



THE CHESS EXCHANGE

⚙ *The Newsletter of NYC Scholastic Tournament Chess* ⚙

Vol. 3 • No. 2 • March 2012

Newstand Price: \$5.95

Published by



TRI-STATE Chess



The Angry Bird

By C.K. Damrosch

The angriest bird is named Henry Edward Bird. Why is Mr. Bird so angry? Well, 150 years after he developed his unique opening 1.f4, people call it “The Bird.” Yes, there is a tradition in Chess openings for naming them after animals (The Orangutang comes to mind), but the proper name for this opening is “Bird’s Opening.” Here is the unique and funny story of Mr. Bird’s “invention.”

Henry was a hero before even stepping to the board, for he is one of the few chess luminaries that actually held down a day job. He took 15 years off from high level chess to earn a degree in Accountancy and write a book about the railway system in his native England.



Henry Edward Bird

When he returned to competitive play, he was quite nervous. He sat down to his first game, and hand shaking, he accidentally moved his f pawn instead of his e pawn! Rather than admit to his opponent that he had made such a hideous mistake, Bird continued the game with the moves e3, nf3, b3, and Bb2 and Bird’s Opening was born. Henry liked the position he obtained so much, he would play it for much of his career.

-- CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 --

CONTENTS:

The Angry Bird.....	1
The Good Kibbitzer	2
GM Watching	3
NYC Chess Calendar.....	5
Chess Word Search.....	9
Puzzlers	10
You Make The Call	11
Grand Prix Standings	12-13
Puzzler Solutions From Last Issue	15
Tri-State Chess Tournament Schedule.....	16



The Classic Bird Formation

The Good Kibbitzer

By C.K. Damrosch

Kibbitzing is a great word that comes to us from Yiddish, from a Hebrew version of the German word kiebitzen. Originally it just meant being an onlooker or a spectator, but over time it developed a negative connotation of being a busybody or giving intrusive, meddlesome, or unwanted advice.

Similarly in the Chess world, at one time it was a terrible insult to be called a kibbitzer, that is one who watched someone else's chess game and made comments. In certain settings, like say Central Park on a sunny summer day where 4 players are sharing a chess table and two park benches playing blitz a little kibbitzing just makes everything more fun.

But there has to be rules, for it can be the worst thing in the world to be playing a tough enough game against one player, only to have him peppered with moves from the peanut gallery. From giving a lot of siumuls, I can tell you its easier to beat 20 students all quietly playing their own boards than 20 students all playing one board and talking out their moves.

That being said, here are some rules for being a "good" kibbitzer.

1. Never discuss a move that can be played. Discuss moves that are no longer possible.

example: "If you hadn't of let him take your knight, you could have forked his king and queen on f7 with it."

15. If you are with several kibbitzers, communicate with knowing looks, rolling eyes and don't be afraid to whisper in someone's ear, "do you think he sees the mate in 2?"

General comments about a position are generally allowed--a little humor never hurts-- examples: "My kingdom for a white bishop." "Black is spiny like a porcupine." Or quietly humming the Imperial Death March from Star Wars as one player mounts an attack....

My favorite kibbitz story involves a famous African American player who was playing a tournament game against a Russian. Actually two Russians, because his opponent had a friend who was openly kibbitzing about the game in Russian--at the board! Our hero allowed this to continue for the entire game, until finally he pronounced in his own fluent Russian, "no, even if he moves his rook, I play h7 and you are lost."



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●●● Call Ian Fleischman at 347-628-6924 or e-mail: ianfchessteacher@yahoo.com ●●●

GMWatching

By C.K. Damrosch

One of the great benefits of being a chess player and living in the New York area are the numerous opportunities you have to actually meet face to face with a living Grandmaster. Although the title has gotten somewhat easier to get in recent years, there are still only a few hundred GM's in the world.

Somedays, it seems like they all live in New York!

On one such day recently I went to hear newly minted GM Robert Hess speak at the Jewish Community Center on the upper west side. Robert was addressing a contingent of the Cross Generation Chess program started by Renee Yarzig.

"One of the easiest moves I've had to make in my career has been to continue my education." Hess continued that it was no decision at all if he should go to Yale or pursue Chess full time, "Chess will always be there."

After his talk, Hess took on all comers at blitz. After the crowd had been defeated (myself included), GM Lev Alburt took over and we were treated to several rounds of Grandmaster Blitz.

Here's a photo of the two hard at work:



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NYC CHESS TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

MARCH 2012 - MAY 2012

March 25
PS 77 - Lower Lab School
Chess Tournaments Or-
ganizer: NY Chess Kids
Saudin Robovic www.
NYChesskids.com 1700
3rd Ave., NYC

March 31
PS 41 Chess Tournaments
Organizer: Jeremy Schein-
bach PS41Chess@Gmail.
com 116 West 11th Street,
NYC

April 13-15
2012 NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL (K-12) CHAM-
PIONSHIP Organizer: US
Chess Federation (USCF)
www.USChess.org
Minneapolis, Minnesota

April 22
PS 9 Chess Championship
V Organizer: TRI-STATE
CHESS (212) 289-5997
Info@TriStateChess.
com www.TriStateChess.
com Tournament Site:
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April 22
PS 116 Chess Tourna-
ments Organizer: NY Chess
Kids Saudin Robovic
www.NYChesskids.com
210 East 33rd St., NYC

April 27-29
2012 NATIONAL JUNIOR
HIGH SCHOOL (K-9)
CHAMPIONSHIP Orga-
nizer: US Chess Federation
(USCF) www.USChess.org
San Diego, California

April 29
Hunter College Elementary
School Tournaments Hunter
College Elementary School
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Sunil Weeramantry www.
NSCFChess.org

May 11-13
2012 NATIONAL EL-
EMENTARY (K-6) CHAM-
PIONSHIP Organizer: US
Chess Federation (USCF)
www.USChess.org Nash-
ville, Tennessee

May 17
Team Championship Mi-
chael A. Propper New York
City Chess Inc. 230 Thomp-
son Street New York New
York 10012 212.475.8130
www.chessnyc.com

May 20
PS 158 CHESS CHAMPI-
ONSHIP XVI Organizer:
TRI-STATE CHESS (212)
289-5997 Info@TriStateChess.
com www.TriStateChess.com
Tournament Site: 1458 York
Ave. NYC

May 20
British International School of
NY 20 Waterside Plaza, NYC
Beatriz Marinello
917-553-4522
Beatriz@chesseducators.com
Website:
www.chesseducators.com/

May 20
PS 77 - Lower Lab School
Chess Tournaments Organizer:
NY Chess Kids
Saudin Robovic
www.NYChesskids.com
1700 3rd Ave., NYC

The Angry Bird (continued from page 1)

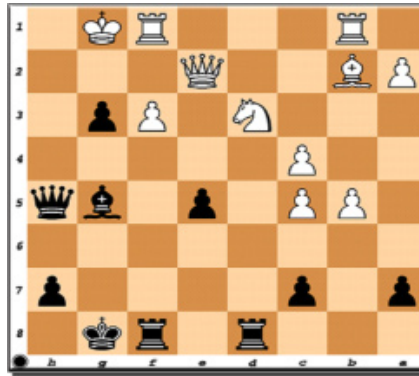
Actually far from angry, Bird was known as a rotund, jovial fellow always up for a game. He suffered from ill health in his later years, prompting a colleague to remark, "His play is the same as his health, its always alternating between being dangerously ill and being dangerously well."

WHITE TO MOVE AND MATE IN 3

Bird vs. Amateur, London 1886



BLACK TO MOVE AND MATE IN 3



Bird could also play black, and in fact has another opening named after him, Bird's Defense, a response to the Ruy Lopez. Here he uncorked a potent attack on Steinitz:

I came across this opening first as many chess students have before me, not from one of Mr. Bird's games, but in fact the very first tournament game of young Emanuel Lasker.

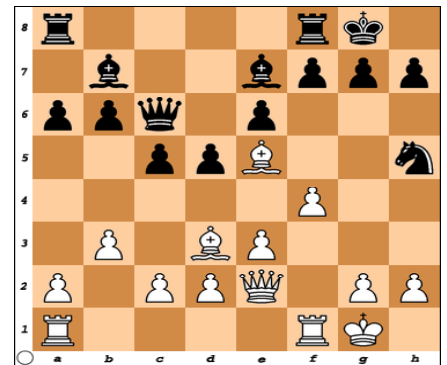
1.f4 d5 2. e3 Nf6 3. b3 e6 4. Bb2 Be7 5. Bd3 b6 6. Nc3 Bb7 7. Nf3 Nbd7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. Ne2 c5 10. Ng3 Qc7 11. Ne5 Nxe5 12. Bxe5

Lasker/Bauer Amsterdam

Position after 14 Nxh5--let the fireworks begin!!!

15.Bxh7+ Kxh7 16. Qxh5+ Kg8 17. Bxg7 Kxg7 18. Qg4+ Kh7 19. Rf3 e5 20. Rh3+ Qh6 21. Rxh6+ Kxh6 22. Qd7 Bf6 23. Qxb7 Kg7 24. Rf1 Rab8 25. Qd7 Rfd8 26. Qg4+ Kf8 27. fxe5 Bg7 28. e6 Rb7 29. Qg6 f6 30. Rxf6+ Bxf6 31. Qxf6+ Ke8 32. Qh8+ Ke7 33. Qg7+ Kxe6 34. Qxb7 Rd6 35. Qxa6 d4 36. exd4 cxd4 37. h4 d3 38. Qxd3 Black Resigns.

(continued on page 7)



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(continued from page 6)

Lasker was only 21 when he played that game. To me it was the height of “chess cool” and I knew I wanted to play like that. I particularly appreciated that Lasker sac’ed two bishops, but not for mate! Finding an opening that matches your style is very important. If you get sweaty palms from positions like these, then maybe 1. f4 isn’t for you.

Finally, for the advanced class, check out this crazy position. Somehow Mr. Bird and Mr. Pitschel have managed to obtain a pawn structure so bizarre, it had to trigger a fabulous finish.

I still play all my white games with Bird’s Opening. When I first began, I saw a lot of Fromm’s Gambit. Because its important to study opening from BOTH sides, here was the thorn in the side of 1. f4 players for years.

1.f4 e5 2. fe d6 3. exd6 Bxd6

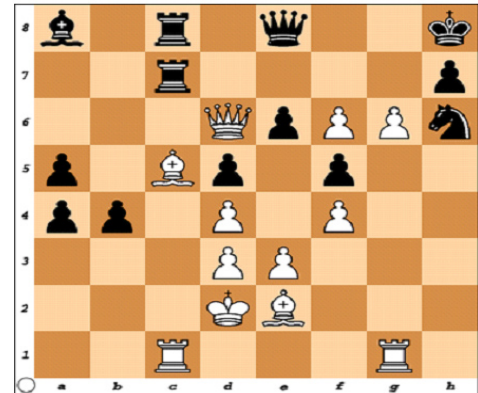
Fromm’s Gambit: if White is not careful on this move, Qh4+ leads to mate!

Luckily, Fromm’s Gambit has fallen out of favor, rumors of a “bust” (try Tim Taylor’s book). And of course, no one says you have to take all those pawns: 2. e4 and you’ve reversed things on black with your own King’s Gambit.

Here are three games in ascending degrees of complexity.

The first is a nice example for young players on the potential of an early attack, while showing the benefits of studying mating patterns.

WHITE TO MOVE AND MATE IN 4
Bird vs Claus Pitschel, Paris, 1878



Knighmare



Damrosch vs Simba

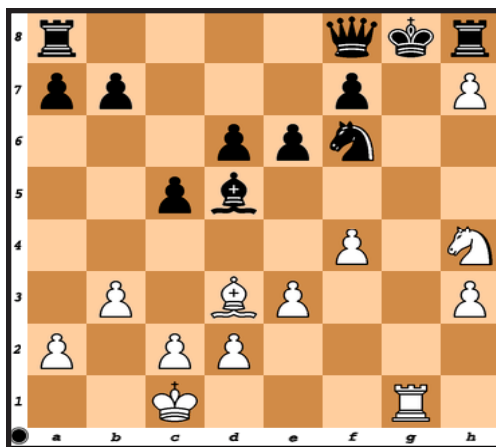
1)f4 d6 2) Nf3 Bf5 3) b3 nf6 4) Bb2 e6 5) e3 Be7 6) Nc3 0-0 7) Ng5 Bg4 8) Be2 Bxe2 9) Qxe2 Nbd7 10) 0-0-0 h6 11) h4 Ne8 12) Qd3 Nef6 13) Nce4 hxg5 14) hxg5 Nh7 15) Nf6+ !

The Knight must be taken, Kh1 allows RxN mate. Can you find mate for all four ways black can take the Knight?

This next game has a very picturesque mate and a queen sacrifice in the spirit of Mr. Bird.

Double the Check, Double the Fun

Damrosch v ThePusher



1) f4 Nf6 2) Nf3 d6 3) b3 g6 4) Bb2 Bg7 5) e3 Bf5 Nc3 0-0
7) Bd3 Bg4 8) h3 Bd7 9) Ne2 c5 10) g4 Bc6 11) Ng3 e6
12) g5 Nh5 13) Bxg7 Kxg7? 14) Nxh5+ 15) Nh4 Bxh1 16)
Qxh5 Rh8 17) Qh6+ Kg8 18) 0-0-0 Bd5 19) Rg1 Qf8 20)
Qf6 Nd7 21) g6!! Nxf6 22) gxh7 mate.

A pretty double check mate.

Finally, this is a more modern game. As you can see, I still enjoy the attack, but through years of repetition and practice the action has gotten more intricate.



Air of Inevitability

Damrosch vs Attractor

1. f4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e3 e6 4. b3 Be7 5.
Bb2 O-O 6. Ng5 h6 7. h4 Nbd7 8. Bd3 b6 9.
Nc3 Bb7 10. Qf3 Nc5 11. Qe2 Nxd3+ 12. Qxd3
c5 13. Nb5 g6

Position after 13 ... g6. One of black's pawns is overburdened...

**Qg6+ Kh8 18. Rh3 Qe8 19. Qh6+ Kg8 20. Rg3+
{Black resigns}**

So that ought to get you started into the wonderful world of Bird watching--just remember to give ole Harry Bird some credit and call it "Bird's Opening!"

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Chess Word Search

Words can be forward, backwards and diagonal--like a queen!!!

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A	U	E	M	R	K	C	E	H	C	J	C	E	N	B
M	M	H	K	A	V	Q	U	R	P	K	O	J	I	D
Y	X	R	X	N	T	P	D	X	N	A	X	S	K	C
M	S	Z	N	K	A	E	W	M	Q	G	W	C	Z	G
H	J	B	I	S	H	O	P	F	E	C	X	N	T	X
R	W	A	F	I	L	E	I	P	O	C	Z	S	S	S
G	E	R	U	T	P	A	C	R	E	S	I	G	N	L
J	Y	U	M	V	K	D	G	D	Z	M	V	I	S	L
T	B	F	K	R	O	F	Y	D	O	S	K	K	J	E
S	K	E	W	E	R	E	L	T	S	A	C	B	E	X
Z	C	N	F	G	X	W	N	N	E	E	U	Q	K	W
G	Z	W	A	K	N	I	G	H	T	C	Y	C	O	I
S	M	P	J	B	W	F	T	D	R	A	W	G	O	D
F	A	Q	B	V	A	G	S	S	H	I	D	Y	R	U

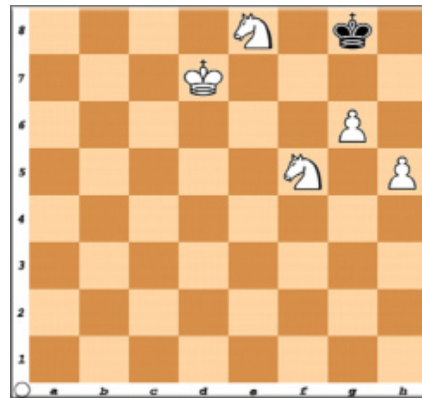
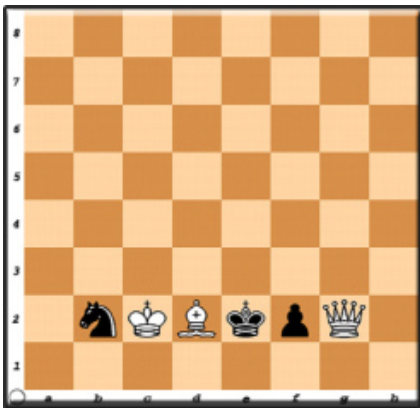
PAWN	BYE
ROOK	RESIGN
BISHOP	
QUEEN	
KING	
KNIGHT	
CHECK	
CAPTURE	
FORK	
SKEWER	
RANK	
FILE	
CASTLE	
MATE	
DRAW	

RUZZLERS

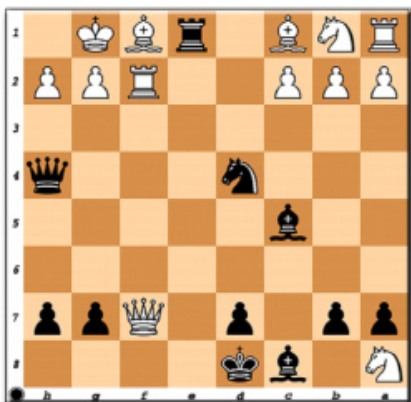
WHITE TO MOVE AND MATE IN ONE



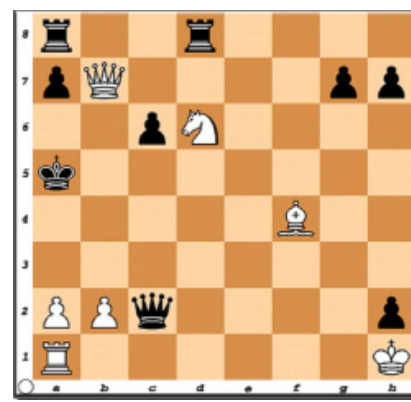
WHITE TO MOVE AND MATE IN TWO



MATE IN THREE



Black to move



White to move

YOU MAKE THE CALL

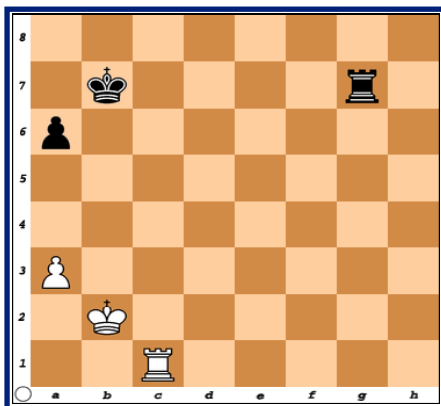
By Mark Kurtzman

In the diagram below, the game appears drawn. In almost all cases, when serious tournament players compete, they agree to a draw when there are no winning chances.

In this game, however, it was the final round of an important championship tournament. And there was a lot of prize money at stake...\$7,600 to the winner!

Everything seems equal, except White had 1 minute left on the clock in sudden death and black had almost 2 minutes.

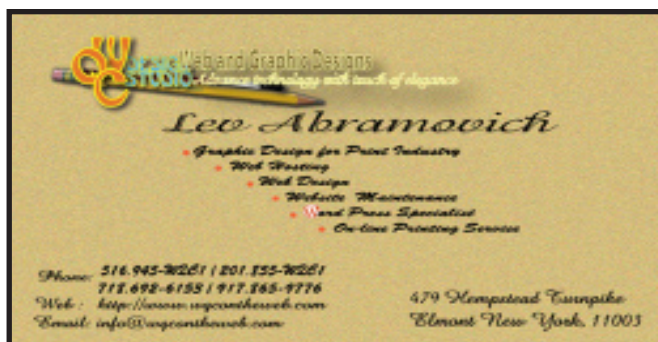
Black played Rg2+ in this position. White replied with Rc2 hoping for a rook trade, but black played his rook back to g7. The position continued with similar rook moves being played by both sides leading nowhere. White, realizing he would lose the game on time if this would continue, started saying “draw, it’s a draw.” Black said nothing and did not acknowledge his opponent. The Chief Tournament Director then appeared to observe the final moves of the game. They continued to play and when white realized he had only seconds left, he started to scream, “Draw, you can’t win this position. It’s a draw!” The opponent continued to play and the White player turned to the tournament director expecting him to intervene, but he did not. White’s flag fell and he lost the game on time and the \$7,600 prize as well. Is this fair? You make the call...



**27th National Chess Congress
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Even though the tournament director was observing, it was at his discretion whether or not to intervene and call the game a draw. In fact the only way White could have guaranteed the draw, would have been to make an official claim which requires White to stop the clock! Once the clock is stopped, the player can then make a claim to the tournament director, and the director will then rule on whether or not the claim will be upheld.

Since White never stopped the clock, he never officially made a claim, and had to watch the final seconds slip away on his clock without any recourse. It was an expensive lesson!



TRI-STATE Chess

GRAND PRIX STANDINGS

2011 - 2012

Place	Player Name	Point Totals	School Name
1st Place	Meyer Levinson-Blount	18.2 POINTS	SAR Academy
2nd Place	Shawn Cobb	15 POINTS	Westchester
3rd Place	Michael Levinson	14.25 POINTS	I.S. 278K
4th Place	David Yagudayev	14 POINTS	Har Torah
5th Place	Miguel Paniagua	13 POINTS	P.S226
6th Place	Jonathan Badalov	10.33 POINTS	AMAC
7-19st Place	Christian French	10 POINTS	P.S. 166M
7-19st Place	Bernard X. Wang	10 POINTS	P.S. 166M
7-19st Place	Akiva Najman-Licht	10 POINTS	SAR Academy
7-19st Place	Aryeh Padwa	10 POINTS	SAR Academy
7-19st Place	Evan Altman	10 POINTS	Heschel
7-19st Place	Josh Berman	10 POINTS	Ramaz Middle School
7-19st Place	Mark Dedona	10 POINTS	Our Lady QM
7-19st Place	Matthew Morales	10 POINTS	P.S. 226
7-19st Place	Max Kohn	10 POINTS	Riverdale Country School
7-19st Place	Noah Grosberg	10 POINTS	SAR Academy
7-19st Place	Sam Pustilnik	10 POINTS	Park East Day School
7-19st Place	Yonah Najman-Licht	10 POINTS	SAR Academy
7-19st Place	Zoe Sonkin	10 POINTS	Columbia Grammar

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To promote tournament chess in the New York City area, Tri-State Chess has introduced new “Grand Prix” prizes where top 5 finishers in ALL sections of Tri-State Chess tournament receive special “Grand Prix” points. At the end of the season players can turn their Grand Prix points into prizes as if they were cash at Tri-State’s concession stands at tournaments or at:

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For every section of each tournament the top five finishers will get the following “Grand Prix” points:

SECTION RANK (Finish)	Awarded Grand Prix Points /Tournament
1st place	10
2nd place	6
3rd place	4
4th place	2
5th place	1

If players are tied in rank they will evenly split the total points for the tied finish. For example, three players tied for first would split the total points for 1st-3rd place (20) and each would get 6.7 points.

Top 10 Grand Prix point leaders will be listed in each newsletter. Grand Prix Point Standings can always be found online at our website. At the end of the season, the top five players with the most Grand Prix points will

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So if you are finishing in the top 5 of your section keep track of those Grand Prix points. They add up quickly and might become serious cash to get you some great chess stuff at the end of the season!!

GRAND PRIX WINNERS 2010-2011				
PLACE	NAME	SCHOOL	PRIZE	PTS
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2nd	ADAM AVNET	Rodeph Sholom	\$350+Plaque	20.71
3rd	OTTAVIO PASQUINI	Lycee Francais	\$250+Plaque	18.00
4th	ERICBERN MARTINEZ	PS 279	\$150+Plaque	16.25
5th	BENJAMIN COLE	RAMAZ	\$100+Plaque	15.91
6th	KENNETH RODRIGUEZ	PS 226	PLAQUE+BOOK	15.17
7th	MICHAEL LEVINSON	IS 278	PLAQUE+BOOK	14.67
8th	MEYER LEVINSON-BLOUNT	SAR Academy	PLAQUE+BOOK	14.08
9th	EITAN GENDER	Heschel School	PLAQUE+BOOK	13.33
10th	ANGEL MEJIA	PS 226	PLAQUE+BOOK	13.00

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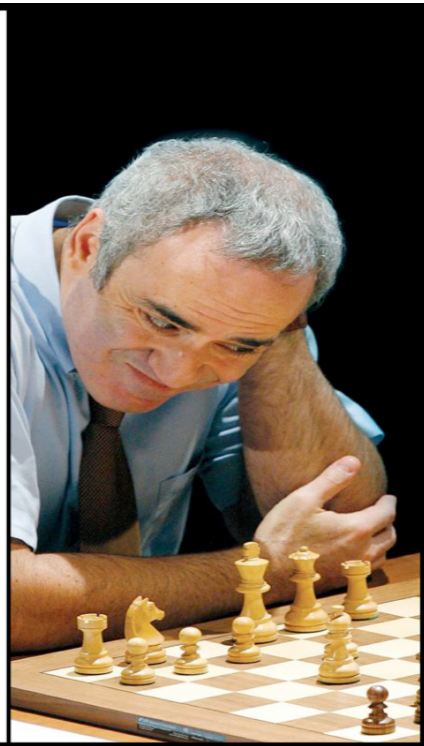
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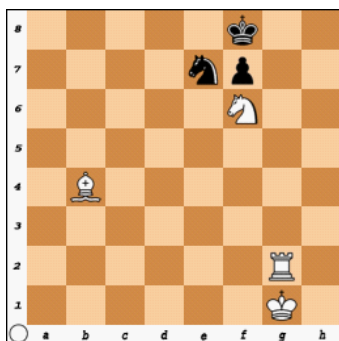
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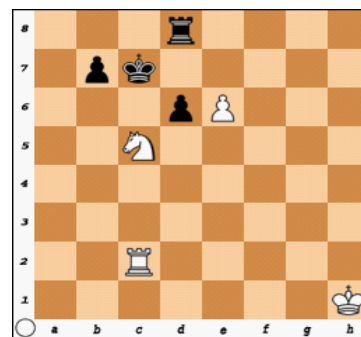
SALE EXPIRES ON MAY 1ST 2012

Puzzler Solutions from last issue.

Mate in 1

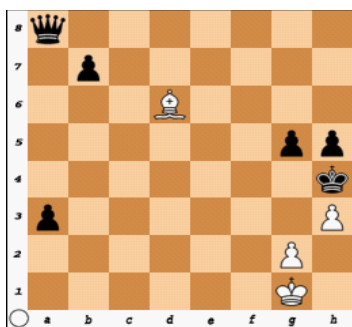


Rg8++



Nd7++

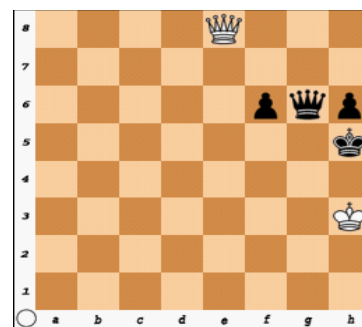
Mate in 2



1. Kh2

If 1... g4 2.Be7 ++

If any other move then 2.g3++

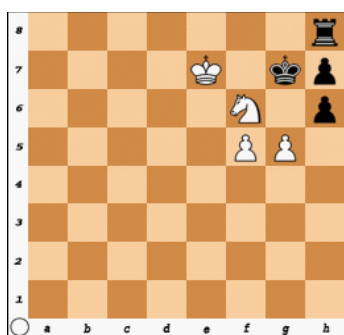


1. Qe2+

If 1... Kg5 2. Qg4++

If 1... Qg4+ 2. Qxg4++

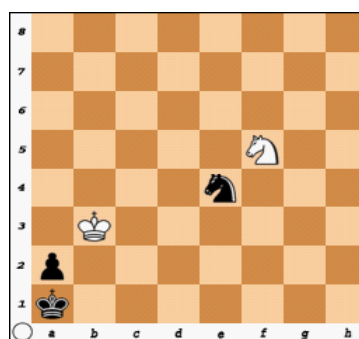
Mate in 3



1. Nh5+ Kg8

2. f6 h5 or hg

3. f7++



1. Kc2 Nc5 (or any)

2. Nd4 N any

3. Nb3++

Tri-State Chess Tournament Schedule

March 18, 2012

Rodeph Sholom Chess Championship V
 7 West 83rd St. NYC
Between Central Park West & Columbus Ave.
New York NY

April 22, 2012

PS 9 Chess Championship V
 100 West 84th Street NYC
Between Columbus & Amsterdam Ave.
New York NY

May 20, 2012

PS 158 Chess Championship XVI
 1458 York Ave. NYC *Between E 78 St & E77 St.*
New York NY

June 10, 2012

Manhattan Day School Chess
Championship VI
 310 West 75TH St
 . – *Between W. End & Riverside Dr., NYC*
New York NY

June 24, 2012

Bryant Park Chess Championship I
E 42nd Street and 5th Ave. NYC
New York NY



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Publisher & Editor in Chief: Mark Kurtzman MKurtzman@TriStateChess.com		
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