

TEXAS KNIGHTS

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On the cover: Left (from front): Austin players Peter Kappler, Drew Sarkisian and Josh Howell.
Right (from front): San Antonio players Gregg Stanley, Mitch Vergara and Don Sutherland.

2011 Texas Scholastic Championships

The Texas Scholastic and Southwest Collegiate championships drew 1,384 players to the Hilton Americas in Houston, Feb. 12-13.

The chief tournament organizers were Barbara Swafford and Luis Salinas. The overall Chief TD was NTD Francisco Guadalupe. Section chiefs were Eddie Rios, Lakshmana Viswanath, Forrest Marler, Victor Flores and Susan Breeding. Operating the computers were Luis Salinas, Nancy Sawyer, Brenda Hardesty, Lori Riley, Remy Ferrari. Chess Control Staff: Barbara Swafford, Melanie Kneen and Jennifer James.

The tournament organizers wish to thank the many parents, coaches, and players who volunteered their time and energy to help with this tournament.

The event was sponsored by the Dallas Chess Club, Texas Chess Association and the University of Texas Dallas. Vendors were Cajun Chess, Plunder Chess, Think Like a King software and Northwest Designs.

Southwest Collegiate Championship

(24 players, 5 rounds. TD: Eddie Rios)

1	GM Alejandro Ramirez	2657UTD	4.5
2	GM Timur Gareev	2675UTB	4.0
3	GM Andre Diamant	2519Tech	3.5
4	GM Anatoly Bykhovsky	2655Tech	3.5
5	IM Daniel Ludwig	2521UTD	3.5
6	GM Salvijus Bercys	2558UTD	3.5
7	IM Julio Sadorra	2526UTD	3.5

Southwest Collegiate Team

1	U. of Texas Dallas	Dallas	15.0 pts.
2	Texas Tech	Lubbock	12.0
3	U. of Texas Brownsville	Brownsville	12.0

High School Championship

(121 players, 7 rounds. TD: Lakshmana Viswanath)

1	Bob Shao	6.5	Clements	Sugarland
2	Matthew Michaelides	6.5	Bellaire	Houston
3	Avinash Thangirala	5.5	Westwood	Austin
5	Jeff Feng	5.5	Bellaire	Houston
6	Matthew Liu	5.5	Westwood	Austin
7	Dhurv Garg	5.5	Round Rock	Round Rock
8	Derek Chang	5.5	Westwood	Austin
9	Dion Su	5.5	Williams	Plano

The high school co-champions, Bob Shao and Matthew Michaelides, had already won scholarships to UTD, so none was awarded this year.

High School Team

1	Bellaire	Houston	21.5
2	Hanna	Brownsville	19.5
3	St. John's	Houston	18.5
4	Westwood	Austin	18.5
5	San Benito	San Benito	18.5

High School JV (U1000)

(70 players, 7 rounds. TD: Lakshmana Viswanath)

1	Omar Lee Garza	6.0	SJAN	Pharr
2	Matthew Hammons	6.0	Klein	Spring
3	Jose F. Flores III	6.0	North	Edinburg
4	Tristan Patterson	6.0	Marble Falls	Marble Falls

High School JV Team

1	San Juan Alamo N.	Pharr	21.0
2	North High School	Edinburg	20.0
5	Marble Falls	Marble Falls	18.5

Middle School Championship

(151 players, 7 rounds. TD: Forrest Marler)

1	Curran Ray Han	6.0	Pin Oak	Houston
2	Tommy Lu	6.0	Pershing	Houston
3	Andy Shao	6.0	Renner	Plano
4	Tom Polgar-	6.0	Evans	Lubbock
5	Daniel Ng	6.0	Cook	Houston
6	Austin Jiang	6.0	Canyon Ridge	Austin

Middle School Team

1	Vela	Brownsville	20.5
2	Canyon Vista	Austin	19.5
3	T.H. Rogers	Houston	19.0
4	Fort Settlement	Sugar Land	18.0
5	Jordan	San Benito	17.5

Middle School JV (U900)

(114 players, 7 rounds. TD: Forrest Marler)

1	Shota Baieda	6.5	B.L. Gray	Sharyland
2	Aidan Coolidge	6.0	B.L. Gray	Sharyland
3	Kevin Benavides	6.0	Resaca	Los Fresnos
4	Ryan Brooker	6.0	Westwood	Friendswood
5	Sarah Chacon	6.0	Faulk	Brownsville
6	Jesus Delgado	6.0	B.L. Gray	Sharyland

Middle School JV Team

1	B.L. Gray	Sharyland	24.0
2	South MS	Edinburg	19.0
3	Besterio	Brownsville	19.0
3	North JH	Sharyland	18.5

Middle School Novice (U600)

(74 players, 7 rounds. TD:)

1	James Au	7.0	LongHouston
2	Felicia Foster	6.0	RancierKilleen
3	Gargi Pingale	6.0	Canyon Vista Austin
4	Jeremiah Sullivan	5.5	RancierKilleen
5	Edgar Corral	5.5	YsletaEl Paso

Middle School Novice Team

1	Rancier	Killeen	20.5
2	Coakley	Harlingen	18.0
3	S. Texas Prep	Edinburg	17.0
4	Ysleta	El Paso	16.5

Elementary Championship

(166 players, 7 rounds. TD: Victor Flores)

1	Tommy He	7.0	Borchardt	Plano
2	Alex Liu	6.0	Village School	Houston
3	Sam Capocyan	6.0	WalkerSugar	Land
4	Christopher Chen	6.0	WilliamsKaty	
5	Khoa Nguyen	6.0	Cactus Ranch	Round Rock
6	Eduardo Gonzalez	6.0	Wilderness Oak	San Antonio

Elementary Team

1	Laurel Mountain	Austin	21.0
2	Universal Academy	Coppell	19.5
3	Cash	San Benito	18.5
4	Village School	Houston	18.0

Elementary JV (U800)

(172 players, 7 rounds. TD: Victor Flores)

1	Omar Arizpe	7.0	Ben Milam	Harlingen
2	John Flores	6.5	Classics	Arlington
3	Strauss Bourdon	6.0	O. Garza	Mission
4	Savanna Mendoza	6.0	Hinojosa	Sharyland
5	Macedonio Lopez	6.0	Hinojosa	Sharyland
6	Aaron Morin	6.0	Ben Milam	Harlingen
7	Vayu Sarangam	6.0	Village School	Houston

Elementary JV Team

1	Ben Milam	Harlingen	24.5
2	J. Sharv	Sharyland	20.5
3	Carson	San Antonio	20.5
4	Hinojosa	Sharyland	20.0

Elementary Novice (U500)

(110 players, 7 rounds. TD: Victor Flores)

1	Jesus Perez	7.0	GarzaBrownsville
2	Varshini Suresh	6.0	Universal Coppell
3	Arnoldo Garcia	6.0	GarzaBrownsville
4	Austin Nguyen	6.0	Episcopal Day Brownsville
5	Ethan Emmanuel	6.0	Universal Coppell

Elementary Novice Team

1	Reynaldo Garza	Brownsville	22.5
2	Universal Academy	Coppell	22.0
3	The Village School	Houston	20.0
4	Arlington Classics	Arlington	19.0

Primary Championship

(100 players, 7 rounds. TD: Susan Breeding)

1	Tianming Xie	6.5	St. Mark'sDallas
2	Emily Nguyen	6.0	Laurel Mtn.Austin
3	Ramses Linan	6.0	HudsonBrownsville
4	Chase Frutos	6.0	St. John'sDallas

Primary Team

1	Hudson	Brownsville	19.5
2	The Village School	Houston	18.0
3	Laurel Mountain	Austin	16.5
4	C.M. Cash	San Benito	15.5

Primary JV (U700)

(164 players, 7 rounds. TD: Susan Breeding)

1	Imran Aziz	7.0	J.L. Carson	San Antonio
2	Ariadne Dodd	6.5	Homeschooled	Austin
3	Rene Lerma	6.0	Ben Milam	Harlingen

Primary JV Team

1	Ben Milam	Harlingen	21.0
2	Universal Academy	Coppell	21.0
3	James L. Carson	San Antonio	20.0
4	T.H. Rogers	Houston	20.0

K-1

(118 players, 7 rounds. TD:)

1	Maggie Ni	7.0	Hamilton	Cypress
2	Atreya Vaidya	6.0	Gulledge	Plano
3	Diego Cosa	6.0	HudsonBrownsville	
4	Eoghan Turner	6.0	Village School	Houston
5	Anh Nhu Nguyen	6.0	Cactus Ranch	Round Rock

K-1 Team

1	Hudson	Brownsville	21.0
2	The Village School	Houston	20.5
3	R. Garza	Brownsville	20.0
4	Egly	Brownsville	20.0

Full results at swchess.com

Texas Team champs: *UTD-A* and *Repeat Offenders*

Dallas held its first Texas Team Championship in as long as this editor can recall, Jan. 21-23 at the UTD student union. The event was well attended, with fifteen teams and 63 players.

Tied for first with 4-1 scores were *University of Texas Dallas A*

(FM Tyler Hughes, NM Artur Safin, WIM Karina Vazirova and Courtney Jamison) and the Houston-based *Repeat Offenders* (NM Jeffrey De Jesus, NM Francisco Guadalupe, NM Evan Michaelides and Matthew Michael-ides). The UTD squad won the trophy on tiebreaks by one point.

The top U1900 team was *Ken and the Barbies* (Nolan Hendrickson, Ivan Wijetunge, Kenneth Artz and Donald Briggs, Jr.) Hendrickson (2110) won in upsets against Langer (2309) and Vedrickas (2353).

Barb Swafford directed for the Dallas Chess Club.

	Code	Name	Score	TBrk[G]	TBrk[U]
1	UTDA	University Texas Dallas A (2181.8) W11 W3 W5 D2 D6	4.0	13	38.75
		FM Tyler Hughes (2333) 4.0			
		NM Artur K Safin (2259) 3.0			
		WIM Karina Vazirova (2099) 3.5			
		Courtney Jamison (2036) 2.5			
2	RPTOFD	Repeat Offenders (2185.8) D7 W10 W6 D1 W5	4.0	12	35.75
		NM Jeffrey De Jesus (2244) 1.0			
		NM Francisco Guadalupe II (2214) 2.5			
		NM Evan Michaelides (2146) 4.5			
		Matthew Michaelides (2139) 4.0			
3	PRDKN1	Prodigy Knight 1 (2124.8) W15 L1 W4 D9 W12	3.5	12.5	31
		NM Jarod Pamatmat (2238) 2.0			
		FM Jeffery Xiong (2162) 2.5			
		Dachey Lin (2119) 3.5			
		Ruifeng Li (1980) 4.5			
4	TABLE	Knights of the Square Table (2137.5) W12 D6 L3 W7 W9	3.5	11.5	29.75
		NM Deepyaman Datta (2255) 3.0			
		FM Tommy O He (2169) 2.5			
		WCM Sarah Chiang (2110) 3.5			
		cm Jonathan Chiang (2016) 2.5			
5	FMTXJR	Former Texas Juniors (2198.3) W9 W14 L1 W12 L2	3.0	12.5	29.25

		NM Alexander Chua (2317) 2.5			
		NM Bradley J Sawyer (2300) 3.5			
		Karthik Ramachandran (2146) 3.5			
		George Culler IV (2030) 3.0			
6	WCHDRW	WikiLeaks: Chess is a Draw (2195.3) W8 D4 L2 W10 D1	3.0	12	37.25
		FM Michael Langer (2309) 3.5			
		FM Michael Feinstein (2230) 3.5			
		NM Drew J Sarkisian (2130) 1.5			
		Joshua S Newsham (2112) 3.5			
7	INDIAN	The Indians (1934.8) D2 L12 W11 L4 B--	2.5	11.5	21.25
		Kevin Chandra (2062) 2.5			
		Anjali Datta (2030) 2.5			
		Suchinder Kalyan (1830) 3.0			
		Atulya Vaidya (1817) 3.5			
8	K&BARB	Ken And The Barbies (1899.3) L6 W13 L12 W14 D10	2.5	11	22.5
		Nolan Hendrickson (2110) 4.0			
		Ivan Wijetunge (1908) 2.0			
		Kenneth Artz (1792) 2.0			
		Donald Briggs Jr (1787) 3.0			
9	TXFLAM	TXFil-AM (2093.0) L5 W11 W15 D3 L4	2.5	10.5	24.5
		IM Daniel J Ludwig (2521) 3.5			
		IM Julio C Sadorra (2495) 4.0			
		Sam Capocyan (1778) 1.0			
		Jerrybert Mercado (1578) 2.0			
10	UTDC	University Texas Dallas C (2029.5) W13 L2 W14 L6 D8	2.5	10	23
		FM Tautvydas Vedrickas (2353) 2.5			
		WFM Nath Saheli (2133) 3.0			
		Gerald E Roberts (1891) 3.5			
		Rheanna English (1741) 1.0			
11	SHUPDN	Shut Up Dion (1883.8) L1 L9 L7 B-- W13	2.0	10.5	15

		Jason Jia (2108) 2.5			
		Mr Dion Su (1981) 3.0			
		Adam Rinkleff (1822) 2.5			
		Venkat T Kotta (1624) 2.0			
		Yue Chu (1509) 0.5			
12	UTDB	University Texas Dallas B (2169.8) L4 W7 W8 L5 L3	2.0	8.5	23.75
		IM Salvijus Bercys (2520) 3.5			
		Zhichao Li (2179) 1.0			
		John R Enderle (1740) 2.5			
		Tony V Paul (1501) 1.5			
		WFM Bayaraa Zorigt (2240) 0.0			
13	PRDKN2	Prodigy Knight 2 (1722.0) L10 L8 B-- W15 L11	2.0	7.5	6.25
		Samuel M Baker (1865) 1.0			
		Jordan J Pamatmat (1772) 2.0			
		Rae Crowe (1679) 0.5			
		Parker McWatters (1572) 3.0			
		Wayne Xiong (1422) 1.0			
14	ATEAMD	The A Team with one D (1643.0) B-- L5 L10 L8 D15	1.5	8.5	9.5
		Robert Sanchez (1956) 2.5			
		Jonathan F Allen (1883) 3.0			
		Doyle W Lobaugh (1559) 1.0			
		Sam Cassels (1174) 2.0			
15	ROOKED	Rooked at the Pawn Shop (1851.0) L3 B-- L9 L13 D14	1.5	8.5	9
		Nicholas Schoonmaker (2200) 2.0			
		Aurelio Gonzalez Jr (1872) 2.0			
		Julie Ann O'Neill (1800) 3.0			
		Thomas E Crane (1532) 1.5			

The story of the 2011 Austin Chess Club championship

by Torey Neuzil

The idea for an "Austin Chess Club Championship" was conceived in part some years back by strong Austin master Michael Langer. This would allow bragging rights to the winner(s) to a sort of city crown of chess. How to implement the idea was the sticking point.

Enter the fairly newly minted Austin Chess Club. Founded in 2006, the club replaced the vacuum in Austin chess by the fondly remembered but defunct Austin Chess Enterprises chess club. Membership has grown in the past 4+ years rivaling that of the old ACE chess club.

Under the leadership of club president Drew Sarkisian, and main TD Lori Balkum, the idea for an Austin Chess Club championship took shape to make the dream of a de facto city title possible.

On Friday night, January 7th, 2011 the dream was a reality. Many long months of planning, organizing, full advertising, phone and footwork came to fruition.

I attended the event as a spectator, filming and photographing the spectacle in detail for posterity. It was one of the most enjoyable weekends I have ever had as a chess fan. It turned out to be arguably the finest locally organized tournament in the capital city in over 10 years.

A GM, and IM, and many other strong masters and candidate masters participated in the Championship section. Even the Reserve section had some interesting players, like Emily Nguyen, a Texas 2010 World Youth Chess Championships representative. The Booster section sported 2 well known state organizer/TDs. 135 players competed over the second weekend of January.

Newly bought tables had to be installed to fit the sizable crowd. The

whole event had the feeling of a large hotel tournament, like a Southwest Open, not a chess club venue proceeding.

The new Austin Bridge Studio rooms, used by the ACC, were spacious for regular meetings, able to handle almost any weekly event. With decent restrooms, a skittles room containing a chess book library, a big playing room, along with reasonably priced on hand candy/snacks, cold soda, and coffee, it is a great place for chess.

The organizers are planning to hold the 2012 event in a hotel, as despite the large space available, the facility was so packed it presented challenges that were well handled by the organizers. Chief TD and organizer Lori Balkum did every task imaginable, wearing hats of all kinds simultaneously to keep up with the myriad of challenges and unforeseen issues that accompany an event of this magnitude and importance. The rounds went smoothly, on time, and good rules were enforced.

The event was a stunning success, with plenty of colorful stories to tell.

First, we had Ylon Schwartz. He is a million dollar winning poker player with a Wikipedia page of "card sharp" career highlights. He is no slouch at chess, either. He was involved in a Championship section game deemed the most interesting for a side cash prize, donated by yours truly and one other patron. A panel of other judges all over 2000 USCF agreed. Here is the game:

Sicilian Grand Prix B23

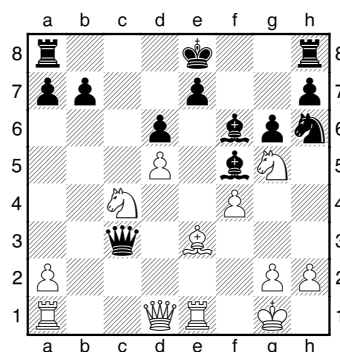
Seth Thompson 2103

Ylon Schwartz 2304

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.O-O Nh6 7.d3

Nxb5 8.Nxb5 f5 9.c3 d6 10.Ng5 Qb6 11.Na3 c4+ 12.d4 Qc6 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Re1 Bf6 15.d5 Qb6+ 16.Be3 Qxb2 17.Nxc4 Qxc3



18. Nxd6+ Kf8 19. Rc1 Qb4 20. Bc5 Qxf4 21. Nxf5 Qxf5 22. Bxe7+ Bxe7 23. Rf1 Bxg5 24. Qd4 Nf7 25. Rxf5 gxf5 26. Rc7 Re8 27. Qb4+ Kg7 28. Qxb7 Rhf8 29. d6 Bf4 30. Qd5 Kf6 31. Rc6 Be3+ 32. Kf1 Re6 33. d7 Rxc6 34. Qxc6+ Ke7 35. Ke2 Bb6 36. a4 Nd6 37. Qc3 Kxd7 38. a5 Re8+ 39. Kf1 Be3 40. g3 f4 41. gxf4 Re7 42. Kg2 Bxf4 43. Qd4 Be3 44. Qa4+ Kd8 45. Qc6 1/2-1/2

18...exd6 loses to 19. Bd4+, etc. 22. Ne6+ was less exciting than the text to set up the pin on the queen, but might be better. 37. Qc3 might have been bettered by a5 or Kf3 on the same turn.

A strong runner-up for the same prize was the following game, the subject of an intense post mortem with several Kibitzers afterward:

Sicilian Dragon B78

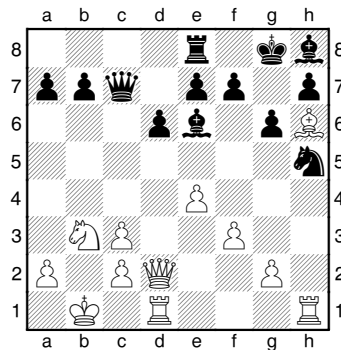
Michael Langer 2310

Mark Dejmek 2152

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 O-O 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.O-O-O Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.Kb1 Re8 13. Bg5 Nc4 14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.Nb3

Rxc3 16. bxc3 Be6 17. Bh6 Bh8 18. h4 Qc7 19. h5 Nxb5



20.Rxb5 Bxc3 21.Qg5 Bf6 22.Qg3 Qc3 23.e5 Rc8 24.Rc1 Bxb3 25. cxb3 Qd3+ 26.Kb2 Qe2+ 27.Kb1 Qd3+ 28.Kb2 Qe2+ 29.Kb1 1/2-1/2

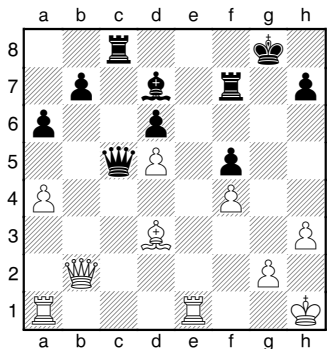
23...Bxe5 allows 24. Rxe5 in response, hence the text. It would be interesting to know what Black had in mind if White tries to evade the perp with 25.axb3 instead. [25... dxe5± Fritz] The above game featured a classic exchange sac by Black in a Yugoslav Dragon Sicilian on move 15, and the Bobby Fischer patented one at move 20 for White. A draw was a fitting result!

Also on hand was a now well-known Texas chess blogger named Ivan Wijetunge, whom I briefly caught up with during the rounds. His blog (<http://gettingto2000.blogspot.com/>) covered the event as he played for the rating points in his quest for the Expert title. He also took photos and some film.

When the event began on Friday night on January 7th, all eyes were on board 1, where a 2600+ GM sat down to play an Austin expert, a longtime talented junior who was up a pawn for a spell:

King's Indian E90
Valentin Yotov 2629
Derek Chang 2076
Austin CC Champ. 2011 (1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 O-O 6.h3 Nbd7 7.Be3 c5 8. d5 a6 9.a4 Ne8 10.Be2 Nc7 11.O-O f5 12.exf5 gxf5 13.Qd2 Ne5 14. Nxe5 Bxe5 15.Bh6 Rf6 16.Bg5 Rf8 17.f4 Bf6 18.Bxf6 Rxf6 19.Bd3 e6 20.Rfe1 exd5 21.Nxd5 Nxd5 22. cxd5 Bd7 23.b4 Qb6 24.bxc5 Qxc5+ 25.Kh1 Rf7 26.Qb2 Rc8



27. Rac1! Qxd5 28.Rxc8+ Bxc8 29. Re8+ Rf8 30.Re3 Be6 31.Rg3+ Kf7 32.Rg7+ Ke8 33.Bxa6 Rf7 34.Rg8+ Ke7 35.Qb6 1-0

25...Qxd5 is too risky after 26. Rac1 threatening 27.Bc4. 26...Rc8 was inferior to 26...Re8. Later, 30...Qc5 or Kf7 probably would not have fared better than the text.

Playing over this game, to quote the late great S. Tartakower, "One can almost feel the hope, the triumph, and then the sad disillusionment of the odds taker in quick and exciting sequence." Indeed, one gets the feeling that playing a grandmaster is like playing Fritz or Rybka, at least tactically. You never see enough to last, it always comes down to some shot like 33. Bxa6 to send you back to reality that you really ARE playing against an inhu-

man monster, and you never really had a chance, even up material. Kibitzers, by the way, in the skittles room had a field day over the GM's piece sac, particularly over whether it could have been played earlier with similar results.

Lots of fighting chess was played over this magical weekend, from every section. As I filmed with a high definition video camcorder, and took digital camera snapshots, you could really see the tension and worry on faces. Hands hovered over pieces at times, unsure of whether the decision about to be executed was actually sound. In the skittles room, anxious parents with kids playing in each of the three sections were busy on laptops entering recently finished games, sometimes arguing with or consoling a chess playing child over a nervous blunder. No game was a sure thing, I soon discovered.

Ask Duy Nguyen, winner of the Reserve section. He started off modestly enough, getting nicked for a draw by a player rated 281 points below him:

Old Indian A41

Duy Nguyen 1774
Jacob Lee Smith 1493

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (1)

1. d4 d6 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nd7 4. Nf3 e5 5. dxe5 dxe5 6. e4 Be7 7. Be3 Ngf6 8. h3 O-O 9. Be2 Qc7 10. Qc2 Be5 11. Bxc5 Nxc5 12. O-O Nh5 13. Rfd1 Nf4 14. b4 Na6 15. a3 Nxe2+ 16. Qxe2 Be6 17. Ng5 Qe7 18. Nf3 f6 19. Rd2 Rfd8 20. Rad1 Rxd2 21. Rxd2 Rd8 22. Rd3 Rxd3 23. Qxd3 Qd7 24. Qe2 Nc7 25. Na4 b6 1/2-1/2

Then he went on a tear, winning 4 off the reel, securing clear first place and its money.

Other big upsets in round 1 were Michael Langer (2310) losing to

Carlos Morales (2063) and Jason Altschuler (2218) losing to Avinash Thangirala (1956). Both masters re-entered afterwards.

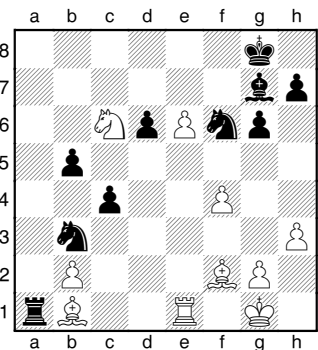
Langer was also upset in round 4 by a young maestro:

Modern Benoni A68

Derek Chang 2076
Michael Langer 2310

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (4)

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Nc3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. e4 g6 7. f4 Bg7 8. Bd3 0-0 9. Nf3 Bg4 10. 0-0 a6 11. a4 Nbd7 12. h3 Bxf3 13. Qxf3 Qc7 14. Be3 Rab8 15. Rfe1 Rfe8 16. Rac1 Qa5 17. Bf2 Qb4 18. Re2 b5 19. axb5 axb5 20. Rce1 c4 21. Bb1 Nc5 22. Na2 Qb3 23. Qxb3 Nxb3 24. Nb4 Ra8 25. e5 Nd7 26. Nc6 Ra1 27. e6 fxe6 28. Rxe6 Rxe6 29. dxe6 Nf6



30. f5 Kf8?

30...Ne8 31. fxc6 h5 32. Bc2 Rxe1+ 33. Bxe1 Bxb2 34. Kf1 Nd4 35. Nxd4 Bxd4=

31. fxc6 h6 32. Bh4 Nd2 33. e7+ Ke8 34. Bxf6, Black resigns [34...Bxf6 35. g7 +-] 1-0

White could have played 22. e5 with advantage, a common woe for Black in the Modern Benoni. 30...Kf8 was inferior to Ne8 or gxf5. 32...Nd2 loses. Black can try to blockade instead with Ne8.

Meanwhile, in the Booster, a 331 point upset started off the section on Friday night:

Sicilian Paulsen B40

Vlado Barun 1451

Shreyes Kaliyur 1120

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (1)

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Bg5 Be7 6. e5? Qa5+! 7. Nc3 Qxe5+ 8. Be3 Qc7? 9. Qd2 a6 10. Be2 d6 11. O-O Nc6 12. Bf3 Bd7 13. Rfe1 O-O 14. Rad1 Rad8 15. a3 Rfe8 16. b4 h6 17. Nb3 Bc8 18. Re2 Rd7 19. Qd3 Red8 20. Na4 Re8 21. Red2 b5 22. Nb6 Rdd8 23. c4 Ne5 24. Qd4 Nxc4 25. Rc2 Qxb6 26. Qxb6 Nxb6 27. Na5?? Nbd5!

Black went on to win in over 64 moves. 0-1

The pawn push error allowing 6...Qa5+ is a common one at this class level in the Sicilian. 6.Nc3 allows complications after 6...Nxe4. The back-and-forth error fest continued with 27.Na5 when simply 27. Bxb6 Rd7 28. Bc6 helps White recover from his earlier transgressions.

I had a hard time judging who would win the prize for the best/most interesting game from the Reserve section. By Sunday night, two candidates had crystallized. Both were from round 1:

Center Counter B02

Andrew Lu 1689

Brian Shicoff 1514

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (1)

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. Nc3 Nxd5 4. Bc4 Nxc3 5. bxc3 Nc6 6. Nf3 Bg4? 7. O-O? [7. Bxf7+! Kxf7 8. Ng5+] e6 8. Re1 Be7 9. d4 Qd6 10. Qd3 Bf5 11. Qd1 Bg4 12. a4 g5 13. Bb5 O-O-O 14. Qd3 Bf5 15. Qc4 g4 16. Bxc6 gxf3 17. Bxf3 Bxc2 18. Ra2 Bf5 19. Ba3 Qd7 20. Bxb7+ Kxb7 21. Rb2+ Ka8 22. Bxe7 Rb8 23. Rxb8+ Rxb8 24. a5 Qxe7? 25. Qc6+ Rb7 26. a6 Be4 27. Rxe4 Qb4 28. cxb4 1-0

Andrew Lu won in a toss up. His initial cleric sac was charming

enough to delight kibitzers in the skittles room. White regains the piece on move 22 since 22...Qxe7 meets with 23.Qc6#.

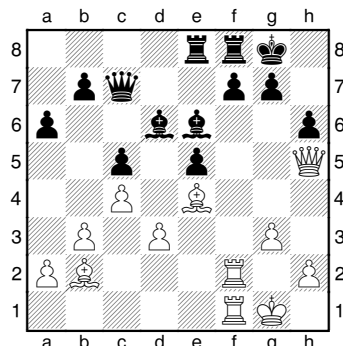
Reti Opening A14

Tadeusz Hamer 1627

Necip Sayiner 1722

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (1)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 e6 5.b3 Nbd7 6.O-O Be7 7.Bb2 O-O 8.d3 Qc7 9.Nbd2 Rd8 10.Qc2 e5 11.Rac1 Rb8 12.Rfd1 d4 13.e3 e5 14.Ng5 Ng4 15.Nh3 dxe3 16.Nf1 exf2+ 17.Nxf2 Ndf6 18.Qe2 Nxf2 19.Qxf2 Bg4 20.Rd2 Be6 21.Ne3 Ng4 22.Nxg4 Bxg4 23.Rf1 Be6 24.Qe3 Bd6 25.Rdf2 Rf8 26.Qg5 h6 27.Qh5 a6 28.Be4 Rbe8



29.Rf6! g6 [29...Qd7 30.Rxh6! gxh6 31.Rf6! +-] 30.Qxh6 Bf5 31.R1xf5 Re6 32. Rh5 1-0

Hamer could have rated the nod as well with his mysterious rook move, designed to interfere with heavy piece second rank defense by Black. 29...g6 loses at once, but it appears the castle offer at least draws by perpetual check: 29...gxf6 30.Qxh6 [□ 30.Rxf6! with forced mate in 7 – Fritz.] 30...f5 31.Qg5+ Kh8 32.Qh6+ Kg8 33. Qg5+ etc.

The best/most interesting game prize for U2000 in the Championship section was won in part by Jason Check, an ideal name for a chess player if there ever was one! Here is

the brawl:

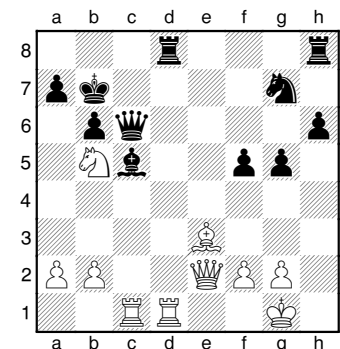
Caro-Kann B18

Jason Check 1852

Vasfil Gucer 1973

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (2)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nh3 Nf6 8.Nf4 Bh7 9.Bc4 e5 10.Nfh5 Nbd7 11.c3 Qc7 12.Qe2 Nxh5 13.Nxh5 Bg8 14.Qg4 g6 15.Ng3 O-O-O 16.O-O f5 17.Qe2 Bxc4 18.Qxc4 exd4 19.cxd4 Bd6 20.Ne2 g5 21.h5 Rde8 22.Nc3 Nf6 23.Qd3 Qd7 24.d5 Nxh5 25.Rd1 Rd8 26.Qe2 Ng7 27.dxc6 Qxc6 28.Be3 b6 29.Nb5 Kb7 [□ 29...Kb8] 30.Rac1 Be5



31.Rxd8 Rxd8 32.b4 f4 33.Bd2 Rxd2 34.Qxd2 Bxf2+ 35.Kxf2 Qxb5 36.Qc3 Qd7 37.Qf3+ Kb8 38.Rd1 Qe7 39.Qb3 Nf5 40. Qg8+ Kc7 41.Rc1+ Kd6 42.Qg6+ Ke5 43.Re1+ Ne3 44.Qxh6 Kf5 45. Qh3+ Kg6 46.a3 g4 47.Rxe3 fxe3+ 48.Qxe3 1/2-1/2

The fun begins at move 29 for White. Black should have not have played 28...b6. As charming as the attempts by White are to set up an infernal pin, and of Black to squirm out of it, simply 31. Bxc5 suffices for a winning advantage. Playing 31. b4 at once instead of 31. Rxd8 first allows Black to turn the tables with 31...Rxd1+! Instead of 33.Bd2 White has Bxc5 where Black can pin, too, with 33...Ne6! Better than 33...Rxd2 as played, were the unpinning Qe6!

or even f3! 34...Bxb4 instead of Bxf2+ might have led to less interesting future, even if it was sounder. Check missed 36. Qd8! menacing mate. After 36...Qf5 37. Rc7+ Ka6 38. Qd1! Black is in a picturesque mating net.

Few game scores were available from the Booster section, so the best/most interesting game prize was still in doubt up until the penultimate round. A noted TD and organizer won with this upset effort:

Torre Attack A48

Dale Bird 1415

Forrest Marler 1271

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c3 Bg7 4.Bg5 O-O 5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.Nbd2 d6 7.Ne4 e5 8.e3 Bg7 9.Bd3? d5 10.Ng3 e4 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Bxe4 c6 13.O-O Qf6 14.Qc2 Re8 15.Bd3 Bg4 16. Be2 Nd7 17.b4 b6 18.Rfc1 a5 19. a3 c5 20.bxc5 bxc5 21.h3 Bf5 22. Qa4 Nb6 23.Qd1 c4 24.Ne5 Rac8 25.Qf1 Qe6 26.g4 Be4 27.Bf3 Bxe5 28.Bxe4 Bf6 29.Bf3 Bh4 30.Rab1 Rb8 31.Rb5 a4 32.Rcb1 Kg7 33. Bd5 Qd6 34.Bf3 Qxa3 35.Rxb6 Rxb6 36.Rxb6 Qxc3 37.Rc6 a3 38. Rxc4 Qb2 39.Rc1 a2 40.Ra1 Rb8 41.Bd5 Qxa1 0-1

Yes, Black's 10th is one of the most common forks, but with a twist, since the time gainer 9...d5 is needed to play it. Black could have forced more simplification with 28...Bxd4! 29. Bxg6 hxg6 30. c/exd4 etc. Instead of 33...Qd6, 33...Nxd5 34. Rxb8 Rxb8 35. Rxb8 Nxc3 was preferable. 34...Qxa3 was not sound but more interesting to play, trying to make the pawns triumph. 34...Re6 or 34...Bd8 were better. Black missed Bxf2+ on his 39th & 40th turns. 41. Kg2 was a last try to save the Ra1.

Some players had breakthrough performances and notable upsets.

One of them finished 4th on the cross table, but first in my book. His name was Ed Kim. He was on fire, and moved up an entire rating class, gaining over 100 points, losing only to the Reserve section winner. He scored a win against the winner (Andrew Lu) of the best/most interesting game prize in their individual game. Kim won a contest against Emily Nguyen, one of the most promising young female players in the state:

Trompovsky A45

Emily Nguyen 1659
Ed Kim 1531

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 h6 3.Bxf6 gxf6 4.e3 Nc6 5.g3 e5 6.d5 Ne7 7.c4 d6 8. Bg2 f5 9.Ne2 Ng6 10.Qd2 Qe7 11. O-O h5 12.h4 Bh6 13.Re1 Rg8 14. Kf1 Bd7 15.Nbc3 O-O-O 16.a3 Qf6 17.Nd1 f4 18.exf4 exf4 19.Qc3 Ne5 20.gxf4 Bxf4 21.Nxf4 Qxf4 22.Ne3 Qxh4 23.Rec1 Ng4 24.Nxg4 Qxg4 25.Qf3 Qg6 26.Qe4 Qxe4 27.Bxe4 Rde8 28.f3 Bh3+ 29.Kf2 Rg2+ 30. Kf1 Rxb2+ 31.Kg1 Rg8+ 32.Kh1 Bg2+ 33.Kh2 Bxf3+ 34.Kh3 Bxe4 35.Rf1 Bg2+ 36.Kh2 Bxf1+ 37.Kh1 Rgg2 38.Re1 Rh2+ 39.Kg1 Bh3 40. Re2 Rbx2 41.c5 Bf5 42.a4 Bd3 43. a5 Reg2# 0-1

Maybe 19.Qd4 would have forced the ladies off under better conditions, unlike the text. A hard-hitting game by Black.

Kim capped his performance with a last round win against a seasoned adult tournament competitor:

Gruenfeld D93

Ed Kim 1531
Joseph Franklin 1689

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bf4 O-O 6. e3 c6 7.Bd3 e6 8. O-O dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nd5 10.Nxd5 cxd5 11.Bd3 Nc6 12.a3 Qb6 13.

Qc2 Bd7 14.b4 Rfc8 15.Qe2 a6 16. Rfb1 Qd8 17.b5 axb5 18.Bxb5 Na5 19.Bd3 Ba4 20.Nd2 Bc2 21.Bxc2 Rxc2 22.Qd1 Qc8 23.Nb3 Bf8 24. Nxa5 Rxa5 25.a4 Qc6? [25...Rc4] 26.Rxb7! Rxa4 27.Rc7 Rxa1 28. Qxa1 Ra2? 29.Qxa2 Qb6 30.h3 g5 31.Bg3 f6 32.Qa7 Qb1+ 33.Kh2 e5 34.dxe5 f5 35.Rxh7 f4 36.Qf7# 1-0

The fun began with 26. Rxb7. Perhaps Black missed 27. Rc7. A big error is 28...Ra2, when relatively best was 28...Qxc7 29. Bxc7 Rxc7.

Sanjay Bhandari also had a fine result. Here are two wins of his that many of the spectators liked:

Dutch Leningrad A80

Samuel McLemore 1600
Sanjay Bhandari 1689

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (3)

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 O-O 6.O-O d6 7.c4 c6 8.Bd2 Qe8 9.Qb3 Kh8 10.Nc3 e5 11.d5 Na6 12.Rfd1 Nc5 13.Qc2 a5 14. Be1 Qe7 15.Nd2 e4\ 16.Nb3 Nd3 17.Nc1 Ne5 18.Qe2 Nfg4 19.Na4 Qc7 20.Bc3 Bd7 21.Bxe5 Nxe5 22. Nc3 Be8 23.Nb3 c5 24.a4 g5 25. Nb5 Qe7 26.Rab1 b6 27.Nd2 g4 28. Nf1 Nf3+ 29.Bxf3 gxf3 30.Qe1 Qf6 31.Nd2 Bh5 32.Qf1 Qg6 33.Re1 Be5 34.Kh1 Bg4 35.h3 Qh5 36.Kh2 Rf6 37.h4 Qxh4+ 38.Kg1 Bxg3 39. fxc3 Qxc3+ 0-1

36. Kh2 loses, h4 had to be tried. 37. h4 fails due to the self induced pin, but Rh6 is a killer.

A curious footnote on White in the above game is that this senior club member has been playing chess actively since 1949(!) and still attends rated events, proving that the game of kings is for all ages. He was involved in many clubs in the Austin area, and played the former dean of American chess George Koltanowski in a simul here in 1956, drawing Koltly in their exhibition game!

Sicilian Scheveningen B81

Sanjay Bhandari 1689
Don Cromears 1704

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.g4 b5 8.g5 Nfd7 9.a3 Be7 10.f4 Nb6 11.Bg2 Nc4 12.Bc1 Bb7 13.b3 Nb6 14.Bb2 Qd7 15.Qe2 Nc6 16.Qf2 Nc8 17. O-O-O f6 18.h4 Nxd4 19.Qxd4 e5 20.Qe3 Qc7 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.exd5 Nb6 23.Rd3 Rc8 24.Qd2 Nd7 25. fxe5 Nxe5 26.Rc3 Qd8 27.Rxc8 Qxc8 28.Bxe5 fxe5 29.Bh3 Qc5 30. Rf1 Qxa3+ 31.Kb1 Qc5 32.Rf3 b4 33.Qd3 g6 34.Qxa6 Bd8 35.Qa4+ 1-0

33...g6 is an error that allows mate in six. Better was Qa7 was better but that allows 34. Qf5, etc.

Mike Webb curiously won his section and the cash with an ancient shopworn trap:

CaroKann B17

Mike Webb 1424
William Winters 1460

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (5)

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Qe2 Ngf6 6. Nd6# 1-0

5...Ndf6 was the move to avoid being smothered in.

Games from an event like this provide ample opportunity for the student to learn about chess tactics. Seth Davis only lost one game and won prize money. In the loss he and his opponent return favors with knight forks:

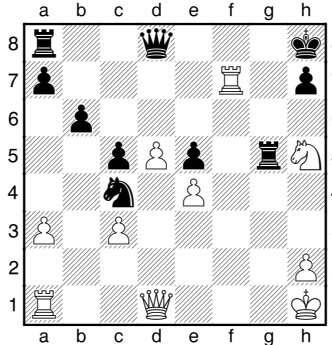
Nimzo-Indian E26

Rohith Kaliyur 1700
Seth Davis 1741

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (2)

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 c5 6.e3 Nc6 7.Bd3 b6 8.Ne2 Ba6 9.e4 O-O 10.Bg5 e5 11.

d5 Na5 12.f4 d6 13.fxe5 dxe5 14. O-O Bxc4 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Ng3 Kh8 17.Nh5 Rg8 18.Bxc4 Nxc4 19. Rxf6 Rxc2+ 20.Kh1 Rg5 21.Rxf7



21...Qe8??

Ironic, as Black had just played for a similar fork trick – only this one is forced. Better is 21...Nd6! ♣.

22.Rxh7+! Kxh7 23.Nf6+ Kg7 24. Nxe8+ Rxe8 25.Qa4 Rf8 26.Qxc4 Kh8 27.Rf1 Rfg8 28.d6 Rg2 29. Qe6 R2g7 30.d7 Rd8 31.Qe8+ Rg8 32.Qh5+ Kg7 33.Rg1+ Kf8 34. Rxc8+ Kxc8 35.Qe8+ 1-0

19. Rxf6 allows the sac; 19. Qe2 was preferable. 25. Qa4 forks two pieces, and 25...Nd6 fails to another fork, when 26. Qd7+ overworks the horse.

Pins are nasty, but players walked into them in games like these:

Trompovsky A45

Emily Nguyen 1642
Don Cromeans 1704

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 e6 3.e4 Be7 4.e5 Nd5 5.Bxe7 Nxe7 6.g3 d5 7.exd6 cxd6 8.Bg2 Nbc6 9.Ne2 d5 10.O-O O-O 11.Nbc3 a6 12.Re1 b5 13.a3 [13.a4; 13.Nf4] Qb6 14.Qd2 Bd7 15.Rad1 Rac8 16.Qf4 Na5 17.b3 Nb7 18.b4 Nd6 19. Bh1 Rc4 20.Bg2 Rfc8 21.Qe3 Nef5 22.Qd2 Nxd4! 23.Rc1 Nxe2+ 24. Nxe2 Ne4 25. Bxe4 Rxe4 26.Nf4 Rxe1+ 27.Rxe1 Rc4 28.c3 Qc7 29.Rc1 d4 30.Ne2 dxc3 31.Rxc3 Rxc3 32.Nxc3 Bc6

33.Ne2 Bd5 34.Nf4 Bc4 35.Qe3 h6 36.Qd2 Qe5 37. Qd8+ Kh7 38.Qd1 g5 39.Nd3?? Qd4 40.Qf3 Qa1+ 0-1

White was in a lot of trouble at the time of the blunder (39. Nd3) but 39. Ng2 was better.

Ruy Lopez C62

Alexander Stamm 1162
Yutika Raina 1071

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (1)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bd7 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.f3 Be7 8.O-O O-O 9.Be3 a6 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Qe1 Qd7 12.Qg3 g6 13. Nd5 Bxd5 14. exd5 Nh5 15.Qe1 c5 16.Ne2 Bf6 17.c3 Rae8 18.Bf2 Nf4 19.Qd2 Nxe2+ 20.Kh1 Qf5 21.Be3 Qh5 22.Qxe2 Be5 23.h3 Bf4 24. Rae1 Bxe3 25.Qd3 Bf4 26.b4 cxb4 27.cxb4 Rxe1 28.Rxe1 Qh4 29.Re4 Qh6 30.Rc4 Re8 31.Qd1 Bg3 32. Re4 Rxe4 33.fxe4 Qf4 34.Qb1 Qd2 35.a4 a5 36.bxa5 Qxa5 37.Qa1 Qb4 38.a5 Qxe4 39.Qc3 {Black mates. Notation at move 17 does not say which rook; I chose Rae8.} 0-1

18. Bf2 is a blunder. 18. Bh6 was the move. Black had better than 18...Nf4 which permits some salvation with 19. Nxf4 Rxe1 20. Rfxe1 by beginning with 18...Qb5.

QGD D52

Derek Chang 2076
Andrew Istafanous 1893

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (2)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.Nf3 c6 6.e3 Qa5 7.Nd2 Bb4 8.Qc2 O-O 9.Bf4 Re8 10.Bd3 e5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Rxe5 13. O-O Bd7 14.Nf3 Re7 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.Ne2 Re8 17.Qd1 Ne4 18.h3 Ba4 19.b3 Bb5 20.Nfd4 Bxd3 21.Qxd3 Bc3 22.Rac1 a6? 23.f3 1-0

22...a6 loses. It was necessary to bring more protection to the Bc3 with 22...Rec7 to save it. [22...Rec7 23.Nb5 R7c5 24.f3 Bb2! ♣]

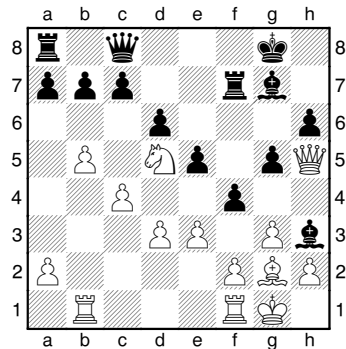
Derek also showed how a seemingly attacking move can set one up for a double attack that cannot be parried:

Reti Opening A16

Joseph Binder 1933
Derek Chang 2076

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (3)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6 5.Nf3 O-O 6.O-O Nbd7 7.d3 e5 8.Rb1 Nc5 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Nd5 Qd8 12.b4 Ne6 13.b5 f5 14. e3 g5 15.Nd2 f4 16.Qh5 Nc5 17. Nb4 Bd7 18.Qd1 Qc8 19.Nd5 Rf7 20.Ne4 Nxe4 21.Bxe4 Bf5 22.Bg2 Bh3 23.Qh5??



23...Bg4 24.Qg6 Bf5 25. Qh5 Bxd3 26.Bh3 Qe8 27.Rbc1 Bxf1 28.Rxf1 c6 29.bxc6 bxc6 30. Nb4 fxe3 31.fxe3 Rxf1+ 0-1

23. Qh5 threatens to win a piece at h3, but it loses to the problem like tempi on the Lady leading to the cruel fork at d3!

Greedy play in the opening can be dangerous to your health, too:

Sicilian B40

Anthony Munoz 1269
Stuart Madsen 1040

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (2)

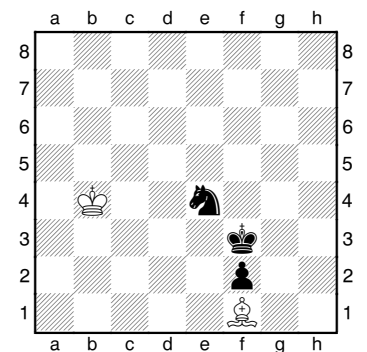
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Bg5 Qa5+ 6.Bd2 Qc5 [6... Qe5; Qb6] 7.Nb3 Qe5 8.Nc3 Nxe4? 9.Nxe4 [9.Qe2 d5 10.f3+-] 9... Qxe4+ 10.Qe2 Qxc2? [10...Qxe2+] 11.Rc1 Qxc1+ 12.Bxc1 and ... 1-0

Some clever endings were played too. This one featured an instructive finesse:

Four Knights C47
Raymond Doo 1556
Mark Marshall 1640
Austin CC Champ. 2011 (2)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.a3 d5 5.Nxd5 Nxd5 6.exd5 Qxd5 7.d3 Bf5 8.Nh4 Be6 9.Qf3 Be7 10.Qxd5 Bxd5 11.Nf3 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nd4 13. Kd1 O-O-O 14.Bg2 Rhe8 15.Be3 Be5 16.Re1 Bb6 17.b4 Kb8 18.a4 a6 19.Ra3 Nf5 20.Bxb6 cxb6 21. Re4 g5 22.Rc3 Nh4 23.Bh1 Ng6 24. Rec4 Rc8 25.Bg2 Nf4 26.Bf1 Nd5 27.Rxc8+ Rxc8 28.Rxc8+ Kxc8 29. Kd2 Nxb4 30.Kc3 Nd5+ 31.Kc4 Nf4 32.c3 Kc7 33.d4 exd4 34.Kxd4 Kd6 35.Bc4 f6 36.Ke4 Ke7 37.Bg8 h6 38.Kf5 Ne2 39.Bb3 Nxc3 40. Kg6 b5 41.axb5 Nxb5 42.Kxh6 Nd6 43.h3 a5 44.f4 gxf4 45.h4 Nf5+ 46.Kh5 Kf8 47.Kg4 Nh6+ 48.Kxf4 Kg7 49.h5 b5 50.Ke4 Nf7 51.Kd4 Ne5 52.Bc2 a4 53.Kc3 a3 54.Bb3 Kh6 55.Kb4 Kxh5 56.Kxa3 Nd3 57.f3 Kg5 58.Bd1 Kf4 59.Kb3 Ke3 60.Kc3 b4+ 61.Kb3 f5 62.Bc2 f4 63.Kc4 Nf2 64.Kxb4 Kxf3 65.Ba4 Ke3 66.Bb5 f3 67.Bf1 Ne4 68.Ba6 f2 69.Bf1 Kf3

Now if 70.Ka5 Ng3 71.Bh3 Ke2 72.Kb4 Nh5! 73.Kc3 Nf4+-.



70. Bd3 Ng3 **0-1**

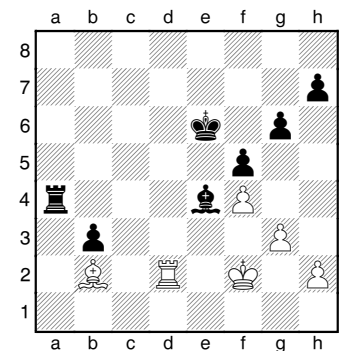
In the final position White would love to trade his cleric for the pawn.

But Black will play the interference move Ne2 instead of f1 (Q) so that he cannot sac to stop the promotion.

Interference to lift a blockade of sorts also played a part in this entertaining skirmish:

King's Indian E70
Austin Jiang 1958
Ernesto Malazarte 2153
Austin CC Champ. 2011 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 O-O 5.e5 Ne8 6.f4 d6 7.Nf3 c5?! [7...dxe5] 8. dxc5 Qa5 9.cxd6 exd6 10.exd6 [10.Bd2! ±] 10...Nxd6! 11. Be2 Ne4 12.Bd2 Nxc3 13. bxc3 Qc5 14.Nd4 Re8 15.O-O Nc6 16.Kh1 Nxd4 17.exd4 Qxd4 18.Rb1 Rb8 19.Bb4 Bf5 20.Qxd4 Bxd4 21.Rbd1 Rxe2 22.Rxd4 Be4 23.Rg1 f5 24. Rd2 Rxd2 25.Bxd2 Rd8 26.Bb4 Rd4 27.Rc1 b5 28.Bc3 Rxc4 29. Bb2 Ra4 30.a3 Bd5 31.Rc8+ Kf7 32.Rc7+ Ke6 33.Kg1 a5 34.g3 b4 35.axb4 axb4 36.Rc2 b3 37.Rd2 Be4 38.Kf2



38...Ra2 39.Ke3 Bc2 40.Bc1 b2
41.Rxc2 **0-1**

Although already losing by then, White could have tried 37. Re2+ and 38.Be5.

SOLUTION (back cover problem): Not 1.Nf5? Rg7! but **1.Bh4!** when 1...Rxb4 2.Nf5 (ΔRg3#) 2...Rg4 3. Rh2#; or 1...Kxh4 2.Nf5+ Kh5/h3 3.Rg5/g3#.

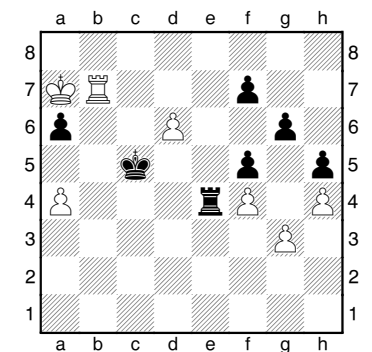
Rook endings are the hallmark of a master. Here are three instructive ones:

Gruenfeld D94
James Rohrbaugh 2204
William Molina 1971
Austin CC Champ. 2011 (2)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.e3 Nf6 5.d4 cxd4 6.exd4 d5 7.Be2 O-O 8.O-O Nc6 9.Re1 Bf5 10.Bg5 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Rc8 12.a3 Bg4 13.d5 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Nd4 15.Qd3 Rxc4 16.Qxc4 Nc2 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Ne4 Nxa1 19. Nxf6+ exf6 20.Rxa1 Qb6 21.b4 Rd8 22.g3 Qd6 23.Rd1 a6 24.Qc5 Kg7 25.f4 Kf8 26.Kf2 Ke7 27.Ke3 Kd7 28.Rc1 Re8+ 29.Kd4 f5 30. Kd3 Rd8 31.Rc2 Re8 32.Rc3 Rd8 33.Kc2 Re8 34.Kb3 h5 35.h4 Rd8 36.Ka4 Rb8 37.Kb3 Re8 38.Rc2 Rd8 39.Ka4 Rb8 40.Rc3 Re8 41. Ka5 Qxc5+ 42.bxc5 Kc7 43.Rd3 Re1 44.d6+ Kd7 45.a4 Rc1 46.Kb6 Rb1+ 47.Ka7 Rb4

Better is 47...Kd8 48. Re3 Rc1 49.Re5 f6 50.Rd5 Rb1.

48.Re3 Re4 49.Rb3!
 49. Rxe4 fxe4 50. Kxb7 e3 51. c6+ Kxd6 52. c7 e2 53. c8=Q e1=Q is best avoided.
Kc6 50.Rxb7 Kxc5



51.Rxf7?
 Winning easily is 51.d7 Rd4 52.Kb8, etc. The text move allows 51...Kxd6, which might hold. Taking on a4 as played loses for Black.
51...Rxa4? 52.d7 Rd4 53.Kb7 a5
54.Kc7 **1-0**

Ruy Lopez C90

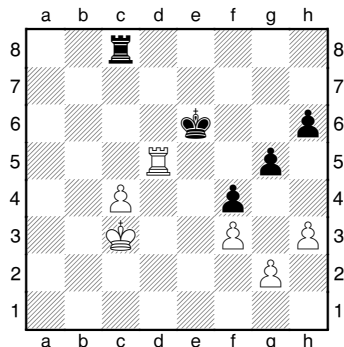
Seth Thompson 2103

James Rohrbach 2204

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (3)

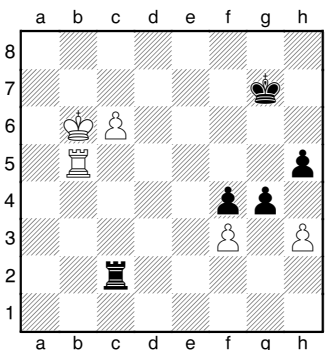
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a4 Bg4 9.c3 O-O 10.axb5 axb5 11.Rxa8 Qxa8 12.d3 h6 13.h3 Bd7 14.Nbd2 Re8 15.Nf1 Na5 16.Ba2 Nb7 17.Bb3 Na5 18.Ba2 Nb7 19.Bb1 Bf8 20.Ng3 g6 21.Be3 Kh7 22.d4 Bc6 23.Bd3 Qa2 24.Qe2 Na5 25.Bxb5 Rb8 26.Bxc6 Nxc6 27.b4 Qxe2 28.Rxe2 exd4 29.Nxd4 Ne5 30.Ra2 c5 31.Nc2 Nc4 32.Ra4 Nxe3 33.Nxe3 Bg7 34.bxc5 dxc5 35.Ra7 Kg8 36.Rc7 Rb1+ 37.Kh2 Bf8 38.e5 Ne8 39.Rc8 Ng7 40.Ne4 Ne6 41.Nf6+ Kg7 42.Nd7 Be7 43.Nd5 Rb7 44.N5f6 Bxf6 45.exf6+ Kh7 46.Nxc5

46.Ne5! ΔRe8-e7 was the move: 46...Rb2 47.Nxf7 g5 48.Nd6 +-.
46...Nxc5 47.Rxc5 Rb6 48.Re5 Rxf6 49.Kg3 Kg7 50.f3 Rc6 51.Re3 g5 52.Kf2 f5 53.Ke2 f4 54.Rd3 Kf6 55.Kd2 Ra6 56.Kc1 Ra2 57.Rd2 Ra8 58.Kb2 Rb8+ 59.Kc2 Ke6 60.c4 Rc8 61.Kc3 Ke5 62.Rd5+ Ke6



63.h4! gxh4 64.Rh5 Kf6 65.Kd4 Kg6 66.Rxh4 Kg5 67.Rg4+ Kf5 68.c5 Rd8+ 69.Kc4 Rd2 70.c6 Rc2+ 71.Kd5 Rd2+ 72.Kc5 Rc2+ 73.Kd6 Rd2+ 74.Ke7 Rc2 75.Kd7 Rd2+ 76.Kc8 h5 77.Rg7 h4 78.c7 Kf6 79.Rh7 Rxg2 80.Kd8 Rd2+ 81.Rd7+ (Fritz) 63.Ra5 Kf6 64.Ra6+ Kg7 65.Rb6 h5 66.Kb4 Re8 67.c5 Re2 68.c6

Rxg2 69.Rb5 Rb2+ 70.Ka5 Rc2 71.Kb6 g4



72.fxg4?

Houdini 1.03a thinks 72.hxg4 hxg4 73.Rxg5+ Kf6 74. Rxg4 was correct, believing White tossed the advantage in the text continuation. [72.hxg4 hxg4 73.Rg5+ Kf6 74. Rxg4 Ke5 75.Rg5+ Ke6 76.Rg6+ Ke7 77.Rg8 Rb2+ 78.Kc5 Rc2+ 79. Kd5 Rd2+ 80.Ke5 Re2+ 81.Kxf4+- Fritz] 72...hxg4 73.hxg4 f3 74. Rf5 Rb2+ 75.Kc5 Rc2+ 76.Kd4 Rxc6 77.Rxf3 Re6 ^{1/2-1/2}

Cutting off the king makes the draw a trivial matter.

Gruenfeld D91

Vivek Mathesh 1709

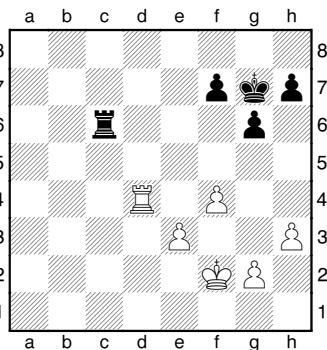
Joseph Franklin 1689

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d5 5.Bg5 Ne4 6.Bh4 Nxc3 [6...c5=] 7.bxc3 c5 [7...dxc4=] 8.e3 O-O 9.cxd5 cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+ 11.Qd2 Qxd5 12.Bxe7 Re8 13.Bb4 Bg4 14.Be2 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Qxd4 16.Qxd4 Bxd4 17.Rd1 a5 18.Rxd4 axb4 19.Rxb4 Rxa2 20.O-O Re7 21.Rxb7 Rxb7 22.Bxb7 Rb2 23.Bd5 Nd7 24.Rd1 Ne5 25.h3 Rc2 26.Rd4 Kg7 27.Bb3 Rb2 28.Bd5 Rc2 29.f4 Ne6 30.Bxc6 Rxc6

With pawns on the same side and no special weaknesses, this should be drawn. If Black were to hunker down with minimalist moves, keeping his king at home and shuffling

his rook on the third, waiting for White to create a passer before going deep to check his king from behind, the draw would be practically assured. - SKA



31.Kf2 Kf6 32.Rd5 Ke6 33.Re5+ Kd6? 34.Kf3 f6 35.Ra5 Ke6 36.Ra7 h6 37.Rh7 h5 38.Rg7 Kf5 39.g4+ Ke6 40.Rxg6 hxg4+ 41.hxg4 Kf7 42.Rh6 Rc5 43.Rh2 Rc4 44.Rd2 Ke6 45.Rd4 Rc5 46.Rb4 Kf7 47. Ke4 Kg6 48.Rb6 Kf7 49.Rd6 Rc4+ 50. Rd4 Rc5 51.Rd5 Rc3 52.g5 Ra3 53. Rf5 Ra4+ 54.Kf3 Ra6 55.Rxf6+ Rxf6 56.gxf6 Kxf6 57.e4 Kf7 58. Kg4 Kg6 59.e5 Kg7 60.f5 Kf7 1-0

The position beginning with White's 31st move may be easier to convert for the pawn up side than 3 against 2 (all pawns on the same side) in some cases, but amateurs frequently blow all of these and other potentially drawn endings against significantly higher rated opposition. 35...h5 was better than the text [but then 36. Ra7 ΔRg7 gives White excellent winning chances.]. 38...Kf5 was another error after which White mops up.

Masters, on the other hand, excel at converting winning endgames. A pawn is often enough. Winning on "class" (and by gradually outplaying a lower rated opponent along with aiming to make them play passively) is a common weapon of the very high rated player:

Sicilian B53

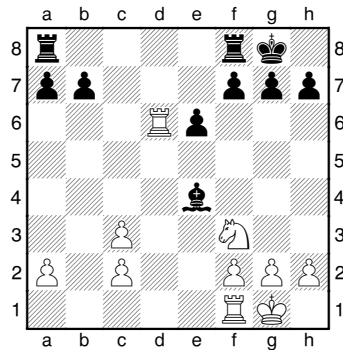
Alexander Jiang 1872
Michael Langer 2310

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.O-O Nf6 8.Nc3 e6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Rad1 O-O 11.Bxf6?

Even if this won a pawn, the weakening of the queenside would amply compensate Black. As is, he's simply winning. [11.Rfe1 Qa5 12. Bh4 Rfd8 13.Qd3 Qh5= Duckstein-Fischer, Zurich 1959]

11...Bxf6 12.Qxd6 Qxd6 13.Rxd6 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Bxe4



15.Rd7 Bc6 16. Rc7 Rac8 17.Re7 Rfe8 18.Rxe8+ Bxe8 19.Rb1 Rxc3 20.Ne1 Bc6 21. Rb3 Rc5 22.f4 Bd5 23.Rd3 Kf8 24. a3 Ke7 25.Re3 Rc4 26.g3 Kd6 27. Kf2 Be4 28.Re2 Kd5 29.Rd2+ Rd4 30.Re2 Kc4 31.Ke3 Bf5 32.Rd2 Rxd2 33.Kxd2 Be4 34. g4 f5 35.g5 b5 36.h4 g6 37.Ke3 Kc3 38.Nd3 Bxd3 39.cxd3 a5 40.d4 b4 41.axb4 axb4 42.d5 exd5 43.h5 d4+ 44.Kf3 b3 45.h6 b2 0-1

Black made this game seem like the result was a foregone conclusion just by making moves.

In the Championship section, both the GM and IM were unbeaten heading into round 4. IM beat GM in a game that effectively won the tournament for the lower rated of the two:

QGD Slav D11

Goran Vojinovic 2577
Valentin Yotov 2620

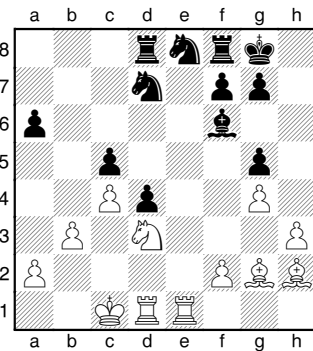
Austin CC Champ. 2011 (4)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.e3 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.Qb3 Qb6 7.Ne5 e6 8.g4 Bg6 9.Nxg6 hxg6 10.Bg2 Nbd7 11. Nc3 g5 12.Bd2 Be7 13.O-O-O Qc7 14.e4 e5 15.exd5 exd4 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.Ne2 Rb8 18.Qa4 Qb6 19.b3 O-O 20.Qa5 Qxa5 21.Bxa5 c5 22. Bc7 Rbc8 23.Bh2 Ne8

Houdini 1.03a suggests 23... Rce8 instead of the text.

24.Rhe1 Bf6 24...Bd6 25.Bxd6 Nxd6 26. Nxd4! cxd4 27.Rxd4 Nxc4 28.bxc4 Nb6 29.Bf1± 25.Nc3 Nb6 26.Nb5 a6 27.Na7 Rd8 28.Nc6 Rd7

After 28...Rc8 29.Ne7+ Bxe7 30.Rxe7 White is poised to go shopping for pawns with 31.Ra7. Then if 30... a5 31.Rb7, or 30...f5 31.Re6. 29.Ne5 Rd8 30.Nd3 Nd7



Now comes a "power play" that pretty wins the house.

31.Bc6 Nb8 32.Bxe8 Rfxe8 33. Rxe8+ Rxe8 34.Bxb8 Rxb8 35. Nxc5 1-0

A clean, convincing win by the IM. [The d-pawn will fall before much longer: 35...a5 36.Kc2 Rc8 37.Ne4 Rd8 38.Nxf6+ gxf6 39.Kd3.]

Goran had to beat the eventual 2011 club co-champion in the previous round with nice tactics:

King's Indian E73

Alexander Balkum 2211
Goran Vojinovic 2591

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (3)

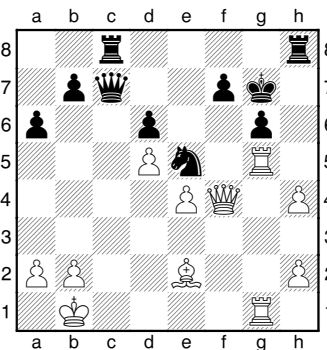
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 c6 7.Qd2 e5 8.d5 cxd5 9.cxd5 Na6 10.f3 h6 11.Be3

11.Bxh6 Nxe4! followed by 12...Qh4+ is an old trap.

11...h5 12.Nh3! (12.h4) 12...Bxh3 13.gxh3 Nb8 14.Rg1 Nbd7 15. 0-0-0 a6 16. Kb1 Kh7 17.Rc1 Ng8 18.Nd1 Bh6 19.Nf2 Ne5 20.Nd3 Nxd3 21.Bxd3 Bxe3 22.Qxe3 Nf6 23.f4 exf4 24.Qxf4 Qe7 25.Rg5 Kg7 26.Reg1 Nd7 27.h4

27.Rxh5 Rh8 28.Rxh8 Rxh8 29. Rg3 is better for White, according to Fritz. To a strong human player this is laughable, given White's weak dark squares and his pathetic extra pawn.

27...Ne5 28.Be2 Rh8 29.Bxh5 Rac8 30.Be2 Qc7



31.Qd2

31.h5!! Qc2+ 32.Ka1 Qxe2 33. Rxe5 dxe5 34.Qxe5+ Kh6 35.Qf4+ Kg7 36.Qe5+=

31...Rxh4 32.Rh5

32.Bg4 Rch8 33.h3 f6 34.Rxe5 dxe5 35.Bf5 R8h6±

32...Rxh5 33.Bxh5 Qc4 34.Qe3

34.Qe2 Qd4! 35.Rg3 Nc4 36. Rd3 (to stop ...Nd2+) 36...Qc5! with threats of ...Na3+ and ...gxh5.

34...Qc2+ 35.Ka1 Qc5 36.Qg5??

36.Qxc5 Rxc5±

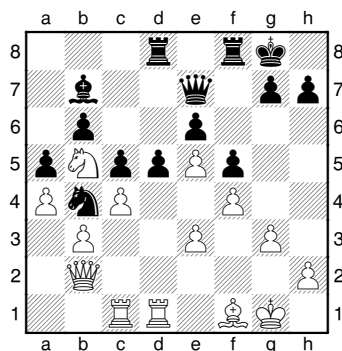
36...f6

0-1

Once Vojinovic secured a draw with the runner-up tie scorer in the final game, he won it all:

Dutch Stonelwall A90
Alexander Chua 2317
Goran Vojinovic 2591
Austin CC Champ. 2011 (5)

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 d5 5. Nf3 c6 6.O-O Bd6 7.b3 Qe7 8.a4 a5 9.Ba3 O-O 10.Bxd6 Qxd6 11.Nbd2 Nbd7 12.Qc2 b6 13.Rac1 Ba6 14. Qb2 Ne4 15.e3 Rac8 16.Rfd1 Bb7 17.Ne5 Nxe5 18.dxe5 Qe7 19.f4 Nc5 20.Nf3 Na6 21.Nd4 Nb4 22. Bf1 c5 23.Nb5 Rcd8



24.Nd6 Rxd6 25.exd6 Qxd6 26.Bg2 Qe7 27.Rd2 h6 28.Rcd1 Ba8 29. Qe5 Nc6 30. Qb2 Nb4 1/2-1/2

Despite having the exchange for a pawn, Chua apparently felt he could make no headway. Trying to win the button back on d5 exposes e3 to counter play that might keep the balance for Black.

Since only club members are eligible for the title itself, Goran would have to settle for the money. Congrats are due him for his top-drawer performance!

Chua secured his spot for equal 2nd place by the above effort, and by winning against the eventual 2011 club co-champion in the previous round.

The GM must have been angry for the last round after his loss to the IM, since the sleeping giant was

awakened against an unfortunate foe:

Sicilian B40
Jason Altschuler 2218
Valentin Votov 2629
Austin CC Champ. 2011 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 3...d3 d5 4.Nbd2 is the correct move order for this setup. 3...d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bg2 Qe7+ 6.Kf1 Nc6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.d4 Bg4 9.h3 Be6 10.Bf4 O-O-O 11.Nb5 Ne4 12. g4 g5 13.Bh2 Bg7 14.c3 h5 15.Ne5 hxg4 16.Qa4

This was a bit optimistic; 16. hxg4 was indicated.

16...Bxe5 17.Bxe5 Nxe5 18.Nxa7+ Kb8 19.dxe5 Bd7 20.Nb5 Bxb5+ 21.Qxb5 Qxe5 22.hxg4?

This gets mated by force. Hopeless is 22.Qe2 Qf4 23.Kg1 g3+.

22...Nd2+ 23.Kg1 Rxh1+ 24.Bxh1 Rh8 0-1

Thus the GM tied with Chua for 2nd place, the only other player to reach 4 points.

The first Austin Chess Club Championship was shared equally by two members who have the humble respect of those who follow chess in the capital city of the Lone Star State.

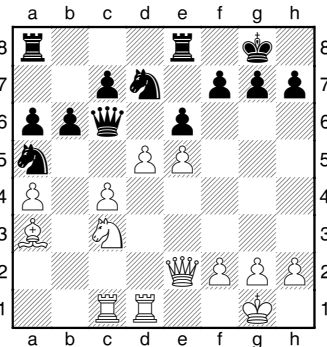
Alexander Balkum, a former junior star for many years who has since become a solid master as a young adult, secured his part of the top spot by drawing another talented near-master youth in round 5. Xiong became a master himself after his performance rating in this event:

Nimzo-Indian E45
Alexander Balkum 2211
Jeffrey Xiong 2193
Austin CC Champ. 2011 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6 5.Nge2 Ba6 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Nxc3 d5 8.b3 0-0 9.a4 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Bxc4 11.bxc4 Qd7 12.Ba3 Rd8 13.O-O

Nc6 14.Qe2 Na5 15.Rfd1 Re8 16. Rac1 a6 17.e4 Qc6 18.e5 Nd7 19. d5!?

Fritz likes 19.Bb4 Nxc4 20.d5 exd5 21.Nxd5 b5 22.e6 fxe6 23.Ne7+ Rxe7 24.Bxe7 Ndb6 25.axb5 axb5 26.Ra1=.



19...exd5! 19...Qxc4 20.dxe6 Qxe6 (20... Qxe2 21.exf7+ Kxf7 22.Nxe2 Nxe5 23.Rxc7+±) 21.Nd5 c5!? 22.Nc7 Qxe5 23.Qxe5 Nxe5 24.Re1 Nac4 25.Nxe8 Rxe8 26.Rxc4 Nf3+ 27. gxf3 Rxe1+ 28.Kg2± 20.cxd5 Qc4 21.e6! fxe6 22.dxe6 Nf6 23.Re1 c5 24.Qe5 Nb3 25.Ne4 Nxc1

This practically ensures a wild forced perpetual draw. 25...Qxe6! 26.Nxf6+ Qxf6 27.Qxe8+ Rxe8 28. Rxe8+ Kf7 29.Rce1[♣] was an alternative if Black wants to unbalance and play for more.

26.Nxf6+ gxf6 27.Qxf6 Ne2+ 28. Rxe2 Qxe2 29.Qf7+ Kh8 30.Qf6+ 1/2-1/2

This writer is old enough to remember when Balkum was winning primary school events, if you can believe it. He was good even then; he's just plain scary now! He is a well-rounded player who excels at all parts of the game through hard work and determination.

Congratulations to Alex on a well deserved victory to share the title. I predict he will only get better with time, a frightening thought.

Joshua Newsham is another former junior star who won a state title as one in 1994. I remember during that decade he often showed up at the former Austin Chess Enterprises chess club to play skittles against strong masters who regularly played there, including the great Joseph Bradford, winner of the U.S. Open in 1978. He evidently learned a lot over the years, as he proved in the final round:

King's Indian E98

Vasfi Gucer 1973

Joshua Newsham 2129

Austin CC Champ. 2011 (5)

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Nf6 5.Nf3 O-O 6.Be2 e5 7.O-O Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Ne8 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5 13.c5 Rf7 14.Rc1 Bf8 15.Nb5 a6 16.cxd6 cxd6 17.Na3 Bd7 18.Nc4 Nc8 19.a4 h5 20.Nd3 Qf6 21.Qb3

Better is 21.a5, leaving the queen at home to discourage ...g4. 21...b5 22.axb5 axb5 23.Nb6 Nxb6 24.Bxb6 g4 25.fxc4?

Opening the h-file greases the skids for Black's attack, but White also has problems after 25.Ra1 Rb8 26.Bf2 Qg5 with ..g3 to follow.

25...hxg4 26.Ne1 Rb8 27.Bf2 Qh6 28.Rc3 Rh7 29.h3 Rb7 30.h4 Be7 31.g3 fxc3 32.Rxg3 Bxh4 33.Rg2 Bg5 0-1

A classic, well trodden King's Indian line where Black's queenside is in tatters, but who cares? After all, White is getting "beauty mated" on the kingside! 30...Be7 as played to win the line closing h pawn is better than g3, winning the cleric for two pawns, in terms of attacking chances. 32. Rxg3 hastens the end, but after Bxg3 Black plays the same move as in the game to win quickly.


Thus Josh secured the co-championship title with 3.5 points, catching Alex from behind to gain the tie. A fine Kibitzer, Newsham is always handy to have around during postmortems. He explains things well in a tone tailored to the audience rating level, a rare talent among stronger players.

The two champs will have about a year to prepare to defend their titles, when the 2012 Austin Chess Club Championship will look to crown a new winner. Legions of sharks will be circling the waters.

Next year looks to be bigger and better than ever. I fully expect the "master body count" to expand.

This event was a milestone in Austin chess, where the former hub of Texas chess reasserted itself as a serious contender for dominance once again.

In recent years, most major events were in other cities, but now that the town has drawn a field like this, organizers from all over the Lone Star state will probably have to take a serious second look at the town to hold events like the Southwest Open and state championship.

I hope to see and play you there when I attend the 2012 festivities myself. If it was the Texas chess event of the year as a spectator, imagine how fun it would be to win it? 

Austin bests San Antonio in match

One of my nostalgic chess memories from high school days in the early 1970s was participating in ten-board team matches between my hometown of Baton Rouge and our august neighbor to the south, New Orleans. An outrated but younger BR team won both in 1971 and '73.

Austin and San Antonio joined a twenty-board match Feb. 20 at the Cedar Hall Bar and Grill, an old-fashioned Texas roadhouse on the outskirts of Lockhart east of San Marcos. Despite an average rating deficit of 92 points (four boards being outrated by 200+) the Alamo contingent almost tied it up, losing by just two points. In other words, one game swinging the other way would have made it a drawn match.

San Antonio Chess Club president Gregg Stanley originated the idea, and I did most of our recruiting. FM Michael Langer mustered the Austin team and found the venue, and Lori Balkum directed. Despite poor lighting and rowdy NASCAR fans next door, the event was a success in terms of chess and camaraderie. (Games will appear next issue.)

– Selby Anderson

	Austin	Score	San Antonio
1	Michael Langer 2310	1.5 – 0.5	James Rohrbaugh 2204
2	Alexander Balkum 2211	1.0 – 1.0	Selby Anderson 2201
3	John Bell 2139	1.5 – 0.5	Bobby Moore 2200
4	Josh Newsham 2129	0.5 – 1.5	Don Sutherland 2168
5	Drew Sarkisian 2120	0.0 – 2.0	Mitch Vergara 2074
6	Peter Kappler 2092	1.5 – 0.5	Gregg Stanley 2052
7	Craig LaSalle 2083	0.5 – 1.5	J.P. Hyltin 2052
8	Derek Chang 2076	0.0 – 2.0	Andy Smith 2038
9	Alan Laverty 2072	0.5 – 1.5	Ariel Medina 2009
10	Matthew Liu 2050	1.0 – 1.0	Virgil Aluyen 1973
11	Anjali Datta 2018	0.0 – 2.0	Martin Gordon 1943
12	Dhurv Garg 1999	2.0 – 0.0	Andrew Istafanous 1893
13	Michael Simpson 1979	1.0 – 1.0	Robert Bradley 1881
14	Vasfi Gucer 1973	2.0 – 0.0	Gary Zintgraff 1766
15	William Molina 1971	2.0 – 0.0	Charles R. Davis 1722
16	Alok Kumar 1936	2.0 – 0.0	Altan Kartaltepe 1715
17	Joseph Binder 1933	1.0 – 1.0	Juan Carrizales 1687
18	Duy Nguyen 1774	1.0 – 1.0	Louis Rimpel 1600
19	Khoa Nguyen 1643	0.5 – 1.5	Thomas Mings 1594
20	Huy Nguyen 1514	1.5 – 0.5	Jonathan Rea 1408
		21.0 – 19.0	

Minutes of the TCA Fall Meeting held Sept. 5, 2010

1. Call to order

President Clemente Rendon called to order the regular meeting of the Texas Chess Association on September 5, 2010 in Corpus Christi.

2. Meeting Attendees

The following persons were present: Clemente Rendon (President) Lakshmana Viswanath (Vice President), Barbara Swafford (Treasurer), Luis Salinas, Selby Anderson, Courtney Jamison, Lori Balkum, Jim Stallings, Rade Milovanovic, Mikhail Langer, Francisco Guadalupe, and Stephanie Ballom (Secretary).

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Luis Salinas moved the reading of the last meetings minutes be waived. The motion was seconded by Selby Anderson .

4. Treasurer's Report

A reading of the Treasurer's report by Barbara Swafford, summarizing the details, was accepted.

5. President's Report

President Rendon briefly discussed the progress with *Texas Knights* conversion to an electronic format, the

upcoming transition to include online tournament announcements and balancing the TCA budget.

President Rendon expressed the desire to balance the budget. All expenditures for the year would be budgeted during the fall meeting. This would ensure proper organization and that TCA has the funds needs to run the 2012 scholastic tournament.

6. Old Business

Tournament bids awarded:

- 2012 Texas Grade and Collegiate awarded to Dallas chess club
- 2014 Texas State Scholastic awarded to TCA, Luis Salinas tasked with finding a location
- 2011 Texas State and amateur awarded to Dallas chess club
- 2011 Texas amateur Team Tournament awarded to Dallas chess club
- 2011 Texas Girls Championship Tournament to Dan DeLeon

Motion 1:

TCA to allocate \$5,000 for use at the 2011 Koltanski conference. President of TCA to check and approve budget submitted by organizers prior to the funds being distributed. **Motion Passed.**

Motion 2: Change membership option (*see table below*):

Type	One year membership w/ 6 published TKs	One year w/ 6 online TKs	Lifetime	Voting rights	Note
Junior/Student	\$7.50	\$3.00	\$200.00	N	18/under or full-time student
Regular	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$200.00	Y	General membership
Scholastic Club	\$10.00	\$5.00	–	N	Must be scholastic organization. Includes one free quarter-page ad per year in <i>Texas Knights</i> .
Club	\$25.00	\$15.00	–	N	Any US club or scholastic organization. Includes one free quarter-page ad per year in TK.
Family	\$15.00	\$10.00	–	Y	Resident household members
Patron	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$500.00	Y	First class mailing
Family Patron	\$30.00	\$20.00	–	Y	First class mailing
Foreign	–	\$10.00	–	N	Any nationality
Junior tournament	–	\$2.00	–	N	Valid for entry into one TCA tournament, must be 18/under

- TCA Membership is required to participate in any TCA tournament
 - Membership term is for one year
 - Online TKs will be sent via e-mail to received e-mail address or can be accessed through www.texaschess.org
- Motion Passed.**

Motion 3: Approve following Delegate selection criteria:

- 1) Receive a total count of delegate slots from the USCF (this year we had 11 slots)
- 2) To be considered a delegate must be over the age of 18, must have a valid USCF and TCA membership, must be a Texas resident, and must commit to attending the meeting in August. Preference will be given to past delegates who communicate with us promptly, if not first come first serve. Preference will then also be given to new nominees who if appointed as a delegate before cancelled at least 90 days before the event.
- 3) On September 5th, announce through our website and F/B fan page that if any of our past Texas delegates are interested to contact the TCA secretary for appointment. We will ensure they meet the above criteria and appoint them on a first come first serve basis; any overflow will be placed on an alternate list. If any of the above criteria is not met there will be a 15 day deadline to comply, otherwise they will not be considered.
- 4) After September 20th, then we will allow nominations for anyone who meets the above criteria (through Texas Knights, our website and F/B fan page). Again first come first serve basis; any overflow will be placed on an alternate list.
- 5) The TCA secretary will confirm with all appointed delegates May 1st to ensure they are planning to attend. If they cancel then they will need to formally resign and we will appoint the first alternate, etc. **Motion Passed.**

VII. Election Results: Lori Balkum presented the election results for TCA board officers, there were fourteen ballots turned in resulting in fourteen votes for Clemente Rendon for President, Fourteen votes for Lakshmana Viswanath for Vice President, fourteen votes for Barbara Swafford for Treasurer and Fourteen votes for Stephanie Ballom for Secretary.

VIII. New Business:

Motion 1: World youth sponsorship to be reduced to a maximum of \$1,200, which will be distributed at maxi-

imum sponsorship of \$300 per participant on a first come first serve basis. **Motion Passed.**

Motion 2: Denker sponsorship reduced to \$300. **Motion Passed.**

Motion 3: The winner of the Championship Section of the Texas Middle Scholastic Championships is the representative to the Denker (Barber) Tournament of Middle School/Junior High School Champions. (This tournament is like the Denker and held concurrently with the Denker.) **Motion deferred to spring meeting**

Motion 4:
The winner of the Championship Section of the Texas Elementary Scholastic Championships is the representative to the Denker (Barber) Tournament of Elementary School Champions. (This tournament is like the Denker and held concurrently with the Denker.) **Motion deferred to spring meeting**

Motion 5:
If there is a tie with perfect scores at the Middle School or Elementary Championships, a match with the Denker/Barber time controls for undefeated tied players would be played at a time and date after the state scholastics. The amount of expenses to be picked up by the TCA, which would be minimal, will be decided by the Board of Directors. This Match may be played over the internet provided there is a Tournament Director at each site.

Note that the rule above is in effect for the Denker, it would now go into effect for the Middle School and Elementary Championships. this rule is only if there are co-champions with perfect scores. If there is not perfect score then there is no need for the match and tiebreakers can be used. **Motion deferred to spring meeting**

Motion 6: Change Article IX, Section 1 C to

C. Texas State Chess Championship: This tournament shall be held simultaneously with the Texas Amateur Championship in May. This tournament shall be restricted to players with a United States Chess Federation rating of at least 2000, with exception made for the Texas High School Champion or co-Champions, The Texas Middle School Champion or co-Champions and the Texas Elementary School Champion or co-Champions. Any player with a Fide rating of at least 2000 may also play in this tournament. Only a Texas resident may win the title of Texas State Champion, or any other state title listed below. This is a Major Event.

Note this motion is adding the Middle School and Elementary Champions to play in the Championship

section of the State Championships. The High School Champions were included to give them practice for the Denker, I am including the Middle School and Elementary Champions so they can practice for the Denker/Barber tournament. **Motion Withdrawn.**

Motion 7: TCA pays/reimburses the entry fees for the Middle School and Elementary Champions/co-Champions to play in the Texas State Championships. Note TCA already pays for the high school champion and co-champions. **Motion Withdrawn.**

Motion 8: TCA will no longer provide the stipend to send players to the Polgar National Tournament for Girls. This motion is not meant to preclude adding a stipend for the new format. This Motion rescinds an earlier motion that was made when the Polgar tournament was held concurrently with the Denker. The Polgar tournament eference no longer exists and the format of the Polgar has been changed to be primarily a teaching Activity. **Motion Passed.**

Motion 9: TCA pays the same amount to the player representing Texas at the Denker/Barber tournament of Middle School/Junior High School Championships as TCA pays for the representative to the Denker Tournament of High School Champions. **Motion passed.**

Motion 10: TCA pays the same amount to the player representing Texas at the Denker/Barber tournament Elementary School Championships as TCA pays for the representative to the Denker Tournament of High School Champions. **Motion moot, no elementary champion.**

Motion 11: TCA increase the stipend to the Denker to \$1000. (Note that this has already passed but in preparing the previous motions, I could not find it in any of the minutes.) **Motion declined, Denker champion to be paid \$300.**

Motion 12: TCA awards the Dallas Chess Club \$1,250 to run the Texas Masters. Tentative weekend is the first weekend in April.

Motion Passed:

- \$850 to be awarded if JJG Hamburgers did not sponsor
- \$500 to be awarded if JJG Hamburgers did sponsor

Motion 13: Eliminate sponsorship for Pan-American youth participants who qualify due to personal right. **Motion passed.**

Motion 14: Suspended for one year practice of paying Texas State and Amateur, Texas Masters, and Southwest for World Youth Qualifiers. **Motion Passed.**

Motion 15: Eliminate stipend to the Texas Junior Invitational (which was given at a rate of \$30 per player). **Motion Passed.**

9. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded. President Clemente Rendon adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Clemente Rendon & Luis Salinas

2011 TCA Spring Meeting

February 12, 2011

- Prior to the meeting Steve Lipschultz announced the formation of Major Chess League. It will be free till the end of the year. For more information, go to www.majorleaguechess.com
- Meeting was called to order by President Clemente Rendon at 8:41
- Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting waived. Minutes will be posted on website. (Motion by Tom Boone. Second by Ed Guetzow.)
- Financial Report by the Treasurer: Much as was published in Texas Knights. Money has been received from the 2009 State Scholastic. Treasurer Barbara Swafford answered questions from Francisco Guadalupe regarding outstanding balances.
- The President's Report
 - o The 2012 State Scholastic will be budgeted in the Fall Meeting
 - o The Executive Board is working to move Texas Knights online. With our Facebook presence and Website the board is working to keep in contact with the membership
 - o Tournament bids are due June 15th. All tournaments continue to be run. Many clubs are helping to make events run
 - o Overall, things are running smoothly
- Old Business – regarding the selection criteria for the K-8 Champion for the Barber Tournament
 - o Motion by Luis Salinas, Seconded by Tony Meza that the representative be chosen from either the Middle School or Elementary Champion of the State Scholastic Tournament using the following criteria:
 - § Both champions would be asked. If both champions say that they would like to participate, a match would be held using Denker Time controls in the same city if possible, or via an internet match with a TD being present at both sites.

§ If one champion wants to participate while the other declines the chance to participate, the one wishing to participate would be our representative.

§ If both champions decline to participate, the offer would be extended to 2nd place winners following the above criteria.

Motion passed unanimously

· New Business

o Motions 1-4 treated as one. Motions made by Barbara Swafford and seconded by Francisco Guadalupe:

§ Reagan County to be removed from Region 1 and join Region 9

§ Archer County to be removed from Region 9 and join Region 2

§ Fisher County to be removed from Region 1 and join Region 9

§ Shackelford County to be removed from Region 2 and join Region 9

Combined Motion passed unanimously

o Motion 5 made by Luis Salinas and seconded by Ed Guetzow:

§ TCA grants authority to the TCA Treasurer to open necessary bank account(s), purchase insurance and do any other administrative task needed in conjunction with the 2012 Texas State Scholastic that will be run by TCA.

· Bob James asked about the initial deposit. Barbara Swafford noted that she would need somewhere around \$5,000.

· Tom Boone asked about controls for the account, ie other people on account who would have authority. It was noted that accounts in the past have had other people on the account.

Motion passed unanimously

o Motion 6 made by Clemente Rendon and seconded by Luis Salinas:

§ To qualify for funding in the World Youth, participants must have played in tow of four major TCA events during the previous TCA fiscal cycle.

Motion passed unanimously

o End of advance motions. Questions, resolutions and motions from the floor were now in order.

o Luis suggested that TCA create a High Resolution Vector Graphic of TCA's logo so that it might be used in various ways. Discussion was deferred to the Fall meeting since this is a budget issue.

o Lakshmana Viswanath moved that Tom Boone be added to the Scholastic Committee to replace a member who had changed regions. Motion was ruled out of order since The Scholastic Committee Chair has the authority to appoint committee members.

o Lakshmana Viswanath moved that Binny Nanavati be elected Secretary. Motion was ruled out of order since we currently have a Secretary and elections for new officers will be held soon.

o Binny Nanavati suggested that TD vests like those in Nationals be used at tournaments like the State Scholastics. – Motion deferred until Fall meeting since this is a budget issue.

o Binny Nanavati asked what TCA is doing to publicize successes so that clubs could build on that for positive publicity.

o Ed Guetzow introduced Suzan Polgar as his guest and she was invited to talk about her work with UIL in making Chess Puzzle Solving Contests a UIL event. She talked about the history of the process and noted that there are indications that Chess Puzzle Solving Competitions will be offered as a UIL event in October, although nothing is certain yet. Having this competition as a UIL event will change the way schools look at and fund chess. Questions regarding ways to include UIL Invitational Puzzle Solving Contests at different tournaments were asked and answered.

o Motion 7 made by Bob James and seconded by ?:

§ TCA will include a UIL Invitational Chess Puzzle Solving Contest at the 2012 State Scholastic Championship.

Motion passed unanimously

o Luis noted as a point of interest that this year for the first time the TCA Scholastic Committee had authorized 3 scholarships to the State Scholastic Tournament under provisions made 2 or 3 years ago which allow for up to 20 such scholarships. Further discussion regarding continuing this program was deferred until fall since this is a budget item.

o Tony Meza asked questions regarding different ways to fund scholarships that could be offered at Regional Tournaments. Many different suggestions and concerns were offered in response.

o Ed Guetzow moved that the meeting be adjourned. Luis Salinas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

o Meeting adjourned at 9:29

Respectfully submitted,
Bob James, Acting Secretary

2011 LAREDO OPEN Apr. 16-17 \$5,600 Gtd.!

Bravo Care, 6508 N. Bartlett Ave. Laredo, TX 78041

Divisions: 3 Sections: Open, Reserve (Under 1800), and Novice (Under 1400)
Open Section is also FIDE rated but follows USCF rules. Current USCF membership required.
(USCF membership may be purchased on site). April ratings used.

Format: 5 round Swiss. Time control: Game/120 min.

Entry fee: \$45 (pre-register by 4/1) or \$55 (on-site registration)

Mail entries to Dr. Joel Saucedo, 7917 McPherson Rd., Suite 205-511, Laredo, TX 78045.

Make checks payable to "Joel Saucedo".

On-site registration: 8 - 9 a.m. Apr. 16

Rounds: Sat. 9:30 - 2 - 7 ; Sun. 9 - 2

Accelerated pairings may be used at the TD's discretion.

Only One ½ point bye is available and must be requested before the end of Rd. 2.

Tiebreaks: Modified Median, Solkoff, Cumulative and Cumulative Opposition.

SwissSys pairing program will be used.

PRIZES

Open: \$1,200 - \$800 - \$600; U2400 \$500; U2200 \$500; U2000 \$500

Reserve (U1800): \$400 - \$200 - \$100; U1600 \$200- \$100 -\$50, unrated \$50.

Novice (U1400): \$200 - \$100 - \$50; unrated \$50.

An unrated player may win any prize in the Open, but only \$50 in the Reserve or Novice sections.

*Thanks to our sponsor, Dr. Joel Saucedo, all prizes above are **guaranteed!***

Ten free room accommodations for the **first 2200+ rated players** (USCF/FIDE) who pre-register! Organizer reserves the right to put up to two players in a room. Alternately two such players could register and request a single room. (Rooms courtesy of Kevin Yang, Gateway Inn.)

First 5 GM's get free entry! Your entry fee will not be deducted from any winnings.

Hotel: Kevin Yang is a local chess activist and sponsor of the "Free Rooms". Additional rooms at **Gateway Inn** are available by contacting him at **956-251-8281** at a reduced rate of \$36 + tax.

Website: www.guildtechs.com/saucedo

Bring your own chess set and clock if you have them. Awards: ASAP.

Questions: Sponsor/Guarantor: Dr. Joel Saucedo, 956-693-8770, joel2785@gmail.com

Organizer: Lakshmana Viswanath "vish", 956-717-8384, vis@consultant.com

TD: Eddie Rios, 361-455-3682, teacher@intcomm.net

Equipment Vendor: Bob James

Texas Chess Association
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Charles Pelle
Le Probleme, 1960

White to move, mate in three
Solution: p. 14

