

Nova Scotia Chess News

Editor's Note

Welcome to The Nova Scotia Chess Association Newsletter. This is my first crack at producing this document so please bear with me. I've tried to keep things fairly simple and most of the contents can be found at NSChess on yahoo groups or on the Canadian Chess Federation website (www.chess.ca). The only real additions are some commentary on some of the events as well as a few other items such as the annual financial statement and a few annotated games.

In my mind the role of the newsletter is to provide those without internet access a source of information on local events. I don't expect it to be universally issued as an electronic copy of the newsletter is published at <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NSChess/nschess.html>. If you wish to be mailed a hard copy please feel free to forward your information to the me and I'll see that you get one. Ideally our printed circulation will be kept to a minimum, however, to minimize costs.

I'd like to ask what you would like to see happen in Nova Scotia Chess. It seems to me that we are a bit under siege. Are memberships and tournament participation down or is that just my misperception? Aside from the Bluenose, are any clubs still active? Will the Bluenose survive the current Dal Student's Council? Please submit your thoughts and ideas.... Danny isn't busy enough with his day job!

If you are new to organized chess and want more information about the Nova Scotia Chess Association please feel free to contact me at bjphillipsnschess@yahoo.ca

News

The annual Nova Scotia Chess Association Meeting was held during the Nova Scotia Open in April. A new executive was selected. Positions are as follows:

Chairman - Danny MacNeill

Vice Chairman - John MacLean and Brian Phillips

Secretary/Treasurer - Dave Kenney

CFC Governors - Albert Ede and Ken Cashin

Newsletter - Brian Phillips

David Kenney presented the following Financial Statement:

<i><u>In this issue</u></i>	
NSCA Financial Statement	2
Completed Events	3
Upcoming events	6
Jason Kenney Annotates	6

Nova Scotia Chess Association
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
For the Period May 16, 2003 to May 15, 2004

Opening Bank Balance on May 16, 2003 \$ 1,695.29

Receipts:

Provincial Dues Collected by the CFC (four payments)	\$ 445.50	
		445.50

\$ 2,140.79

Disbursements:

Albert Ede – NS Open 2003 Expenses	\$ 150.00	
Purchase – Large Chess Set for Display	45.99	
Chebucto Community Net (NS Chess Account/Web Site)	50.00	
Score Pads from CFC – 30 Pads	148.20	
Bank Charges	2.25	
		\$ 396.44

Ending Bank Balance as of May 15, 2004 \$ 1,744.35

=

* Note: There is \$168 from the NS Closed 2003 Entry Fees “Held in Trust” which is included in the above amounts (to be refunded to players as there was no Canadian Closed held during 2003)

Completed Events

Nova Scotia Open May 21-24

#	Name	Old	Perf	New	High	Results	Tot
1	Kenney, Jason	2106	2076	2111	2136	D 0 W 14 W 9 W 2 D 4 W 8 W 7 D 3	6.5
2	Spicer, Christopher	1952	1981	1966	2018	W 29 W 15 W 7 L 1 W 9 W 4 L 3 W 8	6.0
3	Cashin, Ken	1612	2007	1697	1719	W 27 W 19 D 0 L 4 D 0 W 15 W 2 D 1	5.5
4	Gonzalez-Cueto, Jose A	2065	1864	2039	2078	D 0 W 18 W 11 W 3 D 1 L 2 D 5 W 10	5.5
5	Felix, Chris	1367	1791	1515	1515	D 0 L 11 W 25 W 26 W 24 D 0 D 4 W 7	5.5
6	Enman, Jim	1650	1708	1665	1800	W 17 L 7 D 0 D 0 W 23 L 11 W 21 W 15	5.0
7	Ede, Albert	1698	1762	1717	1860	W 26 W 6 L 2 W 9 D 8 W 14 L 1 L 5	4.5
8	Uuetoa, Harold	1750	1747	1756	1806	D 0 W 22 D 0 W 24 D 7 L 1 W 14 L 2	4.5
9	Kenney, David	1791	1734	1780	2024	D 0 W 21 L 1 L 7 L 2 W 26 W 16 W 19	4.5
10	Newman, Eric	1510	1726	1556	1605	L 19 W 27 D 0 D 0 D 15 W 24 W 11 L 4	4.5
11	Candow, John	1738	1711	1733	1858	D 0 W 5 L 4 D 0 D 0 W 6 L 10 W 18	4.5
12	Mahendranathan, Premedesan	1394	1559	1431	1498	D 0 D 0 D 0 L 14 L 16 W 20 W 24 W 23	4.5
13	McKay, Brian	1736	1763	1741	1781	D 18 W 16 D 0 W 23 D 0 D 0 L 0 L 0	4.0
14	MacNeill, Danny	1665	1632	1657	1699	W 22 L 1 D 15 W 12 W 18 L 7 L 8 D 0	4.0
15	Phillips, Brian J.	1679	1571	1645	1679	W 28 L 2 D 14 W 21 D 10 L 3 W 17 L 6	4.0
16	Moulton, Richard	1223	1515	1383	15	D 24 L 13 L 21 W 28 W 12 D 18 L 9 W 22	4.0
17	MacLean, John	1322	1513	1366	1499	L 6 L 26 D 0 D 0 W 27 W 23 L 15 W 21	4.0
18	Senecal, Jean-Pierre	1565	1582	1568	1817	D 13 L 4 W 28 W 20 L 14 D 16 D 19 L 11	3.5
19	McGillivray, Mike	1715	1480	1651	1780	W 10 L 3 L 24 D 0 W 20 D 21 D 18 L 9	3.5
20	Beals, George	1374	1406	1381	1767	D 0 D 0 D 0 L 18 L 19 L 12 W 27 W 24	3.5
21	Currell, Sean	1472	1424	1462	1490	D 0 L 9 W 16 L 15 W 22 D 19 L 6 L 17	3.0
22	Damour, Guillaume	1131	1320	1230	14	L 14 L 8 W 27 D 25 L 21 D 0 W 26 L 16	3.0
23	Henniger, Tim	1541	1319	1491	1491	D 0 D 0 W 26 L 13 L 6 L 17 W 25 L 12	3.0
24	Pittman, Jerry	1649	1291	1433	13	D 16 W 25 W 19 L 8 L 5 L 10 L 12 L 20	2.5
25	Rau-Chaplin, Max	1192	1204	1200	18	D 0 L 24 L 5 D 22 L 26 W 27 L 23 D 0	2.5
26	Spencer, David	1411	1234	1355	1597	L 7 W 17 L 23 L 5 W 25 L 9 L 22 L 27	2.0
27	Wainwright, Ron	1324	1094	1263	1263	L 3 L 10 L 22 D 0 L 17 L 25 L 20 W 26	1.5
28	Saunders, Robin	1381	1344	1377	1396	L 15 W 29 L 18 L 16 L 0 L 0 L 0 L 0	1.0
29	D'Souza, Michael	1547	1267	1521	1600	L 2 L 28 L 0 L 0 L 0 L 0 L 0 L 0	0.0

Nova Scotia Closed June 26-27

Gary Ng won this event earning his entry fee into the Canadian Closed.

#	Name	Old	Perf	New	High	Results	Tot
1	Wysocki, Antoni	2087	2163	2103	2120	X 1 = = = 1	3.5
2	Pentz, Brian	1882	1724	1850	2100	0 X 0 0 0 =	0.5
3	Ng, Gary	2101	2320	2145	2145	= 1 X 1 1 1	4.5
4	Kenney, Jason	2111	2078	2106	2136	= 1 0 X = 1	3.0
5	Charlton, Glenn	2139	1992	2111	2212	= 1 0 = X =	2.5
6	Kenney, David	1780	1824	1785	2024	0 = 0 0 = X	1.0

World Open July 2004. Albert Ede and Harold Uettoa traveled to Philadelphia to play in this event. Harold finished with 4.5 points (7 draws & 1 win + only 1 loss) in the Under 1800 section. Albert finished with 3.0 points (3 wins & 5 losses) in the Under 1800 section. Additional info can be found at <http://www.worldopen.com/results2004.htm>

Canadian Open July 2004. The following Nova Scotians played in the Canadian Open in Kapuskasing: Brian MacKay, Albert Ede, Harold Uettoa, Ken Cashin, Danny MacNeil and Eric Newman.

Ken Cashin writes:

“It was totally awesome. The trip was a nice combination of vacation type/physical activity — mainly cycling — and chess. Truth be told, it was the best vacation I ever had! The food was great, the people were friendly, the weather rocked — everything just worked out great.

The competition was incredibly strong. Unfortunately, though, the pairing system was totally whacky and at times it seemed almost random. You never knew if you were going to get a Grandmaster or a 1300 player. We'd play a big dog and lose, then get *another* big dog, lose, and then in some cases a third really strong player in a row! Brian MacKay played a GM and Danny MacNeill and I each played an IM. Harold Uettoa really got hit hard. I think he played three or four titled players. Brutal. Albert played a bunch of titled players too. The only consistent thing was the colors: you always, always got your due color. In the end it worked out okay, though, because we all got to play very strong opponents and we still managed to put together a few wins and a respectable score. I finished with 4.5 points out of 10, which is just about what I had expected.”

Veranda Invitational July 2004

#	Name	Old	Perf	New	High	Results	Tot
1	Kenney, David	1785	2038	1814	2024	X = = 1	2.0
2	Pentz, Brian	1850	2016	1869	2100	= X = 1	2.0
3	Charlton, Glenn	2111	1929	2092	2212	= = X 1	2.0
4	Naugler, Rex	1753	1515	1723	1931	0 0 0 X	0.0

George Beals Open August 2004

This tournament saw a number of upsets by juniors over higher ranked players.

In round one Richard Moulton (1383) defeated Rex Naugler (1723)

Sean Currell (1462) drew Wane Inkpen (1765)(Newfoundland).

Chris Felix (1515) defeated Michael Eldridge (1791).

In round two Sean added Ken Cashin's (1697) scalp to his collection.

Richard later defeated both myself (Brian Phillips) and Ken Cashin. Chris also did very well defeating David Poirier (and of course me). One of the tournament highlights was

the game between McGillivary and Wysocki . McGillivary was a bishop down and his flag was hanging but Wysocki, with 15 minutes or so on his clock, couldn't find a win. As his clock wound down Wysocki blundered and McGillivary scored the point by mating with two queens.

#	Name	Old	Perf	New	High	Results	Tot
1	Wysocki, Antoni	2103	2020	2098	2120	W 22 W 4 W 3 W 8 L 2 W 7 W 11 W 6	7.0
2	McGillivary, Mike	1651	2003	1733	1780	D 0 W 6 W 21 W 3 W 1 D 0 D 10 D 5	6.0
3	Duffett, Jim	1836	1811	1829	2000	W 16 W 12 L 1 L 2 D 5 W 4 W 9 W 10	5.5
4	Felix, Chris	1515	1849	1680	1680	W 23 L 1 L 9 W 22 W 21 L 3 W 16 W 11	5.0
5	MacNeill, Danny	1663	1836	1722	1722	D 0 D 11 W 12 D 0 D 3 D 9 W 8 D 2	5.0
6	Inkpen, Wane	1765	1756	1763	1800	D 15 L 2 W 14 W 23 L 8 W 17 W 7 L 1	4.5
7	Livingston, Alex	1814	1741	1793	1814	W 10 D 21 D 8 W 15 D 11 L 1 L 6 W 16	4.5
8	Ede, Albert	1742	1723	1737	1860	W 19 W 0 D 7 L 1 W 6 L 11 L 5 W 13	4.5
9	Uuetoa, Harold	1713	1673	1705	1806	D 0 D 13 W 4 D 11 D 0 D 5 L 3 W 0	4.5
10	Ferreira, Paulo	1551	1646	1582	1582	L 7 L 22 W 20 W 12 W 14 W 13 D 2 L 3	4.5
11	Poirier, David	1795	1719	1769	1915	D 13 D 5 W 22 D 9 D 7 W 8 L 1 L 4	4.0
12	Moulton, Richard	1383	1676	1476	22	W 18 L 3 L 5 L 10 W 22 D 16 W 17 D 0	4.0
13	McKearney, Ed	1554	1643	1582	1731	D 11 D 9 D 23 D 17 W 15 L 10 W 14 L 8	4.0
14	Beals, George	1381	1519	1413	1767	D 0 D 0 L 6 W 20 L 10 W 19 L 13 W 15	4.0
15	Currell, Sean	1462	1590	1490	1490	D 6 W 17 D 0 L 7 L 13 D 0 W 18 L 14	3.5
16	Keddy, Garrett	1612	1513	1594	1632	L 3 W 18 D 0 D 0 D 0 D 12 L 4 L 7	3.0
17	Cashin, Ken	1705	1471	1650	1719	D 0 L 15 D 0 D 13 W 18 L 6 L 12 D 22	3.0
18	Naugler, Rex	1723	1411	1650	1931	L 12 L 16 D 0 D 0 L 17 W 22 L 15 W 19	3.0
19	MacLean, John	1366	1290	1344	1499	L 8 L 23 D 0 D 0 D 20 L 14 W 0 L 18	2.5
20	Livingstone, James Brian	1413	1248	1383	1654	L 21 D 0 L 10 L 14 D 19 W 0 D 22 L 0	2.5
21	Tolpin, Aaron	0	1498	1498	4	W 20 D 7 L 2 D 0 L 4 L 0 L 0 L 0	2.0
22	Phillips, Brian J.	1645	1460	1584	1679	L 1 W 10 L 11 L 4 L 12 L 18 D 20 D 17	2.0
23	Eldridge, Michael G.	1791	1450	1740	2058	L 4 W 19 D 13 L 6 L 0 L 0 L 0 L 0	1.5

Canadian Closed

Of his participation in the Canadian Closed in Toronto from 20 to 29 August Gary Ng writes: "The Canadian Closed was extremely well organized; great downtown location, cheap accommodations, water for everyone, name tags on every table and a great closing ceremonies with complimentary dinner. Although my performance was horrible, down 70 rating points, it was a great experience."

Coaching

Looking to improve your game? Contact Antoni Wysocki for instruction at: 423-2365 or au120@chebucto.ns.ca

Upcoming Events

Dates	Event	Details
Nov 11-14	Halifax Remembrance Day Open	Room A201, DalTech Campus (TUNS) of Dalhousie University, 1360 Barrington St, Halifax, Nova Scotia 8 Round Swiss Register at the site on November 11 between 10:00am and 11:00am Round 1 Thursday November 11 12:00 am (noon) Round 2 Thursday November 11 6:00 pm Round 3, 5, 7 at 10:00 am Round 4, 6 at 5:00 pm Round 8 Sunday November 14 4:00 pm Time Control 30 moves in 90 minutes, then one hour sudden death. \$40 adult, \$35 seniors (65 and over); \$35 juniors (19 and under), \$25 cadets (under 16). Please note there will be a \$5 discount to those registering and paying by check or money order to Albert Ede by October 28, 2004. Those joining the CFC for the very first time pay only CFC dues. All participants must be CFC Members or join at the site. Prizes based on entry fees minus tournament expenses. Organizer Albert Ede (Tournament organizer / director) 59 Brook Street, Lower Sackville, NS, B4E 1C1 (Phone 865-5856). Please bring your set and clock. There will be no smoking in the playing hall.

Jason Kenney Annotates

The following games are all from the Nova Scotia Open in May 2004.

J. Kenney (2106) - Danny MacNeil (1643)

1. d4 d5

2. c4 e6

3. Nc3 Nf6

4. cxd5 exd5

5. Bg5 Be7

6. e3 h6 This is ok, I guess. Usually people wait until Nbd7, so that Nxf6 is an option after Bxf6, I think. Generally black should move his Bc8 since his knight needs to go to d7, and the bishop ends up a target on g4, and gets in the way on e6. It can move later, after Nf8, or Ne4/Ndf6, etc. In light of this, Bxf6 is probably the "correct" move, but I'm partial to keeping the Bishop no idea why, since it always causes me trouble later!

7. Bh4 0-0 I've played Bf4 before too.

8. Bd3 Re8

9. Qc2 c6 Qc2 is technically an inaccuracy since black now play c5 in one move, with play against the queen. Of course, this commits black to playing an IQP position (pushing ...c4 is just bad, since white will break f3-e4 with a much better game). I knew this, and was trying to tempt black into it, but he didn't bite. I felt I would be really rusty since I hadn't played in 6 months, and didn't want to play anything too sharp until I had "warmed up".

10. Nge2 Nbd7 Nf3 is more common, but like most people, I have my pet lines. ;)

11. f3 Qc7 Ok, so now it is clear what black intends - to play Bd6 pressuring h2/g3 that have been weakened by f3. The downside of Qc7 is that it puts no pressure on d4, so now I am free to play e4. Only, Ng4 is really annoying, which is why I really should have traded it when black had to take back with the bishop!

12. Bf2 Bd6

13. O-O-O b6? Bxh2?? loses a piece to g3, but b6 is much too slow. Castling queenside is obviously very risky, as pieces aren't ideally placed for a kingside pawnstorm. b5 starting to counter-attack was imperative

14. h4 Bb7 Still too slow, something like Nh5 or even b5 was better.

15. g4 c5 Now I have access to b5.

16. g5 cxd4 Why? Now my knight can get to f5. Black has to start thinking defensively here.

17. Nxd4 Nh5

18. gxh6 gxh6 White has an almost decisive advantage here - better placed pieces, the Qc7/Bd6 is begging for a Nb5 fork. His king is sitting on an open file. White's biggest problem is deciding how to continue! There are many good looking choices.

19. Nf5 Re6

20. Rhg1+ Kh8 Now, I so dearly want access to the long dark diagonal too. A bishop check, or a knight check on f7 are both fatal (or even mate!). I felt my attack would be stronger without queens, since I can force the Bd6 away, however I missed something...

21. Nb5! Qxc2+

22. Bxc2 Be5 Black tries to hang on to the long diagonal, but there is a flaw.

23. f4! a6

24. fxe5 axb5 Now, I can play Nd6, forking the Bb7 and f7 (with mate!) However, I thought, after Nxe5 Nxb7, my knight appears to be trapped, how will it get out? And left it at that. Looking one move further, I might have seen Nd6 Nxe5 Nxb7 Rb8 Rxd5! And now he can't take the knight since it is mate on the back rank. And my knight is getting out via d8 or d6. Black's own knights are even precariously placed on the same rank as my rook. Too much blitz, I say! I chose another way, which is almost as good.

25. e4 Nf4! Nf4 is the only move for black, everything else loses almost instantly. I had completely missed Nf4 though. :(So the psychological effect was very strong! (although probably unintended).

26. exd5?? Bxd5 Horrible. Simply Kb1 to avoid the fork, and black is still in a very bad way. Be3 or Bg3 are both huge threats. Thankfully, white still has an edge.

27. Rxd5! Nxd5

28. Rd1 Nb4?? Rxe5 was the only way to continue. White has to be careful, Nxh6 is the strongest move, Bd4 is very close to a draw. Black's king is still in danger! At least in danger of being forked and losing material, if not being mated.

29. Rxd7 Nxc2

30. Kxc2 Rc6+

31. Kb3 Rc4

32. Bd4 Raa4

33. Bc3 Re4

34. e6+ Kg8

35. exf7+ 1-0

D. Kenney (1791) - J. Kenney (2106) Nova Scotia Open Round 3

1. c4 e5

2. g3 Nc6

3. Bg2 g6

4. Nc3 Bg7

5. d3 d6

6. Nf3 f5

7. Bd2 Nf6

8. 0-0 0-0

9. Rb1 h6

10. b4 g5

11. b5 Ne7

12. h4!? g4

13. Nh2 Nh5

14. Nd5 f4

15. Nxe7+ Qxe7

16. Be1 Those are some nice minor pieces. ;)

16. ... e4!? Gotta do something. This gives my B access to e5 and d4. I also considered a6 to open the queenside for my rooks, since I'm effectively up a rook.

And knight. And a half a bishop. This is the Fritz approved move as well.

17. dxe4? Be5 Bxe4 was imperative, albeit scary, with ppx, B+, although I was just planning on the direct Be5 pressuring d3. White's best is to counterattack g4, but this is all very time consuming to work out over the board, especially if you need to decide if Bx is better than px, and if black is going to play Be5 or Bd4. There were a *ton* of lines to consider. Fritz tells me e4 is at best equal with best play, probably a little better for white, but a very good practical move, I think! I'll admit to thinking "this looks good, I bet he'll hate that" and then moving. The secret to becoming an expert, I guess. ;)

Editor's Note: I was speaking with David Kenney and Danny MacNeill when Jason came up after making his 16th move. He said something to the effect that he had moved and now, with a rather diabolical laugh and grin, he was waiting to see David's reaction to his move.

18. Qd3 Be6

19. Rc1 Rf7? Wrong plan. Oh well, black has time to fix it anyway.

20. Bc3? fxc3

21. Bxe5 gxf2+

22. Rxf2 Rxf2

23. Kxf2 dxe5

24. Kg1 Qxh4

25. Qe3 Nf4

26. Nf1 Rd8

27. Ng3 Qxg3

28. Qxg3 Nxe2+

29. Kf2 Nxc3

30. Kxc3 Kg7 0-1

Chris Spicer (1952) – J. Kenney (2106) Nova Scotia Open Round 4

1. d4 d5

2. c4 c6

3. Nf3 Nf6

4. Nc3 e6

5. e3 Nbd7

6. Qc2 Bd6

7. g4 Bb4 You may be noticing a theme. Bb4 is the move accepted by theory. Of course, this is all either of us knew at the time. I remembered watching Kasparov - Deep Fritz, and thinking, "Now, what did he do?" Nxg4 is probably not good, but is of course unclear and messy. I have no idea what white is supposed to do after Nxg4 Rg1 Nxh2 Nxh2 Bxh2 Rxg7 He's threatening the pawn h7, so black must play h5. Now black will play h4 and Bg3 if I play f4, so maybe the best way is to simply play it like a gambit, and develop quickly and push e4. Or even e4 immediately, with Bg5 as an option. If black doesn't play Qf6.

8. Bd3? e5! After Bd3, black gets an advantage. I was told black had the position after Bd3 before (against a 2300 no less), and he played h6, but this time he would play e5 immediately. The tempo makes a big difference! I wasn't sure what to play... Bd3, Bd2, Rg1 all looked plausible. Bd2 is the only move for white really, though.

9. cxd4 exd4

10. Nxd4 Nxd5

11. Bd2 Ne5 You know it's bad if Fritz is advocating Bxh7 for white here. (instead of Bd2)

12. Be2 Bxg4?? It is a very unclear position (what I was going for all through this tournament!), But this is a bad blunder.

13. Bxg4 Nxb4

14. Qe4+ Kf8 Oops.

15. Qxg4 Qa5

16. Nf5 g6

17. Qd4 Rg8

18. Nh6?? Rd8 Nxd5 was much better, since it effectively forces a queen trade. Maybe I should have been happy with the amount of unclearness I had so far in this game. But no, I had to make it even worse!

19. a3 c5 Fritz liked 19. O-O-O, which is of course, a very cool move.

20. Nxd5 Bxd2+

21. Qxd2 Qxd2+

22. Kxd2 Rxd5+

23. Ke2 Rg7 I thought, hee! a fianchettoed rook! Little did I know, I was going to fianchetto one myself later...

24. Rad1 Rxd1

25. Rxd1 f5 Ok, so my knight is trapped (temporarily), but at least most of the pieces are gone now

26. Rd8+ Ke7

27. Ra8 Kf6

28. e4!? **Kg5** I missed Rf8+ Ke7? Rxf5+! with a winning K+P endgame. e4 the idea was to gain access to g4 somehow.

29. Ng8 h5

30. exf5 Kf5

31. Re8 Kg4

32. Nf6+ Kh3

33. Ne4 Kxh2 g5 allowed Re5 winning a pawn, or at least keeping the h2 one, which is just as good. Now, however, black's king is in a mating net.

34. Ng5! Kg2 Ok, maybe it was an obvious move, but the c5 pawn is irrelevant.

35. Re3 h4 I was threatening Rg3+ K Kf1, and then Rh3#

36. Re4 1-0 Renewing the threat, and since h3 Rg4+ Kh2 Nf3+ Kh1 Rg1# is also mate, he resigned. (Rg4+ Kh1 Nxb3 is a much more important pawn than the one on c5, I think you would agree! Of course, Fritz also found a way to mate after Kh1, but I was content with munching the pawn)

Jose Gonzalez (2065) - J. Kenney (2106) Nova Scotia Open Round 5

1. d4 Nf6

2. Nf3 c5

3. e3 g6

4. Bd3 Bg7

5. Nbd2 O-O

6. O-O b6

7. c3 d6

8. Qe2 Nbd7 Maybe I should play Nc6 instead here, as it slightly more aggressive. I need all the aggression I can get against this sort of system!

9. b3 Bb7 White can effectively have a draw by repetition here after Ba6 Bc6 Bb5 Bb7 Ba6, etc. since the bishop exchange benefits white much more than black. Despite white's pawn structure! Go figure.

10. Bb2 e5

11. e4 a6 Preventing the idea above. It also protects b5, as black will expand there eventually. Nh5 is also good. And Re8. Black is probably a tiny teeny bit better here, since white's only active idea is to play a N to d6, but it doesn't work. Black has slightly more options open than white.

12. Rad1 Qc7

13. Bb1 Rfe8 Black could have tried exd4 and then Re8. This was probably his last chance to effectively play for a win, although white could very well benefit more than black from the opening of the position. I was afraid of exd cxd Rfe8 (pressure on e4!) e5?? But the simple cxd4 with dxe5 coming next is much better for black. (the e-pawn is pinned! Duh) White's problem in all these positions comes from the fact that his queen has no good place to go - it is always a target. If I ever get this position (or an analogous one) again, I know what I will do!

14. dxe5 dxe5

15. Nc4 Bc6 So that Nd6 Re6 and then Ne8 is possible. If not, b5 next shoos the knight away.

16. Nfd2 b5

17. Ne3 Qb7

18. f3 Nh5

19. g3 Nf8

20. c4 Ne6

21. Nd5 Nd4

22. Qf2 Rad8

1/2 - 1/2 I had no idea how either of us could improve our positions, aside from white defending against the threat of bxc4 - I suppose I should have waited to see that he actually did! Black will have to play f5 to try to win, but it looks very risky, and hard to engineer. Someone once wrote the trick to being an effective swiss tournament player is: "Win if you can, draw if you must, but NEVER lose."