



## A Win, a Loss, and a Couple of Draws

by LM Terry D. Panetta

The following games were played this fall. Neither myself, nor my friends who contested these games have played serious tournament chess in well over a dozen years. I am currently rated 2219 (with a peak near 2400 in the early to mid 1980s), but plan to become active again with the goal of making FM by the summer or fall of 2008. My children are now grown, with children of their own, so my time is now my own (more or less) and I can return to the chessboard. I have missed it! This is one of the best technical wins of my "career". The time limit was Game/15 played at ICC using Blitzen 2.6. My opponent, a friend since 1972, is a strong expert. We'll see his recent draw in a 17-player simul against GM Susan Polgar later in this article.

### Terry D. Panetta - Raymond S. Soroka

Offhand Online Game

Annotations by Terry D. Panetta

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Bxf6 Nxf6 8.Nxf6+ gxf6

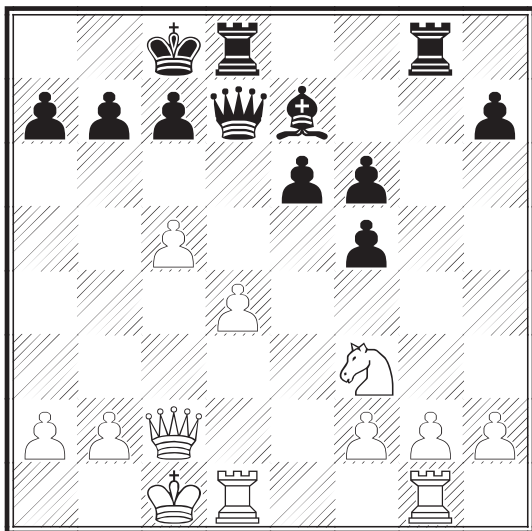
A fighting line which contests control of e5 and prevents White from castling kingside.

9.Bd3 Bd7 10.c3 Bc6 11.Qc2 Rg8 12.Be4 Qd7 13.O-O-O O-O-O 14.Rhg1! Bd5 15.c4 Bxe4 16.Qxe4 f5 17.Qc2 f6?

This is suicide. It creates an undefendable e6-square.

18.c5!

The game is positionally over. Black's Bishop is completely useless. All endings will favor White.



18...Qd5 19.Qb3

Eliminating Black's only active piece and best source of counterplay. Now it is easy to win via the e6-square.

19...Qxb3 20.axb3 c6 21.b4 a6?

Senseless. Black needs to try 21...Kc7 with the plan of Ra8 and a5.

22.Kc2 Kc7 23.Kc3 Rg4 24.g3 Re4 25.Rge1 h5 26.Kd3

The game plays itself.

26...Rxe1 27.Rxe1 e5 28.Kc4

Finis.

28...e4 29.Nh4 Rd5 30.f3 b6 31.fxe4 fxe4 32.Rxe4 Bd8 33.Ng2 b5+ 34.Kd3 Rf5 35.Nf4 h4? 36.d5!?

36.g4! thematically wins the exchange via the e6-square.

36...hgx3 37.hgx3 cxd5 38.Re6 Rg5 39.Kd4! Rxx3 40.Nxd5+ Kb7 41.c6+ Kc8 42.Re8 Rg4+ 43.Kc5 Rg5 44.Kd6 Rxd5+ 45.Kxd5 Kc7 46.Rf8 f5 47.Rf7+ Kb6

It doesn't matter.

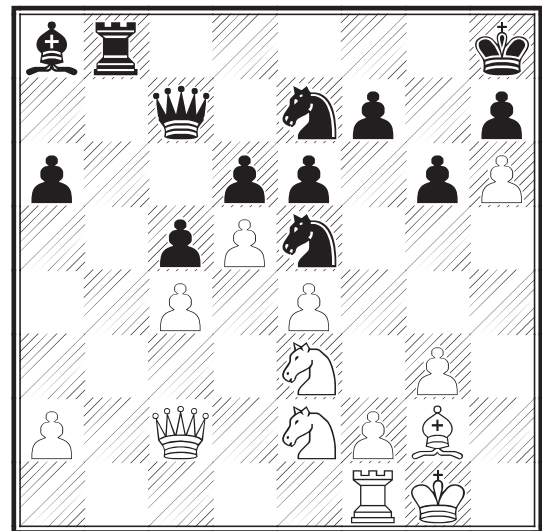
48.Rb7# 1:0

Curtis Howell is another friend of over 35 years. We have played often over those 4 decades and the results are nearly even. I chose not to show the opening of this game as we are both preparing for future tournaments.

### Curtis B. Howell - Terry D. Panetta

Offhand Game

Annotations by Terry D. Panetta



20...Qb6

20...Qb7!

21.f4 Nd7 22.dxe6 fxe6 23.f5 exf5 24.exf5 Bxx2 25.Kxx2 Nxf5

26.Nxf5 gxf5 27.Qxf5 Qc6+ 28.Kh2 d5! 29.Qf7!!

If 29.Qxd5 then 29...Qxd5 30.cxd5 Rb2 holds.

29...Qxxh6+ 30.Kg2 Qg6?

I missed 30...Qe3 which is equal.

31.Qxxg6 hxxg6 32.Nf4! 1:0

Black lost on time. After an exchange of rooks, White is inside the square of Black's queenside pawns. Black's pawns are too far advanced and weak in a knight and pawn ending (where play is similar to king and pawn endings). White conducted the entire game excellently.

The following "draw" was played in a simul held in conjunction with the Hokie Memorial Open in Virginia. It was the only draw among the 17 boards played. In the final position, Black is easily winning

after 41...Rf4!, but Ray is and always was a gentleman and he offered a draw!? I wonder if the GM would have been as generous.

### Susan Polgar - Raymond S. Soroka

Simultaneous Exhibition, Yorktown, Virginia, 10/13/2007

Annotations by Terry D. Panetta

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.e4 d6 6.h3

I don't know much about this system, but 6.Be2 seems better.

6...O-O 7.Nf3 b6

More accurate is 7...Re8. Most flexible is 7...Na6.

8.Bd3 Na6 9.O-O Re8 10.Re1 e6 11.Bf4?! Nc7! 12.Qd2 a6  
13.a4

13.e5 looks very strong.

13...e5 14.Bg5 Bd7 15.Rab1

Why?

15...a5

Why? 15...b5! 16.axb5 axb5 17.cxb5 Qb8! with advantage.

16.g4 Qc8!

This turns the tables completely. Now White's "attack" is just a bad joke. With the queenside and center locked, everything hinges on who is stronger on the kingside.

17.Kf1

See how she runs. Of course, it is an exhibition game, but Black has very effectively seized the initiative.

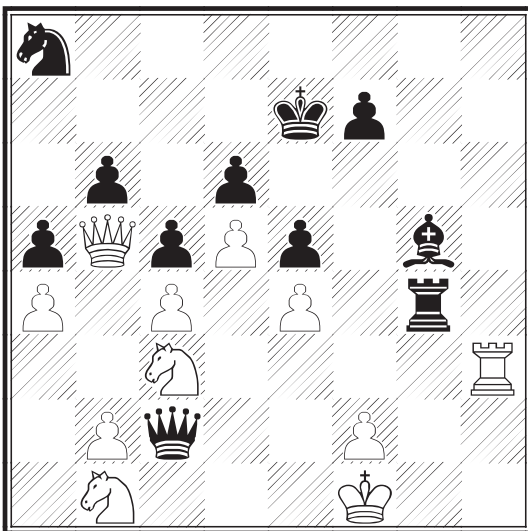
17...h5!

From here to the finish, Black calls all the shots.

18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.gxh5 Bxh3+ 20.Ke2 Qg4! 21.Rg1 Qxh5  
22.Rh1 g5 23.Rbg1 g4 24.Ke1 Kf8 25.Rg3 Ke7 26.Qd1 Rh8  
27.Bf1 Rag8 28.Qb3 Na8 29.Qb5 Qh6! 30.Bxh3 Qc1+ 31.Nd1  
gxh3 32.Rxg8 Rxg8 33.Rxh3

Finally regaining the pawn. But Black dominates the kingside and the White Queen is way out of play.

33...Qc2 34.Nc3 Rg2 35.Nd2 Bg5! 36.Kf1 Rg4 37.Ndb1 Qc1+  
38.Ke2 Qc2+ 39.Kf1 Qc1+ 40.Ke2 Qc2+ 41.Kf1



41...Qc1+ ½:½

In Ray's own words: "I showed Susan the win with 41...Rf4, but she was so nice I allowed the draw. She said, 'I had something planned for that.', but she didn't show me any defense." After 41...Rf4 42.Rh2 Bh4 or 42.f3 Bh4 win.

## Carlisle

March 7, 8 & 9, 2008

2008 Pennsylvania Quick Chess Championship

2008 Pennsylvania State Scholastic Championships

2008 Carlisle Open & Pennsylvania Collegiate Championship

### Thanksgiving Day Variation

I'm proud of this game. It was played blindfolded against a very strong competitor (my friend Ray Soroka relayed the moves to me) at Game/45. I have played this variation on and off since the late 1970s with almost perfect results (12 wins, 3 draws, 0 losses) against opponents ranging in rating from the 1800s to 2300s - with even 2 IMs thrown in.

Terry D. Panetta - Fritz

Blindfold Game, 11/23/2007

Annotations by Terry D. Panetta

1.c4 e5 2.Qc2 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Nf3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Nxe5!

Black either "falls" into the variation or plays for it!

6...Nxe5 7.Qe4

The point. White wins a pawn but must be very careful in the early stages of the game.

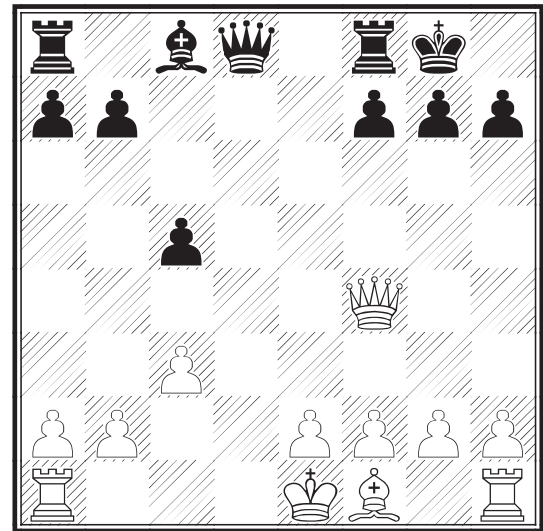
7...Nxc3 8.Qxe5+ Be7 9.dxc3!

Not 9.Qxc3 Bf6; or 9.bxc3 O-O.

9...O-O 10.Bf4 Bd6 11.Qd4 Bxf4

Forced, but strong.

12.Qxf4 c5!!



This sets a diabolical trap, which I "saw". This is why I am so proud of this game.

13.e3

If the logical 13.g3? then 13...Qb6 14.Qd2 Rd8 15.Qc2 Bf5!! 16.Qb3 Qh6 17.Rd1 c4 18.Qa4 b5 wins by force. But 13.e3 has instead turned the tables.

13...Qb6 14.Bc4 Qxb2 15.O-O Be6 16.Rab1 Qxc3 17.Rfc1  
Qf6 18.Qxf6 gxf6 19.Rxb7 Rfb8 20.Bxe6 Rxb7 21.Bd5 Rab8  
22.Bxb7 Rxb7 23.g3 ½:½

After about 30 moves and a few inaccuracies, Black was able to achieve a draw. Still an excellent effort in a blindfold game.

## Allentown Chess Loses its Center

### David Elliott 1946-2007

by Eric C. Johnson

In late 2007, the Allentown chess community lost one of its most active tournament players. David Elliott passed away on October 6th at age 61, after a short illness. David was a former Bethlehem Steel employee, a Vietnam war veteran, a school bus driver, a member of MENSA, and a hard fellow to beat at club chess tournaments.

David's rating fluctuated between 1600 and 1800, and I often thought of him as the median or midpoint for our Center City Chess Club. If a new player could beat David, then that new player was in the top half of the club. If he couldn't, well, that new player had plenty of company.

Not many of David's games survive - he was notorious for not keeping score during games. Oh, he tried to record the moves, but after about move five his sheet would be a mass of squiggles. Most of his opponents knew better than to press the issue (what would be the point?).

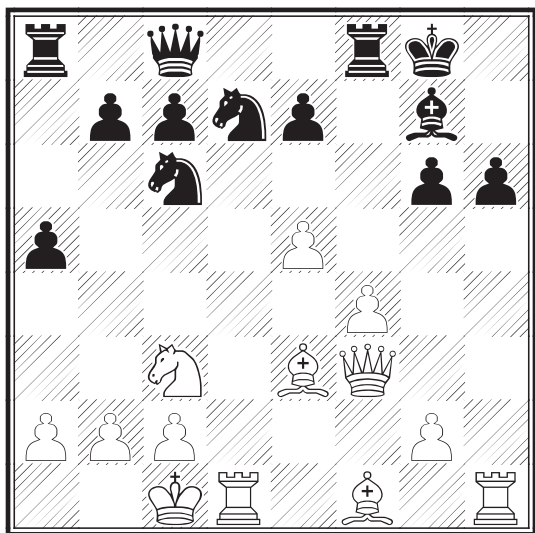
I first played rated chess against David Elliott back in 1990. Our first two serious games were not part of the USCF rating system. In the early 90s, many players were still objecting to having rapid games impact their "official" USCF ratings. GM Yasser Seirawan was publishing his *Inside Chess* magazine and he launched the US version of "FIDE Rapid" ratings for games played at G/25 speed.

For part of 1990, the local chess group participated in Yasser's "FIDE Rapid" rating effort. That first game didn't go so well for David:

#### Eric C. Johnson - David E. Elliott

St Luke's FIDE Rapid, Bethlehem, 7/27/1990

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be3 O-O  
7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nc6 9.e5 dxe5 10.dxe5 Nd7 11.O-O-O Qc8  
12.h4 a5 13.h5 h6 14.hxg6 fxg6



15.Bc4+ Kh8 16.Qh3 Nb6 17.Be6 Qe8 18.f5 Nxe5 19.Bxh6  
Nf7 20.Be3+ 1:0

If you had asked me last year, I would have said "I must have played David 50 times." Well, it turns out that we squared off against each

other 56 times from 1990 through 2007 (not counting those two "FIDE Rapid" games).

My overall record against him was 47 wins, 6 losses and 3 draws. That may seem like a good score, but every game against David was tough - he had wins against all the top experts in the area.

He liked to play the Modern Defense (1...g6) as Black. With White, he eventually settled on 1.c4 and a form of the Botvinnik System. Most chess players know that the Botvinnik System is solid but a bit passive for the first player. White has two good pawn breaks, but Black has equal play. That suited David just fine - he wasn't a theory hound and he just liked to move the pieces. Well, he didn't just like to move them - he liked to trade them - and one way to get an advantage against David was to offer him opportunities to trade off (to his detriment).

Many of our games turned into reversed Maroczy Bind formations (because I quickly discovered that David would answer 1.c4 Nf6 with 2.d3!?). David's tendency to trade down prematurely often led to games like this:

#### David E. Elliott - Eric C. Johnson

Last Round Shakedown Swiss, Round 2, Allentown, 3/2/2002

Annotations by Eric C. Johnson

1.c4 Nf6 2.d3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.Nc3 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bd2 O-O  
7.Bg2 Nb6 8.Nf3 c5 9.O-O Nc6 10.Qc1 Bg4 11.Bh6

There he goes!

11...Rc8 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.h3 Bf5 14.Nb5 a6 15.Na3 Nd4  
16.Nxd4

He can't resist.

16...cxd4 17.Qd2 Nd5 18.Rac1 Qd7 19.Rxc8

There he goes again.

19...Rxc8 20.Kh2 Be6 21.Nc4 Qc7 22.Bxd5

Not again.

22...Bxd5 23.b3 b5 24.Nb2 Qc2

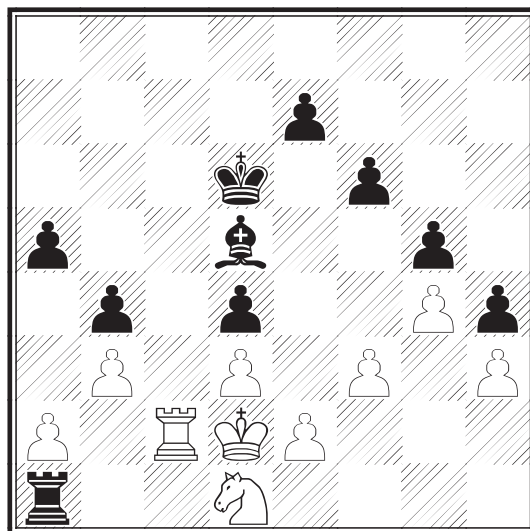
This penetration at c2 is a sign that things have gone wrong.

25.Rd1 f6 26.Kg1 Qxd2 27.Rxd2 Rc1+ 28.Nd1 Kf7 29.Kf1  
b4 30.Ke1 Ke6 31.Rb2 a5 32.Kd2 Ra1 33.f3

Better is 33.e4 and if 33...dxe3+ then 34.Nxe3. If Black doesn't exchange, then h4 minimizes White's weak pawns.

33...Kd6 34.Kc2 h5 35.Kd2 g5 36.Rc2 h4 37.g4

The fatal weakness which allows the Black King to invade.





37...Ke5 38.Nb2 e6 39.Nc4+ Kf4 40.Nxa5 Kg3 41.Nc4 Kxh3  
42.Nd6 Kg3 43.Ne4+ Bxe4 44.dxe4 h3 45.Kd3 h2 46.Kxd4  
h1=Q 47.Kc4 Qd1 0:1

When I say that David was a hard fellow to beat - I mean it. You had to play 40 moves of good solid chess to win. When the Center City Chess Club hosted a simul by GM Alex Stripunski back in November 2000, one local wag said "now we'll see the antidote to that Botvinnik System." Alex won all his other games and his game with David was the last to finish. It was clear that the GM wanted a clean sweep - a perfect score. They played several dozen moves one-on-one, but David held his own. The result? A well-earned draw with (you guessed it) the Botvinnik System!

David's first win against me came in 2002. As is usually the case, the lower-rated player benefits from "draw odds" because his opponent doesn't want to make a draw. White punts the full point after the accursed 29.g4?! entered his head (or at least left his hand).

### Eric C. Johnson - David E. Elliott

Club Mixer Swiss, Round 2, Allentown, 4/27/2002

Annotations by Eric C. Johnson

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 f5?! 5.e5

Perhaps 5.exf5 with the idea of Bd3.

5...e6 6.Be3 d5 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Qd2 Bd7 9.Nd1 a6 10.Nf2 Qe7  
11.Nd3 Nh6 12.h3 b6 13.c3 Na5 14.Qf2 Nc4 15.g3 Nxe3  
16.Qxe3 Bb5 17.Be2 Nf7 18.Ng5 Nxe5?! 19.fxg5 Bxd3!

If 19...h6 then 20.Nf4!? is interesting. In such blockaded pawn structures the knight is the best minor piece.

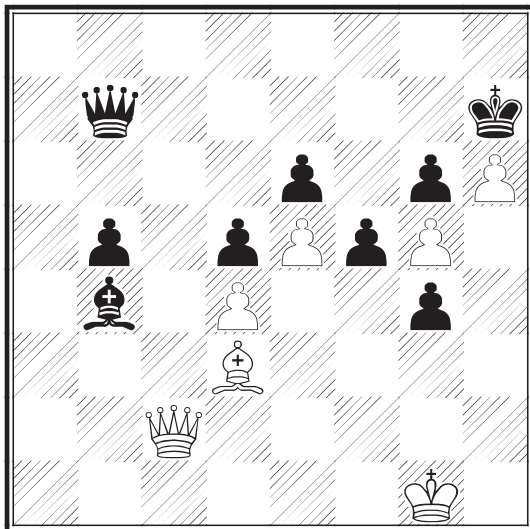
20.Bxd3 b5 21.h4 h5 22.b4 c6 23.a4 Qb7 24.O-O

24.a5 is equal.

24...O-O 25.Rf2 a5 26.axb5 axb4 27.Rxa8 Rxa8 28.cxb4 cxb5  
29.g4?!

A nice idea, but the necessary pieces are no longer on the board.

29...hxg4 30.h5 Kh7 31.h6 Bf8 32.Qc1 Rc8 33.Rc2 Rxc2  
34.Qxc2 Bxb4



35.Qb3

The last chance was 35.Bxb5!

35...Be7 36.Qxb5 Qxb5 37.Bxb5 Bxg5 38.Bd7 Be3+ 39.Kg2  
Bxd4 40.Bxe6 Bxe5 41.Bxd5 Kxh6 42.Be6 Kg5 43.Bf7 f4

## 2008 Pennsylvania Open Team and Scholastic Team Championships - West Pittsburgh February 2, 2008

44.Be8 f3+ 45.Kf1 g3 46.Bc6 g2+ 0:1

Avoiding 46...f2?? when White could blockade.

David went on to beat me five more times, including our final (and only) game from 2007:

### Eric C. Johnson - David E. Elliott

Allentown Swiss, Round 2, Allentown, 7/7/2007

Annotations by Eric C. Johnson

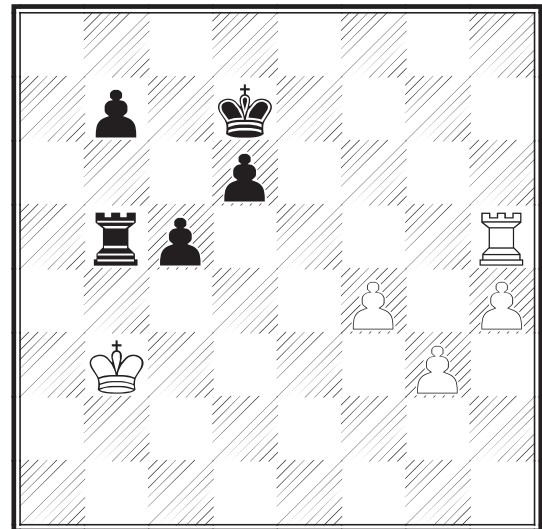
1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 a6 5.Qd2 Nc6 6.f3 e5 7.Nge2  
exd4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.Bxd4 Bxd4 10.Qxd4 Qf6 11.Qd2

A more principled move might be to trade queens and say that the bigger center gives White a small plus.

11...Be6 12.O-O-O O-O-O 13.h4 h5 14.Qe3 Kb8 15.g3 Ne7  
16.Rh2 Qe5 17.f4 Qa5 18.a3 Rhe8 19.Rhd2 Bg4 20.Be2 Bxe2  
21.Qxe2 Qb6 22.Qc4 Rf8 23.Kb1 Qc6 24.Qxc6 Nxc6 25.b4  
Rfe8 26.Kb2 Kc8 27.Kb3 f5 28.exf5 gxf5 29.Nd5 Re6 30.a4  
Rg8 31.Rd3 Ne7 32.Nc3 Reg6 33.Ne2 Re8 34.Re3 Rgg8 35.b5  
axb5 36.axb5 Ng6 37.Rdd3 Rxe3 38.Rxe3 Kd7 39.Nd4 Ne7  
40.c4 c6 41.b6?!

Overpressing.

41...c5 42.Nb5 Rc8 43.Na7 Ra8 44.Rd3 Nc8 45.Nb5 Ra6  
46.Rd5 Rxb6 47.Rxf5 Na7 48.Rxh5 Nxb5 49.cxb5 Rxb5+



50.Kc3??

After overpressing and almost losing, White makes a terrible error. Instead, after 50.Kc2 my pawns should be faster.

50...Ra5 51.Rg5 b5 52.h5 b4+ 53.Kb3?! Ra3+ 54.Kb2 c4 55.h6  
c3+ 56.Kc2 Ra2+ 57.Kb1 b3 0:1

David loved chess and (as I said during his memorial service) he was a member of our chess family. I especially appreciated his help in setting up for our weekly chess events - David was always the first to arrive on a Saturday. Those Saturdays just don't feel the same without him.

## PA TODAY

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

### *5<sup>th</sup> Holly Heisman Memorial*

**WYNNEWOOD, 8/12/2007** - This popular event was built up as the last tournament that would be organized by Dan Heisman. Sadly, unless someone else decides that they would like to organize this event, I am afraid to say that this is the final edition of the Holly Heisman Memorial.

Attendance fell slightly from last year to seventy-one, all of whom competed for donated prizes in three sections: Open, U1500, and a Scholastic U900 section. Your author was ill, and the medicine I took prior to departing for Wynnewood was too little too late. I played one round mainly to see who else was playing, and after a steadily played draw with Larry Saxby, I withdrew from the event. I believe this is the first time that I ever withdrew from a weekend tournament. This gave me time to purchase a probotic, which greatly helped my recovery. I spent the rest of the day watching a few episodes of the Mysterious Cities of Gold on YouTube and Tiger Woods win the PGA Championship.

The Open section was a three horse race between FM Rodion Rubenchik and NMs Daniel Yeager and Adam Weissbarth. Yeager drew Rubenchik in round three and defeated Weissbarth in the next round and closed with a last round victory over expert Neal Oberholtzer to win the event. Weissbarth rebounded from his loss and beat Rubenchik in the final frame to finish in clear second. Rubenchik had to be content to tie with Saxby, who had upset Andrew Tichenor and Benjamin Fisher, for third place.

In the U1500 section, John Callan was the only person to register a perfect 5-0 score in this G/30 event. He finished a full point ahead of the field. Like the other two sections, the Scholastic U900 section also had a clear winner, with Alexander Wlezien taking clear first despite conceding two draws along the way.

I would like personally thank Dan Heisman for his many decades of organizing probably hundreds of great tournaments, all professionally run. He told me that he is still willing to help direct tournaments, such as the State Scholastic Championship in Carlisle, but that this is his farewell tournament for being the person who actually organizes the event. Thank you, Dan!

### *31st Pittsburgh Summer Open*

**PITTSBURGH, 8/25/2007** - Late August in the Steel City; it is the closing of summer, students are returning to classes, and it is once again time for the Pittsburgh Summer Open. The 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the event was held on a beautiful late summer afternoon, one day prior to the Steelers playing, and defeating, their cross-state rivals, the Philadelphia Eagles, in an exhibition match at Heinz Field.

The tournament is atypical compared to other events held in the area in that the sections are composed of 8 player 'octos'. Aside from that, it is a four-round, game in 75 minutes, swiss-style tournament.

Twenty-four players hailing from five states battled it out over the boards in three octos to determine this year's winners. Attendance was down exactly one octo from last year, but there was still a lot of competitive chess to be witnessed.

Alex Heimann dominated the highest-rated octo with a 3½-½ score, yielding only one draw in the second round to Dan Malkiel. Franklin Chen, Hibiki Sakai, and Malkiel split the second place prize with 2½-1½ scores. In the second octo, Dale Lipinski, Tim Crowell, and your author took turns beating each other to tie for first place at 3-1. Dan Seamans, Kent Weber, and Dmitriy Redkin each finished with 3 points to tie for first place in the final octo.

Complete crosstables, ratings, and information regarding this and other Western PA events can be found at the <http://www.pitt.edu/~schach/> website.  
- Joshua J. Mankey

### *Chaturanga Chess Club Championship*

**HATBORO, 9/6-10/4/2007** - If you are a club player in southeastern Pennsylvania, then you know that the Thursday after Labor Day is the beginning of the Chaturanga Chess Club Championship. Twenty-nine entrants made this the largest field since 1998, when there were thirty. The tournament was also stronger this year. Although expert and perennial contender Gennadiy Geyley did not play, three new strong players signed up for a crack at the title: Daniel Yeager, Adam Weissbarth, and Lorand Bela Kis.

Round one went as predicted, except for John Babcock holding Robert Leonards to a draw. I became the first true upset victim in the next round, when I lost to Joe Kennedy for the first time. Things got interesting at the halfway mark: defending champion Brian Polka held the top-seeded Yeager to a draw, and Kis lost to James Larsen. Kennedy scored his second big scalp against Randy Slepion, and Weissbarth beat Amador to join Kennedy and Larsen for a tie for first at three points. In the penultimate round, Weissbarth defeated Larsen to take sole position of first place. Yeager dispatched Kennedy to stay right behind him. Yeager pressed hard for a win in the final round against Weissbarth, but had to acquiesce to a draw, giving the title to Weissbarth, who won it in his first attempt. Tying Yeager for second place with four points were Kis, Larsen and Kennedy, all of whom won their final round games.

### *North Penn Chess Club Membership Drive*

**LANSDALE, 9/7-10/5/2007** - Yet another important club event began shortly after Labor Day. Attendance was down to only nineteen players - three less than last year. Last year four points gave me clear first place. This year I had the same score, but, not surprisingly, I had to share the title with Preston Ladson. I won my first three games, and was a pawn up with black in round four against Nigel Mitchell, but I could not convert it, and only drew. My last round game with director Eric Funk was a steadily played draw. Ladson lost only to me in round three and won the rest, including a last round must-win victory over Mitchell. Roy Eikerenkoetter and Willard Moyer tied for third place, a half point back.

### *Western Pennsylvania Open*

**PITTSBURGH, 10/7/2007** - NM Tom Magar won the four round Western Pennsylvania Open by a half point when he defeated top seed FM Robert Sulman with his Sicilian Defense. Sulman, who began the tournament with a 3-0 score, tied for second with Daniel Malkiel, Kevin Carl, and Luka Glinsky. The Premier (U1600) section was sensationally swept 4-0 by the unrated Matthew Beyerl, who was playing in his first rated event! He now has a provisional rating of 1992! Gregory Kaniecki also posted a perfect score in the scholastic section. A total of 73 players took part.

## *Pennsylvania State Championship*

**HAVERFORD, 10/12-14/2007** - For the first time since 1985, the Pennsylvania State Championship was held in the Philadelphia area, at Haverford College, the site of this year's Greater Philadelphia Open, and yes, that campus where the speed limit is 13 miles per hour. It was originally to be at the magnificent Founders Hall, but the college switched the event to the adequate, but not nearly as nice, basement of the cafeteria. The event (including side events) drew 120 players, a turnout which is certainly among one of the highest in years.

The first event was the Blitz Championship on Friday night. There were two double round-robin (you play each opponent with white and black) sections with six players each. IM Bryan Smith easily won the top section 10-0, ahead of Dan Yeager's score of 8-2. In the other section, Sebastian Lara's 8½/10 score was comfortably ahead of the six points scored by Reilly Costigan-Humes and Adolfo Cuesta.

The main event began on Saturday, with three sections: Open, U1800, and U1400. In the opening round of the Open, there were no upsets, but WFM Alisa Melekhina, Lorand Bela Kis and myself were held to draws by Ron Raush, Martin Makous and Glenn Buyo respectively. In the second round, the higher rated players generally did their stuff, and the interesting pairing began in round three. IM Bryan Smith defeated FM Boris Privman on the top board to give him the lead. Melekhina beat NM Zakhar Fayvinov. NM Peter Minear missed a win against NM Dan Yeager and only drew. I lost to NM Michael Bury. On Sunday, Yeager-Smith was won by the IM; Bury-Melekhina was also won by black; Minear drew Privman; and Kis stayed in the hunt by winning against Gary Rubright. In the final round, Smith-Melekhina went 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 draw, and Bryan Smith was the new state champion. Kis defeated Jared Defibaugh to tie with Melekhina for second with four points. Andrew Ding smashed Bury, and tied for fourth with Minear and Greg Nolan, who drew each other. I finished with two draws and a fifty percent score.

In the U1800 section, Mel Ross marched to a perfect 3-0 score on Saturday, but then lost in the fourth round to Isara Thanakit, in an interesting position where Ross had an extra piece while Thanakit had several extra pawns. After that, Thanakit was in the lead, closely followed by Ross, David Sherman, and Joe Kennedy a half point behind. In the final round, Thanakit lost to Sherman, and Ross and Kennedy both won to enter a three way tie for first with four points.

In the U1400 section, Alex Bury won fairly easily. After sweeping all his games on Saturday, he conceded a draw to Kimberly Ding on Sunday, and beat Richard Yeager to win the section, half a point ahead of Tom Douris, whom he beat in round two.

Fast improving Tommy Guo swept the scholastic section on Saturday 4-0. David Lakata was a half point back. Nine people showed up for the quads on Sunday. Michael Williams had a perfect score in the top quad, and Joe Sackey and Benjamin Marsden drew each other but beat everyone else in the other quad.

Next year's Pennsylvania State Championship will probably be in the Harrisburg area. See you there!

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## *Garry Kasparov lecture on "How Life Imitates Chess"*

**PHILADELPHIA, 10/19/2007** - The Free Library of Philadelphia, one of the treasures of the city, hosted former world chess champion and Russian presidential candidate GM Garry Kasparov to a lecture

on his new book *How Life Imitates Chess*. Afterwards, he signed copies of the book which were for sale at the library.

Although the lecture began at noon, the doors to the auditorium opened at 11:15am. Rodion Rubenchik, Jim Larsen and I were among the earlybirds, and Larsen insisted that we sit in the center of the front row. It was a great idea as we had a fantastic view of Kasparov!

After a nice introduction by Francis Thomas, the chess coach at Vaux Roberts High School in Philadelphia, Kasparov walked on stage to a thunderous applause from a packed audience of a few hundred people. After a few jokes and saying that he was glad to return to Philadelphia after his victorious 1996 match against Deep Blue, he began his talk.

Kasparov's idea for his latest book came in 2003 when he was still an active player. *How Life Imitates Chess* is about the analysis of decision making. While most people want one universal answer on how to correctly make a decision, Kasparov could not offer a sole "tip" that would work for everyone in all situations. The decision making process is unique, like DNA or fingerprints. He noted that he was an aggressive chess player, while Anatoly Karpov was a more defensive player, and yet they both managed to enjoy long reigns as world champion.

For Kasparov, playing chess was not solely about winning and losing. He wanted to make a difference in the game. Kasparov told the audience that he was quite surprised on how much the game has developed since he became world champion in 1985. This urge to make a change is also one of the reasons that he entered Russian politics. The democracy that Boris Yeltsin brought to Russia in the 1990s never really took root. The democratic institutions were weak. Now, according to Kasparov, Vladimir Putin is completely destroying those institutions. Kasparov believes that opposing Putin is the best thing that he could do. Several factions have united to form the Other Russia, an anti-Putin coalition to which Kasparov belongs, that supports free and fair elections and no censorship. Right now, they are fighting to have elections, not necessarily to win elections (Kasparov is a long shot to win the Russian presidential race). Kasparov acknowledged that Putin's opposition is currently weak, but if it can survive, it can expand and grow stronger.

One interesting piece of trivia is that *How Life Imitates Chess* was actually the working title for the book. The publisher liked it so much it became the real title. The book has been published in twenty-seven different countries, with three distinct versions: UK, US, and Russian. The UK version is the original manuscript. It has a section on those from whom Kasparov learned his decision making skills. The American version gets straight to the point, has less chess, less biography on Kasparov, and does not have the section on who helped him develop his decision making skills. The Russian version is organized differently from the other editions, and, as you may suspect, has more chess and more information on Kasparov.

Kasparov completed his lecture and answered five questions, ranging from his retirement from chess to Armenian genocide. Then, everyone dashed upstairs for the book signing. If you arrived early, two of Kasparov's other books were for sale in limited supply: *My Great Predecessors Part IV* (Fischer) and *Revolution in the 70s*. Your author, who did not own any of them, handed the saleslady his credit card and bought all three (the hefty bill was \$118). Kasparov wrote "To Joseph", affixed his large, bold signature, and added the date "10-19-07" in all three books. I asked him what he thought about Viswanathan Anand becoming world champion. "He deserved it!" Kasparov replied, seeming impressed with Anand's play. I followed



up by asking who would win next year's world championship match between Anand and the deposed champion, Vladimir Kramnik. Kasparov was unsure. After a handshake with the ex-champ, I chatted a bit with some friends, and headed back to Douglassville. Later that night, the local ABC and CBS affiliates ran short (about twenty second) stories on Kasparov's visit, and there was a write-up in the next day's *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

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### October Wave

**RADNOR, 10/20/2007** - A total of forty players took part in three sections in this four round, G/30 Silver Knights event held at Radnor Elementary School. All three sectional winners posted perfect 4-0 scores: Joseph Mucerino in the Open, Albert Starominsky in the K-8, and Kevin Zhou in the K-3.

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### 9<sup>th</sup> Mountaineer Open

**MORGANTOWN WV, 10/27/2007** - The Morgantown Chess Club hosted this event at their normal site, the First Christian Church. Twenty-six players from West Virginia and Pennsylvania competed in the event, but at the end of the day Pennsylvania players won the top spots in both sections offered.

Alexander Heimann bested the 14 player Open section with a perfect 4/4 score, while Shih-Houng Young (WV) took sole possession of 2<sup>nd</sup> place with three wins, lamenting only his loss to Heimann. Jeff Hohn and Mark Butcher (both WV) tied for third with 2½ points.

Juan Ayala and Jay Mankey tied for first place with 3½ out of a possible 4 points, drawing only each other in the third round to stand atop the dozen players competing in the Reserve section. Peter Herber, also from Pennsylvania, took third place in the section with a 3-1 finish.

- Joshua J. Mankey

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### October Blast

**NEWTOWN, 10/27/2007** - Another week, another Silver Knights tournament, this time at Goodnoe Elementary School. Another successful turnout, forty-two this time, and again the winners of the three sections won all of their games: Joseph Mucerino in the Open, Roger Yu in the K-8, and Max Polichuk in the K-3.

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### Main Line Chess Club Championship

**GLADWYNE, 10/2-30/2007** - The five Tuesdays in October were the dates of this year's club championship. One switch from last year is that there would be one large rated section, instead of the normal nonrated open section and rated U1800 section. There was one very minor snafu when accelerated pairings were used instead of normal Swiss pairings, but that probably did not have too much effect on the results.

NM Daniel Yeager, who fell just short of picking up the Chaturanga Chess Club Championship, made amends here in this slightly weaker field (defending champion Dan Heisman did not play). He swept the first four games before conceding a draw with expert Vinko Rutar in the final round to take home the title and the first place silver bowl. I took second place, losing to fast improving Miles Rich in round two (which ultimately prevented a pairing between Yeager and myself), but winning the other four games. Rutar took clear third with 3½ points. He was also upset by Rich (in round one), and he drew Yeager, but won the middle three. Twenty-two players took part.

### 38<sup>th</sup> Annual National Chess Congress

**PHILADELPHIA, 11/23-25/2007** - This year's edition was poorly attended, with only 487 players (the National Chess Congress usually draws at least 500 people), down 39 from last year, and the lowest since 1995, when 479 played (twenty of those were kids who participated in the Philadelphia Elementary tournament). The main reason for the drop was, believe it or not, international competition! Some of the top scholastic players were in Turkey for the World Youth Championships (Daniel Naroditsky of California picked up the Boys World U12 Championship with a 9½/11 score. Our own Alisa Melekhina scored 7½ points in the Girls U16 section). Also going on concurrently with the National Chess Congress was the World Cup in Russia, where U.S. Champ Alexander Shabalov participated, but I am sorry to announce that he was knocked out in the first round by GM Dusko Pavasovic of Slovenia.

With so many GMs in Russia, that meant that only five turned out in Philly. GM Darmen Sadvakasov, currently a student at CMU in Pittsburgh, simply dominated the event, starting out 5-0 and then drawing in the final round with GM Ildar Ibragimov to finish a full point ahead of everyone else. Ibragimov tied for second place with 4½ points with GM Alexander Fishbein, IMs Dmitry Schneider, Dean Ippolito, Jay Bonin, and FM Thomas Bartell. Pennsylvania was well represented in the premier section (open only to those rated 2000+ or juniors under age 18 rated 1800+) by State Champion Bryan Smith, State K-12 Champion Daniel Yeager, FM Zakhar Fayvinov, and NMs Alex and Mark Heimann.

The tournament was very well run. The first round pairings were posted late, but all of the other rounds started on time except for the last, which started only about five minutes after the scheduled time. I also do not recall a single cell phone or other noise maker going off during the entire event! The playing hall has recently been recarpeted (which is perhaps why the World Open could not be held there this past summer), and the dingy restrooms were renovated and look quite nice now.

The final results:

Premier: Darmen Sadvakasov 5½/6

Top PA: Bryan Smith, Mark Heimann, Daniel Yeager, Zakhar Fayvinov 3½

Top NJ: Alexander Fishbein, Dean Ippolito, Thomas Bartell 4½

U2200: Ryan Thurlow 5½

Top PA: Luan Elezi 4½

Top NJ: Hana Itkis, Ivan Joyner 3

U2000: Josh Bowman, Paul Howe, William Van Lear, Douglas Burgwin 5

Top PA: Bowman, Howe, Burgwin 5

Top NJ: Jonathan Lamdan, Serge Adelson 4½

U1800: Ronald Stewart, Yuval Shemesh 5½

Top PA: Herman Setyadarma 4½

Top NJ: Yuxing Yang, Srinivasan Ramanujam, Steven Himel 4½

U1600: William Graif 5½ (the largest section with 80 players)

Top PA: Christopher Persons, Yuaho Xu 5

Top NJ: Jonathan Garcia 5

U1400: Adonis Turner 6 (the only perfect score!)

Top PA: Turner 6

Top NJ: Dwayne Generette 4½

U1200: Valeriano Magat 5½

Top PA: Eric Guo 5

Top NJ: Max Osmulski, Aravind Kumar 4

U1000: Ashustosh Ailani, Joie Wang, Jay Regam 5

Top PA: Regam 5

Top NJ: Ailani 5

U800: Matthew Saunders, Mitchell Starominsky 4½

Top PA: Saunders, Starominsky 4½

Top NJ: Nikhil Vasireddi, Chris Li Puma 4

U600: Kajal Patel 5

Top PA: Benjamin Lu 4½

Top NJ: Neal Vasireddi 3

Unrated: Dylan Ruggiero, Maste Miller, Marc Di Costanzo 5

Top PA: Ruggiero 5

Top NJ: Miller, Di Costanzo 5

Shinsaku is the youngest Japan National Chess Champion in history.

### Shinsaku Uesugi - Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

National Chess Congress, Round 5, Philadelphia, 11/25/2007

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Be2 Bxe2 5.Qxe2 Qxd5 6.Nf3 e6 7.O-O Nc6 8.Be3 O-O-O 9.c4 Qf5 10.Nc3 h6 11.Rfd1 g5 12.a3 Ne4**

Trying to eliminate the Knight on c3, which puts pressure on d5, and open up the a1-h8 diagonal for Black's Bishop.

**13.Rac1 Nxc3 14.Rxc3 Bg7**

Now after Black plays g4, White's Knight will not be able to go to h4, where it attacks Black's Queen and blocks the advance of Black's pawns.

**15.Rcd3 Bf6 16.b4 g4 17.Ne1**

Fritz says the position is equal. I prefer White.

**17...a6 18.Nc2 h5 19.a4 h4 20.b5 Nb8 21.c5 h3**

I preferred this over 21...g3 because White can close the kingside after 22.fxg3 hxg3 23.h3. White has to keep an eye on g2 in the game.

**22.g3 Qd5 23.Ne1 Qe4 24.R3d2 c6**

To prevent White from playing c6 himself, which would crack open Black's position.

**25.Qc4 Rd5 26.Rb2 Rhd8 27.bxa6 Nxa6 28.Rdb1 Rxd4!?**

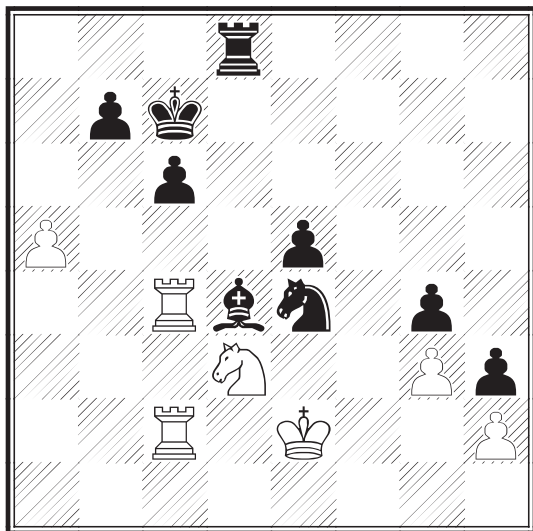
Not 28...R(any)d7?? 29.Qxa6 bxa6 30.Rb8+ mating.

**29.Bxd4 Bxd4 30.Qc2**

The computer preferred to keep material on the board with 30.Rc2. It thinks that Black is winning after the text. I believe the position is unclear, but Black may have a small edge.

**30...Qxc2 31.Rxc2 Nxc5 32.Rb4 Ne4 33.Kf1 f5 34.f3 Ng5**

**35.fxg4 fxg4 36.Ke2 Ne4 37.Nd3 e5 38.a5 Kc7 39.Rbc4**



**39...c5?**

Black can safely win a pawn with 39...Ra8.

**40.Nxe5 Nxc3+ 41.hxc3 h2 42.Rc1 Bg1**

I checked with Fritz, and there is no way that Black can force the pawn through.

**43.Rxc5+ Bxc5 44.Nxc4 Rh8 45.Rh1 Bd6 46.Rxh2 Rxh2+ 47.Nxh2 Bxc3 48.Nf3 Bd6 49.Kd3 Bb4 50.Kc4 Bxa5 51.Kb5 Bc3 52.Ng5 ½:½**

White will be able to sacrifice his knight for the pawn.

### Charles A. Pearson - Treva O. Ayton

National Chess Congress, Round 6, Philadelphia, 11/25/2007

Annotations by Charles A. Pearson and Dan Heisman

Before the round, Mike Kizis, a fellow student of CM Dan Heisman and also an ICC Team 45 45 League teammate, and I had some time to kill. Since we were expecting opposite colors in our respective next games (for me, White) I thought it might be productive to spend the time anticipating the openings we'd be seeing. I asked him what he plays against

**1.e4**

His answer was

**1...c5**

The Sicilian! OK, then what about after

**2.d4**

The Smith-Morra Gambit! But after

**2...cxd4 3.c3**

Mike plays

**3...g6**

Whoa! I've never seen that before. On rare occasions (maybe 2 or 3) I've seen the gambit declined with d3, but not this! What a coincidence! The very move that Mike showed me only 30 minutes earlier!

**4.cxd4 d5 5.exd5**

Mike said that I had a choice of 2 lines at this point: 5.exd5 or 5.e5. Playing e5 looked more comfortable to me, even though it leaves White spending a good part of the game defending a pawn on which Black is piling up pieces. We spent the available time before the game looking at that line. But now, with an actual game under way, I decided that spending the entire game defending a pawn didn't sound so great after all. So I made the decision right there on the spot to go with the other line. Which, of course, meant that I'd be winging it.

**5...Qxd5?**

Book and better is 5...Nf6 - DH.

**6.Nc3 Qd6 7.Bc4 Qc7?**

Moving the Queen twice just to attack a bishop which can be defended with tempo. - DH.

**8.Qb3!**

Developing with tempo. - DH.

**8...e6 9.Nb5 Qc6 10.d5!**

Best yet again. Way to go, Al! Can we consider this "The Immortal Al Pearson Game"? - DH.

**10...Qc5**

Well, this isn't so bad. Black has made 6 of the last 7 moves with one piece, his Queen! Now I'm enjoying the main benefit of the gambit - superior development - without even having given up the gambit pawn! What's more, the position has a lot of the characteristic advantages that I learned in GM Alex Linderman's ICC lecture on the Smith-Morra Gambit. By now I'm about 3 pieces ahead in development and they're coordinated and invading Black territory in a big way. I'm licking my chops over prospects of further incursion through threats

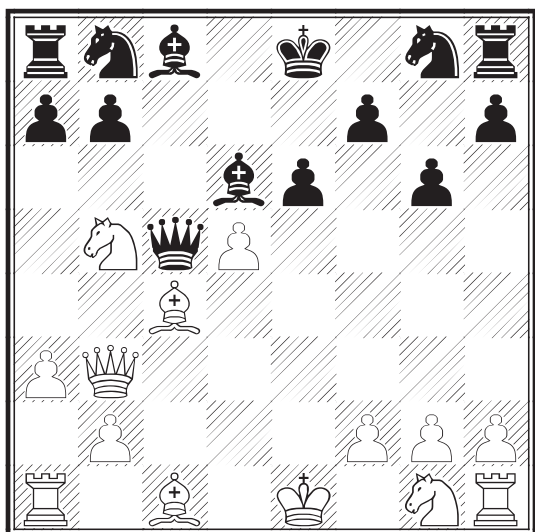


against his rooks. But first I need to stop him from forcing a Queen exchange and thereby taking the sting out of my attack.

### 11.a3

I really like Al's idea here, although Rybka rates this move second best behind 11.dxe6, when White should plan 11...fxe6 12.Be3! e.g. 12...Qb4+ 13.Kf1! Qxb3 14.axb3 and the twin threats of 15.Nc7+ and 15.Bd4 hitting the rook on a8 cannot be stopped. But not 12.Bxe6?? Qe5+. It is never too late to be vigilant! The World Computer Chess Champion already rates White's game is winning but Black's next move would make it easy for just about anybody. - DH.

### 11...Bd6??



All the above considerations become academic with this blunder, which lets me trap his Queen!

### 12.Be3

And the rest needs no comment from me! - DH.

12...a6 13.Bxc5 axb5 14.Bxb5+ Ke7 15.Bxd6+ Kxd6 16.dxe6 Bxe6 17.Rd1+

Getting the Rook into play before forcing the exchange of bishops.

### 17...Kc7 18.Bc4 Nf6??

This allows a queen fork of the King and Knight.

19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.Qc3+ Nc6 21.Qxf6 Rac8 22.Nf3 e5 23.Qf7+ I wanted to get the Queen to safer region of the board with this and the next move. I also now had to keep reminding myself that the biggest blunder would be getting Queen and Rook forked or a back-rank mate.

### 23...Kb6 24.Qb3+ Kc7 25.O-O

Getting the other rook into the game.

25...h5 26.Qf7+ Kb6 27.Rd7 h4 28.Qb3+ Ka5 29.Rxb7 Nd4 Desperation! Right after making this move he started to pack up. But I spent a good 30 seconds making sure that I really had mate!

### 30.Ra7# 1:0

This gave me 3½ out of possible 6 “playing up” in the U1600 section of the tournament. The 140 rating points that I gained put me above 1400 for the first time!

## CCLA / New Met League

by Harvey Reed

*(In Pittsburgh, we have a long history of team activity with the Pittsburgh Chess League in its 48<sup>th</sup> season. And over the last two years the Greater Philadelphia Chess League has reintroduced team chess to*

*the eastern part of the state. However, for most clubs there is no convenient way to play matches against other clubs. The Punxsutawney Chess Club, which also competes in the Pittsburgh Chess League as the Punxsutawney Phil-idors, is one of the clubs testing this new format. - editor)*

The New Met League has created a new venue for OTB (over the board) chess clubs to compete with each other, via webserver correspondence chess. We are currently running two matches to iron out the procedures and formats and will begin general marketing over the holiday season.

OTB chess clubs compete in a four board team format similar to that used by “metropolitan leagues” that were popular before the advent of weekend swiss tournaments. Some cities, such as Pittsburgh, still have a league, but most do not, and rural towns never had the opportunity.

CCLA / New Met League offers the OTB Club a national venue to play other OTB Clubs across America, with the convenience of using an internet browser to make your move, with time controls in days not hours. The players make their move when they have time, so there is no time/place coordination overhead, and overall time commitment is minimized. Team players and the public can see the games in progress, which builds the excitement, watching your team fight it's way to victory!

For more information:

CCLA / New Met League blog, <http://newmetleague.blogspot.com/>  
CCLA, <http://chessbymail.com/> (click on “Server Tmts.” - upper left)

## Junior Gems

by Dan Heisman

### Samuel W. Boehner - Rahul Ghai

Western PA Open, Round 3, Pittsburgh, 10/7/2007

Annotations by Dan Heisman

### 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4

This is the characteristic move of the old “Italian” Opening.

### 3...Bc5

And this reply is a major “subset” of the Italian, the venerable Giuoco Piano. The other major Italian variant is the Two Knight's Defense 3...Nf6. I have written two books on computer analysis of the Two Knight's Defense: *The Traxler Counterattack* and *The Computer Analyzes the Fried Liver/Lolli*, both in CD form.

### 4.c3

This is an important move to know. Most of my students who don't study this line want to play static moves like the rare 4.O-O or the Pianissimo 4.d3. The text is more dynamic, as Black cannot prevent d4, hitting the Bishop.

### 4...Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3

Black has at least equal play after both the ancient moves 7.Nc3 and 7.Bd2, which is one reason why modern grandmasters don't play the Italian.

### 7...Bxc3+

This is not quite as accurate as the normal move 7...Nxe4. World Computer Chess Champion Rybka estimates this costs Black about a third of a pawn.

### 8.bxc3 Nxe4 9.O-O?

In this very rare line Rybka suggests that 9.d5 would put a monkey wrench in Black's plans and give White a more than normal opening advantage after 9...Ne7 10.O-O O-O 11.Re1.

**9...d5**

Now Black is slightly better again, as he often is in this line if he can get in ...d5.

**10.Re1 O-O 11.Bd3 Nxc3**

Possibly slightly better is 11...Bf5 or 11...Re8.

**12.Qb3?**

Better is 12.Qc2, keeping an eye on the Knight's only escape square, e4.

**12...Ne4 13.Bxe4 dxe4 14.Rxe4 Bf5**

Here Rybka points out that 14...Be6 is better, e.g. 15.Qxb7 Bd5 16.Rf4 Rb8 17.Qa6 Bxf3 ...is winning for Black. In any case, White's game is slowly drifting toward lost anyway. But Black's technique is excellent, pushing White over the edge.

**15.Rf4 Be6!**

Kudos to Black for seeing that the sacrifice is the best way to go!

**16.Qxb7 Bd5!**

The correct follow-up. Black is playing masterly!

**17.Qb2 Bxf3 18.Rxf3**

Rybka likes 18.gxf3 slightly better but White's game is no bed of roses either way.

**18...Nxd4 19.Rg3**

Rybka points out the only hope for saving the game is 19.Re3, when 19...c5 20.Qc3 Re8 leaves Black well on top. After the text it is all over.

**19...Rb8!**

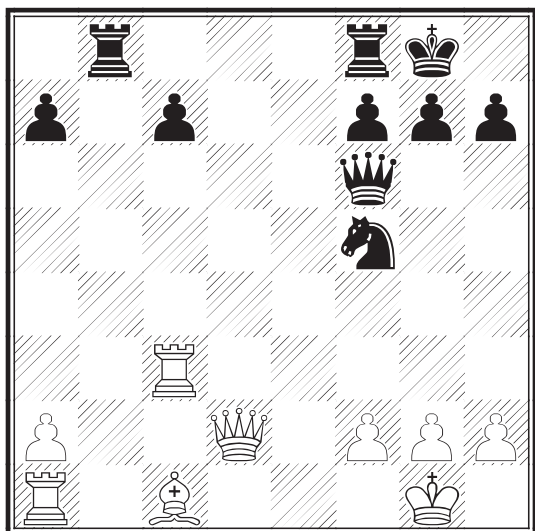
Black's play continues to be energetic and excellent!

**20.Qd2 Nf5?**

One of the few slips in the game by Black. 20...Qf6 wins immediately as the Rook on a1 cannot be saved (see next move).

**21.Rd3 Qf6 22.Rc3?**

Returning the favor. Instead the only try was 22.Qc3 Rfd8 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 24.Bb2 Qxc3 25.Bxc3 c5 leaving Black much better but with still a lot of work to do before collecting the point.

**22...Rbd8 23.Qc2 Qxc3 0:1**

If you did not see this easy queen sacrifice because "the rook was guarded by the queen" then that is a quiescence error. So long as the reward (in this case a possible checkmate) is greater than the risk (losing a queen for a rook) you should continue to analyze. Remember, you are not losing your queen since if it does not work you won't play it!! Instead you would only be losing some time on your clock, so the

cost of looking a little deeper is relatively low. White resigns since taking the Queen results in a rook checkmate via d1.

*(Players in grades 12 and under are encouraged to send us their instructive games to be analyzed by Dan Heisman and presented to our readers. - editor.)*

## Coaches Corner: Advancing the Passed Pawn - Threat vs. Execution

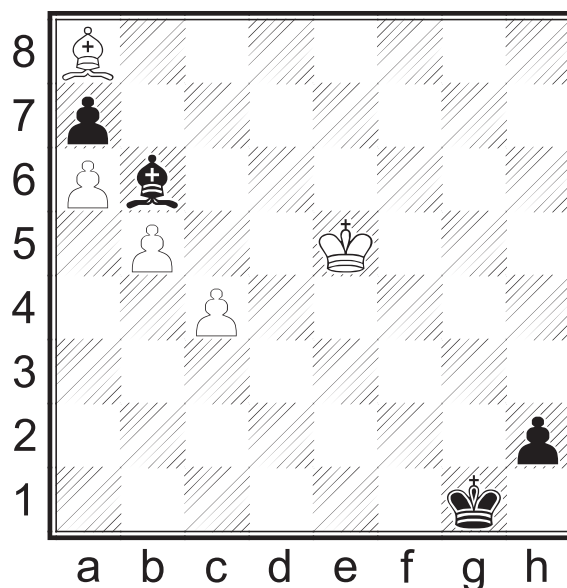
by IM Igor Khmel'nitsky

In my opinion, promoting a pawn is one of the most exciting tactics in chess. Rarely, however, does the promotion go uncontested. It is more common that an opponent can stop the promotion for a price, either material or time. The question is: What is the right price? Not only one must gain material, but you must also foresee how it will influence the subsequent flow of the game.

Let's start with this relatively simple example from the game of two boys, both of which are my students and rated around 800.

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

*1. Black to move*



**Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.**

The Black King has just snuck down to g1 and is ready to help the h-pawn promote. White's last move was **1.Bh1-a8** and Black now responds **1...h1/Q**. I was watching the game from few feet away and wasn't sure who was going to win up until Black's last move. After **2.Bxh1 Kxh1 3.Kd6** and then **4.c5**, White easily won the game. Of course, in the starting position Black should be losing no matter what he does. After **1...Kf2**, or any other move, White will simply play **Kd6, c5** and then **b6** at the right moment, forcing the a-pawn through.

However, the h-pawn, while it was on the board, presented a serious threat. It is not that unlikely that the 800-rated player playing the White pieces would have placed his King on d5 or pushed his pawn c4-c5-c6, inadvertently cutting off his Bishop and allowing the h-pawn to queen. By playing **1...h1Q??**, Black eliminated White's opportunity to make a mistake.

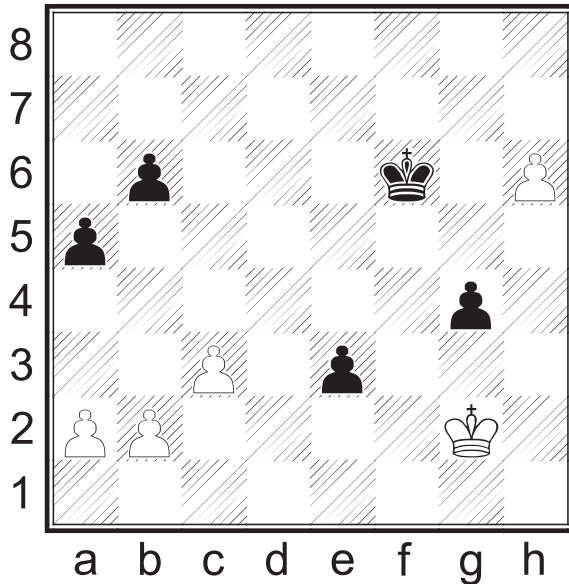
Conclusion: The Black h-pawn created a **Strong Threat**, but advanc-

ing it was a **Weak Execution**.

The next two examples are from the games of one of my long-distance students (rated around 1400). They are much more complex. The first is a pawn endgame.

**How do you assess the position? What are the plans for both sides? What should White do?**

### 2. White to move



**Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.**

This is a very exciting pawn endgame. A brief evaluation: The Black pawns on e3 and g4 are self-sufficient, defending each other from the White King. If White takes the g-pawn via Kg2-g3xg4 then that allows Black the e3-e2 advance and next a queen. If White instead goes after the e-pawn via Kg2-f1 then Black plays g4-g3 and both pawns are safe. However, these pawns can't make progress without the help of the Black King - as long as White's King stays on g2 or g3. White has the potential to create two widely-separated passed pawns and the Black King won't be able to stop both. The Black King is already very active and is trying to win the h-pawn. If he does that without losing sight of White's queenside pawns, Black will win. Therefore, White must be in hurry to try and create the passed pawn on the queenside.

Because this position is dynamic, we can't clearly evaluate it until we do all of the calculations.

White played **1.h7??** Clearly this move is not in line with White's optimal strategy described in the paragraph above and it is a serious mistake. This move loses a very valuable tempo which could be used on the queenside. **1...Kg7 2.h8/Q+??** (losing yet another tempo) **2...Kxh8 3.b4 Kg7 4.bxa5 bxa5 5.c4 Kf6** and the Black King is easily in the square of the c-pawn. What went wrong? Well, White gave away two moves by pushing the h-pawn. Black would have to go to the h-file no matter what, so White should have seized the opportunity to start action on the queenside.

Conclusion: The White h-pawn created a **Strong Threat**, but advancing it was a **Weak Execution**.

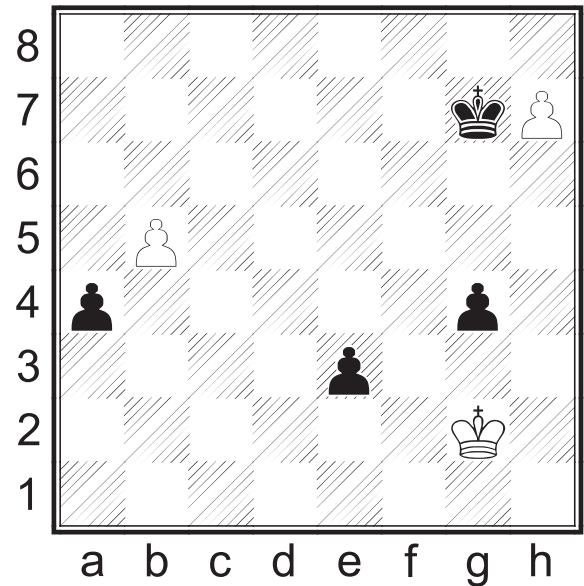
What should White have done? Well, there are three potential candidate moves 1.a4, 1.b4 or 1.c4.

First, let's look at **1.c4**. Normally, endgame theory suggests first advancing the potential passed pawn - a pawn that doesn't have an opponent's pawn in its way. However, in this situation I hope that you had the immediate feeling that plan is too slow because the c-pawn is the closest of the queenside pawns to the Black King. **1...Kg6 2.b3** (What else? 2.a3? a4! freezing the White queenside pawns) **Kxh6 3.a3 Kg6 4.b4 axb4 5.axb4 Kf6** and the Black King is easily in range (within the "square") of the White pawns.

A bit more aggressive is **1.b4**. However, it also allows a freeze after **1...axb4 2.cxb4 b5!** Here it is not as devastating as in the previous line since White can play **3.a4** (What else?) **bx4 4. h7 Kg7 5.b5**.

**How do you assess this position? Who will win the pawn race? Or is it a draw?**

### 3. Black to move



**Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.**

Black wins easily after **5...e2!** Compare this move with 1.h7?? (in Diagram 2), which I criticized. The difference is that in order to outrun White's b-pawn, Black must lure the White King to the first rank. Thus the e-pawn moves forward. Notice that it doesn't cost Black any tempos in the pawn race, since White can't advance his b-pawn. **6.Kf2 a3 7.b6 a2 8.b7 e1/Q+!** (and Black wins!) **9.Kxe1 a1/Q+**.

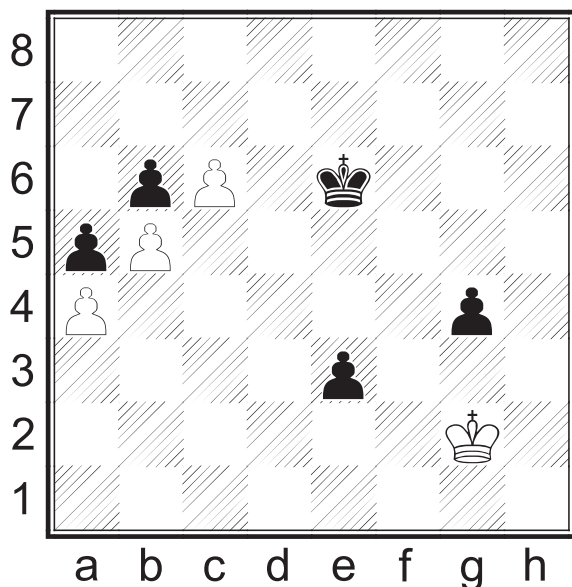
Conclusion: In Diagram 3, Black's Pawn on e3 wasn't essential and thus presented a **Weak Threat**. Advancing it was part the **Strong Execution** of the plan to lure White King to first rank enabling the promotion of the a-pawn with check.

Back to Diagram 2. With two out of three potential pawn advances on the queenside losing (1.c4 and 1.b4), we will turn to the last option of **1.a4**. After **1...Kg6 2.b4 Kxh6 3.b5!** (3.bxa5?? bxa5 4.c4 Kg6 and the Black King will catch the c-pawn) **Kg5 4.c4 Kf5** (trying to ignore White's threats and promote his own kingside pawns via 4...Kf4 5.c5 Ke4 (or 5...g3? 6.cxb6 e2 7.b7 e1/Q 8.b8/Q+) 6.cxb6 e2 7.b7 (7.Kf2 Kd3) e1/Q 8.b8/Q will result in the drawn queen endgame) **5.c5 Ke6** (5...bxc5 6.b6 and the King is outside the "square" and won't catch the b-pawn) **6.c6**

**How do you assess this position? What are plans for both sides? What should Black do?**



## 4. Black to move



Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.

The protected passed pawn on c6 forces the Black King to stick around. He can't cross the fifth rank. Meanwhile, the White King must shuttle between g2 and g3 to avoid the advancement of the Black pawns. Thus we have a draw. **6...Kd6 7.Kg3** (7.Kf1?? g3 and Black wins) **Ke6 8.Kg2** and no progress is possible.

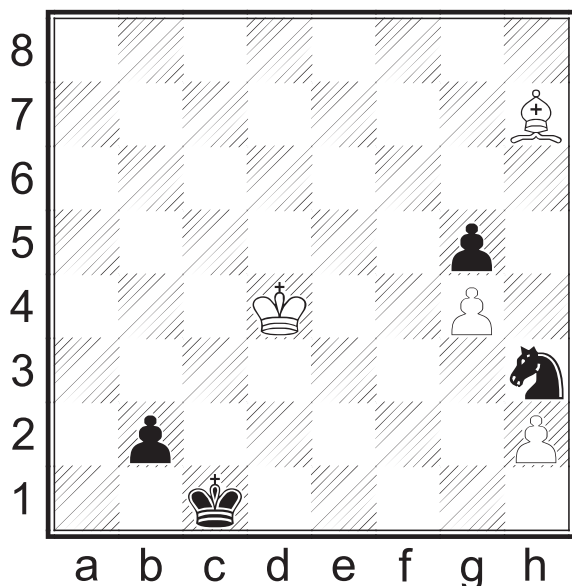
Thus if White played 1.a4, he would be able to draw.

Conclusion: In Diagram 4, the White c-pawn and the Black e and g-pawns present **Serious Threats** in their current positions. But none can be advanced unless the opponent makes a mistake.

The second example from the game of my 1400-rated player is a Bishop vs. Knight endgame.

**How do you assess the position? What are plans for both sides? What should Black do?**

## 5. Black to move



Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.

## In Passing

In 2007 we have lost several long-time members of the Pennsylvania chess community:

**Guenter Kozin** (1930-2007) was involved in Hazleton-area chess activities. You can see a picture of him included with the results for the 2006 PA State Amateur Championship on the PSCF website.

**Arthur Moskowitz** (1928-2007) retired from chess after he completed college in order to build a career and raise a family. But in retirement he returned to our midst. From 1997 to 2007 he played extensively in Pittsburgh-area events. He also returned much to the chess community, volunteering to organize special events including his very popular wine-tasting dinners.

Once again we have the Black King supporting a pawn on the seventh rank with the opposing bishop controlling the promotion square. The game continued **1...b1Q?? 2.Bxb1 Kxb1 3.Ke3 Kc1?** (3...Nf4 would have been the final trap 4.Ke4 is drawn, but if 4.h4?? 5.Ng2+ followed by Nxh4 winning) **4.Kf3** with a draw. Black can't stop Kg3 and h4 which exchanges Black's final pawn. Promoting the b-pawn and winning the bishop was a major mistake. It put the Black King out of position and allowed the White King to attack the Knight and force the trade of the last Black pawn.

Take another look at the starting position. By keeping the pawn on b2, Black keeps the White Bishop virtually out of the game anyway. So there is no need to make its "death" official. Additionally, Black has a threat of placing the knight on c2 and getting the b-pawn "home free". Because of this threat, the White King can't freely run to the kingside. So, the best move is **1...Nf2 2.h3 Nxh3** and Black has various winning ideas, including simply promoting the pawn and winning the bishop. With the White h-pawn gone, the Knight is easily able to guard the g-pawn until the Black King arrives to help. I have already discussed this in Example 2B from the Spring 2006 *Pennswoodpusher*.

Conclusion: Black b-pawn created a **Strong Threat**, but advancing it - was a **Weak Execution** as it allowed White to reach a drawn position with a very little effort.

In summary, when you have a far-advanced passed pawn, consider the following:

When your opponent is able to defend the promotion square and is prepared to give up material: Does winning the material specifically improves your chances? Is keeping the pawn on the seventh and maintaining the threat potentially more beneficial? Remember the ancient chess maxim "The threat is more powerful than its execution." (Diagrams 1 & 5)

When your opponent's King or a piece is defending your pawn and you plan to use it as a decoy consider the following: Avoid advancing your decoy, unless it hasn't yet reached the optimal position. The optimal position is usually the least advanced position that makes opponent's King or another piece fully commit to the decoy and thus permits activity for your other pawns and pieces. (Diagrams 2, 3 & 4)

(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/>)

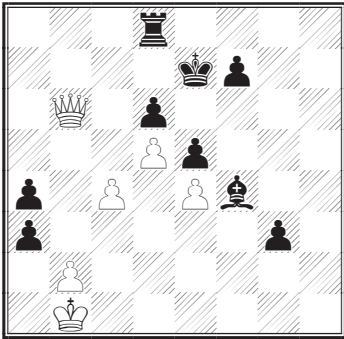
**Play It Forward**

by Ken Hamilton

Kasparov's retirement from tournament chess spurred me to devote this page to his games. Look at the diagram, play the given moves forward in your head, then guess the next move.

**1. Alexey Shirov - Garry Kasparov**

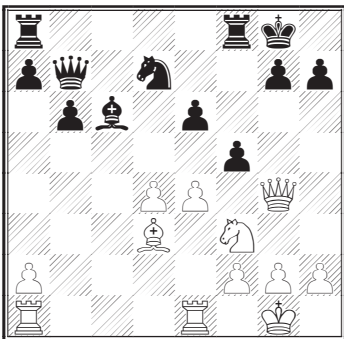
Rd 5, Tilburg, Netherlands, 1997



37.c5                    g2  
38.cxd6+                Rxd6  
39.Qc7+                    ?

**2. Garry Kasparov - Dariusz Weider**

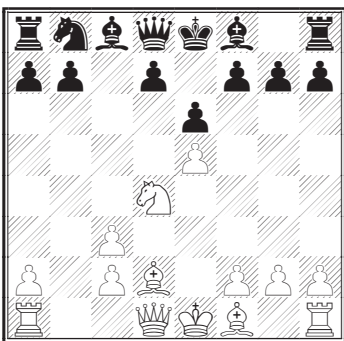
Rd 5, Cagnes sur Mer, 1977



20.Qh3                    Rf6  
21.exf5                    exf5  
22.Re7                    Bxf3  
23. ?

**3. Garry Kasparov - Guy West**

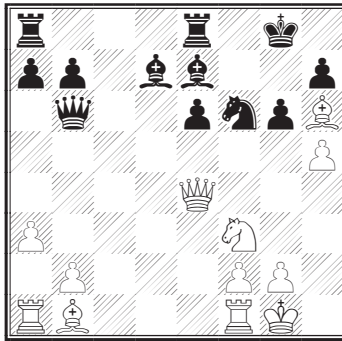
Telex, 9/24/1977



9.Bd3                    d6  
10.Qe2                    Nd7  
11.Nxe6                    Qb6  
12. ?

**4. Garry Kasparov - Sergei M. Begun**

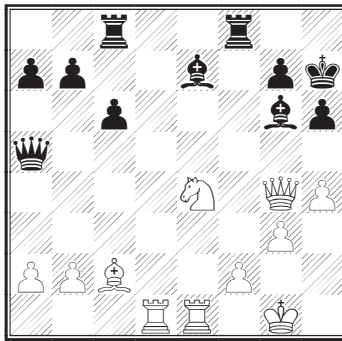
Sokolsky Mermorial, Minsk, 1978



21.Qe1                    Nxh5  
22.Ne5                    Bb5  
23.Bxg6                    Nf6  
24. ?

**5. Garry Kasparov - Nigel D. Short**

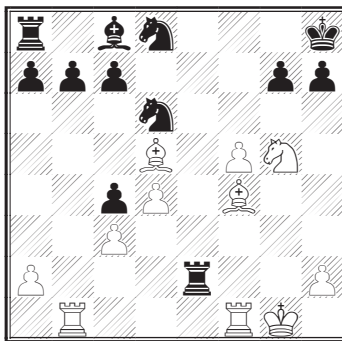
OHRA, Rd 9, Brussels, 1986



29.Nc3                    Bxc2  
30.Rxe7                    Rg8  
31.Rdd7                    Bf5  
32.Rxg7+                    Kh8  
33. ?

**6. Garry Kasparov - Vassily Ivanchuk**

URS Ch, Rd 2, Moscow, 1988

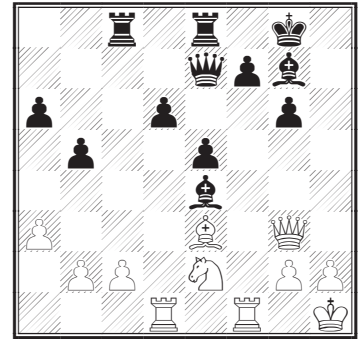


20.Bxd6                    cxd6  
21.Rbe1                    Rxe1  
22.Rxe1                    Bd7

23.Re7                    Bc6  
24. ?

**7. Leonid Yudasin - Garry Kasparov**

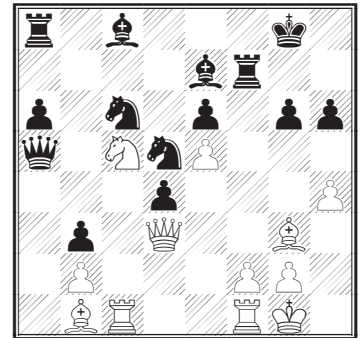
URS Ch, Rd 13, Moscow, 1988



26.Nc3                    Bb7  
27.h4                    Rc4  
28.Bg5                    Qe6  
29.Rd2                    Rg4  
30.Qd3                    ?

**8. Garry Kasparov - Jeroen Piket**

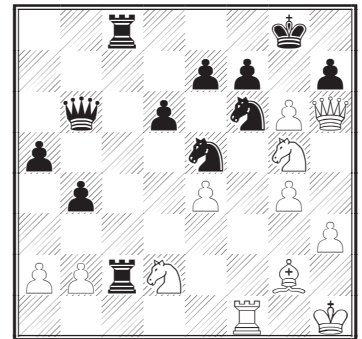
Rd 8, Tilburg, Netherlands, 1997



27.Qxg6+                    Kf8  
28.Nxe6+                    Bxe6  
29.Rxc6                    Bd7  
30. ?

**9. Alexei Fedorov - Garry Kasparov**

Corus, Rd 2, Wijk aan Zee, 2001



22...                    hxg6  
23.Nb3                    Rxg2  
24.Kxg2                    Rc2+  
25.Kg3                    ?

For solutions, see page 14.

## Play It Forward Solutions (from page 13)

**1. Shirov-Kasparov: 39...Kf6!** After **40.Qxd6+ Kg7** White resigned, being unable to stop the maneuver **Bh2** and **g1=Q**. In all plausible lines White faces a losing queen and pawns versus queen plus bishop and pawns ending.

**2. Kasparov-Weider: 23.Bxf5! Rf7 24.Rae1 g6 25.Rxf7** Resigns, for if **25...Kxf7 26.Qxh7+** wins outright. Ah, the power of the seventh rank!

**3. Kasparov-West: 12. Nc7 +** and Black resigns. Of course, if Black saves the rook by **12....Qxc7** he loses the Queen after **13.ed+**.

**4. Kasparov-Begun: 24.Bxh7+!** Resigns. Because **24...Nxb7 25.Qe4 Nf8 26.Qg4+** or **24..Kxh7 25.Qb1+ Ne4 26.Qxe4+** (did you see that sneaky **Qb1+** ?) or, finally, **24...Kh8 25.Nf7+ Kxh7 26.Qb1+** etc.

**5. Kasparov-Short: 33.Qd4.** Resigns. No explanation needed, I hope!

**6. Kasparov-Ivanchuk: 24.f6** Resigns. If **..Nf7 25.Nxf7+ Kg8 26.Nh6+ Kf8 27.Rxf7+ Ke8 28.Bxc6+ Kd8 29.fxg7** with **g8#** to follow. Or if **24...Bxd5 25.Re8+ Bg8 26.f7 Nxf7 27.Nxf7#**. And finally, **24...Ne6 25.Bxe6 g6 26.Rxh7#**.

**7. Yudasin-Kasparov: 30...f6.** All responses lose the Bishop - unless White tries to save it by **31.Be3**. But then **31...Rxd2** leads to instant disaster as the bishop on **e3** prevents the White Queen from defending **h3** against **32...Qh3#**. If the bishop then moves, say to **f4**, **32...Rxd2+** wins instantly.

**8. Kasparov-Piket: 30.Qxh6+.** Black resigns, having pondered **30...Rg7 31.Rg6**; as well as **30...Ke8 31.e6 Bxc6 32.exf7+ Kxf7 33.Qh7+ Ke8 34.Qg8+ Bf8 35.Bg6+** and mate in a few moves, and lastly **30...Kg8 31.Rg6+ Rg7 32.Qxg7#**.

**9. Fedorov-Kasparov: 25...Qe3+.** Fedorov laid down his king, in light of **26.Nf3 Nxe4+ 27.Kh4 Qxh6#**. Furthermore, **26.Kh4 Rg2** is deadly, while **26.Rf3 Qe1+ 27.Kf4 Nd3+ 28.Rxd3 e5+ 29.Kf3 Qf2#**.

Don't worry if you didn't get very far with all the above analysis in your head - if you found the key move most of the time you did extremely well.

### Continental Chess Association (CCA) update

The CCA has released some of the dates for upcoming tournaments in the next decade. I was under the impression that all CCA events that used to be held at the Sheraton in Philadelphia would be moved to the Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, where this year's World Open was played. That does not appear to be the case. Here is what is listed at <http://www.chesstour.com/>:

January 15-18, 16-18, 17-18, 2010: Liberty Bell Open, Philadelphia, PA

July 1-5, 2-5, 3-5 or June 29-July 5, 2010: World Open, Valley Forge, PA

June 30-July 4, July 1-4, July 2-4 or June 28-July 4, 2011: World Open, Philadelphia, PA

July 4-8, 5-8, 6-8 or 2-8, 2012: World Open, Philadelphia, PA

Of course, "Philadelphia" does not necessarily mean the Sheraton. Mark those calendars! (Wait a minute - calendars for 2010, 2011, and 2012 are not out yet. Whoops!) - Joe Mucерino

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

## UPCOMING PSCF EVENTS

**December 8. ASAP-PSCF-CCP Tournament.** Great Hall, Wynett Building, Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA 19130 (2nd building south of the corner of 17th & Spring Garden). 4 Sections: **Open Quads:** 3-RR. G/60. EF: \$20. \$50 to 1st in each quad. **Scholastic Open:** 3-SS (or 4-SS depending upon entries). G/60. EF: \$10. Trophies to Top 3 per section. (Depending upon entries, this may be further divided into smaller sections). **Scholastic U800:** 4-SS (or 5-SS depending upon entries). G/30. EF: \$5. Trophies to Top 5 per section. (Depending upon entries, this may be further divided into smaller sections). **Open Non-rated:** 4-SS (or 5-SS depending upon entries). G/30. EF: \$5. Not USCF-rated. Medallions to winners. (Depending upon entries, this may be further divided into smaller sections). **All:** Reg: 8:30-9:30am. Rds 10am and then as quickly as possible. PSCF required \$5 except for ASAP students. \$5 entry fee discount for ASAP students. **Info:** Dr. Ira Lee Riddle [Irlee@aol.com](mailto:Irlee@aol.com), 215-674-9049.

**January 26. ASAP-PSCF-CCP Tournament.** See the December 8 event for the same details.

**February 2. 2008 Pennsylvania Open Team and Scholastic Team Championships - West.** Assembly Room, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 2 sections: **Open Team Championship:** average rating U2200. 4-SS. G/75. EF: \$60/team by 1/25, \$80 later. Reg 9-9:30am. Rds 10am - 1pm - 4pm - 7pm. \$\$: (700/b16 teams, 350G): 250-100, U2000 \$95, U1800 \$90, U1600 \$85, U1400 \$80, Trophies (4/team) for Top School, Top Scholastic Club. **Scholastic Reserve:** average rating U1200, don't have to attend same school. 5-SS. G/40. EF: \$40/team by 1/25, \$60 later. Reg 9-9:30am. Rds: 10am - 11:30am - 1pm - 2:30pm - 4pm. Trophies (4/team) for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Top U1000, Top U800. **All:** January 2008 ratings used. 4-player teams, no alternates. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** [martinak\\_tom\\_m@hotmail.com](mailto: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.*

**February 9. ASAP-PSCF-CCP Tournament.** See the December 8 event for the same details.

**March 7 GPP:6 Pennsylvania (QC) 2008 Pennsylvania Quick Chess Championship.** 6SS, G/10, T/D3. Hotel Carlisle & Embers Convention Center, 1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle PA 17013, Exit 52A NB/Exit 52 SB off I-81, Exit 226 off PA Turnpike. 3 sections, EF rec'd by 2/18: **Open:** \$12. **U1500:** \$10. **U1100:** \$8. \$\$ (730G): **Open:** 175-100-50, U1800 \$45, U1600 \$40. **U1500:** 125-75-50, U1200 \$40, Unrated \$30. **U1100:** Trophies to 1st-5th, Top U800, Top U600, 1st-2nd Unr. **All:** EF: \$20 after 2/18, PSCF \$5 OSA. Reg: 6-6:30pm. Rd 1: 7pm. February 2008 Regular ratings used. Bye: limit 1, ask by rd 2. **HR:** Mention "PA States" for best rate as early as possible; Hotel Carlisle & Embers Convention Center 800-692-7315 \$70 (Stay at the tournament site!). **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. **Info:** [martinak\\_tom\\_m@hotmail.com](mailto:martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com), 412-908-0286. W.

### A Heritage Event

**March 8 & 9. 2008 Pennsylvania State Scholastic Championships.** 5-SS. 142 Trophies!! (With 107 Individual and 35 Team Trophies). Hotel Carlisle & Embers Convention Center, 1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle PA 17013, Exit 52A NB/Exit 52 SB off I-81, Exit 226 off PA



Turnpike. 8 sections (Sat & Sun 3/8 & 9 unless indicated): EF: **K-3 Open:** (Sat 3/8 only) \$29. **K-6 U800:** (Sat 3/8 only) \$27. **K-9 U1000:** (Sun 3/9 only) \$27.25. **K-6 Open:** \$30.50. **K-8 Open:** \$31.50. **7-12 U1000:** \$28.50. **7-12 U1300:** \$29.50. **K-12 Open:** \$32.50. **All:** EFs if rec'd by 2/18, \$10 more rec'd 2/19-3/3, \$20 more after 3/3. PSCF membership included. February 2008 ratings used. Bye: limit 1, ask by rd 2. \$\$ for College scholarships (amount to be determined) for top boy and girl in K-12 Open, for Castle Camp (scholarships) & (if possible) 1st team, player in K-6, K-8 & K-12 Opens for Nationals, Denker, Polgar. Reg Fri 3/7 6-10pm, Sat 3/8 9:30-10:15am, at site entries on day of 1st rd get 1/2-bye. Send name, USCF ID & exp, section, grade, school/club, birthday, gender, address, phone, email + EF. \$5 charge for changes/refunds after 2/18. Rds (Sat 3/8 1-day sections): 5-SS. G/40 T/D5; 10-11:45-2-3:45-5:30; (Sun 3/9 K-9 U1000): 5-SS. G/40, T/D5; 9-10:30-12:30-2-3:30; (2-day sections): 5-SS. G/90, T/D5; 10-2-5:30, 9-1. **Bughouse:** Reg on-site only until Sat 3/8 8:30pm. Rds begin Sat 3/8 8:45pm. EF: \$20/team. **HR:** Mention "PA States" for best rate as early as possible; Hotel Carlisle & Embers Convention Center 800-692-7315 \$70 (Stay at the tournament site!). **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. **Info:** <http://www.pscfchess.org/pascholasticchamp/>, Steve McLaughlin: [piecebreaker@hotmail.com](mailto:piecebreaker@hotmail.com) 215-784-5938; Dan Heisman: [danheisman@comcast.net](mailto:danheisman@comcast.net) 610-649-0750; Tom Martinak: [martinak\\_tom\\_m@hotmail.com](mailto:martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com), 412-908-0286. W.

**March 8 & 9 GPP:6 Pennsylvania 2008 Carlisle Open & Pennsylvania Collegiate Championship.** 5SS, G/90, T/D5. Hotel Carlisle & Embers Convention Center, 1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle PA 17013, Exit 52A NB/Exit 52 SB off I-81, Exit 226 off PA Turnpike. 2 sections: **Open & U1500.** \$\$ (1260G): **Open:** 180-120, U2200 \$110, U2000 \$100, U1800 \$90, U1600 \$80; **U1500:** 150-100, U1400 \$90, U1200 \$85, U1000 \$80, Unr \$75. **All:** College Trophies: 1st-2nd in each section, 1st-2nd team (4 players combined over both sections). EF: \$29 rec'd by 2/18, \$39 after, PSCF \$5 OSA. Reg: 8:45-9:30am. 10-2-5:30, 9-1. February 2008 ratings used. Bye: limit 1, ask by rd 2. **HR:** Mention "PA States" for best rate as early as possible; Hotel Carlisle & Embers Convention Center 800-692-7315 \$70 (Stay at the tournament site!). **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. **Info:** [martinak\\_tom\\_m@hotmail.com](mailto:martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com), 412-908-0286. W.

**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](mailto: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/>

## PSCF GOVERNANCE

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

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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

**CHAMBERSBURG**

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

**CHESTER**

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

**COATESVILLE**

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

**COUDERSPORT**

High School, 698 Dwight St; Fri 3-4:30 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 &amp; Thurs 8-11 pm, Bob Brubaker 570-384-4122

**HUNTINGDON VALLEY**

Huntingdon Valley Chess Society Juniors; Huntingdon Valley Library, 625 Red Lion Rd; Tues 7:30-8:30 pm

**JOHNSTOWN**

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

**LANCASTER**

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

**LANSDALE**

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

**SKIPPAK**

Hidden Staircase Used Books Fl 2, Rts 73 &amp; 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; &amp; Loder Senior Center, 62 Analomink St, East Stroudsburg; Tues 7-11 pm

**SWARTHMORE**

121 Park Ave; Sat 7-9 pm

**VANDERGRIFT**

St Paul's Lutheran Church, 714 Wallace St; Mon 6-9 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/>