

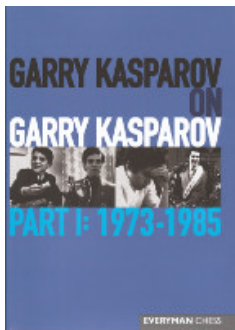


## Boxing the Compass

David Vigorito



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## New England Nor'easters Week Eight

We entered Week Eight with yet another must-win situation. We would face the last place New Jersey Knockouts. Although New Jersey was having an even worse season than we were, the USCL teams have a lot of parity and no match is ever easy. With veteran GM Joel Benjamin on Board One and "even more veteran" IM Albert Kapengut on Board Two, we felt if we did OK on the top boards, we should handle them on Boards Three and Four.

The line-ups were as follows:

- **Board One**  
IM Robert Hungaski (New England) – GM Joel Benjamin (New Jersey)
- **Board Two**  
IM Albert Kapengut (New Jersey) – IM David Vigorito (New England)
- **Board Three**  
NM Alex Cherniack (New England) – NM Andrew Ng (New Jersey)
- **Board Four**  
Anna Matlin (New Jersey) – NM Alex Fikiet (New England)

Our play in this match looked shaky from the start. It appeared that Robert was avoiding preparation, as he did not try to do much with white. In my preparations, I discovered that the legendary Kapengut had played against world champions Smyslov, Tal, Petrosian, Karpov, and Kasparov. Besides these, there were such names as Polugaevsky, Geller, Stein, Keres, Bronstein, Yusupov, Kholmov, Taimanov, Suetin, and Beliavsky. Talk about experience!

**Kapengut, Albert (2374) – Vigorito, David (2547)**  
USCL (8), 19.10.2011



[FEN "r2q1rk1/1b2bppp/p7/3Pp3/1p6/3B1N2/PPP3PP/3RQRK1 b - - 0 16"]

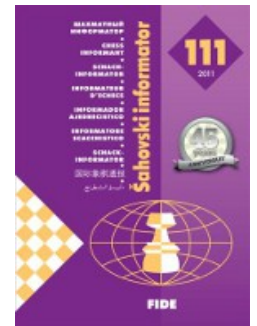
16...Bd6?!

With 16...f6, Black could play for an advantage.

17.Nxe5

I had not thought this possible, so when he snapped it off I knew I had missed something.

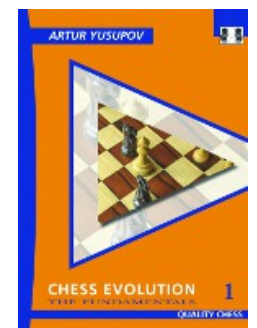
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### 17...Re8

This was the move I had intended, but by now I realized things were not what they seemed. Instead 17...Qb6+ 18.Kh1 Rae8? 19.Qh4+— does not work. Perhaps if I had had more time (I was already way behind), I would have tried the cool 17...g6 with the idea of taking on d5. 18.Kh1 (18.Nc6 Bc5+ 19.Kh1 Qxd5; 18.Nf3 Re8 19.Qf2 Bxd5 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.Rxd5 Bxh2+ 22.Nxh2 Qxd5 23.Ng4=) 18...Bxe5 19.Qxe5 Qxd5 is equal, but the game goes on at least.

### 18.Qf2 Bxe5

It turns out that Black has a similar draw with 18...Rxe5 19.Qxf7+ Kh8 20.Qxb7 Re7 21.Qc6 Rc7 chases the queen to Siberia and draws with the same idea: 22.Qa4 Qh4 23.g3 Bxg3=.

### 19.Qxf7+

My opponent thought for a long time on this move. There was nothing else of course, but it probably was disappointing for him to realize that the game would soon be drawn after I essentially dropped my e-pawn.

### 19...Kh8 20.Qxb7



[FEN "r2qr2k/1Q4pp/p7/3Pb3/1p6/3B4/PPP3PP/3R1RK1 b - - 0 20"]

Not 20.Qh5? g6 21.Bxg6 Qb6+.

### 20...Qh4

Two pawns down, it turns out that Black has enough to draw.

### 21.g3 Bxg3 22.hxg3

After 22.Rd2, Black could play 22...Be5!? with compensation or force a draw with 22...Rf8 and it's perpetual check everywhere; for example, 23.hxg3 Qxg3 + 24.Rg2 Rxf1+ 25.Bxf1 Qe3+ 26.Kh2 Qh6+ 27.Kg3 Qg5+ 28.Kf2 Qf4+=.

### 22...Qxg3+ 23.Kh1 Qh3+ 24.Kg1 Qg3+ 25.Kh1 Qh3+ 26.Kg1 Qg3+ 1/2-1/2

I had a good position out of the opening, but almost immediately missed something and was rather fortunate to find counterplay that for the most part led to a forced draw. Although I was higher rated, I had black, and I thought we would be in shape. Robert's game was heading towards a draw, so I figured we only needed to go +1 on Boards Three and Four.

Unfortunately, things were looking a bit off on the lower boards. Alex Fikiet played an odd Budapest and had a strange position; however, I still felt that he would overpower his opponent. Alex Cherniack was a big hero last week, but something went wrong in his opening. As it turned out, Alex F. did win, but by then it looked like Robert was losing and Alex C. would have to win from a worse position. This proved to be even beyond Alex C.'s magic and his position fell apart in mutual time pressure. This meant that Robert would have to save a two pawn-down ending to merely draw the match and stave off elimination.

**Hungaski, Robert – Benjamin, Joel**

USCL (8), 19.10.2011

Queen's Indian [E14]

Notes by Hungaski

**1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 b6 4.b3 Bb7 5.Bb2 d5 6.Nc3 a6 7.d4 Nbd7 8.Bd3 Bd6 9.Qc2**

9.0-0 Ne4 followed by f5 and Qf6 did not appeal to me.

**9...0-0 10.0-0**



[FEN "r2q1rk1/1bpn1ppp/pp1bpn2/3p4/2PP4/1PNBPN2/PBQ2PPP/R4RK1 b - - 0 10"]

10.e4!? dxe4 11.Nxe4 Bb4+ 12.Kf1 Be7 13.h4.

**10...Re8**

10...dxc4!? 11.bxc4 (11.Bxc4 c5) 11...Bxf3 12.gxf3 Now both of Black's alternatives look quite good and have actually been played. 12...c5 (12...e5); 10...c5 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Rad1.

**11.Rad1 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Qe7 13.e4 b5 14.Bd3 e5 15.Ne2 c5**

15...exd4 16.Nexd4 A) 16...Bxe4 17.Rfe1 Nc5 (17...Bxd3 18.Qxd3) 18.Nf5; B) 16...Nxe4 17.Nf5.

**16.dxe5 Nxe5 17.Nxe5 Bxe5 18.Bxe5 Qxe5 19.f4 Qe7**



[FEN "r3r1k1/1b2qppp/p4n2/1pp5/4PP2/1P1B4/P1Q1N1PP/3R1RK1 w - - 0 20"]

**20.Ng3?**

I wanted to play 20.e5 A) worse is 20...Ng4 21.Bxh7+ Kf8! (21...Kh8 22.Rd3! is good for White) 22.Qc3 c4 (22...g6 23.Qh3) 23.Bf5 Qc5+ 24.Rd4 with a clear advantage; B) 20...c4! 21.exf6 (worse is 21.bxc4 Qc5+ 22.Kh1 Ng4) 21...cxd3 22.fxe7 dxc2 23.Rd7 Bc6 24.Rc7 Rec8 should be roughly equal.

**20...c4?**

The prophylactic 20...g6! 21.e5 (21.Rde1 c4 22.bxc4 Rac8) 21...Ng4,

followed by Qh4, would favor Black.

**21.bxc4 Nxe4 22.Bxe4 Bxe4 23.Nxe4 Qxe4 24.Qxe4 Rxe4 25.cxb5 axb5 26.Rf2**

Being somewhat discouraged that I couldn't make 20.e5 work, I decided to enter this drawn endgame. However, I underestimated some of Black's chances, though with relatively cautious play White should have no trouble in drawing.

**26...h5 27.g3 h4 28.Rd3**

Safer was 28.Kg2=.

**28...h3 29.Rb2 Re1+ 30.Kf2 Ra1 31.Rdb3**

If 31.Rdd2 Ra3! with the idea ...Rh1-/+.

**31...R8xa2 32.Rxb5 Rh1**



[FEN "6k1/5pp1/8/1R6/5P2/6Pp/rR3K1P/7r w - - 0 33"]

**33.Rxa2?!**

The first mistake. 33.Kf3 Rxb2 34.Rxb2 Rxb2 35.Rh5 g6 36.Rh4 Kg7 (36...f5 37.g4) 37.Kg4 f5+ 38.Kg5=.

**33...Rxb2+ 34.Kg1?**

The big mistake. I simply missed that after capturing on a2 I can't play Rh5 because of Rg2+. Upon 34.Kf3, even here White must be careful: 34...Rxa2 35.Rh5 h2 36.g4 g6 37.Rh4 f6 (37...f5) 38.Kg3 Kf7 39.f5 (39.Rxb2? Rxb2 40.Kxb2 Ke6 41.Kg3 Kd5).

**34...Rxa2 35.Kh1 Rg2 36.Rg5 f6 37.Rg4 Kf8 38.f5 Kf7 39.Rg6 Rf2 40.Rg4**

40.g4? Rg2→ Zugzwang!

**40...Rxf5 41.Rh4!**

Hampering the advance of the g-pawn by forcing Black's king to g6. If Black is allowed to advance his pawn to g4, then White's defensive task will be much harder, if not hopeless. 41.Kh2 Rh5 42.Ra4 g5.

**41...Kg6**

White can actually draw the ending after 41...g6 42.Kh2 Rh5 43.Rxb5 gxb5 44.Kxb5 Kg6 45.Kg2 (45.g4 Kg5 46.gxb5 Kxb5 47.Kg3 Kg5 48.Kf3 Kf5→) 45...Kf5 46.Kh3 Kg5 47.Kh2 Kg4 48.Kg2 f5 49.Kf2 Kh3 50.Kf3 Kh2 51.Kf2=.

**42.Kh2 Rh5 43.Ra4**



[FEN "8/6p1/5pk1/7r/R7/6Pp/7K/8 b - - 0 43"]

This is the key position. If White is able to fend off Black's pawn advances (particularly the g-pawn), then he will hold. If not, then Black will activate his rook.

**43...Rh8 44.Rg4+?**

This allows Black one last chance to advance his g-pawn. 44.Ra7! =.

**44...Kf7 45.Ra4**



[FEN "7r/5kp1/5p2/8/R7/6Pp/7K/8 b - - 0 45"]

**45...Rh7?**

I was much more concerned with 45...g5! now Black is threatening to follow with f5 and g4 A) 46.Rb4? f5 47.g4 (47.Ra4 g4+) 47...f4 looks pretty bad; B) 46.g4 Rh4 I was counting on this position. At first sight, it might look like White will lose his g-pawn because of the pin, but Black's king will lack shelter after the advance of the f-pawn. I'm not sure of whether the endgame is drawn, but so far I haven't found a win for Black. 47.Rb4 Ke6 48.Ra4 Ke5 49.Rb4 Kd5 50.Ra4 Kc5 51.Re4 Kd5 52.Ra4.

**46.Ra7+ Kg6 47.Ra5 Rh8 48.Ra7 f5 49.Rb7 Kf6 50.Rb6+ Kg5 51.Rb4 Rh6 52.Ra4 Kf6 53.Ra6+ Ke5 54.Ra5+ Ke4 55.Ra4+ Ke3 56.Ra3+ Ke2 57.Ra2+ Kf3 58.Ra3+ Kg4 59.Ra4+ Kg5 60.Rb4 g6 61.Ra4 Rh8 62.Rb4 Rh5 63.Ra4 Kf6 64.Ra6+ Kf7 65.Ra7+ Kg8 66.Ra8+ Kg7 67.Ra7+ Kf8 68.Ra8+ Ke7 69.Ra7+ Ke8 70.Ra5 Kd8 71.Rc5 Kd7 72.Ra5 Kc7 73.Re5 Rh8 74.Rc5+ Kd7 75.Ra5 Ke7 76.Ra7+ Kf6 77.Ra6+ Kg5 78.Ra5 Kg4 79.Ra4+ Kf3 80.Ra3+ Ke2 81.Ra2+ Ke3 82.Ra3+ Kd4 83.Ra4+ Kd3 84.Ra3+ Kd4 85.Ra4+ Kc3 86.Ra5 Kc4 87.Re5 Kd4 88.Ra5 Rh7 89.Ra4+ Ke5 90.Ra5+ Ke4 91.Ra4+ Kf3 92.Ra3+ Kg4 93.Ra4+ Kg5 94.Rb4 Re7 95.Kxh3 Re4 96.Rb5 Kh5 97.Ra5 Re3 98.Rb5 Rf3 99.Kg2 Ra3 100.Kh3 Rc3 101.Ra5 Rb3 102.Rc5 Rb2 103.Ra5 Kg5 104.Rc5 Rf2 105.Ra5 Kh6 106.Ra6 Kh5 107.Ra5 g5 108.Rxf5 Rxf5 109.g4+ Kg6 110.gxf5+ Kxf5 111.Kg3 g4 112.Kg2 Kf4 113.Kf2 g3+ 114.Kg2 Kg4 115.Kg1 Kf3 116.Kf1 g2+ 117.Kg1 Kg3 1/2-1/2**

With this miracle save, we kept our playoffs hope alive. Had we won this match, we could control our own fate. As it stands now, we will need to win out and get some help. Next up is the Carolina Cobras, who are in a similar position. It is win or go home next week!

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