

New Mexico Chess Champions

Dennis Dyer

Dennis Dyer won the New Mexico Championship in 1985. Not long after that, he dropped out of the chess scene. He made a comeback at the 2014 Albuquerque/Rio Rancho Open and has played in several New Mexico tournaments in the last two years.

The game below, against Robert Hampton, is from the 2015 Springtime in Socorro tournament. Dennis doesn't do anything spectacular. He just develops soundly and waits for a mistake by his opponent. When the mistake happens, he expertly converts his opportunity into a win.

Dyer, Dennis - Hampton, Robert C, 0-1
New Mexico Open, Round 1
Socorro, New Mexico, 3/7/2015

Bird's Opening

1. f4!? Bird's Opening is not highly regarded. White immediately weakens the position of his king. Still, if White knows what he is doing and Black does not, it can work. White's immediate objective is to control the e5 square, which he will accomplish with Nf3 followed by fianchettoing his queen bishop. 1... d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e3 e6

[A good alternative is to oppose White's bishop on the long diagonal. 3... g6 4. b3 Bg7 5. Bb2 O-O=]

4. b3 Be7 5. Bb2 O-O 6. Be2 c5 7. O-O Nc6 8. Qe1 b6

[After 8... Nb4 9. Bd1 b6 10. Ne5 Black's knight on b4 is simply misplaced]

9. d3 This is dubious since it weakens his center.

[It makes more sense to focus on his plan of controlling e5. 9. Ne5 Nxe5 10. fxe5 Nd7 11. d4 Bh4 12. Qd2 f6 13. Na3 Bg5 14. Qd3 a5 15. c4 Ba6 16. exf6 Nxf6 17. Nb5!? White invites some tricky complications. 17... dxc4 18. bxc4 Bxb5 19. cxb5 Nd5 20. dxc5! Bxe3 21. Kh1 Bxc5 22. Qe4 White has given up a pawn, but Black's extra pawn is weak and White has the bishop pair in an open position plus more active pieces. 22... Qe7 23. Bc4 Kh8 24. Bd3 Nf6 25. Rxf6! gxf6 26. Bxf6 Rxf6 27. Qxa8 Qf8 28. Qe4 Material equality has been restored. White is better because of Black's exposed pawn, but it is not enough to win. 28... Qg7 29. Re1 Rf2 30. a4 e5 31. g3 Bd4 32. Rc1 Bc5 33. Re1 Bd4 34. Rc1 Bc5 35. Rc2 Rf4?? Black outsmarts himself. "Ooh, I can attack his queen and he can't play 36. gxf4 because of 36... Qg1#!" (35... Rxc2 36. Bxc2=) 36. Rxc5 "Sorry, you can't mate without your bishop." White wins after either 36... Rxe4, 37. Rc8+ Qg8, 38. Rxg8+ Kxg8, 39. Bxe4 or 36... bxc5, 37. gxf4. 1-0, Ibragimov, Ildar (USA) 2575 - Prakash, G B (IND) 2429, Sangli 2000 Ch Commonwealth]

9... Bb7 Black is content to continue his development rather than immediately try to take advantage of White's last move.

[White would be in an awkward situation after either 9... Ng4;

or 9... d4]

10. Nbd2

[Again 10. Ne5 looks like the better option]

10... Rc8 Black is still content to keep it simple and play for development.

[White would still face an awkward situation after either 10... d4;
or 10... Ng4]

11. Ne5 Finally! **11... Nxe5!** Dennis immediately challenges Robert's attempt to occupy e5. **12. Bxe5 Nd7 13. Nf3?** This seemingly obvious move loses the bishop! Dennis' play has been so simple and straight forward that Robert probably did not even consider that there might be some danger in the position.

[Had Robert taken a moment, I am sure he would have found **13. Bb2 Bf6 14. Bxf6 Qxf6**
Black is slightly better due to White's pawn weakness]



13... d4! Ding! White is suddenly confronted with the fact that his bishop is trapped. **14. Bxg7?!** Realizing that he must lose the bishop, White makes a desperate bid to open Black's kingside. The trouble is that there is no follow up.

[The best play is to take two pawns for the bishop. **14. exd4 f6 15. d5 fxe5 16. dxe6 Nf6 17. Nxe5 Qd4 18. Qf2 Bd5 19. Rae1 Bxe6**]

14... Kxg7 15. e4

[The obvious **15. Qg3** just gets the queen kicked. **15... Kh8 16. e4 Rg8**]

15... Rg8 16. Qd2 Kh8 17. Ne5? He tries to do something active, but in the process he loses a pawn and opens the position more for Black than for himself.

[Something like **17. g3** is a better chance. He is not so far down in material that holding with simple, solid moves is impossible]

17... Nxe5 18. fxe5 Bg5 19. Qd1 Be3 20. Kh1 Qg5 21. g3 Rg7 22. Rf3? This move appears to have no reason and at the same time it blocks the diagonal of his queen and bishop.

[He could at least put some pressure on Black with **22. Bh5 Rc7 23. Rf6 Qxe5 24. Qf3 Bc6 25. Rf1 Be8**]

22... Qxe5 23. Bf1 f5 24. Bg2 fxe4 25. Rf1 Rcg8 26. Qe2



26... exd3 He aims for exchanges and a win in the endgame, as I am sure anyone would when a bishop and pawn up. The rest is just a mopping up operation.

[On the other hand, computers go for sacrificial mating attacks. 26... Rxf3!! 27. hxg3 Qxf3 28. Bxe4 Bxe4 29. dxe4 Qh4 30. Qh2 Qxe4 31. Rf3 Qxf3 32. Qg2 Qxg2#]

27. cxd3 Bxg2 28. Qxg2 Qh5 29. Rf3 Qg6 30. Qe2 Rf7 31. Rxf7 Qxf7 32. Rf1 Qb7 33. Qg2 Qxg2 34. Kxg2 Kg7 35. Re1 Rf8 36. Re2 e5 37. h3 Kf6 38. Re1 Ke6 39. Re2 Kd5 40. Rc2 e4 41. dxe4 Kxe4 42. a3 d3 43. Rc4 Bd4 44. Rc1 d2 45. Rd1 Rf2 The remaining moves on the score sheet make no sense, but obviously Black wins. [0:1]

Matt Grinberg, 6/25/2016