

THE OUTPOST

SPRINGFIELD CHESS CLUB NEWS



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 6

SPRINGFIELD, MO

DECEMBER 2018

YEAR IN REVIEW LOOKING FORWARD

by Roger Pagel

As many of you know the Springfield Park Board Chess Club has been around since 1972. That was the year Bobby Fischer became the eleventh world chess champion. Clubs sprang up all over the country in those days, and ours is just one of the many, but while most clubs have vanished, we're still around and kicking! We are part of the United States Chess Federation (USCF) which was founded in 1939 when the American Chess Federation merged with the National Chess Federation. Both organizations combined had around 1,000 members then. After Fischer won the U.S. Championship at age 14 in 1958, memberships grew to over 60,000. Today, in 2018, the USCF has over 85,000 members mostly due to the growth of scholastic chess.

While our club has seen growth spurts exceeding 50 members, this past year we had 34 paid members with an e-mail distribution list of 84. Our Facebook 'likes' are at 399 with 1439 unique views per week of our Archival Website. We are in our third year of the revived Ladder Competition, which was a staple of the Club in the late 1980s through early 2000s. In 2018 we exceeded 150 USCF-rated games and conducted our third annual fund-raiser on October 13th for the Southside Senior Center. All told, we collected \$400 in that event. This year we introduced a seven-round rated blitz tournament in conjunction with National Chess Day. *Chess Life*, the official magazine of the USCF, ran our ad for this tournament in the August and September issues.

Each week too, players and visitors on a volunteer basis may give \$1 or more to help the Senior Center meet its community program expenses. While chess is free every Friday night, our members are always generous in their giving. Moreover, the last Friday of each month a dollar entry Blitz tournament is held with the proceeds going to the Center. In 2017 the fund-raiser collected \$395, and with the monthly blitz and weekly donations, we collected \$663 last year. This year we are on pace, with the fund-raiser, to exceed \$1000!

In 2017 we also revived *The OutPost: Springfield Chess Club News*, editor **Dylan Mounts**, followed by our current editor, **Jon McClenahan**. We've asked our members to submit their games to Jon and are looking to the Joplin Chess Club members to do the same. We plan to rename the publication, *The Outpost: Chess News for Southwest Missouri*. We're also looking to attract younger players to the club and currently we have five very active scholastic players. In addition, **Adam Whitaker** has taken it upon himself to run several scholastic events throughout the year. We've reserved the Center for February 9, 2019 for one of his events. We've hopes to combine these scholastic tournaments into an annual series of events leading to a unique scholastic champion.

Look to early January for the 2019 Ladder to begin. Besides monthly blitz tournaments, we're hoping to include a few "Themed Tournaments" where specific opening positions will be played in all games. Our membership drive starts again in early March 2019 and we hope to see you at the club!



<u>Contents</u>	
Members List	2
Chess Calendar.....	8
<u>Games</u>	
A. Luther-Bray	2
B. Bao-Todd.....	3
C. Burrow-Jackson.....	4
D. Yang-Whitaker.....	6
E. McClenahan-Clark.....	7
Blast from the Past	5

DON'T MESS WITH THE KING

Legend has it that back in AD 1026, Canute the Great, ruler of Denmark, England, and Norway, was playing a game of chess against Ulf, the regent Earl of Denmark.

The great king made a "false move" but it resulted in losing one of his own knights. Only then did Canute demand that he be allowed to take the move back, to which Ulf "waxed angry" and proceeded to turn over the board.

In the subsequent shouting match, Canute accused his Viking chieftain of cowardice in battle, whereas Ulf reminded him of the crucial military assistance he had given the king at the Hedge River.

Canute's response? "The Swedes beat you like a dog." Ulf stormed out of the room ... and Canute had him killed in church the next day.

GAME A

Ron Luther – Jared Bray
Kansas Open Championship
July 14, 2018

Closed Sicilian

In July, our own Jared Bray traveled to Lenexa, Kansas for their two-day Kansas Open Chess Championship, and he represented the Springfield Chess Community well. Jared summed up his experience: “I had a lot of fun at the Kansas Open, both playing and witnessing great chess!” In the second round, he was paired off against none other than Missouri’s 10-time (incl. 2018) State Champion, NM Ron Luther, who had a 400+-pt ratings advantage over our boy.

1. e4 e6
2. Nc3 ...

Mr. Bray had never faced this opening as Black, and was “completely surprised,” and then chose a Closed Sicilian as his best course of action.

2. ... c5
3. g3 Nc6
4. Bg2 Nf6
5. f4 d5
6. e5 Nd7
7. Nf3 Be7
8. O-O O-O
9. Ne2 b5 (1)



Black has established a considerable queenside front, and appears to have taken the initiative.

10. c3 c4

If instead 10. ... b4 and Black maintains equality with “a clear path for queenside expansion.” But “the text forces the following moves and (also) leaves things equal.” JB

11. d4 cd e.p.

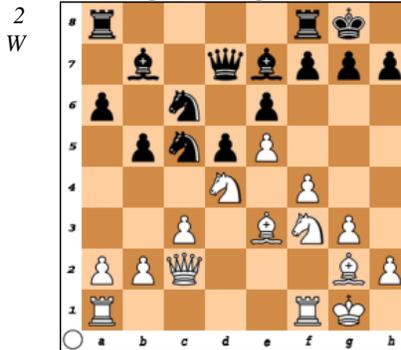
12. Qxd3 a6

“I spent entirely too long on this simple-looking move. I was examining the fallout from playing 12. ... a5. After 13. Qxb5 Nc5 14. Qxc6 the White queen is trapped ... but how best to trap it? With so many variations to work out and my clock ticking I decided to forego the alluring idea of trapping a master’s queen.” JB

13. Be3 Bb7

14. Ned4 Nc5

15. Qc2 Qd7 (2)



Fritz slightly prefers White’s position.

16. Rad1 f6?

Although this move helps monitor g5, Mr. Bray calls it “a positional mistake that, with correct play, drops a pawn. I spent some time considering 16. ... Na5 where 17. b4 is bad for my opponent on account of 17. ... Nc4. But Ron had other moves that keep his position pleasant, including 17. b3, making my knight look passive on a5.”

17. b4 Ne4

18. Bh3 f5

Necessarily locking the pawn structure.

19. Nd2 Nxd4

20. Bxd4 Rfc8

The backward c3-pawn has now become a target, but “in hindsight, that rook stood better watching over f5.” JB

21. Nxe4 dxe4

This exchange was important for White because the Black knight was too strongly positioned. However as a result, Black now has a passer on the e-file, and it will soon be put to good use!

SPBCC MEMBERS LIST

Steven Becker	Brayden Miao
Jared Bray	Eddie O’Kelly
Afzal Chowdhury	Roger Pagel
Isaac Drum	Aaron Perkins
Ben Elliot	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
	† 2018 Club Champion

22. g4 g6

23. Qf2 Qc6

24. Qg3? (3)...



“It was an interesting moment ... after playing his queen move, Ron leaned back in his chair and placed his hands behind his head as if he didn’t have a care in the world. I may not be much of a poker player, but I know a bluff when I see one!” JB

24. ... e3!

25. Qxe3?? ...

Loses on the spot. Mr. Bray and Fritz both point out that 25. Bxe3 was better for White. Fritz offers 25. ... a5 26. a4 ab 27. gf Rxa4 as the best way for Black to proceed; Bray, under extreme time pressure (“my clock was ticking down to eight minutes, versus an hour for Ron”) would’ve gone for the tactical continuation of 25. ... Bh4 26. Qxh4 Qh1+ 27. Kf2 Qf3+ and a draw.

25. ... Qh1+

26. Kf2 Qxh2+

27. Ke1 Bh4+! (4)

(diagram and game continued on page 8)



GAME B

*Harrison Todd – Daniel Bao
Drury National Chess Day Open
Springfield, MO
October 14, 2018*

Indian Game – London System

Here at the Springfield Park Board Chess Club we're excited to see so many young players participating. These young boys and girls represent the Springfield Chess community of tomorrow, and we are pleased to monitor their chess growth and experience.

So for the sake of chess education and to celebrate a young man's very first USCF-rated victory, we hereby present this game from October's Drury University National Chess Day Open, with Harrison Todd playing against Daniel Bao.

1. d4 d5
2. c3 Nc6
3. Bf4 ...

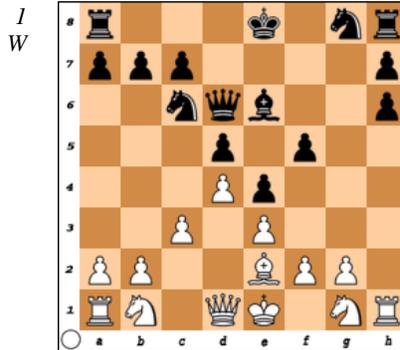
Although his second move was unusual, White emulates the London System, undoubtedly learned from his dad, **Daniel Todd**, who won our National Chess Day Blitz Tournament on the previous day (son Harrison also participated in that tournament). The London is a favorite opening with the senior Mr. Todd.

3. ... f6!?

An unusual response, but certainly sound here. Black bolsters the e5 & g5 squares and limits the scope of White's f4-bishop.

4. e3 e5
5. Bg3 e4
Taking the available space.
6. h4 Bd6
7. Bxd6 Qxd6
8. h5 f5
9. h6 gh
10. Be2 Be6 (1)

(diagram, next column)



Preparing to meet Bh5+. While Black enjoys a solid position, White has advanced boldly in an effort to disrupt Black's kingside pawn structure. But then ...

11. Rxf6?? ...

An unfortunate miscalculation by young Mr. Todd: a rook for a pawn is a bad deal. A great continuation for White would've been 11. Bh5+ and after 11. ... Bf7 12. Bxf7+ Kxf7 13. Qh5+ and now that Black can't castle, White has an advantage.

11. ... Nxf6
12. Nh3 O-O-O!

Black understands the importance of taking his king away from the action; the kingside has too many 'active shooters.'

13. Nf4 Rhg8
14. Nxe6? ...

The knight was well-posted at f4, and perhaps more importantly, defended g2.

14. ... Qxe6
15. Nd2 Rxc2
16. Nf3? ...

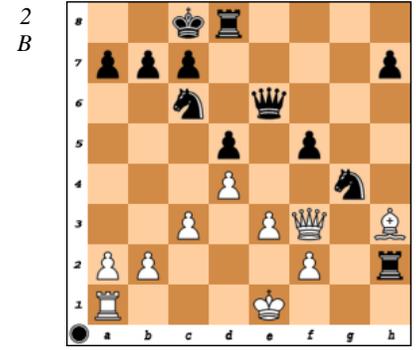
16. Bf1 was the better way to save the position.

16. ... Ng4
17. Bf1 exf3
18. Qxf3 ...

If White had taken the rook at g2, he may have had more trouble than he could handle when the pawn recaptures.

18. ... Rh2
19. Bh3 (2) ...

(diagram, next column)



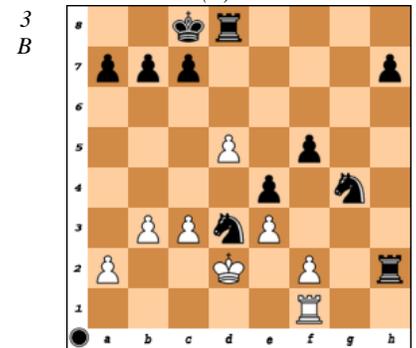
19. ... Qe4

A sensible move: Black has the material advantage so it follows that he should simplify the board now. However, there was perhaps an even better opportunity if he had played 19. ... Rxf2 attacking White's queen, and after the queen runs, the hungry rook gobbles up the b2-pawn.

20. Qxe4 dxe4
21. O-O-O?? ...

Another lapse by White, as he left his bishop hanging. White's best chance was to trade off the bishop first (i.e. 21. Bxc4). In any case White is in a pickle.

21. ... Rxh3
22. Rf1 Rh2
23. d5 Nce5
24. b3 Nd3+!
25. Kd2 (3) ...



25. ... Rxf2+

Taking with the g4-knight may have been better (a discovered check is always a nice weapon) but from here on we will see Black concentrating on the round-up of White's king.

(continued on page 8)



GAME C

Charles Burrow – Stan Jackson
Springfield Ladder Tournament
November 11, 2017

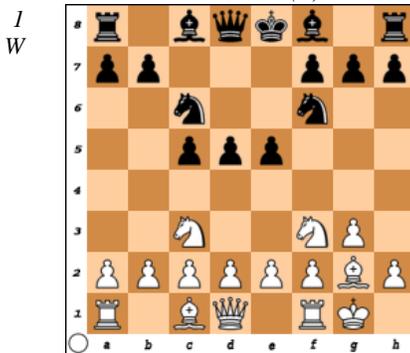
Dunst Opening

Charles Burrow and Stan Jackson square off in a wonderfully entertaining game from a 2017 Ladder Tournament game.

1. Nc3 d5
2. Nf3 c5

We are already in unexplored territory. As per Marty Phillips, the usual continuations are 2. ... Nf6 or 2. ... Bg4. Nonetheless, “there are plenty of opportunities to transpose into another opening variation.”

3. g3 Nc6
4. Bg2 Nf6
5. O-O e5 (1)



Black has the space and the advantage. “At this point, the position is a King’s Indian Defense with the colors reversed. Essentially, White has taken a defensive position with an extra tempo.” MP

6. d3 h6
7. a4 Bf5
8. Nd2 Qd7 (2)

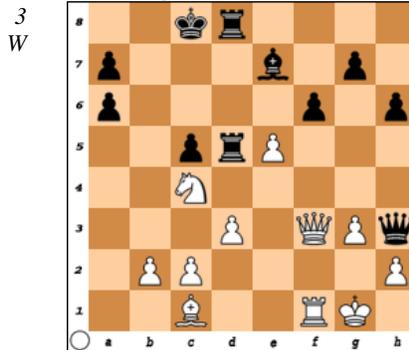


Until now White has indeed played very defensively. But now that Black has formulated some potential wing attacks, White is “obligated to attack the center.” (MP) ... and he does.

9. e4 Bh3
10. Nxd5! Nxd5
11. Bxh3! ...

Already some exciting tactics! White draws away the Black queen.

11. ... Qxh3
12. exd5 Nb4
13. Nc4 O-O-O
14. a5 f6
15. f4!? Rxd5?!
16. fe Be7
17. a6 Nxa6
18. Rxa6!? bxa6
19. Qf3 Rhd8 (3)



20. Nd6+!! ...
Giving check while simultaneously cutting off communication between Black’s rooks!

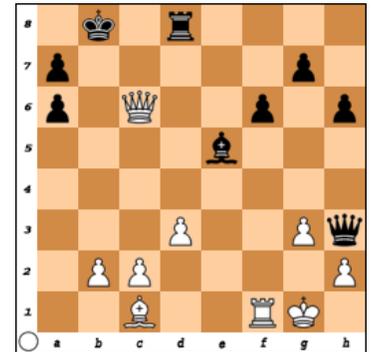
20. ... Bxd6
21. Qxd5 Bxe5
22. Qxc5+ Kd7
23. Qd5+ Kc7?

Better here was 23. ... Ke7 24. Qe4 Kf8 with some security in sight. Instead Black runs away from protection.

24. Qc4+ Kb7
25. Qe4+ Kc8
26. Qc6+ Kb8 (4)

(diagram in next column)

4
W



This can’t go on forever, so White tries to figure out how to get a partner for the queen in her attack. The rook would be great ... but the reserve bishop might be even better!

27. Rf4!? Bc7?

“27. ... Qd7 28. Qxa6 Bxf4 leaves Black slightly better than White.” MP

28. Rb4+ Bb6+ (5)

5
W



29. Rxb6+! axb6
30. Bf4! ...

1-0

Finally White develops his queenside bishop, and it makes a big impression! Faced with mate in four, Mr. Jackson resigned. Phillips points out that after 30. ... Ka7 there follows “31. Qc7+ Ka8 32. Qxd8+ Kb7 33. Qc7+ Ka8 34. Qb8#.” A beautiful game by Mr. Burrow.

Springfield Park Board Chess Club Board of Governors

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Chief Troublemaker	Kary Kingsland
Telecommunications Officer	Marty Phillips
Dream Publisher	Mike Little
Facebook Enhancement	Brian Rude
Time Travel	Stephanie Fitzpatrick
	Jon McClenahan

Blast From the Past!

Mark Smith – John McFarland
Springfield Ladder Tournament
(unknown date) 1976

Ruy Lopez – Marshall Attack

Here's a great game from many years ago with some exciting threats and counter-threats, and an unexpected ending.

1. e4 e5
2. Nf3 Nc6
3. Bb5 a6
4. Ba4 Nf6
5. O-O Be7
6. Re1 b5
7. Bb3 O-O
8. c3 ...

This slows down White's development a little as he prepares the d4-push. The more "trendy" move here is 8. h3.

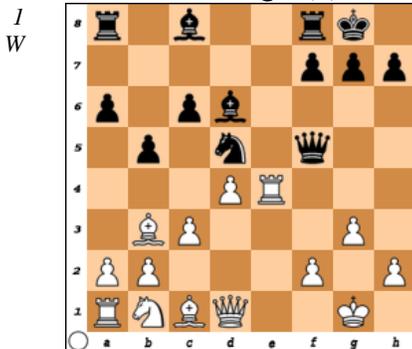
8. ... d5

This is the Marshall Attack (or Counter-Attack, if you prefer, since it is played by Black). With this move White wins a pawn, but Black gets open attack-diagonals for his bishops. It can be very dangerous for White if he isn't careful.

9. ed Nxd5
10. Nxe5 Nxe5
11. Rxe5 c6
12. d4 Bd6
13. Re1 Qh4
14. g3 Qh3
15. Re4 ...

The rook is eyeing h4, threatening the saucy Black queen and preparing for a counter-counter-attack. All by the book, up to now.

15. ... Qf5 (1)

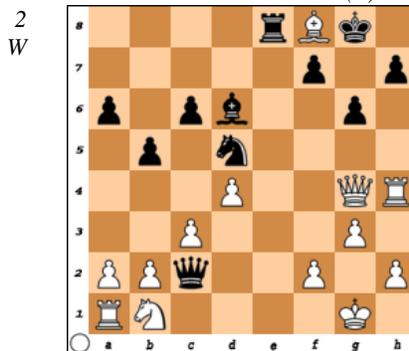


White is behind on development, but has time to mobilize the troops.

16. Bc2 Qf6
17. Rh4 Bf5
18. Bxf5 Qxf5
19. Qg4 Qc2
20. Bh6 ...

Wins the exchange, but that Black lady is still up to no good.

20. ... g6
21. Bxf8 Re8!? (2)



Here 21. ... Qxb2 22. Bxd6 Qxa1 23. Qd1 and White stays ahead. Now, although down materially, Black is better prepared to punish White for his lack of development.

22. Na3! ...

Smart. Why not take the "free" bishop? 22. Bxd6?? Re1+ 23. Kg2 Ne3+ 24. Kh3 Nxc4 25. Rxc4 Qxf2 and White is in the toilet.

22. ... Qxb2
23. Qd1? ...

White needed to salvage the bishop on f8. Fritz recommends 23. Rb1 Qxa3 24. Bxd6 Qxd6 25. Qg5 and a slight advantage for White. And so now Black has the upper hand.

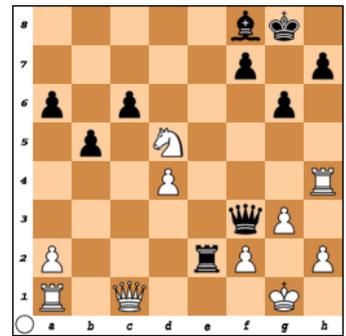
23. ... Bxf8
24. Nc2 Qxc3?

Here Black is better served playing 24. ... Nxc3 and then if 25. Qf3 Re2, with serious implications.

25. Qc1 Re2
26. Ne3 Qd3
27. Nxd5 Qf3 (3)

(diagram in next column)

3
W

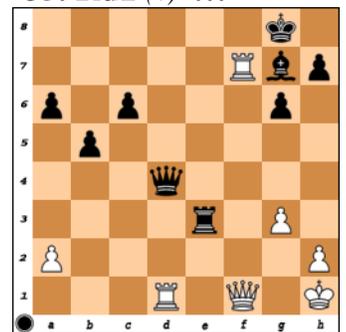


28. Ne3? ...

It may have seemed generous to allow the White knight the opportunity to defend, but if instead White let it go and played 28. Qf1 cxd5 29. Rf4 Black's attack has petered out and White stands well.

28. ... Qxf2+
29. Kh1 Qf3+
30. Kg1 Qf2+
31. Kh1 Rxe3
32. Qf1 Qd2
33. Rf4 Bg7
34. Rxf7 Qxd4
35. Rd1 (4) ...

4
B



White has at last equalized. [ED. NOTE: Space doesn't permit further analysis, so the remainder of the game is presented without comment.]

35. ... Qe4+
36. Kg1 Bd4
37. Rf8+ Kg7
38. Qf7+? Kh6
39. Qf2? Rd3!
40. Rxd3 Bxf2+
41. Rxf2 ...

Records aren't clear if Black resigned here or if his flag fell. Based on this writer's assessment, it's either a draw or a win for Black. In any case, a wonderful, blunderful game!



GAME D

Yang Shi Bin – Adam Whitaker
Casual Game
August 26, 2018

Sicilian Defense – Taimanov Variation

Back in August our friend Adam Whitaker did a short business trip to China, and while there was able to get in a game against a very good chess player, FIDE Master Mr. Yang Shi Bin, rated above 2000. For educational purposes and ... well ... “because I played it in China” ... Mr. Whitaker offers the scorecard for that short game.

1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 e6
3. d4 cd
4. Nxd4 a6
5. Nc3 Nc6
6. Be2 b5 (1)

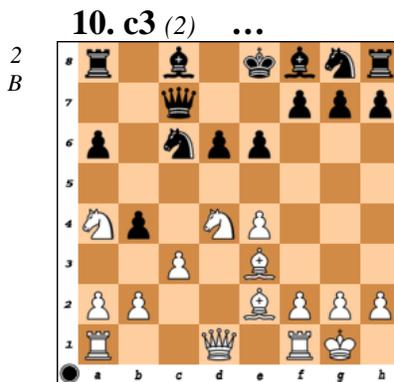


Black goes on the attack! 6. ... Qc7 is the more usual continuation in the Taimanov.

7. O-O b4?!

Again, Black might do well to immediately position his queen at c7, avoiding the inconvenience of the ensuing exchanges: 8. Nxc6 dxc6 9. Qxd8+, and Black can't castle. White, however, chose another path.

8. Na4 Qc7
9. Be3 d6



White's position is rich in options. Black needs to hasten development.

10. ... Nf6
11. cb Nxe4?!

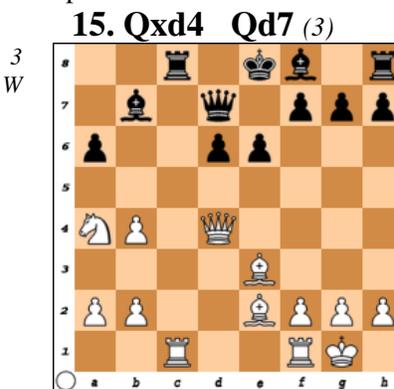
White has cleared the c-file, and both players need to take that fact seriously. Although the text move temporarily keeps the game even materially, Black needed to play it a little safer. Fritz recommends 11. ... Bd7. 11. ... Nxb4 leads to complications: 12. a3 e5 13. axb4 exd4 14. Qxd4 with a rook coming to c1 to follow.

12. Rc1 Bb7
13. Qc2! ...

The White queen targets both of Black's knights!

13. ... Rc8
14. Qxe4 Nxd4!?

Grabbing a knight while exposing both queens to attack! Black could now get back into the game if 15. Rxc7?! Nxe2+ 16. Kh1 Bxe4 17. Rxc8+ Ke7. Mr. Yang, however, found the right move, and so Black still had problems.



If 15. ... Qb8 White simply exchanges rooks (16. Rxc8+ Bxc8) and then reinforces the c-file (17. Rc1). Now, however, comes the fork.

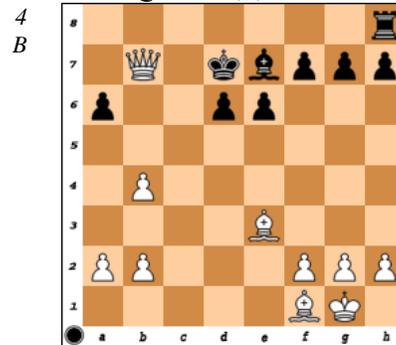
16. Nb6 Rxc1?!

If you don't want to move the queen, then maybe you make the counter-threat 16. ... e5, but it just postpones the problem, since after 17. Qd3 Black faces the same dilemma.

17. Nxd7 Rxf1+
18. Bxf1 Kxd7
19. Qb6 Be7

Black foresees the end, regardless of what he does.

20. Qxb7+ (4) ...



Mr. Whitaker, ever the polite sojourner in a foreign land, having given gifts generously to his host, now in the spirit of international diplomacy, resigned. Or, as he put it, “I got clobbered.” Thanks for submitting this game, Adam!

1-0

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GAME E

Jon McClenahan – Michael Clark
Pillsbury at Hastings, Springfield, MO
July 8, 2018

Dutch Defense

The Pillsbury at Hastings Tournament in 2018 was a rough one for this humble chess player. In Round 1, I was demolished in 22 moves by a high-1700 player, Daniel Todd; in Round 4, I faced Craig LaSalle (now of Texas), rated 2120 at the time, and lasted 33 moves before losing. In between – in Round 4 – I faced my old friend Michael Clark again. Having drawn with him once using an unorthodox king-pawn opening, I thought this time I might try to put him off-balance with a queen-pawn opening, with which I'd started experimenting.

1. d4 f5

Mr. Clark played his first move after a long pause, so I knew I had caught him off-guard. Unfortunately, his response had the same effect on me! I had played against a Dutch Defense only once in my life, and I had been soundly drubbed. And so, in short, I was terrified. As the old proverb says, "A player surprised is half beaten."

2. c4 g6
3. Nf3 Bg7
4. Nc3 Nf6
5. e3 O-O
6. Bd3 d6
7. O-O ...

Trying to make common-sense moves, I discovered later that up to this point, these were all book moves. Mr. Clark was the first to innovate.

7. ... a6
8. b3 Nbd7
9. Bb2 e5 (1)

(diagram in next column)

1
W



An equal game. Mr. Clark is a master of pawn management, so I felt compelled to simplify as quickly as possible.

10. de de
11. e4 f4
12. Nd5 c6
13. Nxf6+ Qxf6
14. b4 g5

Getting that uncomfortable feeling again.

15. h3 Re8
16. c5 (2) ...

2
B

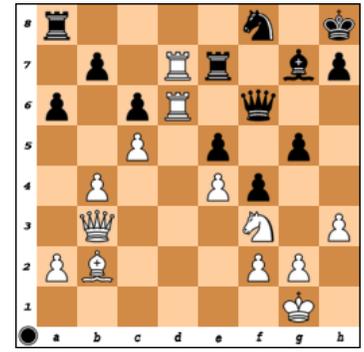


Getting back some space, and making things uncomfortable on the queenside of Black's camp. Mr. Clark now will have to do a little fancy footwork to get his pieces harmonized.

16. ... Nf8
17. Qb3+ Kh8
18. Rad1 Ng6
19. Bc4! Be6?!
20. Bxe6 Rxe6
21. Rd7 Re7
22. Rfd1 Nf8
23. R1d6?? (3) ...

(diagram in next column)

3
B



Not wanting to "retreat" I somehow became enamored with the idea of having TWO rooks deep into Black's territory. Fritz, however, recommended "discretion, the better part of valor" as follows: 23. R7d6 Qf7 24. Qxf7 Rxf7 25. Nxc6 with a tempo and an advantage for White.

23. ... Nxd7
24. Rxf6 Bxf6
25. Nd2 h5
26. f3 Rg8

Preparing for the assault.

27. Nc4 g4
28. hg hg
29. Kf2 gf
30. gf (4) ...

4
B



Whatever advantage I had was now pissed away. The game is even. I had more time on my clock than Mr. Clark, but probably less of a plan. Thirty more moves ahead, Fritz calls it a dead heat. Here Black played 30. ... Rh7 and offered the draw, and White was thankful to have walked away only "half-beaten" by the Dutch Defense.

1/2-1/2

"Strategy requires thought; tactics require observation."

Max Euwe

Springfield Chess Calendar

The Santa Claus Open

Saturday, December 22
 Midtown Carnegie Library
 Upstairs Meeting Room
 397 E. Central Street, Springfield MO
 10:30 AM - 6:00 PM
 Four rounds, G45/d0 USCF-rated
 (an unrated section may be added)

Pizza Hut Chess!

Saturday, December 15
 6:00 - 8:00 PM
 Open to ALL! Rated or un-rated
 We eat some pizza and play some chess!
 at the Pizza Hut at 806 Hwy 60, Republic MO
 No entry fee but please consider supper or a snack

Joplin Public Library Open

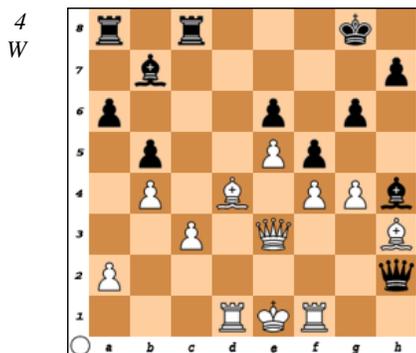
December 1, 2018. 9 AM to 6 PM
 Rated: USCF registered players
 G/40, d5 Four rounds Swiss
 Unrated: G/20, d5 Four rounds Swiss
 Registration on the day.
 For information, contact
 martin.stahl@joplinchess.org

Springfield Park Board Chess Club

SIGN UP AND BECOME
 A MEMBER in 2019!
 Annual Fee only \$10!
 We are USCF-affiliated
 and we meet every Friday at 7:15 PM
 at the Southside Senior Center
 2215 S. Fremont, Springfield MO

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

GAME A (continued from p.2)

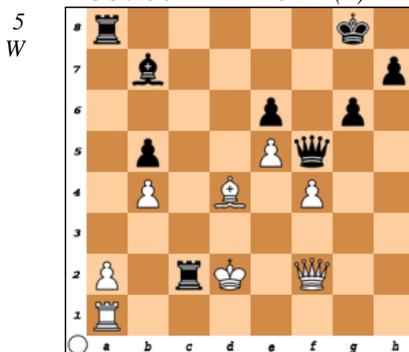


Winning the rook and destroying White's game!

- 28. Rf2 Bxf2+
- 29. Qxf2 Qxh3
- 30. gf Qxf5
- 31. Kd2 a5
- 32. Ra1 ab



33. cb Rc2+ (5)



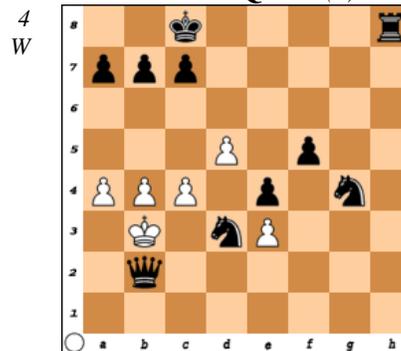
Mr. Luther resigned (and with a smile). Fritz sees forced mate in seven, but when White is down a queen, the end is clearly in focus. Well played, Jared Bray!

0-1

GAME B (continued from p.3)

- 26. Rxf2 Ngxf2
- 27. c4 h5
- 28. Ke2 Ng4
- 29. a3 h4
- 30. Kf1 Rh8

- 31. b4 h3
- 32. Ke2 h2
- 33. Kd2 h1=Q
- 34. a4 Qe1+
- 35. Kc2 Qc1+
- 36. Kb3 Qb2# (4)



What is encouraging to see is how Black systematically finishes the game, not getting distracted with other "shiny objects" such as the hanging pawn on b4 (move 35). Congratulations to Mr. Bao – a very nice first rated win for the young man!

0-1