



“HATS OFF TO PITTSBURGH!”

The Pittsburgh Chess Club Championship of 1913, and the Royal Game in the City of Steel - Part I

by Neil Brennen

Chess historians and writers have been drawn to New York City repeatedly for subjects. The great names of American chess - Fine, Fischer, Helms, Kashdan, Denker, Steinitz, Lasker, Marshall, etc., are all connected to the Big Apple. But in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, chess activity was much less centralized than it is now. Every city had its own club, sometimes several, and many had multiple chess columns. Unfortunately, the constant preoccupation with New York by chess writers and historians, largely because of a latter-day core of masters that grew up there, has distorted our picture of American chess. Nearly every major American city, and often smaller ones, had a chess life as fascinating, in its way, as New York.

Take, for example, Pittsburgh. On first glance one might pass over the 250 year old Pennsylvania city, noting that it might have steel but no Steinitz, McCutcheon but no Mackenzie or Mason. But the chess life of Pittsburgh is a box of untapped riches for chess historians, as this brief examination of a single season, late Autumn of 1912 through late Spring 1913, will show. True, one won't find much chess at the level of, say, Capablanca's tournament games. But what one does find is a busy chess community teeming with organized events, offhand and consultation play, and a clash of chess personalities to rival few other cities.

And among personalities in Pittsburgh, few were as brash as its leading chess columnist, Howard L. Dolde. *American Chess Bulletin* for 1910, on page 82, in an article titled, "Hats off to Pittsburgh", outlined the special contributions made by Howard Dolde to chess in his city, and by extension the world: "Eight columns comprise a page of the *Leader*, one of the leading and most enterprising newspapers in Pittsburgh, Pa. This amount of space, in each Sunday edition, is shared between the respective chess and checkers editors of that journal. Mr. Howard L. Dolde, well known as the young and energetic secretary of the Pittsburgh Chess Club, finds the time and material every week to fill four of these columns, making a chessic feast of truly mammoth proportions and as appetizing as it is large. Six diagrams, four of them abreast, make a showing for chess that cannot be equaled by another newspaper in this country. The size of the department enables its editor to cater to lovers of the various branches of the game and we notice that it is appreciated by readers at all parts of the compass. A perusal of it gives rise to a feeling of genuine admiration for the man whose forceful personality is responsible for the gracious attitude of the *Leader* toward the friends of chess."

Shortly after these words appeared in the *American Chess Bulletin*, Dolde's chessic feast became movable, as his column was transferred to the *Pittsburgh Gazette-Times*. The *Leader*, to keep the chess readership Dolde drew to the paper, engaged a fellow member of the Pittsburgh Chess Club, Abraham Isaacs, to edit the column. Under Isaacs, the *Leader* column suffered no reduction in size, which meant for a few small coins on a Sunday a Pittsburgh chessplayer would have six

to eight columns of broadsheet newsprint devoted to the royal game. And, if that wasn't enough for the local enthusiast, on Monday morning another coin would provide him with the *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, with its chess column by the former British chess champion and Pittsburgh native William Ewart Napier. The *Dispatch* column was much smaller than that of the other papers, often only a half to full column, but it made a nice chaser for the drunken excesses of the Dolde and Isaacs draughts.

While Napier and Isaacs added considerably to the chess reading in Pittsburgh, the columnist with the most impact was Dolde. And that impact carried far beyond the three rivers, as this description of Dolde's columns, taken from page 130 of the Good Companion Chess Club magazine *Our Folder* for 1922, makes clear: "They were rich columns, rich in space, rich in interest, for the world's best minds followed Dolde's leadership in giving out of their best; rich in the colloquial sense too, for they sparkled with fun as well as with more weighty matters."

The "fun" in the Dolde columns at times anticipated the zaniness of the Marx Brothers. A typical example of Dolde wearing a coxcomb is a reply to an exchange he had with one of his column "family", chess problemist and solver Maxwell Bukofzer, a pharmacist in North Patterson, New Jersey. A joke regarding sending perfume to the columnist's wife grew into the following playlet, well-larded with inside jokes and references to chess problem literature, which Dolde published in the *Gazette-Times*.

"You received a tip of a perfume-poison episode recently enacted between one of the family and the monitor. It has been given a stage setting" -Howard Dolde

PERFUME AND POISON

A semi-chessic tragi-comedy, written by the villain who does not appear at all on the stage.

Personae Dramatis

Howard Dolde - Enraged Husband, Chess Editor

Mrs. Dolde - Heroine and Perfume Conniossuese

Mrs. Bukofzer - Enraged Wife, acting the part of "Nemesis"

A Pittsburgh Parcel-Post Official

Act I

A West View residence, near Pittsburgh

Howard D.: What ho! I smell a Patterson perfume,
Ten thousand curses! That spells Maxwell's doom!

Mrs. D.: Hush! Curb your noisy tongue and do be still.
If you won't give me perfumes - others will.

Howard D.: Ha! Faithless woman! This perfume I spill!
He threatened me with deadly Ars'nic pills.
But I shall chastise him! In my *Gazette*,
I'll ridicule the villain, you can bet.

Until, not knowing where his shame to hide,
He's driven to a ten move sui-cide.

Mrs. D.: Your "Threat" lacks polish, if I may presume.
Shucks! Let him die, then! I've got my perfume!

Act II

Pittsburgh Post Office

Howard D.: A salesman of cigars I've been afore,
I took to spieling chess-problemic lore;
Therefore I know a poison that will beat
That treacherous villain and his Ars'nic treat.
I'll show him that I am not a senile foggy;
I'll kill that druggier with a Pittsburgh stogy!

Pittsburgh Parcel Post Official:

Nix! Cut it out! I'll not stand for this stuff!
Pittsburgh - believe me - is disgraced enough
Without you advertising, it's no joke,
What rank tobacco we of Pittsburgh smoke.

Howard D.: Well, then I must some other plan consider,
To make that druggier's wife a weeping widder!

Act III

Long distance telephone conversation between North Patterson and Pittsburgh

Mrs. B.: Hallo! This Dolde? This is Mrs. B.
Say! Leave this business of revenge to me.
I fear you both have leaky mental roofs.
You just go home and read your problem proofs,
They need it! Never mind my peachy gink,
I'll put his "Perfume Habits" on the blink.
Meanwhile in Perfume-buying get up some speed,
Before some others you the pace do lead.
But, having business sense, enclose your bills,
More deadly than my husband's Ars'nic pills.

Finis

Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, June 15, 1913

It's hard to imagine Hermann Helms or Larry Evans penning such a column, isn't it? Or publishing such a "playlet." However, that same chess column had six problems, three international games, ladder re-

sults for the paper's problem tournament, and local and international chess news spanning four newspaper columns.

However, while the Dolde chess column was games, it was not all fun. In the Autumn of 1912 the columnist used his paper pulpit to criticize the local club. "It is to be regretted," Dolde wrote in his November 3, 1912 column, "there is not greater activity at the Pittsburgh Chess Club in the way of matches, tournaments, exhibitions, or entertainments for the betterment of the game. The Western Pennsylvania Championship title is practically without a holder, since Kalman Erdekey, who won it in a tournament a year ago, soon after resigned from the club, and announced his retirement from active chess. There are a half dozen good players in the club, and some lively matches or tournaments would be the result of a little activity on the part of the management."

The Pittsburgh Chess Club, then meeting in rooms on Fourth Avenue, the financial district of the city often called the "Western Wall Street", followed Dolde's suggestion and began planning for a Club Championship tournament, with the winner to be acclaimed as Western Pennsylvania Champion. The club apparently didn't consult Kalman Erdekey, the current titlehold, before deciding to organize the event. Erdekey, however, didn't think too highly of the tournament and of the Pittsburgh Chess Club for their action, and in a letter to Isaacs laid out his complaints. His correspondence appeared in the December 15 issue of the *Leader*:

"Dear Mr Isaacs - With the greatest surprise I read in last Sunday's paper the announcement of a tournament for the championship title of Western Pennsylvania, which was supposed to start the following day.

Had I read the announcement in only one other paper I would not spend a minute of my time in looking for an explanation, as the editors of some papers perpetrate a joke once in a while upon us chess players, but as it appeared in the paper of which you are the editor I must take this for granted. Now, I wish to inform you, that this tournament is an impossibility, as I'm the present holder of the title, and I will hold it until somebody by challenging me properly and customarily defeats me. Some players have a notion that because I resigned from the Pittsburgh Chess Club for awhile that I had retired from chess altogether, and that by this tournament they could transfer the title without my consent.

Granted that I retire from chess altogether, and not care to hold the championship title, would it justify for these players to hold a tournament for the title among themselves, when not one of the noted players of Western Pennsylvania except members of the club have been invited to compete in this tournament? I ask you, would it not necessarily be the duty of the Pittsburgh Chess Club, or an authorized committee, to advertise such an important tournament in all the papers a few weeks ahead, and arrange a fair and unprejudiced tournament?

I do not know what your opinion is, or the opinion of all the well-known players in regard to this matter, but I think it is unfair, partisan, and a tricky deed, and in spite of this tournament will still consider myself the champion of Western Pennsylvania and will let it be known all over the country by corresponding with all the clubs and chess centers. Begging you for an explanation in regard to this matter,

I am respectfully yours,
Kalman Erdekey"

April 19 & 20

Comfort Inn, West Hazleton

2008 PA State Amateur Championship

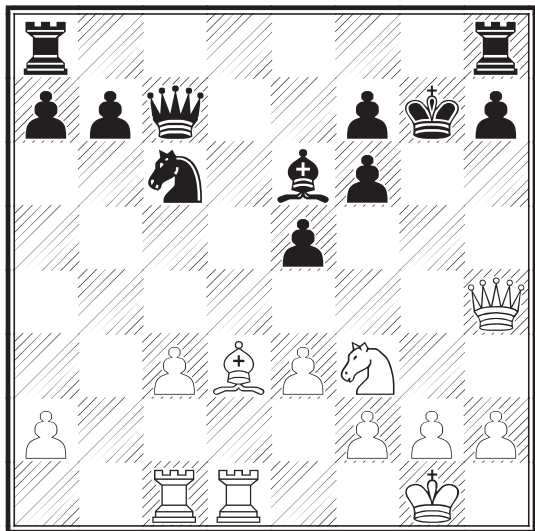
The reference to “other editors” and “jokes” could be a backhanded slam at Dolde and the *Gazette-Times* for their comments about Erdekey’s retirement. Still, popular sentiment was that titles were to be played for, and the Pittsburgh Chess Club organized a round robin tournament with 26 entrants. After four months of play, Dolde was clear first with a Fischer-like 25 wins. Dolde received the title of Pittsburgh Chess Club Champion and a loving cup; the cup is on display at the present-day Pittsburgh Chess Club, one of the club’s few links to its predecessor.

The new Champion began his reign by showing his readers a sample of his play in the tournament. The following win is from Dolde’s column of March 2. The same column features an announcement the “new champion of the Pittsburgh Chess Club will play all comers at simultaneous chess” on the following day.

Howard L. Dolde - William Moorhead Murdoch

1912-13 Pittsburgh Chess Club Championship, 1913

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 c5 6.Nf3 O-O 7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bb4 10.O-O Bxc3 11.bxc3 Qc7 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Qg4+ Kh8 14.Nf3 e5 15.Qh4 Kg7 16.Bd3 Rh8 17.Rfd1 Nc6 18.Rac1 Be6



19.Qg3+ Kf8 20.Nd4 Bxa2 21.Nf5 Rg8 22.Qh4 Bd5 23.e4 Be6 24.Qh6+ Ke8 25.Qxh7 Ne7 26.Bb5+ Bd7 27.Rxd7 Qxd7 28.Bxd7+ Kxd7 29.Rd1+ Ke8 30.Nd6+ Kf8 31.Qxf7# 1:0
Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, March 2, 1913

Oddly enough, the name of the new champion was not published in the *Gazette-Times* column until a week after the report on the end of the tournament. Dolde included a crosstable of the twenty-six player round robin, as well as a brief comment on the tournament. In that same column, under the heading “Champion Surprised”, Dolde also disclosed he had won seven games and lost five in the simul he had given the previous Monday. Dolde commented the single player “blew up and gave away three games in a row, to the delight of the crowd”.

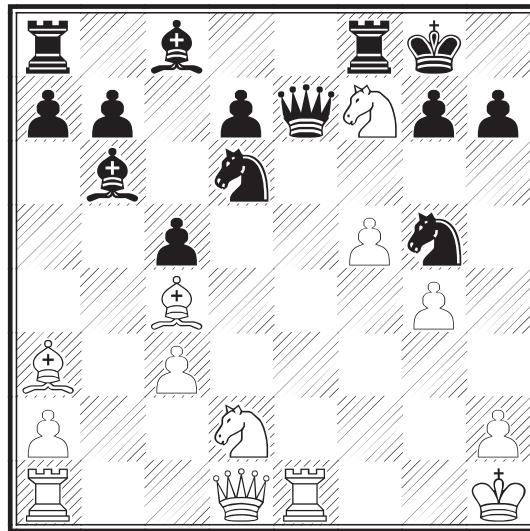
Coverage of the Championship tournament among the city’s three chess columns was surprisingly sparse. Nor was more heard from Kalman Erdekey about defending his Western Pennsylvania Championship title, although it’s probable some discussion had taken place since his letter to the *Leader* on December 15. Whether the limited

coverage of the event was an implied comment on the quality of the play, an attempt to avoid ‘stirring the pot’ regarding Erdekey’s title, or a mere limitation of space remains unknown. Often when Championship games were published, rounds and dates were not provided. Here, in no particular order, are the surviving games of the 1912-1913 Pittsburgh Chess Club Championship.

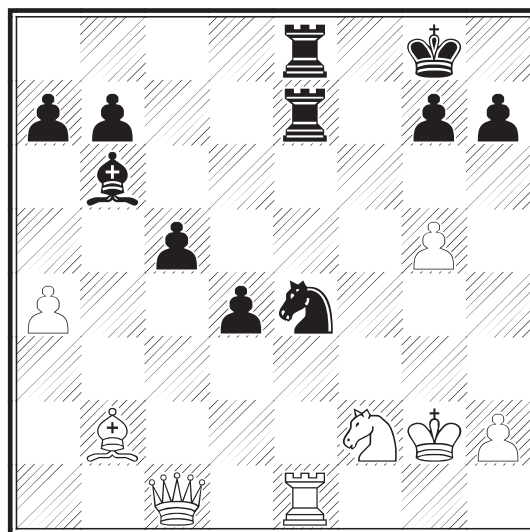
John Emery - Sutcliffe

1912-13 Pittsburgh Chess Club Championship, 12/17/1912

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.O-O Nf6 5.b4 Bxb4 6.c3 Ba5 7.d4 Nxe4 8.Qb3 Qe7 9.Re1 Nd6 10.Nxe5 O-O 11.Ba3 Nxd4 12.Qd1 Ne6 13.f4 Bb6+ 14.Kh1 c5 15.Nd2 Nf5 16.g4 Nd6 17.f5 Ng5 18.Nxf7

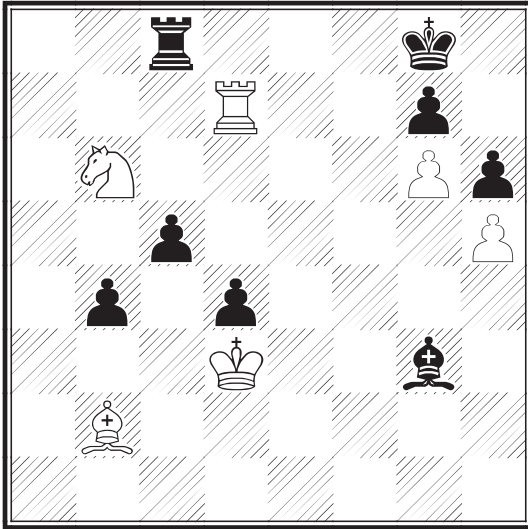


18...Qxe1+ 19.Qxe1 Nxf7 20.Bd5 Nb5 21.g5 Nxc3 22.Bxf7+ Kxf7 23.Nf3 Nb5 24.Ne5+ Kg8 25.Qb1 Nc7 26.Qc2 d6 27.Nc4 Bxf5 28.Qe2 Rae8 29.Qh5 Nb5 30.Bb2 Bd8 31.a4 d5 32.Ne5 Nd6 33.Re1 Bb6 34.Qd1 Be4+ 35.Rxe4 d4 36.Re1 Re7 37.Nd3 Ne4 38.Qc1 Rfe8 39.Kg2 Bd8 40.Nf2 Bb6



41.Qf4 Bc7 42.Qf5 Re5 43.Qxe5 Bxe5 44.Nxe4 Rc8 45.Kf2 a6 46.h4 b5 47.axb5 axb5 48.Ng3 Rf8+ 49.Kg2 Bc7 50.Ne4

Bd8 51.Nd6 b4 52.Nc4 Bc7 53.Re7 Bf4 54.Nb6 Rd8 55.Kf3
Bd6 56.Rd7 Rf8+ 57.Ke4 Bg3 58.h5 Re8+ 59.Kd3 Rc8 60.g6
h6

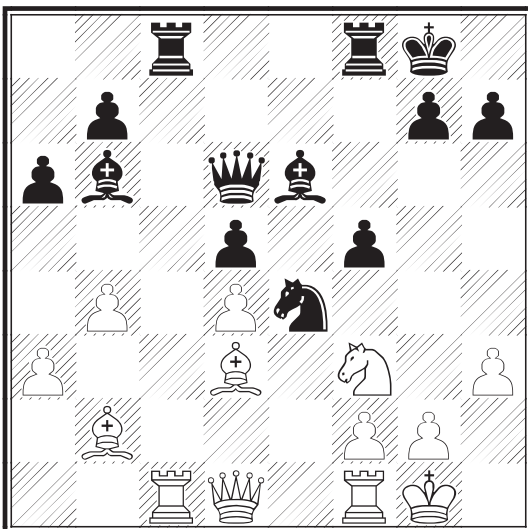


61.Kc4 Rf8 62.Kxc5 Rf5+ 63.Nd5 Bh4 64.Bxd4 Bf6 65.Bxf6
gxf6 66.Kxb4 Rf1 67.Rf7 Rg1 68.Nxf6+ Kh8 69.Rh7# 1:0
Pittsburgh Dispatch, January 13, 1913

Lyman Fairbanks George - Porter

1912-13 Pittsburgh Chess Club Championship, 12/1912

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 c5 5.dxc5 Bxc5 6.e3 Nc6
7.Bd2 Nf6 8.Be2 O-O 9.O-O Qd6 10.Nb5 Qe7 11.Rc1 Bd7
12.a3 a6 13.Nbd4 Rac8 14.cxd5 exd5 15.h3 Qd6 16.Bc3 Ne4
17.b4 Bb6 18.Bb2 Nxd4 19.exd4 Be6 20.Bd3 f5



21.Bxe4 fxe4 22.Rxc8 Rxc8 23.Ng5 Bf5 24.Qh5 Bg6 25.Qg4
Re8 26.h4 h6 27.Nh3 Bc7 28.g3 Rf8 29.Nf4 Bf5 30.Qd1 Bd7
31.Bc1 Bc6 32.Be3 a5 33.Qb3 Qd7 34.bxa5 Bxa5 35.Ng6 Rf3
36.Kg2 Bc7 37.Rc1 Bb8? 38.Rxc6! bxc6 39.Qxb8+ Kh7 40.h5
1:0

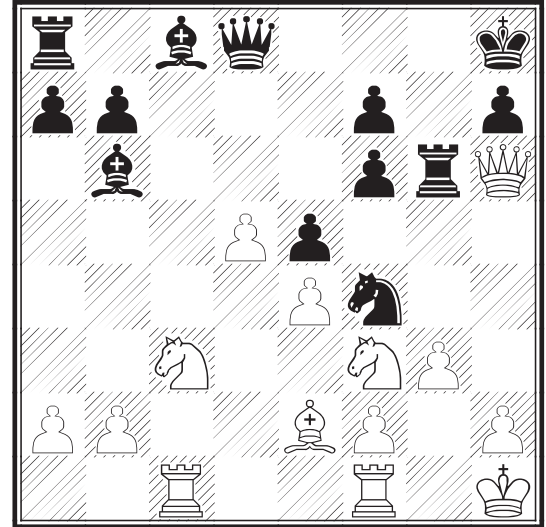
Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, December 12, 1912

Lyman Fairbanks George - William Moorhead Murdoch

1912-13 Pittsburgh Chess Club Championship, 1913

Annotations by Howard L. Dolde

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bf4 Be7 5.e3 O-O 6.Nf3 c5 7.dxc5
Bxc5 8.Rc1 Bb6 9.Be2 Nc6 10.O-O Re8 11.Bg5 Ne7 12.Bxf6
gxf6 13.cxd5 e5 14.e4 Kh8 15.Qd2 Rg8 16.Qh6 Ng6 17.g3
Nf4 18.Kh1 Rg6



19.Qh4 Nh3

19...Rg4 20.Qh6 Nxe2 21.Nxe2 Rxe4 was better.

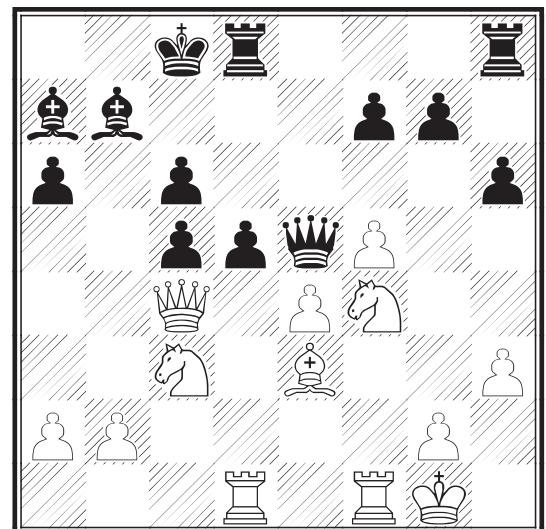
20.Nd1 Kg7 21.Nd2 Rh6 22.Bh5 Qg8 23.Nc4 Bd8 24.Nd6 Be7
25.Nxc8 Rxc8 26.Qg4+ 1:0

Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, February 2, 1913

Laverty - Sutcliffe

1912-13 Pittsburgh Chess Club Championship, 12/7/1912

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d3 h6 5.O-O a6 6.Bd5 d6
7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.d4 exd4 9.Nxd4 Ne7 10.Be3 Bb6 11.h3 c5
12.Ne2 Ng6 13.c4 Bb7 14.Nbc3 Ne5 15.f4 Nxc4 16.Qa4+ Qd7
17.Qxc4 O-O-O 18.Nd5 Ba7 19.Rad1 Qe6 20.f5 Qe5 21.Nec3
c6 22.Nf4 d5



23.Nd3

23.exd5 would be disastrous as 23...Qxe3+.

23...Qd6

If 23...dxc4 Black would lose two pawns.

24.Qa4 d4 25.Bf4 Qe7 26.Ne5 Qe8

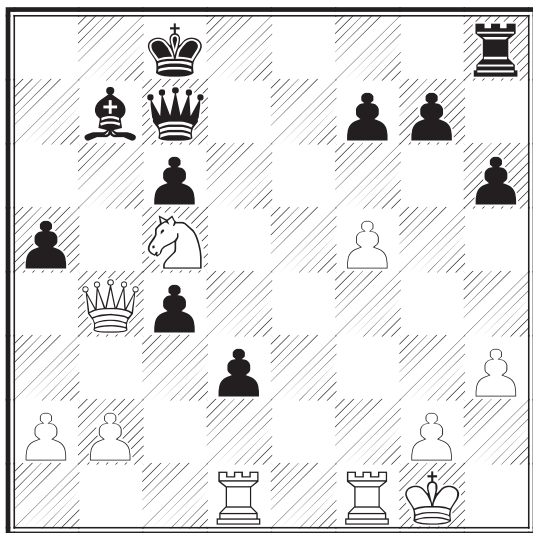
If 26...dxc3 White would mate in two.

27.Ne2 Bb6 28.Nc4 Ba7 29.Ng3 d3 30.Qa5 Qe7 31.Nb6+

31.Qb6 would be a clever Queen sacrifice if accepted.

31...Bxb6 32.Qxb6 c4 33.Qa7 Rd6 34.e5 Rd5 35.Ne4 Rxe5

36.Bxe5 Qxe5 37.Nc5 Qb8 38.Qb6 Qc7 39.Qb4 a5



40.Qxc4 Qb6 41.Rxd3 Kb8 42.Rb3 Qd8 43.Rxb7+ Kc8

44.Ra7 Kb8 45.Qb3+ Kc8 46.Qb7# 1:0

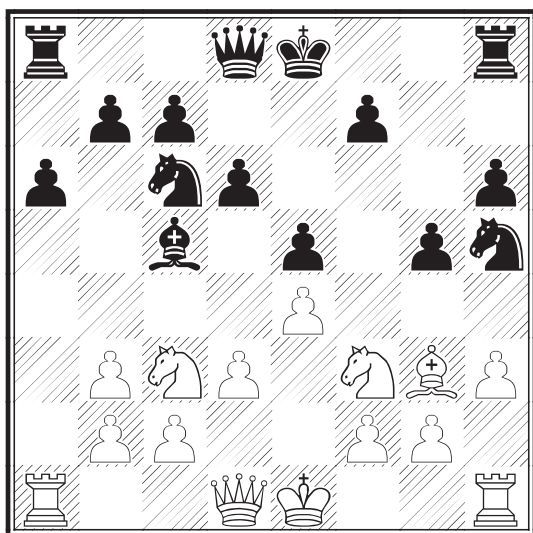
Pittsburgh Leader, December 15, 1912

Strum - Carpenter

1912-13 Pittsburgh Chess Club Championship, 1913

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Bc5 3.Bc4 d6 4.h3 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.d3 Be6 7.Bb3

Bxb3 8.axb3 a6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 g5 11.Bg3 Nh5



12.Qe2 Nf4 13.Bxf4 exf4 14.Nd5 O-O 15.c3 f5 16.Kd1 fxe4

17.Qxe4 Ne7 18.Nxe7+ Kf7 19.Re1 1:0

Pittsburgh Dispatch, January 13, 1913

But the increase in activity at the Pittsburgh Chess Club wasn't just due to the Championship tournament. Like most clubs of the era, off-hand and consultation play were an important part of the local chess scene, allowing enthusiasts of all strengths to meet in a less formal and stressful setting than a tournament. Such play also allowed weaker players to play with and alongside the club's better men, learning from and now and then providing a good idea for a better player. And it occasionally tested the idea of "strength in numbers", although to judge by the result of John Emery's win against an unnamed group of club members, it rather tested the concept of the "madness of crowds."

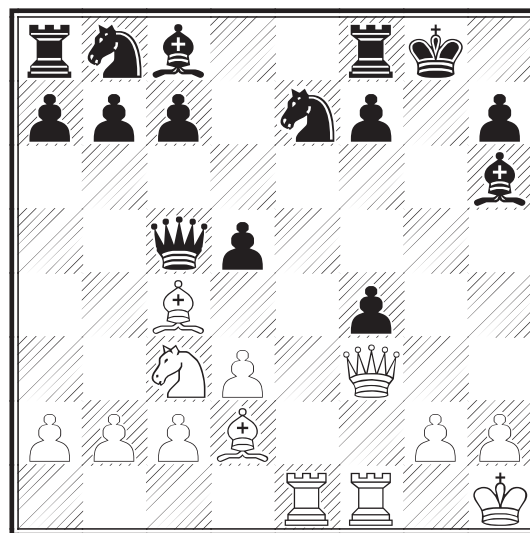
John Emery - Pittsburgh Chess Club

Consultation Game, 1913

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 g4 5.O-O gxf3 6.Qxf3 Qf6

7.d3 Bh6 8.Nc3 Ne7 9.Bd2 O-O 10.e5 Qxe5 11.Rae1 Qc5+

12.Kh1 d5



13.Rxe7 Qxe7 14.Nxd5 Qd8 15.Bc3 Nd7 16.Qh5 Qg5 17.Qxh6 Qxh6 18.Ne7# 1:0

Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, May 13, 1913

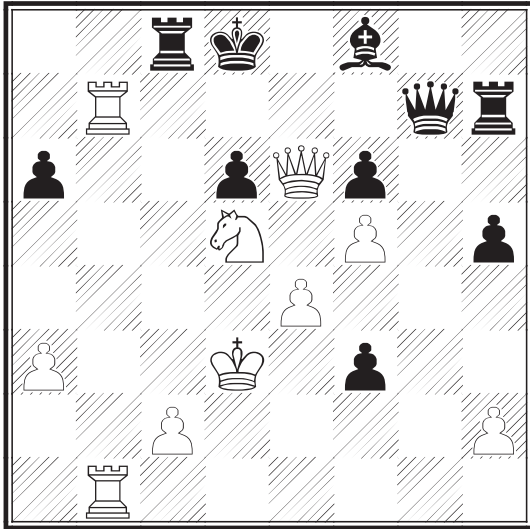
One addition asset of offhand play was that it allowed strong players in retirement, or too busy to play in organized events, to keep some connection to the game and the local club. One such player was B. F. Lutton, a previous Western Pennsylvania Champion. Lutton's victims in simultaneous play included Emmanuel Lasker and Harry Nelson Pillsbury. Lutton's record of five consecutive wins against Pillsbury caused Napier, in his *Dispatch* column, to suggest Lutton as a candidate to play for the US team in the annual cable match against Great Britain. Unlike Kalman Erdekey, who resigned from the Pittsburgh Chess Club, Lutton was still a member, and played offhand games with friends or whoever was in the club on the odd occasion he'd stop by. Even offhand games by a player of such strength were of interest to chess players, and two endings from Lutton's offhand and simultaneous encounters during the 1912-1913 season survive, thanks to Isaacs and the *Leader* chess column.

June 21

2008 PA State Game/45 Championship

Pittsburgh

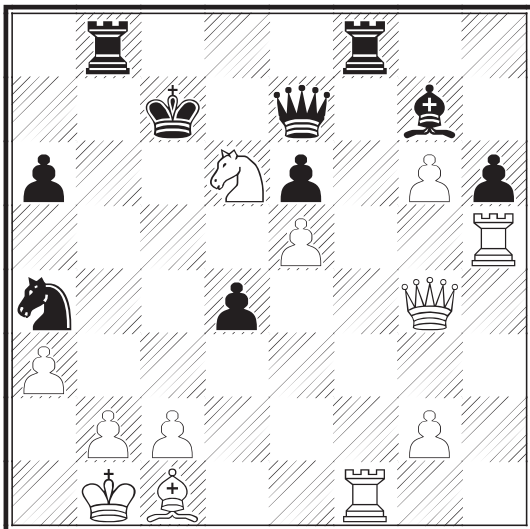
B. F. Lutton - Davis & Anderson
Simul, 4/1/1913



1. Kd4 Qg2 2.Qxc8+ Kxc8 3.Rb8+ Kd7 4.R1b7+ Kc6 5.Nb4# 1:0

Pittsburgh Leader, April 6, 1913

Anonymous - B. F. Lutton
Offhand Game, 10/1912



1.Rf7 Rxf7 2.gxf7 Bxe5 3.Rxe5 Qxd6 4.Qxe6 0:1
and Black announced mate in three.

Pittsburgh Leader, October 6, 1912

Simultaneous displays were also another diversion for the Pittsburgh players. We've already seen that the club Champion gave one such display on eight boards, but Dolde wasn't alone in his simul giving. Among the players in the club championship who also were considered strong enough as a player to tackle a simultaneous was Lyman Fairbanks George, a published author and poet, and one of the few Pittsburgh chess players who could conceivably match Howard Dolde for eccentricity. Time has, perhaps mercifully, brought obscurity on George's book *The Naked Truth of Jesusism From Oriental Manu-*

scripts, a "rhythmical protest in fourteen cantos." But, for better or worse, an example of his doggerel survives in an account of a simultaneous display he gave at the club. We owe the verse to Dolde twitting George in print over his alleged "taciturnity." As Dolde wrote in his *Gazette-Times* column on February 16, "Last Monday evening members and friends of the Pittsburgh Chess Club were entertained by Lyman Fairbanks George, the author and poet, in a display of peripatetic chess. Just prior to this séance, Mr. George showed evidence of a desire to defend himself against the accusation of taciturnity and proceedings were halted long enough for him to reel off the following lines, amid the applause of those present:

To the honorable members of this swell fraternity,
And to him who has dubbed me of deep tacturnity,
I take this kind friends with a few grain of salt,
For I've always been told I had but one fault,
And that was to chatter with too great garrulity,
So if I indulge while I play just a bit,
I hope that you will most patiently sit,
And not to exhibit undue incredulity.

All those who incessantly whistle and whistle,
Should keep in their guard lest hit with a missile!
Though distressing, it wouldn't so much disturb me,
If they would whistle in tune and not off of the key.
I trust you will not think I am too exacting,
But it does rack the nerves and is very distracting.
So sing while your playing as this creates jollity,
But let that be the limit of your frivolity.

If you move around the pieces when the "master's" not there,
You are never quite sure of th' original square,
So analyze mentally - not with your paws -
Those prone to find fault will then not have a cause.
I'd like to have all of you earnestly strive,
T' have your move all worked out when you see me arrive.
If not, t'will result in an adjudication,
Which most of you know is an abomination."

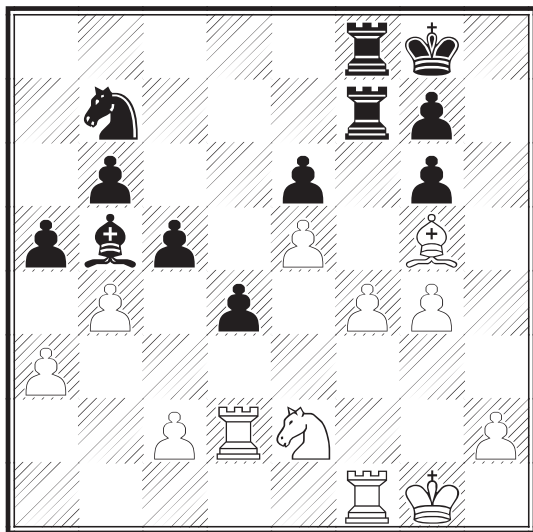
After a dramatic recitation of that verse, actual chess play might have seemed anti-climactic. However, as Dolde wrote, "Against a stronger field than ever opposed a simultaneous player before at the local club Mr. George made the remarkable score of 8½ to 3½, an achievement he may well be proud of." Three of the games saw print.

Lyman Fairbanks George - Bucher
Simul, 2/1913

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 e6 3.Nc3 Bd6 4.Bg5 f6 5.Bh4 Ne7 6.e4 O-O 7.e5 fxe5 8.Nxe5 Bxe5 9.dxe5 Qe8 10.Bd3 Ng6 11.Bg3 c6 12.O-O Nd7 13.Qh5 Ne5 14.Bxg6 Qxg6 15.Qxg6 hxg6 16.Rad1 b6 17.Rd4 Rf5 18.f4 Bd7 19.Bh4 Re8 20.g4 Rf7 21.Bg5 Ref8 22.b4 Nb7 23.Rd3 c5 24.a3 d4 25.Ne2 Bb5 26.Rd2 a5

March 29

William Pitt Union, Pittsburgh
2008 PA State Game/29 Championship



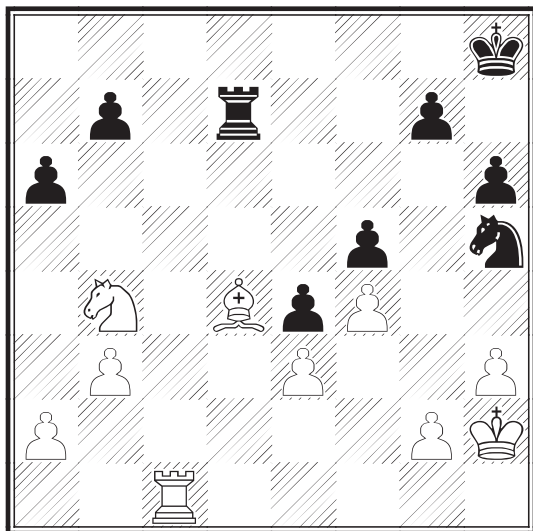
27.bxa5 Nxa5 28.Rf2 Bxe2 29.Rdxe2 Nc4 30.Rf3 Ra7 31.Rb3 Rxa3 32.Rxa3 Nxa3 33.Rf2 Nc4 34.h4 Ne3 35.Rd2 Nxc4 36.c3 dxc3 37.Rc2 Ra8 38.Rxc3 c4 39.Rxc4 Ra1+ 40.Kg2 Ne3+ 41.Kf3 Nxc4 42.Ke4 Rd1 43.Be7 Kf7 44.Bg5 b5 0:1

Pittsburgh Leader, February 16, 1913

Lyman Fairbanks George - Meskimen

Simul, 2/1913

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.Bd3 h6 6.O-O Nf6 7.Nc3 Bd6 8.Nb5 O-O 9.Nxd6 Qxd6 10.dxc5 Qxc5 11.b3 Qe7 12.Bb2 e5 13.cxd5 Nxd5 14.Be4 Be6 15.Bxd5 Bxd5 16.Qxd5 Rad8 17.Qe4 f5 18.Qc4+ Kh8 19.Rad1 e4 20.Nd4 Ne5 21.Qe6 Qf6 22.f4 Ng4 23.Qxf6 Rxf6 24.Nc2 Rfd6 25.Rxd6 Rxd6 26.Bd4 a6 27.h3 Nf6 28.Nb4 Nh5 29.Rc1 Rd7 30.Kh2



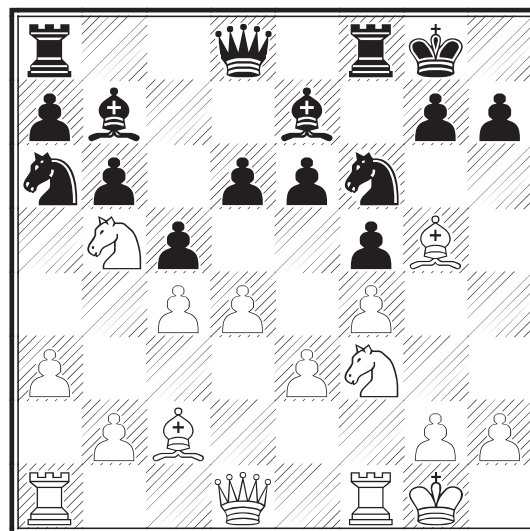
30...Nxf4 31.Bxg7+ Kxg7 32.exf4 e3 33.Re1 Rd4 34.a3 Re4 35.g3 e2 36.Kg2 Re3 37.Kf2 Rxb3 38.Rxe2 Kf7 39.Re5 Kg6 40.Re6+ Kf7 41.Rxh6 Rxa3 42.Rb6 Rb3 43.Rxb7+ Ke8 44.Rb6 a5 45.Nd5 a4 46.Rxb3 axb3 47.Nc3 Kf7 48.Ke2 Kg6 49.Kd2 Kh5 50.Nd5 1:0

Pittsburgh Leader, February 16, 1913

Lyman Fairbanks George - R. Simpson

Simul, 2/1913

1.d4 f5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 O-O 6.Bd3 d6 7.f4 Nc6 8.Nf3 Nb4 9.Bb1 b6 10.a3 Na6 11.O-O c5 12.Bd3 Bb7 13.Bc2 Rc8 14.Nb5 Ra8



15.d5 exd5 16.cxd5 Nxd5 17.Bb3 Kh8 18.Bxd5 Bxd5 19.Qxd5 Nc7 20.Nxc7 Qxc7 21.Rad1 Rad8 22.Bxe7 Qxe7 23.Rfe1 Rfe8 24.Qxf5 Qb7 25.Ng5 1:0

Pittsburgh Leader, February 16, 1913

Part 2 of this article, where we will hear of US Champion Frank James Marshall visit to Pittsburgh, will appear in the May 2008 Pennswoodpusher.

PA TODAY

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

4th Annual Christmas Vacation Tournament

BEAR DE, 12/27/2007 - It is very rare to find a full tournament held on a Thursday, but the Bear Scholastic Chess Club annually holds this tournament right after Christmas while the kids are still on vacation from school. Years ago, this event was originally a scholastic tournament, but with so many adults on vacation from the real world, it was opened up to them as well.

This was my first tournament in the First State, and my first outside of Pennsylvania since July 2006. Since then I have played in over a hundred tournaments before making my Delaware debut. The turnout was excellent: eighteen players, and free pizza and soda to boot!

Former multiple-time state champion FM David Gertler brought his son Eli to play, and when there was an odd number of players, the Fide Master agreed to top the wall chart. He won the tournament easily; it appeared that only William Frame gave him any challenge at all in round two. Although I finished a half point back, I had a difficult time, even having a bit of trouble defeating the 814-rated Andrew Jones in the opening frame. He overlooked a tactic that could have

netted him a pawn. In round three I dropped an exchange against Al Lovelace, but he let me off the hook with a draw in mutual time pressure. I needed to win with white against Gertler in the final round, but with no prizes on the line, I decided it was more important not to lose to the Philadelphia Hall of Famer than to win the game. I got zilch out of the opening, and we split the point on move eleven.

Tying with me for second place with three points was no one less than the President of the Delaware Chess Association himself, David Power. He lost to Frame in round three, but won all his other games, and gained a massive seventy-five rating points.

This fantastic event was well directed by Robert Wilder. I had a wonderful time and hope to return next year!

January Blast

WAYNE, 1/12/2008 - The Silver Knights organization has found yet another site to hold their tournaments: Wayne Elementary School. Forty-three players in three sections took part, with Max Polichuk and Benjamin Lu sharing top K-3 honors, top-seed Praneeth Denduluri sweeping the K-8 section, and Joseph Mucerino winning the small, but definitely not weak, Open section.

4th William J. Browne Memorial

PITTSBURGH, 1/19/2008 - In honor of the well-respected and avid Pittsburgh chess enthusiast, the Pittsburgh Chess Club held its 4th annual Dr. William J. Browne Memorial quads tournament.

Sixteen players spread across 4 sections competed in the three-round G/60 event, supervised by tournament director Michael Holsinger.

Perennial tournament participant (and winner) Franklin Chen swept the top quad with a perfect 3/3 score against a very competitive group of players. Daniel Gordon won the 2nd section, also with a perfect score. Danny Balter bested the 3rd group, while Kent Weber rounded out the winners' circle representing the final section.

Expect another fine tournament next January to celebrate the memory of this local chess icon.

- Joshua J. Mankey

January Rumble

NEWTOWN, 1/19/2008 - To show respect for the late Bobby Fischer, who died on January 17, I wore my black CHESS T-shirt (with a black long sleeve shirt underneath because it was so cold) to this event. The Silver Knights held the usual three sections: K-3, K-8, and Open, and the winners of all of the sections posted perfect 4-0 scores: Benjamin Lu won the K-3 alone this week, Teddy Willis was victorious in the K-8, and Joseph Mucerino won a match against Jordan Wainberg because there were only two players in the Open.

40th Annual Liberty Bell Open

PHILADELPHIA, 1/18-21/2008 - There were 374 players with the following sectional results:

Open: Sergey Kudrin, Timur Gareev, Raymond Kaufman 5½/7
 Top PA: Alexander Shabalov, Bryan Smith 5
 Top NJ: Dean Ippolito 5

U2100: Hana Itkis 6
 Top PA: Alex Palanker 5½
 Top NJ: Itkis

U1900: David Sherman 6
 Top PA: Sherman
 Top NJ: Dan Finehart 5½

U1700: Joel Fagliano 7
 Top PA: Fagliano
 Top NJ: Scott Gorman 5

U1500: Nikolas Theiss 6
 Top PA: Daniel Jordan, Robert Wade, David Blumin 5
 Top NJ: Mackinley Tan, Anand Vemuri 5

U1300: M Ian Campbell 6
 Top PA: Campbell
 Top NJ: Cesar Flores 5½

U1100: Nathan Durant 7
 Top PA: Durant
 Top NJ: Sujay Uppalpati 6

U900: Shaw Levin 6½
 Top PA: Levin
 Top NJ: Kyler Royce McVay 5

2008 PA State Team Championship - West

PITTSBURGH, 2/2/2008 - The Washington Chess Club came within one game point of repeating last year's victory in this event, but fell short to a team combining players from the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University and finished in a clear second place.

In order of board appearance, the CMU/Pitt's Daniel Malkiel, Edward Dean, Robbie Kleinmuntz, and Herbert Barry III emerged as the 2008 PA State Team (West) Champions.

While a handful of players finished with perfect 4/4 scores last year, only CMU/Pitt's Robbie Kleinmuntz was able to accomplish that feat this time around.

This year's event afforded some players the chance to score wins against much higher-rated opponents and gain quite a few rating points. Most notably was a performance by Mike Kobily, rated 1149, with wins against players rated 516, 454, and 191 points higher than himself. Joe Busche of the Washington Chess Club, Zachary Taylor of the University of Pittsburgh II team, Paul Lucarelli of (the best named team, in your author's opinion) Tal Tale Tellers, and Erica McLaughlin of the University of Pittsburgh I squad also scored wins in spectacular upset fashion.

Ten teams competed in the event, matching the same number from last year, while only half the number of teams, compared to last year, battled in the scholastic reserve section.

The Southern Knights scored perfect match points en route to a victory in the scholastic reserve section with The Hobbits and Winchester Thurston Plus rounding out second and third place.

- Joshua J. Mankey

ASAP Program a Success!

by Dr. Ira Lee Riddle

A few years ago, Steve Shutt (coach/teacher at Julia Masterman magnet school in Philadelphia) learned that Paul Vallis, superintendent of

the Philly school system, was a backer of putting chess into all of the schools. He began working with the ASAP (After Schools Activities Partnership) program to hold a series of tournaments, co-sponsored by the PSCF. During the first year, 4 or 5 tournaments were held at the Philadelphia Community College, culminating in a giant, 700+ player event held at the new Eagles stadium. (Happily, it was held indoors.) Almost all of the sections were non-rated, but some rated players were able to play in a rated section. It was a madhouse, but a lot of fun in the end, especially with the Eagles' players who showed up and even played some chess.

Over the next few years, a format was developed that used 5 sections of players. We had a non-rated Level 1 (beginners) and non-rated Level 2 (older players and better ones), Scholastic rated Under 800 (also restricted to players in grade 8 or lower), Scholastic Open, and Open Quads. The Open sections have a time control of Game/60, while the rest use Game/30.

After a player has participated in three non-rated events, ASAP pays for their USCF memberships! ASAP has also contributed by providing staff, now headed by Justin Ennis, and trophies/medallions for the victors; the PSCF provides the TLA and rating fees expenses. ASAP pays some of Steve Shutt's students, plus a few others, for being floor directors, thus providing them valuable experience. Caitlin Coslett directs the non-rated groups and NTD Ira Lee Riddle directs the others. Steve Shutt tries to keep his sanity by working with all of the sections.

The final event of this school year was on February 9th, when over 200 players converged and enjoyed themselves. Besides the regularly awarded prizes for the winners that day, there were three special awards given for activity over the entire school year:

Female Player of the Year: **Vanita Young**, Anna H. Shaw Middle School

Most-Improved Player of the Year: **Carl Green**, F. Amedee Bregy School

Top Team Performance (Tally of matches won over 6 tournaments): **Edward Gideon School**

One measure of the success of this program was felt to be the increasing number of players in the two scholastic rated sections. Many of these players are expected to play at the PA State Scholastic Championships in Carlisle this year.

Games From PSCF Members

Danny Balter - Jeffrey G. Schragin

Pittsburgh Chess League, Round 7, Pittsburgh, 3/19/2006

Annotations by Bruce W. Leverett

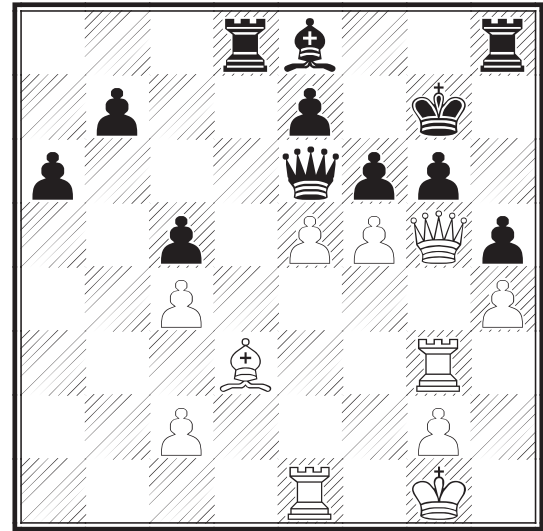
1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Nf3 O-O 6.O-O a6 7.a4 Bg4 8.h3 Bd7 9.Re1 Nc6 10.Bf4 Na5 11.Bf1 c5 12.dxc5 dxc5 13.Ne5 Nc6 14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.Bd3 Qb6 16.Qc1 Qd8 17.Qe3 Nh5 18.Rad1 Bxc3?

Haven't we all been told not to do this? But there are some lessons you just have to learn the hard way.

19.bxc3 Nxf4 20.Qxf4 Qa5 21.c4 Rad8

Black gets cold feet. After 21...Qxa4 White could play for attack as in the game, or regain the pawn with 22.Qe5. After 21...Bxa4 22.Ra1 makes it awkward.

22.h4 Qc3 23.Re3 Qf6 24.Qg4 h5 25.Qg3 Qe6 26.Rde1 Bxa4 27.Qg5 Kh7 28.e5 Kg7 29.Rg3 Rh8 30.f4 Be8 31.f5 f6



32.Qf4

32.Qxg6 Bxg6 33.Rxg6 Kh7 34.fxe6 Rxd3; 32.Qxg6 Bxg6 33.fxe6 Rh6.

32...fxe5 33.Rxe5 Qf6 34.Kh2

Nerves of steel!

34...Rd4 35.Be4 Qd6

The threat was 36.Re6 Qf8 37.Qe5.

36.Rg5 Rf8 37.Qg3 Rxc4 38.fxg6 Rxe4

38...Rh8 39.Bd3 Rd4 40.Rxh5 Rxh5 41.Rxh5 Qxg3 42.Kxg3 Bxg6 43.Rg5 Rd6 44.h5.

39.Rxe4 Qf6 40.Rxh5 Bxg6 41.Rg5 Kh7 42.Reg4 Be8 43.Rg7+ Kh8 44.Rg8+ Kh7 45.R4g7+ Kh6 46.Qg5+ Qxg5 47.hxg5+ 1:0

Peter H. F. Lang - Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

MasterMinds Quads, Round 3, Philadelphia, 11/12/2006

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 e6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Qc2 c6 6.O-O-O?!

White basically hands Black a pawn for nothing. The game is still equal after 6.e3.

6...dxc4 7.e4 b5

Sometimes it is a bad idea to try to hang onto an extra pawn, but in this position, where White has castled queenside despite having a queenside minority, I saw no problems trying to hang onto my ill-gotten gains.

8.d5 exd5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Nxd5 cxd5 12.Rxd5 a6

Trying to get cute with 12...Nc6, which indirectly defends the b-pawn after 13.Rxb5 Nd4, is in fact bad for Black if White first plays 13.Qc3, which defends against the fork while the pawns on b5 and g7 are then both en-prise.

13.Nf3 O-O 14.Rh5 f5

This not only defends against the mate, but also limits the scope of the Rook.

15.g4? g6 16.Rg5 Bb7

Fritz recommends 16...fxg4, which I looked at, but I felt it was a bit too risky. My move has the same general idea: knock out the Knight which defends the Rook on g5.

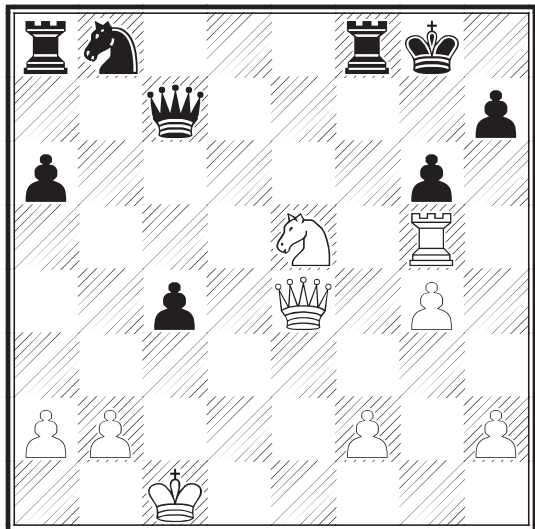
17.Bxc4+

With nothing to lose, White might as well try a sacrificial attack.

17...bxc4 18.Re1 Qc7?!

Fritz found the stronger 18...Qd8! Black keeps up the pressure on the Rook and the Knight, and if White plays 19.Qxc4+, simply 19...Bd5 keeps Black's advantage.

19.Ne5 Be4 20.Rxe4 fxe4 21.Qxe4



21...Ra7??

This looks so logical, but it probably should lose. The move not only protects the Rook, but it puts it in a good place to help defend the King against White's upcoming attack. Fritz found 21...Rxf2, and Black has a forced mate after 22.Qxa8 Qd6! For example, if 23.Nf3 Rf1+ 24.Kc2 Qd3 mate, or 23.Nxc4 Qf4+ is bad news for White.

22.Nxg6!

White's only chance!

22...hxg6 23.Qxg6+ Qg7 24.Qe6+ Raf7 25.f4 Qxg5 26.fxg5 Kg7 27.Qh6+ Kg8 28.g6 Rg7

28...Rd7 is also playable, because the Knight holds the Rook.

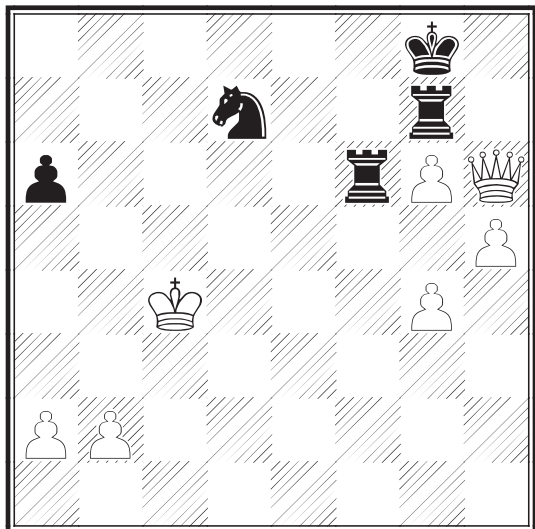
29.h4 Rf1+ 30.Kc2 Rf2+ 31.Kc3 Rf3+ 32.Kxc4

I did not mind giving up this pawn because now White's King is more exposed.

32...Rf6 33.h5

Fritz now says that White is winning. I had not given up hope.

33...Nd7



34.Qe3 Nf8 35.g5 Re6 36.Qd4 Nxg6

I felt that the best way to draw was to give up the Knight for White's kingside pawns and hope that I could exploit White's exposed King.

37.Qd5

Fritz wanted to munch on the Knight.

37...Nf8 38.g6 Rge7 39.b4 Kg7 40.Qd4+ Kg8 41.Qd8 Re3 42.Qd5+ R3e6 43.Qg5 Re5 44.Qh6 Re4+ 45.Kb3 R4e5 46.g7

Lang decides to give up his kingside pawns and capture my remaining queenside pawn. That is a good decision because all of my forces are on the opposite side of the board as his queenside pawns.

46...Rxxg7 47.Qxa6 Rxxh5 48.b5?

48.Qc4+ was "necessary" according to Fritz. Now I take advantage of White's exposed King.

48...Rg3+ 49.Kb4 Rh4+ 50.Kc5 Nd7+ 51.Kd6 Rg6+

51...Rd4+ also wins after 52.Kc7 Rc3+ and White must part with his Queen.

52.Kc7 Rxa6 53.bxa6 Ra4 0:1

Eric D. Bautista - William R. Gates

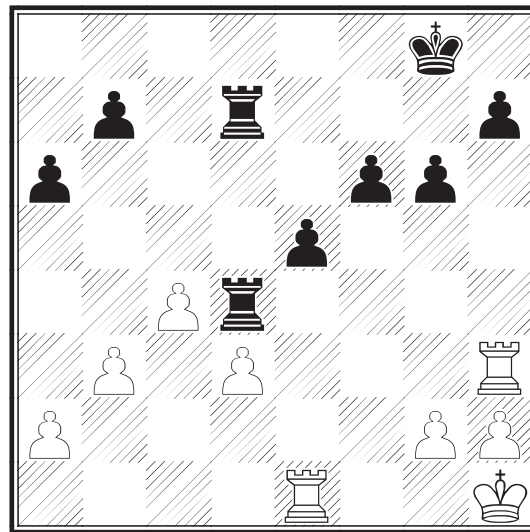
US Amateur East, Round 4, Parsippany, NJ, 5/28/2006

Annotations by Bruce W. Leverett

1.f4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d6 3.e3 Nc6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Be2 Be7 6.b3 e5 7.fxe5 Nxe5 8.O-O Bg4 9.Nxe5 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 dxe5 11.Bb2 a6 12.e4 O-O 13.Rf5 Bd6 14.Kh1 Re8 15.Raf1 Re6 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Re7 18.Qe4 f6 19.Qg4 Qd7 20.Qh4 Rf8 21.Qe4 Rff7 22.c4 c6 23.Rh5?

23.d4 =

23...g6 24.Rh3 cxd5 25.Qxd5 Bb4 26.Qxd7 Rxd7 27.d3 Bc5 28.Rd1 Bd4 29.Bxd4 Rxd4 30.Re1 Rfd7



31.Rf3 Kf7 32.Kg1

The d-pawn is lost. 32.Rd1 e4; 32.Ree3 e4

32...Rxd3 33.Rxd3 Rxd3 34.Kf2 Rd2+ 35.Re2 Rxe2+ 36.Kxe2 Ke6 37.Kd3 Kd6 38.b4 Kc6 39.Kc3 f5 40.h4 f4 0:1

Arnold B. Shafritz - Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

Main Line CC July Open, Round 2, Gladwyne, 7/25/2006

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.b6 Qxb6 6.Nc3 d6 7.e4 g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.Nd2 O-O 10.Nc4 Qc7 11.Bd3 Nbd7 12.O-O

Nb6 13.Nxb6 Qxb6 14.Kh1 Ng4

Threatening 15...c4 16.Bxc4 Nxf2+.

15.Be2 h5 16.h3 Nf6 17.a4 Bd7 18.Ra3 Rfb8 19.f4 Qc7 20.e5 Ne8 21.Bxh5? dxe5

Black can capture the bishop, because White does not have a strong follow up, but I decided to play it safe.

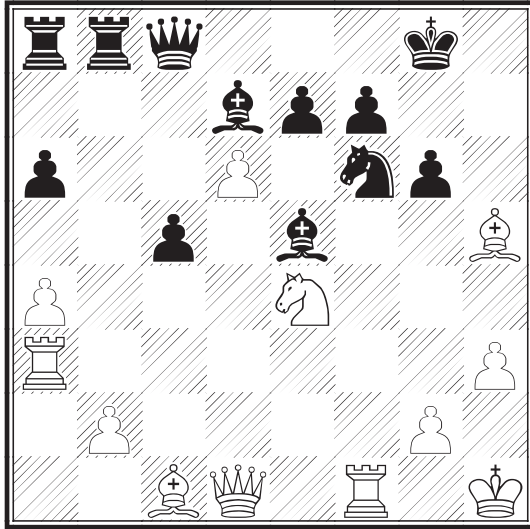
22.fxe5 Bxe5

Now capturing the bishop is bad: 22...gxh5 23.Qxh5 Qxe5 24.Qxf7+ Kh8 25.Bf4.

23.Ne4 Nf6 24.d6!

I underestimated this move.

24...Qc8



25.Nxf6+?

Fritz found the powerful 25.dxe7! Nxe4 26.Bxg6 fxc6 27.Qd5+ Kh7 28.Qxe5.

25...exf6

The computer preferred to recapture with the bishop, but I wanted to keep the h2 and g3 squares covered.

26.Bf3 Ra7 27.Bg4?! Bxg4 28.hxg4 Kg7

I thought at the time that this was a mistake because it allowed 29.Rh3 and 30.Bh6+, but White does not have any way to follow that up.

29.Bf4 Qc6 30.Bxe5 fxe5 31.Raf3 Rd7 32.Rf6?

White should not give up another pawn. He should take the time to play 32.b3.

32...Rxb2 33.R6f3 Rb4 34.Qd2 Rxc4

This is better than 34...Rxa4. The machine found 35.Rh3 Rf4 36.Rxf4 exf4 37.Qxf4 Rxd6 38.Qe5+ f6 39.Qe7+ Kg8 40.Qh7+ Kf8 41.Qh8+ Kf7 42.Rh7+ Ke6 43.Qg8+ Ke5 44.Qb3 with equality. (44.Qxg6 does not work because of 44...Rd1+ 45.Kh2 Qd6 and Black wins.)

35.Rxf7+??

This looks good, but it does not work. Black is still winning after 35.Rh3 f5 36.Qh6+ Kf7 37.Qh7+ Ke6 38.Qg8+ Kf6 39.Qh8+ Rg7 40.Qf8+ Rf7 41.Qh8+ Ke6 42.Rff3.

35...Rxf7 36.Rxf7+ Kxf7 37.d7 Rd4?!

Stronger is 37...Rxc2! because White's queen does have a good check to get out of the rook's line of fire. Now if 38.d8=N+ Ke8 39.Nxc6 Rxd2 40.Nxe5 leaves Black up an exchange.

38.Qxd4

I have to admit I missed this move. Thankfully, Black's pawns are too far down the board.

38...exd4 39.d8=N+?!

White has to promote to a queen and pray for a perpetual check. **39...Kf6 40.Nxc6 d3 0:1**

Danny Balter - Leonid Trubman

Foxwoods Open, Round 4, Mashantucket, CT, 4/15/2006

Annotations by Bruce W. Leverett

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 Be7

Black is in too much of a hurry to castle. 7...Nbd7, 8...b5, 9...Bb7 (or 9...b4) was more to the point.

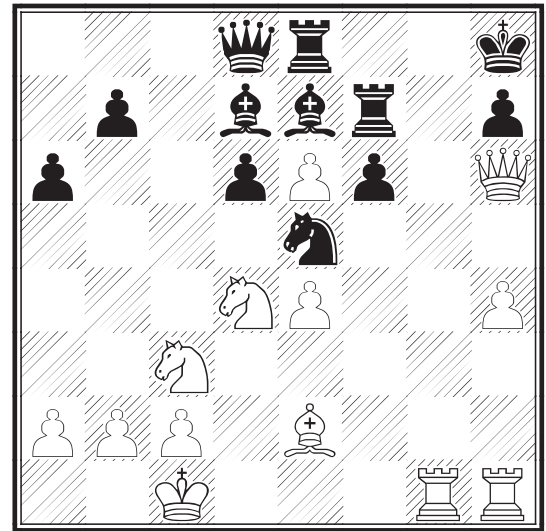
8.O-O-O O-O 9.f4 Nc6

Now he is just busted.

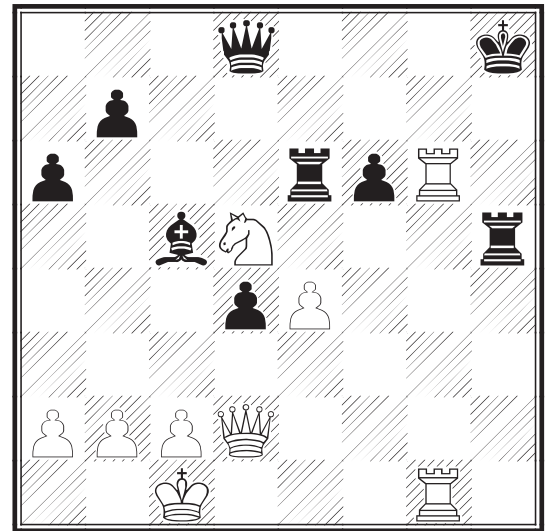
10.Bxf6 gxf6

10...Bxf6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxd6

11.Be2 Qc7 12.g4 Kh8 13.f5 Ne5 14.h4 Rg8 15.Rdg1 Bd7 16.Qh6 Rae8 17.g5 Qd8 18.g6 Rg7 19.gxf7 Rxf7 20.fxe6



20...Bf8 21.Qe3 Bxe6 22.Bh5 Ng6 23.Bxg6 hxg6 24.Rxg6 Rh7 25.Nxe6 Rxe6 26.h5 d5 27.Qd2 d4 28.Nd5 Bc5 29.Rhg1 Rxh5



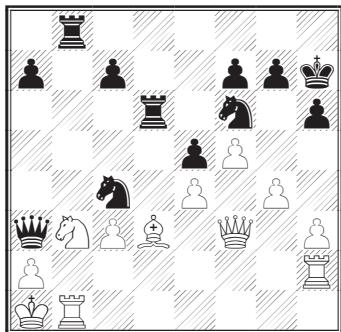
30.Qh6+ 1:0

Play It Forward

by Ken Hamilton

1. Wilhelm Steinitz - Joseph H. Blackburne

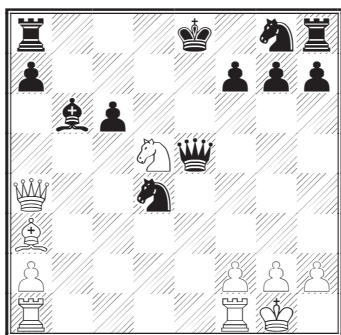
Rd 1, Baden-Baden, Germany, 1870



27...	Na5
28.Nxa5	Qxc3+
29.Rhb2	Rxb2
30.Rxb2	Rxd3
31.Qe2	?

2. Joseph H. Blackburne - Alex Steinkuhler

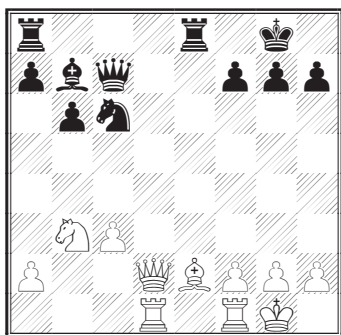
Rd 1, Manchester, England, 1863



19.Rfe1	Ne2+
20.Rxe2	Qxe2
21.Qxc6+	Kd8
22.Nxb6	axb6
23. ?	

3. Joseph Blackburne - Siegbert Tarrasch

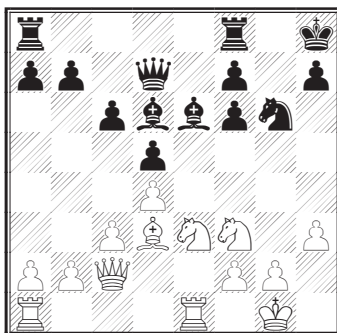
Rd 17, Hamburg, Germany, 1885



18.Bf3	Rad8
19.Qg5	Ne5
20.Bxb7	Rxd1
21.Rxd1	Qxb7
22. ?	

4. Georg Marco - Joseph H. Blackburne

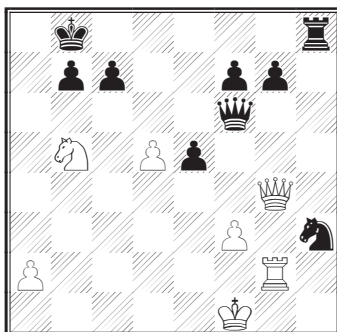
DSB-Kongress, Dresden, 1892



17...	Rg8
18.h4	Nf4
19.Bf1	Bg4
20.Nxg4	Qxg4
21.Nh2	Nh3+
22.Kh1	?

5. Emanuel Lasker - Joseph H. Blackburne

Rd 20, Hastings, England, 1895

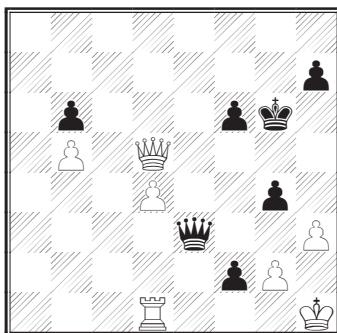


40.Rh2	e4
41.Rxh3	Qa1+
42.Kg2	exf3+
43.Kg3	Qe5+
44.Kxf3	?

Pillsbury's residence was in Philadelphia from 1898 until his death in 1906.

6. Joseph H. Blackburne - Harry Pillsbury

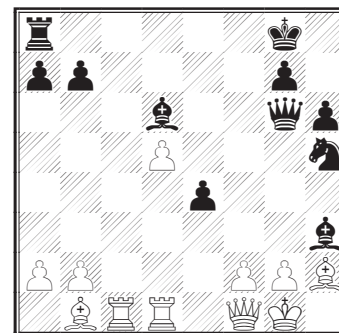
London, England, 1899



37.Qg8+	Kh6
38.Qxg4	Qe1+
39.Kh2	f1=Q
40.Rxe1	Qxe1
41.Qf4+	Kg6
42. ?	

7. Wilhelm Steinitz - Joseph H. Blackburne

London, England, 1899

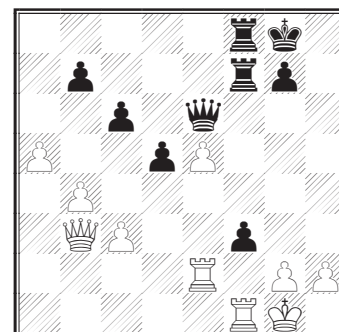


23...	Bxh2+
24.Kxh2	Bg4
25.Rd4	Nf6
26.d6	Qh5+
27.Kg1	?

Showalter, "The Kentucky Lion", was often US Champion during the 1890s and 1900s.

8. Jackson Showalter - Joseph Blackburne

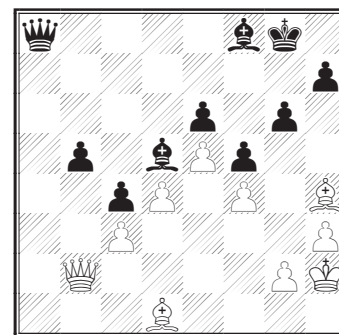
London, England, 1899



27.gxf3	Rxf3
28.Rfe1	Qh3
29.Qb1	Qh4
30.e6	?

9. Carl Schlechter - Joseph H. Blackburne

Rd 23, Ostende, Belgium, 1905



38...	Qa3
39.Qd2	b4
40.cxb4	c3
41.Qe2	Qb2
42.Bc2	?

For solutions, see page 14.

Coaches Corner: One vs. Many Gives Examples a Plenty!

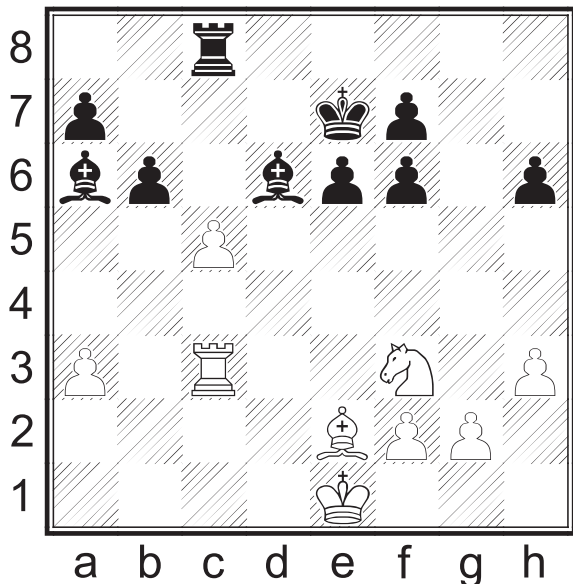
by IM Igor Khmel'nitsky

Today I have a mix of positions from the games that I played in giving a simul in the fall of 2005. I was invited to make a short presentation of my book *Chess Exam and Training Guide* and to then give a simul at the North Penn Chess Club (<http://www.npchessclub.org/>). I battled twenty-two or so players of various levels in a nice friendly atmosphere. At the end, I was lucky to have just one draw while winning the rest of the games. From memory, I can give a few of the more interesting examples.

A very sharp position is the toughest to deal with during a simul. You are going around in circles taking only 5-10 seconds on each move and can easily miss something. When I came to this board (see the position below) and saw my opponent's last move 1.c5, I felt dizzy.

How do you assess this position? What should Black do?

1. Black to move



Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.

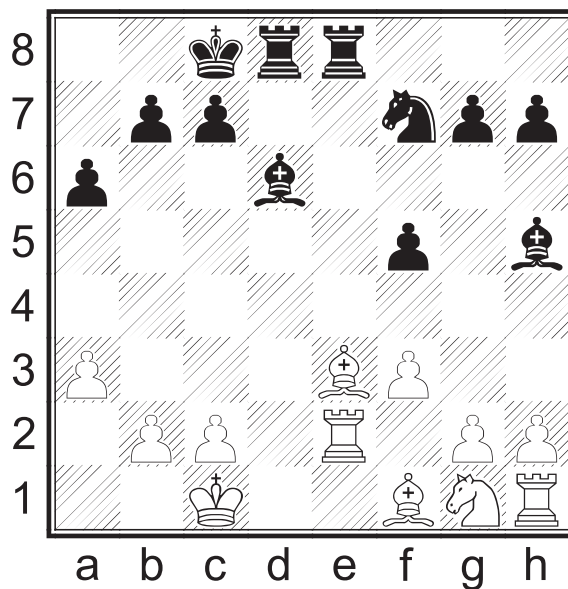
First, I was angry at myself for placing the King on its 'natural' centralizing square of e7 instead of on e8 the move before. The King on e7 allows the Bishop on d6 to be captured with check. As I tried to calm myself down, I realized that 1...Bxe2 loses to 2.cxd6+ Kd7 3.Rxc8 Bxf3 (3...Kxc8 4.Kxe2) 4.Rf8 etc. A reasonable attempt would have been 1...Rxc5 2.Rxc5 Bxe2 3.Rc3 Ba6 and Black is probably not worse.

Then there are also two moves with the Bishop on d6 to consider: 1...Bxc5 and 1...Be5. The best move was 1...Be5 and after 2.Nxe5 Bxe2, Black preserves the extra pawn and winning chances. So, why did I play 1...Bxc5? Well, I was planning to respond to 2.Bxa6 with the clever 2...Bb4!??? 3.axb4? Rxc3 trading two pieces for a rook and staying materially ahead, since I already had two extra pawns. I did see that 2...Bxf2+? was not sufficient as after 3.Kd2 the White Rook is defended and Black is down a piece. The Knight on f3 conveniently stops 3...Be1+. Only after I played 2...Bxc5 did I realize that the capturing Bishop on a6 will be then be attacking my Rook on c8. After 2.Bxa6 Bb4?? 3.Bxc8 is winning. So I prepared myself to settle for the tough endgame after 2...Bxf2+. But somehow my opponent pan-

icked and instead of 2.Bxa6, played 2.Rxc5?? After 2...Rxc5 3.Bxa6 Ra5 the Black Rook was dominating the two minor pieces.

Black is way ahead in development, but is he winning? What should he play?

2. Black to move

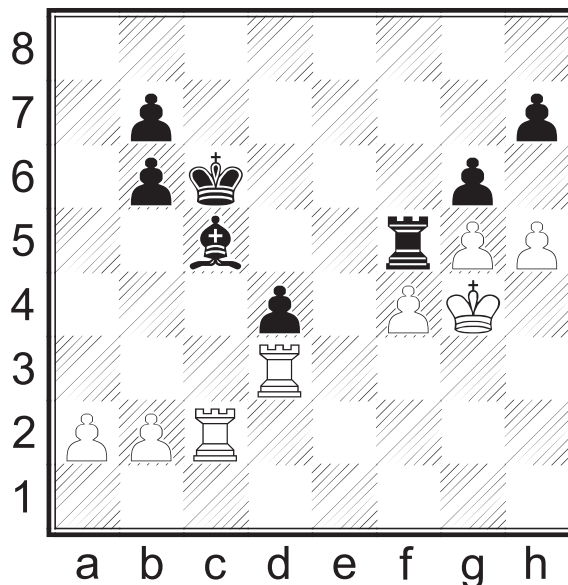


Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.

Indeed, Black is winning thanks to his overwhelming advantage in development. The combination type is called "Attraction into Pin". 1...Rxe3 2.Rxe3 Bf4. The Rook can't be defended. Black has won a bishop and keeps all of his positional advantages as well.

White is so winning that it is easy to relax mentally. I'd recommend that before you do that, you find a finishing "punch". Do you see one here?

3. White to move



Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answer.

With the kingside temporarily 'frozen', we should shift our focus to

the pin of the Bishop. Once you notice it, you should find two candidate moves: 1.b4 and 1.Rxd4. When I came to the board I spent all of a ½ of a second and played 1.Rxd4. Black has no counterplay and is ultimately doomed.

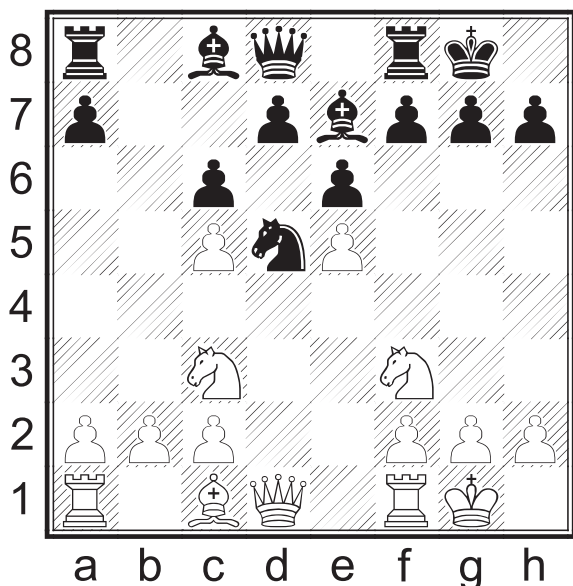
White is already way ahead in material and winning a bishop for a pawn is just not that important. Moreover, after 1.b4 Kd5 2.bxc5 bxc5 White would suddenly have to worry about the 3-pawn avalanche roaring down the queenside. Of course, upon closer examination, we can see that White can take care of Black with some timely decisions 3.Rb3 etc. This is a perfect example where some (but not all) computers may disagree with my logic, but I really don't care as I like my practical approach.

The bottom line is go for sure things and save your energy. There is an old joke that you may have heard a few times: "If your choice on the next move is to take a Queen without any compensation or announce a checkmate in two moves, then take the Queen. Upon closer examination, the checkmate may not be there."

The next example deals with a middlegame position.

How would you assess the position? What would you play as Black?

4. Black to move



Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.

Well, Black should recapture the pawn and restore material equality. However, just before that, he has a simple in-between move that inflicts damage on White's pawn structure: 1...Nxc3 2.bxc3 Bxc5 and the position is 'Dynamically Balanced'. White has some initiative and space advantage as well as the target on the d-file. Black has potential with the two bishops and the weak White pawns.

If you didn't take the Knight on c3 because you liked your beautifully centralized Knight on d5 so much, then consider what happened in the game: 1...Bxc5 2.Ne4 Be7 3.c4 Nb6 4.b3. Compare those two knights now!

(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, or the recently released *Chess Exam and Training Guide 2: Tactics*, please contact IM Igor Khmel'nitsky via his website <http://www.iamcoach.com/>)

Play It Forward Solutions (from page 12)

1. Steinitz-Blackburne: 31...Re3. If 32.Qc2, or d1 or d2, then 32...Re1 wins outright.

2. Blackburne-Steinkuehler: 23.Rc1. If 23...Ne7 24.Qxa8+ Kd7 25.Qb7+ Ke6 (25...Ke8 26.Rc8+ Nxc8 27.Qxc8#) 26.Qxe7+ Kf5 27.Qxe2.

3. Blackburne-Tarrasch: 22.Qxe5 winning the knight and the game. Black can save the mate by Qc6, or Qc8 or Kf8, but that is all. Give yourself credit for choosing 22.Rd8, for that too would have won the knight: 22...Kf8 (22...f6 23.Rxe8+ Kf7 24.Qh5+) 23.Rxe8+ Kxe8 24.Qxe5+.

4. Marco-Blackburne: 22...Qf4. White is lost: 23.Nf3 Qxf3 24.Re3 (Re2 Nxf2+ Rxf2 Qg3) Nxf2+ and Qxe3 winning. Or 23.g3 Nxf2+ 24.Qxf2 Qxf2 25.Re2 Qxg3. Finally 23.Re5 fxe5 24.gxh3 e4 25.f3 exf3 26.Nxf3 Qxf3+ 27.Bg2 Qf4 etc.

5. Lasker-Blackburne: 44...Qxd5+. Black simplifies into a winning ending, e.g. 45...Kg3 Qd3+ 46.Kg2 Rxh3 47.Qxh3 Qxb5 48.Qh8+ Ka7 49.Qxg7 Qe2+ 50.Kg3 Qa2; 45.Kf4 g5+ 46.Kg3 Qe5+ 47.Kg2 Rxh3 48.Qxh3 Qxb5; or 45.Kf2 Qxa2+ 46.Kf1 Qb1+ 47.Kg2 Qb2+ 48.Kf3 Rxh3+ 49.Qxh3 Qb3+. Have fun playing through these and other alternatives, Black always ends up with a winning endgame advantage.

6. Blackburne-Pillsbury: 42.Qg3+ with an easily won endgame: 42...Qxg3+ 43.Kxg3 Kf5 44.Kf3 Ke6 45.Ke4 f5+ 46. Kf4 Kd5 47.Kxf5 Kxd4 48.g4 Kc4 49.g5 Kxb5 50.h4 Kc6 51.h5 Kd7 52.g6 hxg6+ 53.Kxg6.

7. Steinitz-Blackburne: 27...Be2. A crushing, if to some perhaps an obvious move. In attacking White's Queen the Bishop vacates g4 for the Knight with an unstoppable mate on h2. The game continued 28.d7 Ng4 29.d8=Q+ Rxd8 30.Rxd8 Kf7 31.Rc7+ Ke6 and the world champ resigned.

8. Showalter-Blackburne: 31.Rf2. 30.e6 was a horrible blunder. 30.Rg2 would have held the game.

9. Schlechter-Blackburne: 42...Bb3. But not 42...Be4? when 43.Qc4! threatens to draw or repeat the position.

Joseph Henry Blackburne was born in Manchester, England in 1841, and died in 1924 at the age of 82. He was among the most colorful players of his time. Nicknamed the "Black Death" because of his beard and his fearsome attacking ability, he rose to be considered for a while to be second only to world champion Steinitz. They played each other many times, with Steinitz dominating. If Blackburne could rarely beat the world champion over the chess board, he certainly demonstrated his physical superiority, throwing Steinitz through a plate glass window on one occasion and reportedly beating him up in his hotel room on another. But we remember Blackburne more for the thousands of games he played (estimated to be over 100,000 including regular and blindfold simul) and for his violence with the pieces rather than with his fists. There are many stories about the Black Death - he was a steady (if not a heavy) scotch drinker, and once drank an opponent's glass of whiskey during a simul display, saying afterwards "He left it *en prise* and I took it *en passant*."

You can read more about Blackburne on the web. A good biography can be found at:

<http://snow.prohosting.com/~batgrrl/JH%20Blackburne.html>

(Reprinted from the January 2008 *Chess IN Indiana*. For more information on the Indiana State Chess Association visit their website at <http://www.indianachess.org/>)

UPCOMING PSCF EVENTS

March 29 GPP:6 Pennsylvania (QC) 2008 PA State Game/29 Championship. 5-SS. G/29. 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 3/21, \$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 3/21, \$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:** 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*

April 19 & 20. 2008 PA State Amateur Championship. Comfort Inn, 58 SR 93, West Hazleton PA 18202, ½ mile from Exit 145 off I81. 2 sections. **Championship:** Open to U2200. 5-SS. G/90. **EF:** \$20 received by 4/17, \$30 after. Trophies to 1st-3rd, U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200/Unrated. 1st & 2nd receive paid advance entry into 2008 PA State Championship, Title to Top PA Resident. Trophy to Top School Team, any number of players may play, top 4 scores count for team. Rds 10am - 1:30pm - 5pm, 9:30am - 1pm. **Scholastic:** Saturday Only, Open to K-12 who are unrated or rated under 1400. 4-SS. G/40. **EF:** \$15 received by 4/17, \$25 after. Trophies to 1st-2nd, U1100, U800/Unrated. Trophy to Top School Team, any number of players may play, top 4 scores count for team. Rds 10am - 11:30am - 1pm - 2:30pm. **All:** Reg 8:45-9:15am. PSCF \$5 OSA. **HR:** Comfort Inn 570-455-9300, 1-877-424-6423 Special Chess Room Rate of \$71.95 plus tax. **Info:** jem023@ptd.net, 570-455-9261. **Ent:** GHACC, C/O Michael Jemo, 567 Forest Hills Dr., Hazleton PA 18201-9648. Checks payable to GHACC. W. *Sponsored & Organized by the PA State Chess Federation & Greater Hazleton Area Chess Club.*

June 21 GPP:6 Pennsylvania 2008 PA State Game/45 Championship. 4-SS. G/45. Assembly Room, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 3 sections, \$\$ (695G): **Championship:** Open to all. EF: \$30 postmarked by 6/13, \$40 after. \$200-100, U2000 \$75, U1800 \$50. **Premier:** Open to unrated or rated under 1600. EF: \$25 postmarked by 6/13, \$35 after. \$\$ \$90-60, U1400 \$50, U1200 \$40, U1000 \$30. Trophies to Top 2, Top 2 under 1400, Top 2 under 1200, and Top 2 under 1000. **Scholastic:** Open to K-12 who are unrated or rated under 900. EF: \$15 postmarked by 6/13, \$25 after. Trophies to Top 7, and Top 3 under 600. **All:** Trophies to 1st-2nd club and school teams combining 4-7 players from all sections. Reg ends Noon. Rds 12:30pm - 2:15pm - 4pm - 6pm. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **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 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/>

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WHERE TO PLAY CHESS IN PENNSYLVANIA

ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

ALLENTOWN

- (1) Center City CC; St Luke's Lutheran Church, 417 N 7th St; Sat Noon-6 pm
 (2) Lehigh Valley CA; St James Evangelical Lutheran Church, 710 N 11th St; Sat 12:30 pm, 610-821-4320

ALTOONA

Andrew Stergiou 814-941-8718

BLOOMSBURG

Kehr Union Bldg; Bob Ross 570-784-8571

BRADFORD

- (1) School Street Elementary; Wed 6:30-8:30 pm, Oct-Mar
 (2) 78 Main St Fl 3; Sun 1-5 pm, Wed 6-10 pm Mar-Sept, 814-368-4197

CARBONDALE

Public Library; 5 N Main St; Thurs 6 pm, 570-282-2793

CHAMBERSBURG

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

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 pm, Patrick Keeney 814-274-4428

DOUGLASSVILLE

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

DUNCANVILLE/ALTOONA

Lois Kaneshiki 814-693-9390

EPHRATA

Ephrata Public Library, 550 S Reading Rd; Tues 4-8 pm, Brandon Keath 717-733-9657

ERIE

Zurn Science Building, W 7th St between Peach and Sassafras, Room 348; 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 & 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

Starbucks, 109 Town Centre Dr; Tues 7-8:30 pm, 814-467-9759

LANCASTER

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

LANSDALE

- (1) North Penn CC; St John's UCC Church, Main and Richardson Sts; Fri 7 pm - 1 am, 215-699-8418
 (2) Lansdale Public Library CC; 301 Vine St; last Sat of the month 10am

LEBANON

Library, 125 N 7th St; Wed 6-8 pm, Rene 717-279-7030

MAHONEY CITY

Library, 19 W Mahanoy St; Sat Noon - 2 pm, Tom 570-773-3250

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 724-325-2484

NEW CASTLE

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

PECKVILLE

Valley Community Library, 739 River St (Rt 247); Sat 1-4 pm, 570-487-1125

PETERS TOWNSHIP

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

PHILADELPHIA

- (1) FMCC; 2012 Walnut, Lower Level; Mon - Thurs 1-9 pm, Fri & Sat 1-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) Temple Univ CC; SAC Dining Area, Mon/Wed 6-7 pm, Tues/Thurs 12-3 pm, 267-973-0765
 (6) Drexel Univ CC; Creese Student Center, Bookstore Lobby, Wed 5 - 8 pm

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

READING

Million Youth Chess Club; Mike 610-373-3061

RIDLEY PARK

Ridley Park United Methodist Church, 15 E Dupont St; Mon 6:15 - 11 pm, 610-586-8205

SHIPPENSBURG

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

SKIPPACK

Hidden Staircase Used Books Fl 2, Rts 73 & 113; Tues 3:30-4:30 pm, 610-277-0540

STATE COLLEGE

- (1) PSU CC; ASI Bldg, Room 16; Thurs 7 pm
 (2) Schlow Library, 211 South Allen St; Sat 1:45-4:45 pm, 814-571-9629

STROUDSBURG

YMCA, Main St; Thurs 7-11 pm, Eric 570-476-8939 or Jim 717-992-5475; & 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 6-9 pm, 724-567-6580

WARMINSTER

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

WASHINGTON

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

WEST CHESTER

- (1) West Chester CC; United Methodist Ch, High & Barnard Sts; Thurs 7 pm
 (2) WC Univ CC; Sykes Student Building, Rm 254; Tues 5-7:30 pm

WYNCOTE

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

YORK

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

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