25.Na4 Nxd5 26.Bd4 f5** [26...Bc6 27.Ng3 Nf4 28.Be3 Nxc2 29.Rxd7 Nxe3 30.Rxc7 Nxc2 31.Rxc6+–] **27.Nec5±**

Bc6?? with this move Black loses his initiative [27...Nxc5!? 28.Bxc5 Nc3 29.Nxc3 bxc3] **28.Bxg7??** a transit from better to worse [28.Nxd7 White has a promising position 28...Re7 29.Ndc5+-] **28...Nxc5** **29.Bd4?** [29.Bb2 Nb7 30.Bd3] **29...Nxa4??** gives the opponent counter-play [29...Ne6+ and Black can look forward to a comfortable game] **30.bxa4** Black has a new passed pawn: c7 **30...Re2** Black threatens to win material: Re2xc2 [30...Bd7!? is worth consideration] **31.Bb3** **Rd8** **32.Kf1** White threatens to win material: Kf1xe2 [32.Rbc1!? looks like a viable alternative 32...Re6 33.Be5 Rxe5 34.Rxc6] **32...Ree8??** Black has let it slip away [32...Re6= was a good chance to save the game] **33.Rbc1+-** Here black's flag falls, and loses on time [33.Rbc1 Re6 34.Bf6 Rxf6 35.Rxc6 Rxc6 36.Rxd5 Rxd5 37.Bxd5+ Kf8 38.Bxc6+-] **1-0**

Junior Richard Douglas (on right)



provided me with a win over another junior, Simon Gladstone. Simon tried an unsound knight sac, and Richard never let up after that, eventually getting a potential mate. Here is his game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Douglas, Richard (1750) – Gladstone, Simon (1771) [C17]

Guelph Winter Pro-Am (U 2100) Guelph (5), 03.02.2008

1.e4 e6 **2.d4 d5** **3.Nc3 Bb4** **4.e5 c5** **5.Nf3?!=** [5.Bd2 Ne7 6.a3 cxd4 7.axb4 dxc3 8.Bxc3 Qc7] **5...Ne7** **6.Bg5** [6.Bd2 0-0 7.Bd3 cxd4 8.Nb5 Bxd2+ 9.Qxd2 Nec6=; 6.a3 cxd4 7.axb4 dxc3 8.bxc3 Qc7=] **6...Nbc6** **7.a3 Bxc3+** **8.bxc3 0-0** **9.Bd3 c4** **10.Be2 Qa5?!±** [10...f6 11.exf6 gxf6 12.Bh6 Qa5! 13.0-0 (13.Bxf8?! Qxc3+ 14.Kf1 Kxf8=) 13...Rf7±] **11.Qd2 b5** **12.0-0 Bd7?!±** Richard gets a " clear " advantage [12...Qa4 13.Nh4 Bd7 14.Rfe1 h6 15.Be3 f6±] **13.h4?=-** right square; wrong piece [13.Nh4 Kh8 14.Rfe1 Qa4 15.Bh5 Kg8±] **13...f6** **14.exf6 gxf6** **15.Bh6 Rf7** **16.g4?!±** Richard plays aggressively (though theoretically not best). Simon gets the advantage [16.Nh2 Nf5 17.Bh5 Nxh6 18.a4 b4 19.Qxh6 Rff8=] **16...Kh8** **17.h5?!±** continuing to attack, but Simon gets a " clear " advantage [17.Kh1 Rg8 18.g5 fxg5 19.Bxg5 Rgf8 20.Bxe7 Nxe7 21.Ne5 Rf4] **17...Rg8** **18.Nh2 e5** **19.dxe5 Nxe5** **20.f3 Qc7** **21.Kh1 f5?!=** [21...a5 22.Rfe1 Qd6 23.Bf4 N7c6] **22.f4 fxg4??+-** a blunder sac. Richard gets a " winning " advantage [22...Nxc4 23.Nxc4 Rxc4! 24.Bg5 (24.Bxg4 fxg4 25.Qd4+ Kg8 26.Qe5 Qb6 27.Qg5+ Kh8 28.Qe5+ Kg8=) 24...Qd6 25.Qd4+ Kg8 26.Qxa7 h6 27.Bxg4 fxg4 28.Bxe7 Qxe7=] **23.fxe5** Richard is up B vs P **23...Rxf1+** **24.Bxf1 Nf5** **25.Bf4 Be6** **26.Bg2?!±** [26.Be2 Ng7 27.Nxc4 Nxh5 28.Nf6 Nxf6 29.exf6 Qf7+-] **26...Qe7?!+-** [26...Qf7 27.Nf1 Qxh5+ 28.Kg1 Nh4 29.Ng3 Qg6±] **27.Kg1?!±** [27.a4 bxa4 28.Rxa4 Qh4 29.Kg1 Qxh5 30.Ra6 Qf7+-] **27...g3?!+-** [27...Qc5+ 28.Kf1 Rf8 29.Qf2 Qxf2+ 30.Kxf2 Ng7 31.Ke3 Nf5+ 32.Kd2 Nh4 33.Bg3 Nxc4 34.Rg1 Nf4 35.Rf1 Nxh5 36.Rxf8+ Kg7 37.Re8 Kf7 38.Rxe6 Kxe6±]

28.Nf3 Nh4 29.Ng5 Nxb2 30.Kxg2 Bf5 5.08 [30...h6 31.Nxe6 Qxe6 32.Rf1 Qg4+- 4.85; 30...Qd7? 31.Rf1 Rxb5 32.Bxb5 Bh3+ 33.Kg1 Bxf1 34.Qf4 Kg8 35.Bh6 Qe7 36.e6 Qc5+ 37.Kxf1 Qf2+ 38.Qxf2 gxf2 39.Kxf2 a6 40.Ke3 a5 41.Kf4 b4 42.Kf5 bxa3 43.Kf6 a2 44.e7 a1Q 45.e8Q#] **31.e6 Qf6??+-** allows mate [31...Rxb5 32.Bxb5 Qxe6+- 5.25] **32.Nf7+-** Simon resigned. Coming is **32...Qxf7** [32...Kg7 33.Bh6+ Qxh6 34.Qxh6#] **33.exf7 Be4+ 34.Kg1 Kg7** [34...Rf8 35.Qd4#] **35.Bd6** [35.fxc8Q+ Kxg8 36.Bd6 h6 37.Qxh6 Bxc2 38.Qf8+ Kh7 39.Qf7+ Kh6 40.Bf4#] **35...h6** [35...Kxf7 36.Qf4+ Bf5 37.Qxf5+ Kg7 38.Qg5+ Kh8 39.Be5+ Rg7 40.Qxg7#] **36.fxc8Q+ Kxg8 37.Qxh6 a5 38.Qf8+ Kh7 39.Qf7+ Kh6 40.Bf4# 1-0**

On his way to winning the U 2100, Alex defeated CFC ED. Bob Gillanders. He went up a P in the middle game, and then threatened to promote his passed P. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Ferreira, Alex (1964) – Gillanders, Bob (1879) [B33]

Guelph Winter Pro-Am (U 2100) Guelph (3), 02.02.2008

1.e4 c5± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5?!±** Alex gets an early " clear " advantage [5...e6 6.Ndb5 Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5 9.exd5 exd5±] **6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5?!±** [7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7 9.c4 Ng6±] **7...a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6** [10.Nxe7 Qxe7 11.Bd3 h6 12.Bh4 0-0±] **10...Bxf6 11.c4** [11.Bd3 0-0 12.0-0 Bg5 13.Nb1 Be6=] **11...b4** [11...Qa5+? 12.Qd2 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Bg5+ 14.Kd1 0-0±] **12.Nc2 a5 13.Be2?!=** [13.g3 Be6 14.Bg2 0-0 15.0-0 Bg5±] **13...0-0 14.0-0 Bg5 15.g3** [15.Bg4 Be6 16.Re1 Rc8=] **15...Bb7?!±** [15...Bh3 16.Re1 f5 17.exf5 Bxf5=] **16.Nce3?!=** [16.f4 Bf6 17.Rb1 Ne7 18.Nxf6+ gxf6±] **16...Nd4 17.f4 Nxe2+?!±** [17...Bf6?! 18.Bd3 Ne6 19.Ng4 Bxd5 20.exd5 e4 21.dxe6 Bd4+ 22.Kg2 exd3 23.Qxd3 Bxb2 24.Qe2 Bf6±; 17...exf4 18.gxf4 Bf6 19.Rf2 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Qb6=] **18.Qxe2 exf4 19.gxf4 Bf6 20.Rad1 Kh8 21.Rf2 Re8?!±** [21...g6 22.Nxf6 Qxf6 23.Nd5 Qh4±] **22.Nf5 Bxd5?!+-** Alex gets a " winning " advantage [22...Re6 23.Qd3 a4 24.Nxf6 Qxf6 25.Nxd6 Bc6±] **23.Rxd5 Re6 24.Qd3 Be7 25.c5** [25.e5 Rc8 26.Nxe7 Qxe7 27.exd6 Qd7+-] **25...Rg6+ 26.Rg2 Bf8 27.e5 Rxb2+ 28.Kxg2 g6 29.Nxd6?+-** 2.56 Alex goes up a P [29.Nd4 dxc5 30.Rxd8 Rxd8 31.Qc4 Kg8 32.Ne6 Rd2+ 33.Kf3 Be7+- 8.67] **29...Bxd6 30.exd6 Qh4?+-** 6.79 [30...Qd7 31.Re5 Rf8 32.Qf3 Rg8+- 5.33] **31.Qd4+ Kg8 32.d7?+-** 5.41 [32.h3 Rd8 33.c6 Qe1 34.Qe5 Qc1 35.c7 Rxd6 36.Qxd6 Qxb2+ 37.Rd2 Qc3+- 17.96] **32...Qg4+ 33.Kf2 Qh4+ 34.Ke2 Qg4+ 35.Kd2 Qg2+ 36.Kc1 Qf1+ 37.Kc2 Qe2+ 38.Kb1?+-** 5.73 [38.Kb3 a4+ 39.Kxb4 Rd8+- 12.10] **38...Qe1+ 39.Qd1 Qe4+ 40.Qd3 Qe1+ 6.84** [40...Qh1+ 41.Kc2 Qg2+ 42.Kc1 Qg1+ 43.Qd1 Qe3+ 44.Qd2 Qg1+ 45.Kc2 Rd8+- 6.34] **41.Kc2 Rd8 42.c6?+-** 6.59 [42.Re5 Qf2+ 43.Kb3 Kg7 44.Re8 Rxd7 45.Qxd7 Qxc5+- 8.19] **42...Qf2+ 43.Qd2?+-** 3.23 [43.Kb3 a4+ 44.Kxb4 a3 45.b3 Qxf4+ 46.Qd4 Qc7 14.23] **43...Qb6 44.Rd6 Qc5+ 5.40 45.Kb1 a4 46.Qd4 Qf5+ 47.Kc1?+-** 4.37 [47.Ka1 Qc2 48.Qe3 a3 49.bxa3 bxa3 50.Qxa3 Qc4+- 6.09] **47...b3** 9.03 [47...Qa5? 48.Qe5 Qa7 49.Rd1 Qa8+- 14.77] **48.axb3 axb3** 11.28 [48...Qa5? 49.b4 Qc7+- 15.20] **49.Qc4 Qh3 50.Qd3?+-** 8.91 [50.Qe2 Kg7 51.c7 Rxd7 52.c8Q Re7 53.f5 Qh4+- and it is mate in 15 moves; 50.c7 Qe3+ 51.Kd1 Qg1+ 52.Kd2 Qxh2+ 53.Kc3 Rf8 54.c8Q Qg3+ 55.Rd3 Qe1+ 56.Kxb3 Qe7 57.d8Q Qxd8 58.Rxd8 Rxd8 59.Qxd8+ Kg7 60.Qcd4+ f6 61.Q8xf6+ Kh6 62.Qg5#] **50...Qxh2** material equality **51.c7 Qxf4+** Bob goes up a P, but his game is lost **52.Kb1 Qh4 53.c8Q?+-** 12.53 [53.cxd8Q+ Qxd8+- and it is mate in 10 moves] **53...Qe1+ 54.Qd1 Qa5** 14.23 [54...Qe4+? 55.Rd3 Rf8+- 19.84] **55.Qxb3+-** Alex is up Q vs P. Bob resigned. **1-0**

Madame Tutli-Putli - Movie Review

(Written and copyright 2008 by David Cohen)

'Madame Tutli-Putli' is the National Film Board (NFB)'s Canadian made Academy Award nominee for the best animated short film of 2007. The film is weird,

and whether you like it or not will be very personal. Normally, when I write these reviews, I don't describe the chess part of the film in detail. In this case, I'm not going to wish this film on anyone, so I'll just go ahead and describe what for me is its only redeeming feature, the chess scene. It's near the beginning of the film, so you won't have to watch further if the film is not to your tastes.

The title character boards the night train. We soon meet the people she is forced to share her compartment with. Among them are two men playing chess. The train ride is bumpy. On two occasions, the chess pieces jump into the air. They jump so high, that they come off the board - and land again in a new configuration. Normal chess players would simply reset the position from memory. But the chess players in the story continue from the new positions! Because of the changes in fortune, one of them is not happy. An interesting scene, but it's a short film, and that's all there is.

You can watch the film on the internet (<http://www.cbc.ca/tutli/>), or in Toronto at the NFB's Mediatheque (<http://www.nfb.ca/mediatheque>), 150 John Street (corner Richmond St. W.), 4 blocks from the Osgoode Subway Station (free until March 31, 2008) - check their website for hours of operation.

2007/8 SCC Club Championship

On Jan. 3 SCC started its 2007/8 Club Championship. It is in 2 sections again this year. 52 players registered.

The top section A is a 10-player 9-round round robin. It is composed of the top 8 rated players who registered, plus the first and second place winner in the 2006/7 Club Championship Reserves. Playing this year are a master, 4 experts and 5 A players (ratings as of start of the tournament): Master Bryan Lamb; junior girl expert Yuanling Yuan, expert John Hall; expert Alex Ferreira; expert Erwin Casareno; A player Rick Garel; A player Randy Moysoski; A player Yibing Fan; A player Bob Armstrong (1st - Reserves); and A player Josh Sherman (2nd - Reserves).

The other 42 members play in a one section, 10 round swiss (finishes March 6). The first and second place finishers earn the right to play in the Championship Section for the 2008/9 Club Championship.

After 9 rounds (the top section round robin tournament is now finished, subject to rescheduled games outstanding being played March 6), the following players lead:

Championship Section: 1st – Erwin Casareno – 7pts

2nd – John Hall – 6 pts. (but with 1 game outstanding, he could tie Erwin if he wins)

3rd – Bryan Lamb – 5.5 pts. (but with 2 games outstanding; he can come clear first if he wins both games.)

Reserves : 1st – junior Kevin Wu – 8 pts.

2nd – Oscar Villalobos – 7 pts.

3rd – junior Aaron Wu – 6.5 pts.

In Rd. 7 in the top section, master Bryan Lamb,



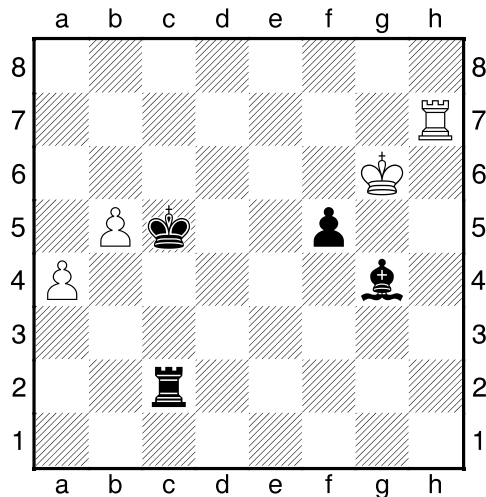
in third place, defeated expert John Hall, then in second. Bryan dodged the bullet on this one, as he was forced to sac a minor piece to try and salvage his game by pawn promotion. But John walked into a mate in the centre of the board, and Bryan took home the win. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Lamb, B (2246) – Hall, J (2115) [A35]

SCC Club Championship Toronto (7), 14.02.2008

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6± [2...Nf6=] 3.Nf3 Nd4 [3...Nf6±] 4.e3 Nxf3+ 5.Qxf3 g6 6.b3 Bg7 7.Bb2 d6 8.0-0-0 Rb8 9.d4?!= [9.Be2 Qa5 10.Nd5 Bxb2+ 11.Kxb2 Be6±] 9...cxd4 10.exd4 Nf6 11.h3 0-0 12.Bd3 a6 13.Ne4?!= John gets the advantage [13.Kb1 b5 14.c5 Qc7 15.Qg3 Bb7=] 13...Nxe4?!= [13...Qc7 14.Qg3 b5 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.c5 Bb7=] 14.Qxe4?!= [14.Bxe4 Qc7 15.Qe3 b5 16.c5 Bb7 17.Bxb7 Rxb7 18.Kb1 b4=] 14...b5 15.Rhe1?+ John gets a " winning " advantage [15.c5 Bf5 16.Qe3 Bxd3 17.Rxd3 Qc7=] 15...bxc4 16.Bxc4 e6?!= [16...Qa5 17.Qxe7 Qxa2 18.g4 d5 19.Qa3 Qxa3 20.Bxa3 dxc4 21.bxc4 Rd8+] 17.d5 Bxb2+?!= John is losing his advantage [17...e5 18.Qe2 Qg5+ 19.Qe3 Qxg2=] 18.Kxb2 Qf6+ 19.Qd4 e5 20.Qe3 a5 21.Re2?!= [21.a3 Bd7 22.Rd3 Rfc8 23.Rc1 Bb5=] 21...a4 22.Qa7 Bf5 23.Qxa4?+ Bryan goes up a P, but gives John back a " winning " advantage [23.g4 axb3 24.Bxb3 (24.gxf5?! bxa2+ 25.Ka1 Rb4 26.Rc1 e4+ 27.Kxa2 Qd4+ - 9.70) 24...Ra8 25.Qe3 Bd7=] 23...e4+ 24.Kc1 e3?!= [24...Ra8 25.Ba6 Rfc8+ 26.Bxc8 Rxc8+ 27.Qc6 Qa1+ 28.Kd2 Qxa2+ 29.Ke1 Qa5+ 30.Red2 Rxc6 31.dxc6 Qc3+ - 5.18] 25.Rxe3 Bryan goes up 2 P 25...Ra8 26.Ba6 with mate threats looming, Bryan has to sac his B. He also wanted the Q's off the board, thinking it gave his connected, passed a & b pawns more chance to roll. [26.Qb5?? Rxa2 27.Re5 Qxe5 28.Rd4 Qe1+ 29.Rd1 Qc3#] 26...Bc8 27.Qd4 Qxd4 28.Rxd4 Bxa6 John is up B vs 2 P's 29.a4 Rfc8+ 30.Kb2 Rc7 31.Rc3?!+ [31.Ka3 Kf8 32.g4 Rc1 33.Rf3 Bb7=] 31...Rac8 [31...Rxc3 32.Kxc3 Bf1 33.g4 Bxh3 34.g5 Bg2+] 32.Rxc7 Rxc7 33.Ka3 [33.Rd2 Kg7 34.b4 Kf6 35.f3 Bf1 36.b5 Ke5+; 33.b4 Rc4 34.Rxc4 Bxc4 35.Kc3 Bxd5 36.f3 Kf8 37.a5 Ke7 38.b5 Kd8+; 33.f3 Kg7 34.Rd2 h6 35.b4 Bc4+; 33.g3 Kg7 34.b4 Kf6 35.b5 Ke5 36.Rd2 Bc8 37.Ka3 Rc5+] 33...Rc2 [33...Kg7 34.g4 Kf6 35.f4 Rc3 36.a5 Rxh3 37.Rb4 Be2+] 34.Kb4 [34.b4 Rc3+ 35.Kb2 Rc4 36.Rxc4 Bxc4 37.a5 Kf8 38.Kc3 Bb5 39.Kd4 Ke8+] 34...Rxf2 John is up B vs P 35.Ka5 Bf1 36.b4 Rxg2 John is up a B, but he has 2 connected, passed P's to stop 37.Kb6 Ra2 38.b5 Kf8?!= [38...Rc2 39.Ka7 Rc7+ (39...Bxh3?! 40.b6 Bc8 41.b7 Bxb7 42.Kxb7 h5= John would be up 2 P's) 40.Kb8 Re7 41.Rd1 Be2 42.Rb1 f5+ John would be up a B] 39.Kc7 Rc2+?!= John is losing his advantage [39...Bxh3 40.b6 Rc2+ 41.Kb8 Bc8 42.b7 Bxb7 43.Kxb7 h5=] 40.Kxd6 John is up B vs P 40...f5?!= Bryan has made progress with his P's. The position is now equal. [40...Bxh3 41.Rh4 Bg2 42.b6 Rb2 43.a5 Bb5=] 41.Ke6?+ a misstep by Bryan; John gets back a " winning " advantage. [41.Rb4 Rc3 42.b6 Ba6 43.b7 Bxb7 44.Rxb7 Rxh3 45.Ke6 Re3+ 46.Kf6 f4 47.Rxh7 Ke8 48.Kxg6 f3=] 41...Bxh3 John is up a B 42.Kf6 [42.Rh4 Bg4 43.Rxh7 Kg8 44.Rh1 f4+ 45.Kd6 f3 46.a5 Bb2

47.a6 Rxb5 48.Ra1 f2 49.a7 f1Q 50.Rxf1 Ra5 51.Ke5 Kg7 52.a8Q Rxa8-+; 42.Rb4 f4+ 43.Ke5 f3 44.Rf4+ Ke7 45.d6+ Kd7 46.Rf7+ Kc8 47.Rf8+ Kb7 48.Rxf3 Bf5-+] **42...Ke8** [42...Rc7 43.Rd3 Bf1 44.Rd1 Rf7+ 45.Kg5 Bg2 46.Rd2 Be4 47.a5 f4 48.b6 Bf3 49.Kh6 (49.Kh4?? Rf5 50.a6 Rh5#) 49...Rf5 50.Kxh7 Kf7 51.Rh2 Rxd5-+] **43.d6** [43.a5 Rc7 44.a6 Bf1 45.Rb4 Ra7 46.Ke5 Kd8 47.d6 Ra8 48.Rb1 Be2 (48...Bd3? 49.Rb3 Be2 50.Rb2 Bd3= (50...Kd7 51.Rxe2!! (51.a7? Bxb5 52.Rxb5 Rxa7-+) 51...Re8+ 52.Kd5 Rxe2 53.a7 Ra2= (53...Rd2+ 54.Ke5 Re2+ 55.Kd5 Ra2 56.b6 Kc8 57.d7+ Kb7 58.Ke6 Re2+ 59.Kd6 Rd2+=))) 49.Rb2 Bd3 50.Kd5 f4 51.Kc5 f3-+] **43...Kd7 44.Rh4 44...Bg4?+-** - 1.62 [44...Bg2 45.Rxh7+ Kxd6 46.Kg5 Ra2 - 3.69] **45.Rxh7+ Kxd6 46.Kxg6** John is up B vs P **46...Kc5??+-** in the time pressure, John blunders his R [46...Rg2 47.Kg5 Bd1+ 48.Kf4 Rf2+ 49.Ke3 Rf3+ 50.Kd4 Rf4+ 51.Kc3 Bxa4 52.b6 Rf3+ 53.Kb4 Bc2-+]



47.Kg5??+- in the time scramble, Bryan misses the win of the R [47.Rc7+ Kb4 48.Rxc2+-] **47...Ra2 48.Ra7 Bh3 49.Ra6 f4??=** John gives Bryan a draw; the pawn can just be taken. [49...Rb2 50.Rc6+ Kd5 51.Rh6 Bg4 52.Rb6 Rb4 53.Ra6 Ke5-+] **50.Kxf4** John is up B vs 2 P **50...Rb2 51.Ke5 Rb4??+-** in the time pressure, John walks into a mate in one [51...Bg2 52.Ra7 Re2+ 53.Kf4 Bd5=] **52.Rc6# 1-0**

Also in Rd. 7 in the top section, an upset of sorts took place when your intrepid editor,

Bob Armstrong,



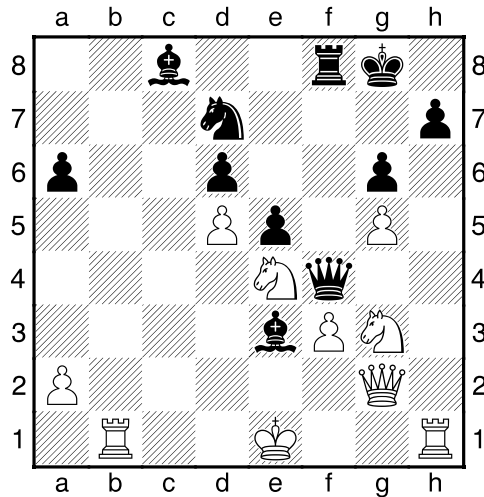
missed a win against junior girl expert Yuanling Yuan (there is a difference of 355 pts.!), and then scrambled for a draw in time pressure. Here is our game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Armstrong, R (1839) – Yuan, Y (2194) [E84]

SCC Club Championship Toronto (7), 14.02.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3= [5.Nf3±] **5...0-0 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Nge2 a6 8.Qd2 Rb8?±** I get an early " clear " advantage [8...Na5 9.Ng3 b5 10.Rb1 Nxc4 11.Bxc4 bxc4=] **9.g4?!±** [9.h4 h5 10.Nd5 Nd7 11.Bh6 Bxh6 12.Qxh6 e6 13.Ne3 e5±] **9...b5 10.Ng3?±** Yuanling gets the advantage [10.cxb5 axb5 11.h4 Na5 12.Ng3 b4 13.Nd1 Ra8±] **10...bxc4?!=** [10...e5 11.d5 Nd4 (11...Ne7?? 12.cxb5 axb5 13.Bxb5 Bd7 14.a4 c5 15.dxc6 Nxc6+-) 12.Bg2 bxc4±] **11.Bxc4 e5?!±** [11...e6 12.Be2 Nd7=] **12.d5 Ne7?!±** I get a " clear " advantage [12...Nd4 13.0-0 Nd7 14.Nce2 Nb6 15.Bd3 c5 16.dxc6 Nxc6±] **13.Bh6?±** just a blunder – overlooked that I would lose my bP. Yuanling gets back the advantage [13.h4 c6 14.g5 Nd7 15.h5 Nb6 16.Bb3 cxd5 17.Qh2 Re8 18.exd5 Kf8±] **13...Rxb2?±** bad judgment by Yuanling – she wanted to hold onto her B, and so wrongly decided to sac the exchange, for a P [13...Bxh6 14.Qxh6 Rxb2± Yuanling would be up a P] **14.Qxb2 Bxh6** I am up the exchange, but Yuanling has a P compensation **15.h4 Be3 16.Qe2?!±** [16.h5 g5 17.Qe2 Bd4 18.Rc1 c6=] **16...Bd4?±** I get back the advantage [16...Bf4 17.Qf2 c6 18.Nge2 cxd5 19.Bxd5 Nfxd5 20.exd5 Qa5±] **17.Rc1 c6 18.dxc6 Nxc6 19.Qd2?!=** [19.g5?! Nd7 20.Nd5 (20.Bxa6?? Qa5+-) 20...Bc5=; 19.h5 Qa5 20.Qd2 Be6 21.Bxe6 fxe6 22.hxg6 hxg6 23.Nge2 Kf7±] **19...Na5?!±** [19...Be6 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.h5 gxh5 22.Qg5+ Kh8 23.Nxh5 Nxh5 24.Qxh5 Qe7=] **20.Bd5** [20.Bf1?! Bb7 21.h5 d5 22.g5 Nxh5 23.Nxh5 gxh5 24.exd5 Bxd5 25.Nxd5 Qxd5=; 20.Bd3 Be6 21.h5 Nc6 22.Na4 Nb8±] **20...Qb6 21.Qc2?±** right square; wrong piece. Yuanling gets a " clear " advantage [21.Rc2 Be3 22.Qd3 Be6 23.h5 g5±] **21...Qb4?!±** [21...Be6 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Nd1 Qb4+ 24.Kf1 Nxg4! 25.Kg2 Nf6±] **22.g5?+-** Yuanling gets a " winning " advantage [22.Qd2?! Bd7 23.Rc2 Rc8±; 22.h5 Nxd5 23.exd5 Bd7 24.Nge2 Bb5±] **22...Nxd5 23.exd5 Be3?±** Yuanling errs and has lost her winning advantage [23...Bd7?! 24.Nge4 Rc8 25.Qd2 Nc4 26.Qc2 Bf5 27.Qb3 Qa5±; 23...Bf5 24.Nxf5 gxf5 25.Ke2 Rc8+] **24.Rb1 Qf4** the Q will get locked in [24...Qc4? 25.Nge4 Bd4 26.Qd2 Bf5±; 24...Qc5?! 25.Nge4 Bf5 26.Qe2 Qa7±] **25.Nce4 Nb7?+-** I get a " winning " advantage [25...Bf5 26.Ke2 Qxg3 27.Kxe3 Bxe4 28.Qxe4 Qg2=] **26.h5?±** aggressive , and wrong [26.Ke2 Kg7 27.Rb3 Bd4 28.Nh5+! gxh5 29.Nf6 Qf5 30.Qxf5 Bxf5 31.Rxb7 Rc8+- I would still be up the exchange, with Yuanling having a P compensation] **26...Nc5 27.hxg6 fxxg6** Yuanling now had about 10 min. left, and I had 32 min. **28.Qg2 Nd7??+-** a blunder. I get back my " winning " advantage [28...Nd3+ 29.Kf1 Bc5 30.Nf6+ Rxf6 31.gxf6 Nf2 32.Ne2 Qxf6=]

Position after 28...Nd7??



29.Nh5??+- a misconceived sacrifice – I suppose it was at least gutsy to try it. Yuanling gets a "winning" advantage [winning is 29.Qh3 Rf7 30.Ne2 Qf5 (30...Qxf3?? 31.Nf6+ Nxf6 32.Qxf3 Bxg5+- 5.61) 31.Qxf5 Rxf5 32.Nxd6 Rf8 33.Nxc8 Rxc8+- 1.55] **29...gxh5 30.Rxh5** Yuanling is up 2 B's vs R **30...Qxf3??**+- a blunder under time pressure – Yuanling had less than 2 min. left (I had 13 min. left). I get a "winning" advantage [30...Rd8 31.Nf6+ Kf8 32.Rh6 Qc4+-; 30...Bd4?? 31.Nf6+ Nxf6 32.gxf6+ Bg4 33.Qxg4+ Qxg4 34.fxg4 Rxf6+-] **31.Qxf3 Rxf3 32.Ke2 Rf4 33.Kxe3** I am again up the exchange, with Yuanling having a P compensation **33...Rf8** 4.36 Yuanling now had 1 min. left , and I had 12 min. [33...Bb7 34.Rxb7 Rxe4+ 35.Kxe4 Nc5+ 36.Kf5 Nxb7 37.Rh6 Kg7 38.Ke6 e4+- 4.30] **34.Nxd6** I go up the exchange **34...Rd8** 6.06 [34...a5 35.Rh6 Ba6 36.g6 Nf6 37.gxh7+ Kg7 38.h8Q+ Rxh8 39.Nf5+ Kf7 40.Rxh8 Nxd5+ 41.Kd2 e4+- 6.55] **35.Rbh1?+-** 3.37 [35.Rh6 e4 36.Kd4 e3 37.g6 Nf6 38.gxh7+ Kg7 39.Rbh1 Bg4 40.h8Q+ Rxh8 41.Rxh8 e2 42.Ne8+ Nxe8 43.Rxe8 a5+- 13.64] **35...Nf8** 4.57 [35...Nb6 36.Nxc8 Nxd5+ 37.Ke4 Nc3+ 38.Kf5 Rxc8 39.Rxh7 Kf8+- and it is mate in 13 moves] **36.Nxc8 Rxc8 37.Ke4 Re8 38.d6 Ne6?+-** 5.44 [38...a5? 39.Rc1 Rd8 40.Rh6 Ng6 41.Rc7 Rxd6 42.Rh7 Rd4+ 43.Kf5 Nh4+ 44.Ke6 Rb4+- 6.22; 38...Rc8 39.Kxe5 Kf7 40.Kd5 Kg6 41.a4 Rc3+- 4.67] **39.Rd1?+-** 4.39 [39.g6 h6 40.Rxe5 Kg7 41.Rg1 h5+- 7.49] **39...Nf8 40.d7?+-** 3.84 [40.Rc1 Rd8 41.Rc6 a5 42.Rh6 Ng6 43.Rc7 Rxd6 44.Rh7 Rd4+ 45.Kf5 Nh4+ 46.Ke6 Rb4+- 6.05] **40...Rd8 41.Kxe5?+-** 2.43 [41.Rh6 a5 42.Rhd6 Kf7+- 5.70] **41...Nxd7+** I am still up the exchange **42.Kf5 Rf8+ 43.Ke6 Nc5+ 44.Ke7** now I had less than 2 min. left, and Yuanling still had less than 1 min. **44...Rf7+ 45.Kd8 Ne6+ 46.Kc8 Nf8?+-** 2.80 [46...Rf5 47.Kb7 a5 48.Ka6 a4+- 1.62] **47.Rd8 Rf2 48.Rh3 Kg7 49.Ra3 Rf5 50.Rxa6 Rxg5 51.Ra7+ Kg8 52.a4 Rf5 53.Rb7 Ra5 54.Rdd7??** a complete blunder in time pressure (forgot I had unpinned the N). And I now lose my win, and give Yuanling a "clear" advantage [54.Rb4 Kg7 55.Kb7 Rf5 56.Kb8 Ne6 57.Rb7+ Kf6 58.Re8 Nd4+- 6.34; 54.Rb5 Rxa4 55.Rg5+ Kf7 56.Rf5+ Kg6 57.Rfx8 h5+- 3.32] **54...Nxd7 55.Rxd7 Rxa4** Yuanling is up a P, with a "clear" advantage. Can I draw it in time pressure? **56.Rd1 Rc4+ 57.Kd7 Rg4??**= an error in time pressure. I will get my draw if I don't flag first. [57...Re4 58.Kd6 h6 59.Kd5 Re8 60.Rg1+ Kh7+] **58.Ke6 h5** [58...Rf4 59.Ke5 Rf7 60.Rd4 h6 61.Rf4 Rg7=] **59.Kf5 Rg2 60.Rh1 Rf2+ 61.Kg5 Rd2 62.Rxh5?!**= a final error in the time scramble. If I had taken with the K, Yuanling would have flagged first (but I would not have taken the win – a draw would have been the only fair result !) **62...Rd5+=** Yuanling offered me a draw with 1 sec. left on her clock,

and I accepted. A great show by her in time trouble for a long time (she had made approx. a move every 2 seconds !) ½-½

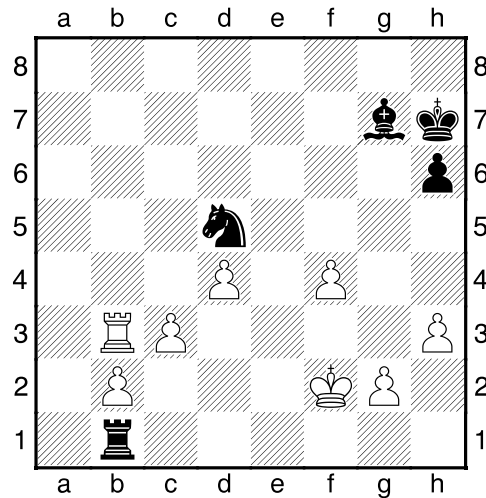
In the Reserves in Rd. 7, junior Kevin Wu defeated past club co-champion Jim Paterson, to take sole possession of first place. Jim had the advantage, sacked a knight for 3 pawns, and then went up to 5 pawns for the N. But Kevin fought back and ended up with knight and bishop vs 5 pawns. Then Kevin found a nice tactical knight sac to finish off the game. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Paterson, J (1821) – Wu, K (1674) [A02]

SCC Club Championship (Reserves) Toronto (7), 14.02.2008

1.e3 Nf6 2.f4 d6 3.Nf3 c5 [3...Nbd7?! 4.d4 Ne4 5.Nbd2 d5±; 3...Bg4 4.Be2 e6 5.d3 Nc6=] **4.c3** [4.d4 cxd4 5.exd4 Nc6 6.d5 Qa5+ 7.Nc3 Nb4 8.Bc4 Bf5 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bxd7+ Nxd7=] **4...Nc6 5.d4 b6?!±** [5...cxd4 6.exd4 e6=] **6.Bb5** [6.d5 Na5 7.e4 e6 8.Bb5+ Bd7 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 10.dxe6 fxe6±] **6...Bd7 7.0-0 g6?!±** Jim gets a " clear " advantage [7...e6 8.Bd3 d5±] **8.Nbd2?=[8.d5 Na5 9.Qd3 Bg7±] 8...Bg7 9.Qe1 a6** [9...0-0 10.Bd3 h6 11.Qh4 Qc7=] **10.Bd3 0-0 11.Ng5 b5 12.Qh4 c4 13.Bc2 e6?±** [13...h6 14.Ng3 e5 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.a4 Ng4=] **14.Nde4 h6 15.Nxf7!** Jim decides to sac his N for 3 P's **15...Rxf7 16.Nxd6 Rf8 17.Bxg6?±** bad 3rd pawn grab – Kevin gets a " clear " advantage [17.Nb7 Qc7 18.Nc5 Ne7 19.e4 a5±] **17...Qe7?=[17...Ne7 18.Be4 Ra7 19.Bf3 Bc6 20.e4 Qxd6 21.e5 Qd7 22.exf6 Rxf6±] 18.Ne4 Nd5?!±** Jim gets back the advantage [18...Nxe4 19.Qxe7 Nxe7 20.Bxe4 Nd5 21.Bd2 Rab8=] **19.Qh5 Nf6 20.Nxf6+ Qxf6 21.Bd2** [21.Bc2 Qf7 22.Qe2 Rac8±] **21...Be8 22.Bxe8 Raxe8 23.Qf3 Nb8 24.a4** [24.e4?! Qg6 25.Rae1 Nd7 26.b3 e5=; 24.Rae1 Qg6 25.e4 e5 26.f5 Qb6 27.Qg3 Kh7±] **24...Rf7?±** Jim gets a " clear " advantage again [24...Qg6 25.axb5 axb5 26.Ra5 Nd7 27.Rxb5 Nf6±] **25.axb5 axb5 26.Ra5 Qg6 27.Rxb5** Jim is up 4 P's vs N **27...Kh8?!-+ 1.71** Jim gets a " winning " advantage [27...Qd3?! 28.Bc1 Nd7 29.e4 Qxf3 30.Rxf3 Rd8 31.h3 Nf6+- 1.68; 27...Qc2 28.Qe2 Rc8 29.e4 Nd7 30.g4 Qa4 31.Rb4 Qa8±] **28.Ra1?!±** [28.Qe2 Rc7 29.Rb4 Rec8+-] **28...Nd7** [28...e5 29.Qf1 exf4 30.exf4 Rff8±] **29.Be1?!±** [29.Qe2 Qc2 30.Rb4 Rc8 31.Rc1 Qe4±] **29...Rg8?!±** [29...e5 30.Qd5 exd4 31.exd4 Rfe7±] **30.Ra8?±** for the only the second time in the game, Kevin gets the advantage [30.Bg3 Rc8 31.Rf1 Qc2 32.Re1 Rff8±] **30...Rxa8 31.Qxa8+ Kh7 32.Qf3** [32.Qa1 Qd3 33.Qc1 e5 34.Qd2 exf4 35.Qxd3+ cxd3 36.exf4 Rxf4±] **32...e5 33.Qg3** [33.b4 Qb1 34.Qf1 exf4 35.exf4 Rxf4 36.Qxf4 Qxe1+ 37.Qf1 Qxc3±] **33...Qd3 34.Rb7 exf4 35.exf4 Qe4 36.Rc7?!±** Kevin gets a " clear " advantage [36.Ra7 Re7 37.Ra1 Qc2±] **36...Re7 37.Rxc4?!-+ Jim** has 5 P's vs N, but Kevin gets a " winning " advantage [37.h3 Qxe1+ 38.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 39.Kf2 Re7 40.Rxc4 Nf6±] **37...Qe2?±** [37...Nf6 38.h3 Qb1 39.Kf1 Nd5 40.Rc5 Ne3+ 41.Kg1 Nf5 42.Rxf5 Rxe1+ 43.Qxe1 Qxe1+ 44.Kh2 Qd2-+] **38.Rc6?!±** [38.Rc7 Qc2 39.f5 Qc1 40.Kf1 Rxe1+ 41.Qxe1 Qf4+ 42.Kg1 Qxc7±] **38...Nf6 39.h3?!-+ [39.f5 Qxe1+ 40.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 41.Kf2 Rb1 42.b4 Nd5±] 39...Qxe1+ 40.Qxe1 Rxe1+ Kevin** is up B + N vs 5 P's **41.Kf2 Rb1 42.Rb6?+- - 2.72** [42.b4 Nd5 43.Ke2 Rb2+ 44.Kd3 Nxf4+ 45.Ke4 Nxc2+- - 1.90] **42...Nd5 43.Rb3**

Position after 43.Rb3



Nxc3! Kevin finds a nice little tactical sac in the position **44.Rxc3** [44.bxc3?? Rxb3-+; 44.Rb4 Nd5 45.Rb7 Rxb2+ 46.Rxb2 Bxd4+ 47.Kf3 Bxb2-+ Kevin would have B + N vs 2 P's] **44...Bxd4+ 45.Ke2?-+ - 4.58** [45.Kf3 Bxc3 46.bxc3 Rb3-+ - 3.22] **45...Rxb2+ 46.Kd3 Bxc3-+ - 4.58** Kevin will be up R vs P. Jim resigned. **0-1**

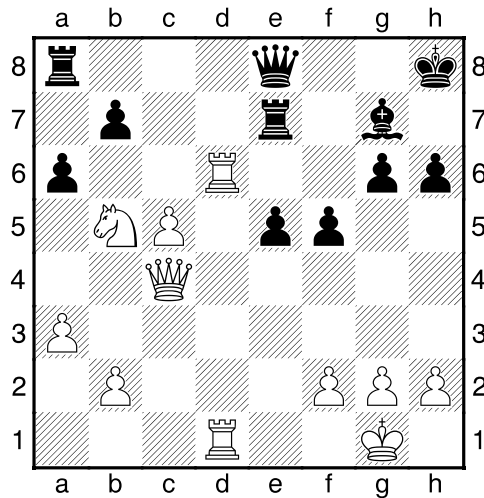
In the Reserves Section in Rd. 7, one of our youngest juniors saved a game against veteran Steve Douglas. Michael got the advantage and held it for the first part of the game, but then he misanalyzed a tricky knight move, and got it trapped. So Steve took the advantage, but Michael sacked the N for 2 P's. The advantage then swung back and forth like a yo-yo. Michael then eventually took back the advantage with a passed cP on the 7th rank, and won. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Song, M (1331) – Douglas, S (1766) [B04]

SCC Club Championship (Reserves) Toronto (7), 14.02.2008

1.e4 Nf6± 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.d4 d6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.exd6 exd6 7.d5?!= [7.Bd3 Be7 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.0-0 d5±] **7...Ne5 8.Nxe5 dxe5 9.a3** [9.Bd3 Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Bxd2+ 11.Nxd2 0-0=] **9...Bf5 10.Nc3 g6?!±** [10...Bc5 11.Qh5 Qd7 12.Be2 0-0-0=] **11.Bd3** [11.Be3? c6 12.Qb3 Bg7 13.Rd1 cxd5 14.c5 0-0 15.cxb6 d4 16.Bc1 Be6 17.Bc4 Bxc4 18.Qxc4 Qxb6 19.Ne4 Rac8 20.Qa4 f5 21.Ng3 Qc6±; 11.Qb3 Bc5 12.Be2 Qh4±] **11...Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Bg7?!±** Michael gets a " clear " advantage [12...Qh4 13.b3 Bg7 14.Bd2 Nd7±] **13.c5 Nd7 14.Be3 0-0 15.0-0 Nf6 16.Rad1 Re8 17.Bg5 h6 18.Bxf6** [18.Bh4±] **18...Bxf6 19.Ne4** [19.d6 cxd6 20.Ne4 Re6 21.cxd6 Qb6±] **19...Bg7 20.d6** Michael's pawns are getting dangerous **20...f5?!+-** Michael gets a " winning " advantage [20...Qd7 21.dxc7 Qxc7±] **21.Qc4+?±** Michael misplays the promotion attack [21.c6 bxc6 22.d7 Rf8 23.Qc4+ Kh7 24.Nc5 e4 25.Ne6 Qh4 26.Nxf8+ Rxf8+-] **21...Kh8 22.dxc7 Qxc7 23.Nd6 Re7 24.Nb5 Qc6 25.Rd6 Qe8 26.Rfd1 a6** [26...e4 27.R6d5 Qf8 28.b4 f4±]

Position after 26...a6



27.Na7??-+ Michael's N gets trapped, because Bl just moves the K, so the Q will not be pinned. Steve gets a "winning" advantage [27.Nc3 Rc8 28.b4 e4±] **27...Kh7** [27...Rxa7?? 28.Rd8 Ra8 29.Rxe8+ Raxe8+-] **28.c6** - 3.25 [28.Qb3 e4 29.Qb6 Be5 30.h4 Bxd6 31.cxd6 Rd7+- - 2.88] **28...b5?+-** Steve should just capture the N [28...Rxa7 29.cxb7 Raxb7 30.Qxa6 Rxb2-+] **29.Nxb5** might as well sac the N for 2 P's, since it is trapped **29...axb5 30.Qxb5** Steve is up B v s 2 P's (but Michael has 3 connected, passed P's !) **30...Rc7?!±** [30...e4 31.h4 e3 32.h5 Re6 33.Qe2 Rc8 34.Rxe6 Qxe6 35.Qxe3 Qxe3 36.fxe3 Rxc6-+] **31.Rd7 Rac8?=-** Steve has lost his advantage [31...Rb8 32.Qa4 Rxd7 33.cxd7 Qe7±] **32.Rxc7 Rxc7 33.Rd7 Rc8?+-** a blunder - Michael gets threats and a "winning" advantage [33...Rxd7 34.cxd7 Qd8=] **34.Qb7 Qf8?+-** 15.21 [34...Qxd7 35.Qxd7 Ra8 36.c7 e4 37.a4 f4+- 12.93] **35.Rc7??-+** now Michael errs, and gives Steve a "winning" advantage [35.Rxg7+! Qxg7 36.Qxc8 e4+- Michael would be up 2 P's] **35...Rd8??±** Steve should exchange R's; this gives Michael back chances with his passed P, and Michael gets a "clear" advantage [35...Rxc7 36.Qxc7 Qc5 37.g3 f4±] **36.Rd7?=-** inaccurate - Michael gives Steve drawing chances [36.g3 e4 37.Rf7 Qg8 38.b4 Rd1+ 39.Kg2 Rd2±] **36...Re8?!±** Michael gets back a "slight" advantage [36...Rxd7 37.Qxd7 Qc5 38.g3 Qc1+ 39.Kg2 Qxb2 40.c7 Qb7+ 41.f3 Qb2+ 42.Kf1 (42.Kh3?? Qe2 43.c8Q Qf1+ 44.Kh4 g5+ 45.Kh5 Qh3#) 42...Qc1+ 43.Kg2 Qc2+=] **37.c7 Rc8?+-** 3.19 Michael gets a "winning" advantage [37...e4 38.Kf1 f4 39.c8Q Rxc8 40.Rxg7+ Qxg7 41.Qxc8 Qxb2 42.Qc7+ Kh8 43.Qd8+ Kh7 44.Qe7+ Kh8 45.Qf8+ Kh7 46.Qf7+ Kh8 47.Qe8+ Kh7 48.Qxe4 Qa1+ 49.Ke2 Qb2+ 50.Kf3 Qxa3+ 51.Kxf4 Qd6+ 52.Qe5 g5+ 53.Ke4 Qc6+ 54.Qd5 Qa4+ 55.Ke3 Qf4+ 56.Ke2 Qxh2±] **38.Qb6** [38.Qd5 e4 39.h3 e3 40.Kf1 Qf6+-] **38...Qe8** 3.43 [38...Qg8 39.b3 Qf8 40.b4 Qg8+- 3.38] **39.Qd6** getting ready to penetrate the back rank **39...Ra8?+-** 6.50 [39...Qg8 40.h3 Qc4 41.g3 Qc1+ 42.Kg2 Qc4 43.Qf6 Rg8 44.Qxe5 f4+- 4.96] **40.Rd8 Qa4 41.Qd5+-** 4.88 Steve resigned. Coming is **41...h5 42.g3 Qc2 43.Qb7 e4 44.Rd7 Rc8** [44...e3 45.Rxg7+ Kh6 46.Rh7+ Kg5 47.Qf3 exf2+ 48.Qxf2 Qb1+ 49.Kg2 Qe4+ 50.Qf3 Qc2+ 51.Kg1 Qc1+ 52.Qf1 Qxf1+ 53.Kxf1 f4+- 8.22] **45.Qxc8 e3 46.fxe3 Qc1+ 47.Kf2 Qxb2+ 48.Kf3 Qb5+-** 5.66 **1-0**

In Rd. 8 on top board in the Championship Section, a terrific game took shape

between now master junior girl Yuanling Yuan (left front)



and the leader, provisional master Erwin Casareno.



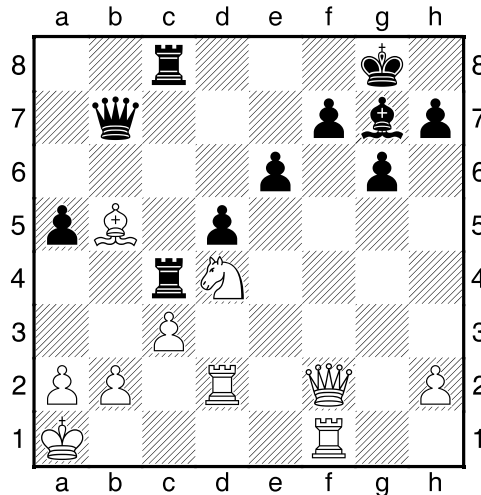
Yuanling sacked her B early for 2 P's. Then later she got into time trouble, but by then had B + 2 P's vs R. She then could had a draw by repetition (in time trouble), and refused to claim it and tried to win. She then went for a perpetual when Erwin was threatening mate on g7, and it wasn't there and she ran out of checks, and had to resign. Erwin maintained his grip on first place with the win. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Casareno, E (2371) – Yuan, Y (2202) [B76]

SCC Club Championship Toronto (8), 21.02.2008

1.e4 c5± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted **2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6** Dragon Sicilian **6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.g4** Erwin plays an aggressive line [9.Be2 Bd7 10.0-0 Ne5 11.a4 a6±; 9.0-0 Qa5 10.Kb1 Bd7±] **9...Bxg4?!±** a speculative sac (one assumes it is home preparation). Erwin gets a " clear " advantage [9...Nd7 10.h4 Nde5 11.Be2 Na5 12.0-0 Bd7 13.b3 Nac6±] **10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.fxg4 Nxg4** Erwin is up B vs 2 P **12.Bc4 Nxe3 13.Qxe3**

d5 14.exd5 cxd5 15.0-0-0 e6 16.Bb3 Qh4 17.Qf3 Rac8 18.Kb1?!± [18.Ne2 Rb8 19.Kb1 Rb6 20.c3 Rfb8 21.Rhf1 Qe7±] **18...Qb4?!±** [18...Bxc3 19.bxc3 Qe7 20.Ka1 a5±] **19.Ne2 a5 20.c3 Qb6 21.Rhf1 Rb8 22.Rd2 Rb7 23.Nd4 Rc8 24.Ka1?±** an inaccuracy – this should lose the B. Yuanling gets a " clear " advantage [24.h3? h6 25.Rf2 a4 26.Bxa4 e5 27.Qxd5 exd4 28.cxd4 Rd8 29.Qc5 Rxd4 30.Qxb6 Rxb6=; 24.Qg4?! Ra8 25.Ba4 Rab8 26.Nb3 Rc8 27.Qf3 (27.Rxd5?? f5 28.Qf3 exd5 29.Qxd5+ Kh8-+) 27...f5±; 24.Qd3 Ra8 25.Ba4 Rc8 26.Ka1 Rbc7 27.h3 Kh8 28.Qg3 Rb7±] **24...Rbc7?±** Yuanling misses the win of the B and gives Erwin back a " clear " advantage [24...a4 25.Bxa4 Bxd4 26.cxd4 Qb4 27.Qd1 Ra8 28.Bb3 Qxb3 29.Qxb3 Rxb3± Yuanling would be up a P] **25.Qf2** [25.a4 Bxd4 26.cxd4 Rb7 27.Ka2 Rcb8 28.Rd3 Qc7±] **25...Qb7** [25...Ra8 26.Ba4 Rb8 27.Nb5 Rcb7±] **26.Ba4?!±** [26.Qe2 Qb6 27.Nb5 a4 28.Nxc7 axb3 29.Nxd5 exd5 30.Qf3 Qa7±] **26...Rc4 27.Bb5**



Rxd4! Yuanling exchanges the R for 2 minor pieces, and allows the check on f7 **28.Rxd4?!=** Erwin captures with the wrong piece; [28.cxd4 Qxb5 29.Qxf7+ Kh8 30.Re1 Rb8±] **28...Qxb5 29.Qxf7+** Erwin is up the exchange, with Yuanling having a P compensation **29...Kh8 30.a4?!±** Yuanling gets the advantage [30.Qf2 Bxd4 31.cxd4 Qe8=] **30...Qe2?±** Erwin gets back the advantage [30...Qb3 31.Qa7 Rb8 32.Rf2 h6 33.Kb1 Rb7 34.Qa8+ Kh7±; 30...Qc6 31.Rfd1 Bxd4 32.Rxd4 Qe8 33.Qf6+ Kg8±] **31.Rdf4 Rb8 32.R4f2 Qc4 33.Qf4?!=** [33.Qd7 h5 34.h4 Qxh4 35.Rf7 Rd8 36.Qxe6 Qxa4+ 37.Kb1 Qe4+ 38.Qxe4 dxe4±] **33...Qb3 34.Qd6** at this point Erwin had only 3 min. left, and Yuanling had 4 min. **34...Qxa4+** Yuanling now has 2 P compensation for being down the exchange. **35.Kb1 35...Qe4+** a draw by repetition may be possible [35...Re8 36.Rf8+ Bxf8 37.Rxf8+ Kg7 38.Rf4 d4 39.Qc7+ Kh8 40.cxd4 Qb3=; 35...Qe8? 36.Rf7 g5+–] **36.Ka2 Qa4+ 37.Kb1 Qe4+ 38.Ka2 Qa4+ 39.Kb1** three-fold repetition (not claimed by Yuanling nor Erwin) **39...Qe8?+–** Yuanling refuses the draw, and wrongly plays for a win, despite being in time pressure. She puts the wrong piece on e8. Erwin gets back a " winning " advantage [39...Re8 40.Rf8+ Bxf8 41.Rxf8+ Kg7 42.Rf4 d4=] **40.Rf6?±** Erwin wrongly sacs the exchange for an attack and to blunt the powerful g7B. Yuanling gets back the advantage [40.Rf7 g5 (40...Bxc3 41.Rf8+ Kg7 42.Rxe8 Rxb2+ 43.Kc1+– and W mates in 9 moves) 41.R1f2 g4 42.Re7 Qg6+ 43.Ka2 Rg8+– Yuanling has 2 P's compensation for being down the exchange] **40...Bxf6 41.Rxf6** Yuanling is now up 2 P's **41...Rd8?!=** Yuanling loses her advantage [41...e5 42.Re6 Qb5 43.Qxe5+ Kg8 44.Qe2 Qxe2 45.Rxe2 Kf7±] **42.Qe5 Kg8 43.Rxe6** Yuanling is up 1 P **43...Qf7 44.Rf6** [44.Ka2 Qf5 45.Re8+ Rxe8 46.Qxe8+ Kg7=] **44...Qe8** [44...Qd7 45.Ra6 Re8 46.Qd4 Re4 47.Qf2 a4=] **45.Re6 Qf7 46.Re7?!±** [46.Ka2 d4 47.Ka3 dxc3 48.Re7 Qf8 49.Qe6+ Kh8

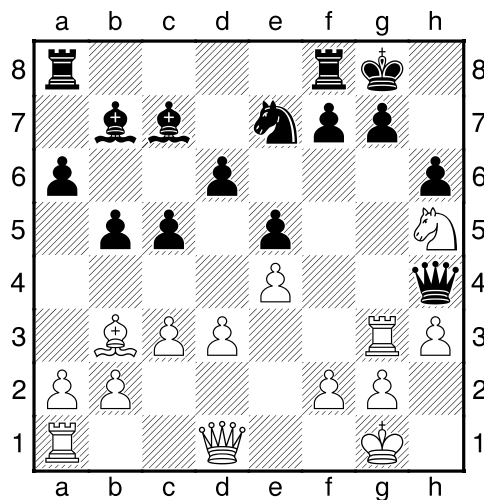
50.Qe5+ Kg8 51.Ka2 a4 52.Qe6+ Kh8 53.Qe5+ Kg8=] **46...Qf1+?±** with little time left, Yuanling errs and Erwin gets a " clear " advantage [46...Qf5+ 47.Qxf5 gxf5±] **47.Kc2?±** being in time pressure as well, Erwin rushes and errs, and gives Yuanling back drawing chances. [47.Ka2 Qf8 48.Qc7 Re8 49.Rxh7 a4±] **47...Qf2+?!±** [47...Qf5+ 48.Qxf5 gxf5=] **48.Kb1?±** Yuanling gets back the advantage in the time scramble – she is still up a P [48.Kb3 Qf8 49.Rb7 a4+ 50.Kxa4 Rd6±] **48...Qf1+?±** the game losing move – rather than exchanging Q's by a check on f5, Yuanling goes for a perpetual, but it is not there. Erwin gets a " clear " advantage [48...Qf5+ 49.Qxf5 gxf5±] **49.Ka2 Qc4+??+–** the last check; this allows mate in 8 moves [49...Qf8 50.Qc7 Re8 51.Rxh7 Rc8 52.Qd7 Rd8 53.Qh3 Qf4±] **50.b3+–** with one second left on her clock, Yuanling resigned. It is mate **50...Qe2+ 51.Qxe2 Rf8 52.Qe6+ Kh8 53.Qe5+ Rf6 54.Qxf6+ Kg8 55.Qg7# 1-0**

In Rd. 8 on the top board in the Reserves, junior Kevin Wu, then leading, sacrificed an N for an attack. But it was unsound, but Ken Kurkowski failed to find the defence in the tactical complications, and Kevin mated Ken, leaving him alone in first place by a whole point. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Wu, K (1787) – Kurkowski, K (1644) [C78]

SCC Club Championship (Reserves) Toronto (8), 21.02.2008

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted [2...Nf6=] **3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bb7 7.d3 Bc5 8.c3 d6 9.h3?!=** [9.Be3?! 0-0 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Bxe3 12.fxe3 Na5=; 9.Nh4?! 0-0 10.Qf3 Na5 11.Nf5 Nxb3 12.axb3 Bc8 13.Bg5 Bxf5 14.exf5 h6 15.Bh4 Bb6=; 9.a4 Qd7 10.Bg5 b4 11.a5 0-0 12.Bxf6 gxf6±] **9...0-0 10.Nbd2** [10.Bg5 Re8 11.Nbd2 Rb8=] **10...Bb6** [10...Rb8 11.Re1 Qe7=] **11.Re1 Na5 12.Bc2 c5 13.Nf1 Nc6?±** Kevin gets a " clear " advantage [13...Re8 14.Bg5 c4 15.N1d2 cxd3 16.Bxd3 d5=] **14.Bg5 h6** [14...b4 15.Rc1 bxc3 16.bxc3 h6 17.Bh4 g5 18.Bg3 c4±] **15.Bxf6?±** Kevin loses his advantage [15.Bh4 b4 16.Rc1 Rb8 17.Ne3 Ba5±] **15...Qxf6 16.Ng3 Ne7 17.Bb3 Bc7 18.Nh5?!±** this plan to harass the Q is inferior. For the first time in the game, Ken gets the advantage [18.Nh2 Bc8 19.Ng4 Qf4 20.Nh5 Qg5 21.Ng3 Rb8=] **18...Qg6 19.Nh4** [19.Ng3 Rfe8 20.Qe2 d5 21.exd5 Nxd5±] **19...Qg5 20.Re3??+–** Kevin wrongly sacs his N for an attack. Ken gets a " winning " advantage [20.Qg4 Qxg4 21.hxg4 Rfd8±] **20...Qxh4** Ken goes up a B **21.Rg3**



Ng6??+- Ken blunders in his defence, and gives away his N. Kevin now gets the " winning " advantage [21...g6 22.Qf3 c4 23.Nf6+ Kg7 24.Nh5+ Kh8 25.Rg4 Qxh5 26.Qf6+ Kg8 27.Qxe7 cxb3 28.Qxc7 Bc8 29.Rg3 bxa2 30.Qxd6 Be6 31.f4 Rfd8 32.Qxe5 Qxe5 33.fxe5 b4+- Ken would be up B vs P] **22.Rxg6** material equality **22...c4 23.Rxg7+** Kevin goes up a P **23...Kh8 24.Qf3 Bc8?+-** 10.48 [24...f5 25.Rxc7 fxe4 26.Qg3 Qxg3 27.Nxg3 exd3 28.Rxb7 cxb3 29.axb3 d5+- 4.22] **25.g3?+-** 5.11 there is a mate here (who could find it? ...except a computer) [25.Rxf7 Rxf7 26.Qxf7 Qg5 27.Qf8+ Kh7 28.Nf6+ Kg6 29.Ne8 Be6 30.Qg7+ Kh5 31.Bd1+ Kh4 32.Qf8 Bf7 (32...Bb6 33.Kh2 Qxg2+ 34.Kxg2 Bxh3+ 35.Kh2 Be3 36.fxe3 Bg4 37.Qxh6+ Bh5 38.Qxh5#) 33.Kh2 (33.Qxf7 Bb6 34.Kh2 cxd3 35.g3+ Qxg3+ 36.fxg3+ Kg5 37.Qh5#) 33...Qf6 34.Nxf6 Kg5 35.Qg7+ Bg6 36.Nh7+ Kh4 37.Qe7#] **25...Qxh3??+-** material equality, but this leads to mate [25...Qxh5 26.Qxh5 Kxg7 27.dxc4 Rb8+- 4.70 Kevin would be up Q + 2 P's vs R + B] **26.Qf6 Qe6** stops the mate on h6....but it doesn't stop the other mate **27.Rh7+!** Kevins sacs his R for the mate on g7 **1-0**

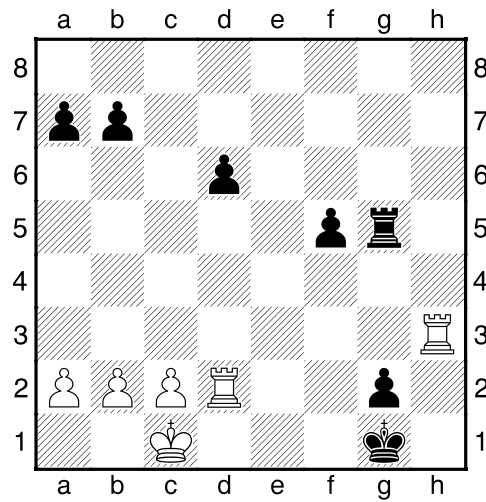
Also in Rd. 8 in the Reserves, junior Aaron Wu, tied for second with his opponent, Oscar Villalobos, first sacked his B for 2 P's (unsoundly). Then Oscar went up R vs 2 P's. But Aaron played excellently, bringing his King over to assist his K-side pawns, which were passed and advancing. Aaron had achieved a draw, when at the last moment he blundered into a 2-move mate and lost. This left Oscar in a tie for # 2/3 , a point behind Kevin Wu in the lead. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Villalobos, O (1934) – Wu, A (1724) [B08]

SCC Club Championship (Reserves) Toronto (8), 21.02.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6± 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 Pirc Defence **5.Bf4 Nbd7** [5...0-0?! 6.Qd2 d5 7.exd5 Bf5 8.Bc4 Nbd7±; 5...Nc6 6.d5 e5 7.Bg5 Ne7 8.h3 0-0±] **6.Qd2** [6.e5 Nh5 7.Bg5 dxe5 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.0-0-0+ Bd7±] **6...c5 7.Bh6 Bxh6 8.Qxh6 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Ne5 10.f3** [10.0-0-0 Bd7 11.h3 Qa5±; 10.h3 Qa5±] **10...Qb6?!±** Oscar gets a " clear " advantage [10...Bd7 11.g4 b5 12.0-0-0 b4 13.Nce2 Qa5±] **11.0-0-0 Bd7 12.h4?!±** [12.g4 Bc6 13.Be2 Qc5 14.Rhf1 0-0-0±] **12...Rg8?!±** [12...0-0-0 13.g4 Be6 14.h5 Rhf8±] **13.g4 Bxg4?!+-** Aaron wrongly sacs his B for 2 P's. Oscar gets a " winning " advantage [13...Bc6 14.Qd2 Qc5 15.g5 Nh5±] **14.fxg4 Nexg4** Oscar is up B vs 2 P's **15.Qd2 0-0-0?+-** 5.45 [15...e5 16.Nf3 Nf2 17.Na4 Qc6 18.Qxf2 Nxe4 19.Qg2 Qxa4+- 2.64] **16.Bh3?+-** 1.99 [16.Na4 Qc7 17.Nb5 Qb8 18.Qc3+ Kd7+- 5.45] **16...h5 17.Rhf1 Kb8 18.Bxg4 hxc4 19.Nd5 Nxd5 20.exd5 f5 21.Qg5 Qa5 22.Kb1 Qxd5** Aaron has 3 P's for the N **23.Nxf5 gxf5 24.Rxd5 Rxc5 25.hxc5** Oscar is now up R vs 2 P's **25...e6 26.Rd2 Kc7 27.Rh2 Rg8 28.Rh7+ Kc6 29.Rh6 Kd5 30.Rd1+?!±** [30.c4+] **30...Ke5 31.Re1+ Kf4 32.Rhxe6 Rxg5?!+-** 2.36 [32...g3? 33.Rxd6 g2 34.Rd3 Rxg5 35.Rg1 Rg3 36.Rd2 Kf3 37.Kc1 b5 38.Kd1 Rg6 39.c3 a5+- 4.07; 32...Kxg5 33.Kc1 f4 34.Rxd6 g3 35.Rg1 Kf5 36.Kd2 b5+- 2.05] **33.Rf1+ Kg3 34.Re3+?!±** [34.Rf6 Kh3 35.Rf4 g3 36.Rh6+ Kg2 37.Kc1 Kg1 38.Kd1 Rg7 39.Rxf5 g2 40.Ke2 Rc7 41.Kf3 Rxc2 (41...Kf1 42.Kg3+ Ke1 43.Kxg2 Rxc2+ 44.Kg3 Kd2+- 5.06) 42.Rd5 Rf2+ 43.Kg3 Kf1 44.Rd1+ Ke2 45.Rhxd6 Rf5 46.R1d2+ Ke3 47.R6d3+ Ke4 48.Rd4+ Ke3 49.Kxg2 b6+- 4.83] **34...Kg2 35.Rd1 Kf2 36.Red3 g3 37.R1d2+ Kg1 38.Kc1?!±** Oscar is losing his advantage [38.Rxd6 g2 39.c4 f4 40.Rf6 Rg4 41.Kc2 Kh2 42.Kd3 Kh3 43.Rd1 Kh2 (43...g1Q?! 44.Rxg1 Rxg1 45.Rh6+ Kg2 46.Rg6+ Kf1 47.Rxg1+ Kxg1 48.Ke4 Kf2 49.Kxf4 Ke2 50.Ke4 Kd2 51.Kd4 a5+- 7.85) 44.Rf7 g1Q 45.Rxg1 Kxg1 46.Ke4 f3+ 47.Kxf3 Rxc4 48.Rxb7 a6 49.a3 Kf1±] **38...g2 39.Rh3?!=** Oscar has lost his advantage [39.a3?! Rh5 40.Rg3 Rh2 41.Rdd3 Rh7 42.Rdf3 Rh5 43.Rg7 Kh1 44.Rfg3 Rh2=; 39.Rf3 Rh5 40.Rg3 Rh2 41.Rdd3 Rh5 42.Rg8 f4 43.Rg4 Kh2 44.Rf3 g1Q+ 45.Rxg1 Kxg1 46.Rxf4 b6±]

Position after 39.Rh3?!



39...Kf1??+- after playing excellently, marshalling his pawns down a R, Aaron blunders and gives away his draw. [39...f4 40.Rf3 Kh1 41.Rxg2 Kxg2 42.Rxf4 b5=] **40.Kd1 Kg1??+-** this leads to mate [40...f4+-] **41.Ke2+- 1-0**

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An Impressive Trio !



A - Members/ non-members may contact Bob Armstrong, ed. , directly, at bobarm@sympatico.ca or through SCC e-mail, to :

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