

Alberta Chess Report



Publication of the Alberta Chess Association ♦ Summer 2010

Special Issue!

The Alberta Summer of Chess



South wins Battle of Alberta

The smiling faces tell the story. The team from southern Alberta dominated their northern counterparts in Red Deer, making it 2 years in a row. Will the south complete the hat trick in 2011?



GM Charbonneau wins BATB

5th Edmonton International

GM Magesh Panchanathan overpowered the field in Edmonton this summer, winning 8 out of 9 games with only one draw, easily taking 1st. This set a new record for most points in the tournament. GM Jesse Kraai has been to every Edmonton International and was all alone in 2nd. Richard Wang put in the best performance by an Albertan. The internet audience was the largest to view an Alberta event this year. Hats off to the organizers for putting on an excellent event.



Calgary International Chess Classic

Lawrence Day made the observation that many of the players in Calgary this year had played in at least one tournament at Lone Pine. This was certainly the strongest Calgary International and it was also the strongest tournament in Alberta this year. GM Mikhalevski was the class of the field taking clear 1st, but not without taking some blows on the way. Calgary's Eric Hansen secured his 3rd and final IM norm this year. He secured the norm on his 18th birthday!



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ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

The ACR is published every two months. Deadline for submissions and changes is two weeks prior to the month of publication. We want your submissions! We are always looking for articles on chess as they relate to Alberta.

Submissions are acceptable in any electronic text form, while pictures can be submitted in the following formats: tiff, jpeg, bmp, gif. All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise credited.

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Canadian Chess Challenge

By Bruce Thomas

2010 in Montreal marked the 22nd time Alberta has sent a team to the Canadian Chess Challenge. Team Alberta had a very successful time in Montreal from May 22 to 24. Even the weather was better than in Alberta - sunny skies, warm temperatures!

The Alberta Team set a new record for points earned during the Grades 1 through 12 competition with the nine other provinces. For the three previous years, Alberta was stalled at 64 points, one behind its record of 65 set in Montreal in 2002. The 2010 team did great by getting 71.5 points and even though it ended in its average 4th place, Alberta's score was much closer to the usual leading provinces of Ontario (1st with 91.5) and Quebec (2nd with 80.5). British Columbia with 79 points took third place.

B.C. got third place by beating Alberta, 7-5, in the final round of play on Monday. One more win by Alberta would have tied B.C. and Alberta, but B.C. would still have been third with more total points. So in the end, Alberta finished 4th overall.

The individual results of 2010 Alberta Team Members were:

Grade 1: Kaining Lin, Edmonton - 6 points



for 4th place;
 Grade 2: Patrick Tolentino*, Calgary - 7 points, tied for 2nd-4th place after tiebreak;
 Grade 3: Ian McCullough, Sherwood Park - 7.5 points for 2nd;
 Grade 4: Jamil Kassam*, Edmonton - 7 points for 3rd;
 Grade 5: Diwen Shi, Calgary - 6 points for 3rd;
 Grade 6: Dennis Situ, Edmonton - 3 points for 7th;
 Grade 7: Yuekai Wang*, Calgary - 6.5 points, 2nd after tiebreak;
 Grade 8: Nicka Kalaydina*, Calgary - 7 points, tied for 2nd after tiebreak;
 Grade 9: David Zhang*, Calgary - 8 points for 2nd;
 Grade 10: David Miller, Grande Prairie - 4 points, tied for 7th;

Grade 11: Yaroslav Babich, Calgary - 5 points for 6th;
 Grade 12: Ryan Lacy, Edmonton - 4.5 points, tied for 4th place.

* 2009 Alberta Champ previous grade

Next year the Canadian Chess Challenge will take place in Victoria, BC. Brian Rayer will be the organizer. Many will remember Brian and his team who hosted both the 2009 CYCC and the 2009 Canadian Junior. Both of these events were well organized tournaments. 2011 should be another excellent event.

Thanks to Bruce Thomas, Angelo Tolentino and Rob McCullough for their part in the tournament. Bruce was the Alberta organizer and Angelo and Rob assisted as coaches during the tournament.

CCC 2010 National Final - Team Points Cross-Table (All rounds complete)

	ON	QC	BC	AB	MB	NB	NL	NS	SK	PEI	Total
ON		8.5 1	7 1	10 1	10 1	11 1	12 1	11.5 1	10 1	11.5 1	91.5 9.0
QC	3.5 0		8 1	8.5 1	9.5 1	9.5 1	10 1	9.5 1	10.5 1	11.5 1	80.5 8.0
BC	5 0	4 0		7 1	11 1	9.5 1	11 1	10.5 1	11 1	10 1	79 7.0
AB	2 0	3.5 0	5 0		9.5 1	9.5 1	9.5 1	9.5 1	11 1	12 1	71.5 6.0
MB	2 0	2.5 0	1 0	2.5 0		6.5 1	8 1	8 1	8 1	9 1	47.5 5.0
NB	1 0	2.5 0	2.5 0	2.5 0	5.5 0		6.5 1	7.5 1	6.5 1	9 1	43.5 4.0
NL	0 0	2 0	1 0	2.5 0	4 0	5.5 0		5 0	7 1	8.5 1	35.5 2.0
NS	0.5 0	2.5 0	1.5 0	2.5 0	4 0	4.5 0	7 1		6 0.5	6 0.5	34.5 2.0
SK	2 0	1.5 0	1 0	1 0	4 0	5.5 0	5 0	6 0.5		8 1	34 1.5
PEI	0.5 0	0.5 0	2 0	0 0	3 0	3 0	3.5 0	8 0.5	4 0		22.5 0.5

Battle at the Border

Photo's courtesy of Don MacKinnon

The city of Lloydminster is situated on the border of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Half of the city sits in Saskatchewan, the other half in Alberta. The tournament name makes perfect sense.



Usually, the BATB is a casual tournament. Normally you get a sprinkling of players from Saskatchewan and Alberta. This year it was a bit different. With the likes of GM Hikaru Nakamura, GM Pascal Charbonneau, IM Yan Teplitsky, IM Eric Hansen and FM Jack Yoos, it was not your typical weekend swiss.

Held over the Labour Day weekend in early September, the BATB was a very interesting event. I did my usual duty of running the DGT boards and entering games. I stayed at the site along with Jim Daniluk, Vlad Rekhson and Eric Hansen. It makes it easy to just roll out of bed and walk into the tournament hall.

We got into town on the Friday evening to set up the equipment. When I walked into the tournament room I was surprised to see that every player would have their own table with tons of space. No cramping here. Each table was clothed with white linen, complete with comfortable chairs. The signage was exceptional. Jamin Gluckie went the distance to provide a very professional tournament hall. I knew we were in for more than I had bargained for.

After setting up the DGT boards, we were invited to Jamin's house for a few drinks. When we arrived, we found all the featured players there playing team tandem speed chess. Charbonneau was teamed with Teplitsky while Nakamura was joined with Yoos. The losers would have to drink a shot of vodka. Eventually this would change and it was decided that the winners would each get a shot. After all, they were getting thirsty. The teams changed up several times during the evening and Eric Hansen also joined in the fun. By the end of the evening it was just Nakamura against Charbonneau. At first, Nakamura was giving 5-1 odds on the clock. Pascal kept tempo with each of Hikaru's moves, so then the time odds were eliminated and

they played straight bullet or 1 minute chess. Nakamura is probably the strongest bullet player in the world. His ICC rating is something crazy like 3500. I estimated he was moving at the rate of 2 moves per second. He is probably even faster with a mouse.

After several hours of speed chess, most of the players decided to turn in which left Hansen vs. Gluckie. The games were accompanied by some of the best trash talk I have ever heard. Of course, Eric was giving Jamin time odds as well, but Jamin was holding his own. When a decision couldn't be found on the board, the play moved outside when Jamin challenged Eric to a wrestling match. It didn't seem to matter that it was 1 a.m. and the neighbourhood was fast asleep. The bell rings. Eric got off to a good start and had Jamin in some kind of hold, things were looking good for the young IM. Jamin eventually got out of the hold and tried to get Eric in a head lock. Jamin lunged for Eric at one point. Hansen dropped down and Jamin went face first into the wooden fence causing his nose to bleed on Eric's Armani shirt! After that, it was all Jamin! Eric managed to get out of one of the head locks but eventually had to tap out. Victory for the organizer! This entire match was caught on video by Tyler Janzen and hopefully the movie will find its way to either YouTube or the tournament website. On Saturday morning, it was time to get down to business. Jamin organized a question and answer session with both Nakamura and Charbonneau which was attended by most of the players in the tournament. I was unable to attend as I had other duties but I heard that the session was quite interesting. Nakamura was asked

about his career and where he wanted to go with it. Nakamura's goal is to become number 1 in the world. Next question! Pascal spoke about pattern recognition at one point and explained to the audience that if you play the same opening all the time, your pattern recognition does not develop very much. He recommended playing as many openings as you can, not only to expand your repertoire but to develop your pattern recognition. Sage advice.

Back in the tournament hall, Robert Sasata and Jill Koshinsky were preparing things



TD Jill Koshinsky

for the first round. Jill was serving as TD for the event and Robert was helping with collecting media among other things. Jill made the decision to do pairings by hand and I volunteered to input everything into SwissSys and submit the tournament to the CFC. Jamin made up personalized scorebooks for each of the participants which not only provided score sheets, but also gave brief biographies with photos for each of the players in the event! A really nice touch! Jamin decided not to play, instead concentrating on other matters to



Q&A with Pascal Charbonneau and Hikaru Nakamura



GM Hikaru Nakamura vs. Roger Blum

make everything run smoothly. By the end of registration a total of 32 players were signed up and ready for the BATB. The first round was ready a few minutes behind schedule and play began. Obviously, in a tournament like this, the first round pairings are a series of mismatches. That is the point anyway here. Almost everyone had a shot at the titled players. Nakamura only had one condition and that was that the tournament not be FIDE rated. For Hikaru, this was more of a holiday. It was Labour Day after all! Not a single upset was scored in the first round. Roger Blum got the first shot against one of the world's best. I'm certain that Roger's tournament was made here. One close call saw Bill Bentley play a very



Bill Bentley

reasonable game against Yan Teplitsky. Bill gave Yan a run for his money.



Jason Xiao

In round 2, the rating gap was narrowed and there were a few upsets. Both Roger Blum and Len Steele fell victim to Jason Danner and Jason Xiao respectively, both younger and less experienced players. Aaron Sequillion and Jim Daniluk scored minor upsets by drawing Jack Yoos and



FM Jack Yoos

Keith MacKinnon. The rest of the round went according to your rating. Round 3 saw the beginning of more evenly matched games. Teplitsky, playing black



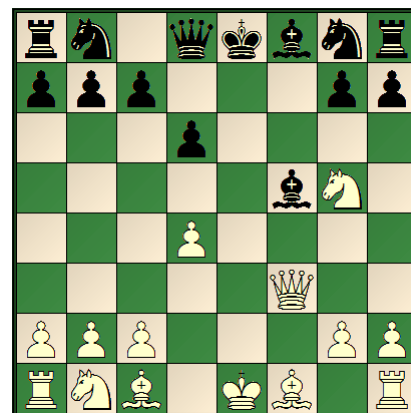
IM Yan Teplitsky

against Nakamura, was just not up to the task and dropped a full point. The "Rocket" stole a half point off Hansen. Jason Danner continued to out-perform his rating by defeating Len Steele. And then came round 4, which from this point forward could be called the "Round of Upsets." The top board featured the two strongest players in the tournament. Charbonneau had white against Nakamura. I'm sure almost everyone thought that the result was obvious. Everyone except Pascal that is. Since this event wasn't FIDE rated,



Jason Danner

this would be a great opportunity to experiment with your openings. This goes a long way in explaining in the game. By move 7, white held a large advantage. Nakamura tanked for about a half an hour and played



7...♔e7+. It was at this point that their DGT stopped working. I'm sure the internet audience was having a heart attack, wondering what was happening. I managed to get the board going again, but spent the entire game baby sitting and watching their game. Nakamura tanked again on his next move, but by this point, Pascal's position looked clearly winning. It is rare to see such a strong player on the ropes before the 10th move. Pascal played accurate chess to take the full point. I doubt Hikaru will repeat this experiment any time soon.

Hansen continued his drawing ways, this time against MacKinnon. Richard Wang experienced a bit of bad luck and chess blindness against Brad Willis. The position looked about even but Richard blundered his queen and the game. Unfortunate for him. Fortunate for Brad. Ali Razaq was



Keith MacKinnon

all over Alex Yam. Ali outplayed his higher rated opponent from start to finish to bag the full point. Jim Daniluk got the best of Roy Yearwood when Roy fell apart in the later part of the game.

So now it was Pascal holding down the top board and the undisputed lead in the tournament, undefeated with 4/4. In round 5 he faced Eric Hansen. Eric, with white,



Eric Hansen

achieved a drawish position against the GM, only to lose his way in the ending. A draw would have been the likely result without Eric's error. Hikaru made short work of Jack Yoos on board 2. Brad Willis scored a minor upset when he drew with Keith MacKinnon. Jason Danner vs. Mike Zeggelaar was a marathon, the last game to finish in round 5. Jason ended up drawing this game, giving him his 3rd upset of the tournament.

Nobody was surprised when in round 6, Charbonneau drew with Teplitsky on the top board. Since a draw was all that Pascal required to secure top spot, there was no need to go for more. Nakamura showed no

2010 Battle at the Border Final Standings

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	Pascal Charbonneau	108065	2520	W23	W18	W16	W2	W5	D3	5.5
2	Hikaru Nakamura	125626	2729	W25	W7	W3	L1	W4	W8	5.0
3	Yan Teplitsky	108777	2466	W22	W9	L2	W17	W10	D1	4.5
4	Jack Yoos	107994	2444	W21	D12	W13	W6	L2	W9	4.5
5	Eric Hansen	132475	2540	W14	W10	D6	D8	L1	W17	4.0
6	Robert J Gardner	108323	2309	W19	W17	D5	L4	W11	D10	4.0
7	Alex Yam	138357	2222	W20	L2	W14	L11	W13	W19	4.0
8	Keith Mackinnon	133701	2300	W27	D13	W12	D5	D9	L2	3.5
9	Bradley J Willis	101736	2130	W24	L3	W19	W16	D8	L4	3.5
10	Vladislav Rekhson	135072	2179	W28	L5	W22	W20	L3	D6	3.5
11	Ali Razzaq	148100	1975	W31	L16	W26	W7	L6	D18	3.5
12	Aaron Sequillion	123727	2074	W29	D4	L8	W21	L16	W20	3.5
13	Jim Daniluk	105606	2022	W32	D8	L4	W18	L7	W21	3.5
14	Mike Zeggelaar	144013	1972	L5	W28	L7	W26	D20	W16	3.5
15	Jason Xiao	149802	1321	L18	D23	L28	W30	W31	W25	3.5
16	Richard Wang	142949	2298	W26	W11	L1	L9	W12	L14	3.0
17	Sean Perron	107746	2074	W30	L6	W27	L3	W22	L5	3.0
18	Roy Yearwood	102743	2162	W15	L1	D21	L13	W25	D11	3.0
19	Terry Chaisson	101988	1780	L6	W30	L9	W24	W27	L7	3.0
20	Jason Danner	132164	1630	L7	W25	W23	L10	D14	L12	2.5
21	Rick Pedersen	143057	1882	L4	W29	D18	L12	W28	L13	2.5
22	Bill Bentley	103443	1891	L3	W24	L10	W28	L17	D23	2.5
23	Len C Steele	100203	1925	L1	D15	L20	W31	D24	D22	2.5
24	Nigel Reynoldson	145155	1302	L9	L22	W32	L19	D23	W26	2.5
25	Roger Blum	135747	1973	L2	L20	W30	W27	L18	L15	2.0
26	Tyler Janzen	144561	1694	L16	W31	L11	L14	W32	L24	2.0
27	Chris Achtemichuk	104930	1730	L8	W32	L17	L25	L19	W31	2.0
28	Jonathan E Drury	138559	1593	L10	L14	W15	L22	L21	W29	2.0
29	Donnie McLeod		unr.	L12	L21	L31	W32	D30	L28	1.5
30	Fraser McLeod		unr.	L17	L19	L25	L15	D29	W32	1.5
31	Eliezer Longaquit		unr.	L11	L26	W29	L23	L15	L27	1.0
32	Devan Drury		unr.	L13	L27	L24	L29	L26	L30	0.0

mercy against MacKinnon and this game was one of the first to finish. Board 3 was won by Yoos over Willis. Jason Xiao managed another upset win, this time over Roger Blum. This gave Jason the biggest upset of the tournament (652 points!) as well as gather the most upset points overall in the event (954 points). He will gain tons of rating points from this tournament, but lack of opportunity will mean that his rating will remain artificially low for some time. I suspect Jason is playing lots of his chess online. Both Roger and Len Steele were quite rusty no doubt. Both of these guys were gentlemen throughout and showed class in victory and defeat.

Jill proved to be an excellent choice as TD. A mother of 3, Jill can juggle with the best of them. She worked hard throughout the tournament as did her husband, Robert. Jill

plans on directing more often in the future which will be good for her and chess. We can always use dedicated tournament directors. Jamin did an outstanding job as organizer. Jamin and his crew put in countless hours fundraising, planning and producing a top notch tournament. The website was first rate and everything went as planned. Jamin will be a father in short order as his wife is expecting just about any day now. I would like to personally thank Jamin for all his hard work and dedication to this event and wish him well in the future. Good luck DAD!



5th Edmonton International

I have been to 4 of the 5 Edmonton International's. This was for me, the most fun I've had at a tournament in a long time. My role was to run the DGT boards and the website. They ran perfectly from a technical point of view. In one of the games, I accidentally inverted the players by colour; the error was pointed out to me and I corrected the error with less than 10 minutes to play in the game. Oh well.

Vlad Rekhson assembled an interesting list of players, as usual. GM Panchanathan was an unknown quantity. We knew he was strong, but we didn't know how strong he was. Giving up just 1/2 a point on the road to first place gave him the best performance in the tournament's history. He played for the full point in each and every game. A well deserved victory.

GM Kraai has played in every Edmonton International. This time he secured a solid second place finish with 7/9. Jesse had an issue with his luggage. The airline he booked lost it and Jesse had to rebuild his wardrobe while in Edmonton. Aside from the few t-shirts, it didn't make much of a difference. Jesse finished in the money.

IM Porper can't complain too much. He also finished in the money with GM Keke lidze. Had this been a GM norm event, I think Ed would have worked even harder. Solid Ed.

Perhaps the biggest story of the tournament was NM Richard Wang. Coming off a good performance in Calgary, Richard finished even better in Edmonton. 50% for any Alberta player is a positive result. Richard is only 11! He put in the best result by an Alberta player. His best is yet to come.

Vlad Rekhson is the force behind this event. Alberta is lucky to have such a talented organizer and arbiter. There were no disputes. There were no problems.

Here are a few games from the event.

Notes by Edward Porper

□ Porper, Edward (2441)

■ Panchanathan, Magesh (2533)

5th Edmonton International

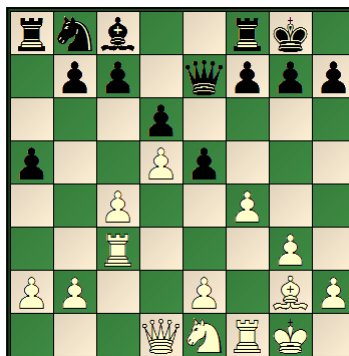
Bogo Indian [E11]

1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 e6 3.♟f3 ♟b4+ 4.♟d2 ♟e7 5.g3 ♟c6 6.♟c3 ♟xc3 7.♟xc3 ♟e4 8.♟c1 0-0 9.♟g2 d6 10.0-0 ♟xc3 11.♟xc3 e5

12.d5 ♟b8 13.♟e1

13.b4 seems to be the most typical continuation, as a typical King's Indian structure allegedly calls for typical King's Indian plans: White concentrates his effort on the c4-c5 breakthrough, while Black responds on the King side.

13...a5 14.f4!?



I decided to opt for an altogether different idea. Quite suddenly, White is threatening to play f5, leaving his opponent's pieces crowded on the last two ranks and gasping for air.

14...exf4

Strange as it is, Black doesn't have much choice. His reliable option, 14...f5, would only contribute in debilitating his own Bishop on e8, as there is no white pawn on e4 to swap its Black counterpart for and get it out of the Bishop's way. After 15.fxe5! ♟xe5 (15...dxe5 16.c5 begins to remind me of a public execution much more than of a chess game!) 16.♟f3 ♟f6 17.♟d4, White can put an endless amount of pressure on the unfortunate pawn by playing ♟cf3, ♟h3 or even g4 if necessary, while he combines this threat with a very nasty penetration option, ♟e6, wreaking havoc in Black's back ranks. 14...e4 fails to 15.♟e3 f5 (15...♟f5 16.♟c2 ♟a6 17.♟d4 turns the pawn into a victim) 16.♟d2 ♟d7 17.♟a3 and White forces ...b6, which allows the White Knight to choose between the luxurious outposts e6 and c6.

15.gxf4 ♟g4?!

It's not easy to refrain from such a natural move, as Black feels obliged to strive for ...f7-f5. If Black procrastinates by 15...♟a6, White might try to immediately go for the jugular with 16.♟g3 ♟c5 17.♟d4 g6 18.e4 ♟e8 19.♟e3 and the looming e4-c5 becomes almost unbearable.



16.♟d4!

Another very strong move, based on a tactical foundation.

16...♟d7

16...♟xe2?? 17.♟e3 or 16...♟xe2 17.♟e3 ♟d1 18.♟d3 ♟d2 19.♟g3 f5 20.h3 c5 21.dxc6 ♟xc6 22.♟xc6 bxc6 23.hxg4+ would be synonymous with immediate resignation.

17.e4 f5□

17...♟fe8 18.♟c2 (even 18.♟e3 f5 19.e5 dxe5 20.fxe5 ♟xe5 21.♟d3 ♟c6! 22.♟xe7 ♟xd4 23.♟xc7 ♟e2 24.♟f4 might somewhat disagree with Black) 18...f5 19.♟e3 turns Black's hopes to break White's central crushing fist into a remote dream.

18.♟g3 ♟ae8 19.♟c2 ♟f6

The Bishop has to wait for an invitation to leave. 19...♟h5 20.exf5 ♟xf5 21.♟h3 followed by ♟e6 and ♟e3-f5.

20.h3 ♟e2

20...♟h5 doesn't make any difference. 21.exf5 ♟e2 22.♟f2 ♟d1+ 23.♟xd1 ♟xd1 24.♟d4 ♟e4 25.♟xc4 ♟xc4 26.♟e6 ♟f7 27.♟g2+.

21.♟f2 ♟h5 22.exf5 ♟f7

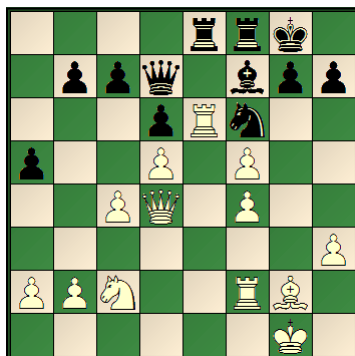
During the post-mortem, Magesh was reproaching himself for this move, yet it wasn't easy to find a worthy alternative. 22...♟d7 23.♟c3 ♟xf5 24.♟d4 (or even a straightforward 24.♟xa5 ♟h4 25.♟c3 ♟f6 26.♟d4 ♟xf4 27.♟xf4 ♟xf4 28.♟e6) 24...♟e1+ 25.♟xe1 ♟xe1+ 26.♟h2 ♟f7 27.♟e6 ♟f6 28.♟d8 provides White with a material advantage for no real compensation.

23.♟e3?!

Denying myself a rare chance to do a "Petrosian" would be a hard choice but to do myself justice, I must say that my instincts lead me elsewhere instead. I rejected a tempting 23.♟f3 because of

23...♙h5 24.♖e2 ♗xc2! 25.♙xe2 ♖xe2 and the tables might have already been turned on White. His numerous weaknesses spell danger despite the proud Queen that has no counterpart. I naturally leaned towards 23.♗c3 but 23...♗h5 (23...b6 24.♖e3 ♗d7 25.♗d4 followed by ♗e6 would see Black in a totally disastrous position) 24.♖e3 (24.♖g5 h6 25.♖g4 ♗f6 26.♖g3 ♗h5) 24...♗h4 seems to provide Black with some unpleasant counter-play. 25.♗d4 ♗xf4 26.♗e6? ♙xe6 27.fxc6 ♗xf2+ 28.♗xf2 ♗xd5+-+. As I couldn't find any satisfactory way to defend the f4 pawn, I finally opted for the text, but was feeling absolutely awe-stricken when after the game my opponent showed me the incredible 24 ♖xg7!! ♗xg7. 25 f6 and the daring pawn destroys the Knight and the Rook, leaving White a piece up!

23...♗d7 24.♖e6?



Adding insult to injury. The very "Petrosian" I was cherishing so much, while contemplating my plan, turns out to be a blunder and an almost losing move! It wasn't too late to play 24.♗d3, keeping the game balanced 24...c5 25.♖xe8 (25.dxc6 bxc6 26.♗d4 d5 27.c5 ♗e4 28.♙xe4 dxe4 29.♗c3 {29.♖xe4?! ♖xe4 30.♗xe4 ♖e8} 29...♙xa2 results in unnecessary complications) 25...♖xe8 26.♙f3 and White keeps the pawn but for decent compensation.

24...♙xe6 25.fxc6 ♗e7

Only now did I start to realize that I had totally mis-evaluated this position. I hoped that the Black Rooks would be buried behind my pawn chain, but amazingly, White can't prevent them from taking control over f and g files. White's miserable Bishop is the primary reason for the inevitable disaster, as it is unable to influence the game in any significant way.

26.♙f3 ♗h8 27.♖g2 ♖b8

The first alert: Black is threatening to

burst the b-file open with ...b7-b5.

28.♙e2 ♗g8

The Knight need not go to e8 as the Queen alone provides the g7 square all the protection needed, while the landing point for the Knight is e7.

29.♗e3 ♗f6 30.♗xf6 ♖xf6 31.f5

31.♖f2 ♖bf8 32.f5 g6 is no relief either.

31...g6 32.♙d3 gxf5 33.♗xf5 ♖e8

The passed pawn is still to be reckoned with. If 33...♗h6, then 34.♗g7.

34.♙c2 b5

A forced but strong response as the key d5 pawn eventually falls.

35.cxb5 ♗e7 36.♗e3 ♖f3 37.♗c4 ♖f4

37...♗xd5?? 38.♙e4+-.

38.♗e3 ♖g8 39.b3!?

A very difficult move right at time control. White is engaged in a dogfight for his life. Every threat counts.

39...♖d4 40.♖xg8+ ♗xg8 41.♗c4 ♗xd5?

41...♖xd5! 42.a4 ♖d4 43.♗xa5 ♖d2

44.♙e4 d5 45.♙f3 ♗g7 46.♙g4 ♖b2 might have done it for Black. The White pieces are scattered and not extremely efficient.

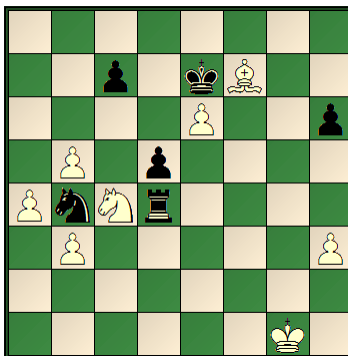
42.a4 h6 43.♗xa5 ♗b4?!

Probably wrong. The Knight belongs to e7.

44.♙g6 ♗f8 45.♗c4 ♗e7 46.♙f7

46.♙f5 ♖f4 47.♙g4 h5 48.♙xh5 ♗xe6 would have allowed the Black King to centralize, though 49.b6 c5 50.♙g4+ ♗d5 51.b7 ♗a6 52.♙d7 ♖f7 53.♙b5 ♗b8 54.♗a5 is still unclear.

46...d5



47.b6

An important resource.

47...cxb6 48.♗xb6 ♖d1+

48...♖d3 49.a5 d4 (49...♖xb3? 50.a6! ♖a3 51.a7) 50.a6 ♗xa6 51.♗d5+ ♗f8 52.♙h5

♖g3+♖ 53.♗f2 ♖g7 54.e7+ ♖xe7 55.♗xe7 ♗xe7=.

49.♗f2 d4 50.♗c8+ ♗f6 51.♙h5

Unfortunately for me, it was not enough for a complete reversal, but I felt that a draw would be a deserved reward for my continuous fighting under strenuous circumstances.

51...♗d3+ 52.♗e2 ♖c1 53.♗xd3

53.e7 ♖xc8 54.e8 ♗xe8+ 55.♙xe8 ♗c1+=.

53...♖xc8 54.♗xd4 ♖b8 55.♗c4 ♗xe6 56.♙f3 ♖f8 57.♙b7 ♗d6 58.b4 ½-½.

Notes by Edward Porper

□ Van Heirzeele, D (2120)

■ Wang, Richard (2190)

5th Edmonton International

Closed Catalan [D43]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♗f3 ♗f6 4.♗c3 e6 5.g3

A seemingly innocuous move but it can prove to be pretty poisonous if Black decides to cling to the extra pawn.

5...dxc4 6.a4 ♗b7

6...c5 is an interesting alternative.

7.♙g2 ♙e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.e4 e5 10.dxe5

GM Gupta tried 10.d5 and succeeded against a lower rated opponent, but objectively, Black's position looks very safe and comfortable.

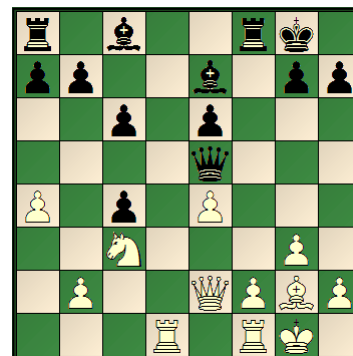
10...♗g4 11.♙f4 ♗a5 12.e6 fxe6 13.♗e2

White has also attempted 13.♙d6, 13.♗g5 and 13.e5 ♗gxe5 14.♗xe5 ♗xe5 15.♗h5 ♖f5 16.♗e8+ ♙f8 with some initiative for 2 pawns, but the stats, in general, favour Black overwhelmingly.

13...♗ge5 14.♗xe5

14.♗d4 is another popular move in this position and a double-edged sword at that.

14...♗xe5 15.♙xe5 ♗xe5 16.♖ad1?



White's very first independent move turns

out to be a disaster. 16.♖xc4 was an absolute must, as now White has no compensation for the pawn. After 16...♗c5 17.♗xc5 ♕xc5 18.e5 (18.♖ad1 e5 and White is in trouble again, as a pair of Bishops combined with pressure on the f-pawn is no light matter) 18...♗d4 19.♖ac1 ♗d7 and the position is about equal.

16...b5 17.♖h1

White's main chance is to push e4-e5, liberating the Bishop. That's why he is trying to prevent a tempo-gaining check after f2-f4. 17.f4 ♗c5+ 18.♖h1 b4 (18...e5?? 19.axb5 cxb5 20.♖d5) 19.♖b1 e5 20.♖d2 (20.♖c1 c3 21.bxc3 b3+) 20...cxf4 (20...♗a6 21.♖c1 ♖ad8 22.♖xc4 ♖d4 {22...b3 23.fxe5 ♖d4 24.♗h3} 23.b3) 21.gxf4 ♗a6 22.♖c1 ♖ad8 23.♖xc4 b3 24.♖f3 ♖d4 25.♗h3 ♖f6 (25...♗xc4? 26.♖xc4! =) 26.♗f1 ♗b4+.

17...b4 18.♖b1 ♗a6 19.♗h3

19.b3 ♗a5! 20.bxc4 ♗xa4 is utterly hopeless.

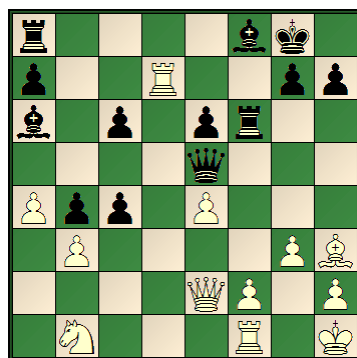
19...♖f6

The ♖ defends and attacks at the same time.

20.♖d7

20.f4 ♗a5 21.e5 ♖h6+.

20...♗f8 21.b3



21...♗c8

Taking advantage of a momentous occasion.

22.♖d8 c3 23.♗c4 ♗a6 0-1.

And the miserable White Knight on b1 seals White's fate in this game.

Notes by Edward Porper

□ Van Heirzeele, D (2120)

■ Gardner, R (2151)

5th Edmonton International

Open Catalan [E04]

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.♖f3 dxc4

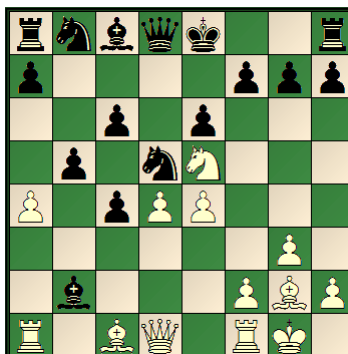
5.♗g2 b5 6.a4 c6 7.♖e5 ♖d5

Sometimes White prefers to drive the Knight away from d5 first.

8.♖c3

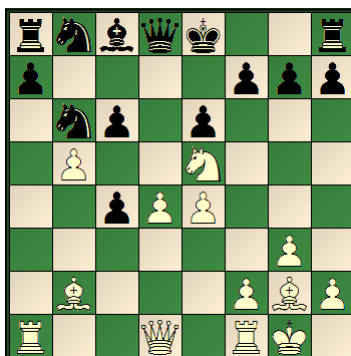
8.e4 ♖f6 9.0-0 followed by ♖c3.

8...♗b4 9.0-0 ♗xc3 10.e4 ♗xb2



Surprisingly, this move is already a novelty. The only game I found in my database continued 10...♗b4 11.exd5 cxd5 12.axb5 0-0 13.♖xc4 and White gained a significant advantage.

11.♗xb2 ♖b6 12.axb5?!



A dubious move. White doesn't really want to create THREE passed pawns for his opponent, while providing the c8 Bishop with a convenient diagonal to operate along. The straightforward 12.♗h5 0-0 (12...g6 13.♗h6 b4 14.♗g7 ♖f8 15.a5 c3 16.axb6 cxb2 {16...♗xb6 17.♗c1 a5 18.♗h6+-} 17.♖xa7) 13.♗a3 wins an exchange as 13...g6 14.♗h6 ♖e8 15.♖xf7 ♗xd4 (15...♖xf7 16.♗xh7+ ♖f6 17.e5+ ♖f5 18.♗h3+ ♖g5 19.♗h4+ ♖f5 20.♗f4#) 16.♖d6 ♖d8 17.♖ad1 ♗g7 18.♖f5! ♗xh6 19.♖xd8+ is a recipe for a disaster. 12.♗a3 is another option as White at least keeps the opponent's King under fire.

12...cxb5 13.d5?

13.♗a3 seems now to be a must, two pawns up AND the King in relative safety is a big advantage.



13...0-0 14.♗h5 f6 15.♖g4 e5

Wisely, Black keeps the game closed, leaving White's better developed pieces little space to operate on.

16.f4 ♗xg4 17.♗xg4 ♖8d7

The development advantage is gone, while White's pair of Bishops are desperately looking for some worthy congregation to preach to!

18.fxe5 fxe5

18...♖xe5? 19.♗xe5 fxe5 20.♗e6+ ♖h8 21.♗xe5 and White's powerful centre might prove more than a match to a single extra-pawn.

19.♗a3 ♖xf1+?

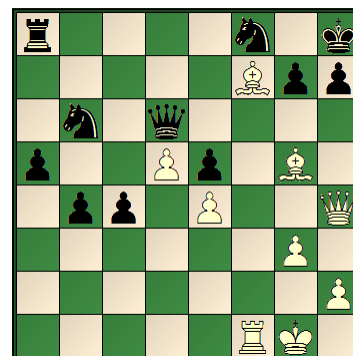
An unnecessary concession of an important file with far-reaching consequences. 19...♖f6! 20.♖xf6 ♗xf6 21.♖f1 ♗g6 and White is hard put to create any threats at all. 22.♗h4 (22.♗xg6 hxg6 23.♖b1 a6) 22...♖f6 23.♗e7 ♖bd7 24.♗h3 c3 (24...♖e8? 25.♗f5 ♗h6 26.♗e6+ ♖h8 27.♗xh6 gxh6 28.♗xf6+ ♖xf6 29.♖xf6 c3 30.♗d7 c2 31.♖c6+-) 25.♗f5 ♗c8.

20.♖xf1 ♗e8 21.♗h3 a5 22.♗h4 b4

23.♗e6+ ♖h8 24.♗c1 ♖f8 25.♗f7 ♗b8

And those are the consequences. Black has to live with White's Bishop on h6. 25...♖d8 26.♗g5 ♗d6 27.♗c7 ♗d7 28.♗g5 (28.♗f6 ♖c8).

26.♗h6 ♗d6 27.♗g5?



Saying "A," White fails to say "B." He has never in this game been as close to a draw as he is now. 27.♙xg7+!? ♗xg7 28.♙c6! ♜xc6 29.♚f6+ ♖g8 30.♚f7+ ♗h8 31.♚f6+.

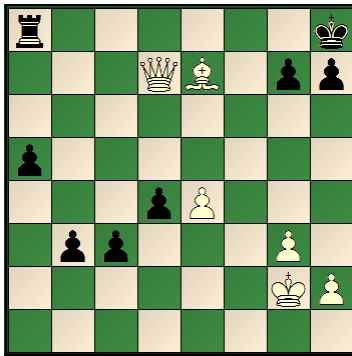
27...♜bd7 28.♖g2

Now that the other Knight has arrived on d7. 28.♙e7 can be met by the simple 28...♚h6.

28...c3 29.♚g4 b3 30.♙e6 ♜xe6 31.dxc6 ♜f8 32.e7 ♖g6??

Out of the blue, Black loses track and gets a shade of red and purple! There are only two open files on the board and all Black had to do is cover TWO back-rank squares. 32...♜e6 33.♙d1 (33.♚xe6 ♚xe6 34.♚f8+ ♚g8-) 33...♜d4 34.♚f1 ♙g8 looks bad for White.

33.♙d1 ♚d4□ 34.♚xd4 exd4 35.♚d7 ♜xe7? 36.♙xe7?



So huge is the Black pawns' potential that even with a Queen up, White has to be careful. 36.♚b7! ♙e8 37.♚xb3 would have broken the pawn-chain and gradually allowed White to deal with the remaining pawns.

36...b2 37.♚b7 ♙g8 38.♚b3??

A waste of time. Rybka believes that White could still save the game by playing 38.♜f2 d3 39.♜e1 ♙e8 40.e5 h6 41.♙d6 d2+ 42.♜d1 a4 43.♚c4 ♙c8 44.♚c2 ♙c8 45.♚b1 (45.♚e4 a3 46.♙xa3 ♙xe5) 45...a3 46.♜c2 ♙a8 47.♚a2 ♙c8 48.♚b3 ♙a8 49.♚a2 ♙c8=.

38...d3 39.♙g5 a4 40.♚a2 ♙b8 0-1.

Notes by Jesse Kraai

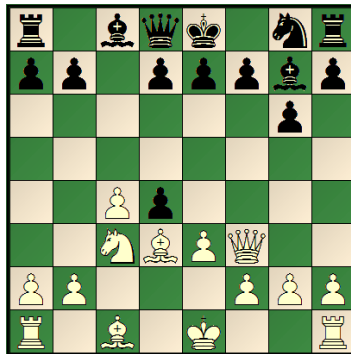
□ Kraai, Jesse (2502)

■ Wang, Richard (2190)

5th Edmonton International

Symmetrical English [A35]

1.♜f3 c5 2.c4 ♜c6 3.♜c3 ♜d4 4.e3 ♜xf3+ 5.♚xf3 g6 6.d4 ♙g7 7.♙d3!N exd4



1:28: This is the wrong practical decision! 7...d6 8.0-0 ♜f6 9.h3 0-0 10.♙d1 ♚b6 11.b3 and White is just a little bit better.

8.exd4 ♙xd4

1:26

9.0-0

1:33

9...♙g7?!

1:19: ♠9...d6! 10.♙c1 a) 10.h3 ♜f6 (10...♙g7 11.c5!→) 11.♙h6; b) 10.♙c2 is also interesting; 10...♜f6! 11.♙h6 ♜g4.

10.♙e1 ♜f6 11.♙g5 0-0 12.♜d5

1:31

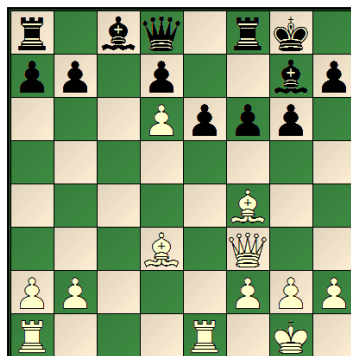
12...♜xd5

1:12

13.cxd5 f6 14.d6!

1:31

14...c6 15.♙f4



1:20: An instructive position, Rybka

thinks Black is a little better whereas I think White has a clear advantage!

15...f5

57: I felt this move was incorrect on principle: Black should not move any of his K-side pawns as this will only create weaknesses. 15...♚a5 16.♙ac1! (16.♚e2 b6 17.♙ac1 ♙b7 18.♙c7 {18.♙b5 ♚xa2 19.♙ed1} 18...♙d5 {18...♙c6 19.♙xc6 dxc6 20.♚xe6+ ♗h8 21.d7→} 19.a3 {19.♙xd7 ♚a4!} 19...♚a4 20.♙g3 a6. During the game, I felt Black should be aiming for something like this) 16...♚xa2 17.♚e2 (17.♙c7 ♚xb2 18.h4 a5 19.h5 f5 20.♙g3 a4 21.hxg6→) 17...f5 18.♙e5 ♚d5 19.f4 transposes to the line given below; 15...♚b6 16.♙e2.

16.♙ac1 1:10 16...♚a5 17.♚e2 b6

17...♚xa2 18.♙e5 ♚d5 19.f4 ♙xe5 20.fxe5 I thought this position would be very good for me, at first Rybka does not agree 20...a5 (20...b6 21.♙c7 ♙d8 22.♙c4 ♙d4+ 23.♚f2 ♚xf2+ 24.♜xf2 a5 25.♙b5 ♜f8 26.♙ec1 ♜e8 27.♙c6 dxc6 28.♙e7+ ♜f8 29.♙xc6 ♙d7 30.♙c7 ♙e8 31.♙xh7 ♜g8 32.♜e3!+-) 21.♙c7 a4 22.♙b5 ♙d8 23.♙d1 ♚c4 24.♚xc4 fxe4 25.♙dc1 ♜f7 26.♜f2 b6 27.♜e3 ♜e8 28.♜xe4 looks very forcing.

18.♙c7 ♙b8?! 19.♙c4 ♚b4

31: 19...♚xb2 20.♙d2 ♚a3 21.♙h6 ♙d8 22.♙xa7!; 19...♙b7 20.♙xe6+--.

20.♙e5

54

20...♙xe5 21.♚xe5 ♙e8

23

22.♙b5

45

22...♙d8 23.♙ec1

45

23...♚a5

9 24.b4! ♚xb4 25.♙c4! ♙e8 26.♙a6!



1-0.

Notes by Michael Kekelidze

□ Kekelidze, Michael (2487)

■ Haessel, Dale (2243)

5th Edmonton International

Grünfeld [D80]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.♕g5

The Georgian variation.

4...♗e4 5.♕f4!?

The main move is 5.♕h4 but because I had no computer to prepare for the games in Edmonton, I wanted to play a seldom played but simple line to play for a slight advantage or even the initiative.

5...♗xc3 6.bxc3 ♕g7

On 6...dxc4, White can play 7.♖a4+ and here the advantage is that after White takes on c4, the c7 pawn will be hanging and Black will have to spend a tempo to defend it.

7.e3 0-0 8.♗f3 c5 9.cxd5 ♖xd5 10.♕e2 cxd4 11.cxd4 ♗c6

11...♖a5+!? is interesting but after 12.♖d2 ♖xd2+ 13.♗xd2, White places his Rooks on the b and c files with a better position. I have won lots of games with these types of positions.

12.0-0 ♖a5!?

A rare move. More common is 12...♕f5 13.♖a4 ♖a5 14.♖b3 ♖b4. Theory considers this position equal, but after ♗fc1, White is a little better. The idea of ...♖a5 is to play ...e5, releasing the tension.

13.♗d2! ♖d8

13...e5 14.♗c4 ♖d5 15.♗xe5 wins a pawn.

14.♗c4 ♖d5 15.♕c7!?! ♖e8

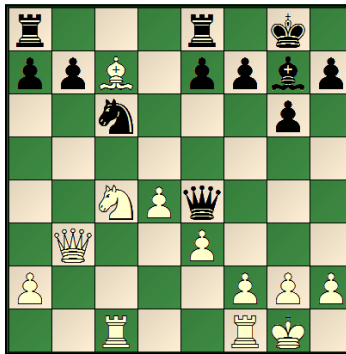
The idea here is that if 15...♗d7 16.♕g3 and Black's Rook on d7 is bad.

16.♖c1 ♕f5?!

This is a mistake. 16...♕f5 is probably =. I could not find any advantage after this. Black's idea here is to trade of the light square Bishop, but this leaves him with a

bad Bishop on g7, also allowing White to play d5 and ♖b3 with the initiative.

17.♕f3 ♕e4 18.♕xe4 ♖xe4 19.♖b3!

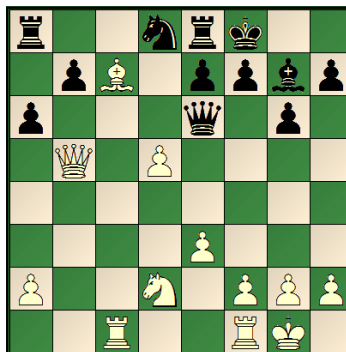


White is winning now.

19...♗d8 20.♗d2 ♖e6 21.♖b5

I could have won a pawn with 21.♕xd8 ♖exd8 22.♖c7 but the move I played was stronger.

21...♗f8 22.d5 a6?



Black wants to play ...♖d7 so he tries to get the White Queen to move off the diagonal. Dale missed my next move.

23.♖xe8+ 1-0.

Notes by Magesh Panchanathan

□ Kekelidze, Mikheil (2487)

■ Panchanathan, Magesh (2533)

5th Edmonton International

Open Catalan [E04]

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.♗f3 dxc4 5.♕g2 a6 6.♗e5 c5 7.♗a3 cxd4 8.♗axc4 ♕c5 9.0-0 0-0



This is a well known opening position. Anand played ♕d2 here in his second game against Topalov in their world championship match and won the game. He tried it again in Game 6 with ♕g5 in this position and that ended in a draw.

10.e3!?!N a5

I found this move interesting over the board. I did not find any good ways for Black to improve. One of White's main threat after e3 is to trade of the dark squared Bishop and plant his Knight on b6. The text move also allows the b8 Knight to be developed to a6. However, further analysis is required to conclude on this move.

11.exd4 ♕xd4 12.♕f4

12.♕c3 ♕xe5 (12...♕xc3 13.♖xd8 ♖xd8 (13...♕xf2+? 14.♖xf2 ♖xd8 15.♗b6 ♖a7 (15...♖a6 16.♗xc8 ♖xc8 17.♕xb7+-) 16.♖c1 ♗c6 17.♕xc6+-) 14.fxe3 (14.♗xe3 ♗d5 15.♖fd1 ♗c6=) 14...♗bd7 15.♖ad1 ♖f8 16.♗xd7 ♗xd7 17.♖c1 ♖a6 18.♖fd1 and White maintains a very strong position. Black's weak Bishop on c8 gives all the compensation White needs for his pawn) 13.♗xe5 ♖xd1 14.♖fxd1 ♗d5 15.♕c5 ♖d8 16.♗c4 ♗c6 17.♖ac1 With a very pleasant position for White.

12...♗a6 13.♗xa5



This move leads to a bunch of trades leading to an equal endgame. At this point we both were looking to split the point peacefully given that it was an evening



game and we were quite tired. The "No draw before 30 moves" rule was implemented in the tournament and fortunately for me, I had no choice but to play on.

13...♙xb2 14.♚xd8

14.♜xb7 ♙xb7 15.♙xb7 ♙xa1 16.♚xa1 (16.♙xa8 ♚xd1 17.♚xd1 ♙xe5 18.♙xe5 ♚xa8) 16...♜b4 17.♙xa8 ♚xa8 with a very pleasant position for Black.

14...♚xd8 15.♚ab1

15.♚ad1 ♚xd1 16.♚xd1 ♜d5=.

15...♙xe5 16.♙xe5 ♜d5 17.♜xb7

17.♜c4 ♜ab4 18.♚fd1 ♜c6 19.♜b6 ♜xb6 20.♚xd8+ ♜xd8 21.♚xb6 f6 and Black is more than fine.

17...♙xb7 18.♚xb7 ♜c5 19.♚b5 ♜d3

20.♙d4 ♜3b4

20...♚xa2?? I almost played this move over the board. Somehow I was blinded from the obvious fact that my Knight on d3 is actually trapped. 21.♙xd5 exd5 22.♚b3+, winning the Knight.

21.♚d1 ♜xa2 22.♙xd5

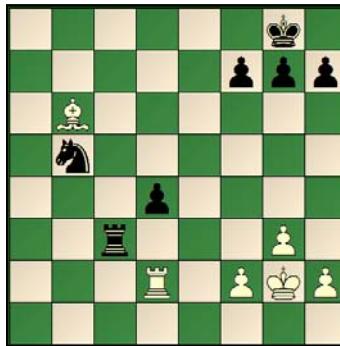
We both knew where this game was heading. My extra pawn does not really mean anything when I have a Knight so badly misplaced on a2. But again we had 8 more moves to play before we can agree to a draw and I figured I had a tiny tiny chance to push for a win.

22...♚xd5 23.♚xd5 exd5 24.♙b6 ♜c3

25.♚d3 ♚c8 26.♙a5 d4 27.♙b6 ♜b5

28.♙g2 ♚c3 29.♚d2??

The Black Knight has to get to c4 any-ways, this move only makes that a bigger threat. After this move, Black probably gets to keep his extra pawn, but White still has good chances to hold. 29.♚d1 d3



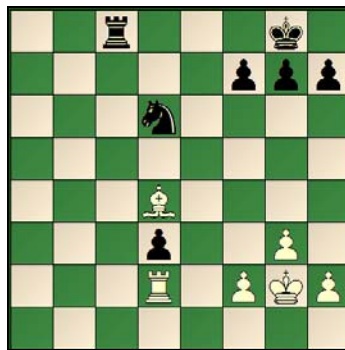
30.♙f3 ♜d6 31.♙c3 f6 32.♙d4 ♚b3 (32...♚c2 33.♙xd3) 33.♙c5 and White finally wins the pawn back.

29...d3 30.♚b2?

30.♙f3 ♜a3 31.♙d4 ♚b3 32.♙e4 ♜c2

33.♙a7 ♚a3 34.♙b8 (34.♙b6).

30...♜d6 31.♙d4 ♚c8 32.♚d2



32...♚d8!

And things have gotten much worse for White in the last few moves. Once I get my Knight to c4, my extra pawn is just too good.

33.♙b6?

Allowing my Knight to get to c4 directly. The correct approach for White is to wait with his Bishop on d4 until I move the

Knight out of d6.

33...♜c4 34.♙xd8 ♜xd2

A clearly winning Knight vs Bishop end-game for Black.

35.f4 f5 36.♙f2 ♜c4 37.h3 ♙f7 38.g4 ♙e6 39.♙f3 g6 40.♙h4 ♜d5 41.♙f6 ♙c5 42.gxf5 gxf5 43.♙f2 ♙b4 44.♙e1 ♙b3 45.♙d1 ♜d6 46.♙d2 ♜e4+ 47.♙xd3 ♜xf6

Intuitively one can say that this position is easily winning for Black. Indeed there are several ways to win for Black, but I nevertheless decided to analyze some of the variations in the endgame as I found them instructive.

48.♙d4 ♙g8

48...♜h5 49.♙e5 ♜g3 with the idea to play h5 and then bring the King closer is probably the simplest way to win here. 48...♜d7 49.♙d5 ♙c3 50.♙c6 ♜d4 (50...♜f8+?? Pretty much the only possible way to concede a draw in this position is 51.♙xf5 ♜d4 52.♙f6 ♙e4 {52...♙d5 53.♙g7} 53.f5! ♙f4 54.♙g7 ♙xf5 55.♙xf8 h5 56.♙e7! the only saving move {56.♙f7?? h4! wins instantly{56...♙f4?? 57.♙e6 ♙g3 58.♙f5 ♙xh3 59.♙f4 ♙g2 60.♙g5} }) 51.♙xd7 ♙e4+.

49.♙e5 ♙c4 50.h4 ♜h6 51.♙f6 ♙d5 52.♙g5 ♜g8 53.♙xf5 ♙d6 54.♙g5 ♙e6 55.h5 ♙f7 56.♙f5 h6 0-1.



5 th Edmonton International Avg: 2329 Cat: IV July 28-August 2, 2010													
#	NAME	FIDE	FED	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Tot
1	GM Magesh Panchanathan	2533	IND	W8	W10	W3	W9	W7	W2	D4	W6	W5	8.5
2	GM Jesse Kraai	2502	USA	D3	W9	W7	W6	D4	L1	W5	W8	X10	7.0
3	GM Mikheil Kekelidze	2487	GEO	D2	D4	L1	D5	W8	W10	W6	W9	W7	6.5
4	IM Edward Porper	2441	CAN	D10	D3	W9	W7	D2	D6	D1	W5	W8	6.5
5	Richard Wang	2190	CAN	W6	D8	W10	D3	D9	W7	L2	L4	L1	4.5
6	Robert J Gardner	2151	CAN	L5	D7	D8	L2	W10	D4	L3	L1	W9	3.5
7	FM Michael Langer	2280	USA	W9	D6	L2	L4	L1	L5	D8	X10	L3	3.0
8	FM Vladimir Pechenkin	2345	CAN	L1	D5	D6	D10	L3	D9	D7	L2	L4	2.5
9	FM Dale Haessel	2243	CAN	L7	L2	L4	L1	D5	D8	X10	L3	L6	2.0
10	Daniel Van-Heirzeele	2120	BEL	D4	L1	L5	D8	L6	L3	F9	F7	F2	1.0

BEYOND ALBERTA North American Youth Chess Championship

Albertans at the CYCC

By Bruce Thomas

Playing in the Canadian Youth Chess Championships in Windsor, Ontario, this past week were nine Alberta players most of them being Alberta scholastic champions for their grade level.

Nicka Kalaydina of Calgary was the only Albertan on Friday to win a championship title to represent Canada at the World Youth Chess Championship in Halkidiki, Greece, October 19 to 31.

Competing against 10 others in the Girls age 14 and under division, Kalaydina got clear first, scoring 5.5 in seven games.

Eric Hansen of Calgary was the highest rated player in the entire event, but did not win his under 18 category which had 10 competitors. Hansen scored 5.5, but fell a half point behind the leader and was awarded second on tiebreak.

Edmontonian Richard Wang was the highest-rated in the biggest division of boys

age 12 and under. Four of the 40 players ended up scoring 5.5, but on tiebreak formula, Wang fell to second place. David McCullough of Sherwood Park was also in the under 12 section and scored 4 for 14th spot.

Jamil Kassam of Edmonton got a clear fourth place with 5 points in the 20-player under 10 section while in the same group, Ian McCullough of Sherwood Park registered 4 points and placed 10th.

Calgarian Patrick Tolentino ended up in sixth place with a score of 4 in the under 8 boys division which had 15 players.

Yuekai Wang of Calgary was among 24 players in the under 14 section and was awarded ninth place after registering 4 points in his seven games.

In the under 16 competition with 14 players, David Zhang of Calgary also got 4 points and placed sixth.

Final crosstable results for the Canadian Youth Championships are at :

<http://monroi.com/2010-cycc-results.html>

Canada hosted the 2010 NAYCC this past August in Montreal. This was the first time the event had been held in Canada. Larry Bevand and Chess'n Math were the organizers. There were players from 4 different nations competing; Canada, USA, Mexico, Haiti. The tournament sections are the same as the WYCC with sections for every 2 years from 8 to 18, both girls and boys. Winners from each section qualify to the 2011 Pan American Youth Festival with free accommodations and food.

The Calgary Chess Club had two players on the roster. Diwen Shi scored 4/7 in the U12 section and Nicka Kalaydina finished with 5/7, good enough for 2nd place in the U14 Girls section.

A total of 216 players registered across all sections. 3 Canadian players won their sections. They were:

U 12 Open: Hong Rui Zhu

U 14 Open: Ziyi Qin

U 16 Open: Arthur Calugar

16th Medicine Hat Open

September 18-19

Next Step Residential Services Building,
402 Maple St. SE.

5 Round Swiss, CFC Rated

Organizer: Medicine Hat Chess Club

Info: Bill Taylor (403) 526-5484 Home

(403) 529-0010 Work,

email taylorwmw@shaw.ca or tficzere@telus.net

TD: Tony Ficzere & Bill Taylor

Time Control: Game in 90 + 30 second increment

Round Times: Saturday 10 am, 2 pm, 7 pm, Sunday 9 am, ASAP

Entry Fee: \$40 Adult, \$35 Junior (Under 18),

\$15 Cadet (14 & Under, no prize option).

Cash only at site

Byes: 1/2 point byes available in first 3 rounds if notified prior to start of round 1

Prize Fund: Based on entries less ACA dues, plus merchandise!!

Prize sections to be determined by rating distribution

1st & 2nd place plaques & permanent trophy nameplate

Registration: On site Saturday 9-9:45 am

Advanced entries email tficzere@telus.net

Free snacks!

Drinks & Dessert on Saturday night

Lunch for a buck on Sunday!!

View the world's largest chess set between rounds!

<http://www.albertachess.org/2010MHO.html>



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Alberta Chess Association



Road Warrior

Accommodations

Billets

There are a limited number of billets available. Contact Bill Taylor to arrange your billet.

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Best Western Inn \$109.99 + tax
722 Redcliff Drive SW
1-888-527-6633

Callaghan Inn \$104.99 + tax
Trans Canada Hwy & 7th St. SW
1-800-661-4440

Comfort Inn \$103.49 + tax
2317 Trans Canada Way SE
1-403-504-1700

Super 8 Motel \$85 + tax
1280 Trans Canada Way SE
1-800-800-8000

Ranchmen Motel \$55 + tax
535 16th St. SW
1-403-527-2263



Battle of Alberta

The Annual Battle of Alberta was held in Red Deer on August 21st. Micah Hughey served as team captain for the North, while Jim Daniluk did the same for the South. This year we were able to broadcast the top 3 boards on the internet so that the rest of the world could watch the mayham. The weeks leading up to the battle were interesting for the team captains. At first, it looked like the South would field a monster team with almost all southern masters interested in playing. On paper, it looked like a massacre as all the H's were signed up: Hansen, Huber, Haessel. The North was having some issues as several of their top players were going to be out of the province, making it challenging to field a competitive team. The final roster for each team was decided on the Wednesday before the bloodbath. After doing the math, it was the North who had the highest average rating (2201) vs. the South (2188). To make matters worse for the South, Knut Neven had to cancel on the night before the event. Hafiz Karmali stepped in to take his spot on board 4. His opponent was Belsar Valencia, a recent addition to the northern team. The rating difference between the two was 251 points, making it the largest rating gap between opponents. Otherwise, the boards were evenly matched. Haessel was outrated by 122 by Pechenkin, but the rest of the boards were within 50 points.

After the first round, the South was ahead by a score of 6.5/5.5. Haessel and Pechenkin was a quick draw which helped the South quite a bit. Karmali also managed a draw against his much higher rated opponent and it was these two games which secured the lead. Hansen defeated his rival, Porper, with the black pieces. Eric has a very good record against the other Alberta IM. Kazmaier was winning against Gardner, but the Rocket grabbed the full point. The last game of the round to finish was between Hughey and Yam, very tactical. Yam looked to be winning to me, but lost his way and the game. Booker held Kalisvaart to a draw and Grumic defeated Zhang. Yearwood chalked up the full point against FA Rekhson and Gold vs. Willis was a draw. Sean Perron came out of his semi-retirement from chess to play against Aaron Sequillion who is also semi-retired. Sean grabbed the full point in their game in the first round. Zeggelaar lost against

2010 BATTLE OF ALBERTA Team Rosters

SOUTH		Rnd 1	Rnd 2		Rnd 1	Rnd 2		NORTH	
Captain: Jim Daniluk	RTG			BOARD			RTG	Captain: Micah Hughey	
IM Eric Hansen	2540	1.0	0.5	1	0.0	0.5	2530	IM Edward Porper	
FM Dale Haessel	2278	0.5	0.5	2	0.5	0.5	2410	FM Vladimir Pechenkin	
NM Dan Kazmaier	2260	0.0	1.0	3	1.0	0.0	2308	NM Robert Gardner	
Hafiz Karmali	2006	0.5	0.0	4	0.5	1.0	2257	Belsar Valencia	
NM Alex Yam	2238	0.0	1.0	5	1.0	0.0	2226	NM Micah Hughey	
Brad Booker	2188	0.5	0.5	6	0.5	0.5	2213	NM Peter Kalisvaart	
David Zhang	2157	0.0	1.0	7	1.0	0.0	2159	Sasa Grumic	
Roy Yearwood	2128	1.0	0.5	8	0.0	0.5	2135	Vladislav Rekhson	
Itohan Gold	2087	0.5	0.5	9	0.5	0.5	2130	Bradley Willis	
Sean Perron	2074	1.0	0.5	10	0.0	0.5	2058	Aaron Sequillion	
Eric Tam	2038	1.0	0.5	11	0.0	0.5	1994	Mike Zeggelaar	
Jim Daniluk	2022	0.5	1.0	12	0.5	0.0	1986	Rick Pedersen	
Ttl		6.5	7.5		5.5	4.5	Ttl		
Total South		14.0			10.0		Total North		
ALTERNATES									
Tony Ficzero	1849			1			1975	Ali Razzaq	
				2					

Average Rating

2188

2201

Erik Tam and Captain Daniluk drew with ACA president, Rick Pedersen. Lunch!

Back to the bloodbath for round 2. Several players were late for the start of the round. Captain Hughey quickly called all of his absent players to get them to the board. The clocks were running. The first game to finish was Pechenkin vs. Haessel, a draw and a minor victory for the South. Karmali fell against Valencia and this would be the only match that the North would win on the day. Hansen vs. Porper was also a draw while Kazmaier got his revenge against Gardner winning his game. Yam also got revenge against Captain Hughey. Things were looking bleak for the North. Booker and Kalisvaart drew again, but Zhang stuck it to GM Grumic taking the full point. Daniluk defeated Pederson to win his match, while the rest of the games all ended in draws. The South won the round with 7.5/4.5, taking the trophy with a final 2 round score of 14/10. This marks the 2nd year in a row that the South has won the Battle! Captain Daniluk promises to be back next year to try for the hat trick. Captain Hughey will do everything in his power to ensure that this won't happen. The internet audience was more than respectable with over 400 viewers throughout the day. Half of them were from Alberta with the rest of them watching from across the country. We even had viewers from the USA and Europe. Congratulations to the South on their victory.

Lethbridge Chess Club

Contact Kent Karapita
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University of Lethbridge Chess Club

Contact Thomas Fox
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Alberta Chess Association AGM Notice

The 2010 AGM will take place on Sunday, October 10th, between rounds 3 and 4 of the Alberta Open. The meeting will start at 2:30 pm in the skittles room of the Calgary Chess Club. All ACA members are encouraged to attend. The meeting agenda will be available soon and will be posted on the ACA website. If you are a member of the ACA, consider running for a position on the board. We are always looking for volunteers.



Calgary International Chess Classic

From May 20th to 24th, the Calgary Chess Club played host to a talented group of players from across Canada and beyond. Five nations were represented: Canada, Israel, USA, Spain and the Philippines. Last year we had six nations represented, but that was when Nicholas Maloney was living in Calgary who flies under the British flag. Nicholas has since moved to Germany where he is very active as a player, hunting down his IM title.

Small tournaments are easier to manage. Less players mean you have more time to concentrate on other areas. How this extra time is spent depends on your vision, plan and team. Team players and planning is crucial. Hopefully you spend your time wisely and once everything starts, all you have to worry about is the chess.

The purpose of the Calgary International is to provide opportunities for players who would have to travel great distances otherwise. Locally, the Calgary players get a great opportunity. You pretty much have to travel to Edmonton to get similar value! Otherwise, you have to go to Phoenix, Las Vegas, Philadelphia and all points beyond. Likewise, if you live outside of Alberta, these same opportunities are available if you decide to play here. So why didn't we get a full house? Well, to be honest, a full house would have been preferable, but on the way I realized that norm opportunities increased with a small playing field. So, instead of strictly concentrating on getting a full house, I decided to work on other important details, like press and fundrais-

ing. In the end, I think it worked out well. We got a reasonable amount of press and the fact that local boy makes good just made things that much better. What more could you ask for?

Our goal as organizers was to provide the best conditions possible, within our limited budget, as well as give players the opportunity to earn an IM, or maybe even a GM norm. To that end, the tournament was a success. Could it have been better? Of course. We will try to improve every year.

The Calgary Chess Club provided a comfortable and controllable playing room. A good site for the size of event that took place. Players were provided with free beverages and a few other amenities like airport transportation and leisure activities. Maybe it wasn't on the same scale as Linares, but it was certainly a move in the right direction.

In February of this year, Angelo Tolentino told me he was friends with Eugenio Torre. I felt like George Steinbrenner in a Seinfeld episode. My first words were "Hire this man!" Torre was our first entry. This turned out to be a great marketing move. In the Philippines, Torre is a national hero on the same scale as Gretzky is here. Calgary has a rich Philippine presence. The press loved it and started running features in March in their print media and on their internet sites. They were calling me.

For a while just prior to the start, we were worried that Eugene wouldn't make it. The Canadian Embassy in Manila gave him a hard time when he should have been on the short list. The Torre's made their flight to Canada with five minutes to spare. I always figured Eugene to be a great speed

player! Torre requested doing a simul for the club. I might have preferred a lecture, but couldn't say no to his generous offer. A total of 17 Calgary players challenged the GM. One lucky guy walked away with a victory, three not quite so lucky players (mostly women) split the point. The rest were all unlucky, eventually falling victim to

Eugene's efficient play.

GM Victor Mikhalevski was a pleasure to



be around. The smile is permanent upon his face. Even when we were less than perfect, Victor never let on. Without a doubt, Victor was the most professional guy there. He always seems to be in control. If it weren't for others being in control at the same time, Victor would have got all the points. Victor lost in round 3 to Castellanos, then fired off 5 shots, hitting all his targets. He settled for a draw in the last round with Eric Hansen, thus securing



Eric's third and final IM norm. Eric won the Top Albertan prize with his 5/9 score. It was also Eric's 18th birthday. A great way to end the tournament for the talented junior. The surprise party at the Hansen household was just too much fun! I'm certain Victor enjoyed it as much as everyone else. Victor could have lost the final round and still taken 1st all alone. Victor's final score of 7/9 gave him the 1st prize of \$1,000.

A full point back were Eugene Torre, Renier Castellanos and Edward Porper at 6/9. These three shared 2nd through 4th, good enough for \$500 each. Torre drew in the spectators and media throughout the



tournament. Eugene travelled here with his wife, Maria Lina. I spent much time speaking with her about her life with Eugene and her relationship with Fischer and Campomanes. She is a fascinating woman. I didn't get much time to speak one on one to Eugene, as my duties precluded social graces at times. If we decide to go again next year, GM Torre will be invited.

IM Renier Castellanos started out of the gate like a race horse. After round 4, he



was the only one with a perfect score. In rounds 5 and 6, he lost back to back games against De Firmian and Torre, slipping to 2nd, but still in contention. The GM norm was within reach, all he had to do was add 2.5 to his score in the final 3 rounds.

Canadian IM Edward Porper played solid from start to finish. He was the only player to go undefeated, drawing all the GMs and winning when it counted to finish in the prize money. His fine performance was shy of a GM norm, but at least the prize money provided some consolation. Porper's play often goes unnoticed. His tie for first in the 2009 Canadian Open should bring back some memories.

Canadian IM Leon Piasetski finished well at 5.5/9 which earned him Top Under 2400. Leon had only been back in Canada for a couple of days, just returning from Europe where he played in several strong events. 2nd Under 2400 was split between



Dale Haessel and Rob Gardner with 4.5/9, earning them \$75 each. Both Dale and Rob must be happy with their result considering the strength of the competition. Dale also scooped up the \$50 biggest upset prize for his win against US IM, Marc Esserman.

GMs De Firmian and Fedorowicz proved



to be good choices for this event. Nick was a perfect gentleman from start to finish. Anyone who buys beer for the TD is OK in my books. John entertained for the entire time he was here. I would not hesitate to invite them back! Both these guys provided the best post mortem's I've ever seen.

IM Marc Esserman was not at his best. Your health can do that to you sometimes. Visibly struggling from the start, we both agreed it was in his best interests to stop playing. He showed class by playing as long as he did. Marc also capped off the



week long list of festivities. A 9 player simul on the following Tuesday evening laid to rest any doubt's about his strength. Even Dale Haessel fell prey. Jim Daniluk was the sole survivor, getting a draw. I was the only one playing with the White pieces. It didn't matter.

IM Raja Panjwani made it in spite of some valid reasons not to. A last minute personal matter made his appearance difficult. Raja showed up and played every round. He played some beautiful chess and finished



with 4/9. I asked Lawrence Day to play



when I saw him in Victoria at the Grand Pacific Open. I asked him at some point before the end of that tournament. Lawrence went on to take clear first in Victoria. Calgary would not be as kind to Lawrence, at least on the crosstable. Of course, Lawrence was much more kind to Calgary than Calgary was to him. I must say, I really enjoyed his game against Richard Wang!

Speaking of Richard Wang, he had a great



tournament. Richard finished 4/9. Torre was quite impressed with Richard. They enjoyed a lengthy post mortem and Eugene spent time analyzing with Richard on several occasions. As a result of this year's tournament, Richard will be getting extra instruction from GM Mikhalevski. No doubt that great chess things are in store for Richard.

Keith MacKinnon and Kevin Me both made the trek from Saskatchewan. Keith missed his finest moment in the last round when he narrowly lost a draw with Porper. Kevin wasn't up to playing in the last round, but did (déjà vu), getting a nice draw against Fedorowicz.

Last year, I forced Kevin to play the last round. He probably didn't like it at the time, but was probably glad when I made him play this time around. Knut Neven had a tough go of it. When more than half the players have GM or IM titles, it's tough to finish on top. At the end of the day, the experience was well worth the price of admission.

Everyone who was supposed to be there showed up. At all times, I had a reserve player in hand. Alex Yam filled in as Alternate, playing in all rounds with an odd number of players. Alex is a young and talented player who showed poise in all his games. I'm sure you'll be hearing more about him in the future.

Just before the starter's pistol, a very brief players' meeting and Opening Ceremonies was staged. The Appeals Committee was elected: John Fedorowicz, Lawrence Day and Jim Daniluk. Thankfully, they didn't have to earn their non-existent wages as Arbiters! Players were briefed on the rules and we ate very light snacks. Time for the main event!

Using DGT boards has always given me grief. Part of the problem is wearing too many hats. After almost two years playing with them, I think I've got it. I never claimed to be that quick to begin with. Maybe the planets were in-line. I don't know, they just worked for the most part. We had tried to broadcast four boards each round, in the end we managed three from round four on. It's good when stuff works.

We held several side events throughout the week. The Torre Simul officially opened the week long list of events. As reported in

the last issue of CCN, Torre took on 17 players giving up a single loss, 3 draws and winning 13. Excellent press coverage resulted in a number of spectators for the main event. We charged admission to anyone who wasn't playing. For \$2 you could watch, have a coffee and if you were lucky, you might get a chance to talk with one of the featured players. Most of the spectators were there to see Torre. They didn't go away disappointed. All spectators were read the riot act before entering the playing area so that they knew how to act. No major problems reported, with one minor interruption to Raja's board in round 3.

Along side of round 1, we also held the Calgary International Speed Chess Championship. A dozen players battled it out for cash prizes and a chance to make local history. Sean Perron, fresh off his win over Torre in the simul just two nights previous, captured clear first in this 6 double round swiss with 10/12. Hemant Persaud took 2nd with 8/12, followed by Roy Yearwood and Samer Louise with 7.5/12. Thanks again to Bob Macfie for running the speed tournament.

The Calgary International Reserves was a six round swiss, FIDE and CFC rated. A total of 20 players registered and played across from the International section. Had the registrations been as advertised (32 players), it would have been too crowded and uncomfortable. As it was, the room was ideal to host both events. The top 3 prizes were split between Juraj Pivovarov, Paul Usselman and Ali Razzaq with 4.5/6, good enough for \$150 each. Rick Pedersen claimed the Top U1900 prize finishing with 4/6, taking home \$100. Adie Todd scored 3/6, taking 2nd in the U1900 section, earning a prize of \$70. Adam Harris, Eoin Dunne, Phil Holmstrom and Mike Scholz split the 3rd U1900 prize to round out the field. Door prizes were offered for every round, ranging from gift certificates to East Side Mario's and Cineplex, to book prizes, or an ornamental clock donated by Ellerts Trophies. Thanks again to Bob for playing the odd man in the Reserves.

The closing event was a simul and lecture by IM Marc Esserman. The simul wrapped up quickly, Marc scored 8.5/9. Marc then gave a lecture on dynamics in chess and showed the crowd a couple of interesting games demonstrating just what dynamic chess is. It must have been good as by the end of the week, I was so tired that I could

barely keep my eyes open. The examples Marc put forth were better than caffeine as I was engaged for the entire lecture.

Jim Daniluk proved to be a great asset. Jim is my sounding board. His experience and advice made things much easier to manage. From beginning to end, Jim was there to get things done. Transportation was taken care of, as well as entertainment for the troops. Mikhalevski got to see Banff thanks to Jim. Lawrence Day was his guest. Jim made things run smoothly. Every tournament can use a couple Jims.

Onsite, my other Jim was Bob Macfie, who made the difference between good and great. With hat and goggles, Bob was omnipresent. Bob did everything from game entry to greeter for the entire week, not to mention fill in as player in the Reserve section, as well as help organize and run most of the side events. Here's to Jim and Bob!

I would also like to thank a few others, such as Eric Hansen, Roy Yearwood, John Fedorowicz, Dale Haessel, Deweese Wood and Abdel Ali, who all contributed in their own way to make everything work out. Thanks to all of you.

Finally, I would like to thank the sponsors who made everything possible this year. Our sponsors were:

- Calgary Chess Club
 - Alberta Sports, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation
 - Alberta Chess Association
 - Link Industrial West
- We hope to be back next year.

Notes by GM Eugenio Torre

□ **Torre, Eugenio (2506)**

■ **Haessel, Dale (2207)**

2010 Calgary International (1.3)

Queen's Gambit Declined [D55]

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 ♘f6 4.♙g5 ♙e7 5.♘c3 0-0 6.e3 ♖bd7 7.♞c2 h6 8.♙h4 b6

Practice favours 8...c5 or 8...c6 here.

9.cxd5 exd5 10.♙d3 ♙b7 11.0-0 c5

12.♙ad1 ♞c8?!

During our postmortem analysis, Dale himself criticized Black's last move. The move 12...a6 is more flexible, or 12...c4 immediately, if one intends to employ the c-pawn advance scheme.

13.♙f5 c4 14.♘e5 ♞a8



Unfortunate, but necessary because of the annoying Bishop pin.

15.f4

There are many advantageous continuations in this position. White's plan here entails kingside expansion, which is a bit risky. Simplest is 15.b3 cxb3 16.♖xb3, putting more pressure on Black's d5 pawn.

15...♞e8 16.g4 ♭f8 17.♞g2 ♭6h7 18.♙f2 ♞b8

Here 18...a6 is not yet playable because 19.♗xc4 wins a pawn.

19.♙g3

Eying the Rook on b8.

19...a6 20.♙b1

Looking forward to the possibility of White's Bishop and Queen tandem harassing the Black King via the b1-h7 diagonal. However, more direct and enterprising is 20.g5!? hxg5 21.fxg5 ♗xg5 22.h4 ♗gh7 23.♗xf7! (the killer move) 23...♙xf7 24.♙c6+ ♙g6 (24...♙xe6 25.♞h3#) 25.♙c7+ and wins.

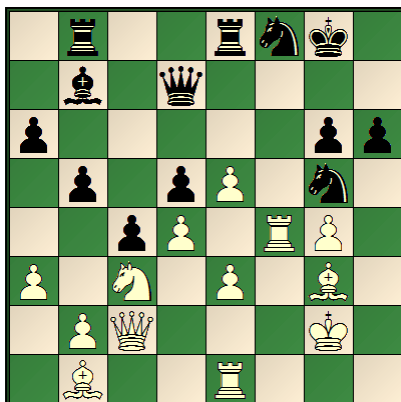
20...b5 21.a3 ♙d6 22.♞de1 g6 23.h4 ♙xe5?!

Played in haste because Dale was already short of time. This allowed White to operate on the f-file. Prudent is 23...♙a8, etc.

24.fxe5 ♗e6 25.♞c2

The point I was referring to on my 20th move.

25...♞d7 26.h5 ♗ef8 27.hxg6 fxg6 28.♞f4 ♗g5 29.♙g2



A slight inaccuracy. Precise is 29.♞h2 ♞g7 30.♞ef1 ♞bd8 31.♙h4 ♗fh7 32.♙xg5 ♗xg5 33.♞f6 ♞e6 34.♞h1 (34.♙xg6? ♞xf6 35.♞xf6 ♞xf6 with ...♗f3+ would turn the tables) with a dominating position for White.

29...♞e7

Missing the best defence 29...♗e4.

30.♞ef1 ♞be8

No longer playable is 30...♗e4 31.e6 ♗xe6 32.♞xc4 dxc4 33.♙xb8 ♗g5 34.♞f2 ♞xg4+ 35.♞g3 and Black's compensation for the piece is not enough.

31.♙h4 ♙c8 32.♞f2

White's advantage is now decisive.

32...♗f6 33.♞f6 ♞g7 34.♙xg6 ♞xg6 35.♞xg6+ ♙h7 36.♞f5 ♗g7 37.♞xh6+ ♙xh6 38.♙xg5# 1-0.

Notes by IM Raja Panjwani

□ Panjwani, Raja (2401)

■ Yam, Alex (2167)

2010 Calgary International (3.7)

Symmetrical English [A30]

I should take this opportunity to express my thanks to Tony for organizing a fantastic tournament. I thoroughly enjoyed my stay in Calgary and hope to be invited back in the future.

1.♗f3 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3

This game was played in round 3. With a poor start of 0.5/2, I was beginning to realize that it is difficult to get back into form, especially tactically, after a nine month chess hiatus. Thus, my choice of playing a quiet opening here is understandable.

3...b6 4.♙g2 ♙b7 5.d4 c5

This was my first time being on the White side of the Queen's Indian. In fact, I can't say I knew any theory after 5...c5. I was aware of ideas with 6.d5, usually involving a pawn sacrifice, but there my opponent would have only had to know one variation to exceed my knowledge.

6.0-0

6.d5!? exd5 7.♗h4 g6 8.♗c3 ♙g7 9.0-0 0-0 10.cxd5 d6 11.e4 gives rise to a Benoni-like structure which is dynamically equal.

6...cxd4 7.♗xd4?!

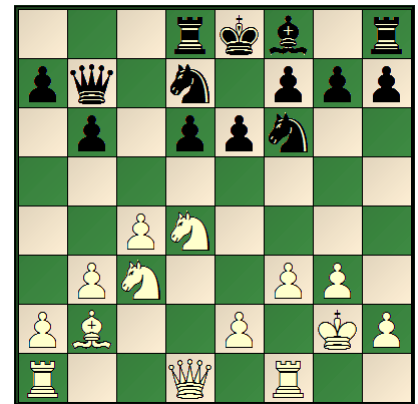
7.♞xd4 is more ambitious. Then after a little dancing with the Queen, White can establish a slight plus. 7...♗c6 8.♞f4 d5 9.♗c3 ♙d6 10.♞h4 ♗e7 11.♙g5 ♗g6 12.♙xf6 gxf6 13.♞h5 dxc4 14.♞ad1 ♞c7 15.♗d2 ♙xg2 16.♞b5+ ♙f8 17.♙xg2±. White regains the sacrificed pawn, and Black's structure has been compromised.

7...♙xg2 8.♙xg2 ♞c7 9.b3 d6?!

9...♙c5 10.♙b2 ♗c6 poses more problems for White, who has trouble developing the

♗b1. This was a critical moment of the game. I played a variation (7.♗xd4) which should not promise White any advantage, but my opponent tried to play too safely and in doing so gave White lasting control over the position. Perhaps if I were lower rated, Black wouldn't have feared going after me. Lesson: Regardless of who is on the opposite end of the board, the position's demands must be met! 11.♗b5 ♞b8 12.♗d2 a6 13.♗c3 0-0 14.♗ce4 ♗xe4 15.♗xe4 ♞c7 16.♗xc5 bxc5 17.♞d2 d6 18.♞ad1 ♞fd8=.

10.♙b2 ♗bd7 11.♗c3 ♞b7+ 12.f3 ♞d8?!



Black should not commit the Rook to this square so early, when it may have a better future on c8. More normal is 12...a6 13.e4 ♙c7 (13...♞c8?! 14.♞e1 ♙e7 15.♗d5!? {15.f4} 15...exd5 16.exd5 ♗d8 {16...♗e5 17.♗f5 0-0 18.♙a3! g6 19.♗xd6 ♞c7 20.♗xc8 ♙xa3 21.♗xb6 ♙b2 22.♗a4 ♙xa1 23.♞xa1± too many pawns.} 17.♞xe7 {17.♗f5!? ♙f8 18.♞d4±} 17...♙xe7 18.♗f5+ ♙f8 19.♗xd6 ♞c7 20.♗xc8 ♞xc8 21.♞d4 and I like White's chances) 14.♞e1 0-0 15.f4 ♞ac8 16.♞f3 ♗c5 17.♞ad1 ♞fd8 18.♙a3±.

13.e4 ♙c7 14.♞e1 0-0 15.f4 ♗e8?!

I have never seen this plan before. While I don't think it is Black's best option, I commend the creativity. With ...♗e8-c7, Black tries to get some play with either a ...d5 or ... b5 breakthrough.

16.♞f3 ♗c7 17.♞ad1 ♗b8?!

Black's moves are simply too passive. In such a position, if Black tries to make an impregnable setup, White will eventually find a way to make progress. It is necessary to cause White problems so that he cannot freely place all his pieces on their optimal squares. Better was 17...a6 where White runs the risk of over-extending with 18.e5 d5 19.cxd5 ♗xd5 20.♗xd5 exd5 21.♗f5 ♗c5 22.♗xe7+? (22.♗e3

♠e4 23.♠e2± White may be clearly better, but at least Black has some activity. In a game situation, anything can happen here, especially considering how impaired my tactical vision was in rounds 1&2) 22...♠xc7 23.♠xd5 ♠xd5 24.♠xd5 ♠d8 25.♠f3 ♠c7. Black has some compensation due to the open d-file and weakened light squares.

18.♠d2

It can be difficult for some players to contain the temptation of playing a move like 18.♠d5. Two reasons I didn't: 1) I calculated a variation which was hard to assess. 2) It isn't necessary, as White already has a clear advantage. 18.♠d5 exd5 19.♠f5 ♠e8 20.exd5 ♠f6. I saw that after 21.♠xc8 ♠xb2±, White has nothing. Thus, 18.♠d2 was a multi-purpose move. It defends the ♠b2 in case my opponent gives me another chance to go into this variation and it prepares the doubling of Rooks on the d-file.

18...♠d7 19.♠ed1

19.♠d5? exd5 20.♠f5 d4! 21.♠xd4 f6 22.♠g4 ♠e8±.

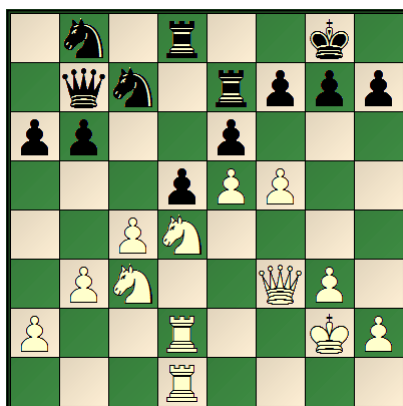
19...♠fd8 20.♠a3 a6

All of White's pieces are comfortably placed. Bobby was right, tactics do tend to flow from a superior position.

21.e5! d5

21...♠xf3+ 22.♠xf3 ♠e8 (22...d5 23.♠xe7 ♠xe7 24.cxd5 exd5 25.♠xd5 ♠xd5 26.♠xd5 ♠xd5 27.♠xd5+-; 22...dxe5 23.♠xd7 ♠xd7 24.♠xd7 ♠xd7 25.♠xe7+-) 23.♠e4 d5 24.♠xc7! ♠xc7 (24...dxe4 25.♠xd8 exf3+ 26.♠xf3+-) 25.cxd5 exd5 26.♠xd5 ♠xd5 27.♠xd5+-.

22.♠xe7 ♠xe7 23.f5?



The players from the tournament may remember the mini-disruption caused when an Indian club-player approached my

board and asked me (aloud in Hindi) to translate something for him. Well, since that was during my 23rd move, I will use it as an excuse for the inaccurate 23.f5?. I completely forgot Black isn't obligated to play 23...exf5. 23.♠c2 ♠ed7 24.cxd5 exd5 (24...♠xd5 25.♠xd5 ♠xd5 26.♠xd5 exd5 {26...♠xd5 27.♠b4+-} 27.♠e3+-) 25.♠e3+-.

23...♠ed7! 24.f6 ♠a8?

After 24...g6, White still has to convert his advantage, which, unfortunately, cannot be done tactically.

25.fxg7+- ♠c6 26.♠xc6 ♠xc6 27.♠e2!

Headed for f6 via f4 and h5.

27...♠a8 28.♠d4!

White has time to take a move and prevent any ...d4 counterplay from Black.

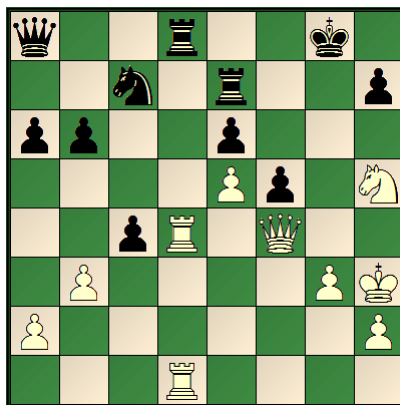
28...f5?

The time for dynamic counterplay was ten moves ago. 28...♠e8 29.♠f4 ♠xg7 30.cxd5+-.

29.♠f4?!

I can't provide a good reason why I did not take en-passant on f6. I guess the move ...f5 was just so positionally destructive that I didn't care to calculate 29.exf6 e5.

29...♠xg7 30.♠h5 ♠e7 31.♠f4 dxc4+ 32.♠h3



I was hoping for the pretty finish after 32...♠f8.

32...♠xd4

32...♠f8 33.♠g5+ ♠f7 34.♠xe7+! ♠xe7 35.♠d7+ ♠e8 36.♠g7#.

33.♠g5+ ♠f8 34.♠h6+ ♠e8 35.♠f6+ ♠d8 36.♠f8+ 1-0.

Notes by IM Renier Castellanos

□ **Mikhalevski, Victor (2614)**

■ **Castellanos, Renier (2465)**

2010 Calgary International (3.1)

King's Indian [E69]

1.d4 ♠f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3

Victor has been playing the fianchetto system recently, I didn't realized that he had already tried it against Leon Piasetski in the first round.

3...♠g7 4.♠g2 0-0 5.♠c3 d6 6.♠f3 ♠bd7 7.0-0 e5 8.e4 c6!?

This was the first time I played this old move. I usually play systems with ...exd4, ...a6 and ...♠b8.

9.h3 a5!?

This is the classical way of playing the line. King's Indian heros like Efim Geller use to play this move. 9...♠b6 is mainline.

10.♠e3! a4

Before capturing on e4, Black makes room for his Queen on a5

11.♠c2 exd4

(diagram)

A natural move, but perhaps it is better to play 11...♠a5 immediately.

12.♠xd4!?

A new move in an ancient position.

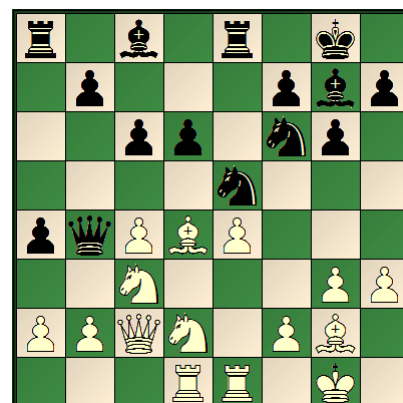
12...♠a5 13.♠fe1 ♠e8 14.♠ad1

OK, the first phase of the game is over. I was satisfied with the opening but I wasn't sure how to continue from here. 12.♠xd4 was new to me and I missed Victor's idea which will be seen on move 17.

14...♠e5

I thought this move would be the drawback of ♠d4, now Black is attacking e4 and also h3 and any capture on e5 is acceptable for him.

15.♠d2! ♠b4?



A huge mistake. 15...♙e6 had to be played. 16.b3 axb3 17.axb3 c5! 18.♙c3 (18.♙xe5!? dxe5 19.♗f3 ♗ed8!)=) 18...♗d7 with a complex position.

16.a3 ♖a5 17.c5!

I completely overlooked this move

17...d5!

Best practical chance. 17...♖a7 was my first intention but then after 18.f4 ♗ed7 19.♗c4 dxc5 20.♙f2 I see myself in a position that I can't win. 17...dxc5 18.♙xe5 ♗xe5 19.♗c4 ♖c7 20.♗xe5 ♖xe5 21.♗d8+ is lost for Black.

18.f4

18.exd5 was still possible. 18...♙f5 19.♖xa4 ♖xa4 20.♗xa4 ♗xd5! 21.♙xd5 ♖xa4 22.♙xe5 ♗xe5 23.♗xe5 ♙xe5 and Black is only a little worse. 24.♙b3 ♗d4. 18.g4! forces Black to sacrifice a Knight with 18...♗fxg4 19.hxg4 ♙xg4 20.♖a1 dxe4 21.♗cxe4 ♙f5 22.♗ad1 with a clear plus.

18...♗ed7 19.b4

I didn't like this move for him, although it is still good. I thought 19.exd5 was more unpleasant for Black, e.g., 19...♗xc1+ 20.♗xc1 cxd5 21.♗h2 is rather unpleasant for Black.

19...axb3 20.♗xb3 ♖d8

Only move.

21.exd5

21.c5 isn't anything special, 21...♗h5 22.♗h2 g5 and Black is attacking!

21...♗xe1+ 22.♗xe1 ♗xd5! 23.♙xg7

Little by little, White is letting his advantage slip away. 23.♙xd5! cxd5 24.♗xd5 ♙xd4+ 25.♗xd4 ♖xa3 26.♗e7+ ♗f8□ 27.♖b2 and White is better.

23...♗xg7 24.♗e4 b6

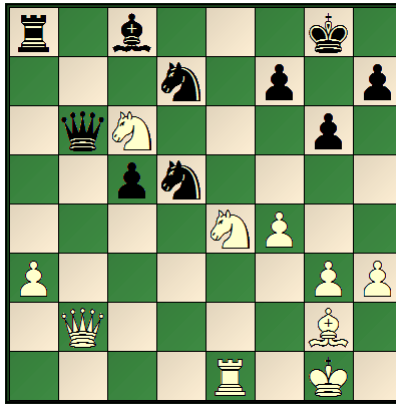
Risky, but I didn't want to wait and see. I should have played 24...♗g8 25.♗d6 ♗f6 26.♖b2 b6 with equality.

25.♖b2+ ♗g8 26.♗d4 bxc5 27.♗xc6

27.♗xc5 ♖f8! (27...♗xc5 28.♗xc6 is really risky for Black 28...♗d3 29.♖d4 ♖d7 30.♖xd3 ♖xc6 31.♖xd5 ♖xd5 32.♙xd5±) 28.♗e4 ♖a6.

27...♖b6

And here my opponent spent some time thinking. I felt intrigued and wondered if I had missed something and immediately realized the ♗f6 idea, however, I also noticed a fault of this move.



28.♗f6+?! ♗7xf6 29.♗e7+ ♗f8 30.♖xb6 ♗xb6 31.♙xa8 ♙e6!

Here it is. White loses the Knight or the Bishop.

32.f5

32.♗xg6+ hxg6 33.♙g2 as another way to play, perhaps better.

32...gx f5 33.♗xf5 ♙xf5

I think leaving him with a Knight was dangerous, especially in time trouble.

34.♖f1 ♙e6 35.♖xf6 ♗xa8 36.♖h6 ♗g7 37.♖h5 c4 38.♖b5 ♗c7!

38...♙xh3 39.a4 ♙d7 40.♖b4 c3 41.a5 is unclear.

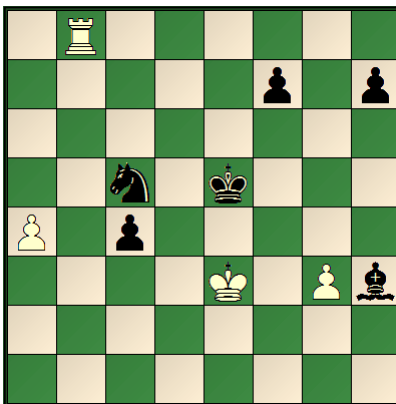
39.♖c5 ♗a6 40.♖c6 ♗b8! 41.♖c7 ♗f6

The King is heading to d4.

42.♗f2 ♗e5 43.♗e3 ♗d7

43...♗d5 44.a4 ♗a6 45.♖b7 c3 was another way to try for a win.

44.♖b7 ♗c5 45.♖b8 ♙xh3! 46.a4



46...♗xa4?!

46...c3 47.a5 ♗d5 48.♖b4 ♙c6 49.♖b6 ♙c8 50.♖b8 ♙f5 and it is impossible to move the a-pawn any further.

47.♖b5+ ♗f6 48.♖b4 ♗c5 49.♖xc4 ♗e6

Fortunately, Black is still winning.

50.♖a4 ♙f5 51.♖a7 ♙g6 52.♖a5 h5 53.♖b5 ♙f5 54.♖b7 ♗f8 55.♗f2 ♗g6 56.♖b6+ ♙e6

The minor pieces change sides, where they are more active.

57.♖b4 ♗e5 58.♖b5 ♙f5 59.♖b6+ ♗g5 60.♖b5 f6

Everything is defended, very important!

61.♖b6 h4 62.gxh4+ ♗xh4 63.♖a6

63.♖xf6 would have forced me to mate with Knight and Bishop 63...♗g4+ 64.♗f3 ♗xf6.

63...♗g5 64.♗g3 ♗d3 65.♗f3 ♙g6 66.♖a5+ f5 67.♖d5 ♗f4 68.♖e5 ♗h5 69.♖b5 ♗f6 70.♖c5 ♙f7 71.♖e5 ♙d5+ 72.♗g3 ♙e4 73.♖a5 ♗d5

Suddenly, I realized the White King is not safe and that sacrificing the Rook for a pawn is not always available for White.

74.♖a4 f4+ 75.♗f2 ♗f6 76.♖a5+ ♙d5 77.♖a3 ♗f5

77...♗g4 immediately is better.

78.♗e2 ♗g4 79.♖a1 ♙c4+ 80.♗f2 ♗e4+ 81.♗g1 ♗g3 82.♖b1 f3 83.♖b2 ♙e2

83...♗d2!! mates in six; 84.♖xd2 ♙c2 85.♗h1 f2 86.♖d3+ (86.♖d1 ♙f3#) 86...♙f3+ 87.♖xf3+ ♗xf3 88.♗h2 f1♖ 89.♗h3 ♖h1#.

84.♖b3 ♗g5 85.♗h1 ♙f1 86.♖xf3+ ♗xf3

It's mate in four moves after 86.♗g1 and in three moves if 86.♗h2 **0-1**.

Notes by IM Edward Porper

□ Porper, Edward (2431)

■ Gardner, Rob (2144)

2010 Calgary International (6.4)

Queen's Indian [E18]

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 b6 4.g3 ♙b7 5.♙g2 ♙e7 6.♗c3 0-0 7.0-0

In our previous game, Rob played 6...♗c4 and I had suspicions that he might be up to something after the usual 7.♖c2

7...♗e4 8.♙d2

8.♖c2 is too bookish, while I wanted Rob to be creative and search for his own way.

8...♙f6

8...♗xc3 9.♙xc3 ♙e4 might be a worthy alternative.

9.♖c1

That's the beauty of White's position. He can play his moves regardless of what his opponent does and...

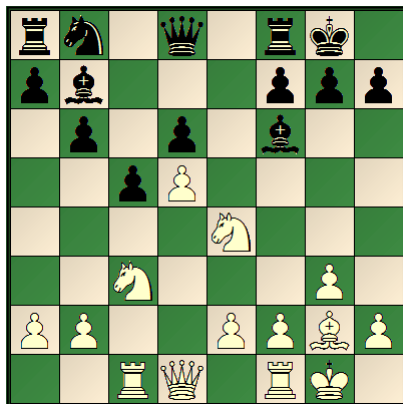
9...c5?!

...wait for something like this!

10.d5

I just love the sight of the ♔, staring helplessly at the d5-△.

10...exd5 11.cxd5 ♘xd2 12.♗xd2 d6
13.♗de4



White has a considerable space advantage and a clear plan, while Black is at a loss how to finish his development. That said, Rob stated that all this is still "book."

13...♙e5

13...♗a6 was probably a must; Black has to bring some pieces into the game.

14.♗b5 ♙e7, followed by ...♗c7 would give Black a chance to swap something, thus providing some much needed space for his struggling pieces (14...♙xb2 15.♖b1 ♙e5 16.f4 ♙f6 17.♗exd6±).

14.♖d2 ♙a6

14...♗a6; 14...f5? 15.♗g5 and no filling can save the e6 hole.

15.a4

Prevents ...b5!

15...♖e8 16.♖fe1 g6

It's most natural for Black to try and keep the dark-coloured ♔ that has no opponent, but under the circumstances, he might have been better advised to secure his d6 pawn by trading the proud beauty for a ♘ and to keep his ♖'s fortress intact.

16...♗d7 17.f4 ♙xc3 18.♖xc3 ♗f6 19.♗f2 and e2-c4-e5 is still a mighty threat, but at least Black can breathe now and then.

17.f4 ♙g7 18.b4!

The specialty of the house! I told Rob during the post-mortem of our previous game to beware of "b2-b4." Fortunately, he didn't heed!

18...♙b7

18...cxb4 19.♗a2 (19.♗b5?! ♙xb5 20.axb5 f5 {20...b3 21.♖b4 b2 22.♖c2 ♗d7 23.♖xd6 ♖c8 [23...♙f8 24.♖c7 ♖c8 25.♖xd8 ♖exd8 26.♖xb2] 24.♖xc8 ♖xc8 25.♖c6 and it's hard to see, how Black can oppose the eventual advancement of the e pawn} 21.♗g5 ♙c3 22.♖xc3 bxc3 23.♖xc3 ♗d7 24.♗e6 ♖f6 25.♖xf6 ♗xf6 26.♗c7 allows Black to equalize) 19...b3 20.♗b4 and Black's numerous weaknesses start to tell 20...h6 21.♗c6 ♖d7 22.♖b4 picking Black's position apart.

19.♗b5 ♙f8 20.bxc5 dxc5

20...bxc5 21.♖c3 ♙g7 22.♖b3 ♙f8
23.♗bx d6+.

21.♖cd1

The pawn is ready for a march.

21...a6 22.♗a3 f5

Desperation.

23.♗g5 ♗d7 24.d6

And a nice touch at the end. White accepts his opponent's kind invitation to feast, written out by f7-f5.

24...♙xg2 25.♖a2+ 1-0.

Notes by IM Marc Esserman

□ Torre, Eugenio (2506)

■ Mikhalevski, Victor (2614)

2010 Calgary International (7.1)
Sicilian [B50]

1.e4

A pivotal encounter between two of the tournament leaders. GM Torre would need a win to catch up to the eventual clear winner, GM Mikhalevski.

1...c5

1.e4 probably came as a surprise to Victor, as GM Torre has been seen playing d4 recently and in this tournament. Torre had probably prepared for Mikhalevski after e4 e5, so Victor decided to surprise Torre with a Sicilian, an opening he rarely plays!

2.♗f3 d6 3.c3

An attempt to avoid sharp theoretical continuations like the one we will see in Neven-Hansen. This line should offer White no real advantage, but it was good enough for Svidler to once beat Kasparov!

3...♗f6 4.♙e2

A 2000 friend of mine in Boston once suffered a shock defeat when after a bad day, after the game, he figured his opponent was just gambiting the e4 pawn and

grabbed it. After ♖a4+, his bad day got even worse!

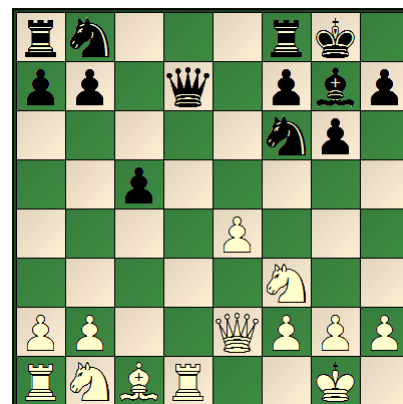
4...g6 5.0-0! ♙g7 6.♙b5+ ♙d7 7.♙xd7+ ♖xd7 8.♖e2 e5

Play now takes on classical Ruy Lopez pawn structures, with Mikhalevski back on home turf.

9.d4 exd4 10.cxd4

10.e5 dxe5 11.♖xe5+ ♖e7 12.♖xe7+ ♗xe7 13.♖e1+ would be a more dynamic continuation, but Black should be fine after ...♗f8.

10...0-0 11.dxc5 dxc5 12.♖d1



12...♖e6

An excellent post for the Queen.

13.♗c3 ♗c6

White now has a serious problem how he should complete his queenside development. If ♙e3, he hangs the e4 pawn; if ♙g5, ...♖fe8 with further pressure on the e4 pawn.

14.♗g5

Torre tries for a more creative plan.

14.♙g5 ♖fe8 15.♖e1 would still be the most natural continuation, with ♖ad1 to follow.

14...♖e7 15.f3 ♗d4 16.♖f2 ♖ad8

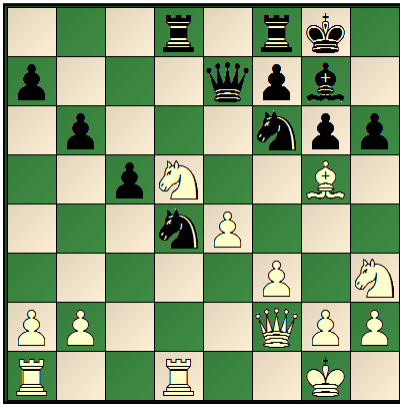
White has paid a serious price for the permanent protection of the e4 pawn. A Black Knight has landed safely on d4, while the f3-g5 Knight is now drifting.

17.♗h3 b6 18.♙g5

Finally finishing his queenside development, but he should have still fixed his h3 Knight first, heading for d5, e.g., 18.♗f4.

18...h6 19.♗d5?

A blunder, but certainly the move that Torre had planned to play with ♙g5. Had he seen Mikhalevski's continuation, he surely would have played ♗f4 first. Can



you find the win?

19...♞xd5! 20.♞xf6 ♖xf3+!

A non-obvious in between move which ends the game. Black is now a pawn up with a better minor piece and will soon win the weak e4 pawn.

21.♞xf3 ♞xd1+ 22.♞d1 ♞xf6 23.b3 ♞d4+ 24.♔h1 ♞e8 25.♞e1 f5 26.e5 ♞f7 27.♖f4 ♞xe5 28.h4 ♞xf4 29.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 30.♞xf4 ♞f8 31.♔h2 ♔g7 32.♞c7+ ♞f7 33.♞e5+ ♞f6 34.♞c7+ ♞f7 35.♞e5+ ♔h7 36.g3 g5 37.hxg5 hxg5 38.♔g2 ♔g6 39.♞d6+ ♞f6 40.♞d7 ♞b2+ 41.♔h1 ♞a1+ 42.♔g2 ♞xa2+ 43.♔h1 ♞xb3 44.♞xa7 ♔h5 0-1.

Notes by IM Lawrence Day

□ Day, Lawrence (2288)

■ Wang, Richard (2149)

2010 Calgary International (7.7)

Closed Sicilian [B24]

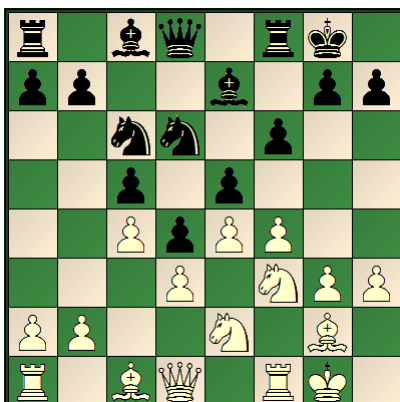
1.e4 c5 2.♖c3 e6 3.♗ge2

Passive.

3...♖c6 4.g3 d5 5.d3 ♖f6 6.♞g2 ♞e7 7.0-0 8.h3 d4

Well timed. h3 does not fit in the main line KID we have transposed to with colours reversed.

9.♖b1 e5 10.f4 ♖e8 11.♖d2 f6 12.♖f3 ♖d6 13.c4!?



In this blocking plan, h2-h3 is useful preventing ...♞g4 to fight for control of d4. After 13.f5, the game would have transposed to a normal long-line KID with colours reversed where h3 is a wasted tempo.

13...dxc3

The liveliest. 13...♞e6 14.f5 ♞f7 is risky for Black despite having some play on the b-file.

14.bxc3

After 14.♖xc3 ♞e6 15.♖d5 c4, the position is rather drawish.

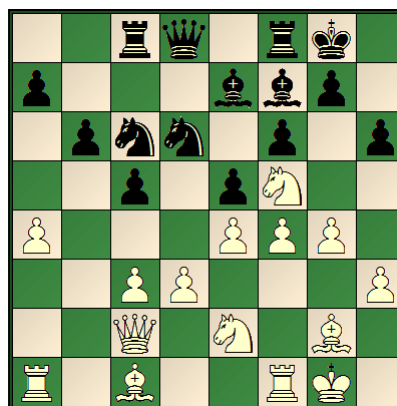
14...♞e6

Avoiding the gambit 14...c4 15.d4 exf4 16.d5 ♖a5 17.♖fd4 with complex play.

15.♞c2 ♞c8 16.a4 b6 17.g4

Also 17.f5 is balanced.

17...h6 18.♖h4 ♖f7 19.♖f5?



The first serious error. 19.fxe5! was unclear.

19...♖xf5! 20.gxf5 e4!

With the initiative Black need not fear White's play on the g-file. Black is well on top now.

21.dxc4 ♞c5+ 22.♔h1 ♞xc4 23.♞d1 ♞e7 24.♖g3 ♞fd8 25.♞f1 ♞f7 26.♞e2 ♞d6 27.fxe5 ♞xe5!?

The exciting move, but I was glad to see it since 27...♞xe5 intending to win the c-pawn produces a much simpler winning plan.

28.♞g1 ♖b4! 29.♞b1 ♖d5! 30.♞b2 ♖xc3 31.♞e1 ♞a5 32.♖h5 ♞xh5 33.♞xh5 ♞e5 34.♞g2 ♞b4

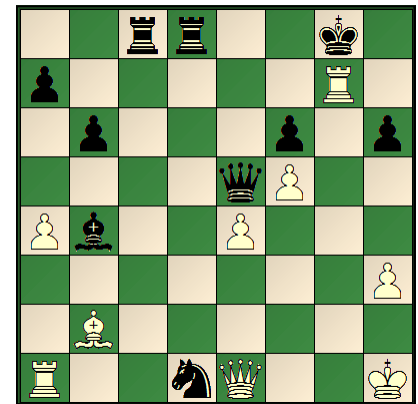
With 34...g5 exploiting the lateral pin he could snuff out all the g-file initiative.

35.♞d1

I thought I might bamboozle him in the complications but he figured everything

out quickly and accurately.

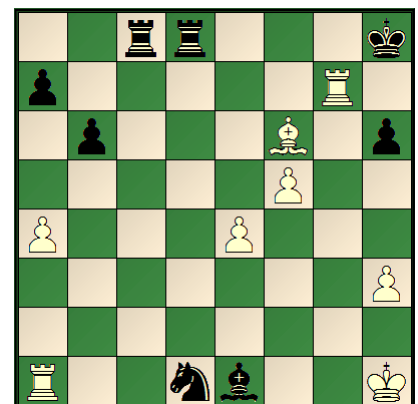
35...♖xd1 36.♞xg7+



36...♔h8!

Not 36...♔f8? 37.♞g8+! with perpetual.

37.♞xe5 ♞xe1 38.♞xf6



This looks majorly menacing but Black has everything under control with three exact defensive moves.

38...♞c3! 39.e5 ♖f2+ 40.♔g2 ♖e4

White could resign here of course.

41.♞xd8 ♔xg7 42.♞d1 ♞xe5 43.♞d7+ ♔g8 44.♞h4 ♞c7 45.♞d8+ ♔f7 46.♔f3 ♖f6 47.♞e1 ♞d7 48.♞a8 ♞c7 49.♞d2 h5 50.♞h6 ♔e7 51.♞e3 ♔d7 52.♞f8 ♔c6 53.♞f4 ♔d5 54.♞g5 ♞c3+ 55.♔e2 ♖h7 56.♞d8+ ♔e4 57.♞d2 ♞xh3 58.♞d7 ♖f6 59.♞xa7 ♞h2+ 60.♔d1 ♔d3 61.♞e1 ♞a2 0-1.

Notes by IM Marc Esserman

□ Neven, Knut (2180)

■ Hansen, Eric (2410)

2010 Calgary International (8.5)

Sicilian Najdorf [B94]

And now the game which virutally assured Eric Hansen of his final IM norm. But it did not come without some adventure!

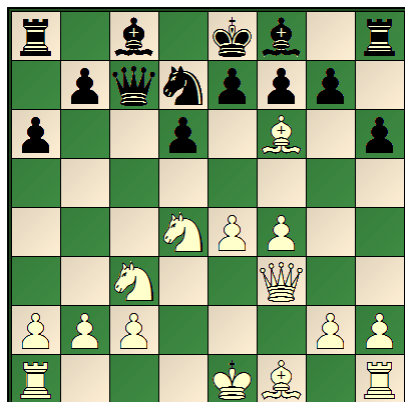
1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 a6 6.♞g5

Eric chooses the Nadjorf for the 3rd time in the event, an opening which he previously had little experience in.

6...♟bd7

A sideline of the ♟g5 Nadjorf, popular in the 1950s and 60s, but has since lost its appeal. However, recently GM Navara played an amazing game with ...♟bd7 en route to an 8.5/9 performance in the Czech Championship.

7.f4 ♖c7 8.♗f3 h6 9.♙xf6!?



But Eric did not surprise his opponent, who moved instantly in this rare variation and must have also known about the Navara game! 9.♙h4 g5! Navara's idea, which has reinvigorated the old ...♟bd7. 10.fxg5 hxg5 11.♙xg5 ♖c5 Kanovsky–Navara, 0-1 (27) 2010, played 20 days before the Calgary International. Black has excellent compensation for the pawn in the form of the e5 square for his Knight, the open h file for the Rook, in addition to the usual Sicilian trumps.

9...♟xf6 10.f5

White gives up the Bishop pair and the e5 square, but what does he have in return? Well, a massive lead in development and a total bind of the Black forces. The Black kingside is severely restricted by f4–f5!

10...♖c5 Eric decides to solve matters actively.

11.0-0-0 g5!?

Already a critical moment.

12.♟b3

Neven aims for a calmer game, but Eric's Queen now occupies the excellent e5 square and can solve his kingside developmental problems. 12.fxg6!/? White can try for this critical response 12...♟g4 13.gxf7+ ♗xf7 14.♖d3 ♙xd1 15.♟xd1 with excellent compensation for the exchange + a pawn. And in fact, only a week

later, GM Kovalyov found himself on the Black side of this position in India and was unable to hold the position. News does travel fast in modern chess! In the heyday of 6...♟bd7, a novelty like Navara's would at least be good for a year, if not for a few! But now not even a week!

12...♖e5 13.♙c4 ♟g7 14.g4!/?

An unnecessary weakening of the kingside. As the Black pawn is already on g5, White will not have time for the g5 advance himself. White should have aimed for a less committal plan.

14...h5 15.gxh5 ♖xh5 16.h4 gxh4

16...♖xh4!/? 17.♖xh4 gxh4 18.♖g1 ♗f8 19.♖g2 certainly did not appeal to Eric, but is still playable and complex after ♖g3!/? or ♟h5!/?; 16...g4! Probably the simplest, with ...♟d7 to follow, with strong play on the c–file and a planless situation for White.

17.♖g2

The adventures on the g–file begin. What fun would it be to make your last IM norm without a little stress?

17...♖g3 18.♖e2 ♖g5

After this exotic Rook lift, Eric begins to consolidate his material gains, but with such coordination of the pieces, he must remain on high alert.

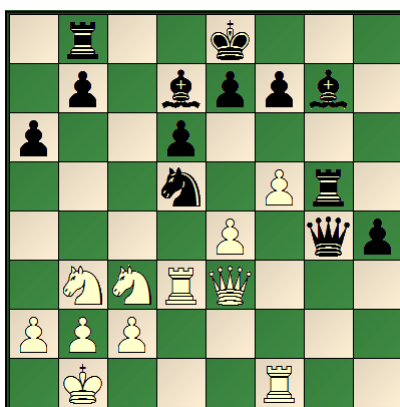
19.♖d3 ♖f4+ 20.♟b1 ♟d7 21.♙d5 ♖b8

The King will now have to call the centre his permanent residence.

22.♖f1

22.♟d2 ♖g3!/? But this was still White's best try, bringing the b3 Knight over to the kingside.

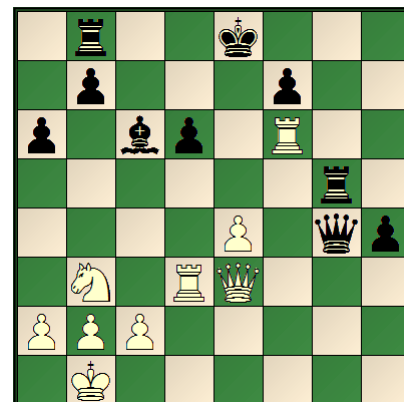
22...♖g4 23.♖e3 ♟xd5!/?



This exchange is ill advised, Black should instead play it "safe" with b5. If then 23...b5 24.♖a7 ♖d8 25.♖xa6 b4! 26.♟b5

♖e2!/, the White pieces are sloppily placed with the h–pawn ready to go.

24.♟xd5 ♙c6 25.f6 ♙xf6 26.♟xf6+ exf6 27.♖xf6?



A large error, allowing the Queens to come off and allow a calm winning ending for Black. Better is 27.♖d4! keeping the Queens on, aiming at the exposed Black King. A very hard fight remains and the pressure is on Black. One possible continuation among many is 27...♖e6 28.♖df3 ♖e5!/? 29.♖xf6 ♖xd4 30.♟xd4 ♙xc4 31.♖xf7 ♖g1! 32.♖f8+ ♗e7 33.♖8f7+=.

27...♖g1+ 28.♟c1 ♖xe3 29.♖xe3 ♖h5

Black has survived and the rest is a celebration for the new IM.

30.♖f2 ♗e7 31.♟e2 ♖g8 32.♟c1 ♖g4 33.♟f4 ♖e5 34.♟d2 ♖xe4 35.♖xe4+ ♙xe4 36.♟e3 f5 37.♖h2 ♗f6 38.a4 ♖g3+ 39.♟e2 ♟g5 40.♟h3+ ♗h5 41.♟f2 ♙xc2 0-1.

Notes by IM Leon Piasetski

□ Piasetski, Leon 2301

■ Day, Lawrence 2288

2010 Calgary International (8.6)

Open Catalan [E05]

I think I've played Lawrence more often than any other chess opponent. We always have exciting games although inevitably we make mistakes and miss chances and this game was no exception. I walked into mainline Catalan theory in the open variation without adequate preparation and got a dubious position. Lawrence returned the favour by exchanging his dangerous Bishop on b4 too early. Then I missed 21.♖b7, 23.♟e5 and 26.♖e7 before finally finding the winning idea with 31.♖c6.

1.♟f3 ♟f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.♟g2 ♙e7 5.0-0-0 6.d4 dxc4

The open variation is similar to the Queen's Gambit Accepted, except here it's often harder for White to recover the c4

pawn.

7.♖c2 a6 8.a4 ♘d7 9.♗bd2

This move was inspired over the board but 9.♖c4 is best.

9...♗c6 10.a5?!

This was the intended follow-up but creates a tempting target for Black's pieces. I found out later that Kaidanov tried the move twice against Sher and Wells in the Hastings Masters (1990). Sher tried 10...♗bd7 but after 11.♗c4 ♗c4 12.♖d1 c5 13.dxc5 ♗xc5 14.♗d2, White had a small edge and won. I assumed that 10...b5 would weaken the Black squares on b6 and d6, but Wells showed that Black was fine after 11.axb6 cxb6 12.♗c4 ♗c4 13.♖d1 ♗c6! 14.♗g5 ♗b4.

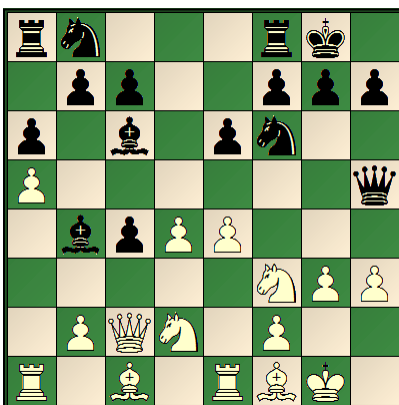
10...♖d5

This aggressive Queen move provokes my response which attempts to drive it away and control the centre, but I should have played 11.♗c4.

11.♗e1?! ♗b4! 12.e4 ♖b5 13.♗f1 ♖h5

13...♗d8!?

14.h3



Now Black misses a chance to get an advantage with 14...♗b5. The idea is to protect the c4 pawn and develop the ♗ to c6 which threatens the d4 and a5 pawns.

White can win a piece with 15.g4 ♗g4 16.hxg4 ♖xg4+ 17.♗g2 ♗c6, but finds it hard to untangle his pieces and develop on the queenside. 14.♗c2!?

14...♗xd2?! 15.♗xd2 ♗d8 16.♖xc4 ♗b5 17.♖xc7 ♗c6

Now all of Black's pieces are in the game while White's queenside pieces are blocked out by the ♗d2. However, my Queen is causing some problems and with 18.g4, I secure the kingside, trade off Bishops, bring the Knight out and defend the d4 pawn.

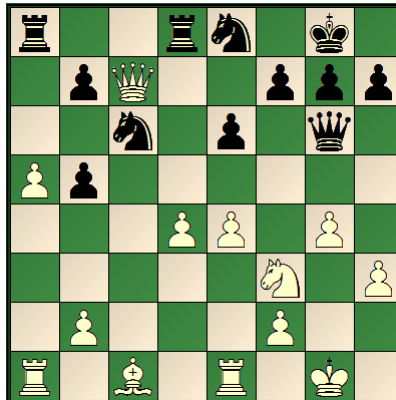
18.g4 ♖g6

18...♗xg4!? 19.hxg4 ♖xg4+ 20.♖g3 ♖xg3+ 21.fxg3 ♗xd4=.

19.♗xb5 axb5 20.♗f3

At this point we each had about 30 minutes for 20 moves and now the serious blunders creep in.

20...♗e8?



20...♗ac8=; 20...♗xe4? 21.♖xb7+-.

21.♖b6?

Playing it safe. I wanted to avoid grabbing a hot pawn and letting Black's pieces into my kingside. I missed that ♗a3 would defend against all threats. 21.♖xb7! ♗dc8 22.♖xb5 ♖f6 23.♗a3+-.

21...e5?!

21...h5 22.g5 e5±.

22.♗e3±

Finally the Rooks are connected!

22...h5?!

22...♖xc4 23.♗xc5 ♗xc5 24.dxc5 ♖xc5 25.b4±.

23.d5?!

23.♗xc5! ♖c6 (23...♗xe5 24.dxe5 ♖xe4 25.♗g5 Somehow I missed this discovery on the queen !)

23...hxg4 24.♗g5 ♗a6 25.♖xb7

Now we had less than 10 minutes.

25...♗b4? 26.♖xb5?

26.♖c7+-.

26...♗c2 27.h4± ♗da8

Lawrence felt that 27...♖f6 would have given him better chances to attack my King. However, 28.a6 ♗a1 29.a7 ♗c2 30.♖b8 would be too fast.

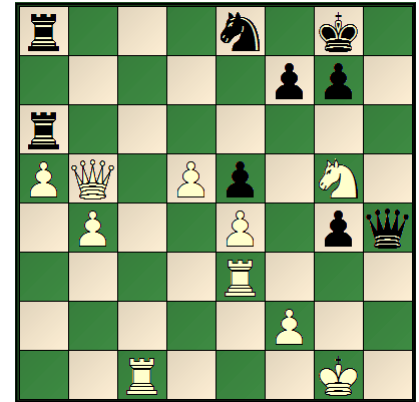
28.b4 ♖h5?

This is too tempting. Lawrence sees the vulnerable ♗g5 and wants to undermine

it's defenders. 28...♗a1 29.♗a1 f6 30.h5 ♖xh5 31.♗e6 g3 32.fxg3 ♖f3 33.♗f2 ♖xc4 34.♖b7∞.

29.♗ac1 ♗xe3 30.♗xe3 ♖xh4

I had about 3 minutes on my clock and figured my position was lost but suddenly noticed a tactic that seemed to work.



31.♗c6! ♗6a7 32.♗ec3+-

Reversal of fortune – at first it's hard to believe but Black is lost. Once the Rook gets to Black's back rank, there is no defense since the d-pawn provides an additional attack on the unfortunate horse.

32...♖xg5

32...g3 33.♗xg3 f6 34.♗c6 ♖xe4 35.♖c5+-.

33.♗c8 ♗xc8

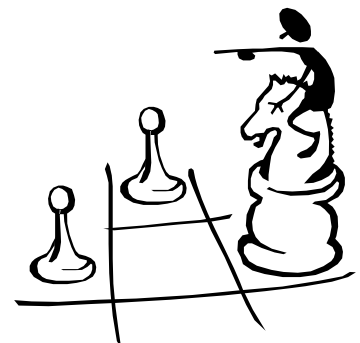
33...♖e7 34.d6 ♖e6 35.d7+-.

34.♗xc8 g3

A last attempt to get a perpetual, but White can always trade Queens to win the Rook endgame.

35.♖xe8+ ♗h7 36.♖h8+ ♗g6 37.♖h3 gxf2+ 38.♗xf2 ♖d2+ 39.♗g1 ♖d4+ 40.♗h2 f6 41.♖f5+ ♗f7 42.♖h5+ 1-0.

It's unfortunate that Lawrence was off-form with the flu in Calgary. However, we always seem to have these kind of crazy games and I learn more from playing Lawrence than from most other opponents!



Over/Under 1800

A total of 30 players participated in this year's Over/Under 1800. The sections were nicely divided into 15 players in each section.

In the end all it took was 3.5/5 to take first in the over 1800 section, which was one of the most draw-prawn events that I ever remember seeing at the ECC. Alex Yam and Eric Hansen shared first with 3.5/5 each after Eric beat Richard Wang and Alex survived Roy Yearwood's onslaught to take a share of first. Peter Kalisvaart was first among players rated under 2200 after a very solid performance of 4 draws and one win. To his credit, all of Peter's games were hard fought. Mike "Ziggy" Zeggelaar dropped below 2000 FIDE just in time to collect the best under 2000 prize with 2.5/5.

In the Under 1800 section, George Sponga drew his last round game against Marc



Jamil Kassam and George Sponga

Bellemare and won first place with 4.5/5. Second place went to the ever improving youngster Jamil Kassam with 4/5.

The best among the under 1500/unrated crowd went to new ECC member Jim Thomson who scored 3/5.

□ Yam, Alex (2222)

■ Hansen, Eric (2518)

2010 Over 1800 (3.1), 01.05.2010

French Defence [C00]

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d3 ♘c6 4.g3 d5
5.♘bd2 ♘f6 6.♙g2 ♙e7 7.0-0 0-0 8.♞e1
b5 9.e5 ♘d7 10.h4 a5 11.♘f1 ♞c7 12.♙f4
b4 13.♘e3 ♘d4 14.♘g5 ♘b6 15.c3 ♘c6
16.♞h5 ♙xg5 17.hxg5 ♙a6 18.c4 ♘e7
19.♘g4 ♘h8? 20.♘h2?!

20.♘f6!! h6 21.gxh6 g6 22.♞g5 ♞d8

23.♘c4 ♘f5 24.♘xc5 ♞xg5 25.♙xg5+-.

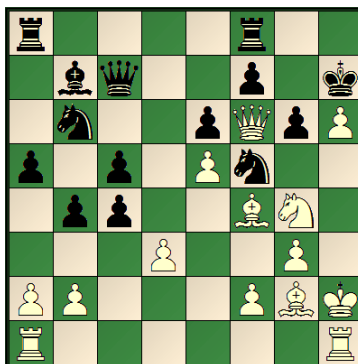
20...♙b7? 21.♞h1

21.♘f6!!

21...g6 22.♞h3 h5 23.gxh6 dxc4 24.♞h4
♘f5?!

24...♘bd5 25.dxc4+-.

25.♞f6+ ♘h7



26.♞g7+!! ♘xg7 27.♘f6+

Eric resigned here but here are a couple of fruitless but very beautiful finishes that this game could have had: 27...♘h8
28.hxg7+ ♘xg7 29.♙h6+!! ♘xh6 (29...♘h8
30.♘g1 ♙xg2 31.♙g7+ ♘xg7
32.♞h7#) 30.♘g1+ ♘g5 31.f4+ ♘f5
32.♙h3# 1-0.

Edmonton International Qualifier

A total of 20 players took part in the qualifier. On the line was a free entry into the 5th Edmonton International as well as cash prizes.

11 year old Richard Wang came out on top by scoring 4.5/5, giving up just half a point to FM Vlad Pechenkin. Vlad took clear 2nd with 4/5. Roy Yearwood and Alex Yam split 3rd-4th at 3.5/5.

Richard will be playing in the upcoming Edmonton International, his 2nd international event in the last couple months. Richard performed very well at the Calgary International and it seems there is no stopping him.



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2010 Road Warrior

The prizes have been increased this year. The total prize fund is now **\$1,000!** More prizes will be given out. The prize structure is as follows:

1st \$400 2nd \$200 3rd \$100 4th \$100 5th \$100 6th \$100

Here are the remaining Road Warrior events for 2010:

#	Date	Event	City
12	September 18-19	Medicine Hat Open	Medicine Hat
13	October 9-11	Alberta Open	Calgary
14	October 22-24	Edmonton Fall Sectional	Edmonton
15	November 20-21	Southern Alberta Open	Calgary
16	December 18-19	WBX Team Tournament	Edmonton

Eleven events have finished and Chris White of La Crete remains in first place.

1	Chris White	La Crete	39.0
2	Phil Holmstrom	Edmonton	25.5
3	Aaron Sequillion	Edmonton	24.5
4	Roy Yearwood	Calgary	23.5
5	David Miller	Grande Prairie	22.0
6	Ali Razzaq	Edmonton	20.5
7	Alex Yam	Calgary	19.0
8	Mike Zeggelaar	Edmonton	18.5
9	Rick Pedersen	Edmonton	18.5
10	Jim Daniluk	Calgary	18.5
11	FM Dale Haessel	Calgary	18.0
12	Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton	17.5
13	Nayef Daher	Edmonton	14.5
14	Mike Scholz	Calgary	13.5
15	Brad Willis	Edmonton	13.5



With 6 prizes on the line, there is plenty of room to move up the list. Play in the rest of the tournaments and you could win!

TOP 40 CFC RATED ALBERTANS

As of September 8, 2010

1	Hansen, Eric	2549
2	Porper, Edward	2523
3	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2405
4	Gardner, Robert J.	2333
5	Li, Zhichao	2324
6	Wang, Richard	2324
7	Reeve, Jeff	2322
8	Kaminski, Victor	2315
9	Haessel, Dale	2285
10	Haynes, Nicolas	2271
11	Robichaud, Martin	2267
12	Kazmaier, Daniel	2264
13	Ristic, Nenad	2252
14	Neven, Knut	2244
15	Yam, Alex	2240
16	Kaminski, Thomas	2229
17	Hughey, Micah	2216
18	Kalisvaart, Peter	2200
19	Booker, Brad	2192
20	Gold, Itohan	2187
21	Wen, Jean-Francois	2172
22	Zhang, David	2158
23	Gluckie, Jamin	2134
24	Willis, Bradley J.	2132
25	Rekhson, Vladislav	2120
26	Perron, Sean	2090
27	Yearwood, Roy	2088
28	Monaghan, Jim	2080
29	Campbell, Gordon	2077
30	Gorelik, Lev	2076
31	Karmali, Hafiz	2074
32	Purewal, Sardul	2072
33	Tam, Erik	2050
34	Sequillion, Aaron	2044
35	Daniluk, Jim	2028
36	Stark, Mark	2019
37	Pivovarov, Juraj	2017
38	Tot, Nandor	2000
39	Razzaq, Ali	1981
40	Miller, Brian	1977

TOP 10 FIDE RATED ALBERTANS

As of September 8, 2010

1	Porper, Edward	2442
2	Hansen, Eric	2412
3	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2314
4	Kaminski, Victor	2247
5	Reeve, Jeff	2230
6	Wang, Richard	2217
7	Ristic, Nenad	2216
8	Haessel, Dale	2208
9	Li, Zhichao	2193
10	Valencia, Belzar	2170

2010 Edmonton Chess Club Fall Sectional

October 22-24, 2010

Edmonton Chess Club

#204 10840 124 St.

Six Player Round Robins

CFC & FIDE Rated where possible

CFC membership required, can be purchased onsite

No byes allowed

Tournament Director: FA Vlad Rekhson

Time Control: 40 moves in 90 minutes, then game in 30 minutes, 30 second increment from move 1.

Entry Fee: \$25 before Monday, October 11. \$30 until October 18th.

Full refund is available if requested by October 11.

Process of payment: In Edmonton you can pay Vlad Rekhson or Terry Seehagen either by cash or by cheque made to the; Edmonton Chess Club.

Outside of Edmonton: In Calgary you can pay cash to Tony Ficzero, or send a cheque to the Edmonton Chess Club at the address above.

Registration: **No on site registration. You must pay to register. Official registration closes on Monday, October 18.** After that entries will only be allowed to make all sections consisting of six players, or to have replacements.

Pairings will come out on the evening of Thursday, October 21st.

Schedule:

Round 1: Friday, October 22 7 pm, Round 2: Saturday, October 23 11 am

Round 3: Saturday, October 23 4 pm, Round 4: Sunday, October 24 11 am

Round 5: Sunday, October 24 4 pm or ASAP after round 4.

Prizes: 100% of entries minus ACA fees. \$100 per section guaranteed, more in the top section.

Sections formatting: Sections will be made using the higher of CFC or FIDE rating. Players will be slotted in sections according to their rating. Unrated players will count as 1500 for section purposes, unless the organizer decides otherwise.

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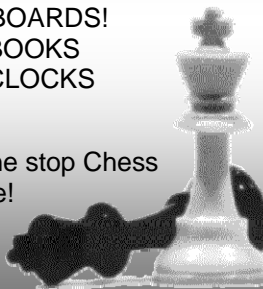
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 Website: www.calgarychess.com

Calgary Junior Chess Club

#274, 3359-27th St. NE (Parma Tech
 Centre, North Building)
 Contact: Simon Ong
 Email: simong89@yahoo.ca
 Website: [www.geocities.com/
 calgarychess4juniors/home.html](http://www.geocities.com/calgarychess4juniors/home.html)

University of Calgary Chess Club

Contact: Adie
 Email: chess@ucalgary.ca

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 106 Lakeside Landing, 15379 Castle
 Downs Road
 Tuesdays 1-4:30 p.m. Casual chess - no
 clocks, no ratings; open to all ages, up to
 16 players involved.

University of Alberta

Student Union Building @ Avenue Pizza
 Restaurant/Lounge
 September through April (excluding Dec),
 Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m.
 Contact: Stephen Stone
 Email: StephenRStone@gmail.com
 Website: uachess.wetpaint.com

Grande Prairie Chess Club

1st Apostolic Church, 9932 91 Ave
 Tuesdays from 6-10 p.m.
 Contact: Tim Pradzinski 780.518.2281
 Email databse@telusplanet.net
 Website: www.gpchessclub.com

Hanna Chess Club

United Church on Centre St.
 Contact Jon, 403.854.3412

Hinton

Queen's Bakery and Café, 124 Market St.
 Contact: Peter Bundscherer, 780.865.5050

Lethbridge

Contact: Kent Karapita
 Email: kentkarapita@hotmail.com

University of Lethbridge

Contact: Thomas Fox
 Email: thomas.fox@uleth.ca
 Website: people.uleth.ca/~chess.club/

Lloydminster

Contact: Terry Chaisson H. 780.875.8186
 Or cell: 780.871.3995

Medicine Hat Chess Club

Southridge Village, 550 Spruce Way SE
 Mid September to mid June, Wednesdays,
 7-10:30 p.m.
 Contact: Bill Taylor, 403.526.5484
 Email taylorlmw@shaw.ca

Medicine Hat Junior Chess Club

1015 3rd St. N.W.
 End of October to early March, Saturdays
 1:30-4 p.m.
 Contact: Bill Taylor, 403.526.5484
 Email taylorlmw@shaw.ca

Okotoks Chess Club

Contact: Richard Bradley
 Email: richard.bradley@shaw.ca

Sherwood Park

Second Cup on Baseline Road
 Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to closing time
 Contact: Les Jones, 780.467.7393

Wainwright Chess Club

Showtime Video, #701 10 Main St.
 Thursdays 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
 Contact: Allen Tinio, 780.842.4123
 Email: amtinio@telus.net

EDMONTON CASUAL CHESS

For general information or if you are inter-
 ested in setting up a new casual site in
 Northern Alberta.
 Contact: Bruce Thomas 780.474.2318
 Email: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca

Edmonton-Blackspot Café

15120 Stony Plain Road
 Sundays, 2-10 p.m. Sets are available.

Edmonton-ChessMart

12015-76 St
 Open weekdays 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and
 some evenings and weekends. Casual
 games can be arranged and evaluation of
 players of all ages.

Edmonton-Millwoods

Seniors Drop-in Centre inside Millwoods
 Town Centre Mall
 Thursdays, starting 1 p.m.
 For changes, corrections, or additions to
 this listing email tficzere@telus.net

The Alberta Chess Association is pleased to help out our existing chess clubs with any support they may require. We also encourage the formation of new clubs through our Chess Club seeding program. If you would like to start a chess club in your town, please contact the ACA to see if you qualify for the program. Email tficzere@telus.net for more information.



2010 Alberta Open Championship

October 9-11

Calgary Chess Club, #274 3359 27th St. NE

Tournament Director: Tony Ficzero tficzero@telus.net

CFC & FIDE rated. CFC membership is required, can be purchased at site. Your CFC membership must be paid prior to round 1.

Minimum Guaranteed Prize Fund \$1,000

Prizes increased with entries

Door Prizes may also be available

Format: 6 round swiss.

Time Control: Game in 110 + 30 seconds from move 1.

Round Times: Saturday & Sunday 10 am & 4 pm, Monday 9 am & 3 pm or ASAP.

Byes: A minimum of 3 half point byes available in the first 4 rounds. All byes must be registered before the start of round 1.

Entry Fee: Free entry to GMs & IMs. All others pay \$35 if received by October 1st. \$40 after October 1st. Advanced entries can pay at either the Calgary Chess Club or the Edmonton Chess Club or mail a cheque, payable to the Calgary Chess Club. Mail entries to:

Calgary Chess Club

#274 3359 27th Street NE

Calgary, Alberta, T1Y 5E4

Mail entries should include your full name, address, email address and phone number.

Cash only after October 1st!

Advanced entries will be posted on our website

www.albertachess.org/2010AO.html

Space is limited to 48 players on a first come, first serve basis

Onsite registration (if space is still available) on Saturday, October 9th from 9 am to 9:45 am.

The ACA AGM will take place on Sunday, October 10th at 2:30 pm in the skittles room of the Calgary Chess Club.

The winner qualifies to the 2011 Alberta Closed (if an Albertan).

The top 3 boards will be broadcast live for each round using DGT boards.

All equipment is supplied. Snacks and beverages available for purchase at site. Coffee is FREE

Accommodations: We are currently working on special rates at a local hotel. Watch the website for updates.

This is a *Road Warrior* event

Sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association

