

CHESS BARBS

by Jude Acers (U.S senior master)

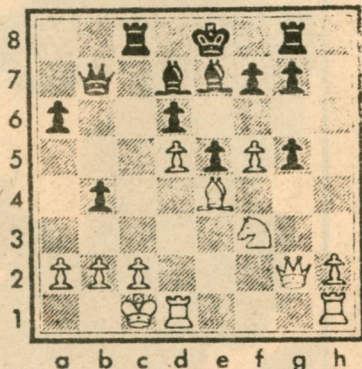
John Grefe, United States Chess Champion
Walter Browne, International Grandmaster

GREFE BACK AND WINNING: US Champion John Grefe, back to Berkeley following a European Chess tour, played in the 1974 Bay Area Open at the Oakland YMCA, Feb. 2-3. Top prize winners (in order of tie-break) were John Grefe (2524), Berkeley, Jeremy Silman (2060), Chula Vista, and James McCormick (2247), Berkeley, with 3 1/2 - 1/2 each, splitting \$300 three ways.

Silman earned his spot among the masters by surviving an exciting last round struggle with Grefe, seizing his chance to recoup a pawn with a nice little combo.

White: Jeremy Silman. Black: John Grefe. Oakland, Feb. 3, 1974. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Be7 8 Qf3 Qc7 9 0-0-0 Nb7 10 Bd3 h6 11 Qh3 Rg8 12 Bf6 Nf6 13 Nf3 e5 14 f5 Bd7 15 g4 b5 16 Qg2 Qb7 17 g5 b4 18 nd5 Nd5 19 ed hg 20 Be4 Rc8

21 Ne5 de 22 d6 Qb6 23 de Ke7 24 Qg5ch f6 25 Qg3 Bc6 26 Bc6 Qc6 27 Qb3 Qc4 28 Rhg1 Qb3 29 ab Rcd8 30 Rd8 Kd8 31 Kd2 Ke7 32 Ke3 Kf7 33 Rdl Ke7



34 Rgl Agreed drawn.

Best class A player was Daniel Switkes (1800) of Berkeley, whose 3-1 score in the open division netted him \$150. The booster division was won outright by Richard Dorn (1748), San Francisco, with 5-0 for a reward of \$150.

David Smith and Ed Delgado directed the USCF rated Swiss system tournament (120 players).

CANDIDATES' MATCHES: Petrosian finally won a game against Portisch! After a 0-4 showing versus the great Hungarian grandmaster in past encounters, former world champion Tigran Petrosian came through in fine style in match play, where it counts the most. Pay close attention to the notes in this game (by Soviet IM Igor Zaitsev, trans-

lated from '64') or you will miss half the enlightenment.

White: Tigran Petrosian. Black: Lajos Portisch. Mallorca, 1974, 5th Match Game. Queen's Indian Defense 1 c4 Nf6 2 Nf3 b6 3 g3 c5 4 Bg2 Bb7 5 0-0 e6 6 Nc3 Be7 7 d4 cd 8 Qd4 0-0 9 Rdl Nc6 10 Qf4 Qb8(A) 11 e4(B) Qf4 (C) 12 Bf4 Rfd8 13 e5(D) Ne8 14 Nd4 Na5 15 b3 Bg2 16 Kg2 g5(E) 17 Be3 Kg7(F) 18 f4l(G) gf 19 gfl(H) Nc6 20 Nce2(I) Nd4 21 Nd4 Bc5 22 Kf3l(J) d6 23 Rd2 de 24 fe Bd4 25 Bd4(K) f6(L) 26 efch Nf6 27 Rfl1(M) Kh6 28 Re1 Ng8 29 Re6ch Kh5 30 Re5ch Kg6 31 Rg2ch Kf7 32 Re4 Nf6 33 Rf4 Rd6 34 Rg5l Rad8 35 Rd5! Black resigns.

(A) In this well-known position Petrosian adopts a comparatively new continuation...

(B) Which causes Portisch to ponder his reply for 40 minutes.

(C) An attempt to seize d4 would meet with an elegant refutation, e.g., 11...e5 12 Qe3 Bc5 13 Qe2 Nd4 (13...Ng4 14 Rf1) 14 Nd4 Bd4 15 Nb5 Bc5 16 Bg5 Be7 17 Rd7 Nd7 18 Be7 Re8 19 Bd6. But 11...d6 deserves consideration, with a solid set-up.

(D) It is very important to drive the knight back to the eighth rank, where it will be difficult for it to get back into the game. In fact, the poor position of this piece

loses the game for Black. (E) A move of dubious value. White has the advantage after 16...

f6 17 Rd3 fe 18 Be5 d6 19 Bf4 e5 20 Nf5. Black can enforce e5 another way, by 16...d6, but here, too, defense is far from easy after 17 ed Bd6 18 Bd6 Nd6 19 Rd2 e5 20 Nc2 Ndb7 21 Radl.

(F) Consistent and wrong. More resistant is 17...Nc6.

(G) The most energetic. During the game Petrosian also considered the variation 18 Nf5 ed 19 Nf5ch Kf8 20 Ne7 Ke7 21 Bg5ch f6 22 efch Kf7 (22...Nf6 23 Rd3). However, in this case the position remains unclear.

(H) A purely positional move, although 19 Bf4 looked very tempting, with the threat of 20 Nd5 ed 21 Nf5ch Kh8 22 Ne7 dc 23 Rd4 cb 24 Bh6 and 25 Rg4 with mate to follow. But, of course, this variation is not forced.

(I) Also possible was 20 Rd3, planning to double rooks on either the d or g file, depending on Black's response.

(J) Petrosian relentlessly increases his lead by creating threats on the king side as well.

(K) Nor is 25 Radl bad, taking control of the d file.

(L) Naturally, this looks suspicious, but bringing the king to the center, 25...Kf8, fails against 26 Radl Ke7 27 c5 Rab8 28 cb ab 29 Bb6 Rd2 30 Bc5ch.

(M) Black cannot free himself from the pin without material loss. No further comment is required.

SUPER ENTRY AT PEOPLE'S CHESS FESTIVAL: IGM Walter Browne and US Champion John Grefe are just two of the terrific players expected to compete in the upper division of the \$5,000 People's Chess Festival at Chabot College Student Center, 25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, Feb. 16-18.

The six-round Swiss, directed by Guthrie McClain, boasts excellent playing facilities and a slow time control of 40 moves in 2 hours for all six sections: Open, Expert, A,B,C and D-E-Unrated.

For complete information, call 843-2875 or write to the Calif. State Chess Federation, 2228 Dwight Way, Apt. 2, Berkeley, CA 94704.