

MISSISSIPPI CHESSLETTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
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VOLUME IV

No. 3

Feb. - Mar. 1977

Dear Membership: This issue we will start off by welcoming the following new members into the MCA: Sharon Prestridge(Lake Village,Ark.), Dr. Edward Boeren(Oxford), Joseph Sentef(Oxford), Ken Campbell(Houma,La), W.A.Carter(Pascagoula), Harry Bassett(Pass Christian), Terry Collins and Ken Mahaffey(both Pascagoula). We hope to see you in subsequent Miss. tournaments!!!

The Miss. vs La. REMATCH- Since we have had NO replies from the L.C.A. we must report that it is off for the near future-- OUR enthusiasm is definitely there, where is THEIRS???

However, we have also contacted the Arkansas Chess Association and they seem very interested in a match in the near future, although no date or format set as yet. To allow greatest participation, a June date probably would suit most players. I would appreciate hearing from our top 25 players(see Rating List) if you wish to play and the possible date(venue Greenville?).

THE MISS. POSTAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP- Congratulations to Jimmy Aden and Keith Killcrease as co-champions for 1976! They receive USCF gift certs. Mr. Aden has kindly consented to act again as our Postal Director for 1977, but MUST have a minimum of 7 entries. Entries(\$2.50), not later than MARCH 15, to: Mr. Jimmy Aden, 228 Grace St., Clarksdale, Ms. 38614. Thanks again, Jim.

The MCA BY-LAWS: Since our voted-for open Swiss system for Miss. Championship 1977 effectively eliminated any fee per tournament by any MCA club, I have thought about elimination of the yearly affiliation(\$5) per club. The main reasons are 1: It tends to burden any new club being formed by adding another expense; 2: Its income is negligible in maintaining the MCA. I would recommend that only officers of new clubs be MCA members; this would automatically affiliate with the MCA and its support thereof. I would wish to hear from our club presidents on changes.

The MCA to be incorporated? In our constant struggle to REDUCE publication costs, we have contacted our resident player/attorney on the matter(outcome pending). To be eligible for the non-profit status mailing permit, we must mail out a min. 200 chessletters(membership at 91 officially now). Hence, the ONLY solution: MORE NEW MEMBERS!! Past experience has shown that 99% of new members join in their first tournament. OK, T.D'S, let's have some dates for our next Chessletter!!

Thanks, Dr. John Barrett

MISSISSIPPI RATING LIST

Events rated:

MISSISSIPPI	Ole Miss Number 1	ARKANSAS
High School Champion-	USM Round Robins 1&2	Arkansas Amateur Open
ship	ALABAMA	Knob Open III
Gulf Coast Classic	5th Ann. Jaguar Open	
Dixie Twister	Black Warrior Open	TENNESSEE
Jackson Ladder	Mobile Turkey Shoot	Pillsbury Incentive
Chess Day Tornado	ICLA Region III & Al-	Mid South Open
	abama Championship	

1 Joseph Sentef Jr..2216	Joseph Datlof.....1562	*
2 Richard G. Price..2005	Tommy Davis.....1313/16	*
3 Warren B. Porter..1856	John S. Dribben.....1486/16	
4 Anthony Crawley...1843	M. A. Farrell.....1520	**
5 Peyton Crowder....1773	Duke Fleckenstein...1149	
6 Byron Watson.....1732	Hugh Fortner.....1296	
7 Ed Issa.....1696	Mario Galicia.....1346/4	
8 Jack Dunne.....1695/4	U. Jay Gilbert.....1374	
9 John Gray.....1692	*** Walter G. Gilbert... 946/13	
10 Gunnar Woodard....1688	Bruce A. Gray.....1183/22	
11 Robert Williams...1687	Clarke Harrell.....1531	
12 Demetrius L. Hale.1684	Sterling Herbert...1319/5	
13 Stan Perkins.....1674	Vernell Herbert.....1214/17	
14 Edward G. Boeren..1672/8	Robert Horton.....1233	
15 John E. Masters...1653	Bruce H. Hustead...1486	
16 Michael J. Penny..1644	Lemuel Doty Jackson.1278/4	
17 Michael McCullar..1644/7	Rick Johnson.....1518	
18 John G. Bales.....1643	Harold L. King.....1311/7	
19 Claude A. Jackson.1640	Gary L. Ladner.....1476	
20 Keith Killcrease..1639	* Mark Alvin Latham...1176/23	
21 Larry Wilson.....1621/14	James Lee.....1460	
22 Robert Pogue.....1619	Daniel J. Lewis.....1395/11	
23 Richard Carter....1601	Sammy Lee Liddell...1468/10	
24 Jerry Joyner.....1593	Steve Lundquist....1393	
25 Ludis D. Barenis..1584	** Vaughn L. Martin...1139/4	
	Roger W. Mathes.....1319	
	Richard E. Parker...1147/15	
Joel Baillargeon..1486	Edsel Robinson.....1491/10	
L. Gayle Baker....1216/18	Terence Rutkowski...1465	
Wyatt Baker.....1007/13	Bill Salmon.....1258	
John P. Barrett...1268	Thomas G. Schrade...1536	
Marilyn Berger....1472	Gordon E. Scott.....1459	
Edward R. Bishop..1413	Bill Sierichs.....1454	
Jerry B. Blake....1017/9	Allyne L. Smith II..1555	
Kenneth Breland...1530	* Stephen D. Spencer..1396	
George L. Brooks..1490	Charles Turner Jr...1044/4	
A. R. Burford.....1356	Alvin D. Watts.....1563	**
James E. Burns...1311	Dwight K. Weaver...1418	
Elizabeth Carpenter.842/5	Edward Williamson...1185/13	*
Rick Clawson.....1134/23	Gerald R. Wilson Jr.1396	**
Daryl Collins.....1506	Laird Woodard.....1569	
Terry L. Collins..1338	Larry M. Wright.....1462	

- * Gained more than 40 points in the last supplement.
- ** Gained more than 80 points in the last supplement.
- *** Gained more than 120 points in the last supplement.

TOURNAMENT CALENDER:

MARCH 26,7- The East Arkansas Open, 5rds. SS, 50/2, E.F.\$15, 1st- \$200 + trophy, 2nd- \$100 + trophy, both GUARANTEED. Class prizes based on 40 entries. A,B,C,D/E \$75, \$35, UNrated- \$35. Trophies for each class guaranteed. Registration: 8-9 3/26 Rds: 9:30, 2,7; 9,2. Venue: Fine Arts Bldg., Student Center at Phillips County Comm. College, Helena, Ark.; Entry: Jim Traylor, 620 Franklin St, Helena, Ark. 72342, I place this event in our calender as it would be a great time to meet some of our 'cross the river fellow players (AND possible adversaries!!).

MARCH 12-16- The NATIONAL OPEN at Mobile, Ala. Finally, this mammoth tournament comes to our area. Details CL&R.

April 2,3 - The 3rd GREATER JACKSON OPEN, 5-SS, 50/2, 15/30, EF- \$12, \$10(jr) Reg:9-10AM Rds: 10:30, 2:30, 7; 8:30, 1:30. \$\$ 1st-100, 2nd- 25, A-50, B-40,10 C-40,10 D,E-30,10 Top Unrated- 25, book prizes. Site: Univ. Ms. Medical Alumni House, 2500 N.State St. Jackson, Advance entry: Dr. John Barrett, Univ. Ms. Medical Center,2500 N.State St, Jackson, Ms. 39216. MCA required, other state affiliations OK.

The 5th DIXIE OPEN was held last month and congratulations to Bob Williams for a fine score of $4\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3}{4}$

5th DIXIE OPEN
Starkville, Miss.
January 7-9, 1977

	Rtg	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Score	Med	Sol
1. Robert B. Williams.....	1666	W13	W12	W 3	W 8	D 4	4 - 1		
2. Keith Killcrease.....	1571	W16	D 3	W11	D 4	W 5	4 - 1		
3. Ed Issa.....	1562	W 6	D 2	L 1	W15	W 9	3 - 1	9 1/2	
4. Peyton Crowder.....	1779	W15	W11	D 8	D 2	D 1	3 - 1	8 1/2	
5. Richard Carter.....	1601	W17	L 8	W 7	W12	L 2	3 - 2	8 1/2	
6. Roger Mathes.....	1319	L 3	W16	W10	L 9	W15	3 - 2	6 1/2	
7. M. A. Farrell.....	1427	L12	W14	L 5	W16	W11	3 - 2	6	
8. Warren B. Porter.....	1881	W 9	W 5	D 4	L 1	LF	2 - 2	9	
9. Larry M. Wright.....	1492	L 8	W18	D15	W 6	L 3	2 - 2	8	
10. Gordon E. Scott.....	1467	D18	L15	L 6	W14	W17	2 - 2	5	
11. Paul Newson.....	1630	W14	L 4	L 2	W13	L 7	2 - 3	9	
12. Robt. E. Garner(Tenn)...	1493	W 7	L 1	W13	L 5	LF	2 - 3	8	
13. U. J. Gilbert.....	1357	L 1	W17	L12	L11	W16	2 - 3	5	10
14. Bill W. Salmon.....	1262	L11	L 7	W17	L10	Bye	2 - 3	5	8
15. Gary Ladner.....	1476	L 4	W10	D 9	L 3	L 6	1 - 3		
16. Robert Horton.....	1208	L 2	L 6	Bye	L 7	L13	1 - 4	8	
17. Judson Farmer.....	1217	L 5	L13	L14	Bye	L10	1 - 4	6	
18. Arliss Dietz (Ala).....	1534	D10	L 9	LF	LF	LF	1/2 - 4 1/2		

Tournament Directors
Larry M. Wright
Peyton Crowder

<u>Prize Winners</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Robert B. Williams	1st Place	\$ 54.00
Ed Issa	Class B	\$ 14.40
Peyton Crowder	Class B	\$ 14.40
Keith Killcrease	Class C	\$ 28.80
Roger Mathes	Class D	\$ 28.80

Some games from the Dixie Open:

Wright-Issa 1 P-K4 N-KB3 2 N-QB3 P-Q4 3 PXP NXP 4 B-B4 P-QB3 5 Q-B3 B-K3 6 B-N3 P-KN3 7 KN-K2 B-N2 8 O-O Q-R4 9 P-Q4 N-Q2 10 B-Q2 NXN 11 BXN Q-KB4 12 BXB QXB 13 KR-K1?(white misses P-Q5 N-K4 14 PXQ NXQ+ 15 PXN BXB 16 PXP+ KXP 17 NXB and black castles to prevent the combination) O-O 14 N-N3 Q-B3 15 Q-K3 KR-K1 16 P-Q5 P-K4 17 PXP QXQBP 18 N-K4 QR-Q1 19 N-N5 N-N3 20 Q-N3 Q-Q4 21 P-KR4 P-KR3 22 N-K4 Q-B3 23 P-R5 N-R5 24 Q-B3 NXB 25 PXN P-B4 26 PXP PXN 27 Q-B7+ K-R1 28 QR-Q1 RXR 29 RXR R-KB1 30 Q-K7 Q-B3 31 QXNP QXBP+ 32 K-R2 Q-R5+ 33 K-N1 Q-B7+ 34 K-R2 P-K6 35 R-Q3 Q-R5+ 36 K-N1 P-K7 37 R-B3 P-K8-Q+ 38 resigns, note by LW

Carter-Porter 1 P-K4 P-K4 2 N-KB3 P-Q3 3 N-B3 P-QB3 4 P-Q4 N-Q2 5 B-K2 B-K2 6 B-K3 Q-B2 7 O-O P-KR3 8 P-QN4 KN-B3 9 P-Q5 N-N3 10 P-QR4 PXQP 11 NXQP QNXN 12 PXN O-O 13 P-B4 P-QN3 14 P-R5 B-N2 15 Q-Q3?(possibly P-QR6, freeing the diagonal tension for queenside activity) P-K5 16 Q-Q4 PXN 17 BXPB N-Q2 18 PXP PXP 19 Q-K4 B-KB3 20 QR-B1 KR-K1 21 Q-B2 R-R6 22 B-K4 R-B6 23 B-R7+ K-R1 24 Q-N1 QXP 25 QR-Q1 R-N6 26 Q-B5 B-B1 27 BXPB PXB 28 Q-R5 Q-KR5 29 QXBP R-B1 30 resigns

Issa-Killcrease 1e4 c6 2d4 d5 3ed cd 4c4 Nf6 5Nc3 Nc6 6Nf3 Bg4 7cd N:d5 8Qb3 B:f3 9g:f3 e6 10N:d5 Q:d5 11Q:d5 e:d5 12Bb5 Rc8 13Be3 Bb4+ 14Bd2 O-O 15B:c6 Bb2+ 16K:d2 R:c6 17Rac1 Rf6 18Rc3 Rf4 19Ke3 g5 20Rd3 Rc8 21Rg1 h6 22Kd2 Rc4 23Rg4 f5 24R:f4 g:f4 25b3 Rb6 26a3 Rb6 27Rc3 Kg7 28b4 Kg6 29Rc5 Rd6 30Re7 Rb6 31Rc5 Rd6 32 Draw

Results of the I.C.I. Gulf Coast Open Jan.29-30: J.Rousselle, W.Phillips(each 4½), J.R. Potter, G.Ruiz, G.J. Bultman, Jr., L.S. Minvielle(each 4). There were 48 entries, sorry, but no individual games were sent to me.

Results of the "Winds on Capital Hill" tornado at Jackson Feb.19th: W.Porter and J.Sentef (each 3½), J.Gray, E.Boeren, M.A.Farrell(each 3), 19 entries (more than expected!). Another chess tornado is being planned as an outdoor event at a local community park, probably in May. Sorry, individual games will have to go into next issue.

From the continuing Jackson Club Ladder:

K.Killcrease- MA. Farrell (the local terror!) 1e4 Nf6 2Nc3 e5 3Nf3 Nc6 4g3 Bc5 5Bg2 O-O 6O-O a6 7d3 d6 8Bg5 h6 9Bf6 Qf6 10Ne4 Qe7 11Nc5 dc (This pawn is no weakness. Its control of d4 more than compensates) 12Nd2 Nd4 13h3 c6 14a4 f5 15e3 Ne6 16Qh5 Bd7 17Rfcl Rad8 18Rad1 Be8 19Qe2 Bg6 20f4 (It is necessary to block the advance of the dangerous f-pawn) Qd6 21Nb3 Qc7 22Qc2 Rfe8 23Qc3 ef 24ef Bh5 25Ra1 Qd6 26Ncl Nd4 27Khl (If white exchanges rooks here black has the threat of Ne2 & control of the open file. White will have trouble developing) Re1 and White resigns.

R.Johnson- J.Barrett (usurper of the clock!) 1e4 c5 2Nf3 d6 3d4 cd 4Nd4 Nf6 5Nc3 a6 6a4 g6 7Be3 e6? 8a5 (:57) Bg7 (:42) 9Be2 Nc6 10Nb3 O-O 11O-O (1:12) Re8 (:58) 12f4 (If now 12..e5, white plays Qe1+ Bg5 and Nd5 with pressure on f6) h5 (1:21, this move costs me 23min.) 13 Qe1 (1:28) Bh6 (1:28) 14Qg3 Ne7 15Rad1 (The system played allows white a slight Q-side initiative but I was trying to avoid any overly committing moves, including occupying b6 too early or with the wrong piece- R.J.) Qc7 (1:45) 16Bb6 Qb8 17f5 (1:44) ef (1:50) 18Rd6 f4 19Qd3 Be6 20 Nc5 Nc8 (1:57) 21Rd8 (1:50) Rd8 22Qd8 Kg7 23Nd5 Qe5 (NXN threatens mate) 24Nc7? Nb6 25Na8? Qc5+ 26Khl Na8 27Qa8 Ng4 (why not e4?, 1:59+) 28Bg4 Bg4 29Qb7 f3 30gf Bh3 (I cannot believe the clock flag is still up!) 31Rf2? Qf2 32Qa6 Qe1???? (Thinking mate but completely forgetting interposition of whites queen, and, of course, flag falls for black). 1-0.

R.Price- G.Woodard (English) 1Nf3 Nf6 2g3 g6 3Bg2 Bg7 4O-O O-O 5c4 d6 6Nc3 e5 7h3 Nc6 8a3 Nd7 9e4 Nc5 10d3 a5 11Be3 Ne6 12Rb1 Bd7 13b4 ab 14ab f5 15ef gf 16b5 Ne7 (one of Gunnar's favorite positions) 17Ng5 f4 18Bd5? (Ne6) Nd5 19Ne6 Nc3 20Nd8 Nd1 21 and resigns a few moves later.

Note: Joseph Sentef has offered to annotate any games sent in to the editor (to relieve the work load of your president AND editor). He is our only USCF master and could give an in-depth analysis of your game much more than my cursory treatment. Please send to me and I'll forward to him if you wish it to be published...ed.

Results of the Jackson vs Greenville chess clubs: Jackson 15-5, a good turnout despite the bitter cold weather, some of those games for the next Chessletter.

In 1975 I first played W. Porter. It was a crucial fourth round encounter in the State Chess Championship. We were both 2 - 1 and still in hot contention for the title. The winner of the game conceivably could be the next Miss. chess champion. He had White and I had Black. I realized the importance of the game but due to the overwhelming positional style of my opponent and my relative inexperience in tournament tactics I was swept from the board in less than 25 moves. However, in 1976 the situation was reversed. I had White and he Black. The game was again of crucial importance because I was 2 - 1 again and he led the tournament 3 - 0! So as white I was pleased to see that he came out fighting with the Najdorf Sicilian. I used my "pet" variation. Here is the game - Najdorf Sicilian (Fischer's 6B-QB4)

Crawley - Porter: 1 P-K4 P-QB4 2 N-KB3 P-Q3 3 P-Q4 PXP 4 NXP N-KB3 5 N-QB3 P-QR3! A psychological shock. I had expected Porter's favourite Richter Rauzer. I had detected a weakness in his play there. See his game with Ed Issa from the 75 state championship. 6B-QB4! (Per plan) Theoretically 6B-KN5 is Whites best for advantage. One grandmaster once stated that 6B-QB4 has been analysed to draw. I thought about this as I played it, but those drawing lines require Black to know twenty moves or more of theory over several different variations. 6B-QB4 requires White to know when to play tactically and when to play positionally. Overall the variation is tricky and trappy and thats just what I needed in a must win situation. Besides I felt that Porter was challenging me, and I didn't want to turn him down. Pachman says that 6P-B4 is strong for white. Other moves are 6P-KN3, P-KR3, P-QR4, B-K3, and even 6B-Q3. Its a matter of taste (and and immense knowledge of variations). 6... Q-B2 (another surprise! Porter is also using a pet variation. He is trying to get a variation of the Sozin Sicilian. However I keep the game in Najdorf territory. Typical of the Najdorf in this variation, are the moves 9P-QR3 and 11R-K1. 7 B-N3 P-K3 8 O-O N-B3 (steering for the Sozin. Now 9B-K3 would be what Black wants so I make a useful waiting move). 9 P-QR3 P-QN4? If any one move can be called the losing move this is it. White gains time through threats with his next few moves. 10 NxN! QxN 11 R-K1 (Threat B-Q5) B-K2? stopping one threat but leads Black into further danger. 11 B-N2 should have been played. 12 B-N5! O-O? (B-N2 is still the move). 13 N-Q5! Q-N2 Porter was probably astonished by my last move since he thought he had prevented any piece move to Q5. But notice how Black's Queen on B3 causes all his trouble. (13... P or NxN loses a pawn to 14 BxR or N, Nor PxB 15 PxN or P, Q-any 16 BxB) 14 NxN+ BxN (14.. PxN 15 B-R6 wins an exchange or mates) 15 BxB PxB 16 QxP Resigns! (Perhaps premature but Black's King position is broken and White mounts a decisive attack on the KN or KR files with his Queen and rooks.

Can you guess the name of this well-known GM in caricature?? I'll give you a hint., he was a candidate in the Internationals played at Biel, Switzerland last summer. Answer next issue....



COMBINATIONS IN THE NOTES(Issa's Idioms) by Ed Issa

Sometimes you never get to play your best combinations over the board. Your opponent may blunder, and your "brilliency" never sees the light of day. That's how it was in my game with Rackley in the 1976 Mid-South Open at Memphis. After wasting several tempi in the opening, he left himself wide open to a cruncher--which I never got to play.

James Rackley (1631)-Ed Issa (1693) Alyekhin Defense, Modern Variation. 1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf6 g6 (Better than 4...Bg4, in my opinion.) 5.Ng5?! (The weakest continuation. Both 5.Bc4 and 5.c4 are better.) 5...d:e!? (5...c6!?) 6.d:e Nc6?!

Berliner's 6...Bg7! should be considered. If then 7.c4 Nb4! 8.Q:d8ch. K:d8 9.N:f7ch. Ke8 10 N:h8 Nc2ch. 11.Kd1 N:al 12.N:g6 h:g6 13.Bd3 (13.f4 Bf5) 13...Pf5 14.P:f5 g:f5 15.f4 Nc6 16.Na3 Rd8ch. 17.Rd2 Nb4! and the N is saved.

Back to Rackley-Issa: 7.Bb5! Bf5!? (The book gives 7...h6, but W gets the better game.) 8.e6 P:e6 9.N:e6 f:e6 10.O-O?! (10.B:c6 would have put R's strategy to a more severe test.) 10...Qd6 11.Qe2 Bg7 12.Re1 e5 13.Rd1?! O-O-O! 14.Qg4ch. (14.c4 Nf4) 14...Qd7 15.Qg3 Qf5 16.c4?? Nf4!

Now the combinations start. F has two killer threats: R:d1# and Ne2ch. I expected 17.R:d8 Rd8 18.Qf3 (if 18.Nc3 Ne2ch.) After 18.Qf3, I had planned 18...Nh3ch! 19.Kf1 Rd1ch! 21.Ke2 Qc2 ch. 22.P (or N) d2 Ng1ch. 23.Ke3 Bh6ch. 24.Qf4 R:f4#.

Unfortunately, my opponent played 17.Re1?? Ne2ch. O-O. W loses his Q.

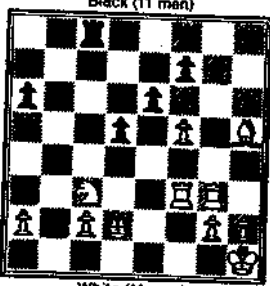
A VIEW FROM THE BOTTOM- by L.J. Farmer

Everyone will (probably) agree that there is something unique about being the "best." We all have some idea of who we think can do something better than anyone else. Who is the best piano player, the best football player, the best actor, the best chessplayer? Until recently, we all thought we knew who the world's best chessplayer was. Some of us still think so. When we view the world of the Fischers, the Larsens, the Karpovs and the Crawleys and Porters, we have to agree that "bestness" is unique. But what about "worstness?" Isn't there anything unique about being the "worst" something? Having been on the bottom of several tournaments for the last few years, I feel well qualified to discourse on the art of poorness. In chess, the essence of worseness is not always related to one's rating. There are some very good players in the 1200 range. Innate ability and lack of consistent practice may keep them there. To make a serious attempt to stay on the bottom, one must have a thorough knowledge of the elements of incorrect play. Further, he must work at it just as assiduously as the player who desires to aspire to the heights of 1400. Any higher than that is out of the question for a real "bottom" type person. You will notice that the true bottom players have consistent marks in their play which are easily spotted. 1. They are a piece down early in the game...at least a pawn. To stay even threatens their status. 2. In the middle game they must be 2-3 pawns down. 3. They always allow at least one fork which is good for the exchange. 4. The real experts "sacrifice" their queen before the 40th move. 5. In the end-game a desperate attempt to defend is made, and occasionally it even looks like a draw might be possible. 6. At those times when it is possible to fight down to your king against the opponents King and one pawn...be sure it is not a rook pawn. 7. Bottom players are always checkmated unexpectedly. - for real expertness, this is a back rank mate with a rook. There are some other features of bottom play, but this is enough to get you started. I was going to present an illustrative game, but the final mark of the really expert poor player is that his games are never worth publishing - however, I may give one next time.

In response to some of our membership for a type of problem solving format, below are some positions from actual games in international tournaments, which appeared serially in the 'Sunday Times' and compiled by Peter Clarke, the British chess columnist. I would appreciate all comments, good or otherwise. The solutions found on back page. Good luck!!

1

Black (11 men)



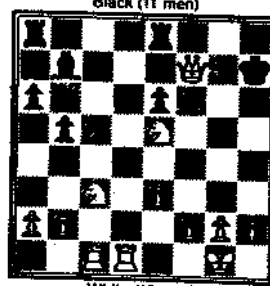
White (11 men)

How does White win quickly? Difficulty 3 (medium).

Detailed description: Chessboard position 1. Black has 11 pieces: King on g8, Queen on f8, Rook on a8, Rook on h8, Knight on f6, Knight on g6, Knight on h6, Knight on f7, Knight on g7, Knight on h7. White has 11 pieces: King on g1, Queen on f1, Rook on a1, Rook on h1, Knight on f2, Knight on g2, Knight on h2, Knight on f3, Knight on g3, Knight on h3.

2

Black (11 men)



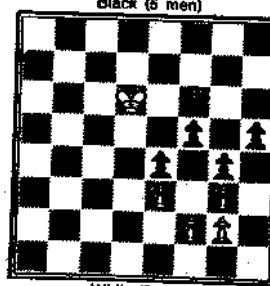
White (12 men)

White must decide whether or not to force a draw here. How would you continue? Difficulty 5 (very hard).

Detailed description: Chessboard position 2. Black has 11 pieces: King on g8, Queen on f8, Rook on a8, Rook on h8, Knight on f6, Knight on g6, Knight on h6, Knight on f7, Knight on g7, Knight on h7. White has 12 pieces: King on g1, Queen on f1, Rook on a1, Rook on h1, Knight on f2, Knight on g2, Knight on h2, Knight on f3, Knight on g3, Knight on h3, Knight on f4, Knight on g4, Knight on h4.

3

Black (5 men)



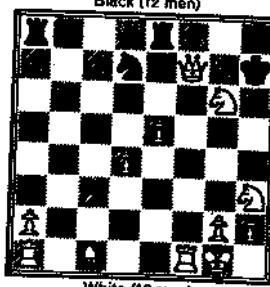
White (5 men)

Can Black, to play, find any answer to the threatened invasion by the White King? Difficulty 4 (hard).

Detailed description: Chessboard position 3. Black has 5 pieces: King on g8, Knight on f6, Knight on g6, Knight on h6, Knight on f7. White has 5 pieces: King on g1, Knight on f2, Knight on g2, Knight on h2, Knight on f3.

4

Black (12 men)



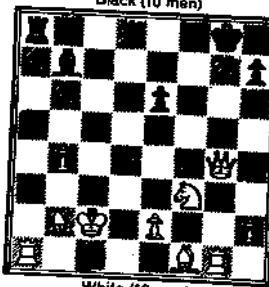
White (12 men)

How did White extract the black King from its cover? Difficulty 3 (medium).

Detailed description: Chessboard position 4. Black has 12 pieces: King on g8, Queen on f8, Rook on a8, Rook on h8, Knight on f6, Knight on g6, Knight on h6, Knight on f7, Knight on g7, Knight on h7, Knight on f8, Knight on g8, Knight on h8. White has 12 pieces: King on g1, Queen on f1, Rook on a1, Rook on h1, Knight on f2, Knight on g2, Knight on h2, Knight on f3, Knight on g3, Knight on h3, Knight on f4, Knight on g4, Knight on h4.

5

Black (10 men)



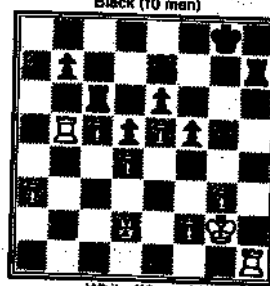
White (10 men)

Black to play. Has he enough compensation for the sacrificed material? Difficulty 4 (hard).

Detailed description: Chessboard position 5. Black has 10 pieces: King on g8, Queen on f8, Rook on a8, Rook on h8, Knight on f6, Knight on g6, Knight on h6, Knight on f7, Knight on g7, Knight on h7. White has 10 pieces: King on g1, Queen on f1, Rook on a1, Rook on h1, Knight on f2, Knight on g2, Knight on h2, Knight on f3, Knight on g3, Knight on h3.

6

Black (10 men)



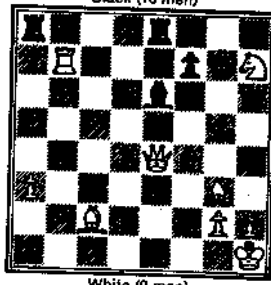
White (10 men)

White had five minutes in which to make his next three moves and assess the Rook sacrifice at QK17. Does it win? Difficulty 4 (hard).

Detailed description: Chessboard position 6. Black has 10 pieces: King on g8, Queen on f8, Rook on a8, Rook on h8, Knight on f6, Knight on g6, Knight on h6, Knight on f7, Knight on g7, Knight on h7. White has 10 pieces: King on g1, Queen on f1, Rook on a1, Rook on h1, Knight on f2, Knight on g2, Knight on h2, Knight on f3, Knight on g3, Knight on h3.

7

Black (10 men)



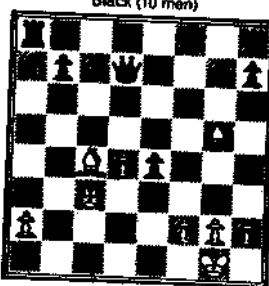
White (9 men)

White has just played Q-K4, threatening Q x P.ch etc. How should Black continue? Difficulty 3 (medium).

Detailed description: Chessboard position 7. Black has 10 pieces: King on g8, Queen on f8, Rook on a8, Rook on h8, Knight on f6, Knight on g6, Knight on h6, Knight on f7, Knight on g7, Knight on h7. White has 9 pieces: King on g1, Queen on f1, Rook on a1, Rook on h1, Knight on f2, Knight on g2, Knight on h2, Knight on f3, Knight on g3.

8

Black (10 men)



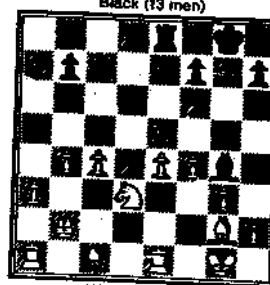
White (9 men)

What is the best way for White to pursue his attack? Difficulty 4 (hard).

Detailed description: Chessboard position 8. Black has 10 pieces: King on g8, Queen on f8, Rook on a8, Rook on h8, Knight on f6, Knight on g6, Knight on h6, Knight on f7, Knight on g7, Knight on h7. White has 9 pieces: King on g1, Queen on f1, Rook on a1, Rook on h1, Knight on f2, Knight on g2, Knight on h2, Knight on f3, Knight on g3.

9

Black (13 men)



White (14 men)

Black to play. Can he exploit his advantage in development and the looseness of White's position? Difficulty 2 (easy).

Detailed description: Chessboard position 9. Black has 13 pieces: King on g8, Queen on f8, Rook on a8, Rook on h8, Knight on f6, Knight on g6, Knight on h6, Knight on f7, Knight on g7, Knight on h7, Knight on f8, Knight on g8, Knight on h8. White has 14 pieces: King on g1, Queen on f1, Rook on a1, Rook on h1, Knight on f2, Knight on g2, Knight on h2, Knight on f3, Knight on g3, Knight on h3, Knight on f4, Knight on g4, Knight on h4, Knight on f5, Knight on g5, Knight on h5.

1

(Parma v Ramirez, Malaga, 1883.) (r2r1k/1sp1/p3pp1p/q2p1P1B/8/EN2RR1/P1P-Q2P/7K.)
 White quickly destroyed Black's defences by 1 R x B1, K x R; 2 R - K3 ch, K - R2; 3 B - K16 ch, K - K12 (or 3... P x B; 4 R x P and 5 Q x P mate); 4 B - R7 ch; K x B; 5 R - R3 etc. Being in the way, the white Bishop sacrificed itself.

2

(Janowski v Chajes, New York, 1916.) (r2r1b3Qpk/pq2pb2/1pn1N3/2N1P3/PP3PPP/2RR2K1.)
 Play continued 20 Kt - Q7, Kt x Kt; 21 R x Kt, B - B3; 22 Kt - K41, B x P (if 22... B x Kt, then 23 Q x B, R - KK1; 24 OR - B7 wins); 23 Kt - K15 ch, K - R3; 24 P - K14, P - K13; 25 P - KR4, R - R1; 26 Q - R7 ch, Resigns - and Janowski earned the 1st Brilliancy Prize. When the same position occurred in Mikenas v Kashdan, Prague, 1931, a draw was agreed!

3

(Pomar v Casades, Olot, 1974.) (r5/3K1k2/1p1p/4p1p/4P1P/5PP1/3.)
 Yes, Black shattered his opponent's plans by 1... P-B51; 2 K-Q6 (if 2 KP x P, then 2... P-R5; 3 P x P, P-K16, queening a pawn), P-R5; 3 K x P (or 3 P x RP, P-K16), P-B61; 4 P x BP, P-R6. White resigned, being unable to stop the KR.P.

4

(Steinitz v Trenchard, Vienna, 1896.) (r2r1b2/p1pn1Qpk/1p4Np/4P3/3P4/2N4N/P5PP/R1B2R1K1.)
 White won by 21 B x P, Kt - K7 ch; 22 K - R1, K x B; 23 R - B51, Kt x QP; 24 R - R5 ch, K x R; 25 Kt(K16) - B4 ch. The Rook manoeuvre set up the Q+Kt battery.

5

(Botvinnik v Mysocoyedov, Leningrad, 1931.) (r2r2k1/pb4pp/1p3p2q/1P4Q1/5k12/YBK1P2P/R4BR1.)
 Yes, Black's compensation is sufficient - to draw but not to win. The game ended 24... OR - B1 ch; 25 B - B3, R x B ch; 26 K x R, Q - K6 ch; 27 K - K12, R - Q7 ch; 28 Kt x R, Q x Kt ch; 29 K - Kt1, Q - Q8 ch; 30 K - K12, Q - Q7 ch; Drawn.

6

(Byrne v Bachmann, Helsinki, 1952.) (k1/pp2q2/2r1p3/1RPpPppi/3P4/P5P1/3Q1PK1/7R.)
 White decided that the Rook sacrifice was correct and won as follows: 38 R x P, Q x R; 39 Q x P ch, R - K12 (the alternatives yield White a win in a Queen ending: either 39... K - R1; 40 Q - Q8 ch, K - K12; 41 Q - B6 ch, K - K1; 42 Q - K16 ch, K - R1; 43 R x R ch, Q x R; 44 Q - K8 ch etc. or 39... Q - K12; 40 Q - Q8 ch, K - B2; 41 R x R, Q x R; 42 Q - Q7 ch; 40 Q - Q8 ch, K - B2; 41 R - R61, R - KK13; 42 R - R7 ch, R - K12; 43 Q - KR81, Resigns.

7

(Kuznetzowicz v Adamek, Bath, 1973.) (r2d/p2RpkN/4b2q/1p3pQb2/P5B1/2B3P/7K.)
 Black played 30... QR - Q1, letting his opponent escape with a draw after 31 B x B, P x B; 32 Q - K5 ch, K - Kt1; 33 Kt - B6 ch etc. Instead, he could have won by 30... B - B41; 31 Q x P ch (or 31 Q x Q5, R - K8 ch!), K x Kt; 32 B x B ch, K - Kt1, and White is defenceless owing to the weakness of his back rank.

8

(Thomas, A.R.B. v Unzicker, Hastings, 1858-51.) (k1k1/ppq2pp/3/4B1/2B2P/3/2Q5/P4PPP/6K1.)
 White played 21 Q - KK13 but could not do better than draw. His best line, which should have won, was 21 Q - K14 ch, Q - Q3; 22 Q x P, R - K1; 23 B - Q21, Q - Q1 (or 23... R - K2; 24 Q - B8 ch, R - K1; 25 Q - B5 ch!); 24 B - K14 ch, R - K2; 25 Q x KP, P - K13; 26 Q - K6, K - K1; 27 B - K16 ch, K - B1; 28 O - B6 ch, K - K1; 29 B - B4 ch, forcing mate - a triumph for the Bishops.

9

(Karpov v Pritchett, Nice, 1974.) (r1r1k1/ppq2ppp/3n2/4p3/1PPpPPp1/P2N2P1/NQ4BP/R1B1R1K1.) Black hurriedly played 22... P x P7; 23 B x P, Q x P and eventually lost. It was later discovered that he could have won by 22... Kt - K7 ch; 23 R x Kt, B x R; 24 Q x B, Q x P; 25 B - B1, Q - Q5 ch.

A parting thought: "You must not, when you have gained a victory, use any triumphing or insulting expression, nor show too much pleasure; but endeavor to console your adversary, and make him less dissatisfied with himself by every kind and civil expression, that may be used with truth; such as, You understand the game better than I, but you are a little inattentive; or, You play too fast; or, You had the best of the game, but something happened to divert your thoughts, and that turned it in my favour"... "Morals of Chess", Ben FRANKLIN

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