

# Chess Advocate



## Epilogue Edition

### Inside This Edition

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Clay Polk, Peter Pritchett & Greg Turner

Chess Problems & Studies by NM Graham Horobetz & FM Alex King

Crossword by David Saks

Article by David Emerling

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# CHess ADVOCATE

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Chess Advocate



Back-Issues

2021: <https://www.chessjournalism.org/2021-cja-award-winners>

2022: <https://www.chessjournalism.org/2022-cja-awards-winners>

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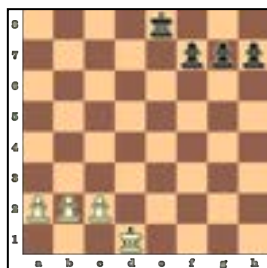


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Wise Club Link(s)



Top Center Front Cover King & Pawn Position – The József Szén Pawn Problem – Either Side to Move & Win



Video Answer



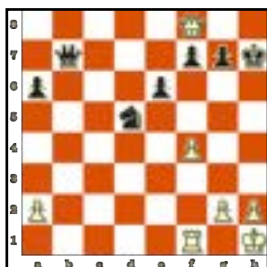
Blog Discussion



Original Print



Cover – Viewer Screen – Peter Pritchett vs Randy Blair – 76th TN Open 2022 – What is a good continuation for Black?  
The answer contains some moves not made during the actual game.



Text Answer



Answer & Game



Event Summary



TN Chess News



## The Annotator's Game with FM Alex King



2022 Peter Lahde Tennessee Open  
Memphis, Tennessee

October 29, 2021, Round 2

White: Sherwood Dong  
Black: FM Alexander King

1.Nf3



This was the second round of the 2022 Tennessee Open, held at the Memphis Chess Club. In the first round I had spoiled a winning position against NM David Justice, and had to settle for a draw by perpetual check. In this second round I faced a high-school Expert from Alabama.

2022 TN Open  
Round 1  
White: FM A. King  
Black NM D. Justice  
1/2-1/2



1...d5 2.g3 c5



3.Bg2 Nc6 4.c4



I was expecting the more common 4.d4,



which can lead to a Catalan or to my pet Tarrasch Defense (which I did get to employ in Round 4). But the text move leads to a reversed Benoni.

2022 TN Open  
Round 4  
White: NM T. McEntee  
Black FM A. King  
1/2-1/2





**4...d4 5.e3 e5 6.ed4 ed4**



I generally go for this symmetrical structure against the Benoni, but a few moves later I found myself frustrated by how solid my opponent's position was.

**7.O-O Nf6 8.d3 Be7**



**9.Re1 O-O 10.Ne5**



It is often useful for the side with less space to trade off a pair of minor pieces, to give his remaining pieces a bit more breathing room.

**10...Ne5 11.Re5 Bd6**



**12.Re1 h6 13.Nd2**



Now I was really starting to get concerned about him playing 14.Ne4 next,



trading off a second pair of minor pieces, after which I was hard-pressed to figure out how I was going to whip up any chances to play for an advantage. I thought for 20 minutes here, and eventually decided to head for a positional pawn sacrifice.

**13...Bg4 14.Qb3** Sidestepping my idea.



**14.Bf3** was what I was expecting,



after which **14...Bf5 15.Bb7 Rb8**



**16.Be4 Ne4 17.Ne4 Be7** was my intended positional pawn sacrifice;



Black has the two bishops and chances to play on White's weakened light squares. After the game I was very proud to see that Stockfish approves of this idea, slightly preferring Black here!

**14...Rb8 15.f3**



I was happy to see this move, as I was starting to envision ways that White might end up with a bad light-squared bishop against either my good light-squared bishop or, even better, my good knight.

## Club Calendar





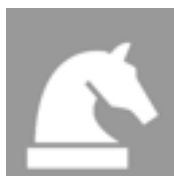
15...Be6 16.a4 Nd7



17.Ne4 Bc7 18.Qa3 Ba5



19.Bd2 Bd2 20.Nd2 Bf5



21.Ne4 Be4 22.fe4?



A huge mistake after which White is positionally lost, with just the bad-bishop-vs-good-knight imbalance I was angling for.

22.de4 was much better,



after which White can follow up with f3-f4 and e4-e5, opening up his bishop and restricting my knight. In that case the game would remain unclear.

22...Ne5



A strong central square from which the knight cannot be dislodged. If White grabs the pawn on c5 then he runs into a fork on d3.

**23.a5 Qd6 24.Red1 a6**



**25.Rab1 b5**



White can capture this pawn either normally or en passant, but in both cases the b-file becomes semi-open and White's remaining pawns will become targets.

**26.b4 cb4 27.Qb4 Qb4?**



A common mistake for me: playing to minimize my own risk but in the process letting my opponent off the hook as well.

27...Qf6 was much stronger,



retaining the queens and eying White's more vulnerable king.

**28.Rb4 bc4 29.Rb8 Rb8**



**30.dc4 d3 31.Bf1!**



White correctly targets Black's strong passed pawn and sets the stage for simplification.



**31...Rb3 32.c5 Ra3**



**33.c6 Ra5 34.Rd3?**



This came as a complete shock to me.

34.c7 was correct;



I was cautiously optimistic about my winning chances in the rook endgame after 34...Rc5 35.Bd3 Nd3



**36.Rd3 Rc7 37.Rd8 Kh7**



**38.Ra8 Rc1 39.Kg2 Ra1** which I analyzed a bit after the game with GM Alex Fishbein.



In our analysis I was consistently demonstrating winning outcomes for Black, but when I got home and turned on the engine, it assured me that the position is objectively drawn.





**34...Nd3 35.Bd3 Rc5**



**36.Ba6 Rc6**



When heading for this simplified position, my opponent probably didn't realize how easy it is for Black to win: I simply attack the e-pawn twice and then take it. If White's e-pawn were back on f2 then the win would require much more technique.

**37.Be2 Rc3**



Cutting off White's king so that it cannot defend e4.

**38.Kf2 Kf8**



**39.h4 Ke7**



**40.h5 Kd6**



**41.Bg4 Ke5**



**42.Bf5 Kd4**



**43.Bh7 Re3**



and White resigned. **0-1**



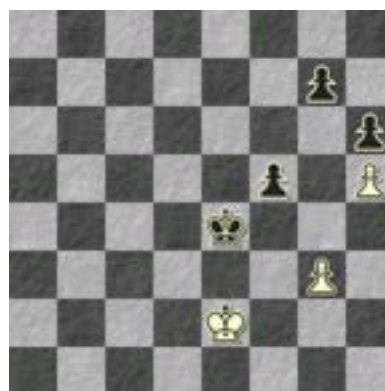
43...Re3 44.Bf5 Re4 simplifies into a winning pawn endgame:



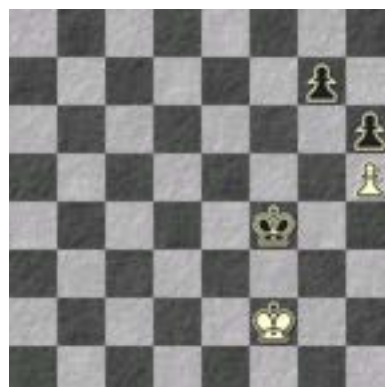
**45.Be4 Ke4**



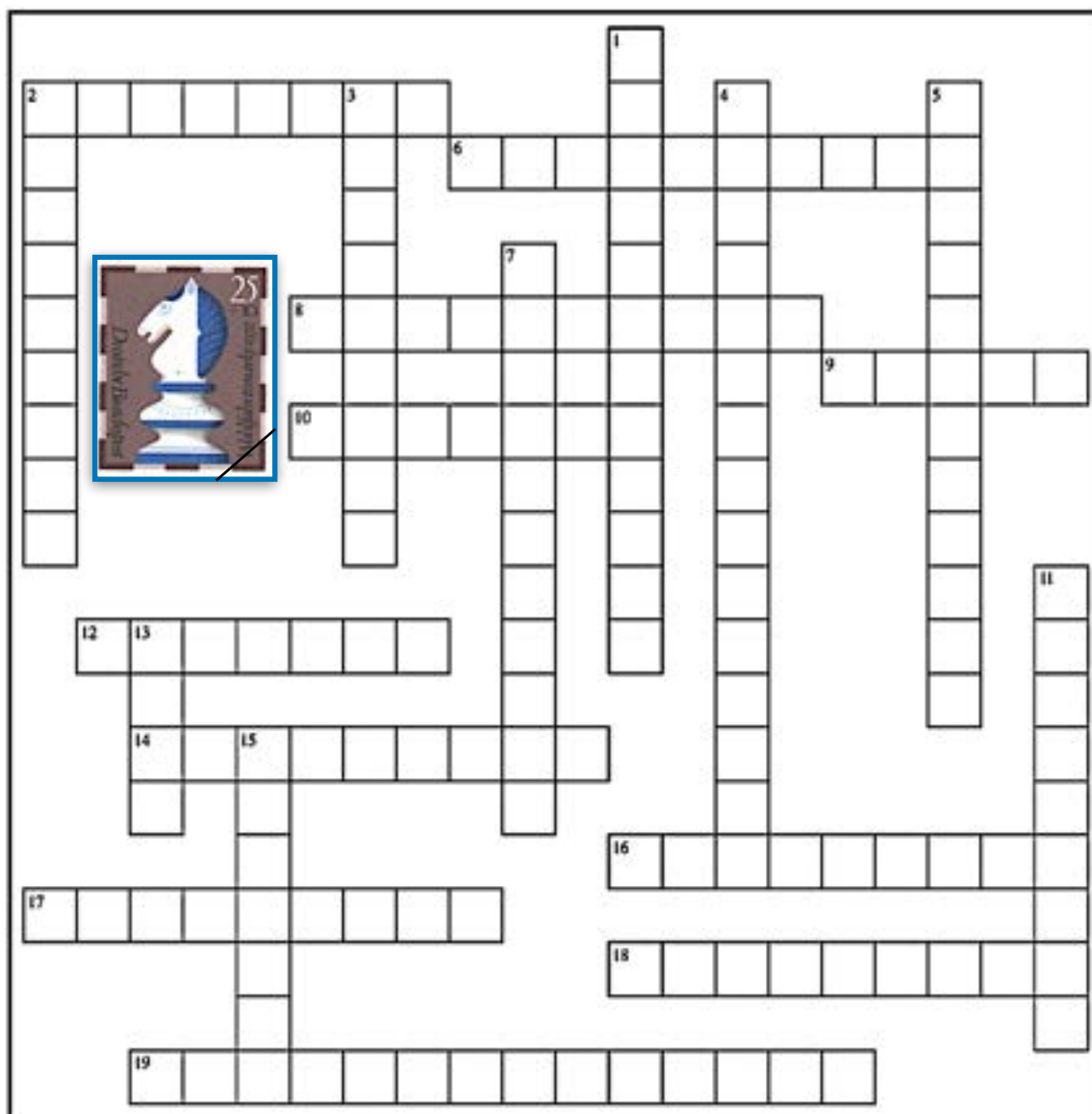
**46.Ke2 f5**



47.Kf2 f4 48.gf4 Kf4 followed by picking up the h5-pawn.







## Across

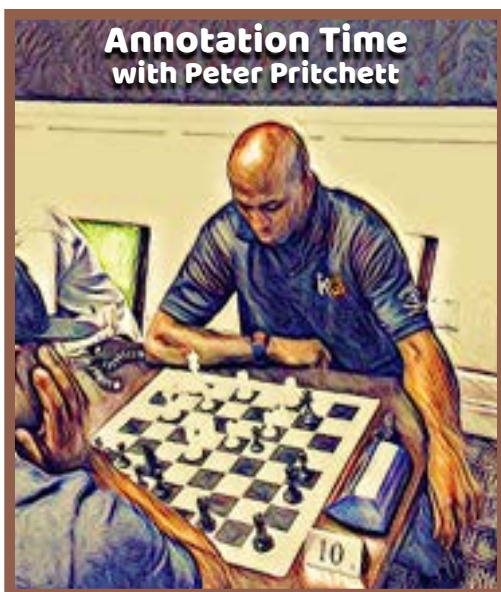
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18. When both players decide they want to draw the game.
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## Down

1. Destruction of a seemingly strong defense, often by means of a sacrifice. To penetrate a barrier.
2. Bishop blocked by its own pawns. Plateau.
3. A piece that's trapped but captures an enemy piece before it's itself captured, or used as a sacrifice resulting in stalemate if it is captured.
4. Just give the bishop away.
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11. A checkmate position where the king is blocked on both sides by his own rooks.
13. Chess game in which the score is tied and the winner is undecided.
15. A brief suspension of play.



Answers on page 20



Memphis City Championship 2022  
12/17/2022

White: Peter Pritchett - 1916  
Black: Kenneth Turner - 1883

Round 3  
Title Game

In this tournament, I wanted to play more aggressively. I have played a gambit in each of my games in this tournament. This is my third game against Turner this year, and he has already beaten me twice. In the previous games, we played standard openings that we both know. I was hoping to take this game beyond prepared lines and fight for a win instead of playing for a draw.

**1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4**



**3.c3 dxc3** The Danish Gambit accepted.



Turner chooses a quieter approach in response. He could have given me an isolated pawn and had more of an active game.

**3...d5 4.exd5 Qxd5**



**5.cxd4 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4**



Previous matches  
mentioned here with  
K. G. Turner in 2022.  
Scan QR Code →





7.Be2 O-O-O



4.Nxc3 d6 5.Bc4 Be6



6.Bxe6 fxe6 7.Qb3



For the next few moves, I attempted to keep pressure on him, but he calmly defended and ended up turning the game around in his favor later on.

7...Qc8 8.Nf3 Nc6



9.Ng5 Nd8 10.f4 Be7



11.O-O Bxg5 12.Qb5+ Qd7



13.Qxg5 Qe7 14.Qh5+ g6



15.Qh3 Nf7 16.f5 gxf5



17.exf5 e5



Turner has a solid position but his pieces are not developed and his King is in the center so I decided to give up another pawn before he is able to set up a blockade and castle.

18.f6 Qd7 19.Qe3 h5



20.b4 Ngh6 21.h3 c6



22.Bb2 Rg8 23.Kh2 Nf5



Turner begins to activate his pieces and develops a strong attack!



24.Qf2 Ng3 25.Rfe1 h4



26.Rad1 Qf5 27.Qe3 Qxf6



I am down two pawns, Turner has a strong center, active queen, rook, and knight. The position will be difficult for me to defend.

28.b5 Qg5 29.Qf3 Qf5



30.Qe3 Qg6 31.Qg1



Stockfish suggest either 31.Qf3



or 31.Rg1.



I didn't want to trade queens, so I didn't want to keep putting my queen on f3 and allow him to keep offering to trade it. I didn't want to deactivate my rook by putting him on g1. I want to keep it lined up with the King. I am looking for a sac while the king is in the center. That is my only hope. So I put my Queen on g1 to guard g2 and keep an eye on a7 if he decides to castle.

**31...Qc2 32.Ba1 Ng5**



**33.Re3 Nf5 34.Red3 Nd4**



**35.Kh1!**



Turner had a great attack and active pieces. I had passive pieces, and lack the ability to attack. But I find a defensive move to save my game, which traps his queen, so he must

trade one of his attacking knights. He is still up two pawns.

**35...Ne2 36.Nxe2 Qxe2**



**37.bxc6 bxc6 38.R1d2**



**38...Nf3?**



He makes a mistake and loses the advantage.



**39.Rxe2**



He was hoping for 39.Rxf3 Qxd2



or 39.gxf3 Rxcg1+ 40.Kxcg1 Qe1+



**39...Nxcg1 40.Kxcg1 Ke7 41.Bxe5**



I could have played more conservative 41.Kh2



or 41.Bc3



but I wanted to gain back some initiative and I believed I could pick up enough pawns for the bishop.



41...dxe5 42.Rxe5+ Kf6



43.Rc5 Rab8 44.Rxc6+ Ke5



45.Rc2 Ke4 46.Ra3 Rb1+



47.Kh2 Rg7 48.Ra4+



Finally, able to pick up the fourth pawn to increase my winning chances.

48...Kd3 49.Rf2 Ke3



50.Rf3+ Ke2 51.Rxh4 Rb2





52.a4 Ra2 53.Re4+ Kd1



54.Rg3 Rd7 55.h4 Rdd2



56.h5 Rf2 57.h6 Rf6



58.h7 Rh6+ 59.Rh3 Rg6



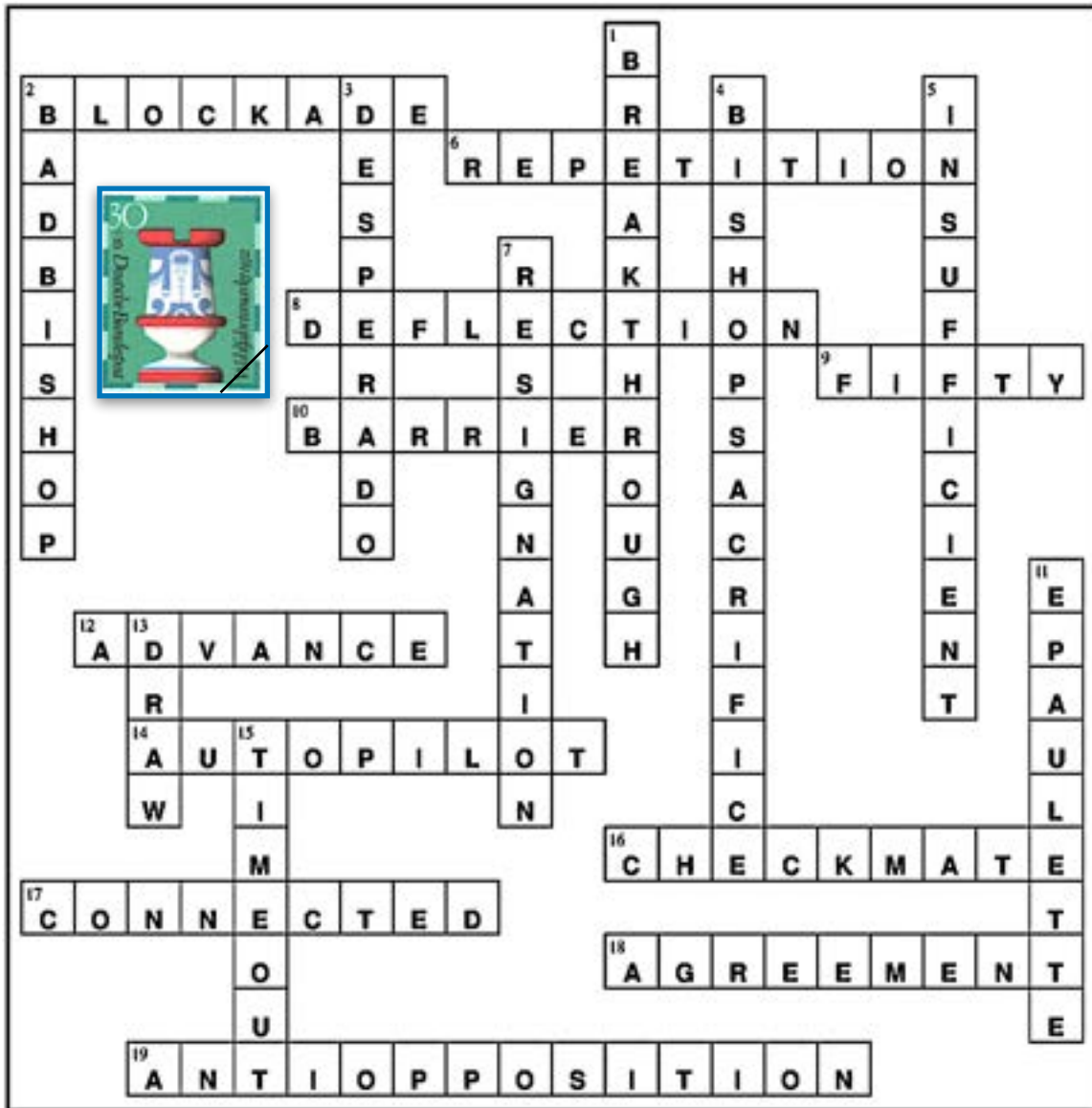
60.Rd3+ Kc1 61.Rc4+ Kb1 62.Rb3+



Black Resigns. 1-0

This is the type of game that I wanted. It was a back-and-forth struggle for the initiative. I thought I started out well, but he was able to take the initiative in the middle game. Like many chess games, one tactical mistake decides the game. This game was no different. Greg Turner is a solid player and a worthy opponent. Thanks to Mike Shuey for putting together a good tournament. I am proud to be able to be part of Memphis Chess history!





## Across

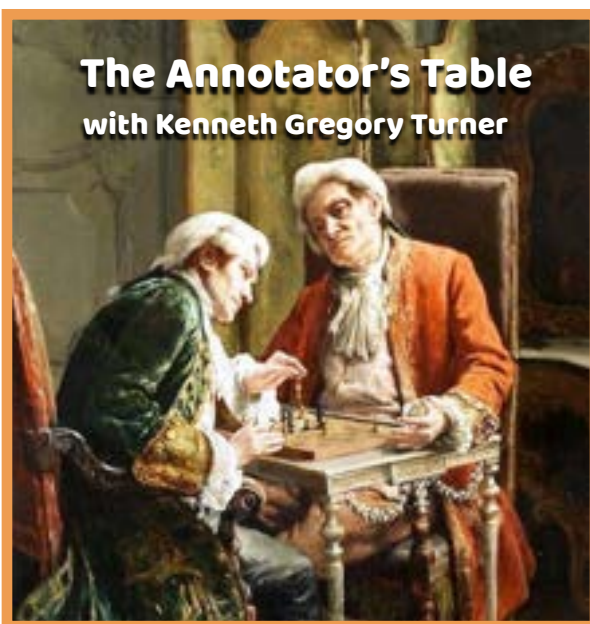
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2022 Mississippi Closed State Championship  
10/16/2022

Round 5

White: Ryan Boyd Wu - 1884

Black: Kenneth Turner - 1883

This game was a pivotal one going into the last round of the 2022 MS State Championship with my opponent having scored 4.0 after four rounds and myself and two others with scores of 3.0. My opponent needed only a draw to secure a clear first place.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6**



**3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7**



**5.Nf3 Be7 6.e3 b6** This is the Queen's Gambit Declined – Modern Variation.



**7.Bd3 dxc4**



Here black can capture the pawn on c4 and open the long diagonal for his queen's bishop, but it is better to do so after white moves his king's bishop and to capture with tempo.

**8.Bxc4 Bb7 9.0-0 0-0**



**10.Qe2 h6**



10...h6 is a common move here, white is normally reluctant to trade the bishop and did not get to play h3 himself and relieve the back rank mate threat.

**11.Bh4 Ne4 12.Bxe7 Qxe7**



**13.Rac1 c5 14.Rfd1 Rac8**



**15.d5**



This move, good or bad, is a big decision in the game. Pawn moves are permanent and center pawns the most important to the game.

**15...Nxc3 16.Rxc3 exd5**





**17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5 Nf6**



**19.Rd1 Rfd8 20.Rcd3 Rxd3**



**21.Qxd3 c4**



My plan the entire game was to gain time whenever possible with the black pieces. With the pawn structures I knew I would eventually need to create a passed pawn on the queenside.

**22.Qd4 Rc7 23.Ne5 Rc5**



Black's last move basically forces an exchange on d8 as both the white knight is threatened and also 24...Rd5! My real idea was to eventually play the rook to b5.



**24.Qd8+ Qxd8 25.Rxd8+ Kh7**



**26.Nd7 Nxd7**



Here I considered simply playing 26...Rb5,



but this would allow white to force a draw by repetition with 27.Nf8+ and to win the tournament by drawing the game.



**27.Rxd7 Rb5**



**28.Kf1 Rxb2**





**29.Rxa7 c3 30.Ke1**



This is where my opponent miscalculated and should have played 30.Rc7.



Though it was relatively even up until then, I did like my position with black slightly better.

30.Ke1 allows me to reposition my rook and advance the c pawn where it cannot be stopped.



**30...Rb1+ 31.Ke2 c2**



**32.Rc7 c1=Q**



**33.Rxc1 Rxc1**



**0-1**



# Themed Chess Pieces & Sets

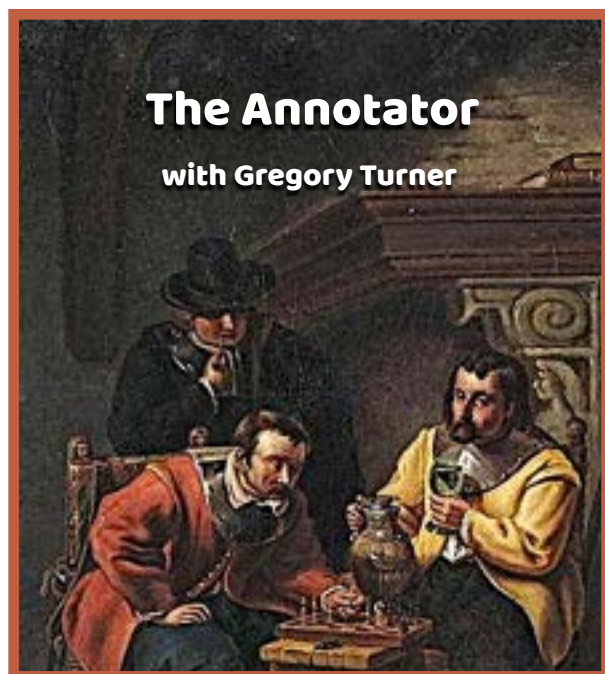


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[ChessCentral.com](http://ChessCentral.com)





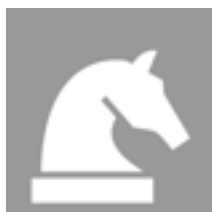


62nd Mid-South Open  
 Memphis Chess Club Event  
195 Madison Ave.  
 11/26/2022

Round 4

White: Kenneth G. Turner - 1882  
 Black: Clay Polk - 2036

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6**



**3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7**



**5.O-O Nc6 6.Nc3 Nf6**



**7.d3 e6 8.h3 Be7**



**9.Bf4**



Sicilian Defense. Most of the moves in this game were pretty normal, but there were moments to make mistakes. The positions remained closely balanced and required precise play to make the eventual draw.

**9...0-0 10.e5 dxe5**



**11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Rfd8**



**13.f4 Nd5 14.Qg4**



My idea in this position is to maintain the bishop on the long diagonal, or else prompt black to place pawns on the dark squares.

**14...f6 15.Nxd5 exd5**



**16.Qxd7 Rxd7 17.Bc3 Bd6**





### 18.Rae1 Kf7



The computer recommends 18...b5 here for black



and 19.g3 for white,



but still holds the position as relatively even. As white, I want to push to f5 but do not want to spend time dealing with black bringing his bishop to g3, and I must maintain some control of the open e file.

**19.g4 d4 20.Bd2 f5**



**21.gxf5**



I cannot prevent black from recapturing the f5 pawn, but I can make him spend the time to do so while I do gain a slight advantage in position for white.

**21...Re8 22.Kg2 Rde7**



**23.Kf3 Kf6 24.Re4 Kxf5**



**25.Rg1 g6 26.Rg5+ Kf6**



**27.Rd5 Rd8 28.h4**



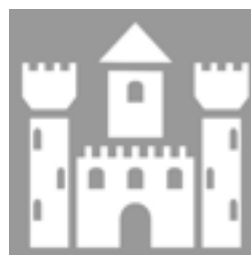
Here 28.f5 gxf5 would offer some tactics



including 29.Rxd6+ Rxd6 30.Bg5+ Kxg5  
31.Rxe7



Unfortunately the above variation is all stifled  
by 28.f5 **Rxe4**





28...Rxe4 29.dxe4 Be7



30.Rxd8 Bxd8 31.f5 Kf7



32.Bg5 Bc7 33.a4 a6



34.b3 b5 35.axb5 axb5



36.Bf4 Bxf4 37.fxg6+ hxg6



38.Kxf4 Ke6 39.e5



39...Kd5 might seem winning for black,



but it in fact loses to 40.h5! gxh5 41.Kf5



where the white e pawn will queen first, and if black tries to queen on h1 or d1 then he falls to skewers with Qa8+ or Qd8+ respectively.

**39...c4 40.bxc4**



40.b4 also leads to a draw.



40.Ke4??



actually loses to 40...d3 41.cxd3 cxb3!



By this time, I already knew the game would end in a draw when my opponent did not play the losing move 39...Kd5. (See the top left diagram on this page for 39...Kd5 position.)





GM Igor Novikov once made the point during a lesson that all king and pawn endings are already decided, with accurate play. This means you should be able to calculate the eventual outcome before you go into one.

**40...bxc4 41.Ke4 d3**



**42.cxd3 c3**



A last shot which doesn't really change the ending. Although my opponent has the outside passed pawn and can reach the h file first, I have one final tactic on my last move which secures the draw.



**43.Ke3 Kxe5 44.d4+ Kd5**



**45.Kd3 c2 46.Kxc2 Kxd4**



**47.Kd2 Ke4 48.Ke2 Kf4 49.h5**



**1/2 - 1/2**

If my opponent could capture my h pawn with his king then he could win the game with his g pawn. Here black is forced to capture on h5 and the white king cannot be stopped from reaching g1 and h1. Once he is there, he cannot be forced away and the black h pawn cannot queen. I offered the draw and my opponent agreed.



## BISHOP vs KNIGHT

*by David Emerling*

I've been teaching my 6-yr-old grandson how to play chess. I taught him the name of all the pieces, how they move, how to properly set up the board, the object of the game and, finally, the value of each piece. He looked at me quizzically when I told him that the bishop and knight are both worth three points. I can somewhat relate to his confusion because these two pieces move in such wildly different ways. Is moving diagonally equivalent to the strange, L-shaped hop that the knight makes? How can that be?

Many beginners are confused by how the knight moves – but not my grandson. He liked how it hopped around. He caught on right away. Consequently, when we started playing actual games, he moved his knights frequently, perhaps too frequently. In the future, I wouldn't be surprised if his favorite defense is the Black Knights' Tango. He told me, “The knight is my favorite piece.” I tried to explain to him that none of the pieces should be his favorite. “Think of them as tools in your tool box. Sometimes one tool is better than another to accomplish a certain task. For instance, even though a pawn is only worth one point, if that pawn is on the 7th rank, it's worth much more. The value of the pieces change with the nature of the position. Move the piece that needs to be moved – not because it's your favorite.”

“What's a rank?” he asked.

I realized that I was only confusing him. Too advanced. He's just learning. We'll get back to that later.

Most of us know that, in general, a bishop is worth just a little more than a knight. I've read chess books where the author states that a bishop is worth 3.25 or 3.5 points. I'm certainly not going to make a 6-yr-old do decimal mathematics. I think we'll just stick with 3 points for now.



Here are some arguments in favor of the knight:

The knight is a trickier piece. Think about it. Which chess calamity has befallen you more frequently, a bishop skewer or a knight fork? I think more people get forked than skewered. That's because we tend to think in straight lines, not L-shapes. We often do not see it coming.

There are four possible moves that knights can make on the first move of the game. Bishops have zero possible moves. The knight jumps into action quickly and the best square to place it is more obvious.

We've all heard the term “bad bishop,” but I'm not sure I've ever heard the term “bad knight.”

A bishop only has access to half the squares on the chessboard. The knight can get to all 64 squares. The knight might not be able to get there very quickly, but it can eventually get there.

During a game, there is often a particular square that gets us thinking, “It would be great if I could put a knight on that square. That would be a great outpost” – then you start calculating how you could get a knight there. It is sometimes a very circuitous, time consuming route, but it is often worth the trouble. We use the term “outpost” for knights – but seldom for bishops.

NOTE: I've always found it frustrating how difficult it is to get a knight to the square that is just two squares away along the diagonal. So close, yet so far. See figure to the right.

TIP: In a blitz game, when you're short on time and your opponent has a knight that keeps harassing your king with checks, you must be on the constant lookout that your king does not inadvertently move to a square where it can be forked on the next move. You can waste valuable time thinking about which square is safe. Just move your king to a square that is the opposite color of the attacking knight. The knight will not be able to check your king on the next move. You're safe for the time being.



Here are some arguments in favor of the bishop:

When we read through a game analysis, we often hear that one side has the advantage of the “bishop pair.” Nobody ever has the advantage of the “knight pair.”

Two bishops can deliver checkmate – two knights cannot.

No matter where you place a bishop on an open board, it can get to any square in no more than two moves. Depending on the square, it varies on how many moves it would take a knight to go from point A to point B. It takes a knight six moves to go from one corner of the board to the other. That's a long journey. A bishop would find that task trivial.

It's easy to show examples of positions where one piece is definitely better than the other. However, in endgames, the bishop often shines as the superior piece. Examine the two elementary endgame positions below. They are identical except that white has a knight in Figure A and a bishop in Figure B.

It's white's move.



Figure A



Figure B

Figure A is a draw with perfect play by white, but it can also be lost if white plays carelessly. The most straightforward way to draw is for white to start off with 1.Nxc4 and then gobble up the remaining black pawns with the king. There are other ways to draw. The key is recognizing that the position cannot be won and immediately go after black's pawns before they start rolling and it becomes too late. A knight is a clumsy piece when it comes to stopping a rolling pawn chain. Don't even think about queening that h-pawn.

Figure B is a very simple win for white, but there is only one move that does it. Can you find it? It's an extremely easy move to find. Good bishop moves always seem easier to find than good knight moves.

Have we answered the question as to which piece is better, the bishop or knight? Notice how almost everybody says bishop before knight. It would just sound weird to say "knight and bishop." It would be like saying "pepper and salt" or "sweet and short" or "dirty and quick."

In conclusion ...

Generally speaking, the bishop is better.

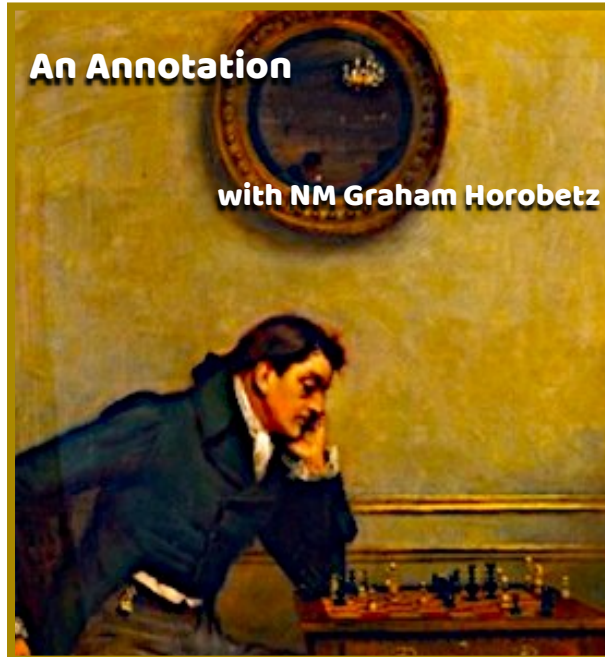
Aesthetically speaking, the knight is better since it is the most beautifully carved piece in every chess set.

Practically speaking, it depends.

To a 6-yr-old, the knight is better because it's "cooler" and fun to move. [sigh] We're working on it.

**Answer to Figure B: 1.Bc3!** The bishop can single-handedly hold all the black pawns at bay while the white king escorts the h-pawn to the end of the board.





Music City Open  
12/16/2022, Round 5

White: NM Deepak Aaron  
Black: NM Graham Horobetz

English Opening: Symmetrical

The following game is from Round 5 (the final round) of the Music City Open, which was held in Nashville, TN from December 9-11. Both players had 3/4 and were competing for a quite a nice bit of prize money, so my expectation was that with White and being the higher rated player, Deepak would be looking for a fight.

**1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6**



**3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7**



**5.Nf3 e5 6.d3 Nge7**



**7.h4**



While this move may look silly, it is actually quite playable and is likely the most ambitious way White can treat this position.

7.O-O d6 8.a3 O-O



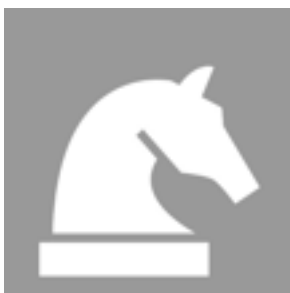
9.Rb1 a5 10.Ne1 Be6



11.Nc2 d5 12.cxd5 Nxd5



This is the more traditional way of handling the position for White, though I have some experience in these lines and have had good results with it.



7...h6



7...O-O? would be a grave mistake,



as now White would simply continue with 8.h5.



White will refrain from castling and will open the h-file and try to create an attack connected with Bh6 at some moment.



7...d6? is also unappealing,



as White will still continue with 8.h5



8.Bd2 d6 9.a3 a5



10.Rb1 Be6 11.Qc1 Rc8



12.Nb5



Generally in these structures, Black wants to play 12...d5,



however, I had some concerns that this would be premature as my King will still be relegated to the center and opening the position with this in mind concerned me.



12...Qd7



In retrospect, 12...d5 here would have been stronger despite my concerns,



where White should simply hold solid with 13.b3 f5.



And Black has a large mass of pawns in the center and with it, a nice space advantage. The position is extremely sharp and if both sides were simply castled and the moves h4 and h6 were not included in the position, I would gladly play this.

13.O-O



White is the first to commit to castling, largely due to the lack of a useful move. White does not want to play b4 in these positions due to the following line:

13.b4 axb4 14.axb4 Nxb4



15.Bxb4 cxb4 16.Rxb4 O-O



And with the dark-squared Bishop off the board, Black can freely castle.



13...f5



13...f6 14.b4 axb4



15.axb4 Nxb4 16.Bxb4 cxb4



17.Rxb4



14.Rd1 b6



A fine move, but not the most ambitious of course.

14...f4!



This is the move that demanded my attention from the outset, however, I simply could not find a way to continue.

15.b4



White seeks to get his own play going  
15...axb4 16.axb4 cxb4



17.Bxb4 Nxb4 18.Rxb4 O-O



And the position is very chaotic - Black will likely be banking on an attack on the White King, meanwhile White will try to defend, and if successful, will win on the Queenside. This is assessed as equal, and is likely what would have given my opponent more trouble.

**15.b3 Bf7?!**



A move born out of lack of an alternative. It's essentially a "pass" move, where I ask White

what he intends to do to improve the position.

15...f4! is preferred here still, leading to similar lines as in the previous variation.



**16.Bh3?!**



Responding in kind with "passing" the move back to me.

16.b4! would be the way to try and punish Black, though of course, as mentioned - in many variations previously, b4 was not so attractive for White.





16...cxb4 17.axb4 Nxb4



18.Bxb4 axb4 19.Rxb4 O-O



20.Ra4!



16...Be6 17.Bg2 Bf7



Again, I felt White would push for a win, neither player here appreciated b4, just as earlier I failed to appreciate the move 14...f4.

18.e3



Very committal as now I can castle safely.

18...O-O 19.d4?



Trying to liven things up, but at the end of the day, this move has concrete problems.

19.b4 axb4 20.axb4 Nxb4



21.Bxb4 cxb4 22.Rxb4 f4



The move 22...f4 here is a bit stronger with the inclusion of White having played earlier 18.e3.

23.Ra4 fxg3 24.fxg3



With an edge for Black, though this is preferable to the game continuation.

19...e4 20.Nh2



20.d5 looks appealing at first.



Of course, Black should not take on f3.

20...Nxd5 was my intention, if 20.d5, during the game, though, this is not the strongest.



20...Nd8! 21.Nh2 Bxd5 22.Bc3 Nf7



20...exf3 21.dxc6 Nxc6 22.Bxf3





21.cxd5 Ne7



20...cxd4 21.exd4 Kh7



22.Bf4 d5 23.Nf1 a4!



24.bxa4 dxc4 25.Nd6??



Objectively “losing,” though the game is complex still as we will see.

25.Ne3 Nd5 26.Nxd5 Bxd5 is the better option objectively, though it is not very appealing.



25...Nxd4! 26.Nxc8 Ne2+



27.Kh2 Qxc8 28.Qd2 Nxf4



29.Qxf4 Nd5?!



Going for material again, not best - who cares about material!? Black has 2 great Bishops, a far advanced and well-protected c-pawn. There is no need to rush and try to regain material. This is a common trap I see among my students, they sacrifice material and then instantly want to win it back to have the peace of mind that they are not at a deficit.

29...c3! 30.Rxb6 Nd5



31.Rxd5 Bxd5



30.Rxd5 Bxd5 31.Ne3 Bf7



32.Rxb6?





Better was to try and create the only chance of counter play with 32.h5.



**32...c3 33.Nc2 Qc4??**



Throwing away the win. Here, I was too much in a hurry. When you play strong players, they will generally not capitulate. They will make you earn the win. I should have simply played more patiently and prophylactically.

**33...h5!**



Simply putting a stop to any ideas of White playing h5 to loosen my Kingside.

**34.a5 Qc5**



There is still much work to be done, but now Black can breathe much easier without having to concern himself with White being the one to play h5.

**34.h5!**



Taking advantage of the opportunity - both players here were very low on time. Black is still "slightly" better, but from a practical perspective, this is easier for White to play now.

**34...Qe2 35.hxg6+ Bxg6**



**36.Ne3 Qh5+**



My opponent had briefly mentioned that 36...Qh5+ was not necessary to play as he wants to play 37.Bh3 anyway. This is correct, but I simply did not see how to continue. The position here is now all zeroes.

**37.Bh3 Qg5 38.Rc6 Qxf4**



**39.gxf4 Rf7**



39...Rf7 is a mistake, White has managed to corral my c-pawn nicely and begins to march his pawns.

39...Bd4 was preferred, but it is not easy to evaluate that.



**40.Rc7+ Rf7 41.Rxf7+**



41.Rc4 would be what White needed to play, trading the Rooks is not working.





41...Bxf7 42.Bxf5+ Bg6



This is winning for Black.

40.a5 h5 41.a6 Bh6



42.Nd5 Ra7 43.Bf1



43.Nxc3 Bxf4+ 44.Kg2 Be8



43...Bf7 44.Nxc3 Bxf4+



45.Kh3 Bb8?



A mistake made with less than 30 seconds on the clock. I should mention TC was 100+30s increment.



45...Be8 46.Rb6



46.Nb5 Be8 47.Nxa7



**1-0** And I resigned. Honestly a heartbreaking game, but a very interesting one.

The winner tied for 2nd with 4/5 and took home a nice prize of \$1250. I was still for the most part happy with my play, but the real issue was not putting a stop to White's idea of h5. Finally - I'd like to thank the organizers of this tournament. The TDs: FM Todd Andrews, Chris Prosser, and Thad Rogers. I would also like to thank the event's sponsor, David Wasiolek and anyone else who helped make this event possible. I very much so look forward to playing in a similar event this Summer in Nashville!

Nashville Chess Center



# CHess ADVOCATE



## BACK ISSUES



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White: FM Alex King  
 Black: Charlie Durham  
 Event: 76th Tennessee Open & State Championship  
 Date: 10-29-2022, Round: 3  
 Top Diagram: Black to move and win. (Answer not played in game.)  
 Forsyth-Edwards Notation-FEN:  
 7k/p3p2p/1p1p2p1/3P2N1/1P2p3/3n2P1/1b3P1P/1R4K1 b - -

#### Game & Answer



#### Text Answer



When viewing in PDF click the link below for the complete game.  
<http://mid-southchessadvocate.blogspot.com/2023/01/white-fm-alex-king-black-charlie-durham.html>

White: FM Alex King  
 Black: NM Joseph C. Wan  
 Event: 76th Tennessee Open & State Championship  
 Date: 10-30-2022, Round: 5  
 Bottom Diagram: White to move and win. (Answer found in game.)  
 Forsyth-Edwards Notation-FEN:  
 3R1bk1/5p2/1B3npp/3b4/4p3/4P1NP/2rN1PP1/6K1 w - -

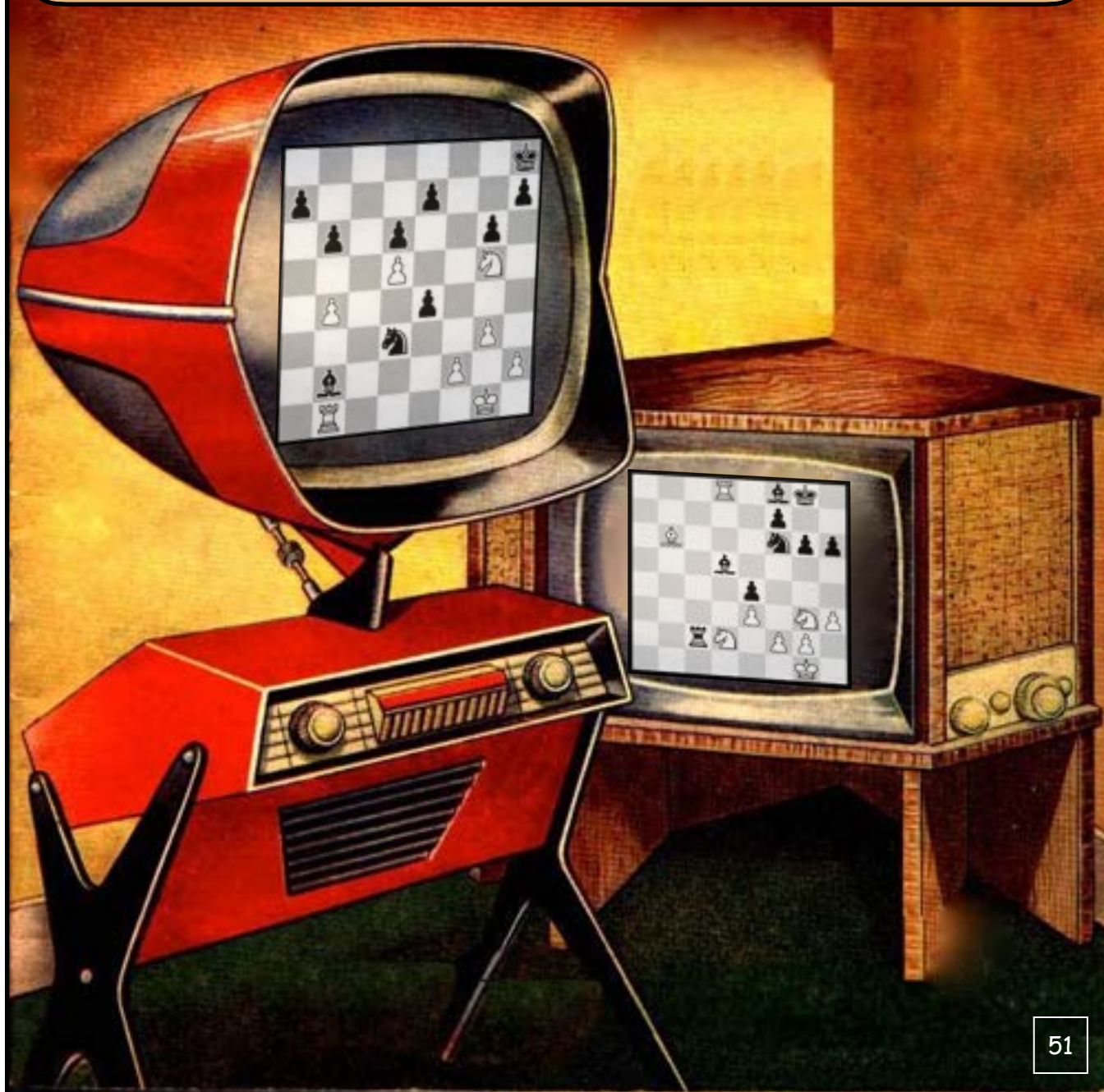
#### Game & Answer



#### Text Answer



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<http://mid-southchessadvocate.blogspot.com/2023/01/white-fm-alex-king-black-nm-joseph-c-wan.html>





Music City Open  
12/11/2022, Round 4

White: Hemachandra Rambha - 2108  
Black: Clay Polk - 2037

Sicilian Defense: Najdorf Variation,  
English Attack

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6



3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6



5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5



7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Be7





**9.Qd2 h5**



This is the first deviation from the main line. I like 9...h5 because it prevents white's typical attacking plans on the kingside.

**10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.exd5 Bf5**



**12.Bd3 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Bg5!**



Trading black's bad bishop. This is a typical idea in these setups for black.

**14.Bxg5 Qxg5 15.O-O O-O**



**16.Nd2 Nd7 17.Ne4 Qg6**



**18.Qa3**



My opponent may have played this move because he thought that he was winning a pawn, but fortunately, I can counterattack on c2 with my rook. This move, however, misplaces white's queen and puts my queen in the perfect spot to potentially attack g2 and white's king.

18...Rfc8 19.c3



19.Qxd6 would have possibly been a better try for white, but I would end up with a rook on the 2nd rank, which I would be comfortable with.



19...Qxd6 20.Nxd6 Rxc2



19...Nc5 20.Nxc5 Rxc5



21.Rad1 Rac8 22.Rd2 Rc4



23.Qb3



I now have a plan to push ...b5-b4 and create a minority attack, whereas it feels like it is rather hard to come up with a plan for white.



**23...b5 24.Ra1 b4**



**25.cxb4 Rc1+**



25...Rc2 would have been even stronger.



**26.Rad1 Rxd2 27.Rxd2 Rc1+**



**28.Rd1 Rc2**



**26.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 27.Kf2 Qg5**



With a double-threat of taking the rook on d2 and playing 28...Qh4+.



27...Rh1! would have just destroyed white on the spot.



28.Qc3 Qg5 29.h4 Qxh4+



28.Rd1 Qh4+ 29.Ke3?



29.Kf1 would have been safer,



but still seems very unclear, since h2 is hanging and white's king seems rather exposed.

29...Qf4+



29...Rc7



Keeping the rooks on the board would have to be a much smarter decision, as there were too many threats against white in this position.



**30.Kf2 Qh4+**



Repeating to gain more time on the clock.

**31.Ke3 Rxd1 32.Qxd1**



Here, I was faced with a tough decision, as to whether to take on h2 or b4. Taking on b4 seems much more likely to lead to a draw, since it would be harder to break through with a pawn on either side, making another queen. Taking on h2, however, plays more for the win. Since I will probably win a bunch of pawns on the kingside and white could potentially win my a pawn, the game will likely be decided by who's pawns are faster and it is now anyone's game to win.



**32...Qxh2! 33.Qa4?**



33.Qe2 would have been a better way to attack my a pawn, while keeping an eye on the kingside.



**33...Qg1+**



Here, I was trying to force white's king to d3, in order to protect a6. If white takes Qxa6 with the white's king on d3, black moves ...Qf1+ and wins the queen.

**34.Kd3 g6**



Shutting out any Qe8-f7 ideas.

**35.Qc6 Qxg2 36.Qxd6 Qxf3+**



**37.Kc4 Qe2+**



Trying to prevent white's king from infiltrating on c5 where it can support the advancing queenside pawns.

**38.Kb3 Qd3+ 39.Ka4 e4**



**40.Qd8+**



I was happy for white's queen to be planted on d8 because white will eventually have to spend a move moving his queen away for the white pawn to advance. Due to this detail, I am one tempo ahead in the pawn race, as you will witness in several moves from now.

**40...Kg7 41.d6 e3**





**42.d7 e2 43.Qe8 Qb5+**



**44.Kb3 Qd3+ 45.Ka4**



Trying to gain more time on the clock with the repetition.

**45...Qb5+**



45...e1=Q would have been a better way to play, since I can just start pushing the kingside pawns, and white will need to get past my a6 pawn in order to advance.



**46.Qxe1 Qxd7+ 47.Ka3 g5**



**46.Kb3 Qxd7 47.Qxd7 e1=Q**



**48.Qd4+ Kh7 49.a4 Qe6+**



**50.Ka3 Qh3+**



**50...g5**



It would have been better simply pushing pawns home on the kingside.



**51.b3 Qf1**



I maneuvered my queen to f1 in order to simultaneously protect f7 and to control b5, slowing the advance of white's queenside pawns.

**52.b5 axb5 53.a5**



This is a good try for white, asking black how he will stop the a pawn.

**53...f5 54.Kb4 f4**





**55.a6 Qe1+ 56.Kxb5??**



This is the losing move, since my pawn will now queen with check.

**56.Kc5!**



White should have realized that black later on queens with check with the king on b5 and played the brilliant move, 56.Kc5, refusing to take the pawn and keeping his king off of a square where I queen with check.

**56...f3 57.a7 f2**



**58.a8=Q f1=Q+**



My plan is to trade one pair of queens and then work on pushing the h and g pawns, which is winning with precise play.

**59.Kb6 Qe6+ 60.Ka5 Qef5+**



**61.Kb4 Q5b5+ 62.Kc3??**



62.Ka3 Qc1+ 63.Qb2



This is the point I had calculated the queen trade to take place.

63...Qxb2+ 64.Kxb2 h4



62...Qc1#



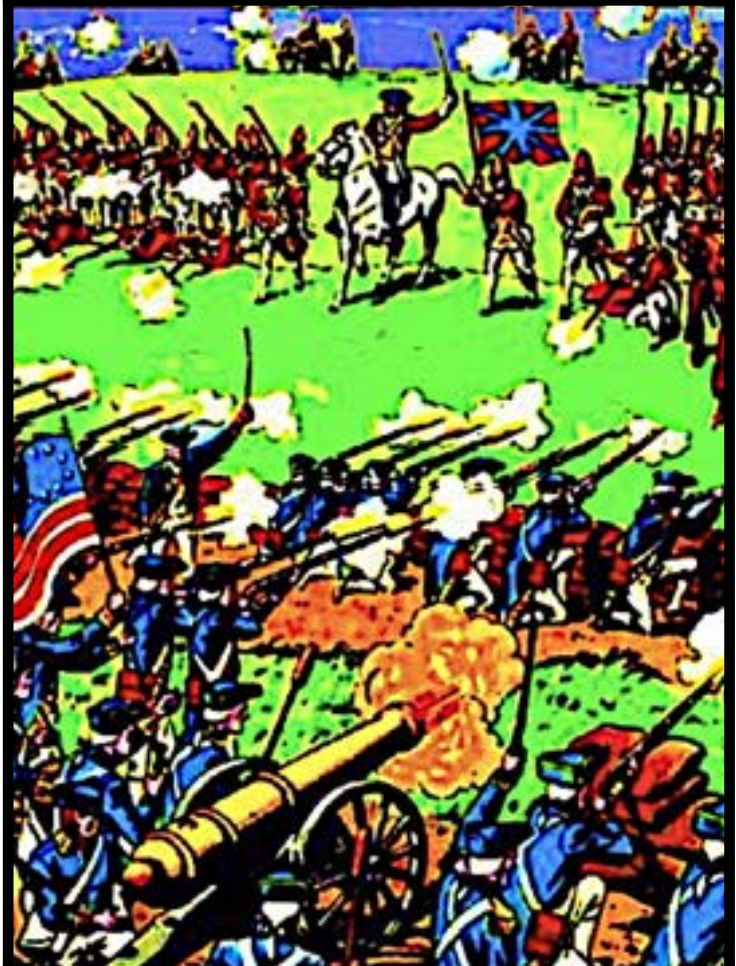
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A beautiful finish to the game - Checkmating with four queens on the board!!



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Below: Avoid Checkmate in One - Move the White King to a Square Escaping Checkmate With Black's Next Move







White: Falilou Keita  
Black: Halsey Werlein  
Event: Memphis Chess League 6  
Date: December 22, 2022  
White to move & checkmate in 5  
Answer not played in the game.  
Forsyth-Edwards Notation-FEN:  
8/p6k/4Qppb/2p4p/7P/2Bq1PP1/P5K1/4R3 w - - 6 37  
When viewing in PDF click the link below or scan QR Code.

Game & Answer



<http://mid-southchessadvocate.blogspot.com/2023/01/keital825v-werlein850-answer-white-to.html>

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