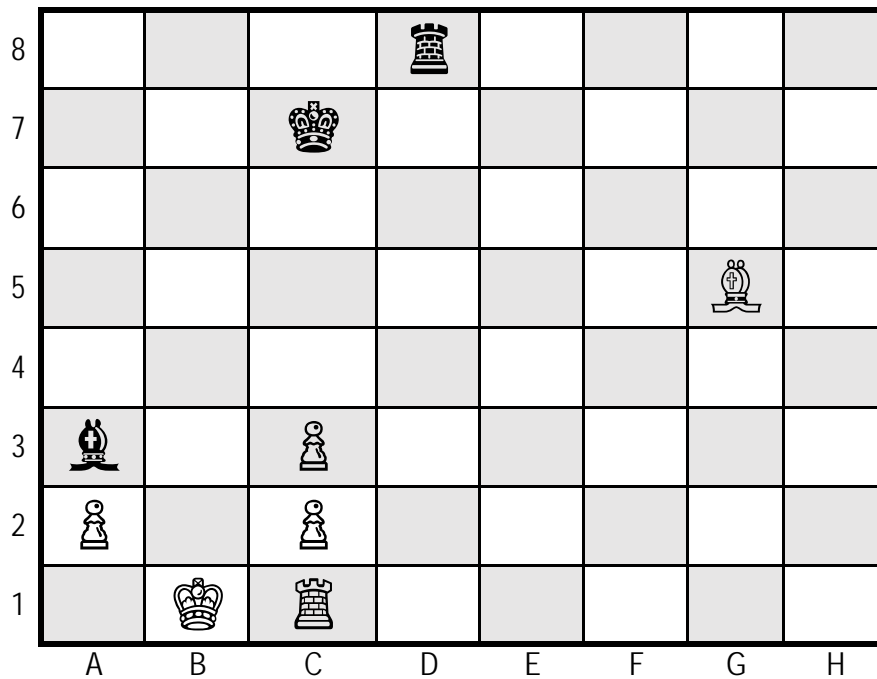


KING'S FILE

It's Back!

Fall 2024 Legacy Edition

Black To Play



Solution On Page 1

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A Word From The Staff

A Word From Our President

Robin Ransom

To DC Chess League Enthusiasts:

This issue is dedicated to Colonel Zachary Kinney, a long standing member of the DC Chess League. Colonel Kinney studied the game and reached an official USCF chess rating of 2130 over the board. He is also a teacher who sees potential in a quiet student and fans the spark of curiosity into a flame. He uses Chess as a tool to teach the value of critical thinking. His vision of the **King's File** is to create a platform to share meaningful conversations about chess adventures. We hope the DC Chess League's **King's File** will become a collective repository of reflections about chess experiences, chronicling growth and progress of chess players over time.

Robin Ramson
President, DC Chess League

A Word From The Editor-In-Chief

Zack Kinney

Zack Kinney

The **King's File** Returns

By Colonel Zack Kinney, Editor-in-Chief of **King's File**

1. The veteran DC, VA, and MD chess player who has played chess in the DC area since the mid-1970s at some point ran across an edition or two of the **King's File**.
2. The **King's File** was the official newsletter for the DC Chess League.
3. At some point in the early 1990s the newsletter died. This is an attempt to bring it back to life. I have called for its resurrection and scores of others cry out for its resurrection too.
4. So sit back read and enjoy. More will follow. Also we need Donations and Help. Please contact Benny Johnson (see Officers section) for more info on Donating.

Zack

Words From The Staff

A Word From The Editors

David Bennett & Alan Newman

David Bennett

It is my pleasure to help edit this *Legacy Edition* of **King's File** after three decades of dormancy! I think that this is a worthwhile endeavor, helping to connect the rapidly surging DC chess community—one of the few silver linings emerging from the pandemic. This publication is a truly intergenerational effort, representing players from a broad array of backgrounds who come together to challenge each other in the ultimate mental sport/battle that we all love. The revival of **King's File** carries forward the legacy of 20th century editions while infusing new media such as blogs and YouTube videos, plus QR codes to quickly access the various links associated with the wonderful articles you are about to read. I thank Benny Johnson and Zack Kinney for taking the initiative to bring back this resource for the DC chess community and beyond—and for trusting in me to serve as one of its editors. I hope that you enjoy and contribute bountifully so that the legacy of **King's File** will extend well beyond this exciting 2024 *Legacy Edition*!

Alan Newman

Recently, I moved away from DC to Wilmington, North Carolina, and I discovered what I already knew deep in my heart: DC is an incredible chess city. Dupont Circle might be the most well known area for playing, but there is also Chess on Tap at the Boardroom, Live Chess blitz and rapid tournaments, Girls Chess tournaments, Arlington Chess Club, DC Chess League, and plenty of major tournaments just a Metro ride away. There are so many opportunities to engage in this wonderful game, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of all of the opportunities around you. Our first edition of the **King's File** since the early 90s features some of the personalities that make DC one of the best chess cities in the country.

I am grateful to be a part of this team that brought this together. A huge thanks to my co-editors David Bennett and Benny Johnson. We are looking forward to bringing future issues to this beautiful chess community. Feel free to reach out at alan.newman6@gmail.com with any thoughts or comments about the issue!

Words From The Staff

▲ Word From The Publisher

Benny Johnson

After several decades of inactivity, The **King's File** is Back!!!

We are planning to publish the **King's File** quarterly; however, a monthly schedule is possible if the responses to this issue and future issues are good.

As the publisher of the **King's File**, my goal is to improve the quality of this magazine and to get it published on time!! To do this, **We Need Your Support**. We encourage you to send us your comments, suggestions, games, photos, **Letters To The Editor**, stories, **advertisements**, etc.

In putting this issue together, the following persons **deserve special credit**: Especially, **David Bennett**, who invested a lot of his time and energy; **Zack Kinney**, who organized this venture as the Editor-in-Chief; Alan Newman, who submitted articles and interviews; last but not least, Masters **Greg Acholonu** & **Sal Rosario**, who are **Veterans** of the **King's File** and gave invaluable advice and contributions.

One last word. I wanted to ***Resurrect*** the **King's File** so I created a team to achieve this project. So do I pat myself on the back? No. If it was left to me, the idea would still be in my head.

We have to Thank David Bennett.

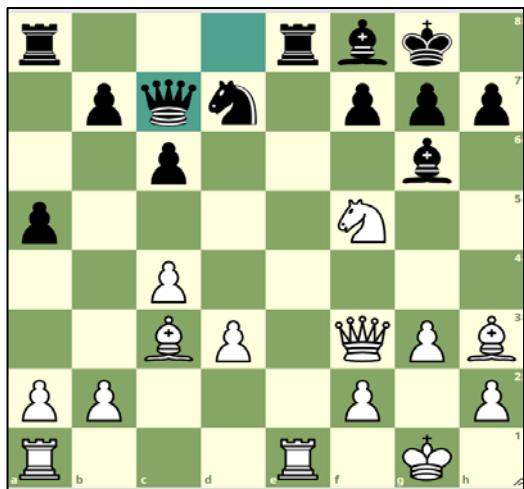
He did a great deal of work to bring this project to Fruition.

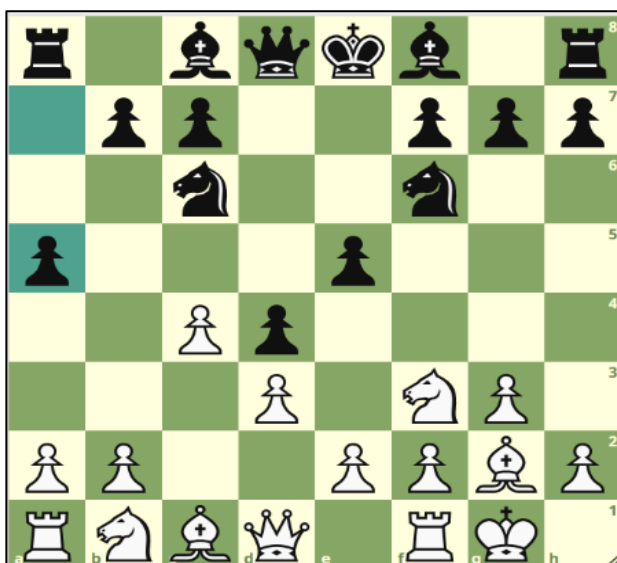
Thank You David

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"One Step Closer" by FM Gregory Acholonu

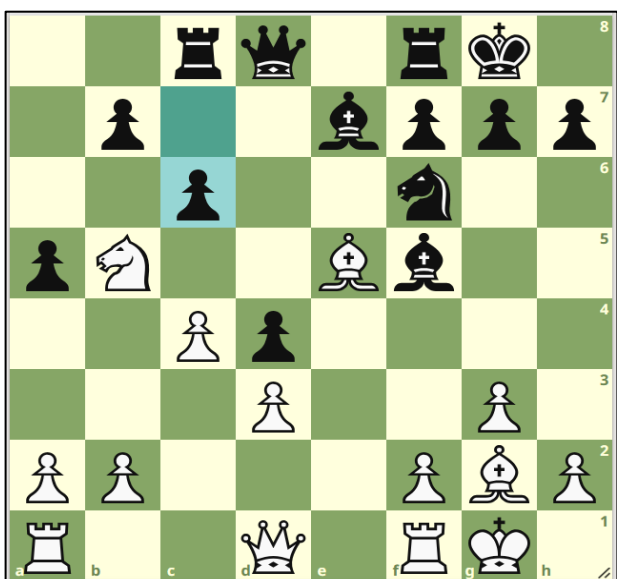
FM Gregory Acholonu vs. FM Shelby Getz





	White	Black
1	g3	e5
2	Bg2	d5
3	c4	d4
4	Nf3	Nf6
5	d3	Nc6
6	O-O	a5

In the game that I include as the Supplemental game, which was a strong influence for choosing 1. g3, Geller (reaching this position by a different move order), played **6...Bd6**, which is a perfectly reasonable, and playable, alternative.



	White	Black
7	e3	Be7
8	exd4	exd4
9	Na3	O-O
10	Nb5	Bf5
11	Bf4	Rc8
12	Ne5	Nxe5
13	Bxe5	c6

This is the first critical juncture. **13...Bg4** is a better move, although White seems to keep an advantage. Black needs a better plan before this point, and the reader can look for it in review.

14 **Nxd4**

The old saying is, 'A pawn is a pawn...'

Black is not lost yet, but needs to make some precise choices to avoid drifting into a bad position.

14 **Bg6**

...Bg4, as mentioned previously, is a better attempt.

White Black

15 **Bh3** **Ra8**

Another slight miss; ...**Bh5** is better. [Editor's note: this exact position, despite the complex nature of the play in a not-so-theoretical line, was reached in Lukov-Gisbert, 1991, 1-0]

16 **Nf5** **Re8**

17 **Qf3** **Bf8**

17. d4 or **Re1** for White were also good.

17... **Bf8** was getting further away from Shore. 17...**Bc5** is better.

[Editor's note: 17... **Bc5** provokes 18. d4? **Bxf5** 19. **Bxf5 Bxd4** and Black would win back the pawn.

20. **Rad1??** loses to **Rxe5**.]

18 **Rfe1** **Nd7**

The engine gives an interesting defense that I may not have found: 18...**h5** 19 **Bc3 Nh7!?**

Clearly the Knight is better on h7 than d7. The misses will turn into an error—which, in the end, was a decisive one.

19 **Bc3** **Qc7**

Black must play either 19...**Re1+** or 19...**Qg5**. After his choice, it's White to play and win!

White to Play and Win



20 **Nh6+!**

A move one sees at once, if you are in good form. I was in good form in this tournament; I had played over 100 rating games before the Closed. Tal once said that he needed to play at least 80 a year to be in good form. I can use this as an excuse for any of my recent losses.

White	Black
20	gxh6
21	Rxe8 Rxe8

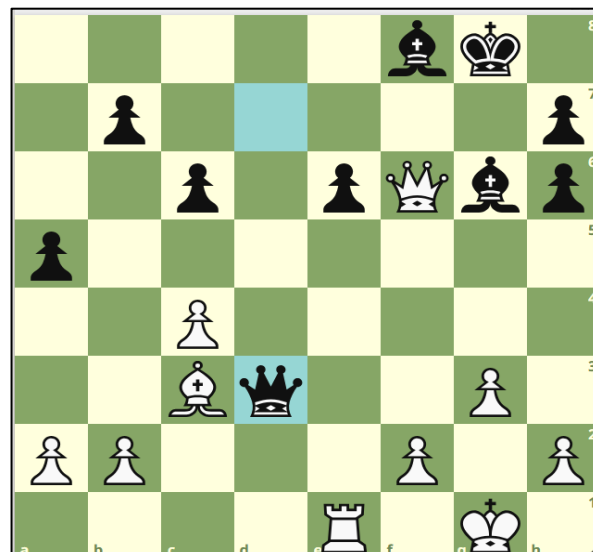
Rxe8 comes first—move order is important. [Editor's note: If instead 21. **Bxd7?** **Rxe1+** 22. **Rxe1 Bg7**, the rook on e8 is no longer attacked by the bishop—a major improvement. Precise play by Greg!]

22 **Bxd7**

With a win of material and the damaged Kingside, especially the weakness on the long diagonal a1-h8, we enter the final phase.

22... **Re6** 23. **Bxe6 fxe6** 24. **Qf6 Qd7** 25. **Re1**

Even better is 25. **Qh8+** **Kf7** 26. **Re1** then, inviting the Rook to the event via e3. My move doesn't change the verdict. [Editor's note: Stockfish oscillates between +5 and +5.1 for either candidate move. From an accuracy perspective, then, it seems that either will do!]



25... **Qxd3** 26. **Qxe6+**

Hard to avoid collecting a pawn with check, even if there is something better. 26. **Rxe6** is faster. [Editor's note: I think the move played by Acholonu is good, gaining the pawn with check and preventing back rank shenanigans.]

26... **Bf7** 27. **Qg4+** **Qg6** 28. **Qd4 Be6** 29. **Bxa5**

Apologies for being greedy. Wanted to make sure I didn't mess things up by being fancy. [Editor's note: no need to apologize for obtaining endgame insurance!]

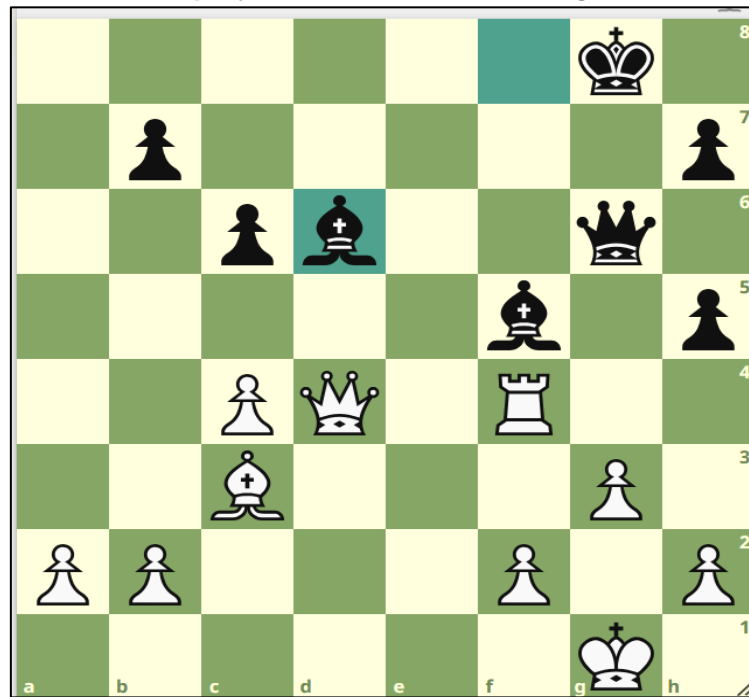
29... **h5** 30. **Bc3 Bg4** 31. **Re4**

After this move I knew there would be a happy ending to this game, at least. Once the Rook hits the show is over.

31... Bf5 32. Rf4 Bd6 Black resigns

Shelby resigned before I could play 33. Rxf5

What line of play would have left nothing in doubt?



FM Greg Acholonu on DC Chess History, Emory Tate, Maurice Ashley, Alekhine—King's File Podcast pt. 2

Enjoy these three podcasts with FM Acholonu:

[1. On his own development as a chess player and coach](#)

[2. On the DC Chess Scene, famous Black players including IM Emory Tate and GM Maurice Ashley, and the history of select world championship matches](#)

[3. Analysis of his win in the 1992 Maryland Closed Championship](#)



	White	Black
1	g3	d5
2	Bg2	e5
3	Nf3	Nc6
4	O-O	Nf6
5	c4	d4
6	d3 Bxc	Bd6
7	Na3	O-O
8	Rb1	Re8
9	Nc2	a5
10	b3	h6
11	a3	Bf5
12	b4	axb4
13	axb4	Qd7
14	b6	Nd8
15	e3	dxe3
16	Nxe3	Bh7
17	Bb2	c6
18	Ra1	Rxa1
19	Qxa1	b5
20	Ne5	Qc7

	White	Black
21	Nf3	Be7
22	Rc1	bxc4
23	dx c4	Qb6
24	Nd5	Nxd5
25	cx d5	Bf8
26	Bd4	Qb3
27	Ne3	b5
28	Nd7	Ba3
29	Bg7	Bc1
30	Nf6+	Kg7
31	Ne8+	Kf8
32	Qh8+	Ke7
33	d6+	Kd7
34	Nf6+	Kc8
35	Bh3+	Kb7
36	Qd8	Qd1+
37	Kg2	Bd3
38	Bc8+	Ka8
39	Qa5+	1-0



King's File Episode 2: Trevor Teason - DC Chess Champion

"You go a couple games with a win, you feel like you'll never win again; you go a couple of games with a loss, you feel like you'll never lose again. Those are the emotions we go through."
- Trevor T

In May, I had the opportunity to interview the 2024 DC State Amateur Chess Champion Trevor Teason about his victory and other chess related things. Trevor and I met playing chess a few years ago, and our friendship grew from there. As you'll see, Trevor is a stand up guy as well as a lover of chess. We discuss the story of how we met, his experience playing in the DC Championships, and we end with Trevor analyzing his pivotal round 4 victory. Trevor understands when the critical positions arise and how to handle them: his analysis demonstrates how to sense when to play it safe and when to take risks.

"It's always great to get tournaments hosted in the city. Very often, we have to travel to the suburbs and the big hotels. I appreciate [Robin and Mark] for bringing chess to DC proper. There is a great chess culture in the city." - Trevor T

I really enjoyed my conversation with my fellow Illini, and I think the greater DC chess community will too. If you want to follow Trevor, you can find him on chess.com @soccerpants.

An Interview with Trevor Teason by King's File Editor Alan Newman

Alan also had the opportunity to interview Malcolm Wooten, former president of the Howard University Chess Club, who was instrumental in developing Howard University's team into one of the foremost HBCU teams, winning big in Atlanta! Scan the QR code with your phone's camera below to watch the entire interview.



King's File Episode 1: Malcolm Wooten

“Weird Moves” by DC Champion, NM Salvador Rosario



NM Salvador Rosario, multi-time DC State Champion, is pictured on the right notating his game.

This is a lecture series I like to call “weird moves.” It is a group of games in which the dynamic, structural, and material balances go so out of kilter, they make your head spin. Here is the first.

Lev Polugaevsky, Soviet Union vs. Eugenio Torre, Philippines Moscow, 1981

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11.exf6 Bb7 12.g3 c5 13.d5 Nb6 14.dxe6 Qxd1+ 15.Rxd1 Bxh1 16.e7 a6

The opening is the Botvinnik Slav Defense. Strangely, it was conceived as a less complicated way of avoiding the Meran Variation. In this effort, it failed miserably. The Botvinnik has spawned some of the most complicated positions in the history of the game.

At today's highest level, the variation requires mountains of research and continual review of lines up 30 moves deep and beyond. Why? The variation has a never ending supply of sacrificial imbalances.

When this game was played in 1981, the opening was about 15 moves old. Here White has sacrificed a rook for a bind. This was known. Theory had Black anticipate a capture at e7 or f8 by white reducing sacrifice to an exchange, freeing the game, and allowing Black to try to bring home the material advantage.

Polugaevsky, one of the greatest Soviet grandmasters concerning opening research, uncorked a surprise at move 17. In his book, Grandmaster Preparation, Polugaevsky stated, “My heart skipped a beat” when he first saw it.

Ready? See if you can guess. White to move:

17.h4!!! Bh6



This and the next move are critical. **They entomb the rook.** While on the board black is a rook ahead, in reality white has an advantage. Black struggles to find a way to get out of the bind.

18.f4!!! b4 19.Rd6! Rb8 20.Nd1 Bxg5 21.fxg5 Nd5



22.Bxc4 Nxe7 23.fxe7 Kxe7 24.Rf6 Rhf8 25.Ne3 Be4 26.Rxa6 Rbd8 27.Rf6 Rd6 28.Rf4 Rd4 29.h5

Torre, to his credit, does not panic and puts up stout resistance. White should take the bishop and move the king side pawns with h6. Instead, white begins to make a series of inaccuracies and lets black back into the game.

32.Bb3? Bc2 33.Bxc2 Kxd5 34.Bb3+? Ke5

Here, at move 34, white should have played **...h6**, winning.

35.g4 Kf4?

At this point, **35... d3!** for Black holds the balance in the position. Unfortunately, Torre missed this resource. Now the game continues to its logical conclusion.

36.g6! Ke3 37.g7 Rc8 38.Kf1 d3 39.Kg2 Kf4 40.h6 1-0

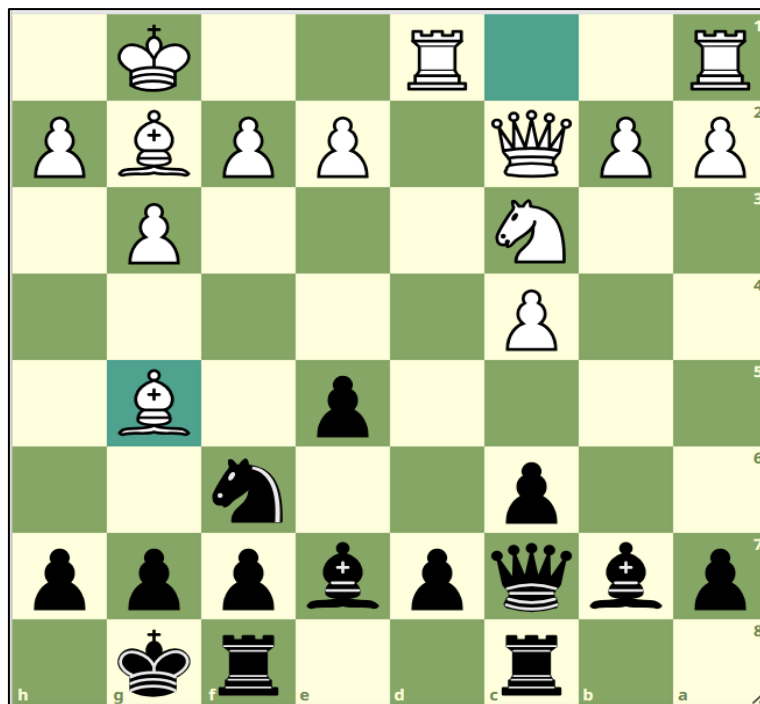
A Tale of Two Pawns

Benjamin “Benny” Johnson, a member of the historic Black Knights Chess Club in DC, which has teams on the DC Chess League, generously offers up a recent loss to our chess community—one that provides many lessons for players of all levels.

King’s File editor, national master David Bennett, provides in-depth analysis of the game between **Trevor Teason** (White) and **Benjamin Johnson** (Black) below.



Benny immersed in deep thought



Preview: Black must prevent his opponent from forging a bind with c5! What is the best way to do so?

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 c5 3. g3 cxd4 4. Bg2

Black struck the center immediately, but White is content to just take his time. Besides, the immediate recapture of the pawn would get hit with 4. Nxd4 d5 5. Bg2 e5 and Black is taking over the center with the gain of time.

4... Nc6

A few players in the 2200-2400 range opted for 4... e5!? and Nxe5 loses to the Qa5+ fork. However, after 5. O-O Nc6 6. c3 dxc3 7. Nxc3 Black, despite being up a pawn with the potential to roll his center onward with d5, is a bit loose and underdeveloped, so at least White can hope for a good amount of compensation.

5. Nxd4

This line must have been in vogue in the "beforetimes," with players like Karjakin essaying it with Black vs. Nakamura and Svidler; and the former U.S. champion Shabalov played the same position with Black in what might now to Gen Z/Alpha be considered the "way - beforetime of '98. Shabalov lost and Karjakin drew twice.

5... e5!

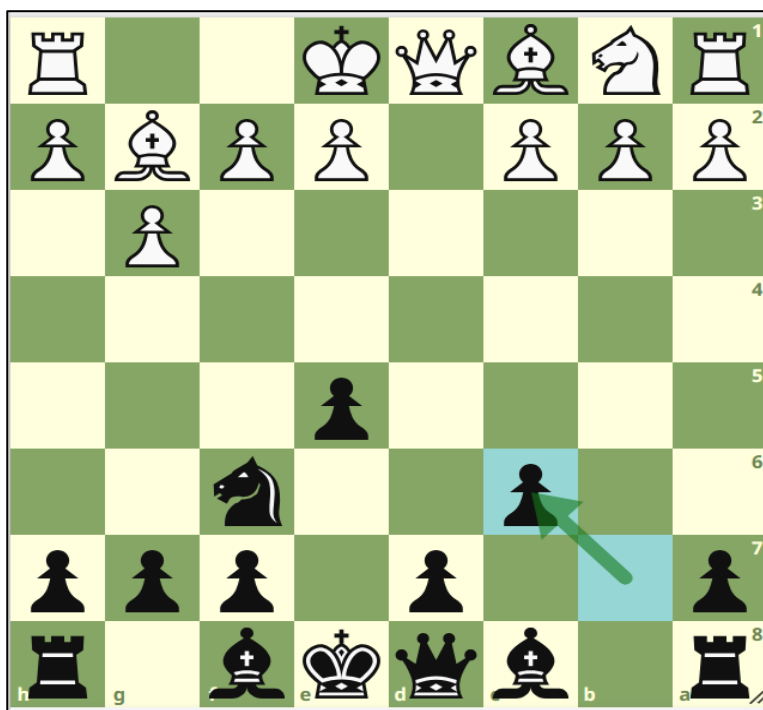
Simple and strong. Of course, White anticipates this sort of thrust, hoping to strike back against the big center Grünfeld-style.



6. Nxc6

Although this move gets the silicon seal of approval, it's the sort of move that Black loves to see in say, a Sicilian Dragon, where White tends to learn that it isn't good to help Black pull a mass of pawns into the center. That said, there is value in not wasting time here and completing development. Trevor just needs to be careful about an impending pawn storm.

6... bxc6



This move is highly logical, though among the master games of the less than comprehensive *lichess.org* database, I'm seeing this played 5 times whereas [6... dxc6](#) was played 17 times. In all cases, Black scored well. Maybe the reason the line isn't preferred is because of the precise move that Benny's opponent found in this game! The queen trade line [7. Qxd8+ Kxd8](#) doesn't leave much to play for, so I'm all with Benny here in his decision to keep more firepower on the board and play for the win!

7. O-O Be7 8. c4!



This is the key move by White that makes Black's job more difficult. The game can very much evolve into a reversed Grünfeld defense if Black is to try ...d5 at some point. Black can certainly build a center, but White will bear down on it with Nc3, Bg5 to undermine the knight's protection of d5, and Rc1 to bear down on c-file weaknesses. Meanwhile, the bishop on g2 breathes fire across the board. It's the kind of game where one might later regret playing the "reversed" version, with Black being down a tempo versus the typical opening. Meanwhile, if White had failed to play c4 at the opportune moment, we would see a more comfortable situation for Black with something like 8. Bg5 Rb8 9. Nd2 d5 10. c4 O-O 11. cxd5 cxd5. To Trevor's credit, he timed the strong positional move just right.

8... O-O 9. Nc3 Bb7!

I give an exclamation here because, sure enough, as a roughly 2000 player Benny has played the same move as two 2300 FIDE players—one of them drawing and the other winning! Given the annoyance that Bg5 posed, ...h6 would be most accurate here. But hindsight is 20/20.

10. Qc2 10...Rc8

Why not go for the gusto with 10...d5!?

11. cxd5 cxd5 12. Bg5!

White finds a very strong idea. As we will see, it is difficult to meet.

12... d6

If the ...d5 idea is nixed, then ...d6 is the consolation prize. Black must keep his pawns together to maintain fluidity, lest he face a stealthy positional shot. 12...Qc8 would be very strong, getting away from the coming threats on the d-file while creating his own pin on the c-file. Timing is everything here. Black just needs a moment to secure his center, and White needs to do everything they can to prevent that from happening—the typical hypermodern battle!

13. Bxf6 Bxf6 14. Ne4 Be7 15. c5!

This is the move that Benny said he simply missed. It's amazing how, once this move is played, there's just not much that can be done about it. A positional bind is forged. The d-pawn can't advance without taking on serious structural damage via the *en passant* capture; and yet if it sits there, it's a target on the half-open d-file and the knight might just decide to hop in.



15... d5

Not seeing much else to do in this difficult situation, Black naturally stirs up complications.

16. cxd6 Bxd6 17. Nxd6 Rxd6 18. Rxd6

18. Qc5 would have been a nice finesse—blockading the c-pawn, improving the queen's dominance, and winning the d-file—cementing a decisive advantage.

18... Qxd6 19. Rd1 Qc7

19... Qe7 would have put up more resistance, since now the Qc5 idea is nipped in the bud; where the game continuation transposes to the sideline above.

20. Qc5 f6?

Again, a difficult position to play, but the opening of the a2-g8 diagonal creates tactical opportunities...and as Fischer said, "tactics flow from a superior position."



21. Qxa7

21. Bh3 Rd8 22. Be6+ Kh8 23. Rd7! is one of those nice lines that the computer instantly spits out. Instead, Trevor ran a quote for endgame insurance, and the price was right.

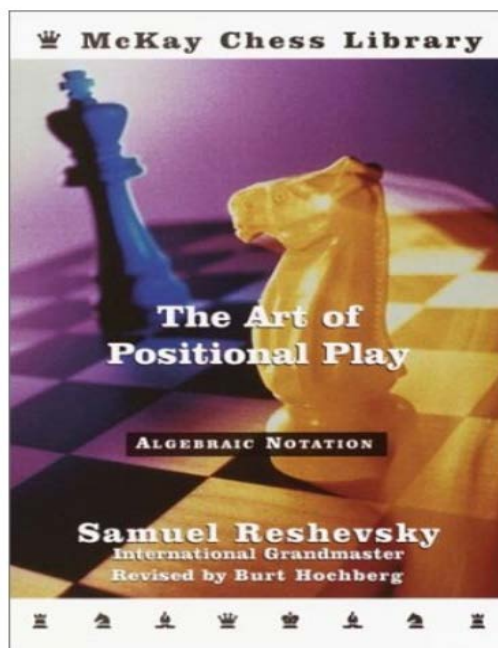
21... Ra8 22. Qc5 Rxa2??

Again, it's just one of those tough positions where all of the opponent's pieces have great square and your king is exposed, so something's gotta give.

22. Bd5+! 1-0



A fascinating game! I appreciate that Benny chose to share a loss for the King's File. There were some great themes, stemming from an offbeat opening, to a battle for the center, to a strong idea of restraining Black's d5 strike, then locking in a bind with c5! which even made ...d6 difficult to play without taking on pawn structure damage. In hindsight, getting in ...d6 before the central skirmish occurred was the way to stay in the game. Maintaining fluidity in the center is essential, and we always have to be on the lookout for ways in which our opponent create those central binds—or strike hard before they can even think about it! Once Trevor began get the edge, though, he did a great job at not letting it slip away. An excellent game by both sides. As always, Philidor's quote rings true: "Pawns are the soul of chess."



Review of Reshevsky's "The Art of Positional Play" ***by NM Salvador Rosario***

There are some really good chess books out there. And in your lifetime, some will stick with you. Some examples are "My Best Games of Chess," Alekhine; "My Sixty Memorable Games," Fischer; "Play Like a Dumb Bastard," Rosario. For me, as far as learning is concerned, Reshevsky's "The Art of Positional Play" has always found a special place in my chess playing soul.

The seven chapters lay out positional play from "Weak Pawns" to "Pieces, Good and Bad." At 333 pages, 61 games, this book is pound-for-pound the best teaching value I have ever experienced. Reshevsky has always had a talent for choosing very appropriate games to illustrate a point. This book is especially keen on it.

Want a treat? Check out the Taimanov vs. Uhlmann game in the first chapter. You will find the annotations concise and very informative. Taimanov's game is from the 1970 match USSR vs. the Rest of the World and he dismantled Uhlmann.

The downside is that it was written in the before-times. Yes, the scores are in descriptive notation. Younger players will have to know it before they dive in. However, if they do, they will find the effort worth it.

Good Luck!
Salvador Rosario

7th Black Knights Chess Championship

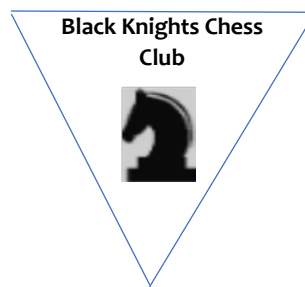


What: Open 5 Round Swiss System

When: Saturday December 14th, 2024

Where: 4301 Connecticut Avenue NW
2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20008

Why: To Celebrate The Black Knights Chess Teams



Open To All USCF Members

G/45+5d

Registration 8:00am - 8:45am

Rounds 9am - 11am - 1pm - 3pm - 5pm

Entry Fee - \$70 * \$90 At The Door

Register Online At [**dcblackknightschessclub.org/upcoming-events**](https://dcblackknightschessclub.org/upcoming-events)

Trophies For
Black Knight Champion (Free entry to Next Years Championship)
2nd Place
3rd Place

Top A - B - C - D - E/UNR & Top Female
Upset Prize & Door Prize

\$\$ Prizes b/30 Entries

\$500 - \$250 - \$150

Top U1800 - \$100

Top U1600 - \$100

Top U1300 - \$100

Top UNR - \$100.

