



The Las Cruces Quads #2 on December 3 was another big success. Once again Bill Daly secured for us the beautiful Roadrunner Room in the Branigan Library in Las Cruces. Bill, Geof Gill and Cliff Nadeau set up the tables Friday night so we were ready to go first thing Saturday morning. And to get things off on the right foot, Matt Grinberg brought doughnuts for all.

This time Matt Grinberg opted not to play and chose to direct instead. He was assisted by Jason Kammerdiner, who also volunteered to analyze games with the players.

The 18 players were divided into 3 quads and a Swiss section of 6 players. There would have been 19, except that Alan Bast dropped out and kindly donated his entry fee to the prize fund. In his honor we gave the Alan Bast Most Interesting Game prize (see the game below) to Al Pickett.

All four sections came down to a final round showdown between the two leaders (see the games below).

Congratulations to the winners!

Quad A: 1st Ray Estrada 3.0, 2nd Michael Torres 2.0

Quad B: 1st John Helwick 2.5, 2nd Octavio Samaiego 2.0 (the two lowest rated!)

Quad C: 1st Geof Gill 3.0, 2nd Alex Ramirez 2.0

Swiss: 1st Manny Castillo 3.0, tied for 2nd Jacob Valdiviez and Kefaya Diab 2.0

Each of the first place finishers gained beaucoup points: Ray Estrada +49 to 1784, John Helwick +56 to 1603, Geoff Gill +95! to 1391 and Manny Castillo +127!! to 1249.

Matt Grinberg

Games (analysis by Chess Assistant and Rybka, comments by Matt Grinberg):

The winner of the Alan Bast Most Interesting Game prize. Congratulations to Al Pickett! I saw the game after Dr. Yosef Lapid's 18th move and figured the game is over - Yosef wins Al's queen and the game. I was amazed to come back about 10 moves later and see that Al was up two pieces! How could that have happened? [TWO

1

C55

**Pickett, Al (UNR) - Lapid, Dr
Yosef (1043)**

1:0 (Las Cruces Quads 2 - Swiss) 12/
3/2011

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bc4 h6?! This move is a waste of time. If he is worried about the knight going to g5, all he has to do is develop the bishop and answer Ng5 with O-O. But even better is...

[4... Nxe4! 5. Nxe4! (Not 5. Bxf7? Kxf7 6. Nxe4 d5 7. Neg5 Kg8 8. d4 h6 9. Nh3 Bg4 10. dxe5 Nxe5 when White is in a royal mess.) 5... d5 6. Bd3 dxe4 7. Bxe4 Bd6=]

5. a3 Bc5

[Here too 5... Nxe4! is good.]

6. d3 d6 7. Bd2

[Better is 7. Na4 Bg4 8. Nxc5 dxc5 9. h3 Bd7 ...1-0, Sermek Drazen (CRO) 2547 - Halkias Stelios (GRE) 2526 , Terme Zrece 2003 Memorial M.Vidmar (cat.12)]

7... Bg4 8. Qe2N? This move gets Al into trouble.

[8. h3 Bh5 (8... Bxf3 9. Qxf3 Nd4 10. Qd1=) 9. g4 Bg6=; or 8. Be3 Nd4 9. a4=;

or 8. Bb5 O-O 9. Bxc6 bxc6 10. O-O Bh5 11. Na4 Bd4 12. h3 Qd7 13. g4 Bg6 14. Nxd4 exd4 15. f4 c5 16. b3 Rab8 17. f5 -0.11 Rybka4]

8... Nd4! 9. Qd1 Qd7 10. h3 Bxf3 11. gxf3 d5? +0.26 Rybka4 Playing to open the position with White's king temporarily stuck in the center. But this fails to take into account that White can take with one of the minor pieces.

[11... O-O-O is good for Black.; or 11... b5 12. Ba2 c6 13. f4 O-O -0.89 Rybka4]

12. exd5? -0.80 Rybka4 This fully justifies Black's last move.

[12. Nxd5 Nxd5 13. Bxd5 O-O-O 14. Be3 Bb6 15. Bxd4 Bxd4 16. Qd2 g5 17. O-O-O White is a little better.]

12... Nxd5? +1.72 Rybka4 Apparently not counting all of the defenders.

[12... Qf5 wins back the pawn with a strong advantage. 13. Be3 Nxf3 14. Ke2 -0.80 Rybka4]

13. Bxd5 O-O-O 14. Be3 Qf5 15. Be4 Qd7 16. Qd2? White sets himself up for a disaster on f3.

[16. b4 Be7 17. Bd5 Kb8 18. Kf1 Qf5 19. b5 Bg5 20. a4 Rhe8 21. Rb1 Rd6 22. Rb4 +1.60|d14 Rybka4]

16... f5! Immediately seizing on the idea of attacking the defender of f3. 17. Bd5?! -0.41 Rybka4

[17. O-O-O fxe4 18. Nxe4 Bb6 19. Bxd4 Bxd4 20. Qe2 Rhf8 21. Rhg1 +0.37 Rybka4]

17... c6 18. Bc4?? -4.50 Rybka4 Oops!

[White has to give the piece back. Black is a little better after either 18. Bxc6 Qxc6 19. O-O-O Nxf3;

or 18. Bxd4 exd4 19. Na4 Qxd5 20. Nxc5 Qxc5 21. O-O-O]

18... Nxf3 19. Ke2 Nxd2 20. Bxd2 e4 21. Rae1 exd3 22. cxd3 Rhe8 23. Kd1 Rxe1 Just as Al didn't appreciate the danger at f3, Yosef doesn't appreciate the danger at e6. **24. Rxe1 b5??** +1.38 Rybka4 Oops!

[24... Re8 Wins easily.]

25. Be6 Qxe6 26. Rxe6 Rxd3?

[26... Bxf2 is the best chance. Al doesn't give Yosef another chance.]

27. Rxc6 Kb7 28. Rxc5 Kb6 29. Rxb5 Kc6 30. Rxf5 Rxh3 31. Rf7 Rh2 32. Be3 Rh1 33. Kc2 g5 34. Rh7 a6 35. Bxg5 Rh2 36. Be3 h5 37. Kb3 h4 38. Rh6 Kb7 39. Rb6 Ka8 Putting the king in the corner can't be a good idea, but the position is hopeless anyway. **40. Nd5 h3 41. Nc7 Ka7 42. Rb5#** [1:0]

In a standard King's Indian a positional mistake on move 13 followed by a tactical mistake on move 15 by Michael allow Ray to secure first place in Quad A. [KING'S INDIAN def. CLASSICAL var.,E90]

2

E90

Torres, Michael S (1685) - Estrada, Ray (1735)

0:1 (Las Cruces Quads 2 - Quad A) 12/3/2011

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 The first game with this theme was published in 1875. It was played between the Indian Brahmins, Saunchery Gottak and Moheshunder. In 1920's Savielly Tartakower suggested King's Indian Defense as the name of this opening. **5. Nf3 Bg4 6. h3**

[6. Be2 Nfd7 7. O-O O-O 8. Be3 a6 9. Qd2 e5 10. dxe5 dxe5 11. Bg5 Qc8 12. Nd5 Nc6 13. Nd4 exd4 14. Bxg4 ...1-0, Thorfinnsson Bjorn (ISL) 2399 - Wang Yue (CHN) 2736 , Reykjavik 3/ 3/2008 It (open);

6. Be3 Nbd7 7. Be2 c6 8. Nd2 Bxe2 9. Qxe2 e5 10. d5 O-O 11. g4 Ne8 12. O-O-O Bf6 13. h4 Bxh4 14. Qf1 Bg5 15. Qh3 h6 16. Nf3 Bxe3 17. fxe3 Qf6 18. g5 1-0, Krasenkow Michal (POL) 2647 - Baldursson Hrannar (ISL) 2157 , Yucatan 1999 Memorial C.Torre]

6... Bxf3 7. Qxf3 Nbd7 8. Be3 e5 9. d5 O-ON

[9... a6 10. b4 b6 11. Bd3 O-O 12. O-O Kh8 13. Rfc1 a5 14. a3 axb4 15. axb4 Rxa1 16. Rxa1 Qb8 17. Qd1 Rc8 18. Nb5 c5 19. Na7 Rc7 20. Nc6 Qc8 21. b5 ...1-0, Kovac Lubomir (SVK) 2238 - Mochnacky J, Slovakia 2001 Ch Slovakia (team) 2000/01 (2 liga) (d)]

10. Bd3 a5 11. O-O b6 12. Qe2 Nc5 13. f4? -0.37 Rybka4

[It is tempting to open the f-file, but the strong point at e5 and the weak pawn on e4 give Black much more than White gains by opening the f-file. Better is 13. Bc2 Nh5 14. g3 Qd7 15. Kg2 intending Bxc5, Ba4, and Bc6. White is better.]

13... exf4 14. Bxf4 Nh5 15. Be3?! An unfortunate mistake leading to a rapid collapse.

[15. Bh2 Qg5 16. Qf3 Bxc3 17. bxc3 Qd2 18. Rad1 Qxc3 19. g4 Ng7 -0.56 Rybka4]
15... Ng3 16. Qd2 Nxf1 17. Rxf1 Qe7 18. Ne2?
 [18. Bc2 Rae8 19. Bd4 Bxd4 20. Qxd4 Qe5 21. Qd2 -1.31|d17 Rybka4]
18... Nxe4 19. Bxe4 Qxe4 20. Rf4 Qb1 21. Rf1 Qxb2 22. Qd3 Rfe8 23. Nd4??
 [23. a4 Qe5 24. Rf3 Qa1 25. Kh2 Qxa4 26. Nd4 Qd7 27. Nc6 a4 28. Bc1 (28. Qa3 f5 29. Bg5 Re4 30. Qa2 h6 31. Bf4 -3.91|d12) 28... f5 29. Qc2 Bf6 30. Ra3 Re4 31. Bh6 Be5 -3.89|d12]
23... Rxe3! 24. Qd1 Bxd4-+ And Black won. [0:1]

John plays his favorite Philidor's Defence to secure first place in Quad B.
 [PHILIDOR'S def.,C41]

3

C41

Samaniego, Octavio (1547) - Helwick, John H (1547)

0:1 (Las Cruces Quads 2 - Quad B) 12/3/2011

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bc4 Be7 4. h3!? I saw way too much of these h3 (h6) moves in this tournament. As a general rule, if your opponent doesn't actually put something on g4 (g5), this is a waste of time and weakens your position. In my 4,000,000 game database, the position before this move occurs 1728 times. White plays the normal move, 4. d4, 501 times and scores 58%. White plays 4. h3 69 times and scores only 46%. A difference of 12% is not insignificant. Similarly in the game between Gill and Ramirez White's 6. h3 scores only 35% in 31 games, whereas 6. Nbd2 scores 57% in 45 games and in the game between Pickett and Lapid Black's 4... h6 scores 51% in 453 games, whereas 4... Nxe4 scores 69% in 2895 games.

[4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4 Nf6 6. Nc3 O-O 7. O-O c6 8. Bb3 Na6 9. Qf3 Nc5 10. Nf5 Bxf5 11. Qxf5 b5 12. Be3 Qc8 13. Qxc8 Rfxc8 14. f3 Bd8 15. Rfd1 Bb6 16. Bf2 Nb7 17. Ne2 Bxf2 18. Kxf2 Kf8 19. c3 Nd7 20. Nd4 Ndc5 21. Nf5 Rd8 22. Rd4 g6 23. Ne3 a5 24. Bc2 Ke7 25. h4 Ne6 26. Rd2 Nbc5 27. Re1 b4 28. Nc4 Nc7 29. Red1 Nb5 30. Nxa5 Rxa5 31. cxb4 Rxa2 32. bxc5 Rxb2 33. cxd6 Rxd6 34. Ke1 h6 35. Bd3 Rxd2 36. Rxd2 g5 37. hxg5 hxg5 38. Ke2 1/2-1/2, Guidarelli Laurent (FRA) 2422 - Bacrot Etienne (FRA) 2718 , Aix les Bains 2003 Ch France]

4... c6 5. c3 b5N

[5... Nf6 6. d3 O-O 7. Be3 Be6 8. Bxe6 fxe6 9. Qb3 Qd7 10. Ng5 d5 11. O-O Na6 12. Na3 Nc5 13. Bxc5 Bxc5 14. Nc2 h6 15. Nf3 Bd6 16. Rae1 Nh5 17. exd5 exd5 18. Kh1 Rxf3 19. gxf3 Qxh3 20. Kg1 Nf4 0-1, Maynat Ja - Castro Perez Manuel Angel, St. Cebria 1997 It (open)]

6. Bb3 a5 7. d4 a4 8. Bc2 Nd7 9. O-O Ngf6 10. b3?! This is weak because it leaves him with an isolated a-pawn

[10. c4 bxc4 11. Bxa4 +0.22 Rybka4]

10... axb3 11. Bxb3 Nxe4 12. Re1 Ng5? Black has to return the extra pawn.

[12... d5 13. Bc2 O-O 14. dxe5 Ndc5 -0.68 Rybka4]

13. Bxg5? Missing the tactical refutation.

[13. Nxg5 d5 (13... Bxg5 is no better 14. Qh5 g6 15. Qxg5 Qxg5 16. Bxg5 +2.55|d16 Rybka4) 14. Qh5 g6 15. Qh6 Bf8 16. Qh4 +1.91 Rybka4]

13... Bxg5 14. dxe5 O-O? +1.38 Rybka4

[14... dxe5! I can't fault John for opting for the safer looking O-O, but this really is the better move. 15. Nxe5 Nxe5 16. Rxe5 Be6! This is the key. As bad as it looks for Black, it is no better for White. White's queen, bishop and rook on e5 are all vulnerable and his remaining two pieces are out of play. 17. Qg4 (17. Qxd8 Bxd8 18. Nd2 Bf6 19. Re2 Ke7 -0.21|d17 Rybka4) 17... Qf6 18. Qxg5 Qxg5 19. Rxg5 Bxb3 20. Nd2 Bxa2 21. Rxg7 Ke7 22. Re1 Kf8 23. Rg3 Rg8 24. Rxg8 -0.18 Rybka4]

15. e6? This is certainly ambitious, but...

[Simply 15. Qxd6 +1.38 Rybka4 is way better.]

15... Nc5 16. exf7 Kh8 17. Nxg5 Qxg5 18. Re3 d5 19. Nd2 Nxb3

20. Qxb3!? Missing White's next move.

[20. axb3=]

20... Bxh3! 21. Rxh3 Qxd2 22. Rd1? -1.02 Rybka4

[22. Qb1=]

22... Qxa2 23. Qb4?! Avoiding the trade of queens makes a bad situation worse.

[23. Qxa2 Rxa2 24. Re1 Ra7 25. Re6 Raxf7 26. Rxc6 Rxf2 27. Rd3 h6 28. Rxd5 R8f5 29. Rxf5 Rxf5 -1.02 Rybka4]

23... Rxf7 24. Qh4 h6 25. Qd4 Kg8 26. Rdd3?! The rook needs to stay on the back rank. **26... Qc4?!**

[Simply 26... Qxf2! wins a pawn.]

27. Qb6?! -3.25 Rybka4

[27. Qxc4 bxc4 -2.38 Rybka4]

27... Qf4?! -2.38 Rybka4

[27... Ra1 28. Kh2 Qf4 29. Rdg3 Qxf2 30. Qxf2 Rxf2 -3.25 Rybka4]

28. Rdf3??

[White's still has chance after 28. Rd1 Ra2 29. Rf1 -2.30|d17]

28... Ra1# [0:1]

After a complex middle game Geof emerges with a piece for two pawns and grinds Alex down to gain first place in Quad C. [RUY LOPEZ. EXCHANGE var.,C68]

4

C68

**Gill, Geoffrey Young (1264) -
Ramirez, Alex Pasqual (1425)**

1:0 (Las Cruces Quads 2 - Quad C) 12/
3/2011

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Bxc6 dxc6 5. d3 This move is ok,

but it misses the point of the Ruy Lopez, Exchange Variation. The point is to exchange White's d-pawn for Black's e-pawn. White then tries to exchange off into the endgame. In the endgame White's king side pawn majority simply advances and creates a passed pawn. Black's queen side majority cannot accomplish anything by advancing. After 5. d3 even if you later play d4, you have wasted a tempo.

[After 5. O-O f6 6. d4 exd4 7. Nxd4 c5 8. Nb3 Qxd1 9. Rxd1 White has a small advantage.]

5... Bd6 6. h3!? Unnecessary and weakening.

[Better is 6. Nbd2 Ne7 7. Nc4 Ng6 8. a4 h6 9. d4 Bg4 10. dxe5 Nxe5 11. Ncxe5 Bxe5 12. Qxd8 Rxd8 ...1/2-1/2, Rozentalis Eduardas (LTU) 2588 - Radulski Julian (BUL) 2539 , Kallithea 7/5/2009 Ch Greece (team)]

6... Nf6 7. O-O Be6 8. Nc3 Qd7!?

[Better is 8... Qe7 leaving d7 open for the knight if White plays d4.]

9. Bg5?!

[9. d4! Of course! White exploits Black's last move. 9... exd4 10. Qxd4 Be7 11. Qe3 Rd8 12. Rd1 +0.41 Rybka4]

9... h6 10. Be3 g5?! Black recognizes that he should play for a king side attack, but this move is premature with his king in the center.

[Better is 10... Qe7 11. Qe1 O-O-O 12. Nd2 Nh5 -0.22 Rybka4]

11. d4! Exploiting the weakness of Black's last move. **11... Bxh3?** Black correctly calculates that the bishop cannot be taken, but the move is bad anyway.

[Better is 11... exd4 12. Qxd4 Be7 +0.26 Rybka4]

12. Nh2? -1.22 Rybka4

[Black's position falls apart after 12. Nxe5! Bxe5 13. dxe5 Bxg2 14. Kxg2 Ng4 15. Qxd7 Kxd7 16. Bd4 +1.46 Rybka4; But not 12. gxh3? Qxh3 13. Qe2 exd4 -1.02|d13 Rybka4]

12... Bxg2? Black is too caught up in being brilliant. He should simply retreat the bishop to e6, retaining his extra pawn. **13. Kxg2 O-O-O**

14. Qf3 Nh7? This seals Alex's fate. With two pawns for the knight and White's king exposed he had chances so long as he kept the queens on the board. After the exchange of queens Geof methodically exploits his extra material to bring home the point.

[14... Qe7 15. Qf5 Nd7 16. Ng4 f6 17. Rh1 h5 +0.97|d13]

15. Qg4 Nf6 16. Qxd7 Nxd7 17. Ng4 h5 18. Nxe5 Nxe5 19. dxe5 Bxe5 20. Rh1 f6 21. f3 Bf4 22. Kf2 h4 23. Rad1 Bg3 24. Ke2 Rde8 25. Bf2 Bf4 26. Rdg1 h3 27. Bg3 h2 28. Rg2 Bc1 29. b3 b5 30. Rgxh2 Rxh2 31. Rxh2 Bb2 32. Nd1 Ba3 33. Rh7 Be7 34. Ne3 Bd8 35. Nf5 g4 36. Bf2 gxf3 37. Kxf3 Kb8 38. Bc5 Re5 39. Be7 Bxe7 40. Nxe7 Rc5 41. Rh2 Re5?

[41... Kb7]

42. Nxc6 Kb7 43. Nxe5 +9.00 Rybka4 [1:0]

Manny misses a couple of opportunities to exploit Jacob's over worked queen, but finally wins the Swiss section by taking advantage of Jacob's over worked rook. [SICILIAN def. NAJDORF var.,B94]

**Valdiviez, Jacob (1083) -
Castillo, Manuel I (1122)**

*0:1 (Las Cruces Quads 2 - Swiss) 12/
3/2011*

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 a6 The Sicilian Najdorf - definitely interesting, but perhaps too complicated for anyone below GM to understand. **6. Bg5 e5!?** This leaves d5 weak.

[6... e6 7. f4 Be7 8. Qf3 Qc7 9. O-O-O Nbd7 with a small advantage to White is the usual line.]

7. Bxf6 Qxf6 8. Nd5 Qd8 9. Nb3

[9. Nf5 g6 10. Nfe3 Nc6 11. c3 Bh6 12. Nc4 Be6 13. Be2 b5 14. Nce3 O-O 15. O-O +0.25|d15 Rybka4]

9... Be6 10. Bc4N This move has apparently not been played before because of the obvious 10... b5 response. But in fact b5 dangerously weakens Black's queen side. Jacob may be on to something here. **10... b5?! +0.52 Rybka4**

[10... Nc6 11. O-O Be7 12. c3 O-O 13. Nd2 Rc8 14. Be2 +0.07 Rybka4]

11. Be2 Be7 12. c4?! Attacking the weakened queen side is the right idea, but...

[much stronger is 12. a4! bxa4 13. Rxa4 Nd7 14. O-O O-O 15. Rxa6 Rxa6 16. Bxa6 +0.52 Rybka4]

12... bxc4 13. Bxc4 O-O 14. Nxe7 Qxe7 15. Bd5 Ra7 16. Rc1 Nd7?! Missing the strength of White's next move.

[16... a5 17. O-O a4 18. Nd2 Bxd5 19. exd5 Nd7 +0.00 Rybka4]

17. Na5! Qg5 18. g3?! +0.04 Rybka4

[Simple and good is 18. O-O Nc5 (18... Bh3?! 19. Qf3) 19. Bxe6 Nxe6 20. Nc6 Rd7 +0.76 Rybka4]

18... Nc5?! +0.56 Rybka4

[Better is 18... Bxd5 Taking advantage of the fact that White's queen is over worked defending d5 and c1 (one reason why 18. O-O would have been a better move). Rybka suggests the following fanciful line. 19. exd5 e4 20. Qd2 Qh5 21. Qd4 Ne5 22. Qxa7 Nd3 23. Kd2 Qxd5 24. Nb3 Nxc1 25. Kxc1 e3 26. Re1 Qd3 27. Qxe3 Rc8 28. Nc5 +0.04 Rybka4]

19. Bxe6? Again failing to appreciate that White's queen is over worked.

[19. O-O +0.56 Rybka4 Is a must.]

19... fxe6? Ditto.

[19... Nd3 20. Ke2 Nxc1 21. Qxc1 Qxc1 22. Rxc1 fxe6 -1.72 Rybka4]

20. O-O? -1.12 Rybka4

[20. Rc4 both defends the e-pawn and gets the rook off of the vulnerable c1 square.]

20... Nxe4 21. Qe2? Once again leaving himself with an over worked piece - this time the rook on f1.

[21. Rc2 Raf7 22. f3 -1.03|d12]

21... Nxf2! This time Manny sees it! **22. Rxf2?** The losing move.

[He would still have a chance to hold after 22. Nc4 Raf7 23. Nxd6
Nh3 24. Kh1 Rf2 25. Qc4 Qf6 26. Rxf2 Nxf2 27. Kg1 Qf3 28. Qxe6
Kh8 29. Nf7 Rxf7 30. Rc8 Rf8 31. Rxf8 Qxf8 32. Qxa6 -2.33|d11]
22... Qxc1 23. Kg2 Rxf2 24. Qxf2 Rf7 25. Qe2 d5 26. Nb3 Qc6
27. Na5 Qb6 28. Nb3 Qb5 29. Qe1 a5 30. Nxa5 Qxb2 -11.50
Rybka4 [0:1]