

CHESS HORIZONS

Best State Magazine 2006 CJA / Fred Cramer Awards

**73rd Greater
Boston Open and
the Pillsbury
Memorial**

**The U.S. Chess
League**

**Tim Harding on
the Oldest
Correspondence
Club**

January - March 2007 ■ \$3.95

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



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Sudbury River Fall Classic

Joshua Haunstrup

The 2006 Sudbury River Fall Classic was held at the Courtyard Marriot Hotel in Marlborough from October 20-22, 2006. The event was hotly contested in the U2100, U1700, and U1300 sections, though the Open was won cleanly by GM Alexander Ivanov of Newton, with a score of 4½-½, which included a half-point bye in the final round. Second place went to NM Eugene Yanayt of Leominster, who tallied 3½-1½. FM John Curdo, 74, of Auburn, and NM Max Enkin, 17, of Peabody, tied for third place with 3-2 performances.

Scott Didham took clear first in the U2100 section with 4 points, obviously gaining momentum after surviving his game with me in the first round! Leonid Tkach and Haizhou Xu shared second place with 3½ points each, while I took a share of third, along with Jeffrey Lawrence, Vishwa Krishnamurthy, Kevork Haddad, Zaroug Jaleel, and Kevin Ma, all with 3 points.

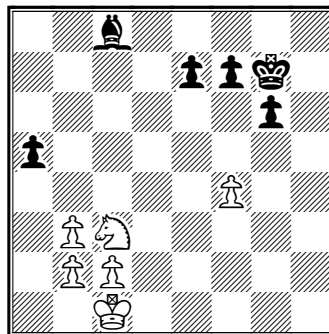
Longtime *Boston Globe* chess columnist Harold Dondis destroyed the opposition in the U1700 section, only slowing up to coast to a draw in the last round to clinch first place with 4½ points. I would have included one of his games, but none of them were very competitive, as his opponents either collapsed upon gazing at his intimidating visage, or were verily obliterated in short order. Tim Bromley recovered from his own demoralizing loss to Dondis to close out with 2 straight wins and finish in clear second with 4 points, and Yuval Shemesh took clear third with 3½ points, gaining momentum from a win over my father, Moe Van Dereck, who turned out for one of his few outings of the year and finished with 2 wins – one more than I had.

The U1300 section was won by Jason Anshewitz and Antonio Damato, who split first prize with 2½ points each. Robert Norris and Steven Wollkind took third with 2 points a piece. The 5-section tournament drew 48 players and was directed by Ken Ballou of Framingham, for the Sudbury River Chess Association.



Alexander Ivanov

I played in the U2100 section, and as white in the first round, quickly found myself in the midst of a bafflingly complex endgame against Scott Didham. After an ambivalent opening that saw rapid exchanges, we reached a difficult position where I appeared to have promising chances.



Here, my knight had greater prospects than Scott's bishop, and I proceeded to maneuver to win his a-pawn, clearing the way for my queenside pawns to advance. **33.Nd5 Bb7 34.Nb6 Ba6 35.c4 e6 36.Kd2 Kf6 37.Ke3 Kf5 38.c5 Bb5 39.Nc8 Kf6 40.Na7 Ba6**

Simply pushing the pawn is useless, as Scott could bring his king over to thwart its progress.

41.Nc6 g5

Fritz doesn't much like this advance, indicating that 41...Bf1 42.Nxa5 e5 was the correct path. In the resulting posi-

tions, Black's control of b5 really highlights the drawback of my doubled pawns.

42.fxg5+ Kxg5 43.Nxa5 f5

Now, I saw the chance to swing my knight via b3 to c5, with what appeared to be dangerous threats. Instead, 44.b4 e5 45.c6 Kf6 46.c7 Ke6 47.b5 Bc8 48.b6 Kd6 49.b4 seems to have been best. White still appears to have good winning chances based on a curious tempo battle with the black king, whereby White can maneuver to set up the trade of the two advanced pawns for Black's bishop and try to win with pawn and knight versus two pawns.

44.c6 Kf6 45.b4 Ke7 46.Nb3 e5 47.Nc5 Bc8

I had lost time compared to the previous line. The position still appeared promising, but was becoming more optical than real.

48.b5

Better is 48.Nb7 Be6 49.b5 Bd5 50.Kf2 f4 51.Na5 Kd6 52.b6 Bxc6 53.b7 Bxb7 54.Nxb7+, but Black seems to be able to hold this version of the endgame. **48...Kd6 49.b4 Kc7 50.Nd3?!**

50.Kd3 was more pugnacious. After my move, the last vestige of my advantage had slipped away and I had to hold onto my shirt and draw.

50...Kb6 51.Nxe5 ½-½

It was a mildly disappointing end to a tough fight, but other first round battles ended more decisively.

White: Eugene Yanayt (2300)

Black: David Harris (2106)

Sudbury River Fall Classic (1) [E04]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bg2 dxc4 6.0-0

I have always found the Catalan to be among the more beautiful chess openings; the subtleties of the positional pressure White can develop are fascinating.

6...Rb8 7.a4 Na5 8.Nbd2 c5 9.Qc2

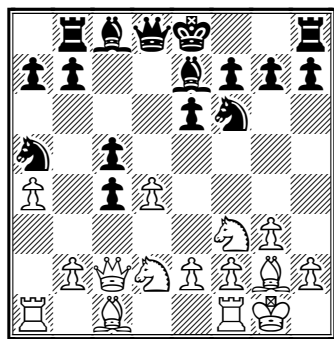
After rattling off eight moves of theory in one of the main topical lines, Yanayt avoided the well-trodden 9.dxc5, which has been close to equal recently.

9...Be7

Here, 9...cxd4 10.Nxc4 d3!? 11.exd3 Nd5 would have been more combative, leading to an unclear position where

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White's development offsets his structural weakness.



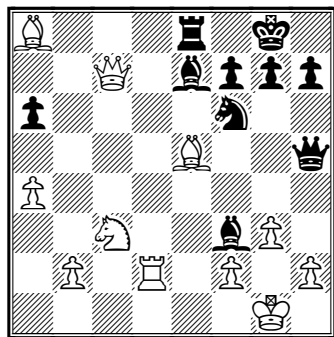
10.Nxc4 cxd4 11.Nxa5 Qxa5 12.Bf4 Ra8 13.Nxd4 0-0 14.Rfd1 Qh5 15.Qc7 Re8 16.Nb5

16.e4 was also possible, saving the pawn, but as is so often the case in the Catalan, the power of the g2-bishop is more important.

16...Qxe2 17.Rd2 Qh5 18.Rad1 a6 19.Nc3 e5

19...Qc5 was probably more precise, as the white queen has no escape square and exchanges will ease the pressure on Black's position, though it remains irritatingly difficult to develop the c8-bishop.

20.Bxe5 Bg4 21.Bxb7 Bxd1 22.Bxa8 Bf3



23.Nd5?!

Instead, 23.Bxf3 was necessary, retaining an edge, as Yanayt's choice allows a shocker on move 25 that would have turned the tables for Harris.

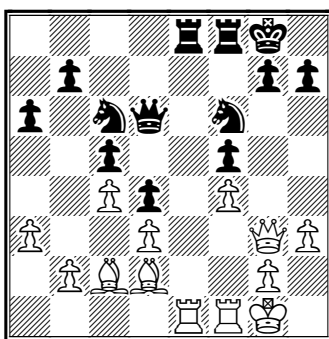
23...Bf8 24.Nf4 Qxe5 25.Qxe5 Rxe5?

The critical move was 25...Bxa8!, when Yanayt would have had no choice but to play 26.Qxe8 because of the back rank mate threat. The resulting position, with two black bishops for a rook and pawn might well have been a draw, but Harris would have had the fun.

26.Bxf3 Re1+ 27.Kg2 Ra1 28.b3 g6 29.Nd3 Ne8 30.Ne5 Nc7 31.Rd7 Ne6 32.Bd5 Nc5 33.Rxf7 Rd1 34.Bc4 Bd6 35.Ng4 Ne4 36.Re7+ 1-0

White: Ivanov, Alexander (2640)
Black: Yanayt, Eugene (2300)
Sudbury River Fall Classic (2)

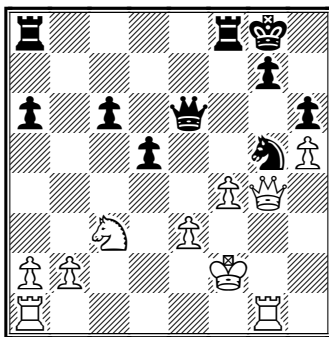
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.Bc2 Bg4 6.d3 e6 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.h3 Bh5 9.Nf1 O-O 10.Ng3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 d5 12.O-O d4 13.c4 a6 14.Qe2 Nd7 15.f4 Bh4 16.Qf3 Bxg3 17.Qxg3 f5 18.exf5 exf5 19.Bd2 Nf6 20.a3 Qd6 21.Rae1 Rae8



22.Ba4 Re7 23.Rxe7 Nxe7 24.b4 b6 25.Qf3 Rb8 26.Re1 Ng6 27.g4 fxg4 28.hxg4 Rf8 29.g5 Nd7 30.Qc6 Qxc6 31.Bxc6 Nb8 32.Bd5 Kh8 33.Re6 cxb4 34.axb4 a5 35.Rxb6 a4 36.Rb7 a3 37.Ra7 1-0

White: Kaprielian, Mark (1729)
Black: Duval, George (1612)
Sudbury River Fall Classic (2)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bf4 Bf5 7.e3 a6 8.Ne5 e6 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Be2 Bd6 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.g4 Be4 13.f3 Bg6 14.Kf2 O-O 15.h4 h6 16.h5 Bh7 17.Bd3 e5 18.Bxh7 Nxh7 19.dxe5 Qxe5 20.f4 Qe6 21.Qf3 f5 22.Rhg1 Ng5 23.Qg2 fxg4 24.Qxg4



24...Nh3 25.Kf3 Nxd1 26.Rxg1 Qxg4 27.Kxg4 Rae8 28.Kf3 Re5 29.Rg6 Rxh5 30.Rxc6 Rf6 31.Rc5 Rh3 32.Kg4 Rxe3 33.Nxd5 Rg6 34.Kh4 Re1 35.Kh5 Kh7 36.Nf6 gxf6 37.Rc7 Rg7 38.Rxg7 Kxg7 39.b4 Rg1 40.a4 f5 41.Kh4 Rg4 42.Kh5 Rxf4 43.a5 Rf1 44.Kh4 Kg6 45.b5 axb5 46.a6 Ra1 47.Kg3 Rxa6 48.Kf2 b4 0-1

Saturday morning, round 2 battles in the U1700 section were a real bloodbath, with 6/7 games ending decisively. Exemplifying the tension of the contests was the gutsy and fanciful duel between rising tacticians Tim Bromley and Jacob Gillis.

White: Tim Bromley (1634)
Black: Jacob Gillis (1626)
Sudbury River Fall Classic (2) [D00]

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 Nc6 4.c4

Perhaps in an effort to avoid the dry lines of the London system, Gillis committed the "cardinal sin" of blocking in his c-pawn in a queen pawn structure, and Bromley immediately adjusted his strategy, rolling out c4 to open the position.

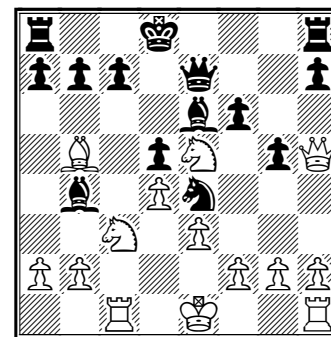
4...e6 5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 Ne4 7.Rc1 g5!?

The first real sign of violence, as Gillis was not content with a quiet and slightly cramped position.

8.Be5?! Nxe5?!

Bromley refused to yield here, but 8.Bg3 was best, since after the move played, Gillis could have continued 8...f6 9.Bg3 h5 10.h3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Nxd3 12.fxg3 Qd6 with an irritating edge.

9.Nxe5 Qe7 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Bb5+ Kd8



11...Kf8 was definitely safer with play possibly continuing 12.Qh5 Kg7



13.h4 f6 in a dynamically unclear position.

12.Qh5 Be6 13.Bc6? f6?

Now the violence ascended to new levels, but tactical inaccuracies crept in. After 13.Bc6, Gillis could have replied 13...Bxc3+ 14.Rxc3 (14.bxc3 Qa6!) 14...Qf6 15.Rc2 bxc6 and enjoyed a comfy one-piece advantage after soaking up a modicum of pressure.

14.Ng6?

In for a penny, in for a pound, but 14.Bxb7 was little better now after 14...fxe5 15.Bxa8 exd4 16.exd4 Bxc3+ 17.bxc3 Ng3 +.

14...Qf7! 15.Bxb7 Rb8 16.Ba6 Nxc3?

Here Gillis missed a chance to put Bromley away with 16...Qxg6.

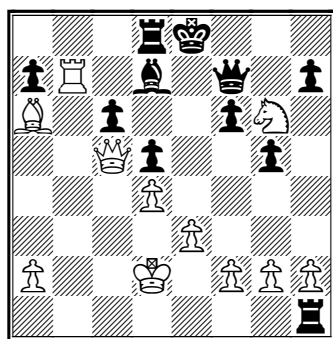
17.bxc3 Bxc3+ 18.Rxc3 Rb1+ 19.Kd2 Rxb1 20.Rb3 Kd7 21.Qe2!

Now, down the exchange with his attack slipping away, Bromley found the only move to create new threats and Gillis replied with the only defense to retain winning chances – power chess!

21...Rd8 22.Qb5+

22.Nh8 was more accurate, as the knight is immune because of the perpetual via Qb5+ and Qc5+. Instead, play might have continued 22.Nh8 Qg7 23.Qb5+ Ke7 24.Qc5+ Rd6 25.Rb7 Qxh8 26.Rxc7+ Bd7 27.Bc8 Qxc8 28.Rxc8 Bxc8 29.Qxc8 Rxh2 and Gillis would have retained the edge.

22...c6 23.Qc5 Ke8 24.Rb7 Bd7



Gillis continued to find the “only” moves.

25.Nh8 Qh5

25...Qf8 was safer, covering the e7-square and putting the question to White’s queen, but Gillis was still winning here.

26.Be2 Qh6?!

26...Qh4 was more accurate. Now Bromley could have played 27.Qd6 with

a sudden advantage. For example, 27...Rxh2 28.Qc7 Rxc7 29.Nf7 Kxf7 30.Qxd8 and the bishop falls, or 27...Ra1 28.Bg4!

27.Bg4 Qg7??

Alas, Gillis made the last mistake and suffered gruesomely for it. Instead, 27...f5! 28.Bxf5 Qf6 29.g4 Rxh2 was necessary with a nagging advantage to Black. Gillis simply couldn’t afford to surrender the white squares while leaving the dark squares unattended.

28.Bh5+ Qg6 29.Nxg6 1-0

Not to be outdone in terms of sanguinary displays, FM John Curdo and Max Enkin put on a show of their own in the Open section during round two.

White: Max Enkin (2245)

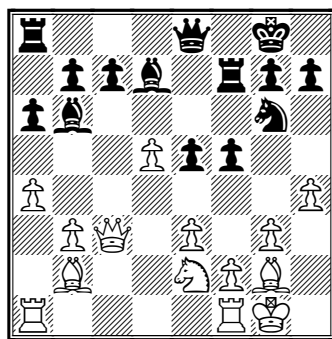
Black: John Curdo (2250)

Sudbury River Fall Classic (2) [A25]

1.c4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 e5 5.d3 Bc5 6.e3 0-0

With all of the popularity that the Grand Prix Attack has garnered as a weapon against the Sicilian, it is only fitting that this belligerent defense to the English receives its due share of attention. As an amusing aside, the adventurous 6...f4!? 7.exf4 0-0 8.Nge2 Qe8 9.0-0 d6 10.Na4 Bd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.h3 h5!? was Saily-Fischer, New York 1969. Curdo preferred a more circum-spect continuation.

7.Nge2 d6 8.0-0 a6 9.b3 Qe8 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.cxd5 Ne7 12.d4 Bb6 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.a4 Rf6 15.Bb2 Ng6 16.Qc2 Rf7 17.h4 Bd7 18.Qc3



It was probably stronger to press Black on both wings by 18.h5 Nf8 19.a5 Ba7 20.Qxc7 with a slight advantage to White, though Black would still have had kingside pressure.

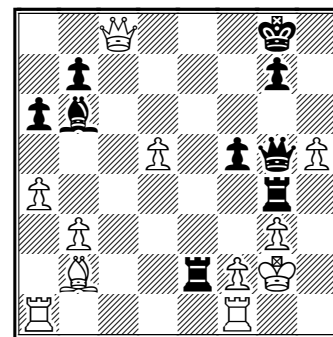
18...h5 19.Bf3 Qe7 20.Bxh5 Rf6 21.Bxg6 Rxc6 22.h5 Rg4 23.Qxe5 Qg5

The black pieces began to coalesce around the white king, and Enkin made a sensible looking prophylactic move.

24.Kg2

But, recognizing the sacrilege of indicting the decision of a master, I think this move catalyzed White’s steady collapse. Instead, 24.a5 Re8 (if 24...Ba7 or 24...Bc5, incredibly, White seems to be able to play 25.Qxc7, threatening Qxb7.) 25.Qxg7+ Qxg7 26.Bxg7 Bxe3 27.fxe3 Rxc7 28.Kf2 would have given White an endgame with reasonable winning prospects.

24...Re8 25.Qc3 Bxe3 26.Qxc7 Bb6 27.Qxd7 Rxe2 28.Qc8+



Here, Enkin could instead have opted for 28.Qxg7+ Qxg7 29.Bxg7 Kxg7 30.Rad1 Rd4 31.Rxd4 Bxd4, when Black will pick off a pawn somewhere and White’s task looks rather miserable. The game continuation was worse.

28...Kh7 29.Qc3 Bd4 30.Qf3 Rxb2 31.Rae1

31...f4 was fastest, but Curdo took his time.

31...Rc2 32.Re6 Rc3 0-1

I continued my near-miss streak in round two, foolishly letting a won position collapse into a draw at the end. In the evening round, I started off on the wrong foot, obtained a miserable position with the white pieces, equalized, missed a blunder by my opponent, and realizing that I had just let another win slip through my fingers, promptly made a move and offered a draw. My opponent graciously accepted, while I sat there chewing through my lip, amazed that he didn’t notice that my move had been an all out howler of a losing blunder! Chess can really toy with a player’s psyche.

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In the meantime, while I was stumbling along, still winless through three rounds, a mighty struggle was being waged in the U1300 section.

White: Steven Wollkind (871)

Black: Jason Anshewitz (1250)

Sudbury River Fall Classic (3) [B26]

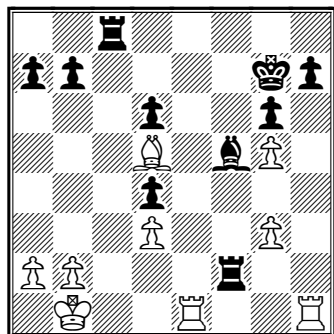
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Nf6
5.d3 Bg7 6.h3 0-0 7.Be3 d6 8.Qd2 Bd7
9.Bh6 Ne8 10.Bxg7 Nxg7 11.Qh6 Qb6
12.0-0-0 Nd4 13.Nd5 Qd8 14.c3 e6
15.cxd4

15.Ne3 Nc6 16.Nc4 would have continued to emphasize Black's rather awkward setup, probably offering White a tiny plus, instead, with the game continuation Wollkind equalized the position.

15...exd4 16.Nf3 f6 17.e5? Ne6?

Wollkind's seventeenth move allowed the strong rejoinder 17...Nf5.

18.h4 cxd4 19.exf6 Qxf6 20.Ng5 Qg7
21.Qxg7+ Kxg7 22.Bxd5 Nxg5 23.hxg5
Rac8+ 24.Kb1 Rxf2 25.Rde1 Bf5??



After playing a solid opening, White's position had appreciably unraveled, but now Anshewitz missed the crushing, 26.Re7+ Kh8 27.Rhxf7# 1-0

White: Davey, Matthew (2090)

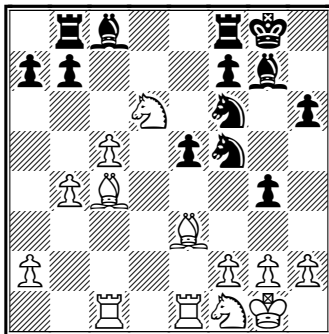
Black: Enkin, Max (2245)

Sudbury River Fall Classic (4)

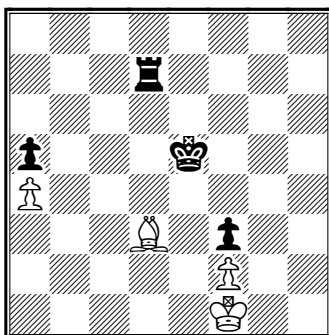
1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6
5.exd6 cxd6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Rc1
O-O 9.b3 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Qxd8
Rxd8 12.c5 N6d7 13.Nb5 Nc6 14.Nf3
Rf8 15.Nd6 h6 16.Bc4 Ne7 17.Nh4 Nf6
18.O-O g5 19.Nf3 Ng6 20.Rfe1 g4

Rules are a wonderful servant but a terrible master.
Steven James

21.Nd2 Rb8 22.b4 Ne7 23.Nf1 Nf5



24.Nxf5 Bxf5 25.Ng3 Bg6 26.Bd2 Nh7
27.Bc3 Rbe8 28.Re3 h5 29.Bd5 Bh6
30.Rce1 Bxe3 31.Rxe3 h4 32.Ne4 Bxe4
33.Bxe4 Re7 34.Bd5 Rd8 35.Bb3 e4
36.Kf1 Kf8 37.b5 f5 38.c6 bxc6 39.bxc6
Rb8 40.Bd4 Rc8 41.Rc3 Ke8 42.Rc5 f4
43.Ba4 f3 44.g3 hxg3 45.hxg3 Nf8
46.Ra5 Ne6 47.Be3 Nc7 48.Rg5 Rh7
49.Kg1 Kf7 50.Rxg4 Rch8 51.Rf4 Kg6
52.Rh4 Rxh4 53.gxh4 Rxh4 54.Bb3 a6
55.Bb6 Rh7 56.Bg8 Rg7 57.Bc4 Kf5
58.Kf1 Ke5 59.Bb3 Kd6 60.Bc2 Kxc6
61.Bxc7 Kxc7 62.Bxe4 Rf7 63.Kg1 Kd6
64.Bd3 a5 65.a4 Ke5 66.Kf1 Rd7



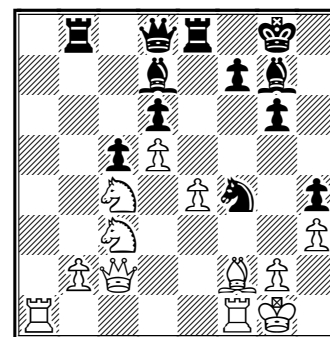
67.Bc2 Rd2 68.Bb3 Kd4 69.Kg1 Kc3
70.Bf7 Kb4 71.Be8 Ra2 72.Bc6 Rxa4
73.Bxf3 Kc3 74.Bd5 Rd4 75.Be6 Rd6
76.Bf7 a4 77.Kg2 a3 78.Kg3 Ra6
79.Ba2 Kd4 80.Kg4 Rb6 0-1

White: Yanayt, Eugene (2300)

Black: Davey, Matthew (2090)

Sudbury River Fall Classic (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5
5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f3 Bg7 8.Be3 a6 9.a4
O-O 10.Nge2 Nbd7 11.Ng3 h5 12.Be2
Re8 13.Nf1 Rb8 14.Nd2 Ne5 15.O-O
Bd7 16.h3 b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.f4 Nc4
19.Bxc4 bxc4 20.Qc2 h4 21.Bf2 Nh5
22.Nxc4 Nxf4



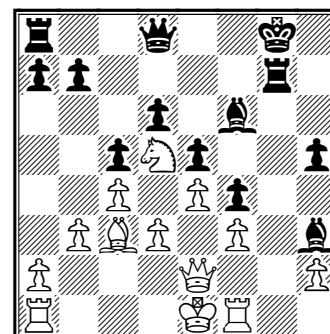
23.Be3 Nxh3 24.gxh3 Bxh3 25.Rf2 Qd7
26.Kh1 Rb4 27.Ne2 Qe7 28.Bd2 Rbb8
29.Bf4 Qxe4 30.Qxe4 Rxe4 31.Nxd6
Reb4 32.Nxf7 Rf8 33.Bd6 Re8 34.Nf4
Bf5 35.Ra7 Rc4 36.Ng5 Bd4 37.Rf1
Bxb2 38.Nfe6 Bf6 39.Nf7 Bxe6 40.dxe6
Rxe6 41.Nh6 Kh8 42.Rxf6 Rxf6 43.Be5
Rcf4 44.Rf7 Rf1 45.Kh2 R1f2 46.Kh3
R2f3 47.Kxh4 g5 48.Kg4 R3f4 49.Kxg5
1-0

White: Lowinger, Daniel (2119)

Black: Yanayt, Eugene (2300)

Sudbury River Fall Classic (4)

1.Nc3 c5 2.e4 Nc6 3.b3 g6 4.Na4 d6
5.Bb2 Nf6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.f3 Bg7 8.Ne2
O-O 9.O-O e5 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.c4 Nh5
12.d3 f5 13.Qd2 Bd7 14.Bc1 Rf7 15.Ng3
Nf4 16.Ne2 Nxe2 17.Qxe2 f4 18.Bd2
Bf6 19.Nc3 h5 20.Nd5 g5 21.Kf2 g4
22.Ke1 Rg7 23.Bc3 gxf3 24.gxf3 Bh3



25.Nxf6 Qxf6 26.Rf2 Kh7 27.Kd1 Rag8
28.Be1 Rg1 29.Kd2 Qd8 30.Kc2 R8g7
31.Rd1 Qg8 32.b4 cxb4 33.Bxb4 Rxd1
34.Qxd1 Rg1 35.Qd2 Qd8 36.Qc3 Be6
37.a3 Qb6 38.c5 Qb5 39.Rd2 dxc5
40.Kb2 cxb4 41.axb4 Qa4 42.Qc7 Kh6
43.Qc4 Bxc4 44.Kc3 Qb3 0-1

I won my fourth game on Sunday morning, beating John Perrotta for the third straight time, but concluded the

event in signature fashion, allowing another promising position to collapse into a draw.

White: Vishwa Krishnamurthy (1835)
Black: Joshua Haunstrup (1826)
 Sudbury River Fall Classic (5) [A50]

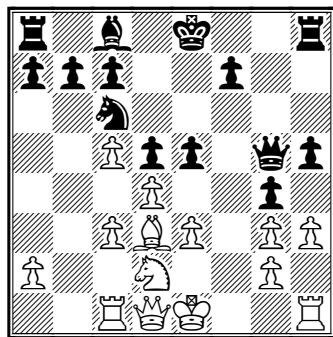
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.Bg5 h6
 5.Bh4 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 g5 7.Bg3 Ne4 8.Rc1
 d5 9.e3

9.Ne5 is surely an improvement, as Krishnamurthy's move enabled me to double his pawns awkwardly.

9...h5 10.h3 Nxc3 11.fxc3 Qf6?!

This was my first serious error in judgment. I needed to keep my dark-squared bishop in play with 11...Bd6 12.Kf2 h4 13.g4 Bg3+.

12.c5! g4 13.Nd2 Bxc3 14.bxc3 e5
 15.Bd3 Qg5?!



Poor judgment continued. Best here was certainly to play for a rapid h5-h4 advance. Play might have proceeded 15...h4 16.hxg4 hxg3 17.Rxh8+ Qxh8 18.Nf1 Qh1 19.Rc2 e4 20.Bb5 Kf8 and I would have had smooth sailing. Instead, I was losing the thread of the attack.

16.Nf1 gxh3 17.gxh3 h4 18.g4 e4
 19.Be2 Ne7 20.Qd2 f5 21.Nh2 Ng6
 22.Kd1 Bd7?!

22...f4 probably offered my last chance to mix it up. Instead, I was getting increasingly worried that the game would turn on me, so I chickened out.
 23.Rb1 b6 1/2-1/2

So, while I didn't set any records, I did survive without a defeat, and the tournament proved to be great fun.

Chess is an imperfect game
 perpetually striving to find its
 perfect form.
 Burt Hochberg

Kramnik - Topalov - Deep Fritz 10

The reunification match for the world chess championship was held in Elista from September 23 - October 13, 2006. In the end, Classical WC Vladimir Kramnik beat FIDE WC Veselin Topalov 8½-7½. The first twelve games ended in a 6-6 tie, with Kramnik forfeiting game five because of a locked bathroom. In the four game rapid playoff that ensued, Kramnik emerged victorious 2½-1½.

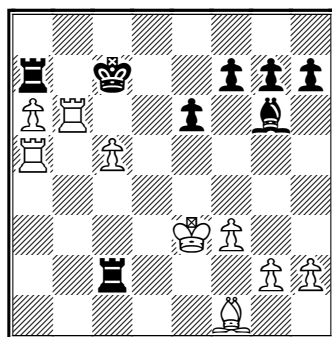
Here is the final game:

White: Kramnik,V (2743)

Black: Topalov,V (2813)

WC Playoff Elista (4), 13.10.2006 [D47]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3
 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Be2 Bb7
 9.0-0 Be7 10.e4 b4 11.e5 bxc3 12.exf6
 Bxf6 13.bxc3 c5 14.dxc5 Nxc5 15.Bb5+
 Kf8 16.Qxd8+ Rxd8 17.Ba3 Rc8
 18.Nd4 Be7 19.Rfd1 a6 20.Bf1 Na4
 21.Rab1 Be4 22.Rb3 Bxa3 23.Rxa3 Nc5
 24.Nb3 Ke7 25.Rd4 Bg6 26.c4 Rc6
 27.Nxc5 Rxc5 28.Rxa6 Rb8 29.Rd1
 Rb2 30.Ra7+ Kf6 31.Ra1 Rf5 32.f3 Re5
 33.Ra3 Rc2 34.Rb3 Ra5 35.a4 Ke7
 36.Rb5 Ra7 37.a5 Kd6 38.a6 Kc7 39.c5
 Rc3 40.Raa5 Rc1 41.Rb3 Kc6 42.Rb6+
 Kc7 43.Kf2 Rc2+ 44.Ke3



44...Rxc5?? 45.Rb7+ 1-0

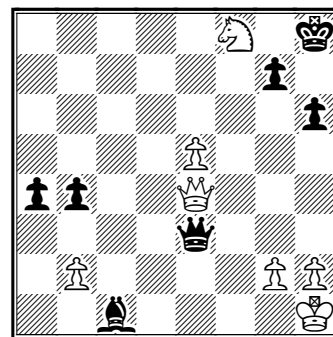
Kramnik then played the computer program Deep Fritz 10 in a six game match from November 25 - December 5, 2006 in Bonne, Germany. The second game saw Kramnik blunder a mate-in-one in a winning position with 30 minutes still on his clock. If Keres had done this against Botvinnik, we would still be hearing about it! Kramnik also lost game six in an Open Sicilian.

White: Deep Fritz 10

Black: Kramnik,V (2750)

Bonn, Germany (2), 27.11.2006 [D10]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 b5 4.a4 c6 5.Nc3
 b4 6.Na2 Nf6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Bxc4 e6 9.Nf3
 a5 10.Bg5 Qb6 11.Nc1 Ba6 12.Qe2 h6
 13.Be3 Bxc4 14.Qxc4 Nd7 15.Nb3 Be7
 16.Rc1 0-0 17.0-0 Rfc8 18.Qe2 c5
 19.Nfd2 Qc6 20.Qh5 Qxa4 21.Nxc5
 Nxc5 22.dxc5 Nxe3 23.fxe3 Bxc5
 24.Qxf7+ Kh8 25.Qf3 Rf8 26.Qe4 Qd7
 27.Nb3 Bb6 28.Rfd1 Qf7 29.Rf1 Qa7
 30.Rxf8+ Rxf8 31.Nd4 a4 32.Nxe6
 Bxe3+ 33.Kh1 Bxc1 34.Nxf8 Qe3??



35.Qh7# 1-0

White: Deep Fritz 10

Black: Kramnik,Vladimir (2750)

Bonn, Germany (6), 05.12.2006 [B86]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Bb3 Qc7
 9.Re1 Nc6 10.Re3 0-0 11.Rg3 Kh8
 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Qe2 a5 14.Bg5 Ba6
 15.Qf3 Rab8 16.Re1 c5 17.Bf4 Qb7
 18.Bc1 Ng8 19.Nb1 Bf6 20.c3 g6 21.Na3
 Qc6 22.Rh3 Bg7 23.Qg3 a4 24.Bc2 Rb6
 25.e5 dxe5 26.Rxe5 Nf6 27.Qh4 Qb7
 28.Re1 h5 29.Rf3 Nh7 30.Qxa4 Qc6
 31.Qxc6 Rxc6 32.Ba4 Rb6 33.b3 Kg8
 34.c4 Rd8 35.Nb5 Bb7 36.Rfe3 Bh6
 37.Re5 Bxc1 38.Rxc1 Rc6 39.Nc3 Rc7
 40.Bb5 Nf8 41.Na4 Rdc8 42.Rd1 Kg7
 43.Rd6 f6 44.Re2 e5 45.Red2 g5 46.Nb6
 Rb8 47.a4 1-0

It would be interesting to know how often Kramnik visited his rest room in Bonne. Was it as frequent as in Elista, and if not, why? We need team Topalov to check the tapes.