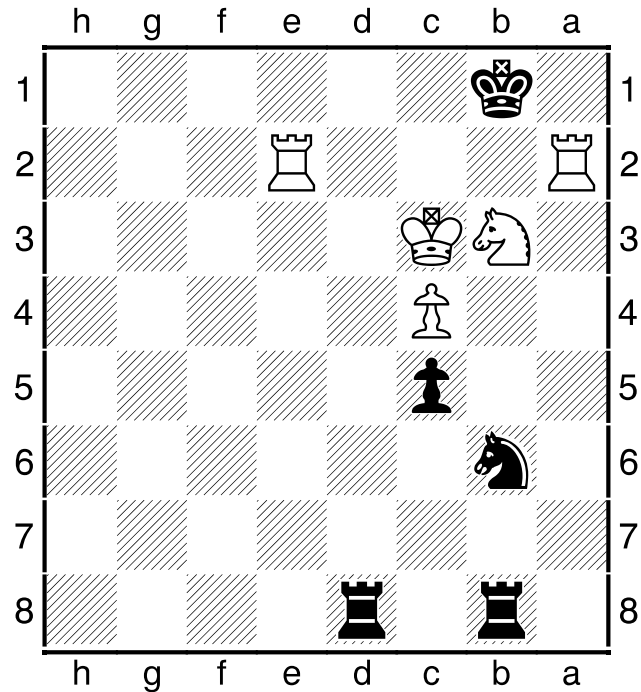


# The Gambit

## Nebraska State Chess Archives



**Test your combinational skills here.**

**Black (to move) has a forced win. How??**

Source <http://chessbase.com/Portals/4/files/news/2013/puzzle006.jpg>.

## July 2015-Special issue

Recap of most of Nebraska chess in 2014.

***Gambit*** Editor- Kent Nelson

***The Gambit*** serves as the official publication of the Nebraska State Chess Association and is published by the Lincoln Chess Foundation.

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**Vice President-Omaha- Michael Gooch**  
**Vice President (Western)**

## **Letter from NSCA President John Hartmann**

Have there ever been bigger shoes to fill than those of Mike Gooch? (Well, maybe Churchill... but besides him...)

I'm glad to relieve Mike as President of the Nebraska State Chess Association, and I'm doubly glad that he has consented to continue to serve as a Vice-President. It appeared for awhile that Mike might dramatically scale back his many and varied contributions to Nebraska chess; luckily for us, he's sticking around.

Chess in Nebraska is growing by leaps and bounds, and it's only because of the hard work done by Mike that we're headed in the right direction. He is absolutely essential to chess in this state. So thank him the next time you see him, ok?

My vision for the NSCA is simple: our job is to create conditions for chess to flourish in Nebraska. We (meaning the board) can't do it all ourselves. I, for instance, have a new daughter and school work and the dream of eventually breaking 1800. So what I'd like to see is the NSCA create spaces in which people can take their ideas for bettering chess and run with them.

What does that look like? Maybe you want to run a tournament and don't know how. Maybe you would like to start a chess club or run a one-day camp for promising juniors. Maybe it's something we haven't even dreamed of yet. Test our imagination. If you have the will, we can help you find a way.

My e-mail address is [jrhchess@gmail.com](mailto:jrhchess@gmail.com) and I welcome your input.

John Hartmann

## From Kent's Corner

Once again, it is my pleasure to return as *Gambit* editor. My thanks and appreciation for all who have welcome me back for my third term. Before I provide too much commentary, I want to acknowledge and thank the previous *Gambit* editors, Jerry Slominski and Kent Smotherman for their service. The *Gambit* is a lot of work.

I'm returning in much better shape. My health has improved since our last visit. My blood pressure has lowered to the point where it is safe to play tournament chess again and my employment situation has improved considerably. I also have a nice girlfriend.

I have some goals for the *Gambit*. I'm working hard to preserve Nebraska rich chess history. Thanks to the efforts of John Tomas, John Watson, John Donaldson, Victor Pupols, Ruta York and NSCA Historical Archivist, Robert Woodworth, and others, I think we have taken a good step in that direction with this issue.

Another goal I have is to create a survey to determine what "personality types" play chess. Much research has been done about chess and human intelligence which is all well and fine, however, it appears that very little research has been done to measure what "personalities" play the game. With the use of the Briggs Myers Personality test, (many of them can be taken online) I hope to change that in upcoming issues.

I'm working hard on my third book, this time about the late Howard Ohman. This effort is taking a lot of time and energy. As a result, the *Gambit* issues produced under my editorship will not be as long as with previous issues. However, don't despair *Gambit* readers, the material will be just as good.

I'm sticking with my usual format. As it works well for me.

Please contribute material, especially games. I enjoy inputting games and quite often I learn some pointers by doing so.

I look forward to seeing all of you.

Yours in chess,  
Kent

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## News and Notes



- Congratulations to **John Hartmann** and his lovely wife, **Anna**, for the birth of their daughter, **Avery**! The Nebraska chess family will enjoy watching Avery grow up and become a grandmaster.
- Speaking of **John Hartmann**, as of July 1st, 2015, he is our new NSCA President! Please welcome John as our new leader for Nebraska chess!
- Special thanks to **Mike Gooch** for his years of service as our former NSCA President. Mike did an exceptional job and we owe him a debt of gratitude!
- Congratulations to **John Regenborn** for winning the Reserve section of the Okoboji, Iowa Open held on April 17th thru the 19th. John was clear first with 4.5 points out of 5 and topped a field of 27 players. He also took home three Benjamin's Way to go John!
- Be sure to check out ***Pawn Sacrifice*** a movie due for release in the United States on September 18, 2015. It is a movie about the 1972 Fischer-Spassky match and stars Tobey Maguire as Bobby Fischer and Liev Schreiber as Boris Spassky.
- Solution to cover diagram. 1..Na4+ 2. Rxa4..Rxb3+ 3. Kxb3..Rd3 mate.

## **Wayne Pressnall** **Nebraska Hall of Fame Inductee!**

It is my pleasure to announce the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame committee made up of Robert Woodworth, Jim Jirousek and Kent Nelson has inducted **Mr. Wayne Pressnall** into the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame. Wayne's chess resume is very impressive as documented below. Congratulations to Wayne for earning this honor. Report by Kent Nelson and bio information compiled by Robert Woodworth and Jim Jirousek.



### **Mr. Wayne Pressnall's** **Nebraska Chess Hall-Of-Fame bio:**

1995 Nebraska State Chess Champion

Correspondence Postal Chess Master

*Gambit* Contributor

Prominent tournament organizer/director in Western Nebraska

North Platte Chess Club sponsor & student chess instructor

Honored responder at 1978 Chess & Humanities Conference in  
Lincoln

Winner of 9 medals in the Cornhusker State Games chess tourneys

Highly traveled & successful Midwest tournament chess player

## Great Moments in Chess

by

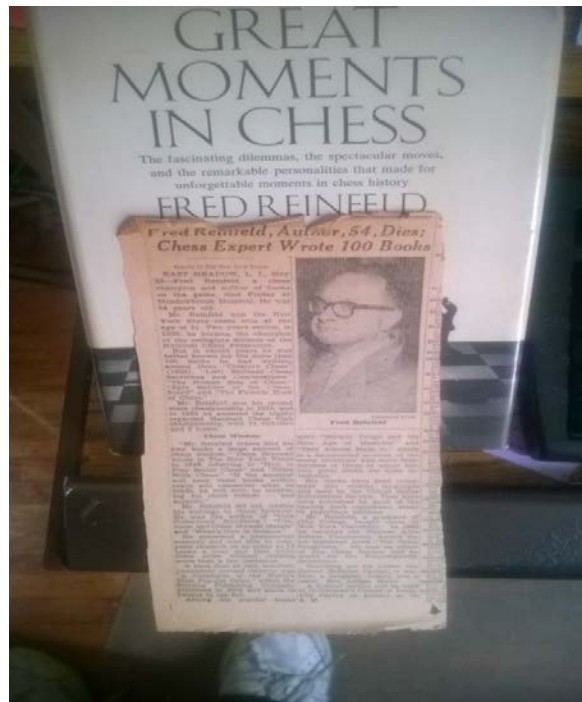
Kent Nelson

One of my favorite chess authors is Fred Reinfeld. When I first started playing tournament chess in my mid-teens, one of my first chess books was *The Complete Chess Play* by Fred Reinfeld. I still have a copy and I often recommend this book for beginners.

During a retired teacher's book sale last year, I came across a Fred Reinfeld book titled *Great Moments in Chess*. Naturally, I purchased this out of print, hard back cover book, for the whopping price of \$1.50.

When I arrived home, I decided to thumb thru the book and lo and behold, an old newspaper clipping fell out.

It was Fred Reinfeld's obituary! I believe this was the genuine article. The clipping was very yellow and tattered along the edges. The content of the article is as follows. . .



### **Fred Reinfeld, Author, 54, Dies; Chess Expert Wrote 100 Books.**

Special to the New York Times

EAST MEADOW, L.I., May 29—Fred Reinfeld, a chess champion and author of books on the game, died Friday at Meadowbrook Hospital. He was 54 years old.

Mr. Reinfeld won the New York chess title at the age of 21. Two years earlier, in 1929, he became the champion of the collegiate division of the National Chess Federation. Please turn the page. . .



But in recent years he was better known for the more than 100 books he had written among them “Creative Chess” (1959) “1,001 Brilliant Chess Sacrifices and Combinations,” “Epic Battles of the Chess board’ and “The Fireside Book of Chess.”

Mr. Reinfeld won his second state championship in 1933, and in 1935 he annexed the highly regarded Marshall Chess Club championship, with 11 victories and 3 losses.

### **Chess Wisdom**

“Mr. Reinfeld crams into his new books a large amount of chess wisdom,” Dana Brannan wrote in The New York Times in 1949, referring to “How to Play Better Chess” and “Relax With Chess,” “If the amateur will keep these books within reach and remember what he reads, he will soon be surprising his chess friends—and enemies.”

Mr. Reinfeld did not confine his writings to chess, however. He was the author of “Coin Collections’ Handbook,” “Uranium and Other Miracle Metals” and “What’s New in Science.”

He possessed a phenomenal memory and was able to compete research on as many as 13 books a year and then write them often without revising more than a few sentences.

A book that he had, however, completely revised recently was “A Catalogue of the World’s Most Popular Coins,” which the Sterling Publishing Company published in 1956 and plans to reissue in the fall.

Among his popular books were “Miracle Drugs and the New Age of Medicine” and “They Almost Made It,” which is a documented account of the many inventors who were forerunners of those to whom history gives credit for their inventions.

His works have been translated into several languages and used by the United States Information Service. They have been published by most of the leading book companies, many in paperback, editions.

Mr. Reinfeld, a graduate of City College, taught chess at New York University. In 1959 he received the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation Award for his historical work “The Great Dissenters.” He was an editor of the Chess Review and he wrote for the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Surviving are his widow, the former Beatrice Levine; a son, Don; a daughter, Judith, and a sister, Mrs. Lillian Blake.

A funeral service will be held at Gutterman’s Chapel in Rockville Centre on Sunday at 10 A. M.

Mr. Reinfeld passed away on May 29th, 1964. According to Wikipedia, he died reportedly from a ruptured cerebral aneurysm.

The newspaper clipping does not have a specific date listed, however, on the back of the clipping there is a reference to Outgoing Passenger and Mail Ships with a notice of Sailing Today, Sailing Tomorrow and Sailing Tuesday, June 2nd. Based on this information, I believe the newspaper clipping is dated May 31st, 1964.

### Ode to Gary Marks (1943-2012)

I had another experience at a used book store called BLUESTEM BOOKS located in downtown Lincoln I wish to share with you. But first, I little background information. My good friend and companion, Dr. Marcelline Hutton, and I, have made a habit of visiting the farmers market in Lincoln's Haymarket District for our weekly supply of fruits and vegetables. We did this nearly every Saturday morning during the May to October season. Afterwards, we would visit the Bluesteam book store to peruse their wonderful inventory of used books. The chess book section is quite impressive. The books are plentiful and are in good shape. But best of all, they are nearly half off the regular price. I was looking at a copy of another Fred Reinfeld book when a crisp, 2 dollar bill fell out. Naturally, I thought of my only association of 2 dollar bills, that association being with the late Gary Marks. For those readers unfamiliar with this, Gary would hand out 2 dollar bills as a partial refund to all players who wore shorts during his annual October Polar Bear tournaments. Gary never seemed to run out of his 2 dollar bills despite the fact that they are not printed anymore. Suddenly, I remembered Gary passing away in August. I looked up the date, Gary passed way on August 10th 2012. The dropping dollar took place on August 9th, 2014. I'm certain I was looking at one of Gary's former books, *The Complete Chess Player* and I believe the 2 dollar bill was used as a book mark. What are the odds of anyone else using a 2 dollar bill bookmark? And considering the date and circumstances of this situation, this was a remembrance of the late, Gary T. Marks, at least for me. I believe with the chess resources and talent we have in Nebraska, we should have a memorial tournament in Gary's honor. To quote A. Lincoln, "it is altogether fitting and proper to do this." Please contact me if interested.

## **Some commentary and decisions from your Editor.**

Many of you may remember an article I wrote that appeared in the Spring 2014 issue of the Gambit titled ***Conjunctions and Connections** an Interview with Ilmars “Elly” Didrichsons*.

That issue was produced by Kent Smotherman (the *Gambit* editor at the time) and it was brilliantly formatted which is, a hallmark Kent’s *Gambit* issues.

Since that article appeared, there has been more parts to the story which has resulted in a successful outcome.

My debate was to reproduce the article again, followed by addition information and stories that will appear in this issue.

I don’t care much for article reprints especially since the material has been covered before and the redundancy is a lot of work.

However, the whole story in one volume/issue is important to me for informational and historical purposes.

To the end, I reproducing the Conjunctions and Connections article with the sincere hope that the addition material will make it worth your while.

### **Conjunctions and Connections**

An interview with Ilmars “Elly” Didrichsons

by

Kent B. Nelson

Prior to my career as a chess player, I was an amateur astronomer. One of the many things I learned in Astronomy was the concept of Conjunctions. A conjunction is an apparent phenomenon caused by perspective only: there is no close physical approach in space between the two objects involved.

I’ve always felt human relationships are a type of conjunction. It amazes me how individuals from all backgrounds and distances can somehow enter the proximity of each other resulting in connections and bonds.

An example of this started a few years ago during my research for my first book-*Anton Sildmets. The Life and Games of a Nebraska Chess Icon*. I came across black and white photographs of Nebraska chess

players dating back to the 1950s and 60s. A very large percentage of the photographs had no identification of the players. But due to the quality of the pictures, I knew a professional was involved.

It turned out the photographer's name is Ilmars Didrichsons—"Elly" to his friends. The way I found Elly is an example of human conjunctions and a story in itself.

For starters, let me provide a little background information. I drive a van for a shuttle company called OmaLink. Most, if not all, of my driving assignments require me to take passengers from Lincoln, Nebraska and drive them to the Omaha airport, a distance of approximately 60 miles.

During one trip, I had the privilege of meeting Karl Indriksons. Mr. Indriksons is a native Latvian and I asked him if he knew Alexander Liepnieks, who also was a Latvian. Mr. Liepnieks is profiled in my book about Anton Sildmets.



**Karl Indriksons and his wife Margeret**

### **Alexander Liepnieks**



Born in Riga, Latvia, and relocating in Lincoln, Alex was a three-time Nebraska State Champion winning the titles in 1955, 1957 and 1961. He was a fifteen-time Lincoln City Champion and a rated chess Expert all his life. Alex was a very strong positional and tactical player. He passed away in 1973.

As it turned out, Mr. Indriksons knew Mr. Liepnieks. We enjoyed a very nice conversation about Alex during the shuttle ride to the Omaha airport. I later sent Mr. Indriksons a copy of the Sildmets book.

During the spring of 2013, thanks to IMs John Watson and John Donaldson, I procured more black and white photos of chess players to add to my existing collection. I wrote to Mr. Indriksons with the following request.

*I do have a request however. I've recently procured dozens of black and white photographs of Lincoln chess players from the 1950s and 60s.*

*However most of the pictures are not identified.*

*I was wondering if you could give me a name or names of individuals who might be able to help me identify the players in the photos.*

*Most, if not all the players were from the Baltic States I suspect. I have been able to identify some of the players using the group picture below.*

*Any help on this project would be sincerely appreciated Mr. Indriksons...*

Here is the group photo reference above.



Lincoln Chess Team Tops Omaha-Members of the Lincoln Chess Team, victors over Omaha in a recent match are (seated, from left): W. Sabin; P. Wood; Alexander Liepnicks; B. Frank Watson, club president; E. Hinman; and V. Rajnoha; (standing from left) J. Sobolevski; S. Reeder; J. Warner; J. Dannfields; A. Sildmets; P. Finley; O Stauers; B. Schwabauers; E. Adminis and R. Kalnins. Not pictured are V. Pupols and A. Freibergs. (Staff Photo.) (Year 1952) *Research done by Bob Woodworth, NSCA Historical Archivist.*

Mr. Indriksons came through for me. He called and invited me to attend a festival at the local Latvian Church to meet the Church elders and show them the photographs.

I was unable to attend due to a work obligation, but I made arrangements with Ben Fabrikant to attend the festival in my stead. Ben is a perfect fit, his parents are Latvian and he knows how to push a pawn or two.

### **Ben Fabrikant**

2013, 2014, 2015 Nebraska State Closed Champion



Ben attended the Church festival and afterwards he contacted me with very good news. Mr. Didrichsons, the man behind the pictures, was alive and well and living in Lincoln. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Indriksons called to inform me that Mr. Didrichsons had a telephone land line and his number was in the phone book. And as fortune would have it, Mr. Didrichsons resides just a mile away from my home. I felt the heavens were in perfect alignment. (Conjunction!).

I wrote a letter to Mr. Didrichsons with a request to meet him. He kindly replied by phone and we arranged a get together at his residence.



**Ilmar “Elly” Didrichsons**

I was very impressed with this very kind, soft spoken man in his upper eighties. He made me feel welcome in his home and he is a very nice conversationalist. From the box of photos I brought, he knew instantly what pictures were taken by him and what photos were taken by other others. Mr. Didrichsons knew his countrymen in the photos and was very helpful in identifying several pictures that had been unknown.

Mr. Didrichsons gave me fifty black and white photos of chess players that have never been published. The pictures would likely have been tossed out by his family upon his death and he understood I would appreciate having them. He was correct as I was thunderstruck. He said he heard about me and my desire to preserve and identify the pictures. It surprised me to learn my sphere of influence had reached him.

The pictures were taken during two Nebraska tournaments in the 1960s. In 1967, Nebraska held an invitation only Centennial Tournament that included attendance of the top organizers of the U.S. and Nebraska chess at that time. Another set of photos were taken during the 1969 U.S. Open in Lincoln.

All the pictures were 8 x10 and are crisp and clear—so much so that the name tags of the players are readable and thus identifiable.

Mr. Didrichsons granted me an interview. He told me he was born in Riga, Latvia. His father was an officer in the military. Mr. Didrichsons had one older sister that recently passed away. He lived in a part of Riga close to a lake on the northeast part of the city called Forrest Park. He learned to sail on frozen and liquid water, an activity he enjoyed all his life. The location of his childhood home had one problem. It wasn't near a school. The closest school was a mile away, through tough industrial neighborhoods, located southeast of his residence. The way to school required him to choose between 2 paths. One path was longer but more established (that included street cars routes) and the other path took him thru farmer fields, pastures and cemeteries. When asked what route he took to school, Mr. Didrichsons mentioned he took the shorter path. In addition to walking, he would often ski or skate to school depending on the weather and street conditions.

Mr. Didrichsons attended a high school with a class of 46 male students. The school was divided with the girls attending 2 classes and the boys attending 1 class. The two groups were not allowed to mix. Attending high school also required making payments to the school.

Mr. Didrichsons served as the class coordinator. He kept track of all his class mates for decades. Sadly, it appears all of Mr. Didrichsons class mates have passed on. Mr. Didrichsons is the only one left.

At an early age, Mr. Didrichsons displayed good business acumen. He told me during his childhood he would negotiate with neighbors before the winter season to remove snow off the sidewalks and roofs. The arrangement was a seasonal contact with a onetime up-front payment in return for Mr. Didrichsons seasonal services. In the event of a mild winter, Mr. Didrichsons would make out very well and he often did.

Mr. Didrichsons interest in photography started in his teen years. At the start of his career, he shared equipment and resources with other photographers. With this peer group; Mr. Didrichson learned the value of keeping promises and following through on commitments. Mr. Didrichsons took action pictures from sporting activities such as hockey and skiing. His pictures were published at a local newspaper and demand for his photographs increased. However, there was a problem. The newspaper didn't know he was a minor and when the payments for his photos reached the \$50.00 limit, he wasn't able to collect his paycheck because of his age. However, his father was able to collect on his son's behalf.

With all individuals I've encountered that make up the "Greatest Generation" the gravity of World War II and the Great Depression in the United States had a profound and adverse impact on them. Unfortunately, Mr. Didrichsons was not spared from these terrible circumstances.

Mr. Didrichsons then displayed a world map. He explained that prior to World War II, tensions were high Internationally due to the strong desires from Russia, Germany and other European countries to control the Baltic sea ports. The harbors were important for trade commerce and logistics. Whoever controlled these ports would have a significant military advantage.



Mr. Didrichsons told me the Soviet Union occupied Latvia during his childhood. When the Nazis invaded the Baltic States and drove out the Soviets out of Latvia, the Germans were seen as liberators. That quickly changed and conditions became very difficult. When the Germans were forced out from Latvia by the returning Soviet army, Mr. Didrichsons remembered what the Soviet occupation was like and decided to sign up for military service. He was joined by his high school classmates. 15 returned home after the war.



1939 Photo of Ilmar “Elly” Didrichsons

Mr. Didrichsons served in the infantry. His military service was a long one, from 1939 to 1945. When the Germans drove out the Soviets, Latvian men expressed a strong desire to join the German army. According to Mr. Didrichsons, Germany declined the Latvians offer, saying they wanted men “that can fight”. When the Soviets started driving out the Germans, the Germans reconsidered their position and wanted Latvian men to enlist. Mr. Didrichsons and his friends declined their offer.

Instead, Mr. Didrichsons, along with his high school buddies, joined forces with Latvian Legionnaire and Partisan groups. He had training in a military instructor’s school. He did see active duty and traveled all over the world and experienced firsthand the horrors of war.

During our third visit, Mr. Didrichsons mentioned he read my earlier draft and said “You write very formally”. He asked me to call him “Elly” from now on. I was very touched by this.

I asked Elly if he played chess. He said he does but prefers outdoor activities when the weather is nice. Elly mentioned he was a prison guard during the Nuremberg war trials. He played chess with an inmate that was sentenced to life in prison for war crimes.

Elly followed his older sister to the United States who had emigrated to the U.S. three months before him. His plan was to return to Latvia after a few months, however conditions in his native county made this untenable. As a result, Elly had to start a new life in Lincoln, Nebraska. After relocating, it wasn't easy for him. He worked an outdoor job for 5 years, braving sub-zero temperatures for long shifts during Nebraska winters. He took on extra jobs working at a full service gas station where he learned everything he could about auto mechanics. And of course, there was the formidable task of learning the English language and adapting to the customs in the United States. Despite the heavy workloads, Elly made the time to attend college at night.

Elly's educational and working career is very impressive. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and later became a structural engineer by trade. After earning a scholarship, he earned another bachelor's degree in geology. During his schooling, he made ends meet by photography. He was a busy man, working 60 hour work weeks in addition to being a full time student.

During his professional career spanning decades, Elly worked at the Nebraska Department of Roads as a bridge designer. He knew my late father, Fred B. Nelson, who also worked at the Department of Roads. Elly and my father had many conversations about the bridges he designed. Most of the bridges were part of the newly commissioned 1-80 Interstate system. When asked how long it took to design a bridge, Elly mentioned it depended on a number of factors but design times would vary from months to years. Working conditions were a challenge also. During the hot Nebraska summers, he had to "roll down his selves" to avoid making smudge marks while working at the building without air conditioning.

Elly is a family man, he has three children, two boys and one girl. One boy and the girl turned out to be twins. When I asked if he and his wife were expecting twins, Elly replied with an emphatic "No, it was total surprise and not expected at all".

Elly continues to live a very active lifestyle involved in gardening and landscaping. He walks daily and credits physical activity as a major factor in staying healthy. He also likes to fish (as I do).



Elly in Minnesota with a string full of fish

Elly had a question for me toward the end of one interview. He inquired about the oldest chess newsletter I had in my possession. I was a little taken aback by the question and I fumbled a bit before saying I had one from the 1960s.

Elly stood up, walked over to a desk drawer and opened it. He presented a chess newsletter dated August 1964 written in his native Latvian. He turned the pages and stopped at a picture of a beautiful young woman. Elly stated that this lady was the most organized and people-friendly secretary he ever had the opportunity to work with and she is Alex Liepnieks, daughter Ruta.

On a hand-written piece of paper was an address and telephone number for Ruta Liepnieks that he handed me.

I immediately thought how ironic—all this started with a conversation about Alex Liepnieks, beginning with Mr. Indriksons (on the shuttle) resulting in a path to meet Elly with connection information about Liepnieks's daughter, Ruta.

I'm thankful to Elly for all he has done for me and Nebraska chess and I look forward to another connection with the daughter of Lincoln's greatest chess player, Alex Liepnieks. I'm counting my lucky stars.



**Ilmar “Elly” Didrichsons (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) in a Latvian Fraternity Ceremony held in Lincoln.**

#### Editor’s Comments

4/26/15

In the proceeding pages, you will be given new material to augment this article starting with Mr. Didrichson’s wonderful photographs.

After the photo gallery, my contact and conversation with Ruta Liepnieks (now Ruta York) will follow, along with new documentation about Bobby Fischer’s 1955 U.S. Junior experience in Lincoln, Nebraska.

And finally, my dealings with Victor Pupols (who was referred to me by Mrs. York) will be documented. This includes Mr. Pupols photo analysis of the Black and White photographs of Nebraska chess players dating back to the 1950s and 60s that prompted this search process in the first place.

I hope you enjoy the forthcoming material as much as I have enjoyed providing it.



Pictures taken during the 1967 Nebraska Centennial Chess Tournament. All Players are in the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame.

All photographs courtesy of  
**Mr. Ilmar “Elly” Didrichsons**



**John Watson**  
**1967 Nebraska Centennial**



**Alexander Liepnieks**





**Robert "Bud" Narverson  
1967 Nebraska Centennial Tournament**



**Howard Ohman (sitting)  
with Alex Liepnicks examining the position.**

**Mr. Ohman passed away a year later from a heart attack.**





**Picture of Richard McLellan**

**1967 Nebraska Centennial Chess Tournament**

**1969 U. S. Open Lincoln, Nebraska.  
Held at the Lincoln Hotel (Now defunct)**



“ **A Rowdy bunch!**” as photographer, “Elly” Didrichsons, described his efforts to assemble the chess participants for this group photo.

## **Ruta York**

Here is part two of the story.

As per recommendation from Mr. Didrichsons, my next step was to contact Ruta York, the daughter of the late Alexander Liepnicks. I wrote her a letter and Mrs. York was kind enough to call me a few days later. I found her to be a wonderful lady to visit with and she was very helpful in my quest to identify the aforementioned black and white photographs.

She did this by providing me a referral and a revelation. I'll start with the revelation, but first, a little background information about the 1955 U.S. Junior Chess Championship held in Lincoln, Nebraska's Y.M.C. A.

Alex Liepnicks sponsored the event and he had a number of out of town players staying at his home.

One guest was none other than Bobby Fischer.

The following is a tournament report provided by the late, Jack Spence.

### **Bobby Fischer in Lincoln**

*The Ohman Memorial Chess Club Newsletter Vol. III Spring Special, 1972 No.5  
Jack Spence, Ed.*

*Since 1949 Omaha and Lincoln have been host to three U.S. Opens & three National Junior Championships. We held junior title meets in Omaha in 1952 and 1959 and in 1955 at the Lincoln YMCA.*



Alex Liepnicks sponsored the Lincoln junior event that year which attracted twenty-five entrants from ten states. Charles Kalme, 15, USCF Expert, Philadelphia, living up to advance notice, sweeping to a 9-1 score, losing to Robert Cross, Santa Monica in the fifth.

Larry Remlinger, 13, Long Beach, 3rd rated at the start, was given considerable

publicity due to his prodigy status. He lived up to expectations, losing only to Kalme and drawing three games. Today the 10th renewal takes on added interest due to presence of a modest lad of 12 from Brooklyn then playing in a national event for the first time.

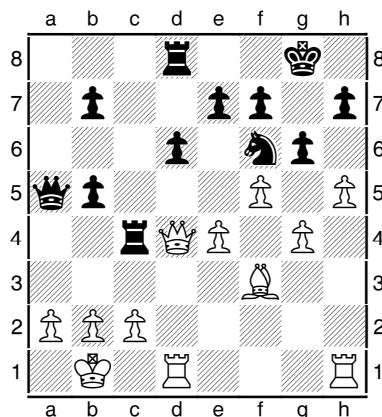
Prior to July 15th Bobby Fischer played in a few club tourneys around New York. He had not acquired much of a rating (Class B at 1830) and none of the publicity which had surrounded Remlinger.

He wanted to travel half way across the country to Lincoln, but his mother said no until Alex gave her personal assurances he would care for Bobby in his home and look after him for the week. His 9th place ranking and 20th place finish would be largely forgotten today were it not for a mimeographed booklet of 75 games from the meet.

Four of his games are there and it may be they are among his earliest recorded examples to be sure, but one should remember that all contestants knew something about chess.

*Ken Warner, 17, Bakersfield, Cal. rated 1550, defeated Fischer in Rd. 1. Warner arrived 1st in opposite wing attacks. Warner (Bl) was 12th at 5-5:*

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be2 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.f3 0-0 9.Qd2 a6 10.0-0-0 Qa5 11.Kb1 Rd8 12.g4 Nxd4 13.Bxd4 Be6 14.Qe3 Nd7 15.f4 Bxd4 16.Qxd4 Nf6 17.f5 Bd7 18.h4 Bb5 19.Bf3 Rac8 20.Nxb5 axb5 21.h5 Rc4** See diagram



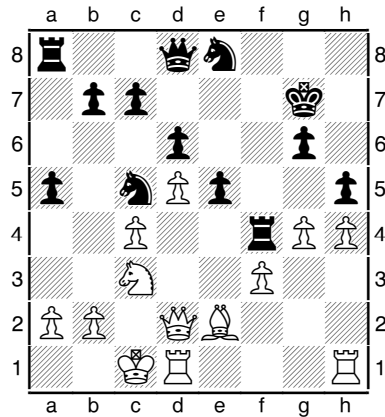
**22.Qe3!? Ra8 23.a3 Qa4 24.c3 Nxe4 25.Bxe4 Rxe4 26.Qh6 Re2 27.Rd2 Rxd2 28.Qxd2 Qe4+ White Resigns**

*As Bl, Fischer defended the King's Indian Defense well with William Whisler, 17, Concord, California who was 14th, 5-5. A draw was declared although play remained after the queen exchanges:*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Qd2 e5 8.d5 a5 9.h4 Nc5 10.Nge2 Bd7 11.Ng3 h5 12.Be2 Qc8 13.Bh6 Kh7 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Rf1 Qd8 16.0-0-0 Ne8 17.Rh1 f5 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Nxf5+ Rxf5 20.g4**



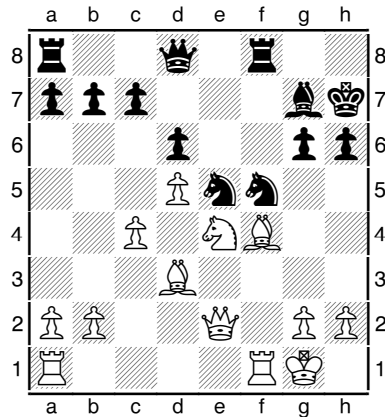
**Rf4** See diagram



**21.gxh5 gxh5 22.Rdg1+ Kh8 23.Qc2 Ng7 24.Qg6 Qf6 25.Qxf6 Rxf6**  
**Draw game**

*As Wh, Jim Thomason, 14, Ft Worth, 21st, 5-5 lost time with 6 Bd3 allowing Fischer an early . f5 and his 1st victory:*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Bd3 Bg4 7.0-0 Nc6**  
**8.Be3 Nd7 9.Be2 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 e5 11.d5 Ne7 12.Be2 f5! 13.f4 h6**  
**14.Bd3 Kh7 15.Qe2 fxe4 16.Nxe4 Nf5 17.Bd2 exf4 18.Bxf4 Ne5**

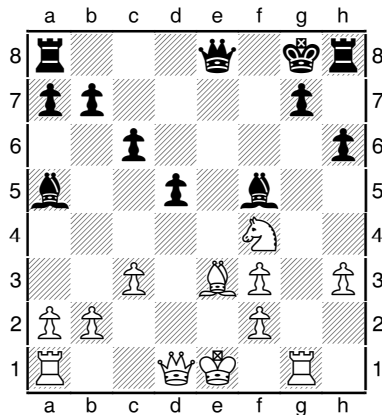


**19.Bc2? Nd4 20.Qd2 Nxc4! Now Thomason has fallen apart. 21.Qf2**  
**Rxf4 22.Qxf4 Ne2+ 23.Kh1 Nxf4 Black won shortly.**

*Fischer was in trouble with David Ames, 15, unrated from Quincy, Mass, who had 5-5 (18th) as 14 . .Bb4 check gave Ames (Wh) a “combination.” Fischer recovered the pawn for a logical draw later on.*

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4 Nxe4 5.Bxf7+ Kxf7 6.Nxe4 d5**  
**7.Neg5+ Kg8 8.d4 h6 9.Nh3 Bg4 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nf4 c6 12.h3 Nxf3+**  
**13.gxf3 Bf5 14.Be3 Bb4+ 15.c3 Ba5 16.Rg1 Qe8 17.Nxd5 Qf7 18.Nf4**

**Re8 19.Qb3 Bc7 20.Qxf7+ Kxf7 21.Nh5 g6 22.Ng3 Bxh3 23.0-0-0 Rd8  
24.Rxd8 Bxd8 25.Rh1 Bg2 26.Rxh6 Rxh6 27.Bxh6 Bxf3 28.Be3 Final**  
Diagram below. **Draw game**



In the 5th and 6th rounds he drew with Ken Stone, 17, Los Angeles (16th at 5-5) and John Briska, 17, Albany, New York (19, 5-5) before a 7th round loss to Victor Pupols, 20, of Lincoln. *This was the famous “loss” after which Bobby returned to his room to cry.* Pupols lives in Seattle today and now carries a master rating. He had 5.5-4.5, 9th.

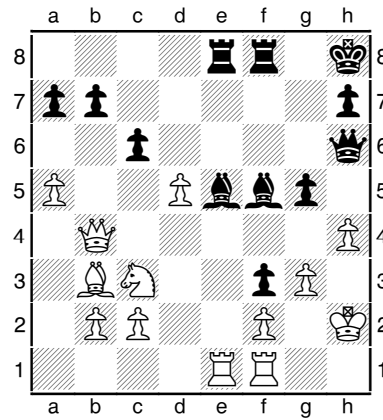
Draws followed Robert Blair, 18, Midwest City Oklahoma (23rd, 3.5-6.5) and John Winkleman, 14, Lincoln (22nd, 4-6) before a final victory over hapless, Frank Saksena, 17, Ft. Worth, Tex who was last with 1-9.

Although Bobby was undistinguished in finishing 20th at 2-2-6, he proved difficult, almost impossible to defeat as he kept the draw in hand.

The following year he won the same event in San Francisco then was 8th to Arthur Bisquier in the Oklahoma City U.S. Open, 5-0-7. Soon he was internationally acclaimed and by the time he was 18 he had some claim to being the “unofficial” holder of the world title.

### **Fischer versus Pupols, U.S. Junior Championship 1955 Played in Lincoln, Nebraska**

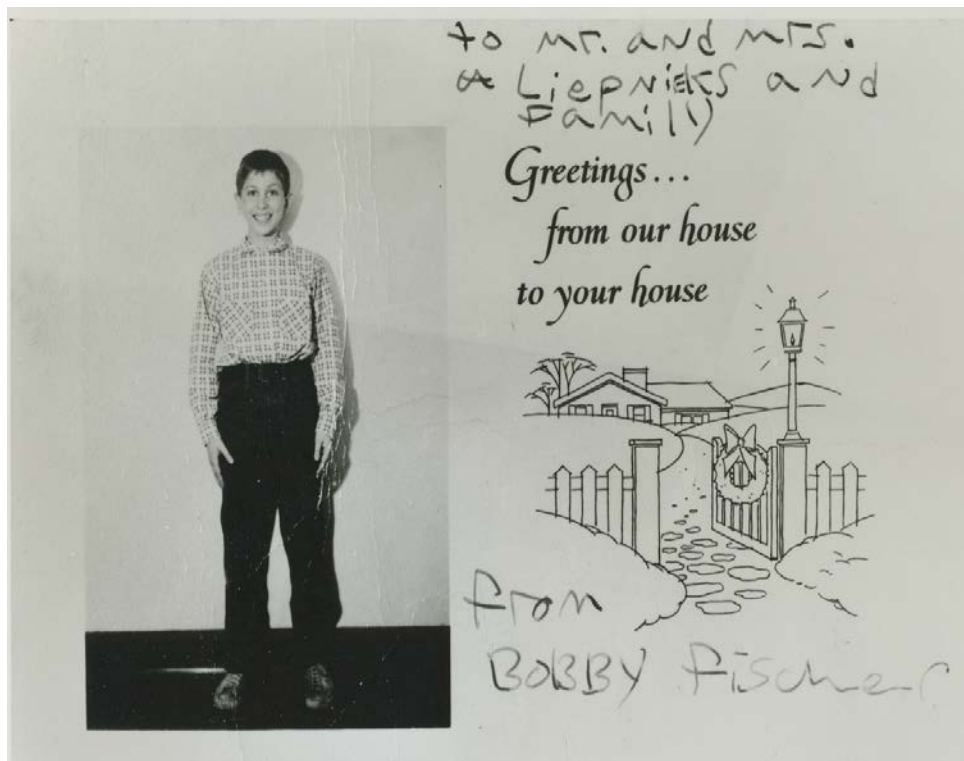
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qf6 4.d4 d6 5.Nc4 fxe4 6.Nc3 Qg6 7.Ne3 Nf6  
8.Bc4 c6 9.d5 Be7 10.a4 Nbd7 11.a5 Ne5 12.Be2 0-0 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Kh1  
Kh8 15.Nc4 Nfg4 16.Qe1 Rf7 (a) 17.h3 Nf6 18.Nxe5 dxe5 19.Bc4 Rff8  
20.Be3 Nh5 21.Kh2 Bd6 22.Bb3 Nf4 23.Bxf4 exf4 24.Qxe4 f3+ 25.g3  
Bf5 (b) 26.Qh4 Rae8 27.Rae1 Be5 28.Qb4 Qh6 29.h4 g5**



Position after 29..g5

**30.Rh1 gxh4 31.Kg1 h3 (c) 32.dxc6 bxc6 33.Qc5 Qg7 34.Kh2 Qf6 35.Qxa7 Bd4 36.Qc7 Bxf2 37.Rxe8 Rxe8 38.Rf1 Bd4 (d) 39.Rxf3 Bxc3 40.bxc3 Re2+ 41.Kh1 Be4 42.Qc8+ Kg7 43.Qg4+ (e) Qg6 44.Qd7+ Kh6 and Fischer lost on time. (a) Pupols suggests now 16..Rf5 17.B:g4..N:g4 18 N:e4..c:d. (b) Again he gives 25 . .Qh6 26. any, Rf4! (c) Plausible is 31 . . B:g3 32 Qd4 + Be5 33. R:e5 [33. Q:h4 B-h2+] Qg7+ (d) The time limit was 50 moves in two hours. Here White has two minutes left as Black has only one left. (e) Correct 43 Qd7+. Liepnieks established a life-long relationship with Bobby after his Lincoln stay.**

### Postcard courtesy of Ruta York.



**Mrs. York "Revelation" is on the next page→**

## Historic Chess Picture

Photo below is courtesy of **Gordon Opp**

*USA Junior Chess Championship  
1955*

*Lincoln, Nebraska:  
at the YMCA*

*From left: Robert Fischer, Andy Starlis,  
AL. Liepnieks, Kenwood Opp,  
Henry Gross, Larry Remlinger, Green.*

*Second row betw. A. Liepnieks & K. Opp - the  
winner of the tournament (9:1 score)  
Charles Kalme (Philadelphia).*



### **USA Junior Chess Championship 1955**

#### **Lincoln, Nebraska, at the YMCA**

From left: Robert Fischer, Andy Starlis, AL. Liepnieks, Kenwood Opp,  
Henry Gross, Larry Remlinger, Green.

Second row betw. A. Liepnieks & K. Opp - the winner of the tournament  
(9:1 score) Charles Kalme (Philadelphia).

#### **They called him "Fish"**

Bobby Fischer's sub par performance during the 1955 USA Junior Chess Championship may be due to the "hazing" he received from fellow competitors who were staying with Bobby at the Liepnieks home. According to Ruta York, the daughter of Alex Liepnieks, Bobby was targeted by Charles Kalme and fellow New Yorker, Larry Remlinger. Bobby was called "fish" and "crybaby" and, as a result, Fischer would burst into tears and call his mother. Mrs. York cited an example of a ball that strayed into a thicket full of thorns and Bobby being made to retrieve it. Another example was the bed being divided in the guest room with Bobby being made to sleep on the box spring. – Editor's comment.



Here is the final part of the story.

“The Referral”

**Viktors Pupols**

Mrs. York, in addition to providing key information and insights about Bobby Fischer’s stay in Lincoln (during the 1955 U.S. Junior Championship) also gave me contact information about tournament participant and long time chess icon, Viktors Pupols.

I was able to contact Mr. Pupols. He was very kind and helpful in identifying (along with Nebraska historical archivist, Robert Woodworth) those black and white photos that appeared in the March-April 2013 issue of the *Gambit*.

In the interest of saving space, I’m only going to republish the pictures Mr. Pupols and others were able to help identify, along with Mr. Pupols comments (with slight edits) that he sent me via e-mail dated June 23, 2014. I’m grateful for his analysis. My special thanks to the all the wonderful individuals that helped me with this quest.



**Hossein Kazemzadeh**

“There was quite a contingent of Iranian students at the University of Nebraska , probably all from wealthy families.”



My father, **Peteris Pupols**.



**Ernest Adminis**



**Kenneth Opp**  
(Second to right)

He had just left the U.S. Navy. Later he was in business.



Middle: **Anton Freibergs** (the blond).



**Dr. Maurice Nathanson**

He may have been a PhD rather than an MD



**Prof. E. Hinman,**  
Definitely from U of N,  
but possibly an emeritus at that time.



**Jekabs Dreshmanis**



**Anton Freibergs (middle).**



**Kenneth Opp**



**David Moomaw** (then a UNL student)



**Jacob (Jascha) Schwabauer.**

Not a recent immigrant, but of Volga German descent. There is another Schwabauer in your photos, a younger one.



**William Sabin**



**Never seen him, but he's Baltic: look at the dawn ornaments on his sweater!**



**Hossein Kazemzadeh (white shirt w/glasses).  
Liepnieks in dark suit, far right.**



**V. Pupols, Sabin, Rajnoha, Liepnieks  
(on right side from the left).**



**Joe Warner (dark hair, left foreground)**



**V. Pupols, Sabin, Rajnoha, Liepnieks  
(same array, bottom picture on page 35, only more visible)**



**Ken Opp, Freibergs (blond), V. Pupols (in distance)  
(looking from the right to left)**

## **Some final comments from Viktor's Pupols**

*“ Some I can't identify may have been casual visitor's or super weak and therefore not memorable. Strange how the personnel changes. At one time, almost everyone in the U.S. Championship was born in the former Soviet Union. Now tournaments, particularly junior ones, are chockfull of Asian-American kids. Have a nice day; Vik.”*



**Stanley W. Reeder**

**I received a lovely note from Jody Brown regarding her father, pictured above. Mrs. Brown sent me a copy of the original Articles of Incorporation of the Lincoln Chess Foundation (documents dating back to the mid 60s) and the final standing of the October 1960 Midwest Open held at the Lincoln Air force base. Mrs. Brown reported she found these important documents in her father's files.**

**She also sent me this comment. . .**

*“You are clearly working hard to preserve the history of the chess club”. Thank you Mrs. Brown.—Kent Nelson.*





**1969**

by

**John Tomas**

Forty-five years ago. Three of the most important events in Nebraska chess history occurred:

1. 1969 US Open

2. John Watson's victory in the inaugural US High School Championship

3. The dedication of the Howard E. Ohman Memorial Chess Club in Omaha.

Let's take these one at a time.

### **The 1969 US Open**

For much of the last century, the US Open was the second strongest tournament in the country (behind the US Invitational). Before the late '40s, when the Swiss System came into vogue, the tournament featured preliminary sections which qualified players for final sections of varying strength. The top section could be extremely strong – Sammy Reshevsky, Reuben Fine, I.A. Horowitz, Arnold Denker, Arthur Dake, Herman Steiner, *et al.* Indeed, it one of Howard Ohman's greatest successes came when he qualified for the final section in San Antonio during August of 1940. Unfortunately, that final section was especially strong that year, and Ohman only scored 2 1/2 points. Here is his game against Reuben Fine.

**Fine, Reuben (GM) - Ohman, Howard**  
**San Antonio, US Open Finals (2), 08/24/1940**  
**Queen's Gambit Accepted D23**

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qa4+ c6 5.Qxc4 Nbd7 6.Qc2 e6**

**7.g3 Bb4+ 8.Nc3 0–0 9.Bg2 Qe7 10.0–0 e5 11.e4 exd4  
 12.Nxd4 Nb6 13.Re1 Bxc3 14.Qxc3 Re8 15.Bf4 Be6 16.a4  
 Nh5 17.a5 Nxf4 18.gxf4 Nc8 19.f5 Bd7 20.a6 Rb8 21.e5 c5  
 22.e6 cxd4 23.exd7 Qxd7 24.Qxd4 Nb6 25.Qxd7 Rxe1+  
 26.Rxe1 Nxd7 27.axb7 Kf8 28.b4 Rd8 29.Rc1 Nb8 30.Rc8  
 Ke7 31.Bf1 a6 32.Bc4 Rf8 33.Kg2 Rd8 34.Bxf7 Rd7  
 35.Rxb8 1–0**

Not Howard's best moment, but you should remember that Fine was among the top five players in the world at that point. (Botvinnik, Keres, Alekhine, and Euwe, were the other four with Reshevsky and Capablanca just behind) having won (with Paul Keres) what has good claim to be the strongest tournament of all time in Holland's 1938 AVRO event.

It wasn't until the late 1970s, when the World Open and the New York Open's superior prize funds outstripped it, that the Open lost its prominence. Nebraska has always had a couple of players in each version of the Open: during the '60s Jack Spence could be counted on to show up to Opens to collect games for his series of tournament books. Moreover, local organizers put together four successful opens in 25 years – Omaha in 1949 and 1959 and Lincoln in 1969 and 1975.

Unlike today's swisses, which offer major prizes for a variety of class tournaments with a number of schedules to accommodate as many players as possible, the Open was a one-section tournament with a single playing schedule. This produced some epic mismatches in the early rounds as GMs may well have been paired against players they would normally face in simul.

I played in Opens in 1968, '69 and 1973, and did the bulletins for the Chicago 1979 Open. I visited the Lincoln 1975 and Concord 1995 Opens. I thought that the 1969 Open was the least interesting of the ones I played in. There were very few major upsets at the top and the titled players (Robert Byrne, Pal Benkő, Arthur Bisguier, Milan Vukceвич and Bill Martz), drew with each other with very little play.

The tournament was hardly a large success for local players. Nebraska players had a massive logjam at the top with rather mediocre 7-5s – Watson, Liepnieks, Spence, Sildmets and Tomas among others. John Watson led in tiebreaks with good reason – he played the strong North Dakota (originally Paris) Stefan Popel, IM Bill Martz and a then totally unknown player from Northern California named John Grefe. Within four years Grefe became much better known when he tied for first in the US Championship crushing Walter Browne in the process.

Not surprisingly, one of the best games by a Nebraska player was this black win by John Watson.

### **Cook, P - Watson, John (IM)**

US-open Lincoln (11), 8/20/69

Queen's Pawn Game [D02]

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c3 d5**

Rather surprising to me — John tended to fianchetto when he could. Of course, he still can, and that is what I expect he intended if Cook had gone directly into a Colle.

**3.Nf3 c5 4.dxc5 4..e6 5.b4**

Of the eight other games with this move in my database, white scored 4 losses and 4 draws!

**5...a5 6.♔b3 b6 7.cxb6 axb4 8.cxb4 ♔xb6**

This pattern is fairly straightforward and to occurs (with appropriate variations) in a variety of openings — Queen's Gambit Accepted, Declined, and Catalan System among them.

**9.b5 ♘bd7!**

9...♔c5 10.e3 ♘bd7 11.♔b2 Leaves the Black knights rather embarrassed for good squares.

**10.e3 ♘c5 11.♔c2 ♔d6**

11...♔d7 might be better if only to tempt White to play 12.a4 (12. ♘c3 ♔d6) 12... ♘ce4

**12.a4 0-0 13.♔e2 e5**

13...♔d7!? 14.♔d2 ♖fc8 15.a5 ♔d8; 13...♔b7!? Despite the extreme complications that ensue I suspect this position is really rather balanced.]

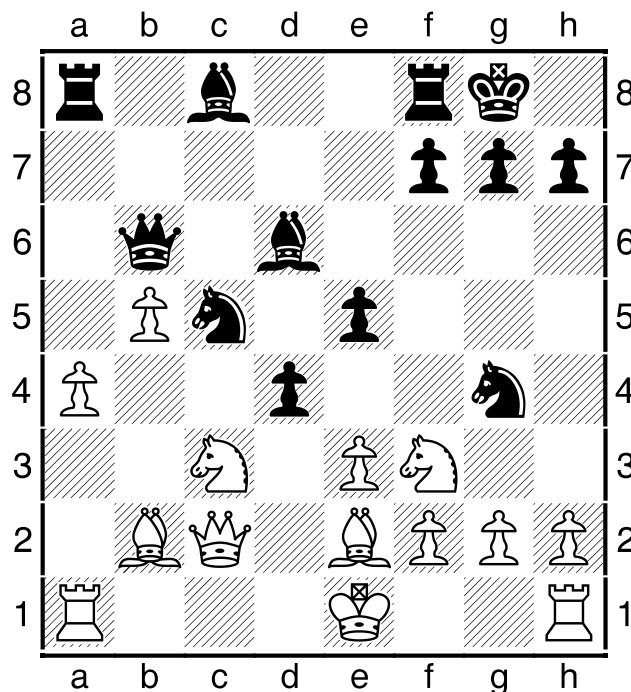
**14.♔b2?!**

White really should castle while he can.

**14...♘g4**

Trappy, highly tactical and completely what you would expect from John at the time (and perhaps even today). Watson's own comment was "What strange chess I used to play!"

**15.♘c3 d4!?**



The obvious positional play (open the center when you have an advantage in development), but is it best?

**16.exd4**

16.♘g5 f5 17.exd4 exd4 18.♘d5 ♔d8 19.f4; 16.♘d5 ♔b7 17.♘g5 e4 18.exd4 ♘d3+! 19.♔xd3 exd3 20.♔xd3 ♖e8+ 21.♔f1 ♔xd5 22.♔xh7+ ♔f8 23.♔h8+ ♔e7 24.♖e1+ ♔e5 25.♔h4 ♖xa4! 26.♘f3+ (26.♔g1) 26...g5 27.♔xg5+ ♔f8 28.♔c1 ♔xb5+ 29.♔g1 ♔g7

**16...exd4 17.♘xd4**

17.♘d1?! d3 18.♚c3 (18.♙xd3 ♘xd3+ 19.♚xd3 ♖e8+ 20.♔f1 ♙c5 21.h3 ♘f6 (21...♘xf2? 22.♘xf2 ♙xf2 23.♙d4 ♙xd4 24.♚xd4) 22.♘e3 ♙b7) 18...♚a5 19.♚xa5 ♖xa5; 17.♘d5 ♚b7 18.♘g5 d3

**17...♘e6**

I suspect that John had seen this far when he played Ng4. Black has more than enough play for his pawn, and, just as important, the type of position he loves.

**18.♘d5?!**

After this move, black has a definite initiative. Instead It would be better to play 18.♙xg4 ♘xd4 19.♚d1 ♖e8+ 20.♔f1 with an unclear position.

**18...♘xd4 19.♚xh7+**

19.♚c3 ♚d8 20.♚xd4 ♙e5 21.♚c5 (21.♚d2 ♙xb2 22.♚xb2 ♚xd5 23.0-0 ♙b7) 21...♙xb2 22.♖d1 ♚a5+ 23.♔f1 ♙e6 24.h3 ♘e5 25.♚e3 ♚xa4

**19...♔xh7 20.♘xb6 ♘c2+ 21.♔f1 ♘xa1 22.♘xa8 ♘b3 23.♙d3+**

23.♘b6 ♙c5 24.♘xc8 ♘xf2 25.♘d6 ♘xh1 26.♘c4 ♘f2 27.a5 ♖a8 28.a6 f5 (28...f5)

**23...f5 24.♘b6 ♘xf2 25.♔xf2 ♙c5+ 26.♔e2 ♙xb6 27.♙c4 ♖e8+ 28.♔f3 ♘d2+ 29.♔g3 ♖e3+ 30.♔f4 ♘xc4**

One of those games where tactics are everything. **0–1**

In those days, US Opens were an essential part of the American chess landscape. Nowadays, you can find spare grandmasters tripping over each other at weekend events. But then, an Open was the only time you were likely to see, let alone play, a grandmaster. Naturally, this was heaven for younger players. I got to see Robert Byrne demonstrate his win against Jan Hein Donner. Pal Benkö stopped by my analysis session to ask me about an opening.

But what I remember most about the tournament were the number of comers who were there virtually every strong

young player from the Midwest as well as future masters from both coasts. It was all chess all the time – blitz sessions that lasted all night, analysis sessions with as many as a dozen participants. My most vivid memory outside of the YMCA room I shared with Lance Williams, John Watson, and Richard Douglas was of a player I doubt you have ever heard of. Vincent Livermore was a young 2100 player from New York City. As an African-American player he would have stood out in Lincoln anyway, but it was his personality that really set him apart. Livermore (or “The Liver” as he was nicknamed) was a ferocious blitz player – the grandmasters would have nothing to do with him, and he just destroyed everyone else including all the young players – all the while engaging in an absolutely hilarious line of patter.

Years before, I had made it a rule never to do blitz during tournaments, and I was virtually the only young player whom he had not defeated and he pestered me throughout the tournament. After the tournament was over, I played a short session with him and had the pleasure of coming out ahead.

Fast forward 24 years. In 1993, a movie entitled *Searching for Bobby Fischer* was released. It was based vaguely on the group of essays by Fred Waitzkin about his semi-prodigy son Josh (who later became an IM and participated in a US Invitational). At the time, the film caused a minor sensation in chess circles because it treated chess with intelligence and had real grandmasters playing themselves! (If you haven’t seen it, it is worth your time. It is an excellent movie wholly outside of the fact that it deals with chess and chess players.)

A number of the characters in the film are played by well-known Hollywood (and, for several of them, *Steppenwolf* in Chicago) actors. Laurence Fishburne plays “Vinnie,” a Washington Square chess hustler who befriends the nascent international master. Vinnie was, of course, Vincent Livermore who had given up the straight life to take on all comers (and mostly win). Unfortunately, the real Vincent Livermore died of AIDS before he got to see himself played by Laurence Fishburne.

## **John Watson Wins the First United States High-School Championship**

In April of 1969, Omaha's John Watson scored 7 1/2 out of 8 points to win the first ever national high-school championship. This was a triumph for John, of course, but it also was an event that put Omaha and Nebraska chess on the map. One of my reasons for this series is to help Cornhuskers (current and past) understand what a rich chess history it has.

Just one example. As of the 2010 Census, the Kansas City metropolitan area contains 2.34 million souls. Omaha checks in at around 400,000. Essentially, the Kansas City metropolitan area is six times more populous than Omaha (indeed more populous by a good margin than the state of Nebraska). Yet, when matches pitting cities against each other were popular in the 1950's, Omaha defeated Kansas City consistently and decisively. Indeed, Omaha was clearly the dominant city of the plains states (Oklahoma, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska and the Dakotas). In the wider area only Chicago, Minneapolis and St. Louis (with two nationally known players – Bob Steinmeyer and Eliot Hearst) could consistently expect to win matches against it.

John's victory in the *first* national high-school gave national currency to that history in a way nothing else could have. I had a very slight role in John's victory. When he told me that he planned on playing in the tournament we decided to work together on some preparation (I cannot recall who initiated the idea). I put together some positions that were likely to occur in the openings that John intended to play, and we played a series of training games from those positions.

Like many young players, both John and I had a certain fascination for the black side of the Yugoslav Attack in the Dragon Sicilian. When I was even younger, I took a liking to an obscure sub-variation developed by Donald Byrne. I had studied it in detail, and I suggested it to John as an effective way to force booked-up whites onto their own resources. I had never had the chance to use it but John did both in New York and later at the Lincoln Open (0-2-0).



**Cardamone, James - Watson, John**

**US High School Championship Philadelphia, 04/12/1969**

**Sicilian Defense B70**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6**

I hadn't been aware that John was playing or planning to play the Dragon. In our training sessions we focused on the Najdorf Sicilian.

**6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0**

White players facing the Dragon in the '60s introduced this idea to avoid the (even then!) mind-numbing theory around Bc4. But like so many other attempts to avoid theory, it developed its own extensive theoretical history. As far as I know, both this and the main lines are still up-in-the-air -- fifty years later!

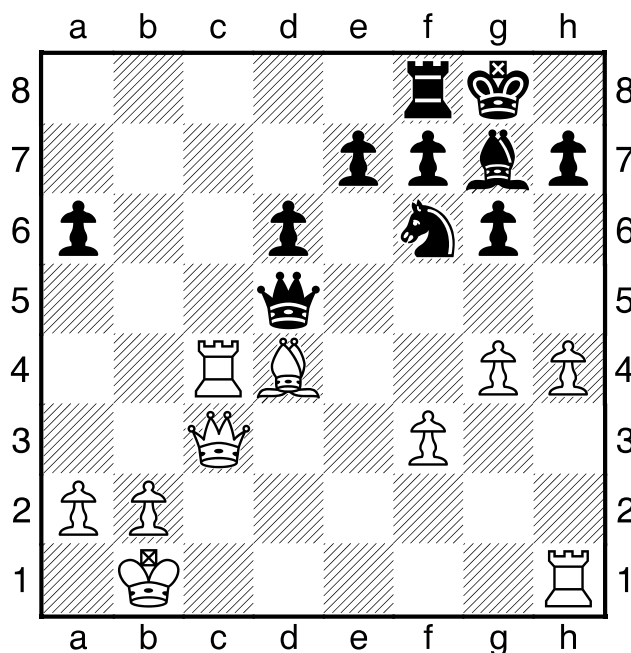
**9...Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6** The standard response, even today.

**11.Nd5 Bxd5 12.exd5 Rc8 13.Kb1 Qc7 14.Rc1**

On 14.g4? Nxd5 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Qxd5 Qxc2+

**14...a6 15.g4 b5 16.h4 Qb7 17.c4 bxc4 18.Bxc4 Rxc4!?**

Objectively bad, but it leads to a position with a lot of tactical tricks. **19.Rxc4 Qxd5 20.Qc3?**



And White overlooks the tricks.

## 20...Ne4! 21.Qc1?

21.Qe3! Allows him to reach a rook and pawn endgame only a pawn down. 21...Qxc4 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.Rc1 Qe6 24.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 25.fxe4 Rb8. When I first analyzed this, I made the inane comment “White's pawns are so weak that Watson should win, but he will have to show some technique.” Why inane? Because in the meantime, I have spent a small fortune of time in Viktor Korchnoi’s magnificent book *Practical Rook Endgames*. I learned more about rook endings than I had in fifty previous years of study. This type of position is very amenable to analysis – so much so that truisms like mine are virtually useless. I’ve spent quite a bit of time on this endgame, and if you are interested in improving your own knowledge of rook endgames, I urge you to do the same. I still believe that Watson should win but it will take excellent technique to do it. I almost wish that Watson’s opponent had found this – I would like to have seen whether John could have won it.

Now it will be two pawns rather than one.

**21...Qxc4 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.fxe4 Qxe4+ 24.Ka1 Rc8  
25.Qd1 Rc2 26.h5 Rd2 27.h6+ Kf8 28.Qc1 Qc2 0-1**

## The Ohman Memorial Chess Club

In 1968, the old Omaha chess club, situated for decades on the third floor of the YMCA building at 16<sup>th</sup> and Farnham, closed its doors when the building was demolished. The club was one of the few in the country that was open for its members daily. (I can think only of several others – The Mechanics Institute in San Francisco, the Manhattan and Marshall clubs in New York, and, for a while in the early ‘70s, the Chicago Chess Club [the club was reputedly located on the loudest corner in the city, right up against the elevated tracks – having played there, I did not doubt that fact.]) Such a club in a city the size of Omaha was unprecedented and its continued existence was almost wholly the result of Howard Ohman’s influence. Until he died in 1968, he complained about the YMCA board’s attempts to eliminate the

club entirely, and when he died the writing was on the wall.

Until the new YMCA opened, the club was in limbo – without a room to call its own or someplace to store equipment. For over a year, we were shuffled around a storage area, and the club's numbers dropped precipitously – both for tournaments and weekly sessions. But, largely through the efforts of Jack Spence, we had been promised our own room(s) for Saturday and a storage area and the space (and support) for tournaments.

The immediate result was the Ohman Memorial Chess Club (Jack and I had discussed the name), and the ultimate result was the golden age of Omaha and Nebraska chess. Throughout the '60s, the old-timers at the club talked, somewhat wistfully, of chess in the '50s, and this series has attempted to document those years. But by just about any standard, the '70s were superior. On the heels of the "Fischer Boom," young players flocked to the club and to the tournaments. Rich and Mike Chess, John Milton, Mike Blankenau, along with Loren Schmidt and Rodney Malpert in Lincoln all developed into master-level players (only Mike Chess failed to actually attain the title). And that doesn't even mention Richard McClellan, John Watson and me (since we only played in Nebraska in the early part of the decade).

In addition, I talked Jack Spence into starting a newsletter to document area activity. As an avid consumer of publications international, I had heard of the justly famous *Bulletin of the Moscow Central Chess Club*. It published games, opening analysis, and endgame analysis by some of the strongest players in the Soviet Union. Why, I asked, couldn't we have such a bulletin? It might not have grandmasters contributing, but it would be a publication of record as well as encouraging activity. So was born the *Bulletin of the H.E. Ohman Memorial Chess Club* which ran from 1970 until Jack's

untimely death in the late '70s. It is uniquely valuable as a record of the period and also because Jack republished material from the '50s *Nebraska Chess Bulletin*. And, just to remind you, Jack wrote, gathered and selected games, set type, created diagrams, proofed and published the *Bulletin* all by himself, all without the chess publishing software that makes these articles, to take just one example, rather simple to produce. Try it the old way sometime (I have); it demanded boundless energy and time

The flowering of Omaha chess that took place in the '70s was largely due to one man. And wherever Jack Spence is now, I am certain that he is pleased at being memorialized by an Omaha chess club named after him.

The last event in the old “quarters” and the first in the new club was the 1969-70 Omaha City Championship. A number of the games had to be played in private homes – I had a draw with Creighton Prep player Bill Gewinner. But his fellow Prep teammate Dave Black had defeated second-rated David Ackerman. So, when the final round came around, I was a half-point ahead.

**Ackerman, David - Tomas, John**  
**Omaha City Championship (7), 05/06/1970**  
**Pirc Defense B08**

**1.e4**

A few words about David Ackerman. In the '50s he was one of the young players of promise who came out of the Omaha public schools. However, he never quite fulfilled his early promise. He was a very good player and played throughout the Midwest but ill health affected his results. For a few years in the early '70s, he was a force – tied with me for an undefeated 4 ½ points in the 1973 Midwest Open (behind Elliott Winslow and Dan Reynolds). His win here gave him the Omaha city championship.

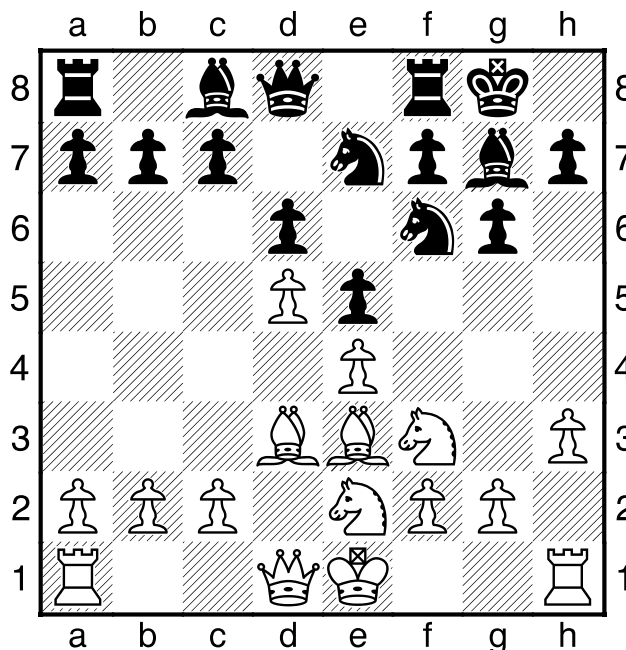
**1... d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bd3**

A rather unsophisticated approach that allows Black to equalize immediately.

**5...0–0?!**

The bishop on f3 interferes with white's control of d4 and black should immediately take advantage of that fact by playing  
5...Bg4 6.Be3 Nc6 7.d5 Ne5 8.Be2 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 0–0.

**6.h3! Nc6 7.Be3 e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne2?**



White is trying to transpose into a King's Indian structure, but his pieces are not well placed for it. The obvious 9.0–0 is best.

**9...Nexd5! 10.exd5 e4 11.Bxe4 Nxe4**

And black has a clearly better game. Eugene Martinovsky, long-time Chicago master [two IM norms] once allowed precisely the same trick against me and also did not lose.

**12. Ned4 Bd7?!**

12...Nc5 is OK as well, but 12...c5! is far better. Black is better developed and has the two bishops: he has to open the game! Developing cannot be bad, but a series of slight inaccuracies can be as damaging to your game as one big blunder, and this game proves that hoary truism. 13.dxc6 bxc6 14.Nxc6 Qc7 followed by Ba6, when black is on the edge of victory.

### 13.c3 Re8 14.0–0 c5 15.Ne2 b5

Again, not a bad move, but rather stereotyped. Instead 15...Qb6! 16.Qb3 Re7 17.Qxb6 axb6 18.Rfe1 Bb5 19.a3 Rae8, and take a look at the position: every single one of black's pieces is better than its white counterpart.

### 16.Nd2 Nxd2?!

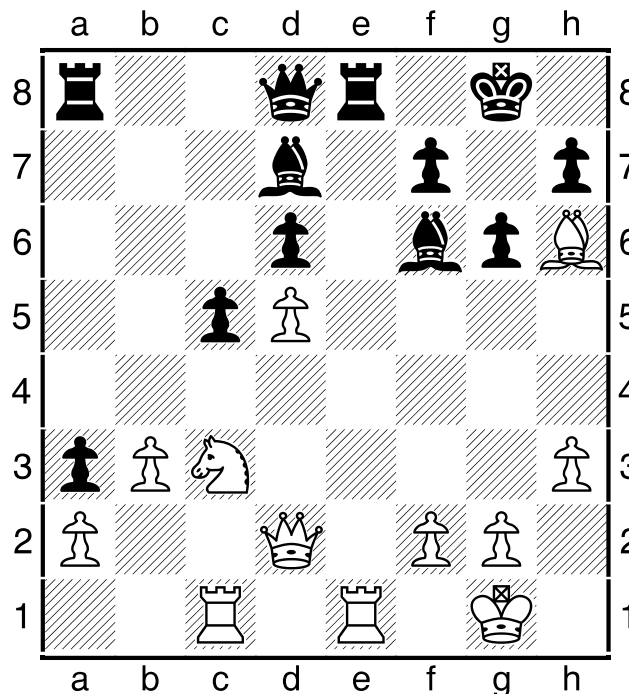
16...Nf6! Once again, I am playing less than the best move. Move by move, I have been squandering my advantage. Black's knight is worth much more than White's, especially with a free move thrown in (since white has to play 17.Nf3).

### 17.Qxd2 a5

Again, stereotyped. If I had been paying attention, I might have seen that I can play 17...b4! Immediately 18.cxb4 (18.c4 Re4 19.Rac1 Qh4! 20.b3 Rae8 21.Bg5 Rxe2 22.Qxe2 Qxg5) 18...Rb8! (At last I can make something of that long diagonal) 19.bxc5? Rxb2 20.Qd1 Bb5 21.Re1 Bxe2 22.Rxe2 Rxe2 23.Qxe2 Bxa1.

18.Rfe1 a4 19.Bg5 Bf6? I've lost the thread of the game completely. 19...Qb6 20.a3 b4

20.Bh6 20.h4! 20...a3 21.b3 b4 22.Rac1 bxc3?! 22...Rb8 has to be better. 23.Nxc3



Compare this position with that after my original shot.

White is better because all of his pieces are better. Worse yet I am in time pressure and have no idea how to save the game. You will excuse me if I avoid reprising the rest of this game.

**23...Bg7 24.Ne4 Bf5? 25.Bg5! Bh6? 26.Bxd8 Bxd2 27.Nf6+ Kg7 28.Nxe8+ Kf8 29.Bc7 Bxc1 30.Bxd6+ Kg8 31.Nc7 Rd8 32.Be7 Rd7 33.Bf6 Bh6 34.Re8+ Bf8 35.d6 Be6 36.Nxe6 fxe6 37.Be7 Kg7 38.Bxf8+ Kf7 39.Re7+ Rxe7 40.Bxe7 Ke8 1–0.**

This is a game that might have taught me a lot – but did not.

### **About Mr. John Tomas . . .**

John was the Nebraska High School Champion from 1962 to 1966. He won the Nebraska State Championship in 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970. John was the Omaha City Champion in 1971 and 1972. He won the U.S. Amateur Championship in 1981. John was a rated chess Master from 1981 to 1993. He is winner of many chess journalist awards and is currently living in Chicago.

## 2014 Tournament Summaries

Not enough time to input all the final standings of tournaments held in 2014 so event summaries will have to do.

1. **Central High Jan Quad** was held on 1/2/14 and was directed by Drew Thyden. The 4 player quad was won by Nicholas Lacroix (968P11) with 3-points.
2. **UNO Jan Tournament** was held on 1/18/14 and this 34 player tournament had 4 sections and was directed by Drew Thyden with assistance from Michael Gooch. In the U1200 section, 12 players competed with Shashank Potineni (1078) winning with 4 points. The Quad A section had 3 players sharing top honors in a field of 6. John Hartmann, Abhinav Suresh and Alexander McFayden scored 2 out of 3 points. The Quad B section was won by Aidan Nelson (1309) with 2.5 points and finally the U800 section was won by Nevin Sekar (600) with 4 out of 5 points. There was 12 players in the U800 section.
3. **The 3rd Spence Swiss** was held on Mondays starting on 1/7/14 and ending on 1/28/14 and was directed by John Hartmann with 10 players in one section. This tournament was won by Abhinav Suresh (1571) with 3 points. He knocked off some higher rated players.
4. **The 2014 NSCA Scholastic Team tournament** was held on 2/14/14 and drew 63 players in 3 sections. The K-3, 16 player section was won by Braden Korus (377P13) with a perfect 4.0 score. The K-6 section drew 29 players and was won by David Duong, (765) Danny Le (634P23) and Jacey Tran (695) all with 3.5 points. The K-8 section had 18 players and was won by Jason Selvaraj (1447) and Ben Lyons (1101) each with 3.5 out of 4 points. This tournament was directed by Michael Gooch and Drew Thyden.
5. **Feb 2014 UNO** was held on 2/22/14 and drew 18 players in two sections. The U800 section was won by Khoa Nguyen (868) who scored 4 out of 5 points from a field of 12 players. Jason Selvaraj (1437) won the 6 players Quad A section with 2 out of 3 points. The event was directed by Drew Thyden.
6. **The 1st Spence G/24** was held from 2/17 to 2/24/14 and had a total of 17 players. Tony Dutiel (1787) topped the 11 player open section with 5.5 points out of a possible 6 points. The 6 player RBO section was won by Cole Sater (632) with a perfect 4-0 score. John Hartmann directed.



7. **The Papillion Free Rated** tournament was held on 3/1/14 and was directed by Tony Dutiel. There was 2 sections and 10 players with Don Dostal (1337) and Gary Slominski (713P5) each scoring 2.5 out of 3 points to win the Open and the Quad was won by Joseph Fitzpatrick (1818) with a perfect 3 points.
8. **The Nebraska State HS Team Championship** was held on 3/8/14 and drew 24 players in 1 section. The team results were not available but Abhinav Suresh (1637) scored 4.5 points to top the field. Michael Gooch and Drew Thyden directed this NSCA event.
9. **The 4th Spence Blitz** was held on 3/10/14 with Ben Fabrikant scoring a perfect 7.0 score to top the field of 8 players. Ben is one of the best Blitz players around. John Hartmann directed.
10. **The 2014 NSCA Closed** championship was well documented in a previous issue of the Gambit.
11. **The March 2014 UNO** tournament was held on 3/29/14 and drew 18 players in 3 sections. Quad A was won by Nicholas Lacroix (1028 P21) with 2.5 points. In the U1200 section, Benjamin Lyons (1184) and Khoa Nguyen (888P14) scored 3.5 points from a field of 8 players and finally Jacey Tran (767) topped the 6 player U800 section with 4.5 points. Drew Thyden and Michael Gooch directed the event.
12. **The 2nd Spence Quads** were held on Mondays starting on 3/24 and lasting until 4/4/14 and drew 2 quad sections. Quad number 1 was won by Abhinav Suresh (1655) with a perfect 3.0 score. Quad number 2 had Caravaggio Caniglia (1589) Tomas Freed (1432) and Arnold Schulze (1290) each scoring 2 points from a field of 6 players to tie for 1st place. John Hartmann directed.
13. **The Nebraska State Individual Championships** were held on 5/3/14 in Omaha. The event had 47 players in 4 sections. In the NSCA K-12 section, Abhinav Suresh (1764) and Caravaggio Caniglia (1578) each scored 3.5 points (drawing each other) in the 6 player section. In the NSCA K-8 section, Joseph Wan (1992) won in a romp with a perfect 4-0 score in the 8 player section. Aidan Nelson (1365) had 3-1. Ben Lyons (1205) won the 11 player K-6 section with a perfect 5-0 score. Dominic Wurtz (1199) was second with 4 points. And finally, Jacey Tran (848) won the K-3 section with a perfect 5-0 score and Michael Kang (unrated) had 4-1. The K-3 section had 22 players and the tournament was directed by Michael Gooch.

14. **The 2014 Midwest Open** was held the weekend of May 17th and 18th in Omaha. The 32 player tournament drew a number of out of town players with Nick Karlow a chess master from Missouri scoring a perfect 5-0 to take top honors. Nebraska's Ben Fabrikant (2034) and Iowa's Robert Keating (2158) took second and third with a 4-1 score. Mike Gooch and Drew Thyden directed the event.
15. **The 2nd/G 40 Open** was held on 5/12 and 5/19/14 and drew 11 players in one section. John Hartmann (1664) scored 3.5 points to win top honors with John Stepp (1700) earning second place with a 2.5 score. It appears that John Hartmann organized, directed and played, won his own event. How is that for multitasking?
16. **The 3rd Papillion Free** tournament was held on 5/31/14 and drew 17 players in 3 sections. John Hartmann (1715) directed the event and won the top section scoring 2.5 points out of 4. Jerry Slominski finished second with 2 points from a field of 9 players. In section 2, Arnold Schulze (1350) scored a perfect 3.0 points to top the 8 player field. He was followed by three players finishing second with 2 points. The 2nd place players are, Chris Mathiesen (unrated), Gary Brown, (1209) and John Bagley (1145P19). Carlos Mccrimon (1708) won the fuller section.
17. **The Omaha Chess Camp** was held on 6/6/14 and was organized and directed by Drew Thyden. The 6 player Knapp section was won by Nicholas Lacroix (1213/p24) with 3 out of 4 points. Aidan Nelson (1374) finished 2nd with 2.5 points. The 9 player Mansur section had Cole Sater (583) wiping out the completion with a perfect 6.0 score. Camden Wright (Unrated) finished 2nd with 4.5 points.
18. **The Omaha Home Blitz** drew 3 players on 6/21/14. John Hartmann won with a perfect 6.0 score.
19. **The 4th Spence Swiss** was held starting in Omaha on 6/2 and ending 6/23/14. 11 players were in one section. This tournament was won by Abhinav Suresh (1756) with 3.5 points out of 4 with Tony Dutiel (1896) taking 2nd place with a 3-1 score. John Hartmann directed.
20. **The Spence Blitz** was held on 6/30/14 and drew 4 players. Tony Dutiel (1828) directed and played, scoring 5 out of 6 points to win. Abhinav Suresh (1615) took second with 3.5.
21. **The 2014 Cornhusker State Games** was held in Lincoln during the weekend of July 19th and 20th. The event drew 62

players in 4 sections. Section 1 had 4 players. It was won by Crispin Corpuz (1036) and Carson Schlautman each scoring 2.5 points out of 3. The 9 player, Section 2 (open) was won by John Linscott (1847) with 4.5 out of 4 points. Keith Motschman (1598) finished 2nd with 3.5 points. Section 3 was won by Larry Harvey (1611) with 4.5 points out of 5. Jeremy Roldan, an unrated player took second place with a 4 point score. In the 19 player Section 4 event, Harry Le (500p4) took top honors with a perfect 5 point score and John Ackerman (745) took 2nd place with 4 points. Michael Gooch directed.

22. **The 1st Split Swiss** was held on Mondays starting on 7/7 and ending on 7/21/14. This event was directed by John Hartmann. The 5 player, Premier section, was won by Tony Dutiel (1905) with a perfect 3.0 score. Abhinav Suresh (1771) scored 2 points to finish 2nd. The 4 player Champion section was won by Rene Opavsky (unrated) scoring a perfect 3 points with Nick Anzalone (1460) finishing 2nd with 2 points. The 4 player Filler section was won by Joseph Fitzpatrick (1776) and Caravaggio Caniglia (1667) each scoring a point.
23. **The Papillion tournament** was held on 7/26/14 and had 13 players in 2 sections. The Papillion section was won by John Ward (1369) with a perfect 3.0 score. There was a log jam of players tied for 2nd place with 2 points. The Extra game section had Tony Dutiel (1926) beating Rene Opavsky (1926) to score the point. Michael Gooch directed.
24. **The 5th Spence Blitz** was directed by John Hartman and 6 players competed in a double round robin on 7/28/14. When the smoke cleared, Ben Fabrikant topped the field with 8.5 points. Rene Opavsky and John Hartmann tied for second and third with 6 points each.
25. **The Lincoln City Championship** drew 14 players with out of state expert, Joe Kelly (2108) taking the title with a perfect 3.0 score. Neil Reeves took 2nd place with 2.5 points. John Hartmann directed and the tournament was held on 8/19/14.
26. **The 3rd Spence G/40** was held on Mondays starting on 8/11 and finishing on 8/18/14. John Hartmann directed the 11 player section and John Stepp (1700) took 1st place with a perfect 4.0 score. John Hartmann (1733) finished second with 3-1.
27. **The 3rd Spence Quick** took place on 8/25/14 and drew 10 players in one section. Rene Opavsky (1737p3) won the event with 5 points. John Hartmann directed.
28. **The 2nd Spence Action** took place on 9/8 and 9/15/14 and was

won by Tony Dutiel (1813) and Abhinav Suresh (1632) with each player scoring 5 points. John Hartman scored 4.5 points to top the action section of 10 players. In the extra game section, Abhinav Suresh defeated Scott Look.

29. **The 2014 River City Roundup (RCR for short)** was held in Omaha on September 27th and 28th. The event was directed by Iowa's William Broich with assistance from Michael Gooch. **Team results have been compiled by Robert Woodworth and are recorded elsewhere in this issue.** Individual results had Daniel Brashaw (2164) winning the 29 player top section with 4.5 points out of a possible 5. There was a log jam of players with 4 points with Joseph Wan (2022) formerly of Nebraska and now living in Iowa City, Iowa and Tony Dutiel of Omaha. In the RCR Swiss section, just 4 players competed with Michael Kang (860p5) earning top honors by scoring a perfect 3.0 and Sanjay Rajjan (638) finishing second with 2 points.
30. **The 2014 Spence club championship** was held Mondays starting on 9/29 and finishing on 11/3/14. The tournament drew 18 players in 2 sections and was directed by John Hartmann. In the 'Champ' section, Abhinav Suresh (1842), Caravaggio Caniglia (1774), John Stepp (1795) all scored 4.5 out of 6 points to share 1st place. In the 5 player 'Extra' section, Steven Behrens (1377) and Arnold Schulze (1357) each scored a point to share 1st place.
31. **The Great Plains Open or GPO** for short was held the weekend of November 8th and 9th and drew a whopping 57 players in 2 sections. In the RBO section, Danny Le (754) took top honors by scoring 4.5 points out of 5. There was a group of players with 4 points, those players being Jacey Tran (860), David Duong (836) Kyle Feldhaus (710) Matt Savage (642p23) and Sansay Rajjan (634). There was 34 players in this section. In the 23 player GPO section, Ben Fabrikant (2017) scored 4.5 out of 5 points to win the tournament. Joseph Kruml (2150) scored 4 points to take 2nd place. Mr. Kruml's only loss was to Ben. The tournament was directed by John Hartmann.
32. **The Omaha Chess Community** took place on November 22nd 2014 and drew 18 players in one section. Ian Koeppe (1620p18) won the tournament with a perfect 4.0 score. Gregory Revesz (1787) finished 2nd with a 3-1 score. John Hartmann directed.
33. **The 3rd Spence quads** took place on November 10th thru the 24th and had 3 sections with 10 players. The quad 1 section

was won by John Stepp (1756) with a perfect 3-0 score. John Hartmann (who also directed) finished in 2nd place with a 2-1 score. The quad 2 section was won by Thomas Freed (1448) with 2.5 points. Arnold Schulze (1321) earned 2nd with 2 points. In the 'filler' section, Tony Dutiel (1886) and Steve Behrens(1401) drew their game.

34. **The Omaha City Chess Championship** was organized and directed by Tony Dutiel and was held on December 7th. The event drew 15 players and was won by Steven Cusumano (1736) with a perfect 4-0 score. Steven defeated some very strong players like Nathan Klatt (1806) and Ben Fabrikant in the last round for the championship. Nathan Klatt (a strong player that has embarrassed this reporter over the board several times) scored 3-1 along with Jerry Slominski (1783) to tie for 2nd and 3rd places.
35. **The UNO Class Championship** was held on December 13th and drew 36 players in 8 sections. This tournament was directed by Michael Gooch and Drew Thyden. In the Class 'B' section, Ian Koeppe defeated John Hartmann to win the 2 player section. In the 6 player, Class 'C' section, it appears everyone beat up on each other as Jeff Solheim, Joshua Carini, Don Nguyen and Temur Samiev all scored 2-1. In the 4 player Class D section, Ben Lyons scored 2-0 to take 1st and Don Dostal scored 1.5 to take 2nd. Class E had 2 players with Khoa Nguyen defeating Darin Schlautman to top the section. In Class F, Caleb Pecka, Uri Harding and Jacey Tran scored 2-1 to top the 6 player section. Class G had Trevor Leone, Ted Nguyen and Sanjay Rajjan scoring 2 out of 3 points in the 6 player section. The 2 player Class H section had each player playing against each other twice with Josh Johnson edging Tyler Tim by a 1.5 to .5 score. And finally in the 8 player, Class I section, Luke S. Ye won with a perfect 3-0 score with Neil Knandelwal, Kobe Abolafia and Chris Perkins scoring 2-1.
36. **The 4th Spence G/40** was held on back to back Mondays-12/8 and 12/15 with 8 players attending a John Hartmann directed event. Steven Cusumano (1848) proved his Omaha City Championship was no fluke as he won the Spence with a perfect 4-0 score. John Hartmann (1742) and Scott Look (1600) scored 3-1.
37. **The 4th Spence quick** took place on December 22nd, and drew 10 players. This John Hartmann event was won by John and Steven Cusumano with both players scoring 3.5 point out of 5.

38. **The 6th Spence Blitz** was the final rated tournament in 2014 and was held on December 29th. This event was directed by John Hartmann, drew 9 players with the tournament format being a double round robin with each player playing the same opponent twice. The tournament was won by a newcomer by the name of Juan Diego Perea Del Pino, a name that I recorded from the USCF web site when I was stone cold sober. Pinkie swear! Mr. Juan Diego Perea Del Pino had a rating of 2196p10 and finished with 8 out of 10 points. Tony Dutiel finished second with 7 points.

### **Disclaimer**

The 2014 tournament results and summaries were taken from the USCF web site and were quite time consuming to input. The results (as indicated on the USCF page, are not in tie breaking order) and some names may have been misspelled as a result of being documented incorrectly or because of editor's errors. If your name was incorrectly spelled, please let me know and I'll publish a correction.

### **The 2015 Tournament Results and Summaries.**

Due to time constraints, I will continue to write narrative summaries of 2015 Nebraska tournaments including the 2015 Lincoln City Championship which was held in June. Beginning with the next issue of the Gambit, I will provide cross tables of the final standings, along with a brief narrative of the tournament. In other words, I'll be going back to what I've done before to report tournaments.

1. **The Central Winter quads** was the first Nebraska tournament held in 2015 and took place on Jan, 2nd. Drew Thyden organized and directed this event which had 2 sections. Quad 1 was won by Nicholas Lacroix a 1332 rated player. Quad 2 had a three-way tie for 1st with Uni H. Harding, Sanjay Rajjan and Joey Gollobit each scoring 2 points.
2. **The Jan UNO** was held on 1/24 and drew 38 players in 4 sections. In the 14 player, U1200 section, Philip Hanigan (837) scored 3.5 out of 4 to take clear 1st place. In the U800 section, Zacharian Clark (Unrated) and Tyler Richardson (652p23) each scored 4-1 to



- top the 16 player section. Quad A had Tony Dutiel (1824) winning with a perfect 3-0 score with Ben Lyons 2nd. Quad B had Nicholas Lacroix running away with a perfect 3-0 score.
3. **The 5th Spence Swiss** took place on Mondays starting on 1/5 and finishing on 1/26. Once again, as in all Spence events, John Hartmann organized and directed this 2 section, 9 player event. In the Swiss section, Chad Forsman Jr. (1704) scored 3.5 out of 4 points to edge Caravaggio Caniglia (1822) who scored 3 points. Steven Cusumano (1872) and John Stepp (1805) drew their game in the Extra game section.
  4. **The 2015 Nebraska Scholastic Team tournament** is a wonderful reminder that Scholastic chess is thriving in this state. This event drew 77 players in 3 sections with Michael Gooch and Drew Thyden directing. In the 18 player K-8 section there was an unusual occurrence of 4 players with a perfect 4-0 score! The players are as follows. Crispin Corpuz (1034), Jacey Tran (880) David Duong (815) and Danny Le (799) all were in the winners circle. The K-6 section drew a whopping 33 players with Cole Hardy (745) and Sam Corey (460p12) each scoring a perfect 4-0 to lead the pack. The K-3 section had Sanjay Rajjan (866) winning the 26 player section with a perfect 4-0 score. Cameron Shively (236p5) took 2nd with a 3.5 score. Team results are unknown to this reporter.
  5. **The 3rd Spence Action** was held on consecutive Mondays on 2/2 and 2/9 and drew 9 players. John Linscott (1785) scored 5 out of 6 points (2 draws) to win the tournament. Tony Dutiel followed with 4.5 points to take second. Of course, John Hartmann directed.
  6. **The 7th Spence Blitz** took place on 2/15 with Abhinav Suresh (1697) scoring 8.5 out of 10 points to top the 6 player field. Joe Knapp (1834p21) scored 8 points to finish in 2nd place. As in previous Blitz tournaments, this was a double round robin event.
  7. **The 2015 Nebraska HS Team Championship** was held on 3/7 and was sponsored by the Omaha Chess Community. Drew Thyden and Michael Gooch co-directed the event which drew 16 players in one section. Temur Samiev (1491) won with a 4-1 score and Jason Selvaraj (1443) scored 3.5 to finish second. Team results are not available.
  8. **The 4th Spence Quad** took place on 3/2 and 3/9 and John Hartmann won his own event with a perfect 3-0 score. The three players behind him were tied with 1.5 points. 8 players.

9. **The 5th Spence Quick** took place on March 16th and drew 6 players. Abhinav Suresh (1752) and TD, John Hartmann each scored 4-1 to capture top honors.
10. **The March UNO tournament** was another success as 22 players competed in 3 sections. In the U1200 section, Khoa Nguyen (1083) scored 4 points to top the 9 player section. Nevin Sekar (800) and Uri H. Harding (869) finished second and third with 3 points. In the U800 section, Neil Khandelwal smoked the 7 player field with a perfect 5.0 score. Tyler Richardson scored 3.5 points and finished 2nd. Quad A was won by John Ward (1555 p20) with 2.5 points. Ben Lyons (1466) and Nicholas Lacroix (1404) rounding out the top finishers in the 6 player section. Drew Thyden and Michael Gooch directed the event.
11. **The 2015 Nebraska State Closed Championship** was held the weekend of March 28th and 29th. State Champion, Ben Fabrikant (2031) defended his title with a 4.5 out of 5 point score. Tony Dutiel (1855) and Joseph Fitzpatrick (1781) scored 2.5 points with John Linscott (1856) and Abhinav Suresh (1789) scoring 2 points. John Reigenborn (1518) finished with three draws for a 1.5 point total. The tournament was held in Omaha and was directed by John Hartmann with assistance from Mike Gooch.
12. **The 5th Spence G/40 tournament** took place on 3/23 and 3/30 and drew 10 players. Abhinav Suresh (1787) won the event with a 3.5-.5 score. John Hartmann (1776) finished clear second with 3 points, his only loss being to Suresh. In the Filler game, Tony Dutiel (1846) beat Richard Gruber (1234).
13. **The April UNO tournament** took place on 4/18 and drew 24 players in four sections. The U1200 section was won by Luke Sicong Ye (1048) with 3 out of 4 points. Three players finished tied with 2.5 points in the 6 player section. The 8 player U800 section had Jake Balaberda an unrated player winning the section with 4.5 out of 5 possible points. Neil Khandelwal (651) finished second with 3.5 points. Quad B had Tony Dutiel, John Hartmann and Ben Lyons sharing 1st place with a 2 point score. 8 players were in the section. And finally, Nicholas Lacroix (1449) won the Extra section with 2 out of 2 points with three players tied for 2nd with 1 point each. There was 6 players in this section. Drew Thyden and Mike Gooch directed.
14. **The 2015 NSCA Individual Tournament** was held on 5/2/15 and drew 52 players in 4 section. In the HS section, Abhinav

Suresh (1821) won the 6 player section with a 3.5 out of 4 point score. He was followed by Caravaggio Caniglia with 3 points. In the Middle section, Ben Lyons (1502) won with a perfect score, 4-0 and he was followed by Sanjay Rajjan (835) finishing second with a 3-1 score. There was 8 players in this section. In the 11 player Elementary section, Jacey Tran (892) won going away with a perfect 5-0 score. She was followed by Danny Le (809) with 4 points. Neil Khandelwal (644) won the 27 player Primary section with Jamie Tran (407) finishing second with 4-1. The tournament was sponsored by the Nebraska State Chess Association or NSCA for short and was directed by Michael Gooch.

15. **The 6th Spence Swiss** took place on 4/20 to 5/11 (Mondays) and drew 10 players in 2 sections. In the Swiss section, Abhinav Suresh topped the field by scoring 3.5 points out of 4. He was followed by Tony Dutiel (1835) and John Stepp (1743) with 3-1. In the filler section, Tony Dutiel defeated Scott Look. John Hartmann directed.
16. **The Tom Freed Memorial 9th Blitz** was held on May 15th and drew 10 players competing in a double round robin. This reporter is unclear if this was actually a memorial tournament since a Tom Freed was playing. However with that said, Abhinav Suresh and TD, John Hartmann, tied for 1st with matching 7 out of 10 point scores.
17. **The Omaha Central Camp** took place on June 5th and drew 32 players in 3 sections. In the Knapp section, Nicholas Lacroix (1448) scored 3.5 out of 4 points to win. Ben Lyons (1508) finished 2nd with 3-1. 10 players were in the Knapp section. In the Mansur section, Jackson Morris (391) took care of business with a perfect 6-0 score. Vijay Kumer (153/P12) finished 2nd with a 4.5 score. There was 21 players in the Mansur section. The Extra section had Nichols Lacroix defeating Stephen Bouma. John Hartmann directed.
18. **The 4th Spence Action** took place on June 8th. John Hartmann and Scott Look tied for 1st with 4.5 out of 6 points. 7 players entered the tournament.
19. **The Lincoln City Chess Championship** took place on June 13th. From a field of 22 players, John Linscott and Joe Knapp scored 3.5 out of 4 points to become city co-champions. John Linscott organized the event and John Hartmann directed. Special thanks to Tony Dutiel and Ray Kappel for purchasing meals for this reporter and to John Stepp for his donation of old *Chess Life* magazines to help me do research.

<b>2014 River City Round up Team standings -Open Section</b>				
<b>Team Name</b>	<b>Name of Player</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Team Result</b>
<b>Hodina Team</b>	D. Bradshaw	2164	4.5	
	W. Ferguson	1978	2.5	
	J. Hodina	1969	4.0	
	J. White	1792	4.0	1st
<b>Bughouse Team</b>	B. Gradsky	2129	4.0	
	B. Fabrikant	2042	2.5	
	T. Dutiel	1914	4.0	
	J. Fitzpatrick	1783	3.0	2nd
<b>Neal Team</b>	J. Neal	2064	2.5	
	J. Wan	2022	4.0	
	D. Medrano	1810	3.0	
	P. Krishnamurthy	1690	3.5	3rd
<b>Spence Chess club</b>	R. Opavsky	1806	2.5	
	A. Suresh	1769	3.5	
	C. Caravaggio	1697	3.5	
	S. Look	1654	2.0	4th place
<b>Cyclone Chess club</b>	V. Kosokin	2239	2.0	
	R. Keating	2170	4.0	
	G. Eichhorn	1909	1.5	
	T. Crouse	1829	3.5	5th place
<b>Linscott Team</b>	J. Linscott	1869	2.5	
	K. Nelson	1800	1.5	
	J. Stepp	1800	2.0	
	J. Reigenborn	1508	2.0	6th place
<b>Camelot Chess club</b>	R. Anderson	1744	1.0	
B. Dolan (1421) 1.0	R. Woodworth	1733	1.0	
J. Bagley. (1285) 1.0	K. Hruska	1301	1.0	7th place.

# Games Galore!

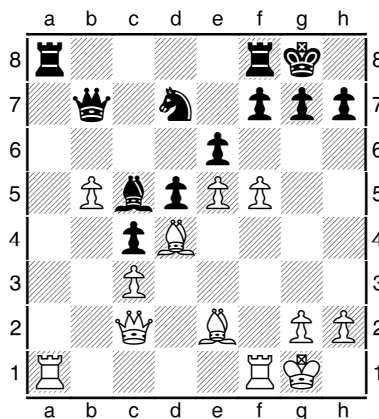
## 2015 Nebraska State Closed Championship

(1) Suresh, Abhinav - Fabrikant, Ben [B44]

(1), 28.03.2015

[Hartmann, John]

**1.e4 c5!? A rare Sicilian from Fabrikant! 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Be3 Nf6 6.f3 Qb6 [6...d5!? takes advantage of Suresh's omission of Nc3.] 7.Nc3 Bc5 [7...Qxb2 8.Ncb5 Nxd4 9.Bxd4 Qb4+ 10.Qd2!? (10.c3 Qa5) 10...Qxd2+ 11.Kxd2=] 8.Na4 Qa5+ 9.c3 Be7 10.Be2 a6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.b4 Qc7 13.Nb6 Rb8 14.Nxc8 Qxc8 15.0-0 0-0 16.Qd3 d5 17.e5 [17.Qxa6 Qxa6 18.Bxa6 dxe4 19.a4!?] 17...Nd7 18.f4 Ra8 19.a4 c5 20.b5? c4 21.Qc2 Bc5 22.Bd4 axb5 23.axb5 Qb7 24.f5?!**



A bit reckless. [24.Qb2 keeps the pawn and retains the threat of f4–f5. 24...Rfb8 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Rb1+ 24...Qb6 25.Rad1 Nxe5 [25...Bxd4+ 26.cxd4 Nxe5] 26.f6 Bxd4+ 27.cxd4 Ng6 28.Kh1 Qxb5 29.g3 Qb3 30.Qc1 Ra2 31.Rde1 Qc2 32.Qg5 Qe4+ 33.Bf3 Qxd4 0-1

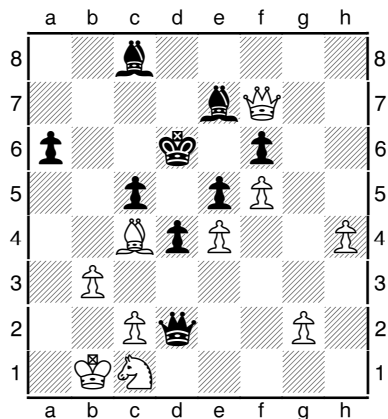
(2) Linscott, John - Fitzpatrick, Joseph [B66]

(1), 28.03.2015

[Hartmann, John]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 Be7 8.f4 0-0 9.0-0-0 a6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Bxf6 [11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 Qxd2+ 13.Rxd2 Nd5 14.Bxe7 Nxe7 15.Bd3 a5 16.Na4 Ba6 17.c4 c5 18.b3 Rac8 19.Be4 Ng6 20.Rd6 Bxc4 21.bxc4 Nxe5 22.Nb6 Rc7 23.Re1 g6 24.Kc2 Kg7 25.h3 h5 26.Kc3 Re8 27.Bc2 f6 28.Ba4 Ree7 29.Bb5 g5 30.Rd8 h4 31.Nc8 Rf7 32.Nd6 Rf8 33.Re8 Ng6 34.R8xe6 1-0 (34) Erdogdu, M (2460)–Mijovic, S (2300) Antalya 2009] 11...gxf6 12.Qe2 Qa5 13.Rd3 Kh8 14.Rg3N [14.Rh3 Rg8**

15.f5 Rb8 16.Qh5 Rg7 17.Bc4 d5 18.Bb3 Bd6 19.Rf1 Be5 20.Rff3 Qc5 1/2-1/2 (20) Schmidt,M-Langenfeld, S Dudweiler 1995] **14...Bd7 15.Qg4 Rg8 16.Qh4 Rg7 17.Rxg7 Kxg7 18.Bd3 Qc7 19.Rf1 Rh8 20.Qh5** [20.Bxa6!?] **20...d5 21.Rf3 d4 22.Rg3+** [22.Nb1!? Kf8 23.Nd2] **22...Kf8 23.Qh6+ Ke8 24.Ne2 Qa5 25.Kb1 Qe1+ 26.Nc1 c5 27.Qh4** [27.f5 e5 28.Bxa6 Qxe4 29.Qg7] **27...Qb4 28.a3 Qa4 29.f5 e5** [29...c4!? 30.Be2 d3∞] **30.b3 Qxa3 31.Bc4 Qa5?!** [31...Bb5 32.Bd5 h5 33.Rg7 c4 34.Bxf7+ Kd8⇒] **32.Rg7 Qd2 33.Qh5 Rf8 34.Rxf7 Rxf7 35.Qxf7+ Kd8 36.Qg8+ Kc7 37.Qxh7 Kd6 38.Qf7** [38.Qg8!] **38...Bc8 39.h4**



[39.Qe8! threatening Qxc8 along with Bd5 and Qc6#] **39...Qxg2 40.Qd5+** [40.Qe8!] **40...Kc7 41.Nd3 Kb6** [41...Qh1+ 42.Kb2 Qg1 43.h5+--] **42.Nb2 Qd2 43.Na4+** [43.Qf7 Bd8 44.Na4+--] **43...Ka7 44.Qc6 Bb7 45.Qb6+ Kb8 46.Bxa6 Qe1+ 47.Kb2 Qxe4 48.Bxb7?** [48.h5! Qc6 49.h6 Bf8 50.Qd8+ Qc8 51.Qxf6+--] **48...Qxb7 49.Qe6** [49.h5 Qxb6 50.Nxb6 Kc7 51.Nd5+ Kd6 52.c4 (52.Nxe7? Kxe7=) 52...e4 53.h6 Bf8 54.Nxf6 Bxh6±] **49...e4** [49...d3! 50.cxd3 Qg2+ 51.Kc3 Qg1 and Black might be able to struggle to a draw?] **50.Nb6 Bf8 51.Nd7+** [51.Qe8+! Ka7 (51...Kc7 52.Na8+ Qxa8 (52...Kd6 53.Qe6#) 53.Qxa8+--) 52.Nc8+ Qxc8 (52...Kb8 53.Nd6+; 52...Ka6 53.Qa4#) 53.Qxc8+--] **51...Ka7 52.Nxf8 e3 53.Nd7?=[53.Qc4!+--] 53...Qb4 54.Qc6 Qc3+ 55.Kb1 Qe1+ 56.Kb2 Qc3+ 1/2-1/2**

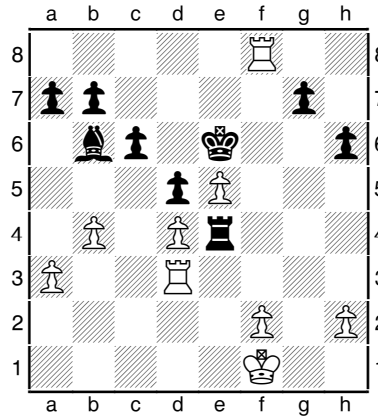
(3) Dutiel, Tony - Reigenborn, Jon [C55]

(1), 28.03.2015

[Hartmann,John]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.d3 Be7 5.Nf3 d6 6.Nd5 Nxd5 7.Bxd5 0-0 8.c3 Bg4 9.0-0 Qd7 10.Re1 Kh8 11.b4 Nd8 12.d4 c6 13.Bc4 f5 14.dxe5 fxe4 15.Rxe4 d5 16.Rd4?! [16.Rxg4 Qxg4 17.Be2 Qf5∞] 16...Bxf3 17.gxf3 Qh3 [17...Qf5±] 18.Be2 Ne6 19.Rg4 Rf5 20.Rg3 Qh5! [⊔20...Qh4 21.Rg4 Qh3 22.Rg3 Qh4=] **21.f4! Qf7****

**22.Bg4 Rf8 23.Be3 [23.Bxf5 Qxf5 24.Qg4 Qxg4 25.Rxg4±] 23...Nxf4**  
**[23...Rxf4!? 24.Bxe6 Qxe6 25.Bxf4 Rxf4] 24.Bxf5 Qxf5 25.Bxf4 Qxf4**  
**26.Qd4 Qxd4 27.cxd4 Rf4 28.Rd3 Kg8 29.a3 [29.b5! cxb5 (29...c5**  
**30.dxc5 Bxc5 31.Rxd5 Bxf2+ 32.Kg2 Bb6 33.Rf1+–) 30.Rc1 with**  
**Rc8+ and Rc7] 29...Kf7 30.Rad1 Ke6 31.Rh3 Bh4 32.Rd2 Bg5**  
**33.Rdd3 h6 34.Kf1 Re4 35.Rhf3 Bd8 36.Rf8 Bb6**



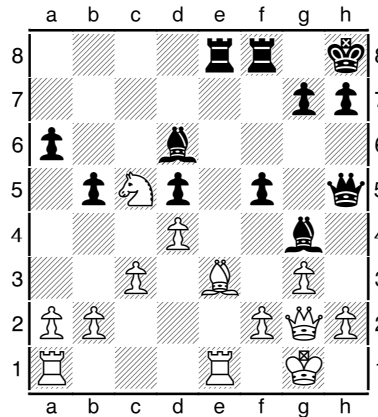
**37.Rb8 [37.Re8+! Kd7 (37...Kf7 38.Rb8+–) 38.Rg8+–] 37...Bxd4**  
**38.Rxb7 Rf4 39.f3 g5 [39...Bxe5! 40.Rxa7 Rc4 41.h3 d4±] 40.Rh7**  
**Rh4 41.Rxd4 Acquiescing to the draw. 41...Rxd4 42.Rxh6+= ½-½**

**(4) Fitzpatrick, Joseph - Dutiel, Tony [C89]**

(2), 28.03.2015

[Hartmann, John]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.Re1 0-0**  
**8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Rxe5 c6 12.d4 Bd6**  
**13.Re1 Qh4 14.g3 Qh3 15.Qf3 Bg4 16.Qg2 Qh5 17.Be3 Rae8**  
**18.Nd2 Kh8 [18...Re6; 18...Re7] 19.Bxd5 [19.Bd1 f5; 19.a4] 19...cxd5**  
**20.Nb3?! [20.f3 Bh3 21.Qf2; 20.a4 Bh3 21.Qh1 (21.Qf3 Bg4**  
**22.Qg2) ] 20...f5?! [20...Bf3 21.Qf1 f5] 21.Nc5?**



**[21.f4] 21...Bf3+ 22.Qf1 f4 23.Nd7 fxc3 24.fxc3 Bxc3 25.hxc3**  
**Qh1+ 0-1**

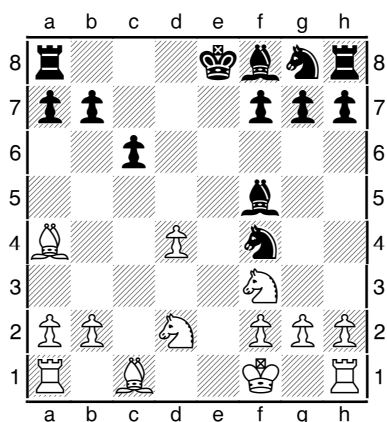


**(5) Reigenborn, Jon - Fabrikant, Ben [C04]**

(2), 28.03.2015

*[Hartmann,John]*

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.c3 e5 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Qf3?! [6.Ngf3 exd4 7.Bc4 Qh5 8.cxd4] 6...Qxf3 7.Ngxf3 exd4 8.cxd4 Nb4 9.Bb5+ c6 10.Ba4 Nd3+ 11.Ke2 Nf4+ 12.Kf1 Bf5**



**13.Nb1? [13.Ne4 Nd3 14.Ng3 Be6 15.Bb3 Bxb3 16.axb3 13...Bd3+-+ 14.Ke1 Nxc2+ 15.Kd2 Be4 16.Ke2 0-0-0 17.Nc3 Bxf3+ 18.Kxf3 Nh4+ 19.Ke3 [19.Ke2 Nf5 20.d5 19...Nf5+ 20.Ke4 [20.Kf3 Nxd4+ 21.Kg2] 20...Nxd4 21.Be3 Nf6+ 22.Kd3 Nb3+ 23.Kc2 Nxa1+ 24.Rxa1 a6 25.Bb3 Bd6 26.Rg1 Nh5 27.Bxf7 g6 28.Bg5 Rdf8 29.Be6+ Kb8 30.Ne4 Bxh2 31.Rd1 Re8 32.Nc5 Bf4 33.Rd7 Bxg5 34.Rxb7+ Ka8 35.Bd7 Re7 36.Rb6 Rxd7 37.Nxd7 Ka7 38.Rxc6 Kb7 39.Rc3 Rc8 40.Nc5+ Ka7 41.b4 Be7 42.Ne4 Rxc3+ 43.Kxc3 Kb6 44.Kc4 Nf6 45.a4 Nxe4 0-1**

**(6) Suresh, Abhinav - Linscott, John [C78]**

(2), 28.03.2015

*[Hartmann,John]*

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 [6...Be7 7.0-0 (7.c3 d6 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.Be3 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Bb7 13.d4 cxd4 14.cxd4 exd4 15.Nxd4 0-1 (29) Suresh,A (1363)–Linscott,J (1876) Great Plains Open 2013) 7...d6 8.h3 Na5 9.c3 Nxb3 10.Qxb3 0-0 11.Be3 c5 12.Nbd2 Be6 13.Qc2 Nd7 14.d4 f6 15.d5 Bf7 1½-1½ (51) Suresh,A (1396)–Linscott, J (1821) Omaha 2013] 7.0-0 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 h6 10.Re1 Be6 [10...Ne7 11.Nbd2 Ng6 12.Nf1 Be6 13.d4 Bb6 14.Ng3 c5 15.Be3 c4 16.Bc2 0-1 (44) Suresh, A (1549)–Hartmann,J (1707) 1st Spence Quads 2013] 11.d4 Bxb3 12.axb3 exd4 13.cxd4 Bb6 Both sides have reasons for optimism here. White has the center but a poor pawn structure, and Black's pieces are rather actively placed. 14.d5 Ne7 15.Nbd2 c6! 16.dxc6 Nxc6 17.Nf1 Nb4 18.Be3 Re8 19.Ng3 d5 [19...Rc8!?] 20.Bxb6**

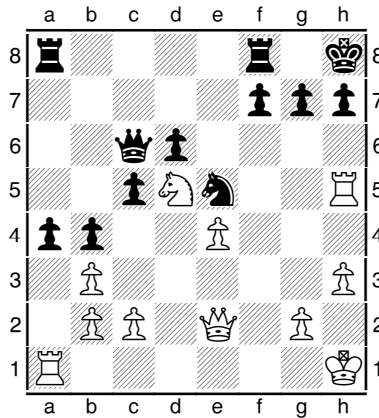
**Qxb6 21.e5 Nd7 22.Rc1 Nc5 23.Re3 Ne6 24.Nf5 Nc6?**  
**[24...Rad8±] 25.Qxd5 Ne7? 26.Nxe7+ 1-0**

**(7) Fitzpatrick, Joseph - Reigenborn, Jon [C88]**

(3), 28.03.2015

*[Hartmann,John]*

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be7**  
**7.Re1 0-0 8.Nc3 d6 9.h3 [9.Nd5 Na5 10.Nxe7+ Qxe7 11.d3]**  
**9...Na5 10.d4 Nxb3 11.axb3 exd4 12.Nxd4 Bb7 13.Bg5 Nd7**  
**[13...b4 14.Na4 Nd7 (14...Nxe4? 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.f3) 15.Bxe7**  
**Qxe7=] 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Nd5 Qd8 16.Nf5 Ne5 [16...Re8**  
**17.Qd4 Ne5±] 17.Qd4 Qg5 18.Qc3? [18.Re3! with Rg3]**  
**18...Bxd5 19.f4□ Qxf4 20.Ne7+ Kh8 21.Nxd5 Qg5 22.Rf1 c6**  
**23.Rf5 Qd8 24.Ne3 Qb6 25.Kh1 b4 26.Qd2 c5 27.Nd5 Qc6**  
**28.Qe2 a5 29.Rh5 a4?**



**[△29...Ng6; ▽29...Qb7; ▽29...Rfe8] 30.Rxh7+! Kxh7 [30...Kg8**  
**31.Ne7+ Kxh7 32.Qh5#] 31.Qh5+ Kg8 32.Ne7#** A classic  
 example of Anastasia's Mate. **1-0**

**(8) Dutiel, Tony - Suresh, Abhinav [B22]**

(3), 28.03.2015 *[Hartmann,John]*

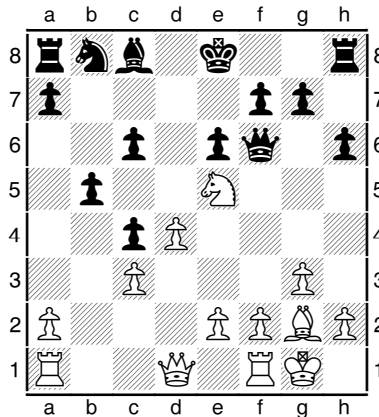
**1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.Be3 cxd4**  
**7.cxd4 Bxb1 8.Qxb1 [8.Rxb1 e6 9.a3 Bd6] 8...e6 [8...e5!?]**  
**9.a3 Be7 10.Be2 [10.Bd3!?] 10...Nf6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qd3 Rfd8**  
**13.Rfd1 Rac8 14.Rac1 Ne4 15.Nd2 Nxd2 [15...Nc5 16.dxc5**  
**Qxd3 17.Bxd3 Rxd3 18.Nc4 Rb3; 15...Nxd4!? 16.Rxc8?!**  
**(RR16.Qxd4! Qxd4 17.Bxd4 Rxc1 (17...Rxd4?? 18.Rxc8+)**  
**18.Rxc1 Rxd4 19.Nxe4 Rxe4 20.Kf1 and White will recover the**  
**pawn with balanced play.) 16...Nxe2+ 17.Qxe2 Rxc8± Dutiel]**  
**16.Rxd2 Ne5! 17.Qb1 Nc4 18.Rdc2 Nxe3 19.fxe3 Rxc2**  
**20.Qxc2 Qg5 [20...Bg5 21.Kf2 e5∞] 21.Qc3 Bd6 22.Bf3 b6**  
**23.Qe1 ½-½**

(9) Fabrikant, Ben - Linscott, John [E04]

(3), 28.03.2015

[Hartmann, John]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.g3 b5 [5...g6 is Avrukh's recommendation.] 6.Bg2 e6 7.Bg5 [7.Ne5!? Nd5 8.0-0 Bb7±] 7...Bb4N [7...Nbd7; 7...Bb7] 8.0-0 Bxc3?! [8...Qb6 9.Bxf6 gxf6∞; 8...Bb7 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.a4 a6∞] 9.bxc3 h6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 [10...gxf6±] 11.Ne5**



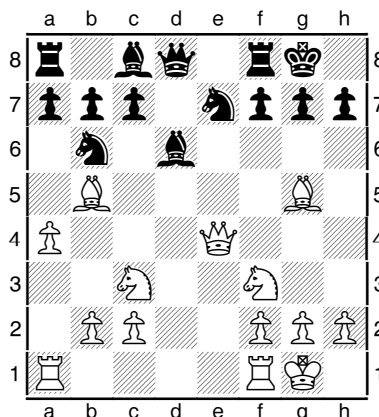
The weakness on the h1-a8 diagonal is too much for Black to overcome. **11...0-0?! [11...Bb7 12.a4 Qe7 13.axb5 cxb5 14.Qb1 a6 15.Rxa6 Bxa6 16.Bxa8 0-0±] 12.a4+- Bb7 [12...bxa4 13.Qxa4 Qe7 14.Rfb1+-] 13.axb5 Rc8 14.Nxc4 Qe7 15.Na5 Rc7 16.c4 Qd7 17.e3 Qe7 18.Qb3 Bc8 19.bxc6 e5 20.d5 Na6 21.Rfd1 1-0**

(10) Linscott, John - Dutiel, Tony [C65]

(4), 29.03.2015

[Hartmann, John]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d4 Nxe4 5.Qe2 Nf6 6.dxe5 Nd5 7.0-0 [7.Qe4 a6 8.Bd3] 7...Be7 8.Qe4 Nb6 9.Nc3 0-0 10.a4 d5 11.exd6 Bxd6 12.Bg5 Ne7**



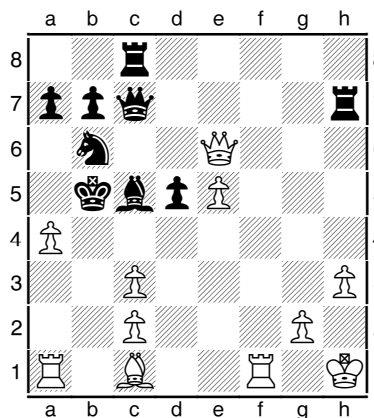
[12...f6] 13.a5 Nd7 14.Bd3 f5 15.Bc4+ Kh8 16.Qh4 Nf6 17.Bxf6 Rxf6 18.Ng5 h6 19.Nf7+ Rxf7 20.Bxf7 Qf8 21.Qh5 Kh7 22.Bc4 g6 23.Qf3 Nc6 24.Nb5 Ne5 25.Qc3 Nxc4 26.Qxc4 Qf6 27.Nxd6 cxd6 28.Rfe1 Bd7 29.Qc7 Rd8 30.Rad1 1-0

(11) Fabrikant, Ben - Fitzpatrick, Joseph [A43]

(4), 29.03.2015

[Hartmann,John]

1.d4 c5 2.d5 d6 3.e4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.f4 e5 6.dxe6 fxe6 7.Nf3 Nb6 8.e5 Nfd5 9.Bd3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 d5 11.Ng5 g6 12.0-0 c4 13.f5 cxd3 14.fxc6 Bc5+ 15.Kh1 hxg6 16.Qxd3 Rh6? [16...Nc4□ 17.Qxg6+ Kd7 18.Qxe6+ Kc7 and White is going to have to prove that he has compensation.] 17.h3 [17.Qb5+! Nd7 18.Rf6+-; 17.Rf6!] 17...Qc7 [17...Qd7] 18.Nf7 Rh7 19.Nd6+? [19.Qxg6! Qxf7 20.Rxf7 Rxf7 21.Bh6+-] 19...Kd7 20.Qxg6 Kc6 21.Nxc8 Rxc8 22.Qxe6+ Kb5 23.a4+ Ka6??



[23...Ka5! 24.Bd2 Nc4±] 24.a5 Rch8 25.axb6+ 1-0

(12) Reigenborn, Jon - Suresh, Abhinav [B95]

(4), 29.03.2015 [Hartmann,John]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.a3 Be7 8.Bc4 h6 9.Bh4 Nc6 10.0-0 Qb6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Rb1 d5 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Ba2 0-0 15.Bg3 Bd7 16.Re1 Rfc8 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Rxe7 Be6 19.Be5 Kf8 20.Bxf6!? [20.Bd4! Qc6 (20...Qb8 21.Rxe6 fxe6 22.Qf3→) 21.Ra7 Rxa7 22.Bxa7 Qxc2 23.Qxc2 Rxc2 24.Bb3±] 20...gxf6 21.Rxe6 fxe6 22.Qd2 Kg7 23.Bb3 [23.c4!? dxc4 24.Qd7+ Kg8 25.Qe7 e5 26.Qd7∞] 23...a5 24.Qd3 Qc7 25.Re1?! [25.c3!] 25...a4 26.Ba2 Qxc2 27.Qf3 Qd2 28.Qg4+ Qg5?! [28...Kh8 29.Qxe6 Rc6! 30.Qe7 Qxe1+! 31.Qxe1 Rac8±] 29.Qxe6 Rc1 30.Bb1 Rxe1+ 31.Qxe1 Qe5 32.Qd1 f5 33.g3 d4 34.Bd3 Rb8 35.Qxa4 Rxb2 36.Qd7+ Kg6 37.Kg2 Rd2 38.Bc4 Qe4+ 39.Kh3 Qg4+ 40.Kg2 Qe4+ 41.Kh3 Qg4+ ½-½

**(13) Suresh, Abhinav - Fitzpatrick, Joseph [B60]**

(5), 29.03.2015

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 Bg4 7.f3  
Bd7 8.Qd2 e6 9.Ndb5 Qb8 10.0-0-0 d5 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.exd5 Ne5  
13.d6 h5 14.Kb1 Bh6 15.Nc7+ Qxc7 16.dxc7 Bxd2 17.Rxd2 Rc8  
18.Ne4 Ke7 19.f4 Ng4 20.h3 Ne3 21.Nxf6 Bc6 0-1**

**(14) Dutiel, Tony - Fabrikant, Ben [C01]**

(5), 29.03.2015

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4 Bb4+ 5.Nc3 Ne7 6.Bd3 dxc4  
7.Bxc4 0-0 8.Nge2 Nd7 9.0-0 Nb6 10.Bd3 Bf5 11.Bg5 Bxd3  
12.Qxd3 c6 13.Rad1 Qd7 14.Ng3 h6 15.Be3 Rad8 16.a3 Bxc3  
17.bxc3 Qd5 18.Ne4 Nc4 19.Bxh6 Nb2 20.Qg3 Ng6 21.Rde1 Rfe8  
22.Bg5 ½-½**

**(15) Reigenborn, Jon - Linscott, John [C89]**

(5), 29.03.2015

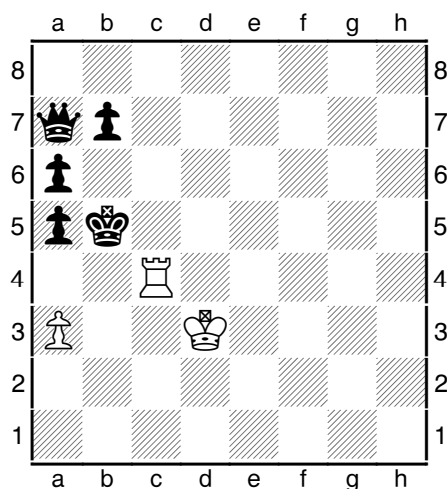
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bb7 7.Re1  
Bc5 8.d3 d6 9.c3 0-0 10.Nbd2 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Ne4 Bb6  
13.Nfg5 Nf6 14.Be3 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Na5 16.Bxb6 cxb6 17.Bc2 f5  
18.Ng3 Qf6 19.b4 Nc6 20.Bb3+ Kh8 21.Bd5 Rad8 22.Qb3 Nd4  
23.cxd4 Bxd5 24.dxe5 Bxb3 25.exf6 Bc2 26.fxg7+ Kxg7 27.Rac1  
Bxd3 28.Nh5+ Kg8 29.Nf4 Bc4 30.Ne6 Bxe6 31.Rxe6 Rd2 32.Rxb6  
Rfd8 33.g3 Rxa2 34.Rc7 Ra4 ½-½**

2015 Nebraska State Closed Championship								
No	Name	Ratin	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	<b>B. Fabrikant</b>	2031	<b>W 5</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>4. 5</b>
2	<b>T. Dutiel</b>	1855	<b>D 6</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>D 5</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>D 1</b>	<b>2. 5</b>
3	<b>J. Fitzpatrick</b>	1781	<b>D 4</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>2. 5</b>
4	<b>J. Linscott</b>	1856	<b>D 3</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
5	<b>A. Suresh</b>	1788	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
6	<b>J. Reigenborn</b>	1518	<b>D 2</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>D 5</b>	<b>D 4</b>	<b>1.5</b>

# **“Just for the Fun of It” (Some Enjoyable Chess Creations)**

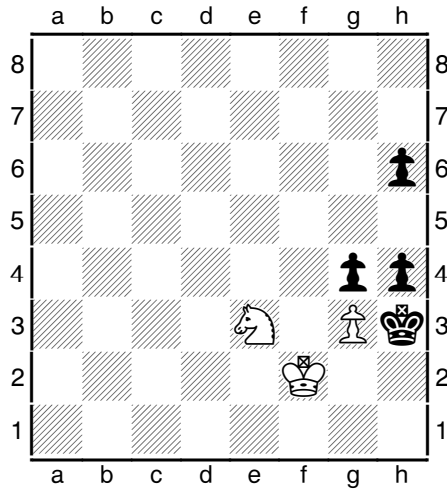
by  
**Robert Woodworth**

When the “*Gambit*” editor asked me to submit an article for this new issue of “*The Gambit*”, I decided to try a different approach rather than the standard, very serious style of the past. Having fun by being amused & amazed at the different creative possibilities in the game always brings out the “WOW” factor from me!! I have selected 5 creations which I hope have this same effect on the reader. The first is the final moves in a study by D. Petrov (with White to play & win) which is shown below:



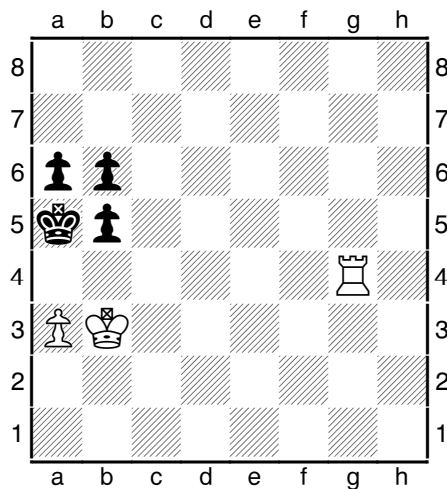
The Black Queen will be forced to sacrifice herself because that is the only choice of moves she will have! White therefore plays **1. a4+** followed by Black's forced move **1. Kb6**. Now White has a Rook move which places Black ( & the Queen) in a 'zugzwang' situation. Do you see the winning move? (Hint: Rook 'takes away' the Queen's safe retreat!)

The 2nd example is a composition by Troitzky in 1906 where the idea is to use the Black Pawns against their own king. (White to play & win or else checkmate.)



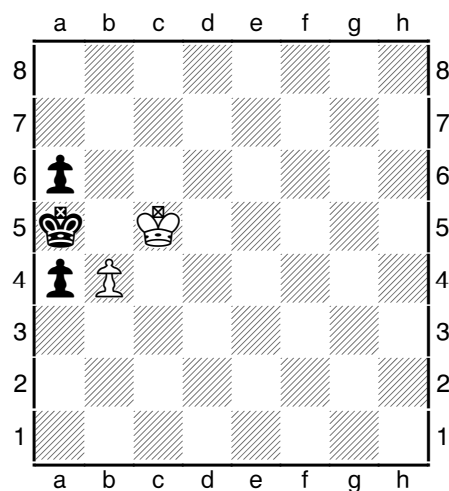
White's first move is **1. Ng2!** (threatening the pawn on h4)  
**1..hxg3+ 2. Kg1 2..h5 3. Kh1! 3..h4 4. Nf4#** (This study brought a smile to your writer's face.)

This next example is supposedly from a Rook endgame by the great Polish Grandmaster Akiva Rubinstein although it does appear to be composed. (The chess historians are not sure of the validity of this claim or the proper source!?). It is for White to play & win.

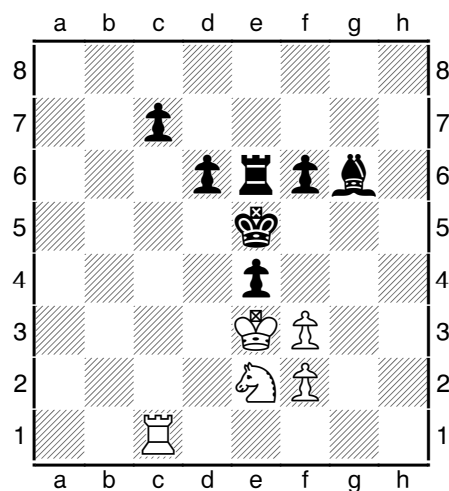


The first move for White is the very surprising **1. Ra4+!! 1..bxa4+**  
**2. Kc4 2..b5+ 3. Kc5 3..b4 4.axb4#** (An amazing & pretty conclusion which is shown here in the final position.)

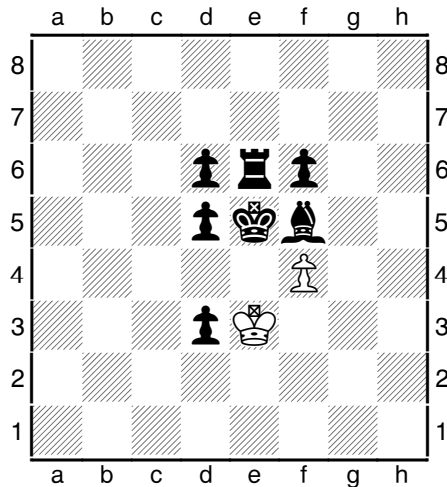




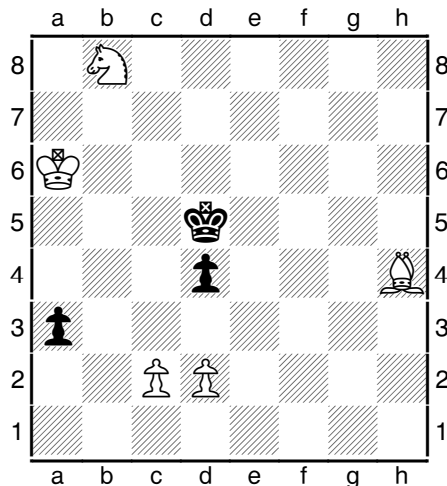
This 4th example is a composed study by A.S. Kakovin (year 1936) which has a very comical and amazing result whereby a lone King & Pawn defeat a much greater force. The initial position is shown below with White to play & win:



**1.f4+ 1..Kd5** (else 1.Kf5 with 2. Nd4+ winning the Black Rook out-right) **2. f5 2..Bxf5 3. Nf4+ 3..Ke5 4. Rd1** (threatening mate on d5) **4..c6 5.Rd5+! 5..cxd5 6. Nd3+ 6..exd3 7.f4** checkmate!! Quite an amusing, final position to say the least and which is shown here.



The final example is by the great study composer K.A.L. Kubbel. It was composed in 1922 and is one of the best classical chess compositions of all time! It has been quoted in different chess literature with great acclaim by numerous writers. (As usual, it is White to play & win from a seemingly lost position due to Black's advanced & unstoppable a-pawn which can 'queen' in 2 more moves.)



White should lose here and his 1st move appears to be sheer desperation with **1.Nc6**. There follows by Black **1..Kxc6** (if 1..a2 then 2. Nb4+ wins the passed pawn) **2. Bf6** **2..Kd5** (if 2..Kc5 then 3. Be7+ wins the passed pawn) **3. d3!!** **3..a2** **4. c4+** **4..Kc5** (if here instead 4..dxc3 en passant the 5.Bxc3 wins easily.) **5. Kb7!!** **5..a1(Q)** and White looks defeated but **6.Be7#** checkmate!!! Beautiful!!

Well, your writer hopes that the readers found some enjoyment in these five examples. Chess is really an amazingly creative and enjoyable game. It never ceases to surprise with its' nearly infinite variety!!

Sources: The first two examples were from the website [www.chessvideos.tv](http://www.chessvideos.tv)

The third example is from “Chess Facts & Fables” by E. Winter, 2006

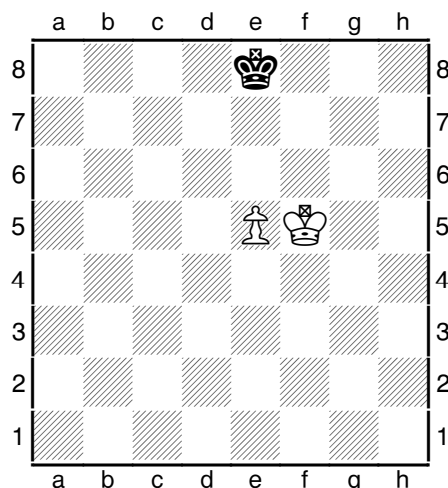
The final 2 examples are from “Chessboard Magic” by I. Chernev, 1943

Robert Woodworth  
Omaha, Nebraska  
May, 2015.

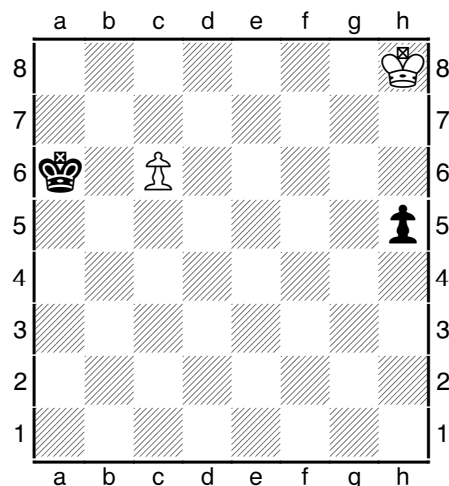
# King and Pawn Endgames (Subtleties & Finesses)

by  
**Robert Woodworth**

Many King & Pawn endgames can be very tricky to play at critical points in a chess game. These endings can be lost or drawn through one errant move! Even pawn endings that appear to be ‘simple’ can contain some surprises. Many times when a player is confronted with a crucial position (it must also be recognized as being ‘crucial’) consisting of only Kings & Pawns, there usually is only one correct line of play! Evaluating the position & determining the proper strategy plus having a basic knowledge of endgame positions is vital. The correct maneuvering of one’s King is also very critical by knowing the techniques of Triangulation, Opposition, Distant Opposition, Theory of Corresponding Squares, “Rule of the Pawn Square’ etc. Also, the correct handling of any passed pawns is extremely important. When I teach chess to youngsters, I like to commence the study of endgames by asking them what they would play in the following (simple?) position:



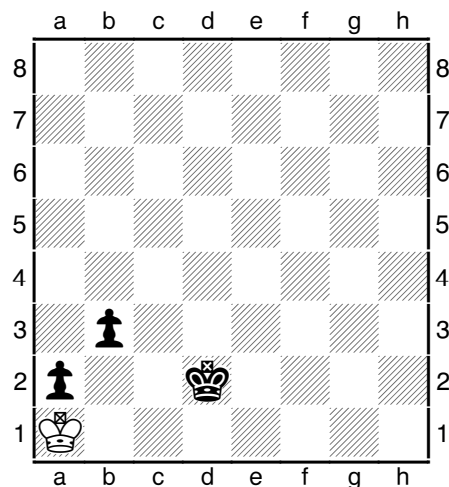
Without fail and in every class, the students would respond by moving the White pawn to the e6 square. Of course, the only correct move is **1.Ke6** by gaining the opposition and winning quite easily. Another very instructive example & which requires some higher level of skill is the following composed classical study by Richard Reti as shown here:



White appears to be dead lost in this ending as he cannot stop the Black Pawn from 'queening' and his own pawn can be easily captured. The solution which saves the game for White and assures the draw is as follows:

White plays **1.Kg7 1..h4 2. Kf6. 2..Kb6** (if instead 2.h3 then 3. Ke7 3..h2 4.c7 4..Kb7 5.Kd7 and a draw since both sides promote to a Queen) & now **3. Ke5! 3..Kxc6 4.Kf4** and drawn since White can stop the Black pawn!!

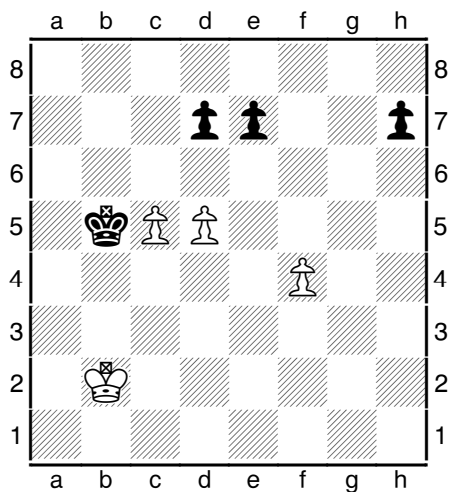
Next, look at the following position where it appears that the position is a draw since Black cannot approach the White King without delivering stalemate! Before looking at the solution below, try to find the Black win. Is there one??



(Black breaks the stalemate tricks with a timely deflection as such:

...1.Kd3 2. Kb2 2..a1(Q)+!! 3. Kxa1 ..3.Kc3 and Black wins since there is no stalemate defense for White. Very inventive play by Black. It also shows the clever solution(s) possible in apparently simple looking King & Pawn endings!!)

Here is another good example to improve one's endgame technique:

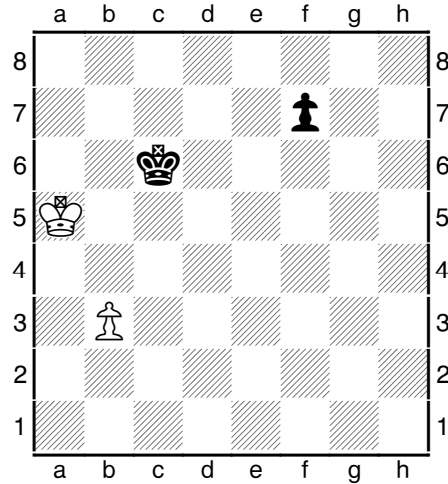


White to move first and has a win by playing **1.c6! 1..Kb6** (1..dxc6 leads to a similar line of play) **2. d6 2..exd6 3. f5 3..Kc7 4. f6 4..Kd8 5.c7+ wins.**

I will conclude with two subtle, extremely instructive King & Pawn endgame positions which contain hardly any pawns and are very deceptive in appearance. (To this writer the most astounding concept regarding these King & Pawn end-game positions is that (with some exceptions) **the fewer pawns on the chessboard, the more subtle & complex the correct strategy seems to be!! Absolutely amazing since it goes against all of our common chess sense!!!**)

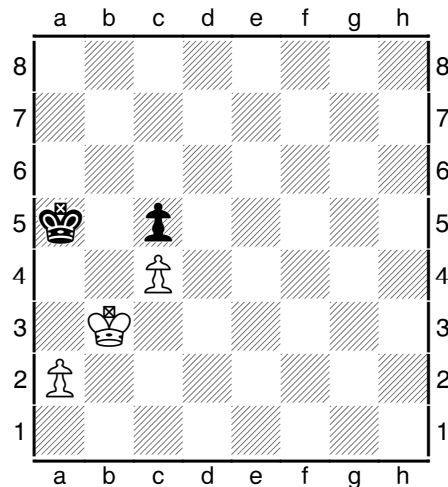
The first example is from a grandmaster game GM Ljubomir Ljubojevic (White) vs. GM Walter Browne (playing Black) Amsterdam, 1972:

Please see diagram on the next page.



It is Black to play in this apparently ‘simple’ endgame with each side having only **one pawn each**. (Note: It cannot be hardly any simpler than this example!) Grandmaster Walter Browne, an eventual 6-time U.S. Champion, did not realize all the subtleties in this K & P endgame. He played the very obvious **1..f5??** and completely overlooked the only winning move **1..Kd5!** The game ended in a draw but later analysis showed a Black win after **1..Kd5 2.b4 2..f5 3. b5 3..f4 4.b6 4..Kc6! 5. Ka6 5..f3 6.b7 6..f2 7. b8(Q) 7..f1 (Q)+ 8. Ka5 8..Qa1+ wins 0-1**. Afterwards, when Browne was asked why he played **1..f5?**, he stated that he did NOT realize that there was a win in the position!! Really amazing!!

Finally, this last example of a King and Pawn(s) endgame appears to be drawish from an ‘innocent appearing’ position. It is very instructive when one studies the movements of the White King. (White to move & win.)





This is a good example of a King maneuver termed TRIANGULATION in which one intentionally loses a move by moving the King in a triangular pattern to gain a positional advantage.

**1.Ka3 1..Kb6 2. Kb2 2..Ka5 3. Kb3 3..Kb6** (end of the triangulation)  
**4. Kc3 4..Ka5 5. Kd2 5..Ka4 6. Ke3 6..Kb4 7.Kd3 7..Ka3 8. Ke4 8..Kxa2 9. Kd5** and White wins the Black Pawn and the game after some very instructive maneuvering.

In conclusion, this really only ‘scratches the surface’ in this rather large field of the study of endgames with ONLY Kings & Pawns. Your writer is reminded of an extremely complicated K& P endgame from a major international tourney or match in the 1950’s in which it required several weeks of analysis to determine the correct line of play! This was many years before the advent of the chess ‘engines’. This endgame would be a good subject for a future “*Gambit*” article.

Robert Woodworth  
Omaha, NE  
June, 2015

SOURCES: “Ostrauer Morgenzeitung”—Dec. 4, 1921 (by R. Reti)  
‘Chessvideos.tv’ website—(puzzle by Fontana, yr. 1943)  
Chessgames.com website  
“The Oxford Companion to Chess”, 2nd ed., yr. 1996  
ChessCafe website (Everyman book reviews)

## Tournament Announcements

As of press time, the only tournaments listed on the Nebraska Chess Association Website are the following. . .

- **The Midwest Open—Scheduled for July 11th and 12th in Omaha.**
- **The Kansas Open—Scheduled for July 17th, 18th and 19th in Wichita, Kansas. The Friday, July 17th date includes the Kansas Blitz Chess Championship.**
- **State Games of America—Scheduled for August 1st and 2nd in Lincoln.**
- **61st Iowa Open Championship—August 29th and 30th. Location-Marriott Hotel & Conference Center I-80, Coralville, Iowa. Near Iowa City, Iowa.**
- **Mid West Regional TEAM Chess Tournament, September 26-27, 2015 CenturyLink Center, Omaha, NE.**

Be sure to visit these web sites for Tournament Announcements!

**<http://spencechessclub.org/>**

**<http://www.nebraskachess.com/nsca/index.nsca>**

Don't forget to thank our handful of Nebraska tournament directors! **Mike Gooch, Drew Thyden, John Hartmann, Tony Dutiel** and others for the great job they do!

Special thanks to my wonderful contributors! **Bob Woodworth, John Tomas, John Hartmann, Ruta York, Viktors Pupols, “Elly” Didrichsons, Kent Smotherman** and others for making the July issue of the *Gambit* possible!

## Historic Chess Photo

**Delmar Saxton in his prime.**

**From an *Omaha World-Herald* column in the 1940s.**

Special thanks to NSCA historical archivist,  
**Robert Woodworth** for this image below.



**As I remember Delmar Saxton in the late 70's.-Ed.**

# The Day I Met the Lincoln Legends

Kent B. Nelson

I can't recall the exact date I went to the Lincoln chess club for the first time. I know it was in the spring of 1973, most likely in April. Being 15 years old, I took the bus to Bennett Martin Library in downtown Lincoln. I understood the chess club met in the library's basement.

As I entered the club, I had no idea how my world was about to change. I remember being greeted by a gentleman with a suit, tie and a firm handshake. His accent was funny, but his warm welcome was understood in any language. He told entertaining chess stories, a raconteur. I found out later, I'd shaken the hand of fifteen-time Lincoln City Chess Champion and three-time Nebraska State Champion, **Alexander Liepnieks**. This was the only time I would meet him. A few days later, I learned Mr. Liepnieks passed away.

As I looked around the club, I observed a lot of smiles, amidst the speed chess and smoke. (Remember, smoking norms were much different in the 70's!) The source of the smoke was one gentleman playing speed chess. He was neatly dressed and holding a pipe in his hand (which had a missing thumb). He spoke funny, too. (*I was curious about the thumb, but I knew better than to inquire, at least, not yet.*) This guy was busy encouraging his vanquished and victimized opponents to continue playing. I believe this explained the frequent smiles.

Mr. Liepnieks introduced me to **Anton Sildmets**. I don't recall many details of what Anton and I talked about but I remember two things—one spoken, the other unspoken. I asked Anton what country he was from. He told me "Estonia," and after noticing my puzzled look, Anton leaned over and asked, "Have you heard of the Baltic States?" "Oh yes," I said. Of course I was faking it. I had no idea about the Baltic States at the time. Anton then invited me to play him in a speed game. I don't think I gave him much of a contest. A few minutes later, Anton was smiling and offering words of encouragement. I'd been added to his laundry list of vanquished opponents.

As I walked away, a lasting imprint of Anton stayed with me. It was the pipe smoke, the aroma. Regardless of the environment, to this day, if I smell pipe smoke, I always associate it with Anton.

Looking back, I recall seeing two other Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame inductees my first night at the Lincoln Chess Club. **Bud Narveson** and **Loren Schmidt** were both in attendance.

My first impression of Bud was that of a quiet, dignified and educated man. In the decades that have followed, this has not changed except for being upgraded.

Loren Schmidt was playing speed chess and winning. In fact, winning was all Loren did for many years when he lived in Nebraska. I was never able to win or draw against Loren in my dozen or so tournament games

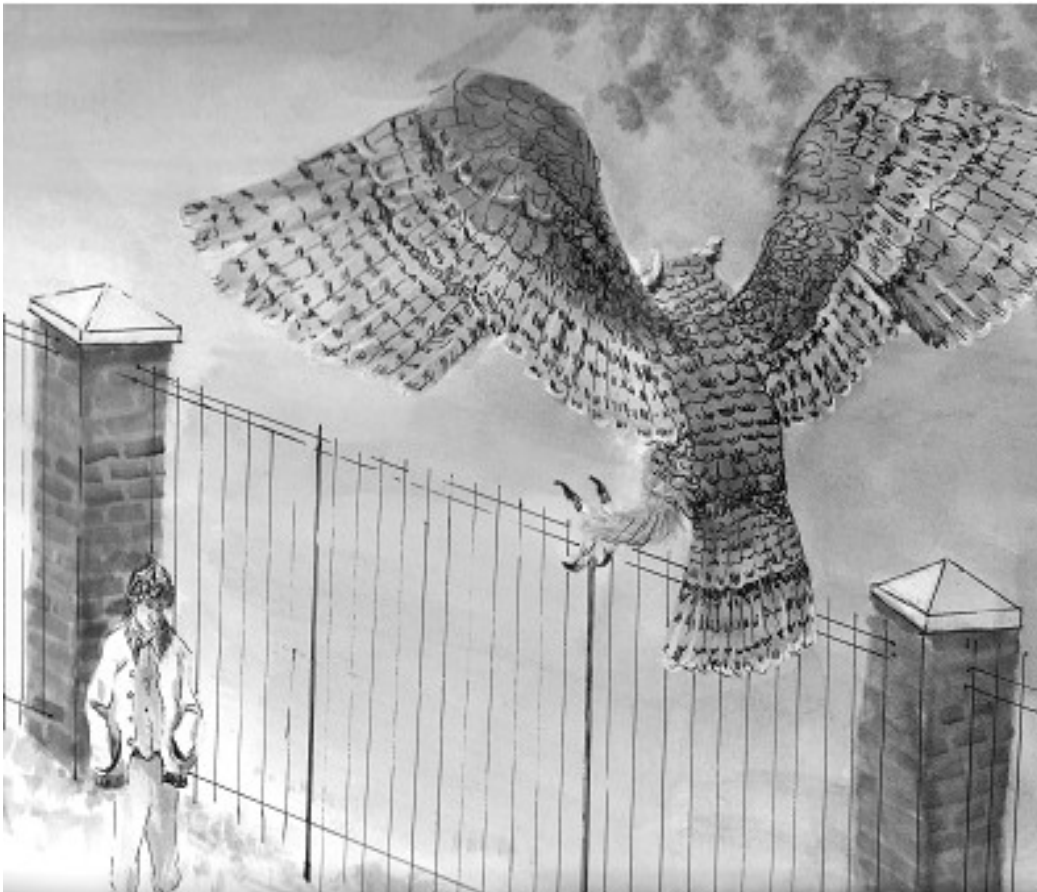
against him. He made chess look so easy and clear. To this day, I look upon Loren as one of the most gifted and talented players I've ever met.

Attending an event such as a chess club for the first time, or having any new experience, can be intense, especially when you are young. However, an incident coming home from my first chess club visit made it a significant, life-changing event.

I took the bus home and arrived at the bus stop at dusk. The path to my house was a five minute walk between a cemetery fence and a major street. As I walked, I was searching the ground for money (which I'd found once before) when I sensed something.

I looked up and a huge Great Horn Owl descended on my head. I froze in fear. I brought my arms up to block the owl's impending attack. At just that instant, within a foot of my head, the owl pulled up and veered off to the east. It didn't make a sound—not even the wings could be heard. The moment and image are frozen in my memory.

I spent many an hour trying to figure out what happened. Was it an omen or happenstance? What was the reason for the owl's behavior? From my understanding, owls are not prone to attack humans. While I don't understand why this incident occurred, I came to terms with it. If nothing else, it augmented my memory of the first time I visited the Lincoln Chess Club and met the Lincoln legends.



Impending owl attack on 15-year-old Kent Nelson

Janna Harsch

**The Gambit c/o Kent Nelson**

**4014 “N” St. Lincoln, NE**

**68510**