

CHESSE REPORTS

#52

Mar. 07
2008

© 2008 Thinkers' Press, Inc. • boblong@windstream.net • Dedicated to Chess Fever

SEMESTER V STARTS NEXT ISSUE

What's in Store?

There are several purposes for magazines: entertainment and reference value for the reader, making a living for the publisher, and getting the PR machine working so others will subscribe. If the publication stays in business, in theory, everyone can be happy.

In the first 4 semesters, the first two running every week, and the last two every two weeks, there were nearly 680 pages in 52 issues. All I guaranteed was 312 pages!

I feel pretty good about that.

Change is Inevitable

Running at that pace would be pretty tough without some help. I see no patrons in the future, though

they are most welcome, so most of the work will be done by your editor.

At the moment I am also undertaking a *Chess Clinic*, No. 3, in Savannah, GA in July. It's been a little busy.

But rather than put the current subscribers through another gut wrenching display of opening paranoia, I thought in the last issue I would give you a breather.

Not a total breather, but an understanding of what can be done with proper notes. There are only 2 games but a lot of commentary and diagrams. The commentary, to me, is a little higher quality than usual as it asks more questions.

Work Work Work Doesn't He Ever Stop?

Some readers have told me they just like reading *TCR* and that is fine. A few others actually try to make sense of it, and improve their chess.

My original goal was to help people improve their chessplaying ability.

I am still interested in doing that, but many others are content with being where they are. Our lives these days are insane. Everybody is busy, busy, busy. Take it from me, as you get older you will wonder why you didn't have more fun.

At the chess club I used to hear some players say they played for fun. Well, often that was only true if they lost. When they were winning it was blood bath city. In other words, as far as their opponent was concerned, it was

for the “Club Championship of the World.” Fire was in their eyes and determination in their hearts.

Here lies the problem, most of the time. Because they were out of practice, because they were unprepared, somewhere down the line a mistake would be made. Then the statement, “I play for fun” would be pulled out of thin air.

Makes No Difference

I directed a tournament once, a big one in the Quad Cities area, and we were using the Boeing Chess Club accelerated pairings rules. These were super accelerated. According to the USCF handbook, we had to mention this and post these rules in advance.

No one but one man complained.

But that’s not the whole story. He whimpered slightly at first as though I was personally responsible for his destruction (pairing wise). But after a little grumbling, he sat down to play and got serious. He was playing Walter Morris, a really strong player from Iowa who got his IM

norm in Norway (where his grandparents were from).

And, as the game went on, his game just got better and better. Morris was in some trouble. In fact, his opponent, the one who had been jumping all over me about the pairings, was enthralled.

I wished, for his sake, that it had ended that way but my disenchanted player lost his way, went down the rabbit hole, and lost.

Too bad that wasn’t the end of it. While he was winning, or it looked like he was winning, he was a happy chess camper. When he lost, he came to me and went bananas. He was going to report me to the USCF and he did.

I sent in the results and a copy of the pairing system and mentioned that it had been posted and the players were informed. I had instituted the pairing system because we were trying to have a clear winner in a 5 round tournament (I think we did). We had about 64-65 players.

The USCF sided with me. The guy was upset with me for quite some time. Somehow I screwed him over because he lost.

Being in Shape

The loser must have gotten “lucky” for awhile or Morris might have been in bad form for a game. But in any case, the C-player just couldn’t stay with the game. And, he was an older gentleman.

As one gets older, the stamina isn’t quite as strong, the memory could be better, and the self-discipline wanes.

But, by reading something like *Chess Reports*, acting on the quizzes, annotating your games, and such, you can stay in the thick of it.

I really do know a few people who are 10 years older

Deleting a Game

Hard to believe, but I had another game ready for this issue, which will be held over, showing how “equal” it can be to play with a Q against a R, Minor Piece, and Pawn. Guys like Lasker really understood the values of the pieces.

Full of diagrams and notes, it was only 13 moves! Yet all the action lay underneath.

than I am and can still kick your ass around the block. But they make an effort to keep their mind in shape.

Some have retired, such as Steve Lamansky, and they enjoy chess more than ever.

There are ways of staying in your groove but YOU have to make **some** effort.

Setting aside a little time each day or every other day, for yourself, is beneficial. I take a mental break and rent or buy an occasional non-chess DVD, but more often than not, I am reviewing DVDs sent by *ChessBase* or someone else. I review books, I annotate games.

Yes, this is my job, but it is also an avocation that I weave into my chess thinking. So go ahead and have your FUN, but resubscribe to *The Chess Reports* too.

Semester Five

Things are going to be different starting with this and the next 13 issues. There will be more of what is in this issue, and I will fill up the two missing articles on openings to complete your White opening repertoire.

There will be middlegame

conferences, the endgame, sessions on strategy and tactics, excerpts from wise books, reviews, more letters (I hope), and some miscellaneous thoughts from the Editor's Hammer.

My gracious proofer, Rich Bohms, now has a job which is keeping him busy. Maybe he can fit some proofing in here and there, but if not, I am counting on you guys, and I thank him profusely. We're now back to me.

Health

Sometimes I get so tired of hearing about the subject of health. I don't even have health insurance! (Can't afford it.) But when it comes to chess I want to be in great health, including mental. So I have bought more books and done some research on how you can be in terrific, unbeatable condition for pounding your opponents into the sidewalk.

Thus, there will be more on that including Psychology—there are too many FEARS out there—mostly fears of things that will never happen. Most champions have a healthy respect for

their opponents, but little actual fear.

Look at Magnus Carlsen in the current Linares/Morrelia tournament. He started off weakly. Now he is taking names. This week Topalov "blundered" and Carlsen took him to the mat. These kids, they don't make so many obvious mistakes as the "older" guys do. They play their game, but if somewhere along the way you goof, they wipe you out—no second chances. Old cusses miss having those second chances. They only existed amongst your weaker opponents, on a regular basis, didn't they?

Middle- and Endgame

Though such columns are promised for the new semester, you will see a lot of M&E action in the two games I present beginning with the next page.

Notice the word "trick" too as there are definitely points to remember for reuse in your own games.

Subscriptions to TCR

Please resubscribe. \$50. More details on page 677.

Insane Attacks

We've all run into them. We are playing a "regular" game and our opponent goes berserk. Can these guys be handled? Sometimes. More often than not.

S. Bracchi - C. Grushka

[C02]

Buenos Aires, 1982

1.e4 e6

How can there be an "insane attack" in the French Defense?

2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5

Definitely not the "usual." 4.c3.

4...Nc6

How easy is it to ignore winning back the pawn? Remember this: sometimes you can win it back in an upcoming move.

In this case Black makes you wonder WHICH pawn he will want to win. White would like to "force" Black to win the pawn that he (White) wants him to win. The envelope please.

5.Nf3 Bxc5

It's ...Bxc5. Thunderous applause.

6.Bd3

Castling is on the brain—which, as most of us know,

isn't such a bad idea.

6...f6!

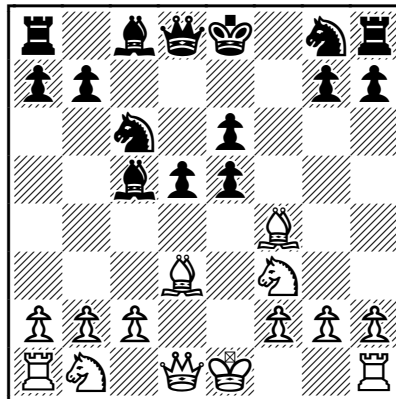
Good. Black attempts to destabilize White's center immediately. If White takes, Black retakes with the N on f6 and maintains a commanding view of the center.

7.Bf4?

Direct, that's for sure. However, my guess is that White doesn't see Black's 8th move, a move which does not promote castling as a "quick" and main option.

7.Qe2. Not as direct, but it does put pressure on the e-file.

7...fxe5



May as well execute the threat.

8.Nxe5

8.Bxe5. At least this would stop ...Qf6.

8...Qf6

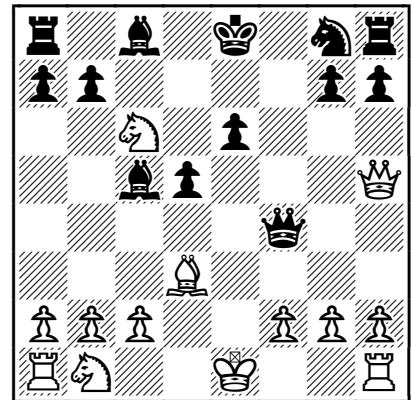
With a move like this Black is not concerned about

Nxc6 as he can pick up the B/f4 and threaten to take back the N/c6 anyway. It's move 8 and White is lost.

9.Nxc6

9.Qh5+ g6. About here White will notice that the black Q protects the R/h8.

9...Qxf4 10.Qh5+



10...Kf8

Don't be afraid of moving your K if you can do so safely. Here Black can. White has a N under attack and also the P/f2 under attack.

10...g6 11.Qe5. Ordinarily this would rescue the N/c6, but there is a problem: c1 or f2. 11...Qc1+ 12.Ke2 Qxh1 13.Qxh8 Kf8 14.Qc3. Attacking the B/c5. The calculation at this point isn't that tough. 14...Bb6. Remember the N/c6 is still under attack. 15.Ne5 (15.Nd4 e5! Naturally.) 15...Qxg2. Threatening the P/f2.

11.Ne5

A. Herzog - K. Szeles

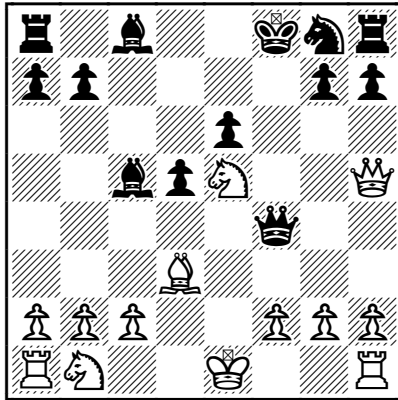
[B22]

Hungary, 1981

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5

2...Nf6. Probably the most common move. 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 (5.cxd4 d6=) 5...Nc6 6.Bc4. Avoiding simplifying things too much for Black if ...d6. 6...Nb6 7.Bb3 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 d3!?∞

3.exd5 Qxd5



How can Black finish off White? Ultimately, that's a problem we all have—winning the won game. Let's see if we can break this position down.

11...Bd4!

Basically, found through the process of "elimination" and noticing the forking possibilities.

11...g6 12.Qf3! White is being **tricky** and trying to minimize his losses. (12. Nxc6+ hxc6 13.Qxh8 Qc1+ 14.Ke2 Qxh1-+ Have you noticed that White can't put his Q on f6 to check?) 12...Qxf3 13.Nxf3 e5! Why is this a good move?

1) It threatens ...e4.

2) If 14.Nxe5 Bd4, and White will drop the N/e5 or a P/b2 and the R/a1. We know about "forks" but **B forks can be a whole exceptional concept**. The B appears to

come from nowhere and yet it creates immense damage. I think this is worth remembering. 15.Nxc6+ Desperado. 15...hxg6 16.c3-+

12.Ng6+

White is in serious trouble. Everything is bad but, when a "sac" like this is tossed at you, what can you do? First, take a deep breath, clear your head... sit down and think. "What if I take?" Wouldn't that be the first thought most of us would make?

12...hxg6 13.Qxh8

Qc1+ 14.Ke2 Qxh1

Isn't it interesting that we have already seen most of this in the notes? This is a culmination or rumination (thinking).

15.c3 Bf6

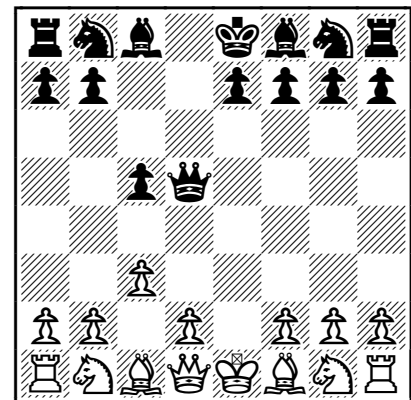
No need to be concerned about ...Bb6 or ...Bc5, just protect the K-side.

16.Bxc6

16.Kd2. Stops ...Qc1. Black is comfortably winning, just take it easy.

16...e5!

This playable move allows ...Bg4 which continues with Black sweeping off several of the pawns on the K-side or trapping the K/e2 into a possible checkmate. **0-1**



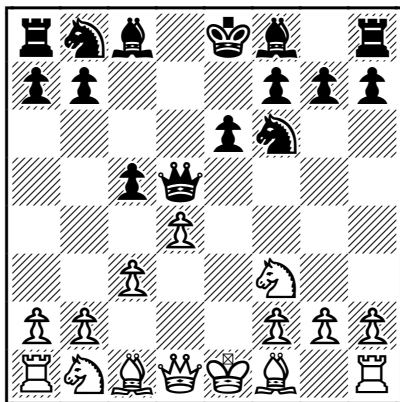
White may have a question of what to do here. That's why knowing **SOME book opening theory is generally a must**. You might think that when White played 2. c3 that he already knew the next several moves, depending on what Black does. Maybe, maybe not.

You may also have to play with an isolated pawn in this position.

4.d4

4.Nf3. With the idea of getting castled soon. 4...Nc6. Putting the pressure on d4. 5.d4 (5.Na3. While this looks "dumb" at first sight, there are some interesting possibilities such as Bc4 and dropping the N/a3 back to c2 and pushing d4. It's not inconceivable that White is thinking of Nb5 too with a monster fork at c7.) 5...Nf6 6.Be3. I'm just not keen on trading Qs so early with 6.dxc5. 6...Bg4.

4...e6 5.Nf3 Nf6



6.Bd3

6.Be2 Nc6 7.0-0= An alternative idea.;

6.Na3 cxd4 7.Nb5 Na6 8.Qxd4 Bc5 9.Qxd5 Nxd5 10.Be2±

6...Nc6 7.0-0 cxd4

7...Be7.

8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.cxd4 Bd7

9...Qxd4? 10.Bb5+

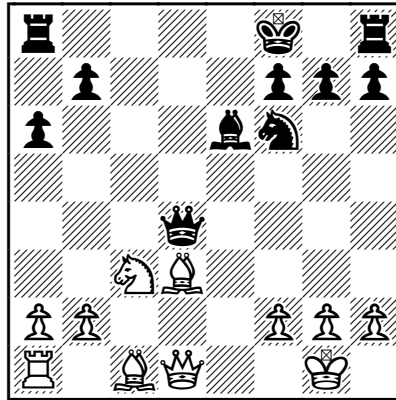
10.Nc3 Qxd4 11.Re1

11.Nb5.

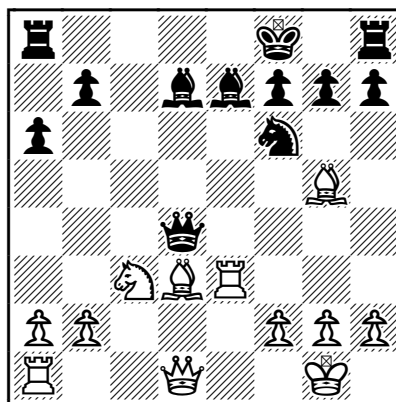
11...a6 12.Rxe6+

Like a bolt from nowhere.

12...Bxe6

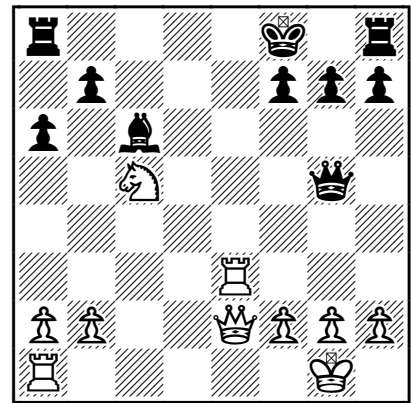


12...Be7! 13.Bg5 Kf8. Black may not have the greatest position in the world, but he is holding. Don't just die, **MAKE your opponent beat you.** 14.Re3±



Is there some way to get at Black? He has a R locked in on h8, but what can be done? 14...Rd8 (14...Bc6 15.Qe2 Bc5 16.Be4 Nxe4 17.Nxe4. Now we see something interesting. If White is allowed to play Nxc5, Black has a problem

if the Q takes back because of Be7 check and it's another fork. So you can be sure of some type of zwischenzug (in between move) on Black's turn. 17...Qe5 18.Nxc5 Qxg5



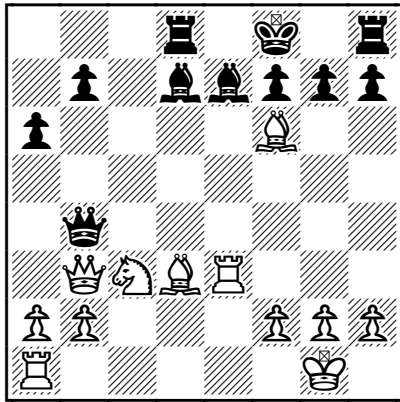
Do you see how tough defense by Black saved him? He had those Bs trained on White's K-side, picked off the dangerous B/g5, and is now threatening mate.

Chess is not trivial and neither are our opponents. 19.Ne4 Bxe4 20.Rxe4 g6 Black's creating an escape hatch for his K. Safety first. 21.Re1±) 15.Qb3.

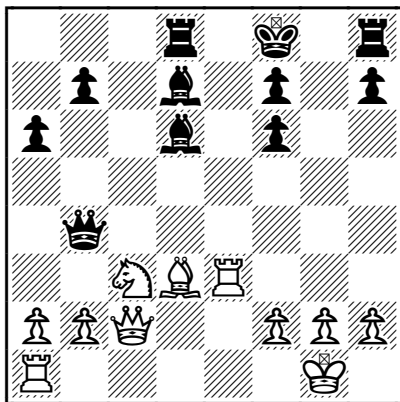
A different tack—aiming at f7 and b7.

One of the questions is: whose Bs are better? Black's seem to cover a wide swath but White's seem to be well placed too if only in their awkward stance. 15...b5 Looks safe enough, doesn't

it? (15...Qb4 16.Bxf6



White's answer is a **nice contrivance**. It forces a weakening of Black's position. That is, the pawn on g7 takes back so that the Q/b4 still has protection. 16...gxf6 (16...Qxb3? 17.Bxe7+) 17.Qc2. White is relentless in keeping up the pressure—he might take on h7 and, the R is nicely placed on the third rank. 17...Bd6



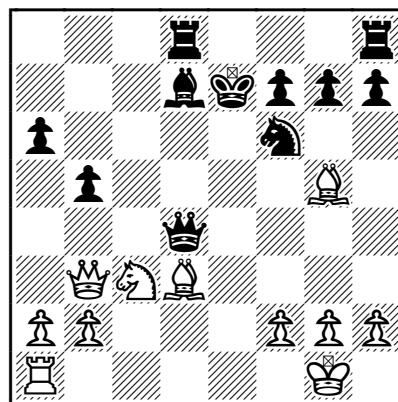
Now White's R can't use g3 or h3. Black is fighting back. 18.a3. A couple notable aspects:

a. Get the Q away from the

Q-side, and b2.

b. Try to move her to a square which will make her B/d6 feel under-appreciated. (18.Bxh7? Qh4! The Q swings over and threatens White's life, as well as the B/h7.) 18...Qc5 19.b4. Push 'em back, way back.

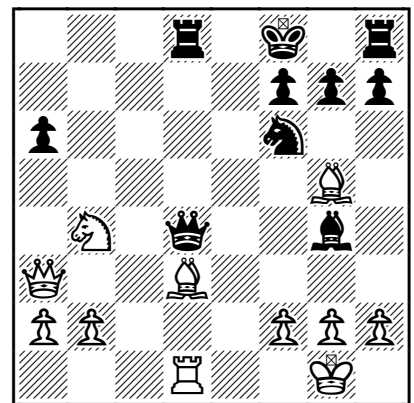
Another critical moment in the game where White wants to keep the R/h8 locked in. Black doesn't want a white R on the g-file so as to avoid an explosive attack. White seems to have a small advantage but there will be a lot of maneuvering going on. Black is safe enough for the moment because if White tries to blunt an attack on h2 by playing g3, then the R/e3 can't get to the g-file and the black K comes to g7 and the locked in R gets out!) 16.Rxe7! Bam! 16...Kxe7



17.Nd5+ Another little

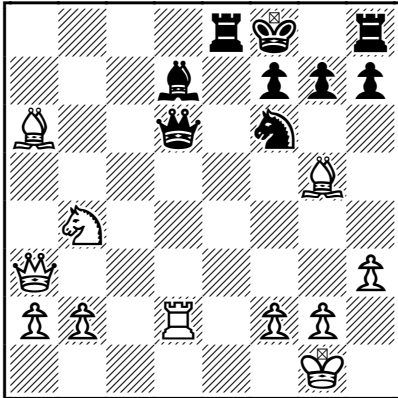
trick. Use the B/g5 to prevent a take on d5. 17...Kf8. The K has to go back to lockdown and thus preventing the R/h8 from getting out. Might be worth giving up the Exchange as White will end up with one more piece IN the center. 18.Rd1. Oh yes!

18...Bg4. Now Black tries to pull a similar B **trick** on White since White can't play f3 due to the Q check. 19.Qa3+! White evades with check and can then move his R. Another **trick**. How many have we had in this game so far? 19...b4. White's next move takes guts BUT **if White doesn't panic**, he will be fine. 20.Nxb4!

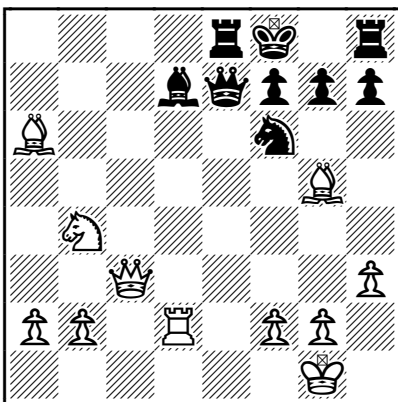


20...Qd6 (20...Bxd1?? This will be known as a BAD idea. 21.Nd5+ Kg8 22.Ne7+ Kf8 23.Nf5+ Big ouch.) 21.Rd2 Re8 Black won't give up on the e-file. So, White will pour

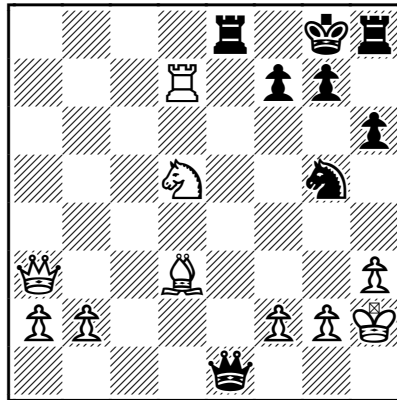
on the pressure. 22.h3. **Al-
most air** for the K/g1, but not yet. 22...Bd7 in an effort to keep the "attack" along the e-file, open. 23.Bxa6



And then, there were none. 23...Qe7 (23...Qc5? 24.Bxf6! Did you see it? **Always look around—the position changes with each move.** 24...Qc1+ 25.Bf1 Qxd2 26.Nd5+ I bet you saw this part! 26...Kg8 27.Qd6 Qh6 28.Qxd7 gxf6 29.Qxe8+ Kg7 30.Qd7. Now the easiest win is to let fly with b4 and so on. The R on h8 is going almost nowhere.) 24.Qc3!



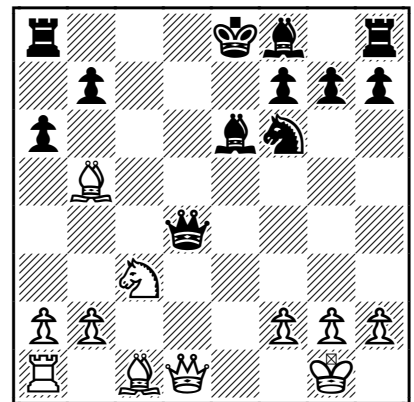
Admittedly, not an easy move to forecast. But the followup shows its value. 24...Qe1+ 25.Kh2 Ne4. A big fork—maybe a spork. 26.Qa3! Who'd a thunk it? Now the Q is ensconced on the e-file all right, but there is a piece in the way. 26...Kg8 (26...Nxc5 27.Re2! Body slam! 27...Nf3+ 28.Kg3! Kg8 29.Rxe1+-) 27.Rxd7 Nxc5 28.Nd5 h6 29.Bd3



Closing the loophole. 29...Qe5+ 30.f4. It gets worse doesn't it? 30...Qb8. Nothing else. 31.Bf5. What does this move do and is it better than others? The main idea is to keep it on the b1-h7 diagonal. Why move it? Well, Black wants to play ...Ne6 and then ...Nc5. White is heading him off at the pass. 31...Ne6 32.Qg3. Protecting the P/f4. 32...Nc5 33.Rc7 Qd8 34.Rxc5. Time to stop.

Black was lost, but it took a lot of work to "prove it." It almost always does take work unless we sit down and wait for a blunder by our opponent. That can be a long wait sometimes.

13.Bb5+



13... axb5 14.Qxd4

White got this old **trick** in after all.

14...Rd8 15.Qb6 b4

Trying to drive away the N/c3 so as to checkmate White.

16.Qb5+ Rd7 17.Na4 Nd5

Black is done for.

18.Bg5 h6 19.Bh4 1-0

Have you taken in a rated tournament lately? Why not? Give it a shot? No tourney? Organize one. Future details on how to do this.



Bob,

I've got a bone to pick with you! Today is Friday and I haven't looked at even one page of the last CR that was delivered a week ago—and it's your fault. You recommended Karsten Mueller's, *How to Play Chess Endgames*, a while back and it looked like a nice change from your typical endgame book, so I got a copy from those great people down in Florida. I have to tell you that I am

really blown away by this book!!! Now a normal person who is in charge of their life would look themselves in the mirror and say, "Come on, you know you can spend some time with your CR's tonight!" But it really is hard with Karsten's book looking me in the face every time I turn around...

Seriously, though, thanks for the info. This is a book that every serious chess player between 1300 and 2000 should own!

Later,
Steve (L.)

PS: I have a confusing (for me) game I'm sending between Eingorn (2591) and Skembris (2455) from a tournament in 2006. Go directly to the ending position and you'll see that White just captured Black's b-pawn (BTW, he didn't have to).

He offers a draw, which is accepted. But can't Black simply play 27... Be7 and win the exchange!? Help, what am I missing here?

Ed. Notes: I won't fool you on my answer. I turned to Fritz11 for some help as well

as Rybka. Fritz seemed to find the answer in fewer ply and quicker.

The funny thing is that when you "steer" the moves and look to see what is happening, everything makes sense.

My take is that Skembris saw that by winning the Exchange he couldn't win the game and would have to "voice" some concern over an advancing a-pawn (a legitimate reason to sac the Exchange—remember that).

White was okay with a draw because he couldn't see a way to win unless Black overextended himself. I can imagine the moves tempi during the game told White that this wasn't going to happen. So, a draw.

V. Eingorn (2591) - S. Skembris (2455)

[A60]

Germany 2006

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5
e6 4.dxe6 fxe6 5.g3
Be7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Nc3
Nc6 8.Nh3 a6 9.0-0 Qc7
10.Nf4 Rb8 11.a4 b6 12.b3
Bb7 13.e3 Ne5 14.e4 Rf7
15.Nd3 Nfg4 16.f4 Nxd3
17.Qxd3 Bf6 18.Ra2 Bd4+**

continued on page 674

**TWO FAMOUS STREETS
IN SAVANNAH, GA**



There's no city I know of like Savannah, GA. And, the *TPi Chess Clinic* will be there July 12-13.

More information will be published in the coming issues of CR. Mark your calendar. **DOWNTOWN!**

THE FORCES OF MEDIOCRITY

There's a myth that all you need to do is outline your vision and prove it's right—then, quite suddenly, people will line up and support you.

In fact, the opposite is true. Remarkable visions and genuine insight are always met with resistance. And when you start to make progress, your efforts are met with even more resistance. Products, services, career paths... whatever it is, the forces for mediocrity will align to stop you, forgiving no errors and never backing down until it's over.

If it were any other way, it would be easy. And if it were any other way, everyone would do it and your work would ultimately be devalued. The yin and yang are clear: without people pushing against your quest to do something worth talking about, it's unlikely it would be worth the journey. Persist.

—Seth Godin

<http://sethgodin.typepad.com>

Used with permission

There's Been a Small but Faithful Group

I feel like I am on a committee of one in the 1770s writing about the ideas of chess publishing. I am not in Philadelphia nor Boston, but Savannah, Georgia. There is no visible chess here. I've been told there used to be. Great for a new start, right?

I feel privileged to know many of the subscribers to *The Chess Reports* but in a way, that's part of my problem. How do I reach those I don't know? Could they be new friends?

The thing about this chess business is the unknown—the direction which was unanticipated. So I head off in various tangents hoping to hit the 1849 gold jackpot using exposure, ideas, follow through, and action.

I started *The Chess Reports* with that, and have added another step, the *Chess Clinic*. This year it will be in downtown Savannah. The third leg is the new *Annotation & Evaluation* service. All building blocks. All have the aim of improving chess performance—a subject which means almost nothing until self-experienced.

In the evening light it is like always, hard to move people forward from their zone of "I am fine where I am"-edness. How does one change that level of comfort?

How can lethargy be turned into action? I am becoming increasingly convinced that two things are needed:

Persuasion that what we do is **fun**, and that the passion will grow further through **involvement**. But, the first step must be taken by you. I am not asking anyone to chair a committee or mortgage their property. Nor do I want your firstborn.

Some say "time" is the enemy but that's most likely an excuse to avoid taking a time out for oneself. If you like what I am doing, spread the word, help a friend, drop a line, resubscribe. Then, try to go one step further through involvement—here's why:

So far I have done four chess festivals, and two chess clinics. The reaction of **almost every** new attendee was the same—"If I had known it was this much fun, I would have come to the previous ones. I met so many cool people." Much of my future attendances was based on the past ones, but the getting of the first ones is the real work. Now you can share your fun with them.

Get them to subscribe to the *Chess Reports*.

Get them to come to the upcoming *Chess Clinic*.

They will love you for it.

So will I.



Ockham's Razor

Also known as Occam's Razor.

Definition¹: Simplicity is preferred to complexity in design. Variations of the principle exist depending on what field of interest you are studying.

Albert Einstein said: "Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler."

Let's look at chess.

For years there has been attempt after attempt to "improve" the game:

1) Extending the number of squares to more than 64, and also decreasing the number to less than 64.

2) 3-dimensional and Star Trek variants. All failures ex-

cept to Trekkies.

3) Fantasy variations. Still remain fantasies.

The reason I am aware of these "trends" is that I sold games for many years. It seems that every year someone sent me information on a new chess variant. The publicity was minimal and ineffective.

Chess hadn't changed its rules in a long time.

The rules of chess are just getting more and more complex.

The clocks have more and more time controls and are a pain in the brain to follow and set. Even tournament directors don't want to set these newer digital chess clocks (nor the older ones).

Chess books are still chess books because as yet they are still unaffordable in color and for serious study.

Chess DVDs come in a wide variety of flavors but at least you can sit there and watch, with one hand on a controller or keyboard. But the subjects have gone from regular instruction to some pretty complicated discussions and variations. And of course they don't hold

enough visual information as a book, not by a long shot.

When you look at the chess pieces themselves, it really is hard to beat the Staunton pattern which has been around now for almost 160 years.

Yes, many attempts have been made. When they got too simple (the artist Man Ray for example) they fell afoul of Einstein's dictum. They got simpler, and, uglier.

Every time I went to a gift show, the "new" set designs lasted for about one year before being replaced by something else.

Look at the above picture. The King to your left is Staunton, the other two come from the 1885 period. Notice how the Queen (with the big ball) isn't notably different from her King? Easy to grab the wrong one.

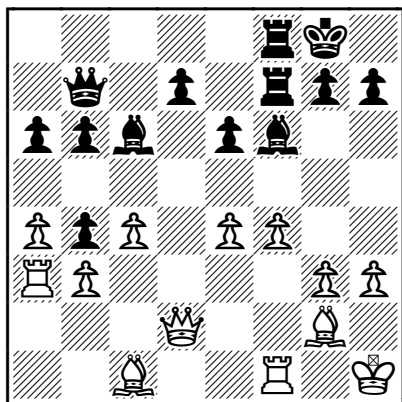
I have a price of \$695 on the older wooden set, which I will settle for \$400 to the first buyer. The other set, the Staunton? \$175. More details if you write me.

The Staunton pattern has stood the test of time. A perfect use of Ockham's Razor.

¹ Universal Principles of Design, © 2003.

continued from page 671

19.Kh1 Rb8 20.h3 Ne5
21.Qd2 Nc6 22.Ne2 Nb4
23.Ra3 Bf6 24.Nc3 Bc6
25.Na2 Qb7 26.Nxb4 cxb4



27.Qxb4 ½-½

If the game continued, think about this:

27...Be7 28.Qe1!

It's hard to imagine such a move, but I am betting that Skembris couldn't find anything after "seeing" it, except possible pain.

28...Bxa3

28...d5! It's not always simple to find moves like this when your brain is thinking "But I'm winning the Exchange!" 29.exd5 exd5 30.cxd5 Bxd5 31.Ra2 Qd7. Getting out of the firing line from the B/g2. 32.Bxd5 Qxd5+ 33.Kh2 Qxb3 34.Rb2 Qxa4 35.Rxb6.

29.Bxa3 Ra8

For example.

29...Re8 30.Bd6 e5 31.f5 Rf6 32.Bb4 b5 (32...d6 33.g4!²

The chess world's all purpose move.) 33.axb5 axb5 34.c5!=

30.Bd6!

Black has this "What can I do?" problem after winning the Exchange.

30...b5

30...Rf6 31.Bf3 (31.Be7 Rf7 32.Bd6=) 31...b5 32.cxb5 axb5 33.a5 Rh6 34.Kg2± And White threatens to advance his K-side pawns.

31.cxb5 axb5

Has to take back because the B/c6 was attacked.

32.a5 b4

So Black can win the P/a5. But, there is a fly in the ointment.

32...Qa7 33.b4± Black is unhappy about this.

33.Qxb4 Qxb4 34.Bxb4

Rb8 35.Bc5! Rxb3 36.a6

The R on f7 certainly isn't doing anything!

36...Rxb3

36...d6 37.Bf2= No progress.

37.Rb1 h5

A crawl space.

38.a7 d6

Diversion of course. Black now realizes how badly he wants that a-pawn off the

board.

39.Bg1=

Black can only sit tight and White can't force the pawn in. ½-½

Did You Know There Are Many Kinds of Bishops?

According to IM Bill Hartston in *Better Chess*, there are five types of Bishops:

- The good Bishop
- The good bad Bishop
- The mostly good Bishop
- The not-so-bad Bishop
- The utterly bad Bishop

He then gives a one page essay on the game *Tal-Donner, Wijk aan Zee 1968*. The "bad Bishop has the last word" and Tal wins.

If you can find a copy of this book, do so. It is full of tips and good sense. For example, he doesn't like Dr. Tarrasch's "When you find a good move, look for a better one." Hartston calls this nonsense and says:

"When you've found a good move, play it! Good moves are few and far between... but make sure they are as good as you think."



What's Nice About the Recent ChessBase Magazine format...

For one thing when you insert the CD and press "Start" you get a screenful of news with filmstrip pictures of the various presenters such as GMs Karsten Müller and Dorian Rogozenko.

This issue also has an obituary of Robert J. Fischer.

The news mentions the upcoming matches such as Kamsky vs. Topalov and the big tournaments such: Wijk aan Zee (Aronian and Carlsen were the winners), the Tal Memorial and Khaty-Mansiysk.

If you wonder about M. Carlsen look at his game with Kramnik where he flings the pawns at Kramnik's King!

Rogozenko covers a number of important games but it is his expostulation of the unpredictable Alexander Morozevich that grabs my attention. Morozevich would take "level" positions and win them. This is a character facet we would all like to have.

Morozevich won six games in a row in the big Russian event often producing shocking moves. You'll want to see these.

Carlsen annotates his game against Jaokovenko as new lines in the Nimzo-Indian take renewed life.

Energetic attacks are ruling the day in these times of the youngsters. If Fischer was around and still a teenager he would be having a ball.

There is also video analysis by Andrew Martin in a Saskiran-Macieja game involving a Benko Gambit. Andrew, of course, is excellent at this. For one thing, he knows quite a bit about the Benko Gambit, and here Macieja tries to muddy the waters, unsuccessfully. Martin brings his experience in his video notes.

Wijk aan Zee was a category 20 tournament and as

mentioned there was a tie. Unbeknown to most of us, Kramnik made a draw offer to Carlsen in their individual game which Carlsen turned down (and went on to win).

There's more such as FritzTrainer video formats with Kasimdzhanov and Martin. In fact, the DVD format not only allows a huge number of annotated games, but video annotations as well.

And another feature CBM is their opening surveys. This time there are 11 of them, all in pretty much standard openings including sharp lines in the Evans Gambit.

Kasimdzhanov broadcasts Wijk aan Zee from his home like A. Martin used to do. He shows a marvelous attempt to win in his game against Radjabov.

Nigel Davies also has an update about his Pirc DVD. He's still going strong!

You can get this magazine every other month for about \$20-22. Includes a printed booklet. Fun to read/watch.

These titles can be obtained from Chess4Less by calling Greg at 1-800-397-7117 and telling them that Bob Long sent you.



This is GM Shirov's 2nd DVD on the Sveshnikov

The volume is turned up a little so he is easy to hear.

I just was reminded of something when watching this DVD, it would be nice if ChessBase DVDs had a way of SKIPPING ahead. That is, if you are watching someone in a video and the moves are on the screen, it would be cool to just go the moves you wanted to see the analysis of rather than listen to something you don't want to listen to. Yes, this would be cause to invent some new software and that would also keep CB ahead of someone who might, one of these days, try to beat their time.

Anyway, I decided to watch Tiviakov vs Shirov as

I've always thought of Tiviakov as kind of a smart ass—so I wanted to see Shirov take him apart. He did.

Shirov is prone to tangential comments at any point and you wonder if he will ever come back to the main move. And he is a thinker. He can get lost in thought trying to remember something, to improve a move, or query a possibly new move.

He mentions on this DVD:

"It took me a lifetime to learn this opening."

Shirov rightly recalls the late 1960s when theory seemed to be changing monthly.

He also shows why there are several ways of leading to the Sveshnikov as some people aren't happy about tackling sidelines such as 3. Bb5.

I've played against the Sveshnikov several times. A friend of mine was an expert

in these lines and it meant I had to study more than he did! But it will pay off.

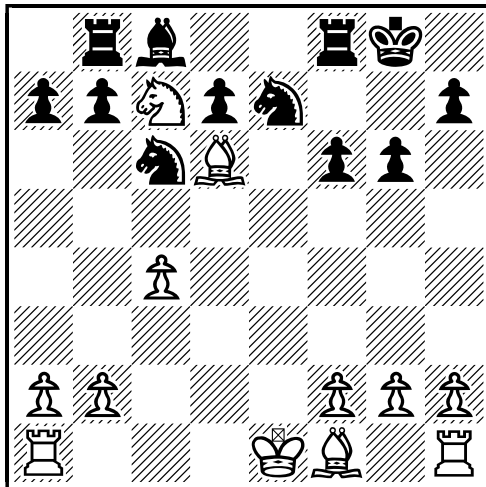
When Kramnik was 16 Shirov, who was also young, asked Vlad about Black's chances in the Svesh. Of course Kramnik replied positively and now today Shirov says, "When you are young you think you know everything." That's an oblique way of saying that Shirov had beaten the Sveshnikov of Kramnik's several times from the white side!

The move order that some like starts: 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5!? 6. Ndb5 d6 7. Bg5 a6 8. Na3 b5. This is the way I played the white side.

Shirov also has a number of wins with the white pieces and has annotated 12 games. If you want to learn the Sveshnikov as White or Black, you really need to study this DVD. He probably knows as much as anyone though he lost one last week I think. But he's like that.

These titles can be obtained from Chess4Less by calling Greg at 1-800-397-7117 and telling them that Bob Long sent you.

One QUIZ for Issue 52



Black is really boxed in isn't he? And it's his move. What is his best defensive resource? The game is *Seret-Gomez, 1982* (analysis). What threatens Black? Think it out.

HOW TO GET THE FIFTH SEMESTER OF CHESS REPORTS, 53-65 AT HALF PRICE!

Yes, you can get those very issues for only \$25.00 if you get us another subscriber. Here's how:

•••

If you get us a new subscriber for Semester #5, or a subscriber who gets the first 4 semesters for \$99, yours will only be **\$25.00** and his/hers will only be **\$25** too! This offer is good through **March 20th, 2008**. I'll need yours and your "friend's" e-mail address + \$50.00 for the both of you (or \$124 if he/she wants issues 1-52)! **Limited time offer.**

•••

If you want to buy individual sets the prices are:

Semester 1: issues 1-13 \$25

Semester 2: issues 14-26 \$25

Semester 3: issues 27-39 \$30

Semester 4: issues 40-52 \$30

These offers good only through **March 20th, 2008**.

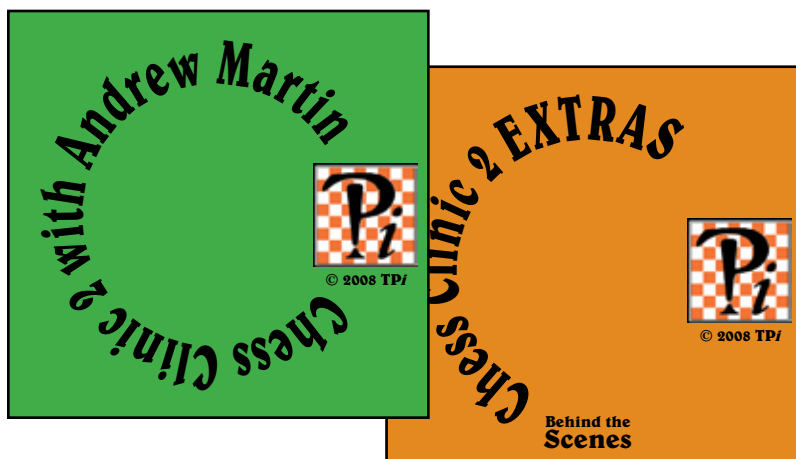
Sign me up **NOW** for the July 12-13 "Chess Clinic" with IM Andrew Martin! Check off, photocopy and return or e-mail me.

- Each adult. \$195.00
 - Each child, under 15. \$50.00
 - Your significant other. FREE (non-chessplay).
 - One simul seat. \$20.00
 - Andrew Martin private tutoring. \$75/hour; \$125/2 hours.
- Used books, sets, DVDs for sale. Maybe a surprise or two.



Thinkers' Press, Inc.
boblong@windstream.net

563-271-6657



Printed Silver DVD Andrew Martin Chess Clinics Discs arrive March 10-14 I am told.

Black print on silver DVD discs will be here that week.

What is on them?

Lockwood-Spraggett; Zismer-Chachere; Lamansky-Wijetung; Martin-S. Lalic; Boenermaker-Klopmeier; Morales-Spraggett; and N. Pert-Aagaard.

Also: Dos and Don'ts. 42 Tips and Pieces of Advice.

It's about understanding the opening, the middlegame, and the endgame together. 2 hours.

The Extras include a look at actual clinic sessions! 1 hour.

The plain vanilla version, S&H paid within the USA, is now \$19.95. Outside the USA it is \$22.95. When the "plain vanillas" are exhausted (there are about 8 sets left), TPi will only be selling the printed discs version.

The **printed set of discs** version is \$26.95, S&H paid within the USA. Outside the USA they are \$29.95.

The discs are all slip-cased into envelopes with a transparent center so you can identify them.

The quote of CBM 122 came from Magnus Carlsen in his game as black against Vladimir Kramni at Wijk aan Zee:

"A fairly old line I think, which is not considered especially dangerous for Black if he's well prepared. Unfortunately I couldn't remember anything, and so I had to start thinking from this point."



Work on *Chess Clinic 3* is proceeding and inquiries are coming in much faster than ever before.

In the meantime I am also dealing with another hotel, the *Inn at Ellis Square*. The battle will be between this Inn and the Mulberry Hotel.

I want the best accommodations and prices for everyone. More details either by "press time" or shortly thereafter. Many are asking for additional information. I will be forthcoming soon.

In the meantime if you want to get your CC3 registration fees out of the way, send payments according to the schedule on the previous page. Thanks.