

MONTANA CHESS NEWS

Volume 25, Issue 4 — September, 2000

Share and share alike: Three titles split

- ♦ Johansson and Dawson — State Championship
- ♦ Scarff and Furdell — John Barto Memorial
- ♦ Skovron and Suits — Triple Header

also this month,

The Montana Invitational, and other votes by the Board

MCA Player Profile: *Bill Furdell*

Wrecks, Heaps, and Other Distractions

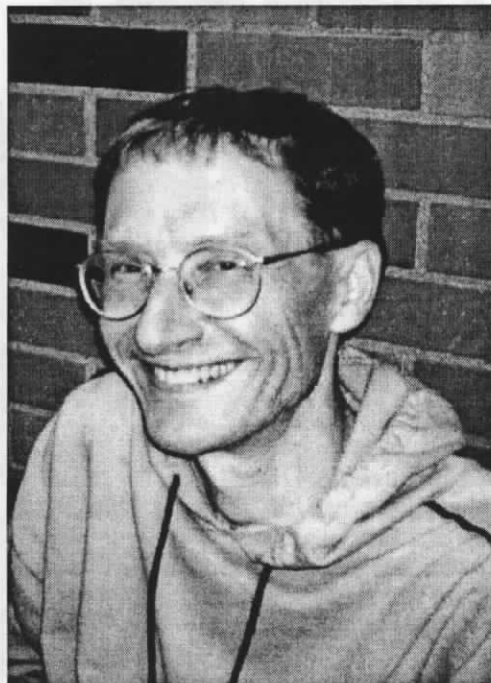
New annual dues:
\$10 regular, \$5 junior

Johansson wins his first State Closed on tiebreaks

Jan Johansson of Livingston finished off a hot season by winning the Montana State Closed Championship trophy on tiebreak points. The first place showing, shared with previous state champ Alex Dawson, capped an extraordinary year for Johansson who, in spite of resuming tournament play only last April, has come away with most of the state's highest chess honors this season. These honors include winning the State Open, the Grand Prix, the Senior championship, and now — the biggest prize of all — his first State Closed Championship trophy.

The tournament, held September 9-10 on the campus of Montana State University in Bozeman, also featured strong play from co-champ Dawson, who ended the weekend tied with Johansson at 4 points out of 5. His round 3 loss to Johansson spelled the difference in tiebreak points, however, so the trophy that he won outright last year passed to a new owner.

One consolation to Dawson, a six-time champion from Helena (only two other players in MCA history ever



earned more titles), is that under MCA rules he retains his automatic seeding into the next Closed Championship. Johansson will have to fight his way back

into the Closed just like the rest of us.

Mike Jensen of Missoula finished third, a full point behind the champions, owing in part to a first round loss to Dennis Petrak of Great Falls. At 239 points, this was easily the biggest upset in the Closed.

Petrak, one of four players the Electric City sent to the Closed this year, was unable to continue his winning ways, ending with 2 points. That put him just behind fellow club players Thad Suits, Jim Skovron and Doug Hansen, along with Missoula's Rudi Katzl.

In spite of some cancellations and substitutions, this was one of the strongest championships since the MCA went to the 10-player format in 1995. It was also the first time prize money was involved; Johansson and Dawson split the \$100 first place prize.

When asked about his chances before the tournament, Johansson said, "I think that if I just avoid obvious, stupid blunders I can win here." As his victory attests, the only obvious blunders Johansson's opponents ever saw were their own.

In the trenches:



Recent votes by the MCA Board of Directors

Since the last issue of this Newsletter, the MCA Board of Directors has voted on some new bylaws which it has been debating. Here are the results:

Montana Invitational

The Board approved on a 3-1 vote the institution of a new tournament called The Montana Invitational. This tournament, open to all resident MCA members rated 1700 or above, now becomes another route to the Closed Championship. The Board is still debating whether to have this seed replace the second Grand Prix seed or to replace the third Montana Open Seed. (If you have an opinion about the fairest way to distribute Closed seeding berths, let the Board know.) The exact wording of the bylaw is as follows:

There shall be an annual invitational tournament, called The Montana Invitational, to determine one of the State Closed qualifiers. All Montana players (MCA members) rated 1700 and above at the time of the event are invited to participate. The winner is seeded into

MCA Board Members (2000-2001)

Alex Dawson - President (443-7903)

Paul Motta - Vice President (721-5599)

Greg Nowak - Western V.P. (549-7805)

Dennis Petrak - Eastern V.P. (452-4786)

Thad Suits - Secretary/Treasurer (453-6160)

Let them know about your ideas, complaints, suggestions, and praise.

Montana Chess News is published by the Montana Chess Association, an affiliate of the U. S. Chess Federation. Subscription and membership in the MCA is \$9/yr regular, \$5/yr junior.

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All submissions are welcome, including photos. Articles by E-mail or on a PC-formatted diskette are especially appreciated. Among the formats supported are ASCII text, Swis-Sys, WordPad, Microsoft Works, Publisher, Lotus and .PGN.

Publishing Schedule:

Issue 1 - Mar. 1, Issue 2 (Special for the Open) - May 10, Issue 3 - July 15, Issue 4 - Sept. 25, Issue 5 - Dec. 8. Deadline for most submissions is ten days before the publication date.

the State Closed. The location of the tournament is to be determined by the Board, but must be held in a location different from the State Open and State Closed. Entry Fee is \$25.00, with all fees to go towards prizes. The format of the Montana Invitational is a 4-round Swiss with late starts. Standard tie-breaks shall be used in case of a 1st place tie.

Closed Seeding Priority

In a related move, the Board voted to order the seeding priority for the Closed as follows: Former State Champion, Invitational winner, Grand Prix qualifier(s), State Open qualifiers.

Grand Prix Events

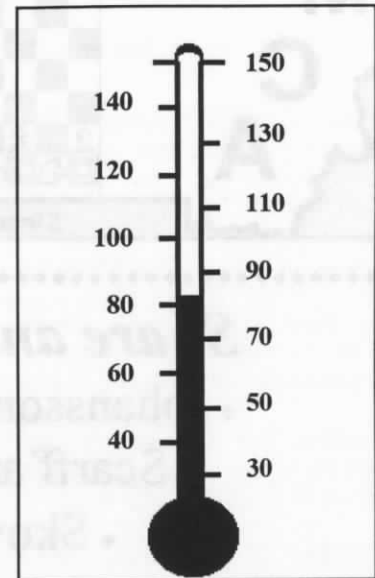
In keeping with a motion passed at the last annual business meeting, the Board unanimously approved wording of a bylaw that aims to increase the number of Grand Prix events (and make Grand Prix tournaments easier to hold), but still prevent tournaments from directly competing with each other for calendar space. Here is that wording:

Grand Prix status shall be limited to MCA-sanctioned tournaments that are open, Swiss system events. Furthermore, Grand Prix tournaments must draw 10 or more participants and have time control not faster than game in 90 minutes. Grand Prix events must be announced in advance in the official newsletter and website. In the interest of avoiding scheduling conflicts, the Board may see fit to limit Grand Prix events throughout the state to one per month. In resolving such scheduling conflicts, the Board shall give due consideration to tradition and to an equitable geographic distribution of Grand Prix tournaments.

Membership Dues

The Board voted to increase MCA dues by one dollar to an even \$10 per year for adults, with junior memberships remaining at \$5 per year. Some Board members favored a larger increase, but a one dollar increase was all that could secure a majority vote. Several ideas were suggested for productive ways to put this money to use, including junior chess development, special events, and promotional schemes.

The MCA Membership Drive
Heading out of that "comfort zone"



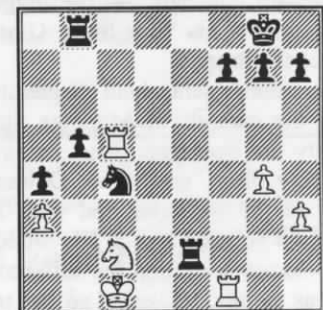
Current level: 82.

President Alex Dawson has set an ambitious goal of doubling MCA membership by the end of his term. That means having 150 registered members by the time next summer rolls around. We have already made some progress, but there is still a long way to go. Please join the membership drive and register a new member this week. Often all they need is a gentle reminder of how much their membership means to us. Failing that, consider blackmail.

Did you find (or miss) a subtly sharp move in one of your games? If so, send it to the editor and ask

What's the Cruncher?

The answer is on the back page.



Black to move and crunch.

Scarff and Furdell share first in Barto Memorial *Tiebreak points give "Second Place" trophy to Scarff*

Having been away from tournament chess for many years, Steve Scarff was hoping to avoid a first-round loss as he struggled to get the kinks out of his system. Unfortunately for him, his round one opponent was Bill Furdell, a man who is in probably the best chess condition of his life, and who happily made Steve pay for his rusty chess logic. The result in this year's Barto Memorial, held in Bozeman on September 9-10 in conjunction with the State Closed, was a first place tie between the two of them.

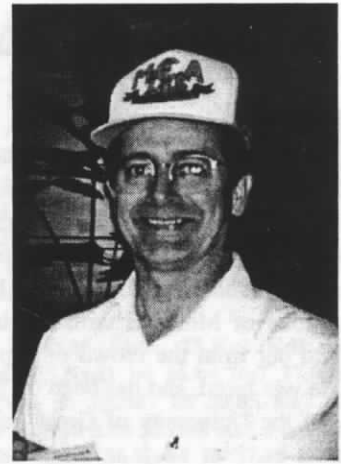
After his initial defeat, Scarff played perfect chess, defeating all others he faced, including fellow class B player Brian Bailey, who had opted out of the Closed this time around. As for Furdell, it took a good game from Nick Warner to keep him from winning first place all by himself. In the end, Scarff took home the trophy based on his superior tiebreak points, while he and Furdell split the

\$50 in prize money offered this year.

Bailey might have been more in contention, but he had to take a pair of half-point byes in the early going. Nick Warner also was in the thick of things, but his shot for a share of the title went down in a flag-hanging loss to Bailey in the final round.

The first place tie, combined with a mixture of cash and trophy awards, made for an interesting situation when it came time to divide the prizes. The MCA had advertised a \$50 first place prize and a trophy for second. Here the two winners had to divide the money as usual, but with only a trophy labeled "Second Place", Scarff was in the odd position of being asked to accept less of a prize for first place than for second.

The MCA will make another plaque for the trophy relabeling it "First Place". Welcome back, to tournament chess, Steve, and thanks for acting as TD and site contact



Steve Scarff, Co-winner and TD

for both the Barto and the Closed.

Steve Rasmussen, a new member from Livingston, had several close games but, as so often happens with first-timers, couldn't quite pull off a win. Hang in there, Steve. The wins will come.

Great Falls pair wins Triple Header *Skovron and Suits beat out small field in Helena*

On the hottest weekend of the summer, with temperatures just shy of the 100 degree mark, Jim Skovron and Thad Suits generated some heat of their own, leading a small field of contenders to repeat as champions in this year's Triple Header.

The tournament, held at the Lewis and Clark Library in Helena on July 22nd and 23rd, featured three title tournaments in one fast-paced weekend. State championships at speeds of game/30 (Action), game 15 (Quick), and game/5 (Blitz), were on the line.

Skovron repeated as Blitz champ, defeating Suits in a playoff game for the second year in a row, and Suits won the Quick section while repeating as Action champion as well. Their competition was lighter than usual this year, although Michael Long of Livingston threatened their leads in two of the three events before having to withdraw.

Defending Quick Champion Doug Hansen of Great Falls was unable to attend. In all, only six players participated, including three from Helena. Among the latter were Mel Drake, who in the Quick section came within a whisker of a 735 point upset of Suits,

and Rose Tremmel, playing in just her second tournament.

Fifteen-year-old Nick Warner, the other Helena player, did well, valiantly keeping the pressure on the top players. He managed to gain rating points and hold at least a tie for 3rd place in all three events.

To Suits and Skovron the small turnout was a disappointment, not only because it tends to lessen the value of their titles, but because to them this is the most fun tournament of the year. "I wish more players would give the faster time controls a try," Skovron said. "You learn a heck of a lot by seeing so much chess in one weekend." Even Michael Long, who normally prefers the slower games, said, "Although I didn't handle my time too well, I left with the feeling — What a great way to spend a day!" But while players on the Internet and all across the country are gravitating towards more fast-paced games, Montana players seem content with a more leisurely pace.

Another reason for the low turnout could have been its taking place in mid-summer during prime vacation times. It might get a better draw in the future if it can be moved to the Spring.

"What a great way to spend a day!"

Hans Anderson wins in Downtown Missoula

—by Greg Nowak

At the Clandestine Chess Club on August 26, fans matched their chess acumen in the Downtown Missoula Championship. They were no strangers to each other, eight of them frequently playing in the club's Tuesday night rated games. There were no upsets and only one draw. The draw came in a last round alley fight between Anderson and McCourt that ended abruptly in a double-edged middle game position.

This was the first major "Big Sky" rated event for many. Big Sky rules are similar to those the USCF uses, but there are some important differences. Some of these differences deal with the clock (no time delay allowed, no claim of insufficient losing chances, no score-keeping required in last 10 minutes), and others concern the ratings (no rating floor, separate Big Sky rating system used, non-rated houseman can be used in rated games.) One other difference is that arriving thirty minutes late is enough for a forfeit loss.

Mike Stubblefield deserves honorable mention for biggest rating gain. He's over 1500, up from 1367 in April. He got the nickname "Dragon-slayer" for his string of first-round upsets, including Rudi Katzl at 1900.

MCA player profile: *Bill Furdell*

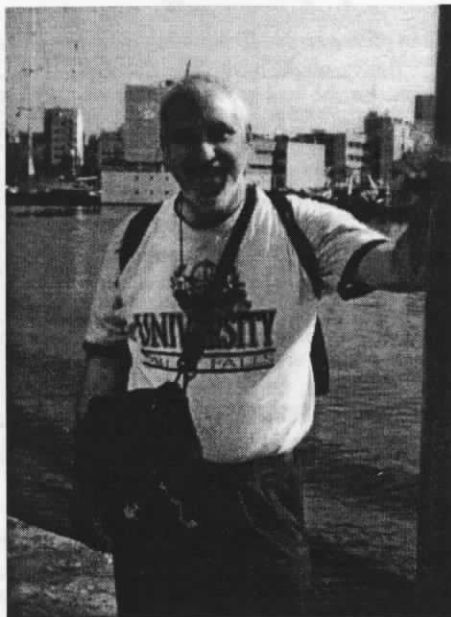
In 1970, with a newly-minted Ph. D. in history from Ohio's Kent State University, Bill Furdell came to Montana looking for work. Good jobs being scarce in his field, Bill credits his obvious love of Montana with helping him stand out from the crowd of applicants. He was hired, and has been on the faculty of the University of Great Falls ever since.

Having been born and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania, moving to Montana that year made for a pleasant change of pace. And now, even after thirty years in the job, Bill has lost none of his passion for teaching history and political science, nor for living here in a state with its own varied and colorful history.

Bill has known the basic moves of chess for as long as he can remember. More recently, his interest in the game (and his skills over the board) were enhanced by a chess class taught at the University by Jim Skovron. That he is capable of playing solid chess has long been clear to his colleagues at the Great Falls/UGF Chess Club; now, with his recent victory in the Barto Memorial, other MCA players will start taking him seriously too.

As you might expect for one who has been a successful teacher for so long, Bill puts a high value on learning. He still remembers how after his very first tournament game here — a respectably played loss to Romie Carpenter in the 1994 Chinook Open — Romie took the time to show him how and where he could have improved his game. He continues to learn and improve by, among other things, studying games in this newsletter.

He also will occasionally crack open *Modern Chess Openings* for some ideas, although he has found that the English Opening serves him well. With his good feel for the positional play of the English he can usually get well into the middle game on equal terms against even very strong players.



Besides chess, Bill is interested in golf (another game with more than its share of subtleties and frustrations), noon-hour basketball, fishing, and travel. He was recently able to combine his love of travel with his enjoyment of chess by pitting his skills against those of a street player in Vancouver, British Columbia. This fellow was taking on (and soundly defeating) all comers for a \$3 fee. When Bill got a draw in his game, it was enough to impress the small gallery that had gathered.

A lover of early music, Bill is a talented player of the recorder and the Irish whistle. Every summer he performs in the UGF's Renaissance Fair with Lana, his wife of fourteen years, who is herself a very gifted singer. Dressed as a jester at the fair, he also acts as an efficient and witty emcee for the human chess game that is reenacted there each year.

Bill has two grown sons by a previous marriage, three step-daughters, several grandkids, and one 21-year old cat named Flipper who may have discovered the secret of immortality.

While the games selected for this feature may not be as immortal as Flipper, they do have some sharp play. Both are Internet blitz games, and as much as Bill says he hates fast play, he sure does fine here.

Furdell,Bill - Anonymous 1
Reti [A04]
Internet Blitz Game

1.Nf3 b6 2.g3 Bb7 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.0-0 Nf6
5.d4 g6 6.Bg5 e5? 7.dxe5 Nxe5 8.Nxe5 Qe7
9.Nf3 0-0-0 10.Nc3 Bg7 11.Re1 Qf8 12.Rb1
Re8 13.Nd5? Bxd5 14.b3 Ne4?



Black "sees" that White can't take the bishop without falling into a fork.

15.Qxd5! Nc3?? 16.Qa8# 1-0

Furdell,Bill - Anonymous 2
Irregular King Pawn [C40]
Internet Game

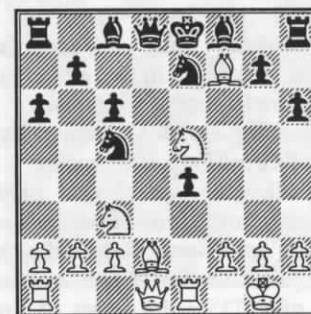
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f6

Definitely not the best way to defend the pawn. It creates holes that just beg to be taken advantage of.

3.Bc4 Ne7 4.0-0 h6 5.d4 c6? 6.dxe5
fxe5 7.Nc3?

This isn't the best, although in blitz chess it's easy to miss crunchers. White could take full advantage of the holes in Black's position with 7.Nxe5 Qa5 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Bf7+ Kd8 10.Bxg6 Kc7 (not 10...Nxc6? 11.Nf7+) 11.Bf4, and Black is on the run.

7...d5 8.Bb3 a6 9.Bd2 [9.Nxe5] 9...Nd7
10.Re1 Nc5 11.Nxe5 dxe4?? 12.Bf7#



Recent Games

Games from the Triple Header

Suits, T (1928) - Skovron, J (1919)
Queen's Gambit Declined [D06]
Action Championship

Jim, as usual, takes an unorthodox approach to the opening and, as usual, gets some good play. This time it's not enough to win. (Check out that pawn mate at the end!)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6!? 3.exd5 Qxd5!? 4. Nc3 Qa5 5.e3

ECO gives 5.Bd2 as superior for White, but Black, though underdeveloped, is far from busted.

5...e6 6.Bd2 c6 7.Nf3 Nbd7 8.Bd3 Bd6?



9.Ne4

Even better was 9.Nb5! Bb4 10.Nd6+ Ke7 11.Nc4 Bxd2+ 12.Nfxd2.

9...Qc7 10.Nxd6+ Qxd6 11.a3 0-0 12. Bb4 c5 13.dxc5 Qc6 14.Rc1 a5 15.Bd2

15.Bc3 makes it harder for Black to retreat the pawn.

15...Ne4 16.Nd4 Qd5 17.Qf3?

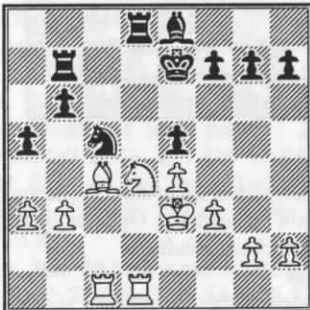
17.Bxe4 keeps a slight edge for White. Now Jim gets the upper hand.

17...Ndx5 18.Bc4? Nxd2 19.Kxd2

Not 19.Bxd5? Nxf3+ 20.Bxf3 Nd3+.

19...Qxf3 20.Nxf3 Rd8+ 21.Ke2 b6 22. Nd4 Bb7 23.f3 Kf8 24.Rhd1 Ke7 25.b3 Rab8 26.Nb5 Bc6 27.e4? Be8?

Jim missed 27...Nxb3! 28.Bxb3 Bxb5+ 28.Nd4 Rb7 29.Ke3 e5. Besides, his timing in retreating the bishop is fatal.



Preparing this push with ...g6 first was essential. Now the roof caves in on Jim.

30.Nf5+ Kf6 31.Rxd8 Bc6 32.Rd6+ Kg5 33.h4+ Kh5 34.g4# 1-0

Skovron, J (1919) - Long, M (1717)

Queen's Gambit [D53]

Action Championship

Notes by Michael Long.

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 e6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5. Nc3 h6 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.e3 a6 8.Rc1 dxc4 9. Bxc4 b5 10.Bd3 Bb7 11.Be4 c6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Qc2 Nd7 14.Rfd1 Rc8 15.Qd3 Nb6 16. Bh7+ Kh8 17.Ne4 Be7 18.Qb1 f5 19.Nc5 Bxc5 20.dxc5 Nd5 21.Bg6 Qf6 22.e4



22...Qxg6?

Here we have reached a "momento critico". White has managed his time better than Black, and it would have taken me at least two minutes to find the correct response. I had a scant minute. The best here would have been 22...Nf4! [Editor's note: After this move Black will either win the exchange with the fork ...Ne2+, or win the bishop outright. One possibility is 22...Nf4 23.exf5 exf5?, but this appears to fail to 24. Rd6! The simpler 23...Ne2+ should give Black enough to win.]

23.exd5 exd5 24.b4 Rce8 25.Re1 Qf6 26.Qc2 Re4 27.Re2 Rfe8

In the game White went on to win, thereby showing the value of good time management! 1-0

Drake, M (1193) - Tremmel, R (unr.)

Queen Pawn Opening [A41]

Action Championship

1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5 3.e3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5. g3 g6 6.Bg2 Be6? 7.Nf3?

7.d5 is hard to answer.

7...Bxc4 8.b3 exd4

Meeting one attack with another. Safer and better is the retreat 8...Ba6.

9.Nxd4 Be6?

Necessary was 9...NxN, after which White has fewer threats.

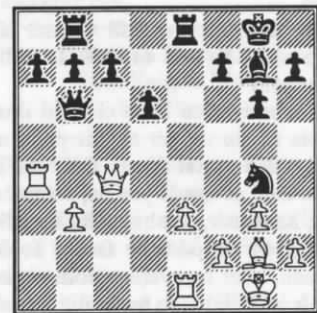
10.Nxc6 Qc8

Rose doesn't like the look of 10.bxN BxB+, forking king and rook. This is not any better, however.

11.Nd4 Rb8 12.Nxe6 Qxe6 13.Nb5 Qe5 14.Ba3?

Instead, after 14.Qd4, counter-attacking, Mel would have no worries.

14...Qxb5 15.Bf1? Qa5+ 16.Qd2 Qxa3 17.Qc3 Bg7 18.Qc4 Qb2 19.Rc1 0-0 20. Bh3 Qxa2 21.0-0 Qa6 22.Ra1 Qb6 23. Rab1 Qa5 24.Bg2 Qb6 25.Ra1 Rfe8 26. Rfe1 Ng4 27.Ra4



27...Nxf2?!

An interesting idea, but actually better is to take the other pawn: 27...Nxe3 28.fxe3 Rxe3 29.Kf1 Rxe1+ 30.Kxe1 Qe3+.

28.Kxf2 Rxe3?! 29.Rxe3 Bh6 30.Qe4 d5 31.Qd3

Score sheets end here. Rose has played above her experience and age to this point and has held on to a strong advantage, even though she is temporarily behind in material. In the endgame she lost some of this advantage due to her lack of experience, but still came away with the half point. 1/2-1/2

Long, M (1717) - Warner, N (1388)

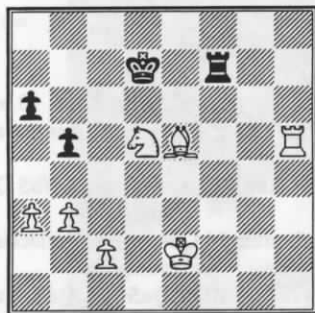
Sicilian [B75]

Action Championship

Michael Long, in the driver's seat the whole way, gets out of his "zone" for only one instant. It's enough to mean the difference between a laughter win and a laughter draw.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Be3 Bg7 6.Qd2 Nf6 7.f3 Nc6 8.Bc4 Bd7 9.Nc3 Rc8 10.Bb3 Ne5 11.h4 Nc4 12.Bxc4 Rxc4 13.0-0-0 a6 14.h5 Bc8 15.g4 Nxd4? 16.fxg4 Bxg4 17.Rdg1 Bxh5 18.Rxh5 Bxd4 19.Bxd4 gxf3 20.Bxf3 Qb6 21.Rg8+ Kd7 22.e5 Qc6 23.exd6 Qxd6 24.Qxd6+ Kxd6 25.Rg7 Rh4 26.Rxf7 e5 27.Rxh7 e4 28.Kd2

Rh3 29.Nxe4+ Kd5 30.Nf6+ Kc4 31.Rxh5 Rf3 32.b3+ Kb4 33.Nd5+ Kb5 34.a3 Kc6 35.Nb4+ Kd6 36.Ke2 Rf7 37.Be5+ Kd7 38. Nd5 b5



Here the scoresheets get a little hazy, but according to a reconstruction of the game afterwards, what follows is its surprising conclusion.

39.Nf6+ Kc8 40.Rh7 Rf8 41.Rh3 Kb7 42.Rh7+ Ka8 43.Ng4 a5 44.a4 Rf4 45.Bxf4 bxa4 46.bxa4??

Nick, overjoyed to have cheated death, pumped his fist in the air at this point and exclaimed, "Stalemate! Yes!" OK, it's not exactly the kind of words you expect to hear from, say, Kasparov, but his relief is understandable given the odds he faced. To Michael's credit, after recovering from his surprise at this sudden twist, he let out a hearty laugh of his own. Such is life in action chess. ½-½

Games from the UCCC

McClure,J (1836) - Moore,S (1702)
English [A35]
Second Summer Open

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 g6 4.e3 Bg7 5. d4 cxd4 6.exd4 e6 7.d5!? exd5 8.Qxd5



8...Nf6?!

Black passes up the chance to wreck White's pawn structure with 8.BxN.

9.Qd6 Qe7+ 10.Qxe7+ Kxe7 11.Bf4 Nh5 12.Nd5+ Kf8 13.Bd6+

Temporarily burying Black's light-squared bishop alive.

13...Kg8 14.0-0 Bf8 15.Bxf8 Kxf8 16.

g4 Ng7 17.Bg2 Ne6 18.Rhe1 Kg7 19.b4 Re8 20.Ng5 h6 21.Ne4 Rb8 22.Nd6

Burying Black's light-squared bishop alive for all eternity.

22...Rf8 23.b5 Ncd4 24.Re4 f5 25. Rxd4 Nxd4 26.Rxd4 fxe4 27.Ne7 Rxf2 28. Rxe4 Rf8 29.Rxe6+ Kh7 30.Be4 Rf1+ 31. Kd2 Rf2+ 32.Ke3

Black cannot Rg8, mate. 1-0

McBroom,W (1567) - Katzl,R (1919)
King's Indian Attack [B30]
Second Summer Open

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 g6 5. Bg2 Bg7 6.Nbd2 Nge7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 d6 9.a4 a5 10.Nc4 h6 11.Be3 e5 12.Qd2 Kh7 13.c3 Be6 14.Na3 f5 15.exf5 gxf5 16.Qc2 Ng6 17.Rad1 Qd7 18.Nb5 Rad8 19.d4 cxd4 20.cxd4 Qf7



This threatens ...Bb3, winning the exchange.

21.Qc1

There was a better way to avoid the pin using a counter-attack: 21.d5! Bxd5 22. Ng5+! hxg5 23.Bxd5 and White, though a pawn down, has a good chance of recovering the material. With the text move, White's pieces get pushed around something fierce.

21...Bb3 22.Rd2 e4 23.d5

If the knight runs away the bishop gets trapped: E.g. 23.Nh4 Nxh4 24.gxh4 f4.

23...exf3 24.Bxf3 Nce5 25.Bg2 Bxa4 26. Nc3 Bd7 27.Bb6 Ra8 28.Bc7 Nc4 29.Rc2 Rfc8 30.Ne2 Bxb2 31.Rxb2 Nxb2 32.Qxb2 Rxc7 33.Qb6 Bc8 34.Qxd6 Qe7 35.Qb6 Ra6 36.Qb1 Qb4 37.Qa1 a4 38.Rb1 Qd6 39.Nd4 Bd7 40.Re1 Qf6 41.Qd1 a3 42.Nb3 Ba4 43.d6 Rd7 44.Qf3 Bxb3 45.Qxb3 Qxd6 46.Qb1 a2 0-1

Stergius,P (unr.) - Hesse,T (1542)
Caro-Kann [B10]
Second Summer Open

Young Paul Stergius shows a solid understanding of opening ideas, but betrays his youth with an impatient middle-game move. Look for some great games from this kid in the near future.

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 g6 5.d4 Bg7 6.Bf4 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3

In this variation of the Caro-Kann Black often gives White the Bishop pair and some extra space in return for a fortress setup.

8.Qxf3 Nd7 9.0-0 Ngf6 10.Bd3 0-0 11.Rhe1

11...R3N would keep the bishop pair.

11...Nd5 12.c3 Nxf4 13.Qxf4 Rc8 14.g4 Nf6 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.g5 Bg7 17.Bc4 e6 18.h4 Qc7 19.Qxc7 Rxc7 20.f4 Rd8 21.b4 b6



22.b5?

Paul's first weak move. Up until now he had played solid chess and secured a dead-even position. 22.Re3 or 22.a4 is more patient and accurate.

22...cxb5 23.Bxb5 Rxc3+ 24.Kb2 Rdc8 25.d5 R3c5+ 26.Ka3? Rxb5 27.Re4 Rxd5 28.Rxd5 exd5 0-1

Games from the Closed/Barto

Notes by the editor if not otherwise marked.

Katzl,R (1900) - Johansson,J (2052)
English [A26]
MT Closed

Notes by Johansson.

1.c4 d6 2.Nc3 e5 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 g6 5. e4 Bg7 6.Nge2 Be6 7.d3 Qd7 8.Rb1 Nf6 9. b4 0-0 10.Nd5 Ne7 11.Bg5 Nexd5 12.cxd5 Bh3 13.0-0 c6 14.Nc3 Nh5 15.Qd2



15...Nf4?

A blunder. I thought that White can not play 16.gxf4 because 16...Qg4 mates. I guess you call that chess blindness

16.gxf4

Of course. Now I suddenly realize that



Great Falls participants in the Closed: Dennis Petrak, Doug Hansen, Jim Skovron, Thad Suits

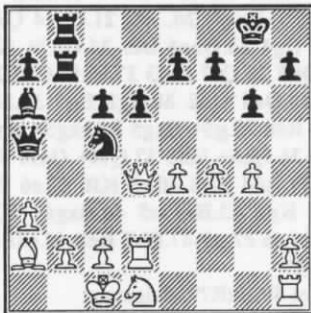
after 16...Qg4? comes 17.f3 and Black has nothing for the Knight.

16...Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Qg4+ ½-½

Here I offered Rudolf a draw and he accepted because he immediately realized that I can force a draw by checking on g4 and f3 with my Queen. I completely missed that he has to give back the piece after 17...h6. Best is probably 18.fxe5 (18.Bh4? Qg4+!) 18...hxg5 and the position is unclear.

Hoene Jr.,H (1721) - Skovron,J (1872)
 Sicilian [B34]
 MT Closed

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c5 4.Nf3 cxd4
 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3 Qa5 7.Bc4 Nf6 8.f3 Qb4
 9.Nxc6 [More assertive would be 9.Ndb5
 0-0 10.Bb3] 9...bxc6 10.Bb3 Ba6 11.Qd2 0-
 0 12.Bh6 d6 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.a3 Qa5 15.0-
 0-0 Rab8 16.g4 Nd7 17.f4 Nc5 18.Qd4+
 Kg8 19.Ba2 Rb7 20.Rd2 Rfb8 21.Nd1



21...Rb4!

To Jim it's just not a chess game unless there's an exchange sac in there somewhere.

22.axb4 Rxb4 23.Qc3 Qxa2 24.Qa3

Qc4 25.Qc3



25...Ra4

Black could also keep grabbing pawns with 25...Qxe4 26.Nf2 Qxf4.

26.b3 Ra1+ 27.Kb2 Qxc3+ 28.Kxc3 Nxe4+ 29.Kb2 Nxd2 30.Kxa1 Ne4 31.Re1 f5 32.Ne3 e6 33.Kb2 Bb7 34.Ra1 a6 35.Nc4 Kf7 36.Re1 e5 37.Re2 Ke7 38.Ka3 fxg4 39.Na5 Ba8 40.b4 Nc3 41.Rf2 cxb4+ 42.Kxb4 Ne4 43.Re2 Kf6 44.Re1 Kf5 45.Rf1 h5 46.Nb3 e5 47.fxe5+ Kxe5 48.Kc4 Bd5+ 49.Kb4 h4 0-1

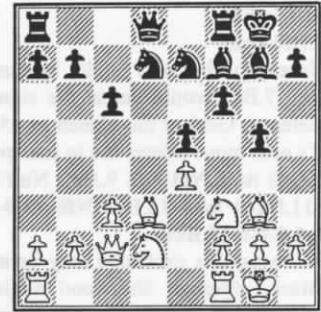
White could fight on, but all the play is with Black.

Suits (1957) - Hansen,D (1714)
 London [A40]
 MT Closed

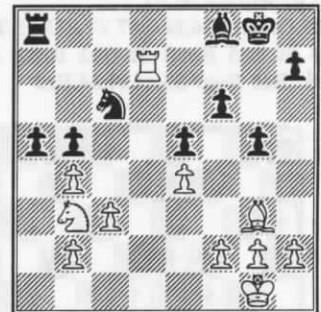
1.d4 g6 2.Bf4 Bg7 3.e3 d6 4.Nf3 Bf5 5.Nbd2 Nd7 6.Nh4!?

Simpler is to grab the center with 6.e4.

6...Be6 7.Bd3 f6 8.Bg3 Bf7 9.c3 e5 10.e4 c6 11.Qc2 Ne7 12.Nhf3 0-0 13.0-0 g5?! 14.dxe5 dxe5



15.Bc4 b5 16.Bxf7+ Rxf7 17.Rad1 Qc7 18.Nb3 c5? 19.Qd3 c4 20.Qxd7 Qxd7 21.Rxd7 cxb3 22.axb3 Nc6 23.Rfd1 Na5 24.Rxf7 Kxf7 25.Rd7+ Kg8 26.Nd2 Bf8 27.b4 Nc6 28.Nb3 a5



29.Rc7

Capturing the pawn is probably OK too. E.g.: 29.bxa5 Nxa5 30.Nxa5 Rxa5 31.h4 h6 32.Rb7 Ra4±.

29...Rd8

Interesting also is 29...a4 30.Nc5 a3 31.bxa3 Rxa3 32.h4 Bxc5 33.bxc5 Ra6 and White still should win.

30.Kf1 Rd1+ 31.Ke2 Rb1 32.Rxc6 Rxb2+ 33.Nd2 axb4

Now if Black tries to sneak past with 33...a4, White has the strong reply 34.Rxf6, after which 35.Bxe5 will keep the pawn from queening in the corner.

34.Kd3 b3 35.Rxf6 h5 36.Bxe5 1-0

Moore,S (1703) - Hansen,D (1714)
 Dzindzi-Indian Defense [A40]
 MT Closed

The Dzindzi-Indian, an ugly-looking but surprisingly solid opening system for Black developed by Roman Dzindzichasvili, has been working well for Doug in casual games at club. Here he scores with it in a tournament setting.

Notes by Hansen.

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 f5

I've been trying to play into this opening for about two years, but usually players answered my 1...g6 with 2.e4 instead of 2.c4. There are some interesting continuations

when White avoids 2.c4, but they aren't the Dzindzi-Indian.

6.Bf4 Qa5?

Necessary first was 6...d6, because with the text, 7.Be5 would defeat the strategy of this defense: Getting the Queen to a5. Sherwood's next move allows me to transpose.

7.Qc2 d6 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.Nd2 Nbd7 10.e3 Ne4 11.Nxe4 fxe4 12.Be2 Nf6 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Bg5 0-0-0 15.Bxf6

Allowing this exchange may be an error for Black, although Sherwood might have waited until his own pawns were better defended.

15...exf6 16.Qxe4 Qxc3 17.Rfc1 Qe5 18.Qc2 Kb8 19.a4 h5 20.a5 Bc8 21.Rab1 f5 22.a6 b6 23.Qa4 Bd7 24.Qa5 Ka8

With this move I've walked into a back rank mating possibility, but I have plenty of rooks to help out on b7.

25.Qa3 h4 26.f4 Qe7 27.Bf3 g5 28.fxg5 Qxg5 29.Rc3 Rhg8 30.Qb2 Rde8 31.Qf2 Re7 32.Re1 Reg7 33.e4 f4 34.Rc2



34...Qe5

I think 34.h3 was better.

35.Qxh4 Bg4 36.Qf2 Bh3 37.Qh4 Qd4+ 38.Kh1 Qd3 39.Rce2 Bg4 40.Qf2 Qxc4 41.e5 Qxa6

No lingering threats of back rank mate.

42.exd6 Bd7

These blocked and doubled pawns keep White's bishop out.

43.Re7 Qc8 44.Qh4 c4 45.Qxf4 c3 46.Qc1 b5

"Rollin', rollin', rollin'."

47.Rxg7 Rxg7 48.Re7 Rg6 49.Re6 Rg8 50.Re7 b4

"Keep them pawns a-rollin'."

51.Be4 Qc4?



52.Bf3?

Editor's note: In spite of Black's ominous pawns, White could have forced a win here. 52.Rxd7 Qxe4 53.Qg1! Answering a mate threat with one of his own. 53...Qxg2+ 54.Qxg2 Rxg2 55.Kxg2 b3 56.Rc7 b2 57.d7 b1Q 58.d8Q+.

52...Rd8 53.Re4 Qb5 54.Be2 Qc5 55.Rc4 Qxd6 56.Qe3 Re8 57.Qd3? Bb5 0-1

After the game, Sherwood said "never again" to the Dzindzi-Indian.

Johansson, J (2052) - Dawson, A (2019)
Sicilian [B25]
MT Closed

Notes by Johansson.

1.e4 c5 2.d3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.f4 Rb8 6.Nf3 b5 7.0-0 d6 8.Nc3 e6



9.f5!

The best move I made in the entire tournament.

9...b4

Neither 9...exf5 10.exf5 Bxf5 11.Ng5! Qd7 (11...Nce7 12.g4) 12.Nxf7 nor 9...gxf5 10.exf5 11.Nh4 seem to be satisfactory for Black.

10.fxe6 bxc3 11.exf7+ Kf8

If 11...Kxf7 12.Ne5+! and 13.Nxc6.

12.fxg8Q+ Kxg8 13.bxc3

13.b3 is probably better.

13...Bxc3



14.Bg5

I missed 14.Bh6! Bxa1 15.Qxa1 winning.

14...Qa5 15.Rb1 Rxb1 16.Qxb1 Kg7 17.e5 dxe5 18.Nh4 Bd4+ 19.Kh1 e4 20.Qb3? [20.Bxe4] 20...c4! 21.Qxc4 Qxg5 22.Qxc6 Bg4 23.Qxe4 Bf6 24.Qb7+ Kh6 25.Nf3 Qh5 26.Qf7 Bxf3 27.Bxf3 Qe5 28.Qd5 Qe3 29.Qe4 Qd2 30.Bg2 Bg5 31.h4! Be3 32.g4 Rc8 33.g5+ Bxg5 34.hxg5+ Kxg5 35.c4 h5 36.Qe5+ Kh6 37.Qf4+ Qxf4 38.Rxf4 Kg5 39.Rd4 Rb8 40.c5 Kf6 41.c6 Rc8 42.Rd6+ Kg5 43.Be4 a5 44.Rxg6+ Kh4 45.Rg7 a4 46.c7 a3 47.Bb7 Re8 48.c8R Rxc8! 49.Rg4+

Not 49.BxR??, stalemate.

49...Kh3 50.Bxc8 hxg4 51.d4 1-0

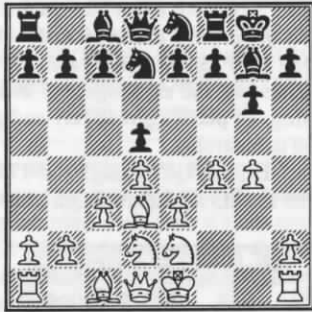
Dawson, A (2019) - Suits (1957)
Stonewall [D00]
MT Closed 2000, 10.09.2000



Jan Johansson, with his wife (chess widow?), Raya

1.d4 d5 2.e3 g6 3.Bd3 Bg7 4.Nd2 Nf6 5.Ne2 0-0 6.c3 Nbd7 7.f4 Ne8 8.g4!?

This may be a bit overaggressive, what with White's king so many moves from castling.



8...e5!

Demonstrating the old saying, "A thrust on the wing is best met by a thrust in the center."

9.fxe5 Nxe5?!

This is the first sign that Black is really sac-happy. The less drastic 9...f6 gives Black a decent game. E.g. 9...f6 10.e6 Nb6 11.Nf4 Qe7 12.Qf3 Bxe6.

10.dxe5 Qh4+ 11.Ng3 Bxe5 12.Ndf1 Bxg4 13.Be2 Nf6 14.Bxg4 Nxd4



15.Qf3

Grabbing the pawn is dangerous. 15. Qxd5 Qf6! 16.Qd2 (...Qf2+ is the threat) 16...Rad8 17.Qc2 Rd7 18.Ne4 Qf3 19.Rg1 f5+.

15...Rfe8 16.h3 Nxe3?

Chess blindness made Black think he was winning the piece back. Too bad, because after 16...Nf6 17.Bd2 Qa4, White still can't castle so Black can keep the pressure on.

17.Bxe3 d4 18.cxd4 Bxd4 19.Kf2

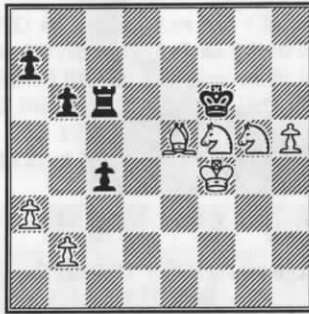
Alex thought that castling could give Thad the chance to force a draw, but the White king can slither away: 19.0-0-0 Bxb2+ (Sacking a third piece?!). 20.Kxb2 Qb4+ 21.Kc2 Qc4+ (21...Re6 22.Bd2 Qc4+ 23.Kb1 Rb6+ 24.Kal Ra6 25.a3 Qd4+ 26. Ka2 Qc4+ 27.Qb3) 22.Kd2 Rad8+ 23.Ke1 Qc3+ 24.Kf2.

19...Re6 20.Kg2 Rae8 21.Re1 Qe7 22. Bxd4 Rxe1 23.Qf6 Qxf6 24.Bxf6 R8e6 25.

Bc3 Ra1 26.a3 f5 27.Nd2 Rxh1 28.Kxh1 Re1+ 29.Kg2 Re3 30.Kf2 Re6 31.Nc4 c6 32.h4 Kf7 33.Kf3 Ke7 34.Kf4 b6 35.h5 Kf7 36.Ne5+ Ke7 37.Nxg6+ Kf7 38.Ne5+ Kf8 39.Nxf5 c5 40.Nd7+ Kf7 41.Be5 Rc6 42. Bb8 Ke6 43.Nf8+ Kf7 44.Nxh7 c4 45.Ng5+

At this point Black is remembering a line from a movie he saw about a fanatical Russian tank commander with a broken down tank who told his men, "Out of commission, become a pillbox, out of ammo, become a bunker, out of time...become heroes." (They reject his advice.)

45...Kf6!! 46.Be5# 1-0



Jensen,M (1898) - Katzl,R (1900)
Sicilian [B22]
MT Closed

Mike and Rudi play an interesting line of the Sicilian which, as played here, leaves Black slightly better.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4 Qd8 9. dxc5 Bxc5



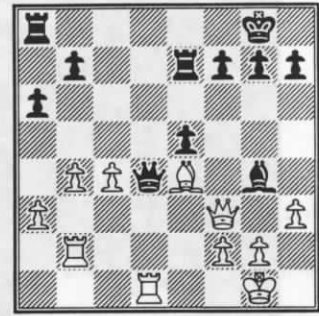
10.Nc3

A game listed in the ECO between Sveshnikov and Panjushkin continued instead with 10.a3, followed by 11.b4, to dislodge the bishop first. This move order prevents Black's pieces from using the d4 post as Rudi does here.

10...0-0 11.a3 Nd4 12.b4 Nxf3+ 13. Qxf3 Bd4 14.Bb2 e5 15.h3 Re8 16.Rfe1 Re7 17.Rab1 a6 18.Ne4 Nxe4 19.Bxe4 Bxb2 20.Rxb2 Qd4

This move ends up ceding the open file to White's rook. 20...Qc7 was worth a try.

21.Rd1 Bg4?



The idea is that now White has no back rank mate threats, so Black is sure to win the rook-for-bishop exchange. As the next few moves show, exchanges can be overrated.

22.Qxg4! Qxb2 23.Qh4! f6 24.Qxh7+ Kf7 25.Bd5+ Re6 26.Bxe6+ Kxe6 27.Qxg7 Kf5 28.Qg4# 0-1

Petrak,D (1639) - Hoene Jr.,H (1706)
Four Knights [C47]
MT Closed

This starts out looking like a typical, well-balanced Four Knight's Defense. But with Dennis Petrak, even the most balanced positions have a way of getting turned upside down in a hurry.

1.Nc3 Nf6 2.e4 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.a3 Bc5 5.h3 d5 6.Bd3!?

Hey, nobody ever accused Dennis of being an excessively orthodox chess player.

6...a6 7.0-0 Qd6 8.Qe2 Bd7?

As much as Howard wants to keep open lines for his bishops, locking things up with ...d4 was necessary.

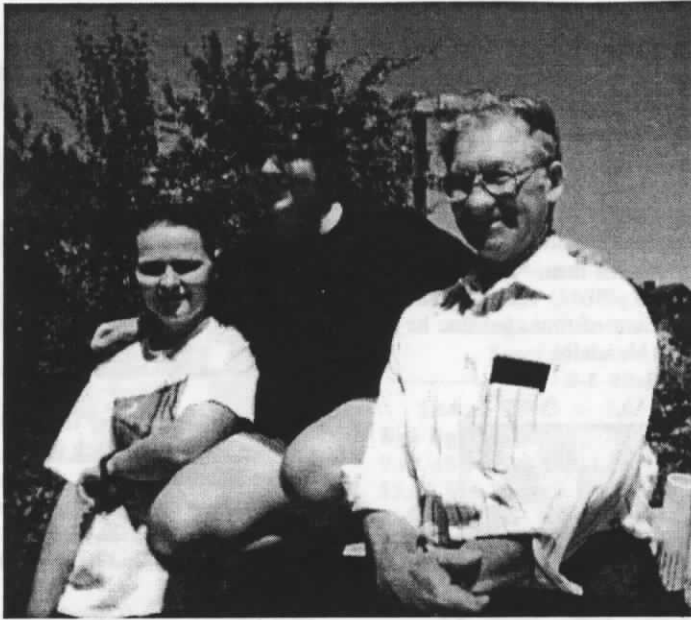
9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Ne4 Qg6 11.Nxc5 Nf4 12.Bxg6 Nxe2+ 13.Kh2 hxg6



14.Nxd7?

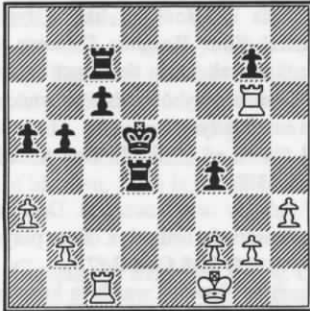
Too hasty. 14.Re1 could have used the half-open file to win a pawn.

14...Kxd7 15.Re1 Ned4 16.Nxe5+ Nxe5 17.Rxe5 Kd6 18.Re4 Nxc2 19.Rb1 f5 20. Rc4 Ne1 21.d4 Nd3 22.Kg1 Nxc1 23.Rbxc1 c6 24.R1c3 Rae8 25.Re3 Kd5 26.Rb4 b5 27.Kf1 a5 28.Rbb3 f4 29.Red3 Re4 30. Rbc3 Rhe8 31.Rc5+ Kd6 32.Rc1 g5 33. Rdc3 Rc8 34.Rc5 Rc7 35.Rxg5 Rxd4 36.



Helena players after the Triple Header: Rose Tremmel, Nick Warner, Mel Drake

Rg6+ Ke5 37.Rg5+ Kd6 38.Rg6+ Kd5



Like it or not, Black must take a draw. If the king moves back to the 7th rank the g-pawn falls, and if he moves to the 4th rank the b-pawn falls owing to the pin on the rook and the c pawn. ½-½

Bailey,B (1603) - Scarff,S (1611)
Nimzo-Indian? [E12]
Barto Memorial

Tournament director and co-winner Steve Scarff wins the game he had to win here against his closest rival.

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Bg5 Be7 4.Nc3 b6 5. Nf3 Bb7 6.Qc2 Bb4 7.e3 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Ne4 11.Bd3 Nxg3 12.hxg3 Qf6 13.e4 g4 14.Nh4 d6 15.Qe2 h5 16.f4 Nd7 17.0-0 0-0-0 18.a4 a5 19.f5 e5 20. Rab1?

This cedes the pawn that was anchoring White's whole center.

20...exd4 21.cxd4 Qxd4+ 22.Kh2 Rde8 23.Rf4 Re5 24.Rd1 Qc5 25.Rb1 Ba6 26. Qb2 Nf6 27.Ng6?!

Hoping to create a passed pawn and get counterplay.

27...fxg6 28.fxg6 Nd7 29.Rb1 Bxc4 30. g7 Rg8 31.Rf8+ Re8 32.Rxe8+ Rxe8 33. Rf5



33...Bxd3!?

This risks giving White the counterplay he has been hoping for. Less risky was 33... d5 or 33...Qc6.

34.Rxc5 dxc5 35.Qb3?

An subtly unfortunate choice. 35.Qa2! eyeing both f7 and g8. 35...c4 36.Qf2! Bxe4 37.Qf7 Kd8 38.g8Q and all of a sudden White has winning prospects.

35...c4 36.Qb5 Bxe4 37.Qxb5 Nf6 38. Qh6?

Unless both the scoresheets are wrong about the position here, Brian had 38.Qxe8+ Nxe8 39.g8Q.

38...Re6 39.Qh8+ Kd7 40.g8Q Nxg8 41.Qd4+ Kc8 42.Qxc4 Bc6 43.Qd3 Kb7 44.Qf5 Re4 45.Qf7 Re2 46.Qxg8 Rxd2+ 47.Kh1 Rxd3+ 48.Kh2 Rh3+ 49.Kg1 g3 50. Qe6 Rh1# 0-1

Furdell,B (1307) - Scarff,S (1611)
English [A15]
Barto Memorial

In this game from round one, Steve, back to both playing and directing tournament chess for the first time in years, starts off a little rusty.

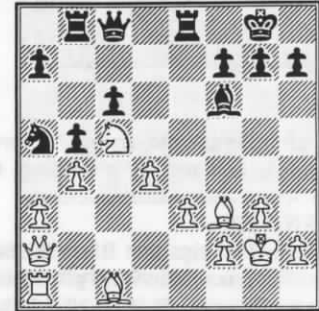
1.c3 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 Bb4

White can make Black waste a tempo.

4.a3 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 Nc6 7.d4 d5 8. cxd5 Nxd5 9.Nc3 Bf6 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.e3 Bg4 12.Qb3 Rb8 13.Ne1? Be2 14.Bxd5

White has lost the exchange, but instead of despairing, he plays aggressively and gets some good counterplay.

14...Bxf1 15.Kxf1 Qd7 16.Kg2 Na5 17.Qa2 c6 18.Bf3 b5 19.Nd3 Rfe8 20.Nc5 Qc8 21.b4



Is that a well-posted knight or what?

21...Nb7 22.Bb2 Nxc5 23.dxc5 Bxb2 24.Qxb2 Qe6 25.a4 a6 26.axb5 axb5 27. Ra6 Rec8 28.h3 Qe8 29.Qd4 Rc7 30.Qd6 Rbc8 31.Bg4 Qd8?

Steve tries to force the issue. In spite of being the exchange up, his easily attacked pawns make the position a probable draw.

32.Bxc8 Qxc8 33.Ra1 Rd7?

Again forcing the issue, to his undoing.

34.Qxd7 1-0

Rasmussen,S (unr.) - Furdell,B (1307)
Slav [D15]
Barto Memorial

Newcomer Steve Rasmussen puts up a good fight here against the eventual co-winner of the tournament.

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 Bf5

More usual is 4...Bg4.

5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Ne5 e6 7.Bg5 Be7 8. Qa4+ Nbd7 9.Nxd7 Nxd7 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.e3 0-0 12.Bb5 Nb6 13.Qd1 a6 14.Be2 Bg6 15.Bf3 Nd7 16.e4 Nf6



17.0-0?

Following through with 17.e5 would have saddled Black with a less useful bishop.

17...dxe4 18.Bg4 Rfd8 19.h3 Rd6 20. Ne2 h5?

This cuts off the bishop's retreat.

21.Ng3 hgx4 22.hgx4 Bh7 23.Nh5 Nxb5 24.gxh5 Qg5 25.Rc1 Rd5 26.Rc3 Qxh5 27.f3 Rad8 28.fxe4 Qxd1 29.Rxd1 Bxe4 30.Rc3 f5 31.Kf2 Rxd4 32.Rh1 Kf7 33.Rb3 b5 34.Rc1 Rd2+ 35.Ke3 R8d3+ 36. Rxd3 Rxd3+ 37.Ke2 Kf6 38.Rc3 Rxc3 39. bxc3 Bxg2 40.Ke3 Ke5 0-1

Warner,N (1404) - Drake,M (1268)
Queen's Gambit Declined [D06]
Barto Memorial

Nick pulls off a win in this game leaving himself in a tie for first place with one round to go.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.cxd5

It's unusual to relieve tension in the center so quickly. Doing so reduces White's options considerably.

3...g6 4.Nc3 Bg7?

Black waits too long to recapture. Now White gets to bolster the pawn.

5.e4 0-0 6.Nf3 e6 7.dxc6 Nxc6 8.Bf4 Bg4 9.Be2 Nh5 10.Qd2?

Better to withdraw the bishop to e3, where it can defend d4.

10...Nxf4 11.Qxf4 Nxd4?

Right idea, wrong move order. After 11...BxN first Black can grab the pawn.

12.Qxg4?

A counter-blunder. 12.NxN wins a piece.

12...Nc2+ 13.Kf1 Nxa1 14.g3 Nc2 15. Qh4 h6 16.Nd5 e6 17.Qxd8 Raxd8 18.Nc3 Nd4 19.Nxd4 Rxd4 20.Bf3 h5 21.Ke2 Rd2+

Right idea, wrong move order! Mel must've thought he had already played his next move.

22.Kxd2 Bh6+ 23.Ke2 Rd8 24.Rd1 Rxd1 25.Nxd1 b6 26.b4 Bg7 27.Nc3 Kf8 28.Nb5 a6 29.Nc7 a5 30.b5 Ke7 31.Kd2 Bf6 32.Kd3 Kd6 33.Na8 Kc5 34.a4 Bd4 35. Nxb6 Kxb6 36.Kxd4 f6 37.e5 f5 38.Be6 Kc7 39.Kc5 g5 40.b6+ Kb8 41.Bd7 h4 42. gxh4 gxh4 43.Bxe6 1-0



Wrecks, heaps, and other distractions

—by Thad Suits

When Jim Skovron's van suddenly went ka-lump, ka-WHUMP! and stopped, all four of us knew we were in for a long night. It was not one of those sounds that invites you just to pop open the hood, tweak a few hoses and continue on your merry way. Even so, like a desperate chess player who is out of ideas, Jim popped the hood anyway. No help. We were clearly dealing with vehicular heart failure.

Although it was nighttime and we were miles from civilization, heading home from the Montana Closed, a pair of cars stopped to help us before long. They gave us a lift into Three Forks, from where we hoped to call for a tow and improvise some way home. Showing admirable poise in a crisis, and a strong sense of priorities, Jim called out as he stepped into the lead car, "Somebody bring along the chess sets!"

And so it was that patrons of a 24-hour sandwich shop in Three Forks were treated to what must be a rare sight in rural Montana: Four guys, shoulder-to-shoulder at a small table, playing king of the hill blitz chess in the middle of the night and taunting each other all the while. By the time Ron, the tow service guy, showed up for instructions, Alex Dawson had a clear lead in wins, but Doug Hansen was running slightly ahead in the taunting competition.

After discussing the terms of the tow (and stubbornly refusing to do it in exchange for MCA membership), Ron went to haul the van to a Three Forks

garage. The four of us then returned to our games, as if this fellow, who was in fact saving our hides that night, were just an annoying distraction from the *real* business of the evening.

In between games we did, as good chess players do, formulate a plan: We would pay Ron to take us to Helena, and from there the three Great Falls players (Jim, Doug, and I) would borrow Alex's car to go the rest of the way home.

Ron agreed to his part of the plan, and we had a cheerful ride to Helena in his truck, discussing everything from chess to women's suffrage (which most of us, it turned out, were in favor of — but that's another story). Occasionally the subject of Alex's car would come up, and every time it did, its owner would say something to undermine our confidence in it. His first such remark, "the glove box won't stay up", was no big deal, and his comment that "it *should* get you home", with an awkward emphasis on the second word, only dimly registered. We were in no position to be choosy about our transportation, so we did our best to quiet the voices of doom that had been shouting at us ever since the collapse of the van at milepost 286.

But here and there new insights into the condition of Alex's car kept coming, and they were none of them a comfort to us beleaguered travelers. "One of the wipers works OK," Alex reassured us, with an eye up to the threatening sky. "The window on the

driver's side won't stay up, but maybe if you wedge some cardboard in there that'll keep it up part way at least." And a few minutes later, "The gas gauge is busted, but a full tank of gas is usually good for about 120 miles, so you might want to check the mileage when you leave town."

I thought maybe I had heard wrong. "Didn't you say it was a Toyota Celica? One hundred twenty miles to a tank?", I asked.

"Yeah", he said, "and you might want to buy a can of quick-fix for flats, 'cause the left front tire is just a little worn through."

Much of this reminded me of a children's book I loved to read when I was little. I forget the title, but it told a story by alternating sentences beginning "fortunately" with ones beginning "unfortunately." So, for instance, Alex would tell us that, yes, fortunately, it had a spare tire, but, unfortunately, the spare was not equipped with a rim.

We loaded everything into his car and, in a puff of bluish smoke, shoved off, figuratively speaking. In spite of our fears, we made it to town (at Alex's recommended 50 miles per hour) without further incident. It was late — nearly three in the morning — but we were all going to sleep in our own beds that night after all. Alex and his little import had saved the day.

As for Jim's van, it turns out the transmission is trashed. Doug and I are recommending he scrap it and get a reliable used Celica instead.

Tournament Tables

Montana State Closed Championship (9/9,10/2000)								
#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Jan Johansson	2052	W6	D5	W2	W3	D4	4.0
2	Alex Dawson	2019	W10	W4	L1	W5	W6	4.0
3	J Michael Jensen	1878	L8	W7	W4	L1	W5	3.0
4	Thad Suits	1957	W7	L2	L3	W9	D1	2.5
5	Rudolf G Katzl	1900	W9	D1	W8	L2	L3	2.5
6	James J Skovron	1872	L1	D9	W10	W8	L2	2.5
7	Douglas J Hansen	1714	L4	L3	W9	W10	D8	2.5
8	Dennis F Petrak	1639	W3	D10	L5	L6	D7	2.0
9	Sherwood Moore	1703	L5	D6	L7	L4	W10	1.5
10	Howard F Hoene	1721	L2	D8	L6	L7	L9	0.5

Barto Memorial (9/9,10/2000)								
#	Name	Rtng	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Tot
1	Steven R Scarff	1611	L2	W6	W4	W3	W5	4.0
2	William J Furdell	1307	W1	L4	W5	W6	W6	4.0
3	Brian W Bailey	1603	W5	H---	H---	L1	W4	3.0
4	Nick D Warner	1404	W6	W2	L1	W5	L3	3.0
5	Melvin P Drake	1268	L3	B---	L2	L4	L1	1.0
6	Stephen Rasmussen	unr.	L4	L1	B---	L2	L2	1.0

Missoula Downtown Championship (8/26/2000)						
#	Name	Rtng*	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
1	Hans Anderson	1716	W7	W3	D2	2.5
2	Dan McCourt	1608	H—	W4	D1	2.0
3	Rich Hall	1514	W5	L1	W6	2.0
4	Dale Gross	1501	W8	L2	W7	2.0
5	Paul Mitchell	1400	L3	W8	W9	2.0
6	Eric Gilbertson	1458	H—	X10	L3	1.5
7	Mike Stubblefield	1481	L1	W9	L4	1.0
8	Kevin Mittmann	1127	L4	L5	U—	0.0
9	Pat Todd	unr.	U—	L7	L5	0.0
10	Mike Joyce	1313	H—	F6	U—	0.5

* Rating listed is either USCF or "Big Sky" system

UCCC Second Summer Open (7/2000) -						
#	Name	rtng	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Tot
1	McClure, James	1836	W2	W5	W3	3.0
2	Hesse, Thomas	1542	L1	W6	W5	2.0
3	Moore, Sherwood	1702	W6	D4	L1	1.5
4	McBroom, Wm.	1567	L5	D3	W6	1.5
5	Katzl, Rudolf	1919	W4	L1	L2	1.0
6	Stergius, Paul	unr.	L3	L2	L4	0.0

Montana Action Championship (7/22/2000)								
#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Thad Suits	1928	W5	W6	W3	W4	W2	5.0
2	James J Skovron	1919	W3	W5	W4	W6	L1	4.0
3	Michael J Long	1717	L2	D4	L1	W5	W6	2.5
4	Nick D Warner	1388	W6	D3	L2	L1	W5	2.5
5	Rose Tremmel	unr.	L1	L2	D6	L3	L4	0.5
6	Melvin P Drake	1193	L4	L1	D5	L2	L3	0.5

Montana Quick Championship (7/23/2000)								
#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Thad Suits	1954	W5	U---	W4	W3	W2	4.0
2	James J Skovron	1919	W4	W3	U---	W5	L1	3.0
3	Nick D Warner	1388	U---	L2	W5	L1	W4	2.0
4	Melvin P Drake	1193	L2	W5	L1	U---	L3	1.0
5	Rose Tremmel	unr.	L1	L4	L3	L2	U---	0.0

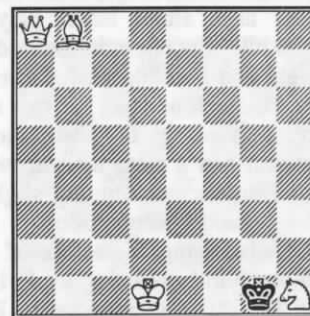
Montana Blitz Championship (7/22/2000)								
#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	James J Skovron	1919	\$5	\$4	W3	\$6	W2	8.0
2	Thad Suits	1928	W3	\$5	\$6	\$4	W1	8.0
3	Michael J Long	1717	W2	\$6	W1	\$5	W4	7.0
4	Nick D Warner	1388	\$6	L1	\$5	L2	W3	5.0
5	Rose Tremmel	unr.	L1	L2	L4	L3	\$6	2.0
6	Melvin P Drake	1193	L4	L3	L2	L1	L5	0.0

Double round robin: \$=Double win

The Polgar Corner

The following position is taken from the encyclopaedia *Chess* by László Polgár. How quickly can you find this mate in two?

The answer is on the back page.



White to move and mate in 2

Upcoming Events

GP = Grand Prix eligible. USCF and MCA membership required unless otherwise noted. (Other states OK).

October 7 — Fifth Annual Flathead Chess Championship

Format: 5 rd Swiss, Game/30, unrated. **Site:** Old Mill Place, 501 Main, Poulson. **EF:** \$8 in advance, \$10 at door, jrs. \$5 in advance, \$7 at door. **Prizes:** Cash prizes based on number of entries. **Registration:** At-door registration ends at 10:40. Prepaid must be present by 10:50 or forfeit 1st round. **Rounds:** 11:00, 12:30, 1:45, 3:00, 4:15. **Entries to:** Greg Nowak, Hellgate Station, PO Box 8572, Missoula, MT 59807.

October 14-15 — The Chinook Open with Pepperoni

Format: 5 rd Swiss, Game/2, GP. Free pizza for Saturday lunch break! **Site:** Univ. of Great Falls, Sullivan Hall, Room 203. Enter from 23rd St. parking. **EF:** \$20 if rec'd by 10/10, \$25 after that. **Prizes (more than ever):** 1st—\$125; 2nd—\$60, \$25 to top in each division. \$25 biggest upset. **Rnds:** Sat: 10, 2:30, 7; Sun 9, 2. **Reg:** 8:45-9:30. **Contact:** Thad Suits, 2015 4th Ave. N., Great Falls, MT 59401. Tel. 453-6160. **Other:** Limited housing available at player homes. Thanks again to the University of Great Falls for the event site.

November 5 — Non-Rated Beginners Tournament

Format: For unrated players only. 5 rd Swiss, Game/20. 3 Sections: Jr. Scholastic, Sr. Scholastic, Open. **Site:** UM Campus, Ranking Hall, Room 203. **Time:** 12:30-6:00. **EF:** \$1. **Prizes:** Set and board to winner of each section. **Other:** Memberships not required.

November 11-12 — The Turkey Open

Format: 4 rd Swiss, Game/2, GP. **EF:** \$20 by 11/11, \$25 at site. **Site:** Univ. of Mt. Rankin Hall, Room 203. **Prizes:** 1st—\$125; 2nd—\$75; U1800—\$50, U1600—\$50, U1400—\$50, U1200—\$50. **Registration:** 8:00-8:30. **Rnds:** 9,2; 9,2. **Contact:** Sherwood Moore, 453 Minnesota, Missoula, MT 59802. Tel. 728-1695.

December 2 — Sixth Greater Northwest Team Tourney

Format: 7 teams, 4 per team, G/30, round robin, non-unrated. **Site:** Pressbox Casino, 835 E. Broadway, Missoula. **EF:** \$34 per team if rec'd by 11/18, \$40 until 11/27, when team entries close. Individual entries \$8 by 11/11, \$10 by 11/18, \$12 by 11/27, \$14 at door. Players under age 17 \$2 less. MCA and USCF memberships not required. **Prizes:** Winning team shares top team pot equally. 1st place - \$15 each, 2nd - \$5 each. Best board prizes: \$5. **Registration:** Team entries should be submitted by 4/17. Individuals may enter and be in the player-pool for team assignments. **Registration times:** 11:00-11:30 a.m. **Rounds:** 11:45, 1:15, 2:35, 3:50, 5:05, ASAP (if needed). **Entries to:** Greg Nowak, Hellgate Station, PO Box 8572, Missoula, MT 59807. **Other:** Limited to 28 players. Individuals must be present by 11:30 or lose their entries.

Classifieds

Editor needed: *Montana Chess News* is accepting applications for the position of Editor. Duties to commence Summer 2000. Hours flexible. Job entails editing and publishing *Montana Chess News* four to six times a year, depending on your mood.

Experience required: Candidates who can sign their own names and have a working knowledge of the English language are preferred. Owning a computer is highly recommended, as is knowing how to plug it in and turn it on. An understanding of chess is optional, apart from maybe knowing how the little horse and the other pieces move.

Training: Outgoing editor will help with unsolicited advice, the donation of some extremely useful software, and some ready-to-publish articles for the first issue.

Compensation: Salary - None; Health benefits - None; Dental plan - None; Fringe benefits - The privilege of working with some nice people who care about the same things you do.

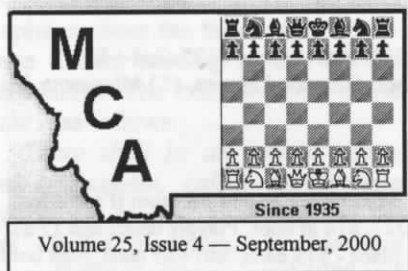
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Thad Suits
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Great Falls, MT 59401



20 and 10 years ago in MCN

September, 1980

Marc Lynn of Wyoming swept to victory in the Rimrock Open in Billings. Among the 22 participants, including three from Wyoming, only **Howard Hoene** and **Jim Chester** are still active MCA members.

September, 1990

In his final tournament before moving to Taiwan, **Nick Pazderic** won the Rimrock Open in Billings with a score of 3½-½, beating out both **Phil Heikkinen** and **Zygmund Mayer**.

“MCA President **Paul Motta**...is trying to forge a new Constitution with a companion set of bylaws which would...formalize many procedures which go on by the weight of tradition.”

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Most areas are open to anyone browsing the Web, but for access to the “members” area use this user name and password: octopus, 4benko.

Games, discussions, news, and much more!

Answer to “What’s the Cruncher?”

From Barnes-Hoene, 2000 Montana Open. Howard Hoene, already holding the advantage, could have put the game away with the old fork trick: 1...RxN+! 2.KxR Ne3+.

Answer to “The Polgar Corner” - There are many paths to mate, but only 1.Qa2 does it in two moves.