

Annals

A publication of the
Alabama Chess Federation

Summer 2007

Spring
Black Warrior
Chess Challenge
May 19, 2007

Winners:

Adult Rated Section

Will Stevenson (4 points)

Dean Young (3 points)

Adult Unrated Section

Johnny Jackson (4 points)

Govindan Balagee (3 points)

James Gunn (2 points)

Ralph Kardas (2 points)



Johnny Jackson, Govindan Balagee & James Gunn Photo by Subha Balagee

NEW BYLAWS: ACF SEEKS NONPROFIT STATUS

FROM THE ACF SECRETARY/TREASURER

Greetings Alabama Chessplayers,

The Alabama Chess Federation was founded on October 4, 1985, with the filing of articles of incorporation in Montgomery County. When these articles reached the office of the Secretary of State the name of the new corporation was recorded as “Alabama Chess *Foundation*”, an error not discovered until recently. Sometime later, the ACF also applied for and received a taxpayer identification number, a necessary prerequisite to apply to the IRS for nonprofit status. However, no evidence exists that the ACF ever applied for nonprofit status. Further, the ACF is not contained in IRS records of nonprofit organizations.

In late 2006, the ACF Executive Board asked attorney and ACF member Calvin Bomar to review our corporate documents and provide advice on how the ACF could obtain legal nonprofit status—thus allowing us to pursue tax-deductible corporate donations. He performed an online search of the Secretary of State’s database. While he did find a listing of several chess-related corporations, including the 1985 “Alabama Chess Foundation” he found no record of the Alabama Chess Federation. Surprisingly, it appears that (according to the Secretary of State’s records) the Alabama Chess Federation does not legally exist.

To rectify this, the ACF Board authorized Calvin Bomar to prepare a new set of corporate documents—including new articles of incorporation and new bylaws—for the Executive Board’s review. *(It should be noted that Calvin offered to perform these services at no cost to ACF.)*

Continued on page 3



Antics

is published quarterly by the Alabama Chess Federation (ACF), an organization dedicated to promoting chess in Alabama.

About the

Alabama Chess Federation (ACF)

- The USCF affiliate for Alabama
- Advertises/assists rated tournaments
- Promotes chess to benefit all players
- Supports scholastic chess programs
- Bylaws and other significant ACF documents available online
- Staffed by dedicated volunteers
- Annual dues: Individual \$10.00
Scholastic \$10.00
Affiliate (group) \$15.00
- For more information about ACF activities, how to join or renew, go to www.alabamachess.com.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Top Ranked Players in the State

Top 50 by USCF Rating..... p 2

Tournament Reports

Spr 07 Black Warrior Chess Challenge p 1

May 2007 Huntsville Chess Club City Championship p 8

Secretary/Treasurer Report

ACF's corporate change to enable nonprofit statusp 1,3

Annotated Gamesp 4-7, 9-10

Puzzles from ChessBasep 11

ALABAMA'S TOP RANKED PLAYERS (Active in last 18 months)

1	2202	Bill Melvin	26	1840	Luke Hellwig ⁴
2	2139	Joseph H Jurjevich ¹	27	1837	Thomas H Lawry
3	2120	Scott Varagona	28	1833	Gregory V Funaro
	2120	Gerald A Larson	29	1827	James P Scheurmann
5	2100	Edward L Labate, Jr	30	1820	Louis S DeFiore
6	2096	Brent H Inman	31	1816	David Hayes
7	2078	Tom J Denton	32	1811	Kenneth W Goodman
8	2016	Charles L Meidinger		1811	James D Dreading
9	2013	Ozgur Aktunc	34	1801	Stephen B Smith
10	2005	Bryan Tillis	35	1790	Caesar W Lawrence
11	2002	Ben L Sides	36	1777	Harry W Jones
12	1982	Gary Bailey		1777	Corbin W Holland
13	1962	Tim Bond	38	1756	Scott R Vechinski
14	1955	Ricky L Pierson	39	1750	Kenneth Sloan
15	1951	Ray Downs	40	1748	Francis G Greiner
16	1921	John T Russell	41	1740	Andrew A Hallila
17	1903	Will T Stevenson	42	1737	James M Vickers
18	1903	Sven-Peter Mannsfeld	43	1736	Jerald R McGowin
19	1901	Keenan Olson ³	44	1736	Walter F Malmborg
20	1895	Mark Lloyd Liatti	45	1734	James R Gipson
21	1889	Jeff S Story	46	1728	William R Savoie
22	1882	Giles D'Souza	47	1705	Ross Owen Smith
23	1871	Calvin Bomar ²	48	1702	Rhodes Peele
24	1850	John Daugherty	49	1691	Chuck E Singleton
	1850	Michael D Lawson	50	1689	Alex Weiner ⁵

¹2006 Alabama State Champion

²2006 Alabama State Co-Champion

³2007 Alabama State Scholastic Champion, Nat'l Rank #55 (Age 18)

⁴Nationally Ranked #58 (Age 16)

⁵Nationally Ranked #77 (Age 13)

NEW BYLAWS, NONPROFIT STATUS

Continued from page 1

The Board desired that ACF:

- (1) become suitable as a recipient of corporate and individual giving;
- (2) receive formal IRS recognition as a nonprofit corporation;
- (3) have a legally sound documentary basis; and
- (4) have a more streamlined governance;

The Executive Board of the ACF met in Birmingham on April 7, 2007, to review the new documents. The new bylaws proposed were modeled after the existing set, with extensive additions to meet the stringent IRS nonprofit requirements. After much discussion, including the need for several significant changes to the bylaws, the Board unanimously approved formation of a new corporation: *Alabama Chess Federation, Inc.* Six days later it was official; articles of incorporation were filed in Etowah County.

On or about June 1, 2007, ACF member Richard Ellis performed a physical search of the Secretary of State's records in Montgomery and located the original articles of incorporation for the Alabama Chess Federation (the corporation the Secretary of State erroneously recorded as "Alabama Chess Foundation"). The implication of this discovery is that there now exists two legally distinct corporations, 1985's Alabama Chess Federation (*or Foundation*) and 2007's Alabama Chess Federation, Inc., with all memberships and monetary assets legally belonging to the 1985 corporation.

To resolve this inconsistency, and allow application for nonprofit status (as the 1985 ACF documents are insufficient), the Executive Board will recommend that ACF members take the following actions at the annual membership meeting on September 2, 2007:

- 1. Authorize payment of all monetary assets of the ACF (1985) to the ACF, Inc. (2007).
- 2. Authorize transfer of all memberships in the ACF (1985) to the ACF, Inc. (2007).
- 3. Authorize the dissolution of the ACF (1985).
- 4. Elect officers, who shall also comprise the Executive Board, for ACF, Inc. (2007)

AT A GLANCE



Who: You the members of ACF
 What: Vote on corporate changes, bylaws
 Where: The Lexington Hotel in Montgomery
 When: Sunday, September 2, 2007
 Why: Nonprofit status for ACF is at stake

It is the position of the Executive Board that operating under the 2007 documents will allow the ACF to receive nonprofit status, leading to increased corporate recognition, sponsorships (both corporate and individual), as well as improved services to members. Should the membership choose to continue operating under the 1985 documents, it appears unlikely that nonprofit status would be granted.

The bylaws of ACF, Inc., approved unanimously by the Executive Board during the April 7, 2007, meeting include the following significant changes:

- 1. The ACF voting age is set at 19 years. This is consistent with Alabama corporate law.
- 2. Registered parents/adult guardians of under-19 members are allowed to vote in their (member) child's stead. This is consistent with a one member/one vote philosophy.
- 3. A Board of Trustees (an advisory committee to be chaired by the VP) is established. Each affiliate will have a seat on this board. Other trustees may be appointed by the Executive Board.
- 4. The board established five membership categories: Regular, Scholastic (under 19), Honorary (no vote), Life, and Family.
- 5. Language concerning the nominations committee was removed.
- 6. Language concerning voting by written proxy was removed. Members must be present to vote.

ACF's annual membership meeting will be held during the State Championship Tournament at the Lexington Hotel in Montgomery on Sunday, September 2, 2007, at 1:15pm.

Please plan to attend and vote your opinion.

Sincerely,
 David Worley, ACF Secretary/Treasurer



Semi-Sweet Revenge: A Close Scrape With an IM
by Scott Varagona

Muhammad, S — Varagona, S
(2432) (2123)
Queen of Hearts 2007 (4)
[A56...] Czech Benoni

After winning my first three games at the Queen of Hearts, I again faced Stephen Muhammad. A last-minute blunder in a drawn rook ending had cost me the full point against Muhammad at the '05 State Championship; finally, now was my chance for revenge! This time, in my favorite Czech Benoni, I unleashed some tricky opening preparation I had been saving for over a year. Of course, not all went according to plan...

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5
3. d5 e5 4. Nc3 d6
5. e4 Be7 6. Nge2

Same as last time. He wants to go Ne2-g3-f5 and win the two bishops. Now I unveil my opening strategy:

6. ...h5!?



A very sneaky move, I must say. Black is gunning for serious dark-square control on the kingside. I had analyzed 7. Ng3? g6!, when White can't play 8. h4? Ng4 because he'd lose the h-pawn. On the other hand, 8. h3 h4 9. Ne2 Nh5 and ...Bg5 gives Black the dark-square domination he dreams of. These variations convinced me that 7. h4!, preventing ...h4, was required.

7. f3!?

What?! I hadn't given this move a second thought in my preparation. White voluntarily weakens his kingside dark squares, which can't be a good thing. On the other hand, by setting up a Samisch King's Indian scheme of development, Stephen hopes to slowly squeeze me to death. I need counterplay, so I continue with my dark-square campaign.

7. ...h4! 8. Be3



8. ...Nbd7 9. Qd2 a6

Black really needs to trade off his bad bishop (...Be7-g5) to relieve his cramp and strengthen his dark-square control. However, after 9. ...Nh7 10. Nc1 Bg5, 11. Nb5! would be disruptive. Hence, the text.

10. Nc1



10. ...Nf8?

A step in the wrong direction. I was charmed by the idea of invading the dark squares (with ...Ng6, ...Nh5 and ...Nhf4), but I'd never get the chance to carry out this plan. Soon my pieces would only languish in their cramped quarters.

The alternative was 10. ...Nh7 followed by ...Bg5, still hoping to swap off my bad bishop. Of course, 10. ...Nh7 11. g3 Bg5 12. f4 is discouraging: White has gained space and I can't trade bishops. Still, after 12. ...Bf6!?, White might find it tough to pry open the kingside.

11. Nd3 Ng6 12. b4!

The first signal that something is amiss. I have to pause and defend my queenside.

12. ...b6 13. a4 a5
14. bxc5 bxc5 15. Nb5!



Just as I was relieved to have the queenside mostly closed, I realized something terrible: 15. ...Nh5? 16. Nxc5! dxc5 17. d6 gives White a huge, probably winning, advantage. Obviously, c5 needs protection, so I'd have to swallow my pride and retreat.

15. ...Nd7 16. Rg1 Kf8

Now that Nb5-c7+ is no longer an issue, the c5-sack is less worrisome. Still, I'm behind on space and I cannot improve my position. Muhammad, on the other hand, can (and will) slowly expand on the kingside.

17. Be2 Nb6 18. Nb2 Bf6
19. g3!

Perfect timing... I had planned to sacrifice a pawn with ...Nf4, but now that was impossible. After 19. g3, I kept looking for ways to make a ...Nf4 piece sacrifice work, but that was lunacy: there was simply no decent sacrifice to be found.

19. ...hgx3 20. hxg3 Rh2
21. O-O-O



21. ...Ba6.

There's nothing better to do. 21. ...Nf4? 22. gxf4 exf4 23. Bxf4 Bxb2+ 24. Qxb2 Nxc4?? (the "point" of the sacrifice) 25. Qxg7+! would have put a serious damper on my tournament. I wasted a lot of time on that lousy line.

22. Rh1 Rg2 23. Rdg1 Rxc1+ 24. Rxc1 Bb7 25. Rh1 Kg8.

Now I'm just playing with a "come and get me" attitude. White is certainly better, but how can he break through?

26. Bf1 Kf8?

Had I realized the significance of 27. Bh3, I'd have played 26. ...Bc8 first.

27. Bh3 Bc8 28. Bf5!



Yikes! Didn't think of that... Now 28. ...Ne7? 29. Rh8+ Ng8 30. Bh7 wins, but I can't allow Bf5xg6. My reply is forced:

28. ...Bxf5 29. exf5 Ne7 30. g4

I'm in big trouble. 30. ...Ng8? 31. g5 Be7 is way too passive, so I'll try something drastic and hope for the best...

30. ...e4!?

My bishop sees the light of day for the first time in the game! My idea: trade on b2, take on c4, and occupy e5 with a



knight. Unfortunately, it's too late for me to defend this way, White can now land a knock-out.

31. Bg5?

He missed his chance! The simple 31. fxe4 would gain an advantage, but the slickest way to win was 31. Bf4! (Fritz), hitting the d-pawn. Now Bxd6, winning a pawn and pinning the knight, is a death sentence for Black. So, the only options are 31. ...Bxb2+ 32. Qxb2 Nxc4 33. Rh8+! Ng8 34. Qc3 Ne5 35. Bxe5 dxe5 36. Qxc5+ Qe7 37. Rxg8+!, or 31. ...e3 (Fritz's choice) 32. Qh2 Be5 33. Bxe5 dxe5 34. Qxe5 and Qxe3. Either way, Black is well on his way to the gallows.

Perhaps Muhammad missed the cute tactic coming up; I doubt he would have played into this position otherwise.

31. ...Ng8! 32. Bxf6?

It still wasn't too late for 32. Bf4!, with a winning advantage.

32. ...Qxf6 33. fxe4 Nxc4!



Pow! After a check on a1, the h1-rook hangs. Suddenly, White's pawns look overextended, and there's an awful lot of air around White's king!

34. Qc3 Qg5+ 35. Kc2 Nxb2 36. Kxb2 Qxg4

For the first time in the game, I'm ahead on material! I even threaten ...Qg2+ and ...Qxh1. White has no choice but to counterattack.

37. Rh7! Rb8 38. Ka3 f6

The only way to make progress—but with both kings exposed, perpetual check is inevitable. Or so it seems...

39. Qxa5?



Stephen offered a draw with this move. In desperate time pressure, I accepted (1/2-1/2), since I saw nothing better than a perpetual check.

After 39. ...Qxe4 40. Qa7 Qb4+ 41. Ka2 Qc4+ 42. Ka3 Qd3+ 43. Kb2!, it appears Black can't ever take on d5 with check. Alas, with its unwavering eye, the computer found an improvement that does just that: 40. ...Qf3+! 41. Kb2 Qg2+!! 42. Kb3 (since Ka3? or Kc3? meets ...Re8! and a winning attack) ...Qxd5+ 43. Ka3 Qf3+ 44. Kb2 Qg2+ 45. Ka3 Ra8, with what might be a win. That means White should have protected his e-pawn by 39. Qc2! or 39. Qd3! instead, with equality (Fritz).

It was a thrill to draw an IM, but since my opening preparation completely backfired, my revenge was only semi-sweet. Still, I was lucky to escape alive. Looking back at this game and the Goldsby game from last issue, I feel as though a guardian angel was watching over me!

Dietsch, Neil — Melvin, Miles
Queen of Hearts 2007 (4)
[C55...] Two Knights Defense/
Max Lange Attack

A Late Blunder Ends
An Interesting Game
 by Neil Dietsch

I took up chess again after 3 decades of inactivity about three months before the Queen of Hearts tournament. For this reason, I was entered unrated in the first tournament of my chess-playing renaissance. In spite of it being the one game I lost, I regard it as my most interesting. The opening is a Two Knights Defense/Max Lange Attack with an early Bxf7 attack in response to a book opening.

1. e4, e5 2. Nf3, Nc6
 3. Bc4, Nf6 4. d4, exd4
 5. O-O, Bc5 6. e5, Ng4

With my shallow book knowledge of openings, I thought at the time Black played this that it was an error. After the game, I discovered that Ng4 is a standard line in MCO 14.

7. Bxf7+

If Black takes the Bishop, Ng5+ gets black Knight in return with Qxg4.

7. ... Kf8

Black decides to avoid the exchange.

8. Re1, Ngxe5?

Black launches a series of trades but miscalculates the end result.

9. Nxe5, Nxe5 10. Rxe5, Kxf7
 11. Rxc5, Qe7

Black is now a piece behind.

12. Qf3+, Ke8 13. Qh5+, g6
 14. Qe5, Qxe5 15. Rxe5, Kf7
 16. Bh6, d6 17. Rd5, Re8
 18. Nd2, Bf5 19. Rxd4, Re6
 20. g4, g5 21. Bxg5, Rg8
 22. h4, Bg6 23. Nf3, c6.
 24. Rf4+, Kg7 25. Re1,

White seeks to trade pieces and then make use of his piece advantage to win. h5 would have been a stronger move.

25. ...Rxe1+ 26. Nxe1, Re8
 27. Kf1, Bf7 28. a3, b5
 29. b4, Ra8 30. Nf3, a5

31. Bf6+, Kg8 32. Ng5, Bc4+
 33. Kg2, axb4 34. axb4, Ra2
 35. Bd4, A better move for White would have been Be7.

35. ...Rxc2

At this point White has a winning game. I thought next to threaten the black pawns, stop h6 and set the stage for further kingside pawn advances with a Rf6 move. Yet I was concerned over Black's options for counterplay, specifically the possibility of perpetual check by the bishop and rook. I spent ten intense minutes assessing this and concluded that it should not be a problem. Breathing a sigh of relief, I relaxed and promptly set my rook down on the wrong square!

36. Rf7?!, Bxf7

Oops. The tournament rookie gets a lesson in focus as Black finally gets some return on his solid defensive play.

37. Kg3, Rc4

Black now has only to get rid of the defenders against his pawn advance.

38. Nf3, Bd5

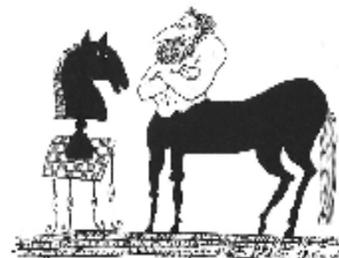
Black will trade minor pieces and take White's last queenside pawn. There is no way to stop Black's queenside pawns. White resigns. 0-1

Muhammad, Stephen A.
v. Downs, Ray
Queen of Hearts (2)
 17.02.2007

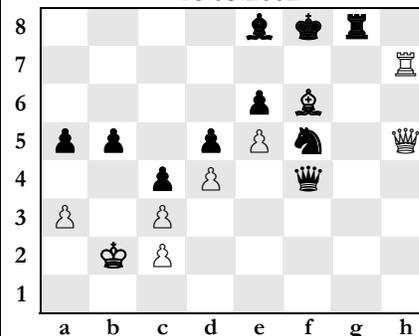
[D47]
Queen's Gambit Declined;
Semi-Slav 7.Bc4

Submitted by
 IM Stephen A. Muhammad

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6
 3. Nc3 c6 4. e3 Nf6
 5. Nf3 Nbd7 6. Bd3 dxc4
 7. Bxc4 b5 8. Be2 Bb7
 9. Bd2 a6 10. O-O c5
 11. a4 b4 12. Na2 a5
 13. Bb5 Bd6 14. Nc1 O-O
 15. Nb3 Ne4 16. Rc1 Ng5
 17. Nxc5 Qxc5 18. e4 Bxh2+
 19. Kxh2 Qh4+ 20. Kg1 Nf6
 21. Nxc5 Ng4 22. Bf4 1-0



Lutz, C (2644) — Jussupow, A (2618)
 [C18] French, Winawer, Adv. Var.
 4th Borowski GM Essen, Germany (1)
 16.05.2002



White to play

Top German GM Christopher Lutz finished off this game with 39.Qxf5 Rg4 40.Rh8+ etc. Was this a water-tight mating attack?

— from Chessbase

The Strategic Advantage of An Absolute Pin

by Gregory Funaro

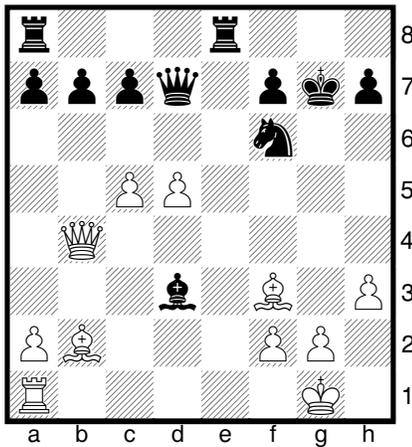
Melvin, Bill — Olson, Keenan
 Queen of Hearts 2007 (5)
 King's Pawn Game [C44]
 Ponziani Opening/Scotch Gambit

This game demonstrates the strategic advantage of an absolute pin. Play is dominated by a long-term advantage rather than by short-term attacks and threats. It also shows that Bill's intuitive ability is not just an extensive calculation of variations. At times my kibitzers, Fritz 6 and Toga II 1.2.1, have a hard time understanding the value of the pin.

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.d4 exd4
- 3.Nf3 Nc6
- 4.c3 d5
- 5.exd5 Qxd5
- 6.cxd4 Bg4
- 7.Be2 Nf6
- 8.Nc3 Bb4
- 9.O-O Bxc3
- 10.bxc3 O-O
- 11.h3 Bf5
- 12.c4 Qe4
- 13.d5 Nb4
- 14.Nd4 Rfe8
- 15.Bf3 Qe5
- 16.Bb2 Bd3
- 17.Qb3 Bxf1
- 18.Qxb4 Bd3
- 19.Ne6 Qd6
- 20.c5 Qd7
- 21.Nxg7 Kxg7(D)

White's one advantage, the absolute pin on the knight. White is down a rook and White's compensation will quickly come to an end after the pin is removed. [After 26...Kf8!-+ (which removes the pin on the knight). 27. Rf4 Nxd5 28. Qh8+ Ke7 29. Qe5+ Be6 and Black is winning.]

29. Rxf5 White seizes the opportunity. 29...hxg4
 Unclear is 29...Rxb2
 30. Qxb2 hxg4 and the position is probably equal, although the kibitzers favor White.
 30. Rxf6!! The point! Black now has no adequate way to counter the discovered check.
 30...Rc1+ 31. Kf2! g3+ 32. Ke3! Re8+ 33.Kf4 And Black is out of good moves. 33...Qh7(D)



White to play and win

22. Qc3?

Note the difference between the suggested variation and the text. [Toga & Fritz: 22.g4!! Bg6 23.Qf4 Qe7 24.d6 cxd6 25.cxd6 Qd8 26.g5+-]

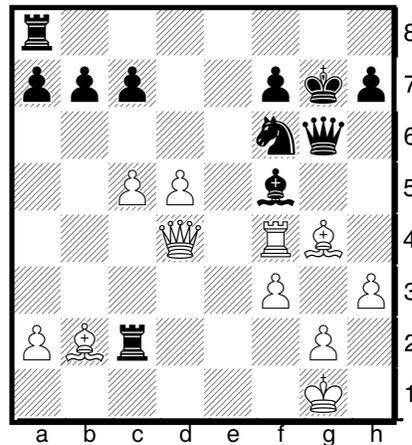
22...Qf5!-+ 23. Bg4 Qg6
 24. Rd1

[Interesting is 24.Bh5!? Qg5 25.f4 Qh4 26.Qxd3 Qxh5 27.Qg3+ Qg6 28.Qg5 Qxg5 29.fxg5 Kg6 30.Bxf6 which is probably equal.]

24...Be4 25. f3 Bf5
 26. Rd4 Re2?

Before setting out to seize the initiative, Black should remove

27.Rf4 Rc2 28.Qd4 (D)

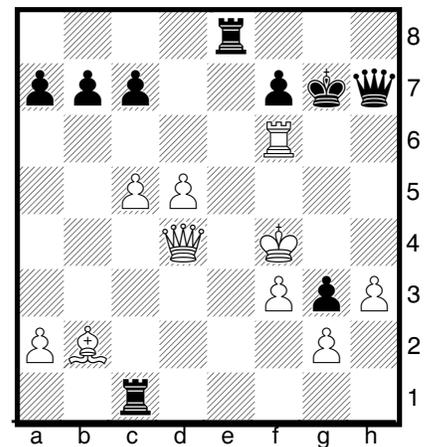


28...h5?

This move throws Black's advantage away. [Black should remove one of white's attacking pieces, the bishop on b2. Although Black is up a piece, making progress will still prove difficult.

28...Rxb2!? 29.Qxb2

and then the black bishop goes to d3, c2 or b1. Notice that White maintains the pin on the knight, a strategic advantage. Although the engine kibitzers, Toga and Fritz, give Black a slight edge, it is hard to see how Black is going to make progress.]



34. Re6+

Aesthetically appealing is 34.Kg4! This move was suggested by the kibitzers Toga and Fritz. It's too bad they can't appreciate it! One cannot but notice how White has complete domination of the board, and even the white king keeps the black queen out of the game. I leave it to the reader to find White's best move after 34...Rce1

The game finished with
 34...Kf8 35. Rxe8+ Kxe8
 36. Qe3+ Kd7 37. Qxc1 Qh4+
 38. Ke3 Qh6+ 39. f4 1-0

2007 HUNTSVILLE CHESS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

by Gregory Funaro (with some contributions from the editor)

This year's city championship was held on successive Monday evenings at the Coffee Tree Bookstore (4/23 -5/21). Strong players made this 5 round Swiss tournament quite an exciting event, as the fourteen participants had an average playing strength over 1750. The last time a city championship was so well attended was in Spring 2000, when sixteen players vied for the title. That year Gregory Funaro won, but Gerald Larson edged him out this year to become Huntsville's 2007 city champion with 4.5 points.

Gerald has held the City Champion title before. He won first place at last year's "Coffee Tree Open" and 2005's City Championship. He was 2004 Alabama State co-champion and currently plays for the Tennessee Tempo in the US Chess League. Still, to maintain his hold on the title in this year's tournament, Gerald faced a few tough games; a draw against Funaro in round 2, a tough game against Savoie in round three and near loss in round 5 against Eleanor Barkley.

In the U1600 category, Eleanor Barkley won a chess clock prize for scoring a significant upset in her 4th round game with John Daugherty. She and her husband Curtis tied for first place and Miles Melvin won second place.

The first round results were as expected in a Swiss with the higher rated players beating the

lower rated players. But the second round saw some surprising upsets, indicating that this might become a fiercely fought tournament.

In the second round Gerald Larson and Gregory Funaro drew, which seemed to surprise everyone except Larson and Funaro. In two other games, lower-rated players beat higher-rated players. Bill Savoie won against John Daugherty and Miles Melvin won against Wally Malmborg.

The trend continued in round three. Bill Savoie beat Bill Melvin with the queen sacrifice found in Ponomarev's line of the Taimanov Sicilian. Gregory Funaro beat Will Stevenson, and Curtis Barkley won an upset over Wally Malmborg.

The fourth round found Bill Melvin fighting for a draw against Greg Funaro and Eleanor Barkley winning an upset over John Daugherty in a Budapest Gambit.

In the fifth and final round, Gerald Larson's grasp on first place became less certain as he fought to save a lost position against Eleanor Barkley. The possibility of yet another upset put the pressure on Greg Funaro and Bill Savoie as they battled it out in their own game. (The winner could finish in first place.) But the trend ended, no upset occurred in the last round, and Gerald Larsen took his place as city champion.

Final Standing	PLAYER NAME	8/07 Pub. Rating	Total Pts	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5
1	GERALD A LARSON	2120	4.5	W 12	D 2	W 8	W 5	W 7
2	GREGORY V FUNARO	1833	4.0	W 13	D 1	W 4	D 3	W 5
3	BILL MELVIN	2202	3.5	W 10	W 4	L 5	D 2	W 6
4	WILL T STEVENSON	1903	3.0	W 7	L 3	L 2	W 14	W 10
5	WILLIAM R SAVOIE	1728	3.0	W 14	W 8	W 3	L 1	L 2
6	CURTIS T BARKLEY	1521	2.5	L 8	D 7	W 11	W 10	L 3
7	ELEANOR H BARKLEY	1463	2.5	L 4	D 6	W 13	W 8	L 1
8	JOHN DAUGHERTY	1850	2.0	W 6	L 5	L 1	L 7	W 12
9	DAVID HAYES	1816	2.0	U	U	U	W 13	W 11
10	MILES MELVIN	1596	2.0	L 3	W 11	W 12	L 6	L 4
11	WALTER F MALMBORG	1736	1.5	H	L 10	L 6	W 12	L 9
12	DONALD R WADE	1449	1.0	L 1	W 13	L 10	L 11	L 8
13	ADRIAN J MAJERLE	1274	1.0	L 2	L 12	L 7	L 9	W 14
14	DAVID A HOWIE	Unrated	1.0	L 5	H	H	L 4	L 13



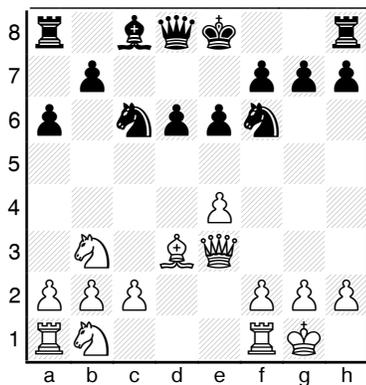
Larson, Gerald — Funaro, Gregory
2007 Huntsville Chess Club Championship (2)
[B42] Sicilian Kan
 Annotated by Gregory Funaro

Gerald and I have discussed (played) the Sicilian Kan on several occasions, with Gerald handling the white pieces while I handled the black.

**1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4
 4. ♗xd4 a6 5. ♕d3 ♗c5 6. ♗b3 ♗a7
 7. ♖e2 ♗c6 8. ♗e3 d6 9. O-O ♗xe3**

As John Emms says in the *Sicilian Kan*, Black can resist exchanging on e3 for the time being, but normally he will have to acquiesce in the long run.

10. ♖xe3 ♗f6 our tabia.



11. ♗c3

To borrow again from John Emms regarding this position: “11. ♗c3 promises nothing

11. ...O-O 12. ♗ad1 ♖c7
 13. ♗h1 b5 14. f4 ♗b7
 15. ♖h3 b4 16. ♗e2 ♗fd8

17. ♗de1 h6! and if anything, Black was a bit better Padevsky–Smyslov, Monte Carlo 1968”. Critical in this position is 11. c4.

Normally, Gerald plays 11. c4 to set up the Maroczy Bind, which is one of the reasons White castles short. After 11...O-O 12. ♗c3 I was prepared to go into the Kalashnikov pawn structure. 12...e5

(12...♗e5 is a viable alternative. 13. ♗e2 ♖c7 14. ♗fd1 In Karpov-Hubner, Graz 1972, White was only a little better and ♗xc4 is unclear in Klovans-Tunik, Pardubice 1994.) 13. ♗fd1 ♗e6 14. ♗e2 ♖b8!? Not only defending the d6 pawn and making room for Rfd8, but

preparing for b5! I had prepared an improvement in this line and hoped to try it out on Gerald, *now I'll have to wait for another game!*

11...e5 12. ♗d5

[12. ♗ad1 ♗c6 13. ♗e2 ♖c7
 14. ♗d2 0-0 15. f4 exf4
 16. ♖xf4 ♗xb3 17. axb3 ♗e5
 18. ♗fd1 ♗ad8 19. ♗h1 ♗fe8
 20. ♗d4 b5 1/2 (50) Polgar, Sofia – Spangenberg, Hugo H / World Ch Jr (7), Matinhos 1994]

12...b5?!

This is definitely not Black's best move as it causes Black some discomfort for the next few moves. I thought it prevented c4 which it doesn't and worse it becomes a target after 13. a4. Black should take advantage of the misplaced minor pieces on b3 and d3, which need to be reorganized. It is now Black's opportunity to continue with finding ideal squares for Black's minor pieces, in particular the bishop is most unhappy.

In hindsight and post analysis 12...♗e6! is much better. White has but one well-placed minor piece, the knight on d5 and Black threatens to remove it. 13. c4 (13. ♗xf6+ ♖xf6 14. ♖b6 ♖c7 15. ♗ad1 O-O 16. c3 ♗ac8 17. ♗d2 ♖c7 18. ♖xc7 ♗xc7 19. ♗e2 ♗d8 20. ♗fd1 ♗cd7 21. g3 g6 22. f4 f6 23. ♗f2 ♗f8 24. ♗e3 ♗e7 looks about equal; 0-1 Browne,W (2434)–Kamsky,G (2686)/San Diego 2006 (52)) 13...O-O (13...♗xd5 14. cxd5 ♗b4 15. ♗f5 b5 16. a3 bxc4 17. axb4 cxb3 =) 14. f4 exf4 15. ♖xf4 ♗xd5 16. cxd5 ♗e5 17. ♗af1 ♗e8 +=

13. c4?! White has better options:

- a) 13. a4 bxa4 14. ♗xa4 0-0
 15. ♗fa1 ♗xd5 16. cxd5 ♗c7
 17. ♗e2 ♗b7 18. c4 ♖b8
 and White has a bit of an edge.
- b) 13. f4 0-0 14. a4 b4
 15. ♗e2 ♗c6 16. fxe5 ♗xd5
 17. cxd5 ♗xd5 18. ♗ad1 ♗xb3
 19. ♗xd6 ♖c7 20. ♖xb3 ♗xc5
 21. ♖xb4 ♗ab8 22. ♖c4 f6 =
 is probably equal.
- c) c) 13. ♗xf6+! ♖xf6
 (not 13...gxf6?! 14. c4 O-O
 15. cxb5 ♗b4 16. ♗fd1 axb5
 17. ♗xb5 ♗c6 +/- I think
 most would prefer White's
 position here.) 14. a4 bxa4
 15. ♗xa4 O-O 16. f4 gives
 White a bit of an edge.

13...♗xd5 14. cxd5 ♗e7 15. ♗fc1

After 15. f4 ♗g6 16. fxe5 ♗xc5
 17. ♗ac1 O-O 18. ♗d4 ♖b6
 the position is equal.

15...O-O 16. ♗e1?!

White needs to come up with a plan. White decides to infiltrate on the queenside. It would be more prudent to reorganize the minor pieces. White's knight and bishop are not very happy on their current squares. However, finding ideal squares for these pieces will take tempi and may give Black an opportunity to seize the initiative. Actually, Black's position is better as its pieces are well placed. I expected White to post the knight on c6 via Na5.

16. ♗c3 f5 17. ♗ac1 fxe4
 18. ♗xc4 ♗f5 19. f3 ♗f7 =;
 More of a challenge for black is
 16. a4 ♗d7 17. axb5 ♗xb5
 18. ♗xb5 axb5 19. ♗xa8 ♖xa8
 20. ♗a1 ♖c8 21. ♖b6 ♖c2
 22. ♖xd6 ♖xb3 23. ♖xe7 ♖xb2
 although this position is equal.

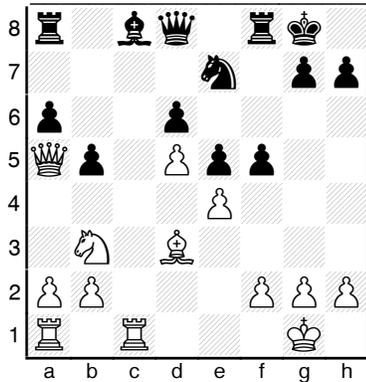
16...f5! Black challenges the initiative.

17. ♖a5 Diagram

Interesting, I was expecting the knight to come in via a5.

- [17. ♖a5 ♖g6
 (17...♙d7 18. a4 fxc4
 19. ♙xc4 bxa4 20. ♖b4 ♖f5
 21. ♖c6 ♖g5 =) 18. g3 fxe4
 19. ♙xc4 ♙f5 20. ♖c6 ♖g5
 21. ♙g2 =]

With this move White attacks the c7 square. But does a rook on c7 really cause Black any trouble.? Up to this point I was moving fast as I was on familiar territory. I then take nearly ten minutes to decide if I really wanted to begin a kingside initiative, considering that White's queen and rook are plotting to invade c7. I decided to go ahead since this position is even and Black's pieces are better coordinated.



17...♖e8 Black goes after the kingside.

- [17...fxe4 18. ♖xd8
 (18. ♙xc4 ♙b7 19. ♖d1 ♖c8
 This position looks about equal.)
 18...♖xd8 19. ♙xc4 ♙b7
 20. ♖d1 ♖ac8 21. f3 g6 =+]

18. ♖c7 fxe4 Interesting is:
 18...f4?! 19. ♙xb5! axb5
 20. ♖xa8 ♖g6 21. ♖xc8 ♖xc8
 22. ♖b7 ♖f7

19. ♙xe4 ♙f5 20.f3 ♖f6?!

This is not the cleanest way to launch a kingside campaign...

- [Spike 1.2 Turin: 20...♙xe4!!
 21. fxe4 ♖g6 22. ♖d2 ♖f4
 23. ♖c2 ♖g6 24. ♖h1 a5
 25. ♖g1 a4 26. ♖d2 a3
 27. b4 ♖e2 -0.41/14]

21.♖d2

Gerald starts to worry about the kingside, but the kibitzers indicate that White is doing fine. This move relieves some of pressure White has on Black.

After 21. ♖b6! ♙xc4 or after 21. ♖d2! ♖f7
 22. fxe4 ♖f7 23. ♖d2 ♖f8
 24. ♖f3 ♖xf3 25. gxf3 ♖xf3
 26. ♖xe7=;
 (If 21...♙xc4 22. ♖xc4 ♖g6, it is Black's pieces that would become disorganized.)

21...♖c8

- 21...♖g6 22. ♙xf5 ♖xf5
 23. ♖ac1 ♖f4 24. ♖a5 ♖g6
 25. g3 Black has a slight edge, but it is difficult to make progress. 25...♖af8

22. ♖ac1 ♖d8

- [22...♖xc7 23. ♖xc7 ♙xc4
 24. fxe4 ♖g6=]

23. ♖xc8

- [23. ♖a5 ♖xc7 24. ♖xc7 ♖xc7
 25. ♖xc7 ♖f7 26. ♖xc7 ♖xc7
 27. ♙xf5 ♖c7 ~]

- 23...♙xc8 24. ♖c2 ♖b6+**
25. ♖h1 ♙f5 26. ♖d2 ♙xe4

Now I am scrambling to make time control!

- 27. ♖xe4 ♖f8 [27...♖g6 =]**
28. ♖d3 h6 29. h3 ♖f5?!
 [29...♖d8 =; 29...♖a5 =]
30. ♖c6 ♖a5

I had thirty seconds left on the clock after reaching time control! I felt the position was still equal and later computer analysis confirms this. I also started to realize that taking the a pawn was a reasonable candidate.

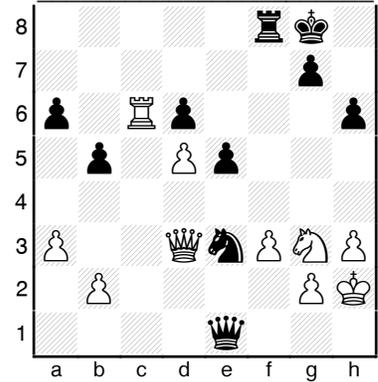
31.a3

Gerald also realizes the pawn is ripe for the taking.

- [31. ♖b1 b4 32. ♖xd6 ♖d4
 33. ♖c1 ♖xc6 34. dxc6 ♖c7=]

31...♖e1+ 32. ♖h2 ♖e3

33. ♖g3? Diagram



White underestimates Black's next move. The position is drawn, if White so desires with 33. ♖xd6 ♖f1+ 34. ♖g1 ♖c3+.

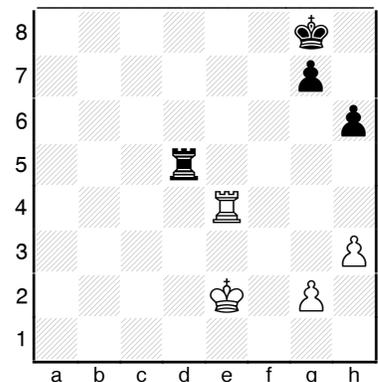
33...♖xf3! 34. ♖g6 ♖xg3+

Black misses an opportunity to press for a win with 34...♖f2!! threatening mate and material.

35. ♖c8+ ♖f8 36. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8
 37. ♖g1+ ♖f6 38. ♖xf6 gxf6
 39. ♖c4 ♖xd5 40. ♖xd6
35. ♖xg3 ♖f1+ 36. ♖g1 ♖xg3
37. ♖xf1 ♖b3 38. ♖xa6 ♖xb2
39. ♖xd6 e4

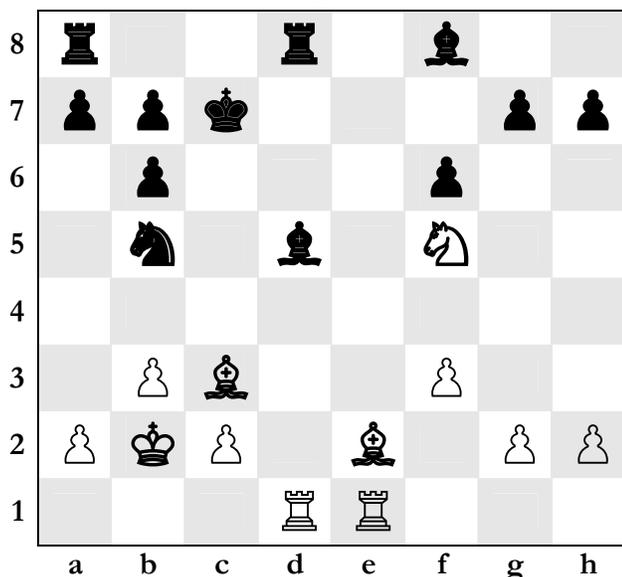
The position is drawn after 39...♖d2!!.

- 40. ♖b6 ♖a2 41. ♖xb5 ♖xa3**
42. ♖e2 ♖d3 43. ♖b4 ♖xd5
44. ♖xe4 ½-½ Diagram



PUZZLES FROM CHESSBASE (www.chessbase.com)

(10) Kosinski, G - Krzyzowski, E
 [B02] Alekhine's Defense
 28th Keres Memorial (6)
 Vancouver, 19.05.2003



White to play

Both players have been rapidly exchanging pieces to get into a queenless middlegame. Black's last move, 21...Na3-b5, seems to force White to have to retreat his bishop, or does it?

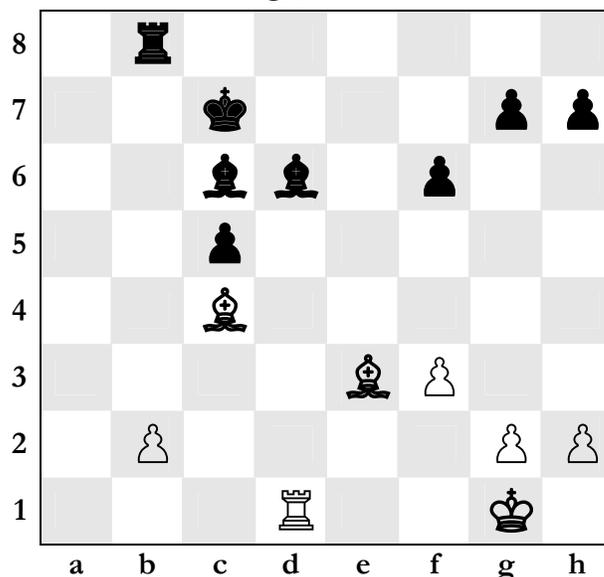
—John Fernandez

Alekhine's Defense is a chess opening beginning with the moves 1.e4 Nf6. It is named after Alexander Alekhine who first used it in the 1921 Budapest tournament. Another early proponent was Ernst Grünfeld. Its popularity waxes and wanes, and it is not very commonly used today. Its current highest rated proponent is Grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk, although Grand Master Lev Alburt has done much to promote it.

The opening is considered hypermodern because Black provokes White to attack Black's knight and occupy the centre with his pawns, hoping to prove that White's imposing mass of pawns in the centre (which often includes pawns on c4, d4, e5, and f4) is in fact weak.

—taken from Wikipedia

Nakamura, H (2620) - Muhammad, S (2387)
 [C78] Ruy Lopez, 5.O-O
 2005 US Chessmaster Championship (1)
 San Diego, 24.11.2004



White to play

What did Black overlook with his last move (27...Ra8.b8)?

How did White win a piece and the game?

The **Ruy Lopez**, often called the **Spanish Game** outside of English speaking countries, is a chess opening characterised by the moves: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5

One of the most popular openings, it is named after the 16th century Spanish priest Ruy López de Segura (1540-1580). He authored *Libro del Ajedrez*, a systematic study of openings, in 1561. This particular opening had been known earlier, as it was included in the Göttingen manuscript (c. 1490). Popular use did not develop until the mid-1800s when Carl Jaenisch, a Russian theoretician, "rediscovered" its potential.

The opening is still in active use as the double king's pawn opening most commonly used in master play; it has been adopted by almost all players at some point in their careers and many play it from both the white and black sides.

—taken from Wikipedia

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Upcoming Tournaments

Please submit upcoming Alabama tournament information to: editor@alabamachess.com.

- August 4-5** **Chris Bond Memorial Tournament – USCF Rated & unrated, adult & scholastic.** 5SS, **TC:** Rds 1-3 @ G/90, Rds 4-5 @ 30/90;SD/30.
Armory Learning Arts Center, Montgomery, AL.
\$\$b/40. Open: \$300-200-150, A: \$150, U1800: \$100. U1600: \$200-150, D: \$100, U1200 \$100. **Late REG:** 8-8:30. **Rds:** 9, 12:30, 4 & 9-2. **EF:** \$40 by July 23
Details and entry form: Caesar.Lawrence@juno.com or at www.alabamachess.com.
- September 1-2** **2007 Alabama State Chess Championship – USCF Rated, 5SS, W, and OSA**
Lexington Hotel 1185 East Blvd. Montgomery, AL. 334/272-0370 Hotel Rate: \$69
EF: \$50 by Aug 21st, \$60 at site. **\$2500 in prizes** b/o 60 participants.
Time Control: 30/90, SD/30 **Rds:** 9:30, 2, 4:30 Sat and 9, 3 Sun.
ACF Business Meeting: Sun. 1:15 – 2:45 (Annual ACF Elections). Plan to Attend!
ENT: Caesar Lawrence 882 McAllister Dr. Calera, AL 35040.
Details and entry form: www.alabamachess.com or 334/868-0271.
- October 27** **Fall Black Warrior Challenge – Tuscaloosa, AL. – USCF Rated & unrated, adult & scholastic.** Save the date! Stay tuned for more details!
- October 21-22** **Space City Open/Madison County Scholastic Invitational** (concurrent)
(tentative date) Watch for the finalized date! More details to follow from Jerry Wheeler.