



# The PENNSWOODPUSHER



August 2006

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## Greater Philadelphia Chess League

by **Leteef Street**

Ever since I became active in organized chess when I was 11 years old, I have played in chess leagues. I played in the city scholastic chess league with J. R. Masterman School when I was in middle school and continued with Central High School. When I went away to college I played in the D.C. Chess League with the University of Maryland, College Park. I have always enjoyed the chess league experience which included an arena to play and compete on a regular basis with friends and schoolmates. Upon returning to Philly as an adult, I missed that experience. I pitched the idea of a Philadelphia area league to the rest of the Board of Directors of the MasterMinds in the summer of 2005 and with their help and the cooperation of other local clubs, schools and coordinators we were able to start the Greater Philadelphia Chess League.

We were able to have two sections this season, a section for teams with an average rating Under 1600 and a Scholastic section for children in grades K to 12. (We were unsuccessful in offering an Under 2200 section, as there were not enough teams interested in registering) Getting the league started was not without its challenges. The first scheduled meet saw a format change for the Scholastic section, due to teams not having "exact teams of four" and the Under 1600 section had a little roster shuffling and make-up games, but in the end the league ran fairly smoothly. The matches were competitive, the children won a lot of prizes and everyone seemed to have a good time. Games were held on four dates: 12/4/2005, 1/22/2006, 2/26/2006 and 3/19/2006.

The Under 1600 section played a double round robin among the four participating teams: MasterMinds Chess Club, Temple University, Huntington Valley Chess Society Juniors (HVCSJ) and the J. R. Masterman School. Two matches were played during each of the December, January and March dates. Entering that final day, J. R. Masterman School and the MasterMinds Chess Club were tied with two won matches and two drawn matches, with Masterman leading by just a half point on total game points. In the last round it was a victory by Masterman over Temple coupled with a HVCSJ upset of MasterMinds that sealed the team title for Masterman.

David Moolten of MasterMinds scored 4 points in the 4 matches that he played to win the MVP award for the Under 1600 section. Joe Mucerino scored 3½ in 4 matches for HVCSJ and joined Shinan Jin of Masterman, Daniel Bell of MasterMinds and Chris Miller of Temple, all tying for 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 3½.

The Scholastic section played four-round swiss tournaments on each of the four game days, with team scores for each date being determined by the top 4 scorers that day. The Scholastic section offered individual prizes and allowed teams to join the league at any point. Over the entire league season the participating teams included: MasterMinds Chess Club, HVCSJ, Blair Bishops Chess Club, Germantown Friends (teaming up with The Philadelphia School on the last date), Shaw Middle School, Fulton Knights Chess Club and Torah Academy. The team prize was won by MasterMinds with 48½ points. Blair Bishops Chess Club finished second with 34 points.

Shira Moolten of MasterMinds won the MVP award for the Scholastic section scoring 13½ points in 16 league rounds played. It was a Moolten family sweep of league MVP awards as that was her father

winning the Under 1600 section award! Alejandro Budejen-Jerez of MasterMinds took the Under 800 prize scoring with 11 points. Raven Wake of the Blair Bishops won the Under 600 prize with 10 and Sabrina Ruchelli, a new tournament player from Germantown Friends, captured the Under 400 prize with 8.

Two outstanding young scholastic players played so well for their teams that they were actually "promoted" to play with the adults. David Lakata of HVCSJ won the December scholastic tournament with a perfect 4-0 score and then played with HVCSJ in the Under 1600 section for the rest of the league. Odette Moolten of MasterMinds won the second and third scholastic tournaments netting 11 points in 12 games in the scholastic section before moving up to play with the adults from MasterMinds for the March games.

I would like to thank everyone who participated and supported the chess league this year and we hope in the future to include more clubs and schools with a possibly expanded season.

(Reprinted from the *MasterMinds Chess Club Spring 2006 Newsletter*. For more information on the MasterMinds Chess Club visit their website at <http://www.mastermindschess.org/>)

## 2005-06 Mason Dixon Chess League Champions

by **Vince Kowalski**

Much like a wedding tradition, this year's League Championship match featured "something old and something new". The "something old" was the return of the defending champs, Bermudian Springs, for the second year in a row. Despite losing three seniors to graduation, Bermudian was able to survive long-time nemesis Gettysburg and a hard-charging Waynesboro team to reclaim the North crown. The "something new" is Handley, making its first appearance in the Championship match since 1996. Handley fought off a tough James Wood squad to win a very competitive race in the South.

### Final Standings

<u>North</u>		<u>South</u>	
1. Bermudian	8-1-1	1. Handley	5-1-0
2. Gettysburg	7-2-1	2. James Wood	4-2-0
3. Waynesboro	7-3-0	3. Sherando	3-3-0
4. Biglerville	4-6-0	4. Jefferson	0-6-0
5. New Oxford	3-7-0		
6. CVCS	0-10-0		

Handley made the long trip to York Springs on Wednesday, March 8th to take on Bermudian Springs. In a very tight and competitive match, Handley defeated the Eagles of Bermudian 3½-1½ to earn their first League Championship. Congratulations to Bermudian Springs for winning the Northern Division and to Jason Herron and his Handley team for their terrific season - winning the Southern Division and then taking the League Championship in a tough match:

<u>Bermudian</u>	<u>1½</u>	<u>Handley</u>	<u>3½</u>
Cory M. Ruck	1	Blair Simpson	0
Andrew Pritt	½	William Profit	½
Derrick Kuhn	0	Daniel Carlton	1
Brad Smith	0	Jack Himelright	1
Tom Cashman	0	Danny Cruz	1

## A Visit to Somerset

by Ronald D. Barber

On Saturday, March 11, 2006, Pittsburgh Chess Club members Bruce Leverett, Bill Hoppmann and I, along with former Pittsburgh Chess Club member Belford Boles, went to Pennsylvania's medium-security prison at Somerset to play chess. Unlike the now-defunct maximum-security state prison in Pittsburgh, the Somerset facility is fairly modern. It was built in the 1980s and, if it were not for the ever-present razor wire, guards and cameras, it would have all of the appearance of a small college campus.

As a lawyer, I've been in prisons and jails before, but usually legal visits last only an hour or so. This time, we were inside the walls for over seven hours. It was, to say the least, an intense experience, but one I heartily recommend to anyone who can join us in this program.

We started the day with a sobering "security briefing" provided by our escort, Peter Malich, a "Correctional Activities Specialist". The gist of the briefing was "we will stay together at all times; you will not be out of my sight; if there is a disturbance of any kind, try to remain calm, and we will do our best to get you to a safe location as quickly as possible; you will be introduced as Mr. Leverett, Mr. Hoppman, Mr. Boles and Mr. Barber; do not talk about anything except chess; do not give anything to or accept anything from anyone; and do not discuss any personal information." We were indeed within sight of Mr. Malich every moment until we left the prison, with exactly two exceptions. On those two occasions, he locked us into an office so he could get or put away the chess equipment. We were told that we were on camera at all times. In a way, we were like chess pieces: every time we moved, our guide had to pick up a phone and tell some faceless watcher where we were moving from and where we were moving to.

Malich was unwaveringly strict when it came to observing protocol. But throughout the course of the long day we came to know him as a convivial companion. He has previously lived and worked in Pittsburgh, played football in school, and as a reservist has been called to active duty "in the desert" several times since 9/11. He and his supervisor, Kirk Lent, spoke very earnestly about the high value to them of outside visits like ours. Both gentlemen went out of their way to make us feel welcome, if not, precisely, "at home".

Our little group proceeded through security at about 8:15am, and we finally met the 26 members of the inmate chess club in a classroom at 9am. Bruce began the day with a lecture - he went over his recent Pittsburgh Chess League game against Pittsburgh Chess Club co-champion Franklin Chen, and then answered questions. For the remainder of the morning, we played blitz - the civilians against the inmates. I scraped out two wins but lost the rest, probably a total of five or six losses. This was the first time I had ever played blitz chess, and I quickly realized that it is often more important simply to move than to move well. Bruce won all of his games.

We had lunch in the staff lunch room and then went back to the classroom for two hours during which we played as many G/30 games against inmate players as we could. Bruce again won both of his games. I won one and lost one. Finally, at about 3pm, we had a few minutes to socialize with the inmates before we headed back to be (rather carefully) "released from prison".

The second-best part of the day, for me, was seeing how much the inmates appreciated our visit. The best part of it (something that strikes me every time I walk out of such a facility) was being able to walk

out. It is like being awakened by a bucket of Gatorade, to be reminded how precious freedom is.

The inmates and the staff practically begged us to come back. We're all checking our calendars and expect to be going back in a short time. The "SCI Somerset 'Paladins'" are a USCF affiliate, and Bruce Leverett, who organized this project for the Pittsburgh Chess Club, has urged them to be ready for rated competition next time. In addition, we would like to bring more members on future trips. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Bruce Leverett. Those who choose to participate will need to provide some basic information to Mr. Malich in order to receive advanced clearance.

We also discussed sending some of the book and magazine discards from our library to Malich. Both he and the inmates with whom I spoke made clear that these kinds of materials would be greatly prized by them.

(Reprinted from *En Passant* Vol. 62 No. 1. For more information on the Pittsburgh Chess Club visit their website at <http://www.pittsburghcc.org/>)

## The Same Story from a Different View

by Cory C. Bryant

On March 11, 2006, members of the Pittsburgh Chess Club/League visited the State Correctional Institution at Somerset in Pennsylvania for a day of chess.

The SCI-Somerset's Paladins chess club was started in 2003 as a way for inmates to learn more about chess in an ideal setting with the best available equipment (i.e. Instructional DVD's, Videos and a large library of the latest books). Since its conception, club membership has been steadily increasing, as chess has always been widely popular in prison. The formation of this club has given players an avenue to learn more about chess, while conforming to the goals of the Department of Corrections activities policies.

The Pittsburgh delegation was headed by Master Bruce Leverett, who gave a brief lecture on a recent game he played, and then proceeded to crush the Paladins at blitz and also myself in two rapid (G/30) games. Mr. Leverett was very generous with his time and answered many questions ranging from chess games to chess players. The rest of the delegation included Ron Barber, Bill Hoppmann, and Belford Boles, all members or former members of the Pittsburgh Chess Club and members of the Pittsburgh Chess League, who were equally social and helpful.

The Paladin's club director Peter M. Malich (who is Yugoslavian, "it's in his blood") said that he would work on having more such meetings. The Paladins have since been increasing their training efforts in preparation for a future meet. One member stated, "I will win the next placement tournament and also win cleanly on the top board!" Others have also stated that they couldn't wait till the next meet and asked for more instruction to help them improve.

The whole experience to me seemed like a dream; I have been so engrossed with correspondence chess, that I totally forgot how great "OTB" can be. These were my first games with a Master and I shall remember them forever.

**November 18 & 19**

**2006 Pennsylvania State Senior Championship**

## PA TODAY

Tournament and Club News from around the Keystone State  
by Joe Mucerino, Roving Reporter  
patzerpounder@hotmail.com

### Harrisburg West Shore CC Quick Chess Champ

**LEMOYNE, 4/10/2006** - By tradition, after the Harrisburg West Shore Chess Club Championship is the club's quick (Game/10) championship. Many of the club's stronger players passed up on this event (not yours truly, of course), and only ten players took part. Eric Brandt joined the club and was number two on the wallchart, right behind your author. Sunny Guest upset Nate Carabello in round one, and followed up by defeating Donald Machusak in the second round. That was not the only surprise: Tamara Corey held me to a draw for the first time ever in a bishop of opposite color ending in the second frame. In round three, Guest was stopped by Brandt, who became the only player with a perfect score. Corey and I beat Michael Liebner, Sr., and Carabello respectively. In round four's Brandt-Mucerino game, White, down a pawn but with drawing chances, blundered a bishop in time pressure. Corey was surprisingly defeated by Sam Lamonto, who picked up his third game in a row. Liebner rebounded against Carabello. In the final round, Mucerino checkmated Lamonto to defend the title he won a year ago (with Chris Pumarejo). Corey-Brandt was drawn, giving Brandt a clear second place. Corey tied for third with three points with Liebner, Lamonto, and Guest.

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### Beaumont Chess Tournament

**DEVON, 4/23/2006** - This was the second time this tournament was held, and I am sorry to say that attendance was down from last year. Two sections had to be combined. The adult section, with three entrants, and scholastic open, with six, were merged, although in the last two rounds, TD Ira Riddle decided to pair the leaders of each section with other players in that section as much as possible, to avoid distorting the results. A good decision.

The two adults in my section were both unrated, so I had no difficult opposition. It should be mentioned that the two scholastic players I faced, Kaniska Rao and Jesse Rong, gave me more trouble than the two adults I played. Rong played a very good game until dropping a piece. Ryan Leever of New Jersey won the scholastic open with a 4-0 score. Watch out for this young man! A quick look at his MSA Tournament History shows that his rating has been shooting up recently. In his prior tournament, he won the New Jersey State Fourth Grade Championship. He is well poised, and looks like he has a good future.

There was a scholastic U700 section, and that was claimed by Patrick Liu. Liu drew the tailender in the first round, and then won three straight to win the section. There was also an unrated section, which was the largest section with fourteen entrants (mostly students but a few adults too). The top finishers there were Steve Krause 4-0 and Marybeth Krause 3½-½.

I have noticed that unrated sections have grown in popularity in the last few years. The players, most of whom play strictly for fun and possibly do not have any great desire to improve themselves, do not have to join the USCF, and the organizers do not have to be certified tournament directors or pay rating fees. Perhaps an unrated section should be added to next year's State Scholastic Championship to try to tap into this market.

### Main Line CC G/10 Championship

**GLADWYNE, 4/18-25/2006** - Only eight days after the HWSCC Quick Chess Championship, the Main Line Chess Club had a G/10 championship tournament. This would be a six double round (you play each of your opponents twice, with both white and black) event held over two weeks. There were fifteen players in this event.

New Jersey's Vinko Rutar and myself were the defending co-champs, and were one and two, respectively on the wallchart. The only upset in the first round was Mukund Balaskandan's sweep of Ed Trice. I had a strategically lost position against Yi Ran Zhang, the twelfth strongest female player in Pennsylvania, in our first game where I was black, but I was able to exploit a pin and win. Zhang lost quickly in our second game. The top names began meeting in round two. Rutar scored 2-0 against Richard Pariseau, and I had the same score against TD Craig Klein. In the final game of the first week, the two defending champions met. Rutar-Mucerino was drawn, but then I played poorly in the second game and lost. This gave Rutar a one point lead over me, and, with all of the stronger players out of the way, winning the title should have been a formality.

Should have been. The club was slightly surprised when the following week, Rutar, who regularly attends, did not appear. With him out of the tournament, I became the leader. The first hurdle would be my biggest test of week two: Pariseau. I was white in the first game, and we played a steadily played draw. The second game also looked like a draw, but then Pariseau lost a piece and the game. That gave me a score of 6/8. Craig Klein defeated Trice twice to tie for the lead. Since we played the prior week, we could not be paired again, so I had to face New Jersey's Robert Colanzi, while Klein met Pariseau. I swept my match, and although Klein won the first game against Pariseau, Pariseau got his revenge in the second game (the crosstable says there were two draws, but there was one win a piece). I was now in clear first, and an easy sweep against David Sosenko gave me the title again, with a 10/12 score. Byes gave Rutar 7½ points and second place. Klein lost both of his final round games against Colanzi, but his 7 points were good enough for a clear third.

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### Pennsylvania State Amateur Championship

**WEST HAZLETON, 4/29-30/2006** - Perhaps due to \$3.00/gallon gas prices, attendance was down after last year's phenomenal debut. The scholastic section was done away with because last year most of the students decided to play in the main tournament. This year's edition had thirty-nine players, down from sixty last year when the scholastic section is included, but many students still participated.

One person who did not participate was last year's champion, Greg Nolan. Three of the five players who tied for second in 2005, Jim Joline, Richard Harry, and your author, were back. My nearly one hundred rating point advantage over the rest of the field probably made me the favorite.

Although I trapped Robert Brubaker's queen quickly, a few of the top players had some difficulty. Second-seed Michael Cox was held to a draw by Mark Weiner, and Joline also drew against Tommy Huynh. Darkhorse Tamara Corey lost to John Murray.

I had another easy game in round two, when tactics won a knight against Russell Palkendo. There were more surprises this round. Tough Joseph Gaiteri upset Eric Brandt in a wild game, and Guenter Kozin shocked David Parsons. Michael Kagel drew Jeff Hoskavich, and Murray split the point against Phil Rizzo, one of the players I feared



most. Rizzo took a ½-point bye in round three, which eliminated him from contention.

The top contenders for victory emerged in round three. The pairings on the top three boards were, in board order, Mucerino-Bennett Lynn, Keith Melbourne-Ronald Gross, and Harry-Gaiteri. Lynn came to my attention for the first time this year when he tied for second in the K-12 Open section at the State Scholastic Championship in Carlisle. I scouted him out in the first two rounds, and I was impressed with his play.

Here is the game:

### Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr. - Bennett M. Lynn

Pennsylvania State Amateur Championship, Rd 3, 4/29/2006

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Ne4 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.c3 d5 6.Nbd2 Nxd2 7.Qxd2 Nd7 8.Bh6 O-O 9.Bxg7 Kxg7 10.h4 Nf6 11.Ne5 Qd6? Fritz suggests 11...Ne4 12.Qe3 f6 13.Nd3.

#### 12.e3

Interesting is 12.h5 Nxh5 13.g4 Nf6 14.Qh6+ Kg8 15.g5 winning. Therefore, Black would have to attack my knight with 13...f6. In Fritz's shootout mode, White scored fifty percent (+2 -2 =1).

#### 12...h5

12...Ne4 is still better.

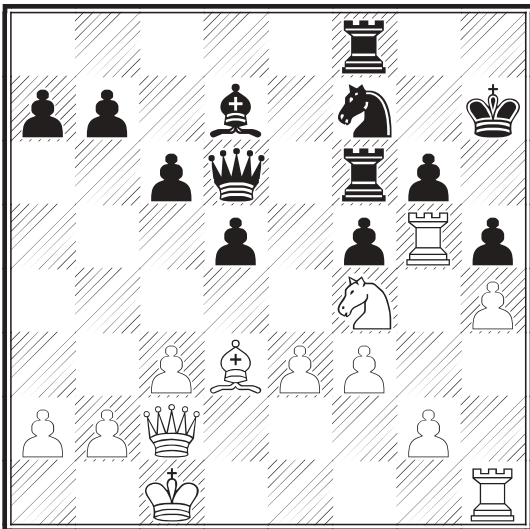
#### 13.f3

Now that Black has played ...h5, the knight cannot get to the g3 square, so I was able to play this to try to prepare g4.

13...Nd7 14.Nd3 f6 15.Nf4 c6 16.Bd3 f5 17.Rh3 e5 18.dxe5 Nxe5 19.Rg3 Kh7 20.Rg5 Rf6 21.O-O-O Bd7 22.Qc2 Rf8 23.Rh1

I was considering giving up the exchange with the complicated 24.g4, but I was not sure if I had the guts to do it.

#### 23...Nf7



#### 24.Rg3

I thought with first place on the line, the risk was too much, so I decided to draw. However, Fritz thought that 24.g4 was good for White. If Black captures the rook, he is lost. In shootout mode, White won all five games after 24...Nxc3, because the Black king becomes exposed.. However, after 24...Qe5, although Fritz gave White an advantage, White only scored thirty percent in shootout mode. So, perhaps a draw is a fair result. The game finished:

#### 24...Ne5 25.Rg5 Nf7 26.Rg3 ½:½

Gross came back from a losing position to beat Melbourne. Harry was slightly worse against Gaiteri, but gained a passed pawn which won the game. So, on Sunday, Gross-Harry would take place on board one. Lynn quickly defeated Rizzo on board three, and the two highest players met on board two:

### Michael K. Cox - Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

Pennsylvania State Amateur Championship, Rd 4, 4/30/2006

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

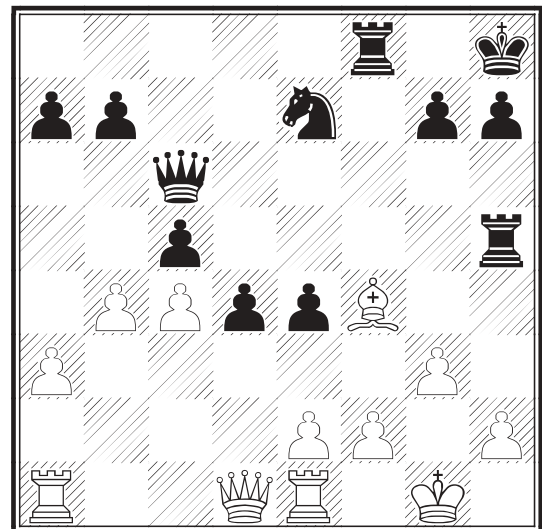
#### 1.g3

A slight surprise. Cox is normally opens with 1.e4. Could he be afraid of my Center Counter?

1...d5 2.Bg2 Nf6 3.Nf3 c5 4.O-O Nc6 5.d3 e5 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.c4 d4 8.a3 O-O 9.Re1 Bf5 10.Nh4 Bg4 11.Ne4 Nxe4 12.Bxe4 f5 13.Bd5+ Kh8 14.Kg2 Qd7 15.Bd2 Ne7 16.Bf3 Bxf3+ 17.Nxf3 e4 18.dxe4?!

White has to try 18.Ng5 h6 19.Nh3 Ng6 After the text, White will have to worry about threats down the f-file.

18...fxe4 19.Ng5 Qc6 20.Kg1 Rf5 21.Nh3 Rf8 22.b4 Rh5 23.Nf4? Bxf4 24.Bxf4



#### 24...Rxf4! 25.gxf4 Qg6+ 26.Kf1

White also gets mated after 26.Kh1 Qh6 27.h3 Rxf3+ 28.Kg2 Rh2+ 29.Kf1 Rh1+ 30.Kg2 Qh3#.

#### 26...Rxf4 27.e3 Qg2+ 28.Ke2 Qxf2# 0:1

On board one, Gross played the King's Gambit. He lost a piece in the middlegame, and I thought the game was over. But while I was pacing outside, Harry lost the piece back, although he had an extra passed pawn in the center in a double rook ending. They traded one pair of rooks, and, in time pressure, agreed to a draw, when making progress looked difficult.

Four players entered the final round with 3½ points. The games would be Mucerino-Gross and Harry-Lynn. While it appeared that Harry and Lynn were throwing light jabs, this was taking place on the top board:

### Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr. - Ronald S. Gross

Pennsylvania State Amateur Championship, Rd 5, 4/30/2006

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Nbd7 5.Bd3 g6 6.Nbd2 Bg7

**7.O-O O-O 8.Qe2 Re8 9.Ne5 Nxe5**

In our previous encounter nine days earlier, Gross continued 9...cxd4 10.exd4. I like the text better.

**10.dxe5 Nd7**

10...Ng4 is also playable.

**11.f4 a6 12.e4 Qb6**

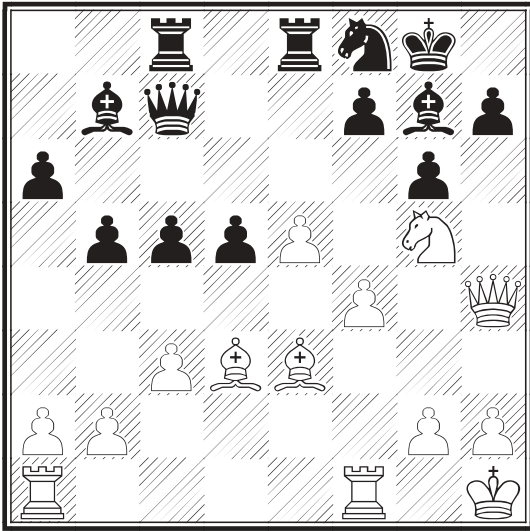
Threatening to win a piece with 13...c4+.

**13.Kh1 e6?!**

I did not like this move, because it blocks in the bishop. If Black wanted to fianchetto the bishop, then 12...Qb6 was a mistake which cost Black some time. Fritz suggests 13...dxe4.

**14.Nf3 Qc7 15.Be3 b5 16.Qf2 Bb7 17.exd5 exd5 18.Ng5 Rac8 19.Qh4 Nf8**

As soon as Gross played this, I thought the game would be a draw. How can I crack Black's position?

**20.f5!?**

Fritz had no comment about this move, so I guess it is okay.

**20...f6?**

Fritz gave this two question marks, but its idea is not much better: 20...Qxe5 21.fxg6 hxg6 22.Rxf7 Qxe3 23.Bxg6 Re7 and White is winning. I did not like 20...f6 because it weakens the support of the g6 pawn.

**21.exf6 Bxf6 22.fxg6 Bxg5 23.gxh7+ Nxh7 24.Bxg5 Nxe5 25.Qxg5+ Qg7 26.Rf5 Rc7??**

The final mistake. Black should trade queens.

**27.Qh5**

Threatening both the rook on e8 and a pin of the queen.

**27...Rce7 28.Rg5 Re1+ 29.Bf1 R8e5 30.Rxg7+ Kxg7 31.Qg4+ Kf7 32.Rxe1 Rxe1 33.Kg1 1:0**

If Black continues, then White can simply play 34.h4 etc.

I was ecstatic. Harry-Lynn looked like it may be a draw. If it was, I would get clear first. It looked like the game would take a while, so I paced around outside. Eventually, it came down to an ending where Harry had a bishop and Lynn had a knight and an extra pawn. Time was running short. Lynn had a bit more time. If Lynn won, I would probably win the first place trophy on tiebreaks. If Harry won, he would probably win on tiebreaks. Now I paced in the hallway. Then Tamara Corey told me the game was over. Lynn had won.

Indeed, I won the first place trophy on tiebreaks. As PSCF secretary,

I handed out the trophies. Lynn took second place, and Michael Polites took third. Pocono East Mountain High School was the top team.

**Harrisburg West Shore CC Championship**

**LEMOYNE, 1/30-5/1/2006** - The Harrisburg West Shore Chess Club Championship began about six weeks earlier than usual, so that the club could begin the new year with a new champion. Eighteen players, comprising most of the club membership, took part. The first round saw a huge upset, as defending co-champion Ed Chong went down to Michael Liebner. No upsets of note in round two, although I (the other co-champion) had a very difficult win against Ryan Cook. Things began to shake out in round three. Liebner pulled off another upset, this time against Jim Thiele, who, after Chong lost, I thought would be my main competition. I also won my third straight, against Tamara Corey. All of the other players rated 1600+ had two points after this round.

The fourth round Mucerino-Liebner game was postponed because Liebner had family concerns. Thiele won against Don Machusak, Chong beat Corey, and Cook defeated Nate Carabello, to give them all three points. Although the Mucerino-Liebner game could not be made up right away, TD Sam Lamonto paired round five so the tournament could continue. I drew against Chong in a game where I was at first better. Then I thought I was lost with a king and knight verses Chong's king and three pawns that were all over the board. Fritz thought the position was drawn, but we both had less than ten seconds with delay left, and I think I would have lost. Chong fell victim to the touch move rule, and dropped one of the pawns immediately, leaving me with an easy draw. Thiele won again, against Cook, and Liebner wanted to play his final round game against Locksley Young, before playing his fourth round game against me. Liebner won.

Liebner, in effect, was the leader with a perfect 4/4 score, with one game to play. Thiele had finished the event with 4/5, and Chong was also done with 3½ points. I was a half point behind Liebner. I would have to win in order to win the title for the third straight year.

Liebner had car problems that forced the game to be postponed again, but I did not mind. As long as we finished before next year's club championship began, I did not care when we played.

I thought it was an omen that the game was played on Monday, May 1. This would be my first game as PA State Amateur Champion. It took place about 26 hours after I won the title:

**Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr. - Michael A. Liebner, Sr.**

**Harrisburg West Shore CC Championship, Round 4, 5/1/2006**

*Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.*

**1.d4 c6 2.Nf3 g6 3.e4 Bg7 4.c3 Nf6 5.Bd3 d5 6.e5 Ne4 7.Qe2 f5**

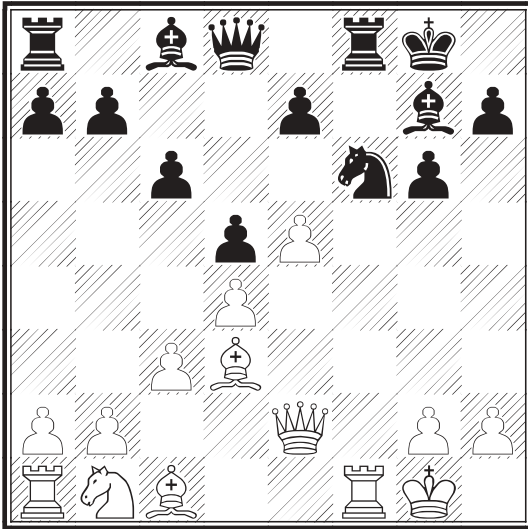
This is better than 7...Bf5 because White has 8.Nh4 and even if Black is willing to part with the bishop by playing 8...Qd7 then White can play 9.Nxf5 Qxf5 (9...gxf5 is playable but ugly.) 10.f3 winning the pinned knight.

**8.exf6 Nxf6 9.Ne5 O-O**

Aw! I was hoping for 9...Nbd7? 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Bxg6+ Kf8 12.Qe6 Ne5 13.Qxe5.

**10.O-O Nbd7 11.f4 Nxe5 12.fxe5**

This opens up the diagonal for the dark-squared bishop and gives Black a weak e-pawn. White's pawn chain and both bishops aim directly at Black's king. I hope that you didn't play 12.Qxe5?? Ne4 trapping the queen!

**12...Ng4 13.Bf4**

I wanted to keep the rooks on the board until I finished my development.

**13...Nh6 14.Nd2 Bf5 15.Nb3 b6?!**

Keeping the knight out of the very nice c5 square, but weakening the a6 square and the pawn on c6. Fritz recommends 15...Bxd3 16.Qxd3 Qc8.

**16.Ba6 Rb8?**

This costs Black an exchange. Fritz likes 16...Qd7. I thought, keeping in mind that Black only needs to draw to win the tournament, that 16...Bc8 was a good idea.

**17.e6 b5 18.Bxb8 Qxb8 19.h3 Qg3 20.Rf3 Qd6 21.Nc5 Rb8 22.a4 b4 23.Bd3**

Fritz recommends the developing 23.Raf1. I wanted to trade down while up material. (*The ancient maxim: When ahead material, trade pieces. When behind material, trade pawns. -editor*)

**23...bxc3 24.bxc3 Re8?**

Why Black took his rook off the open file, and placed it behind a pawn that was not being attacked and which completely blocks the rook's vertical movement, is beyond me.

**25.Raf1 Bxd3 26.Qxd3 Nf5 27.R1f2 Bh6 28.g3**

Fritz preferred 28.g4 but I wanted to play it safe and not make any unnecessary weaknesses.

**28...Qb8 29.Kg2 Ng7?**

This allows a shot...

**30.Qe2**

...that White misses. White can win immediately with 30.Nd7 Qa8 (or anywhere along the back rank to prevent mate) 31.Rf8+ Rxf8 32.Rxf8+ Qxf8 33.Nxf8 Kxf8 34.Qf1+ and White is easily winning.

**30...Nf5 31.Nd7 Qd6 32.Qe5**

Fritz played the shot 32.Rxf5! With time starting to run down, I could not quite make this work, and decided to play it safe.

**32...Qxe5 33.Nxe5 c5 34.Rb2 cxd4 35.cxd4 Nxd4 36.Rd3 Nxe6?!**

White's edge has been disappearing, but here Black missed the better 36...Bg7 37.Nd7 Nxe6 which should allow him to hang on to his d-pawn.

**37.Rxd5 Bg7 38.Re2**

White should go for the throat with 38.Rb7 I wanted to try to win a pawn with 39.Nxg6 and 40.Rxe6.

**38...Bf6 39.Ng4 Kf7 40.Ne5+**

At the last minute, I decided to change plans.

**40...Kg7 41.Nc6 Nc7?!**

41...Kf7 is better.

**42.Rd7 Na6 43.Rxa7 Nc5 44.Rc2 Nb3 45.Rb7 Nd4 46.Nxd4 Bxd4 47.Rcc7 Kf7 48.a5 Kf6 49.a6 h5 50.a7 Be5 51.Rb8 Bxc7 52.Rxe8 1:0**

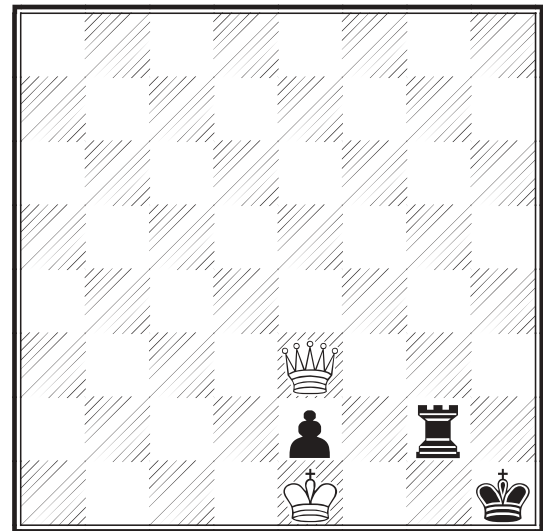
So, I was once again crowned the club champion.

### 5th Knights of Columbus Chess Tournament

**DUBOIS, 6/3/2006** - Once again players from all over came to DuBois to play in this free unrated event. The Knights of Columbus provided an all you can eat lunch, promotional chess pins for the kids, and program books. They believe that chess is a wholesome and educationally sound way for children and adults to spend their day. In addition, Owens-Illinois donated trophies. Attendance was down this year, perhaps due to the fact that it was impossible to schedule the tournament in March, and the date was pushed back to the first Saturday in June.

Yours truly and John Caliguire were the defending champions in the eight player adult section. I won what would be my most difficult game of the tournament against my fast-improving friend Ryan Miller. Caliguire defeated Jason Smith, while junior Mark Ignaczak stepped up and defeated Richard Latta. Steve Hudson held Tom Shade to a draw in an interesting king, rook, and passed pawn on the seventh rank verses king and queen ending. Here's the position where the game was drawn:

#### **Thomas E. Shade - Steven J. Hudson**



What would you do? I would do what the players did and offer a draw! What does Fritz think? Fritz thought White was up seven pawns. Using shootout, it played 1.Qh6+ Rh2 2.Qc6+ Rg2 3.Qe4 Kg1 4.Qh4 Rh2 5.Qd4+ Kh1 6.Kd2 Rg2 7.Qh4+ Rh2 8.Qe1+ and announced mate in 34! Being curious, I tried the move 1...Kg1 instead of 1...Rh2. This turned out to be worse, because while after 1...Rh2, Black drew one game out of five in shootout mode, all were lost with 1...Kg1. After 1...Kg1, Fritz played 2.Qh5 Rh2 3.Qc5+ Kh1 4.Kd2 Rg2 5.Qd4 Rh2 6.Qa1+ e1=Q+ 7.Kxe1. If your name is Fritz, then king and queen verses king and rook is an easily won ending. If your name is Joe Mucerino, then it's not.



In round two, last year's co-champs met, and your author won after Caliguire made a horrible blunder. Smith had a wild sacrificial attack against Miller, but Miller survived and won the game a knight up. Hudson beat Latta, and Ignaczak gave a second adult a lesson when he beat Shade. However, his reward was to meet me in the next round, and my experience prevailed. Caliguire-Shade came down to king verses king, Miller-Hudson was also drawn, and Smith beat Latta. In the final round, Hudson missed a costly check against me, Caliguire beat Ignaczak, Miller defeated Latta, and Smith checkmated Shade. That made me the winner for the third year running. On tiebreaks, Caliguire was second and Miller third. Ignaczak took the fourth place trophy on tiebreak.

The ten player teen junior/senior high school section was dominated by kids from Brockway. Mitch Veltri was the big winner, followed by Nathan Buganza in second. Emma Lisak of Punxsutawney, the only non-Brockway winner, was third. Fourth was Crystal Crusley, and tying for fifth were Amber Manning and Ryan Shaffer.

In the six player elementary/youth division, Brockway again found a winner in Jared Rogos. Daniel Blackmore of Kane finished in second place. Tim Rutledge took third place in his hometown, followed by Jay Lisak of Punxsutawney in fourth and Anthony DePello of Brockway in fifth.

### Philadelphia Delaware Valley Grand Prix

**PHILADELPHIA, 6/10/2006** - Steve McLaughlin used the First Charter School on Tacony Street (very close to I95) for the second time in what was the first of two tournaments in Philly over this weekend. In the Open, the tournament director's son, Steve McLaughlin, Jr., was leading the whole way, but lost in the final round to Tony Leong. Those two tied for first place along with Dan Worthington with three points. No such problem for Michael Pergeorelis who swept the U1100 section 4-0. This score was matched by James Sistrunk III in the K-6 U750 section. There was a very small K-3 U500 section, but Luke Sang won a full point ahead of the field. Only four people showed up for the octo, which last time boasted three masters. It was not the first time (nor probably the last) that your author and Leteef Street tied for first place. We both scored 2½/3.

### MasterMinds Quads

**PHILADELPHIA, 6/11/2006** - If the Delaware Valley Grand Prix was not enough to satisfy your appetite for chess, and, if you did not want to watch the Philadelphia International Championship bicycle race on the same day, then this event should satisfy your cravings. There were four full quads this month (which is believed to be a record turnout). Each quad had a clear winner. In quad order, they were: your roving reporter, Quentin Guy, Daniel Bell, and Dan Worthington. Your author took home fifty dollars, but the other winners all pocketed an extra ten dollars for having a perfect score. These quads are normally held on the second Sunday of the month, so if you would like to take home some dough, come on down next time!

### United States Interservice Chess Championship

**JACKSONVILLE, FL, 6/12-15/2006** - The U.S. Military Chess Championship was held at Naval Air Station Jacksonville from June 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. Coming down from Philadelphia, where he is assigned to Naval Support Activity, Narciso Victoria went 5-2 and came in 1<sup>st</sup> place on tiebreaks. Narciso has won this event three years in a row. A fitting finish in his last appearance in this event, as he is preparing to retire from the service early next year.

By virtue of winning, Narciso will journey in August to Wellington College, in Berkshire, England to hold down 1<sup>st</sup> board on the United States Military Chess Team, which will compete in the 17th Annual NATO Chess Tournament.

In this game Narciso takes on the current U.S. Air Force Champion.

**Narciso F. Victoria - Douglas D. Taffinder, Jr.**  
**US Interservice Chess Champ, Rd 5, Jacksonville, FL, 6/15/2006**  
*Annotations by Narciso F. Victoria*

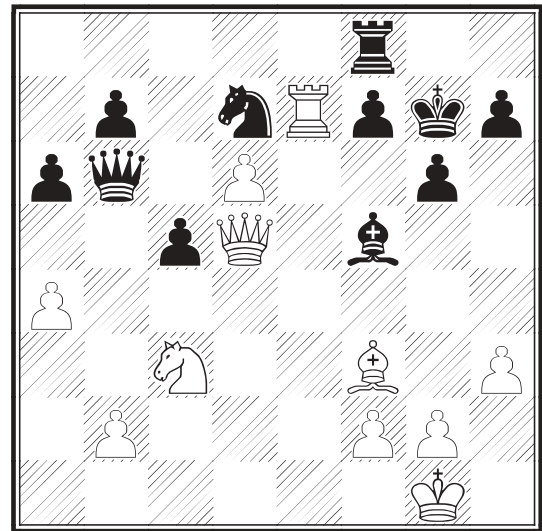
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.h3 O-O 9.Bd3 a6 10.a4 Nbd7 11.Bf4 Qc7 12.O-O Re8 13.Re1 Rb8 14.Rc1**

According to Fritz, this move is a novelty. My idea was to transfer the rook via c2 to the e2-square in order to help exert pressure in the center and prepare the e5 push. Karpov played 14.Bc4 in 1990 against Timman.

**14...Nh5 15.Bh2 Ne5 16.Be2 Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 Nf6 18.e5 dxe5 19.d6 Qd8 20.Bxe5 Bd7 21.Rc2 Bf5**

Playing into White's plan of maneuvering the a1-rook to e2.

**22.Rce2 Nd7 23.Bxg7 Rxe2 24.Rxe2 Kxg7 25.Re7 Qb6 26.Qd5 Rf8**



**27.g4 Bxg4 28.hxg4 Nf6 29.Qe5 Qxb2 30.g5 Qc1+ 31.Kg2 1:0**

### Harrisburg West Shore CC G/29 Championship

**LEMOYNE, 4/24-6/26/2006** - The members of the Harrisburg West Shore Chess Club like holding a G/29 tournament once in awhile because although it will be quick rated, twenty-nine minutes is enough time to do some thinking. There were no upsets in the first round, but I had quite a scare. Sam Lamonto had a mate in two with check that I had overlooked (it involved Lamonto giving up his queen and then a pin which prevented my rook from returning to block a back rank mate). Lamonto, with only about twenty-four seconds and a three second delay, saw the mate, and sat there until his time ran out wondering why I had not resigned. Simple: I missed the whole thing! Sam was very gracious in defeat, though. This game should have been a warning to me.

In the next frame, I pushed too hard in a drawn position against Nate Carabello and missed a mate. It was my first loss at the club in about

a year. All of the other top players fared much better. In the middle round, Carabello lost to Gerald Dubs and Tamara Corey defeated Michael Liebner to become the only perfect scores. In the penultimate round, Corey defeated Liebner to take the lead. Carabello stayed in contention by beating Joe Sackey, and I scored my second win in a row to stay in the hunt.

In the final round's Mucerino-Corey game, the white player had to win in order to tie for first. I decided going into the game I was going to go all out for the victory. If I failed, I decided that really did not care if I finished with 3 points or 3½. I either won the tournament or not. I was worse in the opening, but things evened out in the middlegame, and I was a pawn up heading into the ending, where I had a bishop and Corey had a knight. Corey offered a draw when I was very short on time - perhaps less than three minutes left. I did not really have enough time to analyze the position properly (Fritz said it was a dead draw), so I rejected the draw offer, although Corey had blockaded my extra pawn. With about one minute left on my clock, I blundered my extra pawn, and then offered a draw back, because we both had one b, f, and h-pawn. However, I failed to realize that she could win my b-pawn outright, and then, falling into a knight fork, cost me a second pawn, so I wound up losing to the new HWSCC G/29 champion, Tamara Corey. Dubs defeated Liebner to come in clear second place with four points. Carabello finished by drawing Luke Robson, which gave him clear third with 3½ points.

### Kopec's Camp G/60 & 7th Judah Ash Memorial

**LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ, 7/1-2/2006** - For those who did not want to spend over \$300 to play in the World Open, the Kopec Camp offered these two tournaments as an alternative. The G/60 tournament was the first event outside of Pennsylvania in which I have played since playing two years ago in this very same event (the Keystone State simply has everything to satisfy my chess needs). I was not sure if I would make the tournament again this year because of the flooding, but, thankfully, the Delaware River had receded in time.

The one-day G/60 tournament always has more players than the two-day event. This year, twenty-seven people took part. In the first round, everyone in the top half defeated everyone in the bottom half, and almost the same thing can be said for the second round. In the penultimate round, I was held to a draw by Rafael Witten, who actually missed a win against me. In a weird sense, this was payback, because back in 1997, in the first edition of this event, I missed a win against Witten's father, Dr. Edward Witten. The two other main contenders, Yakov Shlapentokh-Rothman and Zachary Witten, also won their games. They were the only two perfect scores, and, in the final round, Shlapentokh-Rothman emerged victorious. I defeated Michael Polito and Rafael Witten beat Richard Ebright, and we tied for second with 3½ points.

What the two-day Judah Ash Memorial lacks in participants, it makes up in strength. There were only eight players, but half were masters and there was also a 2100. Again, in the first round, the top half defeated the bottom half, although William Campion almost drew David Grasso. The masters began meeting in round two. Grasso drew top seeded Yefim Treger, Marajudin Daftani was held to a draw by Joe Kennedy, Campion beat Bryan Ball (who then withdrew), and Michael Shapiro had the only perfect score after defeating Dragan Milovanovic. On Sunday, Milovanovic stayed in the picture by besting Grasso, Deftani beat Campion, and Shapiro halved the point against Treger. Treger drew again in the final round against Milovanovic, Grasso beat Kennedy, and Shapiro's draw against Daftani was enough to give

him clear first with three points. The three other masters finished a half point back.

At six o'clock on Saturday, the Kopec family treated everyone to their annual Bar-B-Q dinner. I never before ate a hot dog that was as round as a half-dollar! The dinner was all-you-can-eat (while supplies lasted). I had two hot dogs, a hamburger, and enough potato chips to grease my entire circulatory system! Corn, watermelon, and several kinds of soda were also available.

Lawrenceville School has a beautiful campus, and I always arrive early to spend an hour or so walking around. I overheard someone say that the camp will be back next year, so I hope to see you there!

### 34th Annual World Open

**PHILADELPHIA, 6/28-7/4/2006** - This year there were 1,461 total players, including re-entries. This is up 333 players from last year (when the event competed with the HB Global Chess Challenge), and up 133 players from 2004.

**Open:** Gata Kamsky (playoff winner), Leonid Yudasin, Vadim Milov, Ildar Ibragimov, Alexander Ivanov, Jaan Ehlevest, Aleks Wojtkiewicz, Giorgi Kacheishvili, Joel Benjamin 7/9.

Top PA: Alexander Shabalov 6½

Top NJ: Benjamin

237 players

**U2200:** Michael Clark 8

Top PA: Richard Lunenfeld 6

Top NJ: Igor Sapezhansky 6½

202 players

**U2000:** Luan Elezi, Chris Sevilla 8

Top PA: Elezi

Top NJ: Bill Zebrowski 7

279 players (the largest section)

**U1800:** Michael Williams, Prasanna Borse 8

Top PA: Williams

Top NJ: Roberto Jose, Akollo Odundo, Alexander Katz, William Schreefer 6

224 players

**U1600:** Rafael Calderon, Tien Nguyen 8

Top PA: Peter Stokes 6½

Top NJ: Jiri Janko 7

244 players

**U1400:** Willie Taylor 8½

Top PA: Taylor

Top NJ: Brian Cook 7

143 players

**U1200:** Xiaohe Xu 8½

Top PA: David Fowler 7

Top NJ: Mark Asken 6

132 players

### West Chester First Saturday Quads

**WEST CHESTER, 7/8/2006** - Eight quads is about the average turnout for the West Chester Quads in recent years, but this month the strength was above average, with six players rated 2000 or higher. The top quad featured an FM (Rodion Rubenchik), two former masters (Peter Minear and Greg Nolan), and one wanna-be master (your



author). Rubenchik and Minear drew each other, tying for first and splitting the \$40 prize. Your author collected three goose eggs. Nolan picked up five bucks simply by defeating me in the last round. That's right - regardless of what your score is, you can win five dollars at the West Chester Quads by winning in the last round. This idea is to discourage short draws, and I think it is wonderful. A perfect score is worth \$50.

In quad order, the other winners were: Andrew Tichenor and Robert Feldstein; Lokesh Pulkanti; Quentin Guy; Donald Anderson; Cary Lovelace Jr.; a three way tie in quad seven between Francis McDyer, Hans Hermans and Gabriel Bury; and John Anderson won quad eight.

### MasterMinds Quads

**PHILADELPHIA, 7/9/2006** - Your roving reporter was not happy about being swept the day before in West Chester, so he tried again in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, and collected ones instead of zeros. Three quads today, and in the top quad I won the \$60 prize for having a perfect score. The other quads also ended in perfect scores, with David Sherman sweeping quad two and Jacob Kelly winning quad three.

## Chess Favors the Brave

by FM Alex Dunne

While it is true that the great players are also great defenders, defense is the hardest part of the game. The joy of the attack is two-fold. First, the attacker has the combinations flowing from his fingertips. Second, frequently only one mistake is needed from the defender, and then...

**Alex Dunne - Evan B. Mah**

**Emory Grand Prix, Round 1, Atlanta, GA, 6/16/2006**

*Annotations by Alex Dunne*

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Qd2 Bb4 8.f3 d5 9.O-O-O**

White has been doing well in this variation - but by playing 9.a3 here. My choice was brave, but also extremely dangerous, but fortune favors the brave.

**9...Qa5 10.Kb1**

But fortune also favors the strong - Naiditsch-Bruzon, 37th Olympiad 2006, continued 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Bd4 O-O 12.Qg5 and it was White's attack that dominated.

**10...Bxc3 11.bxc3 dxe4 12.Nxc6**

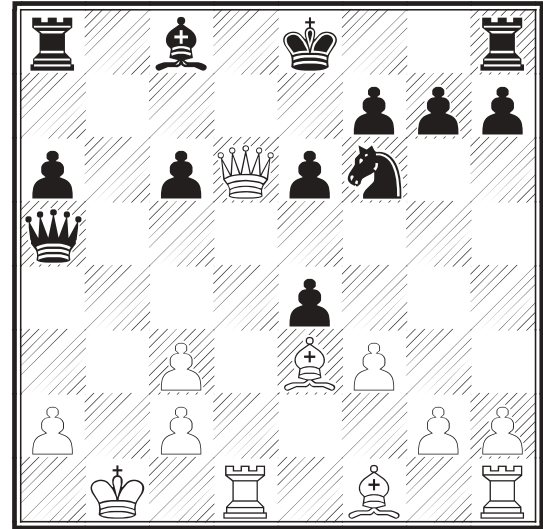
OK, OK - Now White opens up the b-file. This bravery thing may be over-rated.

**12...bxc6 13.Qd6**

This was the position I played for when I castled, but does White have enough for the Pawn? After 13...Bb7 I just couldn't find a way to break Black's back. After Black's next move, flame covers the board.

"The Check is in the Mail" may be gone from the pages of *Chess Life* but it has not disappeared. I am offering it as a free service to all of you who have email. It is also available by US mail at a cost of \$7/year in order to defray expenses. Just drop me a line letting me know you want to receive it, and I will send you a monthly issue with news, games, and items of interest to Correspondence Chess players.

Alex Dunne  
alex.dunne@cqservices.com  
324 West Lockhart Street, Sayre PA 18840-1626



**13...Nd5?!**

Black is tempted by the Rook sacrifice, wanting to attack, too. But there is a serious flaw.

**14.Qxc6+ Bd7 15.Qxa8+ Ke7 16.Rxd5!**

White destroys the most dangerous Black piece and establishes a winning game.

**16...exd5 17.Qa7**

Bravery has to be earned, too. I settled on 17.Qa7 as I could calculate that I could reposition my Queen getting it into play and keeping my King safe, but the brave way was 17.Qxh8! Qxc3 18.Bg5+ Ke6 19.Qf8! and White wins.

**17...Rc8 18.Bd4 Rxc3!**

And my opponent is no slouch in the valor game either. Only by this exchange sacrifice can Black hope to attack the White king, but I was ready for it.

**19.Bxc3 Qxc3 20.Qb6**

This works well enough, but 20.Qb7 was more accurate.

**20...Ba4 21.Qf2 Qb4+ 22.Kc1 Qa3+ 23.Kd1 Qxa2**

Black's attack has played itself out and now White once again begins a hunt for the Black King.

**24.Qc5+ Kd7 25.fxe4**

After 25...dxe4 26.Qd4+ Kc7 27.Qxe4 the dominant White queen promises immunity for the White king.

**25...Qb1+ 26.Kd2 dxe4**

There is nothing better, but now White leaves Black with just a Queen to fight with.

**27.Qd4+ Kc7 28.Qxa4 e3+ 29.Kxe3 Qe1+ 30.Kd3 Qd1+ 31.Kc3 Qe1+ 32.Kb2 1:0**

## Games From PSCF Members

**Durwood B. Hatch - David M. Axinn**

**Altoona Chess Club Championship, Round 3, 4/19/1994**

*Annotations by Durwood B. Hatch*

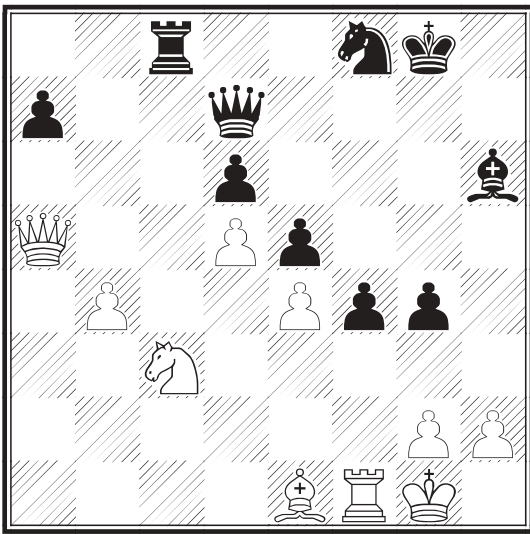
David Axinn is a lawyer, who had moved to Altoona from Pittsburgh 3 years before this. Axinn's rating was up to 2070 by this time. This was a really exciting game, and the first that I'd ever lost in an Altoona Chess Club Championship. From move 39, I had 5 minutes to finish the game, while he had 25, so it was a MAD TIME SCRAMBLE for me.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 O-O 6.Be2 e5**

7.O-O Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bd2 Nf6 13.b4 g5

Black obviously wants to play on the king-side, and White on the queen-side. This was the third year that we had played in the Altoona Chess Club Championship, I having won the first two, both with white in King's Indian Defenses, an opening at which he felt very comfortable. Being a certified TD, he controlled the pairings, and had given me white so that he could play his KID, and I always accepted his challenge.

14.Rc1 Ng6 15.c5 h5 16.Nf2 Rf7 17.cxd6 cxd6 18.Rc2 Bh6 19.a4 Rg7 20.Be1 Nf8 21.Qc1 g4 22.Nd3 gxf3 23.Bxf3 Ng4 24.Nd1 Bd7 25.a5 Bb5 26.Rc3 Bxd3 27.Rxd3 Rc8 28.Rc3 Rgc7 29.Bxg4 hxg4 30.Qc2 Rxc3 31.Nxc3 b6 32.Qe2 Qd7 33.Qb5 bxa5 34.Qxa5?

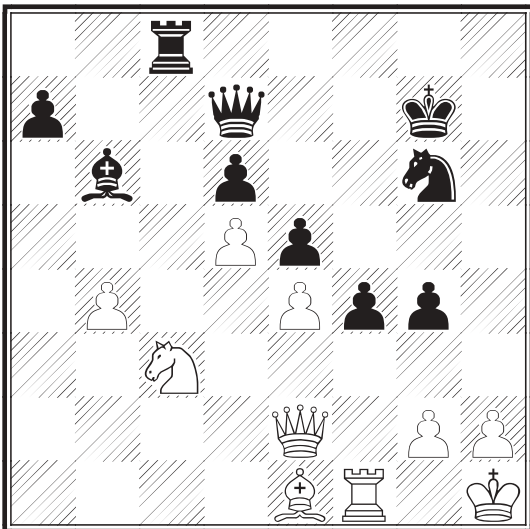


Had I foreseen his coming bishop maneuver, I would have played 34.bxa5. This bishop turns out to be very effective for him.

34...Bg5! 35.Bd2 Bd8! 36.Qa6 Bb6+!

Gaining the vital a7-g1 diagonal which gives him a winning position.

37.Kh1 Ng6 38.Qe2 Kg7 39.Be1



39...g3!! 40.Qf3

Now neither 40.hxg3 nor 40.h3 will work because of 40...Rh8 with 42.Rxh3+ to follow. I spent an enormous amount of time on this move, trying to find a way to survive, and ended up with only 5 minutes for the rest of the game (Game/120).

40...Rh8 41.Bxg3

Forced. Now I'm a piece down, and in severe time trouble. All my moves from this point on will have to be made in seconds. But I'm no stranger to time problems, which enabled me to win the 1958 and 1959 state rapid transit championships.

41...fxg3 42.Qf6+ Kh6 43.Rf5

Desperate for a counterattack or at least to blunt his potential threats. This threatens 44.Rg5 Rg8 (44... Qg7 45.Rxg6+ Qxg6 46. Qxh8+ and I'm in good shape) 45.Rxg3 and 46. Rh3.

43...Bd8!

But here comes that cursed bishop again. 43...Rf8 44.Qg5+ Kg7 (44...Kh7 45.Qh5+ Kg7 46.Qg5 renewing the threat of Rxf8 46...Rxf5 (46...Qe7 47.Qxg3 Qh4 48.Qxh4 Nxh4 49.Rxf8 Kxf8 50.h3 Ng6 51.g3 with play similar to the game.) 47.exf5 costs Black his knight) 45.Rxf8 Kxf8 46.Qxg6

44.Qf7 Qxf7 45.Rxf7 Rf8

Forcing the rook trade with a presumably simple win, especially with White in severe time trouble.

46.Rxf8 Nxf8 47.Nb5

Aiming to get rid of as many of Black's pawns as possible.

47...Be7 48.Nxa7 Nd7 49.Nc6 Bh4 50.hxg3 Bxg3 51.Nd8!

Now his d-pawn must fall, but he gets my b-pawn in exchange.

51...Be1 52.Nf7+ Kg6 53.Nxd6 Bxb4 54.Nc4 Kg5 55.g3!

Prevents his king from penetrating the king-side via f4 and f3.

55...Kg4 56.Kg2 Bc5 57.Nd2 Nb6

Taking c4 from my knight and Black plans an eventual Nc4 himself to strangle White's mobility.

58.Nf3 Nc4 59.Nh2+

This saves the day for the moment.

59...Kg5 60.Kh3

Not 60.Kf3 Nd2+ winning the e-pawn with tempo.

60...Nd2 61.Ng4

Willing to exchange e-pawns.

61...Bd4

This saves his e-pawn and prevents 62.Nf2, which would save mine.

But 61... Bd6 was better.

62.d6 Nf3

Threatening 63... Ng1+ winning the White knight, but Black never gets the time.

63.d7 Bb6 64.Ne3 Kf6?

A blunder as he now has concerns about his own clock. Sometimes the player who has not been rushed, but who has not won as easily as expected, is prone to err as his confidence wanes. (*I remember Pittsburgh's time trouble specialist Rick Abrams, whose opponents always seemed to blunder in Rick's time trouble!* - editor)

65.Nd5+ Ke6 66.Nxb6

Now it is White who has winning expectations.

66...Ke7 67.Kg4 Nd4 68.Kg5 Nc6 69.g4 Kf7 70.Kf5

70.Kh6 was needed considering the crucial time problems.

70...Ke7 71.g5 Kf7 72.g6+ Ke7

72...Kg7 73.Nd5 and White wins easily.

73.Kg5 Nd8 74.Kh6 Ne6 75.g7 Kf7 76.Kh7

76.Nd5! was the best move 76...Kg8 (76...Nxg7 77.d8=Q; 76...Nd8

77.Kh7 Ke6 78.g8=Q+ 77.Nf6+

At this point, White LOST on TIME!! While Black had all of 40 seconds left. Almost ...! Our table was surrounded by spectators who enjoyed watching this wild finish. **0:1**

### Eric C. Johnson - Richard A. Blank

Allentown G/40 Swiss, Round 3, 7/1/2006

Annotations by Eric C. Johnson

I was inspired by the new (May & June 2006) chesscafe.com column by Stefan Bucker on 1. e4 c5 2. Na3!? as essayed by GM Zviagintsev last year against several former world champions (Khalifman and Ponomarev - beating both).

**1.e4 c5 2.Na3!? Nc6 3.Bb5 Qc7**

As played by Khalifman.

**4.Nf3 a6**

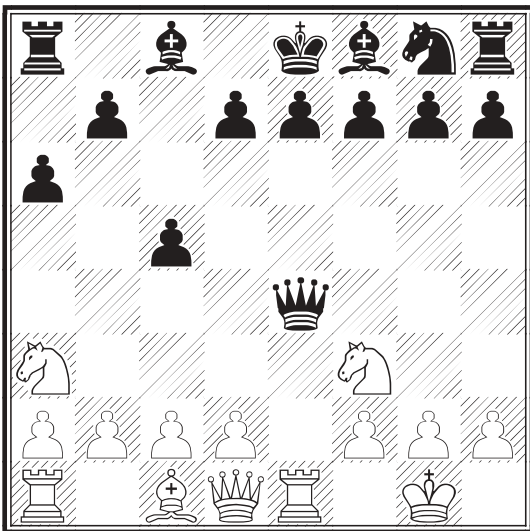
Suggested by Bosch, Khalifman chose 4...g6.

**5.Bxc6 Qxc6 6.O-O! Qxe4**

This is one hot pawn, as suggested in analyses from the annotated games in the Bucker's column.

**7.Re1**

Or 7.d4.



**7...Qg4 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nc4 e6 10.h3 Qh5 11.Qxd4 Qc5 12.Qd3 b5 13.Nce5 Be7**

If 13...d6 then perhaps 14.Nxf7!? with the idea 14...Kxf7 15.Ng5+ and Qf3, hitting both f7 and the rook on a8.

**14.Be3 Qc7 15.Rac1 d6 16.Ng4 Bb7 17.c4 bxc4**

If 17...b4 to keep things closed, then possibly 18.Bf4?! with the idea of c5 creates enough tactical shots to keep things going in a fast game.

**18.Rxc4 Qd7 19.Rec1 Rc8 20.Rxc8+ Bxc8 21.Qc3 Bb7**

**22.Qxg7 Bxf3 23.Qxh8 1:0**

I'd say that the silliness factor was evident here in this G/40 effort. What can I say. We follow chess fashion in Allentown.

### Club Corner: MasterMinds Chess Club

by Leteef Street

*(Each issue we will try to feature information on one of our Pennsylvania chess clubs under the Club Corner heading. If you would like to write about your club, please contact the editor.)*

The MasterMinds Chess Club meets in center city Philadelphia at a retirement community, the Fountains at Logan Square East at Two Franklin Town Boulevard, right off 17<sup>th</sup> street between Vine and Callowhill. The club meets Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7-10pm. We have members of all ages and skill levels. Club nights include a mix of informal and formal play, as well as group study and an occasional demo-board lesson.

The MasterMinds holds tournaments at Blair Christian Academy in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. These include quads at a time control of 40 moves in 80 minutes with a sudden death of 30 minutes. From October through May we also run scholastic swiss sections divided into Open, Under 1100 and Under 750 K-6 sections. Recently we added an unrated section as well.

One of the recent club highlights was a simul with two-time U.S. Women's champion Jennifer Shahade. The night included a book signing, a lecture with a Question-and-Answer session and finally the simul where she took on 40 players at once. A few of our players even scored upsets against her. We are planning a similar event for this October with Grandmaster Susan Polgar.

Another recent highlight was the organization of the Greater Philadelphia Chess League. We were able to offer two sections last year, one for teams with an average rating under 1600 and one for scholastic players. We had four teams participate in the Under 1600 section and seven participate in the Scholastic section. We hope to expand the league to more teams and possibly more sections in the future.

Many of the players in the club are also active tournament players, participating regularly in our tournaments, other local events and large tournaments such as the National Chess Congress and the World Open. Last year we added Friday nights as an additional meeting time, designed especially for scholastic members in order to start a program for children. Our kids have been very active in tournaments and have won awards at both local and state events. We are also beginning to organize rated play for club nights. We are always looking for new members, new ideas and to participate in and organize more events with other clubs and chess organizers in the Philadelphia area.

You can find more information about the MasterMinds chess club of Philadelphia at our website: <http://www.mastermindschess.org/>

## October 14

# 2006 PA State Action Chess Championship

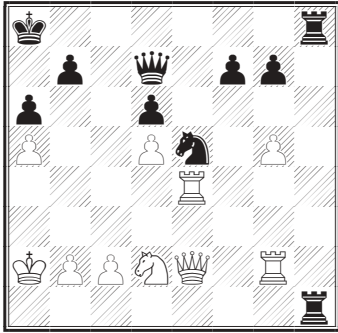
William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213



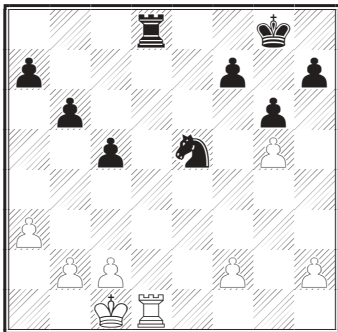
## Play It Forward

by Ken Hamilton

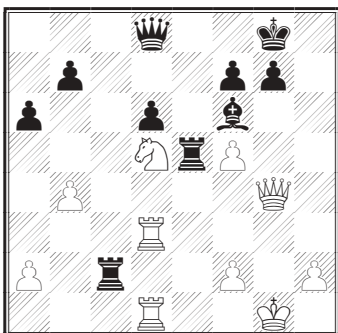
If you can't visualize a few moves ahead you won't win a majority of your games; the more you can visualize the better you can analyze. Look ahead with GM Judith Polgar in the following positions and see if you can pick the moves that finish the sequence.

**1. Jonathan D. Tisdall - Judith Polgar**  
 Reykjavik Open, 1988


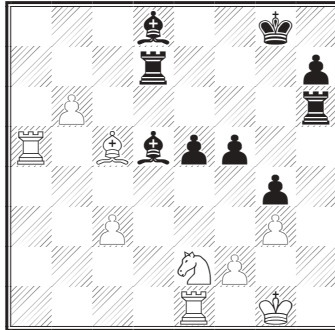
30... R8h4  
 31.Nf3 Nxf3  
 32.Qxf3 R1h3  
 33.Qe2 ?

**2. Judith Polgar - Gabor Portisch**  
 Hungarian Championship, 1988


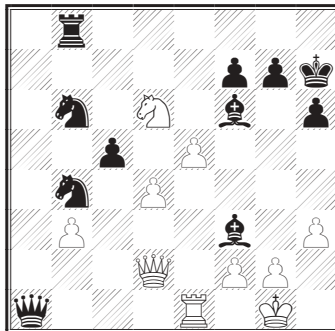
29.Rxd8+ Kg7  
 30.f4 Nf3  
 31.Rd3 Nxe2  
 32.Rg3 Nf1  
 33. ?

**3. Judith Polgar - Petar Popovic**  
 Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, 1990


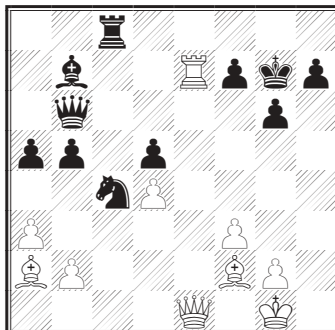
28.Rg3 Ree2  
 29.Qh5 Bh4  
 30.Rg4 Bxf2+  
 31.Kh1 Re5  
 32. ?

**4. Lev Polugaevsky - Judith Polgar**  
 Roquebrune Blitz, 1992


43.f4 gxf3  
 44.Nc1 Rh1+  
 45.Kf2 Rh2+  
 46.Ke3 Bg5+  
 47.Kd3 ?

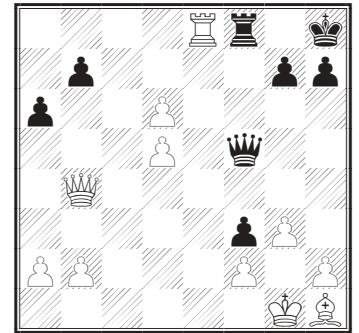
**5. Judith Polgar - Jorge Rubineti**  
 Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1992


26.Rxa1 Bg5  
 27.Qc3 Bd5  
 28.dxc5 Nd7  
 29. ?

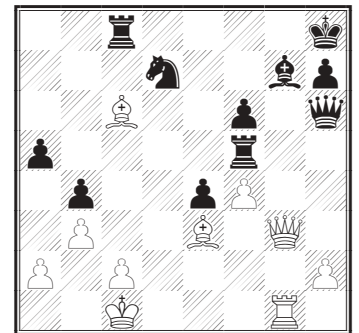
**6. Judith Polgar - Sergey Tiviakov**  
 Madrid, Spain, 1994


37.Bxc4 bxc4  
 38.Qe5+ Kg8  
 39.Be3 f6  
 40.Qf4 Kf8

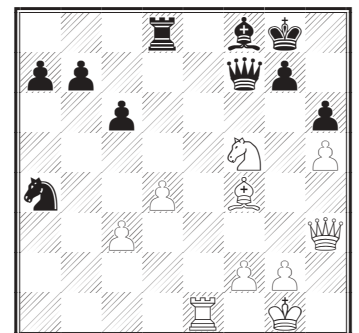
41.Rxh7 Ke8  
 42. ?

**7. Gata Kamsky - Judith Polgar**  
 Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1994


33... Rxe8  
 34.h4 Re2  
 35.d7 Qb1+  
 36.Kh2 Rxf2+  
 37.Kh3 ?

**8. Judith Polgar - Viswanathan Anand**  
 Dos Hermanas, Spain, 4/6/1999


31.Bxd7 Rcc5  
 32.Bxf5 Rxf5  
 33.Rd1 Kg8  
 34. ?

**9. Judith Polgar - Peter H. Nielsen**  
 FIDE KO, Las Vegas, 8/3/1999


34.Re3 Nb6  
 35.Rg3 Kh7  
 36.Be5 Rd5  
 37.Qg4 Nd7  
 38. ?

For solutions, see page 14.

## Coaches Corner: To check or not to check? That is the question!

by IM Igor Khmel'nitsky

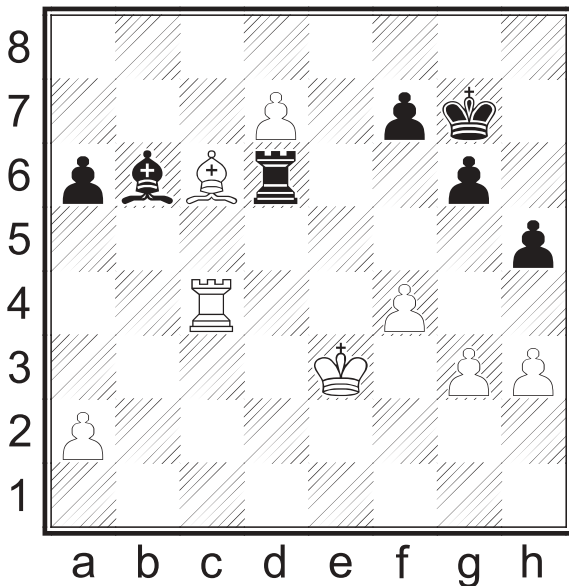
It is always fun to observe experienced chess players analyze their games or kibitz about other games in progress.

If you happened to witness a group of Russians playing blitz or analyzing positions and if you were also proficient enough in Russian to understand their witty comments, you might hear something like (translated into English) - "Grandmasters don't check!" or "Come on! Stop bothering my King!" or "No one ever died from a check!" These sayings emphasize how little respect stronger players have for checks played without a good reason.

On the contrary, beginners, especially kids, love to check. And why not - after all - there is no checkmate without a check!

Today's examples come from recent games by titled players (even GMs!) all starting with a simple, and maybe even pointless check, but ... see for yourself:

### GM Boris Avrukh - GM Emil Sutovsky Gibraltar Masters, Rd 7, 1/31/2005

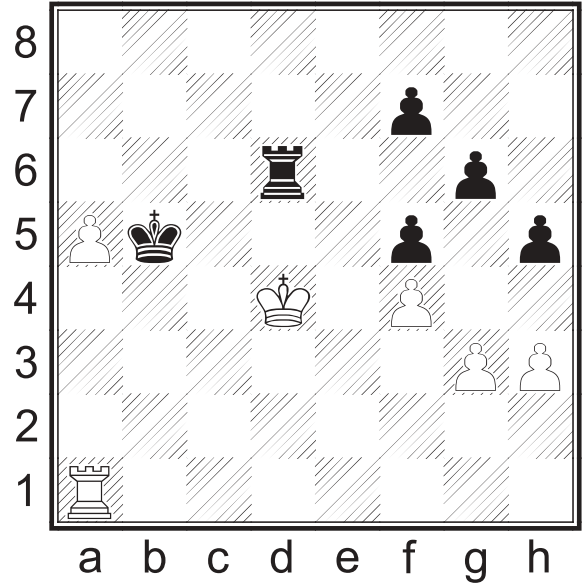


How do you evaluate this position? What should White do? Take 5 minutes to think about it before reading further.

Thanks to the opposite color bishops and the unstable position of the White bishop, Black has drawing chances. White needs to respond to this "innocent" check. The best way was a modest 1.Ke2. If like GM Avrukh you selected 1.Ke4? then you went the wrong way! Black has another check, and this time it is not so "innocent"! 1...f5+ What did you plan do now? White played 2.Kf3?? (he was afraid of 2.Ke5 Bc7) and after 2...Rd2 his King is in the mating net! Rf2# can only be postponed for a couple of moves. 0-1

The best option was to continue the White king's forward progress and accept the discovered check. The worst case scenario for White - Black wins the pawn, but still must show some accuracy in order to draw. Here are some sample variations: 2.Ke5 Bc7 3.Bb7 Rxd7+ 4.Ke6 Rf7 5.Bd5 (5.Bxa6 Rf6+ 6.Kd7 [6.Kd5 Rd6+ 7.Ke5 Bb8] 6...Rxa6 =) 5...Ba5 =.

### IM Gerlef Meins - IM Stefan Reschke Bundesliga 1996/97, Rd 9

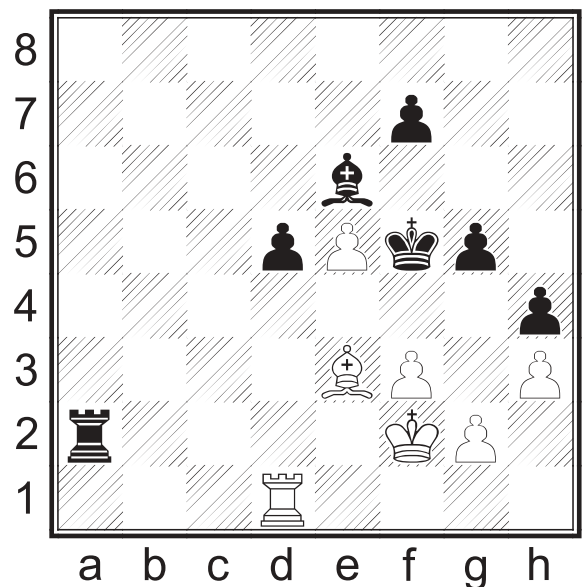


Can White win this position? What should he play? Take 5 minutes to think about it before reading further.

Well, you may be surprise but it is much easier for White to lose in this position than to win. The majority of people to whom I show this position select 1.Ke5?? as in the game. But they can't believe their eyes when they see 1...Kc6. Got it? Are you one of them? Yes, the checkmate after 2...f6# is unstoppable. But Reschke played a check 1...Re6+ and eventually drew.

The best choices for White are 1.Kc3 or 1.Ke3 and after 1...Ka6 a draw is the most likely outcome.

### GM Alexander Goloshchapov - GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov 20th European Club Championship, Rd 6, Turkey, 10/8/2004



How do you evaluate this position? What should White do? Take 5 minutes to think about it before reading further.

This is a dead drawn position - opposite colored bishops, weak pawns (e5 for White vs. g5 for Black), the Black bishop on e6 that looks like

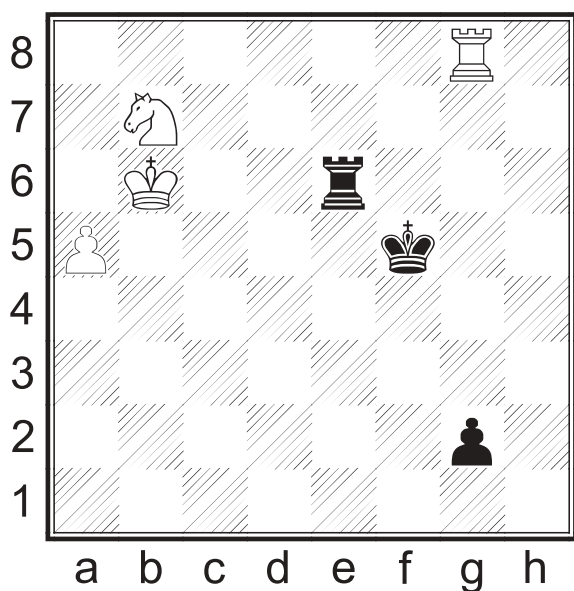
a pawn, etc.... One way to lose this position is to play **1.Rd2??**. After **1...d4** the bishop on e6 suddenly demonstrates the difference between bishops and pawns. The rook on a2 is now defended, so in the case of **2.Rxa2**, the 'in-between' check wins the White bishop **2...dxe3+** **3.Kxe3 Bxa2**. And if **2.Bxd4**, the rook is lost to **2...Rxd2+**.

So what do you do about those checks that your opponent can unleash at any moment? Here is a hint:

### Parimarjan Negi - GM Vladimir Georgiev

Corus C, Rd 13, Wijk aan Zee, 1/30/2005

After **1.Rg6-g8 Re2-e6+**, the following position was reached:



On the previous move White played the ambitious **1.Rg8?** instead of just the simple **1.Rxg2** which would secure a draw. And now after **1...Re6+** Black is ready to turn the tables.

**What result do you expect and what is the best variation? Take 5 minutes to think about it before reading further.**

Well, while **1.Rg8** was a mistake, only after **2.Kc7?** is White losing. After **2...Rg6 3.Rxg6 Kxg6 4.a6 g1=Q** Black went on to win this game as White's pawn can't be promoted.

Apparently, White's problems are due to his knight at b7, so the best move was to check back!! After **2.Nd6+!! Rxd6+ 3.Kb7 Rg6 4.Rxg6 Kxg6 5.a6 g1Q 6.a7** White reaches an easily drawn endgame!

I hope you enjoyed these examples and appreciated the humor in my comments. Chess is not an exact science so feel free to make checks, or not to make them, as you feel is warranted.

(For comments, questions, training or to order an autographed copy of *Chess Exam and Training Guide*, which was declared the 2005 Best Chess Book by the Chess Journalists of America, please contact IM Igor Khmel'nitsky via his website <http://www.iamcoach.com/>)

### IM Igor Khmel'nitsky talk and book signing

#### Bucks County Renaissance Faire

September 16

1:30pm - 2:30pm

## Play It Forward Solutions (from page 12)

**1. Tisdall-Polgar: 33...Qa4+** An unpleasant surprise for White. If **34.Rxa4** then **...Rxa4+ 35.Kb1 Rh1+** with mate in two.

**2. Polgar-Portisch** (Gabor Portisch, not to be confused with one-time world champion candidate Lajos Portisch.): **33.Rh3** and the Black knight must wait helplessly while the White king meanders across and gobbles him up.

**3. Polgar-Popovic: 32.Qh6** and Black's best chance to survive loses after **32...g6 33.f6 Qf8 34.Rxg6+ fxg6 35.Qxg6+ Kh8 36.Qxc2** picking up the rook.

**4. Polugaevsky-Polgar:** If you got this far then, then hopefully you saw **47...Rd2#**.

**5. Polgar-Rubineti:** Black's pieces are uncoordinated, and so **29.Ra4** wins the knight or, if **29...Nc6 30.Qd3+** picks up the bishop on d5.

**6. Polgar-Tiviakov: 42.Qh6** is a killer, threatening **Qg7** followed by **Rh8#**. Black's only try is **42...Qe6**, but this is answered by **43.Qg7 Qxe3+ 44.Kh2 Qf4+ 45.g3 Qd2+ 46.Kh3** and Black is out of checks and out of luck.

**7. Kamsky-Polgar: 37...h5!** Cutting off the White king's flight square while providing one for her own. After **38.Qf8+ Kh7** it's game over.

**8. Polgar-Anand: 34.Qg2** doesn't look like a crusher at first sight - but it is. Black can try to save the e-pawn with **34...Re5!** But then **35.Rd8+ Kf7 36.Qe2 Qh5** (or **36..Rf5 37 Rd7+ Ke6 38.Rd2! Rd5 39. Qa6+**) **37.Qc4+ Kg6 38.fxe5**. Other lines lose also, e.g. **34...Qg6 35.Qxe4 Bf8 36.Rg1**.

**9. Polgar-Nielsen: 38.Qe4** and the threat of discovered check pays off. **38...Kh8 39.Nxh6 Qxh5 40.Ng4 Nxe5 41. Nxe5 Kg8 42.Rh3 Rxe5 43.dxe5**. Or **38...Nf6 39.Bxf6 gxf6 40.c4** (or **40.Nd6+f5 41.Qe8! Qxe8 42.Nxe8 Kh8 43.Nf6**) **40...Rxf5 41.Qxf5+** Finally **38...Rxe5 39.dxe5 Nc5 40.Qc2 Kh8 41.Rf3** winning easily. If you looked ahead and saw all of these variations you are probably rated somewhere around 2300 or above; certainly I couldn't! The important thing is to spot the key move and realize that, as so often happens, good things will come of it.

(Reprinted from the June 2005 *Chess IN Indiana*. For more information on the Indiana State Chess Association visit their website at <http://www.indianachess.org/portal/>)

## UPCOMING PSCF EVENTS

**September 16 & 17. Bucks County Renaissance Faire.** Middletown Grange Grounds, 576 Penns Park Rd., Wrightstown, PA 18940. All players must purchase a \$5 ticket to enter the Faire, even if only attending free chess events. **Saturday:** 11:30am - Noon, Registration for free Bughouse Tournament. Noon - 1:30pm, Bughouse Tournament (Prizes: Trophies based on number of entries). 1:30pm - 2:30pm, IM Igor Khmel'nitsky talk and book signing (copies of his books will be available for purchase on-site). 2:30pm - 3:30pm, Simul by NM Dan Heisman. 3:30pm - 4:30pm, NM Dan Heisman talk and book signing. **Sunday:** USCF-rated and non-rated quads. 3-RR. G/60. EF: \$20. \$\$ 50 to 1st in each quad. Reg 11:30am - Noon. Rds Noon - 2:15pm - 4:30pm. **Renaissance Faire Info:** <http://www.villagefaire.org> **Chess Info:** 215-674-9049, iralee@aol.com **Ent:** Dr. Ira Lee Riddle, 400 Newtown Rd., Warminster PA 18974-5208.



**October 14 GPP:6 Pennsylvania**  
**2006 PA State Action Chess Championship.** 5-SS. G/30. Ballroom, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 2 sections: **Championship:** Open to all. EF: \$25 postmarked by 10/6, \$35 after. \$\$ (690G): 200-100, U2000 \$90, U1800 \$80, U1600 \$70, U1400 \$60, U1200 \$50, U1000 \$40. Trophies to Top 3 under 1400, Top 3 under 1200, and Top 3 under 1000. **Scholastic:** Open to K-12 who are unrated or rated under 900. EF: \$15 postmarked by 10/6, \$25 after. Trophies to Top 7, and Top 3 under 600. **All:** PSCF required \$5 OSA. Trophies to 1st-2nd club and school teams combining 4-7 players from both sections. Reg ends 10:30am. Rds 11am - 12:30pm - 1:45pm - 3pm - 4:15pm. **Info:** martinak\_tom\_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286. **Ent:** Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. *W. Sponsored & Organized by the PA State Chess Federation & University of Pittsburgh Chess Club.*

**November 18 & 19. 2006 Pennsylvania State Senior Championship.** 4-SS. G/120. Ballroom, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. **Open to ages 50 & Up.** \$\$ (465 b/20): 150-60, Ages 65 & Up \$55, U1800 \$50, U1600 \$45, U1400 \$40, U1200 \$35, Unrated \$30. Trophies to Champion & Top Ages 65 & Up. **EF:** \$25 postmarked by 11/10, \$35 later, PSCF required \$5 OSA. Reg 11am - 11:30am. Rds Noon - 4:30pm, 10am - 2:30pm. **Info:** martinak\_tom\_m@hotmail.com 412-908-0286. **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. *W. Sponsored & Organized by the PSCF & University of Pittsburgh Chess Club.*

**November 18 & 19. 2006 Pennsylvania State Junior Championships.** 5-SS. 53 Trophies! (49 Individual, 4 Team) Ballroom, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 7 sections: **2-day (Sat & Sun):** Ages 16 to 20 Open, Ages 12 to 15 Open, Ages 9 to 11 Open. **EF:** \$18 postmarked by 11/10, \$28 later. Time Control: Game/90. Reg ends 9:30am. Rds: 10am - 2pm - 5:30pm, 10am - 2pm. **1-day (Sun only):** Ages 8 & Under Open, Ages 9 to 20 Rated U900, Ages 9 to 20 Rated U600 or Unrated, Ages 8 & Under Rated U600 or Unrated. **EF:** \$15 postmarked by 11/10, \$25 later. Time Control: Game/40. Reg ends 9:30am. Rds: 10am - 11:30am - 1pm - 2:30pm - 4pm. **All:** Trophies to top 7 in each section, additional medallions. State Champion Title for each age in an Open Section. Teams of 4 to 7 players combined from all sections, Trophies to top 2 schools & top 2 clubs. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** martinak\_tom\_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286, <http://www.pscfchess.org/pajuniorchamp/>. **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. *W. Sponsored & Organized by the PA State Chess Federation & University of Pittsburgh Chess Club.*

Watch for the latest information on PSCF tournaments on our website:

<http://www.pscfchess.org/clearinghouse/>

Dear Readers,

My father, Joseph Mucerino, Sr., and my uncle, John Mucerino, played against Bent Larsen in a simul in Trenton, NJ. They do not remember exactly when the simul was, but they do remember that Larsen was the 4<sup>th</sup> best player in the world at the time - probably around 1967-1972. If anyone has any information about this simul, please contact me at patzerpounder@hotmail.com or Joseph Mucerino, Jr., 108 Russell Ave., Douglassville PA 19518.

Thank you very much for your time!  
 Joe Mucerino

## PSCF GOVERNANCE

**PSCF Website:** <http://www.pscfchess.org/>

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**Philadelphia Scholastic:** Stephen D. Shutt; 871 N Woodstock St, Philadelphia 19130; 215-978-6867; StephenShutt@yahoo.com  
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William B. Bell & Evan A. Post

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Dues are \$5 for students/adults/clubs, \$100 for Life memberships. The PSCF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Address Corrections & PSCF Memberships should be sent to: Tom Martinak; 549 13<sup>th</sup> Ave; New Brighton PA 15066-1208; 412-908-0286; martinak\_tom\_m@hotmail.com

**WHERE TO PLAY CHESS IN PENNSYLVANIA**

ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

**ALLENTOWN**

Center City CC; St Luke's Lutheran Church, 417 N 7th St; Sat Noon-6 pm

**ALTOONA**

Andrew Stergiou 814-941-8718

**BLOOMSBURG**

Kehr Union Bldg; Bob Ross 570-784-8571

**BRIDGEWATER**

The Copper Dog, 234 Bridge St; Tues 7-9 pm, Jim Scibilia 724-728-8044

**BRADFORD**

(1) Univ of Pitt-Bradford Commons Building; Tues 8-11 pm

(2) School Street Elementary; Wed 6:30-8:30 pm

**CHAMBERSBURG**

Chessman; 600 Miller St; Thurs 7-10 pm, 717-261-9132, 717-263-2836

**CHESTER**

J Lewis Crozer Library, 620 Engle St; Tues 5:30-7:30 pm, 610-364-1212

**COATESVILLE**

Cultural Soc, 258 E Lincoln Hwy; Thurs 5-10 pm, Bob Jones 610-384-1790

**COUDERSPORT**

High School, 698 Dwight St; Fri 3-4:30, Patrick Keeney 814-274-4428

**DOUGLASSVILLE:**

Amity CC, St Paul's UCC, 1312 Old Swede Rd; Fri 7-10 pm, 610-385-6324

**ERIE**

Zurn Science Building, W 7th St between Peach and Sassafras, Room 341;

Fri 6:30-10 pm, James Walczak 814-870-7763

**GLADWYNE**

Main Line CC; Waverly Hts Ret Comm Game Room, 1400 Waverly Rd;

Tues 7 pm, Dan Heisman 610-649-0750

**HARRISBURG**

Calvary United Methodist Church, 700 Market St (Rear), Lemoyne; Mon

7-10 pm, Brian Sheinfeld 717-761-3151

**HATBORO**

Chaturanga CC; Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church, County Line Rd W

of Blair Mill Rd; Thurs 8 pm, 215-794-8368

**HAZLETON**

Greater Hazleton CC; Zola's Lamp Post, Rt 940; Tues &amp; Thurs 8-11 pm,

Bob Brubaker 570-384-4122

**HUNTINGDON VALLEY**

Huntingdon Valley Chess Society Juniors; Huntingdon Valley Library, 625

Red Lion Rd; Tues 7:30-8:30 pm

**JOHNSTOWN**

East Hills Rec Comm, 445 Schoolhouse Rd; Mon 6 pm, 814-255-8614

**LANCASTER**

Rodney Park, Crystal &amp; Rodney St; Wed 6:30-9 pm, 717-892-6612

**LANSDALE**

(1) North Penn CC; St John's UCC Church, Main and Richardson Sts;

Thurs and Fri 7 pm - 1 am, 215-699-8418

(2) Lansdale Public Library CC; 301 Vine St; last Sat of the month 10am

**LOWER BURRELL**

Volunteer Fire Co 3, 3255 Leechburg Rd; first Sun 2-4 pm, 724-448-7521

**MONROEVILLE**

Wed 6:30-8:30 pm, Delbert Tyler 412-824-5015

**MURRYSVILLE**

First Presbyterian Church, 3202 N Hills Rd; Wed 7-11 pm, Jay Griffin

724-325-2484

**NEW CASTLE**

Lawrence County CC; Moose Lodge, 29 S Mercer St; Thurs 6:30-9 pm

**PHILADELPHIA**(1) FMCC; 2012 Walnut, Lower Level; Mon - Thurs Noon-9 pm, Fri & Sat  
Noon-Midnight, 215-496-0811

(2) Univ of Penn CC; Chats Cafeteria, 3800 Locust; Wed 8 pm

(3) Masterminds CC; Fountains @ Logan Square East, 2 Franklin Town  
Blvd; Wed & Fri 7-10 pm, Steve Slocum 215-455-6285(4) Jardel Recreation Center, 1400 Cottman Ave, Thurs 6:30-9:30 pm, Sat  
Noon-4 pm

(5) Inglis House, 2600 Belmont Ave, 1st &amp; 3rd Mon 6 pm

(6) Temple Univ; SAC Dining Area, Mon/Wed 6-7 pm, Tues/Thurs 12-3  
pm, 267-973-0765**PITTSBURGH**(1) Univ of Pitt CC; William Pitt Union; Tues & Thurs 7-11 pm, 412-908-  
0286(2) Pittsburgh CC; Wightman School Community Center, 5604 Solway St;  
Wed 1-9 pm, Sat Noon-10 pm, 412-421-1881

(3) Crafton Public Library, 140 Bradford; Sat 9 - Noon, 412-922-4234

(4) Hill Branch Library, 419 Dinwiddie St; Mon & Thurs 3-7 pm, Sat 1-5  
pm, 412-361-6170

(5) CMU CC; University Center Commons; Thurs 6-8 pm

(6) Mt Lebanon Lib, 16 Castle Shannon; Scholastics: 1st/3rd Mon Sept-  
May, Adults/Older Scholastics: Thurs 7-8:30 pm; 412-531-1912**PETERS TOWNSHIP**

CRC, Peterswood Park, 700 Meredith Dr; Wed 6-7 pm, Eric 412-221-2394

**POTTSTOWN**

YMCA, 724 N Adams St; Fri 6:30-8:30 pm, Michael Mullin 610-323-7300

**READING**Million Youth Chess Club; Olivets Boys & Girls Clubs; 677 Clinton, Mon  
5-7; 1161 Pershing, Fri 6:30-8:30; Mike 610-373-3061**RIDLEY PARK**Ridley Park United Methodist Church, 15 E Dupont St; Mon 6:15 - 11 pm,  
610-586-8205**SCRANTON**

Redman's, Main &amp; Elm; Sun 2 pm, Patrick Walker 570-347-5200

**SHIPPENSBURG**

Health Care Center, 121 Walnut Bottom Rd; Wed 6-9:30 pm, 717-477-0645

**STATE COLLEGE**

(1) PSU CC; ASI Bldg, Room 16; Thurs 7 pm

(2) Schlow Library, 118 S Fraser St; Sun 2-5 pm, 814-571-9629

**STROUDSBURG**

YMCA, Main St; Thurs 7-11 pm, Eric 570-476-8939 or Jim 717-992-5475;

&amp; Loder Senior Center, 62 Analomink St, East Stroudsburg; Tues 7-11 pm

**SWARTHMORE**

121 Park Ave; Sat 7-9 pm

**VANDERGRIFT**

St Paul's Lutheran Church, 714 Wallace St; Mon 6-9pm, 724-567-6580

**WARMINSTER**

WREC, 1101 Little Ln; Tues 6:30-8, 215-443-5428

**WASHINGTON**

1st Lutheran Ch, 92 West Walnut St; Thurs 8:30-11:30pm, 724-743-4350

**WEST CHESTER**(1) West Chester CC; United Methodist Church, High & Barnard Sts;  
Thurs 7 pm

(2) WC Univ CC; Sykes Student Building, Room 112; Thurs 11 am - 2 pm

**WILKES-BARRE**

199 S Main St; Fri 8:30-Midnight, George Trent 570-740-7662

**WYNCOTE**Montgomery Youth CC; Calvary Presbyterian Church, 217 Fernbrook Ave;  
Wed 7-8:30 pm, Steve McLaughlin 215-784-5938**YORK**

(1) York Emporium, 343 West Market St; Thurs 6-9 pm, 717-845-9368

(2) Youth CC; Grace Brethren Church, Newberry & Parkway; Wed, 2-5:30  
pm; & Light of Life Arts, 41 Cherry, Seven Valleys; Fri 6-9:30 pm, 717-  
852-8434<http://www.pscfchess.org/clubs/>