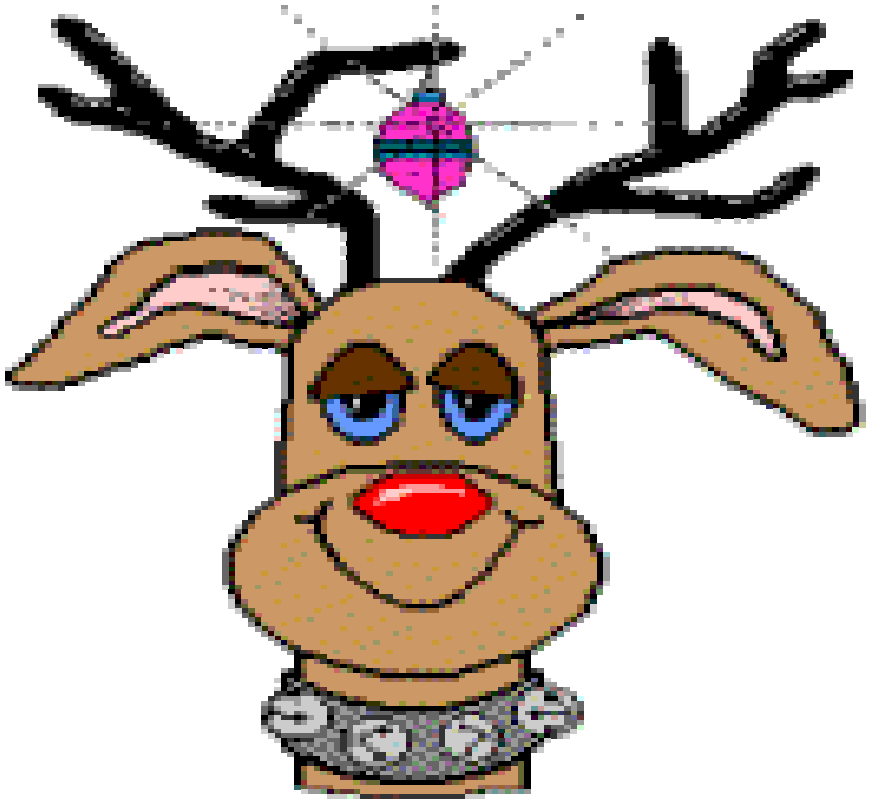
December 2008 Volume 52.2

The Chicago Chess Player

The Official Bulletin of the Chicago Industrial Chess League

PHYSICS OF SANTA
and Other Christmas Tales



Bulletin Editor/Games Editor ***Tom Friske*** Bulletin@ChicagoChessLeague.org	1035 E Algonquin Road Des Plaines, IL 60016	H:(847) 299-1033 W:{847) 914-8448
Ratings Chairman ***Art Olsen*** Ratings@ChicagoChessLeague.org	714 E Algonquin Road #J102 Arlington Heights, IL 60006 **FAX :** to SBS OTS, 22NW0644-5 at (847) 719-8151	H:(847) 437-9819 W:(847) 719-8036
League President ***Tony Jasaitis*** President@ChicagoChessLeague.org		C:(708) 903-6423 W:(312) 264-2044
League Secretary ***Jerry Thomas*** Secretary@ChicagoChessLeague.org	745 Hageman Pl Naperville, IL 60563	H:(630)420-0188
League Treasurer ***Paul Freidel*** Treasurer@ChicagoChessLeague.org	359 N. Worth Avenue Elgin, IL 60123	C:(224)436-6050
Trophy Chairman ***Marty Franek*** Trophy@ChicagoChessLeague.org	9044 S 51st Avenue Oak Lawn, IL 60453-1730	H: (708) 636-3714 C: (708) 846-8734
Publicity Chairman ***Matt Vail*** Publicity@ChicagoChessLeague.org		C: (312) 933-1516 W: (630)505-6557
Banquet Chairman ***Wayne Ellice*** Banquet@ChicagoChessLeague.org		H: (708) 636-1303

DIVISIONAL CHAIRMEN

East Division ***Adam Muhs*** ChairmanEast@ChicagoChessLeague.org		C: (847) 877-9629 W: (312) 497-1184
West Division ***Irwin Gaines*** ChairmanWest@ChicagoChessLeague.org		
North Division ***Jim Thomson*** ChairmanNorth@ChicagoChessLeague.org		W: (847) 538-5408

Mark Your Calendars with These Key League Dates:

Fall Business Meeting	Last Wednesday of August (Aug 26 2009)
Spring Business Meeting	3.5 Weeks Before Playoffs (April 15, 2009)
Season Playoffs	Second Saturday of May (May 9, 2009)
CICL Open	Second Saturday of May (May 9, 2009)
League Awards Banquet	First Friday of June (June 5, 2009)

With contributions from: **Norm Hughes, Tony Jasaitis, Jeff Wiewel**

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL !!

On behalf of the CICL Officers and Staff, we wish you and yours the best of seasons !! We are a volunteer organization and it is your support and constant participation that makes the work worth while ! Although we haven't had a "News" column in recent bulletins, rest assured the League has been alive and busy.

It may be the end of the calendar year, but with the last two issues, you should be caught up with the occurances of the first half of our season. Your editor has continued the tradition of providing ample reading material in the December issue; this year you will discover a few humorous articles complements of www.snopes.com. You surely know them as an Internet source of "research" on various topics, so it was recently discovered as a good source for Christmas trivia. We've included them in this issue so you won't need to look them up.

==========

"mmm, The Internet ! "

(spoken longingly, as Homer Simpson) —"Hey! That uses computers doesn't it ??" While we're on the subject of the Internet, it's as good a place as any to mention that the Editor's office periodically is supplied with new links to great online chess sources. A google on "chess" leaves too many choices to weed through, so a suggested start is your favorite sites for shared information. Try a search on "chess" on YouTube—you'll find a plethora of video lessons, both large and small, from talented sources (as well as questionable, of course).

But a recent tip may be the grand-daddy of them all, try:
http://www.mediafire.com/?sharekey=7fef3909b0a76f8495af63b7d44918aa4ed989073b9d5fd1
Supposedly over 60G of videos, etc available there. Use possibly copyrighted material with the normal caution.

Don't skip over your favorite site for TV torrents, either. This past month I was curious about chess video/ebooks uploaded as torrents and a search at www.mininova.com yielded a few hits. Especially useful were 3 uploads of the various opening-monograph ebooks from Everyman (chessbook publisher from England). I have most of them in print, but having the electronic version makes it easy to search using ChessBase. Again, please honor the copyright boundaries and only use them for those titles you've actually purchased.

Anyways, you should find plenty of material available to improve your game in a formal way.

==========

WE WELCOME OUR NEW TEAMS !!

Just because we've quietly marched through four months without heralding our newest members, one should not assume we haven't noticed ! Much debate and effort has gone into contacting possible organizations, so it's always a happy event when that work puts us in contact with others that love our game ! (or should that read 'sport' ?!)

So.. in the East our friends at Loyola University made a special effort to build a viable team. You'll remember that last season they were able to play some exhibition matches. This year they have joined the full schedule ! Nice work, gents!

Other teams added were DRW in the East and St Xavier University in the West.

To you all, may you have the time of your (chess) life ! If you need to contact any CICL, be aware of the second page of any bulletin—pretty much anyone you need is listed there. Also note the email list (published in last bulletin).

A Guide for the Captain

The most maddening occurrence of the past months is the supposed excuse "I didn't know" when it comes to various duties some Captains have skipped. By this time, one would assume the Captains are in tune on the logistics of contacting their opposing Captain and arranging an equitable time for their matches. But the Captains' duties aren't done at that point ! Here's a few tips and lists that should be a resource—and hopefully now "you know".

WHAT IS THE EMAIL ADDRESS??
For email contacts, see any bulletin at the inside-cover, page 2. Or **consult the November 2008 bulletin** for the complete email account list. But any CICL entity is simply the entity name followed by @chicagochessleague.org. So the President email is President@chicagochessleague.org . Or the Captain of the mighty Walgreen Skewers can be contacted using email Skewers@chicagochessleague.org. Captains can all be contacted by one email alias: Captains@chicagochessleague.org . Get it ??

The HOME CAPTAIN is responsible for collecting all game scores (the recorded moves from each player) and the Match Result sheet. The game scores must be sent to the Games Editor within two weeks of the match. So far this year, compliance has been over 80% which is more than twice what is normal. This has provided an excellent source for bulletin material (as you begin to see in this month's issue!). Any format is fine—scan them as .TIFF or .PDF files. Enter them in ChessBase or other chess database program and email as an archive, CB database, or .PGN. Or if all those methods are too much, snail-mail actual sheets collected :
Tom Friske / CICL Games Editor / 1035 E Algonquin Road / Des Plaines IL 60016

Your Match Results should similarly be emailed to Games Editor, Ratings Editor, and each team's Captain.

A NEW HELP !!
Match forms can now be entered ONLINE !! The Webmaster has not published the link, but the basic form is in trial mode at www.chicagochessleague.org/cicl/MatchForm/BildCard.htm . PLEASE !! Internet Explorer is the only browser that has been tested. There are problems with the usage in Firefox. You'll note that clicking on a team name provides that team's roster. Clicking on the name adds that player to the next available board on the result form. Results for a board are similarly entered by simply clicking. Finally, pressing "Display Online" will file the result directly to the website ! **YOU MUST STILL send an email to the webmaster** (Internet@www.chicagochessleague.org) if you intend the result to be posted. I intend to have the posting be immediately available, but there's some obvious logistical questions before that can happen. But still, this is a step in the right direction.

OTHER RESOURCES
Most other questions can be answered from the website. You will want to review the links listed on the SiteMap column of our homepage.

- Current Rules -- click the Constitution link
- Match Schedule or Match Progress -- click the Match Results link
- Games Editor received your games yet ?? -- click the Match Results link and examine last column of match for a 'Y'
- Game Study - click Online Game viewing link or download games from Archive section
- Bulletins - click the Current Bulletin link or find any old bulletin from the Archive section
- Ratings – click the Ratings link. Please note the "as of" date. The website only reflects what has been released. No ratings have been published since last playoffs (they're coming "real soon" now…).

On The Move...

A couple chess friends have announced recent moves—please take notice !!

Illinois Chess Association
The ICA website changed from www.ilchess.org to **www.il-chess.org** (a dash was added). The ICA did not maintain ownership of their URL and a domain squatter bought it ! (Usually, the squatter expects the original owner to pay for the original name, at profit, of course!). The CICL website has been updated – just click the ICA icon.

Downer's Grove Chess Club
Downers Grove Chess Club is pleased to announce it has moved to a new club site.
It has a number of advantages over our previous site, especially longer hours (6:30 to 10:30pm, weekly on Wednesdays). Our first club meeting at the new place was very successful, including a surprise drop-in visit by IM Emory Tate.

Adjourned games in CICL matches should occur less often. Our home CICL matches will also be held here.

DGCC now meets at an upscale Seniors residence center named Fairview Village, located at:
200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL. It is close to Fairview & 63rd St. (aka Hobson) and is just a few miles southeast of our former site.

DGCC's website is http://dgcc.home.att.net provides maps, directions, FAQs, etc.

Brian Smith - *DGCC team captain*

==========

The Renaissance Chess Club - Events

Come play chess at Mayor Daley's Holiday Sports Festival, America's largest indoor play ground with over one million square feet of fun. This is a great tournament for both beginners & experienced players.

At first it looked like it was a team tournament for all, but that's only in the scholastic sections (adults is an open section). An opportunity to introduce your kids to team chess!? Prep 'em for the CICL!

http://www.renaissanceknights.org/Events/Upcoming/2008/MDHCC.htm

Master Chess Training Workshops
Master Aung Thant Zin Rating 2518 FIDE Instructor (Myanmar)
Master Dan Wolf FIDE Rating 2259 (Israel)
Jan 25th & Feb 22nd (1-5 PM) ($60 per workshop) Renaissance Hotel, Northbrook IL.
933 Skokie Blvd Northbrook, IL

Date: **1/25/09** MCT Workshop - Master Zin's Lesson Plans
Title: **Pawn structures related to openings**
Categories: Opening & Middle game

(more, next page…)

Date: **1/25/09** MCT Workshop - Master Wolf's Lesson Plans
Title: **Bishop vs. Knight – Which is stronger?**
Categories: Middle game & Ending

Date: **2/22/09** MCT Workshop - Master Zin's Lesson Plans
Title: **Practical rooks ending**
Categories: Ending

Date: **2/22/09** MCT Workshop - Master Wolf's Lesson Plans
Title: **Know the latest World Champion – Vishy Anand**
Categories: Famous players

==========

Time to GO NATIONAL !!!

Below are the details of the 2009 US Amateur Team (USAT) Championships,
Valentine's Day weekend in Milwaukee.

YOU CAN REPRESENT ! As in several prior years, for publicity purposes, the CICL will pay the entry fee (but not travel or lodging) for a competitive all-CICL entry. This means a team with a reasonable chance of making it to the final round for the Open Section championship, to generate publicity for the CICL. The team name must include the full title "Chicago Industrial Chess League".

Last year, I did not bother announcing the tournament when it got switched away from the immediate Chicago area, but I should not be so presumptuous.

Captains, please distribute this to your teams. Interested players should contact CICL President, Tony Jasaitis.
Masters and Experts who are underrated in USCF terms would be most desirable. The average USCF rating of the team needs to be under 2200.

Thanks to **Jeff Wiewel** ***(St Charles CC)*** for the below tournament details:

Feb. 13-15 or 14-15 U.S. Amateur Team - North Wisconsin

Two sections: Open and Scholastic (Saturday only) 5SS, 30/90, SD/60
(rounds 1-2 for 2-day schedule G/60; scholastic section G/60 all four rounds).

Milwaukee Marriott West, W231N1600 Corporate CT, Waukesha, WI 53186.
Chess Rate of $85.99 is valid until Feb. 1st. Reserve early (262) 574-0888.

OPEN: Open to 4 player teams with one optional alternate (individuals can enter and be assigned teammates).
Team average (4 highest ratings-2008 Annual Rating list) must be under 2200.
EF: $140 ($141 if 2-day schedule) postmarked by 2/5/09; $180 after or at door.
Prizes: 4 clocks to top two teams, 4 clocks to top teams with average rating u1900, u1600, and u1300. Prizes to best team composed of juniors (high school and younger). Special prizes to top score on each board. Best game prize.

Schedule: 3-day: Late Registration: 6-7pm on 02/13. Rounds: 7:30pm; 10:00am-4:00pm; 10:00am-4:00pm. 2-day: Late Registration: 9-10:30am on 02/14. Rounds: 11:00am-1:30pm-4:00pm; 10:00am-4:00pm. Saturday Night Special: dessert + blitz tournament with $$ prizes.

SCHOLASTIC: Open to 4 player team with one optional alternate (all players must be High School age or younger; individuals can enter and be assigned teammates). Team average (4 highest ratings-2008 Annual Rating list) must be under 1200.

EF: $120 postmarked by 2/5/09; $150 after or at door.

Prizes: Prizes to top team overall, top three High School Teams, top three Middle School Teams, top three Elementary School Teams. Special prizes to top score on
each board.

Schedule: Late Registration: 8:30-9:30am on 02/14. Rounds: 10:15am-1:00pm-3:30pm-6pm.
Saturday Night Special: dessert + blitz tournament with $$ prizes.

BOTH SECTIONS -- Information/Help with Teams:
ashish@vajachess.com, 414-234-1005 or abetaneli@wichessacademy.com.

Make Checks Payable to and Send Entries to:
VICA, 6822 North Crestwood Dr, Glendale, WI 53209.

Please include captain's email and phone number. WCL JGP (Open Section).
2009 USAT Playoff is scheduled for March 21, 2009 on ICC. More details will be posted soon.

==========

WAS SANTA CLAUS PELTED BY PHILADELPHIA FANS ??

Philadelphia's nickname may be "The City of Brotherly Love," but sports fans in that metropolis are notorious for a lack of fraternal affection: According to reputation, Philadelphia fans love a winner (who doesn't?) but will mercilessly turn on any players or team that don't live up to expectations, no matter how brilliant their past performances. No single image sums up that reputation more succinctly than the claim (as expressed in the examples cited above) that fans in Philadelphia once booed and pelted with snowballs that most inoffensive, beloved, and benevolent of figures, Santa Claus himself. The claim is true, although the potentially mitigating circumstances under which the incident occurred typically go unmentioned.

The infamous "booing Santa Claus" episode took place at old Franklin Field (then the home field of the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles franchise) on 15 December 1968, as the Eagles squared off against the Minnesota Vikings in their final game of the season. The Eagles' record stood at a dismal 2-11 going into the game (they'd end the season 2-12 after losing to the Vikings that day); even worse, Philadelphia had begun the year with a pathetic eleven straight losses, and two meaningless late season victories had served no purpose other than to take the Eagles out of the running for the #1 pick in the upcoming NFL/AFL common draft. (The 1-12-1 Buffalo Bills garnered the first pick and used it to select a USC running back named O.J. Simpson; the Eagles went third and chose forgettable running back Leroy Keyes from Purdue.)

Adding to the disenchanting game environment that Sunday afternoon was the weather: It had been snowing in Philadelphia since the night before, and by game time the temperature was in the low 20s, with a wind chill factor abetted by wind gusts of up to 30 miles per hour. Arriving fans reportedly had to clear their seats of an accumulated three inches of slush and snow before sitting down. Still, as noted in *The Great Philadelphia Fan Book*, the fact that over 54,000 people showed up to watch a miserable team play in miserable weather is a testament to the loyalty of Philadelphia fans.

The Eagles claimed an early 7-0 lead until, just before the end of the half, the Vikings capitalized on an interception and quickly tied the game with a 57-yard touchdown pass. But even if the football on the field was less than scintillating that day, at least fans in attendance were supposed to be treated to a decent Christmas Pageant at halftime: While the Eaglette cheerleaders (dressed up as elves) romped on the field accompanied by a 50-piece brass band

playing Christmas tunes, Santa was to make his entrance riding around the field on a huge Christmas float featuring an "ornate sleigh dragged by eight life-sized fiberglass reindeer."

Even before it had barely begun, however, the halftime show started to go as awry as the Eagles' season. A day's worth of snow and the pounding cleats of large football players had turned much of the field to muck, and the float quickly got stuck in the mud, meaning Santa would have to abandon his traditional means of conveyance and parade around on foot instead. But Santa was nowhere to be found, the person hired to portray him (depending upon which report one believes) having been prevented from making it to Franklin Field due to either an excess of inclement weather or an excess of alcoholic refreshments. In a panic, the Eagles' entertainment director, Bill Mullen, approached a fan sitting in the stands, 20-year-old Frank Olivo, to fill in for the absent Santa Claus. Olivo, who had worn a red corduroy Santa suit and a fake beard to the game, was given a large sack and tapped to weave down the field between two columns of Eaglettes, waving to the crowd as the brass band played "Here Comes Santa Claus."

Years later, Olivo recalled what happened next:
"That's when the booing started. At first, I was scared because it was so loud. But then I figured, hey, it was just good-natured teasing. I'm a Philadelphia fan, I knew what was what. I thought it was funny."

When Olivo finished his run down Santa Claus Lane, he got into range. A fan in the upper deck threw the first snowball. As Santa hit the south end zone, one turned into ten, then into 100.

"When I hit the end zone, and the snowballs started, I was waving my finger at the crowd, saying 'You're not getting anything for Christmas,'" Olivo recalled.

"Oh, I got pelted," Olivo says. He remembers being hit by several dozen snowballs, which suggests that many of the upper-deck denizens were more accurate passers than [the Eagles' quarterback]. "I didn't mind," he says. "I started kibitzing with some of the people throwing the snowballs."

Still, he had his limits. "When I finished, Mr. Mullen asked if I wanted to do it again the next year," Olivo says. "I told him, 'No way. If it doesn't snow, they'll probably throw beer bottles."

What prompted the Philadelphia fans to treat Santa Claus so inhospitably that day remains a subject of contention. Some, such as Jim Gallagher, the Eagles' public relations director at the time, claimed the bad behavior was prompted by Santa's pathetic physical appearance, recalling: "He was the worst-looking Santa I'd ever seen. Bad suit, scraggly beard. I'm not sure whether he was drunk, but he appeared to be." For his part, Olivo maintains that he was "a terrific Santa" (if slightly undersize for the part at 5'6" and 170 lbs.), that his suit was actually of quite good quality, that he wasn't drunk, and that "a lot of [people who claim otherwise] weren't even here."

Others opine that Santa was just a stand-in for the real (and out-of-reach) targets of the Philadelphia fans' frustration, the ownership and coaching that had transformed a championship football franchise into one of the league's worst teams (and that the booing was initially directed at the Eagles players as they headed for the locker room at halftime).

One spectator present that day, himself later an NFL player and team president, explained the fans' temperament:
"It was a miserable day and a miserable team," recalls [Matt] Millen, who was 11 years old at the time. "That was the only fun part of the game, and everybody joined in — fathers, sons, even the old ladies. That guy had it coming. I still remember the song, 'Here Comes Santa Claus' — BOOM! Got 'im! Hey, it was just the thing to do at the time. No big deal."

"But it was different in that era," he adds. "Very passionate. Franklin Field was a crazy place. People took their football seriously. Hell, they'd run on the field to get at the players and coaches."

Millen is now president of the Detroit Lions. How would he feel if fans threw snowballs at his stadium? "Well, we play in a dome," he says. "So I guess they'd have to smuggle them in."

The Physics of Santa Claus

compiled and edited by Shifty Bits

Is There A Santa Claus?

Richard Waller

*Editor's Note: Originally published in **Spy** magazine, January 1990.*

1. No known species of reindeer can fly. BUT there are 300,000 species of living organisms yet to be classified, and while most of these are insects and germs, this does not COMPLETELY rule out flying reindeer which only Santa has ever seen.

2. There are 2 billion children (persons under 18) in the world. BUT since Santa doesn't (appear) to handle the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist children, that reduces the workload to 15% of the total -- 378 million according to Population Reference Bureau. At an average (census)rate of 3.5 children per household, that's 91.8 million homes. One presumes there's at least one good child in each.

3. Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth, assuming he travels east to west(which seems logical). This works out to 822.6 visits per second. This is to say that for each Christian household with good children, Santa has 1/1000th of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, get back into the sleigh and move on to the next house. Assuming that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the earth (which, of course, we know to be false but for the purposes of our calculations we will accept), we are now talking about .78 miles per household, a total trip of 75-1/2 million miles, not counting stops to do what most of us must do at least once every 31 hours, plus feeding and etc. This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, 3,000 times the speed of sound. For purposes of comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle on earth, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a poky 27.4 miles per second -- a conventional reindeer can run, tops, 15 miles per hour.

4. The payload on the sleigh adds another interesting element. Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized lego set (2 pounds), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight. On land, conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. Even granting that "flying reindeer" (see point #1) could pull TEN TIMES the normal anoint, we cannot do the job with eight, or even nine. We need 214,200 reindeer. This increases the payload - not even counting the weight of the sleigh -- to 353,430 tons. Again, for comparison -- this is four times the weight of the Queen Elizabeth.

5. 353,000 tons traveling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance -- this will heat the reindeer up in the same fashion as spacecrafts re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer will absorb 14.3 QUINTILLION joules of energy. Per second. Each. In short, they will burst into flame almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them, and create deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporized within 4.26 thousandths of a second. Santa, meanwhile, will be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500.06 times greater than gravity. A 250-pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim)would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force.

In conclusion -- If Santa ever DID deliver presents on Christmas Eve, he's dead now.

Rebuttal 1

Jim Mantle

Come on, ya gotta believe! I mean, if you can handle flying furry animals, then it's only a small step to the rest.

For example:

1. As admitted, it is possible that a flying reindeer can be found. I would agree that it would be quite an unusual find, but they might exist.

2. You've relied on cascading assumptions. For example, you have assumed a uniform distribution of children across homes. Toronto/Yorkville, or Toronto/Cabbagetown, or other yuppie neighbourhoods, have probably less than the average (and don't forget the DINK and SINK homes (Double Income No Kids, Single Income No Kids)), while the families with 748 starving children that they keep showing on Vision TV while trying to pick my pocket would skew that 15% of homes down a few percent.

3. You've also assumed that each home that has kids would have at least one good kid. What if anti-selection applies, and homes with good kids tend to have more than their share of good kids, and other homes have nothing except terrorists in diapers? Let's drop that number of homes down a few more percent.

4. Santa would have to Fedex a number of packages ahead of time, since he would not be able to fly into Air Force Bases, or into tower-controlled areas near airports. He's get shot at over certain sections of the Middle East, and the no-fly zones in Iraq, so he'd probably use DHL there. Subtract some more homes.

5. I just barely passed Physics and only read Stephen Hawking's book once, but I recall that there is some Einsteinian Theory that says time does strange things as you move faster. In fact, when you go faster than the speed of light time runs backward, if you do a straight line projection, connect the dots and just ignore any singularity you might find right at the speed of light. And don't say you can't go faster than the speed of light because I've seen it done on TV. Jean-Luc doesn't have reindeer but he does have matter-antimatter warp engines and a holodeck and that's good enough for me.

So Santa could go faster than light, visit all the good children which are not uniformly distributed by either concentration in each home or by number of children per household, and get home before he left so he can digest all those stale cookies and warm milk yech.

6. Aha, you say, Jean-Luc has matter-antimatter warp engines, Santa only has reindeer, where does he get the power to move that fast!

You calculated the answer! The lead pair of reindeer will absorb 14.3 quintillion joules of energy. Per second. Each. This is an ample supply of energy for the maneuvering, acceleration, etc, that would be required of the loaded sleigh. The reindeer don't evaporate or incinerate because of this energy, they accelerate. What do you think they have antlers for, fighting over females? Think of antlers as furry solar array panels.

7. If that's not enough, watch the news on the 24th at 11 o'clock. NORAD (which may be one of the few government agencies with more than 3 initials in it's name and therefore it must be more trustworthy than the rest) tracks Santa every year and I've seen the radar shots of him approaching my house from the direction of the North Pole. They haven't bombarded him yet, so they must believe too, right?

Rebuttal 2

(author unknown)

Several key points are overlooked by this callous, amateurish "study."

1. Flying reindeer: As is widely known (due to the excellent historical documentary "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," the flying reindeer are not a previously unknown species of reindeer, but were in fact given the power of flight due to eating magic acorns. As is conclusively proven in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" (a no punches pulled look at life in Santa's village), this ability has bred true in subsequent generations of reindeer, obviously the magic acorns imprinted their power on a dominant gene sequence within the reindeer DNA strand.

2. Number of households: This figure overlooks two key facts. First of all, the first major schism in the Church split the Eastern Churches, centered in Byzantium, from the Western, which remained centered in Rome. This occurred prior to the Gregorian correction to the Julian calendar. The Eastern churches

(currently called Orthodox Churches) do not recognize the Gregorian correction for liturgical events, and their Christmas is as a result several days after the Western Churches'. Santa gets two shots at delivering toys.

Secondly, the figure of 3.5 children per household is based on the gross demographic average, which includes households with no children at all. The number of children per household, when figured as an average for households with children, would therefore have to be adjusted upward. Also, the largest single Christian denomination is Roman Catholic, who, as we all know, breed like rabbits. If you don't believe me, ask my four brothers and two sisters, they'll back me up. Due to the predominance of Catholics within Christian households, the total number of households containing Christian children would have to be adjusted downward to reflect the overloading of Catholics beyond a standard deviation from the median.

Also, the assertion that each home would contain at least one good child would be reasonable enough if there were in fact an even 3.5 children per household. However, since the number of children per household is distributed integrally, there are a significant number (on the order of several million) of one child Christian households. Even though only children are notoriously spoiled and therefore disproportionately inclined towards being naughty, since it's the holidays we'll be generous and give them a fifty-fifty chance of being nice. This removes one half of the single child households from Santa's delivery schedule, which has already been reduced by the removal of the Orthodox households from the first delivery run.

3. Santa's delivery run (speed, payload, etc.): These all suffer from the dubious supposition that there is only one Santa Claus. The name "Santa" is obviously either Spanish or Italian, two ethnic groups which are both overwhelmingly Catholic. The last name Claus suggests a joint German/Italian background. His beginnings, battling the Burgermeister Meisterburger, suggest he grew up in Bavaria (also predominantly Catholic). The Kaiser style helmets of the Burgermeister's guards, coupled with the relative isolation of the village, suggest that his youth was at the very beginning of Prussian influence in Germany. Thus, Santa and Mrs. Claus have been together for well over one hundred years. If you think that after a hundred years of living at the North Pole with nights six months long that they remain childless, you either don't know Catholics or are unaware of the failure rate of the rhythm method. There have therefore been over five generations of Clauses, breeding like Catholics for over one hundred years. Since they are Catholic, their exponential population increase would obviously have a gain higher than the world population as a whole. There have therefore been more than enough new Santas to overcome the population increase of the world. So in fact, Santa has an easier time of it now than he did when he first started out.

Santa dead, indeed; some people will twist any statistic to "prove" their cynical theory.

Rebuttal 3

Edward Green

5. That's nonsense. I repeated the calculation, and the correct figure is 17,500.03 times gravity. How can we place belief when such an implausibly high figure is accepted! The entire concept is obviously deeply flawed and arises from incorrect method!

Besides, Santa simply realizes all of his alternate quantum states at once. Everybody knows that.

Rebuttal 4

Jerome Elisha

Surely the 'esteemed' professional making the analysis means 'forces of acceleration', and not "centrifugal forces" as stated. Furthermore, to accept the ability of reindeer to defy the law of gravity and then bind them to the remaining laws of physics is an error in argument.

The assertion ignores empirical data - Santa does exist: one can see him often during the months leading up to the Big Day. Indeed, it is a frequent occurrence to see him on multiple street corners, or in front of several

businesses, at the same time. Either A) Santa has many helpers, or B) Santa is capable of numerous manifestations. In either case, the acceleration arguments above are not valid, since the multiplicity of Santas (manifestations or helpers) could easily handle smaller portions of the task with time left over for cookies and milk.

Arguments A) and B) are both are supported by the different guises he sports in various countries (Santa Claus, Sinter Klaus, Kris Kringle, et al.), and by his acknowledged ability to "see you when you're sleeping; he knows when you're awake". The decision between A) or B) is left as a proof for the student.

Rebuttal 5

Lorenzo Sadun

I wrote this rebuttal to the "physics of Santa" analysis back in 1993:

If you're going to criticise Santa Claus on physical grounds, you may at least do it right.

The payload calculations are nonsense. Adding, say, 1000 stops back at the North Pole for reloading adds only a few percent to the entire distance covered, while reducing the payload by a factor of 1000. This is clearly the way to go.

The nonuniform distribution of children has a tremendous effect on the routing. With sensible routing, the average distance from a good child to the next good child is only a couple hundred feet in suburban conditions (this is clearly higher in the country, but is much less in, say, New York City). With only .05 miles between average good children, Santa need only travel at Mach 200, just a little faster than Ulysses. This reduces the force of air resistance by a factor of 200, and the power absorbed by the reindeer by 3000.

(Of course, if Santa stops to give coal to bad children it could slow things down a bit. But it appears that increasing population has made Santa give up that trick. When was the last time you heard of anybody getting a lump of coal?)

We all saw the pictures of a smart bomb falling through an Iraqi smokestack during the Gulf War. Clearly Santa uses the same technology for toys and chimneys. By dropping, say, 100 toys at a time from high altitude, Santa can reduce his speed by another factor of 10. While still supersonic, this is now slightly less than orbital velocity, sparing Santa and his team the trauma of extreme centrifugal force.

Santa's trip IS a remarkable feat of aeronautics, but please don't say it's impossible.

Rebuttal 6

E. B. Davis

As a result of an overwhelming lack of requests, and with research help from that renowned scientific journal SPY magazine (January, 1990) -- I am pleased to present the annual scientific inquiry into Santa Claus.

The analysis you sent me about the death of Santa Claus, based on classical physics, is seriously flawed owing to its neglect of quantum phenomena that become significant in his particular case. As it happens, the terminal velocity of a reindeer in dry December air over the Northern Hemisphere (for example) is known with tremendous precision. The mass of Santa and his sleigh (since the number of children and their gifts is also known precisely, ahead of time, and the reindeer must weigh in minutes before the flight) is also known with tremendous precision. His direction of flight is, as you say, essentially east to west.

All of that, when taken together, means that the momentum vector of Mr. Claus and his cargo is known with incredible precision. An elementary application of Heisenberg's uncertainty principle yields the result that Santa's location, at any given moment on Christmas Eve, is highly imprecise. In other words, he is "smeared out" over the surface of the earth, analogous to the manner in which an electron is "smeared out" within a certain distance from the nucleus in an atom. Thus he can, quite literally, be everywhere at any given moment.

In addition, the relativistic velocities which his reindeer can attain for brief moments make it possible for him, in certain cases, to arrive at some locations shortly before he left the North Pole. Santa, in other words, assumes for brief periods the characteristics of tachyons. I will admit that tachyons remain hypothetical, but then so do black holes, and who really doubts their existence any more?

Rebuttal 7

Matthew Davies and Martin Slaughter

*[Editor's Note: Reprinted from "In Search of Schrodinger's Reindeer," **New Scientist**, December 1999.*

With the festive season upon us, many scientific minds will yet again be attempting to solve that perennial chestnut, the Travelling Santa Problem (or TSP). This problem was first brought to our attention by the child prodigy, Vernon P. Templeman, in his seminal paper "Please may I have a bike for Christmas, Daddy" (J. Appl. Window Shopping, December 1988, vol 7, p 1-122).

In simple terms, the problem boils down to one of speed. How can Father Christmas visit the homes of all the children in the world in a single night, albeit 24 hours long? Templeman demonstrated that the classical (sequential) explanation forces us to invoke faster-than-light travel, which is somewhat at odds with current thinking.

Thus, he argued, we should infer that the Father Christmas effect does not really exist. This contentious hypothesis was the subject of much debate at a recent symposium held at the Santa Fe Institute for Present Research.

Our initial thoughts were that Templeman had over-estimated the size of the problem, forgetting that Santa only visits good children. This would reduce the number of visits by a factor of order 10^9.

However, a simple back-of-the-lab-coat calculation shows that this renders the problem no more tractable. This threw suspicion on the use of classical physics. At this stage, the teachings of our old mentor, Erwin Schroedinger, came back to us ("Famous people what we claim to have known, honest", by Matthew Davies and Martin Slaughter, Annals of Physics, 1983, vol 12, pp 379-381). From a detailed study of reported phenomena, it became apparent that Santa shared many of the characteristics of elementary particles, suggesting a quantum mechanical interpretation of his behaviour. We have since developed this theory, and are confident that a quantum mechanical model of Santa Claus allows many of his observed properties to be explained, and several interesting predictions to be made.

Clearly, viewing Santa as a waveform removes the apparent paradox of his "presence" being measured in several locations within a short interval of time. As the waveform collapses down in a specific location (attracted, we suggest, by the Goodness Quantum number of the recumbent child) it becomes perfectly valid to state that a "visitation" has occurred.

However, our calculations suggest that the process of measurement (for example, turning on the bedroom light) will almost certainly lead to a localised, space-time instability which, in turn, will cause the waveform to relax and render detection almost impossible.

Once again, this ties in with the experimental evidence that Father Christmas is rarely caught delivering. Indeed, on those few occasions when a sighting has been claimed in the literature ("Mummy, mummy, there's a strange man in my bedroom" by S. T. U. Peedo, Journal of Sleepless Nights, 1979, vol 5, p 35), closer scrutiny has often revealed it to be an imposter wearing a red cloak and beard.

Moreover, the quantum mechanical model predicts that energies involved in a waveform collapse will result in the emission of a jet of sub-atomic particles. Studies of bedroom carpets in the vicinity of alleged sightings, using an X-mass spectrometer, have often revealed evidence of mince pion activity; though these have usually been Hoovered up.

One of the most appealing aspects of our theory is the manner in which it allows the most likely sites for

visitation to be estimated. These may be identified from the first derivative of the expectation value as:

```
  d (Spot)        |
-----------------|
  d (Fireplace)   | night
```

It turns out that the distribution of household chimneys is exactly that required to act as a diffraction grating for objects of Santa's predicted wavelengths, focusing the zeroth order onto the bedroom floor below ("Chimchimmeny, chimchinny, chimchin cheroo", by Bert, Mar. Popp. 1969).

Yet another predication which agrees with commonly reported observations concerns the Christmas Stocking effect. Within the general theory, the stocking would be expected to act as an infinite potential well, momentarily capturing the Santa waveform. The resonance within the stocking is predicted to transfer energy from any batteries within the well (causing them to run out by Boxing Day) before collapsing back down to a new ground state characterised by a tangerine in the toe.

Apart from the successes reported above, the theory makes a number of predictions about rather low probability events; that is, events expected to occur in fewer than one hundred homes in the world each year (for example, a full night's sleep for parents of under-8s; no clothes given as presents; fairy lights still working from last year). In order to collect the huge volume of data needed to assess these rare events, we have decided to appeal to the scientific community for help.

Well as the few observations available fit the theory, a detailed experiment to provide quantltatlve.support is now necessary. This will require a vast amount of data to be collected with observations from as many global locations as possible.

New Scientist's readers are, therefore, asked to maintain a Yule log of the events in their domestic laboratories and to send their results to the authors via the magazine.

Participants are requested to make a note of the following:

1. Their children's Goodness Quantum number;
2. The approximate dimensions of their bedroom;
3. Whether Santa visits and, if so, at what time;
4. Their address and galactic bspace coordinates (or postcode);
5. Any evidence of Charm or Strangeness;
6. Whether Santa is seen to be spinning (needed to check the "No L" theory)
7. The number of presents left;
8. The colour of his reindeer's nose (often quoted as red when seen moving away at speed, but unknown in its rest frame).

On a note of caution, participants are urged not to try to localise Santa as the delta p. delta x equals or is greater than h relationship suggests that the energies involved could demolish a timber frame building.

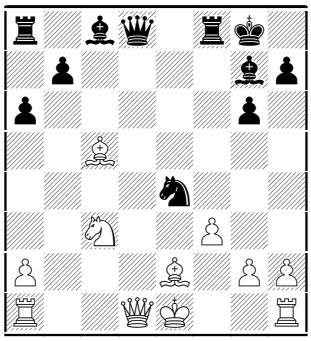
At a time when Europe is leading the world in fundamental physics research we hope that this knotty problem can be resolved with this experiment. The Americans are not far behind, with Senate approval for the $12 trillion Turkey/ Anti-Turkey Synchronous Santatron. Let us make sure we cook their goose before they foil our efforts.

[Credit for this article begins with www.snopes.com with their forward link to http://web.archive.org/web/20041113092029/http://home.uchicago.edu/~rascalzo/arch/palace/library/humor-tech/santa-physics.html]

Throw some logs on the fire and get cozy with these chess beauties.

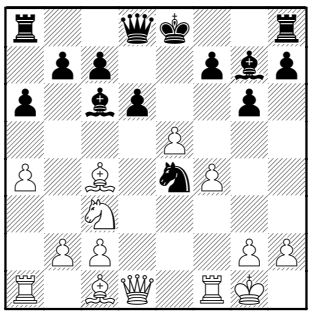
** Solutions on page **37** **

PROBLEM 1.



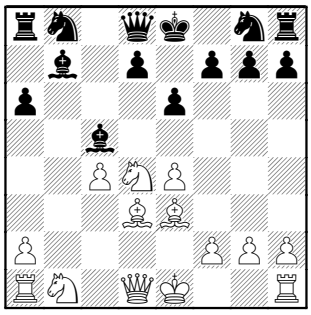
WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 2.



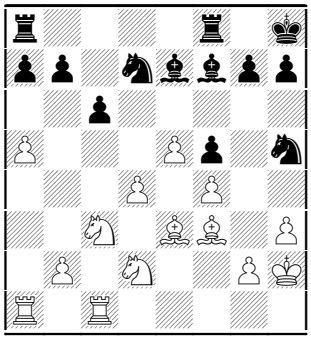
WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 3.



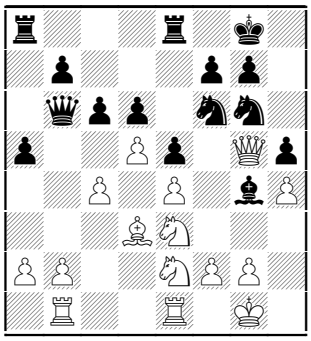
BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 4.



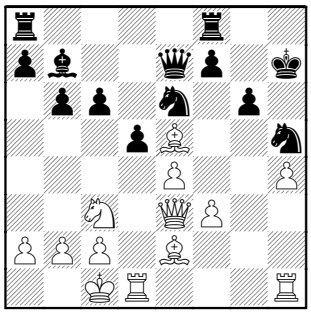
WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 5.



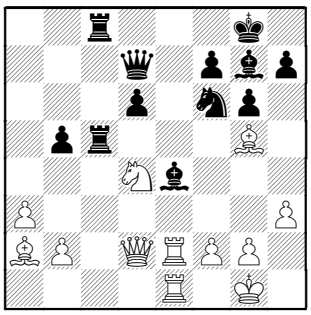
BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 6.



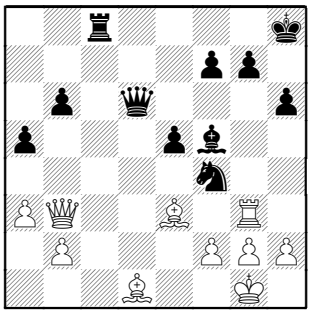
BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 7.



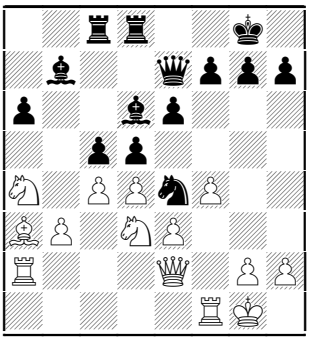
WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 8.



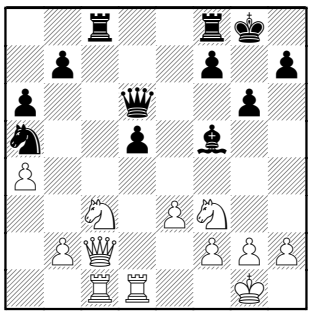
BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 9.



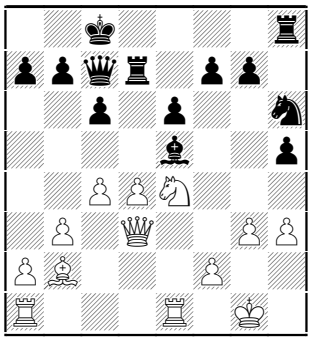
WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 10.



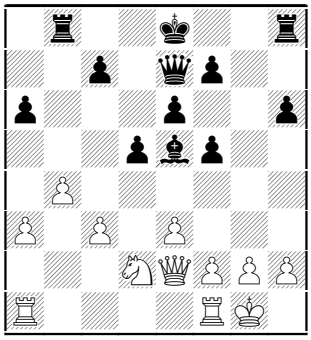
WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 11.



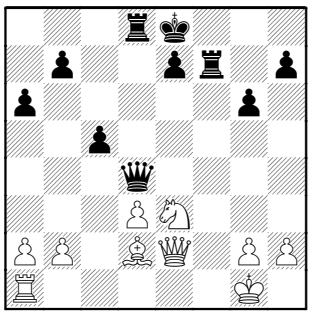
WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 12.



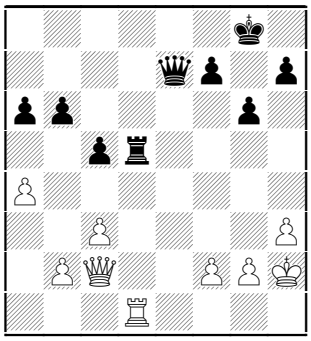
WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 13.



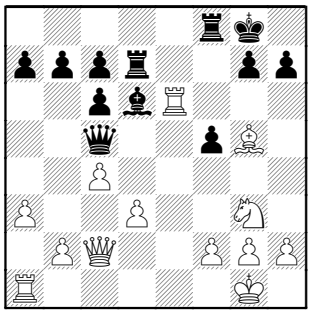
WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 14.



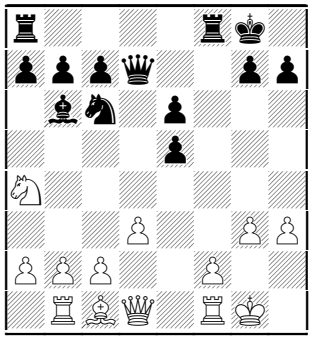
BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 15.



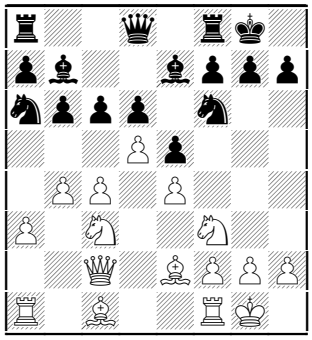
BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 16.



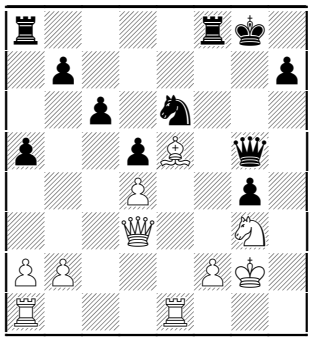
BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 17.



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 18.



BLACK TO MOVE

The Ultimate Fruitcake Recipe

Civilized society stands divided into two distinct camps: Those who adore fruitcake, and those who detest it. On the fruitcake issue, the middle ground stretches out forlornly deserted, across which each side glares at the other.

On only one issue do the two sides agree: they're both charmed by the Ultimate Fruitcake Recipe:

[Collected on the Internet, 1994]

All this talk of dry fruitcake made me pine for the days of yore when I would help grandma make Christmas cake. Here's the recipe (as best as I can remember it, it's a little fuzzy):

You'll need the following: a cup of water, a cup of sugar, four large eggs, two cups of dried fruit, a teaspoon of baking soda, a teaspoon of salt, a cup of brown sugar, lemon juice, nuts, and a bottle of whiskey. NOTE: Whiskey may be replaced with your favorite swill^H^H^H^Hbeverage. Being of Scottish ancestry, me and grandma naturally used Scotch.

Directions:

Sample the whiskey to check for quality.

Take a large bowl. Check the whiskey again. To be sure it is the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of sugar and beat again.

Make sure the whiskey is still okay. Cry another tup. Turn off the mixer. Break two leggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the turner. If the fried druit gets stuck in the beaterers, pry it loose with a drewscriver.

Sample the whiskey to check for tonsisticity. Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Who cares? Check the whiskey. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table. Spoon. Of sugar or something. Whatever you can find.

Grease the oven. Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window, check the whiskey again and go to bed.

Another version of it has been kicking around for years, as this 40-year-old example shows:

"So you want to know how to make a fruit cake for the holiday season?" beamed a TV personality on a morning show devoted to cooking and other kitchen activities. "O.K., let's go. We'll start by digging up a great big mixing bowl like this. You see it's fully four feet across. A sturdy canoe paddle for mixing and we're ready to pour in the ingredients. First, three pounds of dates. Next, two quarts of brandy. (Now, taste.) Four pounds of mixed nuts, two quarts of brandy. (Now, taste.) Three pounds of dried plums (mix well). Three quarts of brandy. (Taste. Say it's really getting that old flavor.) Now rounds raisins — uh two *pounds raisins*. Three quarts brandy. (Taste. S'wunnerful, huh?) Ten pounds sherries, five quarsh branny. Make it ten! Wix mell (sorry) *mix well* and tashe. WOW! Two cans Ajax. Fifteen quarsh byooful, golden hooch. Tashe! HOT DOG! Lean over and take another ta... WHOOPS, there you go into the bowl! Stay there, Pa — s'glorious way to spend the holidays!"[1]

All kidding about drunken cooks aside, fruitcake has been a part of festive celebrations for a very long time. It's been popular in Europe since Roman times, when cooks mixed raisins, pine nuts and pomegranate seeds into barley mash. In the Middle Ages, honey, dried fruits and spices were added to bread dough for special occasions. At one time, fruitcake was considered semi-sacred, with laws in place in Europe until the end of the 18th century that restricted its making to celebrations such as Christmas, Easter, weddings, and the like.

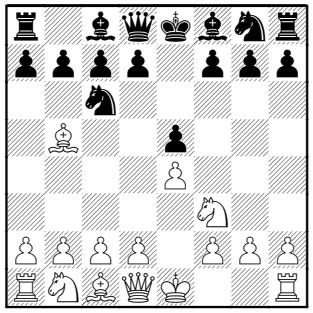
It's impossible to age a fruitcake too long, say those in the know. If stored in an airtight container and basted occasionally with liquor, it'll keep indefinitely.

Norm Hughes of the Walgreen Forks examines a few games that lasted only 25 move or less.

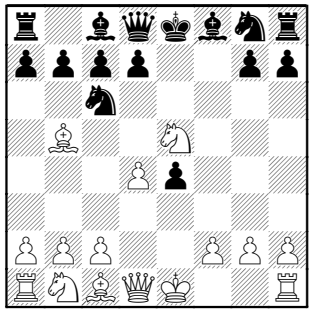
Guggenheim,Oliver – Seet,Paul (1851) [C63]
DRW-Hedgehogs, 21.10.2008
[Norm Hughes]

This game is a Schliemann Variation of the Ruy Lopez. The Schliemann is very sharp and if either player doesn't know their way around, then sudden results can happen, as in this game.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5

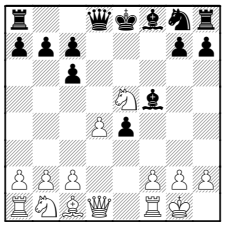


3...f5 4.d4 fxe4 5.Nxe5

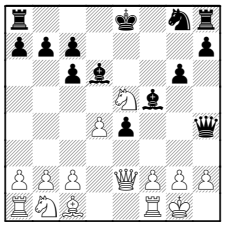


Turning Point - Faulty variation. This sharp variation gets White no where. In fact it drops a Pawn by force and White never recovers.

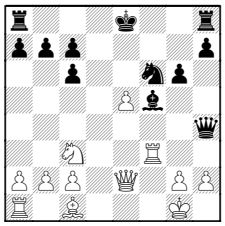
Better for White is:
5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.Nxe5 Bf5 7.0–0



7...Bd6 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Qe2 Qh4

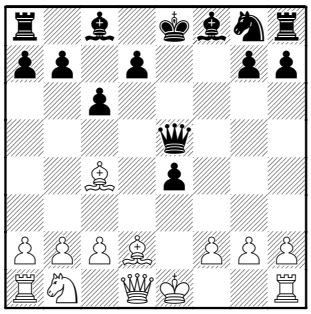


10.Nc3 Nf6 11.f3 Bxe5 12.dxe5 exf3 13.Rxf3

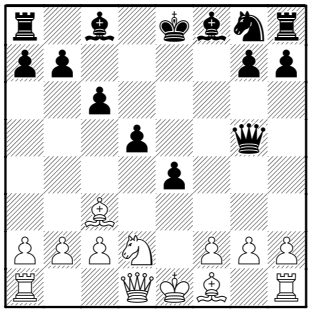


13...Qd4+ 14.Kh1 Ne4=

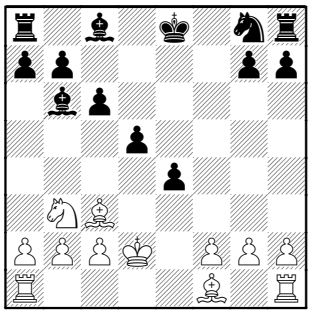
5...Nxe5 6.dxe5 c6 7.Bc4 Qa5+ 8.Bd2 Qxe5



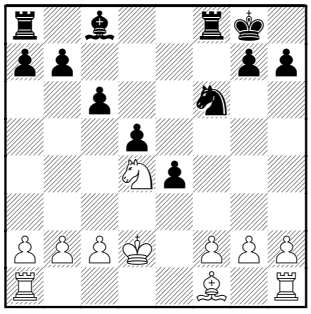
9.Bc3 Qg5 10.Nd2 d5 11.Bf1



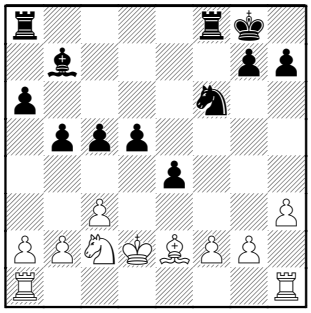
11...Bc5 12.Nb3 Bb6 13.Qd2 Qxd2+ 14.Kxd2



14...Nf6 15.Bd4 Bxd4 16.Nxd4 0–0

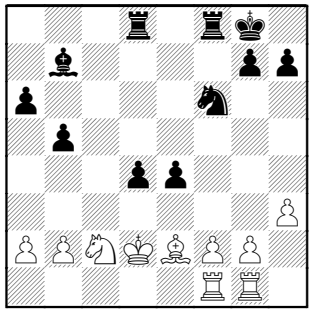


17.h3 a6 18.c3 c5 19.Nc2 b5 20.Be2 Bb7

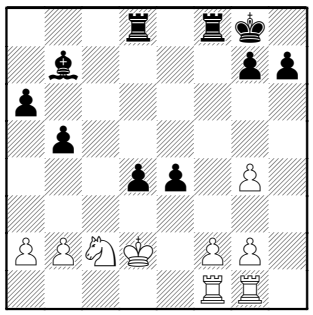


21.Rhg1 Rad8 22.Raf1 d4 23.cxd4

cxd4



24.Bg4 Nxg4 25.hxg4

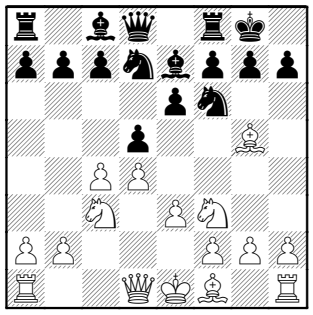


25...Rf4 0–1

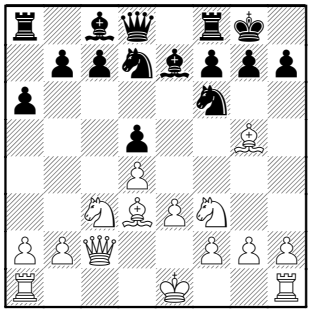
Gaines,Irwin (1729) - Kalavagunta,Suman (2030) [D61]
[Norm Hughes]

This game is an Exchange Variation of the Queen's Gambit. White has the better game up to move 21, when all of a sudden ...

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.e3 0–0

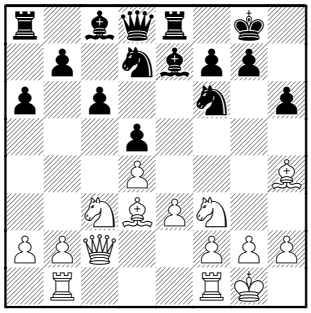


7.Qc2 a6 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bd3



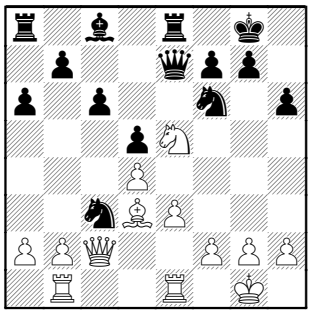
The game is now the Exchange Variation of the Queen's Gambit, where Black has played a6 instead of c6.

9...h6 10.Bh4 Re8 11.0–0 c6 12.Rab1



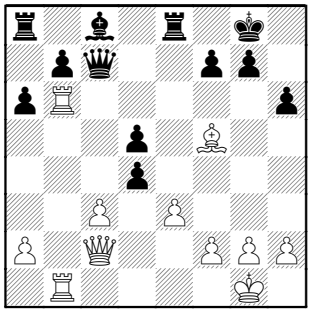
Typical preparation for a minority attack with b4, a4, b5 to create a Pawn weakness.

12...Ne4 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Rfe1 Ndf6 15.Ne5 Nxc3



16.bxc3 Showing the flexibility of White's position, now e4 can be on the agenda.

16...Nd7 17.Nxd7 Qxd7 18.Rb6 Qc7 19.Reb1 c5 20.Bf5 cxd4

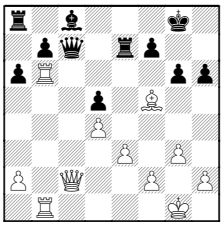


At this point, White has the better game.

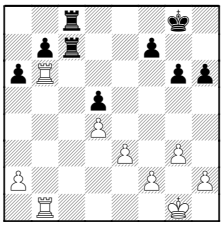
21.Bxc8??

Turning Point - Bad move.

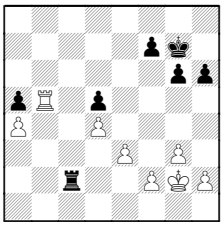
Better for White is:
21.cxd4 Re7 22.g3 g6



23.Qxc7 Rxc7 24.Bxc8 Raxc8

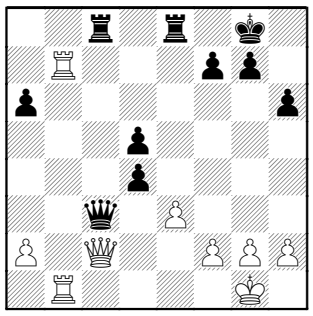


25.Rxb7 Kg7 26.Rxc7 Rxc7 27.Kg2 Rc2 28.a4 a5+- 29.Rb5



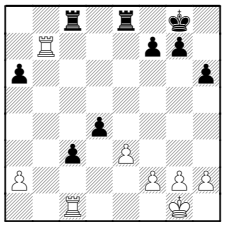
with a large advantage for White.

21...Raxc8 22.Rxb7 Qxc3

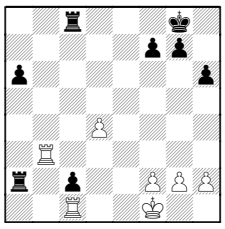


23.Qf5

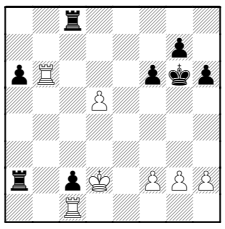
Taking the Queen does not help either: 23.Qxc3 dxc3 24.Rc1 d4



25.exd4 Re2 26.Kf1 Rxa2 27.Rb3 c2



28.Ke2 Kh7 29.Rb6 f6 30.d5 Kg6 31.Kd2

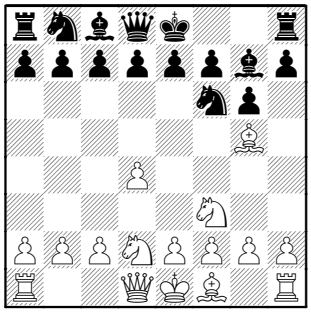


23...Qc1+ 0–1

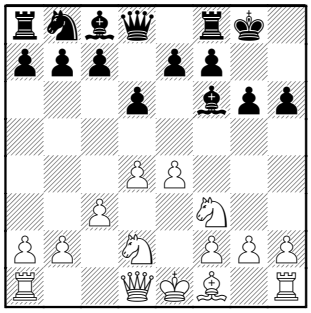
Hill,Bob (1987) – Stein,Pete (2172) **[A48]**
[Norm Hughes]

This game is a Trompowski Attack. The game is even until move 17, when Black plays 17...,g5??, then ....

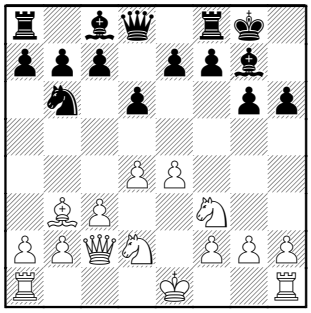
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2



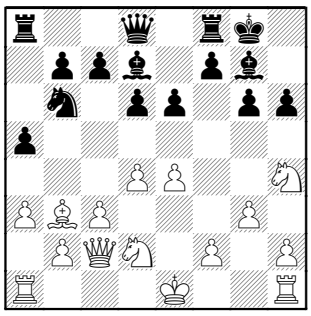
4...h6 5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.e4 d6 7.c3 0–0



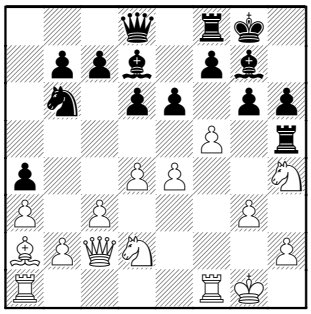
8.Qc2 Nd7 9.Bc4 Nb6 10.Bb3 Bg7



11.Nh4 e6 12.g3 a5 13.a3 Bd7



14.f4 a4 15.Ba2 Ra5 16.0–0 Rh5 17.f5

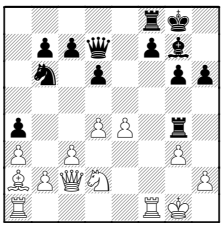


The game is even at this point.

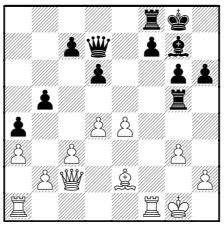
17...g5??

Turning Point - Bad move.

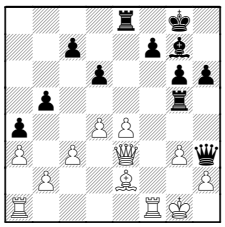
Better for Black is: 17...Rxh4 18.fxe6 Rg4 19.exd7 Qxd7



20.Nc4 Nxc4 21.Bxc4 b5 22.Be2 Rg5

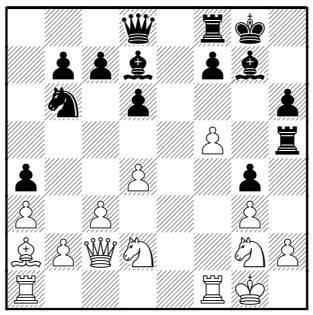


23.Qd3 Qh3 24.Qe3 Re8=



with an even game.

18.Ng2 exf5 19.exf5 g4



20.f6 d5 21.Bb1 1–0

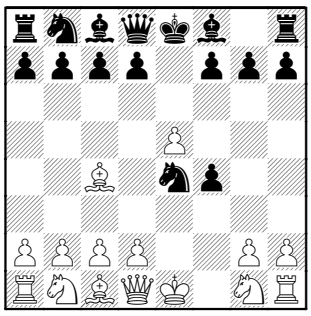
Levenson,Steve (2057) - Melnikov,Igor (2028) **[C33]**
Skewers-Kings, 21.10.2008
[Norm Hughes]

This game is a King's Gambit Accepted. We have two strong players having a tactical slugfest.

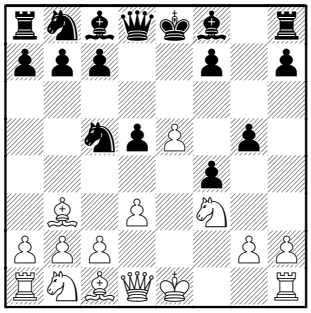
Black has the advantage up to move 14 when he plays a weak move giving a slight advantage to White, but Black could of maintained his edge. Then two moves later, Black plays another weak move. This time White gets more than a slight advantage, but Black maintains a material advantage and some slim chances.

Again Black could of maintained an even game. Then again two moves later(move 18) Black plays the losing move. It drops a piece after Whites 19th move.

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.e5 Ne4

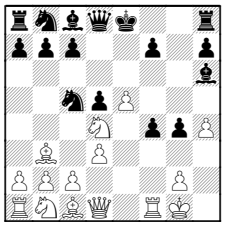


5.Nf3 d5 6.Bb3 g5 7.d3 Nc5

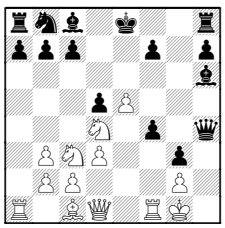


8.0–0

White could also play: 8.h4 g4 9.Nd4 Bh6 10.0–0

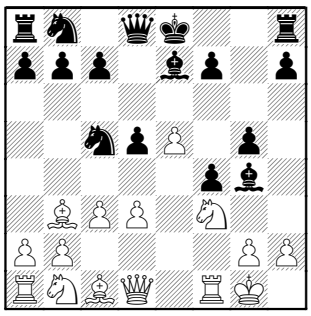


10...Nxb3 11.axb3 Qxh4 12.Nc3 g3

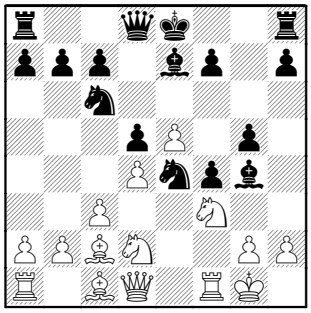


13.Nf3 Qd8=

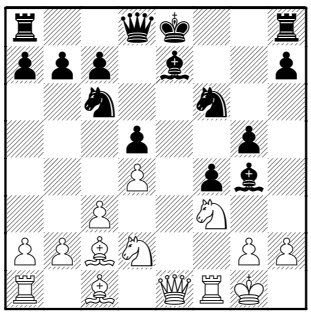
8...Bg4 9.c3 Be7



10.Bc2 Nc6 11.d4 Ne4 12.Nbd2



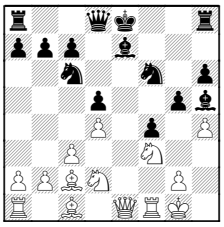
12...f5 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Qe1



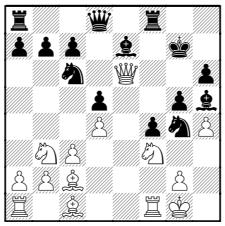
Black has the advantage. **14...Bxf3?**

Turning Point 1 - Bad move. This move gives the advantage to White.

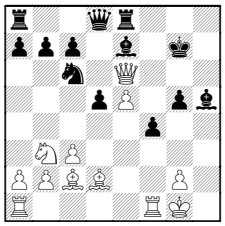
To maintain the advantage, Black should continue: 14...h6 15.h3 Bh5 16.h4



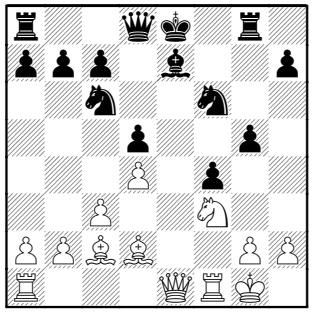
16...Ng4 17.Nb3 0–0 18.Qe6+ Kg7



19.hxg5 hxg5 20.Bd2 Re8 21.Ne5 Ngxe5 22.dxe5–+



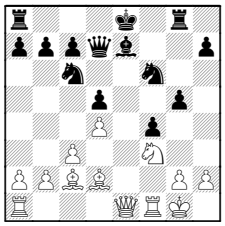
15.Nxf3 Rg8 16.Bd2



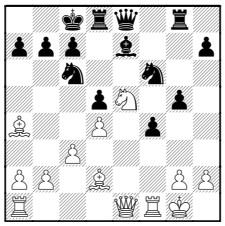
Game is unclear at this point.
16...Qd6?

Turning Point 2 - Bad move. This move gives White a large advantage.

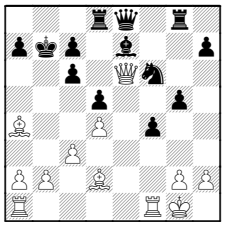
Black could of maintained the balance with: 16...Qd7



17.Ba4 0–0–0 18.Ne5 Qe8

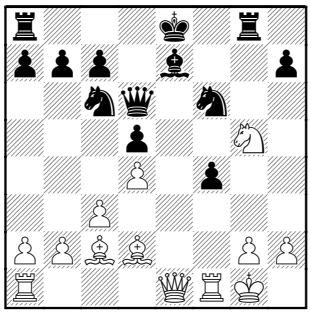


19.Nxc6 bxc6 20.Qe6+ Kb7



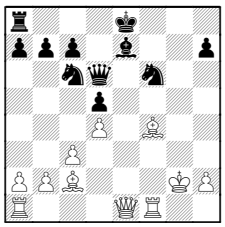
21.Bc2 Qd7 22.Rae1 Rge8 23.Bd3= with an even game.

17.Nxg5

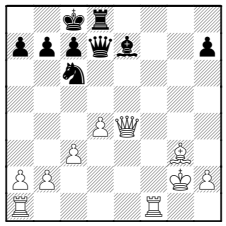


17...Nh5

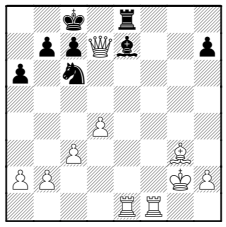
If Black takes the Knight: 17...Rxg5 18.Bxf4 Rxg2+ 19.Kxg2



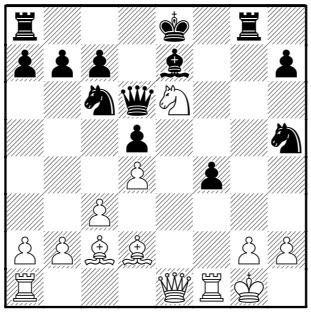
19...Qd7 20.Bg3 Ne4 21.Bxe4 dxe4 22.Qxe4 0–0–0



23.Rae1 Re8 24.Qe6 a6 25.Qxd7++-



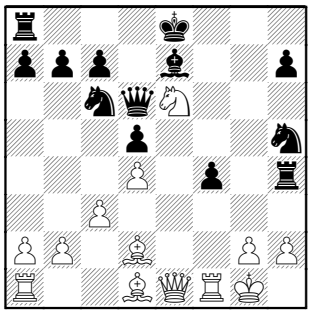
18.Ne6



18...Rg4??

Turning Point 3 - Losing move. The Knight on h5 had to move. After White's next move the game is lost.

19.Bd1 Rh4

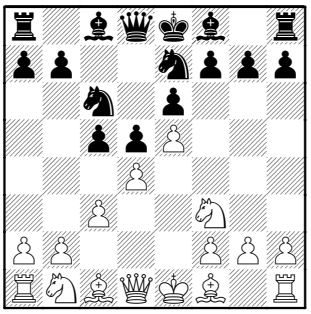


20.Bxh5+ Rxh5 21.Ng7+ 1–0

Wang,Ben (1759) - Gugenheim,Oliver [C02]
NWU-DRW, 16.10.2008
[Norm Hughes]

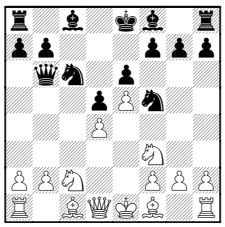
This game is an Advance variation of the French Defense. The game has a lot of side lines that each player could of taken advantage of. But in the end it was a Drawn game. However, Black has the advantage and should of kept playing.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nge7

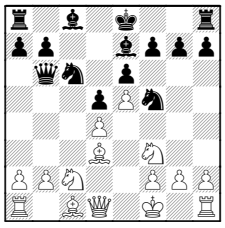


6.a3

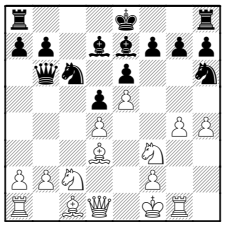
Another alternative for White is: 6.Na3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nf5 8.Nc2 Qb6



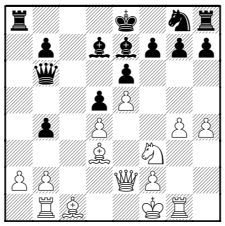
9.Bd3 Bb4+ 10.Kf1 Be7



11.h4 Bd7 12.g4 Nh6 13.Rg1

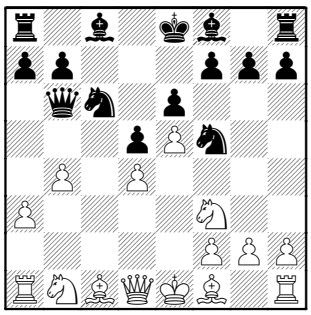


13...Ng8 14.Rb1 a5 15.Qe2 Nb4 16.Nxb4 axb4



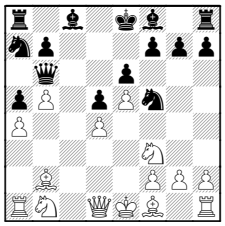
17.a3 White has a spatial advantage.

6...Nf5 7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Qb6



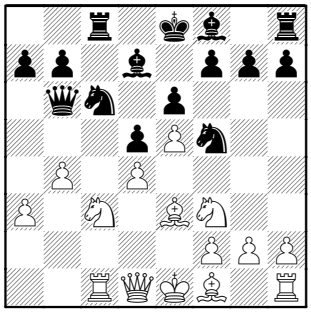
9.Be3

9.Bb2 a5 10.b5 Na7 11.a4



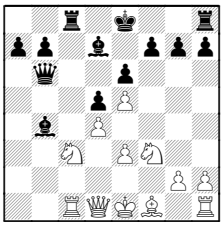
11...Bb4+ 12.Nbd2

9...Bd7 10.Nc3 Rc8 11.Rc1



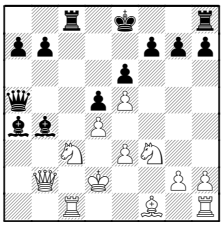
11...Nxb4 12.axb4 Bxb4

Black should play: 12...Nxe3 13.fxe3 Bxb4



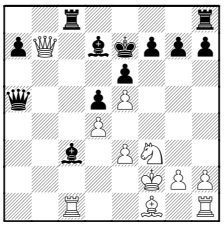
14.Qb3 Qa5 15.Kf2

If 15.Kd2 Ba4 16.Qb2



16...0–0 17.Bd3 Rc7–+ with a large advantage to Black.

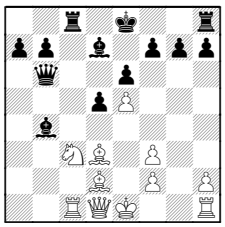
15...Bxc3 16.Qxb7 Ke7



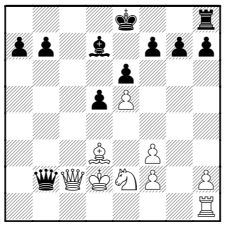
with advantage Black.

13.Qd3

13.Bd2 Nxd4 14.Bd3 Nxf3+ 15.gxf3

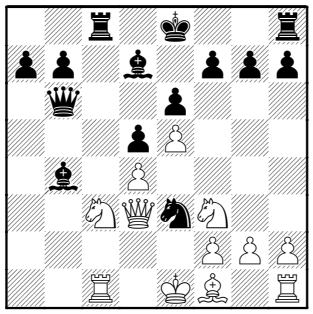


15...Qd4 16.Ne2 Bxd2+ 17.Kxd2 Qb2+ 18.Rc2 Rxc2+ 19.Qxc2



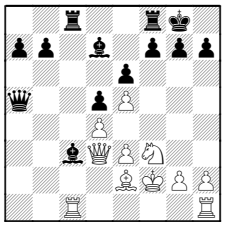
19...Qxe5 20.f4 Qf6 21.Rb1 Bc6=

13...Nxe3

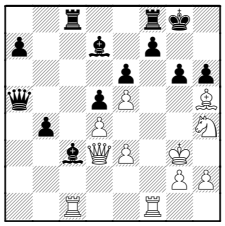


14.Qxe3

14.fxe3 Qa5 15.Kf2 Bxc3 16.Be2 0–0

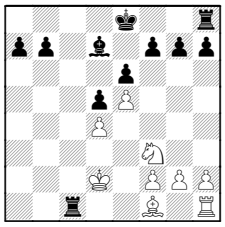


17.Kg3 h6 18.Rhf1 b5 19.Nh4 b4 20.Bh5 g6

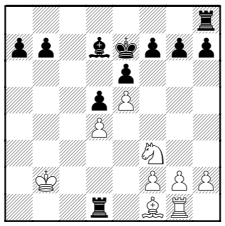


14...Qa5

14...Bxc3+ 15.Rxc3 Qb1+ 16.Qc1 Qxc1+ 17.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 18.Kd2



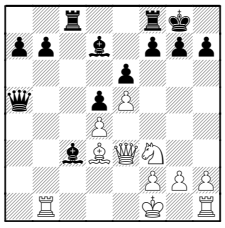
18...Ra1 19.Kc3 Ke7 20.Kb2 Rd1 21.Rg1



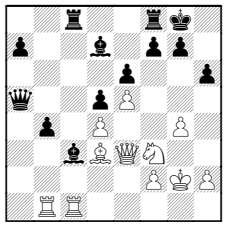
21...Rc8 22.g4 a5–+

15.Kd2

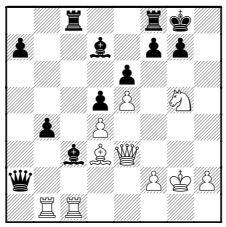
15.Bd3 Bxc3+ 16.Kf1 0–0 17.Rb1



17...b5 18.g4 b4 19.Kg2 h6 20.Rhc1

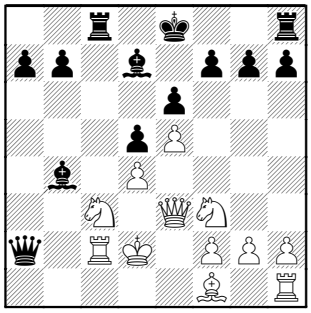


20...Qa2 21.g5 hxg5 22.Nxg5



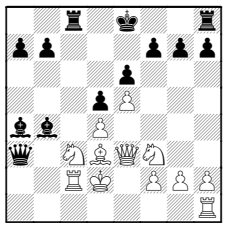
22...g6 23.Qh3 with a mate in 5 for White.

15...Qa2+ 16.Rc2

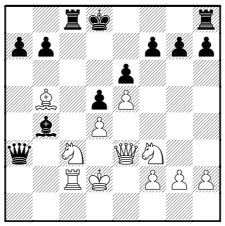


16...Qa1

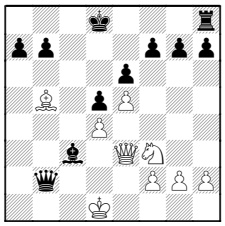
16...Qa3 17.Bd3 Ba4



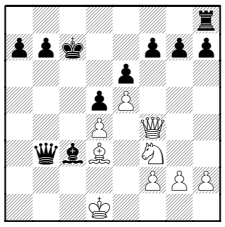
18.Rhc1 Bxc2 19.Bb5+ Kd8 20.Rxc2



20...Rxc3 21.Rxc3 Qb2+ 22.Kd1 Bxc3

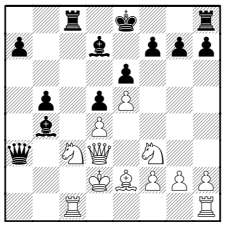


23.Bd3 Kc7 24.Qf4 Qb3+–+

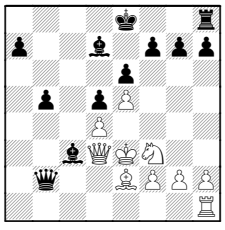


17.Rc1

17.Qd3 b5 18.Rc1 Qa3 19.Be2

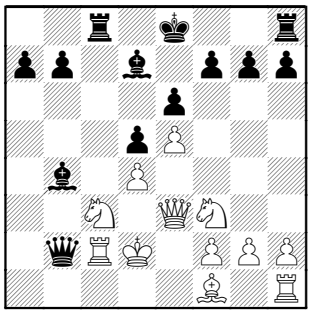


19...Rxc3 20.Rxc3 Qb2+ 21.Ke3 Bxc3



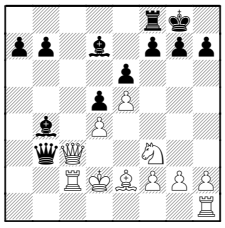
22.Rb1 Qa2 23.Kf4 0–0–+

17...Qb2+ 18.Rc2

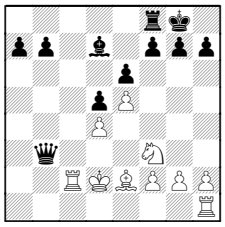


18...Qa1

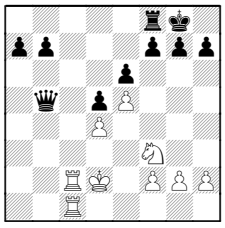
18...Qb3 19.Be2 Rxc3 20.Qxc3 0–0



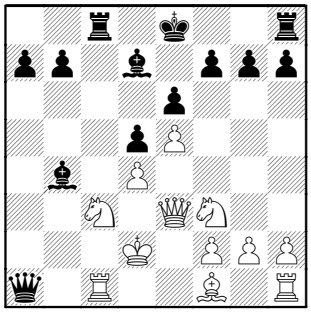
21.Qxb4 Qxb4+ 22.Ke3 Qb3+ 23.Kd2



23...Bb5 24.Bxb5 Qxb5 25.Rhc1–+

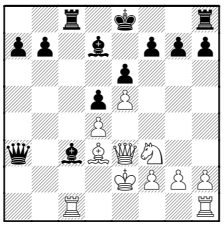


19.Rc1

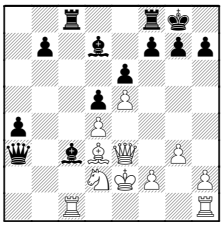


The game was **Drawn** here. Turning Point - Black has a large advantage here. I don't know what the time or match situation was, but it appears that Black should continue to play. A possible continuation.

19...Qa3 20.Bd3 Bxc3+ 21.Ke2



21...0–0 22.Nd2 a5 23.g3 a4



and Black has a nice game.

½–½

Festive Season Superstitions

Origins: Christmas is a holiday steeped in superstition and folk belief. Almost every tradition we unthinkingly observe during the festive season has its roots in long-ago times, a fact we're comfortably though vaguely aware of even though very few of us modern fellows have any idea of the whys of our symbols and rituals. We know to erect a Christmas tree, for instance, but we don't know why we're supposed to, other than it looks good in our living room and gives us a place to leave presents under. We know we're supposed to kiss under mistletoe, but we don't know why, and we harbor a vague sense of wanting to give something to carolers who come to our door, but offhand can't think of any reason to other than ordinary hospitality.

We have to step far back into the past to locate the origins of many of our Christmas customs. In long-ago times when winter snows and cold cloaked the earth, people would again gather around central hearths. Though summer, spring, and fall brought a spreading out of a community, winter brought it back together, with communal feasting and living again becoming the norm. The dark months were cold and inhospitable months, best shared in the company of others within a circle of both physical and societal warmth.

People didn't gather back together just because it was warm and cheery inside — they did so because it was cold and dangerous outside. The dark months were scary months, a time when everyone knew evil forces were lurking just out of sight. The winter solstice (December 21) was seen as an especially vulnerable time, with the fabric drawn between our world and the world of malicious spirits becoming rent, allowing the harmful ones to slip through to perhaps claim a victim or two. Though the bad things were around all winter, at this particular juncture, they were said to be out in force.

It became custom to hold a loud, cheery celebration at that time, in hope that the din would convince the lurking evil that there were just too many humans gathered in this one place to take on. Charms and rituals became part of the tradition surrounding this party as a further way of protecting loved ones from evil. Divination rituals further became worked into the fabric of things because the fragility of the curtain between the two worlds might allow for a glimpse from this side into the wonders of that which would be — chances were if those holes were letting evil spirits through, we might be able to peep back through them to see into their world and learn something from it.

The stage is now set for an understanding of our various Christmas customs and symbols from the vantage point of superstition.

Decking the Halls: Evergreens are symbolic of enduring and renewed life, which is why we decorate our homes with them at Christmastime. The fetching in of green branches is a magical rite to ensure the return of vegetation at winter's end. Our modern day Christmas tree is the centerpiece of this belief.

Although these days when we think of decking the halls only Christmas trees, holly, and mistletoe come to mind, our ancestors decorated their homes with all those, plus ivy, rosemary, bay, laurel, and anything else that still showed green. Our choices have become standardized in a way theirs didn't because we modern types observe the ritual without understanding what underpins it whereas our distant forefathers didn't lose sight of the concept that a plant's greenness was what counted.

By tradition, Christmas decorations should not be erected prior to Christmas Eve, lest this visible proof of anticipation of a festival anger capricious forces. Evergreens especially (and that includes your tree) should not be brought into the house before this time. Comfort should therefore be drawn from the knowledge that greedy merchants who put up their Christmas finery in early November daily court the malicious attentions of evil spirits.

Holly is celebrated in lore for its protective powers, being said to be especially effective against witches and lightning. The bush itself should be treated with great reverence, and lore is full of tales about those fool enough to cut down a holly bush or to use its leaves to clean out a chimney. Holly is seen as a masculine plant and ivy a feminine one, leading to them being united at Christmastime.

Care should be taken as to which sort of holly is brought into the house first on Christmas Day because who wears the pants in that home in the upcoming year will depend on that. Prickly holly indicates the man will hold sway, but the smooth sort guarantees the wife will reign. Prudent couples take care to bring both kinds in together to assure a balanced and harmonious home.

Like holly, mistletoe is presumed a powerful charm against witches and lightning. At times it's also been said to be a cure for poison, epilepsy, barrenness, and whooping cough. Mistletoe is consequently left hanging in the home year-round, with the old, dried-out bit not taken down until another festive season has come and fresh mistletoe is hung to replace it.

Division exists between those who say mistletoe must not be brought into the house before New Year's Eve and those who believe it must be part of the greenery brought in Christmas morn. What all agree on, however, is the custom of kissing under it. Traditionally, a man may take a kiss from a girl standing under the sprig, but only if he plucks a berry from the plant and presents it to her with each kiss. Once the berries are gone, so's the kissing.

The berry-plucking aspect of the tradition may have something to do with mistletoe's rumored powers in matters of conception. Ladies looking to conceive are advised to carry a sprig of mistletoe with them. Perhaps then, the swain who kisses and then presents a berry from this plant to his lady-love is symbolically offering to get her with child.

One mistletoe love charm ritual tends to bear that theory out: The bussed lass takes the berry and a leaf from the sprig to her room, *swallows the berry*, pricks the initials of the man she longs for in the leaf, and sews the leaf into her corset where it will rest near her heart and thus bind his love to her for as long the leaf remains. (Not that swallowing a mistletoe berry would be all that good an idea, love charm or not, as the plant is poisonous.)

Mistletoe and husband divination also go hand in hand, with unmarried women told to swipe sprigs of the plant from church decorations, and hide them in their pillows to bring on dreams of their future husbands. Unmarried girls would also supervise the burning of old mistletoe to see how it went — steady flames were good signs, but spluttering ones foretold cross and bad-tempered husbands.

Ivy, oddly enough, is usually considered a bad luck magnet when brought into a home. (Growing on the sides of a house is just fine though; it's then considered protective.) According to superstition, ivy should never be brought as a gift to anyone ill, and of course all ivy must be removed from the home of anyone under the weather. During the holiday season, however, holly and ivy are "reunited" under one roof as male and female are symbolically brought together again. Perhaps holly's power counteracts ivy's influence.

Ivy's ill health aspects come into play in the prognostication rites associated with it. An ivy leaf left in a bowl of water on New Year's Eve will on Twelfth Night Eve reveal the state of the questioner's upcoming year. If the ivy is still fresh

and green, a good year is expected. But woe to the questioner if black spots appear on the sprig — they signify ill health, possibly even death!

The preponderance of superstition says holly, ivy, and the Christmas tree itself should be disposed of by burning. (Custom in some areas runs the other way, strongly insisting these decorations at all costs not be set on fire.) Some say the ritual burning should take place on Candlemas Eve (1 February), others on Twelfth Night or the day following it, and still others say the dried out evergreens should be used in the Shrove Tuesday fire to help the pancakes along. In yet other areas, the greenery — especially the ivy — are to be fed to the cattle.

However they are disposed of, disposed of they must be, lest a death in the family be risked. Some say for every dropped pine needle left in the house after the tree is gone a goblin you will encounter. For others the belief runs even stronger, with a forgotten needle or berry in someone's house or church pew presaging the death of that person within the year.

Evergreens brought home from the church are said to be especially lucky, and should be hung in the house and remain up all year to bring good fortune.

Fire and Light: Tradition and rituals surrounding the Yule log are so numerous that we deemed the subject merited its own page. In a nutshell, the log must not be bought and must be kept burning all night.

Christmas candles are similarly to be left burning until Christmas morning and should rest undisturbed from time of lighting until they are snuffed.

Look to the shadows cast by those gathered round the fire on Christmas night — if any of these shades appears to lack a head, that person will die within the year.

Difficulty lighting the fire on Christmas Day is particularly unwelcome as this presages a bad year ahead.

Food: Christmas cakes were usually eaten on Christmas Eve in the 19th century, though it was deemed most unlucky to cut into one (or any Christmas foodstuff) before that day dawned. A portion also had to be preserved until Christmas Day itself — it wouldn't at all do to wolf the whole thing down.

As many mince pies as you sample at different houses during the festive season, so you will have happy months in the year to come. Mince pies must not be cut, however, lest you "cut your luck." None must be eaten before Christmas Eve nor after Twelfth Night.

If Christmas pudding is on the menu, then all present must take part in stirring it if the household is to prosper. Traditionally, one has to stir the mixture at least three times, seeing the bottom of the pot each time. Even tiny babies take their turn, with parents guiding a little one's hand on the spoon. Unmarried girls who forget to give the pudding its requisite stirs might as well forget about finding husbands in the upcoming year.

It's customary to make a wish while stirring the pudding. In common with those made on stars, such wishes are kept secret until they come true; to speak them to anyone else is to jinx them. Into the pudding are dropped a silver coin, a thimble, and a ring. He who is served the coin finds luck, he who retrieves the thimble brings himself prosperity, and he who comes up with the ring hastens a wedding in his family (perhaps even his own).

Those interested in divination might try their hand at making a dumb cake at midnight on Christmas Eve. Prepared in complete silence by one or more, this concoction of flour, water, eggs, and salt is placed on the hearthstone with the upper surface of the cake pricked with the initials of one of those present. Provided the silence is unbroken, the future partner of the person indicated on the cake will appear and similarly prick his or her initials onto the cake. In

some regions it is instead stipulated that a petitioner must walk backwards to her bed after eating the cooked cake, there to dream of her future spouse.

Letting Christmas In: The doors of a home used to be flung open at midnight on Christmas Eve to let out any trapped evil spirits. A Christmas candle was customarily left burning in the window all night to guarantee the household's good luck in the coming year. (That candle going out while everyone slept was deemed a terribly bad sign.)

The first member of the household to open the door on Christmas morning might well shout, "Welcome, Old Father Christmas!" to the empty street. In other homes, one might be expected to sweep the threshold with a broom to clear it of "trouble."

Particularly good fortune will attach to the household if the first visitor that day happens to be a dark-haired man. In common with New Year's "first foot" beliefs, the arrival of a red-haired man is a bad omen, and it's utter catastrophe if the first foot is a woman. Though under some circumstances a red-haired man might be allowed to serve as the first foot (it's getting dark and no one else has come), one bars the door against a woman.

First foots (also known as "lucky birds," "lucky bods," or "first comers") who bring evergreens (especially holly) or coal are prized for their thoughtfulness. When the first foot is a man, he should be welcomed with a drink and perhaps a bite to eat. A boy, however, should be given a coin or two. First foots often kiss all the women in the house.

Caroling: It is hugely unlucky to send carolers away empty-handed, no matter how badly they sing. One might be a king in disguise, after all. Offer food, a drink, or a bit of money.

Singing carols at any time other than during the festive season is unlucky.

Contrary to what has come to be popular belief, wassailing has nothing to do with singing carols at people's houses and then getting drunk with the home's occupants. Wassailing is the custom of honoring one's livestock and crops during the Christmas season in hope that this salute will increase yield in the coming year. Toasts are drunk to corn, cows, and fruit trees. Celebratory fires are lit in fields and cider drunk in barns and orchards while men shoot guns into the air to scare off evil spirits. A plum pudding might well be stuck on a cow's horn and the beast frightened into running until it tosses the pudding; if the pudding falls forward, a good harvest is predicted, but if it falls backwards, the harvest will be poor.

In parts of Scotland, the sea is similarly honored, with ale poured into the waves in hope this would entice the deep to yield up her fishes in the coming year.

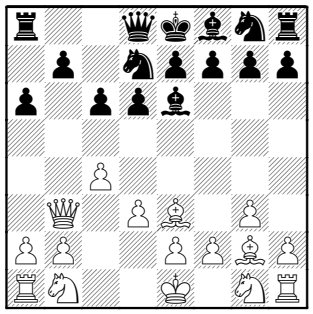
Presents: Stockings are hung by the chimney in remembrance of the largesse of St. Nicholas. Out of compassion he was said to have tossed three coins down the chimney of the home of three poor sisters. Each coin fell neatly into stockings left drying by the hearth. We therefore leave our stocking out in hopes that a similar bit of good fortune will befall us.

Animals: Farm animals are said to kneel in homage to Christ at the stroke of midnight on Christmas Eve at which time they are momentarily blessed with the power of speech. Other versions of this belief limit the gift of gab to cats. Woe to any human who overhears their conversation though — such eavesdropping is fatal!
Dogs that howl on Christmas Eve are fated to go mad before the end of the year. Many otherwise healthy animals were formerly destroyed on these grounds.

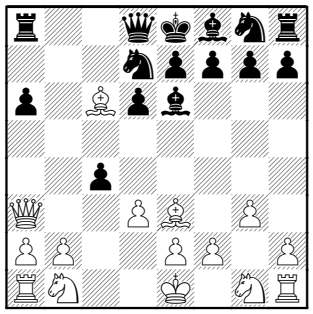
Work: It is unlucky to toil at tasks other than those that must be done (such as feeding livestock) on Christmas Day. This day is deemed too holy to be despoiled with ordinary work.

Yalavarthi,Rama (1668) - Ramanathan,N (1307) [A10]
09-18-2008

1.c4 d6 2.g3 Be6 3.Bg2 c6 4.d3 Nd7 5.Be3 a6 6.Qb3



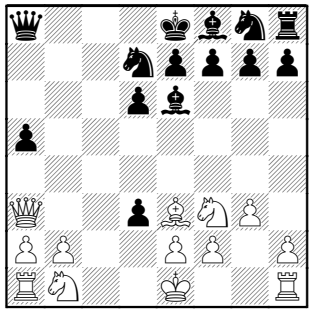
6...b5 7.Bxc6 bxc4 8.Qa3



8...a5

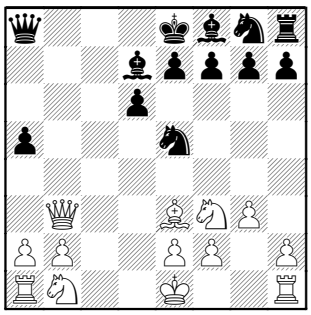
The weakness of the light squares appears to give compensation for the exchange, but watch what happens !

9.Bxa8 Qxa8 10.Nf3 cxd3



11.Qxd3
[11.exd3? Qxf3 12.0–0 Bd5]

11...Ne5 12.Qb5+ Bd7 13.Qb3

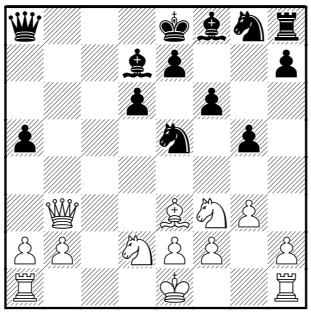


13...f6 Now Black threatens Nxf3+,Qxf3

13...Nxf3+? 14.exf3 *(14.Kf1?? Bh3#)* 14...Qxf3? 15.Qb8+ *(15.0–0?? Bc6* idea Qg2#/Qh1#*)*

More natural is 13...e6 but Black wants to use his extra Bishop aggressively at h3

14.Nbd2 g5

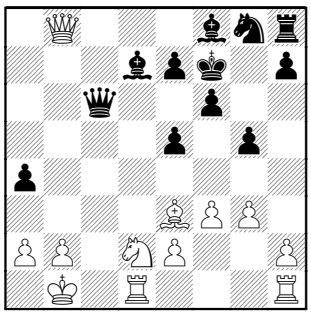


Continuing the plan, but his Kingside pieces are a long way from helping. Not what you want when you're also down material.

15.0–0–0 Yea, and White's King doesn't have to walk into the loose Kingside area.

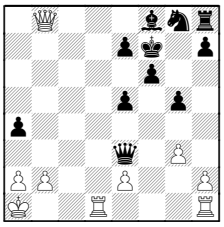
15...Qc6+ This is not a good square for the Queen. Black needs development to get his extra minor involved.

16.Kb1 a4 17.Qb8+ Kf7 18.Nxe5+ dxe5 19.f3



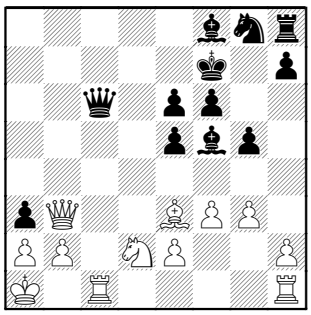
19...Bf5+ 20.Ka1

[20.Ne4 Bxe4+ 21.fxe4 Qxe4+ 22.Ka1 Qxe3

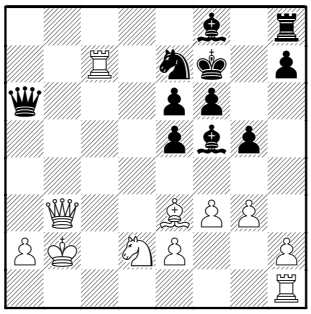


23.Rd8 probably wins the piece back, but I prefer the game's plan]

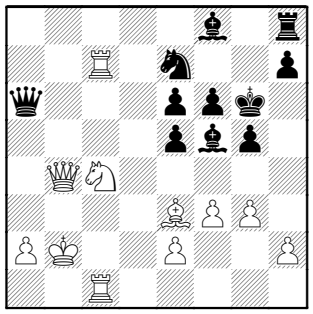
20...a3 21.Qb3+ e6 [21...Be6 22.Qxa3] **22.Rc1**



22...axb2+ 23.Kxb2 Qa6 24.Rc7+ Ne7



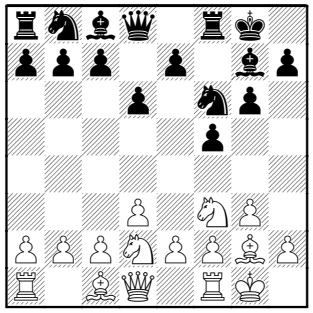
25.Nc4 Bh6 26.Qb4 Bf8 [26...Re8 27.Nd6+] **27.Rc1 Kg6**



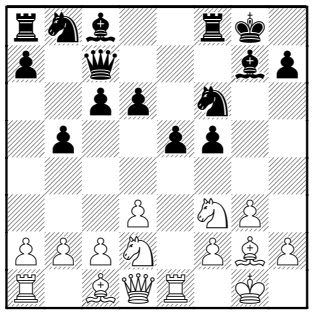
28.Ra7 Nd5 29.Qb3 Nxe3 30.Rxa6 1–0

Kuhlmann,S (1385) – Dugovic,Dan (1732) [A04]
09-18-2008

1.Nf3 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.d3 Bg7 5.Nbd2 d6 6.0–0 0–0



7.Re1 c6 8.e4 e5 9.exf5 Trading only increases Black's central control
9...gxf5 10.Nc4 b5 11.Ncd2 Qc7



12.h4 GMs play such moves, but here it looks too loosening to me.

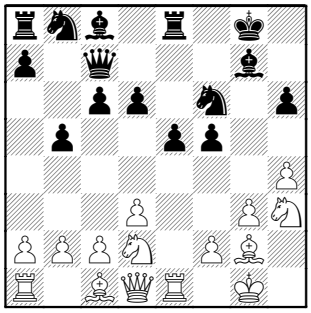
It's hard to find an active move for White. Maybe 12.c3 threatens a2-a4 (with or without Qb3). If Black plays Bc8-e6, White's a2-a4 may loosen the h1–a8 diagonal.

12...Re8

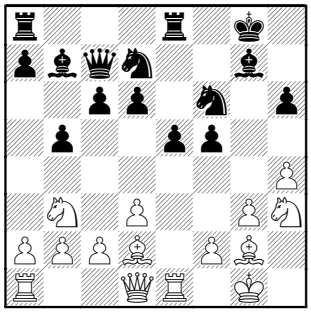
12...Ng4 idea f5-f4 starts harping on the King, including the f2 square.; But Black has such a wonderful hold on most of the board, he has time to get his other pieces toward the attack.

12...Nbd7 is another natural move

13.Ng5 h6 14.Nh3



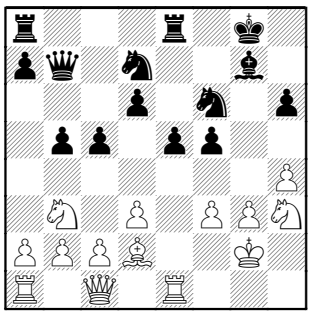
14...Nbd7 15.Nb3 Bb7 16.Bd2



16...c5

16...Rad8 idea d5,c5-4 looks promising

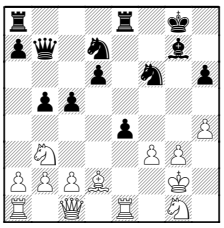
17.Qc1 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Qb7+ 19.f3



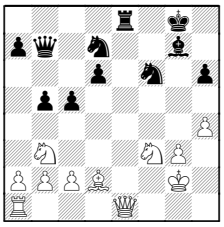
idea Bxh6 **19...e4 20.fxe4**

A) 20.Bxh6? exf3+ 21.Kg1 Rxe1+ 22.Qxe1 Bxh6

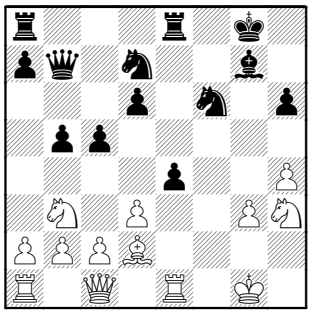
B) 20.dxe4 fxe4 21.Ng1



(21.f4? e3+) 21...exf3+ 22.Nxf3 Rxe1 23.Qxe1 Re8



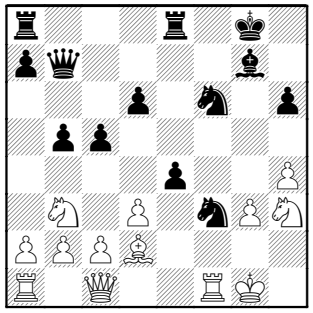
20...fxe4 21.Kg1



21...Ne5 idea Nf3+ forking so White

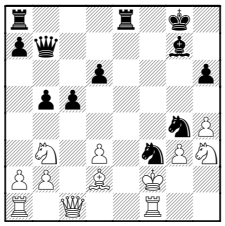
still doesn't have time for Bxh6

22.Rf1 Nf3+



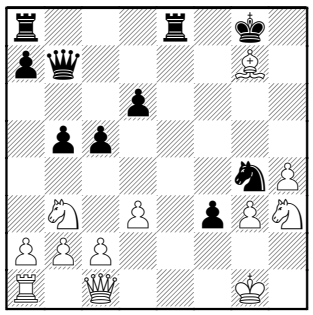
23.Rxf3

23.Kf2 exd3 idea Re2+ 24.cxd3 Ng4+



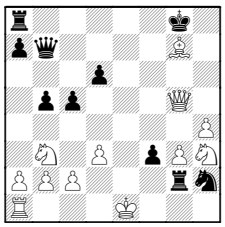
25.Kg2 Nxd2+ 26.Kg1 Nf3+

23...exf3 24.Bxh6 Ng4 25.Bxg7



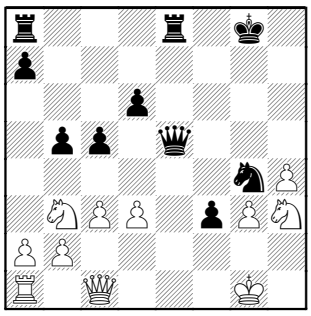
25...Qxg7

25...Re2 26.Qg5 Rg2+ 27.Kf1 Nh2+ 28.Ke1



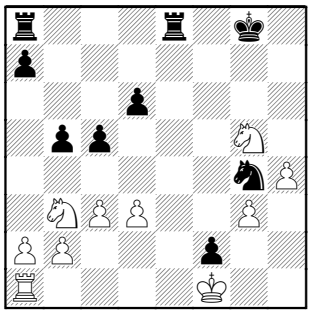
28...Re8+? 29.Be5+

26.c3 Qe5



hitting the g3 weakness -- remember 12. h4 ?

27.Qg5+ Qxg5 28.Nxg5 f2+ 29.Kf1



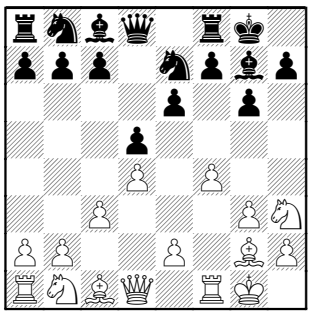
29...Re3 30.Nh3 Rxg3 0–1

Van Meer,John (1941) - Hughes,Norm (1641) **[A00]**
UOP-Forks, 10-15-2008

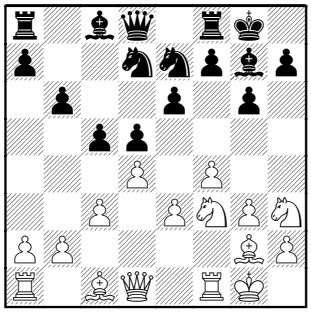
1.Nh3

John's trademark is unusual starts.

1...g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 e6 4.f4 Ne7 5.0–0 0–0 6.d4 d5 7.c3



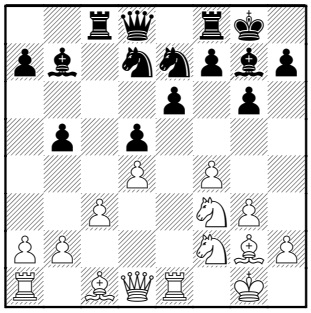
7...Nd7 8.Nd2 c5 9.e3 b6 10.Nf3



10...Bb7

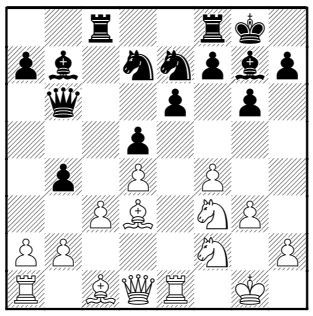
10...Ba6 puts Bishop on its best line, but it's also unprotected there

11.Nf2 Rc8 12.Re1 cxd4 13.exd4 b5

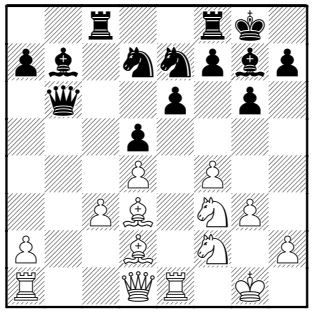


I enjoyed the way Black is quickly building some pressure.

14.Bf1 Qb6 15.Bd3 b4



16.Bd2 bxc3 17.bxc3



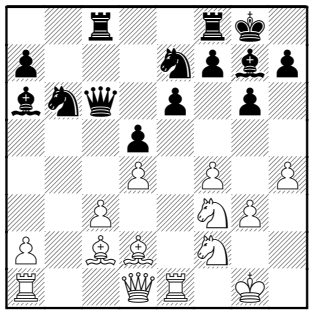
Black has made a target and immediately camps-out on it.

17...Qc6 Leading with the Queen is probably the wrong idea.

A) 17...Nc6 idea Na5, locking the c4 square could work.

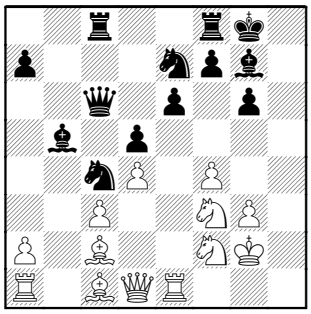
B) 17...Rc7 allowing the other Rook access to c8 or b8 is another way to build

18.h4 Ba6 19.Bc2 Nb6

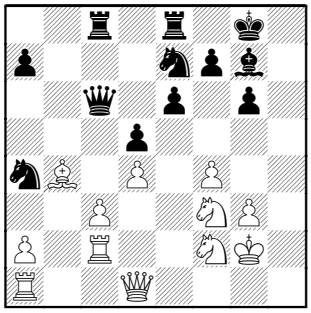


Continuing his focus on the weak squares. If he can get the other Knight posted there, he has a distinct advantage.

20.h5 Nc4 21.Bc1 Bb5 22.hxg6 hxg6 23.Kg2



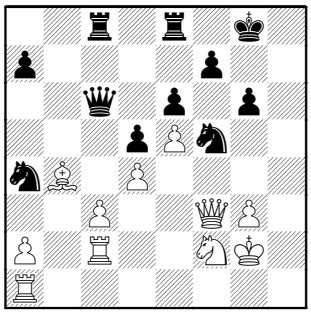
23...Nb6 24.Ba3 Rfe8 25.Bb4 Ba4 26.Re2 Bxc2 27.Rxc2 Na4



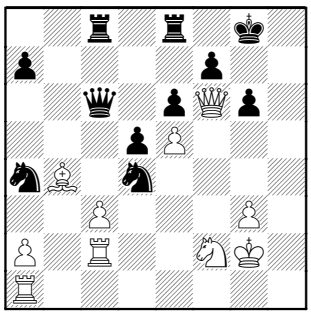
28.Ne5 Bxe5 29.fxe5

Black's Bishop wasn't doing much, but now that it's gone, his King position looks a little airy. I wasn't aware of it watching live, but the h-file in combination with another piece could put the hurt to the monarch.

29...Nf5 30.Qf3



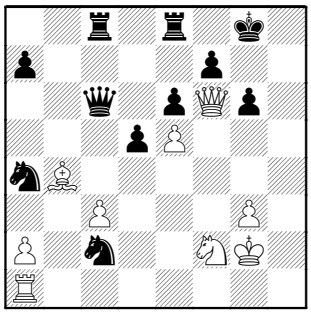
seems to drop an exchange
30...Nxd4 31.Qf6



idea Rh1–h8#

31...Nf5 Black saw the mate threat, but not sure how this solves it.

But there was a way! 31...Nxc2!



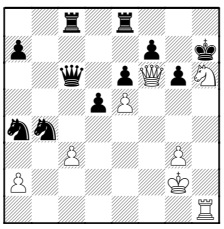
actually survives, as the players discussed directly after the game. But the direct line is bad, as we'll see several times—

A) I only saw 32.Ng4 and thought Black only has to look out for a draw Black can stop the pain with 32...Rc7

A1) 32...Nxb4 33.Nh6+

(33.Rh1 still threatens mate *33...d4+ 34.Kg1 Qxh1+ 35.Kxh1 Nxc3 36.Nh6+* is forced, and similar*)*

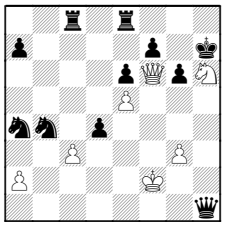
33...Kh7 *(33...Kf8?? 34.Qxf7#)* but Black still can sac Queen: 34.Rh1



Actually, I never saw Rh1, so was looking at draws after 34.Qxf7+:

A11) 34.. Kxh6 35.Qf4+ g5 *(35...Kh7 36.Qf7+ Kh8 37.Qf6+; 35...Kg7 36.Qf6+ Kg8 37.Qxg6+)* 36.Qf6+)

A12) 34...d4+ 35.Kf2 *(35.Kg1 Qxh1+ 36.Kxh1 Kxh6)* 35...Qxh1



36.Qxf7+
(36.Nxf7 idea Ng5+,Qf7+ drawing *36... Rf8!* White is history !! *37.Ng5+ Kg8)*

36...Kxh6 37.Qf4+ Kh5 and the checks are over

A2) 32...Nxa1 33.Nh6+ Kh7 34.Qxf7+ Kxh6 35.Qf4+ and the same draw we examined earlier

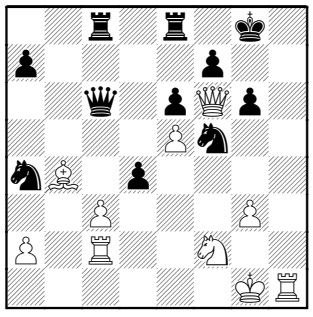
A3) 32...d4+ forces the King into the Rook's path ! 33.Nh6+ Kh7 34.Rh1 d4+ wins as always)

So the direct way, our main choice,
B) 32.Rh1 idea Rh8# 32...d4+

(32...Ne3+ 33.Kg1 Nxc3 34.Rh8#)

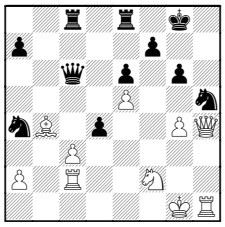
33.Kg1 Qxh1+ 34.Kxh1 Nxc3 35.Ng4 Rc7 36.Nh6+ Kh7 and Black is fine !

32.Rh1 d4+ 33.Kg1



BLACK RESIGNED -- An amazing turnaround !

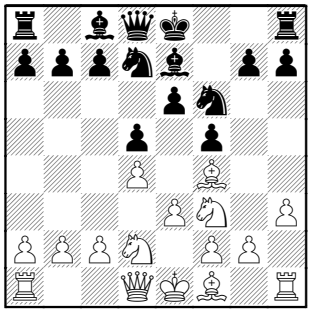
33...Ng7 34.Qh4 Nh5 35.g4



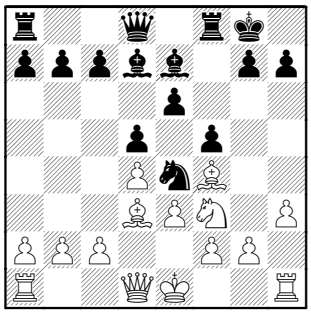
35...Qf3 [35...Qd5 36.gxh5 Qxe5 37.hxg6 Qg7 38.Qh7+ Qxh7 39.gxh7+ Kg7] **36.gxh5 Qxh5 37.Qf6 1–0**

Baurac,Dave (1786) – Weber,Len (2100) **[D00]**
Rooks-Pawns, 10-21-2008

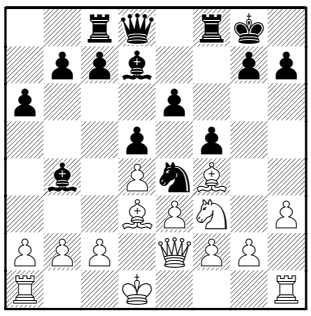
1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nd7 3.e3 f5 4.Nf3 Ngf6 5.h3 e6 6.Nbd2 Be7



7.Ne5 0–0 8.Ndf3 Ne4 9.Nxd7 Bxd7 10.Bd3



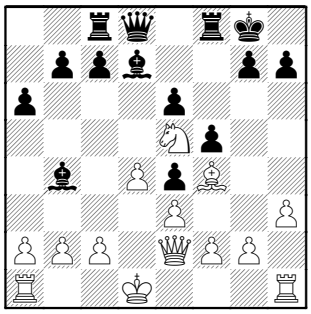
10...a6 11.Qe2 Bb4+ 12.Kd1 [12.c3? Nxc3 13.bxc3 Bxc3+] **12...Rc8**



13.Bxe4

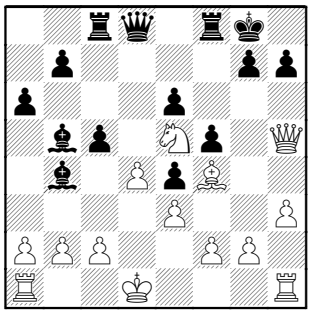
13.c3? Bxc3 14.Bxe4 *(14.bxc3 Nxc3+)* 14...fxe4 15.Ne5 Ba5

13...dxe4 14.Ne5

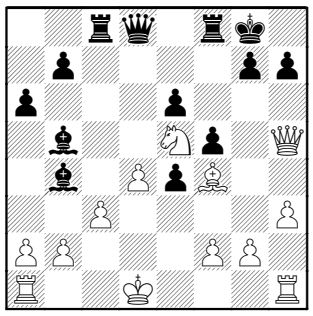


14...Bb5 pretty picture of the Bishop pair in action !

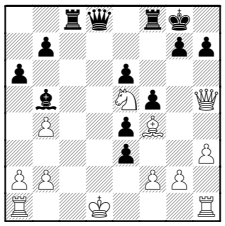
15.Qh5 c5!



16.c3 cxd4 17.exd4



17.cxb4 dxe3+

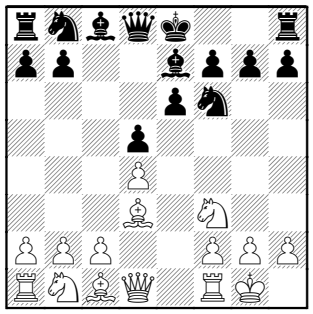


18.Ke1 Qd2#

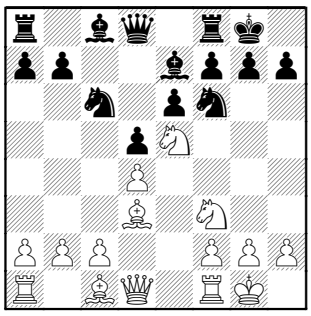
17...Rxc3 idea Qxd4+ **0–1**

Reid,Carl (1455) – Babinec,Joe (1383) [A46]
Excaliburs-Knights, 10-20-2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5 4.Bd3 cxd4 5.exd4 d5 6.0–0 Be7



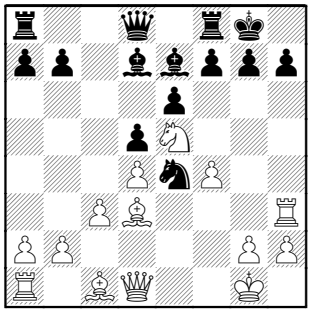
7.Nbd2 0–0 8.Ne5 Nc6 9.Ndf3



9...Nxe5 10.Nxe5 Nd7 11.f4 Nf6 12.c3

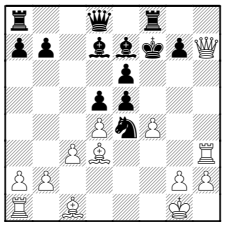
Much the same would be 12.Rf3 Qb6 13.c3

12...Bd7 13.Rf3 Ne4 14.Rh3



14...f6 15.Qh5 h6

15...fxe5? 16.Qxh7+ Kf7

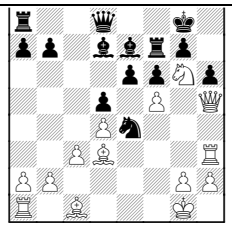


17.fxe5 idea Bh6,Rf1+ *(17.Qh5+=)* 17...Ng5?? 18.Bg6#

16.Ng4

16.Ng6

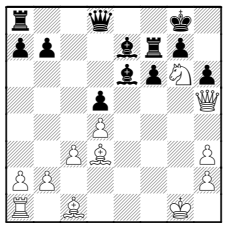
A) 16...Rf7 17.f5



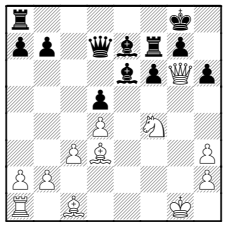
17...Ng5

(17...exf5 18.Bxh6 gxh6 19.Qxh6+-)

18.fxe6 Nxh3+ 19.gxh3 Bxe6



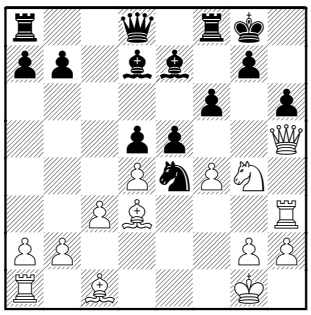
20.Nf4 Qd7 21.Qg6



21...f5 22.Nxe6

B) So better is 16..Be8 17.f5 exf5 18.Qxf5 Bxg6 19.Qxg6 with ideas Rxh6 or Bxh6 or Bxe4,Qxe4

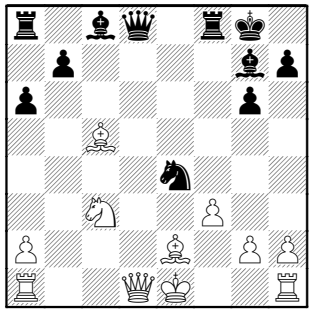
16...e5



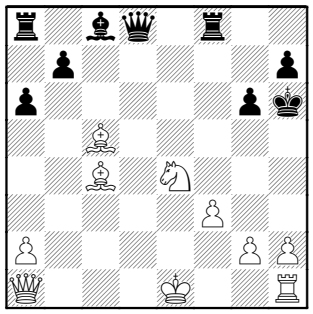
17.Nxh6+ gxh6 18.Qg6+ Kh8 19.Rxh6# 1–0

SOLUTION 1.

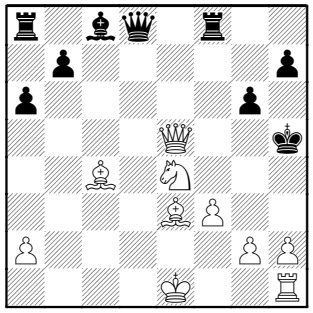
Klug,Steffen - Spiegel,Lenny



17.Nxe4 Bxa1 18.Bc4+ Kg7 19.Qxa1+ Kh6



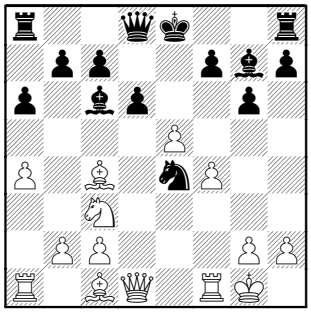
20.Be3+ Kh5 21.Qe5+



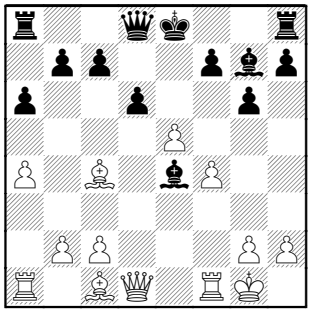
1–0

SOLUTION 2.

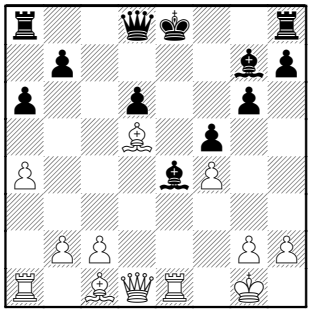
Dugovic,Daniel - Drendel,Brian



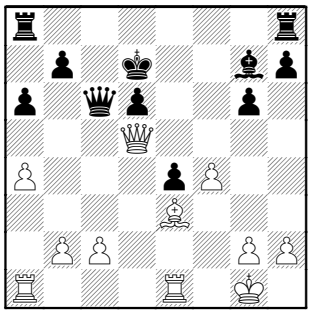
13.Nxe4 Bxe4



14.exd6 cxd6 15.Re1 f5 16.Bd5



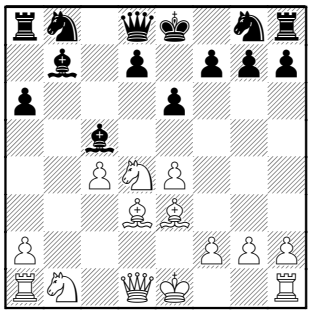
16...Kd7 17.Bxe4 fxe4 18.Qd5 Qb6+ 19.Be3 Qc6



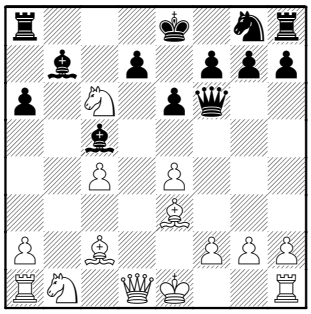
20.Qf7+ Kc8 21.Qxg7 Qe8 22.Bb6 1–0

SOLUTION 3.

Thompson,Derek - Potts,Kevin



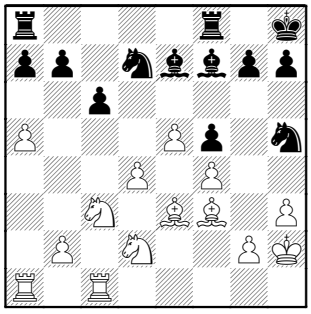
9...Qf6 10.Bc2 Nc6 11.Nxc6



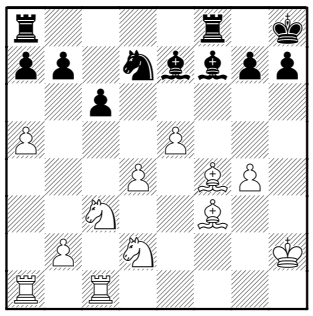
11...Bxe3 12.fxe3 Qxa1 13.Nd4 Qxa2

SOLUTION 4.

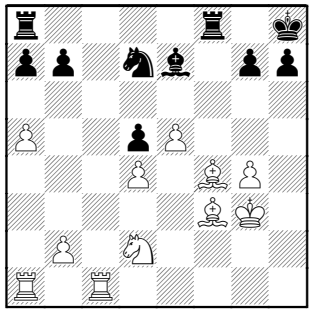
Strunk,Adam - Allen,Hence



23.g4 fxg4 24.hxg4 Nxf4 25.Bxf4

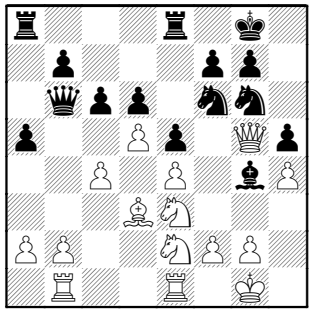


25...Bd5 26.Nxd5 cxd5 27.Kg3



SOLUTION 5.

Eaman,Rob - Strunk,Alex



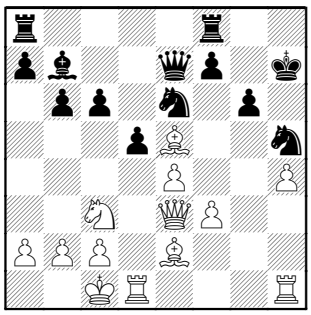
18...Nh7 19.c5 Qa7

19...dxc5 20.Nc4 Qa7 21.Qd2

20.Qxg6 fxg6 21.Nxg4 hxg4 22.dxc6

SOLUTION 6.

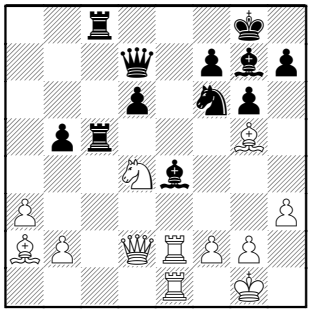
Fulkerson,Rob - Alexander,James



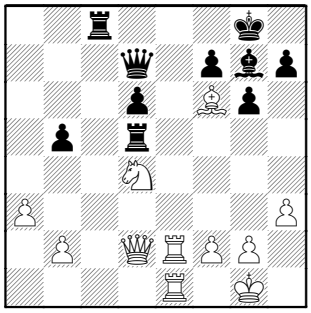
22...f6 23.Bh2 d4 24.Rxd4 Nxd4 25.Qxd4

SOLUTION 7.

Ansari,Naseer - Brotsos,Jim



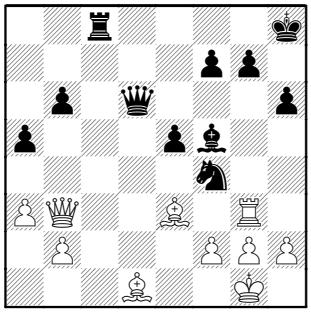
27.Bxf6 Bd5 28.Bxd5 Rxd5



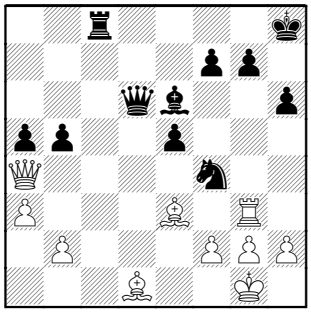
29.Bxg7 Kxg7 30.Qf4 Rc4 31.Rd2 1–0

SOLUTION 8.

Vigants,Al (1579) - Persons,Josh



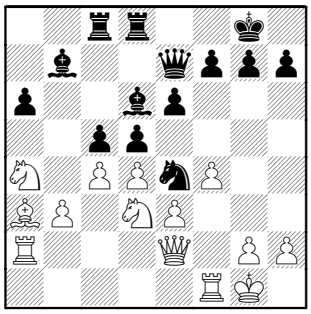
35...Be6 36.Qa4 b5



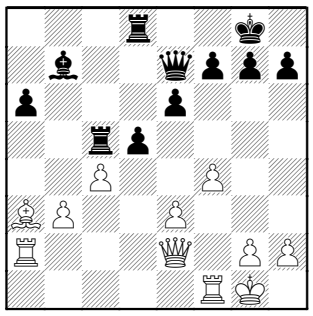
37.Qxb5 Qxd1+ 38.Qf1 Ne2+ 0–1

SOLUTION 9.

Santiago,Teddy - Fridman,Yuri



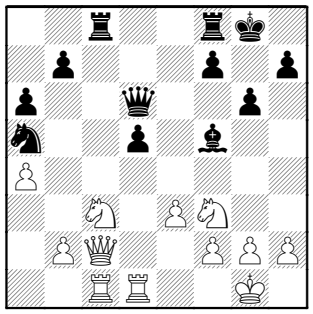
24.dxc5 Nxc5 25.Naxc5 Bxc5 26.Nxc5 Rxc5



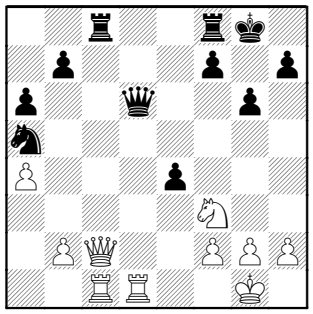
27.Rc2 Rdc8 28.Rfc1

SOLUTION 10.

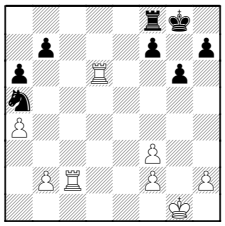
Thomson,Jim - Hamelink,Niels



19.e4 Bxe4 20.Nxe4 dxe4

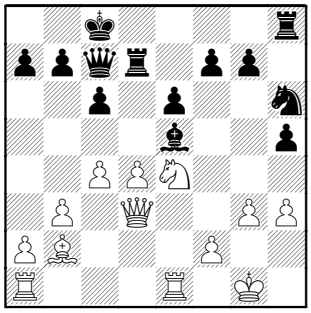


21.Rxd6 Rxc2 22.Rxc2 exf3 23.gxf3



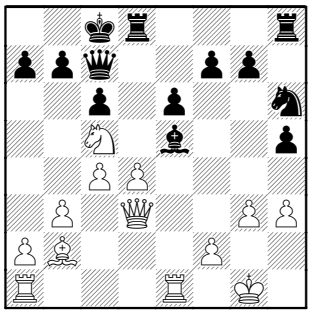
SOLUTION 11.

Hughes,Norm - Balicki,Jeff



Black has just played **19…Rd7.** Looking at it now, seems **19…Bxd4** wins a Pawn. If **20. Bxd4,** then **c6-c5** and **Rxd4**

From diagram, then, **20.Nc5 Rdd8**

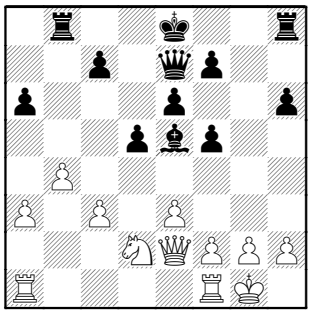


21.Qe3?

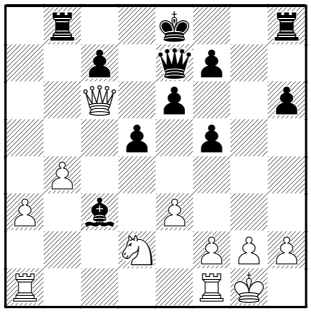
White missed 21.Rxe5+- Qxe5 22.dxe5 Rxd3 23.Nxd3

SOLUTION 12.

Persons,Josh - Duong,Richard



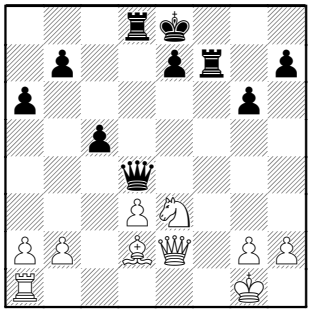
19.Qxa6 Bxc3 20.Qc6+



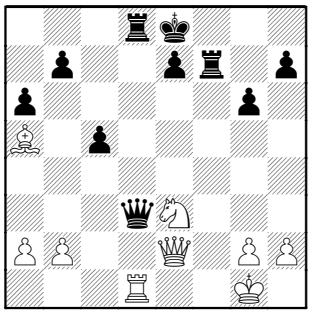
idea Qxc3 **1–0**

SOLUTION 13.

Antipeva,A - Tegel,Frank



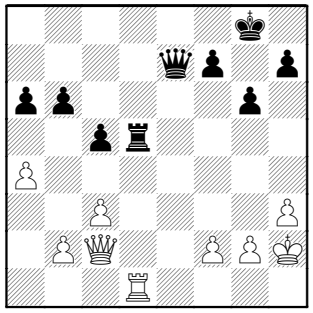
25.Ba5 Qxd3 [25...Rd7 26.Rd1] **26.Rd1!**



26...Qxe3+ 27.Qxe3 Rxd1+ 28.Be1

SOLUTION 14.

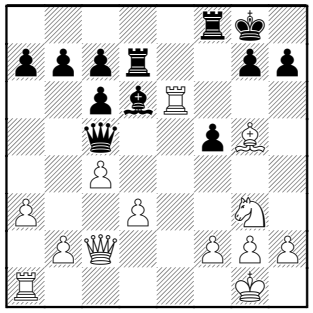
Baurac,D (1799) - Eustace,D (1509)



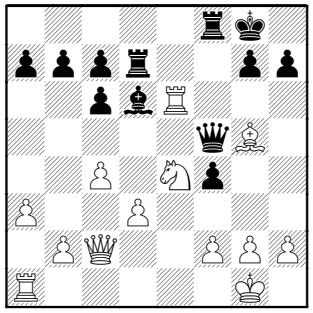
24...Qd6+ 0–1

SOLUTION 15.

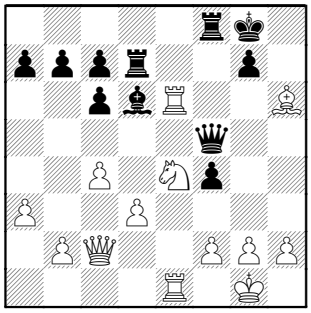
Breyer,Andy - Hlohowskyj,I



17...f4 18.Ne4 Qf5



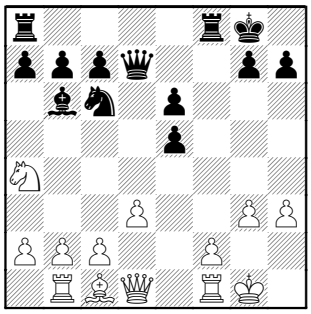
19.Re1 h6 20.Bxh6



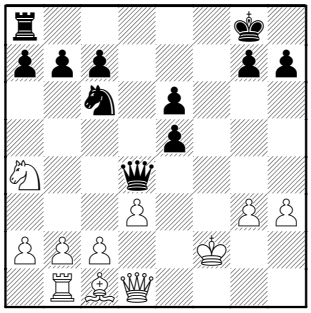
20...Qxe6

SOLUTION 16.

Kuhlmann,S (1385) - Padilla,Rudy



17...Bxf2+ 18.Rxf2 Rxf2 19.Kxf2 Qd4+

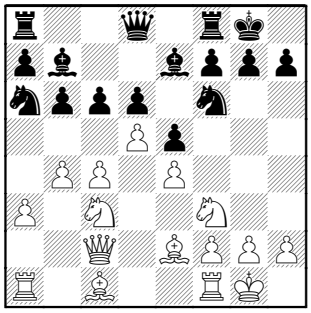


20.Be3 Rf8+ 21.Ke2 Qxa4

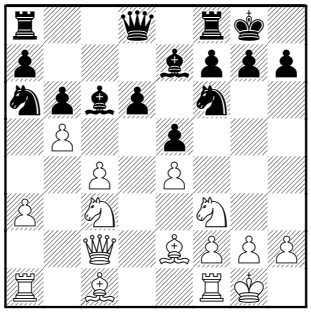
22.a3 Nd4+ 23.Bxd4 Qxd4 24.Qe1 e4 25.b3 exd3+ 26.cxd3 e5 27.b4 e4 28.Rb3 exd3+ 29.Rxd3 Re8+ 0–1

SOLUTION 17.

Marcowka,Bob (1919) - Shehan,Bill



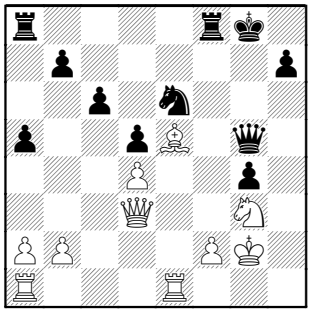
12.dxc6 Bxc6 13.b5



13...Bxe4 14.Nxe4 d5 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Bb2 [16.bxa6 d4 17.Bd3 g6]

SOLUTION 18.

Fridman,Yuri (2213) - Granata,Mike



28...Rf3?

Both sides missed 28...Qxe5! 29.Rxe5 Nf4+ 30.Kf1 Nxd3