

NATIONAL OPEN NEWS

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SHANKLAND AND ALTOUNIAN TOP G/10 CHAMPIONSHIP

Newly minted GM, Sam Shankland, and IM Levon Altounian both scored 5.5/6 in the G/10 Championship on Thursday afternoon to share first place in the event.

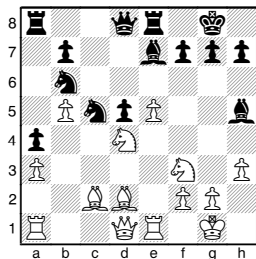
Shankland lead all the way until the final round while Altounian scored a surprisingly easy win over GM Akobian in the last round, having drawn with GM Lenderman in round 5.

Here are a couple of games played by Shankland on his way to the title.

Shankland, Samuel-Kacheishvili, Giorgi

US G/10 Ch. (5), 09.06.2011

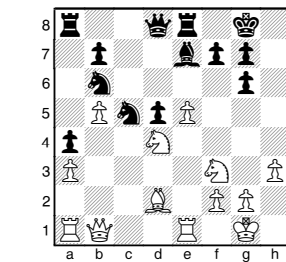
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 0-0 5.a3 Be7 6.e4 d5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e5 Nfd7 9.b4 a5 10.b5 c5 11.Bd3 cxd4 12.Nb3 a4 13.Nbxd4 Nc5 14.Bc2 Nbd7 15.0-0 Re8 16.Re1 Nb6 17.Bd2 Bg4 18.h3 Bh5



19.Qb1

19.Bxh7+ deserved some serious consideration, 19...Kxh7 20.Ng5+ Bxg5 21.Qxh5+ Bh6 22.Bxh6 g6 23.Qd1! leaves White a pawn up.

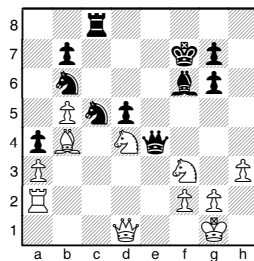
19...Bg6 20.Bxg6 hxg6



21.e6 Bf6 22.exf7+ Kxf7 23.Bb4 Rc8 24.Rxe8 Qxe8 25.Ra2?! Qe4!

Black obtains the upper hand thanks to White's inaccuracy. Obviously the queen cannot be captured.

26.Qd1



26...Nb3

Black sacrifices a pawn however better was 26...Nd3! according to the silicon beast.

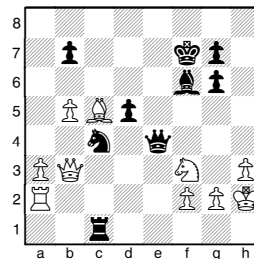
27.Nxb3 axb3 28.Qxb3 Rc1+ 29.Kh2 Nc4

After the game, Kacheishvili thought he would have had a good game had he just played the simple 29...Qf4+ 30.g3 Qe4

30.Bc5?

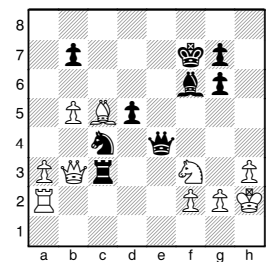


GM Sam Shankland sporting his GM Melik Khachiyan badge



30...Rc3??

Black blunders, and not in time pressure either. Totally winning was 30...Ne5! threatening the bishop on c5 and Qf4+, e.g. 31.Qe3 Nxf3+ 32.gxf3 Qb1!-+



31.Qxc3! And now the tables totally turn and White is winning. 31...Ne5 32.Qe3 Nxf3+ 33.gxf3 Qc4 34.Re2 1-0

Continued on page 3...



IM Levon Altounian

GMS ROBSON AND KAUFMAN DOMINATE SIMULS

Grandmaster Ray Robson went a perfect 22-0 in his simultaneous exhibition on Thursday afternoon.

The young GM, the youngest American ever to achieve the title, showed no mercy for his opponents, although each of them did receive a copy of Chess Child, a story of his rise in the chess world authored by his father, Gary Robson, who was also in attendance.

In the below game, Robson shows that his well known prowess on the White side of the Sicilian Dragon has not quite made it down to the amateur ranks, two of which took him head on in the Yugoslav Variation.

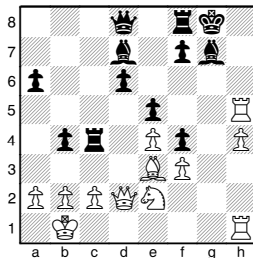


GM Ray Robson working his way to a 22-0 score in his simul

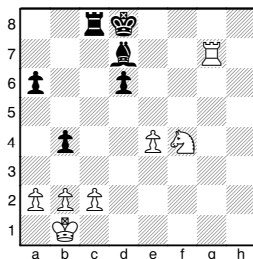
GM Robson, Ray Gribble, Gordon

Robson Simul, 09.06.2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7
7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7
10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.Kb1
Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.g4 a6
15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Nxh5 17.Rdg1
b5 18.Rg5 b4 19.Nce2 e5

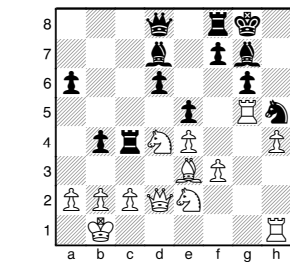


22.Rg1 Qf6 23.Rhg5 fxe3
24.Qxe3
24.Rxg7+ Qxg7 25.Rxg7+ Kxg7
26.Qxd6 would have finished the game off soon in White's favor.
24...Rfc8 25.Ng3 Kf8 26.Nh5 Qh6
27.Nxg7 Qxh4 28.Rh5 Qf4
29.Qxf4 exf4 30.Rh8+ Ke7
31.Rxc8 Rxc8 32.Nh5 f5 33.Rg7+
Kd8 34.Nxf4 fxe4 35.fxe4



After all the fireworks have exploded, White is just a pawn up in an ending.

35...Rc4 36.Nd5 Rd4?



20.Nf5! Gxf5

White's kingside attack is easily coming before Black's. Black had a couple of other options here, neither of which really help him much. 20...Qf6 21.b3 Rc7 22.Ned4!+- backing up the knight on f5 and threatening Rxh5.; 20...Bxf5 21.exf5 Qf6 (21...Bh6? 22.Rxh5! Bxe3 23.Qxe3 gxh5 24.Qh6+-) 22.Qd5 Rfc8 23.fxg6 Rxc2 and White has a multitude of ways to stop the Black attack, the best of which is 24.Nc3+-]

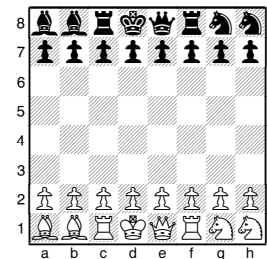
21.Rxh5 f4

show his moral victory.

Out of the wins for GM Kaufman, the following caught my eye and should provide a good lesson in terms of what Chess 960 is all about.

GM Kaufman, Larry Haynes, Les

Kaufman Simul, 09.06.2011



Black misses White's threat and gets his rook into some trouble. A tougher defense would have been 36...Be6 37.Ra7 Rxe4 38.Ra8+ Bc8 39.Kc1±

37.c3!+-

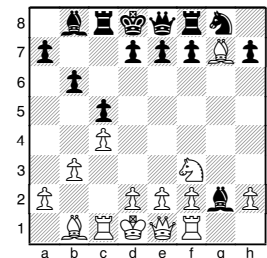
White wins a piece and the rest is easy.

37...bxc3 38.Rg8+ Be8 39.Nf6 Ke7 40.Nxe8 Kf7 41.Rh8 Rd1+ 42.Kc2 cxb2 43.Kxb2 Ke6 44.Nc7+ Ke5 45.Re8+ Kd4 46.Nxa6 Re1 47.Nb4 Rxe4 48.Nc2+ Kd5 49.Ne3+ Kd4 50.Nf5+ Kd5 51.Rxe4 Kxe4 52.Nxd6+ Kd5 53.Nb5 Kc5 54.Nc3 Kb4 55.a3+ Ka5 56.Kb3

1.b3

This is the only game that GM Kaufman didn't play 1.g3. Black doesn't heed the warning.

1...b6 2.Bxg7 Bxg7 3.Bxh8 Bxh1 4.Bg7 Bg2 5.c4 c5 6.Nf3



6...Nf6?!

Black just decides to keep copying everything White does but doing it this way is bad. There is a reason that White has the first move in the game. A much better way to reach the same position, but without losing a pawn would have been 6...Bxf1 7.Qxf1 Nf6 8.Bxf8 Qxf8=

7.Bxf8 Bxf1 8.Bxe7+

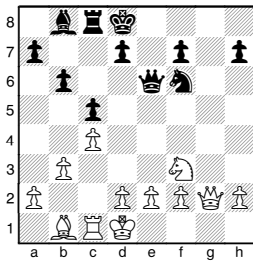
Check! Black cannot possibly copy White's move this time leading to the loss of a pawn.

8...Qxe7 9.Qxf1 Qe6 10.Qg2

Grandmaster Larry Kaufman decided that a regular simul wasn't good enough for him and so he decided to take on all comers in Chess 960, probably better known in these parts of the world as Fischer Random Chess.

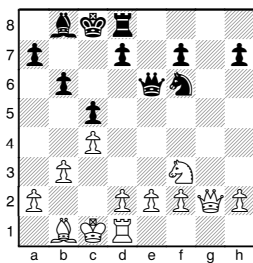
(Actually Kaufman won the privilege by winning a Chess 960 event at the previous US Open.)

Unfortunately only 6 players took part in this step into a new chess world although Kaufman did concede a draw to Nicholas Rosenthal. Even more unfortunate was the fact that Rosenthal didn't keep score in the game meaning that we are unable to



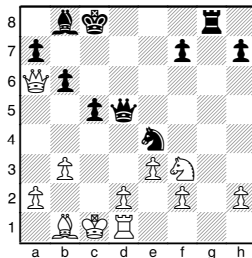
This is the position before both sides castle queenside.

10...0-0-0 11.0-0-0



And here is the position after they both castle queenside. Sometimes this is just a quick flip of the squares in Chess 960.

11...Rg8 12.Qf1 d5 13.e3 Ne4 14.cxd5 Qxd5 15.Qa6+



15...Kd7? 16.Qa4+

White was probably already winning but this loss of a piece makes the ending come quickly. 16...Ke6 17.Qxe4+ Qxe4 18.Bxe4 f5 19.Bd3 Rg2 20.Rf1 Kf6 21.Bxf5 Bxh2 22.Bh3 1-0



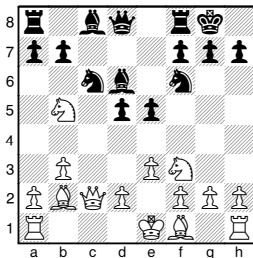
GM Larry Kaufman took on 6 people at Chess 960/Fischer Random Chess

SHANKLAND AND ALTOUNIAN TOP G/10 CHAMPIONSHIP (CONT.)

Lenderman,Alex-Shankland,Samuel

US G/10 Ch. (6), 09.06.2011

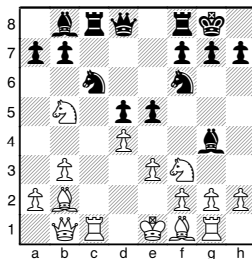
1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.b3 Bd6 6.Bb2 0-0 7.Qc2 e5 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.Nb5 Nc6



10.Rg1?!

Surely this move cannot be right.

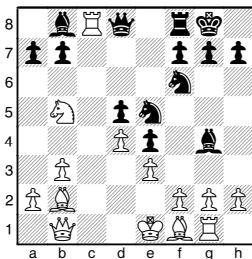
10...Bg4 11.Rc1 Rc8 12.Qb1 Bb8 13.d4



13...e4

Black had various options although the best seemed to be 13...Ne4 and the White king will come under fire being stuck in the middle of the board, 14.a3 exd4 15.Nbx4 Qa5+ 16.b4 Nxb4!-+ 17.axb4 Qxb4+ 18.Bc3 Qxb1 19.Rxb1 Rxc3

14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.Rxc8



15...Nd3+

15...Bxc8 16.dxe5 Ng4 maintained Black's edge.

16.Qxd3 Qxc8 17.Qc3 a6 18.h3 Be6 19.Qxc8 Rxc8 20.Nc3 b5 21.Kd2=

After a couple of slight inaccuracies the position has become equal. The rest of the game was a case of both sides maneuvering, looking for a mistake from the other player that never came and so a draw was eventually agreed.

21...Ne8 22.Be2 f5 23.Rc1 Kf7 24.Nd1 Rxc1 25.Bxc1 Bd6 26.Kc2 Nc7 27.Bd2 Ke7 28.h4 g6 29.Ba5 Kd7 30.Nc3 Kc6 31.a4 bxa4 32.Nxa4 Nb5 33.g3 Be7 34.Bb6 Bc8 35.Bc5 Bd8 36.Bb4 h5 37.Kb2 Bc7 38.Bd2 Bd6 39.Ba5 Ba3+ 40.Kc2 Be7 41.Bb6 Bd6 42.Bc5 Bc7 43.Bb4 Bd8 44.Nc5 Bc7 45.Na4 Bd8 46.Kb2 Bc7 47.Bd2 Bd6 48.Kb1 Na3+ 49.Kc1 Nb5 50.Nb2 Bc7 51.Nd1 Bd6 52.Kc2 Na3+ 53.Kb2 Nb5 54.Ba5 Bd7 55.Bd2 Bc8 56.Nc3 Nxc3 57.Bxc3 Kb6 58.b4 Bd7 59.Bd1 Bb5 60.Bb3 Kc6 61.Be1 Be7 62.Kc3 Bd6 63.Bd1 Be7 64.Bd2 Bd6 65.Be1 Be7 1/2-1/2



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NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

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2-day schedule (Rds 1-3) G/45

GRAND BALLROOM

FRIDAY

Round 1 10:00 am
Round 2 5:00 pm

SATURDAY

2-day Round 1 9:30 am (Napa C)
Round 3 10:00 am
2-day Round 2 11:30 am (Napa C)
2-day Round 3 1:30 pm (Napa C)
Round 4 5:00 pm

SUNDAY

Round 5 10:00 am
Round 6 5:00 pm
Winner's Circle 10:00 pm - 1:00 am
(Napa C)

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FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
10:00 am	Scholastic Trophy Tournament	4:00 pm	Round 3
4:00 pm	Late Registration (until 8:00 pm)	6:30 pm	Puzzle Solving Competition
6:30 pm	Youth Blitz		
SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
8:00 am	Later Registration (until 8:30 am)	9:30 am	Side Event Awards
9:30 am	Opening Ceremony	10:00 am	Round 4
10:00 am	Round 1	1:00 pm	Round 5
1:00 pm	Round 2	4:00 pm	Closing Ceremony
3:00 pm	GM Ray Robson Autograph Session		

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FRIDAY

12:00 pm Analysis of your games, GM Khachiyan (Huntington)
3:00 pm Win Like Kasparov!, GM Henley (Napa C)
7:00 pm Analysis of your games, GM Khachiyan (Huntington)
7:30 pm Crushing 1.d4, the Dzindzi Indian, GM Henley (Napa C)

SATURDAY

12:00 pm Analysis of your games, GM Henley (Huntington)
7:00 pm Analysis of your games, GM Khachiyan (Huntington)

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)

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