

NATIONAL OPEN NEWS

VOLUME 2011, ISSUE 3

JUNE 12, 2011

THREE PERFECT AFTER THREE

After three rounds of play GMs Varuzhan Akobian and Ray Robson, along with IM Dionisio Aldama, are the only players left with a perfect score.

Akobian won a pawn in the middle game against GM Alex Yermolinsky while Aldama picked off his second GM in a row, grinding down Nick de Firmian in a complicated battle.

Robson's game was a different story, scoring a crushing victory over GM Mikheil Kekelidze with the black pieces. GM Ben Finegold provides us with his insights on the game.

Kekelidze, M (2572)
Robson, R (2606)

National Open (3), 11.06.2011

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3

The Catalan, very topical nowadays. Robson plays his pet variation, which involves dxc4, Bb4+, and c5. This is not common, but Ray does well with this line, likely due to extensive analysis with Catalan expert Alex Onischuk.

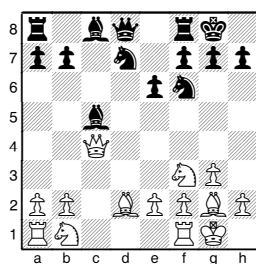
4...dxc4 5.Bg2 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 c5 7.0-0

White has many moves at his disposal, but 7.0-0 actually scores the best in the online database.

7...0-0 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Qc2 Nbd7

Michael Adams drew Levon Aronian in 2010 with 9...Nc6, but 9...Nbd7 is slightly more common. Clearly this is still in Ray's prep.

10.Qxc4



10...b5

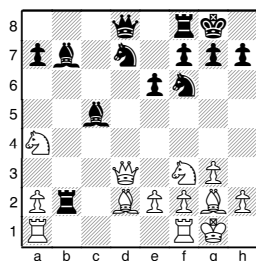
Looks exciting (and it is!). This is highly recommended by engines. Normally the bishop on c8 is the big problem for black in the Catalan. Not this game!

11.Qxb5 Rb8 12.Qd3 Rxb2 13.Nc3 Bb7

This seems to be a novelty. In Gonzalez Perez-Barson, 2010, black played 13...Nb6 and also won. It looks like this line is quite ok for Black.

14.Na4?

Knight on the rim is grim. Best was 14.Rab1 with an equal game. Now Ray gets aggressive.

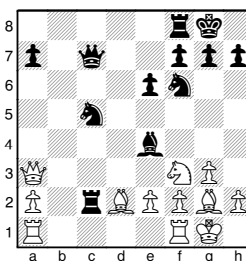


14...Be4! 15.Qc3 Rc2 16.Qb3 Qc7

16...Qe7 is more precise. This makes sure the queen does not get harassed by a later Ba5.

Black is still doing well, but White should be fine now.

17.Nxc5 Nxc5 18.Qa3



18...Nd3!

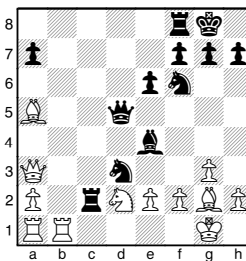
18...Bxf3?! 19.Ba5!±

19.Ba5! Qb7 20.Rfb1?

20.Nd4! Bxg2 21.Nxc2 Bxf1 22.Rxf1 Ne5=

20...Qd5 21.Nd2??

21.Bf1!≠



21...Nxf2! 22.Nxe4 N2xe4 23.Rd1

As Roman Dzindzichashvili oft says 'I am looking, but I cannot find a move that doesn't win.'

23...Qc4

23...Qh5 won more easily but Ray must have known what I said in the previous note due to the fact



GM Ray Robson

that we played a 10 game match 2 weeks prior to this game.

24.Bf3

As is always the case, Bf1 was more tenacious.

24...Ng5

With White's king exposed, and White's pieces taking up residence on the a-file, the rest is easy for Ray.

25.Be1 Rxe2 26.Rac1 Rxa2

26...Nh3+! 27.Kh1 Rc2 Threatening Qf1 mate! 28.Bc3 Rxa2-+

27.Qxf8+

Although White is still losing, he could have lasted longer with 27.Rxc4 Rxa3 28.Bg2 Nf3+ 29.Bxf3 Rxf3

27...Kxf8 28.Bb4+

Better was resigns.

28...Qxb4 29.Rc8+ Ne8 0-1

I had to annotate this game because all I saw previous to the complete game was the final position, and I had to know what White had done to be beaten in such a crushing manner.

FIVE WAY TIE HEADING INTO FINAL DAY'S PLAY

After four rounds of the National Open we have a five-way tie at the top of the standings.

Leaders GMs Varuzhan Akobian and Ray Robson settled for an early night while IM Dionisio Aldama found a nice little tactic against GM Tamaz Gelashvili to secure a draw (see position on this page.).

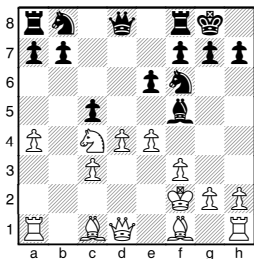
Those three leaders were joined by GMs Alejandro Ramirez and Sam Shankland who beat IM Sal Bercys and GM Larry Kaufman respectively.

Here is Shankland's interesting win against Kaufman.

Kaufman,L (2465) Shankland,S (2608)

National Open (4.5), 11.06.2011

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 e6 7.f3 Bb4 8.Nxc4 0-0 9.Kf2 c5 10.e4 Bxc3 11.bxc3



11...Bxe4 12.fxe4

This position has been reached by some of the top players in the world, 12.Ba3 Bd5 13.Ne5 Nbd7 14.Nxd7 Qxd7 15.Bxc5 Rfc8 16.a5 b6 17.Bb4 Qc7 18.Qd2 h6 19.Ba6 Bb7 20.Be2 Nd5 21.c4 Nf4



IM Dionisio Aldama



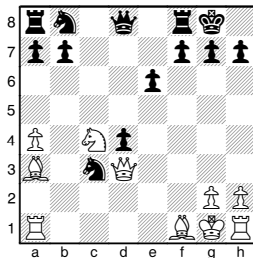
GM Varuzhan Akobian

22.Bf1 Ba6 23.axb6 axb6 24.d5 exd5 25.g3 Ng6 ½-½ Giri,A - Vallejo Pons,F /Rijeka 2010

12...Nxe4+ 13.Kg1 Nxc3 14.Qd3

My database shows one game in this position and white played 14.Qe1.

14...cxd4 15.Ba3



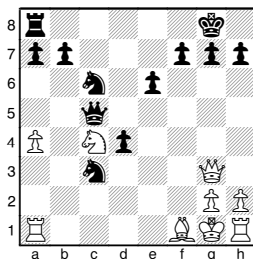
15...Nc6!

Attempting to save the rook leaves Black in trouble, 15...Re8 16.Nd6 Re7 17.Qxd4±

16.Bxf8 Qxf8

Black has 4 pawns for a rook and the White rook on h1 is out of play, a very double edged position.

17.Qg3 Qc5



18.Bd3?!

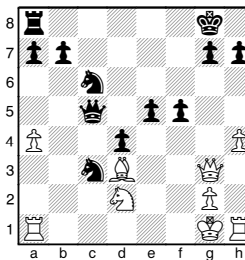
18.Qd6 Qf5 19.Qg3 Qc5 could

have lead to a peaceful ending.

18...e5!

The pawns are going to start rolling!

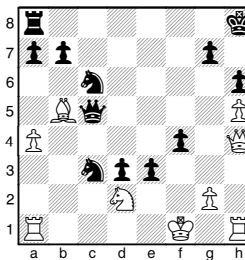
19.Nd2 f5! 20.h4



20...e4!+

Simple but effective. The pawns are going to cost White some material.

21.Bc4+ Kh8 22.h5 d3+ 23.Kf1 f4 24.Qh4 h6 25.Bb5 e3



The Black d, e and f pawns look ominous!

26.Bxc6 bxc6 27.Nf3 d2

27...e2+ was mate in 6, not that it matters.

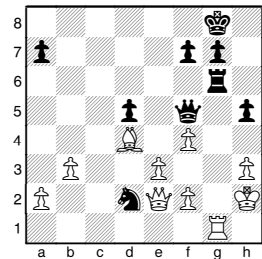
28.Nxd2 exd2 29.Qg4 Ne4 30.Ke2 Qe3+ 0-1

30...Qe3+ 31.Kd1 Qd3 and mate on either c3 or f2 follows.

Here is Aldama's black to play and draw position against Gelashvili.

Gelashvili,T (2735) Aldama,D (2424)

National Open (4.2), 11.06.2011

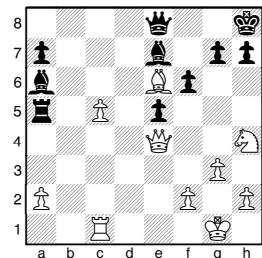


32...Qd3!= 33.Qd1 [33.Qxh5?? Rxc1 34.Kxc1 Qf1+ 35.Kh2 Qxf2+ 36.Kh1 Nf1+] 33...Qc2 ½-½

And here's a quick white to play and win position courtesy of Peter Graves against IM Walter Shipman.

Graves,P (2275) Shipman,W (2222)

National Open (4.20), 11.06.2011



31.Ng6+ 1-0

POKER TOURNAMENT

The National Open No Limit Hold'em Poker Tournament will take place on Monday morning, starting at 10:00 am.

Register at the Poker Room. Entry fee is \$100 (no rebuys or add-ons).

Prizes are based on entries. Commemorative bracelet for the winner and each staff member has a \$25 bounty on their head!



PHOTO GALLERY

The following photos, and a lot more, are all available for you to own on the Tournament CD. Order yours from the Registration Desk for just \$25. Remember, should you play well enough, you can always use a Plus Score certificate to buy it!





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Dropping Out?

We hope not! However, should it become necessary, withdrawal sheets are available at the Registration desk. If you do not intend to play in either round 5 or 6, please inform us as soon as possible. If you are unable to inform us in person, call 702-560-0955 and leave a voice message. Be sure to speak clearly and give your name, section and contact number.

NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Time Control 40/2, SD/1

Time delay clocks are preferred and must have the delay set to 5 seconds.

Do not subtract 5 minutes!

GRAND BALLROOM

SUNDAY

Round 5 10:00 am

Round 6 5:00 pm

Cash Bar (Napa C) 8:00 pm

Winner's Circle 10:00 pm - 1:00 am
(Napa C)

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The Chess Store is open each day from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm in Napa A.

★
★ **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP** ★
★
★ SUNDAY ★
★ 9:30 am Side Event Awards ★
★ 10:00 am Round 4 ★
★ 1:00 pm Round 5 ★
★ 4:00 pm Closing Ceremony ★
★

DEMO BOARDS FOR SALE!

All the demo boards in use are for sale for just \$99. If you are interested, please contact the Registration Desk to purchase. Please note that the buyer must arrange to get the demo board home!



FREE LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY

12:00 pm Analysis of your games, GM Henley (Huntington)

3:00 pm Rulebook Tactics!, NTD Just (Huntington)

7:00 pm Analysis of your games, GM Henley (Huntington)

National Open players 14 and under who wish to have a game considered for the "Freddie" Best Game Played prize must bring it to one of the "Analysis of your games" lectures. Only rounds 1 through 5 will be considered.

CD TOURNAMENT BULLETINS

Hundreds of games, photos and more mailed on a CD within days of the National Open. This daily *National Open News* will be free to all National Open players. If you think your game is worthy of publication, check the box on the scoresheet.

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