

CHESS HORIZONS

MACA Scholastics

MA Open
and MA G/60

K-3 Nationals in
Pittsburgh

July - September 2008

■ \$3.95



About MACA

The Massachusetts Chess Association is an educational non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote chess in Massachusetts and represent the interest of chess players within the state to the governing body of chess in the United States, **The United States Chess Federation (USCF)**.

As part of its role as a state organization, MACA has programs in place to support the existing chess community as well as promote chess among schools and the general public. Highlights of these programs are:



Providing at least four major tournaments each year:

Massachusetts Open (State Championship)
Massachusetts Game/60 Championship
Greater Boston Open
Harry Nelson Pillsbury Memorial



Running a scholastic program, which consists of a series of tournaments to determine the state's scholastic champions as well as "warm up" tournaments throughout the year. Free boards and sets are provided to schools and clubs through MACA's **Living Memorial Chess Fund (LMCF)**.

Quarterly publication of the award winning *Chess Horizons*, a journal of regional, national and international chess news and features.

Promotion and development of chess in correctional institutions through our Prison Chess program.

We hope you will chose to join MACA and enjoy the benefits of membership while knowing that you are helping to promote chess throughout Massachusetts.

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Hurvitz Cup

Larry Eldridge

Commonwealth School of Boston swept all four matches to win the 2008 Massachusetts State High School chess championship in the annual Hurvitz Cup competition among nearly 200 players from throughout the state. F.A. Day of Newton took Middle School honors, while teams from Buckingham Browne & Nichols of Cambridge ended a string of heartbreaking near-misses by winning both the elementary and primary titles.

Commonwealth, which had finished second a year ago, featured returnees Jake Garbarino, Gabe Frieden, and Danny Moraff on the top three boards, with newcomer Max Ehrman completing the four-player lineup. Frieden and Moraff led the way with perfect 4-0 scores as Commonwealth reached the final round tied for the lead with Weston, which had also won its first three matches, then won their decisive battle. Brookline and Weston had three points apiece, with the former taking second place on tiebreaks. Two-time defending champion Newton South fell short in its bid for a “threepeat,” going 2-2 and finishing fifth in the 13-team section.

The eight-team middle school section provided much of the day’s drama, with a three-way donnybrook not decided until the final moves. Weston, with an average team rating of 1058, started the fireworks by stunning top-seeded defending champion Jonas Clarke School of Lexington (1772) in a monumental Round 2 upset, but couldn’t continue its giant-killing role as it fell to Day (1631) in the next round.

This left the Day team of Winston Huang, Winber Xu, Jacob Fauman, and Richard Han in the driver’s seat at 3-0 facing Clarke in the last round. A win or a drawn match meant the title, but a loss would create a tie (maybe even a three-way tie) and leave everything up to tiebreaks.

Weston lost its chance when it was held to a draw by Diamond Middle School. The tiebreaks now were known, and Day

needed a win, a draw, or even a close loss to win the title, while Clarke had to win the match by at least 3-1 to prevail. All four games were hotly contested, ending in three draws and one win for Clarke, giving that school the match, but only by the 2½-1½ score that made Day the champion.

attention, winning their next two matches and reaching the last round trailing only the Bridge School of Lexington, which had knocked off defending champion Sage.

So it was Bridge (3.0) vs. BB&N (2½) for all the marbles. No ties in this one! BB&N needed a win to leapfrog over its rival, while a win or a draw would make Bridge the champion. And in the end it was BB&N that prevailed as Darrith



Newton South HS (left) and Brookline HS (right).

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Drama was also the order of the day in K-6, the biggest of the sections with 15 teams. BB&N’s team of Nic Trieu, Bunnard Phan, Zachary Lovett, and Darrith Phan was battling to end a frustrating streak in which the school had tied for first place with a perfect 4-0 two years in a row only to lose out both times to the Sage School on tiebreaks. All four of these players had suffered through that 2007 heartbreaker, and three of them even went back to the one the year before. Now this was their last chance before most of the team moved on to Middle School.

Things looked bleak when this much higher-rated quartet was held to an astounding first-round draw by the Grafton Elementary School’s second team – thanks to huge upset victories by Connor Sudbey (732) over Trieu (1593) and by and David Flanagan (243) over Lovett (1027). No perfect score in the cards this year! But they regrouped to stay in con-

Phan won his fourth straight game on Board 4 while Trieu and Lovett, undaunted by their first-round lapses, fought back in most fitting fashion for the clutch victories that finally nailed down that elusive title. And so irony of ironies: for the first time in three years this team failed to achieve a perfect score – and this was the time they won the championship. The final tally was BB&N 3½, followed by Sage, Bridge, Weston, and Cabot (3.0 each) in that tiebreak order.

BB&N’s younger team, which had also missed out in close finishes the last two years, had a smoother path in the 11-team K-3 division. The quartet of Max Wiegand, Will Nemirovsky, Tristan Young, and Issay Matsumoto scored a 4-0 sweep, winning by a full point over Cabot and Carlisle, who were 3-1 each with the former taking second place on tiebreaks. The victors did have one scare, in a Round 3 battle of unbeaten with

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BB&N K-3, 1st place. Max Wiegand, Tristan Young, Larry Eldridge (coach), Issay Matsumoto, and Will Nemirovsky.

Cabot, when Nemirovsky was upset by Noah Stonehill and Wiegand was held to a draw by Alex Fauman on the top boards, but its depth prevailed as Young (who won all his games) and Matsumoto scored the needed victories to take the match, 2½-1½.

Both BB&N teams along with the Day team were coached by your correspon-

dent, while the high school team was organized by the players and had no official coach.

The tournament was held at Natick High School and directed for the Massachusetts Chess Association by Ken Ballou, assisted by Bob Messenger with additional help from George Mirijanian, Steve Frymer, and Maryanne Reilly.

Howard W. Cook, R.I.P.

Howard W. Cook of Cumberland, RI, a former longtime MACA and USCF member, died on Friday, March 28, in Cortland Place Lifecare Community, in Smithfield, RI. He was 88.

Mr. Cook was born in Hyde Park, MA, the son of the late Louis and Dorothy (Wood) Cook, and had lived the past 67 years in Cumberland. He was a direct descendant of John and Priscilla Alden, among the Mayflower passengers who settled Plymouth (MA) Colony in 1620.

Mr. Cook was a salesman and a Christmas tree farmer, operating Cook's Christmas Tree Farm. He was a member of the Rhode Island Christmas Tree Growers Association. He was also a member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Cumberland. He was a World War II Navy veteran, serving in the Pacific theater. Mr. Cook was known to the chess community as a longtime player, organizer and tournament director.

He founded the Sven Brask Chess Club in North Attleboro, MA, which later moved to Plainville, MA. He competed in many tournaments in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, with his last being a weeknight tournament at the Sven Brask CC in October 2005.

A former certified USCF tournament director, he directed and assisted at many events in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, especially at RI scholastic and open tournaments. He was a frequent participant in the National Opens in Las Vegas, NV, where he also served as an assistant TD.

Mr. Cook leaves his wife, Dorothy (Klowan) Cook; two sons, Howard W. Cook Jr. of Marco Island, FL, and John K. Cook of East Greenwich, RI; four grandchildren, Patricia Bruno, Jonathon Cook, Dr. Stephen Cook, Shelby Kornbluth; and seven great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a sister, Muriel Kinder. A funeral service was held April 1 in Emmanuel Episcopal Church followed by burial with military honors in Diamond Hill Cemetery, Cumberland. Donations in his memory may be made to MACA's Living Memorial Chess Fund (LMCF) and mailed to Robert Messenger, MACA Treasurer, 4 Hamlett Drive, Apt. 12, Nashua, NH 03062.

Visit MassChess.org for Crosstables for the Hurvitz Cup, the BB&N Scholastic Open, the 77th Massachusetts Open, the 18th Massachusetts G/60 Championship, and more.

Plus news, event information, a downloadable archive of New England master games, and more.

MA Open and MA G/60

George Mirijanian

National master **Denys Shmelov** of Pepperell won the 77th Massachusetts Open, held May 24-26, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough. The 21-year-old Ukrainian native, current champion of the Metrowest Chess Club in Natick, tallied 5-1 in an Open section field of 24 players and became the first non-FIDE-titled master since 1999 to win the coveted state championship. Among his victims were fellow national master **Alex Cherniack** of Watertown (round 3), 2007 state champion **IM David Vigorito** of Lowell (round 4) and FIDE master **Paul MacIntyre** of Malden (round 6.). His lone draw was against **IM Igor Foygel** of Brookline (round 5), who captured second place with a score of 4½-1½.

Tying for 3rd place with 4-2 results were national masters **Christopher Williams** of Brighton and **Alex Cherniack** as well as record-breaking 17-time MA Open winner FIDE master **John Curdo** of Auburn. The latter two also shared the top under 2300 prize. Capturing the top under 2200 prize with a score of 3½-2½ was expert **Ilya Krasik** of Acton.

John Elmore of Hampton Falls, NH tallied 5-1 to win first place in the Under

2000 section, which drew 14 players. **Valentin Levin** of Lynn took second place with a 4-2 score, while **Scott Didham** of Sharon, **Nikita Konovalchuk** of Ashland and **James Shao** of Sunnyside, NY posted results of 3½-2½ to tie for third place.

Eighteen players competed in the Under 1800 section, which was won by **Avery Chen** of Woodbridge, CT with a score of 5½-½. Boston Globe chess columnist **Harold Dondis** of Belmont captured second place with a 4½-1½ tally, while longtime Boylston Chess Club member **Mike Griffin** of Quincy finished in third place with a 4-2 performance.

Larry Kleine of Hanover posted the tournament's only perfect score of 6-0 to finish first in the Under 1600 section, where 14 players participated. **Eduardo Valadares** of Hudson took second place with a 4½-1½ tally, while **Thomas Sifter** of Quincy, **Arthur Learnard** of Derry, NH, and **Jeffrey Wright** of Somerville tied for third place with 3½-2½ results. **Grant Xu**, a 10-year-old player from Acton, won the top under 1400 prize with a score of 3-3.

In an event held on May 25 for those rated under 2000, **Howard Goldowsky** of Canton and **Darwin Ding** of Lexing-



John Elmore

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ton tied for 1st-2nd place with scores of 3½-½ in a field of 23 players. **Jimmy Wang**, a 12-year-old player from Acton, won the top under 1600 prize with a 3-1 tally. **Austin Mei** of Andover, **Varun Palnati** of Westford and **Charlie Fauman** of Newton shared the top under 1400 prize with 2-2 results. In a section for those rated under 1300, which only drew seven players, **Chirantan Neogy** of Acton and **David Todd** of Boxford tied for 1st-2nd place with scores of 3½-½.

A scholastic tournament was held on May 25 for those in K-3 rated under 1200. In a field of 12 players, **Arnab Ghosh** of Winchester, **Henry Li** of Acton and **Jack Goldsmith IV** of Newton all tallied 3-1 and finished 1st-2nd-3rd respectively on tiebreak points. Also scoring 3-1 and winning chess medals were **Lucas Aguirre** of Lexington and **Brandon Wu** of Littleton. In a 19-player section for those rated under 600, **Afareen Jaleel** of Lexington posted a perfect 4-0 to finish first. Scoring 3-1 and taking 2nd-3rd place respectively based on tiebreak points were **Bridget Fox** of Needham and **Jenny Qiu** of Acton. Also scoring 3-1 but winning medals were **William Fox** of Needham, **Alan Sikarov** of Newton, and **Youngin Kang** of Auburndale.

Another scholastic tournament was held on May 26 for those in K-6 rated under 1400. In a field of 14 players,



**2008
Massachusetts
Champion
Denys Shmelov**

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Alexander Sorets of Newton finished first with score of 3½-½. Tallying 3-1 and ending up in 2nd-3rd place respectively based on tiebreak points were **Alex Hu** of Acton and **Varun Palnati** of Westford. **Michael Shulman** of Auburndale also scored 3-1 and went home with a medal. In a 19-player section for those rated under 800, **Jenny Qiu** of Acton posted a perfect 4-0 to finish first. Tallying 3-1 and taking home the 2nd- and 3rd-place trophies based on tiebreak points were **Sathwik Karnik** of Plainville and **Brandon Wu** of Littleton. Three other players scored 3-1 and took home medals. They were **Alexander Shih** of Andover, **Sean Cheng** of Westford and **Shuvom Sadhuka** of Acton.

The Massachusetts Blitz (5-minute) Championship was held on May 25. Ten players competed. FIDE master **William Kelleher** of Watertown won the event with a perfect 10-0 score. **Benjamin Goldberg** of Cumberland, RI captured second place with a 7-3 tally. Sharing the top under 2000 prize were **George Winsor** of South Easton and **Lawrence Gladding** of Leominster, both of whom finished with scores of 4-6.

A total of 174 players competed in eleven sections of the championship, with 70 of them – 16 fewer than in 2007 – competing in the three-day main event.

Once again, **Ken Ballou** of Framingham was the chief director, assisted by fellow senior TD **Robert Messenger** of Nashua, NH, and national TD **George Mirijanian** of Fitchburg. **Nicholas Sterling** of Needham was the chief TD for the scholastic events. And for the third year in a row, special prizes for the “most interesting games” will be awarded in all four sections of the three-day main event thanks to the generosity of MACA life member **Walter Champion** of Wellesley. In addition to monetary prizes, winners will also be awarded copies of IM James Rizzitano’s book *Understanding Your Chess*. The prize-winning games will be judged by **IM Igor Foygel**.

Headline from a video podcast sports update from *The Onion*: Chess master Lev Alburt beginning victory celebration several moves before checkmate.

White: Foygel, Igor
Black: Shmelov, Denys
 77th MA Open, 26.05.2008 [A62]
[Shmelov]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6

2...e6 allows Black to avoid f4 lines in the Benoni.

3.g3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Bg2 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8

A tricky move order that asks White to reveal his intentions first. 9...a6 is more common.

10.Bf4

10.Nd2 is more popular, transposing to 9...a6 lines.

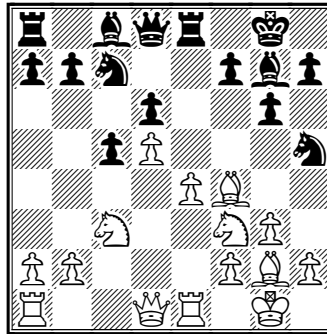
10...Na6 11.Re1!?

An interesting plan, aimed at a quick e2-e4-e5 thrust.

11...Nc7

11...Nh5 12.Bg5 f6 13.Bc1 f5 14.e4 fxe4 15.Nxe4 and Black has certain development problems: the knight on a6 is out of place, there is no good square for light-squared bishop, and d6 is weak.

12.e4 Nh5?!



A sloppy move that allows White to carry out e4-e5 without any particular problems. 12...Bg4 was better, swapping the passive bishop. After 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Bf8, Black is not doing too badly.

13.Bg5 Qd7

13...f6 looks hideous, but at least it would have stopped White from playing e4-e5. Of course, f7-f6 leaves the knight h5 stranded, so Black would have to follow up with something like Bg7-f8 and Nh5-g7.

14.h3 h6 15.Be3 b5?!

Unduly optimistic. Now the rook is vulnerable and the queenside pawns are weak. Better was to sidestep the bishop’s attack with the quiet 15...Rb8.

16.e5! b4

16...dxe5 17.d6 Ne6 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.Bxa8±.

17.Ne4 dxe5 18.Nxc5

18.d6 Ne6 19.Nxc5 Nxc5 20.Bxc5 Rb8 also leaves Black under a fair amount of pressure, but at least there is nothing decisive.

18...Qxd5 19.Qa4

I completely overlooked this powerful move. The queen clears the square for rook a1, x-rays rook e8, sets up the battery on h1-a8 diagonal, and in some lines lands on c6, forking the whole queenside. To make things worse the black queen and black knight h5 are both short of squares. 19.Nd2 Qd8 20.Bxa8 Nxa8 leaves Black with a fair amount of compensation. Black has the two bishops, the possibility to advance f5-f4, and weak pawns on h3 and b2 to attack.

19...e4 20.Rad1 Qf5

20...Qc4 21.Bf1+-.

21.g4 Qf6 22.Nd2

Fortunately, White overlooked a better way to pick up the piece: 22.Bd4 Qf4 23.gxh5 exf3 24.Rxe8+ Nxe8 25.Qxe8+-.

22...Nf4 23.Ndxe4 Nxh3+

Black won’t have enough compensation for the piece, but at least that would allow them some activity.

24.Bxh3 Qh4 25.Bg2 Bxg4 26.f3 Bh3 27.Bf2 Qh5 28.Ng3 Qh4 29.Nge4 Qh5 30.Ng3 Qh4

Repeating moves to gain time on the clock.

31.Qc6

31.Rxe8+ Rxe8 32.Bxh3 Qxh3 33.Qd7 Qxd7 34.Rxd7 and White’s active pieces decide the game.

31...Rxe1+ 32.Rxe1 Bd4!?

This attempt does not change anything, but at least it poses White with some challenges in the time scramble.

33.Qxc7! Bxf2+ 34.Kxf2 Qd4+ 35.Kf1

35.Re3 Bxg2 36.Ne2 is even better, and White picks up the bishop with a decisive material advantage.

35...Rc8 36.Qe5

36.Qxc8+ Bxc8 37.Re8+ Kg7 38.Rxc8 Qd1+ 39.Kf2 Qd4+ is not so clear. In order to avoid perpetual check, White will have to give away all the queenside pawns.

36...Bxg2+ 37.Kxg2 Qxc5 38.Qf6

38.Qxc5 Rxc5 39.Re2±.

38...Qd5 39.b3

39.Re2 Qxa2 40.Qd4+-
39...Rc2+ 40.Kh1 Rc8 41.Ne4
 (41.Re2±) **41...Rc2 42.Ng5? Re2!**
43.Rc1 Rc2 ½-½

BCF President **FM Paul MacIntyre** had an interesting tussle with **IM James Rizzitano**. Riz made the last blunder in this eventful game.

White: Rizzitano, James (2343)

Black: MacIntyre, Paul (2309)

77th MA Open (5), 26.05.2008 [E76]
 [MacIntyre]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7 5.f4
0-0 6.Nf3 c5 7.dxc5 Qa5 8.Bd3 Qxc5
9.Qe2 Nc6 10.Be3 Qa5 11.0-0 Bg4
12.Qf2?!

With this White allows Black to take the initiative.

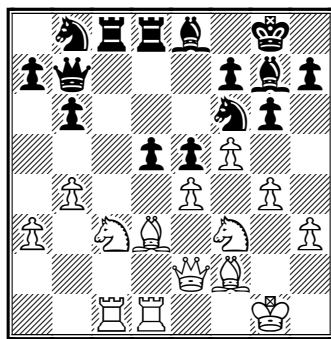
12...Nb4 13.Bb1 Be6

The point. Black threatens both Bxc4 and Ng4.

14.h3 Bxc4 15.Rd1 b6 16.a3 Nc6
17.Be2 Rac8 18.g4 Qa6 19.Rac1 Rfd8
20.b3 Be6 21.f5 Bd7 22.Bd3 Qb7

Here I talked myself out of snatching the a-pawn for practical reasons. It may have been the right move, but it seemed like White could at least engineer a perpetual attack on the queen if not an outright trap.

23.b4 Be8 24.Qe2 Nb8 25.Bd4 e5
26.Bf2 d5!



A powerful Sicilian theme appears in this King's Indian.

27.Bh4? Nxe4?

27...Rxc3 would have won two pieces for a rook.

28.Bxe4 dxe4 29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.Bxd8
exf3 31.Qd3 Nc6 32.Qd5 Qc8 33.Ne4
gxf5 34.Nf6+ Bxf6 35.Bxf6 Qe6
36.Qxe6 fxe6 37.b5 Nd4 38.Rc8 Ne2+
39.Kf2 e4

A trick before the time control keeps Black in the game. White can't win the bishop with 40.Re8+ due to the fork 40...Kf7.

40.Be5 Kf7 41.Rc7+ Kg8 42.a4 Bg6
43.a5 bxa5 44.Rxa7 Nc1 45.b6 Nd3+
46.Ke3 Nxe5 47.Rc7?

The only move to win was 47.b7. Now Black is OK as his pawns can move.

47...f4+ 48.Kd4 f2 49.b7 Nc6+! 50.Rxc6
f1Q 51.b8Q+ Kg7 52.Rc7+ Bf7 53.Qb2
Qd3+ 54.Ke5 f3 55.Kf4+ Kg6 56.Rc5
h6 57.h4 Be8 58.h5+ Kh7?

58...Kf7 was necessary so as to be able to protect the bishop when it comes of necessity to d7.

59.Rc7+ Bd7 60.Qe5??

In serious time pressure, White fails to find 60.Qb7, after which, with careful footwork to avoid the perpetual (or worse), White will win.

60...f2 61.Rxd7+ Qxd7 62.Qxe4+ Kg8
63.Qg6+ Qg7 64.Qxe6+ Qf7+
65.Qxf7+ Kxf7 0-1

White: Williams, Christopher (2303)

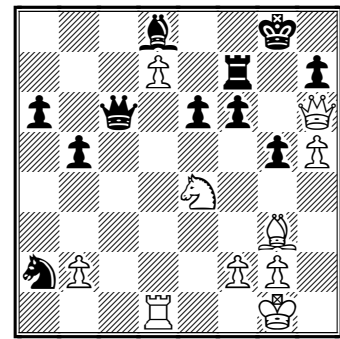
Black: Vigorito, David (2439)

77th MA Open (2), 24.05.2008 [D14]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.cxd5 cxd5
5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bf4 Bf5 7.e3 e6 8.Bb5 Nd7
9.0-0 Be7 10.Rc1 Rc8 11.Qe2 0-0
12.Rfd1 a6 13.Bd3 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 b5
15.e4 Nb4 16.Qb1 dxe4 17.Nxe4 Qb6
18.Nfg5 g6 19.h4 Nd5 20.Bg3 N7f6
21.Qd3 Nxe4 22.Nxe4 Nb4 23.Qb1
Rxc1 24.Qxc1 Nxa2 25.Qh6 f6 26.h5
g5 27.d5 Rf7 28.d6 Bd8 29.d7 Qc6



IM James Rizzitano



30.Nxf6+ Rxf6 31.Qxg5+ Kf7 32.h6 e5
33.Qg7+ Ke6 34.Qg8+ Rf7 35.Qxd8
Rxd7 36.Qe8+ 1-0

White: Rizzitano, James (2343)

Black: Krasik, Ilya (2144)

77th MA Open (2), 24.05.2008 [B51]

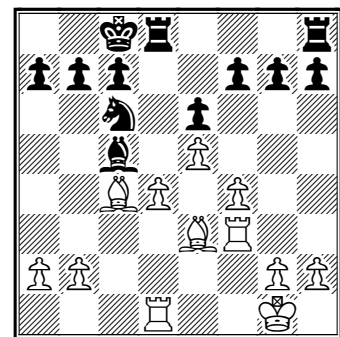
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.Nf3 Bd7
5.0-0 g6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bg7 8.Nb3
Nf6 9.Bg5 0-0 10.Re1 a6 11.Bf1 Be6
12.Nd5 Nd7 13.c3 Re8 14.Qd2 Rc8
15.Rad1 Bxd5 16.exd5 Nce5 17.Bh6
Bf6 18.Re4 Nb6 19.Na5 Rc5 20.Nxb7
1-0

White: Curdo, John (2244)

Black: Sciacca, Patrick (2124)

77th MA Open (6), 26.05.2008 [B02]

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e5 Ne4 4.Nce2 d4
5.c3 Nc6 6.cxd4 Ng5 7.f4 Ne6 8.Nf3
Nexd4 9.Nexd4 Nxd4 10.Qa4+ Nc6
11.d4 Qd5 12.Be4 Qa5+ 13.Qxa5 Nxa5
14.Bd3 Bg4 15.0-0 Bxf3 16.Rxf3 0-0-0
17.Be3 Nc6 18.Be4 e6 19.Rd1 Bc5



20.d5 Bxe3+ 21.Rxe3 Na5 22.b3 Rd7
23.Red3 Nxc4 24.bxc4 Rhd8 25.Kf2 a6
26.Ke3 b5 27.cxb5 axb5 28.Ke4 Kb7
29.g4 g6 30.h4 Kb6 31.f5 gxf5+ 32.gxf5
exf5+ 33.Kxf5 Kc5 34.Rc1+ Kb6
35.Rc6+ Kb7 36.Ke4 Ra8 37.Rc2 Rdd8
38.Rdc3 Ra4+ 39.Kf5 Rxd5 40.Rxc7+

Chess Horizons

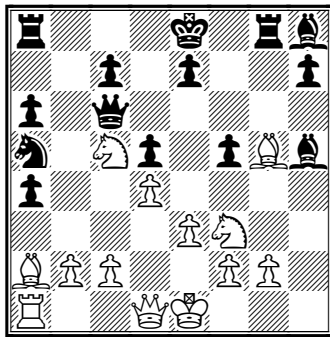
Kb8 41.Rxf7 Rxh4 42.Ke6 Rd1 43.Rb2 b4 44.a3 h5 45.Rxb4+ Rxb4 46.axb4 h4 47.Rh7 Rd4 48.b5 Rb4 49.Kf6 Rxb5 50.Rxh4 Kc7 51.Rd4 Rb1 52.Ke7 Rh1 53.Rc4+ Kb7 54.e6 Rd1 55.Ke8 Re1 56.e7 Rd1 57.Rf4 Rh1 58.Kf7 Rh7+ 59.Ke6 1-0

White: Krasik,Ilya (2144)

Black: Dickson,James (2048)

77th MA Open (3), 25.05.2008 [A80]

1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.h4 d5 5.Nd2 Nf6 6.h5 Be6 7.Ne2 Nxb5 8.Rxh5 gxh5 9.Nf4 Qd7 10.Nxh5 Rg8 11.Nf3 Bh8 12.Nf4 Nc6 13.Bb5 a6 14.Ba4 b5 15.Bb3 Bf7 16.a4 Na5 17.Ba2 bxa4 18.Nd3 Bh5 19.Nc5 Qc6



20.Ne5 Bxd1 21.Nxc6 Nxc6 22.Bxd5 Nb4 23.Bxg8 Nxc2+ 24.Kxd1 Nxa1 25.Bxh7 Rb8 26.Bg6+ Kd8 27.Nd3 Rb5 28.Bf7 Nb3 29.Bc4 Rb6 30.Nf4 Bf6 31.Bh6 Na5 32.Be6 Rxb2 33.Nd3 Rb5 34.Kc2 Nb3 35.Bc4 Rb6 36.Bf4 Rc6 37.Kc3 Na5 38.Kb4 Nxc4 39.d5 a3 40.Nc1 Rb6+ 41.Kxc4 Rb2 0-1

White: Enkin,Max (2287)

Black: Curdo,John (2244)

77th MA Open (3), 25.05.2008 [C63]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.d3 Nf6 5.0-0 d6 6.exf5 Bxf5 7.d4 e4 8.d5 exf3 9.dxc6 fxg2 10.exb7+ Kf7 11.Re1 Rb8 12.Bg5 Be7 13.Nc3 Kg6 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Nd5 Bg5 16.h4 Bxh4 17.Nf4+ Kg5 18.Qd2 Kf6 19.Qd4+ Kf7 20.Qd5+ Kf6 21.Re6+ Kg5 22.Nh3+ 1-0

Anand vs. Kramnik in Bonn

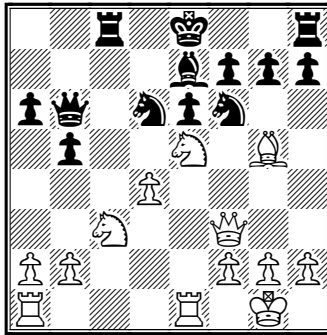
The world championship match between Viswanathan Anand and Vladimir Kramnik is scheduled to take place in Bonn, Germany from October 14 – November 2, 2008. The prize fund 1.5 million Euros. The official website is www.uep-worldchess.com.

White: Curdo,John (2244)

Black: Dickson,James (2048)

77th MA Open (5), 26.05.2008 [B30]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Na5 4.c3 a6 5.Ba4 b5 6.Bc2 e6 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 d5 9.Nc3 dxe4 10.Bxe4 Bb7 11.Bxb7 Nxb7 12.0-0 Nf6 13.Ne5 Rc8 14.Bg5 Be7 15.Qf3 Nd6 16.Rfe1 Qb6



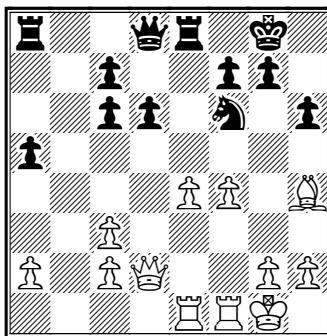
17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Nd5 Qd8 19.Nc6 Qd7 20.Nxf6+ gxf6 21.Qxf6 Rg8 22.d5 Rxc6 23.dxe6 1-0

White: Xu,Winber (1666)

Black: Winsor,George (1900)

77th MA Open (1), 24.05.2008 [C47]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Nxc6 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 bxc6 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.f3 d6 11.Bg5 a5 12.Qd2 Ba6 13.Bxa6 Rxa6 14.Rae1 Ra8 15.f4 h6 16.Bh4



16...Nxe4 17.Bxd8 Nxd2 18.Rxe8+ Kh7 19.Rfe1 d5 20.Bxc7 Ra7 21.R1e7 Ne4 22.Be5 Ra6 23.Rxf7 Kg6 24.Rxg7+ Kh5 25.Bd4 c5 26.g4+ Kh4 27.Bf2+

Nxf2 28.Kxf2 Rf6 29.Kf3 Kh3 30.Re5 Kxh2 31.Rh5+ Kg1 32.Re7 1-0

White: Sifter,Thomas (1572)

Black: Kleine,Larry (1549)

77th MA Open, Under-1600 (5), 26.05.2008 [C96]

[Kleine]

I really wanted to win this one, because I was alone in first place with four points and my opponent was at 3-1, tied with one other player (who I had already beaten) for second place. I knew that by winning this game, I would be certain of at least a tie for first place. My remarks are based on my thoughts during the game.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Nd7 12.Nbd2 exd4 13.cxd4 Nc6 14.e5 dxe5 15.dxe5 Nb6

I think the knight is misplaced here. I prefer 15...c4, clearing c5 for this knight, and threatening at some point to hop to d3.

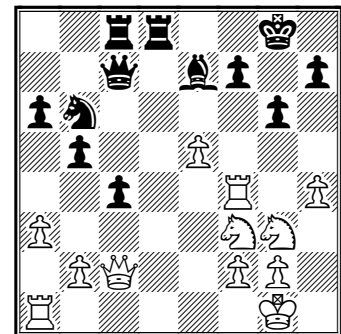
16.Be4 Qc7 17.Qc2 g6 18.Nf1 Rb8 19.Bh6 Nb4

Gaining a tempo in the fight for d3.

20.Qb1 Rd8 21.Ng3 Bb7 22.a3 Bxe4 23.Rxe4 Nd3 24.Qc2 c4

I saw that 24...Nc4 would win a pawn, but on 25.Qc3 Ndx2, I didn't like the look of Black's position. The knights are offside and tripping over each other, and Black's kingside is looking awfully drafty. In the heat of battle, it just looked to me like White's position was easier to play. So my plan was to increase the pressure on White's queenside.

25.Bf4 Nxf4 26.Rxf4 Rbc8 27.h4



At this point, I sensed that White was getting desperate for counterplay. I didn't take the kingside attack seriously. I didn't

do any deep analysis; it just looked to me like his pieces weren't in position to do any damage to my king. So I decided to ignore the threat and keep angling for d3. **27...Na4 28.h5 Nc5 29.hxg6 hxg6 30.Rg4 Nd3** Finally! **31.Nf5 Nxe5 32.Nxe5 Qxe5 33.Nh6+ Kf8 34.Nxf7**

I never even considered this move, and now panic set in. I couldn't believe I was actually going to lose this game, and I was kicking myself for not taking White's threats more seriously. Three and a half hours of work was going to be ruined by five minutes of carelessness! What to do? I went into a huddle for about 10 minutes, and found a way to extinguish the attack. It might be interesting for the readers to puzzle this one out. No fair "Fritzifying" the position; a computer will find the saving move in a couple of seconds.

34...Qf5

This move is obvious, once you see it. Black hits all three of White's loose pieces and liquidates to an advantageous endgame. This move really took the starch out of my opponent. Watching him study the position was like watching someone squeeze the air out of a basketball, as he looked for a way to avoid the exchange of queens. To make things worse, he only had about three minutes to get to the 40th move.

35.Qxf5 gxf5 36.Nxd8 fxe4 37.Ne6+ Kf7

The ending is bad for White, because of the fixed targets on a3 and b2. Black still has some work left to do, but White, probably discouraged by the sudden change in the tide, makes an error that drops a pawn.

38.Re1 Bf6 39.Nf4 Bxb2 40.Re3 Bc1 41.Re4 Bxf4

Simpler than 41...Bxa3. Now the c-pawn is unstoppable.

42.Rxf4+ Ke6 43.Rd4 c3 44.Rd1 c2 45.Re1 Kd5 46.Kf1 Kd4 47.Ke2 Kc3 48.f3 gxf3+ 49.gxf3 Kb2 50.Kd2 Rd8+ 0-1

**GM Alterman's
Chess Lessons**

GM Boris Alterman has a blog with free chess lessons on it: <http://chesslessons.wordpress.com/>

White: Kleine, Larry (1549)

Black: Stone, Bruce (1470)

77th MA Open, Under-1600 (4), 26.05.2008 [E91]

[Kleine]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 c5 6.d5 Bg4 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 a6 11.Rb1

I didn't want to weaken the b4-square by playing 11.a4, but it is probably superior to what I chose. Black has no easy way to exploit the hole.

11...Qc7 12.Qc2 e5 13.Be3 Ne8 14.b4 f5 15.bxc5 dxc5 16.d6

I'm not at all sure that this is best, but it was hard to resist. I've always found "vacating" sacrifices to be aesthetically pleasing. 16.a4 is the sober choice.

16...Nxd6 17.Nd5 Qd8 18.a4 f4

This doesn't look right to me. The dark-square bishop is now buried alive. **19.Bd2 b6 20.Bg4 Rb8 21.Bxd7 Qxd7 22.Nxb6 Qf7 23.f3**

I didn't want to have to worry about a future ...f3. Black is cramped, so I thought I could take time for this bit of housekeeping.

23...g5 24.Qd3 Rfd8 25.Qd5 Rb7

25...Qxd5 26.cxd5 leads to a tough endgame for Black. The bishop is still a prisoner, and the c-pawn is weak.

26.Qxc5 Nxe4

I overlooked this, but fortunately White is still OK.

27.fxe4 Rxd2 28.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 29.Rxd1 Bf6 30.Qc8+ Kg7 31.Nd7

I thought this was a pretty move, cutting communication between the queen and rook. Black's poor piece coordination is fatal.

31...Rb3

31...Ra7 hangs on longer, but White should still win. Once Black abandons his defense of the second rank, the king is defenseless against the invasion of the heavy pieces on the light squares.

32.Nxf6 Qa7+ 33.Kh1 Kxf6 34.Qf5+ Ke7 35.Rd7+ 1-0

**18th Massachusetts Game/60
Championship**

The 18th Massachusetts Game/60 Championship took place April 27, 2008 at the Kennedy Senior Center in Natick. GM Alexander Ivanov of Newton, and national master Denys Shmelov of Pepperell, tied for first place with scores of 3½-½. Sharing the runner-up position with 2½-1½ tallies were IM David Vigorito of Lowell, U.S. Chess Federation-rated expert Gregory Kaden of Wellesley, and Class A contestant Stuart Finney, 13, of Barrington, Rhode Island.

The Massachusetts Chess Association-sponsored tournament drew 72 players in four sections and was directed by USCF senior TD Ken Ballou of Framingham. He was assisted by fellow senior TD Robert Messenger of Nashua, New Hampshire, Steven Frymer of Lexington, and Nicholas Sterling of Needham.



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The 18th Massachusetts Game/60