



THE OUTPOST

CHESS NEWS FOR SOUTHWEST MISSOURI



VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4

SPRINGFIELD and JOPLIN, MO

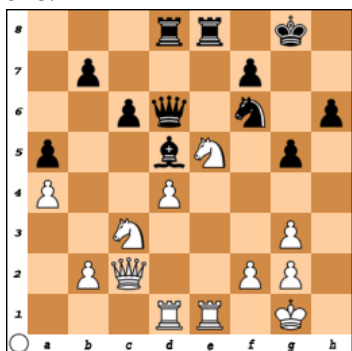
APRIL 2019

PSYCHED FOR THE GAME?

by Jon McClenahan,
with Jared Bray and Roger Pagel

In the first round of our round-robin Club Championships, Roger Pagel was paired with Jared Bray. Mr. Bray (USCF 1874) has a significant ratings advantage over Mr. Pagel (USCF 1700) but anyone who has played them knows both make formidable opponents (we encourage the readers to check out 'Game A' in this edition, in which Pagel takes Matt Pratt – another 1800 player – to the cleaners).

In their game – which will appear in a future edition of this publication – after 22 moves they reached the following position, with White (Pagel) to move:



With an *isolani* (IQP) and doubled g-pawns, White has his work cut out for him; Fritz gives Black about 6/10s of a pawn advantage. Roger played 23. Qd2.

Now, Fritz gives this move a question mark. It abandons control of a crucial square, and allows Black to play 23. ... Bb3, simultaneously

(continued on page 5)

MEMBERSHIP IS UP!

If you check out our membership list (page 2) you'll see that 2019 memberships are on a pace to end WAY ahead of last year. In 2018 we ended up with 36 members at year's end, but as of this printing (one month into fiscal 2019 membership calendar) we already have 32 paid members.

The club's future looks bright primarily because of new – and particularly, *young* – memberships. Longtime member and club TD **Afzal Chowdhury** said, "How exciting! I'm glad to see this kind of support & participation, and also proud of what you all have accomplished!" Afzal credits **Roger Pagel** in his "steadfastness" through the meager years, and remembers back when club membership was in the 50s ... so hey, let's start a new SW Missouri Chess Renaissance – invite all your chess-playing friends to join!

ED. NOTE: We all know Jared Bray as a fine player, and he has offered to submit a regular monthly column. This column is aimed at our younger players but will no doubt be interesting to older readers as well, particularly those of us who find ourselves in difficult endgames. JM

ENDGAME PRIMER Lesson 1: OPPOSITION

by Jared Bray

To ensure we're all on the same page moving forward, I've decided to begin with the most basic endgame – king + pawn v king. I apologize to the advanced players but don't want those less experienced to go trudging off into complicated scenarios ill-equipped. So I'll start with the most basic of examples to learn about the most important of themes in the endgame, a theme so pervasive, it could be said it's what endgames are all about!

Before I begin, I encourage you readers to abandoned your boards and calculate all through visualization only. This is an important skill for any chess player to strengthen and why not start now if you don't already do this? If you must, set up a board and visualize the moves that way. Only move the pieces when you wish to verify calculation!

"**Opposition**" can be defined as: two kings standing on the same rank or file with one square separating them. There are other forms of opposition but we will delay their discussion and look at this concept first.

(to be continued NEXT MONTH)

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GAME A

Roger Pagel – Matthew Pratt
Springfield Ladder Tournament
November 2, 2018

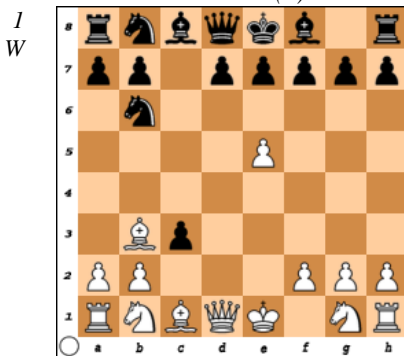
Sicilian Defense: Smith-Morra Gambit

On the last day of regular competition for our 2018 Springfield Ladder Tournament, Mr. Matthew Pratt from Joplin showed up, and was matched up with Roger Pagel. The two had played the previous week in the Springfield Scholastic Open, where Mr. Pratt had finished in second place and had beaten Mr. Pagel in the 4th round. He returned to Springfield this night looking for “another bite of Pagel Pie.” If you don’t like the chess play (and this is some of the best chess play we get to see in these parts), you’ll still love the analytical banter between these two old friends!

1. e4 c5
2. d4 cd
3. c3 Nf6

According to John Bartholomew, a good rule of thumb for the Smith-Morra is: “Take the first pawn, decline the second.” Here, however, Black is simply interposing a little threat before taking the gambited pawn.

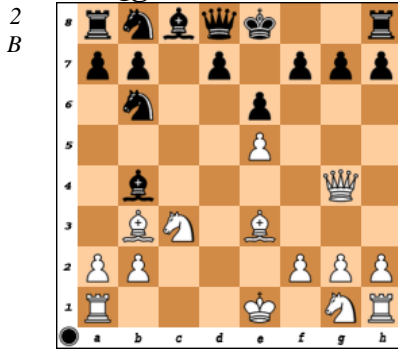
4. e5 Nd5
5. Bc4 Nb6
6. Bb3 dc (1)



OK, so Black finally accepts the gambit. The computer gives Black a slight advantage in this position, but the game is far from over. As is typical of the Smith-Morra, White has increased his purview of the board, at the cost of a pawn.



7. Nxc3 e6
8. Be3 Bb4?
9. Qg4! (2) ...



Mr. Pratt called this “the refutation of 8. ... Bb4.” But Mr. Pagel played this MOVE hesitantly, because it allows Black to create an isolated pawn on c3. But then, as per Mr. Pagel: “In my experience, the isolated pawn is not a liability and the double attack creates problems. If Black decides to protect the g-pawn with the rook, his king is stuck in the middle, and if he plays g6 (as he did) it creates ‘black holes’”

9. ... Bxc3+
10. bxc3 g6

And, of course, 10. ... O-O loses because of 11. Bh6. Mr. Pratt said he felt like “Hulk Hogan just climbed on my back.”

11. Nf3 Qc7
12. O-O Nc6

12. ... Qxc3 loses after 13. Rac1 Qd3 14. Bxb6 with a nightmare finish if Black should recapture (14. ... axb6 15. Rxc8+ Ke7 and mate to follow).

13. Rfd1 ...

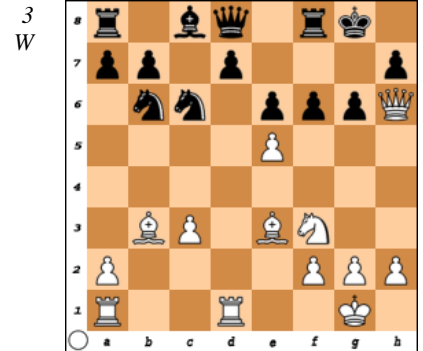
Aside from grabbing the open file, this prevents a d4-push for the time being

13. ... O-O
14. Qg5 Qd8
15. Qh6 f6 (3)

(diagram next column)

“Chess is hard.”

Jared Bray



16. Bxe6!+ ...

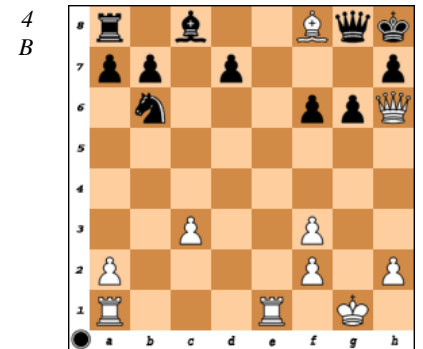
“Roger slammed this down so hard it shook the table.” MP [ED. NOTE: probably more heart-rattling than table rattling here.]

16. ... Kh8
17. Bc5 Re8
18. Bf7 Nxe5
19. Bxe8 Nxf3+

The desperado’s zwischenzug. Although he dismantles White’s pawn wall, he won’t have time to capitalize on it.

20. gxf3 Qxe8
21. Re1 Qg8
22. Bf8 (4) ...

Because White can.



22. ... Qf7
23. Re7 Qg8

“I figured, ‘Play it out because it will be in the #!!@*! newsletter.’” MP

(continued on page 4)

2019 SPBCC MEMBERSHIP

Daniel Bao	Mike Little
Ben Berger	Brayden Miao
Jared Bray	Spencer Manchester
Jim Baumlín	Jon McClenahan
John Cardozo	Vince McClenahan
Afzal Chowdhury	CJ Moeller
Travis Dooly	Roger Pagel
Isaac Drum	Marty Phillips
Stephanie Dugan	Matthew Pratt
Ben Elliott	Brian Rude
Quentin Fitzpatrick	Ethan Stech
Matt Hammonds	Billy Tropepe
Peter Hansen	Adam Whitaker
Stan Horton	Cody Whittington
John Last	Sam Whittington
James Latham	

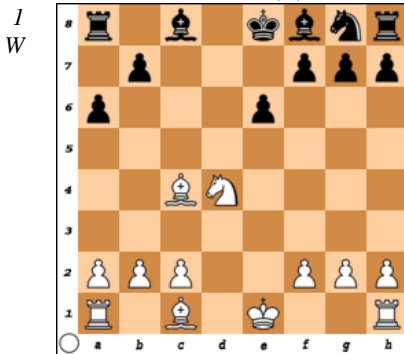
GAME B

Brian Rude – Bob Holliman
Four States Winter Chess Open
Joplin, MO – Round 4
March 9, 2019

French Defense: Tarrasch Variation

From the final round of last month's tournament in Joplin, in which our own Brian Rude faced the lifetime master from Kansas City, Bob Holliman – giving more than 400 points in ratings. You want to see some intense endgame chess? Here's some intense endgame chess!

1. e4 e6
2. d4 d5
3. Nd2 c5
4. ed Qxd5
5. Ngf3 cd
6. Bc4 Qd8
7. Nb3 Nc6
8. Nbx d4 Nxd4
9. Qxd4 Qxd4
10. Nxd4 a6 (1)

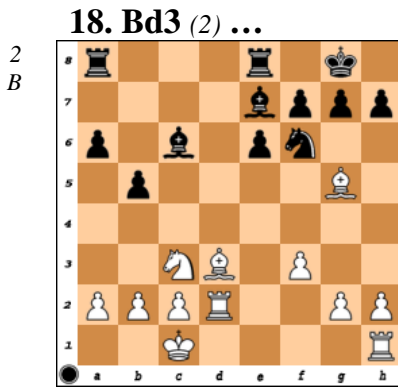


The dust has settled, and the game is about even. White has a lead in development ... but he can't do much with it right now.

11. Be3 Nf6
12. f3?! ...

Fritz recommends 12. O-O as a safer choice.

12. ... Bd7
13. O-O-O Be7
14. Rd2 O-O
15. Bg5 Rfe8
16. Ne2 Bc6
17. Nc3 b5



Those Black queenside pawns look strong.

18. ... b4
19. Ne2 Bc5
20. Kb1 ...

As per Ben Finegold's Law: "Always play Kb1."

20. ... Nd5
21. Nc1 ...

Despite this retreat, the White knight has visions of heroics in the future.

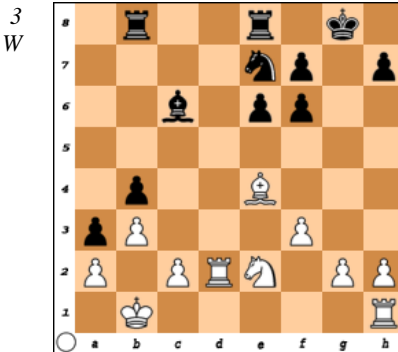
21. ... a5
22. Bh4 a4
23. Bf2 Be7
24. Bd4 a3
25. b3 Bf6

Better for Black would've been 25. ... Bg5!? 26. Rdd1 e5. Instead he offers to trade this strong piece, and White obliges him.

26. Bxf6 gxf6
Bolstering Black's center.
27. Ne2 Rab8
28. Be4! ...

Forcing the game in a direction that favors White's cause.

28. ... Ne7 (3)



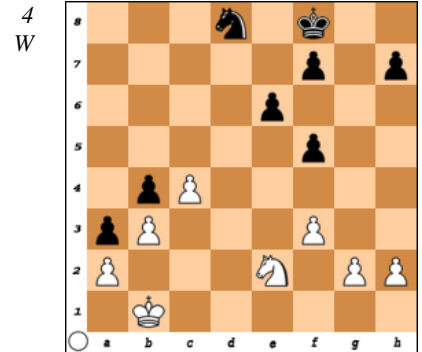
29. c3! ...

As Nimzowitsch says, "Attack the chain at its base." However, this strat-



egy will change in a couple moves.

29. ... f5
30. Bxc6 Nxc6
31. c4 Red8
32. Rhd1 Kf8
33. Rxd8+ Rxd8
34. Rxd8+ Nxd8 (4)



Mr. Rude comments, "With the protected passed pawn on c4, I was feeling good about my chances in the endgame here. At this point, both sides were under serious time pressure, so there were a few mistakes in the endgame for both sides." Fritz assesses White to have a slight advantage here. Now the kings rush forward to the battlefield.

35. Kc2 Ke7
36. Kd3 Kd6
37. Nd4 Kc5!

Stodgy positional play!

38. f4 Nb7

Black's idea is: Nb7 → d6 → e4, a very good place.

39. Nf3 Nd6
40. Ne5 Ne4

Both knights have found strong outposts.

41. Kc2 Kd4

Aggressive ... but not necessarily smart. Now White will prepare a road to promotion for the passed c-pawn.

42. Nd3 Ke3

(continued on page 8)

GAME C

Jake Walden – Ben Elliott
 SPBCC Monthly Blitz Tournament
 February 22, 2019

Bird's Opening

A rare game score – rare for two reasons: 1) we don't see Bird's Opening too much; and B) on Blitz Night, most players are so busy slapping the clock, they don't keep their scores!

1. f4 Nc6

Chess experts would call Black's response a 'novelty.' 1. ... d5 is typical; 1. ... e5 (the From Gambit) is also playable.

2. Nf3 Nf6

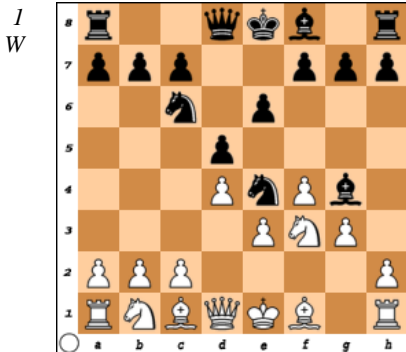
3. d3 d5

4. g3 Bg4

5. d4 ...

When White takes two moves to advance his pawn to d4, it's an open invitation to Black to take the initiative.

5. ... e6
 6. e3 Ne4! (1)



Black has better development and more space, in part because of White's 3rd and 5th moves. But White's position is solid.

7. Bb5 a6

8. Bxc6 bxc6

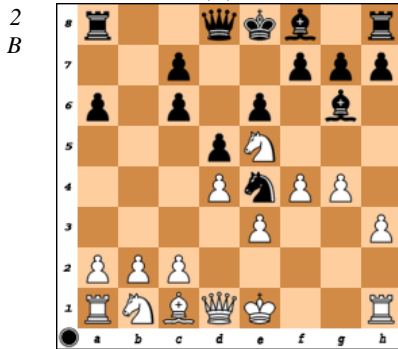
9. h3 Bf5

"When I am White, I win because I am White. When I am Black, I win because I am Bogoljubov."

Efim Bogoljubov

10. g4 Bg6

11. Ne5? (2) ...



This is a nice spot for the knight, but better would've been 11. ... g5, and even stronger would be 11. ... h4, threaten9ing to trap White's bishop. Instead, with overextended kingside pawns, White allows Black to launch a deadly attack.

11. ... Qh4+

12. Ke2 Qf2+

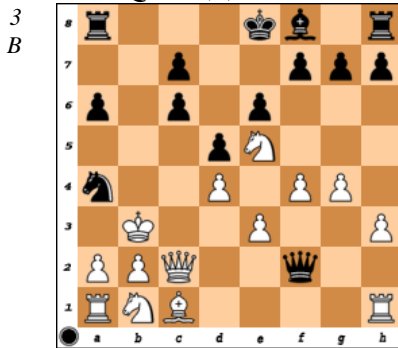
The knight fork 12. ... Ng3 yields immediate dividends, but the text move leads to an exciting king chase.

13. Kd3 Nc5+

14. Kc3 Na4+

15. Kb3 Bxc2+!

16. Qxc2 (2) ...



16. ... Qxc2

OK, so it's a blitz game. But even with more time, would anyone have found this beautiful continuation? 16. ... Rb8+! 17. Kxa4 (forced) Qxc2+ 18. b3 (if 18. Ka5 Bb4+ 19. Kxa6 Qa4#) 18. ... Rb4+ 19. Ka5 Rxb3! 20. a4 (if 20. axb3 Qxb3 21. Na3 Qb4+ 22. Kxa6 Qb6#) 20. ... Qe2 21. Nc4 (death throes) 21. ... Qxc4 22. Bd2 (what else?) 22. ... Bb4+ 23. Bxb4 Qxb4+ 24. Kxa6 Qb6#.

17. Kxc2 Bd6

18. Nxc6 O-O

And although he's ahead a piece, Mr. Walden's flag fell before he could make another move. An exciting game!

0-1



Springfield Park Board Chess Club Board of Governors

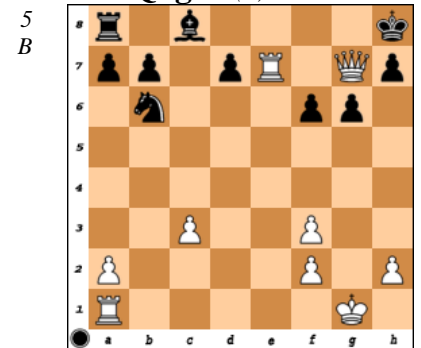
King	Walter Ressimeyer
Traffic Director	Brian Rude
Assistant TD	Adam Whitaker
Assistant Assistant TD	Ethan Stech
Captain	John Last
International Correspondent	Roger Pagel
Convoy of Hope	Kary Kingsland
Chief Propaganda Officer	Marty Phillips
Phone & Steam Engines	Mike Little
Dream Publisher	Brian Rude
Pixel Pixie	Stephanie Fitzpatrick
Big, Old, and Ugly	Jon McClenahan

Game A

(continued from p. 2)

24. Bg7+ Qxc7

25. Qxc7# (5) ...



1-0

"The Smith-Morra is an all-in, fast-development opening and Black must try to keep up. As Matt said (after the game), Black usually has a won end-game if he can get to it, especially if White's attack fails. It's always a fun game to play!" RP

Looks like on this particular day, Mr. Pratt bit off a little more "Pagel Pie" than he could swallow!

Blast From the Past!

Ken Jones – Mike Brooks
 Missouri Open Chess Tournament, Rd 5
 July 29, 1990

Dunst Opening

Ken Jones and Mike Brooks have both played at the Springfield club on occasion, and when SPBCC hosted the Missouri Open in 1990, there were 115 participants from around Missouri – and no less than eight players rated 2300 or above! At the time of this match, Jones was at 2349 and Brooks 2579. Our own **Mark Trevor Smith** was the highest local club player in that event, finishing 22nd with 3½ points out of a possible 5.

1. Nc3 d5
2. e4 de
3. Nxe4 Bf5
4. Qf3 Bg6
5. Ng5 (1) ...



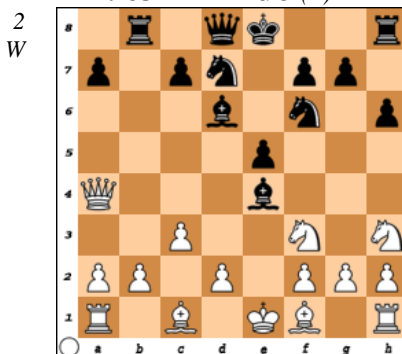
An unusual opening position, from an unusual opening, which goes by many names ... perhaps the most interesting is the German name, “*der Linksspringer*” (“The Left Knight”). There’s a good reason why it’s one of the least popular openings in chess. So far, Black has responded with sensible development.

5. ... Nd7?!

Throwing his b-pawn to the wind. More solid is 5. ... Nc6, but no doubt Mr. Brooks had something else in mind.

6. Qxb7 Rb8
7. Qc6 Ngf6
8. N1f3 h6
9. Nh3 Be4
10. Qa4 e5

11. c3 Bd6 (2)



Black obviously has a spatial advantage and a lead in development, but according to Fritz, without any immediate threats, White is still slightly better.

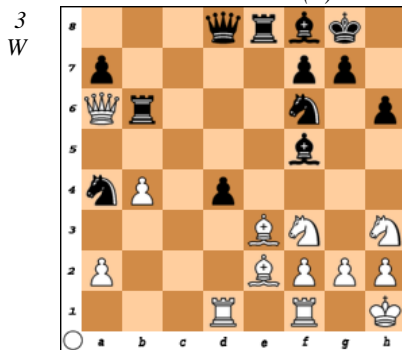
12. d3 Bf5
13. Be2 O-O
14. O-O Re8
15. Kh1 Bf8
16. b4?! ...

Maybe 16. Rd1 would be more sound.

16. ... c5
17. Bd2 Nb6
18. Qa6 Qd7?
19. Rad1? ...

Mr. Jones admitted to regretting this particular move. As he noted in the *Missouri Chess Bulletin* (Vol. 17, No. 2), “*I could still stir the pot with 19. bxc5!? Bxc5? 20. d4! ed 21. Bb5, hence he would have to try 19. ... Na4 20. d4 and suddenly I’d feel healthy again!*”

19. ... cb
20. cb Na4
21. d4 ed
22. Be3 Rb6 (3)

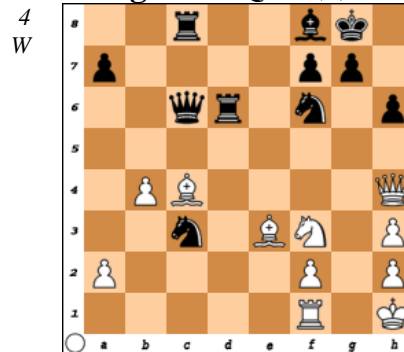


Threat, counter-threat.

23. Rxd4 Bd6
24. Qc4 Rc8!
25. Rxd6? ...

A miscalculation by Mr. Jones. After 25. Qb3 White’s chances remain strong.

25. ... Rxd6
26. Qh4 Nc3
27. Bc4 Bxh3!
28. gxh3 Qc6! (4)



Now either the c4-bishop or the f3-knight will fall. After 29. Bxf7+ Kxf7, White would remain on his heels, and his game would slowly and painfully crumble. If however 29. Bb3 there follows 29 ... Qxf3+ 30. Kg1 Ne2#. Jones resigned.

0-1

Psyched!

(continued from p. 1)

opening an attack on the IQP and driving away one key defender from same. As the game progressed, Black was able to build up a full two-pawn advantage in material, then activate his king to great effect, and went on to win (White resigned after move 42).

Both players submitted their analysis, and White’s comments – particularly for move 23 – were dripping with remorse. He called it, “*the losing move.*” This writer – without having analyzed it yet – picked up on this comment and it resulted in enough correspondence that we could probably publish a book (and indeed, Mr. Bray has referred to our subsequent commentaries as such). Said Bray, “*Roger believed this move loses outright ... but this is chess, and a ‘winning position’ is only that when already won!*”

(continued on page 8)



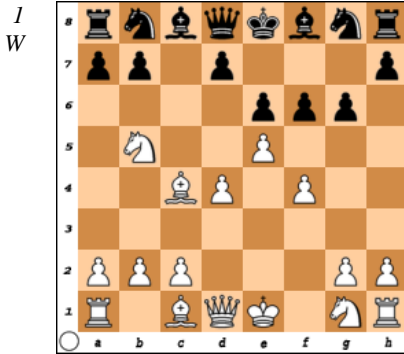
GAME D

Dylan Mounts – Marty Phillips
SPBCC Qualifier, Round 2
March 1, 2019

Sicilian Defense: Alapin Variation

Here was one of the games from last month's second qualifier round.

- 1. e4 c5
- 2. c3 g6
- 3. d4 cd
- 4. cd Bg7
- 5. Nc3 Nf6
- 6. e5 Ng8
- 7. f4 f6
- 8. Bc4 e6
- 9. Nb5 Bf8 (1)



Yes, Black has had the same number of moves as White ... An unusual position after nine moves – to say the least!

- 10. Nf3 a6
- 11. Nc3 Bg7
- 12. d5 Qc7
- 13. Qe2 f5
- 14. de de
- 15. O-O Nh6
- 16. Ng5 Qe7
- 17. Qf2 ...

White maintains an advantage, and has time for minor positional improvements like this, thanks to all the early tempo gains.

- 17. ... O-O
- 18. Qb6 (2) ...

(diagram next column)

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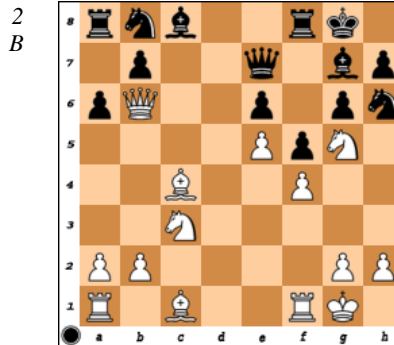
Brian Rude

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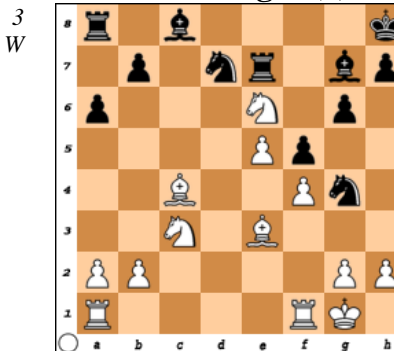


Piling onto the e6-pawn!

- 18. ... Re8
- 19. Be3 Nd7?

Attacking White's queen was a good thought, but it cuts off one of the e6-pawn's key defenders. Instead, Black's other knight had gainful employment opportunities at the other end of the board: 19. ... Nf7 would've helped diffuse some of the pressure.

- 20. Qxe6+! Kh8
- 21. Qxe7 Rxe7
- 22. Ne6 Ng4? (3)



For the kibitzers, Black had a nifty combination which might've changed his fortunes: 22. ... Nxe5! 23. Nxe7 (if

23. fxe5 Bxe6 and Black is winning) 23. ... Nxc4 and then after 24. Bd4 Kg8, Black has a new lease on life – although his troubles are not completely over. But hey ... these games had a 30-minute time limit ... who could find those kinds of combinations under those circumstances?

- 23. Bd4! ...

White's bishops – in concert with the passed e-pawn – are terrifying!

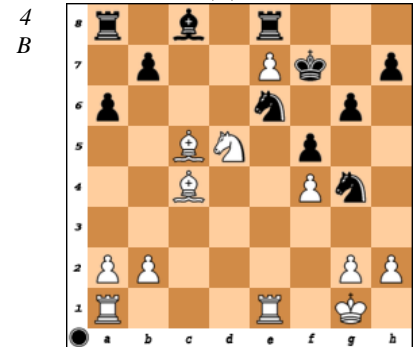
- 23. ... Nf8

A better way to stanch the bleeding was 23. ... Nb6!? and if 24. Bxb6 Bxe6.

- 24. Nxe7! Kxe7
- 25. e6+ Kg8
- 26. Bc5 Re8
- 27. e7+ ...

Advancing with check, yet again!

- 27. ... Ne6
- 28. Rfe1 Kf7
- 29. Nd5?(4) ...



Although it almost doesn't matter at this point, 29. Rad1 would've been stronger, and after 29. ... b6 30. Bb4+, White's muscle is overwhelming.

- 29. ... Bd7?

If 29. ... b5 30. Nc7 bxc4 31. Nxe8 Kxe8, Black would actually stand better than White.

(continued on page 12)



GAME E

Jared Bray – Jon McClenahan
 SPBCC King’s Gambit Tournament
 February 8, 2019

King’s Gambit Accepted: Fischer Defense

In the March Edition, we reported a little bit on the King’s Gambit Theme Tournament, held on February 8th. The first move and a half were scripted as follows: 1. e4 e5 2. f4 ... Black could accept or decline the gambit.

In this first round, Yours Truly got paired with Jared Bray, whose disdain for the King’s Gambit is matched only by his skill in playing it! What follows is a fun study of a serious chess player confronted with the style of play you might expect from a drunken cowboy!

1. e4 e5
 2. f4 ef
 3. Nf3 d6

The Fischer Defense. According to Bobby Fischer in his 1961 article, *A Bust to the King’s Gambit*, 3. ... d6 is a “high class waiting move.” No doubt more classy – AND effective – when played by Mr. Fischer!

4. d4 g5
 5. Bc4 ...

The usual continuation here is 5. h4, to undermine Black’s pawn chain. Black plays as if the pawn chain meant nothing to him anyway.

5. ... g4
 6. O-O Bh6?

Of course, 6. ... gxf3 puts Black ahead in material ... for the time being. But knowing the potency of the King’s Gambit and the resourcefulness of his opponent, Black feared accepting this sac this would only “release the Kraken” as it were. White’s light-square bishop casts its ominous gaze on the f7-square, and that f4-pawn is sure to fall to the other White bishop. After 6. ... gxf3 7. Qxf3 Bg7 8. c3, White is ready to roll.

7. Nc3 c6
 8. Ne1 Qf6
 9. e5 de

10. de Qxe5 (1)

11. Bb3 Bf5
 12. Kh1 Nd7
 13. g3 Be4+
 14. Nxe4 Qxe4+
 15. Ng2 (2) ...

Yee-hah! Black is up two pawns but his queen is on a dangerous file.

If you consider Black’s position here and feel a little queasy, well, it shows you have good sense. Black clings to a miniscule advantage ... by a thread. First priority for Black must be getting his king and queen off the same file.

15. ... Ne7??

Covering the king?! Mr. Bray seems to be able to consistently mesmerize this chess player into *not castling* (see cover article, “*Psyched!*”). This whole time, I had been thinking, “*If I can ever castle long, I’ll be home free!*” and here was the perfect opportunity. After Black plays 15. ... O-O-O 16. Bxf4 Ndf6 the game proceeds with about equal chances. Instead, the course of Black’s game goes due south.

16. Bxf4! ...

White takes charge.

16. ... Bxf4
 17. Rxf4 Qe5
 18. Bxf7+ Kd8

19. Rd4 Nd5
 20. Bxd5 cxd5
 21. Rxd5 (3) ...

The tempi on Black keep piling up. Truth be told, it’s not an uncommon problem for Black in the King’s Gambit!

21. ... Qe6
 22. Qd4 Kc7
 23. Qc4+ Qc6
 24. Qf4+ Kc8
 25. Rd3! ...

The beauty & strength of this little move escaped detection until it was too late.

25. ... Rf8 (4)

Black looks to chase White’s queen and get in to the 2nd rank.

26. Qxg4! Rf2??

The Black rook’s bold assault might’ve worked ... but he overlooked the pinned knight.

27. Rc3 ...

Black resigned. But as Irish GM Joe Gallagher said, “*One of the advantages of the King’s Gambit over more mundane openings is that even when you lose it can be enjoyable!*” As far as this game goes, Mr. McClenahan completely agrees!

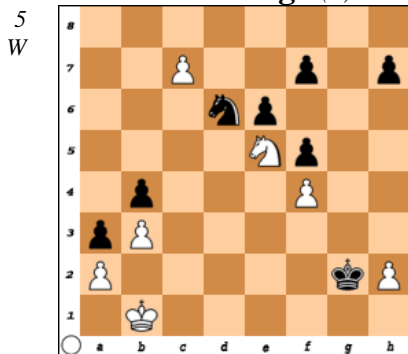
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Game B

(continued from p. 3)

43. c5 Ke2
44. c6 Kf1
45. c7 Nd6
46. Ne5 Kxg2 (5)



47. Nxf7! ...

As Henny Youngman might've said, "Take my knight ... please." Mr. Holliman won't bite ... but instead he has to park his knight at c8 for the duration of the game.

47. ... Nc8

48. Ng5 h5

49. Nxe6?! ...

This capture would seem to draw the knight away from the most critical part of the board. However, with the time pressure, Black could mess up ...

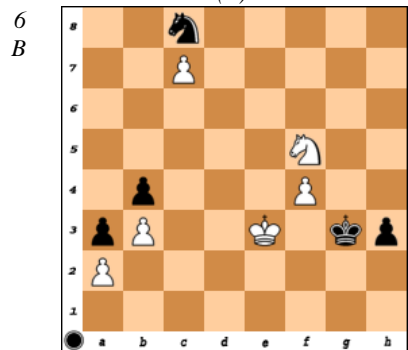
49. ... Kxh2

50. Kd3 Kg3

51. Ke3 h4

52. Ng7 h3

53. Nxf5+(6) ...



53. ... Kg2?

And here, Black does in fact mess up, and Mr. Rude knew it. He said, "53. ... Kg4 would've held a draw for Black here." Then after 54. Nh6+ Kh5 it's Even-Steven. With the text move, there's a chink in Black's armor, and White goes after it.

54. Nh4+ Kg3

55. Nf3 h2

56. Nxe2! Kxh2

57. f5! ...

Mr. Holliman's flag fell before he could make his 57th move. But "this was already a won position for White because his knight can't stop both pawns." BR

1-0

This win for Mr. Rude in this, the final round of the tournament, gave him 3.5 points out of a possible 4.0, edging out our Joplin brother **Matt Pratt** (3.0) for the title! Mr. Holliman and two others tied for third place.

Psyched!

(continued from p. 5)

And yes, after a few e-mails (time heals all wounds), Roger admitted: "After my 'error' of Qd2, my will to fight on diminished."

Indeed, chess is a battle fought on a board, but the most important combat zone is **our mind!**

This writer has been trying to discover the subliminal mysteries that cause him occasionally to play fairly well, but then slip back into silly beginners' mistakes. Case in point: check out 'Game E' in this edition, where he fails to castle and then leaves his queen on an open file with his king!

What causes it? We may never find a definitive answer to that question, but here are some thoughts.

Mr. Pagel talks about the 'Kotov Syndrome,' described by Soviet GM **Alexander Kotov** himself as "a chess term for when a player thinks for a long time in a very complicated position, goes deep into the position to the point of losing touch with reality, falls short of time and finally makes a move that he had hardly analyzed, which turns out to be a blunder."

Says Roger, "I am fascinated by how our brains work or don't work in any competition."

"My last game with **Ethan (Stech)**, for instance, I was winning and made another bone-head move instead of the winning move. I was still winning, even after what I did. Out of frustration, even though I had more time than him, I just said I can't figure this out and offered a draw which he accepted."

Mr. Bray suggests that managing expectations may help: "When I go to play a lower-rated opponent, I don't think, 'I must win.' Instead, I think, 'I have the better odds to win.'"

It seems odd, but this little change in mantra helps me manage expectations and in turn stress at the board. The truth is, statistically I will lose occasionally when I play someone a few hundred points below me. That's just math. This also helps when I play up too. It's not 'I will lose.' Instead it's 'I have worse odds of winning.' Although I usually supplement that with 'I will give this person the best chess I have,' Because I'm optimistic like that. I do enjoy a good fight at the board."

For myself, I have theorized the problem was my mindset as a professional cartoon animator. As such, I try to set up a mundane situation, then surprise the viewer with something crazy & unexpected (the 'gag'). This approach is great for cartoons, but for chess ... well, not so much. The opponent is not a 'viewer' – he is inevitably busy writing his own 'gags'!

(continued on page 12)

"Only sissies castle."

Rob Sillars

"Castle early and castle often."

also Rob Sillars

ED. NOTE: The following article includes research material from Chess.com's talented blogger, Sarah Beth Cohen (aka "Batgirl"), who has a flair for digging up wonderful historical material. With permission. JM

When Chess Means War: The Mannheim Chess Tournament of 1914

by Sarah Beth Cohen

An international chess tournament is more or less a battle of powers from all corners of the world ... but what happens when, in the middle of such a contest, an actual war break out involving the host nation?

This was the third chess tournament affected by the onset of a war. In the above two introductory examples, the tournaments were completed. Mannheim, a very grand affair consisting of many different tournaments, however, ended abruptly after the 11th round of the Master tournament. *Adolf Stern* (who was) at Baden-Baden in 1870 was directly affected by the Franco-Prussian War was from *Mannheim*, (in Bavaria).

My idea was that, since this tournament was interrupted by the war-to-end-all-wars, it might be fun, or at least curious, to look at newspaper coverage from the outside (i.e. the United States) to see how they viewed the unfolding war/chess story.

(From the Washington D.C. *Evening Star*, July 21, 1914):



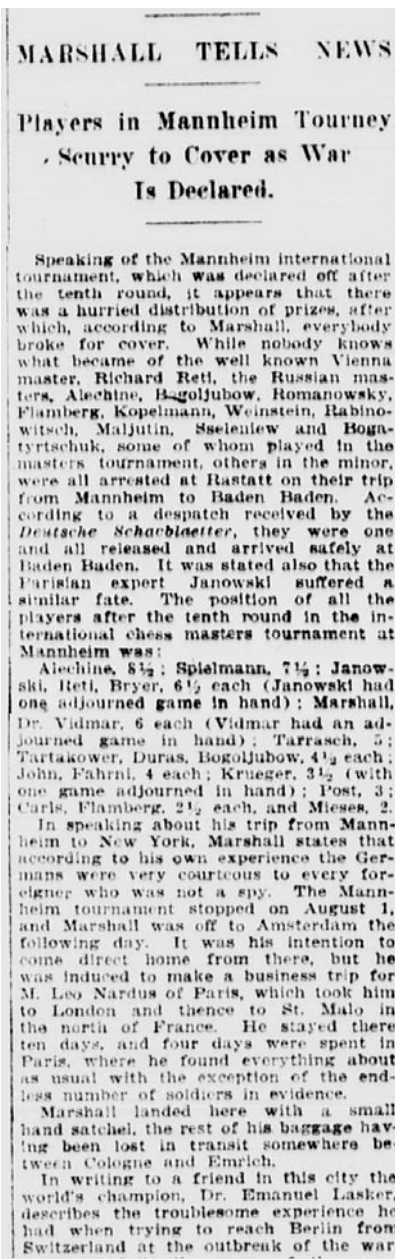
Masters Chess Tourney Starts.
MANNHEIM, July 21.—The first round of the international chess masters' tourney, played in this city yesterday, resulted as follows: Reti, Tartokower, John and Spielmann beat Fahrni, Mises, Tarrasch and Flamberg, respectively; Marshall and Bogoljubow drew, while the Duras-Alechine, Krueger-Carls, Post-Breyer and Vidmar-Janowski games remained unfinished.

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But by the time this tournament ended, war had broken out, news no longer flowed out of Germany, and the life had become complicated for the players, to say the least. American **Frank Marshall** was among those stranded in Germany.

(From the N.Y. *Sun*, September 20, 1914):



MARSHALL TELLS NEWS
Players in Mannheim Tourney Scurry to Cover as War Is Declared.

Speaking of the Mannheim international tournament, which was declared off after the tenth round, it appears that there was a hurried distribution of prizes, after which, according to Marshall, everybody broke for cover. While nobody knows what became of the well known Vienna master, Richard Reti, the Russian masters, Alechine, Bogoljubow, Romanowsky, Flamberg, Kopelmann, Weinstein, Rabinowitsch, Maljutin, Sseleniew and Bogatyrtshuk, some of whom played in the masters tournament, others in the minor, were all arrested at Rastatt on their trip from Mannheim to Baden Baden. According to a despatch received by the *Deutsche Scharblatetter*, they were one and all released and arrived safely at Baden Baden. It was stated also that the Parisian expert Janowski suffered a similar fate. The position of all the players after the tenth round in the international chess masters tournament at Mannheim was:

Alechine, 8½; Spielmann, 7½; Janowski, Reti, Bryer, 6½ each (Janowski had one adjourned game in hand); Marshall, Dr. Vidmar, 6 each (Vidmar had an adjourned game in hand); Tarrasch, 5; Tartakower, Duras, Bogoljubow, 4½ each; John, Fahrni, 4 each; Krueger, 3½ (with one game adjourned in hand); Post, 3; Carls, Flamberg, 2½ each, and Mises, 2.

In speaking about his trip from Mannheim to New York, Marshall states that according to his own experience the Germans were very courteous to every foreigner who was not a spy. The Mannheim tournament stopped on August 1, and Marshall was off to Amsterdam the following day. It was his intention to come direct home from there, but he was induced to make a business trip for M. Leo Nardus of Paris, which took him to London and thence to St. Malo in the north of France. He stayed there ten days, and four days were spent in Paris, where he found everything about as usual with the exception of the endless number of soldiers in evidence.

Marshall landed here with a small hand satchel, the rest of his baggage having been lost in transit somewhere between Cologne and Emrich.

In writing to a friend in this city the world's champion, Dr. Emanuel Lasker, describes the troublesome experience he had when trying to reach Berlin from Switzerland at the outbreak of the war.

"Players in Mannheim Tourney Scurry to Cover as War Is Declared.

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(continued on page 12)

Fatal Attraction

Following was a casual game played in London in 1912 between two friends: Sir George Alan Thomas and Edward Lasker (a very distant relative of the world champion, Emanuel Lasker). Both men were fine chess players: Thomas was British chess champion in 1923 and 1934; and Lasker had won five U.S. championships between 1916 and 1921.

This game has gone down in history as both “*The Immortal King Walk*” and the “*Fatal Attraction*” game, and you can be sure, any chess player will find it a truly attractive one!

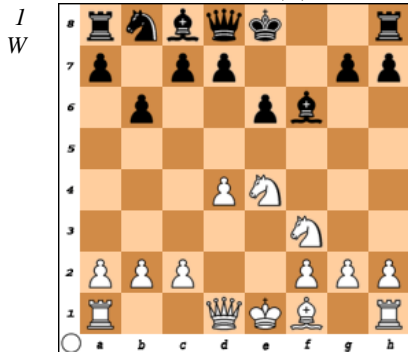


Edward Lasker (left) and Sir Thomas

*Edward Lasker – George Alan Thomas
London, UK, Casual
October 29, 1912*

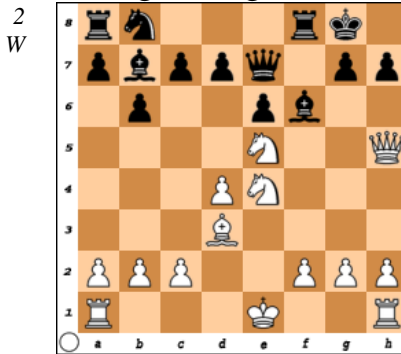
Dutch Defense

1. d4 e6
2. Nc3 f5
3. Nf3 Nf6
4. Bg5 Be7
5. Bxf6 Bxf6
6. e4 fe
7. Nxe4 b6 (1)



Black has the bishop pair in this otherwise sleepy position.

8. Ne5 O-O
9. Bd3 Bb7
10. Qh5!? Qe7 (2)



Anyone who sees this position now, who has seen this game, will play 10. Bxe5 instead of the queen move Thomas played. Because they have seen what follows – out of the blue ...

11. Qxh7! ...

Black has no choice but to take the sacrificed queen ... and what follows is the greatest king-hunt ever seen on a chess board.

11. ... Kxh7

12. Nxf6+ Kh6

Not forced, but if 12. ... Kh8 13. Ng6#.

13. Neg4+ Kg5

Forced. And it gets better.

14. h4+ Kf4

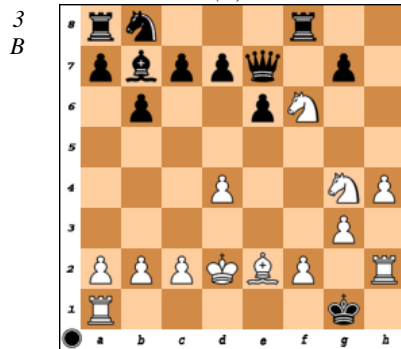
You guessed it. Forced.

15. g3+ Kf3

16. Be2+ Kg2

17. Rh2+ Kg1

18. Kd2# (3) ...



It was suggested to Lasker that it would've been more eloquent for White to have played 18. O-O-O# as the last move, but Lasker, an engineer by trade, said, “*Moving one piece is more efficient.*”

At the conclusion of the game, in true British fashion, Thomas understated: “*This was very nice.*” Indeed, Sir Thomas, indeed.

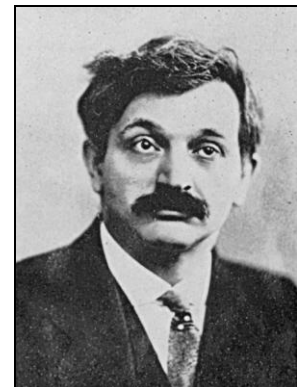
The Champs

While we're talking about Laskers, here's a little refresher on the World Chess Champions from 1886 (first official championship) onwards:

- Wilhelm Steinitz 1886-1894
- Emanuel Lasker 1894-1921
- J.R. Capablanca 1921-1927
- Alexander Alekhine 1927-1935
- Max Euwe 1935-1937
- Alexander Alekhine 1937-1946
- Mikhail Botvinnik 1948-1957
- Vasily Smyslov 1957-1958
- Mikhail Botvinnik 1958-1960
- Mikhail Tal 1960-1961
- Mikhail Botvinnik 1961-1963
- Tigran Petrosian 1963-1969
- Boris Spassky 1969-1972
- Bobby Fischer 1972-1975
- Anatoly Karpov 1975-1985
- Garry Kasparov 1985-2000
- Vladimir Kramnik 2000-2007
- Viswanathan Anand 2007-2013
- Magnus Carlsen 2013-present

For those keeping score, Lasker's reign was longest (27 years), followed by Alekhine in a distant second (two terms, 8 years + 9 years = 17 years total), and then Garry Kasparov with 15.

Botvinnik is the only one to regain the title TWICE. And from 1958 to 1963, we had back-to-back-to-back Mikhails as our champions!



Emanuel Lasker

White's BEST Ten Openings



"The Dismayed Black Knight"

Without discussion, and for what it's worth, based on available data, here's a list of the most successful chess openings for White:

1) Queen's Gambit. 1. d4, d5; 2. c4
White wins 40%, draws 36%, PPG* **0.58**.

2) Blackmar Diemer Gambit. 1. d4, d5; 2. e4, de; 3. Nc3. White wins 49%, draws 16%, PPG **0.57**.

3) Ruy Lopez. 1. e4, e5; 2. Nf3, Nc6; 3. Bb5. White wins 40%, draws 33%, PPG **0.565**.

4) Bishop's Opening. 1. e4, e5; 2. Bc4. White wins 40%, draws 33%, PPG **0.56**.

5-6-7) Benko Opening. 1. g3. White wins 38%, draws 35%, PPG **0.555**.

5-6-7) Reti Opening. 1. Nf3, d5; 2. c4. White wins 37%, draws 37%, PPG **0.555**.

5-6-7) Vienna Game. 1. e4, e5; 2. Nc3. White wins 41%, draws 29%, PPG **0.555**.

8-9-10) Center Game. 1. e4, e5; 2. d4. White wins 44%, draws 22%, PPG **0.55**.

8-9-10) English Opening. 1. c4. White wins 38%, draws 34%, PPG **0.55**.

8-9-10) Scotch Game. 1. e4, e5; 2. Nf3, Nf6, 3. d4. White wins 40%, draws 30%, PPG **0.55**.

NOTE * "PPG" = Points per game

White's WORST Ten Openings



"The Happy Black Knight"

No doubt this list won't deter you if you happen to feel comfortable with one of them. Starting with the worst for White:

1) Van't Kruijs Attack. 1. b3, e5; 2. Bb2, Nc6; 3. g3 White wins 28%, draws 25%, PPG* **0.405**.

2) Anderssen's Opening. 1. a3. White wins 30%, draws 27%, PPG **0.435**.

3) Grob Opening. 1. g4. White wins 36%, draws 18%, PPG **0.45**.

4) Saragossa Opening. 1. c3. White wins 34%, draws 23%, PPG **0.455**.

5) Bird's Opening. 1. f4. White wins 34%, draws 25%, PPG **0.465**.

6) Polish Defense*. 1. d4, b5. White wins 38%, draws 23%, PPG **0.495**.

7-8) Dunst Opening. 1. Nc3. White wins 36%, draws 28%, PPG **0.50**.

7-8) Anti-Veresov Opening*. 1. d4, d5; 2. Nc3, Bg4. White wins 36%, draws 28%, PPG **0.50**.

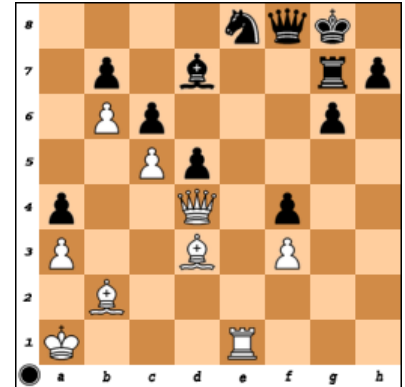
9) Colle System. 1. d4, d5; 2. Nf3. White wins 35%, draws 31%, PPG **0.505**.

10) Mieses Opening. 1. d3. White wins 39%, draws 24%, PPG **0.51**.

* This would seem to indicate the Polish Defense and the Anti-Veresov (responses) as two of the best openings for Black!

Zugzwangerama!

British GM **Matthew Sadler** in his book, *Gamechanger*, has been ecstatic in his studies of AlphaZero, the chess computer that taught itself to play the game. In one of his pieces he presents a game played against Stockfish in which the following position was reached (Stockfish – Black – to move):



In this game it was fascinating to watch White tossing pawns in order to open files (Black has a three pawn 'advantage'), then shifting a kingside attack to a more centralized attack.

And in this position, where can Black move? Here are the possibilities:

1. ... R (moves)??

... and 2. Qh8#.

1. ... B (moves)??

... and 2. Rxe8 (pinning the Black queen) Qxe8 3. Qxg7#.

1. ... N (moves)?

... and that knight will be lost.

And so Black is left with a quiet move, such as ...

1. ... Qf7

... and now, 2. Ba6! and then if 2. ... bxa6 there is no way to stop the passed b-pawn from promoting! Something to be said for opening lines of attack and ensuring that your pieces work together, eh? That's just how AlphaZero rolls!

"Sometimes a computer's assessment is very abstract. It's correct, but it's not useful for a practical game."

Vassily Ivanchuk

SW Missouri Chess Calendar

Pizza Hut Chess!
 Every LAST SUNDAY of the month!
 at the Pizza Hut in Republic (806 US Highway 60)
 starting at 6:00 pm ... G60/d0
 A great opportunity to get in some rated
 games and enjoy some delicious pizza!
 Participation is free but please considering
 ordering a meal to thank out gracious hosts!

**Springfield Park Board
 Club Ladder Tournament**
 Our ongoing cumulative USCF-rated
 Ladder Tournament for 2019 is played
 every Friday (except the last of the month - see
 Blitz Tournament below)
 at 7:15 PM. G90/d5. Members only: so ...
 JOIN THE CLUB (\$10 annual fee) & JOIN THE FUN!

**2019 Missouri State
 University Open**
 April 20 (8 am) and April 21 (7 pm), 2019
 Kentwood Hall Crystal Ballroom
 700 E. St. Louis St, Springfield, MO
 G90/d30, rated. Five rounds Swiss. Half-point bye
 available if requested before Round 3.
 Entry fee \$30. Cash prizes
 MCA membership (from \$5) available on-site.
 sponsored by the Joplin and MSU Chess Clubs

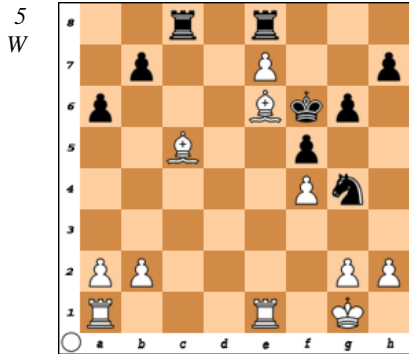
Blitz Tournaments!
 LAST FRIDAY of each month:
 G10/d0. Entry fee \$1.
 All proceeds go to benefit our hosts, the
 Southside Senior Center.
 Be there by 7:15 pm
 to register for pairings.

If you would like to notify us of an upcoming chess-related event in our area, contact Roger Pagel: brevcamp@yahoo.com

Game D

(continued from p. 6)

- 30. Nc7 Rac8
- 31. Nxe6 Bxe6
- 32. Bxe6+ Kf6 (5)



- 33. Bxc8 Rxc8
- 34. e8=Q ...

The material imbalance is far too great – Mr. Phillips resigned. A solid showing by our former *Outpost* editor-in-chief! Mr. Mounts went on to make the “Final Four” championship rounds.

1-0

When Chess Meets War

(continued from p. 9)

tournament stopped on August 1, and Marshall was off to Amsterdam the following day ...

“Marshall landed here with a small hand satchel, the rest of his baggage having been lost in transit somewhere between Cologne and Emrich ...”

Mr. Marshall and all the others got home – and it may have been the most memorable tournament in which they ever participated!

“Mistrust is the most important characteristic of the chess player.”

Siegbert Tarrasch

Psyched!

(continued from p. 8)

But on the other hand, I’ve also noticed my performance seems to follow a kind of “roller coaster graph” such that I do well for a while, then go through a period of embarrassing losses. It seems that the trend – positive or negative – seems to reverse as soon as it establishes itself in my mind. When I sit down at the board thinking, “I suck and I’m going to get slaughtered,” I seem to play better than when I start a game feeling like “I’m finally understanding it!” Power of positive thinking – but in reverse.

Much more has been written and much more could be written. It may well be different for each of us – we are all unique beings. But here’s something we can bank on: we fare better in our games when we play better moves! Amen?