

## 8<sup>th</sup> Mountaineer Open

By Jens Madsen

After a half-decade without organized chess, a new Morgantown Chess Club was formed in November 2005. The young club has organized three weekend tournaments this past year, with participation numbers ranging between 16 and 27. The format has been the same for all of these events, with games using a time control of G/75 that allows four rounds in one (long!) day.

The resurrected Mountaineer Open ended the tournament season with a modest turnout of seventeen. Old-timers may remember the seven prior editions of this tournament, which were played between 1986 and 1997, mostly under the direction of Mike Baker. One decade later it was good to see Mike back at the board battling it out in the Open section with a respectable 50% score.

In the Open section, the main favorite was NM Tom Magar from Pittsburgh, who is a frequent guest at WV tournaments. He is a repeat winner of the Parkersburg Homecoming tournament, and made his second trip of the year to Morgantown. His main rivals were expected to be Jens Madsen and Dave Hines with Shih-Houng Young as a potential outsider. Magar struggled in his first round game against Jeff Hohn, who had him on the ropes, but unfortunately Jeff hung a knight and had to immediately resign. From this point on however, Magar showed little hesitation and finished off Young and Hines in the subsequent rounds. This left him a full point up before the final round where he drew Madsen.

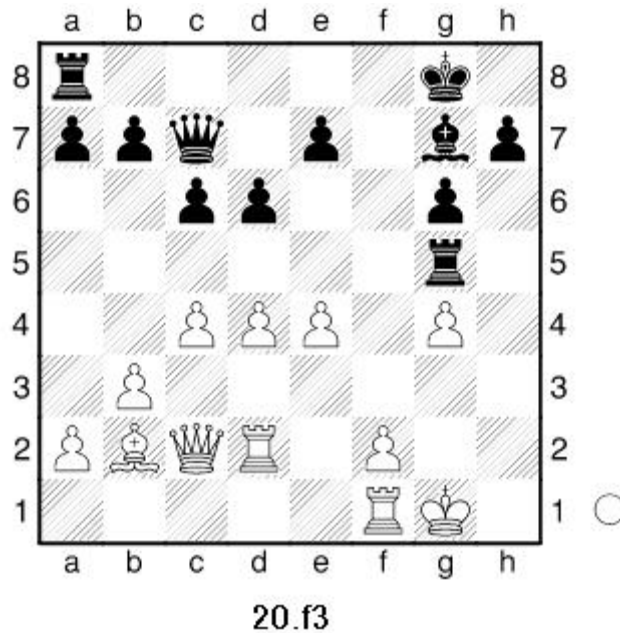
### Open Section

No.	Name	Pre-Rate	Post-Rate	Rd.1	Rd.2	Rd.3	Rd.4	Place
1	Magar, Thomas P	2201	2206	W5 1.0	B4 2.0	W3 3.0	B2 3.5	1
2	Madsen, Jens I	2107	2100	B6 1.0	W3 1.0	B8 2.0	W1 2.5	3
3	Hines, David F	1966	1984	W7 1.0	B2 2.0	B1 2.0	W4 3.0	2
4	Young, Shih Houng	1870	1868	B8 1.0	W1 1.0	B7 2.0	B3 2.0	4-6
5	Hohn, Jeff E	1821	1788	B1 0.0	W8 0.0	B6 0.0	-U- 0.0	8
6	Felton, Michael B	1762	1739	W2 0.0	B7 0.0	W5 1.0	B8 1.0	7
7	Balter, Danny	1576	1591	B3 0.0	W6 1.0	W4 1.0	-B- 2.0	4-6
8	Baker, J. Michael	1612	1660	W4 0.0	B5 1.0	W2 1.0	W6 2.0	4-6

**Thomas Magar (2201) – David Hines (1966)**

*8<sup>th</sup> Mountaineer Open (Rd.3), Morgantown, 10-21-2006*

This game from Round Three decided the tournament outcome. **1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.b3** Although this might seem like a slightly odd plan due to the potential weakening of the a1-h8 diagonal, this is a well-known plan against the Leningrad Dutch. **5...d6 6.Bb2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.c4 Ne4 9.Qc2 Nd7** On its way to support the outposted e4-knight. **10.Nc3 Ndf6 11.Rad1 Qc7 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Nd2 Nxd2 14.Rxd2** Recapturing with the Queen would prevent Black's main plan of ...f4. However, *after 14. Qxd2 e5 15.dxe5 dxe5* the position looks rather even. **14...f4** It is now or never. If Black sits around waiting, White can stop this plan from ever happening with a simple e3. **15.Be4** Another possibility was *15.d5 Bxb2 16.Qxb2 fxg3 17.hxg3* with a slight White advantage **15...fxg3 16.hxg3 Bf5 17.Bxf5 Rxf5 18.e4 Rh5** In retrospect this move, which may not be an error in itself, is the beginning of a bad plan that eventually costs the game. **19.g4 Rg5**



I distinctly recall thinking: "Dave, don't get your Rook trapped!" while observing this game. Chess is always so easy from the spectator's perspective! **20.f3 h5? 21.Rg2** Black's previous move helped White by forcing this great move. Not only does it protect the g-pawn it also vacates the c1-g5 diagonal and prepares to pick up the troubled (trapped) rook. **21...hxg4 22.fxg4 Qd7 23.Qe2 Rf8?** Last chance to stay in the game is *23...c5! 24.e5 cxd4 25.Bxd4 24.Rxf8+ Kxf8 25.Kh1?* More powerful was e5!, cutting off the poor rook's last escape route. *25.e5 dxe5 26.Bc1 25...Kg8* The building is on fire, but Mr. Rook remains calm at his desk. *25...Ra5* had to be played. **26.Bc3** Takes away the a5-square **26...e5 27.d5 cxd5 28.cxd5 Qc7 29.Bd2 Bf6 30.Qd3 Qc8 31.Qf3 Kg7 32.Rf2** And Black resigned. Not only does White win the exchange, he also penetrates Black's position with lethal effect **1-0**

The Reserve section was also won by a visitor from Pennsylvania – Jay Mankey of the neighboring club in Washington (PA). He accomplished the rare feat of winning a four-round tournament with a 1.5 point margin! Second place was shared between three players from the organizing club: Terry Wassell Sr., Xiaowen Wu, and Musat Crihalmeanu.

### Reserve Section

No.	Name	Pre-Rate	Post-Rate	Rd.1	Rd.2	Rd.3	Rd.4	Place
1	Mankey, Joshua J	1577	1621	B5 1.0	W3 2.0	B2 3.0	B4 4.0	1
2	Yearling, Paul	1529	1515	W6 1.0	B8 1.5	W1 1.5	-H- 2.0	5-7
3	Wassell, James T	1376	1380	B9 1.0	B1 1.0	W8 2.0	W7 2.5	2-4
4	Harper, Martin	1457/19	1436/23	W8 0.0	B7 1.0	B6 2.0	W1 2.0	5-7
5	Sun, Yipeng	1237	1205	W1 0.0	B9 1.0	W7 1.0	-B- 2.0	5-7
6	Crihalmeanu, Tudor	1069/24	1059	B2 0.0	-B- 1.0	W4 1.0	-N- 1.0	8-9
7	Wu, Xiaowen	960/12	1064/15	-B- 1.0	W4 1.0	B5 2.0	B3 2.5	2-4
8	Crihalmeanu, Musat	UNR	1442/4	B4 1.0	W2 1.5	B3 1.5	W9 2.5	2-4
9	Webb, Theodore A.	UNR	804/3	W3 0.0	W5 0.0	-B- 1.0	B8 1.0	8-9