



West Chester Chess Club - West Chester, PA

Established in 1974

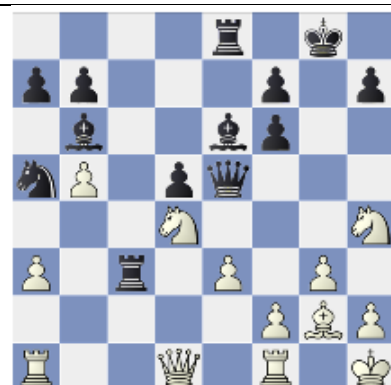
Over 50 Years of Great Chess!

The West Chester Chess Club plays USCF-rated [OTB chess on Thursday evenings](#) for players 16 years of age or older. Details and contacts are [here](#). For newsletter-related questions, please reach out to wcccnewsletter1974@gmail.com. Current and previous editions of this Newsletter [are stored here](#).

Newsletter – August 2026

Content:

- WCCC member Ariv DebMisra was awarded the National Master title this year just before his 12th birthday. This is an amazing achievement! He shares his story in the article *My Chess Journey: From a Little Chessboard to National Master*
- WCCC Member Profile: Jim Larsen
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- WCCC 2026 Club Championship: Jim Larsen – Joe Mucerino
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How does White win after 21...Rc4?
(Solution in the game Kevin – Dirk)



This is a difficult one: What are the two moves Black can play in this position to keep the position equal?
(Solution in the game Jim – Dirk)



Black played 12...h6 and White created a rook/queen battery on the d-file to advance the d-pawn: What is the best way to create that battery? (Solution in Jim – Joe)

My Chess Journey: From a Little Chessboard to National Master

By Ariv DebMisra

Hi, I am NM Ariv DebMisra. I am 12 years old, and I gave myself a special birthday present this year — earning my National Master title. Do you want to know my story?

My chess journey started in the summer of 2018, when I was just four years old. Every summer, my grandparents visited us, and we spent wonderful time together. During one of those visits, my grandparents brought me a small wooden chessboard. My grandfather introduced me to chess. When I first heard the word “chess,” I thought it was “Chase,” like my favorite *Paw Patrol* character. When I found out it was actually chess, I still liked it because it was complicated.

That was the beginning of my love for chess. I always enjoyed solving puzzles and figuring out difficult things. Chess felt like a mystery where every move created a new challenge.

After my grandparents left, we moved to a new house, and the chessboard was packed away. Chess became just an old memory. A few years later, just before COVID, I found that old chessboard again. I picked it up and started playing. I still remembered what my grandfather had taught me. Soon, I was playing against my parents and online opponents. Within a few weeks, I reached a 1000+ rating on Chess.com.

My parents then found me a coach. My first lessons were from 10 to 11 PM, which was very late for me. But I never complained because I loved learning chess. After my first lesson, I asked to play in a tournament. My parents warned me that I might lose every game. I said, “That’s okay. I will learn.”

In my first tournament, I played in the Under-600 section and scored 2½ out of 4 games. In one game, I saved a losing position by creating a stalemate — something nobody had taught me before. That tournament made me realize how much I loved chess.

During COVID, chess became a big part of my life. I spent many hours every day studying, solving puzzles, analyzing games, and playing online. I completed the entire ChessKid curriculum in less than three months and kept improving.

My first big tournament after COVID was the World Open in Philadelphia. I saw grandmasters, hundreds of players, and the serious world of chess for the first time. It was super exciting for me. I finished fourth in my section after losing a winning position in the last round.

At the World Open, I met the Women’s Blind Chess Champion. She told me something I will always remember: “An athlete who goes to the Olympics but does not win a medal is still called an Olympian.” Her words taught me that winning is not the only thing that matters. The journey, hard work, mistakes, and never giving up are what help us grow.

My rating improved quickly, from 300 to 1500 in about two months. But the journey from 1500 to 2000 and beyond took years of hard work. I love attacking and finding creative ideas on the board. Sometimes, when I see an exciting opportunity, I get so focused on my attack that I miss my opponent’s

simple moves. I have lost many winning games because of this. Chess has taught me that excitement must always be balanced with careful thinking.

My other weakness was my opening. I never enjoyed studying openings, and I made some very poor opening choices that cost me many games.

I was lucky to have many people supporting me. My coaches, chess friends and their parents, and the West Chester Chess Club became important parts of my journey. They always encouraged me during my struggles, gave me advice, and believed in me. One of my parents' friends, who was once a promising young chess player himself, became one of my biggest supporters.

In December 2024, I became the national champion in both Classical and Blitz in my grade level. That year, I also won the PA Elementary Championship and participated in the prestigious Rockefeller tournament. By the end of summer 2025, I came very close to becoming a National Master. I was only two points away, but then I lost more than 50 rating points. It was heartbreaking. I was nervous because I was so close. Still, I kept working because I knew my moment would come.

Finally in January 2026, a week before my 12th Birthday, I crossed USCF 2200 at the Media Quad tournament. I became a National Master at the age of 11.

My first chess title was the best birthday gift I could give myself.

Chess taught me that a champion is not someone who wins every game. A champion is someone who keeps learning, keeps fighting, and keeps standing until the very last move.

2024 - NJ Open

I am excited to share this game as this is my first win against a Grandmaster. I was 10, and this win made me one of the youngest players to win against a grand master.

Note: Ratings are mentioned as Fide rating

John Fedorowicz (2335) - Ariv Debmisra (1861) [E11]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2



I played this opening because black can get good position if played well and can even start and attack

4...Qe7 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 d6 8.0-0 a5 9.Nc3 Nc6 10.e4 e5 11.Nd5



This move I didn't know too well but I knew it was inferior to the main line

11...Qd8 12.Nxf6+ Qxf6 13.d5 Nb8 14.Ne1



Here I can play on the dark squares since both dark square bishops are missing and my light square bishop can control the light squares while his is bad and his pawns are only controlling light squares

14...Nd7 15.Nc2 Nc5 16.Ne3 Qh6 17.Qc2 Bd7



Here I realized that he didn't have a clear plan and was in a tough spot
18.b3 g6 19.Rae1 f5



I did this because he couldn't use the king weakness and he couldn't really stop the kingside push in a good way

20.exf5 gxf5 21.f4 e4 22.Qc3 Qg6 23.Nd1 h5 24.Nf2 b5



Now I started pressuring both sides since his pieces are all on the kingside and he can't defend both sides in a good way.

25.Re3 b4 26.Qd2 a4



If he takes on b4 then I can go Rb8 and win the b3 pawn

27.h3 [27.Qxb4 Rfb8 28.Qd2 axb3 29.axb3 Nxb3]

27...axb3 28.axb3 Rfb8



Now I move my focus to the queen side because his kingside is weak but not that weak so i need to create more threats and weaknesses

29.g4 Ra3



Now I'm trying to put pressure on the queenside

30.gxf5 Bxf5 31.Rb1 Kf7



Trying to go Rg8 and put more pressure on the king side

32.Nh1 Rg8 33.Kh2 h4 34.Qe2 Qh6



Now there's too many threats that he can't defend

35.Kg1 Nd3 36.Rxe4 Bxe4 37.Qxe4 Ra2



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WCCC Member Profile: Jim Larsen

By Ed Snyder

Jim Larsen is one of our more senior members, having joined the West Chester Chess Club (WCCC) in 1993. He remembers playing Charles Jay, an original member of the club, at one of our First Saturday Quads. The next year he played Mel Ross and Joe Mucerino for the first time, losing to Mel and drawing Joe. The WCCC held First Saturday Quads for many years before stopping them when Covid-19 became a problem.

Jim drew for second place in the 2026 WCCC Championship, going undefeated with a record of four wins and three draws. At this level of play that is an awesome achievement. Having a peak rating of 2083 he is one of the club's experts.

Jim was born and raised in Suffern, New York, and learned to play chess when he was six years old. His father taught him the game and they played often, but Jim admits they were both novices. Jim's dad gave him this advice, "When in doubt, push a pawn," which Jim knows now is not sound advice. Jim told me once that his father and he would talk after every Thursday night game. His dad was extremely interested in how Jim fared. Jim enjoyed playing chess recreationally for many years before discovering tournament chess.



Jim attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. While there he earned an undergraduate degree in Computer and Systems Engineering and an MBA. After finishing his Masters, Jim began working for a Big 5 consulting firm in Malvern, Pennsylvania, and has lived in Chester County since then.

He loved the eleven years spent in his consulting job even though it involved travelling constantly. After his two children were born, Jim decided to change direction and wanted to explore entrepreneurship. At this time Jim started a non-medical senior care business which he owned for eighteen years. Several years ago, Jim and his wife Erin opened a Mighty Dog roofing franchise which they are truly enjoying.

Jim played his first USCF event in 1991, entering a small Swiss in Albany, New York, which was almost his last. Between rounds a National Master in a bright periwinkle jumpsuit followed him down the hall repeatedly saying "Hi, hi." Jim wondered what kind of weird subculture he was entering, but his love of chess prevailed. That's a good thing for all of us chess players.

Jim's other interests include reading and exercise. He also likes drinking coffee and listening to jazz. His favorite quote is "This too shall pass."

The night the chess goddess [Caïssa](#) smiled at me

By Dirk Troltenier

Do you sometimes have the feeling of winning a game although you totally don't deserve it? Last Thursday this happened to me twice. August 6 was Quads night and my group consisted of Steven Linett, Kevin Chen, Jim Larsen and me. After playing Steven in the first round, Jim and I were paired for the second round:

Jim Larsen – Dirk Troltenier

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 c5 5.c4 Nc6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.O-O Be7 8.Nc3 O-O 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.a3



10...Be6?

There are two continuations that are better and ensure Black an approximately equal position:

- 1) The human variation: 10...a5. This solves the b4 problem completely: Black creates a hole on b5 but keeps his bishop active. 11.Bf4 (11.Bg5 d4 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Ne4 Qe7 14.Nxc5 Qxc5 is similar to

the game and equal.) 11...h6 12.Rc1 Be6 13.Ne5 Ba7 14.Nb5 Bb8=;

- 2) The engine variation: 10...Ne4! Amazing! Black sacs a pawn, exchanges the queens but the activity of his pieces ensure him equality. 11.Nxd5 Be6 12.Nc3 Qxd1= (12...Nxc3= 13.bxc3 Re8 14.Qd3 h6 15.Bf4 Qf6 16.Qb5 Bb6 17.c4 Qe7 18.Bd2 Bd7 19.Qb3) 13.Nxd1 Na5 14.b4 Nb3 15.Rb1 Be7 16.Be3 Rfd8 17.Re1 Rac8

11.Bg5

A more active approach would have been: 11.b4 Bd6 12.Ng5 Qe7 13.Nxe6 fxe6

11...d4 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Ne4 Qe7 14.Nxc5 Qxc5 15.Rc1 Qb6



This is a typical position in the Tarrasch Defense: Black has the isolated d4–pawn and needs to play against e2, put the rooks on e8 and d8, and possibly advance the d-pawn. White needs to restrain Black’s activity and build up pressure against d4. The position is equal.

16.Qd3 h6 17.Rfd1 Bb3 18.Re1 Rad8 19.Nd2 Bd5 20.Nc4 Qb5 21.Ne5 Qb6 22.Nxc6 bxc6 23.b4 Bxg2 24.Kxg2= Rfe8?

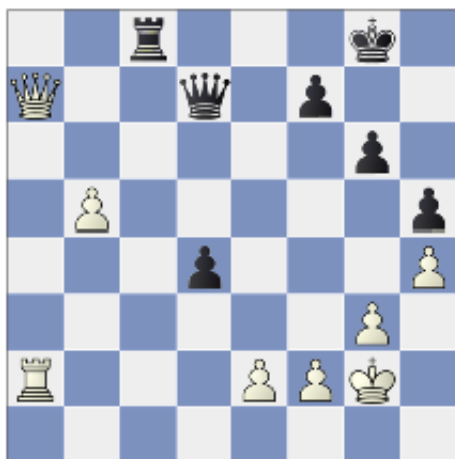


Now that's mistake. Instead, Black should have started to get rid of his pawn islands, starting with a5: 24...a5 25.Rc4 axb4 26.axb4 Rd5=

25.Rc5!

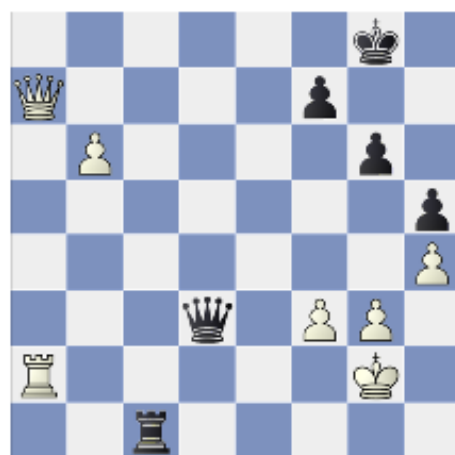
Great move! Jim is taking away the a5 option from me, further restraining my active options:

25...Re6 26.Rec1 Qb7 27.R1c2 Qd7? 28.a4 g6 29.b5 cxb5 30.axb5 h5 31.h4 Rde8 32.Qc4 Re5 33.Ra2 Rxc5 34.Qxc5 Rc8 35.Qxa7



A good move, but it would have been simpler to take with the rook on a7 when in the resulting rook endgame with 4 vs 3 pawns Jim could have tested my rook endgame knowledge for a long time with no risk of losing:
 35.Rxa7 Rxc5 36.Rxd7 Rxb5 37.Rxd4

35...Qd5+ 36.f3 d3 37.exd3 Qxd3 38.b6 Rc1



39.Rf2?? After this move the drawn position is lost, White had to play a somewhat tricky maneuver to ensure the draw: 39.Kh2 Qf1 40.Qa8+ Kg7 41.f4 Qg1+ 42.Kh3 Qxb6

39...Qd1 40.Qa8+ Kh7 41.Kh3 Qh1+ 42.Rh2 Qf1+ 43.Rg2 Rc2 44.f4 Qh1+ 45.Rh2 Rxh2#

0-1

So, obviously, Caïssa did me a big favor in this game but she had an even better treat in store for me in the last round.

Kevin Chen – Dirk Troltenier

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.a3



As you can see Jim and I had exactly the same position in our game in round 2, with Kevin sitting at the neighboring board. So, during the game I was thinking how often does it happen that one gets the same position in move 10 in two consecutive games? Could it be that Kevin, whose game had finished earlier than Jim's and mine, had studied that line while Jim and I were still playing? Unlikely, yes! Was I going crazy? Probably. Only Kevin will be able to answer that.

Feeling a little paranoid, I started thinking of one of the first sayings I learned after moving to the US: "Just because you are paranoid does not mean nobody is after you" and I chose a continuation different from the one in the game with Jim.

10...Re8 Not that great, White is slightly better, but OK. As mentioned before 10....Ne4 is best.

11.b4 Bb6 12.b5= Na5? +/-

When playing the Tarrasch Defense Black has to play dynamically and I thought Ne7 is too passive.

Having to play dynamically in the Tarrasch is correct, but the dynamic line starts with 12...Ne7:

12...Ne7 13.Bg5 Ne4 14.Bxe7 Rxe7 15.Nxd5 Rd7 16.Qc2 Rxd5 17.Qxe4 Rxb5 18.Rfd1 Qf8 with an equal and complicated position.

One more thought that ran through my head: I am currently reading Mikhail Tal's autobiography (which, BTW, is highly entertaining and worth reading) with lots of his amazing games and combinations. Feeling empowered by his spirit I was thinking of Nc4 and a potential sacrifice on e3 in the long run. However, being at home now and having consulted Mr Stockfish, it's clear to me that Tal's spirit was somewhere else that night and my visions were all pipe dreams. 12... Ne7 is the way to go.

13.Bg5 Be6 14.e3!



Very cleverly played by Kevin: The pawn formation f2&e3 shuts down the B on b6: This is similar to the pawn formation b2&c3 when Black fianchettoes with Bg7 e.g. in the Alapin, or b7&c6 in the Slav with g3.

14...Rc8 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Ne2 Qd6? 17.Ned4 Rc3

Looking for activity I figured I attack the pawn on a3 with Rc3 and Qd6. That's a bad plan though, since Kevin has too strong a kingside attack and does not care about what I do on the queen side.

18.Nh4 Qe5 19.Ndf3 Qd6 20.Nd4 Qe5 21.Kh1?



White did not want a draw, which is commendable and the sign of a true champion. In this particular situation, though, it would have been better to not allow Black to exchange the Nd4 and re-position the Nd4 with 21.Ne2! Rc4 22.Nf4 Rd8 and a clear advantage for White.

21...Rc4??

Black completely fails to see the white concept and is lost after this move. Instead, he could have reached an approximately equal position by removing the crucial attacker on d4. Then, with the white attack stopped, Black's activity would have allowed him to sac d5 and still be equal: 21...Bxd4!= 22.exd4 Qg5 23.Qe1 Rec8 24.f4 Qh6 25.f5 Bd7 26.Bxd5

22.f4! Very well played! The attack is winning! And, FYI, since this will become important later on, at this point both players had about 2 minutes left for the game (time control: 30min + 5s/move).

22...Qxe3 23.Nxe6

Also winning is: 23.Ndf5 Bxf5 24.Nxf5 Qe2 25.Qxd5 Qe6 26.Qxe6 and white wins an exchange with Nd6 or Bd5 depending on how Black takes on e6

23...fxe6 24.Qg4+ Kh8 25.Rae1 Qc3 26.Bxd5 Rc7



At this point we both had only a few seconds left.

27.Bxe6 Rce7 28.Nf5 Qc7 29.Nxe7 Qxe7 30.Qh5



After this move Kevin informed me that he just lost on time. His position is of course easily won.

0-1

The same night - while sleeping - Caïssa appeared in my dreams and I asked her what I can do to please her. She requested I get rid of my nasty wavy Vinyl chess board which keeps annoying my opponents (FYI: Obliging, I just ordered a Silicone board from USCF). She also told me that she will ensure Jim and Kevin will be compensated for their experiences at Quad night and that they will play delightful combinations and create stunning wins in a couple of games before too long. This was great news and I told her the WCCC Newsletter team would be looking forward to sharing those games in their next editions. Caïssa smiled at me.

Thanks, Caïssa, for everything!

WCCC 2026 Club Championship: Jim Larsen – Joe Mucerino

By John Helmbrecht

Jim Larsen - Joe Mucerino [B01]

2026 Club Championship WCCC (4), 29.01.2026

This is Jim's third and final game that he submitted for this year's club championship. (thanks Jim!) His opponent is 2025 defending champion Joe Mucerino.

1.e4 d5

The Scandinavian Defense - one of the oldest chess openings!

2.exd5 Nf6

Another popular response is: 2...Qxd5

3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Be2

Another popular reply is 4. Bc4. However, 4. Bxd7+ favors Black.

4...Nxd5 5.d4 Bf5 6.Nf3 e6 7.0-0 +/-

White still holds a slim advantage with a slight lead in development.

7...Nc6

7...Be7 preparing to quickly castle is much more favored here.

8.a3 Be7 9.c4 Nb6 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Be3 Bf6 12.h3



All still following a book line. These players know how to play this opening!

12...h6 +/- 13.Ra2

Looks unusual to me but this is a solid plan to eventually bring the Rook to d2.

13...Qe7 14.b4 Rfd8 15.Rd2



15...a6

The engine likes 16....a5 much better.

16.Qb3 Bg6 17.Rfd1 +/-

Jim's buildup in the center continues! White still holds a slim advantage based on a better control of the center and queenside.

17...Bf5 18.d5!



18...exd5 19.cxd5 Ne5 20.d6! +-



20...Qd7

Black is now in a difficult position: 20...cxd6? 21.Bxb6 would give White a huge advantage; 20...Nxf3+ 21.Bxf3 also results in a strong advantage for White.

21.dxc7 Qxc7 22.Bxb6 Qxb6

The position has clarified but now White can invade with his Knight.

23.Nd5 Nxf3+ 24.Bxf3 Qe6 25.Nxf6+ Qxf6



26.Bxb7

26.Rxd8+ Rxd8 27.Rxd8+ Qxd8 28.Bxb7 Bc8 29.Bf3 The engine favors this line better. But, the text move 26. Bxb7 looks great to me.

26...Rxd2 27.Rxd2 Rb8 28.Qf3+-

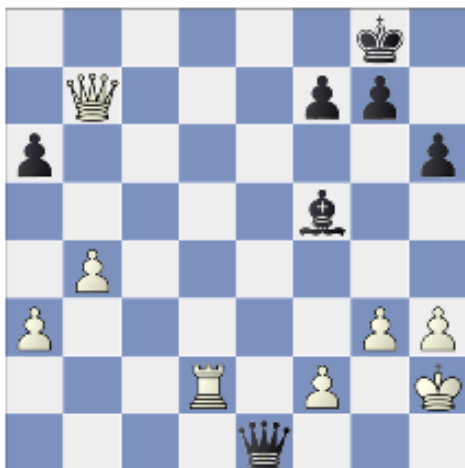


White continues to hold a firm grip on the position.

28...Rxb7?

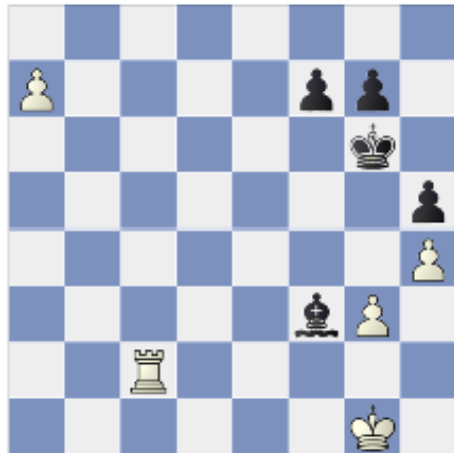
Joe tries to get some active counterplay by sacrificing the exchange but it does not work.

29.Qxb7 Qa1+ 30.Kh2 Qe5+ 31.g3 Qe1!



White has to be careful!Be4 attacking the Queen and then Qh1 mate are threatened.

32.Qb8+ Kh7 33.Qf4 Be4 34.f3 Bg6 35.Qd4 Qc1 36.Qb2 Qf1 37.Rf2 Qd3 38.a4 h5 39.h4 Bf5 40.b5 Qd7 41.bxa6 Qa7 42.Kg2 Qxa6 43.Qb5 Qg6 44.a5 Bd3 45.Qb6 Qf5 46.a6 Bc4 47.Qc6 Bd5 48.Qc2 Bxf3+ 49.Kg1 Qxc2 50.Rxc2 Kg6 51.a7



A fine game played!

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Picture Gallery

Pictures by Ed Snyder



Anthony Bowden



Brendan McCarthy



Ed Kline



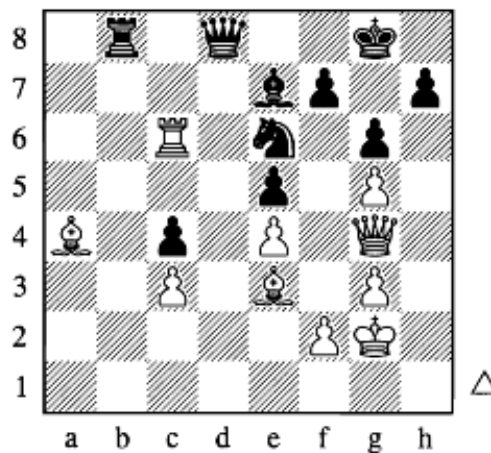
Mike Marcus

What every serious chess player must know!

By Dirk Troltenier

Fischer – Shocron

Mar del Plata 1959



Analyzing your own and/or GM games is an excellent way to learn and improve in chess. So let's get started: In this position Fischer played 1.Re6: Do you think that was a good move? What would be your response as Black? Is there a "tricky move" black shall try?

Analyze the position and feel free to send your results to wccnewsletter1974@gmail.com: The WCCC Newsletter team will review your analysis and provide feedback to you.

WCCC July Swiss: Dirk Troltenier – Steven Linett

By Steven Linett

Remark: Almost all annotations are from Steven, only the ones marked with “*Dirk:*” are from Dirk

Dirk Troltenier (2232) – Steven Linett (1969) [B27]

West Chester July Swiss West Chester, PA (3), 23.07.2026

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.c3 d5 4.e5 Bg4 5.d4 Nc6 6.dxc5

This was our third game going down this path, but the only one to break open with dxc5.

6...Bg7 7.Bb5 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Bxe5 9.0-0 e6 10.c4



White tries to pry open the light squares and center. The immediate threat is against c6, but I also need to watch for my uncastled king's safety.

10...dxc4!? I was really taken by this move when I saw it. I thought that I could create some initiative (with h5–h4) against white's king after the exchanges on c5 and Kf8. It's certainly not the most sound, but I was willing to take some more risk this game to try to get things unsettled.

10...Nge7 holds things together. I didn't like the feel of this position, though I can't say I calculated it too deeply. I think dxc4 just grabbed me too much! 11.Nc3 (11.cxd5 Qxd5= and black is perfectly fine with the release of tension.) 11...dxc4 12.Rd1 Qc7 13.Bxc4 a6= Keeping Nb5–Nd6 ideas at bay. I think black is doing fine.

11.Bxc6+

Dirk ended up spending 15 minutes on his reply. Unsettled accomplished, if nothing else!

Dirk: Steven is right. I was getting nervous because I am behind in development and I was not sure if it's OK to get even further behind.

11...bxc6



12.Qxc6+

Dirk: This is not the best move. Instead, Re1 is better and then the sequence Nb1-a3-c4:. I did not consider either idea.

12...Kf8 13.Nc3 Rc8 14.Qa4 Qc7

14...Qh4 I also considered this more direct move. 15.g3 Qh3 16.Ne4 h5 17.Ng5 Qf5 18.Qxc4+/- It's definitely imbalanced. I'm not sure if I have enough juice in the attack to justify the pawn sacrifice.

15.Qxc4 Bxh2+

15...Qxc5! I probably should have taken this shot to grab the pawn back. If white trades queens, the endgame should be balanced. 16.Qxc5+ Rxc5 17.Be3 Rc7 18.Nb5 Rb7 19.Nxa7 Ne7= and b2 is going to fall

16.Kh1 h5

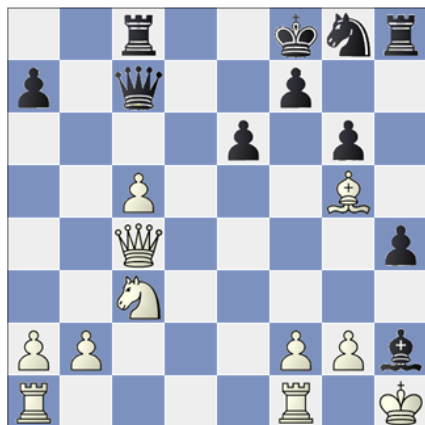


17.Bg5

This move gave me some trouble. It shows that my bishop is out of the game (and somewhat in the way of my queen on this diagonal) and that I don't have a clear way of getting my knight out.

17...h4

17...Ne7?? 18.Bxe7+ Kxe7 19.Qh4+- this tactic prevents Ne7



18.Rae1

Dirk: This move is not the best, Rd1 or f4 are better. I was calculating the following variation: 18...h3 19.g3 Bg3: 20.fg3: Qg3?:? when 21.Rf7:+ mates.

18...Nh6? +/-

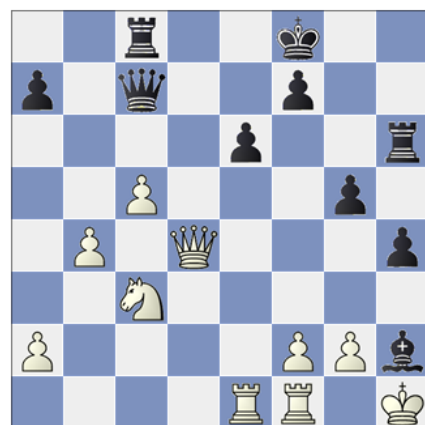
I had a general idea of what I needed to do - clear the h-file and the diagonals leading to white's king. h3 looked premature since I didn't have enough to sacrifice my bishop after white played g3. Retreats of my bishop didn't seem that appealing either. Nh6 slowed my play down and gave white the chance he needed to regain control.

18...Rh5! Dirk pointed out this great idea in our post-mortem. It hadn't crossed my mind. White has to retreat the bishop or defend it. 19.Ne4 (19.f4 Bg3 20.Re5 ∞ this is a mess; 19.Be3 once the bishop retreats, my knight can enter the action. 19...Ne7 ∞ I retain the initiative) 19...Bf4 20.Bxf4 Qxf4 21.Qc1 white has to get the queens off 21...Qxc1 22.Rxc1+/- the c-pawn must give white a small edge

19.Qd4 Rh7 20.Bxh6+?!

20.Ne4 I was concerned about this. I thought white's bishop was much better than my knight with its control of the dark squares around my king. 20...Be5 21.Qa4 Nf5 (21...h3 I wasn't believing h3 could do anything as long as white had g3 here. 22.g3+/-) 22.Rd1 the rook is eyeing d7 22...Ng3+ doesn't get enough 23.fxg3 hxg3+ 24.Kg1+/- the g3 pawn stops up the diagonal.

20...Rxh6 21.b4 g5?!



21...Rh5! This rook lift could make an appearance again 22.Nb5 Qb7 23.Kxh2 Qxb5 ∞ white's c-pawn is strong, but king safety will remain a liability.; 21...a6 I need to keep Nb5 from happening otherwise.

22.Nb5+/-

I'd noticed Nb5-Na7, but had missed that this would allow Dirk to play c6 and close down my diagonal to the king.

22...Qb7 23.Nxa7 Bf4



23...Qxa7 It may be best to accept the loss of my bishop and try to keep pressing to open the h-file or h1–a8 diagonal. As it turned out, any remaining initiative disappears in the next few moves. 24.Kxh2+/-

24.c6! +- Rxc6 25.Nxc6 h3

25...Qxc6 26.Qc5+ Was just too sad to allow.

26.Qc5+ Kg7 27.g3 Bd2 28.Rb1 g4 29.b5 h2 30.Qd4+

Black resigned

1–0