

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #123

Your editor welcomes welcome any and all submissions - news of upcoming events, tournament reports, and anything else that might be of interest to B.C. players. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue.

For the past few years the Bulletin has come out consistently every second Thursday, but due to work constraints your editor now experiences considerable difficulty keeping to a Thursday schedule. Instead, the Bulletin will come out every second Sunday or Monday for the foreseeable future. Your editor will also be away at the CYCC and Canadian Open for the first half of July, so the next Bulletin will not appear until around July 22 or so.

To subscribe, send me an e-mail (swright2@telus.net) or sign up via the BCCF webpage (www.chess.bc.ca); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

[Back issues of the Bulletin are available on the above webpage.]

RECENT EVENTS

National Open (June 8-10)

B.C. players Jofrel Landingin, Juni Caluza, Marionito Jose, Brian Sullivan, and Hugh Long took part in the National Open, the centrepiece of the Las Vegas International Chess Festival.

Tournament website: <http://www.lvchessfestival.com/>

USCF rating reports: <http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?200706102231-12576128>

B.C. MASTERS' FORUM

Welcome to the inaugural B.C. version of Masters' Forum, a popular exercise where several players are given the same (anonymous) game to annotate. This was suggested by current B.C. Champion Brian McLaren, who also arranged the players for this first version: himself, Dan Scoones, Howard Wu, Roger Patterson, and Alexandra Botez - thanks Brian! While Alexandra is not a master (yet!), part of Brian's reasoning was that the masters would be forbidden from using computer assistance or other resources, whereas Alexandra was allowed and encouraged to use an analysis engine and databases.

For those who wish to compare their thoughts with those of our panel, here is the bare game score:

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5 4.d5 Nf6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Nxb5 Nxe4 7.Qa4 c6 8.dxc6 Nxc6 9.Qxc4 Bb4 + 10.Nc3 Qd4 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qxa8+ Ke7 13.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 14.Be2 Bc6 15.f3 Qc2 16.Bd2 a5 17.Bd1 Qg6 18.g3 Rd8 19.Bb3 Qd3 20.0-0-0 Qg6 21.Re1 Kf8 22.a3 a4 23.Bc2 Qd6 24.Rd1 Bxa3 25.Bg5 Bxb2+ 26.Kb1 Bxc3 27.Rxd6 Rxd6 28.Ne2 Bxf3 29.Nxc3 Bxh1 30.Nxa4 g6 31. Nc5 f6 32.Be3 Kf7 33.Bb3+ Bd5 34.Nb7 Rd7 35.Nc5 Rd8 1/2-1/2

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5

AB: Central variation in QGA.

4.d5

AB: 4.Nf3 This is the main choice in this variation, it has the options exd4 or Bb4+! Let's see what happens if he plays any. 4...Bb4+ (4...exd4 5.Qxd4 Qxd4 6.Nxd4 Nf6 7.Nc3) 5.Nc3 exd4 6.Nxd4 Ne7 7.Bxc4 Nbc6 8.Be3.

DS: The main line is 4.Nf3 exd4 5.Bxc4 aiming for rapid development. With 4.d5 White is looking for a modest space advantage but Black finds a way to complicate matters.

RP: My experience back when I used to play the QGA as Black was that most White players would try and avoid the advance with 4.Be3. I used to play a trappy line against this (at least in blitz and by transposition) with 4...Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.d5 Na5 7.Qa4+ c6 8.b4 cxb3 9.axb3 b5 10. Qxa5 Qxa5 11.Rxa5 Bb4 with advantage to Black. Unfortunately if White avoids the trick by playing 7.Nf3, Black is just worse.
4...Nf6

[Editor: for 4...f5 see De Labourdonnais - McDonnell, London m4 London (50), 1834!]

5.Nc3

AB: 5.Qc2 b5 6.b3 cxb3 7.axb3 c6 8.Nf3 Right now it is more complicated for both players... (8.dxc6 If White moves this then Black gets his/her pawn back! 8...Qd4 9.Bb2 Bb4+ 10.Nd2 Bxd2+ 11.Qxd2 Qxe4+ 12.Qe3 Qxe3+ 13.fxe3 Nxc6 14.Bxb5 Bd7 15.Nf3 Nb4 16.Bxd7+ Kxd7) 8...cxd5 9.Bxb5+ Bd7 10.Bxd7+ Nbx7 11.exd5 Bb4+ 12.Bd2 Rc8 13.Qb2 Nxd5 14. Rxa7.

BM: 5.Qa4+ c6 6.dxc6 Nxc6 7.Qxc4 looks insipid for White.

DS: If 5.Nd2 then 5...c6 6.dxc6 Nxc6 7.Bxc4 Bc5 with a slight edge to Black.

5...b5

AB: Same position had been reached with different move order in 2006 game Azmaiparashvili, Z (2669) - Kanep, M (2510) 0-1 [Editor: 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.d5 Nf6 5.e4 b5 6.Bg5 Bc5 7.Qc2 c6 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0-0 Bg4 10.dxc6 Qa5 11.a4 Nxc6 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.axb5 Nd4 14. Qa4 Qxa4 15.Nxa4 Rac8 16.Kb1 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Bb4 18.f4 Nxb5 19.fxe5 fxe5 20.Rd5 Nd4 21. Rxe5 c3 22.bxc3 Bxc3 23.Rg1+ Kh8 24.Rc5 Rxc5 25.Nxc5 Rb8+ 26.Kc1 Rc8 27.Nd7 a5 28. Rg5 Bd2+ 29.Kxd2 Nf3+ 30.Ke3 Nxc5 31.Bd3 Ne6 32.f4 Nc5 33.Nxc5 Rxc5 34.Kd4 Rc7 35. Bb5 Rc2 36.h4 Rh2 37.f5 Rxh4 38.Kd5 f6 39.Bc6 Kg7 40.Ke6 Rh3 41.Kd6 h5 42.e5 Rd3+ 43. Bd5 Rxd5+ 44.Kxd5 fxe5 45.Kxe5 a4 46.Ke6 Kf8 0-1 - not one of the FIDE VP's better games ...]

DS: !?

HW: ?! Knowing very little about this opening, this doesn't look right to me 5...c6 looks more conventional.

RP: ?! This enters a long forcing line which I presume is all theory.

6.Nxb5

DS: The alternative 6.f3 b4 7.Nce2 (not 7.Nb1?! Nxe4! 8.fxe4 Qh4+ and Black has a strong initiative for the piece) 7...c6 8.Bg5 Bb7! favours Black.

6...Nxe4 7.Qa4

AB: What would happen if White took on c4? This is what would happen: 7.Bxc4 Bb4+ 8.Kf1 Nxf2 9.Kxf2 Qh4+ 10.g3 Qxc4.

7...c6

DS: !?7...Bd7 8.Qxc4 Nc5 was perhaps playable but that's all one can say about it.

RP: It's too late to avoid sacrificing as 7...Bd7 8.Qxc4 c6 9.Qxe4 cxb5 10.Qxe5+ is up a pawn at least for White.

8.dxc6 Nxc6

AB: 8...Bc5 is a more active move. More alive... Like the other one seems more safe but this one tries to overcome White. This is a better move for Black.... Why? It's in the variation 9.

Bxc4 (9.Be3 Bxe3 10.fxe3 Qd2#) 9...Bxf2+ 10.Ke2 Bxg1 11.Rxg1 Bg4+ 12.Ke3 Nxc6 13.Bxf7 + (13.Kxe4 Qd4+) 13...Kxf7 14.Qc4+ (14.Qxe4 Qb6+ 15.Kd2 Rad8+ (15...Qxb5 16.Qxg4) 16.Kc2 Qxb5; 14...Be6 15.Qxc6 Nf6 16.Qc7+ Kg6 17.Qxd8 Ng4+ 18.Ke2 Rhxd8 and so on... Here is an odd position in which Black seems a little better because he has a passed pawn.

BM: 8...Qf6 is answered by 9.Qxc4.

9.Qxc4

DS: Alternatives:

A. 9.Nxa7? (with the hopeful idea 9...Rxa7? 10.Qxc6+ followed by 11.Qxe4) is refuted by 9...Bb4+ 10.Ke2 Qd3 mate.

B. 9.Bxc4 is met by 9...Bb4+ 10.Ke2 (10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Ne4+ followed by 13...Nd6) and now 10...Nc5 is the simplest way; for example 11.Qd1 (11.Qc2? a6 and the knight cannot move because of 12...Nd4+ winning the queen) 11...Be6! and Black will consolidate the extra pawn with good winning chances.

[Editor: 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 Bd7 11.Bxc4 Be7 12.Bb5 Qa5 13.Ne2 Qxa4 14.Bxa4 Na5 15.Bxd7+ Kxd7 16.0-0 was drawn in 47 moves in Herraiz Lopez - Mellado Trivino, TCh-ESP Barcelona ESP (7), 11.08.2000]

9...Bb4+

BM: An interesting alternative is 9... Qa5+ (eg. 10.Nc3 Nd4; 10.Ke2 Bd7 threatening 11... Qxb5; 10.Kd1 Bb7 and if 11.Qxe4 O-O-O+)

10.Nc3

DS: This is practically forced. If 10.Ke2 then 10...Nd4+ 11.Nxd4 (suicidal is 11.Ke3 Qg5+ 12.Kxe4 Bf5+ 13.Kxe5 f6+ 14.Kd5 Rd8+ 15.Nd6+ Rxd6 mate) 11...Qxd4 12.Qxd4 (12.Qc6+ Bd7 13.Qxa8 Ke7 is an inferior version of the game: 14.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 15.Be3 Bb5+ 16.Kd1 Rd8+ 17.Kc1 Rc8+ and mates) 12...exd4 and despite the equal material White is in a bad way since both 13.Nf3 and 13.f3 allow instant mate with 13...Bb5.

RP: 10.Ke2 Nd4+ 11.Ke3 Bb7 12.Nc7+ Kd7 13.Nxa8 Qg5+ 14.Kd3 Nxf2# is an amusing mate.

10...Qd4

AB: ? It seems like it gives the c-knight away... but guess what? It doesn't really ... 10...Nd4 11. Bd3 Nc5 This variation seems a lot better for black!!!

BM: Forcing White to trade his queen for three pieces. The material favours White but the position favours Black as his pieces are more active.

DS: !? With this move Black sacrifices material but soon forces White to surrender his queen in order to stave off the resulting attack against his king. It is not clear if Black saw this possibility before entering the variation with 7...c6. Without it he would have to play 10...Nd4 (with the idea 11.Qxb4? Nc2+) but after 11.Bd3 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Nd6 13.Qd5 Bb7 14.Qxe5+ Ne6 15.Nf3 he would still have to prove compensation for the pawn.

HW: ? 10...Nd4 with the threat of 11...Be6 looks better to me. It's hard to find a better move than 11.Bd3 for when it looks like there might be some compensation.

[Editor: 10...Nd4 11.Bd3 Nc5 12.Bb1 Rb8 13.Bd2 0-0 14.Ne4 Ba6 15.Qc1 Nd3+ 16.Bxd3 Bxd3 17.Nc3 Nc2+ 18.Kd1 Bxc3 19.Bxc3 Be4+ 20.Bd2 Nxa1 21.f3 Bg6 22.Qxa1 Qd3 23.Ke1 Qc2 24.b3 Rfd8 0-1, Wang Xiaohui (2210) - Charochkina (2160), WYCC U14G Heraklio GRE (11), 13.11.2004]

11.Qxc6+

BM: 11.Qxd4? ed 12.a3 Ba5 13.b4 and Black is better with either 13... Nxb4, 13... dc or 13... Nxc3.

11...Bd7

AB: Now White must give a check because of the threat Qxf2. If White protects f2 then he loses the queen so he must give a check.

DS: At first glance 11...Ke7 looks much stronger (for example, 12.Qxa8? Rd8!) but White has the reply 12.Be3! when Black is suddenly in grave trouble.

12.Qxa8+ Ke7 13.Qxe4

AB: It was all forced so far...

BM: 13.Qxh8?? Bxc3+ and mate.

DS: Of course not 13.Qxh8 since 13...Bxc3+ starts a mating attack: 14.Ke2 Bb5+ 15.Kf3 Qxf2

+ 16.Kxe4 (16.Kg4 Bd7+ 17.Kh5 Nf6+ 18.Kg5 Qf5+ 19.Kh4 Qg4 mate) 16...f5+ 17.Kd5 Qd4 mate.

13...Qxe4+

DS: The initial phase of the game is over. Although White has two knights and a rook for the queen ? a nominal advantage ? he is far behind in development. If Black can inflict real damage over the next few moves he will obtain winning chances; otherwise White's stock will rise when all of his pieces get into play. It is too early to say whose prospects are better so all one can do is watch what happens!

RP: And we reach the critical position for evaluating 5.. .b5. White has material superiority but has developmental issues. Personally, I don't trust Black's position even though there is a lot of compensation. 13...Bxc3+? 14.bxc3 Qxc3+ 15.Bd2 (15.Kd1? Rd8 and I don't see how White defends.) 15...Qxa1+ 16.Ke2 Bb5+ 17.Kf3 Bxf1 18.Qb7+ Ke6 19.Qc6+-



14.Be2

AB: Right now Black has less material but then again he is also more developed.

DS: Abandoning the g-pawn looks suspect but the alternatives also have drawbacks:

A. 14.Be3 f5 15.Ne2 (not 15.0-0-0? Bxc3 16.bxc3 Ba4 17.Rd2 Rd8 and wins) 15...Qc2 16.Rb1

Kf7 with continuing difficulties for White;

B. 14.Ne2 Bb5 15.Bd2 Bxc3 16.Bxc3 Rd8 and White cannot reply 17.Rd1? because of 17... Rxd1+ 18.Kxd1 Bxe2+ 19.Bxe2 Qb1+ and wins. Meanwhile Black is threatening to run his f-pawn to f3.

HW: It looks like White has too much for the Q.

RP: The other choices are: A) 14.Kd1? gets mated quickly. 14...Bxc3 15.bxc3 Ba4+ 16.Kd2 Rd8+-; B) 14.Nge2 Bxc3+ Necessary as otherwise White will disentangle with Bd2 forcing the Queen to move off the pin and White can then play Ng3 and develop (and probably, depending on Black's move, has a possible Nd5+ with both the Nd5 and Bd2 hitting Black's b4 bishop.) 15.bxc3 Ba4 and it seems to me that Black is better. Despite the material disadvantage, the buildup of Qc2 and Rd8 tie White up. By the time White gets disentangled, probably he has lost his 'a' pawn or worse (and Black's 'a' pawn might be a queening threat) e.g. (15...Rd8? 16. Ba3+ Kf6 17.Rd1+/-) 16.f3 (16.Ba3+ Kf6 17.Rc1 Rd8 18.h4 Qd3; 16.h4 Rd8 17.Ba3+ Ke8 18. Rh3 Qc2 19.f3 Rd2) 16...Qc2 17.Be3 (17.Kf2 Rd8 18.Ba3+ Kf6 19.Kg3 Rd2) 17...a6; C) 14. Be3 Bxc3+ (14...f5 15.Nge2 f4 16.Bd2 looks OK for white - Nd5+ is next.) 15.bxc3 Ba4 (15... f5 16.Ne2 a6 (16...f4 17.Bxa7!? looks risky but on the other hand it is important that Black not have this pawn.) 17.Ng3 Qc2 18.Rc1 Qxa2 19.f4 exf4 20.Bxf4 Re8 but White is OK - he will probably give up two pieces for a rook in order to castle but will then be fine.) 16.Rc1 is a slightly better version for White than the 14 Nge2 line. Still, the 'a' pawn will fall, White will be uncoordinated and Black's 'a' pawn will be large.

14...Bc6

BM: ? In view of the game continuation, 14... Qxg2 15.Bf3 Qg6 offers more chances, eg. 16. Bd2 Bxc3 17.Bxc3 e4 and 18... Qg2; 16.Nge2? e4; 16.Kf1 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Qd3+.

DS: Black could have tried to weaken White's kingside with 14...Qxg2 15.Bf3 Qg6 when the following variations are possible:

A. 16.Bd2 Bxc3 17.Bxc3 e4 18.Be2 Qg2 and wins;

B. 16.Ne2 e4 17.Rg1 Qe6! 18.Bh1 g6 19.Bd2 f5 20.Nd5+ (20.Nxe4 Bxd2+ 21.Nxd2 Bb5 22. Bf3 Rc8 and White remains tied up) 20...Qxd5 21.Bxb4+ Kf7 and White's uncoordinated pieces spell advantage for Black;

C. 16.Kf1 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Bb5+ 18.Be2 Qc6 19.Bxb5 Qxh1 followed by ...Qxh2, which I would helpfully assess as unclear.

15.f3

HW: ? 15. Nf3 looks safer.

RP: This necessary weakness will come back to haunt White. 15.Nf3 Qc2 16.Bd2 Rd8 17.Rc1 Qxb2 18.Rb1 Qc2 19.Rxb4 (19.Rc1 Rxd2 20.Rxc2 Rxc2) 19...Bxf3 looks bad for White.

15...Qc2 16.Bd2 a5

AB: 16...Rd8 This is also a good possibility 17.Nd5+ Rxd5 18.Bxb4+ Ke6.

BM: To prevent the simplifying manoeuvre 17.Nd5+. If 16... Qxb2? 17.Rb1 and 18.Rxb4. Another continuation is 16... Rd8 17.Nd5+ Rxd5 (17... Ke6 18.Bxb4 is the same) 18.Bxb4+ and 19.Bc3. Once the position is simplified I can't see how Black can make progress except by utilizing his kingside pawns.

DS: Black cannot play 16...Qxb2 because of 17.Rb1 Qa3 18.Rxb4! The text move protects the bishop on b4, which reduces the effect of Nd5 shots.

HW: 16...Qxb2 gives white unnecessary activity with 17.Rb1 Qa3 18.Rb3

RP: 16...Rd8 17.Nd5+- hence a5 guarding the bishop (not to mention lines where Black takes on b2 and White plays Rb1).

17.Bd1

RP: 17.Rc1 Qxb2 (17...Qg6 18.Kf1 and everything is under control) 18.Rb1 Qc2 19.Rc1 Qg6 20.Kf1 Rd8 21.Be1 looks playable for White.

17...Qg6

DS: The pawn is still taboo: 17...Qxb2 18.Rb1 Qa3 19.Rb3 and wins.

18.g3

BM: Ugly, but forced.

RP: This additional weakness will cost White material at least. 18.Kf1 Qd3+ 19.Ke1 Rd8-+

18...Rd8 19.Bb3 Qd3

BM: ? This is a wasted move as the Queen has to return to the same square next move. However, it is difficult to find a constructive line for Black, eg. 19... Qh5 20.O-O-O Bxf3 21.Nxf3 Qxf3 22.Rhf1 and f7 falls; 19... Rxd2 20.Kxd2 e4 21.Nge2 and White will activate his pieces; 19... a4 20.Nd5+; 19.Bxc3 20.Bxc3 e4 looks interesting.

DS: An odd idea given White's simple reply. Other possibilities:

A. 19...Qf5 20.0?0?0 Bxf3? 21.Nxf3 Qxf3 and now both 22.Nd5+ Ke8 23.Nxb4 axb4 24.Bxb4 and 22.Rhf1 followed by Rxf7+ are very good for White;

B. 19...e4 20.Bc2! (other moves are bad) 20...f5 21.fxe4 fxe4 22.Nge2 Ke8 23.0-0-0 and White is doing well;

C. 19...a4 20.Nd5+ Bxd5 21.Bxb4+ Ke6 22.Bxd5+ Rxd5 23.Ne2 Qd3 24.Kf2 and White has again made substantial progress;

D. 19...Bc5 20.0-0-0 Bxg1 21.Rhxg1 Bxf3 22.Bc2 Qh5 23.Rdf1 Qxh2 (23...Rxd2 24.Kxd2 Qg5 + 25.Kd3 e4+ 26.Nxe4 Bxe4+ 27.Kxe4 Qg6+ 28.Rf5 Qc6+ 29.Kd3) 24.Be3 Bc6. Black has picked up some pawns but in view of the simplification involved I would say things are going White's way.

E. 19...Ke8!? This consolidating move may well be best.

RP: 19...a4 20.Nd5+ Ke8 (20...Bxd5 21.Bxb4+) 21.Nxb4 axb3 22.Nxc6 Qxc6 23.Bc3 and White is doing OK. (23.axb3 e4)

20.0-0-0 Qg6

DS: Not 20...f6? 21.Nd5+! Ke8 22.Nc7+! and White will soon capture Black's queen.



21.Re1

AB: 21.Bc2 Qf6 22.h4 h6 23.Rh2 Kf8 24.Re2 Bc5 25.Ne4 White got his pieces developed... White has a good position right now, a strong one.

DS: This diversion of the rook to the e-file does not accomplish much. I may be wrong but in my opinion White should play 21.a3 Bc5 22.Bc2 Qe6 23.Be4. After relieving the pressure on f3 he can try to complete his development and play for an advantage.

RP: ?! 21.Be1 would be my vote - White needs to get some pieces traded. If he can do that, then black's queen will have not enough back up to create threats and White will be better. 21... Rc8 is forced for black (got to keep the pieces on!) and he does have a threat Bc5 X g8 followed by Bxf3. 22.Bc2 Qh5 23.h4 and White has a playable position. Black will be forced to trade one of the bishops for a knight in order to win the f pawn and then a lot of Black's pressure will dissipate. Otherwise, the R on h1 can now participate via h2.; 21.a3 Bc5 and Black will win the f pawn after taking on g1. But.. maybe White should just accept this.; 21. Nge2 Bxf3 22.Rhe1 Qh5 looks like it wins material.

21...Kf8

HW: I prefer 22...f6 because f4 isn't possible in the near future--see my note on move 15.

22.a3

BM: 22.Rxe5? Rxd2 23.Kxd2 Qd6+

DS: 22.Rxe5? fails to 22...Rxd2 followed by 23...Qd6+.

RP: ? White fails to solve his development problems and falls into a little trick. It was not too late to return to Rd1 and Be1 idea.

22...a4

DS: !? Before playing this move Black must have calculated much of what follows; otherwise he would have played the more sober 22...Bd6 23.Ne4 Bc7.

23.Bc2

DS: Definitely not 23.axb4? axb3 24.Ne4 Bxe4 25.fxe4 Qc6+ 26.Bc3 Qa4 and Black wins.

23...Qd6

DS: !? Counterattacking the bishop on d2 but also putting the queen in harm's way. Can White take advantage?

24.Rd1

DS: It appears that White is gaining another piece but Black is ready with a clever resource.

24...Bxa3

BM: !

DS: ! Without this move Black would just be lost; for example 24...Bc5 25.Bg5 and wins.

25.Bg5

AB: 25.Nb1 Bc5 26.Bg5 Bd5 27.Nc3 Bd4 28.Bxd8 Qxd8.

BM: 25.bxa3?? Qxa3+ and 26... Rb8+

25...Bxb2+

DS: !

26.Kb1

DS: ! White in turn defends accurately. If 26.Kxb2? then 26...Qb4+ 27.Kc1 (27.Ka2 Rxd1 28. Bxd1 (or 28.Nxd1 Bd5+ 29.Ka1 Qa3+ 30.Kb1 Ba2+ 31.Ka1 Bb3+ 32.Kb1 Qa2+ 33.Kc1 Qxc2 mate) 28...Qxc3 29.Ne2 Bd5+ 30.Kb1 Qb4+ 31.Ka1 a3 32.Bc1 Qc4?+) 27...Qa3+ 28.Kb1 Rb8 + and mates.

RP: 26.Kxb2 Qb4+ 27.Kc1 Qa3+

26...Bxc3

RP: -/+

27.Rxd6 Rxd6

AB: Right now it is a tie game because Black may be down one point but... It doesn't really matter because of the passed pawn Black has.



28.Ne2

BM: If White tries to retain the material and complete his development (eg. by 28.h4) the combination of Black's three active pieces and a-pawn should decide the game in Black's

favour. The text move invites a series of exchanges that simplifies the position.

HW: ? White is still better after 28.Be3.

RP: 28.Nh3 Bd7 29.Nf2 Rb6+ 30.Kc1 a3 31.Bb1 Be6 is not much better. Black gets his piece back at his leisure with an extra pawn and a very strong bishop pair.; 28.Ka2 Bd2 29.Bxd2 Rxd2 30.Kb1 a3-+

28...Bxf3

DS: The alternative 28...Bd2 29.Bxd2 Rxd2 30.Nc3 Bxf3 31.Rf1 Bg2 32.Re1 is very similar to the game. Black should defend the e-pawn since 32...a3 doesn't accomplish anything.

29.Nxc3

HW: 29.Rd1 Rb6 30.Kc1 f6 31.Nxc3 Bxd1 =+

29...Bxh1 30.Nxa4

DS: White has made a substantial return of material. The resulting simplification and pawns on one side of the board combine to suggest that chances are now fairly equal.

30...g6 31.Nc5 f6 32.Be3 Kf7

RP: ? 32...Bd5 and Black can look forward to torturing White. Although material is roughly even, White's pawns are weak, his king is offside and Black has the prospect of connected passers in the centre.

33.Bb3+ Bd5

BM: This allows a repetition. I think Black should play on with 33... Ke7.

DS: This allows White to force an immediate draw by repetition but it may be that both players were ready to conclude the struggle ? not an unreasonable decision after the tense complications of the middlegame.

34.Nb7 Rd7 35.Nc5 Rd8 1/2-1/2

BM: Finally, a word about who the contestants were. I think it was an internet blitz game played between a BC junior and an anonymous internet player with a handle like "SuperTal," "smulik" or "OmahaBob." The game was a tactical melee from beginning (presumably a book

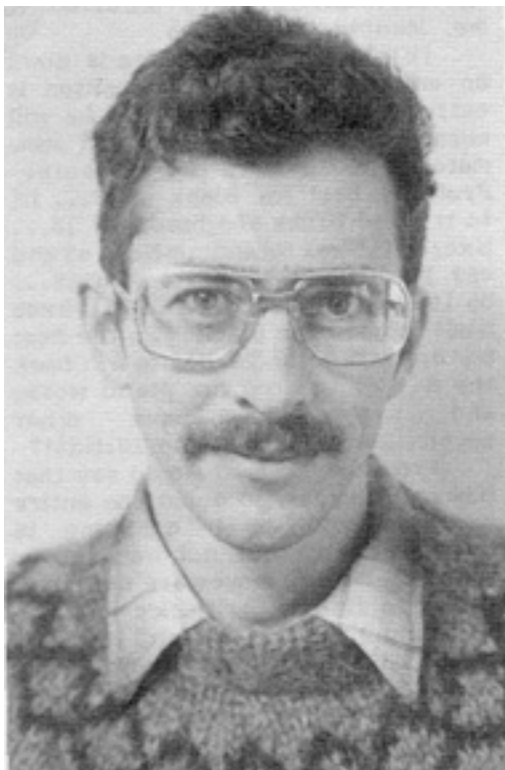
line in the QGA) to the end.

DS: After 35...Rd8 36.Nb7 Rd7 37.Nc5 neither side can reasonably avoid the draw.

HW: Additional comments: Black's play looks quite strong after a questionably played opening; while White seemed to be a bit tentative after gaining an advantage early. My guess is that Black was the higher rated player experimenting with a different opening. White might have been a younger player on his/her way up the rating ladder (Scoones probably has more to say in this regard).

RP: There is no escape from the perpetual on the rook. Overall assessment: It depends what you think of the position at move 14 which must be a theoretically known line. Probably the game is in theory for a few moves after that. I'd rather be White although I concede Black's practical chances are pretty good. It looks like White faltered with 21 Re1. Assuming this was an OTB game, I'd say both sides are stronger than me. It took a lot to figure out the position at move 14 (although they were probably still in theory) and the 'little' trick that refutes 22.a3 is quite deep actually as it requires Black to be confident that the piece down endgame is good for him.

Editor: the game pitted Gordon Taylor against Nigel Fullbrook in round 3 of the 1985 Canadian Championship in Edmonton. Gordon was a five-time B.C. Champion (1977, 1979, 1981-1983) who had just moved to Ontario, Nigel was the then current B.C. title holder. At the time of the game they were rated 2302 and 2255 respectively.



I don't have any openings reference works from that time period, but despite the opinion of several of the panel members it appears this line was/is not particularly well known, at least judging by the paucity of games using it in the major databases.

CYCC AND CANADIAN OPEN PREVIEW

This year these two events will be held in Ottawa (July 3-6, 7-15 respectively). Many B.C. players have already registered for one or both events, which by all appearances have been superbly organized by the Ottawa committee. The Canadian Open in particular is likely to be one of the best in living memory; over twenty grandmasters are registered, headed by former World Championship candidate Nigel Short. Full details are available at <http://www.canchess.ca/>. For those unable to make the trip there will be live online games featuring the Monroi system - links will presumably be found on the event website, or see <http://www.monroi.com/>.

VCC CANADA DAY OPEN

June 30 - July 2, 2007

Vancouver Chess Centre, 201 - 1050 Kingsway, Vancouver

Six Round Swiss--CFC Rated

Time Control: G/90 + 30 sec. move (analog G/120)

On-site Registration: Sat., June 30 9 - 9:45 a.m.

Round Times: Sat & Sun 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Mon. 9:30 and ASAP

Entry fee: \$40;

Masters, Srs, Jrs & Women \$30;

Advance entries (min. 7 days) and VCC members \$10 off

Sections and cash prizes based on entries.

A few billets may be available, contact Toni @ 604-910-8349

<http://www.vanchess.com/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

UBC Tuesday Night Swiss / VCC Thursday Swiss

Contact Aaron Cosenza: xramis1@yahoo.ca

VCC Canada Day Open

Dates: June 30 - July 2

Location: Vancouver Chess Centre, 210 - 1050 Kingsway, Vancouver

Type: 5-round Swiss

Info: <http://www.vanchess.com/>