



THE OUTPOST

CHESS NEWS FOR SOUTHWEST MISSOURI



VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

SPRINGFIELD and JOPLIN, MO

MARCH 2019

It's been so good to see our friend **Jim Baumlin** at several of our recent meetings. This writer received a valuable lesson from him (a good trouncing) at the February Blitz night (Feb. 22), and then **Roger Pagel** was able to coax him into submitting the following article.

I would encourage all of our readers to study this short-but-fantastic game. In particular, his in-depth post-mortem. Of this kind of "cool" precision in play (as Mr. Baumlin describes it), some of us can only thirst. So drink up, Missouri readers!

JM

My Last Chess Game

By Jim Baumlin

Beyond an occasional game in a city championship tourney, I played my last rated game in the 2000 Missouri Class Championships, held at the SPBCC. I had used up my nervous energy in the third round, which I lost to **Jim Ellis**, a high expert (if I remember correctly). I was winning on the board, he on the clock; the clock won. I played my fifth and last round against Jason Kasick, an expert from the St. Louis area. The level of calmness with which I played that last game may have contributed to the coolness of my calculating. Certainly I wasn't afraid to sac material on that day.

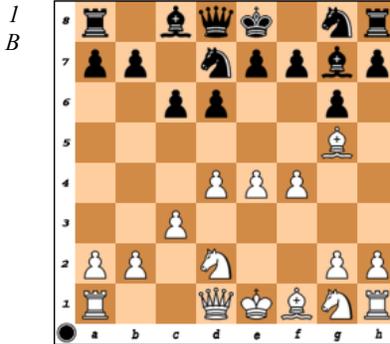
*Jim Baumlin – Jason Kasick
Missouri Class Championships,
Springfield, Missouri
July 23, 2000*

Modern Defense

- 1. e4 g6
- 2. d4 Bg7
- 3. c3 ...

Fellow SPBCC experts **Mark Trevor Smith** and **Fred Sadoogi** played the Pirc/Modern, so I was "booked up" in various lines. While not the most aggressive move, 3.c3 sends a message to Black's fianchettoed bishop: the a1-h8 long diagonal belongs to White...

- 3. ... d6
- 4. Bg5 Nd7
- 5. Nd2 c6
- 6. f4 (1) ...



This is not a "main line," but **Efim Geller** had played this position a couple of times and I liked the Kingside expansion. Despite having cluttered up the black squares, White aims to dominate the white squares. White could play moves like Bd3, Qf3, Ne2, and O-O, preparing for a center/kingside onslaught. Black's best

(continued on page 11)

Contents

Ben Franklin	5
Bertin's 3-Pawn Gambit	8
Death of Morphy	10
Chess Calendar	12
Games	
A. Manchester-Tropepe & Horton-Elliott ..	2
B. Pagel-Rude.....	3
C. Drum-Jackson	4
D. Whitaker-McClenahan	6
E. Kellotat-Bray	7
Blast from the Past	5

GAME SCORES: the LIFEBLOOD of OUR NEWSLETTER

by Jon McClenahan

It has become apparent that the general nature of the content of our newsletters is going to have to change. Future editions of *The Outpost* will mainly feature this writer's personal narcissistic musings on his own chess games.

Although this writer's playing level may only be about average for this club, nonetheless most of the newsletter content will highlight "great" games he has played on lichess.com.

"Why?" you may ask.

It's simple. There just aren't enough available game scores from other folks. We receive VERY FEW game scores from our members, and when we do, 40-50% of them are incorrectly notated (i.e. indecipherable). We do get a few score-sheets from other regular contributors. But our goal has been to publish games from a wide selection of our Springfield members – AND from the Joplin Club!

So unless you REALLY want to rename our newsletter "*The Chess Mishaps of Jon McClenahan*," GET THOSE GAME SCORES IN!

SPBCC Memberships

As of March 1, the annual membership fee of \$10 will be due. Receipts will be provided. Fees help defray cost of filing USCF ratings, plus equipment costs.

GAME A

Let's look at a couple of eleven-move "quickies" from the second week of the 2019 Ladder Tournament. Keep in mind, people: the goal of the opening is to get to the middle game!

*Spencer Manchester – Billy Tropepe
Springfield Ladder Tournament
January 18, 2018*

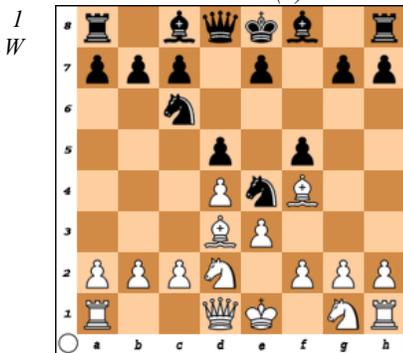
Dutch Defense

The first game featured a couple of our younger players, and so there is no doubt some good instructional material here.

1. d4 f5
2. Bf4 Nf6
3. e3 Ne4?

The game has kicked off as an unusual sort of "Dutch-London" hybrid ... but Black's last move breaks the general rule: you want to avoid moving your pieces for a second time until all other pieces have been developed.

4. Bd3 Nc6
5. Nd2 d5 (1)



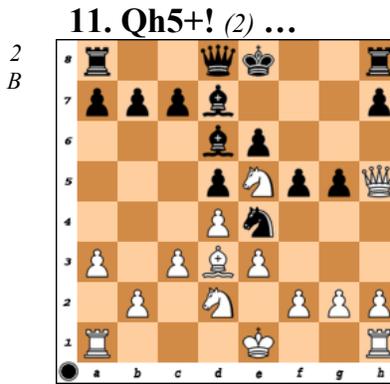
Already White has a lead in development and a slight advantage despite Black's aggressive outpost.

6. c3 Bd7
7. Ngf3 e6
8. a3 g5

A very dangerous pawn advance – it will take careful management to make this pay off.

9. Be5 Nxe5
10. Nxe5 Bd6??

Here at the very least 10. ... g4 had to have been played; better is 10. ... Nf6. But Black is hyper-focused on dislodging White's well-posted knight.



After 11. ... Kf8 (or ... Ke7) 12. Qf7#. Mr. Tropepe saw it, and resigned. A great lesson on the dangers of the Dutch!

1-0

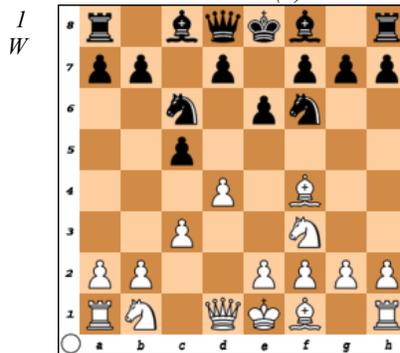
That same night, at the next table, two much more experienced players squared off and, well, there must've been something in the air: "Agent 11" perhaps?

*Stan Horton – Ben Elliott
Springfield Ladder Tournament
January 18, 2019*

Schmid-Benoni Defense

We all know Stan Horton as a solid, careful player. Here he is pitted against Ben Elliott, known for his aggressive attacking style.

1. d4 c5
2. c3 Nc6
3. Nf3 Nf6
4. Bf4 e6 (1)

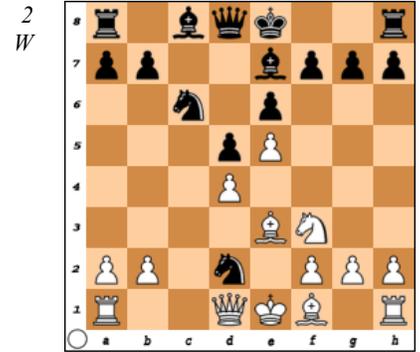


An even position along an unusual Schmid-Benoni line.

5. Nbd2 Be7
6. h3 b6
7. e4 d5
8. e5 Ne4

Black grabs the aggressive, albeit short-lived outpost.

9. Bd3 cd
10. cd Nxd2 (2)



Now after White recovers the knight with 11. Bxd2 (or 11. Nxd2) we will transition into a tough middle game struggle. However ...

11. Qxd2?? Bb4!

Ouch! An uncharacteristic blunder by Mr. Horton! The moral of the story: Never play your chess moves automatically!

0-1

When you have games like this, it's no doubt time to brush up on your basics, folks! Perhaps it is noteworthy that in neither of these two short games did any player ever castle!

"Every chess master was once a beginner."

Irving Chernev

SPBCC MEMBERS LIST (2018)

Steven Becker	Brayden Miao
Jared Bray	Eddie O'Kelly
Afzal Chowdhury	Roger Pagel
Isaac Drum	Aaron Perkins
Ben Elliott	Alan Peters
Mustafa Farid	Marty Phillips
Nathaniel Fast	Matthew Pratt
Quentin Fitzpatrick	John Quimby
Jeff Fuzzell	Brian Rude
Stan Horton	Ed Rysal
Jay Howard	Kai Schaefer
John Last	Troy Schuh
James Latham	Zac Schuh
Mike Little	Martin Stahl
Jon McClenahan	Ethan Stech
David McFeely	Peter Sterpe
Kellen McIlroy	Sam Weiner
Jeffrey McKeel	Adam Whitaker

This list will be updated for 2019 in the next issue of *The Outpost*. Be sure your name is on the list! See Roger Pagel about annual dues:

brevcamp@yahoo.com

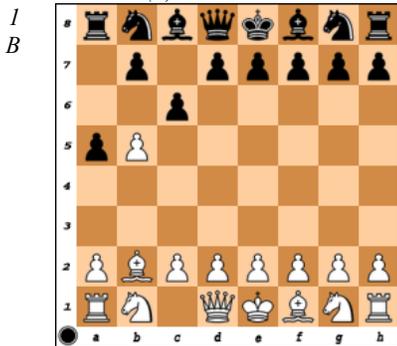
GAME B

Roger Pagel – Brian Rude
Springfield Ladder Tournament
October 19, 2018

Sokolsky Opening, Schuhler Gambit

A nice battle between two of our better club players. This was not a traditional Polish Opening and as is characteristic of these two players, there were some good tactical threats and counter-threats.

1. b4 c6
2. Bb2 a5
3. b5 (1) ...



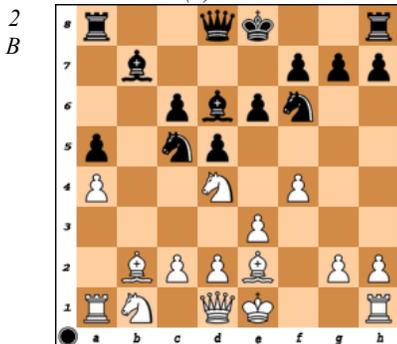
3. ... Nf6

Declining the gambit. The alternative is: 3. ... cb 4. e4 b4 5. Nf3 and White has better development, Black more space.

4. a4 d5
5. e3 e6
6. Nf3 Bd6
7. Bd3 Nbd7
8. bc bc

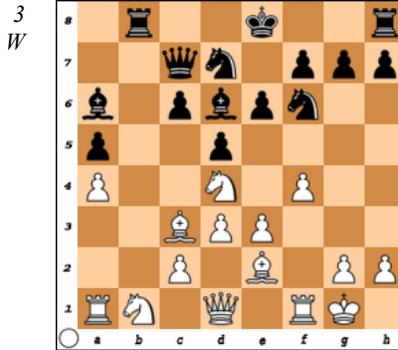
Fritz likes Black's game a little better here.

9. Nd4 Bb7
10. f4 Nc5
11. Be2 (2) ...



A very Bird-like setup. White has improved his position.

11. ... Qc7
12. O-O Ba6
13. d3 Rb8
14. Bc3 Ncd7(3)

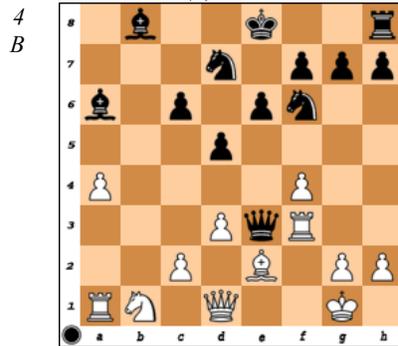


To continue, Fritz recommends 15. Nd2 to solidify White's game, but Mr. Pagel saw some fun tactics.

15. Bxa5!? Qxa5
16. Nxc6 Qb6!

According to Mr. Pagel, this was an unforeseen response, attacking the backward e-pawn. But in this position, White must follow through.

17. Nxb8 Qxe3+
18. Kh1 Bxb8
19. Rf3 (4) ...



Here White offered a draw, but Black still saw possibilities.

19. ... Qc5
20. Nd2 Ng4!
21. Qe1 ...

Now Black can win the c-pawn, which is Fritz' recommendation (and Mr. Pagel's). But Mr. Rude saw more.

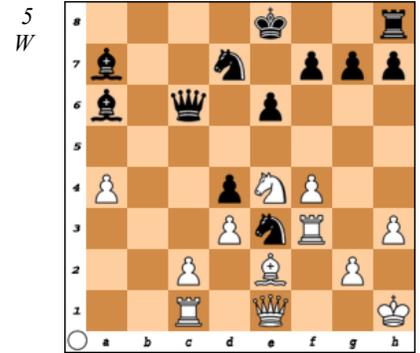
21. ... Ba7
22. h3 Ne3?!

22. ... Nf2 23. Kh2 Qxc2 24. Rc1 Qxa4 25. Rxf2 Bxf2 26. Qxf2 and Black maintains the lead.

23. Rc1 d4

TO some extent, cranking up the pressure ... but leaving a weakness in its wake.

24. Ne4 Qc6 (5)



And now it was Black's turn to offer the draw. Material is even, the position "is too complicated, and Brian's clock was running down – he was not in time trouble, but was behind, and at this point with my outside passed pawn his initiative is starting to fizzle." RP

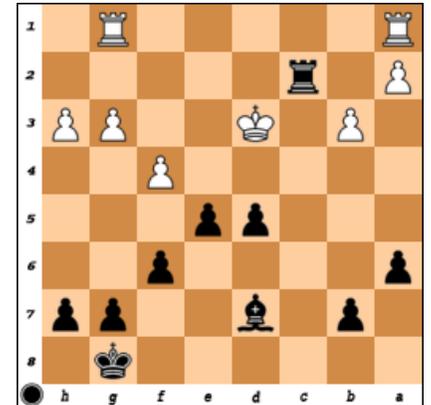
1/2-1/2

"Chess is one of the few arts where composition takes place simultaneously with performance."

Garry Kasparov

PUZZLE

Material is even, and White has just moved his king to d3 to attack the invading rook. It looks like Black should retreat ...



How can Black proceed?

(solution on page 6)

GAME C

Isaac Drum – William Jackson
North American Chess Open
Las Vegas, Nevada
December 29, 2011

Scotch Game

A few years back our own Isaac Drum entered the U1700 Section of the Continental Chess Association's North American Chess Open played at Bally's Casino Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. This game was from the last (7th) round.

1. e4 e5
2. Nf3 Nc6
3. d4 ed
4. Nxd4 Nf6
5. Bg5 h6
6. Bxf6 ...

White might've stood better with the intermezzo 6. Nxc6 bxc6 and then 7. Bxf6 etc.

6. ... Qxf6
7. c3 Bc5 (1)



Black's early aggressive line has White back on his heels!

8. Nf3 O-O
9. Bd3 d6
10. h3 Ne5!

Terrific pressure on White's kingside.

11. Bc2 Be6?!

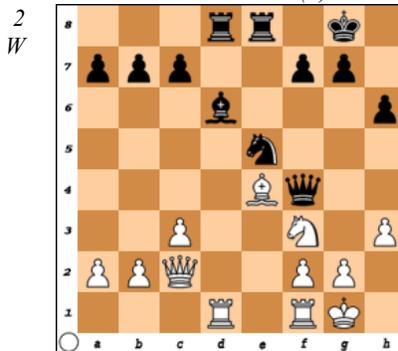
Black slows down, and now White has a chance to catch his breath. After 11. ... d5! 12. Nbd2 Re8! 13. O-O Nxf3+ 14. Qxf3 Qxf3 15. Nxf3 de 16. Ne4, Black is up a pawn with lots of good possibilities.

12. Nbd2 d5
13. ed Bxd5
14. Ne4 Bxe4
15. Bxe4 Rad8

16. Qc2 Rfe8
17. O-O Qf4?!

Mr. Drum noted that this aggressive move was premature. Fritz agrees: better is to remove the knight first 17. ... Nxf3+ and only after 18. Bxf3 Qf4!

18. Rad1 Bd6 (2)



It's still a minefield out there, and with the threat of ... Nxf3+ still hanging over his head, White has a LOT to consider. Sensing danger like a good chess player, Mr. Drum knew he had to start by eliminating Black's knight, but then took twenty-two minutes before playing that move! In his notes he said, "I was not worried about 19. Nxe5 Bxe5 since 20. g3 drives the queen away." There is also 19. ... Qxe5 and now White must temporarily park his bishop in enemy territory – 20. Bh7+ Kh8 – before stopping the checkmate threat with 21. f4. "But 19. ... Rxe5 was a bigger threat in my opinion." ID.

19. Nxe5 Rxe5

The position is VERY sharp. Now, if 20. Bf3 Re2 seems to win for Black (checkmate or take queen on the next move) but White actually has a nifty answer: 21. Rxd6!! Rxc2 22. Rxd8+ Kh7 23. Rd4 and now after the Black queen moves White is winning: 23. ... Qf6 24. Be4+. But during his long think on the previous move, White knew the path he would choose.

20. Rfe1 Rde8
21. g3 ...

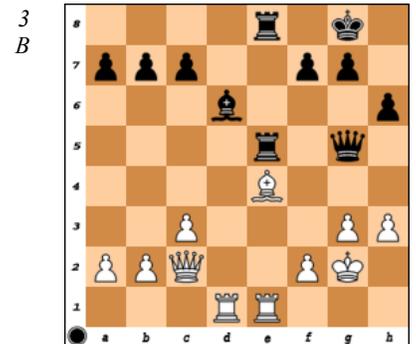
Just in time to put out the fire! Now Black must withdraw an attacker.

21. ... Qg5
22. Kg2! (3) ...

(diagram, next column)

Springfield Park Board Chess Club Board of Governors

Chief Muckymuck, Emeritus	Walter Ressimyer
SPBCC Tank Destroyer	Brian Rude
TD Apprentice	Adam Whitaker
Admiral, Nebraska Navy	John Last
Knight of the Golden Fleece	Roger Pagel
Chief Disaster Relief Officer	Kary Kingsland
Miscellaneous	Marty Phillips
VP, Proof-reading	Mike Little
Pretty Pictures	Stephanie Fitzpatrick
Minister of Misinformation	Jon McClenahan



White's follow-up not only protects the g-pawn but also threatens a deadly push 23. f4. In an online commentary, NM Chris von Krogh said, "It's funny, because in principle Black has this great pin on the e-file (threatening ... f5) but White's threat trumps Black's threat because of the immediacy!"

22. ... R5e6
23. Bh7+! ...

Allowing White to diffuse the dangerous e-file battery.

23. ... Kh8
24. Rxe6 Rxe6
25. Bd3 Qd5+

Here Mr. Drum spent ANOTHER 15 minutes in calculation! Seeing the fork on the a2-pawn, he concluded that it "wasn't the end of the world, especially with opposite-colored bishops." Fritz agrees that with this move, Black has only a half-pawn advantage.

26. Kh2 Qf3

"Instead, my opponent went for the kill." ID.

27. Bc4! Rf6

"All calculated during my move 25 think-time." ID.

28. Rd2 (4) ...

(continued w/ diagram on page 9)

Blast From the Past!

*Bob Howe – Christopher Neal
SPBCC Open Chess Tournament
(date unknown) 2010*

Philidor Defense

In the first round of Springfield Park Board Chess Club's Open Tournament, Bob Howe, a solid Class B player with a 1710 USCF rating, was matched against novice Christopher Neal, with a rating of 981.

1. e4 e5
2. Nf3 d6
3. d4 ed
4. Nxd4 Nf6
5. Nc3 c6
6. g3 Be7
7. Bg2 O-O
8. O-O Bd7 (1)



In the spirit of the Philidor, we arrive at a sleepy albeit solid, balanced position.

9. h3 Qc8

Black musters a small threat. One possible response is 10. g4. White finds another solution.

10. Kh2 b5

White sees some tactics.

11. Ndx5 cxb5 (2)



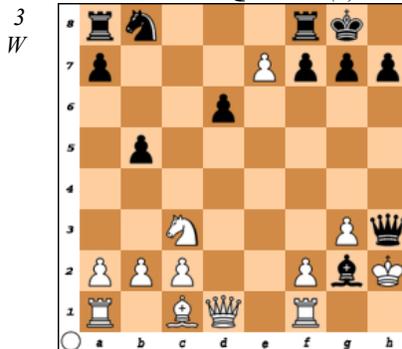
12. e5! ...

As Black attends to the discovered attack on his rook, White will get his piece back and, depending on how Black plays it, maybe more.

12. ... Bc6
13. exf6 Bxg2

Now after 14. Kxg2 Bxf6 15. Qf3 Nc6 16. Nxb5, White has a material lead and more threats on the way. However, Mr. Howe thinks he has more.

14. fxe7?? Qxh3+ (3)



Facing 15. Kg1 Qh1#, Mr. Howe resigned! Ah, doesn't it give a flash of hope to the lesser players ... like yours truly?

0-1

This little jewel earned Mr. Neal the Upset Prize (\$10) for the Tournament.



Christopher Neal receives a sawbuck from SPBCC club president Roger Pagel

"On the chess board, lies and hypocrisy do not survive long."

Emanuel Lasker



Ben Franklin: Chess Player



"The Games of Chess is not merely an idle amusement; several very valuable qualities of the mind, useful in the course of human life, are to be acquired and strengthened by it, so as to become habits ready on all occasions;"

Benjamin Franklin, "The Morals of Chess," published in 1786.

Born in Massachusetts in 1706, we know that Ben Franklin started playing chess around the year 1733, making him one of the first Americans to ever play the game.

The quote listed above is from Franklin's essay, "The Morals of Chess" written for The Columbian (magazine) in 1786, in which he tied the game of chess to "*the teaching of virtuous habits*" (as was his habit).

His proficiency in chess was a factor in the American Revolution! Franklin's knowledge of the game earned him an invitation from Lord William Howe to play a few games with the Commander-in-Chief of British Forces in 1774. This connection led to his invitation to the peace negotiations at the end of the war.

Benjamin Franklin was inducted into the US Chess Hall of Fame in 1999.

"Chess doesn't drive people mad; it keeps mad people sane."

Bill Hartston

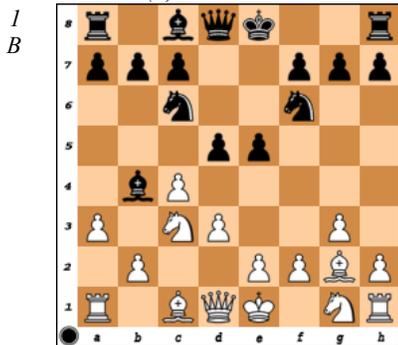
GAME D

Adam Whitaker – Jon McClenahan
Springfield Ladder Tournament
September 21, 2018

English Opening vs. King's Indian

In my first ever rated game, in last year's Drury Tournament, I squared off against Adam Whitaker. He played White, and opened with 1. c4, the English. I wasn't sure how to defend it, and ended up down material but ahead on time, and so we agreed to a draw. After the game Adam explained that he has used the English as White ever since hearing GM Yasser Seirawan recommend it on YouTube. Subsequently, I've played Mr. Whitaker two other times in two other tournaments, always playing defense to his English Openings. In this, our third meeting, I felt I had a better handle on it.

1. c4 e5
2. Nc3 Nc6
3. g3 Nf6
4. Bg2 Bb4
5. d3 d5
6. a3 (1) ...

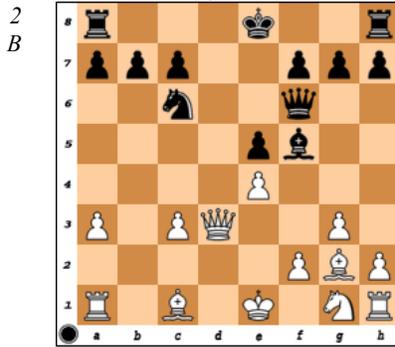


Fritz doesn't think much of this move. Black was better prepared for this alternative: 6. cd Nxd5 7. Bd2 which gives an equal position. As it is, the trade-off at c3 favors Black.

6. ... Bxc3+
7. bxc3 dc
8. Bg5 cd
9. Bxf6 ...

9. Qxd3 might've been better for White.

9. ... Qxf6
10. Qxd3 Bf5
11. e4?! (2) ...



Although this may seem like a natural way to counter the attack on his queen, it leaves his kingside in a mess. The fianchettoed bishop, in particular, now has no scope. Black was able to bank on that fact for the remainder of the game.

11. ... Be6
12. Qf3 ...
12. ... Qe7
13. Bh3 O-O
14. Bxe6 Qxe6
15. Rd1 Rad8
16. Qf5? ...

Again looking for a queen trade, but this opens up a Pandora's Box of tactics.

16. ... Rxd1+
17. Kxd1 Qb3+
18. Kd2 Rd8+
19. Ke2 Qxc3? (3)
(diagram, next column)

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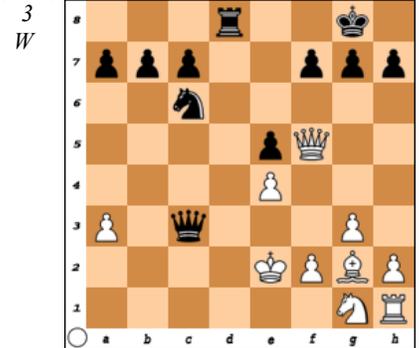
Brian Rude

Website

www.springfieldparkboardchessclub.com

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Black was hyper-focused on the tactics he actually played, but missed 19. ... Qd1+ 20. Ke3 Qd3#. Now White can finish development, but it's too late anyway.



20. Nf3 Rd2+!

The "death sentence."

21. Nxd2 Nd4+

Mr. Whitaker resigned. If it were just a matter of 22. (king moves) Nxf5, it would be BAD, exchanging a queen for a knight and a rook. But "king moves" are limited to the following losing continuations: A) 22. Ke1 Qc1#; B) 22. Kd1 Qc2+ 23. Ke1 Qc1#; or lastly in the attempt to avoid immediate checkmate, White also loses his knight: C) 22. Kf1 Nxd5 23. exf5 Qxd2 (or 23. Nf3 Nd6), and so Black's advantage – at minimum – is a queen and two pawns against a rook.

0-1

PUZZLE SOLUTION

(for the puzzle on page 8)

We shouldn't be thinking of retreat when we have mate in three, as follows:

1. ... Bf5+!
2. Ke3 d4+
3. Kf3 e4#

As they say in the Chinese art of Wing Chun, "The hand that strikes also blocks."





GAME E

*Gunter Kellotat – Jared Bray
Springfield Championship, Round 4
2005*

Sicilian Defense – Alapin Variation

An absorbing game graciously submitted by Jared Bray just before the press deadline, filling out our five-game-per-newsletter goal. Don't get me wrong – this is not "filler material." Jared's games are usually high calibre, and this one is no exception.

So who is Gunter Kellotat? As per Mr. Bray: "Gunter was a Prussian immigrant who found his way to Springfield via a long route that included Canada during the war. I rather liked the way he played: unafraid of risks and ready to attack or counter-attack as the position required."

A quick check on the USCF website shows that by late 1993 Mr. Kellotat had peaked with a rating of 1955. Not too shabby.

1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 Nc6
3. c3 ...

The Alapin. "A stodgy opening that does have some merit to it, positionally." JB

3. ... e6

This move "... can lead down French Defense lines through transposition. 3. ... d5 seems a better reply attempting to prove how slow 3. c3 is." JB

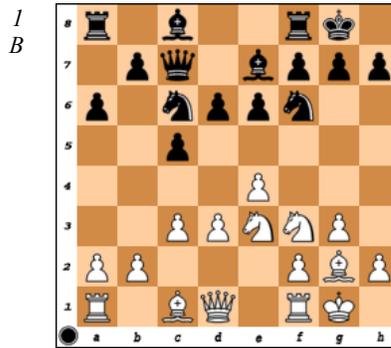
4. d3? Qc7?

"4. ... d5 is principled. 4 ... Nf6 isn't bad either." JB

5. g3 Nf6
6. Bg2 d6
7. Na3 a6
8. Nc2 Be7
9. Ne3 O-O

10. O-O (1) ...

(diagram, next column)



"We've arrived at some sort of King's Indian Attack with many wasted tempi. The Na3 → c2 → e3 maneuver was something of a standard for Gunter." JB

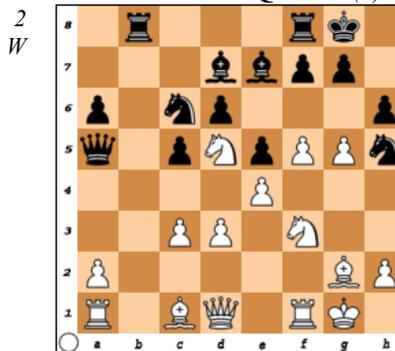
10. ... e5
11. Ne1 b5
12. f4 Rb8

"In these types of positions the f4 thrust almost always must be parried with the ef pawn exchange. While Gunter would have mobile pawns to press with, I would have more options with my defenses. For example, if f5 were ever played I could hop my knight to the e5-square where it would influence a lot of the board and make it harder for White to attack the castled king." JB

13. f5 b4
14. g4 h6
15. Nf3? ...

"The h-pawn is aching to join the attack! A g5-break will now be incredibly hard to deal with." JB

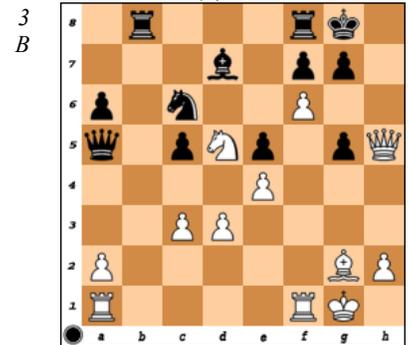
15. ... bc
16. bc Bd7?
17. g5? Nh5??
18. Nd5 Qa5?? (2)



The punctuation marks on the last three moves are Mr. Bray's ... should be taken with a grain of salt.

Nonetheless, Black's position has indeed deteriorated significantly, and Fritz gives White a winning advantage, especially after the next move.

19. Nxe5! dxe5
20. Qxh5 Bxg5
21. Bxg5 hxg5
22. f6! (3) ...



Mr. Bray resigned. "Anything I can do with the g-pawn results in checkmate, and something like 22. ... Rb2 finds 23. Qxg5 and only spite moves can delay the impending mate."

0-1

The Top 3 Longest Chess Games

According to chess.com, here are the four longest rated chess games ever played:

1) Ivan Nikolic – Goran Arsovic, 17 Feb 1989

After 269 moves, Nikolic was up a bishop + rook to a rook, and they agreed to a draw. On move 111, Arsovic advanced his d-pawn; there it remained until it was captured on move 167. At the time, there was a "100-move" draw rule instead of the "50-move" rule of today.

2) Alexandre Danin – Sergei Azarov, 15 Apr 2016

This recent chess marathon took 239 moves and was finally won by Danin. White advanced his pawn to a5 on move 135; to a6 on move 165; to a7 on move 198 ... lost it on move 212, and finally obtained a winning position on move 239.

(continued on page 9)

Captain Joe Bertin's Three-Pawn Gambit

by Jon McClenahan
with material by permission
from Sarah Beth Cohen, aka "Batgirl"

As a supplement to last month's King's Gambit Themed Tournament, we hereby submit this article for those whose interest was peaked by being forced to play 2. f4!

To preface, back in high school when this writer, like all other teenagers, thought he knew everything, our jolly fellowship occasionally dabbled in chess, and enjoyed making sweeping statements about various openings. "The Philidor – weak! Weak!" "The French Defense? Come on! How good can it be if it's FRENCH!?" And ... "The King's Gambit – poor – unstable. Risky."

Of course, at that time, despite our high opinions of ourselves, none of us could play his way out of a soggy paper bag.

Then one day many years later I picked up a book called, "Winning with The King's Gambit" by Joe Gallagher (Henry Holt Publishing, 1992). Little did I know that there were books on "Winning" with EVERY chess opening! In the book, Gallagher, a GM from Ireland, makes his case for a revival of this romantic opening. And so, much older and yet no wiser, I thought to myself, "Well now! I'm ON to something here!"

The fact is, as a GM, Gallagher's concepts are WAY above my 1400 skis, and in playing the King's Gambit against other opponents, I found they came up with their own Fischer-esque refutations which Gallagher didn't cover! In the end, there's just no substitute for learning good strategies and tactics.

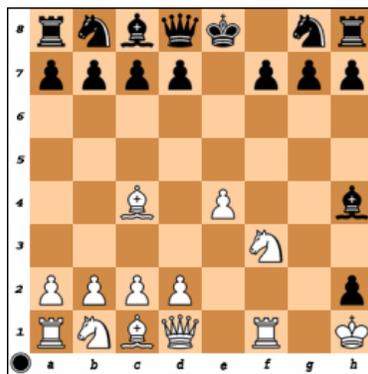
One of the defenses to the King's Gambit that I always had trouble with was the Cunningham Defense: 1. e4 e5 2. f4 ef 3. Nf3 Be7 4. Bc4 Bh4+ 5. g3 (yes, g3) fg 6. O-O gh+ 7. Kh1:

e.g. 4. d4 (there are much better continuations) ... Bh4+ (diagram below) and now White can trade the knight for a bishop if he wants but he will end up losing his right to castle regardless after Black's queen recaptures. Gallagher wasn't much bothered by Cunningham's defense, but it sure as heck gave ME fits ...



Alexander Cunningham was a 17th-century Scottish jurist who developed this defense to combat the King's Gambit. But then his friend Capt. Joseph Bertin developed what he called a "Three Pawns Gambit" as a refutation of the Cunningham!

It goes like this: 1. e4 e5 2. f4 ef 3. Nf3 Be7 4. Bc4 Bh4+ 5. g3 (yes, g3) fg 6. O-O gh+ 7. Kh1:



"A quick look will show that Black has all 8 pawns while White has only 5 and that White has compromised his King somewhat. A second look will reveal that White has developed astonishingly well and has established many potential threats against Black's King, while Black has been gobbling up the three pawns. The question each side is left to answer is whether or not White is adequately compensated." BG

When I put this position on my

computer, Fritz gives Black a 1.72 advantage, which is remarkable, considering White is down the equivalent of a whole minor piece!

If you have any doubts about the volatility of the position shown, here's a taste of what could happen:

7. ... Bf6
8. Ne5! Bxe5
9. Qh5 ...

One move, three threats!

9. ... Qe7
10. Rxf7 Qc5

Threatening mate on g1 ...

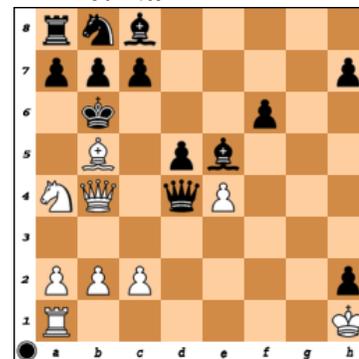
11. Rf8+! ...

If 11. ... Kxf8 12. Qf7#.

11. ... Ke7
12. d4! Qxd4
13. Bg5+ Nf6
14. Bxf6 gxf6
15. Qf7+ Kd6
16. Nc3 ...

Bringing in more troops, and simultaneously diffusing Black's 'Sword of Damocles' (... Qg1#).

16. ... Rxf8
17. Qxf8+ Kc6
18. Qb4 d5
19. Bb5+ Kb6
20. Na4#



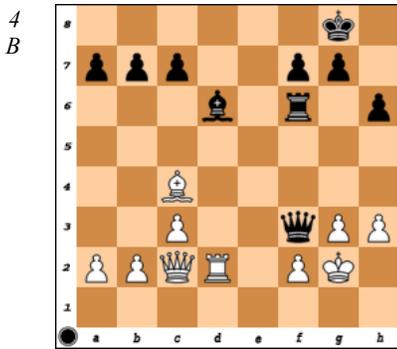
If this makes you want to put your 'swashbuckle' on, I'd encourage the reader to check out Batgirl's online article, "What Would You Give for an Attack?" including the game above and more:

www.chess.com/blog/batgirl/bertin-gambit-what-would-you-give-for-an-attack

The amazing sample games there might get you thinking twice about the King's Gambit as part of your repertoire.

Game C

(continued from p. 4)

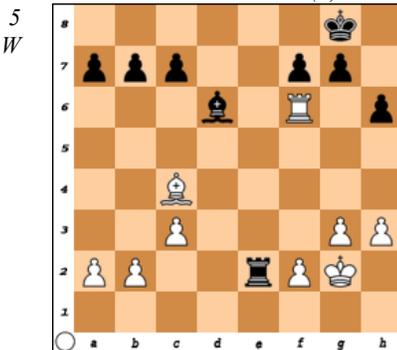


Now the players engage in some entertaining push-and-shove maneuvers, desperately trying to either gain an advantage or provoke a blunder. Black's rook (especially) is out of its element operating between closed pawn ranks, but he fights with tenacity!

28. ... Rg6
 29. Rd3! Qf6
 30. Qe2 Rg5
 31. Rf3 Re5?

Mr. Drum notes: "I think this makes things worse for him." Better was 31. ... Qe7 32. Qxe7 Bxe7 33. Rxf7 Re5 ... but even in that case, White has turned the game around!

32. Rxf6 Rxe2 (5)



33. Rxd6!! Rxf2+
 34. Kg1 Rxb2

Black had the choice between losing rooks and facing the endgame a bishop down, or grabbing another pawn and soldiering on. However, his prospects are dismal either way. White now has severe, sustainable punishment in store!

35. Rd8+ Kh7
 36. Rd7 f6

37. Bd3+ Kg8

38. Bg6 ...

Threatening checkmate.

38. ... Kf8

39. Rf7+ Kg8

As distasteful as it seems, 38. ... Ke8 might've been better to stop the continuous checkmate threats. In any case, the end is near.

40. Rxc7 Kf8

41. Bf7? ...

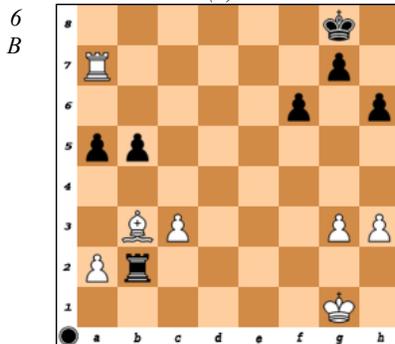
Pausing to protect his a-pawn, von Krogh pointed out that White could've effectively ended the contest with one more round of windmill checks: 41. Rf7+ and now if 41. ... Ke8 42. Rxb7+, but if 41. ... Kg8, 42. Re7 and now checkmate can be delayed but not stopped.

41. ... a5

42. Bb3 b5

43. Rf7+ Kg8

44. Ra7+ (6) ...



As per Mr. Drum: "The a- and b-pawns are now doomed." Black resigned. Said Mr. von Krogh: "Great defense. I think White was worse from move 5 until move 30, but he hung in there, defending all the main threats." Certainly, a game to be proud of!

1-0

Mr. Drum ended up with 4.0 points out of a possible 7.0 and placed in the top half of a talented field of 95 players.



3 Longest Chess Games

(continued from p. 7)

3) Laurent Fressinet – Alexandra Kosteniuk, 21 Oct 2007

This one lasted 237 moves, but the most remarkable thing, according to chess.com, is that "it was played under a rapid time control." Black, up a bishop + rook to a rook + 2 pawns, bagged the first of White's pawns on move 78 and the last one on move 121. Apparently under "rapid time control" the 50-move rule doesn't apply, and Kosteniuk was able to win in a position similar to the Danin-Azarov game.

BONUS) Viktor Korchnoi – Anatoly Karpov, 27 Jul 1978

The longest recorded world championship game featured Russians Korchnoi and Karpov in their 5th Round game. Korchnoi, on move 107, was up a bishop + pawn to a pawn, and could've won Karpov's remaining pawn but would then not be able to promote his own. On move 124 in frustration, he ended it by stalemating his opponent.



Korchnoi and Karpov in 1978

"Q: Which is better, a bishop or a knight? A: Whichever one you don't have."

Isaac Drum



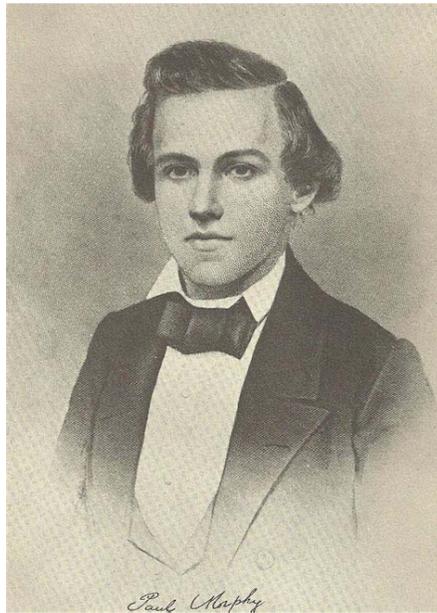
On the Death of Paul Morphy

with permission,
by Sarah Beth Cohen, aka "Batgirl"

Of all the death notices for Paul Morphy, the following transcription from the New Orleans Times-Democrat, Sunday, July 13th, 1884, written by Charles de Maurian ... is by far the best:

THE KING OF CHESS KINGS

"The death of Paul Morphy has removed from our midst one who may justly be pronounced a true phenomena of the present century. For, however much it may be argued that genius consists of an infinite capacity for taking pains, we hold that this applies in truth only to talent, which, in its highest type, may sometimes attain even greater results than genius of a moderate type, but which ever remains only talent still. Genius, true genius in the exercise of its powers can be limited by no such constrained definition. It sets through incomprehensible methods; it reaches its ends or its conclusions by inexplicable means; it differentiates itself from talent by lines unmistakable yet indefinable in terms; it is in every sense and in every characteristic of its existence a true phenomena. And Paul Morphy was a true phenomena, for never before existed there so true, so unmistakable, so astounding a genius for the noble and intellectual game with which his name and his fame are indissolubly linked. Other great players had lived before him and transmitted their masterpieces to subsequent generations; other great players have come after him and claim to have discovered and recorded a new and more perfect school of chess; but not one has ever approached him that natural, innate, capacity for the game and for every branch of it; in that complete possession of every faculty necessary for its practice and rendering him the nearest, if not indeed the only approximation to the perfect player.



"Nor is the claim of superiority simply an empty assertion; the proofs lie in the nearly complete collections of his recorded games, collections embracing his every mood and manner of play, from the deeply meditated battle against a fellow giant of the chess world to the hasty skirmish with a mere fourth rate, and yet how weighty is the proof thus afforded? What other chess master could thus appear so deshabille, as it were, before the judges and stand a comparison? In what other player's games can we find such an absence of dullness, such freedom from errors, such abundance of sparkling surprises, such wonderful blending of attack and defense, such profound, daring and subtle combinations, and above all such originality, such freshness- the truest indication of genius, after all? What Mozart as to innate, natural ability, was to music, Morphy likewise was to chess. He stands, in this characteristic, unique, alone, without a rival, however much in other respects his claims to pre-eminence may be disputed. For Morphy's rise to the front rank of chess-players was not like that of Steinitz, or Anderssen, or Staunton, or Zukertort, or Blackburne, or any one of a dozen other masters – nay, even of LaBourdonnais himself, the result of long years of personal study and practice with other great, and

perhaps stronger, players than himself ...

"Well might so profound a judge as Mr. Boden declare that the possibilities of Morphy's genius had never been half revealed because only a very limited exercise of its powers had always been sufficient to insure victory!

"Indeed, the more searchingly we examine and compare with Morphy's the recorded masterpieces of the other kings of chess, the stronger grows the conviction that no other lived whose capacity for the game from every standpoint was so truly gigantic in whom, both mentally and even physically, so wonderful a union of every characteristic of the complete player was to be found. Coolness, patience, accuracy, perseverance, imagination, enterprise, daring, judgment, rapidity and facility of play, and memory of an astounding character, all were Morphy's, and all in a degree that no chess master in the history of the game ever possessed before and that, we fear, in all likelihood none other will ever possess hereafter. And despite all that the kings of the so-called modern school of chess assert for it in the way of superiority over the old style, of which Morphy may be claimed to have marked the grand and final climax, who shall doubt for a moment that, if opposed to these, his stupendous genius would not have dashed aside ingloriously the too feeble network of counter-march and manoeuvre, and shattered their but seemingly impregnable positions with the lightning strikes of mighty and unfathomable combination? We frankly confess that no such doubt exists for an instant for us.

"On Thursday last, the 10th instant, there silently passed away from the theatre of this earth into the shades of the historic past ...

"Paul Morphy is no more ..."



My Last Chess Game

(continued from p. 1)

chance is to enforce ...e5, limiting the scope of White's monster bishop on the b1-h7 diagonal.

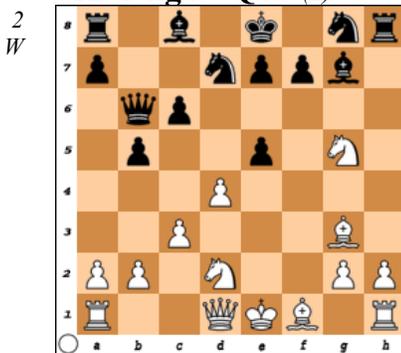
6. ... h6
7. Bh4 b5?

Black doesn't have time for queenside expansion. 7...Qc7 would help enforce ...e5. Nowadays I'd probably respond with 8. Bd3 and complete my own development. But 7...b5 looked like an overreaching and I decided to lay siege to e5 myself.

8. e5!? g5

Though this move breaks up White's center, it also accelerates White's piece development.

9. fg de
10. Ngf3 Qc7
11. Bg3 hg
12. Nxc5 Qb6 (2)



Black's 12...Qb6 unpins the queen, but White's space advantage and ownership of the white squares suggests that he's already "won the position," if not yet the game. If 13...Bf6 is in fact forced, then Black's position is hopeless.

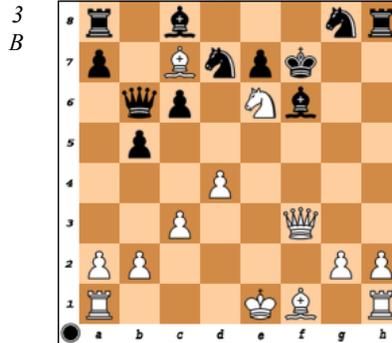
13. Qf3 Bf6
14. Nxf7 e4!

[ED. NOTE: The "exclamation point" for Mr. Kasick's move here is based on Fritz's assessment. As follows, Mr. Baumlin saw more than Fritz – a triumph of man over machine, no?] In playing 13...Bf6, Black based his hopes on this *zwischenzug* rejoinder. Otherwise, 14...Kxf7 15.de bags another pawn and wins back the piece. But, here again with 14...e4, Black is accelerating White's development.

15. Nxe4 Kxf7
16. Ng5+ Ke8
17. Ne6 Kf7

Black could not have guessed how strong the e6-knight would become. 17...Kf7 answers the immediate threat (18. Nc7+ winning the a8-rook) but doesn't improve his position. Note how Black's broken game plan points back to 7. ... b5. If Black had played 7. ...Qc7 with ...e5 to follow, he'd have untangled his position. As it stands, the e7-pawn is immobile, acting as a roadblock between his flanks. He has no way to coordinate forces or complete his development; worse, his king has no escape routes, being limited to white squares ...

18. Bc7! (3) ...



18. ... Qa6
19. Bd3!! Kxe6

It's arrogant to give one's own move a "double exclamation," but I didn't earn many over my tournament career and this one left my e6 knight *en prise*. Having sacked my first knight, I was offering my second. Black took it impulsively, not seeing the mating net. [ED. NOTE: When you put White's 19th move into the chess engine, it shows a slight advantage for White, and after Black's move, it registers as an equal position ... for about ten seconds ... until it calculates a little further! It's comical to see the evaluation numbers progress from 0.16 → 8.13 → 8.44 → (#8). Again, Mr. Baumlin perceived the position more clearly than the circuitry.]

20. Bg6! ...

This is the move Black missed: before delivering a queen check, White cuts off the Black king's escape square.

20. ...Nh6

Guarding against mate by 21. Qf5. Black now hoped for 21. Qe4+ Ne5 22. dxe5 Kd7, giving his king an escape route and some vague hope of survival. In this line, Black could then use the black square e5 as a temporary shield against White's onslaught on the white squares. But White's next move ends the game immediately.

21. Qh3+! (4) ...



So surprising and so elegant. Black resigned here, so I guess this game, being under 25 moves, counts as a "miniature." Note that the mating net offers the sac of a third minor piece: 21...Kd5 (best) 22.Be4+ Kxe4 (if 22...Kc4, 23.b3#) 23. Qf3#.

1-0

The fantasy position from 23. Qf3# was satisfying for having sacked three pieces to mate the Black king in the center – on e4 no less, where the whole battle began. As a fitting "last game" for one's tournament career, here's what this "miniature" offered: I don't believe that I ever calculated a game with such clarity or sacked material with such calmness. I don't remember the time control: probably G/60. If I say that I liked the old-time controls, it's because my thinking has slowed down over the years. But, that said, I don't think that I would have found many of these same moves in a faster game.

When I first joined the SPBCC in 1988, the city championship games played at 40 moves in 2 hours with a sealed-move adjournment to the next

(continued on page 12)

SW Missouri Chess Calendar

Pizza Hut Chess!

Every LAST SUNDAY of the month!
at the Pizza Hut in Republic
(806 US Highway 60)
starting at 6:00 pm
G60/d0

A great opportunity to get in some rated
games and enjoy some delicious pizza!

Participation is free but please considering ordering
a meal to thank out gracious hosts!

Springfield Park Board Club Ladder Tournament

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

2019 Missouri State University Open

April 20 (8 am) and April 21 (7 pm), 2019
Kentwood Hall Crystal Ballroom
700 E. St. Louis St, Springfield, MO

G90/d30, rated. Five rounds Swiss. Half-point bye
available if requested before Round 3.

Entry fee \$30. Cash prizes
MCA membership (from \$5) available on-site.

sponsored by the Joplin and MSU Chess Clubs

Blitz Tournaments!

G10/d0. Entry fee \$1.
All proceeds go to benefit our hosts, the
Southside Senior Center.

Be there by 7:15 pm
to register for pairings.

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

My Last Chess Game

(continued from p. 11)

week! In a longish time control (say, G/60), I had worked out a “budget” – 30 or as much as 40 of the 60 minutes total – for special calculation time. One plays through the opening by rote, until one reaches that *terra incognita* of the true “middle game,” when one is on one’s own in planning. At that moment, one invests maybe 10 minutes or so in charting the strategic goals and looking for tactics. Assuming one has played well, a second crucial “moment of decision” will arise: that’s the moment when one chooses to “go all-in,” putting the game on the line with one make-or-break move. This is a 10-15 minute deep-calculation time, since opponents’ countermoves need to be identified and weighed (calculating tactics takes time!). The third crucial moment, taking 5-10 minutes, focuses on the right timing of transition from the middle game into the endgame. Remember that an endgame, by *defin-*

ition, is resolved assuming “best play.”

In the middle game, win/lose/draw remains uncertain; in the endgame, assuming “best play,” *the game has already been decided*. Knowing *when* a game has been “won” (or “drawn”) and *how* to transit into a “won” (or “drawn”) endgame – typically through exchange of pieces and entry of the king into the fray – is an art worth mastering. (I must admit, I’m puzzled by people’s willingness to break an opponent’s attack by transposing into a “lost” endgame. I’d rather lose in the middle game than play out a “lost” endgame...)

I write this, because a change in time control affects the way one budgets time. Can I make this seeming digression relevant to the game I just annotated? I think so. My opponent effectively “left book” with 7. ... b5, so my first time-investment came with 8.e5! aimed at opening diagonals for my white-squared bishop and queen. My second time-investment came with 14. Nf7, when I had to calculate 14. ...

e4 among other responses to my first sac. But my “*all-in*” moment of decision-making came – surprisingly – with 17.Bc7! which I played, not to chase the queen, but rather to deny the Black king a d8 flight square. From that moment, I was king-hunting on the white squares.

By the way, even this “*miniature*” had an “*endgame*.” Remember that an endgame, by definition, arises when the result has been decided – whether win, loss, or draw. 20. Bg6 took us into the endgame, as Black’s loss – rather, White’s victory – was no longer in doubt.

JB

“Combinations have always been the most intriguing aspect of chess. The master looks for them, the public applauds them, (and) the critics praise them. It is because combinations are possible that chess is more than a lifeless mathematical exercise. They are the poetry of the game; they are to chess what melody is to music. They represent the triumph of mind over matter.”

Reuben Fine