



# MasterMinds Chess Club

## Newsletter

Volume 2, No. 2

### The MasterMinds Chess Club Partners with Blair Christian Academy



The MMCC and Blair Christian Academy has entered into a partnership agreeing to host monthly tournaments in the Academy's gym. A special word of thanks to Dr. Karen Jenkins, Executive Administrator, Blair Christian Academy for gracefully accommodating us and providing us with such a nice facility and atmosphere to play chess. Dr.

Jenkins' vision for the school includes having a chess program and embraces the local chess community's involvement in this process. This effort would not have been possible had it not been for Dr. Jenkins' vision and the input and insight of Mr. Bradley Crable. Mr. Crable has been a part of the Blair family for quite some time. As an involved parent, and Academy chess teacher Mr. Crable was instrumental in making this partnership a reality. Together with Dr. Jenkins and the Blair Christian Academy, the MasterMinds Chess Club is destined to make organized chess a viable asset to Philadelphia, the Germantown community, and neighboring counties as well. This is a great facility to host tournaments and the devoted staff of Blair Christian Academy are a welcomed addition. The site has a very comfortable "skittles" area where food and refreshments are available. The monthly tournaments are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. The tournament format offers a G/45 Open Section and a Scholastic Section. There is off-street parking available.



Dr. Karen Jenkins

### December Tournament

On a snowy winter morning twenty-two youngsters treaded through the weather to participate in the MasterMinds Chess Club tournament Scholastic section, in what proved to be a very lively competition. Shawn Jackson, rated 560, managed to go undefeated in this five-round event and win the trophy for 1<sup>st</sup> overall winner. There was a three-way tie for the overall 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner with David Lakata, David Reilly, and Nathaniel Vahedi finishing with four wins apiece. There were plenty of possibilities as seven players tied with three wins. There were no losers in this scholastics event as all players walked away with a memento for their efforts and sportsmanship.



1<sup>st</sup> Overall winner Shawn Jackson Scholastic Section

In the Open section Michael James Bury (2200) won this four-round competition with as many wins. With three wins apiece and finishing second were Robert Lakata and Leteef Street. Michael J. Bury won his final game with an accurate end-game performance against Levy Nealy (1627). Being up one pawn at this stage in the game was the determining factor in this well played game.



**Levy Nealy vs. Michael J. Bury. Rd4**

The Tournament Director for this event was Bradley Crable who did another outstanding job.



**The Lakata Family. Robert, Robert Jr., and Elizabeth were all winners.**

## November Tournament

The November tournament was indeed a success. Tournament Directors Bradley Crable, Ernest Moore, and Leteef Street did an excellent job ensuring that the tournament ran smoothly. MMCC Secretary Melanie Brennan also did a fantastic job in assisting with the tournament registration process. The tournament had two sections. The G/30 Open Section and the G/30 Scholastic Section.

Both sections competed very well and had some unsuspecting surprises.

The 1<sup>st</sup> place overall winner of the open section was Chris Bechis, who went undefeated with 5 points. Chris

came into the tournament with a rating of 1372. It just goes to show you that you can't always put much stock in someone's rating in any given tournament. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner was MMCC's John Keaton with 4 points. Several players finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with 3 points including the feared Boris Baczynski who was rated 2281 going in to the tournament. Both Chris Bechis and John Keaton had beaten Boris in this tournament.

In the Scholastic unrated section Dennison Bechis edged out David Lakata and Jamie Thallmayer to win 1<sup>st</sup> place honors with 5 points. The Bechis brothers showed they have the makings of a very promising chess future by demonstrating strong play at this tournament. Congratulations to them!



**The tournament's youngest player was Patrick Walsh at 5 years old.**



**Scholastic competitors in action.**



**Boris Baczynski faces off with Richard Henry in the open section.**



**Delightful staff serves up the hot dogs, pizza, and refreshments in the skittles room.**



**Snacks were plenteous in the skittles room. Blair staff had it going on.**



**A time of reflection and refreshment in the skittles room.**

*"Oh! this opponent, this collaborator against his will, whose notion of beauty always differs from yours and whose means (strength, imagination, technique) are often too limited to help you effectively! What torment, to have your thinking and your phantasy tied down by another person!"*  
**Alexander Alekhine, foreword to 'Mes Problèmes et études d'échecs', Fred. Lazard, 1929**

## MasterMinds Online!

It brings us great joy to announce that the MasterMinds Chess Club now has an official website. You can view the site at:  
[www.geocities.com/mastermindschess](http://www.geocities.com/mastermindschess)  
This is a very interactive website developed by our very own Webmaster Bradley Crable.



**Webmaster Bradley Crable**

In the past few weeks Brad has been extremely diligent in getting the site prepared and ready to go. On this attractive and interactive site you will find information about the MMCC, tournament results, games played, links to other chess sites, and much, much more. This site will continue to develop, grow, and improve as Brad continues to work his "magic." On this site you can play through games using a Java-script interface, view current and archived newsletters, and view our photo gallery. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our many thanks to Bradley Crable for an excellent job. Brad's computer savvy, passion, and experience are definitely evident on this particular project.  
**THANK YOU BRAD!!!**

'It is one of the insights of modern players, and especially of the best ones, that one has to play the position itself, not some abstract idea of the position.'

**John Watson,**  
**'Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy',**  
**1998**

## Chess News SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA TO LAUNCH CITYWIDE CHESS INITIATIVE

By Cameron Kline  
December 10, 2003

**PHILADELPHIA** -- The School District of Philadelphia today announced that it will launch the Philadelphia Youth Chess Challenge, an after school activity that is open to all students in the District. The Philadelphia Youth Chess Challenge will be coordinated by the ASAP, After School Activities Partnerships, thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Philadelphia Eagles Youth Partnership.

"I would like to thank the After School Activities Partnerships and the Philadelphia Eagles Youth Partnership for investing in Philadelphia's students," said James Nevels, Chairman of the School Reform Commission. "This program will go a long way in not just giving students exciting and educational after school activities, but it will reinforce the thinking and problem solving skills they are learning in the classroom."

Club leaders and volunteers will be trained beginning in January of 2004. The Philadelphia Youth Chess Challenge will be an ongoing District initiative with citywide competitions and tournaments.

"Chess is a special activity that involves thinking, strategy, powers of concentration and problem solving, as well as offering students an opportunity to have fun and gain the skills that will last a lifetime," said Paul Vallas, CEO of the School District of Philadelphia. "These clubs are just the beginning for us in the District, because eventually we want to provide our students with a wide range of after school options."

Additional funding will come from the District to initially launch the clubs that will be run by both the District and volunteers recruited by ASAP.

"This Philadelphia Youth Chess Challenge is a collaborative initiative that will enrich the lives of our young people," said Marciene Mattleman, Executive Director of After School Activities Partnerships. "To date, more than 50 schools have responded to the

invitation to become involved in starting new, or expanding on existing, chess clubs."

The goals of ASAP are to increase after school recreation activities and to disseminate information about citywide after school recreation programs. For more information about the Philadelphia Youth Chess Challenge please contact Marciene Mattleman at [mmattleman@phillyasap.org](mailto:mmattleman@phillyasap.org).

## The Mind of the Master

In this and subsequent issues Philadelphia's own National Master Elvin Wilson is featured in "The Mind of the Master." Elvin answers questions that you might have as it relates to the game of chess. Let's take advantage of this rare opportunity by forwarding your questions to newsletter developer Steve Slocum. Elvin Wilson has a wealth of knowledge and wisdom that he is willing to share with us.

This is a feature of the newsletter that we are privileged and excited about. National Master Elvin Wilson has agreed to lend his insights and expertise to the inquiring minds that wish to know the game a little better from many different aspects.



**National Master Elvin Wilson**

Dr. Russell Floyd asks:

All of the chess books that I have read states that the Caro-Kann is part of many world champion's arsenal. However, all the books I view/study indicate the Caro-Kann is soundly defended. Is the Caro-Kann really worth my time to study? Also, as my ranking increase are more higher ranked players stronger against the Caro-Kann? Thanking you in advance for your assistance.

*EW. The Caro-Kann is a solid opening that is played by a lot of strong players. Whether or not you*

choose to add it to your repertoire is a matter of taste (style). The Caro leads to solid defensive positions where white normally keeps a slight edge. If you don't mind this type of game the Caro will make a good addition to your repertoire.

Levy Nealy asks:

Do you think chess will become irrelevant when computers become able to defeat anyone all the time?

*EW. I think chess will continue to be a great pastime for a long time to come. Once humans are no longer able to beat computers we will simply stop competing with them or compete with some type of odds (time odds maybe). The good news is computers are not as close to humans as many people think. If you look at the 1996, 1997 and both of the 2003 matches that Kasparov played and the 2002 match that Kramnik played against computer programs what is the verdict. Are computers playing a level of chess that looks superior to humans? Are the computers showing anything new and innovative in chess? I say no to both questions! They have improved in strength but their main advantages are that they don't blunder, miscalculate, get tired, or have emotions. Human players have a far greater understanding of chess (See game 3 of the last Kasparov match) but, we get tired, miscalculate, blunder and have emotions. We are still far superior to the silicon beast but it is getting harder and harder to prove it.*

Jean Borgella asks:

How to keep an advantage in a winning game:

Is more concentration needed or what? What kind of exercises should I have to do?

*EW. Concentration is key: the old axiom "50 good moves may not be enough to win a game, but one bad one is enough to lose one" is very true. The only way to improve is to play more tournament chess. You can also exercise your concentration while studying books or analyzing games (analyze without moving the pieces help a lot). Consistent effort will bring improvement.*

Leteef Street asks:

How to play against specific chess formations such as Stonewalls, Marokey Binds, Hedgehogs, etc.?

*EW. Study them! Find games featuring typical formations or specific positions (Chessbase products makes this easy) and study them deeply and gain insight into the strategic and tactical nuances of these positions.*

## The History of Chess Notation



by Robert John McCrary

The number of books on chess is greater the number of books on all other games combined. Yet, chess books would be few and far between if there were not an efficient way to record the moves of games. Chess notation is thus the special written "language" of chess players, making it possible for a single book to contain hundreds of games by great players, or thousands of opening variations.

Surprisingly, however, chess notation was slow to evolve. As late as the early nineteenth century, many chess books simply wrote out moves in full sentences! As a result, very few of those early games before the 1800's were recorded and preserved in print, and published analysis was correspondingly limited.

In Shakespeare's day, for example, the standard English chess book gave the move 2.Qf3 as follows: " Then the black king for his second draught brings forth his queene, and placeth her in the third house, in front of his bishop's pawne." Can we imagine

recording a full 40-move game with each move written out like that!

Nevertheless, the great 18th century player and author Andre Philidor, in his highly influential chess treatise published in 1747, continued to write out moves as full sentences. One move might read, "The bishop takes the bishop, checking." Or the move e5 would appear as "King's pawn to adverse 4th." Occasionally Philidor would abbreviate something, but generally he liked to spell everything out.

In 1737, however, a Syrian-born player/author named Philip Stamma introduced the shorthand notation that we now call "algebraic" in his book of composed problems, published in France. In 1745, he issued an expanded edition in English that included opening analysis and retained the algebraic notation. Stamma's system was almost identical to modern algebraic notation, with the files of the board designated " a-h" and the ranks numbered "1-8." However, he tried to make the notation completely international by using standard piece names as well as standard letters and numbers for the squares. Thus, the king's rook was written as "H" instead of "R" throughout the game, because it began on the h-file; for similar reasons the king was always "E" and the queen "D," the queen's knight was "B," etc., with each piece being named for its starting file.

That system for piece symbols would have totally eliminated language differences across countries, but it failed and each country now uses its own piece symbols in algebraic notation although retaining standard names for the squares. Nevertheless, modern figurine algebraic ( with printed piece symbols instead of names) is coming into use as a new way of reviving Stamma's old idea of a totally international notation.

Philidor and Stamma were rivals both as players and authors. Philidor soundly defeated Stamma in a match, after which Philidor's book became more popular than Stamma's book in England and his notation system therefore became dominant. However, Stamma's book also continued to enjoy popularity, and by the 19th century Stamma's simple system had become the norm in some European countries. Thus began the battle between

descriptive and algebraic notations that continued into modern times.

Clearly, however, Philidor's way of recording moves had to be made more efficient if English chess literature were to have room to grow. A major innovation in that respect occurred in 1817, when an edition of Philidor's works introduced a system of abbreviations into Philidor's ponderous notation. Those abbreviations, by the way, were introduced rather timidly with suitable apologies to the reader. Over the next few decades, more use of abbreviations occurred, and the descriptive notation of modern times slowly took shape. As notation simplified, chess books were able to include more information, and the number of chess books began to increase exponentially.

Following is a sampling of ways of giving the move N-KB3 ( Nf3 in algebraic) in descriptive notation, taken from books of different years to illustrate the slow evolution of that notation system. Notice the subtle changes that creep in virtually one letter at a time; apparently too much change could not be tolerated all at once!

1614: The white king commands his owne knight into the third house before his owne bishop. 1750: K. knight to His Bishop's 3d. 1837: K.Kt. to B.third sq. 1848: K.Kt. to B's 3rd. 1859: K. Kt. to B. 3d. 1874: K Kt to B3 1889: KKt -B3 1904: Kt-KB3 1946: N-KB3

In the 1970's, The US Chess Federation began a campaign to convert the US to algebraic notation, which had by then become standard in nearly all countries. The arguments for the change were several: that US books would then enjoy a bigger international market; that algebraic was less ambiguous and therefore produced fewer irretrievable game scores; that algebraic took less space and more games could therefore fit into fewer pages.

In spite of these persuasive arguments, a fierce battle raged for years until algebraic gradually won out. Now descriptive is on the road to becoming an extinct "language" understood in the future only by historians. We now have books containing huge numbers of games, and computers that "speak" only algebraic.

We have come a long way from " the white King commands his owne knight into the third house before His owne Bishop" to the simple "Nf3," and chess literature has come a long way as well!

For more on chess history go to : [http://www.excaliburelectronics.com/history\\_archive.html](http://www.excaliburelectronics.com/history_archive.html)

## MMCC T-Shirts & Sweatshirts



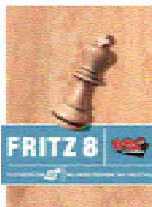
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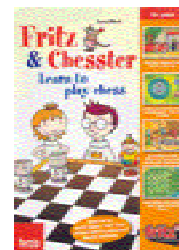
## Chess Products to improve your game



The **Fritz 8** is identical to the one that fascinated the world in the man vs Machine duel against

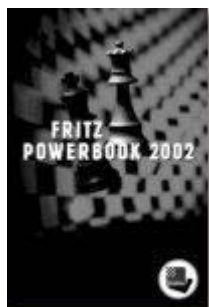
the human world champion. Millions of chess fans watched the games live on the Internet – the match ended in a 4:4 tie. "Deep Fritz is stronger than Deep Blue," said world champion Vladimir Kramnik, who had carefully studied the program. But don't be afraid, Fritz is not just a chess playing monster. It is a friendly chess partner for beginners and amateurs. It will teach you to play chess from scratch, and can automatically adjust its playing strength to suit your needs. It will warn you when you go wrong in a game, giving you hints on how to play better. In any position it will explain all possible continuations to you in plain language, and it will display all pieces that are attacked, defended or "hanging". Afterwards it will analyse your games and point out mistakes and blunders. It has many handicap and friendly levels. In the sparring level the program will actually set up tactics for you to discover, teaching you to keep a lookout for opportunities throughout the game. Fritz has a photo-realistic 3D chessboard and will chatter humorously during the game. It has a giant openings book with a very wide repertoire and full statistics on every move. It has a built-in database with half a million top-quality games and is the companion and analytical partner of top players all over the world. Even Garry Kasparov admits: "I use Fritz regularly for my analysis." Fritz is also the only chess program that has been in space. In April 1999 it was transported to the space station Mir to entertain the cosmonauts who were spending many months in orbit. Fritz is also your key to a completely different world of chess. The program has a no-hassle connection to the Internet chess server Playchess.com where you can play with chess enthusiasts all over the world. You will find hundreds of opponents, day and night, you can start a blitz game, play a tournament or simply watch and chat. You can also find the latest chess news, live coverage of international tournaments and online training sessions. This is what chess is all about. Available at Chessbaseusa.com **\$54.00** Model Number: **CP-25**

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### POWERBOOK

**2003** The Fritz Powerbook 2003 is an openings book and database that will run with Fritz or any Fritz compatible engine (Shredder, Junior, Tiger, Nimzo, etc.). You

can also use it in ChessBase 7.0 or 8.0 to conduct openings training and hone your repertoire. The Fritz Powerbook 2003 contains 7.9 million openings positions, which were derived from 630,000 high-class tournament games. Together with each position all relevant information is stored: all moves that were played in the position, by players of what average rating, with what success and performance results. The games from which the Fritz Powerbook 2002 was derived are also included on the CD. This means that in any position of the opening tree, you can load and replay the games in which the position occurred. The Fritz Powerbook 2003 represents the state of the art of current opening theory. It can be used to discover exciting new lines (e.g. never before played transpositions) and practice them against Fritz. Fritz6, Fritz7 and all other ChessBase engines under the Fritz interface can use the PowerBook 2003 as opening book, making the opening play of the programs more topical, versatile and entertaining. Required space for PowerBook: about 550 MB; for the database: 95 MB. The Fritz Powerbook 2003 CD also contains an upgrade of the world map data for playing on the

Fritz 8 server. **\$46.50**  
Model Number: **CBO-003**

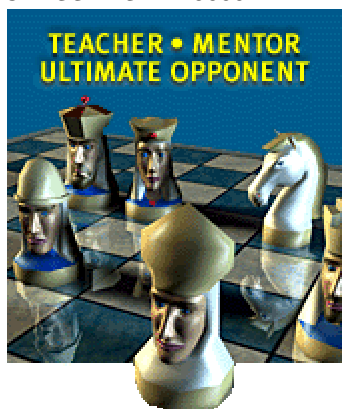


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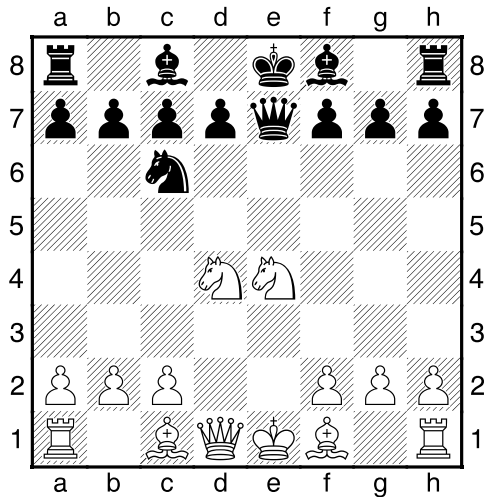
# Over The Board



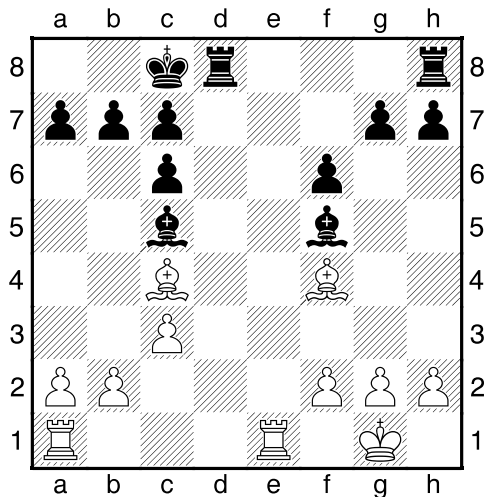
## (1) Nealy,L (1627) – Bury,M (2200) [C47]

MasterMinds CC Open (4), 14.12.2003  
[Fritz 8 (30s)]

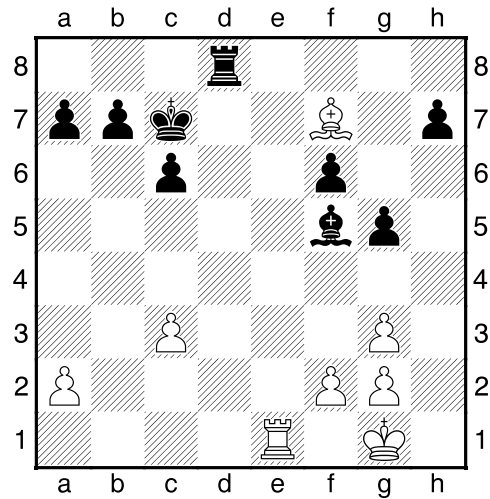
C47: Scotch Four Knights and Four Knights with 4.g3 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nxe4 [5...Bb4!? should not be overlooked 6.Nxc6 bxc6=] 6.Nxe4± Qe7 Diagram



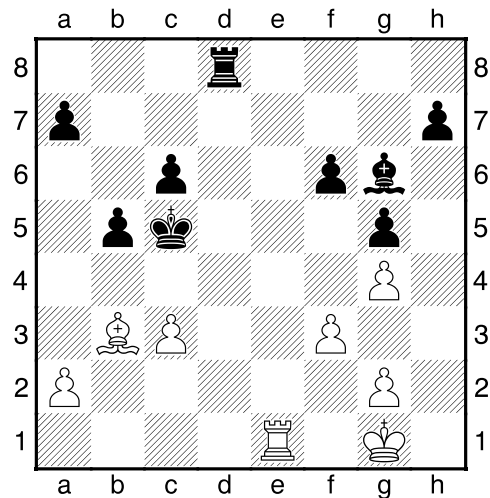
7.Nxc6 [△7.f3!? is worth looking at 7...d5 8.Bb5±] 7...Qxe4+ 8.Qe2 Qxe2+ 9.Bxe2 dxc6 10.0-0 Bf5 11.Re1 0-0-0 12.c3 Prevents intrusion on b4 12...Bc5 13.Bc4 f6 14.Bf4 Diagram



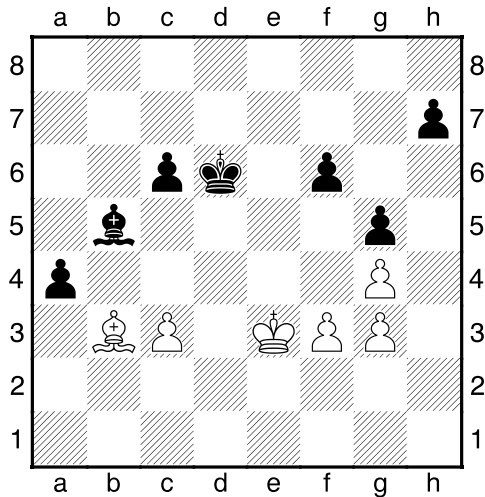
14...g5 [14...Rhe8 15.h4±] 15.Bg3 [15.Bxg5 fxg5 16.Re5 Bxf2+ 17.Kxf2 Rhf8±] 15...Rde8 16.b4 Bd6 17.b5 [17.h4!±?] 17...Bxg3 18.hxg3 cxb5 19.Bxb5 c6 20.Bc4 Kc7 21.Bf7 Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 Rd8 Diagram



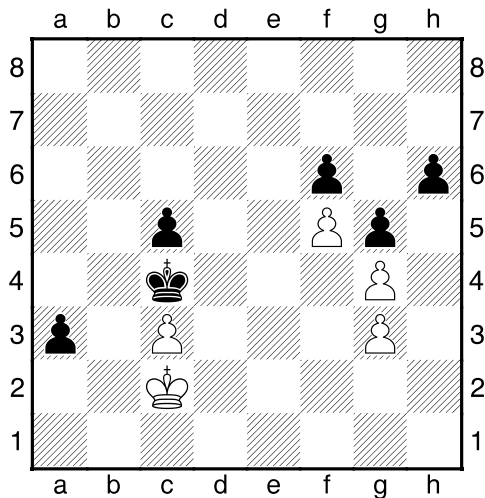
23.Bc4 [23.f3 b5+] 23...Kd6 [23...b5 24.Bf7+] 24.f3 Kc5 25.Bb3 b5 26.g4 Bg6 Diagram



27.Re6 [27.Kf2!? a5+] 27...Rd6 [27...Rd3!? 28.Bc2 Rxc3 29.Bxg6 hxg6 30.Rxf6+] 28.Rxd6 Kxd6 29.a4 [29.Kf2 c5+] 29...a5 30.Kf2 Bd3 31.Ke3 Bf1 32.g3 bxa4 33.Bxa4 Bb5 34.Bb3 a4 Diagram



35.Ba2?? a blunder in a bad position [35.Bg8-+] 35...Kc5 36.Kd2 [36.f4 cannot change what is in store for ? 36...Bc4 37.Bb1 a3-+] 36...Bc4 37.Bxc4 [37.Bb1 is the last straw 37...a3 38.Ke3-+] 37...Kxc4 38.Kc2 a3 39.f4 h6 40.f5 c5. 0-1  
Diagram

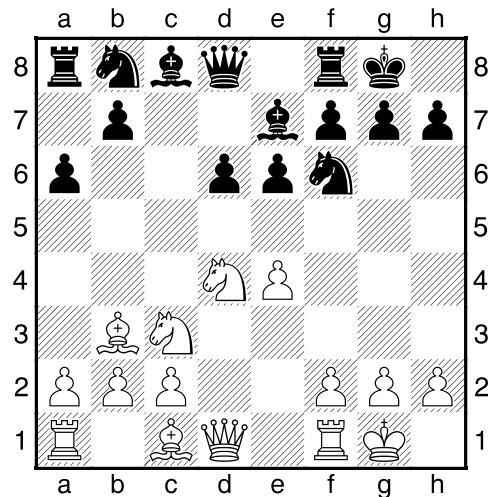


[40...c5 41.Kd2 a2 42.Ke3 a1Q 43.Ke2 Kxc3 44.Kf2 Qh1 45.Ke2 Qg2+ 46.Ke3 Qf1 47.Ke4 Qd3#]

**Pariseau,R (1960) – Street,L (1684) [B86]**

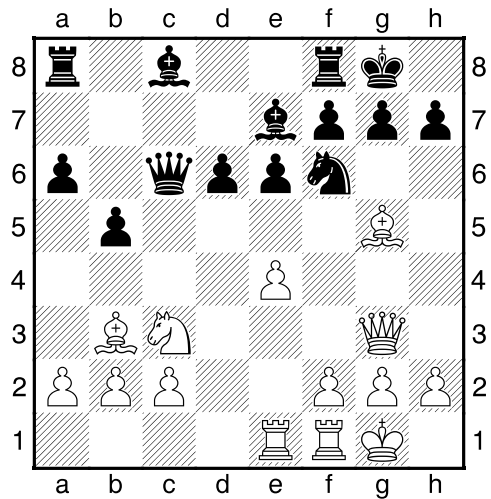
Holly Heisman Memorial (2), 10.08.2003  
[Leteef Street]

Upset Special by Leteef Street. The following game won me the "Upset Prize" at the 1st Holly Heisman Memorial Tournament on August 10th. An upset is a win or draw over a higher ranked opponent. The prize was a nice, new, expensive Staunton set. This game was in the Open section, 2nd round. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 Black plays a Scheveningen Sicilian, accepting a backward pawn on D6, but in return has a flexible front line making a play for the center with the D and E pawns and plans for queenside development. 6.Bc4 White places his bishop on C4, typical of a Sozin setup. It is more aggressive than the often played BE2. BC4 stakes out the D5 square and looks to create possibilities on the A2-G8 diagonal. 6...Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bb3 a6

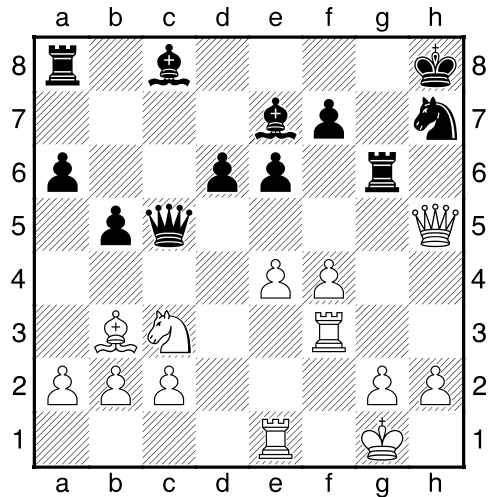


Black looks to get things going on the queenside. 9.Qf3 White lines up the queen with the bishop hoping to create possibilities on F7 and the kingside as well as the H1-A8 diagonal 9...Qc7 10.Bg5 Nc6 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.Rae1 b5 13.Qg3

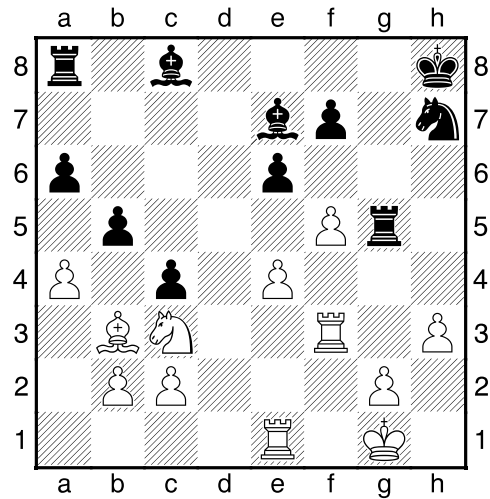




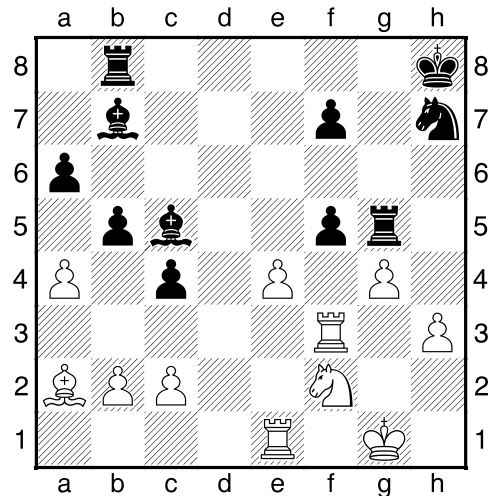
White misses a chance to play ND5 with tricky tactical chances **13...Kh8 14.Qh4 h6 15.Bxh6 gxh6 16.Qxh6+ Nh7** White's bishop sac may have been unsound, Black's rooks can easily get into play to defend and attack on the g-file. **17.f4 Rg8 18.Rf3 Rg6 19.Qh5 Qc5+**



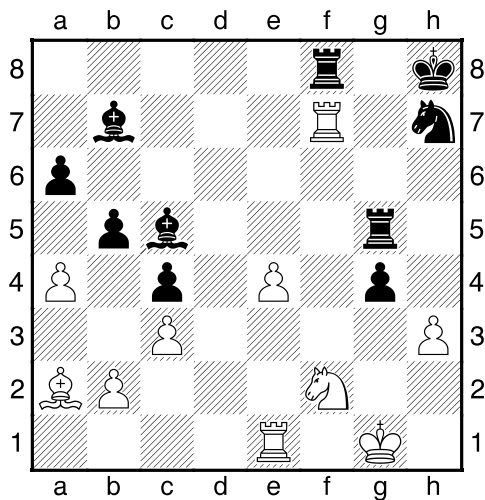
White allows Black to force a queen trade, thus stifling the attack and making Black's game easier. **20.Qxc5 dxc5 21.f5 Rg4 22.h3 Rg5 23.a4 c4**



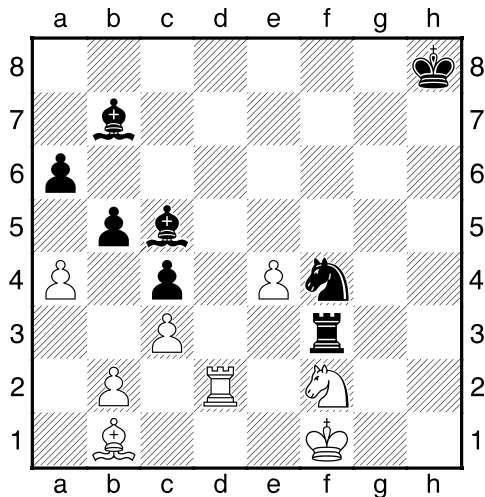
Black closes off White's bishop. **24.Ba2 Rb8 25.g4 Bb7 26.Nd1 exf5 27.Nf2 Bc5**



White's E4 pawn and F2 knight are both pinned and black's bishops reign on the diagonals. **28.c3 fxg4 29.Rxf7 Rf8**



With both players under time pressure, Black misses G3 winning material, but forces a rook exchange and any routine exchanges will tend to favor the side up material. **30.Rxf8+ Nxf8 31.Kf1 gxf3 32.Nxh3 Rg3 33.Nf2 Rf3 34.Re2 Ne6 35.Bb1 Nf4 36.Rd2**

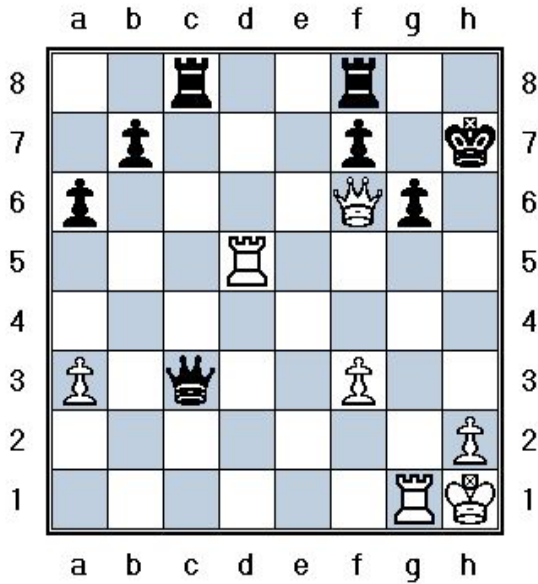


Black winds up exchanging pieces and winning the endgame with the extra material in a time scramble. I won the upset prize with this win over an opponent 267 points higher rated than myself. One player drew a player over 500 pts higher rated, but lost out because you only get credit for half the points for a draw. **0-1**

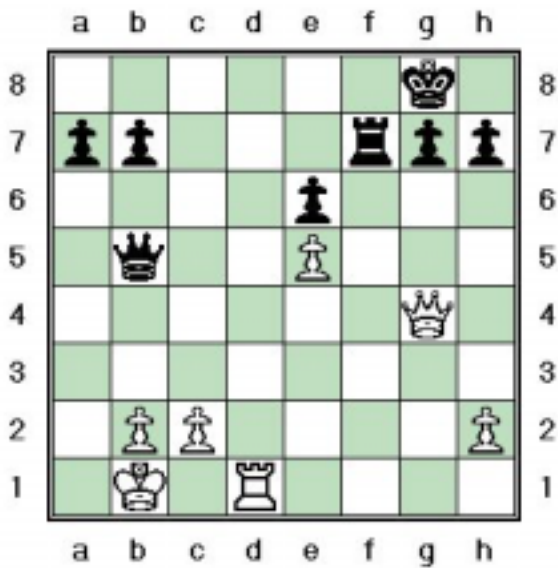


**CHESS PROBLEMS TO PRACTICE YOUR SKILL OF CONCENTRATION**

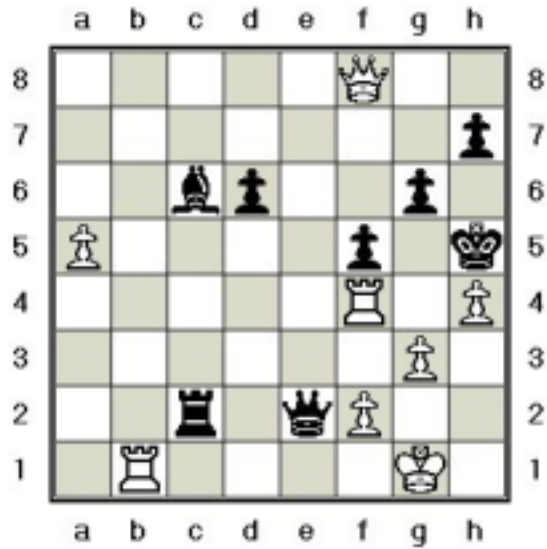
White mates in three moves - Problem 58



White mates in four moves - Problem 15

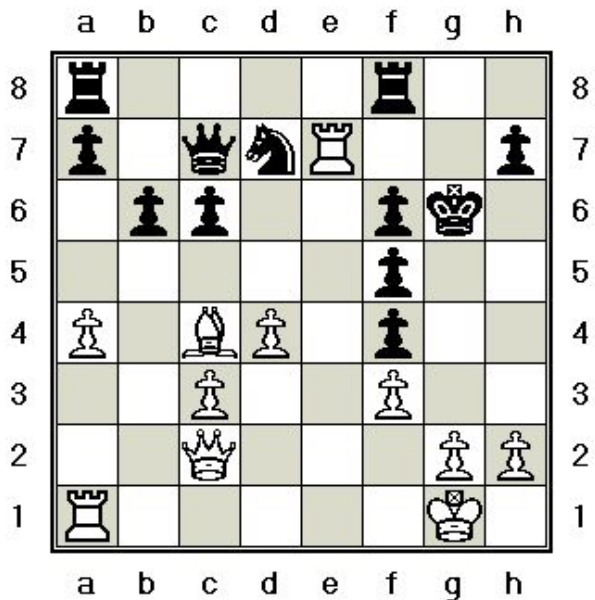


White mates in five moves - Problem 1



Alterman vs. Malaniuk

White mates in five moves - Problem 4



**THINK THEM THROUGH! DON'T RUSH TO SEE THE ANSWERS! TRUST YOUR ABILITY TO SEE THE VARIATIONS!!!**

Taken from Chess Problems Online at <http://www.remotepoint.com/~deanh/chessmain.html>

Answers on last page.

## November Tournament Final Standings /Open Section

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Chris Bechis	1372	W15	W11	W2	W3	W5	5.0
2	John Keaton	1655	W13	W5	L1	W6	W3	4.0
3	Boris Baczynskyj	2281	W7	W4	W10	L1	L2	3.0
4	Carmelo Neris	1644	W16	L3	W12	L5	W10	3.0
5	David C. Miller	1523	W14	L2	W8	W4	L1	3.0
6	Jean Borgella	1518	W9	L10	W14	L2	W12	3.0
7	Rich Henry	1353	L3	W8	L9	W15	W13	3.0
8	Russell Floyd	814	B---	L7	L5	W17	W16	3.0
9	Derrick Segers	unr.	L6	W16	W7	D10	D11	3.0
10	Leteef Street	1711	W12	W6	L3	D9	L4	2.5
11	Levy Nealy	1627	W17	L1	L13	W14	D9	2.5
12	Yugene Dey	1324	L10	W17	L4	W13	L6	2.0
13	Lawrence Hall	1273	L2	W15	W11	L12	L7	2.0
14	Melanie Brennan	848	L5	B---	L6	L11	W17	2.0
15	Ouris Alston	unr.	L1	L13	W16	L7	B---	2.0
16	Rodney Johnson	1034	L4	L9	L15	B---	L8	1.0
17	Paul Walsh	927	L11	L12	B---	L8	L14	1.0

## November Tournament Final Standings / Scholastic Section

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Dennison Bechis	unr.	W6	W11	W4	W2	X---	5.0
2	David Lakata	820	W7	W12	W3	L1	W4	4.0
3	Jamie Thallmayer	596	W17	W13	L2	W12	W11	4.0
4	Christopher Albino	674	W15	W8	L1	W6	L2	3.0
5	Tamera Warren Jackson	546	W16	L6	W8	W11	F---	3.0
6	Nathaniel Vahedi	480	L1	W5	W10	L4	W13	3.0
7	Janiyah Kirby	unr.	L2	L17	W18	W15	W14	3.0
8	Anthony Harvin	unr.	W9	L4	L5	W17	W12	3.0
9	Julia Douglass	316	L8	D16	L15	W18	W17	2.5
10	Raven Wake	unr.	L11	W18	L6	D14	W15	2.5
11	Christian Caulk	819	W10	L1	W17	L5	L3	2.0
12	Dylan Quigley	unr.	W14	L2	W13	L3	L8	2.0
13	Shelley Lian	unr.	W18	L3	L12	W16	L6	2.0
14	Evan Wagenfield	unr.	L12	D15	W16	D10	L7	2.0
15	Amber Caulk	unr.	L4	D14	W9	L7	L10	1.5
16	Scott Giorgio	unr.	L5	D9	L14	L13	W18	1.5
17	Andrew Chiu	unr.	L3	W7	L11	L8	L9	1.0
18	Patrick Walsh	117	L13	L10	L7	L9	L16	0.0

## December Tournament Final Standings /Open Section

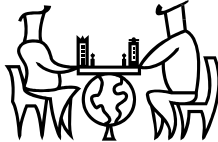
#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	<i>Michael James Bury</i>	2200	W6	W5	W2	W4	4.0
2	<i>Leteef Street</i>	1713	W7	W4	L1	W5	3.0
3	<i>Robert Lakata</i>	1222	W10	W6	L4	W8	3.0
4	<i>Levy C Nealy</i>	1627	W8	L2	W3	L1	2.0
5	<i>Elizabeth M Lakata</i>	1494	W9	L1	W7	L2	2.0
6	<i>Michael Levin</i>	1097	L1	L3	W9	W10	2.0
7	<i>Rodney Johnson</i>	1034	L2	W8	L5	W9	2.0
8	<i>Ernest Moore</i>	894	L4	L7	W10	L3	1.0
9	<i>Melanie Brennan</i>	848	L5	W10	L6	L7	1.0
10	<i>Mary Ann Douglass</i>	unr.	L3	L9	L8	L6	0.0

## December Scholastic Section Final Standings

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	<i>Shawn Jackson</i>	560	W16	W11	W3	W2	W7	5.0
2	<i>David A Lakata</i>	820	W19	W8	W7	L1	W5	4.0
3	<i>David Reilly</i>	674	W20	W13	L1	W8	W9	4.0
4	<i>Nathaniel Vahedi</i>	480	L15	W17	W22	W6	W12	4.0
5	<i>Joseph M Kovacs</i>	657	W14	L9	W19	W15	L2	3.0
6	<i>Gabriel Bury</i>	627	L11	W18	W10	L4	W14	3.0
7	<i>Panzio Blocker</i>	612	W17	W10	L2	W12	L1	3.0
8	<i>Chad Gabaly</i>	556	W22	L2	W14	L3	W15	3.0
9	<i>Ryan Eppley</i>	520	W18	W5	L12	W13	L3	3.0
10	<i>David Blocker</i>	358	W12	L7	L6	W22	W16	3.0
11	<i>Julia Douglass</i>	316	W6	L1	L20	W17	W18	3.0
12	<i>Christian Caulk</i>	819	L10	W15	W9	L7	L4	2.0
13	<i>Raven Wake</i>	395	W21	L3	L15	L9	W22	2.0
14	<i>Paris Woods</i>	317	L5	W16	L8	W19	L6	2.0
15	<i>Shelley Lian</i>	unr.	W4	L12	W13	L5	L8	2.0
16	<i>Isaiah Ferguson</i>	unr.	L1	L14	W21	W20	L10	2.0
17	<i>Casey Reilly</i>	147	L7	L4	D18	L11	W20	1.5
18	<i>Aaron Jackson</i>	unr.	L9	L6	D17	W21	L11	1.5
19	<i>Alex Nalbandian</i>	394	L2	W21	L5	L14	U---	1.0
20	<i>Ryan Frey</i>	357	L3	L22	W11	L16	L17	1.0
21	<i>Morgan K McMillian</i>	unr.	L13	L19	L16	L18	B---	1.0
22	<i>Amber Caulk</i>	unr.	L8	W20	L4	L10	L13	1.0



INVITES YOU TO PLAY IN IT'S  
**CHESS TOURNAMENT**



**EVERY SECOND SUNDAY**

At

**BLAIR CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**  
**220 W. UPSAL STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA**  
(Between Germantown Ave. & Greene St.)



**OPEN SECTION 4SS G/45, EF \$20, MMCC members \$15**  
**Reg. 8:30am – 9:30am Rounds: 10:00-12-1:30-3:00.**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Overall \$150, 2<sup>ND</sup> Overall \$100, U1800/\$80, U1500/\$70**  
**U1200/\$65, U1000/\$50 (B/50)**



**SCHOLASTIC SECTION 5SS G/30 EF \$5**  
**Reg. 8:30am –10:00am Rounds: 10:30- 11:30- 1:00-2:00-3:00**  
**Trophies for 1<sup>st</sup> Overall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall, U800, U600**  
**Medals for U400 & U200**

Note: USCF (United States Chess Federation) membership is required. Membership card, a recent Chess Life magazine with name and I.D. number displayed, or proof of current membership must be presented. Non-USCF members must join during registration.

1 yr. memberships Adults \$49. Juniors \$19. Seniors \$36

Send pre-registration check or money order post marked no later than 7 days prior to:

Blair Christian Academy  
C/O MasterMinds Chess Club  
Attention: Bradley Crable  
220 W. Upsal St. Phila. PA 19119



**Info: Contact Ernest Moore 215-235-1696 (Ernest.mj@verizon.net)**  
**Steve Slocum 215-455-6285 (JSSlocum@msn.com),**  
**Melanie Brennan 215-844-8553 (MelBrenn@aol.com)**  
**Bradley Crable 215-844-3881 (brc43@hotmail.com)**



## Club Nights



We meet each Monday from 6 – 9pm at Temple University's Anderson hall, 9<sup>th</sup> floor. Enter from 11th or 12th street between Norris & Berks Streets.

In a structured format we provide a place to play, study, and analyze the game of chess. NM Elvin Wilson provides informative instruction where his schedule permits. Learn to record games through algebraic & descriptive notation. Come and learn opening principles, middlegame strategies & tactics, as well as the endgame phase of play.

We also encourage tournament participation and membership with the United States Chess Federation. We also network with local area clubs and plan to travel to other cities to network, play, and learn. It is also our focus to give back to the national community as well by providing the opportunity to enhance one's intellectual, social, and moral character. We offer you the opportunity to serve.



**Membership is \$20 yearly for adults...\$10 yearly for seniors & children under 18.**

## Mission Statement



The MasterMinds Chess Club is designed to provide a meaningful and viable service to the community. In particular it is our intent to promote chess within the inner-city community and to provide a learning environment where the game can be played, taught, studied, and enjoyed. Ultimately, we see chess as a tool for self-development, development of our community and as a bridge to other communities as well. We, the members of the MasterMinds Chess Club are dedicated to promoting good moral conduct,

mutual respect, and stand committed to the development of the total human being through heart felt support and genuine concern. It is also our intent to travel to other cities in an effort to promote a healthy network of area clubs as well as with clubs across the nation.

We intend on preparing for and participating in tournament competition and encourage membership in the United States Chess Federation. We encourage the membership of school age chess players to grow academically, maintain their discipline and focus on educational pursuits with the understanding that academic excellence has priority over actual chess endeavors. Furthermore, by playing the royal game of chess and pursuing its many disciplines, we hope to instill in some and nurture in others an appreciation for the game while at the same time benefit from its growth.

*"It is always better to sacrifice your opponent's men."*  
**Savielly Tartakover**

## Code of Ethics



1. To maintain good moral conduct conducive to the club's standards.
2. To promote mutual respect and concern for others.
3. To refrain from the use of profane language, but to encourage wholesome communication that uplift, support, edify, and instruct others.

4. To always demonstrate good sportsmanship.
5. Never to demean and belittle others but only offer constructive criticism.
6. Always play the game of chess according to the rules, which govern the game.
7. Support those who are participating or preparing for tournament competition.
8. Be an active member by presenting your ideas and/or participating on committees to accomplish goals and objectives.
9. Continue to develop your passion for the game through continuous practice, play and study.
10. To realize and remember that every member is of vital importance to the collective whole.



## Club Officers

Ernest Moore, President  
Steve Slocum, Vice President, Newsletter  
Melanie Brennan, Secretary  
Rodney Johnson, Treasurer  
Bradley Crable, Webmaster,  
Tournament Director  
Leteef Street, Tournament Director

## Puzzle Answers

**Problem 58**  
**Answer:** 1.Rh5+ gxh5 2.Rg7+ Kh8 3.Qh6 mate  
**Problem 15**  
**Answer:** 1.Rd8+ Qe8 2.Rxe8+ Rf8 3.Qxe6+ Kh8 4.Rxf8 mate  
**Problem 1**  
**Answer:** 1.Rxf5+! Kg4 2.Rg5+ Kh3 3.Qc8+ Bd7 4.Qxd7+ Qg4 5.Qxg4 mate  
**Problem 4**  
**Answer:** 1.Qxf5+ Kxf5 2.Bd3+ Kg5 3.Rg7+ Kh6 4.Rxh7+ Kg5 5.h4 mate